

# N E T W O R K I N G NORTH

VOLUME 11 • ISSUE 4 • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • 1997

## Mark Your Calendars Now For Important Fall Event

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER, MEL WHITE,  
TO PROVIDE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Please make every effort possible to reserve all day Saturday, November 1, for the Friends North Gay History and Education Day '97. This year the GHED will be held at Traverse City's Park Place Hotel and promises to be highly educational, entertaining, and enlightening.

The day-long event will be broken into segments and participants can attend up to three individual seminars at the time of their choice. Friends North members and organizers Matt McCormick and Guy Molnar suggested this format for one major reason: group participation increases when groups are smaller. "We're offering three individual sessions but will be repeating them three times," said McCormick. "This way the size of the group will be about that of an average classroom and the presenters can work in smaller groups. People tend to participate more when class size is smaller and we felt this would be a big advantage for both those presenting and those attending."

The day will begin with registration for those who have not pre-registered and move immediately into the first half of small 75 minute sessions on a variety of topics. There will be a break for lunch (which is included in the registration fee) and afterwards the final session will be held along with an address by the keynote speaker. The sessions being offered are: "Making Your Point While Keeping Your Cool: More Effective Communication"; "Gays,



Mel White

## Amending Michigan's Intimidation Act

### *McManus Opposes Bill*

House Bill 4674 would amend the Ethnic Intimidation Act of 1988 which was designed to allow increased penalties for crimes against many minority groups. This legislation would add gays and lesbians to those groups which have been singled out for "additional protection."

The rationale for inclusion of "sexual orientation" is because 'hate crimes' or 'bias crimes' continue to plague our country and our community. People continue to be victimized because of their religions, facial characteristics or ethnic origins. The emergence of a visible white supremacist movement is a chilling manifestation that racial and religious distinctions continue to place innocent citizens at risk of being terrorized.

Incidents of violence against gays and lesbians are increasing both nationally and in the State of Michigan. Gays and lesbians are reluctant to report incidents of violence because there are no legal protections against further consequences of being publicly known as gay and lesbian.

Jeffrey Montgomery and Sean Kosofsky of the Triangle Foundation made the long trek to Traverse City's Pride Celebration at the Robb farm in late June. They wanted to educate the community in their fight to protect gays and lesbians from hate crimes with this new legislation. Traverse City was just one of their more pleasurable itineraries—they have been busy meeting with representatives, senators, prosecuting attorneys, chiefs of police, sheriffs, and mayors all across the State of Michigan.

The Triangle Foundation has been successful in getting endorsements from many influential groups, including the ACLU, Detroit mayor Dennis Archer, NOW, Detroit City Council, Michigan Sheriffs' Assn., Prosecuting Attorney's Assn. of Michigan, and the Michigan Psychological Association.

Many representatives and Senators have shown support of this bill. However, local representative, Michelle McManus, has said that she will oppose the bill. (see her letter page 6 in this issue, along with a letter from Brad Deacon, Assistant to the Governor).

GHED continued on page 13



## FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks go out to Dean and Cindy Robb as well as son Benjamin Maddy for again hosting Traverse area's annual Pride Celebration. About 150 people gathered together on that very warm and sunny Saturday afternoon in June.

There was a catered picnic and then in the evening, a showing of the film, *A Beautiful Thing*.

There was a noticeable decrease in the number of people from last year's event. The board had hoped to see the gathering continue to grow and grow in future years. However, it appears that this is not going to be the case. I have wondered myself what might be done to increase the attendance during this important, across-the-country gay event. Hold it on Sunday? Move it to a park downtown?

The board, as well as the organizers of the event, would welcome your involvement in next year's Pride Celebration. Please feel free to call M'Lynn Hartwell, Jim Ingleson or Kirk Mallow, who were responsible for much of this year's organizing. It's not too early to plan for next year.



There has been some interest regarding the Traverse City Commission elections coming up next month. As far as is known, no one from our community has done research on the candidates and their stand on the sexual orientation issue from last year. However, candidate Margaret Dodd has submitted a letter to Friends North, which is being published in this issue.

For those who have not been informed, the current TC Commission, primarily under the leadership of Kester, Orth and Weese, were responsible for filling vacant positions on the TC Human Rights Commission. Up for re-appointment was Pam Haley, who participated in pressuring the commission last year to add 'sexual orientation' as a protected class in the City's non-discrimination policy regarding its employees.

In a surprise move, the Commission chose to bypass the dedicated and competent Haley, and instead selected Matthew Schoech. Schoech is well-known locally for his involvement in the John Birch Society. I remember him as the person who spoke so irrationally about gays and lesbians over the years at Commission meetings. At the least, it is without a doubt that Schoech will not support equality, or even protections, for gays and lesbians. I commend the Traverse City Record Eagle for its vehement condemnation of the Commission's decision. Like the editors, I ask that the Commission dump Schoech and replace him with someone who has respect for all people.

I believe that you will find the letter on page 6 from Rep. Michelle McManus (R-Lake Leelanau) disappointing. In this she responds to a request to support the inclusion of gays and lesbians as a class of people who might be protected by current 'hate crime' or 'bias crime' laws. In a statement that shows her ill will against local gays and lesbians, she has said that she will not consider it. McManus is finishing her final term in the Michigan legislature when term limits will cause her to leave office.

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

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

Brenda Bartz - 616-946-2708/bbartzstar@aol.com  
 Victor Dinsmore, Secretary - 616-459-5759/itsyrigloo@aol.com  
 Jim Groya - 616-946-7313  
 M'Lynn Hartwell-VP - 616-943-5050/les n more@aol.com  
 Jim Ingleson - 616-922-0925  
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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 271-3042 or by email.)

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**SPONSORING POLITICAL POSTCARDS:** Cost for printing 2,800 postcards for *Networking 45° North* is \$100.00. To sponsor all or part of this, and to give your input, call Richard 271-3042.

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

**DEADLINES:** Issue #5, October 15.

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

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

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It is Bike Tour Weekend in Northern Michigan. If you haven't joined us (the 130 men and women from around the Midwest) consider signing on next year, July 24-26. We would love to see 150 or even 200 people biking and camping in beautiful Leelanau county next summer.

*Richard Tuxbury*

Carol Lambertson



## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Summer is finally here and I am sure you are all enjoying your favorite warm weather activities. The Friends North Board remains active with our usual business; however, we do not meet in August. The next scheduled Board Meeting is September 2, 1997.

The Gay History and Education Day scheduled for the first weekend in November is our next major event. The Reverend Mel White will be our keynote speaker. Please look for the additional details in this issue, and remember to register early!

The Board will now be focusing toward the end of the year. There is some work yet to be done regarding the proposed amendment to our by-laws so that this may be presented to the membership for a vote at the annual meeting in December. We will also be busy searching for potential new board members — 5 out of 9 seats on the board will be vacant in December. If you or anyone you know is interested in serving on the board, please contact Brenda Bartz or Ben Maddy.

Finally, just a word to everyone to remain politically alert and as politically active as you can (I understand this is at different levels for different folks). Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people of this country face an increasingly organized and insidious opposition. Beginning with our own City Commissioners locally and their recent anti-tolerance antics, to the national mobilization of organized intolerance perpetrated by the right wing leaders — the Southern Baptists, the Promise Keepers and the Christian Coalition — we cannot afford to be complacent. We cannot stand by while this country is forced to move into the 21st Century as a nation dedicated to perpetuating racial and gender oppression. Please take the time to do whatever you can to challenge the bigotry and hatred!

## BOARD NOTES:

In an attempt to maintain communication among the Friends North Board of Directors, the membership and the readers of this newsletter, we are adding this section to provide you with a synopsis of what really happens at our board meetings.

We welcome feedback in the form of phone calls, letters to the editor and attendance at the board meetings. Please let us know if this information is helpful to you!

## Highlights of the May, June and July Board Meeting include the following:

A special closed meeting of the Board only was held on May 15, as required by the Friends North bylaws, in order to adopt a proposed amendment to the bylaws. The proposed amendment will allow the opportunity of membership privileges to the entire g/l/b/t community. The proposed amendment will be brought to the entire membership at the December annual meeting for a vote. If the amendment is approved by the membership, the bylaws will be amended by our attorney.

Time was spent reviewing the High Tea and the Prom. The board felt the Tea was only moderately successful. Three members of Friends North have volunteered to coordinate the annual High Tea for 1998, and the board approved this proposal and appointed a board member liaison to this group. The Prom received rave reviews from those who attended. The board will most likely repeat this event next year.

The board was notified that participation in the highway clean-up project (M-72) has been inadequate. Victor Dinsmoore volunteered to help coordinate a renewed effort to complete this project, and several board members also volunteered to help. A separate clean up date was as the regular dates for clean up and pick up had elapsed. The board vowed to renew efforts at participation and coordination of this project.

Proposed changes in the yearly number of issues of Networking 45° North were discussed. The editor's suggestion of publishing a major issue to cover the summer months, with four additional issues throughout the year, was approved.

A Nominations Committee was established to seek nominees for the December Annual Meeting. Five board positions will need to be filled. (Note: Anyone interested in serving on the Board may contact Brenda Bartz or Ben Maddy).

A Bylaws Committee was established to look at possible additional amendments to the bylaws. Any proposed bylaw amendments must be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting.

Membership renewals were discussed at length, and the need to stay on top of this process as it is our main source of income for the organization and the newsletter. M,Lynn Hartwell as chair of the Member Services Committee is responsible for this process.

Two scholarship applications were approved for \$95 each to allow two Friends North members to attend a gay choir educational conference.

**NOTICE:** Next meeting is 9/2/97

## FRIENDS NORTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Autumn Hike** — October 12  
Brown Bridge Pathway

**Gay History and Education Day** — November 1  
Park Place Hotel — Keynote Speaker - Rev. Mel White

**Thanksgiving Potluck** — November 23, 1997  
(Grace Episcopal Church, Traverse City)

Anyone wishing to help organize any of the above events, please call Friends North.

# Out, n + About A Lesbian Coffeehouse

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

## OUT 'N ABOUT LESBIAN COFFEEHOUSE NEWS:

We're back!!! After taking two months off for summer fun (like the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival) the Out 'N About Lesbian Coffeehouse will be back September 20, 1997 with a wonderful concert by lanning performer Pam Sisson.



Pam Sisson

Pam is a talented singer, songwriter, arranger and recording artist who has just completed her second studio recording. She is a versatile solo performer whose original music encompasses blues, jazz, folk, rock and Latin. Her lyrics and tunes are her hallmark. Song topics include women's issues, justice, peace, humor and personal reflections. She plays guitar, piano, harmonica, hand percussion and too many other instruments. Her concerts run the gamut of human emotion and are interwoven with considerable humor (she is co-author of the song "Politically Incorrect"). Pam is talented at drawing in audience participation. She has opened for Holly Near, Robin Tyler, Sue Fink, Charlie King and other major concert artists. She performs with and promotes many women artists, some of whom are featured on her new CD. Joining Pam for parts of this performance will be Rachel Alexander on cello and vocals.

As always the Out 'N About Lesbian Coffeehouse is a chem Free, smoke free space. We meet at Unity Church, 3600 Five Mile Road in Traverse City from 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm. The concert starts at 8:00 pm, but please come early and stay late to meet the womyn!!! \$5.00 - \$10 donation at the door. For more information call Deb at 616-275-5924.

**Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse** is held on the third Saturday of each month except August and 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.

For more information, or to have your name placed on the Out 'n About Lesbian Coffeehouse mailing list, call Brenda at 946-2708—leave message.

## THE PATH TO COMMON VOICES

—Gene Strang

The path to Common Voices (The FN Rap Group) has taken a long road to where it is today.

