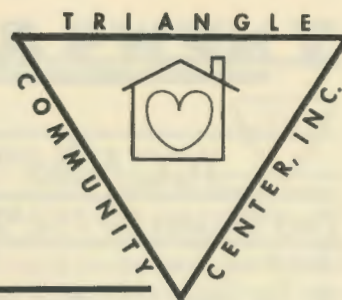


Triangle Community Center News & Views



Free to Members and Subscribers

Vol.9, No.2
February 1998

MANY HEARTS ♥♥♥ ONE COMMUNITY

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Anniversary

TCC CELEBRATES 7TH YEAR

The Triangle Community Center (TCC) of East Nowalk is marking its 7th anniversary this year. TCC operates entirely with unpaid volunteers, and this year is honoring 11 people who have contributed to the many activities and programs TCC provides all 22 towns and cities in Fairfield County. In addition, the 3 congressmen representing Fairfield County have sent special citations and letters, and letters have been received from towns and cities across Fairfield County saluting TCC. The 11 volunteers being recognized by TCC are Russ Bain, David Dey, Ron Dreyer, Victoria Ferrara, Jane W. Griffith, Noel Houlihan, Thomas Mariconda, Justine Michaud, Scott M. Robbins, and Elaine and Lester Sharlach.

Scott M. Robbins of Shelton, who has directed 2 major shows, "Whoop-Dee-Doo" in January 1997, and "Pageant" in January 1998, was recognized for his efforts in putting together the shows and directing them. TCC noted that Mr. Robbins' efforts and his 2 plays have focused TCC as never before, bringing together large numbers of members for the major undertaking these shows represent. "Whoop-Dee-Doo" raised \$17,000 for TCC, for Bread & Roses - the AIDS residence serving Fairfield County, and Mid-Fairfield AIDS Project and Stamford Cares. Proceeds from "Pageant," which ran during January 1998 are still being tallied.

Also recognized was Ron Dreyer of Stamford, who has brought his talents of singing, dancing and acting to the show produced by Mr. Robbins, and also organized a major jazz brunch for TCC in 1995. In the most recent production of "Pageant" Mr. Dreyer played the role of Miss West Coast, and, to promote "Pageant" appeared on The Exchange with David Smith on Cablevision 12 in lower Fairfield and southwestern New Haven Counties.

Also recognized was Justine Michaud of Stratford, the founding president of TCC when it opened in January 1991, who continues to assist and volunteer for TCC projects. Ms. Michaud also worked to help enact state laws in Connecticut that protect gay and lesbian citizens. Connecticut is one of just 11 states nationwide to have a gay rights law protecting gay and lesbian citizens from discrimination in employment and housing.

In a letter to TCC, U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, R-4th district, said that, "Over the past several years, TCC has taken tremendous strides in promoting understanding for gays and lesbians throughout the community. Your organization has given countless individuals the support and information they need."

U.S. Rep. James Maloney, D-5th district, sent a "Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to the Triangle Community Center for achievement." In an accompanying letter Rep. Maloney said, "I would like to commend the group's efforts to provide social and financial support to the gay and lesbian community of Fairfield County. As with any group which is denied its civil rights.... the gay community needs and deserves a support center to assist with the problems which result from such discrimination...."

U.S. Rep. Rose DeLauro, R-3rd district, said, "The general welfare of all Americans is diminished when any one group is discriminated against. TCC promotes social activism and provides a place for gays and lesbians to gather as a community." Similar letters of support were received from Stamford Mayor Daniel Malloy, Danbury Mayor Gene Enrico, Newtown First Selectman Herbert C. Rosenthal, and Fairfield First Selectman Kenneth Flato.

-Michael Collins



TWO THUMBS UP FOR "PAGEANT"

-Juan Raven, Reviewer

The talk around town about the Triangle Community Center's production of "Pageant" is that tickets for the final performances will be hard to get and especially after this weekend's nearly full houses. I saw the show both Friday and Saturday nights. As I listened to the audience discuss the show afterward comments like "great!", "fantastic!" and "wow!" were common and this reviewer was quite in agreement.

A solid show was presented and the TCC deserves a great deal of credit for staging this smart send up of the beauty pageant. The dance numbers were well choreographed and the cast seemed very comfortable in their roles and heels! Each contestant must compete in the area's of talent, evening gown, beauty crisis call and swimsuit and what style and presentation we were treated to! Though the book is slightly stacked against several contestants, there is a tremendous element of surprise as the Judges are picked at random each evening. Saturday evening's crowd seemed more in tune with the sly humor of Miss West Coast's wacky dance and the plain Miss Great Plains. Miss Texas and Miss Bible Belt are real shoo-ins for the title of Miss Glamouresse, but Miss Deep South has a show stopping number that brought the house down both nights and edged them out to win Friday night! Unfortunately, Miss Industrial Northeast, who gets great attention from the audience during her talent number (playing the accordion while skating around the stage looking frightened) gets the disappointing boot before the Queen is crowned. It was clear that she would have given the others a good "skate" for the crown if she stayed in. The reigning Miss Glamouresse 1997 is Miss Tawny Joe Johnson. She is an absolute hoot as she explains and demonstrates to the judges how to use the scorecards while assisting the master of ceremonies, Frankie Cavalier. Frankie Cavalier's character too is a great satire on the "master of ceremonies" that we all know and love! His energy and enthusiasm well played and enjoyed.

The lighting and stage design was sharp but simple and ooooh, that spaceship really was "outa this world" (as well as Frankie's get up!!) So I hope you all bopped down to the Norwalk Community Technical College and caught this show because it shouldn't have been missed. The show benefits TCC and Bread and Roses the AIDS hospice in Georgetown.

ANNIVERSARY SPLINTERS

Volunteering my time at TCC has been very rewarding. It has been both an honor and a pleasure working with people who strive for the success of the Center. We recently celebrated our seventh anniversary and I had such a blast at the party. It was great to be in a room filled with so many lesbian and gay people all in one place. And, I felt wonderfully safe and at home at our Center.

The following people were recognized for their volunteerism and passionate support of the programs, events and operations for our Center: Russ Bain, David Dey, Ronald Dreyer, Victoria T. Ferrara, Jane W. Griffith, Noel Houlihan, Justine Michaud, Scott Robbins and Elaine and Lester Sharlach. Also, on behalf of the board we would like to thank Christine Bisceglie for all her time and energy serving on the board. We'll miss her "frankness" and "bottom-line" approach to all those important issues.

I think it is quite remarkable that the Triangle Community Center has been so successful based on the fact that it is completely run by volunteers. As successful as the Center is we are still faced with a lot of work. We are in particular need of people with grant writing and business skills. Anyone who cares to help lighten the load is welcome. We work hard and we have fun doing it! In the words of our president Don Buxton, "take what you are passionate about and find a way to apply it creatively, at the center."

