

# Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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*celebrating the lives and times of rainbow folk in Grand River country*

## *Outlook Magazine*

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# OUTLOOK<sup>®</sup>

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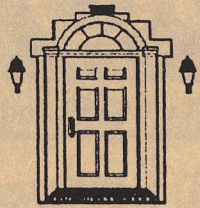
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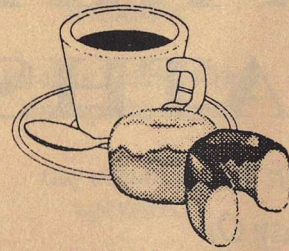
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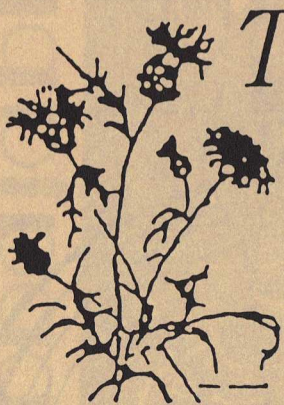
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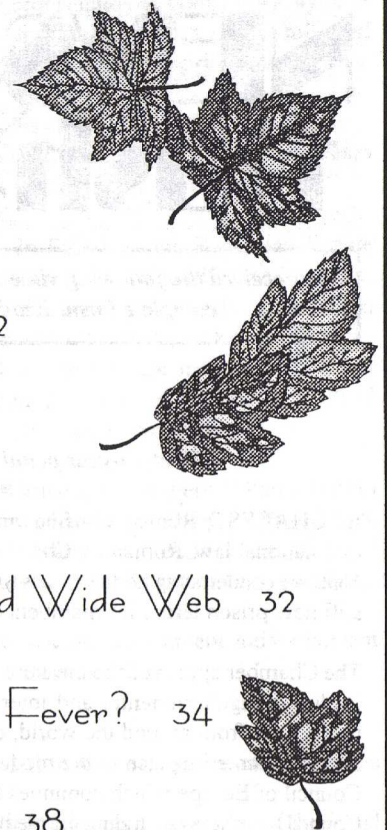
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# NEWS flash

## Romanian Parliament Votes To Expand Communist-Era Ban On Homosexuals

*We received the following via email and thought it important enough to reprint in its complete form. Read on and take action to stop this "reform."*

### *Election-year penal "reform" includes prison terms for gays and members of gay associations*

BUCHAREST, Romania -- Showing utter contempt for its obligations under European and international law, Romania's Chamber of Deputies voted overwhelmingly on September 10 to continue condemning homosexuals to prison for all consensual same-sex relations, and to establish stiff new prison terms for members of gay associations.

The Chamber approved the measure despite repeated appeals from Amnesty International, other leading nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations, and hundreds of concerned individuals from around the world, calling on Romania to end its oppressive treatment of gays and to assume its place in the modern world. Romania remains the only member state of the Council of Europe which continues to prosecute consensual same-sex relations. Several other Council members - including the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Denmark - have expressed strong objections in recent months to Romania's ill-treatment of gays and lesbians.

The anti-gay measures adopted by the Charter of Deputies last month are more severe than those enacted by Romania's former Communist regime.

These measures were drafted by Romania's new justice minister, Ion Predescu, as an effort to revise Article 200 of the penal code (which specifically criminalizes homosexuality) as part of a larger penal code "reform" process. Mr. Predescu's proposal, presented in the midst of a heated presidential and parliamentary electoral campaign, received the support of the ruling government party (PDSR) and an overwhelming majority of opposition parties.

The text approved by the Chamber of Deputies last month read as follows:

1. Sexual relations between persons of the same-sex are punishable by six months to three years imprisonment.
2. Sexual relations between persons of the same sex, taking place in public, or producing a public scandal, are punishable by one to five years imprisonment.
3. If the act provided for in paragraph 1 is committed against a minor, it is punishable by two to seven years imprisonment and the denial of rights.
4. If the act provided for in Paragraph 1 is committed under duress or against a person unable to defend himself or herself, or to express his or her will, are punishable with three to ten years imprisonment and the denial of rights.

5. If the act provided for in Paragraphs 2 or 3 are causing serious injury to bodily integrity or to health, the penalty is five to fifteen years imprisonment and the denial of rights. If it is followed by the victim's death or suicide, the penalty is fifteen to twenty-five years imprisonment and the denial of rights.
6. Enticing or seducing a person to practice same-sex acts, as well as propaganda, associations or any other forms of proselytizing with the same aim are punishable by one to five years imprisonment.

The penal code reform process is not yet completed!!! In February, the Romanian Senate approved a version of Article 200 that is similar, but not identical, to that passed by the Chamber. Once the Chamber of Deputies completes the action on the entire penal code, a mediation committee comprised of representatives from the two chambers must meet to work out differences between their versions of Article 200. Local human rights monitors fear that the Senate will ultimately adopt the version drafted by the Chamber of Deputies, given the tremendous political pressure to finish action on the penal code before general elections in November.

While the Romanian Constitution allows the President of Romania or members of Parliament to refer draft laws to the Constitutional Court for review, the Chamber of Deputies has already declared its challenging the constitutionality of the Chamber's anti-gay measures. Members of the Parliament may overturn Constitutional Court decisions with a 2/3 vote of both chambers.

Help is urgently needed to put maximum pressure on the Romanian Government and Parliament during this critical moment for the rights of Romania's sexual minorities!

#### Suggested Action:

1. Send letters of concern and protest (via fax, email or post) to the government officials in the list below. Your letters should:
  - urge members of the Chamber of Deputies to reject the Draft Law on the Revision of the Penal Code when it is presented to them for a final vote;
  - call on Romanian Parliament to ensure that future penal laws do not place individuals at risk solely because of their sexual orientation; and
  - urge the President, the Prime Minister and members of the Parliament to ensure that Romania honours its commitment to decriminalize homosexual acts in private between consenting adults, made in October 1993 when it became a member of the Council of Europe.
2. Send copies of your letters to Romanian Diplomatic Representatives in your own country.
3. Inform, through letters and/or personal contacts, your Ministry of Foreign Affairs and your local member of European Parliament. Romania is a member of the Council of Europe and has officially expressed its will to become a member of the European Union and NATO.
4. Meet with the Romanian Ambassador in your country; and/or
5. Organize a demonstration at the Romanian Embassy in your country.

Please feel free to contact ACCEPT (Bucharest Acceptance Group) if you would like further information.

\*The Bucharest Acceptance Group  
Ion Iacos  
APADOR - Romanian Helsinki Committee  
120 Calea Victoriei, Bucharest 70179  
Phone: +40-1-312-4528 Fax: +40-1-312-4443  
email: ion@apador.sfos.ro



Send your letters of protest to people on the list below Your involvement could make a world of difference!

The Permanent Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies  
Aleea Patriarhiei nr. 1  
Bucuresti, Romania  
or email to [depro@dias.vsat.ro](mailto:depro@dias.vsat.ro)

Attention: Mr. Adrian Natase

The Permanent Bureau of the Senate  
Piata Revolutiei nr. 1  
Sector I  
Bucuresti, Romania or email to [sentro@dias.vsat.ro](mailto:sentro@dias.vsat.ro)

Attention: Mr. Oliviu Gherman

The President of Romania  
Palatul Controceni,  
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Attention: Mr. Ion Iliescu; President

The Government of Romania  
Piata Victoriei nr. 1  
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Attention: Mr. Nicolaie Vacaroiu; P.M.

The Party of Social Democracy in Romania (PSDR)  
email to [psdr@kappa.ro](mailto:psdr@kappa.ro)

Please remember to send copies of your letters to the Diplomatic Representatives of Romania in your country. Thank you in advance for your continued solidarity and support!



### U.S. SENATE PASSES ANTI-GAY MARRIAGE BILL

The U.S. Senate dealt a double blow to gay-rights activists September 10, voting to reject same-sex marriage in federal law and killing a separate bill that would have barred job discrimination against gays.

The Senate approved the Defence of Marriage Act, 85-14, sending it to President Bill Clinton, who said he will sign it. The House of Representatives approved the same bill by a 5-to-1 margin in July.

"This should not be cause for any sort of discrimination or gay bashing," Clinton said, adding that he regretted that the discrimination bill had failed.

Conservatives hailed both votes as validation of their views.

"This is a string of major victories for the pro-family movement that demonstrates on the threshold of a major presidential election that the political debate is moving in our direction," said Ralph Reed, leader of the Christian Coalition.

"The drive for the acceptance of same-sex or same-gender marriage should serve as an indication that we have drawn too

close to the edge and that we as a people are on the verge of trying so hard to please a few that we destroy the values and spiritual beliefs of the many," said Senator Robert Byrd (Democrat, W. Virginia.)

The marriage bill defines marriage in federal law as a legal union between one man and one woman and allows a state to refuse to honour a same-sex marriage performed in any other state. States would still have the authority to legalize gay marriages, but the federal government would not recognize them.

"The traditional family has stood for 5,000 years. It is the oldest institution that exists," said Senator Phil Gramm (Republican, Texas.) "Are we so wise today that we are ready to reject 5,000 years of recorded history? I don't think so."

