

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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

Outlook Magazine

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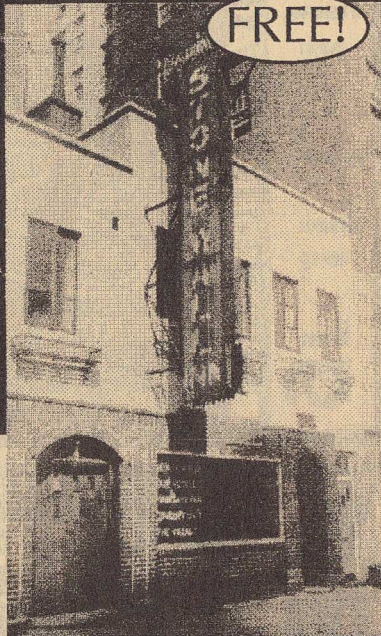
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Canadian Insurer Must Pay DP

The province tried to argue justifiable discrimination, but an Ontario judge says the right to equal benefits for same-gender domestic partners is about human dignity.

"The denial of equal benefit contained in the legislative provisions is deliberately based only on sexual orientation and runs against the preservation of human dignity and self-worth for part of our society... The declaration simply carries forward and nurtures now abandoned stereotypical concepts that have no place in the fabric of our community," proclaimed Ontario Court Justice Douglas Co. Co. ordered that the definition of "spouse" be changed in the province's Insurance Act to include same-gender partners, as he required an insurance carrier to pay a death benefit plus interest to an accident victim's lesbian partner -- and to retroactively cover the similar claims of other same-gender partners. One commentator considered the ruling might be the greatest victory for Ontario gays and lesbians since the right to co-adopt their partners' children was established in 1995.

But Co.'s ruling is also just one more round in one of a slew of legal battles that are slowly -- and expensively -- achieving piecemeal what the Ontario legislature has repeatedly refused to do in a blanket fashion: give gay and lesbian couples the same recognition as unmarried heterosexual pairs, who gain "common law" status there after three years of cohabitation.

It's a victory that took nearly four years for Kelly Kane to win since her partner of six years, Robin Black, was killed by a truck while bicycling to her job in Toronto. The couple had lived together, had a joint bank account, shared a car, and planned to have children someday. More to the point, they had kept up payments on premiums for a policy including a \$25,000 no-fault benefit in event of Black's death, but Axa Insurance refused to ante up because the law did not recognize the couple's relationship. (Police at the scene of the accident also refused to recognize Kane as next-of-kin.) By contrast, Black's mother and sisters have long since won settlements in a wrongful death lawsuit against the trucking company.

Ironically, because Axa had previously been found to

be in compliance with the existing law, it's not the insurer but the provincial attorney-general's office -- that is, the taxpayers -- which has had to bear the court costs involved in defending the law. The province argued that, while the law might indeed be discriminatory, the discrimination involved was justified. The national Supreme Court's previous denial of pension benefits sought by a federal worker for his gay partner was cited. Kane attorney Cynthia Petersen found the attorney-general's admission of discrimination to be notable, translating the court's message to the province as, "if you're going to discriminate, you better have a solid reason for doing so."

The attorney-general's further argument was that a victory for Kane would also serve to challenge some 90 other provincial statutes using the same gendered definition of spouse as the Insurance Act. In fact, many of those individual statutes are already the subject of lawsuits at various stages of appeal. For Petersen, "The question is, are they really going to continue to spend taxpayers' money to continue to litigate these cases, when this [current decision] clearly is the signal for the future? Are we really going to have to litigate all 90 at public expense through every level of the court? My preference would be for this decision to send a message to government, to legislate instead of litigate."

Even though the ruling both sets a precedent (for now) and retroactively justifies the claims of other gay and lesbian partners, the insurance industry appears relaxed about it. Insurance Bureau of Canada vice-president for Ontario Stanley Griffin told "The Globe and Mail," "I have no idea what the numbers would be, but if I had to hazard a guess, I would think the order of magnitude would be fairly small."

"Life Partner" Epitaph Won

(NewsPlanet) -- A deceased lesbian and her surviving partner finally got the last word regarding burial arrangements.

Cynthia Lynn Friedman can now rest in peace as she lived -- as an open lesbian. Friedman and her partner of 13 years, Sherry Barone, knew five years ahead of her 1994 death that cancer would end her life, and took every possible legal precaution to give Barone sole authority over Friedman's posthumous affairs. When Barone went to place a headstone on Friedman's grave with the epitaph she had specified, however, Friedman's parents objected to the phrase "beloved life partner." The Har Jehuda Cemetery in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania said Barone would first have to present a court order before the cemetery would cross the parents' wishes. The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund took up the case, filing a federal lawsuit against the cemetery in April, and now a settlement has been reached that should have the headstone in place for the third anniversary of Friedman's death.

The cemetery will also pay \$15,000 to Barone, who

said she was unable to complete her grieving process because of the unmarked grave. The full epitaph reads, "Cynthia L. Friedman/July 11, 1959 - October 3, 1994/ Beloved life partner, daughter, granddaughter, sister, and aunt/A spirited and compassionate woman who will be/ forever in our hearts." Barone intends to be interred beside her partner.

Lambda believes the case makes a strong argument for the need for legal marriage for gays and lesbians, since no grieving widow or widower who had contracted with a cemetery would be expected to go to court for approval of an epitaph, and the couple had taken advantage of all legal mechanisms available to them to deny legal standing in the matter to anyone other than Barone.

50 People Volunteer To Be Injected With Live HIV For Research

CHICAGO (AP) -- A group of doctors and public health advocates say AIDS research is so important that they are willing to risk their lives by being the first humans to be injected with a vaccine consisting of a live, though weakened, strain of HIV.

The International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care, based in Chicago, wants to conduct the test involving about 50 volunteers. The group intends to talk with National Institutes of Health officials about the idea. Gordon Nary, executive director of the Chicago group and one of the trial's volunteers, said the risks of being in the study are diminished by what can be learned from it.

"Vaccine development has really dragged on... ' AIDS vaccine development is a slow process because of the safety measures and rigorous animal testing needed before injecting humans with a trial vaccine.

"Vaccine development has really dragged on because there is an assumption by conservative scientists that people won't step up and do this," Nary said.

AIDS research efforts have focused on vaccines that do not involve a live virus because of fear that even a weakened, live human immunodeficiency virus strain

might be capable of causing AIDS or other problems.

Dr. Mark Grabowsky of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is skeptical of the proposed study and says it's premature to talk about injecting healthy people with a live vaccine.

The Chicago group wants approval from the Food and Drug Administration but promises to go on even if they don't receive an OK from the FDA, said Dr. Charles Farthing, the study's leader and medical director of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation in Los Angeles.

The group can proceed with its trial without FDA approval by containing its study to one state or conducting it in Europe.

Meanwhile, prominent AIDS researcher David Ho told the 2,500 people gathered in Miami Beach, Florida, for the U.S. Conference on AIDS that researchers are developing protease drugs that would be taken once a day -- instead of the current regimen of dozens of pills several times a day. Trials involving patients could begin within six months, he said.

The combination drug therapies have been widely successful in making the virus undetectable in some people's bloodstreams.

Ho reported that he and his colleagues have discovered tiny, dogged traces of virus in bits of lymph tissues, the very heart of the immune system.

"We still don't know whether it's feasible to eradicate HIV, mainly because we don't know if it's feasible to eradicate the last residual bit of virus," Ho told an audience that hailed him with gusto typically reserved for a rock star.

"Where we are is sort of at the endgame, like a chess game. But the endgame could be as tough as any part of the game."

Ho is the New York virologist who was named Time magazine's 1996 Man of the Year for his pioneering AIDS work.

Israel Ed TV Must Air Gay Show

(NewsPlanet) -- After almost a year in the can, an Israeli student-produced show on lesbigay youth will air on

educational television, while conservatives say the favourable decision will go down as "the homosexual that broke the High Court's back."

Israel's Supreme Court, the High Court of Justice, on September 21 ordered Educational TV to air a student-made show about gays and lesbians, almost a year after it was originally scheduled. Although the tape had won approval from Educational TV and the usual channels in the Education Ministry, Minister of



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Education Zevulun Hammer of the right-wing National Religious Party had personally stepped in to block the broadcast as inappropriate for the educational channel on grounds that it lacked balance or professional participation, and that it encouraged youth to experience homosexuality. The lawsuit seeking to air the tape, part of a youth-oriented series called "Cards on the Table" ("Klafim Ptuchim"), was filed in February by the gay and lesbian Society for the Protection of Personal Rights, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, and Israel's Lesbian Feminist Community, in the belief that it was Hammer's religious perspective that was blocking the show. On the other hand, Hammer told Israel National Radio that the court's decision was based on the personal philosophies of the judges rather than on the law.

The High Court had proposed in June that Educational Television broadcast the show and follow it up with the kind of expert discussion that the Minister felt was missing, and renewed that suggestion with the current order.

Chief Justice Aharon Barak called the Ministry's decision to shelve the program "unjustified," saying, "The film reflects a reality which is useless to try to avoid." Justice Ya'akov Kedmi wrote of how impressed he was by how "the big picture which emerged from the encounter was that gays and lesbians were just like other young people, and that the characteristics which nature imbued in them did not remove them from the mainstream." Along with Justice Dalia Dornier, the three judges were the same triumvirate that upheld the 1994 lawsuit by El Al flight attendant Jonathan Danilovitz to gain spousal travel benefits for his male partner.

This "Cards on the Table" show, originally scheduled to air October 10, 1996, presented two young gays and one of their mothers speaking to an audience of young people. After they had told their personal stories, they took questions from the studio audience.

Conservative politicians were quick to denounce the court's decision. Perhaps the most vehement among them was Deputy Minister of Health Rabbi Shlomo Benizri, who told "Ha'aretz" that, "This is a poverty certificate for the High Court which is already lacking in spirituality and Judaism, Jewish ethics and values. This is the homosexual that broke the High Court's back. As far as I am concerned, the next

stage of the Court's enlightenment is to appoint a declared homosexual to the Supreme Court, or that one of them, if there are any, will come out of the closet... Why not? There is nothing to be ashamed of. The restraints have been lifted and the perversion has been allowed. It's good that I don't have a television to watch the ugliness and its representatives." National Religious Party Member of the Knesset Chanan Porat added that the ruling would drive many people away from educational television.

Death Sentence Upheld for Gay Bashing

(Data Lounge) —SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Express-News reports that the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals upheld the conviction and death sentence of Henry Earl Dunn, Jr. and Donald Loren Aldrich in the brutal kidnapping and murder of Nicolas West. Dunn and Aldrich had said the 1993 crime resulted in part from their hatred of homosexuals.

West, the 23 year old son of a Baptist minister, was abducted by Dunn and Aldrich while he visited a park in the East Texas town of Tyler. The pair then took him to a clay pit outside of the town where they tortured him and ultimately shot him over 25 times.

The Portuguese Miracle

(ILGA) — 1997 will go down in Portuguese history as the year of the gay and lesbian awakening. During the current year, several major events have irreversibly changed the Portuguese lesbian and gay community and given it the largest visibility ever. During 1996 the first gay and lesbian organization became official, and started immediately working with the community.

In mid 1996 our organization started political lobbying in order to equalize the age of consent between homosexual and heterosexual sex and to push for a partnership law that would recognize the rights of homosexual couples.

In January 1997, while the country's first (national) gay and lesbian newspaper celebrated it's first birthday, the government approved the new penal code contemplating the same age of consent between homo- and heterosexual sex (16 y.o.). On May 4th 1997, roughly 400 people marched down Lisbon's Liberty Avenue remembering those lost to AIDS

in the "First AIDS Candlelight Memorial and March". In early June, after more than a year of lobbying and a national campaign directed at the Prime-Minister, the government party announces a domestic partnership bill to recognize the rights of homosexual couples (excluding adoption), sparking a national debate over the issue. The voting on the bill, for political reasons, was postponed till January 1998. Later, on June the 28th, in Lisbon again, Portugal's first Pride Festival was held successfully attracting an attendance of close to 3000 people. In August, the first AIDS awareness and prevention leaflets targeting the gay and lesbian community in Portugal, were published by our organization with the financial aid of the Health Ministry.

From September 13th to September 28th, Europe's largest Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (in terms of the number of films shown - 66 different films), the "Lisbon's First Gay and Lesbian Film Festival", is attracting large crowds to theaters, selling-out almost all the screenings in this 15-day festival. The festival is being staged in three different theaters across the city and has the patronage of the Lisbon Mayor. By the end of the film fest, it is predicted that approximately 5000 people will have attended the event.

Later this year, on October the 20th, Portugal's first Gay and Lesbian Community Center will open to the public in Lisbon's city center. The community center will have one-on-one (as well as telephone) legal, medical and psychological support and counselling; it will be equipped with a coffee-shop, a documentation center, a library, an internet access point and a small bookstore. The large space where the community center will be functioning was given to our organization by the City Council and a grand opening with the Mayor's presence is already confirmed.

These happenings were unthinkable in Portugal in 1995, when the gay and lesbian community were at a total void. Just two years ago there were no gay and/or lesbian organizations and the concept of community was something we were used to witnessing in other developed countries. The radical and sheer speed with which the homosexual movement has developed over the past 24 months even manages to surprise us. Gay owned and gay-friendly businesses are starting to pop up at a steady rate, increasing the overall quality of life of the community. The Portuguese miracle seems to be well on its way...

Gays Win Appeal In Hostel Case

(Washington Blade) -- The Tokyo High Court on September 16 rejected an appeal from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to overturn a lower court ruling forcing the city to allow gays to stay at a government-run youth hostel. The ruling is the latest in a case that represents Japan's first gay civil rights court battle.

According to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), the case stems from a

1990 incident in which three openly gay men were barred from staying at the Fuchu Youth Activity Center in Tokyo. Authorities said they feared the men would violate a policy forbidding sexual relations on the premises.

IGLHRC said that after the men had spent two nights at the center, the other patrons began harassing them. When the men informed the center's superintendent of that harassment, he threw them out of the hostel and barred them from returning.

IGLHRC said that the superintendent told the men at the time, "Several homosexuals staying in the same room inevitably makes me afraid that something is going on."

The men petitioned the Tokyo Board of Education, which administers local youth hostels, to nullify the superintendent's action. But the board ruled that gays were to be banned from staying at all Tokyo youth hostels because their presence would hinder the "sound development of youth," according to IGLHRC.

IGLHRC said that in 1991 the men filed suit with the Tokyo District Court charging the Tokyo government with violating their human rights and discriminating against gays. The Tokyo government argued that its "separate sexes, separate rooms" rule for youth hostels can be interpreted to prevent gays from staying in the same room since they may be attracted to one another. The government said the men were thrown out of the center based on this rule. In addition, said IGLHRC, the government argued that the Board of Education has "discretionary powers" in determining what promotes "sound development" of youth.

The court did not issue a ruling on the case until 1994. That ruling said that the actions of both the superintendent and the Board of Education were discriminatory and ordered the government to pay compensation to the men.

In upholding that ruling, the Tokyo High Court said that the "separate sexes, separate rooms" rule cannot be applied to gays because it unfairly prevents them from using the hostel and rejected the claim that the board's discretionary powers allowed it to bar gays.

According to a press release from OCCUR, a Tokyo gay male and lesbian association, the ruling stated that government agencies are "obligated to pay careful attention to the situation of homosexuals as a minority and guarantee that their rights and interests be upheld. Indifference and ignorance regarding homosexuality are inexcusable on the part of persons in the position of wielding governmental authority."

The government had two weeks from the date of that ruling to appeal it to Japan's supreme court.

New Campaign: Cancer Council Targets Lesbians

(Sydney Star Observer) — In Australia a new campaign is focusing on lesbians who may be putting themselves at risk of developing cervical cancer by not having regular Pap tests.

Victoria's Anti-Cancer Council has launched a booklet



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aimed at dispelling the myths surrounding lesbians, sex and cervical cancer.

PapScreen Victoria spokesperson and nurse practitioner Sandy Anderson said while heterosexual women had long been encouraged to have a Pap test every two years, the message for lesbians has been somewhat confused. "There is the belief that because lesbians don't have sex with men they are not at risk of cervical cancer," Anderson said.

"The fact is most lesbians have had sex with men at some time in their lives — meaning they could have been exposed to human papilloma virus (HPV or wart virus), a risk factor for cervical cancer." And according to Anderson, HPV or wart virus can be transmitted by female to female sexual contact.

Each year in Australia 1,000 women develop cervical cancer, and approximately 340 women die from it, however because there is no research into whether lesbians get cervical cancer, it is assumed lesbians have the same risks as heterosexual women.

The brochure is aimed primarily at lesbians, however a wide range of health care professionals and other groups were consulted as part of its production, meaning its message has already spread far and wide.

"Many lesbians and health care practitioners believe lesbians don't need Pap tests — that somehow being a lesbian is protection against problems like cervical cancer and sexually transmitted diseases. It isn't the case," the brochure says.

It provides information on where to get a Pap test, facts on cervical cancer, finding a suitable doctor or practitioner, disclosing your sexuality, how to answer questions on your sexual history, and what to do if you are discriminated against.

Anderson said lesbians were often afraid of disclosing their sexuality to their doctor. "Given that Pap tests are based on sexual history, the doctor may be making decisions about whether to do the test based on flawed information," she said.

"Many doctors and other health care practitioners also have a lack of understanding of the lesbian lifestyle ... and if a lesbian has a bad experience in getting a Pap test, that will become a great barrier against them returning to get another test in the future."

