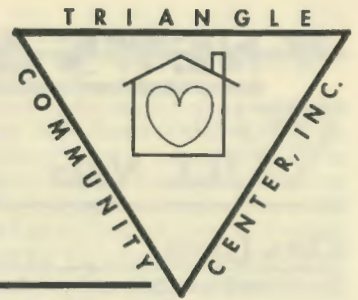


Triangle Community Center News & Views

Free to Members and Subscribers

Vol.8, No.10
October 1997

MANY HEARTS ♥ ♥ ♥ ONE COMMUNITY

THE "PAGEANT" IS COMING!



After playing to lavish praise at Manhattan's Blue Angel Theatre, "Pageant" is coming to Norwalk CT, for five performances in January 1998. Proceeds from the show will go to benefit the Triangle Community Center (TCC) of East Norwalk (the gay and lesbian community center serving Fairfield County) and Bread and Roses, (an AIDS residence in Georgetown, CT). "Pageant's" director, Scott M. Robbins also directed "Whoop-Dee-Doo" in January 1997, which raised over \$17,000 for TCC, Bread and Roses and other Fairfield County agencies assisting people with AIDS. And this past June, he directed "The World Goes Round," a benefit for Bread and Roses, which played to virtually sold out crowds in Westport.

The show will feature six beauty contestants: Miss Bible Belt, Miss Industrial Northeast, Miss Deep South, Miss Texas, Miss Great Plains, and Miss West Coast. Each contestant will wear a costume parodying their region's stereotypes. They will be required to undergo an "exhaustive series of preliminary competitions" one of which is "beauty crisis counseling." They will also be asked to promote such products as Smooth As Marble Facial Spackle "for a deep-down coverup," and Lip

Snack, a nutritious lipstick that comes in 27 shades and flavors. All this they do in their quest for the title of Miss Glamourese. Audience members will serve as judges with different winners at each performance.

"Pageant" evolved from a workshop production in New York in the mid 1980s, according to the producer of the New York 1991 and 1992 run, Jonathan Scherer of Greenwich, CT. Mr. Scherer said "Pageant" is about those obsessed with winning; it expresses hypocrisy." The show was conceived, directed and choreographed by Robert Longbottom and written by Bill Russell and Frank Kelly. The music was composed by Albert Evans.

Scott M. Robbins, the director, began his career in the theater at age 10, as a performer. He appeared in numerous stage productions in New York stock, and regional theaters, as well as in films, television and night clubs. Along with Mark Graham, Mr. Robbins produced several productions at the Pinecrest Dinner Theatre in Fairfield County CT, including the premiere production of "Stay Tuned", which he also co-produced in New York. Mr. Robbins has taught acting for many years, and several of his former students are now appearing on Broadway on television and in films. Mr. Robbins has staged more than 25 large scale productions including the recent productions of "Whoop-Dee-Doo" and "The World Goes Round."

The New York Sunday Times reviewer David Richards said, "It's all here — the tears, the nerves, the frozen smiles, the platitudes, the bad taste, and of course the raging ambition just under the lacquered surface that gives beauty pageants their fascinating subtext." "Screamingly funny!....It's 90 minutes of laugh therapy!" said another Times reviewer.

CASTING CALL FOR "PAGEANT"

Auditions for the January production of "Pageant" will be held Tuesday, October 21 and Wednesday, October 22 at 7 pm both evenings at the Norwalk Community Technical College Performing Arts Center. The Center is located at 188 Richards Avenue in Norwalk (on the east side of Richards Avenue) off exit 13 of the Connecticut Turnpike (I95).

"We are looking for 7 men, 6 of whom will play female 'Pageant' contestants, and 1 emcee. All must sing, dance and act," said director, Scott M. Robbins. "They should come to the auditorium prepared to perform two songs and to dance," he added. The contestants include Miss Bible Belt, Miss Industrial Northeast, Miss Deep South, Miss Texas, Miss Great Plains, and Miss West Coast.

SHOW TIMES

"Pageant" will play for five nights in January, at the Norwalk Community Technical College Performing Arts Center. The dates are: Friday January 16, Saturday January 17, Thursday January 22, Friday January 23 and Saturday January 24. All shows will start at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for the show only and \$50 for the show and a post-show reception. Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at (203) 857-7271.

A DIFFERENT CALLING

St. Paul's on the Green, Norwalk has several openings (volunteer and paid) for singers who enjoy challenging music from all periods. There are several options for people with good voices and good music reading skills.

The chancel choir sings at the Sunday morning Liturgy and special feast days. They rehearse Thursday evening. The choir sings two anthems each Sunday. The Repertoire of traditional liturgical music spans the Renaissance to the twentieth century, with emphasis on the English choral tradition.

The Evensong choir sings six times a year and specializes in English romantic literature. The traditional English cathedral service of Evensong is comprised of music, readings and prayers. The choir sings a Magnificat, Nunc Dimittis, responses and an anthem.

To arrange an audition or for more information, call Bill Vortberg, Director of Music at (203) 847-7250.



OPEN LETTER

Dear board members and members of the Triangle Center:

I am writing to express thanks for all the moral support I have received from the TCC board and TCC members in my efforts to provide positive coverage in Fairfield and New Haven counties for gays and gay issues during the past 4 years.

As you know, the intolerance and bigotry we must endure is so unfair, immoral and irrational. I look to the day when those who play the anti-gay bigotry card will have to answer for what they do, just as the segregationists and Fascists have had to answer in recent decades, and their positions have become so unacceptable in mainstream society.

I am especially grateful and flattered that the TCC nominated me to be a Fairfield County community person of the year of the Stamford Advocate, and for all the verbal encouragement continually given to me.

Like many of us, it is the issue about which I care more than anything, and it means everything to have the appreciation and support of the TCC and its members, people who donate enormous time and effort to our gay community, and whose work has made and makes it much easier for me to be who I am.

Sincerely, Michael Collins

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

There is good news for all of us. The government is in the business of promoting population growth with a new \$500-a-kid tax credit. Can you believe it? In this poor, overpopulated, overcrowded, over-polluted world, a tax credit which will encourage population growth? Do you have kids? Better make more. Tough buns if you don't because the credit is yours only if you do.

If you want a tax cut, procreate. Shades of Nazi Germany which used government incentives to raise the birth rate. Are we not in danger of creating another baby boom down the road, another tide of boomers straining the economy, creating long-term deficits and placing huge new costs on Social Security and Medicare? Not to mention the resulting turmoil. Wouldn't it be better if the government offered some kind of economic incentives to people who limit their numbers, a reward to the many non-producers amongst us? New thinking is in order.

The Achilles heel in all this philosophy of economic growth is that it depends upon a constantly growing population to sustain it, a constantly growing "market" the economists call it. If the market doesn't exist here at home, go to Asia with its huddled masses. Growth, growth, growth. It's like a treadmill. It works as long as it doesn't slow down. So let's have another baby boom. Jump on the treadmill everyone. Eureka! I feel sorry for the kids down the road. Good luck kids. You are not to blame.

-Wally Bacon

FREE.....ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of the Free Association will be held on Saturday, November 15 at TCC from 10:30 to noon. This meeting will be a discussion focused on recent developments at Brookfield High School, facilitated by one or more members of the committee for the Defense of Classroom Tolerance. Committee co-chair Ed Rose is expected to come, and other members may join him as the date draws closer. In the event you are unfamiliar with the situation, this once seemingly progressive school had adopted "safe zones" where gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning students could discuss their concerns in a safe environment with sympathetic teachers and staff. However, an apparently very small, right wing, "Christian" fundamentalist group of parents has filed a lawsuit against the woman spearheading the project. Her future and the program's future are very uncertain. Come and hear the latest and share your thoughts. Please mark your calendars now as there may not be another reminder!

