

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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

Outlook Magazine

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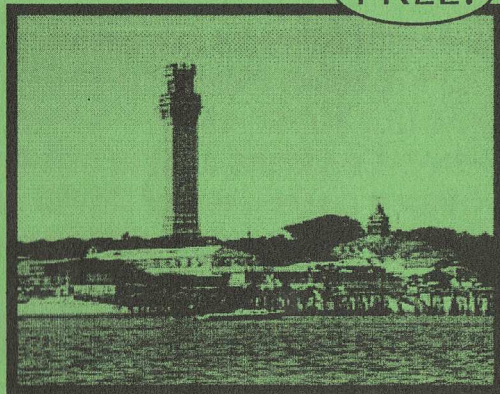
Magazine

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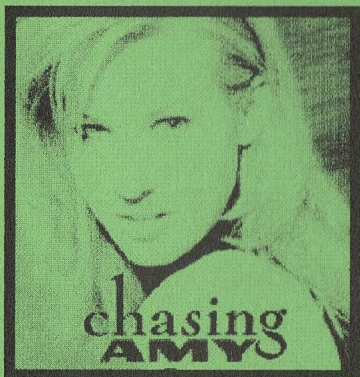
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Inside This Issue:

It's In... To Be Out in Provincetown!



The Ties That Bind:
Gays Caring For
Elderly Parents



Chasing Amy:
A Movie Review

Worldwide News,
Entertainment,
Community
Information
and Much
Much More!



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ISSUE 21



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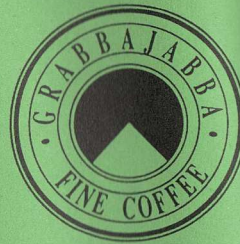
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PLEASE NOTE:

We are going on vacation! Since Outlook is strictly a volunteer effort, we put a lot of our spare time (What's that?) into putting it together. This year Mark and I have decided to combine the July and August issues into one and take a little time to ourselves.

What does this mean? It means there will be no issue in the month of August. Outlook will return in September with its 2nd Anniversary issue! For subscribers, not to worry; your subscription will run one month longer than scheduled, so there will be no loss to you.

Rich

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Welcome to the new look of Outlook Magazine!

Since its inception in September 1995 we have made a few changes in its appearance, but the most noticeable is that of the content.

Over the last 20 months we've increased our news coverage dramatically, had many articles and submissions sent in by you the reader, and have made it easier to read by using clearer, simpler fonts.

With the current changes, we're offering a more updated appearance and as you'll notice, the type is more legible; not so hard on the eyes. Changes will be happening over the next few issues. We hope you enjoy the new look of Outlook Magazine!

Send us your comments to the addresses listed below. We look forward to hearing from you.

NEWS..... FROM

FORMER ZIMBABWE PRESIDENT SUED FOR SEXUAL ABUSE OF AIDE

(The Data Lounge) -- The former president of Zimbabwe, Canaan Banana, has been sued for \$115,000 in civil damages by an ex-police aide who charges Banana with rape and sexual abuse spanning a period of three years, Reuters reports.

Jefta Dube, a former police inspector, filed the civil suit with Zimbabwe's high court on March 25. The allegations against the ex-president were first made last February during Dube's trial for the 1995 murder of a fellow policeman. Dube told the Zimbabwe court he fatally shot and killed the man when he was referred to as "Banana's wife" by the officer in front of other policemen.

Dube pleaded guilty to the murder charge, but said the prolonged sexual abuse he suffered made him depressive and an alcoholic. The judge in the case ruled Dube was acting under diminished responsibility and sentenced the officer to a 10 year prison term.

Banana, who is 61 and the father of five, served in the largely ceremonial post of president from 1980 to 1987 and was a close associate and friend of then-Prime Minister and current Zimbabwe President, Robert Mugabe.

The charges against the president's trusted ally and friend are an acute embarrassment for Mugabe, who last year unleashed a blistering public attack on the country's gay men and lesbians.

CANADIAN GAYS/LESBIANS READY FOR ELECTIONS

(NewsPlanet) -- Canadian national political debate just hasn't given enough recognition to gay and lesbian issues, in the eyes of the national advocacy group EGALE (Equality for Gays And Lesbians Everywhere), so they're mobilizing the community to ensure those questions are raised in the next national election campaign. EGALE executive director John Fisher begins a whirlwind tour that will take him through every province and territory in the country until the end of May, to hold community meetings on strategies for visibility and successful election of a responsive national parliament. EGALE will actively distribute its own literature and question candidates as to their positions on gay and lesbian civil rights.

One long-running struggle has been the effort to gain domestic partner benefits for federal gay and lesbian employees. On April 10, a human rights tribunal ordered the government to define federal employees' same-gender partners as "spouses," removing the necessity for any special registration for unmarried couples to qualify for the same benefits as legally married ones. The federal government is reviewing the ruling.

EPITAPH DENIED, CEMETERY SUED

(NewsPlanet) -- A headstone in a Philadelphia-area cemetery remains blank 2-1/2 years after the death of the lesbian whose grave it marks. Cynthia Friedman knew exactly what she wanted for an epitaph and took every available legal step to ensure that her partner of 13 years, Sherry Barone, would be able to see to it for her. But because Friedman's parents objected to the epitaph's opening phrase "beloved life partner,"

AROUND THE WORLD

the Har Jehuda Cemetery has refused to recognize Barone's authority without a court order to establish it. The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (LLDEF) filed a lawsuit in federal court April 15 on behalf of Barone, charging the cemetery with breach of contract and infliction of emotional distress. Says Barone's LLDEF attorney David Buckel, "This is the case that answers the question that comes up in state legislature after state legislature around the country: why aren't legal documents enough? Why do gay people need the right to marry as well?"

Friedman was diagnosed with cancer in 1989 and died in 1994. In the interim, she and Barone gave each other powers of attorney and proxies for medical care, named each other in wills, and made explicit instructions for fulfilling Friedman's final wishes. The couple had fallen in love as teenagers, made a life commitment in their twenties, and moved together from their native Philadelphia to Southern California, where Barone cared for Friedman during her illness. Barone purchased adjacent plots in the cemetery, where both women have family members interred, with the intent that they should be together in death as in life.

LLDEF charges that there is no legal basis whatever for anyone to contravene Barone's efforts to carry out Friedman's will. LLDEF director Beatrice Dohrn noted, "It would be unimaginable for a cemetery to question a husband's or wife's authority to act after a spouse's death. This couple did everything possible to assure that they would be treated appropriately.

This case illustrates that even when lesbian and gay couples have lawyers draft all the recommended documents, they are vulnerable to the homophobia of those who will not respect our families."

Friedman and Barone had also planned to observe traditional Jewish burial and mourning rites, now spoiled by Har Jehuda's obstruction. Custom dictates that the year-long grieving period ends with an "unveiling" of the headstone, and performing that ritual without a grave marker has left Barone deeply distressed. "I didn't complete the grieving process that a person should have after losing a loved one," she says. "My life cannot go on fully until I know that Cynthia's spirit is at rest, her wishes having been carried out."

The complete epitaph planned for the headstone reads, "Cynthia L. Friedman/ July 11, 1959 - October 3, 1994/ Beloved life partner, daughter, granddaughter, sister, and aunt/ A spirited and compassionate woman who will be forever in our hearts."

GAYS SUE NEW BRUNSWICK MAYOR

Fredricton, New Brunswick, Mayor Brad Woodside is being hauled before the provincial Human Rights Commission over his refusal to proclaim Gay Pride Week -- the only known denial of a proclamation in city history.

"Sexual orientation belongs in the bed chambers not the council chambers," Woodside explained.

Fredricton Lesbians and Gays coordinated 19 separate complaints to the commission on the grounds that the provincial Human Rights Act bans discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The commission has declared the case "not without merit," meaning it can proceed.

In a similar, precedent-setting case in Ontario in 1991, the mayor of Hamilton was ordered to proclaim Gay Pride Week and to personally pay a \$5,000 fine.

HAWAII AGREES TO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BANNING GAY MARRIAGE

HONOLULU -- The Honolulu Advertiser reports the Hawaii House and Senate have reached agreement on a proposed constitutional amendment they believe would ban same sex marriage. Agreement has also reportedly been reached on the package of benefits and rights for couples who, under the amended state constitution, would be denied the right to marry.

In an effort to steer the decision away from the purview of Hawaii's courts, House and Senate leaders have been struggling for months over the wording of a constitutional amendment. The Advertiser reports lawmakers agreed to: "The Legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples."

If the proposed amendment clears the full legislature, as expected, voters will be asked to ratify the amendment in the 1998 General Election. Polls taken over the past several years show a sixty to seventy percent majority of Hawaii residents have stated their opposition to same-sex marriage.

House and Senate negotiations repeatedly broke down over the scope of benefits that would be granted gay couples and other non-traditional families in the event the gay marriage ban was adopted. The House was offering a limited package of five enumerated benefits and the Senate was pressing for a package containing more than two hundred.

The compromise reached provides some sixty rights and benefits guaranteed by the state to couples forbidden by law to marry.

Senate negotiators say a substantial benefits package which included joint health care coverage was absolutely essential if lawmakers were to prove to the courts that banning gay marriage did not necessarily entail discriminatory practices against gay couples.

Dan Foley, the lawyer representing the three

gay and lesbian couples who originally sued the state for marriage licenses, says the case is far from over. If the proposed amendment is adopted by voters in 1998, the 1999 legislature would still have to draft a law banning gay marriage. Foley says the Hawaii Supreme Court will not wait that long to make a decision on the gay marriage issue.

SCIENTISTS FIND CHINK IN AIDS VIRUS ARMOR

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (Reuter) - Researchers said April 17 they had isolated a weak spot in the AIDS virus which may allow new drugs to stop the infection from spreading.

Led by Dr. Peter Kim and Dr. David Chan at the Whitehead Laboratory in Cambridge, scientists have isolated an image of the viral protein that allows HIV to attach itself to a healthy human cell and kill it.

The two scientists, writing in the April 18 issue of the journal Cell, said the striking image produced through the use of X-ray crystallography, reveals a compact bundle punctuated by deep cavities.

"Until we saw the images, we didn't know that these cavities existed," Dr. Kim said. "They could be key targets for the development of new antiviral drugs."

Part of what has made AIDS difficult to combat is that the virus mutates so often. What Kim and Chan discovered was that the protein's structure remains constant -- an unchanging target for scientists developing anti-AIDS drugs.

The protein's "structure suggests a way to prevent infection," Chan said in a telephone interview, adding that the image showed the protein possessed two parts that need to touch for it to remain viable.

"If you have a drug that can block that interaction, you can prevent infection."

Chan suggested that small molecule drugs, synthetically produced, could provide the barrier

to infection.

To speed the process of drug discovery, the Whitehead scientists will make the precise, three-dimensional information about the protein structure accessible to all scientists through Brookhaven National Laboratory's protein data bank.

SCIENTISTS DISCOVER IMPORTANT HIV MECHANISM

NEW YORK -- The New York Times reports that scientists have discovered the precise mechanism by which HIV penetrates the membrane of cells it infects. Knowledge about the workings of the mechanism, which the Times describes as being similar to a spring loaded harpoon, can lead to treatments that "jam" the harpoon or render it somehow inoperable, thereby preventing infection.

The discovery of the mechanism is the result of more than 15 years of research. The harpoon mechanism utilized by HIV, say scientists, has also been found in the influenza virus and a mouse leukemia virus. These same scientists say it is likely other viruses will also be found to utilize the same method to invade healthy cells.