Apart from lesbians, other underscreened, or unscreened groups to be targeted in similar campaigns include Koori women, women from non-English speaking backgrounds, Vietnamese women and rural women.

The New South Wales Cervical Screening Program at Sydney's Westmead Hospital has established an advisory group of health care practitioners to

consider whether to publish the Victorian brochure, or a revised version, in NSW.

Senior Recruitment and Education coordinator Kris Ashpole said the brochure will be circulated to relevant groups, and then released to the NSW public in December.

Businesses Settling Hawaii Lawsuit

(NewsPlanet) — A settlement is in progress in the lawsuit filed by five of Hawaii's largest employers to avoid extending spousal benefits to employees' "reciprocal beneficiaries," couples who have used the state's registry established July 1 to recognize the relationships between essentially any two people unable to legally marry each other for about one-seventh of the benefits of legal marriage. The settlement in effect confirms an interpretation made by state attorney general Margery Bronster after the lawsuit had been filed, in which the requirement to provide coverage for reciprocal beneficiaries applies only to companies contracting directly with private insurance carriers, as opposed to health maintenance organizations (HMO's) or member-owned group health associations (GHA's). In creating the reciprocal beneficiaries law, the legislature did not modify the code sections affecting the HMO's and GHA's which are believed to provide health care for all but some 2,000 of the state's workers.

Federal judge David Ezra is willing to confirm the agreement but asked for some rewriting to clarify that he had not made a judgment regarding the private insurance carriers. Although it is not a ruling and does not appear in the settlement, Ezra indicated his agreement with the plaintiffs — Bank of Hawai'i, C. Brewer & Co., Theo H. Davies & Co., Hawaiian Electric Industries, and Outrigger Hotels and Resorts — that a federal law to maintain uniformity in health coverage took precedence over the state's reciprocal beneficiaries law and allowed employers to determine their own benefits packages.

Plaintiffs' counsel John D'Amato told the press, "This settlement was a surprise. We would have preferred to reach a decision on the merits, but now we have relief

for the foreseeable future." The companies had feared costs in the millions for extending benefits to employees' unmarried partners, envisioning single employees auctioning off the couples' benefits on the Internet. To date, only 234 couples have been reported to have registered as reciprocal beneficiaries in Hawaii, 18 of them involving an out-of-state partner.

This agreement's bar to health insurance benefits for most non-traditional couples may actually support the "Baehr v. Miike" lawsuit to establish legal marriage for same-gender pairs in Hawaii, according to Dan Foley, attorney for the gay and lesbian plaintiffs. Health coverage was one factor that the courts had given some specific consideration to as the case progressed, and Foley believes that the current settlement suggests that legal marriage is the only way to ensure that same-gender couples can receive this major benefit. The marriage case's final review by the state Supreme Court is pending but not yet scheduled.

The troublesome concept of reciprocal beneficiaries has generally been attributed to state Representative Terence Tom, who hadn't wanted the new law (part of a compromise which is also expected to ultimately reserve legal marriage for traditional heterosexual couples by means of an amendment to the state constitution) to be limited to same-gender domestic partners. But it's looking more and more as if next year's legislative session will return to that more familiar domestic partners category in search of a way around the federal benefits law. The business community is much more ready to accommodate domestic partners coverage because it allows for more stringent restrictions than the current reciprocal beneficiaries, and even some of the plaintiff employers have discussed adopting such coverage.

Sex Changes OK in Brazil Hospitals

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) - Brazil's Federal Medical Council approved a resolution allowing sex change operations to be performed in public hospitals, it said last month.

Under the new guidelines, certain patients over the age of 21 who have been in consultation with a team of doctors, including psychotherapists and social workers, for at least two years may be approved for the operation. It will be performed free of charge at university or public hospitals.

Council President Waldir Mesquita said the surgery will benefit those who find psychotherapy or other recommended treatments unhelpful.

The resolution removes a legal obstacle for surgeons who had wanted to perform the operations but could not under guidelines that deemed sex change operations mutilation, a crime punishable by imprisonment.

"With this decision we are saying that transsexuality is not against the law. Today techniques are sufficiently developed to demonstrate that the surgery is not mutilation," Mesquita told reporters.

According to the resolution's author, Dr. Julio Cesar Gomes, the screening of prospective candidates for sex changes will be rigorous and the operations "will not be performed simply because of a homosexual's aesthetic considerations."

The operations will not be conducted in private hospitals because "we have to perfect the techniques and we want to avoid commercial exploitation," said Gomes.

Scandinavia - Adoption Rights For Gay Couples On The Horizon

(Darren Spedale) -- According to the Swedish Newspaper Aftonbladet, as well as representatives at the Swedish Gay organization RFSL, the Social Democratic Party in Sweden voted at their September 13-14 general assembly to support the rights of gays and lesbians to adopt children.

The Social Democrats are currently in control of the government in Sweden and have approximately 45% of the seats in the parliament. This means that they are in a very good position to pursue the issue and can most likely have their way.

The resolution, according to the article, was directed towards the rights of gays and lesbians to adopt children not related to either partner, which is to say children without an official parent.

According to a representative of RFSL, the Social Democrats' resolution at the assembly basically stated that sexual orientation should not be a hindrance to the right to adopt in Sweden. This would mean that gay couples would also have the right to adopt children. According to Mona Sahlin, the "point woman" for the Social Democrats on family issues: "We politicians can't choose who should have the right to be parents. Many homosexuals today have children."

The most likely outcome of this resolution will be the seating of a parliamentary committee to look into the issue of gay adoption. It is also hoped that the committee will look into other issues involving parental rights for gays and lesbians, including artificial insemination and stepchild adoption (adoption of one partner's child by the non-biological partner.)

According to Mona Sahlin, as well as an RFSL representative, such a report and its recommendations could be finished as early as 1999, meaning that gay couples could have parental rights, including adoption and artificial insemination, in just 2 years' time.

Furthermore, the decision by the Social Democrats in Sweden will put additional pressure on the other Nordic governments to follow suit. A long history of Nordic cooperation in the area of family law means that Sweden's lead should open the doors to gay and lesbian parental rights in its Nordic neighbors. This is especially true in Denmark, where the Social Democrats form the largest governmental party, and the issue of gay and lesbian parental rights has been debated for some time (although gay couples recently faced a setback by the parliament's

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decision this summer to prohibit lesbian insemination).

Korean Government Cancels Queer Film Festival

(Aaron Krach/indieWIRE) -- The 1st Seoul Queer Film and Video Festival, scheduled from September 19 -25, was shut down by the Korean Government the day before it was to begin. Government officials ordered the festival closed, saying the organizers had not registered the event with them. The statement threatened seizure of all equipment, a \$22,000 fine and a three year prison sentence if the festival began.

The festival was set to unspool in the Tongmun Theater on the campus of Yonsei University. In addition to the government cancellation, the University threatened to cut the power to the theater if the festival tried to open. University officials reported that Alumni, who's funds help build the theater, did not want the film festival to take place there.

The cancellation was a serious blow to organizers who had spent, "thousands of hours of work, not only to organize the festival but also to try and find a way to hold it legally," explained Seo Dongjin, Festival Programmer. "There is a clear double standard at work here, for the same authorities are allowing the 2nd Pusan International Film Festival to screen "homosexual-related films" as part of their selection; including Tsai Minliang's *The River* and Stanley Kwan's *Time Goes By*," he continued.

Although the Korean government has allowed those films to be shown, Wong Kar-Wai's most recent film *Happy Together* has been banned in Korea. National censorship authorities said the film "is not relevant to the emotional life of the Korean people."

In Dramatic Change, Gays Are Winning Acceptance in Argentina

(Washington Post) -- It's going to take Oscar Mercado a little more time, he says, before it really sinks in. After all, when he was teenager in 1950s Buenos Aires, the government here arrested him for being gay. And for years, Mercado and his partner of 27 years, as homosexuals, did not have the right to vote.

But now, four years after his companion's death, the Argentine government is willing to recognize their longtime union. Mercado, now 62, is one of the first 20 gay men and lesbians to apply under a new official policy here that offers the same spousal retirement benefits to gay couples as to heterosexuals. The new measure will give Mercado the pension owed to his deceased partner,

who worked in a cigarette factory for three decades.

"I still can't believe it," Mercado said. "I honestly did not think I would ever live to see this day in Argentina." "It's amazing," he added, "what democracy can do."

In a country where, little more than a decade ago, police and military officials routinely arrested citizens on the mere suspicion of being homosexual, the now democratized society is undergoing a dramatic about-face.

The most striking example of change in this predominantly Roman Catholic country came in May, when the Argentine government extended spousal retirement benefits to homosexual couples who have lived together for at least five years -- granting them the same rights recently given to unmarried heterosexual couples. The move came after three of the nation's largest labor unions, representing teachers, airlines and retail employees, extended spousal pension provisions to the surviving partner of a deceased gay worker.

In cosmopolitan Buenos Aires, where local gay rights advocates say tolerance remains higher than in the Argentine provinces, a law that forbade same-sex couples from renting hotel rooms was taken off the books last month as the mayor cited the right to "free sexuality."

The legal measures underscore a dramatic bloom in gay culture here. Last week, a new gay-themed magazine called *Diez Por ciento* (10 Percent), a name that refers to the belief that one out of 10 people in the world is gay, began appearing on the city's newsstands. At least two popular Argentine television dramas now portray gay characters in a positive way; both have featured male and female same-sex kisses.

In May, *Noticias*, the nation's largest general-circulation news magazine, showed two lesbians on its cover, heralding a story about "Argentina, Sexuality and Change."

"We are having a cultural revolution unlike any other in Latin America," said Cristian Cravello, co-founder of *Diez Por ciento*, which focuses on gay fashion, music, art and pop culture. "As this country is modernizing, and becoming linked with the Internet and communication from around the globe, our attitudes are becoming more modern and more accepting."

Those attitudes are obvious on the fashionable Santa Fe Avenue in Buenos Aires's upscale Barrio Norte, where gay youths gather openly on well-lit corners on weekend nights while slick-dressed men hand out coupons and fliers to gay discos, restaurants and cafes.

"There is a sense that this country is no longer scandalized by the issue of gays," said Paul Kirzner, commercial director of Pol-Ka Productions, producers of the popular television show "Truth/Consequences,"

which has a gay male character as one of the leads.

It wasn't always that way here. As with much of Latin America, gay society was hidden in the shadows for years, as gays were officially persecuted and viewed as diseased citizens and religious outcasts. Gays and lesbians were barred from holding public office, and were among the thousands who disappeared during the "Dirty War" conducted by Argentina's military dictatorships from 1976 to 1983.

Given that past, the current shift in Argentina has longtime gay rights advocate Rafael Freda shaking his head in wonder.

"All of it would have been absolutely unheard of five or 10 years ago," said Freda, president of the Gay and Lesbian Integration Society of Argentina. "They would have been too busy arresting us to grant us Social Security benefits."

Although tolerance for homosexuals and lesbians here has not reached the level of the most liberal U.S. and European cities, social acceptance is now arguably the highest in Spanish-speaking Latin America, where gay people frequently are forced to lead secret lives for fear of social ostracism, experts say. But local advocates say that public opinion on the issue has outpaced official policy here for years.

In 1992, for instance, a public outcry followed a statement by Cardinal Antonio Quarracino, considered

the most conservative member of Argentina's Roman Catholic hierarchy, calling for the deportation of homosexuals.

Moreover, a national poll showed a majority disagreeing with the church on homosexuality. Catholic authorities remain opposed to the acceptance of gay society. Leading members of the church have protested the decision to extend retirement benefits to surviving members of gay couples, calling it "a legal and moral absurdity" and "offensive to widows and widowers coming from healthy and clean marriages." Gay rights advocates say pressure from the church is delaying payments to the first 20 applicants for spousal benefits.

Gay rights advocates add that despite their huge strides in the 13 years since the military dictatorship fell, many more obstacles exist. For instance, laws barring homosexuals from the military remain on the books.

And although acceptance has increased, it is far from absolute. For instance, *Diez Por ciento's* Cravello said many local business interests have resisted advertising in the magazine.

Yet many members of the gay community here oppose the militant methods used elsewhere by radical gay rights groups. They say they prefer to portray themselves simply as ordinary people.

"We are not seeking special treatment, simply the same treatment," said Freda. "We are finally on the way to

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winning that. I see it as an important step toward personal freedom in Argentina."

Viral Rebound Reported Under AIDS Combination-Therapy

TORONTO -- The Los Angeles Times reports the effectiveness of combination drug therapy in the ongoing battle against AIDS is showing signs of failure in about half of those treated. The report suggests the AIDS virus is living up to disease experts' darkest expectations and developing resistance to the new therapies.

"Over the past year we've had a honeymoon period," Dr. Steven Deeks told the Times. "The epidemic will likely split in two, and for half the people we will need new therapeutic options."

The advent of protease inhibitors dramatically altered the AIDS landscape when introduced into treatment regimens. Used in combination with AZT and 3TC, the potent new "drug-cocktails" knocked the virus to below detectable levels in the body. Many patients who were near death staged miraculous comebacks, growing stronger and returning to work.

Experts have warned the virus could yet stage a comeback, and according to the report presented September 29 at the American Society of Microbiology, that is precisely what has occurred in about half of those under study.

Deeks and his colleagues studied 136 cases of people who began protease treatment in March 1996. After a little more than a year, 53 percent again showed detectable signs of virus in their bodies. No one at this stage knows what kind of impact this will have.

"All of our 'failures' are clinically feeling very well," Deeks told the Times. "It is very important to understand we have no idea of the prognosis of people who have resistant virus."

The Times also spoke with Dr. David Ho of the Aaron Diamond Research Center in New York. Dr. Ho said that for people who began therapy while relatively healthy and who had not used other AIDS medications, failure "almost always" meant they did not take their pills on schedule. Even missing a few doses, said Ho, could ruin the treatment.

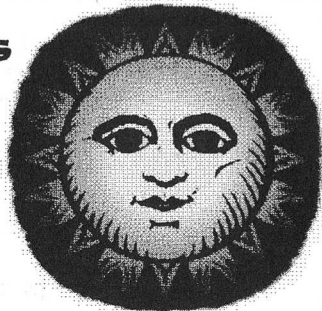
The carefully controlled studies run by pharmaceutical companies show a far lower rate of viral resurgence and demonstrate, many hope, the true potential of the combination therapy if administered properly. Among the longest-running of these is a study of 28 patients at New York University. After more than two years, the virus is still undetectable in 22 of them, or 79 percent.

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First Pride Parade In Hungary

(Rex Wockner) -- About 400 people staged Hungary's first gay-pride parade Sept. 6 in Budapest's busiest shopping district.

They carried pink triangles, rainbow flags and signs reading, "Proud To Be Gay" and "Equal Rights For Homosexuals."

Halfway through the two-kilometer march, the group stopped at Vorosmarty Square -- the traditional site for demonstrations in Budapest -- to hear a speech by Hungarian Radio's Balazs Palfi, one of the nation's few openly gay public figures.

He urged the marchers to accept their gayness and come out of the closet.

Passersby and onlookers were surprised but tolerant, participants said. There were no anti-gay incidents. The police cooperated fully.

After the march, the group descended on Capella Cafe for a show and all-night dancing.

"In Hungary, where laws are liberal but public opinion still fairly conservative and suspicious of 'otherness,' this march may be the beginning of a gradual process of acceptance and integration," said a correspondent from the Hungarian gay magazine MASOK.

The events were organized by Lambda Budapest and Meleg Hatter (Gay Background).

Dutch Lesbian Adoption Rejected

Holland's Supreme Court Sept. 5 refused to allow a lesbian couple to adopt each other's children, who were conceived via artificial insemination. The women, named in court as Van Ijzendoor and Louman, plan to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

"Our children are the victims in this affair," they said in a statement. "In everyday life, they are brother and sister but society does not grant them any rights which go with this."

The Netherlands is often considered the most gay-friendly nation in the world.

Bishops Urge Parents to Accept Gay Children

(Reuters) - U.S. Catholic bishops released a pastoral letter October 1 urging parents to accept, love and respect their homosexual children and warning that rejection could lead to substance abuse or suicide.

The message, described as an "outstretched hand" to parents who learn that their children are gay, was developed by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' committee on marriage and family. It was approved by the bishops' administrative board at a meeting Sept. 9-11.

"Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers," said the fundamental rights of homosexual men and women were to be respected and defended.

"All of us must strive to eliminate any form of injustice, oppression, or violence against them," the message said.

While it urged acceptance of homosexual orientations, it continued to insist that sexual intercourse be limited to man and wife within a marriage.

The bishops said multiple factors seemed to account for a homosexual orientation and said it was "generally ... experienced as a given, not as something freely chosen."

"By itself, therefore, a homosexual orientation cannot be considered sinful, for morality presumes the freedom to choose," the letter continued.

But it went on to underscore the importance of chastity as "a way of respecting personal dignity."

Living and loving chastely, the bishops continued, meant that sexual intercourse was limited to marriage between a man and a woman.

It highlighted friendship as "a way of loving" and said friendship "outside of genital sexual involvement" should be an integral part of a homosexual person's life.

The bishops underscored Catholic catechism that states homosexual persons "must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity," and said the letter was meant to translate that message into a useful form for parents and families.

The letter notes that parents need to accept themselves and their own struggle, to accept and love their children and to accept God's revelation about human dignity and sexuality.

