



The Resource Line

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE G/L/B/T COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

GLRC Pride Picnic

Saturday, July 15th

The GLRC Pride Picnic fundraiser is right around the corner. The Picnic is at Palisades-Kepler State Park from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.. The planning committee has a lot in store for you at this years pride picnic.

The GLRC Pride Picnic fundraiser is right around the corner. The Picnic is at Palisades-Kepler State Park. The planning committee has a lot in store for you at this years pride picnic.

The Suggested Donation amount this year is \$10.00 to admit one as in years past.



The GLRC is going to provide Chicken, Hotdogs, Hamburgers, buns, and condiments. Please bring your favorite side dish, and any beverages that you wish to drink. Although Favorable Reviews will be selling refreshments also

The GLRC will be selling raffle tickets for some great prizes from a color television, to prizes from The Weather Channel, Nickelodeon, MTV, HGTV, "E" Entertainment Television, HBO, FX, and many great items to give away.

We also will have a new attraction this year. If you have been to Club Basix at all this year you may have seen

Prettybelle perform a number from Titanic. We will have Prettybelle at the Picnic in her Titanic attire, and she will be placed in a DUNKTANK, and we will be selling chances for you to dunk Cedar Rapids Twisted Queen. All proceeds from the dunk tank will go to the GLRC.

A Volleyball net will be set up and games will be organized. Don't like volleyball — there will be other games in which to participate.

We will also have a great sound system playing a variety of music for your listening enjoyment. Feel free to bring your favorite CD along, but make sure that it is marked with your name so it doesn't get lost.

Please be sure to get your tickets to this event. Bring your checkbook or lots of cash so you can be sure to participate in all the festivities. It is bound to be a blast. Tickets can be purchased from any board member or by calling the GLRC @ 319-366-2055.

See You There!!!

An Evening at Ausadie

Friday July 28, 2000
7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

A premier GLRC Building Community Fundraising Event

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

The GLRC second fundraiser of the year is a premier event. The event is an Evening at Ausadie. Ausadie is an apartment complex that is historic to the Cedar Rapids area. It is located in the heart of Cedar Rapids. Driving by the apartment complex one would never guess that there was an in-ground swimming pool, flower gardens, gazebo, and

(Continued on Page 4)

INSIDE RESOURCES

GLRC Pride Picnic	Page 1
An Evening at Ausadie	Page 1
July 20th Movie Night & Potluck	Page 2
GLRC Board of Directors Minutes	Page 3
GLRC Special Election Results.	Page 3
Designate Your United Way Contributions.	Page 4
Cedar Rapids Pride Festival 2000 a Success	Page 5
GLRC Static Stickers Now on Sale	Page 6
Fill Foundation Grant Update	Page 6
Teen-ager Congdon Reflects on Being Outed ...	Page 7
YPA News.	Page 8
PFLAG's Commitment to Safe Schools	Page 8
National News	Page 9
State News	Page 10-
Area Resource List	Page 12
Advertisers Page.	Page 13
GLRC Calendar of Events	Page 14
GLRC Sponsorship Form.	Page 15



ä **The RESOURCE LINE** is the monthly publication of the GLRC of Cedar Rapids, IA, a non profit organization under IRS code 5011. Articles and advertisements are welcome from anyone. They must be submitted by the date published in the prior month's issue and are subject to editing as needed. Mail or email to attention of Editorial Manager.

ä **GLRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

SCOTT ALT
Fundraising Coordinator
KRIS DAVIS
Secretary
STEVE FRANKS
At-Large
TRICIA KITZMANN
At-Large
PHIL NICKERSON
At-Large
BARB OSBORN
Office Manager
Fundraising Coordinator
DAVE SHAFER
Treasurer
CHRIS TAYLOR
Outreach Coordinator
TRACI TAYLOR
Education Coordinator

ä **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

SCOTT ALT
Managing Editor
PHIL NICKERSON
Assistant Managing Editor
DICK SPURLOCK
Layout Editor

ä **Website: www.crglrc.org**
Email: crglrc@crglrc.org

Thursday, July 27th Movie Night, and Potluck Featuring: "Boys Don't Cry"

Bring your favorite dish to share and a hearty appetite on July 27th, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Please remember the GLRC is now located at 305 2nd Street SE Suite 324 - take elevator to third floor, and we are in Suite 324.

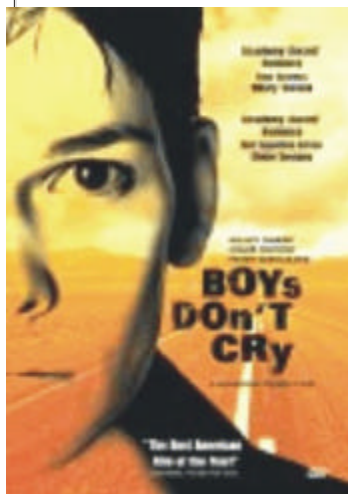
The GLRC will furnish table service (plates, plastic spoons, knives and forks, and

space, and better yet it is FREE.

