

# Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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

## *Outlook Magazine*

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# OUTLOOK ▼

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ISSUE 26

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Dear Outlook Readers,

Did our cover catch your eye? Well, that's exactly what it was meant to do. This past month we were seriously considering suspending publication of Outlook Magazine. We have decided, however to **continue** publishing Outlook, but with some needed changes.

As most of you know, this is a not for profit publication and all advertising proceeds go directly into the make-up of our magazine; materials, printing, folding and stapling, etc. Even with these funds doing just that, we have over the past several months, have had to dip into our own pockets and make up the difference, and believe us, there's not much to dip into. In short, there is more money going out than coming in.

When we first started Outlook Magazine we believed there was a need for such a publication aimed at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community in Waterloo Region and we still do believe this. Outlook takes a very large amount of time, effort and money to put it together each month and by doing so some of our own interests have been neglected. So, we have decided to finish off the year as in the past as a monthly publication but starting in January 1998 we will distribute every two months. This will give us some time to explore our own interests and generally have time to ourselves.

For those of you who receive Outlook through our mailing list we will adjust the expiry dates accordingly. You will receive notification of your new expiration date with the December issue. New subscriptions will be based on a 6-issue run, with issues being printed January, March, May, July, September and November.

What can you do to help?

Submissions! Submissions! Submissions!

As a community magazine we rely on you the reader to take part in the production of Outlook by continuing to send us your submissions. As we stated in the past, we would like more local input on issues concerning the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community. We value your opinions and look forward to letters concerning something you may have seen in a past issue. If you have a talent for writing why not send us in a feature article that you think may be of interest to other readers - health, parenting, disabilities - the possibilities are endless. No matter what the subject may be, we're willing to take a look at it and if its suitable for publication, you'll see it in print. It can be a one-time article or a running series if your article is extremely long. Our goal is to have enough articles filed away that, at any time, we can reach in and pick one or two out for a current issue - no more scrambling near deadline to fill those pages!

Advertising

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Your participation will help with the success of Outlook Magazine.

Thanks for your attention,  
Mark & Rick

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Telephone: (519) [REDACTED] E-mail: outlook@easynet.on.ca  
Website: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5901>



Publisher  
Mark Jordan

Advertising  
Bev Brennan

Brantford Distribution  
Rob Duckworth  
ducky@execulink.com

And A Wonderful Group  
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## Thai Teacher Colleges Lift Gay Ban

(Wockner Int'l News) -- The Rajabhat Institute, which operates 36 Thai teacher colleges, has lifted its year-old ban on gay students, "apparently under pressure from foreign ... non-governmental organizations," reported the Bangkok Post.

But the institute simultaneously proposed a new rule banning "sexually abnormal" people. Rajabhat Council member Wanlop Piyamanatham said sexual abnormalities include copulation with inanimate objects, exposing oneself in public and deriving pleasure from sadomasochistic acts.

The earlier gay ban resulted from a misunderstanding of the nature of sexual deviance, Wanlop said.

"The institute misunderstood and used the wrong word," he said. "That's why it seems to violate human rights. The best way is to single out sexually abnormal people."

To do that, the institute will use a sexual-abnormality screening test that Wanlop claimed was developed by the World Health Organization.

"Sexual deviants are not always sexually abnormal," he said. "Sexual abnormality is worse. They can't be good teachers -- they're emotionally abnormal."

Comments on the proposed new policies can be e-mailed to Mr. Sukavich Rangsitpol, Minister for Education and Chairman of the Rajabhat Institutes Council Ministry of Education, at [bumrung@emisc.moe.go.th](mailto:bumrung@emisc.moe.go.th); and Mr. Charoon Choolarp, Secretary General of the Rajabhat Institutes Council, at [sutichai@oric.rajabhat.ac.th](mailto:sutichai@oric.rajabhat.ac.th). Both men can be reached by fax at 011-66-2-282-9241.

## Britain Defends Gay Immigration Rights Change

LONDON, Oct 11 (Reuters) - British ministers defended a decision to allow the foreign partners of gay men and women the right to settle in the country after only four years in a relationship.

The move, which came into effect on October 13, was hailed by gay rights campaigners as "an important step forward." But opposition Conservative MPs attacked it

as undermining the status of the family.

Under the new laws, foreign partners of British gay men and women will have to show that they have lived together for four years -- rather than for 15 years under the old rules -- before being allowed to settle permanently in Britain.

The newly-elected Labour government said the old immigration laws may have breached human rights and said the change would affect only about 100 couples a year.

"Some people, such as gays and some common law couples are actually prohibited from marrying by law. I think it's unfair to destroy their relationships," Immigration minister Mike O'Brien told BBC radio.

But right-wing former Conservative cabinet minister Lord Tebbit accused the government of putting "sodomite marriage on the same standing as the honourable estate of matrimony."

Tebbit, who earlier in the week inflamed racial tension with a prediction that Britain would "become a Yugoslavia unless it stamped out multi-culturalism," told reporters; "Presumably now we will have to endure a succession of real or alleged homosexual partners being brought in to avoid our immigration rules."

The former Norman Tebbit's views contrasted with those of Conservative leaders at the annual conference in Blackpool who were at pains to stress the party's tolerance of minorities.

The concession on immigration followed a decision by the government to give members of parliament a free vote on whether to lower the age of consent for homosexuals to 16 from 18 -- bringing it into line with that of heterosexuals.

## Japan's Lesbians Step Out

(Russell Skelton, and Andrew Donaldson, Tokyo) -- They came with drums and whistles, some dressed in dark blue "salary man" suits, others draped in rainbow flags as they marched through Tokyo streets to the music of k.d.lang.

It was Japan's first gay march in support of lesbian rights and lesbian pride. Although they were small in number - just a noisy and assertive 200 - they stopped Tokyo's midday shoppers. Some onlookers were amused, some were curious. The elderly seemed bewildered.

"The lesbian community here is hardly visible at all, it is not like the United States or Australia," said a spokeswoman for the march, Ms Maria Miho Hiramatsu. "The problem with lesbians in Japan is that they are connected with pornography. The image of lesbians follows men's ideas of what women are which is very different from women's idea of what women are," she said. A prominent member of the Lesbian Mother's Association, Ms Hiramatsu, dressed in gold lame and purple feathers, was accompanied on the march by her two young sons. "I am divorced. I have come out. I have

told my friends and my boss even that I am a lesbian and I have not received any reaction from him. I think this is because he probably doesn't understand what it means," she said.

In Japan, the gay culture is officially ignored. Laws permit homosexual acts between consenting adults over the age of 18, but because of the strict conformist nature of Japanese society, most homosexuals still live in a subterranean world of gay bars and discreet lifestyles.

Lesbians marching say that discrimination would be far greater in Japan if gays were open about their sexuality. The marchers' banners carried an explicit message. "It is a mistake to connect lesbians with pornography," declared one.

### Police Spy On Gay Groups

(Sydney Star Observer) Australia - Victorian lesbian and gay groups and the state's AIDS Council are considering legal action following revelations the police service had kept secret files on individuals and community groups.

Victorian AIDS Council and Victorian Council for Civil Liberties president Joseph O'Reilly called for a judicial inquiry into the covert operations, which he described as 'another demonstration of the fact that Victorian police had a tendency to use excessive measures'.

"We are examining the prospects of legal action over breaches of confidentiality, and there will certainly be mass complaints to the Ombudsman and mass applications under Freedom of Information," he said.

"We'll be demanding access to the files, and the appointment of an independent body to oversee police operations." O'Reilly said police had files on former ALSO Foundation president Danny Vadasz and former VAC president Keith Harbour, and on organizations such as the Council for Civil Liberties, the now defunct Gay and Lesbian Electoral Lobby, Friends of the ABC, and the Koori Information Centre.

The former Operations Intelligence Unit kept files on individuals between 1985 and 1992. Its replacement,

the Protective Security Intelligence Group,

still monitors political organizations and demonstrations.

The revelations put further strain on an already tense relationship between Victoria's gay and lesbian community and the police.

ALSO foundation president Kris Sanderson said relations had 'reached their nadir today'.

"With the disruption of the Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Committee, the lack of response ... to the rise in homophobic violence and now the secret files, it will be more difficult than ever to create a sense of confidence and trust in the police," Sanderson said.

O'Reilly said: "The ironic thing is that for all their investigations and surveillance of gay and lesbian community groups, they have clearly learned nothing about the way we live our lives and the discrimination we face".

### British Airways Flies Over The Rainbow

(NewsPlanet) - British Airways has become the second corporate sponsor of the Rainbow Card, which may also indicate that English advertisers are beginning to smell a queer pot of gold.

British Airways (BA) has joined Subaru of America as the second corporate sponsor of the Rainbow Card, a Visa affinity credit card, representing the first time the airline has directly sought the business of gay and lesbian travel customers. British Airways had previously limited such efforts to promotional campaigns targeting travel serving the lesbigay market.

Exact terms of the multiyear deal have not been released, but include British Airways also signing on as a sponsor of the annual Rainbow Card Leadership Award, sponsored by the Conshohocken, Pennsylvania-based Do Tell, Inc., the company which operates the lesbigay-supportive credit card. The actual



Joseph O'Reilly

agreement was made between BA and the Rainbow Endowment, the nonprofit entity which distributes grants to lesbian and gay organizations underwritten by a small percentage of the total charges made by Rainbow Card users.

This new initiative by British Airways may be seen as another sign that corporate England is easing up on its rather conservative approach to product promotion. According to an October 15 Reuters report, British companies have been extremely conservative in determining how and to whom they advertise, especially in comparison with an almost anything goes attitude in most other parts of Europe. Katrina Michel, who's in charge of planning at Ogilvy & Mather's London offices, said specific taboos in British advertising have included sex, death, "ugly women" and homosexuality. "Many clients are not prepared to break down barriers," she said. "It's a case of 'don't frighten the horses.' I think it's a generational thing, but as we begin to see baby boomers in increasingly senior positions in client companies then things will begin to change." A recent survey of British consumers by Grey, another major ad agency, suggests that public attitudes may be easing up as well. Only 27% of those surveyed believed lesbian and gay references in advertising should be banned.

