

**An association of lesbians, gays,
bisexuals, transgendered and their friends.**

Hundreds Gather to Launch Campaign Against Discrimination

TRAVERSE CITY — Hundreds of area residents gathered Sunday evening to formally launch the Traverse City Campaign Against Discrimination, which hopes to defeat an anti-gay initiative on the November ballot.

The concerned citizens gathered in a sold-out Milliken Auditorium for the "Concert Against Discrimination," which featured more than 90 area artists and

musicians.

"We wanted, in a very positive way, to make strong statement with this event," said Kevin Tarsa, artistic director. Tarsa said the concert was a response to the recent anti-gay activities in Traverse City, including the recent visit by Fred Phelps and the efforts by a downstate anti-gay group to amend the City Charter.

Local artists and musicians including John Wunsch,

Jeff Haas, Anne-Marie Oomen and Bob Hicks participated, along with several ensembles. The evening concluded with a Native American Honor Song by the Medicine Lodge Singers.

"The work to defeat this cruel initiative will be difficult," Tarsa said. "We wanted with this concert to send people out energized, inspired and focused."

Speakers explained how local anti-gay activists want to amend the City Charter to make it legal to discriminate against gay people.

"The citizens of Traverse City will not have to embrace or even be comfortable with homosexuality in order to vote NO in November," Bonnie Deigh told the crowd. "They need only to

Cont. page 8, see Hundreds.....

Friends North of Michigan, Inc.
are having their annual



HIGH TEA

Sunday, MAY 20TH at 1:00 p.m.

at the **OPERA HOUSE** in T.C.



There will be a Silent and Live Auction
plus Great Food and Entertainment
and special guest PRINCESS LAURA

Tickets \$15.00

Tickets may be purchased at the Bookie Joint and Side Traxx
or from F.N. Board members or by calling 938-9865

NEWSLETTER

NETWORKING 45° NORTH

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

**Have Questions?
Need Help?**

**Call the Northern
Michigan Help Line!
(231) 946-1804**

**For Emergency Help
(231) 922-4800
(800) 442-7315**

FRIENDS NORTH

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

Please note: Friends North is not a dating, nor dating referral service.

Networking 45° North is the newsletter of Friends North of Michigan, Inc. For information, write to Friends North, PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562.

www.friendsnorth.org

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

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

Friends North's Board of Trustees is elected each December at the Annual Meeting. Regular Board meetings are held at Grace Episcopal Church, at the corner of Washington and Boardman Streets in Traverse City, at 6:30 pm on the 1st Tuesday of every month except July. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Friends North in writing ahead of time if you have an item for the agenda. Current members of the Board include:

Tom Kincaid, President, (231) 929-2919

Gwen Sanford, Vice President, (231) 946-0433

Toni Poole, Secretary,

Richard Pozniak, Treasurer, (231) 933-3969

Bob Buck, Trustee

Dianna Johnson, Trustee, (231) 933-0571

Joe Kanbenaw, Trustee, (231) 947-8402

Craig Philip Richard, Trustee, (231) 922-1967

Al Kitzmiller, Trustee,

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

Publisher: Gwen Sanford, GwenChris@worldnet.att.net

Editor: Dianna Johnson, Huntgoddess@aol.com

Advertising: Gwen Sanford, GwenChris@worldnet.att.net

Classified Advertising and notices are run without charge. Please submit your ads in writing.

Display Advertising in Networking is available in business card sized displays at a rate of \$25 per space per issue or an annual rate of \$125. Inserts and larger sized ads are available; please contact the advertising editor for more information.

Contributions to Networking are welcome. Letters, essays, features, reflections, poetry, original art work etc. should be sent to Networking 45° North, PO Box 562, Traverse City, MI 39685-0562, or to either the publisher or editor listed above. Networking will not accept material that is sexist, discriminatory or sexually explicit. Contributors are responsible for obtaining permission from those whose names they submit for publication. Please include your name, address and a phone number where you can be reached. If you would like your contribution to be printed anonymously, please let us know.

Address Changes should be sent to the above address.

Subscriptions & Memberships are \$15. Please send checks or money orders to the above address. Complimentary subscriptions are also available to those who are unable to pay.

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



From The President By Tom Kincaid

Within the past two months, the face of hatred has shown itself right here in Traverse City ("The All American City"). First, gays and lesbians were accused of promoting "an agenda" when the rainbow background appeared on some tax-payer bumper stickers that were printed to show that Traverse City is inclusive and welcomes ALL people. Then the notorious Reverend Fred Phelps decided to pay us a visit with his "hate circus" in tow. After a few days of marching around in the cold with his ugly picket signs, he went home to Kansas. Now, we are faced with the fact that the religious extremists in our community had successfully gathered enough names on their petition and will put an anti-gay initiative on the ballot this November.

Shameful events as these are almost enough to make a person think that Northern Michigan is not a welcoming community and if we want to fit in, we had better go back into the closet. Well, no more closets for this queen... there's too many pairs of high heels and ball gowns taking up my closet space.

Last weekend, I had the pleasure of attending "A Concert Against Discrimination" which was a fabulous sold out event. Some of our area's most talented poets and musicians donated their time to provide an evening of entertainment. The proceeds went toward TCCAD (Traverse City Campaign Against Discrimination). The concert contained a beautiful theme about building a beautiful home by honoring

diversity and taking a stand when others try to discriminate against a group of people just because they happen to be different. I have never felt such warmth and hope.

The concert really inspired me to get involved and help TCCAD defeat this ballot issue in November. I'd also like to encourage everyone here to get involved in some way—after all this is OUR home too. If we don't stand up for ourselves, who will?

On other fronts, we had a very successful Winter Chili/Sledding party at Bahle's Warming Hut in Suttons Bay. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to a previous family commitment. However, I have every intention of winning back the "unique" Chili Crown next year.

Please make plans to attend our Annual High Tea/Silent Auction on May 20th at the Opera House in downtown Traverse City. Every year this event gets better and this year promises to be the best yet.

Our newest board member is Alan Collard. We welcome his expertise and talents. I can tell you first hand that he gives a great massage. Check out his advertisement in this newsletter and make an appointment.

The Friends North Board is looking for a few good men and women to serve as trustees. Please contact me if you're interested.

That's all for now. I hope this finds everyone well and ready to have a great summer.

Tom



From The V.P. By Gwen Sanford

Last January during the 2001 Board Of Trustees Retreat, we discussed writing articles relating our experiences with the advertisers who pay for ads in Networking 45° North. While we encourage our readers to support those who support Friends North, we never hear any feedback about doing business with them. So, beginning in this issue of Networking, I will pick one of our advertisers whose expertise I have required and share my satisfaction, or dissatisfaction, with you.

I also encourage our readers to write to us about your experience of doing business with our advertisers. They don't have to all be glowing reports either. This may perhaps, put some pressure on them, but hey, if one of them give crummy service, we should probably know about it. In fact, if a business produces a poor product or provides poor service, perhaps Friends North should not accept advertising from that business.

Another place to see who supports Friends North is at the High Tea held in the Traverse City Opera House. We have many sponsors and donations from individuals, and businesses for this premier event. And they're all listed for your viewing during the High Tea, which by the way, will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2001. You should be aware also, that I have it on good authority promising this year's event to be the "best there ever was."



2001 FN Board Retreat (planning session)
followed by a wonderful potluck dinner.

The 6th Annual Northern Michigan Pride Celebration

Come share a day filled with music and entertainment

Where: Front lawn of Building 50 in Traverse City

When: Saturday June 2, 2001

Time: 11-5 with special guest **Monica Sebastian** as our MC
Performing: Return of **Keyboard and Plastic Duck** and the ever popular **Black Boots**

Food: An honest-to-god Pig Roast, woo hoo!

We have a lot to be proud of this year. The G/L/B/T community has taken several hits — the visit from Mr. Phelps, the whole bumper sticker issue and the AFA pushing for a measure for no "special rights". Our solidarity in the face of adversity has filled me, and many others, with a sense of pride. So come on out and show your PRIDE. Hope to see you there.