Don't want to come to the GLRC alone — bring a friend this event is an open event, and all ages are welcome to come to movie night. See you at Movie Night.

Special Announcement During this movie night we will having a raffle for a "Boys Don't Cry Original Theatrical Sheet poster. Poster is 27"X40".

Review of "Boys Don't Cry" by Amazon.com:



When Brandon Teena, a young man with an infectious, aw-shucks grin and an angelic face that's all angles, wanders into Falls City, Nebraska, he takes to the town like it's a second skin. In little time he's fallen in with a gang of goofy, if temperamental redneck boys, found himself a girlfriend, and befriended enough people to form something of a small family. In fact, it's the best time Brandon's ever had. However, there are shadows looming over Brandon's life: a court date for grand theft auto, a checkered criminal record, and a seemingly innocuous speeding ticket that could prove to be his undoing. Why? Because as it turns out, Brandon Teena is

actually Teena Brandon, a woman masquerading as a man.

This fascinating story was based on real-life events (as documented in *The Brandon Teena Story*) that occurred in 1993 and ended in tragedy: Brandon's rape and murder by two of his supposed friends. Despite this horrible outcome, however, in the hands of director Kimberly Peirce (who cowrote the unfettered screenplay with Andy Bienen), Brandon's story becomes not oppressive or preachy, but rather oddly and touchingly transcendent, anchored by Hilary Swank's phenomenal, unsentimental performance.

Swank inhabits Brandon's contradictions and passions with a natural vitality most actresses would refuse to give themselves over to. Brandon's deception is doomed from the start, but Swank's enthusiasm is infectious, and when Brandon starts romancing the sloe-eyed Lana (a pitch-perfect Chloë Sevigny), he finds a soul mate who wants to transcend boundaries and fated identities as much as he does. The last part of the film, when Brandon's true identity is discovered, is truly painful to watch, but in between the agony there are touching moments of sweetness between Brandon and Lana, who wrestles with the truth of who Brandon actually is.

You'll come away from *Boys Don't Cry* with affection and respect for Brandon, not pity

ä **MISSION STATEMENT**

Our purpose is to provide an information and referral center for the mutual support of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered persons, their families, friends, allies and the community at large.

GLRC of Cedar Rapids General Meeting Minutes

On Wednesday, June 7, 2000, at approximately 7:00 p.m., the Gay and Lesbian Resource Center of Cedar Rapids met for its June regular meeting. Scott Alt, Linda D., Tricia Kitzmann, Phil Nickerson, Barb Osborn, Rick P., Dave Shafer, Traci Taylor, and Troy W. were present. Traci facilitated the meeting, and Dave served as secretary in Kris Davis' absence.

I. There were no changes or additions to the previous meeting's minutes.

II. Officer Reports

A. Treasurer

1. The Youth Pride Alliance fund currently has \$910.96, representing the remainder of the grant acquired from ICAP last summer plus a donation from Cornell College's Friends and Family organization. Becky and Sarah will be spending the majority of that amount this month on youth-oriented resource materials. Currently, all web hosting and Internet service fees are paid from the YPA fund. With the future of YPA-specific funding uncertain, it was decided by unanimous consent to begin paying for current web hosting and Internet services from the general fund.

B. Office Manager

1. Barb reported an attendance total of 131 during the month of May, which she accounted for as follows:

- a. 61 at open houses (45 last month)

- b. 14 at Men Supporting Men (\$140.00 revenue)
- c. 8 at Women's Voices
- d. 12 at Youth Pride Alliance (6 last month)
- e. 15 walk-ins (1-3 per month at the previous location)
- f. 7 at the building-wide open house
- g. 4 at the youth education program
- h. 12 at the general meeting
- i. 5 at the board meeting
- j. 4 helped clean the old center

2. 75 calls were received during May.

3. Barb has been in contact with Frasier, a volunteer from the community, who has agreed to be the Center's librarian. Frasier has already begun organizing materials, and has discussed with Barb ways to label and catalog the items.

4. The Women's Voices group is now being led by Norma S., an ordained minister and licensed prevention specialist. Barb is working to produce a brochure which addresses the Women's Voices group specifically.

5. Barb assembled a bulletin board featuring photos from the GLRC's past..

6. A fax machine was donated by a visitor during the building-wide open house. Barb is attempting to obtain further information from the donor.

C. Outreach Coordinator (in absentia)

- 1. The GLRC hosted a press event May 31, 10:30 to 11:30

GLRC Special Election Results:

Wednesday June 7th, 2000 7:00 p.m. the June general meeting was called to order. The evening's facilitator was Traci Taylor. Several things were discussed at the general meeting including the nominations for the three open seats that were available.

