

N E T W O R K I N G 45 NORTH

VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 5 • SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • 1996

Friends North Gay and Lesbian History and Education Conference

Friends North is sponsoring the second annual Gay and Lesbian History and Education conference the weekend of October 25th through October 27th at the Sugar Loaf Resort, located on the Leelanau Peninsula near Traverse City, Michigan. The activities will begin with a hospitality gathering and registration on Friday night. On Saturday, registration will take place between 8:00 and 9:00 am with the conference starting at 9:00 am. The conference will officially close at an informal breakfast on Sunday morning. Saturday will include two keynote speakers, six workshops, a luncheon, one act stage readings, an outdoors walkabout, a documentary film, and a dance.

The keynote speakers for the conference are Beth Brant and Gerry Crane. Beth Brant is a Bay of Quinte, Mohawk from Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory in Ontario, Canada and lives in the Detroit area. She is the author of *Mohawk Trail*, poetry and prose; *Food and Spirits*, short fiction; and *Writing As Witness*, a collection of essays. She is also the editor of *A Gathering of Spirit*, the ground-breaking collection of writing and artwork by Nature women; and *I'll Sing Till the Day I Die: Conversations with Tyendinaga Elders*. Her work has appeared in over seventy-five Native, feminist and lesbian anthologies throughout North America, Europe, and Asia.

Gerry Crane is a former music director from Byron Center, Michigan who worked hard to change the community's misinformation regarding gay teachers.

The workshops will include *Lesbian and Gay Teachers, Gays/Lesbians and the Media; Diversity in Our Community; Local Gay/Lesbian Rights Ordinances; Lesbian and Gay History Spotlights; and Generational Issues*.

The registration fee for the conference is \$25.00 which includes all the plenary, workshops, luncheon and dance. Sugar Loaf Resort is reserving rooms for this Friends North event at the low conference rate of \$52.00 per room per night. The Resort does

request that you fill out a registration form and mail it with a \$50.00 required deposit, as soon as possible. Reservations CANNOT be accepted by phone.

If you are interested in participating in the Gay and Lesbian History and Education Day and would like to register for the conference, PLEASE USE THE FORM IN THE CENTER OF THIS NEWSLETTER, or send a check or money order made out to Friends North for \$25.00 to: Friends North, PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562, and please note that the money is for the Gay/Lesbian History conference. If you would like a form sent to you, please call the Friends North phone line, (616) 946-1804 and leave your name and address (clearly) for a registration form for the conference.

Please join us for a wonderful getaway in beautiful northern lower Michigan for a weekend of sharing, learning, and having fun!

PRESS RELEASE

M'Lynn Hartwell and GLSTN (Gay Lesbian Straight Teachers Network) will proudly present at the Lesbian and Gay History and Education Conference at Sugar Loaf October 26. 1996 the Michigan premiere of:

IT'S ELEMENTARY:

Talking About Gay Issues In School

by Academy Award winning director Debra Chasnoff

This ground-breaking documentary film features real educators from across the nation who successfully weave gay and lesbian issues into their elementary and middle school programs. The film includes actual classroom lessons; remarkable insights from students, faculty, parents and administrators; and courageous profiles of educators who have taken a stand against homophobia that pervades our nation's schools. Be prepared for inspiration, laughter and tears!

For more information contact: M'Lynn at 616 / 943-8800

FALL HIKING AND MOUNTAIN BIKING

... along the Leelanau Trail on Saturday, October 12, at 1 p.m. Join us for a naturalist-led hike or mountain bike ride on the beautiful Leelanau Trail during the peak of color season. A potluck is to follow at Jim and Paul's. Call for directions and more information. 271-4510 (Jim or Paul)



FROM THE EDITOR

The annual bike tour this summer at Sleeping Bear is bittersweet in my mind. It was the largest ever, with over 130 men and women from the area, the state and the region- even California was well-represented. People began gathering on Friday, July 26, at the base of the giant, moving sand dunes in the national park.

But no matter how dynamic the people or how blue the sky during Saturday's ride in Leelanau County, it will forever be remembered as the weekend we lost our friend, Dave Ference.

Dave was a generous and intriguing person who we met on the tour four years ago. We first saw him and his partner Tom Todd when they roared into the campground, dust flying and hair blowing from the wind in their classic 1962 Cadillac convertible. Their bikes were strapped to the top of the enormous trunk and Tom's bagpipes and all the camping gear overflowed from the back seat.

Six months later we again met Dave when we were both racing at the NORBA national biking event in Bellaire. He loved mountain biking and racing, and made many miles of single-tracks at their farm in Saline which he used for practice. Road biking for him was perhaps like it is for me - something to fill in the time between riding the trails. I never imagined him as being a piano tuner, but that is how he spent many of his days. He also loved computers, and we e-mailed each other many times about biking and gay events.

Dave collapsed and died at the end of Saturday's 75-mile ride, near Glen Arbor, in the company of many friends and his partner of 23 years. As Tom said, he died with the person he cared most about, doing what he loved doing most, on one of the most beautiful days.

Saturday night's dinner in Glen Arbor, so deliciously catered by Michigan Trader's Matt Hunter, was somewhat somber, as people waited to hear word about Dave's condition. He had been rushed to the hospital by local ambulance a few hours earlier. The announcement was made at the end of the meal.

Sunday morning we awoke to the quietest of rains, bordering on mist, but with the threat that it would be staying all day. After breakfast and coffee around the many stoves and fires each of the various groups gradually came to decide that it was time to pack up and head home. By noon, all the goodbyes had been said, the wet tents stowed, and promises made to meet again in 1997. The forced ending of the tour that dreary Sunday morning was somehow appropriate to me, and seemed a perfect reflection of our collective mood.

Tom Todd has written and called, and of course, is still grieving. But, his life is moving forward, and he plans to visit Sleeping Bear again this fall. He said he would be joining us for next year's Bike Tour as well.

Tom wanted to remind other couples the importance of having wills and partnership agreements in order. I took this to heart, and my partner, Jeff, and I put our wishes onto paper and had them notarized. For your information, I have included an article on some of the essential agreements that all gay and lesbian couples should have. There is also an appropriate book list for reference. You will find this on page 19 of this newsletter.

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 community needs 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 Northwestern Michigan College, West Hall, Room 2 in the cafeteria the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tom LaForte	Victor Dinsmoore—secretary	M'Lynn Hartwell
Tim Evans	Tom Kincaid—VP	Carol Lambertson—Pres.
Julie Parker	Jim Poole	Scott Southwell—treasurer

Networking 45° North, P.O. Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562

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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 #6—October 15; Volume 11 Issue #1 Dec. 15.

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

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

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Lansing, Michigan has the distinction of being the only place in the country this November with an anti-gay referendum on the ballot. The Lansing Equal Rights Committee, chaired by activists Bob Egan and Cheryl VanDeKerkhove, report that even after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Colorado's Amendment 2, an extremist group in Lansing has organized simply to deny basic civil rights to lesbian and gay people.

The strategy of the extremists is to overturn the entire, comprehensive city civil rights ordinance, which would eliminate all local civil rights protections in employment and public accommodations for everybody for at least two years.



For all of you who have been on the fence about Bill Clinton, I ask that you read Deb Price's column in the newsletter. I believe that she will convince you that Bill is absolutely our only option in the upcoming election.

Richard Turbury

Carol Lambertson



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Here's hoping everyone had an enjoyable summer -- albeit a short one weather-wise for some here in northern Michigan. With the Pride events and celebrations behind us, and those festi-goes back home again, most of us are beginning to settle down to regular routines.

Let's not get too comfy, though. With elections on the horizon, there is still much work we can do.

I just returned from a vacation in the South—the 'heartland' of America. Once again I was faced with the realization that we have a long way to go in our country before there is liberty and justice for all. And once again I was reminded, as I traveled with three other lesbian women, of the homophobia that is still rampant in less liberal areas of the country. I kept looking around corners for Pat Robertson!. As we traveled and participated in typical tourist activities in 'down home' America, I was very conscious of being stared at (Southern folk can't appreciate a good dyke haircut, I guess). One night we went to

dinner and the hostess actually asked us, 'Where are your men tonight, girls?'

I was conscious of my own homophobia, as well. I recognize how easy it is to become comfortable in my own home town and my daily life with enough people who know and accept me -- I can be out most of the time. I was glad to get home to that familiarity, but found myself wondering how non-hetero visitors to the Grand Traverse area feel. Do they feel welcome and accepted, or do they, too, feel stared at, or scared? After all, our city does not yet have a city or county non-discrimination clause that includes sexual orientation.

I am about to dismount my soapbox here, but not before I encourage everyone reading this to help the cause for equal rights for every individual. Get involved in any way you can to talk to people, help educate non-gays, ask questions, write letters to representatives and senators, get involved with a gay group or organization, or come out to someone. I believe the more people know who we are, what we think and what we want, the better off we will become. The single most important thing you can do this November is to arm yourself with information and use it to VOTE wisely. (off soapbox)

Be sure to check out the Friends North calendar of events for the remainder of the year, especially our 2nd annual Gay & Lesbian History Conference on October, 25 - 27, the trip to the AIDS quilt in D.C. slated for early October, the FN co-sponsored Toward Understanding Workshop in November (see insert in this newsletter), and our annual meeting in December.

Remember that I and the rest of the Board are available to you any time to hear your comments, questions or concerns. And you are invited to attend all board meetings, held the first Tuesday of each month at Grace Episcopal Church in Traverse City. I hope to see you there!

"TOWARD UNDERSTANDING" WORKSHOP TO BE PRESENTED IN TRAVERSE CITY

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) will be presenting this excellent weekend workshop in Traverse City on November 8 - 10, 1996. The workshop focuses on teaching nonviolent techniques for discussing sexual orientation, and is co-sponsored by Friends North, P-FLAG of Traverse City, Unity Church, Unitarian Church, and others.

Held at Neahtawanta Center, the workshop teaches participants how to turn confrontation into opportunity for sincere dialog when discussing sexual orientation and related issues.

The AFSC is an affiliate of the Quaker tradition, whose primary focus is education in order to affirm the dignity of every individual, to foster peace and reconciliation and to promote social justice.

We are very fortunate to have this workshop presented in our area. Please refer to the enclosed brochure for registration information. Space is limited, so make your reservation now!

dive/coach.

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Traverse City, Michigan 49684-8922



Out,ⁿ + About

A Lesbian Coffeehouse

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

Come play the game of "LESBO"! Lesbian's End o' Summer Bingo Orgy (orgy: an excessive indulgence in any activity... in this case, bingo). The September Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse will be hosting a bingo tourney designed by and for lesbians, to be played with and by lesbians. There will be "Ooooo! Ahhhh! Fabulous prizes!" purchased and donated for this special event. Your three dollar donation at the door will get you four LESBO cards and a handful of dots; more cards can be obtained, for nominal donations, if you excel at this sport. Then, "Let the games begin!" The Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse will be open from 7 pm until 11 pm on Saturday, September 21.

In the month of October, the Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse is pleased to welcome and present to you the talents of Mimosa Music artist, Mimi Baczewska (baa shef ska). She is a singer, songwriter, dancer and performer who has a true gift of being both entertaining and thought provoking. Mimi's soft magic and feisty attitude mingle to create a diverse performance which runs the gamut from folk to jazz. She plays with guitar, vocals and keyboard, and her songs call to the soul of the listener. She will be on the Coffeehouse stage on Saturday, October 19. Doors open at 7 pm with the entertainment to begin soon after.

Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse is managed by an informal gathering of lesbians who call themselves the Steering Committee. This Committee meets for a few hours on the Monday prior to the 3rd Saturday coffeehouse for planning of each month's event. The Committee is always seeking input from you, the lesbian community, about what or who Out 'n About should feature in upcoming months. Please consider joining the Steering Committee so that your ideas can be heard and so that you can make a positive impact on your own community.

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-\$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. (Please note this telephone number is for Coffeehouse information only. If you have other questions or needs, please call Friends North at 946-1804.)

POPULAR POP/JAZZ VOCALIST & INSTRUMENTALIST COMES TO GRAND RAPIDS

Sons and Daughters, Grand Rapids' Lesbian and Gay bookstore and coffeehouse is proud to be popular pop/jazz vocalist and instrumentalist, Suede to Grand Rapids. Suede will perform at 8:00 pm on Saturday, September 21, 1996, at the Ladies Literary Club, located at 61 Sheldon Blvd., SE.

Suede, whose two recordings Easily Suede and Barely Blue have met with critical and popular acclaim across the country, has performed in concerts, festivals, colleges and clubs on two continents. Her intriguing blend of popular, jazz and blues styles have earned her a reputation as "a fireball performer," according to the New York Post, which declared, "Voices like hers come along maybe once in a generation."