So I am asking all of you who read this to bring your PASSION to TCC! *Share it! Work it girl! Work it to the fullest!* We are the best that we can be, but why not join us and try to make us better. Just give us a call - at the sound of the tone leave your name, phone number, and the best time to reach you. *It's that simple!*
PASSION + VOLUNTEERISM = TCC
-Denyse Burke

GAY MEN'S GROUP

The Gay Men's Group got off to a great start in January discussing *Geography of the Heart* by Fenton Johnson. The next meeting will be on March 8 at 7 PM in Ridgefield. We will be discussing *Young Man from Provinces: A Gay Life Before Stonewall* by Alan Helms. For more information e-mail GayBookCT@aol.com or call (203) 431-0559.

TCC FEB FRIENDRAISER

TCC's February Friendraiser will be held on Saturday, February 14, from 5-8 pm at the home of Peter McKnight and Joe Letendre.

Directions to Peter and Joe's, 89 Robin Lane, Fairfield, CT:

From I-95 coming from New Haven: Exit 22, North Benson Rd. Make a right at end of ramp. Go 1.5 miles and make a right onto Reid St. ***

From I-95 coming from Stamford: Exit 22, Round Hill Rd. Go straight at end of ramp (through stop sign) and make a left at the light onto North Benson Rd. Go 1.5 miles and make a right onto Reid St.***

From Merritt Pkway coming from New Haven: Exit 44, Black Rock Turnpike (Rt. 59). Turn right at end of ramp. Go about a mile or so and start counting lights. At the 4th light, make a right onto Rt. 135. After the 2nd light, make your 2nd left onto Reid St. (Road curves so you won't be able to see it until you're on top of it, so look for Margemere on the right to cue yourself)***

From Merritt Pkway coming from Stamford: Exit 44, Black Rock Turnpike (Rt. 59). Turn left at end of ramp and then right onto Black Rock Turnpike (Rt. 59). Go about a mile or so and start counting lights. At the 4th light, make a right onto Rt. 135. After the 2nd light, make your 2nd left onto Reid St. (Road curves so you won't be able to see it until you're on top of it, so look for Margemere on the right to cue yourself)***

***At bottom of hill, make a right onto Robin Lane. We are the 3rd house on right, # 89, white with black shutters, 1 car detached garage. Park on street and come in back door. If lost, 203/330-9595.

And remember - this Friendraiser is DONATIONS-ONLY. The amount is up to you.

IMPERIAL COURT SHARES RICHES

The Imperial Court of Connecticut recently donated over \$900 to TCC, raised during their Masquerade Ball held in October at the Brook Cafe. This generous donation was presented to the Center and will be earmarked for use by TCC's Board of Directors.

Huge thanks to our local "royalty" from The Fairfield Barony of the Imperial Court for including TCC in their fund raising efforts. Thanks, also, to The Brook for their part in hosting this event and all those who attended to support the Court.

NEWS & VIEWS

PEOPLE OF COLOR GROUP

From early on I had always been looking for love, or just a special brother to hang with. Sex was just always easier to find. I didn't wonder about the places I went to meet men. The movie theaters on forty-second street, tee rooms, park cruise grounds at night, Christopher Street, bars, bookstores, and the "straight" porno theaters in my neighborhood were the only places I knew to meet men. One of these times I'd get up close and personal with someone fine, it would happen. I would be recognized for the bright, decent, talented man that I am. This never really happened. And I was not to blame.

It was not until years later that I realized what the problem had been in those earlier years. I had not been unlucky at finding the "right man." I had not been cursed by God. These places I had been going seeking affection (settling for sex) were negative environments (yet they have become our traditional gay meeting places). Dark place hidden away from the full light of day. Places where we drank and got high to make it easier to talk to each other. Filthy places where any intimacy that occurred was shared with the stench of urine, poppers and industrial cleansers in our nostrils. In order to dismiss my painful observation of how little I had in common with whoever I found, I had to check my mind at the door. In order to reconcile myself with the fact that this groping, was not serving my loneliness, I had to check my heart at the door.

It was not until years later that I discovered the black gay community. An extended family of brothers loving brothers who valued my contributions and embraced me: body, mind and soul. I found the black gay community at discussion groups and other events held by organizations in New York City for African-American, Caribbean, Latino, Native American and Asian gay & bisexual men (Adodi; Gay Men of African Descent. Aya institute; Other Countries; and the Men of Color Discussion Group sponsored by Gay Men's Health Crisis). It was here that I became proud of my whole self including my gay self. Listening to these beautiful men share their issues gave me pause and strength to reflect then share what my issues were. I have found myself many times in those circles of men. I have found many friends there. I have met lovers there. Most importantly, I found the "right" man there. I am that "right" man. I'm the man I always dreamed I would meet and fall in love with!!

I have only been living in Connecticut since last April. I'm disappointed by what often passes for black gay "life" up here. I'd like to re-create here what gave me such a strong foundation in NYC. I would like for us to be a loving, supportive, "fierce" family for each other. Some of us have been so damaged by our families that the word "family" is no longer powerful or meaningful. I have redefined that word for myself. Family to me means people from whom I don't need protection. I would very much like to see such an extended family of gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgender people of color to come together twice per month at the *G Mosaic* group meeting. We will be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month From 7:30-9:30 PM. Stop in to vibe with us after dinner and before you hit the clubs (or before your quiet "wind-down-from-the-work-week-night").

My name is Nasheed Abdul-Wakil. I will be facilitating this group on behalf of the Norwalk Health Department and the Triangle Community Center. I promise you this will be an easy, painless way to meet new friends and to find yourself. They say that sunlight is the best disinfectant. Let's make *G Mosaic* a new traditional gay meeting place. And let's bring loving each other out into the light. You may leave a message for me at the Norwalk Health Department at: (203) 854-7726. Just ask for Nasheed. All calls will be treated with strict confidentiality.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Sometime between selling their Castle and fixing up their new digs Jay Kobrin and Gordon Micunis quietly celebrated their fortieth anniversary. That's 40th not fourteenth. In the late 50's, when many of us were mere toddlers if we had been born at all, the two of them met at Yale - only a few years after Larry Kramer tried to commit suicide there. Little did the person who assigned Gordon as upperclass adviser to freshman Jay, Theater Design major, realize that he did such a great job as a *yenta*. Forty years later they're not just an item, they're a fixture. Happy Anniversary to them for their achievement. May they have many more years together.

-Marianne Seggerman

FRIENDRAISER

To volunteer to host a Friendraiser or get information on holding one, please call Bryan DuBac (203) 335-8765.



CYBER NEWS

AIDS FOUNDATION JOINS WEB

AIDS Healthcare Foundation's (AHF's) ability to communicate cutting-edge information about AIDS and its own programs and services took an exponential leap forward in late December with the launch of its Web site, that has been in development since April of last year. The site can be accessed at: <http://www.aidshealth.org>. "(It) is a great vehicle to find information on all of the different aspects of AIDS Healthcare Foundation," said AHF President Michael Weinstein.

With its 20 locations (Healthcare Centers, Houses and Thrift Stores) and nine major programs and divisions, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation site includes pages on AHF advocacy (government — local, state and federal areas); AHF fundraising and giving opportunities; AHF education/information; volunteerism/special events; and AHF media and public relations information.

