

NETWORKING 45° NORTH



VOLUME 9
ISSUE 6
November / December
1995

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

FRIENDS NORTH ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1995 6:30 PM

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP, TRAVERSE CITY

Friends North will be holding their Annual Meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Traverse City on Tuesday, December 5th at 6:30 pm. Please bring a dish to pass, your own table service, and your appetite. This year's event will feature entertainment by the Northern Michigan Womyn's Choir and guests. There will also be elections for the Board of Directors, a review of the past year, and a request for ideas for the upcoming new year.

Please plan on attending this gathering to experience an evening of celebrating our community, great food, great entertainment, meeting new people, and visiting with friends.

FRIENDS NORTH IS LOOKING FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

December comes around quickly, and it is time for the Friends North Annual Meeting where there will be elections for Board Members to serve for a two-year-term. This year there are six openings and we invite YOU to fill them! No experience necessary, will train, it's fun, and we would like you to take a turn in helping us run this wonderful organization.

The Friends North Board holds a general business meeting once a month to go over events, treasurer reports, additional plans, and members' concerns and ideas. If you are interested in working with a great group of people, please contact Scott at 616-922-7768, evenings.

WELLNESS NETWORKS GTA

INVITES EVERYONE TO JOIN US ON
WORLD AIDS DAY
DECEMBER 1, 1995

6:00 pm Memorial Service
Central United Methodist Church
222 Cass Street - Traverse City

Candle Light Pledge Walk & Reception
at LaCuisine Amical immediately following the service.

LEV RAPHAEL'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS FRIENDS NORTH CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 21, 1995

*(Adapted from "Dangerous Men," forthcoming in Journeys and Arrivals
Faber & Faber, March 1996)*

We live in a Midwestern university community where between us, we've taught at the university for almost forty years combined. Our four-bedroom ranch house is on a quiet tree-lined street in a comfortable suburb that was built up after the Second World War. We chat with our neighbors about the weather.

We write letters to the editor of our local paper when we're moved by some issue, which is often. We know some of the reporters there, and women and men working in our post office by first name. We vote in every election and in primaries. We sometimes watch township meetings on cable TV, and keep track of township developments.

We worry about drugs in the high school, real estate taxes, local streets without enough stop signs, moles in the lawn, about gypsy moths and tent caterpillars, about dry summers that'll burn out lawns and winters with too much snow that will make the river flood in the spring. Much of our time is spent in undramatic pursuits like laundry, shopping, making minor home repairs, washing the cars, gardening, trimming trees and shrubs, mowing the lawn, raking leaves in the fall, and shoveling the driveway in the winter.

We've raised two kids. Raising them has meant helping with homework, watching TV and going to movies together, shopping for clothes more often than we hoped



(Lev continued page 6)

Friends North, Inc., P.O. Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562
(616) 946-1804 (This is a general information line to receive F/N
information.)

FRIENDS NORTH is an organization of lesbians, gay men, bi-sexuals
and their friends from northwestern lower Michigan. Located in Traverse
City, we provide social activities, a newsletter, phone line, workshops,
and a community needs fund for financial assistance.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of FRIENDS NORTH is composed of nine
women and men elected each December. Regular board meetings are
held at Northwestern Michigan College, West Hall, Room 2 in the
cafeteria the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is
welcome to attend.

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

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

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Publication of **Networking 45° North**.

Editor: Richard Tuxbury: 271-3042
or e-mail: TUX001@AOL.COM

Publishing & Layout: Richard Curtis: 929-9605
or email: RCURTIS695@AOL.COM

Advertising: Jim Carruthers: 922-7768

Mailing List: John Evans: 922-0746

Networking 45° North is the newsletter of Friends North, Inc.
Viewpoints expressed do not necessarily represent those of the board or
general membership.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING and notices are run without charge.
Please submit in writing or by calling the editor (and leave ad on machine
271-3042 or use e-mail address.)

DISPLAY ADVERTISING in **Networking 45° North** is available in
Business Card size - \$25.00 per space per issue or an annual rate of
\$120.00 for 6 issues. Inserts and larger sized ads are available. Please
call 'advertising' for rates.

SPONSORING POLITICAL POSTCARDS: Cost for printing 2,800
postcards for **Networking 45° North** is \$85.00. To sponsor all or part
of this, and to give your input, call Richard at 271-3042.

CONTRIBUTIONS to **Networking** are welcome. Letters, essays,
features, reflections, and original artwork should be sent "c/o Editor" to
above address. (**Networking** will not accept material that is sexist,
discriminatory or sexually explicit. Contributors are responsible for
obtaining permission from those whose names they submit for
publication.)

NEXT DEADLINE: Issue #1 — December 15.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS/MEMBERSHIPS: \$12.00/single; \$18.00/
couple. Please send checks or money orders to: Friends North, P.O. Box
562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562.

DISTRIBUTION: **Networking** is published 6 times per year. Copies
are sent bulk-mail in a plain envelope to approximately 700 households.
Additional copies are available at select local establishments. Our
mailing list is confidential and is not sold or traded with other
organizations.



printed on recycled paper

FROM THE EDITOR:



Richard Tuxbury

Just lately I had a friend tell me that a
straight acquaintance of ours was tired of
hearing me talk about gay issues all the
time. She felt that I should focus on
something else—sexual orientation being just
one facet of our lives, I apparently spend
way too much time discussing the subject.

I had my own mother, a writer herself, tell me that our
newsletter had a nice flair to it, "...but why was it that you have
to spend so much time talking about oppression and being
gay?"

I suppose that we will hear the same comments from many
gay and lesbian readers too. I mean, their lives are
comfortable, they aren't facing discrimination on a daily basis,
and they would rather read about more entertaining things like
fashion, parties, travel, sports and sex.

So, as I listen to what some are saying, I can only agree
with them. We do spend way too much time talking and
writing about being gay. I wish it were different. I wish that
the world was a fairer place and that I could forget that I was
gay, but it just doesn't happen.

I understand what they're saying. Most straight people
don't 'live the life,' and simply cannot relate to what it feels like
to be excluded. With some gays, they are so closeted that
they can't relate either. They're living the straight life too and
feel little discrimination, never allowing themselves to be put in
a position of risk. In fact, hearing too much about "the issue"
hits too close to home for closeted gays.

A few years ago, there was an emergency meeting of
Friends North members. Some felt that we should dissolve FN,
as there was a lack of interest in the membership. Some felt
that we, as gays and lesbians were already getting what we

*"Because you mentioned the biblical basis for
your beliefs, since the Ten Commandments
mention adultery and not homosexuality, and
adultery is condemned at least 40 times
more than homosexuality in the Bible, should
we keep anyone out of the service who has
committed adultery? My recollection of my
Army days is that would thin our ranks
appreciably."*

Senator Paul Simon in his newspaper column

wanted and perhaps didn't need a gay support organization any more. Others felt differently, and new blood entered Friends North, and it has continued being out there for the gay and lesbian community since.

So, in answer to the few who complain and all those who ask: Our newsletter and our organization plods on and will continue to provide information, a place to express ourselves, and will work to promote visibility and change. We will continue to do what we're doing and say what we're saying just until:

- we have job protection
- we can marry and have the same legal rights as straight couples
- we have the right to adopt children

In the meantime, there's no reason that we can't have a little fun while we continue the work. And, we would like to hear from you if you have any ideas on articles that are about travel or fashion or if you have any personal stories or opinions to share.

Richard Tuxbury

JIM CARRUTHERS TO BE PRESENTED 1995 SARA HARDY MEMORIAL AWARD

The Traverse City Human Rights Commission has chosen Jim Carruthers to receive the 1995 Sara Hardy Memorial Award. This award was established in memory of Sara Hardy a local resident who started the Human Rights Commission in Traverse City. The award is given each year to a person in the Greater Grand Traverse Area that best personifies the goals, philosophies and aspirations of the Traverse City Human Rights Commission.

The award will be presented at the City Commission meeting on December 4, 1995 in the city commission chamber room on the second floor of the Governmental Center. The presentation will take place at 7:30 pm. A reception in Jim's honor will be held immediately following the presentation (around 7:45 pm) in the cafeteria of the Governmental Center. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Joanna T. Lauber

- Individual, Couples & Group Counseling
- Adult Survivors of Incest & Alcoholism
- Releasing & Healing the Inner Child
- Hypnotherapy
- Integration of Body, Mind & Spirit
- Stress Management
- Women's Issues
- Student of SHEN Physio-Emotional Release Therapy

(616) 947-8842

3301 Veterans Drive, Suite 214, Traverse City, MI 49684



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



What a great weekend! The Friends North Gay and Lesbian History and Education Day was a complete success with seventy-five people in attendance, wonderful workshops and keynote addresses, and the entertainment was superb! I know the weekend touched me deeply with the abundance of knowledge and talent that is in our community. Thank you so much to the conference committee who helped coordinate—Lorraine, Scott and Brenda; to the keynote speakers; to the presenters of the workshops, to the director and performers of the stage play and readings; to the director and performers of the closing entertainment!

This "Day" turned out to be a weekend of fun with people from all over Michigan. It is always a joy for me to bring people together from many backgrounds and interests, who might have only the fact that we are gay and lesbian in common, and see them work together, learn from each other, and most of all have fun together — we are beautiful.

I hope everyone had a good fall and are preparing for the approaching winter — skiing, sledding, making snowpeople, the holidays (good or bad), visiting each other indoors... And with the winter comes the Friends North Annual Meeting! I encourage all to attend an evening of good food, socializing, looking back on the past year, and making plans for the coming new year.

There are a few open positions on the board and I hope that you will consider running for a seat. As a community, we need to take turns in administering Friends North to keep the energy flowing to provide the excellent events, educational forums, the outstanding newsletter, and community service. So, please think about volunteering to be on the Board. I will be happy to talk with anyone who wants to know more about what being a Board Member entails. Call the Friends North phoneline and leave your name and number, and I will get back to you.

Patty O'Donnell



Cross Country Ski **FORBUSH CORNER, INC.**

- Over 35 km of trails, machine set for both skating and striding from, beginner to expert.
- Just 1/4 mile east of I-75 at the Lewiston/Frederic exit (264)
- Performance ski shop, rentals and instruction
- Bunkhouse and two warming areas
- Weekend food service
- One kilometer night ski trail

Dave Forbush
(517) 348-5989

P.O. Box 327
4971 County Road 612
Frederic, Michigan 49733

RAP GROUP

Rose Clement

The Rap group meets at the Grace Episcopal Church at 349 Washington Street, by the Governmental Center. The room is in the basement and it is really very cozy and safe.

The November meeting falls on Wednesday the 8th, and the topic will be Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual parents. Either those of you who have parents who are gay or those of you who are parents yourself, are especially invited. Please come and share your feelings and experiences. What is our community doing or not doing to help? Leave me a message on the phone line if you have any questions and I will get back with you

The December meeting has been canceled due to the holidays, and the business of the season.

The January meeting is planned to be a dinner meeting at a local restaurant, watch this space for more details.

The Friends North Rap Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm, and enjoys the company of any and all who attend. Leave a message on the Friends North phone line and I will give you a call if you need any information.

Thanks—see you soon!! Rose

Networking 45° North defines the Friends North Rap Group as "A group of men and women who get together monthly for lively discussion on a particular topic and a good time."

This is true, and to this goal we welcome both lesbians and gays, young and old, to a very gay, safe comfortable setting. There are no cliques, no in-crowds, no stress to be someone or something you're not. Everyone is welcome!! People are free to contribute to discussions, but no one is pushed to talk. No one has to feel "OUT OR OUTED" to attend the evening.

Sometimes there are topics, other times there are just discussions on gay issues that concern those who are attending. We try to keep it formal enough so that we provide a stable, safe environment, yet relaxed enough so what is currently important can be discussed.

The plans for this group in the future are very exciting, with bike rides, walks, dining out, theater, and road trips. As it is with any group, the more the merrier. The monthly meetings do not cost anything to attend, and we will make sure that as we do things that cost money we will safeguard those in the community who have fewer resources.

One of the strengths of Friends North, and our community, is the depth of variation in our events, and in our people. We are very lucky to have an organization that allows us to be

independent with regards to topics, logistics and attendees, yet still helps us with the financial support. The Rap Group, like other Friends North offshoots has its own distinct personality. Its uniqueness is that it gives us the chance to meet, to know one another on a closer level and discuss topics relevant to our lives.

