



NEWS & VIEWS

Free to Members and Subscribers

January 1999

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

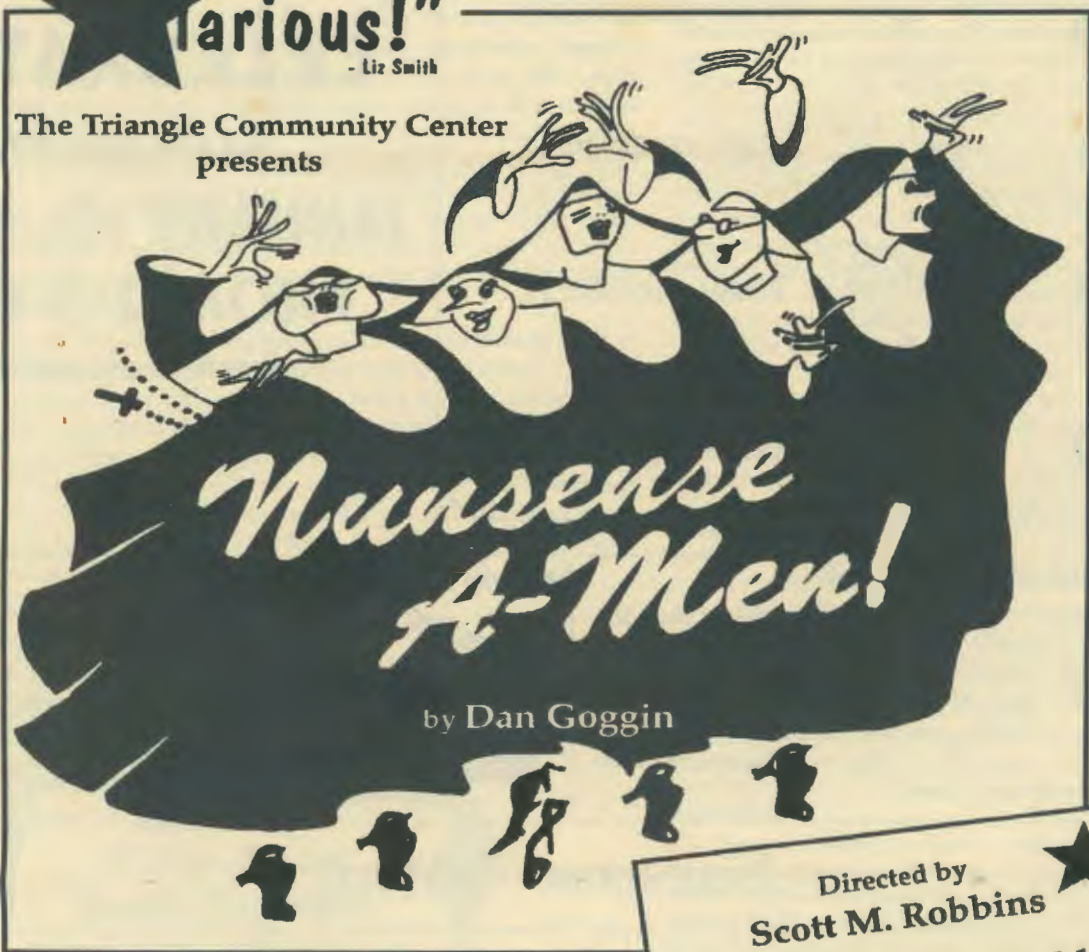
"Holy order! The sisters are bro★ers!"

-New York Times

★various!"

- Liz Smith

The Triangle Community Center
presents



Nunsense A-Men!

by Dan Goggin

"Sens★tonal!"

-WABC-TV

January 15, 16, 21, 22, & 23, 1999 at 8PM
Norwalk Community Technical College
Performing Arts Center
188 Richards Avenue, Norwalk

Directed by
Scott M. Robbins ★
A Benefit Produced by
TCC

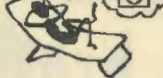
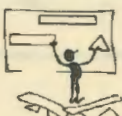
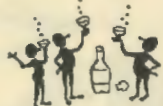


A portion of the proceeds supports
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\$35.00 & \$50.00 MasterCard & Visa
includes a post show reception



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TCC IS EIGHT YEARS OLD!

- 1989 -  They dreamed it.
 - 1990 -  They planned it.
 - 1991 -  They opened it.
 - 1993 -  They moved it.
- BUT
- 1999 -  You make it work.

**HELP US
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SUNDAY,
JANUARY 10, 1999
FROM 2-5 PM**
Refreshments served.

Imperial Court of Connecticut

The Board of Directors of TCC wishes to extend its heart felt gratitude to The Imperial Court of Connecticut for donating the proceeds from their recent show (\$503.00) to TCC. Their generous support of the Center especially at this critical juncture in the Center's life is greatly appreciated.



Movie Night



TCC will present their next potluck/movie night on Sunday, January 17 beginning at 6 PM. Bring your cute little self and food for four. The movie this month is "Stonewall". It's one person's vision of what happened on the first night of the Stonewall Riot.

Nunsense A-Men!

Nunsense A-Men! -- an all new, all male version of the smash play "Nunsense" - is coming to Connecticut. Performances are scheduled for January 15/16/21/22/23 at 8 PM, at the Norwalk Community Technical College's Performing Arts Theatre. The tickets, selling for \$50 and \$35, include a post show reception and may be purchased by calling (203) 855-1485. The Norwalk Community Technical College

Performing Arts Center is located at 188 Richards Avenue in Norwalk, on the East Side, off Connecticut Turnpike (1-95) exit 13.

Nunsense A-Men! Features comedy, gags, and music. The show's director is Scott M. Robbins.

The musical director is Stephanie Daumer and the choreographer is Kathy Hellrigel. The set designer is Barry Axtell. Patty Blackwood's puppet is being featured in the performances. The Westchester Broadway Theatre and the Helen Hayes Theatre of Nyack, NY, are also assisting in the Norwalk production.



Nunsense workers get the word out!

Elliott Arluck, the Norwalk show's producer said the corporate sponsors include Virgin Atlantic Airways, People's Bank, and York 168 (168 York Street, New Haven). Additionally, the hotel Millennium Bailey's of London has donated a room for two and the Regal UN Plaza in Manhattan has donated a brunch for two. These gifts will be awarded as prizes in a raffle in conjunction with the show.

Proceeds benefit the Triangle Community Center of East Norwalk and Bread & Roses, the HIV and AIDS organization in Norwalk and Georgetown, in Fairfield County.

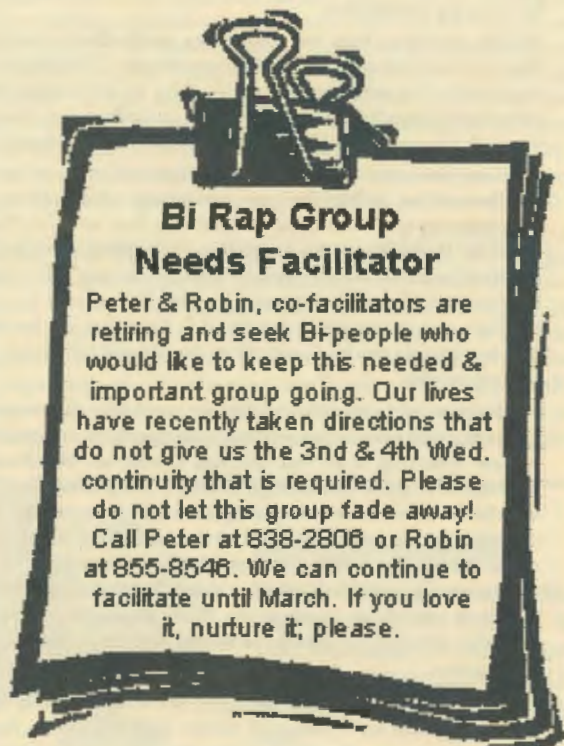
TCC News

Splinters from the Board

Allow me to me to introduce myself. My name is James Bridge, and I'm a member of the Board of Directors here at the Triangle Community Center. In my other life, I'm the assistant to the executive director at Bread & Roses. If you don't who and what Bread & Roses is, shame on you. (We provide services for those infected and affected with HIV/AIDS, in the Greater Fairfield County Area.) It is a very rewarding job, and I feel truly blessed to be there.

