

NETWORKING 45° NORTH



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1995

THE NEWSLETTER OF FRIENDS NORTH, INC., an association of lesbians, gay men, bi-sexuals and their friends.

FRIENDS NORTH GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY AND EDUCATION DAY

OCTOBER 21ST AT SUGAR LOAF RESORT IN CEDAR, MICHIGAN

The Friends North Gay and Lesbian History and Education Day is coming up soon! On October 21st, lesbians and gays from northern Michigan and around the state will gather for a day of keynote speakers, workshops, luncheon, and one act stage readings. The workshops include homophobia, Michigan's gay and lesbian history, spirituality, womyn's and mehn's music, health and the lesbian/gay community, and "Coming Out of Shame."

The conference will be held at Sugar Loaf Resort located on the Leelanau Peninsula near Traverse City. The Resort is reserving rooms for the Friends North event at the low conference rate of \$50.00 per night. Please fill out the motel reservation form located in the center of the newsletter, and mail it in with the required deposit, as soon as possible. Reservations cannot be accepted by phone for these rates.

The conference will begin with registration between 8:00 and 9:00 am on Saturday morning. Early registration before October 1st for the conference will be \$20.00 per person, which includes lunch and after October 1st the cost will be \$25.00. PLEASE NOTE THAT REGISTRATION FOR THE HOTEL IS SEPARATE FROM THE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION. Please watch your mail box for a separate conference flyer with registration information. Participants are encouraged to make a weekend of this event with many activities available outside of the conference such as a hospitality gathering on Friday and Saturday evenings and continental breakfast Sunday morning before departure.

Calendar of Events

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!
Watch for more details in upcoming newsletters and mailings

- September 24th Autumn Hike/ Dinner
2:00-6:00 pm Lake Skekemog area/Acme
- October 11th National Coming Out Day Film Festival
6:30 pm Location to be announced

HURRY!! LATE NOTICE!! AUTUMN HIKE AND DINNER

Everyone is invited to attend the Autumn Hike and Dinner on Sunday, September 24, 1995. The hike/walk will take place at 2:00 pm at Lake Skegemog, which is east of Traverse City, and will be followed with a cookout dinner at a Friends North member's home in Acme at around 4:30 pm.

All participants are asked to make reservations by September 19th. The cost for this event is sliding scale \$5.00—\$10.00. Sliding scale means that you pay the amount you can afford between the given dollar amounts.

If you are interested in joining us for a little fresh air and good food, please send your reservation with name(s), address, phone, and check or money order to Friends North, PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562. A confirmation letter with details and map will be sent to you upon reservation.

SECOND ANNUAL COMING OUT DAY FILM FESTIVAL

The Friends North Second Annual National Coming Out Day Film Festival will take place on Wednesday, October 11, 1995 at 6:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Traverse City. The cost for the evening of films will be \$5.00 which includes refreshments.

A special mailing will be sent out the beginning of October with the list of films that will be presented. Please mark your calendars NOW for this wonderful, community opportunity!

NOTICE — NEW RADIO SHOW

"TWO" "This Way Out" - Sunday, 7:30-8:00 PM
WNMC 90.9 FM—Gay & Lesbian
Commentary and Features—
follows the Women's Music program!!!

- October 21st Gay/Lesbian History Day
Sugar Loaf Resort, Cedar on Leelanau Peninsula
- December 7th Friends Annual Meeting
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship,
Traverse City

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.

Rose Clement—secretary	Patty O'Donnell—president	Scott Southwell—treasurer
Greg Baird	Jim Poole	Gretchen Sauvage
Tom Kincaid	Susie Keillar—VP	Steve Waulkezoo

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
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Please submit in writing or by calling the editor (and leave ad on machine
271-3042.)

DISPLAY ADVERTISING in **Networking 45° North** is available in
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SPONSORING POLITICAL POSTCARDS: Cost for printing 2,800
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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.)

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

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FROM THE EDITOR:

We Are Everywhere. This message is being reinforced daily. But, we are also on everyone's tongue everywhere, which I find surprising. Remember just a few years ago when we searched through magazines and newspapers to find any reference at all to gays and lesbians?



Richard Tuxbury

Was it Mae West who said that even bad publicity is better than no publicity? If so, then we are doing just great! Here's what we've seen lately:

- In a move to appease the religious right, Bob Dole returns a \$1,000. check from gay Republicans; the Log Cabin Club.
- Iowa considered outlawing the discussion of homosexuality in the classrooms by teachers and students.
- The Supreme Court considers the Colorado constitutional amendment which would ban all local ordinances that gave gays and lesbians equal protection.
- Cincinnati has its gay rights ordinance overturned by a federal court, and appeals it.
- Kentucky declares, in a court decision, that its sodomy laws are discriminatory against homosexuals, and are repealed.
- The House of Representatives holds a committee hearing on whether discussion of homosexuality in school can promote homosexuality.
- Don't Ask-Don't Tell" policy is declared unconstitutional by a federal court. The decision gets appealed by the government.

Don't for a minute believe that all that is happening right now is coincidental. Gays are getting this much attention for two simple reasons: First, We have made Us the order of business, by very hard work, spending lots of money, and through extreme sacrifice by many individuals. We have raised the issues through the courts in cases involving child custody, military service, marriage rights, sodomy laws, and job protection.

Secondly, the Religious Right has targeted us using their grand plan of putting us back in the closet. The key to their plan is based on negative media publicity, and with this, they are very much succeeding.

As things sort out over the next election year, and if we see them not going in our favor, I was wondering about a new approach. A few years ago, someone proposed that by us arguing to prove that homosexuality was pre-determined at birth (allowing us no ability to choose, and thereby, no reason to be discriminated against) may not be the best way to obtain our rights.

The argument most often used against us is based on this premise that we have the ability to 'choose' our sexual orientation. The same way, The Right has the ability to 'choose' their religion.

So, why don't we simply decide that we are going to begin a new religion based solely on our belief in homosexuality? The freedom to associate and to have protection from discrimination based on one's religion is well established. It also is something The Right champions, although the line separating 'church and state' has been overstepped so often by them.

The idea of creating an organized, nationwide gay and lesbian religion may have its pitfalls. However, it also may be something that we fall back upon if things don't improve for us in the courts or Congress in the next few years.



This last Spring there was a lot of talk among the Board of Friends North regarding an approach to the Traverse City Commission. Many felt that the time was right to appeal to the Commission to add 'sexual orientation' to their list of protected classes in the areas of housing, employment, etc. After lots of posturing and discussion, there seemed to be a conclusion drawn that we would need to first prove that there was discrimination against gays and lesbians before the City would go through the effort of providing this protection. Then, the approach to the City Commission just fell apart.

Traverse City has its share of discrimination, much of it subtle of course, but still, some quite blatant. Just last week, a gay couple in the city came home from a weekend away to find that the front of their home had been spray-painted with the word "FAGGOTS." Do you remember the amount of media attention given to the Jewish family with the black child who had their house sprayed a few years ago? I doubt if anyone will write a story on this new incident, because I doubt if it will be reported. Like most of the violence against gays in this country, harassment like this is seldom reported.

Thankfully, Ron Harington of SideTraxx went public with the St. Francis bus incident this last June. The Principal of the school wrote an official apology. The local community knew we had been wronged. The paper wrote a supportive editorial.

It is common knowledge that the Sabin Dam area is a cruising spot for gay men. Grand Traverse County has been entrapping men by using undercover cops to cruise gays. They have been quite successful, and many locals have been arrested. Not to my knowledge have heterosexual men ever been the target of a police sting in Grand Traverse County.

The City Commission might truly feel that there is no discrimination in Traverse City. For this reason the community needs to be reminded whenever our rights, our properties, or our bodies are violated. There needs to be accountability for actions, and simply stated, there must be on-the-books, legal protection for all gay men and lesbians.

In this issue you will also see a letter from state Rep. Michelle McManus regarding hate crime legislation against gays. She feels that we need no more protection, in that "there are currently laws in existence that protect every individual." This Religious Right chant of 'no special rights for any group' has become nothing more than an empty, rhetorical answer. It is a way to denigrate us, and by claiming that we want something more than others want, we are made to appear greedy. Even worse, by not using our name, she shows her constituency that we do not deserve to be properly recognized, and therefore might be considered second class citizens.

Michelle McManus needs to use the "G" word. She, like the City Commission needs to state, for the record, that she condones no violence and will tolerate no discrimination against gays and lesbians. It is our governing bodies and our elected officials who set the stage for violence and hate crimes, and who, by their inaction, give subtle endorsement to discrimination.

Richard Tuxbury

Family! Birth family, that is. What a weird and funny situation, at times. My partner and I went down to the "old homestead" last month for my parent's 40th wedding anniversary. After living half my life in silence about being a lesbian and hardly talking openly with family about it now, I actually had a short conversation with my niece who is twelve years of age. She had been asking my sister over the last four years about "Aunt Patty." A little question here, a question there. My sister told me that my niece asked if "...Aunt Patty was a lesbian?" "Why?" "Because she sleeps in the same bed as Jo Ann (my partner) and they act like they're married." "Would it make a difference in how you felt about Aunt Patty?" "No." "Would you still love her?" "Yes!" So, I'm now out to my oldest niece and we end up discussing the merits of a forehead-kiss between two men on a "Hootie and the Blowfish" music video and the implications of that kiss related to their sexual orientation. Pretty neat!

The family weekend was capped by everyone posing for a "family portrait." Jo Ann was right in there with my siblings their spouses, and accompanying children! I guess they finally know that it is not a phase I am going through.

Speaking of family (family of choice), I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the Friends North bike tour a huge success! Thanks to Jeff and Gretchen for all their hard work in coordinating the event; Rose, Nancy, Terry and Tom for working the shag wagons and taking care of the bikers (skinned knuckles, lost helmets, a cool spray of water); Woody for the flower arrangements; the dinner crew that set-up and served 130 hungry participants, consisting of Steve, Jo Ann, Rose, Kevin, Nancy, Kirk, Scott, Lynn, and Richard; Jim for the Tee-shirts & design; and all of you people who helped clean up! I encourage everyone to take part in next year's Bike Tour event and/or the dinner. It is a fun time to meet new people and see old friends.