### Preacher Defends Anti-Gay Sermon And Billboard

(The Age) - A preacher who plans to deliver a "God hates homosexuality" sermon has defended the sermon and its advertisement on the church's billboard. The billboard, in front of the Christadelphian church in Boronia Road, Boronia, [a Melbourne, Australia suburb] had read "God hates homosexuality" but has been defaced. It now reads "God hates nothing. There is no room for hate in this community."

Mr Joe Stolzenburg, who will deliver the sermon, said the church was not opposed to homosexuals, only the act of homosexuality.

He said it was reasonable to ask gays to be celibate because everyone had to make sacrifices to live according to the Bible. Asked if the billboard could incite violence against homosexuals, he said the church abhorred violence.

But Mr Richard Adams, 33,

a gay resident of Boronia, said the message was "outrageous".

"I just saw that (billboard), couldn't believe it. Did a U-turn and came back," he said yesterday. "God hates nothing. That's what God's about." He said he would consider contacting gay groups to complain.

### Cammermeyer For Congress?

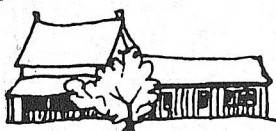


(NewsPlanet) Staff - If retired Army Col. Margaret Cammermeyer winds up in the House of Representatives, you can bet she won't be "serving in silence!"

Retired Army Col. Margaret Cammermeyer, whose life story was told in the made-for-TV movie, "Serving in Silence" starring Emmy winner Glenn Close and produced by Barbra Streisand, is considering a bid for the U.S. House of Representatives. A native of Norway and a 30-year resident of the state of Washington, Cammermeyer would run against two-term Republican Representative Jack Metcalf in the 2nd District, which includes all of the western section of the state from the town of Everett to the Canadian border. She said in the October 14 Tacoma News Tribune she's getting "an enormous amount of encouragement and support" in her initial explorations, but that "At this point, what you hear is the support. You don't hear the negative propaganda yet..." that she expects to come from anti-lesbigay forces.

Cammermeyer was the highest-ranking officer ever to be discharged under the pre-"don't ask, don't tell" military ban against lesbians and gays. A decorated Vietnam veteran, she later won reinstatement to the Washington State National Guard and retired with honors. The appeal of her lawsuit challenging the military's policy was finally thrown out of court October 6 with a federal appeals court finding the case now moot because the policy under which Cammermeyer was originally discharged was repealed in favor of the Clinton Administration's compromise.

Accustomed to battle and to public scrutiny, Cammermeyer said "the frustration over inaction by Congress" would be her biggest challenge in office. "Having to fight an adversary is not something that's new - standing up for what you believe



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in, standing up for human rights and civil rights and rights of children and the elderly and disenfranchised," are the proven qualities she feels she could bring to politics.

Cammermeyer is currently serving as co-chairwoman of the group working for passage of state Initiative 677, the Washington ballot measure to ban employment discrimination based on sexual orientation.

### Cool Reception Given to "Ex-Gays" at Harvard

(Data Lounge) -- The Harvard Crimson reports the reception given to far right panelists speaking on behalf of National Coming Out of Homosexuality Day at Harvard Law School were given a less than warm reception by the mostly gay audience attending.

Most of the people gathered in the Law School's courtroom wore rainbow stickers, pink triangles, or donned other gay insignia in support of National Coming Out Day, honored nationally Oct. 10. After the address, some 150 gathered for an outdoor open-microphone discussion sponsored by Lambda, the Law School's gay and lesbian student association.

The Crimson reports the atmosphere, while initially cordial, soon devolved into a rancorous debate, with members of the audience shouting or snickering at what they found to be some of the more ridiculous statements made by the panelists.

One of the panelists, Michael Johnston, told the audience he contracted HIV during the 11 years he said he was "active in the homosexual subculture." He told audience members he "renounced" his homosexuality when he realized his "relationship with Christ was more important than anything in the world."

Robert Knight, director of cultural studies for the Family Research Council told the group he once had a friend who was an alcoholic and "dabbling in homosexuality." When this comment provoked snickering, he became visibly agitated. "You know deep down in your hearts it's not natural, it's not moral," he said.

Though for some the experience was emotionally draining, many found it to be exhilarating, and there were moments of high comic relief. At one point in the program, Jane Boyer, who described herself as a former lesbian, told the group homosexuality was "a symptom of deep emotional wounding as a child" and said that all gay men and lesbians secretly "desire the arms of a daddy." The audience erupted into riotous laughter, whistles and applause.

### Mennonites Oust Pro-Gay Congregation

PHILADELPHIA -- Christianity's continuing struggle to come to terms with gay men and lesbians in the church took a difficult turn recently when the Germantown Mennonite Church, the oldest Mennonite congregation

in North America, was expelled from the denomination for its acceptance of gay people.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reports delegates from 52 congregations in the Philadelphia region voted 178-40 in a special mail ballot to rescind the credentials of Germantown's Pastor Richard Lichty, effective Jan. 1.

The Inquirer reports shortly after Donella Clemens, moderator for the regional Franconia Conference of the Mennonite Church, delivered the news, Ken White, a gay member of the congregation rose and demanded that Clemens escort him to the door of the meetinghouse "to cast me out of the Mennonite Church and the body of Christ."

Clemens, clearly dismayed by the request, at first refused, saying she had no wish to see any church member expelled. But many of those assembled insisted, saying conference leaders had a duty to accept the implications of their actions. Clemens then accompanied White to the door, saying she was acting "as a representative of the 81 percent of delegates" who had voted for expulsion.

Pastor Lichty rose minutes later and made an identical request. Clemens again complied, leading him to the door. The pastor, who is not gay, described the incident as "my worst day" as a minister.

Clemens told the Inquirer the incident was "the most difficult thing I have ever done in my years of church work." She said the requests to be led out of the assembly hall "came as a complete surprise" and described the incidents as "very painful."

"I'm not sure what the spiritual meaning of their decision is," 57-year-old Lichty told the Inquirer. "It feels as if they are saying: 'We don't need you' or 'We don't want you' or 'You're not fully a Christian.' But whatever it is, you know you're severed."

Clemens said the vote to terminate Germantown's membership was "in no way meant to say [gay members of Germantown Mennonite] are not fully Christian. All we are saying is that at this point in time, we are not able to agree" on the morality of monogamous gay and lesbian relationships.

White told the Inquirer his decision to ask Clemens to walk him from the meetinghouse was spontaneous. "They were cutting us from the church, and they needed to realize that," he said. "So many things happen to gays and lesbians and people don't see it. I felt I needed something to symbolize what it felt like."

### Clinton Called on to Lift "Evil" Anti-Gay Policy

LOS ANGELES (Data Lounge) -- The Los Angeles Times reports a veteran federal judge called on President Clinton to "admit his mistake of judgement" and renounce the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

In a speech delivered before the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, retiring U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge William A. Norris, 70, called upon the president to abandon the 1993 compromise governing

gay and lesbian service in the military. "Renounce it because it is wrong, it is evil -- as you surely must know in your heart," he said.

"To be sure, other forms of discrimination, such as discrimination based on race or gender, persist as grave social problems in America," Norris said. "But at least they are no longer acceptable as official government policy.

Regrettably, however, it continues to be acceptable for the government and government officials to promote hatred, fear and intolerance against gay men and lesbians."

Norris also denounced the Supreme Court's 1986 Bowers vs. Hardwick decision which upheld Georgia's sodomy law. The high court reversed a federal court ruling that said the sodomy statute violated fundamental rights and that engaging privately in such conduct was beyond state regulation.

The Times says Norris unleashed a withering attack on then-Chief Justice Warren Burger's opinion which said giving gay people "the same rights of privacy enjoyed by straight people" would be to "cast aside millennia of moral teaching." Norris said this comment was "surely one of the most gratuitous and vicious opinions ever written by a federal judge."

Calling discrimination against gay men and lesbians "the most intractable civil rights issue of the 90s" Norris said the Bowers decision and the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy would eventually be buried in the "national cemetery of shame" along with other notorious court decisions permitting slavery, segregated public facilities, and the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

"As dark as each of these chapters in our history has been, each ultimately has been renounced," Norris said. "Each is now dead and buried, but we must never forget them, for they serve both as a reminder of our past mistakes and as a reference point for measuring our collective progress towards a truly just society."

### NWT Rejects Recognizing Same-Sex Couples

(Globe and Mail)YELLOWKNIFE -- The Northwest Territories government has rejected recognizing same-sex couples as a legal entity.

Legislative assembly members voted 10-5 on October 10 against a motion that would have given same-sex couples the same rights as common-law or married couples in respect to spousal support, division of property and family income.

Two members didn't vote and six were missing. Kelvin Ng,

minister of social services, health and justice, abstained from the vote and wouldn't comment, saying only that it is a "sensitive" issue. Michael Miltenberger, deputy chairman of the standing committee on social programs, said those who opposed recognizing same-sex couples said it was an attack on family values and went against the natural order.

Mr. Miltenberger said it's not the end of the issue for the government. "I think it's just a matter of time, but for the time being there's no recognition of same-sex couples up here for anything."

The contentious issue will likely come up again when a private member is expected to put forward a motion to allow same-sex couples to adopt children, Mr. Ng said.

Earlier, the territorial government gave third reading to two acts in its family law package -- one dealing with common-law couples and the other with child protection.

Both laws, which come into effect April 1, 1998, are meant to implement a system more representative of northern and aboriginal culture.

Under the Child and Family Services Act, local committees of police, teachers, parents, family members, social workers and the child -- if she or he is over 12 years old -- will come up with a plan of care for any child who may need protection or who is in a custody dispute.

Mr. Ng said the process is similar to an aboriginal sentencing circle, where a community group of friends and professional people come up with an appropriate sentence for a person convicted of a crime. "I think it's leading edge, I don't think there's a lot of mechanisms for community and family involvement in other jurisdictions," said Mr. Ng.

