

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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

Outlook Magazine

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

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OUTLOOK

Magazine[©]

The Voice of Waterloo Region's Gay and Lesbian Community

Inside This Issue:

Playing Safe While
Working The Kinks
Out

Gay Lit.
a la Steve Brown

News,
Entertainment,
Community
Listings
and Much More!

EXCLUSIVE:
Bashing Victim
Speaks Out

The Life of
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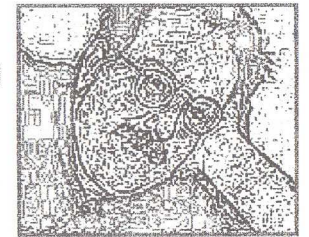
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Call to Defund G/L History

(NewsPlanet) -- Two Alberta officials have demanded the withdrawal of funds granted to a project that would allow lesbian history to speak for itself, preferring that the history of silence repeat itself instead.

Two Alberta public officials and a number of residents want to withdraw a \$10,000 grant for a gay and lesbian history project at the Red Deer museum, a move a spokesperson for the Ministry of Community Development says would be "unprecedented." The lottery funds have already been disbursed by the Ministry as part of a larger grant to the umbrella Alberta Museums Association, which has a good track record of managing its public funds, and the Red Deer grant went through the usual approval process by a panel of experts.

After the grant came to public attention in an article in the Red Deer "Advocate" newspaper August 9, Alberta Treasurer Stockwell Day and Alberta Member of the Legislative Assembly Victor Doerksen received over 50 calls in less than a week opposing the grant. They say callers want scarce public funds to go to projects they feel are more deserving, or they don't want to be "confronted" with others' sexuality.

Day, a former assistant pastor and Christian school administrator, told the "Ottawa Citizen" newspaper that the Ministry and the museum "made a mistake in pursuing a project which purports to reflect the sexual choices of one per cent of the population," and that the museum shouldn't be promoting the gay and lesbian "cause." Doerksen opposes the project as legitimizing homosexuality.

The Gay and Lesbian Association of Central Alberta issued a press release saying, "We are saddened but not surprised that some people still cling to the outdated view that this issue is simply one of sexual choice." The group looked forward to the academic objectivity of the museum project supporting recognition of the "positive contributions to society" made by gay men and lesbians "throughout history."

Museum director Wendy Martindale knew there was a risk of negative public reaction to the project, but says the opposition only reinforces the importance of the project for her. She says she's not about to return the funds. The grant will support a researcher to expedite a project that's already been underway for three years. The

museum has been collecting photographs, oral history tapes and other information about gay and lesbian lives, organizing and events in Alberta, particularly in the Red Deer area.

The situation is an interesting parallel to Idaho State University history professor Peter Boag, who is currently suing the Idaho Board of Education for funding every recommended grant except his \$30,334 request to research origins of gay communities in the Pacific Northwest -- only the second recommended project not to be funded in the last 10 years.

British Columbia Redefines "Spouse"

(Rex Wockner) -- By a vote of 59-9, the British Columbia legislature July 22 changed the definition of "spouse" in the Family Relations Act to include same-sex partners.

The legislation was aimed at recognizing same-sex unions in matters of child custody, access and support. But the effect may be more wide-ranging, giving gay couples many of the same rights as common-law heterosexual couples.

That sits well with provincial Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh. He's in the midst of reviewing every British Columbia law that mentions "spouse" in hopes of modifying the laws to include same-sex couples.

British Columbia's five Anglican bishops are supporting the changes. In a letter to B.C. Premier Glen Clark, they said: "It is a matter of fundamental equality and human rights that homosexual people should have the same obligations and protection under the civil law as other citizens of British Columbia.

"By ensuring the same benefits and the same responsibilities for homosexual families as for heterosexual families, it will strengthen all families in their diversity and encourage long-term, stable relationships to the benefit of children, spouses and society as a whole."

Lesbians And Gays Urge Swiss Banks To Consider Homosexual Holocaust

(ILGA News) -- Co-Secretaries General of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), Jordi Petit in Barcelona and Jennifer Wilson in Sidney, request that the Swiss Banker' Association (ABS in the French equivalent) support the fight against AIDS in the homosexual community, in memory of the thousands of murders and deportations during the Nazi regime on grounds of sexual orientation. Female victims were marked with a black triangle and men with a pink triangle.

The Swiss banks have revealed a series of "dormant" accounts belonging to people fleeing from, or just afraid of, the Nazi regime. ILGA wishes to point out that gypsies, Spanish republicans and homosexuals were also persecuted, as well as Jews. Figures from the Red Cross

and the protestant Church of Austria in the 1940s suggest a total of around 350,000 homosexual victims.

Following the ABS's decision on un-inherited funds, to distribute them amongst charitable organizations designated by Jewish associations, ILGA, with all due respect and solidarity for the Jewish people, proposes that other persecuted minorities also be taken into consideration. Minorities such as gypsies and homosexuals have never received compensation from the German State. It's high time that Germany, as a State, raise an official monument in memory of the homosexual holocaust.

Clearly, the people who hid their savings from the Nazis in Swiss banks are non other than those persecuted by that regime: Jews, homosexuals, democrats, gypsies, etc. The coherent course of action to be taken with unclaimed funds would be their use in benefit of those persecuted groups in just proportion.

Court Gives Lesbian Partner Right to Sue For Visitation

(The Data Lounge) -- AUSTIN, Tx -- A Texas appeals court has given a female partner the right to sue for visitation rights to her ex-lover's child. The Associated Press reports the case has given gay partners in the state privileges denied them in California and New York.

The news agency says the decision by the state's 3rd Court of Appeals did not grant Lisa Ann Fowler visitation, nor did it raise the question of her sexual orientation.

The court based its decision on a provision in state law which says a person can sue for custody if he or she "has had actual care, control, and possession of the child for not less than six months preceding the filing of the petition." It overturned a lower-court decision which ruled Fowler had no legal claim on the child.

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, a group which provided legal assistance to Fowler in the case, told the Associated Press, "From our perspective, it's significant nationally

that a Texas appellate court would not get caught up in the issue of sexual orientation but in fact would look at the reality of the relationship between Lisa Fowler and her son."

The news agency notes that other state appellate courts have issued mixed rulings on the rights of gay parents. According to the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, visitation has been granted to lesbian partners in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania and denied in California and New York.

Law Providing Reciprocal Benefits Goes Into Effect

(Associated Press) -- HONOLULU -- Gay couples finally can get a taste of married life, even if they can't get married.

A bill that gives gay couples some of the same benefits as those in traditional marriages was allowed to become law July 9 without Gov. Ben Cayetano's signature.

The state Health Department has started processing applications and mailing certificates. The first 35 couples who applied will receive benefit certificates within a week. Most of the couples so far are of the same sex, but the state expects thousands of couples to apply during the next few months.

Larry Hart, Maui district health officer, said while the local agency doesn't keep statistics, "only about four or five" couples had applied so far. (July 9)

Many people say the first-in-the-nation law is full of wrinkles because it also applies to any adult couples who can't legally marry, such as siblings or roommates. They all can get benefits that include the rights to share medical insurance, joint property ownership and inheritances.

Couples don't have to know each other, live together, or be Hawaiian residents to apply. They only have to be legally barred from marrying each other and be at least 18 years old.

"This is an unprecedented move. It's the broadest recognition of untraditional marriage ever. But this is not exactly what the gay and lesbian community asked for," said civil rights attorney Dan Foley, who represents three homosexual couples suing the state for the right to marry.

The lawsuit led to a Hawaiian Supreme Court ruling in 1993 and a subsequent Circuit Court ruling in 1996 that it was unconstitutional to deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The Legislature responded this year by passing the same-sex benefits bill along with a proposed constitutional amendment that would negate the Supreme Court by banning gay marriages.

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The state has asked the court to defer a final ruling until after a vote on the amendment set for November 1998.

Meanwhile, businesses fret they will pay a high price for extra medical insurance costs because of the benefits bill, and want more clarification from the state on how far they must go in providing additional benefits.

Tim Ho, president of the Hawaii Employers Council, said the issue could wind up in court if the state fails to provide adequate interpretation of the new law.

Cayetano said he supports the bill's intent, but did not sign it because he wanted it limited only to same-sex couples.

"Apparently the religious right did not want the bill to be seen as specifically tailored to same-sex couples," Cayetano said. "Unfortunately, the Legislature gave in to that, but created another problem."

Cayetano hopes the Legislature will change the law next session.

"It can be limited to same-sex couples for the same reasons I think marriage can be limited to heterosexuals," he said.

Lesbian Elected To Mexican Congress

(Rex Wockner) -- A lesbian activist won election to Mexico's Congress July 6.

Patria Jimenez took her seat in the Chamber of Deputies Sept. 1 as a representative of the left-wing Democratic Revolution Party (PRD).

She will be one of the 200 legislators in the 500-member body who are selected by political parties rather than by direct voting. Each party gets to appoint a certain number of specially listed candidates to represent a several-state region, based on the percentage of the vote the party received in the region.

In Jimenez's case, the PRD needed 16 percent of the vote in the states around Mexico City to put her in office -- as she was listed at number 12 on the PRD's proportional-representation candidate list.

To everyone's surprise, the PRD captured about 36 percent of the vote in those states and even snagged the mayor's seat in Mexico City -- stunning the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI),

which has clung to power for 68 years amid routine allegations of electoral fraud. When tabulations are final, the PRI likely will have lost its majority in the Chamber of Deputies as well.

"I'm really happy," Jimenez said in Spanish in a July 10 phone call from Mexico City. "We've been partying. We're delighted.

"It's an historic event and we're just really pleased."

Jimenez said she will fight for institutionalization of gay- community spaces and improved treatment for people with HIV, among other things. The vast majority of Mexican AIDS patients cannot afford any antiviral drugs.

Jimenez's colorful campaign posters were aimed directly at "the lesbian-gay community" with the slogan: "Safe Sex, Safe Vote. Make the future yours!"

As far as can be determined, Jimenez becomes the first openly gay or lesbian member of any Latin American federal legislative body.

A second openly gay candidate, gay activist Francisco Robles Manning, lost his Congressional race in Mexico City's gay Zona Rosa neighborhood.

His Cardenista Party also failed to get enough votes in the several-state region for him to be appointed by the party. (Unlike Jimenez, Robles ran both as a regular candidate and a "plurinomial circumscription" -- or party-list -- candidate.)

"The vote for my party was very low because of the big swing to the PRD -- that was the problem," Robles said in Spanish in a July 9 phone call from Mexico City.

The Cardenistas would have needed three percent of the vote in the region for Robles to be appointed but received only about two percent. In previous elections, the party captured up to five percent of the vote -- which had led Robles to predict his election was a fairly safe bet.

Transsexual Fights For Disability Protection

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) -- A transsexual has sued her former employer in a bid to have a hormone condition resulting from her sex change declared a federally protected disability.

The condition is hypogonadism, which means there is diminished estrogen in the bloodstream. It is common in women, but Margaret O'Hartigan, a 44-year-old transsexual, said she became afflicted because of her 1979 sex change operation.

O'Hartigan and the Oregon

Bureau of Labor and Industries believe she was discriminated against when her employer provided insurance that covered hormone treatments for other women, but wouldn't purchase insurance that covered the therapy for transsexuals.

The former secretary filed a federal lawsuit last month against the Portland law firm VavRosky, MacColl, Olson, Doherty & Miller.



(From FBI)

Chronology of Cunanan's Alleged Killing Spree

MIAMI BEACH, July 24 (Reuter) - Andrew Cunanan's run from the law ended on Wednesday July 23 with a gunshot in a houseboat on Indian Creek,

a few miles from Gianni Versace's mansion in South Beach.

Officials said the body found in the houseboat after a stand-off was Cunanan's.

Cunanan, thought to be a homosexual prostitute, was the prime suspect in at least five murders. Here is a chronology of his alleged movements and killings since April.

April 27 - Cunanan left a message for Jeffrey Trail, 28, a gas company manager in Minneapolis, asking Trail to meet him at the apartment of architect David Madson. The three had met when Trail, a former Navy officer, was stationed in San Diego.

April 29 - The body of Trail, Cunanan's first alleged victim, was found in Madson's apartment, rolled up in a rug. He had been bludgeoned with a claw hammer, found nearby.

May 3 - The body of Madson, 33, was found by fishermen near a lake about 30 miles north of Minneapolis. He was shot in the back of the head and had been dead for a day.

May 4 - Lee Miglin, 72, a millionaire real estate developer from Chicago, found dead by his wife in their garage. Police speculate Cunanan met Miglin by chance. He was tortured, his throat slashed with a saw, chest stabbed with pruning shears. Madson's red Jeep was found nearby and Miglin's Lexus was missing.

May 9 - The body of William Reese, 45, a cemetery caretaker, was discovered at Finn's Point National Cemetery in Pennsville, New Jersey. He had been shot. Miglin's 1994 Lexus was found nearby and Reese's Chevy pickup truck was missing.

July 15 - Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace shot twice in the head on the steps of his mansion in Miami Beach. Reese's pickup truck found in a public garage nearby, where it had apparently been parked for a month.

July 23 - After a massive manhunt for Cunanan and hundreds of purported sightings across the country, police are called to a houseboat in Miami Beach, 40 blocks north of Versace's mansion. After a four-hour siege, police storm the houseboat and find Cunanan's body.

Bottoms Wins in Appeals Court

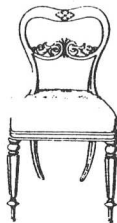
(PlanetOut) -- An appeals court says a judge erred in barring contact between a lesbian mom's son and her partner, but a likely challenge to that ruling means Sharon Bottoms' case will go to Virginia Supremes yet again.

Sharon Bottoms, who because she is a lesbian lost custody of her son, Tyler Doustou, to her own mother, Kay Bottoms, in a notorious 1993 decision upheld by the Virginia state Supreme Court, has won the latest round in her continuing legal struggle. Less than a year ago, Sharon traded in the hope of regaining custody of Tyler for the chance to have him visit with her in her home, only to see any contact whatever between Tyler and her life partner, April Wade, barred by Henrico County Circuit Court Judge Buford Parsons. But on July 29, a three-judge panel of the Virginia Court of Appeals ruled that Parsons had misapplied a decade-old precedent denying a gay father's domestic partner visitation with his child, and ordered the judge to reconsider the case. Although noting that this was the first instance in which a higher court in Virginia had explicitly ruled that sexual orientation per se should be irrelevant in visitation determinations, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which has participated in Bottoms' case since the beginning, was somewhat disappointed by the narrow scope of the appeals court's ruling. The unanimous opinion written for the three-judge panel by Judge Richard Bray said, "While issues of adult sexuality and related behavior are significant to an adjudication of visitation, such factors must be assessed by the court together with other relevant circumstances and balanced in a visitation arrangement which both benefits and protects the child." In addition to Tyler's own formerly close relationship with co-parent Wade, Sharon Bottoms' suit presented a psychologist who testified to the importance of "demystifying" for him the relationship between Wade and his mother. Tyler is now five years old.

Any joy in the current ruling may well be short-lived, as Kay Bottoms' attorney has indicated that there will probably be an appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court. In the original struggle for custody of Tyler, the appeals court also ruled in favor of Sharon Bottoms, only to be overruled by the state's highest court in 1995. That decision was significantly based on Virginia's sodomy law, which makes lesbian sex acts felonious, even though criminal charges were never brought against Sharon Bottoms or April Wade.

Tyler's father has never been a party to the case, although during the custody appeals he voiced strong

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support for Sharon. The Bottoms case was presented last year in a thinly fictionalized made-for-TV movie called "Two Mothers for Zachary."

Trans World News Notes

(In Your Face!)— Recent gains and losses for transsexuals and transgendered people amplify the necessity of solidarity.

Argentina's National Campaign Against Discrimination Against Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transvestites, and Transsexuals has targeted the western province of Mendoza for an international letter campaign because of routine police abuse against transgendered people. As reported by Buenos Aires' Alejandra Sarda following a visit to Mendoza, MtF's (male to female transsexuals) are routinely arrested on sight by police on prostitution charges regardless of their actual activity at the time, and may be shot if they attempt to flee. Arrests usually result in about 30 days' detention in police stations' airless basement cells, with substandard and occasionally poisonous food and no access to medical treatment. Feminine-appearing young males are also frequently arrested for Offenses Against Public Modesty and usually held for about 12 hours. Both groups are forcibly tested for HIV on every arrest despite a national law against compulsory testing.

