

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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

Outlook Magazine

Publishing History: 1995, September/October (Issue 1) - 1998, Summer (Issue 28 - Q2). Cover title until Issue 20: *Outlook*; cover title from Issue 21: *Outlook Magazine*.

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- ♥ Personal Glances
- ♥ Living in the Bonus Round
- ♥ Tons of News, Entertainment & A Whole Lot More!



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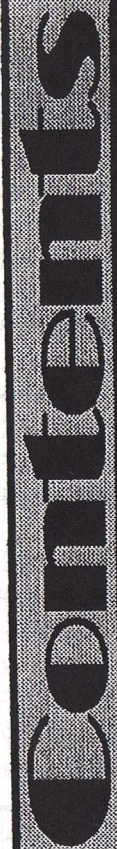
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News.....	2
Entertainment.....	14
The Guestlist.....	15
The Making of Beautiful Thing.....	16
Catherine & Via.....	21
Vocal Focus.. 'Mayor Christy'.....	22
Cover to Cover.....	26
Reader's Corner.....	30
Personal Glances..'Turmoil'.....	32
Music Review.....	34
Travel.....	36
What's Happening?.....	38
Classifieds.....	41
Community Information.....	42



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NEWS..... FROM

MAN SUSPECTED OF OVER 30 GAY ASSAULTS ARRESTED IN NYC

(out.com) -- The search for a man who freely preyed upon unsuspecting victims in gay bars for more than two years appears to be over. New York Police arrested William "Billy" Bowen, 36, January 9 on a single charge of aggravated harassment after he threatened to dismember a man if he didn't give him money, The New York Post reported.

Police believe that Bowen is responsible for as many as 30 similar crimes played out in the gay bars and nightclubs of Chelsea, Greenwich Village, and the Upper West Side. They are requesting any victims of such crimes to immediately call the Ninth Precinct detective squad.

The Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project posted flyers throughout city bookstores and bars warning patrons of a "handsome and charming blond man in his 30s" operating under several aliases. The flyer said the man is polite and soft-spoken and wins the victim's confidence with a convincing story of recent troubles in his life. When the man arrives at the victim's home, his demeanor becomes agitated and abusive, threatening violence if the victim doesn't hand over cash.

Ben Hanson of the GLAVP told the Post Bowen's victims have been reluctant to come forward and make formal statements to the police. "Often with these types of crimes, there's a lot of shame the victims might feel because they met him in a bar and took him home."

GAY MAN RECOGNIZED AS ARMY WIDOW

(QueerPlanet) -- On January 8, another major breakthrough occurred in the protection of gay rights in the Israeli legal system.

Adir Steiner, the partner of the late Colonel Doron Meisel, won in an appeal he launched against the Israeli Defense Force's decision not to recognize him as a survivor under the Regular Service (Pensions) Law.

Adir Steiner was the partner of Colonel Meisel. Colonel Meisel, a high ranking officer in the Medical Corps died of cancer in 1991. The IDF rejected Mr. Steiner's request to be recognized as "survivor" under the said law. The decision was by an Appeals Committee according to that law which sits in the District Court in Tel Aviv.

The crux of the two page decision, written by Judge S. Aloni, is that the army's decision amounts to prohibited sex discrimination against Mr. Steiner.

Judge Aloni writes:

"I believe that at this time...the principle of sex equality found a permanent place in our constitutional law and in our world view. The principle of equality and the prohibition on sex discrimination found an appropriate place in our constitution from the Declaration of Independence, through many High Court decisions, and in Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom."

Next, Judge Aloni refers to the El-AI vs. Danilowitz case, in which the Israeli Supreme Court held that companies must give gay couples the same spousal benefits they give straight couples.

He goes on to say that if Mr. Steiner had been a woman, he would have received all the rights,

AROUND THE WORLD

and those are being denied only because he is a man. The statute in question, writes Judge Aloni, intends to guarantee the survivors of people who died after regular military service. All the relevant facts exist in this case, and there is no reason to view the law as not applying to Mr. Steiner.

The current decision is an important expansion of the El-AI principle, because El-AI was based on Israel's equal employment law which explicitly prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, but does not apply to military service. The current decision implies a protection which is wider than the workplace. Also, the current decision actually may be viewed as more widely prohibited under Israeli law than sexual protection for gays and lesbians than is warranted by the Equal Employment Law.

The IDF can appeal within 30 days, but it still unknown what they will do.

ISRAELI MINISTER PULLS PLUG ON GAY THEMED PROGRAM

(out.com) -- The Jerusalem Post reports a youth program produced for Israeli Educational Television has been withheld from broadcast by the country's Education Minister because of its discussion of gay and lesbian subject matter. The program's standard format features frank group discussion among young adults on controversial subjects.

The Knesset Status of Women Committee convened to discuss whether Education Minister Zevulun Hammer has legal authority to interfere with the broadcast of a specific program. The Education Ministry's media advisor Ephraim Lapid argued the minister's case before the committee.

Lapid said that showing a gay family in a sympathetic context, as the program did, conveys a positive message not shared by the social majority

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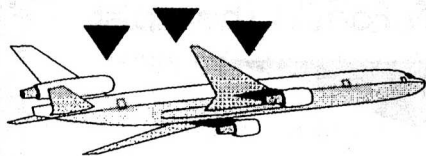
and should not therefore be presented in an educational format. Lapid also said the minister felt that too much of society is "uncomfortable" with lesbian and gay subject matter.

Coming so soon after the Israeli President's disparaging comments about gay men before a youth assembly, Hammer's move to bar the youth program provoked heated reaction before the government committee.

"I've had hundreds of calls and letters from youngsters about their fears and the atmosphere of persecution, exacerbated by pronouncements by public like the president," psychologist Jerry Levinson told the committee. He said that correct information and access to supportive counselling is crucial for gay and lesbian young people in distress.

AUSSIE STATE BANS GAY FOSTER PARENTS

(Wockner Int'l News) -- The Australian state of Queensland has banned gay and lesbians from foster parenting. State Minister for Family Services Kevin Lingard told parliament, "It's about time we turned the clock back on some of these matters."



UNITED AIRLINES SPONSORS LONDON PRIDE

(Wockner Int'l News) -- United Airlines is sponsoring London's 1997 gay pride celebration to the tune of \$140,000, reported The Pink Paper.

Included in the package are free flights for American performers, blankets for persons with disabilities, and an \$8,000 vacation as a competition prize.

GROUPS BOYCOTT ROMANIAN WINE

(Bussels, BELGIUM) -- The International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), headquartered in Brussels, has called for an immediate boycott of Romanian wine exports.

The boycott is in protest of Article 200 of the Romanian penal code. The Article maintains criminal status for homosexual acts and bans gay bars, clubs, associations, media and organizations. The vote by Romania's parliament breaks a 1993 promise to decriminalize homosexuality and is a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. The law condemns Romania's gay and lesbian citizens to continuing state persecution and jail sentences up to five years.

The law threatens any same-sex relationships that cause a "public scandal" with penalties of up to five years in jail. A "public scandal" is simply anything two or more people find offensive. This broad legal definition is an obvious attempt to portray the revision of the law as a "decriminalization" of homosexuality while retaining criminal sanctions for private, consensual same-sex relations.

"ILGA and its members cannot tolerate a government flagrantly violating not only human rights, but also the promises made to the European Community," said ILGA Coordinator Lawrence Aronovitch. "Europe has decided that its gay and lesbian citizens deserve equality and non-discrimination. It is unconscionable that Romania would take this action and expect the world to sit by quietly."

Romanian wine is the country's most visible consumer export, with total annual sales of 25 million litres. Ziad Dajani, who is coordinating the boycott, has said that one company, Vinexport, has been specifically targeted because "they are in a unique position to represent to the government the impact of international outrage at the country's treatment of gays, lesbians and bisexuals." Vinexport accounts for 80 percent

of all wine exports from Romania.

ILGA plans to focus the boycott campaign in the main export markets of Germany, the United Kingdom, the USA, Japan, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Canada, Holland, Israel, Australia, Switzerland, Poland and Norway.

ILGA is a federation of 300 groups in 75 countries. ILGA provides coordination, information and education concerning the human rights of gays and lesbians around the world. Founded in 1978, ILGA has contributed to the legalization of homosexuality in several countries, and also provides information and advice to organizations such as Amnesty International and the European Council.

DUTCH GAY COUPLES POISED FOR LEGITIMACY

(Wockner Int'l News) -- Holland's gay partnership legislation is now expected to become law by January 1998.

It will grant registered couples all the rights and obligations of matrimony except the right to adopt children.

Similar laws are in effect in Denmark/Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

Holland also may open up regular marriage to gays. Parliament last year instructed the government to draft the necessary legislation by this coming August.

If Holland acts this year, it could beat Hawaii, which, in early 1998, is expected to become the first place in the world where gay couples can marry under the exact same laws as heterosexuals.

EURO 'LESBUS-TOUR' ANNOUNCED

(Wockner Int'l News) -- The 1997 Lesbus-Tour kicks off from Groningen, The Netherlands, May 17.

For seven weeks, participants will shower

fellow lesbians in Ireland, England, France, Belgium and Germany with dyke music, theatre and visual arts.

"Our purpose is to stimulate contacts between lesbians in Europe and improve the lesbian life situation," the Dutch Lesbians Unlimited Foundation said in a press release. "We will show that being a lesbian is possible, allowed and that it is even great fun!"

For further information, write Stichting Lesbians Unlimited, Postbus 1186, 9701 BD Groningen, The Netherlands.

THAILAND EDUCATION MINISTER BANS GAYS FROM TEACHING

(out.com) -- The San Francisco Examiner reports a furor has broken out in Thailand over a government law which bans gay men and women from enrolling in teacher-training colleges. The point of the law is to prevent them from becoming teachers.

Education Minister Sukavit Rangsitphol said his decision is final and will not be reversed under pressure from angry gay rights groups. "The ministry has not violated human rights," Rangsitphol said. "The ruling is only aimed at banning people with improper personalities from being models for youngsters."

A spokesperson from the lesbian and gay rights advocacy group Hajaree told the Examiner, "What kind of sexual behavior people choose to follow is their personal affair and has nothing to do with their brains. Banning gay people from becoming teachers is discriminatory and violates basic human rights."

Radio commentator and Sen. Amnaj Sornhimsart said: "I recognize that gays are geniuses in various arts and academic fields. But we should have some measures to prevent youngsters from copying their acts."

