

**BAM!**

**P  
R  
I  
D  
E  
  
2  
0  
0  
7  
  
E  
d  
i  
t  
i  
o  
n**



**Pride for Youth**

Cover by 12vette

**[www.prideforyouth.org](http://www.prideforyouth.org)**

# Want to be a Peer Educator?

It's just about that time.



*Are you or someone you know:*

- A Leader?
- Creative & artistic?
- Daring & adventurous?
- Looking to make a change?
- An open minded individual?
- Looking for a fun experience & call it work?
- Looking to educate people on homophobia?
- Aware of AIDS & want to bring it to an END?



So, do you want to be a Peer Educator?  
Well the time to apply is now!

Get an application from Devin or Travis ASAP.  
Or call Pride for Youth(516)-679-9000 if you have any questions.

## **ACLU Wins Return of Seven-Year-Old to Lesbian Mother in Georgia**

By Christina

After almost three months, a seven-year-old girl has been reunited with the woman in whose care she'd thrived for almost a year before being sent to live in a crowded foster home. The child had been held in foster care by the Wilkinson County Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) since February 20, when a judge took her away from her home after he learned that she was being raised by a lesbian.

"Emma and I missed each other so much while we were separated, and I hope she can put this painful experience behind her quickly. But I'm grateful to DFCS for recognizing that Emma's biological mother always had her best interests at heart in wanting her to live with me," said Elizabeth Hadaway, a 28-year-old paramedic who first took in the little girl when the child's biological mother asked her to raise and adopt Emma.

"Emma and I are just so glad she's finally home."

Although Emma's biological mother told the court that she wished for the child to be raised and adopted by Hadaway, Wilkinson County Superior Court Judge John Lee Parrott ordered that the child be taken away from her home when he learned that Hadaway is a lesbian. DFCS agreed that the biological mother's wishes should be honored, and Emma was reunited with Elizabeth on Friday.

"The law serves families best when focused on the needs of children, rather than the prejudices or assumptions of adults," said Gerry Weber, Legal Director of the ACLU of Georgia, who represents Hadaway. "We're pleased to have given a helping hand to reuniting this family, but no child should be torn away from a loving home because her parent is lesbian or gay in the first place."

"We're glad that DFCS agreed that it must honor the decision of the biological mother to allow Elizabeth to raise Emma," said Ken Choe, a senior staff attorney with the ACLU's national Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Project. "Children like Emma shouldn't have to fear being torn away from their homes and families just because their parents are gay."

Hadaway has been caring for Emma for

almost a year and the child calls her "Mommy." Their predicament came after several months of legal proceedings in which Hadaway fought to keep her. The little girl's biological mother, who had sole custody, asked Hadaway to raise and adopt the child after struggling for years to care for her in spite of a variety of problems that included financial hardships and a difficult life on the road as a truck driver. With the biological mother's blessing, Hadaway was granted legal custody in 2006. Under Hadaway's care, the child began making great strides in her schoolwork, self-confidence, and emotional well-being.

Several months later, Wilkinson County Superior Court Judge John Lee Parrott was on the verge of granting Hadaway's request to permanently adopt Emma when he noticed in the home study that Hadaway was living at the time with her partner of seven years and abruptly changed his mind. In January of this year, Parrott denied the adoption, ordering that Emma be sent back to her biological mother. Hadaway complied and met with the biological mother at a truck stop to hand over the girl. After accepting custody, thus satisfying Parrott's order, the biological mother saw how distraught Emma was at being taken from Hadaway and again insisted that Hadaway should raise the girl.

Hadaway, who had moved with Emma to Bibb County in late December, again applied for custody in her new home county with the biological mother's full consent. Shortly after that, Parrott ordered the little girl be taken from her home to live in foster care on February 20 in spite of the biological mother's wishes. In early April a Bibb County judge then granted custody of the child to Hadaway, after hearing evidence from an expert commissioned by Wilkinson County DFCS to study Emma in her foster home. The expert found that the little girl was unable to get the individualized attention she needs in her foster home and was experiencing emotional trauma because of the separation from Hadaway.

In spite of all this, Parrott found Hadaway and her attorney in contempt of court, and sentenced them to jail time and a fine. On May 21, the ACLU argued that Wilkinson County DFCS must allow Emma to return home. The ACLU will brief the appeal of Judge Parrott's contempt order in the Georgia Court of Appeals on Wednesday of this week.

## A Reflection of Some Sort

By Mike

Oh crap, he's reminiscing... Don't worry... I'm not dying, just being unceremoniously tossed out on my ass at the end of August. There's one downside about being a participant at Coffeehouse, and that's turning 21. Once you turn 21 years old, you "Age-Out", meaning that you can stay until the end of the month you turn 21, then you can't come back to Coffeehouse. It's not meant to be cruel; it's all about protecting your confidentiality, something PFY does very well. It's also because you can buy alcohol, but that's more of a lesser reason.

If you haven't figured it out yet, on August 19<sup>th</sup>, I turn 21, and then the final countdown to the end of my participation at Coffeehouse. And of course, by final countdown, I don't mean that song that gets played over, and over, and over, and over, and over, and over again on the annual camping trip. When I tell people I'm going to be aging out soon, I get mixed reactions, from "Oh wow, that sucks..." to "Dude, that's awesome! You can buy beer legally now!" One night, however, I got an interesting response. Someone said to me "Wouldn't you rather go to some bars and get wasted rather than be here?" Well, I'm going to answer that right here, on paper. The answer to that is No. If I could live at Coffeehouse, more-so than I do already, I would. I love it here. I have met a whole bunch of amazing people, some of whom I consider my closest and dearest friends.

The time I've spent here, almost every Friday, for the last three or four years or so, are going to become some of my most cherished and beloved memories. I remember coming here, going through NPOP for the first time, a little alarmed at first when I heard what PFY was all about. My view on the LGBT community back then was the classic line, "As long as they don't hit on me, there isn't a problem." Wrong, yes, but I didn't know any better back

then. I mean, sure, my parents always stressed tolerance for all living things, regardless of race, gender, or ethnicity, but there was something different about the LGBT community.

So there I was, in the middle of Coffeehouse, looking like a lost puppy in a giant city. I kind of just sat in the Pac-Man room on the couch, and just minded my own business. After maybe an hour or so, someone came up to me and started talking to me. At first, I was apprehensive, and then the conversation continued. It turned out we both liked the same thing. I was invited to go into town and meet up with some more people. I ended up having a good time with the group of people I was with, and then my newfound friend kissed his boyfriend. And then it hit me. I was out having a good time, not being worried about getting hit on by "some weird gay kid". It turns out my newfound friend was actually gay! This was an event that would change my life forever. After that night, the next week, I was back at PFY. I started going to PFY on a regular basis. I made friends, and everyone started to know my name.

