

# NETWORKING 45° NORTH

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

APRIL 1999

## Board Announces Event Calendar and Goals for Remainder of 1999 and Beyond

Event plans include favorites and new events

Although 1999 is nearing the halfway point, Friends North members have already seen some of the events from the Board. This is only the tip of the iceberg; the Board has planned to add new events to this year's calendar.

### Returning Favorites

Events returning this year include big events like the Pride Celebration (see related story this pg.) and the Bike Tour. The Annual Sledding Party was held in late February, and the Autumn Hike will once again happen in the fall.

The Bike Tour this year will be held in a different but equally beautiful location. The Bike Tour Committee is working to improve on the already stellar experience this event brings to its participants.

Although the Board had hoped to bring back the History and Education Day and establish it as a semi-annual event, funding and participation have so far been difficult to obtain. The Annual Harvest Dinner will also not be held this year; instead, the Board is working on sponsoring a "Sunday Matinee" at a local movie theater.

The Annual High Tea received a facelift this year. The High Tea was a return to the traditional high tea of England, complete with china cups and saucers, linen napkins and tablecloths, and five courses of food from finger sandwiches to desserts (see related story pg. 4).

### Upcoming New Events

This past March, Friends North brought back a traditional event of times past: the Den Dance. The Dance was well attended, and the Board is looking into having more dances in the future.

Other new events include the Mackinac Island outing (see related story this pg.) and a winter holiday party, a nondenominational, non-religion-specific gathering to celebrate the various holidays in December. The Board is also working on a canoeing trip for September.

### Mission Statement and Goals

At a retreat in February, the Board defined a clear mission statement and a set of goals for Friends North. The

See "Board..." pg. 6

## Mackinac Island Trip Planned for May

Friends North is planning a bike/fun weekend on Mackinac Island, May 22-23, 1999. The event is still in the planning stages, but the event coordinator is checking on a discounted room rate at Mission Point Resort for those who would like to add a Saturday night sleepover on the Island to their trip. A time will be scheduled on Saturday for a bike ride around the Island (7 miles total) and then maybe dinner at Horn's bar (including music and dancing). This will be a fun weekend for all who want to get away. Biking, shopping, sightseeing, tours of historic sites, basically playing "Fudgie" for a day or a weekend. Participants are responsible for their own transportation and expenses, and Friends North encourages carpooling if possible. Friends North is not planning to charge anything, as the organization is only coordinating this function. A flier with more details will be sent out in April. Interested parties can also contact Tim at 941-8987 or via e-mail (TCTimber@aol.com).

## Pride Celebration Planned for June 26

This year's plans for the Friends North GLBT Pride Celebration should bring the celebration a little closer to Traverse City.

The Pride Celebration Committee has applied to the Grand Traverse Commons Board for permission to use part of the old State Hospital grounds for this year's celebration of GLBT pride. Plans currently include a DJ, a live band, hiking, volleyball, bicycling, food, merchants, and (of course) dancing.

"We're aware that some people may feel the Commons is too public a place for their comfort levels," said a member of the Pride Celebration Committee, "but we've checked out the area and we feel that we've found a good spot to hold the festivities."

The Committee is also looking to bring in a guest speaker. More details will be released as events and participants are finalized.

## New Web Site Address!

<http://welcome.to/friends.north>

## New E-mail address!

[friendsnorth@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsnorth@hotmail.com)

# FRIENDS NORTH

AN ASSOCIATION OF GAY MEN, LESBIANS, BISEXUALS, TRANSGENDERED, AND THEIR FRIENDS

**The mission of Friends North of Michigan, Inc. is to provide social, educational, and support activities and opportunities for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered communities in northern Michigan.**

*Networking 45° North* is the newsletter of Friends North of Michigan, Inc. For information, write to Friends North at this address:

PO Box 562  
Traverse City, MI 49685-0562  
Northern Michigan Help Line 616-946-1804  
Web site <http://welcome.to/friends.north>  
E-mail [friendsnorth@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsnorth@hotmail.com)

Viewpoints expressed in *Networking* do not necessarily represent those of the Board of Trustees or the general membership.

Friends North of Michigan, Inc. is an association of gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered, and their friends from northwestern lower Michigan, centered in Traverse City. Friends North provides social activities, a newsletter, an information line, workshops, a web site, and a scholarship fund for financial assistance.

Friends North's Board of Trustees is elected each December. Regular Board meetings are held at Grace Episcopal Church, at the corner of Washington and Boardman in Traverse City, at 6:30 PM on the first Tuesday of every month except August. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Friends North in writing ahead of time if you have an item for the agenda.

The Friends North Newsletter Committee is responsible for the publication of *Networking 45° North*.

Newsletter Committee Chair/Editor  
Alan Williams ([photonex@hotmail.com](mailto:photonex@hotmail.com))

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Contributions to *Networking* are welcome. Letters, essays, features, reflections, poetry, original artwork, etc. should be sent to *Networking 45° North*, PO Box 562, Traverse City MI 49685-0562 (or [friendsnorth@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsnorth@hotmail.com)). *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. Please include your name, address, and a phone number where you can be reached. If you would like your contribution to be printed anonymously, please let us know.

Address Changes should be sent in advance. Please contact Friends North at the above address.

