

N E T W O R K I N G NORTH

VOLUME 11 • ISSUE 3 • MAY • JUNE • JULY • 1997

Equality Through Visibility

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Children, Parents and Friends Welcome

Saturday, June 28, 1997

The Robb Farm,
corner Horn Rd. & M-204 in Leelanau County
\$10 donation for food appreciated
(Campers welcome after 3 pm on June 27)

Events: Friday, June 27

Campers arrive after 3 pm.
Port-a-Johns available.

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including trash containers.

Settle in and enjoy hiking and exploring the land.

Saturday, June 28: Pride Celebration

FABULOUS Garage Sale-8 am to 3 pm

Games/activities for everyone strting at 11:00 am

Activities for young children

Bike tour-11:00 am to 2 pm

Hike & explore beautiful Robb Farm

Picnic Extraordinaire-3 pm (\$10 donation appreciated)

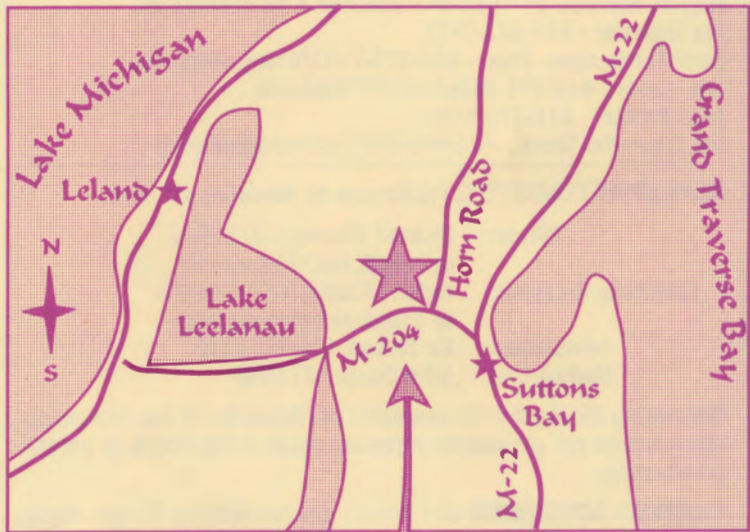
Evening Bonfire and Weenie Roast

Outdoor Movie-approx 9 pm

Sunday, June 29

Departure of campers-by Noon, please

Bring: Blankets, Chairs, Jackets, etc.
Food and soft drinks provided.



Robb Farm

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or
Jim — (616) 922-9205

WE'VE GROWN!

FRIENDS NORTH OFFICIALLY WELCOMES TRANSGENDERED

*by M'Lynn Hartwell, V.P., and the
Board of Directors of Friends North, Inc.*

At the April Friends North, Inc., board meeting, a motion was presented to the Board of Directors to add the transgendered community to our organizational mission and community. The Friends North, Inc., Board unanimously approved this motion.

The types of discrimination transgendered citizens suffer from are very similar to those suffered by gays and lesbians: public violence and vilification in employment, in education, by medical services, by police; they receive inadequate services both public and private, in custody cases, invisibility of those who pass and strong labeling of those who don't pass.

Transgendered people are discriminated against by family and friends; experiencing harassment and/or discrimination in varying

TRANSGENDERED continued on page 11



FROM THE EDITOR,

I just finished watching the season finale of "Ellen," and am wonderfully surprised at the way the writers have turned the usually flaky and ambiguous Ellen into a confident, loving, and strong-but-sensitive person. Ellen's weekly visibility quickly takes the shock away from the word 'lesbian,' and then more gradually, the warm and lovely character of her brings acceptance to its viewers. And, soon a neutral acceptance may turn into something more, like 'promoting' being gay!

Which is why the religious extremists are so upset. As you probably have already heard, they are attempting to force the advertisers and sponsors to drop the show, and they're threatening a boycott of Disney. Ellen, meanwhile, is quickly growing into a real person with very real ideas, dilemmas, frustrations and dreams. She has lost a few friends but has gained integrity and moved us, the gay and lesbian invisibles, into the spotlight of the moment.

Locally, the visibility increases also. Thanks to the Traverse City Human Rights Commission, this May, the gay and lesbian community was asked to participate in a community forum organized to end discrimination. Appreciation goes to Guy Molnar who spoke about the situations that gays and lesbians face on a daily basis here in Traverse City. Interlochen Public Radio also has featured part of this forum as well as interviewing Guy. Lest you forget, gays and lesbians comprise the largest single minority group in the TC area, followed far behind by Native Americans, Hispanics, African-Americans, and Asians.

The Traverse City Record Eagle also featured local gays and lesbians on the morning after Ellen's coming out show. Those who stepped forward to share their lives and their views on being gay were John Evans, Aimee Wells, Jim Ingleson, and Susie Keillor. This was one of the few times that the Record-Eagle has presented gay issues without involving a token 'anti-gay' viewpoint. I consider this a fine step forward, as the rhetoric presented has been simply too predictable and hateful.

Don't forget the big events this summer, and especially the Bike Tour. It would be great to see more local people represented, and remember-all abilities are welcome, as this is not a race-just a fun couple of days of touring and a way to meet some really neat people. I hope to see you there!

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 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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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 'advertising' 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 #3, April 15. Issue #4 June 15, Issue #5 August 15.

ADDRESS CHANGES: Please notify us in advance if a change is coming. Call John Evans, 922-0746, or send changes to our address.

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Mark Lizenby



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Hopefully most of the snow has melted from your lawns and driveways, and the early signs of spring are peeking through in sunny clumps. I'd like to use the analogy of Spring -- newness, light, budding, warmth, new growth, etc. -- to discuss my perception of what's happening with Friends North.

Since being elected to a position on the Board and then assuming the chair of President, I have seen so much happen within the organization (mostly "behind the scenes"). As with any organization, different people have different ideas and various ways of doing things. It is easy to get caught up in the "politics" and forget the mission.

Friends North is no different in this aspect. The organization today is not the same as it was over 10 years ago; indeed, nothing is the same as it was 10 years ago. There are, however, those folks who would like to remain in that time zone, comfortable and safe from transition. We are moving toward change, however, with new faces, new ideas, new ways of doing things -- "new growth" -- if you will entertain my Spring analogy.

For instance, you will notice our masthead now includes the word "transgendered." This simple change caused quite a stir. Some people did not want to include the word on our masthead EVER; some people were adamant that we put it there OR ELSE. And EVERYBODY had a different definition for "transgendered" (I wonder how you can defend or deny something you can't even explain?).

Another sign of change is the process we are undergoing in order to allow people under the age of 18 to become members and participate in Friends North events. Again, some folks are not in favor of doing this, and others think it should have been done years ago.

What results from these conflicts of opinion is strife within the organization. Board members disagree with one another, general members disagree with board members; in severe situations tempers flare and folks leave the organization and/or the board. Unfortunately the organization as a whole may then suffer from the "one step forward, two steps backward" dance.

The challenge confronting Friends North is to maintain the original mission of the organization, yet expand our vision to allow for new growth and maximize our potential. An even greater challenge is strategizing how to reach our goals by working with one another rather than struggling against each other. (I often recall the words of a speaker at an NGLTF conference who reminded us that the "moral majority" loves it when we are so busy arguing amongst ourselves that we effectively promote their agenda!!)

Change can be uncomfortable and difficult. It doesn't happen overnight nor without struggles and disappointments. However, like Spring, change also is inevitable and ultimately for the better.

BOARD NOTES:

Carol Lambertson

In an attempt to maintain good communication among the Friends North Board of Directors, the membership and the readers of this newsletter, we are adding this section to provide you with a synopsis of what really happens at 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!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH BOARD MEETING INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

- A discussion of Friends North participation during Earth Day with an information table. Decision was made to support the event with a donation (\$25).
- Approval of \$45 quarterly to go to "Common Voices", the new name for the Friends North rap group, to help cover mailings, etc.
- There was considerable discussion regarding recommendations made by our attorney on establishing parental consent forms, a change in the wording on our membership forms, and other suggestions in order to legally allow members under the legal age of 18. The board voted to follow the recommendations made by our attorney which will eventually require a change in the by-laws (requires vote by entire membership at either a special meeting or at the annual meeting). Essentially, the recommendations allow members under 18 years of age while protecting members of Friends North and board members from potential litigation.
- The board again discussed our database (mailing list) and the current system of maintenance. The Membership Committee wants to update the database and be able to perform various analyses. Some board members are concerned regarding confidentiality. For now, the database will continue to be maintained by John E. with further discussion at a future meeting.
- A review of stationery samples to choose a new letterhead style prompted a heated discussion of whether or not to include the word "transgendered" on our masthead and letterhead. It was decided to make to changes in the letterhead for now and to table the discussion of transgendered until the next Board meeting. (continued next page)

FRIENDS NORTH BIKE TOUR, AUGUST 8-10

Join us for a spectacular weekend of biking and socializing in beautiful Leelanau County. Call Friends North for an information packet.


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Out 'n About

A Lesbian Coffeehouse

Unity Church - 3600 Five Mile Road - Traverse City
Call 946-2708 for more information

WE'RE MOVING

The Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse is moving to a new location for Saturday, May 17, 1997. We will be meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Grand Traverse and presenting a Canadian **MOVIE**, entitled "When Night is Falling." Highly recommended by lesbians everywhere (or at least from Lake Ann)! the U.U. Fellowship is located at 6726 Center Road in Traverse City. To find us at that location, please follow these instructions:

US-31 South or North into Traverse City:

Turn North onto M-37, which is the highway that runs up Old Mission Peninsula (the peninsula that divides Grand Traverse Bay into its East and West sections). This intersection is at the corner of Front St. (US-31) and Garfield St., and is recognizable by Arby's, Burger King, First of America Bank and Grand Traverse Ophthalmology Clinic;

As you continue up M-37 (Center Road), remember to keep to the right. Do not proceed along the road (Peninsula Drive) that is next to West Grand Traverse Bay:

You will pass a large church/apartment village to your left. That is not the UU location. Continue up the gentle slope of M-37 and it will curve again to the north.

Just at the end of this curve is a driveway on your right. This is the UU Fellowship, and here is where you will find the gathering.

We had to make this temporary move due to a conflict with the Unity Church, where we usually meet. We will be back at our original "home" for the June coffeehouse.

The Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse will open its doors at 7 pm. The movie will begin at 7:30 pm. Our suggested donation for this coffeehouse is \$5-\$10. This event is not affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

June is Busting Out All Over

We invite all Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse attendees to share in our June Summertime Grill and Musical Surprise. This event will occur on the evening of Saturday, June 21, 1997 at the Unity Church on Five Mile Road, from 7 pm until 11 pm.

Please bring your own grill foods (burgers, hot dogs, veggie kabobs, fish steaks, chicken pieces... got the idea?) and a dish-to-pass. Grilling and dinner will be done early in the evening, followed by a Musical Surprise. You won't want to miss this evening!

Another Announcement

There will be no Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse in July. We are taking an additional month off, this year. Attendance during the month is typically very low due to participation in other Summer activities by all of you.

- At the April board meeting, a letter of resignation from the Board was read from Tom Kincaid. Four people had expressed an interest in serving on the Board and they were invited to this meeting to speak on behalf of themselves in this regard. Two persons were able to attend the meeting, and after discussion and vote, Jim Groya was elected to sit on the board. Since Tom had been Vice President, nominations were then entertained for the position of Vice President. M'Lynn Hartwell was elected to serve as VP.
- Lengthy discussion of the inclusion of the word "transgendered" in our masthead was begun. The board voted to change our masthead to include transgendered.
- Materials from the attorney regarding specific by-law changes were provided to each board member to review prior to the next board meeting regarding the "members under 18" issue. This item will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Financial status at the close of March, 1997 is:

Opening Balance as of 3/1/97	\$ 4590.71
Total Revenue	\$ 452.00
Total Expenses	\$ 575.47
Closing Balance as of 3/31/97	\$ 4467.24

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

TUESDAY, JUNE 3 - 6:30 PM - GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse is held on the third Saturday of each month except August and December. The Coffeehouse comes alive between 7:00 and 11:00 pm at the Unity Church, 3600 Five Mile Road, Traverse City. Smoke-free and Chem-free with a cover donation of \$3-5 (\$5-\$10 if we have entertainment). Coffee, tea and snacks are free; soft drinks are available.

For more information, or to have your name placed on the Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse mailing list, call Brenda at 946-2708—leave message.

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LINDA L. WIKLE
Agent

COMMON VOICES

Ed Richardson

The Friends North Rap Group continues to explode in attendance each month on the Second Wednesday at 7:30 pm in the basement lounge of Grace Episcopal church, 349 Washington St. At the gathering in January of 1996 (a little over a year ago)—Common Voices had an attendance of two (myself and Tom Barkley). Common Voices has grown from those two seeds to an attendance total of 21 g/l/b/t folks at the March 1997 gathering.

Common Voices never discriminates against age or sex. It provides a safe and supportive g/l/b/t atmosphere for anyone who needs to connect, or stay connected, to our local g/l/b/t community. Even though topics and videos are often planned, Common Voices will always have time to listen to problems and frustrations. We want to be a supportive open door for g/l/b/t's new to this area. We also want to encourage anyone who has not been to a Common Voices gathering of late to return. (You are sadly missed and greatly needed!)

Thanks to the work of Tom Barkley, with the support of Friends North, Common Voices is able to send a monthly reminder of its gatherings and activities to anyone who attends regularly. This is another way of saying that Common Voices cares. No one has to worry about being asked — Common Voices will invite and welcome you!

Our 4th Wednesday local restaurant outing at 7:00 pm is growing but we want to be able to compete with the successful Petoskey Group. Read your monthly Common Voices reminder or contact myself (Ed — 947-4697) or Tom at 275-6127 for the restaurant choice of the month (or any questions about Common Voices.) If anyone is aware of local gay friendly restaurants, please let us know! (We would prefer to "Nibble" there).

Our Second Wednesday May discussion will focus on "How to tear down the wall between gays & lesbians." We desperately need input from both groups to have a productive, positive talk. Please come!

In June, we hope to show a video about teaching respect with follow-up discussion in honor of gay pride.

As a reminder, Common Voices does not mind being a sounding board. If you need to talk, you will not only be heard, you will be listened to! Common Voces is also encouraging anyone that writes to bring and read their work. We also welcome photography (and a musical performance would be fantastic!)