"Your child may need you and the family now more than ever. He or she is still the same person," the bishops said, noting that parents can often experience anger, relief, guilt and fear after learning of their child's sexual orientation.

The letter urged parents to seek counseling for themselves and their children, cautioning that a person's right to choose or refuse therapy needed to be respected.

The message also included recommendations for priests, noting that "all homosexual persons have a right to be welcomed into the community, to hear the Word of God, and to receive pastoral care."


Germany May Pay Nazi Victims

(NewsPlanet) -- The original wearers of the pink triangle, who survived the concentration camps but were not liberated from anti-gay laws until 1969, may get compensation -- if they're still alive...and if they're out.

Openly gay Member of Parliament Volker Beck led a legislative initiative October 1 by his Green Party and the Social Democrats (SPD) to require the German parliament to apologize to, rehabilitate and compensate gay male victims of the Nazi Holocaust. Similar past efforts were blocked by Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU), but this time that party is indicating that it will listen with an open mind.

Although it's commonly accepted that 10-15,000 gay men died in the Holocaust, estimates range as high as one million. The counting is complicated by the fact that those men were still considered to be criminals after liberation, so many did what they could to hide their identities. In fact, the Nazi government's Paragraph 175 that was used to convict some 50,000 men from 1935-1945 remained on the books until 1969. None of the more than 100-billion marks Germany has paid to Nazi victims in reparations over the last 50 years has gone to gay survivors, the original wearers of the pink triangle. Beck believes only 20-30 gay concentration camp survivors are still alive today. Only one has gone public to date.

"The homosexual victims of the Nazi era deserve to be rehabilitated and compensated for their suffering. We want parliament to apologize to the homosexuals," Beck told the media. The SPD's Juergen Meyer said, "There is no time to waste. We will not let the government delay the reparations issue any longer because of financial



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reasons."

The CDU's legal specialist Eckart von Klaeden said, "The fact that Paragraph 175 was on the books until 1969 is a blemish on German history. It was wrong to punish homosexuals, it was not humane and it was in violation of international human rights accords. But the question of whether homosexuals persecuted in the Nazi era should be rehabilitated or even compensated has to be examined further. We are not strictly opposed. It needs more examination."

Elsewhere, a private Swiss effort established earlier this year to compensate Holocaust victims and their families agreed to include gay victims among its beneficiaries, at the urging of the gay and lesbian group Pink Cross.

FBI Releases New Sketch In Probe of Atlanta Bombings

ATLANTA (CNN) -- Authorities have released the sketch of a bearded man seen at a gay nightclub before a bomb exploded there in February, and admit it closely resembles an earlier sketch of a man seen near a double bombing at a women's health clinic five weeks earlier.

"I do think the sketches look remarkably similar, but we just don't know whether it's the same picture or not," FBI spokesman Jay Spadafore said Oct 2.

The sketches, which are based on witness accounts, have been distributed in the areas where the bombings occurred, and will soon be handed out throughout Atlanta by volunteers. The first computer-generated sketch, made public in June, was drawn from witness descriptions of a man with a full gray beard seen outside the Sandy Springs clinic near Atlanta where abortions are performed. The picture was one of two: The other was of a dark-skinned man wearing a hood. Two bombs exploded at the clinic January 16.

The most recent picture is based on a waitress's description of a man seen at Atlanta's Otherside Lounge before the initial explosion on February 21. Later, a second bomb was found nearby and detonated by police.

The waitress, who works at an adult nightclub across the street, noticed the man because he appeared unfazed after the explosion, and paid little attention to the resulting confusion inside and outside the club.

The FBI are not calling the men in the sketches suspects, but say they only want to talk to them, sources told CNN.

Federal officials have said they're almost sure that at least the 1997 bombings, which injured about a dozen people, are linked, and they are increasingly confident the same person or group was responsible for the Olympic explosion. The FBI also suspects that law enforcement officials who rushed to the scenes may have been the real target.

With a \$500,000 reward offered for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the cases, investigators hope people will take notice.

Open Lesbian Given White House Post



Virginia M. Apuzzo

WASHINGTON -- Longtime lesbian and gay rights advocate Virginia M. Apuzzo has been appointed as assistant to the president for management and budget, making her the highest-ranking openly gay official ever to serve in the federal government.

Apuzzo will direct all the management and administration functions of the White House and have oversight responsibilities for all agencies of the executive office of the president.

Since 1996, Apuzzo has been associate deputy secretary of labor at the U.S. Department of Labor. Before joining the administration, she was president of the New York State Civil Service Commission and commissioner of the New York State Department of Civil Service.

From 1985 to 1991, Apuzzo served as deputy director of the New York State Consumer Protection Board and served for three years as the governor's liaison to the gay and lesbian community.

British Lesbians Win Round in Discrimination Case

(Data Lounge) LONDON -- The Associated Press reports a lesbian couple battling the British government for the same benefits and privileges provided their straight coworkers won an important victory in European courts on October 1.

Advocate-general Michael Elmer issued a non-binding opinion on behalf of Lisa Grant, a lesbian denied spousal benefits for her partner by a state owned rail subsidiary, South West Trains. The case was first argued in July, with Grant represented by Cherie Booth, the wife of Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Before the European Court of Justice, Booth claimed the refusal to provide the benefit (worth some \$1,680 a year) violated European rules on equal pay.

"But for the fact she was a woman," Booth told the 12-member court, "Lisa Grant would have been 1,000 pounds better off a year." She noted Grant's predecessor in the position, a man, had no problem securing the benefit for his live-in girlfriend.

In the opinion issued, Elmer ruled the company had discriminated against Grant "in as much as employees must be of the opposite sex to their co-habitantes." He said that the travel privileges were part of Grant's pay package, which was protected by European Union Law.

If the full European Court of Justice agrees with Elmer's finding, it could force changes in Britain's employment, pension, and social security laws with regard to gay and lesbian partners. A ruling is expected later this year.

Push To Overturn Sodomy Law

TOPEKA, Kansas: The American Civil Liberties Union has urged the Kansas Court of Appeals to overturn the States same sex sodomy law, arguing that it violates the equal protection and privacy rights of lesbians and gay men.

"This is one of the most unabashedly discriminatory laws our nation has ever seen," said Matt Coles, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, who argued the case September 16.

"According to the state of Kansas, the sex lives of heterosexuals are their own business; they can do as they please," Coles said. "But the state takes a different view of lesbians and gay men. If lesbians and gay men agree to have oral sex together, they are criminals."

"If a law ever denied equal protection, this one does,"

Coles added.

The case involves Max D. Movsovit, a self-employed artist who was criminally charged on April 28, 1995 with violating a Topeka law which prohibits soliciting or agreeing to have sodomy - oral or anal sex.

According to the record in the case, Movsovit had gone to the park to enjoy a balmy spring afternoon and finish some paperwork when an undercover police officer pulled up alongside in a car and struck up a conversation. Several minutes into their exchange, the officer steered the conversation toward sex, asking questions about whether Movsovit would engage in oral sex with another man. When Movsovit said he would, the officer flashed his badge and issued a citation for "solicitation of sodomy."

In 1995 a state municipal court found Movsovit guilty of violating the Topeka solicitation law, which, like the state sodomy law, only applies to lesbians and gay men. The validity of the local law depends on the constitutionality of the state ban. Movsovit was fined \$499 and placed on probation.

The ACLU said that the judgment against Movsovit should be overturned, and the law ruled unconstitutional because it violates the equal protection and privacy guarantees of both the state and federal Constitutions.

"The government may not create one set of criminal rules for lesbians and gay men, and an entirely different set of rules for every one else," Coles said. "Laws like that violate our most basic understanding of equal protection"

Twenty-one states in the country still have sodomy laws on the books, but only six of those states, including Kansas, have laws limited to same-sex acts. Nearly half the states have repealed their sodomy laws through legislation and the rest have been struck down by courts. Most recently, the Montana Supreme Court invalidated its same-sex sodomy law in July, in a case where the ACLU appeared as a friend of the court.

Few people are ever convicted for criminal sodomy, the ACLU said. Instead, these laws are primarily used to deny lesbians and gay men a range of other rights. Some states, for instance, have invoked sodomy laws to deny lesbians and gay men jobs, while others have used them to separate children from their gay mothers and fathers.

"We will continue to challenge sodomy laws until every last one has been eliminated," said Coles. "These laws are a throwback to the dark ages, and a constant threat to basic civil liberties."

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Banana Trial Adjourned

ZIMBABWE: The trial of former Zimbabwean president Canaan Banana, on charges of sodomy and indecent assault was adjourned on September 30 while the judge considers a defence application for the case to be thrown out of court, according to the South African Guardian newspaper.

Banana faces trial on 11 counts of sodomy, attempted sodomy and indecent assault involving seven aides, a cook, a gardener and a bodyguard.

At the start of the trial Banana's lawyers applied for the charges to be dropped on the grounds that pre-trial publicity had prejudiced his right to a fair hearing. Some of that publicity includes graphic accounts of how the former president allegedly forced a young aide to submit to oral and anal sex against his will.

Clinton At Gay Dinner

WASHINGTON: For the very first time a US President will speak at a gay and lesbian civil rights event.

President Clinton will be the guest speaker at the Human Rights Campaign's major dinner and awards night for 1997.

HRC's Executive Director Elizabeth Birch said: "President Clinton's participation at this event will be historic. The President's attendance will mark the first time a sitting President has participated at a gay and lesbian civil rights event."

Ellen DeGeneres and her partner Anne Heche will also be attending the dinner where Ellen will receive an the HRC National Civil Rights Award for her very public outing this year.

Lesbian Killer Faces Death

OREGON: A man who admitted to killing lesbian couple Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill could receive the death penalty.

Robert Acremant tried to get money out of the two women who refused. Acremant bound and gagged the women and threw them into the back of an old pick-up truck. He then shot both women in the back of the head.

After the lengthy court trial a jury is currently considering if Acremant should spend the rest of his life in jail or receive the death penalty. Acremant told police that he knew the women were lesbians and figured they

wouldn't be missed because they wouldn't have any family. He also admitted to writing a letter to a local newspaper saying he killed the women because he hated homosexuals and bisexuals.

Acremant is reported as wanting to be executed by lethal injection rather than life in prison but has since instructed his attorney to request a life sentence without parole. His request was later denied.

Victoria Park Bashers Appear In Court

(Outlook) Kitchener - Courtroom 5 at the Frederick St. courthouse was the scene for the beginnings of a trial that would see John A. Tait and Paul Stephens, both of Kitchener face three counts each of assault, rather than deal with hate crime legislation. This controversial move on the part of the Crown at the last minute, has garnered a petition to change the assault charges to that of a hate crime. The courtroom was totally packed as the two were given a new trial date which is Monday, November 3rd, in courtroom 5 at the Frederick St. courthouse at 9:00am for their plea hearing. The victims would appreciate any support. As an aside to the trial, the petition for the charge change is available at ACCKWA, 123 Duke St. E.

UFMCC's Perry Receives Invitation To White House Conference On Hate Crimes

National Conference To Be Held November 10, 1997 More Than 20 UFMCC Churches Bombed, Arsoned!

Los Angeles -- The Rev. Troy D. Perry, founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the world's largest gay and lesbian spirituality organization, has received an invitation to participate in the upcoming White House Conference on Hate Crimes on November 10, 1997.

The conference was announced in June by US President Bill Clinton during an address to the nation in which he called for all Americans to "use the full talents of all of our people, regardless of race or religious faith, national origin or sexual orientation, gender or disability."

The White House Conference on Hate Crimes will explore both federal options for addressing hate crimes as well as community-based remedies. In a letter to the President, Perry

noted that, "UFMCC members and congregations have suffered a two-fold victimization by hate crimes -- crimes against our worship facilities because of our faith and crimes against our predominantly gay and lesbian members because of their sexual orientation.

"Since its founding in 1968, more than 20 UFMCC churches have been bombed or arsoned," said Perry, "while many others have been vandalized, desecrated or threatened. Proportionally, no other institution in America has been the recipient of as much arson, bombing, vandalism and desecration motivated by hate crimes as have the churches of UFMCC. An astounding and shocking seven percent of our congregations have been targets of bombing or arson."

Perry will represent the more than 42,000 members of UFMCC congregations at the White House Conference. "I intend to use my voice to call for enactment of broad protections for our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered citizens," said Perry.

UFMCC was founded in 1968 by 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 participation in the White House Conference on Hate Crimes is available by e-mail from info@ufmccchq.com.

A Partial, Representative Listing of Hate Crimes Committed Against the Congregations of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches During Its 30 Year History

-A UFMCC church building in Sacramento, California sustained \$600,000 in damages due to arson.

-A fire at a UFMCC congregation in New Orleans, Louisiana claimed the lives of

more than 30 persons, including the church's pastor. -UFMCC's "Mother Church" in Los Angeles sustained \$90,000 in arson damages.

-MCC San Francisco's worship facility endured \$100,000 in arson damages. Threats to the pastor's life were scrawled on the church door.

-A UFMCC congregation in Texas was victimized by a hate campaign of threats by the Ku Klux Klan.

-A UFMCC church facility in St. Petersburg, FL sustained \$34,000 in arson damages.

-A UFMCC church in Santa Monica, California sustained \$20,000 in fire damages in the aftermath of a hate-filled, telephone threat.

-During 1996, stained glass windows at the UFMCC church in Richmond, Virginia, were smashed by hate crime vandals.

-In 1997, the UFMCC church in Bradenton, Florida has been repeatedly desecrated with spray-painted swastikas.

Lesbian Avengers Blast Promise Keepers' Hate Agenda

UnChristian Men's Movement Leader: "Homosexuality Can't Be Excused!" Lesbian Political Action Group Stages Pointed Protest on the Mall

(GayToday) -- On Saturday, October 4th, Lesbian Avengers from across the US, including chapters from as far away as Denver, Colorado, Boston, Massachusetts

and Baltimore, converged at noon on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to expose and protest the Promise Keepers' anti-gay political agenda.

Wire reports tell of four women who took off their shirts and marched bare-breasted into the crowds of neo-Christian males. Some of the men, according to the reports, turned quickly to their Bibles while others simply stared at the women.

A security guard perturbed by the sights approached U.S. Park Police Major J.J. McLaughlin and fervently beseeched that an arrest be made.

"Bare breasts are OK," replied the Major, "in the District...they'd have to do a lot more than that to get arrested."

In the meantime, speakers on a stage resembling a temple from Biblical times, gushed

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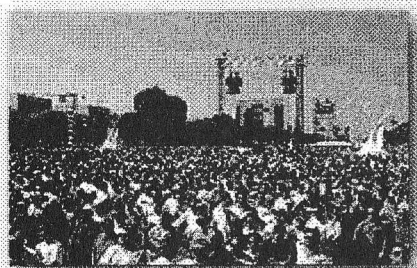
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Promise Keepers Washington D.C.

unashamedly about their sins, including racism, unChristian interdenominational rivalry, and regularly dumping their wives and families.

Homosexuality, however, was described by the group's leader and founder, former football coach Bill McCartney, as "the sin that cannot be excused."

The equality of the sexes was also somehow lost on Promise Keeper Coach McCartney, who, when asked about decision-making in the home, replied, "Somebody's got to break the tie," and it's the male who should "tenderly and gently" assert his leadership.

The Avengers fashioned unique personas at the Promise Keepers' "Stand in the Gap" rally. Appearing as Super Lesbians, they broke the barriers of invisibility, leaping over hate, as they put it, in a single bound.

The Avengers' direct action protest was meant to demonstrate member Avengers' refusals to be persecuted or to become invisible, which are vital components of the hidden political agenda of the ultra-right wing Christian fundamentalist group, which hopes to scare lesbians and gay males back into the closet.

"As a lesbian, I see the Promise Keepers challenging my very existence. The Promise Keepers want to keep gays shut in the closet, and they've created a well-funded, highly-organized political movement to attempt to make their archaic vision a reality," said Marina Colby, a spokesperson for the Lesbian Avengers.

The Promise Keepers is a conservative religious and political organization focused on asserting Christian fundamentalist values at home and in public life. Although they have asserted that their group is apolitical, their anti-gay political agenda is central to their plans.

Unlike many mainstream Christians, the Promise Keepers teach that homosexuality is a sin according to their bible, and that every man's duty is to work toward restoring the nation to "biblical values." Promise Keepers' CEO McCartney, was a leading proponent of Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2, and has publicly described homosexuals as "stark raving mad."

The DC Lesbian Avengers, which helped organize the Avenger protest, is a non-violent, direct action group focused on issues vital to lesbian visibility and survival.

The Avengers execute direct actions to expose homophobia in American society and to hasten queer liberation.

Supreme Court Rejects Gays-in-Military Appeal

WASHINGTON (Reuter) - The Supreme Court Oct. 6 rejected a legal challenge to President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy that allows gays to be discharged from the military.

The action marked the third time in the past year the high court has refused to get involved in the legal battles over the policy, which took effect after Congress adopted a law in 1993 relaxing the military's 50-year ban on gays.

Under the compromise reached between Congress and the Clinton administration, the military cannot question members or recruits about their sexual orientation, but overt homosexual acts or statements can lead to discharge.

The law allowed for openly gay members to remain in the military only if they show they have not engaged in, have not attempted to engage in, do not intend to engage in and do not "have a propensity" to engage in homosexual acts.

The case involved Richard Richenberg, who joined the Air Force in 1985. He became a highly decorated officer, rising to the rank of captain and flying a number of combat missions during the Gulf War.