Subscriptions/Memberships are \$15/single or \$25/couple. Please send checks or money orders to the above address. Complementary subscriptions are also available.

Distribution: *Networking* is sent via bulk mail in a plain envelope to subscribers. Additional copies are available at select local establishments.

## From The Editor

Welcome to the first 1999 issue of *Networking 45° North*. To paraphrase Mark Twain, the reports of *Networking's* demise have been greatly exaggerated.

*Networking* is where it is today thanks to the efforts of many people who have invested time and effort over the years to keep the newsletter going and keep it in the public eye. It's very difficult to thank everyone who's worked on the newsletter, and a mere thank-you is hopelessly inadequate for all the people who've put up to a decade's worth of blood, sweat, and tears into *Networking*.

Current plans for *Networking* include a schedule of publishing on "odd" months, beginning with a new issue around the end of May. To help us achieve that goal, we need you—the community—to help us by submitting articles, poems, letters, etc. *Networking 45° North* has always been a newsletter not only of and for, but also by, the GLBT community. We (the Newsletter Committee and the Friends North Board) hope that you will join us in keeping *Networking* community-based.

Community involvement is important in any organization, and getting the community involved is something the Friends North Board has been working on for the past year and a half. Although the Board goes to a great deal of trouble to plan events, those events aren't successful unless you attend them—and without feedback from you, the Board can't tell whether it's doing a good job. And there are two very good places to direct your feedback: to the Board itself (in writing or in person), or to *Networking*.

Community involvement created the institutions of Friends North and *Networking 45° North*. I hope that you, the members and allies of the GLBT community, will see fit to keep both institutions alive with your involvement.

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# From the President

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## Kirk Mallow

The usual Easter dinner with the family: getting caught up on what everyone is doing (and their plans for the summer), and after gorging ourselves on the traditional ham and deviled eggs, we sit around the table and talk. It's you average northern Michigan family; I love them all, and they love me.

But not once did the crisis in Kosovo come up—not one mention of the hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children being forced from their homes out into the cold, with no food, clothing, or transportation, forced to walk hundreds of miles, many being killed for resisting. No mention of whole families whose written records of identification were destroyed. No mention of people who were being forced out because they were "different."

Is it that easy to forget about something as horrifying as genocide, ethnic cleansing, extermination—wholesale execution of human beings—because they are different? Is it that easy to overlook it, forget it, or turn the other way? It is if you've never

experienced it first hand. It's very easy to turn the other way if you've never had your life threatened, lost your job, been exiled from your family—all because you're "different."

It's easy to turn away if you live in northern Michigan and you aren't gay.

I'm not slamming my family at all—they're some of my biggest advocates—I'm just using them as an example of a typical family, and how easy it is to overlook the pain and suffering of so many people, not just in Kosovo or the United States, or even in Michigan, but right in your home town.

My biggest hope is that when the crisis in Kosovo is over, the families in your home town—in Michigan—in the United States—in the entire world—will say, "Enough is enough! This insanity must stop. It's okay to be different."

I can only hope.

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## Letters

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A bill that has been introduced to the Michigan State House that would allow discrimination based on marital status.

As I understand it, State House Representative Clark Bisbee, (Jackson) introduced Michigan House Bill #4258. The bill is worded such that people could be denied housing and public accommodations on the basis of marital status. Same-sex couples are already on the short end of this bill's stick, since same-sex couples cannot legally marry in Michigan; however, this bill would also affect over three million unmarried heterosexuals in Michigan. It is believed this bill is a response to the December 1998 Michigan Supreme Court ruling on the Elliott-Larson case, which made it illegal to discriminate against anyone based on marital status.

I encourage you to contact your State House Representative and voice your opinion.

### Proud Mother of Gay Son

On December 19, 1966, my husband and I welcomed (adopted) into our home a handsome son at the age of 3½ months. As this young boy grew into a young man, he was someone you could always be proud of. When he was a teenager, his father became very ill, and as he was the oldest son, I relied on him a lot, as he was always there, saying "Mom, everything will be okay." His love for the whole family (young and old) was always extended.

At the age of 28, he came to see us just before Christmas and said he had something very important to tell us. He proceeded to tell us he was gay and had been for many years. Of course, this set

us back on our heels and made me take a deep breath, and as a mother, I had to think very quickly to myself, *Okay, how do I handle this?* I knew my love for him had not changed and wouldn't. Going through my head was, *How will his father, brothers, sister, grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, and friends handle this? What do I have to face now to have the family greet him as I still do, as he hadn't changed?* We had a week of big understanding with the family, but it was much easier than I thought. Now he is the same person as always. The most loving son or person a parent or anyone else could ever ask for. He has a wonderful partner of whom we think very highly and welcome into our home, and we are proud to go to their home.

The four of us do a lot of things together for dinner, concerts, rides, walks, family functions, and we plan on doing many more. We wouldn't miss any of it.

We, as parents, are very proud of him. We know he has many issues he wants changed for all of you, and the changes will come.

God bless each and every one of you. You all are an important part of this earth and have contributed very much—just as much as our son Kirk has.