The reason I am writing today is that I have recently assumed the mantle of the Fundraising Chair for the Triangle Community Center. It's a great responsibility, and I don't think I can do it alone. Yes, I need help. I want to put together a committee. A High Council of Fundraising, if you will. I want to put the fun back in Fundraising. I know it sounds corny, but if you say so to my face, I might hit you. I'm taking this seriously. Here in Fairfield County, we have an affluent and diverse community. Emphasis on the word "Affluent". There is no logical reason our center, located in the heart of one the richest counties of the richest state of the richest country in the world should be struggling to keep its doors open. Okay, so we're here. You know we're here, and maybe we're doing something wrong. WE WON'T KNOW IF YOU DON'T TELL US!

I've been told that if you make it fun, they will come. We already built it, and they seem to be staying away in droves. So help me out here. Contact me. Maybe you can join my little committee. Make it a big committee. I want everybody. Young, not so young, male, female, human, alien, whatever. If you're lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered or just have a decent fashion sense, speak the hell up! My email is Palemonkey@yahoo.com. I'm forming a committee. A task force. A high frikkin council. I want it to be all-inclusive and I want it to be fun. For me, for you, for everybody. Now put on your thinking caps and get to work. Thanks.



**Bi Rap Group
Needs Facilitator**

Peter & Robin, co-facilitators are retiring and seek Bi-people who would like to keep this needed & important group going. Our lives have recently taken directions that do not give us the 3rd & 4th Wed. continuity that is required. Please do not let this group fade away! Call Peter at 838-2806 or Robin at 855-8546. We can continue to facilitate until March. If you love it, nurture it; please.

Matthew Shepard Vigil in Westport

Nearly 500 people of many faiths and of both gay and heterosexual orientations attended a special vigil service Sunday evening November 15, 1998 in Westport for Matthew Shepard, the young gay college student brutally murdered in a hate crime in Wyoming in October. The service, held at the Unitarian Church in Westport and co-sponsored by Temple Israel of Westport, was organized by Rozanne Gates and Suzanne Sheridan, co-chairs of the Rainbow Task Force, organized at the church 10 years ago to provide support for gay and lesbian members. Suzanne and Rozanne opened the service by taking note of the horrific crime in Wyoming. In organizing the service they called upon all churches in Connecticut to be open and affirming toward gays and lesbians.

Special thanks was given to Triangle Community Center president Donald Buxton for his assistance in the vigil. The Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus performed and the service ended with a candle lighting by each of the nearly 500 persons present.

Leif Mitchell, member of the board of directors of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), said the incident was not isolated, "There are Matthew Shepards right here in Connecticut." Leif said gay students are several times more likely to be threatened and are three times more likely to commit suicide, than heterosexual students. He said the average gay student hears the word "fag" 25 times a day in school, and that in 97 per cent of the cases, the teacher and school do nothing about it. For the record, he said "I am not a kleptomaniac," echoing a comment earlier in the service by the organizers of the vigil, who referred to the comment by Senator Trent Lott, from Mississippi. Lott compared homosexuals to kleptomaniacs in an interview on the national Armstrong Williams show this summer, on the right-wing America's Voice Network.

Michael Collins, public relations director of the Triangle Community Center of East Norwalk – the gay and lesbian community center serving Fairfield County – noted that the right-wing has been wrong virtually all the time. "In the past two centuries the right wing was wrong about slavery, wrong in its winning position on Native Americans, wrong about Jim Crow and segregation, wrong for bringing us the KKK, wrong for denying women the right to vote, wrong for opposing child labor laws, wrong for bringing Nazism to Europe, wrong for bringing us McCarthyism, wrong in its anti-semitism, wrong for opposing women's rights and for sexism, on the wrong side of the civil rights movement, and wrong about homosexuality today." Michael called on gays and lesbians to make "best efforts" to come out, since the closet is the ultimate tool of the right wing.

The Triangle Community Center arranged media coverage and there were reports on Cablevision 12 covering Fairfield County. WEBE 107.9 in Westport also covered the vigil. The Stamford Advocate had an article Saturday and Sunday and Monday. The Connecticut Jewish Ledger based in West Hartford, sent a reporter, and IN Newsweekly sent a reporter to cover the vigil from Westbrook, CT. IN Newsweekly is based in Boston and covers gay and lesbian news for all 6 New England states. The New York Times had a significant article in its Sunday Connecticut Weekly section.

Some of the musical performances included: Beth Stiles solo on piano, Cantor Richard Silverman of Temple Israel of Westport, Chris Coogan performing "Light A Candle", the Connecticut Gay Men's Chorus, Suzanne Sheridan, Edward Thompson solo on piano and finally the entire congregation sang: "We Are A Gentle Angry People" by Holly Near.

Clergy speaking included Rabbi Robert Orkland of Temple Israel, the Reverend John Tolley of the Unitarian Church in Westport, the Reverends Alan Johnson and Martle McMane co-pastors of the Saugatuck Congregational Church, the Reverend Linda Hirst of the Greens Forms Congregational Church. Also speaking was Sunny Khadavi, president of P-FLAG of Norwalk, who said "What happened to Matthew is the worst nightmare for the parent of a gay child."

-Michael Collins

Stamford Panel Raises Awareness

Retired Newtown gym teacher Deann LeBeau said she has heard students call classmates "faggot" or "dyke" and watched some teachers who witnessed the harassment simply turn their backs and ignore it. "I've seen kids who are afraid to go from one class to another because they don't know what they'll face as far as degradation or harassment in the hallway," said LeBeau, who is gay, at a panel discussion on gay and lesbian issues at the Stamford Government Center. "Sexual orientation has to be dealt with in schools." Discrimination against students in the schools based on their sexual orientation is against the law, and school administrators, teachers and employees have to be taught that it is not acceptable and how to deal with it when they see it, LeBeau said. LeBeau was one of four guest speakers at the sparsely attended discussion, hosted by Stamford Public Schools' Office of Diversity and Multicultural Education. School Superintendent Michael Nast and Board of Education member Martin Levine were in attendance, along with several teachers, parents and members of the gay community.

David Knapp, co-chairman of Connecticut's Stonewall Speakers Association, said Connecticut has also witnessed deadly violence directed at gays. In 1988, two high school students followed 33-year-old Richard Riehl from a gay bar to his Wethersfield home, where they beat him to death with a log while he pleaded for his life, said Knapp, who came out as gay in his 50s after 27 years of marriage. Riehl's death sparked the creation of the Stonewall Speakers, who travel around the state talking to school groups and organizations to raise awareness of gay and lesbian issues and build tolerance. Knapp said he knows firsthand the discrimination gay and lesbians feel. Knapp said he was a devoted Boy Scouts of America commissioner who was asked to resign his post and leave his church after officials discovered he was gay. "I'm hoping all of you here tonight can stop the discrimination," Knapp said.

Lester Sharlach, a Stamford resident and former president of the local chapter of Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays Inc., recalled how his gay son used to be afraid to go to gym class at the former Rippowam High School for fear of being ridiculed by classmates. "There were no safe zones in schools then for gay kids and no teachers for them to go to," said Sharlach, who has been involved in PFLAG for almost 20 years. Although high schools in Greenwich and Westport have gay/straight student alliances, there are no such organizations in Stamford or Norwalk schools, Sharlach said. About 30 percent of all teen suicides involve homosexuals, Sharlach said. Attitudes must change so gay youths can find acceptance and stop trying to live a lie or hide their sexual orientation.