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NOTICE TO THE FN MEMBERSHIP

Jim Ingleson, Board Member

After meeting with our attorney to discuss questions and concerns that have come before the board. We have begun the process of responding to the ever growing requests from our communities youth for support and inclusion through membership.

Our by-laws at present state that a person must be 18 years of age to become a member of Friends North.

The board will consider two proposed amendments to the by-laws.

The first amendment regarding membership, its purpose is to allow a minor to join our organization, but only with written parental consent.

The second amendment allows the board of directors of FN to expel or suspend any member who has supplied alcohol to a minor at any FN event.

It is the intent of the Board to place these changes to a vote at a special board to be called in the near future. The board will then publish the resolution in the FN newsletter. The resolution must then receive a majority vote of our membership. A notice of this meeting will be sent to the whole membership.

Any questions or comments should be addressed to the board through the post office box or by using phone numbers found on page two of this newsletter.

Friends North — Upcoming Events

FRIENDS NORTH PRIDE DAY CELEBRATION
Saturday, June 28

FRIENDS NORTH BIKE TOUR
August 8-10

AUTUMN HIKE
(Exact Date/Location to be announced)

FALL FILM FESTIVAL
(Exact Date/Location to be announced)

GAY HISTORY AND EDUCATION DAY - OCTOBER, 1997
Saturday, October 25, 1997
Park Place Hotel, Traverse City

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK - NOVEMBER, 1997
(Exact Date/Location to be announced)

Anyone wishing to help organize any of the above events, please call Friends North.

Contributions

FROM THE COMMUNITY

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS DARKLY

Alan Williams

Open any magazine, turn on any TV set, and you see it: rippling pectoral muscles, defined abdominal muscles, bulging biceps. Read the personals, and you see the descriptions: runner's build, swimmer's build, medium build (whatever that is). Often there's another statement in those personals, too: "no fats." Enter a sex-oriented chat room in cyberspace, and often the first question that appears, multiple times, is "Stats?" And woe to those whose stats don't warrant further conversation.

If there was ever a clearer sign that a lot of men are obsessed with body image, I've yet to see it. The image dominates advertising in gay and straight magazines alike. Whole publications are dedicated to the pursuit of the perfect body, because a large number of gay men seek that perfection at the cost of anything else (like a decent personality). Heaven forbid that the image of perfection might have body hair to mar those pecs. Throw in a set of semi-pouty lips and a boyish face, and for many it's a recipe of guaranteed sex. And the image can be summed up in one word: "buff."

While it's true that not all men follow this concept of male attractiveness, there's enough concern over body image that magazines like *XY* and *Out* have featured articles about this obsession among gay men. In *Out*, Michelangelo Signorile questioned the message that this obsession sends to young gay men just coming out. "It's true that there have always been paradigms in the gay world," Signorile wrote, "but it seemed in the past there were more choices, more leeway about what was considered a gay stud. Today only one very precise body type is acceptable—one that few gay men have or can achieve." I've talked to gay teens over the Internet, and they all see themselves as deviating too far from the icon of the "buffed boy" to be attractive. For these young men, if they aren't "too fat" to be attractive, they're "too thin." Their fears aren't unfounded. In today's gay world, men often find themselves alone, sexually and romantically, because they don't have the buffed look. What's worse is that many of the men I meet simply wouldn't look right trying to put on the muscles that would make them a hot item in the gay community.

It isn't just the muscles, however, that make this attractiveness so difficult to achieve. The muscles have to be smooth as a baby's bottom. Body hair suggests experience in the sexual world, and experience suggests a range of potential sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS. It's no small wonder that the world of gay porn is currently dominated by smooth, buff, young men whose semi-innocent looks run counter to the experience they display throughout the movie. Even magazines like *Out* and *XY*, despite their articles suggesting the problems of presenting a single body image as the ideal, continue to include photo spreads of these buffed young men in often provocative poses. (One ad in the *Advocate*, for a company that offers AIDS resources, shows one of these buffed young men

covered in nothing but a strategically-placed sheet, lying on a bed.) As with all advertising, the implicit message is that this is the "in" crowd, and it's a message that leaves many who are just coming out with the feeling that they are not welcome in the gay community because they don't have the right looks.

Is this image of exclusivity something the gay community can counteract? According to Signorile, it is. "We need to empower people who don't feel attractive," he writes. "I'm not saying that for vast numbers of people the club and party scene is not fun, is not great. But those who don't fit in need to see other images. Lots of people don't see themselves in what they see of gay culture. The range of what's attractive needs to be expanded, not because it's a good thing we *should* do, but because the range really *is* broader." Gay culture needs to remove the "body image blinders" that it has placed upon itself, and stop driving people needlessly to gyms to develop what my boyfriend refers to as "roller-coaster abs."

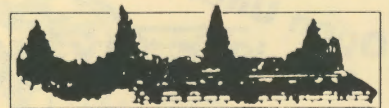
THE TRANSGENDERED EXPERIENCE

by M'Lynn Hartwell

"Why am I paid less because I am a woman?", "Why does he have to pay for the dinner because he is a man?", "Why can't I make love to a woman because I am a woman?", "Why can't he make love to a man because he is a man?" All of these questions are expressing a dissatisfaction with the class system of gender that exists in our society. Some people who are deeply dissatisfied with gender roles choose to "transgress." Lesbians and Gays transgress the rules about whom one should love. Other people choose a "transgendered" solution.

Descriptions from mythology, classical history, the Renaissance and nineteenth-century history and cultural anthropology, all point to a long standing and widespread pervasiveness of the transgendered experience. The creation myths of several religions contain hermaphroditic or transgendered creatures. In fact, many traditional cultures have included shamanistic roles for the transgendered. The shamans were the healers, the mystics, the channellers of the truth of their time; they were the tricksters, the jokers, the jesters, poets, priests and priestesses.

On December 1, 1952, the New York Daily News carried the banner headline proclaiming, "Ex-GI Becomes Blonde Beauty." For



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the next few months Christine Jorgensen (formerly known as: George Jorgensen) became a household topic, as story after story was published surrounding the year George spent in Sweden undergoing sexual reassignment becoming Christine. Eventually interest in the subject dwindled and the front page sensation diminished and became lost within the inner pages of tabloids. Can you imagine what it must have felt like in those days for Ms. Jorgensen? Imagine how she must of yearned for friendship and support in a world absent of any community to support her — even as she was constantly thrust into the public spotlight.

Before 1968, electronic music mostly happened in the basements of university music departments. In 1969 Walter Carlos was about as serious and as avant-garde as any musician of the day. With the encouragement of friends he produced the overnight musical sensation Switched on Bach (Sony Records). After a long period of silence from this prolific musician, Walter Carlos officially came out of the closet as "Wendy" in a trail-blazing May 1979 Playboy Magazine interview. No longer taboo, the topic of transgenderism began turning up everywhere; from an episode of "L.A. Law" to "Phil Donahue;" from a public-television documentary, to a nationwide contest for an Oprah Winfrey look-alike, whose red-faced sponsors later discovered was actually a male.

Yet again our nation's curiosity was piqued during a 1976 summertime media frenzy. Controversy had disrupted the world of womens professional tennis. Doctor Richard Raskind, M.D., had undergone sexual reassignment surgery becoming Renee Richards, Doctor Richards now sought to play tennis on the professional women's team. Many women-born-women objected that "Renee" had an unfair strength advantage over other female players. It seems significant that Renee Richards was attempting to play a professional sport. Had she tried to enter many other areas of professional life little controversy would have been generated and this reminds us that sport is yet another extremely significant gendering activity.

Leslie Feinberg has spent a lifetime fighting for a world that will enable us to determine, define, and modify our sex and gender whenever and however we choose. "We have the right to express our gender in any way we choose, whether it be feminine or masculine or any point between," s/he asserts. For example, we can have both breasts and a penis, or don a dress and a beard, or use the pronoun 's/he.' This kind of gender subversion runs throughout Feinberg's first book Stone Butch Blues, a novel about a butch lesbian who grows up in a factory town during the 1950s. The novel won American Library Association Award for Gay and Lesbian Literature and a Lambda Literary Award in 1994. S/he also was an invited speaker at the Stonewall 25 rally in 1994 that drew millions of Queer people from around the world. In Feinberg's most recent book, Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to RuPaul, s/he traces the interconnectivity of oppressions, Feinberg hopes to evoke the broadest coalitions possible. Feinberg asserts that we can no longer afford to use assimilationist approach to activism.

On October of 1996, Hermaphrodites with Attitude, and The Transsexual Menace gathered to protest the American Academy of Pediatricians (AAP) for their continued support of Intersexed Genital Mutilation (IGM). Hermactivists denounced genital mutilation as the

moral equivalent of subjecting homosexuals' to electroshock treatment and prefrontal lobotomy. As one activist, Cheryl Chase said, "Queer sexuality . . . queer gender . . . or queer genitals . . . medicine is obsessed with policing, regulating and suppressing difference. Cutting into an infant's flesh and removing its genitals only to force it into an acceptable body image has no place in a civilized society; it is barbarianism — there's simply no other word." One Hermaphrodites with Attitude protester, who had lost all erotic sensation due to IGM surgery, was informed that her former pediatrician was inside chairing the panel on "managing intersexed children." Through her tears, she said, "That [deleted] cut off my clitoris, put it in formaldehyde, and has it in a jar!"

Today, some 45-plus years since becoming front-page news, the transgendered community is getting a lot of attention, and rightfully so... So, what does the word "Transgender" mean? In short, transgenderism is a term that is widely used today to cover a broader range of expression, from: "Transsexualism" and "Hermaphroditism," where individuals experience a sense of incongruence between their psychological sex and their anatomic sex and seek to reassign their physical sex; to "transvestism," where individuals dress in clothes of the opposite sex often for sexual stimulation; to "cross-dressing," by both men and women; and "drag," popular with several within the lesbian and gay community.

Of the 157 transgendered people surveyed by Roberta Perkins in 1994: Forty-nine had been raped and eighteen gang raped. When asked how many felt they had been discriminated against and by whom; fifty-nine reported discrimination from gay men, fifty-eight from their families, fifty-two from straight men, fifty from police, forty-three from lawyers, thirty-two from other transgendered, twenty-four from doctors, and twenty from lesbians.

As each of us, regardless of orientation or identity, moves forward in more clearly understanding the other, we must also always endeavor to respect our differences. I hope the transgendered community will understand and respect the feeling shared by many lesbian and gay individuals that it is important for our community to continue to support private space for women-born-women, and men-born-men. Some women. (e.g. victims of incest), need to spend a lot of time with other women-born-women. They need women's space to grow.

Likewise, the transgendered community will need the respect of

Transgendered (continued next page)

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the lesbian and gay community in understanding that the transgendered experience is unique and cannot be fully understood. Private space in the transgendered community will sometimes be needed as well. And most importantly, I hope that each and every one of us will work together to bring about our common goal — that every member of society, despite race, national origin, religious belief, sex, sexual orientation, or sexual status (transgender, hermaphrodite, etc.) may be entitled to be judged and to live in peace under a government of laws free of prejudice.

RYAN'S LEGACY

by Greg R. Baird

A few years ago, I bought a book called, *The Book of Questions*, by Gregory Stock, PH.D. This little book that sells for \$4.95 was #1 on the New York Times Best-seller list with over one million in print. I bought this book out of a suggestion from a friend. Since then I have used this during gatherings with friends as a fun and insightful way to learn about one another. There are 200 different questions with varying topics. One of the questions that has always stuck in my mind is, "If you could meet any two people alive or dead, who would it be?" I would respond by saying two very different people, Ryan White and Charlie Chaplin.

Both of these people have inspired me in different ways. Ryan's battle with AIDS and using his voice to inspire others has left an impact on me along with thousands of other folks. Even though Ryan has passed away, his legacy has lived on through many other people.

I had the invite by Ryan's Mother, Jeannie White-Ginder to come and speak at The National Ryan White Conference on HIV/AIDS in Chicago. I went on February 14 - 17, 1997. The conference was for youth ages 14 - 25, educators, peer educators and health care providers. There were about 300 youth in attendance.

I was to give two speeches while I was there and facilitate a few workshops. My presentations were about "Building a Positive Community" and "Starting a Gay-Straight Alliance" The youth came from all over the US and Canada. A majority of the youth that was there were gay and lesbian. The one thing I found unique was that in most of the schools they came from, they are labeled "strange", "weird", "freaks" and "different". At the conference, maybe for the first time in their lives they could all feel a part of a community, a sense of togetherness. The exchange of conversation was incredible.

The conference included workshops led by educators, health care providers and peers. As you would choose for a college class, you could go to a particular class or workshop that you found of interest. On the Saturday that I was there and after I gave my speech, I sat in on a workshop called, "Living it in the Windy City". A group of gay and lesbian teens shared their stories and their support of an organization called, Horizons in Chicago. I was moved by a young Latino youth who told of coming out to his mother when he was 15. His Mother kicked him out of the house and without having any kind of a support system, he went to live on the streets of Chicago. For two years, he was a prostitute who was raped and beaten which is a common part of his survival on the streets. During this time he became infected with HIV. One night while looking at a local paper he learned of the Horizon group. He sought out their help and with their guidance and love, found him a place to live, a job and health care. He is now doing well and has become a peer educator. I know there are other youth that are probably in the same kind of situation, and we shouldn't sit back as a community and let this happen.

I felt so fortunate to have met so many wonderful people while I was there. One was Neil Willinson from Camp Heartland in New Jersey. Neil, a 24 year old man, started a camp for children who were affected or infected with HIV/AIDS. Neil started this camp while still a college student and now is known as a person in the forefront on the support for people with AIDS. Camp Heartland is located in New Jersey and for the month of August, four one week sessions are offered. The wonderful part of this camp is that it is run totally by contributions. The campers attend the camp free of charge. If you are interested in learning more about this camp and children with HIV/AIDS, I have a wonderful video called, "Angelie's Secret". I'd be more than happy to show it to the public if anyone wishes to see it. For more info on Camp Heartland, call them at 1-800-724-HOPE.