Richenberg told his commanding officer in 1993 that he was gay. At a later hearing, he testified that he had not engaged in any "prohibited conduct" in the past and would not do so in the future, but admitted he was

attracted to men.

The Air Force recommended that he be discharged. A federal judge in Nebraska and then a U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the decision, rejecting Richenberg's arguments that the policy violated his constitutional rights.

In his Supreme Court appeal, Richenberg said the policy constituted an impermissibly broad, content-based restriction on speech in violation of the First Amendment.

"Government sanctioned bigotry and prejudice in the military should be unconstitutional," he said.

But the Supreme Court sided with the Justice Department, denying his appeal without any comment or dissent.

Gay/Lesbian Couples Equal in Violence

(NewsPlanet) -- Something lesbian and gay couples would rather not have in common with non-gay partners is domestic violence, but a new study "outs" the truth.

The results of a study released October 6 concludes that the rate of domestic violence among lesbian and gay couples is comparable to that among their heterosexual counterparts -- as high as 25 to 33%. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs compiled data from agencies in 12 cities around the U.S. collected from 1986 to 1997. For the year 1996, their report tabulates 2,352 cases of physical, sexual and verbal violence occurring in same-gender relationships, which co-author Greg Merrill of the Community United Against Violence in San Francisco considers "the tip of the iceberg."

Gay and lesbian couples share not only the incidence of domestic violence, but the conflicting emotions and denial that go along with it. What they don't have access to in most cases, unlike heterosexuals, is legal protection and crisis intervention services. No state in the union automatically classifies the violence between same-gender pairs as "domestic violence," and in seven states such classification is expressly banned. Moreover, in the 21 states that still have anti-sodomy laws on the books, proof of sodomy is a pre-requisite for the application of domestic violence statutes.

District Attorney Terence Hallinan of San Francisco, where 11 local agencies exist to aid gay and lesbian abuse victims, directs a program including education for police about same-gender domestic violence, a staff of attorneys who work exclusively on such cases, and a full-time department advocate for victims. Hallinan plans to put out a call to prosecutors around the country to come to terms with the problem.

Australian Rights Bills Stuck

(Sydney Star Observer) -- A federal anti-discrimination measure and a bill to reform age of consent laws in New South Wales are both bogged down in primal parliamentary ooze, but activists are determined not to be put off.

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Gay and lesbian-backed measures on both the Australian federal and New South Wales state levels have stalled in their respective legislative bodies, and community activists' patience seems to be running out. First, a Senate report on a bill to eliminate sexuality- and transgender identity-based discrimination nationally was delayed until the very last day of the Parliamentary session; then the introduction of a bill to equalize the age of consent, planned for last week, was postponed until October 23. The actions drew harsh criticism from lesbigay organizations, including one group that is openly considering outing closeted politicians.

The federal Sexuality Discrimination Bill was originally introduced in 1995 and was referred to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee in May of last year. The committee was due to make its report on the bill this past August, then the deadline was extended to October 30, and now the chairperson, ALP Senator Jim McKiernan, has said he will request an extension until November 27, the final day of this year's session. McKiernan told the Sydney Star Observer, "It's taken us 12 to 18 months to do, but it's a significant report, so I don't think that time frame is either unusual or extensive...it is a priority for us, but then so much of what we do becomes a priority."

Australian Council for Lesbian and Gay Rights co-convenor Jennifer Wilson called the extension request "yet another example of lesbians and gay men's issues being swept under the carpet." On the idea of bringing the report to the floor during the closing hours of business, she said, "I would rather such a report was dealt with at the beginning of next year rather than given a token five minutes at the end of this year -- if the issue is that hard to deal with, why not give it all the time in the world for debate and discussion?"

Australian Democrats Senator Lyn Allison, who will become the lead sponsor for the bill after the report is finally presented, said, "Their decision to seek an extension to the reporting time should be seen as procrastination at best, and at worst, unwillingness to come to grips with this crucial human rights issue," adding that, "They seem to need more time to get used to the idea of same sex relationships, which is a bit like saying they need more time to get used to the printing press or the aeroplane."

Meanwhile, in New South Wales, right-wing MP Fred Niles announced his intention to call for a vote on a bill to revise the state's age of consent laws before any debate could occur. Niles appeared to have enough votes on his side to make good on his threatened gagging strategy, so the introduction was deferred until October 23.

Niles' threat -- and the belief that politicians on both sides of the house would be perfectly happy to see the issue "go gentle into that good night" -- has enraged the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby (GLRL), and led them to seek drastic means to bring pressure to bear. The Sydney Star Observer quotes GLRL co-convenor

Stevie Clayton saying, "It goes to the heart of issues around free speech and democracy. We are not even talking about politicians voting against the bill, but voting against the bill even being debated.... We are at the moment reviewing our policy on outing and it would seem that if closets [closeted homosexuals] in the parliament vote against the bill's debate, that would fit in with our policy of outing." According to that policy, GLRL would have to be able to prove that the target has same-gender sex, and that person must actively do something against gay and lesbian community interests to make outing them a legitimate tactic.

Advertising Spending In The Gay Press Climbs 35.9% To Top \$100.2 Million Annually

(LA Times) NEW YORK-- Advertising spending in the gay press reached \$100.2 million this year, a 35.9% increase over 1996, according to the fourth annual Mulryan/Nash Gay Press Report, a national study of ad spending and editorial content in the 138 gay-targeted print publications across the U.S.

"According to our calculations, the gay press has once more emerged as the fastest growing print/ad market in the U.S.," stated Dave Mulryan, partner of Mulryan/Nash. "For the past three consecutive years, gay-press ad revenues have grown faster than those in both the mainstream press and other niche markets." In comparison, he noted, ad revenues in mainstream

newspapers grew just 12.9% over 1996, as reported by the Newspaper Association of America, and ad spending in mainstream magazines grew 11.2%, according to the Publisher's Information Bureau.

Meanwhile, mainstream advertisers continued to show a strong commitment to the gay press. Among the big-name, first-time advertisers in 1997 were the generally-conservative Aetna Retirement Services, American Express Financial Services, and IBM. HBO and The Sundance Channel also appeared for the first time, as did the airlines United and Continental. And in the fashion category Perry Ellis, Joe Boxer, Prada and Dolce & Gabbana all placed ads.

New Names and Top Categories The top-ranking ad categories in the gay press remained constant for the third consecutive year. They are as follows: 1) Bars and Clubs at 19.9%; 2) Phone Services at 16.6%; 3) Classifieds at 9.5%; 4) Gay Events/Organizations/Meetings at 5.3%; 5) Retail Products and Services at 4.1%.

Heartening Changes In HIV Arena "The one area in which we're seeing tremendous changes is HIV," said Mulryan, "and those changes are quite heartening." According to the study, the fastest growing category this year was Pharmaceutical advertising, which -- fueled in large part by ads to introduce protease inhibitors, a new class of HIV drugs -- rose 300% over 1996 to rank second in magazines and eighteenth overall. These advertisers include Roche, Merck, Abbott, Hoffmann-La Roche, Agouron and Glaxo Wellcome.

At the same time, Mulryan noted, advertising for viaticals (the buyback of life insurance policies from the terminally ill) dropped 58.1% overall, and in terms of editorial coverage -- this is the second year the study tracks editorial content -- HIV-related news dropped 33.3% and obituaries dropped 36.4%. "People with HIV are living longer," said Mulryan, "and the pages of the gay press -- both in terms of its revenue sources and editorial coverage -- are reflecting that positive trend."

Other Fast Growing Ad Categories Advertising for Gay Magazines rose a notable 150% -- a trend which, according to Mulryan, shows the optimism and commitment of gay-press publishers.

Also, advertising for Records and Compact Discs rose 100%. Advertisers include Columbia/Sony Music, Virgin, and MCA. "Record companies are wise to focus ad dollars on the gay market," said Mulryan, "since music -- as well as other entertainment --

-- rates well in most, if not all gay-consumer surveys."

Editorial Focus on the Arts and Entertainment Moreover, noted Mulryan, according to editorial breakdown of the Mulryan/Nash Gay Press Report, the Arts accounted for the single largest category for coverage (22.5%), broken down further into such sub-categories as Movies (6.3%); Theater (4.6%); Music/Concert News (2.7%); Books/Writers (2.5%); and Television (2.5%). (Note: Much of the television coverage tracked during the study's April measurement period was devoted to the episode of ABC's *Ellen* during which the show's main character, played by Ellen DeGeneres, acknowledged her homosexuality).

Large amounts of editorial coverage were also devoted to Gay News (17.5%) -- both national and local -- and to coverage and/or listings of local Gay Organizations and Meetings (12.6%).

One disappointment, Mulryan noted, was that advertising for other arts segments were down this year (i.e., save for Records/CDs, the small-entry presence of HBO and the Sundance Channel, and the continuing, if also small, presence of Showtime). Despite the editorial coverage spent on books, movies, concerts, etc., as well as the fact that gay consumers purchase comparatively higher in these areas, very few movie makers, book publishers, concert promoters and the like have zeroed in on the gay consumer. "A very clear opportunity exists here," said Mulryan, "particularly since gay consumers have shown a decided preference for, and loyalty to, those brands (e.g., liquor, airlines, clothing, etc.) which are marketed directly towards them."

Overall Reach Grows Total circulation for all gay publications also climbed in 1997 by 15.9% and is now 2,736,644, while the total number of publications (despite start-ups and closings) held steady at 138. (Note: This year HIV publications such as *Art & Understanding* and *Poz* were not counted as part of the survey's totals, in part because their focus continues to expand beyond the gay reader.

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New Bio Suggests Goethe Was Gay

BERLIN (AP) He celebrated the feminine in verse and courted some of Europe's most beautiful women. But was Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, one of the giants of world literature, secretly homosexual?

A new "erotic Goethe biography" by German historian and journalist Karl Hugo Pruys posits that the poet, novelist and playwright most famous for his "Faust" drama was at heart not a ladies' man. "The Tiger's Caresses," which appeared in bookstores last week, has already caused something of a stir, and not just in literary circles. The country's most-read newspaper, the Bild am Sonntag tabloid, devoted a whole page to the question "Was Goethe Gay?"

The answer, says Pruys, is to be found in some 2,500 letters to, from and about Goethe, who married late in life, fathered one child and died in 1832 at age 82.

"I wanted to write a book about the love that Goethe felt, about love in general in Goethe's life," Pruys said in an interview. "Then I got onto a trail dominated by homosexuality."

For example, a letter written by Dr. Johann Georg Zimmerman, in which he describes his young friend: "To me, Goethe's caresses are like the caresses of a tiger. One always feels under his hugs the dagger in the pocket."

Or Goethe's own letters to philosopher Friedrich Heinrich Jacobi, who Pruys says was probably Goethe's first lover. "You felt that it was bliss for me to be the object of your love," the 25-year-old Goethe wrote to Dear Fritz" on Aug. 21, 1774. It ends with a warning "Don't let my letter be seen!" more proof, Pruys says, of their secret passion.

No one can say for sure if they ever slept together, "but for me, the letters show the possibility that there was a physical relationship," Pruys said.

Pruys, a former spokesman for the conservative Christian Democratic Union, describes his current book, which comes out in English next year, as "a labor of love." But his colleagues at the Goethe Society in Weimar were not impressed. "Complete nonsense," says Lothar Ehrlich, a literature professor and Goethe expert.

Previous researchers have established that Goethe's celebrated courtships with the opposite sex were most likely unconsummated until he was nearly 40, Ehrlich concedes. "He shied away from intimate contact and didn't want to be tied down," Ehrlich says.

Ehrlich and other scholars say Pruys simply misunderstands the "Sturm und Drang" (storm and stress) spirit of the times, when young, intellectual dandies expressed strong, even erotic emotion toward each other.

"But these relationships were of a purely spiritual nature," Ehrlich says. "It had absolutely nothing to do with physical love."

Pruys, however, says the letters point to something more than that.

The Goethe Society, he says, "simply doesn't like to see their idol as a man who persisted in this ambiguous sexual behavior."

Goethe, of course, would hardly be the first gay literary giant. Walt Whitman celebrated it, Thomas Mann suppressed it, Oscar Wilde went to jail for it. Speculation persists even about Shakespeare, who dedicated his sonnets to "Mr. W.H."

Goethe Society President Werner Keller says Goethe's sex life is irrelevant to appreciating his work, which every schoolchild here reads from an early age.

"It's not greater if he's hetero(sexual), nor diminished through homosexuality," Keller says. "Those are all categories expressed today by our sex-obsessed society, and I have only contempt for such a society."

Pruys says he feels closer to Goethe after uncovering the "masquerade" of heterosexual prowess surrounding him. "An unbelievable amount has been written, but they all copy each other," he says. "I hope that, after so long a time, we can finally get to know him better."

"Bent" Slapped with NC-17 Rating, Bias Charged

(Data Lounge)LOS ANGELES -- A flurry of condemnation from gay and lesbian advocacy groups nationwide has greeted the Motion Picture Association of America's decision to give "Bent," a film about gay persecution in Nazi Germany, its most restrictive "NC-17" rating.

The MPAA claims this rating was assigned because "Bent" contains a "strong scene of graphic sexuality." The association's primary objection is to a scene depicting a crowded room in which various couples -- some gay and lesbian -- are engaged in disparate acts of love.

Said Variety, "The sex scenes in 'Bent' are actually less graphic than many that appear between heterosexuals in mainstream movies that have received R ratings, according to sources who have seen the film."

Critics charge the MPAA move on "Bent" is just the latest example of organizational bias against films with gay content. They point to the 1995 film, "When Night is Falling," also awarded an NC-17 rating, which contained two scenes of lesbian love-making.

In a furious reaction to the "When Night is Falling" decision, October Films said, "It is our strong belief that if these two scenes had involved heterosexual love-making, we would have received the less restrictive "R" rating. It is very unfortunate, and quite ominous, that the MPAA has opted to take this course with its rating decision."

The distributor of "Bent" is refusing to re-edit the film to make it meet MPAA objections. "We wouldn't do anything to compromise the integrity of the piece," said Gerry Rich, president of MGM worldwide marketing. "And we certainly wouldn't ask the filmmaker to change a frame of his film to change the ratings."

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Cover to Cover

Books of Interest

He's a Pillar to Some, a Source of Strife for Others

Award-winning author Edmund White's new work sparks a firestorm in the gay community with its celebratory depictions of promiscuity.

By Charlotte Innes, LA Times Staff Writer

The night Princess Diana died, writer Edmund White wept in front of his television in the Paris apartment where he has lived for 14 years.

"I find myself having a lot more emotion about it than I thought I would," he says with an air of slight surprise, leaning back in a deep, comfortable chair at a friend's house in the Fairfax district. He's on a flying visit to Los Angeles, first stop on a 16-city tour across the U.S. to promote his latest novel, *"The Farewell Symphony"* (Knopf).

"A cockney woman reached out to touch Prince William's hand, and she said to him, 'Your mother's beauty lives on in your face.' Isn't that like a line of poetry? It's like something Yeats would say. It just made my hair stand on end."

Anecdotes about Princess Diana are not perhaps what one might expect in a conversation with White, who was once named "Nabokov's favorite American writer" for his elegant, allusive, literary style. Winner of numerous awards, including an Award for Literature from the National Academy for Arts and Letters, White was one of the first gay contemporary novelists to receive widespread recognition for his work.

His new novel is a panoramic view of American gay life from the 1960s to the 1990s, a picaresque story in which the hero has many adventures, sexual and otherwise. It has sparked controversy in the gay community for its celebration of so-called serial sexuality in the era of AIDS, and astounded some reviewers with the hero's casual mention of having 3,120 sexual partners in 10 years—a far cry from the late-night shenanigans of an emotionally troubled princess and her one playboy.

Yet there's something entirely apt about White gleaning scraps of poetry from an ordinary woman's reaction to Di's untimely death. In his five novels and many short stories, death and beauty are natural

partners, elegy and romantic lyricism the forces energizing even the most graphic sexual act, especially in his fantastic, otherworldly, early novels *"Forgetting Elena"* (Random House, 1973) and *"Nocturnes for the King of Naples"* (St. Martin's, 1978).

At the same time, White's down-to-earth Midwestern sensibility and a long association with journalism and nonfiction (most notably a widely praised biography of French writer Jean Genet) have sharpened his eye for the telling detail, attuned him to sociological resonances (like mass grief for Princess Di), and pushed him further in the direction of fictional work that's so factual and autobiographical it's hard not to read it as memoir.

"The Farewell Symphony" is the final part of a trilogy that also includes *"A Boy's Own Story"* (Dutton, 1982) and *"The Beautiful Room Is Empty"* (Knopf, 1988), covering White's childhood in Cincinnati and youth in New York. This third novel has so many real-life characters—mostly writers and artists, some named, some thinly disguised—that Christopher Benfey writing in the New York Times Book Review called it "a roman a clef" that "doesn't take a locksmith to turn the key."

Is it entirely autobiographical? "Very much," says White, digging into a turkey sandwich at a Russian deli. So true to life is the book, he notes, that lawyers for Knopf ordered 150 cuts of potential "actionable" passages before they would allow publication. The original English version is uncut.

With receding silvery hair and portly build, White looks, at 57, quite different from his descriptions of his pumped-up, slim-waisted 1960s hero and more like the suave-mannered, "fat, sleepy old man" of the 1990s who begins the book, six months after his lover Brice's death from AIDS.