Twenty-six of the Senate's 47 Democrats joined Republicans in voting for the marriage bill but also voted for the anti-discrimination measure. The two votes underscored the political predicament faced by senators who historically have supported gay rights causes.

Supporters called the bill a pre-emptive strike against a lawsuit that went to trial that could lead Hawaii to become the first state to issue marriage licences to gay couples.

The Senate voted 50-49 to reject the discrimination bill, which would have forbid employers from using sexual orientation as a basis for hiring, firing, promotion or compensation.

(Associated Press)

### PANEL NIXES GAY BENEFITS

Air Canada is within its rights to refuse to extend pension benefits to gay employees' spouses, a Canadian Human

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Rights Tribunal has ruled.

In a decision released September 13, the panel said Air Canada can't be compelled to extend the benefits until the federal government changes the Income Tax Act and the Pension Benefits Act.

"I'm disappointed, especially because we lost on a technicality," said Niels Laessoe, the Air Canada ticketing agent who brought the complaint after his live-in lover was refused benefits in 1991.

The panel also suggested the complaint should have been filed as a Charter argument directed at the Income Tax Act and the Pension Benefits Act, noting the "result might have been different."

In the ruling, the panel acknowledged the discrimination brought hardship to gays and lesbians whose partners aren't covered by benefits, but noted Air Canada has extended other benefits such as prescription and dental insurance to gay spouses.

Only 200 of its 18,000 employees have come forward to claim those benefits.

However, Air Canada successfully argued it could not extend pension benefits because the Income Tax and Pension Benefits Act defines spouse as a member of the opposite sex. It is, however, willing to do so once the legislation changes.

"That's just a way of avoiding the issue," said Lisa Kelly of the Canadian Auto Workers, which argued the case on Laessoe's behalf. "Other companies, and even the Ontario government, extend pension benefits by setting up a separate fund."

The CAW and representatives of gay and lesbian groups called on the feds to redefine 'spouse.'

Laessoe pays 6% of his salary into a plan like other employees, noted Cheryl Kryzaniwsky, president of CAW Local

2213, representing Air Canada agents. He should be entitled to the same benefits, she said.

Kelly said the union is considering an appeal.

(Toronto Sun)

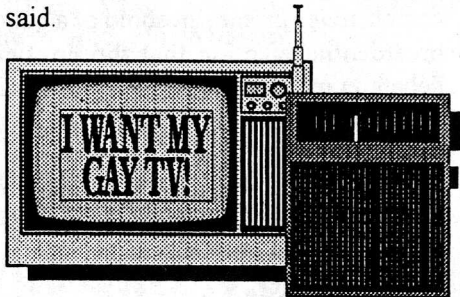
### GAY AND LESBIAN JOURNALISTS GATHER IN MIAMI

The 6 year old National Lesbian and Gay Journalist Association held it's annual convention in Miami, bringing together more than 400 journalists from across the United States and Canada.

Under the banner "Making Waves," gay and lesbian professionals in broadcast, print and electronic media listened to speeches, attended seminars, mingled, networked, and flirted their way through an annual event that gets bigger every year.

Guest speakers at the convention included National Public Radio's Ray Suarez, writer/producer Linda Ellerbee, NBC Vice President Cheryl Gould, and CBS News President Andrew Hayward.

Despite the strides made in the workplace and what many see as progress in the way the mainstream media handles gay and lesbian issues, Allen Levy, an assignment editor at Miami's WPLG Channel 10, said being openly gay is still an issue in too many newsrooms. "It's still something that has to be worked on," he said.



### 100 STUDENTS WALK OUT OF CLASS TO PROTEST SUSPENSION

BURLINGTON, VT. - Classes at Burlington High School in Vermont were disrupted on September 13 by a walk-out of more than 100 students protesting the suspension of 15-year-old Matt Stickney. Stickney has been repeatedly suspended for arriving to school in a dress, make-up and a wig.

"This is who I am," Stickney told the Associated Press, wearing a dark blouse and flowered skirt. "If they're going to kick me out every day of the week, this is going to happen every day."

School officials say the clothing worn by the sophomore is disruptive to classroom discipline and is therefore a violation of the district's dress code.

100 students left class to protest Stickney's suspensions. Many boys showed up to school sporting pink lipstick and girls arrived wearing button-down shirts and ties in a demonstration of solidarity. "I'm 17. If I'm going to wear a leotard, they're not going to stop me," Louis Gilbeau, a junior, told the news bureau.

Update: (Sept. 19) A Vermont boy, whose repeated suspension over wearing a dress to school prompted a cross-dressing solidarity walkout by more than 100 high school classmates has been listed as a runaway with Burlington City Police.

Matt Stickney, 15, failed to appear at a scheduled meeting with school officials and was reported as a runaway. The Boston Globe reports Burlington Police Lt. Emmet Helrich said his department has yet to receive word on the boy's whereabouts.

The story has been picked up and reported all over the country. "This has been such a media circus," Karen Eade, executive director of Outright Vermont, a gay services organization, told the Globe. "We have a young person who is at great risk right now. There are a million different reasons a young person would feel isolated and condemned at this turn of events."

### LOS ANGELES RADIO STATION BROADCASTS ANTI-GAY EPITHETS..KLSX-FM VOWS TO CONTINUE ON-AIR SLURS

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) blasted Los Angeles talk radio station KLSX-FM September 17 for its repeated use of anti-gay epithets. GLAAD also denounced the radio station's threat to continue broadcasting the defamatory slurs.

In a strongly-worded letter sent to KLSX on September 6, GLAAD alerted the station's general manager, Bob Moore, to two recent anti-gay incidents that occurred during "The Regular Guys," an early afternoon call-in show with Larry Wachs and Eric Haessler. On August 8, following a heated on-air exchange, Wachs and Haessler yelled, "kiss my ass, you faggot!" at a caller. Four days later, on August 12, they described people that might choose a particular fashion look, saying, "they are junkies, they are fags."

"The word 'faggot' is a hateful and bigoted slur that is meant to hurt and insult gay men," said John Henning, Chair of GLAAD's Los Angeles Monitoring and Response Committee. "We cannot understand why KLSX proudly broadcasts words that gaybashers use to perpetuate fear, intolerance and anti-gay and -lesbian



violence. It is precisely this brand of irresponsible radio that puts the lives of gay men and lesbians in jeopardy."

On September 16, a GLAAD representative was invited on "The Regular Guys" show to discuss GLAAD's letter to the station. Wachs used the opportunity to boast, "I understand fully well what fag and faggot means. I know full well, and that's why I use them. I got news for you, I will continue to use words as I feel necessary."

"There are other racial and ethnic slurs that you can bet no radio station would want to broadcast," said Henning. "It's about time KLSX-FM's management educates it's staff, and these schlock-jocks in particular, that anti-gay slurs are just as unacceptable."

### THE FIRST NATIONAL DEBATE ON HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS IN PORTUGAL

On the 18th of September, ILGA Portugal held the first national debate on gay rights in Lisbon.

The president of the Portuguese Chapter of Amnesty International, and a member of parliament of the governing Socialist Party were among the people invited.

The Socialist Member of Parliament, Nuno Baltazar Mendes, made it very clear that this government is going to reject ILGA-Portugal's proposal to include "sexual orientation" in to the Constitution's Article 13. (Article 13 sets down criteria by which nobody can be discriminated.) Having some trouble saying the word 'homosexual', MP Mendes, explicitly

stated that Portugal was not prepared to accept gay marriage, arguing that this is what changing Article 13 would lead to.

The Socialist MP was widely criticized by the public present at the debate, and often refuted in the excuse that this was "a very delicate matter" which at this time was "neither fundamental nor indispensable." Mendes insisted that the present constitution already forbids any kind of discrimination, and that including sexual orientation isn't necessary, only to admit a few seconds later that Portuguese Law has discriminatory, unconstitutional legislation such as the Age of Consent Law and the Homosexuality with Minors Law.

The minority Green Party's MP, Heloisa Apolonia, stated that although discrimination against homosexuals is very real, "there is a very slim chance" the proposal would pass. The Green Party has supported ILGA-Portugal in efforts to have 'sexual orientation' included in Article 13. In fact, the Green Party had already made their own proposal including 'sexual orientation' in Article 13.

On a positive note, the ILGA-Portugal and the Socialist Lisbon Municipality are negotiating an office space for the LesBiGay Organization. The space, belonging to the Lisbon Municipality, is an apartment in the centre of Lisbon and shall be rented for a symbolic amount. The Culture Department of Lisbon City Hall has also agreed to support ILGA-Portugal's first Lisbon Lesbian and Gay Film Festival to take place in September 1997.

(Goncalo Diniz, ILGA-Portugal)

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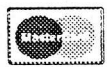
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## SWEDEN: IRANIAN GAYS DON'T HAVE IT BAD

The government of Sweden says Iranian gays and lesbians don't have it so bad and that periodic news reports that another gay man has been put to death for the crime of homosexuality are false.

At the urging of gay activists, the government declassified a report on the topic written by Sweden's embassy in Teheran. The report had been used to deny a gay Iranian asylum in Sweden.

Although Iranian law allows the death penalty for gay or lesbian sex, in reality homosexuals are not actively persecuted, the report said.