As you can see, Ryan White's legacy has inspired so many. It has given people hope and encouragement. We need to spill that out into our own communities and inspire others, regardless of the cause. Now more than ever we need to help and support our youth. They are dealing with so much. So many times as adults we forget to listen, we forget to take time out and lend a helping hand. Our gay, lesbian and bisexual youth need us as a community and we need them. I'm very blessed to have been inspired by Jeannie and Ryan White. It has given me fuel to inspire my community. Find your inspiration and bring it home.

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PROFILE: DAN MILLER & JEFF ERNO

John Evans

Dan Miller and Jeff Erno grew up in communities which were but twenty miles apart. Jeff's mother went to school with Dan's father. Their fathers worked in the same factory, but Dan and Jeff never knew each other until one fateful day in July of 1994, when they met here in Traverse City.

At the time Dan was living out in Blair township, depending on BATA, bicycle, the kindness of friends, and even shanks' mare to get to his job in town. It was time to move. A friend invited him to consider sharing with him a large apartment for three on Eighth Street in which Jeff was the other roommate. It wasn't too many months before it became an apartment for just two.

Jeff went to public school in Boyne City until the sixth grade. After that he went to a parochial Christian academy at Burt Lake, a fundamentalist right wing Baptist school, and then back to public school for the ninth grade. He finished up in a private school where he was able to work at his own pace. He graduated in 1984.

"It was pretty clear to me where my life was going at a very early age. I determined that I wanted to go into the ministry, so it was very logical for me to be in that school system. And then I went on from there to an even stricter environment... they controlled absolutely everything - what you watched on television (there was only one set on campus), what movies you went to... that was Grand Rapids School of Music and the Bible. It is no longer in existence.

"It was really my coming out process that got me out of that situation - that really enabled me to start thinking critically... there was tremendous guilt for questioning anything - yet how do you answer that question of What do I believe? What I've been taught



about Scripture or what I know from inside from my own feelings and my own personal knowledge?...

"I happened to have a roommate who was going through the same thing... He confided to one of the resident assistants that he was gay. He thought that this person was a friend of his. I didn't have any idea about him that he was gay or going through the same struggle and he didn't have any idea about me. The RA went to the administration and they called him before the board and expelled him. They held meetings in all of the dormitories, and all the RAs were instructed to inform everyone in the school that he was being expelled and why.

"It was at this point that I came out to him - the very first person that I came out to - we went to lunch together and I told him - the hardest thing in the world to do. He and I kept in contact for a couple of years, but the last thing I heard he was in Christian counselling, still wrapped up in all that..."

Jeff left that school at the end of the semester, returned home, worked for a while and then entered North Central Michigan College at Petoskey. A year later he went to work for Country Star Market and has been in the grocery business ever since.

At present he is office manager for Northland Foods in Kingsley. Dan graduated from Ellsworth High School in 1986.

"I went to Ann Arbor the day after I graduated. I got married. Then I went into the Army. I left for basic training in December of 1987... went to Ft. Dix for basic (we all got dicked at Ft. Dix)... then on to Ft. Lee, Virginia - Ft. Leisure - for quartermaster training... then back to Ft. Dix, and I was in Germany by July of 1988. I got divorced while I was in the Army."

I recalled that I had watched the Gulf War on TV while I was living in Marquette in winter of 1991. Dan said he was there in the desert performing his duties as a supply person concerned with petroleum, oil and lubricants.

"Yes, the TV war gave new meaning to the expression 'the rocket's red glare'"

Dan was back here by November 1991. We first met at a gathering at Friends' Meeting House in the spring of 1992. He was staying at the Goodwill Inn, his only option (short of the Whiting) when his Fiero refused to take him to California. But he soon found a job at Meijer's as cashier and moved into a mobile home in Blair township.

"That job was more fun than hemorrhoids on a long-haul truck

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driver. The only job I've ever had where I got written up for being too enthusiastic: 'you're enjoying this job just a little too much'... I was still working at Meijer's when I started at the Book Warehouse - worked both jobs part-time and then the Warehouse offered me full-time. Then I was managing at the Yogurt House for a while. So then I quit and had gall bladder surgery."

That was the occasion for me to meet Dan's parents - in the waiting room on the second floor of Munson.

After recovering from surgery Dan went to work at Stone Soup.

Now he is attending NMC full-time, and working part-time at Stone Soup. He also works part-time in Dean Robb's office as part of a course requirement at NMC.

"I'll have an Associates degree in December. I'm planning right now to go to Ferris, through the University Center. Looking to secondary education with an English major and a social science minor."

Dan first came out to his parents by telephone when he was in Germany. "I just called them collect one night: 'You know what, Mom, I'm in drug and alcohol treatment and I'm gay.' And Mom said, 'We knew that', and I said, 'Which one?'"

"So it went a little better than I expected but then I was in Europe and they were here, and they didn't have to deal with anything other than the knowledge. But then I came back and the problem came out in different ways... The argument would never be about my sexuality - it was about a plethora of other things, but at the heart of it was my sexuality... I was expecting them to accept things they weren't ready to accept... Plus, coming back was a cultural shock, and it still hits me sometimes..."

Jeff came out to his family soon after returning from Grand Rapids. He was met with denial on the part of his mother who seemed to say 'I don't believe it. I'll choose to ignore that whole side of your life.'

"I thought that the people I had been the closest to would be the most supportive and yet I think it worked in reverse, because sometimes it is hard for someone when they have been close to you to accept some new revelation about you. I think that was what happened with my sister and my mother - they were really disappointed because I wasn't the person they thought I was. But I was. I was just trying to find a way for the Christian Jeff and the Gay Jeff to coexist., and this brand of Christianity just wouldn't work."

After almost eight years of negative reactions from his mother, Jeff was able to persuade her to attend a PFLAG meeting.

"Everything that I hoped would happen did. When she walked in, there were other parents there, and immediately she saw that it wasn't something that she did wrong. She was carrying all this guilt around... she felt responsible for what she perceived as my failure. But now she has done a 180 degree turn around... she even has a T-shirt which says 'I love my gay son.'"

PFLAG has been a principal focus in Jeff's and Dan's life. Dan had been attending in the early years but had dropped out. Jeff started attending in April of 1994.

"The most wonderful thing about moving to Traverse City other than meeting Dan was getting involved with PFLAG... It was my hope to continue to be involved until it grew in parent numbers to where it

is now - there are 10 or 11 parents on the board, and all I do now is the newsletter."

Dan is a non-parent board member. His principal job is to look after the library.

But there is another focus in their life together and that is taking care of Jeff's mother and grandmother, who live with them in their 16th street home. This past year they have seen Jeff's mother through surgery and the necessary after-care.

"It would be difficult enough for a heterosexual couple to have parents living with them, but Dan was completely supportive."

Our interview continued with some reminiscence of last fall's Washington trip which they both attended. The accompanying photo was taken during the candlelight march - a remarkable couple, not only for their involvement in PFLAG and the gay family, but most especially for their support of their own family.

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

by Rick Gould

Here are some fun suggestions for warm weather reading and listening!

Norm at **AB CD's** has given me the following CD list:

Happy Town, Jill Sobule. Last year, Jill created a sensation by "kissing a girl" on MTV. The video was a hit and Jill has many more places to explore (figuratively) on her second disc. It is almost impossible to keep the first single, "Bitter," from running through your head after hearing it. Norm, I feel that way about Celine Dion and my doctor says it's killing me!

In The Mirror, Yanni. Yanni performs his greatest hits. Like? Well, I don't know, but the guy has sold a gazillion records, has great hair and has the thrill of seeing Linda Evans without her makeup, okay?! A must-have for Yanni fans.

Savage Garden, Savage Garden. The cute boyz from Australia have released their first disc in the USA. It should be a smash hit, based on the catchy tune "I Want You". Another cut, "Tears of Pearls" is even better, says Norm. Slightly reminiscent of early Michael Jackson, when he was only musically "Off the Wall."

Living In A Clip, Ani DiFranco. The non-material girl is back with a double live set. Ani's fan base keeps growing and growing and growing, kind of like the Energizer bunny.

Coil, Toad The Wet Sprocket. This CD won't be on the racks until May 22 but Norm has a copy and it's some of Toad's best work yet, but don't expect another "Dulcinea." A little harder edged and look for Toad on tour this summer.

The Saint - Soundtrack, various artists. Well, Val Kilmer may have sported more campy wigs than Cher in this cheesy but fun flick, but jump on the cool soundtrack of the season with techno cuts by

(BOOKLIST continued page 14)

GAY HISTORY AND EDUCATION DAY ANNOUNCED

Matt McCormick

Right now, in the midst of mild temps and spring lilacs, the last thing anyone wants to think about is autumn, and yet that is precisely what we need you to do!

Friends North is gearing up for its annual Gay History and Education Day (GHED) which is presently slated for Saturday, October 25 at the Park Place Hotel in Traverse City. This day-long event will be informative, educational, entertaining, and enlightening, and is an important event for each of us to work into our fall plans.

Friends North members Matt McCormick and Guy Molnar are working together to plan this day and are hoping for a record-setting attendance. While the GHED does not have a theme per se there will be a strong focus on and commitment to the younger members of the gay, lesbian, and bi-sexual community in our region.

The day will begin with registration for those who have not pre-registered and move immediately into the first half of small hour-long seminars on a variety of topics. There will be a break for lunch: attendants will have the option of remaining at the hotel to dine on the premises (at a reduced rate) or wander to any of the nearby downtown restaurants. After lunch the final seminar will be held along with an address by the keynote speaker, followed with entertainment.

Several details remain to be defined as of this writing but some of the proposed topics include: "*Positive Activism: Keeping Your Cool While Making Your Point*"; "*Gay and Lesbian Youth: What Has Changed and Where Are We Heading?*"; "*A Crisis of Faith: To Be Gay and Christian—Are the Two Mutually Exclusive?*"; and "*Ten Key Legal Issues Every Gay Person Should Know.*" as of this writing our keynote speaker can not yet be announced but do expect to get all the details in a special mailer planned for early summer.

In addition to the seminars there will be a number of tables displaying gay-proud items (books, CD's, clothing, etc.) as well as historical information displays to give us all a better sense of our accomplishments over the years.

The cost for this one-day event will range from \$25-35 dollars per person. As an added incentive, those participants who register prior to August 15, 1997 will automatically be entered into a drawing for some wonderful prizes donated by several (very

generous) gay-friendly business owners and supporters of Friends North in the northwest Michigan area.

Please join us in October for this very important day—and encourage a friend to come along. Also, if you know of anyone who lives outside our region and who may be interested let Matt, Guy, or any member of the Friends North board know so that registration information can get out to him/her.

One final note: Matt and Guy are looking for any interested volunteers who may wish to work in some capacity on the Gay History and Education Day. Several individuals will be needed the day of the event to help with registration and some set up but they also need a few folks to help with other items along the way (poster distribution, mailings, etc.) If you have a few hours to spare this summer and would like to help out with this event, please contact Matt or Guy at 616-935-4819. (Please, no calls after 10p.m.)

TRANSGENDERED continued from page 1

degrees by most of society. Many in the legal and medical professions fail to provide appropriate services. Every day a medical doctor, who is a member of the American Academy of Pediatricians (AAP) will surgically cut into five intersexed infants, not for any medical reason, but to make their genitals look cosmetically "normal." Most of these infants will lose their genital sensation, some will later commit suicide because the sex selected by the physician will be the opposite of the gender identity felt by the individual (Intersexed = a person who has the primary and/or secondary characteristics of both the male and female sexes).

Sadly, and perhaps most tragically of all, the transgendered community has experienced devastating discrimination from the very people they anticipated the most support from — people within the lesbian/gay community. We are pleased to say that the board of Friends North, Inc., has made a serious commitment to remedy this long-overlooked travesty in our region. It is important for all of us to stand together in our struggle against injustice, hate and ignorance.

Each of us involved with the Networking 45 Degrees North Newsletter would welcome your thoughts and assistance as the Friends North, Inc., organization extends a heartfelt welcome to the transgendered community — our path is not an end in itself, but a journey toward wholeness, via the avenue of transcendence.

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TRACY'S STORY

-by his mother (name not available at publication)

"It's a girl!" I was told on that blustery November morning in 1950 when Tracy was born. I held my miraculous new daughter, my first child, and examined her and saw that she was indeed a perfect little girl. But I was wrong. Disastrously wrong. Inside the body of that beautiful girl baby was the personality and psyche of a boy. It has taken 22 years of tragedy and misery and hurt for the boy inside Tracy to emerge.

All that I want to say about Tracy's growing up is that it was rough beyond description. Tracy was a handful — restless, fretful, too irritable to be cuddled, screaming her rage if she didn't get her own way instantly. When our second child, Daisy, was born two years later, the contrast between the two babies was so sharp that even strangers noticed. Daisy was sunny, cooling, cheerful — and very early in life terrorized by her older sister. Sometimes Tracy hurt Daisy accidentally in play; other times she beat her up deliberately. Even when the girls were 12 and 14, we had to have a sitter whenever Jim and I went out, to make sure Tracy would do no harm to her sister.

In spite of her tantrums and sulks, Tracy was bright and alert and did well in school. She was big-boned, athletic, "a tomboy." She delighted in heavy work like putting up screens and mowing the lawn. During the years when the girls were in their teens every meal was a battle. We hardly ever could sit down together without someone's leaving the table in tears or fury. Sometimes it was Tracy who slammed down her napkin, shouting, "Why do you all hate me?"

Oh, we did all the usual things to solve our problem — we talked to our pediatrician and to the school nurse and later to the guidance counselor and after that to a psychologist. Jim and I searched our souls to discover what we'd done wrong. We ransacked our memories to figure out how we'd mishandled toilet training or shown rejection or made some other crucial mistake. It was taken for granted by everyone we consulted that we, the adults, were the ones who were in error. We had to change in order to bring some degree of peace and happiness to our troubled family.

But the experts were wrong, for Tracy was the one who had to change. And it is a measure of the world's ignorance of this area of human suffering that the poor child had to travel alone to the brink of disaster before she would find her way.

Her final months in high school were as stormy as any I remember. The battles continued, but between them, now, Tracy would retreat into sullen silences and nothing I tried would mollify her. Then, suddenly, about a week before graduation, her mood seemed to switch; her anger gave way to calm. One night I went to her room to kiss her good night and as I learned over her bed she pulled me down to her and moaned into my ear: "Help me, I don't want to die." I held her to me and she said it again. "Help me, Mom, Help me. Part of me wants to live." When I looked into her eyes I saw such sadness as I had never seen before.