Since 1980 plus it has met at IC Church Convent, a house on Front St. next to Dr. Chase, Jiggers & Ricks, Gene Strang Farm, Norm & John's, the basement at 5th & Oak, Unitarian Fellowship of Grand Traverse, The Elmwood Park (Darrow), Forrest & Richards, Greg & Bruce's, Fr. Jim's, Ernie's, N.M.C., Grace Episcopal Church...

We talked, walked, watched videos, book discussions, played cards, potlucks, listened to lots of wonderful speakers (from all walks of life), we even went to John Sheperds to connect to outer space. We helped each other with support; male & female, there were answers and questions, never the same always changing. Supporting each creative person's ideas. Now we have Nibbles, a new dinner group (eating out at different restaurants each month.

Never losing sight that one or many attempt to be necessary to cover the Diversity of All: all topics to be of those PRESENT. Some hot and cold, some new and some old topics...

Do yourself a favor and visit or send those who have questions and answers to share with others too.

See you at the next Common Voices Rap Group session.

### **Common Voices Needs All Voices!**

—Ed Richardson.

As Common Voices—The Friends North Rap Group, continues to grow in attendance and direction, it is extremely saddening and frustrating to see the vast majority at our monthly

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LINDA L. WIKLE  
Agent

gatherings to be men. Our topics and open discussions are always geared to include all glbt in our community. But yet, only gay men are left to participate. The brave few women who do attend are invaluable but we are so puzzled and disappointed to understand why others disregard Common Voices. Common Voices is and wants to be a safe haven for everyone in our community — all we are asking is for everyone to, at least, give Common Voices a chance to be a sounding board, a resource, a listening ear or a safe haven. We often have topics and sometimes videos but we always have time to listen!

Don't allow Common Voices to grow without you!

Common Voices meets on the Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the basement lounge at Grace Episcopal Church, 349 Washington Street, Traverse City.

Common Nibbles—The Common Voices 4th Wednesday monthly local restaurant gathering (7:00 pm) chooses a different restaurant each month. Don't hesitate to contact (Ed) 947-4697 or Tom at 275-6127 for the restaurant choice of the month. Common Nibbles has proven to always be an excellent time to socialize (between bites)!

If you need a confidential mail reminder of Common Voices events, please call the above numbers for your free subscription. We need your name(s) and mailing addresses. (Telephone numbers are optional but appreciated.)

## Letters

A special thanks goes to the Board of Friends North, and especially Ben Maddy and others who helped, for all the worthwhile work put into the May Spring Gay-la. In years of attending Friends North events, this Prom has to be rated "excellent." The wide variety of music, beautiful decorations and people interaction were extremely refreshing. Hopefully, this will be repeated in the next annual calendar of Friends North events.

-Ed Richardson

Dear Friends North,

The decisions made in the past few years by the Traverse City City Commission have been unresponsive to the legitimate concerns of gays and lesbians in this community. The single most important factor which can change this is your vote in the upcoming election for the four available City Commission seats.

My position in this matter is well known among my friends and acquaintances in Friends North: briefly, while I cannot understand why it would matter what anyone else's sexual orientation may be, this opinion is obviously not universal. Special care must be taken therefore, to ensure that the rights and safeguards that are usually taken for granted by the heterosexual community are accorded to you.

As one of the fourteen candidates in the primary scheduled for September 9th, your support is essential to help me work to make Traverse City responsive to all its citizens. Please vote in this election, encourage others to do so, and please strongly consider voting for me.

Sincerely,

Margaret B. Dodd

Candidate for Traverse City Commissioner



Dear FN,

Either in the newsletter or by word of mouth, FYI—

The monthly dances held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario are scheduled to move from the Days Inn on Bay St. (across from the Station Mall) to the old Algo Club, now the Rendezvous Room (restaurant and French-language club), which is at 89 Foster Drive (next to City Hall. This is one block east of the Station Mall, right on the water. 1/4 block east of the "big tent," the Roberta Bundar Pavilion). Canadian customs aren't always the nicest, but if you tell them you're going to a dance at the old Algo Club all should be well.

The next dance is June 21. Before making the long journey, it's best to be certain that there will actually be a dance. They are almost always held the last Saturday of the month, but are a week early to account for so many traveling outside the area for Pride Weekend.

Contact David Alk (?) Box, 2097, Sault St. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 632-2536.

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Dear FN

As all the Pride events around the country come and go it is apparent that Northern Michigan and its gay population has its head in the ground. While I commend all those people who have come out to talk about their gayness and their life as gay persons, I really am scared to death for gay people and any other minority.

At a recent Hate Free TC seminar there were no people in evidence that were on the Board of Friends North. The issue that evening was the showing of the film "Not In Our Town." Let me say that the film put terror in my heart and in my soul.

Since the loss of my job with Grand Traverse County nobody has been willing to talk about this issue of discrimination. Bottom line I was fired because I was gay and nobody wants to talk about it. This was three months after I was asked to resign from both the Friends North Board and give up my Press Spokesperson role for the organization.

Some of the reasons I got when seeking legal counsel or just advice from friends were "Tom, it is not a winnable case." or "Tom, you know what the real reason is, don't you? So why not let it go?" or "It happen—so go on." It is difficult being a force of one.

As a founding member of Friends North almost ten years ago it disappoints me that this organization and so many people associated with it refuse to get political or speak up. Would people have spoken up if this had been a national TV show with major coverage about the issue?

This and many other issues like this should not be monitored because of their win-ability. They should be monitored and spoken out about because they matter. I am, and you should be, only interested in the human rights value of all these issues. Where are you, Northern Michigan?

Several years ago when a local man was fired because of his HIV status everyone rallied around him and the cause, became it was an issue. After the court case (and winning by the way) that man is still without his settlement. What is the issue? If you do not like the person that this happened to, do you ignore him and go on as if it never happened? So who wins? I think regardless of who wins the gay community loses, actually we all lose. Is everyone aware that a local merchant did the same thing to two other people at their other stores and so far got away with it? What is your definition of pride? Why are we celebrating Gay Pride? Are you a proud gay person? I am not.

In the Spring of 1996 we fought hard to include the term "sexual orientation" in the City of Traverse City's hiring policy. We lost after a good fight. The response basically was, "this is really something we do not need." We need it, the country needs it and so do thousands of other employees in towns and cities in this country.

So now as I go off in search of adventure heading for Santa Fe, New Mexico, I wish everyone well. I want my pride back.

Speak up, take a stand, put your last name on your name tag, make a statement, do something. Get political. Not in our Town? It's already in our town... I know it and so do you. Remember what was said in my favorite quote, "The man and women who try to do something and fail are infinitely better than those who try to do nothing and succeed. (unknown author)

Respectfully, Tom Kincaid

June 24, 1997

Mr. James Carruthers  
Traverse City

Dear Jim:

Thank you for your letter on House Bill 4674. This bill was introduced by Rep. Lynn Martinez and has been referred to the House Committee on Constitutional Law and Civil Rights.

As the Republican Vice-Chair of this committee, I will work for it's defeat. Violence against anyone is deplorable, whether you are black, white, yellow, gay, lesbian or any hyphenated American. We are a nation of individuals, not groups. When we start passing laws that benefit only certain members of society and not all individuals, then we only perpetuate and encourage divisiveness and distrust.

Once again, Jim, thanks for making me aware of your views. Although we disagree on this issue, I believe the free exchange of ideas is what has made this country great. It helps us understand each other a little better.

Sincerely,

Michelle A. McManus State Representative 104th District.



June 26, 1997

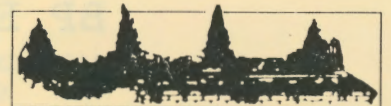
Mr. James Carruthers  
Traverse City

Dear Mr. Carruthers:

Thank you for taking the time to contact Governor Engler's office regarding House Bill 4674, which would extend protection to gays and lesbians under the Ethnic Intimidation Act. The Governor appreciates you taking the time to share your views with him on this very important issue. This particular piece of legislation is currently pending before the Michigan legislature.

In regard to this matter, first let me reiterate the Governor's longstanding opposition to discrimination, intolerance, prejudice, and crimes of hate. There is no place in Michigan for behavior of this kind. As you may know, Michigan has some of the strongest civil rights statutes in the nation.

There are thousands of bills which are introduced in each session of the Michigan Legislature. The Governor may or may



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not support the concept or certain provisions of this legislation, and it may undergo substantial revision in the legislative process. Therefore, he will not take a position on House Bill 4674 until he has had a chance to review it thoroughly in its final form.

Should this Bill pass the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives please be assured he will keep your thoughts in mind when considering this legislation for his signature.

Sincerely,  
Brad Deacon  
Assistant to the Governor  
Constituent Services Division

June 9, 1997

Mr. Richard Tuxbury  
10811 E Hilltop  
Suttons Bag MI 49682

Dear Mr. Tuxbury:

Your recent letter to Mr. Oesterreicher expressing your concern over the ABC TV show *Ellen* was forwarded to me for review.

First, I want to thank you for taking the time and initiative to write.

JCPenney did not pull its advertising of the April 30th episode of *Ellen*. JCPenney was never scheduled as an advertiser on this episode. Although we have advertised on *Ellen* in the past, we have not made any decisions for the remainder of 1997 or for 1998.

We do not, as a Company, make judgments on personal values and lifestyles, but we do adhere to our own programming guidelines.

We appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns with us.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Greiner  
National Media Manager  
cc: Mr. Oesterreicher

## TILL DEATH—OR SOMEONE ELSE COMES ALONG—DO WE PART?

*Alan Williams*

A few weeks ago, I was at my favorite hangout spot, the Internet Relay Chat, when a guy came online and started talking about how much he missed his husband. Upon closer inspection, it became clear that this guy was 17 years old and involved in a long-distance relationship that had begun only a week earlier. I asked him how he justified calling someone else his husband when they had been together a short time and lived nowhere near each other. He answered that it was his "prerogative" to refer to said significant other as a spouse. Is it really?

In the heterosexual world, "marriage" is a term with specific connotations. It refers to a formal institution into which a man and a woman enter. Under normal circumstances, a husband and wife share a place to live, share the expenses (under the law, the husband often "inherits" the wife's credit rating), and most of all, make a very public commitment to share their lives together. Even with a climbing divorce rate, marriage is, in straight society, much more than a matter of referring to one's latest date as a spouse. What bothered me about this teen was the casual way in which he used the word "husband," as if any relationship of longer than one night, accompanied by some modicum of feeling, equates with marriage among heterosexuals. I'm sorry, but this stretches my bounds of credibility. Would anyone take seriously a straight teenage boy who, after one week of a long-distance relationship, calls his girlfriend his "wife"? I don't really think so, and I refuse to be among the people who would smile at this particular teen and say, "Hey, that's great that you've found such a deep, loving relationship," without thinking once that the boy might need a reality check if he's already entered the halls of matrimony with his boyfriend-of-one-week. When I questioned whether it was right to use the word "husband" in this case, I fell under heavy fire from the under-25 crowd for what they felt was a refusal, on my part, to believe that two guys that young could find "love to last a lifetime." I hardly believe that. I have seen teenage couples more deeply and genuinely in love than couples twice the sum of the teenagers' ages. I also know at least one couple who spent five years together (and that includes a lot of time actually living

Till Death (continued next page)

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together, not being an hour's drive apart) before having a commitment ceremony—and only then did I actually hear one of them refer to the other as his husband. To acknowledge as “married” two young men who don't even live in the same town is, to me, an insult to the couples I know who have spent considerable time and effort building the kind of bond that is generally associated with marriage. The problem with “marriage” and words relating to it are that they carry a significant amount of weight—rhetorically, traditionally, and emotionally. If we in the gay community want same-sex marriages to be a reality, we need to respect the weight of those terms and use them responsibly. I do not believe a legislative body will take seriously our wish for the right to marry when we, among ourselves, refer to marriage loosely, and behave as if matrimony is an institution entered and exited lightly and, on too many occasions, done so with no regard to nature of the relationship itself.

would have banned recognition of marriages performed in other states as well. Rhode Island activists defeated a same-gender marriage ban. Hate crimes bills were introduced in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In Massachusetts and Rhode Island, strong efforts are underway to repeal the states' sodomy laws. Massachusetts is in a strong position to enact statewide domestic partner legislation, and Vermont can already boast of this accomplishment. Vermont has enacted more pro-gay legislation than any other state in the nation, leading Vermonters to say that theirs is the safest state in the country.