Brice is based on White's real lover, French architect Hubert Sorin, who died of AIDS complications in 1994 at age 32 in Morocco, exactly as painfully described in the book. "He wanted to go on this last trip. I mean, he didn't call it the last trip, but he was certainly very ill by that time. It was terrible. He looked a hundred years old. He finally died in Marrakech, and then I had the nightmare of

trying to get his body back to France. It was kind of hell for me. I think for him it wasn't. I mean, I think it was better for him than dying in a gray little hospital room in Paris."

A number of critics have noted the book's tantalizingly brief treatment of Brice, whose death serves as a trigger for the unnamed narrator's recollections about his earlier years, while the relationship itself remains unexplored.

Part of this omission was practical, says White, who learned 15 years ago that he is HIV-positive but has had no symptoms of the disease. The book was so "crowded" with characters that he didn't just want to tack Brice's story on to the end. "I want to write another book about him. There was also the thing that I really wasn't ready to talk about Hubert's death that much. I felt very numb. And that's continued and is very worrying."

White talks matter-of-factly, as if he were examining a curious scientific specimen. "I suppose it's what normal people do for overcoming pain—you just sort of let a veil drop over things. I was thinking it may be very healthy as a survival technique, but it's a disaster for a novelist, because you really want to stay in touch with all those feelings."

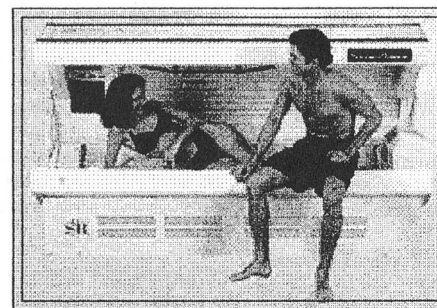
White adds that in writing—only in writing—feeling starts to come back. And he plans to start his Hubert novel as soon as he's finished his current project, a short biography of Marcel Proust.

Spelled out at more length in the book are his explorations into family and friendship, including a brief period of bringing up his teenage nephew Keith Fleming (now grown, married and writing White's biography). Readers were introduced earlier in the trilogy to his coldhearted father, his oppressive mother, their divorce, and his sister, struggling to come to terms with her lesbianism. In *"The Farewell Symphony"*, the sister is still struggling and his father dies (a somewhat pathetic old man), while his mother drops into mental illness and then also dies. All true? "Oh yes," White says with a smile of some finality.

He's clearly happier talking about other aspects of the book: the meditations on writing and the evocation of the famous Violet Quill Club of the '70s, which nurtured a number of gay writers now long established, such as White and Andrew Holleran; the emergence of AIDS; and all those brief intimacies with men that sparked his current verbal feud with playwright Larry Kramer.

Kramer wrote a diatribe against White and against

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sexually oriented gay literature in general as "irresponsible" in a recent issue of the Advocate, a national gay magazine. White responded with an article in Out, another national magazine, referring to Kramer only as "one of our prominent gay prudes" and defending "the new lyrical sexual realism" as a respectable literary activity, dissecting "what actually goes on in the head of someone while he is having sex."

"From the very beginning," he says now, "gay criticism has had a Stalinist side to it." Just as Chekhov was frowned upon by some of his radical 19th century contemporaries for not providing a more explicit social message in his writing, modern gay novelists are told off "for not presenting young gays with positive role models." Absurd, White says. "No one ever attacked John Updike for misleading young heterosexual boys toward debauchery."

Inspired by the courtly "pillow books" of 11th century Japan, which described serial relationships between courtiers and ladies-in-waiting, White wanted in "The Farewell Symphony" to show that "anonymous sex is not nearly as dry and mechanical as people imagine, or heartless, in that you can have these incandescent moments of communication with another person."

White laughs a little self-consciously when asked about his 2-year-old relationship with writer Michael Carroll, whom he met when Carroll, 32, was teaching in the Peace Corps in the Czech Republic. He wrote a fan letter to White, who invited him to visit in Paris. "He did. We fell in love, and then a few months later he moved in." And now? "Yeah, well, we're happy together. Each relationship is different." This cool tone is belied by his pride and excitement when Carroll, hovering in the background, answers the phone to find he's just had a story accepted in an anthology.

The couple will be moving back to the U.S. soon, possibly for good, since White's been offered a teaching post at Princeton in the spring. France, where he lived far longer than he anticipated, has grown stagnant and sad, he says.

Knopf rejected his last three book proposals, he says, and he may need to support himself by teaching instead of living totally by his pen, as he has in recent years.

At A Different Light Bookstore, where White gives a reading, lack of support is not an issue. A long line of fans waits patiently to get books signed, from John Harris, a 47-year-old editor at the Getty who admires the elaborate style of White's early work, to David Zucker, a 19-year-old student who says that the honesty of "A Boy's Own Story" helped him come to terms with his own homosexuality.

Outside, there's a candlelight vigil for, of all people, Princess Diana, which nevertheless seems like an appropriate coda for White's Los Angeles visit, not so far removed from the spirit of the poem by Ausias March, a 15th century Catalan poet, with which White opens

his novel:

Only those who are sad
or else have been sad at some time
need bother with my works.

Common Sons Ronald L. Donaghe

Joel's rural life of high school and farming in Common, New Mexico is changed forever when Tom comes to town. The son of a preacher, Tom reaches out to Joel in friendship, and their bond to each other becomes as tight as brothers. Joel's openness to his own feelings and acceptance of himself, yet another healthy trait instilled by his loving parents, lets him explore some confused feelings he has for Tom. His confusion clears after a reckless bout of drinking ends with a very public kiss from Tom, but Tom's torment of sin and self-incrimination are far from over. *Common Sons* is a moving tale of self-discovery, love and finding the courage to come to grips with the truth in the face of hatred and adversity.

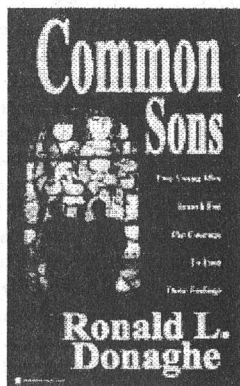
ISBN 1-55197-329-4, Paperback, \$ 7.99

Tom and Joel are two young men with very different backgrounds, drawn together by one thing they have in common; their love for each other. They are "Common Sons." After an unforgettable event that takes place at a small town dance, Joel and Tom become closer than either of them had ever imagined. Dealing with what has happened between them is a very different process for the two boys.

Easy-going Joel accepts what he's feeling as a natural growing experience, while Tom on the other hand, the son of the town's preacher, has difficulty since he's been raised to believe that what he has done, and how he is feeling is morally wrong.

They eventually work through this together, running head first into obstacles, one after another; Tom's father; a group of local rednecks; and then their own feelings.

"This is a very moving story of young love. Two young men, 17 and 18, coming out and to terms with who they have grown into. You'll find yourself laughing with them, crying with them, and beaming with an overall good feeling. A very good read; hard to put the book down.



Kudos to the author for showing the growing love between Tom and Joel in a true light; the battles they face not only of growing up, but of accepting the road they must travel when dealing with being gay in a small town.

White Noise Eve Zaremba

In *White Noise*, Helen Keremos, one of the first of the contemporary women detectives, takes on her last case.

Margaret Atwood describes Helen Keremos as a "cross between Lily Tomlin and Philip Marlowe." One of the first contemporary women detectives and a truly Canadian heroine. Helen is a popular figure in crime fiction throughout the United States, England, Germany and Japan. *White Noise* is the last book in the Keremos series.

When Sonny, a former acquaintance from Hong Kong arrives in Vancouver, Helen immediately agrees to meet him. He's in trouble, and doesn't know who's after him or why. At least, that's Sonny's story. Despite some nagging apprehensions, Helen decides to help him out. But a kidnapping attempt quickly ensues, forcing our heroine into the midst of a complicated set of crimes, some going back as far as the Vietnam War.

In *White Noise*, Eve Zaremba brings back some memorable characters from earlier books including the most recent, *The Butterfly Effect*. At the same time she introduces a quirky and appealing community of independently-minded, feisty women living on a small west coast island.

White Noise, Second Story Press \$12.95 248 pages.

Once again, Detective Helen Keremos becomes entwined in the middle of a complex set of crimes. Sonny, a former contact from Hong Kong telephones Helen in panic. He's in deep trouble and needs his longtime friend's help.

This story is full of twists and turns which makes White Noise a worthwhile read. Eve Zaremba has been creating Helen Keremos Mysteries for twenty-five years beginning in the early 1970s. Her ability to create interesting gay and lesbian characters is a refreshing change from much of mainstream literature. - T.B.

Coming Soon: "Today's Out Look"
A Day-at-a Glance Gay & Lesbian Calendar
full of fun quotes and historical dates!
Available soon at **Coles Book Store**
in Waterloo Town Square.



*Not affiliated with Outlook Magazine...but cool!

THE ADVOCATE



By Jean-Paul Pilon, Barrister and Solicitor

Question: *My partner and I will soon be moving into an apartment together. He works odd hours so the task of finding an apartment has fallen on me. Last week I saw an apartment I liked but when I returned with my boyfriend we were told that it had been rented out. I believe that the landlord denied us the apartment because we are gay. What should we do?*

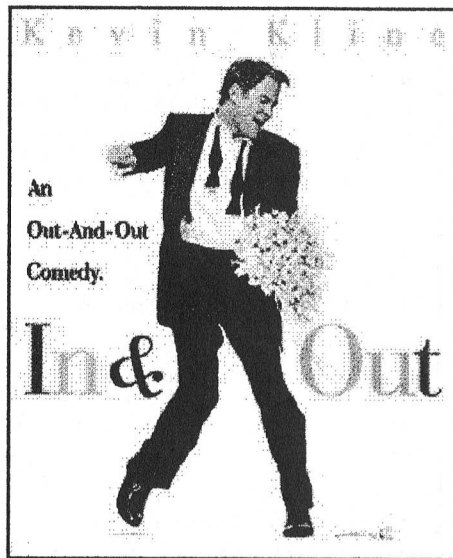
Answer: The Ontario Human Rights Code states that every person has a right to equal treatment with respect to the occupancy of accommodation without discrimination because of sexual orientation.

The first step, if you decide to proceed, is to contact the Ontario Human Rights Commission at 1-800-387-9080. A human rights officer there will send you a questionnaire which you or your lawyer can fill out and return.

Once the Commission has received your questionnaire you or your lawyer can draft a complaint form which will describe your complaint. If you don't want to fill out the form yourself and you don't want a lawyer to do it for you, the Commission will assign an intake officer who can draft it on your behalf. Once the form is completed, a copy will go to the landlord for his or her response. The Commission can then use mediation to try to resolve the dispute and can investigate the circumstances of the complaint. As a last resort, the complaint can be referred to a Board of Inquiry for adjudication.

This system has advantages and disadvantages as a means of resolving human rights complaints. The Commission is accessible, inexpensive and is able to use alternative dispute resolution mechanisms like mediation to resolve disputes. Like many bureaucracies however, it can be slow and handles only specific kinds of complaints. It remains important though that people in situations like yours complain to the Commission. When more people complain, landlords will increasingly think twice before discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation.

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.



Howard Brackett's high school English students are astonished. Is it really true that their favorite teacher might be gay? But hey, he can't be gay; he's about to get married! Then again, he also teaches the drama class and boy, does he love those Barbra Streisand records...

It all happened to Howard (KEVIN KLINE) faster than you could say "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." One of his former students (MATT DILLON) became a Hollywood superstar, and clumsily called Howard's sexuality into question--on the Academy Awards® telecast, no less. Instantly Howard's tranquil life in Greenleaf, Indiana has turned upside down. Greenleaf has now become the scene of a media feeding-frenzy, with Howard as the bait. Peter Malloy (TOM SELLECK), a slick and aggressive TV reporter, is determined to move in for the kill and get Howard to speak the truth. Meanwhile, Howard is only days away from his wedding to Emily Montgomery (JOAN CUSACK), the fiancée he's managed to hold at bay for a full three years.

"In & Out," a comedy directed by Frank Oz, is a Scott Rudin production for Paramount Pictures and Spelling Entertainment. Kevin Kline, Joan Cusack, Debbie Reynolds, Wilford Brimley, Matt Dillon, Bob Newhart and Tom Selleck head the cast. Adam Schroeder is executive producer and the original screenplay is written by Paul Rudnick. Paramount Pictures is part of the entertainment operations of Viacom Inc.

Like the comedies of Preston Sturges and Frank Capra, "In & Out" centers on a small-town hero who inadvertently snags national attention. However, Obie Award-winning playwright Paul Rudnick ("Jeffrey") has infused his screenplay with his characteristically wry 1990's point of view. Rudnick was first approached by Scott Rudin with the idea for the screenplay: "I started to think about someone being outed the week they were to be married," says Rudnick, "and a comedy came into view. And I liked the idea of setting the film in the small town where he lives and works and has spent his life. It's a story that really could only exist at this moment in an age of global video and grand movie stars." He adds, "We've had a lot of Manhattan cocktail parties on screen recently, but how many barn raisings?"

Rudnick, who grew up an hour outside New York city in New Jersey, definitely had a Howard Brackett or two for a teacher during his high school years. "There was one in particular, an algebra teacher," he says. "He would go hunting with his dad--and then go off to New York to see musicals with the school librarian."

Rudnick loved the opportunity to take the subject of "outing" and use it as the springboard for a comedy, rather than an "issue" film. Director Frank Oz warmed instantly to Rudnick's comic take on the material. "There have been great movies about how society deals with homosexuality, like 'Philadelphia,'" says Oz, "but this one is unique. This one is the flip side, the one you can laugh with. The questions remain the same, and the situations remain the same, but this is entertainment; this is a romantic comedy. Paul is such a great writer, and I love his script because it has this spin on it. It's a challenge to introduce this subject matter in an entertaining way. No one wants to be preached to. No one wants to be told what's good or what's bad. If you're doing a comedy, of

course, you have a responsibility to make people laugh, but I think comedy is hollow without feeling. You don't want only laughter, you want to be touched by the characters. And I think in this movie we have some terrific characters."

"The movie has much more to do with comic misunderstanding than with hatred," adds Paul Rudnick. "It's about people really just grappling with what the right thing might be, and how do we do it? I hope these people are quirky enough, and real enough, and wild enough, that audiences will have a wonderful time watching them and empathizing with their problems. To me the essence of romantic comedy is the excitement of pure happiness--acquiring joy, and realizing that even though you thought this was going to be the worst day of your life, you've ended it with your head in the clouds."

Frank Oz and Scott Rudin were able to land a superior cast for "In & Out," all of whom were attracted to Paul Rudnick's script and the chance it gave them to stretch their boundaries as actors.

"When I read it," says Kevin Kline, "I laughed out loud many times, which doesn't happen that often with a script. And there was something in it that was touching, a kind of poignancy. No big political agenda, no real polemics. It's not didactic in any way." Kline gets several chances in "In & Out" to display his knack for outrageous yet graceful physical comedy, particularly in the "Exploring Your Masculinity" scene where he performs Michael Jackson-esque gyrations all over his living room. "Sometimes you have to forget about appearing foolish," he explains when asked about the filming of that sequence. "That's one of the therapeutic indulgences that actors are allowed. Taste, judgement, self-consciousness--for certain scenes, you have to check them all at the door. You have to let yourself be utterly spontaneous, and do things that are horrifying upon reflection!"

Paul Rudnick gave Joan Cusack a plum role with Emily, Howard's myopically devoted fiancée. "Emily's a great part for a woman to play," enthuses Cusack. "First and foremost she wants to get married and have a life with somebody. That's just so she's not alone. And she's really interested in seeing the world and living a full exciting life, where you travel and do things and have kids--

sort of a romantic dream of going off with Prince Charming, and everything being wonderful. But she's overlooking one big thing..."

Tom Selleck has been no stranger to the press during his career, and the character of TV reporter Peter Malloy gave him a chance to have fun with the type of newshound that often plagues him in real life. "I've dealt with a lot of journalists over the years," laughs Tom Selleck. "And the overwhelming majority of them, it's important to say, have been ethical people. But there's a significant percentage to whom ethics is a foreign word, and who are after whatever it takes to get a story. And it's fun playing one of those kinds of characters because this guy is aggressive and unscrupulous and rather ruthless. He tries to convince Kevin's character to do what he thinks is the right thing for all the wrong reasons, so he can get a good interview, because my guy really wants to be Barbara Walters! But the trick to doing a character like this is that he oughta be the guy you love to hate, or the guy you hate to love."

Debbie Reynolds came to "In & Out" fresh from the triumph of Albert Brooks' "Mother," her first major film role in twenty-five years. "Mother" was released while "In & Out" was in production, and cast and crew got to witness the rebirth of a star. In fact, during the filming of the wedding scene, word came to the set that Ms. Reynolds had just received a Golden Globe nomination as Best Actress, and she immediately found herself engulfed by a whooping, cheering crowd of extras, cast and crew members.

Berniece, the mother she plays in "In & Out," is a warm, loving lady who happens to have a will of iron. "This particular mother has a childlike dream of a marvelous wedding ceremony," explains Ms. Reynolds, "and she's looking for her children to fulfill her dream. Everything is done very sweetly by Berniece, but what she wants, she definitely is going to try to get, in a nice way. She lives a lot through her son Howard, because he's everything she ever dreamt of being. He dresses beautifully. He's very funny. He dances. He sings. He's just the most clever man in town. She idolizes this child."

