



# News & Views

Free to Members and Subscribers

November 1998

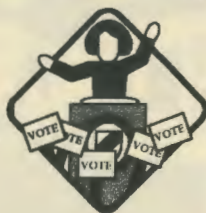
Vol.9, No.11

The Triangle Community Center, Inc. a non-profit Connecticut corporation, exists to provide services to give the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender community a sense of identity, pride and visibility, as well as to work with the greater Fairfield County community to foster understanding and awareness of lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender issues.

## VOTE November 3<sup>rd</sup>!

**"Given the historically low voter turn-out in mid-term elections, conventional wisdom holds that the election will be won by the party most able to turn out its voters."**

Urvashi Vaid



## Connecticut Candidates

### Governor

Incumbent - John Rowland (R)

Challenger - Barbara Kennelly (D)

### Senate

Incumbent - Christopher J Dodd (D)

Challenger - Gary A Franks (R)

### House of Representatives

#### First Congressional District (CT-01)

Challenger - John B Larson (D)

Challenger - Kevin J O'Connor (R)

#### Second Congressional District (CT-02)

Incumbent - Sam Gejdenson (D)

Challenger - Gary M Koval (R)

#### Third Congressional District (CT-03)

Incumbent - Rosa L Delauro (D)

Challenger - Martin Reust (R)

#### Fourth Congressional District (CT-04)

Incumbent - Christopher Shays (R) -

Challenger - Jonathan Kantrowitz (D)

#### Fifth Congressional District (CT-05)

Incumbent - James H Maloney (D)

Challenger - Mark Nielsen (R)

#### Sixth Congressional District (CT-06)

Incumbent - Nancy Lee Johnson (R)

Challenger - Charlotte Koskoff (D)

## Eric Marcus at TCC



Eric Marcus will be appearing at TCC on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 PM. Refreshments will be available. He will be discussing his new book, *Together Forever: The Gay Marriage*, the first look at happy, long-lasting gay and lesbian relationships from the ground up. It is published by Anchor Books. He will also be attending a luncheon fundraiser to benefit TCC prior to the book reading from 12:30 - 2:30 PM. \$50 per plate. Seating is limited and reservations are required.

Call (203) 324-5961.

Eric is co-author with Greg Louganis of the #1 New York Times best-selling *Breaking the Surface*. He is also the co-author of *Icebreaker: The Autobiography of Rudy Galindo*, the 1996 U.S. Figure Skating Champion. In addition, Eric is the author of five other books:

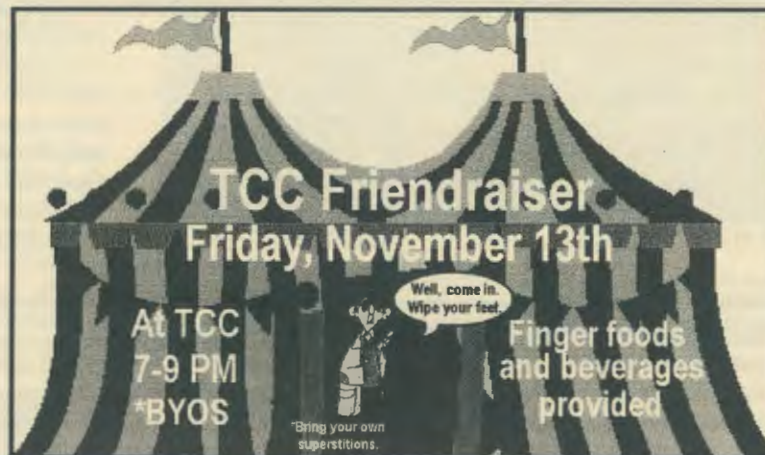
1. Why Suicide? Answers to 200 of the Most Frequently Asked Questions About Suicide, Attempted Suicide, and Assisted Suicide;
2. Is It A Choice? Answers to 300 of the Most Frequently Asked Questions About Gays and Lesbians;
3. Expect the Worst (You Won't Be Disappointed);
4. Making History: The Struggle for Gay & Lesbian Equal Rights, 1945 to 1990, An Oral History;
5. The Mate Couple's Guide: Finding a Man, Making a Home, Building a Life.

## Food and Film

How about a little dinner and TV? Starting this month, TCC is adding a Potluck Supper to their already successful Movie Night. You bring the food (enough for four) and we'll provide the film. The selection for November is



"The Celluloid Closet", a ground-breaking film that takes a candid look at the developing role of gay and lesbian characters in film. It all happens on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at TCC. Food at 6 PM and film at 7 PM. So come! You'll eat a little, laugh a little, cry a little, and who knows....



# ▼ NEWS & VIEWS

## Town Meeting Rich in Ideas

TCC held its annual Town Meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup>. And what a meeting it was! Doug Nissing did a terrific job facilitating the meeting; keeping members on track and moving along constructive lines. So many good ideas! So many ways to improve the quality of the Center. So many practical ways to help members feel a part of a whole.

Don Buxton (President) opened the meeting by saying that he believed that the Center had reached a plateau. He told the group that the Center's lease will expire December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. On the topic of Volunteerism, Don said that, as is true with so many organizations, a handful of people do most of the work and after a time they burn out. As to the future, Don would like to see TCC hire a part-time paid Director and mentioned that perhaps TCC could get a sociology student to do an internship here. Don told the group that TCC has received a grant from Digital Queens in the form of a brand new computer, printer, and software!

Denny Burke (VP & Membership Chair) said that the Center currently has 239 members, the same number TCC had in October of 1996. She needs volunteers to help query ex-members on why they do not renew.

John Wallace (Treasurer) presented a financial summary (see below). He mentioned that TCC's Scholarship Fund has a current balance of approximately \$9,000.

Below are some of the ideas that came out of the meeting. TCC's Board of Directors will be implementing each of these suggestions within the next six months. Stay tuned to News & Views for updates.

### Topics Discussed

1. New site for TCC - The following should be considered by the Site Selection Committee when seeking a new home for TCC. Lease or buy, location, size, and cost. What members want from the Center will define what kind of space is needed.
2. The Center needs to do more community outreach.
3. TCC should get an 800 or other telephone number so that calls to the Center are local. Get the phone staffed.
4. Have open board meetings regularly.
5. Have more frequent Town Meetings.
6. Have Board members chair one committee while serving on another.
7. Have a mailbox in the Center for each group that meets so they may be kept informed about Center business.
8. A Volunteer Committee chair is desperately needed.
9. Potlucks are popular and TCC should have more of them. (Potlucks have been added to Movie Night)
10. Women need to be included TCC's theatrical productions. Unfortunately, this cannot be done for this year's production of Nunsense because of contractual stipulations but women will definitely be included next year.
11. TCC should develop a relationship with Common Ground, a gay group that meets in the Danbury area. They would act as a satellite group. (See this issue of News & Views for details)
12. News & Views should publish a list of what the Center needs in terms of volunteers (for specific projects) as well as items. (See Wish List in this issue)
12. Board members should speak to group facilitators personally about the Center needs.
13. Volunteers need to be recruited for specific projects and recognized for their efforts in the form of awards, profiles in N&V's, etc.
14. TCC needs more gender diversity. There should be more Center-wide activities.