Fans of jazz, pop and "red-hot mamas" will not want to miss this silky-voiced entertainer. Suede has received recognition by her peers by receiving the highly regarded Bistro Award from the Manhattan Association of Cabarets and Jazz Clubs. Other recipients include Mel Torme & Liza Minelli. The Washington Post writes "...more than a little Streisand in her."

Tickets for the single performance are \$15.00 and are available at Sons and Daughters, 962 Cherry St., SE, Grand Rapids; The Bookie Joint, 120 S. Union, Traverse City; Pandora's, 226 W. Lovell St., Kalamazoo; It's Your Pleasure, 3228 Glade St., Muskegon Heights; and Real World Emporium, 1214-16 Turner St., Lansing. Tickets may be charged by phone to Visa, Mastercard or American Express at 616/459-8877.

SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN GAY RIGHTS WEIGHED AGAIN

A committee will explore again an ordinance designed to protect the rights of homosexuals months after the city council stopped discussion on the question last March.

The Saugatuck City Council voted 6-1 Monday to reopen the issue of preserving human rights regardless of sexual orientation.

The council will create a committee of 10 residents and three council members to discuss the issue.

Bay Business Services Inc.

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R E S O U R C E S

STATE AND NATIONAL HOTLINES

- Department of Justice Hotline (for reporting
Hate Crimes against gays and lesbians) 800-347-HATE
Child Abuse Hotline 800-392-8222
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 729, 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 313-398-GAYS
<http://www.webspaces.com/~tcc/affirmations/index.htm>
Lansing Association of Human Rights
P.O. Box 18062, Lansing, MI 48826 517-332-3200
Capital Men's Club
P.O. Box 18062, Lansing, MI 48902 (Kelly Stevens) 517-482-0860
Ambitious Amazons/Lesbian Connection
P.O. Box 811, East Lansing, MI 48826 517-371-5257
Lesbian Alliance
P.O. Box 6423, East Lansing, MI 48826 517-394-1454
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
PRIDE-Flint: P.O. Box 7014, Flint, MI 48507 313-238-9854
Aurora Newsletter: (reaching out to gays, lesbians, bisexuals in the UP &
Canada) POB 626, Marquette, MI 49855
Team Great Lakes
195 W. Nine Mile Rd., Suite 106, Ferndale, MI 48220 .. 810-553-3586

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
666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012 212-995-8585
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
email 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, 902 W. Front St. 616-922-4800
..... and 800-442-7315
Women's Resource Center 616-941-1210
Rodger Landvov, 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) 616-348-2415
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
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) 616-943-8800
NOW (National Organization for Women) Gail Trill 616-938-1333

LOCAL HIV/AIDS HEALTH COUNSELING:

- Wellness Networks, Grand Traverse,
P.O. Box 1632, Traverse City, MI 49685 616-947-1110
Wellness HIV Support Group and
Family and Significant Other Support Group 616-947-1110
Grand Traverse County Health Department 616-922-4831
(anonymous HIV Testing Center)
Mary Dillinger, RN, Clinical Nurse Specialist 616-935-8140
Munson Medical Center HIV Clinic 1-800-847-8474
Community Health Clinic 616-929-4448
(anonymous counseling/testing; same-day results no fee)
H.A.N.D.S. (HIV/AIDS Support: Petoskey) 1-800-248-6777

HERE ARE SOME PHONE NUMBERS EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE:

The White House (202) 456-1111; the U.S. Capital (202) 224-3121;
and some phone numbers for Northwest Michigan Residents—Carl Levin (202)
224-6221 or in TC (616) 947-9569; Spencer Abraham (202) 224-4822 or in Grand
Rapids (616) 456-2592; Bart Stupak (202) 225-4735 or in TC 929-4711

Contributions

FROM THE COMMUNITY

GET POLITICAL

Col Spitzer

I attended an event this past April called the Michigan LGBT Political Leadership Summit. This day long workshop/summit energized my own interest and involvement in politics and reminded me how politics affects our community. I know that many in our community, and maybe Americans in general, react to politics with an EEUUWW! as they hold their noses. One of the speakers at the Summit, Rep. Lynn Rivers (D-Ann Arbor), pointed out that we must be political, "because the people of the religious right, who are opposed to everything that positively affects the LGBT Community, are so organized that they will steam roll over us and destroy any accomplishments we have achieved."

How do we protect what we have accomplished and improve the situation for our community? Rivers has some good advice. First of all, please register to vote and vote. Look for coalitions, join forces with other groups who are fighting something or looking to accomplish the same goal. Sometimes there are allies we never dreamed of who will join us. For example, John Engler actually helped to defeat an anti-gay petition drive similar to Oregon's and Colorado's because he knew potential boycotts would have hurt the state.

If you are trying to get a legislator's attention on an issue, find some kind of connection that will touch them personally. Perhaps you are acquainted with a close relative or friend of the legislator who might be able to get his/her attention better. The key is to find a personal touch that puts a human face on the issue and thus makes the legislator take notice. When calling or writing to a legislator, do not say, "And I sent you money to fund your campaign." This only sends the message that you believe the legislator only cares about moneyed interests and can be bought or sold by whoever has the most money.

Rivers also pointed out something crucial that I think we should heed. She says that it does no good to do a letter writing campaign to a legislator who is diametrically opposed to our point of view. This is a waste of energy. Instead we should put our energy into finding good candidates who will be supportive of our goals and do everything possible to get that person elected.

I know that some people are turned off by Bart Stupack, for example, and some people might vote for a Republican candidate who might be (or say they are) Pro-Choice. I understand the thought behind the vote against Bart. But please keep in mind that every vote for a Republican and every victory for a Republican is an addition to a Republican majority in Congress, and a Republican majority means that Newt Gingrich is Speaker of The House. He decides what anti-gay-legislation is introduced or what pro gay legislation is blocked.

Keep this in mind when voting against Democrats, I myself am a Democrat, and I understand that they have their shortcomings, but I look at the alternative (Republicans) and Democrats don't seem too bad. If you will, Democrats are the lesser of two evils.

Please exercise your right as an American citizen and register to vote, and get out and support those who will help our community and defeat those who can hurt us. If you are interested in politics and want to put your efforts into helping the LGBT Community through the political process, we do have people here in Northern Michigan already organized. If you would like more information, please contact me through Friends North at the FN PO Box, I will respond immediately.

A SENSE OF PLACE

J.D. Fournier

*5800 Eubank Blvd. #1723
Albuquerque, NM 87111*

Like a flock of homesick cranes
flying night and day back to
their mountain nests, let all my
life take its voyage to its eternal
home in one salutation to thee.

—Rabindranath Tagore

What do homesick cranes have to do with my life and with the broken places of all our lives? They are a symbol of our inside, the place that I call the pilgrim heart. It is a part of us that is never home, that is always stretching and yearning to be home but knows that we have not yet arrived. It is in my yearning, my brokenness, that I am drawn to finding "a sense of place" for my own life. I am one of the homesick cranes and my winging homeward is a process that each one of us experiences. It is the journey of my spirit and the road markers along the way that keep saying: HELLO this way GOOD-BYE that way. When I recognize this most important dimension of my life, it can make being "homeless" a little easier to understand and can help me to live through the pain of my heartaches with more hope. I can see my life experiences from the perspective of going home, and

PLACE (continued page next page)

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LINDA L. WIKLE
Agent

I know that the groaning and yearning of my spirit is natural because I am in the homeward process.

"What?" you might ask, has prompted this homeward journey, this need for a sense of place. This journey really began years ago in my late teens; when I had come to realize and understand who I was as a gay man. Growing up Catholic and being raised in rural Michigan has and continues to play an important part in finding my way home. But most recently with the death of my father and four years earlier the death of my mother this winging homeward has become most important. Home had always been where they were. Namely, Michigan. I have moved and lived in many places. I have said good-bye often in my life. I have seen friends die and relationships have ended. I have struggled to find a place in the Church because of my being gay. Even in that pain and struggle I will continue to do the work that I do and I will not budge from my place at the Communion Table because that is my right and I will remain standing next to those who hate me. I will not give up the piece of bread that has been broken for me. I have struggled to find a place in the gay community because of my belief in God and my need for a life of spirit and prayer. I am looked at as strange and one not to be trusted because of what has been done to the gay and lesbian community through the Organized Church. I am gay and that will not change nor do I want it to change. And as a gay man I want to believe that there is something greater and that God is bigger than the hate that is spewed out by Christian groups. I should feel comfortable and unafraid to profess this even with my gay brothers and sisters. And not fear a life of isolation and aloneness.

So where is this place? I believe it is a place inside of me where I find wholeness and self, that inner core of peace. It is also the place of being true to who I am. Entering the home of my true self. There is no longer a false sense of home for me. I come home to myself in my wholeness, my goodness, my fullness of beauty. This homecoming is always in process. The homesick crane in me knows that life is a journey, and that I can never completely settle in.

The reality that comes from being a homesick crane is that while I know that I am always going home, I must also be deeply rooted and involved in my present condition. I must give myself to the human journey and not try to by-pass it because of the pain, struggle, or possible isolation. It is in my humanness, my being gay, and in my beliefs, that I discover the beauty of the inner terrain. It is then that I find "a sense of place."

Blue sky and burning sun,
Red rock mountain mesa
allures me.
A thing to hole
in my soul.

My life
begins
here where I am; now.

I forget how
it should be!

The communion feast
is prepared
from the sacred cupboard.

I take and eat.

JDF

THE MYTH OF "HOMOPHILE CHRISTIANITY"

John D. Partin

Though I'm all in favor of any help to individual gays and lesbians and advancement of gay liberation coming from Christian denominations or some few Christians, even if very short-sighted and short-term or done for public relations purposes or to whitewash their religion's past, I still must confirm the truth that Christianity isn't naturally or consistently homophile. Of course, as a gay Pagan, I'm biased toward Paganism and against Christianity, but this is, I believe, a reasonable bias (contradictory as that sounds), based on realistic consideration of Christian history, consistent policy and philosophy, and mind set, instead of airy dismissal of their history, in the name of "forgiveness," "ecumenicism," and "understanding."

Black people or Jews wouldn't be expected to be as "forgiving" or "understanding" towards white racists or Nazis respectively, much less align themselves with white racist or Nazi groups; so, why should gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders align themselves with groups which have, historically, always persecuted, dehumanized, oppressed, and tried to genocide them, too, just because some of them are now saying: "Gosh, I guess that we just made a mistake!"

Well, those things happen—so, c'mon, just forgive us and let us off the hook for all of that and we'll have to be made for these slips, but matters of consistent policy, repeated hundreds of millions of times over the course of two millennia, no longer qualify as "mistakes" or "accidents," and so, no longer deserve the same consideration given to mistakes. Christianity has to be held every bit as accountable for its past as we demand that the Nazis, white racists, and all other such types are held accountable for their pasts, and not just let off the hook because they say: "I'm sorry," since that wouldn't suffice for these other guys. Every scoundrel is in love with the idea of just being let off the hook for his crimes and people's pretending

MYTH (continued page next page)

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that the crimes "just didn't happen," but if "I'm sorry" doesn't whitewash or gloss over 12 years of Nazi atrocities, how could it possibly do so for two thousand years of Christian crimes?

Paganism (and even Satanism) are far more appropriate religions for gays and lesbians, since they come right out of the box accepting of homosexuality and ready for gay and lesbian use and practice (with no assembly or modification required), whereas, after everything that you can think to do to Christianity, it still doesn't quite fit with the homosexual (or heterosexual, for that matter) lifestyle. Christianity simply cannot be "revised," "re-edited," "renewed," "rehashed," "reformed" or "updated" enough to really meet the current needs of man, generally, or, in this particular discussion, of gays and lesbians, specifically, or really be homosexual-friendly, homosexual-compatible or homosexual-relevant. It is, of course, entirely understandable why gays, lesbians, and bisexuals, under the social pressure to conform, at least outwardly, to the predominant nominal religious structure and beliefs of Western society, the same as everyone else, and yet also desiring to indulge in their natural, normal, and healthy sexual desires openly and without fear or shame, would try to find some way of "reconciling" their sexuality with this nominal religion. But, however much we may sympathize with the desire for self-preservation and avoidance of being ganged up on by society involved in this decision, it is still compromise with the religious status quo, which ultimately, can't help the cause of gay liberation or homosexuality's acceptance in the world. Homosexuality has to be accepted on its own merit and not merely superficially "accepted" by its alignment with, and blessing from, conventional religion.

The "holy" justification of natural love life and sexuality should never have become and shouldn't now be necessary. Homosexuality and heterosexuality shouldn't have to, now, try to drape themselves in "holy" and "God-approved" robes and win the approval of their historic persecutors and bigots, just so that they can be accepted as what they should have been accepted as all along, without going through all of that rigmarole: that is, entirely natural, normal, and healthy sexual desires and activities.

