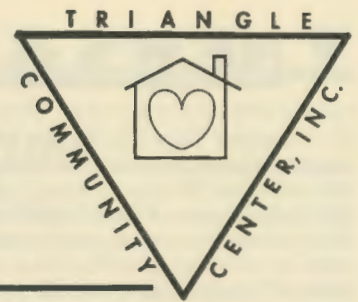


Triangle Community Center News & Views

Free to Members and Subscribers

Vol. 9, No. 3
March 1998

MANY HEARTS ♥♥♥ ONE COMMUNITY



MAINE VOTERS REPEAL GAY RIGHTS LAW

PORTLAND - In a landmark victory for Christian conservatives, Maine voters have narrowly chosen to make their state the first in the nation to repeal its law protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination, according to all-but-official referendum results. Casting ballots in a single-issue "people's veto" plebiscite, nearly 52 percent of voters backed the repeal, despite pleas from the state's popular independent governor and almost a half-million dollars in campaign spending by gay, lesbian and civil rights advocates. The 30 percent turnout, nearly 10 percent higher than predicted, revealed a dramatic difference between urban and rural Maine as the state's larger cities voted in favor of the gay rights law by wide margins. Yet Maine is a state of small towns which, with few exceptions, voted for repeal.

The new law they struck down had barred discrimination against gays and lesbians in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations. The repeal is "a clear victory for people of faith," said Randy Tate, executive director of the national Christian Coalition, which helped finance and organize the Maine repeal campaign.

The losing side, which spent an estimated five times as much as the victors, described the repeal as more of a triumph for get-out-the-vote expertise and circumstance. They cited low city turnout along with the difficulty of running a campaign during last month's devastating ice storm and of drawing supporters out for a single-issue vote in February when the threat to gay rights did not at first appear great.

"The national Christian Coalition came in and they turned out every single one of their voters," said Joe Cooper, spokesman for Maine Won't Discriminate, the campaign to defend the gay-rights law. "We were relying on the whole state of Maine to come together as a community. Polls showed we had the backing of two-thirds of the state."

Other polls have shown that the anti-discrimination laws similar to Maine's, which exist in 10 other states, may often be somewhat vulnerable to repeal when their fate is determined by public opinion rather than the legislatures that passed them. A national survey done by Newsweek in mid-1997 found that when people were asked to assess the amount of effort devoted to protecting gay rights, 23 percent thought more was needed and 26 percent thought the amount was correct, but 42 percent thought such efforts had gone too far. And in 1992, Colorado voters approved a referendum that barred localities from passing gay-rights ordinances, though the measure was later overturned by the Supreme Court.

"It's kind of going both ways," said Rebecca Isaacs, political director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "People are more and more

organized at the grassroots level in support of civil rights and tolerance, but you have the same activists on the right wing who make the gay and lesbian community their target for attacks on a regular basis. It's the same folks over and over whether it's in Oregon or Maine. "They can scare people and raise a lot of money," she said. Both sides also agreed that the issue would continue to simmer. "I really think this is going to be an ongoing controversy well into the next century," said Gary Bauer, president of the conservative Family Research Council in Washington, which contributed about \$40,000 to the Maine repeal campaign. "There is increasing cultural acceptance of homosexuals and support among political elites for the gay-rights agenda, but at the grassroots level among average Americans there is a tremendous amount of resistance."

Even before its surprise outcome, the Maine referendum was particularly interesting, some campaigners and analysts say, in that the Christian conservative groups that spearheaded the repeal drive made no effort whatever to soft-pedal their belief that homosexuality is immoral and therefore to be actively discouraged. One television commercial even featured several men who said they were former homosexuals who had been saved by Christ. And he said he did not believe the Supreme Court's ruling on the Colorado case would apply here; that case involved a constitutional amendment that barred gay-rights laws at all levels of government, he noted, while the Maine repeal simply involves voters' exercise of their constitutional right to shoot down a specific state law they dislike.

Dr. Christian Potholm, a professor of government at Bowdoin College who has been polling in Maine for 25 years, said that perhaps 70 percent of Maine residents believe the state has no problem with discrimination against gays and lesbians. That could have kept people who are otherwise sympathetic to gay and lesbian rights at home, he said. Overall, Potholm said, Maine is no more intolerant than other states, and given a well-run gay-rights campaign, would likely split into two camps, with 55 percent supporting gay rights and 45 percent against. But Maine Won't Discriminate made several critical strategic errors, he said: It did not sufficiently court the Roman Catholic, Franco-American community that is so often the swing vote in Maine, and it did not emphasize that the conservative Christian groups were the same organizations that had tried in the past to ban alcohol and shopping on Sunday in Maine.



TCC NEWS

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Although the November elections are months away, the need for gay people to be politically involved on behalf of our own interests is a year-round challenge. Whether we like it or not, the rights we do have (as in Connecticut, one of the few states with laws protecting gays from discrimination in most areas) and the rights we are seeking (such as official recognition of domestic partnerships) are determined by the men and women we elect to the General Assembly in Hartford and Congress in Washington.

Unfortunately, too many gay people take no interest in the political and legislative process. By not being informed, by not getting involved, we make it more difficult to achieve the equality we deserve as human beings and citizens of this great country.

Black Americans and other minorities have achieved progress in civil rights through concerted political action. Labor unions play a major role in our society, advancing the welfare of workers largely from what they have achieved through political action. Women, incredibly once disenfranchised, have made tremendous progress in recent years---again---largely through political action. Can't we gays take a hint!

If you're not registered to vote, get thyself down to the Registrar of Voters office at Town Hall and register. It doesn't cost a cent! And if you are registered to vote, darn it, vote on Election Day. The gay media is a great resource for finding out who is on our side and who is against us. Utilize the gay media to be informed. Better yet, join a statewide organization that fights for gay rights through community and political action: The Connecticut Coalition For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Civil Rights. You can get an application and find out more about the group by writing them at 11 Cobbs Road, West Hartford, CT 06107.

Remember, just like anyone else, your voice and your vote counts.

-John Del Vecchio

TCC MARCH FRIENDRAISER

TCC's March Friendraiser will be held on Saturday, March 21, from 5 to 8 P.M. at the home of John Del Vecchio and Roland Roy. Both guys are great cooks and they're looking forward to providing a delicious buffet with a variety of foods. At the Friendraiser donations of any amount you choose will be appreciated.

Directions to John and Roland's, 371 Court D, Success Village, Bridgeport:

Continued on next page

▼ NEWS & VIEWS

FROM I-95 EITHER DIRECTION: Exit 27A to Route 8/25 Connector Take Exit 5, turn left at light onto Boston Avenue. (Route 1). Continue along Boston Avenue about two miles, past the large General Electric plant and up a steep hill. At the bottom of the hill take a left at the first traffic light onto Success Avenue. Go past the second stop sign until you come to a row of stores on your right, including Success Market. Turn left into Court D and park. John and Roland live in the end unit, #371, of Building 50, which is the third building on the right.

FROM MERRITT PARKWAY EITHER DIRECTION: Take the exit marked for Route 8/25 South and get on Route 8/25. Take Exit 5, turn right at light onto Boston Avenue (Route 1) and follow the directions above. If you get lost, call 334-3822. RSVP would be appreciated!

THIS JUST IN!

That hilarious musical, "Pageant, played to nearly full houses at the Norwalk Community and Technical College in Norwalk in January. The show, directed by Scott Robbins benefited both Bread and Roses and TCC. The financial word is in....the production netted TCC a little over \$15,000. Way to go!