I went to a high school where no one gave a crap about me, and thought little more of me than "that weird, hyper kid." I was weird because I decided to be myself, and not be a clone. At PFY, people *knew* me. People respected me for who I was, and I became a lot more comfortable with myself. After a while, the first camping trip was announced. I thought about it, and thought about it, and my friends were like, dude, you should go, it's going to be fun, I decided I'd go. I figured, "Why not, it's only for a weekend. If I hate it, I just won't go next year. It doesn't hurt to try." It turns out that the decision to go was one of the best decisions I've ever made. We had so much fun. From all the trips we took, to the exploring of the campground; all the way to playing pranks on the chaperones with numerous amounts of corn-on-the-cob, and water balloons, I had the time of my life, and was disappointed when it all ended.

A short time before the 2006 camping trip, I was talking with a bunch of the staff members about current events at Coffeehouse. At that point, the Peer Education program was hiring for new Peer Educators 2006-07. I ended up talking about it, and one of the staff members said I would be perfect for the job. I asked for an application, and they more than happily gave it to me. I filled it out and gave it in, and got called into an interview. I answered the questions the Peer Educators asked me, and I went home. I got a phone call a week or so later saying I got the job. I nearly cried after I got off the phone. This is what I'm needed for. I'm finally going to make a difference in the world, even if it's a small one. After I got the job, I started being active in the Peer Education program, and even more active in Coffeehouse than ever before. I started going above and beyond, coming in when I didn't need to, just to do a little more to better Coffeehouse. It wasn't until about two weeks ago, that I truly realized how short my time left at Coffeehouse truly was. I was running the light and sound for the annual Drag Show, and as the performers were on stage, I suddenly realized, "Whoa...this is my last Drag Show..." All these years at PFY, are suddenly coming to an end.

A big chapter in my life is coming to a close, and I honestly don't know what's going to happen between now, and August 31<sup>st</sup>, however, once it DOES roll around, you might just see me cry if you stick around until 11:30. Maybe earlier...maybe not, who knows? All I know is that it's going to be a sad day for me, and a bunch of other people at Coffeehouse.

I'm going to leave you all with this advice. When you have the opportunity to utilize PFY's services, do so. Milk it for all it's worth, get involved. I promise you that it's not a choice you're going to regret. It's been an absolute privilege to have had such an amazing time here at Pride for Youth, and although I sometimes feel like I don't deserve it, I know in the end, I'm making a difference. Someone,

whom I consider a really close, personal friend, once asked me, "Why do you feel that you have such strong connections to the LGBT community?" I replied with these words. "The reason is simple. It's because the LGBT community is just like me. Although I may be straight, we share the same ideals, and want the same things. We want to be recognized for who we are...unique individuals with our own talents and weaknesses, and we both have that driving force to be accepted, no matter what. Gay or Straight, Black or White, we really are all the same thing. Human."

I'm going to miss PFY. Sure, I'll be able to go to bars, and I can buy my own booze, but no bar can compare to the fun and love I've had for PFY over the last few years. And nothing is going to change that. Just remember to stay strong, and fight for the cause, nothing is impossible.





## Australian Gay Bar Wins Right to Ban Straights

By Christina

An Australian hotel catering for homosexuals has won the right to ban heterosexuals from its bars so as to provide a safe and comfortable venue for gay men. In what is believed to be a first for Australia, the Victorian state civil and administrative tribunal ruled last week that the Peel Hotel in the southern city of Melbourne could exclude patrons based on their sexuality.

Australia's equal opportunity laws prevent people being discriminated against based on race, religion or sexuality. But Peel Hotel owner Tom McFeely said the ruling was necessary to provide gay men with a non-threatening atmosphere to freely express their sexuality.

If I can limit the number of heterosexuals entering the Peel, then that helps me keep the safe balance," Peel told Australian radio on Monday. McFeely said that, while the hotel welcomed everyone, its gay clientele had expressed discomfort over the number of heterosexuals and lesbians coming to the venue in the past year.

He said there were more than 2,000 venues in Melbourne that catered to heterosexuals, but his hotel was the only one marketing itself predominantly to gay men.

Victoria's state human rights commission backed the ruling, saying it was in line with equal opportunity guidelines defending the rights of groups subject to discrimination. Commission chief Helen Szoke said the hotel's gay clientele had experienced harassment and violence. "(They) also have felt as though they've been like a zoo exhibit with big groups of women on hens' parties coming to the club," Szoke told reporters. McFeely told the radio that the hotel had received homophobic telephone calls since news of the ruling was made public.

## PFY Profile: She's the Jogernaut, Bitch!

By Liz



I've been coming to Pride for Youth for just over 3 years now, and I've been lucky to become good friends with most of the staff. Learning new things about them, such as random tid-bits like that they have two cats, and a turtle. One staff member and former volunteer, and youth worker Joanna has become one of the staff members that I've grown closest to. I sat down with the Jogernaut to get the 311 on her.

-----  
**LF:** How long have you been involved with Pride for Youth and the Long Island Crisis Center?

**JS:** 5 years. I started working at LICC as a councilor's assistant, then a councilor, soon after I was a PFY youth worker.

**LF:** What is it that you do here?

**JS:** My title is "LGBT Program Supervisor" I over see the coffeehouse, young womyn's group, counseling, the summer programs which include the camping trip, pride parade. All that good stuff. I also work with outside networks, and coalitions, as well as doing workshops.

**LF:** Are you out? If so, how did you come out to your family, friends etc.?

**JS:** I would say that I'm out to some, not everybody. I'm out to some friends, but it's still a process to come out to everyone. I came out to my mom over lunch. She wasn't upset, but it's just not something we normally talk about. I'm also out to co-workers.

## Media Portrayals on Autism

By: Greg Forrester

Autism is a neurological disorder that affects social behavior by impairing social abilities. Usually when diagnosing a child with autism, neurologists and psychologists look into various symptoms. Symptoms include a deep fixation on an object or an idea, repetitive behavior, and lack of eye contact.

“The social problems can be classified into three different categories: socially avoidant, socially indifferent, and socially awkward.” (Edelson, Stephen M. Ph.D. “Social Behavior in Autism” Dec. 1997. [www.autism.org/social/](http://www.autism.org/social/).) Most autistic children are shy which explains their social avoidance. They also appear to be socially indifferent because of their deep fixation on a certain item or subject. Many other autistic children are socially awkward because they lack the social intuitions that many neurotypical people develop more rapidly than individuals with autism. This can be demonstrated in certain public areas where some autistic people try to start a conversation with a person who is neurotypical but that person is “weirded out” by the autistic person because due to an autistic’s intensive concentration on one particular thing, it makes them socially awkward and they are having a difficult time moving on to different topics in a conversation.

There are many ways to treat autism; however, these three methods are usually the most trusted. If the problem appears based on the hypersensitivity to sensory stimuli, it is usually recommended that parents and therapists use sensory-based interventions such as auditory integration training, sensory integration, and visual training via Irlen lens.

Another strategy to help an autistic child adjust to improved social skills is a biomedical treatment called Naltrexone. Even though it not usually used, research studies and parent reports have often indicated improved social skills when given Vitamin B6 and magnesium, and/or dimethylglycine (DMG).

A strategy that is used more often than the other two methods is the use of social stories. This technique was developed by Carol Gray, which involves presenting stories to teach socially appropriate behaviors. These stories are used to teach the individual to understand the behavior of themselves and others better. (Edelson, Stephen M. Ph.D. “Social Behavior in Autism” Dec. 1997. [www.autism.org/](http://www.autism.org/)

social.)