Speaking from experience, sometimes you just need to be around other gay people to validate your own gayness. Whether or not you do anything other than sit and absorb the gay atmosphere is your own choice!! It is an enjoyable casual evening and I urge those who have never attended a rap group to come and have fun. If you have not attended a rap group in a long time, please stop in and meet the new people.

This month's topic is Gay Parenting. We would like to invite all of our gay parents to attend this very special rap group. The discussion will center around being a gay parent, and the very special changes it makes in your life. We will also explore what our community does and does not provide for our gay families. There will be suitable day care provided at no cost.

The November meeting is Wed. November 8, at 7:30 pm at the Grace Episcopal Church at 349 Washington by the Governmental Center. Parking is available in back and on the street. Hope to see you there.

Show Your Colors!

A rainbow of color stickers are showing up on cars everywhere to proudly display our pride in being gay and lesbian, and to acknowledge that "we are not alone." These stickers are available at the Bookie Joint on Union Street in Traverse City. Get yours today and show your pride—and smile and wave at the occupants of the cars with rainbow stickers.

PERRY SHERWOOD FINE ART

200 Howard Street • Petoskey • 348-5079



Computer Service and Upgrades
Custom Systems Available
Daniel Chapman, Consultant / Technician
334 River St.
Manistee, MI 49660
(616) 723-6422 Fax: (616) 723-7140



Out 'n About

A Lesbian Coffeehouse

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

COFFEEHOUSE

CELEBRATES TWO YEARS!

submitted by Carol Lambertson

Wow! Not a big word really, but it packs a lot of meaning. It's the word that keeps coming to mind when I recall the October Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse packed with over a hundred women. What a rush to watch "The Incredibly True Adventure of 2 Girls in Love" with a hundred plus lesbians laughing together as we saw various aspects of our own young love being played out on the screen, or screaming wildly in unison when the mother comes home to discover the girls in bed; and sharing the intense silence of everyone not breathing during the love scene (not to mention the synchronized squirming in our seats!) Wow! It was a grand way to top off our second year!!

On November 18, Out 'n About will celebrate the end of our second year and the beginning of our third with a traditional lesbian potluck followed by an evening of entertainment you won't want to miss. The Last Minute Improv, a professional comedy troupe that has been performing for six years, will take the floor at 8 pm. According to audiences at Gay Pride Day and Hearts Afire Cafe, the Wimmin of Last Minute Improv will keep you laughing for days.

Out 'n About will provide the turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing and gravy. Bring a dish to share if you can. We'll also have paper plates, etc., but if you'd like to bring your own table service, please feel free. Dinner will begin at 7 pm, with entertainment from 8 to 9:30. Afterwards, stick around for coffee, leftovers and dessert. \$5 donation at the door.

Remember, there is no coffeehouse in December due to numerous holiday celebrations. See you the third Saturday in January, 1996.

Out 'n About is a lesbian coffeehouse, held on the third Saturday of each month except August and December. The Coffeehouse comes alive between 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. at the Unity Church, 3600 Five Mile Road, Traverse City. Smoke Free - Chem Free—Cover donation is \$3 (\$5 if we have entertainment). Snacks and coffee are free - soft drinks are available.

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

Contributions

FROM THE COMMUNITY

SUGAR LOAF GAY/LESBIAN HISTORY DAY

—staff writer

"Something is happening here," more than one person said. A lot was: local and state history, workshops on homophobia, spirituality, music, health issues, a staged-reading of a one-act comedy about a lesbian blind date, a drama linking gay bashing and military brutality...

It was the First Annual Gay/Lesbian History and Education Day sponsored by Friends North and held at Sugar Loaf Resort. About 85 people attended.

Lev Raphael, Michigan State University instructor and award-winning author of "Dancing on Tisha A'Bav" and "Winter Eyes," gave the opening morning address.

The son of Jewish Holocaust survivors, Raphael credited his parents with having "good noses for totalitarianism." His mother, he said, tagged Richard Nixon as a fascist in the 1950s.

"The rhetoric of hate against gays and lesbians is not new," he said. "It is similar to the hatred of Jews. Jew hatred is the paradigm for homo hatred."

It surfaced big time at the 1992 Republican convention and is spewed almost everyday in letters to the editor spouting hatred that portrays gays and lesbians as whining, sick, perverted or damned to hell. The litany of wrongs gays and lesbians have committed are similar to those Jews have been accused of: infiltrating the fabric of society, recruiting children, taking over the country. And the radical right's cause is the same as other totalitarians.

"They say they are going to take back the country from us, who have supposedly stolen it," Raphael said.

Hate speech now has found a home in the Republican Party and the U.S. Congress, he said, and urged us to do whatever they can to fight it.

"Whether you are out or not, you must, as a gay or lesbian individual, make some kind of difference in this fight. You must be vocal, you must make noise. You've got to let people know the dangers of what we're all facing. Write letters or donate money. Even just talk to people. Explain to your straight friends the danger that we're all facing. Get them involved."

Jan Stevenson, outgoing executive director of the Detroit-area Community Center called Affirmations and a board member of the

(continued next page)

BANKERS LIFE AND CASUALTY COMPANY

**A Trusted Name In Insurance
For Over 100 Years**

**Long Term Care • Medicare Supplement
Income Replacement • Home Health Care
Annuity • Health • Life**

814 S. Garfield Ave. Suite C
Traverse City, MI 49684
(616) 947-4390
S-5205

LINDA L. WIKLE
Agent

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), gave the keynote luncheon address.

The topic was "Who are the Antis." She listed three: the radical right; electoral politicians such as Newt Gingrich; and the internalized homophobia within the gay-lesbian community that leads to intolerance of differences, character assassinations and "kill the leader" syndrome.

The radical right, she said, doesn't like gays and lesbians and never will. Gays and lesbians can't work with them. The radical right also is nothing new to the American political scene. It is spurred by the same forces that fueled the Ku Klux Klan, McCarthyism, anti-semitism, racism and sexism.

"Every time our society has moved to broaden the carpet of inclusion, a radical right has been there to pull the rug out from under us," she said.

Gay rights activists had little organized opposition from 1970 to the mid-1980s as they worked to repeal repressive sodomy laws in many states and get support for anti-discrimination employment and housing ordinances.

That, however, began to change in 1978 when former pop singer Anita Brant launched her "Save Our Children" campaign.

"Over the next 10 years, the radical right moved from the fringes of society to center," Stevenson said.

Following the 1992 presidential election, Pat Buchanan founded the Christian Coalition and named Ralph Reed its director. It is now the strongest political organization in the country with 1.5 million members. As a result, it has successfully moved its causes into mainstream American politics.

"The reality is, we can't work with the radical right," she said. "They are there because of people like us. In the mainstream political arena, we simply have to vote out the radical right."

In the 1994 elections, she said only 34 percent of the electorate went to the polls. Of them, 30 percent were Christian Coalition voters.

Although that is discouraging, she said, gays and lesbians must also remember some of the successes. The Clinton Administration is gay-friendly—the first administration "to answer our phone calls." Many states have repealed sodomy laws. Some cities have housing and employment ordinances. Clinton announced his support in mid-October of legislation that would bar most job discrimination against homosexuals. The proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act, sponsored by Sens. Ted Kennedy, (D-MA) and James Jeffords, R-VT, and Rep Gerry Stubbs, D-MA, would prohibit job discrimination, quotas or preferential treatment on the basis of sexual orientation.

One area that gays and lesbians can work to effect change is within their own community, which is splintered by divisiveness.

"Why are we so hard on each other?" she asked.

She gave two main reasons. The first is the lack of homogeneity in the gay-lesbian community, which cuts across traditional lines of class, color, sexual orientation, economics, religion and politics. The second is self projection.

"We project our own internalized homophobia and bring self-deprecation onto our opponents," she said.

A familiar example, she said, is this: "If I'm nothing more than a lousy queer and you're fighting with me, then you're a lousy queer too, and you have bad ideas to boot."

This is something gays and lesbians have the power to change.

"We can reverse the antis in our own community by starting with ourselves, by doing things like coming to this conference," she said. "We can educate ourselves about our culture and what it means to each of us as whole people. We can learn to love this queer we see in the mirror and after that maybe we can begin to cut each other a break and listen better, work better and when we fight with each other, treat each other as the noble opponent worthy of a struggle with us."

She also urged gays and lesbians to reach out to the people they identify as contributors or leaders in the community and thank them. It will help reduce rancor, she said.

(Lev continued from page 1)

to because the kids kept outgrowing things, attending parent/teacher conferences, stopping work to take one of them to the doctor, chauffeuring them to school activities and social groups, helping them learn to drive. It's also meant admiring their accomplishments and trying to remember that they're just kids and we need to be patient and forgiving when they mess up. We've been sharing with them our understanding of our religious and cultural inheritance, talking about moral and ethical dilemmas in their lives, our lives and in our country.

We attended David's graduation from the University of Wisconsin this past winter, and helped him move into a new apartment in Madison. We supplied him with furniture in addition to the lamps, dishes, and bookcases from the attic we brought for his previous apartment. After a celebratory dinner, hugging good-bye was very emotional for all of us. Last fall we turned into a two-man writing workshop to help Aaron not only write college applications, but deal with an English teacher whose grasp of her material is shaky and who has no idea how to offer encouraging and stimulating suggestions about his compositions. We've spent many hours on his writing because it's so important.

Together, the four of us have rooted for Michigan State's football team, have gone to every home game, and almost always watched away games on TV or even listened to them on the radio. We've flown the Michigan State flag on game days and worn MSU buttons and MSU's colors, green and white. One year we even took the kids to the Rose Bowl and spent almost a week enjoying Southern California.

In many ways, we're a stereotypically American family. Except that my partner and I are both queer. And we're both Jewish, and we've been served a warning by the Religious Right that this is not our country anymore.

(continued next page)

Sno-Trac Village Resort

THE GREAT YEAR-ROUND ESCAPE PLACE

CAMPING - CABINS & DORMITORY

- Full Facility Resort
- Nature Trails
- On Site Storage
- Hot Showers
- LP Gas Refill
- Rec Room
- Park Store



SNOWMOBILE SERVICE CENTER

- 28 Years Experience
- Open 10 to 10 Daily
- Parts, Oil & Fuel
- Indoor Storage
- Access to Trails

Many fine restaurants nearby
60 Acre spread with trout stream

Lovells Area
3576 Sno-Trac Trail
Grayling, MI 49738

☎ 517 348 9494 **800 348 9490**

All around the U.S., gays and lesbians are under assault, and that includes physical violence as well as the threats against our liberty. Cities and states are passing laws that would make discriminating against us legal. Some states are even rushing to pass laws that specifically ban same-sex marriage because they're terrified it will be legalized in Hawaii and other states will have to honor that legality.

Bob Dole's presidential campaign returned a \$1000 donation from the gay republican group because—quote—he didn't support their agenda. Does that mean he supports every stand of every group or individual that gives him money? No, it means that gay money is tainted.

School boards around the country are trying to censor classes attacking teachers who put even the tamest gay literature on a syllabus. And I mean tame—we're not talking about Dennis Cooper, we're talking May Sarton. These same school boards are trying to prevent counselors from talking to gay youth, actually trying to ban the use of the word Homosexual because it's apparently so powerful, just mentioning it will turn an entire classroom of students gay.

Down in Okemos, when my youngest stepson Aaron wanted to do a report in his law and society class on gay rights, and bring me in to be interviewed, the reaction at his high school was extraordinary. You could have thought he was saying let's bring in live ammunition, or something radioactive. He was first told he couldn't do it because anything gay had to be connected to human sexuality class—and it wasn't allowed there. His was a social studies class, even a discussion of gay rights was not appropriate. The principal got involved, the superintendent did, and only when we quoted state policy back at them did they admit that it was possible to talk about gay civil rights in that class.

But the principal sat in the back to make sure that I didn't say anything objectionable. He was terrified of rightwing parents who might attack him for letting me on school grounds, so he wanted to make sure no one could claim I said something I didn't.

Down at MSU there's similar terror of gay issues. Even though Wayne State and the U of M have granted domestic partner benefits to gay and lesbian faculty and staff, MSU hasn't gotten that far. Three years ago, a university-sponsored task force studied gay issues on campus and strongly urged domestic partner benefits be granted immediately. This would change the climate on campus.

Hell, even the Disney corporation grants them! So Micky and Donald can shack up together, and not worry about the future.