Sure, Northampton, Massachusetts remains the undisputed lesbian capital of the United States and Provincetown is our community's summer resort. And yes, the region is peppered with colleges and universities that are vibrant centers of youth organizing. But by no means is the work of New Englanders easy or complete. As of this month's column, Rhode Island has a hate crimes law that does not include sexual orientation. Massachusetts and Rhode Island still ban opposite and same-sex sodomy. Maine and New Hampshire ban same-gender marriage and these bans are still pending in legislatures in Connecticut and Vermont. New Hampshire bans adoption and foster care by gay men and lesbians. Legislatively, the region has miles to go on issues related to our families and our relationships.

Our New England sisters and brothers have a long history of organizing and all of us should pay attention. Look no further than the feat of activists in New Hampshire getting the Catholic Diocese of Manchester to support civil rights for gays.

And they've taught us, we must be prepared to organize on a number of fronts at once. As we beat back the same-gender marriage bans or ballot measures (even if we've lost a fight already), we must keep our eyes on the prize. We can move forward comprehensive civil rights bills, repeal sodomy bans, pass hate crimes laws and build our communities at the same time. Each step provides important momentum in moving our communities forward to a place where there is freedom, dignity, and social justice for all. Gains in civil equality are an integral piece of a larger picture of full cultural acceptance and appreciation of diversity for all people.

## Eye On Equality... LIVING FREE IN NEW ENGLAND

by Kerry Lobel,

Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The civil rights sweep of New England is now complete. All six New England states (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont) will soon ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Add Hawaii, Wisconsin, Minnesota, California, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia to the mix, and nearly one out of four people in the country live where discrimination based on sexual orientation is outlawed.

While extremists threaten to challenge Maine's civil rights law, remember it was only two years ago that Mainers out-organized the Right and defeated a vicious initiative that would have written gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals out of that state's constitution. New Hampshire not only passed its civil rights bill this year, but trounced a hostile antimarriage bill that

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## THE ELLEN GOOD WILL RIPPLE-EFFECT

by Jane Greiner from Kalamazoo.

Didn't we all think the media over-hyped the Ellen coming-out show? Sure it was important to us, and to Ellen, but we laughed at the interest it generated in the staid, straight journalism crowd.

Now that its here and gone, I continue to notice the continuing ripple-effect and think it may, after all, have been a far bigger event than I at first imagined.

How many gays and lesbians actually went to Ellen parties?

My partner and I kept reading and hearing through the media about all the huge parties gays and lesbians were throwing. But none materialized locally. Of course not having the media to tell about our local parties, we had to depend on the grape-vine. Still, not a murmur.

So we planned to stay home and view alone, just the two us, my partner Lyn and I.

As the actual day drew near, excitement inexorably began to mount. Suddenly, almost at the last minute, friends called and invited us to a gathering at their house. We were elated! Yes! We wanted to be with friends! Clearly we had felt left-out of a major "community event". We wanted to share it. We were gleeful. Happy that we were, after all, going to a Coming Out With Ellen Party.

The great day arrived and the weather turned bad. In Michigan, that can mean tornadoes. And it did. Around dinner-time we had tornado "watches." A little later it was tornado "warnings."

During a tornado watch, the television stations transmit little yellow tornado logos in the upper left-hand corner of our television screens. We had the TV on, keeping an eye on the weather. We feared that no one would be able to go to the Ellen party!

Lyn was teaching an art class that night. She donned her "Celebrate Diversity" shirt from Saugatuck and went off to her class, promising to tell the class that tonight she had to leave a few minutes early "in order to get to her Ellen party." She was slightly nervous about coming-out to her class, but more fearful of being cooped up in the basement if the civil-defense

sirens went off and she couldn't get to the Ellen party.

Luckily there was no tornado.

At the appointed hour, we gathered together, five lesbian women and one gay man. We settled in with drinks, brownies and "grandma's cookies," baked by our hostess using her grandma's recipe. Delicious. High excitement as we waited.

Finally it was time for Ellen. Our hostess seated herself on the floor in front of the TV so that she could be "at the controls," ready to click on the tape machine and pause during commercials. Of course the little tornado was still on the screen being a nuisance.

Finally the show began. And went on. And on. I wished she would hurry up and get on with it!

But Ellen played it her way and it was a good way. Lots of light heartedness, just enough drama, and a crazy coming out over the P.A. at the airport.

We all whooped and shouted at appropriate times, yelling out "there's K.D." and "who is that?" about the woman in the grocery store.

My friends loved the toaster joke. I didn't care about the toaster joke but liked the gentle jibe at the "recruiting" threat.

I thought Laura Dern did a wonderful job portraying an already out lesbian trying not to embarrass one who hasn't figured it out for herself yet. And having to deal with the clumsiness of a brand-new lesbian who doesn't even realize the first lesbian she meets might already have a relationship was another real-life situation. Dern handled it with care and compassion. She should have been a lesbian in real life. I'm sure many dykes out there will agree with me.

After the show we all cheered, refreshed our snacks, and went on to view tapes of the Diane Sawyer and Oprah interviews.

We began with Diane Sawyer. We commented on how well Ellen handled herself and how awful Diane Sawyer had been. Her face, tone, and body language all said that everything lesbian was "icky." Luckily, Ellen was there as a constant, wholesome looking and intelligent reality check. Sawyer, in contrast, seemed out of touch.

Oprah was like a breath of fresh air after the repressiveness of Diane Sawyer. Of course I have always thought Oprah is a lesbian. Wasn't that a lavender gown she

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was wearing? Whatever she is, she is comfortable in herself and capable of handling an interview with a newly out lesbian in a sensitive manner.

Ellen again carried herself very well. She didn't let herself get baited into useless arguments, just stuck to her basic, "I have to do what is right for me" theme and threw in some humor from time to time.

Her new girlfriend, actress Anne Heche, is another story. We were not impressed. My partner thought that Ellen looked uncomfortable as Heche went rattling on. I couldn't believe that Ellen is really as happy "shopping" as her partner said. The girlfriend seemed so flippant. All in all, our prognosis for this relationship is not good.

As our evening drew to a close our hostess promised us copies of the tape so that we would have one and could show it to our parents. Of course, she wryly noted, the little tornado would be on the tapes throughout just as it had been as we watched. Oh well, we still wanted the tapes.

The next time we saw our friends she apologized profusely. After all her efforts, she had taped-over the Ellen show accidentally. So now none of us has the tape, even with the little tornado in the corner!

But our parents didn't do too badly on their own. My Dad missed the coming out show but caught the coming out to parents episode. Lyn's parents managed to see someone else's tape and saw the coming out to parents and coming out at work episodes.

I was sad when the season ended. Ellen had finally gotten interesting to me. I wanted to know more about her coming out and adjusting to her new circumstances.

Almost everything she did rang true to us and people we knew. I had had an identical experience with a college friend who was a first afraid to undress for bed in front of me after I told her I was gay.

My friend, like Ellen's, got over it. Thank goodness.

My parents really didn't show any shock when I came out to them. They had had a lot of time to get used to my life with girlfriends. Like Ellen's parents, they continued to express their love for me.

Lyn's parents had taken it a lot harder, more like Ellen's. They loved her, but couldn't understand her. But Lyn's parents, to their credit, have absorbed it over time, never failing to express their love for her, and finally worked their way around to giving us their full and loving support.

We all thought Ellen's father was very believable in his inability to deal with his daughters coming-out while maintaining his love for her. His sudden and complete turn-around at the end was the one somewhat unbelievable twist.

Her mother, playing it ditzy but caring, was somewhat plausible. Many of us had mother's who were bewildered by us but steadfastly caring. Everybody loved her line when Ellen said you always wanted us to be open and honest and her mother said, "No Ellen, that was you. We always wanted to keep our feelings bottled up." How like many families to just "not talk about" the hard things.

A few days after the show while at the local women's bookstore, we learned that Ellen's girlfriend had really misrepresented herself when she claimed she had never thought about being a lesbian until she met Ellen. She had played a lesbian in the movie "The Wild Side" before she met Ellen! How could she have played a lesbian and not thought a little about being one!

After this interesting turn of events, I thought the Ellen thing was over. We had seen the episodes, we had talked about them with friends, we had found out our parents had watched them too. We had found out the nitty-gritty about the girlfriend.

Out of the blue I got a letter from my old friend, the one who became nervous about changing clothes in front of me. It was a "Congratulations you're gay" letter. She too had watched Ellen, been thinking of me, and just wanted to let me know. What a sweet and caring letter. Thanks Deana, it does feel good.

I wonder how many other gays and lesbians got letters like that? So many of us have old (straight) friends and family who have stuck with us over the years and the changes in our lives. When Ellen said, "No-one sends you congratulations, you're a lesbian" card, maybe she started a trend. She got people thinking, and acting. And in our experience, it was all for the good.

I have since given more thought to the ripple effect of the Ellen coming-out show. I'll bet it will continue to gently create change for years to come. I remember a woman who still thanks Phil Donahue for having the first open gays on TV, after which their mother was finally able to talk to her. Donahue was a trail-blazer. That show at least brought some gays out to be seen, albeit almost as an oddity.

Ellen did us a great favor. She brought the common, every-day variety of lesbian out in the sunshine and let the world take a look at her. She may think that it wasn't political, she may wish that it wasn't political, but probably without any such intent, she gave a giant boost to the gay and lesbian community.

Three Cheers for Ellen! May the rays of sunshine and good humor fall always upon her.

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# WHERE IS THE TRANS ELLEN?

TRANNY BLUES

by Kaley Davis

Forty-Five Years Ago, Christine Jorgensen quietly returned from Stockholm after undergoing one of the first successful sex reassignment surgeries. The Swedish doctors who performed the operation on her body were professional and discreet. The American passport officers who performed the operation on her identity papers were not. A nameless bureaucrat sold her story to the press, and soon, headlines like "GI Becomes Blonde Bombshell" were screaming across the tabloids.

Though she was not the first trans woman to undergo these procedures, she was the first who was outed to the world. Much to her dismay, she led us into a swamp of media titillation and popular confusion about transsexuality, transvestism, and cross dressing that we are still slogging through today. In cultural terms, 1952 is as long ago as the Mesozoic Age, but dinosaurs still roam the minds of most when it comes to trans issues. Even among card-carrying queers, I am often disappointed at the general lack of understanding. In my bluer moments, I feel like non-trans people will never get it. I have visions of spending the rest of my days giving people vocabulary lessons and correcting pronoun usage. I'll be the life of every party. Whee.

I am impatient, this I know, for my gay friends tell me so. When I whine, they nod sympathetically and assure me that things will be so much different in ten years. They are probably right, but whether there will be less confusion, more confusion, or just different kinds of confusion is an open question. Trans people, like lesbians and gay men, have been around as long as people have been around. But, for some reason, gay people have been able to bust through cultural barriers more successfully.

I'm not going to use this space to try to educate you, Gentle Reader, about Trans 101. Library cards and Internet accounts are readily available. Please use them at your leisure. Instead, I'd like to elevate my private whining onto a higher, public plane. I propose to rant about some battles skill being fought which should have been over long ago. I call them "Things We Shouldn't Have to Deal With Because It's 1997, Fer Chrissakes."

First up: semantics. So many words we have: transvestite, transsexual, transgendered, cross-dresser, he/she, she-male, drag queen, drag king, transwoman, transman. FTM, MTF, boychick,

chick-with-dick, oy gevalt. Sometimes, it seems like there are more words for trans people than there are trans people. Yet, despite all these words we have for describing ourselves, the difference between such fundamental terms as transsexual and transvestite is still fuzzy in many people's minds.