If imposed, the ban will come in effect in March of this year.

SCHOOL HEADS BACK HOMOSEXUAL BAN

(QueerPlanet) -- School administrators favour the Rajabhat's Institute's policy of not accepting homosexuals into its teacher training faculty.

Adirek Rattanathanya, chairman of the Association of Secondary School Administrators of Thailand, said the association committee has agreed with the institute's policy to ban "sexually deviant" people from its 36 campuses.

Homosexuals are not suitable for teaching jobs, said Mr. Rattanathanya, suggesting they enroll in other fields of study which do not have strict moral codes for its students.

BRITISH OFFENDERS BILL MOVES

(NewsPlanet) -- Britain's bill to establish a national registry of sex offenders had its second reading and first Parliamentary discussion on January 27. Despite an organized campaign which had apparently succeeded in October, in its current

form the measure will still treat some consensual gay activities between adults in the same manner as pedophile crimes. The bill now moves to a Parliamentary committee where details and possible amendments will be debated.

The Sex Offenders Bill would require those convicted of - or even merely warned for - a number of sexual offenses to advise local police agencies of their residence addresses for periods ranging from 5 years to life depending on the offense. Failure to register as required could lead to a fine of 5,000 pounds or six months in jail. Those registered would also be prohibited from applying for jobs relating to children, such as babysitting, running church activities and youth clubs, sports coaching, music tutoring and work in schools, nurseries and children's homes, or as private entertainers. A potential employer whose business involves contact with children could consult with the police as to whether a job applicant's name appears on the registry. Police would also have discretion to advise local schools. A new Home Office consultation paper published January 27 further proposes making it a crime punishable by 5,000 pounds or 6 months in jail for a convicted offender to make oral or written application for a job or job training relating to children.

Activists believe the Sex Offenders Bill would disproportionately affect gays in Scotland, where homosexual acts in cars or parks, or even one man simply asking another to have sex, could ultimately result in being named on the so-called "pedophile register." Registering is part of the penalty for "indecent between men" as well as for consensual homosexual acts with a male under 18 years of age (the British age of consent for heterosexual acts is only 16.) Liberal Democratic Member of Parliament Peter Thurnham raised these issues in the course of the Parliamentary debate. The Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Equality Network is coordinating an opposition in Scotland, as is Stonewall in London.

A powerful argument against the Sex Offenders

Bill was put forward by open gay and former Conservative MP Matthew Parris in an opinion column in the "Times" of London January 24. Along with discussion of how the registry would not in fact make anyone any safer, he cited figures showing that among eight categories of crime in England and Wales, those who committed sex offenses were actually by far the least likely to have a second conviction within two years of the first. In Parris' mind, the whole approach is a demonization of sex offenders for purposes of making political points in an election year.

Several U.S. states, including Massachusetts and New Jersey, have also been considering sex offender registries which may impact gay men with records for past acts with consenting adults.

CHINESE MAN CHAMPIONS GAY RIGHTS

(SF Chronicle) -- Gary Wu is a slender, soft-voiced young man who does not look the part of a fighter.

But in the past few years, Wu has become an aggressively outspoken proponent of the rights of Chinese gays and lesbians - a pioneer for sexual freedom in the world's most populous totalitarian empire.

He has written two books about gay life in China, directed a documentary on the subject, organized a fledgling group called Chinese Rainbow and served two weeks in jail for his efforts.

Earlier in January, he arrived in San Francisco after visiting Hong Kong and Europe to publicize the nascent movement and raise awareness among Chinese abroad about conditions for homosexuals back home. He hopes to organize a Chinese gay and lesbian film festival in New York or San Francisco, as well as an Overseas Chinese Gay and Lesbian Centre.

"Many people think China doesn't have homosexuals," said Wu, who is working closely with the International Gay and Lesbian Human

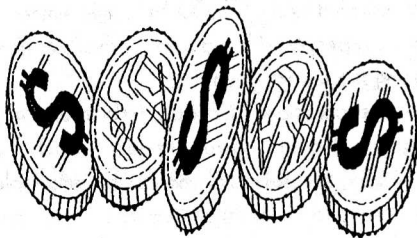
Rights Commission in San Francisco. "Actually, no matter what time period, what class or what social circle, we have always existed. But there's no such thing as 'coming out', because coming out means to confront the government or attract the attention of society."

Homosexuality has not been unknown in Chinese history. According to a well-known Chinese tale, one ancient emperor cut off the sleeve of his gown rather than wake his male lover, who lay sleeping upon it. So homosexuality became known in China as "the passion of the cut sleeve."

But the communist regime suppressed all mention of the topic in public discourse. There is currently no law that expressly forbids homosexuality, says Wu, but it is virtually impossible to live an openly homosexual life.

Social pressure to marry is extraordinarily intense. Gangs often prey on homosexuals, who are unable to turn to the police for help. Although the government does not generally interfere if two men or two women meet on their own, says Wu, the authorities clamp down on all attempts to

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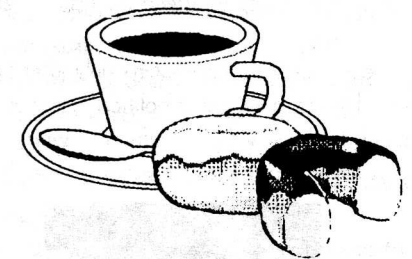


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organize or to raise the issue in public.

Wu, 28, was born in Guangdong province. He realized he was attracted to men when he was a teenager but did not meet another gay man until he was 23. "There was no information, no materials, no books," he said.

As a government employee in the southern city of Zhuhai, he met a number of foreign gays, who visited China from nearby Macao. And he gradually realized that someone needed to shed light on the difficult conditions faced by his gay and lesbian compatriots.

In 1993, he travelled to more than a dozen Chinese cities and interviewed as many gays and lesbians as he could find. The result was "Dark Souls Under The Red Sun", a book that was published in Taiwan.

During the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing, Wu helped organize a party for several hundred Chinese and foreign lesbians - and was arrested and held for two weeks as a result. Last year, he directed a video documentary that was shown at the San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

The film's title, "Comrades," is a translation of "tongzhi," the new Chinese term for gays and lesbians - an ironic appropriation of a Communist term that literally means "those who have the same ideal or aspiration."

Wu was unable to attend the screening, but during the past six months, he has travelled with the video throughout Europe. In December he was in Hong Kong to attend the first conference for tongzhi.

He was able to leave China only after signing a pledge not to engage in political activities while out of the country, but he refuses to worry about what might happen to him when he goes home.



MACHO MOLSON OFFERS BENEFITS

(Xtra! 01/16/97) -- Workers at a Molson's plant in Barrie have joined the growing number of employees accorded same-sex spousal benefits. The members of Local 306 of the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) recently ratified the new three-year contract, which became effective on December 31.

"The new contract did not include pensions," says CAW lawyer Lisa Kelly. "We are still having a struggle getting companies to agree to the pension issue. But this contract includes everything else a spouse would be entitled to."

Kelly says this is a major breakthrough. "By the time we went to the bargaining table, we had a strong representation of the negotiating committee that supported this issue."

And Kelly says this was important because no one had to come out of the closet and face possible discrimination. "On a local level, the breweries are still quite macho," Kelly says. "But this time no one had to file a grievance; it was negotiated as a principle issue."

But Kelly doesn't think the other breweries will necessarily be anxious to jump on the same-sex benefits bandwagon. "Where it's an issue that carries a bit of taboo, other breweries might hold back to see if there will be a public boycott of Molson's."

But, at the same time, companies in competitive fields don't like to be left behind and this success could set a trend for breweries.

Molson plant workers in Toronto are represented by the Brewery Workers Union and are still not entitled to same-sex benefits. But Local 325 president Greg Greco says that his worker's collective agreements have already expired, and when they approach the bargaining table, "same-sex benefits are a must."

PROFITS IN 1996, AGAIN

(Manbase) -- Despite the boycott by several religious radical organizations including the Southern Baptist convention against the Walt Disney Company for extending domestic partnership benefits to lesbian and gay employees and producing several gay-themed movies, Disney is showing economic strength, GLAAD reports.

During the fourth quarter, The Walt Disney Company's profits rose 27 percent to \$858 million US, citing strength in all three of its major divisions.

"Apparently, the American public is not buying the bigoted boycott rhetoric of religious radicals," said GLAAD National Communications Director Alan Klein. "All people, including people of faith, are taking a stand against hate and rejecting attacks against lesbians and gay men," he added.

FRENCH SOCIALISTS INTRODUCE DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP BILL

(out.com) -- After years of internal and external political pressure, the opposition Socialist Party in France has introduced the "Contrat d'Union Sociale," a national domestic partnership bill aimed at gay men and lesbians.

The national gay and lesbian political group, Homosexualites et Socialisme announced February 4th that despite the removal of several clauses from the original text, it was in full support of the bill. Spokespersons for the group said passage of the domestic partnership bill was the centerpiece of last year's national Pride festivals held throughout the country.

The deleted proposal called for immediate approval of shared benefits under France's generous social welfare programs. The current bill delays these benefits for one year after the partnership has been registered. The current bill also deletes automatic transfer of property as is the case with marriage, though makes a stipulation

that these rights can be secured through a notary.

It is unclear from the report issued by Homosexualites et Socialisme whether the proposed bill would cover foreigners' rights of stay, estate inheritance, or allow petition for job transfer to be nearer to one's spouse.

POLICE VIOLENCE AGAINST TRANSVESTITES IN ARGENTINA

(ILGA) -- At least 64 transvestites have been murdered by Federal Police in the Federal Capital and Greater Buenos Aires in the last ten years. At present, none of the cases have been solved by the Argentine justice in spite of the charges brought forward by the Argentine Transvestite and Transsexual Organization, the Argentine Transvestite Association and Fighting for Transvestite Identity Association against the Federal Police Force.

Buenos Aires Statutory Convention included sexual orientation as a cause for discrimination, derogated Police Edicts and preventive arrest in contraventional matters. In spite of those measures, Federal Police - showing no respect whatsoever for acts, statutes, constitutions or any other form of democratically established law - keeps systematically and arbitrarily arresting transvestites, young people, gays, lesbians and sex workers, among others.

Invoking the already repealed Police Edicts, 400 people are arrested in Buenos Aires on a daily basis, and kept an average of 12 hours in police stations. In the cases of transvestites, the arrest usually extends itself up to 24 hours. They are humiliated, beaten, mistreated, sexually abused and threatened with death when not actually murdered. Repression and torture endured by transvestites in Argentina stand as a very cruel violation of Human Rights.