October 1997

TRIP TO HERSTORY ARCHIVE

Members of the Lesbian Lit Group will be visiting the Lesbian Herstory Archive on October 25. The LHA is housed in a lovely brownstone in Park Slope, Brooklyn, NY a.k.a. "Dyke Slope." The collection contains a wide variety of materials by, for and about lesbians. There are great books, articles, biographies, files, clothing, memorabilia, and art from around the world. The neighborhood is lovely and has good restaurants and shops. If you're interested in joining them call Sharon at (203) 855-9951.

The book chosen for the November 4 meeting of the reading group is "Terminal Velocity" by Blanche Boyd. Ms Boyd is a local author and will be speaking at the Center in November on a night to be announced. The Lit Group meets at TCC the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. For more information call Christine at (203) 847-8476.

GAY/LESBIAN STUDIES

Free Association member John Emery Istvan is soliciting support regarding a Gay/Lesbian Studies course he is considering developing for a community college in Fairfield County. The course would be "sort of a history of... how we develop our attitudes/beliefs towards...no, everyone isn't like Ellen... sort of a course," John said. He would like to hear from anyone interested in promoting the course, guest lecturing a class on a given topic, or possibly enrolling in it. It would be a 3 credit, undergraduate course offered on a Saturday morning, possibly open to high school students and people over the age of 62. The target is spring semester, 1998. Contact John at home at (203) 333-1194 with your encouragement, suggestions, thoughts, support, etc.

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

As a person who only recently accepted I was gay (two years next January), I was overwhelmed by the spirit of celebration, community and cooperation that marked both the Connecticut Gay Pride parade/festival in Hartford and the humungous Gay Pride parade in New York City, both of which I participated in for the first time this year. In the Hartford parade I marched with a contingent from my Union (New England Health Care Employees Union, District 1199) and in the New York parade with a delegation from TCC.

One of the things that kept me from accepting being gay as a young adult in the 1970's, was my perception that being gay was something negative, something sad, something to be ashamed of, something to be hidden. The few times gays were depicted in film or other media, they were usually pictured as mentally unstable or simply unhappy people—people who didn't want to be who they were.

Well, times—they indeed have changed. The hundreds of thousands of gay people I saw and marched with in those two parades were very happy to be who they are. There were no negatives, not sad, not ashamed, and certainly not hidden! And the sense of community—men and women of varying sexual tendencies, races, ethnic groups, religions, etc.. celebrating in harmony—almost brought me to tears (of joy, of course!).

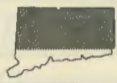
If you've never participated in a Pride parade, please keep June 1998 weekends free so you'll be able to experience a very positively charged celebration of life and its diversity that you won't soon forget!
-John DelVecchio

FALL INTO FALL FRIENDRAISER

As the trees show a hint of color and the nights get a little chilly, why not make time to take time with your friends. The October Friendraiser will be held on Saturday, October 18 from 3-6 pm. It is being hosted by Brian DuBac and Elliot Arluck at their home at 239 Fox St., Bridgeport. Our hosts asks that you bring food at your own discretion and BYOB.

Directions: Going North on I95 take Exit 24 for the Black Rock Turnpike; bear right around the rotary up and over the hill past the cinemas. Take a right onto Canfield Ave. Follow to end and take a left onto Fox St. Please park on the street.

Going South on I95 take Exit 24 and go left off the exit ramp to the 2nd stop sign. Make a right on State Street Extension to traffic light; make a left on Black Rock Turnpike through the first stop sign. Make a right onto Canfield Ave and take a left onto Fox St. Please park your car in the street.



STATEWIDE - LICENSURE FOR COUNSELORS

After three years of intensive lobbying, professional counselors in Connecticut have succeeded in gaining licensure for their profession. Licensure protects consumers by ensuring that individuals who practice as professional counselors in Connecticut have met state minimum requirements for education, knowledge and experience. The bill grants licensure to professional counselors who have: (1) at least sixty graduate semester hours and who hold at least a master's or higher degree of forty-two graduate semester hours from a regionally accredited institution of higher education in a major deemed to be in counseling; (2) acquired three thousand hours of supervised experience in the field of professional counseling over not less than one year and which includes a minimum of one hundred hours of direct supervision by licensed professionals as specified by the bill; and (3) passed an examination prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health.

Practicing counselors will have a grandparent period until January 1, 1999, provided they provide evidence of (1) having earned a master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education in a major deemed to be in counseling; (2) practiced professional counseling for a minimum of two years immediately preceding October 1, 1997; and (3) passed an examination prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health.

Connecticut now joins 43 other states and the District of Columbia in regulating the field of professional counseling. Only Alaska, Hawaii, Minnesota, Nevada, New York and Pennsylvania have not passed legislation regulating the field.

BRIDGEPORT - NEW GAY BAR!

Connecticut's largest city once again has a gay bar to call its own! Caught In The Act, located at 1246 Main St, in downtown Bridgeport, is opened seven days a week from noon until closing. The bar, decorated with a variety of gay artistry and provocative photography, offers sandwiches at very modest prices along with draft beer special during the day.

Everyone Wednesday features a DJ with '50s music and no cover charge; Thursday night offers a DJ with '70s music and no cover charge; Friday is "Latin Night" with a DJ and \$2 cover after 9 pm; Saturday features a DJ with club music and a male dancer for a \$3 cover after 9 pm.

Dolores, the bar's owner, is very enthusiastic that Bridgeport, once again, has a bar that gay people will find friendly and secure. The bar is only one block from the Bridgeport Police Dept. And there is free parking next door. Look for a TCC Friendraiser at this bar in the future!

BROOKFIELD - AUTUMN AFFAIR

Broadway show tunes from two veterans of "The Great White Way" will be the highlight of "Autumn Affair," an October 5 party to benefit the Committee for the Defense of Classroom Tolerance (CDCT). Based in Danbury, CT, CDCT is a non-profit grassroots organization formed to encourage equal treatment of all students and educators, regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation. As its mission statement specifies, "CDCT supports educators and students who advocate for the right of gay, lesbian and bisexual youth to receive a safe education and worthy initiatives aimed at achieving this goal. Because any form of oppression or discrimination undermines human dignity, CDCT seeks an educational environment where young people can learn with joy and without fear."

Don Pippin, one of the most highly acclaimed conductors in the American theatre and musical director of a string of smash hits, will be at the piano. Marie Santall, a Broadway veteran in her own right, will sing. Guest of honor for the afternoon will be Veronica Berrill, mother of seven and grandmother of several, who taught English at Brookfield (CT) High School for 22 years. During her last two years there, Mrs. Berrill and five other staff members participated in the school's Safe Zones program, in which teenagers with questions about sexual orientation could come and talk without fear of judgment, discrimination or repercussion.

Beginning in October, 1995 a Christian-right couple began a campaign to malign Veronica and abolish the Safe Zones initiative at BHS, accusing her of "homosexual recruiting," among other things. After eight months of this onslaught, Veronica sued the couple for defamation of character and malicious slander. The suit has not yet come to trial and Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice, based in Virginia, is providing financial and legal support for Veronica's opponents. As for the Safe Zones program at BHS, it is at best-in crippled and ineffective abeyance at present-in other words, it is all but dead!

Don Pippin is the first Broadway musical director to receive the Drama Desk Award "for consistently outstanding musical direction and commitment to the theatre" for such shows as "La Cage Aux Folles"... "A Chorus Line"... "Oliver!"... "Cabaret"... "Mame"... to name just a few. He won an Emmy for the TV special Broadway Sings Jule Styne plus a nomination for Jerry Hermon at the Hollywood Bowl in which he conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra a month after he was a Special Guest Conductor for the Boston Pops Orchestra...

Vocalist Marie Santall has appeared on Broadway in "La Cage Aux Folles"... "Seesaw"... "The Music Man"... "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"... and many others. Her cabaret act has been widely acclaimed in New York City, and she has received glowing notices for her concert appearances at Carnegie Hall in "By Ira, By George" and "The 100th Celebration of Cole Porter." Other major orchestras with which she has performed are the Toronto Symphony, the Pittsburgh Symphony and the Boston Pop.