No doubt, Jesus' teachings (if Jesus really lived at all) were greatly distorted by "Saint" Paul and later generations of Christians regarding homosexuality, too, but it is also true that some religions, political parties, etc. are more prone toward distortion than others—and a religion (Christianity) purporting to speak for "the one true God: the Way, the Truth, and the Life" and "His Will" on Earth can't avoid

being "distorted" and attracting right-wing and fascistic types right from the start, wanting to identify their will and beliefs with "God's," thereby sanctioning them and making it easier to impose them on other people. To reply, as does the author of the "Does God Love Gays" article in the April 1996 issue of *The Third Coast*, that God wouldn't allow severely homophobic scribes to place anti-gay passages in the Scriptures if that weren't really His law must, by logical extension, mean that the Inquisition, Crusades, Conquistadors' actions in the New World, religious wars, and other crimes of Christianity were also God's will, since nothing happens in Christianity that isn't His will and He would hardly object to a few passages being written in the book of His Word when He didn't keep these far worse actual deeds from being committed and showing by action what Christianity really is—in the moving book of His Word! Of course, all religions put among human beings are going to be affected by human beings, no matter what "God" wants.

As for "the original Christianity" (about which there are only guesses), even if it was considerably more pro-homosexual and homophile than is present-day Christianity (and it could hardly not have been more so, since it couldn't have been as homophobic as—or more homophobic than—present-day Christianity), it still couldn't have been as pro homosexual and homophile as just accepting homosexuality as a natural part of life and sexual expression and activity without going through all of that rigmarole! So, the whole matter of "original Christianity" is irrelevant and an evasion.

Paganism is more naturally homophile because it offers religious diversity, instead of "the one and only truth," and so is more accepting of diversity among people and less susceptible to right-wing and fascistic distortion. People claim to "get something" out of "believing" in Christianity as a way of compensating for giving in to the social pressure of just going along, nominally, with the religious status quo, so as to make it seem less repugnant and cowardly—and more "noble"; otherwise, no intelligent people would ever claim to "get something" from claiming to believe that "a virgin gave birth," "a dead man rose from the grave and ascended bodily into Heaven," etc.

The examples of David and Jonathan, Ruth and Naomi, etc. aren't proof of the compatibility of homosexuality with Judeo-Christianity so much as they are proof that people will fulfill their natural desires, one way or another—and no matter who says that they shouldn't. We can argue endlessly about whether or not "God" destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of the "sin" of homosexuality—or because of inhospitality—and never come to the

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"truth" about this mythical story (who cares, anyway, since it's just another attempt to justify our life-style to the Christians?). If "God" in Biblical stories were to destroy ten thousand Sodoms and Gomorrah on every page of the Bible, homosexuality would be proven no less correct, natural, and healthy by all of that—so, it is all irrelevant to the issue of homosexuality! Homosexuality is right, no matter how many "Gods" say that it isn't, since they are only the projections of homophobic people, anyway, and no matter if these "Gods" approve of homosexuality, since we don't need their stamp of approval: it only concerns us and is our affair! It is only the social pressure to conform, outwardly, to Christianity that makes people even care or bother about finding the exact meaning of words in Biblical passages in the original Hebrew or Aramaic or Greek, the exact context of certain words and statements, Biblical actions which support their position or lifestyle, etc., just so that they can try to justify, in this roundabout and rigmarole way, their position or lifestyle, instead of just directly going ahead and doing or believing it—and to Hell with justifying it to "God," Christianity or society, so long as it hurts nobody else!

FAMILY REUNION AND I DIDN'T FEEL COMFORTABLE TO GO.

FEELINGS OF REJECTION

Pat Galligan

The worst thing in the world a person can do is ignore another human being. I am speaking from experience. I don't think they know the pain they cause and if they do they are really sick people. It is hard to believe one would visit this onto another person. Even if I was the worst person in the world the torture is beyond the justice they seem to want.

I guess I should expect them to feel I am not worth the time of the day to any of them. It is a pain I have to live with always expecting them to remember the un-remembered and knowing they won't. Loneliness is not a pain they have experienced as I have. I wouldn't wish it upon anyone. Despair is not a way of life but of death.

I have tried to say 'I don't need any of them' but I need the love all of them could give. It is a pain that grows everyday and makes

you want to just fad away. But it doesn't work that way. You try to go on with your life without them and find the pain there each day. It is like a snake sneaking upon you as you progress through the day. By the time it is night the snake has swallowed you. If you are able to sleep it has another day to follow and swallow you again, again, again.

But the skins do not hide the feeling of loneliness inside nor cover the pain that seeps through like drops of dew on a blade of grass. It is there to see but no one looks. Try as hard as you can there is no breakthrough and no out. You live with it and keep hope alive where there is none. I have lived this way too long but know it isn't the end. The new day will come and the same feeling will be there.

Where is the escape you so want but will not be given. Is this the Hell Christians talk about; the place where no one wishes to tread? I go step by step with hope in a hopeless area. There is no escape except by those who wish you no escape. Being beyond pain the feeling is not describable. But to tread on and on and on.

I wouldn't wish this type of life upon anyone but many in the family have wished it upon me and have had their wish granted. Who could but wish for the end to this pain and suffering. But no end will come. It is my constant companion. Maybe I have to learn to take it to heart and love it. Then it couldn't hurt me anymore. Life O life why is it such that this happens?

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I would like to add my two cents worth toward the issue of adding sexual orientation to the city's non-discrimination laws. As a gay man in this community I suppose I should be behind this 200% but I can't.

When I first heard about this I was all for it but when I found out it would only cover city employees I changed my mind. I don't give a rats butt about city employee benefits. They don't do anything for me. Government employee already have the best medical coverage, highest wages and every holiday under the sun, off with pay!! And you want me to help them get another benefit I don't have? Sorry Charlie as selfish as this may be I believe we're all entitled to be selfish at times, nobody's out there helping me get better benefits or equal protection or what ever you want to call it.

Being gay doesn't mean I always agree on gay issues just because the majority feels it's so. I realize there has to be a starting point and eventually it might cover everyone not just the city but I can't find it in my heart to help a government employee when the government local or state does nothing for me.

Thanks for the space,
Alec Alspaugh, Interlochen, MI



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GAY MARRIAGE IS ACT OF COURAGE

Loraine Anderson,

I've answered the RSVP. The gift is bought. As I wait for the wedding day, I find myself wondering.

Will they both wear dresses?

The wedding is a lesbian holy union ceremony. It's my second. The first was a couple of years ago, performed by a Christian minister in a Grand Traverse County living room.

I've gone to countless church weddings over the course of my life. I've been a bridesmaid a couple of times and a maid of honor in my brother's first marriage.

Those were wonderful experiences, but it was the wedding in the living room that helped me understand at heart level the importance of a ceremony that brings one's spiritual beliefs into the union.

"Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?" the minister asked us.

"Yes," we murmured. Something deep inside split open and rolled through me—recognition.

It's said it takes a village to raise a child. It also takes community and the sense of being part of one to help marriages survive.

As my friends' wedding day approaches. I think of the Defense of Marriage Act. Whenever I hear the name, I don't know whether to laugh or scream.

Who thought it up?

Never mind, I know. They sit at the right hand of GOP.

And who does marriage need defending from?

The law is aimed at homosexuals, but we certainly are not the people responsible for all of those divorce statistics.

The politicians can say what they like. I personally believe the law is designed to protect the sick, depraved stereotypes about promiscuous gays and lesbians constitutionally incapable of commitment. They shield people, who talk about "family values" but mean discrimination against gays and lesbians, from having to acknowledge that family exists in many forms.

The wedding I'm going to next week will be an announcement and celebration of love and commitment.

It also will be an act of courage—one for everyone there and for other gays and lesbians and their families.

I suppose some people—without knowing the couple or one thing about their struggles, their accomplishments and their lives—will revile and ridicule them. They will insist that the two women can change—without knowing how they came to this decision to celebrate a traditional wedding, complete with engraved invitations, gift registry and reception.

The prejudice against them won't negate their commitment or love. It won't make them straight. It will be just one of the additional stresses that gays and lesbians in committed relationships have to endure that heterosexuals do not.

Neither their marriage nor their love for each other will be recognized by our laws, our courts, our insurance companies, the Internal Revenue Service.

But it will be recognized in the hearts of all of us there who will promise to do all within our power to uphold these people in their marriage.

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TEACHER'S CASE PROVES NEED FOR SEXUAL ORIENTATION POLICY

If ever there was an example of why sexual orientation should be added to state, federal and local anti-discrimination employment laws, the case of the Byron Center music teacher is it.

The teacher, Gerry Crane, was drummed out of the suburban Grand Rapids school system, and the school board was a participant in that process.

In light of recent Traverse City Commission discussion of this issue, it would behoove all of us to look at Byron Center as a troubling example of what happens when a community doesn't take a stand on homophobia and other prejudices.

Opponents of adding sexual orientation to anti-discrimination employment policies say such policies aren't needed. One of the problems in dealing with a deep, pervasive prejudice is that society often is blind to examples.

What happened in Byron Center wouldn't have been possible if our national, state and local governments prohibited discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Crane became the center of controversy last year when it was learned that he was gay and 'married' to his partner. Crane did not fit the false and devastating stereotypes of homosexuals. He was a good, popular teacher with a reputation for revitalizing a dying high school music program. Though he did nothing wrong, he got himself into trouble by telling the truth about himself and the commitment between himself and his partner.

He originally vowed to stick the controversy out. He survived the school year, hate mail and threats, the intense scrutiny of school administrators. In June, two outspoken anti-Crane candidates won seats on the school board. Crane resigned two weeks ago.

"You can put up with just so much and then you say, 'My humanity is more important than to have to deal with this,' he said. "Sooner or later, enough is enough." An employment policy that banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation would have made the Byron Center community and school focus on the real issue—homophobia.

It is true that the school board declined to fire Crane last December as many of the hundreds of people who attended school board meetings wished. But the board still issued an extraordinary statement that only fueled the prejudice against Crane.

"Individuals who espouse homosexuality do not constitute proper role models as teachers for students in this district," the board said in pledging to keep him under scrutiny.

History shows us that prejudice against minorities, and the hateful, untrue stereotypes used to maintain that prejudice, do not begin to abate until discrimination becomes illegal.

Gerry Crane is a good example for people who would argue that the civil rights of gays and lesbians do not need to be protected.

(This editorial of Friday, August 9, 1996 was reprinted w/permission of the Traverse City Record-Eagle)

COMING HOME

by Greg R. Baird

So, I bet by now you thought I had gone to California and was probably basking in wonderful sunshine, swinging off of palm trees, drinking exotic drinks and had a man on each arm. Well I wish I could tell you that you are right, but you're not. I'm now basking in the wonderful area of Petoskey. In all respects, I've come home.

Last June I packed my bags and headed out to the east coast where I direct a Performing Arts program. Before I left I had a job offer over the phone from a school district in Pasadena. It was to direct a Theatre program at a Magnet school starting in the fall. I thought it would be a great opportunity and one hell of a move!

Well, after numerous phone calls over a period of a month and no more feedback and response from Pasadena, I decided that I should look for other employment possibilities. It appeared that Pasadena was not going to follow through with their offer. I decided to look for another position elsewhere. It was a bit nerveing not knowing what my fate would be in the fall.

Along came job prospect number two! The end of June brought a phone call from the principal of a high school in Connersville, Indiana. He wanted me badly for an interview and was impressed by my experience. Two days later, I boarded a plane from Hartford, Connecticut and headed for Dayton, Ohio. I rented a car and hotel room and went for my interview that night. I must say that Connersville reminded me of the town in the movie, "Footloose". You know, no dancin' until you cross the railroad tracks and a church on every corner. The interview went great and I left feeling like I had a job.

The next day, I flew back to Connecticut and began work on my first musical of the summer, waiting for the phone to ring. As you can read, stress was knocking on my door. After four days, I received a phone call saying I hadn't gotten the job. It came down to myself and a lady who had six years of contracted teaching experience, and they chose her because of her experience. I had experience too, lots of it, but unfortunately not six contracted with another school.

A few weeks passed and I was in the final week of directing my first show when I got a call from an employer in Petoskey. I'm glad to say after many phone calls, interviews and discussions, I was offered a job to come back to a city I had lived in before. I never thought I would go back to live there, but I have.

The journey from Connecticut back to Michigan is always an interesting one. My halfway mark is always, Niagara Falls, Canada. I must be honest with you though, if I could stay somewhere else I

would. Don't get me wrong, the falls are beautiful, but walk a block west up on Clifton Hill and be prepared for complete chaos. This place is the mother of all tourist traps.