"The risk for legal proceedings or harassment is utterly minimal as long as the homosexual relationship is handled in a discreet manner," the embassy said. "The strict regulations for submission of evidence - four male witnesses to the homosexual penetration or four confessions from each of the active partners - renders a sentence for homosexuality almost impossible in practice.

"The police...do not take active measures to investigate the existence of homosexuality nor do they actively hunt homosexuals," the report continued. "All in all, the situation in practice in Iran is drastically different from the impression conveyed by the...Penal Code.

"As far as the behavior of homosexual persons can be taken as relevant indication about the degree of oppression of homosexuals, the impression is that the situation in Iran is relatively tolerant, since homosexuality is by no means unusual in Iran," the diplomats said. "Certain 'health clubs' in Teheran, for example, are known to be frequented by

homosexuals. Furthermore, it is by no means unusual to meet openly homosexual persons in otherwise heterosexual private circumstances like social events.

"Judging by appearances, diplomats with a homosexual orientation posted in Iran have not had any problems meeting 'partners'. If anything, the situation is rather that homosexuals can conceal their orientation more easily in Iran than, for example, in Sweden, as physical contact between men - embraces, cheek-kissing, holding hands - is culturally accepted behavior."

"According to information from usually very reliable sources, no homosexuals have been executed in Iran in the last few years," the report stated. "In order to risk police sanctions - maltreatment or a short time in custody, regardless of the fact that the penalty according to the law is death or whipping - a homosexual couple must behave with great indiscretion, almost provocatively, in a public place."

(Rex Wockner)

## MAINE MECHANIC FACES CIVIL RIGHTS SUIT

The Maine Attorney General's Office has filed a civil rights suit against an Ogunquit auto mechanic who allegedly harassed and threatened a gay man at a service station.

The complaint filed under the Maine Civil Rights Act, alleges mechanic Peter M. Arsenault verbally harassed Charles L. Waite III and threatened him with a hammer.

Waite reportedly went into a Mobil Station to ask why his car had not been towed, as permitted under his AAA service agreement. Arsenault allegedly ordered Waite off the property while holding a

hammer in his hand and said, "All you faggots ever want is something for free."

The complaint filed in York County Superior Court says Arsenault admitted to police to making both the harassing comments and to threatening Waite with a hammer. Arsenault later denied the allegations.

The suit is asking the court to consider a civil penalty of as much as \$5,000 for each civil rights violation.

(out.com)

## IBM ANNOUNCES HEALTH BENEFITS FOR GAY SPOUSES

International Business Machines, Corp., the sixth-largest company in the U.S., announced its intention September 19 to extend health-care coverage and other benefits to the partners of its gay and lesbian employees. The decision applies to all 110,000 American employees of IBM, said company officials.

"Big Blue" joins hundreds of American businesses that have offered benefits to the

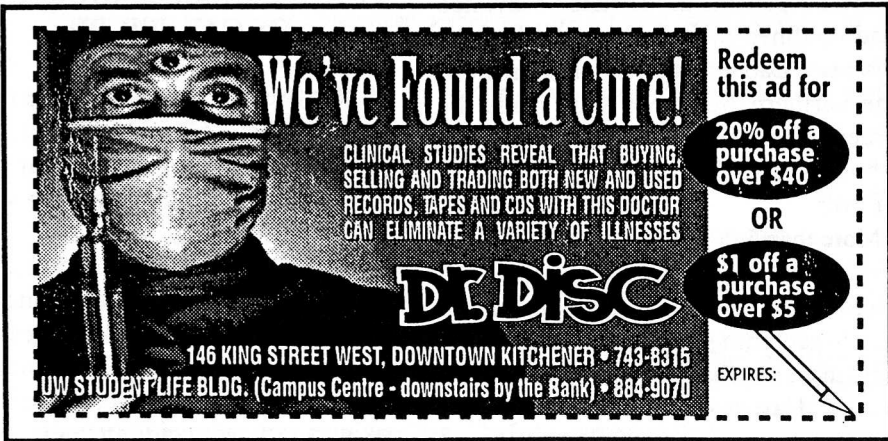
unmarried partners of its gay employees, but it is by far the largest company ever to do so. IBM's plan applies only to its gay couples because straight couples have the option of getting married, company officials said.

Gay-rights activists sought for comment were ecstatic at the news, the Washington Post reports. "This is a monumental step forward," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. "IBM is one of the oldest and most-recognized companies in the United States. It sends a strong message to a lot of other companies."

Conservative groups expressed profound regret at the decision, admitting IBM's move would have a powerful effect on the policies of unrelated companies throughout the country.

IBM officials noted a number of their fiercest competitors - Apple Computer, Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft, and Xerox, among them - already offer similar benefits. Spokespersons for the company said they did not want to be in a position of losing talented workers to rivals.

(out.com)



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NEWSPAPER**

Florida health officials confirmed September 19 a confidential list of nearly 4,000 St. Petersburg area residents who have tested positive for the AIDS virus, was illegally acquired from the Pinellas County Health Department and mailed to the Tampa Tribune.

Along with the computer disk of names, the newspaper received an anonymous letter claiming an employee at the county health department had been trying unsuccessfully to distribute the list to people at a Tampa Bay gay bar.

A spokesperson for the Tampa Tribune said the paper never had any intention of publishing the list and turned it immediately over to police. State and local authorities are investigating the matter.

(out.com)

**NIGERIAN GOVERNOR ORDERS  
ARREST OF AIDS PATIENTS**

A Nigerian navy captain has ordered that all AIDS patients in his state be arrested and confined to curb the spread of the disease. Captain Joe Kalu-Igboamah of the northern Adamawa state made the order September 27 when he was visiting a hospital for AIDS patients in the capital of Yola.

More than 5,000 people in Nigeria have died from AIDS in the past six years. The disease has spread especially fast since 1992, according to the health ministry, with more than half the deaths from AIDS recorded last year.

(Reuters)

**ONTARIO BOARD OF INQUIRY  
EXTENDS DEFINITION OF  
SPOUSE IN MUNICIPAL ACT -  
FEDERAL ACTION REQUIRED  
ON PENSION BENEFITS**

In a far-reaching decision, the Ontario Board of Inquiry has ordered that the definition of "spouse" and "marital status" in the Ontario Human Rights Code "be read down to exclude the discriminatory effect of the words "of the opposite sex" be struck out of the definition of "spouse" in the Municipal Act and the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act.

The Board was ruling on the validity of the denial of same-sex benefits to complainants Bill Dwyer and Mary-Woo Sims. The Board also ruled that the words "of the opposite sex" be struck out of provincial pension legislation, but this order was made conditional upon a similar amendment being made to the federal Income Tax Act. Responsibility now rests with the federal government to stop the discrimination in the field of pensions by amending the Income Tax Act.

(EGALE)

**STUDY CONFIRMS HIGH RATE  
OF GAY SUICIDE**

A study recently submitted into public record at Alberta's Provincial Legislature confirms young gay men are far more likely to attempt suicide than are young straight men.

The study, conducted almost 5 years ago by the University of Calgary, randomly surveyed 750 men between the ages of 18 and 27. It found that gay and bisexual men were almost 14 times more at risk for making a serious suicide attempt.

Pierre Tremblay, co-author of the report,

said it's not surprising young gays attempt suicide. "They live in a world where the message is just hatred - and kids are really sensitive to that - of knowing that if anyone knew what they are they're toast," he told the Associated Press.

One of the studies most intriguing findings placed celibate gay men in the highest risk category. This suggests, said some sociologists, that men least inclined to act on their same-sex attraction were the most prone to self-loathing and violence against themselves.

**MENSA IN HOT WATER OVER  
ANOTHER BRILLIANT IDEA**

Mensa, the 50-year-old international club founded exclusively for the brightest 2 percent of the human population, is under fire for an article that appeared in the August/September issue of "HmMMM", one of the group's newsletters.

The San Francisco Examiner reports that one year after a Mensa member suggested

"humanely dispatching" the "mentally infirm", R. Robin Ryher, a Mensa member from Texas, is advocating a permanent solution for gay people.

Ryher writes in the newsletter, "America needs to get off it's butt and tell these purveyors of perversities to get out of our faces and go away. Permanently."

According to its literature, Mensa has three stated purposes: to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity, to encourage research in the nature, characteristics and uses of intelligence, and to promote stimulating intellectual and social opportunities for its members.

No reference to advocating Genocide was mentioned. As the Examiner so eloquently intoned, "Is there something about scoring in the top 2 percent of a multiple choice test that gives people ideas about final solutions?"

(out.com)

**Movie Review**

**BOUND DIRECTED BY LARRY AND ANDY WACHOWSK**

Straight male directors and screenwriters sometimes have this thing about lesbians. Take Paul Verhoeven and Joe Eszterhas, for example. They are obsessed.

Not more than a minute or two of "Showgirls" went by without the scantily clad, cat-fight-intensive dancing gals insinuating or acting out lesbian lust. Of course, nearly all of it came across as so totally fake that it became utterly hilarious.

"Bound" could have been similarly absurd. It concerns a mobster's girlfriend who falls in love with the dyke ex-con next door, who just happens to be played by Gina Gershon, the crankiest starlet of "Showgirls." They secretly pair up, steal the mobster's loot and then do their damndest to drive away into the sunset. This plot has all the makings of another unintentional farce.