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Movies This Month

Friday, October 17 midnight - **Claire Of The Moon**, directed by Nicole Conn. Claire Jabrowski (Trisha Todd), a heterosexual author and Dr. Noel Benedict (Karen Trumbo), lesbian therapist and author of a controversial study on sexual behavior, share a cabin at an annual Women's Retreat where they dispute intellectually, becoming friends and lovers. U.S., 1992. Showcase Ch.39

Monday, October 20, 11pm - **Nervous Energy**, directed by Jean Stewart (Cracker). Tom, a young Glaswegian living in London, has AIDS. Against the advice of his partner, he decides to take a trip home to the family that rejected him and the friends he was once close to. Starring Cal Macaninch, Alfred Molina, Siobhan Redmond and Annette Crosbie. U.K. Showcase Ch.39



Mommie Dearest - October 26, 11:15pm. Faye Dunaway camps it up in the screen version of Christina Crawford's controversial book about her harrowing childhood with adoptive mom Joan Crawford. 1981 Bravo Ch.40

Tales of the City - Part 5 - October 15 at 8pm, Part 6 - October 22 at 8pm. Continuation of the six-part dramatization of Armistead Maupin's provocative novel of life in 1970s San Francisco. TALES OF THE CITY centers on the lives of the young residents at 28 Barbary Lane and their enigmatic landlady who harbors a mysterious secret. Stars Olympia Dukakis, Donald Moffat and Laura Linney. Bravo, Ch.40.



Concert Listings

Sarah McLachlan
October 20 - 22, Hummingbird Centre, Toronto

k.d. lang
November 1, Hummingbird Centre, Toronto

Jann Arden
November 11, Hamilton Place, Hamilton
November 19, Centennial Hall, London

November 22 - 23, Convocation Hall, Toronto
November 24, Centre In The Square, Kitchener

Elton John
November 11 & 12, Molson Centre, Montreal

Aretha Franklin
November 23, 1997 Copps Coliseum, Hamilton



all-woman-headliner tour out on the road next summer, but she'll give the folks in Florida a sneak preview this year.

McLachlan will be previewing the Lilith II line-up at a mid-December concert in West Palm Beach, Florida, a state that the first Lilith line-up had to bypass last summer. Florida is on the itinerary for next year, and ten other performers are expected to join McLachlan at the December preview show.

Folks who missed the first Lilith go-round, and who can't make it to Florida for the December show, can sample a double-album of Lilith '97 performances which will arrive in March of 1998.

In other McLachlan news, the Canadian singer was in a Vancouver courtroom on Monday for a hearing in a lawsuit filed against her by one Daryl Neudorf. As reported in August, Neudorf charges that he was never credited for four songs he co-wrote with McLachlan in 1988 for her debut album, "Touch." McLachlan denies the charge, and the case has been continued to a later date.

Elton John's 'Big Picture'

(Washington Blade) -- Whether you still cling to your vinyl copies of Madman Across the Water and Goodbye Yellow Brick Road, or have come to know Elton John much later with a little help from Disney soundtracks, sitting down to listen to John's new album is a bit like reconnecting with an old friend. John's voice is part of the collective consciousness of most everyone who has enjoyed pop music since the early 1970s and that is the charm, the ease, and the appeal of much of his work in the '90s.

While The Big Picture (Rocket Records) is momentarily overshadowed by the concurrent release of John's "Candle In the Wind" tribute to Princess Diana, several songs on the new album have strong hit potential and staying power. This comes as no surprise -- if anyone has mastered the formula for pop hits, it's John, now openly gay, who has had at least one song in Billboard's Top 40 every year since 1970.

The lead single, "Something About The Way You Look Tonight," hit the airwaves in August, getting solid play on adult contemporary stations. With a memorable lyric and subtle, yet moving build, this song ranks among John's most compelling love songs.

Conversely, "Long Way From Happiness" reveals a more emotionally cautious John (and lyricist Bernie Taupin). This track is a standard John '90s ballad -- soft, easy, and melodic. Like two other tracks on the album, "Long Way From Happiness" gets wonderful backing vocals from Jackie Rawe.

The title track, "The Big Picture," stands out as one of the more aggressive songs on the album. With a chorus driven by electric guitar, an element rarely heard in John's newer works, "The Big Picture" combines Taupin's ability to pen an emotionally rich lyric with John's ability to grab a vocal edge.

"January" also finds John weaving in and out of a more pop-rock-oriented mode. In fact, "The Big Picture" and "January" both reveal that John hasn't lost his rock roots. Synthetic-sounding instrumentation sometimes turns these otherwise capable-of-rocking tunes into more adult contemporary fare, but underneath the soft touch, John still shows rock drive and aggression.

"Wicked Dreams" closes John's new release with energetic kick. An up-tempo song that moves, "Wicked Dreams" is reminiscent of John's midcareer works like "I Don't Want to Go On With You Like That."

John's fans have plenty to look forward to in coming months. In this, the 30th year that John and Taupin have worked together, the duo is getting significant recognition throughout the industry -- from VH1 specials to an upcoming feature in Billboard magazine. In addition, John is scheduled to start a U.S. tour in early October, and plans are for a solo tour and a possible run with Billy Joel.

Overheard: Notable Quotes

"I just wish more of my fellow queers would come out sometimes. It's nice out here, you know?"
--Elton John, accepting a Distinguished Achievement Award from Elizabeth Taylor at the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center's 25th anniversary blowout.

Brotherly Love

by Rob Duckwoth

Earlier this year, I was invited to visit a family member for the weekend. Upon my arrival, I discovered my brother was leaving for Toronto, and that I would be alone with his roommate. At first, I didn't understand what was going on, but as I have known him for years, I had no concerns. The reason for the initial invitation was to provide some computer training, but as I soon discovered, there were ulterior motives.

We were sitting together at the computer when the question "What is your take on your brother and I?" was asked. Unsure of what was meant by the question, I responded "What do you mean?" They had been wondering for a long time about me, and decided that I may be more comfortable speaking one-on-one to someone who was not an immediate member of the family. It was then revealed to me that he and my brother were lover's (of 16 years), and they were concerned and curious about me. I informed him that I had no problem with their relationship, delighted they were together, and willing to offer guidance to me.

For the first time in 34 years, I was able to comfortably reveal - "I (too) am gay". Never in my life have words had such emotion, impact, and powers of healing. I had kept my secret "bottled up", however there was never any bottle big enough to deal with my issues.

I first was aware of my "lifestyle" at the age of 15. Although my brother and I had shared the family home for years as children, we were secretive and virtually unaware that we were both gay. The closest that we came to discovering each other back then was when we were involved with a pair of brothers from our neighbourhood. He was

seeing the older one, I the younger one, completely unknown to each other until this year.

I was somewhat aware of my brother at a young age when I discovered a book that he was reading at the time. The book was kept in his closet, and I never talked to him about it. I too was "in the closet", and figured that that was the way we were both meant to deal with it.

He came out to my parents over 14 years ago, but it never was spoken about within the rest of our family. Had I been told back then that homosexuality was (and is) a part of our lives, I would have been able to reveal my true self without fear of guilt and shame.

My life has changed greatly since the loving gesture put forth by my brother and his partner. I have an outlook on life that I never saw possible when I was trying to live two separate lives. I hid my emotions, feelings and senses away from others, and felt no sense of self worth. It is only when we can accept ourselves and others for who we are, not what we are, that true understanding begins.

After arriving home from my brothers that wonderful weekend, the following message came to me through Susan Duxter's *Angel Sighs*, and I took it immediately to heart: "There are others who love life as you do, others who are more evolved in their human growth. Surround yourself with people who love as you do and know that you are the ones who can make a difference in this world. You do not have to become a missionary in Africa to do the necessary work with humanity...walk into your community with a keen awareness. The gifts you have to give will find recipients just around the corner. Love and be love's channel. There is nothing else that you must do." ▼

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A Message From...

ACCKWA

(The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area)

Leading AIDS fund-raiser won't take no for an answer

by Eugene McCarthy - KW Record

People found it difficult to say no to Anna Strobbridge when she asked them to sponsor her in this year's AIDS Walk in Waterloo Region.

In the past month, between juggling a full-time and two part-time jobs, the Kitchener woman collected \$2,202 "and don't forget 70 cents" to become the largest single fundraiser in the local walk.

An estimated 700 people, many of them high school and university students, took part in the 10-kilometre walk, which was favoured with ideal weather Sept. 28.

Natalie Devereaux, fundraising coordinator for ACCKWA, said that as of walk day, about \$59,000 had been pledged and about \$53,000 collected to support the organization's work in education, prevention and support programs.

Last year, about \$33,000 was raised. It was a considerable improvement for Strobbridge who raised about \$800 in last year's walk, but who put everything she had into this year's effort. "And watch out next year," she warned.

Strobbridge has had two friends die of AIDS in recent years. One was 36, the other 29. They are two good reasons why she makes the annual effort. But she also worked harder this year to honour the memory of another friend, Colleen Coolin, who died of cancer during the past year.

Strobbridge said Coolin, 41, had been a faithful participant in the annual walk over its five year history.

Aubrey Sherman, who co-ordinated the high school challenge, was happy that his school, Waterloo Collegiate Institute, bested eight others in raising the most this year, edging out Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate, a perennial winner.

Sherman said there would likely be thousands more dollars coming in in addition to the \$3,767 raised at WCI because a lot of money from student activities in September would be going to the campaign.

Walking for the first time were three Wilfred Laurier University Lettermen, a 75-member club of male varsity athletes.

Special thanks to Club Renaissance patrons and staff who raised approximately \$600 at a pre-walk party!



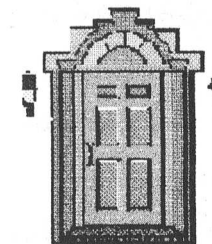
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READER'S CORNER

POETRY, LETTERS, OPINIONS

Boys On a Hill

A midsummer night's breeze
Is whispering through trees
As two boys on a hill there lie.

Staying close due to chill
warm, silent, lying still
The heart of one boy now beats fast

Best friends since first they met
There now looms a new threat
Will their "forever" friendship last?

In this spot that they found
With their backs to the ground
One boy ponders things that he feels

Seven years it has been
Now they're almost eighteen
New tension as one boy now speaks

The silence is broken
His heart fully open
Salty tears streaming down his cheeks

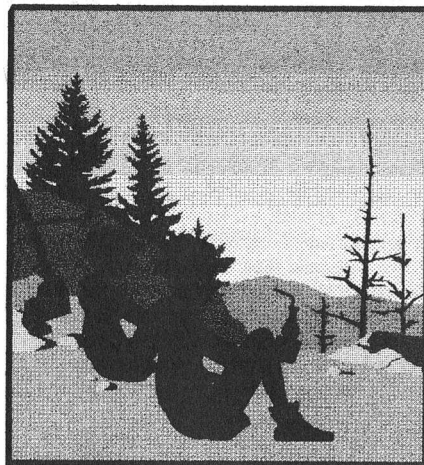
Noise is wrapped in a shroud
The dead silence seems loud
Like the fourth of Beethoven's ninth

Now the other boy cries
After four years of lies
He doesn't know what he should do

He stands up to his fears
With heavy flowing tears
And admits that he loves him too

The midsummer night's breeze
still whispering through trees
As two boys on a hill there cry

- Mark Eldridge (c) April 1997



Dear Outlook Magazine,

Congratulations on your 2nd Anniversary!
I remember the first issue of Outlook Magazine,
and the painstaking efforts it took to put it
together. Now look at you...your look is so
professional and so impressive. It's nice to see
that the magazine gets bigger and better every
month, and the fact that more advertisers who
support the magazine and the gay community
keep popping up is a huge accomplishment.
Keep up the great work!

Your friend,
Joolz - Kitchener

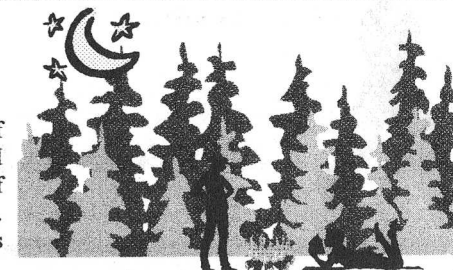
Hi there,

Thank you for bringing us a wide selection
of news articles from all over the world.
Where do you ever find them? Definitely not
in our local papers! Anyway, keep up the
good work and Happy 2nd Anniversary.

Scott - Waterloo

My Wish

Short story by Mary Fisher



Lying on a sunbaked rock, Robyn drifted off
to sleep with her head on my stomach as I
caressed her forehead. I found myself
reflecting over the last twenty-four hours.
Feelings of warmth soar through me as
memories of love and passion gripped me.

We were always friends and had decided to spend the day canoeing and fishing. The conversation at the beginning of the day gave me no indication of what was to come. We packed a light lunch, and with fishing rods in hand we started off for the day. I thought the day was perfect, especially laughing and talking with Robyn. She always made me feel good about myself. Everything always took on a special meaning when she was around. Looking around, I felt at one with nature. The sky was a powder blue with soft spongy clouds. The day smiled at me. The air was full of the scent of pine trees. I could smell smoke from a distant fire. My ears were filled with the songs of different birds. Just then my eyes captured the majestic eagle soaring overhead. I wondered if this was a good omen.

The day progressed smoothly; we landed the canoe, and set out to prepare a dinner of the lake trout we caught. As we were finishing our meal, the winds picked up suddenly; we started to worry about the safety of the trip back to our vehicle. We realized that we should stay the night, as the water was getting rougher by the moment. We set out to make the night's stay comfortable as possible. With some difficulty, we began to cut down small trees with my fishing knife to build a makeshift lean-to, then gathered firewood to last the night. We used all the fishing line we had to tie the wood together, then gathered pine boughs and laid them over the lean-to. When we were finished, we stood back and smiled at each other. We built a roaring fire and were warm and happy.

Upon settling down for the night, nature's noises were becoming more and more apparent. There was a loud crashing sound; Robyn clutched my hand. I could feel her tremble; I put my arm around her for security. As I felt her start to relax against my body, I looked into her eyes. The reflection of the fire was dancing there. I found myself being drawn towards her. I could hardly believe my ears when Robyn whispered, "I have always loved you". I began to tremble myself as our lips touched for the first time. It was a night of magic and mystery. We lay in each other's arms long into the night after our passion was spent. Holding Robyn in my arms, gazing towards the stars, the moon was glowing, reflecting our feelings of newly discovered love. I secretly made a wish upon a shooting star.

As Robyn awoke and said, "It's time to leave," I wondered if that wish would come true. ▼



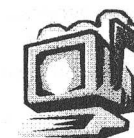
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AIDS Survivors Find Life a New Challenge

By Andrea Orr

When Greg was diagnosed with AIDS six years ago, he let his moderately unhealthy lifestyle veer out of control, increasing his drinking until he was up to 10 shots of vodka a night. Why worry about every toxin he put into his body, he figured, when it was already housing a deadly virus?

But today the 49-year-old salesman is still healthy and is beginning to look forward to old age. He and many others like him are struggling to reverse the reckless lifestyles they adopted when they thought they had only a few years to live.

For those with AIDS, a new generation of drugs has brought a dramatic reduction in their viral loads – and a whole new set of problems. At a recent support group gathering here, many said they were having a hard time tending to some of life's more mundane tasks such as holding down a steady job and paying the mortgage. They put all that on hold years ago to take off on what they thought would be a final binge.

"I've lived a third of my life with the HIV virus and my lover's been dead for 6 1/2 years," said a 45-year-old man who described how he tried to cram a lifetime of experiences into a couple of years. "I sold my house, travelled, and then – it didn't happen. I feel I lived my life in an accelerated fashion," he said.

"Economically, it's hard," he added. "I'm stuck with debt, I need a new car and have all these issues to deal with that are not really that exciting. I'm really glad I have a nondetectable viral load but it's a challenge getting used to the prosaic world of making a living."

Paying For Their Excesses

Such stories are plentiful in the Los Angeles gay community of West Hollywood and, experts say, around the country. AIDS victims who have managed to keep the disease at bay are now having to pay for spending beyond their means and other excesses they fed without hesitation after they or their lovers were diagnosed with AIDS.

Many are now fighting alcohol and drug addictions. Others are having to build a whole new life: buy a car, find a home and a job while explaining to prospective employers the long gaps in their work histories.

"Before, the attitude was: 'Sure I can smoke. What's it going to do? Kill me?'" said Michael Mallory of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. "Now, with protease, we're seeing that you can have AIDS and still live a long life."

Mallory was referring to protease inhibitors, a class of AIDS drug that came on the market about a year ago and dramatically changed the prognosis for many patients. Used in combination with other drugs, they have helped restore an essentially normal quality of life to thousands of AIDS victims. AIDS sufferers speaking about their renewed good health commonly refer to "life after protease."

Protease inhibitors have not worked for everybody. Many AIDS victims either cannot tolerate the drugs or have developed a resistance to them. And in some poorer, more isolated regions patients have yet to be prescribed this "wonder drug."

To them, worries about paying bills or kicking a drug habit are a luxury. They warn that people should not forget the real AIDS health crisis that continues to devastate millions of people around the world.

Most Received Best Treatments

Most gay men in major U.S. cities acknowledge they have received the best treatments before they were widely available as a result of their own vigilance and their access to major research centres where clinical trials of new drugs are conducted. But they say the practical and emotional concerns they now face are serious.

One man who remained AIDS-free after the disease struck his lover and many of his friends equates his experience to returning from a war in which all his peers died. He says he feels like he is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder in which just going through the motions of life is daunting.

"Some people used to say, 'HIV is the best thing that happened to me.' It caused them to get rid of all the garbage of life like credit cards and cars," Robert Hales, coordinator of the AIDS outreach group Treatment Equals Life, said.