During the recent flap over Eddie Murphy, the has-been actor, and Atisone Seouille, the trans hooker, I heard news announcers using both terms interchangeably—sometimes in the same story. It's also not uncommon to hear either word used as a synonym for prostitute. Why does this continue? When will it end? How many of you thought "oy gevalt" was another word for a transgendered person? We have to get non-trans people to clearly understand the language of trans issues before we can ever hope to be accepted. There is so much work still to be done.

But, whatever we do, let's not re-hire the person who invented the word "transgendered," OK? Kee-rist, what an awful word. It rolls off the tongue with all the grace of words like "conglomeration," "juxtaposition" or "Yugoslavia," and confuses more people than it enlightens. But, since the transgendered "community" is really just a confederation of people tied together by the loose threads of gender/sex dissonance, maybe a word that evokes a Balkan image is completely appropriate. We even have our own version of Comrade Tito: Leslie Feinberg, the unifying, mesmerizing, charismatic, radical leftist "strongman." (If you don't know who Leslie Feinberg is, put down this fishwrapper immediately and go read Stone Butch Blues )

But, I digress. Let's move on to social "justice." Despite enlightened civil rights legislation in Minnesota, Philadelphia, and King County, Washington, trans people are still being treated like dirt by courts and juries around the country. Case in point: on November 19, 1995, William Palmer, a computer programmer in Watertown, Massachusetts viciously beat and apparently strangled to death Chanel Pickett, a transsexual woman, in his bedroom. He admitted that when he discovered she was trans, he "freaked out," put his hands around her throat and "squeezed very hard" to "defend himself." He claimed that she was still breathing when he fell asleep, but awoke to find her dead. Yeah. Right.

Even after he admitted to assault and battery on the stand, his lawyer had the gall to request that he be released on probation claiming Palmer was "not responsible and should not be treated

TRANNY BLUES continued 14

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# C L A S S I F I E D S

(Note: All classified announcements as well as personals are run without charge. Please submit them in writing to the Friends North address, or call the editor at 616-271-3042 and leave the advertisement on the answering machine along with a contact phone number)

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**COMMON VOICES**, The Friends North Rap Group, publishes a monthly newsletter, thanks to Tom Barkley. It will remind people who choose to be on the mailing list of monthly Common Voices meetings, dinners and other group activities. Mailing list names, numbers and addresses are kept in confidence. This information will not be given out to any inquirers by anyone in Common Voices. (issue 4)

## ON-GOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VOLLEYBALL!**: Anyone interested in playing volleyball at the 1998 Gay Games in Amsterdam, please call Bill at 616-845-5220. (issue 4)

**GAY-LESBIAN BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP** is meeting on the last Monday of each month, 7:30 pm, at Border's Bookstore on South Airport Rd., T.C. For info, call Border's at 933-0412 and ask for Aimee. (issue 5)

**GAY GAMES IN 1998**: Team Great Lakes is organizing for the upcoming games in Amsterdam, scheduled for August 1-5, 1998. Those interested, please call Ann Heler at 810-547-4692. Team Great Lakes sent 180 individual athletes and teams to New York City in '94. (Issue 6)

**BI-MONTHLY, BI-SEXUAL, WOMEN'S LUNCHEON**: Meet the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 11:30 am until 1:00 at a local, Traverse City restaurant. Call Pamela at 922-0734 or contact Friends North. (issue 4)

**PLEASE SPONSOR OUR POSTCARD PROJECT**: They do make a difference! The cost for printing the 2800 postcards is \$100.00. To contribute specifically to the Postcard Project, please call Richard at 271-3042 or send a check (in an amount of \$100.00 or less) directly to Friends North. (issue 4)

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

**THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PETOSKEY** is 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 6)

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

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

## HOUSING/RESORTS

**LOCAL CHIROPRACTOR** wants to rent small house, quiet apartment or mobile home. Please call Suzette at 616-275-2502 (issue 4)

**ROOMMATE WANTED**: Close to downtown. \$300. /mo. Includes: utilities, cable, private room, but not phone. Must like pets. A non-smoker, non-drinker preferred. Call 929-3174. Leave message.(issue 4)  
**ROOMMATE WANTED**: \$300 + deposit & references. Includes utilities. 10 minutes from GT Mall. Call 943-4006

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## PERSONALS:

**BIBLE STUDY**: You are welcome to come to my home and study "A Complete Workbook for De-Mystifying the Bible's Position on Homosexuality" and/or other subjects of interest. This is a Gay and Lesbian Bible Study that affirms and honors us as Gay and Lesbian Christians and removes the stigma that has been placed on homosexuality by many. We will be studying the specific verses in the Bible that are used against us, and also studying the verses that most encourage growth in our spiritual lives. DATE: First Sunday of each month, from 4:00-5:30 p.m., beginning June 1st. Please call for directions: Linda Wilson, 616-271-4331 (issue 4)

## GROUPS:

**FRIENDS NORTH BOARD AND MEMBER MEETINGS**: The Friends North Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, corner of Washington and Boardman Streets, across from the Old Courthouse. ALL ARE WELCOME (issue 5)

**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 or Ed at 947-4697. (issue 5)

**GLSTN**, the Gay-Lesbian-Straight Teachers Network, is meeting monthly in Traverse City. They welcome all interested educators. For more information, call M'Lynn at 943-5050. (issue 5)

**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 Cindy Robb at 271-5045 (Issue 5)

**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. (issue 5)

**OUT 'N ABOUT** is a lesbian coffeehouse featuring entertainment as well as a chance to meet others from the area. It all happens at the Unity Church, 3600 Five Mile Rd. in T.C. Please see the Out 'n About calendar elsewhere in this newsletter for times and specific activities. (issue 5)

**TRAVERSE CITY FRONTRUNNERS** If you are interested in running, call Paul at 933-0572 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. (issue 5)

**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

# Gay History and Education Day '97

*with special guest Dr. Mel White*

Saturday, November 1 · Park Place Hotel, Traverse City, MI  
8:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

## Itinerary

---

- I. 8:15-8:55a.m.      **Arrival, registration****  
Coffee/tea available
  
- II. 9:00-10:15a.m.    **Session 1****  
Chosen from group A, B, or C
  
- III. 10:15-10:30a.m.   **break****  
Coffee/tea available
  
- IV. 10:30-11:45a.m.   **Session 2****  
(Chosen from group A, B, or C)
  
- V. 11:45-1p.m.        **Lunch break****  
Top of the Park
  
- VI. 1:00-2:15p.m.     **Session 3****  
(Chosen from group A, B, or C)
  
- VII. 2:15-2:30p.m.    **break****  
Coffee/tea available
  
- VIII. 2:30-3:00p.m.   **Raffle Drawing for Early Registration Attendees****  
**Announcements**
  
- IX. 3:00-4:30p.m.     **Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mel White****  
Question/answer session following address



DR. MEL WHITE

*Few issues divide our country more dangerously today than does the question of homosexuality and the conflict between the concept of family values and the individual rights of gays and lesbians. Families are divided, careers are ruined, lives are lost—all in the struggle between beliefs founded in tradition and those based on personal freedom. Spearheading the fight against the increasingly vocal homosexual community are leaders of the so-called "religious right," men and women who denounce gays and lesbians from their pulpits and encourage their followers to enact laws against them.*

*Perhaps no one is better qualified to speak about these issues than Mel White, noted author, filmmaker, and former dean of the largest gay church in the world. He provides a firsthand look at the teachings and workings of the religious right today, showing how they use their power first to politicize their followers, then, using these politics, to spearhead fund-raising efforts. His personal story offers a prophetic look at where the anti-homosexual tactics of the religious right might lead our nation.*

---

*All sessions will take place in the lower level conference rooms of The Park Place Hotel*

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**See other side for registration form** ➤

# Gay History and Education Day '97

## Registration Form

Please fill out this form completely and return with registration fee (*check or money order only*) made payable to Friends North. Mail to: GHED '97, c/o Matt & Guy., 333 Sixth St. #3, Traverse City, MI 49684  
**Registration Deadline: Sept. 17, 1997 · Special raffle held for early registration\***

### Tell us about yourself *(please print)*

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**Registration fee: \$30.00 per person, includes lunch at the hotel.**

**Yes! I plan to attend.** Enclosed is my payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ (# of participant(s))

### How did you hear about this event?

Friends North newsletter  Third Coast Magazine  Between The Lines  Poster  Friend  other

### Sessions *(please indicate the time slot for each session you plan to attend using 1, 2, and 3 for your respective choices.)*

<b>A. Making Your Point While Keeping Your Cool:</b> More Effective Communication	<b>B. Gays, Lesbians, &amp; the Law:</b> Key Legal Issues and How They Affect Us	<b>C. Hope for the Future:</b> What Can Adults Do For The Next Generation?
With a topic as controversial as <i>gay</i> issues it is extremely important that a positive message be presented as often as possible. So how do you make your point with someone you know disagrees with your view <i>and</i> earn their respect for what you have to say? In good communication we need to listen as well as speak. This session will provide lots of great information that will give you an edge in your next public forum or letter to the editor! <i>Presenter: Carol Murray-Cruzen.</i>	Domestic partnership, home buying, wills, power of attorney. These can be confusing enough but add to that the dynamic of being gay and the questions can soon multiply. In a world where our basic human rights are often denied it is important for us to know what the law really says on several key issues. This informative session can help you answer a few questions you may have and will prompt you to think about a few things you've been putting off. <i>Presenter: TBA</i>	Adolescence is bad enough on its own but being a <i>gay</i> adolescent in a rural, conservative community can be the pits! Learn more about what today's <i>gay</i> youth are struggling with and what's changed since we were in their shoes. Find out what you can do to make things smoother for the next generation and also learn what our <i>gay</i> youth hope to see in us as role models. (Don't you wish you had a class like this in high school?!) <i>Presenters: Debby Ludwig and Liz Bert</i>
<b>I wish to attend:</b> <i>(indicate time preference)</i>	<b>I wish to attend:</b> <i>(indicate time preference)</i>	<b>I wish to attend:</b> <i>(indicate time preference)</i>
___ 9:00-10:15a.m.	___ 9:00-10:15a.m.	___ 9:00-10:15a.m.
___ 10:30-11:45a.m.	___ 10:30-11:45a.m.	___ 10:30-11:45a.m.
___ 1:00-2:15p.m.	___ 1:00-2:15p.m.	___ 1:00-2:15p.m.

\* *Individuals who register prior to September 10, 1997 will be automatically entered into a raffle which includes a number of exceptional prizes including: a gift certificate from Tapawingo, \$25 gift certificate from ABCD's, gift certificate from The Bookie Joint, one-hour massage with Suzzette Corbit, gift certificate from Duneswood B&B(women only,) gift certificate from Hair Force One, gift certificate from Barker Creek Nursery, theatre tickets from the Old Town Playhouse, \$50 gift certificate from Flowers by Josie, one-month membership and fitness consultation from The Fitness Center, one-year subscription to Traverse Magazine, gift certificate from The Boathouse/Exquisite Edibles, \$20 gift certificate from Cathie's Tote and Dine.*

**See back side for breakdown of the day's events** ➤

Drive, Suite 221, just north of S. Airport Road. For further information, please call 933-0279. (issue 5)

**THE PETOSKEY GROUP:** A social group for lesbian, gay and bi-sexual persons is meeting weekly in Petoskey. The group meets at 7 p.m. Thursdays at the Park Garden Cafe on Lake Street. For information please contact Tim at 348-8151 (issue 5)

**NORTHERN MICHIGAN WOMYN'S CHOIR** is always looking for new voices. To obtain more information or for a performance schedule, please contact Deb at 275-5924. (issue 5)

**H.A.N.D.S** is an HIV/AIDS Network located in Petoskey. They are currently seeking volunteers in the northern lower peninsula and eastern upper peninsula of Michigan. HANDS is a non-profit organization that has committed itself to helping and supporting the needs of HIV infected persons. They offer a number of services, including support groups, education, public awareness, and one-on-one friendship support. Volunteers are urgently needed in the Alpena, Gaylord, and Rogers City areas. If you would be interested in the program, please call 616-526-9213. (issue 5)

**GAY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** Meetings for gays and lesbians are held each Saturday at 11:00 am and have been moved to a new location at Grace Episcopal Church, corner Washington and Boardman Streets in TC. For further info, call John at 922-0746 or Tom at 947-4647. (issue 6)

**FRIENDS LIKE US:** A social group in north east lower Michigan for gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. Meets monthly. For info, please contact Jeff @ 517-354-7702, or write to him at POB 391, Alpena, MI 49707. (issue 5)

## GAY HISTORY AND EDUCATION DAY

(continued from page 1)

Lesbians and the Law: Key Legal Issues and How They Affect Us"; Hope for the Future: What Can Adults Do for the Next Generation?" (Please see the enclosed handout for further descriptions on these seminars.)


