

# N E T W O R K I N G NORTH

VOLUME 11 • ISSUE 5 • NOVEMBER • DECEMBER • 1997

## World AIDS Day

*Rabbi Stacie Fine*

On December 1, communities around the world will commemorate the tenth annual World AIDS Day. This year's theme is "Give Children Hope in a World with AIDS" and draws attention to the fact that almost half a million children under the age of 15 become infected with HIV annually world wide. It is a commemoration that calls on us to remember those who have died, to recognize the needs of those infected, to honor those who have dedicated their lives to education prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, and to, as activist Mother Jones says, "fight like hell for the living".

Here in Northern Michigan we will gather at Central United Methodist Church at 7:00 PM for a memorial and commemoration marked with music, meditation and inspiration. Importantly, our local celebration aims to include not only the multi-faith religious community; our aim is to create a celebration truly inclusive of everyone one the community. Through this we affirm that HIV/AIDS affects everyone in our community — directly or indirectly, all our lives have all been touched by this disease.

Following the ceremony, we will walk in a candlelight vigil from Central United Methodist to the Opera House, as a mark

WORLD AIDS DAY continued page 23

## THE EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT, (ENDA)

...is in committee now. It will probably soon go to the full Senate for a vote. Last year it missed passage by one vote.

Senator Levin is a co-sponsor, so he should be thanked for doing so. Senator Abraham has taken no position, so far as is known. He needs to be contacted to urge him to support ENDA.

SEN. CARL LEVIN : 202-224-6221 (senator@levin.senate.gov)

SEN. SPENCER ABRAHAM : 202-224-4822  
(michigan@abraham.senate.gov) ==

## BOARD POSITIONS OPEN IT'S NOT TOO LATE !!

There is still time to become a candidate for election to the Friends North Board of Directors.

Put your ideas to work !  
Satisfy your need to get more involved !!

Please contact Brenda Bartz at 946-2708  
or Sue Schwartz at 946-3032  
prior to November 30, 1997

New Board Members  
will be Elected at the  
Annual Membership Meeting  
December 2, 1997  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
6726 Center Road, TC

## "THE EARLY WORM CATCHES THE BIRD" ...

So call now and reserve your "bird" (or portion thereof), i.e., don't miss the:

"Friends North Thanksgiving Potluck"

Sunday November 23, 1997

4 p.m. to ???

Grace Episcopal Church

"Real" turkey and soft drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Those who R.S.V.P. by calling Matt or Vic on 616 223-7977 will not have to do dishes!!!

## Michigan's Ethnic Intimidation Act.

Representative McManus testifies  
against gays and lesbians.

See Page 7



## FROM THE EDITOR

### THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Finally, the American Catholic Church has taken a progressive step forward.

In late September, after five years of study, the Catholic Bishops issued a letter, with the following highlights:

- They recognize that sexual orientation is not chosen freely. -"Sexual identity helps to define the unique person we are." -"God does not love someone any less simply because he or she is homosexual." -Parents must not reject their gay children in a society full of rejection and discrimination.
- Church rules should not be enforced by the parents at the expense of their gay child.
- The churches should encourage priests to welcome homosexuals into parishes and to help establish or promote support groups for parents of baby children. Priests should let people know from the pulpit and elsewhere that they are willing to talk about homosexual issues.

There has been a 'somewhat negative' response from the Pope, and a clarification by the Bishops too: The church draws a distinction between homosexual orientation and sexual activity, and the letter is not to be understood "as an endorsement of what some would call a 'homosexual lifestyle.'" It may be hard to be encouraged after this last statement, but the positive moves far outweigh this clarification.

### PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT

For the first time in history, an American President will be speaking at a Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Event. On November 8, President Clinton will be the keynote speaker at the Human Rights Campaign's gala national dinner in Washington, DC.

Clinton has consistently spoken up about gay/lesbian civil rights issues with his overwhelming verbal support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. As well, VP Al Gore was just quoted as saying, "Gays and lesbians...certainly have my commitment to work as hard as I can" to stop anti-gay hate crimes, find a cure for AIDS and end workplace discrimination.

"It is time for all Americans to recognize that the issues that face gays and lesbians in this country are not narrow, special interests, they are matters of basic human and civil rights," Gore told the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force at its annual awards ceremony.

### WELCOME BACK P-FLAG

Local PFLAG's Jeff Erno has put together a great newsletter for the fall, after an absence of several months. Their next meeting, which is open to all and everyone, is Wednesday, November 19.

### NEW ADVERTISING REP FOR NEWSLETTER

Thanks go to Jim Ingleson for stepping forward and assuming the job of coordinating advertising for us. If any advertisers have questions about billing, ad placement or changes, please call Jim at 922-0925.

See you in '98 with our 12th year of the Friends North newsletter!

*Richard Tuxbury*

Friends North, Inc., P.O. Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562 (616) 946-1804 (This is a general information line to receive F/N information.)

FRIENDS NORTH is an organization of lesbians, gay men, bi-sexuals and their friends from northwestern lower Michigan. Located in Traverse City, we provide social activities, a newsletter, phone line, workshops, and a scholarship fund for financial assistance.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of FRIENDS NORTH is composed of nine women and men elected each December. Regular board meetings are held at Grace Episcopal Church at the Corner of Washington & Boardman the first Tuesday of every month (except August) at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Brenda Bartz - 616-946-2708/bbartzstar@aol.com  
 Victor Dinsmore, Secretary - 616-459-5759/itsyrigloo@aol.com  
 Jim Groya - 616-946-7313  
 M'Lynn Hartwell-VP - 616-943-5050/les n more@aol.com  
 Jim Ingleson - 616-922-0925  
 Carol Lambertson, Pres. - 616-275-7102  
 Ben Maddy - 616-271-3926/coolj707@aol.com  
 Julie Parker - 616-276-9330  
 Sue Schwartz, Treas. - 616-946-3032/tcfriend@aol.com

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Publication of **Networking 45° North**.

Editor: Richard Tuxbury: 616-271-3042  
 or e-mail: tux001@aol.com

Publishing & Layout: Richard Curtis: 616-929-9605  
 or e-mail: rlc@traverse.com

Advertising: Jim Ingleson 616-922-0925  
 Mailing List: John Evans: 616-922-0746

**Networking 45° North** is the newsletter of Friends North, Inc. Viewpoints expressed do not necessarily represent those of the board or general membership.

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING** and notices are run without charge. Please submit in writing or by calling the editor (and leave ad on machine 271-3042 or by email.)

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING** in **Networking 45° North** is available in Business Card size - \$25.00 per space per issue or an annual rate of \$120.00 for 6 issues. Inserts and larger sized ads are available. Please call Jim Ingleson 616-922-0925 for rates.

**SPONSORING POLITICAL POSTCARDS:** Cost for printing 2,800 postcards for **Networking 45° North** is \$100.00. To sponsor all or part of this, and to give your input, call Richard 271-3042.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** to **Networking** are welcome. Letters, essays, features, reflections, and original artwork should be sent "c/o Editor" to above address. (**Networking** will not accept material that is sexist, discriminatory or sexually explicit. Contributors are responsible for obtaining permission from those whose names they submit for publication.)

**DEADLINES:** Issue #1, December 15.

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Please notify us in advance if a change is coming. Call John Evans, 922-0746, or e-mail changes to jdevens@gtii.com.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS/MEMBERSHIPS:** \$15.00/single; \$25.00/couple. Please send checks or money orders to: Friends North, P.O. Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562.

**DISTRIBUTION:** **Networking** is published 5 times per year. Copies are sent bulk-mail in a plain envelope to approximately 700 households. Additional copies are available at select local establishments. Our mailing list is not sold or traded with other organizations.



printed on recycled paper



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is my last column. It has been an amazing 2 years!

When I became President of the Friends North Board over a year and a half ago, I was naive about a lot of things. I had little knowledge of the history of the organization and the people who created it. My ideas about gay politics were untainted. The passing of the last several months have allowed me to expand this perspective.

I've developed a strong admiration for the folks who founded this organization, and for those who kept it going. It takes strong, courageous and committed people to move continuously forward in order to create positive change for the g/l/b/t community.

A special thanks to everyone who gave their time and energy to serve as Friends North Board Members over the last two years. Your extra stamina, diligent work and dedication to the organization demonstrate your desire to foster change for our community.

I am also grateful to the many folks out there who attended the social events, offered ideas and advice, challenged the Board, furnished words of encouragement and helped us to remain focused on the jobs at hand. The Board is grateful to all of you.

I encourage each person to renew your commitment to Friends North and to this Newsletter.

My best wishes to the 1998-99 Board!

- The Nominating Committee reported that they are collecting names of persons interested in running for election to the Friends North Board. There are three 1-year and four 2-year vacancies.
- Re-writing the by-laws was again discussed. M'Lynn offered to draft a set to distribute at the October meeting.
- The status of registrations for the November Gay History & Education Event were discussed. Registration numbers are not at the point we would like to see; however, we plan to forge ahead. Even though we are taking a chance financially, the Board feels that our credibility rests somewhat heavily on this event.
- A guest was present to discuss a Friends North-sponsored discussion group for transgendered persons. At this time no request was made for financial assistance. The Board agreed that this was a good addition to the existing groups.
- There was considerable discussion regarding our financial situation. Friends North as an organization is struggling. Networking 45° North (the newsletter) is wavering in that membership renewals are at an all-time low. Social activities have failed to draw large enough groups to break even financially.
- The Board was reminded that the Mission of Friends North is as a social organization. We are not here to make money, but rather to provide a newsletter and social events — as long as we can afford to do so.
- Sue Schwartz, our Treasurer, put together the following report, which demonstrates that, indeed, we are meeting these goals. We're essentially spending as much as we are bringing in.

## BOARD NOTES:

In an attempt to maintain good communication among the Friends North Board of Directors, the membership and the readers of this newsletter, this section is intended to provide you with a synopsis of our board meetings.

We welcome feedback in the form of phone calls, letters to the editor and attendance at the board meetings. Please let us know if this information is helpful to you!

Reminder: All board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 pm at Grace Episcopal Church. They are open to everyone.

Highlights of the September and October Board Meetings included the following:

- The Bike Tour was discussed — it was again very successful and much positive feedback was received from those attending. Jim, Kirk, Gretchen, Jeff and all others involved in the planning and organizing did a wonderful job. This event continues to be our most attended and best fund-raiser.
- Membership renewals were again discussed and the need to stay on top of this process, as it is our main source of funding. Renewals have been at an all-time low.
- There is a need to have a person dedicated to newsletter advertising, with a focus on collecting payments for ads.

### Friends North Events as of August 31, 1997

Event	Revenue	Expenses
High Tea	\$84.41	\$510.41
Winter Party	\$68.00	\$191.52
Prom	\$443.00	\$1,145.55
Pride Day	\$1592.41	\$2461.76
Bike Tour	\$6355.00	\$4304.15
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$8542.82</b>	<b>\$8613.39</b>

This report indicates that we have spent \$70.57 MORE than we have brought in so far this year.

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# SPEND YOUR WINTER WITH Common Voices

## THE FRIENDS NORTH RAP GROUP

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*A safe place for the gay community*

Ed Richardson

Common Voices—The Friends North Rap Group wants to welcome everyone in our g/m/t community. We want the insight and wisdom from all generations. It is an extremely beautiful experience to witness all the sharing between our various ages and both sexes. Our safe and comfortable gatherings make it so much easier for those who are taking a "first step" into our community. There are not "clicks" and no one who attends Common Voices events is ignored. If you need to talk, Common Voices will always make time for you. So, why don't you join us?

Common Voices continues to grow and is now offering much more than just the popular 2nd Wednesday of each month rap session.

Our 4th Wednesday monthly local restaurant dinner (Common Nibbles) gains in attendance. We choose a different dining establishment each month.

We recently held a special event potluck and hike which proved very successful (and enjoyable!) Thanks to one of our regular Common Voices members. We would like to plan more "special events"—just need input as to what is wanted. Please let Common Voices know!

I am pleased to report that Common Voices has become politically alert by taking an active interest in the candidates running for the Traverse City City Commission. We felt it was extremely vital to educate ourselves (and hopefully Networking 45 ° readers) because we strongly believe what happens politically on sexual orientation issues in Traverse City can influence the surrounding area.

Common Voices offers a free subscription to our monthly newsletter (which is also a reminder of our gatherings and special events.) To receive your copy, phone Ed or Tom at the numbers listed below. We need your name(s) and mailing address. (telephone numbers are appreciated but optional). Our mailing list is confidential—no names/addresses will be given out by anyone in Common Voices.

Common Voices/The Rap Group gatherings on the Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the basement lounge at Grace Episcopal Church, 349 Washington St., Traverse City. Parking is available in back and you can use the rear entrance. Common Voices people will be near the main church entrances until 7:30 to direct first-timers to the lounge. Our rap sessions often include topics and videos but more importantly, includes time for anyone who needs to talk and/or vent in a safe environment.

Common Nibbles—the 4th Wednesday (7:00 pm) monthly local restaurant gathering chooses a different dining establishment. Common Nibbles has proven to be an excellent regular event with quality interaction (and quality food) Call Ed or Tom at numbers listed below for restaurant of the month.

For any information about Common Voices/Rap Group/restaurant choices/our newsletter mailing/special events — phone Ed 947-4697 or Tom 275-6127.

\* A special thank you to Alan Williams for all the quality time and work on our City Commission Candidate Project. Alan also designed the new Common Voices Logo.