The act also allows for the child to be placed with an extended family member, such as an aunt or uncle, rather than a stranger in a foster home.

The act is positive in that it gives control to the community, said Rosemary Cairns, executive director of the Status of Women Council in Yellowknife. But Ms. Cairns said it's crucial the government give the resources and money for training and setting up the local committees. "We have a continuing concern about how



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people will be made aware of the provisions of the act and how it will work in the individual communities."

Under the Children's Law Act, common-law couples are viewed as married if they live together for two years or more in respect to property division, support and child custody.

The territory's family law has been studied for at least a decade. The report that recommended current reforms was released five years ago.

### U.S. National HIV Case Surveillance Is Urged

WESTPORT (Reuters) - The U.S. needs a national system of HIV case reporting, according to the authors of an editorial that appeared October 16 in The New England Journal of Medicine.

Up to now, the AIDS surveillance system has "...formed the cornerstone of the nation's efforts to monitor and characterize the epidemic of (HIV) infection," Dr. Laurence O. Gostin of Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. and colleagues explain.

Because this system reports advanced cases of HIV infection, it only "...provides a snapshot of a decade-old epidemic." The authors believe that "...the compelling need for accurate monitoring of HIV infection and for effective medical and public health interventions mandates a fundamental reevaluation of AIDS surveillance."

They argue that there is now a "new era" of more sophisticated treatments for HIV infection. "Recent research suggests that a treatment regimen of HIV reverse-transcriptase inhibitors and protease inhibitors reduces mortality and delays progression of disease."

Gostin and colleagues believe we have reached a "defining moment in the epidemic" and "...unless we revise our surveillance system, health authorities will not have reliable information about the prevalence, incidence, and future directions of HIV infection."

They say a collaboration between public health, advocacy, and academia can produce an HIV-reporting system "...that is both scientifically sound and protective of personal privacy."

### Conservatives Blast Gore Over "Ellen" Comments

WASHINGTON (Data Lounge) - The Washington Post reports Vice President Al Gore is being roundly criticized by conservatives for comments made in a speech October 16 applauding the television show "Ellen" and the effect the program has had in promoting a more tolerant view of gay people.

Gore's remarks to an entertainment group in Hollywood have been warmly welcomed by representatives of national gay organizations, and were the latest in a series of moves the vice president has made in cultivating gay

support for his expected run for the White House in 2000. In addition to hosting an event at the vice presidential mansion for gay activists and accepting an award for protecting AIDS funding from budget cuts, Gore has made a number of public appearances in which he has spoken strongly in favor of advancing gay civil rights.

Last month Gore spoke at National Gay and Lesbian Task Force dinner telling the mostly gay audience "It is time for all Americans to recognize that the issues that face gays and lesbians in this country are not narrow, special interests, they are matters of basic human and civil rights."

The Post says, however, none of these comments have generated as much controversy as the vice president's praise for the "Ellen" TV show. Lorraine Voles, Gore's communications director, denied that the speech was intended to solicit cooperation from either gays or the entertainment industry.

Former vice president Dan Quayle, who made headlines in the 1992 campaign attacking television's "Murphy Brown," told the Post, "I'm always surprised to hear politicians promoting the agenda of Hollywood elites...If there's anybody whose agenda needs promoting, it's the middle-class American family."

Larry Tate, the new head of the Christian Coalition said the vice president was guilty of "craven pandering to the Hollywood left...for money and support" and said the vice president's expressed views were "way out of the mainstream."

The Human Rights Campaign's Elizabeth Birch told the Post Gore's comments reflect he "is far more in touch with the vast majority of Americans" than the Christian Coalition. She said while she thought the move was good for him politically, she doesn't believe that is what motivated him. "My consistent experience of the vice president is that he cares about this issue and that he wants equality and fairness to operate."

### Anti-Gay Gospel Song Sparks Debate

PHILADELPHIA - The Philadelphia Inquirer reports Angie and Debbie Winans, the two youngest members of the legendary Winans gospel music family, got the idea for their song, "It's Not Natural," while watching ABC's airing of the "Ellen" coming out episode.

The recently released single, which purports to address the sins of homosexuality, is climbing rapidly in the gospel music charts and is unleashing what many say is a long-overdue debate about how gay men and lesbians, especially black gay men and lesbians, are looked upon by the African American community.

The Winans' stated desire to sing "It's Not Natural" at the Million Woman March in Philadelphia on Oct. 25 has brought the focus of the debate from Washington, where the Winans have performed the song in local churches, to Philadelphia and a national audience.

"The gay lifestyle is promoted in our entertainment world. When you watch TV or listen to music or movies,

these things are glorified and in time accepted as the way it should be," 25-year-old Debbie Winans told the Inquirer. "We are just trying to put an alternative perspective out there."

Organizers of the Million Woman March told the Inquirer they did not know which songs the Winans had planned to sing. Paula S. Peebles, program committee chairwoman for the march, said she would discuss the matter with the Winans and after collecting "more feedback and information about the controversy" would make a decision on whether to allow the song. The Winans have said they won't sing the song if asked not to.

The march is an interdenominational event with no single religious perspective -- all women of African American descent are welcome, Peebles told the Inquirer. She stated flatly the march "is not dealing" with issues relating to sexual orientation.

The Winans' single, which will appear in the No. 4 position on Billboard's gospel music chart, has enraged

the lesbian and gay community uniformly across racial, ethnic, and religious lines. Mark Segal, publisher of the Philadelphia Gay News told the Inquirer, "I thought Christians didn't call people names. Saying someone's unnatural is calling someone a name. And how dare they be so arrogant to know what God intends?"

### DP Pensions in Ontario Appeals

In order to stop discriminating against domestic partners, a major Canadian labor union is fighting to get government out of the pension room.

A coalition including Canada's largest labor union and the Canadian Human Rights Commission is seeking to extend equal treatment to same-gender partners under private pension plans, in a case that opened before the Ontario Court of Appeal on October 20. The case itself involves Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) member Nancy Rosenberg. She pays into the union's pension plan but cannot designate her partner as its beneficiary because of provisions of the national Income Tax Act, which regulates pensions and continues to define "spouse" in solely heterosexual terms. At issue is a 1995 Ontario trial court decision which rejected CUPE's efforts to open its private pension plan's benefits to members' gay and lesbian partners, citing a ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada which found "reasonable grounds" for sexual orientation discrimination in the payment of government pensions to widows and widowers. The coalition of appellants believe a victory in this case could lead to equal pension rights under private plans throughout the province.

Several different attorneys offered various arguments on behalf of the coalition as the appeals hearing began. CUPE's Peter Engelmann said, "It's about dignity and self-worth," claiming that the "second-class" treatment of same-gender couples serves to support stereotypes that such relationships are less meaningful than heterosexual pairings. The union's position is that the Supreme Court decision allowing discrimination in the disbursement of public funds need not be forced on to private funds seeking to avoid discrimination.

The Equality Coalition's Cynthia Peterson described the previous decisions as being "about preserving a certain family relationship that is a traditional heterosexual relationship." She took aim at the federal government's past "reasonable grounds" argument that women who had been economically dependent on male breadwinners were the ones legislators had intended to benefit from pension support, telling the media before the trial that, "Lesbians are women too. If [the federal government] is concerned about poverty among elderly

women, then they should be concerned about poverty among elderly lesbian women, too."

Ultimately, the sticking point remains the Income Tax Act and Revenue Canada's refusal to recognize same-gender partners. Currently, a private plan such as CUPE's would lose its tax-exempt status if it tried to pay pensions to beneficiaries the federal government won't recognize. To benefit same-gender partners, a separate plan would have to be set up with separate documentation, and without the same tax

advantages for either the plan or its beneficiaries. John Fisher of the national group Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere (EGALE) described the federal government's failure to change this situation as "cold feet, political cowardice, pure and simple." CUPE's spokesperson Geraldine McGuire told the media, "The government has no business discriminating in either the bedrooms of the nation or the private pension plans of the nation."

### Asylum In Norway For Lesbians And Gay Men

(ILGA) - The Norwegian minister of Justice issued the day before she left government new regulations for asylum policy in Norway.

Norway is now recognizing lesbians and gay men as asylum seekers and will grant asylum based on sexual orientation. This is a matter we have worked on for several years and we have had cases from countries within the latest few years.

The new regulations are done in order to comply with UN's convention on refugees. The demand for proving

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risk of persecution in the home country is now lowered when decisions on asylum are to be taken. The lacking ability of the home country to protect will count in the decision making - not only the lack of will. Threat of persecution not only from government but also from other groups in the society will count.

### Aussie Murder Trial Gets Weird

(PlanetOut) -- "Homosexual panic" meets "The X-Files" in a bizarre Sydney gay-bashing murder case in which the evidence includes a crossbow, a freezer, and taped testimony from beyond.

The Sydney area killing of open gay Stephen Dempsey was already grisly enough for a Halloween spectacle, but evidence introduced in the murder trial of confessed killer Richard Leonard moved into the realm of ghosts. Although Leonard told the police he shot the arrow that killed Dempsey on August 2, 1994 and went to unusual lengths in disposing of the body afterwards, he has pleaded not guilty to murder in what appears to be an astonishingly brazen use of the homosexual panic defense. Prosecutors introduced an audiotape secretly recorded as Leonard held a rather foul-mouthed conversation with his victim by means of a Ouija board in his jail cell.

The two men's paths crossed in a beach cruising area.

Leonard came with a crossbow and arrows, which he says he was going to use to shoot fish. Leonard claims that Dempsey made a pass at him, including walking towards him in a suggestive manner after he'd warned him to come no closer - and even leering at him once dead. Leonard says he was not intending to kill Dempsey but only to keep him away, yet his arrow hit Dempsey in the heart. Nonetheless Leonard says Dempsey pulled the shaft out of his own chest, continued to approach and even tried to strangle him before collapsing.