That night I tiptoed into her room every 15 minutes, watching over her. In the morning neither of us mentioned what had happened and she went off to school in a reasonably good frame of mind. But as soon as she was out of the house I phoned the

psychologist she'd been seeing. He was greatly alarmed. It was possible, he told me, that the calm I had noticed in recent weeks was the result of a decision — a decision to die. When anguish gives way to quiet, he said, it can be a prelude to suicide.

He promptly took charge of the situation. By evening Tracy had been signed into a psychiatric hospital. After three weeks, when it was thought the crisis had passed, she was allowed to come home again — providing she continued her therapy. She moved out of our house into a furnished room on the other side of the city, found a job and practically cut herself off from us.

That was four years ago, when she was 18. Jim and I rarely saw her for the next year and a half and whenever we did, our hearts would sink. For Tracy was a changed person. She dressed and acted tough. She wore rough, mannish clothes — not just the jeans and heavy shirts that so many young people go in for, but clunky men's shoes and a woodsman's jacket. Her black, curly hair was so much shorter than most of the boys' in town that she had a harsh, butchy look about her. Jim and I used to exchange glances, but neither of us dared to give words to the terrible suspicion that was dawning on us; Was Tracy a lesbian? Was that it? We couldn't bring ourselves to talk about it.

Then came the day, about 18 months after she'd left home, when Tracy turned up at our house with "something important" to talk to us about. Tracy, Jim and I sat down in the living room; then she dropped her bombshell. "I am gong to have an operation that will change me into a man," she announced. "I think like a man; I feel like a man. Now I'm going to look like a man and live like a man."

She had sent away for further information to the Erickson Educational Foundation¹ in Baton Rouge, La, whose name and address were listed in the magazine. Booklets and leaflets arrived as well as an announcement that a Gender Identity Committee had recently been formed at a hospital in the Midwest city where we live. Such a committee, composed of a psychiatrist, a psychologist, an endocrinologist, a urologist, a gynecologist, a plastic surgeon, an internist and members of other disciplines; as needed, evaluates the cases of those seeking transsexual treatment.

Transsexual.

That was a new and frightening word for Jim and me. What did it mean? Tracy explained (and so did the leaflets and textbooks we read in ensuing weeks) that a transsexual is a person with the physical makeup of one sex but the psyche of the other. A transsexual is not the same as a hermaphrodite because a hermaphrodite has some or all of the physical characteristics of both sexes. Nor is it the same as a transvestite, who is one who seeks emotional release by dressing like the opposite sex. A homosexual is usually accepting of the sex into which he or she is born, but engages in sexual relations with members of the same sex.

Tracy had looked like a girl from birth, developed like a girl in her teens with breasts and normal menstrual cycles. But despite the outside evidences of femaleness, inside her, struggling to express itself, was a masculine consciousness — an almost

TRANSSEXUAL. Continued Next Page

irresistible drive to be and act like a man. That's what she meant when she told us she was a transsexual — her psychological gender was the opposite of her body's.

By the time she told us what was happening, Tracy had already gone through the grueling physical and psychological explorations of the Gender Identity Committee. She'd been interviewed, probed, poked, examined, cross-examined, her blood and urine taken for analysis, her mind checked out by batteries of psychological tests, her chromosomes counted, her hormones assayed, her fantasies analyzed.

Of the 54 candidates who had presented themselves for treatment by the new Gender Identity Committee, only two were accepted, and Tracy was one of them. For the past year she had been receiving injections of testosterone, the male hormone, and had been living like a man. (It was the testosterone which had caused the coarsening of her face and body that we had noticed.) That was the committee's basic requisite to further treatment — at least one year of living the life of the sex to which the patient wishes to transfer. During that time Tracy was required to be a man in every phase of daily life, to dress as a man, find work as a man, join clubs as a man, make new friends as a man.

This is considered an important testing period, to see how the new gender "fits," and how powerful the desire for sex reassignment is before the candidate goes on to the further and irreversible stages. Tracy had taken this initial step without consulting us, because she feared that if we knew her plans we would try to stop her. As far as she was concerned, that first step was a success. Now she needed our help. Before any surgery could be performed the Gender Identity Committee insisted on the permission of at least one member of the patient's family. (This is required of all patients — adults as well as minors — to preclude later malpractice suits by family members and to make sure that someone beside the patient is aware of what's taking place.)

Tracy had referred vaguely to surgery. Just what surgery did she have in mind? She drew a deep breath, knowing how hard it would be for us to accept what she had to say. Then quietly and seriously she told us that to complete her gender reassignment, she would need three stages of surgery — mastectomy to remove her breasts, hysterectomy to remove her uterus and ovaries, and phalloplasty to construct a penis.

My mind reeled under the impact of her words. Why would any young woman want to have herself diminished in such a way — destroying the deepest and most precious evidence of her womanliness? I couldn't grasp it. "But mother," Tracy explained patiently, "I'm not a woman — that's the whole point. I'm a man. Inside myself I'm a man and as a man it's a horror for me to have breasts. They're constant reminders that nature made a dreadful mistake in putting me together. I have to get rid of all the woman in me, and surgery is the only way."

I tried to study Tracy as if from a great distance, as if she were a stranger, and I had to admit that, had I really not known her, I would have assumed that she was a young man. I would have described this young man as being, on the surface, surprisingly composed, considering the circumstances, earnestly answering our questions.

It was impossible to read anything in Tracy's eyes; they were, as they had been since infancy, eyes of indescribable sadness.

Only a slight tremor of her hands and voice betrayed how much hinged on the outcome of this conversation. Tracy knew the future could go several ways, depending on our reaction.

At one extreme we could put a stop to the whole thing. We could storm into the hospital and threaten to sue the doctors. If that should happen, Tracy left no doubt she would drop out of sight, find a doctor, perhaps in Mexico or Europe, and go ahead with the operations. That way, it would all be done furtively, with greater risk and more trauma, but her father and I would be spared the notoriety. With or without our permission, the change would be made eventually — Tracy left no question about that.

On the other hand, if we thought we could come to accept Tracy as our son, if we could treat her as a man, address her as a man, learn to think of her as a man, perhaps something could still be salvaged from the wreckage of our battered family life. A question surfaced in my mind: How do we tell people? How do we face our friends? But Tracy was our child, after all, and love for a child can triumph over bitterness and estrangement. I looked at my husband and knew that he was thinking the same thing. There really was no alternative for us but to accept — him.

Him.

In that moment we made a crucial choice that turned our lives completely around and started us off in an entirely new direction. Our decision was yes. We would approve; we would cooperate with the doctors in every way we could; we would stand behind Tracy in her quest for a new self.

So it began.

We were notified that the committee wanted to learn more about us in order to learn more about Tracy. We found ourselves putting our innermost thoughts on reel after reel of tape. We dredged up recollections about times and emotions we thought we'd left behind us forever.

And gradually we began to find some answers to our questions about Tracy and the whole baffling problem of transsexualism. We learned, first of all, that the very concept is still controversial, but that increasing numbers of specialists are now convinced of its validity. We learned, too, that the condition, while rare, is far commoner than we had dreamed. Dr. Harry Benjamin, a New York endocrinologist who is one of the pioneers in this field, has ventured an educated guess that puts the number of American transsexuals at about 10,000 [it is now believed to be around 100,000].

In 1966, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore set up the first American center for sex transformation. Today, about a dozen medical institutions, among them, the University of Michigan, the University of Minnesota, the University of Washington in Seattle, the University of Virginia, have Gender Identity Committees.

The experts agree that there is no way yet to point a positive finger of blame in the creation of a transsexual. Throughout history, an individual's sex has been established by the appearance of his body at birth. But that appearance may be

TRANSSEXUAL. continued next page

C L A S S I F I E D S

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

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS:

DOG PARADE, Saturday, August 16, in Northport organized by the Chamber of Commerce. This year's theme is "Mardi Growl," and costumes for owners and their dogs are encouraged. For further information, call Dave at 386-7341. (issue 3)

BIBLE STUDY: You are welcome to come to my home and study "A Complete Workbook for De-Mystifying the Bible's Position on Homosexuality" and/or other subjects of interest. This is a Gay and Lesbian Bible Study that affirms and honors us as Gay and Lesbian Christians and removes the stigma that has been placed on homosexuality by many. We will be studying the specific verses in the Bible that are used against us, and also studying the verses that most encourage growth in our spiritual lives. DATE: First Sunday of each month, from 4:00-5:30 p.m., beginning June 1st. Please call for directions: Linda Wilson, 616-271-4331 (issue 3)

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 4)

ON-GOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLLEYBALL!: Anyone interested in playing volleyball at the 1998 Gay Games in Amsterdam, please call Bill at 616-845-5220. (issue 4)

GAY-LESBIAN BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP is meeting monthly on the first Tuesday of each month, 7:30 pm, at Border's Bookstore on S. Airport Rd., T.C. For info, call Border's at 933-0412 and ask for Joe. (issue 4)

GAY GAMES IN 1998: Team Great Lakes is organizing for the upcoming games in Amsterdam, scheduled for August 1-5, 1998. Those interested, please call Ann Heler at 810-547-4692. Team Great Lakes sent 180 individual athletes and teams to New York City in '94. (Issue 6)

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 23)

PLEASE SPONSOR OUR POSTCARD PROJECT: They do make a difference! The cost for printing the 2800 postcards is \$100.00. To contribute specifically to the Postcard Project, please call Richard at 271-3042 or send a check (in an amount of \$100.00 or less) directly to Friends North. (issue 4)

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 6)

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 6)

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 6)

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 6)

HOUSING:

HOUSING WANTED-GM college teacher looking for room or small apartment in Grand Traverse Area during July and August and possibly late June. Prefer locations close to Leland. Non-smoker, references. Write to Tom Grogan, 1044 Hatch St., Cincinnati, OH 45202 or call 513-421-6588. (issue 3)

PERSONALS:

GWF-43, Never married. Looking to meet new friends; soon to have new location-hopefully real soon. Redneck town's not for me after six years moving back home from the city. Time to move on and out. Write to: Vickie Glied, 17768 S. Tilson Rd., Rudyard, MI 49780. Relocation upon finding a new residence and the sale of the current residence. New job location with Restaurant Mgmt. as profession. Send name, address and or phone number and I will respond. (issue 3)

GROUPS:

FRIENDS NORTH BOARD AND MEMBER MEETINGS: The Friends North Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, corner of Washington and Boardman Streets, across from the Old Courthouse. ALL ARE WELCOME (issue 5)

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 7:30pm. For information, call Tom at 275-6127 or Ed at 947-4697. (issue 5)

GLSTN, the Gay-Lesbian-Straight Teachers 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 or Jim at 271-4510 and leave your name, number, and that you are interested in Frontrunners. We will return your call with information on where to meet. All ages and abilities are welcome. (issue 3)

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

Friends North Bike Tour 1997



Friends North is sponsoring our 6th Annual Bike Tour around Leelanau County. This event will take place the weekend of August 8, 9, 10, 1997 with biking on Saturday and Sunday, it's intended for gay and lesbian bicyclists and their friends. Please join us again or for your first time.

Ours is a camping and biking weekend spent in the heart of the beautiful Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore... with the beach and swimming nearby... loads of great restaurants and miles of beautiful scenery for touring; all of which make for a great weekend. We ride loops from the D. H. Day campground in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. This is not a race and there will be a choice of distances and routes from which you can choose your ride.

Your registration donation to Friends North will include:

- Weekend camping & set-up cost
- Routed Bicycle Tour
- Dinner Saturday evening at the Glen Lake Township Hall
- Friends North '97 Bike Tour T-shirt (Logo bike caps and Sweat shirt will also be available for purchase)

If you know enough about the tour and would like to sign up now, please fill out the registration/release form and send it with your \$70.00 donation check.

After we receive your registration we will send out directions and the routes in early July. If you have questions about the tour you may call on of us... Gretchen Sauvage at (616) 943-9819, Kirk Mallow at (616) 943-4006, or Jim Ingleson at (616) 922-0925.

P.S. In case you're wondering...our good friend Jeff Knebl is advising us, as he has decided to relax and enjoy the ride for a change...as always we thank him for all his help and advise.

Friends North

Leelanau County Bike Tour 1997

Registration and Release Form

Please read and fill out this form to register for the tour to be held on August 8-10, 1997. Return the signed, completed form with your donation check, made out to Friends North for \$70.00 to address listed below. If you feel that limited funds would prohibit you from participating in this event please check the box below and send a check for \$25.00.

Limited funds rate

Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Circle Requested Shirt Size M L XL

Emergency contact person (someone not on the tour).

Name _____

Phone _____

Please check here if you intend to stay in a hotel

Make check or money order payable to Friends North and send to: FN 97 Bike Tour, Jim Ingleson, P.O. Box 51, Traverse City, MI 49685.

In signing below I state that I am 18 years of age* or older and I understand the hazards involved in riding a bicycle on busy highways. I accept the risks involved as a participant of this bike tour as my own and would not, nor will any of my heirs, hold Friends North or the organizers of this tour in any way responsible or liable for any accident, injuries, mishap, trauma, or loss that may occur at any time during this activity.

Signature _____ Date _____

If you would care to receive Networking 45° North, the Friends North Newsletter, for one year, please check here and include \$15.00 extra in your check.

Riders registering after July 10, 1997 are not assured of getting a T-shirt. Cancellations made before July 1, 1997 will receive a refund of one half the donation. After July 1, 1997 no refunds will be made.

** Please contact the above address to receive an under 18 years of age parental consent form to be submitted with this registration form.*

HIV / AIDS Wellness Networks

Fourth Annual Auction - Friday, May 30

6:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres & silent Auction

8:00p.m. Auction

Side Traxx Nite Club

520 Franklin Street - Traverse City

*Fantastic Art, Crafts, Gift Certificates
and much more will be available.*

**Every dollar spent counts and will help support
HIV/AIDS services in Northern Michigan.**

**Please join us for a fun filled evening,
WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

For more information call Wellness Networks at 933-0279

Dear Governor Engler:

H.R. 1602, aka "The HIV Prevention Act of 1997" currently before the House gives cause for great concern. Many elements of this proposal appear to have the potential of enhancing the very problem it intends to address. Consider these points:

Mandatory reporting of individual HIV positive test results to a state public health officer; mandatory testing of health care workers; and mandatory disclosure of HIV positive status by health care workers all represent a serious loss of privacy. The loss of anonymous testing for HIV increases public fear of the health care industry and the potential of ruined lives may deter many from seeking HIV testing. Add to that the estimated 425 million dollars annually required to implement this program, along with the fact that this amendment, if passed, will force changes in no fewer than 265 individual state laws.