The Board is busy with the array of events that are coming up during the next couple months. Mark your calendars NOW and register to attend the Autumn Hike/Dinner (it is really a "walk") on September 24th; and the Gay and Lesbian History and Education Day on October 21st. Also, plan to attend the Coming Out Day Film Festival on October 11. Please see other articles in this issue for details.

I would like to report that the Friends North phonenumber recently received an inspiring call. The unidentified woman stated, "I was recently in the Charlevoix hospital and thanks to a gay man, I am alive. He saved my life. I have made a lot of wrong judgments against you people and I am sorry. I am alive because of him." Remember, we are everywhere; and just being who we are will dispel the myths and misconceptions that many people have regarding lesbians and gays!

Patty O'Donnell

IYG MIDWEST YOUTH FESTIVAL

The Indianapolis Youth Group (IYG) is hosting the first ever youth festival focused solely on gay, lesbian, bisexual young adults (all youth must be under age 21). This event is being coordinated with the National PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Convention to be held September 30th and October 1st, 1995 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The PFLAG organization has made a commitment to honor youth this year and has arranged for Wilson Cruz, star of the television hit series "My So Called Life" for the Conference and Festival activities. The highlight of the weekend will be the mock-talk show in which one of the IYG youth will serve as a talk show host to Wilson Cruz.

All expenses, except travel will be covered. Registrations are due September 20th. If you would like to attend this festival or know of a youth who would like to go, please contact the Friends North phone line at (616) 946-1804 and leave a message with your name and address and a registration form will be sent to you.

NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE CONFERENCE

November 8-12, 1995 Detroit, Michigan

Detroit will be the international gathering site of lesbian/gay/bisexual activity and activism as a few thousand will gather for the 8th Annual Creating Change Conference at the Westin Hotel and Renaissance Center. Since the conference is in Detroit, everyone should take advantage of the convenience without the additional travel expenses.

Some of the highlights include organizing roundtables on workplace organizing, rural organizing, people of faith, equal marriage rights, and anti-violence; skills building intensives on fund-raising, campaign skills training, speakers bureaus, and campus organizing; other talks will cover "Prevention vs. Pleasure? Safe sex/sex clubs debate: 1995," "Age Stratification in the Movement and Our Communities," "Movement Dysphoria: Liberation is a Many-Gendered Thing," "Amendment 2/Issue 3 Go To Washington: The End of Civil Rights?," and more. Keynote speakers include Representative Tammy Baldwin who is serving her second term in the Wisconsin State Assembly as an openly gay elected state official; Harry Britt who served on the San Francisco

RAP GROUP

After a quiet summer it is time to get the Rap Group moving again. We are at our new location at the Grace Episcopal Church at 341 Washington Street, by the Government Center. The room is in the basement and it is really very cozy and safe. It should provide for some interesting conversation.

The September topic will be "Gays/Lesbians in Traverse City: Are we still reaching out together and working together, or are we breaking into splinter groups?" This is just a general discussion to get interpretations on how, as a community, we are changing.

The October meeting corresponds with the Friends North Film Festival, so instead of going to the rap group let's everybody go to the Film Festival. Great Flicks and Good Company. The Film Festival is being held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship out on the peninsula.

The November topic will be Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual parents. Those of you who have parents who are gay or those who are parents yourself, are especially invited. Please come and share your feelings and experiences. What is our community doing or not doing to help?

Leave me a message on the phone line if you have any questions and I will get back with you. The Friends North Rap Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM, and enjoys the company of any and all who attend. Leave a message on the Friends North phone line and I will give you a call if you need any information. Thanks—see you soon!! Rose

NGLTF

Board of Supervisors for 14 years; Elias Farajaje-Jones—a Spanish speaking Afrikan Native American theologian, AIDS activist, writer; and Urvashi Vaid who was the executive director of NGLTF for six years and is a community organizer and attorney. There are lots of workshops and also fun events such as the Motor City Scene: Queer Cabaret on Saturday evening.

If you are interested in attending this great conference, please contact the Friends North phoneline at (616) 946-1804 and leave your name, address and phone number (clearly) and we will send you a brochure. Please do not let this opportunity pass you by—since it is right in our own state! If possible, car pools and room sharing can be set up.

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THE FRIENDS NORTH 1995 BIKE TOUR

by Richard Tuxbury

Imagine 120 gay and lesbian bikers exploring the hilly, curvy roads of Leelanau County on a warm August weekend. Think of Sleeping Bear Campground strewn with a myriad of tents, rainbow flags, bicycles, and cook stoves. Picture three perfect, sunny days and warm evenings, with clear Lake Michigan water so inviting that nightly skinny-dipping became a necessity.

Many of the group weren't what most would call 'bikers,' as some folks hadn't been riding since last year's tour. I rode with a handsome young man, James, from Detroit, who said he hadn't ridden his bike since junior high. Then there were others - those who wanted to get in 100 miles on Saturday, and were on the road by 9:00 a.m. that Saturday.

Unlike the rest of the summer, this was a relaxing weekend and very sociable, with people camping, making coffee, sharing stories around the fires at night, and getting in lots of swimming and beach time. It was a time spent with others like ourselves in one of the most beautiful places in the Midwest.

There were many images in the short weekend. I like to recall the bagpipes playing up high on the dune above the campground Friday evening. Tom's haunting music seemed to float down to us out of nowhere and yet, everywhere. There was Sunday's beach party and volleyball on the clean sands at Otter Creek. Then there was riding through the fishing village of Leland and seeing about 40 people from the tour lunching by the side of the road.

The campground, though a mile from the beach, is really quite spectacular. Nestled on the side of the largest group of sand dunes in Michigan, the Sleeping Bear, there is a feeling of being in a protected and quiet mountain valley.

Some might be wondering about a downside to such a memorable weekend. Okay, so poison ivy abounds, and there are frequent raids of the coolers by raccoons lying in wait in the brush. And maybe the latrines have become an olfactory legend, and then, Friday night's downpour did cause more than a few people to scurry to high ground at 3 in the morning. But there

were the others who enjoyed the storm and floating on their sleeping bag seemed great entertainment.

With the different routes of the tour, as well as the size of the campground, it never felt like there were a lot of people. But, when we all got lake-cleaned for Saturday night's dinner and gathered in Glen Arbor's rustic town hall, the enormous room actually became filled. These tanned and healthy men and women had come from all over the Midwest, with some as far away as St. Louis, San Diego, San Francisco, and Denver. The local Traverse City folks might have been in the minority, but they were still well-represented and made great hosts.

Friends North advertises the beauty of Leelanau County and Sleeping Bear National Park for the tour. But, what really makes the event memorable is the people. Many of the bikers told me that this was the friendliest group that they had ever been around. The feeling was truly one of 'community,' and simply stated, everyone was a lot of fun.

After the tour this year, we sat around brainstorming on ways to improve it for 1996. We thought about adding some new routes and a longer ride for those who'd requested it. We talked about keeping the events to a minimum, because everyone seems to enjoy the informality and the hang-loose schedule of the weekend.

Donations from the weekend's event have been earmarked for *Networking 45 Degrees North*, this newsletter, as well as for sponsoring individuals to the NGLTF 'Creating Change' conference in Detroit this November. Friends North treasurer, Scott Southwell, reports that over \$3,000. was raised from the weekend.

Jeff is already organizing for next year's event, and Gretchen reports that she has the Glen Arbor hall reserved in late July. If you weren't part of this year's event, I will ask you now to consider it for next year. To receive information in the Spring, call Jeff now at 616-271-3042 and you will be put on the mailing list. I hope you join us and the others at another unforgettable bike-tour next summer.



Announcing Bike Tour Contest!

We "cropped" this photo. What is the person on the left pointing at? Do you know? Make a guess. Prizes to be determined.


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OUT 'N ABOUT

submitted by M'Lynn Hartwell

October 21—The *Out n' About Coffeehouse* will be one of the first lesbian organizations to present the must-see movie *The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love*. Director Maria Maggenti used an almost totally female crew to film this romantic comedy about two high school girls falling in love for the first time. Randy Dean (Laurel Holloman), a rebellious baby dyke who lives with her aunt and her aunt's lover in a working-class neighborhood, falls in love with Evie Roy (Nicole Parker), an intelligent, wide-eyed beauty who lives with her mother in a wealthy suburb.

The film *The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love* was extremely well received at the Sundance Film Festival and by reviewers at the Boston Globe and other publications. A Newsweek movie critic commented, "First love, straight or gay, has rarely been so expertly enacted."

Laurel Holloman, who play the character Randy Dean, commented that making the film did alter her sexual identity. When we started filming, I was in a relationship with a man and my history has been with men," says Holloman. "And then midway through this film being surrounded by all these women—most of whom were gay and young and vibrant and who were extremely excited about working on the movie—sort of organically took me over. I felt like for the first time I was in a positive atmosphere with women."

November 18—The *Out n' About* lesbian coffeehouse will celebrate its two year anniversary. Along with our traditional lesbian potluck, we will provide turkey and trimmings and a night of entertainment you will definitely not want to miss. Watch your mailbox for details.

Out n' About Coming Attractions—

Go Fish producer Christine Vachon is helping with the screen adaptation of *Stone Butch Blues*, written by transgender activist Leslie Feinberg. The movie will be directed by Jan Oxenberg, and filming is scheduled to begin this fall. *Stone Butch Blues* is Leslie Feinberg's often painful experiences as a female-to-male transsexual, and her return to living and working as the female gender in the days of Stonewall. Northern Michigan lesbians can look forward to seeing this film as soon as it is available in 1996.

Out 'n About is a lesbian coffeehouse, held on the third Saturday of each month except August and December. The Coffeehouse comes alive between 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. at the Unity Church, 3600 Five Mile Road, Traverse City.

Smoke Free - Chem Free—Cover donation is \$3 (\$5 if we have entertainment). Snacks and coffee are free - soft drinks are available.

For more information, or to have your name placed on the Out 'n About mailing list, call Brenda at 946-2708 - leave message. (Please note this is for Coffeehouse info only; if you have other questions or needs, please call Friends North at 946-1804.)