Subject: GRS Presentation from Dr. Schrang, a renomd Gender Reassignment Surgeon Date:

Good day:

My name is Randi Cook and I am the president of TONI (Transgender Outreach of Northern Indiana.) We are having one of the world's most noted Gender Reassignment & Plastic Surgeons, Dr. Eugene Schrang (<http://www.drschrang.com/>) coming to speak on June 23rd. at the American Red

Cross in Valparasio. We believe this would be a good time for your email subscribers to review this surgery overview if they are interested. Especially if they are located in Southwestern Michigan area.

We will start the meeting at 7:30pm (local time in Valparasio) and the meeting will conclude when all the questions are answered. We encourage you to post this message.

American Red Cross
755 West Lincolnway
Valparasio, IN 46385
219-462-8543



I personally want to thank you for your time and considering posting this information to your members. In the future, if your group has any such meetings like this one planed, please advise TONI of the content and we will be glad to reciprocate the posting! Thank you again.

With regards,
Randi Cook

Treasures Report

By Richard Pozniak

For everyone's information, we will try to give a more detailed financial report in the newsletter. It will not be the most current because of deadlines needed to get it to press. I will list money coming in and money going out [deposits and checks to pay bills]

JAN. & FEB. BUDGET as of JAN 1st
WE HAD \$2768.23

MONEY COMING IN:

\$150.00 for 6 memberships
\$137.00 for 5 memberships/donations from sledding party

\$287.00 added to \$2768.23 for a total of \$3,055.23

MONEY GOING OUT:

\$102.00 postmaster/stamps
\$428.25 newsletter/Copyworld
\$125.00 postmaster/bulk mailing for newsletter
\$ 69.50 new e-mail address
\$ 56.00 Ameritech 800#
\$155.83 postmaster/bulk mailing for

newsletter
\$125.65 phone cards/sledding party stuff
\$597.00 newsletter/Copyworld
\$14.77 binders
\$ 60.21 Ameritech 800#
\$ 24.79 AT&T phone bill
\$ 40.00 postmaster/p.o.box rental

\$1,799.00 from \$3,055.23 leaves
\$1,256.23 as of March 1st

Please note we still have to pay for the newsletter you are reading and other expenses leading up to the High Tea, Sun. May 20th and Pride Day, Sat. June 2nd. So please keep your Newsletter subscription current and, of course, all donations are greatly appreciated. Have a wonderful Spring and come out for our great events!

Your Treasurer, Richard Pozniak



**!Mark Your Calendar!
May 20th**

Do you have a Silent Auction item to donate to Friends North?

HIV Counseling and Testing
Same Day Results
Anonymous Donations Only
Call for Appointment

Evenings Available

Community Health Clinic

870 E. Eighth Street • Traverse City, MI 49686
616-929-4448

Sponsored by Michigan Department of Community Health
United Way Agency

Are You A Friends North Member?

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

Name: _____ Amount Enclosed: ___ for Single, ___ for Couple, ___ plus ___ Donation

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Please include me in Friends North e-mail updates.

Comments: _____

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

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

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

Friends North of Michigan, Inc.

Minutes of the February 6, 2001 Board Meeting

Held at Grace Episcopal Church Library, 341 Washington Street, Traverse City, MI

Board Members Present: Tom Kincaid, Gwen Sanford, Toni Poole, Dianna Johnson, Craig Richard, Richard Posniak

Others Present: Sheila McRae

Board Members Absent: Joe Kaubenaw, Bob Buck, Al Kitzmiller

Meeting called to order at 6:36PM

- Toni read the minutes.
 - **Motion by Tom to accept the minutes, seconded by Richard, carried unanimously.**
- Richard gave a short Treasurer's report. He stated approximately \$1200 in bank.
- A discussion about the Treasurer's report being included in the newsletter was held.
 - **Motion by Dianna to include the Treasurer's report in the newsletter, seconded by Toni, carried unanimously.**
- Discussion about the upcoming Chili Cookoff & Sledding Party was held.
 - Richard organizing this event.
 - Richard is obtaining wood for fire.
 - At minimum, Dianna, Gwen, Toni, and Richard will be making chili.
 - There is left-over coffee and hot chocolate we can use.
 - Event to be held at Bahley's in Sutton's Bay at 1:00PM.
- Discussion about the Bike tour was held.
 - Tom went to Bike Tour meeting. Reports that everything is "going well". Bike Tour budget should be ready for submittal to board at March meeting.
 - Price for entry being raised by \$5.00.
 - Scholarships will be available for those that can't pay. 25% of entrants could not pay last year.
 - Bike tour will not be supplying soda this year.
 - Glass bottle's will not be allowed this year due to substantial broken glass last year.
 - More portable restrooms will be made available this year. A request was made to separate these by gender this year. This will be communicated to Bike Tour committee by Tom.
- Dianna talked about the High Tea.
 - Date changed to May 6th to accommodate Chef Charles.
 - Dianna expressed displeasure at not being given the chance to be chair of this event. Much discussion ensued.
- At recent High Tea meeting, discussion was held about:
 - Auction items.
 - Theme.
 - Decorations.
 - Food.
 - Entertainment
 - What went well last year.
 - Consensus to focus more on entertainment this year versus food.
- Next High Tea meeting scheduled for Feb. 16th at 6:30PM.
- Gwen mentioned she has obtained an auction item.
- Gwen gave a newsletter report and asked for opinions on changes.
 - Discussion about paper color was held – consensus was reached that it was fine.
 - Title font was discussed. Changes will be made next time.
 - Advertising was discussed.
 - Gwen suggested doing away with single/couple membership in favor of only a single membership. Discussion ensued.
 - **Motion by Tom to leave membership as is, seconded by Craig, carried unanimously.**
 - Gwen talked about raising advertising rates. Gave current rates. Consensus was reached on leaving rates the same.
 - Richard talked briefly about calendar. He suggested special events be highlighted. Gwen agreed, and will implement this in next newsletter.
- Tom talked about contest for new Friends North logo.
 - **Motion to hold a contest for Friends North logo, seconded by Toni, carried unanimously.**
- Toni talked about web site and new friendsnorth.org domain name. Explained email functionality.
- Tom mentioned that he and Richard now have a phone card to use for return phone calls.
- Toni talked about upcoming GLBT Summit held by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse to be held March 18th from 2-4PM.
- Sheila talked about the Concert Against Discrimination held by the Traverse City Campaign Against Discrimination on March 18th at 7:30PM.
- Tom talked about board member absentees meeting after meeting. We may need to recruit new board members to replace the absentee board members.
- Richard left message with Andy about 501C3 status. Andy has not returned call.

Friends North of Michigan, Inc. Minutes of the February 6, 2001 Board Meeting cont.

- ≤ Dianna asked why we made donations to the Triangle Foundation. Much discussion ensued.
- Richard talked about Pride.
 - Questioned if Joe would be chairing the event this year. Tom will contact Joe to determine this.
 - Location was discussed. Tom mentioned past events were held at the Robb farm. Tom will talk to Cindy to see why this practice ended.

Moved to adjourn at 7:55PM by Richard, seconded by Dianna, carried unanimously.

Toni Poole, Secretary
Friends North of Michigan, Inc.

Friends North of Michigan, Inc. Minutes of the March 6, 2001 Board Meeting

Board Members Present: Tom Kincaid, Toni Poole, Dianna Johnson, Craig Richard, Richard Posniak, Bob Buck, Joe Kaubenaw

Others Present: Alan Collard, Mary B.

Board Members Absent: Al Kitzmiller, Gwen Sanford

Meeting called to order at 6:37PM

- Toni read the minutes.
 - **Motion by Joe to accept the minutes, seconded by Richard, carried unanimously.**
- Richard gave a short Treasurer's report. He stated \$1256.23 in bank as of March 1st.
- Tom initiated a discussion about postal fees and methods of payment.
- Dianna gave a report on the High Tea.
 - Date changed to May 20th to accommodate Laura Wilcox.
 - Decision was made to sell more tickets than seats in anti-



pation of no-shows.