Please join your voice with those of your fellow Governors opposing H.R.1602 and Senate companion #503. Raise the voice of reason even in unreasonable times.

Sincerely, _____

Address _____

Dear Senator Levin:

H.R. 1602, aka "The HIV Prevention Act of 1997" currently before the House gives cause for great concern. Many elements of this proposal appear to have the potential of enhancing the very problem it intends to address. Consider these points:

Mandatory reporting of individual HIV positive test results to a state public health officer; mandatory testing of health care workers; and mandatory disclosure of HIV positive status by health care workers all represent a serious loss of privacy. The loss of anonymous testing for HIV increases public fear of the health care industry and the potential of ruined lives may deter many from seeking HIV testing. Add to that the estimated 425 million dollars annually required to implement this program, along with the fact that this amendment, if passed, will force changes in no fewer than 265 individual state laws.

Please join your voice with those of your fellow Senators opposing H.R.1602 and Senate companion #503. Raise the voice of reason even in unreasonable times.

Sincerely, _____

Address _____

Dear Mr. Eaton:

The troubling news of Chrysler Corporation's decision to pull its advertising from the Ellen Show on ABC has come as a shock to many individuals. This outward display of intolerance and ignorance is appalling. Therefore, I am forced to discontinue my support of your corporation and the products you produce. I'm sorry to learn that discrimination among human kind is common practice within your organization and feel sorry for the many people working for you who will have to continue to hide because of your lack of support.

Diversity is what our country was built on and if we are going to continue on a road to a peaceful future, tolerance and exceptance must be supported. Pro-active leaders will help build our future, not the misinformed.

Sincerely, _____

Address _____

Dear Mr. Oesterreicher:

The troubling news of J.C. Penney Corporation's decision to pull its advertising from the Ellen Show on ABC has come as a shock to many individuals. This outward display of intolerance and ignorance is appalling. Therefore, I am forced to discontinue my support of your corporation and the products you produce. I'm sorry to learn that discrimination among human kind is common practice within your organization and feel sorry for the many people working for you who will have to continue to hide because of your lack of support.

Diversity is what our country was built on and if we are going to continue on a road to a peaceful future, tolerance and exceptance must be supported. Pro-active leaders will help build our future, not the misinformed.

Sincerely, _____

Address _____

Place
Stamp
Here

Place
Stamp
Here

**State Senator
Carl Levin
459 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510**

**Governor of Michigan
John Engler
State Capital
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing MI 48909**

Place
Stamp
Here

Place
Stamp
Here

**James Oesterreicher, C.E.O.
J.C. Penney Corporation
P.O. Box 10001
Dallas TX 75301**

**Robert J. Eaton, C.E.O.
Chrysler Corporation
1000 Chrysler Drive
Auburn Hills MI 48326-2766**

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 3)

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 3)

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 Saturday at 11:00 am and have been moved to a new location at Grace Episcopal Church, corner Washington and Boardman Streets in TC. For further info, call John at 922-0746 or Tom at 947-4647. (issue 6)

FRIENDS LIKE US: A social group in north east lower Michigan for gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. Meets monthly. For info, please contact Jeff @ 517-354-7702, or write to him at POB 391, Alpena, MI 49707. (issue 4)

MICHIGAN WOMYNS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Every August since 1976, thousands of womyn from around the world have returned to Michigan. We give ourselves this one week, a week where we relax and enjoy the company of womyn during every part of our day. Waking up each morning, our feet land on the forest floor, our senses fill with the sights and sounds of a place unlike any other. We are drawn to be with our community, to enjoy the brilliant performances, and to stretch our minds through the non-stop exchange of ideas and experiences. We come to enjoy, embrace, and sometimes bump up against the diversity that is the very fabric of our community. Where else can we live with the influence and interaction of womyn from most major cities, thousands of rural miles, many cultures, dozens of countries and five generations? For a week we know the absolute challenge and thrill of sharing body, mind and spirit in this city of womyn.

Michigan is an experiment in cooperative community living as much as it is a performing arts festival. Before you arrive, hundreds of womyn have worked to create the space, build the stages, set up the large tents that house everything from kitchens to crafts, and organize the systems and services that give our city its shape. All of the town services are communally run. Everyone who comes to the Festival has a hand in its operation; each woman attending participates in two four-hour work shifts during her stay (one shift for weekenders). By doing this we each learn more about the gathering itself, and we also have a chance to get to know womyn we might not have otherwise met. It's more than a cool idea; it's really the way the Festival runs. It

is how we create the Michigan Festival that is home to each of us, and it's how each of us makes Michigan our own.

The Land is a 650 acre woodland surrounded by the Manistee National Forest, with beautiful woods and meadows for camping. Once you've arrived and visited Orientation, a shuttle provides your ride to the interior, where you can choose from popular camping areas that are close to most activities, hike into more secluded campgrounds, or take specific Shuttles directly to Over 50's, DART or Family camping. Helping hands are available to assist older womyn and disabled womyn with their camp gear. An RV campground is located near the entrance (no hook ups, tents or cars in RV).

Three delicious vegetarian meals are prepared each day at the Kitchen 6 Tuesday through Sunday. First Aid care at the Womb, general emotional support at the Oasis, and recovery meetings at Sober Support are all provided through coordinated peer support. Snack beverages, Festiewear and general supplies are available at various Festival concessions.

Child care is available in three different campgrounds. Gaia Girls' Camp offers daily activities and supervision through the evening concert hours. Brother Sun Boys' Camp is an overnight camp with a program of outings, crafts, cookouts, music and sports for boys aged 4-10. Located in a mix of forest and meadow, the camp offers a fun, welcoming and secluded area for boys, while preserving womyn's space in all other Festival areas. Please respect the requirement that all boys 4 and over, camp in Brother Sun for the week, and be aware that we hold strictly to the upper age limit of 10. Sprouts Toddler Family Campground provides a day camp and family campground for moms and all toddlers 1-3 years old. In order to participate in any of the Child care areas, all children must be pre-registered by July 23rd.

Disabled womyn's resources are organized through DART. For many womyn with specific needs, this area makes participation in a camping event possible, yet it still may not be easy or comfortable for some womyn to be in an undeveloped, rustic camping environment. The DART registration packet describes the event and environment so that womyn with disabilities can decide whether or not this event can accommodate their specific needs. DART campground and services are available by pre-registration only. Sign Language Interpretation service is available for all concerts, requested workshops and other activities.

The Community Center hosts many different community activities and provides networking space for young Womyn, over-40's, Jewish Womyn, Deaf and HOH Womyn, and womyn from other countries.

The Womyn of Colors Tent offers community, celebrations, workshops and special events. In its many-colored, multi-cultural atmosphere, it offers a unique opportunity for exploration and reclamation of our many and varied traditions.

If you're new to the Festival, ask us for a set of Tips for First Timers, and we'll gladly send them to you to further describe everything from the arrival process to handy camping tips.

For more information send a SASE to: WWTMC ̄ Box 22 ̄ Walhalla MI 49458 or call (616) 757-4766.

either ambiguous or deceptive. Sexual identity within the individual is fixed through a complex interaction of body and mind, involving anatomy, hormones, neurological mechanisms, and cultural and other environmental factors. The process may go awry at different points in the course of development. Apparently hormone imbalance or a viral infection or drugs taken by the mother may lead to an improper programming of the fetal brain. Thus the infant could be born looking like one sex, but "programmed" to behave like the opposite sex.

Another thing that could go wrong is the male-female imprinting that is made at certain critical times after birth. The brain of any child must code all gender-role signals as either masculine or feminine, and allocate either positive or negative values to those signals." If something malfunctions during codification, the child may become confused or contradictory in his gender identity.

Another curious fact is that the change from male to female is sought at least four times more frequently than from female to male. That was one reason why our local committee accepted Tracy — they were eager to work with a female transsexual seeking male identity. In addition, they were impressed with Tracy's determination and emotional stability despite the storminess of her growing-up years.

Make no mistake, it is a Herculean endeavor to change one's sex. I know from living through it with Tracy. But once she realized she had our support, she moved ahead swiftly. She continued injections of male hormones she'd been having every two weeks, and will continue them for the rest of her life. She already had a job under male identity as a shipping clerk and had joined several male clubs. And she was saving her money for the expensive surgery she was determined to undergo.

I've been saying "she" because, of course, Tracy had always been she to us. But now as I write this account I will change over to "he," exactly as I had to do in everyday life. The switch in pronouns has been a problem — it still is. But I've trained myself to say "he," "him," "my son," "my boy," and to drop the designation, "the girls," which I had so long used in referring to Tracy and Daisy.

Daisy was the first person we told, and her calm, poised acceptance of the news set the tone for the announcement we had to make to others close to us. I had been petrified at the thought of telling people, and over and over I rehearsed in my mind the words I would use. But when I told Daisy, she simply closed her eyes for an instant and then she said, "Oh, Mother, how he must have suffered."

Naturally we did not shout our news from the rooftops. To family members and close friends, we simply said, "Tracy is under treatment for the correction of a complicated sex problem." Most people who knew Tracy replied, "I'm glad your child is finding happiness at last."

The time came for the first step in surgery — the breast removal. I don't think I could ever be as brave as Tracy was, but then I never thought of breasts as hateful appendages, as Tracy did, to be bound down so that they would be less conspicuous. The surgery was done at a local hospital. Today, the scarring is

hardly noticeable. I wish I could communicate Tracy's joy when he first put on a low-cut boy's shirt — the kind basketball players wear — and swaggered toward his reflection in the mirror. I guess pain and suffering hardly count when you're achieving something as basic as this was to him.

The hysterectomy was a little more complicated because, by this time, Tracy was well established in his masculine role and couldn't figure out how he could enter the local hospital as a man to have his uterus removed. After careful consultation with his doctors, he decided to have this operation performed in a private hospital in another city. It was done six months ago and while it did not result in as much visible change as the earlier operation, it had an inner, symbolic meaning for him that brought enormous happiness.

The final — and most difficult — operation still lies ahead. It involves a plastic surgery procedure that eliminates the vagina and creates at least a semblance of male genitalia out of the existing tissue. There are a number of different techniques now being used for the construction of a penis, all of them multi-stage procedures requiring a series of hospital admissions. The cost in pain and expense is very great and the results not always entirely satisfactory, either in appearance or function. Usually a prosthesis is required to accomplish intercourse, even after the operation, and there is no way for the transsexual to father children of his own.

So far, Tracy is determined to go ahead, but is waiting until his doctors agree on the right operation for him and until he has saved the necessary money. Lack of medical reimbursement is only one of the hurdles a transsexual faces. To me, the legal problems have been among the most upsetting of this whole experience. Many times my heart pounded when I came home to find an official-looking letter on the hall table among the day's mail. Since it is illegal in most states to crossdress (that is, to wear the clothes of the opposite sex), you can imagine the kind of harassment and even blackmail that transsexual might be subject to in the early stages of change. In the future, as people and officials become more aware of the problem, I hope the legal red tape will be more easily disentangled. As for what happened to us, I still shudder when I think how gingerly we all walked the legal tightrope, while Tracy was having his draft status arranged, driver's license shifted and birth certificate altered. Finally, however, all was accomplished.

Was it worth it?, you might ask. There isn't a shred of doubt now in any of our minds. The change in Tracy is a miracle to us. After years of trying desperately to resign ourselves to an emotionally disturbed child, Jim and I now find ourselves the proud parents of a handsome, well-built, deep-voiced young man who is as completely in tune with himself and his world as any other young man of his age I've ever met. He is affectionate, stable, productive and confident about the future. Those once-sad eyes of his are now often alight with laughter and rich depths of feeling. He has a good job during the day as a salesman in a men's furnishings store. He attends college at night, and is leaping ahead in his studies and talking about going to medical school. He has developed a wonderful camaraderie with the doctors and psychologists who have worked with him so closely, and his

TRANSSEXUAL, continued next page

dearest dream is to join them as a colleague. He'll do it, too, for Tracy now is capable of doing anything he wants.

One thing I used to worry about was his social life: Would he be able to attract girls and form satisfactory relationships with them? The doctors had assured me that many transsexuals marry and raise children they have obtained through former marriages of their mates, artificial insemination or adoption. And Tracy, to our astonishment, has had great success with girls. When he meets a young woman and likes her, he tells her candidly of his sexual limitations. Many of them breathe a sigh of relief and exclaim, "Thank heaven, no wrestling matches," and they go on to warm, deep friendships.

One reason why I have told Tracy's story is to move forward just a bit the public's understanding of the suffering that results when the psyche of one sex is trapped in the body of the other. But I have another reason for laying bare all the misery and anger, the frustrations and fears that Jim and I and Tracy and Daisy have lived through. It is to pay tribute to the remarkable men and women who have helped us find our way out of the darkness. Their selflessness, courage and compassion have shown me there is no limit to what human beings, at their best, can accomplish.

NEWS BRIEFS

compiled by Richard Tuxbury

CLINTON ENDORSES ENDA

President Clinton met with key Senate and House supporters of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act on April 24th in what one of the bill's sponsors called Clinton's attempt "to lend his strong moral support" for the legislation.

In a written statement released after the 35-minute meeting, Clinton said ENDA "is about the right of each individual in America to be judged on their merits and abilities and to be allowed to contribute to society without facing unfair discrimination on account of sexual orientation."

While most of those attending the Oval Office meeting Thursday morning met with reporters outside afterward, Clinton issued his statement through a press release.

Barney Frank, a cosponsor of the bill, said he is optimistic that the bill has a "good chance" of passing Congress "very soon" but, he added, "I wouldn't bet the farm on it passing this year."

Joining Frank at the meeting with President Clinton were Vice President Al Gore and two of the bill's Senate sponsors, Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.). Also attending the meeting were Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign; Wade Henderson, executive director, and Dorothy Height, chairperson, of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; and Rep. Frank's domestic partner, Herb Moses. The two Republican co-sponsors of the bill, Sen. James Jeffords (R-Vt.) and Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.), did not attend the meeting.