SOFTBALL

We'd like to get a TCC lesbian softball team going. If you're interested in being a member please call Christine at (203) 847-8476.

TCC MOVIE NIGHT

TCC will be sponsoring a fun movie night at the Sono Cinema in Norwalk on Sunday, March 22 at 7:30 PM. A Hong Kong film by Wong Kar-Wai entitled "Happy Together," won the Best Director award at the 1997 Cannes Film Festival.

The story revolves around two lovers Lai (Tony Leung) and Ho (Wesley Cheung), who get stranded in Argentina while on vacation. They are miserable together yet incapable of doing much about it. They arouse and annoy each other, fall out of love and back in — always groping toward the unlikely ideal of being happy together. Wong's cut-up jazzy film technique captures perfectly the jumbled, cut-off lives of his characters. The New York Times called it, "stylishly brash, pulsing with life....captures the restless open-to-anything spirit of youth." Tickets are \$10 at the door. The Sono Cinema is located at 25 Washington St., South Norwalk.

TCC SCHOLARSHIPS

Purpose: To recognize and encourage through financial assistance, the educational pursuits of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgendered persons. It is hoped that the community will be enhanced by the efforts and achievements of each honoree.

Scholarship Range: Two scholarships awarded. Amount may vary: \$500-\$1,000

Eligibility: Although primarily intended for high school seniors pursuing additional education, scholarships are open to any gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, or transgendered person seeking and/or needing financial assistance to pursue those goals. Applicants are expected to demonstrate a unique talent, need, leadership, or deed during the application process.

Deadline: March 31, 1998

For An Application: Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Scholarship Committee, Triangle Community Center, P.O. 4062, Norwalk, CT 06855-4062

Application Requirements: 1) Completed application form, 2) Completed questionnaire - answers typed, recorded, or an artistic piece by you, 3) Three recommendation letters, 4) School transcript (sent by school) or additional letter of recommendation. (See Transcript Section of form.)

LESBIAN LIT GROUP

For their April discussion, the Lesbian Literature Group has chosen a novel by Marge Piercy entitled the "High Cost of Living." The Lit Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at TCC starting at 7:30 PM. For more info call Christine at 847-8476.

OUT FM

Fairfield County's Triangle Community Center (TCC) was featured in a major segment on Out FM, the only local gay radio program heard on New York city radio. TCC was featured on a segment with Out FM reporter George Reilly, heard on February 8, 1998 at 6:45 PM on WBAI-FM 99.5, New York city, which transmits from atop the Empire State Building and blankets the tri-state metropolitan region of 15,000,000 people.

TCC president Don Buxton spoke, giving basic information about TCC and its services and also its phone number (203) 853-0600, and address. In addition, Don said work is underway to create a chapter of SAGE at TCC to serve gay and lesbian senior citizens. He noted that he is now 41, and looks forward to the days when he retires and will have a SAGE chapter at TCC to enjoy his senior years. Also featured was a report on TCC's Out and About, which features field activities such as hikes in northern Connecticut and group attendance at movies.

Out FM usually focuses upon the many activities of the gay and lesbian communities in Manhattan, but after this segment on Fairfield County and TCC, gay and lesbian groups in Connecticut, Long Island, Westchester County and New Jersey were invited to contact the program. The address for Out FM is Out FM, WBAI, 505 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10018, 19th floor. The telephone is 1-212-279-0707. The number for calls taken during the show is 212-279-3400.

-Michael Collins

AUTHOR NEEDS HELP

I'm embarking on a new book project, and I need your help. I've just signed a contract to write "Moms and Dads Who Make a Difference" — a book about straight parents (and grandparents and siblings) who are doing EXCEPTIONAL things to help the gay community. For example, I plan to profile a woman who lost her friends and her church when her son came out at 13 and she began fighting homophobia in rural Indiana; the police chief in Portland, Ore. who hired his lesbian daughter as a police officer and a grandmother who organized a band of old ladies to try to defeat Jesse Helms because of his homophobic stands. I know there are many ordinary, STRAIGHT Americans who are doing other exceptional things — but I need to find them.

I can be contacted directly in many ways: Dan Woog - Phone: 203-227-1755 - Fax: 203-227-3035 - E-mail: dwoog@optonline.net For those who don't know, I am a contributing writer at the Advocate Magazine; my most recent Alyson Publications books are "Jocks: True Stories of America's Gay Male Athletes" (1998) and "School's Out: The Impact of Gay and Lesbian Issues on America's Schools."

GAY AND LESBIAN DANCE!

Sober Spring Gay and Lesbian Dance! - Saturday, March 14 from - 8 PM to 1 AM - Jennings School - Fairfield, CT - \$5.00 Cover Charge - Bring Your Own Refreshments - No Alcohol Please! Need more info? Call Liz 333-8981 or Bob 336-8216 or Christine 847-8476

Directions: **From I-95 North** - Exit 22, Round Hill. Left at end of ramp onto Round Hill. Turn right onto Barlow Road by Fairfield University. Left at the light onto North Benson Road. At light, bear right and continue across Black Rock Turnpike and take right onto Fairest. Left at next corner onto Fairland. Take a left and turn onto Palm Drive.

From I-95 South - Exit 24, Black Rock Turnpike. Right at end of ramp. At light, take left onto Kings Highway. Bear to right as the road splits. At the fourth light, take a right onto Burroughs Road. At the stop sign, take a left onto Farland Rd. Take first right onto Palm Dr just before school crossing sign.

From Merritt Parkway (North) - Take exit 44, Fairfield University. Turn onto Black Rock Turnpike south (Route 58 south). At third light, take left onto Fairfield Woods Rd. Continue straight through the stop sign. At light, take a right after the library. The middle school is on your right, Jennings School is on your left.

From Merritt Parkway (South) - Take exit 46. At end of ramp bear right at light onto Route 59 for approx 2.5 miles. At the light (Grand Central on left, Mobil on right), take a right onto Fairfield Woods Rd. Continue through one light and one stop sign. At next light take left (library in front). Middle school is on your right, Jennings School is on your left.

FULFILL YOUR FANTASY

Now available through outer-space related catalogs: your very own "Lost in Space" robot. Yes, now you too can be one of the Robinson castaways or perhaps you'd prefer the role of the villainous Dr. Smith, hurling insult after insult at your robot. Warning! Warning!—The adult version of young Will Robinson is not available. To order an assemble yourself robot send \$17.49 + \$5.75 for shipping to: Phoenix Model Company, PO Box 15390, Dept. SFO 298, Brooksville, FL 34609.

MISS JUDY?

Bob Fallon, who did such a great job as the emcee of "Pageant", has just finished an appearance in a two week run of "Jaques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris." His rendition of Amsterdam was memorable. Was I mistaken or did he re-interpret Jacky to be Jackie O? You still have time to catch Tommy Femia, who so graciously brought down the house in last year's production of "Whoop-Dee-Doo" reprising his role as Judy Garland in "I Will Come Back" at the Players Theater on MacDougal Street in the Village.

-Marianne Seggerman

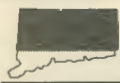
TRANSGENDERED

I am Denise Mason, founder of the transgendered club 'the connecticuT View'. I am very pleased that I have been invited to be a part of News & Views. I hope that my new monthly column will help to facilitate the lines of communication between those of us who are transgendered, and the rest of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community. 'the connecticuT View' has been around since 1972. I was an original founder of the then "Hartford TVIC club" and have been organizing and trying to find a place where Connecticut 'girls' could express themselves.