### Revenue and Expenses for nine months ending September 30, 1998

REVENUE:		EXPENSES:	
Communications	\$ 4,539.53	Communications	\$ 9,259.28
Executive Board	\$ 1,590.42	Executive Board	\$ 151.53
Fund Raising	\$ 293.55	Fund Raising	\$ 9,047.07
Membership	\$ 11.00	Membership	\$10,517.00
Operations	\$ 400.00	Operations	\$15,900.77
Programs	\$ 21.20	Programs	\$ 4,789.78
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,076.22	TOTAL REVENUES	\$29,444.91
NET REVENUE (DEFICIT)		\$ 2,368.69	

### Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered Spiritualities

Explore your spirituality in a supportive group environment. The group will determine its own structure and direction (though with guidance and suggestions as needed). We will meet every other week to support one another in defining our own spirituality and looking at how who we are individually and as a member of a sexual minority influences our spirituality. Facilitator: Marion Visel, M. Div. Marion is a candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry and graduate of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. She is a member of the Triangle Community Center. The group will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month, beginning November 11<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 PM at TCC. Contact: Marion Visel (203) 250-7933

## Nunsense A-Men



Director Scott M. Robbins

Nunsense A-Men! — an all new, all male version of the smash play “Nunsense” — is coming to Norwalk, Connecticut in January 1999. After auditions in October, director Scott M. Robbins has selected five actors. They are Scott Fabri of Fairfield as Sister Hubert, Joe Guttadauro of Norwalk as Sister Robert Anne, Edward James Hines of Norwalk as Sister Leo and

Al Recchia of Stratford as the Reverend Mother. The musical director is Stephanie Daumer of Norwalk and the choreographer is Kathy Hellrigel of Norwalk.

Mr. Robbins said that a professional sign painter, a professional painter and a professional photographer to take publicity stills are needed. Anyone who would like to make recommendations may call Michael Collins (203) 281-8984 days or (203) 375-3567 nights and weekends.

On Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM, the set will be unloaded and installed at the Norwalk Community Technical College Performing Arts Center and volunteers are needed to assist. Tools will also be needed. To volunteer and for more information, contact Elliot Arluck, the show's producer, at (203) 330-0616.

Mr. Arluck said corporate sponsors include Virgin Atlantic Airways, People's Bank and the Townhouse Café in Norwalk. Additionally, the Hotel Millennium Balley's of London has donated a room for two for a raffle in conjunction with the show, and the Regal UN Plaza in Manhattan has donated a brunch for 2.

The original Nunsense featured 5 women playing 5 nuns and ran for nearly a decade in Manhattan. The new Nunsense A-Men! is currently running at the 47<sup>th</sup> Street Theatre in Manhattan. The rights for the Norwalk performances were negotiated by special arrangements with the author, according to Mr. Robbins.

The show will run January 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23 at 8 PM all five evenings, with receptions following each show. The performances will be held at the Norwalk Community and Technical College (NCTC) Performing Arts Center at 188 Richards Avenue in Norwalk, off Connecticut Turnpike (I-95) exit 13. Tickets are \$50 and \$35 for the show and include a post-show reception. Tickets may be obtained by calling (203) 855-1485.

“Nunsense A-Men!” features comedy, gags, and music with songs ranging from tender to hand-clapping torrid. “Nunsense” was winner of two Outer Critics Circle awards. It won for best off-Broadway musical and for best music. Anyone wanting information about “Nunsense A-Men!” may telephone TCC publicity director, Michael Collins who may be reached at (203) 281-8984 days or (203) 375-3567 evenings and weekends.

-Michael Collins

Visit our web site at: <http://members.aol.com/TCCcenter/>

**Triangle Community Center**

Norwalk, CT

♥♥♥♥♥ *“Many Hearts, One Community”* ♥♥♥♥♥

Serving the lesbian/gay/bi/tg community of southwestern Connecticut

## Common Breaks New Ground Ground

Common Ground is an association of Bi and Gay men who wish to meet in a welcoming and convivial setting for social events of interests. After three years at St. James Church Hall, Common Ground has moved and begun the Fall-Winter Season at the Unitarian Society Building in West Redding, CT. We have moved the meeting night to the second and fourth Tuesday of each month to avoid conflicts at TCC. The meeting on the second Tuesday will feature a guest or program of timely interest, and the fourth Tuesday will feature a potluck (bring something. We'll supply the main meat dish) supper. As the fourth Tuesday is just before Thanksgiving we will roast a TURKEY and perhaps a speaker!

Of course you will not want to miss THE GATHERING in New Milford on the Third Tuesday when Common Ground does not meet in W. Redding. Direction to the Unitarian Society:

North on Route 7 from Norwalk/Wilton past the famous Stonehinge restaurant on the left. Up hill to traffic light and right at the light onto Picketts Ridge Road and wind along about a quarter mile to the Unitarian sign on the left and into the driveway and park. The meeting is in the white house on the left of the drive. Use the rear entrance and up the stairs.

Exit 184 from Danbury onto Route 7 South and drive past Triangles Cafe and about one half mile past the split of 35 into Ridgefield (don't take it). Left from route 7 at the traffic light onto Picketts Ridge as above.

For more information please call (203) 743-5731.

## Lesbian Lit Group

For their November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Lesbian Literature Group has chosen the novel, “Blue Genes” for discussion. The book, authored by Val McDermid is an exciting detective story concerning a lesbian physician who experiments with perthenogenesis. Copies of the book are available at local bookstores and libraries. The Lit Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at TCC beginning at 7:30 PM. For more information call Christine at (203) 847-8476.

## Book Sale

TCC is having its first book sale on Sunday, December 6 from 1 - 3 PM. Over 600 to choose from! Hard cover or soft, fiction or true, varied topics. We've even thrown in some records and videos. Nothing over \$3.00. Proceeds to help the Resource Room provide Internet access for members.

## Trivia

Answer to October - The First Churchills (which was the initial Masterpiece Theater) was the story of Sarah Churchill and England's Queen Anne and their friendship which resulted in Mrs. Churchill's becoming the most powerful woman in England without being Queen or Prime Minister.

Question for November - What is the common title of two books - one was the autobiography of the first openly gay priest appointed by the Episcopal Bishop Spong of Newark, and the other a novel by a contemporary black gay writer. Incidentally, it was also the title to the recently published memoir by a world-famous preacher (not gay!).

## TCC's 1998 Women's Softball Team



Photo by Chandra Niles Fulcrum

From left to right: 1st row: Lorlane Gnall, Diane Daines, Marie Johnson, Amy Mulock; 2nd row: Karilyn Christopher, Judy Gouvias, Jen Svell, Terry Inzintarj, Trish Szvlewski; 3rd row: Kathy Anderson, Denise Burke, Lucy Iora. Not pictured: Susan Pugliese, Cindy Clark, and Edith Piravo

The team is already psyched for next season!

## TRANSGENDERED

### TVView Seeks Co-Host

The Transgendered group 'the connecticut View' is offering to co-host a benefits show "Boys will be Girls" with any group who wishes to raise money for an AIDS Charity. Last year the cTView raised \$3,125 for Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford for their Pediatric AIDS section which purchased a computer with the money. The cTView, offers it's talented members in a 'la Cage' style show, if the co-hosts will work with them in producing it. Any groups interested should contact cTView at P.O. Box 2281, Milford CT. 06460 or Denise Mason at masonD@aol.com

### What Does Gender Mean?

Gender is an element of personal identity that is initiated early in life. It is established by biological, familial, and cultural influences. In an evolutionary sense, early humans established rigid gender expectations so that the human species could progress more efficiently. Gender roles allowed for a division of labor for males and females-males hunted and protected the clan; females gathered food and prepared it as well as cared for the children. Over the millennia, these gender-specific roles evolved and became more entrenched in the specific cultures in which they were embedded. Different cultures designed specific expectations for males and females.

Gender identity today varies from culture to culture and has changed within cultures throughout the century. An advanced society has less need for rigidity in gender identification than our ancestors. This has allowed individuals to explore variants on established gender roles. There are observable indications of these changes such as changes in dress codes, gender responsibilities (who raises the kids), and changing media stereotypes. Explorations of rights of personal expression, evident in the civil rights and feminist movements, have provided opportunities for *alternative gender* expression in our culture. Feminist insistence that one's identity is not determined by biology leaves an open playing field for gender pioneers of both sexes.