## RAISING COMMON VOICES

Alan Williams

Traverse City used to have a well-kept secret called the Friends North Rap Group. However, that secret is out—and so is the name. Common Voices, as the Rap Group is now known, has grown. Once, only a few people met once a month to discuss a variety of topics; these days, the second-Wednesday meetings have a regular audience in the double digits, and the fourth-Wednesday dinners (nicknamed "Common Nibbles" by some of the participants) usually do about as well.

Haven't been to a Common Voices meeting? You don't know what you're missing.

Common Voices calls itself "A safe space for the gay community," but it's more than that. All are welcome, and though members plan topics in advance, there's always room for discussion of any topic a member might have on her or his mind. The setting is informal and relaxed; there's room for both humor and seriousness in a Common Voices meeting. If you haven't attended a meeting in a while, or if you've never been to one, you might find it worth your time to drop in at the Grace Episcopal Church (349 Washington Street, in Traverse City) on the second Wednesday of the month, at around 7:30, and see what's up.

Topics vary from month to month. October's topic was gay culture; in November, it's a discussion on "Couples and Singles," and December will feature a discussion on "Surviving the Holidays." There are videos and social gatherings. One member is already planning a holiday party! In the past few months, there have been potlucks and even a short hike at members' homes. The location of the dinner varies from month to month, so it's a good idea to call ahead to see where the group is gathering.

There's an occasional misconception that Common Voices is a men-only group. Not so; Common Voices encourages diversity within the group, and welcomes women within its ranks. If you have a topic on your mind or just want to see what the buzz is about, then come check out Common Voices. You'll be glad you came.

For more details, contact Tom Barkley (275-6127) or Ed Richardson (947-4697). Hope to see you soon!

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## COMMON VOICES POLLS CITY COMMISSION CANDIDATES

Common Voices sent the candidates for City Commission a short questionnaire to learn more about the candidates' feelings toward the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered (GLBT) community. Of the candidates, only Margaret Dodd, Michael Estes, Robert Peltz, and Linda Smyka responded. Shelly Kester, Tom Gilbert, Diane Dennis, and Jim Tompkins did not respond.

Dodd, Estes, Peltz, and Smyka were, overall, supportive of the gay community in their responses. When asked, "Do you think a Human Rights Commission is needed in this area?" all three responded positively. Dodd added that the HRC "will be needed even more as our population becomes more diverse and representative of the country as a whole." Estes wrote, "The protection of human rights is one of the responsibilities of government. I feel that the local government has a definite responsibility to make sure that the rights of its population are respected and protected."

All four respondents support the addition of a sexual orientation clause to Traverse City's anti-discrimination ordinance. Peltz wrote, "If elected, I would encourage this issue to be placed on the City Commission agenda." Dodd wrote, "I believe that gays are now the group most likely to be victims of bias crime and among those most likely to be discriminated against. Even so, there is still no state or federal protection on which they can rely. The city needs to do what it can to change this—other cities do." Estes was the only one who disagreed, because he felt that an addition to the ordinance "would give preference to hiring practices that would result in the employment of less qualified individuals simply to satisfy quota requirements."

On the question of legalizing same-sex domestic partnerships in Traverse City, Peltz and Dodd felt that they did not understand the issue well enough to respond with a "yes" or "no." Peltz wrote, "I'm not sure I know enough about this issue, but I'm willing to be informed." Estes made a distinction between "marriage" and "domestic partnerships": "If you mean do I support same sex marriage, no. However, same sex partnerships that are legal are perfectly all right with me." Smyka had no response.

Peltz and Dodd also indicated that they had no problem with receiving an endorsement from a GLBT organization in Traverse

City. Smyka, again, had no comment. Estes qualified his response: "If any organization feels that I am their best candidate, I would accept their endorsement. However, if I feel that the endorsement would attempt to force me to make illegal or questionable decisions, I would not accept the endorsement."

For further information regarding the candidates' responses, please contact Common Voices via Friends North, at 616-946-1804.

## Letters

Dear Friends,

Sincere appreciation has to go out to Brenda, Kirk, Jim (and others who helped!) for choosing such a beautiful hiking trail and an absolutely perfect fall Sunday for the Friends North sponsored Autumn Hike and Potluck on October 12th. The attendance was wonderful and the potluck, at Brenda's promoted excellent interaction and helped keep friendships alive. It never ceases to amaze me what a healthy dose of nature (and eating together) does to bring our sense of community together. Events, such as this, do much to tear down the walls of separation within our glbt family.

—Ed Richardson.



Note: The letter below was sent to us by two friends who lived in TC and moved to California. I thought you might enjoy it. The Editor.

Hello,

We promised each other before we left for our first international vacation, we would send out thank you letters and update everyone on the California AIDS Ride—which proved to be an incredible event for the two of us.

We wanted to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support. Whether you supported us emotionally, spiritually, financially or all three we could not have done the ride without

LETTERS continued next page

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you. Together we were able to raise over \$9,000.00 for the designated beneficiaries.

There was a total of 2476 riders—roughly 54% from Southern California and 46% from northern California. Collectively, we raised close to 9.5 million dollars, which goes on record as being the largest AIDS fund-raiser in the world. The 7 days of 583 miles were long and tiresome, but with the support of fellow riders and the cheers from enthusiastic spectators, we were reminded that we were not alone. In fact, I think it is fair to say we never traveled for more than 15 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles without someone waving banners from a porch, displaying signs from a Winnebago, or passing out fruit from church groups assembled in parking lots. We all shared in the brutal climbs and scaled the grueling grades of the California coast as we learned to adjust to the peculiarities of camp life—a life defined by waiting in line for food, showers and toilets. It was an incredible experience and a rewarding accomplishment we will not soon forget.

Let us share just a few of our wonderful experiences that brought us to tears nearly everyday:

- A migrant farm worker who, when told of the purpose of the ride, explained she lost a son to AIDS and went back into the field to collect \$1.67 for the cause.
- Being greeted in Guadeloupe by the towns' children who made paper flowers for us and waited to shake our hands.
- The man who stopped his car on the side of the road waving a \$20 bill at an AIDS rider and saying "please take this"
- The group of 20 or so developmentally disabled youth who lined up in their wheelchairs on the side of the road and cheered as we rode by with smiles as big as Texas
- The 50+ year old mother who rode with her HIV positive son, every mile, every hill, every day
- The rider who we nicknamed "Rainbow Man" who road a tandem bike with an empty rear seat, in memory of his 7 year old nephew Dylan
- Riding down the Avenue of the Stars—entering Century City with 2400 other riders into a sea of 8,000 friends and family members who had gathered to support us as we rode the last mile of our trek
- Having the chilling experience of hearing my mom yell "Skeeter, Skeeter" out of a crowd of 8,000 supporters into a crowd of 2,400 cyclists, and having my step-dad waive two huge bouquets of flowers for Cindy and me because we were their heroes!

Would we do it again? Absolutely! In fact, my mom and stepdad were so empowered by this event that they have donated their semi truck and trailer to help support the Minneapolis to Chicago AIDS Ride next year as part of the volunteer crew. Guess where we'll be next July?

Many, many thanks for making this possible.

Much love,  
Cindy & Skeeter



*INTERCEPTED LETTER:  
MCMANUS RELIES ON HYSTERIA AND BIGOTRY*

Dear Rep. Dobronski:

I am a member of the Detroit Human Rights Commission and I am an officer at large in the Michigan Democratic Party. I am writing to request your active support of Rep. Lynn Martinez's proposed amendment to the Ethnic Intimidation law. The amendment would add the phrase "sexual orientation" to the law.

I testified briefly before the Constitutional Rights Committee on October 14th. It was quite clear that the one opponent of the bill (rep. McManus) had no logic or rationale to justify her opposition. She relied on hysteria and bigotry.

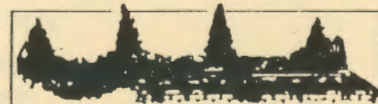
First, McManus said that including sexual orientation would protect pedophiles. This was an effort to immediately take the debate to the gutter! Detroit, Ann Arbor, East Lansing, Ferndale, Douglas, Oak Park and Flint all have sexual orientation in local measures already. In Detroit, we do not protect pedophiles... we prosecute them. It is outrageously insulting to suggest that Detroit (which adopted its law more than 30 years ago) somehow protects pedophiles. In fact, twelve states and hundreds of cities now include sexual orientation in civil rights law. Nowhere has any court ruled that this phrase applies to child molesters. The argument is 100% hysteria and Rep. McManus should be ashamed of herself.

Secondly, McManus referred to the First Amendment rights of gay-haters. The Ethnic Intimidation law does not prevent Nazis from believing whatever they choose to believe. The law applies only when they act on that belief by committing an otherwise criminal act such as vandalism or assault. Although we have laws against vandalism and assault on the books now, the new measure would provide for greater penalties.

I am a former School Board member, former County Commissioner, former Congressional Aide and former Staff Attorney for the Court of Appeals. I have been practicing law for 14 years and also have a license to practice social work. The September Michigan Bar Journal includes my article entitled "Sexual orientation and Michigan Law." I sent a copy to committee chair Vaughn and asked him to distribute it. If you have any questions about the LEGAL affect of the amendment, please feel free to contact me.

Rudy Serra  
(313) 331-RUDY  
RASERRA@voyager.net

LETTERS continued next page



**B**arker Creek Nursery  
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Michelle McManus  
104th District  
607 George Romney Bldg.  
Lansing, MI 48913

Dear Ms. McManus:

Please reconsider your rejection of House Bill #4674. It is vital that homosexual citizens be specifically included (not isolated) not given special privileges, just awareness to all hate mongers. It is well known blacks and gays are main targets.

As a parent of three grown children—one of whom is gay; I have seen first hand the terrible toll ignorance takes on the innocent lives of decent human beings. Our sexual orientation is not chosen.

In our lovely city blacks and gay people have been assaulted, physically and mentally. We are a capsule of ignorant America.

Our Human Rights Commission is reduced to ashes by the City Commission appointment of the head of the hate filled John Birch Society; a very strange twisted rambling eccentric man. Sad. Commissioner Jasper Weese—a poster boy for bigotry, and Shelly Kester who doesn't know any better, are in charge of deciding who and what may be involved in Human Rights issues. They must be 'acceptable' to the Commissioners, a sheep-like group of "I dunno, what are you gonna vote" mentality, thus ending, literally, by their closed minds — Human Rights.

This is neither a conservative, liberal, republican, democratic issue! It is a human decency issue. It is true honest awareness. Special consideration is not what this Bill #4674 is about. To advance our society's issues must be spelled out clearly. We must reach out and support good citizens in need of protection from the hate faction. We are neither promoting or demoting anyone. We all deserve human rights and decency.

Thank you for hearing me out 'via mail.' I speak for caring loving parents, lost scared teens, and adults against cruelty and ignorance.

We are unfortunately often a nation of groups, good, bad, indifferent and threatening. We must consistently work on improvement.

To work against House Bill #4674 is to work against equal rights, which in this case is to educate people. It must be spelled

out specifically, to recognize that blacks and gays are constant targets of bigots and to publicize it and protect us all.

Unfortunately this is absolutely necessary and in no way is it a request for a law that will benefit only certain members of society.

Education, tolerance, and understanding is the answer and a full understanding of the problem is something our government should have and protect at this point, full understanding must be taught. Please appreciate the benefits of HB-4674

Sincerely

Christine E. Morey, Traverse City, MI



### WHY DO I CONCERN MYSELF WITH THESE MATTERS?

*Apathy sucks . . . but who cares?*

Apathy is a human disease in which its victims become selfish and oblivious of the world around them. It leads people to not care, and often it causes them to ignore anything that does not concern them—In the worse case scenario ignoring things that do concern them. This is truly pathetic! Apathy is a major problem in our LGBT community where very few people work extremely hard to accomplish goals, host activities and provide events for the entire membership.

Apathy, on a personal level, is not necessarily inexcusable. It is true, we all have our own responsibilities that require us to prioritize our time. But, when reruns of "The Simpsons" or "Jeopardy" (reruns of Ellen are however an acceptable excuse) and goofing-off become more important than contributing our personal resources to the health and well-being of our community, apathy becomes a stagnating and destructive scourge upon us. I realize that being part of the solution is much more difficult and a lot less fun than being part of the problem, but I urge you . . . please try: Write letters/articles. Offer constructive suggestions. Help plan and plan to attend Friends North events. Renew/Join Friends North (very important! Memberships and advertising pay the costs of producing the 45 Degrees North newsletter in your hands).

Oh . . . and to those individuals who made the Friends North Autumn Hike a huge success . . . Thank you Brenda for opening

LETTERS continued next page

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up your home for us to use; and Jeff and Kirk . . . I loved the old fashioned Apple Cider press and the wonderful fresh cider you squeezed out of it! It was wonderful to meet all of the new people and renew old friendships.

-M'Lynn Hartwell



Dear Friends North,

If I may start, it has taken me awhile to respond to M'Lynn Hartwell's article in the Friends North Newsletter, that I got back in June. I liked the article that welcomes transgendered. Yes, I am a transgender person that lives in Kalkaska. I am still in the closet with fears of being falsely labeled. I would like to come to a club or meeting.

Name withheld by request



A response from the Editor:

Please read the article in this issue of 45 ° North, entitled "Trans-Group Interest," by Gwen Larson about the effort to form a "T-Support Group" in the greater Grand Traverse area. If you are not already a member of Friends North, Inc., please consider joining us and participating in our many activities and events throughout the year.