- Dianna reiterated the fact that more focus would be put towards talent this year than food.
- Posters will be made and disseminated throughout town.
- Tickets are almost ready and will be made available at GLBT Summit March 18th.
- Consideration of separate mailing to members to advertise event is being made.
- Next High Tea meeting is March 16th 6:00PM, at Border's.
- Joe gave a report on Pride.
 - Joe made note of previous minutes mention of confusion over discontinuation of Pride being held at Robb farm. He explained that this was due to an ongoing desire of the Robb's to move the location from there eventually. It was never intended to be a permanent location. Joe also suggested that a TC Pride should actually be held in Traverse City. All agreed.
 - Date for Pride is June 2nd, from 11AM-5PM.
 - Theme this year will be "Blending in Diversity".
 - Monica will emcee, with possibly Laura Wilcox as well.
 - T-Shirts and Hats will be available. An estimate for this will be obtained from Jentees. Richard suggested single color shirts to save money. Tom suggested a design that could be sold all year.
 - Press releases will be mailed to GLBT publications instate and via the Advocate.
 - Discussion of sponsors and donation amounts occurred. A flat \$80.00 sponsor amount was agreed upon.
 - Entertainment will be provided by Black Boots, Keyboard & Plastic Duck, and the Fabulous Fakes.
 - Randy Nash of Sound Environments will provide sound.
 - Food this year will be provided via a pig & turkey roast organized and carried out by Les Crandall. Total cost of this will be \$140.
 - A meeting with the Commons board was reviewed.
 - Pride event has been approved.
 - A "Cancer Survivor's Group" (CSG) that has an event the same weekend and has already purchased tents agreed to allow FN to utilize them.
 - ~ Joe asked for opinions on donating money to CSG to offset their cost of \$800 for the tents.
 - ~ Bob suggested splitting the cost evenly.
 - ~ Much discussion ensued. Several board members thought CSG would be happy for any donation.
 - ~ **Motion by Craig to offer \$200 to CSG for tents, seconded by Richard, Carried Unanimously.**
 - Commons board needs a letter saying Friends North will be responsible for half of the total cost of any damages incurred to the Commons area for time CGS and FN are holding their events. Toni will write that letter.
 - Joe talked to the sector police and notified them of the day/

Continued on page 8,

Announcements

Hey, hey, hey!!!

Don't forget about the monthly potluck dinner held the fourth Thursday of every month. This purely social get-together starts at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria of Grace Episcopal Church.


Have you had a recent addition to your family? Did you and your partner just get hitched? Would you like to announcement an engagement but your town paper won't publish it? Send us your announcements at huntgoddess@aol.com

Jenni Allen and Dana Rosselit, after having been together for over a year, have decided to show their love and devotion for one another in a Holy Union in August. Give it up for **Jenni and Dana!!**

YO!
 We need volunteers!
 High Tea,
 Pride Picnic,
 Bike Tour
 They Don't run themselves.
 Give us a call to help out.
 (231) 946-1804

G/L/B/T Book Group
 Now Forming at Borders

Read and discuss contemporary and classic g/l/b/t fiction and nonfiction. Book titles will be discussed at this first, organizational meeting on April 22nd at 6:30 p.m. and the fourth Sunday of every month thereafter. All chosen books will be made available with a 20% discount and free tea and coffee will be served.



Coming on May 20th

The Annual Friends North High Tea held at the Traverse City Opera House beginning 1:00 PM. Like last year, there will be entertainment, and a silent auction along with plenty of wonderful cuisine.

This is definitely one of the best events of the year, so be sure to mark your calendar.

Side Traxx Activities:

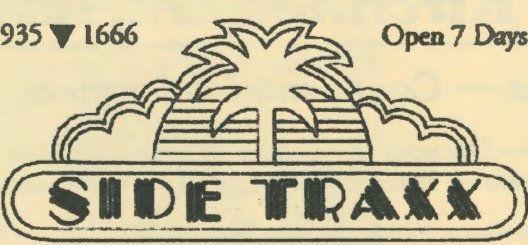
Sunday Nite
 Val's Movie Nite 7:30pm showing new releases and old favorites.

Monday Nite
 Karaoke with the Princess. Yes that's right Princess. Laura is back! and we have her.

Tuesday Nite
 Euchre nite, play with your friends for cash!

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday Nites
 Come on down and enjoy great dance music spun by your favorite DJ's Mike and Fred.

935 ▼ 1666 Open 7 Days



Open 7 days
 ▼ 520 Franklin ▼ Traverse City, MI 49686 ▼

The comfortable gathering place for friends and couples.



David Schulz & Jim Walker
 212 Park Street, Bellaire, Michigan 49615
 800-545-0780 • (616) 533-6077

**Friends North of Michigan, Inc.
Minutes of the
February 6, 2001
Board Meeting
continued from pg. 6**

time of Pride.

- Joe anticipates greater attendance this year.
- Next Pride meeting will be held March 11, 5:00PM at Joe's house.
- Dianna asked about vendors. Joe hopes to have more booths and vendors than last year.
- Tom mentioned insurance needs. FN policy will be renewed in April at a cost of \$400.
- Tom talked about bike tour. Planning is "progressing well".
- Alan volunteered to offer massage service at event.
- Tom asked Dianna about newsletter.
- Deadline for submissions is March 15th.
- Alan asked about his ad change. Tom agreed to make sure it gets in.
- Toni asked about PFLAG ad. Dianna said that no info was received.
- Tom talked about last Thursday pot-lucks. A total of 14 people showed up for last month's event.
- Tom asked everyone to think of new people that may be willing to be board members and/or volunteers.
- Tom brought up GLBT Summit on March 18th.
- Dianna suggested as many board members as possible should attend.
- Richard suggested bringing High Tea flier.
- Tom agreed to give presentation of FN.
- Tom suggested Alan Collard be made a board member.
- Motion by Tom to appoint Alan Collard to the FN Board, seconded by Richard, carried unanimously.
- Tom obtained many "We Are Traverse City" bumper stickers from Hate Free TC. Tom asked Richard to write check for \$40 to HFTC as a

- donation for stickers. Richard agreed.
- Richard suggested we send Thank You notes to those that donate to FN. Dianna volunteered to design and print these out. Tom will sign & send as needed.

Moved to adjourn at 7:40PM by Toni, seconded by Alan, carried unanimously.

Toni Poole, Secretary
Friends North of Michigan, Inc.

**Hundreds
Continued from page 1**

believe that discrimination is wrong -- that we should not single out one group of people and forever deny them basic protection."

Themes of home and diversity wove throughout the evening. A community children's chorus sang "A world of difference," whose lyrics include, "It takes a world of difference to make a difference in the world."

Proceeds from the evening will be used to educate voters about the proposed anti-gay City Charter amendment that will be on the November ballot.

"We know that this will be an expensive campaign," said Carol Anderson of Traverse City, a spokeswoman for the Campaign Against Discrimination. She said the organization from downstate that has spearheaded the anti-gay initiative here and in other towns has provided money and support for other campaigns.

For more information, visit the TC Campaign Against Discrimination online at www.tccad2000.org or call 883-1058.

HIV/AIDS Wellness Networks
Grand Traverse Area Inc.

Invites Volunteers
Old & New
To Our

Volunteer Open House
Wednesday, May 2nd
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

At our NEW office location at
516 E. 8th Street
Traverse City

We're reactivating old volunteers
and seeking new volunteers.

Come see our new office and learn
about volunteer opportunities.

Refreshments will be served.



Phone Brooke 929-3111 or Joe 263-2743
for further information.

Char P. Kirchner, CPA, MSA

Tax Returns — Confidential & Discreet

*Single Taxpayers — Use your filing status to your advantage
Un-Married Couples — Take advantage of all your options*

Appointments in Williamsburg or Traverse City

P.O. Box 1040
Williamsburg, MI 49690-1040

(616) 267-5818

Sledding Party and Chili Cook-Off

The sledding party at Bahle's Warming Hut in Suttons Bay was well attended and a great informal community event. Over 50 people enjoyed the beautiful sunny day and there was plenty of snow for sledding and snow shoeing. We built a big fire in the fireplace which felt cozy after being out in the snow.

We tasted six different chili contenders for the "Chili Crown" and **Dianna Johnson** won by greatest applause with her **HOT MAMA** chili. Every spicy combination came out of her pantry to create that one! What a perfect day and wonderful time. Plenty of dogs enjoyed the party, as well.

Photos of the Party



The coveted
Chili Crown

Planned Parenthood Provides Respectful Environment

Many gays and lesbians might not think that an agency called "Planned Parenthood" would be a place where they could or would want to receive health care but, in fact, Planned Parenthood Northern Michigan (PPNM) provides a wide range of health care services to both women and men in an atmosphere that is open, respectful, non-judgmental, and totally confidential.