We are also very excited to bring Dr. Mel White to northwestern Michigan to share his incredible story. A noted author, filmmaker, and former dean of the largest gay church in the world, White also worked for some of the most influential members of the religious right including Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and Billy Graham. Like so many gays and lesbians, White was raised in a conservative Christian home and attended a conservative Christian school. Like so many others he too lived the anguish of dual lives, fueled by repression and denial. Now that he is out (and free!) White has become a relentless gay activist and motivator who travels all over the country to share his story and promote peaceful activism. His story is certain to enlighten and motivate all of us.

In addition to the seminars there will be a number of tables displaying gay-proud items (books, CD's, clothing, etc.) as well as historical/informational displays to give us all a better sense of our accomplishments over the years.

The cost for this one-day event is \$35 dollars per person and includes all three seminars, lunch at The Park Place, and the keynote address. As an added incentive, those participants who register prior to September 17, 1997 will automatically be entered into a drawing for some wonderful prizes donated by several (very generous) gay-friendly business owners and supporters of Friends North in the northwest Michigan area. Gift certificates will be awarded from businesses such as Tapawingo, Hair Force One, ABCD's, Flowers By Josie, The Boathouse/Exquisite Edibles, Traverse Magazine, Cathie's Tote & Dine, The Fitness Center, Old Town Playhouse, Barker Creek Nursery, Duneswood B&B (for women only—sorry, guys!.) The Bookie Joint, and Suzzette Corbit. Remember to get your registration form in early to be eligible!

Please join us in November for this very important day—and encourage friends and/or family members to come along. Also, if you know of anyone who lives outside our region and who may be interested let Matt, Guy, or any member of the Friends North Board know so that registration information can get out to him/her.

Matt and Guy are still looking for any interested volunteers who may wish to work in some capacity on the Gay History and Education Day. Several individuals will be needed the day of the event to help with registration and some set up but they also need a few folks to help with other items along the way (poster distribution, mailings, etc.) If you have a few hours to spare this summer and would like to help out with this event, please contact Matt or Guy at 616-935-4819. (Please, no calls after 10 p.m.)



### OCTOBER 12 FRIENDS NORTH AUTUMN HIKE & POTLUCK

*Join us October 12, 1997*

2:00 pm at the trail head of the  
Brown Bridge Pathways  
(near Ranch Rudolf)

For a fun, color filled afternoon  
Hike/Walk around the beautiful  
Brown Bridge Pond

We will gather after for a potluck dinner  
(you should plan to bring a dish to pass)  
So, Mark your calendars NOW!

This is the only notice of this get-together  
For questions or to R.S.V .P.

Call Kirk 943-4006 or Jim 922-0925

**Please R.S.V.P.**

as if he was." The implication was that Ms. Pickett tricked him and deserved everything she got. The jury apparently felt that it's still OK to kill a tranny, as long as you "freak out" first, and on May 9, 1997, acquitted Mr. Palner of murder, only reluctantly returning a guilty verdict on the assault and battery Mr. Palmer admitted to. Amazing, isn't it? At least the judge had the decency to give Palmer the maximum punishment that he could: two measley years.

I could write a nice long book about injustice inflicted on trans people in recent years. But, let's move the whining on to another nice long book: the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (lovingly known as the DSM-IV). This tome, published by the American Psychiatric Association, is the Shrink's Bible. It "precisely defines the differences between similar disorders and gives guidelines for making diagnoses." Both "Transvestic Fetishism (302.3)" and "Gender Identity Disorder (302.85)" are listed in the DSM-IV. Homosexuals were deleted from the DSM in 1973, but I'm still in there! Let's ignore the fact that there are scores of trans people who function perfectly well in life. Probably better than the average psychiatrist. No, medical science says we're officially loony tunes, so lock your doors and hide your children!

Of course, my health insurance does not cover any actual remedy for this so-called illness. In fact, it specifically excludes "surgery or treatment for transsexualism" in its glossy brochure. So, the shrinks say we're sick and need help, but the suits at the insurance companies say we're just freaks and won't pay for our frivolities. Can both be right? Meanwhile, we are left to ourselves to scrape together the money to pay for a lifetime of medication or \$10,000 to \$50,000 for various surgeries. No wonder all my transsexual friends are broke.

Next, let's head for Hollywood, where trans people are basically invisible, except in caricature. Call Central Casting, and order a trio of trans characters: a drag queen, a straight crossdresser, and a transsexual. The drag queen will wear a blond wig, speak breathily, teeter around on stillettos, and spew bitchy venom between puffs on her ever-present cigarette. The straight crossdresser will look like an ordinary shrub until he suddenly finds himself trapped in a situation where he has to dress a woman. Wacky hijinks will ensue until he is finally able to break free from his predicament, get the girl, and reassure the audience that he's still a normal guy and wouldn't ever want to wear a dress again, nosireebob. The transexual will be exactly like the drag queen, because Central Casting doesn't know the difference. Oh, maybe she'll do heroin instead of Marlboros. Don't bother trying to ask for a transsexual woman. They've never heard of them.

Finally, I have a personal beef with personal ads. Unless you are trans yourself you probably have never noticed how uniformly insipid and demeaning ads aimed at trans people can be. First of all, we are always lumped into the "Alternatives section with people who want to clean your house in the nude or be stomped on the chest it with golf shoes. And the alternatives section always comes last. Back of the bus for us freaks. But check out the ads themselves. In the straight sections, men are looking for interesting, complex women who are into outdoor sports, ethnic dining and live theatre. In the trans ads, men say

things like "I need a TS. Must have breasts and be very feminine." Excuse me, do I have USDA Choice stamp on my forehead?

Now, maybe you're saying "ifshe got laid more often, she wouldn't be so cranky." To this, I politely reply, "k-duh!" Interested parties are ever so welcome to apply. (No Cromagnons, please.) Unfortunately, it's going to take a lot more than breaking my own celibacy streak to make me feel like trans people have arrived. For there is no trans Ellen on the horizon. No trans Barney Frank. No trans Martina Navrotilova. No trans David Geffen. For the foreseeable future, we seem destined to remain on the fringes of the fringes of society, and I wish I knew what we could do about it besides waiting patiently. Does anyone have ideas?

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## Perspective— DISNEY ON PARADE

by Stephen H. Miller

The boycott of the Walt Disney Company called by the Southern Baptist Convention—the nation's largest Protestant denomination, with some 15 million members—received sweeping media coverage. The Southern Baptists are angry over the family entertainment giant's "gay friendly" policies, such as granting health insurance benefits to same-sex domestic partners, permitting its ABC subsidiary to allow "Ellen" to come out of the closet (on prime time TV!), and not forbidding private groups from holding "Gay Days" at its theme parks.

There are a number of interesting questions that come to mind about this latest installment in the "gays vs. religious right" saga. For one, the boycott call has been brewing for a long time. At their convention last year, the Southern Baptists had warned Disney to discontinue its "anti-family, pro-gay, pro-lesbian" policies and programming and pronounced that Disney had exactly one year to respond to their objections. So why were our leading lesbian and gay activist organizations caught off-guard (again!) when this year's convention followed-through with the threatened action?

Another pertinent question comes to mind. The leaders of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, among others, speak relentlessly about the need to support racial preferences and every other element of the left-liberal agenda in order to cement an alliance with "progressive" groups. For instance, the HRC, as a member of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (which includes the NAACP, among others) has pledged, in solidarity, to "struggle to pursue meaningful and effective affirmative action policies and programs" and to "work to undo the effects of the pernicious new welfare and immigration laws." So why were none of our supposed allies in the civil rights community (including the NAACP) willing to criticize the Southern Baptist action?

There are, actually, a number of points here that concern the cultural contradictions revealed when left-foot-forward lesbigay activism attempts to confront the reactionary right. Consider this:

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Developments at Disney prove that the free-market—and not bigger government—may in fact be the gay community's best weapon in the fight for equality. Disney hasn't adopted gay-inclusive policies out of a sense of altruism, after all. Uncle Walt, remember, was far from "gay friendly" and even fired one-time Disney teen star Tommy ("Son of Flubber") Kirk upon learning he was a—gasp—homosexual. No, the Walt Disney Company changed because savvy businesses have learned that a gay-welcoming workplace attracts and keeps valuable talent.

Moreover, Disney adopted its partnership benefits well after all the other major Hollywood studios had done so, and just as its cash-cow animation department was being raided by rival Dreamworks, where openly gay mogul David Geffen is a leading honcho. So it turns out that Disney's supposed "pro-gay" agenda is just old-fashioned business smarts. The religious right, however, for all its "conservatism," doesn't like the fact that the free market produces and sells all variety of entertainment products, including gay-friendly programs, or that a competitive marketplace means companies must compete for highly prized gay workers. So, why aren't lesbian and gay leaders attacking the Southern Baptists for being against free enterprise? Because the realization that liberty and capitalism go hand in hand is apparently foreign to our "progressive" activist leaders.

The whole Disney/Southern Baptist affair is rife with still more culture contradictions, which could keep political analysts busy for years. One example: I recently received an e-mail from political philosopher Chris Sciabarra. He reports that in the Big Apple the "Disney-fication" of Times Square/42nd Street—now largely owned by Disney and populated with Disney theaters and stores and other family attractions—is viewed by many locals as an unsettling sanitation of a once sexy—if sleazy—adult entertainment district. Now, says my informant, "along come the Baptists, and we are finally realizing that Disney didn't push the sleaze out at all! They *are* sleaze!" Seems you learn something new every day.

Finally, I should mention that some of the religious right's attacks on Disney have been just plain loony. Last year, the Tupelo, Mississippi-based American Family Association lambasted the names of the characters in Disney's hit film "Toy Story," claiming sheriff "Woody" was a sexual reference while spaceman "Buzz" referred to drug-induced euphoria. Also found to be suspect (and I quote): an "Etch-a-Sketch whose 'knobs' had to be 'adjusted' to produce results."

But before we get too smug, let's remember that our own lesbian activists haven't been much better. A few years back Disney was criticized by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which decided that in "The Lion King" the villainous Scar (voiced by Jeremy Irons) "speaks and moves in an effeminate manner," and thus demonstrated stereotypically gay characteristics (this, despite the fact that the film's executive producers and much of the animation staff were openly gay). Then, last year, the National Center for Lesbian Rights protested Disney's live-action remake of "101 Dalmations" for being (you guessed it) anti-lesbian. Kate Kendell, head of NCLR, complained that Glenn Close's Cruella De Vil fit the stereotype of a "stiff, man-hating, ball-breaking lesbian." Hmmm.