Since the rising awareness of autism, the media has used many mediums to portray autism in order to educate the masses so people can learn to be more aware of the world’s neurodiversity. Many movies have portrayed autistic characters as the problem child who cannot be controlled therefore the parents send them away to a psychiatric hospital. The movie Molly stars Elisabeth Shue as an autistic woman who appears to be low to moderately functioning is released from the institution into her older brother’s care. Molly McKay’s brother, Buck (Aaron Eckhart), finds it difficult and annoying to watch Molly all the time with his budding social life and his successful career. However, Molly’s friend and former doctor, Sam (Thomas Jane), is able to understand Molly because he himself has a severe learning disability. Sam then convinces Buck to have Molly go through an experimental medical treatment that might cure Molly’s delayed development. The surgery happens to work and her intellect peeks rapidly and reveals to have a profound outlook on life.

Molly is portrayed as quirky and carefree person who teaches Buck to love the simple nature of life. However, her abilities start to regress and she then becomes disabled again. Right before the climax of the film, Molly talks to the doctors and describes the differences between the autistic world and the neurotypical world. In her speech, she says that the world she comes from, people scream when they’re angry, dance when they’re happy, and need something to hold on to. In the neurotypical world, Molly describes it as conforming, indifferent, and repressed emotions.

“In the world where I come from, things are uncontrolled so you have to hold on to something small but in your world everything is controlled but I see it as jumbo. Sometimes you have to scream, so people look at you weird and talk about you like weren’t there but you always know what they are saying they get upset when you scream but often they would like too scream them self, that is what I find most strange about this world, nobody sees how they fell. They are sad but don't cry out they are happy but don't dance or jump around and they are angry but they hardly ever scream because they fell ashamed and that forces them to do something so they walk around and newer look up too the sky.” (Molly, 1999, as spoken by Molly McKay played by Elisabeth Shue).

This particular segment of the film shows the insightful wisdom that Molly has developed as she learns easily to blend into her brother's world as she reveals how neurotypical people often overlook the fact that autistic individuals have the ability to feel like anyone else. Overall, this movie shows that everyone whether autistic or not is a person with feelings that can be affected like anyone else and the emotions of autistic people should not be underestimated.

Other portrayals of autistic characters can be perceived as emotionally distant and incredible logical and technical as well as literal thinkers. In the movie *Rain Man*, a rising yet selfish yuppie named Charlie Babbitt, played by Tom Cruise, takes his brilliantly gifted autistic savant brother Raymond Babbitt (Dustin Hoffman) into his care when he finds out that his father gave his three million dollar inheritance to Raymond. Throughout the film, Raymond demonstrates great mental abilities as he can photographically memorize a phonebook, exact dates and times of airplane crashes, and can calculate complex mathematical problems in his head. Raymond is also an exceptional poker player as he is able to guess the next moves and cards being pulled out by the opposing players when Charlie and Raymond gamble in a casino.

However, he also portrays complete social awkwardness and repetitive behavior as shown when Charlie and Raymond are eating in a pancake house. In this scene, Raymond continuously repeats, "There is supposed to be maple syrup in the table..." (*Rain Man*, 1988, spoken by Raymond Babbitt played by Dustin Hoffman) and this irritates Charlie greatly as all he can think about is getting the multi-million dollar inheritance. As the movie progresses, Charlie starts to care deeply for his brother and by the end of the movie, Raymond shows improvement in his emotional abilities and shows that he isn't emotionally indifferent as he shows compassion for Charlie while laying his head on Charlie's. If there was a way to communicate with those who have gifted minds yet are nearly unable to express their thoughts, the world would maybe then show more sympathy towards the autistic community.

Ever since the growing awareness of autism and other disorders that add to the expansion of the autistic spectrum, many children are diagnosed under the autistic spectrum. The most frequent form of autism that is known is called Asperger's Syndrome. A German physician named Dr. Hans Asperger discovered this form of autism by examining individuals who show eccentric behaviors. Many subjects of this form of autism usually have high IQ's, speak with flat and emotionless tones, and are deeply fixated on complex topics such as mathematics, literature, music,

history, geography, etc. Unlike many individuals with the classical form of autism, "aspies" (people with Asperger's) are socially aware yet they tend to have difficulty using internal censorships and often display inappropriate behavior and language. (Edelson, Stephen M. Ph.D. "Asperger's Syndrome" Dec. 1995. [www.autism.org/social](http://www.autism.org/social).)

Many adolescents with autism find it difficult to fit into the world and many of them feel obligated to hide an important part of themselves. "Helen Motokane's daughter, Christine, 14, has Asperger's syndrome, a high-functioning form of this disorder. She struggles to fit in at her Los Angeles public school—and that means hiding parts of her true self. One secret: she loves Barbie. 'She knows it's not cool to wear clothes with

Barbie logos, so she tries to keep that at home,' says Helen, who gently prods her daughter into developing more mature interests. 'She says, "You're trying to make me grow up, aren't you? You want me to do all these things right away." I go, "No, no, no." I reassure her that we're not trying to push her.' But an hour or two later, her mother says, Christine will ask, 'Is it OK if I like Disney Princess even though other kids my age don't like it?'" (Kantrowitz, Barbara and Scelfo, Julie "What Happens When They Grow Up" *Newsweek* 2006. 27 Nov.)

It is difficult for parents to raise a child with autism since it is expensive to pay for the child's education. "According to the Harvard School of Public Health, it can cost about \$3.2 million to care for a person with autism over a lifetime. Caring for all persons with autism cost an estimated \$35 billion per year, the same study says." (Kantrowitz, Barbara and Scelfo, Julie "What Happens When They Grow Up" *Newsweek* 2006. 27 Nov.)

Once an autistic child turns twenty-one, most of them are not eligible for further service and protection. This is one of the most devastating aspects that parents have to face for their autistic child's future.

Many people are becoming more aware of autism in the world, yet there are some issues that many individuals must come to face in order to find the truth behind autism. To me, autism is just a factor that adds neurodiversity in the world. Many organizations are desperate for cures of autism despite the fact that many autistic individuals prove to be intellectually gifted, and some are even successful. We need the minds of the higher-functioning autistic people. If Asperger's or any other higher-functioning forms of autism were cured, there would be no one to help plan the technical planning of events, no one to point out the facts of life that neurotypical people often overlook, and there wouldn't be a kind face to cheer up a lonely friend.

## Tough Girls Wear Skates

By Liz

As the summer starts people start thinking of things to do outdoors. The beach, summer concerts, and pool might be on most people's mind, but for me it's flat track roller derby.

The season for the Long Island Roller Rebels has already kicked off and promises tons of fun for all ages. Every bout has a pre-game show typically featuring a band, and a half time show which is different at every bout. There is typically one bout or game a month for the Long Island League.