"Autumn Affair will be held on Sunday, October 5, from 3 pm to 6 pm in Redding Ridge, CT. Admission is \$35 per person, including wine and hors d'oeuvres. Attendance is limited to the first 75 persons. For further information and reservations, please telephone (914) 279-7785.

GENEALOGY BUFFS

Searching for your ancestry? Try these sources:

1. Groups: Connecticut Society of Genealogists, P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033-0435. Good for people doing research of local CT records, as membership allows access to towns' vital records.
2. Books: For an overall introduction to genealogy read: "Searching For Your Ancestors: The How and Why of Genealogy" by Gilbert H. Doane and James B. Bell.
3. Internet resources: For a good source of how-to information check out the genealogy area of AOL. One way to get to it is via keyword ROOTS.

STAMFORD - LARRY KRAMER & GABRIEL ROTELLO

On Thursday evening, October 16, the Women's Studies Program at the University of Connecticut in Stamford will present an evening of conversation with Larry Kramer and Gabriel Rotello. The topic for the evening will be "The Gay Nineties: AIDS & Gay Rights in the fin de siecle." Both are highly acclaimed writers and gay rights activists. Kramer and Rotello will discuss the impact of the AIDS crisis on the gay community and its relevance to the evolution of the Gay Rights Movement.

Larry Kramer is the co-founder of the Gay Man's Health Crisis and ACT-UP, two of the first organizations to respond to the AIDS epidemic. He is also the author of "Faggots," a controversial novel about gay life; he is an Academy Award-nominated writer for his screenplay of D.H. Lawrence's "Women in Love", and he is an Obie Award winner for his plays, "The Normal Heart" and "The Destiny of Me." Perhaps no other person has so affected our consciousness about the AIDS epidemic, which Kramer believes is a form of genocide.

Gabriel Rotello is the author of the controversial and critically-acclaimed book "Sexual Ecology: AIDS and the Destiny of Gay Men" which has been a best-seller since its publication earlier this year. Rotello has written for the New York Times, Newsweek, Time, and Newsday, and is currently working on a novel.

This discussion is free and open to the public. It will be held at UConn/ Stamford, 641 Scofieldtown Road, in the MPR Room at 7:00 pm. For more information, please call the Women's Studies office at 203 461-6609.

STAMFORD - ALIX DOBKIN

On Wednesday, October 29, the Women's Studies Program at the University of Connecticut in Stamford will present "Talking Lesbian: Generating Lesbian Culture from the 1970's to the Present" with special guest, Alix Dobkin. Folksinger, oral historian, and political activist, Alix will use story-telling, lecture and song to recall lesbian history—past and present. As a "red diaper" baby of the 1950's, civil rights activist, and founder of the contemporary lesbian feminist movement, Alix's life story intersects with the major human rights movements and cultural shifts of our time.

"Alix is essential, a lifeline for a lot of lesbians," says Boo Price, producer of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. "Her concerts are like a magnet. Whatever's going on in the community, she will draw to her and take with her to the next city on the tour. I really believe she's responsible for helping develop much of the common thread of lesbian culture."

This presentation is free and open to the public. It will be held at UConn/Stamford, 641 Scofieldtown Road, in the MPR Room at 7:00 pm. For more information, please call the Women's Studies office at 203 461-6609.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Imagine volunteering one evening a month and not even having to leave your home! Volunteers are needed for GuideLine, the Gay and Lesbian Information Line. One scheduled evening a month, the phone line is call-forwarded to your home. You will be given a directory to look up resources. If you're interested, call Peter McKnight at (203) 330-9595 or e-mail Peter_McKnight@stamhosp.chime.org.

SEE THE "CONNECTICUT CALENDAR" (PAGE 5) FOR MORE CONNECTICUT LISTINGS

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

60 East Avenue, Norwalk
(Across from the Green)

- An inclusive, welcoming, affirming community
- Challenging preaching

Solemn Eucharist - Sundays at 10:15 AM

Come, experience splendid music & traditional liturgy, the smell of incense & sight of flickering candles, in the lovely architectural setting of a 13th Century, English Gothic church

Office: (203) 847-2806



CYBER NEWS

CYBER-DATING

For some, it can be love at first byte. For others, it's a place where they can come out yet still remain closeted. Surf into the cyber chat rooms and one quickly finds the new gay barrooms of the '90s. Alcohol-free, too. The chat rooms, such as the ones featured in America On Line or Prodigy, do more than just let folks cyber chitchat. For many gay men and women, the rooms are like windows in their closets.

They also are safe havens for guys to meet guys and girls to meet girls without feeling awkward or out of place at a bustling club or bar. "If you are shy, chat rooms offer you the choice of actually talking to a person instead of just meeting and dancing in a club," says a 17-year-old Hialeah teen who comes out on-line, but remains in the closet in his everyday high school life.

Gay cyber surfers say chat rooms allow them to meet each other via minds first, which contradicts the whole looks-driven gay culture. Even night-clubs are jumping into the chat room craze. The Saint in Fort Lauderdale and Splash in South Miami have thrown meet-your-on-line-buddy parties. Patrons wear name tags with only their screen names. Who knows? Maybe "Yogi Bear" and "Pooh Bear" will find each other.

INTERNET SURVEY OF GAY YOUTH

!OutProud!, The National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth and Oasis Magazine have announced the first-ever survey of queer and questioning youth on the Internet. The 150-question online survey runs through October 31, 1997 and is designed to provide insight into the multitude of issues facing queer youth today.

Joining !OutProud!'s and Oasis' effort are co-sponsors the American Civil Liberties Union, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, and XY Magazine. The survey takes thirty minutes to complete, and is delivered electronically via a special Web site at <http://www.oasismag.com/survey/>. A report based on the data will be published in January 1998.

GAY.NET FREE TO STUDENTS

Gay.Net, the gay online community, has announced that it will offer free accounts to college students anywhere in the world. The service, which is accessible on the World Wide Web, normally costs \$9.95 a month and will be offered free for registered college students until the end of 1997 calendar year — providing access to all content sections, chat groups and an unlimited Gay.Net e-mail account. Newsweek Magazine has called Gay.Net "the most ambitious gay service on the Web. You could spend half the night surfing and only find half of what's there." For a Gay.Net preview, visit Gay.Net at <http://www.gay.net/college>.

NEWS SOURCES

National News

Court Upholds Discharge, San Francisco Examiner, Sept 6, 1997
Gay Games for 1998, New York Times, Aug 26, 1997
Gays Onto Straight Path, New York Daily News, Aug 28, 1997
Immigration Rights for Gay Partners, The Times (London), Aug 27 1997
Scientists Create New AIDS Weapon, Augusta Chron, Sept 5, 1997

Cyber News

Cyber-Dating Miami Herald Sept 4 1997

State by State News

IL - Registry Approved, Chicago Sun Times, Sept 5, 1997
KY - Protection Denied, The Letter - KY GLBT paper, Sept 9, 1997
MA - Abuse in Gay Partners, Boston Globe, Sept 3, 1997
MA - Gay Adoption, Boston Globe, Sept 7, 1997
MI - District Drops Gay Policy, Detroit News, Aug 20, 1997
MN - Condom Man, Minneapolis Star, Tribune, Sept 4, 1997
NB - Pastor Unite Two Lesbians, Omaha, World Herald, Sept 10, 1997
NC - Military Recruiter Bans Lifted, News-Observer, Sept 10, 1997
NC - Pollster Controversy News-Observer, Aug 31, 1997
PA - 'Life Partner' Allowed, Phila Inquirer, Sept 6, 1997
UT - Gay Domestic Violence, Salt Lake Tribune, Aug 22, 1997
UT - Teen Fought School District, Prnewswire, Sept 11, 1997
WI - Non-Traditional Family, (Dubuque Iowa) Telegraph-Herald, Aug 31, 1997

▼ NEWS & VIEWS

THE CONNECTICUT CALENDAR

OCTOBER, 1997

October 4, Sat — Seventh Annual AIDS WALK to benefit AIDS Project Hartford, Bushnell Park, Hartford, 10:30 AM. Please call 860-951-4833 for pledge sheet, and further information.