CRUISER 6.0 'COMES OUT'

In San Francisco — the crossroads where high-tech meets High Camp — Digital Queers has fired the latest salvo in the hotly-contested browser wars with the introduction of Cruiser 6.0. The new browser will immediately appeal to at least 10% of the worldwide browser market, threatening to steal critical market share from both Netscape and Microsoft.

Different from conventional "straight" browsers, Cruiser 6.0 is "orientation-focused." Its design makes it easy for even the uninitiated to legally plug-and-play in most states. As users gain more exposure to the browser, internal intelligence makes the system easier to understand and navigate; after a certain point, the only user issue is one of improving Cruiser 6.0. The browser is powered by the new Java enhancement: Percolator(TM). Percolator requires no plug-ins for optimal performance. Aside from these enhancements, Cruiser 6.0 resembles other browsers in virtually every way and like other browsers, Cruiser 6.0 is platform-independent, working as easily on Mac as it does on Win. And sometimes both at the same time.

Cruiser 6.0 may be downloaded from the Digital Queer's Web site at www.DQ.org. Cruiser 6.0 is the virtual Web browser created by queers for queers. Digital Queers (DQ) is a national non-profit organization that focuses on the strategic application of technology to improve organizations and services that promote the legal and social rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. For more information on the organization and its activities, visit the World Wide Web site at www.dq.org.

SIGNORILE IN CYBERSPACE

Gay Wired Announces the New Web Site of Michelangelo Signorile at: <http://www.gaywired.com/signorile/>

There are lots of different areas, including an open forum where you can speak your mind on different issues, and even a site where you can let Signorile have a piece of your mind.

MORE ON SEX PANIC

On Tuesday February 10th at 7:30, the Center Forum will be devoted to a discussion of the issues raised by an informal (but influential) group calling themselves Sex Panic. The name is ironic because the claim of the group is that others (gays and straights alike) have created a sex panic. The whole argument revolves around whether there is any reason to rein in gay male sexuality and the myriad forms it takes, first and foremost for reasons of HIV prevention. Can gay men continue to have sex whenever and however they want without fueling the AIDS epidemic? Are there moral judgments to be made and by whom? Is there anything wrong about approving one gay lifestyle over another? What gets lost (literature, etc.) by assimilation? One way of showing how inclusive the concerns of this mentality is, is to include a questionnaire sent to all interested attendees at a discussion held at Creating Change last November in San Diego.

-Marianne Seggerman

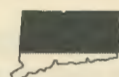
CONNECTICUT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 1998

- Saturday, Feb. 7** -- Conn. Women Outdoors - Cross Country Skiing or Snow shoeing.
- Sunday, Feb. 8** — The Connecticut Gay and Lesbian Film Festival presents a benefit screening of Lilies, voted the number one gay movie of 1997 in the PopcornQ poll. A bishop is forced to watch a re-enactment of his past, when he broke up a love affair between two teenaged boys. 2:30 PM, at Cinestudio, on the campus of Trinity College, Hartford.
- Sunday, Feb. 8** -- Conn. Women Outdoors - Cross Country Skiing or hiking if no snow.
- Tuesday, Feb. 10** — TCC Forum - Sex Panic - 7:30 PM
- Fri. -Sun., February 13-15** — Maxies 6th Annual Weekend of Love, Maxies Cafe, Waterbury. All proceeds to benefit the Waterbury Aids Client Services. Three nights of live entertainment, complimentary buffet, and drawings; plus an auction on Sunday. Tickets are \$6.00 per night, \$12.00 for all three nights. More info to follow.
- Saturday, Feb. 14** — TCC Friendraiser - 89 Robin Lane, Fairfield CT - 5 to 8 PM
- Saturday, Feb. 14** -- Conn. Women Outdoors - Valentines Day hike. 5 or 6 easy miles.
- Saturday, Feb. 14** -- Valentines Day "Amici" - A Gay & Lesbian Social - Saturday, Feb. 14, 1998 - Prime TimeGrill at the Comfort Inn, Old Saybrook, CT - DJ & Karaoke Dance Party with Rosa & Lynn - Dinner Reservations for 7 and 8pm
- Fri. - Sun., Feb. 20 - 22** — Out Write '98 - The 7th national lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered writers' conference at the Sheraton Boston Hotel & Towers, Boston, MA.
- Fri. -Sun., February 20-22** — Brothers Together presents Dating, Sex, and Relationships, a weekend workshop for gay and bisexual men, at Cedar Hill Retreat Center, in Duxbury, MA. Call 617-375-9447 for more information.
- Saturday, Feb. 21** -- Conn. Women Outdoors - Potluck and Game night at Marilyn's in Windsor. Dinner starts at 5 PM games at 7 PM.
- Fri. -Sun., February 27-March 1** — Creating Intimacy In Our Lives: Learning From The Struggle, a weekend workshop for gay and bisexual men at Deer Hill Conference Center, Wappingers Falls, NY. Led by Ken Page and New Haven's Joe FitzGerald. For full information, call Joe FitzGerald at 203-789-0560.
- Saturday, Feb. 28** -- Conn. Women Outdoors - Cross Country Skiing or hiking if no snow.

MARCH 1998

- Fri. - Sun., March 6 - 8** — Hundreds of great guys are expected at the Paramount Resort Hotel. This "HOT" vacation break from the cold and snow will offer an exciting weekend of fun, food, music, dance, AND, a chance for romance!
- Saturday, March 14** — Sober Spring Gay and Lesbian Dance - 8 PM to 1 AM - Jennings School, Fairfield, CT - \$5.00 Cover.
- Saturday, March 14** — Gay Bingo to benefit the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective, at Project 100/Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Community Center, 1841 Broad Street, Hartford. Doors Open at 7:00 pm - Games begin promptly at 7:30 pm. Admission \$10 - Includes Games package. Over \$500 in prizes! Call 278-4163 for more information.
- Friday-Saturday, March 20-21** — Children From The Shadows presents its fifth annual conference for GLBT youth and professionals who work with them, University of Hartford, West Hartford, 9:45 AM to 4:00 PM both days.
- Saturday, March 28** — The Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus presents Gentlemen Prefer Hollywood, a tribute to the golden age of the Hollywood musical. Shubert Theater, New Haven, 8:00 PM.
- Sunday, March 29** — The Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus presents Gentlemen Prefer Hollywood, a tribute to the golden age of the Hollywood musical. Shubert Theater, New Haven 2:00 PM.



CONNECTICUT NEWS

CONNECTICUT WOMEN OUTDOORS

Feb 7, Sat - Cross Country Skiing or Snow shoeing if you prefer, up and down Mt. Everett in the Berkshires. Beautiful views of Mt. Greylock and the Catskills. Call Sam 860-650-5359.

Feb 8, Sun - Cross Country Skiing or hiking if no snow at Northwest Park in Windsor. Back to Marilyn's for pizza and hot cider. Call 860-685-7637 for directions. Starts at 11 AM. Chip in for pizza.

Feb 14, Sat - Valentines Day hike. 5 or 6 easy miles. We'll make sure you still have energy for your sweetheart after the hike. Call Carol 203-237-6288 or Kathy 203-630-2576.