Got something to say? Send it to "Letters" at *Networking 45° North*, PO Box 562, Traverse City MI 49685-0562 (or [friendsnorth@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsnorth@hotmail.com)). Please include an address and telephone number where we can contact you, and please indicate whether you would like your name to be included with your letter.

new mission statement reads:

*The mission of Friends North of Michigan, Inc. is to provide social, educational, and support activities and opportunities for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered communities in northern Michigan.*

The Board felt it important to revise and clarify the previous mission statement to present both the GLBT community and the community at large with a well-defined description of Friends North's purpose.

The Board laid out one- and five-year goals. The one-year goals focus on strengthening Friends North and its relationships with other GLBT organizations in the area through improved communication, increased Board accessibility, expanded outreach efforts, and more activities for the Friends North and the GLBT community in general.

Among the five-year goals are the establishment of a GLBT community center and central Friends North office, the creation of satellite groups in other northern Michigan locations, and increased networking with existing organizations.

## Annual High Tea a Success

### Event well attended despite bad weather

46 guests attended this year's annual High Tea on April 11, despite howling winds, snow, and white-out conditions on some roads. Attendees came from at least as far as Grayling.

The High Tea Committee chose to make this year's event more like traditional high teas from Victorian England. The menu was a five-course meal that of tea nuts, finger sandwiches (four kinds), scones, a fruit arrangement, and a pastry dessert served with its own "dessert tea." Guests were treated to music and readings, and served at tables adorned with flower baskets. Many door prizes were given away as well. A full write-up of the event will appear in next month's *Networking*.

## Ask Mother

Welcome to a fresh idea for *Networking*—an advice column! Of course, for this to work, everyone needs to go off their medication and stop seeing their therapists.

Let me start by introducing myself. I'm THE MOTHER, a nickname given to me many, many, *many* years ago by a larger-than-life drag queen, the bodacious Beulah! We lived together in a house filled with chaos. Ah, the memories . . . party, party, party! It taught me many things which I now feel the need to pass on (no, it's not a case of the vapors).

I would like to use this new column not only to help with advice, but also to give the community a voice. What do you want, and how can we (Friends North) help you achieve those desires? What do you think of the community at large? What are the issues that affect you? How can we help? What ideas do you have for *fabulous* social functions? I want to listen to you!

I hope you'll enjoy this addition to *Networking*. I'm always looking for feedback. The community and I need to grow, so let's move forward together.

Write to "Ask Mother" at *Networking 45° North*, PO Box 562, Traverse City MI 49685-0562.



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# PERSPECTIVES

## The Transgendered

Gwen Larson

It is currently thought that a delicate balance of hormones, tipped slightly during early growth, combines with external factors to contribute to the personality traits of the transgendered individual. These persons share the need for outward expressions of their preferred gender in some combination of ways, described later: Female Impersonator (FI), Transvestite (TV), Transsexual (TS), or Transgendered (TG).

Members of the transgendered community share a strong desire to dress, at least periodically, in the clothes of the opposite sex, and to act out or even live that role to one extent or another. It is worth noting that the expression "one's preferred gender" has nothing to do with one's sexuality. Members of the transgendered community may be straight, gay/lesbian, bisexual, or asexual. In this way, they are the same as society at large.

Unfortunately, certain elements of society feel threatened by any departure from the "normal" gender roles and often react negatively. As a result, some members of the TG community try to rid themselves of their "T" feelings. However, even the most dedicated effort cannot eliminate the deep-rooted feelings. This leads to frustration and depression. Fearing ridicule or worse from friends, family, acquaintances, and society at large, these people often go to great lengths to hide their "secret lives." This only develops greater feelings of isolation, guilt, and inadequacy.

The transgendered community comprises only a small percentage of our society. Current research suggests that around one percent of the population are transgendered. We come from all walks of life: husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters are all represented. The TG

community proudly includes a wide range of occupations: doctors, lawyers, engineers, police officers, secretaries, and craftspeople. Transgender feelings know no sexual, social, or economic boundaries.

It is believed that there are roughly equal numbers of male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals and transgenderists. However, there are probably far fewer female transvestites. As genetic females have greater freedom to dress as they desire, cross-dressing presents fewer problems for them. Most women who wear men's clothes do so for style and are not trying to emulate the total male persona. Many male TVs do try to personify the total woman from their inner feelings to their outer appearances. One reason for this difference may be society's rigid code of behavior for males. Men are not allowed to have what are considered "feminine" attitudes, activities, or emotions, so they have no outlet for a wide range of expression.

The TG community includes a broad spectrum of lifestyle solutions for those who feel discordance between their genetic sex and their preferred gender. All of the following lifestyles fall under the general heading of what other people refer to as Cross-Dressers (CDs). As one TG community member aptly describes the difference, "sex is between your legs, but gender is between your ears." With that in mind, here is a brief introduction to some of the TG lifestyle solutions:

Female Impersonators (sometimes referred to as Drag Queens) are primarily entertainers. FIs may be transgendered or simply skilled male actors who are likely comfortable with their genetic sex. Talent, not gender preference, is the main issue for FIs in their quest for the professional entertainment spotlight.

Transvestites are people who, at some level, feel personality traits not always associated with their genetic


See "Transgendered" pg. 6

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## Transgendered

continued from pg. 5

sex. TVs address these feelings by periodically adopting clothing and demeanor different from their ordinary gender role. TVs have no desire to permanently alter their physical appearance and seeks only occasional expression of a typically unseen part of their personality.