October 4, Sat — The Connecticut Stonewall Congress presents Celebrating Our Stories, Embracing Our Future: A Proud LGBT Culture, an all-day workshop in honor of Lesbian and Gay History Month, Mather Hall, Trinity College. Registration \$5.00, optional box lunch \$5.00. Call 860-296-7254 for info.

October 5, Sun — The AIDS Project of Greater Danbury annual walkathon starting at Danbury's City Center Green at 8:30 am. For pledge sheets or more info, call APCTD at 203-778-24737.

October 5, Sun — The Connecticut Gay and Lesbian Film Festival presents Gay USA and Pride Divide, two films that show how our gay and lesbian past has brought us to where we are today. At Cinestudio on the Trinity Campus, 1:30 pm.

October 5, Sun — Maxie's Cafe presents a tag sale to benefit the Waterbury Health Dept.'s AIDS Client Services. Starts 10:00 am, rain or shine, 2627 Waterbury Road, Thomaston. For more information call 203 574-1629 after 7 pm, or e-mail: SM1112@aol.com.

October 5, Sun — "Autumn Affair" a party to benefit the Committee for the Defense of Classroom Tolerance, Redding Ridge, 3 - 6 pm. Don Pippin will be at the piano and Marie Santell will sing. Attendance limited to first 75 people. For information call 914-279-7785.

October 8, Wed — Author/activist Larry Kramer speaks at the New Haven Gay & Lesbian Community Center's Town Meeting, 270 Temple St, New Haven, 7-9 pm (no charge), followed by a reception at 168 York St. Cafe, New Haven (\$35 members, \$50 non-members, to benefit the NHGLCC). For more information, call 203-777-7780.

October 11, Sat — National Coming Out Day!

October 16, Thurs — Author/activist Larry Kramer and author Gabriel Rotello will speak at the University of Connecticut, Stamford (MPR Room) at 7 pm. Sponsored by the Women's Studies Program at UConn/Stamford, the topic for discussion will be "The Gay Nineties: AIDS & Gay Rights in the fin de siecle."

October 17, Fri — Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus performs at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, co-sponsored by Uconn's Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association, in honor of Gay Awareness Month. Call 1-800-644-CGMC for information.

October 21, Tues — Auditions for the musical "Pageant," 7 pm, at the Norwalk Community and Technical College. Come prepared to perform two songs and dance.

October 21, Tues — The Gathering, an informal social for gays and lesbians with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 - 10 pm, at The Bistro Cafe (second floor), 31 Bank Street. New Milford. Call Ted 860-350-1469 or John 860-354-9211 for info.

October 22, Wed — Auditions for the musical "Pageant," 7 pm, at the Norwalk Community and Technical College. Come prepared to perform two songs and dance.

October 25, Sun — TCC's Lesbian Literature Group will visit the Herstory Archive in Brooklyn, NY. Everyone is welcome to join. For info call Sharon 203-855-9951.

October 30, Thurs — Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus performs a benefit for The Connecticut AIDS Residence Coalition at the Lincoln Theater, Hartford. Call 1-800-644-CGMC for details.

October 31, Fri — The New London People's Forum's Outrageous Halloween Party. Call 860-443-8855 for more information and directions.

October 31-November 2, Fri - Sun — A Weekend With Our Brothers, a chance to experience community, growth and celebration with other men on a large and playful scale. One hundred men share a Berkshire camp for a weekend of relaxation and new friendships. Call 617-247-3964 for more information.

NOVEMBER, 1997

November 6, Thurs — the connecticuT View presents "Boys Will Be Girls," a fun filled female impersonator show and dinner at the North Country Inn and Restaurant, New Milford. Cash bar at 7 pm, dinner at 8 pm, show at 9:30 pm. Buffet dinner and show \$35, show only \$15. The show will benefit Pediatric AIDS - Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Mail checks payable to "the connecticuT View" % Denise Mason, PO Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460 or e-mail: masonD@aol.com for more information.

November 18, Tues — The Gathering, an informal social for gays and lesbians, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres served, third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 - 10:00 pm, at The Bistro Cafe (second floor), 31 Bank Street. New Milford. Call Ted at 860-350-1469 or John at 860-354-9211 for more info.

FIND MARIANNE SEGGERMAN!

From Ethan Green's Comic Strip, "The Unfabulous..."



YEAR IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER, 1997

Oak Park IL enacts domestic partnership registry. - Birmingham ABC station gives in and runs Ellen's coming out episode. - "In The Life" has 5th Anniversary.

AUGUST, 1997

LAPD forced to pay \$\$ for anti-gay harassment. - For Better or for Worse with gay subplot runs in 1000+ papers nationwide. - Chicago to spend 2 million on gay neighborhood. - Focus on Family co-founder apologizes to gays. - More gay characters on TV than ever, GLAAD reports. - American Psychological Association condemns anti-gay "therapy." - Anti-Discrimination Initiative makes Washington ballot

Florida court OKs lesbian adoption.

JULY, 1997

Virginia court OKs lesbian adoption. - Evanston IL expands anti-discrimination ordinance. - Episcopalians apologizes for mistreating gays. - Well-Fargo adds DP benefits. - Union Bank adds DP benefits. - Over half of Fortune 500 companies now offer DP benefits. - Ellen receives 5 Emmy nominations. - Clinton has high-level meeting with gay activists. - Delaware enacts hate crimes law including sexual orientation. - Gay and lesbian weddings OKed at Harvard chapel. - Gay and lesbian youth conference in SF largest ever. - Federal court strikes down ban on gays in US military (it is under appeal). - Montana court strikes down state's sodomy law. - Nearly 2/3 of US states have struck down their sodomy laws. - Connecticut bans anti-gay discrimination in school system. - Hawaii statewide DP registry/benefits take effect.

JUNE, 1997

Pride month ends, over 50 US celebrations with several million participants make it largest ever. - Clinton issues pride proclamation, first ever from US President. - Ohio court rules sexual orientation should not affect adoptions. - Florida court upholds lesbian "pre-nuptial" agreement. - New Hampshire enacts statewide anti-discrimination bill protecting gays. - Colorado anti-marriage bill vetoed for 2nd time. - Los Angeles unified school district adds DP plan. - City of New Orleans adds DP benefits. - Blue-Cross, HealthNet and PacificCare add DP coverage to insurance plans. - Historic San Francisco Domestic Partner benefits law goes into effect.

MAY, 1997

Anti-marriage bills die in conservative Texas and Nebraska. - Santa Barbara, CA gains DP registry. - Maine enacts statewide anti-discrimination law protecting gays. - DNC announces DP benefits. - University of Washington adds DP benefits. - St. Petersburg Times adds DP benefits. - City of Chicago adds DP benefits. - Wisconsin court upholds Madison anti-discrimination ordinance. - Chevron Oil adds DP benefits. - Northern CA's major utility company adds DP benefits. - Alabama ban on gay school clubs struck down.

APRIL, 1997

"Ellen" becomes first gay prime time lead, wins time slot. - Arizona enacts hate crimes bill protecting gays. - RI, WA, CA, LA anti-marriage bills all fail. - Catholic Church calls homophobia a sin, says celibate gays are "holy". - Michigan man awarded 10 million in gay bashing suit. - Gay candidates win municipal elections in San Mateo and Redwood City CA, as well as Oak Park and Erie Illinois. - SF 49ers become first pro sports team with DP benefits.

October 1997

- Several studies confirm lesbians make good mothers. - IL court strengthens lesbian adoption/custody in state. - Court strengthens Chicago's anti-discrimination law - Court upholds New Jersey gay civil rights law.

MARCH, 1997

Alaska court grants DP benefits for University of Alaska. First US Senator grants DP benefits for staffers. -

Bank of America announces DP benefits. - St. Louis enacts DP registry. - NY court expands gay parents' adoption rights. - West Hollywood, CA elects gay majority to city council. - Number of gay-straight clubs at high schools up over 10 times from 5 years ago. - Gay/Lesbian liaison to President gets status boost to "Special Assistant."