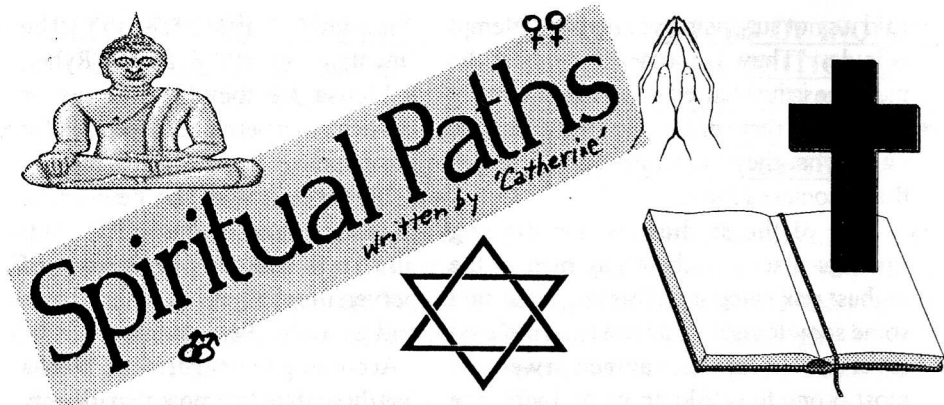
Instead, "Bound" is a fascinating hybrid - Playboy Channel thriller meets feminist lesbian love story. Without pandering, it attempts to get just about everybody off.

And it may just do that. The directorial debut of the screenwriters Larry and Andy Wachowski was a big hit at the last San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. It also has the participation of local lesbian "sexpert" Susie Bright, who serves as a consultant to ensure the sex scenes and chemistry between the women were not just steamy but also realistic. Unlike "The Birdcage", a film that leaves most straight moviegoers tickled pink and many gay men embarrassed, "Bound" may become the first lesbian/gay crossover hit where characters of the same gender have active sex lives that the camera actually captures, rather than turning away from at the first suggestion of a kiss.

The Wachowski brothers are to be applauded for a film that it also nearly as stylishly funny as it is sexy and fast paced.

-Barry Walters, San Francisco Examiner





At least since the beginning of time, humankind has been seeking answers to the questions of life and coming up with spiritual answers. As long as there have been societies, people have shared their answers with others or enforced them. Such has been the history of religious institutions. The great paradox of organized religion has been the need that people found to resort to hatred and violence to serve their God or gods of love and peace.

In this series, we will explore some of the religious paths that provide viable alternatives for gays and lesbians. The articles are part fact and part personal commentary, the intent being to provide you with some different viewpoints and to encourage you to seek out answers for yourself. The spiritual paths being examined in this series will include: Christianity, Judaism, Social Responsibility Faiths, Buddhism, Krishna Consciousness, Yoga, Paganism, Generic Spirituality and Mysticism. The purpose of these discussions is based on the following question: "Can I be gay or lesbian and still live a spiritual life?" The answer is "YES!"

### Part 1 - Christianity

For thousands of years, few people knew that there was more to Christianity than the Holy Scriptures and the voluminous materials produced by the multitude of churches derived from that basic work.

In the 1940's, scrolls began to materialize that were dated as far back as the accepted gospels that tell a very different story of Christ. The "Nag Hammadi", named after the town in Northern Egypt where they were unearthed, are often referred to as the Gnostic Gospels. While affirming many of Christ's teachings in the accepted scripture, these gospels expose a rich and varied tradition that formed the first three hundred years after the death of Christ.

Many of these gospels refer to a Mother / Father God, to sexual equality, to reincarnation, to female apostles and a female priesthood. Some even make reference to the evil, power hungry church of Rome. There are those who believe that these Gnostic Gospels hold more truly to the teachings of Christ than the accepted

scriptures.

Many scholars today consider what we call the Christian church to actually be more of a Paulist church, following the teachings of Saint Paul, often in direct conflict with the teachings of Christ. Saint Paul, Saul of Tarsus, never knew Jesus. In fact, according to the Bible, he was a persecutor of the Christians who saw a vision of Christ while journeying in the desert and was called upon to spread the word.

The successive books of the New Testament tell of Paul's tireless effort to convert the heathens. To further his work, Paul placed negative judgements on many of the practices of the pagans he was trying to convert. These practices include sexual equality, a female priesthood, and, of course, the practice of homosexuality.

Paul also taught those that would listen that Christ would be returning "in their lifetimes". How strange that generations have clung to the teachings of a man whose testable teachings proved invalid.

After the death of Christ, Christianity spread through the Mediterranean region. It was only the orthodox churches, centered in Rome and Constantinople, that looked to a consistent patriarchal doctrine. Between the first General Council of Christendom at Nicea in 325 A.D. and the last Council in Constantinople in 869 A.D., the orthodox clergy selected the books that justified their power. They have even been accused of

altering those books to reduce inconsistencies and further strengthen their hold on power and "the truth".

Historians agree that to effectively wipe out dissent, the orthodox church staged massive and bloody massacres of those who taught heretical (read that as "divergent") religious doctrine. So successful were they that it took over sixteen hundred years before copies of the forbidden gospels were even unearthed and made public.

It seems incredible to think of the violence and bloodshed perpetuated by the protectors of the faith, all in the name of gentle Jesus, who taught peace, forgiveness and the inappropriateness of judging others.

Despite the skeletons in the Christian closet, it would be blatant ignorance to suggest that there have not been gay men and lesbians who have been among the millions who have found rewarding spiritual lives in every denomination of Christianity. Individuals have always had the ability to ignore those aspects of a teaching that they find unfulfilling. Christianity, in every form, offers rich opportunities for community, ritual and the teaching of solid ethical values. It is only when an individual finds oneself being judged and found wanting that the specific church or denomination becomes, without a doubt, the wrong place for that gay person to be.

Gay and lesbian Christians who feel divided by their gay identity and traditional teachings usually do well to

check out parallel possibilities. Roman Catholics often find the more open-minded Episcopal (or English Catholic) church easier to digest. Many Episcopal priests are upfront about their identities, and some Episcopal churches have very large gay congregations. Eastern Orthodox Catholic churches vary greatly in this respect.

Protestants often find a wide range of divergent views not only between denominations, but even among individual churches. The United Church of Christ is probably the most progressive of mainline Christianity. It has ordained openly gay ministers and accepted into its fold largely gay congregations. The Society of Friends (Quakers) and the Unity Christian Church are so marginally Christian that they will be discussed separately later in the series.

Since 1968, when Reverend Troy Perry founded the first Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), predominantly gay Christian churches and gay versions of traditional Christian churches have been popping up all over. Metropolitan Community Churches preach gay acceptance and a sort of generic Protestantism with responsible outreach within the gay community.

Dignity, a gay Roman Catholic group based in the U.S., celebrates Mass and offers congregational services to many Catholics. Actions by the Vatican over recent years have been making open support more difficult. The Episcopal Church has an easier time with Integrity, its gay offspring. But the mother churches will have little or nothing to do with Acceptance (Southern Baptist), Affirmation (Mormon), Emergence (Christian Science), and Presbyterians for Gay/Lesbian Concerns.

Gay men and lesbians seeking fulfillment in gay Christian groups find strength in the combination of a loving Christian community and the ability to stretch conservative doctrine to bless their identities and allow personal interpretation. Certainly, if Christian churches have found biblical interpretations through the years to justify the practices of slavery, apartheid, nuclear armament, biological warfare and genocide, all in the name of Jesus, stretching the word to bless an individual's preference of gender to love hardly seems like such a big deal.

**Next Month: Part 2 - Judaism and The Social Responsibility Faiths**

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty"

-Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

## What's Cookin'?

### Pumpkin Soup

2 tablespoons butter  
2 small onions, thinly sliced and pushed out into rings  
1 lb. pumpkin flesh, chopped  
5 cups chicken stock  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 celery stalk chopped  
1 large potato, chopped  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1/8 teaspoon Tabasco sauce  
1 teaspoon paprika  
1 cup heavy cream

In a large, heavy saucepan, melt the butter over moderate heat. When the foam subsides, add the onions and pumpkin and cook them, stirring occasionally, for 5-7 minutes or until the onions are soft

and translucent, but not brown. Gradually stir in the chicken stock, salt, celery, potato, lemon juice, Tabasco and paprika. Increase the heat to moderately high and bring the mixture to a boil, stirring constantly. Reduce the heat to low, cover the pan and simmer the soup for 30-35 minutes, or until the pumpkin and vegetables are very tender. Remove the pan from the heat and pour soup through a strainer into a large mixing bowl, pressing down on the vegetable pulp with the back of a wooden spoon to extract the juices. Discard the pulp. Stir the cream into the soup, return the soup to a medium sized saucepan and place over moderate heat, stirring constantly for 6 minutes or until the soup is very hot but not boiling. Remove the pan from the heat and pour the soup into a warmed soup tureen. Serve immediately. Makes 4-6 servings.

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# ENTERTAINMENT TV - MUSIC - STAGE - CONCERT LISTINGS

## News

### Will Ellen Open TV Closet?

(Associated Press) The ABC sitcom *Ellen* may reveal its title character as a lesbian this season, according to *TV Guide*.