Over the past several years, scientists have developed an understanding of the basic chemistry by which proteins in HIV recognize proteins on the cells they attack. The new path of discovery is telling biologists what physical changes these proteins undergo when they come in contact with a host cell.

The harpoon protein is compacted like a compressed spring until a chemical reaction, most likely contact with the host cell, releases it. The tip of the harpoon is repellent to water but attracted to fat found in cell membranes, the Times says, enabling the harpoon protein to thrust itself deep into the surface of the cell.

The virus then fuses its own coat with that of the cell membrane and the infection process begins.

Scientists say a deeper understanding of what chemical reactions trigger the release of the harpoon, which is now understood to be at the heart of the infection process, can lead to treatments that blunt its effectiveness.

PRIEST TURNS HOLY THURSDAY INTO 'COMING OUT DAY'

(Washington Blade) -- A Catholic priest who announced to parishioners that he is Gay and celibate has received an "extremely" supportive reaction from his bishop, the Grand Rapids Press reported.

The Rev. Martin Kurylowicz, longtime pastor of Sparta's Holy Family Catholic Church, said he received "many hugs" from parishioners after he came out during a Holy Thursday Mass on March 27. He added that Bishop Robert Rose, who presides over the 150,000-member Grand Rapids diocese, has been "extremely supportive," the newspaper reported.

Rose said he is satisfied that Kurylowicz's views on homosexuality are consistent with the church's belief that acting on homosexual desires is a sin, the newspaper reported. Sparta is located about 15 miles north of Grand Rapids.

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SEXUAL TABOOS BREAK INTO THE CLASSROOM

(Stephen Vines) -- The "taboo" subjects of "masturbation, homosexuality, pre-marital sex and sexual harassment, etc." are to be broached in Hong Kong's secondary schools if government proposals are accepted. In addition, for the first time, sex education will appear on the curriculum for kindergartens and primary schools.

Last month the colony's administration issued new guidelines on sex education. Julian Leung, assistant director of education, said revisions were necessary "in view of the rapid social changes over the past 10 years."

The government was trying to help teachers equip students with "the attitudes, values and knowledge necessary for resolving sex tensions." The guidelines also provide for education on AIDS and an "emphasis on the clarification of values, positive self-esteem, and concepts of marriage and family." Hong Kong schools are not

known as centres of enlightenment, particularly when it comes to sex education. Surveys taken among young people have shown high levels of ignorance about sex.

The proposed guidelines are expected to be opposed by teachers reluctant to teach about sex and parents who seem to believe their children should not have access to sexual information at an early age.

Evidence suggests sex education is badly needed in Hong Kong. A survey by a group concerned about proliferation of pornography found that over a quarter of boys questioned said they would commit rape if this did not mean going to jail.

Last year a consultation exercise on sexual discrimination found 53 per cent of those questioned would not allow a homosexual into their homes, 37 per cent would not stay in the same hotel as a homosexual or bi-sexual and one in five people stated they would not shake hands with a gay person.

VATICAN NEWSPAPER CALLS FOR NEW ACCEPTANCE OF GAYS

VATICAN CITY -- Reuters reports the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano has published an extraordinary call for Roman Catholics to be open and accepting of gay men and lesbians in the Catholic Church. The article said gay people, as long as they abstain from sex, can achieve sanctity in the Church.

While the Church repeated its teaching that only sex within heterosexual monogamous marriage was permitted, the compassionate and embracing tone of the article broke new ground for the world's largest Christian denomination.

"God loves all of us as we are, with our limits, our peculiarities, which can become paths to holiness," Jean-Louis Brugues, a member of the Catholic Church's International Theological Commission and the article's author, wrote on April 23.

"One thing is certain: the homosexual person is called, like all others, to see his talents bear fruit and put them to the service of the human community and the building of the kingdom of God," Reuters quotes the article. Its appearance prompted banner headlines in Italy, such as the one in Rome's La Repubblica which declared "Chaste gays will be saints."

Reuters said Bruges urged Church members and officials to study and modify their behavior toward gay and lesbian faithful. A priest who administers to gay parishioners "must overcome his fears and perhaps repress his opposition or even the repulsion homosexuality inspires in him..."

"Christian communities," the article said, "should be careful to refrain from every expression of contempt toward persons who have this particularity." Bruges urged wards of the Church to coax gay people out of their "ghettos" and to encourage them to take part with other Catholics in a wide range of community activity.

"Every human being without exception is called with his whole being to salvation, not despite of

but because of the particular nature of how a personality develops..." the article said.

SONG CALLS GAYS 'FILTHY, OBSCENE'

(Washington Blade) -- Gay activists in the state of South Australia are harshly criticizing the debut album of a heavy metal band called Cohort which includes a song that graphically describes Gays being brutally tortured and murdered, according to an April 4 Associated Press report.

In the song "Homophobic," on the album Drawn and Quartered, Gays are referred to as "scum of the earth," who "have no worth."

"Death you deserve," the song continues, "die outcast, unclean, filthy, obscene ... faggot blood will spray."

Appearing on a television news show, a bass player in the band, Andrew James, defended the song, saying it was inspired by the Bible and that it was "nothing worse than [the music] that's coming out of Europe and America."

"It is an extreme song," he conceded, "but that's the brand of music we choose to play."

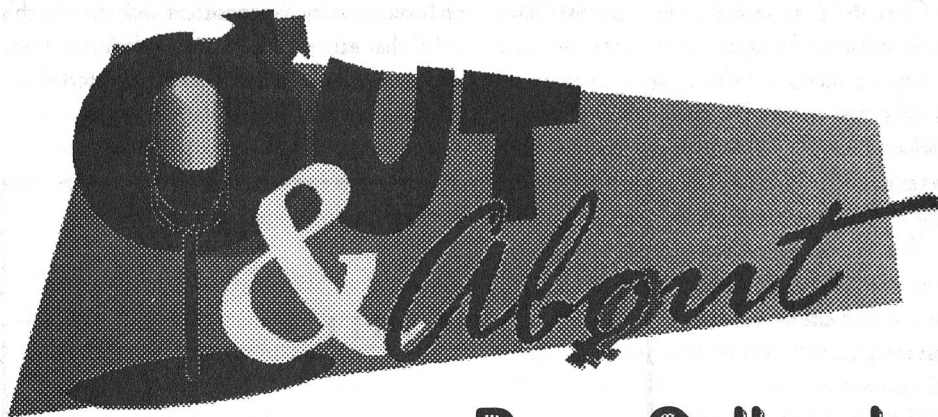
Activists in Adelaide, a coastal city in South Australia, denounced Cohort and criticized the state government for allowing the band to record a portion of the album at a state high school.

Jamie Anderson, spokesperson for the Pride Action Network, said the government's decision to allow the band access to the high school implied that the government "supports hatred, premeditated violence, and murder of Gay [and] Lesbian people."

Warhead Records, the record company which produced Drawn and Quartered, defended the album and the band.

Brad Sims, a spokesperson for the record company, told Associated Press that Warhead Records "absolutely supports Cohort's freedom to express whatever opinion they have through the safe medium of music."

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BAN URGED ON TEACHING ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY

(The Vancouver Sun) -- Parent advisory councils from across B.C. voted in late April to ban school curriculum that teaches about homosexuality as well as any resource materials prepared by gay and lesbian organizations.

Delegates at the annual meeting of the B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils passed two motions, both forwarded by Surrey parents' groups, that urged the province to keep discussion of homosexuality out of the classrooms. One motion, forwarded by the Elgin Park parents' council in Surrey and passed by a 204-93 margin, said schools should use anti-harassment policies rather than classroom curriculum to protect homosexual students from discrimination.

The other, more controversial, resolution opposes curriculum that deals with same-sex couples as well as any educational materials prepared by "homosexual lifestyle advocacy groups" such as the Gay and Lesbian Educators of B.C.

"When homosexuality is taught, it becomes an avenue of advocacy for homosexuals and thus teaches that homosexuality is acceptable as a healthy lifestyle," said the resolution, passed by a 165-158 margin -- so close a recount was needed.

One delegate who voted against the latter resolution was Larry Haines of the Riverside Parent Advisory Council in Port Coquitlam. "I wish it could have been worded differently," said the single parent.

In a statement issued, the parents' advisory confederation said it does not support promotional material of any kind in schools, "whether from political parties, product marketing firms or special interest groups."

The Vancouver-based confederation represents the dozens of parent councils throughout the province that give advice to their local schools. The group has no formal powers and can only

lobby to have its views acted upon.

"They can't compel the ministry of education to carry out their policies," said Coquitlam teacher Murray Warren, a member of the Gay and Lesbian Educators, adding: "I don't believe the majority of people in this province want to see these very draconian measures taken."

Warren noted that the more contentious resolution had been drafted by the parents' group at the Surrey Traditional School.


"I guess Surrey is carrying on its tradition of banning, banning, banning."

School trustees in Surrey voted 4-2 to ban three children's books ("Asha's Mums", "One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dads, Blue Dads" and "Belinda's Bouquet") -- two of them available in the kid's section at Vancouver Public Library -- that feature same-sex-parent families.

The majority of trustees decided that the issue of homosexuality should be discussed in homes rather than classes.

The Surrey board also sent a memo to all schools in the district earlier this month advising teachers, administrators and counsellors not to make use of

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a pamphlet, poster and resource list distributed by the Gay and Lesbian Educators.

The thorny issue of how schools should deal with homosexuality has been hotly debated since March, when the B.C. Teachers' Federation voted to form a panel "to create a program to eliminate homophobia and heterosexism within the B.C. public school system."

The move generated protests by objecting parents at the BCTF annual general meeting.

The BCTF defined "heterosexism" as "the assumption that everyone is heterosexual and that being heterosexual is inherently better or more moral than being gay, lesbian or bisexual."

The move was supported as "courageous" by Education Minister Paul Ramsey.

Only last month, the British Columbia Teacher's Federation annual general meeting overwhelmingly voted for a task force to increase the resources and training available to help teachers combat

homophobia.

CHINA BARS YUAN'S CANNES TRIP

(NewsPlanet) -- The 50th annual Cannes Film Festival opened without the director of one of its featured films. Officials withdrew the passport of Zhang Yuan when he returned to China April 10 and gave no indication they would allow him to join his gay-themed "East Palace, West Palace" when it screened at the prestigious festival. Yuan has long been in bad odour with the Chinese government, which has already banned the film itself for its pioneering portrayal of gay male life in contemporary China.

"East Palace, West Palace" was the first official Cannes selection to be made public this year and has been honoured among the films in the non-competitive "Un Certain Regard" category. The

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film had previously been screened at festivals in Edinburgh, Scotland; Pusan, South Korea; and Mar del Plata, Argentina.

The film's title refers to public toilets on either side of Beijing's Tianenmen Square, a gay cruising area. Its plot centers on the interactions between a policeman and the young gay writer he first harasses and then arrests in the course of a raid.

Yuan has essentially been blacklisted in China since his first film, as the government in 1993 reportedly instructed the studios not to work with him.

He made "East Palace" with a French studio, so a copy will be available for screening at Cannes even if Yuan cannot attend. Another Chinese filmmaker, Zhang Yimou, will apparently also be prevented from attending by the government, as he was last year.

MILITARY URGED TO REVERSE GAY BAN

(UPI) -- A top lawmaker has called on the Philippine military to reverse its ban on homosexuals in the armed forces and says neither heroism nor courage are the monopoly of heterosexuals.