P-FLAG NEWS

WE NOW HAVE AN AGENDA!

Traverse City Area P-FLAG has great things planned for the up-coming months. Please note the agenda we have scheduled and plan to attend our meetings. We have some interesting and exciting events which all coincide with the theme of "coming out."

SEPTEMBER 20TH: GUEST PANEL

We will feature a panel of gay men and lesbians who have had particularly poignant coming out experiences. Parents are encouraged to attend as we will focus on the specific questions and concerns that they have for and about their children.

OCTOBER 18TH: FIRST ANNUAL P-FLAG COMING OUT POTLUCK

October 11th is National Coming Out Day. We would like to get together with family and friends to celebrate our own coming out. People who have just come out; be they parents, family members, or gay and lesbian persons themselves; are encouraged to attend and share their coming out stories while at the same time socialize with others who share their experience.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend P-FLAG as we focus on the issue of coming out. Invite others who may benefit from these special meetings. A lot of exciting things are happening and we know you will want to be a part of it.

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FROM THE COMMUNITY

LITTLE TRAVERSE DIARY

Zalmon Sherwood

LIFE'S A BEACH

"Now you've done it," his voice filled with rage on the other end of the line. "Everything was just fine until you opened your big fat mouth."

I knew instantly what he was referring to. Following my Lesbian/Gay Pride speech in Lansing, I received several phone calls from gay businessmen (note, it's the men who were frantic, not the women) in Saugatuck. In my speech, I criticized the Saugatuck Village Council's decision to sidestep a gay rights ordinance. I encouraged the gay, lesbian and bi-sexual community to be out, proud and visible in Saugatuck, to claim the Lake Michigan resort community as our own.

"You have no right to interfere with the political process in this town," another caller chastised me. "We've worked a long time to get this far, and an inflammatory speech like yours only damages our cause."

Why did I choose to interfere? Saugatuck is a powerful symbol to sexual minorities throughout the Midwest. Queer publications promote it as "The Fire Island of the Midwest." My friends, I know Fire Island, and Saugatuck is no Fire Island. Nor is it a Provincetown or Key West. And yet, it has the potential of becoming a major world class lesbian/gay resort, which is why village officials are so threatened by any expression of queer political clout.

When I lived on Beaver Island, I was accused by township officials of trying to turn the island into "another Saugatuck." Such a laughable claim became deadly serious when my property was vandalized and I was forced off the island. There was nothing pretty or idyllic about my two years of openly gay life on Beaver island.

Ditto for Petoskey. The Saugatuck businessmen who call me don't realize that I own a business in a resort. I understand their concerns about image and economy and "not rocking the boat" as we compete for every last tourist dollar. And at least Saugatuck officials were willing to consider a gay rights ordinance. I can't even persuade our city manager to yank the antiquated parking meters outside my shop.

My main problem with my gay Saugatuck colleagues is their belief that if they work quietly, discreetly, with village leaders, then they will reward them with a gay rights ordinance. Straight people won't give us a thing, except grief. A cardinal rule of the business world is "Don't trust anyone," and the same applies in the political arena.

The lesson of Saugatuck is that life is not a beach for sexual minorities. Unless we are able to come out as lesbian/gay business owners, professionals and civic leaders, unless we are able to claim our rights while refusing to retreat on issues that affect our lives and well being, then we do not deserve the amenities that resorts like Saugatuck offers.

The best thing that happened to me during the Lesbian/Gay Pride March was the opportunity to meet the writer Lev Raphael and his life partner, Gersh Kaufman. Lev and Gersh, who live in Okemos, have agreed to participate in the Lesbian/Gay History conference in October at the Sugar Loaf Resort. It is remarkable that Michigan has a young writer of Lev's talent and accomplishment. When one considers that the conference will feature dynamic individuals like Lev, Gersh and Jan Stevenson, it is clear that Sugar Loaf will be the place to be in October. Make your reservations today.

(an update on Saugatuck follows on page 18)

WHAT COLOR IS YOUR TRIANGLE?

by M'Lynn

While many of us are familiar with the origin of the inverted Pink Triangle, there is a question among many of us about the origin of the Black Triangle, who wears it and what it represents.

As the Nazi party gained power in Europe they originally identified/humiliated gay men by sewing a yellow "A" (for "ass-fucker") onto their clothing. With the development of additional Nazi concentration camps and a more efficient homosexual identification network, combined with systematic gathering and imprisonment of gay men, they soon labeled homosexual males with an inverted pink triangle sewn onto their prison clothing. The pink triangle was believed to reinforce the popular stereotype of gay males as being woman-like. As many as 50,000 gay men were "arrested" for the "crime" of homosexuality during the twelve years of Nazi domination. Today the pink triangle has been adopted by our

What Color (continued next page)

Hands on Wheels

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What Color (continued from previous page)

gay community in memory of these men—a visual reminder to never forget what has happened and to never again empower a far right-wing government.

The story of lesbians living in Nazi Germany is less clear. We do know that a strong and vocal women's movement flourished in pre-Nazi Germany, and that lesbians were a vital part of the feminist movement. Eleven years before the openly patriarchal Nazis came to full power, they decreed that no woman would ever be allowed to hold office in the Nazi party. German women were instructed to support the Nazi policy of Kinder, Kuche, Kirche (children, kitchen, church), and the Nazi's even went so far as to offer monetary incentives to women who married, left the workplace, and bore children.

In 1933, as the Nazis' strengthened the penalties on male homosexuality, criminalizing lesbian activity was also considered. Instead though, an even more far-reaching and insidious policy was enacted. Any woman who was considered a "threat" to Nazi power was imprisoned. Inverted black triangles were assigned to these women which included prostitutes as well as any other woman deemed to be anti-social or otherwise unfit by the Nazi patriarchal hierarchy—which clearly included lesbians. The women so identified were frequently forced into sexual acts with male camp personnel. Survivors of the concentration camps indicated that the Nazi "cure" for suspected lesbians and feminists was to label them with the inverted black triangle and force them to engage in sex with Nazi men. Today many lesbian women wear the inverted black triangle in remembrance of the women who were disgraced and lost their lives for what they believed.

The Aryan practice of naming lesbians and feminists as prostitutes exists historically throughout most patriarchal religious documents. Many references are made in the Christian Bible to "temple prostitutes" and/or to "ritual prostitutes." The women referred to in this derogatory manner were not prostitutes at all, but rather women who were practitioners of the goddess-based religions that the newer patriarchy-based religions found so irksome. Why? Because in order to allow lineage and inheritance to pass through men, and not women (as it had previously), men had to create a "special family." The family that men created to solve their dilemma became a political institution: Each man would "own"

a woman who would produce children in his name, for him. Each man had to control the sexuality of "his" woman, for how else could he be sure that "his child" was really "his"? To aid man in his political quest, laws were enacted against homosexuality, women and children. While the patriarchal political process hit a peak during the Nazi period, our human rights battle is far from over. If today's Christian Right has their way—human sexuality, sexual expression and family—will once again fall under the rigid narrow-minded control of right-wing radicals.

BORNE-AGAIN-PAGAN-SEEKER

by Richard Curtis

As I write this Lamas/Lughnassad is passing, the wheel turns. Lamas—the wake of Lugh the Sun King, marks the passing of summer and the shift toward the dark of winter. We are turning inward to the quiet time.

I have always thought of myself as a Sun worshiper. As someone who might someday find myself living in a tropical climate. But this year has made me realize that the dark of winter is very attractive to me. The energy which the Sun demands of us must be followed by a time of introspection, quiet. The Goddess has been very good to us this year. This has been one of the most beautiful summers in my memory. The warmth has penetrated strongly into the north, but it has also been an exhausting rush of people, events, emotions. So I welcome this time of reflection as I prepare for Winter here in the north.

Last summer toward the end of June I spent a week in New York City, it was Gay Pride Week, The Gay Games, Stonewall 25, The Gay Pride March. Writing as a Pagan (a person of the country) New York City might not seem to qualify, but throughout history pagans have gathered for festivals in the cities. I went to New York to visit friends, do the march and enjoy. I had made some effort to get information on the pagan gatherings associated with this festival (RFD is a wonderful source of contacts and their summer issue had many phone numbers and event listings).

On Saturday evening I attended a planning session of the New York Faerie Circle. I had an unclear idea of what to expect. My pagan contacts had been more "mainstream" (more heterosexual, bi-sexual, integrated). The Radical Faeries are mainly a gay-male group (there was one female Faerie at this gathering).

Borne-Again (continued next page)



PERRY SHERWOOD FINE ART

200 Howard Street • Petoskey • 348-5079

Borne-Again (continued from previous page)

Within the gay-male context the fairies are a diverse group, in age, in race, in region of origin. They are colorful. Many wearing wings, most wearing skirts. Some with long hair, some shaved, some painted. I had the good fortune to find myself next to a lovely young Faerie from Los Angeles—Krishna—whose light was almost blinding. The purpose of the meeting was to decide the approach which the Fairies would take to the March on Sunday.

An aside—The Mayor of New York had announced that the March would not be permitted to use its usual route—starting at Sheridan Square, where the Stonewall Riots had taken place 25 years earlier, crossing east through the Village to Washington Square and north on Fifth Avenue to Central Park. In place of this 10 mile route, the Mayor had decided that the March would start on First Avenue at the United Nations (41st St.) move west on 57th Street to Sixth Avenue and north to the Park. This would be about a two mile route. Many groups, the Faeries included, were unwilling to give in to the Republican Mayor and move our march from the center of the city to what, to a New Yorker, would seem a rather out-of-the-way area. We would "gather" in a side street off Sheridan Square Sunday morning.

I arrived early, wanting to get a sense of how things were progressing. I watched as literally hundreds of New York Police and many police "Paddy Wagons" gathered around the Square. I was somewhat concerned. But, lest anyone think this bit of civil disobedience might have been dangerous, well, it could have been, but the Faerie tactic stated in policy—"if there is any trouble, run in the opposite direction—really fast." (During the March, Act-Up was chanting "Fight Back, Act-Up—Fight Back, Act-Up" we answered them with "Fight Back, Dress Up, Fight Back, Dress Up.")