Almost every day in the Lansing State Journal there's a letter spouting hatred at gays and lesbians. Sometimes we're merely accused of whining and asking for special rights we don't deserve, because we're sick. More often than not, we're written off as perverted and damned to hell. Though these people assure the world that they love us, it's just our sin they can't abide.

Try explaining that very fine distinction to a bunch of teenagers who feel inspired by their minister or priest's anti-gay sermon to go out and do a little gay-bashing.

Though we've seen some gains nationally, the last few years have shown a steady growth in open anti-gay rhetoric.

It started at the 1992 Republican auto-defe in Houston.

Patrick Buchanan, Pat Robertson and other Defenders of the Faith declared war in no uncertain terms on people of color, women who think for themselves, feminists, Democrats, lesbians and gays and Jews. Explicitly and implicitly, we were all branded as "un-American" and their glorious crusade was to take back the cities, the culture, and the country that we have supposedly stolen from them.

It seems bizarrely appropriate that this sweeping series of condemnations and talk of "religious war" occurred on the 500th anniversary of the Spanish expulsion of Jews and Moors which capped Spain's years of efforts to make itself a pure and Catholic state. The convention also occurred at a time when "ethnic cleansing" in Yugoslavia and anti-refugee riots in Germany were reviving memories of wartime atrocities, slaughter, and mass murder.

Having survived the Soviets and the Nazis, my parents always had a keen smell for totalitarian rhetoric. My mother used to marvel at the ways in which some of Spiro Agnew's speeches reminded her of things that Stalin said. And she hated Nixon in 1960, well before I had any idea who this pasty-faced man was. "He's a fascist," she said with no apology for using the word. So I watched the Republicans in Houston in 1992 with my parents' eyes, with their history of murder, tragedy, and loss behind me as a warning.

I was angry. I was scared. I watched the faces, watched the eyes as much as I listened to the words. These were cold and angry men (and some women) who tried only briefly to hide behind Barbara Bush's grandmotherly persona. I call it a persona because she claims that George Bush is the "most decent" man she knows—a stunning assertion. But Mrs. Bush was just a diversion from the main business of the convention: *hatred*. It was pathetic after the convention when some Republicans totaled the number of speakers and said that Robertson and Buchanan were just two among them, and so not really important or representative. Prime time hatred cannot be diluted so easily.

The rhetoric of hate at the convention isn't new. Its bedrock is centuries of Jew-hatred, which is so deeply rooted in Western culture that it seems ineradicable. Jews have been demonized as Christ-killers, as murders of children, poisoners of wells during the Black Plague, as religious and sexual seducers of good Christian men and women, as burrowing rats set on destroying capitalism *and* taking it over. We are eternal outsiders, eternal threats. "Germany Awake!" was one Nazi call to arms against this threat. Jew-hatred is the paradigm, and the charge of subversion, pollution, and disease has been a chief weapon used against us.

When Pat Robertson warned that feminism will force women to destroy capitalism, murder children, become lesbians, and practice witchcraft, that image of deadly and insane *conspiracy* draws on the

Lev (continued next page)

Hands on Wheels

Robin R. Clinton
Massage Therapist

Message Therapy available in your home or office (616) 885-2484

Equine Massage (616) 885-2484
Kalkaska Chiropractic Center (616) 258-8678

Graduate of Health Enrichment Center

Member of Associated Body Work & Massage Professionals

CURTIS DESK TOP PUBLISHING

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| - Catalogs - | WORD PROCESSING, TYPE SETTING | - Fliers - |
| - Circulars - | PAGE LAYOUT, GRAPHICS | - Menus - |
| - Booklets - | & DESIGN SERVICES | - Tickets - |
| - Brochures - | | - Resumes - |
| - Business Cards - | RICHARD CURTIS | - Invitations - |
| - Business Forms - | proprietor | - Newsletters - |
| - Announcements - | | - Letterheads - |

1969 S. Airport Rd.
Traverse City, MI

941-2298
Fax: 941-1158

LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL HISTORY AND EDUCATION DAY

An Overview, by M'Lynn Hartwell

After attending the wonderful and inspiring Lesbian and Gay History and Education Day weekend (October 20th - 22nd.) event at Sugar Loaf Resort, I returned home curious to learn more.

I wondered, where did the idea of October as Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month originate? I found that Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month began with an original concept by Rodney Wilson, a St. Louis high school history teacher who was appalled at the failure of his 800-page textbook to mention any gay, lesbian, or bisexual history whatsoever. He organized a grass-roots network of teachers and community members across the country who began working to see October recognized as Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month.

Inspired by such existing celebrations as Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March), organizers sought to create a time when special attention could be focused on the contributions of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people to world history. October was chosen as the month in which to celebrate our history and to build upon existing traditions like National Coming Out Day, which already takes place in October. October also hosted the anniversaries of the first two marches on Washington organized by gay, lesbian, and bisexual activists, first in 1979 and a much larger one in 1987.

What happened last year?

Organizations like the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation quickly endorsed the idea. A volunteer national coordinating council, with representatives from across the nation, began work over the summer to plan activities in their communities. In October, political leaders such as Senator Barbara Boxer (CA), Governors William Weld (MA) and Lowell Weicker (CT) and Mayors Richard Daley (Chicago) and Thomas Menino (Boston) also issued proclamations to celebrate this inaugural event. Local coordinating councils in areas as diverse as Boston, Chicago, San Antonio, San Francisco, and St. Louis staged a myriad of events, and numerous media outlets covered the story, raising the public's awareness of this history to a higher level throughout the nation.

Over 300 curriculum and organizing packets were distributed to individuals and organizations around the country who requested help in planning events. These accomplishments become all the more impressive when one realizes that all work was done by volunteers who had no independent budget to support these activities. The bulk of the work for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual History Month is done on a local level.

What Happened This Year?

In Northern Michigan we were honored to hear keynote speaker Lev Raphael, one of the country's best known gay writers. In addition, Lev's life partner, Gershen Kaufman, led a workshop "Coming Out of Shame." Other workshops included: "Homophobia, The Internal and External Oppressor" moderated by Lee Shaw, MSW. Tim Retzlaff came all the way from Ann Arbor to present "The History of Gays and Lesbians in Michigan." A workshop on spirituality was led by the openly gay Episcopal priest Zalmon Sherwood.

Another workshop, on "Womyn's and Mehn's Music," was led by Ann Perrault and Jackie Victor. Gay and Lesbian Health Issues was co-moderated by Joseph Bertucci and Brenda Bartz. Jan

deep reservoir of Western Jew-hatred and demonizing. Let's not forget that Buchanan admires Francisco Franco and Michigan's own Father Coughlin, who had an anti-Semitic radio program in the 1930s that was listened to by millions.

What was different was the vile new package that the Republicans were test marketing: Superimposed on this Jew-hatred were racism, misogyny, homophobia and xenophobia.

I never saw the people who tried to kill my parents. I only heard about them. Like the anti-Semitic Hungarian soldier in charge of my father's slave labor team who threw a hand grenade at him. The soldier missed, killing someone else, though my father still carries the burden of shrapnel and nightmares. Or the Polish woman who hissed at my mother as she was being led off to a concentration camp: "Good, now you'll get what you deserve!"

When I watched the convention, these were the faces I saw. I cannot listen to these men unquietly, without such memories haunting me.

And the Republican-controlled Congress elected in 1994 continues the legacy of intolerance. The Speaker of the House says that those who disagree with his plans aren't Americans. Dick Arme, the House Majority leader, referred to openly gay Representative Barney Frank as Barney Fag. Arme blamed reporters for not keeping the story quiet, and then came up with ludicrous excuses for what he called a slip of the tongue. That was no mistake—it was a revelation of what he truly felt, and the sign that hate speech has found a home in Congress.

My parents were not paranoid in teaching me to pay attention to dangerous men. When Patrick Buchanan said, "Make no mistake, we are at war," he wasn't kidding. He means it. Watch his face and the faces of his allies next time they're on TV. Watch the faces of the Republicans now lording it in Congress. Look into their eyes. They could be your future.

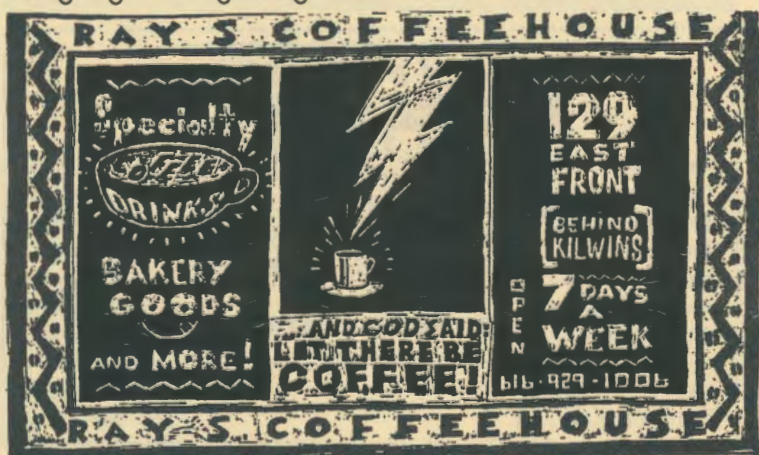
Don't let that happen. Fight them in any way you can. If you're out or not, make a difference. Be vocal, make noise, let people know the danger we're all facing, write letters, donate money, explain the danger to your straight friends. Get them involved.

I want to end with lines from Joe Beam, a black gay writer who died of AIDS. In his anthology *In the Life*, he says:

I cannot go home as who I am. When I speak of home, I mean not only the familial constellation from which I grew, but the entire Black community; the Black press, the Black church, Black academicians, the Black literati, and the Black left. Where is my reflection? I am most often rendered invisible, perceived as a threat to the family, or am tolerated if I am silent and inconspicuous. I cannot go home as who I am and that hurts me deeply.

For "Black" substitute the community or background you came from, and I think most of us could say the same thing about ourselves.

Well, we must go home, and we must be who we are—if we're ever going to change things.



Stevenson, the Executive Director of Affirmations in Detroit presented the topic "Who are the Anti-Gay/Lesbian People?" during the absolutely marvelous luncheon on Saturday.

Throughout the rest of the weekend we were entertained and informed by a plethora of wonderful local talent via skits, one act stage readings, music and round table discussions. Kudos to Patty and the many other wonderful women and men who donated countless hours of their volunteer time and effort to create this phenomenally successful and productive day.

If you did not have the opportunity to attend Friends North, Inc., Lesbian and Gay History and Education Day this year. I believe that this is one event you will definitely not want to miss in the future. In the meanwhile, I would like to submit the following materials for your enjoyment and continuing enlightenment.

A Few Good Books

Chauncey, George, Duberman, Martin, and Vicinus, Martha. "Hidden from History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past." A multi-cultural collection spanning over two millennia of history.

Duberman, Martin. "Stonewall." Details the organizing and events leading up to the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York, a key event in modern gay history.

Faderman, Lillian. "Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in 20th Century America." Surveys the lesbian experience in U.S. during this century.

Jennings, Kevin. "Becoming Visible: A Reader in Gay and Lesbian History for High School and College Students." A comprehensive reader with ideas for teachers to use when incorporating this material into their classes.

Katz, Jonathan Ned. "Gay American History." A definitive collection of primary documents covering the entire scope of the subject.

Kaufman, Gershen and Raphael, Lev. "Coming Out of Shame: Transforming Gay and Lesbian Lives." Available January 1996

Marcus, Eric. "Making History: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Equal Rights 1945-1990," An Oral History. Fascinating interviews with well-known and not so well-known individuals who played important roles in the modern gay movement.

Miller, Neil. Out of the Past: Gay and Lesbian History from 1869 to the Present. A good survey of primarily Western gay history.

A Few Good Films.

"Before Stonewall." Covers the history of America's gay community from the Twenties until the Sixties.

"Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War Two." Details the role of the war in shaping early gay communities.

"Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt." The 1990 Academy Award-winning documentary which explains the early years of the AIDS epidemic through stories from the Names Project Quilt.

"Last Call at Maud's." Explains the development of lesbian communities in mid-twentieth century America through the story of a San Francisco lesbian bar.

"The Times of Harvey Milk." The 1984 Academy Award-winning documentary on the life of Harvey Milk, who in 1978 became the first openly gay man to be elected to a municipal post in America.