Each bout consists of three 20-minute periods. Each period consists of jams which can be up to a maximum of 2 minutes long. Usually a jam consists of 2 teams with three blockers, one jammer, and one pivot (5 players) per team. A jammer is the only player that can score points for her team. The way a jammer scores points is by lapping the pack which is the three blockers and pivot, getting a point for each team member she passes. A pivot leads the blockers and sets the speed for every-



body to skate. Blockers are fairly self-explanatory. Blockers try to block the jammer from the opposing team from passing, and assist their jammer in trying to push through the pack. The jam can be called off by the leading jammer at anytime by placing her hands on her hips.

There are fouls in the game, and players do fall into the crowd during the game, so watch out if you're sitting up close! For more information you can visit the league's website [www.longislandrollerrebels.com](http://www.longislandrollerrebels.com). Their myspace is [www.myspace.com/rockabettybruisers](http://www.myspace.com/rockabettybruisers)





But homeless and youth advocacy groups fear that by pressing for money specifically for gay youths, lobbying will become splintered, and the effort could invite a backlash from

antigay factions that would result in less money for homeless youth programs generally. There are 1.6 million homeless youths nationally, a 2002 federal estimate said.

"The center is the only place where I feel safe being me," said Sarah Strickland, 18, referring to Ruth's House. "Out there, I knew I wasn't safe. I knew I might be killed by someone realizing that I'm a girl looking like a boy."

Grace A. McClelland, who runs Ruth's House, said it had a three-month waiting list for its 10-bed shelter, which opened in August. The shelter is named after Ruth Ellis, an African-American lesbian who in the 1930s opened her house in the same neighborhood to gay African-American teenagers. With a staff of seven, it provides school placement, psychological and family counseling and job training. The shelter is financed with private and federal money.

The capacity of gay youth shelters is limited, said Gerald P. Mallon, a professor at the Hunter College School of Social Work, who has helped open several shelters. In San Francisco, there are about 15 beds to serve a homeless gay youth population that local advocates estimate is in the thousands, Professor Mallon said. In New York City, there are no more than 50 beds for gay homeless youths, he added.

In Cleveland, Mika Major is the director of the Metro Youth Outreach Drop-In Center, one of about 150 centers nationally where homeless gay youths can receive counseling and other services. "The hardest part of the job is telling kids who show up with bruises or horrific stories that we don't have a

safe place to send them," Ms. Major said. Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said gay youths' fears about shelters were valid. "Shelter staff often have the least training and the least oversight, compared to schools or anywhere else" serving gay youths, Mr. Foreman said. Dilo Cintron, 25, who said he lived on the streets for five years in New

York starting in 2000, described being gay in a homeless shelter, saying, "You're lucky if all they do is sneer in these places."

Mr. Cintron said he chose the streets after being beaten nearly unconscious in a shelter by four men. Instead of intervening in the attack, he said, staff members closed the doors. Now living in Queens, Mr. Cintron is taking job-training classes and is a volunteer at Sylvia's Place, a shelter for homeless gay youths in Manhattan. At a shelter in Saline, Mich., near Ann Arbor, staff members removed the door to a gay youth's bedroom, to prevent homosexual behavior. The second bed in the room was left empty, and other residents were warned that if they misbehaved they would have to share the room with the "gay kids," said Krista Girty, a former social worker at the shelter.

At a youth group home in Bedford, Mich., gay teenagers were identified by orange jumpsuits. "It was basically their way to shame people into being antigay," said Andy Wilt, 20, who stayed at the shelter for six months in 2000. In Ann Arbor, Mary Jo Callan runs the Ozone House, a shelter that serves mostly homeless heterosexual youths but aims to be hospitable to all. Ms. Callan said suburban and rural communities often lacked the money and the political will to open centers that focus on gay youths. "I think we have to improve the facilities that we have now," Ms. Callan said. "Otherwise, I think the kids simply won't come in from the cold and get the help they need."

# ::Homoscopes::

## ::Homoscopes::



### Summer 2007



**Cancer** - Isn't it time to treat yourself to a small, very luxurious something? It doesn't have to be big—maybe a great book or a CD. Go ahead and enjoy yourself.

**Leo** - Once this is through, you'll feel better. That might be hard to believe now, but your fear is the worst part. Take a deep breath and the first step forward. There! That's so natural; you're wondering why you hesitated.

**Virgo** - You can expect lots of romantic wisdom to be offered now, even if it's completely unsolicited. Everyone wants to add his or her two cents. Feel free to smile distantly and change the subject.

**Libra** - What's the big idea, here, anyway? Knowing you, you're all over it right about now—and others can tell you're tuned in. Don't be surprised if they've got a million questions and are hanging on your every word.

**Scorpio** - Showing you're steady can be just as alluring as making a splash. The stars say a modest, considered approach might just get you further at the moment than barreling ahead no-holds-barred.

**Sagittarius** - This worry is unwarranted. You're not using someone if the relationship benefits the both of you mutually. It also helps that you're being honest about what you expect

to give and take from this association.

**Capricorn** - Are you confused about something? Ask your partner to clear it up. Something appears to be more (or less) than it really is, but once you get the lowdown, you'll know what to do.

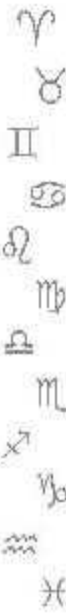
**Aquarius** - You like to observe rather than dive on in, but something or someone could benefit from your very enthusiastic involvement. Rather than keep your opinion to yourself, learn how to make actions speak louder than words.

**Pisces** - Watch those boundaries between work and off-the-clock stuff at the moment. Some personal business is best kept separate from the prying eyes of coworkers (who, after all, you'll be seeing every day).

**Aries** - Dealing with certain loved ones could be challenging right now since everyone wants the biggest piece of the pie. If you keep your cool, it'll be a valuable learning experience.

**Taurus** - Letting what you know show gradually, with a bit of subtlety, is way sexier than hitting 'em over the head with it. Nobody likes a know-it-all, while someone who's sharing special stuff is hot as heck.

**Gemini** - Dive right in. Any hesitation and you'll trip over your own feet, so don't hold back. You bring such enthusiasm to everything



## First Successful Lung Transplant on HIV Patient

By Christina

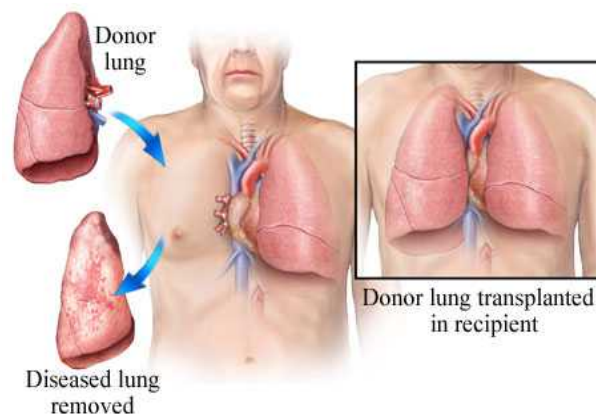
Once again proving that modern medicine can do almost anything, it was just announced that doctors in Italy have performed the world's first successful lung transplant on a patient with HIV.

The news comes from a medical institute in the southern city of Palermo. The man, who has yet to be identified, had terminal respiratory problems and a lung transplant was his only chance of survival. After the operation was completed, he was reported to be in good condition.