Personal identity is a subjective entity, determined by how one experiences oneself. In a gender sense, it is how one feels, experiences and relates in terms of maleness or femaleness. The polarity of gender, seeing oneself as either male or female, is probably

an artificial and externally proscribed phenomenon. In reality, one's identity, with all its elements ought to be a constantly evolving tapestry of expression, changing over time, adapting to different situations and bringing the individual to wholeness. One's identity should emerge from within, taking into account the myriad media and cultural images, always exhibiting the uniqueness of the personality.

Although many individuals explore gender with dress, ornamentation, and behavioral changes, there are those individuals whose personal dysphoria presses them to more radically change their identity. These individuals are part of the transgender community. Transgender individuals are a diverse group. They include:

1. Transvestites-Individuals who dress in the clothing of the opposite birth sex. These are generally males who dress in female attire. They are generally, but not exclusively heterosexual and usually see themselves as male.
2. Transsexuals-Individuals who identify comprehensively with the other-than-birth sex. They may be hereto or gay. These individuals may be Male-to-Female (M2F) or Female-to-Male (F2M). Some of these individuals take Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) and/or seek Sexual Reassignment Treatment (SRT).
3. Androgynes-Individuals who embody both male and female personas. They are able to synthesize these qualities or flip between the two, depending on the situation.
4. Hermaphrodites-These are individuals born with the genitals of both sexes.
5. Intersexed-These are individuals that were hermaphrodites at birth, and were surgically altered to one sex, but who subsequently identify with the other sex.
6. Drag Queens/Kings-These are individuals who use the garb of the opposite-of-birth sex for performance purposes. They examine and expose stereotypical gender identity. Drag Queens are M2F; Kings are F2M.
7. Other self-identifying gender outlaws and explorers-Tomboys, Torngirls, Transmen, boychicks, etc. All of whom are seeking to establish personal variants on the theme of gender expression.

Many of the above individuals feel trapped in the wrong body, born or raised in a manner that is inconsistent with their inner nature. Realizing that gender identification is not synonymous with sexual orientation, a transsexual M2F might prefer sexual relations with men, making her hereto; or with women, making her gay, or both (since she is identifying as a woman herself). Confused yet? Those who transgress against traditional gender roles are seldom understood by those who have a stake in the comfort provided by those boundaries.

[Ed. Note: Reprinted from the Loft with permission from the author, Kaylen.]

## CONNECTICUT NEWS

### Conn – Connecticut OUT Awards

Below is a list of the winner's of the Connecticut Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights (CCLGBTR) OUT Awards.

Bayard Rustin Award for 'Out'standing Community Organizing: Winner – Robert Brex

Audre Lorde Award for Achievement in the Arts: Winner – Cherie Mittenhall

Paco Martinez Cancel Award for Youth Leadership: Winner – David Waterman

Harvey Milk Award for Political Leadership: Winner – Evelyn Mantilla

Gianni Versace Award for Business Achievement: Winner – Reader's Feast:

Jane Addams Awards for Non-Profit Organization: Winner – GLSEN Connecticut

### Cheshire – Gay-Straight Alliance

Cheshire High School is building a gay-straight alliance with the acknowledgement, if not the endorsement, of School Superintendent David Cressy. "My position to them was that I wasn't going to stand in the way," said Cressy, who met last week with Karen D'Angelo and Jessica Tremaglio, two of the three Cheshire High School students who sent letters to the Superintendent and the Board of Education seeking support for the group.

To make it easier for students to attend, Tremaglio said, the school's gay-straight alliance will convene at the end of Diversity Club meetings. Heterosexuals, gay males, lesbians, bisexuals, questioning youth and transgenders will be invited to attend, teachers included. Specifying one's sexuality will be optional and speculating on that of another person will not be allowed.

The student organizers say gay-straight alliances "do not promote homosexuality, they promote acceptance and tolerance." Tremaglio said students tried to start a gay-straight alliance last school year but were told then School Superintendent Ralph Wallace would not allow it. Over the summer, she said, she learned that the school system could

not legally bar such a group. D'Angelo and Tremaglio said in their letter that there already exists a hostile climate toward gay students at Cheshire High. One gay relationship, the students say, incurred harassment that escalated after the couple stopped denying their homosexuality. One of the boys, the students wrote, had "his head thrown into a locker" by a tormentor. "These students felt that their lives were endangered when they came to school, and their school work as well as their attendance declined. The end result was that one of the students transferred to another school and the other one failed and had to repeat a grade."

Cheshire High School Principal Thomas Neagle said he hadn't heard about the incident the students described, or of any assaults at the school related to sexual orientation. Neagle said he supported the formation of a gay-straight alliance and had offered to act as the group's faculty advisor if none could be found.

D'Angelo and Tremaglio, said school administrators have been very responsive to their efforts to form the alliance, but that pockets of resentment exist among Cheshire High students. "It 's an unspoken thing," Tremaglio said. "And more and more as we're hanging up posters and they're being torn down."

### Darien – Gay Students Have No Voice

At Darien High School, there are no organizations for kids who are struggling with issues of sexuality, nor are there any for those who have established themselves as gay or lesbian. According to Dan Woog, journalist and substitute teacher at Staples High School in Westport, that is unacceptable. "I think that every school needs a Gay-Straight Alliance for the gay and lesbian kids, even if they never come out publicly," said Mr. Woog, who helped set up a similar program at Staples. "It is important, even for the kids who would never attend a meeting, to feel that there are people out there who are discussing their issues and trying to understand them." Mr. Woog believes it is equally important for these types of organizations to exist for Darien's heterosexual kids.

So why doesn't the school have a Gay-Straight Alliance? Darien High School Principal Bruce Hall would not comment on why the school has not formed a Gay-Straight Alliance. He explained that no group has ever identified itself to him as in need of such an organization. He conceded, however, that simply because Darien teenagers aren't "outing" themselves, does not mean that homosexuality doesn't exist.

Doug Nissing, co-founder of OutSpoken, a support group for gay and lesbian teens at the Triangle Community Center in Norwalk, suggested that the homogeneity of Darien presents a special set of problems to gay teenagers. "My own thoughts are that a town like Darien which places a high value on sameness makes it more difficult for kids to identify a difference in themselves," said Mr. Nissing

Mr. Woog believes that there may be a misconception in the community as to what the Gay-Straight Alliance stands for. "The important thing to remember," he said, "is that this is the Gay-Straight Alliance. It is not a gay club. Gay issues are important to everyone. They are important to kids who are gay and lesbian, they are important to kids who have gay or lesbian relatives and they are important to any child who may grow up to one day have a gay or lesbian roommate, colleague or, perhaps, child."

The proper avenue for teaching children about gay issues, Mr. Woog believes, is in the school. "I would like to see faculty address gay and lesbian issues through in-service training," said Mr. Woog. "I would like to see gay and lesbian issues brought up as a normal – not special – part of the everyday curriculum, whether it be in English class, as part of history or biology or wherever else it may arise."

Mr. Woog believes that, though Darien High lacks a Gay-Straight Alliance, that the student body and faculty are evolving. "What we are hearing is that Darien High has become a more comfortable place for gay youth," said Mr. Woog. "Comfortable means that a young person who is gay or who is questioning their sexuality knows that he or she can talk confidentially to at least a few staff members, can come out to at least a few friends and not have to spend every day terrified that his or her secret will result in verbal or physical abuse."