For 7 or 8 Canadian dollars each you can visit such classic places like, Ripley's Believe it or not, Dracula's Castle, The Criminals Hall of Fame (I'm not kidding), The John F. Kennedy Assassination Exhibit (I'm not kidding, again!), wax museums and much, much more. The place was packed with thousands of tourists and people trying to make a buck. I'm not sure why anyone, gay or straight, would choose Niagara as a honeymoon destination. When all is said and done, it was an interesting stopover to watch people.

The following day, I arrived back in Petoskey. My journey was over. I saw friendly faces, some who I have not seen in ages and others I'd just seen before I left in June. It seems a bit strange to be back, but exciting. I'm glad that the gay dinner group meets on Thursdays. Its a great way to meet people and has a real sense of Community. I'm proud to now be a part of it.

I have some adjustments to do with my new job and the place I now call home. I'll feel more settled in the next couple of weeks. Pasadena and Connersville lost a good prospective member of their community - Petoskey just gained one.



S H A M A N I S M

Shamanism is the most ancient method of mind-body healing. Shamans the world over saw illness as a break in our spiritual essence causing debilitation and disease.

Trauma or negative energy from another person causes spiritual break resulting in loss of power, soul loss or spirit intrusion.

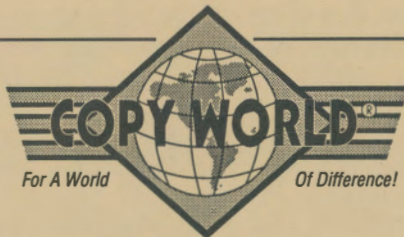


Symptom of power loss are chronic bad luck, illness, frequent accidents or low self esteem.

Symptom of soul loss are empty feelings, depression, loss of vitality, gaps in memory and long grieving periods.

When we are dispirited, who helps us? We have doctors for the body and mind. As a practicing shaman, Nancy Hayward uses techniques from the ancient ones. She journeys to other worlds and with spirit help restores personal power, knowledge, healing and wholeness to her clients.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRIDE DAY 1997 PLANNING AND STRATEGY MEETING: Please join us in making Pride Day -1997 next June the best ever for Grand Traverse area. The first meeting will be Wednesday, September 25 at 5:30 p.m., at the law offices of Robb, Messing, Palmer and Dignan, 420 E. Front St. We need your help and all are welcome. Call Cindy at 271-5045 for further information. (issue 5)

ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEANUP scheduled for 1996. The last date to clean Friends North's section of M-72 near Acme is September 26. We will again meet at the theatre in Acme at 5:30. Call Alec at 943-4492 (issue 5)

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 5)

WASHINGTON D.C. QUILT: I am putting together a group of people who are interested in going to Washington in October to see the entire Names Project Quilt. Please contact me, Tom, at 616-947-4647 or write: 208 Circle Dr., Apt. C, Traverse City, 49684. (issue 5)

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 6)

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 will be held on alternate Sundays with dates disclosed in their newsletter, Diversity. Please call 348-3117 for details or write to us at POB 271, Petoskey, MI 49770-0271 (Issue 6)

HATE CRIMES WATCH: The Triangle Foundation of Michigan has begun a VICTIMS' PROGRAM COMMUNITY WATCH COALITION. The group will collect hate-crime information from Lesbian and Gay victims of such crimes. For details, call 313-533-1166 or 517-753-9823. Report Hate Crimes! Stop the Violence! (issue 5)

CREATING CHANGE: The annual NGLTF Conference is being held in Alexandria, VA, outside of Washington D.C., on November 6-10. For information contact NGLTF through their web page or call 617-492-6393. (issue 5)

PERSONALS:

LOOKING FOR WOMYN in their 50's and 60's for correspondence. I would like to move into your area after my house sells. Need to know if anyone has an apt. for rent, or shared housing until I can re-establish my business. I'm a furniture and interior wood refinisher, also like to do houses that are considered "fixers." Please write if you feel you might have something of interest for me. Would like to have a friend in the area when I more. Will answer all. J.A. Morrison, 508 Delia St., Ludington, MI 49431; 616-845-1542 (issue 6)

LOKI'S LIGHTHOUSE (on Tricksters in every culture and religion: Loki, Puck, Ghede, Coyote, Maui, Hermes, Pan, etc.) is now available! Send submissions of poetry, essays, erotica, contact ads, homosexuality, bisexuality, drawings, photos, darker Paganism, humor, lies, scams, anything about trickery or tricksterism, and/or subscriptions (\$15.00 for four 30 page issues annually, published at the Equinoxes and Solstices, payable in money order or well-concealed cash only—no personal checks, please) to: John D. Partin, PO Box 7809, Flint, MI 48507 (issue 6)

G.W.F. NEVER MARRIED, 35, 5'7", brown hair, green eyes, 130 lbs. I'm looking for a friend or better? I'm honest, trustworthy and FUN to be with. I enjoy camping, fishing, quiet walks on the beach, looking at the stars, candlelite dinners and sitting by a fire just holding each other. I'm a hopeless romantic. Kelli Doyle, 522 E. State St., T.C., 49686 (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 5)

GROUPS:

FRIENDS NORTH BOARD AND MEMBER MEETINGS: The Friends North Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. at Northwestern Michigan College, West Hall on the first floor, Room 2 in the cafeteria. Everyone is welcome! (issue 5)

FRIENDS NORTH RAP GROUP is a group of men and women who get together monthly for informal discussion, often on a particular topic. Please join us on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at Grace Episcopal Church, 349 Washington, T.C., at 7:30 pm. For information, call Tom at 275-6127 or Ed at 947-4697. (issue 6)

GLSTN, the Gay-Lesbian-Straight Teachers Network, is meeting monthly in Traverse City. Newly forming, they welcome all interested educators. For more information, call M'Lynn at 943-8800. (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 6)

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

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

NORTHERN MICHIGAN WOMYN'S CHOIR is always looking for new voices. To obtain more information or for a performance schedule, please contact Deb at 275-5924. (issue 4)

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 6)

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 6)

CELLULOID CLOSET TO PREMIER IN SUTTONS BAY

The Sundance Film Festival award winning film, *The Celluloid Closet* is coming to northern Michigan! Friends North, in cooperation with Bob Bahle will be sponsoring the presentation of the film, *The Celluloid Closet* at the Bay Theater in downtown Suttons Bay — Sunday, October 06, 1996 — at 5:00 pm. We will request a \$5.00 donation at the door. Joe Bertucci, Guy Molnar and Nancy Sundstrom will lead a moderated discussion immediately following the film.

The Celluloid Closet

Movie Review by M'Lynn Hartwell

Recently, on one of sojourns to visit my sweetie in Ann Arbor, I had the pleasure of experiencing the Rob Epstein / Jeffery Friedman film, *The Celluloid Closet* for the very first time. I laughed aloud! It was great!

Siskel and Ebert said, "Two Thumbs Up! Terrific!"
The New York Times Stated, "Sheer Fun!"
M'Lynn Hartwell says, "You Will Regret it if You Don't Join Us!"

The basis for the film, "*The Celluloid Closet*" is Vito Russo's book (published in 1981) examining the patterns in Hollywood's treatment of gay characters on the screen since the days of the silent film. Mr. Russo, died of AIDS in 1990, and never saw the skillful transformation of his research onto film by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, whose other credits include the Oscar-winning "*Times of Harvey Milk*" and "*Common Threads: Stories From the Quilt*," into such a funny and informative documentary using the film clips he could only describe on the page.

We could describe the *Celluloid Closet* as, "That's Entertainment!" with a gay agenda. Film footage ranges from obscure film clips — two men dancing together a hundred years ago in an experimental film of Thomas Edison's — to scenes from popular movies that are familiar to most of us.

Yet even if you have seen Judith Anderson stroking her late mistress's clothing in "*Rebecca*," Peter Lorre toying with a walking stick in "*The Maltese Falcon*," or Marlene Dietrich cross-dressing in "*Morocco*," count on watching those images in a much different light this time.

"*The Celluloid Closet*" moves chronologically through film history, beginning with silent films that featured simpering gay characters ("Clarence, the clerk — one of nature's mistakes in a country where men are men").

Lily Tomlin, is outstanding as the film's narrator, stating, "The sissy made everyone feel more manly or more womanly by filling the space in between." Later, *The Celluloid Closet* dwells on gay sentiments that got past the censorship of the Hays Office and a long period when they treated gayness as a sign of villainy or terminal anguish.

Armistead Maupin notes that he always thought sex with another man would mean having to commit suicide. "And I got that impression from the movies," he says.

Much of "*The Celluloid Closet*" concentrates on sheer fun, as when Paul Rudnick introduces the "Ain't There Anyone Here for Love?" a musical number from "*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*." As he explains, it features "a gym full of body builders who have absolutely no interest in Jane Russell."

The film also highlights Hollywood's casual use of gay-baiting epithets and the current abundance of films dealing with gay characters. Most of the films cited are independent rather than studio productions, but "*The Celluloid Closet*" is too upbeat to make an issue of that.

Among the well-chosen interviewees here are Gore Vidal (very droll about the different directions given to Stephen Boyd and Charlton Heston in "*Ben Hur*"), the writer Susie Bright (describing what it's like to be galled by the disingenuousness of a "*Fried Green Tomatoes*"), Matt Crowley on his watershed "*Boys in the Band*," Tom Hanks on his impact in "*Philadelphia*," and Susan Sarandon, talking about "*The Hunger*" and "*Thelma and Louise*."

Thinking about the latter film's ending, in which the two women kissed and then drove off a cliff, she wonders what it would have been like if Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid had met their fate in the same way. Ms. Sarandon speaks with a rueful awareness of Hollywood's deep-rooted prejudices. "Well, then they would have had more reason to shoot them, I suppose," she says.



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PRESS RELEASE

OPEN MIND OPENS IN THE SOO

SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN—A bit of history was made recently when the Upper Peninsula's largest circulation newspaper carried an ad including the words "gay and lesbian." Apparently, it's a first for the area. The phrase appeared in the Evening News, announcing the start-up of the Open Mind Bookstore. It referred not only to fiction and nonfiction works stocked by the store, but also to buttons, bumper stickers, postcards, greeting cards and magazines.

Open Mind's owners—Dan Doran, Sharon Komondy and Stef Rutledge—want it known that the business represents "an emphatically les/bi/gay-friendly undertaking." They located the relevant titles in a labeled section of their own near the front of the shop. The window displays and floor exhibits always feature volumes of interest to gays, lesbians, or bisexuals. The store's community bulletin board welcomes postings from gay and lesbian individuals or groups.

The over-all inventory of Open Mind resembles that of alternative bookstore in larger cities. It focuses on progressive politics (liberal to anarchist), non-church spirituality (especially Eastern and Neo-Pagan), nonconformist culture, personal development and holistic health. Sections are devoted to women's studies and Native American issues. Free coffee and teas are available in an area with bistro tables looking out onto the downtown. Stools are positioned among the shelves to encourage browsing. Music, plants and lighting make for a relaxed setting.

All books sold at Open Mind, from best sellers to the harder to find titles, are discounted 10%-70%. The reduced prices usually apply to special orders as well. If for no other reason than to enjoy the atmosphere of a place in northernmost Michigan that clearly affirms sexual diversity, travelers are encouraged to visit Open Mind Bookstore at 223 Ashumn St. in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The shop is open 10 am to 6 pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

EACH DAY BRINGS A CHANCE

How often we wish for another chance
To make a fresh beginning,
A chance to blot out our mistakes
And change failure into winning,
And it does not take a special time
To make a brand-new start,
It only takes the deep desire
To try with all our heart
To live a little better
And to always be forgiving
And to add a little "Sunshine"
To the world in which we're living-
So never give up in despair
And think that you are through,
For there's always a tomorrow
And a chance to start anew...!

-Kelli Doyle

WORDS AND MUSIC:

A LOCAL GUIDE TO BOOKS, MAGAZINES, TAPES AND CD'S

By Rick Gould

Here are a few suggestions for fall reading and listening:

At **The Bookie Joint**, Shelley gave us this list:

Lesbian Sacred Sexuality by Vicki Noble and Diane Mariechild, \$24.95. A beautiful picture book of black and white photographs of women loving women all over the world. Highly erotic and passionate. Also a big seller.

Prayers for Bobby by Leroy Aarons, \$11.95. A true story of how one family's "love" of God contributed to the suicide of their son. Bobby's mother has come full circle, with her son's death leading her to new ideas and experiences which have made her a more caring, compassionate and open-minded human being.

Forbidden Fires by Margaret Anderson, \$21.95. Anderson was one of the founders of the influential magazine, "The Little Review," which published the works of Amy Lowell, James Joyce, Emma Goldman, and others in the 1920's. This fictionalized account of her lifelong love of two women captures an era along the lines of "Ragtime." Has 97 photographs of her acquaintances from her life.