FEBRUARY, 1997

Christian Coalition denounces bombing of lesbian bar. - US AIDS deaths drop 27% in past 6 months. - CA court rules student newspaper may run ad for gay youth group. - MCC admitted to Ecumenical Council

Washington marriage ban vetoed. - LAPD forced to pay \$\$ for anti-gay harassment. - Baseball great Al Kaline apologizes for anti-gay slur.

JANUARY, 1997

Over 200 municipalities now have laws banning anti-gay discrimination. - Lacey, WA enacts anti-discrimination ordinances protecting gays. - Tumwater, WA enacts anti-discrimination ordinances protecting gays. - Cobb County GA rescinds anti-gay resolution. - Openly gay congressman Kolbe chairs appropriations subcommittee. - Fremont, CA schools ban anti-gay harassment. - MA jury awards man \$1.2 million for anti-gay discrimination.

DECEMBER, 1996

Denver DP benefits OK'ed by court. - Albuquerque, MN passes hate crimes law including gays. - Cleveland, OH passes strict anti-discrimination ordinance protecting gays. - Former VP of Ford Motors comes out as gay man. - Hawaii judge OKs gay and lesbian marriages for 2nd time (the case is under appeal). - Lesbian gets number 2 job in CA legislature. - Following recent elections, there are now over 150 openly gay or lesbian officeholders in the United States

NOVEMBER, 1996

Judge overturns Alachua County FL gay rights ban. - Noted Homophobe Dornan of CA defeated. - 9 million awarded to gay teenager abused in school. - State employment discrimination banned by executive order in Illinois. - Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania blesses gay marriages. - Lafayette IN upholds discrimination ban. - Both openly gay Congressmen easily re-elected.

OCTOBER, 1996

Poll shows increasing tolerance for gay parents' rights. - IBM implements DP benefits. - North Carolina court rules positively on lesbian couples' adoptions. - Oakland, CA domestic partner registry created. - National Coming Out Day visibility at all-time high. - Maine University system adds DP benefits

SEPTEMBER, 1996

Broward County, FL upholds gay rights ordinance. - Denver adds DP benefits for city employees. - Atlanta adds DP benefits for city employees. - Oregon Court rules in favor of DP benefits for state employees (this case is under appeal) . - Philadelphia adds DP benefits for city employees.



NEW AIDS WEAPON CREATED

Scientists have created the first virus-killing viruses, cleverly crafted microscopic missiles that zero in on AIDS-infected cells and destroy them. The idea is to fight infection with infection. The newly created viruses target only cells that have already been captured by HIV. The approach works well in the test tube but has not been tried yet in people or even in animals.

If it works as its developers hope, the technique will stop the AIDS virus cold by employing a sort of mirror image of HIV's own sly tricks for worming its way into cells. What is attractive about the discovery is how specific it is, Dr. Rissing said. "The more specific, the fewer the side effects" from the therapy affecting other, uninfected cells, Dr. Rissing said. Virus in the test tube, the reproducing VSV was able to reduce levels of HIV to almost zero for three months. This means the treatment is unlikely to wipe out HIV, even if it works, but it might be used with other medicines to keep HIV infections from progressing to AIDS.

DESPITE NEW AIDS DRUGS, MANY LOSE BATTLE

For a few fleeting months last winter, Jerry Roemer was strong and vital. Though he had been infected with HIV for years, the amount of deadly virus in his blood had plunged by 98 percent, the result of a powerful cocktail of new drugs called protease inhibitors that brought him back from the brink of death. Seven months later, Jerry Roemer was buried in a graveyard near his family's Nebraska farm.

Roemer's death despite the drugs that many thought would be a magic bullet for AIDS is not an isolated tale. A year and a half after protease inhibitors came into widespread use in the United States, the medications seem to be failing 25 percent to 30 percent of the 150,000 people who are using them. For some, the complex regimen of three drugs does not work from the outset. Some people get sick from the combination therapy. Some cannot stick to the intricate schedule of a dozen or more pills each day. But increasingly, doctors are seeing people like Roemer — diligent, determined patients who tolerate the drugs and take them religiously, but for whom the dramatic benefits simply do not last.

While Roemer might have had high hopes for the protease inhibitors, his physician, Dr. Young, did not. All the evidence indicates that combination therapy works best for newly infected patients. The idea is to suppress the virus so that the immune system does not suffer damage. But in the lexicon of AIDS, Roemer was a "veteran" with an immune system already seriously compromised. "There are two pieces to this whole HIV issue," Dr. Young said. "One is trying to control the virus. But the bigger question is, what do we do with individuals like Jerry, who have survived the first 10 to 15 years of the epidemic and are not going to get the optimal response with these new drugs? How do we restore their immune systems?"

COURT UPHOLDS DISCHARGE

Another federal appeals court has upheld the military's right to discharge service members for saying they are gay. A decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco reversed an Oakland federal judge's ruling that California National Guard Lt. Andy Holmes' discharge was unconstitutional. And it upheld a Washington court's ruling that the Navy had acted properly in ending Lt. Richard Watson's service.

Both servicemen had told their commanding officers they were gay. Under the law, such statements carry a presumption that they are likely to engage in homosexual conduct unless they try to disprove it. They didn't. Attorneys argued the policy violated their free speech right. Beyond that, they argued that the law itself was unconstitutional because the military's reasons for excluding known gays and lesbians was fundamentally irrational and based only on prejudice. The 9th Circuit majority said the government had a legitimate interest in discharging known gays...to maintain an effective military.

GAY GAMES FOR 1998

More than 4,500 participants have already pre-registered for the fifth Gay Games. 200,000 visitors and a record number of 15,000 competitors are expected in Amsterdam from August 1 through 8, 1998. The schedule for the 1998 Games includes 30 competition sports, 6 demonstration sports and 1 invitation sport (golf). Among the events are soccer, softball, squash, table tennis, cycling, billiards, track and field, tennis, swimming, chess, bridge, ballroom and Latin American dancing, as well as a competition for dancers in wheelchairs, and ice-skating. Rowing and wind-surfing will be featured for the first time, and a program of cultural events, including a storytelling festival, performances by marching bands and a variety of exhibitions. Facilities for the disabled will be provided. Tickets will be available beginning Dec. 1, 1997. Prices have not been determined.

As of August 1, travelers interested in obtaining information on Gay Games Amsterdam 1998 can call a new toll free number 1-888-GayGames (1-888-429-4263). Callers will receive the Holland & Gay Games Information Package, including information on official travel providers, web sites, and a Gay Games pre-registration form.

GAYS ONTO STRAIGHT PATH

Across the country, conservative evangelicals are spreading the idea that homosexuals can be transformed through Jesus Christ. Exodus International, the largest transformation network, has 100 referral agencies around the world. Conservative Christians say, churches ought to help gays and lesbians find salvation. But transformation ministries are highly controversial, and they make many people angry.

The medical and psychological and gay community say that transformation methods don't work. They say that transformation groups offer nothing more than avoidance techniques to keep sexual feelings at bay. Gay Christians and others who support equal rights for homosexuals are offended by the idea that they have to be straight to be saved. "I believe if people are gay they're gay," said Stan Kimer, a gay Christian who lives in Raleigh. But those who say they have been transformed insist that society underestimates the power of faith.

CHINESE ADOPTIONS

A growing number of Americans are adopting Chinese orphan babies, a Hong Kong newspaper said. The Sunday Morning Post said demand was so high that the United States Consulate in the south China city of Guangzhou had set up an adoption unit staffed by a State Department officer to handle the babies' immigration applications, the first of its kind in an American overseas mission. The adoption process can cost some \$15,000, including the \$3,000 paid to the orphanages in exchange for the child. More than 3,300 infants from China were expected to be adopted by U.S. citizens in the current fiscal year.