Leonard then went to buy a present and join his mother for dinner to celebrate her birthday. Only after that did he return to Dempsey's body to make use of what he'd learned as a worker in a slaughterhouse. He dismembered the corpse, put the pieces in plastic bags, carried them home, and stowed them in a freezer where he left them for four months. At that time he explained the situation to the girlfriend he'd met three months before and enlisted her help in renting a boat. He wrapped the body parts in chickenwire, transported them to the boat in several trips on his motorcycle, weighed them down with rocks, and finally dropped them overboard. Only Dempsey's torso was found, when it washed up on a beach on December 21, 1994.

Leonard's conscience began to bother him when he first attended church after the murder, having dumped Dempsey's clothes on the way there. He made his

confession in May 1995.

Prosecutors believe Leonard acted not out of self-defense but with every intention of killing a gay man, and the audiotape of the Ouija session is a key piece of evidence in support of that position. The jury heard the tape on October 16. Leonard first asked the "spirit" to identify himself, saying, "What do you want to tell me? You want to give me a message from Dempsey? What do you want to tell me?" As Leonard spelled the letters out loud, the Ouija board responded, "F\*\*k U" and went on to shower Leonard with more remarks in the same vein. Leonard said, "You know, I really enjoyed knocking you, you f\*\*king piece of shit."

The jury heard another audiotape from a police wiretap of Leonard's home phone. In that tape, Leonard called a male brothel in hopes of getting a job there, and police later followed him to his job interview.

The trial continues.

### Gay Man Refused Ambulance

(BrotherSister) Australia - A man refused transport from the Queensland Ambulance Service has been told by an officer that the refusal may have been because he is gay.

Graham Frank, 58, had sought medical treatment for arthritis at an Ipswich clinic in August and had been transported there by an ambulance from his Brisbane home. When the appointment was over, the clinic's receptionist had rung for an ambulance for the return journey. However, the ambulance never came and after waiting for almost three hours, Mr Frank caught a taxi home.

Upon making inquiries to the ambulance service, Mr Frank was told by an officer during a home visit that staff may have refused to send the ambulance on the grounds of his homosexuality. The officer agreed that this is unacceptable and commented that training should be in place to prevent such incidents.

Mr Frank said he contacted the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland (ADCQ) and was told that there was nothing that could be done for his case, even though ambulance services are clearly covered in the Anti-Discrimination Act which states that the administration of state laws and programs must be done in a non-discriminatory manner.

Andrea Gibson, Principal Conciliator at the ADCQ said that there may have been some misunderstanding and reiterated that there is grounds for complaint but that a written submission with detailed information was required.

Mr Frank wrote to the Emergency Services Minister Mick Veivers whose response that the Brisbane Central section

had failed to respond to the request conflicted with the visiting ambulance officer's belief that the call had been made to the Gold Coast.

Veivers' response said the Minister would be inquiring further into the incident but Mr Frank has heard nothing since.

"It's very disappointing," Mr Frank said. "Gay people could require an ambulance in a far more urgent and life-threatening situation than this and the results of it not being sent just because staff don't like gay people could be really severe."

### Lesbian Coach Sues Utah School

(LA Times) SALT LAKE CITY-- It was bad enough when high school psychology and physical education teacher Wendy Weaver lost her job as a volleyball coach in July after school district officials learned she is a lesbian.

The next day, the district issued a vaguely worded memorandum warning Weaver, 40, that she also could lose her 17-year tenured teaching position at Spanish Fork High School if she spoke about her sexual orientation to anyone--on or off campus. Weaver was shocked. Could she be fired for telling a colleague off campus that she had a date with her partner? Could she hold her hand in public?

Weaver on October 21 filed a lawsuit in federal court accusing Utah County's Nebo School District, Supt. Dennis Poulsen, director of secondary education Larry Kimball, district director of human resources Almon L. Mosher and Spanish Fork High School Principal Robert Wadley of violating her constitutional rights to free expression, privacy and equal protection.

At a news conference organized by her lawyers at the American Civil Liberties Union, Weaver--who led her volleyball team to back-to-back Utah state championships in 1993 and '94--said: "I've never been an activist. All I want is the right to live my private life as I choose."

School district officials declined to discuss the lawsuit. In a telephone interview, Mosher would only say: "We expect our teachers to teach curriculum. We don't expect

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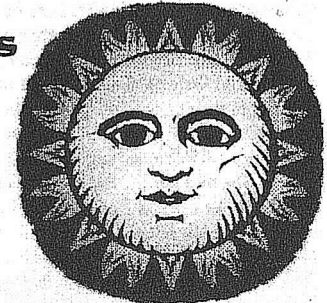
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them to bring personal matters into the classroom. "Since this is a personnel issue, we have to protect her privacy," he added. "So we're a little bit at her mercy right now. She can say what she wants. We can't."

The response from gay and lesbian activists across the nation was immediate and blunt. "Every American should be greatly concerned about this case," said Kevin Jennings of the Gay/Straight Teachers Education Network. "What's happened to Wendy isn't new--thousands of lesbians and gays live by these rules every day, only they are unspoken," Jennings said. "But the school authorities had the temerity to put these rules in writing and demand that Wendy sign away her constitutional rights if she wished to keep her job."

"If Wendy loses, it establishes the right of an employer to reach into your life and tell you what you can say as a condition of your continued employment."

Gay rights issues have always struck a dissonant cord in Utah. A year ago, the Salt Lake City Board of Education tried to squash a gay and lesbian high school club. Deciding that they could not eliminate one club without prohibiting all others, the officials issued a blanket ban that also ended the ski, chess, Frisbee and Bible clubs. That same year, the Utah Legislature passed a law giving local school boards the ability to forbid clubs that "materially or substantially encourage criminal or delinquent conduct, promote bigotry or involve human sexuality." Nonetheless, gay and lesbian high school students have continued to meet at certain schools under a law that allows groups to rent space from a public school after hours.

Now, Weaver's case is adding to the controversy. "If the district doesn't want a homosexual coach, they have a right to say no," said Gayle Ruzicka, spokeswoman for the conservative Utah Eagle Forum. "The homosexual lifestyle is an immoral lifestyle. When Weaver is actively living that lifestyle, she is living and participating in immorality." The district first acted against Weaver after her ex-husband, Gary Weaver--a former teacher at Spanish Fork High--mentioned to some acquaintances that she is a lesbian. The couple divorced in April. Since then, Weaver has shared a relationship and a home in the town of Salem with her partner.

The lawsuit filed conceded that Weaver did mention her sexual preference to one of her students in early June. She had been calling volleyball team members at the time to remind them of an upcoming camp. One of those students told Weaver that she would not be playing on the team in the coming year. When Weaver asked why, the student replied, "Can I ask you a question?" Weaver said, "Sure." The student asked whether Weaver was a lesbian. She told her the truth. "This conversation, not initiated by Weaver, not during school hours or on school property," the lawsuit said, "is the only time Weaver has discussed her sexual orientation with a student."

On July 21, Wadley signed a letter informing Weaver that "I will not be assigning you to coach volleyball this year." When Weaver asked the basis for that conclusion,

Wadley allegedly told her that his "perception [of Weaver] had changed," the lawsuit said. When Weaver asked him why she was not the same person he had known for eight years, he was silent.

The next day, she stood at attention in Mosher's office as he read aloud the memorandum that seemed to prohibit her from telling anyone about her homosexuality anywhere. "You are not to make comments, announcements or statements to students, staff members or parents of students regarding your homosexual orientation or lifestyle," the memorandum said. "If students, staff members or parents of students ask about your sexual orientation or anything concerning the subject, you shall tell them that the subject is private and personal and inappropriate to discuss with them." And, it warned: "A violation of these requirements may jeopardize your job and be cause for termination."

Weaver said she repeatedly asked for clarification. District officials refused, but advised her that the memorandum stands "as is," the lawsuit said.

Prior to July 22, Weaver said she had never been the subject of any disciplinary action. Over the years, she has received positive evaluations from her peers and supervisors, she said. "In all my years of service to the school district, I've never done anything to deserve this," said Weaver. "I'm not ashamed of my sexuality and I believe they are discriminating against me because of that."

"She's the best thing that ever happened to Spanish Fork athletics," Helen Hjorth, a 1994 graduate who now plays varsity volleyball at nearby Brigham Young University, told Associated Press. "There was no reason to fire her except for her personal lifestyle, and I think

that's pretty lame," Hjorth said. "People who know Wendy know she would never do anything."

### Qatar Deports Alleged Homosexuals

(AP) Qatar -- Qatar has deported 20 Filipinos suspected of engaging in homosexual acts, a Filipino embassy official said October 22.

The official, Abraham Estavello, said 16 more Filipinos were awaiting deportation on the same charges.

The Filipinos were not charged in court. Police in the capital of Doha arrested them Oct. 1 in a raid on clothing and barber shops that had been under surveillance.

If convicted of committing a homosexual act in Qatar, foreigners are usually sentenced to five years in prison and are then deported.

### Pride Sends Mayor Into Hiding

(PlanetOut) -- (Printed October 22) London, Ontario lesbigay activists are thrilled by a human rights tribunal's ruling against the denial of their Pride proclamation, but the city is shocked by the mayor's reaction.

It's unheard-of for a sitting mayor to spend the last three weeks of a re-election campaign entirely out of reach of both the voters and the media, but that's just what London Mayor Dianne Haskett says she'll be doing -- and it's all because of her refusal to issue a proclamation of gay and lesbian pride and the Ontario Human Rights Commission ruling that her refusal constituted discrimination. Haskett had been all but certain to defeat the colorless challenger who happens to be her own deputy mayor, Grant Hopcroft, but that's much more doubtful now. She's taking a leave of absence and leaving him in charge until election day, November 10. (Hopcroft's comment: "Wow.")