SENATOR APPLIES LAW TO GAY STAFFERS

Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., has extended benefits of the family-leave law to gay members of his staff. A gay-rights group said other lawmakers have done it informally, but that the freshman senator is the first to write it into his office policy.

It means that a gay staffer could get unpaid leave to care for a companion in a medical emergency. The 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act requires companies with 50 or more employees to offer 12 weeks of unpaid leave within a 12-month period for family emergencies.

CHICAGO APPROVES BENEFITS FOR GAY PARTNERS

Despite noisy protests by anti-abortion demonstrators and church groups, the Chicago City Council approved extending health benefits to the gay partners of homosexual city employees in March.

The 33-18 vote in favor of the measure followed more than 90 minutes of emotional debate on the controversial gay rights issue. Family-Pac, a pro-family organization, called the vote "an embarrassing disgrace which will greatly damage the city of Chicago financially.

Under the measure, live-in partners of gay city workers will be able to receive the same benefits as spouses of married city employees. Opponents of the domestic partnership ordinance contend it subsidizes homosexual unions.

TUCSON EXTENDS BENEFITS

The City Council agreed to extend medical insurance benefits to gay and lesbian "domestic partners" of city employees but refused to do the same for unmarried straight couples. The council voted 6-0 to approve the measure, which is expected to cost about \$27,000.

ESQUIRE'S EDIT

Amid rumors of kowtowing to corporate backers and shying away from gay sexuality, Esquire recently lost its literary editor of ten years after the magazine pulled a gay-themed story from its April issue. David Leavitt's fictional story, "The Term Paper Artist," was pulled by Executive Editor Edward Kosner because, according to the New York Times, the story "was said to contain explicit homoerotic scenes and vulgar anatomical references." Kosner is quoted as saying, "All magazines have at least three constituencies: the readers, the advertisers and the staff. I just thought this story was going to offend many, many people. Advertisers were the least of it."

Not so, according to Esquire's ex-literary editor Will Blythe, who resigned in protest after he said the story was pulled for fear that CHRYSLER, a major advertiser in Esquire, would be offended by the work. Additionally, Leavitt's literary agent, Andrew Wylie charges that CHRYSLER, actually ordered the story pulled. CHRYSLER has denied any involvement, and Kosner has denied the story was killed because of complaints-real or perceived-by the auto maker.

HIV PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Mary Merwin

The Region 7 Community Planning Group (for HIV prevention) has received funding for a model HIV prevention program for gay men in our region (the northern 20-some counties in the lower peninsula). The Group contracted with me to implement the program region-wide, although we are starting in the Grand Traverse area.

This model was evaluated in several midsize cities in the Midwest (one of the few that has been looked at outside major metropolitan areas, and the closest we can come to research with rural populations). It was demonstrated to have a significant reduction in risk behaviors for HIV transmission.

The project is community-based and the effects occur through changes in perceived community norms—that is, the general norm of our community becomes one of safer sex practices. This is accomplished through helping community leaders increase their skills in talking about, promoting, practicing, and supporting behavior changes that reduce risk for HIV transmission. You will be hearing more about this as time goes on.

The project is long term since norms don't change overnight. Think about how long norms regarding cigarette smoking have been changing. However, within a year, we should have measurable reductions in risky behaviors.

This brings me to the Gay/Bi Men's Health Survey inserted in this issue of the newsletter. It is very important for us to gain an accurate measure of the level of risky behaviors in our community now in order to see whether this program is effective in reducing risks. If you are a gay or bisexual man in Leelanau, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Wexford, Antrim or Kalkaska county, or if you visit the area frequently, **please complete the survey** and mail it back to me. If you also wish to be entered in a drawing for prizes, complete the name and address portion, tear it off, and mail it separately to me (9601 N. Carlson Rd., Northport, MI 49670).

Thanks for helping reduce the spread of HIV in our community.

MY EXPEDITION

I want to taste
the waters of your spring
and forge through your forests
to run in your meadows
and feel safe in your valleys

I want to discover
your nether regions
to grasp and cling
and then find my way
up to your summit

I want to explore
the caves of your soul
and dream under stars
that shed light
on your love

M'Lynn Hartwell

Orbital, Underworld and the Chemical Brothers. Other tracks included: David Bowie, Duran Duran, Daft Punk, Everything but the Girl, Sneaker Pimps and Duncan Sheik.

Duncan Sheik, Duncan Sheik. This has been AB CD's best selling CD since June of 1996. ABCDs has sold more copies than anywhere in the nation, so says Atlantic Records. A must have for anyone who enjoys finely crafted and performed pop music. "Barely Breathing" is the first single. 800+ copies sold so far.

At **Waldenbooks**, Kevin gave us these book suggestions:

After Midnight—AIDS in Hollywood: The Life and Death of my Husband Brad Davis, by Susan Davis, \$24.00. The title says it all, and the wife tells it all.

Icebreaker: The Autobiography of Rudy Galindo, \$23.00. The inspiring true story of the world's first openly gay figure skater--world bronze medalist Rudy Galindo, in his own words.

Arkansas: Three Novellas, by David Leavitt, \$23.00. Leavitt's first fiction in a while, the excerpt in Esquire has apparently created a stir. You know, that guy-guy stuff. As opposed long articles about intellectual stimulation and Sharon Stone's breasts.

Life Outside: The Signorile Report On Gay Men: Sex, Love, Family, and the Passages of Life, by Michelangelo Signorile, \$25.00. The Out magazine columnist investigates!

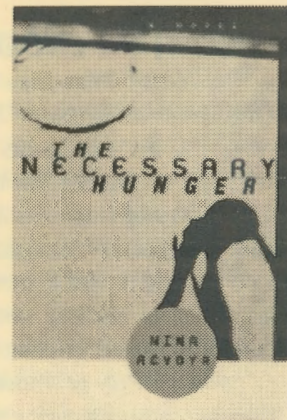
At **Borders**, Aimee suggested the following books:

Switch Hitters, edited by Carol Queen and Lawrence Schimel, \$12.95. Lesbians write gay male erotica, gay men write lesbian erotica...steamy stuff!

Boy Culture, by Matthew Rettenmund, \$10.95. Smart, funny, erotic, insightful. The book, that is.

Necessary Hunger, by Nina Revoyr, \$20.70. No, this isn't Shelley Winters latest autobiography! It is a lyrical account of two girls, basketball and unrequited love. I'm assuming it's not the basketball that's being longed for.

City of Friends, by Simon LeVay & Elisabeth Nonas, \$17.50. Studies the institution and communities that make up the most culturally and ethnically diverse minority in America today. That would be...us!



Borders Gay/Lesbian Literature & Studies Book Group is discussing *Man of the House* by Stephen McCauley in May. The group has had great discussions. Aimee says lots of cool people are showing up. Come on over and help pick the book for June!

Comics North! of Cheboygan will soon be relocated at 211 N. Main Street. In the midst of moving, David Elyea gave us these suggestions:

Dagger of Blood by John Blackburn, \$2.95. The first part of a three-issue mini-series featuring the adventures of Coley, a 19-year-old voodoo sex god. Voodoo, huh?

Gay Comics #24, the latest issue of the long-running and award-winning anthology series, which features a crossover by characters from the popular image comics and MTV series, "The Maxx."

JEANETTE WINTERSON

a book review

submitted by M'Lynn Hartwell

Jeanette Winterson is on top of the world, or at least close to it. She is on the top floor of a hotel as high as the nearby United Nations, a fitting place for an upstart who once named herself the world's greatest living writer.

"I trust art completely, and if art's a high wire strung from the Chrysler Building to the Empire State Building, I will walk it, and believe that I will not fall," the ever-confident British author says in support of her new novel, *"Gut Symmetries."*

"I love to see the young kids, under twenty, coming and saying, 'This book means so much to me.' 'This book changed my life.' 'This book set me on track.' ... And what they want is something genuine. In a way, as people get older, they start to cut themselves off from genuine experiences and they lose that sense of risk, that sense of openness."

The 37-year-old Winterson will let you know such a fate is not about to happen to her. "There's nothing dull in the world to me," she declares, and few have found anything dull about Jeanette Winterson, a woman with a rock star's private life and a public literary vision.

In the grand tradition of Oscar Wilde and Lord Byron, not to mention Mick Jagger and Johnny Rotten (whose punk hairdo Winterson's resembles), Winterson is both an artist and gossip item in Britain, a legend both of her's and the media's making.

As an artist, she has attempted nothing less than to take some 3,000 years of Western civilization, from the Bible to quantum physics, and say what has never been said before. One novel features a character named Dog-Woman living in 17th-century London. In another, Napoleon's cook falls in love with a Venetian boatman's webfooted daughter.

As a public figure, Winterson is known at a level rare among young American fiction writers. Then again, picture Susan Minot claiming she once worked as a lesbian prostitute (in exchange for quality cookware, no less), or Amy Tan having an affair with the wife of Richard Ford, as Winterson did with the wife of British author Julian Barnes.

"In every century the people who actually do the work are passionate about the work. It's always the case that they tend to live at a level of intensity and energy which perhaps seems unusual," said Winterson, whose novels include *"Written on the Body," "The Passion"* and *"Sexing the Cherry."*

Winterson's childhood, a story and a half in itself, is the basis for her acclaimed debut novel *"Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit,"* published when she was in her mid-20s.

"I cannot recall a time when I did not know that I was special," she wrote. Born in 1959, the adoptive daughter of a Pentecostal Evangelist couple, Winterson was a preacher by age twelve and by age sixteen had been expelled from church for having an affair with an older woman. When *"Oranges"* came out, her adoptive mother, now dead, decided she was a child of the devil.

"It was a place where the Lord and the Bible were paramount, where my mother quite rightly thought that books would lead you astray. They do lead you astray. She was an intelligent woman; she knew," Winterson said.

More of the Winterson legend: She was a makeup assistant at a funeral home; she was a domestic in an insane asylum; she once showed up at the door, in the middle of the night, of a journalist who criticized her in print; she employs her own personal astrologer.

For those who can't be bothered to sort through it all, there are her books. They offer as reliable a record as you will ever get of the author, or at least of Winterson's mind, where, she argues, her most daring adventures have really taken place.

"I never did feel bound by space or time," she said. "I used to have a dream I was floating in space, and the space was composed of past and present and future. And there were doorways from which I could enter and exit at will."

There are plots in Winterson's novels, but a plain old narrative tale would be duller for her than a Sunday sermon. She is essentially a novelist of ideas: ideas about art, about sex, about history, about science, about almost everything.

"Gut Symmetries," her sixth novel, covers such favored Winterson territory as triangles, both romantic and mathematical; the mystery of identity; the personality of cities and the differing theories of Albert Einstein and Sir Isaac Newton.

As with nearly all of her fiction, *"Gut Symmetries"* is a story of travel, in the mind and in the real world. In a typical Winterson touch, one of the three main characters is a scientist named Jove who lectures on "Time Travel." His lectures are given aboard the QE2, which sails from England to New York to Los Angeles via the Panama Canal.

"It's quite funny, because I never go anywhere. There are weeks and weeks when I don't even step off my own land. I've got a few acres, and I'm quite happy to stay there," said Winterson, who lives outside of London with her partner, Peggy Reynolds.

"And I'm not one of these people who go off to India and Australia and China and see the world. I like to go to Europe on the train because I'm a terrible old jaded European, because that's where I belong, in an old continent.

"And the trouble is my partner, who is a great traveler, often tries to entice me by telling me stories about where we'll go, because she's been nearly everywhere in the world. Then I start telling her stories, because I've been there in my head."

Excerpts from *"Gut Symmetries,"* a novel by Jeanette Winterson, published by Alfred A. Knopf.

"It began on a boat, like *"The Tempest,"* like *"Moby Dick,"* a finite enclosure of floating space, a model of the world in little. Here is a *vas hermeticum*, a sealed capsule on a rough sea. This is the alchemic vessel, resistant to change, constantly being transformed. This is us, vulnerable, insulated, entirely self-contained yet altogether at the mercy of the elements. The Ship of Fools is sailing tonight and all of us are aboard."

"It was night, about a quarter to twelve, the sky divided in halves, one cloudy, the other fair. The stars were deep recessed, not lying on the surface of the night but hammered into it. The water, where the

JEANETTE WINTERSON continued next page

their generosity to work toward lesbian and gay equality.

"The purpose is not to tell people where to give money but to give them tools to figure it out themselves," said Katherine Pease, executive director of the foundation. "A lot of donors out there are struggling with whether to give and if they do it, how to do it well."

Another element of the project is the Gay and Lesbian OutGiving Fund, which bundles together and earmarks donations that come from the gay and lesbian community. "Because we all have things that we like—whether it's Greenpeace or Ducks Unlimited or the National Snowboarders Association," Gill says. "Those kinds of organizations don't really necessarily know that they have a gay constituency. And if they do, then it will change their minds."

Gill, who has lived in Colorado since the third grade, doesn't come from a family with a history of philanthropy. "My mother did some volunteer work but certainly nothing on this scale," he said. "My parents are very middle class." And, he says, there really hasn't been a downside to his being an out gay man who also happens to run one of the most successful software companies in the world.

"We've had a small number of customers who said they wouldn't buy from us any more, but probably a larger number of customers who said that they would only buy our products," he said. "I think America — at least the part of America I'm exposed to, which is high-tech America — is certainly moving to this space where your sexual orientation really is a non-issue, which is the way it should be."

For more information on the Gill Foundation, call 719-473-4455 or e-mail GillFound@aol.com or OutGiving@aol.com

GAY-LESBIAN READING GROUP AT BORDER'S BOOKS

-an update by Aimee Wells

Do you like to read about issues that affect the community, or maybe just the latest of a juicy gay or lesbian murder mystery? Or do you like to just hang out and talk to people who do? Well then, Borders Books & Music is the place for you!

On the last Monday of every month, the Gay & Lesbian Book Group meets in the relaxed friendly atmosphere of Border's Cafe' Espresso. So far there have been an average of 8-10 people of many different age groups and backgrounds attending, which makes for a great exchange of ideas.

In June we will be discussing "City of Friends" by Simon LeVay and Elisabeth Nonas. The book discusses what it means to be gay or lesbian in America today. It seeks to help us all understand the institutions and the communities that make up the most culturally and ethnically diverse minority in America today.