Senate President Blas Ople stresses, "Tolerance and open-mindedness should be the policy of recruitment."

Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Arnulfo Acedera has drawn a barrage of criticism since declaring homosexuals are prohibited from joining the military.

While contending women are acceptable, Acedera says, "We cannot have in-betweens in the military service."

Ople notes gays are making vital contributions in all branches of government and have a place in the military and police services.

Acedera predicts there would be organizational problems if the prohibition was lifted, without elaborating.

"What we need are men or women," he says,

citing as an example the first seven female graduates of the elite Philippine Military Academy who received their commissions last month.

The women broke a 92-year male gridlock at the school which combines rigid training with academics.

Acedera says he knows of no gays at present in the service, but if there are, they must be advised to get out.

Ople said the military would not have problems with homosexuals who do not flaunt their sexual orientation, but are highly motivated to serve in the forces.

LARGEST INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE EVER

Los Angeles — The largest international gay and lesbian religious gathering ever held in the Pacific Rim will take place in Sydney, Australia July 20-25, according to the Rev. Troy D. Perry, founder and moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC).

UFMCC is the largest and oldest faith community with a primary ministry to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities.

"This is the first of UFMCC's biennial General Conferences to be held outside of North America, and reflects our growing commitment as a truly international community of faith," said Perry. Founded in 1968 to build safe, affirming places of spirituality for the gay community, UFMCC is now composed of more than 300 local congregations in 19 countries. With a combined budget in excess of \$10 million, the UFMCC churches comprise the largest predominantly gay and lesbian organization in the world.

Perry noted the strong international response to this year's conference. "As of March 1, early registration for General Conference XVIII was the highest at that point in the denomination's history," said Perry.

This year's UFMCC General Conference

XVIII will feature a public rally at Sydney's historic town hall, keynote addresses by internationally recognized human rights activists and theologians, business and planning sessions, an international AIDS luncheon, and an extensive list of social and sightseeing options.

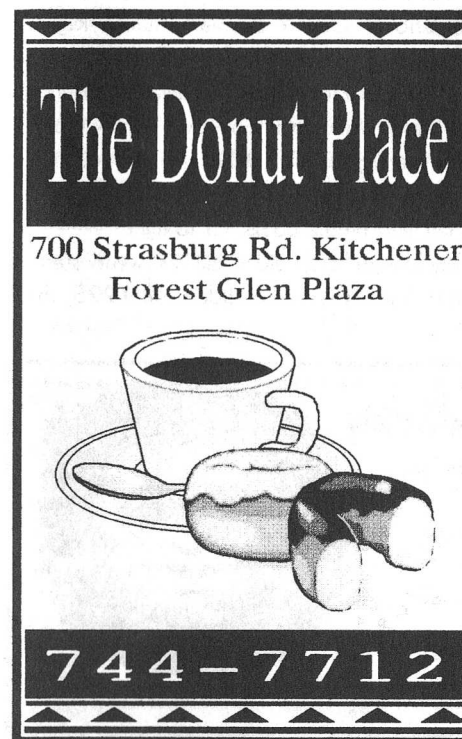
Workshops and seminars will explore gay sexuality, spirituality, activism, gay parenting, outreach to the g/l/b/t/ communities, addressing the faith concerns of the gay community, AIDS ministry in a new era, and the use of technology on behalf of gay spirituality.

The international theme of UFMCC's General Conference XVIII is taken from the words of Christ, "You are the light of the world." Extensive information on this year's conference is available through UFMCC's website at <http://www.ufmcc.com>.

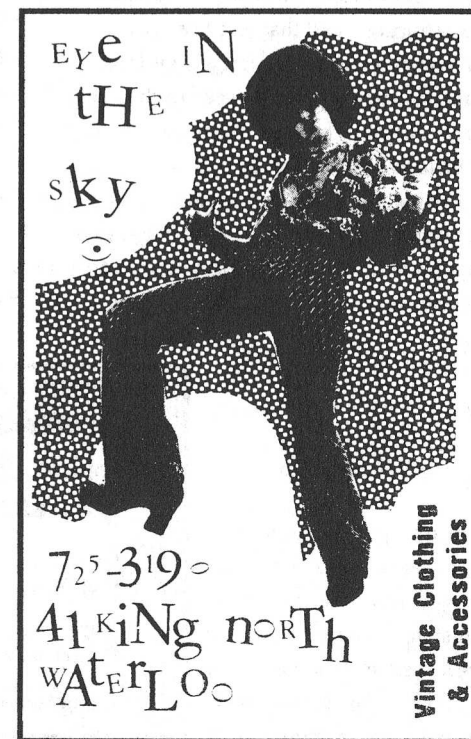
UFMCC was founded the Rev. Troy D. Perry, who serves as moderator of the fast-growing

denomination. A frequent international speaker at churches, universities, and conferences, Perry has appeared on 60 Minutes, Phil Donahue, Tomorrow with Tom Snyder, and The Mike Douglas Show. UFMCC's story has appeared in virtually every international news magazine. Perry is the recipient of awards from the American Civil Liberties Union, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Gay Press Association.

According to conference organizer Nathan Meckley of the UFMCC staff, special international travel rates have been secured through travel agencies, airlines and hotels to make this historic conference truly affordable for all interested participants. Additional information on UFMCC's General Conference XVIII is available by writing UFMCC, 8704 Santa Monica Boulevard, 2nd Floor, West Hollywood, CA 90069, by phoning (310) 360-8640, and by e-mail at UFMCC@aol.com.



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FLORIDA LAWMAKERS BAN SAME SEX MARRIAGES

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (Reuter) - Florida's Senate came out overwhelmingly against gay marriages, voting 33-5 in favor of a measure that would restrict the institution of marriage in the state to heterosexual couples.

Members of the state house had voted 97-19 in favor of the measure.

The bill now goes to Gov. Lawton Chiles who said he had not yet decided whether he would sign or veto it. Supporters of the bill would need a two-thirds majority in each chamber to override a veto.

If Chiles signs the bill, Florida would join 18 other states that restrict legal recognition of marriages to those between opposite sexes.

Critics had said the bill marred the state's image as a tourist destination and labeled its residents as anti-gay, but its sponsor, a member of the first Republican majority in Florida's legislature since Reconstruction, said that was fine.

"I think it sends a good image," said Sen. John Grant, R-Tampa. "What we need to do is develop family tourism in Florida. What this says is that we believe in family values."

President Clinton signed the "Defense of Marriage Act," a federal law that allows states to refuse to recognize marriage between partners of the same sex, in 1996.

Australia's only remaining state law banning same sex relations, but it also marks Australia's compliance with the 1994 United Nations' ruling on this issue.

In April, 1994, the United Nations Human Rights Committee formally interpreted the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to protect the lesbian and gay citizens of Tasmania against discrimination as well to protect their privacy rights. The UN formally called on Australia to eliminate this law. The Australian federal government responded by passing national legislation protecting the sexual privacy of its citizens, but until now, the law in Tasmania remained on the books.

Nick Toonen, spokesperson for the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group exclaimed, "A destructive criminal stigma has been lifted from the shoulders of gay and lesbian Tasmanians and hopefully Tasmania's reputation as a bastion of prejudice will also now begin to disappear."

Julie Dorf, Executive Director of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission, added, "We are thrilled about this news and congratulate the Tasmanian activists on their hard work and long over-due victory. Unfortunately, there are still over eighty countries in the world with sodomy or other anti-gay and lesbian laws on the books left to fight."

"The United States alone still has twenty states with sodomy laws," she added. In 1995, the

UN Human Rights Committee reported to the United States government that its sodomy laws similarly violated its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

UK LABOUR PARTY LANDSLIDE CARRIED A LAVENDAR TINT

Labour's landslide victory over the Conservative Party that's ruled Britain for 18 years bodes rather well for gays and lesbians in general and very well indeed for at least three individually, successful openly gay candidates Stephen Twigg, Ben Bradshaw and Chris Smith. And why not? New Prime Minister Tony Blair had actually proposed that Labour abandon its traditional red in favor of purple for the campaign, although it was only "added to" the red after a great hue and cry.

Labour actively courted the pink vote with promises from Jack Straw -- who's likely to become Blair's Home Secretary -- to try again to lower the age of consent for gay male sex to equal that for lesbians and heterosexuals, to enact civil rights protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation, to repeal the noxious Clause 28 (which forbids funding for the "promotion" of homosexuality), and to lift the ban on military service by open gays and lesbians.

Ironically, the man whose job it's been to oversee the discriminatory military, Minister of

Defense Michael Portillo, was deposed from his seat in the House of Commons by openly gay Labour candidate Stephen Twigg. Twigg took 44.2% of the vote compared to 41.1% for Portillo. Portillo was only one of a large number of Tory cabinet ministers and senior party members to be unseated from Parliament altogether in the Labour landslide.

Member of Parliament and Shadow Health Secretary Chris Smith, who came out as a gay man after a previous election to Parliament, would normally be expected to now become Blair's Health Minister and the nation's first openly gay cabinet member -- except that Blair's political debts exceed the number of paid cabinet positions he's limited to by law, so nothing is certain. Smith coasted to victory in Islington South & Finsbury with 62.5% of the vote.

Ben Bradshaw has become the first-ever to succeed as an openly gay candidate not previously elected to the Parliament, and he did so in dramatic circumstances: his opponent in Exeter was blatantly homophobic Conservative Dr. Adrian Young, a district the Conservatives had held since 1970. Bradshaw took 47.5% of the vote compared to 28.6% for Rogers.

But neither the Labour affiliation nor the gay sexual orientation was always enough for victory. Openly lesbian Labour candidate Katie Hanson was a distant third in Woking, open gay Alex Wilcock of the Liberal Democrats was far up the

track in Stevenage, while openly gay Conservative MP Michael Brown was swept away by Labour's Shona McIsaac, 51.6% to 33.4%, in Cleethorpes.

Also of interest is the fate of three gay-friendly (some believe, perhaps more than friendly) Conservatives. The most visible this year -- due to scandalous allegations by one of his former aides, that they'd had

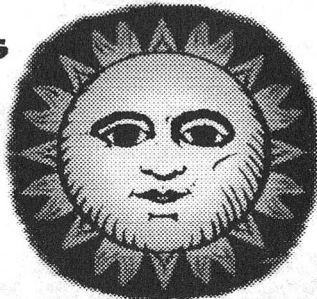
MAJOR GAY LAW REFORM IN TASMANIA, AUSTRALIA

After nine years of community organizing to repeal Tasmania's anti-gay law, the Tasmanian legislature finalized a vote to repeal their anti-gay law, May 1, 1997. This decision marks not only the elimination of

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a past affair before the aide had quite reached the 21-year-old age of consent of the time -- Conservative MP Jerry Hayes, was roundly defeated in Harlow by Labour candidate Bill Rammell, 54.1% to 32.1%. Two other Conservative candidates Michael Lavender and Chris O'Leary, who'd been involved with the Tory Campaign for Homosexual Equality (TORCHE), were both trounced, in Hackney North & Stoke Newington and Hackney South & Shoreditch, respectively.

YEP, "ELLEN" CAME OUT ON TV

(NewsPlanet) -- The long wait since September ended April 30 as the lead character of the ABC sitcom "Ellen" came out as a lesbian. Western civilization appears to be much as before, despite the concerns of a handful of homophobic protestors who demonstrated outside of ABC's New York City headquarters.