1st Gathering of a New Social Group for Couples Sun., February 7th at 4:00 PM.

Come with a story of the funniest experience you've had as a couple (and a dish to share). We were part of a gay couples group in Washington DC and a lesbian one in New Haven. We know that they can be fun and fulfilling. We started a list of interested couples at the Center's reading of Together Forever and are inviting others to join us. This first potluck will be at our home in Silvermine to see if there is interest here in Fairfield County for such a group. We are hoping for a happy connection not readily available from usual activities; center on socializing as couples, discussion around a topic, the thread of our common experience and food! Call Morgan or PJ at 847-2561 for more information & directions.

Standing on Ceremony

It's time for me to come out of the closet. Not about being gay. Clerics have been doing that so much now that it's no longer news. No, it's time for me to come out about the fact that I officiate at gay commitment ceremonies. What makes this particularly difficult is that I am (for the moment) a priest in good standing of the Episcopal Church, one of the mainline Protestant mainstays that still says this type of ceremony is incongruous with scripture. Even talking about it could cost me my priesthood. While the church came close to approving gay commitment ceremonies in 1997, it wasn't close enough. And, as with the rest of the country, the issue continues to be the subject of heated debate.

Well, I'm tired of debating. And I'm tired of keeping silent. I want to explain why these ceremonies are important and why I perform them. I was driving to the gym one morning last month when I heard the news about Matthew Shepard. As I worked out, all I could think about was Matthew and about the sermon I was to give at a commitment ceremony that afternoon. I had been to the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner the night before and was on an emotional high until I heard the tragic news from Wyoming. How was this heinous crime going to affect the words I was going to offer at the ceremony.

After the workout I went on autopilot. Wearing my clerical collar and robes-including the clerical stole that was draped around my neck at my ordination ten years previously and that I have worn at every wedding or commitment ceremony I have done since I stood in front of the gathered loved ones and wondered if I would be able to contain my own emotion of the day.

Seated in the second row was one of the betrothed's Aunt Marie. She is from Springfield, Mo., which is just 60 miles or so from where my own mother was raised. Perhaps in her late 60s, Marie had pulled me aside the night before and asked whether her nephew and his intended were going to exchange vows. I assured her that the ceremony was, in almost all ways, very traditional. "Good," she said. "They deserve something traditional."

They certainly did. And it was a beautiful service. Promises were exchanged, as were rings. Friends and family members gave speeches and toasts. God was truly present. How could God be absent when there is such love? Every loving couple deserves the opportunity to have such a celebration.

Yet the church-at least my church, as most others-continues to say that gay people don't deserve this opportunity. This attitude is directly responsible for creating and supporting an environment in which hatred and prejudice can take root and grow-the kind of environment in which young people like Matthew Shepard can be abused and killed.

The time has come to come out. The time has come to say that there are those of us within the gay community who believe in lifelong commitment and who want to celebrate that and do. The time has come for those of us who are within the system, who are intimately involved with the church, to say, "Enough already!" It is time that we let the world know that love transcends the narrow vision that our brothers and sisters often preach. It is time that we let children see that two people can love each other deeply and intimately regardless of their gender.

For lesbians and gay men of faith, we must take the responsibility to be known and seen in our spiritual communities, recognizing that we too are deserving of all that God has to offer us. Matthew didn't get the chance to grow old enough to find a life partner. But for those of us who have, we owe it to young men and women like Matthew to celebrate those relationships and let the world, and our churches, know about them. The perpetrators of Matthew's death in Wyoming are ultimately responsible for their actions. But the church is responsible too in its complicity to allow the many messages of ignorance and prejudice about gay people to be issued from its pulpits and published in its name.

Nissing, a pastoral psychotherapist in New York City and Wilton, Conn., is also an Episcopal priest and founding facilitator of OutSpoken, a youth group at the Triangle Community Center in Norwalk, Conn.

▼ NEWS & VIEWS

Creating Change Conference

The first day was a pre-conference gathering of community centers from all over the country. Did you know that the Loft (the center in White Plains) has hired an executive director and has signed a ten-year lease for their space?

The first workshop I went to was hosted by a couple from Rhode Island who narrated how successfully they repealed their sodomy law. It was a textbook case of how to do grassroots political organizing. They recruited the disabled community, including the disabled veterans, to drive home their message that outlawing the abominable and detestable crime against nature affected not only the LGBT community.

None of the plenaries had a single charismatic speaker giving a rousing speech, as in past years. The model instead was a series of brief, closely timed presentations from a number of speakers. The first night we heard from Linda Chavez Thompson, a labor leader whose topic was merging personal politics with "the movement" without getting totally corrupted in the process. The following day we heard from Patricia Ireland and Byron Rushing, a Massachusetts state rep whose district included the South End of Boston, where a great concentration of gays live. They had been fighting the good fight for a very long time. Patricia Ireland was charming; relating on her battles with the Promise Keepers. Her biggest laugh came with a line about being celibate by choice or chance. This touched a chord among members of the audience who put off getting laid in favor of grassroots political organizing.

Byron Rushing's lecture was on how the Constitution's "we the people" did not by any means include all the people when originally written. It has, over the centuries, been expanded to include more and more of the people. His point was LGBT people are becoming part of we the people.

Another workshop I attended was on the response to homosexuality by major religions. What struck me the most there were the stories of what happened to gay Muslims when they tried to organize. The first group, composed of Iranian exchange students in San Francisco in the late 70s, were sent back to Iran after the fall of the Shah, where they were assassinated at the airport. Nothing more was attempted for almost 15 years. Then, in the early 90s, a group sprung up in Toronto. They were so harassed they disbanded a year later. The Muslims organized by means of listserv, which provided them with a level of safety that their equally courageous predecessors, did not have.

Warren Blumenfeld has amalgamated his keen interest in the intersection of anti-Semitism and homophobia into a slide show that was the topic of another workshop I attended. He showed side-by-side two cartoons, one from the Nazi Germany propaganda machine and the other done by Oregon Citizens Alliance, a rabid anti-gay group active in the mid 90s. They looked like the same artist had done them and furthermore; the placement of the figures in both was identical. (I confess to secretly smiling at an image of a Jewish man surrounded by two loosely dressed Christian women - as the straight Catholic girl I am, who has more than her share of crushes on Jewish men during my life).

I would be remiss if I did not mention two items, that kept coming up in both the speeches and comments. The first was the D'Amato endorsement by the Human Rights Campaign and the second was the Millennium March and how it is being organized. I attended a raucous meeting to air opinions on the March. It was remarkably civil, until a Stonewall veteran started personally attacking one of the moderators. People are not happy with how the March is being organized and a number of people have created an Ad Hoc Committee for an Open Process in response. -Marianne Seggerman



Donations Needed

Please help the homeless. Donate your used clothing to TCC. To make arrangements drop off call the Center at 853-0600 and leave a message for Noel.



Men's Rap Group Needs Facilitator

The Thursday Men's Rap Group is in great need of a facilitator. Come and be a part of this thriving group. For information call John at (203) 389-7381.

Lesbian Lit Group

For their January 5th meeting, the Lesbian Literature Group has chosen the novel, "Long Time Passing (Lives of Older Lesbians)" (Allison Publications) for discussion. The book, edited by Marcey Adelman, is filled with true stories of women from the 1940s and 1950s, who led the way for the millions of lesbians who followed. Copies of the book are available at local bookstores and libraries. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month at TCC beginning 7:00 PM. For more information call Christine at (203) 847-8476.