Mr. Woog insists that a Gay-Straight Alliance is essential to all involved. "The Gay-Straight Alliance is for everyone," he said. "It is for the gay and lesbian students that attend, even if they never come out publicly and it is for the straight kids and faculty, to help them realize that gays exist and are in their classrooms and halls."

"Eight to 10 percent of the population is gay," he said. "Gay and lesbian youth are in every school, no matter how small or isolated the community. Just because the students and teachers and administrators cannot see them does not mean that they don't exist or that their worries and fears are not real. I would like to see every adult in every school, in every town and city recognize that whether they understand and accept homosexuality is not the point," he continued. "The point is that every young person has a right to a safe comfortable learning environment."

## MATTHEW SHEPARD

### Splinters



"It was with great shock and sadness that I received the news of the brutal beating and subsequent death of Matthew Shepard. This is a hate crime that is not just endemic to Wyoming, but permeates too large a segment of our society. There is no place for this type of brutality in the United States. It has a very real and chilling effect on all of this country's gay, lesbian and transgendered citizens. I

can only hope that the law enforcement authorities in Wyoming bring justice to Matthew's family and the people of Wyoming."

The above statement was written immediately after learning of Matthew Shepard's death, to assist TCC Board members who may have been asked to respond to the press.

It does not reflect the horror of the crime. It does not reflect the anger in my throat. It does not reflect the pain on my heart. Matthew Shepard was left hanging on a fence post, left to die, like a piece of meat, a warning to all of us who are gay or lesbian.

Imagine... if Matthew were your son, ..your brother, ..your best friend, ..your lover.

Matthew Shepard was a 21 year old, 5 foot 2, native son of Wyoming. He returned home to go to his state university. He returned with fears about the way he might be treated. Matthew's fears were probably no different than those that most of us feel when embarking on a new job, new school, new home, new life. But, Matthew Shepard's worst nightmare was not visited upon him. What was done to Matthew was worse than anything he would have imagined.

The Laramie Lieutenant leading the investigation into Matthew's killing said that he did not know what constitutes a hate crime. When the followers of Hitler painted swastikas on Jewish homes and businesses, or beat up a Jew in the streets of Berlin can anyone say I don't know what a hate crime is? Does the hanging of a savagely beaten gay man on a fence post raise any doubt?

This is only one crime. The killing of two lesbians in Oregon, the bombing of the gay bar in Atlanta, the treatment of the Haitian refugee by New York City police. How many men or women, gay or straight, are to be brutalized, just because they are believed to be gay? And our society lets it go unpunished? The question has been asked, do hate crime laws matter? I believe they do. When enforced, hate crime laws do help deter some from acting on their bigotry. Hate crime laws help deter the tacit acceptance of the notion that lesbians and gay men are less worthy, and "deserve what they get." Hate crime laws help break the insufferable silence of "don't ask, don't tell." Hate crime laws offer affirmation from lawmakers that justice still matters.

To those who believe that community centers are passé, that the world is now an accepting place, that its "ok to be gay - we've arrived", Matthew's brutal killing should give pause. Somewhere there is a young man who will never know the love and devotion that his lover, Matthew would have offered.

-John Wallace

### Vigil Planned for November 15



The Rainbow Task Force of the Unitarian Church in Westport, in response to the horrible and unthinkable death of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, WY, asks that anyone who believes that hate crimes against homosexuals are wrong to join together in a vigil for Matthew on

November 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. The Unitarian Church is located at 10 Lyons Plains Rd. in Westport.

Frank Hall, Senior Minister at the Unitarian Church in Westport and a leader in the Fairfield County religious community, will preside over Matthew's vigil. Everyone is welcome to speak out at the service and most certainly to light a candle in Matthew's memory and in the memory of anyone who has been the victim for hatred. For directions or further information, please contact Suzanne Sheridan or Rozanne Gates at (203) 222-1441.

### CT - In Memory Of Matthew

More than 700 people gathered at the United Methodist Church in Hartford the night of October 22<sup>nd</sup> and several ministers took turns speaking during a candlelight vigil for 22- year-old Matthew Shepard.

Tony Award winning gay actor and activist Harvey Fierstein spoke, as part of the rally, from the pulpit at Immanuel Congregational Church, denouncing the killing but saying that as horrible and heinous as the crime was, he hopes it leads to the passage by Congress of a federal hate crime bill

Leaders of gay groups said that what they call hateful speech from the "Christian Right" - sermonizing against "the sin" of homosexuality, attempting to "cure" homosexuality through worship - has created a homophobic atmosphere that breeds violent attacks such as the one that killed Shepard.

The national coalition, in conjunction with a Boston organization called Political Research Associates, chose the week after Shepard's brutal beating to promote a report they commissioned to debunk the so-called "ex-gay" movement. The movement asserts that homosexuals can be converted to heterosexuality by embracing fundamentalist Christian doctrine. The report contends that the ex-gay movement is not widely supported by most mainstream religious leaders and is built on unsound science.

Bouffard and others who are active in gay rights issues locally suggested violence against gays could be reduced through educational programs, possibly at the elementary school level. "We hope this tragedy serves as a wakeup call to educational stakeholders in Connecticut be alarmed.... We are not meeting the needs of our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth," said Michael Fiorello, co- chairman of The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, based in Watertown.

Richard Nelson, a member of the Connecticut Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Civil Rights said, "It's a problem of education starting in the school systems...." But he added, "Churches need to stop placing blame and fostering intolerance and hatred...." Gay groups agree there is no simple solution to violence against their members. But they hope Shepard's death at least focuses attention on the problem.

At the vigil and march along Farmington Avenue in Hartford, The Rev. Richard Cardarelli, also of the American Apostolic Catholic Church, held a two-foot long Paschal candle, the Christian symbol of resurrection, as he led marchers to Immanuel Congregational Church. "When anyone suffers in a minority group, the majority and silent members of the minority have to take responsibility for allowing the fires of hatred," said Cardarelli, who is gay.

# ▼ NEWS & VIEWS

## CT - Wyoming Cause for Concern

Lester Sharlach is looking for some good to come out of the brutal attack on a gay University of Wyoming student, who died early Monday (October 12<sup>th</sup>) five days after he was pistol-whipped and left tied to a fence post. "Hopefully, the good will be the awareness that everyone's life has value," said Sharlach, former president of the Fairfield County chapter of P-FLAG, a group for parents, family and friends of lesbians and gays.

"It's every parent's fear," Sharlach said. He said because of some recent attacks on gays in New York's Chelsea section and Greenwich Village, "there's a heightened alertness" among the homosexual community, which observed National Coming Out Day (on Sunday, October 11). And while Sharlach said there is less fear and less homophobia in this region, there are "definite concerns" in the gay community.

In 1995, 44 different law-enforcement agencies in Connecticut reported a total of 87 bias crime incidents to the FBI. Connecticut's statutes define a bias or hate crime as a criminal offense against a person, group of people or property motivated by bias against race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation. According to state Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, the 1990 law "has been effective in sending a message and acting as a deterrent particularly involving physical violence." Statistics on violent hate crimes in Connecticut show a downward trend since the law was adopted, Blumenthal said. Wyoming, nicknamed the Equality State does not have a bias crimes law.

When he read the reports about the savage attack on Matthew Shepard, Michael Collins found himself in tears. Collins, general manager of radio station WQUN at Quinnipiac College in Hamden, is active with the Lambda Legal Defense Fund and the Triangle Community Center in Norwalk. "I think it's shaken us to our foundations," Collins said.

The way to combat such hate crimes, Sharlach said, is through education. "People are not born homophobic," he said. "It's a learned discrimination and education has to begin in the elementary schools." Sharlach said, however, that many school systems are fearful of even allowing his group to come into schools to speak with teachers and social workers. "I think that's an important issue," he said.