Still, one thing we've learned from ill-conceived boycotts called by both the left and the right is that they don't work. So maybe it will

turn out that the Southern Baptists have done us a favor by making the lack of public backing for organized anti-gay bigotry crystal clear. If this happens (and I suspect it will), it would again prove that the movement for gay and lesbian equality can't be stopped, despite threats by the Cruellas of the intolerant right, or misplaced Mickey Mouse antics by our own team leaders. Regardless of the Goofy behavior all 'round, the American people are not Dumbos, and the bedrock American values of liberty and individual rights fostered by free enterprise are no Fantasia.

Stephen H. Miller, a contributor to the essay anthology "Beyond Queer: Challenging Gay Left Orthodoxy," is a writer based in Washington, DC.

*Reprinted from TWN in Florida.*

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## WHYMAN SUED BY TRIANGLE FOUNDATION

*A Michigan state representative has been targeted by a lesbian group in a libel suit.*

Rep. Deborah Whyman, R-Canton Township, is being sued by the Michigan-based Triangle Foundation over libelous election literature Whyman distributed during her re-election campaign last fall. The printed material characterized the Triangle Foundation as a "homosexual extremist" organization and inferred that the organization endorsed pedophilia because of its stated support for "sexual minorities."

Information about the lawsuit was distributed in June in an electronic posting by the Christian Action Network, based in Killeen, Texas. According to the Michigan lesbian publication *Between The Lines*, a lesbian in New Orleans intercepted the message and then posted it on gay and lesbian news lists.

According to the message, Whyman contacted the group's president, the Rev. Curtis S. Tomlin, to solicit help and funds. Tomlin posted the information on the group's web page.

The lawsuit against Whyman is pending in Wayne County Circuit Court before Judge Susan D. Borman. According to the attorney representing the Triangle Foundation, the Christian group misrepresented the lawsuit and inflated the number of counts charged in the suit from six to 100.

Triangle Foundation President Jeff Montgomery was quoted to say, "Whyman's tactics at raising funds raises serious questions about her own campaign financing. As things stand now, there is nothing in Michigan law to prevent Whyman from using her campaign fund to finance her legal battle."

It is believed Whyman has her eyes on a senate seat in 1998. Whyman testified before Congress to support DOMA and she was a significant sponsor of the Michigan anti-same sex marriage bills passed last summer. She has repeatedly used vitriolic language in attacking gays and lesbians and has used every opportunity to paint the lesbian population as an extremist group bent on destroying America's values.

## REVIEW/FILM: 'BOYS LIFE' SEQUEL MOST ENLIGHTENING

*Boys Life 2* (Anthology, color, no rating, 1:14)  
By Emanuel Levy

A terrifically entertaining anthology, *Boys Life 2*, the follow-up to the highly acclaimed 1995 hit, consists of four remarkable short films about various aspects of contemporary gay lifestyles.

Focusing for the most part on adolescence and young adulthood, the segments deal with coming out at a young age (Trevor, *Must Be the Music*), responses to gay-bashing (Nunzio's *Second Cousin*) and the effects of the past on the sexual identity of a youngster living in the heartland (Alkalai, Iowa).

The first story, Nickolas Perry's *Must Be the Music*, is set on a typical Friday night, when four adolescents head for a hot disco in downtown L.A. Narrated by Jason (Milo Ventimiglia), the tale depicts some tensions within the group before settling on their conduct in a gay disco, where most of the action takes place. Fluidly shot and smoothly edited, the film demonstrates its helmer's talent in telling a rather weak story in a striking visual manner.

In Tom DeCerchio's darkly comic, message-oriented Nunzio's *Second Cousin*, Sgt. Tony Randozza (Vincent D'Onofrio), a gay Chicago police detective, gets a chance to exercise his own brand of justice when he and his black date (Harry Walters Jr.) are harassed by five hoodlums who believe it's a good night for gay-bashing. Forcing them to recite in tandem 'Gay people are nice people,' Tony proceeds with a dinner invitation to the gang's handsome leader, Jimmy (Miles Perlich).

Centerpiece is a dinner at the house of Tony's domineering mom (brilliantly played by Eileen Brennan).

The richest and most accomplished yarn is Mark Christopher's *Alkalai, Iowa*, situated in the heartland, where handsome farmer Jack (J.D. Cerna) unearths some painful — but also liberating — truth about the clandestine identity of his dead father, a war hero. It turns out his mom (Mary Beth Hurt) has suppressed knowledge of her hubby's homosexuality under the stricture of her father-in-law, a primitive brute who still can't face the truth about his son.

Concluding the lineup is the well-intentioned, glitzy and a bit superficial Trevor, Peggy Rajski's 1995 Oscar-winning live-action short. Tale's titular hero (Brett Barsky) is a sensitive, overweight

adolescent who worships Diana Ross and is utterly captivated by showbiz. Misunderstood by his dull suburban parents and ridiculed by his classmates for "walking like a girl" and for his attraction to straight guy Pinky (Jonah Rooney), he becomes depressed and considers suicide.

Displaying the diverse talents of a quartet of tyro filmmakers, *Boys Life 2* should serve as a calling card. Each helmer shows strong potential for a viable filmmaking career.



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## PRESIDENT CLINTON'S GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE CELEBRATION MESSAGE

### *GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE CELEBRATION, 1997*

Warm greetings to all those participating in the 1997 Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebration.

Throughout America's history, we have overcome tremendous challenges by drawing strength from our great diversity. We must never believe that our diversity is a weakness. The talents, contributions, and goodwill of people from so many different backgrounds have enriched our national life and have enabled us to fulfill our common hopes and dreams. As we stand at the dawn of a new century, we all must rededicate ourselves to reaching the vital goals of acceptance and inclusion. America's continued success will depend on our ability to understand, appreciate, and care for one another.

We're not there yet, and that is why our efforts to end discrimination against lesbians and gay men are so important. Like each of you, I remain dedicated to ending discrimination and preserving the civil rights of every citizen in our society. We have begun to wage an all-out campaign against hate crimes in America — crimes that are often viciously directed at gay men and lesbians. I have also endorsed and fought for civil rights legislation that would protect gay and lesbian Americans from discrimination. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act now being considered in Congress would put an end to discrimination against gay men and lesbians in the workplace — discrimination that is currently legal in 39 states. These efforts reflect our belief in the right of every American to be judged on his or her merits and abilities, and to be allowed to contribute to society without facing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. And they reflect our ongoing fight against bigotry and intolerance in our country and in our hearts.

My Administration's record of inclusiveness is a strong one, but it is a record to build on. I am proud of the many openly gay men and lesbians who serve with distinction in my Administration, and their impact will continue to be significant in the years ahead. I pledge to you that I will continue striving to foster compassion and understanding, working not simply to tolerate our differences, but to celebrate them.

Best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Bill Clinton

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## PRESIDENT CLINTON MEETS WITH GAY LEADERS

Washington, DC—July 23, 1997— Kerry Lobel, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director and representatives of eleven other lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organizations met with President Clinton on Tuesday July 22, 1997 at the White House.

Participants at the meeting, organized by Richard Socarides, White House liaison to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, covered a wide range of issues including gays in the military, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth, HIV/AIDS, and family issues including marriage, adoption and custody. Other topics discussed at the meeting were hate crimes, the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA), state organizing, presidential appointments, sodomy, and the intersections of race and sexual orientation. The group also talked about the President's record on LGBT issues during his first term and discussed their expectations for the current term.

According to Lobel, "we found the President to be open and knowledgeable on issues affecting the LGBT community. This is a President who at heart seems to have a deep commitment to moving every American forward. At those places where we disagree with the President, and there are many, we know for certain now that he acts, not out of ignorance, but out of his political analysis for advancing his agenda."

Lobel added that the President spoke at length about how the cultural map of America must shift if LGBT people are to gain civil rights. "We look to the President to speak out loudly and often on issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans. But we must be realistic. The President will not move unless activists at the local and state level move him and the administration forward."

Other participants at the meeting were Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network; Tim Gill, founder of the Gill Foundation; Gloria Nieto, executive director of the People of Color AIDS foundation of New Mexico; Brian Bond, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund; Lorri Jean, executive director of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center; Martin Ornelas-Quintero, executive director of the National Lesbian and Gay Organization; Jeff Soref, Co-Chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda; Dale McCormick, Treasurer of the State of Maine; Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; Nancy McDonald, national president of the board of directors of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG); Verna Eggleston, executive director of the Hetrick-Martin Institute; and Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has worked to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people at the local, state and national level since its inception in 1973. As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and equality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society.

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## CHILDREN PAY THE PRICE FOR GROWING UP GAY

By Steve Blow / *The Dallas Morning News*

Several of us middle-aged guys were having lunch the other day, talking about the usual assortment of work and family misadventures. Somehow we began to talk about that inevitable stage in raising boys in which you discover their stash of "naked lady" pictures.

And almost in unison, we voiced our reaction upon making that discovery: "Yea! They're not gay!"

We all laughed and went right on to other topics. But I've been thinking about that moment ever since.

I don't think anyone in that group had that reaction because of hatred for gays or lesbians. It was more a feeling of relief that our kids won't have to endure the hardships of growing up gay.

We're in the midst of social upheaval in this country over the issue of homosexuality. We adults cuss and discuss the civil rights and moral rightness of gays and lesbians.

And in the meantime, many children pay a price.

Woe to any child in these heated days who gets branded gay or lesbian.

### **Male cheerleader**

Did you see the news story last weekend about the young man in Midland? He thought his dreams had come true when picked as a high school cheerleader. Instead, a nightmare began when students began to taunt him.

Even from the grandstands at a football game, students called him "a . . . [expletive] faggot." And last month, the young man attempted suicide.

One study found that a third of teens who commit suicide are dealing with the hurt and isolation of homosexuality.

And a child need not even be gay or lesbian to suffer the torment. Lots of those boys with a stash of "naked lady" pictures at home get targeted because they are different - smaller, or smarter or simply less athletic than the other boys.

A study in Seattle found that for every gay or lesbian youth being harassed, another four heterosexual kids were being beaten up or tormented because they "appeared" gay.

Picture this

Next Sunday afternoon at 2, folks will gather in an auditorium at the Dallas Museum of Art to watch a film and talk about a nice, safe topic: Discussing homosexuality in our schools.

Can you say "brouhaha," boys and girls?

The event is sponsored by P-FLAG - Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. And the movie is *It's Elementary* - an award-winning documentary that shows how homosexuality is being calmly discussed in some elementary and middle schools around the country.

I watched the film last week and noticed that none of the schools were in Texas. What a surprise, huh? And I doubt the day will come when Texas schools celebrate "Gay & Lesbian Pride Day" as an elementary in Massachusetts does.

But the film does show that even the youngest children

already know a lot about homosexuality (from those TV talk shows, mostly). And it demonstrates that kids are capable of getting beyond the giggles to heartfelt discussion.

Jim McBride also watched the movie last week. "That film moved me emotionally as much as anything I've seen," he said. "Because it was about me."

Jim will be discussing the film next Sunday. He is director of the Hope Counseling Center at the Cathedral of Hope.

He wasn't one of those tormented for being gay as he grew up in Vicksburg, Miss. In fact, he was class president and quarterback of the football team. He played quarterback on scholarship at Mississippi State and went on to a 25-year career with IBM.

"But I was miserable the whole time," he said, "because I knew people would hate me if they found out what I was really feeling inside."

He said he was moved by the film because it shows that children are capable of grasping what many adults can't - that it's not about approving or disapproving of homosexuality. "They understand it's all a matter of respecting people," he said.

Oh, we'll probably have a big controversy over whether homosexuality should be discussed in our children's schools. We'll argue back and forth as if we actually had a choice in the matter.

But the plain truth is that it's being discussed right now. Often with fists.

*(Reprinted with permission of the author and Dallas Morning News)*

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## CONGRESS COMES HOME FOR AUGUST

### *Set Up a Meeting with Your Lawmakers while They're in Your Neighborhood: It's Easy and Essential*

Your U.S. senators and representatives are coming home to their districts for the August congressional recess, so now is a perfect time to set up a meeting with them about the issues you care about.