Haskett's unpaid leave of absence is intended in part to defray half of a \$10,000 fine (the salary and expenses she won't be collecting), but also to avoid having to make a proclamation concerning the valuable contributions of gays and lesbians to her community. Both were penalties assigned jointly to her and to the city by an Ontario Human Rights Tribunal for her refusal to issue a proclamation for the July 1995 Gay Pride Weekend, requested by the Homophile Association of London Ontario (HALO). It's also a chance for some healing to occur, both for London's insulted gays and lesbians and for Haskett herself, an evangelical Christian who broke down in tears during her four hours testimony before the tribunal two months ago. Although Haskett believes the ruling was wrong, she said she will not appeal it. Despite its legal counsel's view that there was a viable basis on which to build an appeal, London's City Council also decided on the night of October 20 not to do so. Naturally, HALO is thrilled that the legal aspect of the situation is ended, although the task of building new political relationships still lies ahead.


Haskett's announcement, which she read at a press

conference and paid to publish in a local newspaper, said, "I will not bow down to the ruling of the human rights commission and I am willing to bear any consequences of that." Referring to HALO specifically, she insisted, "I have never interfered with the activities of this group, as evidenced by the pride celebrations that go on very openly each year. But at the same time, I am not prepared to be, now or in the future, the advocate for this organization or its agenda."

However, she also expressed regret for having caused pain and indicated her intention to meet with gays and lesbians after the election. "I want, as mayor of the city and on my own behalf, personally to reaffirm the inherent worth of each Londoner, including those who are gay and lesbian. You should know that I have always felt this way... I have never advocated discrimination against gays and lesbians, many of whom have been my clients, my tenants, my colleagues and my friends. I do not judge or condemn."

In fact, many gays and lesbians had perceived her as gay-friendly at the time of her previous election, and were shocked when she refused to issue the proclamation. She had indicated at the tribunal hearing -- the only time she's spoken publicly about her reasoning in the matter -- that her religious beliefs barred her from actively advocating on behalf of gays and lesbians or for abortion rights, and she had hoped to avoid being "compelled to force [her] personal spiritual convictions on the city of London."

Haskett will not be issuing any proclamations as mayor



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from now on. Proclamations are generally the sole prerogative of the mayor in London, although the City Council can vote to issue them. (Indeed, forcing the Council to share responsibility for Haskett's behavior that the tribunal deemed discriminatory is one legal aspect of the case which some have found a troubling precedent.) In 1995, when a proclamation lauding HALO's then 21 years of service to the community was introduced in Council as a means of side-stepping her stonewalling, her own vehement arguments secured a 14 to 5 defeat.

Of her plan for three weeks of seclusion at the height of her campaign, she said, "When I say withdrawing from public life, I mean that literally.... Such a decision has been very difficult and not arrived at lightly. Loving my job as I do, it takes all the courage that I have to put it all at risk. But at the same time, I feel very sure that this is what I must do.... I am putting myself at the mercy and goodwill of the people of London. If the people of London decide to give me another term as mayor, I will consider it the greatest gift I could ever ask for."

The City Council's determination not to appeal the case was no easier than Haskett's decision to absent herself. They've had numerous calls and letters from constituents on both sides of the question -- including offers from Haskett's supporters to pay the court costs for an appeal, when cost was in fact a deciding factor for most of them (legal costs so far total about \$50,000).

The hour Councilmembers spent in closed session on the matter was intensely emotional, causing several to emerge from the room with tears in their eyes. Nonetheless, with only Councilmember Ben Veel abstaining, the rest agreed unanimously not to appeal; to pay the \$10,000 penalty to HALO; to hold meetings with HALO, including discussion of a possible proclamation (which HALO is reportedly not seeking at his time); and to make a statement recognizing the significance of gays' and lesbians' contributions to the community.

#### Survey Finds Gay Families Among the Strongest

(Data Lounge) ST PAUL, Mn. -- The St. Paul Pioneer Press reports a study commissioned by a consortium of state and private agencies has discovered that gay families, those headed by parents of the same-sex, are among the strongest and healthiest of family structures surveyed. The statewide study, based on a survey of 1,000 adults and members of 400 families, is part of the

Minnesota Family Strength Project -- a joint project undertaken by the state's Family and Children's Service agency; the Allina Foundation; the Minnesota Historical Society; and Minnesota Public Radio.

The study noted that nearly 80 percent of state residents polled felt their families were "very strong" or "exceptionally strong" and that the biggest stresses reported by families were not big crises but petty day-to-day arguments and disagreements.

While gay and lesbian respondents were more likely to report their original families were less strong, owing perhaps to problems they experienced growing up, the Pioneer Press says the families they created as adults tended to score most consistently as the healthiest and strongest of any surveyed.

Explaining the surprising finding, authors noted, "Perhaps same sex couples, in their struggle to adapt in a relatively hostile culture, have developed certain strengths -- better communication skills or support systems, for example," that make their families particularly healthy.

#### Gays Had Better Conditions In Jamaica Jails Say Police

(Reuters) - Police officers have told a commission of enquiry looking into riots at Jamaica's two main prisons that homosexual relations were taking place between guards and prisoners.

Sixteen inmates were killed and 40 injured in the riots at Kingston's General Penitentiary and the St. Catherine district prison in Spanish Town between Aug. 20 and 23. All of the 16 killed were accused by other inmates of being gay.

The violence was sparked by a suggestion by Corrections Commissioner John Prescod that condoms should be distributed to guards and inmates to prevent the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Guards went on strike for three days in protest against Prescod's statement, which their spokesman said had "poured buckets of dung" on all prison guards. Jamaicans in general are hostile to homosexuality.

However, two senior police officers told the commission on October 22 that their investigation into the riots found that homosexual relations were common between guards and prisoners.

Gay inmates received special privileges and better living conditions, which created resentment that fueled

the riots, they said.

"These (gay) prisoners were allowed to roam the compound up to 11 at night," police Superintendent DaCosta Biggs said. "They were cooks, attendants, they washed vehicles and were sent out on the streets on errands."

Inspector Wrenford Robinson said the cell block housing the gay prisoners at the general penitentiary "is like heaven...it is the cleanest block in the institution."

During two weeks of hearings so far, the commission has been told that prison guards were virtually untrained in dealing with riots and disturbances and many of the weapons available to them were in bad condition.

The commission is expected to end its hearings shortly and to make recommendations to the government on how to prevent similar violence in the future.

#### Call To Suspend British Aid To Zimbabwe

(OutRage!) -- The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, is being urged to halt British aid to Zimbabwe, in protest at the country's victimization of lesbians and gay men.

The call came from the gay rights group OutRage! as Zimbabwe's President, Robert Mugabe, arrived in Edinburgh to attend the Commonwealth summit.

Gay protests against Mugabe were planned in Edinburgh on Saturday, 25th October.

We urge the Foreign Secretary to put his ethical foreign policy into practice. He should tell Robert Mugabe that future British aid will be conditional on an end to victimization of homosexuals.

OutRage! is also seeking joint Commonwealth action against Zimbabwe. The Commonwealth summit should condemn Zimbabwe's homophobic witch-hunts. If Zimbabwe refuses to stop persecuting gay people, it should be suspended from the Commonwealth.

Mugabe has denounced lesbians and gays as "sexual pervers" who are "lower than dogs and pigs". Rejecting calls for gay human rights, he said: "We don't believe they have any rights at all". Mugabe has also warned homosexuals to leave Zimbabwe "voluntarily", or face "dire consequences". Since his comments, gays have been beaten, arrested, fire-bombed, and threatened with death.

Mugabe appears to be using his antigay crusade as a diversionary tactic to deflect

public attention from economic mismanagement and government corruption.

#### Cyprus Must Lift Ban On Gay Sex

(Ron Buckmire) -- Foreign Minister Yiannakis Cassoulides last month said he considered it a "serious mistake" that the House had not yet decriminalized homosexual relations between consenting adults in private.

He warned that Cyprus would face pressure from the Council of Europe over this failure to bring its laws into line with those in the European Union and elsewhere.

Mr Cassoulides is absolutely right to deplore the House's foot-dragging on this issue. It is inexcusable for a country which considers itself on a par with developed Western countries, and which aspires to become a member of the European Union, to continue to brand homosexuals as criminals. In the West, popular art forms, far from maligning homosexuals as social pariahs, now represent them sympathetically, thus changing the way they are perceived. This is a reflection of the parallel freedom afforded to gay people by the law. Films such as Philadelphia and Four Weddings and a Funeral illustrate how homosexuals have become increasingly integrated into mainstream American and European society.

How then can a supposedly modern, educated country like Cyprus continue to relegate some of its citizens to the fringes of society, denying them the basic right to an identity?

In Cyprus, being called a homosexual is still a term of abuse. Few gay people are open about their sexual orientation because of the prejudice they face. 'Unmanly' behaviour in boys and 'unwomanly' behaviour in girls is frowned upon by adults adhering to the stereotyped ideas of male/female behaviour. We are brought up to believe that homosexuals are the worst kind of degenerate: effeminate, limp-wristed 'queens' or 'butch, leather-clad 'dykes' who prey on unsuspecting youths and revel in orgiastic excesses and drugs. We ignore the fact that these vices are just as common among heterosexuals who are responsible for the majority of crimes, and that it does not follow that a person automatically has sociopathic tendencies if he or she is gay.

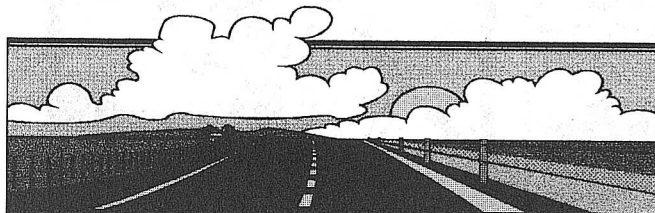


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Absurdly, we convince ourselves that these people choose to be homosexual. But which sane person, in the face of so much hostility, not to mention persecution by the law, would 'choose' to be gay? Even women who have been 'left on the shelf' - and that is stigma enough in Cypriot society - are in a better position than homosexuals: at least they don't have to be invisible.