Collins said he and a gay friend were verbally harassed as they walked down the Post Road in Fairfield over the weekend. "Where do they learn that?" Collins said of the language used. Collins said part of the blame for attacks like the one on Shepard, or even the insult directed at him on the street, can be placed at the feet of the nation's top political leaders. He cited a reference made in the U.S. Senate comparing homosexuals to kleptomaniacs and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia saying, "Sometimes animus is a good thing."

"When you have top political leaders saying things like that, it provides them with a cover," Collins said. ....He blasted officials in Wyoming for not having a hate crime law in place. He said gays and lesbians are not looking for special rights, but to be able to live without the fear of attacks or losing their job, simply because of their sexual orientation. "It is legal in 40 states to be fired simply because you're homosexual," he said. Connecticut law, however, provides protection against such discrimination.

## CT - Harvey Fierstein Speaks

[Following is the text of the speech given by Harvey Fierstein at the candlelight vigil in memory of Matthew Shepard in Hartford on October 15, 1998.]

When I heard the news... what did I feel? The white blinding, brain shivering, blood rushing, vengeance seeking RAGE tore through my body nearly shredding my heart. What is the correct response to such a heinous crime? Where do we express our outrage? Who can we count on to extract our revenge? How could this happen in our America? Why is that beautiful, brave, caring, bright and loving gay boy dead?

The easiest to answer of those questions are "how" and "why":

Because we are represented by politicians who feel free to call our lives a disease, an illness, a maladjustment and even a crime - and they do so with impunity. Because these politicians are not ripped from their elected positions with righteous indignation, but instead their coffers fill with donations and they are re-elected to high office time and again. That's why Matthew Shepard was beaten bloody.

Because we turn for moral leadership to priests and pastors and ministers and rabbis who daily refer to our lives as "abomination". Because these men and women of God are not punished for that assault on our dignity and humanity, but are treated with respect and deference and their defamations are excused in the name of religious freedom. That's why Matthew Shepard was robbed and crucified on a fence.

Because talkshow hosts get laughs making jokes at our expense. Because comedians build careers aping and demeaning us. Because heterosexual actors win awards portraying us as "almost real people". Because newspapers and magazines lose no readership addressing their audience as if every one of us is straight. That's why Matthew Shepard was set on fire and left to die.

Because WE, in vast numbers, refuse to come out of the closet, thereby sending a clear message that even WE believe there is something to hide, that our lives are shameful; that being gay or lesbian is wrong. That is why Matthew Shepard is dead.

So, how should we answer this unspeakable act of hatred?

WE must begin by keeping a close watch, a constant visible and vocal presence at the trial of his slayers. We must not have a repeat of the Dan White fiasco. Let there be no "Twinkie Defense" for these cowards. Harvey Milk's assassination taught us a lesson we can NOT and will not forget!

WE must stand up in those cathedrals, synagogues, mosques and churches of hate. Stand up and state that we will not accept the preaching of exclusion. Stand up and walk out leaving them as bankrupt of members as they are of truth. Anything less, any compromise is permission to continue the persecution. Hatred has no compromise. If you need a place to put your faith and charity then seek an institution preaching love and acceptance for Y O U.

WE must get out and vote! Let's stop electing representatives from our pocketbooks and wallets. Let's stop making excuses for politicians who are good on some issues but will not stand up for us. Trust me, my friends, any hack can pass laws protecting your bank account. Let's hold them to a higher standard than that. If they want our votes and our donations make them take the heat for openly supporting our right of full lawful citizenship. They are our representatives. Make them live up to that promise or vote them the hell out!

When you are watching television and a comedian defames us - pick up the phone and call the station. They listen. They count every actual caller as the opinion of 10,000 viewers. You have power. Use it. When a movie or TV show portrays our lives, but there isn't an openly gay or lesbian person to be found anywhere near it - stay home!!! Boycott. Hollywood actually believes they are doing us a favor portraying us as "just like straight folk". Send them the message that heterosexuality is NOT the gold standard of humanity. We are proud to be just as we are and need no whitewashing, thank you.

Most importantly we must come out. There is no other way. WE must come out at our jobs. To our families. To our politicians. To our neighbors. If you allow no one to assume you are heterosexual they will never again freely make that assumption about anyone. That's how we change the world.

Finally always remember that we live in a capitalist system. Every penny you spend is a vote for or against us. When you buy a car from a company that gives money to our enemies you have just voted against passage of the "Hate Crimes Bill". By the same token, when you use an airline that extends domestic partnership you have just brought us one step closer to the realization of equal rights for all.

We must conduct our lives as open and proud members of a huge and powerful community. We must take hold of our own destinies.

My sisters and brothers - We cannot bring Matthew Shepard back to life - but maybe we can make his death the moment history records as the turning point of our struggle for freedom. It's within our power. Let's change the world today.

# ▼ NEWS & VIEWS

## CT - Student's Death Spurs Anger

The murder of Matthew Shepard has spurred calls nationwide, including New Haven, for federal hate-crimes legislation protecting gays. "Absolutely, there should be such a law, just as we had federal civil rights legislation in the '60s," said Michael Collins, an adjunct professor of mass communication at Quinnipiac College. Collins also is publicity director for Triangle Community Center, a gay rights group in Fairfield County. "It shook me to my I foundation," said Collins about the brutal attack on Shepard. "This starts with words. They call you 'faggot' and you're no longer a full being. You can be differently."

Collins said that when he lived in Stamford in the mid-1980s, his car windows were smashed and 'fag' was written on his front door. Another time, a rock was thrown through his apartment window. However, Collins said society is becoming progressively more, tolerant of gays. "Among my students, bigotry is less fashionable than in my generation. And we were better than the previous generation."

John Allen, founder of the New Haven Gay and Lesbian Community Center, said he was "furious" about Shepard's death, but not really surprised. "When you teach hatred and violence, you reap hatred and violence." Allen cited a past statement from Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, who equated homosexuality with "kleptomania and alcoholism." Allen said that although Connecticut is relatively progressive and in 1991 passed a law prohibiting denial of equal rights because of sexual orientation, "We have these problems too."

Indeed, Paul Kuehn, treasurer of the NHGLCC said the center's signs were stolen twice and some friends of his recently were verbally harassed. Kuehn praised the work of the New Haven Police Departments Bias Crimes Unit in combating such incidents. Of the 41 states that have hate crime laws, 21 states specifically cover offenses motivated by the victim's sexual orientation. Efforts to pass a hate-crime law in Wyoming have failed several times.



Matthew Shepard's parents speaking at his funeral.

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# NEWS & VIEWS

## University Floats Derides Matthew Shepard

Outrage over a parade float that mocked gays following the savage beating of a gay college student has cost a sorority its spot on the Colorado State University campus. CSU officials immediately launched an investigation after a scarecrow that mocked homosexuals appeared on a homecoming parade float while Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old University of Wyoming student, lay dying in a nearby hospital. The scarecrow appeared on a float sponsored by Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

On Wednesday, Alpha Chi Omega sorority at CSU surrendered its charter. "Our actions ... reflect Alpha Chi Omega's intolerance for this kind of behavior," Jan Crandall, national president of the sorority, said in a release. "Our board and membership sends its deepest condolences to the Shepard family."

Nicholas Haws, homecoming chairman for Pi Kappa Alpha, said the scarecrow was supposed to be in the uniform of Tulsa University's Golden Hurricane, Colorado State's opponents in Saturday's football game. He said someone vandalized the float, pinning a sign saying "I am Gay" and an anti-gay epithet on the figure. He said the scarecrow was removed but someone placed it back on the float before Saturday's parade. Nathan Stanley, president of the Fort Collins chapter of the fraternity, said the appearance of the scarecrow was inadvertent. National fraternity officials condemned the prank. Disciplinary hearings will begin early next week for as many as 11 fraternity and sorority members.