Gay by the Bay: A History of Queer Culture in the San Francisco Bay Area, by Susan Stryker and Jim Van Buskirk, \$24.95.

Music at the Bookie Joint:

I Am Woman, Various Artists, cass. -\$11.95, CD-\$17.99. 14 of the best pop songs about the strength and independence of women. "I Will Survive," "She Works Hard For The Money," and "9 to 5" are among the tunes.

Legacy, Various Artists, CD-\$19.95. Three discs celebrating the life and music of Michael Callen. Featuring Cris Williamson, Tret Fure, The Flirtations, Holly Near, and much more.

Note: The Bookie Joint plans on keeping Sunday hours, noon to 4 p.m., at least through December.

At **AB CD's**, Norm found that some of Interlochen's Festival artists, particularly some of the opening acts, have been popular choices this past summer:

Holly Palmer. This self-titled debut is by a performer who seemed to captivate audiences with her Marcia Brady looks and her jazzy vocals. Palmer opened for the marvelous k.d. lang and her CD features Me'Shell Ndegocello playing on several tracks.



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 1308 Neahtawanta Road
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The Neahtawanta Center

The Center, housed in the Neahtawanta Inn, is a non-profit organization that works on issues relating to peace, the environment and personal growth. The Center was formed in 1987 and continues to grow and evolve as its members strive to respond to the challenge of creating a peaceful, healthy and sustainable world. Local activities include sponsoring workshops, organizing Earth Day and working with local peace groups. The Center maintains a resource library containing pertinent books and periodicals, and publishes Synapse, a quarterly newsletter. On the national and international level, the volunteer staff at the center is connected with other groups doing similar work, and maintains a web site on the Internet.



The Neahtawanta Inn

The Neahtawanta Inn is located 12 miles out on Old Mission Peninsula, a 22 mile long finger of land that divides Grand Traverse Bay. Nestled among white pines, maples and oaks, the long porch looks out onto the waters of Lake Michigan. A private beach, wood-burning sauna and great biking and hiking nearby add to the spirit of peace and rejuvenation found at the Inn. Healthy vegetarian continental breakfasts are served, and arrangements can be made for other meals for groups. We just completed a renovation project to add a first floor wheelchair accessible bedroom and bathroom, a lovely yoga/meeting space and an updated kitchen.

Schedule of Events

Friday	Dinner 6:30; Workshop 7:30
Saturday	Workshop 9:00am-5:00pm; (Optional evening activities)
Sunday	Interfaith worship (optional) 9:00am Workshop 10:00am-1:00pm, followed by lunch.

American Friends Service Committee
 1414 Hill Street
 Ann Arbor, MI 48104
 313.761.8283

The work of the AFSC is rooted in the spiritual insights of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Since 1917 the AFSC has worked with people of many religions and ethical traditions to affirm the dignity and promise of every individual, to relieve the suffering of war and poverty, to foster peace and reconciliation, and to promote social justice

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ (h) _____ (w) _____

- Options:
- Single in private room \$ 180.00
 - Couple in private room \$ 280.00
 - Single in shared room \$ 140.00
 - No lodging* \$ 65.00

*With Saturday & Sunday lunch : dinner extra

Mail to: NEAHTAWANTA CENTER
1308 Neahtawanta Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
616.223.7315

- ✓ Please send half of the option chosen as a deposit with your registration.
- ✓ Costs include lodging, workshop and meals beginning with Friday dinner and ending with Sunday luncheon.
- ✓ We welcome women and men of all sexual orientations, single individuals and couples.
- ✓ For people with allergies - a dog and cat live on the premises but are not allowed in the sleeping area.

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) presents....

Toward Understanding

A Weekend Workshop teaching nonviolent techniques for discussing sexual orientation

November 8-10 Friday thru Sunday

Neahtawanta Center

Traverse City

Co-sponsoring Organizations:

Friends North

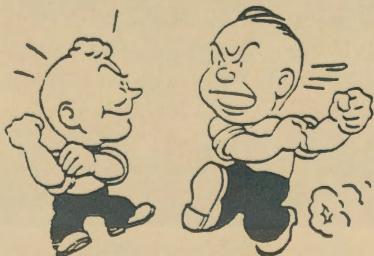
Parents Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG)- Traverse City

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

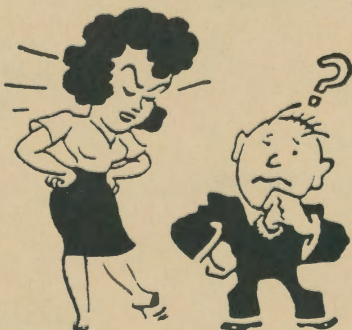
Unity Church of Traverse City



Do you find yourself getting into arguments every time you try to discuss sexual orientation?



Are you at a loss when someone makes an offensive comment about lesbian, gay or bisexual people?



This weekend workshop teaches participants nonviolent speech techniques that help turn verbal confrontations into opportunities for sincere dialogue. It is designed to help participants find their own voice, in a way that reduces hostility and seeks common ground, without abandoning their principles.

The workshop is offered by the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues Program of the American Friends Service Committee's Michigan Office. AFSC is particularly committed to increasing the level of understanding within faith communities about lesbian, gay and bisexual people and the issues they face.

Come and learn both the theory and the practice of nonviolent communication. This workshop addresses the verbal combat many of us get into when discussing this emotionally charged subject. We believe that speech can be used nonviolently to seek common ground and build community.

People of all religious affiliations or those not religiously affiliated, people of all sexual orientations and people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Member Services Committee Survey

Your answers to these questions are vital to us. Friends North growth has left us with an incomplete picture of who our membership is, and what programs and services you value the most from us. The results of this survey will be carefully tabulated and will help to guide the Friends North Member Services Committee strategic planning recommendations for 1996-1997. Your answers to these questions will also help guide us into the future. Friends North represents you! Hearing what you have to say is critical—if we are to do our job well.

M. Lynn

PART ONE: WHO ARE YOU?

1. What Is Your Primary Connection to Friends North?

- Community Member Educator Counselor/Therapist
 Parent Student/Youth Other _____

2. What Is Your Gender?

- Female Male

3. What Is Your Sexual Identity?

- Lesbian Gay Male Bisexual Heterosexual Transgender

4. How Old Are You?

- under 18 18-24 25-35
 36-45 46-55 over 55

5. What Is Your Annual Income?

- Less than \$25,000 \$25,000-\$50,000
 \$50,000-\$100,000 More than \$100,000

PART TWO: WHY ARE YOU A MEMBER OF FRIENDS NORTH?

6. How Long Have You Been a Member of Friends North? _____

7. Why Did You Join?

- I Believe in the General Mission of the Organization
 I Am Impressed by the Organization's Work to Date
 I Need/Want the Organization's Support in My Life
 I Have Participated in Friends North Events/Programs and Was Pleased with My Experience
 I (Or Someone Close to Me) Was Deeply Affected by Homophobia
 I Was Personally Affected/Victimized by Hate Crime Verbal Physical
 Someone Close to Me Was Affected/Victimized by Hate Crime Verbal Physical
 I Know Someone Who Is/Was Involved in the Organization
 To Meet Like-Minded People
 Other _____

8. What Organizations Are You Currently a Member Of, (or Actively Involved With)?

- Friends North
- PFLAG
- GLSTN
- Windfire
- Wellness Network
- Out 'n About
- Gay Alcoholics Anonymous
- NOW - National Organization of Women
- Other _____

PART THREE: FRIENDS NORTH PROGRAMMING AND FUTURE

9. Where Would You like to See *Friends North* Focus in the Coming Years?

Note: This Is Your Opportunity to Tell Us What You Want From Our Organization.

- Advocacy / Helping Others
 - Establishing a Regional Help Line (Telephone) That Will be Available 24 Hours a Day/ 7 Days a Week
 - Creating Informative Materials for Use in Northern Michigan Communities
 - Developing Regional Chapters and Increasing Membership (e.g. Petoskey, Charlevoix etc.)
 - Raising Public Awareness on the Issue of Homophobia Through the Media and Other Means
 - Establishing a Trained (Lesbian/Gay) Speakers Bureau
 - Additional Programming (e.g. a Speaker / Entertainer Series)
 - Creating a Lesbian/Gay/Bi Friendly Regional Business Directory
 - Providing Friends North Membership Cards (Includes Discounts at Area Businesses)
 - Providing More Member Oriented Services (E.g. a Lending Library for Books and Videos)
 - Other _____
-
-

10. What do you like Most About *Friends North*? Please Describe:

11. What Do You Like Least About *Friends North*? Please Describe:

12. Who Do You Feel *Friends North* Should Best Represent and/or Provide Services For (check all that apply)?

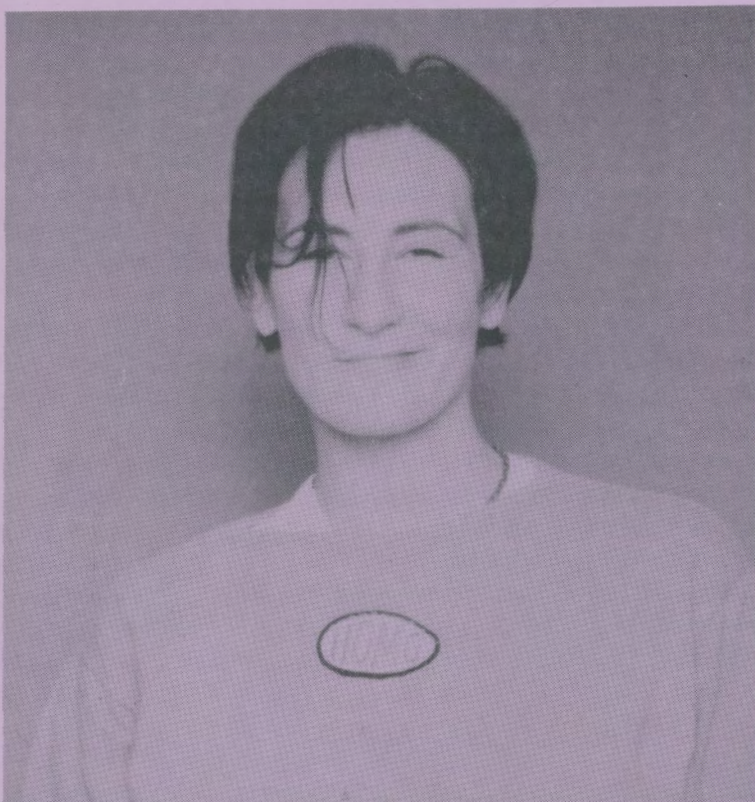
- Lesbians
- Gay Males
- Bisexuals
- Transgendered
- Our Family
- Our Friends

Other Comments:

Shawn Colvin. Colvin, who has already several highly praised CD's out, "Steady On" and Norm's fave, "Cover Girl." Colvin, who opened for Jackson Browne, has a new one, "A Few Small Repairs," out by the time you read this.

Acoustic Alchemy, the duo who opened for Bob James, has a new CD out, entitled "Arcanum."

Ashley MacIsaac debuts with Hi, How Are You Today? Sound innocuous? Hardly. This Nova Scotia native really shook things up when he opened for The Chieftains this summer, with his grunge-meets-kilt look and his wild fiddleplaying. Critics say he's doing for traditional Celtic music what rap artists have done for soul. You decide! This has been a big seller at AB CD's this summer.



Still haven't gotten over that memorable evening with k.d. lang? Well, AB CD's is stocked with this great performer's work, from her cowgirl days to her soundtrack work to her current pop music.

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WOMYN'S MUSIC, USED RECORDS AND COMICS

QUILT continued next page

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GLSTN BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

by M'Lynn Hartwell

For the lesbian teen who enjoyed a welcome summer's respite from taunts and abuse from schoolmates, going back is not, as the TV commercial parodies, "the most wonderful time of the year."

For a teen-age boy who realized this summer that he is gay, going back to school this month is not as simple as "what I did on my summer vacation."

Remember when you were the one whom they shoved in the school hallway or verbally taunted? Perhaps you were the girl who was teased in gym class for looking like a boy, or the boy who got cut from the team as the coach sarcastically humiliated you when he bellowed, you run like a girl.

GLSTN Traverse City, is asking every reader of Networking 45 Degrees North to join us in kicking off our Second Annual Back to School Campaign this September. We are encouraging adults to write personal letters to former school officials and tell them, in your own words, what it was like being lesbian or gay in their school and encourage them to do whatever they can do to make today's schools supportive and protective of homosexual youth.

The single most effective way to combat homophobia is to know a person who is lesbian or gay. Alumni who write letters put a familiar face on the struggles gay teens face in school. We will be clearly saying that this is not some outsider. I am a part of your community. This is me you are talking about! This simple concept has been a very effective tool in creating positive change in many schools. Your former educators will not be receiving some stern, preachy tome from a faceless organization, but your own heartfelt story! Your letter shows that not only does homosexuality have a face, it is a face that they know!