To state your concerns, send your letters to: Presidente de la Nacion Argentina, Dr. Carlos Saul Menen, Balcarce 50, (1064) Buenos Aires, Argentina or e-mail your letters or messages to: postmaster@presidencia.gob.ar

LESBIAN ELECTED TO AUSTRALIAN STATE PARLIAMENT

(Wockner Int'l News) -- An open lesbian was elected to the Western Australia parliament last month.

Liz Watson, a member of the Green Party, is Australia's first openly lesbian MP.

"I want to make it quite clear that I will speak out loudly on lesbian and gay issues," Watson said during the campaign. "My commitment to the community is totally wholehearted."

Western Australia's largest city and capital is Perth.

NEW SOUTH WALES TO HOUSE TRANSGENDERED MALE INMATES WITH WOMEN

(W.I.N.) -- The Australian state of New South Wales has announced plans to move transgendered male inmates to women's prisons, reported the Sydney Sunday Telegraph.

The Corrective Services Department said the policy will reduce violence against transgendered males.

Transgender lobby groups hailed the decision, saying prisoners should be allowed to serve their sentence under their elected gender.

There are believed to be fewer than 100 transgendered males in NSW prisons. A reverse policy will apply to any women who consider themselves male.

NYC ANTI-GAY HATE CRIMES DROP

(PlanetOut) -- There's a rare piece of good news for gays and lesbians on the hate crimes front: despite a substantial increase in all other bias crimes in New York City from 1995 to 1996, the number of homophobic crimes actually dropped. New York's overall crime rate has been steadily diminishing over the last five years.

A report from Police Commissioner Howard Safir showed an overall increase in the number of bias crimes of 27%, from 437 crimes in 1995 to 555 crimes in 1996. By contrast, anti-gay incidents in the same period fell by 23%, from 83 to 64.

New York City's Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project agreed there had been a decrease in the number of incidents, but according to reports they received, the decrease was only 10%. And while a sizable majority of all New York's bias crimes were threats or attacks on property rather than people, the Project found both an increase of 5% in actual assaults against gays and lesbians and an increase in the viciousness of those assaults.

The leading target of hate crimes in NYC were Jews (up 31% for a 1996 total of 212 incidents), African-Americans and whites. Arrests for bias crimes also increased by 27%, from 145 in 1995 to 168 in 1996. Safir announced that he's adding another six detectives to the dozen already assigned to NYPD's anti-bias unit, even though he's convinced no organized hate group is currently operating in the city, and the per capita rate of bias crimes in New York is less than some other U.S. cities.

U.S. national statistics compiled by the FBI from local reports find a majority of hate crimes are race-based, with African-Americans the leading target, followed by religious-based crimes overwhelmingly targeting Jews, and then by sexual orientation-based crimes, 3/4 of them against gay men and almost all the remainder against lesbians. The mix shows some variation from city to city.

TOTAL DISREGARD FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

(Bjoern Skolander) -- The Journalists Association of Namibia is horrified by the total disregard for freedom of expression shown by the recent statement of SWAPO spokesperson Alpheus Naruseb about gay people in Namibia.

Through their work, journalists exercise the right of every citizen to free expression, and therefore it is of utmost concern to an organization such as JAN, which represents journalists, when freedom of expression is abused in such a way.

By saying that homosexuality should be "uprooted totally as a practice", Mr. Naruseb implies that gay people have no right not only to express themselves, but also to exist in Namibia. Put into practice, Mr. Naruseb's comments would become a flagrant violation of the fundamental rights - including the right of every person to express themselves freely - enshrined in the constitution.

JAN recognizes that freedom of expression also has its limits. These limits occur when freedom of expression infringes upon other fundamental rights; for example when hate speech is used to incite violence against or the oppression of a group or individuals. By calling for homosexuality to be "uprooted", Mr. Naruseb is dabbling in the loathsome practice of hate speech, and in so doing he is going beyond the bounds of free expression.

In his statement, Mr. Naruseb went on to refer to the "moral values of our Nation" which he uses to justify the suppression of gay people. In so doing, he implies that the morals of the majority are somehow above the constitution, which guarantees equality and freedom for ALL Namibians, majorities and minorities alike. Again, JAN cannot condone such disregard for Namibia's supreme law.

Since independence, the government and SWAPO have done much to promote freedom of expression and media freedom. The Journalists Association of Namibia therefore calls upon government and the ruling party to distance themselves from Mr.

Naruseb's comments, and to reiterate their commitment to the fundamental rights which we cherish.

ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE UP IN BRAZIL

(Wockner Int'l News) -- One hundred twenty-six gays, lesbians and transvestites were murdered in Brazil in 1996 because of their sexuality, according to data collected by Grupo Gay da Bahia.

That's a 12 percent increase over 1995. Eighty-five of the victims were gay, 37 were transvestites and four were lesbians.

Meanwhile, a day after GGB issued its report, actor "Sandro," who plays a gay man on a popular TV show, was gay-bashed in Rio de Janeiro, said GGB spokesman Luiz Mott.


BRITISH COLUMBIA AIDS DEATH RATE PLUMMETS

AIDS deaths in British Columbia have plummeted thanks to the new protease-inhibitor-based combination anti-HIV therapies.

The death rate in the last three months of 1996 was 23 deaths per 1,000 persons with AIDS compared to 70 per 1,000 in early 1994.

Dr. Robert Hogg, manager of the provincial AIDS-treatment program called the drop "dramatic."

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BAILEY JEAN HAS TWO MOMMIES

Bailey Jean Cypher has arrived - born to Melissa Etheridge and Julie Cypher - a girl weighing in at 8 pounds, 10 ounces.

The Valentine came a few days early for rocker Melissa Etheridge and her partner, filmmaker Julie Cypher. Bailey was born at 1:35 a.m. on February 10 in Southern California.

Mother, daughter and co-parent are all said to be doing great.

When learning they were going to have a child, Etheridge was stated as saying "both Julie and I have been planning this for a long time" and "it's the thrill of a lifetime; we're both so excited".

I guess it's no longer 'Their Little Secret'.

CITY AWARDS GAY MAN \$90,000 IN LAPD BRUTALITY CASE

(out.com) -- The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund together with the American Civil Liberties union announced on February 7 that a gay man beaten during a 1991 protest against California Governor Pete Wilson has accepted a record settlement from the City of Los Angeles.

Peter J. Mackler was awarded \$90,000 from the city along with a promise that the LAPD would undertake reforms to address gay and lesbian concerns. First and foremost among these is what many describe as rampant homophobia on the force.

Jon W. Davidson, lead counsel in the case, said the LAPD must do more to put an

end to "police abuse, selective prosecution, employment discrimination and harassment," within its ranks. The City of Los Angeles, Davidson said, "must do more to tackle these problems if it wants to stop paying taxpayer funds to victims of the LAPD."

In November 1991, Mackler attended a peaceful Los Angeles demonstration protesting Governor Wilson's 1991 veto of AB101, a bill banning employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. In an attempt to disperse the crowd, Mackler was shoved violently and repeatedly in the back with a policeman's baton. Video cameras at the scene show Mackler was cooperating. After the 10th shove, Mackler turned around in an attempt to get the officer's badge number. The policeman, David Peck, responded with a baton blow to Mackler's face, knocking him to the ground. Mackler was never charged with an offense.

"This settlement is a record in Los Angeles for an anti-gay police brutality case and one of the highest amounts paid to an individual in such a case anywhere in the country," Davidson said.

In addition to the cash settlement, the LAPD has been ordered to clarify that all its police officers must identify themselves to anyone seeking their name or badge number.

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GERMAN LUTHERANS WEIGH BLESSING GAY UNIONS

(out.com)-- Providing further evidence that gay and lesbian couples demanding the right to marry is a growing international movement, Reuters reports a Protestant church council in Northern Germany has decided to bless gay and lesbian unions.

In addition, a German newspaper, Welt am Sonntag, said on February 9 that a landmark majority vote of the Lutheran church synod based in Rendsburg also agreed to recognize committed gay and lesbian relationships with a church blessing.

The decision reached by the synod, though historic, is still subject to approval by the Lutheran bishops who have a month to make up their minds on the issue.

Reuters reports the Protestant Church in Germany is a loose alliance of 24 independent Lutheran, Reformed and United churches.



PARTY TIME DOWN UNDER

(NewsPlanet) -- While the northern hemisphere has been shivering through some record cold spells, it's summertime for the other half of the planet, and the gays and lesbians of Australia and New Zealand traditionally celebrate with a series of huge annual parties and festivals.

The biggest, of course, is the world-renowned Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, now about halfway through a month-long festival that will culminate in a grand parade on March 1, but it hasn't been all sweetness and light. One of several controversial elements of the sprawling festival has been a 13-foot tall monument to the struggles of gay and lesbian Australians past and present, designed and built by Gary Carsley and Peter

Todd just a shade too late to be erected outdoors as planned this year despite being advertised in the festival guide. Its exterior and interior are meant to represent the duality of life in the closet or the gay ghetto, but what stung some conservatives is its conscious modelling after Sydney landmark, the New South Wales War Memorial. The state president of one veteran's group called the monument, "a deliberate attempt to denigrate the sacrifices of so many men and women who lost their lives in defending this country."

Another dark moment was a bit of vandalism apparently performed in vengeance for a Member of Parliament's comments that Mardi Gras glamorized an unhealthy lifestyle: a sign outside the electoral office of MP John Bradford was torn down, wrapped in newspaper recording his remarks, and shoved under the office door. Police are investigating that incident.

The ugly incidents in Sydney have not only been directed at property, the webmaster of the Mardi Gras' elaborate site was gay-bashed shortly after the festival's official launch.

TV broadcasts of gay and lesbian pride events remain controversial in Australia, but a documentary about the 1996 Perth Lesbian and Gay Pride Festival and Parade led its late-night time slot in the ratings and drew only one complaint. About 50,000 people tuned in - quite a few for Western Australia at 11:30 p.m. - despite, or perhaps because of, a disclaimer that the content included adult themes, strong coarse language and nudity (no one was actually nude, but there were some shirtless lesbians shown). Some big time advertisers supported the January 30 broadcast, including Pepsi, Toyota and Daihatsu.