Meeting with our lawmakers is both easy and essential in working to end discrimination, secure equal rights and protect the health and safety of our families. And remember—when Congress isn't hearing from us, they are hearing from anti-gay groups seeking to promote discrimination against us.

There is a great deal to discuss with your members of Congress: co-sponsoring the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), a bill to protect Americans from job discrimination based on sexual orientation; amending federal hate crimes laws to include sexual orientation; securing adequate funding to fight HIV/AIDS; and addressing lesbian health concerns.

Hearing from you when they are at home helps your lawmakers do the right thing when they return to Washington—so get out your appointment book!

#### **Set up a Meeting**

1. Contact the Human Rights Campaign's Field Department for free information on the issues and a lobbying manual that makes it easy to set up and conduct an effective meeting with your lawmakers:

- Call (202) 628-4160 and ask for the Field Department;
- Write to the Human Rights Campaign, Field Department, 1101 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005; or
- Look for the manual through HRC's Online Action Center at <http://www.hrc.org/congress/lobby.html>.

2. Then call Congress at (202) 224-3121 and ask for the office of the senator or representative you want to meet with. When you are connected, ask for the scheduler so you can set up a constituent meeting with your lawmaker during the August recess.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community. To join, call (800) 777-4723.

HUMAN  
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## WORDS AND MUSIC:

### *What's New In Books, Magazines, CD's And Tapes*

By Rick Gould

Fall is typically a big time of year for reading materials and music. Here are some suggestions as the weather turns cold:

At **The Bookie Joint**, Shelley has recently acquired a personal library that is mostly gay and lesbian books. The 800 plus library belongs to someone who is seriously ill and financially stressed. The majority of the money from the books will go to this woman. Shelley says the books are in mint condition, and while about 80% of the titles are of interest to lesbian readers, there are books that will appeal to both men and women. So come in and browse, buy and help someone out at the same time!

At **Waldenbooks**, Kevin gave us this list: *The Men From The Boys* by William J. Mann, \$22.95. A summertime romance with a 22-year-old houseboy is the catalyst for a gay man's discovery of himself, his family, and his place in life. And you thought good help was hard to find!

*Out and About Gay Travel Guides: USA & Canadian Cities*, by Billy Kolber-Stuart, David Alport and David Savage, \$14.95. The second in a series of gay travel guides from the acclaimed newsletter *Out and About*.

*Roberts Rules Of Lesbian Breakups* by Shelly Roberts, \$5.95. The syndicated columnist, "the lesbian Erma Bombeck," humorously turns her attention to breaking up, dyke style. Lesbian Erma Bombeck, hmm?

*Out In All Directions: A Treasury of Gay and Lesbian America* by Lynn Witt, editors. \$16.99. A lively chronicle of gay accomplishments and history and a useful guide to gay concepts and communities nationwide.

*The Beauty of Men* by Andrew Hollerman, \$12.95. This acclaimed author's third novel is now out in paperback. This story is about a man, though surrounded by losses in the AIDS era, still mourns the passing of his own youth.

From **Horizon Books**, Jennifer suggested the following: *Kept Boy* by Robert Rodi, \$23.95. Rodi, author of *Fag Hag and Glamourpuss*, strikes again with a hilarious and touching look at the title character's fight to keep his keeper.

*Dream Lover* by Jane Flutcher, \$9.95. Two women who once had a passionate affair 20 years ago, meet again unexpectedly, and guess what? Well, if I have to tell you...go back to Regency Romances 101!

*Now That I'm Out, What Do I Do?* by Brian McNaught, \$22.95. This primer will help!

*The Last Party* by Anthony Haden-Guest, \$25.00. This is purports to be the tell-all story of the Studio 54 era.

From Cheboygan, Dave Elyea invites you to **Comics North's** spiffy new digs. The store is now located at 211 N. Main St., across from the Post Office. Here's some new comic titles:

Roberta Gregory's *Naughty Bits* #23, \$2.95. Spotlights the origin of her character Bitchy Butch, who reflects on her beginnings in response to the media circus surrounding the "coming out" episode of a certain prime-time sitcom.

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## PROFILE: IAN WHITNEY

"If you do not support safe communities, what do you support? Unsafe communities?"

Ian Whitney is a young man with a mission - a mission to garner community-wide support for Safe Schools in Northern Michigan.

"The Hate-free TC forum is really helping because we can tie in with that... It is a human rights issue."

A student at Interlochen Arts Academy, Ian has been working on this project since last fall. He has enlisted the support of several organizations including PFLAG, GLSTN, Friends North, the local Democratic Party and many individuals who have signed the petition to include two resolutions in school board policy.

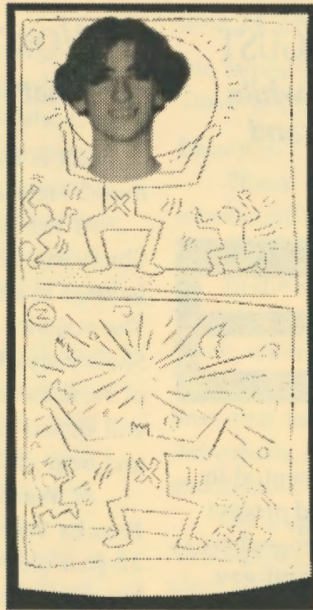
"We are promoting these two resolutions which have been adopted by the National Education Association and we are going to try ultimately to get the local school board to adopt similar resolutions..."

The resolutions were adopted by the NEA in July 1992. One reads, in part:

"The National Education Association believes that personnel policies and practices must guarantee that no person be employed, retained, paid, dismissed, suspended, demoted, transferred, or retired because of race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, gender or sexual orientation, residence, physical disability, political activities, professional association activity, age, marital status..."

Ian's comment on that resolution was "Lots of times schools say, 'we are not firing so-and-so for being gay (or whatever) they are still working for us - we are just transferring them...' They don't think that is discrimination, but it really is."

The second resolution is a commitment to do something about it by creating programs, holding in-service training for teachers, etc. It is worded in part:



"The National Education Association deplors incidents of hate-motivated physical and verbal attacks against individuals or groups because of their race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status or economic condition. The Association urges its affiliates...to create an awareness of hate-motivated, violent activities and to develop programs to oppose them..."

I asked Ian how he got started on this endeavor. "I've been thinking about it a lot... I didn't see any people doing anything; there's only so much a person can do who has a full time job, so I thought maybe I should. I talked to a couple of my straight friends and they agreed and the more people we talked to the more people supported it."

"Going to IAA helped me a lot in doing this whole project."

Ian attended Traverse City Schools through the tenth grade. He spent this past year at IAA majoring in creative writing. After graduation next year he plans to begin college at NMC and make his decision about a career at that time.

"It may be law, or education administration. I'm leaning toward education though..."

A music lover, Ian played cello through junior high and the first two years of high school at Traverse City.

"I really enjoy playing cello in the orchestra, but I'm not playing now at Interlochen. I think I could get into the orchestra there, but I don't think I could practice as much as required given my present major... if it were music - ok, but not now."

This past year Ian worked at Big Boy, where he found the staff accepting of his gayness. Now he works in the friendly atmosphere of Copy World where he finds help with petitions and posters as well as advice and support from the staff.

In talking about the breadth of support, Ian made it clear that this is not just a gay issue.

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"The good thing about this is that it is not just a gay issue... we are focusing on protecting all kids - everyone - that's why I am thinking we'll have lots of support from people we might not ordinarily expect it from...even fundamentalist Christians, for example...their kids are affected by discrimination...Everybody should just come together and work together...in Traverse City we have all these separate groups, I think we all want the same thing in this matter - even though some are social groups, some are discussion groups, some are advocacy groups. I think there should be one great coalition for this effort...as long as we broaden the concern...and these resolutions do that."

Right now the effort is to raise money to pay for copies of the resolution, the poster, and other publicity such as bumper stickers and flyers. GLSTN is acting as fiscal agent for the project. Checks made out to GLSTN are tax-deductible.

One major source of support for Ian is a young man named Matt whom he has been seeing for several months. Matt lives in Petoskey and attends North Central Michigan College there, but they manage to see each other with great regularity.

"I decided some months ago that I was never going to have a relationship until I'm about 40 and everybody is so tired out that they just want to settle down... then I'll find a relationship. So I just stopped looking... And then I met Matt! He wasn't looking for a relationship either. We met at Windfire."

Lest we are complacent about hatemongering and harassment in Traverse City, Ian relates an incident that happened to him and Matt recently.

"I've never really been harassed but three times in one week we were harassed. We were at Seven-Eleven and this guy sitting in a beat up old car was yelling 'queers! faggots!' at us in a really mean voice. I think he was drunk and just looking for a fight. And then we were walking through a group of skaters and they were calling us faggots too - and we weren't even holding hands or anything."

So the need for increased public awareness and individual awareness is great, not only to minimize incidents such as these but to reduce to a minimum all kinds of depersonalization of the neighbor and the stranger. Ian is a bright, talented, and determined young man with the leadership qualities to keep this project alive and help educate us all in this regard.

## GAY PRIDE EUROPE

PARIS - Gays & lesbians and their supporters in several world capitals participated in marches in June to commemorate riots in New York nearly 30 years ago that galvanized the gay rights movement.

Around 200,000 people from across Europe danced and chanted their way through the streets of Paris in the country's biggest gay rally ever.

"Equal rights without sexual discrimination in France and in Europe," chanted one group of participants at the head of the march, accompanied by the heavy beat of techno music.

Colorful floats, representing gay and lesbian groups from Spain to Denmark, were involved in the march.

At one point the rally stretched for more than five miles from Place de la Republique on Paris's Right Bank to the Vincennes forest in the city's east, where the march finished.

The June celebrations commemorate the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York, which led to the modern gay rights movement.

Several cities, including New York, San Francisco and Toronto, had parades scheduled for Sunday, June 29.

This year, for the first time, dozens of European organizations joined Paris' annual march supporting homosexuality. Many were calling for greater rights for the gay communities in their country.

"We come from Italy and do not have the same rights as Denmark or other countries," said Maximilliano Rosselli from Milan, Italy.

In Mexico City, a transvestite headed the march down the city's main street, Paseo de la Reforma.

Chants of "No political freedom without sexual freedom!" rose from the marchers, most of whom were in everyday dress.

Marchers parading through the heart of Berlin passed a stage with actors dressed as historical figures, including a concentration camp prisoner branded with the pink triangle the Nazis forced homosexual inmates to wear.

In Halifax, Nova Scotia, a carnival-like parade drew 500 people. Small groups of locals and tourists watched along the route.

A parade by lesbians in Toronto included a brigade of leather-clad women on motorcycles and some women who marched topless as thousands of onlookers lined both sides of the street.

"Doing what we're doing today helps other people understand we're normal people like everybody else," said Mary Brown, 28.

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## YOUTH ACTIVISTS TO ATTEND 3RD ANNUAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

For the past two years, NGLTF's Youth Leadership Training Institute has brought together lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered young people from every region of the country representing a wide range of racial, cultural, religious, and class backgrounds, for a week-long intensive skills-building training.

This year, the Institute will bring back 40 graduates from '95 and '96 for a weekend-long follow-up training to address the growing needs of their communities; share their experiences, and strengthen their organizing and leadership skills to make real change. This year's trainers will include NGLTF Executive Director Kerry Lobel and nationally-acclaimed writer and activist Suzanne Pharr. The training will take place at the Highlander Center, nestled in the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee, July 17-20.

Through the Youth Leadership Training Institute, the Task Force works to recognize young organizers and activists as leaders in their own right and to offer them the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to make a difference in their communities.