The producers of the 3-year-old sitcom, led by star Ellen DeGeneres herself, are lobbying for the character she plays to come out of the closet - and have paved the way for this revelation in the season's first nine episodes, the magazine reports in its September 28 issue.

In one episode, the character Ellen Morgan is standing behind a closet door in her new house. On stepping out of the closet, she says, "Yeah, there's plenty of room, but it's not very comfortable."

Later in that episode, entitled *Splitsville, Man*, her parents announce plans to divorce and she says: 'How do you think I feel? What if I said something shocking to you - like my whole life has been a lie and I'm really...left-handed.'

DeGeneres' own sexuality has been the subject of

speculation in and out of the gay community, but she has refused to discuss the matter.

She also declined to comment on the article through her manager, Arthur Imparato, *TV Guide* said.

"If you look hard at the whole series, there are a lot of elements over the years that could be laying the groundwork for that story line," Imparato told the magazine.



An ABC spokesman didn't immediately return a telephone message seeking comment.

"We don't comment on rumours and speculation," Disney Television spokeswoman Heidi Trotta said. Disney Television produces the series through its Touchstone subsidiary.

The storyline turn, if it happens, could put new heat on the Walt Disney Co., which also owns ABC.

While a long-time proponent of traditional family values, Disney has been

attacked by Christian conservatives in the past year who complained about nonfamily-friendly movies released through Disney subsidiary Miramax and the recent extension of health benefits to same-sex partners of employees, among other issues.

Meanwhile, the Philadelphia Inquirer reports that Amanda Bearse, who plays Marcy on Fox's *Married With Children* is pushing to guest-star on *Ellen* as Ellen Morgan's first lesbian date.

While no one at ABC or Disney is speaking about the matter officially, the Inquirer sites unnamed sources who say the character played by Ellen Degeneres will come out of the closet during the February ratings sweeps.

Bearse, 38, who raises her 3-year-old daughter with her partner Dell Pearce, told the Inquirer, "It's my dream to play a lesbian character. I could bring a lot to the role. I'm jealous that Ellen could get to do it. I'd love to play one of her dates. Comedically, we could make something click here."

Despite the possibility of some advertiser resistance, both ABC and Disney back the 'coming out' move.

**Somerville Loses Label**  
(Rex Wockner) Gay pop singer Jimmy Somerville has been dumped by his record label, London, reported London's *The Pink Paper*.

The newspaper said Somerville is "hardly in the slipstream of a recent chart assault" and has been drawing "thin" audiences at club performances.

"Now sans label, Somerville has effectively been reduced to the status of a novelty act," *The Pink Paper* said.

But Somerville's manager Carol Crabtree, said the former Communard will release a new album "hopefully before Christmas."

## Movies

**The Trials of Oscar Wilde**, directed by Ken Hughes. A chronicle of Oscar Wilde's libel suit against the Marquis of Queensbury, this film reveals the tragic turn of events for the poet resulting from the clash. Peter Finch stars as Wilde, with Yvonne Mitchell, John Fraser and Lionel Jeffries. (UK, 1960) - Showcase, Channel 39, October 16 at 11 p.m.

**Kiss of the Spiderwoman**, directed by Hector Babenco. Debuting at the Cannes Film Festival in 1985, this film explores the relationship of two imprisoned men with radically different perspectives of life. Willian Hurt was named Best Actor for his role in the film. Starring Raul Julia

and Sonia Braga. (US/Brazil, 1985) - Showcase, Channel 39, October 19 at 11 p.m.

**Strawberry and Chocolate**, directed by Thomas Gutierrez Alea. A strange friendship emerges when David, a heterosexual and devoted Communist gets to know Diego, a cultured homosexual who's full of life and cares little for politics. This controversial work was the first Cuban film ever nominated for a Best Foreign Film Oscar. Starring Juan Carlos Tabio, Jorge Perugorria and Vladimir Cruz. (Cuba, 1994) - Showcase, Channel 39, October 21 at 11 p.m.

And for you River Phoenix fans, **Silent Tongue**, directed by Sam Shepard airs on Showcase October 26 at 11 p.m. Phoenix stars in his last film (released after his death) alongside Richard Harris in this gritty compelling western. When Phoenix's character loses his bride, the boy's father (Harris) seeks out the dead

girl's sister in an attempt to ease his son's anguish. (US, 1994)

## Music

MuchMusic Spotlight airs daily at 7:30 and 11:30 p.m. **Amanda Marshall** is in the spotlight October 3 with **Joan Osborne** taking centre stage October 5. October 11 and 12 will be parts 1 and 2 of a **Pet Shop Boys** special and October 30 you can catch **Ashley MacIsaac**.

## Concert

**Chantal Chamberland** performs Saturday October 19 at Hamilton's Club 121 with a downsized version of her band. Her guitarist and background vocalist will join her for this intimate affair at 121 Hughson St. in downtown Hamilton. Chantal is currently working on an upcoming CD, her second since her departure from the popular folk-rock duo **Open Mind**.

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# Cracks in the Iron Closet: Travels in Gay and Lesbian Russia

Written by David Tuller Published by Faber & Faber Inc.

"Cracks in the Iron Closet" is a remarkable for its portrait of an emerging homosexual society in Russia as it is for the alternative it presents to American-style lesbian and gay culture...In the course of his travels, this intelligent, perceptive writer was himself radically changed. This book will cause the lesbian or gay reader to re-examine completely his or her assumptions." -Edmund White, author of 'Our Parts.'

When David Tuller went to Russia in 1991 with the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, he arrived with the idea that he would be helping "liberate" lesbian and gay Russians, helping them explore without shame or fear their repressed sense of sexual identity. Within a few days Tuller realized that the Russians he met knew exactly who they were - and that they could teach him a few things about who he was, too.

Through a series of extended visits over the next five years, he delved into the often hidden, yet richly varied, emotional and sexual lives of Russian lesbians and gay men. "Cracks in the Iron Closet" is part travelogue, part social history and journalistic inquiry, and part offbeat love story. It is about the people Tuller met and the things he saw, including a strong and enduring love

triangle consisting of two lesbians and a man who only loves lesbians; a state-sponsored sex-change operation; the oppression of gays in the prison system and the repeal of the anti-sodomy law; Russia's pervasive culture of drinking, and the Russian skepticism of labels such as 'gay', 'lesbian', and 'bisexual' that others around the world seem to find necessary to define who they are.

Tuller's experiences also shed light on issues that roiled the American lesbian and gay movement in recent years: How does culture influence the expression of sexual identity? Is bisexuality a fraudulent pose or a genuine orientation? What "causes" homosexuality, anyway?

Tuller also slowly but surely came to understand the Russian version of gay pride - a pride that blossoms from a sense of uniqueness in a society that condemns departures from the norm.

"Cracks in the Iron Closet" provides the first glimpse into the culture of Russian lesbians and gays as they speak frankly to Tuller about their lives, their loves, and the influence of the state while challenging his assumptions about what it means to be gay.

David Tuller has been a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle since 1988 and he is one of the founders of the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association. He lives in San Francisco. His work has appeared in the New York Times, the Nation, the Advocate, and other publications. ☪

## The Adventures of Catherine and Via



**Are You Creative?**  
If so, how would you like to see your creation become a cover for a future issue of Outlook? Anything that can be reproduced by photocopier will be considered for publication. All we ask is that your artwork be appropriate as it will represent Outlook. Please send your drawings (8-1/2" X 11" only) to the address on the contents page. Do not fold and please include your name and number so we can contact you in the event that we use your submission. We will give the artist credit unless otherwise stated.

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# What's Happening?

## What, When & Where

# Community Events

### CHURCH SERVICES M.C.C. Rainbow Church

Every Sunday at 7 p.m. at St. Matthias Anglican Church. 171 Kortright Street West in Guelph. Services are under the direction of Pastor Sid Bater. Call 519-██████████ for more information.

### GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL YOUTH GROUP

A discussion group for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth (16-25) is currently running. If you are interested please give Rob a call at 570-3687.

### COMING OUT DISCUSSION GROUPS

#### Guelph

Guelph Queer Equality Coming Out Discussion Group has the following meetings upcoming:

- October 22 - Heterosexism vs. Homophobia
- October 29 - The Gay/Les/Bi/Trans Community
- November 5 - GLBT Issues in Society
- November 12 - GLBT Issues in Politics

GQE Coming Out Discussion Groups are held at University Centre, Room 536 (OTAS Lounge) University of Guelph. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

#### Waterloo

GLLOW Coming Out Discussion Group has the following meetings upcoming:

- October 23 - Relationships: What Do They Mean To Me?
- October 30 - Same-Sex Couples
- November 6 - Safer Sex and Related Issues
- November 13 - Religion and Spirituality

All meetings are held in Hagey Hall (Humanities Bldg.) Room 378 at the University of Waterloo from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. For more information call ██████████

### NO MEANS NO

NO MEANS NO Fall '96 Campaign & Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Awareness Week Workshops and Events at the University of Guelph:

- "Anti-Lesbian and Anti-Gay Violence Panel Presentation. Tuesday, October 29, 6 - 8 p.m. University Centre, Room 103. Everyone welcome.