In New Zealand, the annual HERO festival opened February 7 in Auckland, and its climatic parade on February 23 (that's February 22 on the American side of the International Date Line) and other events will be available in video at its website.

That's ENTERTAINMENT!

Swedish Film Looks At Older Lesbians

Girlfriends: Stories From The Closet is a new Swedish documentary chronicling the lives of five lesbians in their 60s and 70s.

It will be shown on TV, in theatres and at international gay film festivals.

Directed by Nina Bergstroem and Celiaia Neant-Frank, it stars Abbe, Ellen, Frieda, Boel and Kerstin.

Keep your eyes open for showings in this area.

Lady Tweaks the Blues

(LA Times) -- Though Peggy Scott-Adams scored three Top 40 hits as part of a R&B duo in the late 60s, she is more likely these days to sing at funerals than in nightclubs.

The 48-year-old wife of mortician and former Compton city councilman Robert Adams Sr. long ago abandoned her dream of regaining a place in the pop music spotlight, instead

focusing on her marriage and helping her husband run his business.

But Scott-Adams nearly three years in obscurity since such hits as "Lover's Holiday" and "Soulshake" with former partner JoJo Benson have ended with a coast-to coast commotion created by "Bill", a song from an album she quietly released last fall on tiny Miss Butch Records.

A bluesy lament penned by veteran songwriter Jimmy Lewis, "Bill" adds a twist to an age-old topic: This cheating husband is leaving his wife - for another man. And the tale is causing an uproar wherever it's played. "I've never seen anything like it," says Cliff Winston, program director at KJLH-FM in Los Angeles, which has received about 1,000 calls since it started playing the song January 14.

Says the singer with a laugh, noting that her phone has suddenly started ringing with calls from radio stations and newspapers from across the US and Europe: "Bill" is just about

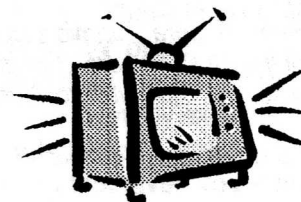
to drive me crazy. Never in our wildest imagination did I ever, ever expect anything like this. This is absolutely a phenomenon." Mardi Gras Records in New Orleans which distributes the Lewis-owned Miss Butch Records, expected Scott-Adams' album, "Help Yourself" to sell fewer than 10,000 copies, but the company has shipped about 130,000, including 20,000 the week this story went to print. ("Bill" is not yet available as a single.)

"We're barely keeping up with the demand," says Mardi Gras President Warren Hildebrand, who hired an L.A. publicist to handle the media requests. "We're rushing to get them out." The success of "Bill" also has focused attention on the 58-year-old Lewis, whose songwriting credits include two Top 20 R&B hits for Ray Charles, "If It Wasn't For Bad Luck" in 1969 and "If You Were Mine" in 1970.

"I didn't sit down to write a song called 'Bill', or about that subject," Lewis says. "The words just came out of my mouth: 'Love another guy.' I swear, I don't know why I said it. It sounded really good, but with that kind of song, you've got to be really careful about how you write it because you

don't want to offend anyone. You're walking a thin line."

At first, Scott-Adams was reluctant to record "Bill". "I didn't know if I wanted to be attached to something of this nature," says the singer, who recorded a pair of duets with Ray Charles in the early '90s. "But after we went to the studio and I saw how it was going to be tastefully done and with sensitivity, I was very proud of the project."



TV MOVIES

Monday, February 17

A Little Bit of Lippy, directed by Chris Bernard. Motorcycle courier Rick (Danny Cunningham) admits to his wife Marian (Alison Swann) that he is a transvestite. Unable to cope, Marian takes the baby and moves back home with her parents. Eventually, however, Marian decides to attempt to embrace her husband's exciting and extravagant lifestyle. Also starring Kenneth Cranham, Rachel Davies, and Betty Bourne. U.K., 1992. 11p.m., Showcase, Ch.39.

CINEMA

Les Voleurs

From the director of *Ma Saison Preferre*, and featuring two of it's stars, Catherine Deneuve and Daniel Auteuil, *Les Voleurs* is an erotic psychological thriller which interweaves a contemporary love triangle with a twisted family chronicle through an intricate series of flashbacks and flash-forwards. *Princess Cinema, Feb. 21 - 25.*



THE GUESTLIST

A Monthly Guide To All Things Hot
And New In Spank's Record Box.

Compiled by Jayson Spank

February '97

1. I Miss You / Bjork
(Dobie's Sunshine Mix - Part 1)
2. Inner City Life / Goldie vs. Rabbit in the Moon
3. The Flame / Fine Young Cannibals
(Armand's Ghostphunk Remix)
4. Possession / Sarah McLachlan
(Rabbit in the Moon Mix)
5. Domination / Way Out West
(Bonkers Breakbeat Mix)
6. Just Another Groove / Mighty Dub Katz
(Lisa Marie Experience Remix)
7. The Way / Funky Green Dogs
(Murk Original Groove)
8. Unbreak My Heart / Toni Braxton
(Soul-Hex Anthem Vocal)
9. Triple XXX Porn / Dirty White Boy
(Original Version)
10. Professional Widow / Tori Amos
(Mr. Roy's Cosmic Cottage Remix '97)
11. Save A Prayer / Duran Duran
(DMC Remix)
12. Insomnia / Faithless
(Monster Mix)
13. 4 Your Love / BKS
(City of Love Remix)
14. Sugar is Sweeter / C.I. Bolland
(Armand's Drum and Bass Mix)
15. Back Together / Urban Soul feat. Sandy B.
(Boris Dlugosch Mix)

Jayson Spank plays anthems and deep house every Friday and Saturday at Club Renaissance. His new mix-tape 3RST will be released Feb. 21st.



Jamie, Ste and Leah; three teenagers kicking their heels one long, hot summer, neighbours on Thamesmead Estate in southeast London.

In the middle flat Jamie lives with his pub manager mum, Sandra. Jamie's going through a few problems at school, much to the chagrin of the gutsy Sandra. Sandra's holding down a relationship with a dippy, hippy new man in her life, Tony, whilst dreaming of promotion.

Next door lives Ste, sporty and good looking, with his brother and alcoholic father. The atmosphere here is tense at the best of times.

On the other side live Leah and her mum. Leah's been kicked out of school and passes her time listening to her mum's old records - she's become obsessed with the music of the Mamas and the Papas and particularly with Mama Cass.

Life drifts along for the three friends, until one night Ste is beaten up by his brother and flees next door to the safety of Sandra's flat. Sleeping embarrassed head-to-toe, Jamie realizes that he is in love with Ste. As the bullying continues, Ste sleeps over with Jamie even more. Here Ste finds a motherly tenderness he has so far missed out on in life. He finds himself drawn more and more to Jamie.

But it is not as straightforward as that. How can you be gay on this tough estate? As Ste and Jamie are sorting things out in their heads, Sandra discovers what is going on. But she knows she can't kick Jamie out. Her love for him is too strong, and she decides to try and understand. She has recently been promoted and is about to start running her own pub. But it is clear that while things will always be different, Ste will never tell his dad or brother that he too is gay.

The film ends on an optimistic note with Jamie and Ste slow-dancing in the sunshine, and Leah and Sandra, usually at each other's throats, reconciling their differences and slow-dancing along side them.

Beautiful Thing is a story of sexual awakening, an urban fairy-tale. It's a heart-felt rites of passage story depicting what it's like to be sixteen and in the throws of bashful first love.

Beautiful Thing comes to the film screen following an enormously successful life on the stage. When the bittersweet play, written by then 24-year-old Jonathan Harvey, was first performed in 1994 in the Bush Theatre on London's Shepherd's Bush Green, it received rave reviews and sold out its five week run. It also won the author an Olivier nomination and the John Whiting award at the same time as he won the Evening Standard Most Promising New Playwright award for his second play, *"Babies."*

Both touching and funny, *Beautiful Thing* combines fantasy and reality, with an essentially optimistic view of how love can flourish between the concrete blocks and walkways of the Thamesmead Estate in Southeast London. The action is set during a heatwave, and the mood is buoyed by the sunny music of Mama Cass and The Mamas and the Papas.

No one could have been more surprised at the play's reception than Liverpool born Harvey, who was still teaching in a school near Thamesmead. "Teaching gave me the skills to make the way the characters of *Beautiful Thing* communicate realistic. But it was quite funny seeing the effect on people of something I just wrote sitting on my bed one day."

He sets his play amongst the close-knit community of Thamesmead Estate. There is no privacy, no garden hedges to keep prying eyes out, no possibility of nurturing a secret; not the most obvious setting for romance, especially the romance between two young males.

Harvey explains that the aspect of the play did attract mixed responses: "But the point is that when you've got a dull, boring life and something comes along that gives you a moment of happiness, you cling onto it. That's what all of the characters in the play are looking for - some beautiful thing to cling on to. All those characters have that beautiful thing some point in the play and that's why it's so rosy."

Harvey was thrilled when Channel Four decided to adapt the play for the screen. He is particularly pleased to be able to bring *Beautiful Thing* to a wider audience: "The only image I really had of gay people when I was growing up were those public school boys in cricket jumpers taking each other punting on the river, or the working-class boys who got kicked out and ended up working as rent boys. This is a play in which somebody can be working-class and still have their sexuality accepted. That was my agenda. It is not about what you get up to after lights out, it's about falling in love."

"*Beautiful Thing* was the first time I felt like a bit of a grown-up playwright. Up until then I had either had things performed in young writer's festivals or with young theatres, or with tiny theatre companies living on the bones of their art, and all of a sudden it was a different league. I grew up a lot while doing that play. It was also the first time I explored a gay theme - so it was a step forward in that respect as well. Because I started to write about gay things, I think my writing became stronger. My voice - if you want to call it that - became a bit more distinctive, because I was writing about something I knew."



Tony Garnett's World Productions was commissioned by Channel Four to make the film and asked Harvey to write the screenplay. And much to her surprise and delight, Hettie MacDonald, who had been so successful at directing the stage play through all its different incarnations, was invited to direct the film version.

A very experienced theatre director with credits at The Royal Court

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PRINCESS CINEMA

and National theatres as well as the Donmar and the Bush, MacDonald had originally been taken on by the Bush Theatre. Never having directed a film, she was not expecting to be asked to be involved in the Channel Four project. World Productions began to use her as a consultant on the film, and after a series of meetings to discuss the script, it became clear that they were going to offer her the job.