*Transsexuals* likely feel that they have always had the mind of one sex and the body of the other. In fact, medical and mental health professionals favor the term "brain sex" to describe the innermost feelings regarding one's sexual identity. Professionals now recognize the futility of efforts to reconcile transsexuals' brain sex with their genetic sex through psychotherapy. As a result, the TS seeks hormone therapy and sexual reassignment surgery (SRS) to permanently correct nature's mistake.

*Transgenderists*, like transsexuals, dress and live in gender roles different from that which their genetic sex might indicate. TGs often seek hormone therapy to assist in the new role. However, unlike transsexuals, TGs do not desire SRS to "become" members of the opposite sex. The TG lifestyle is now recognized as perfectly viable, fitting in the transgendered spectrum somewhere between transvestites and transsexuals.

People with "T" feelings have struggles that are very difficult to face alone. Fortunately, in recent years, members of the transgendered community are seeking support groups to help each other develop a positive self-image, share experiences, and reach out to others with the same feelings.

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Mark Lizenby

For information regarding the Friends North Gender Society meetings (held the third Saturday of each month), call the Northern Michigan Help Line (616-946-1804) or send e-mail to [GwenChrist@aol.com](mailto:GwenChrist@aol.com).

## If Men Are from Mars and Women Are from Venus, How Do We Keep the Planets Conjoined?

Sheryl Layton

This thought has been on my mind for months now. I brought it up at our Friends North Board retreat. We were dreaming and writing down our goals and visions for our community. One of my visions is to keep our little world in unity, to ensure that our community doesn't divide. I've lived in large and small cities both. It seems that the larger cities have a separate male and female gay community. All gay groups begin small and naturally grow as our general population does. Why does it have to happen that the men and women separate?

I'm hoping that it doesn't happen here in Traverse City. We certainly are in a growing community. I've been in contact with two different lesbian couples that are in the process of relocating here this spring. These are exciting and growing times here in all ways for our society. All sorts of controversies pop up as we

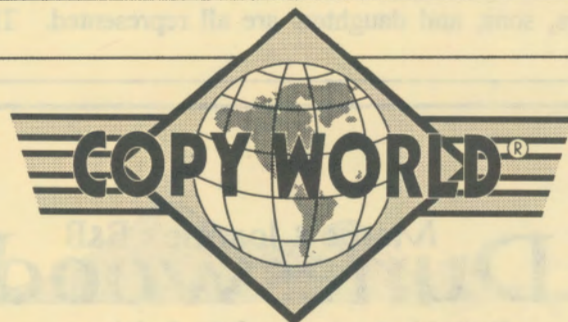
See "Mars and Venus" pg. 7

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# 1999 Friends North Bike Tour

- When:** Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1999
- Where:** On 15 acres of private land in beautiful Benzie County! Tents & campers welcome!
- Route:** Varied length routes starting with a 10 Mile to a 90 Mile for all levels of interest and ability throughout Benzie County, around magnificent Crystal Lake and Lake Michigan. Maps will follow in future mailings!
- Schedule:**  
**Friday** – Arrivals, dinner on own  
**Saturday** – Start with a continental breakfast (provided), then your choice of bike routes (or if you aren't interested in biking, we will have information on other adventures such as canoeing!) Lunch will be at your desired location along your activity route, then we will all gather for a fabulous dinner (details to follow in future mailings). Following dinner, we will then gather around campfires for smores, friendships, and fun!  
**Sunday** – Continental breakfast (provided), followed by optional biking and other activities at your leisure.
- Cost:** \$80 per person for the full weekend (\$60 per person if you register prior to May 15, 1999), which includes breakfast for (2) days, dinner Saturday, T-shirt, and necessary improvements for the campground, including fresh, clean, porta-johns and trash bins!  
 Discounted Rate (for limited funds): \$35.00 per person  
 Dinner Rate (for those interested in joining for dinner Saturday only): \$25.00 per person
- Questions:** Please contact Joe MacQuarrie, e-mail: [jmkokopeli@aol.com](mailto:jmkokopeli@aol.com) , or call at (616) 223-4317, home number, leave a message and I will return your call!

We are very excited to offer this wonderful event to everyone interested! As you have noticed there are many changes this year that are very exciting! Be sure and watch for more information on this and some of the other exciting events your Friends North Board have planned for you in the first exciting issue of the new Friends North newsletter, due out in April!

- Upcoming Events:** March 13, Den Dance 8pm-12M, TC Holiday Inn (*This Saturday!*)  
 April 11, High Tea  
 May 22, Mackinac Island Trip  
 June 26, Pride Day!

Below is your registration form, please fill out in full, sign, and send it in as soon as possible:

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**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle Shirt Size:** M L XL

**Emergency Contact Person (not on the tour):**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if staying in a hotel:

Check here if amount enclosed is for limited funds:

Check here if amount enclosed is for Dinner attendance Saturday night only:

Check here if you are including an extra \$15 for (1) years membership to Friends North (\$25 cpl)

Enclose check or money order payable to Friends North and send to:  
 Friends North Bike Tour, P.O. Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685

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

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Riders registering after 7/10/99 are not assured a t-shirt. Cancellations made prior to 7/1/99 will receive ½ of the original donation. After 7/1/99, no refunds will be made.

\* Please contact to receive a parental consent form if under the age of 18.

endure our growing pains. I believe our community can only be healthy and balanced if we have both male and female perspectives. Is this possible? I think so. I hope so.