A Few Good Institutions

Affirmations. A Lesbian/Gay Community Center. 195 West Nine Mile Road, Ferndale MI 48220 (810)398-7105, fax: (810)541-1943, helpline: (800)398-GAYS, TDD: (810)398-6960, email: affirmglcc@aol.com

The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at the City University of New York. The nation's pre-eminent higher education research institution on the subject. 33 W. 42 St., New York, NY 10036-8099 (212) 642-2924

Gerber/Hart Gay & Lesbian Library & Archives. Provides resources and support to community members and researchers. 3352 N. Paulina, Chicago, IL 60657 (312) 883-3003 (fax) (312) 883-3078

Lesbian Herstory Archives & Educational Foundation. The leader in resources relating specifically to lesbian herstory. Box 1258, New York, NY 10116 (718)768-3953 (fax) (718) 768-4663

Project 21. Advocates with state school boards and education agencies for inclusive curricular policies so that full, fair, and factual information about lesbian, gay, and bisexual history is included in textbooks. Also provides materials such as a "Famous Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual People in History" poster. c/o Jessea Greenman, 586 62 St. Oakland, CA 94609 (510) 601-8883

HEAR . . . HERE!

Our listening bar takes the guess work out of buying music by allowing you to preview any selection in our inventory.

ABCD'S

A Better Compact Disc Store.

430 East Front Street / Traverse City / 946-2112

JenTees
custom screen printing

516 E. Eighth St.
Traverse City, MI 49686
(616)929-3610 FAX 929-9206

- > SCREEN PRINTING
- > WHOLESALE/RETAIL
- > CUSTOM LETTERING
- > GRAPHICS & DESIGN
- > PHOTO T-SHIRTS
- > EMBROIDERY

TOLERANCE
LET'S MAKE IT A BETTER WORLD



T-SHIRT AVAILBLE HERE
100% NATURAL COTTON
ONLY 12.95

IT'S TIME TO GO "BACK TO SCHOOL"

by Greg R. Baird

Hello Friends. After getting back from teaching theatre on the East Coast this summer, I thought I'd take a break from writing and get back into the swing of things. I'm glad to be writing again and hope everyone had a great summer and that the Autumn has been beautiful for you.

The past few months I have been reflecting on what it was like for me to start a new school year as a teenager growing up. I think about our gay and lesbian teens and hope they have some kind of an outlet where they can express themselves and feel a "safe haven" within their own communities. Growing up gay and lesbian for most of us was extremely difficult. During the '70s, when I was a teenager, educators weren't addressing homophobia and that left us in an environment of a physically and psychologically unsafe place to learn.

There is a slow change occurring across the nation to develop Gay/Straight Youth Alliances within the school. Under the supervision of educators or advisors, the students would run the meetings and discuss topics of interest to them. No one makes assumptions about any members sexual orientation and confidentiality is always maintained. Faculty members also participate on an equal basis with the students. Of course, there are people out there who think these kinds of programs shouldn't exist, that we are, as educators, are trying to seduce children to "come to the other side" and promote our personal agenda. We, as a gay community, know that's not true. Our school years were hell at times and if we had someone out there to reach out to for compassion and respect our lives would have been much easier.

In the wonderful book, "One Teacher in Ten," author, Kevin Jennings writes about his own fear as a gay teacher trying to help a gay student. This is an excerpt from that book. "Jerry, I wish I had followed you, or reached out to you at some other time. I should have broached the taboo subject, assured you that you were not evil or weird and, above all, that you were not alone. But I was afraid. What teacher wouldn't be in a small, Catholic, homophobic high school in Texas." GLSTN, The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network, is starting a campaign to get gay, lesbian and bisexual adults to write their old high schools, tell them what it was like to be gay there, and ask what is being done to make it better for the next generation. There are many educators that think homophobia is not a problem in their community. We know

this not to be true. I am asking anyone reading this to take time out and write a letter to your school. We need to be the next wave of influence for our gay and lesbian youth. I am sure that, once they have received a letter from a former student who tells them exactly what it is like to be gay at their school, they'll understand the issue in a new way.

As adults we have a responsibility to make sure the world our gay and lesbian teenagers experience is less painful, more hopeful, and that they can follow their dreams just as anyone else can. We can make a change together.

If you have any thoughts on this or have any stories of growing up gay and lesbian, please feel free to send me those through the newsletter or at NMIGreg@AOL.COM. I would like to hear from you.

I promise confidentiality on any material I receive. Until next time, peace.



S H A M A N I S M

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

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

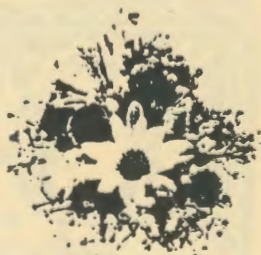


Symptom of power loss are chronic bad luck, illness, frequent accidents or low self esteem.

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

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

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



ERNIE DAWSON
OWNER

*Flowers
By Josie*

212 MICHIGAN AVENUE
P.O. BOX 38
GRAYLING, MICHIGAN 49738
(517) 348-4006



Flowers • Gifts • Antiques

CALENDAR

November

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

WNMNC 90.9—Sunday—Womyn's Music—6:30-7:30 pm/"This Way Out"—7:30

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

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	Rap Group 7:30-9pm Grace Episcopal (Rose 946-1804)	9	10	11
12	13	14	P-FLAG 7:00 pm Grace Episcopal	16	17	Out 'N About Coffeehouse 7:11:00 pm (946-2708)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	Thanksgiving	

December

CALENDAR

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

WNMNC 90.9—Sunday—Womyn's Music—6:30-7:30 pm/"This Way Out"—7:30

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

					World AIDS Day 6:00 Candlelight March & Memorial Central United Methodist	2
3	4	Friends North Board & Member Meeting 6:30pm (Patty 946-1804)	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	Newsletter Deadline for Issue #1	16
17	18 Hanukka	19	P-FLAG 7:00 pm Grace Episcopal	21	22	23
24*/31	25 X-mas	26	27	28	Winter Solstice	
						30

GROUPS:

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

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

P-FLAG: (Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays.) This is a network of parents, friends, and families of lesbians and gays who meet monthly to offer information, support, and a place to talk with others about the issues concerning them. Gays and Lesbians are also welcome to attend P-FLAG meetings. Meet at Grace Episcopal Church every third Wednesday of the month, at 7:30 pm. For more information call Cindy at 271-5045 (Issue 2)

WINDFIRE: This is a local youth support group for teens and others under 25 which meets on a weekly basis in an atmosphere that is comfortable and friendly. Please contact Third Level at 922-4800 or 1-800-442-7315 for location, date and time. (issue 6)

OUT 'N ABOUT is a lesbian coffeehouse featuring entertainment as well as a chance to meet others from the area. It all happens at the Unity Church, 3600 Five Mile Rd. in T.C. Please see the Out 'N About calendar elsewhere in this newsletter for times and specific activities. (issue 6)

TRAVERSE CITY FRONTRUNNERS If you are interested in running, call Paul or Jim at 271-4510 and leave your name, number, and that you are interested in Frontrunners. We will return your call with information on where to meet. We're back running as a group for the fall and winter again. All ages and abilities are welcome. (issue 6)

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

THE PETOSKEY GROUP: A social group for lesbian, gay and bi-sexual persons is meeting weekly in Petoskey. The group meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays at the Park Garden Cafe on Lake Street. For information please contact Tim at 348-8151 or Zalmon at 348-5079 (issue 2)

NORTHERN MICHIGAN WOMYN'S CHOIR is always looking for new voices. To obtain more information or for a performance schedule, please contact Deb at 275-5924. (issue 6)

H.A.N.D.S is an HIV/AIDS Network located in Petoskey. They are currently seeking volunteers in the northern lower peninsula and eastern upper peninsula of Michigan. HANDS is a non-profit organization that has committed itself to helping and supporting the needs of HIV infected persons. They offer a number of services, including support groups, education, public awareness, and one-on-one friendship support. Volunteers are urgently needed in the Alpena, Gaylord, and Rogers City areas. If you would be interested in the program, please call 616-526-9213. (issue 1)

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WASHINGTON D.C. QUILT: I am putting together a group of people who are interested in going to Washington next October to see the entire Names Project Quilt. Please contact me, Tom, at 616-947-4647 or write: 208 Circle Dr., Apt. C, Traverse City, 49684. (issue 3)

LESBIAN BOOK CATALOGUE AVAILABLE: Heartland is a mail order company run by Linda Weiss and Joyce McKeeman out of their home in rural Corinth, Vermont. They are pleased to announce the arrival of the new edition of their catalogue, featuring 120 selections of lesbian interest... both fiction and non, as well as a selection of cards, calendars and videos. Free by writing to POB 1105A, East Corinth, VT 05040. (issue 6)

WORLD AIDS DAY will be remembered on December 1st, at 6:00 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church on Cass St. Organizer and volunteer coordinator, Jim Carruthers, announced that the evening will consist of a memorial service, and then, a candlelight walk through downtown T.C. After the walk, people will gather at a local restaurant to warm up, get to know each other and share memories. Additional information can be obtained by calling Jim at the Wellness office: 933-0279.

PLEASE SPONSOR OUR POSTCARD PROJECT: They do make a difference! The cost for printing the 3000 postcards is \$85.00. To contribute specifically to the Postcard Project, please call Richard at 271-3042 or send a check (in an amount of \$85.00 or less) directly to Friends North. (issue 6)

QUESTIONS ABOUT HIV AND AIDS? Call locally 24 hours a day to 947-1110. This program is sponsored by the HIV/AIDS Wellness Networks Grand Traverse Area and is staffed by Third Level Crisis Center volunteers. (Issue 6)

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION of Petoskey is pleased to announce it will begin providing public services in the liberal religious tradition. Sunday services will be held at the Temple B'nai Israel on the corner of Waukazoo and Michigan Street in downtown Petoskey. Services will be held on alternate Sundays with dates disclosed in their newsletter, *Diversity*. Please call 348-3117 for details or write to us at POB 271, Petoskey, MI 49770-0271 (Issue 6)

HATE CRIMES WATCH: The Triangle Foundation of Michigan has begun a VICTIMS' PROGRAM COMMUNITY WATCH COALITION. The group will collect hate-crime information from Lesbian and Gay victims of such crimes. For details, call 313-533-1166 or 517-753-9823. Report Hate Crimes! Stop the Violence! (issue 6)

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Their Reproductive Health Clinic is open to women and men of all ages. Confidential services provided are physical exams, HIV counseling and testing, pregnancy testing, sexual transmitted disease testing and treatment, all methods of birth control available, FREE Norplants, Depo-Provera, IUDs, and Condoms. For more info about these and other methods which are charged on a sliding fee scale, call 922-4630. Services are by appointment only. (issue 6)

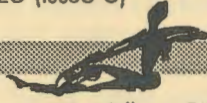
CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE/RENT

FOR RENT IN INTERLOCHEN: 2 Bedroom mobile home with utilities incl. \$525./mo. plus security deposit. County snowplow in winter. 25 min. to T.C. Quiet, country setting in 40a of woods with hiking trails. Woodstove and oil furnace to keep you cozy during cold winter months. References req'd. Sorry, no pets. Carol: 276-6329 (issue 6)

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

PERSONALS:



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

MY NAME IS Walkeea Harris., #211655. I'm 28, height is 5'9", weight 187#. Blue-hazel eyes, sandy brown hair. I'm a transsexual. Measurements 36-33-36. I enjoy music, quiet nights at home watching a good movie with a friend. I welcome honees and real people. I'm soon to be released, March 1996. Walkeea Harris, #211655, POB 5000, Carson City, MI 48811 (issue 6)

POSITIONS:

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

Community Notes

by Richard Tuxbury

Traverse City:

THE COMING OUT DAY FILM FESTIVAL held by Friends North was a great success. Despite it being mid-week, almost 40 people from the community spent the evening watching films and participating in the social hour. Many talked about wanting to see something on a more regular basis, such as what Out 'N About has done, with their running of new releases, such as *The Incredibly True Adventures of 2 Girls In Love*.

WELLNESS NETWORKS said good-bye to two amazing women who have been with the organization for a long time. Brooke Borgeson-Gray and Mary Merwin completed their terms on the Board at Wellness, after providing the backbone and the strength for the organization for many years. Board President, Joe Bertucci, summed up his feelings for the two women in the last issue of their newsletter: "...Mary and Brooke often provided the stuff required to hold us all together. They were the ones with the "Vision." There are so few people out there with "Vision," and so many with hind sight... As a person who has lost too many friends to this awful disease, I would like to say God Bless You for taking care of so many people who needed to know that somebody cared. I love you both."