In the past transplant centers have refused people with HIV because of higher complications and death rates. However, with the improvement of HIV medication and the increased health of HIV-positive patients, transplants have recently become a more viable medical option.

Most medical institutions have only performed kidney, liver and pancreas transplants on HIV patients with success, if they are willing to do this sort of procedure at all. However, this landmark procedure could open the doors for future operations of this kind.

"In the last ten years, we have seen a definite improvement in the long-term survival of HIV patients which has allowed for some to be considered for organ transplants," said medical expert Paolo Grossi, who oversaw the procedure.



## Fun Facts

By Mike

Here is a bunch of useless (?) facts that you can use to impress your friends! Now that you are armed with this knowledge, go out and wow your friends!

- Beethoven was totally deaf when he composed his Ninth Symphony.
- When the volcano Krakatau erupted in the Dutch East Indies in 1883, the sound was heard in Bangkok, 3,000 miles away. At Batavia, 100 miles away, the sky was so darkened that people had to light their lamps during the day. The fine particles ejected by the blast covered almost every part of the world, and for the next two years, a thin haze could be seen in the sky each night as far away as London.
- Christopher Columbus had blond hair.
- Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, and Dostoyevsky were all epileptics.
- President James Garfield could write Latin with one hand and Greek with the other, simultaneously.
- Edward Hyde, Viscount Cornbury, colonial governor of New York and New Jersey from 1702 to 1708, was a professed transvestite. He commonly robed himself in women's outfits, rouged and powdered his face, and promenaded through the town in drag. He was once arrested on a morals charge. For his official portrait, Viscount Cornbury posed in a low-cut evening gown holding a fan and wearing a sprig of lace in his hair. He was fired in 1708 – not for his outrageous behavior, but for taking bribes.
- During a girl's menstrual period, the sensitivity of her middle fingers is reduced.

## Harvey Milk

By Erik

A hero is a person that does something incredible, someone who inspires people to do something great themselves, someone who paves the way for a group of people. A hero gives people hope, and lets people know they can be themselves and still be great people. A hero to one group of people is usually a villain to another group. Harvey Milk is a person that fits these criteria of a hero.

In 1977, Harvey Milk became the first openly gay man elected to any substantial political office in the history of the United States. He paved the way for all LGBT people around the world.

During the 1970s, many psychiatrists still called homosexuality a mental illness. In one entirely routine case, the Supreme Court refused in 1978 to overturn the prison sentence of a man convicted solely of having sex with another consenting man. A year before, it had let stand the firing of a stellar Tacoma, Washington, teacher who made the mistake of telling the truth when his principal asked if he was homosexual. No real national gay organization existed, and Vice President Walter Mondale haughtily left a 1977 speech after someone asked him when the Carter Administration would speak in favor of gay equality.

This means people of the LGBT community were basically outcasts of society. The political circles did not deal with it and people of the LGBT community were considered to be mentally ill. Harvey Milk proved that wrong. He basically proved that homosexuality is just another difference between people and is not something someone should be imprisoned over, nor a mental illness. He proved that people of the LGBT community do not have to hide themselves, they can be honest and successful too and their sexual orientation should not effect their dreams.

Since Milk was in a political office, this made him the target of many homophobes

and people against gay rights. Milk's visibility made him the target of hate mail and threatening telephone calls. In a chilling recognition of what might happen, he left a taped last will and testament. "If a bullet should enter my brain," he said, "let that bullet destroy every closet door." This shows that Milk's stay in office was not easy, since he did receive death threats. He put his own well-being in danger for a greater cause—equality for all. Despite being told that he would never successfully gain a political office as an openly gay man, Milk garnered the support of San Francisco's previously quiet gay population. Many outed themselves to show support for Milk. After three failed attempts at the city supervisor seat, on his fourth try he became the first openly gay office holder.



...*Harvey Milk* Continued.

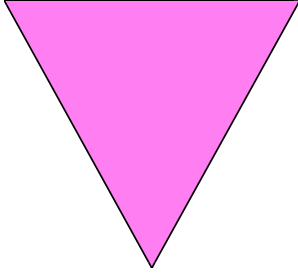
The famous opening line of Milk's speech read, "My name is Harvey Milk and I'm here to recruit you." This shows that he was an inspirational leader to the LGBT community. He also tried very hard to get the position and be treated as an equal. His quote showed that he wanted to unite the LGBT community and give them the courage to be themselves.

On November 27th, 1978, Milk was shot twice in the head, in city hall, and Mayor George Moscone was also killed. Milk was shot by fellow supervisor Daniel White who was a troubled anti-gay conservative who had left the board and went crazy when Mayor Moscone denied his request to return. White admitted to the murders within hours. A jury gave him just five years with parole. Defense lawyers had barred anyone remotely pro-gay from the jury and brought a psychologist to testify that junk food had exacerbated White's depression. (The so-called Twinkie defense was later banned.) Milk's words had averted gay riots before, but after the verdict, the city erupted. More than 160 people ended up in the

hospital. This shows how much of an impact Milk had on the LGBT community. Their anger over his assassination gave them the courage to overcome their fears in fighting for what was rightfully theirs.

Milk had the potential workings of great leader for the LGBT community. It would have been interesting to see how far he might have gone and how things could have changed the whole legal system with respect to the LGBT community. Who knows? He might have become the first gay president. Milk's killing probably awakened as many gay people as his election had. His death inspired many associates—most notably Cleve Jones, who later envisioned the greatest work of American folk art, the AIDS quilt. Moreover, assassination offered Milk something then rare for openly gay men—mainstream empathy. This shows how much of an inspiration he was to people of the LGBT community. Harvey Milk truly was a hero. Unfortunately, still today Milk is considered a villain to some anti-gay conservative groups.





## My Gay Pride

By Erik

My dad always used to tell me gay pride was BS. He said it is BS because why should someone be proud of what they are born as. On the day I told him I was gay he cried, he still loves me but I was not the son he had envisioned. He always wanted me to join the Military and be the man he wanted me to be. A few weeks after I came out of the closet he knocked on my bedroom door and asked to come in. He told me even though I was gay he would be happier if I wasn't a flamer. I told him I am who I am, I don't care if I'm his son, I'm going to be me no matter what. He told me ok but then he asked me another question. Are you still going into the military? I told him the truth, No I never wanted to join the military, and even if I was straight I wouldn't join. I am not a person who fights easily, I hate violence, and I'd never enlist. He looked at me with eyes of disappointment. Then he walked out of my room. I was used to my dad being disappointed in me so I was not surprised.

The next day I asked my mom at dinner if I could have money for the gay pride parade trip for GSA, I also gave her the permission slip for her to sign. She signed it and gave me the check but my dad started blabbing about how gay pride is BS so I looked at him and told him what I thought. I told him Gay Pride is not BS because we are happy and proud to be ourselves. We are not afraid to show the world that we are proud individuals and are not afraid to show our true colors. To be out is something to be proud of. We are proud to be out of the closet and to show others that are in the closet that they can come out and still succeed. That is what I feel gay pride is. Whether he understands or not, I don't know, all I know is I am proud of who I am.