- "Abuse in Gay Men's Relationships" Tuesday, October 29, 2 - 4 p.m. University Centre, Room 103. Facilitated by Nick Mule (CLGRO) and Karen Baldwin from the 519 Community Centre. For gay and bisexual men only.

- "Abuse in Lesbian Relationships" Monday, October 28, 6 - 8 p.m. MacKinnon Building, Room 304. Facilitated by Karen Baldwin from the 519 Community Centre. A workshop for lesbians and bisexual women only.

For more information on the above workshops please call (519) 824-4120 extension 3000.

### KW FRONTRUNNERS

KW Frontrunners is a running and walking group for the lesbian, bisexual, transgender and gay community. People of all ages and abilities are welcome.

We meet every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. at the ring road entrance to the Student Life Building at the University of Waterloo. Parking

is available behind the Physical Activities Complex. We usually run on the Laurel Creek trail, which is gravel and runs through the forest and meadows. There are usually three groups; walkers, short distance runners (5k / 25 minutes) and longer distance runners (10k / 50 minutes). Afterwards, we pop over to William's (a local coffee pub) to chat and eat muffins. In November, we'll switch locations to the Waterloo rec complex, where there is an indoor track (as well as outdoor trails.) Hope to see lots of you there!



### DESTINATION AMSTERDAM

Destination Amsterdam, a GayGames '98 fundraising dance for women will be held Saturday, November 9, 1996 at The Loft, 1 Carden Street in Guelph. (beside Memorial Gardens Arena) Advance tickets are available at TCB Travel in Kitchener, Reader's Ink in Waterloo and at Disc Oriented in Guelph. Tickets are \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the dance runs till 1 a.m. This is a non-smoking venue. Smokers are requested to light up outside. For more information contact Linda at (519) ██████████

To list your event call ██████████ or email us at [outlook@easynet.on.ca](mailto:outlook@easynet.on.ca)

# GUESTLIST

A Monthly Guide  
To All Things  
Hot And New  
In Spank's Record Box  
COMPILED BY JAYSON SPANK

1. Heaven - SARAH WASHINGTON (F.O.S. Mix)
2. That Look - DE'LACY (Hani's Club Look) 
3. Born Slippy - UNDERWORLD (Darren Price Remix)
4. Fired Up - FUNKY GREEN DOGS (Club 69 Future Mix)
5. I Want To Live - GRACE (Oakenfold/Osbourne Mix)
6. Bizarre Love Triangle - NEW ORDER (Armand Van Helden Mix)
7. Let's All Chant - GUSTO (Johnny Vicious Remix)
8. Se a Vide e - PET SHOP BOYS (Deep Dish Liquid Mix)
9. In De Getto - DAVID MORALES (96 Boss Mix) 
10. Happy Days - PJ (White Label Mix #1)
11. Professional Widow - TORI AMOS (Armand Van Helden Mixes)
12. Access - DJ MISJAH & DJ TIM (Original Mix)
13. Revolver - MOBY (Rollo/Sister Bliss Mix)
14. Burning - MK (Klubbheads Remixes)
15. Best Thing - MISS BLISS (F.O.S. Remix) 

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### CHILDREN OF LESBIANS AND GAYS EVERYWHERE

COLAGE, an acronym for Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere was founded in 1990 by a group of kids at a Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International Conference. Since then, the organization has expanded from regular newsletters and an annual conference to encompass over 25 peer support groups, two thousand members and a headquarters in San Francisco.

COLAGE is an international voice of children of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families.

It's mission is to foster the growth of daughters and sons of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parents of all racial, ethnic, and class backgrounds by providing education, support and community on local and international levels, to advocate for our rights and those of our families and to promote acceptance and awareness in society that love makes a family.

COLAGE is always looking to find new members. By joining COLAGE, children not only gain support and acceptance but help COLAGE show the world that our families are O.K.

COLAGE has several subgroups. KidsClub, a newsletter and fun package just for kids under 13, COLAGE for children aged 13 to adulthood and Second

Generation, a group for gay and lesbian kids of gay and lesbian parents. COLAGE also provides support to people wishing to start local chapters of the group.

COLAGE works to increase the visibility, rights and acceptance of COLAGE families. We provide fact sheets and testimony in precedent setting custody cases on behalf of gay families. We also connect members of the media with a variety of people from gay families.

#### MYTHS & FACTS

*Myth: "Gay people don't have kids."*  
*Fact: The American Bar Association estimates there are eight to ten million daughters and sons of lesbian and gay parents.*

*Myth: "If your parent is gay then you will be too."*  
*Fact: Kids with gay parents are no more likely to be gay than kids with straight parents.*

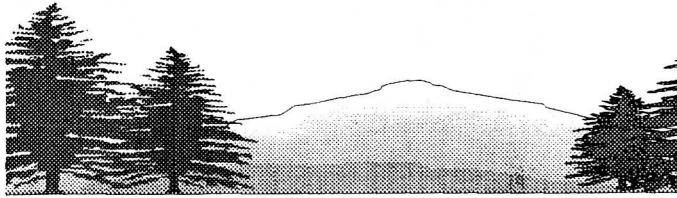
*Myth: "Kids are badly damaged by the teasing they face in school for having gay parents."*  
*Fact: Dozens of researchers have found no significant psychological differences between children with lesbian and gay parents and children with straight parents.*

For information on COLAGE or to become a member contact:

The Local Executive Member  
Sarah [redacted]  
Kitchener, Ontario [redacted]  
(519) [redacted]

or  
Visit our webpage at: <http://www.colage.org>





### A Clear Day

Outside  
the thunder pounds.  
The lightning flashes illuminating the sky.

Inside my head,  
My own personal storm is brewing.  
The thunder pounds away at my system  
and the lightning leaves darkness in every corner  
of my being.  
The thunder and lightning  
of an illness  
I have no power over.

I do my best to heal myself,  
But sometimes my best is just not enough.

With each crack of thunder  
It pulls away  
A little part of me.  
Those little parts that make me whole.

I am not whole.

On a clear day,  
I still see clouds.  
Clouds that impair my vision of days to come.  
Clouds that have robbed me of things  
I used to do.

On a clear day  
I am unsure of my future.  
How I long for a clear day.  
A clear day without clouds.

Anonymous

### In Memory



DAVID GRANT  
May 19, 1958 - October 22, 1995

There's a time for everyone  
If they only learn  
That the twisting kaleidoscope  
Moves us all in turn  
There's a rhyme and reason  
To the wild outdoors

When the heart of this star-crossed voyager  
Beats in time with yours  
And can you feel the love tonight....

Fondly remembered by his many friends and colleagues, and by those he touched  
through his caring work and selfless dedication. (the karaoke bunch too!)  
WE MISS YOU DAVE.

### Kudos:

This letter appeared in the KW Record September 24 and deserves a round of  
applause.

"Equality For All" - "I am a Grade 10 student at St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School in  
Cambridge and I have a very big problem with gays and lesbians not being able to get married  
in Canada. I like the opposite sex, but who cares if men want to marry men or women want to  
marry women? If that's what they want, they should be able to, especially in the '90s when  
everyone is entitled to his or her own choices and opinions. So yes, I think we all should be  
treated the same.

-Carey Tremblet, Cambridge

Forward your submissions for Reader's Corner to:

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or

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## A MESSAGE FROM ACCKWA...

The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area  
123 Duke St. East Kitchener Phone: 519-570-3687 Fax: 519-570-4034



**VITAMIN DRIVE** - Yes, it's that time of year again when ACCKWA holds its annual Vitamin Drive. During the month of October you can drop off a bottle of good quality, unopened vitamins either to the ACCKWA office or various other locations around the city. All Shoppers Drug Marts in Waterloo Region are accepting your vitamin donations.

**BINGO VOLUNTEERS** - ACCKWA is presently recruiting new people to join the Volunteer Bingo Team. These Bingo sessions are held at Uptown Bingo Palace in Waterloo. All it takes is a minimum of 4 hours of your time to get involved. Please consider assisting ACCKWA with this very important fundraising activity. For info. call Tracey at 570-3687. Want to play Bingo? Call the office for upcoming dates.

**CHAIRS FOR CHARITY** - Once again, we are asking artists to create and donate original works of art using a chair as their canvas or inspiration. Works can be big or small, in two or three dimensions. Any medium is acceptable. Chairs will be previewed Feb. 1-8, 1997 at the Rotunda Gallery at Kitchener City Hall. Chairs will be auctioned off with all proceeds to benefit ACCKWA.