Currently, our group of 60 fits in nicely with the GLBT community. Over 50% of us are admittedly bi, with a percentage who are gay, and the remaining either straight or not saying. We have a nice handful of males who are not crossdressers but who are TV admirers and date us. We have just one genetic woman and wish to have more.

Most recently we held a "Female Impersonator Show" and raised \$3,125 for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. In our outreach we are neither apologetic nor "in your face"...but discreetly, politely, unafraid and proud of who we are.

We welcome those in the TCC community who want to be a part of our TG program. It doesn't matter whether you are male or female, gay/straight or bi, someone's wife or significant other. Members of the cTView receive our monthly newsletter, annual Membership Directory of names/addresses/ads, photos of our members and an invitation to all club events. No one is screened, and everyone is accepted. You may reach me at "cTView", Denise Mason, P.O. Box 2281, Milford CT 06460 or e-mail masond@aol.com or write to News & Views. I encourage your questions and hope we can have a lively and interesting monthly column.



CONNECTICUT NEWS

LOCAL DOCTOR IN AIDS FIGHT

STAMFORD - A Stamford doctor reported three successful treatments for a previously untreatable complication of AIDS, offering a glimmer of hope to others diagnosed with the debilitating disease. AIDS expert Dr. Gary Blick said three of his patients have recovered from an advanced HIV, complication called progressive multifocal leucoencephalopathy after therapy with an experimental combination of antiviral and cancer chemotherapy drugs.

PML affects the brain and spinal cord of about 2 percent to 4 percent of AIDS patients, usually causing severe paralysis, aphasia—the loss of the ability to use or understand words and death within to 10 weeks of diagnosis, Blick said. Yet after three of Blick's patients were treated with the drug mixture and underwent rehabilitation for just more than a year, their symptoms almost have disappeared, he said. Blick hesitated to draw conclusions from his patients' improved conditions before further studies are done. But he said the three cases offer "anecdotal evidence" that this drug combination might be effective.

"I want to get the word out that there is hope for the treatment of PML where we've had no hope in the past," Blick said during an interview from his Bedford Street office. Blick, who moved his Greenwich practice to Stamford two months ago, treats hundreds of AIDS patients and has been involved in the clinical studies of protease inhibitors - the breakthrough AIDS drugs taken as a "cocktail" in combination with older AIDS medications that have helped boost the immune systems of AIDS patients.

Blick's first case of successful treatment was reported in the January issue of the medical publication Clinical Infectious Diseases, he said. When Dan Patrick, a patient's of Blick's, was diagnosed with PML, the prognosis was grim. One of the last remaining AIDS complications deemed unpreventable and untreatable, PML stems from infection with the Jacob Creutzfeld, or JC, virus, Blick said. It is believed that 80 percent of the general population contracts this virus during childhood and it remains dormant in the kidney, he said. In a person with a weak immune system, the virus is reactivated and spreads to the brain, he said.

After seeing Patrick and other patients who began to succumb to PML, Blick said he decided to file for Federal Drug Administration approval of a pilot study using both the chemotherapy drug Ara C the antiviral drug zidovudine. After nine months of the new therapy, Patrick, who was once wheelchair bound, walked only with a slight limp and could clearly express himself Blick said. Dr. Michael Perry, director of infectious diseases at Stamford Hospital, said because of the small percentage of AIDS patients that contract the disease, the three reported success cases will have little overall effect. "But if there be can be treatment for anything previously untreatable, that would be a real plus," he said.

AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

HARTFORD - Forty-four panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display from April 21 - April 23 at the Trinity College Field House in Hartford.

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FOR GOD, FOR COUNTRY AND FOR...HOMOPHOBIA?

NEW HAVEN - Yale students who had planned to present anti-homophobia workshops to incoming freshmen this fall got a disappointment. Dean of Student Life, Betty Trachtenberg, informed them that the workshops would not take place as promised. Students, disturbed by the number of anti-gay threats and violence on campus, first developed the workshops more than a year ago.

"I was right outside my room. I heard a voice behind me say 'Hey, dyke,' and then I was pushed down the stairs," says Yale junior Chrysanthi Settlage. "Nobody should be subjected to that kind of harassment." Yale seemed to agree-at first. Students who had met with Trachtenberg and other officials believed they had been promised a chance to talk to freshmen during orientation. Now Trachtenberg says those initial talks were, "so long ago that none of our thoughts were locked in. There are no decisions at all."

GAY YOUTH CONFERENCE

HARTFORD - Children From The Shadows, an organization serving gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth will be holding its fifth annual conference on Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21 at the University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Ave, in West Hartford. The conference is aimed at sexual minority youth and the adults who work with them including teachers, counselors, clergy, and health professionals. The two-day conference will include over 60 workshops on a variety of social, political, psychological and historical topics. There will also be special "youth-only" sessions that will allow young participants to share ideas and get to know each other in a safe environment. The organization's growth has been remarkable; last year's conference attracted about 800 attendees, a third of them youth, making it the largest conference of its kind in the country. To obtain more information or to register, call CFS at 860-649-7386 or visit its website at <www.outinct.com/cfs/>.

JOHN ALLEN AT PFLAG

NEW HAVEN - The New Haven Area Chapter of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will present a discussion by New Haven Gay and Lesbian Community Center's co-president, John D. Allen on Monday, March 9, 7-8:30 PM at Temple Beth Mishkan Israel, 785 Ridge Road, Hamden. The presentation, "Gay Strategies for the Next Millennium", will focus on goals and obstacles of the modern gay movement, and specifically on societal trends, the institution of marriage, quantifying the gay market, and historical perspectives. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information call Jim Lee (203) 467-3759.

GAY NEWS COVERAGE NEEDS WORK

NEW HAVEN - News coverage of the gay community is becoming increasingly enlightened, but needs to improve further, according to members of a panel discussing the issue. Members of the media and gay community gathered at the New Haven Gay & Lesbian Community Center at 1 Long Wharf. The Society of Professional Journalists organized the forum to examine how the media looks at gay issues.

Joe Grabarz, executive director of the Connecticut chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, recalled when he was a state legislator

several year ago and announced he was homosexual, newspapers ran the story under huge "Pearl Harbor style headlines." A similar announcement today wouldn't be reported under such sensational headlines, if reported at all. That marks a maturity of the journalistic community in regard to gay issues, Grabarz said.

Jack Kramer, editor of the New Haven Register, agreed the media's perspective on gay issues has changed over the years. In the past, the fact that someone is gay would be the focus of an entire story as it was in Grabarz's case, Kramer said. But papers "still tend to play it safe" on gay issues, Kramer said, adding that it's still unlikely an editor would run a front page photo of a gay couple as part of Valentine's Day coverage.

Elissa Papirno, reader representative for the Hartford Courant, said her paper's coverage of the gay community is improving, but that earlier shortfalls often resulted from ignorance. For example, three years ago the Courant drew strong criticism when its story on a gay pride parade focused heavily on extreme elements, Papirno said. Upon review, the paper agreed those extreme elements didn't represent the majority of people at the parade and its coverage of the event in years since has become more reflective of participants.

Lynne Mikulak, a former Register reporter now attending Yale Divinity School, said, "newsrooms still have a long way to go" in covering the gay community. The most serious obstacle is the lack of reporters assigned to handle the gay communities' issues on a regular basis, Mikulak said.