## Tale of the Female Orgasm

By Liz

The terrible orgasmic disorder known as anorgasmia occurs in many women. It's the inability to have an orgasm during intercourse. Research is showing that it's a psychological issue within females. The anxiety involved with sex, self-esteem, and body issues all play apart in this.

So, how do females get past this inner conflict and empower themselves to orgasm? Well, society's high standards of what women should be help to crush that self-esteem. Children are being raised to completely hide any type of natural and sexual behaviors. Being told that sex is wrong can potentially change that child's attitude towards sex when they are an adult. If they continue to think sex is wrong they might potentially feel guilty about having sex and thus be unable to orgasm.

On the opposite end of anorgasmia is the female multiple orgasms. Many females can have multiple orgasms, where as males typically have one. I honestly can't say how female orgasms are comparable to what a male's orgasm feels like, but I think that both can be pretty intense. Some have even described it as an out of body experience.

Either way if you're under orgasmic, over orgasmic or just get the right number you've still got the potential to have a good time be it alone or with a safe partner.



## My way home from Oz

By: Greg Forrester

I did have the power after all.  
I had the power to go back home whenever I wanted to.  
I feel so stupid yet relived.  
Should I be mad at the Good Witch for not telling me before or myself for not asking?  
I have faced my own Wicked Witch and destroyed her with my friends.  
I have been intimidated by the powerful Wizard of Oz so much I ran screaming.  
But as I found the man behind the curtain, I laughed at his face.  
At least he was kind enough to help me go home, until he foolishly left me behind.  
I can go home now.  
I can be with my mom and play in my room.  
All I have to do is sit down on the chair and fall back until I land on my kitchen sink.



## This Poem Is Not Written In Japanese

By Dean

This poem is not written in Japanese  
Instead it is written in English  
It has no rhyme scheme  
The words don't quite fit  
and that's because  
this poem is not written in Japanese

I was going to write this poem in Japanese  
However, I do not know Japanese  
It has no rhythm  
The sound of it isn't really beautiful  
And that's because  
This poem is not written in Japanese

If this poem was written in Japanese  
It would surely be glorified in its beauty  
Men and women would weep in awe  
If only  
This poem was written in Japanese

Sadly, this poem is not written in Japanese  
Please forgive this poem's sloppiness  
This poem is not written in Japanese

## To Cherish

By Nigel

As I gaze into your beautiful brown eyes,  
And into your sensual soul,  
I drown into your essence,  
Your being,  
With fulfillment and love  
What words cannot say  
My heart pulsates.  
What words cannot mean  
My lips treble to meet yours.  
What words cannot do  
My soul  
Endeavors  
To love  
To cherish  
To be...

## PFY: A New Participant Survival Guide

By Mike

Welcome to Pride for Youth! So you've just gone through NPOP (the orientation), and now you're in this big ol' place called Coffeehouse. Confused? Scared? Don't lie, I can tell you're a little nervous. I saw it in your eyes during orientation. I noticed it while you were sitting there staring blankly at me while I was helping out. Let's face it, a new place, with a whole new group of people? It's enough to freak anyone out. Here's a guide to help alleviate some of the reluctance some of you may have when first stepping into that loud, crazy, room.

**Tip #1:** Don't be afraid to be yourself! PFY is a safe space for LGBT youth and their straight allies. We don't allow anyone to be harassed for being themselves, and any harassment isn't tolerated. If someone gives you trouble, by all means, let the staff know. Sometimes in order to be comfortable, you actually need to step out of your comfort zone, so don't be afraid to take that crucial step!

**Tip #2:** The staff is here for you! If someone/something is bugging you, whether it be that someone is making you uncomfortable, or you just need someone to talk to about stuff that's bugging you in your life, they are here. The staff here at Coffeehouse are some of the most understanding and kind-hearted people I have ever met, and they will help you out, whether it's to talk about a lost pet, or just to chit-chat about random stuff. If you seem to have a hard time meeting people, the staff of coffeehouse might be a good start for you.

**Tip #3:** Don't wait for people to come up to you! This is really crucial not only at PFY, but anywhere. Don't be afraid to meet new people. If you see someone who interests you, or they're doing something that is interesting, by all means, go up to them and introduce yourself! 99.9% of the participants here are of friendly variety, and will be more than happy to befriend you.

**Tip #4:** Leave the main room! As crazy as this may sound, some participants don't like the loudness of the main room, and can be found relaxing around the coffeehouse. Whether it be in the main hallway, or over on the couches in the Pac-Man room (The room with the TVs, where the orientation takes place), there's always something going on in every little nook and cranny of Coffeehouse. Different kinds of people are in different parts of Coffeehouse, so if you don't find anyone that shares your particular interests in the main

room, go elsewhere! When you meet a group of people that you seem to get along with, don't be afraid to tag along, and have a good time. I have met many of my closest friends here at PFY, and even reconnected with an old friend as well. It's a small world, and you'd be surprised how many of your friends might show up to Coffeehouse!

**Tip #5:** Participate! There are all kinds of activities here at Pride for Youth, not just the Friday night Coffeehouse. On Wednesdays, we have a Young Women's Group that meets to discuss all sorts of things, from current events in the LGBT community, to what's going on in life. We have a Young Men's group which will be starting up in Fall '07, and they do more or less the same thing, except for guys. There is also GYPC (pronounced Gypsy), or the **Gay Youth Planning Committee**. You don't have to be gay to attend, and you also can suggest new events and other ideas on Friday nights. GYPC starts at 7:45 on Friday nights at Coffeehouse, and all are welcome to attend. There is also free pizza, but don't just come for pizza! PFY staff also does one on one individual, confidential, counseling, and it's a great service if you have a lot going on in your life, or if you just need someone to talk to! The more you participate at PFY, the more people you're going to meet!

**Tip #6:** If at first you don't succeed, try, try again! Unfortunately, not everyone has an amazing first night at Coffeehouse. This can be for a number of different reasons. Whether it be that the event planned for the night wasn't interesting to you, or the group of people in attendance on that particular night weren't really interesting to you either. Or maybe it was just a slow night. It happens. That's the amazing thing about Coffeehouse. It is very dynamic, in that Coffeehouse differs from night to night. One night, the event might be boring and the crowd might not be that big, but on other nights, the event might be absolutely amazing, and Coffeehouse can be packed. If your first night totally sucked, come back the next week, and maybe the week after that. Rome wasn't built in a day, nor can an accurate representation of Coffeehouse be built in that same amount of time. Have faith!