Letter to the Editor

I'm thankful to all those individuals involved in the recent board decision to include the transgendered among the Friends North membership. An organization grows by becoming inclusive of all people who share commonality with the primary cause. Unfortunately the transgender minority is poorly connected, so word of this recent inclusion will spread slowly among us. The opportunity to become a part of the Friends North community will be beneficial and I'd like to express my appreciation and thanks to the Board for their decision.

I had heard that the argument for non-inclusion of the transgendered in past gay pride marches was because the transgendered as a group, can be a visual detriment. We can look pretty outlandish because the majority of us can't afford the complex surgeries, hormonal treatments; wardrobes or the legal documentation needed to live in the gender opposite our birth sex. The impediments to our transitions are formidable. We refer to getting medical approval for hormonal treatment as "jumping through the hoops". The whole process is quite costly. The trans appearance often doesn't conform to the societal ideal of what a man or woman should look like. I'm glad that the Friends North group is attempting to see beyond appearance to the deeper reasons for behavior in their analysis of the subject.

Historically, transgendered people have been around since the beginning of time. Images of the transgendered appear archeologically in the form of artifacts and sculpture. Trans

behavior is described in books on the history of the homosexual movement. Review the photographs of the past and present and realize that transgendered people have been a part of the homosexual community from the start.

To express a gender other than one in accordance with your birth sex seems preposterous and deceptive to many. To conform to the majority is self-defeating and it just doesn't work in the long run. We all must resolve the needs of our souls, or suffer. Recall your first timid realizations that your behavior didn't coincide with the majority.

Remember the hiding, the guilt, and the fear. To not abide by paranoia requires the pride many of us learn to rely on to survive. It's sad when you lose your old friends and they leave in disgust. When your family distances themselves from you because of the shame they feel in your presence. You experience loneliness and despair. Who would choose to live such abuse if they had any choice in the matter? Where the individual's psychology is involved, I believe that the mind takes precedence over the body. There's a difference between sex and gender. In my case, if I think I'm a female, aren't I?

Try to keep an open mind and be patient with the transgendered. We are a deeply closeted group that needs a place where we can be accepted regardless of our appearance. We all face the same tormentors. Together we stand, divided we fall.

Thank you

Trisha Marie

Petoskey — (nirvana@freeway.net)

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## NEW TRANS GROUP ORGANIZES

by Gwen Larson

This has been several years in the making, but there comes a time when you have to take the chance and reveal your secret side to more than just a couple of other people. With this in mind I'll continue.

As with other individuals of a similar nature, I grew up as a male who was attracted to dressing in women's clothing since around the age of eight. Obviously, I was limited to getting into my mom's things at that time. The desire to wear women's clothing never left me, and for many years I thought I was the only one anywhere who was this weird. When I was thirty-six I shared my secret with my wife to be, which prompted a search for information on the subject of transvestitism. Eventually, through a family counselor, we were put in touch with Crossroads in Royal Oak, a support group for transgendered persons. Contact with that group led to another support group known as IME of Western Michigan in Grand Rapids. I have been a member of IME for several years, and without their support and that of my wife, I

THE ONLY ONE continued next page

out... He was catching flak from his parents because he hadn't been dating any girls — he really didn't have any interest in girls. We had talked about that... maybe we should hang out with girls because someone is going to start to talk... but that night we had a huge argument and ended up going our separate ways."

Two years later Kirk stood up with this young man at his wedding. "When he turned to take the ring he looked me in the eye. That was probably one of the most difficult things that I've ever had to deal with. It was a very confusing time of my life. It had not been a one-sided relationship. If he could get married, maybe I'm not gay either."

During this time Kirk dated girls and finally met one to whom he became engaged and lived with for three years. But that fell apart and Kirk finally decided he was not going to pretend any more.

"Those feelings didn't go away."

Through all of this and in spite of the emotional turmoil, Kirk was gainfully employed at work he enjoyed. Right out of high school he went to work for a fire safety company as a safety coordinator. This job took him all over the state setting up safety programs in universities, schools, factories, even the state prison system. Among his company's clients was Traverse City Area Public Schools. After six or so years of travelling from shore to shore and state line to state line, he naturally turned to a familiar place near home.

"I had done safety work for the school system so I knew the ins and outs of the entire layout, and I was looking for a change... They had some positions open. I applied. They called me and I was hired."

Kirk worked at Bertha Vos Elementary for several years before being transferred in January of this year to Norris Elementary School where he is a custodian.

"I am the youngest in history to have a lead shift custodial position in the elementary school. I was thirty when I stepped into that position."

Kirk thoroughly enjoys his work and the children love him.

"They've gotten me a nameplate for my door that says 'Mr Kirk'. That's the name they gave me. They seem to know when Mr. Kirk is having a down day and needs a hug."

Outside of his work and his activities with Friends North, Kirk has always done volunteer work with such organizations as Alzheimer's Association, the March of Dimes, and volunteer work at school.

"I go to NMC and talk every term to the human sexuality class. I always get the same comment: Kirk, you don't look gay... I enjoy breaking stereotypes." Kirk is running for one of the positions open on the Friends North Board next month.

## WORDS AND MUSIC: WHAT'S NEW IN BOOKS, MAGAZINES, CD'S AND TAPES

By Rick Gould

With the holidays upcoming, here are some suggestions from our local book and music stores:

At The Bookie Joint, Shelley recommends: pride jewelry, bumper stickers, pride T-shirts, and over 1,500 used books of gay and lesbian interest. Bring in your books to trade and save money.

From Borders, Aimee's Fall/Winter book picks:

Michael Nava, a consummate storyteller, try "How Town," \$4.99 or "The Little Death" at \$9.95. His newest work, due out now is "The Burning Plain" at \$20.65.

Mark Richard Zubro, whose mysteries keep you guessing until the final pages, try "Rust on the Razor" at \$10.95, "Another Dead Teenager" at \$ 9.95 or "Echo of Death" for \$8.95.

Claire McNab, a great wit and character, stars in "Lessons in Murder" at \$10.95. McNab's newest "Chain Letter" is due out this month.

"Rita Will," the new biography by Rita Mae Brown, is \$22.55.

P.S.: Good books, good coffee, great people...sound like a winning combination? Then you ought to stop by the Lesbian and Gay Book Club at Borders Books & Music. We sit, talk about books, share a few laughs, and generally have a great time in a relaxed atmosphere. In November, we'll be reading "Entries From a Hot Pink Notebook" by Todd D. Brown, which tells the sweet and funny story of a 14 year old boy coming out, finding love, and coping in a homophobic school setting. We average about a dozen people at each meeting, but new faces keep things fun and interesting. Even if you haven't read the book for the month, please come by and join the discussion, and help pick the book for the next month. The group meets on the last Monday of every month at Borders' Cafe, Espresso, at 7:30 p.m. All book group titles are 20% off.

At AB CD's, Norm gave us this list:

Andrea Bocelli's "Romanza." This disc has topped all the charts in Europe for most of the year 1997. Andrea is a wonderful Italian vocalist and his current disc has finally made a stateside

WORDS & MUSIC continued next page

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appearance in September. Sung primarily in Italian the set includes a wonderful duet with Sarah Brightman (Christine from Phantom of the Opera), a #1 hit in Europe, "Time to Say Goodbye."

Sarah Brightman - "Surrender - The Unexpected Songs." The latest Brightman effort is an import from Canada and is comprised completely of Andrew Lloyd Webber tunes. Songs from Aspects of Love, Song and Dance, Cats, Jesus Christ Superstar and Sunset Blvd,—Brightman delivers.

Loreena McKennitt - "Book of Secrets." McKennitt's seventh recording and supposedly her last. There is no new ground covered with this recording but then again why mess around with proven material? McKennitt far and wide surpasses her contemporaries with little studio production and overdubbing. This is pure composition and delivery with incredible style.

"The Life" - original Broadway Cast Recording - the material and subject matter seem slightly odd but the performances are incredible. The plot revolves around the pimps and hookers of 1970s Time Square. Drama Desk Award Winner and Tony Award nominations abound from this musical. Featured performers range from Sam Harris (Tony nominee), Chuck Cooper (Tony Award winner) and Pamela Isaacs. Unfortunately, the hottest ticket on Broadway will see Sam Harris leave the company but the performance will live on with the soundtrack recording.

At Horizon, Jennifer gave us these selections:

"Walt Whitman: A Gay Life," by Gary Schmidgall, \$32.95. Drawing from Whitman's poetry, private journals and letters, the author explores Whitman's life as an artist and man.

"The Girls Next Door," by Lindsey Van Gelder and Pamela Robin Bandt, \$13.00. This is a cross-country trip covering the United States and filled with short stories on lesbian life from all the states.

"Tuesdays with Morrie," by Mitch Albom, \$19.95. This is the true story about life's lessons given to us by an elderly dying man. Albom, the Detroit Free Press columnist gives us an intimate account of his friendship with his former teacher.

"Am I Blue?," by Marion Bauer, \$5.95. Original short stories by a variety of famous authors. The stories honestly portray the subject of growing up gay or lesbian.

At Waldenbooks, Kevin gave us the following:

"The Accidental Activist," by Candace Gingrich, \$12.00. Sister of Newt's memoir is now out in paper.

"The Farewell Symphony," by Edmund White, \$25.00. The long-awaited final book of the literary trilogy is complete. This is the follow-up to "A Boy's Own Story" and "The Beautiful Room Is Empty."

"The Lavender Screen, Revised and Updated," by Boze Hadleigh, \$19.95. This has more films covered in the update to this fun and informative book.

"Marcus Schenkenberg: New Rules," by Marcus S., \$27.50. That European supermodel takes an in-depth look at the hardships of modelling. Pictures? You bet! Plus, an introduction by Gianni Versace.

Remember, these stores appreciate your comments and business.

## LOOKING OTHER WAY HURTS US ALL

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Loraine Anderson, Regional Editor, Traverse City Record-Eagle

I saw my first Queer Reserve Note—a \$3 bill with President Clinton in the oval—at a local gun and key shop about four years ago during the height of the gay military ban debate.

I said nothing, but I did write a short story. In the story, a lesbian went to the shop to have a key made and saw the \$3 bill. She felt exhausted. This was what she hated about being out. It was never over.

Right thought, right action, she told herself before telling the shop owner how the \$3 bill affected her. She didn't use the word offensive. It went deeper than that. The \$3 bill was hurtful, she said. It hurt them both, but mostly him because of his intention. He scoffed.

I saw my second \$3 bill last winter at a downtown restaurant. It was taped to the cash register. I asked the owner if I could have a word with him.

"You're what?" he asked when I told him I was a lesbian and that I found his \$3 bill hurtful. He told me I was too sensitive. Neither of us were angry, nor were we comfortable I left, shaking from fear I'd been holding off. It had taken me all of my adult life and a short story to get to that conversation.

I saw my third \$3 bill just last month at an area shoe shop. I felt exhausted. I knew this would mean another round of anguish and soul searching.

*Say something. It's the right thing to do.*

*Don't say anything. It won't change anything.*

*Probably not, but you're not trying to change anyone. You're just not letting things like this change you.*

*Peace, harmony, right thought, right action.*

As I drove back to work from the shoe shop, I thought about the \$3 bills and the freedom people have to put them on their wall. I thought about my freedom to say something about them. I thought about Disney and the courage it shows by including sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policies and by giving benefits to partners of its gay and lesbian employees. I thought about the importance of the Ellen coming-out episode and gay pride events.

I have often likened growing up in a homophobic culture to growing up in an abusive home where you are battered daily psychologically and mentally to the point that you don't recognize the abuse. It keeps you quiet and isolated from other people like yourself. Because of your isolation, you start believing the hateful things people say. You are filled with self-loathing.

And you never speak up and neither does anyone else. In the end, maybe you don't even see it.

This is how oppression blinds and silences. It is in this fearful quiet that prejudice and stereotypes fester unchecked, setting a societal tone that makes people think they can hit "a nigger," and a "faggot" and get away with it.

*The only antidote is seeing and naming it.*

*That's why I have to say something about the \$3 bills.*

They hurt their targets, the people who put them up and our community. And they won't come down until a lot of straight people say something.

And I have to wonder if anyone did. Or do we quietly accept \$3 bills hanging on walls and cash registers in Traverse City?

would still be thinking that I was the "only one". I am fortunate to have the freedom to explore my feelings, and am now very comfortable with my feminine side. In fact, I believe that it makes up the majority of my being. I like that in a person.

During my tenure to find myself, I have met quite a few transgendered individuals in Traverse City and the surrounding area. I am convinced that there are many more out there, who think they are the "only ones". Recently, in the Petoskey area there was an attempt to organize a support group that met with limited success. This effort was finally abandoned. I believe that there is a serious need for such a group in Northern Michigan, and with the help and support of Friends North, Inc., it is possible to start a support group. With a little help from Friends North, and the 45 Degrees North Newsletter we will be able to achieve a successful transgender support organization in Northern Michigan.

I am offering my time and energy to make a serious effort, but of course I will need help from the people who are interested. It will be your support group. The very fact that you are reading this article in 45 Degrees North shows a growing level of support and understanding for our regional transgendered people. I met with the FN Board Of Trustees at their October meeting, and have gained their approval to begin forming a transgendered support group. It is up to us now.

If you have an interest in joining a growing and caring local "T" Support Group (transvestite, cross-dresser, cross-gendered, transgendered, transsexual, and friends & families of), contact me at:

T-Support Group  
c/o Gwen Larson  
Box 562  
Traverse City, MI 49685-0562

or by e-mail at <GwenChrist@aol.com>.