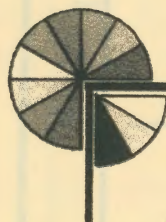
Lesbians coming to Planned Parenthood for annual gynecological and breast exams will find that PPNM doesn't make assumptions about their sexual orientation. The history form, which includes questions about sexual behavior to assess risk and the need for services, asks "Do you have sex with men, women, or both?" The female nurse practitioners who provide the exams and counseling have the same attitude of openness and respect. In addition to annual exams, PPNM provides testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV counseling and testing. Bisexual women can also take advantage of birth control and pregnancy testing and counseling.

Gay men who visit PPNM for testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, HIV testing, or to

Cont. pg 12, see Planned Parenthood

KIRK M. DAY DESIGN

CUSTOM INTERIOR DESIGN
SILK TREES & FLORALS



231-883-6422

P.O. BOX 6422

TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49696

E-MAIL: KIRKDAYDSN@AOL.COM

Proudly Unashamed By Toni Poole

I finally did. It took me several weeks of thought, and a further two weeks of “getting around to it”, but I finally plucked up the courage to do it. What task, you might inquire, did I find so terribly difficult to proceed with? Ask my boss for a raise? No. Bungee jump off an unstable platform perched a hundred feet high on a breezy spring day? Nope. Dive into a frigid Lake Michigan in the middle of a stormy February? Ha, not a chance.

What I found so difficult to do was to affix one of those cute little “We Are Traverse City” rainbow stickers to the rear window of my car. I created a whole article in this newsletter around them last month, and I thought the least I could do was have the integrity to “walk the walk”. That’s it. Clean the window, line it up, and press hard against the glass. The task itself took all of about two minutes.

But a day later, a question came blaring at me from the depths of my mystical and sometimes complicated mind. Why? What’s the point? Exactly what did I hope to gain from it? After all, I’m not a bumper sticker kind of person. Indeed, I have never placed a bumper sticker of any kind on any vehicle I’ve ever owned. Why now? The question has plagued me ever since that seemingly tumultuous two minutes. There are a number of possible and plausible answers I’ve

flipped through in my head.

The first could be that I’m proud to be who I am – a transsexual human being – and now I want everyone to know it. Billboards and airplane banners announcing the fact would be pretty costly for me, so I opted for the easy and cheap method. Sounds reasonable, right? Well, no. I certainly work hard to be proud of who I am, but proud to be transsexual? Nah. After all, it’s not like I had to do anything to make it happen. It just did. In addition, I don’t relish advertising that fact, quite the opposite. I certainly don’t hide, but really, I just want to blend in and go about life on my own merry way. The sticker actually acts contrary to that goal, truth be known.

Next in the series of mental flash card images came the possibility

even if you are totally out, totally open, and totally comfortable with who you are as a person, I believe that an itty-bitty teeny tiny morsel of shame creeps into your being from hearing the anti-gay rhetoric

and even sillier because I’ll probably never know if I obtain my objective. Sure, Joe and Jane Homophobe might be tailgating me and become irritated as they notice the sticker, but short of a little road, how would I ever know?

Continuing on through my repertoire of justifiable reasons, I came upon the “being part of the crowd” op-

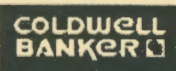
tion. For a moment, I thought I’d struck gold. I told myself “That’s gotta be it!” I went through the mental reasoning gymnastics—I consider myself so divergent from others I interact with and here was my chance to be part of the crowd. My crowd. Partaking in unity. But alas, my excitement waned when a major case of cognitive dissonance set in and I realized I really truly already feel included in fray of people I respect. A bumper sticker isn’t about to change or enhance that. “Darn”, said I.

And then it hit me like a proverbial ton of bricks. It’s rooted in both being proud, *and* being ashamed. OK, I know what you’re thinking. I’m reverting to my first reason after all. I want to show everyone that I’m proud to be me. But that’s not it!

Our society teaches us, through so-called “moral” lessons, to be ashamed of ourselves if we don’t tow the straight and narrow line (pun intended). If we’ve strayed significantly to the outer edges of the bell curve, we’ve failed the course. As gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people hear day after day, especially lately here in Traverse City with the hate mongers in full combat mode, that we are “sinful”, “deviant”, “anti-family”, and other blasphemies. We hear it from people we don’t know, acquaintances we barely know, and sometimes even from those who are closest to us. It begins to wear on us. How many GLBT people do you know that bristle any time a remotely anti-gay sentiment is put forth? I know my spine tightens when I hear a stupid anti-gay statement, joke, etc.

Thus, even if you are totally out, totally open, and totally comfortable

Continued on page 14





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April 2001



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Windfire	3 FN Board Mtg. 6:30 PM @ Grace	4 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	5	6	7 LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace
8	9 Windfire	10	11 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	12	13	14 LAMBDA AA 11:00 am @ Grace
15	16 Windfire	17	18 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace PFLAG 7:00 PM @ Third Level Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	19	20	21 LAMBDA AA 11:00 am @ Grace
22	23 Windfire	24	25 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	26 Potluck Social 6:30 PM @ Grace	27	28 LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace
29	30 Windfire					

May 2001

FRIENDS NORTH

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 FN Board Mtg. 6:30 PM @ Grace	2 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	3	4	5 LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace
6	7 Windfire	8	9 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	10	11	12 LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace
13	14 Windfire	15	16 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace PFLAG 7:00 PM @ Third Level Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	17	18	19 LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace
20 High Tea @ City Opera House 1 PM	21 Windfire	22	23 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	24 Potluck Social 6:30 PM @ Grace	25	26 LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace
27	28 Windfire	29	30 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	31		

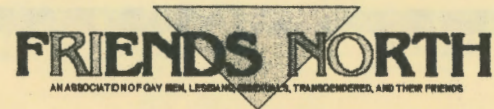
June 2001

FRIENDS NORTH

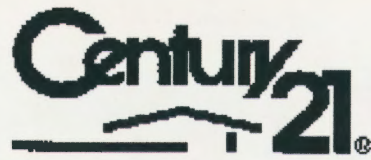
AN ASSOCIATION OF GAY MEN, LESBIANS, BISEXUALS, TRANSGENDERED, AND THEIR FRIENDS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace PRIDE FEST 11am—5pm
3	4 Windfire	5 FN Board Mtg. 6:30 PM @ Grace	6 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	7	8	9 LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace
10	11 Windfire	12	13 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	14	15	16 LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace
17	18 Windfire	19	20 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace PFLAG 7:00 PM @ Third Level Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	21	22	23 LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace
24	25 Windfire	26	27 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	28	29	30 LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace

July 2001



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Windfire	3 FN Board Mtg. 6:30 PM @ Grace	4 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	5	6	7 LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace
8	9 Windfire	10	11 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	12	13	14 LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace
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22	23 Windfire	24	25 LAMBDA AA 6:30 PM @ Grace Friends U.P. North Perry Hotel @ 7:00P	26	27 FN Bike Tour Fri, Sat, Sun	28 FN Bike Tour LAMBDA AA 11:00 AM @ Grace
29 FN Bike Tour	30 Windfire	31				



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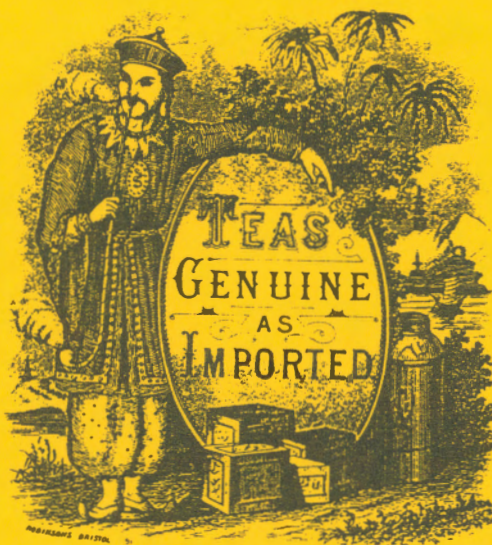
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Concert Against Discrimination a Success!

