

NETWORKING

45

NORTH

VOLUME 12 • ISSUE 4 • WINTER 1998/99



Matt Shepard
1977-1998

Tributes to Matt on p13-17

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TWO MEN SUFFER ANTI-GAY ATTACK IN TRAVERSE CITY

One Perpetrator Escapes Charges

On Friday, October 2nd, two men were verbally harassed and physically attacked by two assailants shouting anti-gay epithets while following them home from a bar in Downtown Traverse City.

In the early morning hours, Traverse City residents Doug Bradley and Frank Stewart were heading home from Union Street Station and were followed by two other men who were chanting anti-gay epithets at them. The assailants began tripping, pushing and beating Bradley and Stewart with a wooden stick. Bradley phoned 911 for help but received no assistance. As the men neared Bradley's home, the assailants began punching and kicking them which resulted in a bruised Stewart and a broken nose and other injuries for Bradley. After a second call from Bradley, the police finally arrived and brought him to the hospital.

"This attack is a pure example of anti-gay bigotry," said Sean Kosofsky, Associate Director of Policy for the Triangle Foundation, a statewide civil rights, advocacy and anti-violence organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (glbt) residents of Michigan. "This man was targeted purely because of his sexual orientation and for no other reason. He didn't even know his assailants. It's an unfortunate reality that in 1998 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are still so widely preyed upon. These attacks are more common than people think.

Although Bradley is gay, the other victim, Frank Stewart is heterosexual. This signals a growing trend across the country. Attacks like those of Bradley and Stewart are similar to countless others tracked by the Triangle Foundation. According to a report released this past March by the Triangle Foundation and the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs; anti-glbt hate crimes increased by 12% in Michigan in 1997 and have *been* increasing for most of this decade. *One of the most significant increases in hate crimes occurred against heterosexuals perceived to be gay or lesbian.*

Local gay activist Jim Carruthers, echoed the community concern. "As a resident of Traverse City I think we need a stronger message from our elected and civic leaders that hate crimes and discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people is unacceptable."

The two perpetrators — James Johnson and Jeremy Jamrog have been arrested and charged with aggravated assault," while a third perpetrator who allegedly watched the attack and provided the get-a-way car, has not been charged with anything.



from the editor

These last few months have been one of the most visible periods of time in many years for gays and lesbians in the US. The religious extremists have teamed up to run a national ad campaign which promoted the concept of conversion therapy... in other words, they are saying that gays and lesbians would be able to change with just a little help. The ads, described by HRC as "a kinder, gentler homophobia," were run in the NY Times, among other papers, and we have reproduced an example of one of these elsewhere in this issue.

Matt Shepard's death came on the heels of these ads, and the media and the public seemed to conclude that "enough is enough!" Matt quickly became a symbol for all those whose murders and beatings went barely noticed. America found that discrimination was very much alive - tolerated in many places, overlooked elsewhere, and even encouraged in certain locations. The World looked on and more than once the word "hypocrites!" was aimed at the USA.

Nationally, it's been noted again that the gay vote has power, and in an exit-poll survey almost 5% of the voters identified themselves as gay or lesbian. We are identified as a group which can swing a close election.

Locally, gays and lesbians joined with many others to defeat Michelle McManus, a challenger for Bart Stupak's seat for the US Congress. In the last minutes of the campaign, McManus aired TV ads which were aimed at Stupak's support of gays and lesbians. These ads could not be ignored, as the candidate's photo was superimposed over photos of gay men in romantic situations. I heard the ads (and the candidate) called "disgusting," "mean and nasty," and even "sickening." Stupak called the ads a '30 second gay-bashing.' And, the TC Human Rights Commission was asked to look into the ad to see if they might require a response from the group - certainly a condemnation aimed at McManus appeared to be in order.

In Hawaii, the statewide referendum to change the definition of marriage was passed, thereby excluding gays and lesbians from the privilege and right of state-sanctioned marriage. In Alaska, another referendum was passed which specified that marriage was between members of the opposite sex, thereby eliminating the possibility of same-sex couples asking for this right.

Good news came from Wisconsin where voters elected an open lesbian, Tammy Baldwin, as their representative to Congress. In Washington State, Col. Margret Cammermeyer was defeated in her run for Congress, while in San Diego, Christine Kehoe also lost in a close race.

The newsletter is looking for contributions for 1999. If you have a story to tell - even anonymously - please call me to discuss it or send it on. We look forward to hearing from you this year.

Richard Tuxbury

Friends North, Inc., P.O. Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562 (616) 946-1804 (This is a general information line answered by Third Level.) To contact the organization directly, please call a board member.

FRIENDS NORTH is an organization of lesbians, gay men, bi-sexuals, transgendered and their friends from northwestern lower Michigan. Located in Traverse City, we provide social activities, a newsletter, information line, workshops, a website and a scholarship 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 Grace Episcopal Church at the Corner of Washington & Boardman the first Tuesday of every month (except August) at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please call ahead to the president if you have an item for the agenda

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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING and notices are run without charge. Please submit in writing or by calling the editor (and leave ad on machine 2713042 or by email.)

DISPLAY ADVERTISING in Networking 45° North is available in Business Card size - \$25.00 per space per issue or an annual rate of \$100.00 for 5 issues. Inserts and larger sized ads are available. Please call Sheryl Layton - 616-938-9294/trufalogal@aol.com

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.)

DEADLINES: #1 February 15, 1999

ADDRESS CHANGES: Please notify us in advance if a change is coming. Call John Evans, 922-0746, or e-mail changes to jdevans@gtii.com.

SUBSCRIPTIONS/MEMBERSHIPS: \$15.00/single; \$25.00/couple. Please send checks or money orders to: Friends North, P.O. Box 562, Traverse City, MI 49685-0562.

DISTRIBUTION Networking is published 5 times per year. Copies are sent bulk-mail in a plain envelope to approximately 700 households. Additional copies are available at select local establishments.



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from the president

It's been quite a year! Back in December you, the members, elected me to the board. Since then we've made some big strides. Starting out with a limited budget we managed to pull off some awesome events- High Tea, Bike Tour, Pride Day, and the Autumn Hike, to name a few. We've also made some important strides that we hope will push Friends North into the twenty-first century.

Among the accomplishments of the board are the Friends North Web site which went on-line in July and a revised set of by-laws that, when passed by the members at the annual meeting in December will replace the outdated 1987 by-laws. Also, most importantly I feel is the Board's unanimous decision to change our IRS tax status from a non-profit to 501-c3 corporation. This in itself, we feel will open doors for the organization which have never been an option for us before. We look forward to doing grant writing, soliciting donations from corporations and individuals-all of which will be tax deductible for the donors. It is the Board's intent and hope to tap this resource and to use it to better serve the community of Northern Michigan.

I am urging everyone to attend the annual meeting, scheduled for December 8. We will be discussing the By-law changes and other issues which could change Friends North forever. After all, YOU are Friends North-the board is here to execute your wishes.

Thank You, Kirk

Common Voices, the Friends North Rap Group

Common Voices, the Friends North Rap Group, extends a warm welcome to everyone in our g/l/b/t community to attend all our monthly events. Common Voices is an excellent resource for people just entering our community.

Our Rap Group meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the main floor church hall at Grace Episcopal Church, 349 Washington St., Traverse City. Parking is available in back and you can use the rear (north) entrance. Common Voices people will be near the main church entrances until 7:30 to welcome

and direct first-timers. Rap sessions often include g/l/b/t topics and videos, but more importantly include time for anyone who needs to talk in a safe, comfortable environment.

In addition to rap sessions, Common Voices sponsors "Common Nibbles" — the 4th Wednesday (4:00 pm monthly local restaurant gathering. A different local dining establishment is chosen each month. Common Nibbles is an excellent complement to our rap sessions, offering quality interaction (and quality food!). You don't need to spend a lot of money, just come to the restaurant and ask for the Common Voices group.

Common Voices regularly tries to sponsor additional activities such as potlucks, hikes, video nights, etc., thanks to those who want to keep the spirit of our group strong.

Common voices offers a free subscription to our monthly newsletter (which is also a reminder of our gatherings and special events). Please phone Tom at the number listed below to receive your copy. We need your name(s) and mailing address. (Phone numbers are appreciated but optional.) Our mailing list is confidential — no names/addresses will be given out by anyone in Common Voices.

For any information about Common Voices/Rap Group/Common Nibbles/CV newsletter/special events, phone Tom (275-6127).

Our December meeting is on December 9. On December 16 we plan a joint potluck with PFLAG. This will also be at Grace Episcopal Church, upstairs in the parish hall. Call for information.

Triangles & Rainbows

A Northwestern Michigan College Student Group

"Triangles and Rainbows is a group of lesbian, gay, straight, and bisexual students at NMC who together believe that celebrating diversity is fundamental to a healthy community and future."

Our first event as a group was this fall, was participating in the Grand Traverse Area AIDS Walk. In October, we celebrated National Coming Out Day by hosting some campus events that were made open to both students and faculty in order to help raise visibility.

Our most recent effort included sponsoring a play that was performed solely by Chris J. Franklin in late October called, "The Only Worse Thing You Could Have Told Me..." by Dan Butler, showcasing over a dozen gay characters and the conflicts that haunt them.

Triangles & Rainbows continued next page



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We are now preparing for a number of events. The first is the coming of folk artist Coca Love Alcorn to NMC for an evening performance Wednesday, November 18th. Coco, out of Canada, has opened for female folk artist Ani Difranco, and is beginning to make a name for herself in the folk industry. Doors will open at 8:00, with the performance starting at 8:30 opened by Erik Milliron, NMC student and treasurer of Triangles and Rainbows, then continue with two 30 minute sets by Coco.