True Colors, Inc. and Children From the Shadows Presents:

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Connecticut News

'Caring for Pets' Special License Plates

Animal lovers can now help their furry friends by purchasing a new commemorative license plate. Proceeds from the sale of the special "Caring for Pets" plates will go to the state's animal population control program, which neuters, spays and vaccinates animals. Costs are \$135 for a vanity plate, \$70 to transfer a current plate number to the new plate and \$50 for a randomly assigned number. The license plates, which feature a dog and a cat, will cost an extra \$15 for a two-year registration renewal. The animal control program will get \$10 of that fee.



Equality Begins at Home

Equality Begins at Home is a national campaign to strengthen, unite, and promote equality for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities at the state level. During the week of March 21-27, 1999, communities in each state and territory across the country will engage in an unprecedented week of nationally coordinated actions designed to draw attention to the critical need to organize at the state and local level to fight the stepped up attacks from the right and to achieve equality.

Political momentum has shifted to the states. Connecticut organizers have taken up the challenge to participate with the other states in this unique set of actions. An initial meeting was held early in December and the brainstorming began. The probable outcome of this phase is the adoption of some kind of proclamation/resolution for groups to sign; a concrete set of legislative demands (although Connecticut already has both a gay rights bill and gays are included in the hate crimes bill); and a moving exhibit that will travel from city to city during the conference week. Hopefully, local activists and the media will greet the exhibit in each city it visits. Its finale is a triumphant entrance into Hartford. Other ideas floating around during the meeting involved a specially designed flower arrangement and something involving Governor Rowland (whether he like it or not). The National Lesbian and Gay Task Force is offering \$5,000 to each state to help fund their ideas.

Equality Begins at Home is sponsored by the Federation of Statewide LGBT Political Organizations and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The Connecticut Coalition for LGBT Civil Rights strongly encourages all to participate in actions in our state! For more information on Equality Begins at Home in CT, contact Pura Gomez, 860-225-7445, PIWings@aol.com or visit the EBaH web site at www.equalitybeginsathome.org.

[Ed. note: Marianne Seggerman contributed to this article.]

Yale-New Haven Mobile Mammography Van

The Yale-New Haven Hospital mammography van will visit twelve cities in New Haven and Fairfield Counties to perform breast cancer screening mammography. One in every eight women men will learn she has breast cancer at some time in her life. Mammography is still the best known method in early detection of breast cancer.

To make it convenient for women the entire process takes less than 15 minutes. To schedule an appointment, or for information, call the Yale-New Haven mammography office Monday through Friday 8 AM to 4 PM at (203) 688-1752.

Pool Policy in W. Hartford Discriminates

Five West Hartford families announced filed discrimination complaints with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities claiming that they have been denied family memberships at the town Cornerstone pool based on their sexual orientation and/or marital status. They join another gay couple, Barry Amos and Andy O'Brien who have already filed a complaint with CHRO. The Council addressed the issue at three meetings from February to July and consistently denied the same rates to domestic partners. The Council has been polarized along party lines with the Republican majority refusing to extend the family membership beyond "two married (as defined by Connecticut State law) adult parents or a single parent and dependent children under age 21 (if any)."

The five West Hartford families applied to the Cornerstone Aquatic Center for family memberships and were denied due to not being married. By being denied the family rate, the families would be required to pay an additional \$205. - \$325. per family, depending on family size, for memberships at the pool.

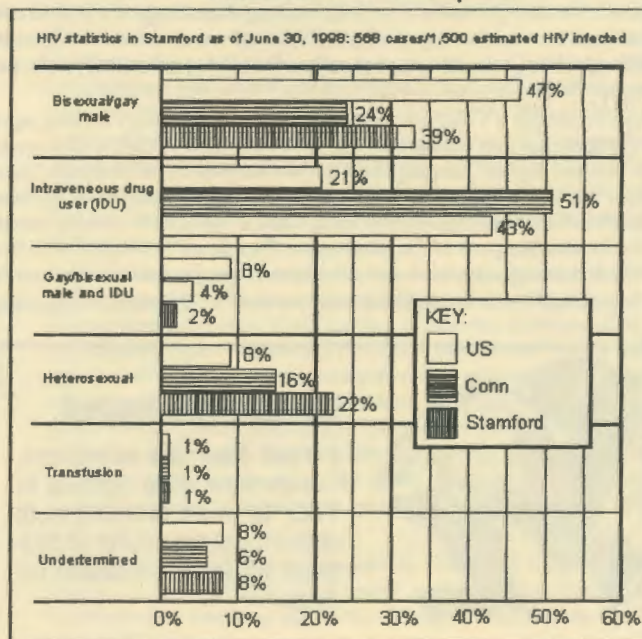
Attorney Maureen Murphy, who is representing the families, explained that "this is exactly the type of blatant discrimination that our non-discrimination statutes in Connecticut were designed to prevent. We feel confident that the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities will enforce these families' rights so that they, too, can enjoy equal access to the benefits the Town of West Hartford provides." Barry Zitser, one of the plaintiffs, is an attorney and will be assisting Attorney Murphy.

Phil Tegeler, Legal Director of the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union, was present at the press conference to indicate CCLU's commitment to providing support for the families' complaints.

Richard Stillson, Co-Chair of the Connecticut Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Civil Rights said that this is a basic issue of civil rights and that all families should be accorded equal rights and fees for town services.

"The Town has set up an eligibility criterion which it knows same-sex families cannot meet," said Mary Bonauto in a press statement from GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders).

AIDS transmission comparison



NEWS & VIEWS

There Are Matthew Shepards in Connecticut

I had the pleasure of representing GLSEN Connecticut at a vigil in honor of Matthew Shepard in Westport in November. I would like to share my thoughts on this tragic situation. My name is Leif Mitchell and I am a Board Member of the Connecticut Chapter of GLSEN (The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network). GLSEN is the only national organization working to end anti-gay bias in K-12 schools. We strive to assert that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation. GLSEN Connecticut expresses profound regret over the death of Matthew Shepard. I also feel sorry for Matthew's killers. We view this tragedy as a major failure of the educational system: our schools simply failed to prepare Matthew's killers to live in a world where gay and lesbian people live, learn, and go to work with everyone else. Our schools failed to teach these young men to respect and value those different from themselves. The tragedy in Wyoming is a logical expression of these failures. The culture of intolerance toward lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people that led to this attack was nurtured by school communities that have systematically failed to address and end anti-gay bias.

Our schools here in Connecticut are failing as well. There are Matthew Shepards in Connecticut. This is not the first time, or the last, that something like this is going to happen. I received a message from a young lesbian student the other day that read, "Sometimes I feel so alone. That's the way I have been feeling lately. Like I'll break down in tears and I don't know why. I'm so confused." Did you know that a student in Madison, CT was harassed so much that his parents had to move him to another school district? Did you know that the former school district is paying for the student's schooling in the other district because they failed to protect them?

We hope that Matthew Shepard's tragedy serves as a wake-up call to students, parents, teachers, and concerned citizens. We are not meeting the needs of our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth. Any time we talk about school safety, we need to address violence against LGBT youth. In an age when most schools have instituted 'zero tolerance policies' on racial and ethnic slurs, 'faggot' and 'dyke' are still the insults of choice. The average high school student hears anti-gay epithets twenty-five times a day, and ninety-seven percent of the time, teachers fail to respond. When compared to their heterosexual peers, lesbian and gay youth are three to four times more likely to be threatened with a weapon in school.

Enacting hate crime laws is an absolute necessity. However, creating a world in which no lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender youth has to fear for his or her physical well-being will require a commitment to end anti-gay bias in our schools. You might think schools in our area aren't homophobic...aren't racist. It's one thing to think this and another to be actively working against racism, sexism, heterosexism, anti-Semitism, ableism, lookism, and classism.