Officials said about 95 percent of the adopted children are girls, abandoned by parents who preferred to have a boy under China's one-child policy. Most male children available for adoption have disabilities. China's flexible adoption policy allows a childless person over 35 to adopt healthy babies and those who are younger can apply for children with disabilities. It also does not require them to be married, as many countries do. U.S. officials say that "a fair number" of homosexuals, mostly women, are adopting children from China.

RETREAT CANCELED

A religious retreat for Catholic parents of gay and lesbian children has been canceled by Bishop Edward M. Egan of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport. The session had been scheduled for this month in Stamford at a diocesan facility. "This is going to bring additional confusion and pain to parents who already feel some of the same alienation from their church that their children feel when things like this happen," the Rev. Robert Nugent, retreat leader, said.

According to diocese spokesman Tom Drohan, Bishop Egan was concerned about a nine-year-old investigation of Nugent's ministry by Cardinal Adam Maida of the archdiocese of Detroit. "Because the investigation is ongoing, the bishop spoke to the sisters of Villa Marie (in Stamford) and to the religious community at that location and they agreed that because of the investigation it would not be appropriate to host a retreat," Drohan said.

Nugent and Sister Jeannine Gramick have run the Maryland-based Catholic Parents Network for the last 25 years. He said more than 50 parents of gay and lesbian children from Connecticut and around the Northeast had planned to attend the retreat in early October.

GAY IMMIGRANT TO STAY

A gay immigrant in the District of Columbia whom federal immigration authorities tried to deport to his native Malaysia because his visa had expired, has won an unusual ruling in immigration court and will be able to remain in the United States. Wan Lee, 44, a professional massage therapist who lives and works on Capitol Hill, was granted relief from deportation on the grounds that it would damage his "mental health" to return to Malaysia, where homosexuality is frowned on and gay people face official harassment.

IMMIGRATION RIGHTS

The British Government is poised to give hundreds of foreign nationals in homosexual relationships with British citizens the right to settle in the UK following a Home Office review of immigration laws. Home Office officials have been reviewing regulations applying to homosexuals, lesbians and live-in lovers since May and an announcement is expected when Parliament returns in October.

Under current laws foreign nationals in homosexual relationships with British citizens have no automatic right to remain in the UK. The law applies to people from states outside the European Union and also includes people in heterosexual relationships. Overseas nationals wanting to live in Britain must prove they are legally married, or intend to become so within a reasonable period. The current laws relating to gay relationships are similar to those in many other countries, including America.

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TRIVIA

ANSWER TO SEPTEMBER

Herb Mose's lover (10 years this August - Happy Anniversary!) is Barney Frank, who is on the Banking subcommittee which oversees FEMA. Frank cannot be covered under his lover's health plan because of conflict of interest.

QUESTION FOR OCTOBER

About five years ago, a lesbian couple's home was featured on the cover of the biannual Home Design section of the New York Times. They have managed a very specialized store in downtown Manhattan, at least since the early 70's. What is the product they sell?

P-FLAG SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AT TCC

"Blg" Monthly Meeting: Every 1st Wednesday, 7:45
Spouses and Ex Spouses group: Every 3rd Thurs. 7:30



STATE BY STATE NEWS

HA - INS. CO. AIDS COUPLES

As head of an agency trying to help same-sex couples obtain insurance benefits under Hawaii's new reciprocal benefits law, Dr. Robert Jenkins has seen discrimination firsthand. With a colorful rainbow as its logo, Hawaii-based Pride Insurance & Financial Services Inc. opened for business this summer, just as the new law — the nation's first — came into effect, giving couples who can't legally marry a taste of the married life. The law grants any adult couple who can't legally marry about 45 of the 400 legal benefits of marriage.

A major provision of the law grants insurance benefits to same-gender couples. So all summer, Jenkins and his nine employees have been on the hunt for companies that will help gays and lesbians who want to sign up for joint life, health and homeowners' insurance. So far, they've found 16 in the entire nation. The number is small, but it's enough of a start, Jenkins said.

Pride Insurance, which is opening offices in Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco, also helps same-sex couples in other states and countries apply to become reciprocal beneficiaries under the Hawaii law, which has no residency requirement. Having that document can help couples get domestic partnership benefits at work, get hospital visitation rights when a partner is sick, and other benefits, Jenkins said.

IL - REGISTRY APPROVED

Officials in the first community in Illinois to approve local registry for same-sex couples, said it will take at least a month to draw up the forms and establish procedures. Residents of Oak Park will have to pay a \$50 fee and prove they have lived together for at least six months before they can register as a same-sex couple in the village hall. It is a largely symbolic move, because Illinois does not recognize gay marriages.

KY - PROTECTION DENIED

For the third time in five years, the Fairness Amendment, a proposal designed to protect the citizens of Louisville against discrimination based on sexual orientation, has been defeated by the board of aldermen (city council). The vote followed weeks of frenzied activity within the city as the Fairness Campaign blanketed the city with bright blue and gold signs saying "Fairness Does A City Good." Fairness leaders were heartened by the fact that many of the signs sprouted in neighborhoods traditionally considered conservative. In response, religious right opponents filled churches with pamphlets replete with misinformation about gays and lesbians, much of it based on the discredited research of Paul Cameron. They also developed a counter-slogan seen in the last days of the debate: "Morality Does A City Better."

MA - ABUSE IN GAY PARTNERS

Gay victims of domestic abuse make up a large population but attract little mainstream attention, according to Curt Rogers, executive director of the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project. The nonprofit agency conducted a survey in June of 2,000 gay men in Boston and found that one in four had been a victim of domestic violence - about the same number as for heterosexual women.

Rogers' agency, which focuses on education about gay domestic abuse, hopes to open a shelter for gay men by the end of 1998. The most important hurdle in fighting gay domestic abuse, much like in heterosexual domestic abuse, is publicizing the problem so victims know they are victims, Rogers said. A poster recently commissioned by the Fenway program, which provides counseling for gay, lesbian and bisexual victims of violence, reads: "Contrary to popular belief, straight people do not have a monopoly on abusive relationships."

MA - GAY ADOPTION

Suffolk Probate and Family Court judge has overturned a decision he made a year ago and will allow a lesbian couple to forgo a Department of Social Services investigation before one of the women adopts her partner's 2-year-old boy, legally making both of them parents. In 1996, the couple was ordered to undergo a DSS home study, which is required in cases involving adoption of a child under the age of 14. However, family court judges have discretion to waive the investigations, when one of the petitioners is a biological parent.

▼ NEWS & VIEWS

MI - GAY POLICY DROPPED

Wayne-Westland school officials are dropping a policy protecting gay students and staff from harassment or discrimination, only months after they overwhelmingly embraced the controversial provision in January. Board President Debra Fowlkes said that the sexual orientation protection policy isn't needed. She said that existing codes of conduct and state law already protects students. Still, critics wonder why the district bothered adopting any changes in the first place — if sexual orientation already was truly protected.

Former board President Trish Brown, a lesbian, said the school board is "caving" in to angry parents and others who believe the district was catering to gays and lesbians. Fowlkes said Brown proposed a series of sexual orientation amendments to the local school code in January. She said the board was "hoodwinked" and voted in the changes without really understanding why. "Dumb us," she said.

MN - CONDOM MAN

Every Wednesday through Sunday, mild-mannered Pete Glaser, 37, a movie projectionist, takes on the identity of Condom Man, a superhero to the Twin Cities gay community, wandering from place to place, primarily gay bars, with his 25-pound box that's held up by M-16 rifle straps wrapped around his shoulders. He does Tai Chi to keep his body flexible and resoals his shoes three or four times a year, but his real energy comes from an unwavering commitment to spreading the word about safe sex — as well as 100,000 contraceptives a year.

Glaser's work is funded by the Minnesota AIDS Project, which operates on private donations and state money. In the past, the organization set up tables at gay clubs, offering brochures and bowls of condoms. "We'd get three to seven people to come up. Now I talk to 30 or 50 people a night."