We are also sponsoring a play on the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and the 10th, 11th and 12th of December. The piece, "Days In the Life" features a collection of short scenes and monologues from several pieces showcasing young adults, their relationships and their experiences. A musical talent tentatively scheduled for a spring performance is a two-girl band called Leavin' Dodge. They perform covers of popular songs as well as their own work.

We are also planning to attend a gay youth leadership conference at Eastern Michigan University in late March. The Queer Youth Summit is in it's fourth year and pulls together schools from as far as Northern Michigan University. The conference holds workshops to educate queer youth on important issues facing them and the gay community. e-mail address: tandrgrout@hotmail.com • Phone: (616) 922-1673

**** WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!****

Please communicate with us on anything you think would be helpful to us. — Thank You.

 **Out 'n
About**
A Lesbian Coffeehouse

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

Upcoming Events

December - No Coffeehouse - Happy Hanukkah/Merry Christmas

We are also thinking about planning a trip to Detroit to see a WNBA game in the next year, so stay tuned.

Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse is generally held on the third Saturday of each month except for this year there are few changes in dates. Please see related Out 'n About Upcoming Events Calendar. No coffeehouses will be held for 1998 in April, July, August, or December. The Coffeehouse comes alive between 7:00 and 11:00 pm at the Unity Church, 3600 Five Mile Road, Traverse City. Smoke-free and Chem-free with a cover donation of \$3-5 (\$5-10 if we have entertainment). Coffee, tea and snacks are free; soft drinks are available.

The coffeehouse is managed by an informal gathering of lesbians who call themselves the Steering Committee. Please consider joining the Steering Committee so that your ideas can be heard. The committee meets for a couple hours on the Monday prior to the 3rd Saturday coffeehouse or Monday prior to event, for planning of each month's event. For coffeehouse information, or location of committee meeting, call Brenda at 946-2708—leave message.

Sued for self-defense

This morning, I awoke to the sounds of childish delight and childish disgust. Curious, I went to my front door to see the object of the children's interest. There, on the sidewalk to my home, lay a dead squirrel, obviously flattened by a car tire. Too far from the street, it had to have been put there. I can only imagine by whom. And if they think that they're only antagonizing me, what about the impression it must have made on those children?

My name is Doug Bradley. Perhaps you've heard about me. On October 2, 1998, as I was leaving Union Street Station. my friend and I passed Dillinger's Pub where two men started following us, and as we crossed State Street, they began yelling obscenities at us.

The closer we came to my home in Central neighborhood, the more intense their onslaught became until, at one point, I asked them why they were harassing us and they responded, "Because we're going to kill you faggots!"

We naturally quickened our pace, but they caught up, for the first time becoming physical, tripping, kicking, and hitting us. As we came into my front yard, one of the assailants viciously hit my friend in the back of the head and, unable to stand the blows or the abuse any longer, I blindly struck out with a beer bottle from the six-pack I was carrying, at the nearest attacker. The prosecuting attorney said that I "escalated" the crime by retaliating in this manner, but I ask the prosecutor and you, what would you do in the same situation? Now I find out that, even though I was the victim, I am being sued by one of my attackers for defending myself! Is this justice?

I ran into my home and called 911. The assailants began throwing rocks from my rock garden at the front of my home, bashing in my door. I ran back outside, clutching my cordless telephone, both to check on my friend and to hopefully frighten the attackers away by informing them that I'd called 911. One of them responded, "I don't care who the f___ you—you called, I'm going to kill you, faggot!"

I dialed 911 again. Still holding the telephone, I was attacked from behind; being choked until I almost lost consciousness and pummeled with fists until I fell to the ground. One of them picked up a rocking chair rocker from an old chair in my yard and savagely beat me about my head, shoulders, and back, resulting in a broken nose, loose teeth, abrasions, cuts, bruises, and swollen lips. I distinctly remember a third person standing there, coldly observing as I was beaten, then giving his friends a ride away from the crime scene, yet he was never charged with anything...

I would like to say that Sgt. Joe McCarthy was, by far, the most efficient, caring, and sympathetic police officer I have ever encountered in Traverse City. I honestly believe that he did his job to the best of his ability.

Now, whatever happens is up to the court system, but I firmly believe that it's high time the residents of Traverse City wake up and realize that it is no longer the wonderfully quaint All-American storybook town that my ancestors hailed from and I've loved all my life, but a city of thinly-veiled hatred.

M. Douolas J. Bradley

from the community

Coming out:

an act of courage and love

*(Previously published on National Coming Out Day in the TC Record Eagle)
By Matt McCormick*

As a four year old I remember clearly the day I pointed to a picture of a pop music teen idol in a magazine and announced to my mother, "I think he's cute."

Her reaction was clearly one of shock and disappointment: "Boys do not say things like that about other boys!," she said sternly. Her surprise was my surprise because to me this seemed as natural as anything I might imagine.

When I hear someone claim that one's sexual orientation is chosen I can't help but wonder when that person made their own conscious "choice" themselves. I believe that if these people were truly honest with themselves they would realize that of course they did not choose their sexual orientation and that such a notion is not only absurd but also insulting to those struggling with the idea that they might be homosexual.

For the most part homosexuality can be discussed openly and honestly today without anywhere near the degree of shame or taboo that was once associated with the topic as little as five or ten years ago. A little visibility goes a long, long way, and isn't it amazing what we've learned as a result? Gays and lesbians are in all walks of life and in all professions. They lead normal lives, own homes, raise children, attend PTA meetings, go to church, run for public office (let's face it, they're pretty boring! Many hateful stereotypes still exist out there and they are all too frequently used but they are being destroyed every day through real life examples.

True progress towards understanding our differences happens only when fears and prejudices are confronted through dialogue, discussion, and visibility. The people who have the most positive attitudes about homosexuals are those who say they know one or more gay person well.

I've found often that the voice of opposition to accepting homosexuality as a naturally occurring element of human nature comes most from people are not homosexuals. They speak from hearsay; I speak from personal experience. Homosexuality is not a choice. The

only choice that comes in all of this is the choice of deciding how you'll live your life. I was "7 before I gained enough courage and self-respect to come out of the closet and embrace my true identity free from the shame and self-loathing that I was brought up to feel.

If someone comes out to you you should be flattered. By such an honest and personal admission that person is saying to you, "I care so much about you and our relationship that I am willing to risk possible alienation and rejection by you so that you will know me for who I truly am. Until now I have been living a lie and hiding my real self from you but you are too important to me to continue lying." When you stop to consider the message it's quite a remarkable gift to receive. If our purpose here is to treat others in the same manner as we would wish to be treated then I believe the answer of how to react in this situation seems self-evident.

When it comes to the liberation associated with coming out perhaps Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign, states it best: "Let me assure you that while being an openly lesbian, gay, or bisexual person in this society isn't easy, it is so much more gratifying than being in the closet. Lying and hiding, worrying that someone will discover your secret, consumes a lot of personal energy and detracts from the quality of a person's life. No one should be denied the opportunity to thrive and flourish as a full human being because his or her sexual orientation is different from that of the majority."

Sunday, October 11 is the 10th anniversary of National Coming Out Day. This day commemorates the historic '87 March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights. With hundreds of events in all 50 states NCOD increases visibility and awareness about equal rights for lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

(Below is the bio I WANTED to use but the Record-Eagle made me re-write it!)

Traverse City resident, Matt McCormick, did not choose his sexual orientation. He did, however, choose to marry his partner of seven years in 1996.

It's That Time of Year Again...

Alan Williams

Winter is icummen in, Lhude sing Goddamm, Raineth drop and staineth slop, And how the wind doth ramm! Sing: Goddamm. Ezra Pound, "Ancient Music" It's November 2 as I sit here at the keyboard. Mother Nature thumbs her nose at us with a chilly reminder that, although we got a break in October, winter is making its frigid and snowy way down from the north to grace our beautiful countryside with a blanket of white. Well, at least some of us are hoping for the blanket of white, anyway. We can bid a six-month farewell to swimming, boating, cute men and women (a.k.a. "eye candy"), sunburns, mosquitoes, and tourist-fed traffic jams, and say hello to curling up in front of a warm fire, shoveling snow, skidding on ice,

(It's That Time continued next page)

Ronald D. Jones

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shoveling snow, skiing, snowboarding, and lest I forget, shoveling snow. Oh, did I mention there was snow to be shoveled?