## ELECTRONIC CORNUCOPIA

*by M'Lynn Hartwell*

I am seeking feedback from our readership on the establishment of a new column I am considering calling, Electronic Cornucopia. As more and more of our 45 Degrees North readers acquire computers, I am hoping that this column may be of value in locating interesting and useful web sites.

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Mark Lizenby

If you have a computer, you may wish to visit the following web address that contains HIV Resources: <http://www.HIVpositive.com> —the comprehensive resource for HIV and AIDS, covering a wide range of topics that impact quality of life. Over 3,000 files of useful educational information for all those concerned and involved.

This is Phoebe Hanshew, Student Pride Coordinator and GLSEN Intern. Y'all might remember that Student Pride is a new project of GLSEN's to network all the Gay-Straight Alliances and student activists in the country so that starting and sustaining those kinds of groups is easier. We will soon have a web site, newsletter, and e-mail lists to facilitate communication between students as well as advisors for the groups.

A Student Pride web site is now forming. When school starts we need to be ready to respond to the needs of student activists.

Here's where you come in! You can help me and Student Pride by sending me the names of high schools in your area that have student groups that deal with LGBT issues. They can be overall diversity clubs, Human Rights clubs, GSAs, or support groups. If it is possible, send along the name of a faculty or student contact, and address or phone number of the school. Even if you aren't positive that there is a group I can still use the information.

I know these groups are out there... help connect them to this important network and put hands on our mission to make schools better places.

E-MAIL: [studentpride@glstn.org](mailto:studentpride@glstn.org)

Coming out can seem easier in the Age of Internet: teens no longer need to feel so isolated, for example, and adults have alternatives to bars, softball games and cruising zones. By some estimates, as many as 10 million LGBT's may be online, with an unknown percentage in the closet. And yet, there's a catch: the internet is still in its infancy: accessing the right information can be a laborious, frustrating chore.

For this reason, PlanetOut ([www.planetout.com](http://www.planetout.com)) and the National Coming Out Project of the HRC (<http://www.hrc.org/ncop/index.html>) have joined forces to create a new coming out

CORNUCOPIA continued next page

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tool. GayHelp will consolidate existing resources as well as creating new-to-the-world resources for families, friends and questioning LGBT's... as well as to out LGBT's seeking the advice and damage control.

The interactive "virtual panel," modeled after the Boston GLB Speakers Bureau, will disseminate the experiences not only of LGBT's, but also of their allies, clergy, parents and children. Out LGBT's will find coming out experiences, strategies and tips, targeted recommendations, and OutSource, our answer to anti-gay rhetoric. For every debate on Gay Parenting which doesn't mention the studies of children raised by lesbians, for every time you've heard Gays in the Military debated without reference to the failed attempt to show homosexuals unfit for service... now there's OutSource, a Pro&Con of famous studies and opinion pieces that every LGBT should have.

A free-text interface will help skittish visitors to explore at their own pace, without facing issues before they're prepared. Many current, excellent resources reside on sites such as... well, such as PlanetOut and the HRC, which can scare newcomers to the community with calls to action, and terminology such as "dyke" and "queer." GayHelp will therefore be available through it's own kinder, gentler URL, [www.gayhelp.com](http://www.gayhelp.com).

## FORMER T.C. COMMISSIONER SENTENCED: REMEMBRANCES OF MARKL'S ASSAULT ON GAYS YEARS AGO

*Staff Writer*

John Markl, a former Traverse City commissioner received a thirty day jail sentence in September from local District Court Judge Mike Haley for attempted third-degree child abuse. According to local news reports, Markl had an altercation with his daughter while on a boat earlier this summer, and during the course of the argument, he slapped her. The prosecution said that he grabbed her neck and hit her head on a railing.

Many gays and lesbians will remember Mr. Markl from 1987 when he sat on the City Commission meeting in relative conservative obscurity. However, during a controversial commission discussion about whether to allow condom machines in city restrooms, he declared that gays were the filthiest, most disgusting people on earth.

Markl's statement was picked up by a reporter and printed by the local paper. He quickly became known all over the T.C. area for his bigoted opinions which gained him much popularity with the anti-gay elements of the area. Jasper Weese, a commissioner who represented older, ultra-conservative fringe elements in the city, gave him his full support.

The City Commission meetings all of a sudden became popular and were packed with supporters of gays as well as the local religious extremists. One of these was Matthew Schoech, rumored to have been the local head of the John Birch Society, and who was particularly vocal in his support of Markl. He quickly became

known for his outspoken and off-the-wall preaching during the meetings and many times dominated them with his overpowering demeanor. This summer, in a controversial move by current conservative commission members, Schoech was appointed to the T.C. Human Rights Commission with the charge of protecting minority rights and gay rights in Traverse City.

Markl quickly became a household name known by the public, and he stood by his virulent statements which condemned gays and lesbians. In a particularly charged commission meeting, he was chastised for his remarks about gays by local attorney Dean Robb. In this, Robb issued a challenge to Commissioner Markl. With this, Markl agreed that if Robb and his friends could gather a certain number of voter signatures asking for Markl to resign, then he would leave the city commission.

The story was picked up around the state, and immediately became notable in the New York Times as well as the Wall Street Journal. Markl's comment about gays was even used as a lead-in for a new book on discrimination against gays and lesbians. It seemed that the discussion occurring in Traverse City was one of the first to have public exposure.

Within a matter of a couple days after the challenge was issued, many more than enough signatures were gathered and a surprised Markl was confronted for his promised resignation. Markl declined to resign despite the overwhelming number of signatures condemning him for his outspoken, anti-gay opinions.

Mysteriously, it appears that some not-so-gentle pressure was placed on him by a local person and after this confrontation John Markl quickly resigned. He then disappeared from public view.

Meanwhile, his statements and the reaction and antics of the city commission had raised a timely issue—one that would come years later to small town America around the country. The subject of gays and lesbians became the number one topic in the Record-Eagle and the letters to the editor were numerous. The religious extremists, apparently led by Matthew Schoech, continued to gather at the weekly commission meetings to condemn all gays and lesbians and to quote from the Bible. Local gays and lesbians also gathered to state their opinions and defend themselves.

With Markl's resignation, things calmed down. His offhand gay-bashing comments sparked a fire in the gay community. Local people quickly learned that the heretofore invisible gays and lesbians were their neighbors and coworkers. Area residents were warned by the religious extremists that Traverse City was quickly becoming a San Francisco drawing gays and lesbians from the Midwest. Although this may not have been the case, gays and lesbians began coming out by writing to the paper and it became clear that there were many straight supporters of civil rights in the City.

Well, Traverse City never did get its condom machines in the public restrooms. Jasper Weese was defeated the next time he ran for re-election. Many local gays and lesbians began to come out and speak up. Friends North grew to become a more significant and representative organization because of this dialogue around Markl's opinions. And, now John Markl has been convicted of a crime that many of us would consider to be done only by those who are "the most disgusting and filthiest people on earth."

## LASTING IMPRESSIONS

by R. Green

Aside from his appearance, which I will describe as best I can in full in just a bit, most noticeable was his cadenced explanation of it all—his life to date and the reason for my being there. He brought it all forth as if it were the requirement of some sect, and penitence would be due if he didn't just keep on bringing it forth.

The curious demeanor of "let me tell you 'it'—"the" story I have seen before. Homos. If you don't play right and listen right, you don't get to stay very long. Perhaps the need to tell comes from some feeling of inadequacy. Like having stolen your sister's doll clothes with a friend, and having repaired to the tree fort, only to find that your partner is now somewhat reluctant to commit to such a girl-thing. You got him that far, "you must do as I do—hear as I want you to hear." Convince him, force him, make him stay. What if he got away? What if he told? Or what if instead of the doll's head smashed into the floorboards, your own head got shoved against the wall like a counter-to-the-floor dropped melon? Oh these gays and their little concerns.

Jerry kept the pace for me.

I don't like AIDS pieces. Enough already. It is on its way out. More people will die. More people will die by not using seat belts. But as a society we have had enough.

I write for a medium-sized newspaper in anywhere USA, (Everett, WA). I am using this job to get to something real downtown. I left college thinking that I could in fact just walk into a job with a real paper. I have friends who did that. I didn't because I am serving penitence, working in an office where the advertising guy has his desk face-to-face touching mine. No separate office, no partition, he's right there, making his little deals with little drugstore advertisers selling little statues on sale this week. "And do you have art from the manufacturer? Is there an expiration date on this coupon?" *Who gives a shit.* Right there, every day. And so what if the office is next to a beauty parlor. Not any kind of in this decade hip hair place. A beauty parlor with big head cones that get lowered onto Aunt Bea's brain, cooking the gel for 45 minutes, then *voila*—Aunt Bea emerges, mysteriously identically ridiculous as when she went in. But I digress and I must keep the pace.

Another AIDS piece, oh Christ. I have done these before. Not to be featured in my *Mayberry Tribune*, of course. It, the AIDS thing, it is, it was the issue, and there is a huge gay community in town, and so enter me into high exposure. I did my time roaming Capital Hill where the homos live. I dug up some talkers I did a warm piece. I touched them. I got close. I showed them I cared. The pieces, three altogether, weren't bad. Sort of a normal person's peek at the progression of the disease in three men's lives. The *Times* actually got interested. Said they showed something. All three pieces had intros: "Blah, Blah," "I am angry," "I am hurt," "I am scared." I think the piece showed my style, but ultimately The *Times* didn't buy it.

This thing I'm doing today is from the partner of one of my featurettes who died. A little creepy: He called and wanted to share something with me. Please—no sharing. Then he said KLMO, the big TV guys, had got hold of the piece I submitted to The Times and they wanted to follow-up, actually make something of it.

I need to take a break on where this piece you're reading now is going. Christ, I am writing myself into being the callous guy, converted to being not callous by some warm-hearted AIDS story. Not, not, not. I really am shallow. Was then. Am now. I write about stuff and sometimes it gets printed and I don't want to be excused. If something happened, anything, I can tell about it as well as I can hustle down alternative pumpkin recipes for Aunt Bea. It's all just journalism. And that's ok: it's how informed America learns. No, it's what they learn.

Jerry, the living partner, left this message on my voice mail: "I have to share something with you," and he leaves his name and address and where he lives and what day and time I should be there as if I will just show up because he's an AIDS victim. And I did. I think he baited me with the TV thing.

Broad hands, well over six feet, full head of hair, wavy, brown, with a sheen, no trace of any weird over-the-counter smell. No smell other than a faint human sweetness, perhaps some normal person's brand of soap mixed with his own smell.

"Thanks for coming," Jerry said. "KLMO wanted to do a follow-up. I didn't want to be the merry widow so I turned them down but their probing around got me thinking, dreaming, actually. I wouldn't have thought to do this on my own but you

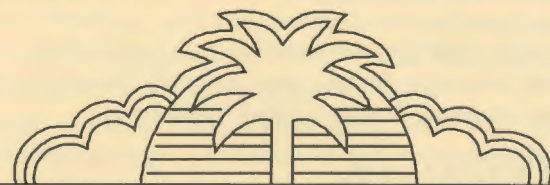
LASTING IMPRESSIONS continued 14

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# C L A S S I F I E D S

(Note: All classified announcements are run without charge. Please submit them in writing to the Friends North address, or call the editor at 616-271-3042 and leave the advertisement on the answering machine along with a contact phone number)

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**COMMON VOICES**, The Friends North Rap Group, publishes a monthly newsletter, thanks to Tom Barkley. It will remind people who choose to be on the mailing list of monthly Common Voices meetings, dinners and other group activities. Mailing list names, numbers and addresses are kept in confidence. This information will not be given out to any inquirers by anyone in Common Voices. (issue 1)

## ON-GOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

**QUESTIONS ABOUT HIV AND AIDS?** Call locally 24 hours a day to 947-1110. This program is sponsored by the HIV/AIDS Wellness Networks Grand Traverse Area and is staffed by Third Level Crisis Center volunteers. (Issue 5)

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PETOSKEY** is meeting at the Concord Academy, 2230 East Mitchell St. Services are held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. Please call 347-8916 for details or write POB 873, Petoskey, MI 49770-0873 (Issue 5)

**REPORT HATE CRIMES!!** The Triangle Foundation of Michigan has begun a VICTIMS' PROGRAM COMMUNITY WATCH COALITION.

The group will collect hate-crime information from Lesbian and Gay victims of such crimes. For details, call 313-533-1166 or 517-753-9823. Report Hate Crimes! Stop the Violence! (issue 5)

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** Their Reproductive Health Clinic is open to women and men of all ages. Confidential services provided are physical exams, HIV counseling and testing, pregnancy testing, sexual transmitted disease testing and treatment, all methods of birth control available, FREE Norplants, Depo-Provera, IUDs, and Condoms. For more info about these and other methods which are charged on a sliding fee scale, call 922-4630. Services are by appointment only. (issue 1)

## HOUSING/RESORTS

**ROOM FOR RENT:** \$275.00/mo. Includes utilities, washer-dryer, and all house privileges. Call Joe or Corinne at 947-8402 (issue 5)

**PAMPER YOURSELF!** Spend a romantic or quiet weekend or week in a beautiful two bedroom home with sauna, fireplace and lake access. Just 3 miles from Interlochen Center for the Arts. Call 275-5924 for details and rates. (issue 5)

**ROOM FOR RENT:** in nice home in East Jordan. Male or Female. \$55.00/wk. plus long distance telephone calls. Nonsmoker. Includes full house privileges. Tom: 616-536-0308 (issue 5)