The numbers generally cited are alarming: Ninety-seven percent of high-school kids report regularly hearing some homophobic remark; 28 percent of gay and lesbian students drop out of school; 30 percent of all attempted suicides are by students are commonly believed to be gay, lesbian or bisexuals.

You and I can help our school officials learn how to reach our lesbian and gay youth through our personal stories. We can hold ourselves up as examples of gay students who got through it, despite the long odds and hostile surroundings. If you are uncomfortable with the idea of signing your name to the letter, I hope that you will send your letter anyway. If you were not personally victimized, but have observed a friend's victimization, it would be helpful if you would write a letter as well.

Please join GLSTN. Make Schools Safe for All of Our Children. Sample letters are available from GLSTN -Traverse City, PO Box Nine, Traverse City MI 49685 or telephone M'Lynn (GLSTN -Traverse City, co-chair) at 616 / 943-8800 for more information. Thank you!

BLANKET JUDGMENT

THE PROJECT'S FOUNDER
TELLS WHY TO MAKE AN AMERICAN QUILT

Cleve Jones

The quilt that I began in my backyard nine years ago now covers 25 acres. It's been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and the film made about it, *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt*, won an Oscar. It's been featured in *Doonesbury* and on *One Life to Live*. Tens of thousands of people have participated in creating it and six million more have come to see it worldwide. HIVaphoba Reverend Fred Phelps call it "that filthy fag blanket" and AIDS activist patriarch Larry Kramer wants it burned. It's the world's largest art project, and it's still growing.

But I had no idea how far it would go that spring day in April '87 when I spray-painted Marvin Feldman's name on a 3-by-6-foot piece of cloth. I just knew that my best friend was dead and that I missed him terribly. And that the world was ignoring the disease that killed him.

Marvin would have hated that first panel I made in his name: its spray-painted casualness was not up to his standards at all. He would have wanted something fine enough to hand in the Museum of Modern Art or Suzie Tomkin's collection at Esprit or at least the windows of Bloomingdales. Fortunately, Marvin had many friends—all more talented than I—and now he has many quilts. All but the first are beautiful.

When I started the Quilt I was searching for visible evidence of the horror that was then already so clear to me and to my friends—trying to find a way to illustrate the enormity of the AIDS crisis to the rest of the world.

I remember standing at the corner of Castro and Market streets with my friend Joseph Durant one afternoon in late November of 1985. Joseph and I were each carrying staple guns and stacks of flyers announcing the annual candlelight memorial march for Harvey Milk and George Moscone, the first gay city supervisor and the liberal mayor gunned down by ex-cop Dan White in 1978. We had paused from posting flyers to grab a slice of pizza at Marcello's and check out the *San Francisco Examiner*. The headline on the front page read: "1,000 AIDS Deaths in S.F."

Joseph and I had known many of those first thousand. We had danced with them on Pride Days and marched together in protests at City Hall, gone to school with them at City College and S.F. State, sunbathed with them at Land's End. And we had met them in the long lines of young men with anxious, worried faces coming through the doors of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

As we stood on the corner looking around us, we knew that of those first thousand, almost every one of them had lived and died within a 10-block radius of where we stood. There was no evidence we were standing at Ground Zero—no crater, no blackened ruins, no smoke or fire or flashing red lights or sirens. Just tree-lined streets of beautifully restored Victorian homes—the sound of music and the smell of coffee always in the air. "If this were just a field with a thousand corpses lying in the sunlight," I said to Joseph, "then people, would see it and understand and be compelled to respond."

A few days later, as thousands of San Franciscans gathered on the night of Milk/Moscone march, Joseph and I stacked poster board and markers on the sidewalk and asked people to print names of their friends who had died. At first people hesitated. Then a few, and finally hundreds, of people stopped and wrote a name. Some of the signs carried full names, but most only the first. Some had only initials, and a few just read "my brother" or "my lover."

We marched down Market Street as we'd always marched, carrying a silent river of candles illuminating the signs with the names of our dead. But this time we left the candles on the steps of City Hall for Harvey and George and marched another two blocks down Civic Center to the old Federal building. As the crowd surged into the Plaza, we quickly raised the ladders against the building, climbed up three stories with big rolls of tape and secured the names of the dead to the gray stone walls of the Federal building. The thousands below watched quietly as those of us on the ladders completed our task. When we had finished, the irregular patchwork of names covered almost the entire front facade of the building. There were no speeches, no songs, no chanting. The wind was damp and cold, but the crowd lingered, reading the names on the wall.

"It looks like a quilt," I said to Joseph.

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 Community Needs

(Optional First Class Mailing \$8.00)

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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.

As I spoke these words, my mind was suddenly flooded with memories of my grandmothers and great-grand-mothers and of the quilts, passed down through my family's generations, that they had sewn. Images of covered wagons and pioneer women crossing the prairies, crackling fires and warm hearths and cozy beds layered with quilts on snowy winter nights reeled by. It was, I thought, the most perfect symbol of traditional American family values, coming from the heartland of the American middle class. It was the perfect symbol for a disease that was killing the perceived stereotypical polar opposite of that heartland: Faggots and junkies and black babies.

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt was unfolded on October 11, 1987—one year after Marvin Feldman's death—at the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights. It contained 1,920 names.

In the nine years that have passed, the Quilt has changed and grown with the epidemic. Those first thousand San Franciscans to die of AIDS have been joined by 15,000 more. The Quilt panels of gay friends have been joined by panels for housewives from Michigan, New Jersey and Alberta; mine workers from South Africa and Kentucky; teenagers from Bangkok, Rio de Janeiro, Manila and Sacramento; farmers from Wales, Iowa, Uganda and Peru; office workers from Sydney, Dallas, Tokyo and Prague; soldiers from Arkansas, Israel, Thailand the Brazil; teachers from New York City, London, Bombay and Caracas; police officers from Marseilles, Berlin, Johannesburg and Los Angeles. Now there are panels for babies from Nairobi, Phoenix, Mexico City and Moscow; panels for mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, and sons and daughters of every age, race, faith and nationality.

The message has also changed and grown. From the beginning we sought to illustrate the enormity of the AIDS pandemic by revealing something of the lives behind the statistics. We have offered a positive and creative means of expression for the many different kinds of people all over the world whose lives have been invaded by HIV. And we have provided the entire world with a powerful symbol of remembrance, compassion and solidarity.

The Quilt that we will unfold on October 11, 1996, three weeks before election day, will be 20 times the size of the Quilt first unfolded in 1987. Everyday, somewhere in America, a section is revealed, comforting people deep in grief, raising money for vital services, and educating young and old about the epidemic. But the Quilt has also become a monstrous thing: Terrible evidence of the consequences of our government's failure. For 15 years the struggle against AIDS has been

sabotaged by outright bigotry, political cowardice and mind numbing stupidity from Congress and the White House. The cost of this failure is incalculable, although now measured in thousands of American lives.

The Quilt represents only a small fraction of the total dead from AIDS in our country and around the world. We unfold it in our nation's capital in 1996 for the same reason we did in 1987: To demand that the President and leaders of Congress move forward to accelerate research, educate the public and care for the sick.

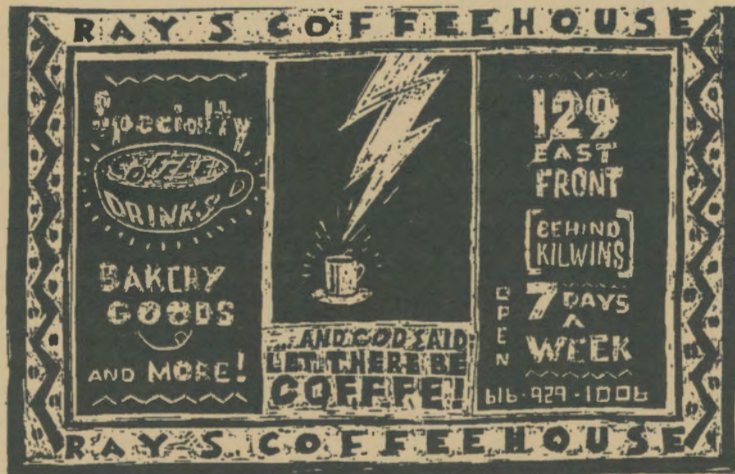
Today we live with new hope for effective treatments, vaccines and a cure. We know that the lives of tens of millions of men, women and children hang in the balance. The Quilt proclaims that all these lives are valued, that human life and love are sacred and should be cherished and defended. Within its fabric acres, we rediscover our commonality and are reminded how irrecoverably our lives are linked.

For more information or to volunteer at this October's display of the entire AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington, call 415.882.3500. For travel information and special airline and hotel rates, call 800.926.2631.

(reprinted with permission of Cleve Jones. Cleve spent some time in TC this summer and resides in Northern California)



Pictured is the display of portions of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt as seen in Traverse City High School Gym in 1991



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FEEDBACK FROM HAWAII

Aloha awakea kakou!

I just got back from attending a fundraising event in Honolulu at which Dan Foley, lead attorney in the Baehr v. Miike case (aka Same-Sex Marriage) laid out this probable time schedule:

- 1) The case is set to resume Tuesday, September 10th, and is expected to last two to three weeks.
- 2) A decision in the case should be handed down around the end of November.
- 3) Regardless of the outcome, an appeal is expected to be filed.
- 4) The appeal should be heard by August 1997
- 5) Same-Sex Marriage in Hawaii should become a reality by the end of 1997 or the early part of 1998.

This all sounds very optimistic to some. It must be remembered that Hawaii revised its Constitution at the time that the Equal Rights Amendment was being considered, and wrote the ERA into its state constitution after ratifying the same. Baehr v. Miike has been successful up until this time as it has been treating the non-issuance of marriage licenses as gender-based discrimination.

Conservatives are now arguing that marriage licenses are available to everyone who is otherwise entitled to get married. This is a true statement. A marriage license can be issued regardless of sexual orientation. They will not be issued because of the gender of a partner, however. This is how the case will succeed. It is "once-removed" discrimination akin to denying someone their voting rights because a sister is a minor, an uncle is a convicted felon or grandpa was an illegal alien.

A hui hou,
Martin

P.S.—If you haven't done so already, please donate to HERMP, the Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project. You can call 1-900-97-MARRY and donate \$5, \$10, \$15 or \$25 as many times as you would like.

COMPARING THE PLATFORMS

ABORTION DEMOCRATS

"The Democratic Party stands behind the right of every woman to choose, consistent with Roe v. Wade, and regardless of ability of pay."

REPUBLICANS

"We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children."

CRIME DEMOCRATS

"... any attempt to repeal the Brady Bill or assault weapons ban will be met with a veto. We call on the states to... guarantee that serious violent criminals serve at least 85 percent of their sentence... When young people commit serious violent crimes, they should be prosecuted like adults."

REPUBLICANS

"We will reform the Supreme Court's fanciful exclusionary rule, which has allowed a generation of criminals to get off on technicalities... We will... require adult trials for juveniles who commit adult crimes."

DISCRIMINATION DEMOCRATS

"We continue to lead the fight to end discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation... We support continued efforts... to end discrimination against gay men and lesbians..."

REPUBLICANS

"We oppose discrimination based on sex, race, age, creed or national origin ... We reject the distortion of those laws to cover sexual preference... We will attain our nation's goal of equal rights without quotas or other forms of preferential treatment."

NEW SINCE 1992...

Changes to the Democratic platform include the following:

GAY RIGHTS: The 1992 platform promised "civil rights protection for gay men and lesbians, and an end to Defense Department discrimination." The 1996 platform is similar, but does not include specific language on gays in the military.

DEB PRICE COLUMN

Clinton is out of step with progress, yet still deserves to have gays marching behind him.

With 10 simple words in 1992, Bill Clinton changed the place of gay people in American politics: "I have a vision, and you are part of it."

I couldn't have felt Clinton was speaking more directly to me if he'd been whispering in my ear. For the first time ever, a leading presidential candidate was reaching out to me, to all of us who are gay.



But four years later, it's tempting to dismiss those fine Clinton words as sweet nothings, as mere campaign froth calculated to bring in gay money and gay votes.

By this November's election, two of the most sweepingly anti-gay measures in U.S. history will likely bear the signature of the president who raised gay hopes so high. The first, signed during Clinton's clumsy freshman year as president, toughened the ban on gays in the military by turning a government policy into an actual law.

Clinton is poised to sign the second, the offensive Defense of Marriage Act, if the Senate joins the House in passing it. Intended to ensure that gay couples remain second-class citizens after Hawaii lets us wed legally, the bill would deny federal benefits to same-sex marriages and allow other states to refuse to recognize them.