Did you know that days before Matthew was attacked, a court in Hawaii sentenced the murderer of a gay man to a simple misdemeanor offense, with a maximum sentence of one year?

Did you hear about the murder of the abortion doctor, Dr. Barnett Slepian, who was gunned down in New York in front of his children, or the 7 year old black girl who was raped by a white teenager in Las Vegas while the perpetrator's friend watched guard? In June, James Byrd, a Texas man, was beaten and dragged behind a truck until he died because he was black?

The culture of intolerance that led to these attacks is nurtured by school communities that have systematically failed to address and end bias in all its forms. We should not be surprised by these horrific tragedies when:

1. Religious conservatives spend over half a million dollars on ads saying homosexuals recruit and molest children, and face an early death unless "cured."
2. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott called gay people "diseased," comparing them to alcoholics and kleptomaniacs.
3. The House Republican leadership bragged that they "stopped" the hate crimes bill just days after Matthew Shepard's death.

Quoting from President Clinton at the first annual Hate Crimes Summit last October, "Let's teach our children before they learn to hate."

Peace be with you all.

Crucifixion!

The hanging of Matthew Shepherd on that fence in Wyoming was described at a meeting of the Men's Rap Group at the TCC, as a crucifixion. The symbolism is so appropriate that, whether conscious or not, it had to have an effect on the general public. The reaction across the nation to the cruel torture and hanging does resemble Christ's tortured journey while carrying the cross and wearing the crown of thorns (crushed skull), including the long time between the actual nailing to the cross and His and Matthew's dying.

In the case of Matthew Shepherd one might ask, "Who represents Pontius Pilate?" That dishonor could easily belong to the Fallwells, the Pat Robertsons and the other blindly accepting followers of the Christian Right (Though, I can't see them as either Christian or right). These thoughtless followers and the political vultures parroting them, hope to garner monetary contributions and/or votes. These votes are bought at the expense of the blood and lives of people they find as easy targets for their agendas. Pilate, succumbing to the demands of the mob, sentenced Christ to death and then washed his hands thus declaring himself blameless and without guilt. How much do the hypocritical religious leaders, hiding in the pages of the Bible, declare themselves blameless of the attacks on members of the gay community? They actually place the blame of these attacks on the aggrieved rather than themselves. Those attacked, say the Christian Right, bring the attacks on themselves because they do not have the right mind set. They conveniently forget and/or ignore the fact that Christ preached Love and understanding. Instead, they condone, if not incite, hate and murder with the self-righteous, frenzied beating of their breasts on their way to earning their seat in heaven. Perhaps they wish to usurp Christ's position on the right side of God.

How many suicides of young, frightened and impressionable gays and lesbians can be laid at the feet of those who incessantly damn and condemn these young people? Who do we fault when parents disown their gay child, now wandering the streets, trying to survive in an alien, degrading world? Who do we fault when gays, fearing the consequences of leaving the "closet", feel forced to choose separation rather than rejection and condemnation by those who should have protected them? Gays, who prefer to remain silent rather than being thrown out, think that they retain some semblance, however tremulous, of self worth. Where can they find shelter and solace, understanding and compassion, in a world enslaved by too many hate oriented religious cults?

On December 7th, PBS aired the "Battle of the Bulge" and "D" Day with their horrific loss of life and the little that it seemed to matter to anyone concerned or involved. For the first time Americans were being shown soldiers sitting on the frozen dead bodies of German soldiers while eating their lunch. Even though we are aware of such actions on both sides, years have dulled the pictures in our conscience almost to the degree that it seems as if it never happened. I hope that this will not be true of what Matthew Shepherd suffered. The killing of an individual does not always result in just his/her dying. There are other deaths, longer lasting, less desirable and more painful. That chamber of love and affection that we reserve for the special people in our lives is now cold and barren. Never forgotten, but never to be occupied again. Was the "Matthew" spark in all of us also extinguished?

Paul Kowaleski

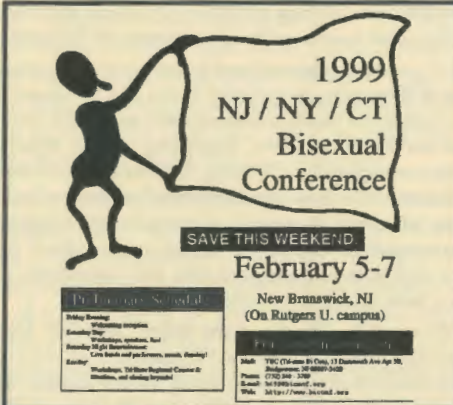


Westport's Brook Re-Opens

Four months after hosting what was billed as its final, historic bash, The Cedar Brook Cafe, the 59 year-old dean of gay bars, has reopened with a gala, a crowded affair from which many guests were turned away for lack of space. This marked the end of the short hiatus from what would otherwise have been the second longest continuous run of any gay bar in the United States, The oldest bar, Cafe Lafitte, is in New Orleans.

"I didn't want to see the bar finished," said new owner and 24-year patron Clem Bellairs. "The gay community needed the place. The bar was previously operated by Sean Arena, but when his lease ran out he closed the cafe and opened a new bar, The Townhouse, on Wall Sheet in Norwalk.

The owner of the Post Road property and building, Paul Kish, had originally planned to convert the lot into retail stores, but decided to give the bar another chance after his plans fell through and Bellairs made a sentimental protest. "It's pumped and rejuvenated, you can feel the electricity," he said of Saturday's reception. "Everybody was very happy and thanking me. But I feel guilty taking credit, it was strictly a financial move."



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Transgender News

American Boyz Hold True Spirit Conference

The American Boyz are pleased to announce the Third Annual True Spirit Conference to be held at the Best Western Maryland Inn in Laurel, Maryland from February 26 - 28, 1999. This three day conference focuses on the social, physical, emotional, spiritual and relational health of all gender variant people on the FTM spectrum and their significant others, friends, families, and allies.

Workshops and panel presentations to be held during this 3rd annual event address such topics as: health and transition issues, relationships, special needs populations, law, politics, employment, and spirituality. True Spirit 1999 is committed to offering inclusive programming for young people, people of color and elders. Special workshops and caucus opportunities will be available for service providers. Featured speakers include Jude Patton, long term ftm and health advocate, Kitten Gross, family and transyouth advocate, and Dr. Michael L. Brownstein, M.D., FACS, ftm surgeon, as well and many others. Other events of note scheduled for True Spirit 1999 are: authors readings and chat sessions, exhibit hall with information and merchandise, film festival, and the American Boys Award Ceremony. Conference registration fee ranges from \$60 - \$80 with work scholarship and housing assistance available on a first come first serve basis. There are two options for registration: one, download and complete registration form from the internet at www.netgsi.com/~listwrangler or two, request a conference flyer from The American Boyz/True Spirit 1999 at PO Box 1118, Elkton, MD, 21922-1118.

The American Boyz is an organization for female to male gender variant people (FTMs) of any orientation, including but not limited to tomboys, butches, f2ms, transmen, drag kings, masculine females, crossdressers, intersexuals, and those who support us, including our Significant Others, Friends, Families and Allies (SOFFAs). American Boyz, Inc, PO Box 1118, Elkton, MD, 21922-1118.