## PERSONALS:

**GAY WHITE MALE**, 24, brown hair, blue eyes. I am looking for a friend to share my thoughts with. I should be home in 1998. I like reading, music. You can write to me at: Cassidy M. Westeen, #211011, PO Box 5000, Carson City, MI 48811-5000 (issue 5)

**I'm looking for a mail friend.** Please write to: 10620 E 42, Manton, MI 49663. Please send pictures. (issue 5)

## GROUPS:

**FRIENDS NORTH MEETINGS:** The Friends North Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month (Except August) at 6:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, corner of Washington and Boardman Streets, across from the Old Courthouse. ALL ARE WELCOME (issue 2)

**COMMON VOICES-THE FRIENDS NORTH RAP GROUP** is a group of men and women who get together monthly for informal discussion, often on a particular topic. Please join us on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at Grace Episcopal Church, 349 Washington, T.C., at 7:30 pm. For information, call Tom at 275-6127 or Ed at 947-4697. (issue 5)

**GLSEN**, the Gay-Lesbian-Straight Education Network, is meeting monthly in Traverse City. They welcome all interested educators. For more information, call M'Lynn at 943-5050. (issue 5)

**P-FLAG:** (Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays.) This is a network of parents, friends, and families of lesbians and gays who meet monthly to offer information, support, and a place to talk with others about the issues concerning them. Gays and Lesbians are also welcome and encouraged to attend P-FLAG meetings. Meet at Grace Episcopal Church every third Wednesday of the month, at 7:30 pm. For more information call Cindy Robb at 271-5045 (Issue 5)

**WINDFIRE:** This is a local youth support group for teens and others under the age of 25, which meets on a weekly basis in an atmosphere that is comfortable and friendly. Please contact Third Level at 922-4800 or 1-800-442-7315 for location, date and time. (issue 5)

**OUT 'N ABOUT** is a lesbian coffeehouse featuring entertainment as well as a chance to meet others from the area. It all happens at the Unity Church, 3600 Five Mile Rd. in T.C. Please see the Out 'n About calendar elsewhere in this newsletter for times and specific activities. (issue 5)

**TRAVERSE CITY FRONTRUNNERS** If you are interested in running, call Paul at 933-0572 and leave your name, number, and that you are interested in Frontrunners. He will return your call with information on where to meet. All ages and abilities are welcome. (issue 5)

**WELLNESS NETWORKS SUPPORT GROUP** is for people with HIV or AIDS and they welcome you to attend. Please drop in Monday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at the Grace Episcopal Church library at 341 Washington in Traverse City. Every fourth Monday of the month the Significant-Other Support Group will be meeting at 3301 Veterans Drive, Suite 221, just north of S. Airport Road. For further information, please call 933-0279. (issue 5)

**THE PETOSKEY GROUP:** A social group for lesbian, gay and bi-sexual persons is meeting weekly in Petoskey. The group meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays at the Park Garden Cafe on Lake Street. For information please contact Tim at 348-8151 (issue 5)

**NORTHERN MICHIGAN WOMYN'S CHOIR** is always looking for new voices. To obtain more information or for a performance schedule, please contact Deb at 275-5924. (issue 5)

**H.A.N.D.S** is an HIV/AIDS Network located in Petoskey. They are currently seeking volunteers in the northern lower peninsula and eastern upper peninsula of Michigan. HANDS is a non-profit organization that has committed itself to helping and supporting the needs of HIV infected persons. They offer a number of services, including support groups, education, public awareness, and one-on-one friendship support. Volunteers are urgently needed in the Alpena, Gaylord, and Rogers City areas. If you would be interested in the program, please call 616-526-9213. (issue 5)

**GAY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** Meetings for gays and lesbians are held each Wednesday at 5:30 pm and Saturday at 11:00 am at Grace Episcopal Church, corner Washington and Boardman Streets in TC. For further info, call John at 922-0746 or Hilda at 938-9294. (issue 2)

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**FRIENDS LIKE US:** A social group in north east lower Michigan for gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. Meets monthly. For info, please contact Brad at 517-354-0841 (Issue 2)

**GAY-LESBIAN BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** is meeting on the last Monday of each month, 7:30 pm, at Border's Bookstore on South Airport Rd., T.C. For info, call Border's at 933-0412 and ask for Aimee. (issue 1)

**BI-MONTHLY, BI-SEXUAL, WOMEN'S LUNCHEON:** Meet the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 11:30 am until 1:00 at a local, Traverse City restaurant. Call Pamela at 922-0734 or contact Friends North. (issue 5)

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## SUPPORT SAFE SCHOOLS IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Lesbians, gay men and all sexual minorities (not to mention all other living creatures!) need civil- rights. Our young people need to be safe from anti-gay bigotry at school.

The statistics are chilling. 97% of public high school students report regularly hearing homophobic comments from their peers. 80% of gay and lesbian youth report experiencing severe isolation. 30% of teen suicides are reported to be committed by gay and lesbian youth.

Perhaps no influence in the lives of our children is greater than that of peers and educators. All across the United States and beyond, communities and school-boards are discussing the issue of Safe Schools. People, who care, realize that the social environment within our schools has a direct impact upon a student's ability to learn; and the integrity and safety of the entire community.

Currently the Michigan House of Representatives is hearing arguments about HB4674: The Ethnic Intimidation Act (Note: The LGBT community is NOT protected by The Ethnic Intimidation Act, as it is currently written). I would like to see our community take the next step... a region wide Safe Schools Policy.

To help make schools safe for young gays and lesbians please support the GLSEN Safe Schools Initiative, including: anti-homophobia programming, youth advocacy, and community organizations.

For more information, or to volunteer, please write: GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network) - PO Box Nine - Traverse City MI 49685 - E-mail: GLSEN TC@aol.com

## TOLL FREE NORTHERN MICHIGAN HELPLINE!

-UPDATE-

The Northern Michigan Helpline! (Help and Information Line), introduced throughout the regional media in February of this year, is a huge success! Typical calls to the Helpline! include: individuals seeking a counselor to discuss coming-out issues, or

parents who are attempting to understand what it means for their child to be gay, and also, many professional referrals . . . and so much more.

Helpline! is here to help individuals and families address concerns about same-gender affectional relationships and orientation through information, counseling and intervention. Helpline! staff will respond immediately to help individuals and families cope with the difficulties they encounter as the result of bias in our schools, family, church and community, as well as other emotional concerns.

Please consider making a generous financial contribution to the Helpline! (whatever you can afford), so that we may continue to provide this excellent community service. We are a non-profit community service organization. Your charitable contribution is fully Tax Deductible within IRS guidelines. Please send your check or money order today!

Address your check or money order to: Helpline! Telecommunications Group - PO Box Nine - Traverse City MI 49685.

The Helpline! telephone number in Traverse City: 616/946-1804

If outside Traverse City you may call: 800/579-8769

## EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN — MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES VOTED...

5 - 3 to extend health benefits and insurance coverage to the partners of its gay and lesbian faculty and staff, the Detroit Free Press reports.

The benefits package is strictly for same-sex couples, as straight couples have the legal option of matrimony, said university officials.

Michigan State University, the state's largest school, first debated the domestic partnership proposal last year, but postponed discussion of the matter when conservatives in the state legislature successfully attached punitive measures to an education appropriations bill.

Republican Senator Bill Schuette sponsored an amendment last December for precisely the amount spent on such programs. The University of Michigan and Wayne State University, both of which instituted similar programs in 1995, cried foul, prompting intervention by the state attorney general's office.

Attorney General Frank Kelley ruled last April that the legislative measure was a violation of university autonomy as provided in Michigan's constitution, but his decision had its limitations. Junior colleges, for example, are not protected under the same statutes as the larger schools, and can be legally penalized.

The state legislature also has the right to ask the schools how much they spend on the gay benefit before making a final decision on its state appropriation.

kept showing up in my dreams and then I had one with you and Hughy in it and it was weird enough to make me do this asking of you to come and get the rest of the story."

Out comes this big photo album.

*Oh Christ*, I think.

"You recall that Hugh lapsed into a coma for three weeks and then came out of it."

Photo—hospital bed shot. *Good God what a keepsake* I say to myself and he goes on.

"Your interview was shortly after he came out of the coma. He didn't know everything when he gave you that interview. That was my fault. He would have said something different. I don't know what. He would have told you more. No, he would not have talked. If you would have come back to do a follow-up piece, you would have seen him like that."

Photo—*My God—why this, why did you do this? What could possibly make this necessary? Why do you show me?* I say inside myself. (Photo shows eyes, such eyes, coming straight into the lens from a body with plastic straps holding the arms affixed to the side of the bed.

"Why is he restrained?"

Before speaking, the man looked softly down sideways to the floor. All shamed. *What is this?* I think.

"The boy, Tommy, killed himself."

Photos—I look at them to look away from him. Largest group of people at a family table I've ever seen—probably Christmas. Jerry and Hugh at one end with a chunky 10 year old—the boy sharing a knee for a seat from each of the men. More—a toy plane and the boy, toothless, smiling. Another photo—the boy on someone's shoulders—I don't know which of the two.

"Well, I am sorry that the boy killed himself." I say and I wonder, why me? Time to go.

"I see you're uncomfortable but you needed to know. Tommy died because he didn't want Hugh to be afraid to die. I know this because I knew the boy. He didn't want Hugh to be afraid alone. I hadn't told Hugh about the suicide before your interview. Hugh wouldn't have really hurt anyone, maybe himself: the restraints were the last way I could say, 'you must just be.' It helped, perhaps, to life some of the pain, of knowing he had been loved so much, and could do nothing to retrieve his lost nephew. Maybe it was wrong. I thought it would help. I thought if he were tied up he wouldn't blame himself for being, you know, alive."

I nod, quick; polite-like, with a little smile.

I did my follow-up and got out well. Yes, Jerry was most soon gone. I got back to work and found there just wasn't a way to work up a story, for the *Times* or the paper to which I was billing my time. I logged the couple hours I spent on it to "dead-end feature."

And at night I have dreamt of seeing a colored still shot of that fat smiling kid and the dream goes from a photo to a video or something because the photo starts talking and smiling. I can't hear it but, I see it move and it tells me to not be afraid because I am not alone.

*("R. Green" is a writer who lives in Traverse City)*

## CONGRATULATIONS, RUDY

Michigan Democratic Gay & Lesbian Caucus Chair Rudy Serra has been appointed to the Detroit Human Rights Commission by Mayor Dennis Archer. Serra—the author of an article entitled, "Sexual Orientation and Michigan Law," published in the September 1997 edition of the *Bar Journal*—is already recognized as an expert in Michigan municipal codes, civil rights and sexual orientation issues. Because the laws which protect gay and lesbian victims of violence and discrimination are principally local measures, Serra's appointment puts him in a position to assure enforcement of the Detroit Omnibus Human Rights Ordinance and also to provide expertise based upon his personal knowledge to other governmental entities in Michigan.

*From the Michigan Democratic Party Web Page, 9-14-97*

## A PLACE FOR YOU

*By Rev. Linda L. Wilson*

The last few years of my life have been involved, in part, in healing from some deep hurts. These years have also been spent growing and stretching my life in fresh pursuits. I have found new meaning to my faith, by friendships and to my reason for being here on planet earth! During the years of marriage and service to God and my church, there was always the issue of unanswered questions about my sexual identity. I could not give voice to these questions because I was in a fundamentalist context where such questions were not asked. I always enjoyed exploring new concepts and truths, but in that context, exploration was not an option either unless all conclusions came out the same as they always had.

As many gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people (gltb) in a strict religious setting find out, there is not place for us to worship, praise God, and rejoice in the way we have been made. For most Christians in this setting, true love and commitment to God is antithetical to being a "practicing gltb." You cannot be both they say. As a result, the gltb people I have talked to have either rejected the Church as a viable place of worship and spiritual growth, or they reject the concept of God as God has always been represented to them, or both. I found that it was essential for my own sanity, to discover why this was so, since I, myself, am both a lesbian and a Christian who takes my faith seriously.

One of the "fresh pursuits" for me was to engage in a study from Scripture and history about gay/lesbian, bisexual, transgender life. The results were most interesting. I have also been doing much study on the concept of God and a better representation than was always taught to me. The results are that I have committed myself to provide a place where people of any sexual orientation can come and worship and be accepted for who they are. As part of this commitment, I was ordained to the

A PLACE FOR YOU continued next page

ministry on August 16, 1997 by Bethel Christian Ministries, Inc. from Grand Rapids, and have begun a new church called Journey in Light Ministries. The purpose of Journey in Light Ministries is to provide a place for spiritual growth for anyone who wants to follow Jesus Christ, using various means to come to Truth for her/his life. It is my hope that if you have not found a place to worship where you feel accepted or comfortable, you will come and try out Journey in Light Ministries. I encourage an inquiring mind to question, search and come to meaningful Truth that satisfies your spiritual needs. I believe that knowledge and application of truth will bring about healing and wholeness which will ultimately lead to living responsibly in freedom for gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered and heterosexual people, all of whom are welcome to be a part of this ministry.

Pastoral counseling for relationship, spiritual and other needs is available to all people. It is my hope that this ministry will fill the spiritual needs of some of my brothers and sisters in the gay and lesbian community, and the community in general.

We had our first service in the Suttons Bay Library public meeting room downstairs on October 5, 1997 and it was great! We will be meeting the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at the same location at 10:30 am. The Suttons Bay Library is located at 415 Front Street, in Suttons Bay, Michigan (near the Suttons Bay Marina). If you would like any further information please call me at (616) 271-2529.

We welcome you to try our new ministry and find out if it will meet your needs or resonate with your heart.