There wasn't any trouble. Hundreds of marchers gathered in Sheridan Square and began The March on schedule. We were the fringe groups: Act-Up, The Fairies, The Lesbian Avengers, NAMBLA and others. We joined the other march at 57th and 5th avenue. I never did get to see the Rainbow flag. I heard it was great.

But this summer, right here in Traverse City, I marched in the Cherry Royal Parade, behind a certain float that won the Queen's Trophy and I, along with 200 other marchers, carried a Rainbow flag that was beautiful. Right down Front Street, Traverse City and when the music played "She's a Grand Old Flag" everyone cheered The Flag, but the only flag in sight had seven colors, not just three. The float was painting a pink line down the center of Front Street, TRAVERSE CITY and while all the queens on the float were in drag, half of them were women and half of them were men. Nothing bad happened here either. And we got a trophy!

Being a good Faerie I agree that there is no need to put yourself in any real danger. I agree with their stated policy "Safety First" in sex, in life. But, I also think it is necessary to push the boundaries with as much energy as possible. Fly your flag. Have your eyes open. If someone points a gun at you—Duck! But if you duck and cover without ever trying to raise your flag you are hurting no one, except yourself.

October 11th is coming, maybe you will find that when you fly your flag on Front Street that there will be crowds of people cheering. It happened once, it could happen again.

MY FOUR LEAF CLOVER

by a local parent

Most of us [90% of the population] are like three leaf clovers—sort of ordinary, not much attention is given to us—but once in awhile we find a four leaf clover, a rare and wonderful discovery. I remember, as a girl, spending hours looking for that four leaf clover. Occasionally I would find one and press it in a book or iron it between pieces of waxed paper. It was something I treasured, wanted to save and protect. My daughter is like one of those four leaf clovers; her sexual orientation just happens to be different from mine. She is someone I treasure and want to protect. A four leaf clover is not unnatural, just unusual and different from all the rest. I would have never considered removing one of the leaves so it would appear to be a three leaf clover.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY: OCTOBER 11TH

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to take your
next step?*

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WORDS AND MUSIC:

A LOCAL GUIDE TO BOOKS, MAGAZINES, TAPES AND CDs

by Rick Gould

With fall, comes more quiet time, and here are some suggestions from local book and music stores for your free time.

First, at the **Bookie Joint**, Shelley gives us her usual variety of recommendations:

Out of the Past: Gay and Lesbian History from 1869 to the Present by Neil Miller, \$16.00. The author has done an excellent job of presenting what is known about gay and lesbian history.

The Beach Affair by Barbara Johnson, \$10.95. A sizzling lesbian mystery from Naiad Press.

Getting There by Robbi Sommers, \$10.95. An intimate and beautiful array of dreams and fantasies.

Tasting Life Twice, edited by E.J. Levy, \$10.00. A collection of 24 richly varied stories by lesbian writers that spreads a wide net to catch the many nuances of modern lesbian life.

In music, here are some artists for the womyn who attended their recent festival:

Linda Tillery's Cultural Heritage Choir, tape/\$11.48 and CD \$15.98.

Shape Shifters by Ubaka Hill, tape/\$9.98 and CD/\$14.98

Music for the boys:

Family by the Turtle Creek Chorale, tape/\$9.95 and CD/\$15.95. These singers join forces with the Women's Chorus of Dallas. Selections include Michael Callen's "Love Don't Need a Reason," "Secret Love," and "Over the Rainbow."

Gay Happening 2, Various Artists, CD only/\$19.98. This import includes Eartha Kitt, Freda Payne, Bronski Beat, Gloria Gaynor, and the Outhere Brothers. 17 cuts all together.

Check out old and new favorite gay and lesbian magazines at **The Bookie Joint**.

At **WaldenBooks**, Kevin gave us these titles:

The Stranger Wilde: Interpreting Oscar by Gary Schmidgall, \$14.95. A provocative and unconventional look at the celebrated wit and writer who became a scandalous scapegoat.

Take it Like a Man: The Autobiography of Boy George, with Spencer Bright, \$25.00. One of the first MTV pop stars of the 80's tells his story, the highs and lows, and of course, the inevitable comeback.

Sometimes My Heart Goes Numb: Love and Caregiving in a Time of AIDS by Charles Garfield, \$22.00. Moving and inspirational stories about exceptional caregivers that range from funny to wise to angry to touching.

Joining the Tribe: Growing Up Gay and Lesbian in the 1990s by Linnea Due, \$12.95. This journalist travels the country to document a portrait of an endangered and vulnerable community, whose diversity, courage, and resilience will inspire all readers.

Out in All Directions: The Almanac of Gay and Lesbian America, edited by Lynn Witt, Sherry Thomas, and Eric Marcus, \$24.95. A lively chronicle of gay and lesbian accomplishments makes this a most useful guide. From the gay rights movement to the media to the struggle against AIDS, this is a fresh and wide-ranging look at our history and culture.

AT **AB CDs**, Norm offers these musical notes on new CDs.

Eddi, by Eddi Reader, \$15.99. Featured on the Batman Forever soundtrack, this performer now has a solo effort out, **AB**

CDs #2 bestseller.

Dare to Love by Jimmy Somerville, \$15.99. The former Bronski Beat member covers the Supremes' "Someday We'll Be Together."

Big Love by Ali Campbell, \$16.99. UB40's front man has produced a solid solo CD that offers pop, rock, reggae, and dance.

Late Night Gumbo, Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Cafe New Orleans, \$16.99. The author and department store owner has picked up his original career as musician once again.

Legend soundtrack, \$16.99. From the Tom Cruise film, this music by Tangerine Dream is on CD for the first time.

Finally, at **B. Dalton's**, Beth gave us the following suggestions:

Gump and Co by Winston Groom, \$22.00. The follow-up to the life adventures of the beloved Forrest Gump continues, bringing him to current times.

The magazines, *Genre*, *Advocate*, *Advocate Men*, and *Freshmen* are available.

These local businesses appreciate and encourage your support and comments.



SHAMANISM

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.

Nancy has her training from the Foundation for Shamanic Studies. For information or for an appointment call her at 616-223-7999.

CALENDAR

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	Board & Member Meeting 6:30 pm (Patty 946-1804)	6	7	8	9
10	11		Rap Group 7-9pm Grace Episcopal (Rose 946-1804)	14	15	Out 'N About Coffeehouse 7-11:00 pm (946-2708)
17	18		P-FLAG 7:00 pm Grace Episcopal	21	22	23
24	Autumn Hike/Dinner 946-1804	26	27	Highway Clean-up Alex 943-4492	29	30

Womyn's Music—WNMC 90.9—6:30-8:00 pm—Sunday

Thursdays-5:30 pm Frontrunners—Call Paul—271-4510

October

CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	Friends North Board & Member Meeting 6:30pm (Patty 946-1804)	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY Film Festival	12	13	14
Newsletter Deadline for Issue #5	16	17	P-FLAG 7:00 pm Grace Episcopal	19	20	FN Gay/Lesbian History Day Sugarloaf Resort Out 'N About Coffeehouse 7-11:00 pm (946-2708)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Daylight Savings Ends	30	31	Halloween	To add events or notices to the Calendar call Dick at 271-3042		

Womyn's Music—WNMC 90.9—6:30-8:00 pm—Sunday

Thursdays-5:30 pm Frontrunners—Call Paul—271-4510

GROUPS:

FRIENDS NORTH BOARD AND MEMBER MEETINGS:

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

FRIENDS NORTH RAP GROUP is a group of men and women who get together monthly for lively discussion on a particular topic and a good time. Please consider joining them on the second Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 349 Washington, T.C. Look for the Rap Group announcement elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter. (issue 6)

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 to attend P-FLAG meetings. Meet at Grace Episcopal Church every third Wednesday of the month, from 7-9 pm. For more information call Cindy at 271-5045 (issue 6)

WINDFIRE: This is a local youth support group for teens and others under 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 6)

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 6)

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. We're back running as a group for the fall again. 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 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 lesbians and gay men is meeting weekly in Petoskey. The group meets Thursday nights at a gay-friendly restaurant. For information, please contact Timothy at 347-4238 or Zalmon at 348-5079 (issue 6)

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 6)

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 1)

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Meetings for gays and lesbians are held each Wednesday at 5:30 pm and each Saturday at 11:00 am at the Friends Meeting House, 5th and Oak Streets in TC. For further info, call John at 922-0746 (issue 6)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PICKUPS will be wrapping up this Fall on our very own two miles of M-72. The next date for pickup is September 28. Call Alec at 943-4492 for time and location. (issue 4)

PLEASE SPONSOR OUR POSTCARD PROJECT: They do make a difference! The cost for printing the 3000 postcards is \$80.00. To contribute specifically to the Postcard Project, please call Richard at 271-3042 or send a check (in an amount of \$80.00 or less) directly to Friends North. We thank an anonymous donor from Traverse City and Philadelphia for this issue's cards. (issue 5)

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 pleased to announce it will begin providing public services in the liberal religious tradition. Sunday services will be held at the Temple B'nai Israel on the corner of Waukazoo and Michigan Street in downtown Petoskey. 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)

SOCIAL/SUPPORT GROUP FORMING for gay and bisexual men in NE Michigan area. For further information, contact PO Box 391, Alpena, MI 49707 (issue 5)

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)

FOR SALE:

NEW HOUSES for sale in gay neighborhood in Interlochen. Please call Dane for more information. 616-276-9125 (issue 6)

PERSONALS:

BI-WHITE MALE, 48, professional and secure, 154 lbs., 5'9", In shape, New to scene. Seeking friends in northern Michigan. Enjoy boating, skiing, sports cars. Write POB 254, Roscommon, MI 48653 (issue 6)

POSITIONS:

CARETAKER WANTED: For women-only resort. For details, contact Marge and Joanne's at 616-334-3346 (issue 6)

Michigan Notes:

By Richard Tuxbury

HENRY MESSER SHOT IN DETROIT

Dr. Henry Messer, one of the founders of the Triangle Foundation, was shot in the abdomen at Triangle offices during a bungled robbery on June 28. The bullet fortunately penetrated no vital organs, and as of this writing, Dr. Messer has recovered well.