Matters are not helped by the lack of compassion shown by the Orthodox Church. The latter has done nothing to ease the burden of these shunned individuals; encouraging instead the popular fallacy that homosexuality is somehow a sin above all other sins. There is nothing to suggest this in the scriptures; all sin is shown to have the same measure of evil in God's eyes. Christ himself befriended social outcasts such as tax-collectors, harlots and thieves.

In the face of such unrelenting opposition from the Church, however, it is not surprising that the law still prohibits sexual intercourse between consenting adults of the same sex. The law, which should have been the guardian of homosexuals' rights and which has always had the power to eradicate social taboos, remains an insurmountable obstacle to the acceptance and integration of homosexuals into society. This is plainly unjust.

It is high time to put an end to this injustice and to recognize the rights of a significant section of the Cypriot population. People who have the same legal duties and pay the same taxes as the heterosexual majority should also have the same legal protection. This is the only correct course of action for a country that considers its citizens educated and forward-looking and which hopes to become a member of the European Union.

Ironically, as gay-rights campaigner Alecos Modinos suggested in a recent TV interview, Cyprus more than any other country can ill-afford the luxury of denying such rights; it has experienced first-hand how deep the scars of injustice can run.

**First CLC Conference  
On Lesbians, Gays And  
Bisexuals**

(Gary Kinsman) - The first ever "Solidarity and Pride" Conference for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Trade Unionists and Our Allies of the Canadian Labour Congress took place in Ottawa October 15-17th. Three-hundred and forty lesbian, gay,

bisexual, transgendered and some supportive heterosexual union activists (more than three times the number originally expected) participated in a series of workshops on "making the links," "activism," workplace issues and negotiating for our rights, current legal battles, "finding our histories" (at which a network for recovering queer union histories was initiated), and negotiating benefits along with a cabaret and popular theatre. This was the first time that I am aware of that a central labour federation in any country had organized a lesbian, gay, bisexual conference.

A highlight of the conference on the first night was a showing of US gay historian Allan Berube's wonderful slideshow on the history of the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union from the years of the depression to the cold war titled "No Red-Baiting! No Race-Baiting! No Queen Baiting!" This inspiring slideshow gave us all a glimpse into progressive union history where the struggles against class exploitation were intimately associated with struggles against racism and heterosexism.

Although some participants felt that there was too much stress on group process exercises at the beginning of the conference by the end of the conference it was clear that this first conference of its kind had brought together hundreds of activists who were not only union activists, and lesbian and gay activists, but also were profoundly committed to the struggle against racism and sexism.

While not all unions were represented (there were only a small number of Steelworkers present) and some were more present than others (CUPE had a good presence) there were many occasions for networking and strategizing throughout the conference. Conference participants took part in a series of demonstrations -- in support of human rights in Columbia, in support of Mary Ross who has experienced discrimination in Sudbury because of her sexual orientation from LOEB (a grocery store chain), and also in support of employment equity programs.

In the final plenary there were motions in support of the Windsor Day of Action against the Harris agenda, in support of Ontario teachers, in support of Mary Ross, Nancy Nicol (who has experienced discrimination on the basis of her lesbian activism, feminism and socialism at York University),

and in support of Joseph Stelplflug who is a teacher fired for being gay from the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

Many called for the conference to be an annual event and some raised concerns that it was not a policy making conference that could submit motions to the next CLC conference. The final plenary was quite energizing and people also committed themselves to trying to involve more people of colour in the next conference and to strengthening the struggle against racism.

The conference was a very important experience for me. It has been a long time since I have been at such a large progressive conference with activists committed not only to the fight for lesbian and gay rights but who saw this as linked to the struggle against class exploitation, racism and sexism. It showed very concretely that hundreds of lesbian, gay, and bisexual activists are playing an important part in the union movement (even though this is not always recognized) across Canada and Quebec (and there were a number of delegates from Quebec). Queer activists are playing an important part in broadening out, expanding, and transforming the union movement so that it takes up all of the forms of oppression in this society. I hope the second "Solidarity and Pride" conference gets off the ground soon.

**Lesbian Discrimination Ruling Overturned**

(Courier-Mail Newspaper) Brisbane, Australia -- A Supreme Court judge October 25 overturned a landmark decision which allowed lesbians access to donor sperm from fertility clinics.

In a written appeal judgment, Justice Brian Ambrose ruled that the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal was wrong in finding a medical practitioners' service company and the doctor directly discriminated against a lesbian by refusing her request for artificial insemination.

The 26-year-old woman said the decision was the outcome she had expected. "It is by no means the end of it. We are appealing, definitely," she said.

Although Justice Ambrose ordered the tribunal's finding against the service company, QFG Pty Ltd, be set aside, he suggested the tribunal reconsider two aspects of the case, which, he believed, needed to be resolved.

The rehearing would, in effect, resolve whether the doctor indirectly discriminated against the woman or whether he was legally within his rights in doing so.

On January 31 this year, the tribunal awarded \$7500 compensation for humiliation to the woman, identified only as JM, who was denied the medical group's assistance in her bid to become a mother.

In what was a landmark decision, tribunal president Roslyn Atkinson upheld JM's complaint, ruling that QFG had discriminated directly and indirectly by denying JM access to fertility technology.

Until the tribunal's decision, the medical community had been guided by the 1984 Demack Report into laws relating to artificial insemination and in-vitro fertilization,

which stated the purpose of such clinics was to help couples who, due to medical and reproductive problems, were unable to have children.

QFG and the doctor appealed against the tribunal's decision.

In his decision October 25, Justice Ambrose wrote: "In my view, the evidence is simply insufficient to support the decision QFG was vicariously liable for any prohibited discrimination by the doctor..." Justice Ambrose also found the doctor had not directly discriminated against the woman.

QFG director Doug Keeping said the decision was "a bloody good day for common sense".


"We are not anti-lesbian and never have been," he said. Dr. Keeping said the Anti-Discrimination Commission was trying to run rough-shod over medical standards and ethics.

Health Minister Mike Horan said the case was a matter of medical professionals trying to uphold the ethics they wish to work to. "They have very strong views that children deserve the chance to have a father," Mr Horan said. "I strongly support that view that every kid should have a chance to have a father from the outset."

Mr Horan said the Government would now consider whether any legislation, which had been under consideration, would be necessary in light of the appeal.

Gay and Lesbian Welfare Association co-convenor Janet Fitzgerald said she was concerned about the ramifications of the decision. "It sounds like splitting legal hairs to find loopholes to discriminated-against lesbians," she said. "The ultimate result is still discrimination against lesbians."

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### Dutch Panel OK's G/L Marriage

(NewsPlanet) — Finding that "...same sex couples can only be afforded equal treatment if they are allowed to enter into civil marriage," a Netherlands Parliamentary committee favors granting full rights.

A Parliamentary committee recommended October 28 that full civil marriage rights, including full parental rights, be opened to same-gender couples in the Netherlands. The committee was assembled by Justice Minister Elizabeth Schmitz to review possible implications of the action following a favorable vote in the Second House earlier this year. In its report, the panel wrote that, "The majority of the committee believes that same sex couples can only be afforded equal treatment if they are allowed to enter into civil marriage. These members do not view the new type of marriage as a break with tradition: After all, marriage has always been a flexible institution which kept pace with social change."

The committee recommendation is one more step towards equal marriage rights for Dutch gays and lesbians, and could be enacted as early as 1998. A rather complex process of registering partnerships is already due to go into effect on January 1, 1998, but while legally meaningful, like Scandinavian civil registries those partnerships do not include parental rights. Schmitz herself had favored denying adoption rights in particular to gay and lesbian couples because of possible international ramifications; many of the rather small number of adoptions in the Netherlands each year are of children from other countries. Both the committee report itself and gay and lesbian activists suggested that, should civil marriage become the law of the land, the pioneering step by the Netherlands could serve as a model for other nations.

### State Church in Denmark Okays Gay Marriage

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — The Associated Press reports bishops of the State Lutheran Church in Denmark unanimously approved gay marriages October 28, albeit with a number of unusual restrictions.

First and foremost, separate marriage ceremonies of the kind common for heterosexuals, will not be permitted for gay couples. Rather, same-sex unions must be performed as a part of regular church services.

The intended nature of the distinction was not explained.

European attitudes to homosexuality differ greatly from country to country, but initiatives underway in more liberal northern countries to legally recognize gay marriage have placed the issue of gay rights at the forefront of the European social agenda.

The utter rout of Britain's conservative government in the last election dramatically ended one of Europe's most staunchly anti-gay regimes and gave new impetus to a continental-wide movement towards greater gay and lesbian tolerance. Tony Blair's Labour government, though moving too slowly for some, has made substantial headway on a broad range of gay issues.

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Gay couples have been allowed to register as domestic partners in Denmark since 1989. While domestic partnerships grant gay couples legal bonds in property ownership, pension benefits, taxation, inheritance and divorce, the Danish state currently bars partnered couples from adopting or bearing children through artificial insemination.

The Netherlands voted last December to lift the ban on same-sex marriages and will become the first country in Europe to fully legalize them on a par with heterosexual marriage. The law takes effect January 1, 1998.

In addition to Denmark and the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden currently allow same-sex couples to register their partnership, but this affords them only limited legal rights.

### Company Recalls 57 Million Condoms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ansell Personal Products recalled batches of three brands of its condoms after discovering that some may break.

Some 57 million condoms from the Lifestyles, Prime and Contempo brands were subject to the recall, the Food and Drug Administration said.

"That doesn't mean there are 57 million bad condoms," emphasized FDA spokeswoman Sharon Snider. But when New Jersey-based Ansell discovered that some condoms could deteriorate before their expiration dates, it couldn't predict exactly which batches were at risk. So to be safe, it recalled every variety in question, Snider said.

The FDA urged consumers to check their condoms to ensure they had not already bought the recalled brands.

The agency also urged consumers to check the expiration dates on all condoms, because using any expired brand poses the risk that the user may not be adequately protected against pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases.