What are some ways for us to ensure that there is no division as we grow? I don't have the answers, but I do have a dream. How about a gay community center? A central place for all our activities. AA and Al-Anon could hold recovery meetings for gay and lesbian members at this community center. Perhaps the Metropolitan Community Church or some other GLBT-oriented (or even just GLBT-friendly) congregation could hold services there. We could even have a central location for counseling needs and a GLBT hotline. Out 'n' About meetings, Common Voices meetings, Friends North events—all could be held there. Possibly even Windfire and PFLAG could join us in this community center. Our transgendered group, the Friends North Gender Society, would have a safe and comfortable place to meet. The Friends North Board could hold its meetings there, and we could have a centrally-located computer for the Board and the Newsletter.

I think we can have unity. We need each other's perspective. We will have to work at it. If we don't, our differences will have a gravitational pull and we will wind up like other cities where Mars and Venus are planets apart. Let's have active dialog on this so that we can ensure the health and balance of our precious future.

**Adopt-A-Highway Dates**

This year's Adopt-A-Highway pickup dates are April 28, July 21, and September 29. If you can help clean our adopted stretch of M-31, contact Friends North for more details.

**Recipes**

**Low fat & easy to make Banana Bread**

**Ingredients**

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 8-oz. package low fat cream cheese, softened
- 3 ripe bananas, mashed
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon (optional)
- 2 cups low fat Bisquick
- ½ cup chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream sugar and cream cheese until fluffy. Blend in mashed bananas, eggs and vanilla. Add cinnamon, Bisquick, and nuts. Grease loaf pan and bake 1 hour. You can dust with powder sugar or frost with butter cream frosting. Your friends will love it!

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# SNIPPETS...

## Sledding Party a Blast

Tim Schmidt

The 1999 Sledding Party and Chili Cook-off was a great success. We had approximately 40 people in attendance. Some came from as far away as Bay City! Good times were shared playing cards, board games or just visiting by the roaring fire. Winter kicked in high gear for the day, giving us about nine inches of snow to help set the winter mood. The food was, as usual, excellent and in abundance! Our reigning Chili Queen, Tim, passed on his crown to Wendy and Susan with their "Two Dykes and a Dog" chili winner. Congratulations on great chili, girls! It was a great winter gathering and we will continue to do this every year!

## First Den Dance in Years a Success

Joe C. MacQuarrie

What a success! I was very excited to plan the Den Dance right from the start! The event took place on Saturday, March 13, at the Traverse City Holiday Inn. At first I was concerned at this being the first Den Dance in years, and how the attendance would be. I did not have to worry, as we had 77 people attend!

We started the evening off at 8pm with dance music provided by a talented local DJ, some tasty snacks, and a cash bar. Unfortunately, I missed most of the night due to a little "mishap" of breaking my leg early in the evening! I did have the opportunity to talk with quite a few people prior, though. I noticed there were quite a few people from out of town who were very enthusiastic to have something of this caliber to get involved with. In talking with several sources, everyone had a great time and danced on into the night.

I have received several e-mail messages and phone calls telling me how great everything was, along with some great ideas about future Den Dances. Among the calls was one from the

Traverse City Holiday Inn, saying that the staff that night reported we were the most fun and happy group they have had in a long time, and that we are welcome back whenever we would like to do it again! With the great turnout, all of the positive feedback from the attendees, and a big welcome back from the Traverse City Holiday Inn, I am sure I will be planning another Den Dance in the near future. Maybe I will even get to fully attend and dance at the next one!

## "Celebration of Northern Men" Set for May

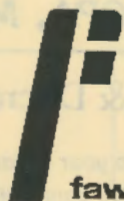
SAULT STE. MARIE—Three health providers to gay and bi men in northern Michigan have announced their sponsorship of a special social event. "The Northern Men's Party" will include a stage/floor show of adult male entertainers, professionally DJed dance music, catered food, door prizes, displays, and video viewings.

This BYOB gala is slated for May 1, 1999 at the Hamilton Inn Select in Mackinac City. Dancing will get under way around 9 p.m. and continue through to 2 a.m. the following day. The male performers will appear for their 2+ hour shows on Saturday night. For security purposes, admission will be by ticket only. Tickets must be obtained by April 19, and shown before entering the hotel's private third-floor conference area. There is a nominal charge of \$5.00 (U.S.) per person. Financial underwriting for the event has been secured by its sponsors. Attendance will be limited to 200.

Tickets are obtainable from local distributors in various northern Michigan communities, or by contacting any of the organizers: Larry Kline of the Sault Tribe Health Center at 906-632-5265, Dick Howland of HIV/AIDS Network & Direct Services (Petoskey) at 888-526-9213, or Dan Doran of the Lambda Wellness Clinic at 906-635-9263.

For revelers preferring not to travel immediately after the part, rooms are available at a special "Northern Men Group Rate" of \$50 per night. Reservations may be made by telephoning the Hamilton Inn Select at 616-436-5493. The Inn features a spacious pool, a spa, and a breakfast bar for guests.

Businesses, agencies, and organizations are invited to set up displays and tables for handouts. There will be no charge to exhibitors. To make arrangements, one of the organizers should be contacted well in advance. The goal of this event is to promote the personal well-being of, and social connections among, gay/bi men in the northern sections of the state. Materials displayed and distributed at the party must accord with its purpose. Anonymous and confidential HIV saliva testing will be offered without charge at the event.