The shooting has appalled gay and lesbian groups around the country. Because Dr. Messer, who is a retired neurosurgeon, helped organize the Triangle Foundation, gay leaders are asking themselves whether this was an anti-gay shooting.

The important thing, say Triangle leaders, is that in the aftermath of the shooting, they are seeking to strike a proper balance between designating the attack on Messer as an anti-gay attack and seeing it simply as a robbery assault and nothing more.

After much investigation, Triangle President Jeff Montgomery concludes that the incident was gay-related but probably not gay-motivated. Apparently, the attackers had visited the Triangle office early the day of the shooting and had inquired what "Triangle" stood for. They determined that the offices were part of a gay organization.

According to police reports, the shooting occurred when two young men walked into the office late one evening, pointed a gun at Messer's head, and demanded money. Messer struggled with them and pulled the revolver away from his head before being shot. A third man entered the building, while a fourth was a look-out outside.

The attackers have not been apprehended. Security at the office has been addressed by the board, with improvements recommended immediately.

JAN STEVENSON STEPS DOWN AT AFFIRMATIONS

After six years of dedicated service to Affirmations Lesbian and Gay Center in Ferndale, Executive Director Jan Stevenson is resigning her position. Jan has decided it is time to move on

to new challenges and opportunities.. Under her direction, Affirmations has grown into a full service community center, reaching out to thousands of people throughout the state of Michigan.

Jan has been with the Center since it began, first serving as the President of the Board and then, as the first Executive Director. The opening of the center, along with a Helpline and numerous additional services were all a natural progression for an organization that was well-staffed and managed. A monthly newsletter also serves to announce the Center's events as well as providing local news for the gay and lesbian community.

She will be missed greatly by the staff. They appreciated her incredible commitment to a vision of a vibrant community center in southeastern Michigan.

CREATING CHANGE CONFERENCE

Southeastern Michigan will never be the same: The 8th Annual Creating Change Conference will take place from November 8-12, at the Westin Hotel, Renaissance Center, in downtown Detroit. This is THE National Conference for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Movement. Sponsored by the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force Policy Institute, the conference will feature workshops on every homosexual topic, Digital Queens computer training, tussling with our movements' best minds, and fab social events. The Host Committee expects over 3000 participants in this major event.

(for further information on registration and housing, call Patty O'Donnell at the Friends North phonenumber).

MICHIGAN LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FEST

South East Michigan Pride is proud to produce the 3rd annual film festival. This Queer Cinema Event will be held at the Magic Bag Theatre in Ferndale, on September 22-24.

Featured will be No Ordinary Love, Heaven's A Drag, Sister My Sister, Ballot Measure 9, and OUT: Stories of Lesbian and Gay Youth.

For info, contact S.E.M.P at 810-825-6659.

Joanna T. Lauber, M.A., C.S.W., C.Ht

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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
 Metro Gay Monthly (newspaper)
 232 E. Marshall St. Ferndale, MI 48220 810-544-0809
 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
 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
 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
 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
 HRCF: Human Rights Campaign Fund (National Coming Out Day)
 1012 14th St. NS #607, Washington, DC 20005 202-628-4160
 Fax: 202-347-5323
 Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, Political Action Committee
 1012 14th St. NW #707, Washington, DC 20005 202-842-7679

LOCAL SPIRITUAL:

The Reverend Emmy Lou Belcher
 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Grand Traverse
 6726 Center Rd., Traverse City—Home: 938-9078 .. Office: 947-3117

LOCAL COUNSELING:

Third Level Crisis Intervention, 902 W. Front St. 922-4800
 and 800-442-7315
 Women's Resource Center 941-1210
 Rodger Landvoy, PHD 929-1711
 Lois Martindale, PHD 943-8463
 Susan Breuer PHD (Frankfort / Traverse City) 352-4261
 Margo Million, ACSW 947-0511
 David Blisk (Maple City) 228-5105
 Barbara Jones Smith, PHD 947-1444
 Elizabeth Most, MSW, ACSW (Petoskey) 348-2415
 William D. Gould, MA (Gladwin) 517-426-2351
 David Rushlow, ACSW, Munson Medical Center 935-6385
 Joanna T. Lauber, MA, CSW, CHT 947-8842
 Bay Area Counseling (Petoskey/Harbor Springs)
 Margalo Bley, MSW, ACSW
 Tom Terry, PHD, CSW 348-3616
 Daniel C. Doran, PHD, CSW 906-495-5061
 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) 946-1804
 Windfire Gay & Lesbian Youth Support Group—
 Call Third Level for location & time 922-4800
 or 800-442-7315
 Side Traxx Nite Club, 520 Franklin St. off of 8th St. 935-1666
 Traverse City Human Rights Commission, 400 Boardman 922-4700
 Gay Alcoholics Anonymous,
 Friends Church, 206 S. Oak at 5th St., TC John 922-0746
 P-FLAG, Traverse City
 POB 1705, Acme, MI 49610 Cindy 271-5045
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 Wellness HIV Support Group and
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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

LETTERS:

Kirtland Community College

June 28, 1995

Friends North;

As editor of Jack Pine Journal, I would welcome the opportunity to publish writing by lesbians and gay men as well as writing with a positive lesbian/gay theme.

Because Jack Pine Journal is a community magazine, we hope to reach individuals who do not necessarily consider themselves to be artists or writers. We want to give voice to people who might be publishing for the first time. Because of this, my advisory board and I are especially willing to work with new writers.

Individuals interested in submitting work for possible publication should realize that we would not be interested in material that is stridently political. Authors and artists should also note that a north woods flavor is crucial.

Enclosed are some copies of the writer's guidelines (please call Richard @ 616-271-3042 for guidelines) for Jack Pine Journal. I appreciate your help in getting them to individuals who might be interested in submitting a contribution.

Sincerely,
Steven L. Berg, Ph.D., Editor



OUR VIEW

Editorial from Traverse City Record-Eagle,
Wednesday, June 21, 1995

ACCEPTANCE OF HOMOSEXUALS SHOULD BE FOSTERED IN AREA

No one seems to have intended any harm recently when a bus and a van carrying 1995 St. Francis graduates stopped outside SideTraxx, the only gay bar in Traverse City.

The stop apparently was intended to be a joke—part of a graduation party "guess where we're going" mystery trip.

Whatever the motive, the result was harassment. It was a bad joke from the beginning. The mere act of stopping and laughing mocks the men and women at the bar. The "joke" became worse when a handful of graduates reportedly got off the bus and shouted slurs in and around the bar.

The entire scene was ugly. Had bar patrons retaliated, either physically or verbally, it could have been much uglier.

Besides reflecting some bad judgment by parents who planned and executed the "mystery trip" portion of the all-night party, the entire incident suggests a widespread intolerance, homophobia—perhaps a disdain—of homosexuality and people who happen to be homosexuals.

That intolerance is not confined to one school or one community. As polls showed during the "gays in the military" controversy, millions of Americans harbor an unfounded fear or loathing of homosexuals.

In the graduation party incident, St. Francis officials were quick to repudiate and apologize for all aspects of what happened—from the decision to just drive by SideTraxx to the shouting of insults. They did not condone it. The school teaches acceptance, not intolerance.

Perhaps some good can come of this incident if school officials at St. Francis and at all area schools can foster a greater understanding of the gay community and other minority groups. Achieving that understanding starts with dialogue, open minds and a willingness to abandon old prejudices and stereotypes.

Michelle A. McManus

August 4, 1995

Thank you for sending me your postcard concerning hate-motivated crime legislation.

I do not condone violence against any individual. This country was founded on individual rights, not group rights. The founding fathers firmly believed protection of individual rights insured protection for any group. Violence is violence no matter who it is perpetrated against. There are currently laws in existence that protect every individual.

Thanks again for your postcard. I appreciate your input.

Sincerely,
Michelle A. McManus
State Representative, 104th District



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MICHIGAN REP. CHAIRS HOMOSEXUALITY HEARING

U.S. Rep. Peter Hoekstra plans a congressional hearing to determine whether public schools promote homosexuality to students. Planned for early September, the hearing will be before a panel of the House Economic and Educational Committee. It will address parental concerns about distributing condoms in school and sex education:

"It's not to bash gays, it's to talk about the appropriateness of having to deal with these issues in the classroom," says a spokesperson for Hoekstra.

But, the hearing came about because House Speaker Gingrich promised Traditional Values Coalition that the issue would be addressed. The California group has been opposed to gay rights for more than 20 years. "We are convinced that there is a clear agenda that the gay and lesbian...groups want to promote in school," said Rev. Lou Sheldon, director of the coalition. "And, this agenda has been accomplished through the Centers for Disease Control with funding under the Trojan Horse of AIDS education."

Among the things Sheldon hopes to "expose" during the hearing, according to a letter:

- A decision to declare June "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month" in Los Angeles schools.
- Teacher training manuals and conferences organized by the NEA that advocate the promotion of homosexuality in the classroom.
- A new curriculum in Fairfax, VA that discusses "normalcy of homosexuality."
- Efforts in Massachusetts to "indoctrinate an entire state...under the guise of 'safety' and preventing suicide."

The hearing has drawn criticism from the country's largest gay rights organization. The HRCF accused Hoekstra of turning the committee over to Sheldon, who is "distorting the purpose of programs designed to keep young people safe and healthy," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the fund.

Spokesperson for Hoekstra say that Sheldon has helped plan the hearing, but does not have a run of Hoekstra's subcommittee.

(from the Traverse City Record-Eagle and the Detroit Free Press)

"I'm absolutely fine with it, I'm proud of her. She writes for The Advocate all the time. I said to her, 'I didn't know I was raising a gay activist, but I guess that's what's supposed to be'... It's a difficult thing [for a parent]. It's one thing to be completely liberal when it doesn't affect you. But you really have to search your soul long and hard [when it's your child. Chastity hesitated in coming out because] she didn't want to hurt her dad [Congressman Sonny Bono] or hurt me."

Singer/actress Cher to *USA Today*, about her daughter, Chastity.

"He was a young black second lieutenant who had not attended West Point and yet rose through the ranks to become head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. But now he wants to deny gays the same equal rights that enable him to succeed. I thought he would have had a certain sensitivity and say we judge people on the basis of their ability."