When it came time for nominations there were two candidates that were unanimously voted onto the GLRC 2000 Board of Directors. Your two new board members are: Tricia Kitzmann and Phil Nickerson both are residing in Cedar Rapids, and here is a little information on each of them.

Tricia Kitzmann is a Cedar Rapids native. She graduated from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa with her BA in Biology, where she then pursued her Masters in Public Health at St. Louis University in St. Louis Missouri. Her main focus has been primarily on HIV/ AIDS and STD prevention. Tricia was very active in the Gay & Lesbian Community in St. Louis along with working with local AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs). She recently moved back to

Cedar Rapids where she now works for the Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC) as a Prevention Specialist focusing on substance abuse prevention and HIV/AIDS / STD prevention.

Phil Nickerson was born and raised here in Cedar Rapids. Since Phil has come out he has been a very active Volunteer with the GLRC and decided to run for a spot on the board of directors.

Phil currently manages a family owned business based out of Cedar Rapids. Phil looks forward to serving out the rest of this the year as a board member and is excited about helping the GLRC in its 2000 Campaign Goal to Build Community.

Your 2000 GLRC Board of Directors is moving forward with two new members, with one seat left to fill. Look for the two newest board members at the next GLRC function you attend. Both new board members look forward to meeting you, working with our Community and bring a wealth of knowledge, organizational skills, and fresh ideas to the GLRC.

a.m. The event was intended to showcase the new Center and serve as a kickoff for GLBT Pride Month.

a. Press attending the event were: KGAN 2 and KCRG 9. KGAN 2 interviewed Chris Taylor, GLRC Outreach Coordinator about the history of the GLRC, services offered, organizational

structure and upcoming PrideFest. KCRG 9 shot video of the Center. Each channel was given a press packet including information on PrideFest, the GLRC, general GLBT issues, and other materials.

b. In addition to the two television stations, KUNI conducted a phone interview with Chris Taylor, and KCCK aired a

GLRC General Meeting Minutes (Continued from Page 3)

news spot on Pride Month activities.

c. There may have been more coverage, as a press release was sent out to all media outlets. Those listed were media who contacted the GLRC.

Thank you to GLRC Board member Dave Shafer for his help in drafting the press release, and Legion Arts Executive Director F. John Herbert for faxing the press release to his press list.

4. The GLRC hosted an open house for our Paramount Building neighbors May 31, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Several neighbors stopped by, including two counselors, an attorney, and two artists. There were also four members of the general community who stopped in during the event.

5. The GLRC will be spotlighted in the July issue of Downtown Matters, the monthly newsletter of the Renaissance Group, a downtown development group. The newsletter is distributed to pretty much all businesses throughout downtown Cedar Rapids.

6. The Outreach Committee will be working to host an open house event for area social service agencies, counselors, clergy, and possibly

school professionals sometime later this summer. The event will be an opportunity to showcase the services of the GLRC, learn about possible referral sources, and build relationships with professionals who work with GLBT and allied adults and youth.

III. Old Business

A. Dave asked about the status of the GLRC's booth at the upcoming Cedar Rapids PrideFest. Barb said the GLRC will not be charged for its booth, as the GLRC booth will be assisting with Pride Fest sales and information.

B. Scott announced the static window stickers are ready for sale at the Cedar Rapids PrideFest. Pricing will be discussed in detail at the Board meeting.

C. Traci reported that the building-wide open house and press events went well, and several supportive neighbors were present. Some important professional contacts were made which may be pursued in the future.

IV. New Business

A. Three vacancies on the Board of Directors had been announced for election at this

meeting. Traci opened the floor for nominations, and two nominations were received: Tricia Kitzmann, and Phil Nickerson. Upon a motion by Dave, both nominees were elected by unanimous consent.

B. Dave has revised the GLRC's general fund-raising and information brochure, and Kris has reviewed the changes. On a motion by Dave, the group approved making 100 copies of the new brochure for the Cedar Rapids PrideFest on Saturday.

C. Dave is attempting to contact the Indigo Girls regarding their June 28 concert. So far there has been no response.

D. Barb received information from the Small Business Administration regarding new financial assistance for gay and lesbian organizations. Barb participated in a conference call on the subject, and learned the SBA will be establishing a presence in Cedar Rapids for this project. Barb will pursue this further and report back.

Evening at Ausadie (Continued from Page 1)

a pond with beautiful Japanese Koi. Ausadie is located near Allen Motor Company's old Truck Center at 845 First Avenue South East.

This event the GLRC hopes to be a major fundraising event. Your ticket to the event includes: The Daughtery, Mc Partland Group, Cocktails, and Hors d'oeuvres, raffle, and chance to be social and enjoy the beautiful grounds at Ausadie. The GLRC will also be taking donations for the GLRC in Des Moines throughout the evening.