By Toni Poole

There was a very exciting and entertaining event in Traverse City on Sunday, March 18th. Traverse City Campaign Against Discrimination (TCCAD), a grass roots committee formed to defeat a charter amendment put forth by a downstate anti-gay group, held the Concert Against Discrimination in the sold out Milliken Auditorium.

As part of TCCAD, I had the inside privy on the work that went into the event. Being a regular Sunday atten-

I could probably write two paragraphs for every act that took the stage, but there were over 90 performers!

dee at the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Congregation in Traverse City, I know of the very special and unique

talent lent to the artistic production by Kevin Tarsa, UU's music director. Additionally, the task-oriented Phil Hoffman, who gave his time in the position of production manager, kept things running in an utterly smooth manner. With marquee names like John Wunsch, Jeff Hass, and Where's Norman?, there was no doubt that the event would hold an evening of surprises, high talent, and artistic splendor.

I was still blown away. The evening started with a percussion prelude. Several performers around the

auditorium beat on drums and various noise making devices randomly dispersed throughout the crowd prior to admittance, which encouraged audience participation. The magic of the drums was enhanced by an ensemble spread throughout the audience, making it just one of several unique experiences of the evening.

I could probably write two paragraphs for every act that took the stage, but there were over 90 performers! Some highlights for me included a stunning display of guitar mastery by the award winning local artist John Wunsch. His "Tango Dorissimo" contained both an exciting Latin flavor and a rhythmic flair that found me aching for more at the last note.

The UU Vocal Ensemble gave an outstanding performance as usual. Two UU regulars, Bob Hicks on trumpet and Shelley Burns with her beautiful voice interspersed their talents throughout the program. In the middle of the second act, Mary Anne Rivers gave an incredible piece with six strings and voice on her song "We Are Love". As if that wasn't good enough, Jeff Haas and Jack Dryden were incredible on piano and bass respectively with "Awakenings". A Gaelic offering was served by The Gael Tones with the wonderful Karen McCarthy and Jackie Richer awing us with Irish dance. A folk rock number, "Pete's Song", by local trio Where's Norman?, also left me yearning for more. Other notables included the superb Children's Chorus on two or three different songs, the awesome Karen Kay with her "Out The Window", the CAD impromptu orchestra, and of course who doesn't like Keyboard and Plastic Duck's "Spaghetti"?

In between songs, various performers moved us with heart felt poems, stories, and spoken word pieces.

I'm sure I must have missed several acts, but it's hard to remember them all, especially with my senses overwhelmed while sitting and taking it all in. Suffice it to say that the total talent on the Milliken Auditorium stage that night eclipsed the best professional concerts I have ever attended.

After the concert, I sat at the TCCAD information table and person after person told me how much they liked the concert, many proclaiming they were moved to tears. I've been a part of TCCAD for about a year now, and I can honestly say that I have never been more proud of our accomplishments than I was for the Concert Against Discrimination. I'm sure there are bigger and better things to come, especially in November, but this musical extravaganza was definitely the first major high point of the year for me. Talk after the concert among the volunteers was peppered with comments of the "next time", with thoughts of a fall date. I'm excited already!


TCCAD may be a grass roots campaign, but the sheer organization and style of this concert showed me that as a community we can come together and be a force to be reckoned with – and one that the big anti-gay organizations from downstate and out-of-state should take seriously. More importantly, it shows me that the talent and intelligence in this community is significantly bigger and more prestigious than a few anti-gay nay Sayers stirring up trouble. If you'd like to contribute in any way to the campaign's efforts, please call 883-1058.

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Reviews of Our Supporting Advertisers

In Touch Chiropractic and Healing Center

by Gwen Sanford

I have seen Dr. Suzette Corbit's ad in our newsletter for a long time now and have read some articles written by her in The Healing Garden newspaper. So when I hurt my back a few weeks ago, and naturally wanted to turn to someone in the community for help, my first choice was Dr. Corbit. So I called and made an appointment. Although not sure that she would be the right chiropractor, I felt the only way to find out was to meet her.

I place great value on first impressions when meeting someone new. I try to find that inner connection where our energy fields merge. Do they feel synchronous, or is there an uncomfortable feeling? This may seem a rather odd way to determine whether or not you like a doctor, but I have done it the other way for most of my life. Now it's time for my inner self to have a say in my decision-making. So far it hasn't failed me.

When I arrived for my appointment, I found her office to be modest, but certainly adequate. Dr. Corbit was in the adjoining room with a patient, but soon came out to greet me and have me start filling out the medical survey. I didn't seem to feel anything uncomfortable so far, so went to work on the forms.

She soon finished with her patient, and turned her attention to me. I liked her straightforward and friendly approach immediately. After the forms were completed, she spent some time describing Chiropractic Care, and how and why it works. Then she started a physical assessment of my skeleton.

This is the point where I was sure she was indeed a person that I could relate to. Touch is a biggie with me. I believe you can tell a lot about a person by their touch and the energy that surrounds them.

I have been going back to Dr. Corbit on several occasions since the first meeting, and my lower back feels trouble free. Not only my back, but also my neck is much better, and I don't need the wrist splint to keep my hand from going numb when I sleep. And it is especially wonderful to leave her office feeling like it is no effort at all to stand straight.

Perhaps I should add that if you have had "not so good" experiences with other chiropractic doctors, it is my opinion that Dr. Corbit's Chiropractic Care is light years ahead of my prior experience. She explains what she is doing and is happy to answer the "dumb questions" that I come up with. And, she doesn't hurt me – a nice thing. Would I recommend her to anyone else? Absolutely!

Dr. Corbit's office is located on Veterans Drive just north of South Airport Road in the Town Hall Office Building. It is on the top floor, so you may want to drive around to the rear of the building.



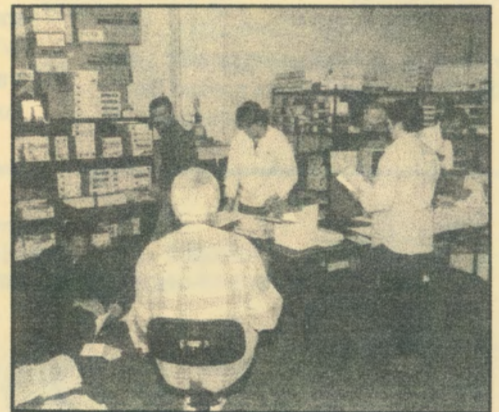
Planned Parenthood Continued from page 9

purchase condoms will experience the same atmosphere of openness. PPNM staff do not make assumptions about a client's sexual orientation or behavior.

PPNM is designated by the Michigan Department of Community Health as a HIV counseling and testing site. Testing can be done on an anonymous or confidential basis.

In addition to the clinical services, PPNM offers a wealth of information -- books, videos, pamphlets -- on a wide variety of sexual health topics. Supplies including both male and female condoms, Slippery Stuff, and Hot Lixx are for sale at PPNM -- at terrific prices!

PPNM has three health centers located in Marquette, Petoskey, and Traverse City. The health centers are open Monday through Friday including evening hours twice a week. The Petoskey health center is also open on Saturday mornings once a month. Fees for services are very reasonable, and teens can receive services free. **For information or to make an appointment, call 929-1844 (Traverse City) or 347-9692 (Petoskey) or 225-5074 (Marquette).**



Volunteers getting the newsletter ready for mailing at Copy World.

An excerpt from the soon to be published The Big Book of Great Lake Folklore

As told by Appaloosa

Edited by Craig Philip Richard

I first met Appaloosa years ago, while I was still studying Anthropology at Olivet College. I drove to Interlochen to visit my parents for a long weekend. It was an unusually hot August day. I had decided to hike, in my typical rustic fashion, from Interlochen to Acme, with the intention of camping somewhere in the state forest along Four Mile Road just outside of Traverse City.

My canteen was almost empty. It was about nine p.m. The sun had just dipped below the horizon, but was still almost ninety degrees. There was no noticeable breeze. I had walked most of the day wearing only my hiking shorts and boots. Yet, I had been unable to get relief from the oppressive heat.

As I rounded a bend in the trail there was, standing right in front of me, a young man the likes of which I had never seen. He was about 5'10" tall wearing only a buckskin breechcloth and moccasins. He also wore a small collar of white plumes around

Appaloosa's smile was sincere. His teeth were large and straight, white and shiny as wet marble. As he introduced himself, his eyes began to investigate me.

his neck. His ears each had about five holes in them and were fringed with beads. His nose was pierced with an ornamented stone that dangled over his upper lip.