ILGA, the International Lesbian and Gay Association, organized an e-mail protest action of this kind of harassment in which participation required only an e-mail addressed to actions@ilga.org with your name and a postal address in the body of the letter.

Britain's transys are hailing what they say is the first court decision ever giving them protection from discrimination under English law, a mid-July Employment Appeal Tribunal ruling that said that in both public and private employment transys are covered under the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act. A celebrated 1996 victory in the European Court of Justice applied only to job rights for public sector employees. The case at issue was that of the MtF known as "C," an amusement park employee who was first harassed and finally fired after revealing plans to undergo gender reassignment surgery.

National Organization for Women (NOW) at its annual national conference finally passed a transgender inclusion resolution which had been debated at two previous national meetings. After acknowledging NOW's own goals of working against oppression and gender role stereotyping, and the oppression and widespread misunderstanding of

transgendered/transsexual people, NOW's resolution reads: "Be it resolved, that NOW and its sub-units encourage education and dialogue within NOW and other organizations on gender and sex stereotypes including those who are transgendered and transsexual people. Be it further resolved, that NOW reaffirm its commitment to end all sex and gender stereotypes. Be it finally resolved, that we acknowledge that gender is a patriarchal social construct used to oppress women."

Final passage of the resolution was credited to the personal support of NOW President Patricia Ireland, appearances by GenderPAC executive director Riki Anne Wilchins before NOW state presidents and national board, and to organizing by NOW Lesbian Rights Coordinator Kimberlee Ward, NOW-New Jersey State President Bear Atwood, and GenderPAC's Terri McCorcal. McCorcal compared the near-unanimous passage on July 6 to NOW's affirmation of lesbian inclusion in the 1970's, as an emotional moment that left many attendees hugging and crying in the aisles.

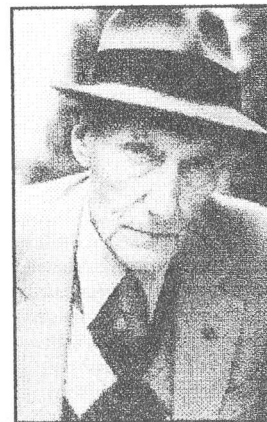
Oregon's Bureau of Labour and Industries has joined with MtF Margaret O'Hartigan in a federal lawsuit against her employer, a Portland law firm. O'Hartigan is claiming discrimination under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act because the employer's insurance covered estrogen treatments for other women employees but not for her—a matter of only \$25/month. The Bureau believes there's "substantial" reason to believe that O'Hartigan's eventual firing was a result of taking this complaint to the state. Although the Americans With Disabilities Act includes some notorious exceptions for transsexualism, O'Hartigan believes it does not refer to all physical impairments resulting from sex changes. She raised as an example the possibility of her being denied life-saving surgery for breast cancer. O'Hartigan bears the burden of proving that the emotional effects of untreated hypoestrogenism are severe enough to substantially impair her ability to do her work as a secretary.

San Diego's law against cross-dressing is being targeted for repeal by the groups TransAction and Voices for Justice in a campaign launched July 25, at a rally

held on the eve of the city's pride celebration. The groups charge not only that the law is obsolete, but that it has been enforced in an unequal fashion. Since the law applies to cross-dressing in the commission of another crime, they say cross-dressers are spotted first and then charged with some other violation to justify application of the clothing ban. Police say there have been 27 arrests using the law since 1992.

Arkansas murderer Yitzak "Isaac" Abba Marta, age 21, was sentenced to life in prison without parole earlier this month for the beating and strangulation death of gay cross-dresser Alan Fitzgerald Walker in November in Fayetteville. Marta was with Adam David Blackford when the pair met Walker outside a gay club and went to Walker's home for sex. Blackford had already been convicted in the same crime; his 30-year sentence is expected to be cut short because he testified against Marta.

William S. Burroughs Dead at 83



NEW YORK — The Associated Press reports William S. Burroughs, the author of "Naked Lunch," a novel which established him as one of the most hailed and reviled literary voices of the "beat generation," died on Saturday, August 2 at the age of 83.

Burroughs' "Naked Lunch" depicted an underground society at war with the mainstream values of a larger technologically-based world.

The novel rejected standard formatting and dialogue and replaced it with stream-of-consciousness narrative musings, non-linear chapters, and other literary innovations many mainstream critics dismissed as incomprehensible nonsense.

First published in 1959, "Naked Lunch" became the focus of a precedent setting obscenity trial owing to its violence and graphic depictions of gay sex. It won a final appeal and was eventually published in the US in 1962.

Along with Jack Kerouac's "On the Road" and Allen Ginsberg's "Howl," Burroughs' "Naked Lunch" formed the literary core of the Beat movement, which advocated an early, pre-hippy spurning of dominant middle class values and advocated the use of marijuana and other drugs to expand the horizons of the mind. Burroughs was addicted to heroin for more than 15 years.

Burroughs lived abroad in various countries before

returning, at Ginsberg's urging, to New York City in 1974. Musicians such as David Bowie, Lou Reed, and Patti Smith have cited Burroughs as an important and early influence.

In recent years, Burroughs became something of a cult icon, writing for small projects, making cameo appearances in films such as "Drugstore Cowboy," and even the occasional television commercial.

Top Cop in Vancouver Pride

(NewsPlanet) — Vancouver, BC's chief of police marched ahead of his gay troops in support of their pride — the first Canadian police chief to take that step. Vancouver's 10th Gay Pride parade on August 3 is believed to be the first in Canada to be joined by a chief of police. Chief Bruce Chambers was a crowd favorite as he led a contingent of openly gay police officers. He told



Chief Bruce Chambers

the press, "I am committed to providing fair, equitable police service to all the people in the city of Vancouver, regardless of race, country of origin, color, religion and sexual orientation. As an employer, I also want to send a strong message to our employees that they'll be treated fairly and equitably by the same standards."

Other notables participating included Mayor Philip Owen and four city councillors as well as the provincial health minister and attorney general. It was a timely showing of official support in an area where gays and lesbians have recently been under attack by conservative religious groups seeking to end discussion of homosexuality in schools and to block the progress of provincial domestic partnership legislation.

Hong Kong Gays Are Worried

On July 1, Britain gave Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China and local gays are more than a little worried about their futures.

Hong Kong legalized gay sex in 1991 and gay life has begun to look like it does in most of the world's more-prosperous nations. In mainland China, on the other hand, homosexuals sometimes still face prison and forced shock treatment.

"Of all the people in Hong Kong to worry about communist rule, gays probably have the most to fear," Toronto's Globe and Mail said recently.

"Deep down, we're scared," one Hong Kong gay man, Tim, told the paper. "Everyone is just celebrating [the

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handover to China] on the surface. We know it's very bad."

"I think the gay community will go underground now," added Andy, a 19-year-old airline manager.

In an e-mail message, Julian Chan, head of the Hong Kong gay group Isvara, detailed some of the concerns.

"Though there isn't any law about gay in PR China, we all know that Beijing government is homophobic and nasty to gay population, and the new administration which lead by Tung Chee Hwa seem having a good 'obey' to Beijing," he wrote.

"For Sure gay bar, Kara.O.K., sauna and disco can still run their business, but will there be raid? Do all 14 existing gay groups have to re-register? Will there be any difficulty for registration of new gay group and application of gay public gathering? ... Will gay rights movement be labeled as 'human rights action' and [thus] sentenced as 'danger to nation's security and social order?'"

Lesbian Mother Gets Support Payments From Ex

An Ontario court last month granted lesbian mother Lorraine Greaves custody of her son and ordered her ex-lover, Margaret Buist, to make child-support payments.

The ruling allows Greaves to leave London, Ontario, to take a job in Vancouver as executive director of the British Columbia Women's Hospital and Health Center.

The two women lived together for seven years including during the conception and birth of the boy, who is now four and a half.

When Greaves announced plans to move to Vancouver, Buist, a lawyer, filed suit claiming sole or joint custody of the boy and seeking orders declaring that he could not be removed from London and that she was his "mother." Greaves counterclaimed for child support.

Gay Wedding in Ireland a First, Say News Reports

(Data Lounge) DUBLIN -- Two men exchanged wedding vows to one another recently in a brief five-minute ceremony in Dublin as part of what the London Times calls the Irish Republic's first gay marriage ceremony.

23-Year-old Shane Harte and 21-year-old Noel Byas are believed to be the first same-sex couple to publicly exchange their love for one another in a ceremony

resembling marriage since homosexuality was decriminalized here four years ago. The event was crowded with reporters and television cameras from British and Irish news media.

Though the ceremony is not recognized as having any legal weight, the gay wedding ceremony, says the Times, is indicative of a new spirit of openness and confidence among lesbian and gay Irish, particularly in Dublin. The newspaper says the city is "teeming" with gay pubs and clubs and has become a popular gay tourist draw.

This is a startling transformation for a country that for years steadfastly refused to acknowledge even the most basic gay and lesbian freedoms. This changed utterly in 1993 when former Justice Minister Maire Geoghegan-Quinn repealed all of Ireland's anti-gay criminal laws.

In one year, Geoghegan-Quinn proposed 17 as the age of consent regardless of sexual orientation (there had long been a four year discrepancy), ordered the Irish Army to begin acceptance of gay men and women in its ranks, and extended equal protection to gay and lesbian victims of domestic violence, among other reforms.

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Teen Sexual Identity Book Will Remain On Shelves

PITTSBURGH, Pa. -- The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reports a book for gay and lesbian teens, which has been the source of a months-long debate between the school board, conservative opposition, and the American Civil Liberties Union will remain on the shelves of the Brownsville Area School District library.

Brownsville schools' district superintendent Dexton R. Reed said, in a written statement, the

book, "Understanding Sexual Identity - A Book for Gay and Lesbian Teens and Their Friends," will remain freely accessible to all students with the "option that if a parent does not want their child to take out the book they must notify the librarian."

Stella Broadwater, a Brownsville school board member who opposed keeping the book in the school library told the Tribune-Review, "I knew they would keep it on the shelves [but] I'm against the book." She told the newspaper if students would "read one book - the Bible - it will answer all the questions they have."

The president of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the ACLU joined other school board members in applauding the final decision. "We're very pleased they decided to leave the book on the shelves," said ACLU spokeswoman Stephanie Vernberg. "We feel everyone has the right to opt out on certain books, but we don't feel the opinion of a few should control this for everyone."

Adult Gay Sex Not A Crime, South African Court Rules

(Ron Buckmire) -- A Cape High Court's finding that consenting adult males have a constitutional right to sex in private is a gain for gays, but contrary to Roman Catholic tenets, Lisa Templeton reports.

Sex between consenting male adults is now legal in the Western Cape, after a landmark judgment in the Cape High Court.

The judgment has been hailed as a victory by the gay community, who say it is a tremendous weight off the minds of people whose sexuality has been condemned for centuries as a criminal offence.

Spokesmen hope the judgment will have a domino effect on other laws that discriminate against gays, such as child custody and adoption laws, and that it will set a precedent for other provinces.

Until 1993, about 400 people a year were convicted for sodomy. Most were people of colour.

August 5, Mr Justice Ian Farlam, with Mr Justice SS Ngcobo, overturned Knysna prisoner Gordon Kampher's conviction and suspended sentence for having sex with another prisoner while awaiting trial in January. In their judgment, the judges said the criminalization of sodomy was contrary to the Constitution. The Constitution says no person shall be unfairly discriminated against on the

grounds of race, gender, sex, ethnic or social origin, colour or sexual orientation. It also says each person has the right to privacy.

Section 9.3 of the Constitution says homosexual activity has the same constitutional status as heterosexual and that punishment for sodomy between consenting adults in private is unconstitutional. Consensual sexual acts between females did not constitute a crime and there had been no case in which a woman had been prosecuted for an act of this kind, Judge Farlam said.

Describing the judgment as a victory for the Constitution, Mr Kevan Botha, legal adviser to the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality said: "It is long overdue. We welcome the ruling and believe it will help to ensure that gay people are no longer regarded as unapprehended felons.

"This is a tremendous weight off people's minds. The very essence of how gay people have defined themselves sexually has been a criminal offence."

Of the country's prosecutions for sodomy, 65% had occurred in the Cape Peninsula, Botha said.

Ms Nicci Stein, head of the Triangle Project which offers counselling to gay people, said the possibility of being prosecuted or criminalized for being gay had had a huge impact on people's self-esteem. Many gay people had laboured with this while coming to terms with their sexuality.

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Mr Zackie Achmat of the National Coalition hailed the ruling as a human rights victory. Decriminalizing sodomy removed discrimination against gays, who were often tarred with the same brush as rapists.

"Sodomy prosecutions combined gay people with rapists, especially in the Cape, where people like the Station Strangler could be charged with sodomy and two consenting adults with the same (offence).

"These laws are outdated and combine non-consensual rape with consensual sex between adults."

Achmat hoped other laws that discriminated against gays would be lifted, such as the Sexual Offences Act which criminalized any act that might "stimulate sexual passion" between men, for example holding hands in public.

He called for rape laws to be amended to include violent sexual crimes against men.

Western Cape Human Rights Commissioner Ms Rhoda Kadalie said the ruling was a great victory for the gay liberation movement.

However, the ruling is in conflict with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

"The Catholic Church holds that sex is something only between a man and woman who are married," said Monsignor Donald de Beer, vicar-general of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese in Cape Town.

"Sex is a sacred way in which people co operate with God to further human life. It certainly should not be used for pleasure as between homosexual males, for instance."

**Tribunal Revealed
'Smoking Gun'**



London Mayor
Dianne Haskett

Testimony before an Ontario human rights tribunal revealed a "smoking gun" that seems to prove the mayor of London intentionally plotted to deny a request for a gay pride proclamation.

Dianne Haskett, Mayor of London, Ontario, apparently developed her personal guidelines on proclamations specifically to avoid issuing one for Gay Pride Weekend in 1995, according to two city officials. Hearings before an Ontario human rights tribunal on a discrimination complaint by

HALO (Homophile Association of London, Ontario), the group requesting the proclamation, reached the halfway point August 12.

Now-retired city clerk Ken Sadler, much of whose work involved developing city policies, said that he'd never heard of the mayor's policy on proclamations before HALO's early March 1995 announcement that the group would apply for one. That announcement followed soon after a previous Ontario human rights tribunal's judgment fining the mayor of Hamilton \$5,000 for rejecting a proposed pride proclamation there. The fact that Haskett had a policy in place, as the Hamilton mayor did not, is key to her defense against the complaint, which will be presented later in the hearings.

Sadler said he first saw Haskett's policy in the period between HALO's announcement and the group's actual filing of their application in early April 1995. Sadler told the current panel, "There was a connection to the degree that the reason why that particular policy developed at that point in time was in respect to the request [for a pride proclamation by HALO]." When Sadler reviewed the mayor's policy, he advised her to stop issuing proclamations altogether, since her policy appeared to him to border on discrimination and the risk of a hefty fine wouldn't be worth it. He found the prospect of incurring a fine over a tradition like proclamations to be "frightening."

Haskett's policy included a ban on proclamations relating to sexuality, whether homosexuality, heterosexuality or celibacy. Other banned proclamations included those relating to abortion (whether pro or con), those which might be controversial, those which would tend to incite hatred, and those which promoted illegal activity.

The London City Council had its own long-established guidelines prohibiting inflammatory, provocative, politically insensitive, or scatological language in proclamations.

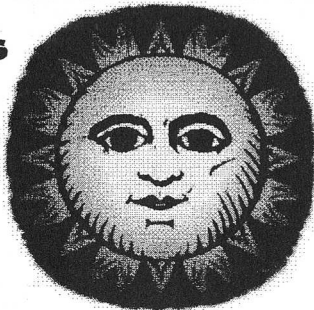
Even more damaging than Sadler's testimony was that of London city councilmember Joe Swan. He'd had no idea the mayor had a policy on proclamations until she rejected HALO's request. When HALO had no success

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in trying to get Haskett to reconsider, they turned to Swan for assistance. But when he went to her to try to compromise, he says she told him privately that she would "never" present a proclamation for HALO. He went on to propose a resolution to a city council meeting in mid-May 1995 to acknowledge HALO's 21 years of service to the community. A videotape of that meeting, offered in evidence at the hearing, showed Haskett arguing against the measure saying, "The wording has changed but it's still the same thing." That resolution was defeated by a vote of 14 - 5.