I hope that this guide has been helpful in getting you on the right track to enjoying your Coffeehouse experience. If all else fails, come find me. I'm usually floating all over Coffeehouse, or I'm in the Pac-Man room, and I'm usually here every Friday. Don't be shy, I don't bite...much! With that being said, enjoy your stay, be safe, and above all, **HAVE FUN!**

## Betrayed By Relief

By Deena

I remember when pain was  
Just a feeling that came and went  
At the time relief was my  
Savior, my number one protector  
Relief would save me  
When times were hard or when I  
Felt my time had run out  
Relief would cuddle me and hold me  
in its bosom  
Relief would shelter me and  
Keep me from the high tides and  
Strong undertows of disappointment  
And confusion  
But what used to save me

Has somehow  
betrayed me



## I Promised Myself

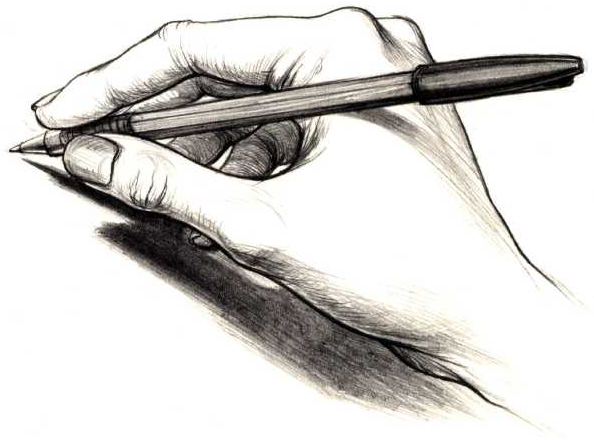
By Deena

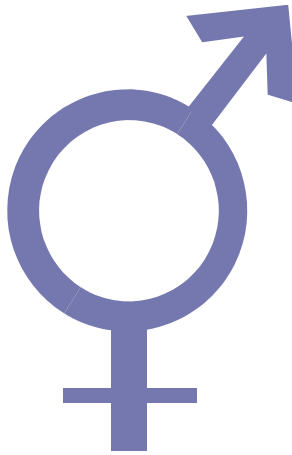
I promised myself a change  
Not a drastic change  
But a different type of change  
I promised myself something  
That no one could ever promise  
I promised myself peace  
Peace of mind  
And calmness of spirit  
I promised myself a change  
But the more I try to change  
The more I stay the same

## Move/Survivor

By Deena

My fear has subsided  
I'm no longer the scared girl  
On the road to nowhere  
I've learned a new word  
I no longer say please  
Or excuse me  
My new word is move  
To the stronghold of my painful past  
Move  
To the discouraging, non-progressive feelings  
that cloud my mind  
Move  
I now have the power to move pain and sorrow  
To move the obstacles that block my road to  
success  
I've gained a new kind of pride  
I am no longer a victim  
A cocoon of death  
I've become a survivor of life





## Transgender Minister Reappointed

By Liz

For those that aren't in the know about queer politics within religions, I've got news for you. A minister that lead a congregation in the Baltimore area came out during a regional conference. Rev. Drew Phoenix announced that he went through a spiritual transformation. The spiritual transformation was also a physical one.

Rev. Drew Phoenix, formally known as Ann Gordon was originally appointed a minister for a United Methodist church. The church doctrine does condemn gay clergy members from being sexually active, but says nothing about being transgender. Rev. Drew Phoenix's term at the church he's been a part of for five years will be ending in July.

The regional conference is used to determine if clergy members will be reappointed, and to reassign members to different churches. The church was very supportive, and in a closed door meeting of clergy members nobody objected to the transition. The membership of Phoenix's church has tripled since he came out, promoting diversity in religion.



## I Wasn't a Bad Kid

By Deena

As I sipped a drink from the water fountain, I thought to myself, how will I get back to my peaceful place. Well, the fact of the matter is, that I was never at peace, where could I be on a natural high, a high of life. My name is Mahogany Holt, daughter of Patricia Holt, yes the singer. I am twenty-two years old. By the time I was sixteen, I had tried every drug in the book. I had done marijuana, crack-cocaine, heroine, and LSD. I had had so many highs; I forgot what it felt like to be low, leveled, and normal. There was no difference between the drugs for me. They all made me loose control. They made me feel loose and at ease. Until I tried LSD, then I thought I had really lost it. I was hallucinating. I thought baboons were chasing me so I ran and ran until I saw a dark figure and two bright lights which I later found out was a tow truck. Now I don't know where I am. I know the room is white and so are my clothes. I can't move my arms. Whatever happened to second chances? I was not a bad kid, I was just hurt, confused, and wounded.

## Life

By Deena

I still stand, unwithered and untouched  
I'm feeling a way that I have never felt before,  
Delicate but not weak  
As soft as a lily and as sharp as the thorns on a  
rose stem  
So confident but conscious  
As sweet as honeysuckles and as bitter as lime  
I have freedom  
I have my pride



## Try being me

By Erik

I am a homosexual high school senior. I have been out since my sophomore year. I don't get along with most of the people in my high school because of one reason, I'm gay, the only openly gay male in my high school.

My high school career has not been easy because of my openness. I have a few friends in my high school but not a lot. Most of them are younger than me; I only have a few friends that are seniors. I am never put in classes with them though. Whenever we work in groups I'm always left alone. I was always the victim of bullying in my school but it just got worse after I came out. I came out for one reason, I was in love. He was 19 and I was 15. He always helped me. But sadly he passed away on January 21<sup>st</sup> 2005. After that my life turned to shit. I was extremely unhappy. I got involved in many things, that I am ashamed of now. I thought it would help my pain but it didn't.

The name calling and pushes and shoves in the hallway started to be unbearable. I barely went to class to save myself mental anguish. They say "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt you." That can't be farther from the truth. The words seemed to hurt more. I was the only victim of all the homophobes in my school, and believe me there are a lot. I am the face of gay in my school. I used to cut gym all the time because I was always kicked out of the locker room until this year. All the boys would say "No Fag's Allowed." It used to hurt so much. None of them have changed only me. I have learned to ignore the words and constant stare downs. They always think its fun to yell at me and threaten my life when they're in cars. They can never say it to my face.

But the abuse had died down a lot after last year after some kid in my gym class told me that I should go kill myself because fags don't deserve to live. This kid made one big mistake, I had vowed to myself the next person to call me

a fag was going to pay for it. As soon as I heard him say that I turned around and said with a smirk on my face "What did you call me?" and of course trying to impress his friends that were standing and watching he said "A faggot" and I said "Oh really" he just smiled and laughed and then with all my might I swung my arm back and slapped him as hard as I could in his face. I hit him dead on his left cheek and he fell over and slid a few feet on the wood floor. His tears started to puddle on the floor and I said "Who's the fag now, huh?" all his friends stood in shock at what I had just done because I had never gotten in a fight in school since 4<sup>th</sup> grade. I looked at them and said "Let that be a lesson to you all next time I will hit you more then once."

I was sent to the principles office. My gym teacher said I had been abused by many of the boys for the whole year and my actions though violent were justified. The principle gave me no punishment just a warning. The next day the kids' mom came in. The kid, his mom, the principle, the assistant principle, the gym teacher all the deans my dad and myself all had a meeting. His mom said I should be suspended from school for hitting her son. Every one except the kid and his mom told his mother that the school security footage shows many instances of mental abuse and that my reaction was justified and he had not been completely innocent. Finally we came to an agreement that we each had to serve 2 days of detention. I happily went to both days with a smile on my face, and the deans made sure on those days we only had to stay for five minutes.