## Upset about Matthew Shepard?

If your upset about Matthew Shepard, here are some things that you can do:

1. Send a message to your Congressmen, and urge them to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Just go to to: <http://www.hrc.org/actnctr/index.html> find your Congresspeople, and click the button to send them a personal message.
2. Consider joining, donating money, or supporting groups like HRC, PFLAG, NGLTF, GLAAD. Or at least check out their web sites to see what's happening [www.hrc.org/](http://www.hrc.org/) - [www.pflag.org/](http://www.pflag.org/) - [www.ngltf.org/](http://www.ngltf.org/) - [www.glaad.org/](http://www.glaad.org/)
3. VOTE THIS NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>!! We can't afford to sit this one out.

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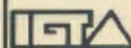
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## Thousands Mourn Student's Death

Hollywood stars, members of Congress and thousands of others gathered on the U.S. Capitol steps last night to condemn the beating death of a gay University of Wyoming student and to urge immediate passage of a hate-crimes bill. "We need to send the strongest possible signal . . . that these crimes will not be tolerated in the United States," Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) told the crowd at the candlelight vigil. Kennedy was joined onstage by dozens of others, including openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and actresses Ellen DeGeneres and Kristen Johnston, in condemning the killing of Matthew Shepard, 21. The speechmakers included some Republicans, many whom got tepid receptions from the crowd that shouted anti-right wing remarks.

DeGeneres said that incidents such as the attack on Shepard were what motivated her in part to reveal about 1 1/2 years ago on her television show, "Ellen," that she is gay. "This is exactly why I did what I did," said DeGeneres.

The vigil drew local residents as well as people from across the country, both gay and straight. Some spoke of Shepard as a martyr and of his death as a pivotal point in the struggle to pass state and federal legislation to protect gays from discrimination, and they urged Congress to pass a hate-crimes bill introduced this year. The bill would broaden existing law to cover offenses motivated by a person's gender, disability or sexual orientation, and would make it easier for federal authorities to step in and prosecute such crimes. Congress has not acted on the bill, other than to hold hearings, and Frank told the crowd that passage of the bill "does not look good right now." Rep. Richard A. Gephardt (D-Mo.) said the hate-crime legislation needed to be passed "now!" He then led the crowd in a 15-second chant of "Now! Now! Now!"

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## CO - Vigil Affirms Struggle

The president of the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center, spoke to about 500 people gathered in Acacia Park during a solemn candlelight vigil honoring Matthew Shepard. The Rev. Nori Rost of the Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church led the vigil, which was part memorial, part testimonial and part worship service.

## Funeral Held for Gay Wyoming Man

Matthew Shepard was remembered at his funeral in Casper, WY as someone who "struggled to fit into a world not always kind to gentle spirits." A wet autumn snow shrouded the 700 mourners as they filed into the brick St. Mark's Episcopal Church, where Shepard was baptized. Mourners sang "Amazing Grace," cried and wrapped their arms around each other. Shepard's family filled the front of the church. Shepard had been cremated, and his remains were in an urn on the altar. The Casper service also drew those who identified with Shepard, though they never met him. In a park nearby, others stood in the snow and listened to the service on a radio.

Across the street from the church, more than a dozen anti-gay protesters waved signs with messages such as "God Hates Fags." Standing behind barricades, they shouted anti-gay slogans and engaged passers-by in loud and nasty debates. "I came to spread some truth in this orgy of lies," said James Hockenbarger, who came from a Baptist church in Topeka, Kan., whose members regularly engage in anti-homosexual picketing at funerals. One protester yelled: "Matthew was wicked!" Anticipating demonstrations, the City Council held an emergency meeting night and voted unanimously to prohibit protesting on public property within 50 feet of the service. The police presence was heavy outside the service, and bomb-sniffing dogs were used to make sure the church was safe.

Earlier in the day, Shepard's parents stood in a steady rain in front of City Hall in Casper to thank the public for its thousands of cards, letters and e-mails of support. "Matthew was the type of person that if this would have happened to another person, he would have been first on the scene to offer his help, his hope and his heart to the family," said his father, Dennis Shepard. He also asked the public to respect the family's privacy. "We should try to remember that because Matt's last few minutes of consciousness on Earth might have been hell, his family and friends want more than ever to say their farewells to him in a peaceful, dignified and loving manner," he said.



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## NATIONAL NEWS

### Justices Turn Back Gay-Rights Lawsuit

The Supreme Court let stand a Cincinnati city charter amendment that denies discrimination protection to homosexuals. Two years ago, the high court struck down as unconstitutional a similar measure in Colorado. The justices turned away a gay-rights group's argument that the voter-approved 1993 amendment violates homosexuals' equal-protection rights just as the Colorado amendment did. The action is not a decision and sets no national precedent. It likely will create confusion over government policies toward homosexual rights. Three justices took the unusual step of emphasizing that the court's action "should not be interpreted either as an independent construction of the charter or as an expression of its views about the underlying issues that the parties have debated at length."

### Religious Right TV Ads

A new TV ad campaign that says gays and lesbians can change their sexual orientation through Christian faith touched off another battle between gay rights groups and religious conservatives. The conservatives held a news conference to display two 60-second commercials for which they plan to buy air time at broadcast outlets around the country. The commercials, similar to full-page ads that the groups began running in newspapers this summer, depict men and women who say they were formerly homosexual and that through Christianity they now live as heterosexuals. The Human Rights Campaign rejects claims by the religious groups that "thousands" of men and women have become heterosexual through Christianity and will begin investigating such claims.

### Letter Released

Clergy and laity throughout New England are among 363 people who signed a letter asking United Methodist bishops to change their stance opposing gay marriage. "The whole gospel of Jesus Christ was one of radical inclusivity and reaching out to those who were marginalized, rejected or despised," said the Rev. Arlene Bodge, who was one of four Massachusetts clergy members signing the letter. In New Hampshire, the Rev. Mark Henderson of Sandwich signed the letter. In Rhode Island, Nancy Hetherington, a state lawmaker from Cranston, also signed. Signing the letter signals their disagreement with the church's Judicial Council, which ruled in August that same sex unions were not to be performed in United Methodist churches.

### Consumer Network Targets Gays and Lesbians

Sandy Casey, founder and co-chair of Access Alliance headquartered in Los Angeles, announced the launch of a national consumer network to bring gay and lesbian consumers together for group discounts and gay-specific offerings from a host of major corporations. The innovative network puts the purchasing power of the gay and lesbian community to work for members, saving time and money while accessing benefits from companies that embrace equal treatment and respect for lesbians and gays. Initial membership offerings include discounts and tailored products for travel, entertainment, dining, insurance, and legal and financial services from progressive, like-minded companies such as Aetna, Continental Airlines, The Hartford, National Car Rental and Unum, among others. The \$20 annual memberships are currently available through the Internet at [www.accessalliance.com](http://www.accessalliance.com) and by calling Access Alliance at 800-693-2349. Additional monthly mailings will follow with special offers from participating companies.

### Task Force Receives Largest Ever Grant

The Gill Foundation recently awarded the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) its largest grant ever to a gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) organization. Much of the \$319,500 grant will be dedicated to the Task Force's work in fostering and supporting state and local organizing. The grant is earmarked for general operating support through December 1999.