LESBIAN & GAY JOURNALISTS

NEW HAVEN - The National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) is holding its first ever Connecticut event in New Haven in March. NLGJA, which now has more than 1,100 members nationwide, including some in Fairfield, New Haven, Hartford and New London counties, is holding its get-together Sunday afternoon, March 22 at 1 PM at the New Haven Gay and Lesbian Community Center at 1 Long Wharf in New Haven, off Connecticut Turnpike (I-95) exit 46. Please call ahead to confirm location and for more information. Call Howard

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▼ NEWS & VIEWS

Goldberg at (203) 330-8293 or Michael Collins days at AM 1220 WQUN Hamden, CT at (203) 281-8984, or evenings and weekends at (203) 375-3567.

NLGJA members include journalists and media people from virtually all forms of media, including commercial and public radio and television, wire services, magazines and newspapers from mainstream media to gay and lesbian media. Members include reporters, anchors, writers, cartoonists, editors, photographers, and those involved in every aspect of journalism. NLGJA'S first national convention was in San Francisco in 1992,, and this year will be in Las Vegas, Nevada from October 1 through 4.

LIVING POSITIVELY! 7TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW HAVEN - The Living Positively! Support groups are celebrating their 7th anniversary on April 4th, 1998. Founded in 1990 by a group of long term survivors of HIV/AIDS, Living Positively! is based on the 12 suggested steps and traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. These steps have been adapted by the group for living with HIV/AIDS, and membership in any other 12 step program is not required. The April 4th Anniversary meeting will begin at 6:00 PM with a Potluck dinner. Two speakers will then share their strength, hope, and experience starting at 7:00 PM continuing to 8:30 PM.

Living Positively! meets every Saturday, starting at 6:00 pm in New Haven, CT, and runs two groups. One group is for persons living with HIV/AIDS, and another concurrent meeting for their friends, family, and significant others. For more information about the April 4th anniversary pot luck dinner, and/or Living Positively! please call (203) 248-5057.

MCC SERVICES

NEW HAVEN - Christians interested in deep reflection during the season of Lent are welcome to the Metropolitan Community Church of New Haven, located on 34 Harrison Street, in the Westville section. Worship services are held every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. The season will start off with an Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. February 25 jointly hosted by MCC's pastor, Rev. Frank Beard, and the Rev. Gil Ott, pastor of MCC's host church, the United Church of Westville. Palm Sunday services will be held April 5. A Seder will be held at 6:30 Thursday, April 9, at Ken and Greg's home. Then a Good Friday service will be held at the church April 10 at 7 p.m. And finally, a special Easter Sunrise Service will be held at 6 a.m. April 12 at John's home. Services will also be held at the regular times for Easter Sunday.

MCC is also now offering a Bible Study every Wednesday night at 6:30 at Bob and Rod's. It's a chance to have some pizza and enter into meaningful discussion about Bible passages that we celebrate and struggle with. For more information about any of these events, call the church office at 203-389-6750.

Deadline for the April Newsletter will be Saturday 14 March. We cannot guarantee that material received after that date will be included in April News&Views.

Joan W. Duncan, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist

188 Scribner Avenue

Norwalk, CT 06854

Tel/Fax (203) 854-4805

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MIRACLES MONDAYS CELEBRATES 1ST YEAR

NEW HAVEN - Miracles Mondays, A Course In Miracles™ study group, celebrated it's first year anniversary this February. Started in 1997 at the New Haven Gay & Lesbian Community Center, this group joined together to explore the sometimes mysterious and complicated book A Course In Miracles™. "What I like best about A Course In Miracles™," said co-founder Rev. Alexander R. Garbera, "is the way it looks at traditional Christian concepts."

Miracles Monday's meets every Monday at the New Haven Gay & Lesbian Community Center. It is open to all and is free of charge. Donations are accepted to help the center, but are not required. The group starts at 6:30 pm and usually ends around 7:45 PM. Call Rev. Casey Roberts (203) 230 - 2050, or Rev. Alexander R. Garbera (203) 937 - 8085 for more information.

SEX CHANGE LEADS TO RETIREMENT

WETHERSFIELD - A transsexual teacher who was planning a sex change operation abruptly retired last week from his post at Lyman Hall High School. Neither Scott Hendricks, the 15-year veteran teacher, nor school officials will discuss the agreement, but Hendricks' housemate said Hendricks was forced out when administrators learned of his plans to become a woman. "He loved what he did and, by all accounts, he was extremely good at it. He spent his whole life as a teacher, and now it's vanished. He has no future," said John Mueller who lives with Hendricks in Wethersfield and is also transsexual. Hendricks, 39, was a teacher in the regional vocational-agriculture program at Lyman Hall. As part of an agreement with the school board, Mueller said, Hendricks may not speak publicly about the case. The agreement stipulated Hendricks would step down, but would retain his retirement package. Mueller said that part of the sex change process includes six months of cross-dressing before surgery and that Hendricks was delaying that step because he worried it might offend colleagues. But Mueller said someone was offended anyway. "It all happened incredibly quickly. Someone - another teacher, a student, an administrator - must have complained and then his career just plummeted," Mueller said.

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CONNECTICUT CALENDAR

MARCH 1998

Friday, March 6 — Tackling Gay Issues In School: Students' Rights, Our Responsibilities, a professional training presented by Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, at the VNA in New Haven, 8:45 AM to 3:00 PM. Co-sponsored by the Connecticut chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. E-mail Leif at leifgreen@aol.com for more info.

Friday, March 6 — The Green Bay Tree, a 1933 play about the dangers of the "predatory" homosexual, presented by Alternative Starz Production to benefit the New Haven Gay and Lesbian Community Center. At Artspace, 70 Audubon St., New Haven, 8:00 PM. Tickets \$15/\$10 for Artspace and NHGLCC members. For information and reservations call 203-877-6382.

Saturday, March 7 — Stephanie's Living Room presents its March Dance, at the Stratford Ramada Inn, 8:00 PM. For more information call 203-377-2119 or e-mail sphilips@slrgroup.com.

Saturday, March 7 — The Green Bay Tree, a 1933 play about the dangers of the "predatory" homosexual, presented by Alternative Starz - See March 6

Monday, March 9 — PFLAG hosts NHGLCC's co-president, John Allen - Temple Beth Mishkan Israel, Hamden, CT, 7 to 8:30 PM. Call 467-3759 for more information.

Saturday, March 14 — Gay and Lesbian Sober Dance - Jennings School, Fairfield, CT, 8 PM to 1 AM. \$5.00 cover charge.

Saturday, March 14 — Gay Bingo to benefit the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective, at Project 100/Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Community Center, 1841 Broad Street, Hartford. Doors Open at 7:00 PM - Games begin promptly at 7:30 PM. Admission \$10 - Includes Games package. Call 278-4163 for more information.

Friday-Saturday, March 20-21 — Children From The Shadows presents its fifth annual conference for GLBT youth and professionals who work with them, University of Hartford, West Hartford, 9:45 AM to 4:00 PM both days.

Saturday, March 21 — TCC Friendraiser at John and Roland's place, Bridgeport, CT, 5 to 8 PM.

Sunday, March 22 — National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association's get-together - New Haven Gay and Lesbian Community Center, New Haven, CT, 1 PM.

Sunday, March 22 — TCC Movie Night, Hong Kong film "Happy Together" - Sono Cinema, Norwalk, CT, 7:30 PM. Tickets \$10 at the door.

Saturday & Sunday, March 28 & 29 — The Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus presents Gentlemen Prefer Hollywood, a tribute to the golden age of the Hollywood musical. Shubert Theater, New Haven, Saturday at 8:00 PM, Sunday at 2:00 PM.

Tuesday, March 31 — Deadline for TCC scholarship applications.