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FAX (616) 947-6497

## Book Lovers' Corner

### *Into the Wild* by John Krakauer Paperback, 207 pages (Anchor, ISBN 0385486804)

Dianne Johnson-Doak

I'm not sure which is more eerie: the fact that the main character of the book, Christopher McCandless, gave more than \$25,000 of his savings to charity, burned what little cash he was carrying in an Arizona desert and set off on a trek into the Alaskan wilderness with nothing but a small knapsack of provisions and no Alaskan weather gear; or the fact that John Krakauer spent more than a year retracing of this once-well-to-do twentysomething to an abandoned bus in the Alaskan wilderness.

The book began as an article for *Outside* magazine and so captured Krakauer's sense of curiosity that he researched McCandless's journey from Atlanta, GA, to Houston, TX, to Arizona (where he abandoned his beloved 1982 Datsun B210), to Oregon, to California, to McCandless's decision to hike into Alaska's interior. Krakauer follows McCandless's path by reading journals, researching correspondence between McCandless and the people he hitched rides with or stayed with along his trek.

It is obvious that Krakauer has found a soul mate in the wanderlust of Chris McCandless, a man he never met. There is such passion relayed through his words, to the point of obsession at times. Plus Krakauer interjects his own experiences of hiking Alaska's interior. It is a bizarre story where Krakauer tries to get inside of the heart and soul of Chris McCandless, and eerie as it is, he succeeds.



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Join Friends North or renew your membership today! Just \$15 per single membership or \$25 for a couple.

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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box if you are unable to contribute the full membership amount and would like to be considered for a reduced-rate or complimentary membership.

Mail this form and your check to Friends North • PO Box 562 • Traverse City, MI 49685-0562 • Attn: Memberships

*Friends North's membership list is strictly confidential, and mail from Friends North is sent in plain envelopes.*

# CLASSIFIEDS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

All classified advertisements and announcements are run free of charge. Please submit your ads and announcements in writing to *Networking* by either postal mail (PO Box 562, Traverse City MI 49685-0562) or e-mail (friendsnorth@hotmail.com).

## Classifieds

### ROOM FOR RENT

Looking for discreet renter. Room with bath, \$55/week plus utilities. Call 258-4065 before 9:00 PM.

### LOOKING FOR ROOM TO RENT

Nonsmoking male looking for room to rent in house or apartment with other nonsmoker. Alan, 883-3699. Call anytime.

## Ongoing Announcements

### QUESTIONS ABOUT HIV AND AIDS?

Call locally (616-947-1110) 24 hours a day. This program is sponsored by the HIV/AIDS Wellness Networks—Grand Traverse Area and is staffed by Third Level Crisis Center.

### REPORT HATE CRIMES!!

Call the Triangle Foundation at 1-888-442-9287.

### GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The GTCHD's Reproductive Health Clinic is open to women and men of all ages. Confidential services provided are physical exams, HIV counseling and testing, pregnancy testing, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, all methods of birth control available, free Norplants, Depo-Provera, IUDs, and condoms. For more information about these and other methods which are charged on a sliding fee scale, call 922-4630. Services are by appointment only.

## Groups

### COMMON VOICES: THE FRIENDS NORTH RAP GROUP

Common Voices is a group of men and women who get together monthly for informal discussion, often on a particular topic. Common Voices meets on the second Wednesday of every month at Grace Episcopal Church, 349 Washington, Traverse City, at 7:30 PM. For more information, call Tom at 616-275-6127.

### FRIENDS LIKE US

This Alpena-based group reaches out to lesbians, gays, and bisexuals in the northeast Michigan area. Informal potluck-type gatherings are generally held monthly in Alpena. In addition, occasional field trips are sometimes planned by interested participants. Call Brad Vauter at 517-354-0841 for more information.

### FRIENDS NORTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Friends North Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month (except August) at 6:30 PM at Grace Episcopal Church, on the corner of Washington and Boardman. All are welcome.

### FRIENDS NORTH GENDER SOCIETY

This support group includes cross-dressers, transsexuals, transgendered, and those somewhere in between. Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month. Spouses, friends, and SOs are also invited to attend this smoke- and alcohol-free environment. Call 616-946-1804 for more information.

### GAY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meetings for gays and lesbians are held each Wednesday at 5:30 PM and Saturday at 11:00 AM at Grace Episcopal Church. For further information, call John at 616-922-0746 or Hilda at 616-938-9294.

### GLSEN

The Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network is meeting monthly in Traverse City. They welcome all interested educators. For more information, call M'Lynn at 616-943-5050.

### HANDS-PETOSKEY

HANDS is an HIV/AIDS Network located north of Traverse City. 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. HANDS offers 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.

### NORTHERN MICHIGAN WOMYN'S CHOIR

The Womyn's Choir is always looking for new voices. To obtain more information or for a performance schedule, contact Deb at 616-276-9357.

### OUT 'N' ABOUT

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 Road, in Traverse City.

### P-FLAG

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 7:00 PM. For more information, call Patrice Stewart at 616-933-6628.