We choose the books two months ahead, so that everyone can get a chance to read the one that they are interested in, and all discussion group titles are 20% off at Borders.

So, whether you have read the book or not, please come out and join the discussion, and help choose what we will be reading for future meetings.

body positive

a commentary by Peter Ian Cummings

When I was 14 or 15 I had a dream what gay life would be like. Of course, I related my dream to my life at the time, and how much better my life was going to be once I came out.

Now, my life at 14 was pretty typical—it consisted mainly of repressed longing for jocks. The longing was named Bob, David, Paul, Alex and Chris, and in my dream world I would be allowed to have one of them. In my dream, I would be able to love, touch and hold who I wanted. In my dream, boys would give me their love freely and openly: a gift. Was this too much to ask?

When I first came out in 1985, gay life was pretty much like my dream come true. I felt so very much freer than I had as a closet teenager. I met lots of new people; some times we liked each other and when we did, we had sex. None of the people I know from that time thought the sex was meaningless. We made an emotional connection. Sometimes it led to love. Sometimes it led to us being really close, and I met most of my closest friends that way.

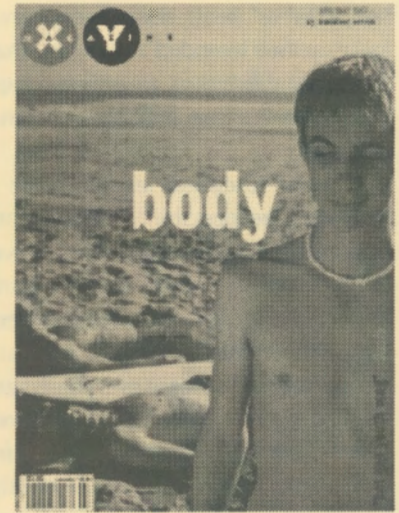
But something gradually happened, and we gave away our right to enjoy our sexuality. It would be hard to construct a more sex-negative bunch of people than young gay men today. Feeling lonely? Five years ago, there was an easy solution: go out and try to meet someone. But if you do that today, don't tell your friends—it's considered cheap. And if you do get off with someone, better keep it secret. Especially if you get off with too many people. You'll get a bad reputation.

Hey—does this sound like straight kids in the '50's to you? And by the way, who are you allowed to have sex with today anyway? You can't have sex with anyone you know because it would create a scandal. And you can't have sex with anyone you don't know because it's cheap.

Some people say this new sexual repression leads to healthier relationships. I don't think so. I don't think repression ever leads to healthier relationships. If you said that to gay kids in the '80s they'd have laughed you out of the room.

When I came out, gay life was great because people had sex, and when they had sex they did it with celebration, feeling and high style. So, I dare to ask: why should people out of long-term relationships, be denied emotional contact with another person? I think it's fine to reject "uncaring sex" as cheap [if you want to]—but I think sex is indeed a question of caring, rather than of prissy rejection due to community pressure.

This sex-rejection, which leads to sadness and loneliness, is not a direction I want young gay men to go.



POSITIVE continued next page

Unfortunately many sources are happy to encourage us in this cycle of repression. For example, *Out Magazine* recently referred to XY as "a dubious achievement" and compared us to the porn magazine *Freshmen*.

Obviously *Out's* position says more about *Out*—and the "respectable" [read: sexually conservative] gay establishment who make up their intended audience—than about XY. They and much of the gay establishment are only too happy to blast anyone [read: XY] who presents a freer and more constructive way of expressing our sexuality.

These so-called leaders have staked their careers on the increasing "respectability" [read: neutering] of the gay community—it earns them millions of dollars. Never mind if it leads to loneliness.

You know what? I don't care about being *that* kind of respectable. It was never what I wanted from being gay anyway. You know what? I think we should express our sexuality all the time and be open about it. Please everybody: get down! Yet—and this is why I am so upset—what hit me after reading that thing in *Out* was, exactly how far my teenage dream is from "majority" gay thinking, as represented by the *Out* article and the sex-negative feeling behind it.

Being gay is not about copying straight people's lifestyles. It is about blazing a new trail and being true to ourselves in new ways. It is about beauty, aesthetics, hot sex and love and emotions run wild. I am tired by this unholy alliance between the gay establishment and the straight one they are copying, which cannot tell the difference between the meaningless sexuality represented by *Freshmen* and the integrative one represented by XY.

Gay liberation is the freedom to express our love, part of which is the freedom to express our sex. We must not be monopolized by this gay establishment who says you and I are somehow less respectable because we want to integrate our sexuality with our lives. If we repress our sexuality in the name of respectability, we become exactly who straight people want us to be—i.e., straights.

Some people say this "toning down" of gay life is progressive, that it heralds our acceptance into mainstream society. I call it repression. These people simply misunderstand what being gay is.

But we can still dream. And I wish they'd shut up and get out of our way.

Peter Ian Cummings is the editor of XY Magazine (\$5.95 at Borders Books)

THE LAMBDA UPDATE HAWAII MARRIAGE BREAKTHROUGH: ONLY THE BEGINNING

by Evan Wolfson

On December 3, 1996, we won, and won big. Hawaii Circuit Court Judge Kevin Chang ruled that the government had failed to

show a single compelling or even logical reason for denying lesbian and gay couples the freedom to marry. The historic victory in our *Baehr v. Miike* trial marks the first time that a court has declared that gay love and gay families are entitled to full and complete equality.

While there is much more we must do now, we should savor the power of this moment. In the clear, cool, dispassionate light of a courtroom, a highly respected judge looked at all the arguments and evidence put forward for sex discrimination in marriage, and found that none held up. By contrast, and despite the state's attempts to prove otherwise, the court concluded that all evidence shows that gay people make good parents; our children are growing up healthy and well-adjusted; our relationships are as committed and loving as those of non-gay people; and we share the same mix of reasons for wanting and needing the freedom to marry as our non-gay brothers and sisters.

Perhaps most important, Judge Chang observed that ending sex discrimination in marriage would harm no one, would take nothing away from non-gay couples or children, and would help same-sex couples, our children and loved ones, and, indeed, society itself. Far from being an attack on marriage, Judge Chang concluded, allowing gay people the freedom to marry would strengthen that institution and benefit families. So what comes next? This historic decision stands, while, as predicted, the actual order requiring issuance of marriage licenses is on hold during the state's appeal. Lambda's co-counsel, Dan Foley of Honolulu, and I now will litigate this case in the state supreme court. We expect a final decision by early 1998. Meanwhile, for those who are asking: "what should I be doing to help in 1997?" there are three critical tasks:

First, help *beat back the backlash*, by defeating the Christian Coalition's anti-marriage bills in the state legislatures. Backlash '97 will be fierce and furious; our enemies know how close we are to transforming our position in society.

Second, *help Hawaii*. The anti-gay, anti-marriage groups are plotting attempts to strangle our case in its cradle by flooding Hawaii with money and hate.

Third, do your part personally to *enlist non-gay allies*. What we must do, and what our enemies don't want us to do, is continue the dialogue on marriage, changing the vocabulary with which society talks about us. Chant my mantra ("there is no marriage without engagement") and, well, go out and engage non-gay people to support our freedom to marry. Allies like NOW, the ACLU, PFLAG, and religious voices in several mainstream denominations have signed the Marriage Resolution and have joined us in the struggle. Now it is up to each one of us, gay or non-gay, to go and ask others, group by group, person by person. Don't just read this... please go and do it!

1996 was the year we fully began the national conversation on gay families and our freedom to marry; now, 1997 must be the year that we clinch the deal with the persuadable non-gay public, the "movable middle" not yet with us, but reachable.

Hawaii's state motto is "The life of the land is perpetuated by righteousness." Here, throughout our land, all people have the chance to be righteous. In Hawaii and the other 49 states, let's beat back backlash '97 and fight onward to full victory.

Unfortunately many sources are happy to encourage us in this cycle of repression. For example, *Out Magazine* recently referred to XY as "a dubious achievement" and compared us to the porn magazine *Freshmen*.

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OUT MAGAZINE AND PLANETOUT AGREE TO PROVIDE HOME FOR FORMER OUT.COM MEMBERS

NEW YORK/SAN FRANCISCO—Out Magazine, America's best-selling gay and lesbian magazine, and PlanetOut, the number one gay and lesbian online service agreed to work together to provide a home for the members of Out's website, which closed in March.

Under the agreement, Out Magazine will license the Out.com address to point Out.com members to PlanetOut. Additionally, Out Magazine and PlanetOut online service will co-market each other's brands.

"Out is delighted to begin a relationship with PlanetOut to provide a home for our Out.com members. As we focus on being the largest and most successful gay and lesbian magazine, we are confident that PlanetOut's online community will offer our Out.com customers the services and information they need," said Henry Scott, Out Publishing president.

"We have great respect for Out Magazine's people, editorial, and the way they blazed the path for other gay and lesbian businesses. We look forward to serving Out.com customers," said Tom Rielly, President and CEO of PlanetOut.

Effective immediately, www.out.com will point to www.planetout.com, where visitors will see a "welcome, Out.com members" logo on PlanetOut's home page. Out Magazine closed their site last week to focus on their magazine. PlanetOut will respond to Out.com customer inquiries.

Out Magazine will run advertising for PlanetOut, and PlanetOut's advertising Out magazine and hosting a Out.com subscription site. The first ad will appear in March on PlanetOut, and with the May issue of Out Magazine, available the first week in April.

To subscribe to Out Magazine, please call 1-800-792-2760. For a PlanetOut starter kit, call 1-800-719-6611.

Out Publishing, Inc., based in New York City, has 25 employees. Founded in 1992, Out Magazine's circulation is 120,000 people per issue.

Out is America's best-selling gay and lesbian publication. With the latest and most authoritative coverage of news, culture, health, fashion, and entertainment, it is the leading source of information for the gay community.

PlanetOut is available at www.planetout.com on the World Wide Web, at Keyword: PlanetOut on America Online, and at Community Forums: Lesbian & Gay Forum, on the Microsoft



Network. Additionally, PlanetOut provides news to Yahoo! and is available from Netscape's Destinations page.

PlanetOut, founded in August 1995, develops and operates a worldwide, online community of gay, lesbian, bi and trans people and their families and friends.

Based in San Francisco, California, in the US, PlanetOut has 20 staff and over 100 volunteers in 10 countries. PlanetOut is visited by over 300,000 unique people per month.

PlanetOut has won three NetGuide magazine awards, Best Independent Content Provider from the Microsoft Network, and has received nominations for a Webby Award, an AOL People's Choice award and a GLAAD media award.



BEN MADDY: A BOARD MEMBER BIO

Joseph Kau-Be-Naw

Benjamin Maddy has been my friend for years, and a few days ago he asked me to write a biography on him, so here it is. Ben grew up in the Traverse City area and graduated from high school at the Interlochen Arts Academy as a Theatre Major. After graduation he moved to Chicago. He worked as a manager at a local Italian restaurant, he also co-founded the group Generation Q. He moved back to the TC area last December and soon afterwards was elected to the Friends North board, he is currently working on putting together the Gay-la Prom, and of course there will be other projects in the future.

None of these things though really tell you who Ben is. He is fun to be around, eclectic, fascinating, interesting, thought provoking, and exasperating (sometimes). He reminds me of that silly pink rabbit in those awful commercials, you can't seem to stop him, he keeps on going. And I hope Ben keeps on going, and influencing others by his emple, to take pride in themselves and our community. I am glad that I have been given a chance to get to know him.

1997 ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM PICKUP DATES

Wednesday July 16, 1997
Wednesday September 24, 1997

Please help Friends North clean their mile of highway on M-72 in Williamsburg.
Meet at 5:30 pm at the theaters in Acme.
For info call Alec 275-2294

CHRYSLER AND LESBIANS/GAYS

by Ron G. Woods
and The Campaign For Equal Rights At Chrysler

CHRYSLER HAS:

- Dropped corporate sponsorship of Ellen for her coming out show..
- Allowed severe harassment of gay/lesbian/bi/trans employees in facilities.
- Reportedly threatened to pull all advertising from Esquire Magazine if they published an excerpt by gay author David Leavitt because of gay content, which led to the resignation of the literary editor of Esquire Magazine in protest. (Source: GLAAD).
- Refused the demand of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) to add domestic partnership benefits to the contract for gays/lesbians. CAW President Buzz Hargrove said in the October 23, 1996 issue of the Los Angeles times that "macho" Chrysler Executives were not ready for that, even though General Motors of Canada accepted the demand.
- Refused United Auto Workers (UAW) contract demand to add "sexual orientation" to the existing non-discrimination policy.
- Failed to post their new "Standards of Conduct" in facilities
- Not yet given official status to the glbt employee group
- Not yet announced their promised diversity training program
- Provides sexual harassment training to new hires only, even though contract says training is for everyone

(Ron G. Woods can be reached at MichRook@aol.com /810-545-7699)

DYKE SPARKS CONTROVERSY

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - For nearly two years, the license plate "2 DYKES" Alice Deighan and her partner chose sparked only minor problems. They had obscenities shouted at them once and Ms. Deighan received a hate letter at work.

More recently, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles canceled the plate after a motorist complained. The women, who are lesbians, received a form letter saying, "this license plate was issued to you in error because it can be interpreted in a way which would make it obscene, profane or vulgar."

Ms. Deighan, 34, and Scout, her 31-year-old partner who changed her legal name to the single word, disagree.

"What they are objecting to is us proclaiming that we are lesbians," Scout said Monday.

The two women said they are considering a court challenge. In the meantime, they have applied for a different plate: "LESBIAN."

POEM 3.KIM

Your hands were like butterfly wings,
setting me free.

Your touch was a special gift,
given only to me.

Your arms were my safety net,
catching my fall.

You protected me,
little one and all.

Now you have the wings
bestowed to only a few.

Floating above my head
is how I see you.

Keeping watch over
me in my need.

Safely, surely
completing your deed.

Michele Mashburn

FRIENDS NORTH, INC., P.O. BOX 562, TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49685-0562

YES, I want to be a supporting member of the Friends North Organization

Single: \$15.00 Couple: \$25.00 (includes one-year newsletter subscription) _____

I am enclosing an additional: 10.00 20.00 40.00 _____

and I would like to see this used for: Newsletter Where needed Education Fund

Optional First Class Mailing \$8.00 _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

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.