Tickets can be purchased from any board member or stop by the GLRC during office hours or during Open House hours. The Ticket cost is \$25.00 for an advance ticket, or 30.00 at the door. This event is for ages 21 plus. Semi Casual Summer-time Attire is requested.

Members of our CommUnity have provided the location of the event, food, and cocktails. The Staff of the GLRC hopes to see you all at an Evening at Ausadie.

Designate Your United Way Donations to the GLRC!

For those of you who are having money deducted from your payroll check to be donated to the United Way of East Central Iowa, did you know you could designate this money to be donated the GLRC? Yes, you can!

If you do not mind having your employer knowing the organization in which you have designated to receive your donation, you can fill out or re-fill out a donor card, which should be available in your payroll office to designate your donation to go to the GLRC of Cedar Rapids.

This is another great way you can show your pride and support for your community!

Flavorable
Reviews



321 second street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Phone (319) 247-5085

Serving Sandwiches, Soup, Coffee, Espresso
European Desserts and Chocolates

Hours: M-F 10 - 2 p.m. ▼ Fri & Sat 6 pm - Midnight

Cedar Rapids Pride Festival 2000 a Success

The theme suggested by InterPride, an international organization was "Take Pride, Take Joy, Take Action" (i.e. Taking pride in oneself, talking joy in one's life, and taking action to come out or change and improve one's life).

In spite of the high wind gusts and mostly cloudy skies, the 3rd Annual Cedar Rapids Pride Festival provided a wonderful day to approximately 350 members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community, along with supportive others. The Festival, held at Greene Square Park, was extremely successful according to members of the planning committee which was staffed by John Herbert, Barb Osborn, Chris Taylor, Jenn James,

Pretty Belle, Jimmy A. Quick, Jr, Dick Spurlock and Kris Davis. The Festival brought together people from all walks of life to celebrate the contributions made to our community by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals.

Why did we do this? Because we believe a broad commitment in tolerance strengthens our community by enabling all citizens to participate and contribute as full as possible. In this sense, diversity is not only the right thing to do – it also means a safer city, a better business climate, and a place where all visitors feel welcome. With Pride Fest 2000, we were successful in accomplishing what we set out to do, which was to celebrate, educate, entertain and



Jimmy A Quick, Jr presents the Stonewall Award to PrettyBelle

Photo Courtesy of Al Berry Studios

communicate concerns, as well as give people the opportunity to showcase their organization or product line.

The good turnout was greeting with high wind gusts, which prevented some booth tents from being erected, but with the help of stones to weigh down informational literature and certain products, the celebration went off without a hitch.

Twenty-three booths lined the park, making available information and products; as well as a variety of food and drinks. The stage offered a variety of speakers and entertainment. Speakers included Congressmen Jim Leach, State Senate and House candidates Harvey Ross and Jeremy Brigham; Hannah Weston (President of the Iowa Civil Liberties Union), Gina Russel (Winner of the American Civil Liberties Union scholarship award) as well as others from the local political scene.

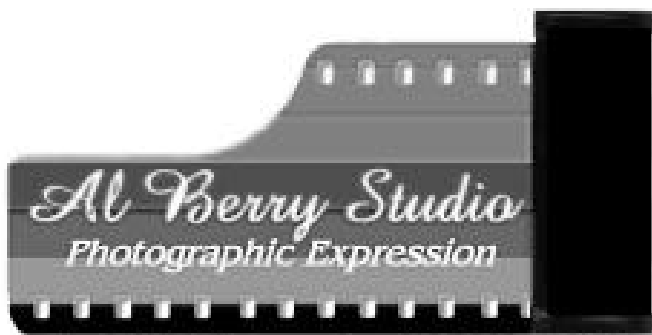
Musical entertainment was provided by The QUIRE (Eastern Iowa's GLBT Chorus); female impersonators Diva De Paris and Cashmere; Mental Floss (poetry set to

music); and Rockit Science (a 6-piece group performing rock music. Andy (aka Pretty Belle), the Master of Ceremony, provided us with a witty and humorous introduction of the various portions of the program. He was also presented the Stonewall Award to acknowledge his contributions to the community over the past year.

Our official photographer this year was the Al Berry Studios and should you want a picture (or pictures) of the Pride Festival Celebration, an album containing all the photographs taken during the day will soon be available at the Resource Center.

Pride T-shirts bearing the 2000 Pride Fest Logo designed by Dick Spurlock, were sold out by the end of the day. This is a first time in the 3-year history of the Festival that shirts were out of stock before the end of the Festival.

Special thanks go to all that participated in the planning and implementation of the Festival. The event was well received and we look forward to an even better participation next year when we hold the 4th Annual Cedar Rapids Pride Festival 2001.



The Official Photographer Of Pridefest 2000

329-4762
A Celebration Of Self Expression
www.ourphotostudio.com
robert@ourphotostudio.com

Catering to the needs of the
'Alternative' Lifestyles

GLRC Building Community Static Stickers On Sale Now!