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National News

Gays Don't Earn More

Makers of upscale products from expensive liquors to designer clothing have for years devised gay marketing strategies based on one common assumption: Gays typically earn more money than their heterosexual counterparts. But that stereotype is a fallacy, says a report released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and an influential economics professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The report, "Income Inflation: The Myth of Affluence Among Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Americans," concludes that most marketing studies have mistakenly focused on upscale gays and do not accurately reflect the gay population. The study is certain to surprise marketers nationwide who long presumed that gays are perfect targets for many upscale products. Marketers estimate gays and lesbians account for 3% to 6% of the U.S. population and pack an annual spending wallop of \$99 billion to \$198 billion. Badgett's report is based on data amassed from seven other studies, including a 1998 updating of the 1990 U.S. Census, the Yankelovich Monitor and the General Social Survey, conducted by the National Opinion Research Center. All three studies concluded that gay men actually make 4% to 7% less than the average heterosexual man.

President Dines with Gays

Thirty-one Gays involved in business and philanthropic endeavors contributed \$401,000 to the Democratic National Committee at a fundraising dinner in Washington, D.C., in which President Clinton attended as the guest of honor. The event, which called on contributors to pay \$10,000 or more per person, pulled in \$111,000 more than a similar "Gay" DNC fundraiser one year earlier. At last year's event, 25 Gays paid a minimum of \$10,000 each for the privilege of dining with Clinton.

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Dockers Spotlight Gay Achievements

One of the world's largest clothing manufacturers is courting gay customers with an advertising campaign linked to charitable organizations. A special insert for Dockers, the Levi Strauss & Co. khaki pants brand, highlights the achievements of 10 gay men and women. The ads focus on the social and creative accomplishments of the selected actors, writers, advocates and athletes, and appears in the November issue of Out. The 10 include Olympic gold medallist Bruce Hayes, photographer Eve Fowler, writer Brad Gooch, and actors Guinevere Turner, Mitchell Anderson and Wilson Cruz. The campaign, photographed by Carter Smith, arrives along with an effort to eradicate homophobia. The company established the Dockers Khakis Youth United Against Bias Scholarships, which will send young people to a Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network conference. Dockers Khakis also made a donation to the Hetrick Martin Institute, which provides care services to gay youth.

Iowa City is Gay Haven

When Iowa City was ranked 55th on a national magazine's list of "Best Lesbian Places to Live," the locals didn't get mad, they invited the editor to visit. The result? Iowa City received the editor's choice award from Girlfriends magazine in this year's rankings, which appear in its December issue. Iowa City resident Robin Butler said the city hasn't ranked high on previous Girlfriends lists because it doesn't have a lesbian nightclub. But that's only because Iowa City's heterosexual community is so accepting of lesbians, she said. Girlfriends' top 10 cities, based on reader surveys and such factors as job growth, housing costs and unemployment, are: Long Beach, Calif.; Seattle, Wash.; Portland, Ore.; Brooklyn, N.Y.; Oakland, Calif.; Dallas, Texas; New Orleans, La.; Columbus, Ohio; Provincetown, Mass.; and Portland, Maine.

Peter Scifo

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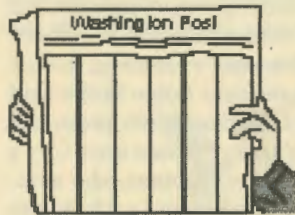
NEWS & VIEWS

8% Increase in Anti-Gay Hate Crimes

An 8 percent increase in reported hate crimes against gays and lesbians in 1997 was among the statistics released by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting Program. This increase is particularly troubling since overall serious crime continues its decrease. The FBI report, released Sunday, Nov. 22, found that 1,102 crimes targeting people because of their sexual orientation were committed in 1997. This was an eight percent increase over the 1,016 bias-motivated incidents reported to the FBI in 1996. In 1995, the FBI reported 1,019 hate crimes based on sexual orientation.

Currently, only 21 states and the District of Columbia include sexual orientation in their state hate crimes statutes. Eighteen states have hate crimes laws that do not include sexual orientation, and eight states have no hate crimes statutes whatsoever. Three states have laws that are unclear.

A Question of Commitment



Craig Gibson and H. Leslie Brown made Washington Post history a few weeks ago. The Post published a paid Style section announcement that the two men had been "joined in Holy Union" at the Universalist National Memorial Church. In changing its policy by accepting the paid notice, the paper waded into the controversy over

publishing word of same-sex commitment ceremonies. But The Post will not run such notices on the wedding announcement page. Stephen Hills, the paper's vice president for advertising, says The Post acted in response to "periodic complaints" and "strongly held feelings about the lack of a place to have [same-sex] announcements." But the wedding page "is a place where we have always published legally recognized marriages, and we decided to keep it that way," he says.

Gay Bridge Tournament



Announcing the First Annual North American Gay Bridge Tournament to be held in St. Petersburg, Florida March 5-7, 1999. The tournament will be hosted at the Suncoast Resort Hotel, the world's largest gay resort with 120 rooms, 34 retail shops, 6 bars, 2 restaurants, a gym, a pool, 2 sandlot volleyball courts and 10 tennis courts. Located at 3000 34th Street South (US Highway 19) it is only minutes away from Fort Desoto Beach, rated one of the top ten beaches in the world.

This event was inspired by the bridge event at Gay Games V in Amsterdam in August 1998. With 352 participants from around the world, it was the first and largest gay bridge event of it's kind. Team Tampa Bay decided to go ahead with plans for this event. Team Tampa Bay was formed in 1997 to organize athletes to go to Gay Games V in Amsterdam, and also to foster more gay athletic events in the Tampa Bay area. The bridge tournament is their first effort.

The American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) has given the tournament a sectional rating. Masters points will be awarded, however you do not need to be a member of ACBL to play. The tournament is open to anyone. Friday evening a charity pairs event will be played, with the proceeds to benefit the Federation of Gay Games. Saturday will be a two-session open pairs event, and Sunday will be a two-session swiss team event. A partnership table will be available to match players up into pairs and teams.

For more information you can contact Jerry Keeran, the tournament organizer, at 813-258-6274, or via e-mail at jkeeran@cftnet.com. Team Tampa Bay can be reached at 727-867-8855, or via e-mail at teamtampa@aol.com. Their address is P.O. Box 21552, St. Petersburg, FL 33742-1552.

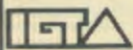
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State by State News

GA – Southern Baptists Address Homosexuality

Saying they didn't want same-sex marriages performed in their churches, Southern Baptists in Georgia voted yesterday to 'exclude congregations that "endorse" homosexuality. The Rev. J. Gerald Harris, president of the denomination's state convention, said Southern Baptists welcome gay individuals but can't allow churches to advocate their behavior. Delegates voted to warn churches they should not knowingly take any action to affirm, approve or endorse homosexual behavior if they want to remain in the convention, the denomination's second largest in the nation behind Texas.

IL – Gays Protest

Forty to 50 gay rights activists marched outside the Cook County Building in Chicago, chanting and carrying signs protesting Illinois' ban on same-sex marriage. The demonstrators called on Gov.-elect George Ryan to push for changes in the law. Ryan opposes same-sex marriage but has said he would support making sexual orientation a class protected from discrimination under the Human Rights Act. After the march, 10 couples tried to obtain marriage licenses but were turned down.

IL – Phelps Supporters Strikes Again

For the second time since Nov. 22, supporters of a Southern Baptist preacher confronted gay-rights activists outside a Lakeview church. Rev. Fred Phelps of Westboro Baptist Church, based in Topeka, Kan., appeared in Chicago last month to protest the marriage of two gay men by the pastor of the Broadway United Methodist Church. Phelps did not appear in person, but at least a half dozen of his relatives and supporters did. The preacher's absence did not stop about 200 gay-rights activists and other Lakeview residents from spending hours shouting at each other across police barricades.

MD – Insurance Extends Domestic Coverage

A Baltimore couple's challenge to state insurance regulations has opened the door for greater opportunities for gay men and lesbians to get health-care coverage for domestic partners through their employers. On Oct. 21, the state regulatory body, the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA), issued a bulletin lifting what had been a state regulation barring the extension of large-group workplace health insurance to family members "not related by blood, marriage, or adoption." The state Health Care Access and Cost Commission (HCACC), which oversees small-group coverage (for companies with 50 or fewer employees), has recommended that its commissioners follow in MIA's footsteps.