For all those people getting ready to trade in the summer ahhs for the winter blahs, it's the time of year to steel yourself for the inevitable. Yes, folks, don't kid yourselves; you knew this season was coming. Don't let this winter get you down, though! Here are a few survival tips for the newcomer to northern Michigan winters:

1. Extra pounds can be a good thing. Instead of worrying about your waistline all winter and wondering how you're going to slog through Blizzard #1,487 of the season to get to that gym, follow the course of nature and let those extra pounds sit there for a while. (Hey, boys, did you ever notice that the "big fat queen" you've been putting down all summer doesn't have to waste half his energy shivering in the winter?)
2. Winter is a great excuse to get in extra snuggling time. It's especially handy for all those guys who like the "bear" crowd. Who needs a soft, fuzzy blanket when a soft, fuzzy man is available? Men and women alike can use the classic "It's too cold and snowy to go anywhere tonight" line to bring themselves a little closer to their mates. Ah, bonding. . . .
3. Winter does not mean the death of fashion. For all those who believe that winter is the season of drab plaid flannel, remember that layers of clothing are the best way to keep warm, and if you coordinate them right, the best way to show off half a new wardrobe at once. Forget the oversized mega-coats from hell; get yourself a sharp-looking turtleneck and wear something really bright on top of it. Unless, of course, you're like me and you have enough padding to make layers a non-essential.
4. Get plenty of light in the winter. Did you think the Holiday Blues were just a psychological thing? Not necessarily. Some people have a condition called Seasonal Affective Disorder, where the reduced daylight hours of the winter months can actually induce depression. If you're one of the people who suffers from this condition and you have a lot of money, you can always go south of the equator for the winter, since it's summer down there. If you aren't, then talk to your doctor about solutions. There are special lights called full-spectrum lights that are a bigger help than just sitting closer to that old incandescent bulb you've got hanging in the laundry room.
5. Try winter sports. Okay, if you simply must go out and expend loads of energy in your personal Battle of the Bulge, and if you simply can't stand the idea of exercising indoors (where there's less chance for you to get to know hypothermia on an intimate basis), and if you've never tried hopping on a pair of skis or strapping snowshoes to your boots, give it a shot. By all means, bundle up, though; it wouldn't do to head to SideTraxx afterwards and spend half your time there trying to get your eyelashes to thaw.
6. Winter is a great time to polish your writing skills. Maybe you've already tried the winter sports gig and it didn't work for you, or you're getting bored sitting around the house alone and it's too early to go out to the bar. Or maybe you're snowed in and you're ready to throw the television set out the window if

you see another show about hand-made Christmas ornaments. Get yourself a pen and a piece of paper, and write a letter to someone you haven't heard from in a while. (That's right, I said "pen and paper." Anyone can sit down at a typewriter or a computer and crank out a mini-epic to send off to someone, but for that really personal touch, try writing that letter by hand. You may find yourself choosing words with greater care when you run the risk of a hand cramp after a couple of pages.) Try your hand at any kind of writing you fancy-journals, letters, poetry, prose, non-fiction. Put some quiet music on, then, and get to work. The time will pass more quickly. You may even find that you've written something to submit to Networking (hint, hint).

7. Winter is a fantastic time to go shopping. "Going shopping" doesn't mean spending next year's salary in a mad rush. Window shopping is often just as fun. (One of the things I love to do is to go window shopping with a friend or group of friends and make a day of it, complete with lunch and sometimes even a matinee show at the cinema.) Going shopping often either satisfies your need for human contact or reminds you why you've been staying home alone in the first place.

Whatever you choose to do, I hope you'll add "attending Friends North" events to your list. They're a great way to meet new people and relieve some of the doldrums the winter can bring with it.

Stereotypes:

Gay brothers and Lesbian sisters

Chris Convissor

It's awfully difficult to write with a cat in your lap. Oops I just fell into a stereotype didn't I? A lesbian with a cat... whatta shock. But it's true... he keeps pawing at my hand and trying to take it away from the keyboard and bring it to him. Pet Me!!!

The thing about words is you think you know what they mean until you investigate. Stereotype's first definition is (in the Britanica Dictionary): "A plate taken in type metal from a matrix, as of paper, reproducing the surface from which the matrix was made."

Hmm.

You have to read all the way down to the fourth definition to get "A conventional or hackneyed expression, custom, or mode of thought."

Hackneyed. Well, I thought I knew what stereotyped meant.

Plod over and get the other half of the dictionary down. (I know I can use the computer's dictionary, but what dictionary is that?)

Hackneyed: "Worn out by frequent use; trite."

The thing about stereotypes is I hate falling into them. As in Lesbian: "Butch, mechanic, truck driver, hates men...." well you get the picture. And occasionally that has happened in my life Only I know there is this other side of me that would just thrill my mother: I like doing laundry. My voice has gotten quite high on occasion. I cry at Christmas commercials, or as the older generation often says:

(Stereotypes continued next page)

Butch in the streets, femme in the sheets. Arrggh! I did it again. Another damn stereotype! I resist being a butch, but let's face it not many women have a very strong upper body and make a living with it. Those of us that do have a strong upper body and make a living with it generally live with women. Don't know why. It's a damn stereotype.

So if I'm just a plate taken from type metal reproducing the surface I came from does that mean there's an iota of truth in some stereotypes?

Stereotypes are worn, hackneyed expressions, overused to the point of being trite. I think the truth is somewhere in between. I think observations are made without understanding and from these observations stereotypes are born..so there are some truths in there..but not truths from a point of understanding. So, are they still stereotypes if you understand where it's coming from? I dunno.

All I know is I hate falling into them but then I have to recognize when it can get confusing.

Whenever anyone asks me what the differences are between men and women the first image that comes to mind is when we were camping in Saugatuck and woke up to men having breakfasts with candleabra's and souffles, and all the women with their heads bent under the open hoods of cars.

The second image that comes to mind is when we stopped behind a disabled vehicle leaving the Michigan Womyns Fest one year. Just as we reached the car a man pulled up from a nearby garage. He poured gasoline down the carburetor and was attempting to start the car when flames shot out the carb and caught on some extra gas that spilled on the engine. As he jumped out and stared at it for a minute one of the women whipped off her flannel shirt (and since we'd just left the festival she was au natural)and put out the blaze.

After another pregnant pause the guy spoke,"Guess I shoulda done that, huh?"

One year we were looking at old family 8 mm movies of Christmases past. Among the six kids playing, my older brother had a baby Hoover with its own light. He also proudly mugged for the camera while ironing on his very own ironing board. With his beaming face he was the pride of the household; of course not to be upstaged, I ran by him and towards the camera with my 6 shot indigo fluorescent rubber tipped space gun, exulantly dressed in my new cowboy boots and hat. At this point in our little cinemania

we just had to turn to Mom and ask, " How could you not have known?"

Recently my older brother told me that at the request of several lesbians, he and a few other gay male friends were asked to spend time with the lesbians sons. Lesbians tend to have sons because so many use artificial insemination and for some reason being AI'd tends to throw male children. In any case, there were forty or so boys that needed male role models in Kalamazoo. I had to ask," Why? So they can learn how to cook and sew?"

A neighbor living next to my Mom needed help with his car. My older brother and I offered to help Mr. B. We drove to Farm and Fleet for the oil and filter. As I looked up the parts he paced impatiently saying, "I don't know why you're doing this..we could take it to one of those quickie places. Now I'll have to find some way to dispose of the oil." Geez, you'd think it was nuclear acid.

" Just shutup." I growled,"This is the way I nurture."

As we approached the cashier, she looked at the quarts of oil and the filter I had placed on the belt and then looked at my brother and quipped," Oh she's got your work cut out for you."

Yea, right, I'm thinking.

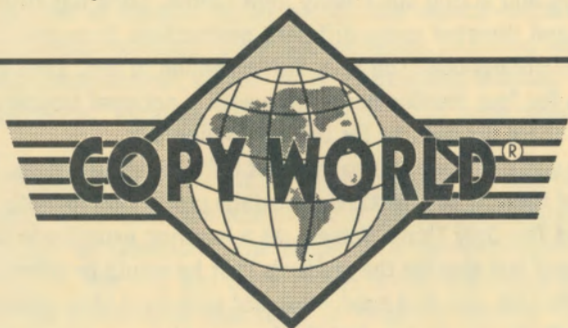
I turn and see my brother Jim doing this butch Nathan Lane thing like ,"Yeah...I guess so."

What is up with that?

That was just the beginning. We had to find the particular polish I was looking for at an auto parts place. Jim followed me around the corners of the store like a puppy lost in a maze. The standard three or four guys with nothing better to do on a Sunday than hang out at the parts counter (okay! It's a stereotype, but I swear it's true!!!)and see what turns up, eyed us speculatively. Finally the counter guy approached and asked Jim, not looking at me,what we were looking for.

"Do you have any 3M fine grit, polishing compound. Liquid, not paste?" I ask. Still not looking at me, the guy shows Jim where the polish is.

"Perfect!" I reply, placing it on the counter. The human fixtures holding up the counter elbow Jim knowingly saying,"Eh! The little lady's got your day planned, huh?" As if absorbing the concentrated straight testosterone Jim does that neanderthal man thing again,"Yup! The little lady's got me working!!!" and when we get out to the car I whap him on the arm.



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"What's up with that? Did you want me to tell them you had your Hoover all polished and ready to go?"

"Ow!" Jim replies, rubbing the place where I hope a bruise turns up in a day or two. "I dunno. What was I supposed to say?"

"Don't be doing that straight man thing! Sheesh! It gives me the creeps."

To his credit my brother did redeem himself. He was on the golf course with 3 other gay guys, none of whom knew each other very well. As the conversation progressed it turned out they all had lesbian sisters. Casually, one of the guys mentioned his sister was a star basketball player when she attended college. One of the other guys mentioned his sister had played varsity softball, the other guy's sister had been a rugby player. Jim piped up and said, "Chris was the only female in her college wrestling class."

At the next hole, one of the guys said his sister worked for UPS. "Mine delivers auto parts."

"Mine drives a service van for AT&T."

Jim proudly announced I operated a bulldozer.

A few holes later Jim asked what kind of vehicles the sisters all drove: one had a Toyota, one had a Subaru, one had a 4 wheel drive vehicle. Jim fudged and said I owned a semi, a Peterbilt, to be exact.

At the last hole one of the players announced his sister had just finished painting their Mom's entire house. Another said his sister had reroofed their Mom's house. The third guy said his sister had trimmed trees for their Mom. They looked at Jim expectantly and from his par 3 putt he answered, "My sister rented a backhoe and put in new drain tiling all the way around Mom's house."

Well you can see where all this one upmanship went.