**Farrakhan Attacks Gay People in
Public Speech**



Minister Louis Farrakhan

BOSTON, Ma. -- The Boston Globe reports Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan again attacked gay men and women as examples of national immorality in a speech devoted largely to President Clinton's suggestion the United States formally apologize for slavery.

Likening gay people to drug dealers, Farrakhan told 1,000 assembled listeners "It seems like being gay or whatever sin you wish to be a part of is okay. It seems like being a teacher doesn't mean anything, but being something low down and funky is cool."

Farrakhan recently denied accusations he was homophobic, declaring gay men and women deserve equal protection under American law.

"I'm not anti-gay," he told Globe reporters during a recent interview. "The gay person is a human being and deserves all the rights that the Constitution bestows upon everyone else," he said.

But Farrakhan qualified this statement by saying, "But I have the duty to lift that gay person up to the standard to ask if they want to live the life God wants them to, or live the lifestyle they want to live."

The Globe reports Farrakhan is moving his Nation of Islam ministry to issue more moderate appeals so as to have a greater impact on national policies that affect African-Americans.

His has hinted strongly that he would like to be a presidential advisor and has stated his intention to build the Nation of Islam into a "third political force."

Dutch Gays Fight For Right To Give Blood

(Out This Week) -- Gay men in Holland are fighting for the right to give blood after being excluded because

of fears about the HIV virus.

The Association for the Integration of Homosexuals (AIH) filed a complaint with the Dutch Equal Opportunities Commission in an attempt to force blood banks there to let gay men donate blood. Guidelines followed by all Dutch blood banks exclude gay men and intravenous drug users from becoming donors.

A spokesman for the AIH said: "you must look at whether someone has behaved in a high risk ways such as having unprotected sex, not whether he is homosexual."

The gay group said it will take the case to court if the blood banks refuse to lift the ban.

Historic Conference Sets Clear Direction

(ILGA) -- The 18th World Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association in Cologne at the end of June passed a radical new structure for the organization. ILGA now has a constitution which strengthens the organization and firmly recognizes the existence of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered members from every part of the globe.

"ILGA fulfills a special role," said newly elected Female Secretary General Jennifer Wilson from Australia. "It is the only international grassroots lesbian and gay organization in the world. That's a huge responsibility. Making sure that the voices of ILGA include the voices of Africa, of Latin America and of the Pacific means taking special care not to silence these people with the louder, better funded voices of North America, Europe and Australia." Jordi Petit, re-elected Male Secretary General from Spain added, "The world

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is getting smaller through the use of technology such as email and fax. Members all over the world are discovering the power of international networking via ILGA. We must continue that commitment by ensuring that conferences are supported in all regions of the world."

The conference in Cologne was attended by one of the largest contingents from southern and less economically developed countries. Funding grants had made subsidized fares available to people in Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Asia. The next ILGA conference in 1999 is scheduled to take place in South Africa. As Simon Nkoli, a delegate from there explained, "Homophobia is indigenous to all nations - it is a world-wide phenomena." "With the recent passing of the landmark constitution in South Africa - the first in the world to incorporate protection for lesbians and gay men, it seems only fitting for ILGA to recognize this by organizing a world conference in South Africa," said Wilson. While South Africa is an expensive destination for travelers from Europe and North America - it offers an unprecedented chance to involve people from areas where colonialism was strong and where local organizing has not been adequately supported by the rest of the world. ILGA has already been offered assistance with airfares for people from Latin America and Asia and for those with HIV/AIDS.

"With our next executive meeting taking place in Peru back-to-back with the Latin American regional conference - we are finally living what we have been talking about for years," said Pitit.

The Cologne conference also elected a strong Executive Board with proven business skills. Although the organization is facing a severe financial crisis - a plan to place ILGA on a solid footing has already been put in place. "We have always had to struggle to find funds - but that's never stopped us in the past and certainly won't now," commented Wilson. "Our supporters and members know that ILGA has a strong future - fulfilling our vision of a world-wide network of empowered lesbians and gay men from Soweto to Stockholm to Samoa."

12-Year-Old Sues District Over Harassment

SAN MATEO, Ca -- The San Francisco Examiner reports a 12-year-old California boy has filed suit against the Laguna Salada Union School District alleging district officials and school employees did nothing to prevent years of anti-gay verbal and emotional abuse.

The suit, filed August 11 in San Mateo County Superior Court, also names administrators and students at Ortega and Vallemar middle schools where "Student Doe" attended the sixth and seventh grades.

The Examiner quotes from the brief which says since 1995, the boy "has been continually harassed, assaulted, battered, and discriminated against by students, teachers, and administrators based on their perception that he was

gay."

The suit said officials and employees of the district were aware of the problem and did nothing in the way of appropriate action to stop the abuse. "The school district... refused to enforce [sexual harassment] policies with respect to Student Doe simply because he was perceived as gay and because they were afraid of controversy."

The Examiner reports the boy's mother says that due to the emotional distress he suffered, he lost 30 pounds, suffered stress-related migraine headaches, eczema, asthma and contemplated suicide.

Southern Baptists Expand Disney Boycott

ATLANTA (Reuter) - The country's largest Protestant denomination stepped up its boycott of the Walt Disney Co. August 13 by asking Southern Baptists to withhold at least \$100 million in spending from Disney during the coming year.

A Southern Baptist Convention leader said each of the denomination's 15 million members will be asked to refrain from spending at least \$100 on Disney products or services over the next 12 months.

"If a million Southern Baptists sign such a pledge, that would mean a minimum of \$100 million that would be lost to 'The Tragic Kingdom,'" Richard Land, president of the denomination's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, told reporters after a boycott strategy meeting.

Southern Baptist leaders accuse Disney of shifting to a "Christian-bashing, family-bashing, pro-homosexual agenda" during the last decade. Conservative Southern

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Baptists voted overwhelmingly in June to boycott Disney because of its "promotion of immoral ideologies and practices."

The denomination said it would ask Southern Baptists to write Disney chairman Michael Eisner with an accounting of the money they didn't spend on Disney movies, videos, merchandise and theme parks.

Donald Wildmon, president of the American Family Association in Tupelo, Mississippi, said his organization would promote "Boycott Disney" rallies nationwide and urge people to sell any Disney stock they own.

The Southern Baptists accuse Disney of producing blasphemous films and books, exploiting child labor in Haiti and Vietnam, and allowing homosexuals to gather for an annual "Gay Day" at its Orlando theme park.

The denomination's leaders are particularly appalled at the ABC-TV program "Nothing Sacred," scheduled to air this fall, which portrays a priest who doesn't believe in God and "feels lust in his heart."

"I have never seen anything that begins to approach the response we've had on this issue," Land said. "If I owned any Disney stock I would want someone to encourage me to get rid of it, because it's going down."

Representatives of other denominations, including the Presbyterian and Wesleyan churches, attended the strategy session at an Atlanta church. There is "a very strong mood to support this" in the Wesleyan Church, the Rev. James Wiggins, the denomination's Georgia district superintendent, told Reuters.

Police Raid Gay Club in Russia

(ILGA) -- On the 25th of July 1997, an armed and camouflaged band of Russian police broke into the Moscow gay club "Chance" and brutally beat up the clients. About 40 people were taken into custody.

The police ("UNON" Yugo-Vostochnogo Ocruga Moscow) said they were looking for drugs, and that these people were under the influence of drugs. They were forced to sign prepared papers with fake drug test results, and bleeding people were held without charge for six to eight hours. The police officers would not even permit them to go the bathroom, would not give them any water and constantly insulted them with statements such as "You are fags - not humans - and you deserve to be killed."

No drugs were found on the clients, and some of them got an independent expertise the next day that showed that there were no drugs in their blood either.

The Russian gay community is assuming that this action was part of a "cleansing action" before the 850th anniversary celebration of Moscow, when everyone who is different gets thrown into the category of people who must be removed from the city. Homosexuals, of course, fall into this category.

British Airways Will Not Hire HIV Positives

(Rex Wockner Int'l News) -- British Airways refuses to employ people with HIV as pilots or flight attendants, reports the AIDS magazine Positive Nation.

The publication located three people who were denied jobs with the company solely because of their HIV status.

An airline spokesman said the policy was put in place because some countries (including the U.S.) deny entry to HIV-positive foreigners and because HIV-positive people are not supposed to take certain vaccines that are necessary for travel to the Third World, such as the vaccine for yellow fever.

The spokesman also said: "Being positive you cannot predict when it will affect the brain. A pilot's lifestyle, crossing time zones, differing meal times, high stress levels, etc., can run down their immune system."

Virgin Atlantic airlines, on the other hand, welcomes HIV-positive applicants for pilot and flight-attendant positions, Positive Nation said.

Breakthrough For Gay and Lesbian Rights in New Zealand

(NZ Herald) -- The New Zealand Law Commission has proposed legislation which is being hailed as a breakthrough for gay & lesbian rights, and challenges the stance of the NZ government.

The Commission wants Parliament to curb the power of the courts to interfere with the provisions in a dead person's will. Under its proposed 'Succession (Adjustment) Bill', de facto relationships, whether between men and women or people of the same sex, would be granted the same legal status and protection as marriage.

Speaking to the 'NZ Herald', the Law Commission President, Justice Baragwanath, explained the need for new legislation. "Values have changed but the law has not, [and we] cannot rely on the existing deficient law." Treating homosexual and heterosexual de facto relationships as the same as marriage was sensible and

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consistent, he said.

And Auckland District Law Society's civil liberties spokesperson, Stuart Cummings, said the proposal was a "significant shift" which placed gay relationships "squarely alongside heterosexual relationships or marriage." The courts were responsible for reflecting society's wishes, and here was proof of the groundswell of support for same-sex relationships, Mr Cummings said.

In a report revealed August 18, the Commission proposes restricting the ability of adult children to claim property from their parent's estate. If the Commission's measure is enacted, children will have to prove they are destitute to contest a will.

Annually, about a quarter of all claims on estates involve unmarried couples. Justice Baragwanath said that "it is fairly sad that a claim may succeed although there is no financial need whatsoever."

But the Minister of Justice, Doug Graham, indicated to the 'NZ Herald' that recognition of gay couples may not survive the enactment of the Commission's draft legislation.

Earlier this year, New Zealand's coalition government removed all reference to homosexual relationships from amendments to the Matrimonial Property Act put forward by officials. The Act presently makes no provision for the division of property when de facto couples separate.

Mr. Graham said that he would be unhappy to have two related pieces of legislation with an inconsistent position on gay relationships. He added: "I have some difficulty with such a recommendation from the Law Commission."

Under the Commission's proposals, relationships of three years duration would be covered by the legislation, although the courts would be empowered to require a greater length of time in certain circumstances, such as if the relationship had been intermittent.

Canadian Arrested in Key West Bomb Threats

KEY WEST, FL. -- The Miami Herald reports police have arrested a Canadian man for making bomb threats at two gay venues in Key West last month out of his professed hatred for gay people.

50-year-old Gary Dushane, a native of British Columbia, was

charged on two counts of placing false bomb reports. Police say the first was phoned in on August 13 when Dushane claimed to have placed a bomb at the Fleming Street Inn, a well-known gay motel.

The second call was made August 14. Key West Police noted the man's accent was distinctive enough to identify the second bomb threat, this time placed against a gay club called the Epoch on Duval Street, as coming from the same man.

Firefighters and a bomb squad closed Duval Street for approximately an hour searching for an explosive device. None was found.

Police instantly traced the second call to a phone booth outside the Monroe County Library. A nearby officer stopped a man walking away from the phone and upon questioning, arrested the man. Police told the Herald that the accent was the same. Voice analysis will likely confirm the match, authorities say.

Molson's Floats Gay TV Ad in Canada

TORONTO -- Molson's Brewery, Canada's largest beer-maker, has produced a television commercial with an overtly gay theme but is not sure the public is ready to see it, Reuters reports.

The 30-second spot features two women "passionately" kissing in a bar. The ad has been approved by the Ontario liquor licensing board, but may not be released by the company for at least another year.

"We want to make sure we do the right research with the general public and make sure they're comfortable with it before we air the ad," Molson's spokeswoman Diana Rose said Friday.

She said the commercial was intentionally leaked to the media to help gauge public reaction.

Though the advertisement is intended primarily for Canadian audiences, American conservative groups jumped on its release. Allen Wildmon of the Tennessee-based American Family Association told Reuters, "They're beginning with two women, which isn't quite as offensive as two men. Of course the next step would be two men. We would certainly join in with anybody who wanted to boycott the company."

The Molson's ad features a man who buys a woman a beer moments before she is joined by a female companion. As they kiss the man turns and orders another beer. Reuters says the reaction from the Canadian

lesbian and gay community has been largely positive.

Keir MacRae, president of FAB magazine, told Reuters, "It's definitely a positive thing to have homosexual imagery in a mainstream ad. It's usually advertisers who are more conservative than the TV shows, so it's refreshing to see an advertiser pushing the boundaries a little."

Growth, Technology Focus of Gay Spirituality Conference

Los Angeles -- The largest gay spirituality conference ever held in the Pacific Rim took place July 20-25 under the sponsorship of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC).

More than 1600 participants from 15 countries gathered in the historic Sydney Town Hall in Sydney, Australia on July 20th for the Conference's opening rally.

General Conference XVIII was UFMCC's most international conference to date and the first held outside of North America. International growth of the predominantly g/l/b/t/ denomination was a focus of the conference. Since 1993, UFMCC has welcomed 10,000 new members internationally.

A highlight of the conference was the presence of noted South Korean eco-feminist theologian Dr. Chung Hyun Kyung, professor of ecumenics at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She presented the conference keynote address entitled, "Love In The Time Of AIDS:

Reflections on a New Civilization Which Empowers our Resistance, Liberation, and Healing for the 21st Century." Dr. Chung also facilitated a workshop entitled, "Asian Eco-Feminist Ta Chi: Eventually Beauty Will Save Us All." The use of technology to share gay spirituality formed a second track of General Conference XVIII. UFMCC has made a significant commitment to Internet technology, according to the Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry, founder and moderator of UFMCC.

More than 34,000 persons around the world visited the UFMCC Virtual Conference Website at www.ufmcc.com during conference week, said Perry. The website carries photos of the conference, the "State of the Fellowship Address" (available through RealAudio), daily conference

news, and the transcripts of on-line conference Internet chats from Sydney.

Media interest in General Conference XVIII was exceptionally strong, according to UFMCC officials. The Rev. Mr. Perry appeared on the national Australian "Today Show," and the Australian Broadcasting Company filmed a documentary which aired nationally on Sunday, August 10. The documentary featured interviews with Perry and information on the denomination, as well as scenes from Conference workshops, seminars and worship sessions. Conference news coverage was provided by mainline newspapers across the Australian continent, and the Australian gay press provided exceptional front-page coverage of this historic conference. The Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, UFMCC's Chief Ecumenical Officer, conducted an extensive interview with the press service of the World Council of Churches.

During conference business, delegates re-elected the Rev. Darlene Garner (Falls Church, VA) and the Rev. Hong Tan (London, England) to the UFMCC Board of Elders, and elected Mr. Clarke Friesen (Tucson, AZ) to the Board. In other business, delegates approved by-laws changes, rejected a proposal for a triennial conference system, and approved new denominational mission, vision and core values statements.

Additional 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 C-SPAN, 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.

UFMCC is composed of more than 300 local congregations in 15 countries. With a combined budget in excess of \$15 million, the UFMCC churches comprise the largest predominantly gay organization in the world.

Additional information on UFMCC's General Conference XVIII is available by e-mail from UFMCCHQ@aol.com.

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**Edinburgh Bishop Beggays
To Stay In Church**

(Out This Week) – The Bishop who has described himself as Britain's most hated clergyman is "begging" gay Christians not to leave the church. The Bishop of Edinburgh, Richard Holloway, sparked outrage from traditionalists when he called for the ordination of gay priests and recognition of same-sex relationships. His comments come in a new book, 'Dancing On The Edge'. He says it is inevitable that the church will one day recognize gay clergy and gay relationships. "What I've done in my book is at least to make a contribution to the argument," he told 5 Live's Out This Week. "I've been denounced for that because people don't want to have the argument".