Feb 21, Sat - Potluck and Game night at Marilyn's in Windsor. Dinner starts at 5 PM games at 7 PM. Bring a dish to share and your favorite board game. Call 860-688-7637.

Feb 28 Sat - Cross Country Skiing or hiking if no snow at Northwest Park in Windsor. Back to Marilyn's for pizza and hot cider. Call 860-685-7637 for directions. Starts at 11 AM. Chip in for pizza.

Women Outdoors provides a forum for women to explore the outdoors together, develop outdoor and leadership skills, and promote environmental awareness. Membership in Women Outdoors links you to this growing and vital network. For information on joining Connecticut Women Outdoors contact Carol at: 203-235-6933.

LET'S DANCE!

SOBER SPRING - GAY AND LESBIAN DANCE!

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 - 8PM - 1AM - JENNINGS SCHOOL - FAIRFIELD, CT

\$5.00 COVER CHARGE - BRING YOUR OWN REFRESHMENTS- NO ALCOHOL PLEASE!

Need more info? Call Liz 333-8981 or Bob 336-8216 or Christine 847-8476

Directions: **From I-95 North** - Exit 22, Round Hill. Left at end of ramp onto Round Hill. Turn right onto Barlow Road by Fairfield University. Left at the light onto North Benson Road. At light, bear right and continue across Black Rock Turnpike and take right onto Fairest. Left at next corner onto Fairland. Take a left and turn onto Palm Drive.

From I-95 South - Exit 24, Black Rock Turnpike. Right at end of ramp. At light, take left onto Kings Highway. Bear to right as the road splits. At the fourth light, take a right onto Burroughs Road. At the stop sign, take a left onto Farland Rd. Take first right onto Palm Dr just before school crossing sign.

From Merritt Parkway (North) - Take exit 44, Fairfield University. Turn onto Black Rock Turnpike south (Route 58 south). At third light, take left onto Fairfield Woods Rd. Continue straight through the stop sign. At light, take a right after the library. The middle school is on your right, Jennings School is on your left.

From Merritt Parkway (South) - Take exit 46. At end of ramp bear right at light onto Route 59 for approx 2.5 miles. At the light (Grand Central on left, Mobil on right), take a right onto Fairfield Woods Rd. Continue through one light and one stop sign. At next light take left (library in front). Middle school is on your right, Jennings School is on your left.

Deadline for the March Newsletter will be Saturday 14 February. We cannot guarantee that material received after that date will be included in March News&Views.

SINGLES HEAD FOR THE HILLS

Hundreds of great guys are expected at the Paramount Resort Hotel (Parkville, NY, 2 Hrs. to NYC) on the weekend of March 6-8, 1998. This "HOT" vacation break from the cold and snow will offer an exciting weekend of fun, food, music, dance, AND, a chance for romance! Headline entertainment for the weekend will include "Those Funny Gay Males", Jaffe Cohen and Danny McWilliams (who promise us that they, too, are single and looking!). Fabulous song stylist Jeanne MacDonald shows why she is winner of the 1997 Cabaret Hotline "Critic's Choice Award".

What's more, the weekend will include a demonstration and readings by internationally known gay psychic Daniel Logan, a "Videofest '98" (featuring the best in gay themed films), antique and shopping tours, indoor pool and sauna, late night disco and salsa, cocktail parties, and a multitude of indoor and outdoor activities.

Rates for the weekend are \$249 per person double occupancy (plus tax & tip), with shares arranged. A special feature offered by the Paramount Resort Hotel is luxury bus and van service from select locations. Transportation rates from NYC, Albany, and Westchester are \$35 per person. "Men in the Mountains", the first ever gay men's singles weekend at a major New York resort, is being offered by Stonewall Productions, an experienced gay events producer. For more information about the weekend or to make reservations call: 1 800 922-3498.

VALENTINES DAY "AMICI"

A Gay & Lesbian Social - Saturday, Feb. 14, 1998 - Prime Time Grill at the Comfort Inn, Old Saybrook, CT

DJ & Karaoke Dance Party with Rosa & Lynn - Dinner Reservations for 7 and 8pm

Prime Rib or Baked Stuffed Chicken or Baked Stuffed Shrimp or Pasta Primavera (Includes Salad, Oven Roasted Potato, Vegetable, Dessert, Coffee or Tea)

Hotel Package for 2 \$99 + tax (includes Dinner/dance hotel accommodations & all you can eat breakfast) Dinner/Dance for 2 \$48 tax included - Dance Only \$10 ea. includes tax

Hotel Reservations by Feb. 1, 1998 - Dinner Reservations by Feb 12, 1998 - A Pride Entertainment Party Production - Email at RLPEPP

OUT WRITE '98

The 7th national lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered writers' conference will be held February 20-22, Friday through Sunday at the Sheraton Boston Hotel & Towers, Boston, MA. Over two thousand queer writers, activists, booksellers, and artists descend on Boston to meet and discuss the issues facing the gay community. There will be caucuses, panels, conversations, roundtables, exhibits and even a film series.

The 1998 feature artists include: Sarah Shulman, Thomas Glave, Carmen Vasquez, Donna Minkowitz, Blanche McCrary Boyd, Robert E. Penn, Cecilia Tan, Jackie Woodson, Mark Doty, Rafael Campo, Urvashi Vaid, Leslea Newman, Michael Bronski, Michael Lowenthal, Kenny Fries, Chris Bram, Mariana Romo-Carmona and many more.

For more information call (617) 262-6969.



STATE BY STATE NEWS

CO - GAY GROUP PLEDGES \$700,000

The Gill Foundation, a Colorado Springs gay and lesbian organization, has pledged \$700,000 to an array of nonprofit groups, positioning it as a major funder of community programs. The grants will go toward non-gay and lesbian-related issues in the local community, the foundation said. The purpose: to help a wide variety of people and shatter stereotypes that gays and lesbians care only about issues related to them.

The Gill Foundation was established in 1994 by software entrepreneur Tim Gill in reaction to the passage of Amendment 2, which would have banned civil rights protection on the basis of sexual preference. The U.S. Supreme Court ultimately struck it down. Gill's Denver-based Quark Inc. has landed him on the Forbes Fortune 500 list of multimillionaires. He has given more than \$4 million of his own money primarily to support gay and lesbian causes.

FL - ELDERLY GAYS GAIN SUPPORT

Community organizations say they think there are hundreds, maybe thousands, of people of gay and lesbian seniors in condominiums and senior centers. This year, the first extensive program offering them support groups, education sessions and social activities will come to Palm Beach County through Ruth Rales Jewish Family Service in Boca Raton. A 20-member task force is meeting to plan what kind of services should be financed through a large endowment from Shirley H. Gould, of Boca Raton. Gould gave the donation in memory of her son, who was gay. The family service declined to give the amount.

Isolation, generally a problem among the elderly, hits gay seniors especially hard when they lose longtime companions. Sometimes the couples have spent a lifetime masquerading as siblings or friends. The surviving partners are not comfortable in bereavement groups common in condo communities. Plus, there usually are no children in these relationships. "Like all older people, they [gay elderly] often are still grounded in the tradition and societal rules of their time," Rabbi Greg Cantor said. "It can be more difficult for them to accept themselves."