By Scott Alt

GLRC Static stickers arrived just in time for Cedar Rapids Pride Festival 2000. Mike Haviland designed the Building Community 2000 logo. Mike is from Cedar Rapids,



and again the GLRC would like to thank him for his work.

With the arrival of the static stickers we have another person, group to recognize. The GLRC would like to send a very special thank you out to Morgan-Meredith Corporation here in Cedar Rapids. Mike Karnes from Morgan Meredith was very gracious by covering a large amount of the production cost. With Mike's gracious donation the GLRC purchased 1100 static cling stickers that were made in full color using seven colors with the logo. For anyone that knows about printing using seven colors isn't the most inexpensive thing to do

The stickers are about 4X6 and are very bright, and beautiful. Thank you again Mike and the staff at Morgan Meredith for helping the GLRC's fundraising campaign Building Community 2000.

I also would like to thank Sandy Lee, a Community member, who suggested the idea of creating such a sticker to sell for fundraising efforts.

Static Stickers are available at any GLRC event or at the GLRC Resource Center. The static stickers cost are one for three dollars or two for five dollars. We have already sold a lot of these static stickers and hope to sell a lot more. We will have Static Stickers for sale at the Pride Picnic, and Evening At Ausadie.

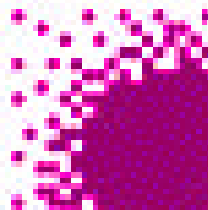
If you are from out of the area and can't make it to the Center call us at 319-366-2055 and let us know you are sending a check or money order for the amount of stickers that you desire. Remember with out your help the GLRC wouldn't exist.

Gill Foundation Grant Update!

By Scott Alt

The GLRC has applied for a grant from the Gill Foundation. The grant that the GLRC applied for is general operating support in 2000 – 2003.

Kris Davis Secretary wrote the submitted a 14-page Foundation. The formation from GLRC, Mission



Outcomes, Board Volunteers, the letter of intent, references from Community Leaders, 2000 budget, First quarter financial report. The request is asking for a total of 21,700 dollars over the next three years.

tary and board Grant. Kris subgrant to the Gill grant contained in the history of the Statement, Accomplishments, Major Goals, Project of Directors, Key

Kris worked diligently on this grant and we are hoping that the Gill Foundation rewards the GLRC with one of their grants. The next time you see Kris Davis out in the Community be sure to recognize her for all her efforts. Thank you Kris on behalf of the all the board members, and members of our Community!



Picnic Time is here!

The annual picnic is a great way to support GLRC, see old friends, meet new friends, and have a good time -

Please attend!

Kathy Hall

CALL
(319) 362-9111 Business
(319) 369-0024 Home

"Your Real Estate Professional"

MARIAN ARENS & ASSOCIATES

(This is not intended to solicit currently licensed properties)



Midwest Lawn Company, Inc.

Full Service Lawn Care	Irrigation Sodding
Snow Removal	Hydroseeding
Parking Lot Sweeping	Landscaping

Rob Sandquist
Landscape Foreman

625 49th Street • Marion, IA 52302
Phone (319) 377-2501 • Fax (319) 377-5446

Teen-ager Greg Congdon reflects on being outed in a small town

by Walter G. Meyer for HERO Magazine

Greg Congdon was an average high school student. He was a decent athlete on the wrestling and football teams, pulled OK grades and hung out with the popular crowd at the local video arcade. But within a month's time, all that changed. Greg became such an outcast in his hometown that his parents would not allow him out of the house alone out of fear for his safety. At night, former teammates drove by his house shouting obscene epithets.

What had changed to turn this



quiet northeastern Pennsylvania town into a living hell for Greg Congdon? The word was out: Greg was one of them. In small-town Pennsylvania where playing football ranks up there with church attendance as a source of inspiration and devotion, the worst insult one can hurl is "fag." That one of their buddies could be one of them was completely unacceptable. "They don't like change," Greg says in the quiet, understated way that characterizes his speech.

Whether Greg liked change or not, his life took some surprising turns. "I have an interesting life," he smiles. "I can't complain about that."

From the time Greg was in the fifth grade and noticed the new boy in school, he realized he liked guys better than girls. At 13 he started experimenting with that "new boy" who over the years had become his friend. When the friend ended their on-again off-again relationship after two years, Greg was lost and confused. Now 15 years old, he kept to himself, afraid to tell anyone his secret.

Greg was all alone until two years later, when he was 17 and his family bought a computer with Internet access. Life on the Web opened up to Greg—he found gay chat rooms, gay Web sites and gay online communities. But rather than feeling a sense of relief, he found himself relating more to other young gay men who were living in fear and despair. After reading a Web site created by the mother of a gay teenager who had committed suicide, rather than face a world that hates gays, Greg decided that taking his own life would solve his problems as well.