# THANKS!

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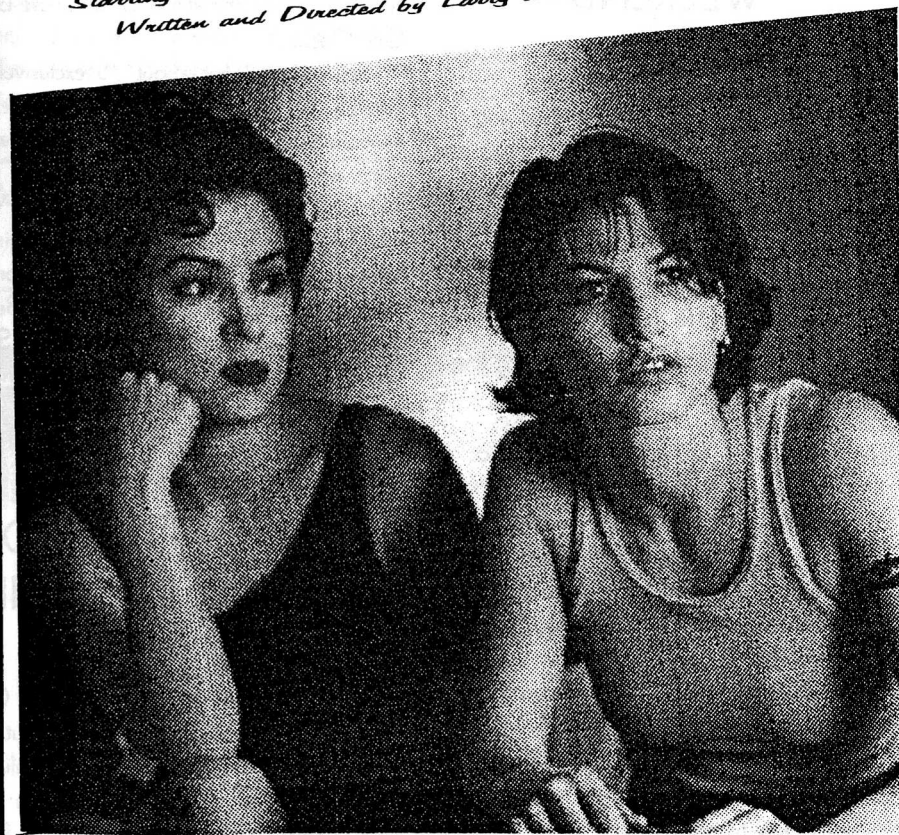
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Starring Jennifer Tilly, Joe Pantoliano and Gina Gershon  
Written and Directed by Larry and Andy Wachowski



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# PRINCESS CINEMA





## FRIENDLY ESCAPES FOR A WEEK OR WEEKEND

### KEY WEST, FLORIDA

The last island in the Florida Keys and the southernmost, frost-free, tropical city in the continental United States, Key West is known as the one-time home of Ernest Hemingway and Tennessee Williams, a favoured spot for other writers and artists, and a free-spirited, raucous place that once tried to declare its independence from the U.S. It is also a year-round gay destination attracting an estimated 400,000 gays and lesbians annually. Without a doubt Key West has the best diving, snorkeling, fishing and boating the continental U.S. has to offer.

Key West also offers a score of art galleries, many of them gay-owned; great restaurants and entertainment, four community theatres, and the special ambience provided in its collection of gay guest houses.

Accommodations vary, in their atmosphere and price as well as the overall degree of cruisy activity. Many gay and lesbian travellers opt for the mainstream resorts. One way or another, there is a wide variety to choose from.

### Palm Springs, California

With a year-round population of about 150,000, there exists in Palm Springs a gay community that is large enough to support four gay publications, two churches, probably 25 restaurants and bars and a whole panoply of gay

business organizations.

Palm Springs, known for its millionaires and movie stars, is also home to such gay mega-events as the series of lesbian celebrations held in conjunction with the annual Dinah Shore LPGA Golf Classic.

The area now has about 35 exclusively gay hotels and accommodations, but gays and lesbians are comfortable anywhere in Palm Springs and six other desert communities throughout the region that surrounds it, known as the Coachella Valley. These desert towns offer gays great shopping, art galleries, fine dining and entertainment, sports and sun-tanning amidst magnificent scenery. Because of its location in Southern California, Palm Springs can easily be visited in conjunction with other cities such as L.A., Las Vegas or San Diego.

## BIGGEST GAY/ LESBIAN PARTY OF THE YEAR IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is not only the biggest party of the year, but is also the largest annual tourist event in Australia.

This annual carnival has grown into a month-long summer festival attracting travellers from all over the world.

The climax is a colourful parade of floats and dancers which draws more than 600,000 spectators. It is carried on network television in Australia.

The parade is followed by a huge dance party where more than 20,000 "swing their pants"

until dawn at the Sydney Fair Grounds. Many who follow the gay party circuit consider this a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Mardi Gras vacation packages from Feb. 20-March 3 start at \$2,995 from Toronto.

The price includes air transportation with Qantas (the official Mardi Gras carrier), nine nights accommodation, party ticket, Sydney Harbour cruise, airport transfers and a welcome party at one of Sydney's gay bars.

All hotels are located within walking distance of Oxford Street, the heart of gay and lesbian Sydney. Between the events of Mardi Gras, travellers can take in Sydney's attractions, including the site of the 2000 Olympics.

## SAVE UP TO ATTEND THE 1998 GAY GAMES IN AMSTERDAM

This is the first time ever this sporting and cultural event has taken place outside North America. Special tour packages are available.

Contact MARK at UPTOWN TRAVEL for more details.

1-800-667-0803

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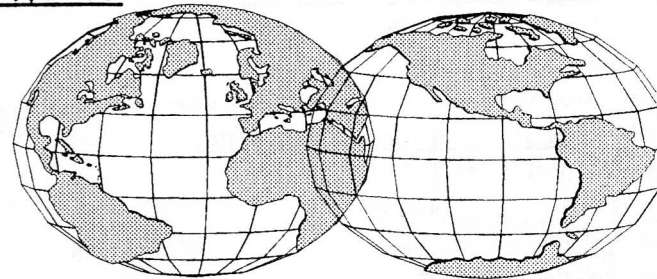
Ask us about Christmas Cruises and Valentine's Day in Paris.

Uptown Travel is now a member of the International Gay Travel Association (IGTA), which will further enhance our ability to serve gay/lesbian travellers with the most up-to-date information on gay events and destinations across the globe.



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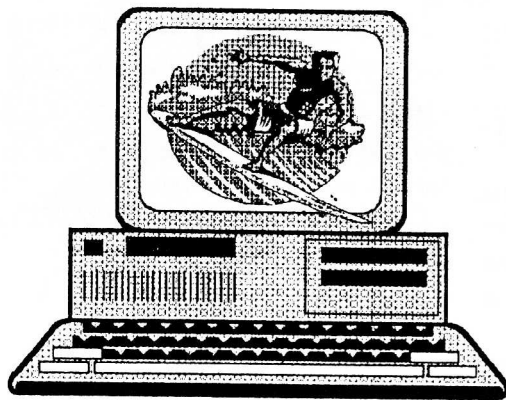


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**IGTA**



# THE WORLD WIDE WEB!

by Joolz

This month, due to a time factor on this end, we're going to try something a little different. I'll supply you with the gay links, you check them "out"! I hope you will have some fun with this. You can e-mail your comments or favorite links to us at: [outlook@easynet.on.ca](mailto:outlook@easynet.on.ca). Don't worry, the Internet page isn't going to always be like this. Everything will return to normal in the next installment. (What's Normal!?)

P.S. I also have a really great hint for Netscape users, so don't forget to check back next month!

- 1) **Hallowe'en San Francisco '96**  
- <http://www.xq.com/halloween.htm>
- 2) **Southern California's 'GayWired'**  
- <http://www.gaywired.com/>
- 3) **Australia's "The Sydney Star Observer"**  
- <http://www.sso.rainbow.net.au/>
- 4) **Gay New York**  
- <http://www.hx.com/>
- 5) **California's "The Internet's Gay Newspaper"**  
- <http://www.outnow.com/>
- 6) **Chicago's "Outlines Magazine"**  
- <http://www.suba.com/~outlines/>
- 7) **Gay Source Online Magazine**  
- <http://www.gaysource.com/>
- 8) **Out & About Web Page**  
- <http://www.golden.net/~bearsden/outabout.html>
- 9) **The Electronic Gay Community Magazine**  
- <http://www.zzapp.org/awes/egcm/>
- 10) **GerbilZine - A Queer Culture Magazine**  
- <http://www.multicom.org/gerbil/>

## SOUND REVIEWS

by Dan Haner

### Pansy Division Wish I'd Taken Pictures

Pansy Division consists of John Ginoli, Chris Freeman and Dustin Donaldson.

Their sound is a cross between punk, grunge and pop-rock.

All the lyrical content has something that every gay man can relate to or has experienced. The songs will make you sit back and have a good laugh about yourself.

Thanks should go out to Lookout Records for signing and distributing Pansy Division, for without them, it's unlikely we would have this band to enjoy.

Check out either this CD or one of their others - 'Pileup', 'Deflowered' or 'Undressed.' You can also check out Pansy Division's homepage on the World Wide Web.

\*\*\*\*

### Hackers Original Soundtrack

Hackers is a great compilation to add to your CD collection if you enjoy techno, ambient, body music and industrial.



There is a mix of heavy techno - 'Open Up' by Leftfield - to a melodic flight by Orbital with 'Halcyon' and on and on.

Hackers also includes the dance hit 'Connected' by the Stereo MC's.

My suggestion for listening to this CD is to put on the earphones, crank up the volume loud, and let the music take you on a totally erotic body trip.

\*\*\*\*

### Escape Various Artists

To find this CD you may have to tread into unfamiliar territory to the New Age section of the music store. (Don't worry! Yanni is not on this CD.)