I suppose the biggest surprise about gay men and lesbian women came for me one day when I walked into a bar after a long day at the utility company. The water hole had been deeper than usual and muckier than usual and the backhoe operator (not me this time) had snagged the gas. There I stood in mud up to my ass waiting two hours while the consumer power guys came from another job. The two repair guys for the gas company were friendlier than usual and made quick work of the repair. Nevertheless we had to work late and I was dog-tired. So when I arrived at the local gay hangout for a beer, lo and behold were my two gas boys. Two gas, gay boys.

They grinned like we were old buddies and low fived me and said, "We kind of figured.."

"Well, I didn't." I confessed. "You totally blew past my gaydar."

"You had your mind on other things." one of them remarked, motioning me to sit and have a beer with them. The other one looked me over, eyeing the same blue clay he wore on his work jeans. "Dontchya just hate the way this adds five extra pounds to our figures?" he asked me.

Maybe the thing with stereotypes is they're a lot like words: You can think you know what they mean until you investigate.

local news

Notes from the Theatre Stage

by Charles Westerfield

The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me came to NMC's theatre stage in October. Directed and performed by Chris Franklin, it is a series of fourteen monologues written and originally performed by Dan Butler. Butler is noted to be the one of the only out gay actors who has gained national attention. Readers might recognize Butler from his role on the popular show *Frasier* as the disc jockey/radio talk show host, Bulldog. *The Only Thing Worse...* is a collection of monologues of characters that deal with various issues that many of us can relate to such as coming out, building an intimate relationship with that "special person", confronting homophobia and losing best friends to AIDS. The title comes from a monologue of a son reflecting on his broken relationship, which is finally on the mend, with his father.

The performance, approximately an hour and a half long, is filled with scenes that make the audience laugh at the every day reality of being gay/lesbian at the same time as offering us an opportunity to reflect on that which is important in our lives - our friendships with one another and our loved ones. The monologue that Chris describes as his favorite is the last one of the performance. In this monologue, we meet Leslie. Leslie is a volunteer who takes meals to persons with AIDS. In the course of his volunteering, he meets a gentleman named JB. The audience is privileged to observe the transformation that Leslie undergoes during his time with JB. Leslie starts out very skeptical about the situation he finds himself in, but by the end of the monologue, we see how Leslie has formed a very special relationship with JB. In fact, Leslie recognizes that he has fallen, at least on some level, in love with JB. He recognizes that JB has come to be held in a very special place in his heart. And when JB passes away, Leslie realizes that JB has taught him many important lessons that he can use later in life.

Chris comes to NMC from the Ann Arbor area. He is studying theatre and communications and "*The Only Thing Worse*"... was Chris' NMC directorial debut. However, Chris is no stranger to the stage. Performing and acting since early high school, Chris has been featured in and directed many different productions throughout high school and professionally on tour. Before coming to NMC, Chris toured 17 states for four months performing with a national troupe of actors who share his passion for the performing arts.

Chris was originally approached last fall by Jill Beauchamp, NMC's director of theatre, to direct the mainstage production for Fall, 1998. Chris used *The Only Thing Worse...* as a learning experience for not only himself but also for the students that he would be directing in *Days in the Life*. The first production not only gave Chris some more valuable stage experience, but it also provided an opportunity to the students he would be directing in *Days* an opportunity to see the results of his directorial vision and practice since *The Only Thing*

(Notes— continued on next page)

Worse... only features one actor and Chris filled that role as well. The Only Thing Worse... served not only practical purposes for Chris. It was also an experience of personal growth and gratitude. Chris is very mindful that the theatre community was the first to embrace him fully. He saw his direction, production and performance of The Only Thing Worse... as a love letter back to the theatre community as a very personal thank you.

Chris is not finished with his directing experiences this semester yet either. He is busy directing a group of NMC students in a production that will take the stage in early December entitled Days In the Life. Days... is an original collection of short scenes and monologues arranged by Chris that will highlight young adults and their experiences in building interpersonal relationships.

Chris is very excited about "Days in the Life" because not only is it material that the younger NMC theatre students can relate to since it focuses on young adults. Most of the pieces are from the Young Playwrights of the Walden Theatre Conservatory in Kentucky. Most of these playwrights are in their teens. He hopes that the parents of the many students come to the performance to see another perspective that they might have forgotten about, that is, what it's like to be young and building interpersonal relationships. Also included in this production are two pieces by David Ives entitled "Sure Thing" and "English Made Simple", both of which also focus on the experiences of young adults. He picked this theme to follow because he feels that is an easy theme for theatre students to portray since it is close to their real lives.

Outside of the theatre, Chris also serves as the Vice President to Triangles and Rainbows, NMC's gay and lesbian student group. Also, as a new journey, He is serving as a resident assistant in one of NMC's residence halls (also known as "dorms", but don't call them that around people involved with residence life!) Chris hopes to continue acting and performing a very long time. However, he also hopes to focus on the preservation of human rights, especially for young adults. Chris is a vocal advocate of human rights. He feels very strongly that his roles as an activist and performing artist can complement each other many different ways. He is particularly focused on how important it is that roles models are for our youth. He doesn't feel that there are enough of them. He greatly values the support that he received from the theatre community as he continues on his life long journey of coming out. He feels that he is called to offer a hand to those who come after him, just as those who came before him gave their him their support. While he doesn't believe in the practice of outing anyone, he does firmly believe that closeted gay actors have much more to gain by coming out than by staying in the closet. Chris is in his second year at NMC. Because he was just named a new resident assistant, he plans on staying at NMC for a third year. He is looking forward to continuing his studies both at NMC and beyond.

Days in the Life is coming to the stage December 3,4,5 and 10,11, and 12th. It will take place in the theatre in the Science and Math Building, Room 217. Cost is only \$3 for students and \$5 for community members.

Club Flamingo: A Tribute

T. Neil Hilton

Recently, the deluge of anti-gay speech, actions and symbolic gestures has increased to an extent unseen in recent memory. This is made all the worse when one considers the great strides our community has made over the past twenty years. The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement is haltingly making progress. We have achieved much — yet have even greater challenges ahead.

Within the space of a few weeks a powerful leader of our country disparaged us horribly, a young gay man was crucified, religious fanatics have denied being accomplices to murder, hate mongers have called for the execution of all gay people and common sense has been swept under the rug.

This is all the more demoralizing when one observes our community's internal divisiveness. Such as when one of our most respected national organizations endorses the election to high public office of a member of the opposing team.

This was my state of mind early this evening.

Then, tonight, as with almost every Thursday for the past seven years, I went to a bar in Pontiac with several of my good friends. The bar is called Club Flamingo and it's proprietor is Reginald Doyon (Reggie).

The Club Flamingo has been a bar in Pontiac for over thirty years. Up until eight years ago it's clientel was the workers of Pontiac's automobile factories. In 1990, Reggie purchased the bar with his retirement money. Initially, he ran it as he bought it, as a "straight" bar.

In his second year of ownership, Reggie had accumulated enough money to take a chance at serving the glbt community in an establishment far removed from most of gay Detroit. When I first went to Reggie's, the bar was in horrible shape, it was in a very bad section of town and we couldn't believe that anyone could think that a gay bar would be successful under such circumstances.

Since that time, Reggie has reinvested all of his money back into the bar. Slowly and patiently, he tore out walls, improved the parking lot, put in landscaping and bought the vacant houses that surrounded his business. He didn't tear down those houses, he remodled them and opened them up to glbt people that needed a place to rent.

(Club Flamingo continued on page 12)

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CLASSIFIEDS

All classified announcements are run without charge. Please email them to <tux001@aol.com>, submit them in writing to Friends North, or call 616-271-3042 and leave the advertisement on the answering machine - along with a contact phone number.

PERSONALS:

ME: Large, rugged, educated, somewhat cultured, nurturing, ex-soldier and sometimes-activist. Mid 30's; HiV-neg; . Avid gardener, motorcyclist and new to area. **YOU:** college educated preferred but not req'd., adventuresome, independent. Not Too: Fat, thin, drunk, etc., or otherwise unbalanced. HiV-neg gay male. **US:** Let's see what amazing things we can pull off together. Write to Bob Buck, 7 Bowerman Rd., Manistee, MI 49660 (issue 1)

21 year old crossdresser who wants to be transgendered. Outgoing; enjoys long walks, biking, movies. Looking for a roommate and long term relationship. Write to 1627 Woodward Avenue, Traverse City, MI 49684 - 947-1330 (issue 4)

HOUSING:

Room for rent in brand new home: 10 minutes from town. Large bedroom with double closet, bathroom with large garden tub and skylight. Kitchen and laundry privileges. Looking for clean, professional, responsible, nonsmoker. \$300/mo. includes all utilities except L.D. phone. Call Kirk, days @ 935-1888, evenings @ 943-7879 or e-mail to: DESIGNS5@aol.com. (issue4)

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 5)

REPORT HATE CRIMES!! Call The Triangle Foundation at 1-888-442-9287. (ongoing)

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 1)

GROUPS:

FRIENDS NORTH MEETINGS: The Friends North Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month (Except August) at 6:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, corner of Washington and Boardman Streets, across from the Old Courthouse. ALL ARE WELCOME (ongoing)

FRIENDS NORTH TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE: This support group includes crossdressers, transsexuals, transgendered and those somewhere in between. Meetings are held monthly at Third Level in Traverse City. Spouses, friends, and S/O's are also invited to attend in this smoke/alcohol free environment. Call 616-946-1804 for more information. (ongoing)

COMMON VOICES-THE FRIENDS NORTH RAP GROUP is a group of men and women who get together monthly for informal discussion, often on a particular topic. Please join us on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at Grace Episcopal Church, 349 Washington, T.C., at 7:30pm. For information, call Tom at 275-6127. (ongoing)