MacDonald's greatest challenge now was to cope with transferring her production from stage to the screen. She worked closely with Harvey on the development of the script, as he explains: "Adapting the play for the screen was a steep learning curve; telling the story through the images with what you see rather than what you hear."

Directing for the screen was very different discipline for MacDonald: "The actual process is quite similar, but you plan a lot more in advance so that you go in knowing exactly what you want. Instead of saying to an audience "here's a picture that tells a story," you're now telling them "here's a series of pictures that tell a story," which I find really exciting. And it means you can focus the audience on exactly what you want them to look at - there's no danger of them being distracted by something else on the stage. When Sandra is being loud and sexy, it is possible to cut between her and Jamie and you can really see just how embarrassed and angry she is making him. Also I felt it was a real advantage knowing the story so well - it made the whole process much less terrifying!"

Casting the two young boys was a long business, as MacDonald explains: "It was really crucial that we cast people of the right age and, because the roles are so emotionally demanding, we really wanted actors who had at least some film or television experience. We were looking for boys with natural charm and a good instinct for dialogue, who had some knowledge of the world of the play."

Glenn Berry and Scott Neal are both pupils at the Anna Scher Theatre School and have been friends for years, as Berry explains: "We've acted together before in "Eastenders" when we played a couple of thugs, in "Prime Suspect 6" and in "Blood and Fire." But auditioning for *Beautiful Thing* was a much more nerve-wracking experience, as they were called for about seven auditions and were soon comparing notes and joking about booking parking spaces outside the audition room!

Berry describes Jamie as "a very happy lad, but he gets picked on a lot. He gets on well with his mum, in small doses, but he doesn't have a social life and has nowhere to go. The only person he talks to in the beginning is Leah."

Neal describes Ste as "a run of the mill lad who loves all sports but especially football. He loves parties and is very sociable. I fell in love with the script - it seems to me it's got nothing to do with sex. It's about love, relationships and how people handle being gay. It destroys the gay stereotypes.

The actors admit they felt a bit apprehensive about the love scenes

they soon forgot their worries, as Neal admits: "It helped a lot that Glenn was a good mate - it meant the friendship was already there, we knew what the other was like."

Harvey explained to the boys that his parents had reacted perfectly when they discovered he was gay: "I had to explain to the actors that certainly with me and my friends there wasn't much of a crisis about being gay. It was just natural to us. It's a happy love story; you can be gay and happy, you can be working-class and accept homosexuality."

Linda Henry was an obvious choice for Sandra, as MacDonald makes clear: "You have to believe that Sandra has been fighting all her life, that she's tough, but she needed humour and wit as well."

Henry took one look at the script and fell in love with the character: "Sandra is so full of zest and life. She is a woman of great happiness but with hidden sorrows. She's very independent, knows what she wants and sets out to get it. Jamie is the one man in her life she really, truly loves - and the closest thing she will ever get to marriage. I was desperate to get the part and knew it should be mine! It was so me!"

Leah is played by budding eighteen-year-old actress Tameka Empson, who is also a pupil of Anna Scher. She particularly loved the part as it let her indulge in two of her greatest passions - singing and wearing outrageous clothes. "Leah was great to play - she is very colourful and bright, but she is also rude and definitely has an attitude! But although she is a rebel, she is a great friend to the boys. Mama Cass is the latest thing for her - and I had great fun with the singing and the chance at some points to go right over the top!"

Tony, Sandra's neo-hippy lover, is played by Ben Daniels. "It's really funny - I often get asked to play laid-back hippies and drugged-out characters - I can't think why!" laughs Daniels. Daniels was originally approached to play in the Bush Theatre production, but says that the timing was just not right: "I was really broke and I had just been offered a TV series. I was forced to do that instead because of the money." But he was delighted to be offered the film: "I like Tony. The first time I went up for it I remember being quite worried that he was just an idiot, and it's quite hard to play someone who has no reality. But the script has developed since then. Tony is obviously a stooge - I feel that if you had all those characters on stage at one time, you probably wouldn't look at Tony - but on screen you have no choice!"

MacDonald worked closely with production designer Mark Stevenson and costume designer Pam Tait to introduce a bright and colourful look to the film. Producer Bill Shapter comments: "The colours are absolutely vital in creating the mood of the piece. The three of them bit the bullet and went for a very intense pallet of colours."

MacDonald elaborates: "We nearly went down the road of pastel colours and curtains in Sandra's flat and in fact we got loads of samples - but then we said, "Hang on a minute, let's do her flat up in bright colours: a yellow sitting room, a turquoise bathroom, because that's what her character is."

The play is set in the sunshine, and the bulk of the five weeks filming took place during the blistering heatwave of summer 1995 on a sweltering housing project in Thamesmead. The location manager, Jim Allan, found three empty flats next door to each other in an area that had everything the script called for: "The estate is cheery and bright, not downtrodden, with a huge variety of buildings, wonderful views, lakes and greenery. We were able to negotiate with the locals and to film in locations exactly as Jonathan had written them."

For the big dancing scene, MacDonald was thrilled when the public joined in with the dancing: "There they all were, men with tatoos, little old ladies, everybody dancing with everyone else - and when I said "Cut", they all burst into spontaneous applause. It was really exciting!"

The music is borrowed from an earlier era; from "It's Getting Better" at the start to "Dream a Little Dream of Me" from Mama Cass and The Mamas and the Papas. Harvey explained that although he was aware of the music as a little boy - "my mum was always warning me that if I bolted my food I would end up choking on it, just like Mama Cass who died when a bit of food got stuck in her throat" - it wasn't until he began writing the play that he got hooked on the music: "I heard a drag queen singing "It's Getting Better" and loved it! I managed to get a hold of a rare tape of Mama Cass songs and realized just how appropriate the music was - it's so life affirming: "Do what you want to do, don't listen to anyone else!"



Glenn Berry and Scott Neal
as 'Jamie and Ste'

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VOCAL FOCUS

The OUTLOOK Interviews

Featuring Professionals in our Community



This Month:
Mayor
Richard
Christy
By
Mark Jordan

It was Tuesday January 28th. This was a date that I had penciled into my daytimer as the date of which I would interview the Mayor for Outlook Magazine. I was only slightly nervous as I have had many dealings with the public and of the famous, (sometimes rich), yet felt this man, the mayor, was someone whom I had wanted to interview for quite some time. I had seen him numerous times on the news media, and he appeared at least to me, a gentle understanding and somewhat likeable sole.

I waited in the reception lounge area as Mayor Christy had left word that he was going to be a little late. As I sat there, I jotted down some more notes for the upcoming interview that follows. In only a matter of a few minutes, Mr. Christy arrived and immediately approached me, shook my hand and said: "Hi Mark, I'm glad you could make it - give me a couple of minutes and we'll get underway!" A few minutes passed then he led me to his chambers and the following interview is outlined.....

MJ: "Could you possibly give me a brief history of yourself for our readers?"

RC: "I was born in Ottawa. My father was an RCMP constable. He was appointed to a detachment in Belleville Ontario, and moved his family to a farm near Ottawa. I came to the University of Guelph studying agricultural economics and business. I transferred to WLU and finished my BA there in 1966, and finished my MA at U of W. I further finished my Ph.D. at the University of Toronto. Then Laurier asked me to come back and teach in their summer school program. In 1974, I taught full-time and was appointed Assistant Dean at Laurier. I was a member of Kitchener Council for a few years. I ran for mayor twice and lost."

Maybe that was the beginning of my relationship that day with the Mayor. It was those self-humiliating words 'I lost' that made me really start to listen to what he might have to say.....

RC: "Then in 1994, after much soul-searching, I decided to run again and won."

MJ: "Thank you for the insight for my readers, and I would like to open by asking you what specific programs or institutions are in force within the confines of this government to help protect gays and lesbians from discrimination and or sexual harassment in the workplace?"

RC: "Well, both the Region of Waterloo and the City of Kitchener, through their human resources departments have kept abreast of the federal and provincial legislation, in terms of fair and equitable policies. The City has attempted to implement that without controversy."

MJ: "There are a good number of gay and lesbians, especially the lesbian community that have children already from previous marriages. They may be caring for them now in their homes, either with, or without a partner. And a lot of them want to have the ability to have their same-sex partner adopt those children that are theirs biologically from a previous marriage. What are your feelings, from the office of the Mayor on this subject?"

RC: "Well, from the office of the Mayor, it's not a fair question since senior level governments are the ones to decide on these issues. I do however have a personal opinion. I guess my view is that each one of us has to have a balanced view of our sexuality both the more masculine component which has been described as the more aggressive, direct one, and the more feminine component that has been described as the more nurturing and caring one. I think the jury is still out as to whether those are stereotypical, and in many ways are found in each personality. I personally think they are. That each one of us has a stereotypical male component and a female component. It's my view though, that a child needs to have those role models that come from two partners of different sexes. So I tend to feel at this stage, that that's the only appropriate view of two-gender families for the sake of the child."

MJ: "What about the case where there exists so many single parents out there that aren't able to provide their children with the situation that you're suggesting because they are on their own?"

RC: "I think that this is one of the great dilemmas that we have now in this culture. I think that we are just beginning, as a society, to deal with this question of gender identity; of what's masculinity and what is femininity and how we express these publicly."

MJ: "Do you feel personally that these feelings are a learned response or are they inherited in the genes and chromosomes of our genetic make-up...is it nurture or nature?"

RC: "Well, I think that the scientific evidence is not quite here yet on that question. I think that there are some that would like to suggest that it's nature, a genetic imprint. My personal view is that it is nurture. That you are born male, for example and you become a man. Part of our experience is that masculinity contradicts itself. Therefore, a lot of us are unsure how to express ourselves in a very masculine way in society. I don't think in my case - my father properly equipped me to be a part of modern society, where you don't have to be rough and tough. I've had to relearn what is appropriate to be male."

MJ: "If in fact you feel this way towards nurture, Mr. Christy, how do you explain the circumstance where let's say five boys are raised in the same family, under the same circumstances, at the same time, by the same parents, and yet one of these five boys, from early childhood appears to be

quite different from the rest and eventually, becomes part of our gay/lesbian community? How do you explain this?"

RC: "Well, I think that having three daughters, that there is no equivalent nurturing pattern taking place, and there are personality differences at the same time. Even though my three girls are brought up together, there is this balance of predisposition as well as nurture and I think that this is one of the great mysteries of life. I also think that our male community has to learn to be more expressive and learn to get along less aggressively."