The Parties: The larger "Come Out with 'Ellen'" parties were unexpectedly targets of the "Ellen"-mad media, with at least 20 media represented at the Birmingham, Alabama showing alone. Although there were metal detectors at Birmingham's Boutwell Municipal Auditorium -- where a full house watched by satellite the episode the local network affiliate refused to air in prime time -- the only problem so far reported from any of the more than 1,500 official "Ellen"-watching parties was in Dayton, Ohio. There two peculiar notes addressed to the "Ellen G. Coming Out Party" at the Lesbian & Gay Center were taken to be threats of a fire-bombing: "Heavenly Heaven awaits smoken for the perfect & beautiful girls -- see ya. Tom." Police checked out the building and continued to patrol the area while some 40 people attended the party as planned, without incident.

Who's Buying: Some of the sponsors who paid upwards of \$300,000 per 30 second spot on "The Puppy Episode" included movie-makers New

Line Cinema, Universal Studios, Warner Brothers, Columbia Pictures and 20th Century Fox; Home Access (home HIV-testing kits), Volkswagen, HBO, The Gap and Burlington Coat Factory, among others, also bought in.

What's Next: Ellen Degeneres has ambitions to spend the next few months writing a second book and producing a movie with a working title "Mother Nature" -- and probably recovering from overexposure (she'd originally planned to do only the "Time" magazine, Diane Sawyer and Oprah Winfrey interviews, but hasn't been able to go anywhere in public without being mobbed).

ANITA BRYANT FILES BANKRUPTCY

(NewsPlanet) - Anita Bryant, whose anti-gay crusade twenty years ago is believed by some to have done more than the Stonewall uprising to put the gay and lesbian movement on the U.S. map, this month filed for bankruptcy with her current husband, Charles Dry. The couple declared total indebtedness in the range of \$1 million - 10 million dollars and total assets in the range of \$100,000 - \$500,000.

In 1977, Bryant succeeded in repealing a civil rights ordinance against discrimination based on sexual orientation in Dade County, Florida -- where ironically a new civil rights measure has just recently been introduced. Her campaign of religion-based arguments and child protection concerns won major national attention and soon sparked a number of similar efforts elsewhere.



'Anita Bryant'

Bryant first won attention as a runner-up in the 1959 Miss America beauty pageant and then as a singer of something less than stardom. Her visibility was renewed when she became a pitchperson for the Florida Citrus Commission in the 1970's. When she undertook her anti-gay campaign, gays and lesbians and their supporters retaliated with a boycott of Florida orange juice that ultimately lost Bryant her \$100,000 contract. She was also divorced soon after from her husband and manager Bob Green, who she perceives as having been the prime mover behind her venture into the political arena. More recently, she's been singing in her own Anita Bryant Theater in Branson, Missouri.

While understandably she has since tried to avoid discussing gay and lesbian issues, she told the "Washington Post" a year ago that, "What I did, I feel today was still right."

AIR FORCE SAYS A-10 CRASH MAY BE GAY SUICIDE

TUSCON, Ariz. -- The Los Angeles Times reports the Air Force said it was investigating whether the pilot of the A-10 attack jet, which crashed in Colorado on April 2, dropped out of formation and slammed into a mountain because he feared an ex-lover was going to reveal that he was gay.

The story, which was broken by the Tuscon Citizen citing an unnamed military source, said Air Force investigators think the most plausible explanation for the crash was suicide. "The Air Force really believes that could be the answer," the source told the newspaper.

The L.A. Times quotes Col. Virginia Pribyla, the Air Force's senior press officer as saying, however, "at this point in our investigation, we have found nothing to substantiate any allegations that Captain Button was homosexual. Any reports to the contrary are irresponsible."

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations, says the Times, has no evidence of mechanical

failure or a physical ailment that could have caused Button's plane to crash. Radar tracking notes that Button's aircraft rose to clear mountains before adopting a circular flight pattern near the crash site, suggesting the pilot was in control.

In 1992, the Navy was forced to apologize to the family of a depressed gay sailor it said was to blame for a 1989 mid-ship explosion that killed him and 46 other sailors aboard the USS Iowa. The Navy later admitted that lax safety procedures were to blame and that it had no proof the sailor was at fault.

INTERNATIONAL GAY RETIREMENT GROUP LAUNCHED

LOS ANGELES -- The Los Angeles Business Wire reports an international, nonprofit organization for gay men and lesbians has been launched to give gay people who are planning or approaching retirement access to information difficult to find through other mainstream outlets.

The Gay and Lesbian Association of Retiring Persons (GLARP) will fill a long-standing void in the gay and lesbian community, said Mary Thorndal, the group's executive director. "The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) does a good job for the heterosexual population," said Thorndal, "but it makes no attempt to address the different needs of gays and lesbians. We're now starting to do so, on a modest scale."

GLARP's primary goal in its first year of operation will be research. Through its Website, membership mailings, focus groups, and its association with major educational institutions, the group hopes to assemble a comprehensive international library of retirement-related information for gay people.

Membership is open to anyone regardless of age. The \$25 annual membership fee gives users preferred member benefits to a host of services including legal consultation, car rentals, exercise equipment and other benefits.

The group stresses it will not be engaging in any significant political lobbying on behalf of gay seniors, one of the primary methods of influence employed by AARP. "There are already highly effective gay and lesbian political organizations such as LAMBDA and GLAAD,"

Thorndall told the Business Wire. "It makes more sense, regardless of resources, to work with them when appropriate."

BC EDUCATION MINISTER TAKES STAND

(NewsPlanet) -- (Follow-up to previous news article) British Columbia's Minister of Education Paul Ramsey announced May 5 that he's putting Vancouver's Surrey School Board "on notice" that he will disband them if they continue to "encourage intolerance" towards gays and lesbians. "I'll be watching very closely," he warned in a press conference.

Although the Surrey board on April 24 banned from their school libraries three books written for kindergarteners and first graders which feature gay and lesbian couples as parents ("Asha's Mums," "One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dads" and "Belinda's Bouquet"), Ramsey is less concerned about the fate of the specific books than about the board's acting contrary to the School Act's position that every student has a right to be treated with respect.

But the Surrey board will not go quietly, as its "family values" contingent believes they have been given a mandate in their election by local parents. They believe that although the province has the authority to establish the general curriculum, the local school boards can restrict what written materials may be used in the classroom. In fact, Surrey trustee Ken Hoffman said flat out that, "If a gay book comes before us again which is not ... on the list of provincial reference materials, I will vote to ban it again."

The Ministry of Education has said that the

local board can't actually stop their area's teachers from discussing gay and lesbian families in the classroom, but the right-wing Surrey-based Citizens Research Institute has a different idea about that, too. In April, the Institute began distribution of 10,000 copies of a so-called "Declaration of Family Rights," intended to be signed by parents and placed in children's files at school. It says the parents prohibit their children from taking part in any school activity which "discusses or portrays the lifestyle of gays, lesbians, bisexual and/or transgendered individuals as one which is normal, acceptable or must be tolerated." It's a tool for threatening legal action, although Ramsey is confident that in that respect it "isn't worth the paper it's written on."

The idea of banning any material on homosexuality from school curricula was endorsed April 27 by the British Columbia Confederation of Parents Advisory Councils. Ramsey's position is supported by the British Columbia Teachers' Federation and the British Columbia School Trustees' Association. British Columbia Premier Glen Clark had joined Ramsey in condemning the book ban at the time it was voted in.



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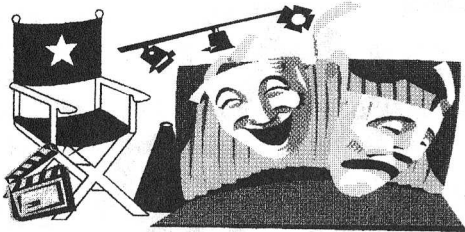
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k.d. lang, OC -- or, oc?

(NewsPlanet) -- "I think the biggest dilemma I'm going to have is figuring out whether the 'OC' is lower case," said openly lesbian singer k.d. lang on April 16 after being invested as an Officer of the Order of Canada. lang wore a black tail coat to Government House for the occasion and said she was "excited, flattered and honoured." Declaring herself "as much a Canadian as I ever was and I always will be," the Alberta native said the hometown crowd can be "your best friends and your harshest critics." Naturally she did not miss the chance to pitch her latest album, due out in June, saying, "It's very dark, it's very intense, it's probably my best record vocally."

The honor represents merit and achievement, and the group of 40 invested in the order with lang included a former national Supreme Court justice, a former



provincial lieutenant governor, and the Archbishop of Montreal, as well as other artists, activists and business leaders. The Officer degree of the title represents national-level achievement, as opposed to Members (local

and regional) and Companions (international) of the order.

The medal itself is meant to resemble a snowflake, with impressions representing the crown, the maple leaf and the slogan "desiderantes meliorem patriam," "they desire a better country." The Order's Sovereign is the Queen of England, its president is her Governor General, and the Advisory Council determining its membership is chaired by the Chief Justice of Canada.

Yep, We're a Couple-Ellen/Anne

(PlanetOut) -- Veteran gay activist Marty Rochlin wrote in an interesting commentary in San Luis Obispo, California's "New Times" that "You'll know no more about Ellen when she tells you she's gay than she'd know about you if you told her you're straight" -- but at this point it's hard to escape the feeling that because she came out, Ellen DeGeneres' every move is being documented in the national media. And now that it's official that her current love Anne Heche is coming out with her, just when the big-ticket film "Volcano" has opened to chart-topping audiences with Heche its female star, there's no stopping the eruption of reportage. And just to top it off, throw in the White House, where there may still be one human left getting more column inches than DeGeneres.

The Clinton Connection: The White House press corps is generally a pretty staid bunch, so to live up their annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner, a growing number of Hollywood types have been ferried in, this year including the likes of George Clooney, Robert De Niro, Tom Selleck, Kim Basinger, and -- appropriately enough -- Dr. Ruth "Good Sex" Westheimer. DeGeneres had her invitation from "Vanity Fair" long since, and made the most of it with Heche at her side... and more. According to the "Washington Post's" "Reliable Source" column, the couple spent the evening "hand-holding, neck-nuzzling, back-rubbing, lip-locking" and "indulging in huge Public Displays of Affection... even during their private meeting

with President Clinton."

Heche: Heche has made her coming out announcement to "People" magazine (May 5), saying, "Ellen and I are very much in a relationship and we are looking forward to along future together." To which DeGeneres chimed in, "Yes, we are together, and I am happier than I've ever been."

Having just attained film stardom without yet being firmly established there, Heche may actually have more at stake career-wise than DeGeneres, who she says is her first lesbian



"Anne Heche"

romance. For a current romantic movie lead to publicly identify as gay or lesbian is entirely unprecedented, and many industry sources agree that the less the audience knows about who film stars really are, the better they can enter the movie fantasy. There's even been a question or two

raised as to whether the final ink will make it to the contract for her scheduled role opposite Harrison Ford in "Six Days, Seven Nights." Heche has fired her talent agency and manager in the course of her coming out this past week, moving from Endeavor to Creative Artists Agency and from Addis-Wechsler to Arthur Imperato -- and both companies just happen to represent DeGeneres. And hey, add this to your fantasy: the pair have been seen hanging out with Grammy-winner Tracy Chapman at Manhattan's Meow Mix lesbian bar.