**Jamaican Prisoners Riot
- Six Gay Men Killed**

In Jamaica, a proposal to distribute free condoms inside prisons has led to rioting and six deaths. The announcement that condoms would be handed out to both inmates and guards was aimed at cutting the rates of HIV infection on the island. But prisoners rioted and guards called in sick, outraged at the implication they had sex with inmates. The men who were killed, and the 20 others injured, were all accused by fellow inmates of being gay.

**Cuban Police Raid Gay Disco In Havana,
Detaining Many**

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Cuban police raided a gay disco in Havana last month, detaining large numbers of people, according to reporters and news reports from Cuba.

The Mexican government's Notimex news agency reported from Havana that more than 800 people were detained at the El Periquito discotheque.

There was no official comment on the report. Notimex said that more than two dozen foreigners were among those detained. It said Cubans were being released after paying a small fine and that foreigners were being released after their documents were checked.

Cuban Communists long derided homosexuality as an illness of the island's capitalist past, and gays and lesbians were once arrested and sent to work camps.

But the government has become increasingly tolerant in recent years, and gays have become more visible in Cuban society.

Immigration Rights For Gay Partners

(Richard Ford) – The Government is poised to give hundreds of foreign nationals in homosexual

relationships with British citizens the right to settle in the UK following a Home Office review of immigration laws.

The change is also expected to apply to heterosexuals who are not married but are in long-term relationships.

Home Office officials have been reviewing regulations applying to homosexuals, lesbians and live-in lovers since May and an announcement is expected when Parliament returns in October.

Under current laws foreign nationals in homosexual relationships with British citizens have no automatic right to remain in the UK. The law applies to people from states outside the European Union and also includes people in heterosexual relationships.

A spokeswoman for Stonewall, the gay rights campaigning organization, said that marriage alone was never enough to satisfy entry requirements to the UK. "The Home Office has to be concerned whether it is a genuine relationship. This should apply to gays as well as heterosexuals," she said.

"We think that whatever the test applied to whether a relationship is permanent or not, there should not be discrimination between gays and heterosexuals."

Although a change to the immigration rules in such a sensitive area could cause some embarrassment to the Labour Government, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has committed himself to fair and effective controls.

A Court of Appeal judge adjourned a case involving a challenge by a Brazilian man, aged 39, against a ruling that he must leave Britain and return to his home country.

Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Morritt were to hear the man's application for leave to appeal

but postponed the case after hearing that the Home Office was considering changing the policy.

The Brazilian came to Britain in 1988 to study for a PhD and after gaining his qualification was given leave to remain in the country until June 1995 as a research fellow. He applied for an extension "on the basis of a close and committed homosexual relationship with a UK national".

His application was rejected and after appeals to an immigration special adjudicator and the Immigration Appeals Tribunal also failed, he applied for leave to appeal.

At the hearing the two judges adjourned the case until November because of the potential change in policy.

Lord Justice Simon Brown said: "The basis for adjourning this application is that a heralded or anticipated change in government policy may make it unnecessary to pursue any formal appeal.

"It is said there have been indications given by the Government to the applicant's solicitors that a policy change is under active consideration and there are apparently instructions in place that appeals in this matter should not be heard."

Home Office sources confirmed that while the review of the regulations was under way, homosexual immigrant partners of either sex who risked being deported under existing rules would be allowed to stay.

Currently overseas nationals wanting to live in Britain must prove they are legally married, or intend to become so within a reasonable period.

Until 1996 a heterosexual foreigner involved in a two-year "common law" relationship with a Briton could apply for residency but this concession was withdrawn when it was suggested the same rule should apply to gay couples.

The current laws relating to gay relationships are similar to those in many other countries, including America.

Ann Widdecombe, a former Home Office Minister, gave a warning that if the regulations changed, the Government would further weaken controls. "For all their tough talk they are undoing much of the rigour which we applied to people seeking to come to Britain".

**Gay Rights Activist, Nobel Prize Winner
To Hold Historic Meeting In South Africa**

Los Angeles – History will be made on December 10, 1997 when the Rev. Troy D. Perry, internationally known religious leader and gay rights activist, meets with the Most Rev. Dr. Desmond Tutu, Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Capetown, South Africa and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Perry is founder and moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), the world's largest Christian denomination with a primary ministry to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons.

The meeting will take place in Cape Town as part of Perry's South African speaking tour to UFMCC congregations, gay-friendly churches and human rights

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organizations.

Tutu, a long-time anti-apartheid activist, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his commitment to human rights. In 1995, he was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, an organization seeking to bring racial, political and spiritual healing to South Africa.

"I look forward to a wide-ranging discussion of our mutual human rights interests," said Perry, "and to furthering our commitment to spiritual justice around the world."

"Some of UFMCC's greatest international growth is currently taking place in South Africa," Perry noted. "This trip will also provide an opportunity for me to recognize the important role members of UFMCC congregations played in the formation of the new South African constitution." South Africa is the world's first nation to extend constitutional legal rights and protections to gays and lesbians.

Mourning Diana Inspires Gays

(NewsPlanet) -- Tributes to the late Diana, Princess of Wales, many organized by grateful gays and lesbians, reflect the light shed by her "candle in the wind."

Gay and lesbian communities around the world figured permanently in the intensely emotional reactions to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. In many cities and towns memorial marchers carried "candles in the wind" and other symbolic tributes through lesbigay neighborhoods. A vigil in Budapest, Hungary was noted in the press as the first-ever openly-gay event there. In some places, like Melbourne, Australia, homophobic dignitaries were called upon to mourn together with the very targets of their neuroses -- perhaps as Diana would have liked it. Everywhere, the Princess was remembered as one of the first luminaries to publicly -- and literally -- embrace people with AIDS, as well as sexual minorities in general.

"We who are living with HIV and AIDS especially remember Diana's courage during the darkest days of the epidemic when her country and our own were swept by bigotry, hatred and hysteria..." NAMES Quilt originator Cleve Jones told 10-15,000 San Franciscans, whose candlelit trek from a make-shift Diana memorial of flowers, poetry and teddy bears in the heavily gay Castro District ended at the British Consulate. "It was then that Diana visited a hospice and with unglowed hands embraced a gay man dying of AIDS. That image of simple compassion flashed across the world and changed the way the world saw AIDS," Jones said.

For some, the recollections of Diana's commitment to human rights causes inspired their resolve to take their own activism another step. In an effort to express the feelings of the 500 people who honored the Princess in Budapest's Vorsomart Square, Balazs Palfy said,

"We...cherish her memory because we also were embraced in her love." He called on the city's first gay and lesbian demonstrators to "declare we exist and want to start normal communications with the rest of society."

Other Diana memorials with significant lesbigay participation included West Hollywood, California, Chicago, Illinois, Houston, Texas, Sydney, Australia and, of course, London England.

In Melbourne, Prime Minister John Howard sent his parliamentary secretary, Tasmanian MP Chris Miles, to represent him at a service organized by Christian and Buddhist churches, the Red Cross, students and members of the gay and lesbian community. Miles had been a vocal opponent of the recent reform of his state's notorious anti-gay sodomy laws, the last such law to be repealed in Australia. The service featured a soloist from ACT's Gay and Lesbian Qwire, who transformed a popular song into an anthem for Diana, singing, "Did you ever know that you're my hero? You're everything I would love to be. Now you will fly higher than an angel. Now we are the wind beneath your wings."



Elton John Arriving at Westminster Abbey (ITN)

The lyrical metamorphosis that is destined to make history was, of course, the rewrite of the Elton John/Bernie Taupin classic "Candle in the Wind." Making good on his promise to keep his composure for Diana as she had for him at the funeral of murdered gay fashion designer Gianni Versace, John arrived at Westminster Abbey with his life-partner, David Furnish, to perform for her memorial service. John told reporters that his grief almost got the better of him near the end of his musical eulogy, his voice cracking at the beginning of the last verse. He said, "I just had to close my eyes, grit my teeth and get through it."

Nonetheless, John went directly from the funeral into a recording studio with former Beatles producer George Martin, where they created a version of the song that will be sold -- sold, some industry insiders predict, more than any single in history -- as a fundraiser for Diana's favorite charities. This effort has just received an added boost with the announcement that Paul McCartney, the Rolling Stones and several other rock stars will add their own selections to the new "Candle in the Wind" for a

tribute album. The collection is scheduled for release before Christmas and concerts are set for London and New York next August.

Mom DeGeneres Leads Coming Out

(PlanetOut) -- When Ellen DeGeneres came out along with her lead character on ABC's sitcom "Ellen" earlier this year, she insisted she wasn't doing so to be any kind of activist -- and according to at least one report, she turned down a \$4-million book deal for her coming out story so as not to "exploit" the situation -- but that doesn't mean her mom can't be some kind of activist. Betty DeGeneres won the hearts of numerous gays and lesbians who wished she'd been their mother after they saw her on the "20-20" show (part deux) about Ellen and her family. (If you've got really quick eyes, you may have also spotted her in line at the airport in the coming out "Puppy Episode" of the sitcom.)

The Human Rights Campaign announced September 8 that it has hired the elder DeGeneres to serve as the official spokesperson for its National Coming Out Project, which focuses on the October 11 annual observance of National Coming Out Day.

DeGeneres is the first non-gay to fill the slot, which has always been occupied by someone with celebrity name recognition: Amanda Bearse of the recently-concluded "Married...With Children," Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Newt Gingrich's half-sister Candace Gingrich, Cher's and U.S. Representative Sonny Bono's daughter Chastity Bono, Dan Butler of "Frasier," and Sean Sasser, formerly of MTV's "Real World III." Betty DeGeneres said, "I am thrilled at this wonderful opportunity to talk with gay and straight Americans about the importance of coming out, because honesty truly is the best policy."

Study Says One in Four Gay Men Suffer Spousal Abuse

(Data Lounge) BOSTON - The Boston Globe reports a survey conducted in June of 2,000 gay men in Boston found that one in four had been a victim of domestic violence - about the same ratio for heterosexual women.

The study, conducted by the Gay Men's Domestic

Violence Project during Gay Pride Week, confirmed something gay activists have long suspected: namely, that domestic violence is as much a part of gay relationships as straight ones.

Curt Rogers, executive director of the group, told the Globe a large part of the problem is the lack of attention the issue receives. "Mainstream America characterizes domestic violence as a gender issue, not a power and control issue," Rogers said. "Gay male victims have a hard time self identifying what's happening to them."

The June survey found that eighty percent of men surveyed could not list a resource that handled the needs of domestic violence victims. It also found little differentiation between age, income, and ethnic boundaries. "Many people assume [gay spouse abuse] is not an issue," Rogers said. "But it's a severe health crisis."

Rogers hopes to have a shelter system in place for battered men by 1998 and in the meantime is joining with another group, the Fenway Community Health Center's Violence Recovery Program, in launching a public education campaign targeting gay men and lesbians in abusive relationships.

A recently commissioned poster reads: "Contrary to popular belief, straight people do not have a monopoly on abusive relationships."

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VOCAL FOCUS

The OUTLOOK Interviews Featuring Members of Our Community



This Month: Assault or Hate Crime?

Victoria Park Victim
Speaks Out!

By Mark Jordan

"I was bashed not for something I had said or done, but rather because I was perceived as a gay male in the park that night and was kicked and hospitalized for only that reason."

Meeting with one of the bashing victims from the recent Victoria Park incident was about to begin. This story was reminiscent of many from my growing up. It's just that this is 1997 and I think that most people want to believe that this type of thing just doesn't happen anymore, especially in Canada, and certainly not in Waterloo Region. Of course not.

I was a bit apprehensive about going to see this guy, we'll call him Jim. The last time I had seen him, (the first time we met), he was pretty roughed up and stitched together, just fresh from the night in question. The local T.V. coverage of the bashing was very exact as to the way they portrayed the assault. CKCO news anchor Lisa Laflamme came on at 11:30 p.m. and announced to her T.V. audience that there had been a "gay-bashing" in Victoria Park. This, of course, immediately got my attention. The Kitchener Record, our local newspaper reported the event the next day in the daily. "It is a hate-bias motivated crime," said Staff Sgt. Randy Close of Waterloo regional police.

People that have lived in Kitchener/Waterloo for the last ten or so years probably know that there have been a number of incidents in the park that have been reported, including a murder, (gay killing) as well. God only knows how many incidents and altercations have never been reported. We do know that most men who frequent Victoria and other parks and public washrooms, are

married, in the closet, and very afraid of being identified as someone within the gay community. The other men, a much smaller proportion, that are in these places, are usually openly gay men that seek out casual, anonymous sex with an unknown partner. Is it a fantasy that these men seek out? Is it the risk of being caught in public? or is it just bad judgment that leads these guys into situations where they may run into guys that are there for other reasons than just a good time.

I was cordially invited into Jim's place and I sat beside him at the diningroom table with his roommate and began what was to be a very interesting interview.

MJ: First, Jim I would like to thank you for inviting and trusting me to come over and do an interview with you, so soon after this terrible ordeal.

Jim: No problem

MJ: The first thing I would like to start with if you don't mind is the events that led up to this whole night in the park unfolding.

Jim: It happened on July 10th, a Thursday night after leaving the club.

MJ: What happened after you left the bar?

Jim: I was walking down to the path going along Park St. and I noticed a friend of mine sitting on a park bench. I said to him, "How are you?", and he looked up and I noticed he was crying. I then asked him, "What happened?", and he told me he had just been bashed. So I said, "O.K., give me your car keys and I'll drive you to the hospital and I can call the police from there. But then he told me that he had lost his car keys when 'they were beating me up'. So I gave him my jacket and I said, "you wait here and I'm going to try to find your keys." I walked across the bridge on Park St. and I saw two guys right by the basketball court. That's the place where my friend said he had lost his keys and been beat up, but I was figuring that this had happened a short time ago and the perpetrators for sure were long gone. So I walked over to the basketball court and one of them said to me, "Hey buddy, what's going on?" and I said I'm looking for a set of keys that my friend lost. I looked around the ground for the keys for about five minutes and finally I thought, this is ridiculous and decided to go back to where my injured friend was. So I got up to leave and one of them said, "O.K., where are the keys?",

and I said I don't know, and started to go back and that's when one of them kicked me in the back and I hit the ground. As soon as I hit the ground they both started kicking me. So, now there's these two guys kicking me hard and somehow I was managing to try to stop them by asking, "Why are you doing this?" And the one said, "This is for raping our friend!" After saying that they stopped the assault and left. So, I got up dazed and started back over the bridge to where my friend was. As I was on the bridge, I noticed a police van parked in the parking lot on Park. So I walked up to the van and told one of the officers that two guys just beat the shit out of me, and one officer asked "Could you recognize these guys if you saw them again?" I said yes I could.

MJ: So then what happened?

Jim: I was talking to the officer, when I noticed a friend that I was with earlier at the bar and another person come walking across the bridge. When they saw me they said, "Oh my god!", because I was bleeding quite steadily. Just then, the policeman said we may have apprehended one of them and asked if I could positively identify him.

MJ: I don't quite understand. How would the cop know that they got one of them?

Jim: Another cop on the other side of the park, near the pavillion had radioed him and said that they had someone in custody. Apparently, before I was bashed, and before my friend had been beaten, another man in a car in the parking lot beside the pavillion had been the first victim of violence that night. That man had called police from a pay phone there, and they were already on the scene when both my friend and myself were the next victims.

MJ: Then what happened. Did the police get out of their van to help you?

Jim: No, they just asked me if they took me over to the arrested guy, would I be willing to identify him? And of course I said yes, although a little dazed. So, he drove myself, and my two friends over to where the pavillion was.

MJ: What is happening to your other friend that was sitting on the park bench with your coat?

Jim: He must have left the park because as we drove around he was gone.

MJ: So, tell me what happened when you arrived at the pavillion?

Jim: We drove up and as soon as I saw the guy, I knew it was him, and I said, "I'm not getting out of the van, but that's him!" The officer acknowledged the statement, they arrested him and then drove me to the hospital.

MJ: Was this accused on his own at the time?