Graduates of the trainings have gone on to organize youth groups, support services and events in their local communities. After graduation from the Institute in '95, Russell Roybal began working on his project, the Queer Youth SpeakOut, a demonstration for an by queer youth at the Republican National Convention. It was hailed as the most impactful demonstration during the convention. In the Fall of '96, Russell was elected Vice President of Gay and Lesbian Latinos con Orgullo. This past January, he was hired as Assistant Development Director at The Lesbian & Gay Men's Community Center in San Diego and joined the Board of NGLTF. He is its youngest member.

"I owe a tremendous debt to the Task Force. It helped to strengthen my voice and support my work in our community. I am a product of NGLTF. The Institute gave me access and for that I will always be grateful," says Russell.

The field staff continues to handle hundreds of requests each month from people needing assistance in all 50 states and acts as an information conduit for the Federation of Statewide groups, where much effort has been focused since its inception at Creating Change last fall.

The Federation is a network of statewide gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender political organizations which provides a vehicle for groups to share resources, information, ideas, and coordinate strategy to increase our movement's efficacy at both the state and the national level. Our field staff has invested countless hours organizing, assisting, and strategizing with individual statewide groups. Their concerted effort and commitment has enabled the Federation to gain strength and momentum every day. Through countless conference calls, e-mail listservers, and meetings, statewide groups are able to compare notes, share experiences, and strategize about issues they are confronting in their state.

This summer, representatives from every participating statewide group will travel to the Highlander Center in Knoxville, Tennessee for the first official meeting of the Federation. This historic three-day meeting will include a full day of special skills training; debriefings on the struggles and triumphs of the 1997 legislative session; committee formation; group structure and communication; and future plans for Federation work.

The Federation's cohesion thus far points to the necessity of organizing our movement from the ground up, the method NGLTF has committed to since its inception in 1973. The progress already made speaks volumes, and will build gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities across America.

In addition to NGLTF's commitment to the Federation, the field department works to keep activists and the media informed of what's happening in state capitals. On a bi-monthly basis, NGLTF releases a Legislative Update which focuses on gay and HIV related legislation. NGLTF has been commended by community leaders for providing this valuable information to people on the front lines of the onslaught of attacks against our communities.

A complete copy of the NGLTF Legislative Update and accompanying chart is available by calling NGLTF at 202/332-6483 x3327. This and previous editions of the update are available at <http://www.nglft.org>.

### **Organizers in Action**

Field organizer Betsy Gressler attended a DC conference hosted by The Interfaith Alliance on the Promise Keepers movement in March. The event was primarily a conference for denominational religious activists to talk about the impact of the Promise Keepers on their churches. Betsy is a key organizer in the effort to educate our communities about the Promise Keepers movement. Most visible through its network of men's-only stadium events. Promise Keepers is a grassroots operation run by prominent right-wing personalities. This year's events will culminate with a Million Man March in Washington, DC in October. Stay tuned for more information. If the Promise Keepers are visiting your city, call NGLTF for organizing materials.

Field organizer Tracey Conaty recently participated in a panel discussion at the PFLAG Mid-Atlantic conference in Wilmington, DE on the major issues facing our movement. She also attended the National Youth Advocacy Coalition Conference in April. At that conference, Policy Institute Director Urvashi Vaid convened a meeting that included Tracey, local Florida activists, and representatives from other national organizations to strategize on advancing youth issues in Florida.

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## A Never-Ending Media Frenzy

Mark Johnson has stepped right into the fray as NGLTF's new Media Director. In his first week, he appeared on local television and was quoted in the *Washington Times*, a right-leaning local DC paper, that referred to our *Blueprint for Presidential Action* as "the homosexual agenda." The Task Force has been quoted in 40 news stories since March, and has issued 33 press releases, which are often printed in non-gay publications nationwide.

Be on the lookout for Mark's new monthly column, "Mediacracy," which will be sent out to various publications nationwide, and is posted on our website. The column will analyze and discuss coverage of gay news.

(BOOKLIST continued page 19)

*Dagger of Blood #3* by John Blackburn, \$2.95. This concludes the most recent erotic adventures of Coley, the 19-year-old bisexual porn star and voodoo sex god.

From **AB CD's** Norm gave us the following music picks: Surfacing, Sarah McLachlan. It's finally HERE - the long awaited follow up to the 1993 multi-platinum, Grammy nominated "Fumbling Toward Ecstasy." This is destined to make McLachlan a superstar. McLachlan is arguably one of the finest singer/songwriters of the 90's.

Hourglass, James Taylor. After 30 years of recording Taylor has made another near perfect recording worthy of a Grammy nomination. This collection proves Taylor still has what it takes to make wonderful music. Strong points include: Little More Time with You, Line Em Up and Ananas.

Standards, Sam Harris. This is the guy from 13 straight(?) weeks of winning the male vocalist category on Star Search. After stumbling around at the beginning of his recording career at Motown Harris is back in top notch fashion. Harris recently appeared on Broadway in the musical "Grease" and received a Tony nomination for his role in the current musical on Broadway "The Dream."

It's Time, Linda Eder. Hailed as the Streisand for the 90's, Eder comes so very close to exactly that. Eder is probably best known for her work on Broadway in the musical production of *Jekyll & Hyde*, which has also been recently released on disc. Be sure to snap this one up, Eder is stunning and the material is delivered to perfection.

OK Computer, Radiohead. Considered to be "the band" of songwriters and recording artists, Radiohead's last release, "The Bends," was on many critics "Best of" lists last year. This new release is definitely a concept album designed to be listened to from start to finish.

Drag, k.d. lang. lang's latest is not a concept album about crossdressing, however, you would never know it by checking out the cover. The latest installment is all about smoking - but not a pro smoking album. Its loosely tied together with songs about love and other addictions. Included are covers of Steve Miller Band's "The Joker", which lang gives (pardon the pun) a breath of fresh air. Also of note: The Hollies' "The Air the I Breathe" and the standout cut, "Theme from Valley of the Dolls," too bad for Dionne, this version is superior. (Norm's comment, not mine! Dionne is my personal psychic, after all!)

These businesses appreciate your business and comments.

## FOR FIRST TIME, NY FEDERAL JUDGE STRIKES DOWN ENTIRE LAW BARRING GAYS FROM MILITARY SERVICE

NEW YORK, July 2, 1997—In the first full defeat of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" statute, a federal judge in New York struck down the law, saying it unconstitutionally imposes special rules on gay troops.

U.S. Judge Eugene Nickerson of the Eastern District of New York rejected both the conduct and speech portions of the law, ruling that they violate the Constitution's equal protection guarantee and serve no purpose but to placate the fears of some heterosexual troops.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the American Civil Liberties Union, which jointly brought the case, *Able v. U.S.A.*, praised the ruling as a breakthrough toward ending the government's discriminatory treatment of lesbians and gay men in the military.

"We are now one step closer to having this archaic law overturned once and for all," said Matt Coles, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "This case is about the most basic American value: equal treatment, one set of rules for everybody. The entire law, both its conduct rules and speech rules, violates that principle."

Lambda Legal Director Beatrice Dohrn said, "This is the first court to strip away all of the military's euphemistic justifications. Judge Nickerson explains that the military's cloaking its discrimination in gay-only-conduct rules cannot shield it from the Constitution. Any law based on prejudice is unconstitutional. The decision gives us strong ammunition for the inevitable appeal."

Following argument in his Brooklyn courtroom November 18, Judge Nickerson issued a 48-page ruling, saying, "It is hard to imagine why the mere holding of hands off base and in private is dangerous to the mission of the Armed Forces if done by homosexuals but not if done by a heterosexual."

Nickerson also sharply rebuked the government's argument that the law is needed to maintain military readiness, saying that the government had made "an outright confession that 'unit cohesion' is a euphemism to catering to the prejudices to the heterosexuals."

The ruling was prompted by a federal appeals court decision last July that sent the case back to Judge Nickerson for further action. Although Nickerson ruled in March 1995 that the law's restrictions on speech were unconstitutional, the Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals held that the validity of the entire scheme depended on the "conduct" portion of the ban and directed Nickerson to reexamine the law on those grounds.

The "conduct" portion of the ban sets up special rules for lesbian and gay service members, requiring them to remain celibate and refrain from any affectionate behavior. Similar rules do not exist regarding heterosexual conduct. Under the "statement" portion, gay troops are prohibited from saying anything that may reveal their sexual orientation.

# R E S O U R C E S

## STATE AND NATIONAL HOTLINES

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

## STATEWIDE SERVICES SOCIAL / POLITICAL / MEDIA

- The Network: Lesbian and Gay Community Network of W. Michigan  
909 Cherry St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49506 ..... 616-458-3511  
Lavender Morning  
P.O. Box 50729, Kalamazoo, MI 49005 ..... 616-685-6061  
Kalamazoo Resource Center  
P.O. Box 1532, Kalamazoo, MI 49005 ..... 616-345-7878  
Affirmations Lesbian/Gay Community Center  
Suite 110, 195 W. Nine Mile Rd.  
Ferndale, MI 48220 ..... 810-398-7105  
<http://www.webspace.com/~tcc/affirmations/index.htm>  
Lansing Association of Human Rights  
P.O. Box 18062, Lansing, MI 48826 ..... 517-332-3200  
e-mail ..... lahr@macatawa.org  
Lesbian Connection  
P.O. Box 811, East Lansing, MI 48826 ..... 517-371-5257  
Triangle Foundation (Lesbian/Gay Foundation of Michigan)  
19641 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit 48219 ..... 313-537-3323  
..... Fax: 313-537-3379  
email ..... trijeffm@aol.com  
Between The Lines (newspaper/monthly) ..... 810-615-7003  
33528 Eight Mile, Ste. 185A3, Livonia, MI 48152 ... FAX 810-615-7018  
e-mail ..... pridepblis@aol.com  
The Third Coast (magazine/monthly) ..... 616-451-4903  
1322 Hurd, SE, Grand Rapids 49506 ..... FAX 616-451-0915  
e-mail ..... llrdCoasst@aol.com

## NATIONAL SERVICE / SOCIAL / POLITICAL

- P-FLAG: Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays  
1012 14th St. NW, Ste. 700, Washington, DC 20005 .... 202-638-4200  
GLAAD: Gay/Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation  
80 Varick St., #3E, New York, NY 10013 ..... 212-807-1700  
..... Fax: 212-807-1806  
email ..... glaadnatl@aol.com  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force ..... 202-332-6483  
2320 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009 ..... Fax: 202-332-0207  
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund ..... 212-809-8585 x 205  
120 Wall St., NY, NY 10005 ..... Fax: 212-890-0055  
ACLU Lesbian/Gay Rights Project  
1370 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94130 ..... 415-621-0674  
HRC: Human Rights Campaign (National Coming Out Day)  
1012 14th St. NS #607, Washington, DC 20005 ..... 202-628-4160  
..... Fax: 202-347-5323  
e-mail ..... www@hrcusa.org  
Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, Political Action Committee  
1012 14th St. NW #707, Washington, DC 20005 ..... 202-842-7679  
GLSTN, Gay Lesbian Straight Teachers Network ..... 212-727-0135  
121 West 27 Street Suite 804, NY, NY 10001 .... Fax: 212-727-0-254

## LOCAL SPIRITUAL:

- Rev. Geraldine Colvin & Rev. David Florence  
Unity Church, 3600 Five Mile, Traverse City ..... 616-932-9587  
Rev. Emmy Lou Belcher  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Grand Traverse  
6726 Center Rd., Traverse City—Home: 938-9078 ... Office: 947-3117  
Rev. Nancy Hayward, Circle of the Sacred Earth ..... 616-223-7999

## LOCAL COUNSELING:

- Third Level Crisis Intervention, ..... 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  
David Blisk (Maple City) ..... 616-228-5105  
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 ..... 906-635-9263  
Lois Martindale, Ph.D., Benzonia ..... 616-882-5888  
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 ..... Ed - 947-4697  
..... 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  
P-FLAG, Traverse City, POB 1705, Acme, MI 49610 . Cindy 616-271-5045  
GLSTN (Gay/Lesbian/Straight Teachers 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