The Sawyer Interview: On April 25, "20/20" host Hugh Downs introduced DeGeneres' first on-camera interview since coming out by saying she wanted to tell her side of it, and Diane Sawyer et al largely allowed DeGeneres to do exactly that. The bulk of the interview was done close-up or head-and-shoulders on DeGeneres speaking (albeit with some glaring edits), with Sawyer's presence largely unobtrusive. It was an intensely serious appearance in which she came across as honest

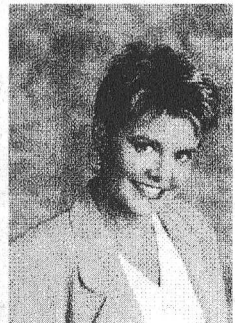
and unpretentious, with the usual charming smile almost absent and tears sometimes threatening.

DeGeneres was firm that she was not about passing judgments or telling anyone else what to do or being anybody's spokesperson for anything, but that she is happy and unwilling to accept a back-of-the-bus position in life. She knows full well that she'll be "pissing off a lot of people," from the far right to the gay and lesbian activists, but the whole point was to stop living from a place of fear. There was the obligatory tour of her new house, and yes -- and yes, they by golly showed Ellen's closet: rods-full of pants and shirts organized by color, stacks of jeans, lines of Hush Puppies and piles of running shoes (no hats were shown). There was a clip of DeGeneres practicing walking in the gown she felt she had to wear for the Emmy Awards; she said wearing it made her feel "like a football player wearing a dress."

Most touching moment: taking off from the script of the coming out episode in which it's noted that when you come out no one gives you a cake and says "Good for you, you're gay," the cast and crew put together a huge sheetcake with those very words and her portrait in icing to celebrate the taping.

Clunkiest moment: after DeGeneres described her less-than-thrilling heterosexual experiences, Sawyer felt a need to check if any of the men present had been damaged; no responses were shown.

Don't Forget Amanda: Amanda Barse helped pave the way for DeGeneres (if not for "Ellen") by coming out as a lesbian, and she finally got to play one on TV, in a special "identical cousin" dual role on FOX's "Married With Children." Watch while you can, the long-lived MWC is soon going off the air for good.



"Amanda Barse"

**Actor Closes Door On
Gay Guy?**

(Hollywood) -- Doug Savant is making noises about leaving *Melrose Place* according to *TV Guide*.

Savant's Matt is one of TV's long-running leading gay characters.

The magazine says a Savant departure could be bad news for *Katie Wright*, the soaps newest ingenue. Wright, who plays Matt's niece and has a 13-episode deal for next season, says news about Savant's departure "took everyone by surprise."

Although she'll get paid even if she's dropped, the actress says she loves *Melrose* and wants to stay on.

k.d.'s Album Is Smokin'

(Toronto Sun) -- k.d. lang is bustin' out all over.

lang, who was in Toronto for the 11th annual *Fashion Cares* event at the Moss Park Armoury, also has a 'smoky' new album of cover tunes, appropriately titled *Drag*, that is due in stores on June 10.

Among the covers are Steve Miller's *The Joker*, which is the first single, and the Hollies' *The Air That I Breathe*.

The track listing is as follows: *Don't Smoke In Bed, The Air That I Breathe, Smoke Dreams, Last Cigarette, The Joker, Valley of the Dolls, Your Smoke Screen, My Old Addiction, Till The Heart Caves In, Smoke Rings, Haint It Funny, Love Is Like A Cigarette*.

There is no Toronto concert date scheduled for lang, who began rehearsals for a limited number of appearances.

But she is taking part in *Fashion Cares* as co-chair of the MAC AIDS Fund with drag artist *RuPaul*, who is making his third appearance at the event. All proceeds benefit the AIDS Committee of Toronto.

Quote

* "I'm glad the 'Ellen' episode about love is over," says Bob Thomas. "Now the juvenile jokes, the lewd innuendoes, the gratuitous violence, the sex scenes can again take their prominent place on network TV."



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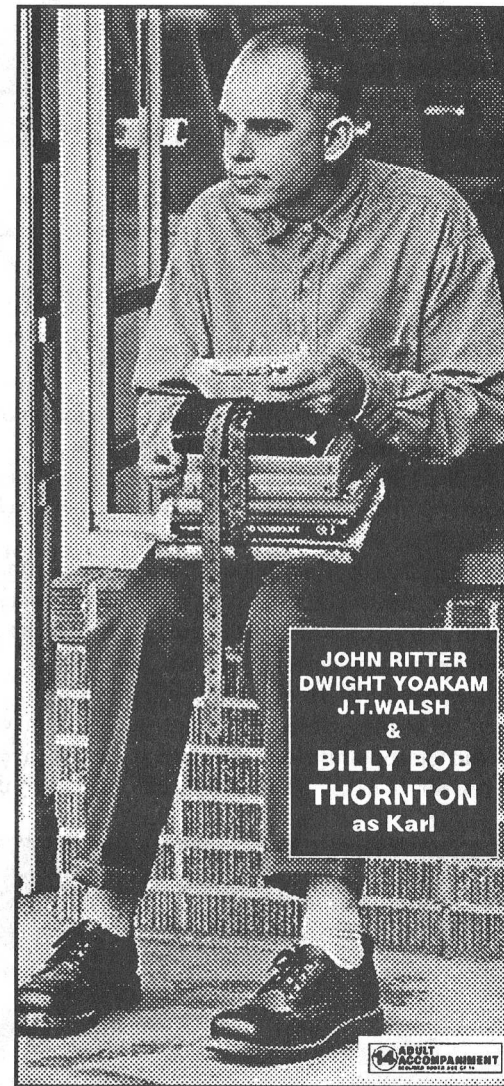
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Smart 'Amy' Captures Essence of
a Good Romantic Comedy

by Kevin Thomas, LA Times



Kevin Smith's "Chasing Amy" is a little movie with big truths, a work of such fierce intelligence and emotional honesty that it blows away the competition when it comes to contemporary romantic comedy.

It could be a career-maker for its three stars, Ben Affleck, Joey Lauren Adams and Jason Lee, and for key supporting player Dwight Ewell. It also marks a strong comeback for Smith, who in the end credits of the film actually apologizes for his second feature, "Mallrats." That film caused widespread disappointment among fans of "Clerks," his

knockout no-budget debut film, a semi-autobiographical comedy about a pair of New Jersey convenience store employees.

"Chasing Amy" is an unpretentious, modestly budgeted American movie of potentially wide appeal that dares to show its smarts. It could not be a more welcome experience.

That romantic comedies don't come more serious than this gem doesn't mean it isn't as uproarious as it is shattering. Smith, who cameos as the man whose painful experience gives this film its title, has clearly delved

deep within himself and confronted every emotion and insight he discovered. "Chasing Amy" is both raunchy and as all-American as apple pie, but it has mature sophistication--especially in regard to fluidity in sexual orientation--that is usually reserved for foreign films.

Affleck's Holden, tall and goateed, and the full-bearded Banky (Lee) are childhood friends and partners in the creation of a cult-hit comic book, "Bluntman and Chronic." (Holden describes it as "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern meet Vladimir and Estragon.") They work in a nifty office on the charming Victorian main street of Red Bank, N.J. At a comic-book convention in Manhattan's historic Puck Building, they meet Alyssa (Adams), a husky-voiced, sultry comic-book artist.

Alyssa and Holden hit it off from the start, even though she's an upfront lesbian. That doesn't stop them, however, from falling in love, which in turn makes Banky jealous, possibly for reasons he's not prepared to examine.



Joey Lauren Adams as Alyssa'

The harmonics Smith has been able to discover within this situation are altogether amazing: how men can accept one kind of sexual past in a

New York-based romantic comedy, "The Daytrippers," which uses homosexuality--or bisexuality--merely for shock value.)

Smith alternates between pain and hilarity to a degree that seems groundbreaking for a mainstream movie. But "Chasing Amy," while mainstream, is likely to appeal mainly to the most open-minded moviegoers. Ewell sets the tone for outrageous humor with a speech at the comic-book convention in which he demolishes the "Star Wars" trilogy as racist.



'Ben Affleck as Holden'

woman but not another; the devastation that disparate levels of sexual experience can bring to a relationship; how crucial candor can be, yet how even the most intelligent and forthright of individuals can smash smack into the heart's all-too-human limitations.

An example of such limitations in empathy is Hooper (Ewell), also a comic-book artist. He is the movie's Eve Arden, quick with the wisecracks. Black as well



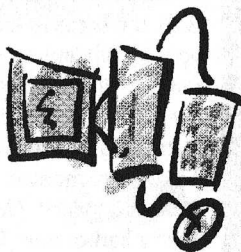
'Alyssa with Dwight Ewell as Hooper'

as gay, he finds himself resenting the trendy acceptability of "lipstick lesbians." (Interestingly, Smith goes for inclusiveness in regard to sexual attractions, contrasting another current

In turn this scene is matched by a diner sequence in which Banky and Alyssa try to top each other with accounts of their sexual exploits. (There's actually not a lot of sex in "Chasing Amy," but the bluntness of its talk about that subject will push the envelope for some moviegoers.)

"Chasing Amy," in which Smith wrote great parts for his actors and then knew how to draw out astonishing, selfless performances from them, concludes his New Jersey trilogy. In being so in touch with himself and with the people he has brought to such intense life, Smith has created a film comedy that has all the hallmarks of a classic.

A Miramax Films presentation of a View Askew production. Writer-director Kevin Smith. Producer Scott Mosier. Executive producer John Pierson. Check your local listings!



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IT'S IN...TO BE OUT IN PROVINCETOWN



A world class gay/lesbian resort, Provincetown attracts more gay and lesbian vacationers than any other gay resort area. When you visit Provincetown, you'll understand why: biking trails along magnificent sand dunes, a gay beach (Herring Cove) and original shops. Provincetown has also become a gay and lesbian entertainment capital with female impersonators, lesbian comics and cabaret acts. Provincetown has so much to offer it would be difficult not to find your vacation niche in this exceptional gay and lesbian mecca.

Visit our Pilgrim Monument -- the view is breathtaking. See the First Landing Park where the Pilgrims first set foot on our shore. Pick up a delightful picnic lunch at one of the delicatessens. Take the shuttle boat or walk the breakwater to Long Point, the very tip of Cape Cod. Try out the many miles of bike trails, bring your own bike or rent one. Stroll the Cape Cod National Seashore's many, nature walks. Take a romantic sunset sail with someone special. Go on a whale watch. Take a harbor tour. Discover the history of Provincetown, where the Pilgrims

first landed. Go fishing or Four Wheel'n, ride a horse through the dunes. Enjoy great food at Provincetown's many restaurants. Shop, shop and shop some more in the many unique retail establishments. Seek out our artistic community. Explore the galleries and artist shops and discover the Fine Arts Work Center and the Provincetown Art Association. Bring your camera.

Provincetown is a wealth of pristine beauty where the natural light is often impossible to believe! Visit the lighthouses. Take a dune tour and see a part of Provincetown that you never knew existed! Take a trolley tour and learn about P-town. How about a carriage ride around town? People watch!! Find a comfortable spot on the bench or anywhere and enjoy the sights and sounds found only here. We have some of the best entertainment around, from a cozy, quaint piano bar to hilarious comedy shows and always popular drag shows.

Check out Provincetown during the Holiday Festivals. There are the after Labor Day bargains, the Monument lighting, Art shows, Craft Shows, wonderful Holiday Season sales. No matter what time of year you choose to enjoy Provincetown, there will always be something for you to do. Come here and be who you are and feel safe being that person. Paint, draw, sing, play. Provincetown is many things to many different people.

AH' PROVINCETOWN...

BY JOHN RANSOM

You can feel it as soon as you drive into town, as soon as your flight touches down at the airport, as soon as you step off the bus or ferry. That special feeling that you get only from being in "P-town".