Understandably, some gay voters are thoroughly convinced that what Clinton held out to us wasn't a vision but a mirage. Our sometime friend Bill deserves to be punished at the voting booth, they argue.

I must admit Clinton's words didn't have the same old magic for me when, addressing the gay Human Rights Campaign by videotape Aug. 17, he said, "When I ran for president in 1992, I told you about my vision for America - a vision you were and are very much a part of."

But what I've come to realize is that Clinton's imperfect vision isn't of paramount importance. Far more important is what we gay people can see for ourselves: His re-election will hasten the day when we'll have the same rights as other Americans, the day when we'll have not just a place at the table but an equal portion of justice.

So what we must tell President Clinton is, "We have a vision, and you are part of it. Not all, just part."

Clinton, of course, can't topple all the discriminatory barriers we gay people face. He's proven he wouldn't even if he could. Yet I can reach beyond my disappointment to support his re-election enthusiastically because he's a forward-looking transitional figure, a bridge helping move the nation from the era when presidents ignored or scapegoated us to the one when they'll fully embrace our rights.

Looking backward (the Bob Dole direction), it's encouraging to see how far our fast-paced civil rights movement has traveled in four years. When candidate Clinton was asked about gay marriage, it was a throwaway question. His negative reply sounded no alarms. Gay marriage seemed a century away. What changed was our prospects, not Clinton's stance. He's just out of step with a future that's arriving more quickly than most of us had ever dreamed.

But to give Clinton his due, he's taken dozens of actions to make this an easier country in which to be gay - from prohibiting anti-gay job bias within the civil service to declaring that security clearances won't be denied on the basis of sexual orientation to securing sizable increases in AIDS funding. Dole, hostile even to gay money, could roll back every bit of that progress.

Even our Supreme Court looks much different from four years ago. This spring a six-member majority broke with the past to hand down a landmark gay victory. That decision overturning Colorado's Amendment 2 would have swung the other way if Clinton's two appointees hadn't recognized the right of gay Americans to equal protection.

If we see Bill Clinton as the lesser of two evils, we're the ones being shortsighted. Improving the lives of gay Americans really is part of his vision. We need to keep him.

(Reprinted with permission from Deb Price of the Detroit News)

ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTS FOR UNMARRIED COUPLES

Some documents unmarried couples should consider:

WILL. Allows you to pass on property to designated beneficiaries after death, including those outside a biological or legally defined family. Also essential for assigning guardianship of minor children.

LIVING TRUST. Similar to a will, except it allows property to pass to named heirs without going through probate. A trust holds and ultimately distributes your assets to named beneficiaries.

LIVING WILL. A directive that says if death is imminent, doctors can withhold treatment if the only way to stay alive is through artificial means.

HEALTH CARE PROXY. Lets your partner speak on your behalf and make decisions during medical emergencies.

DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY. Allows your partner to handle financial matters in the event of a disability or emergency, like sign documents, pay bills or apply for benefits.

JOINT TENANCY AGREEMENT. Means you and your partner take title to property jointly and equally, and upon death, the survivor inherits the other half. With tenants-in-common, a deceased party's portion goes to whoever was named in the will or estate plan. With no will or trust, the share goes to the nearest relative.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT OR NON-NUPTIAL. Like a prenuptial, it lays out how property will be sold or divided if the relationship is dissolved.

IRREVOCABLE LIFE INSURANCE TRUST. If your estate is larger than \$600,000, you may need to purchase life insurance to handle the estate taxes upon death. Only married couples are entitled to the unlimited marital deduction. The insurance proceeds likely won't be taxed as part of the estate if the policy is bought through a trust.

INSURANCE POLICIES. Some carriers let unmarried couples buy life insurance on each other if they can prove an "insurable interest." Otherwise, you can buy a policy on yourself and name your partner as beneficiary. Many car insurers will insure a nonmarital partner as a secondary driver. With home owner and renter's insurance, marital status often doesn't matter.

BOOKS ON NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILY PLANNING

A few financial planning books for unmarried couples:

Financial Self-Defense for Unmarried Couples, by Larry M. Elkin, Doubleday paperback.

The Living Together Kit: A Legal Guide for Unmarried Couples, by Toni Ihara and Ralph Warner, Nolo Press.

A Legal Guide for Lesbian and Gay Couples, by Hayden Curry, Denis Clifford and Robin Leonard, Nolo Press.

Personal Financial Planning for Gays Lesbians, by Peter M. Berkery Jr., Irwin Professional Publishing. (available at 1-800-634-3966, ext 2411, 10am-6pm EST, M-F)

BITS & PIECES

Richard Tuxbury

FIRM LAUNCHES FUND FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS

Meyers Sheppard & Co., a money management firm based in Beverly Hills, launched the Meyers Sheppard Pride Fund a month ago to invest in companies that have formal anti-discrimination policies against gays and lesbians.

For Meyers, social change isn't her only goal. Investing in companies that treat gays and lesbians the same as other employees should be better investments. "It's indicative of strong forward-looking management team," she said.

Meyers, a 37 year-old lesbian, started Meyers Sheppard with Les Sheppard, who is gay, back in January. "Everyone wants to manage their own portfolio," she said of her reasons for leaving Boston Co. Asset Management, where she worked as an analyst and assistant portfolio manager for two years.

ALEXIS ARQUETTE TO STAR IN GAY MOVIE

Alexis Arquette has been cast as the lead in the low-budget picture "I Think I Do," opposite Guillermo Diaz and Margaret Cho, sources said Friday.

A member of the acting family that includes Rosanna, David and Patricia, Arquette's credits include "Pulp Fiction" and "Last Exit to Brooklyn."

"I Think I Do" is the tale of two former roommates who come together to form a gay couple at the wedding of their college buddies. It begins filming in the New York metro area this fall, and marks the feature film debut of writer-director Brian Sloan, a recent NYU Film School graduate.

SCIENTISTS FIND NEW EVIDENCE OF GAY GENE

Scientists have found new evidence that a gene inherited from mothers helps influence whether a man is homosexual, bolstering a study that made headlines in 1993.

"Our result says that genes are involved in male sexual orientation, although they certainly do not determine a person's sexual orientation," said Dean Hamer, an author of the study.

"There probably are other biological factors like hormones, for example, and other variables we simply don't know anything about yet."

The study follows others that have suggested a biological influence in sexual orientation, but scientists still can't explain what makes a person homosexual, heterosexual or bisexual.

The latest study does not identify a specific gene. But like Hamer's 1993 study, it suggests such a gene resides in a particular region of the X chromosome, which is inherited from their mothers.

HARVEY MILK FILM STILL POSSIBLE

The Mayor of Castro Street, an ages in-development biography of slain San Francisco politician Harvey Milk, may also

finally get made by (To Die For) director Gus Van Sant, who, ironically, was slated to direct the film years ago but dropped out during a bout of creative differences. "We never had any resistance from Warner Bros." on the subject matter, says producer Craig Zadan. "It was always just about finding the right director and cast."

OREGON ORDERED TO GIVE GAY SPOUSAL BENEFITS

A judge has ordered the state of Oregon to offer insurance benefits to the partners of gay state employees in a decision that appears to be the first of its kind in the nation.

Judge Stephen Gallagher ruled the Oregon Employees' Benefit Board violated the state constitution by denying spousal benefits to three lesbian couples who have all "enjoyed a long-term and committed relationship identical to marriage." He said the state's failure to give gays the same benefits as married, heterosexual employees amounted to discrimination.

It is expected that the state will appeal the decision.

PlanetOut: New online service caters to the gay, lesbian communities

The San Francisco company's target audience is the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Its first Web site, named PopcornQ, provides movie reviews and information. Its subtitle is "the ultimate online home for the queer moving image."

Ultimately, PlanetOut aims to provide all sorts of information, products and services over the Internet to gays and lesbians worldwide.

"We will provide everything that gay and lesbian people need but may not be able to buy in their hometown," said founder and President Tom Rielly. Outside 12 major metropolitan areas, it's hard for gays and lesbians to find what they're looking for, he said. And even if they can find it, some are afraid to be seen buying it. "This medium lets us bring the Castro to them and provides anonymity." (web address: www.popcornq.com)

GAY SENATORS OUTED IN WASHINGTON

Michael Petrelis held a news conference this week and outed three U.S. Senators, who he says are gay. They are: Mark Hatfield, Republican of Oregon; Herb Kohl, Democrat of Wisconsin; and Barbara Mikulski, Democrat of Maryland. All three are presently sitting on the fence about how they'll vote on the Defense Of Marriage Act.

The press asked why Petrelis hadn't outed Senator Larry Pressler, Republican of South Dakota. One reporter, of the New York Daily News, said that Pressler is known as "the prairie fairy."

Petrelis said that his purpose in outing the Senators was to bring attention to same-sex marriage and bigotry, and blowing the hinges off the Senate closet was a good place to start. Rev. Mel White lent his silent support to the press conference. Rev. White is currently fasting to show his concern for DOMA.

HRC CAMPAIGN 96 IN NORTH CAROLINA, The Country's Largest Gay/Lesbian Group Campaigns Against Helms

Calling Jesse Helms "an embarrassment to North Carolina," local and national leaders from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) have launched a \$220,000 persuasion and get-out-the-vote campaign targeting the state's undecided — or "swing" voters — whom they believe can be convinced to vote against Sen. Helms on November 5.

"North Carolina Campaign 96" was officially launched August 6 at receptions in Durham and Greensboro, featuring HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch and other staff members from Washington, DC and North Carolina. It is the largest expenditure that HRC has made to date in an effort to promote the election (or defeat) of a candidate.

NEWSPAPER OUTS ROSIE O'DONNELL

THE GLOBE, one of the 'sensational' papers from Florida, ran an article in its September 3rd issue describing the "marriage" relationship of actress/talkshow host Rosie O'Donnell and Michelle Blakely, star of Grease.

The article describes in detail, through interviews with friends, the nature of the relationship, which includes raising Rosie's 16 month old child and their attempt to adopt another.

Rosie is apparently quite happy in her first adult relationship which has worked for her. The couple resides in Rosie's apartment in New York and are in the process of renovating Helen Hayes' mansion just outside the city.

JAMIE NABOZNY GETS JUSTICE

A decision from the US Court of appeals for the 7th Circuit reversed a lower court ruling letting the school system off the hook. Jamie Nabozny was repeatedly harassed and assaulted because he is gay, and the Wisconsin school system would do nothing to protect him. Jamie and his parents filed suit to force the school district to change their policy, and lost in a lower court ruling earlier this year.

AUSTRIA HAS BLESSED WEDDING

Austria's first homosexual wedding took place in early September after days of controversy among Protestant clerics over whether to allow the service to go ahead. Around 100 people gathered in the Evangelical Church in Vienna's Simmering district to witness the service for the lesbian couple, the first homosexual wedding to be officially blessed by a religion.

LESBIAN AND GAY CHRISTIANS PLAN 'PRAY IN' ON CAPITOL STEPS

Tuesday, Sept. 10, gay Christians wearing black arm bands with pink triangles climb the east Capitol steps, formed into a human triangle, knelt and pray for the defeat of the 'Defense of Marriage Act.'
September 9, 1996 Washington, D.C.

For the past ten days, lesbian and gay Christians and their allies have gathered near the east Capitol steps in their "Fast for Justice." They represent thousands of clergy and laity across America who are praying and fasting with them that the anti-homosexual "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA) will be defeated and that the "Employment Non-Discrimination Act" (ENDA) will be passed. DOMA denies lesbians and gays more than 175 legal rights associated with heterosexual marriage and ENDA forbids discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation. On Tuesday, September 10, the fate of both bills is scheduled to be decided in the U.S. Senate.

"When a great injustice is about to be done," says the Rev. Dr. Mel White, spokesman for the fast, "our Jewish and our Christian prophets call us to fast and pray. The 'Defense of Marriage Act' would result in a great injustice. For the first time, Federal law is being used to make second-class-citizens out of every lesbian and gay in America. We are fasting and praying that God will change the minds and hearts of the Senators who have been taken in by the false and inflammatory anti-gay rhetoric of religious extremists like Pat Robertson and James Dobson."

During Tuesday's 12 noon vigil, lesbian and gay Christians wearing black arm bands with pink triangles will climb the east Capitol steps, form into a human triangle, kneel and pray for justice. During Hitler's Third Reich, European lesbians and gays were forced to wear a pink triangle as "enemies of the state." White, Justice Minister for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches*, compares the "Defense of Marriage Act" to Paragraph 175 of the Prussian Penal Code, the law used by Hitler in his attempts to eliminate German homosexuals.

"It's all happening again," claims White. "DOMA is just one more attempt by religious and political extremists to dehumanize and degrade homosexuals. One of the Christian Coalition's primary goals is 'to eliminate homosexuality.' DOMA helps pave their way with its inference that our love for one another is inferior, unworthy, perverse."