"Recently I've even heard people be asked: 'Do you want to live?' And they actually have to stop and think about it."

Health officials are also concerned. Even with drugs bringing down virus levels, they point out, people with AIDS still have compromised immune systems. Unhealthy living may be extra hard on these people and in some cases may render a drug treatment less effective.

For Greg, the scare came during a recent visit to the doctor. After having his virus undetectable for more than a year, he was told it had crept back up and that alcohol consumption might be to blame.

The news was enough to cause him to stop drinking overnight. "I was never before honest with myself about how much I was drinking," he said. ▼

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Copenhagen: A Fairy Tale Kingdom

Story by Ray Ruiz

Royal Copenhagen

Every traveler who comes to Copenhagen takes pictures of the Royal Guard when they parade through the inner city. And they linger by the Little Mermaid, not far from Amalienborg along the harbor, and visit the Tivoli Gardens in the evening. The Changing of the Guard begins at Rosenborg Castle at 11:30 a.m., the Royal Guards marching to the Amalienborg Palace always drawing huge crowds. And if they catch a glimpse of Queen Margrethe, it makes the whole trip worthwhile. For the Queen can often be seen on the street where many of the local population greet her and receive a friendly nod in return, while others pretend not to notice her, assuming she prefers to walk undisturbed. But when the Queen drives through the city in her open carriage, escorted by her Hussars, Copenhagen hums with delight. The monarchy is a natural and integral part of this city and country.

Denmark is Europe's oldest kingdom, beginning with Gorm den Gamle in 940 and then Harald Blatand in 985, who "made the Danes Christian." But the Copenhagen (meaning Merchant's Harbor) of today really began with Christian V, the Renaissance king who extended the city, built Christianshavn, the Stock exchange, the Round Tower and the section of town called Nyboder for his navy.

The Round Tower's completion in 1642 put a festive finish to the efforts of King Christian IV to transform the country's capital into the most beautiful and magnificent city in Scandinavia. And in spite of lengthy wars in both Sweden and Germany, the king achieved the impossible and, more than anyone else, was to leave his permanent mark on the city. I was very proud of the unique photo I took of the old city from atop the tower—that is, until I viewed the same scene done in 1830 in watercolor by H.G.F. Holm.

Gay Copenhagen

The age of consent in Denmark for gays and straights is 15 years old. The National Danish Organization for Gays and Lesbians, The LBL, was founded in 1948. With its offices in Copenhagen, the group now works closely with government authorities, politicians and local councils to

further the rights of gay men and lesbians.

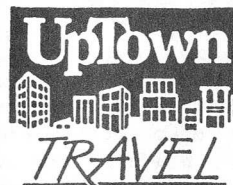
One of the groups greatest accomplishments came in May of 1989 when the country's Parliament passed the Registered Partnership Act, assuring gay and lesbian couples almost all of the same legal rights as heterosexual married couples. The law took effect on October 1, 1989, giving Denmark its place in history as the first country in the world to allow gay/lesbian marriage. Interestingly, since the law was enacted, about 3,000 Danes, men and women, have registered their partnerships. To date there have been only approximately 10 divorces!

I was toying with the idea of staying at the gay/straight Windsor Hotel where the second floor is reserved for gay men, when I came upon a listing which read "Stay Gay." A telephone call to proprietor Bo, and I was booked into a private bedroom in his five bedroom accommodation, including kitchen privileges, at about US\$ 20 per night for a single. When my Dutch friend Jan joined me later, the price went up to US\$ 35 per night. The location is perfect, just four blocks from the Tivoli, Latin Quarter, downtown, and the "gay area." Bo is happy to orient you to the town, and I suggest you take him out for a nice dinner. "Stay Gay" is a real bargain!

My personal observations on the city's gay scene are as follows: The Cafe Sebastian is one of my favorite hang-outs and a good place for a meal as well. The cafe/bar is a great place to easily meet the attractive local gay men and lesbians. The very best men's bar is the Central Hjornet (Central Corner). It's a talk bar with friendly people of all ages, popular in the summer especially from 6 p.m. until midnight. The Copenhagen Gay Center (actually a sauna / blue movie house), at Istedgade 36, is a hot spot in the city's red light district. The Amigo Sauna appeals to a very young crowd, not particularly friendly, a far cry from the legendary saunas of Amsterdam and throughout Germany.

A good place for lunch is La Cucaracha patio cafe, right behind the Amigo. Our favorite dinner restaurant is the Stedet, where one dines on marvelous Danish home cooking, nothing too fancy, but honest, interesting food, for a paltry US\$7. Be sure to ask for the Danish menu, not the English one, they will explain the specialties to you. The English menu is geared to our "tastes" and the prices are higher.

It would seem impossible that any traveler would not have a terrific time in Copenhagen. Considering the size of the city, and country, there is as much or more to see and do than in many larger places. The people are friendly and the gay community most welcoming. I know visitors will come back singing the praises of this exquisite country and its wonderful, wonderful Copenhagen.



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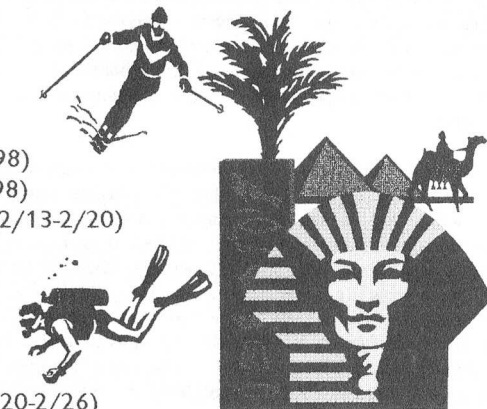
The Gay Travel Calendar

Your Guide to upcoming Events Worldwide

Skiers! Whistler Gay Ski Week welcomes you January 31- February 8, 1998!

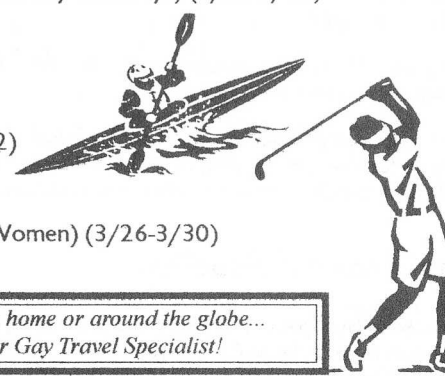
February 1998

Learn to Dive in Curacao (2/1/98)
Costa Rica Cruise for Women (2/1/98)
Best of the South Pacific (2/12-3/6/98)
Men's Body Electric Week in Hawaii (2/13-2/20)
Ancient Egypt (2/13-2/23)
Kenya & Tanzania (2/14-3/2)
Caribbean Cruise (2/15-2/20)
South East Asia Tour ((2/15-3/2)
Walk or Bike Australia (2/19-3/6)
Men's Adventure Camp in Hawaii (2/20-2/26)
SYDNEY MARDI GRAS (The Biggest Gay Bash in the World!) (2/22-3/2)
South Africa (Capetown - the newest find in Gay Getaways) (2/28-3/15)



March 1998

Mexican Riviera Cruise (Men) (3/15-3/22)
Winterfest Europe (Ski!) (3/13-3/21)
Ancient Egypt (3/20-3/30)
Dianah Shore Weekend - Palm Springs (Women) (3/26-3/30)
Baja Sea Kayaking (Women) (3/28-4/4)



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Gay & Lesbian History Month

This special Gay and Lesbian History Month of October can be a time to encourage us all to come forward with pride. It's a time to learn about who we really are, a time to work together in supportive ways, a time to reach out to those in other lands where coming out may not be so easy.

"We feel it's exceedingly important to educate ourselves and others about true Gay and Lesbian history and about our lifestyles. Significant also is the need to focus attention on those institutions worldwide who are gathering, preserving and sharing our Lesbian and Gay history." -Board President John O'Brien (International Gay and Lesbian Archives)

Mattachine Society

One of the earliest gay movement organizations in the USA. It began in Los Angeles in 1950-51. Its name was given by the pioneer activist Harry Hay in commemoration of the French medieval and Renaissance Société Mattachine, a musical masque group which he had studied while preparing a course on the history of popular music for a workers' education project. The name was meant to symbolize the fact that "gays were a masked people, unknown and anonymous", and the word, also spelled matachin or matachine, has been derived from the Arabic of Moorish Spain, in which mutawajihin relates to masking oneself. Such an opaque name is typical of the homophile movement of the time in which open proclamation of the purposes of the group through a revealing name was regarded as imprudent.

At first the structure of the society followed that of freemasonry with a pyramid structure, where cells at the same level would be unknown to each other. The founders were Marxists and analyzed homosexuals in terms of an oppressed cultural minority. The communist leanings of the organization put it under some pressure during the anti-communist phase in the USA. The era of McCarthyism had begun on February 9, 1950 with a speech by Senator Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin, at Lincoln's Birthday dinner of a Republican League in Wheeling, West Virginia. Paul Coates wrote in a Los Angeles newspaper in March 1953 linking "sexual deviates" with "security risks" who were banding together to wield "tremendous political power". The Mattachine Society was restructured, with a more transparent organization, and its leadership replaced. It also changed its aims to the assimilation of homosexuals into general society, which reflected its rejection of the notion of a homosexual minority. However the Society declined, and at its convention in May 1954 only forty-two members attended.

The Mattachine Society produced the monthly periodical ONE Magazine, starting in January 1953 and eventually achieving a circulation of 5000 copies. The regular publication of the magazine ceased in 1968, but its publisher, ONE Inc, still exists.

In January, 1955 the San Francisco branch of the Mattachine Society began a more scholarly journal, Mattachine Review, which lasted for ten years.

The periodicals reached previously isolated individuals and helped Mattachine to become better known nationally. Chapters functioned in a number of USA cities through the 1960s. However, they failed to adapt to the radical militancy after the Stonewall Rebellion and faded away.

The Stonewall Rebellion

The Stonewall Inn, (named after the Confederate General 'Stonewall' Jackson), was a gay bar (said to be sleazy and Mafia-run) at 51-53 Christopher Street just east of Sheridan Square in New York's Greenwich Village. On the night of June 27/28, 1969, a police inspector and seven other officers from the Public Morals Section of the First Division of the New York City Police Department arrived shortly after midnight, served a warrant charging that alcohol was

being sold without a license, and announced that employees would be arrested.

The patrons were ejected from the bar by the police while others lingered outside to watch, and were joined by passers-by. The arrival of the paddy wagons changed the mood of the crowd from passivity to defiance. The first vehicle left without incident apart from catcalls from the crowd. The next individual to emerge from the bar was a woman in male costume who put up a struggle which galvanized the bystanders into action. The crowd erupted into throwing cobblestones and bottles. Some officers took refuge in the bar while others turned a firehose on the crowd. Police reinforcements were called and in time the streets were cleared. During the day the news spread, and the following two nights saw further violent confrontations between the police and gay people.

The event was important less for its intrinsic character than for the significance subsequently bestowed on it. The Stonewall Rebellion was a spontaneous act of resistance to the police harassment that had been inflicted on the homosexual community since the inception of the modern vice squad in metropolitan police forces. It sparked a new, highly visible, mass phase of political organization for gay rights that far surpassed, semi-clandestine homophile movement of the 1950s and 1960s, exemplified by the Mattachine Society. The Mattachine Society newsletter described the rebellion as 'the hairpin drop heard round the world'. Gay movements expanded into the Gay Liberation Front, Gay Activists Alliance, and many other groups.

The event has been commemorated by a parade held each year in New York City on the last Sunday in June, following a tradition that began with the first march on 29th. June, 1970, and by parallel events throughout the United States.

Some sensibilities might be bruised if it were not mentioned that 27th. June, 1969 was the day of the funeral of Judy Garland (Frances Gumm, 1922-69), American actor, singer, and gay icon. This had cast a pall over the community and many gay bars in Greenwich Village were draped in black as a sign of respect. Many gay men had queued the previous day to see her lying in state at the Frank E. Campbell funeral home.

Gay Liberation Front

In 1969, after the Stonewall Rebellion, the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) sprang up in New York City.

An early statement of the liberationist's aims was Carl Wittman's, "A Gay Manifesto" of 1969, which condemned the mimicry of "straight" society, oppression, self-oppression, and role dichotomies, while favouring gay ghettos, if reorganized as "liberation zones", together with coalitions with women, blacks, Hispanics, and radicals. Versions of the GLF grew in a number of countries.

In the summer of 1970, after Aubrey Walter had completed his sociology degree at the London School of Economics (LSE), he went to New York, having read about the GLF in The Times. There he met Bob Mellors, a 20-year-old who had also been a student at the LSE. On returning to London they held a meeting for the GLF in a basement room of the LSE on October 13, 1970.

In the early 1970s the GLF in the USA and elsewhere began to fade. When the British GLF faltered in 1974 Bob Mellors helped in the formation of more specialized lesbian and gay community groups.

Bob Mellors was found stabbed to death at his home in Warsaw on March 24, 1996. Martin Corbett (born November 27, 1944, died July 11, 1996) joined the GLF in 1971 and became a key GLF administrator and fundraiser.

International Lesbian and Gay Association

The International Lesbian and Gay Association, founded on August 8th, 1978 in Coventry, England, is the oldest and largest federation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered groups in the world. Over 18 years, ILGA members have been fighting against discrimination and oppression against lesbians and gay men, fighting for human rights, and fighting for the right to love.

ILGA members host regular World and Regional Conferences which bring people from all over the globe together to share experiences and strategize for the future. ILGA produces the only international lesbian and gay news magazine, the ILGA Bulletin. It goes out to everyone from heads of state to small lesbian collectives, from Istanbul to St. Louis and everyone in between. ILGA sends information to new groups starting up in countries like Sri Lanka, Bolivia, and Kenya. We help member groups and individuals to network with each other. We provide information to academics, lawyers and students.

ILGA lobbies international institutions like the OCSE, the UN, and the European Union to ensure that lesbians and gay men are recognized in international forums and that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is condemned.

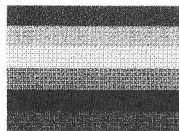
Some of our achievements:

- Conferences in Brazil, Mexico and Eastern Europe that drew national attention to lesbian and gay issues.
- The elimination of homosexuality from the World Health Organization's Classification of Diseases.
- Contributing to Amnesty International's acceptance of lesbians and gay men imprisoned for their sexuality as "prisoners of conscience"
- Contributing to the ground-breaking European Parliament "Resolution on the equal rights for homosexuals and lesbians in the European Union"

EGALE

Lobbying for Equality. Fighting for Justice in the Courts. Building a Communications and Action Network Across Canada. EGALE is a national organization committed to advancing equality and justice for lesbians, gays and bisexuals at the federal level.

- EGALE was instrumental in holding the Government to its commitment to add "sexual orientation" to the Canadian Human Rights Act;
- EGALE successfully lobbied for federal hate crimes laws to protect lesbians and gays from gay-bashing;
- EGALE intervened before the Supreme Court of Canada in support of same-sex relationship recognition;
- EGALE has developed active membership in every province and territory of Canada;
- EGALE has represented Canadian gays and lesbians at international conferences, including the Beijing Women's Conference and the Vienna U.N. Conference on Human Rights;
- EGALE experts have testified as witnesses before human rights tribunals.



The Rainbow Flag

Color has long played an important role in our community's expression of pride. In Victorian England, for example, the color green was associated with homosexuality. The color purple (or, more accurately, lavender) became popularized as a symbol for pride in the late 1960s - a frequent post-Stonewall catchword for the gay community was "Purple Power". And, of course, there's the pink triangle. Although it was first used in Nazi Germany to identify gay males in concentration camps, the pink triangle only received widespread use as a gay pop icon in the early 1980s. But the most colorful of our symbols is the Rainbow Flag, and its rainbow of colors - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple - represents the diversity of our community.

The first Rainbow Flag was designed in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, a San Francisco artist, who created the flag in response to a local activist's call for the need of a community symbol. (This was before the pink triangle was popularly used as a symbol of pride.) Using the five-striped "Flag of the Race" as his inspiration, Baker designed a flag with eight stripes: pink, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. According to Baker, those colors represented, respectively: sexuality, life, healing, sun, nature, art, harmony, and spirit. Baker dyed and sewed the material for the first flag himself - in the true spirit of Betsy Ross.

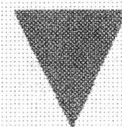
Baker soon approached San Francisco's Paramount Flag Company about mass producing and selling his "gay flag". Unfortunately, Baker had hand-dyed all the colors, and since the color "hot pink" was not commercially available, mass production of his eight-striped version became impossible. The flag was thus reduced to seven stripes.

In November 1978, San Francisco's gay community was stunned when the city's first openly gay supervisor, Harvey Milk, was assassinated. Wishing to demonstrate the gay community's strength and solidarity in the aftermath of this tragedy, the 1979 Pride Parade Committee decided to use Baker's flag. The committee eliminated the indigo stripe so they could divide the colors evenly along the parade route - three colors on one side of the street and three on the

other. Soon the six colors were incorporated into a six-striped version that became popularized and that, today, is recognized by the International Congress of Flag Makers.

In San Francisco, the Rainbow Flag is everywhere: it can be seen hanging from apartment windows throughout the city (most notably in the Castro district), local bars frequently display the flag, and Rainbow Flag banners are hung from lampposts on Market Street (San Francisco's main avenue) throughout Pride Month. Visiting the city, one can not help but feel a tremendous sense of pride at seeing this powerful symbol displayed so prominently.