What is it that keeps bringing people back year after year to this special place?

Be Out in P-town.

Is it the complete freedom to be yourself, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year?

To express yourself, your love, your affection, your joy without fear?
Y E S !

Provincetown is the place to be for your lifestyle. Walk down our streets holding hands with that "special someone." Have your own commitment ceremony in churches. Even register your domestic partnership at our Town Hall. Your Friends will tell you...it's in to be out in Provincetown! That's why most visitors come at least once a year, and many come several times.



Safety For Your Lifestyle.

Wherever you've vacationed, haven't you felt like you had to stay in the closet, at least some of the time? Sure, you enjoyed the spot, there was lots to do, you sought out whatever gay life there was, but you just couldn't be out all the time. Welcome to Provincetown, where we don't have closets; in fact, we've even burned the definition of "closet"! Here, we provide you a safe, nurturing, affirming place to vacation. You won't need to keep watch over your shoulder when leaving a club or cabaret here -- unless you're looking for friends! Our Hate Crimes Law is strictly enforced whenever needed -- fortunately, that's not very often. Come to Provincetown and experience what freedom really means.

Relax.

Maybe you'll come to relax and unwind. "Relaxation" is our middle name. Our slower pace encourages you to linger, while our unpolluted salt air fills your lungs. You'll sleep longer and deeper, and get up later. Our guest



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houses, shops and restaurants will make sure you feel at home. A huge variety of entertainment choices will make you forget your cares. In the warmer months, you'll want to spend time at the largest gay beach in the world right here in P-town. In the cooler months, there's lots to do, either with friends or by yourself.

A Year-Round Resort.

There is always something happening in Provincetown. Great vacations here no longer need to be in the summer. There is something special about each and every month of the year. Check our Calendar and see for yourself. Try us, even if only for a long weekend. You'll find "off-season" rates at the guest houses, great sales at our shops, and the same great food at the many restaurants which do stay open year-round. Without the hustle-bustle of summer crowds, you'll have an even better get-away!

It's Easy To Get Here.

And, we're so easy to visit. Did you know that you could be in Provincetown in less time than you will spend at work today? It's true, we're less than 8 hours from anywhere in the continental U.S., Canada, Mexico and Western Europe. And, more modes of transportation than almost any vacation spot in the world -- air, bus, car, ferry -- so, come see us the most comfortable way for you.

Value.

We know that your vacation dollar (or Canadian Dollar, Pound, Franc, Deutschmark, Lira, etc.) is valuable and we strive to help you make the most of it. Over 75 guest houses and 50 restaurants guarantee you a sensible choice. Our shops range in prices from inexpensive to outrageous, so there's something for everyone to take home as vacation memorabilia. The

many varieties of entertainment you'll find here are also reasonably priced. Ask your hostess or host for tips or pointers....you'll find them more than ready to help.

Come Home To Provincetown.

Provincetown has been perhaps the major gay and lesbian tourist destination. People come from all over the country and the world, year after year, to savor the specialness of this place. More and more, P-town is full of activities all year-round. So, Come and Enjoy!

Bring a Healthy Appetite!

Provincetown's reputation for excellent restaurants reaches far beyond New England. From dining rooms with soft candlelight and music to fast service take-out stands, our food and friendly service lives up to the reputation. For attire, the town's casual mood does influence restaurant dress codes. "No shirts, No shoes, No service" applies here. On the other hand, you might want to don something smart for that special evening.

About your big appetite...don't leave home without it!

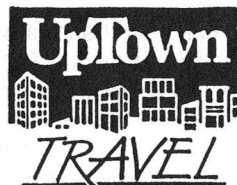
375 Years of History and Heritage

One can only imagine the view which greeted the passengers of the original Mayflower in 1620. After a long journey from the Netherlands, they waded ashore on this sandy wisp of land and proclaimed it the New World. Then as now, Provincetown was a place of refuge, acceptance, and peace. So it was here, in this present day Gay and Lesbian resort Mecca, that the historic Mayflower Compact was signed. That document created the roots of the American democratic heritage and freedom.

It's in to be OUT in Provincetown!

"Gilligan's Island.' What was with all that 'little buddy' talk between the Skipper and Gilligan? Not to mention the His-and-His hammocks. They had the island to themselves; they could have had separate huts had they so desired."

-Chicago Sun-Times columnist Richard Roeper



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ADVENTURE AWAITS...(August 24-28)

As lesbians kayak the San Juan archipelago! This is a paddler's paradise...more than 150 emerald-green islands dot these rich waters off the coast of Washington. See harbour seals, porpoises, bald eagles, great blue herons, and seabirds. The daily schedule is in tandem with the tides, taking time to walk the beaches, learn about the area, and relax. No experience necessary!

The Gay Travel Calendar

Your Guide to Upcoming Events Worldwide

AUGUST:

Colorado Hiking (8/3-8/9)
Backpack in the Montana Wilderness (8/3-8/9)
Atlantis Windstar Cruise (Men) (8/16-8/23)
Central Europe (8/16-9/1)
European Land Cruise (8/17-8/24)
NYC - Bermuda Cruise (8/30-9/4)

SEPTEMBER:

WomenFest '97 Key West (9/3-9/9)
Greek Islands Cruise (Mix) (9/6-9/13)
England, Scotland & Wales (9/8-10/7)
Italian Holiday (9/12-9/25)
Fiji Dive (9/13-9/20)
Grand Canyon (Women) (9/20-9/26)
Autumn in Provincetown (Women) (9/26-10/2)
Hiking Michigan (9/28-10/4)

OCTOBER:

Sydney Sleaze Ball (10/1-10/6)
Diving Australia (10/6-10/11)
Diving Fiji (10/6/10/17)
Fall New England Cruise (10/7-10/12)
California Wine Country Bike Tour (Women) (10/12-10/17)
Black and Blue Weekend - Montreal (10/18-10/20)
Hallowe'en New Orleans (10/22-10/26)
Mexico - Women's Resort (10/25-11/1)
Men's Adventure Camp at Kalani Eco Resort (10/26-11/1)



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THE TIES THAT BIND

Gays face special challenges caring for elderly parents
by M. Jane Taylor

Hank Kline still remembers how angry he was when he came out to his parents six years ago. Instead of accepting him, they cut him out of their lives completely.

Now, on weekends when his father is away on business, he drives out to his parents' house to care for his mother. Only 56 years old, his mother has been diagnosed with early onset of Alzheimer disease, and Kline, like a growing number of gay adults, finds that he must now put aside his feelings of hurt and care for his parents.

"I used to be angry because my parents weren't there for me, didn't respect my coming out," Kline said, human resources director for a publishing company. "But now, all that doesn't really matter."

As people live longer, arranging for the long-term care of a parent or relative is something that experts say almost everyone will eventually have to face. For many people, it will mean providing much of that care themselves.

"My mother has difficulty dressing appropriately," said

Kline. "She'll have on a pair of shorts and then put on a pair of jeans over that. Socks don't match. Sometimes, she'll put on non-matching shoes."

Two local therapists who counsel those caring for their elderly parents say gay people face many issues that their straight counterparts never experience.

Clinical social workers Grace Riddell and Richard Spector -- who felt drawn to this issue "since we both are in our middle-aged years and we both have elderly parents" -- said Kline's situation is not unique. Many, like Kline, deal with resentment over their parents' reaction to their sexual orientation. Others, they said, are forced to decide whether to come out to their parents. Still others must reintegrate themselves into a family in which they no longer feel close ties.

Unmarried, without children

According to Riddell and Spector, a gay child frequently ends up being the caregiver because their straight siblings are busy raising children of their own.

"Often," said Riddell, "it is because we don't have children and our family members assume we have more time."

Riddell said siblings often don't realize that gay people have their own responsibilities, or even that they have a partner. Many gay people are also struggling to become or remain a part of the gay community.

Stephanie K. Blackwood, 45, a partner in a marketing firm targeting the gay community, moved to the D.C. area last September to take care of her 83-year-old uncle.

Blackwood said she has always had a

special bond with her uncle because they both are gay. When he recently became ill, Blackwood said, "I looked around and there was nobody else to take care of him."

Blackwood said she feels conflict because she wants to make friends in Washington, but she also feels a sense of duty to stay home with her uncle.

"We have a very open dialogue about what he needs, what I need, and what I can give," Blackwood said. "It makes it easier for me to say, 'You know, I really need to go out a couple of nights this week and be with my friends.'"

Harvey Friedman, 57, a D.C. lawyer, became a caregiver of a different kind.

His elderly parents live near his sister in a nursing home in New Jersey. Friedman sees his mother, who is almost 90, about once every six weeks. His sister looks in on her twice a week.

"It's a gender thing," Friedman said. "It was not meant for me to do. In my family, only the women went into the kitchen, only the women got to do the caring."

But his mother, who is "starting to be very forgetful and doesn't remember what happened earlier in the day," demands more time than he is able to give.

"My mother always wants more of my time," said Friedman, "and actually I feel I don't give her enough of it. That is very difficult for me."

Coming out in middle age

Riddell said many people have hidden the fact that they are gay from their parents. When they become a caregiver, these people are again forced to choose

whether to come out.

Jackie Gentry, a 60-year-old administrator for the American Psychological Association, said she didn't come out as a lesbian until she was 46. She made the decision not to come out to her aged parents.

"By the time I was able to deal with it," Gentry said, "it seemed it was not worth going through at their age."

Her father died at age 96, and her mother, 93, suffers from advanced Alzheimer's.

"I'm in the peculiar situation now, as a 60-year-old child, to have lost my mother but she's not dead," Gentry said. "Even now, I really don't want her to live a lot longer because I don't want to watch the deterioration, but I cringe when I think of her death, because she is very much a part of me."

Bisexual activist and writer Lorraine Hutchins, whose parents are in their 70s, lives just mile from their Takoma Park home and visits them often. She said that she, too, kept details about her life from her parents when she was younger.

"There was a lot of disagreement between us about what was moral and what was correct," said Hutchins.

But Hutchins was forced to confront these issues when she co-edited an anthology called *Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out*. Hutchins said her mother is now very supportive and speaks out against homophobia at her church.

"She's done incredible work on her own homophobia and her understanding of bisexuality," Hutchins said.

Many gay men experience what Spector

calls "the best little boy in the world" syndrome.

"A lot of gay men, because they felt that something was wrong with them when they were growing up, they tried to be the best, most perfect little boy in the world."

Spector said most decided to hide their gayness, fearing their parents' disapproval.

"By still trying to be the best little boy, they're never able to relate to their parents as an adult," Spector said. This becomes particularly dangerous, he said, when a parent needs emergency action, such as being put into the hospital or going to a nursing home.

Tending to old wounds

The breakdown of communication under stress, as well as the return of old hurts and anger, are issues common to both gay and straight caregivers.

The situation is made more difficult, Riddell said, because often a gay person has had a troubled relationship with their parents.

"When you interact with someone in an emotional and intense way," Spector agreed, "it's like the rules of the game are different. The subtle things which for years one is willing to let slide can begin to trigger all sorts of old memories from the past, and many of them may not be pleasant."

Hank Kline said his mother resents not being in control, because of her Alzheimer's.

"And she can still push all of my buttons," he said. "She installed them." Kline said there is no longer any point in being angry

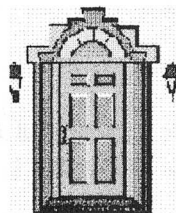
toward his parents.

"I think I've resolved these issues for myself," he said. "I've come to a level of acceptance that I wasn't capable of before."