MJ: "I wanted to ask you if within your own extended family, are you aware of any gay or lesbian people?"

RC: "No, I'm not. I'm from a very Anglo-Saxon background and I think that these people did their family duty, which is to say that no one ever spoke of their sexuality, let alone confided in any deep important issues that affected them like their religious life, emotional life or matters of sexual content."

MJ: "When we speak of sexuality, I know that for the most part, the gay community doesn't want to stress their sexuality or bring the bedroom to the public. The problem comes in when we exclude this aspect, our sexuality. Aside from who we want to be intimate with, we're just like everyone else. We're your doctor, or your lawyer, your postman or your mayor except for the one little fact of our sexuality. So in as much as we don't want that part of our lives exposed, we have no choice because aside from this we are you."

RC: "I would like to say that the challenge

is for our whole population to learn how to say good things to one another publicly. What I learned from Thailand and especially Seoul was that to do business was to have good interpersonal relationships. We think that doing business leads to good personal relations. They say that if we have this trust and friendship then we will be able to do good business. And as the Mayor it is hard for me in politics to break out of the stereotypical politician, doing and accomplishing things. When I move over to the other side, and I say I now want to talk to you about things of the heart, they think that that's a sign of weakness. Whereas in my experience, that's where the strength comes in to go on and deal with issue after issue which tends to eat away at your self-worth; because the press and some politicians tend to needle you. I say, in this job, you never get stabbed in the back, you always get pecked to death. Just one little wound at a time. So then you have to say, 'where does my strength come from?' I think that it comes from being able to express oneself. And I think that really that's what some of the challenge of the gay and lesbian community asks. They're saying that we're willing to be more expressive about our feelings. Unfortunately, we say that's not appropriate and so there is this great learning experience going on."

MJ: "I really appreciate you taking the time to do this interview with me. I also wanted to thank this municipal government for allowing Gay Pride Day to be held at City Hall for the past few years, and I hope this will continue. It's a great day for our community as a whole, to get together and explore each others differences as well as similarities, and it further serves to break down the ugly walls of prejudice and intolerance." ↪

And so my interview with Mayor Christy drew to a close. As I shook his hand and said my good-byes, I wondered when the next time would be that we would face each other in search of some understanding. I got the distinct feeling that contrary to his upbringing of pure and religious restraint, he truly wanted to be patient and honestly explore and question his begotten ideology enough to leave room for exponential growth in learning.

As much as he shed some light on me in regards to his past, present and possible future as mayor, I hope that our brief, yet important initial contact, that may have raised questions, consideration and unpressured revelation towards gay and lesbian agenda, would leave the door open to yet another meeting of our minds.

Communication is the key and always important. We must put a face to it!

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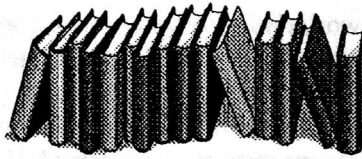
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COVER TO COVER

Books of Interest



Christopher Isherwood Diaries: Volume 1, 1939-1969
 edited by Katherine Bucknell
 HarperCollins

These diaries are certainly the best gay gossip since Ned Rorem, and probably the best gay gossip ever. More than that, though, they're an astonishingly honest insight into the life of and the lives around the late writer. There's lots of sex - Isherwood wasn't shy about it, or about writing about it - but there's also, from the early 1950s up to the volume's end, the arc of love shared by Isherwood first with Bill Caskey and later with his much-younger companion, Don Bachardy. Particularly valuable is the hefty character-annotated index at the back, for those who need to know who Isherwood was writing about in his almost-daily diary entries.



As Francesca
 by Martha Baer
 Broadway

Martha Baer's first novel follows the trials of Elaine V. Botsch, an ambitious corporate drone by day, online masochist by night. Her submission, as 'Francesca' to the cruel and mysterious 'Inez' on a computer bulletin board service fuels her rise through the ranks at work - until she inadvertently reveals her true identity, and Inez's subsequent disappearance destroys her confidence. The exactly inverse relationship between Elaine's online persona and her corporate destiny is a little pat (as well as being a big clue about Inez's identity), but it does fuel a funny and erotic story. Baer has a sharp eye for institutional ludicrousness and office politics, and she makes online sex sound really, really good.

Ain't Gonna Be The Same Fool Twice
 by April Sinclair
 Avon



Now in paperback, this second novel follows Jean "Stevie" Stevenson as she leaves for college and eventually finds her way to the San Francisco area in the 70's. A few anachronisms stood out, but the fun of this book is watching Stevie, still an innocent in many ways, dive headfirst into the tangled politics of race, roommates, and relationships - and keep her sense of humour.

Andorra
 by Peter Cameron
 Farrar, Straus, Giroux

Loss of self is at the core of Peter Cameron's new novel, a deliciously unique account by a dandy of a man who leaves behind a life in America which bores and defeats him, and relocates willy-nilly to the mostly-in-his-imagination tiny European nation of Andorra, where he falls in love simultaneously with two women while the gay husband of one of them falls in love with him. The quality of writing is titillating.

Coming Home to America: A Road Map to Gay & Lesbian Empowerment
 by Tori Osborn
 St. Martin's

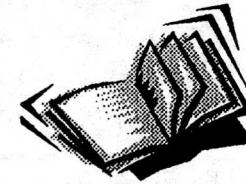
TORIE OSBORN
COMING HOME TO AMERICA



Although, as the title suggests, this book was aimed at American gays and lesbians, I'm sure all the same rules apply. The former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has produced a clear and useful resource for gays and lesbians to empower them-

selves and organize for political change. Osborn starts by discussing coming out to ourselves and our immediate friends, coworkers and families, then expands her focus to community organizing, coalition building, and onward to national political issues.

Render Me, Gender Me
 by Kath Weston
 Columbia



Render Me, Gender Me examines the question of gender from a lesbian perspective, taking butch/femme, race, and class as its starting points. Kath Weston interviews lesbians about their childhood experiences and gender identities in a non-jargony narrative format. This is an intelligent and sometimes humorous look at gender that most of us could benefit from.

Other books of interest:

- The Beauty of Men* (Andrew Holleran) The story of a man sustained by his mother's dependence on him.
- Virtual Equality* (Urvashi Vaid) Vaid's exploration of the appearances and realities of 'gay equality.'
- The Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage*. This long overdue reference features some 350 authoritative entries by over 150 scholars.
- Young Man From The Provinces: A Gay Life Before Stonewall*. "Extraordinary and elegantly written...a record of a gay world that has virtually vanished over the last 25 years of liberation and 15 years of AIDS" -The Boston Globe

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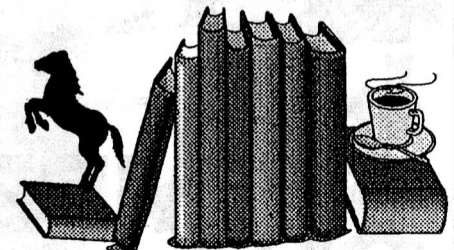
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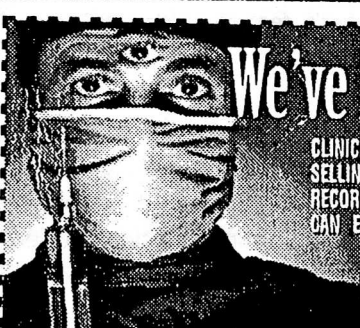
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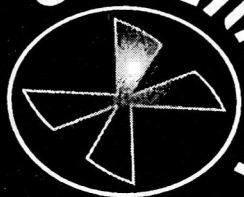
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Reader's Corner

Letters * Poetry * Opinions & Viewpoints

The following letter was written by Gabi Clayton, the mother of Bill, whose story was December's feature article, "Bill's Story."

Dear Outlook,
Thank you! I got my copy of Outlook yesterday - the article looked great, as did the cover. I haven't had time to read the whole magazine yet - but it looks like you are doing an excellent job, and I am honoured to be included. I would love to hear what kind of response you get to "Bill's Story". Keep up the good work!

Love, Gabi

'Bill's Story'; (Dec. Issue) was the most moving story I've read in a long, long time. It tells of how the life of a beautiful young man can be snuffed out, (whether it be by his own hand or not,) at such an early age, directly by what some parts of our society think about the gay, lesbian and bisexual community. It is a sad, sad time when a young man with such a promising future has decided that his future would be unbearable if he was to live it honestly; as an openly bisexual man. If only those who throw around those verbal threats, make those snide remarks and actually physically abuse us, realized how deep the hurt, depression and anxiety goes and how it can ultimately affect us for the rest of our lives would take a moment to think, maybe some of this discrimination would end. What a nice thought, but, unfortunately I think that time is not in our near future. For that is the problem; they don't think. Thank God there are people like Bill's mom, Gabi, out there helping us fight our fight. I'm sure her story will touch people who thought they would never be affected by such a story. I say 'kudos' to Gabi. She's helping us reach people and making them realize the devastation these acts of discrimination cause...one person at a time. That's all we can ask for.

Mark Knipfel
Port Colborne, ON.

**"Discrimination hinders coming out,
but coming out hinders discrimination"**

Poets Corner

The Room

This light,
Shines into the vastness of the black.
Into the emptiness.
You see, this place was full of life,
Of colour, and joy.
But it grew old, like everything else does.
Over time, it lost its beauty,
Its Pureness.
The darkness had arrived.
Creeping up the sides,
Devouring whatever it pleased.
As the age grew older,
The darkness destroyed faster.
The colours had faded.
Red, blue, green, purple,
Had turned to grey.
The love, that was so strong
Not even the most evil object could penetrate,
Now gave way to the hate.
The light dimmed,
And the darkness grew.
I was helpless, what could I do?
Nothing.
I watched, in horror and sadness,
As the place I loved
Turned into a place I despise.
So I stand here in the light,
Waiting every day and every night,
For the pain, the suffering,
The hatred, the disgust.
My last few days,
Of the keeper of The Age,
Is near.
So I stand here,
In this light...

And disappear.

©1995, Blair Francey

Did You Know?

Did you know the way I felt
whenever I held your hand?
Did you know that my heart jumped
whenever I saw you smile?

Your touch was like a lightning bolt
out of a clear blue sky.
Your smile could make the darkest night
turn to brightest day.

I loved you more with each new day
that you were in my life.
And now you're gone a ray of light
has vanished into night.

I know you're out there watching me
somewhere in paradise.
I feel your warmth and love and care
In the stars above so bright.