TRIVIA

Answer to February - Horse Fair is the name of Ms. Bonheur's work, which can be seen prominently displayed in the European paintings department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Question for March - It has been said that David Whitney, a New Canaan resident, will become an art widow to end all art widows. Crass as that statement is, the same might also be said of Weston resident Jon Anderson. Who are these men?

APRIL 1998

Friday & Saturday, April 3 & April 4 — The Killing of Sister George, a play presented by Alternative Starz Production to benefit the New Haven Gay and Lesbian Community Center. At Artspace, 70 Audubon St., New Haven, 8:00 PM. Tickets \$15/\$10 for Artspace and NHGLCC members. For information and reservations call 203-877-6382.

Saturday, April 4 — Living Positively!, which runs weekly support groups for PWA's, their families, friends and significant others, celebrates its 7th anniversary with a Potluck Dinner, in New Haven, 6:00 PM, followed by speakers at 7:00 PM. For location and other information, please call Peter at 203-248-5057.

Friday, April 10 — Metropolitan Community Church of New Haven's Good Friday service at MCC, 34 Harrison St., New Haven, CT, 7 PM.. For more information call 389-6750.

Sunday, April 12 — Metropolitan Community Church of New Haven's Easter Sunrise Service, 6 AM. For location and directions call 389-6750.

Saturday, April 18 — The New London People's Forum presents its annual Different Voices, One Community conference, bringing together over 200 people from New England and beyond for a full day of educational workshops, enlightened speakers and entertainment, as well as community information and products. For information call the Forum Line at (860) 443-8855.

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DRUG MAY SLASH PRICE OF TREATING AIDS

Researchers in Los Angeles and Washington have identified what may be the first inexpensive AIDS drug, a finding that could have major importance for the 50 percent of HIV-positive Americans not receiving treatment because of its cost. They also say that the drug, in conjunction with two other AIDS drugs, has induced what may be a permanent remission in three HIV-positive patients who have now gone for more than a year without treatment.

Although experts are skeptical about the remission claims, many are impressed by reported successes with the drug, called hydroxyurea, and have begun incorporating it into their own treatment regimens. The drug is unique in that it affects host cells in the patient rather than the virus itself. The researchers think the drug works so well because HIV cannot develop resistance to it. Moreover, they believe that hydroxyurea also lessens chances of HIV resistance to other AIDS drugs as well. Hydroxyurea is a simple drug that has been used for more than two decades in the treatment of leukemia. Its use also was approved recently for the treatment of sickle cell disease.

Hydroxyurea is inexpensive—no more than \$30 a month compared to the \$1,300 monthly cost of the combination of protease inhibitors and reverse transcriptase inhibitors that are currently the gold standard for therapy. It is not yet clear whether hydroxyurea could replace protease inhibitors in long-term therapy or whether they would have to be used in combination. Because it has been around so long, however, no company has exclusive rights to it. As a result, money for clinical trials has come from private donors. Bristol Myers-Squibb, which sells hydroxyurea for cancer therapy under the brand name Hydrea, has agreed to sponsor a new trial in combination with ddI, which the company also sells. That trial will begin later this year at eight to 10 U.S. centers, although they have not been chosen yet.

FILL 'ER UP!

According to an American Family Association Action Alert, The Amoco and Mobil Oil companies have joined with Shell and Chevron Oil companies in offering same sex Domestic Partner benefits to their employees. The AFA has called for members to boycott these companies and send them messages expressing their concerns with this policy. If you want to write to either corporation to counter-act the negative response they will get from the AFA, send your mail to:

Amoco Corporation	Mobil Corporation
200 East Randolph Drive	3225 Gallows Road
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E-mail: info@amoco.com	E-mail: pub_aff@mobil.com

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CROSS-DRESSERS STEPPING OUT

When Royal Caribbean's Sovereign of the Seas sailed from the Port of Miami en route to the Bahamas recently, a small, unusual group of passengers were aboard. More than 20 male cross-dressers and their wives had come from all over the United States for Dignity Cruise IX, and most of the men wore women's garb for the entire trip. "This is an opportunity for people who cross-dress to have an interface with the general public in a setting that is elegant," says Peggy Rudd, a Houston-based author and leader in the transgender community. Her husband is a cross-dresser. Rudd, who has written five books about cross-dressers and their partners (all available through the Internet at amazon.com), started the Dignity Cruise concept four years ago to provide support for cross-dressers and education to the public.

The word transgender, which means changing gender, encompasses a broad variety of people, from gay men or women who dress in drag for laughs, to transsexuals, both gay and straight, who use hormones and surgery in an effort to become the opposite sex, to transvestites or cross-dressers, most of whom are men (since women can wear men's clothes freely in our society), and most of whom are heterosexual. Given the range of identities and concerns in the transgender category alone, is it appropriate to lump them all under the same community umbrella?

Because cross-dressers tend to be high achievers — doctors, pilots, politicians and prominent business leaders — most are extremely closeted and live dual lives, often telling only their wives or children, and sometimes not even them. Josephine has been secretly cross-dressing since she was a child. "I was always interested in women's clothes," she says. "The way they feel, what they look like. It's a ridiculous situation, though, because no one understands. We're considered a joke." Experts don't know what causes the urge to cross-dress. Whatever the reasons, cross-dressers are slowly gaining momentum as a group and trying to find acceptance.

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LEADER THREATENS TO BOLT G.O.P.

At a closed-door convention of conservative leaders in Arizona last week, Dr. James Dobson, who heads the multimedia ministry Focus on the Family, warned that if the Republican Congress continued to "betray" conservative evangelical voters, he would abandon the Republican Party and "do everything I can to take as many people with me as possible." These are the same voters who swept Republicans into Congress in the 1994 elections, but are now so disillusioned, Dobson said, that the Republican Party "has laid the foundation for a revolution, and I don't think they even know it because they're so out of touch with the people." Dobson spoke before about 300 members of the Council for National Policy, a group of conservative, political and religious leaders that does not open its meetings to the news media. Members include the radio host Oliver North, former Attorney General Edwin Meese, religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, businessman Holland Coors, and members of Congress like Rep. Dick Armey and Sen. Jesse Helms.

Dobson exoriated a long list of Republican leaders who, he asserted, "when they moved into power, moved to immediately insult" conservative Christian supporters. His list included House Speaker Newt Gingrich, for inviting Whitman to give the Republican response to the State of the Union address, and even conservative stalwarts like Republican Sens. John Ashcroft of Missouri, and Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, who Dobson said had failed to speak out against homosexuality and financing of sex education in schools.

THE LURE OF FUNKY FUNDS

Fans of TV star Ellen DeGeneres might have an interest in the Meyers Pride Value Fund. The \$2.1 million fund—up 21.8 percent last year—will invest only in companies with "progressive policies" toward gays and lesbians. When starting the fund in 1996, manager Shelly Meyers worried about weighting it too heavily toward technology and entertainment, two areas known for gay-friendly employment policies. But today the 40-stock portfolio is spread across 10 of 11 industry sectors tracked by Meyers, with its two biggest stakes in banking and energy. Among its largest holdings: Golden State Bancorp., America West Airlines, and Sears.

JUDGE TELLS NAVY

A federal judge ordered the Navy to cancel its decision to discharge a sailor for homosexuality, saying Navy investigators wrongly based their case on an anonymous online computer profile and confidential records held by an online service. The action by U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin marked the first time a court has found military officials exceeding their authority under the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" rules on homosexuality. It also carried important consequences outside the military, reinforcing electronic privacy rights at a time that the availability of personal information on computer networks is expanding rapidly. Sporkin's decision made permanent the temporary injunction he issued against the Navy, blocking the dismissal of Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy R. McVeigh. It followed a filing by government attorneys that said the Navy had no further evidence to offer in the case.