GA - SUPREME COURT REJECTS APPEAL

A woman who lost a promised job as a lawyer in the Georgia attorney general's office, after the state attorney general learned that she was planning a marriage ceremony with her lesbian partner, failed to persuade the Supreme Court to hear her appeal.

The case had been closely watched for several years as a potential vehicle for a new Supreme Court decision on gay rights. The same Georgia attorney general, Michael Bowers, a Republican who recently resigned to run for governor, was also a party in the court's 1986 decision, Bowers vs. Hardwick, which rejected a constitutional right to privacy for sex between consenting adults of the same sex. Bowers withdrew his job offer to Robin Shahar on the ground that "inaction on my part would constitute tacit approval of this purported marriage and jeopardize the proper functioning of this office."

Ms. Shahar, who had worked as a summer law clerk in the attorney general's office, brought a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Atlanta. She contended that the withdrawal of the job offer violated her constitutional rights to equal protection and to "intimate and expressive association" as protected by the First Amendment.

She lost in district court, then won a temporary victory from a three-judge appellate panel. That ruling was then overturned last June by an 8-4 vote of the full 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta. The majority there said the attorney general's concerns about "perceived public hostility" toward same-sex marriages were reasonable and formed a sufficient basis for his actions.

HA - DOMESTIC-PARTNER LAW A BUST

When Hawaii became the first state in the country to extend broad rights to domestic partners in July, the news was trumpeted as a breakthrough for gays and lesbians. Hawaii's benefits package was the most sweeping ever passed, covering 60 items from medical insurance to survivorship rights. Unlike efforts in mainland cities, the law applies statewide. Even non-Hawaii residents are eligible, although benefits take effect only when they are in the islands.

The state health department braced for a possible onslaught of applicants, estimating that as many as 20,000 to 30,000 people might sign up. But the new law has turned out to be a bust. As of Dec. 10, just 296 couples had signed up as "reciprocal beneficiaries," as they are formally known. Twenty-five are from out of state. Although more than 5,000 people

have obtained applications, that's as far as most have been willing to go.

The law has been mired in uncertainty since it took effect. Several employers challenged it in court, and a recent decision in the case gutted its boldest provision: health coverage for the partners of private employees.

The few pioneers who have taken advantage of the law now enjoy important rights such as hospital visitation, guardianship, joint property ownership and inheritance. They have been frustrated, however, in obtaining practical benefits like auto insurance, which the law was supposed to facilitate. A reciprocal beneficiary relationship can be terminated by one partner without the consent—or even knowledge—of the other, Rudy notes. Unlike divorce proceedings, the law has no procedures to ensure that both sides are treated fairly in disposing of property upon dissolution.

IA - UA OFFERS NEW CLASSES

Issues of sexual orientation are headed to the classroom at the University of Iowa, but don't expect the course work to include components that have sparked controversy in other parts of the country. The program that will begin in September, believed to be the first in the state, will focus on the history of human sexuality: heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality and cross-gender issues. Iowa's program may also touch on issues such as sadomasochism and gender identity, Eliason said.

The new certificate program is more than a minor but less than a major, and allows students to specialize in an area. Students at Iowa who participate in the curriculum will be required to take four core courses: Introduction to Sexuality Studies; Sexuality Studies Seminar; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Identities; and Race, Class and Gender in Sexual Communities. They will also need to take several elective classes to complete the 18 semester hours of approved courses required for the certificate.

NC - IT'S ABOUT HOUSES

As gay life here has emerged from the closet, gays have become a sought-after market. And gay real-estate brokers are using their familiarity with the gay community to win clients who want an agent who understands their needs. John Yetter is one of York's top brokers. In 1997, he sold 80 houses with a total value of more than \$12 million. He estimated about 10 percent of the sales came from gay buyers. Yetter's success in the gay community hasn't been lost on his competitors. Brokers at other mainstream firms in the Triangle, for the first time, are seeking gay and lesbian home buyers in what is a sign of the times — and an indication of fierce competition among agents in the Triangle's real-estate market.

Brokers and their agents have discovered the Triangle's growing gay population, according to Front Page publisher Jim Baxter. And Baxter said he gets calls every week from gays planning to move here. "It used to be that the gay population migrated to the big cities, and now they're moving back," Baxter said. "It's gotten to the point where it's a good market." He said the calls particularly began coming in after the Triangle was ranked as the best place to live in America in 1994 by Money Magazine.

NH - GAYS PROTECTED

A new law that grew out of years of contentious debate is expected to generate only a trickle of action. Starting Jan. 1, New Hampshire's civil rights law will protect homosexuals in jobs, housing and public places like restaurants and hotels. The revised civil rights law adds sexual orientation to existing classifications of age, gender, race, color, ethnic background, physical or mental disability, marital status, religious or political beliefs. The law bars discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. It does not protect illegal acts.

New Hampshire is among 11 states that have enacted similar laws. Maine voters will decide on Feb. 10 whether to keep their gay rights law. The law was enacted in June and signed by the governor, but opponents collected signatures to force the referendum.

NY - GMHC FOR REPORTING HIV CASES

The Gay Men's Health Crisis, the nation's leading AIDS service agency, is reversing its position and calling for New York doctors to report HIV-positive people to state health departments. The same practice is used for infectious diseases like syphilis and tuberculosis. Every state requires doctors to report AIDS cases to public health officials. But officials in New York and California and many other states have not required similar reports about patients who have the AIDS virus but do not have full-blown AIDS. But in a policy statement, the group said clinical advances and the need for the most up-to-date information on HIV infection demanded new approaches, and that system of tracking people with AIDS is no longer an effective measure of the extent of the epidemic. While the group said that assuring strong privacy safeguards is as important as ever, it said that the large numbers of people who are infected but who do not have full-blown AIDS make accurate tracking of HIV cases essential. The statement does not explicitly oppose reporting names, but instead urges that coded identification systems be examined. The official statement by the organization, the most politically and economically connected group in the world of nonprofit AIDS service, signifies the collapse of a long-standing consensus by AIDS and civil rights groups against HIV reporting.

UT - GAY-PROTECTION LAW REPEALED

The Salt Lake City Council repealed a month-old city law Tuesday night that protected gay city employees from discrimination based on their sexual orientation. Despite packed council chambers, hundreds of phone calls and a few anonymous pleas from gay city employees, the council voted to scrap the fledgling law.

Last month, a different council approved the measure, which prohibited discrimination "against an otherwise qualified employee or applicant based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation or disability." The four councilmen say they intend to approve a more generic law that protects all city employees equally, without separating out classes for protection.

"We will not confuse the repeal of this ordinance with an effort to craft a better one," said Kyle Treadway. "We see this as blatant, mean-spirited grandstanding. We can't give up. The fight goes on." When the crowd rose to its feet in a standing ovation, Councilman Jolley yelled for police sentries to clear the room. The crowd turned on Jolley, chanting "shame, shame, shame." He backed down.