Jim: Yes, he was, but they had the other guy already in custody.

MJ: Why do you think the one said, "This is for raping our friend"?

Jim: I really don't know. I have this feeling that one of their friends was raped and they had this vendetta out to bash any fag around.

MJ: What happened when you got to the hospital?

Jim: He took me to K.W. hospital at around 4 a.m.. They took x-rays of my head and my chest. The doctor came in and said I had a cracked jaw. He told me they had to wire my jaw shut for six months or something. He called the surgeon, only worked out of St. Mary's Hospital, so I said I need a ride there. The doctor told me I could get an ambulance but it would take 24 hours. I called a cab, got to St. Mary's and checked in.

MJ: Then what?

Jim: I had more x-rays at St. Mary's. The one's from K.W. were wrong. It was actually a broken cheek bone which was pushed in. The surgeon had to open the top of my head, go down through the incision and pop it back out. So I was in the hospital for two days.

MJ: What was the total extent of your injuries?

Jim: Black eyes, bruised ribs, broken cheek bones, cuts and scapes and assorted related injuries as a result of being kicked.

MJ: What did the police do for you when you went to the hospital in regards to charges, court dates or the like?

Jim: He told me to write down everything that happened, so I basically filled out my own report.

MJ: Although it doesn't justify your being bashed, was your reason for visiting Victoria Park sex?

Jim: Yes.

MJ: There is no curfew in the park, right?

Jim: That's right.

MJ: Do you know if there's anything being done to curb any future attacks in the park. Are the police going to step up their presence there?

Jim: No. They stated in the Record article that they will not increase their presence in the park because there are so few incidents that happen there, but that's only because nobody is reporting them.

MJ: Do you believe there are a lot of incidents (bashings) in the park?

Jim: A lot more than they say there are.

MJ: During your ongoing recovery have you learned anything more about your attackers or the pending case?

Jim: The two guys were charged with three counts of assault, which is basically a slap on the hand.

MJ: *Have they been to court yet for their alleged crimes?*

Jim: Yes, they were in court and the case was remanded until October 3rd at 9:00 a.m.

MJ: *What is the update on your friend that left the park when the police arrived?*

Jim: I haven't seen him or talked with him since.

MJ: *Has this incident made you more leery of Victoria Park and other parks? Has it changed your view on walking through the park?*

Jim: No. It's my right to be there. I'm not going to let anyone take my rights away.

MJ: *Are you receiving any counselling at all regarding the emotional effects of the attack?*

Jim: Not yet. I may look into it.

MJ: *What about your emotional scars that remain from this incident?*

Jim: I still have many nights that bother me.

MJ: *What do you mean by 'bother you'?*

Jim: I get depressed.

MJ: *Why do you think that you're depressed, or what is it a result of?*

Jim: People that didn't even know me wanted to hurt me and did.

MJ: *Are all your physical scars healed now?*

Jim: As far as I can tell.

MJ: *Can we get back to the issue of hate-crimes versus common assault?*

Jim: Sure.

MJ: *So, at first all the local media reported this as a gay-bashing. Now, the police who admitted that this was "hate-bias motivated" have changed their view and reduced the charges to simple assault.*

Jim: That's right.

MJ: *Do you know why they were only charged with assault?*

Jim: I phoned the crown attorney and she said that what happened to me was not a hate crime.

MJ: *So, the police who'd originally said that this was clearly 'hate-bias motivated', decided in their infinite wisdom to change this charge to assault times three. And this didn't sit very well with you. Why?*

Jim: Well, first of all the charge laid if found guilty will only give them up to a year and a half in a provincial institution. They could be paroled in six months. The hate-crime legislation is much more stringent. The other thing is I was bashed not for something I had said or

done, but rather because I was perceived as a gay male in the park that night and was kicked and hospitalized for only that reason.

MJ: *Are these men out on bail right now?*

Jim: Yes.

MJ: *Did you talk to the police and ask them since, why they weren't charged with a hate crime?*

Jim: All they had to say was to phone the crown attorney.

MJ: *Tell me why the crown attorney decided that what happened to you was not hate motivated.*

Jim: She also said that this type of charge was just too hard to prove in a case like this. She said that if we pushed for a hate crime charge and lost, we would be out of luck, the offenders would go scott-free.

MJ: *Is it possible that these two guys who assaulted three different men in Victoria Park on the same night might just get a slap on the wrist, a fine or the like?*

Jim: It's possible, depending on their previous record and other things.

MJ: *If people want to get involved a bit and show their support for you guys, and make their voices known on this issue, what can they do?*

Jim: Go to the trial on October 3rd. at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 5 and see our justice system in motion. John A. Tait and Paul Stephens both of Kitchener are accused.

MJ: *What else can we do?*

Jim: Sign my petition that says I want these guys charged with the federal hate-crime charge. I'm willing to take the chance that we could lose. We may lose anyway but let's face it, one guy bashed or beat up in the park is one thing, but three different men in three different areas is pretty strong evidence that the only reason these two characters were there was to bash fags.

MJ: *Where can we sign this petition.*

Jim: At ACKWA. Or send letters of support to me at OUTLOOK. P.O. Box 40002, Waterloo Sq. P.O., Waterloo, N2J 4V1 or e-mail: outlook@easynet.on.ca. Please put "Bashing" in the subject line.

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OUTline: We Are Here

Whether it be to the 16 year old asking "how do I know if I'm gay?" or the 60 year old grandmother looking for a social group for lesbians her age, we are here. For the first year student, new to Guelph and seeking a gay positive doctor, and the high school teacher looking for referrals to give her transgendered students, we are here. For the mother seeking information on her legal rights after coming out, for the youth who faces homelessness after coming out to his parents, we are here. Because Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered youth are four times more likely to commit suicide than their straight peers, we are here. Because positive queer role models are few and far between, we are here. The current political and social climate for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgender people is unacceptable, and all too often we find ourselves with nowhere to turn. OUTline is changing that. We are providing the support, referrals, and access to information our community needs in order to grow and flourish.

Proudly introducing **OUTline**, a support and resource line for anyone dealing with Transgender, Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay issues. Serving the University of Guelph, Guelph and Wellington County, and surrounding areas, OUTline is staffed seven evenings a week by trained volunteers of varying ages and backgrounds. We have evolved from the former Gayline, a service of Guelph Queer Equality, to become a reliable, accessible resource.

Guelph and area are served by various telephone support lines. OUTline is the first that is able to offer resources and support that meet the differing needs of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people...because we've been there. In addition, OUTline offers valuable training for agencies and organizations in the area that wish to better address the needs of their Transgendered, Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay (TBLG) clients. Guelph is sadly lacking resources for people in the TBLG community, giving OUTline a large task to handle. Indeed, we are in jeopardy - we need improved community support and involvement in order to thrive.

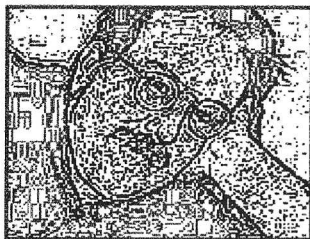
Since February 1997, OUTline volunteers have answered over 270 calls, unfortunately leaving approximately 850 calls unanswered. We are working with community agencies and organizations in order to secure funding and support so that we may be further operational and accessible to all who need us. We anticipate that September will bring higher call rates, as students return to Guelph. We are looking at broadening our volunteer base, increasing our service hours, and making the entire community of Guelph aware of the valuable, indeed essential, services that we provide.

Any support service relies on a public awareness of its existence in order to be successful at reaching the community. OUTline strongly encourages local media to contact us for further information. It is our goal to be a strong, visible and powerful presence in the community, and to do so, we need *your* help.

PLEASE CONTACT: Cheryl Knapp (Coordinator), at (519) 836-6442

OUTline is also available to local media for commentary and perspective on current Transgender, Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay related issues on a global, national, provincial, or local level.

Office: (519) 836-6442 Support Line: (519) 836-4550 Email: outline@uoguelph.ca



Cover To Cover

Gay Lit.

à la Steve Brown

You know, there's nothing I like better than having a day free to curl up in a chair with a good book. And I'll read just about anything: science fiction, short stories, novels, poetry, great literature, schlock. I just have to be in the right frame of mind – which is why I usually have about three books on the go at any one time. One's in the kitchen, one's in the living room, and another is in the bathroom. So as I move around the house, I go from one genre to another.

My favourite type of reading, though, is gay literature (gay lit. for short). I remember talking to a friend of mine a few years back, and she joked about the fact that a mutual acquaintance of ours was doing his masters thesis on the merits of gay lit. in the modern world. She obviously thought this was pretty dumb and obscure. Her attitude really got my hackles up, so I gave her one of my lectures on the fact that some of the most well-written books to come out in those days were by gay authors, and on gay themes. That sort of took the wind out of her sails, since she had thought I'd be chuckling along with her.

When I first came out, back in 1981, there just wasn't much readily available for me to read. I suppose if I'd been a little more worldly, I would have travelled down to Toronto to check out Glad Day Bookstore. But I worked in a good book shop at the time, and I thought that the only things available were books by Gordon Merrick, and *Tales of the City* by Armistead Maupin. Now, Gordon Merrick, for those of you unfamiliar with his work, was the romance novel writer of the gay world. His characters were always physically stunning, well-off, and talented in bed and out of it. The plots were about how they became successful in the business world, came to a realization of their sexual orientation,

and found true love with the perfect man, only to have that relationship fall apart, and then get back together. They were really badly written, and really trite, and I thought they were truly awful. Here's a sample of some of his writing:

"Robbie touched the white-gold hair where it curled enchantingly around his ears. His beloved was suddenly looking devastatingly young, pure and untroubled and innocent again. The upper part of his face, upswept brows, and wide-set eyes, was an image of candor. His mouth was a perpetual contradiction, spoiled, weak, humorous and, as now, boyishly guileless. Looking at him, feeling his body against his, made him conscious of how profoundly altered his life was going to be."

That's from one of Gordon Merrick's "masterpieces" *The Great Urge Downward* (I don't even want to speculate what the title means).

From there, I graduated to Armistead Maupin's books. He wrote them as a serial, beginning in 1976, for the San Francisco Chronicle. There's a series of six books, each with its own title, but known collectively by the title of the first book *Tales of the City*. They tell the story of Anna Madrigal's building in San Francisco, which she has converted into a number of apartments, and of the lives of all her tenants, gay, straight, male, and female. They are a great step forward in the world of gay literature, because they're actually good – not great, but good. They are infused with the atmosphere of the times they were written, from the post-hippie mid-seventies, to the time of AIDS-awareness in the mid-eighties. The first books are a lot of fun but the later books are instilled with an aura of tragedy, as the reality of the disease begins to take over the culture. Oh, there are still moments of lightness and joy,

but the plague is always in the background.

I find that the *Tales of the City* books are a wonderful chronicle of the times they were written in. Since he wrote them from week to week, they don't have the feeling of oneness that most novels have – they're more episodic. But the weekly aspect of the writing really captures the spirit of the times.

It was around the mid-eighties that I began to notice that the variety of gay literature available was really expanding. All of a sudden, you could choose among any number of gay authors. I was still reading whatever I could get my hands on, because there wasn't an overwhelming amount out there. But I began to favour certain authors. I've only got time to discuss three of them.

David Leavitt is an amazing author. The first book I read by him has become a sort of classic in the world of gay lit. *The Lost Language of Cranes* was a real eye-opener for me. It's about the coming-out of two people, a father and his son, and the different worlds they are familiar with. The father is an academic, and grew up in

the post-war world, the son grew up in the more liberal sixties and seventies. It's really fascinating to see the struggles that the two men must go through, and how different they are. Leavitt then earned my undying respect with his book of short stories *A Place I've Never Been*. I read it up at the cottage a few years ago, and I remember it was a location perfect for short stories, because I could read one story, and then go off and do something else, letting it mull around in my head, before I'd tackle the next one. He amazed me with his ability to get you introduced to the major character of the story, get you familiar with the inside of that character's head, and then lead you through the incidents of that story. My favourite story which I remember to this day, though I read the book 5 or 6 years ago, is about a man with HIV who goes shopping with his mother. She wants to assure herself that despite his condition, he is still connected to the world. So while they are in a china shop, she picks up a large crystal bowl, and suddenly throws it to him without warning. Reflexively he catches it. This gives him

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Where the ▼ Community Shows Their Buns!

enormous satisfaction, and reassures her that he is still very real.

While we're on the subject of short stories, let's talk about my favourite gay author, Ethan Mordden. Mordden lives in New York, and his stories tell the story of gay life in and around that city. He, too, is a master of the short story, but he doesn't need to introduce new characters in each tale. Almost all his stories are about the same group of friends, and they're semi-autobiographical. So we've got Bud Mordden (that's the author himself), his best friend Dennis Savage who has a tongue of acid and is very opinionated (I like Dennis Savage, he reminds me of myself), Dennis Savage's very young boyfriend Virgil, who is known universally as Little Kiwi. They all live in the same apartment building in the gay section of Greenwich Village, and have a large group of friends, in particular the very handsome Carlo.

Each of Mordden's stories discusses a different social aspect of gay life in Manhattan—things like the hierarchy of people in a gay dance bar, the etiquette of picking up tricks, life with a lover of a completely different age group and intelligence. And since he is part of the gay crowd of New York, a lot of his stories centre around summers at The Pines on Fire Island, often reminiscing about the lives of people who could handle gay life in New York, and those who were swallowed up by it, and spit out again. He's written three books of short stories about this world starting with *I've a Feeling Were Not in Kansas Anymore*, continuing with *Buddies*, and ending with *Everybody Loves You*. I remember reading the last book several years ago, and realizing, partway through the last story that I would never get to read a new story about these people who had become so familiar to me they were almost friends. I'd read their discussions about gay life, agreed with some of their points, violently disagreed with others, and delighted in meeting all their acquaintances. I was devastated that I wouldn't learn more new things about them. I

loved his representations of that world.

Well, there was one more chance, because the characters do appear one more time in one of the gay short story collections *Men on Men*. Men on Men collections have been coming out since 1986, and are collections by various authors. They're wonderful compilations of stories by all kinds of writers, many of whom have, or have gone on to brilliant careers as authors in their own right. At first they were edited by George Stambolian but he died of AIDS having barely finished putting number four together (the introduction to that collection is by Felice Picano, another brilliant author, whom I don't have time to discuss), and others have continued the editing job. I think they're up to number six or seven now.

The reason that Ethan Mordden stopped writing his short stories about gay life in Manhattan was that he'd decided to write a book called *How Long Has This Been Going On?*, in which he tries to capture the complete story of gay society from shortly after the Second World War, right up to the present day. I read this book a couple of years ago, and parts of it were brilliant (and I was of the opinion that those parts would have made good short stories, which is what he is best at), but the book didn't hold together as a whole. I think he bit off more than he could chew.

Finally, my other favourite author is Christopher Bram, who is a brilliant novelist, able to put the life of gay men in different contexts of time and place. I remember being captivated by his first novel, *Surprising Myself*, again up at the cottage, but this time I was so enthralled by the story of a young man, and his odyssey of

coming out to his family, that the book kept me up until the wee hours of the morning. Then I read his next book *Hold Tight* which introduced me to a world that was almost completely foreign to me, the world of a young sailor back in World War Two, who becomes involved in the sex trade, and then is blackmailed by his own military, to spy on others who are working in the same world.

My favourite book by Christopher Bram was *Almost History*. It's the story of a young American diplomat who is afraid to reveal his sexual orientation because of his job. But he gets drawn into that world when he is stationed in Bangkok. When he eventually ends up in Manila in the Phillipines during the Marcos regime, he has to walk a tightrope between his own sexuality, and the despotism world he finds himself in.

What I love about Bram's work is that he writes about life from a gay perspective, that's the major thrust of his books. But he also affords us glimpses into worlds that were not familiar with at all, that are completely different from our own experience. When we get used to reading gay novels and stories about life in North American cities, about groups of friends who go out to restaurants, and bars, who have parties at their houses and apartments, or guys who work behind stage in a musical, it's so refreshing to read a book which introduces us to a completely different experience. And that's what Christopher Bram does in his best books.