### THE PETOSKEY GROUP

A social group for lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons is meeting weekly in Petoskey. The group meets at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays in the Noggin Room of the Perry Hotel. For information, contact Tim at 616-348-8151.

### TRAVERSE CITY FRONTRUNNERS

If you are interested in running, call Kirk or Jim at 933-5250 and leave your name, number, and a message indicating that you are interested in Frontrunners. You will receive a return call with meeting times and places. All ages and abilities are welcome.

### TRIANGLES AND RAINBOWS

A group of lesbian, gay, straight, and bisexual students at NMC who believe that celebrating diversity is fundamental to a healthy community and future. To help or participate, call T&R at 616-922-1673 or send e-mail (t\_and\_r\_group@hotmail.com).

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION—PETOSKEY

Meets at the Concord Academy, 2230 E. Mitchell St. Services are held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11:00 AM. Call 616-347-8916 for details or write to PO Box 873, Petoskey MI 49770-0873

### WELLNESS NETWORKS SUPPORT GROUP

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 Grace Episcopal Church. Every fourth Monday of the month, the Significant Other Support Group meets at 3301 Veterans Drive, Suite 221, just north of South Airport Road. For more information, call 616-933-0279.

### 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 616-922-4800 or 1-800-442-7315 for location, date, and time.

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# ADVERTISERS

Networking 45° North would like to thank everyone who has supported the newsletter over the years with their advertising dollars. In addition to the advertisers found on this page, look for others featured throughout the newsletter. The basic advertising rate is \$25.00 for a business-card-sized ad for a single issue. For other sizes and information on whole-year discounts, please contact Sheryl Layton (trufalogal@aol.com) or write to the Friends North e-mail address (friendsnorth@hotmail.com).

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# RESOURCES

## STATE AND NATIONAL HOTLINES

Department of Justice Hotline.....800-347-4283  
 Gay/Lesbian National Youth Hotline.....800-347-TEEN (8336)  
 Michigan Wellness Networks.....800-872-AIDS (2437)  
 Triangle Hate Crime Reporting.....877-7-TRIANGLE (877-787-4264)

## STATEWIDE SERVICES

ACLU of Michigan.....1249 Washington Blvd., Suite 209, Detroit MI 48220  
 Office.....248-398-7105 Help Line.....800-398-4297  
 E-mail.....michiactu@aol.com WWW.....http://michigan.aclu.org/  
 Affirmations Lesbian/Gay Community Center.....195 W. Nine Mile Rd., Farmington MI 48320  
 Phone.....810-398-7105  
 E-mail..Affirmationsglbt@juno.com WWW.....http://www.pridenet.com/affirmations/  
**Between The Lines**.....20793 Farmington Road, Suite 25, Farmington MI 48336  
 Phone.....248-615-7003 Fax.....248-615-7018  
 E-mail.....Pridepbllis@aol.com WWW.....http://www.betweenthelinesnews.com/  
 Kalamazoo Gay/Lesbian Resource Center.....629 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo MI 49008  
 Phone.....616-349-4234  
 E-mail.....kgllrc@geocities.com WWW.....http://www.kgllrc.org  
 Friends Tri-Cities.....PO Box 6543, Saginaw MI 48608-6543  
 E-mail.....TimFTC@aol.com WWW.....http://members.aol.com/MBSNexus/friends.html  
 Lansing Association for Human Rights.....PO Box 18062, Lansing MI 48826  
 Phone.....517-332-3200 WWW.....http://www.macatawa.org/~lahr/  
 Lavender Morning.....PO Box 50792, Kalamazoo MI 49005  
 Phone.....616-685-6061  
 Lesbian Connection.....PO Box 811, East Lansing MI 48826  
 Phone.....517-371-5257  
 MBS Nexus: Gay Connections in Midland, Bay City, Saginaw, & Surrounding Areas  
 WWW.....http://members.aol.com/MBSNexus/  
 Michigan Pride, Inc. (statewide Pride March organization)  
 P.O. Box 16191, Lansing MI 48901.....517-371-8466  
 E-mail.....pride@michiganpride.org WWW.....http://www.michiganpride.org/  
 The Network: Lesbian and Gay Community Network of Western Michigan  
 909 Cherry St. SE, Grand Rapids MI 49506.....616-458-3511  
**Third Coast**.....PO Box 7296, Grand Rapids MI 49510  
 Phone.....616-248-9967  
 Triangle Foundation  
 19641 W. Seven Mile Rd, Detroit MI 48219.....313-537-3323  
 Fax.....313-537-3379 WWW.....http://www.tri.org/