VT - COUPLES APPEAL MARRIAGE

Three same-sex couples suing the state for the legal right to marry have taken their case to the Vermont Supreme Court. The Middlebury lawyers for the three couples filed a notice of their intention to appeal. The lawyers met with Attorney General William Sorrell in a meeting Sorrell described as cordial. Sorrell's office is opposing the gay marriage suit, in part on the argument the Legislature did not intend to recognize same-sex unions when it created the laws surrounding marriage.

The couples' notice of appeal does not contain the specific grounds for petitioning the high court, but to one of the suit's plaintiffs, Lois Farnham of Milton, Vermont's prohibition of gay marriages is the kind of civil rights issue the nation has seen before. A key part of the government's argument is that state marriage laws are based on sound reasoning. If the laws do have this so-called "rational basis," it's easier for the state to fend off a discrimination claim by a group such as homosexuals, which has not been deemed a protected class. Last month, Superior Court Judge Linda Levitt ruled against the couples, agreeing with a "rational basis" offered by the state—that marriage between a man and woman furthers the link between procreation and child rearing.



AIDS DEATHS DROP

AIDS deaths in California dropped an astonishing 60 percent in the first six months of 1997 — the strongest evidence to date that available new drugs may be saving thousands of lives. That compares with a 23 percent drop in death rates noted by the federal Centers for Disease Control, which measured AIDS deaths nationwide between 1995 and 1996. The difference between the new state figures and the older federal data strongly suggests that the trend toward fewer deaths is accelerating. The drop-off in death rates coincides with the widespread use of the newest anti-viral drugs, called protease inhibitors, which are taken in combination with older AIDS drugs.

Dr. Steve Morin, director of public policy research at UCSF's AIDS Research Institute, said the availability of the new AIDS drugs varies dramatically from state to state. "California and New York probably have the best programs in the country," said Morin. "The worst states are those with the poorest Medicaid programs," like North Carolina, Mississippi and Florida.

Amid all the optimism, however, researchers caution that the lifesaving effects of the protease drugs may not last. There is also a fear that the good news will diminish the discipline required to maintain the safe sex practices that helped curtail the spread of the epidemic 15 years ago. UCSF researcher Coates noted that the drop in death rates coincides with a time dubbed "the honeymoon period" for protease drugs — a time before scientists began to note that the virus seemed to be returning in some patients taking the drugs.

AIDS PATIENT: TREATMENT MIGHT SAVE LIFE

Lawyers for an AIDS patient who is suing the federal government for the right to take an experimental drug filed a suit claiming that "use of this drug may prevent the plaintiff's death and may be a springboard to an AIDS treatment that keeps people from dying." The motion would allow Cowan to take a goat-derived "neutralizing antibody" that Tulsan Dr. Gary Davis has developed as a possible tool in the fight against AIDS. Cowan's attorneys claim that "if (Cowan) does not receive the antibody it is certain that (he) will die as a result of his AIDS." In a Dec. 31 hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Bernhardt asserted that Davis has yet to follow FDA procedures and thus should be prohibited from testing the substance on a human subject, even a dying patient who testified that he is willing to face any possible side effects.

Specifically, Cowan's attorney claims that the legislative history and judicial interpretation of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act indicate that it should not apply to Cowan's case. This is because the act regulates the marketing of medical devices, not the practice of medicine, he claims. Cowan's attorney claims that Davis "is not attempting to promote, market, advertise or sell the goat neutralizing antibody for commercial gain. Instead he is merely trying to treat and heal (Cowan's) terminal condition."

DRESSED TO EXCESS

Ask Janet — not her real name — and she'll tell you there are three things wrong with life in San Diego if you're a transsexual. "We need employment protection, we need homeless shelters that will accept transgendered people, and we need a repeal of the cross-dressing law." But for Janet, who says cities like San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Minneapolis, "and all of Europe" have enacted laws to protect transsexuals in employment and housing, the chief target is a local edict — unique to San Diego — that singles out cross-dressers. Municipal Code 56.19, which became law in 1966, prohibits people from "appearing in a

public place, or in a place open to public view, in apparel customarily worn by the opposite sex, with the intent to deceive another person for the purpose of committing an illegal act." Janet was one of the transsexual people involved in a recent conference held in Hillcrest's Craftsman Hall organized by local gay activist Mark Gabrish Conlan.

"I sit before you a criminal," Janet told the San Diego Human Relations Commission (a body established "to reduce bigotry and prejudice in San Diego") last May 14. "I can leave this building and be arrested because of the cut of my clothing. My birth sex is male. This is my voice. This is who I am. I have characteristics of both genders: more female than male." She claimed that municipal code 56.19, though purportedly aimed at transvestite prostitutes, has only been used against male-to-female transvestites of color. She told the commission that between 1994 and 1996, 27 arrests were made citing this law. Twenty-two of those arrested were Latino, four African-American, and one Filipino. She claimed police use the law to harass transsexuals, knowing most cases will never make it to court.

Barbara Warden, fifth district city councilwoman, says she couldn't believe the cross-dressing law when she first heard of it. "I really thought it was a joke. I didn't think it was a real ordinance. I met with San Diego Police Chief Sanders a week or so later. I thought perhaps [he would tell me] it was a tool they needed. But it has only been used about 30 times since 1992. It's a very infrequently used law. I said to Chief Sanders I felt it was not necessary to have it on the books. It has an interesting vagueness about it that allows it to be used or abused." Warden thinks most city councilmembers would have been surprised to discover 56.19 on the books. Councilmembers Kehoe, Mathis, and Stallings are likely to support a repeal of the law — as long as Chief Sanders agrees. And Sanders, according to his assistant Victoria Gilner, won't fight a repeal of the law. In March, Warden is expected to introduce the proposal to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Service Committee, which she chairs.

ADVERTISING IN GAY PRESS GROWS

Advertising in gay publications is soaring with an increasing number of huge companies pitching cars, travel, computers, investments, drugs, clothing and more. New advertisers in 1997 included IBM, United Airlines and American Express. Readers of gay newspapers in 10 major markets have an average individual income of \$47,090, according to Simmons Market Research Bureau. That figure is more than twice the US per capita income of \$18,135 based on Census Bureau figures. Simmons also found that 94 percent of the more than 735,000 readers studied are likely to buy a product or service advertised in a gay publication.

"We've been a longtime supporter of the gay community. They in turn are very supportive of us," said Miller Brewing spokeswoman Gina Shaffer, whose company has placed Miller Lite ads in national magazines such as the Advocate and Out Magazine.

"To reach people you have to reach them in a wide variety of publications and advertising mediums," said Mark Smith, a spokesman for cigarette maker Brown & Williamson, which advertises its Lucky Strike brand in the gay press.

The company's biggest competitor, Philip Morris, also pitches its top-selling Marlboro brand, as well as Benson & Hedges and Parliament, in the gay press. They are among scores of prominent brands from all types of businesses — including Nike, Blockbuster, HBO, MasterCard, Gucci, State Farm insurance and Harley-Davidson — on the pages of the nation's 175 gay publications.