McVeigh ran afoul of Navy prosecutors last autumn after sending an e-mail message about a Christmas toy drive to the wife of a fellow submarine crewman. The message contained the screen name "Boysrch," which was linked to a "profile page" that McVeigh had posted on America Online. The page was signed "Tim" from Honolulu, listed the author's marital status as "gay" and expressed a sexual interest in young men. A Navy investigator called AOL without identifying himself and confirmed that McVeigh was the author, a disclosure AOL later said it regretted and acknowledged had violated its confidentiality policies.

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Cross-dressers Stepping Out - Miami Herald, January 29, 1998	South Africa - Same-sex Marriages Independent - Online News, January 29, 1998
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Provincetown Blaze Leaves \$6m Damage - Boston	NY - Lesbian Custody Cases - Syracuse Post Standard, January 23, 1998
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AK - HIV REPORTING

Reversing a long-standing policy in the fight against AIDS, state officials want to start requiring health care workers to report all HIV-positive cases to the state Division of Public Health. Currently, only the names of patients with full-blown AIDS must be reported to public health officials. Those names are kept confidential.

Many health care professionals around the nation opposed requiring HIV reports until recently. They worried that fear about breaches of confidentiality would deter people from getting tested and receiving early treatment. But the health care consensus appears to be shifting in Alaska as in the Lower 48. Successful new drug treatments are reducing AIDS deaths and delaying for years the onset of AIDS-related illnesses. While this is great news for HIV patients, it means knowledge of the epidemic's extent lags many years behind the actual spread of the infection. Public health officials want to know where HIV is prevalent in Alaska, in which segments of the population, and in which regions so they can target spending on prevention. Twenty-eight states have changed their policies in recent years to require HIV reporting for adults. The states with the biggest incidence of HIV infection, including New York and California, have not changed their policies but are reconsidering them.

DC - BOY SCOUTS' BAN ON GAYS

Michael S. Geller joined the Boy Scouts and was a model member, attaining the highest rank of Eagle Scout and renewing his membership annually throughout his twenties. Roland D. Pool also was a decorated Scout. But in 1992, when Geller and Pool separately told local Scouting officials that they are gay, the organization demanded that they sever all ties with Scouting. Instead, the two District residents filed a complaint with the city, arguing that the Boy Scouts of America's ban on gay members and leaders violates the city's Human Rights Act.

Today-after nearly six years of investigation and legal wrangling-the D.C. Commission on Human Rights will open a hearing on the complaint, one of several filed across the country to force the Boy Scouts to drop anti-gay policies. The D.C. case hinges on whether the Scouting organization is subject to the city's Human Rights Act, which bars discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, or whether the 5.6 million-member group is a private club protected by the constitutional right to freedom of association. The outcome of the hearing, which is expected to last three weeks, could affect all Boy Scout activities in Washington, where there are more than 2,000 youth members.

FL - BANK ON THE INTERNET

A bank catering to the gay community is being organized in the Florida Panhandle. The G&L Bank, whose initials stand for "gay and lesbian," plans to operate on the Internet rather than with traditional tellers and drive-through, said Steven Dunlap, chairman of the G&L Holding Group Inc. of Pensacola. His bank, if it receives federal approval, would be the first gay-targeted institution operating nationally as a federal saving bank. It would offer the same services other banks do such as credit cards, consumer loans and ATM cards as well as making mortgage loans.

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IA - GAY IOWA PASTOR LOSES MINISTRY

A disciplinary committee has voted to revoke the ministry of an Iowa pastor who is openly gay. The decision by a nine-member panel of ministers and members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America means that the Rev. Steve Sabin will be removed from the list of the church's ordained ministers effective April 15. The panel said that it admires the job Sabin has done as pastor but could not allow his "gifts of ministry either to outweigh or excuse" his violation of a church policy that bars "practicing homosexuals" from the ordained ministry. The 150-member congregation of Lord of Life publicly supports Sabin and could vote to keep him on as pastor but would then risk sanctions from the church, including expulsion.

IL - GAY BENEFITS GET FEW TAKERS

The brouhaha over the City of Chicago extending health care benefits to partners of gay and lesbian city workers was a four-star show. But 10 months after a divided City Council approved the measure, only 23 of the city's nearly 40,000 workers have signed up.

Officials theorize that a variety of factors have kept participation in the insurance program low. "Even though gay people have their civil rights protected and the city treats gay and lesbian employees fairly, there is still some social stigma attached to being gay and lesbian," one official said. Moreover, in many cases both members of gay households are employed and have no need for additional medical coverage. But city officials believe that one of the biggest reasons for the modest participation lies in the federal tax code. Because the benefit does not accrue to family members, its value is regarded by Uncle Sam as income, resulting in a tax liability.

(Continued on page 11)

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IL - MUTUAL OF OMAHA ACCUSED

Mutual of Omaha Insurance Co. was sued for allegedly placing illegal limits on HIV-related health-care coverage. The lawsuit contends such caps violate the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Illinois Insurance Code. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago filed their suit in U.S. District Court on behalf of two HIV-positive Chicago-area men, whose names were kept secret.

"Mutual of Omaha caps HIV-related care at a fraction of the amount allowed for other illnesses or conditions. This discrimination severely limits access to standard, life-saving therapies and is illegal," said Heather C. Sawyer, an attorney for Lambda. Lambda and the council said one of the men's policy caps his lifetime benefits for HIV-related conditions at \$25,000 and the other man has a \$100,000 cap. The statement said this was in contrast to \$1 million cap that Mutual of Omaha would allow the needed care for other medical conditions.

MA - PROVINCETOWN BLAZE LEAVES \$6M DAMAGE

Local citizens grabbed firehoses and helped carry them down Commercial Street toward the Crown & Anchor Motor Inn as plumes of flames danced across its roof. A citizens bucket brigade worked to rescue artwork from a gallery next to burning shops on Whaler's Wharf. Two men climbed the steeple of the 150-year-old Universalist Meeting House and protected it with a garden hose. But such public-spirited actions, and the efforts of more than 200 firefighters from every fire department on Cape Cod, could not save the historic Crown & Anchor nightclub-hotel or more than a dozen arts-and-crafts shops, which were gutted by fire on the night of February 11. Three firefighters were injured as they battled the five-alarm blaze.

According to Provincetown Police Chief Robert Anthony, the fire apparently was started accidentally by an electrical device, perhaps a heater. David Bragdon, a caretaker who lives in Whaler's Wharf, noticed fire coming out of the device and called 911 about 6:30 Tuesday evening. Then he tried to put out the fire with a blanket. But the blanket caught fire, and it quickly spread to some highly combustible artists' materials nearby. The Wharf was a former movie theater converted into a mall with many small shops, and when it caught fire, it became "like a chimney in there," Anthony said. Flames soon engulfed an adjacent building, where souvenirs, sea shells, and art products were sold, and then spread to the Crown & Anchor next door. The 1880 inn had 29 rooms, seven bars, and a restaurant. Owned by Kenneth Lemon, the inn was known for its drag-queen shows. Building damage in the town was estimated at \$6 million.

Ocean winds blew embers inland, touching off numerous brush fires near the Pilgrim Monument, the local high school, and other places in town. Firefighters were hampered by Provincetown's narrow streets and closely packed buildings. What prevented a complete disaster, several witnesses said, was the wind.

"The wind amazingly stopped right during the fire," said Patty DeLuca, 35, a local artist. If it hadn't stopped, said Keith Bergman, Provincetown's town manager, "the fire could have devastated all of the town."