After an attempted overdose of prescription drugs failed, he found himself in the emergency room of the local hospital. When the doctors asked the reason for his actions, Greg told them the simple truth: "I'm gay."

In a pending lawsuit, the Congdons claim that a nurse read this statement in Greg's files and then told her son, one of Greg's teammates. By the time Greg returned to school, all 650 students at the high school and most of the 2,500 inhabitants of Troy, Pa., knew Greg's secret. (The hospital and nurse deny the allegations. They contend Greg outed himself and then didn't want to live with the consequences.)

However it happened, having everyone in the small, conservative town know he liked the "wrong" sex was not good for Greg's social life. A few friends quietly let it be known to Greg or his cousins that they could no longer be seen with Greg for fear of guilt by association. One put it bluntly: "I can't be your friend anymore." Most students just avoided him. Greg was no longer welcome to hang out with the guys before school started in the morning. Some boldly asked him, "Is it true you're a faggot?" A teammate warned him not to play sports anymore or he would be hurt.

Facing this life of ostracism, Greg once again decided there would be peace in an overdose of pills. His parents, who had stood by him through this ordeal, had locked up anything they thought could be deadly to a son who was still clearly depressed, but had not bothered about the Tylenol. Greg took 43 tablets—a fatal overdose unless medical treatment is given. He was treated at the

local emergency room again and then transferred to another hospital near the New York state border. After several days in intensive care, he was moved again, this time to the psychiatric unit of a hospital in Wilkes-Barre, almost 100 miles south. There the sympathetic doctors and nurses provided him not only with counseling, but also with several gay periodicals including *XY*—a magazine aimed specifically at gay youth.

When Greg returned to school, the harassment resumed, so he left school and finished his junior year at home with the help of a tutor. Greg continued to read *XY* and even wrote to the magazine. When his photo and story appeared, he started getting email, letters and phone calls from other gay teens who were as closeted as Greg still wished he was.

Among the calls he got was one from ESPN, the sports network. They wanted to interview him for a segment on gay athletes for their "Outside the Lines" program. After it aired in December of 1998, the trickle of letters and phone calls turned into a flood. He even got a call from Dave Kopay, the openly gay former NFL player who was also featured in the ESPN piece. Greg feared having to endure hate mail or threatening phone calls, but the only correspondence he got that was not supportive was from

(Continued on Page 8)

Teen-ager Greg Congdon (Continued from Page 7)

the Christian Coalition.

"They asked me to repent," Greg says with a laugh. But there were a lot more positives than negatives. He heard from the athletic director at Oberlin College who told Greg he'd be proud to have him on his team. He was asked to speak at Lycoming College. He was invited to fancy parties in New York City by movers and shakers who had seen Greg's story on TV.

Greg says he's a lot happier now that he's left Troy, although he still regrets that his hometown will never be home again. He realizes he cannot keep cursing his bad luck at being outed and trying to recapture a life that is gone forever. "I had to grow up fast," he shrugs. He feels bad for his uncle who works in Troy and has to endure comments about his "fag nephew."

Greg now has more than enough to keep him busy. After finishing his senior year in home-schooling, he enrolled at a tiny college near Harrisburg, Pa. He is studying hard and hopes to become a state police officer.

He still emails many of the teens who contacted him, and recently received a barrage of emails from British teens after a story about him ran in a magazine in the United Kingdom. Says Greg: "I remember what it was like thinking I was the only one going through this. I want gay teens to know they are not alone."

YPA News

June was a busy month for the YPA.

We participated in both the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City pride events. More than a dozen LGBT youth attended the Cedar Rapids festival. Six YPA members road tripped down to IC for the festivities there. Both the GLRC and YPA were represented in the IC parade by a small but visible group of three lesbians.

After the Iowa City festival, the YPA hosted it's first IC/CR LGBT event; a pizza party. Three IC youth and one CR YPA member attended it.

Many thanks to Betty, the IC PFLAG treasurer who hosted the event. Although small, the pizza party was a success. The facilitators and youth from both cities were able to get to know each other and discuss common concerns.

The United Action for Youth in Iowa City hosts a LGBT youth group every Monday night from 7-9 PM. For more information contact the UAY at 319-338-7518. This group is limited to youth between the ages of 13 and 18.

The Cedar Rapids YPA group is for youth up to age 21.

UAY also offers counseling, a teen hot line, parent mediation, recreational events, a music production studio, art group and drama troupe.

PFLAG's Commitment to Safe Schools

Taken from PFLAG Website www.pflag.org

For the last two years, Safe Schools have been PFLAG's top priority, locally and nationally. We recognize that schools are "ground zero" in our efforts to curb homophobia. G/l/b/t youth face unspeakable harassment and abuse in schools. What's more, young people are learning in schools that it's acceptable to hate g/l/b/t people. **The average high school student hears 25 anti-gay slurs daily; 97 percent of high school students regularly hear homophobic remarks. This harassment takes its toll: Gay students are far more likely to skip classes, drop out of school and/or commit suicide.**



PFLAG makes schools safer in ways nobody else can. As families, our voices carry tremendous weight in schools. And because PFLAG is in 425 communities in the nation, our work is localized, reaching even some of the smallest schools in rural America.