NAVY RETREATS ON DISCHARGE

In a last minute surprise, the Navy agreed to delay Senior Chief Timothy McVeigh's discharge after McVeigh sued the Secretary of Defense Cohen and the Secretary of the Navy Dalton, in an attempt to stop his imminent discharge from the Navy. McVeigh's discharge is based on evidence that

▼ NEWS & VIEWS

privacy experts say the Navy illegally obtained from America Online (AOL), the nation's largest Internet provider. Online advocates vow that the fight against the Navy and AOL has only just begun.

Lawyers for McVeigh made a motion for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against the Defense Department and the Navy in the US District Court for the District of Columbia. The TRO would prohibit the Navy from discharging McVeigh pending a full investigation of the Navy's and AOL's feared violations of the federal Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA), and the Navy's repeated and consistent violations of the President's anti-gay "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. McVeigh's motion is based on the contention that the Navy solicited and obtained personal information from America Online without a warrant, court order, or McVeigh's consent - one of which is required under federal law and AOL's own Terms of Service.

Online advocates warn of a much larger battle looming, with potentially serious consequences for the Administration, the Navy, and America Online. "This lawsuit is the opening salvo of a multi-front war on the US Navy - the Administration had better get ready for more suits, congressional investigations, and online campaigns," said Aravosis. "AOL had also better watch out. If the Navy gets away with a cover up, AOL may be the only one left to blame."

LATINO CAPTURES BILLY

Since arriving in the U.S., Billy, "The World's First Out-And-Proud Gay Doll," has been quite a hit with American men. Between his duties with charity work and socializing, it's amazing he's had time to find a boyfriend! Billy met Carlos in Miami back in May, when Billy was in town for his coming out party at a Miami nightclub and Carlos was there for the weekend. When the two realized that they both lived in New York, they decided to exchange numbers and meet up again when they got back home.

Since then, their love affair has blossomed and they've been almost inseparable, although they still maintain separate residences in Manhattan. One thing is certain: Billy and Carlos are now officially a couple. They are presently on vacation together in Miami and will fly directly to San Francisco on August 2nd, where "Vacation Billy" (with brown hair!) and "Vacation Carlos," along with New York Carlos, will be introduced for the first time at The International Gift Fair.

Now that Carlos is formally "on the market" he will have additional duties working for Totem International. Both Carlos and Billy will be extremely busy this fall, but they will get a break for an end-of-the year vacation. The gay dynamic duo are planning Christmas in Puerto Rico with Carlos' friends and family, and New Year's Eve in Amsterdam with Billy's folks. For further information regarding Carlos, Billy and Totem International's products, please contact Claire O'Connor at 212-245-5784.

TRIVIA

Answer to January - Bugs Bunny - and the post office has come out with a stamp.

Question for February - What was the subject of Rosa Bonheur's most famous painting? Bonheur, a nineteenth century French painter, had a relationship late in her career with a much younger woman.

Imperial Court Valentine's Extravaganza!

The Fairfield Barony of The Imperial Court of Connecticut is hosting a fund raising event on Saturday, February 14, 1998 at 9:30pm. The event will be held at the Brook Cafe in Westport. Proceeds will benefit the Triangle Community Center. Admission is \$5 cover at the door.

The event will include performances by Imperial Court members and a 50/50 raffle. It will also be a voting party for Fairfield County. Details will be explained at the event and voting ballots will be accepted from 11pm to 1am.

The Imperial Court is a non-profit organization and all members are volunteers. The purpose of the court is to help in fund raising for the community at large. Its members are given titles that are similar to that of a royal court system based upon their fund raising work.

The Court system is open to all members of the community to participate in. For additional information about the Valentine's Extravaganza and The Imperial Court please call 1-800-845-0085 ext. 5333.



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WORLDWIDE NEWS

BRITAIN - GAY BATHHOUSES OPEN

Gay bathhouses, where homosexual males can meet new partners, are booming in Britain as the fear of AIDS recedes in a newly self-confident community. The bathhouses began in San Francisco in the sexually liberated 1970s, but a decade later the establishments were closed by health officials because they were blamed for spreading HIV. In Britain, there has been a spate of openings of well-equipped, expensive all-male health clubs and spas, the biggest involving a million dollar investment to recreate the hedonistic atmosphere of the baths in Ancient Rome.

Health experts fear that a premature "post-AIDS euphoria" is making young people complacent about protecting themselves from HIV by using condoms. The figures for sexually transmitted diseases, which fell sharply during the early 1990s when "safer sex" became the norm for casual relationships, have risen by 17 per cent in men and 13 per cent in women in a year.

There are now 11 saunas for gays in London, more than in San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, Amsterdam and Sydney combined, according to international guides for homosexual travelers. Brighton and Manchester also have a thriving bathhouse scene. The London Tourist Board is promoting the capital as a welcoming holiday destination for wealthy American gays.

BRITAIN - LONDON WANTS MORE GAYS

The London Tourist Board said it has launched a special "pink" telephone information hotline as part of a major campaign to attract more gay and lesbian tourists to the British capital. The \$98,000 campaign will begin in the United States, targeting gay urban professionals aged between 30 and 50 in cities such as New York. It will promote London as a cosmopolitan destination with a wide range of cultural and entertainment activities of interest to gays.

"We know that London is probably commercially the largest gay scene in Europe and the value of the gay tourism market to the city is estimated at nearly one billion pounds (\$1.48 billion)," said LTB official Helen Jones. She said London wanted to build on its reputation as a gay-friendly city which already attracts huge numbers of gay and lesbian tourists.

CAYMANS - GAY BAN

A leading US gay rights group said that it would press the British government to intercede in the Cayman Islands' refusal to allow a ship chartered by gay vacationers to dock. The government of the Caymans, a tourist-dependent British territory in the western Caribbean, issued a statement that said it "regrets any inconvenience" the decision had caused, but it stopped short of an apology. Human Rights Campaign, a Washington D.C.-based gay and lesbian rights organization said the statement did not explain what it called a "discriminatory act" and warned of a possible tourism boycott.

The Caymans minister of tourism, commerce and transport, Thomas Jefferson, sent a letter last month to Norwegian Cruise Line in Miami saying his government had decided not to allow the cruise ship Leeward to stop at Grand Cayman on Feb 1. Atlantis Events Inc., a gay tour operator in West Hollywood, Calif., chartered the vessel for 900 men and a few women with stops in the Caymans, Mexico, and the Bahamas. "Careful research and prior experience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on the group to hold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands, so we regrettably cannot offer our hospitality," Jefferson wrote.

ITALY - GAY MAN SETS HIMSELF ON FIRE

A Sicilian man, opposed to the Vatican's ban on homosexual relations, set himself on fire in St Peter's Square and attempted to rush towards the basilica's entrance, police said. Alfredo Ormando, 39, from Palermo doused himself with petrol and set himself alight as he stood near the Bernini colonnades around the square and steps leading to the St Peter's basilica. Ormando, his body ablaze, then began to run towards the main portals of the 16th century basilica but fell unconscious before reaching the entrance, Italian news agencies said. He is in serious condition in the hospital. Police in the square doused the flames with one of the fire

extinguishers positioned under the colonnades. The police spokesman said Ormando had burns on 90 percent of his body.