Appaloosa's deep, olive skin glowed in the light of the evening sun. His build was slight, as if he was not well nourished, but he was well muscled. His legs resembled those of a marathon runner and had no body hair

whatsoever. He wore his hair in typical Ottawa fashion: head shaved except for a strip in the middle, all combed up toward the forehead, rather short, and sticking straight up. He looked to be about twenty years old.

A large knife was resting in his belt. I was immediately struck by its composition. I had only seen such things at the Museum of the American Indian at Michigan State University. The blade was of hammered copper. The bone handle I immediately recognized as being of the late Dahagan family. Such a thing had not been locally produced in over eight hundred years. But the blade showed no signs of corrosion. It appeared to have been hammered the day before!

Appaloosa's smile was sincere. His teeth were large and straight, white and shiny as wet marble. As he introduced himself, his eyes began to investigate me. I had the feeling that he was taking more than a curious interest in my anatomical features. I had the uneasy feeling that he knew exactly what I looked like underneath my clothing.

Appaloosa took particular interest in the hair on my chest and legs. When he lifted a finger to touch my chest I pretended not to be alarmed. He began to run his finger very slowly across my skin. He looked me straight in the eye and asked me if I had a wife, his face almost touching mine. When I told him that I did not he immediately asked me how many husbands I had. His English was perfect but I couldn't make sense of the question. I felt as if I were going to faint. The ground on which we stood began to slowly spin. Then it seemed as though I were viewing the scene from far, far above. From that height I could barely make out the spot on which we stood. I recognized the features of the Lake Michigan basin. I followed the course of the Boardman River as it meandered down the hills from the south toward the Great Lake. But

Boardman Lake was not there! In its place were tall beech and slippery elm trees, numerous small groups of sleek deer, and rolling grasses.

I realized that Traverse City was no longer there. There wasn't a building in sight. No cars, no airport, no roads. The entire area was virgin forest! Here and there wisps of smoke from small fires slipped up through the pines into the silent, silvery-blue sky.

Again I heard the young man's voice. A wave of nausea passed over me.

I was once again staring into Appaloosa's face. He was telling me about something from his boyhood.

As he spoke, a large turkey vulture soared into view over the hill to the southwest. Appaloosa rotated his head to follow the flight of the large scavenger while the sun glanced across the surface of his left eye. For about a half second I thought I saw some kind of tiny digital readout in the iris. There appeared to be four quadrants in the readout. The numerals were not Arabic. Their appearance did not resemble any system with

Continued page 13, see Appaloosa

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Appaloosa Cont. from page 13

which I was familiar, although there were some stylistic affinities with Old Kingdom, Egyptian glyphs. The numbers were in constant, rapid motion.

To this day I have no explanation for the strange appearance of his left eye. It may simply have been the heat of the day and my exhaustion playing tricks on my mind. I asked Appaloosa more than once about it. He seemed not to even understand the question. I soon gave up the inquiry.

Appaloosa told me that he had been following me for the last three hours. From the start, he seemed especially eager to share with me the details of his village and clan. He wanted me to meet his friends. I immediately learned of some of his clan's myths, games, songs, and dances. And he told me the story of how the stars were created, an account full of improbable proportions and grand homosexual imagery.

By nine forty-five p.m. the light of the sun had all but disappeared from

the sky. The air had finally begun to cool. I still did not feel well. I rubbed my face in my hands. When I looked up again Appaloosa was gone. I called out his name repeatedly, but to no avail. I would not see him again for months. All of our subsequent meetings would have the same air of ephemeral and spontaneous mystery to them.

Proudly Unashamed Cont. from page 10

with who you are as a person; I believe that an itty-bitty teeny tiny morsel of shame creeps into your being from hearing the anti-gay rhetoric. Most of us simply verbalize that we aren't ashamed, and many times that regurgitates the morsel from your soul. Often it isn't effective, or at least, not always (for me personally). So, I took the battle a step further – I fought back visually with a

rectangular piece of self-adhesive, mass-produced art – the bumper sticker.

The point for me isn't to tell everyone how proud I am to be part of the GLBT continuum. I finally realized for me that the real objective is to say I'm not *ashamed* of that fact, which I think can be different. While I see no reason to be proud I'm transsexual, I've worked very hard to gain the honesty and self-respect that allowed me to accept it. I am proud of that. The bumper sticker acts as an antidote and reinforcement against the influx of shame others try to inject into me. It's a way to quietly say, "Go away, your services aren't needed" to the homo/transphobic crowd attempting to burn their poisonous brand of morality into our brains.



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Letter Page

Friends -

My name is Linda Dear. I just moved up from downstate and found a great house to rent in a great location and would like a roommate or two. I'm female, 35, professional, and lesbian. Would prefer to live with my own kind-gay / lesbian, etc. I am not looking for a relationship this is strictly a roommate quest. Thought I'd go this route before placing an ad in local papers. House particulars: 116 N. Oak, Traverse City, cross-streets: Oak & Front, 5 bedrooms: 4 upstairs, 1 downstairs (2 have small view of bay), 2 full baths: upper / lower, Lots of room - house privileges, Full Basement - a lot of storage space, Front porch, Enclosed back porch - lots of windows, 3 blocks from Bay / 2 blocks from downtown.

I am the responsible lease holder. My rent is \$1400 + utilities. So, that's \$700 + utilities with (1) other person, or \$470 + utilities with (2) additional people. My lease allows me to sublease, however all tenants must be nonsmokers and no additional pets. The landlords made allowance for my small dog but no additional animals. Just a note, the landlords are lawyers whose office is next door so any deviations from my lease are not an option.

This is a great alternative to the small and very expensive housing options for downtown. It truly is a great house!

Thank you for any help you may provide.

You may reach at all times on my cell phone: 231-883-9175

Sincerely,
Linda Dear



FAQ's Taken from the Traverse City Campaign Against Discrimination Web Site www.tccad2000.org

Q: Why is the downstate group working to amend the city charter?

A: The downstate group is virulently anti-gay. Because the City Commission's resolution says we should oppose discrimination based on sexual orientation -- a characteristic that EVERY human possesses -- the group somehow sees this as applying only to homosexual people. They are trying to circumvent our legislative process, since the City Commission --the people elected to represent us -- overwhelmingly opposes discrimination.

Q: Who is circulating the petition?

A: An ultra-conservative, anti-gay group based in Tupelo Mississippi is behind the petition drive. Using misleading and inflammatory language, this same group has worked to repeal nondiscrimination ordinances elsewhere in Michigan. They also continue to work in other cities to deny gay, lesbian and bisexual people protections from discrimination.

Q: What does the petition seek?

A: The petition seeks a permanent amendment to our City Charter (the city's version of a U.S. Constitution). The amendment would make it impossible for the city to ever pass a law or policy that would protect a gay, lesbian or bisexual person from discrimination.

Q: Aren't gay people already protected from discrimination?

A: No. There are no laws in Traverse City -or at the state or federal level- that prevent a person from being fired, or denied housing or public accommodation because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation.

Q: Then what did the City Commission's non-discrimination resolution do?

A: The resolution passed in February did not change any laws or policies. The

resolution was a statement of principle that the City Commission opposes discrimination. The resolution is not binding in any way.

Q: Isn't the resolution just a first step toward a law?

A: Two members of the City Commission who supported the nondiscrimination resolution have said that they are not sure whether they would support a law banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. No such law is proposed. Any new legislation would require a majority vote of the City Commission.

Q: What can I do?

A: You can educate your friends and neighbors about this assault on Traverse City. You can help them understand that the innocent-sounding language these people will put on the ballot will actually make it LEGAL to discriminate against gay, lesbian and bisexual people. You can get active and volunteer your energy and donate!

Q: What if this conflicts with my religious beliefs?

A: There are no policies or laws either in place or proposed that would force a person to behave in a way contrary to their religious beliefs. The downstate group will use a variety of scare tactics to have you think otherwise. Mainstream people of faith --people of all religions -- believe that all humans should be treated equally, and therefore oppose the extremist measures being proposed by the anti-gay group.

Q: Is there discrimination in Traverse City now?