25 Ways PFLAG Makes Schools Safer Every Day

1. Meeting with school administrators
2. Organizing and participating in sensitivity trainings for school personnel and students
3. Supporting Gay/Straight Alliances
4. Donating books on sexual orientation and gender identity to school libraries
5. Participating in community Safe Schools Coalitions
6. Meeting with school counselors
7. Providing college scholarships to g/l/b/t students
8. Advocating for state legislation that protects g/l/b/t students
9. Writing letters to the editors of our local papers about Safe Schools issues
10. Helping diversify schools' curricula
11. Meeting with school nurses and other health workers
12. Sponsoring proms for g/l/b/t youth
13. Forming and supporting community groups for sexual minority youth
14. Speaking in colleges and universities to future teachers and school personnel
15. Lobbying school boards for nondiscrimination policies that include sexual orientation
16. Speaking out about Safe Schools issues in the broader community
17. Filing lawsuits to ensure that our loved ones are safe in school
18. Focusing our Safe Schools efforts on g/l/b/t youth, as well

(Continued on Page 11)

National News

News Excerpts taken from Datalounge.com

Gay Issues Sink SC & Virginia Candidates

Republican voters in South Carolina have thrown out the South's only openly gay GOP officeholder in primary elections Tuesday, while voters in Virginia stopped short the congressional campaign of a gay-friendly businessman.

Both campaigns took on an anti-gay tenor.

In Charleston, 9th Circuit Solicitor David Schwacke, who was trying for a third term as chief prosecutor for two South Carolina counties, lost to challenger Ralph Hoisington, a former federal prosecutor who had the support of the Christian Coalition.

In an eastern Virginia U.S. House race, Jo Ann Davis, a member of the state legislature, defeated businessman Paul Jost for the GOP nomination, even though he spent nearly \$1 million of his own money, more than all his opponents combined.

Other candidates who said he supported abortion and gay rights attacked Jost, who also had the governor's endorsement.

When Jost ran for Alexandria City Council in 1997, he told the Alexandria Gay & Lesbian Community Association that he supported non-discrimination provisions in the city charter, domestic partner benefits for gay and straight unmarried city employees and "ceremonial recognition" of same-sex partners.

When presented with those results in May, Jost said he didn't remember the questionnaire, but that he still stood by the answers.

In response, critics mailed out fliers with a photo of two men kissing, labeled "Paul Jost's Vision of Virginia."

Buchanan Puts Laura Schlessinger on VP List

WASHINGTON — USA Today reports Reform Party presidential hopeful Pat Buchanan, in an indication he feels confident of winning the party's nomination, released a short list of six potential running mates, including — incredibly — talk show host Laura Schlessinger.

"Pat Buchanan and Laura Schlessinger is a match made in; well, it's a match," said John Aravosis of StopDrLaura.com. "Buchanan and Schlessinger are two people who make deeply intolerant statements, yet when challenged on their language, resort to discredited science one day, or claim to speak for God the next."

Anti-Gay Zeal Imperils Adoption Treaty

WASHINGTON — Child rights advocates and organizations representing adoption agencies all over the country warn that the ability of parents seeking to adopt children overseas is being seriously threatened by two conservative lawmakers in the U.S. House and Senate.

American ratification of a 1993 treaty creating new international standards for foreign adoptions has been taken

hostage by two lawmakers who are holding out for U.S.-led conditions that could kill what was supposed to be a landmark international agreement.

As reported by the DataLounge last month, Republican Rep. Christopher H. Smith of New Jersey is demanding inclusion of a measure that would sharply curtail overseas adoptions by gay men and lesbians and people who "engage in promiscuous sexual activity."

Republican Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas, meanwhile, is seeking to limit federal regulation of agencies that conduct overseas adoptions, arguing that increased "red-tape" could drive up costs and put American agencies out of business.

Gay Benefits Okayed by Big Three Automakers

DETROIT — In an historic announcement, the big three American automakers jointly declared Thursday they will extend health care benefits to the partners of lesbian and gay employees.

The decision by General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co.

and the Chrysler division of DaimlerChrysler AG covers more than 465,000 U.S. workers and was, say gay rights advocates, a significant turning point in the battle to secure equal benefits for lesbian and gay people in the workforce.

U.S. Senate Passes Hate Crimes Bill

PlanetOut News Staff

With 13 Republicans breaking ranks to support it, the long-awaited proposal to strengthen bias violence protections has crossed a major hurdle.