The protest was staged a week after a 66-year-old volunteer usher for Pope John Paul was found murdered in his Rome apartment in the latest of a series of gay-related killings in the Italian capital. Nineteen gay men have been murdered in their homes since 1990. No arrests have so far been made. Gay groups believe at least some of the deaths may have been caused by a serial killer and have called on the government to launch a national campaign to combat what they call anti-gay attitudes and homophobia in Italy.

NETHERLANDS - DUTCH SWEETHEARTS WED

Childhood sweethearts Irma van Praag and Anna Kreuger have become the Netherlands' first lesbian couple to wed. The women, both 38, married under new Dutch laws effective from Jan. 1 which extend full marriage rights apart from joint adoption to same-sex couples. Officially known as a "Registration of Partnership," the new legislation offers same-sex couples all the rights enjoyed by straight couples, barring joint adoption. Dutch members of parliament have already voted by a comfortable majority to remove this last barrier and gay rights campaigners are optimistic it could be on the statute books before long. Three male couples have already married under the new act. At least 100 gay weddings are planned in the Netherlands this year, according to Dutch magazine Gay Krant.

VENEZUELA - GAYS BANNED IN MILITARY

Venezuela plans to sign up 40,000 new troops in 1998, but homosexuals are formally barred from the military and women remain locked out for now. Venezuela currently requires all 18-year-olds to do a compulsory military stint. Homosexuality however currently is grounds for deferring one's draft call-up indefinitely.

General Ortega compared Venezuela's case to that of the United States, which with its "Don't ask, don't tell" policy allows gays in the military as long as they do not make their sexual orientation public. "In Venezuela we have a society that is quite different from U.S. society," Ortega said. "I see it as pretty far off for the armed forces here to make that kind of decision" publicly.

P-FLAG SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AT TCC

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

Don't forget to check out the TCC web page:

<http://members.aol.com.tcccenter/index.html>

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OTHER AREA GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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Bisexually Curious Support Group Bpt	(203) 264-5605
Chiltern Mountain Club	(203) 899-0270
Connecticut Kids and Families	(203) 256-8414
Connecticut Freedom to Marry Coalition	(203) 791-9553
40-Up Club. (Social Grp. -call Dale before 10pm)	(203) 261-4019
Gay Fathers Group	(203) 866-7051
Gay Mens Association of Danbury	(203) 778-7016
GEMS (Mature GLBT)	(860) 688-1881
GuideLine (gay/lesbian phone info)	(203) 366-3734
Hartford Community Center	(203) 724 5542
Married Men's Bisexual Suppt Grp Htfd	(203) 262-1555
Metropolitan Community Church	(203) 389-6750
The Loft, White Plains NY,	(914) 948-4922
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Triangle Kids	(203) 255-6229
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 SEASON WITH PEPPER. IN LARGE FRYING
 PAN MELT HALF THE BUTTER OVER
 MEDIUM HEAT. ADD THE CHICKEN
 BREASTS AND COOK 3 MINUTES EACH
 SIDE. REMOVE AND KEEP WARM. ADD
 VINEGAR TO THE PAN AND BOIL 2
 MINUTES. ADD THE STOCK AND BRANDY,
 BOIL ABOUT 5 MINUTES. ADD REMAINING
 BUTTER AND THE RASPBERRIES. STIR AND
 POUR OVER CHICKEN.

NEWS & VIEWS

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The (London) Times, January 17, 1998
Council Repeals Gay-Protection Law
Salt Lake Tribune, January 14, 1998
Cruiser 6.0 'Comes Out'
PRNewswire, January 5, 1998
Dressed to Excess
San Diego Reader, January 15, 1998
Dutch Sweethearts First To Wed
Reuters, January 14, 1998
Gay Ban of Caymans
Boston Globe, January 10, 1998
Gay Man Sets Himself on Fire
Reuters, January 13, 1998

GMHC to Call for Reporting HIV Cases
New York Times, January 13, 1998
London Wants More Gays
Reuters, January 15, 1998
TCC Celebrates 7th Year
Norwalk Hour, January 12, 1998
Venezuela - Gays Banned in Military
Agence France-Presse 11th January, 1998.
CO - Gay Group Pledges \$700,000
Colorado Springs Gazette, January 9, 1998
GA - Supreme Court Rejects Appeal
New York Times, January 13, 1998
HA - Domestic-Partner Law a Bust
Los Angeles Times, December 23, 1997
IA - UA Offers New Classes
Sioux City Journal, December 30, 1997
FL - Elderly Gays Gain Support
Sun-Sentinel, January 3, 1998
NC - It's About Houses
News & Observer, January 10, 1998
VT - Couples Appeal Marriage
Burlington Free Press

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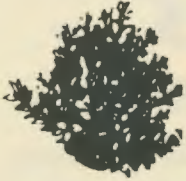
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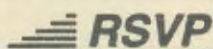
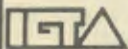
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NEWS & VIEWS

Calendar

February, 1998

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	2 Women's Rap 7:30	3 Lesbian Lit 7:30 Fund Raising 7:30	4 P-FLAG 7:45	5 Men's Rap 7:30	6 Bowling 9:00 Circle Lanes G Moasic 7:30	7 Women Outdoors Skiing 11 am
8 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6 Women Outdoors Skiing 11 am G & L Film Festival, Hartford, 2:30	9 Women's Rap 7:30	10 TCC Board 7:30 Sex Panic Forum 7:30	11 Bi Rap Grp 7:30	12 Men's Rap 7:30	13 Bowling 9:30 Circle Lanes Out & About (20's & 30's) 7:00	14 Friendraiser, 5-8 pm Imperial Court, Brook, 9:30 pm Women Outdoors Hike 11 am
15 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	16 Women's Rap 7:30	17	18 P-FLAG 7:45	19 Men's Rap 7:30 P-FLAG Spouses & Ex- Spouses 7:30	20 Bowling 9:30 Circle Lanes G Mosaic 7:30	21 Women Outdoors Potluck 5:00
22 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	23 Women's Rap 7:30	24 TCC Board 7:30	25 Bi Rap Grp 7:30	26 Men's Rap 7:30	27 Bowling 9:30 Circle Lanes Out & About (20's & 30's) 7:00	28 Women Outdoors Skiing 11 am
1 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	2 Women's Rap 7:30	3 Lesbian Lit 7:30 Fund Raising 7:30	4 P-FLAG 7:45	5 Men's Rap 7:30	6 Bowling 9:30 Circle Lanes Men in Mts. Weekend	7 Men in Mts. Weekend
8 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	9 Women's Rap 7:30	10 TCC Board 7:30	11 Bi Rap Grp 7:30	12 Men's Rap 7:30	13 Bowling 9:30 Circle Lanes Out & About (20's & 30's) 7:00	14

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A.A. - Don 762-9964

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

35+ Womens Pot Luck - Judy 227-7162

Free Association of Fairfield County - John 268-8858 x304

Gay Men's Rap Group - Dave 838-1881; John 261-7349

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

Lesbian Literature Reading Group - Christine, 847-8476

Out & About (20's & 30's) - Jen 736-6417 or Dan 838-2367

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

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

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

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

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

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