WORLD AIDS DAY will be remembered on December first, at 6:30 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church on Cass St. Organizer and volunteer coordinator, Jim Carruthers, announced that the evening will consist of a memorial service, and then, a candlelight walk through downtown T.C. After the walk, people will gather at a local restaurant to warm up, get to know each other and share memories. Additional information can be obtained by calling Jim at the Wellness office: 933-0279. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN:

Between The Lines, Michigan's monthly newspaper serving the gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual communities, has been in existence for three years. Now, the paper will be under new ownership with Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz leading this well-known and respected newspaper.

Known for her leadership role in Michigan's gay and lesbian community as Executive Director of Affirmations, Jan started her career as a corporate banker. Her partner, Susan, has been a publisher for over 20 years. She founded Tower Press in New York and has published New York and San Francisco Pride Guides for years.

Together, they have many plans for change, but will continue to focus on news, community information and events. BTL can be reached at 313-961-4682 in Ann Arbor.

In Michigan, public universities are taking the lead among employers in extending benefits, including valuable health insurance packages, to the domestic partners of its gay and lesbian employees.

U-M now is offering the benefits for the second year, and Wayne State began insuring partners this month. The faculty at MSU just endorsed a similar package and is awaiting trustee approval. CMU staffers promise to keep pushing for a partners package.

At U-M, about 84 same-sex couples have registered for benefits. At WSU, 11 couples have been approved.

Around the country, only about 5 percent of the nation's colleges offer benefits to its gay employees.

SAUGATUCK:

A "Saugatuck Summit" was held by gay leaders on September 20th to launch a dialogue on issues facing the gay and lesbian community. Leaders from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Triangle Foundation, and Michigan Democratic Party were in attendance along with about 60 other interested people.

Responding to what Triangle Foundation leaders are calling "crucial events for gays on the national stage" this summit was the first state meeting of its kind to address broad concerns of gays. Leaders expected it to become the beginning of a statewide political alliance of gay and lesbian activists.

LASER PERFECT PLUS Inc.

616 • 947-1965 ▼ Fax • 947-1816

Desktop
& Design

- ❖ Typesetting & Design
- ❖ Offset & Raised Printing
- ❖ Mailing Lists & Marketing
- ❖ Desktop Publishing Service
- ❖ Complete Resume Service



5¢ Copies All The Time!
TRAVERSE CITY'S UNION PRINT SHOP

R E S O U R C E S

STATE AND NATIONAL HOTLINES

Department of Justice Hotline (for reporting
Hate Crimes against gays and lesbians) 800-347-HATE
Child Abuse Hotline 800-392-8222
Michigan Wellness Networks 800-872-AIDS
Gay/Lesbian National Youth Hotline 800-347-TEEN

STATEWIDE SERVICES SOCIAL / POLITICAL / MEDIA

The Network: Lesbian and Gay Community Network of W. Michigan
909 Cherry St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49506 616-458-3511
Metro Gay Monthly (newspaper)
232 E. Marshall St. Ferndale, MI 48220 810-544-0809
Lavender Morning
P.O. Box 729, Kalamazoo, MI 49005 616-685-6061
Kalamazoo Resource Center
P.O. Box 1532, Kalamazoo, MI 49005 616-345-7878
Affirmations Lesbian/Gay Community Center
Suite 110, 195 W. Nine Mile Rd.
webpage: <http://www.webspace.com/~tcc/affirmations/index.htm>
Ferndale, MI 48220 313-398-GAYS
Lansing Association of Human Rights
P.O. Box 18062, Lansing, MI 48826 517-332-3200
Capital Men's Club
P.O. Box 18062, Lansing, MI 48902 ... (Kelly Stevens) 517-482-0860
Ambitious Amazons/Lesbian Connection
P.O. Box 811, East Lansing, MI 48826 517-371-5257
Lesbian Alliance
P.O. Box 6423, East Lansing, MI 48826 517-394-1454
Triangle Foundation (Lesbian/Gay Foundation of Michigan)
19641 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit 48219 313-537-3323
..... Fax: 313-537-3379
PRIDE-Flint: P.O. Box 7014, Flint, MI 48507 313-238-9854
Aurora Newsletter: (reaching out to gays, lesbians, bisexuals in the UP &
Canada) POB 626, Marquette, MI 49855
Team Great Lakes
195 W. Nine Mile Rd., Suite 106, Ferndale, MI 48220 . 810-553-3586

NATIONAL SERVICE / SOCIAL / POLITICAL

P-FLAG: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
1012 14th St. NW, Ste. 700, Washington, DC 20005 ... 202-638-4200
GLAAD: Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
80 Varick St., #3E, New York, NY 10013 212-807-1700
e-mail GLAADNATL@aol.com
..... Fax: 212-807-1806
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force 202-332-6483
2320 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009 Fax: 202-332-0207
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012 212-995-8585
ACLU Lesbian/Gay Rights Project
1370 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94130 415-621-0674
HRC: Human Rights Campaign (National Coming Out Day)
1012 14th St. NS #607, Washington, DC 20005 202-628-4160
e-mail www@hrcusa.org
..... Fax: 202-347-5323
Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, Political Action Committee
1012 14th St. NW #707, Washington, DC 20005 202-842-7679

LOCAL SPIRITUAL:

The Reverend Emmy Lou Belcher
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Grand Traverse
6726 Center Rd., Traverse City—Home: 938-9078 .. Office: 947-3117
Rev. Nancy Hayward, Circle of the Sacred Earth 616-223-7999

LOCAL COUNSELING:

Third Level Crisis Intervention, 902 W. Front St. 922-4800
..... and 800-442-7315
Women's Resource Center 941-1210
Rodger Landvov, PHD 929-1711
Susan Breuer PHD (Frankfort / Traverse City) 352-4261
Margo Million, ACSW 947-0511
David Blisk (Maple City) 228-5105
Barbara Jones Smith, PHD 947-1444
Elizabeth Most, MSW, ACSW (Petoskey) 348-2415
William D. Gould, MA (Gladwin) 517-426-2351
David Rushlow, ACSW, Munson Medical Center 935-6385
Bay Area Counseling (Petoskey/Harbor Springs)
Margalo Bley, MSW, ACSW 348-3616
Daniel C. Doran, PHD, CSW 906-635-9263
CDRS (a free substance abuse referral agency)
808-A S. Garfield, Traverse City 929-1315 or 800-686-0749

LOCAL SERVICE / SOCIAL / POLITICAL

Friends North (information line) 946-1804
Windfire Gay & Lesbian Youth Support Group—
Call Third Level for location & time 922-4800
or 800-442-7315
Side Traxx Nite Club, 520 Franklin St. off of 8th St. 935-1666
Traverse City Human Rights Commission, 400 Boardman ... 922-4700
Gay Alcoholics Anonymous,
Friends Church, 206 S. Oak at 5th St., TC John 922-0746
P-FLAG, Traverse City
POB 1705, Acme, MI 49610 Cindy 271-5045
NOW (National Organization for Women)
Gail Trill 938-1333

LOCAL HIV/AIDS HEALTH COUNSELING:

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

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

SHARED RIGHTS,



SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

World AIDS DAY - December 1, 1995

The HIV/AIDS Wellness Networks
invites everyone to join us on
World AIDS Day - December 1, 1995

6:00 p.m. Memorial Service
Central United Methodist Church
222 Cass Street - Traverse City

Special guests: **Bon Foulé, Jeff Haas, Janice Kaegan,**
Glenn Wolff, Ron Getz &
The Northern Michigan Women's Choir

Candlelight Pledge Walk & Reception at
La Cuisine Amical
immediately following the service

Each Pledge Walker who raises \$40 or more will be given
a Wellness Networks World AIDS Day 1995 Sweatshirt
Pledge Forms are available by calling 616-933-0279

©1995 Wellness Networks. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. by Wellness Networks, Traverse City, Michigan.

1111 Lakeshore Blvd. East, Suite 1000, Traverse City, MI 49781-1111

LETTERS:

Dear Editor,

How much more will we tolerate?

I found it interesting in Richard Tuxburys last newsletter article where he states "Michelle McManus needs to use the "G" word. She, like the City Commission needs to state, for the record, that she condones no violence and will tolerate no discrimination against gays and lesbians. It is our governing bodies and our elected officials who set the stage for violence and hate crimes, and who, by their inaction, give subtle endorsement to discrimination."

I know that being out there and active in the lesbian/gay community is not for everyone. I am not saying that you have to be. But if we do not find some way to bring acts of discrimination against us to the forefront, then we are fostering our own discrimination. There are ways to let people know what is happening. There are people on the front lines who will listen and action can be taken to let those that think we are already protected know what's going on. But we can't do it if we don't know about it.

One right we do have that is not taken from us is that of voting. René and I were recently invited to attend a seminar in Saugatuck dealing with the political atmosphere in 1996 and the role the lesbian/gay movement will play in that. The organizers of the event brought in as speakers, Mark Brewer, Chair of The Michigan Democratic Party, Melinda Paras, Director of The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Jeff Montgomery, President of The Triangle Foundation. As I listened to the speakers, my feelings were confirmed it was not going to be any easier this election year than in '92. Matter of fact, it is going to be an even more critical election for the lesbian/gay movement. In 1996 if the lesbian/gay community does not get out and vote we will have done ourselves a great disservice. We can pretty well rest on the fact that we can make a difference in the outcome of elections. We did that in 1992. Our community was a major part of Clinton getting elected. We are a strong community with a voice, just like the right wing. We can play a crucial role not only nationally, but also locally. We need to be out there voting in every election whether it is for city commission, school board or county boards. It doesn't matter, we need to have our voice heard.

It is not too early to think about 1996 and I hope you too will use your voice and vote. You can make a difference!

Pam Haley



'Little Friends' by Bruce Simpson

Dear Editor

I would like to commend and thank Friends North for the Gay and Lesbian History and Education Day held on October 21.

Many times during the day I found myself going back through time, though my own coming out process, my strong need and appreciation of community and the struggles I deal with now as an out professional lesbian.

As I sat through the workshops, the talks, the plays and music, I felt joy because I knew there is gay-lesbian community in Northern Michigan and the nation and that we have a rich history and culture.

I thought about the importance of Friends North and the newsletter, which has done so much to help us get together and stay together over a long period of time. I owe Richard Tuxbury, the Networking 45° editor, and all the people who have been part of the newsletter over the years, a big debt of gratitude. For years, when I was deep in the closet, it was my only link to a community of braver souls than myself.

I thought about the dances Friends North used to have. I thought about the Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse, now two years old, and the Northern Michigan Womyn's Choir.

I thought about all of my straight friends and the church I attend that accepts and loves me as I am.

I have a lot I am thankful for. I was especially taken with Jan Stevenson's suggestion at the History and Education day that we all reach out and thank three people we identify as leaders in our community and tell them we appreciate what they are doing.

It was no accident, I think, that the two workshops that drew the biggest crowds on October 21 were sessions that dealt with internalized homophobia.

The morning session was called "Homophobia: The Internal and External Oppressor," led by local counselor Lee Shaw. An afternoon workshop, "Coming Out of Shame," was presented by Okemos psychologist Gershen Kauffman, who has done some of the national ground-setting work on shame issues.

I would like to ask the Friends North board, possibly in connection with P-FLAG, to consider holding some workshops, a weekend retreat, or professionally-led discussion groups on internalized homophobia and shame.

Thinking of my own experience, I could not come out beyond a small circle of family and friends until I dealt with my internal homophobia, which was fueled by my shame issues.

For me, growing up in a homophobic society was an emotionally and psychologically battering experience. I am still clearing away some of the scar tissue.

I did internalize the world's homophobia and became my own oppressor. I felt great shame, that something was intrinsically wrong

THE BOOKIE JOINT

RECYCLED PAPERBACKS

ALSO SPECIALIZING IN

ALTERNATIVE & LESBIAN/GAY MAGAZINES AND BOOKS

WOMYN'S MUSIC, USED RECORDS AND COMICS

120 S. UNION ST. TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684

616-946-8862

HAIR FORCE ONE

801 West Front Street
Traverse City, MI 49684

For Appointment Call

941-8255

Mark Lizenby

Letters (continued from previous page)

and defective about me. Deep down, I simply hated myself and didn't even know it because I had repressed so much in order to survive psychologically.

It wasn't until recent years—through the help of a combination of a more loving Christian philosophy than what I grew up with, other spiritual principles of compassion, love, service, personal responsibility, and healing models followed by adult survivors of childhood abuse—that I could come first to accept and love myself and then come out.