Recalled were:  
—LifeStyles Ultra Sensitive with Spermicide, expiration date October 1997.  
—Lifestyles Assorted Colors with Spermicide, expiration dates October 1997 through June 1998.  
—Lifestyles Spermicidally Lubricated, expiration dates October 1997 through October 1998.  
—Lifestyles Vbra-Ribbed with Spermicide and Extra Strength with Spermicide, expiration dates October 1997 through April 2000.  
—Prime Spermicidally Lubricated, expiration dates October 1997 through February 2000.  
—Contempo Power Play with Spermicide, October 1997 through February 2000.  
—Contempo Intensity Assorted Colors with Spermicide, expiration date November 1997.

Ansell discovered the problem after receiving several consumer complaints about condom breakage.

### Canada Bars Men's Extradition to US

TORONTO (AP) — An Ontario judge is refusing to hand three Canadians over to U.S. authorities in a high-profile fraud case because he believes a U.S. prosecutor implied the threat of homosexual rape against the men.

Judge Bruce Hawkins said October 28 there was no lack of evidence to justify sending the three men to Pennsylvania.

But, Hawkins ruled, "no right-thinking Canadian would endorse the use of a threat of homosexual rape as a means of persuading Canadian residents to abandon their rights to a full extradition hearing."

He granted a stay of proceedings under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, blocking the extradition attempt.

The disputed comments came in an interview on Canadian television with assistant U.S. attorney Gordon Zubrod, who said those who resisted extradition would face a long, hard prison term as "the boyfriend of a very bad man."

U.S. Justice Department spokesman Gregory King said Zubrod "has apologized for his inappropriate comment."

King, speaking by telephone from Washington, said the matter had been referred the department's Office of Professional Responsibility, which has power to take disciplinary measures ranging from reprimands to suspensions.

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The Justice Department had not given up hope of obtaining the extradition of the three Canadians - Harry Cobb, Allen Grossman and James Tsioubris. King said the next step would be determined in consultations between U.S. and Canadian authorities.

Cobb, Grossman and Tsioubris were among more than 40 people and several companies charged in 1994 and 1995 with taking part in a cross-border telemarketing scam. The swindlers preyed on people who had bought gems as investments, but were unable to resell them.

More than 1,000 people were swindled out of an estimated \$35 million. Some participants in the scheme surrendered to U.S. authorities and became prosecution witnesses.

Hawkins said he found Zubrod's comments unacceptable, and he also criticized the comments by a U.S. federal judge, William Caldwell, who said in 1995 that people in the case who come to trial after failing to cooperate will get "the absolute maximum sentence that the law permits me to give."

The Canadian Justice Department, which argues extradition cases on behalf of foreign authorities, has not decided whether to appeal Hawkins' order.

#### Michigan Legislator Faces Fine Over Gay Slander

DETROIT, Mi. -- The Detroit News reports a conservative Michigan lawmaker may be forced into court if she does not agree to pay a fine for linking a political opponent and gay advocacy group to child molesters.

A Wayne County mediation panel told State Rep. Deborah Whyman (R Canton) to pay an undisclosed amount to the Triangle Foundation, a Detroit gay civil rights group, for saying in 1996 campaign literature that the group endorses sex between men and boys.

The campaign mailer also stated that since her opponent, Democrat Deborah Nesbit, took contributions from Triangle Foundation members, she too endorsed pedophiles and "homosexual extremists."

The flyer mailed to several thousand homes in Whyman's district two days before the November 1996 election featured a picture of two men facing each other naked from the waist up with a Triangle Foundation bylaw supporting "sexual minorities" reproduced on the cover. The flyer bogusly added the phrase "including pedophiles" to the foundation statement.

Triangle officials threatened to sue Whyman for slander unless she publicly retracted her mailer's statements. She refused, calling the legal action being taken by the gay foundation "frivolous."

The mediation panel's recommendation is not binding, but the state lawmaker has only one week left (Oct. 30) to comply with its finding and pay the suggested fine. Jeff Montgomery, the Triangle Foundation's associate director, vowed to pursue the case until his objections were satisfied.

#### A Victory For Women In South Africa!

On Friday, 17 October 1997, the Minister of Health, Dr. Nkosazana Zuma announced new regulations governing insemination of women as provided for by the Human Tissue Act. The changes have ended unfair discrimination against unmarried women who wish to receive donor insemination.

In July 1997 three single women complained to the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) about the old regulations which restricted the right to donor insemination to married women with the written consent of their husbands. These regulations are from the old apartheid dispensation and they are not in line with the new Constitution of the country.

The SAHRC addressed these issues with the Minister of Health who informed the SAHRC that the Government Gazette of 17 October 1997 will publish new regulations which will do away with unfair discrimination on the basis of marital status.

This means that lesbian women and all other unmarried women are legally permitted to conceive children through donor insemination.

The National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality applauds the SAHRC for achieving this great victory for women!

#### Supreme Court Begins Hearings In Alberta Lesbian & Gay Equality Challenge

(EGALE) -- The Supreme Court of Canada began hearings November 4 in the case of Vriend v Alberta - a constitutional challenge to Alberta's refusal to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination.

Delwin Vriend was fired in 1991 from his position as a chemistry teacher for being gay. The Human Rights Commission would not receive his complaint, because Alberta's human rights legislation does not prohibit "sexual orientation" discrimination. Vriend therefore turned to the Courts, asking that Alberta's human rights legislation be extended to protect gays and lesbians. Numerous groups and intervenors are supporting Delwin Vriend's appeal, including GALA- the Gay and Lesbian Awareness Society of Edmonton, EGALE and the Federal Government. The Province of Ontario is joining with Alberta in opposing the appeal.

"I brought this case because I believe that no gay or lesbian should have to live with discrimination," said Delwin Vriend. "The Government of Alberta has refused to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination, time and time again. The Government has made its position clear: it believes that gays and lesbians should be discriminated against. It's becoming so clear the path the government wants to take us, and it's a scary one. I think Canadians would be appalled to go down that path. I think the Court will see that as well."

"This is a historic and significant human rights case," said Murray Billett, director of GALA (Gay and Lesbian

Awareness of Edmonton). "The Alberta Government has poured millions of taxpayers' dollars into fighting to maintain its discriminatory practices. Their determination to discriminate against gays and lesbians at all costs is an insult to Albertans and an embarrassment to Canadians."

"Sexual orientation discrimination is prohibited by the Charter of Rights, as well as the governments of Canada, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon Territory," said John Fisher, Executive Director of EGALE. "Other provinces are currently considering appropriate legislation to bring their human rights laws into conformity with the rest of Canada. Alberta is the only government in all of Canada which explicitly refuses to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination. Your rights as a gay man or lesbian should not depend on where in the country you happen to live. Discrimination of any kind is just plain wrong." and....

#### Alberta's Exclusion of Gays Questioned

OTTAWA -- The Supreme Court of Canada harshly questioned a lawyer representing the Alberta government November 4 over the province's exclusion of gay rights in its human rights charter, the Associated Press reports. The exclusion is being challenged before the high court after a six year legal battle.

John McCarthy endured repeated questioning from

several justices on the bench who accused the government lawyer of "going around in circles" in his defense of Alberta's decision not to include sexual orientation in its human rights charters. McCarthy alternately declared there is no verifiable need for gay rights protections while arguing the futility of such laws should they be passed.

"We're taking from this line of argument that there is a new legal principle in the country called the McCarthy Doctrine," said Justice Frank Iacobucci to the laughter of spectators in the court.

The case was brought against the government of Alberta in 1991 when Delwin Vriend, now 31, was fired from his teaching position at an Edmonton Christian College for being gay.

#### Canadian Couple Win Name Change

(Chris Ambidge with NewsPlanet Staff) -- The Ontario Human Rights Commission has ruled that a committed lesbian couple by any other name is not as sweet...it's discrimination -- and that can be costly.

A Toronto lesbian couple has won a ruling from an Ontario Human Rights Commission Board of Inquiry allowing them to join their names at the same low price as unmarried heterosexuals. Bonnie Bewley and Michelle Crawford became partners eight years ago, had their union blessed in a ceremony at Toronto's Christos Metropolitan Community Church, and wanted to

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combine their names into "Crawford-Bewley" to indicate their relationship. When traditional couples are legally married, a name change comes as part of the package, with the only additional fee being \$25 for a birth certificate showing the new name; common-law heterosexual couples also have the option of making a name change at a nominal fee. But when the lesbian pair tried to do the same thing more than six years ago, the Registrar-General refused to comply, insisting they would have to go through the process by which single individuals make name changes, at a cost of \$150 each.

Believing this constituted discrimination based on sexual orientation, prohibited by the Ontario Human Rights Act, the couple filed a complaint with the Human Rights Commission. The Commission provided for them the services of attorney Joanne Rosen, who early this year argued their case against provincial government counsel Peter Landman, who has represented the government (and lost) in a number of other cases involving lesbians and gays. Landman tried to get Bewley to say on the stand that the couple had been motivated by outside influences or political motives. In fact their motives were quite simple: to have simply paid up at the individual rate, in Bonnie's words, "Would Not Have Been Right."

On November 6, the Commission advised the couple that the Registrar-General has been ordered to make the name change, and that they would also receive some compensation for damages. There's reason to believe that the Ontario government will appeal this decision, as it has so many others involving gays and lesbians, but the couple is enjoying their victory for now.



**Clinton, in Historic  
Speech,  
Urges Acceptance of  
Gays**

(LA Times)  
WASHINGTON -- U.S. President Bill Clinton, making a precedent-setting appearance before a gay advocacy organization, on

November 8 urged the nation to accept gays and lesbians as full-fledged members of the American community. "If we're ever going to build one America, then all Americans, including you and those you represent, have got to be a part of it," Clinton said in his keynote address at a fund-raising gala for the nation's largest homosexual political group, the Human Rights Campaign.

Clinton, the first incumbent president to participate in an event of this kind, repeated the words of President Truman, who stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial 50 years ago to endorse equal rights for African Americans. The president quoted Truman, who declared at the time: "When I say all Americans, I mean all Americans." Clinton added his own postscript: "Well my friends, all

Americans still means all Americans."