Sen. Alfonso D'Amato (R-NY) charging that retired Gen. Colin Powell's support for the ban on homosexuals in the armed forces is the same argument used to segregate black servicemen 50 years ago, in a Washington Times interview.

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SAUGATUCK ATTRACTS MANY GAY TOURISTS, BUT THERE IS FRICTION

MICHIGAN TOWN IS NOTABLE FOR ITS AMITY, BUT DOES IT NEED A NEW RIGHTS LAW?

by Oscar Suris, Staff Reporter of *The Wall Street Journal*

SAUGATUCK, Mich. — This summer, the gay-rights movement has found an odd place to hit a bump in the road: this resort town of 950 residents.

Nearly 200 miles west of Detroit, where conservative ethnic Dutch communities thrive, Saugatuck attracts as tourists husbands and wives with kids in tow, as well as vacationing homosexuals. Gay men and lesbians own businesses here. They win city elections. And they sip coffee with heterosexuals each morning at the town's only newsstand.

But Saugatuck's chemistry has been upset ever since a group of locals approached the city council this past spring with a seemingly innocuous request: Put into regulation what Saugatuck already does in fact. The citizens — a small, loosely organized group of area homosexuals and heterosexuals — wanted an ordinance that would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. At least nine states and 130 counties and cities already have such ordinances.

Legislating a Fact

But to the group's dismay, many in Saugatuck balked. "We laugh, drink and play with [gays], says Harry Van Singel, a 68-year-old Saugatuck city-council member who is heterosexual. "Why do we have to have an ordinance?"

Saugatuck's uncoded hospitality had already helped its restaurants, its smoky pubs, its gift shops and its bed-and-breakfast hotels enjoy tourist business of all sorts. But the request for a human-rights ordinance has forced this leafy town on the banks of the Kalamazoo River off Lake Michigan to revisit a sore subject from its past. Decades after signs here reading "Gentiles Only" came down, Saugatuck is wrestling with civil rights again.

Saugatuck residents opposed to the proposed ordinance fear that a "gay-friendly" statute would scare away thousands of conventional families and heterosexual couples who visit here annually. They, along with gay tourists, are worth tens of millions of dollars to the local economy. Other residents fear the potential costs of defending and enforcing such an ordinance could be onerous to a city that already frets over an annual municipal toilet-paper budget of \$4,800.

"It's not every day that a small town is asked to handle a constitutional issue," says Arlene Sherman, another heterosexual city-council member. She adds, "Why pick on a community that is already accepting?"

Wielding Influence

But for many gay people who live here, such arguments are beside the point. This, they remind their neighbors, is a town that has been a draw for homosexuals from across the Midwest for decades, and they wield as much influence as

heterosexuals do. Last year, one of the biggest developments in Saugatuck's history — a \$1.5 million renovation of a restaurant-and-retail complex — was the labor of two male lovers of 27 years, Larry Gammons and Carl Jennings. The two also own the Douglas Dunes, the area's sole gay bar, and an adjoining restaurant with a mixed clientele.

"I think we need to pass these ordinances to make it a fact that we're accepted, productive Americans," Says Mr. Gammons. "Now that the cow is out of the barn, we can't go back."

But the issue has raised tempers in this mellow town. A June city-council meeting turned testy after council members said they wouldn't consider any "human rights" proposal unless they first received pro-ordinance petitions containing 120 signatures — 5% of the town's voting population.

Ordinance supporters cringed as the frustrated city manager, Perry Franzoi, told one stunned gay resident — Ed Gray, an artist — that if he didn't like the council's decision, he should move out of town. The local newspaper, the *Commercial Record*, reported that Mr. Franzoi got an "oral reprimand" from the council for his outburst and that Mr. Gray got a letter of apology from Mr. Franzoi. He declines to comment on the incident.

Saugatuck's gay community is divided, too. Some gay men and lesbians want a low-key approach, fearing that a fight over an ordinance would simply polarize their city and hurt many gay merchants. Others fear that showing support for the cause would be tantamount to going public with their own sexuality—an uncomfortable option for some. A side debate also has cropped up over whether a new ordinance ought to address homosexuals exclusively, or include civil protections for virtually every shade and shape of human being.

No Room in the Inn

But for James Scott, one of the ordinance's staunchest gay supporters, the need for some action became eminently clear after an evening last November when the Rosemont Inn, a bed-and-breakfast in the neighboring village of Douglas, allegedly refused to rent a room to two of his gay friends.

"They said, 'It's not our policy to rent to two men. We're not gay-friendly,'" claims Mr. Scott. The hotel's owner, Joe Sajdak, declines to comment.

Saugatuck's reluctance to pass an ordinance has surprised veterans of the gay-rights movement. Jeff Montgomery, a gay activist from Detroit, had expected an easy assignment when he agreed to advise proponents of an ordinance. But after asking for petitions, the city this month decided not even to consider passage. Instead, council members voted to study the possibility of forming a commission that would hear charges of human-rights abuses. Mr. Franzoi says there have been none filed.

Meanwhile, in the neighboring town of Douglas, an all encompassing human-rights ordinance was adopted this summer without incident. And Mr. Montgomery came to feel that not only is hostility toward homosexuality a problem in Saugatuck but that too many gay people themselves are reluctant to support their own cause.

Saugatuck continued next page

A Closet Case?

"It's the power and impact of what the closet has done to many people's lives," says Mr. Montgomery. "I guess we now know that it is folly to believe that there is this tiny oasis of tolerance out there."

Some residents say that if an ordinance isn't passed soon, boycotts by outside activists could follow, posing a threat to the town's tourism-dependent economy. But David Smith, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a Washington gay-rights group, says "Saugatuck" isn't likely to become a rallying cry.

He says most gay activists have their eyes trained instead on 1996, when the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule on the constitutionality of a 1992 initiative—passed by Colorado voters and declared unconstitutional by the state's highest court—that prohibits local gay-rights ordinances in the state. Colorado is appealing that decision.

reprinted from the "front page"—Wall Street Journal, August 22, 1995

SILVER AND GOLD

At Midnight 96-Year-Old Ruth Ellis finally abandoned the dance floor, but only because she wanted to shoot some pool in the bar. The slight African-American had driven 19 hours from Detroit to Provincetown to attend an annual celebration for lesbians over 50 and their friends. The oldest attendee, Ruth was also one of the most enthusiastic dancers, but the night's musical offerings, gleaned from the past five or six decades, gave everyone an opportunity to step out.

The dance was the social highlight of the weekend, organized by 90-year-old Christine Burton. Eighteen years ago, when Burton was thwarted from placing an ad in a gay newspaper (she was told there were no lesbians her age looking for friends), she started her own international distribution and a devoted following.

This year's meeting included appearances by musician Alix Dobkin and a workshop sponsored by OLOC, Old Lesbians Organizing for Change. OLOC provided a clothesline of birthday cards that pointedly illustrated the demeaning images fed to women "past their prime." "I hate the question 'Are you still driving?'" said one lesbian in Birkenstocks and a *Queer Crone* T-shirt.

Lucy Winer, director of the award-winning documentary on lesbian and gay seniors *Silent Pioneers*, and cinematographer Frances Reid (*The Times of Harvey Milk*) were on hand to document the weekend and record the story of Burton's life. "I was beginning to get freaked out about aging, but meeting Christine and these women has radically shifted my perspective," Warner said.

Reprinted from *Out* October 1995.

"You don't have to see God as straight, white and a man."



"I hadn't been going to church for five years, because I couldn't believe in anything. I wanted something I could relate to as a woman. A lesbian woman."

"It was the same for both of us. Walking into a Unitarian Universalist service and feeling immediately at home. We felt welcome. We didn't have to be different people—we could be ourselves."

"We could be together... a couple. And no one was going to kick us out."

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"I mean, not everyone is Ozzie and Harriet, you know?"

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HOMO-HATRED ON TRIAL:

AMBUSHED AND HUMILIATED

Keynote by Jeffrey Montgomery, President, The Triangle Foundation Anti-Violence Institute, National Lesbian & Gay Health Association, June 17, 1995, Minneapolis, Minnesota

On March 9 of this year, Scott Amedure was gunned down in his mobile home, in the suburban Detroit community of Orion Township. Scott died from two shotgun blasts to the chest. The self-confessed killer is Jonathan Schmitz, an acquaintance of Scott's.

This murder quickly gained national attention because it seemed to have been provoked by the joint appearance of Scott and Jon at a taping of the nationally syndicated *Jenny Jones Show*, during which Scott revealed that he had a crush on Jon. In fact, the theme of that particular show was "Secret Crushes." Since the attention that was focused on this murder was so widespread, I'm going to make an assumption that most of you in this room know the basic facts of this case.

I'd like to speak about what this case is really about; why it deserves wide ranging attention—and why some of the attention to it is so miss-directed; and how our anti-violence work can—and should—use horrible tragedies like Scot Amedure's murder to further efforts to stop the violence being waged against gays and lesbians across our country.

As the only gay and lesbian anti-violence project in Michigan, The Triangle Foundation was involved in the aftermath of Amedure's murder almost from the moment that Jon Schmitz turned himself in to the sheriff.

To recollect:

Schmitz, after shooting Scott, drove directly to a filling station down the road from Scott's house, got on a pay phone and called 911. When police arrived at the gas station, Schmitz told the arresting officer:

"He's gay, but I'm not. He wouldn't leave me alone. That's why I did it. I went on the 'Jenny Jones Show' and he called me a crush. I didn't know it was a guy and that's why I killed him."

At his preliminary hearing, it would be revealed that in a subsequent statement, Schmitz admitted that he left his apartment on the morning of the killing, stopped at an ATM machine, withdrew \$350, went to a gun shop where he purchased the new shotgun, stopped at a hardware store and bought a \$3.19 box of 12 gauge buckshot, and drove back to his apartment.

He sat parked in front of his apartment where he contemplated the fact that he would never see it again. Next, he drove to Scott's home, knocked on the door, had a brief conversation with Scott, returned to his car, retrieved the shotgun went back to the house and immediately, without further words, shot Scott twice. Then he went to the gas station.