I personally would like to see a community discussion of this continue. I felt that we just got started on October 21.

Thanks again to everyone involved in the education and history day. It was wonderful.

Sincerely,
Loraine Anderson.

SHARED LETTERS

Dear Mr. Patrick Archer

Thank you for contacting my office to share your concerns about the issue of homosexual rights. The thoughtful input I receive from citizens like you not only helps keep me informed, but also enables me to effectively deal with difficult issues like this.

In regard to this matter, I believe Michigan should retain its current laws, which are among the strongest civil rights statutes in the nation. In other words, the state should neither create legal burdens nor additional benefits for individuals based on sexual orientation. In addition, let me reiterate my long-standing opposition to discrimination, intolerance, prejudice, and crimes of hate. There is no place in Michigan for behavior of this kind.

Again, thank you for contacting my office. I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with me.

Sincerely
John Engler, Governor

Dear Colleague:

Millions of dollars every year flow right* from the pockets of your constituents into the coffers of organized homosexuality.

Directly... \$10,000 to the National Gay Health Education

Foundation; \$372,000 to the National Association of Black and White Men Together; \$544,000 to the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center; \$211,000 to the Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services; \$521,000 to the National Latino Lesbian and Gay Organization; \$17,000 to the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation.

Indirectly... \$360,000 to the Sex Information and Education Council of the U.S.; \$232,000 to the National School Health Education Coalition; \$239,000 to the California Prostitutes Education Project; \$340,000 to the Planned Parenthood Federation of America; \$187,000 to the National Organization for Women; \$480,000 to the National Education Association; \$313,000 to the National Leadership Coalition on AIDS.

Further, nearly every federal department and agency uses tax dollars to fund and support organized homosexuality. Do you care? Did you know?

Call my office and do two things. First, ask to cosponsor my bill HR 862 to prohibit funds from supporting organized homosexuality. Second, ask for the 146-page paper "How Congress Supports and Funds Organized Homosexuality" prepared by my staff. My staff contact is Paul Mero at x5295.

Sincerely
Robert K. Dornan, U.S. Congressman, California

Arch-homophobe Bob Dornan said on CNN's Inside Politics recently that the anti-gay extremism that has marked his Congressional career would be "way down the list" during the Presidential campaign. Recent activity by Dornan in the House, such as this letter show that he is just as extremist as ever—and is using tax-payers dollars to promote his extreme anti-gay agenda. He is exploiting his subcommittee chair to attack HIV-positive men and women, and to undermine AIDS prevention programs that save people's lives.

The bill sponsored by Bob Dornan, HR 862 would "prohibit the use of federal funds to promote homosexuality." The bill reads as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, Section 1. Prohibition on use of federal funds to promote homosexuality. No federal funds may be used directly or indirectly to promote, condone, accept, or celebrate homosexuality, lesbianism or bisexuality.

HR 862 would eradicate AIDS education and prevention programs from federal workplaces and public schools.

FRIENDS NORTH, INC., P.O. BOX 562, TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49685-0562

YES, I want to be a supporting member of the Friends North Organization.

Single: \$12.00 Couple: \$18.00 (includes one-year newsletter subscription)

I am enclosing an additional: 10.00 20.00 40.00 Other _____

and I would like to see this used for: Newsletter Phonline/Publicity Community Needs

All of the above **Total Enclosed \$ _____**

Name(s) _____
Address _____
City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____

I am New to the mailing list I am already on mailing list Note my new address Please remove me from your mailing list

THE F/N MAILING LIST IS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND OUR MAILINGS COME IN AN UNMARKED ENVELOPE.

I would like to continue receiving the newsletter but am unable to contribute



Thanksgiving Holiday

Open Regular Hours

December 1—World AIDS Day

Join us after the services

No Cover Fridays ALL Winter

Closed December 24 & 25 for X-mas

New Years Eve

\$3.00 Cover—Big Party

Free Food Friday Night 6-9

Enjoy Home Cooked Food
Bring a dish to pass if you want
(Not required to partake)

SideTraxx has a
Brand New Heating & Cooling System
You Will Enjoy the Dramatic Difference

To New Years Eve



SIDIE TRAXX

Open Daily 6:00 pm

Happy Hour 6:00 to 9:00 pm

616 ▼ 935 ▼ 1666
520 Franklin ▼ Traverse City, MI 49684

Dear Editor,

I would like to congratulate Friends North for their recent Gay History Weekend held at Sugarloaf Resort. It is truly wonderful to see this many gay and gay supportive people at one place talking about all the issues that confront us on a daily basis.

I was lucky to take part in the internal homophobia discussion and found myself learning a great deal about how we treat our own community on a daily basis. Why, for instance, did most of us not put our last names on our nametags? Was not that internal homophobia? And, don't we have to stop doing these things in order to come out just to ourselves?

I was greatly moved at the two one-act plays and would like to congratulate the actors for sharing their talent. I was deeply moved at the performance by Guy Molnar and his courage to perform the way he did. We should be proud to have someone of this stature in our midst.

Thanks to the speakers for giving us different messages and just for being there.

I still worry that there are a great many gay folks that are missing out in what our community has to offer and would hope that they would start attending some of the events of Friends North, such as this, or the most recent film festival.

Thanks again to Friends North, and especially to Patty O'Donnell, for her vision in putting this weekend together.

Sincerely,
Tom Kincaid

Sen. Helms defends AIDS stance

Dear Ann Landers: One of the things I have admired about you is your unflinching sense of fair play and I respect you for it. Moreover, I am confident that your correspondent, "L.A. Reader," wrote in good faith when she mistakenly asserted that I "want to reduce federal AIDS funding." L.A. Reader also erred in charging that I vigorously support taxpayer subsidies for the tobacco industries, which I do not and have not.

I have indeed called for a fairer and more equitable balance in federal funding for AIDS and a number of other diseases including heart disease and cancer.

As for AIDS being transmitted through blood transfusions and by unsterilized needles, you are, of course, correct. But as has been made clear by many medical authorities long ago, the ultimate origin of all such AIDS-tainted blood has been homosexual contact—including the tragic infusion of blood clotting medicines that killed Ryan White.

With continued respect, I am—Sincerely yours, Jesse Helms

Dear Sen. Helms: Thank you for your prompt response to my column. I appreciate your comments.

Your statement "the ultimate origin of all such AIDS-tainted blood has been homosexual contact" is patently incorrect. The Centers for Disease Control does not know where the virus originated, but it infected both homosexuals and heterosexuals alike. The virus simply spread more rapidly among homosexuals. No matter how the blood supply was originally contaminated, the victims include babies, wives, and mothers, husbands and fathers and sons and daughters, regardless of their sexual orientation or lifestyle.

You state in your letter that L.A. Reader *mistakenly* asserted that you want to reduce AIDS funding. The record proves that L.A. was correct. You have sponsored four amendments to the 1995 Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources and Emergency (CARE) Act that would severely cripple funding for AIDS.

The first was Amendment 1854, which proposed restricting funds from being used for organizations that provide lifesaving services,

counseling and support services and accurate medical information for homosexuals and intravenous drug users.

The second amendment you sponsored was Amendment 1855. That amendment proposed a freeze on CARE spending at 1995 levels for five years, despite rapidly growing AIDS caseloads. It would have chopped spending below the levels already approved by the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Budget Committee.

You also sponsored Amendment 1857 for funding level restrictions, which fails to acknowledge the epidemic nature of AIDS and the amount of federal spending on other diseases.

Another amendment you sponsored was 1856, which undermines comprehensive AIDS training for all federal employees.

Sen. Helms, are you aware that AIDS is the leading killer of Americans from 25 to 44 years of age? It will account for more than 40,000 deaths in 1995. AIDS kills the youngest and most talented and productive members of our society.

Fifteen years ago, no one had heard of AIDS. It grew from zero reported deaths in 1980 to being the eighth leading cause of death in 1992.

People with AIDS have lost their jobs, their health insurance and their homes. Please remember these chilling facts the next time a vote for AIDS funding comes along. Thank you.



Tuesday, September 19, 1995

Congressman Peter Hoekstra
United States House of Representatives
Michigan 2nd Congressional District
1122 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hoekstra:

We were temporarily relieved last week when we learned that a decision had been made to "postpone" the Lou Sheldon-inspired hearings before your committee (the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee), which had initially been set for September 12. We thought, for a moment, that "postponed" might have been a gracious way for you to actually cancel the hearings and save face with right-wing extremists. That was, we now know, wishful thinking on our part.

Today we have learned that Sheldon's show has simply been rescheduled to take place on October 13. Our objections to these

Jim Frees

Plant Haus

(616) 941-8868

Fax (616) 941-9063

• Hrs 9am-7pm Daily • Out of town phone 800-876-8868
1081 S. Airport Road West, Traverse City, MI 49684 (Colonial Square)



hearings remain as fervent as when we expressed them to you in a letter of September 5, 1995.

Since that letter was written, we have read your press secretary, Jon Brandt, quoted as saying the hearings are "not intended to bash homosexuals." Boy! What a relief. Please tell us that means that Mr. Sheldon will have no hand in determining who will testify or in the preparation of the agenda. For that matter, insure us that Mr. Sheldon, or his influence, won't be anywhere near the hearings. We suspect that you cannot provide those assurances.

Furthermore, if it's true, as Mr. Brandt has asserted, that you have decided to broaden the scope of the hearings, we presume that you will hear testimony from victims of anti-gay hatred, especially young people who have suffered horrific violence driven by bigotry and ignorance. We hope you will hear from parents of gay and lesbian youth who are still grieving over the suicide of their child.

The Triangle Foundation stands ready to assist you in locating individuals who can provide first-hand testimony about such things. They will tell you that, if anything, the educational system failed their families by not allowing safe and affirming educational opportunities, or settings in which homosexuality was given fair, open and honest discussion.

Reconsider these hearings again. This time, however, cancel them once and for all! As before, we welcome your response.

Sincerely
Jeffrey Montgomery, President

September 28, 1995

Patty O'Donnell, President
Friends North, Inc.
POB 562
Traverse City, MI 49685

Patty,

Here is my renewal membership for Friends North for another year. I have also enclosed a memorial donation for James "Jigger" Johnson, my friend who died this past summer. Please use the donation in the best way you and the Board see fit. I knew Jigger for over 25 years. I have visited Traverse City many times over the years and hope to return soon to see all of Jigger's friends & family. I know how much Friends North meant to him. Keep up the good work and best wishes.

Sincerely,
Patrick R. McKee
Houston, Texas

NAMING OURSELVES COLLECTIVELY

and other Dilemmas of Building a Movement

Since the beginning of 1995, *Between the Lines* has received a handful of letters to the editor questioning the usage of the word queer in the newspaper. The editorial board has consciously chosen to use the term queer as an inclusive word for our lesbian, gay male, bisexual and transgendered community. We do, however, understand the concerns that people raise around the term queer.

We have employed an informal policy of alternating the term <queer> and the phrases <lesbian and gay>, and <lesbians, gay men, bisexual, and transgender people>. Clearly the latter phrase is a mouthful at best and can be unwieldy at worst. It is, however, the most inclusive statement of affirmation about the many people and identities that comprise our movement for equality and social change. While we use the phrase <lesbians and gay men>, we find this an obvious exclusion of our bisexual and transgender brothers and sisters who are consistently working with us in the movement. Since we all know the pain of exclusion, particularly in the verbal and rhetorical arena, we take care to ensure a language that is inclusive.

In seeking a language that is inclusive, the word <queer> appears before us as a short hand term for talking about lesbians, gay men, bisexual, and transgender people. We recognize simultaneously that this word is unpalatable and even unacceptable to some. Indeed, queer is charged with a history of hatred and derision that many of us experienced as children and continue to encounter today. The arguments of language reclamation, whereby we take a word formerly used to harm us, such as queer, dyke, or fag, while compelling for some, are for others not convincing. Nonetheless, we find queer to be a viable alternative for us.

Perhaps queer is not the perfect solution for our community. Indeed the "controversy" about the term demonstrates the different views, agendas, expectations, and comfort levels in our community. We challenge readers of *Between the Lines* to continue this dialogue about language. We need a language that is precise and varied, empowering and responsive. We need to speak about ourselves with dignity. We need to speak about everyone in our community with respect. Finally, we simply need to speak.

(editorial, *Between The Lines*)

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



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

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

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

"It goes way, way beyond tolerance. Unitarian Universalists encourage diversity. And acceptance."