NB - PASTOR UNITES LESBIANS

The Rev. Jimmy Creech, pastor of First United Methodist Church says he will perform a commitment ceremony for two lesbians at his church. He said the ceremony, his first since his appointment a year ago, will go forward even though Nebraska United Methodist Bishop Joel Martinez has made it plain that Creech will face disciplinary action if he proceeds.

Although the United Methodist Church supports the civil rights of homosexuals and has committed itself to minister to gays and lesbians, it also says that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teachings. In 1996, it prohibited pastors from conducting ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions and from allowing such ceremonies to be performed on church property. "This is a very simple event in the life of two people who love each other dearly and want to make a commitment within the context of their faith," Creech said.

NY - RABBIS SUE MUSEUM

Sixteen Orthodox Jewish rabbis have filed a lawsuit to stop the opening of a new Holocaust museum in Manhattan. The suit, filed in federal court, says the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust offends the beliefs of Orthodox Jews because it includes an exhibit honoring gays and lesbians who were persecuted by the Nazis.

The rabbis are angry over "the elevation of homosexuals to the martyred status of the six million Jews," who died in the Holocaust, said Rabbi Yehuda Levin.

NC - RECRUITER BANS LIFTED

Law schools at Duke and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, under the threat of reduced federal student aid, have reversed their policies of banning military recruiters. Both law schools had refused to allow interviews at their schools as a symbolic stand against the military's "don't ask, don't tell," policy regarding gays and lesbians, which the schools viewed as discriminatory.

The schools changed their policies this week to comply with interpretations of a federal law called the second Solomon Amendment. The amendment was enacted by Congress last year and bars federal funding of any school or department that does not allow military recruiters on its premises. At Duke, between \$500,000 and \$600,000 was at stake, mainly in federal student loans.

PA - LIFE PARTNER EPITAPH

Three years after her death, Cynthia Lynn Friedman will get the headstone epitaph she wanted, according to an out-of-court settlement. Friedman, who was a lesbian, will now have the phrase "beloved life partner" as part of her epitaph. A dispute about those words, and who legally had the right to compose the epitaph, led to a lawsuit in April in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia.

Friedman died of cancer on Oct. 3, 1994, at the age of 35. Sherry Barone, Friedman's partner, paid for the burial and sued the cemetery for not honoring its contract with her by refusing to inscribe the headstone the way that Barone said Friedman had wished. Ann Moskowitz, president of Har Jehuda Cemetery in Upper Darby, said Friedman's parents threatened to sue the cemetery if their epitaph version was not followed. William and Judith Friedman insisted that their daughter gave them instructions about what the inscription should say.

Abbe Fletman, a Philadelphia lawyer also representing Barone, said that, "Sherry Barone had power of attorney, was the executor of the will and paid for the cemetery plot with her own check, and was still denied the right to determine the epitaph of her companion of 13 years."

UT - TEEN SUICIDE

A Memorial Fund has been set up in response to the tremendous outpouring of grief and anger over a gay Utah high school student's tragic death. Jacob Orozco took his own life reportedly by hanging himself in his mother's home after a two-year battle against school district apathy toward gay and lesbian students' needs. Along with school mates at East High School in Salt Lake City, Jacob had formed a Gay-Straight Student Alliance, a support organization for students dealing with issues related to teen sexuality and homophobia. Recently, the school board had reportedly placed additional financial obstacles in the way of the group meeting.

Jacob was slated to become the next president of the East High School Gay-Straight Alliance. The Alliance gained public attention in 1996 when its straightforward quest to provide support to kids in need was met by a wave of homophobia in the Utah State Legislature. Effectively condemning these kids, the Salt Lake City School District banned the meeting of ALL extra-curricular activity groups during public school hours rather than permit the Gay-Straight Alliance to meet.

WI - FAMILY LIFE

Isaac Morgan-Meckelberg is a happy, healthy, farm-grown Wisconsin toddler. Two year old Isaac is the child of two loving parents who carefully planned for his arrival. And, in approximately seven months, Isaac will be joined by a sibling. Isaac's parents, Becky Morgan-Meckelberg and Deb Meckelberg, a lesbian couple, acknowledge they aren't a traditional family. But they are convinced their son is thriving in an environment filled with caring aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends.

Although Becky, 38, and Deb, 41, were united by a Lutheran minister in a private ceremony at Becky's parents' home, their union is not recognized by Wisconsin laws and their parenting arrangement is unusual as well. The couple credit their attorney for helping them sort through the legal maze of family law that frequently works against homosexual couples. Deb is listed in Isaac's birth certificate as his mother, and Becky is the boy's legal guardian. No father is listed, and the couple agree that Isaac does not have a father.

The couple's decision to have a child is not one without consequences. When Becky and Deb went to their church to have Isaac baptized, they were turned away. "The minister wouldn't baptize him," Becky said. "He told us we weren't Christian." The couple left that church and joined a Lutheran church in Lancaster that welcomed the family into the congregation. There they met an older couple who immediately became surrogate grandparents to Isaac. Surprisingly, the women have found friends where they least expect them.

TRAVEL NEWS

THREE WINTER STEALS

Three popular summer destinations - the San Juan Islands, Saugatuck, and Provincetown - offer big savings for visitors who are willing to brave cooler temperatures. By visiting resorts like these in November instead of July, you can avoid the crowds, save some money, and gain a different perspective on some of America's most alluring sights.

In summer legions of tourists line up daily to catch a ferry out to the San Juan Islands, a serene archipelago near Seattle with some of the most dramatic scenery in the Pacific Northwest. While this is the most popular time to visit, late fall and winter present a refreshing contrast. The crowds are few and locals are more willing to stop and say hello or offer hiking and sightseeing advice to curious visitors. Best of all, the rainy weather that puts a damper on Seattle from fall through spring generally misses the San Juan Islands. Even in the dead of winter, the temperature rarely dips below 40 degrees and the sun appears for at least part of most days.

Lesbians and gays have a presence on each of the San Juan's major islands, but Lopez seems to draw a higher concentration of "family." This largely agrarian community of rolling green pastures - the landscape is often compared with Scotland's - is quiet and romantic year-round, with zero nightlife and only a smattering of shops and restaurants. In the off-season, your options are even more limited, but if you and your honey yearn for a secluded respite from city living, you can't beat this emerald isle. Two of the region's best gay-friendly accommodations are on Lopez Island. The Inn at Swifts Bay remains so popular, its rates stay constant even in winter; guests don't seem to mind, as they take advantage of the luxurious rooms and hearty gourmet breakfasts. Last year, the Lopez Farm Cottages opened nearby; these rustic but modernly equipped cabins have fireplaces and kitchenettes and rent for just \$90 (compared with the usual \$125) off-season. Nearby Orcas Island is much busier than Lopez, and also has several more restaurants and the best hiking, kayaking, and biking in the San Juans. Here the Windsong B&B, an elegant converted 1917 schoolhouse, drops its winter rates from to about \$95.

If you've got the winter blues in the Midwest, consider a jaunt to the region's only true gay getaway, the neighboring Lake Michigan communities of Douglas and Saugatuck. While these sophisticated but easy-going hamlets endure the same brisk winters common in nearby Chicago and Detroit, the picturesque setting helps take the chill off the air. The owners of the gay-friendly Kirby House, a dramatic Queen Anne mansion, note

that many of their guests book romantic fireplace rooms or relax in the outdoor hot tub - a nice way to end a day of cross-country skiing. Like most inns around here, the Kirby House drops its rates by 10 to 20 percent off season. Other popular accommodations include the Moore's Creek Inn - a century-old farmhouse - and the Douglas Dunes Resort, a much larger and newer compound that's without the intimacy of a B&B but with the area's only gay disco, cocktail bar, cabaret, and restaurant.