A measure to add sexual orientation as a protected category under federal hate crimes law, and to expand federal involvement in investigation and prosecution of hate crimes generally, was passed by the U.S. Senate on June 20 by 57 - 42. Only one Democrat opposed the proposal, Robert Byrd of West Virginia, while 13 Republicans broke with party leadership to support it. Republican co-sponsor Gordon Smith of Oregon said he knew of "many more Republicans wanting to vote for it that, for

(Continued on Page 10)

ICON PERSONALS

Cedar Rapids' Only Gay-Friendly Personals!

It's Confidential • It's Easy • It's Free
Call 1-888-711-ICON to Place Your Ad • Mon.-Fri. 9-5
Or 1-888-889-4672 Evenings or Weekends

National & State News (Continued from Page 9)

one reason or another, felt restrained from voting for it.”

Few see much chance of the measure reaching a floor vote in the House, which would leave the measure in the same vulnerable position as its predecessor last year; a House-Senate conference committee deleted it. But with many a reference to murdered gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, the first crucial step towards enactment has been taken — and by a larger margin than anticipated.

The Proposal

Current federal hate crimes law recognizes only color, national origin, race, and religion as bias motivation and allows for federal investigation and prosecution only of crimes interfering with a specific handful of civil rights (such as school enrollment, voting and jury service) or on federal land. Even without changing the law, the Clinton administration has expanded federal involvement in hate crimes by developing partnerships with local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.

The language of the current measure, long known as the Hate Crimes Prevention Act but currently relabeled the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, has several elements. It would add sexual orientation, gender and disability as protected categories. It would greatly expand federal jurisdiction, allowing federal agencies to become involved in all cases of what appear to be hate crimes involving bodily harm and an interstate commerce element, either with the invitation or permission of local

authorities or in those cases local authorities declined to pursue. It also provides for the Attorney General to make grants of up to \$100,000 to local agencies either for training in hate crimes or to help defray extraordinary expenses involved in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes.

The Politics

The vote was expected to be so close that Vice President Al Gore (D) interrupted his Presidential campaign tour to be present to cast a tie-breaking vote if necessary. There is also considerable political freight attached, since the issue is seen as one distinguishing Gore from Republican Presidential hopeful Texas Governor George W. Bush — Gore part of the Clinton administration which has worked to advance this measure. (Clinton himself made a last call for enactment at a gathering in Bush’s home state on June 19, accompanied by the family of James Byrd, Junior, the African-American Texan notoriously dragged to his death behind a pickup truck by white supremacists). Texas Republican lawmakers killed a similar state measure last year in what was widely viewed as a move to protect Bush from having to sign or veto it; Bush certainly made no effort to advance it. Bush’s position is that all laws should be strictly enforced, and he wishes to set apart neither hate crimes themselves nor the protected categories named in them.

The measure carried by Senator Smith and by Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) with forty other co-sponsors including five other Republicans is

technically an amendment to the Department of Defense Authorization Act. Because the Act is a core funding bill that must be enacted, it attracts literally hundreds of amendments, many of them entirely unrelated to defense. That frustrates Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS), who said of Kennedy, “Now he offered a hate-crimes [amendment] — I mean, this is the national security bill, and he is offering these nongermene things that he knows full well he is not going to win on and they are not going to wind up going into law as a part of this bill, and yet he continues to do it. So do others ...”

As for the hate crimes proposal itself, Lott believes that “state laws are in place and are working and doing a fine job, and so I would prefer that we not rush in here and start taking over state functions,” or as he likes to say, “federalize” hate crimes. When he was asked specifically if it would be no problem to pass the measure without the “sexual orientation” language, Lott did not respond directly to the question.

And In Iowa...

Vilsack Up For VP?

Excerpts taken from PlanetOut.com

As Pat Buchanan considers the protested radio talker as a running mate, Democratic Presidential hopeful Vice President Al Gore is considering Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack (D) who ordered an end to discrimination.

At the other end of the spectrum, Gore aides told the

Associated Press that Iowa Governor Vilsack is on his list of possible running mates. Former Secretary of State Warren Christopher is leading the search for the Democratic Vice Presidential hopeful. Gore is said to admire Vilsack’s political philosophy, his personal triumph



Governor Tom Vilsack

over adversity, his youthful image, his representation of the largely Republican Midwest, his relatively low profile, and as a bonus a “chemistry” between the men’s wives, Tipper Gore and Christie Vilsack.

But Vilsack is paying a certain price for having become in 1999 Iowa’s first Democratic Governor in 30 years, while the legislature retains a solid Republican majority. In September, Vilsack issued an executive order prohibiting discrimination in state employment based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Religious right activist Bill Horn, then of the anti-gay Altoona-based Straight from the Heart (he’s since moved on), circulated this story in the most transphobic terms. It was picked up first by then-Republican Presidential hopeful Gary Bauer and later

(Continued on Page 11)