GLSEN, the Gay-Lesbian-Straight Education Network, is meeting monthly in Traverse City. They welcome all interested educators. For more information, call M'Lynn at 943-5050. (ongoing)

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 and encouraged to attend P-FLAG meetings. Meet at Grace Episcopal Church every third Wednesday of the month, at 7:30 pm. For more information call Patrice Stewart at 933-6628(ongoing)

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

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. (ongoing)

TRIANGLES AND RAINBOWS: A group of lesbian, gay, straight and bisexual students at NMC who together believe that celebrating diversity is fundamental to a healthy community and future. To help or participate contact T&R at 922-1512 or email at <t_and_r_group@hotmail.com> (ongoing)

TRAVERSE CITY FRONTRUNNERS If you are interested in running, call Jim or Kirk at 933-5250 and leave your name, number, and that you are interested in Frontrunners. He will return your call with information on where to meet. All ages and abilities are welcome. (ongoing)

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 pm 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. (ongoing)

NORTHERN MICHIGAN WOMYN'S CHOIR is always looking for new voices. To obtain more information or for a performance schedule, please contact Deb at 276-9357. (ongoing)

GAY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Meetings for gays and lesbians are held each Wednesday at 5:30 pm and Saturday at 11:00 am at Grace Episcopal Church, corner Washington and Boardman Streets in TC. For further info, call John at 922-0746 or Hilda at 938-9294. (ongoing)

RAINBOW FRIENDS-ALPENA reaches out to lesbians, gays, bisexual and the transgendered in the NE Michigan area. Individuals in the region should feel free to call 517-354-0841 and contact me (Brad Vauter) for more information. Informal pot-luck type gatherings are generally held monthly in Alpena. In addition, occasional field trips are sometimes planned by interested participants.(issue 4)

THE PETOSKEY GROUP: A social group for lesbian, gay and bi-sexual persons is meeting weekly in Petoskey. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at the Noggin Room in the Perry Hotel. For information please contact Tim at 616-348-8151 (ongoing)

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION-PETOSKEY is meeting at the Concord Academy, 2230 East Mitchell St. Services are held on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. Please call 347-8916 for details or write POB 873, Petoskey, MI 49770-0873 (Issue 5)

H.A.N.D.S-PETOSKEY is an HIV/AIDS Network located north of Traverse City. They are currently seeking volunteers in the northern lower peninsula and eastern upper peninsula of Michigan. HANDS is a non-profit organization that has committed itself to helping and supporting the needs of HIV infected persons. 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. (ongoing)

letters

Thanks for the recent note about ceasing mailing the newsletter to non-supporting members. After the death of my friend Jigger Johnson, I stopped visiting the Traverse City area. It has been a great means of staying in touch with one of my favorite parts of the country and some of the friends I made when I used to visit in the summers. I certainly understand the financial constraints of a mailing to people who do not maintain a membership, as I am the treasurer of the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center here in Houston. Keep up the good work & when I am able I will send a donation.

Thanks. Patrick McKee

To members of Friends North,

I am always interested to receive NETWORKING..., even though I am in northwestern lower Michigan for only a few months each year. I have been disappointed to see that for several issues, there have been no postcards. My work in recent years on PACs and other involvements with gay political organizations in the large east-coast city where I spend much of my year has convinced me that the FN postcards are a valuable vehicle in our struggle for legal, financial, and social equity. Taking Senaotrs to dinner, Congressmen to lunch, feting States' Attorneys General at the Union League, and attending the endless round of congratulatory-cum-fund-raising cocktail parties have come to seem in my judgement, uselessly self-celebratory and an ineffective way to reform either public opinion or policy regarding gay issues. In contrast, the FN postcards provide direct feedback to persons making and influencing policies that relate to gay issues across the political, occupational, and social spectrum. FN identifies the issue, the person to contact and provides the text. for \$4.00 in ostage and your signature, you can have a voice on 20 gay issues each year!

One of the things that I have learned during my recent years of political involvement is that it is not enough to come out to family, friends, and colleagues, people who generally already know and accept

us. (The whole idea that we are willing to hide has become increasingly disturbing to me. Try replacing "known homosexual" with "known person of color" or "an admitted Hispanic.") Another thing I have learned is that communication from the at-large community remains a powerful vehicle for change. A third lesson is that we cannot expect or effect change if we are uninvolved and invisible. The FN cards address a wide range of social and political issues and provide a quick and easy way to assert ourselves as members of the gay/lesbian community.

It is for these reasons that I am enclosing a contribution to FN to be used in part for postcards in the next issue of NETWORKING..., and as a 50% contribution for postcards in each of two subsequent issues which I hope will be matched by other members of FN.—Peter King.

Gratitude

I wish to thank all in the gay community who have supported me in so many ways the past few months as I continue to heal well from brain surgery. Life is void of meaning without friends and loved ones. Having worked in hospitals, one is given a whole new perspectives on life when lying flat on your own back, totally entrusting your very life to strangers and a Higher Power. My firm belief in a spiritual afterlife removed the fear of death. Nonetheless, it felt damn good to walk out of that hospital on my own two feet! It wasn't time to say goodbye to Planet Earth yet.

However, I had time to ponder the lives of so many young ones that I have said goodbye to over the years that were not able to leave their hospital beds except via the hearse, often die to AIDs, addiction, or suicide. Indeed, how all too short and precious life can be. They have just gone on ahead of me. I still have much unfinished business on this side to complete before I join them.

Although change is in the wind, I find that support in times of need or crisis continues to come primarily from within our own ranks, thus making more compassion and less judgement essential.

Letters continued next page

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It's so important to let others know personally that they are valued. Share a smile, laugh, or tear. Make a call, write a letter, hold a hand, sit with someone. Continue to make those human contacts. It doesn't matter if they seem to go unreturned. It's the giving that counts.

Above all, never give up, for who knows what marvelous surprise is waiting just around the next bend. Thanks again to all.

Robert G. Clayton

Doug Bradley's beating was barbaric

To all of my neighbors, residents of Northern Michigan, and all who claim to believe in a power greater than themselves.

Doug Bradley is a dear friend of mine. I saw Doug last Sunday, as I usually do, and discovered he had been brutally attacked. A couple of drunken fiends followed Doug home. I asked Doug why someone would do this to him. With a saddened smile, Doug replied "Well, haven't you heard?... I'm gay." I sunk into my chair. My heart was just broken for him.

My friend explained he had been savagely beaten by two homophobics, as another person watched. I felt just sickened. Appalled. Disgusted. How unbelievably horrifying; to be viciously beaten because of sexual orientation that differs from another.

Yes, my dear friend is a gay man. A gay man who is a wonderful person to many. A man who has numerous friends who love him. A man who is fun and funny. A man I like to be around. A man who does not approach heterosexual men in a homosexual manner. Why would he?

"You, Homophobes," you do not have what Doug wants. "You" do not have the love and compassion Doug seeks. The same love and compassion that radiates from his smile and pounds from his heart. So, flatter yourselves no more. Do not be afraid.

The only thing my friend may want from "you" is the inherent right to be treated as a human being, with dignity worthy of every right granted to all.

Doug was beaten with a rocker in early October. He suffered a broken nose, lacerations and bruises to his beautiful face, loose teeth (which he had to grind back into place), bruised ribs, shoulders and back, and emotional anguish no one should endure. I hurt for my friend. Doug was simply walking home.

To his assailants, shame on you and may justice be expedient to you both for your ignorance, intolerance, bigotry, and barbaric behavior.

Too many people consume precious time with prejudices and intolerance. Unfortunate for some of you, because I know a great man; I have a great friend.

Christy K Dunham • Traverse City

(Reprinted from, October 28, Northern Express

Most significantly, however, was Reggie's refusal to hide what the bar was. A few years ago he installed three very tall flag poles: two that flew a rainbow flag and one in the middle that sported the American flag. Mind you, this powerful symbol of gay pride is placed front-and-center on one of the busiest streets in Pontiac and Oakland County.

As you can thus surmise, he maintained the visibility of his glbt business at great risk. His bar has been shot at several times by shotgun wielding thugs and a cowardly pipsqueek dispensed a tear gas canister inside the bar one New Year's eve. Granted this was several years ago and rarely still occurs, but Reggie's perseverance shone through.

In addition to being a place where "everyone knows your name", the Flamingo was also the place where Scott Amedure earned his living. Scott's death, the event's that swirled around his passing and Reggie's support of his defense again bespoke of great resilience.

From the very beginning, Reggie instituted show night on Thursday's and consistently delivers a good time to all of us in North Oakland County. For many of those years his host has been Aura Lee.

Before beginning tonight's show, Aura Lee walked out onto the stage and made an announcement that lifted the spirits of everyone in the bar. Tomorrow evening, Reginald Doyon and the Club Flamingo, at the Pontiac Silverdome, in front of the citizens of Pontiac and from the mayor of the City of Pontiac, will receive Pontiac's annual business beautification of the year award.

He has invested thousands of dollars into the gentrification of the area surrounding his business. An area that was filled with abandoned houses and nefarious activities is now a space of pride and beauty.


Reggie is a shy person. One rarely sees his name unless its on a check carrying a modest donation to a glbt or AIDS organization. Throughout the year, Reggie, along with Aura Lee and the rest of his staff, raises hundreds of dollars for our community.

And, tomorrow night, a glbt person is going to be recognized by Pontiac, that bastion of blue collar values, for his rather mainstream contribution to the improvement of that community.