[NOTE: That approval was granted on Nov. 12.]

ME – Gays Seek Referendum In 2000

Less than a year after Maine voters repealed a law to bar discrimination against homosexuals, gay rights supporters are pushing for another statewide referendum in November 2000. At a meeting attended by about 70 people, including several legislators and members of gay and lesbian organizations, there was overwhelming agreement that the time was right to ask the Legislature to re-enact a gay rights law. Michael Heath, executive director of the Christian Civic League of Maine, said that his organization would actively oppose any attempt to re-enact a gay rights law.

MI – House Passes Measure to Protect Gays

The Michigan House has passed an amendment to the state's "hate crime" law that would include "sexual orientation" among the bias motivations designated in the law. The vote recalls House action taken over ten years ago to protect crime victims who are targeted based on sexual orientation bias. The measure may now be taken up by the Senate and could become law by the end of this session. A broad coalition of groups had come together to advocate the bill.

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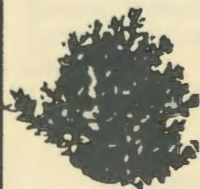
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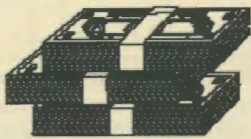
NY - Date Bait

Steven Prescott, was braving Date Bait, a brutally efficient, high-tech mixer that tries to ease the sting of face-to-face rejection by using a computer to make matches. Created two years ago, Date Bait has become a huge draw among gay men in their 30s and 40s, and the Saturday night events, held at A Different Light bookstore on West 19th Street, are often so crowded that dozens are turned away at the door. So far, Risemberg says, his matchmaking method has produced 4,837 dates, although he does not track how many of those led to second dates.

Date Bait affairs couldn't be less fussy: identified with a nametag and three-digit number, participants sit on chairs that are arranged in a square. After each person has stood and delivered a brief description of himself, the seats are cleared for 45 minutes of ferocious mingling. The mixing done, participants turn to their score cards and begin shading in the ovals that correspond to the numbers worn by the prospects who appeal to them. Then comes a nervous 20-minute wait as the forms are fed into a scanner, which tabulates and coldly spits out pairs of matching numbers.

NY - Pataki Administration Makes Grants

The Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation is regarding the allocations to 11 community groups, totalling \$1 million as an historic acknowledgment by an administration in Albany that the needs of



gays and lesbians extend well beyond AIDS. The grants, ranging from \$50,000 to \$125,000, are the first of their kind in New York for non-AIDS related programs within the homosexual community. The money will be spent on programs to

identify homosexual youths at risk of suicide, of drug or alcohol abuse, of dropping out of school and other problems and getting them help. Each of the groups is well aware of the longer-term significance of the state grants. Once a continuing program receives state funding, the odds become better that that program will keep getting money each year from Albany.

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OR - Ban On Gay Job Discrimination

An Oregon court has done what state lawmakers have been unwilling to do for years - ban discrimination against homosexuals in the workplace. The Court of Appeals has ruled that the domestic partners of three lesbian employees at Oregon Health Sciences University were entitled to the same benefits given to the spouses of married employees. The "denial of insurance benefits to the unmarried partners" of homosexual employees violated the equal protection provisions of the Oregon Constitution, the three-judge panel wrote. Though the university and Oregon state government voluntarily began offering benefits to unmarried partners last June, the court ruling nailed down the obligations. The ruling could require other state government entities to provide benefits to same-sex domestic partners, and to the thousands of teachers, police officers and others who work for local governments. Private employers were not specifically required under the ruling to offer the benefits.

UT - Judge Rules for Lesbian Teacher

A federal judge has ruled in favor of a high school teacher who claimed she was fired as volleyball coach because she is a lesbian. Wendy Weaver said Spanish Fork High School officials violated her rights with a gag order that prevented her from talking with students or staff about her sexual orientation, even outside of school. Judge Bruce Jenkins agreed that her rights of free speech, equal protection and due process were violated. He ordered the school district to offer Weaver the coaching position, lift the gag order and give her \$1,500 in damages. The Weaver case has attracted national attention because of the precedent it could set for how public schools treat homosexual teachers and coaches.

Trivia

Answer to December - Bridgeport, Connecticut
Question for January - In August of 1989 a young man from Whitesburg, Georgia named Arthur Ray Denson held a news conference at the Cotswold Inn in Westport. What was his news conference announcing?

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VT - Supreme Court Hears Case

When Nina Beck went into labor and frightening complications developed, her lesbian partner, Stacy Jolles, tried to go into the emergency room with her. But she was stopped at the door, she said, and asked, "Who are you? Do you have legal papers to be there?" Ms. Beck's son, Noah, was born with a heart defect, and died last year at age 2. But, Ms. Jolles said today, "Noah is very much here with us today. He would want us very much to be married, and he would want us to pursue this to the end." She spoke in the lobby of the Vermont Supreme Court on the day that Vermont became the central arena in the United States for the push for marriage between people of the same sex.

Hawaii seemed positioned to become the first state to legalize same-sex marriage after a 1993 state Supreme Court preliminary decision leaning in its favor; then an Alaska court case seemed to put that state next in line. But in this month's elections, Alaskan and Hawaiian voters rejected the idea in ballot initiatives.

So now, it is Vermont's turn. The court is expected to rule within months. Vermont's legislature has passed extensive laws protecting gay men and lesbians from discrimination, and the state has been in the vanguard on recognizing "second-parent adoptions": allowing the member of a gay or lesbian couple who is not the biological parent of a child to officially become its second parent. But Vermont's Supreme Court has not been easily categorized as liberal or conservative. And the state, though known as home to a liberal, back-to-the-land contingent, also has a strong streak of traditionalism. So no one is making confident prediction about when, if ever, same-sex marriage will be allowed here.

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 Movie - Boston Globe, Dec. 5

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 OR - Ban - Phila Inquire, Nov. 13
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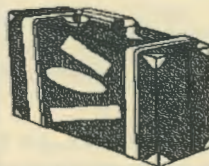
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Media News

Lesbian Movie Spurs India Melee

When Sidheshwar Dayal saw his 700-seat movie theater in downtown New Delhi packed day after day, he regretted booking "Fire" for just three weeks. Then, on the last day of its screening, 20 men and women armed with bars stormed into the theater, smashed ticket windows, busted food counters, and slashed billboards. The protesters shouted that the award-winning tale of lesbian romance is vulgar and must be banned. Fearful of similar attacks, other movie theaters in the Indian capital withdrew the film. "Fire" marks the first time that India's conservative censor board has given the green light to a movie that tackles a taboo subject here, homosexuality. In "Fire," the scene that most scandalized protesters shows the leading actresses passionately kissing. What irks critics most is that the all-Indian cast articulates a fact of life that middle-class Indians know exists, but is seldom discussed in this patriarchal society. All Bombay cinemas suspended screenings after the incidents. Movie theaters in two other cities withdrew the film because of threats. Abroad, "Fire" was banned in Singapore and Kenya, where there are large Indian communities. The film was a box-office success in Europe and the United States. In New York last year, moviegoers formed lines that twisted around the block to see it.

Gay Travel Network



A new California firm called Access Alliance offers customized travel planning and other services for gays and lesbians. For an annual fee of \$20, the firm makes referrals to travel agents who can recommend gay-friendly domestic and international destinations,

hotels, resorts, car rentals and cruises. Ongoing perks for members (who don't have to be gay) include dining, skiing and rental-car bonuses. New members also get a discount of up to \$100 on air travel, usable on most major carriers. For more information, call 800-693-2349.