Schmitz' statement indicates that what convinced him he would have to kill Scott was not the admission of attraction on the *Jenny Jones* show, but a note that was left on his doorstep—a note that he discovered on the morning of the killing.

It was an anonymous note that read: "If you want to get off, you've got to have the right tool. Just ask me." It was signed, "Guess Who?"

Apparently, the short conversation at Scott's home a couple hours later—the last conversation that Scott would ever have—was to confirm that Scott had, indeed, written the note. Jon said that when he read that note he decided he would have to kill Scott. Just so it's clear, then, by the statement of the killer himself, Scott Amedure's murder was an anti-gay motivated crime. A hate crime.

Scott was killed because he was gay and he had the confidence of his own identity to admit his attraction to another man during the taping of a national television program. No matter how great an effort is made by the prosecutor in the case, by much of the media, and others who find these issues unsettling or troubling, the real motivation in this murder was homophobia. Actually, more accurately, homo-hatred.

The efforts to obscure this issue are homophobic.

During the last four years, The Triangle Foundation has been involved in the investigation and prosecution of five gay murders before Amedure. In every one of those cases we worked closely with the police and prosecutors and saw first-degree convictions in every case. In Michigan first-degree murder is the highest murder charge available and the sentence is mandatory life without possibility of parole.

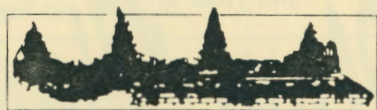
Anyway, until now, we have never encountered a prosecutor who was not willing to recognize these crimes as bias-motivated and who did not aggressively fight defense attempts to introduce various versions of the homosexual panic defense. Until now. The prosecutor in the Amedure case, Richard Thompson, set the tone of this issue from the moment that Schmitz was arraigned. In a rare post-arraignment news conference the prosecutor went rampaging against the TV show and man-to-man attraction. He said:

"In my view, the 'Jenny Jones' show ambushed this defendant with humiliation, and in retaliation, the defendant ambushed the victim with a shotgun."

The talk who ambushed the defendant? The mitigating circumstance was "humiliation?" If anyone was ambushed and humiliated it was the gay and lesbian community.

To this day, the prosecutor has refused to acknowledge that this was an anti-gay attack, or even that this case has anything to do with the gay issue. He has aided the defense team, which immediately picked up on the themes laid out by the prosecutor and police, and have created the picture of Jon Schmitz as a poor straight boy who was tormented—"humiliated," their word—by another man's attraction to him.

Thompson is a Republican who owes his political career to Michigan's Republican political establishment. The Republican party in Michigan is one of the most stridently far right in the country and anything that even smells gay-positive is taboo. Republican leadership erased gays from our state's hate crime statute and continues to keep us out. Interestingly, Thompson has gained quite a



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reputation as an individual-responsibility advocate. It is nearly impossible to find a single case in which he has accepted extenuating circumstances as a defense for crime in his jurisdiction. Suddenly he is finding all manner of excuses for Jon Schmitz' act of murder.

The defense team can just sit back and coast on this one. The Talk Show Defense, which could become as ludicrous as the Twinkie Defense, of Dan White infamy, was snapped up by the media. The tabloids, *People*, *TV Guide*, *The New York Post*, as well as several others, created a circus in which was lost any semblance of outrage over a cold-blooded, methodical murder, let alone any discussion of how the issues of homophobia and homo-hatred played into the killing and its aftermath.

This unfortunate coverage inevitably influenced the way this case was being regarded within our community; the gay community. Locally, in the Detroit area, many gays and lesbians—many more men than women—questioned our posture in the case. They wished that we would lay off the gay angle and stop egging on the prosecutor.

We began, as soon as the prosecutor was finished with his first media statements, to mount the offensive and make the effort to keep the focus on this case as an anti-gay bias crime. In our statements we made the case for looking at the societal context in which a guy like Jon Schmitz would be provoked to murder because another man had a crush on him.

In fact, statements have recently been made that suggest that Scott Amedure *himself* is the person responsible for his own murder. It's ironic that Thompson, who has made many national headlines as the chief prosecutor of Jack Kervorkian, seems to be making Amedure's murder into a justifiable assisted suicide: Scott was responsible for his own death, Jon just pulled the trigger.

By a week or two into this bizarre story, some of the media appeared to finally be getting our message. Some actually began to call Thompson's actions into question. There was a half-hearted attempt by *The New York Times* to look at the homophobia suggested by the case, and most of the gay press, especially local and regional newspapers around the country were doing a great job. It's also worth noting that *The Village Voice* provided the best analysis of this case of any that was printed.

But our own glossy magazines, notably *The Advocate*, *Genre*, and *Out* were still, and are still, fixated on the talk show sensationalism and have given very scant attention to the bias-motivation involved. In fact they're right up there with *TV Guide* and *People* in the pandering of Amedure's killing to the lowest common denominator of public consumption.

Scott Amedure's murder provides us with an excellent platform from which to speak on issues like homophobic attitudes, the so-called "homosexual panic defense," self-loathing homosexuals, and the lack of protection for gays and lesbians in most hate crime legislation. As the trial approaches we will continue to keep these important aspects of the case in the media spotlight and in the public discourse.

When the trial begins this Fall, we expect to learn many more things about Jon Schmitz and what was the true relationship between him and Scott, and Jon's own gay identity history. But as these themes may develop, so too will additional challenges be presented to us in helping to explain complicated issues to a lazy and ignorant public.

How to explain self-hating homosexuals, "homosexual panic" and the dominating, suffocating power of the closet's atmosphere, in a twenty-second sound bite? How to make these concepts clear during a telephone interview with a reporter on deadline? How to

make it clear that even if the killer may have been gay, this is still an anti-gay murder? To rise to the task of these challenges is paramount as we continue to seek justice for the victim.

If we can agree that violence is a major health crisis and that bias-motivated violence is, indeed, a plague on our community, we must be concerned with the causes as well as the symptoms as we search for the cures.

We believe that the Amedure murder case presents us with many lessons and equally many opportunities.

For the most part, the focus here has not been on the cause of Scott's murder. Rather, the media, lead by law enforcement, has fixed on anything else that anyone can conjure to avoid obvious conclusions: that gays must be granted full protection; that our lives are equally significant as any others; that society has failed its homosexual brothers and sisters, sons and daughters by subjecting them to daily risk and, crippling fear of mayhem and violence.

Those of us who are active in the national gay/lesbian community and in the communities where we live should use the death of Scott Amedure to begin or continue the dialogue and discussions about how to ultimately stop the violence against us and how to deal with the real underlying causes of the disease of anti-gay hatred.

We cannot afford to let Scott's death and the thousands of other victims and survivors of anti-gay or lesbian violence simply become statistics in reports and studies. Every single case that we—all of us who do anti-violence work in our communities—become involved with must also become vehicles for the whole community's combined will and commitment to confront homo-hatred and stop the violence before it conquers the will and spirit of us all. Stop the violence. Remember the victims. Empower the survivors.

FIRST DOMINO'S, NOW PIZZA HUT

Rush Limbaugh eats pizza while commenting on his knack for "always being right" in a new series of TV and radio commercials for Pizza Hut. According to the Washington Feminist Faxnet, Limbaugh recently commented on a rural meeting of lesbian organizers saying they were "mating with pigs" to "perpetuate the species." Register your distaste for homophobic and anti-woman radio and television. Call the Pizza Hut comment line at 800-358-2222 (and while you're at it call—WPBN-WTOM TV 7&4—616-947-7770, which has begun showing Rush twice daily. Do we need this?)



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GLAAD NEWS

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Same-Sex Marriage

The Spring National Gay & Lesbian Task Force 1995 Task Force Report featured same-sex marriage on the front page, alerts against bills introduced into the Alaska legislature against same sex marriage and domestic partnerships, and reports from Utah, South Dakota, and Alaska.

The legislatures in Alaska, Utah and South Dakota are already dealing with same-sex marriage legislation designed to head off a positive ruling expected on a same-sex marriage case in Hawaii. Currently, no U.S. state recognizes marriage for same-sex couples.

ALASKA: Two bills recently introduced in the Alaska State Legislature could slow the efforts of local activists working for domestic partnerships and marriage for same-sex couples in that state. HB226 would prohibit domestic partnership benefits for state and university employees. HB227 would bar legal recognition of same-sex marriages. If passed, Alaska would be come the second state this year to pass legislation banning marriage for same-sex couples.

Contact: Governor Tony Knowles, State Capitol, PO Box 110001, Juneau, AK 99811; fax—907-465-3980; e-mail—: tony.knowles@gov.state.ak.us

UTAH: Utah activists are organizing to oppose legislation that banned recognition of same sex couples.

SOUTH DAKOTA: The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, with local activists, helped form South Dakota's first gay organization—the South Dakota Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Federation—to defeat a bill banning same-sex marriages.

Contacts: HERMP, Tom Ramsey, Secretary, Steering Committee, Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project, 1820 University Ave., Honolulu, HI 96822. NGLTF, 2320 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.

Hawaii Update

On May 31, the Mormon Church in Hawaii filed a motion with Hawaii's Supreme Court to expedite their appeal of Circuit Court Judge Shimabukuro's decision against them. They would like their appeal decided this summer in advance of the scheduled September 25 hearing date for Baehr v. Lewin in Circuit Court.

The Mormon Church filed in February with Honolulu's Circuit Court to become co-defendants with the state against HERMP in Baehr v. Lewin. They were rejected in March by Circuit Court Judge Shimabukuro. The Mormons then appealed Shimabukuro's rejection to Hawaii's supreme Court. Alas, for them, such appeals usually take one year and the Circuit Court is scheduled to hear Baehr v. Lewin in September 25. For this reason, the Mormons have filed for special treatment.

HERMP's Dan Foley will provide a brief against the Mormons' request for an expedited appeal.

Jim Thomas, editor of the News-Telegraph (a leading lesbian newspaper in the Midwest) wrote an op-ed piece "The coming storm over marriage" which predicts disaster greater than what happened with the military (it was also reprinted in San Jose's Out-Now). Their e-mail addresses are: newstele@aol.com and jct@netcom.com

Jim's points are clear: "We are totally unprepared," our leaders are failing us, "because we made no effort to hold an internal discussion of the issue, we will not be united... We are about to get creamed."

