

A&E The Hills Are Alive At Last

on the tube...

Here are a few Vermont Public Television programs of note for September 1998:

IN THE LIFE

3rd Annual "Lights, Camera, Activism" Episode Monday, August 31, 11 p.m. to midnight. Repeat broadcast on Saturday, Sept. 5, 12:30 a.m. late night

In the Life celebrates its third annual "Lights, Camera, Activism!" episode with a look at gay and lesbian independent film and video. From documentaries to experimental works to independent films, gay men and lesbians are producing work that is vastly different in scope and style. In each project, however, the mission to provide visibility and insight about the gay and lesbian community remains constant. In this episode, *In the Life* recognizes that mission with a look at these efforts.

BRIDESHEAD REVISITED

Encore of the classic starring Jeremy Irons and Anthony Andrews. Fridays at 10 p.m. from August 28 through October.

ALSO...

Be sure to check out the GAY TV Guide on page 18 of A&E in OITM for a full listing of times, dates, and channels for the

CHERIE & YOLANDA SHOW and... VERMONT RAINBOW CONNECTION

BY TIM MENK

On Sunday, July 19, an enthusiastic, intrepid band of gay men from all over Vermont met in Montpelier to formally launch a new State-wide gay men's singing group. Men hailing from Montpelier, St. Johnsbury, Jericho, Duxbury, Ryegate, McInDoe Falls and Holland form the core group at this time.

Former musical affiliations of some of the organizers include the Miami Gay Men's Chorus, The Handel and Haydn Society of Dartmouth College, The North Coast Gay Men's Chorus (Cleveland) and The Chatham Chorale (Cape Cod). Prospective members from all over Vermont have indicated an interest in joining the new chorus. As was well said in a recent edition of *Seven Days*, the Burlington-based weekly, "Hallelujah! Vermont finally has enough harmonious homos to start a chorus."

A Board of Directors has been formed, and non-profit corporate status is being sought for the new organization. The name chosen for the new group is "A Vocal Minority—The Vermont Gay Men's Chorus." The shared goal of the organizers is to form a high-quality, auditioned chorus consisting of 20-plus voices. It is anticipated that at the outset, the group will be made up of eight to ten performing members. Further plans include initial performances during the 1998 holiday season in St. Johnsbury, Montpelier, Burlington and other venues by request.

On Sunday, August 16, an open Board meeting was held in Montpelier, and Tim Tavcar, was elected as the Director of the new chorus. A resident of Montpelier, Tim obtained a Bachelor's of Music/Opera



Vermont Gay Men's Chorus — (left to right) Mark Violette, Noel Benoit, Tim Tavcar (director), Bill Pelton, Philip Springer, Rob Larabee, Yves Morrissette, Tim Fenk, Paul Amell, Charles Martin

Direction from Northwestern University, and earned a certificate in choral directing from Kent State University

Tim has been involved in choral music and musical theater for many years, most recently as both a performer and director with the Lost Nation Theater in Montpelier and The Vermont Opera Theater. He has a prior affiliation with The North Coast Gay Men's Chorus in Cleveland. Tim brings a host of talents, experience and enthusiasm to the new endeavor. Among other honors, Tim won the Bessie Award presented by Burlington City Arts, honoring his Outstanding Direction of *Side by Side* by Sondheim.

During a discussion of a possible performance by the new chorus on the steps of the Capitol Building in Montpelier, Tim commented that he thought this would be a particularly appropriate venue, because "our very existence is a political statement." The Board of Directors and organizers heartily concur with this view.

The steady growth of the gay and lesbian choral movement has played an integral role in the coming out process for the gay community into the broader society. Since the first concert by the Anna Crusis Women's Choir in Philadelphia in 1975, in performances throughout the world, gay and lesbian choral groups continue to demonstrate the extraordinarily diverse talents, broad musical tastes and wild senses of humor found within our vital (and increasing vocal) minority.

The most successful gay and lesbian choruses combine an eclectic mix of entertainment, whimsy, and serious subjects in their repertoires. Underlying all of these elements, the movement also provides a vehicle for increasing political awareness and visibility of g/l/b/t issues and sensibilities to the greater community in which we live and work. From the outset, the ever-growing, world-wide gay and lesbian choral movement has been at the

CALENDAR

12 SATURDAY

Ferrisburgh - BIKE FOR THE RIGHT TO MARRY. Fundraiser for Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force. Ride in scenic Champlain Valley. All experience levels welcome. FMI Call Nancy, 453-5420, or Susan, 877-3165

Plainfield, NH - 4pm, Cook-out, games and Bonfire at Kim & Carolyn's: 603-675-6865.

Williamstown - Dusk Women of the Woods End-of-Summer Bonfire. Bring the usual snacks and something to drink. Hot dogs, buns and fixings provided. Bring a lawn chair. FMI 229-0109

13 SUNDAY

Brattleboro - 5 pm Gay/Bi Men's

Discussion Group at Brattleboro Area AIDS Project's mtg room, 67 Main St. 4th Fl, downtown. FMI Carey (802) 254-4444

Burlington - Congressman Barney Frank will speak out against the current Congressional attacks on the human rights of the g/lbt community in America at a fundraising event for State Auditor Edward Flanagan in the Lake Champlain Room of the Radisson Hotel in downtown Burlington, at 1:00 pm. Suggested donation to the Flanagan re-election campaign is \$25. Call (802) 862-3203 for ticket information.

Montpelier - Vermont Gay Men's Chorus general meeting. UU Church, 4-7pm, This will be an informal meeting to talk about music, make suggestions, have a professional there to lis-

ten and make recommendations and actually sing!!!

15 TUESDAY

DEADLINE for October OITM.

16 WEDNESDAY

Brattleboro - Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force meeting. Planning for future panels and Gay Bingo. 7pm Brattleboro Savings and Loan Assoc. Community Room, 221 Main St. FMI Bari Shamas 387-5788

Fairlee - 8:30 am - 4 pm, 7th Annual VT HIV/AIDS Educators Training Conference Lake Morey Inn. FMI Jonathan (802) 862-1668

South Burlington - 16 and 17 from 7-9pm. Auditions for Theatre on a Shoestring's fall production of "P.S.

Your Cat Is Dead", by James Kirkwood Wednesday and Thursday, at the Holiday Inn, 1068 Williston Road. Need three men 30-40 years of age and one woman in her early 30's. This play contains some strong language and male nudity. Tentative production dates are mid- to late November. Rehearsals will be Wednesdays-Fridays from 7-9pm beginning September 23. Serious actors with a strong theatrical background strongly encouraged to audition. Behind-the-scenes crew are also desperately needed. If you are interested in auditioning or helping out backstage, please contact TOAS at 1-888-212-5884 or www.theatreshoe.com.

St. Johnsbury - 7:00pm, Public Forum on the Right To Marry at the Unitarian Church. Call 223-7620 for more info.

17 THURSDAY

St. Johnsbury - 4 - 6:30pm OPEN HOUSE, St. Johnsbury VT CARES office, 77 Eastern Avenue (above AJA Pizza).

21 MONDAY

Burlington - Dyke Talk at the Fight Back office, starts at 7, this month's subject, Dyke's and health.

22 TUESDAY

St. Albans - Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force representatives will be guests for their The Rotary Club meeting at noon.