Well, that's a brief, and very idiosyncratic look at some of the gay authors out there. As I was getting ready to do this, I kept thinking of other authors and books I wanted to talk about, but there's only just so much time. Maybe some other time when I don't have a new book or movie to discuss, I can talk about those other books that I have enjoyed over past years.

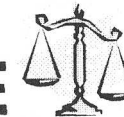
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By Jean-Paul Pilon, Barrister and Solicitor

Question: *My same-sex partner and I have lived together for more than one year. How can I be sure that my partner will get all of my property if I die? Is it automatic?*

Answer: A carefully drafted will can help ensure that your partner receives your property after your death. If you die without a will, members of your biological family would probably be entitled to much of your property, even if that is not the result you would have wanted.

A will lets you dispose of your assets upon death in any way you choose. You can also choose in a will the person or persons who will handle the details of your estate after your death. These issues are important, especially if you are not out to your family or if your family is not supportive of your relationship with your partner.

Gertrude Stein died without a will, leaving Alice B. Toklas with art but no money. Without a will, Stein's biological family took the art leaving Toklas penniless, which was not Stein's intention. Even today, succession law doesn't really help gay and lesbian partners avoid the Stein-Toklas problem. A deceased partner's property will not automatically go to the surviving partner after death where the deceased died without a will. In your case, without a valid will, your partner would have only very limited legal grounds on which to base a claim to many of your assets.

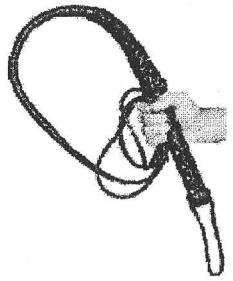
You can write a will on your own, without a lawyer, but there are strict rules about how wills are to be drafted and signed. A lawyer's help in preparing one will minimize for your partner problems that could arise after your death if someone challenges your will.

Please send questions to The Advocate, c/o Outlook Magazine, P.O. Box 40002, Waterloo Square P.O., Waterloo, N2J 4V1 or e-mail them to outlook@easynet.on.ca. Submissions may be edited for content and space. For legal advice please contact a lawyer.



Reviews Next Month:

Ronald L. Donaghe's *Common Sons*
and *White Noise* by Eve Zaremba



Handcuffs and Paddles and Whips -- Oh, My!

Playing Safe While Working the Kinks Out

by the EHBC group

©1997

It used to be something that was only discussed in hushed tones at the back of a private club. It was something to be kept hidden, something to be ashamed of. It was the sort of thing that lots of people did, but nobody ever talked about.

Now, suddenly, it's everywhere -- in books, in movies, in song lyrics and even in television commercials. The "it" we're talking about is what was once known only as "kinky sex": bondage and discipline, domination and submission.

Even the words themselves are disturbing to some people, and so are the images that those words can conjure up. However, most of those images are based on popular misconceptions that have very little to do with the reality of kink, and many people seem to have an inaccurate view of what these activities are really all about.

In this article we hope to dispel a lot of the myths and misconceptions surrounding the basics of erotic power exchange: domination and submission. We're going to explain what these activities are, what they are not, and why so many people seem to really, really enjoy them.

Even if you never plan to try any of these things yourself, you might want to take the time to become familiar with the concepts. If nothing else, it'll make it easier for you to accept those who "come out" and tell you that they're into something just a little bit... different.

Safe, Sane and Consensual

Before even starting to explore this subject, it's essential to introduce the "mantra" of the kink community: that all the activities are intended to be Safe, Sane and Consensual. Safe means more

than just safe sex -- it also means that both partners are being careful not to cause serious or permanent physical or emotional harm. It also means checking and double-checking the safety factors before getting involved in these activities.

Sane means that both partners are in a stable, healthy mental state, and are not affected by the influence of drugs or alcohol. Anything which impairs someone's judgement is potentially dangerous, and should be avoided.

Consensual means that both partners are participating of their own free will. They are there because they want to be, not because they're being forced or coerced or bullied into it. Consensuality is the essence of all *healthy* kink.

It's absolutely essential that both partners completely trust each other. Everyone has limits that should be negotiated before playing with them, and if you don't trust your partner enough to respect those limits or to act in a safe and sane manner, then don't play with them.

Playing in a safe, sane and consensual way is the key to having positive experiences.

You Do *What* For Fun???

When someone says they're "into kink", the first question most people ask is "What do you mean by kink?". That's actually a fairly complicated question, and is best answered by defining a few basic terms.

The most common term for kink these days is BDSM, which is a clever three-way acronym. The BD stand for Bondage and Discipline, the SM stands for Sadism and Masochism, and the middle

DS stands for Domination and Submission. Let's tackle each of those individually.

Bondage and Discipline are exactly what they sound like. Bondage refers to restraining someone's freedom of movement in some way. This can be as gentle as a silk scarf around your partner's wrists, or as elaborate as a suspension harness hanging from specially-installed eyebolts in the ceiling. Many people find that bondage gives them a real sense of helplessness that makes them feel sexy and vulnerable.

Bondage is probably the most accessible of the kinky practices. Most people at some time or another have tried holding their partner down during lovemaking, and in doing so they're exploring some of the same sensations that bondage provides.

Discipline, like bondage, is something many people have played with even if they've never thought of themselves as "kinky". A gentle smack on your partner's bottom during foreplay is a mild form of discipline. It's not hard to see how it might escalate from a single smack to four or five, and before you know it a full-fledged spanking is underway. Welcome to the world of erotic discipline!

Related activities include pinching, poking, prodding and perhaps even biting your partner. Yes, they're all painful sensations -- but if they turn both you and your partner on, then they're painful in a good way!

Exchanging Power

Domination and Submission are another form of kink. Unlike bondage and discipline, which are often done simply for the physical stimulation they produce, domination and submission involve a formal exchange of personal power between the partners.

Domination involves taking charge, being the one

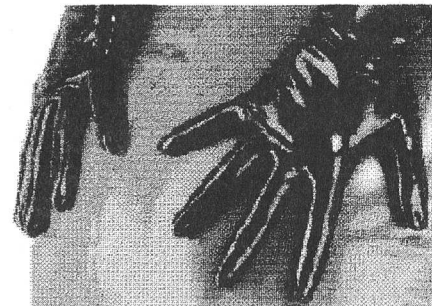
in control, making decisions and taking the initiative. Submission involves surrendering responsibility, and simply carrying out the instructions one is given. A D/s (or Dominant/submissive) relationship is not necessarily sexual in nature, and many people find the giving and taking of power is exciting and satisfying in itself. For example, many people whose daily lives involve giving up power will relish being able to wield it in the context of a D/s relationship. And people who have responsibility foisted on them in their daily lives are often eager to give it up in the D/s side of their lives. Those two needs balance each other, and can produce some very healthy and very loving relationships based on a transfer of power between two people who care about each other.

SM, or Sado-Masochism, is at the far end of the kink spectrum. In some respects, SM is like a more extreme form of Bondage and Discipline, in that it involves physical stimulation rather than a pure exchange of power. However, the sensations that practitioners of SM enjoy are often very strong. Watching people involved in sado-masochistic activities is often quite intimidating, since it appears they're doing things that are actually very, very painful.

As it turns out, there's a physiological explanation for why people enjoy that kind of intense stimulation. The arousal engendered by pain play is essentially the same as the arousal brought about by conventional love-making - both are the product of a heady mix of adrenaline and endorphins, the same chemicals produced by the body during a strenuous aerobic workout. These chemicals produce a natural and desirable "high" that participants respond to in a very positive fashion.

Who's On Top?

At this point, we should offer a quick glossary of terms which apply to the *people* who play these games. Four of the most widely-used tags which one will hear bandied about by those in the kink



scene are "dom", "sub", "top", and "bottom".

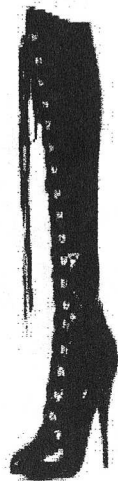
The first two are obvious derivations of domination and submission: a "dom" is the dominant partner in the game, and a "sub" is the submissive or subservient partner. Although Doms and subs may use physical sensations when they play, the essence of what they do is psychological stimulation.

By contrast, "top" and "bottom" commonly refer to people who engage in BDSM mostly for the physical sensations; a "top" is the partner applying the stimulation, and the "bottom" is the person receiving it.

It's worth noting that the exact definitions of these terms seem to vary somewhat from place to place and from one coast to the other; in particular, some places use "top" and "dom" interchangeably, and "bottom" and "sub" interchangeably. The definitions presented above are the most widely-used ones, but not the only ones.

These Are a Few of My Favorite Things...

Now that you've got some information on who's playing these games, and a little bit about why people play them, it's time to look at some of the games themselves. Brace yourself -- we're about to get into the nitty-gritty details of what it is that we do.



As we've already mentioned, many people already explore some basic kinky games in the context of conventional lovemaking: spanking, biting, pinning one partner down, even light-weight bondage.

From there, adventurous lovers might explore such things as fetish clothing - dressing in leather, PVC, vinyl, etc. They might use high-heeled boots and shoes, cross-dressing, and other types of costuming for sexual purposes. They may also start exploring the possibilities of specialized toys, such as paddles, riding crops, floggers, or even a simple hairbrush or leather belt. Toys don't even need to be custom contraptions of terror - the inglorious kitchen spatula is a handy-dandy implement for

producing all sorts of interesting skin sensations.

Another common activity to which people exploring kink are often attracted is role-playing. Each partner assumes a recognized role, such as "guard and prisoner", or "school teacher and misbehaving pupil". These roles can sometimes be assisted by props and costumes as described above.

Some people aren't into the whole dress-up aspect of BDSM, and prefer exploring simpler ways of demonstrating subservience such as kneeling, using strict forms of address, and performing menial tasks as instructed.

Then there's the entire aspect of public play, an interest which can be met through a number of well-established fetish clubs and societies. These groups, which are becoming very easy to find in most major cities, are open to people interested in kink whether they're there to play in public, or just to socialize and meet others with similar interests. If there's a bit of an exhibitionist in you, or a bit of a voyeur, those clubs are the places to be.

Some people are into "body modification", all the way from simple things such as shaving, to more permanent things such as tattooing, piercing and even branding. These things certainly aren't for everyone, but some people view them as very much

an expression of their surrendering of control to another person, even to the point of letting that person alter their body in some way.

But... WHY?

"Why on earth would anyone want to do these things?" That's a fair question. After all, most people think kink is all about pain (which it isn't, necessarily) and pain is something that the average human tries to avoid. As for the idea of voluntarily submitting to another person -- well, that's just not something that intelligent, self-respecting people do. Or is it?

Let's start with the first misconception. Kink is

not about pain. Yes, pain is a source of pleasure for some people, but there's much more to these activities than that. Yes, some people enjoy strong physical sensations. What one person might find excruciating, another finds pleasantly stimulating. And what a particular person might find very painful under ordinary circumstances becomes quite pleasurable while engaged in BDSM play. Context is everything. The act of offering one's body to another, or the act of accepting that offer, is what draws most players to BDSM in the first place. Pain and pleasure, at that point, are only tools used to achieve an exchange of power between those people.

Some people play these BDSM games because they eroticize certain elements such as the pain, or the role-playing. Others play simply because they enjoy exploring new territory in personal expressions or physical sensations. And some people are simply looking to add a new twist or flavour to their love-making repertoire. There are as many reasons why people play as there are people who actually play.

Playing Safe

We mentioned this up at the top of this article, but it's worth saying again. The keywords for a healthy, kinky lifestyle are the mantra we introduced above: "Safe, Sane, and Consensual". It's important to be aware of those three words when playing BDSM games, because people who are uninformed often take things out of context and create the misconceptions which have given kink the bad rap it has held for so long and is now trying to shed.

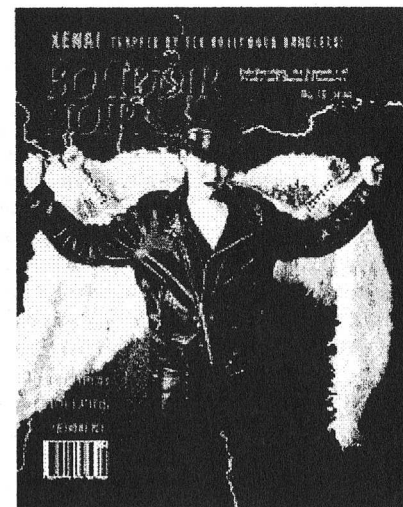
Consensuality is particularly important: the difference between consensual kinky play and violent abuse is the same as the difference between lovemaking and rape. Whatever our reasons for choosing to do these things may be, the point is that it's a *choice*. It's never imposed on anyone.

Learning More

We've tried to cover some of the basics in this article, but there's lots more to learn if you want to actually start trying some of these things. There are a number of organizations, from the local-city level on up to international societies, which work hard to offer education and support.

Among the better-known groups are the NLA (National Leather Association), the Eulenspiegel Society, the Society of Janus and the AIDS Committee of Toronto's Safer SM Education Project.

There are also a number of excellent books, and you don't have to go to some grimy little bookstore to find them (unless of course, that's what you want!). You can find them in the Sexuality section of The World's Biggest Bookstore in downtown Toronto. There are also a number of magazines; one local one that's worth checking out is "Boudoir Noir", a quarterly magazine containing feature articles on various aspects of the BDSM scene.



If you're based in Southwestern Ontario, there's an organization that meets once a month to share information and ideas about BDSM. The group is called EHBC, and they can be reached on the Internet at www.golden.net/~ehbc or by email at ehbc@golden.net. And yes, we're the ones who have prepared this article, so feel free to contact us if you want to learn more.

And remember: Play Safe!

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ALIVE & KICKING is a film about two very dissimilar people who are most unlikely to ever fall in love. But, as the old saying goes, opposites attract.

Tonio and Jack meet at a disco, where both are blowing off steam. Tonio is a dancer in a prestigious ballet company; Jack is a therapist specializing in patients with HIV/AIDS. Tonio is tall, beautiful, athletic, vain and kind of a pain in the ass; Jack is shorter, heavier, older, slightly balding, smart, sexy and a real pain in the ass.

The core of *Alive and Kicking* is the development of a powerful love between Tonio and Jack that bonds them together as much as their insecurities and individual passions threaten to keep them apart. But the film also offers an insider's view of the dancer's world, a world in which art can have profound meaning, especially for those who create it.

Alive and Kicking, starring Jason Flemyng, Antony Sher, and Dorothy Tutin; directed Nancy Meckler



"This is my fourth funeral in a month," somebody sighs early on in *Alive and Kicking*. "I haven't seen four films in a month." The note of self-mocking satire in a line like that, and the strength it takes to remark such an irony at the edge of the grave, is typical of what's best about this film--an angry, funny, life-loving testament from the heart of a world crossed by AIDS. Where Philadelphia, presuming a straight audience, acted as a kind of shuttle to the gay world--advancing its theme of compassion by pitting the Tom Hanks hero against the villainy of society's laws--*Alive and Kicking*

is aimed at everybody, gay and straight, and offers living, three-dimensional characters in a one-on-one battle with death.

Tonio (Jason Flemyng) is the premiere dancer of a once-great troupe that has been decimated by AIDS. Tonio has the disease himself, but, as it's dormant for the moment, is able to refuse medication and go on dancing. The troupe is on the verge of being disbanded. Apart from Tonio, they've lost all their best dancers--their greatest, a Cuban exile named Ramon (movingly played by Anthony Higgins) is dying as the story opens. Faced with his last season, though he feels he has many more in him. Tonio--charming, sarcastic, and hilariously egotistical whatever his state of health--finds to his surprise that he is falling in love.

Jack (Antony Sher), a plain-looking but intense psychologist who counsels AIDS patients, pursues Tonio with an ardor that surprises even him. Despite the risks, Jack (who is perfectly healthy) is smitten with Tonio's beauty and perplexed that he's taking his illness in such suave stride. Tonio, for his part, is fascinated. He resists Jack for a long stretch; even after they become lovers, he's disinclined to draw close or go traveling with him: "That would mean we're a couple. We're not 'a couple,' are we?" The painful imbalances in their feelings for one another are in keeping with those of every pair of lovers the world over--and they're traced with a merry, unpredictable candor by writer Martin Sherman and director Nancy Meckler.