Saturn is OUT of this World

A two-page advertisement for Saturn automobiles appears in the May issue of "Out" magazine, a national lesbian/gay monthly. According to business reporter Joann Muler, "It marks the first time that an American carmaker has advertised in the gay media." Saturn cars are manufactured by General Motors, which also purchased advertising time during the February broadcast of "Serving in Silence: The Margarethe Cammermeyer Story."

"With this public success comes greater attack from the radical right," cautions "Out" editor Michael Goff. "The radical right crew is responding with massive letter-writing campaigns to our advertisers. The very existence of our institutions such as 'Out' magazine are at stake if companies are bullied out of making simple good business decisions."

Encourage General Motors to continue supporting "Out" as well as other vital and diverse lesbian/gay media. Contact: John Smale, Chair of the Board, General Motors Corporation, General Motors Building, 3044 W. Grand Boulevard, Detroit, MI 48202; Donald B. Bryant, Saturn Assistance Center, Saturn Corporation, 100 Saturn Parkway, PO Box 1500, Spring Hill, TN 37174-1500

Tracking the Ads

The Media Outreach Committee wants to inform the gay and lesbian community of advertisers who either support programs about our community or contribute to censorship of those programs, and you can help. The next time you watch television, keep a pencil and paper handy. If there is such content, jot down the name of the show and its sponsors. Then, call the information into the GLAAD Hotlines: In Los Angeles: 213-764-5223; fax 213-658-6776; in New York 212-802-1700; fax 212-807-1806.

If you are an advertising industry "insider" who might have access to information about advertisers who have been under boycott or hate-campaign pressure to cease advertising on programs that are lesbian and gay positive, please call us. Any information will be treated in confidence.

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MEET CONGRESS AT AN OFFICE NEAR YOU

— URGE YOUR LAWMAKERS TO FIGHT JOB DISCRIMINATION, AIDS AND HATE LEGISLATION —

Members of Congress return home in August to meet with constituents and hear their concerns. You can meet with your elected representatives and help get the message to Congress that Americans oppose discrimination and support federal efforts to fight AIDS.

THE ISSUES

A face-to-face meeting gives you the perfect opportunity to urge your members of Congress to:

- Support increased federal efforts for AIDS research, prevention and care.
- Co-sponsor and support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), a bill to prohibit job discrimination based on sexual orientation. Current federal civil rights laws offer no protection from this widespread form of discrimination.
- Oppose any attempt by anti-gay extremists to pass hate legislation that singles out lesbian and gay Americans for discrimination.

FIVE EASY STEPS TO AN EFFECTIVE MEETING

- 1. Be Prepared.** Know what you want out of the meeting and what to expect. The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) can provide voting records on your members of Congress and detailed information on the issues. Call HRCF at 202-628-4160 and talk with your lobbyist to work on a strategy for your meeting.
- 2. Ask for an appointment.** Call the US Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 to be connected to your Senator or Representative. When you reach your legislator's office, ask to speak with the scheduler. Explain the nature of your meeting, the number and names of those attending, and dates which might be mutually convenient. Confirm your request with a follow-up letter restating the areas for discussion, the names and affiliation of those attending, and your understanding of a date for the meeting.
- 3. Hold a Productive Meeting.** Dress appropriately, and be on time. Each person attending should make points about the issues. Mention specific legislation by name or number.
- 4. Follow up after the meeting.** Make sure that you and each person who attended follow up with a letter of thanks.
- 5. Tell us about your meeting.** Anytime you have a meeting, receive a written response, or see comments in the press on lesbian and gay issues by your members of Congress, let us hear from you.

For more information call HRCF. Our Federal Advocacy Network (FAN) will provide information on contacting your elected officials. Call 202-628-4160 or write FAN at HRCF, POB 1396, Washington, DC 20013

TESUQUE, NM (AP)—Robert H. Eichberg, a psychologist who tried to bridge the gap between gay and non-gay segments of society, has died of complications of AIDS.

Eichberg was 50 when he died Aug. 11 at his home in Tesuque.

Eichberg's book, "Coming Out: an Act of Love," has become required reading for friends and family of gays and lesbians, said Lynn Shepodd of Santa Fe, president of the Santa Fe Lesbian, Gay and Bi Pride Committee.

"If you care to have any relationship with gay people, his book is essential," Shepodd said. "It accurately describes the process that gay and lesbian people go through in their coming out."

Eichberg also was a co-founder of National Coming Out Day.

"His whole life's work was about bridging the gap between gay and non-gay communities, allowing people to discover who they are, and really encouraging them to go out and do something with that knowledge," Shepodd said.

Honey Ward of Santa Fe, a friend and colleague, said Eichberg helped "thousands of people—people who had literally lived lives of quiet desperation, people who thought their lives were not going to get any better, people who thought they would always be second-class citizens."

In an interview with The Associated Press in 1993, Eichberg said "Most people think they don't know anyone gay or lesbian, and in fact everybody does. It is imperative that we come out and let people know who we are and disabuse them of their fears and stereotypes."

Eichberg was born in Brooklyn in 1945 and lived most of his life in Los Angeles.

His activism began more than two decades ago with the founding of a political action committee for gay, lesbian and women's rights in Los Angeles.

In 1978, he founded The Experience, a community-based workshop that inspired people to reveal their homosexuality to family and friends, Ward said.

Eichberg moved to Santa Fe in 1988—the same year he co-founded National Coming Out Day with Jean O'Leary of Los Angeles, Ward said. National Coming Out Day is observed annually on October 11.

Eichberg is survived by his partner, Jon Landstrom of Santa Fe; his mother, Shirley Greenes; his father, Norman Eichberg; and brothers Peter Eichberg and Steven Eichberg, all of the Los Angeles area.



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MAGGIE LALLY & MARIE GREEN

John Evans

At the opening night reception after *Lonely Planet* early this summer I had the pleasure of meeting its director Maggie Lally who with her partner Marie Green spends six weeks of summer in the region as a respite from life in the Big Apple.

(Marie is the person from whom I inherited the Friends North data base in the fall of 1992 just as she was moving to New York to live with Maggie.)

I asked Marie if she were a native of these parts:

"Well, sort of. Not really though because I wasn't born here but I used to live here for about eight years. Then when I got involved in Michigan Ensemble Theater that's where I met Maggie. We were involved in that for about three years."

Marie was the business manager and Maggie was directing. For a couple of years it was a long-distance relationship in the winter—lots of plane tickets, big phone bills, but in 1992 Marie moved to Maggie's home state. Now she says she's just a fudgie!

A native Long Islander, Maggie went to Adelphi University.

"They had a really good theater program. I always know I wanted theater. I started out acting—chose Adelphi because they were conservatory training—meaning I didn't have to take math or science—didn't want to be miserable with that!"

After a year of working in New York, Maggie, realizing she needed to go back to school, entered graduate school at the University of Michigan.

After U of M, I moved to Chicago and lived there for a year and a half but it just wasn't the place for me to be. I sent my resumes out and got a job at Duke University teaching. I did that for a year and then moved to New York and got a job at NYU."

At NYU Maggie taught in the dramatic writing program where she worked with Michael Kay, now technical director at the Old Town Playhouse, and Gary Garrison whom she had originally met at the U of M.

(Gary together with Barry Cole founded Tempest productions which played in the late eighties at the Opera House, and Michigan Ensemble Theater which ran for four years at the Denno Museum Center.)

"The three of us were cohorts in crime together—we all helped run the dramatic writing program... I still teach there as adjunct faculty. I'll go back and teach in the fall. But I direct wherever I get work."

Marie was born in Detroit and had been coming up to Elk Rapids area since early childhood.

"I went to Michigan State for social work and came up here for a while and then went back for business education and then through that learned computers."

Right out of college Marie worked at Murchie House, a home for emotionally impaired teenage girls. After she received her business education training she taught accounting in the vocational program for the Grand Traverse Band for two years.

"Then I went on and worked for MET as business manager. Actually I wanted to meet new people and it was exciting to meet all these people from New York and then — meeting Maggie — that was exciting!"

Maggie interjected: "What was funny was that both of us had been talking on the phone (New York to Traverse City) pretty

consistently for about three months doing the business end of the theater. We had completely different impressions of what each other looked like just from our voices. I thought Marie was a former cheerleader because her voice was so enthusiastic."

Marie: "I thought you were about 50 years old with Birkenstocks and tied-dyed skirts... And then even when we met, too, we weren't like each others type. We were just going out and having fun."

Maggie: "I love that about Marie — the bottom line is have fun. Don't get too serious about the work. Even now we'll look at each other and remind ourselves the bottom line is to have fun."

Marie considers herself fortunate to have such a flexible job in computers in New York because she is able to have an extended vacation in summer. Commenting on Marie's work Maggie said:

"The thing that makes Marie so viable in the computer work is her nature. You know, she's not one of those analytical people that sit behind a computer whom you feel you can't talk to. She is so approachable. People always ask for her to solve problems."

Marie adding to this: "When I do support, rather than try to walk through it on the phone, and they get all frustrated, I will just go to their desk and sit down... I like working with people—I wouldn't be happy just sitting behind a computer."

The couple is just winding up their six week stay and getting ready to return to New York. Having spent some time with Marie's family up here, they are looking forward to some time with Maggie's family in Long Island before returning to the jobs.

The most important part of their entourage on the return trip will be Chelsea, Marie's ten-year-old Golden Retriever, and Buster, Maggie's cat whom she has had since Chicago days.

Another cat, Lola, stays in New York with Maggie's mother. The apartment is near Central Park where they regularly exercise Chelsea.

I asked Maggie what is in the future.

"I'm involved in a new company called Lesbian Exchange of New Drama in New York. Major playwrights are involved, straight and gay, men and women... The thing that's appealing to me about it is there's real affirmation and validation out there I feel wonderful about giving my time and effort to that and helping develop lesbian works—helping writers work in that area."

So much transpired in our interview—many laughs—and a lot of information about theater both here and in New York—too much to include here. I hated to bring it to an end. We are fortunate to have these two intelligent, energetic and talented women in our midst for six weeks.



Marie Green & Maggie Lally