### 24 Hour Hot Line for Youth

Only a few seconds after HBO aired the 1994 Academy Award-winning film *Trevor*, which is about a 13-year-old gay boy who attempts suicide, the calls started pouring into the Trevor Helpline in Culver City, CA, the nation's first toll-free 24-hour suicide prevention hot line for gay and questioning youth. In its first two weeks, the hot line-which was first publicized at the end of the HBO showing- received more than 1,000 calls. The hot line number is (800) 850-8078

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## MEDIA NEWS

### "Corpus Christi" Review

In a less polarized world, Terrence McNally's scandal-magnet play *Corpus Christi* would be just another retelling of the Christ story with different scenery. Sort of like *Godspell* or *Jesus Christ Superstar*, only set in the gay subculture of small-town Texas. None of the nudity the play was rumored to feature has materialized. The actors wear plain white shirts and trousers on a bare stage, and Joe Mantelli's direction is spare. In terms of doctrine, it's far more conservative than the much-discussed, similarly themed 1989 Canadian film *Jesus of Montreal*. There's even a spellbinding reading of the Lord's Prayer. Verbatim.

Yet the mere fact that the Christ-like Joshua - the main character in *Corpus Christi* - has sex with Judas has made the play the target of bomb threats at the Manhattan Theater where it opened on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Catholic-affiliated groups protested outside. They, ironically, make *Corpus Christi* a more dramatic, moving experience for the latter. Drawing parallels between the clandestine early Christians and semi-closeted gays might have seemed dramatically intriguing before the controversy began; now, it seems like genius. The recent murder of a gay youth in Wyoming further underscores the play's message....

Like most religious parables, it gives as much as you put into it. Some people might be bored, knowing how it all comes out. But for certain interest groups, such as gays, the impact could be seismic. If for only two hours, the play allows gays ownership of a story often used by Christian groups to further an anti-gay political stance. There's something deeply calming about that. With its sincerity, *Corpus Christi* stands to put these opposing forces on the same side of the spiritual fence. In fact, all factions get what they want. Manhattan Theater Club has a sold-out play. Gay play-goers have a means of spiritual enlightenment. Catholic groups have a convenient enemy to mobilize against. That's more than irony. It's a miracle.



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# ▼ NEWS & VIEWS

## STATE BY STATE NEWS

### AK - Same-Sex Marriage Foes Given \$500,000

The Utah-based Mormon Church has given \$500,000 to the campaign working for passage of an amendment to the Alaska Constitution that would ban same-sex marriage, the campaign announced this week. The colossal contribution dwarfs the \$100,000 the group had previously collected and catapults the Alaska Family Coalition into the big leagues of this year's political campaigns. The Republican-led Alaska Legislature decided this spring to put the measure on the November ballot. Legislators worried that the courts would rule in favor of two Anchorage men who filed a lawsuit challenging the 1996 law forbidding couples of the same sex from marrying. If approved by a majority of Alaska voters, Proposition 2 would add a sentence to the state constitution: "To be valid or recognized in this state, a marriage may exist only between one man and one woman."

### CA - Governor Signs Historic Hate Crimes Bill

Governor Pete Wilson has signed into law AB 1999, a bill which clarifies that gender and gender expression are protected categories under California's existing hate crimes laws. The major effect of the bill is to clarify that hate crimes against transgendered people are covered under California hate crimes laws.

### CO - Discipline Given in Float Flap

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On Wednesday, Alpha Chi Omega sorority at CSU surrendered its charter. "Our actions ... reflect Alpha Chi Omega's intolerance for

this kind of behavior," Jan Crandall, national president of the sorority, said in a release. "Our board and membership sends its deepest condolences to the Shepard family."

Nicholas Haws, homecoming chairman for Pi Kappa Alpha, said the scarecrow was supposed to be in the uniform of Tulsa University's Golden Hurricane, Colorado State's opponents in Saturday's football game. He said someone vandalized the float, pinning a sign saying "I am Gay" and an anti-gay epithet on the figure. He said the scarecrow was removed but someone placed it back on the float before Saturday's parade. National fraternity officials condemned the prank. Disciplinary hearings will begin early next week for as many as 11 fraternity and sorority members.

### MI - Anti-gay Slurs Shock Campus

The rock on Farm Lane has become a canvas for hate-speech directed at some MSU students. The Alliance of Lesbian-Bi-Gay and Transgendered Students had painted the rock in honor of National Coming Out Days. But the next day they found that the rock had been repainted with anti-gay slurs. The front of the rock read "no packing zone." Other slurs on the rock and garbage can next to it read "I kill fags," "Kill flames," and "Fags."

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## NY - Reports of Anti-Gay Crimes Rise by 81%

Reports of bias crimes against gay men and lesbians have risen 81 percent this year, the police said, even as overall crime has dropped sharply and other types of bias attacks have fallen slightly. There have been 76 crimes reported so far this year that the police have labeled as anti-gay bias crimes, up from 42 during the same period last year, said Lieut. Stephen Biegel, a Police Department spokesman. During the same period the overall number of bias crimes has dropped 3 percent, to 368 from 381, he said.

Advocates for gay causes joined with politicians Thursday in City Hall Park to denounce the violence and call on the Police Department to do more to protect gay men and women. "The police bias unit is doing a great job after the fact, after someone has been a victim," said Christine Quinn, the executive director of the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project. Police Commissioner Howard Safir said that he had increased the number of officers in the Sixth Precinct in Greenwich Village in late August after three murders and several anti-gay bias crimes were reported there. But Ms. Quinn noted that most of the new officers assigned to the Sixth Precinct were plainclothes officers who were sent there to crack down on prostitution. And she said that many attacks had occurred elsewhere. Since September, Ms. Quinn said, her group has documented 12 more anti-gay attacks, not all of which were reported to the police, in neighborhoods around the city, from the Bronx to Rego Park, Queens. MO - School Will Not Sanction Gay Group

Insistence by the president of William Jewell College that the religious-based school will not sanction a student gay and lesbian group is seen as hypocritical by some students. Those students told college administrators last spring they were interested in making a formal proposal for such an organization. But President Christian Sizemore said this summer the school with Southern Baptist roots would not "provide recognition, endorsement or funds" for a gay and lesbian student club.

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## NJ - Lesbian Denied Joint Custody

A lesbian who argued she was practically a parent to her ex-partner's 4-year-old twins has been denied joint custody and visitation rights to the children. Superior Court Judge Cummis likened legal status of the woman, identified in court papers only as V.C., to that of a step-parent. He said New Jersey law does not give third parties an automatic right to visitation or custody of a partner's biological children. A ruling for V.C. would have been one of the first in the country to give custodial rights to the former partners of lesbian mothers.

## PA - Life Partnership: It's Official

In Philadelphia, same-sex relationships were recognized for the first time by the city as "life partnerships" and endowed with benefits once reserved for married couples. The law means city workers can add their partners to their city-paid health insurance policies and name them as beneficiaries for city pensions. For all gay couples in the city, life partner status means an exemption from the city's 3 percent real estate transfer tax if they sell each other property. Couples also can use the life-partner document when applying for insurance, joint bank accounts and joint credit cards.

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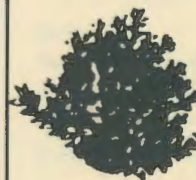
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## TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

### GROUPS MEETING AT OR SPONSORED BY TCC

A.A. - Don 762-9964  
 Bi Rap Group - Peter 838-2806; Robin 855-8646  
 35+ Women's Pot Lucks - Judy 227-7162  
 Free Association of Fairfield County - Bruce 782-1496  
 Gay Men's Rap Group - Dave 838-1881  
 Gmosaic (People of Color) - Nasheed 854-7726  
 Lesbian Literature Reading Group - Christine 847-8476  
 Out & About (20's & 30's) - Heather 924-2930, Ashley 576-1073  
 or Dan 838-2367  
 OutSpoken (Youth) - Perry & Sara 846-4569; Dan 227-1755;  
 Doug 838-2367  
 P-FLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) -  
 Joan 544-8724; Lester 322-5380; Belinda 855-1203  
 P-FLAG Spouses & Ex Spouses Group - Joan 544-8724  
 Triangle Bowling League (Circle Lanes, Fairfield) - Lisa 333-3113;  
 Roseann 931-8789  
 Women's Rap Group - Chandra 226-8652; Linda 866-4598;  
 Michele 438-4465  
 All meetings are held at the Center and in the evening unless  
 otherwise noted. A \$3 donation per person is appreciated with your  
 participation in activities to help support the Center.