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

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

for the location of a congregation near you, call:

1-800-464-0336

WORDS AND MUSIC:

A Local Guide to Books, Magazines, Tapes and CD's

by Rick Gould

Here's what's new in reading and listening for this fall and winter. Perhaps these titles will give you some ideas for Christmas, for both giving and getting!

At the **Bookie Joint**, Shelley gives us these suggestions:

For music, both on cassette and CD:

Limboland by Betty, Cass.-\$10.98 and CD-\$16.98. All-girl, bi-racial rock and roll performance trio.

Never Assume by Jamie Anderson, Cass.-\$9.98 and CD-\$14.98. Outrageously funny stories of true life adventures.

Revenge by Janis Ian, Cass.-\$10.98 and CD-\$16.98. Ian performed many of the songs at the National Women's Festival.

Women for Women, Various Artists, Cass.-\$10.98 and CD-\$16.98. No last names needed here: Aretha, Melissa, Annie, Tina and more, with proceeds going to Breast Cancer and AIDS.

Shelley's book picks:

Dual Attraction: Understanding Bisexuality by Martin Weinberg, \$15.95.

Hearing Us Out: Voices from the Gay and Lesbian Community, edited by Roger Sutton, \$16.95. Coming out stories told in a first person narrative.

Sister and Brother: Lesbians and Gay Men Write about their Lives Together, edited by Joan Nestle and John Preston. \$22.00.

A new magazine at the Bookie Joint: *Urban Fitness*, \$4.95. This mag is aimed at gays and lesbians who are striving for a healthy lifestyle. This will join the many periodicals that Shelley carries. Also check out the new calendars, cards, pins, and jewelry that make great gifts.

At **Horizon Books**, Alex has given us these recommendations:

Wrestling With the Angel: Faith and Religion in the Lives of Gay Men, edited by Brian Bouldrey, \$23.95. These 21 essays are by writers of various religions, who have kept their faith despite being rejected by the religious institutions they were raised in. Includes an essay by Lev Raphael.

Dyke Life, edited by Karla Jay, \$23.00. Described as covering from growing up to growing old, this is a celebration of the lesbian experience. Featuring a collection of superb lesbian writers.

Red Ribbon, by Sara Weeks, \$15.95. A children's book that comes with a tape. Beautifully illustrated by Jeffrey Greene, this sensitive story also includes a red ribbon and a portion of the book's royalties go to non-profit AIDS projects.

The Question of Equality: Lesbian and Gay Politics in America Since Stonewall, edited by David Deitcher. \$35.00. This is a companion volume to the PBS TV Series, with a foreword by Armistead Maupin.

Atlantis by Mark Doty, \$12.00. The award winning poet has centered his new poetry around his own personal loss from AIDS.

From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun by Jacqueline Woodson, \$14.95. A young adult book about an African-American teen and how he reacts to his mother's coming out and relationship with another woman.

The Simple Truth by Philip Levine, \$20.00. Pulitzer Prize winning poems by a Michigan Native.

Dwellings: A Spiritual History of the Living World by Linda Hogan. \$21.00. Evocative writing that looks at beauty and evil in life. Described as a fierce examination of what it means to be human.

Politically Correct Holiday Stories by James Finn Garner, \$9.95. Something fun for the stocking, this is for those seeking an enlightened yuletide season!

Passages of Pride: Lesbian and Gay Youth Come of Age by Kurt Chandler, \$23.00. The coming out stories in this book run the gamut of experiences and issues for gays and lesbians.

At **B. Dalton's**, Beth gave us these suggestions:

You Know You're Gay When... by Joseph Cohen, \$9.95. A hilarious quote book and a great stocking stuffer. To be followed by *You Know You're A Gay Redneck When...*

Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette by Meryl Cohn, \$11.95. A funny look at gay and lesbian social rituals.

Take It Like a Man by Boy George, \$25.00. One of the few autobio's that isn't titled *My Life*, Boy/Man George tells all, with a sense of humor.

Rolling Stone Images of Rock and Roll, \$50.00. A pictorial of the mag's best.

Finally, Norm at **AB CD's** has given us both new and old favorites in Christmas music:

Lorenna McKennitt, Mannheim Steamroller, Windham Hill Celtic Christmas, Clint Black, All 4 One, Russ Freeman & Rippingtons, Narada Christmas, John Tesh, Luther Vandross, and the Turtle Island Quartet all have new holiday CD's out.

Popular sellers from Christmas' past include CD's by Vince Gill, Lorenna McKennitt, Mariah Carey, Natalie Cole, Amy Grant, and Kenny G.

During your hectic holiday shopping, remember that these stores appreciate your business and suggestions.

HARDY BOYS AND NANCY DREW OF THE '90s

The first gay-themed young adult series will hit bookstore shelves this fall. Published by Alyson Publications, the "Pride Pack" will detail the adventures of a group of teens who meet at a local gay and lesbian center, and find themselves drawn into mysterious events in their community. Tied together initially by circumstance alone, the teens—some gay, and some with gay parents—must rely on each other when authorities refuse to take their concerns seriously.

The idea for the series came from discussions that publisher Sasha Alyson had with teenagers at a 1993 convention of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International. "Older teenagers who are comfortable reading adult fiction have lots to choose from," he said. "And for younger children with gay parents, we're already publishing our Alyson Wonderland books. But until now, there was nothing for kids in between."

In *Who Framed Lorenzo Garcia?*, the first book in the series, the Pride Pack comes together to help Ramón when his foster dad, gay cop Lorenzo Garcia, is framed for a crime he didn't commit. The Pride Pack reconvenes in *The Case of the Missing Mother*, when one of Rebecca's moms, Maia, mysteriously disappears after getting into a public dispute with a local, anti-gay preacher.

Author R.J. Hamilton believes that the books are unique because they realistically portray teens struggling with issues around sexual identity. "The Pride Pack kids are individuals, not 'cookie cutter' characters. Some of them are out and in-your-face, like Ramón. Others are not, like Ben who comes from a very conservative and

traditional family. They're confronted with real-life situations that all teens need to deal with in this day and age: censorship, gay adoption, religious intolerance, the need for AIDS education. And they're forced to make decisions and take action in a way that allows them to be true to themselves while also remaining responsible to their peer community."

Though the Pride Pack is the first series to feature gay, lesbian, and straight teens together, Alyson has long been dedicated to publishing material for gay and lesbian teens. In 1980 Alyson made its debut into gay publishing with *Young, Gay and Proud!*, and an updated edition of that title was published earlier this year. Other books that Alyson has published include *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*, *Two Teenagers in Twenty*, and *Not the Only One*.

Who Framed Lorenzo Garcia? and *The Case of the Missing Mother* will be followed by one to two new books per season in the Pride Pack series.

(from a press release by Alyson Publications)

NOT IN OUR TOWN YOU DON'T

Today's residents of Billings, Montana, appear to have little in common with the citizens of Denmark during World War II; except, it seems, courage, character and a large measure of decency. When Germany occupied Denmark, Hitler ordered

all Jews to wear the Star of David at all times. The morning following the decree, the King of Denmark himself appeared publicly wearing the Star of David; great numbers of other Danes followed suit, and the requirement was soon dropped.

Now Montana, along with Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Wyoming, has been designated a "white homeland" by the Aryan Nation and growing numbers of kindred skinheads, Klan members and other white supremacists; and there have been a number of hate crimes in Billings; desecration of a Jewish cemetery, threatening phone calls to Jewish citizens, swastikas painted on the home of an interracial couple. In December 1993, a brick was thrown through the window of a Jewish family, strewing glass over 5-year old Isaac Schnitzern's bed. Someone had evidently taken offence at a menorah and other symbols of Jewish faith stenciled on the glass as part of the family's Hanukkah celebration.

Now the good citizens of Billings had had enough. One of them, an imaginative woman named Margaret McDonald,



phoned her pastor and suggested that they have Sunday school children make paper cut-out menorahs for their own windows. The following week menorahs appeared in the windows of hundreds of Christian homes. Five days later, the local paper published a full-page drawing of a menorah, along with a general invitation for people to put it up. By the end of the week from six to ten thousand homes were decorated with menorahs.

There were many incidents of hate violence against the Christian population who displayed the menorah or other visible signs of support. When asked about the danger the town was incurring by its demonstration of solidarity with its Jewish citizens, police chief Wayne Inman said, "There's greater risk in not doing it."

The ugly incidents eventually waned, and people continue in their efforts to support one another against hate crimes. New friendships have formed, new traditions started, and greater mutual understanding and respect have been achieved. During the Passover holiday the following spring, 250 Christians joined their Jewish sisters and brothers in a traditional Seder meal; and last winter, families all over Billings took out their menorahs to reaffirm their commitment to peace and religious tolerance.

And that is what the King of Denmark, or one concerned woman, can do; if they have courage and a fierce commitment to justice.

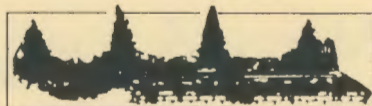
THIS JUST IN...

- The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) has changed its name and has dropped the word "Fund." It will now be known as the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).
- Another study on finding a "gay gene" has just been released in *The Journal of Nature Genetics*. National Institute of Health researcher, Dean Hamer, has just finished the second study involving around 40 families. Each family had at least two gay brothers. The study looked at the "X" chromosome and found a gene site on the chromosome that was similar in many of the gay brothers.

Although the study is not conclusive, it has provided more evidence linking genetics to sexual orientation. At least, the study has shown that there is enough evidence to launch a more definitive and conclusive study that would involve more subjects.

The researcher mentions that they do not believe that they will ever find a single gene that is responsible for sexual orientation. They feel that there are many genes which might be responsible, and perhaps the one they have now located is simply one of them.

- Representative Barney Frank, an openly gay Massachusetts Democrat, told the *Bay Windows* newspaper that it would be his "patriotic duty to make a list of all the closeted gay Republicans" in Congress if Republicans tried to overturn President Clinton's order



Barker Creek Nursery
LANDSCAPING AND GARDEN CENTER

Tom Hager
(616) 267-5972

7038 M-72 N.W., Williamsburg, MI 49690

Whitewater Landscaping & Lawn Care

Gordon Coy

(616) 267-9451

barring the denial of security clearances because of sexual orientation. It appears that there will be no reason for Frank to follow through on this, as there have been no challenges in the legislature to the presidential order.

- The City of Miami Beach has launched a campaign to attract gay tourists. South Beach has become a mecca for gay tourists from around the country and around the globe. The City realizes the economic benefits of the gay and lesbian community, and has decided to pursue them. We will now see more media advertisements luring us to gay-friendly Miami Beach.

In choosing to target gays, Miami Beach weighed whether the increase in gays would be a negative aspect for straight tourists. Their conclusion was that this would not impact that segment of their market.

IN THE NEWS: JOB PROTECTION AND PARTNER BENEFITS

by Richard Tuxbury

COORS:

What came as a welcome surprise to gay Americans was looked on as betrayal by conservative Christians. Coors Brewing Company extended health care benefits to those partners of homosexual employees. To be eligible, the couple must prove they live together and share financial obligations. A Coors spokesperson says, "We did a lot of research and of course people said you're going to have this backlash and that backlash... but it's pretty consistent with Coors' philosophy of treating its employees well."

Coors has long been known as a major contributor to very conservative causes, including The Heritage foundation and Free Congress Foundation who both campaign and propagandize against the "Gay Agenda." In fact, it is reported that the Coors Foundation, which is run by the Coors family, particularly brothers William, Jeffrey and Peter, gave almost six million dollars to conservative organizations in 1994 alone.

Coors has been boycotted by the gay community for their one-time negative stance on gay employees as well as the close ties to the anti-gay groups mentioned. Later, Coors spent advertising money in gay publications and sponsored some gay pride events. However, this was interpreted as insincere, since so much more was contributed to the anti-gay groups.

Conservative groups are furious. "It's kind of like a betrayal," said Christine O'Donnel, spokesperson for Concerned Women of America, which has a membership of 600,000 conservative women.

DISNEY:

The Disney Company will offer health insurance to live-in partners of gay and lesbian employees, as well as the partners' dependent children. Says spokesperson John Dreyer, "We made this decision because it brings our health benefits in line with our corporate non-discrimination policy."

The Rev. Lou Sheldon of the Traditional Family Values Coalition criticized this move by saying, "With the understanding that the homosexual agenda has penetrated Hollywood, it should come as no surprise that Disney now supports anti-family values." Rev. Sheldon became infamous for producing and distributing the anti-gay film, "The Gay Agenda," and lately has had Representative Peter

Hoekstra's ear. He is rumored to be the force behind this conservative Congressman's push to investigate how the federal government might be "endorsing the homosexual lifestyle."