Alive and Kicking is first and last a love story, not a an "AIDS" story. Flemyng breathes fire into Tonio's brainy, fortified coolness, and convinced this viewer that he's a trained, highly gifted dancer--though in reality he's a stage-trained actor who never danced professionally prior to this. Sher (Disraeli in *Mrs. Brown*) gives a particularly fearless performance--of the two lovers, he's the one who wears his heart on his sleeve; he bares his soul most painfully when truth demands it. Jack and Tonio's flirtations,



Tonio and Jack

seductions, fights, and reconciliations include some of the wittiest, toughest-minded, most heartbreaking lovers' chitchat this side of *Chasing Amy*--which is another way of saying *Alive and Kicking* is one of the best written, best acted films of the year. Its honest humor in relation to love drives its defiant confrontation with mortality. -- F.X. Feeney

(Rated R for some strong sexuality and for nudity and language.)



Lesbian Film Role for Whoopi

(NewsPlanet) -- If you've dreamed of seeing Goldberg as a lesbian, it's time for you to say "Whoopi!"

Ever-popular "gay icon" Whoopi Goldberg, the brilliant comic and film actress who may have worked on more turkeys than anyone of comparable ability, will begin shooting in October on "Deep End of the Ocean" in which she plays a lesbian cop, according to "Variety." Also starring as the parents of a kidnapped child will be Treat Williams and Michelle Pfeiffer, which should ensure that someone will be watching the final product. The film adaptation of Jacquelyn Mitchard's novel will be directed by Ulu Grosbard.

In other Whoopi news, she'll move on from "Ocean" to the adaptation of Terry (Waiting to Exhale) McMillan's "How Stella Got Her Groove Back" with Angela Bassett, and will next be seen on ABC in "Cinderella" with Brandy and the much-rumored-ever-denying Whitney Houston.

"More Tales" Filming Begins

Back by popular demand: everybody's favorite San Franciscans will be on screen again as Mrs. Madrigal prepares to "roll another one."

At last -- there will be "More Tales of the City." The cooperative effort of Showtime cable network, Britain's Channel 4 Television, Working Title/Propaganda Films, and Canada's Productions La Fete began principal filming July 28 on the sequel to the beloved gay-themed 1994 miniseries that nabbed a Peabody Award and set new ratings

records for PBS. Like its predecessor, "Armistead Maupin's More Tales of the City" will be a six-hour miniseries, and will feature the return of many of the original's cast: William Campbell, Barbara Garrick, Thomas Gibson, Laura Linney, and Olympia Dukakis as the mysterious pot-growing landlady of 28 Barbary Lane in San Francisco.

The script is adapted by Nicholas Wright from "More Tales of the City," the second book in openly gay author Maupin's "Tales of the City" series (originally published as a daily newspaper serial), picking up the story in 1977 where the first TV miniseries left off. The director is Genie Award winner Pierre Gang.

More Gay Men and Lesbians on TV, GLAAD Reports

NEW YORK -- The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) announced last month that the 1997 fall television line-up will include 30 lesbian, gay, and bisexual characters, up from last year's record-breaking 23.

Among the new gay faces: Bill Broctrup, who played a gay receptionist on ABC's "NYPD Blue," dons a headset for another spot behind the welcome desk on "Total Security," Kirstie Allie's new sitcom "Veronica's Closet" will soon have Wallace Langham busting out of it; Patrick Bristow who played an out gay man on "Ellen" will play a celibate bisexual on UPN's "Head Over Heels; and Karime Prince will play a "flamboyantly fierce HIV positive black gay youth" on Fox's 413 Hope Street.

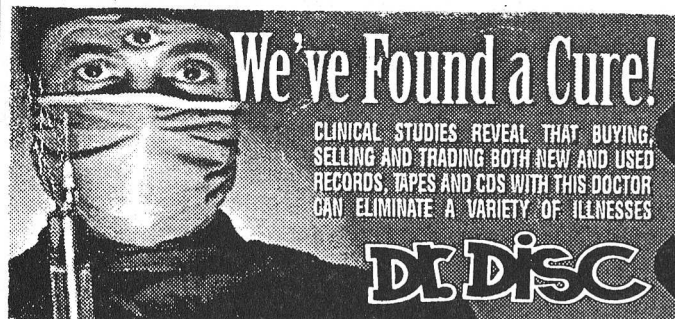
GLAAD's Entertainment Media Director Chastity Bono said that increase signals mainstream America's growing acceptance and appreciation of gay men and women. She also said it reflects a new willingness on the part of programmers to broadcast more inclusive programming.

TV Sitcom Star Reveals: I'm Gay

(National Enquirer) -- Happy at last: Danny Pintauro, 21, went through years of denial before "coming out." But he says: "I had to be honest with myself."

"Who's the Boss?" star Danny Pintauro has a revelation for Enquirer readers - he's gay!

"I want Enquirer readers to be among the first to know I've 'come out' and am proud to say I'm gay,"



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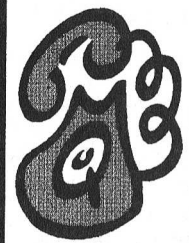
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declared Danny, who played Judith Light's son Jonathan.

The 21-year-old actor grew up on the long-running sitcom. He says Judith and Tony Danza have given him "a lot of support" since learning through the Hollywood grapevine about his sexual orientation.

But Danny had to go through years of denial before coming to the realization he's gay. He even came close to tying the knot with a girlfriend.

"I dated a lot of girls all through high school, and in college I dated a young lady for about eight months," Danny disclosed in an exclusive interview.

"We got really serious, and I started to make plans to marry her after we graduated. "But about that time I started to get in tune with myself and I couldn't go through with the wedding. "I had to be honest with myself. It wouldn't have been healthy to handle it any other way. "Something kinda clicked. I thought about it and said to myself: 'This is how I feel, this is what's going on inside of me and this is what I have to do.' "I couldn't deny it any more. It was just the right time to come out."

Danny, now a junior at Stanford University in Calif., broke the news to his parents at Christmastime a year and a half ago.

"Once we were seated I just came out with, 'Mom and Dad, I'm gay,'" said Danny, who's an only child. "They were surprised and didn't know how to react because they'd never, ever suspected anything - or if they did, they didn't say anything about it to me. "It was kind of awkward at first, but after a moment of silence my parents were really curious - wanting to know when I had decided this. "They also expressed concerns for my health and gave me advice on protection when I became sexually active. "But they were able to deal with it quickly because we have such a close relationship. "My parents are wonderful - awesome - and all that really matters is that I am still their son. Nothing changed between us. "

Danny is grateful to Judith Light and Tony Danza for backing his decision to come out of the closet. "Tony is like a second father to me, and he's very supportive. He has one of the biggest hearts I know. "And Judith, who's always been supportive of gay and lesbian issues, really understood my feelings.

She called and told me: 'I'm happy that you're happy. I'm glad your life is finally stable and things are good.'"

The girl he nearly married also was understanding, Danny said. "In fact, we're better friends now than before."

Added Danny: "I would encourage anybody struggling with their sexuality to go with their heart. If it's not an appropriate time, there will be one later. Never, ever try to rush into anything - do it in your own time."

Cartoon Creates Controversy (Again)

WICHITA, Kan. -- Joining a handful of other daily newspapers across the North America, the Wichita Eagle pulled the comic strip For Better or For Worse last month because the strip featured a gay character. At least 30 other newspapers ran reruns while the character appeared.

Sarah McLachlan at Hummingbird Centre

Formerly the O'Keefe Centre, The Humminbird Centre in Toronto is the place to be this October 19 through 21 when Sarah McLachlan takes centre stage. Showtime is 8pm on all dates. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster. \$27.89, \$37.89 and \$47.89 plus charges. Also, don't miss Sarah in a CBC Special Wednesday, October 8 at 9 p.m.!

Also appearing at the Hummingbird October 23 and 24 is the incomparable Lisa Minelli. Tickets through Ticketmaster range from \$48.39 to \$123.39.

What's On TV?

Movies on Showcase. Nightly at 11:00 p.m., except for Fridays, when they begin at midnight.

Friday, September 19, **Beautiful Dreamers**, directed by John Kent Harrison. American poet Walt Whitman (Rip Torn) befriends Dr. Maurice Bucke (Colm Feore), intrigued by his progressive treatment of the mentally retarded. Also stars Wendel Meldrum and Sheila McCarthy. Canada, 1990. Showcase, Channel 39, midnight.

Tuesday, September 23, **Van Gogh** directed by Maurice Pialat. Depicting the last days of the great

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artist's life in 1890, this powerful film details Vincent Van Gogh's turbulent family life, his passionate loves and the magnificent art that became his legacy. Starring Jacques Dutronc, Alexandra London, Bernard Lecoq, Gerard Sety. France, 1991. Showcase, Channel 39, 11 p.m.

Sunday, September 28, **Kids**, directed by Larry Clark. A powerful, uncompromising fictional snapshot of 24 hours in the lives of contemporary teenagers in New York City, Kids is a disturbing vision of the consequences of young urban amorality. Starring Leo Fitzpatrick, Chloe Sevigny and Justin Pierce. USA, 1995. Showcase, Channel 39, 11 p.m.

Check out Bravo, Channel 40 for **Tales of the City**, a six-part mini-series based on the book of the same name by author Armistead Maupin. Olympia Dukakis stars as Anna Madrigal, the landlady with a secret at 28 Barbary Lane, her home which she has divided into many apartments. A great cast of characters. Set your VCRs for this series. Part 1 airs September 17, Part 2 on September 24. 8 p.m. both nights.

Anne Murray: An Intimate Evening, CBC, Sunday, Oct. 5 at 8 p.m. Ratings champion Anne Murray returns to CBC Television in this hour-long, live concert recorded in her home province of Nova Scotia at the Halifax Metro Centre. Sounding better than ever, Murray performs some of her career-making hits ranging from Time Don't Run Out On Me and You Needed Me to new standards That's The Way It Goes and Shame On Me. Joining Murray on stage for duets are guests Bryan Adams (What Would It Take) and Jann Arden (Snowbird). A show highlight brings together two of Canada's singing superstars for the first time with Celine Dion joining Murray on stage for a moving duet of When I Fall In Love. Also featured, never-before-seen interview footage with the singer herself.

Stay with CBC Monday, October 6 for **Just For Laughs**. David Hyde Pierce, known as the neurotic Niles Crane on the hit sitcom Frasier, offers Canadian cheese poetry; Canada's **Elvira Kurt**, a stand-up star at Australia's OUtageous Comedy Festival, the BBC's Queer Comedy Festival and, writer on CBC-TV's This Hour Has 22 Minutes; and Dom Irrera, the 1995 Cable ACE Award for his Showtime series Full Frontal Comedy. 8 p.m.

THIRSTY THURSDAYS

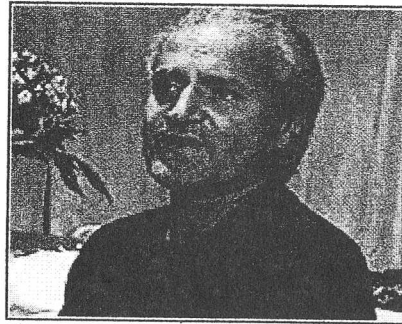
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GIANNI VERSACE

1946-1997



One of the recurring themes as people around the world remember Gianni Versace, shot to death outside his Miami Beach home on the morning of July 15, is fearlessness, and that fearlessness was expressed as much in his openness about being gay as in the daring of his fashion designs. The Italian national gay and lesbian advocacy organization ArciGay mourns the loss of Gianni Versace as one of Italy's first public figures to come out. Versace worked on behalf of people living with AIDS with openly gay singer-composer Elton John, who once posed in a Versace dress and said after the murder that "Gianni and I were like brothers." In bringing rock music into the previously staid world of haute couture, Versace often chose openly gay singer Boy George as one of the composers for his fashion shows, and George said that in the many times they worked together, Versace "was nothing but a complete gentleman."

John's partner, David Furnish, stated well what many others both inside and outside the world of fashion had to say about Versace: "If I had to sum Gianni up in one word, it's passion. I never met someone with such a passion for life, and beauty, and living. He enjoyed life, devoured it, and gave it all back to the world. He is someone who was doing what he was born to do and he got so much pleasure from it." He was also a man who enjoyed gay nightlife in Florida's South Beach and around the world.

A Washington Post article in the wake of his death describes Versace as experimenting "with a homoerotic esthetic, especially in his menswear, advertising and coffee-table books." Versace's gay sexual orientation informed his art, as Richard Martin, curator of the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City told "The Advocate" in 1995: "There is no question that Versace's own out gay identity has been a part of this work. He is in the tradition of the avant-garde, which means that he is willing to risk a lot. And he doesn't run for cover when his risks provoke outrage." Some of that outrage was evoked by his use of sado-masochistic themes in some of his collections, leaving him out of the pages of some of the major fashion magazines when he was becoming established as a leading designer in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

Although deeply devoted to his family, who joined him in building his more than \$800-million/year business, Versace was also devoted to his partner of 12 years, Antonio d'Amico - a relationship which has barely registered in the reportage on Versace's life and death.

The macabre ending to Versace's celebrated life shattered the peace of a summer morning in South Beach, where many had embraced the designer as one of their own.

Journalists from all over the world rapidly descended on Miami Beach. Local TV stations interrupted their programming to bring news to South Florida. Hundreds of curiosity seekers gathered in Lummus Park, across Ocean Drive from Versace's beachfront house, to gawk at the blood staining his stone steps. When police removed the yellow crime-scene tape, people in the crowd began laying flowers and bouquets there.

Versace was head of a Milan-based global empire, a glamorous figure who in flamboyant style dressed - and befriended - stars and celebrities from Elton John to Madonna.

He helped cement South Beach's place in the fashion world when he turned a rundown apartment building on Ocean Drive into a elaborately decorated Italianate mansion, one of the several homes he owned around the world.

Versace's shooting stunned South Beach residents accustomed to seeing the multimillionaire designer casually strolling Ocean Drive, usually in shorts and flip-flops. In spite of Miami's reputation for violent crime, he apparently never felt the need for bodyguards. "He walked up and down Ocean Drive all the time, unpretentious and unsecured," said Jack Donahue, publisher of Fashion Spectrum magazine. "He just wanted to be one

of us. This is a big loss to the community. I'm in shock, as is the whole world.

Gianni Versace Sold The World of Unrestrained Opulence. In His Own Life, That Fantasy Became Real.

By Ginia Bellafante

Reggio di Calabria, the southern Italian port city where Gianni Versace came of age, isn't the sort of place where enviably tasteful women nibble on lunch and devour the most recent issues of Vogue. A small city with a rich Greco-Roman heritage, it has become increasingly downtrodden during the past decades. Growing up there in the 1950s and '60s, Versace witnessed the miserable postwar poverty that filled the streets, but could find elegance in the turquoise Strait of Messina that lay just beyond them. His was a city where Calabrian Mafiosi thrived in all their cheap glamour and children once passed the hours in ancient ruins. Versace's family home neighbored the remains of a Greek temple.

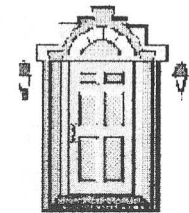
If geography is destiny, then Reggio di Calabria was a fitting birthplace for the Italian designer who built a \$1 billion fashion empire on the notion that there should be no barriers between the worlds of high culture and low, no dividing line between the aesthetics of refinement and ostentation. He finished off his splendidly cut couture gowns (costing \$20,000-plus) with accoutrements of denim and plastic. During his abbreviated life Versace designed costumes for several operas produced at Milan's fabled La Scala, and outfitted the cast of Miami Vice. He took stately villas and compounds in Milan, Lake Como, Miami Beach and New York City and refurbished them into homes unimaginably ornate.

Versace drew from varied universes in his acquaintances too. His undepletable pool of celebrity friends included everyone from choreographer Maurice Bejart to Princess Diana (with whom he spoke once a week), from Madonna to Lisa Marie Presley. A number of years ago he happily accepted a lunch invitation from Mike Tyson, a longtime Versace fan. At his dinner parties he often liked to have fun with seating arrangements, once placing Harper's Bazaar editor Liz Tilberis next to a Milanese soccer goalie.