Hutchins admits she still has some resentment about the way her parents dealt with her sexuality. She tries to ignore it, however.

"Because they're older and more vulnerable now, I just have a little more forgiveness now because our lives have become more focused on how to take care of each other."

Spector warned that people should not expect that they can repair their relationships with their parents in their parents' final stages.



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"The reality of it is that many times people's personalities don't change as they get older," he said. "And for people who think their parents are all of a sudden going to become nice people, many times that's just not possible."

Balancing one's own needs

Riddell said many people who care for their elderly parents do so out of a desire to pay them back.

"While I may have lots of psychological issues with my parents," Friedman said, "these people were terrific to me when I was growing up, in taking care of me and making sure I had everything, and I feel an obligation to repay them."

But what is important, Riddell said, is knowing how to balance one's personal needs with caregiving. She said she tells her clients that if they can pay someone to do the instrumental tasks, such as shopping, bathing, and so on, then they can save themselves to do the more "emotional" caregiving.

"Because you can't do both. You can't be an emotional caregiver as well as an instrumental caregiver," Riddell said.

Many gay people, Riddell said, are in situations where they must simultaneously care for their parents and for a person with AIDS. Or, Spector added, sometimes the gay child has HIV infection and the elderly parents do not know.

But the gay community's experience in caring for people with AIDS can also be a benefit, Riddell and Spector said.

"Gay men, as opposed to straight men, are much more aware of chronic illness and death," Spector said. "We have experience and knowledge that will make

it a little less burdensome when we have to deal with our parents."

In addition to balancing one's needs, Riddell said, a caregiver often has to figure out how to work their partner into the new family arrangement. Like with straight couples, she said, the in-law can often establish a lasting connection with the parents.

Gentry said her partner has been very supportive and has helped her in thinking through the decision-making process.

"And when I make my frequent trips to Chattanooga, she never tries to stand in the way and she occasionally goes with me," she said.

Along with the many potential problems, Riddell said, "one of the positives of caregiving is that you really can get closer to your parent, because it's two human beings."

While many gay men and lesbians may not have wide family support and understanding of their being gay, Riddell said, gays have developed a strong sense of community among themselves.

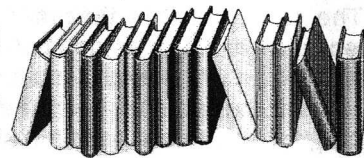
"Gay people who have made it to middle age have come through very difficult times in their lives," Spector said, "and also they've survived incredible isolation and loneliness in their lives because they couldn't be out. To do that, these people have had to be incredible survivors ... and have incredible resilience."

"In many ways, we're much more resilient and can bring much more to these situations than people who haven't had so much difficulty."

-The End

COVER TO COVER

Books of Interest



Last Rites

by Tracey Richardson
Naiad Press

"Last Rites" is the follow-up to Richardson's successful cop romance "Northern Blue", which sold 3500 in its first nine months last year and which was described by Mystery Scene Magazine as a book of powerful human relationships. "Northern Blue" was Naiad's eighth best-selling book in 1996 and debuted at number two on the Washington Blade's top ten list. It was Richardson's first novel.

Richardson's books are uniquely Canadian, and "Last Rites" is no exception. The mystery novel features Toronto homicide Detective Stevie (Stephanie) Houston, a young, rookie detective who ignores all the rules in her zeal to solve her first murder case. Stevie's enthusiasm refuses to wane, even when her superiors try to pull her off the case when the number one suspect turns up dead in an apparently unrelated event. But something nags at Stevie and before she knows it, a potential witness to Father Gregory McCleary's murder turns up dead as well, and Stevie is back on the case with a little help from her new love, who just happens to be a forensic pathologist, and a gorgeous one at that. The story climaxes when Stevie tracks the killer to a deserted beach where both she and her girlfriend quickly find themselves the killer's next prey.

Richardson is excited about developing the Stevie Houston character into a series, and has just finished work on the next installment, "Over The Line", which will be published next spring.

"What I like about Stevie is that she's not perfect," says Richardson. "She tries to hide her vulnerabilities under this tough exterior, where she often thinks she knows it all and has a hard time admitting when she's wrong. It's that strength about her that makes her such a good cop. But like any real-life person, she's constantly changing and re-discovering herself."

Tracey Richardson, 32, was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario, but now makes her home in Owen Sound, Ontario, where she works as an editor at a daily newspaper. She began her journalism career in Windsor, and lives with her partner of six years, who is a police officer. Richardson is a member of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association - Canada.

It really is a great read. I found it hard to put down. I love a good mystery and "Last Rites" is just that. From beginning to end I found the story mysterious, exciting...even sexy. It's refreshing to me as a reader to find gay and lesbian characters in a book living as "ordinary and normal" people with everyday careers; detectives, pathologists and even priests and not portrayed as some second class citizen who is usually the villain or the victim.

This book delves deep into the personal life of the main character, Stevie, and realistically portrays feelings and emotions experienced by gay and lesbian people of all kinds.

What else can I say, I REALLY enjoyed "Last Rites", and am looking forward to the next installment of the Stevie Houston Series. -R.L.

Look for "Last Rites" where popular Gay/Lesbian fiction is sold. or call 1-800-533-1973.

Meet Tracey Richardson in person at Womansline Books, 573 Richmond Street in London on Saturday, May 31 from 1 to 3 p.m., where she will be signing copies of "Last Rites."

Our Little Secret

Joyce Luck's Melissa Etheridge: Our Little Secret is a fun read for those who love this outstanding woman rocker.

The strength of Luck's book is her research. Her use of a wide range of sources - from Rolling

Stone and The Lesbian News to Internet conversations and interviews with those who have known Etheridge throughout her career - help compensate for the fact that Luck did not interview Etheridge.

Luck also supplies a thorough review of Etheridge's songs, providing details on the background and motivation for many lyrics. These sections will be true finds for the most devout fans who can't get enough information about the singer/songwriter. Pulling on interviews in Musician magazine and other similar sources, Luck also gets into the more technical side of guitar playing - a topic often missed in rock biographies and a treat for readers with a musical background.

Any writer who develops a biography without direct access to the subject is in for quite a challenge. Because so much of Luck's writing is based on previously released interview material, the book does not read with the freshness it would had she interviewed Etheridge directly. Further, she writes from the fan's voice which on one hand allows her enthusiasm to ring true, but on the other hand gives the story a less mature feel. Despite this, she maintains objectivity when revealing aspects of Etheridge that are more troublesome or controversial.

Readers seeking a more serious, in-depth, and rigorous biography may be disappointed, but those looking to commune with a fellow Etheridge fan will have a blast traveling through this quick read.

- Harriet L. Schwartz

A Dance With Romance Among Gay Men

For pure, unabashed romanticism, it's hard to beat these seven long stories by Peter Weltner about gay life in San Francisco and the Deep South.

Weltner, who teaches at San Francisco State, is also the author of "Beachside Entries / Specific Ghosts," "Identity and Difference" and "In a Time of Combat for the Angel." In this collection, he writes about lovers who have nothing but their idealism to keep them together - and plenty of incentives to break up.

The three San Francisco stories, in comparison

to the Southern Gothic that follows, are contemporary in setting and realistic in tone. Weltner's characters are aware of their gayness and comfortable with it; they have found a hospitable enclave where they can cook, grow flowers, listen to opera and live as couples who just happen to be of the same gender. It isn't that anybody minds that they act like married heterosexuals. Only an occasional snub from a straight relative reminds them, and us, of the larger society's intolerance. That's an old story - like AIDS, to which Weltner's characters seldom bother to refer by name anymore, though it goes on killing people they know.

But neither does anybody have a stake in their relationships. Not society - there are no obligations imposed on gays by churches or the legal system. Not even their own subculture, driven by the constant ascendancy of youth and beauty over age. Monogamy seems pointless (except for health reasons), a sad imitation of the mores of straight society. A certain amount of sleeping around is taken for granted.

But what about love? Weltner's characters ask. What about the human urge to make a romantic connection binding and permanent?

The theme of "The Risk of His Music" is the persistence of that ideal despite the loss of youth, the disfigurement of beauty and the lovers' knowledge of their limitations, their "ordinary faithlessness."

In "The Greek Head," for instance, Sam and Charlie live in the same apartment complex as Don and Roger, an older couple who have seemingly achieved the impossible: a happy, exclusive relationship spanning 30 years. What does it mean, then, when the dying Don leaves his favorite possession, an antique sculptured Greek head, to Charlie instead of to Roger? Sam, the narrator, must decide whether his belief in the validity of both love affairs has been an illusion.

In "My Faithless, Faithful Friend," Todd, the narrator, had an affair years ago with Kit, the lover of his old friend Jay. Now Jay, who has AIDS and is long since estranged from Kit, is dying. When Todd brings Kit to Jay's bedside, against Jay's stated wishes, is he acting on his friend's real desire for a reconciliation, as he claims - or just

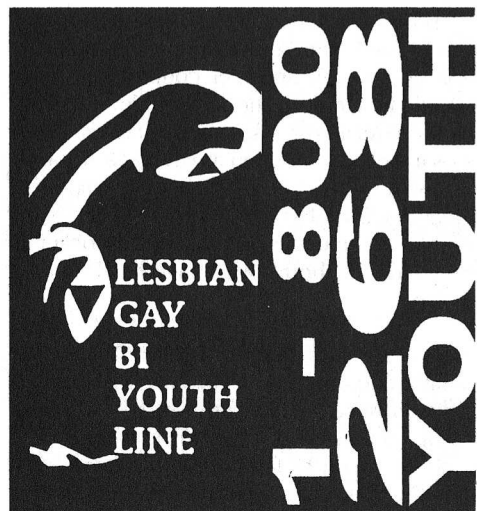
trying to ingratiate himself again with Kit?

The tone becomes stranger and wilder in "Self-Portrait With Cecil and Larry," the first of the Southern stories. Bo, the narrator, is a New Orleans artist who paints handsome hustlers until, to the horror of his aesthetic-minded friend Cecil, he falls in love with Larry, a midget wrestler. "I could not bear to love... perfect things," Bo says, "until I'd learned to love imperfect ones much more."

In "Unlike Himself," an elderly professor who knows himself to be "given to damnable impulses" leads a life of ascetic self-control until, under a voodoo woman's spell, he swaps identities with the most desirable stud on Bourbon Street. In the title story, the man who inspires the teenage narrator to escape the rural South is Orville Earle, master mechanic, lover of Mahler and Brahms, and leader of a gun-happy mini-commune of deranged Korean War veterans.

Perhaps the most moving story here is "Buddy Loves Jo Ann," in which a simple small-town store clerk, faced in his 70s with the loss of his lifelong, platonic woman friend, tries to drown himself. He is rescued by a short-order cook, an ex-convict, who feeds Buddy soup, steals money for him and, shockingly, kisses him on the lips. If the professor's love dares not speak its name, Buddy's doesn't even know it has a name—yet it can sprout, as Weltner shows us, in the most barren soil.

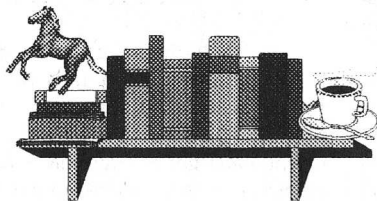
-Michael Harris



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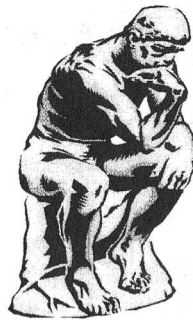
POETRY, LETTERS, OPINIONS



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sends shivers up and down your spine
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in the light
in bed
and out
a wonderful part of love

by Darren Winfield - copyright 1997



The Best Parts

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Promises unbroke
Of love they spoke
These are your lips
That told me.