Disney has decided that it will not offer these benefits to unmarried heterosexual couples.

CLINTON AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

President Clinton announced his support for legislation that would bar most job discrimination against gays and lesbians. He said, "This is wrong. Individuals should not be denied a job on the basis of something that has no relationship to their ability to perform their work." The endorsement is part of a continuing effort by Clinton to end discrimination against homosexuals, according to advisor George Stephanopoulos at a conference of Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is sponsored by Senators Kennedy and Jeffords and would bar discrimination, quotas or preferences in hiring based on sexual orientation. However, with the GOP controlled Congress, this bill has a slim chance of being passed. Nonetheless, the president felt it was necessary to speak out on this issue, and mentioned to the press that in 41 states it is perfectly legal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

VETERANS DEPARTMENT

In August, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs became the latest cabinet-level government department to add sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy. The HRC applauded the decision: "The VA is sending a clear message of fairness to its employees. When it comes to employment practices, the abilities and performance of the individual workers are what matter, not their sexual orientation."

MAINE BALLOT PROPOSAL

An anti-gay rights measure is on the November ballot here. It seeks to deny basic rights to gays, lesbians and other people by excluding them from a list of protected groups under Maine's anti-discrimination laws. It is strangely written, and is meant to overturn the protection that Maine now offers to its gay and lesbian citizens and visitors. A group, Maine Won't Discriminate, has formed to oppose this measure, which is very similar to the Colorado Amendment 2, (which is now before the U.S. Supreme Court and will be decided in June or July).

HAWAII MARRIAGE RIGHTS

A circuit judge in Hawaii has postponed a hearing on Baehr vs Lewin that could result in the legalization of same-sex marriage from September 1995 to July 1996. The delay will give the new commission time to complete its research on sexual orientation and the law.

Marge & Joanne's
BED & BREAKFAST

• accommodations for women •

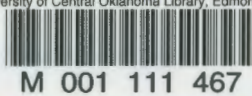
Duneswood



P.O. Box 457
Glen Arbor, MI 49636

616-334-3346

LITTLE TRAVERSE DIARY



by Zalmon Sherwood

"A SINGLE WOMAN"

Her lover left her, and her life became unbearable. The silence, the isolation, the loneliness. She entered therapy, but she needed something more—a sense of community, belonging, a place where she could be among les/bi/gay people.

An item appeared over a year ago in *Networking 45° North*—a Petoskey social group was meeting every Thursday at a restaurant. She called one of the contact persons for information. Then she resolved to make the 45-minute drive to Petoskey.

What she encountered at her first visit is every lesbian's nightmare—a table full of gay men. She took a deep breath, then took the one vacant seat right in the middle of the group. And from that moment on, oddly enough, she felt at home.

"Everyone was very friendly," she recalls. "They welcomed me and made me feel comfortable. That's all I needed."

She never misses a week. She has remained in the center and developed into the conscience of the group. Occasionally, she has introduced other women to the group, but they rarely return.

"Of course I would like to see more women attend," she says. "I always hope I might meet a new friend. But if I do meet that special woman, I'm not going to stop attending Thursday nights."

The Traverse City lesbian community has reached out to her, inviting her to the coffeehouse and various social events. It's a long drive from her rural home, but she makes every effort to support regional les/bi/gay events.

She is an attractive, intelligent woman with a responsible position in the northern Michigan business community. And she is closeted—except for Thursday nights, when she becomes an important part of the les/bi/gay community in the Little Traverse area.

"If my boss were to walk into the restaurant, I would be fired," she says. "For myself, it's worth the risk to be among people who accept me for who I am."

Next issue: a critique of the Petoskey social group.

GLAAD NEWS

GAY & LESBIAN ALLIANCE AGAINST DEFAMATION, INC.

Major Advances in GLAAD's Computers & Cyberspace Connections

With the ongoing support of Tom Rielly and Karen Wickre of Digital Queers GLAAD has made major inroads on the Infohighway. Thanks to a matching grant and DQ technical support we have outfitted our national offices with PowerMac computers, highspeed printers and networking capabilities. GLAAD will now be much more efficient and responsive when dealing with computer-based projects. We can also send staffers out on the road with computers to improve their productivity.

We are still finalizing and ironing out some kinks in our systems, but by fall we should be really ready to go in our mobilization for fair, accurate, and inclusive representation of our community. The next phase of this project is also being activated by board member Lesli Klainberg, who has shepherded the computer project along from its inception. This very vital and exciting next step is the process of bringing the Chapters on-line with computer systems of their own.

of the most important advances we have made over the establishment of the GLAAD InterNetwork (see "Plug Into the GLAAD InterNetwork"), an interactive e-mail network and Activation Tree, operating out of the LA office under the direction of Loren Javier. We are also stepping out onto the World Wide Web (<http://www.datalounge.com/glaad>)

GLAAD wants to extend its thanks to the many volunteers who have helped us (and continue to help us) along in this project. There have been several highly knowledgeable experts who have donated their time and talents in getting us up and running at breakneck speed. We especially want to thank Tom Rielly and Karen Wickre at Digital Queers in San Francisco, Eric Weingartner of Altura Systems Integration, Scott, and our resident volunteers in LA, Charlie Zweig, Bob Lafont, Bob Eicholz, Tim Owen, Brooks Graham and Phil Kinkade and in NY, Jim Held and Maria. We are seeking additional help from across the country and we encourage those of you who can volunteer advice and assistance to contact Morgan Gwenwald in the NY National office (glaadny@aol.com) You may reach Digital Quers at Digiquees@aol.com or info@dq.org.

Online Resources

"Exploiting Media Opportunities: How To Make Sure Lavender News I Black and White and Read All Over" is an instructional pamphlet available on the World Wide Web (<http://rt66.com/summers/media.html>). The text "focuses on organizing press conferences to secure media coverage on local lesbian and gay news stories."

The Youth Assistance Organization (YAO) promotes the positive uses of online media for lesbian, gay and bisexual teens. Through YAO, queer or questioning youth can participate in e-mail counseling (help@youth.org) and access a World Wide Web page (<http://www.youth.org/>).

A new web-site devoted to Ru Paul provides biographical, video and audio clips of the singer (<http://www.webcom.com/~sdp3/rupaul.html>).

The White House is also on the web-friendly (<http://www.whitehouse.gov>).

The "Online Transgender Resource Guide" (<http://www.zoom.com:80/cds.pub/>) features news, community resources, personals, and much more; e-mail inquiries to (comments@cdspub.com).

The campaign to get a lesbian or gay character on "Star Trek: Voyager" has established a web address (<http://www.gaytrek.com/gaytrek>); you may also write: Voyager Visibility Project, 1377 Fulton St., Ste. 3, San Francisco, CA 94117.

!OutProud!, the National Coalition of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual youth at (<http://www.brewersguild.com/outproud/>)

Carol Mortimer posts a weekly listing for gay TV content—kind of like a gay TV Guide. She has a website at (<http://pages.prodigy.com/NJ/Carol-mortimer/gay-TV-menu.html>.)

Children's Animated Television, a progressive non-profit that produces educational videos for children and teens on social issues, has a GLB teen advisor page at the WWW site (<http://www.usa.com/~furball>).

JOSEPH BERTUCCI—PROFILE

When I arrived at Joe Bertucci's office at the Old Town Playhouse, Joe was making a bagel run. One wall of his office was lined with a bookcase containing volumes of plays. That occupied most of my attention until our executive director arrived and we began our talk, each of us munching on a bagel.

"I went to California in 1980 and almost immediately started working at 20th Century Fox... the way everyone gets on the lot—when you get on the lot it's as a floater and then you have to get hired. And I got hired then full time and started working on a project called "Jessica Novak" which was a short-lived six week series. And then while I was there founded with another group of people the 20th Century Fox Repertory Theater."

From there Joe worked at various theaters in the area: The Los Angeles Actor's Theater, the Front Row Theater, the Theater in Melrose, the Santa Monica Playhouse.

"There were a number of theaters I worked at—and for—while I was in LA, some of them just for a show, some for a permanent position like the L.A.T."

But Joe ended up moving to Ventura where he ran the Gold Coast Repertory Theater which involved not only managing and directing the theater but also working with the Ventura Symphony, the Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra, and a dance theater.

"That was a lot of fun because I'd never done that—I'd never worked with a dance company like that and I really enjoyed watching them work—I would go and sit in on rehearsal three hours a day."

Joe had received his degree in theater from the University of South Florida. From there he moved to Atlanta where he worked at the Alliance Theater, the Atlanta Children's Theater, the Center for Puppetry Arts. At the end of about five years he moved to California.

"But I was in Atlanta when the epidemic broke out. It was 1979. I was living in this high-rise which was called appropriately "K-Y Castle." It was mostly gay. I lived on the fifteenth floor. One of the guys who lived on the fourteenth floor worked at the Center for Disease Control. He was an epidemiologist and privy to a lot that was going on there. He came upstairs and we were talking one night and he said there is this cancer that is only affecting gay men. I said that's impossible there can't be a cancer that knows who it is infecting."

Only a tiny article appeared in the paper. The community was totally unaware. By the time Joe moved west he became aware through the loss of friends how serious this was.

While in Southern California, Joe began to get involved as a volunteer in the food bank of Los Angeles AIDS Project. When he moved to Ventura he had an AIDS buddy and eventually became a member of the board of the Ventura AIDS Project. In 1988 he moved to San Francisco and started working with the East Bay AIDS Project.

No longer working in theater, Joe was now devoting full time to AIDS work. By day he worked in nursing homes which dealt primarily with AIDS patients, and did volunteer work the rest of the time.

When I first met Joe in 1990 in Marquette, he had a roommate named Earl. I asked him how he met Earl.

"While in San Francisco I facilitated a group of 18 men who were HIV+. Earl was in that group. I started giving him rides back and forth. When he first started in the group he was an extremely brilliant man in good health. At one point during support group he suffered a seizure and ended up with dementia. It was the first onset of any opportunistic infection he had. He had a history of epilepsy

as a young child. After that seizure he couldn't drive any more. Couldn't get around. His career as a botanist at Berkeley had come to an end... He had no family. I didn't want to see him wind up in a nursing home."

So, Joe brought Earl back to Joe's native home in the Upper Peninsula.

"Earl wanted to move to Alaska. He had spent a great deal of time in Alaska. And I thought, well, I'll take him to Marquette, and he won't know. And he always related to Marquette as if it were Alaska. There were moments of lucidity when he knew where he was but most of the time he thought he was in Alaska and referred to it that way."

Joe's family lived in nearby Ishpeming where Joe was raised—the oldest of fifteen children. The family welcomed Earl and supported Joe in his care-taking. Whenever Earl had to be hospitalized it was at Marquette General where he was placed on the seventh floor in oncology. One of the nurses on that floor was Scott Southwell, who eventually moved in with Joe and helped take care of Earl in his last days. Earl died in 1992.

While in Marquette Joe obtained the position of Director at the Marquette Historical Museum.

"It wasn't what I wanted to do. I ultimately ended up changing it into a theater because I started doing shows—we did three shows while I was there."

So, Joe began looking around and applied for the position he now holds at the Old Town Playhouse. He and Scott moved down to Traverse City in 1993.

I asked Joe how he got involved in Wellness Networks.

"Actually I called and said 'Can you suggest a group that I can attend that you may have that addresses multiple losses?' And they said 'Come on in and we'll talk about it. We're having a training.' They sent me information. I signed up for the training. I never really got a support group but I got involved and eventually I became president of the board."

"It has been great. The people I feel closest to in Traverse are associated with that organization. Even though we disagree sometimes, we care deeply about each other. And it has been great having Jim Carruthers there."

Thinking of the production last year of "Jeffrey" and this past summer of "Lonely Planet" I suggested that Joe has brought a lot of excitement to the Old Town Playhouse since he has been here.

"That was a good way to put it, John!... If you were to describe theater in the last half of the 20th century in America and you didn't have any gay plays you'd be missing the boat by a long shot. Most of the serious drama is dominated by gay plays and playwrights."

I asked about any plans for the OTP.

"Because it is a volunteer organization a lot of it has to come from the volunteers—where they want it to go. And we try to listen to everybody. The problem is we have 400 people with different interpretations. The challenge is to balance all this."



Joe—trying to look severe.