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**HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN**

**ELIZABETH BIRCH TO ATTEND
MICHIGAN DINNER**

Elizabeth Birch, the Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign will be a guest speaker at the Human Rights Campaign Michigan Dinner this fall.

Birch joined the Human Rights Campaign as the organization's Executive Director in January, 1995 vowing to bring new and robust marketing and communications technologies to the organization. Birch had previously served on the legal staff of Apple Computers and had been instrumental in assisting the company in recognizing and treasuring its gay and lesbian employees.

In a recent interview with *The Advocate*, the national gay and lesbian newsmagazine, President Bill Clinton named Elizabeth Birch as one of nine people in response to the question, "What gay or lesbian person has had the biggest impact on your life?"

The dinner is planned for Saturday, October 19 in the Renaissance Ballroom of the Westin Hotel in downtown Detroit. The evening will include, in addition to the dinner, a silent auction that will benefit three local Detroit area organizations and an afterglow party that is planned to go until 4:00 am. The event is a black tie optional one hundred and fifty dollar a plate dinner. For information on attending the dinner call (313) 441-7431.

Press release

**LECTURE SERIES AT NORTH CENTRAL
MICHIGAN COLLEGE**

The first lecturer is going to be Jeanie White-Ginder. She is the Mother of Ryan White who passed away from AIDS in 1990. She will be speaking in the Conference Room on the campus of North Central, October 16 at 7:00pm. Jeanie will be talking about her life with Ryan and The Ryan White Foundation. The Lecture is free to the public. For more information they can Greg at (616) 348-6706.

**FIRST-EVER GAY YOUTH
MARCH ON WASHINGTON**

On October 12, 1996 an estimated 500 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered young adults are expected to arrive at the Nation's Capital for the first-ever gay youth march on Washington. As part of the festivities planned for the 2nd Annual IYG National Youth festival, the 350 Festival participants will be joined by an estimated 150 more local youth. Together they will march on the streets of Washington DC to demonstrate that one, these youth exist, two, these youth have voices, and three their voices count.

This festival is an invaluable opportunity for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people under age 21, from all across the nation to enjoy the peer support often found by heterosexual adolescents in everyday activities. Mainstream activities such as school, sporting events, youth camps, and retreats often do not provide a safe environment for gays and lesbians to be themselves. Youth will be provided a safe place to identify with peers who have similar experiences and to have fun without fear. The weekend Festival is a direct result of the efforts of youth planners from St. Louis, Missouri, Indianapolis, Indiana and Washington, DC.

the Youth Festival is running concurrently with the 16th National P-FLAG conference, and the full display of the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt. The Festival runs from October 12, 1996. The goal is to create a supportive context for the youth to share their stories and experiences, while gaining strength, hope and support from their non-gay friends, relatives, and allies.

IYG is a non-profit agency which supports youth in gender and sexual self-discovery. In 1987 IYG was founded by Christopher Gonzalez. Nine years later IYG is considered one of the largest gay youth-serving organizations in the country. Over the last several years IYG has expanded throughout Indiana with the development of 10 different support Chapters, including: Anderson, Bloomington, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Merrillville, Muncie, South Bend, and Richmond, and expansion continues as IYG makes a name for itself nationally. On the national front, IYG is home to the first National peer-run toll-free support hotline for gay and lesbian young adults.

For information about how to register, or more information about the Festival, contact Michele O'Mara at (317) 541-8726.



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TRANSSEX MOVEMENT GROWING

'Last pariahs' demand respect, legal rights

by Carey Goldberg, *The New York Times*

LOS ANGELES-In Boston, Nancy Nangeroni is helping arrange a courthouse vigil for a slain transsexual. In Washington, Dana Priesing lobbies for laws that would ban discrimination against "transgendered" people.

And in Southern California, Jacob Hale and the rest of the local Transgender Menace chapter occasionally pull on their black Menace T-shirts and go for a group walk just to look people in the eye with collective pride in who they are.

All see themselves as part of a movement with members who are only now, nearly two decades after gay liberation took off, gathering the courage to go public and struggle for the same sort of respect and legal protections.

The name that scholars and organizers prefer for this nascent movement is "transgender," an umbrella term for transsexuals cross-dressers (the word now preferred over transvestites), intersexed people (also known as hermaphrodites), womanish men, mannish women, and anyone whose sexual identity seems to cross the line of what, in 1990s America, is considered normal.

That line has certainly blurred. Dennis Rodman preens in his bridal gown, RuPaul puckers for MAC cosmetics, and viewers flock to Movies like *The Crying Game*.

But movement members say they cannot escape the feeling that in a society grown more responsive to other minorities, they are among the last pariahs.

When they give up the old dream of simply "passing" as their desired sex, they face painful battles in everyday life and in the political arena, where they are condemned as deviants by religious conservatives and often spark controversy among more mainstream gay and lesbian groups.

Their very existence, they say, is such a challenge to gut-level ideas about a person's sex as an either-or category—as reflected in everything from binary bathrooms to "he" and "she" pronouns—that they are often subjected to scorn, job bias and violence.

"There's finally a voice saying, 'Enough,'" said Riki Anne Wilchins, a Wall Street computer consultant and movement organizer.

"We pay taxes. We vote. We work. There's no reason we should be taking this. When you have people in isolation who are oppressed and victimized and abused, they think it's their own fault, but when... they see it happening to other people, they realize it's not about them. It's about a system, and the only way to contest a system is with an organized response.

As many as 60,000 Americans consider themselves valid candidates for sex-change surgery, based on what psychiatrists call "gender identity disorder" reports the Harry Benjamin Gender Dysphoria Association.

But that is only the tip of a far larger iceberg organizers say, of cross-dressers—many of whom are heterosexual men—and people who live as the opposite sex but never undergo surgery.

The movement's growth, however, is easy to discern. Scores of participants rallied as part of a new advocacy group called Gender PAC for the first time in Washington last fall and plan to do the same in May, and transgender conventions now draw hundreds and number nearly 20 a year.

The movement's coalescence, which members say began over the last five years and recently accelerated, has gained particular momentum from

the Internet, which connects far-flung people and affords them a sense of safety.

On-line groups that began by swapping tips on using makeup and obtaining hormones now also spread word of the latest victims of violence and the next protest.

But "the fundamental building block of the whole movement," said Dr. Barbara Warren of the Gender Identity Project at New York City's Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, "is the willingness of transgender folk to put themselves out there."

SCOTT continued from back page

all the people at Sugar Loaf - they may not have heard all the information but they probably assumed everyone was gay and could picture them as real people. Friends North has been a social organization as long as I have known it and I think that social aspect can be our route to activism."

The subject of a place to hang out came up, the bar being the only place right now.

"I go over there after work occasionally. And it is usually fairly quiet except on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.. And it seems to me that it could be used as a center by having a non-music night - a coffee bar on certain nights of the week. I would be more likely to go over there to not have a drink during the week. But there's nobody there as it is now. I would like to go and know that some of my friends would meet there. "

Besides working at Tender Care and gardening this summer, Scott has been regular in his weight training which he does at the TC Gym.

"I like to get up at 8 and have coffee. At 9 I have a bowl of cereal or something. At 10 I go to the gym, and I work out for an hour or an hour and a half and when I come back I do my errands and chores or whatever and go to work at 2:30.

"Gardening and weight-lifting have been the main things this summer. But this spring I was threatening Florida big time. I even had someone come in to appraise the house. I was putting it on the market and leaving for Florida. Last winter was a terrible one for many reasons: work, relationship and snow. I decided, though, to stay and be more active. Last winter the only winter activity I did was shoveling. It was not exciting. I'm going to get more involved with winter activities."



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PROFILE: SCOTT SOUTHWELL

John Evans

As I approached Scott's house I noticed a new garden had been dug out along the east side of the walk.

"I did the bed alongside the walk during cherry festival - dug it out by hand with a shovel!" Scott explained. And I recalled the beautiful garden he had in the backyard of his house in Marquette, where we first met. At the time Scott was a nurse on the oncology unit of Marquette General Hospital.

A graduate of Indian River High School Scott went to Northern Michigan University where he got a degree in English with a minor in mathematics.

"I student-taught for six weeks and didn't like that at all. I was too young and I didn't want to be teaching people my own age. Now I could do a better job teaching... probably if I did it over I would be an elementary school teacher... they're still teachable."

After graduation Scott took a year off and got a job at the hospital washing dishes.

"... Which is how I became a nurse! I worked there about six months and then applied to nursing school. I had an interview with the dean of nursing. There was really no problem getting in (I had good grades) until the last question of the interview: Why do you want to be a nurse? 'Well,' I said, 'I work at the hospital now and I have to wear white and I think I look very good in white, but I don't want to wash dishes for the rest of my life.' And she laughed, and she let me in. And to this day I can't think of a better reason. I'm a good caretaker."

Scott got his nursing degree in 1987 and worked at Marquette General for five years during which time he also worked part time in the doctors' office.

"Working oncology is my vicarious death experience. I get it over and over. It teaches me how important it is to enjoy your life as it is right now all the time."

In the course of his work on the seventh floor of Marquette General, Scott met Joe Bertucci (who has been profiled in these pages some months ago). At the time Joe was taking care of a person with AIDS named Earl and needed help.

"It was a 24-hour care job. Being a nurse and a good care giver I was able to take up some of the slack. We became a little family of three, and Earl and Joe moved into my home six months before Earl died."

After this stressful period of time, coupled with several severe Upper Peninsula winters, Scott and Joe began to think "Florida". But the job search only took them as far south as Traverse City. So far, so good! Scott sold his home in Marquette and purchased the one they now occupy, which happens to be within shouting distance of Side Traxx!

"I didn't know that. It was a surprise when I moved in!"

Right!

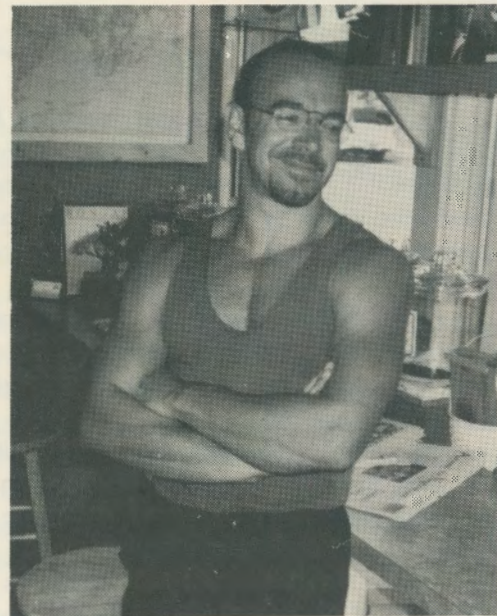
The job that Scott landed was with the hospice program based at Munson Medical Center.

"I worked there a year and then I took a promotion to management in private duty, but I didn't care for managing."

Scott left Munson last summer to take care of Jim Carruthers' grandmother in her summer home out on the Old Mission peninsula

and then took a job in August with Tender Care where he is still on staff.

"I like caregiving. When I left the hospital in Marquette I went into a management role at the hospice up there for a year. Then down here the position I had at hospice was actually coordinating direct care, and then I went to the management position which was only managing



people. Then I went to Tender Care and I worked for about six weeks in direct care, and I enjoyed that and then took a promotion to management because I have that ability and did that for six months and really didn't care for that at all, not at all fulfilling. Then I went back to a staff position in April of this year... someone said 'You know Scott you're the only one I know who is studiously climbing DOWN the ladder.'"

We got on the subject of coming out and family. Scott has seven brothers and sisters. He is the third oldest.

"My oldest brother and three sisters I'm close to and they are open about it. The only bad coming out experience I've ever had is with my parents. That was eight years ago and they still don't talk. There's a lot of fear there... I was the star child - good grades, well-behaved, went to college, got a good job, could make something of myself and I turned out queer."

Scott's first realization of his gayness began when he got to college. His acceptance of it didn't occur until he was a senior and had a relationship with a classmate.

About a year after Scott moved here he was elected to the board of Friends North and soon after that took over the duties of treasurer from Gretchen Sauvage.

"I see Friends North always trying to define itself: Are we a social group or are we an activist group? Are we something in between? It really depends on the composition of the board. Over time we should just kind of relax and be what we are. My own belief - I don't carry placards - I've got my rainbow sticker - don't get me wrong - and it's on my new truck! The way to change the world is to live your life the way you would if the world were right and influence people. I'm out at work... I used to be shy, but I'm over that!"

We discussed the effect of Friends North on the community.

"The bike tour brought 120 queers to Leelanau County. That's better than a demonstration. I think it impacts people lives more directly. They get a picture of who we are more than if we had a demonstration somewhere. The picnic at the Robb's was wonderful... the history and education day at Sugar Loaf. It impacted

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