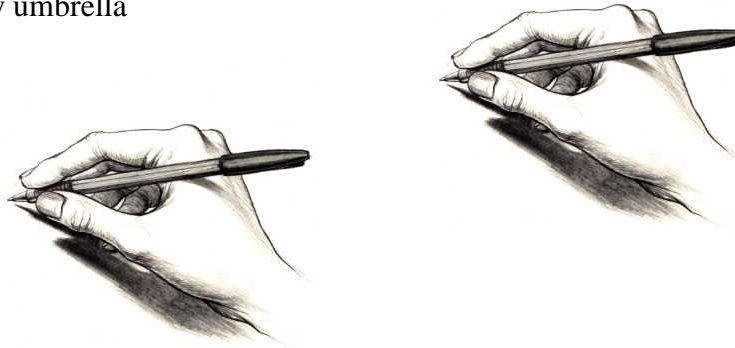
The kid had a red mark in the shape of my hand on his face for a week and that group of boys never bothered me again. It is hard being the only openly gay guy in your school, but I am glad I am that one.



## **Umbrella**

By 12vette

Yesterday I walked into a world of confusion and hopelessness  
Today I stand with dignity and strength before I was afraid  
Now I am able to look past tragedy and confront my fears  
I have become the answer to my own questions, and still I am not alone  
I now feel like I belong, my new and bright future makes up for a lifetime of darkness  
As I learn to help others cope while I deal with my own problems in 2006  
PFY became just a chill spot in 2007  
PFY became a shelter from the storm  
Everything I have experienced  
Everyone I've befriended  
I will carry with me and through the rain  
I will use it as my umbrella



## **Never**

By Nigel

Never Say I love you  
If you really don't care  
Never talk about feelings  
If they really aren't there  
Never hold my hand  
If you're going to break my heart  
Never say, "I'm going to..."  
If you don't plan to start  
Never look into my eyes  
If all you say are lies  
Never say hello  
When you really mean goodbye  
If you truly mean forever  
Then Promise me you'll try  
Never say forever  
In the end I'll only cry

## **As We Walked**

By Deena

As we walked aside the quiet stream  
Inhaling the scent of the lilies  
You gave me courage, you gave me love  
You gave me reality, and led me to a peaceful place  
The innocent kiss that I will miss  
Doesn't belong to me  
As we walked we held hands  
And for just one moment, I had feelings  
    I didn't understand  
You brought happiness into my life  
And finally I thought there would be no more strife  
As we walked you took me on a journey  
A journey to a place where I gained prosperity  
Not the material kind, but the kind within the mind  
As we walked toward the end of our trip,  
My love remained strong  
As you ran home to your wife and three kids

**THIS IS WHERE IT ALL CAME TOGETHER**

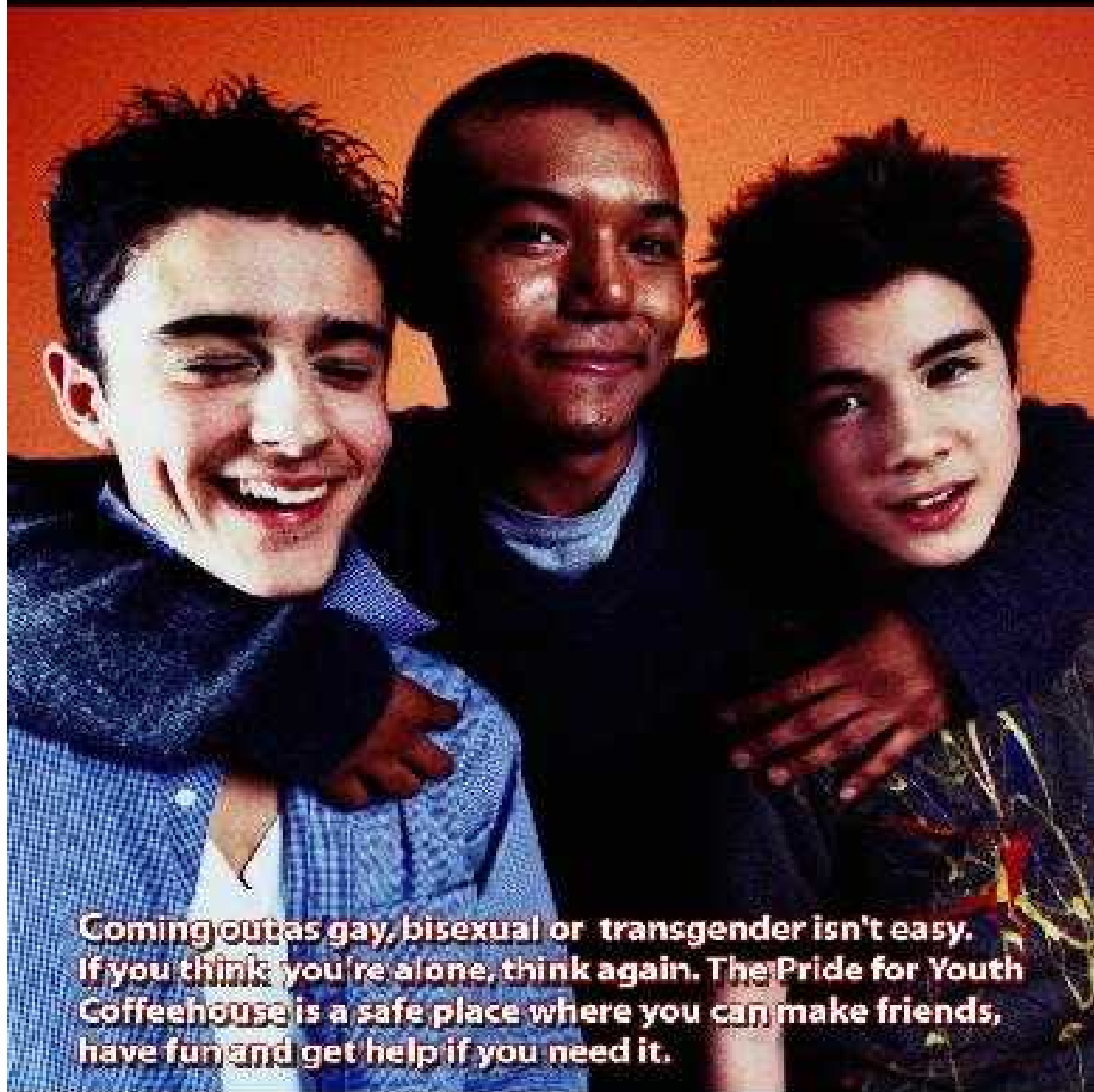


**Coming out as lesbian, bisexual or transgender isn't easy. But if you think you're alone, think again. The Pride for Youth Coffeehouse is a safe place where you can make friends, have fun and get help if you need it.**



Pride for Youth Coffeehouse  
2050 Bellmore Ave. Bellmore, NY 11710  
(516) 679-9000  
[www.prideforyouth.org](http://www.prideforyouth.org)

THIS IS WHERE IT ALL CAME TOGETHER



Coming out as gay, bisexual or transgender isn't easy. If you think you're alone, think again. The Pride for Youth Coffeehouse is a safe place where you can make friends, have fun and get help if you need it.



Pride for Youth Coffeehouse  
2050 Baltimore Ave. Baltimore, NY 11710  
(516) 670-0000  
[www.prideforyouth.org](http://www.prideforyouth.org)