You didn't say that you would go
I barely had the chance.
To tell you of the love I feel
and the loneliness now inside.

With all my love then to heaven
I send to you this note.
That tries explaining the way I felt
and how I feel right now.

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Turmoil

Reprinted with permission of the author
by Derik K. Cowan

The lilacs are blooming. It has been two days since I walked out the door to be greeted by their sticky sweet scent that carried from our neighbour's front yard to our back door. I've always loved lilacs. When I was young and we lived in Australia, there was a lilac tree in our front yard. I used to pick the heavy clusters of dark pink blossoms for my mom to arrange in a vase for the front table. The lilacs of my memory don't quite smell the same, though - their scent is heavier, darker, and somehow richer than the almost syrupy scent that emanates from the tree of pale lavender flowers next door.

He was there last night. The same green eyes that always seem to be smiling and assuring the world of brighter things to come. When we met, I lost myself in those eyes, letting the compassion they mirrored wash over me and wrap me up in a place where the hurt couldn't get in. He still gets that same funny look when we dance, that bemused expression that speaks of admiration, of amusement, of pleasure that the two of us have met, have understood, and are now caught up in a sort of shared communion - a moment that no one on the outside watching can fully understand. I dance for him alone, an experience I hadn't had for so long and thought I would never recover.

After we moved back to the states, we stopped picking lilacs for the dining room table. The doctor said I was allergic to them. I was allergic to almost every kind of flower there was. In second grade, when we were asked to write a poem talking about how spring made us feel, I had nothing good to say.

Spring is a very bad time for me
Because I have allergies
I like flowers but I sneeze
I like trees but then I cough
It's like I'm sick but I'm not



My teacher loved it, and told my mom she should send it to *Women's World* or one of those other motherly kinds of magazines that they sell at the counter in grocery stores. I even got to read the poem aloud at the second grade open house. My mother never did send it to a magazine, though.

We still can't sleep together. I lie awake in his arms wishing I had taken a Benadryl before heading to bed even though I have to get up at six to drive him to work. His chest hair scratches my back, but not as badly as his stubble when he moves his head. He's one of those guys who, if he shaved in the

morning, will have a shadow by noon. I roll onto my back and look at him lying next to me. I run my finger lightly from his shoulder to his stomach, which even in sleep recoils from my touch. He's just as ticklish as before. I smile sleepily. His arm twitched involuntarily around me. I quietly disentangle myself from him and slip downstairs to get the Benadryl I forgot earlier.

My mom began to grow irises. They're hearty, they take very little work, and they don't give off a scent. There are two breeds of irises in the bag of bulbs my mom planted - a smaller flower with dark purple petals on the outside and a brown and gray sort of striped middle and the larger flower with the same dark purple outside but with a beautiful pale lavender that was almost white on the inside. Several years later we added a third variety that were a solid pale yellow, the colour of lemonade.

When he first came into my life, I really think he saved it. He gave me something to cling to besides all the anger, the hurt, the hatred. I've always asked too much of him. Seeing him there, where we met, or at least where both of us were going when we met, was something that I had feared even as I started the car and began that hour and fifteen minute drive. He didn't recognize me at first. He stopped and stared for a good minute while I stood there smiling and waiting. I've changed my hairstyle since he knew me, and he already had several drinks in him. He said he'd been waiting for me. He didn't know where I was living, so he waited, knowing that I would show up again. I had quit the scene except for Northampton after we broke up, and he had moved back to Hartford. But he had known that I couldn't stay away forever, that the music, the lights, the crowds would draw me back, and so he waited.

Next to the front porch of our house grew a pink rose bush. Every June it would come in bloom for exactly two weeks, its delicate scent barely escaping the blossoms. The summer of my sophomore year in high school, it started being eaten by something. My mom, in her eagerness to kill off the parasites, began a strict regimen of dustings and sprayings. Unfortunately, she was all too successful, for, not only did the parasites go away, but the rose bush died as well.

When we broke up, I wrote him a letter that I could never send. In it I promised myself that I wouldn't give him another chance to break my heart the way he had twice before. There was a time when I would have given him anything he asked. But I'm a different person now, with a new set of experiences, and I don't know what I feel for him anymore. The old feelings are still there, but I don't know how to fit them into my present life, or where to turn for answers. I'm not willing to give up the love I have now for something that could yet again be just a flash in the pan, a raging fire of passion that burns fast and bright and is gone.

The lilacs were in bloom when, a year ago, almost to the day, he walked out of my life. Last night, with the words, "I still love you," he walked back in.

Music Review
by Rick Lethbridge

Living In the Bonus Round

an authorized bootleg

A few months back, while surfing the net, I came across a web site that really hit home. It is a site of a man who, like myself, is living with HIV/AIDS.

Songwriter Steve Schalchlin started writing an online diary about just that. Everyday he enters in his diary how he is feeling, what new and exciting things are happening in his life and in general, how life is treating him.

While reading some of his entries, I came across a link to "Living in the Bonus Round"; a CD with all original work of the songwriter.

After corresponding with Steve via e-mail a number of times, he was kind enough to offer me a copy of his CD for reviewing. Without the contact made through the internet, I am sure I would never have had the chance (or good fortune) to hear his music. I found it very inspirational.

"Living in the Bonus Round" is a collection of songs with one common thread; HIV and AIDS.

You may think a collection such as this would be a tad depressing, but not so. Although the subject matter may be depressing at times, the music and lyrics contained in this mini-CD are anything but. They reach out, inspire, and make you realize that all is not so bleak after all. To me, they sang out loud and clear of real life situations that need attention. After all, music is the universal language; the language to get those messages across.

As HIV+ individuals, we, although sometimes justified, seem to get wrapped up in our own "HIV+" lives. We tend to forget about those around us and how their lives are affected by this dreaded disease. "Going It Alone", as Steve states, is "a love song for caregivers." When I first heard *Going It Alone* I thought of my partner, my family and my friends and how they are forever concerned about my well-being and are always offering to do this or do that for me. But, what about them? I may well be infected, but they indeed are affected. There are two versions of *Going It Alone* on the CD. The first by Steve Schalchlin and the second by vocalist Ginger Freers. Both are exceptional, but I think because of the personal experiences, Steve's version comes across much stronger. His music is beautiful, powerful, stirs up every emotion in your body and every song on this CD tells a story.

"The Group" is about a visit to a support group for people living with HIV/AIDS. You walk in feeling sorry for yourself, and leave realizing, after all, you don't have it so bad at all. The Group is an accurate cross section of those of us living with HIV/AIDS. From a 20-year-old man to a 50-year-old man who has gone blind, to a 30-year-old with K.S. who is afraid to leave the house. A Christian mother who has lost faith, a straight rocker who keeps his being HIV+ a secret because he's afraid he'll be called gay and lose his friends and an IV drug abuser. It tells the story that no one is immune to this disease and that no matter how bad you feel about it, look around, you may not be doing so bad after all.

I found *Connected* to be a very deep song, with a strong message and a few comedic and ironic twists to lighten it up a little. To me, *Connected* was about dependency; being connected to hospital machines, IV bottles, even the television.

When You Care has a very simple and powerful message. Its gospel-like quality tells the listener: 'no matter what it is, faith, love or life, you can only make a difference when you care.'

Somebody's Friend tells of a story that too often repeats itself in the HIV+ community. Someone tells of a friend of a friend who has been cured of AIDS, has found a miracle treatment, etc., but that 'friend' is nowhere to be found.

Overall, I really enjoyed listening to *Living In The Bonus Round*. It gives you a lot to think about and I think will move some listeners to change their views about HIV/AIDS and those infected and affected by it.

In a bio by Dan Kimpel, Steve describes his music as "part Elton John, part Harry Chapin (because he tells stories with beginnings, middles and endings), part Sondheim (because he loves wordplay and sophisticated ideas). I have to agree.



Steve Schalchlin

Be sure to visit Steve's site on the WWW. Read his diary, visit his links, and even sample some of the music from *Living in the Bonus Round*!

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All gay travellers are well familiar with the reputation of places like San Francisco, Provincetown, and Key West. These have been gay meccas for many years, and they've done nothing but increase in visibility within the community lately. But there are a lot of other cities which are becoming much more gay-friendly, and specifically woo gay travellers and their dollars. Many city councils are forming committees whose sole purpose is to make their city open and inviting to gay visitors. The manager of a lesbian hotel in Palm Springs, California recently remarked to me that the Palm Springs community welcomed gay travellers with open arms because they realized that "gay money was a very deep shade of green!"

The number of gay and lesbian resorts in the Caribbean and Mexico is also increasing. American and Canadian gays and lesbians are moving to points south and opening up guesthouses for our community. In the three years that I've been dealing with gay and lesbian travel, I've come to believe that staying in gay and lesbian guesthouses is the best way to go. The gay travellers themselves feel much more comfortable while checking in, they can socialize with others in the community, as well as get the scoop on things to see and do in the area. Many gay and lesbian innkeepers around the world have made both financial and personal sacrifices in order to provide havens for those of us who prefer to travel "gay." Supporting them with our dollars shows the strength and friendliness that exists within our community, and encourages others to follow suit.

There are certainly gay or gay-friendly guesthouses on quite a few islands in the Caribbean, as well as throughout Mexico. They range from budget properties to very deluxe hotels, with everything in between. There is literally something for everyone out there. The Damron Company and Ferrari International specialize in publishing guidebooks for the gay traveller and his/her travel agent. The abundance of material in these books is quite astounding, and oftentimes articles about points of interest are included that give a bird's eye view of a particular destination.

We all fervently hope that someday society will mature to the point where gays and lesbians will not experience discrimination from the heterosexual community. We will all be able to play together, work together, live together, and travel together without feeling out-of-place. Until then, however, gay and lesbian guesthouses and bed-and-breakfasts offer a wonderful alternative to the average Holiday Inn or Hyatt Hotel experience. The next time you're going on vacation, call a local gay travel agent to help you design a package that will fit your needs and your budget. You'll probably never travel "straight" again!

-Linda Lee Monroe, TCB Travel



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What's Happening? Community Events

CHURCH SERVICES

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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- [REDACTED] for more information.