Escapes has a great selection of artists, including Enya, Mike Oldfield, Enigma and The Corrs.

This CD is perfect for an intimate dinner with someone special or for when Mom and Dad come to visit.

If you have never listened to New Age music, this is a great way to introduce yourself to this style of music.

Like the title of this CD, put it on...and Escape.

\*\*\*\*



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# Lavender Flu or Spring Fever? by Ana Melo

On Monday, March 24th, 1997, will you and your co-workers come down with Lavender Flu or Spring Fever? Gay Day, also known as Gay Strike Day, will be observed this year for the first time in the U.S. and Canada. On this day, gays will call in sick to work to demonstrate the presence and economic clout of the gay community.

Unlike Gay Pride Day, Gay Day will be a quiet affair. No parades celebrating our colourful diversity will be held. A rainbow ribbon or pin will be worn by those participating or those in sympathy with the gay community.

This idea was first proposed by Debbie Golden and Wayne Seidl during a discussion on the internet. Debbie comments, "Gay Day to me is a day when we show the rest of the country what we do, who we are and how important our contributions are to this country. This is not a celebration or a party - this is a self-reflective day where we are very much in touch with how we make our contribution to OUR countries." Wayne also comments, "The purpose of my idea is to show the country that we do indeed make up a large part of the population, that what we do does matter in the general course of things." He envisions "one day to strike, one day to remind the rest of the population that we still do not have even the basic rights to which we are entitled: equal taxation and legalized relationships."

Gay Day is dedicated to gays living and working in high risk areas where coming out of the closet may lead to a job loss or physical injury. Calling in sick will give them an opportunity to express themselves in a safe, nonconfrontational way. As was expressed by one member of the on-line discussion group, "You can't be fired or beat up for being sick and taking the day off work to recuperate." Ron, another contributor to the on-line discussion summed it up nicely when he said, "Gays have from day one been the bread, comfort, wine and culture to a hungry world. Can you possibly imagine living in a world without gay artists, writers, decorators, designers, engineers, marines, and football players? It would be a dull world indeed."



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[www.golden.net/~bearsden/outabout.html](http://www.golden.net/~bearsden/outabout.html)



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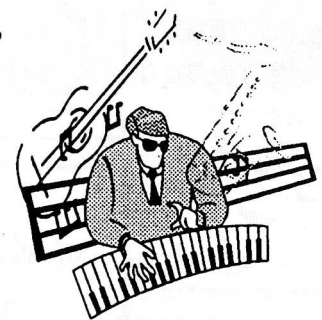
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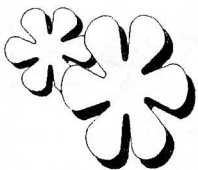


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# Lesbian Images

*A Pictorial*



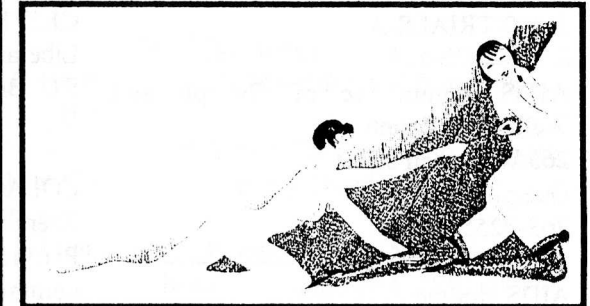
'The Echo' : Jean-Francois Auburtin 1911



'A Sultry Evening'  
Jakov Obrovsky 1911



'Spring' : Tamara de Lempicka  
1928



French Spot Illustration (uncredited)  
circa 1920-1930



'The Two Friends/Tenderness: Egon Schiele 1913



'Just a Couple of Girls':  
Harry Wilson Watrous  
1915

\*This feature will  
include brief biographies on  
the artist in future issues, but  
for now, just enjoy the images.



# Community Info

ACCKWA (The AIDS Committee of  
Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area)  
123 Duke Street East  
Kitchener, Ontario  
570-3687

AIDS Clinical Trials Hotline  
Information on FDA listed clinical trials  
accessible from Canada.  
1-800-TRIALS-A

AIDS Committee of Guelph and  
Wellington County  
265 Woolwich Street  
Guelph, Ontario  
763-2255

AIDS Hotline  
Ontario Ministry of Health  
1-800-668-2437

AIDS Information and Education  
205 Queen Street East  
Fergus, Ontario  
843-2460

Brethern Mennonite Council for Gays and  
Lesbians  
-A social, spiritual and educational group  
for gay/lesbian/bisexual Mennonites,  
Brethern and affiliates. Churchgoers and  
non-churchgoers who are interested in  
connecting with others who share these  
roots and influences, write to: BMC,  
P.O.Box 43031, Eastwood Square,  
Kitchener, Ontario N2H 6S9

Canadian AIDS Society  
Ottawa  
1-613-230-3580

Community AIDS Treatment Information  
Exchange (CATIE)  
Toronto  
1-416-944-1916

CKWBL (Cambridge, K-W Bisexual  
Liberation)  
P.O. Box 28002, Parkdale Postal Outlet  
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 6J8

COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays  
Everywhere)  
Provides education, support and  
community on local and international  
levels.  
Contact Sarah at [REDACTED]

DISTRESS LINE  
Kitchener 745-1166

GLLOW (Gay and Lesbian Liberation of  
Waterloo)  
U of W [REDACTED]

GLOBAL  
(Gays, Lesbians or Bisexuals at Laurier)  
Meets every Thursday. For info email us  
at: 00global@mach1.wlu.ca

GQE (Guelph Queer Equality)  
[REDACTED]

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Line  
1-800-268-YOUTH

Ontario AIDS Network  
Toronto 1-416-364-4555

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians  
and Gays)  
Acton..... [REDACTED]  
Cambridge..... [REDACTED]  
Guelph..... [REDACTED]

Project Angel  
Waterloo Region AIDS Memorial  
250 Dundas Street S. Suite 221  
Cambridge, Ontario N1R 8A8

Rainbow Alliance  
Are you a deaf gay or lesbian? There is  
an organization for the deaf called The  
Toronto Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf.  
We have meetings once a month at the 519  
Church Street Community Centre on the  
first Saturday of the month from 1-4 pm.  
You are most welcome to attend!

Sexual Assault Centres  
K-W..... 741-8633  
Cambridge..... 658-0551  
Guelph..... 823-5806

Substance Abuse Prevention  
Kitchener 741-3827

Two Spirited People of First Nations  
Toronto 1-416-944-9300

Waterloo Region Alliance for Equal Rights  
[REDACTED]

Women's Centre  
U of W  
888-4567 extension 3457

WOODS (Women Out Of Doors)  
P.O. Box 13, Student Life Centre P.O.  
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G0

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Womenspin on CKMS 100.3 FM airs  
Wednesdays from 6-8pm

Nowhere To Hide airs Wednesdays from  
8pm to 9pm on CKMS 100.3 FM

Thursdays listen in for Leaping Lesbians  
on CKMS 100.3 FM from 6-8pm

CIUT 89.5 FM is home to Gaywire  
every Thursday at 7pm

The Rainbow Radio Network can be  
heard Thursdays on CHRW 94.7 at  
10:15pm.

Women Made Collective Show airs  
Mondays from 6-7pm on CFRU 93.3

Fingers, Fists and KY is brought to you  
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Mondays from 10pm-12am on CFRU  
93.3 FM

Girls Taste Good with your host Kristyn  
airs Tuesdays at 2pm on CFRU 93.3 FM

Fag Factory with your host Adam airs  
Thursdays at 2pm on CFRU 93.3 FM

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Community Health  
Department  
AIDS/STD Program

## I'd like an HIV test! What are my options?

The only way you can know for sure if you are infected with HIV is to have a specific blood test. In Waterloo Region, you can be tested for HIV at the following places:

1. You can be tested by your family doctor.

2. **Anonymous Testing:** available only from the Community Health Department

Waterloo 99 Regina St. South

Kitchener 123 Duke St. East

HIV Clinic - 2nd Floor

Duke St Clinic -



ACCKWA

- ▶ by appointment only
- ▶ ☎ 883-2251

- ▶ walk-in: first come, first served
- ▶ Thursday 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

3. Confidential HIV testing:

Cambridge 150 Main St.

Waterloo 99 Regina St. South

STD Clinic - 2nd Floor

STD Clinic - 2nd Floor

- ▶ walk-in: first come, first served
- ▶ Tuesday 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

- ▶ walk-in: first come, first served
- ▶ Monday & Thursday 3 pm - 6 pm

These clinics offer a service that is positive towards gays, lesbians, straights and bisexuals. "Working" girls and guys are welcome.

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AIDS/STD Program



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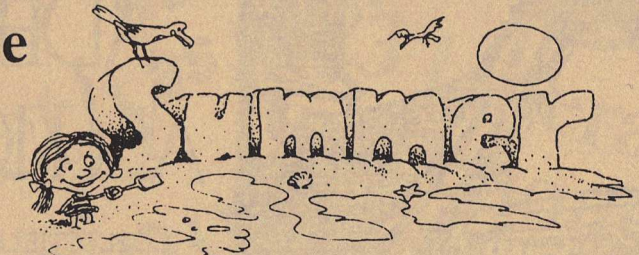
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