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## REFLECTIONS: AN OUTSIDER LOOKS IN

Alan Williams

A year. My, how time flies.

It's been a year since I packed up some of my things and left my parents' home in central Illinois, ostensibly to help my brother for a month, but really in search of a fresh start. I was 28 years old, and despite going away to college, I had returned home to go to graduate school and later take a job in the area. I had been living on my own for a while, but I knew that moving to Traverse City was a far cry from living in an apartment that was less than a half-hour's drive away from the house I grew up in. It meant leaving behind family, friends, and a life I had built for myself over the years. For some people, such a move is the stuff of dreams.

Not me.

When I moved here, I had high hopes. I'd heard that Traverse City had a strong gay community, with resources that were sadly lacking in central Illinois. But when I got here, it seemed that Traverse City was a miniature Peoria, complete with a gay community that reminded me more of a special club. And I didn't know the secret handshake.

I'm glad to say that, in many respects, I was wrong.

It all started by chance, with a walk. I started talking to a fellow pedestrian who happened to be wearing a shirt that said, in French, "Nobody knows I'm gay." I must admit, if it hadn't been for the word "GAY" in big letters on the shirt, I would probably still be walking aimlessly around, wondering where the gay community is outside of the bars. (Please don't get me wrong: I think Side Traxx is a great place to go to have fun, but when you're going alone and a bit shy to boot, making friends can be a difficult proposition.)

My fellow pedestrian on that fateful day told me where to find the local newsletter, and gave me information about Common Voices (back then, it was still just called the Friends North Rap Group). I attended my first meeting, and shortly thereafter came the holiday dinner, and my first Christmas away from home. Somehow, though, it didn't seem quite as bad as I thought it would be.

I'm 29 now, and as I sit back and look over this past year, I think of all the events and groups that exist here in Traverse City, and I see a mosaic of social, supportive, and educational gatherings that weren't available to me in my old home. I still have my concerns about our community—apathy, self-segregation, and a certain lack of cohesion that I can't quite identify—but for the most part, I count myself lucky. In central Illinois, I usually felt like an outsider in the gay community; in Traverse City, I have found my place. I have a new home, and I hope it remains that way for a long time to come.

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## PROFILE: KIRK MALLOW

John Evans

One of the many people who cooperated in the planning and execution of the Friends North events this past year was Kirk Mallow, who was born and raised right here in River City. (I've not done any research, but I believe we transplants far outnumber the locals in Friends North! Maybe, as we have more of the young people in the organization this will change.)

One of five siblings three of whom were adopted, Kirk grew up in a big farmhouse on Barney Road.

"Not a working farm... grew up playing in the neighbors barns, helped them bale hay, take care of livestock, etc. I wouldn't have traded that childhood for anything. It made me appreciate my family — one of the single most important things in my life — couldn't have asked for better parents... very supportive."

This led right into a discussion of coming out. "I was 28 years old, had just bought the house. I had met someone, and that person moved in with me... we started getting pretty serious... my parents started asking questions... so that relationship was the reason why I told my parents."

My mother took it quite well. My father didn't talk to me for two weeks. And that was real difficult because my father and I are very, very close."

It was right after Thanksgiving that Kirk told his parents. Then, on December 18, the entire family was gathered before grandmother left for Florida."

It was the first time the entire family had gotten together since I came out. It took me two weeks — I had told absolutely everybody in the family... I wanted them to hear it from me.

Everybody accepted it pretty well... the only thing remotely negative was one uncle who said 'well, he can't be gay because he cuts wood.' I blew his stereotype out of the water, because I hunt and I fish..."

December 18th is a day that I will never forget. This was probably the most difficult thing that my father had to do. I arrived at the party late... gave them time to mull over the recent news... we ate dinner,



*Kirk with a friend  
(Why does everyone  
choose such serious  
photos?)*

opened gifts and then the conversation kind of lulled and I could tell that things were getting a little tense for everyone... what do we do... this is normally the time when Kirk starts in with his antics... I always have some kind of story to liven things up. But, I just retired back into the den, fixed myself a drink and went out onto the deck."

I must have been out there ten minutes by myself... it was snowing, kind of chilly. My father came out on the deck... This was the first time that I had even been in the same room with him since I told him that I was gay. He told me 'Kirk I need to talk with you. I can't take this anymore. I can't stand the thought of you not coming over and having coffee with me in the mornings. I can't stand the thought of you not going for rides in the woods with me, or not being there at deer camp. I don't understand this. It's going to take some time to mull this over and digest all this. I don't know what to think. I don't know what to say. Will you work with me here and teach me what I need to know. "

"We both had a good cry that night. I think now we have a stronger relationship than we ever had. We're still going out to deer camp. We're still going up north every spring for steelhead."

I asked what reaction his mother has had over time.

"My mother took about a year to accept everything. Now she outs me to just about everybody. She was in the dentist's office a few months ago. The dentist and the hygienist were talking back and forth and making some derogatory remarks about gays and lesbians. My mother took the stick out of her mouth and said 'What would you do if you had a gay son or daughter?' And neither one of them knew what to say. She said 'Well, I have a gay son and I'm very proud of him and I don't appreciate what you're saying and I'm sure that he wouldn't. And I'm really going to have to think about it if I'm going to continue to be your patient.' And she hasn't been back."

I'm so proud of her. When she told me, tears welled up in my eyes. Here's my parents going to bat for me again. They're wonderful."

Long before he came out, Kirk had a relationship with a classmate. "I had a boyfriend all through high school until fall of our senior year. Up until that point we had talked of getting out of school and getting an apartment together and how wonderful it would be. We spent every Saturday with each other either at his house or my house. We were in a conversation one night and I mentioned being gay. Up to that point that word had never come out in any conversation we had. He looked at me very puzzled and said 'Well, I'm not gay.' He came from a religious background and was deathly afraid his parents would find

KIRK continued next page

## Char P. Kirchner, CPA, MSA

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out... He was catching flak from his parents because he hadn't been dating any girls — he really didn't have any interest in girls. We had talked about that... maybe we should hang out with girls because someone is going to start to talk... but that night we had a huge argument and ended up going our separate ways."

Two years later Kirk stood up with this young man at his wedding. "When he turned to take the ring he looked me in the eye. That was probably one of the most difficult things that I've ever had to deal with. It was a very confusing time of my life. It had not been a one-sided relationship. If he could get married, maybe I'm not gay either."

During this time Kirk dated girls and finally met one to whom he became engaged and lived with for three years. But that fell apart and Kirk finally decided he was not going to pretend any more.

"Those feelings didn't go away."

Through all of this and in spite of the emotional turmoil, Kirk was gainfully employed at work he enjoyed. Right out of high school he went to work for a fire safety company as a safety coordinator. This job took him all over the state setting up safety programs in universities, schools, factories, even the state prison system. Among his company's clients was Traverse City Area Public Schools. After six or so years of travelling from shore to shore and state line to state line, he naturally turned to a familiar place near home.

"I had done safety work for the school system so I knew the ins and outs of the entire layout, and I was looking for a change... They had some positions open. I applied. They called me and I was hired."

Kirk worked at Bertha Vos Elementary for several years before being transferred in January of this year to Norris Elementary School where he is a custodian.

"I am the youngest in history to have a lead shift custodial position in the elementary school. I was thirty when I stepped into that position."

Kirk thoroughly enjoys his work and the children love him.

"They've gotten me a nameplate for my door that says 'Mr Kirk'. That's the name they gave me. They seem to know when Mr. Kirk is having a down day and needs a hug."

Outside of his work and his activities with Friends North, Kirk has always done volunteer work with such organizations as Alzheimer's Association, the March of Dimes, and volunteer work at school.

"I go to NMC and talk every term to the human sexuality class. I always get the same comment: Kirk, you don't look gay... I enjoy breaking stereotypes." Kirk is running for one of the positions open on the Friends North Board next month.

## WORDS AND MUSIC: WHAT'S NEW IN BOOKS, MAGAZINES, CD'S AND TAPES

By Rick Gould

With the holidays upcoming, here are some suggestions from our local book and music stores:

At The Bookie Joint, Shelley recommends: pride jewelry, bumper stickers, pride T-shirts, and over 1,500 used books of gay and lesbian interest. Bring in your books to trade and save money.

From Borders, Aimee's Fall/Winter book picks:

Michael Nava, a consummate storyteller, try "How Town," \$4.99 or "The Little Death" at \$9.95. His newest work, due out now is "The Burning Plain" at \$20.65.

Mark Richard Zubro, whose mysteries keep you guessing until the final pages, try "Rust on the Razor" at \$10.95, "Another Dead Teenager" at \$ 9.95 or "Echo of Death" for \$8.95.

Claire McNab, a great wit and character, stars in "Lessons in Murder" at \$10.95. McNab's newest "Chain Letter" is due out this month.

"Rita Will," the new biography by Rita Mae Brown, is \$22.55.

P.S.: Good books, good coffee, great people...sound like a winning combination? Then you ought to stop by the Lesbian and Gay Book Club at Borders Books & Music. We sit, talk about books, share a few laughs, and generally have a great time in a relaxed atmosphere. In November, we'll be reading "Entries From a Hot Pink Notebook" by Todd D. Brown, which tells the sweet and funny story of a 14 year old boy coming out, finding love, and coping in a homophobic school setting. We average about a dozen people at each meeting, but new faces keep things fun and interesting. Even if you haven't read the book for the month, please come by and join the discussion, and help pick the book for the next month. The group meets on the last Monday of every month at Borders' Cafe, Espresso, at 7:30 p.m. All book group titles are 20% off.

At AB CD's, Norm gave us this list:

Andrea Bocelli's "Romanza." This disc has topped all the charts in Europe for most of the year 1997. Andrea is a wonderful Italian vocalist and his current disc has finally made a stateside

WORDS & MUSIC continued next page

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appearance in September. Sung primarily in Italian the set includes a wonderful duet with Sarah Brightman (Christine from Phantom of the Opera), a #1 hit in Europe, "Time to Say Goodbye."

Sarah Brightman - "Surrender - The Unexpected Songs." The latest Brightman effort is an import from Canada and is comprised completely of Andrew Lloyd Webber tunes. Songs from Aspects of Love, Song and Dance, Cats, Jesus Christ Superstar and Sunset Blvd,—Brightman delivers.

Loreena McKennitt - "Book of Secrets." McKennitt's seventh recording and supposedly her last. There is no new ground covered with this recording but then again why mess around with proven material? McKennitt far and wide surpasses her contemporaries with little studio production and overdubbing. This is pure composition and delivery with incredible style.

"The Life" - original Broadway Cast Recording - the material and subject matter seem slightly odd but the performances are incredible. The plot revolves around the pimps and hookers of 1970s Time Square. Drama Desk Award Winner and Tony Award nominations abound from this musical. Featured performers range from Sam Harris (Tony nominee), Chuck Cooper (Tony Award winner) and Pamela Isaacs. Unfortunately, the hottest ticket on Broadway will see Sam Harris leave the company but the performance will live on with the soundtrack recording.

At Horizon, Jennifer gave us these selections:

"Walt Whitman: A Gay Life," by Gary Schmidgall, \$32.95. Drawing from Whitman's poetry, private journals and letters, the author explores Whitman's life as an artist and man.

"The Girls Next Door," by Lindsey Van Gelder and Pamela Robin Bandt, \$13.00. This is a cross-country trip covering the United States and filled with short stories on lesbian life from all the states.

"Tuesdays with Morrie," by Mitch Albom, \$19.95. This is the true story about life's lessons given to us by an elderly dying man. Albom, the Detroit Free Press columnist gives us an intimate account of his friendship with his former teacher.

"Am I Blue?," by Marion Bauer, \$5.95. Original short stories by a variety of famous authors. The stories honestly portray the subject of growing up gay or lesbian.

At Waldenbooks, Kevin gave us the following:

"The Accidental Activist," by Candace Gingrich, \$12.00. Sister of Newt's memoir is now out in paper.

"The Farewell Symphony," by Edmund White, \$25.00. The long-awaited final book of the literary trilogy is complete. This is the follow-up to "A Boy's Own Story" and "The Beautiful Room Is Empty."

"The Lavender Screen, Revised and Updated," by Boze Hadleigh, \$19.95. This has more films covered in the update to this fun and informative book.

"Marcus Schenkenberg: New Rules," by Marcus S., \$27.50. That European supermodel takes an in-depth look at the hardships of modelling. Pictures? You bet! Plus, an introduction by Gianni Versace.

Remember, these stores appreciate your comments and business.

## LOOKING OTHER WAY HURTS US ALL

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Loraine Anderson, Regional Editor, Traverse City Record-Eagle

I saw my first Queer Reserve Note—a \$3 bill with President Clinton in the oval—at a local gun and key shop about four years ago during the height of the gay military ban debate.

I said nothing, but I did write a short story. In the story, a lesbian went to the shop to have a key made and saw the \$3 bill. She felt exhausted. This was what she hated about being out. It was never over.

Right thought, right action, she told herself before telling the shop owner how the \$3 bill affected her. She didn't use the word offensive. It went deeper than that. The \$3 bill was hurtful, she said. It hurt them both, but mostly him because of his intention. He scoffed.

I saw my second \$3 bill last winter at a downtown restaurant. It was taped to the cash register. I asked the owner if I could have a word with him.

"You're what?" he asked when I told him I was a lesbian and that I found his \$3 bill hurtful. He told me I was too sensitive. Neither of us were angry, nor were we comfortable I left, shaking from fear I'd been holding off. It had taken me all of my adult life and a short story to get to that conversation.