Visit our Web site at: <http://members.aol.com/TCCenter/>

Triangle Community Center

Norwalk, CT

♥♥ "Many Hearts, One Community" ♥♥

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



Michelle C. Loris, Psy.D.

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Being a gay man or lesbian today can stir up many important issues. And sometimes you need to talk to someone who understands. For over a decade, I have helped gay men and women understand themselves better and take hold of their lives. I can help you now to build new focus in your life, and grow into your strengths and unique character. Please call me at (203) 454-1549 for a complimentary consultation, and find out how you *can* overcome your problems and get a new outlook on life.

Most insurance accepted • Flexible scheduling, with afternoon and evening appointments available
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Kurt Sperling, LCSW
Helping you down life's path

225 Main Street, L.I.-1 • Westport, CT 06880

Licensed: State of Connecticut
 MS: Columbia University, New York, NY
 Member: National Association of Social Workers

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TCC Wish List
 Call 853-0600 with your donation.



AIDS

an equal opportunity infection

men, women, children
PLAY SAFE

STAMFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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 We are here and we are helping.
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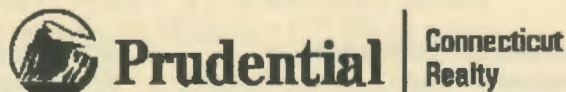
Paul Thury
REALTOR™
 Office: 203.846.1611 ext. 218
 Res: 203.847.5621
 Fax: 203.857.7842
 E-mail: pthury@aol.com

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I have the marketing tools necessary to offer you peace of mind. And that's what you need most from a real estate agent.

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 (Across from the Green)

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 with organ, choir, and splendid music

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TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

GROUPS MEETING AT OR SPONSORED BY TCC

A.A. - Don 762-9964
 Bi Rap Group - Peter 838-2806; Robin 855-8646
 35+ Women's Pot Lucks - Judy 227-7162
 Free Association of Fairfield County - Bruce 782-1496
 Gay Men's Rap Group - Dave 838-1881
 Gmosaic (People of Color) - Nasheed 854-7726
 Lesbian Literature Reading Group - Christine 847-8476
 Out & About (20's & 30's) - Heather 924-2930, Ashley 576-1073
 or Dan 838-2367
 OutSpoken (Youth) - Perry & Sara 846-4569; Dan 227-1755;
 Doug 838-2367
 P-FLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) -
 Joan 544-8724; Lester 322-5380; Belinda 855-1203
 P-FLAG Spouses & Ex Spouses Group - Joan 544-8724
 Triangle Bowling League (Circle Lanes, Fairfield) - Lisa 333-3113;
 Roseann 931-8789
 Women's Rap Group - Chandra 226-8652; Linda 866-4598;
 Michele 438-4465
 Writer's Group - Mona 863-1553
 All meetings are held at the Center and in the evening unless
 otherwise noted. A \$3 donation per person is appreciated with your
 participation in activities to help support the Center.

OTHER AREA GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Bare & Gay (B&G) gay nudists	(203) 330-9595
Bisexually Curious Support Group Bpt	(203) 264-5605
Chiltern Mountain Club	(203) 899-0270
Connecticut Kids and Families	(203) 256-8414
Connecticut Freedom to Marry Coalition	(203) 791-9553
40-Up Club Social Group	(203) 238-4069
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
Rainbow Task Force (Unitarian Church)	(203) 222-1441
Transgendered Resource - Kaylen	(203) 661-2448
The Loft, White Plains NY,	(914) 948-4922
Triangle Bowling League	(203) 931-8789
Triangle Kids	(203) 323-6278 & (203) 255-6229
Western Connecticut Gay Men's Group	(203) 773-9947

Call (203) 964-1133 for free listing.

TRIANGLE COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.
 P.O. BOX 4062, East Norwalk, CT 06855
 Tel/Fax: (203) 853-0600
 e-mail TCCenter@aol.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DON BUXTON..... President
 DENYSE BURKE..... Vice-President
 JOHN WALLACE Treasurer
 MEG BACHTEL..... Corresponding Secretary
 DAVE CARROLL..... Recording Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEG BACHTEL	(203) 375-9020
JIM BRIDGE	(203) 847-3268
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KAREN JASTERMSKY	(203) 853-0600
MICHELE STONE	(203) 964-1133
JOHN WALLACE	(203) 389-7381

STANDING COMMITTEES

AIDS Liaison	Tom M	374-6934
Board Development	Vacant	
Communications	John D	334-3822
-Public Relations	Mike C	375-3567
Finance	John W	261-7349
Fundraising	Jim B	847-3268
Membership	Denyse B	367-3911
-Member Database	Marianne S	222-8294
Operations	Cindy M	595-9799
(and to schedule events at the Center)		
Program	Dave C	838-1881
Resource Room	Walter D	374-6934
-Center Forums	Marianne S	222-8294
Volunteer	Karen J	899-0381

NEWS & VIEWS

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

Deadline for the February Newsletter is Saturday, January 19th. We cannot guarantee that material received after this date will be included in the February News & Views.

TCC Calendar

January, 1999

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

Connecticut Calendar - January

Friday, Jan. 1 - Movie: "Mary Poppins" at the New Haven Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 50 Fitch Street, New Haven. 6:30 PM potluck, 7:15 PM screening, \$3.00.

Saturday, Jan. 2 - Stephanie's Living Room presents its Holiday Gala, at the Stratford Ramada Inn, 8:00 PM. Dance admission \$10.00; \$5.00 for the physically challenged. For more information call 203-377-2119.

Friday, Jan. 8 - Movie: "Casablanca" at the NHCLCC, 50 Fitch Street, New Haven. 6:30 PM potluck, 7:15 PM screening, \$3.00.

Friday, Jan. 15 - Movie: "Antonia's Line" at the NHGLCC 6:30 PM potluck, 7:15 PM screening, \$3.00.

Saturday, Jan. 16 - Another Octave/Connecticut Women's Chorus presents its annual Spaghetti and Song event, featuring the Undertones, at the Unitarian Society in Hamden, 6:30 PM. For ticket info please call 203-271-5284.

Sunday, Jan. 17 - The Gay Men's Book Group will be discussing Single Man Christopher Isherwood, 7:00 PM, Ridgefield.

Sunday, Jan. 17 - Another Octave/Connecticut Women's Chorus presents its annual Spaghetti and Song event, featuring the Undertones, at the Unitarian Society in Hamden, 5:30 PM. For ticket info please call 203-271-5284.

Friday - Sunday, Jan. 22 - 24 - Brothers Together presents A New Year Retreat For Men Who Love Men, a time for reflection and connection in a supportive group of men. Cedar Hill Retreat Center, Duxbury, MA. For more info call 617-247-3964.

Friday, Jan. 22 - Movie: "The Incredible True Story of Two Girls In Love" at the NHGLCC 6:30 PM potluck, 7:15 PM screening, \$3.00.

Saturday, Jan. 23 - paper tigers, authors of the Matthew Shepard tribute "Just Like Me", will present their first concert for the Gay community at the NHGLCC, 50 Fitch Street, New Haven, 8:00 PM. Reservations strongly encouraged. \$10.00 for non-center members, \$7.00 for members, \$ 5.00 for students with ID.

Friday, Jan. 29 - Movie: "Moonstruck" at the New Haven Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 50 Fitch Street, New Haven. 6:30 PM potluck, 7:15 PM screening, \$3.00.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

MEMBERSHIP LISTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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Contributing Household	\$ 60
Supporting Member	\$125
Sponsoring Member	\$250
Sustaining/Business Member	\$500
Special Member (Youth/Senior)	\$ 20
Newsletter Only	\$ 15

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P.O. Box 4062 - East Norwalk, CT 06855
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