As for Provincetown, Massachusetts, a small but committed minority don't mind the windy raw winters and prefer not to deal with the intense summer crowds. Of course, they also visit at this time to take advantage of the terrific deals offered by many guest houses. The posh Brass Key is one inn that usually shuts down during the most brutal winter months - January through March. In the late fall and early winter, however, this first-rate mixed-gay/lesbian complex slashes its rates to \$75 on weekdays and \$125 on weekends, which is as much as 50% lower than its summer prices. Another of the island's premier mixed gay/lesbian properties, the Beaconlite, drops rates ranging from \$80 to \$175 in summer to \$55 to \$145 in the fall; this guest house remains open through the winter, when their rates plummet to between \$45 and \$110. Gabriel's, one of the best lesbian resorts, also stays open year-round, with rates dropping about 40 percent in the winter. While many restaurants close in the off-season, several of the good ones, including Napi's, the Martin House, and Gallerani's, stay open all or most of the winter. For nightlife, the popular Atlantic House also draws a queer crowd year-round.

MEN'S WEEKEND

The Fifth Annual Single Men's Weekend in Provincetown will run from Thursday, November 6 through Sunday November 10. This is an unique opportunity to have fun, to learn something new, to meet a husband and to enjoy the off season charm of Provincetown with hundreds of other single gay men.

The activities begin Thursday evening with check-in and a group Pizza Party from 7-10 pm. Friday's day-long "Finding Mr. Right!" program (\$25 fee) was such a huge success last year nationally renowned psychologist and workshop leader Dr. Larry Harmon will be back.

Saturday and Sunday, will be filled with scheduled workshops, tours, and classes with time left for shopping, strolling, eating and relaxing. There will be dance parties, two stepping, a talent contest, entertainment and receptions for the evenings. On Sunday night there will be a group dinner/theater show at the Lobster Pot restaurant.

Make your reservations now and you'll be able to enjoy all that Single Men's Weekend has to offer! Your \$50 weekend registration fee includes over 50 different workshops covering like: Dating & Intimacy, Body Building & Massage, Spirituality, Support Groups, Relationships, P-town Real Estate, Astrology, Cooking and more!

MASQUERADE BALL

Paul Caldwell, "Crown Prince IV of the Imperial Court of CT" is hosting a masquerade ball at The Brook on Saturday, October 25. Proceeds will go to TCC. There will be a 9:00 pm buffet, a 10:30 pm Grand Performance and a Silent Auction at midnight. There is a \$5.00 door charge.

THE GAY GOURMET

Giovanni's Marinara Sauce

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 28 oz. Can imported Italian plum Tomatoes
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 large cloves garlic, minced
- coarse ground black pepper
- several fresh basil leaves, chopped
- fresh parsley, snipped
- dash sea salt (optional)

In a heavy skillet heat the olive oil over medium heat. When hot, add chopped onion and sauté about two minutes. Do not burn! Add tomatoes and crush with a fork or tomato crusher (or do ahead on a cutting board and then simply add). Add basil and season with pepper and, if desired, salt. Simmer sauce about ten minutes, stirring often. Add parsley, simmer a few more minutes, and stir. The sauce is now ready to be mixed with your favorite pound of pasta or use it in your chicken or veal parmigiana.

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OTHER AREA GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Bare & Gay (B&G) gay nudists	(860) 644-4305
Bisexually Curious Support Group Bpt	(203) 264-5605
Chiltern Mountain Club	(203) 899-0270
Connecticut Kids and Families	(203) 256-8414
Connecticut Freedom to Marry Coalition	(203) 791-9553
40-Up Club. (Social Grp.-call Dale before 10pm)	(203) 261-4019
Gay Fathers Group	(203) 866-7051
Gay Mens Association of Danbury	(203) 778-7016
GEMS (Mature GLBT)	(860) 688-1881
GuideLine (gay/lesbian phone info)	(203) 366-3734
Hartford Community Center	(203) 724 5542
Married Men's Bisexual Suppt Grp Htfd	(203) 262-1555
Metropolitan Community Church	(203) 389-6750
The Loft, White Plains NY,	(914) 948-4922
Triangle Bowling League	(203) 931-8789
Triangle Kids	(203) 255-6229
	(203) 323-6278
Western Connecticut Gay Men's Group	(203) 773-9947

We're glad to list your non-profit gay/lesbian/bi/tg group free of charge. Call (203) 964-1133. Please keep us informed of changes.

Deadline for the November newsletter will be Saturday 11 October. We cannot guarantee that material received after that date will be included in November News&Views.

TRIANGLE COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.
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NEWS & VIEWS

Is published monthly by
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P.O. Box 4062, East Norwalk, CT 06855.

NEWS & VIEWS encourages its readers to submit materials of interest to our community, including short articles, letters to the editor, etc. We cannot respond to, or publish, anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit or condense as appropriate to meet space requirements. Authors will be contacted if major revisions are necessary. Please submit to:

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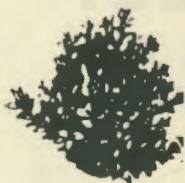
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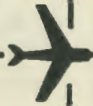
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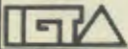
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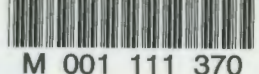
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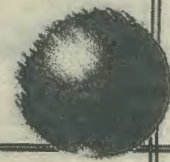
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NEWS & VIEWS

Calendar

October, 1997

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29 Women's Rap 7:30	30 HIV couns 3:30-6:30	1 P-FLAG 7:45	2 Men's Rap 7:30	3 Bowling 9:30 Circle Lanes	4 AIDSWALK-Hartford LGBT workshop-New Haven
5 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6 Autumn Affair-Redding AIDS walkathon-Danbury Gay Fil Festival-New Haven	6 Women's Rap 7:30	7 HIV couns 3:30-6:30 Lesbian Lit 7:30	8 Bi Rap Grp 7:30 TCC Board 7:30 Larry Kramer- NHGLCC	9 Men's Rap 7:30	10 Out & About 6:30-8 Bowling 9:15 Circle Lanes	11 National Coming Out Day!
12 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	13 Women's Rap 7:30	14 HIV couns 3:30-6:30	15	16 UConn-Gay Nineties- Stamford Mens' Rap 7:30 P-FLAG Spouses & Ex-spouses 7:30	17 Bowling 9:15 Circle Lanes CGMC-Storrs	18
19 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	20 Women's Rap 7:30	21 HIV couns 3:30-6:30 Fund/Spec Events 7:30 Invest Club 7:30 Auditions Pageant- NCTC Gathering-New Milford	22 Bi Rap Grp 7:30 TCC Board 7:30 Auditions Pageant- NCTC	23 Men's Rap 7:30	24 Bowling 9:15 Circle Lanes	25 Herstory Archive Trip- Brooklyn
26 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	27 Women's Rap 7:30	28 HIV couns 3:30-6:30	29 UConn - "Talking Lesbian" 7pm, Stamford P-FLAG 7:45	30 Men's Rap 7:30 CGMC-Hartford	31 Bowling 9:15 pm Circle Lanes NLPF Halloween Party- New London Gay Berkshire Weekend-thru Sun	November 1

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

GROUPS MEETING AT OR SPONSORED BY TCC

A.A. - Don 762-9964

Bi Rap Group - Peter 838-2806; Robin 358-8391

35+ Womens Pot Luck - Judy 227-7162

Free Association of Fairfield County - John 268-8858 x304

Gay Men's Rap Group - Dave 838-1881; John 926-8971

Gmosaic (People of Color) - not currently active call TCC 853-0600

Lesbian Literature Reading Group - Christine, 847-8476

Out & About (Gen.X Group) - Jen 736-6417 or Dan 838-2367

OutSpoken (Youth) - Barb 259-8171; Dan 227-1755;
Doug 838-2367

P-FLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) -
Joan 544-8724; Lester 322-5380; Belinda 855-1203

P-FLAG Spouses & Ex Spouses Group - Joan 544-8724

Triangle Bowling League (Circle Lanes, Fairfield) - Lisa 333-
3113; Roseann 931-8789

Women's Rap Group - Chandra 228-8652; Linda 866-4598;
Michele 438-4465

All meetings are held at the Center and in the evening unless otherwise noted. A \$3 donation per person is appreciated with your participation in activities to help support the Center.

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