## NATIONAL SERVICES

ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project  
 125 Broad Street, New York NY 10004.....415-621-0674  
 WWW.....http://www.aclu.org/issues/gay/hmgl.html  
 Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund  
 1012 14th Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington DC 20005  
 Phone.....202-842-8679 or 202-289-3863  
 E-mail.....VictoryF@aol.com WWW.....http://www.victoryfund.org/  
 GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation)  
 1875 Connecticut Ave. NW, #800, Washington DC 20009.....800-GAY-MEDIA  
 E-mail.....glaad@glaad.org WWW.....http://www.glaad.org/  
 GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network)  
 121 W. 27th St., Suite 804, New York NY 10001  
 Phone.....212-727-0135 Fax.....212-727-0254  
 E-mail.....glsen@glsen.org WWW.....http://www.glsen.org/  
 HRC (Human Rights Campaign; organizers of National Coming Out Day)  
 919 18th Street NW, Washington DC 20006  
 Phone.....202-628-4160 Fax.....202-347-5323  
 E-mail.....hrc@hrc.org WWW.....http://www.hrc.org/  
 Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund  
 120 Wall St., Suite 1500, New York NY 10005  
 Phone.....212-809-8585 Fax.....212-809-0055  
 WWW.....http://www.thebody.com/lambda/lambda.html  
 NGLTF (National Gay & Lesbian Task Force)  
 2320 Seventeenth Street NW, Washington DC 20009-2702  
 Phone.....202-332-6483 Fax.....202-332-0207  
 WWW.....http://www.nglft.org/  
 PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)  
 1101 14th St. NW, Suite 1030, Washington DC 20005.....202-638-4200  
 E-mail.....info@pflag.org WWW.....http://www.pflag.org/

## LOCAL SPIRITUAL

Circle of the Sacred Earth: Rev. Nancy Hayward.....616-223-7999  
 Journey in Light Ministries: Rev. Linda L. Wilson.....616-271-2529  
 Unity Church: Rev. Geraldine Colvin.....616-938-9587  
 3600 Five Mile Rd., Traverse City MI 49686  
 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey.....616-347-8916  
 PO Box 873, Petoskey MI 49770  
 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Grand Traverse: Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher  
 Home.....616-938-9078 Office.....947-3117  
 6726 Center Rd., Traverse City MI 49686

## LOCAL COUNSELING

Bay Area Counseling (Petoskey/Harbor Springs)  
 Margalo Bley, MSW, ACSW.....616-348-3161  
 CDRS (free substance abuse referral).....808-A S. Garfield Ave., Traverse City MI 49686  
 Phone.....616-929-1315 Toll-Free.....800-686-0749  
 Third Level.....1022 E. Front St., Traverse City MI 49686  
 Phone.....616-922-4800 Toll-Free.....800-442-7315  
 Women's Resource Center.....616-941-1210  
 Susan Breuer, PhD (Frankfort/Traverse City).....616-352-4261  
 Amy Elena Cook, MSW, CSW.....616-932-8699  
 Daniel C. Doran, PhD, CSW (Upper Peninsula).....906-635-9263  
 William D. Gould, MA (Gladwin).....517-426-2351  
 Rodger Landovy, PhD.....616-929-1711  
 Joanna T. Lauber, MA, OTR, CHT.....616-947-8842  
 Margo Million, ACSW.....616-947-0511  
 Elizabeth Most, MSW, ACSW (Petoskey).....616-439-0656  
 David Rushlow, ACSW, Munson Medical Center.....616-935-6385  
 Barbara Jones Smith, PhD.....616-947-1444

## LOCAL SERVICE/SOCIAL/POLITICAL

Common Voices: The Friends North Rap Group.....call Tom at 616-275-6127  
 Friends North.....PO Box 562, Traverse City MI 49685-0562  
 Northern Michigan Help Line.....616-946-1804 Toll-Free.....800-579-8769  
 E-mail.....friendsnorth@hotmail.com WWW.....http://welcome.to/friends.north  
 GLSEN Traverse City.....PO Box 9, Traverse City MI 49685  
 Phone.....616-943-5050  
 Gay Alcoholics Anonymous.....Grace Episcopal Church, Traverse City  
 Call John.....616-922-0746 or Hilda.....616-938-9294  
 NOW (National Organization for Women).....call Gail Trill at 616-938-1333  
 PFLAG Traverse City.....PO Box 1705, Acme MI 49610  
 Patrice Stewart.....616-933-6628  
 Side Traxx (nightclub).....616-935-1666  
 Traverse City Human Rights Commission.....616-922-4700  
 Triangles & Rainbows.....NMC GLBT group  
 Phone.....616-922-1673 E-mail.....t\_and\_r\_group@hotmail.com  
 Windfire Gay & Lesbian Youth Support Group.....call Third Level for location and time  
 Phone.....616-922-4800 Toll-Free.....800-442-7315

## LOCAL HIV/AIDS HEALTH COUNSELING

Community Health Clinic (anonymous HIV testing/counseling, same-day results, no fee)  
 Phone.....616-929-1844  
 Emmet County Health Department (anonymous HIV testing).....616-347-6014  
 Grand Traverse County Health Department (anonymous HIV testing).....616-922-4831  
 HANDS (HIV/AIDS Support, Petoskey).....800-248-6777  
 HIV/AIDS Wellness Networks—Grand Traverse Area, Inc.  
 PO Box 1632, Traverse City MI 49685  
 Phone.....616-947-1110 Bus. Office.....933-0279 Toll-Free.....800-494-1160  
 Northern Michigan Planned Parenthood (anonymous HIV testing/counseling)  
 Phone.....616-929-1844  
 Thomas Judd Care Center.....1211 W. Front St., Traverse City MI 49684  
 Mary Dillinger, RN, Clinical Nurse Specialist.....616-935-8140  
 David Rushlow, ACSW, Social Worker.....616-935-6385

**Gay? Lesbian? Bisexual? Transgendered?**

**Have Questions? Need Help?**

*Call the Northern Michigan Help Line!*

**616-946-1804 • 800-579-8769**

Confidentially answered anytime.