I saw my third \$3 bill just last month at an area shoe shop. I felt exhausted. I knew this would mean another round of anguish and soul searching.

*Say something. It's the right thing to do.*

Don't say anything. It won't change anything.

Probably not, but you're not trying to change anyone. You're just not letting things like this change you.

*Peace, harmony, right thought, right action.*

As I drove back to work from the shoe shop, I thought about the \$3 bills and the freedom people have to put them on their wall. I thought about my freedom to say something about them. I thought about Disney and the courage it shows by including sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policies and by giving benefits to partners of its gay and lesbian employees. I thought about the importance of the Ellen coming-out episode and gay pride events.

I have often likened growing up in a homophobic culture to growing up in an abusive home where you are battered daily psychologically and mentally to the point that you don't recognize the abuse. It keeps you quiet and isolated from other people like yourself. Because of your isolation, you start believing the hateful things people say. You are filled with self-loathing.

And you never speak up and neither does anyone else. In the end, maybe you don't even see it.

This is how oppression blinds and silences. It is in this fearful quiet that prejudice and stereotypes fester unchecked, setting a societal tone that makes people think they can hit "a nigger," and a "faggot" and get away with it.

The only antidote is seeing and naming it.

That's why I have to say something about the \$3 bills.

They hurt their targets, the people who put them up and our community. And they won't come down until a lot of straight people say something.

And I have to wonder if anyone did. Or do we quietly accept \$3 bills hanging on walls and cash registers in Traverse City?

---

## NIH STUDY SEEKS GENETIC CLUES TO A COMPLEX HUMAN BEHAVIOR; GAY BROTHER PAIRS STILL NEEDED

To talk about "THE gay gene" is misleading, say Dr. Elliot S. Gershon and his colleagues, researchers at the National Institutes of Health who are conducting a new genetic study. Unlike a few diseases for which a single-gene cause has been found, normal human diversity can't be explained so easily. Instead, Dr. Gershon says, "like many other complex human behaviors, we expect multiple genes to be involved in sexual orientation... a single gene in a complex trait changes the probability of showing the trait by only a small amount," interacting in still-unknown ways with other genes and environmental factors.

Because of this complexity, Dr. Gershon and his group do not expect their work to have adverse consequences for gay people. The genes involved may have other effects as well, and attempts to change or select for one would have little meaning. The group believes their study "will have a net positive effect, giving us a better understanding of sexuality and increased acceptance of its variations.

Designed to locate more than one gene if possible, the NIH study brings the group's working assumption into the lab. Because no one knows yet exactly what function each gene in the mix may have, researchers first look for genetic "markers"—tiny sections of DNA that act as signposts at known locations among the chromosomes—that appear consistently in a family together with the trait being studied. When one is found, it indicates a "linkage," pointing to a small region of DNA on one of the 23 pairs of chromosomes a person carries. Further work in that region may uncover one or more genes actually affecting the trait of interest, but it's a laborious process that may take years.

The first report of a linkage, like the one found by Dr. Dean Hamer and colleagues at NIH, can be big news, leading people to believe that "the gene has been discovered." For scientists it's big news for a different reason: "Now, maybe we know one good place to look." Good scientific practice is to verify the linkage finding before committing precious lab resources to the follow-up work.

The first goal of the new NIH study is to attempt that verification for the Hamer finding, by doing an independent test of replication. Preliminary analysis has begun, using DNA from the first 50 participating families.

For the goal of finding additional linkages, at least 50 more families are still needed to complete the study. Eligible families will have at least two gay brothers or non-identical gay male twins participating, plus their parents if available. Participants, who can be located anywhere in the U.S., will answer a short confidential mail-in questionnaire and give a blood sample locally at no cost to them, for prepaid shipping to NIH. Interested persons are invited to contact Dr. Gershon's group for more information, by phone at 301-496-8977 (collect calls accepted) or e-mail at [gaz@cu.nih.gov](mailto:gaz@cu.nih.gov)

Information on the Web: <http://world.std.com/~neurogen/gstudy.html>

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## GENERATION GAP

*Japiya Burns*

There seems to be a large generation gap between younger gays and lesbians and older gays and lesbians. And while this same generation gap may occur in "straight" society, I believe it can be particularly harmful within our community. Though I am looking at the gay community through young, possibly naive eyes I feel as though this is something that should be changed.

It is widely recognized that adolescence is a difficult time in people's lives, particularly so for gays and lesbians. While straight people often have people to turn to, such as friends, gay youth often find themselves isolated and lonely, leading to depression, and even suicide. Straight people benefit from a society which endorses their sexuality, instead of punishing them for it. They are also socialized by friends, family, and a society which generally makes them feel belonged, something gay youth is often denied.

The structure of our community seems to prohibit the interaction between older gays and younger gays, which could prove to be harmful. Gay bars and other social institutions often prohibit people under 21 from entering. This creates a great divide, and denies young gays a n opportunity to socialize, and be socialized into the gay community. Gay youth groups, though very positive, often have the same flaws. They often create a safe haven, at the cost of shutting out the knowledge and wisdom an older generation has to offer.

By ghettoizing gay youth from the rest of the community, they are missing out on these valuable resources. Positive interaction between gay kids and older gay men and lesbians can provide an exchange of knowledge not provided by a heterosexist world. Most parents don't teach their children about the ways of the "gay" world, about dating, sex, dealing with prejudice, or coming out. Who better to learn from than those who have already gone through it? Why waste this body of knowledge and experience? During a very trying period in their lives, gay children need role models now more than ever.

While suggesting that gay men and lesbians become more involved with gay youth, I m not advocating pedophilia. In fact, I am suggesting just the opposite: that gay men and lesbians behave responsibly. Many of us have experienced difficult times growing up because of our sexuality, though it seems as if the gay community has undergone "mass amnesia" and has somewhat abandoned the gay youth of today. While some efforts are being made, I feel as though a more hands-on approach would be beneficial. Gay youth needs to see gay adults as positive members of the community, people with faces and personalities and lives, not as sexual predators or as the social deviants society paints us as.

unwound

*by Japiya Burns*

their bodies are not tightly intertwined now

they're unwound like worn-out tops

spun a lot like laughing bottles

shyly kissing in the end

*(Japiya is a college student and lives in Traverse City)*

## PORTUGAL UPDATE

1997 will go down in Portuguese history as the year of the gay and lesbian awakening. During the current year, several major events have irreversibly changed the Portuguese lesbian and gay community and given it the largest visibility ever. During 1996 the first gay and lesbian organization became official, and started immediately working with the community.

In mid 1996 our organization started political lobbying in order to equalize the age of consent between homosexual and heterosexual sex and to push for a partnership law that would recognize the rights of homosexual couples.

In January 1997, while the country's first (national) gay and lesbian newspaper celebrated its first birthday, the government approved the new penal code contemplating the same age of consent between homo- and heterosexual sex (16 y.o.). On May 4th 1997, roughly 400 people marched down Lisbon's Liberty Avenue remembering those lost to AIDS in the "First AIDS Candlelight Memorial and March". In early June, after more than a year of lobbying and a national campaign directed at the Prime-Minister, the government party announces a domestic partnership bill to recognize the rights of homosexual couples (excluding adoption), sparking a national debate over the issue. The voting on the bill, for political reasons, was postponed till January 1998. Later, on June the 28th, in Lisbon again, Portugal's first Pride Festival was held successfully attracting an attendance of close to 3000 people. In August, the first AIDS awareness and prevention leaflets targeting the gay and lesbian community in Portugal, were published by our organization with the financial aid of the Health Ministry.

Currently, from September 13th to September 28th, Europe's largest Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (in terms of the number of films shown - 66 different films), the "Lisbon's First Gay

and Lesbian Film Festival", is attracting large crowds to theaters, selling-out almost all the screenings in this 15-day festival. The festival is being staged in three different theaters across the city and has the patronage of the Lisbon Mayor. By the end of the film fest, we predict that approximately 5000 people will have attended the event.

Later this year, on October the 20th, Portugal's first Gay and Lesbian Community Center will open to the public in Lisbon's city center. The community center will have one-on-one (as well as telephone) legal, medical and psychological support and counselling; it will be equipped with a coffee-shop, a documentation center, a library, an internet access point and a small bookstore. The large space where the community center will be functioning was given to our organization by the City Council and a grand opening with the Mayor's presence is already confirmed.

These happenings were unthinkable in Portugal in 1995, when the gay and lesbian community were at a total void. Just two years ago there were no gay and/or lesbian organizations and the concept of community was something we were used to witnessing in other developed countries. The radical and shear speed with which the homosexual movement has developed over the past 24 months even manages to surprise us. Gay owned and gay-friendly businesses are starting to pop up at a steady rate, increasing the overall quality of life of the community. The Portuguese miracle seems to be well on its way... -- If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to send us an e-mail.

Goñalo Dumas Diniz  
Chairman of "Association ILGA-Portugal"  
Ap. 21281—1131 Lisboa Codex — Portugal  
[www.ilga-portugal.org](http://www.ilga-portugal.org)  
[ilga-portugal@ilga.org](mailto:ilga-portugal@ilga.org)

## BOOK

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Traverse City Commission

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I would like to continue receiving the newsletter but am unable to contribute.

I am New to the mailing list.     I am already on mailing list.     Note my new address.     Please remove me from your mailing list.

The F/N mailing list is confidential and our mailings come in an unmarked envelope.

## SAME-SEX UNION COMING

Deb Price

From its perch atop Hawaii's judicial branch, the state's farsighted Supreme Court can, no doubt, see just how close same-sex marriage is to becoming a reality.

That legal miracle is probably only months away. It's absolutely critical that it occur before November 1998, when Hawaii's voters will be asked whether to amend their constitution to let lawmakers block same-sex marriage.

Dan Foley, attorney for the three same-sex couples suing for marriage licenses, expects the Hawaii Supreme Court to announce soon whether it will hold oral arguments. "Once we get (a court) order, we can expect a (final) decision within a number of months," Foley predicts. "We're just waiting.

"I don't think there's any question — when the decision comes down — what it will be," Foley adds with well-placed confidence. "Everybody knows there's really nothing to decide because the state abysmally failed to meet its burden."

In a preliminary ruling, the Hawaii Supreme Court declared in 1993 that refusing to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples is sex discrimination, which Hawaii's constitution prohibits. The court's conclusion rested on a simple fact. No one, regardless of sexual orientation, is allowed to marry someone of the same sex.

A three-member majority of Hawaii's top court sent the case back to a lower court, demanding the state prove a "compelling" reason for the discrimination. The state's attempts have failed miserably. As a result, Judge Kevin Chang ruled in favor of same-sex marriage last December, and the case is now back before the Hawaii Supreme Court.

After flailing about trying to concoct a believable "compelling" reason, the state has switched its chief argument. Gone almost entirely is the "children would suffer" claim, which the state's own witnesses demolished during an embarrassing two-week trial a year ago. The state has turned to mainland hired guns for legal help. But, having already had all its arguments shot down, the state has been reduced to begging the Hawaii Supreme Court to say its ruling of "sex discrimination" was wrong in the first place.

That's a sign of total desperation because all three justices who gave us that decision are still on the court.' And three votes are all we need on the five-member court to legalize same-sex marriage.

The historic 1993 decision was written by Justice Steven Levinson. It was supported by Ronald Moon, now chief justice, and Paula Nakayama. A more recent appointee, Justice Mario Ramil, is an unknown on gay issues but is considered a pro-consumer, pro-worker, progressive Democrat. Chief Justice Moon will appoint someone to cast the fifth vote. (Justice Robert Klein won't participate because he heard the case as a lower court judge.)

If the court doesn't rule soon, the November 1998 vote on amending the constitution could be devastating.

Polls show most Hawaii voters oppose same-sex marriage but are evenly split over amending the constitution. But if gay couples start legally marrying before the election, voters will actually face a very different issue: Should citizens lose rights they already have? That would make it much more likely that same-sex marriage would win not only in the courts but also at the ballot box.

In July, the Hawaii Supreme Court rejected the state's plea for it to intentionally delay its ruling until after the November 1998 vote. It's a positive sign that the court rebuffed the state's insulting suggestion that, instead of protecting rights, it should wait to see if those rights are amended out of existence.

Meanwhile, two Hawaii federal cases bear watching. The first questions whether the state's new "reciprocal beneficiaries" law — giving many marriage-like benefits to partners who can't legally marry — covers private employers' health plans. The other will decide whether Hawaii must vote again on whether to hold a constitutional convention, a potential nightmare.

Marriage can be the union of a man and woman, a man and man or a woman and woman. That's already the emotional reality. Count on the Hawaii Supreme Court to make it a legal reality as well.

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September 8, 1997, and Deb Price)

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## MORE ON CHRYSLER

Hello,

Today (mid August, 1997) I was confronted with more blatant lies from Chrysler management. After anti-gay harassment/discrimination I have been suffering climaxed on May 7, 1997; I have been on a medical from May 8 to last Friday. Today was my first day back to work. For months (since February) Chrysler has been touting to the press that they added the words "sexual orientation" to the "Standards of Conduct" posted in every facility. The standards were supposedly revised January 2, 1997. However, today once again I looked at the standards posted in my work place and only the old copy can be found. The standards are kept in a locked glass enclosure so they cannot claim that they were removed.

Every person I have ever spoken with at Chrysler has stated that not one "new" standard has been posted or can be found on the factory floor as they should be. When today I asked Diversity Director Monica Emerson why they have not been posted after OVER SEVEN MONTHS, she stated that the "appropriate" persons had been notified to post the standards and she assured me that the new standards were posted everywhere that they should be. For Chrysler to tell "In The Life" national TV program, "The New Yorker" and other media that they have a "new" "Standards of Conduct" posted when it is not true is completely inexcusable.