MI - 30 WALK OUT

About 30 people attending a weekend ordination ceremony walked out to protest the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan's decision to allow two men involved in homosexual relationships to become priests. Before walking out of Saturday's ceremony at Kalamazoo's Cathedral of Christ the King, protesters had presented a formal objection citing resolutions passed by the Episcopal Church's General Convention that sexual relations are appropriate only within marriage and that it is inappropriate to ordain those who engage in either heterosexual or homosexual relations outside of marriage.

NB - CHURCH TO TRY PASTOR

For performing a union of a different sort, the Rev. Jimmy Creech, a United Methodist minister, will soon be tried in a church court. At issue is Creech's officiation at a covenant ceremony last September uniting two women in his congregation, First United Methodist Church. The event resembled a Methodist wedding, with Scripture readings, an exchange of vows and a celebration of communion. But it came a month after Creech's bishop told him not to do it and a year after Methodist leaders added a statement to the denomination's rule book forbidding ceremonies that united people of the same sex. Creech said in a recent interview that he could not, as their pastor, refuse the women's request and that he considered the church's opposition to unions of people of the same sex to be discriminatory. He could lose his ministerial credentials if convicted.

NY - LESBIAN CUSTODY CASE

The breakup of a lesbian couple raising a daughter together has triggered a messy dispute that could set new state legal standards for adoptions. It could break ground in New York on the adoption rights of a non-married partner in a relationship, whether heterosexual or homosexual. In this case, one of the women became pregnant by artificial insemination and had a daughter four years ago. She agreed at that time to let her partner adopt the child. But last year, the couple broke up and the mother withdrew her consent for the adoption. Now, the former partner wants to force the child's natural mother to go through with the adoption as agreed. If that were to happen, both would be legally recognized as the child's parents.

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PA - CARDINAL FIGHTS GAY-BENEFIT BILLS

A sharply worded letter from Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua denouncing "life partner" legislation, hand-delivered to City Hall, signals the start of Holy War III on gay rights. The bill would give pension benefits to whomever a city employee designates, add "life partners" to the Fair Practices Act requiring all employers in the city to recognize the relationships and exempt such partners from the realty transfer tax.

TX - NEW CHURCH

Members have raised \$6.2 million to build a new cathedral in Dallas for what they call the largest lesbian and gay congregation in the world. Members of the Cathedral of Hope are launching a national campaign to raise another \$19 million to complete financing for the church designed by the openly gay famed architect, Philip Johnson. The 95 yr. old Johnson has designed a sanctuary that resembles a soaring iceberg 11 stories tall and two football fields long. The Rev. Michael Piazza, the senior pastor, said the shape will remind viewers of ships, icebergs, mountains and crystals. He said, "It will evoke emotions and thoughts of protection, joy, humility and love." The Cathedral of Hope congregation numbers 3,000, and the current church holds only about 800 people.

WA - LAW BAN GAY MARRIAGE

Washington lawmakers have banned gay marriage in a choreographed action that included a quick veto by Democratic Gov. Gary Locke and an override by bipartisan super-majorities in both houses. Even long-time backers of gay rights pronounced themselves satisfied with the result, since it avoids a potentially divisive November referendum. Washington is now the 27th state with such a ban.

WV - CENTER CAN BAN BOY WITH HIV

A federal judge ruled that a karate school owner has the right to ban a 12-year-old boy with the AIDS virus from classes with other children. U.S. District Judge Richard L. Williams ruled that Michael Montalvo's condition is covered under the Americans With Disabilities Act, but said James P. Radcliffe II was not obligated to admit him to classes because it poses a risk to other children. In his ruling, Williams addressed the difference between the physical style of karate taught at the school and less combative styles. Radcliffe said he was not trying to discriminate against Michael, but wanted to protect the other students, who he feared could get infected if blood was drawn during sparring.



AUSTRALIA - GAY PARTNERS WILLS

Close friends or gay partners' will be able to claim a share of a dead person's estate that usually goes automatically to the spouse and children, under legal reforms to be considered by the States and Territories. Top legal bureaucrats have advised their attorneys-general to broaden the law of wills so anyone who was being supported financially by a person can claim part of the estate - or contest the will - under "family provision" legislation. If adopted by all States and Territories, any dependent - such as a gay partner or close friend - would become eligible.

AUSTRALIA - GAY PARADE DRAWS 40,000

St Kilda was as colorful as a fruit salad on February 1 as nearly 40,000 lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transsexuals and folk of every sexual inclination in between paraded down Fitzroy Street for the third annual Pride March. The marchers came from a diverse range of groups including PFlag (a support group for parents, families and friends of lesbians and gay men), Koori gays and lesbians, the City of Port Phillip, gays and lesbians for reconciliation, Vintage Men, the Star Hotel, Metropolitan Community Church, leather pride, queer goths, Australian Democrats and Optus staff. Along the route, on-lookers hung out of windows, sat on roofs, crowded on to the Prince of Wales' [Hotel] balcony and poured out of the Esplanade Hotel.

BRAZIL - COURT RULES FOR GAY RIGHTS

A businessman has the right to inherit assets he shared with a homosexual companion who died of AIDS, a federal court has ruled in a landmark decision for gay rights in Brazil. The Superior Tribunal of Justice said Milton Alves Pedrosa was entitled to half the estate of Jair Prearo, who died in 1989. Prearo's father had contested Pedrosa's claim. The ruling stops short of recognizing a same-sex couple as a "civil union," a term applied to heterosexual couples including those who are married, in common-law marriages, and in long-term relationships. Rep. Marta Suplicy said the decision could make it easier to pass a bill that she sponsored recognizing the civil union of homosexuals, giving them legal rights available to heterosexual couples. The bill is expected to go before the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of congress, this year.

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BRITAIN - SETBACK FOR GAY RIGHTS

Gay rights activists were shattered by a European Union high court ruling today against a British lesbian railroad clerk who sought travel benefits for her girlfriend. It had been considered a test case on workplace equality for homosexuals across Europe. The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg said Britain's South West Trains did not violate EU law when it said the girlfriend of booking clerk Lisa Grant was ineligible for travel benefits available to the partners of heterosexual employees. Lawyers for the couple, including Cherie Booth, wife of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, argued the policy violated the EU's founding treaty, which guarantees "equal pay for equal work without discrimination based on sex." The rail company argued that the clause did not cover sexual orientation.

Jill Percey, Grant's partner, said they and their supporters would campaign to have laws changed in Britain to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation. Blair's government is committed to reforms ending discrimination against gay workers. The EU's executive agency said it was considering changes to its law to "plug the gaps" in anti-discrimination clauses. Any new proposals would need backing from governments of the 15 EU nations.

SOUTH AFRICA - SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

Same-sex marriages look set to be recognized by the state in legislation which is expected to be presented to Parliament this year. Government sources indicated that the legislation would be in line with the constitution which outlaws discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. Substantive equality for all South African citizens is the policy of the ANC, which has stated its support for the "ideals of equality, dignity and freedom". The party also gave the Government the mandate at its national conference for it to address custody, access, maintenance, immigration and adoption rights for gay men and women. Gay and lesbian families were also given the nod. The controversial legislation is likely to provoke an outcry among certain religious and conservative political groups.