A: Yes! The city Commission and Human Rights Commission have had numerous gay people testify before them regarding acts of discrimination in Traverse City.

Q: What happens if this ballot measure passes?

A: The charter amendment would handcuff our elected officials, preventing them from ever passing any laws or policies that could protect gay, lesbian and bisexual people from discrimination. For example, it would be possible for the city to exclude people from public housing based merely on their sexual orientation. Worse, it would portray Traverse City as an uninviting, unwelcoming city. That would be bad for everyone who lives and works here.

On The Headboard and Beside The Bed

By Dianna Johnson

Several of the titles that I have read over the past couple of months are definitely gay and lesbian fiction, some have been selected as Lambda Award finalists (winners will be announced in June, check out the Lambda Book Report for other titles), but I am finding more and more that the Gay and Lesbian Literature section is shrinking because titles are being mainstreamed and put beside Charles Dickens and Ernest Hemingway. I read *Tea* by Stacey D'erasmo because it is a finalist, but before the list came out it slipped through my fingers. I didn't know a thing about it. It was shelved in the literature section, not the "Lesbian lit" section which I keep an eye on. Wow! A lesbian author is shelved in the regular lit section! Christopher Rice, a flaming gay man, is shelved in literature, but anyone who reads his books says, "Oh yea, there are some pretty blatant homoerotic scenes in his book, aren't there?" Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* is also shelved in lit. Maybe it's just that Borders' is starting to integrate these titles, but maybe there's hope that gays and lesbians are on the edge of being considered regular, ordinary, mainstream *people*, too.

A Density of Souls by Christopher Rice took my preconceived notions completely off guard. I expected fluff. The son of a well-established author writes this book and I had wonderings of nepotism. I *knew* that Ms. Anne Rice surely got her son's book published by pulling some strings in that mysterious publishing underworld. Coat tails came to mind. George W. came to mind.

I should not judge. After about the second page, all of those thoughts went right out the window. This kid is a good writer. He knows a lot for 18 years old and his ability to put you in the middle of the story is masterful. There are four main characters—Brandon, Meredith, Greg, and Stephen—high school kids who grew up together and they are trying to find their place in the world. How do foot-

ball jocks (Brandon and Greg) shake memories, homophobia, and same sex attraction (and action)? Of course, they target the guy that they believe was responsible, the "out" fag in school (Stephen). This is the core to a story that is dark and haunting and I couldn't put it down. Rice is very skillful in giving the reader pieces of the puzzle without the box top so you really don't know what it looks like and the only way to find out is to keep reading. Several questions aren't answered until the last few pages and it is exceptional to the very end.

Beyond the Pale by Elana Dyke-womon is an *extremely* well written, well-researched story about Russian Jews in the late 1800's who live in the Jewish settlement called "the Pale". It is very rich in history as well as anti-Semitism. There is an enormous wealth of information about how the Christians persecuted, controlled, harassed, and condescended to their Jewish brothers and sisters as a means of creating themselves as more important. Life in the Pale was difficult and dangerous and the idea of getting to the United States where "streets were paved with gold" was their life goal. The main characters, Rose and Chava, become aware of women loving each other, transgenderism, and organizing unions all at the same time, after coming to America.

Some things that occurred to me while reading this remarkable tale—how awful must it have been to immigrate to this country, even though there were so many promises. Think about transporting across the ocean with many others without any form of fresh food or clean water, not to mention overflowing toilets and seasickness. Where does all that vomit go? Then once you get to Ellis Island and get "accepted" and have your name changed to something less ethnic, where do you go? You take another boat to the lower tip of Manhattan with a suitcase and a glazed look in your eye? This is definitely an awesome read; makes me appreciate a little more what my ancestors went through to get their bloodline here.

I only wish that ALL Lambda award finalists were of the quality of *Beyond the Pale* (1997) and *A Density of*

Souls. Tea by Stacey D'erasmo makes me realize how few good titles are out there with a gay theme. There's some great stuff happening in this book, but after the millionth obvious metaphor hits you over the head... there are glimpses of good fiction, but it seems we learn EXACTLY what D'erasmo learned in Creative Writing 101. Her symbol, tea, gets beaten to death. One part of the book got my attention though, a highlight: the main character, Isabelle, faces a chance to take her life with pills in her hand and die the way her mother did, by committing suicide. D'erasmo did a superb job of tracing the character's thoughts during this scene. It's a good exchange, a good dynamic and well set up. There's something that good lit does for me that this didn't do. Someone said to me, if you leave a movie and say, "Those special effects were really good"...then are they really? If the metaphor and symbolism and foreshadowing is so obvious in a book on the first read, is it good fiction? It doesn't work for me.

I have a feeling that I will be committing blasphemy with my next review. I finally read *Tales of the City* by Armistead Maupin and I have to say I wasn't really that impressed. I know that it is considered "classic" gay fiction, and I know it was groundbreaking at the time. Gay people didn't exist in fiction, much less live next door. But it seemed too simple; no chapter read more than four pages. There is a lot of dialogue and seems to have been written, not as a great piece of lit, but as a B-rated screenplay (which I realize it was.) It is interesting in the sense that it suggestively describes 1970's San Francisco at the height of bathhouses, one nighters, cruising, free love and lots and lots of sex—pre AIDs. Entertaining but not extraordinary, just an eyes wide-open view of gay life in San Francisco in the 70's.

If *Tales of the city* is a first hand account of gay SF in the 70's then *Valencia* is one of lesbian SF in

On The Headboard

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If Tales of the city is a first hand account of gay SF in the 70's then Valencia is one of lesbian SF in the new millennium. YIKES Dykes!! And lots of them... Michelle Tea takes us on a thrill ride through the Mission district of San Francisco where girls and drugs corrupt her every thought. I particularly liked her images of the Dyke March during Pride. However, by the middle of the book, same girl, same drugs or different ones, I started not to really care. Her writing style is like she is journaling, fast paced in some places, but same old topics...girls and drugs. Gets old.

what the dogs go through (and mushers) on the Iditarod. 3) Paulsen is an outstanding storyteller. 4) Paulsen's passion for dogs, the race and sledding is catching. I wonder how I would do on the Iditarod? Just need some dogs.... my favorite passages were training with the old bicycle, buffalo games, the five skunk night, the coyote and his amazing hunting style and any story that included Devil.



Books to Note (without g/l/b/t themes)

Expecting Adam by Martha Beck; Beck, a scholar with two Harvard degrees, becomes pregnant with a Down's syndrome baby and everything she knows turns upside down. It all shakes out and she comes to huge realizations about people's perceptions and her own priorities. Every page closer to the end made me sad that it was closer to over. Beck writes so we that we not only see her grow, we feel her grow as well. It's inspirational and funny and jabs at Harvard and it's scholarly society.

Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler; empowering, sometimes funny, sometimes sad essays about your "down there". Started a huge feminist movement called V-day created to stop violence toward women. An absolute must for your feminist bookshelf.

Winterdance by Gary Paulsen; Sheila and I read this out loud while road tripping to Ann Arbor. I'm sure there were times when she couldn't see the road for the laughing tears. This book should be read for a number of reasons: 1) Belly laughing has been proven by medical experts to be good for you. 2) It gives a great first hand account and appreciation for

JQ—May I ask a question?
 FN—Sure, go ahead.
 JQ—Isn't there supposed to be a cool spring function coming up?
HIGH TEA, MAY 20th!
 FN—Ahh—well yeah. Do you read the newsletter much?
HIGH TEA, MAY 20th!
 JQ—Well sure; when I get time.
 FN—Have you read much of this issue yet?
 JQ—Nope. Haven't had a chance
HIGH TEA, MAY 20TH!

JQ—Say, you don't suppose there is something about that spring function in the Newsletter, do you?

Quack,
 Quaaaaaaaaaack!!!