### OTHER AREA GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Bare & Gay (B&G) gay nudists (203) 330-9595  
 Bisexually Curious Support Group Bpt (203) 264-5605  
 Chiltern Mountain Club (203) 899-0270  
 Connecticut Kids and Families (203) 256-8414  
 Connecticut Freedom to Marry Coalition (203) 791-9553  
 40-Up Club. (Social Grp. -call Dale before 10pm)(203) 261-4019  
 Gay Fathers Group (203) 866-7051  
 Gay Mens Association of Danbury (203) 778-7016  
 GEMS (Mature GLBT) (860) 688-1881  
 GuideLine (gay/lesbian phone info) (203) 366-3734  
 Hartford Community Center (203) 724-5542  
 Married Men's Bisexual Suppt Grp Htfd (203) 262,1555  
 Metropolitan Community Church (203) 389-6750  
 Transgendered Resource - Kaylen (203) 661-2448  
 The Loft, White Plains NY, (914) 948-4922  
 Triangle Bowling League (203) 931-8789  
 Triangle Kids (203) 255-6229  
 (203) 323-6278

Western Connecticut Gay Men's Group (203) 773-9947

We're glad to list your non-profit gay/lesbian/bi/tg group free of charge. Call (203) 964-1133. Please keep us informed of changes.

## TRIANGLE COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

P.O. BOX 4062, East Norwalk, CT 06855

Tel/Fax: (203) 853-0600

e-mail TCCenter@aol.com

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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 JOHN WALLACE ..... Treasurer  
 MEG BACHTEL..... Corresponding Secretary  
 DAVE CARROLL..... Recording Secretary

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 MICHELE STONE (203) 964-1133  
 JOHN WALLACE (203) 389-7381

### STANDING COMMITTEES

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Communications	John D	334-3822
-Public Relations	Mike C	375-3567
Finance	John W	261-7349
Fundraising	Vacant	
Membership	Denyse B	367-3911
-Member Database	Marianne S	222-8294
Operations	Cindy M	595-9799
(and to schedule events at the Center)		
Program	Dave C	838-1881
Resource Room	Walter D	374-6934
-Center Forums	Marianne S	222-8294
Volunteer	Vacant	

## NEWS & VIEWS

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NEWS & VIEWS encourages its readers to submit materials of interest to our community, including short articles, letters to the editor, etc. We cannot respond to, or publish, anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit or condense as appropriate to meet space requirements. Authors will be contacted if major revisions are necessary. Please submit to:

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**WHERE ARE WE?** The Triangle Community Center Inc. is located at 25 Van Zant Street in Norwalk. From I-95, take Exit 16 and go south (from Stamford, turn right; from New Haven, turn left). Continue south under the railroad bridge and turn right on Van Zant St. (Route 136). 25 Van Zant is a large condominium office building on the right. TCC is in Suite 7-C on the ground floor. Tel. (203) 853-0600.

Deadline for the December Newsletter is Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. We cannot guarantee that material received after this date will be included in the Dec. News & Views.

## TCC Calendar

## November, 1998

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Women's Rap 7:30	3 Lesbian Lit 7:30	4 P-FLAG 7:45	5 Men's Rap 7:30	6 G-Mosaic 7:30 Bowl 9:30 Circle Lanes	7
8 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6 Book Signing 3	9 Women's Rap 7:30	10 TCC Board 7:30	11 Bi Rap Group 7:30	12 Men's Rap 7:30	13 Out & About 7:00 Bowl 9:30 Circle Lanes Friendraiser 7:00	14 N&V's Deadline
15 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6 Memorial Service 4	16 Women's Rap 7:30	17	18 P-FLAG Spouses & Ex-spouses 7:30	19 Men's Rap 7:30	20 G-Mosaic 7:30 Bowl 9:30 Circle Lanes	21
22 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6 Movie & Potluck 6:00	23 Women's Rap 7:30	24 TCC Board 7:30	25 Bi Rap Group 7:30	26 	27 Bowl 9:30 Circle Lanes Out & About 7:00	28
29 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	30 Women's Rap 7:30					

## Connecticut Calendar - November

**Fri., Sat. & Sun., Nov. 6, 7, 8** - The Metropolitan Community Church of New Haven will host the annual conference of the MCC Northeast District, at the Colony Inn in New Haven. For more info call MCC-New Haven at 203-389-6750.

**Fri., Sat. & Sun., Nov. 6, 7, 8** - A Weekend in the Country with HIV+ Gay Men presented by Project M and AIDS Project Hartford. Talk, play, explore, learn & have fun. Open to HIV+ Gay and Bisexual men in Conn. Free but registration is required. For more info, or to register, call Tom Bowie at 860-951-4833.

**Fri., Nov. 6** - Movie: "A Star is Born" (Garland) at the NHGLCC, 50 Fitch Street, New Haven. 6:30 PM potluck, 7:15 PM screening, \$3. More info: FGDMYO@aol.com.

**Sat., Nov. 7** - The Women's Center of Danbury is hosting its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Gay Turkey Day Pre-Thanksgiving (Potluck) Dinner and Dance at Hatters Park - Hall, Hayestown Ave, Danbury, 4 PM - midnight. Women only. Admission free; donations graciously accepted. For more info call Paola at 203-744-1156

**Sat., Nov. 7** - Stephanie's Living Room presents its Autumn Dance, at the Stratford Ramada Inn, 8:00 PM. \$10 at the door; \$5 for the physically challenged. For more information call 203-377-2119.

**Fri., Nov. 13** - Movie: "Brother From Another Planet" at the NHGLCC, 50 Fitch Street, New Haven. 6:30 PM potluck, 7:15 PM screening, \$3.

**Sat., Nov. 14** - Gay Bingo fund-raiser to benefit the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective, at The Community Center, 1841 Broad Street, Hartford. Admission is \$10. Doors open at 7 PM; games begin at 7:30 PM.

**Fri., Sat. & Sun., Nov. 20, 21, 22** - A Weekend in the Country with HIV+ Gay Men presented by Project M and AIDS Project Hartford. Talk, play, explore, learn & have fun. (See Nov. 6)

**Fri., Nov. 20** - The Imperial Court of Connecticut presents The 1998 Miss Gay Nutmeg Pageant at Nick's Cafe House, 1943 Broad St., Hartford. Doors open at 9 PM. \$5 donation for admission. \$150 in cash and prizes. A Benefit for the Imperial Court of Connecticut Coronation 99.

**Fri., Sat., Sun., Nov. 20, 21, 22** - All-male production of Steel Magnolias to benefit Project 100 & a new gay/lesbian theater group, at Hartford Community Center, 1841 Broad St., Hartford. 8 PM. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at door. For more information or tickets call Christopher at 860-774-8183.

**Fri., Nov. 20** - Movie: "The Boys In The Band" at the NHGLCC, 50 Fitch Street, New Haven. 6:30 PM potluck, 7:15 PM screening, \$3.00.

**Sat., Nov. 21** - Women After Hours Dance (women only), Holiday Inn, East Hartford, 8:30 PM - 1 AM, \$10 cover. Call 860-528-9611 for directions.

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