STRAIGHTS SAY THE DARNDDEST THINGS!

Chris Convisor

Okay. That's a generalization, but we can agree some people have such a narrow scope. For example when four women (two couples in our world) appeared for tee time last fall, our starter winked knowingly, "Dumped the guys for an afternoon, eh?" Huh?

And, of course, we all know straights that we just forget are straight. They're part of the fold, we're all part of something bigger and beyond the terms... but for those instances when typical reality hits I've made a few notations. I bet you've heard plenty others. If you think of them, jot them down. Send them to me via Friends North. I'd like to add them to The List:

The List: Straights say the darndest things!

1. "That's okay for you, but I'm not." *The totally self-absorbed outlook.*
2. "I know this gay in Chicago. Maybe you know him." *Yah. And I know everyone of the 300,000 in Atlanta too.*
3. This is not so much said. A straight man or woman coming onto you at social events, despite the fact you've been in a monogamous relationship for years. If you're gay obviously they know they're irresistible to you and everyone knows gay people screw at the drop of a het.
4. "Why do you recruit?" *I've never understood this one. I don't recruit. I wouldn't know what recruiting was if I hadn't met a Jehovah's Witness or a "concerned" heterosexual.*
5. "Aren't you going to miss having children?" and "What are you going to do when you're older?" *No, unlike many unthinking heterosexuals I chose not to have children, I didn't just have them inadvertently. In addition please refer to Rosie or Melissa Ethridge's life. And one final note: You don't have children to hedge against loneliness later in life.*
6. The inevitable "But what do you do?" *The same thing you do but one of us doesn't fake the orgasm. (I give all due credit for this answer to Susan Westenhoeffer.)*
7. "How did you know?" *How did you know?*
8. "Why can't you just change back?" *The same reason you can't.*

9. "You've never had a good experience w/1. a man 2. a woman." *a zebra. that's about how pertinent that question is.*
10. "Why do you feel a need to show your affection in public?" *Oh I don't know, why does Arnold Schwarzenegger hold Maria Shriver's hand anyway?*
11. "Aren't you afraid of getting AIDS?" *Just a teensy bit of denial here on how fast AIDS is spreading in the hetero society.*
12. "It's not in The Bible." *Yeah and you're not supposed to eat pork, either. Next.*
13. "It's not natural." *It's natural to me.*
14. "Animals don't do it. Then explain spoooge dog to me. My male dog being danced upon by my mother's male dog., like all day. It's more than a dominance thing.
15. "Those relationships never last." *Speaks the sexuality with a 50% divorce rate. This the old 'damned if you do, damned if you don't' routine. They don't want us to have gay marriage and then accuse us of having short-term relationships. Despite this, I am privileged to know several couples celebrating, 30, 35, 40 and more years together successfully. No, we're not encouraged to put our anniversaries in the paper, but we don't need the trivial to keep us together.*
16. "Do you think there are any other lesbians or gays up here besides you?" *You've never been to Lake Ann, have you?*
17. "Lesbians hate men." *Depends on the man.*
18. "What about the Gay Agenda?" *What's scheduling brunch have to do with anything? I think the "Gay agenda" is a convenient 'hate term' created by bigots. No one's ever asked me what my agenda is and don't assume you know it either.*
19. "Why do you want special rights?" *My special rights are: to get beat up, fired, lose my family, lose my living space, be kicked out of the Church, military, any club I might want to belong to, I have no hospital visitation right with my significant other, no coverage under each other's insurance. These are all special rights reserved only for us. You can have them.*
20. "It's probably just a phase." *Let me know when you're out of yours.*
21. "You don't look, act, speak like one." *Neither do you.*
22. "You're the first one I've ever met." *Look around. You've never been to the post office, the museum, the grocery, the mechanic, the builder, and you don't have any relatives whatsoever.*

I do have to end with a personal anecdote. While travelling in a motorhome for a year and half, CJ and I were able to stay with my godmother in Fresno for a week. A great time spent with many long lost relatives. One of her grandchildren came home with a cute story. "Grandma! I learned a new meaning for gay. It can mean happy!" Only in California, where they read the story, "The Gay Bunny." Of course she already knew from her exposure to CJ and me that being lesbian/gay often means happy too.

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LEARNING TO TELL CRIME

by *MEDIA*Alert!

NCAVP 1997 REPORTS NOT WELL COVERED BY MEDIA.

Most of the major news media carried reports of the latest "gay bashing" survey, conducted by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP). Indicating a significant rise in violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, the new survey also prompted a number of local reports — tracking incidents of hate crime in several of the 14 cities surveyed by NCAVP.

Despite some improvement, the recent coverage of hate crime is warped by an old, salacious spin. Again, national and local reporters skirted the vital connections between hate violence and organized homophobia. Even individual homophobes are oddly missing from many news reports, which have tended to dwell more on the VICTIM'S behavior (and much less on the VICTIMIZER'S).

Victims might not be blamed, outright, any longer — but they are implicated nevertheless. Typical of this subtle bias of "homophobe omission" is the NCAVP coverage from United Press International (March 11), which reports that: "Violent crimes against gay communities caused 867 injuries or deaths nationwide...." Literally, of course, violent CRIMINALS (i.e., homophobes) were the immediate cause. Yet neither the word "homophobe" nor "homophobia" appear — anywhere — in UPI's story.

The UPI report does use the phrases "gaybashing" and "gaybashers," however. While common parlance among gays, these terms can prove misleading in the mainstream press.

A style guide developed by the Seattle chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association advises journalists to avoid the term "gay bash." As NLGJA explains: "The choice is complex, because while the term focuses on assaults on gays and lesbians, its overuse may also minimize them. 'Bashing' has become synonymous with light verbal jabs, such as 'lawyer bashing.'"

Even the most war-like violence against homosexuals — like blowing them up — still evokes vague and narrow assessments of homophobic hate. In covering the recent bombing of a lesbian club in Atlanta, for instance, the Associated Press (February 23) reported: "The mayor met with gay and lesbian activists Sunday and ordered extra police protection for nightclubs frequented by homosexuals." Again, a subtle bias emerges. The AP did not report, as it could have, that homosexual venues required extra protection FROM HOMOPHOBES.

Not surprisingly, the alternative press has edged out the wire

services — at least qualitatively — on the hate crime beat. In a two-part feature for "Austin Chronicle" (March 14-20), for example, staff writer Amy Smith examines both the general problem of hate crime and a specific anti-gay killing. In her second feature, the article's headline ("A Gay Man's Search for Sex Ends in His Murder") and subhead ("Dangerous Liaisons") foreshadow an unfortunate slant — one that is common in both the mainstream and alternative press. The reporter's good intentions give way to a biased emphasis on the murder victim's "risky" behavior.

Specifically, Smith focuses on "pick-up encounters," in which gay men have "sex with strangers." She treats "cruising" almost as if it were a co-factor in hate crime. The suggestion, that such encounters are a particularly fertile medium for violence, is not backed up by any hard data — at least not in Smith's article.

Too easily missed in such coverage is that, in regard to any hate crime, the VICTIM'S behavior is essentially irrelevant. This point is well made by Guy Trebay, in one of the better columns generated by the NCAVP survey ("Village Voice," March 18).

Trebay challenges a remark made by Janet Reno, who — in commenting on the recent rise in hate crime — had said that "federal hate crime statutes do not now permit us to prosecute offenses motivated by a victim's sexual orientation." "It's probably worth noting... the oddly reflexive bias of the attorney general's own formulation," Trebay points out. "Can victims really be said to 'motivate' hate crime? Isn't irrational hatred the cause of that?"

Perhaps because of such "oddly reflexive" bias, the "riddle" of anti-gay violence has remained just that. Expounding a measure of evasion in lieu of prevention, "solutions" for hate crime are continuously vexed in their reflection of the media's deference to homophobia.

It is far less effective, but apparently more acceptable, to reduce the risk of hate violence by changing homosexual behaviors (advising gay men to avoid "pick-up encounters," for example) instead of changing homophobic beliefs. Absent any diagnosis of homophobia by the press, hate crimes are treated essentially as symptoms of homosexuality!

By way of remedy, the mainstream media could expand their coverage of hate crime, to include a sustained and direct interrogation of homophobia. Hate crime statistics might be reported with reference to hate groups. The coverage of annual surveys, in particular, begs for an examination of homophobes and homophobia — the "who," "what" AND "why" that link these disparate acts as crimes of hate.

While career homophobes are so often quoted for "balance" in ANY gay-related story, they are typically left OUT of articles on anti-gay violence. The omission is ironic. This might be the one story in which anti-gay spokespersons DO play an integral part — whether they admit it or not. Comments on the media's current coverage of hate violence, and suggestions for improvements in the future, should be sent to: Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10020-1666, tel. 212-621-1600, fax 212-621-1500 or 212-621-7520, e-mail rgersh@ap.org; United Press International, 1400 I Street NW, Washington, DC 20005, fax 202-898-8057 or 202-898-8133. Amy Smith, Assistant Editor for Politics,

The Triangle Foundation is a member of the NCAVP.

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TRIANGLE FOUNDATION

GAY FOUNDATION SUES STATE REPRESENTATIVE TRIANGLE FOUNDATION TO CONTEST LIES BY REPUBLICAN (DETROIT, MICHIGAN/ 28 FEBRUARY 1997) —THE

TRIANGLE FOUNDATION, a Detroit-based gay/lesbian anti-violence organization filed a six-count complaint against STATE REPRESENTATIVE DEBORAH WHYMAN in Wayne County Circuit Court (case number 97-706203 NZ) today. The suit alleges several instances of libel, slander and defamation.

"Lies and intentional misinformation about gays and lesbians must be challenged whenever they are published," said Jeffrey Montgomery, President of the Triangle Foundation. "It is especially important to hold public officials accountable when they engage in the intentional distortion of facts and truth. They need to be held to a higher standard of integrity and responsibility."

PROGRESS AT TEXACO!

by Henry Messer of the Triangle Foundation

After much pressure to improve diversity, the current Annual Report of Texaco states:

"We also moved quickly to build on the substantial progress made in recent years at Texaco in creating a more open and inclusive workplace. In December, we announced the accelerated development of our workforce diversity programs and our economic outreach efforts to minority- and women-owned businesses.

"Our company is pursuing these initiatives for two simple reasons. First - and most important - because they are the right thing to do. They reflect the most fundamental value of our company: respect for the individual. Within Texaco we are totally committed to this core value, and it is the number-one leadership standard for our management team. Respect means something else as well: zero tolerance for discrimination, whether it is motivated by racism, anti-Semitism or intolerance of any religion, sexual preference, disability, gender or age."

Texaco is joining the new corporate standard of workplace environments for the next millennium. They need to learn that sexual orientation is not a "preference," but they have certainly made great progress.

You can congratulate them:
RICHARD F. BRENNER, PRES.
Human Resources Division
TEXACO
2000 WESTCHESTER AVE
WHITE PLAINS NY 10650
brennrf@texaco.com

and remind them that sexuality is not a "preference."

GLAAD NEWS

GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION, INC.

An unusual joint letter was released to the media today [10 March] from the Family Research Council, Concerned Women for America, American Family Association and Coral Ridge Ministries. Radical right leader Beverly LaHaye also went on Christian "talk radio" today to blast American Airlines because "American's sponsorship of homosexual 'pride' events constitutes an open endorsement of promiscuous homosexuality." She and the others have written CEO Bob Crandall at American to complain that the airline has "gone beyond mere tolerance" for gays and lesbians. [The full article appears in today's Fort Worth Star-Telegram, and possibly picked up by other newspapers around the country.]

American Airlines is a major sponsor to and supporter of groups like GLAAD, the Human Rights Campaign, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, AIDS Action Foundation, DIFFA, AmFAR, and scores of community-based groups representing gays and lesbians. It is also the first airline to adopt a written non-discrimination policy covering sexual orientation in its employment practices, and it is well represented by the leadership of its gay and lesbian employee group, GLEAM. For these pioneering efforts, and its marketing and sales outreach to the gay and lesbian traveler, American has become the next bullseye for hard-hitting, anti-gay corporate attacks.

THE RESULT: American's switchboard and e-mails are being bombarded now by homophobic and hateful callers who have been urged by LaHaye and others to demand the company terminate its gay-friendly policies.

Please write American Airlines and let them know that you support their work with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Contact: Robert L. Crandall, President, American Airlines, P.O. Box 619612, MD 2400 DFW Airport, TX 75261-9612, phone: 817.967.2000, fax: 817.967.2000, e-mail: webmaster@amrcorp.com.

Joining American Airlines in supporting the 1997 GLAAD Media Awards are these other corporate sponsors:

A&E Network, ABC Television, Absolut, Air France, Alfred Dunhill, American Express, AT&T, Capitol Records, Castle Rock Entertainment, CBS Entertainment, Chase Manhattan Bank, CompuServe - Pride Media, Donna Karan, Doubleday Books, Dreamworks SKG, Dutton Books, Eastman Kodak Company, Geffen Records, GTE, Gucci, Harper Collins, Home Box Office, House of Seagram, Hyatt Regency, IBM, Ikea, Joe Boxer, Kenneth Cole, Landmark Theatre Corp., Latham & Watkins, Mediapolis, Inc., Mellon Private Asset Management, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Miller Brewing Company, Miramax Films, Mystic Beverages, MTV Networks, NBC, Inc., Neiman-Marcus, Neutrogena, Pacific Bell, Paramount Pictures, Penguin, USA, People Weekly Magazine, Philip Morris Companies, Inc., See's Candies, Showtime Networks, Inc., Simon & Schuster, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP, Sony Pictures Entertainment, The Gap, The Walt Disney Company, Ticketmaster, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., Twentieth Century Fox Television, United Artists, Universal Studios, Vintage Books, Virgin Atlantic Airways, Virgin Records, Warner Brothers, Wells Fargo Bank

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
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
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1322 Hurd, SE, Grand Rapids 49506 FAX 616-451-0915
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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
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
Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, Political Action Committee
1012 14th St. NW #707, Washington, DC 20005 202-842-7679

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

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
P-FLAG, Traverse City, POB 1705, Acme, MI 49610 . Cindy 616-271-5045
GLSTN (Gay/Lesbian/Straight Teachers 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