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FRIENDS NORTH 10th ANNUAL BIKE TOUR 2001

Friends North is sponsoring our 10th annual bike tour in beautiful Benzie County! This bike tour is intended for G,L,B,T and their friends. It will be held the weekend of July 27, 28, 29 2001. This is a biking, camping and canoeing/kayaking weekend on a 15-acre private ranch. The activities this year will be a Friday night *Welcome* reception with a *Pasta Extravaganza* prepared by our site hosts Sheryl and Hilda. Also a Sunday afternoon canoe/kayak trip down the Platte River (bring your own canoe, kayak, tube or rentals available). Afterward meet us on the beach, we'll have a grill and volleyball net (BYOStuff). All this along with our beautiful various bike tours on Saturday and the fun-filled dinner at the ranch on Saturday night. No hints about the entertainment will be allowed ☺

Your registration/donation to Friends North will include:

- Weekend camping, 2-3 nights, camper/trailers welcome, no hook-ups.
- Routed bike tours Saturday with varying route lengths to choose from for all riding abilities.
- Canoe/kayak/tube down the Platte River Sunday, with everyone meeting at the beach for grilling and beach volleyball.
- Sumptuous dinners both Friday & Saturday catered on site for added convenience.
- Continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday.
- Friends North bike tour 2001 T-shirt.

If you know enough about the tour and would like to sign up now, please fill out the registration/release form and send it back to us with your donation check. (Those registering before May 20, 2001 may send in the reduced rate). Students and those with limited funds (who would not participate in the tour because of cost) have a discounted rate.

LOGO CONTEST - Design our 10th anniversary logo and win a free Bike Tour weekend. Logo must be a one color design and will need to be submitted by June 1st to be considered. If you send your registration in prior and your submittal is chosen, your registration will be reimbursed for your prize.

We will send out directions and more about the weekend by early July. In the meantime, if you have questions about the tour you may call Kirk Mallow at 231-933-3311, E-mail Tim Schmidt at TCTimber@aol.com or Rose Clement at RSCNGC@aol.com.

We look forward to having you join us for OUR TENTH ANNUAL beautiful weekend in Northern Michigan!



FRIENDS NORTH BIKE TOUR 2001 • REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out an individual form for each participant

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

CITY, STATE, ZIP:.....PHONE:.....

CIRCLE SHIRT SIZE: M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL

YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS:.....

EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSON (NOT ON THE TOUR)

NAME:.....PHONE:.....

Check donation:

..... \$70.00 Full Weekend Package - discounted rate prior to May 20th \$85.00

Full Weekend Package - after May 20th

..... \$55.00 Full Weekend Package - Limited funds

..... \$15.00 1 year membership to Friends North

..... Interested in participating in the Sunday Canoe (11:00 a.m.)

Enclose check or money order payable to Friends North and send to:

Friends North Bike Tour, P.O. Box 332, Grawn Michigan 49637

Canoe/Kayak rates: Please note that each individual is responsible for paying for the rental of their own canoe/kayak on Sunday afternoon.

Canoe - \$28.00 for two people in canoe, \$36.00 for three people in canoe

Kayak - \$20.00 for one person, \$40.00 for two person

Tube - \$15.00 for one person

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

Signature:.....Date:.....

Riders registering after 7/15/2001 are not assured a T-shirt. Cancellations made prior to 7/7/2001 will receive 1/2 of the original donation. After 7/14/2001 NO refunds will be made.

Please contact to receive a parental consent form if under the age of 18. Please contact to receive information on Financial Hardship Scholarship.

RESOURCES

State And National Hotlines

Department of Justice.....800-347-4283
 Gay/Lesbian National Youth
 800-347-TEEN (8336)
 Michigan Wellness Networks.....
 800-872-AIDS (2437)
 Triangle Hate Crime Reporting.....
 877-7-TRIANGLE (877-787-42640)

Statewide Services

ACLU Of Michigan.....
 1249 Washington Blvd., Suite 209,
 Detroit, MI 48220
 Office.....248-398-7105
 Help Line.....800-398-4297
 E-mail.....michaclu@aol.com
 WWW.....<http://michigan.aclu.org/>

Lansing Association of Human Rights.....
 PO Box 18062, Lansing, MI 48826
 Phone.....517-332-3200
<http://www.macatawa.org/~lahr>

Triangle Foundation.....
 19641 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI
 313-357-3323.....Fax.....313-537-3379
 WWW.....<http://www.tri.org>

GLSEN
 WWW.....www.GLSEN-Michigan.org

National Services

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education
 Network), 121 West 127th St., Suite 804,
 New York, NY 10001.....212-727-0135
 WWW.....<http://www.GLSEN.org/>

Gender PAC.New York, NY
 WWW.....<http://www.gpac.org/>

HRC (Human Rights Campaign), 919 18th
 Street NW, Washington DC 20006
 Ph..202-628-4160 FAX..202-347-5323
 E-mail.....hrc@hrc.org
 WWW.....<http://www.hrc.org/>

IFGE (International Foundation for Gender
 Education), PO Box 540229, Waltham, MA
 02454-0229
 Ph..781-899-2212 FAX..781-899-5703
 E-mail.....info@ifge.org
 WWW.....<http://www.ifge.org>

LAMBDA Legal Defense & Education
 Fund, 120 Wall St., Suite 1500, New York,
 NY 10005.....212-809-8585
 Fax.....212-809-0055
 WWW.....<http://www.lambdalegal.org/>

thebody.com/lambda.html

NGLTF (National Gay & Lesbian Task
 Force), 2320 Seventeenth St. NW,
 Washington DC 20009-2702
 Ph..202-332-6483 FAX..202-332-0207
 WWW.....<http://www.ngtlf.org/>

PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of
 Lesbians and Gays), 1101 14th St. NW,
 Suite 1030, Washington DC 2005
 Ph..202-638-420 Email..info@pflag.org
 WWW.....<http://www.pflag.org/>

Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network
 WWW.....<http://www.asaging.org/lgain.html>

Local Spiritual

Circle of the Sacred Earth,
 Rev. Nancy Hayward.....231-223-7999

Journey in Light Ministries,
 Rev. Linda L. Wilson.....231-271-2529

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Grand
 Traverse, Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher, 6726
 Center Rd., Traverse City, MI 49686
 Home..231-938-9079 Office..231-947-3117

Unity Church, Rev. Judy Grimes,
 3600 Five Mile Rd., Traverse City,
 MI 49686.....231-938-9587

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of
 Petoskey, PO Box 873, Petoskey,
 MI 49770.....231-347-8916

Local Counseling

CDRS (free substance abuse referral)
 Phone.....231-929-1315
 Toll-Free.....800-686-0749

THIRD LEVEL Crisis Intervention Center,
 1022 E. Front St., Traverse City, MI
 49686 231-922-4800
 Toll-Free.....800-442-7315
 WWW.....<http://www.traverse.net/members/thirdlevel/>

WOMAN'S RESOURCE CENTER
 Phone.....231-941-1210

Susan Odgers, PhD.....946-0331

Barbara Jones Smith, PhD.....947-1444

Bay Area Counseling, LLC.....933-4009

Susan R. Breuer, PhD, Benzonia....882-4455

Local HIV/AIDS Health Counseling & Information

HIV Testing Anonymous & Confidential

Community Health Clinic (same day)
 Phone.....231-929-4448

Grand Traverse County Health Dept.
 Phone.....231-922-4831

Planned Parenthood Northern Michigan
 Phone.....800-230-PLAN (7526)

Thomas Judd Care Center
 Phone.....231-935-8140

Emmet County Health Dept.
 Phone.....231-347-6014

Wellness Networks.....231-933-0279
 Toll-Free.....800-947-1160
 WWW.....<http://www.WellnessNetworks.org>

Local Service/Social/Political

Common Voices: The Friends North Rap
 Group, Call Tom.....231-275-6127

Friends North of Michigan, PO Box 562,
 Traverse City, MI 49685-0562
 Northern Michigan Help Line
 Phone231-946-1804
 E-mail.....info@friendsnorth.org
 WWW.....<http://www.friendsnorth.org>

GLSEN, PO Box 9, Traverse City, MI
 49685-0685.....231-943-5050
 WWW.....www.TraverseArea.com/GLSEN
 E-mail.....GLSEN@TraverseArea.com

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous, Grace
 Episcopal Church, Traverse City Call
 John.....231-922-0746 or
 Hilda.....231-938-9294

WINDFIRE Gay & Lesbian Youth Support
 Group...Call Third Level for location &
 time.....231-922-4800
 Toll-Free.....800-442-7315

Human Rights Commission.....922-4447

**Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
 Transgendered?**
Have Questions, Need Help?
**Call the Northern Michigan
 Help Line**
231-946-1804