In light of this, one can't help but think about people like Matthew Shepard, Harvey Milk, Allan Gilmour, Sandy Berris, Jan Stevenson, Tom Guiseppe, Ellen Degeneres, Susan Horowitz, Jeff Montgomery, Howard Israel, Ginger Ward, Jeff Phillips, Henry Messer, Bill Thomas, Carl House, Cindy Woodbury, Cornelius Wilson, Sean Kosofsky, Jim Domanski, Elizabeth Birch and everyone at HRC, Leon

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anti-gay ad campaigns. Money that could have gone to house, feed or provide health care for the poor—people Jesus Christ explicitly ordered his followers to look after—has instead been poured into hateful and expensive ad campaigns promoting eliminationist homophobia (full page ads in The New York Times do not come cheap).

One "pro-family" ex-gay ad encourages parents to reject their gay children. Matthew Shepard's parents did no such thing, rushing from Saudi Arabia (where Matthew's father works as an oil rig inspector) to their son's hospital bed. Matthew's parents arrived in Wyoming in time to watch their son die of wounds inflicted by men who took the American Family Association, Christian Coalition and Family Research Council at their word: Matthew had no right to be gay, no right to exist, and so they kidnapped, tortured and murdered him.

Steven Schwalm from the Family Research Council, one of the organizations behind the ex-gay ad campaign, said in USA Today that while he has "regret that the incident occurred," no one should blame his organization simply because it opposes "homosexual activity." But it is not possible to oppose and stigmatize homosexual activity without also stigmatizing homosexuals. Homosexuals are not an activity anymore than Jews or blacks or women are an activity. We are people, people who happen to be gay. Homosexuality is not contagious, so there is no need for pro-family organizations to "oppose" us. Nor are we a threat to families: like Matthew, we are a part of our families.

Christian conservatives have attempted to distance themselves from the violence visited on Matthew Shepard. They must not be allowed to do so. Conservatives like to talk about accountability, so let the religious extremists who help make anti-gay violence a daily reality for gays and lesbians across this country be held accountable. The violence in Laramie is a deadly consequence of the hateful anti-gay rhetoric and eliminationist "ex-gay" ad campaigns.

Fred Phelps, the pastor of a church in Kansas, picketed Shepard's funeral today. Phelps and his followers have been protesting the funerals of gay men for nearly a decade. At Shepard's funeral, they intended to carry signs that read "No Tears for Queers" and "Fag Matt in Hell." The actions of Phelps and his followers—the celebration of the elimination of a gay man—arc not a distortion of the religious right's position on homosexual people but a distillation of it.

Dan Savage is a columnist and associate editor at The Stranger, a Seattle weekly paper

Chaplain's Reflection

A message from The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, Chaplain, to the whole Trinity College (Hartford, Conn., USA) community...

I saw on the news today that Matthew Shepard died. He was the 22 year old man from Wyoming who was beaten and tortured and left to die for no reason other than he was a homosexual.

This tragic murder has raised a national debate again, the kind of periodic soul-searching our society goes through whenever a crime of hate startles us into awareness. The burning of Black churches, the bombing of innocent people, the death of a shy young man from Wyoming: these events suddenly shake us out of complacency and remind us that fear, prejudice and rage are always the shadows just beyond the light of our reason. And so, people suddenly start to speak out. There are voices of outrage and grief. Voices of sorrow and demands to know why such a thing could happen. And predictably, there are also defensive voices:

The governor of Wyoming trying to explain why his state has no laws to protect people from hate crimes and the leadership of what is called the Christian "right wing" trying to explain why their national ads against homosexuality don't influence people to commit such violence against gays and lesbians.

In the days to come, these many voices will fill our media and the cultural consciousness it imprints until we are once again lulled into the more familiar patterns of our lives, dozing off as a nation until the next tragedy rings the alarm of despair.

As the chaplain for our own community, I would like to invite us all to consider Matthew's death in another way. Not through the clamour or denials, not through the shouts or cries of anger: but rather, through the silence of his death, the silence of that young man hanging on his cross of pain alone in the emptiness of a Wyoming night, the silence that ultimately killed him as surely as the beatings he endured.

Silence killed Matthew Shepard. The silence of Christians who know that our scriptures on homosexuality are few and murky in interpretation and far outweighed by the words of a savior whose only comment on human relationships was to call us to never judge but only to love. The silence of well-meaning educated people who pretend to have an enlightened view of homosexuality while quietly tolerating the abuse of gays and lesbians in their own communities.

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The silence of our elected officials who have the authority to make changes but prefer to count votes. The silence of the majority of "straight" Americans who shift uncomfortably when confronted by the thought that gays and lesbians may be no different from themselves, save for the fact that they are walking targets for bigotry, disrespect, cheap humor, and apparently, of murder.

Crimes of hate may live in shouts of rage, but they are born in silence. Here at Trinity, I hope we will all listen to that silence. Before we jump to decry Matthew's senseless death or before we seek to rationalize it with loud disclaimers: I hope we will just hear the silence. A young man's heart has ceased to beat. Hear the silence of that awful truth. It is the silence of death. It is the silence that descends on us like a shroud.

At Trinity, as in Wyoming, we are men and women surrounded by the silence of our own fear. Our fear of those who are different. Our fear of being identified with the scapegoat. Our fear of taking an unpopular position for the sake of those who can not stand alone. Our fear of social and religious change. Our fear comes in many forms but it always comes silently. A whispered joke. A glance to look away from the truth. A quick shake of the head to deny any complicity in the pain of others. These silent acts of our own fear of homosexuality are acted out on this campus every day just as they are acted out every day in Wyoming. Through silence, we give ourselves permission to practice what we pretend to abhor. With silence, we condemn scores of our neighbors to live in the shadows of hate. In silence, we observe the suffering of any group of people who have been declared expendable by our society.

As a person of faith, I will listen, as we all will, to the many voices which will eulogize Matthew Shepard. I will carry that part of our national shame on my shoulders. But I will also listen to the silence which speaks much more eloquently still to the truth behind his death. I will listen and I will remember. And I will renew my resolve never to allow this silence to have the last word. Not for Matthew. Not for gay men or lesbian women. Not for any person in our society of any color or condition who has been singled out for persecution. Not in my church. Not in my nation. Not in Wyoming. And not at Trinity College.

JOURNAL: Loving Him to Death

By FRANK RICH

We know Matthew Shepard in death. Now there's at least a fleeting image of him in life. Distraught about the murder in Wyoming, Tim Kirkman, a young gay film maker, spent frantic days searching his files, convinced that Matthew was among the interviewees who didn't make it into the final version of his documentary about Jesse Helms, "Dear Jesse," which Cinemax is showing in its "Reel Life" series in January. "I was sick of seeing this split-rail fence everywhere," said Mr. Kirkman this week, as he described his ultimately successful effort to unearth his 1996 video of an unbrutalized Matthew.

Mr. Kirkman let me view the tape — which will now be used in a new epilogue to his film and should air on a TV news magazine soon. It's very brief. But it's easy to understand why the director starts to cry when talking about it. Matthew, at the time studying acting at Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C., is just another slight, soft-spoken underclassman on campus, politely stopping to answer a stranger's questions about Senator Helms and politics. But he's standing beside another student, who identifies himself as Matthew's boyfriend and hugs him as he does so. Matthew exudes an open American sweetness too. Asked by Mr. Kirkman if he thinks Jesse Helms's homophobia "represents what most of North Carolinians feel," Matthew answers instantly and generously: "No."

He is surely right. Most Americans, in North Carolina or Wyoming or anywhere else, don't hate gay people. The countless vigils for this murdered student in nearly every corner of the nation, bringing people of all ages, political parties, sexual orientations and religious affiliations together in genuine grief, speak for themselves. But the fact remains that there are political organizations in this country, led by moneyed, hard-nosed tacticians posing as theologians, that are recklessly dedicated to fomenting fear of gay people to scare up angry voters in an election year like this one. Should you call them on their game, they wrap themselves in the mantle of "love" — they "love the sinner," you see — and attack their critics as Christian-bashers.

When I wrote last week about the latest efforts of these groups to stigmatize gay people, the response was true to form. Gary Bauer, the aspiring Republican Presidential candidate from the Family Research Council, took to the pages of a weekly Focus on the Family

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newsletter to assail me for trying to "silence" Christians, and to vow that he would continue his "Truth in Love" campaign to convert homosexuals to the path of heterosexual truth. He wrote a similar letter to The Times.

So much for the spin. Go to the Family Research Council's Web site and you will find "homosexual activity" described — lovingly, no doubt — as "lethal and immoral behavior" unworthy of civil rights protection. Or turn to the October issue of Focus on the Family's slick magazine, Citizen — these organizations have publishing empires to rival Conde Nast — and its article proselytizing for the "ex-gay" movement. It tells the story of a father, Glen Hysom, who learns that his son, Tim, is gay. Recalling his anger at this revelation, Mr. Hysom is quoted as saying that he considered blowing his brains out and blowing his son's brains out. He goes on: "But I knew that would hurt all of us, too. So, I'll just go blow that guy's brains out that got Tim into the homosexual lifestyle. That'd solve it all. Well, then I'd go to prison. So I couldn't do any of those things."

A "happy" ending immediately follows — Tim is said to have been healed by an ex-gay ministry, his brain purportedly intact — but the subtext is clear. The only reason presented for not blowing out the brains of "that guy" who allegedly enlisted Tim into homosexuality is that you'd "go to prison."

Want some more love? The Rev. D. James Kennedy's Coral Ridge Ministries, another sponsor of the ex-gay campaign, is on record saying "Adult sex with children has been a crucial component of the homosexual movement all along." And then there's my mail of the past week. "Here comes Rich galloping to the rescue of fags again," wrote one of my many loving correspondents. "This Matthew guy had the devil beat out of him and now his soul is free for redemption, if possible." I guess I should be grateful to this prayerful reader for showing me the light.

reprinted from the NY Times 10/24/98

NEWSWEEK, October 26, "Discerning clergymen and moralists can hate the sin and love the sinner, but by the time the homophobic message reaches the angry guys sitting in the bar, that distinction has been lost."