Feeling and clutching
Lightly touching
These are your hands
Which mold me.

Body conforming
Gently warming
These are your arms
Please hold me.

Now and forever
Stand together
These are our lives
Enfold me.

by Mark Eldridge - copyright 1997

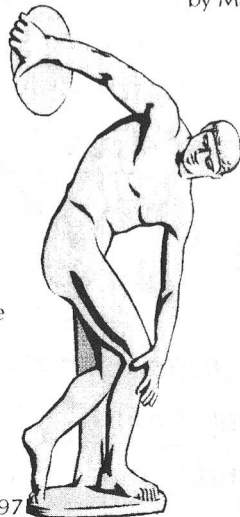
Finished

Thief of light
You preyed on my heart
Stabs you made
At my thoughts and my soul

Cause of plight
You knew from the start
Heart to blade
You would kill what you stole

Still of night
I sit in the dark
Dim light: jade
Restore my heart to whole

by Mark Eldridge copyright 1997



Untitled

let me
lap you like a kitten
coax you with my thumb
until your gentle waves
wash you free

and let me
after
rest my cheek
upon your tender belly
as you softly weep

by m.m. - copyright 1997

Accepting Identity

I started to come out about this time last year. Virtually as soon as I got over my high school depression, I discovered that I did not necessarily have to be either straight or lesbian, but could be somewhere in the middle. First I told one friend, then another, blushing furiously and stammering over the word I found so hard to say: Bisexual.

I began calculating and maneuvering my conversations so that it would seem natural, normal, to bring up the subject I dreaded would brand me as a social deviant, or at best, someone my friends couldn't relate to. So one by one, I went down my mental inventory of People Who Should Know, each time bracing myself and avoiding eye contact. Three down, everyone else to go. . . five of them on my side, the rest of the world to go. I labouriously confessed to various individuals throughout the spring, summer, and fall. I felt I had some kind of fight to pick with society, and I had to prove to myself that I am acceptable. Each time I told my secret and the world did not crash down, I won the round. After a while, I noticed that no one had even been shocked. Most were surprised and all were interested, but not a negative reaction in the bunch. A few asked why I had worried about it and waited so long to tell them.

Somewhere along the line, I changed my perspective. I no longer had to hunt down the "victims" on my out-list; everyone who I felt should know that part of my existence now knew it. Now I could talk freely with my close friends, and if any one else should find me out, I have enough support and reassurance to handle the situation.

Don't get me wrong, I don't fly any pink triangle banners out my window, the small rainbow symbol taped to my door is proclamation enough. I cannot even put my name on this story on my experience. That

will come later.

I have learned a few things in the last year: that not every one has to know everything about me; that people I am out to are glad about my honesty with myself and with them; that there is a whole world I had no idea was there. I don't know when I'll be completely out of the closet, but I can certainly breathe easier with the door open.

- Anonymous



Inert Dessert

Darling, why yes you're charming
But why do you fancy a flagellant fetish?
Such an inert dessert to follow
Such a tangible dish
That indulged, no, is you

Had I the means;
An interminable regale
Would be served onto you

Like a malemuck I'd take you up
Above, to a zenith
And succumb to your every demand
So gently asked of me

But from where these thoughts stemmed
An ancient sleepless dream in mind
Irrevocable now
For why these thoughts stem is quite unread

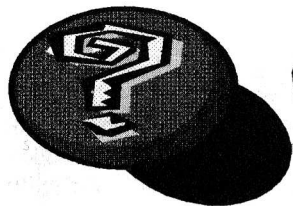
Had I the means;
You would be Queen

My promises, they are valid
But is the promiser
Your cup of tea?

Darling, why yes you're charming.
by Nathaniel
copyright 1997

Forward your submissions for
Reader's Corner to:
Outlook Magazine
P.O. Box 40002, Waterloo Sq. P.O.
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 4V1
or e-mail us at: outlook@easynet.on.ca

Don't forget to visit us on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5901>



What's Happening?

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

COMING OUT DISCUSSION GROUPS
 Waterloo

GLLOW Coming Out Discussion Group has the following meetings upcoming:

May 21 - Coming Out to Others

May 28 - Politics and Sexuality

June 4 - Bisexuality

June 11 - Internalized Homophobia: From Within Ourselves and Our Communities

June 18 - Crushes and Infatuations

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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Regional Pride Committee of Waterloo-Wellington is looking for volunteers interested in organizing this years Regional Pride Celebration.

This years event will be taking place in the Rotunda of Kitchener City Hall on Thursday, June 26th.

Co-ordinators are busy making plans for the event and are looking for assistance in organizing all aspects of the celebration.

If you're interested in helping or would like more information about the event, call [redacted] or check out our website at: www.rainbow.on.ca
 It's time to take PRIDE in your community...get involved.

If you have an event that should be listed in "What's Happening?" give us a call at [redacted] or e-mail us at: outlook@easynet.on.ca



ACGWC DANCE

The AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County is holding monthly dances the first Saturday of every month. These dances are for the gay, lesbian and bisexual community; and their friends. The cost is \$5.00 at the door and the start time is 9:00 p.m. Look for a different theme each month with door prizes, raffles and munchies at midnight. Please call the office at (519) 763-2255 for the location. The next dance will be held *Saturday, June 7, 1997*. Come on and have a great time!

CATE FRIESEN AND CAROL ANNE WEAVER

Cate Friesen and Carol Anne Weaver perform for a benefit concert in support of Leaven Inc. (a Christian social justice organization that does a lot of homophobia work in churches). Waterloo North Mennonite Church, June 13 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available from Gloria Nafziger (New Directions Counselling) 519-579-3394 or Reader's Ink Bookstore in Waterloo. Advance tickets are just \$10.00 or \$12.00 at the door.

1st Annual BikeAID
 Sunday June 22, 1997
 Call The ACGWC for further details!



RAINBOW CHORUS

Presents...
 'A Lovers' Tryst'

All are welcome to this concert comprised of song selections and poetic readings surrounding a Love and Romance theme.

Saturday, May 31, 1997
 8:00 p.m.
 Chalmers United Church
 50 Quebec St. Guelph

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door and for children under 10 tickets are available for \$5.

For more information please call Frank at (519) [redacted]

FERRON IN CONCERT

Friday, May 16, 1997
 Trinity-St. Paul's
 427 Bloor St. W. Toronto

Tickets: \$18 advance, \$22 at the door - available at Looney Tunes in Guelph and Reader's Ink in Waterloo.

For more information please call M J G Productions at (519) 846-0331.

DESTINATION AMSTERDAM

T.O.O.L.S. (Team of Outrageous Ontario Lesbian Sisters); a group representing Ontario at Gay Games V in Amsterdam would like to thank all who attended the recent dance in Waterloo. So far all events and individual donations have made it possible for us to raise over 20% of our goal of \$30,000. Some of the exciting events planned for the upcoming months are a Garage Sale on May 24, a trip to Casino Niagara on June 7, and a Golf Tournament on July 19. If you would like information on any or all of these events, please call Linda at TCB Travel at (519) 748-0850. We have all had a great time while working toward August 1998 and we hope you have a great time taking part in some of the events we have planned.

JANE BOND
 886-1639
 000 Princess St. West
 Waterloo

3rd annual lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered celebration

Waterloo-Wellington

Pride '97 Free Yourself!

WHAT

celebrate
freedom
and
diversity

www.rainbow.on.ca

WHERE

rotunda:
kitchener
city hall
200 king
west

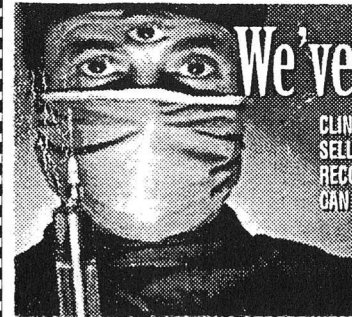
WHEN

thursday
june 26
6 pm
to
10 pm

refreshments by:

Go internet cafe

The Regional Pride Committee
of Waterloo-Wellington



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(519) [REDACTED]

(X) Marks the Spot

With the upcoming federal election it's time to really find out where our local MP's stand on issues concerning the LGBT community.

Since the 1993 election there have been three key votes on issues affecting lesbians, bisexuals and gay men.

The three votes were:

Bill C-41 - concerning sentencing in hate crimes, including those motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on sexual orientation.

Motion M-264 - a private member's bill brought forward by Bloc MP Real Menard to recognize same-sex relationships.

Bill C-33 - amending the Canadian Human Rights Act to protect against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Below, you'll find whether our local MP's voted for (Yes) or against (No) the motion in question, whether the member was absent from the House of Commons, or whether the member was "paired" (ie. Government and Opposition members absent themselves in pairs so as not to affect the outcome of the vote.) Some members are absent because of other business, but some members are absent as a means of abstaining from the controversial vote (for example, if he or she does not wish to vote with her or his party). Thus caution is required in interpreting absent or paired votes.

How they voted:	Bill C-41	M-264	Bill C-33
Brenda Chamberlain (Guelph - Wellington)	YES	NO	YES
John English (Kitchener Centre)	YES	ABS	YES
Janko Peric (Cambridge)	ABS	ABS	NO
Andrew Telegdi (Kitchener - Waterloo)	YES	ABS	YES

*ABS - Absent for the vote.

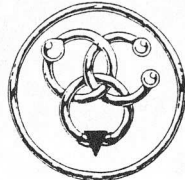
GET OUT AND VOTE...LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!



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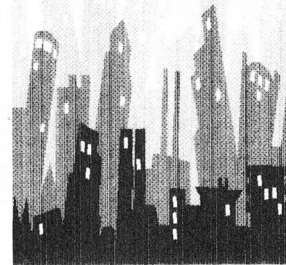
Call
**Gloria Nafziger
M.S.W.
579-3394**

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667 Belmont Ave. Kitchener, ON PHONE 519-743-3046

Community Information



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

Canadian AIDS Society
1-613-230-3580

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

COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere)
Provides education, support and community on local and international levels.
Contact Sarah at [redacted] or email 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
A new support and resource phone line for people dealing with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues at the University of Guelph, in the City of Guelph and the surrounding area. Phone lines open every evening; Sunday thru Thursday, 7 to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 6 - 9 p.m. Call (519) 836-4550 or email us at: outline@uoguelph.ca

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

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/woods/

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-



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. E.

HIV Clinic - 2nd Floor

Duke St. Clinic - (ACCKWA)

- » by appointment only
- » Telephone: 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

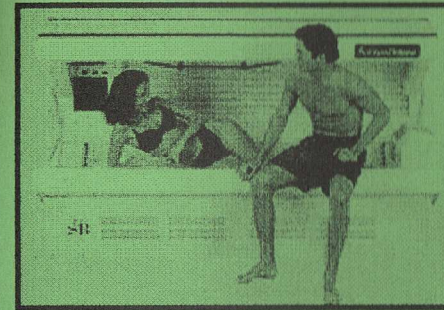
- » walk-in: first come, first served
- » Tuesday 3 - 5 p.m.

- » walk-in: first come, first served
- » Monday & Thursday 3 - 6 p.m.

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

For more information call 883-2251

AIDS/STD Program



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or Natalie at ACCKWA (519)570-3687.

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All Proceeds to benefit:



ACCKWA