PAUL D. SCHNEIDER

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POLLO CACCIATORE (CHICKEN HUNTER STYLE)

1 LARGE CHICKEN, CUT INTO PIECES

2 TBSP OLIVE OIL

1 TSP CHOPPED PARSLEY

1 STALK CELERY, CHOPPED

1 CLOVE GARLIC, CHOPPED

COARSE GROUND PEPPER TO TASTE

1/2 LB FRESH MUSHROOMS, SLICED

3/4 CUP DRY WHITE WINE

OREGANO, CRUSHED

HEAT THE OLIVE OIL IN A LARGE SKILLET AND ADD THE CHICKEN, PARSLEY, CELERY, MUSHROOMS AND GARLIC. SEASON WITH PEPPER AND OREGANO. BROWN THE CHICKEN ON ALL SIDES OVER MODERATE FLAME. WHEN THE CHICKEN IS BROWNED, ADD THE WINE AND COOK GENTLY UNTIL THE WINE IS ALMOST EVAPORATED. ADD A LITTLE WATER TO KEEP THE CHICKEN MOIST, COVER, AND SIMMER ABOUT 30 MINUTES UNTIL CHICKEN IS THOROUGHLY COOKED BUT NOT DRY.



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NEWS & VIEW

OTHER AREA GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Bare & Gay (B&G) gay nudists	(203) 330-9595
Bisexually Curious Support Group Bpt	(203) 264-5605
Chiltern Mountain Club	(203) 899-0270
Connecticut Kids and Families	(203) 256-8414
Connecticut Freedom to Marry Coalition	(203) 791-9553
40-Up Club. (Social Grp.-call Dale before 10pm)	(203) 261-4019
Gay Fathers Group	(203) 866-7051
Gay Mens Association of Danbury	(203) 778-7016
GEMS (Mature GLBT)	(860) 688-1881
GuideLine (gay/lesbian phone info)	(203) 366-3734
Hartford Community Center	(203) 724 5542
Married Men's Bisexual Suppt Grp Htfd	(203) 262-1555
Metropolitan Community Church	(203) 389-6750
The Loft, White Plains NY,	(914) 948-4922
Triangle Bowling League	(203) 931-8789
Triangle Kids	(203) 255-6229
	(203) 323-6278
Western Connecticut Gay Men's Group	(203) 773-9947

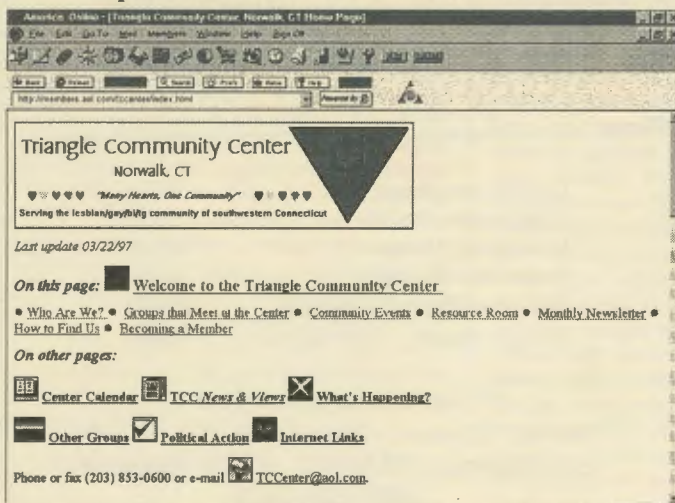
We're glad to list your non-profit gay/lesbian/bi/tg group free of charge. Call (203) 964-1133. Please keep us informed of changes.

P-FLAG SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AT TCC

"Big" Monthly Meeting: Every 1st Wednesday, 7:45
Spouses and Ex Spouses group: Every 3rd Thurs. 7:30

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

Dont forget to check out the TCC web page:
<http://members.aol.com.tccccenter/index.html>



TRIANGLE COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.

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

Tel/Fax: (203) 853-0600

e-mail TCCcenter@aol.com

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BARB SCHADE	Treasurer
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DAVE CARROLL	Acting Recording Sec'y

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(and to schedule events at the Center)		
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—Resource Room	Walter D	374-6934
—Center Forums	Marianne S	222-8294
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NEWS & VIEWS

Is published monthly by
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P.O. Box 4062, East Norwalk, CT 06855.

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

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NEWS & VIEWS

Calendar

March, 1998

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	2 Women's Rap 7:30	3 Lesbian Lit 7:30 Fund Raising 7:30	4 P-FLAG 7:45	5 Men's Rap 7:30	6 Bowling 9:00 Circle Lanes G Mosaic 7:30 "Green Bay Tree", New Haven, 8 pm	7 "Green Bay Tree", New Haven, 8 pm Stephanie's March Dance, Stratford, 8 pm
8 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	9 Women's Rap 7:30 PFLAG hosts John Allen, Hamden, 7-8:30 pm	10 TCC Board 7:30	11 Bi Rap Grp 7:30	12 Men's Rap 7:30	13 Bowling 9:30 Circle Lanes Out & About (20's & 30's) 7:00	14 Gay & Lesbian Sober Dance, Fairfield, 8 pm Gay Bingo, Htfd, 7:30 pm
15 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	16 Women's Rap 7:30	17	18 P-FLAG Spouses & Ex- Spouses 7:30	19 Men's Rap 7:30	20 Bowling 9:30 Circle Lanes G Mosaic 7:30 Children from Shadows Conf., W. Htfd, 9:45 am	21 TCC Friendrailer, Bridgeport, 5-8 pm Children from Shadows conference, W. Hartford, 9:45 am
22 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6 Nat G&L Journalists get- together, New Haven, 1 pm TCC Movie night, Nwk, 7:30 pm	23 Women's Rap 7:30	24 TCC Board 7:30	25 Bi Rap Grp 7:30	26 Men's Rap 7:30	27 Bowling 9:30 Circle Lanes Out & About (20's & 30's) 7:00	28 CT Gay Men's Chorus presents Gentlemen Prefer Blonds, New Haven, 8 pm
29 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6 CGMC, Gentlemen Prefer Blonds, New Haven, 2 pm	30 Women's Rap 7:30	1 Lesbian Lit 7:30 Fund Raising 7:30 Deadline for TCC scholarship	2 P-FLAG 7:45	3 Men's Rap 7:30	4 Bowling 9:30 Circle Lanes	5
6 AA 9-10 am OutSpoken 4-6	7 Women's Rap 7:30	8 TCC Board 7:30	9 Bi Rap Grp 7:30	10 Men's Rap 7:30	11 Bowling 9:30 Circle Lanes Out & About (20's & 30's) 7:00	12 Deadline for April News & Views

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

GROUPS MEETING AT OR SPONSORED BY TCC

A.A. - Don 762-9964

Bi Rap Group - Peter 838-2806; Robin 358-8391

35+ Womens Pot Luck - Judy 227-7162

Free Association of Fairfield County - John 268-8858 x304

Gay Men's Rap Group - Dave 838-1881; John 261-7349

Gmosaic (People of Color) - Nasheed 854-7726

Lesbian Literature Reading Group - Christine, 847-8476

Out & About (20's & 30's) - Ashley 576-1073 or Dan 838-2367
Heather 924-2930

OutSpoken (Youth) - Barb 259-8171; Dan 227-1755;
Doug 838-2367

P-FLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) -
Joan 544-8724; Lester 322-5380; Belinda 855-1203

P-FLAG Spouses & Ex Spouses Group - Joan 544-8724

Triangle Bowling League (Circle Lanes, Fairfield) - Lisa 333-
3113; Roseann 931-8789

Women's Rap Group - Chandra 228-8652; Linda 866-4598;
Michele 438-4465

All meetings are held at the Center and in the evening unless
otherwise noted. A \$3 donation per person is appreciated with
your participation in activities to help support the Center.

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