It was ultimately through his very visible links to the grand and the fallen, the fabulous and semifabulous, that Versace left his most significant cultural legacy. The first designer to use known magazine models at his runway shows in the early '80s and the first to shrewdly place celebrities like Bruce Springsteen

and Sylvester Stallone in the front rows of his audiences, Versace fused the cults of celebrity and style. The spectacles he created, replete with the blaring sounds of rockers like George Michael and clothes that were just as loud, earned the designer all the publicity they were meant to garner. As a result, he hastened the transformation of fashion from a rarefied interest of the elite into a object of bottomless mass-cultural fascination. Remember, there weren't always MTV style awards or accountants who can identify the faces in Harper's Bazaar or makeup artists with best-selling coffee-table books. "Versace," notes Vogue's European editor-at-large Hamish Bowles, "moved fashion into the public domain in the most strident way."

Gianni Versace began his career as a tailor and showman while a young boy in his mother's Reggio di Calabria dress salon. While his father Antonio made a living selling appliances, his mother Francesca helped support the family as a dressmaker for the city's small coterie of well-to-do women. Versace made puppets from the remnants he found on the floor of his mother's workshop. At nine he designed his first dress, a one-shoulder velvet gown. Skipping design school, he worked for



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his mother until he was 25 and in 1972 moved to Milan to design for a series of then prestigious Italian labels.

In 1978 he launched his first collections for men and women. By the early '90s he had added not only couture and lower-priced bridge lines to his ready-to-wear business but also leather goods, fragrances and home furnishings. Indeed, success came so quickly that he found it difficult over the years to escape rumors that he was Mob-funded--talk, however, that has never been substantiated. After London's Independent on Sunday made such claims in a 1994 article, Versace won a \$150,000 libel-suit settlement and a public apology from the newspaper. Still, even after the alleged serial killer Andrew Cunanan was fingered as the prime suspect in Versace's murder, rumors persisted that the designer had been gunned down by the Mafia.

Versace's empire triumphed in part because the designer maintained an unwavering sense of what he was selling: a fantasy life of opulent sensuality. Versace's omnipresent advertising campaigns--and the series of mondo Versace picture books he produced--often paid cartoonish homage to classical mythology, featuring sculpted male models vogueing as gods and women portraying invincible (and big-haired) warrior princesses.

In his clothes, Versace reveled in glaring colors, hallucinogenic prints and plunging necklines as his archival, the great minimalist Giorgio Armani, seduced the world in neutrals. In his fall 1992 collection, Versace unveiled an array of leather bondage dresses. He never cared if his clothes were considered lewd. "There were no apologies for Versace's fashion," notes designer Marc Jacobs.

"No apologies for something being too gold or too sexy or too overt. 'Too' was not a problem." What made Versace's look so distinctive was the sense that the clothes were poured over the body. "Fashion is so often about propriety and decorum," explains Richard Martin, director of the Costume Institute at New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"Versace is so important because he put sexuality first. Designers have always looked to the street; he looked to the streetwalker. He was transfiguring the prostitute as Toulouse-Lautrec did in the late 1880s."

His undying attraction to the seamier side of dressing up came first and foremost from his beloved younger sister, the perennially bronzed Donatella, whose unabashed love of leggings, miniskirts and stilettos inspired Versace all his life. The two were inseparable as kids--and as grown-ups, sometimes speaking on the phone a dozen times a day or more. Versace placed so much faith in his sister's Vegas-meets-Biarritz sensibility that in the early '90s, he gave Donatella (who shares a major stake in his company along with their brother Santo) complete creative control of his twentysomething-targeted Versus line.

It was Donatella who persuaded Versace to visit her in 1991 in her favorite new sunbathing spot, Miami Beach. On his way to Cuba with his longtime companion Antonio D'Amico, he obliged his sister with a stop at the Hotel Fontainebleau, where she was vacationing with her husband Paul Beck, a former Versace model, and the couple's two children, Allegra and Daniel. The designer hired a driver to show him around the area, and he wound up in the then not yet trendy section of South Beach. "I sat in a bar and started to look around at the people," he later told TIME. "I said to my friend, 'Why do we have to go to Cuba? It's fun here.' It was love at first sight."

In the next couple of years, he spent \$6.6 million (and an estimated \$32 million in renovations) on the two Ocean Drive buildings that were transformed

into his Casa Casuarina residence, where his life came to an abrupt end. Versace's arrival brought a much hyped infusion of glamour to South Beach. Soon after he started spending time there, it was hard to stroll down Ocean Drive without stumbling upon a fashion shoot. Chic restaurants popped up, and so did more and more modeling agencies, as aspiring cover girls and boys started hanging around Versace, hoping to be discovered. (Every now and then he'd pick a face out of the crowd and dole out a contract.)

Versace relished the scene he helped create. "He wanted to be where the buzz was," says Bowles, a visitor to Casa Casuarina. "He loved the excitement." Versace saw Miami Beach, where he spent, on and off, a number of months a year, as a frothy pink-drink antidote to his life in Italy, where he divided his time between his three-story 17th century palazzo in Milan and a 17-room villa on Lake Como. "For reading Proust I have my house on Lake Como," he said in 1993. "Here, in Miami Beach, I don't want another monastery to live in. I want a place to read Truman Capote."

On whatever continent he found himself, Versace seemed to generate the kind of social whirl that in fact might have appealed to Capote. In South Beach, guests filtered in and out of Versace's media room, where the music video of the moment would be playing--often the work of a pop star in attendance. He didn't create his palatial showplaces to let them sit empty. He loved playing host and entertainer, lending the Lake Como villa to Bruce Springsteen and his former wife Julianne Phillips for their 1985 honeymoon, giving impromptu dinner parties for friends passing through Miami and often opening his South Beach doors for charity events.

Yet Versace in mid-life, it turns out, was a tempered bon vivant, a high-glitz homebody. After occasional major bashes, like the New Year's Eve soirees he threw for the past two years in South Beach (where guests included everyone from Calvin Klein to Rosie O'Donnell), he might decamp to a gay club called the Warsaw Ballroom with a small group of friends to watch male dancers perform. But he was known as a quiet purveyor of the scene, a man who avoided drugs and heavy drinking. "I once proposed that we go out," recalls his friend Janie Samet, a French fashion writer, "and he remarked, 'You can go to a restaurant if you want, but things are always better at home.'"

As much as he loved dining a casa with loved ones, the fun usually wrapped up early, says his friend of a dozen years, Italian publishing mogul Leonardo Mondadori, "Gianni was not one to gab until 2:30 in

the morning. At 11 o'clock it was over, and everyone went home." When he was away from South Beach and his sister Donatella--the family's most energetic social animal--would hold court, Versace might call the staff to make sure there weren't too many guests milling about. Sometimes the butler would frantically motion everyone to quiet down.

All in all, Versace was considered by many to be, as Bowles put it, "an unbelievably thoughtful person." He would, adds Bowles, "always remember who people's kids were, always think to ask 'How's your mother, Ann?'" Moreover, Versace was known as one of the rare fashion designers who actively encouraged up-and-comers. Along with Donatella, he showed his support for the young designer Jacobs by attending the crucial debut of the line he launched following his departure from Perry Ellis. When Versace spotted the work of Todd Oldham early in the young Texan's career, Versace called a handful of European fashion editors and asked them to check it out. "In our industry this is highly unheard of," says Oldham. "He saw my work and told people. I was really flabbergasted because he was such a design hero of mine."

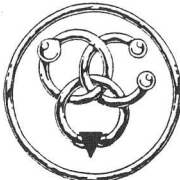
Versace enjoyed sharing his love of art with friends. Before he died, he had completed renovating his fourth home, a town house on Manhattan's Upper East Side that was to serve as a museum for his mind-boggling collection of Picassos, Lichtensteins and Schnabels. Interview magazine editor Ingrid Sischy last saw Versace in Florence shortly before his death, at a hectic moment between the unveiling of his fall menswear line and his couture collection. But he dropped everything, she recalls, picked her up at her hotel one morning and took a small group to Ravenna for two days just to show them the city's Byzantine churches.

During the past couple of years, Versace had started to allow himself more such breaks from hard work. This fall he was scheduled to begin shooting a new Woody Allen movie in which he would have played himself. Versace survived a bout of rare ear cancer recently, and he was determined to spend more time in respite. As he told a friend not too long ago, "When you are cured of something like that, you feel you have been pardoned, granted clemency. It changes your view of life." Tragically, he had little time to live by his new vision. ▼

Gianni Versace
1946 - 1997

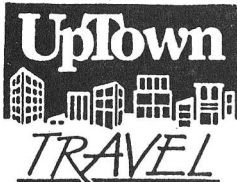
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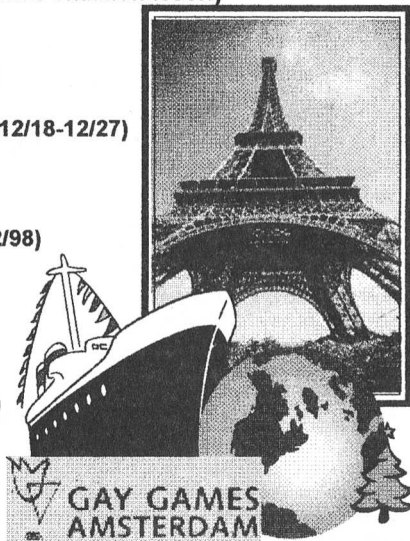
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- Ancient Egypt (12/19-12/29)
- Men's Gay Retreat in Hawaii (12/20-12/26)
- Caribbean Cruise (Mix) (12/21-1/5/98)
- Creole Christmas in New Orleans (12/22-1/2/98)
- Christmas Down Under (12/23-1/2/98)
- New Year's Eve in Paris (12/23-1/3/98)

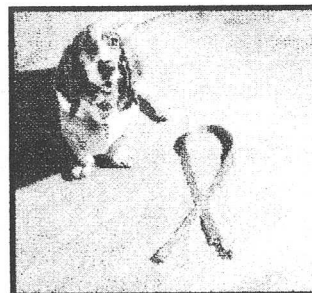
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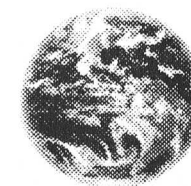
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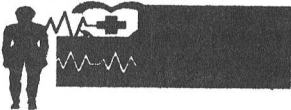
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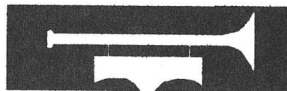
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1961 - 1997

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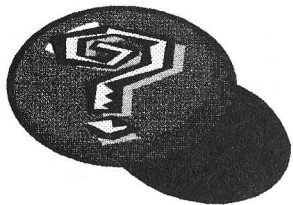
Monday- Out & About with your hosts Dave Callandar and Alan Fraser airs every Monday from 9:00 - 10:00pm on CKWR 98.7 FM. **Woman Made Collective Show** airs Mondays from 6-7 pm on CFRU 93.3 **Fingers, Fists and KY** is brought to you in part by The Lesbian Avengers and airs Mondays from 10pm - 12am 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.

If you know of an organization that should be listed in Community Info. call [REDACTED] or email us at outlook@easynet.on.ca



What's Happening?

EVENING OF REIKI

Try this gentle, yet powerful Japanese light hands-on technique for pain and stress management.

Dates: Sept. 28, Oct. 26 and Nov. 30, 7 - 10 p.m. (\$25 per person includes written material and treatment.) R.S.V.P. Rhonda (519) [REDACTED]

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 GROUP

GLLOW Coming Out Discussion Group has the following meetings upcoming:

September 17 - Coming Out to Others

September 24 - Coming Out to Parents and Other Relatives

If you have an event that should be listed in "What's Happening?" give us a call at 519-[REDACTED] or e-mail us at: outlook@easynet.on.ca

October 1 - Gaydar

October 8 - How Can I Meet People?

October 15 - The Gay Community - Where Do I Fit In?

October 22 - Crushes and Infatuations

All meetings will be held in Room 3005 at the PAS (Psychology, Anthropology and Sociology Building) beginning at 7:30 p.m. Check out the GLOW website at <http://www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/clubs/gllow/> or call the GLOW Line at [REDACTED]

KW FRONTRUNNERS

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

We meet 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: 9:00 - 10:00p.m.

Fridays:
Swim 7:30 - 8:30p.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.

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 at the

door and the start time is 9 p.m. Look for a different theme each month with door prizes, raffles and munchies at midnight. Please call the ACGWC office at (519) 763-2255 for the location. Our next dance is Saturday, October 4.

W.O.O.D.S EVENT

Book Exchange and Pizza Night, Friday, September 26, 7p.m. Bring one or more of your favourite lesbian novels to exchange with another member and to be returned by the next meeting. Read fast,

time is limited! Contact Dona for details at [REDACTED]

T.O.O.L.S. PRESENTS: "HOCKEY DANCE 2"

Once again we will be holding the dance at the Phoenix Roller Sport Banquet Hall, 70 Belcan Place in Waterloo on Saturday November 8. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. It's guaranteed to be as much fun and as successful as the last one and probably even BETTER! Advance tickets: \$8.00 or \$10.00 at the door. Pick them up at Reader's Ink

in Waterloo, Disc Oriented in Guelph, Women's Bookstop in Hamilton or call Linda at TCB for details. 748-0850.



AIDS WALK CANADA

It's the walk Canada's been waiting for all year. On Sept. 28 join thousands of Canadians just like you in the

walk to raise funds and fight AIDS. Register today! Contact ACCKWA at 570-3687 in the Cambridge/KW area or ACGWC at 763-2255 in Guelph for details and pledge sheets.

You'll walk 'til your shoes fall off, have fun and make a difference! ...and remember, all pledges collected in your area, stay in your area! Dust off those shoes and come on out for a fun-filled worthy cause.

CHASING AMY

The Princess Cinema is proud to present Chasing Amy. September 22 and 23 at 9:05 p.m. 6 Princess St. W. Waterloo. Call for details: 885-2950.

Do you have a community event coming up that you'd like to be included in 'What's Happening?' You can:

1. Email us at: outlook@easynet.on.ca
2. Call us with the info. at [REDACTED] or
3. Send it to our mailing address (Contents Page)

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!

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Community Health Department
AIDS/STD Program

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

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

1. You can be tested by your *family doctor*.

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

WATERLOO 99 Regina St. South KITCHENER 123 Duke St. E.

HIV Clinic - 2nd Floor Duke St. Clinic - (ACCKWA)

by appointment only walk-in first come, first served
Telephone: 883-2251 Thursday 4pm. - 7pm.

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 walk-in: first come, first served
Tuesday 3 - 5pm. Monday & Thursday 3-6pm.

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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10am - 2pm



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Call Teresa for more information.

47 Erb St. W. Waterloo 886-2540

85 Erbs Rd. W. St. Agatha 1-519-747-1700

Internet Site: www.angieseats.com



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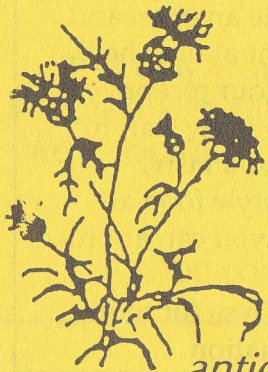
748-0850

*Call Linda To Be Put On Her Mailing List For A
Free Lesbian Travel Newsletter

IGTA

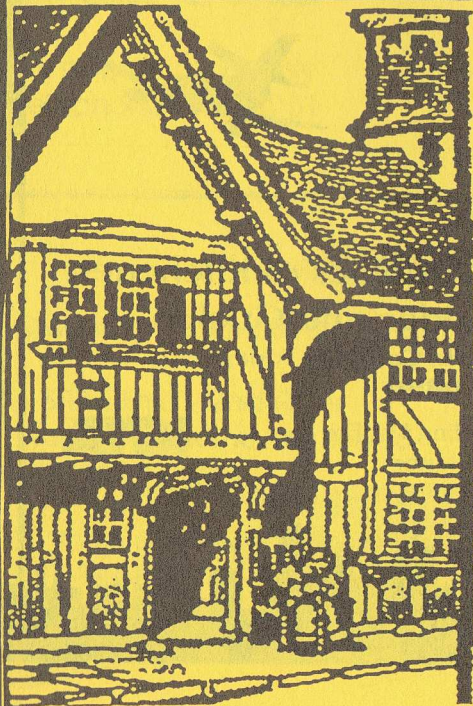


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