Although the Rainbow Flag was initially used as a symbol of pride only in San Francisco, it has received increased visibility in recent years. Today, it is a frequent sight in a number of other cities as well - New York, West Hollywood, and Amsterdam, among them. Even in the Twin Cities, the flag seems to be gaining in popularity. Indeed, the Rainbow Flag reminds us that ours is a diverse community - composed of people with a variety of individual tastes of which we should all be proud.

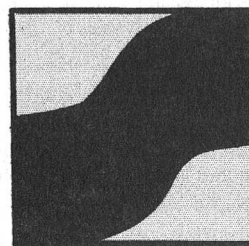


The Pink Triangle

The pink triangle has become one of the symbols of the modern gay rights movement, but it originated in Nazi concentration camps during World War II. In many camps, prisoners wore badges. These badges were colored based upon the reason for imprisonment. In one common system, men convicted for sexual deviance, including homosexuality wore a pink triangle. The icon has been reclaimed by many in the post-Stonewall gay rights movement as a symbol of empowerment, and, by some, a symbol of remembrance to the suffering of others during a tragic time in history.

Like the pink triangle, the black triangle is also rooted in Nazi Germany. Although lesbians were not included in the Paragraph 175 prohibition of homosexuality, there is evidence to indicate that the black triangle was used to designate prisoners with anti-social behavior. Considering that the Nazi idea of womanhood focused on children, kitchen and church, black triangle prisoners may have included lesbians, prostitutes, women who refused to bear children, and women with other "anti-social" traits. As the pink triangle is historically a male symbol, the black triangle has similarly been reclaimed by lesbians and feminists as a symbol of pride and solidarity.

Reportedly, the burgundy triangle may have been used to designate transgendered prisoners. Unfortunately, no one has yet to find a resource to substantiate this suggestion.



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When Being Yourself Just Isn't Good Enough

Reinvention of the self has always appealed to gay men.

By Elizabeth Kastor, Washington Post

So much can be changed: A name thrown aside, the body altered with a scalpel or a set of weights, an accent elevated, personal history revised with a few plausible stories. There is a brand-new you inside, waiting for its cue.

From the pioneers to Gatsby to Ivana Trump, the idea of reinventing oneself has exerted its magnetic force on the American imagination. The dream has had a particularly strong pull in the world of gay men, where abandoning the past, with its secrets and doubts and restrictions, is often an inevitable step in a life story. An aesthetic of self-creation has long shaped much of gay culture, and, this summer, some gay men followed the story of Andrew Cunanan, murderer and fabricator, with a particular interest. If Cunanan the serial killer was an aberration, Cunanan the self-inventor was not.

"We have to create identities, usually separate from our family and the environment, the community we grew up in," says Jeffrey Escoffier, a gay writer and editor who lives in New York. "That opens up a kind of gap that a lot of people fill in different ways.

"You have a new haircut, you change your looks, you go to the gym. The self-fashioning process is one that ranges from small changes to significant ones." Cunanan told people he was rich. He said he had been an intelligence officer in the Israeli Navy. He said he had gone to Yale, that he owned a company that used Mexican workers to make Hollywood sound stages. For a long time he costumed himself in those charming, successful selves. Eventually, the lies and pretense imploded, the charm went sour, and Cunanan disappeared in a spasm of violence. The attention he received worried many gay men.

Draw no morals from this story, they said: We are not homicidal, we are not pathological liars, our sexual orientation does not lead inexorably to chaos. But some saw in Cunanan's penchant for self-invention a distorted, exaggerated version of something familiar.

For decades, the gay neighborhoods of San Francisco, New York and Washington embodied the promise of change, freedom, friendship, acceptance. Greeting cards and T-shirts were emblazoned with the slogan "I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore." To come out of the closet, to move to those gay utopias, was to be swept up by a tornado and dropped into Oz. "Once you find your sexual identity is different than you imagined, or everyone else imagines—it's a very profound matter," says Frances Fitzgerald, who wrote about the culture of gay San Francisco in her book "Cities on a Hill," a portrait of visionary communities. "Once you eject yourself from the world of the common understandings and assumptions about who everyone is

or what they should be doing, then the choices become enormous." That identity is mutable—something to be played with, embellished—is an idea very much at home in the fashion industry, the theater. It is, however, more problematic when the seductive promise of limitless change collides with reality.

Daniel Harris, author of "The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture," remembers a roommate of his, a "poor boy in Boston" with no money and few prospects. "One day, I came into the cafe where we hung out, and he was pondering if he should actually buy a title. It was so gay!" One night he got lost on the subway and came up in Sheridan Square, which was filled, that summer evening, with young men staring at each other, talking in boisterous throngs. He vanished, meanwhile, from his former friends and family as if he had gone to Bali, or died in a traffic accident.

Fifteen years ago, Fitzgerald noticed that gay men often spoke of coming out in religious terms. According to Frank Browning, author of "A Queer Geography: Journeys Toward a Sexual Self," coming-out stories are "remarkably like Southern Baptists talking about getting saved and being reborn. That really does come out of a very strong piece of the American religion, that you will find the God within yourself and that is who you are."

To re-create yourself is, sometimes, to discover your true self. "When you're a member of a group that is often scorned and often discriminated against," says playwright Paul Rudnick, author of "Jeffrey," "then self-invention may actually be a form of genuine self-acknowledgment."

Reborn gay men often find that old assumptions about family, love, community, fall away as well. In the '70s, men once derided as sissies remade themselves into "Castro clones," with cowboy boots and button-fly Levi's, plaid shirts and leather jackets, and studiously well-muscled bodies. In Fitzgerald's "Cities on a Hill," Randy Shilts, who chronicled the early years of AIDS in "And the Band Played On," said: "We have no role models. We have to find new ways to live."

But long before the closet door opened, the gay aesthetic, embodied by Oscar Wilde, had been one that elevated fabrication, posture, artifice. Life in the closet, Escoffier says, requires "a kind of acting, so you're used to wearing a mask, and you're used to having a false identity."

In Washington in the early '60s, a group of men formed the Academy Awards, a drag club that ever since has provided its members, now more than 200, with a weekend escape. They also get a surrogate family. Members are divided into three "houses," each with a "mother," "aunts," "children." When a new member joins, the relatives guide him through the creation of an

alternative self. "It's so gratifying," says one of the founders, a man in his 60s who chooses to go by his drag name, Fanny Brice, because "I have family in the area." "Take a young man who's, let's say, 30 years old. Maybe he's baldheaded, and maybe he's got a little patch on him, and maybe he's not real attractive to boys in the bars—nobody ever picks him up or sends him a drink. Well, when you put him in drag, he's immediately got beautiful hair and he's got on a pretty dress with a girdle that holds in that potbelly, and he learns to walk in heels." "You get your own little specialized world that you can excel in, and you become very popular." Artifice stares down reality, with all its disappointments, and—at least for a weekend—defeats it.

After AIDS invaded the paradise many gay men thought they had discovered, the playful theatricality took on a grim subtext, but the creations continued. Now, however, energies were also directed toward altering the world outside as well as refining the self. Gay men built unprecedented institutions like Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York, and redefined the relationship between patients and the medical community.

The isolationists who turned the Castro in San Francisco and other neighborhoods into self-enclosed "gay ghettos" became activists protesting on the steps of the National Institutes of Health. Self-invention is hardly restricted to gay men.

Rudnick thinks Cunanan's lies were more a symptom of his social yearnings than anything to do with being gay. And the foundation of social climbing is improving reality. "Whether it's a false title, or just adding a Von or a Van into your name, or a Jr. or a III, or having one of those ambiguously wealthy last names like Ford, Whitney or Paley—they're all useful social syllables," he says. The process of crafting our public personas is constant. "We go through this every time we rework our resume—you want to show yourself to have a more coherent or presentable self," Escoffier says. "That's a common American thing—I don't think that's so gay—but I think the gay world makes it easier to do."

"There's a kind of rootlessness in this country," Fitzgerald says. "It rather increases this sense of who are we, where are we, these kinds of issues that simply don't turn up in more stable societies."

So we perch between optimism and unease, paradoxically believing that the more we change the more we become what we really are. ▼



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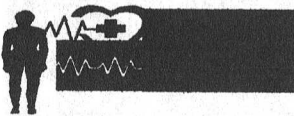
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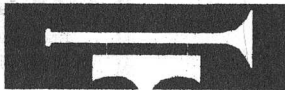
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New Directions Counselling

-Individual, Couple and Group Therapy
-Workshops and Seminars

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

Touchstone Counselling

Let's Talk!

-Individual, Couple and Family Therapy
-Depression -Self-Esteem
-Parenting -Gay Positive
-Sexual Abuse

Christine Boldt M.S.W.
888-7306

In Memoriam



David Grant 1958-1995

David died 2 years ago at his home on Sunday, October 22, 1995 in his 37th year. He is fondly remembered by his many friends and colleagues, and by those he touched through his caring work and selfless dedication.

Call For Submissions (S)



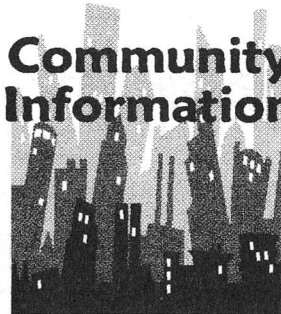
Do you have some unanswered legal questions that need attention? Why not jot them down or email them to us at Outlook and we'll forward them along to "The Advocate", Questions may be edited for content or space limitations.

Outlook Magazine is accepting submissions for "Reader's Corner"; a place where you the reader can post your letters to the editor, your opinions, or maybe even poetry or short stories you've been wanting to share with others. Do you have some artwork that you think may be suitable for our cover? Send it on in!

Outlook Magazine
P.O. Box 40002
Waterloo Square P.O.
N2J 4V1

**TO PLACE A
CLASSIFIED AD....
UP TO 30 WORDS
\$5
CALL [REDACTED] OR
E-MAIL:
OUTLOOK@EASYNET.ON.CA**

Community Information



GLLOW (Gay and Lesbian Liberation of Waterloo) U of W [REDACTED] or visit our website at: <http://www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/clubs/gllow>

GLOBAL (Gays, Lesbians or Bisexuals at Laurier)
e-mail: 00global@mach1.wlu.ca
website:
www.wlu.ca/~wwwclubs/www/global.html

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

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

M.C.C. Rainbow Church
Pastor Sid Bater, (519) [REDACTED] or e-mail to [REDACTED]

OUTline
A new support and resource phone line for people dealing with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues at the University of Guelph, in the City of Guelph and the surrounding area. Phone lines open every evening; Sunday thru Thursday, 7 to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 6 - 9 p.m. Call (519) 836-4550 or email us at: outline@uoguelph.ca

PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) has a local chapter centred in Guelph that meets every third Friday of the month. For more information, call Grace or Bill at (519) [REDACTED] or Evie at (519) [REDACTED] or Sue at (519) [REDACTED]

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

Substance Abuse Prevention
Kitchener
741-3827

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

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

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

AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County
204-85 Norfolk Street
Guelph, Ontario
763-2255

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

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

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

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

DISTRESS LINE
Kitchener 745-1166

Waterloo Region Alliance for Equal Rights
[REDACTED]

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

WOODS (Women Out Opening Doors Socially)
e-mail: [REDACTED]
website:
<http://www.golden.net/~soul/woods>



Support Local Gay Radio!

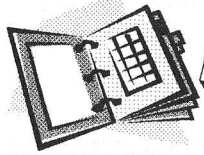
Monday- Out & About with your hosts Dave Callandar and Alan Fraser airs every Monday from 9:00 - 10:00pm on CKWR 98.7 FM. **Woman Made Collective Show** airs Mondays from 6-7 pm on CFRU 93.3 **Fingers, Fists and KY** is brought to you in part by The Lesbian Avengers and airs Mondays from 10pm - 12am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

October 22 - Crushes and Infatuations

October 29 - Safer Sex and Related Issues

November 5 - Bisexuality: Exploring Our Feelings and Misconceptions

November 12 - Internalized Homophobia: From Within

Ourselves and Our Community

November 19 - Peer Groups
November 26 - Initiating an Intimate Relationship

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 AQUATICS CLUB

Kitchener-Waterloo Aquatics Club - or KWAC - is a gay-friendly group who like to swim. The group generally meets to swim at the Waterloo Recreation Complex three times a week. Swimmers generally go out to a local cafe or restaurant afterwards - armchair athletes who don't want to get wet are welcome to join for that activity. Call Todd or Lindsay at [REDACTED] for details.

KW FRONTRUNNERS

Interested in running? Call Todd, Lindsay or Mark at [REDACTED] to find out more about running with KW Frontrunners,

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, November 8

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.

DID YOU KNOW??

Did you know that the 1996 Census was the largest ever conducted by Statistics Canada?

Did you know that there was NO mention of gays, lesbians, or bisexuals? or that there was

NO mention of same sex families? or that those in same-sex relationships had no choice but to indicate their marital status as "single" or "other"?

The 2001 Census Consultation Project is now underway and StatsCan wants your input!

Submit written comments no later than March 30, 1998 to: Pamela White, Manager 2001 Census Content Determination Project Statistics Canada, 3-B4, Jean Talon Building,

Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6
Tele: 613-951-6994
FAX: 613-951-9300
Email:
consultation2001@statcan.ca

Write in and be counted!!

NEW YEAR'S EVE GAY-LA

You may think it is a bit early to be planning for New Year's, but only 200 tickets are available. Thus, if you are interested in coming, you might want to call us in the next few weeks.

This event represents an opportunity for you to have a romantic candlelit dinner for two or a fun dinner for twenty - it is up to you. In any case, you can eat, dance and be gay in a fabulous environment.

Location: The Ultimate Appetite, 1595 Victoria Street North, Kitchener.

Wednesday December 31st
Cocktails 6:00 to 7:30
Dinner served at 7:30pm.
Dancing until 3am.

Tickets: Available starting Saturday October 11th from Sound Advice or the Ultimate Appetite. \$40.00 per person (includes your meal, champagne at midnight, party favours, prizes and entertainment) Only 200 tickets - available until December 21st or until sold out. For more information or to purchase tickets, phone LAURA at(519) [REDACTED]

*A separate smoking room will be available.

THIRSTY THURSDAYS

Quaff a Draft[™] at Club Renaissance!

Every Thursday

Small - \$1.75
Large - \$2.75
Pitcher - \$8.50

Club Renaissance 24 Charles Street W.
Downtown Kitchener (519) 570-2406
Open Wednesday thru Sunday 9 pm till 3 am

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



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

Angie's

Since 1962



Thursdays: All-You-Can-Eat
Fish and Chips

Sunday Brunch in St. Agatha
10am - 2pm



Visit Our Gift Shop in St. Agatha



It is our pleasure to cater your commitment ceremony reception. We strive to provide an open and tolerant atmosphere. Allow our receptive and friendly staff to serve you tasty, homestyle food at prices you can afford.

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



Travel

Taking Care of Business in a Flash

Serving the Gay Communities of Kitchener,
Waterloo, Cambridge and Guelph

For Your Travel Needs, Call Linda Today!

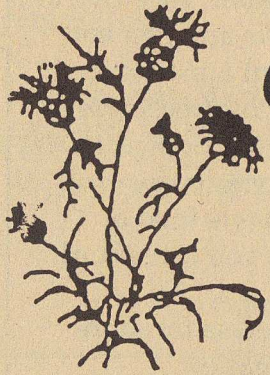
748-0850

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

IGTA

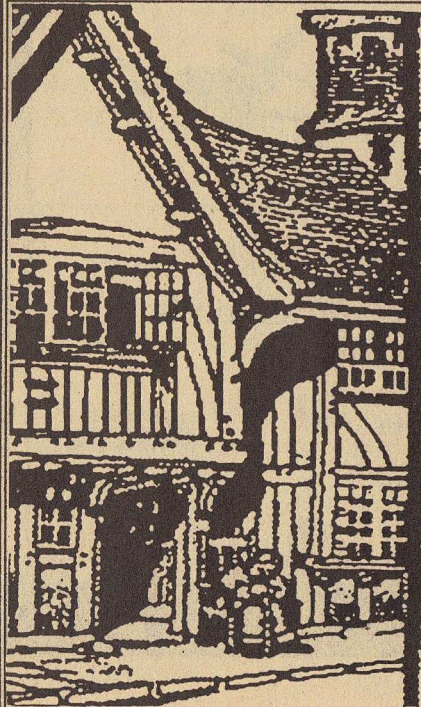


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CONESTOGO, ONTARIO
TEL: 664-1663 NOB 1N0**

RainBow Ridge

Proudly Presents...

An Evening with the Stars of
La Cage October 11, 1997



Join us at RainBow Ridge for a Theatre Evening which will include entertainment, dining and dancing in one of Ontario's finest Gay and Lesbian resorts located in the scenic Dufferin Highlands only 90 minutes from downtown Toronto!

Admit One

Starring.....

- * Cher
- * Barbara Streisand
- * Tina Turner
- * Joan Rivers
- * Roy Orbison
- * Janet Jackson
- * Anne Murray
- * Judy Garland
- * Liza Minnelli
- * and others from La Cage

Call today for your ticket (s) which includes the Show, Buffet Dinner and Dancing, \$40.00 per person(\$45.00 at the door). Doors open at 7pm and dinner will be served until 9:00pm. Show starts 9:00. Dancing at 11:00 pm until ???

Located on Hwy#9 & 25 (South)
Grand Valley, Ontario
Tel: (519) 928-3262
(888) 863-0221