A Soulforce Response to Matthew Shepard's Murder

Dr. Mel White

Before we decide how to respond to the murder of our young gay brother, Matthew Shepard, let's remember another cruel and tragic death suffered by a young Jewish teacher almost 2,000 years ago. Both young men were condemned by political and religious leaders. Both were humiliated by their peers. Both were brutally bashed then tied to wooden stakes and left alone in the cold to die. Both deaths leave us stunned as we witness again the unthinkable power of evil at work among us. Now, we are left with a very difficult choice: how do we respond to that evil?

Matthew left us no last words to guide our response to his death, but the last words of Jesus are painfully clear: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Forgive them? Was he joking?

Forgive Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney for (allegedly) kidnapping, robbing, beating, cutting, burning, and generally terrorizing our 21-year-old gay brother before lashing him to a wooden ranch fence and smashing in his skull with a .357 magnum handgun?

Forgive Pat Robertson, Jim Dobson D. James Kennedy, Jerry Falwell and the other media preachers and talkshow hosts whose false and inflammatory anti-homosexual rhetoric flows into Wyoming polluting the conscience of their listeners from Casper to Laramie?

Forgive Gary Bauer and the Family I Research Council for announcing on the day of Matthew's death a new barrage of "ex-gay" television commercials implying that homosexuality is a sickness that can be cured and a sin that should be forgiven? Or Fred Phelps for marching on Matthew's funeral waving a sign that reads "God Hates Fags" or "Execute Homosexuals"?

"Father, forgive them," Jesus said, and we recoil from his words in anger and disbelief. Why should we forgive those who killed (or those who by their words and actions helped incite the killing) of our gay brother, Matthew? Why should we forgive our enemies at any time or in any place?

It was the question Indians asked Gandhi in South Africa and India. It was the question black Americans asked King in Montgomery and in Memphis. It is the question we have asked our heroes and

Char P. Kirchner, CPA, MSA

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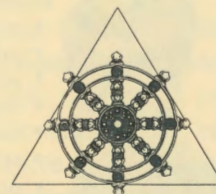
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heroes through the ages. Why should we love (and thus forgive) our enemies when it feels so much more reasonable to hate them?

Like Jesus, the Hindu lawyer and the Southern Baptist preacher were determined to help end the cycle of hatred, violence and death (and bring in the "beloved community") by demonstrating an active, militant, powerful kind of love. We could gain so much by working even harder to understand and apply the Soulforce principles of Gandhi and King to our individual lives and to the life of our liberation movement.

At the heart of Soulforce is the belief that we are all children of a loving Creator. Those who killed Matthew (or who are complicit in his death) are also God's children and thus our brothers and sisters, estranged members of our own human family. Like Jesus, who blamed his own death on the ignorance of those who killed him ("...they know not what they do"), Gandhi and King saw their enemies as "victims of misinformation" who could be liberated from their ignorance only by bringing them "truth in love relentlessly" even if it means "absorbing the suffering without retaliation" that flows out of their ignorance and fear.

However, absorbing the suffering does NOT mean refusing to educate our brothers and sisters about avoiding danger or helping them to defend themselves from harassment and physical violence. And forgiving our adversaries does NOT mean remaining silent or passive in the face of their misinformation campaigns against us. To forgive Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney for murdering Matthew Shepard does NOT mean they should not be held responsible for their crimes. However, the Soulforce call to "relentless nonviolent resistance" also means we must not be satisfied with one-night vigils or angry media sound bites. "Relentless" means packing that Wyoming courtroom every day of the trial to remind the world that the death of one of the least of these, God's gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered children, will never again go unnoticed or unmourned.

At the same time, we should not hate Russell or Aaron for they and their families, too, are victims of the ignorance about homosexuality and homosexuals that currently clouds the conscience of this nation. We must confront that ignorance where we live, work, play and worship, as Gandhi and King advise us, "with truth in love relentlessly." We are not being "relentless" when we watch the battle from the safety of our closets, when we refuse to take a stand against the daily "little" injustices we encounter, when we remain silent in the face of bigotry and intolerance.

To forgive Pat Robertson, Jim Dobson, D. James Kennedy, or Jerry Falwell does NOT mean we allow them to continue their endless flood of false and inflammatory rhetoric against homosexuals without confronting and condemning it. But we must not respond, in King's words, "with violence of heart, tongue, or fist." Hating Pat, Jim or Jerry will only increase the cycle of violence. Angry letters or massive, one-day protests will not stop the flood of dangerous and deadly misinformation. To save another generation of Matthew Shepards from the tragic consequences of the anti-homosexual rhetoric we must circle the outposts of intolerance in Virginia Beach, Lynchburg, Colorado Springs, and across America. We must fast, pray, and negotiate, and if they won't meet with us to discuss our case against them, we must take direct nonviolent action against them with the determination of the "salt marchers" at the Indian Ocean or the courage of the black children who faced police dogs and water hoses in Birmingham.

Our little brother, Matthew Shepard, is dead and we are left to decide how we will handle our anger, our grief, and our frustration. We'll stand together in silence at moving candlelight vigils. We'll march together to protest and memorialize his death. We'll denounce the anti-gay-rhetoric and those who use it to make money and mobilize voters and volunteers. Then what?

Gandhi and King call us to take seriously the principles of Soulforce, of relentless nonviolent resistance. But they warn us that we cannot begin that journey until we learn to love (and forgive) our enemies. I don't know exactly what that means for our community but I'm afraid that we cannot be a part of the long-term solution until we learn to love and forgive sincerely. Gandhi and King promise that once that truth dawns in us, we will know what we must do next and we will discover the power to do it. i

In the meantime, I believe that Matthew Shepard's spirit has been welcomed home by his loving Creator; that Matthew's undeserved suffering is helping to change the minds and hearts of the nation; that his death has advanced the cause of truth and understanding far more than we will ever know; and that our young gay brother who stood just five feet, two inches tall and weighed barely one hundred pounds now stands in the company of giants, men and women who died refusing to hate their oppressors.

Now, we must decide how we will honor Matt's memory. If love doesn't conquer our anger, grief, and frustration, if we refuse to forgive, we can reverse the gains that Matthew's death has brought

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us and dishonor his memory in the process. But if we work to out-love our enemies, if we take the moral high ground and work relentlessly to confront the untruth and end the cycle of anger and violence, the victory will be ours.

If you are interested in joining our growing network of Soulforce Friends or receiving our complimentary *Soulforce News*, fax us at (949) 455-0959 or email us at RevMel@aol.com or www.melwhite.org.

For information about Soulforce Videos or for all other information write to Mel and Gary at: Soulforce, Inc., P.O. Box 4467, Laguna Beach, CA. 92652

Frankenstein's Father

The public knew James Whale as the director of the classic horror films "Frankenstein" (1931) and "Bride of Frnakenstein" (1935). In Hollywood, he was known as one of the first openly gay men. "He made no attempt to hide it, but to categorize him a 'gay pioneer' would be a distortion," says Sir Ian McKellen, who stars as Whale in "Gods and Monsters," due out this week. The film covers the tormented last months of Whale's life, which ended in 1957 with a suicide by drowning. Brendan Fraser co-stars as the young object of Whale's desire.

McKellen—like James Whale, an openly gay Englishman—tells us: "The point he makes in the film is, nobody gives a damn what people get up to as long as they don't get it in the papers. Directors don't get into the papers like actors do."

Assistance for Servicemembers

We are pleased to announce the arrival of HuddleStone On-line. HuddleStone Online is a new web site designed to help gay, lesbian and bisexual Servicemembers, Veterans and their love ones who have been affected by the Department of Defense's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" sexual orientation policy. Servicemembers, Veterans and others who visit 'HuddleStone.Com have access to a wide variety of information on topics such as legal assistance, financial affairs, transition matters, health concerns, employment/career management, education and more.

I invite you to visit HuddleStone On-line and share the news about the service with those around you. As it is against the military's policy for gay, lesbian and bisexual Servicemembers to publicly disclose their sexuality, we would appreciate your help in getting news about HuddleStone Online to those who can benefit from it.

HuddleStone On-line 1620 West Broadway Avenue, Suite 292, Maryville, Tennessee 37801
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Remarks As Prepared For Delivery By Vice President Al Gore

(Excerpts from the speech given on 9/19/98 at an HRC dinner. Gore spoke much longer on the subject of discrimination and his support of gay and lesbian people)

Let me say to all of you: I am proud to be here tonight. I want to begin by congratulating HRC for your leadership — your tireless commitment to equality and fairness — and your stunning success.

In 1996, HRC was active in nearly two hundred races across the country — and 84 percent of your candidates won. Elizabeth — you and I may have something to talk about a bit later on.

I come before you with a simple message: that the cause we celebrate tonight is not some narrow, special interest. It is really the cause that has defined this nation since its founding: to deepen the meaning of fundamental fairness, to make real the promise of our self-government, to build a good and just society on this bed-rock principle: equal opportunity for all, special privileges for none.

If you believe in the basic dignity of every American — if you live by our laws and live up to your responsibilities — then you can share in the full promise of the greatest nation on this earth. And that means all of you.

That is a purpose we did not fully understand when we counted each slave as three-fifths of a person. Or when innocent and loyal Japanese-Americans were imprisoned at the outset of World War II. Or when gays and lesbians were effectively barred from holding jobs in their own federal government. We've come a long way, America.