No wonder Chrysler is being sued by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) and also the State of California for deception.

In addition, two certified letters I sent to Monica Emerson and also my immediate supervisor via certified mail on May 22, 1997 have never been answered in any way. The letters detailed how I was being treated in the weeks before my medical. The treatment including being yelled/swore at by co-workers for NOT doing a job in an unsafe manner, confronted in a threatening manner by a co-worker hovering (standing) over me as I was on my hands and knees trying to do a job and also having a work partner refusing to help as I tried to plan the best way to accomplish a task we were given.

If there are any other Chrysler employees who have not been able to find the new standards posted anywhere (just as the rest of us), please let Monica Emerson know at: 248-512-2160 or by fax at: 248-512-2151. Also anyone can call this number to inquire as to why they tout the new standards to the media when the issue of discrimination arises but they refuse to post them on the factory floor.

To put it bluntly, nothing has changed at Chrysler Corporation. The crumbs they have tried to show as positive steps have all been shrouded in lies and deception. I felt that our community has a right to be aware of this.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ron G. Woods 810-545-7699  
MichRook@aol.com

## BEARS

Gerald Nye, Secretary  
North West Michigan Bears

The Wellness Network—Grand Traverse is this years recipient of funds raised at North West Michigan Bears first annual "Bears in the Dunes" charity run. The event was held September 12th-14th at the Douglas Dunes Resort in Douglas, Michigan.

Richard Barr was the winner of the 50/50 drawing and donated his winnings to the Wellness Network.

Tony Ramirez was chosen as "Mr. North West Michigan Bear" by an independent panel of judges and will represent our organization for the next year.

North West Michigan Bears is a gay mens charitable/social group which meets at least once a month in the Traverse City/Cadillac/Petoskey area. For more information about North West Michigan Bears or "Bears in the Dunes-2" write us at P.O. Box 283 Northport, MI 49670 or call 616-386-5203 evenings.

Matt McCormick

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## COURTESY IS REAL ISSUE AT DISNEY'S GAY DAY

John Grogan

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and Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel 8/31/97

Danielle Mason does not consider herself particularly prudish. And, while she agrees with the Bible on homosexuality, she has always taken a "live and let live" attitude.

So why has the 22-year-old law student from Fort Lauderdale joined the Southern Baptists' boycott of Walt Disney?

It has something to do with the man on the leash.

Mason went to Disney World with a group of friends on the first weekend of June 1996. What she did not know was that her trip fell on the same day that thousands of homosexuals were arriving at Disney World for so-called "Gay Day."

Her first hint came on the shuttle bus to the Magic Kingdom when she noticed men sitting on each others laps and holding hands. No big deal.

Once inside the gates, however, the displays became more brazen, she said.

"They had their hands all over each other. Touching, really touching, in front of children. They were goosing each other and French kissing. And just saying things to each other within everyone's earshot that were just gross."

Then she saw one man leading another man, slave style, by a leash.

That was when Mason's mild discomfort turned to anger.

"I have homosexual friends," she said. "It's not like the homosexuality itself was shocking to me. It's how crude they were being. And just so bold.

"It would have been equally disgusting to me if it was a man and a woman doing the same thing."

### **Deception by Disney?**

Not everyone was acting out. "It was about half and half," she said.

"There were a lot of people who were just there to have fun, but there was an overwhelming number displaying their homosexuality in every way they could."

As a college undergraduate, Mason was a music major and theater minor and knew many openly gay people.

"But this Disney experience was different," she said. "These were fanatical gays with an agenda. These were not 'live and let live' people.

Disney insists it does not organize or promote Gay Day. But Mason thinks the company is being disingenuous.

"When a corporation says, 'We are for children,' and caters to children, and then seems to have these secret agendas, that's deceptive in my opinion."

So Mason, a practicing Christian (but not a Southern Baptist) who was home-schooled as a child, decided to join the boycott.

"They [Disney] are making a statement to me, and I want to make my statement, as small as it may be, right back to them," she said.

She's not the only one I heard from with a similar reaction to Gay Day at Disney World.

An old college friend sent an e-mail confessing that her liberalism was tested when she found herself trying to explain to her 4-year-old son why the two men in front of them in line for a Dumbo ride were kissing.

"Well, um, you see, um... Uhhh..."

Maybe the best answer would be simply to tell the truth—"They love each other"—and leave it at that.

I'm with Mason and my old college friend on this: A children's park is not the place to be advertising your sexuality, gay, straight or anything in between.

The flap over Disney Gay Day is about something a lot more basic than homosexual rights or those much-trumpeted family values.

It's about appropriate behavior in a public place.

It's about common courtesy.

As Mason asked: "Whatever happened to manners?"

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**Always looking for comments from our readers** — Do you find this article homophobic? — Is this view point valid? — Should space be reserved for "opposing views" of the gay community in the pages of this newsletter? — What's your opinion. Let us know.

Friends North, Inc.,

P.O. Box 562

Traverse City, MI 49685-0562

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WORLD AIDS DAY continued from page 1

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of our solidarity, hope for the future, memory of the past, and to inspire increased awareness of the prevention of HIV/AIDS. This year we walk for all those children — locally and internationally — who have become infected with AIDS, and for those who, through better education, and public awareness, can be prevented from being infected.

Around the world, we commit ourselves to a better understanding of the magnitude and diversity of the impact of HIV/AIDS on children, their families and their communities. The world community must work for a stronger commitment, improved policies and increased action for preventing infection and minimizing the epidemic's impact on children, their families and their communities, and we seek increased and improved access to quality education and information on the prevention and care of children with HIV/AIDS. We also seek greater understanding of children's rights, human rights and HIV/AIDS.

Please come to this important celebration — for yourself, for the children, for the future. Your presence illustrates a commitment to our community, and especially to our children. Standing together, joined with communities around the world, we can give hope to children in a world with AIDS.

*(Stacie Fine is the Rabbi of Congregation  
Ahavat Shalom of Traverse City.)*

# RESOURCES

## STATE AND NATIONAL HOTLINES

Department of Justice Hotline (for reporting  
Hate Crimes against gays and lesbians) ..... 800-347-HATE  
Michigan Wellness Networks ..... 800-872-AIDS  
Gay/Lesbian National Youth Hotline ..... 800-347-TEEN

## STATEWIDE SERVICES SOCIAL / POLITICAL / MEDIA

The Network: Lesbian and Gay Community Network of W. Michigan  
909 Cherry St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49506 ..... 616-458-3511  
Lavender Morning  
P.O. Box 50729, Kalamazoo, MI 49005 ..... 616-685-6061  
Kalamazoo Resource Center  
P.O. Box 1532, Kalamazoo, MI 49005 ..... 616-345-7878  
Affirmations Lesbian/Gay Community Center  
Suite 110, 195 W. Nine Mile Rd.  
Ferndale, MI 48220 ..... 810-398-7105  
<http://www.webspace.com/~tcc/affirmations/index.htm>  
Lansing Association of Human Rights  
P.O. Box 18062, Lansing, MI 48826 ..... 517-332-3200  
e-mail ..... [lahr@macatawa.org](mailto:lahr@macatawa.org)  
Lesbian Connection  
P.O. Box 811, East Lansing, MI 48826 ..... 517-371-5257  
Triangle Foundation (Lesbian/Gay Foundation of Michigan)  
19641 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit 48219 ..... 313-537-3323  
..... Fax: 313-537-3379  
email ..... [trijeffm@aol.com](mailto:trijeffm@aol.com)  
Between The Lines (newspaper/monthly) ..... 810-615-7003  
33528 Eight Mile, Ste. 185A3, Livonia, MI 48152 ... FAX 810-615-7018  
e-mail ..... [pridepblis@aol.com](mailto:pridepblis@aol.com)  
The Third Coast (magazine/monthly) ..... 616-451-4903  
1322 Hurd, SE, Grand Rapids 49506 ..... FAX 616-451-0915  
e-mail ..... [lllrdCoast@aol.com](mailto:lllrdCoast@aol.com)  
Michigan Pride, Inc. (Statewide Pride March organization)  
P.O. Box 16191, Lansing, MI 48901 ..... 517-371-8466  
e-mail ..... [MichiganPrideInc@unforgettable.com](mailto:MichiganPrideInc@unforgettable.com)

## NATIONAL SERVICE / SOCIAL / POLITICAL

P-FLAG: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays  
1012 14th St. NW, Ste. 700, Washington, DC 20005 .... 202-638-4200  
GLAAD: Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation  
80 Varick St., #3E, New York, NY 10013 ..... 212-807-1700  
..... Fax: 212-807-1806  
email ..... [glaadnatl@aol.com](mailto:glaadnatl@aol.com)  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force ..... 202-332-6483  
2320 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009 ..... Fax: 202-332-0207  
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund ..... 212-809-8585 x 205  
120 Wall St., NY, NY 10005 ..... Fax: 212-890-0055  
ACLU Lesbian/Gay Rights Project  
1370 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94130 ..... 415-621-0674  
HRC: Human Rights Campaign (National Coming Out Day)  
1012 14th St. NS #607, Washington, DC 20005 ..... 202-628-4160  
..... Fax: 202-347-5323  
e-mail ..... [www@hrcusa.org](http://www@hrcusa.org)  
Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, Political Action Committee  
1012 14th St. NW #707, Washington, DC 20005 ..... 202-842-7679  
GLSEN, Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network ..... 212-727-0135  
121 West 27 Street Suite 804, NY, NY 10001 .... Fax: 212-727-0-254

## LOCAL SPIRITUAL:

Rev. Geraldine Colvin & Rev. David Florence  
Unity Church, 3600 Five Mile, Traverse City ..... 616-932-9587  
Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Grand Traverse  
6726 Center Rd., Traverse City—Home: 938-9078 ... Office: 947-3117  
Rev. Nancy Hayward, Circle of the Sacred Earth ..... 616-223-7999  
Rev. Linda L. Wilson, Journey In Light Ministries ..... 616-271-2529

## LOCAL COUNSELING:

Third Level Crisis Intervention, ..... 616-922-4800  
1022 E. Front St., TC, MI 49686 ..... and 800-442-7315  
Women's Resource Center ..... 616-941-1210  
Rodger Landvoy, PHD ..... 616-929-1711  
Susan Breuer PHD (Frankfort / Traverse City) ..... 616-352-4261  
Margo Million, ACSW ..... 616-947-0511  
David Blisk (Maple City) ..... 616-228-5105  
Joanna T. Lauber, MA, OTR, CHt ..... 616-947-8842  
Barbara Jones Smith, PHD ..... 616-947-1444  
Elizabeth Most, MSW, ACSW (Petoskey) ..... 616-439-0656  
William D. Gould, MA (Gladwin) ..... 517-426-2351  
David Rushlow, ACSW, Munson Medical Center ..... 616-935-6385  
Bay Area Counseling (Petoskey/Harbor Springs)  
Margalo Bley, MSW, ACSW ..... 616-348-3616  
Daniel C. Doran, PHD, CSW ..... 906-635-9263  
Lois Martindale, Ph.D., Benzonia ..... 616-882-5888  
CDRS (a free substance abuse referral agency)  
808-A S. Garfield, Traverse City ..... 929-1315 or 800-686-0749

## LOCAL SERVICE / SOCIAL / POLITICAL

Friends North (information line) ..... 616-946-1804  
Common Voices - F/N Rap Group ..... Ed - 947-4697  
..... Tom - 275-6127  
Windfire Gay & Lesbian Youth Support Group—  
Call Third Level for location & time .... 616-922-4800 or 800-442-7315  
Side Traxx Nite Club, 520 Franklin St. off of 8th St. .... 616-935-1666  
Traverse City Human Rights Commission, 400 Boardman . 616-922-4700  
Gay Alcoholics Anonymous,  
Grace Church, Washington at Boardman, TC .... John 616-922-0746  
..... [jdevans@gtii.com](mailto:jdevans@gtii.com)  
..... Hilda 616-938-1294  
P-FLAG, Traverse City, POB 1705, Acme, MI 49610 . Cindy 616-271-5045  
GLSEN (Gay/Lesbian/Straight Education Network)  
PO Box 9, Traverse, MI 49685 ..... 616-943-5050  
NOW (National Organization for Women) Gail Trill ..... 616-938-1333

## LOCAL HIV/AIDS HEALTH COUNSELING:

HIV/AIDS Wellness Networks, GTA, Inc., ..... 616-947-1110  
P.O. Box 1632, Traverse City, MI 49685 ..... 1-800-494-1160  
Business Office ..... 616-933-0279  
HIV/AIDS Wellness Networks - HIV Support Group and  
Family and Significant Other Support Group ..... 616-947-1110  
Thomas Judd Care Center, 1211 W Front St., Traverse City,  
Mary Dillinger, RN, Clinical Nurse Specialist ..... 616-935-8140  
David Rushlow, ACSW Social Worker ..... 616-935-6385  
H.A.N.D.S. (HIV/AIDS Support: Petoskey) ..... 1-800-248-6777  
Community Health Clinic ..... 616-929-4448  
(anonymous counseling/testing; same-day results no fee)  
Northern Michigan Planned Parenthood ..... 616-929-1844  
(anonymous counseling & testing)  
Grand Traverse County Health Department ..... 616-922-4831  
(anonymous HIV Testing Center)  
Emmet County Health Department (Petoskey) ..... 616-347-6014  
Also call the District Health Department in your area