COMING OUT DISCUSSION GROUPS

Waterloo

GLOW Coming Out Discussion Group has the following meetings upcoming:

- February 19 - Crushes and Infatuation
- February 26 - Hometowns: Where We Came From
- March 5 - How Do We Develop An Intimate Relationship?
- March 12 - Same-Sex Couples
- March 19 - Issues Surrounding Age and Age Differences

All meetings will be held in Hagey Hall (Humanities Bldg) Rm. 378, starting at 7:30 p.m. Check out the GLOW website at <http://www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/clubs/glow/> or call the GLOW Line at [REDACTED]

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 at the Waterloo Recreation

Complex on Father David Bauer Drive. Our schedule is as follows:

Tuesdays:

Run or Walk 8:30 - 9:15p.m.
Swim: 9:15 - 10:15p.m.

Fridays:

Swim 7:00 - 8:00p.m.
Out for dinner afterwards.

Sundays:

Run or Walk 8:15 - 9:00a.m.
Swim: 9:00 - 10:00a.m.
Out for breakfast afterwards.

Admission is free at the times we run, however, there is a \$2.50 charge for use of the pool. Hope to see lots of you there.

For more information please call Todd, Mark or Lindsay at (519) [REDACTED]

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL YOUTH

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.

RAINBOW CHORUS

The Waterloo Wellington Chorus of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Friends is presenting a concert entitled 'Winter Song'.

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Quebec Street, Guelph, Ontario.

When? - Saturday, March 1, 1997 - 8 p.m.

Admission? \$10 advance/\$12 at the Door

For more info. or to order advance tickets, please call Frank at (519) [REDACTED]

GOOD TIME!!!

Wanted: ACGWC seeks involvement from the gay, lesbian and bisexual community! The AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County seeks individuals for dancing, socializing, and an all around good time!

If you meet this criteria please show up at the Albion Hotel (upstairs) on Saturday, February 15 at 9:00 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 at the door and all proceeds go directly to support the programs and services offered by the agency. Snacks, Raffles & Prizes. For more info. call (519) [REDACTED]

ARE YOU ARTISTICALLY INCLINED?

Central Toronto Youth Services is updating their 1988 book "Often Invisible: Counselling Gay and Lesbian Youth" and are requesting submissions of cover art from glb youth under the age of 25. They're asking for camera-ready art, preferably with a final version on disk, done in a maximum of three colours. The title must read "Often Invisible: Working With Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth". Selected work receives cover credit and a maximum of \$150 reimbursement of costs. Send submissions and enquires to:

Robb Travers
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Program
Central Toronto Youth Services
65 Wellesley Street, East
Suite 300,
Toronto, Ontario
M4Y 1G7
(416) 924-2100
Mon.-Fri. - 9am - 5pm.

The deadline for submissions is February 28, 1997 at 4:00 p.m.



DESTINATION AMSTERDAM GAY & LESBIAN DANCE

This event promises to be huge! Help support the gals competing in Gay Games V in Amsterdam.

This fun time will be held at the Phoenix Rollersport Banquet Hall at 70 Belcan Place in Waterloo (off Weber St. between King and Northfield, 1 block north of Albert/Weber). Tickets are available by February 15th at the following locations:

TCB Travel - Kitchener (519) 748-0850
Reader's Ink - Waterloo (519) 746-2872
Disc-Oriented - Guelph (519) 821-2862
Womens Bookstop Hamilton (905) 525-2970
519 Community Centre in Toronto

Tickets: \$6.00 before March 31
\$10.00 after April 1

Doors Open at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 5, 1997
BETHERE!

Every Monday from 9:30 'till 10:30 pm get



with
Dave Callander and Alan Fraser

voice~ 623-5717, e-mail~ outabout@mgl.ca
www.golden.net/~bearsden/outabout.html



Destination Amsterdam '98
Gay and Lesbian Dance

support gals competing in GGY next year... T.O.O.L.S.



(promises to be a HUGE event - www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5901)

Doors open at 8:00 pm

Saturday April 5, 1997
Phoenix Rollersport Banquet Hall
70 Belcan Place
Waterloo

Off Weber St. between King and Northfield (1 block North of Albert/Weber)

Tickets available by Feb. 15 at the following locations:

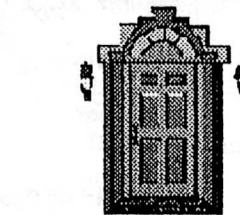
TCP Travel (Linda for more information) Kitchener: (519) 748-0850
Reader's Ink: Waterloo (519) 746-2822
Disc-Oriented: Guelph (519) 821-2862
Womens Bookstop: Hamilton (905) 525-2970
S19 Community Centre: Toronto

\$ 6.00 before March 31
\$ 10.00 after April 1

classifieds

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Fax: 622-9706
email: larence@granite.sentex.net

Shared Accommodation



Are you tired of city living? Need some open space and fresh air? Home to share on 1.5 acres with pool, gardens, etc. Less than 5 minutes north of Guelph. Must be gay positive (or positively gay), have own transportation, and love animals.

If interested, please call
(519) [REDACTED]



A Note of Thanks



ACCKWA and members of the Chairs for Charity Steering Committee would like to thank the many individuals and organizations whose generosity helped make this event a huge success.

First and foremost we would like to thank the artists in our community who not only donated, but created original works of art specifically for this important cause. The response from the art community was tremendous and we salute their efforts.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the event's musicians, and to our Master of Ceremonies, Janine Grespan, and to our speakers, Tim Bates and Murray Jose.

We'd like to thank the many restaurants and businesses for generously giving of their products, services and talents who made the food services so outstanding. You are too numerous to mention!

ACCKWA wishes to recognize the generous contributions of the many volunteers who have dedicated their time and energy to plan and implement Chairs for Charity. Thank you to all of our volunteers. We could not have done it without you!

Community Info

Canadian AIDS Society
Ottawa
1-613-230-3580

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

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

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
204-85 Norfolk 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

Brethren Mennonite Council
for Gays and Lesbians
P.O. Box 43031
Eastwood Square,
Kitchener, ON. N2H 6S9

COLAGE (Children of
Lesbians and Gays
Everywhere)
Provides education,
support and community on
local and international
levels.

Contact Sarah at [REDACTED]
or e-mail to:
[REDACTED]

DISTRESS LINE
Kitchener 745-1166

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

GLOBAL (Gays, Lesbians or
Bisexuals at Laurier)
e-mail:
00global@mach1.wlu.ca

website:
www.wlu.ca/~wwwclubs/
www/global.html

GQE (Guelph Queer
Equality)
[REDACTED]
email: gqe@uoguelph.ca

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

Ontario AIDS Network
Toronto
1-416-364-4555

Outline (formerly Gayline)
LGBT Information Line
836-4550

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

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

Sexual Assault Centres
KW - 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
e-mail: woods@rainbow.on.ca
web: www.rainbow.on.ca/

Support Local Gay Radio!

Monday- Out & About with your hosts Dave Callandar and Alan Fraser airs every Monday from 9:30 - 10:30pm on CKWR 98.7 FM. Woman Made Collective Show airs Mondays from 6-7 pm on CFRU 93.3 Fingers, Fists and KY is brought to you in part by The Lesbian Avengers and airs Mondays from 10pm - 12am on CFRU 93.3. Tuesday- Girls Taste Good with your host Kristyn airs Tuesdays at 2pm on CFRU 93.3. Wednesday- Nowhere To Hide airs Wednesdays from 8-9pm on CKMS 100.3 FM Womenspin on CKMS 100.3 FM airs Wednesdays from 6-8pm Thursday- Thursdays listen in for Leaping Lesbians on CKMS 100.3 FM from 6-8pm. The Rainbow Radio Network can be heard Thursdays on CHRW 94.7 FM at 10:15pm. Fag Factory with your host Adam airs at 2pm on Thursdays on CFRU 93.3 FM.

-Happy Listening-

"Most times, the only gay or lesbian face people know of is who they see in the pride parade. To judge us on that would be like judging heterosexuals after watching Mardi Gras."

-Candace Gingrich



Chairs for Charity Surpasses Fundraising Goal

Saturday, February 8 was a special evening for ACCKWA! Close to 300 people filled the Rotunda in Kitchener City Hall to participate in ACCKWA's 3rd Annual Chairs for Charity Art Auction. All shared the common goal of raising funds and awareness for ACCKWA's programs and services.

Enthusiastic art buyers raised approximately \$13,000 as they bid on art created specifically for Chairs for Charity. All the art was created using a chair as its canvas or inspiration. This year, the committee added weekend get-a-ways, dinners for two, quilts and other items to the auction which proved to be an excellent way to increase the funds raised. A feeling of warmth and excitement fill the Rotunda as Ray Hammond bid an astonishing \$1,000 for a Quebec City get-a-way weekend. This was the highest bid ever received at a Chairs for Charity auction! See classified section for a complete list of Thank you's.

Club Renaissance's Aid for AIDS Raises \$1257

On Saturday, January 18 the staff and customers at Club Renaissance raised \$1257 for ACCKWA's programs and services. The evening, which featured a drag show, accomplished this tremendous one-day fundraising total through an increased cover charge, the generous donation of tips and wages and by collecting donations at the door. A special thank you to Fran Furlong, Cheryl MacDonald, Jason Gamble and everyone at Club Renaissance for their generosity.



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.

for more information: ☎ 883-2251
AIDS/STD Program

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Internet Site: www.angieseats.com	



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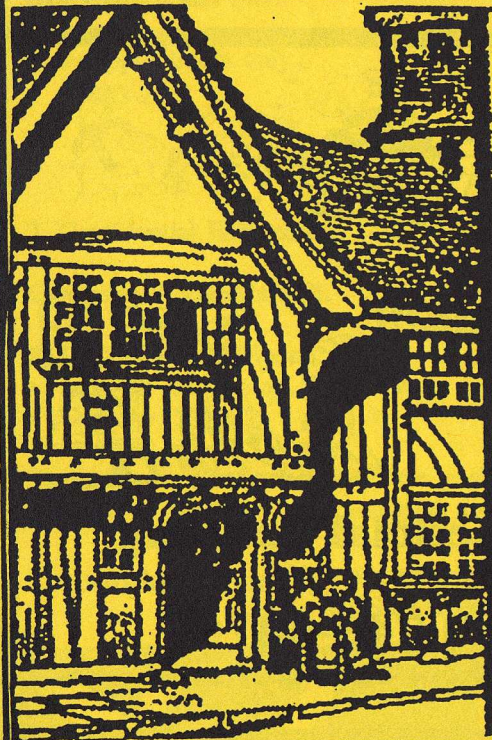
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