And when some, in recent months, have launched unprecedented attacks on the very idea of fair treatment — trying to punish and scapegoat people just because of their sexual orientation — I have been amazed, and outraged. For this I believe with all my heart: if we cannot conquer the forces of hatred and division that still exist in our society, we can never redeem the American dream.

That is why President Clinton and I are so determined to appoint the best-qualified people to senior positions in our government — whether or not they are gay or lesbian.

That is why we ended, by Executive Order, policies that discriminated against gays and lesbians in our civilian federal workforce. And never forget this: we are one of the most successful administrations in history not in spite of that diversity — but because of it!

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Creating Healthy Lives

Exploring the Diversity of Lesbian Health

Brenda Bartz

This fall I attended the first regional Lesbian Health conference at the University of Illinois at Chicago. This two day conference was organized by activists, health care providers, community organizations and government officials from the midwest, the purpose was to educate and inform health care providers and lesbians alike on the specific needs of lesbians as health care consumers, while also addressing broader issues such as access to care and public policy.

Conference objectives included: Education of the lesbian/bisexual women's community and health care providers on critical and current issues, as well as barriers to care such as income homophobia, racism, disability and ageism. To explore strategies for increasing health promotion behaviors. To cross cultural, intra-interstate alliances and coalitions on lesbian, bisexual and transgendered health issues.

What was really exciting for me was to be surrounded by many super intelligent Lesbians!!!! There were your straight women and gay men sprinkled in there for sake of diversity.

One of the keynote speakers was Judy Bradford Phd., Judy has served as a consultant of Office of Women's Health Research in the National Institutes of Health. Judy has significant interest and substantial background in women's health research. She works with the Mautner Project for Lesbians with cancer, as evaluation consultant on a multi-year CDC-funded replication study. She is currently working on establishing an international network of lesbian researchers. Judy's main points were, "Who are we?" The need for definitions of Lesbian, sexual orientation ect.. That we are currently one of the most understudied and underserved populations in the country. The need for access to health care and understanding of health care providers, and a national data base. I think we are getting underway!

Marj Plumb, the other keynote speaker, was a dynamo. Marj's lecture "Are We Ready?"... really pumped the attendees. The recommendations of the Institute of Medicine's report on minority exploration is due to be published next month. Large amounts of money will be available for anyone to research lesbians. Those of us with vested interest need to be READY... or we will have more weird studies like the ear canal report... written by a straight man who never knew a Lesbian! Marj encouraged community based research.

7 PRINCIPLES of Community Based Research

- 1) EACH ONE TEACH ONE: We must understand methodology. Learn it
- 2) IF IT IS'NT HARD IT IS'T COMMUNITY BASED: We all bring privilege and prejudices to the table. Its scary but stay at the table.
- 3) VALUE THE QUESTION MORE THAN THE ANSWER
- 4) REMEMBER THE WIZARD (OZ) The funny man behind the curtain. No, should be the starting point of any discussion.
- 5) FIND THE HARDEST POPULATION FIRST
- 6) PRISONS AND OLIVIA CRUISES HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN YOU THINK A study showed the only differences were race and class. Women take care of their girlfriends :)
- 7) BUTCH IS MORE THAN A NICKNAME Gender is a very complicated issue.

I learned a lot from my trip to the windy city. I came home with enthusiasm and a heightened sense of pride. — Brenda Bartz BSN,OCN

And we want our country to push back the forces of hatred and discrimination, as we have always done when we are at our best. The story of America is the story of an ever-widening circle of human dignity and expanding opportunity.

And it is an outrage that today, in 1998, in 40 states of our union, it is 100 percent legal to fire a hard-working employee just because they are gay or lesbian. That is profoundly wrong. Everyone deserves the basic freedom from discrimination.

So I say to Congress: let's give everyone who is willing to work for it a fair and equal chance to succeed. Pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act into law.

Family Secrets

Brenda Bartz

Recently the Kingsley historian graciously gave me a poster representing six generations of my family. I quickly located a picture of a handsome young man standing, beside a chair with a sober face... as were many of the photos in the 1930's. Another piece of the puzzle... a face to put with the story. A distant cousin black-balled by part of my family because he was gay.

Twenty-five years ago the most important person in my world died... my great uncle Hank. My aunt Lucy and uncle Hank had no children. So from a very early age my brothers and I had a special relationship with both of them. My first memory is of feeding the black angus cows with my uncle. I was two and my uncle would lift me into the manger, the cows would pull the hay out from under me causing me to tumble. They would lick me with their huge rough tongues. I would hug their shaggy heads and they would bellow their appreciation. I was the apple of my uncle's eye... the feeling was mutual. His love for me was bigger than anything I've ever known. An anchor in my world. I was 20 when he died. I've missed him greatly. I know there are many accomplishments in my life that he would be proud of... but... being lesbian is probably not one of them.

It was this wonderful, loving, giving person who black-balled his relative from the family for being homosexual. "Joe" was cut from the family inheritance. Uncle Hank did not want him to receive any of his money... a very clear statement. Twenty-three years later my aunt Lucy was dying. "Please get a hold of ... she gave me the name of a woman... the name was not familiar to me. My aunt had willed her an insurance policy issued to herself by the postal service. My Aunt had not violated her husband's wish but chose to make a very clear statement. "I'm sorry." There are pieces I don't know. Can lessons be learned after death?

This summer, at the Michigan Womyns Music Festival, I had the opportunity to experience Alice Walker. She read an excerpt from her new book "The light of my Father's Smile." The dead father visits his grownup daughter. He is given the chance to rethink many things. The portion that Alice read was a very steamy love scene between the daughter and her female lover. I'm not sure I would want to conjure up a vision of my uncle in my bedroom... but I would like to think that he could learn life lessons from the otherside.. Perhaps Uncle Hank is proud of me... lesbian and all. After all, the power of love is pretty amazing.

R E S O U R C E S

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 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force 202-332-648
 2320 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009 Fax: 202-332-0207
 Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund 212-809-8585 x 205
 120 Wall St., NY, NY 10005 Fax: 212-890-0055
 ACW Lesbian/Gay Rights Project
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 HRC: Human Rights Campaign (National Coming Out Day)
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 Fax: 202-347-5323
 email www@hrcusa.org
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 P.O. Box 873 Petoskey, MI 49770

LOCAL COUNSELING:

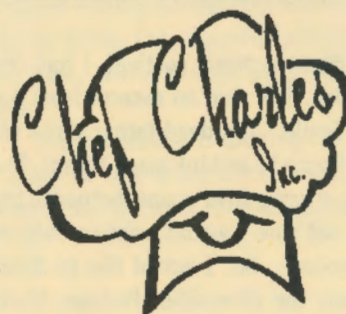
Third Level Crisis Intervention, 616-922-4800
 1022 E. Front St., TC, MI 49686 and 800-442-7315
 Women's Resource Center 616-941-1210
 Rodger Landvov, PHD 616-929-1711
 Susan Breuer PHD (Frankfort / Traverse City) 616-352-4261
 Margo Million, ACSW 616-947-0511
 Joanna T. Lauber, MA, OTR, CHT 616-947-8842
 Barbara Jones Smith, PHD 616-947-1444
 Elizabeth Most, MSW, ACSW (Petoskey) 616-439-0656
 William D. Gould, MA (Gladwin) 517-426-2351
 David Rushlow, ACSW, Munson Medical Center 616-935-6385
 Bay Area Counseling (Petoskey/Harbor Springs)
 Margalo Bley, MSW, ACSW 616-348-3616
 Daniel C. Doran, PHD, CSW (Upper Peninsula) 906-635-9263
 Amy Elena Cook, MSW, CSW (616) 932-8699
 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) 616-946-1804
 Common Voices - F/N Rap Group Tom-275-6127
 Windfire Gay & Lesbian Youth Support Group—
 Call Third Level for location & time 616-922-4800 or 800-442-7315
 Side Traxx Nite Club, 520 Franklin St. off of 8th St. 616-935-1666
 Traverse City Human Rights Commission, 400 Boardman 616-922-4700
 Gay Alcoholics Anonymous,
 Grace Church, Washington at Boardman, TC John 616-922-0746
 jdevans@gtii.com
 Hilda 616-938-1294
 P-FLAG, Traverse City, POB 1705, Acme, MI 49610 Cindy 616-271-5045
 GLSEN (Gay/Lesbian/Straight Education Network)
 PO Box 9, Traverse, MI 49685 616-943-5050
 NOW (National Organization for Women) Gail Trill 616-938-1333

LOCAL HIV/AIDS HEALTH COUNSELING:

HIV/AIDS Wellness Networks, GTA, Inc., 616-947-1110
 P.O. Box 1632, Traverse City, MI 49685 1-800-494-1160
 Business Office 616-933-0279
 HIV/AIDS Wellness Networks - HIV Support Group and
 Family and Significant Other Support Group 616-947-1110
 Thomas Judd Care Center, 1211 W Front St., Traverse City,
 Mary Dillinger, RN, Clinical Nurse Specialist 616-935-8140
 David Rushlow, ACSW Social Worker 616-935-6385
 H.A.N.D.S. (HIV/AIDS Support: Petoskey) 1-800-248-6777
 Community Health Clinic 616-929-4448
 (anonymous counseling/testing; same-day results no fee)
 Northern Michigan Planned Parenthood 616-929-1844
 (anonymous counseling & testing)
 Grand Traverse County Health Department 616-922-4831
 (anonymous HIV Testing Center)
 Emmet County Health Department (Petoskey) 616-347-6014
 Also call the District Health Department in your area



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 Pizzas & Pesto

Charles E. Egeler, President
 David A. Egeler, Vice President

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 616-264-8901