Clinton said he had a message for the "people who aren't in this room tonight who aren't comfortable with you and won't be comfortable with me for being here. . . Gays and lesbians are their fellow Americans in every sense of the word."

About 1,500 people at the black-tie affair greeted Clinton with an ovation as he approached the podium. When he began to speak, his words elicited whoops and cheers and whistles from the guests, some of whom stood on chairs to snap photos. One man yelled out: "We love you, Bill."

But Clinton's remarks were certain to offend those conservatives who have criticized the president in recent days for his decision to address the group, and who have steadfastly opposed his efforts to advocate equal rights for gays and lesbians.

As he spoke, Clinton was interrupted twice by AIDS activists who screamed out about people needlessly dying because of the lack of needle exchange programs for drug users, who are at high risk of becoming infected with the AIDS virus. When the crowd tried to quiet the hecklers, Clinton said: "I'd have been disappointed if you hadn't been here tonight. People with AIDS are dying. But since I became president, we're spending 10 times as much" on AIDS research and treatment programs. With that, the president's words were drowned out by cheers. "I have friends alive today that wouldn't be alive if George Bush were still president," volunteered one guest, Terry Bean, an apartment developer and broker from Portland, Ore.

Another prominent guest at Saturday's dinner was comedian Ellen DeGeneres, who was honored for her decision to become the first openly gay star of a televised sitcom, "Ellen." Last month, Vice President Al Gore was roundly criticized by conservatives for praising the episode of "Ellen" in which DeGeneres' character reveals she is a lesbian. DeGeneres told the group she thought she was "risking everything" when she went public with her sexuality, because for years she had told herself that her career was more important than being open. "Ironically, as soon as I was honest, I became more famous," she said. "So much for those people who said that it would ruin my career."

Clinton's address reflected the growing acceptance of a group of Americans who had been kept on the fringes of the political establishment until recent years. Although Clinton had not spoken publicly to a gay group before Nov. 8, he had met with gay and lesbian leaders in the White House and sent a videotaped message to the first gay and lesbian political convention in Chicago in the summer of 1996.

But to many gays and lesbians, Clinton's participation in the night's dinner was viewed as a significant, if incremental, sign of their increasing acceptance by American society. "It's very exciting," said Larry Buntin, 52, owner of a Minneapolis marketing firm. "It shows that as a society, we've moved 10 million miles."

Still, some guests at the \$250-per-plate event expressed disappointment with Clinton's overall record on gay issues and his failure to speak to a group like theirs earlier. "I wish he had done it when he still had to run," said Pauline Smale, 46, who works at the Library of Congress. "But I guess we should be happy with baby steps. This is certainly a big baby step."

Before the speech, the White House had tried to downplay Clinton's participation in the event. Instead of calling attention to the historic nature of the address, White House spokesman Mike McCurry cited the dozens of other community outreach events attended by the president this year, including a recent appearance at the Italian American Foundation dinner.

The president's record with gay rights groups has been mixed. He was embraced by the gay community during his 1992 campaign, particularly when he attended a large gay and lesbian fund-raising event held on his behalf.

After becoming president, Clinton was praised for pledging to enact a measure to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military. But the initiative drew so much criticism that Clinton settled for a "don't ask, don't tell" policy, leaving many gays and lesbians feeling betrayed. Before Clinton assumed office, there were no openly homosexual presidential appointees serving in key government jobs. Clinton has subsequently named more than 100 gays and lesbians to senior posts.

Last year, Clinton disappointed gays and lesbians by signing a measure to deny marriage rights for same-sex unions. But he supported a measure designed to protect gays and lesbians from workplace discrimination. The bill was defeated in the Senate by one vote, and is expected to come up in Congress again next year.

Referring to the nondiscrimination measure during his speech, Clinton said that when gays and lesbians are denied equal employment opportunities, the country's fundamental "compact" is broken. "It is wrong and it should be illegal," he said. "Being gay, the last time I thought about it, seemed to have nothing to do with the ability to read a balance book, fix a broken bone or change a spark plug."

As Clinton addressed the group, several dozen protesters gathered outside, making speeches in the rain and holding up signs with such slogans as "Gore and Clinton are out of step with normal America" and "Ellen can change." "Tonight is a big deal, but he's been pushing their agenda for a long time," said Conrae Fortlage, of College Park, Md., a volunteer for Concerned Women for America, a conservative family issues group. "The president is out of step because the majority of Americans believe in a traditional family and a healthy lifestyle."

Ellen DeGeneres' mother, Betty DeGeneres, a spokeswoman for the Human Rights Campaign's effort to encourage gays and lesbians to come out, said she thought the president's decision to speak to the group was "marvelous." "But I think it's a shame that it has to be so newsworthy," said the 67-year-old retired speech pathologist who lives in Los Angeles, the group's first non-gay spokesperson. "Hopefully the day will come when the president will just come and give a speech to this group of Americans—who are wonderful, some of our best and brightest—without any particular notice."

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**Friendly Persuasion Works for Bono**

*Sonny and Cher's daughter, Chastity, is the one Hollywood goes to when they want to get the gay stories right.*

By Amy Wallace, LA Times

To understand Chastity Bono and the growing clout she wields in Hollywood, consider the case of "As Good as It Gets," an offbeat comedy due out from Sony Pictures at Christmas.

Initially, the folks at the Motion Picture Assn. of America objected to the film's trailer, in which an acid-tongued romance novelist (Jack Nicholson) calls his gay artist neighbor (Greg Kinnear) a "fag." The word is derogatory, the MPAA said, and should be cut. The filmmakers appealed to Jack Valenti, the MPAA's president. Sources say Valenti, who rarely overturns the decisions of his staff, then did a surprising thing: He sought the advice of Bono, the entertainment media director of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Bono previewed the trailer and declared the word, in context, inoffensive. It stayed in.

The story says a lot about the 28-year-old, openly gay daughter of Sonny and Cher. Since joining GLAAD a year ago, Bono has become the entertainment industry's unofficial advisor on all things homosexual—a resource, as she likes to call herself, for mega-stars and media moguls who she believes are less homophobic than they are "homo-ignorant." In recent months, she has met with producer Jerry Bruckheimer to discuss buffoonish portrayals of gay characters in his films "Con Air" and "The Rock." (Through a spokesman, Bruckheimer described the summit as "mutually beneficial.") She has hosted a meeting for actor-director Mel Gibson—perceived by some to be insensitive to the gay community—with 10 gay and lesbian filmmakers. Perhaps most notably, she has won the confidence of Valenti, the movie industry's chief spokesman and lobbyist. "I find her forthright, upfront, honest and a valuable source of information," said Valenti, who

declined to describe specific instances when he has sought her advice, but acknowledged they have become "telephone pals. . . . Hers is a world I do not inhabit but whose inhabitants I have great respect for. I don't know who else she's influential with, but she certainly is with me."

Consciously, Bono has styled herself as a new kind of activist—reasonable, not rabid. This plain-spoken young woman—whom Americans first met on her parents' televised variety show, smiling shyly in their arms as they sang "I Got You, Babe"—was a child of Hollywood. Now grown up, she's offering her services in the hopes, she says, of making Hollywood better.

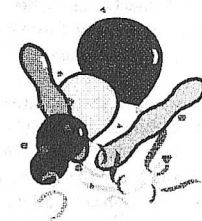
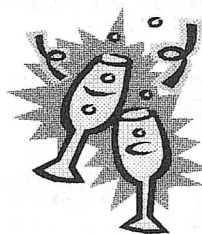
Positive portrayals of homosexuals are not her goal. Realistic portrayals are. "If you're doing a film about gangs in South-Central, you have real gang members in it—or you hire them as consultants—because it's a different world," she said, sitting in the conference room of GLAAD's spartan offices on Beverly Boulevard. "The same is true with gay and lesbian portrayals. . . . I grew up in this industry. I'm here. Use me."

Increasingly, people are doing just that—though usually at Bono's gentle insistence. Recently, when she heard that Universal's upcoming thriller "The Jackal" had a gay subplot, for example, she called the studio while the film was being edited. Producer Sean Daniel said her input inspired subtle changes, particularly in one scene. "Her inquiries, her interest in the situation and her quite insightful articulation of the impact of how we depict things served to, I think, put a healthy and smart frame of reference [around] how the scene should play," said Daniel, who described Bono as "results-oriented." "She made clear that she was not calling to in any way position herself or her organization as a censor," Daniel said. "She was saying, 'Be really thoughtful because you are dealing with issues that carry a lot of weight out there in the culture. So don't be fast and loose.' That's a good message."

Laurence Mark, the executive producer of "As Good as it Gets," gave Bono similar reviews. He was impressed that she evaluated the use of a derogatory word about gay people within the context of Nicholson's character, who insults everyone, regardless of their sexuality. "We found her incredibly smart about this. She got it," he said. "And she was not overly intent on the politically correct, which you find too frequently these days."

There was a time not so long ago when Bono could not have imagined such a public role. "Cher Shattered as Daughter Chastity Tells Her: I'm Gay" read the breathless 1990 headline in the tabloid Star. Later, Bono would describe herself as the first famous lesbian to be outed. But at the time, terrified and ashamed, she denied the report. Bono's parents—by this time an Academy Award-

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winning actress and a Republican congressman—had known she was gay before the Star article, and she says they stood by her. But she was trying to launch a music career that she feared would be derailed if she admitted she was a lesbian. She stayed in the closet. Then, Bono's lover became ill and, after a painful battle, died of cancer. The tabloids attacked again. "Cher Wipes Away the Tears as Her Daughter Mourns Gay Lover's Death," a 1994 National Enquirer headline read.

A year later, weary of press scrutiny, Bono came out in a cover story in the gay publication the Advocate. The article changed her life. "I just wanted to stop hiding," she said. "I was just happy to finally be honest. But I didn't think it would lead to all this."

Earlier this year Bono was a consultant on two of the three "coming out" episodes on Ellen DeGeneres' TV sitcom, "Ellen." At the time, some poked fun, questioning why DeGeneres, a lesbian, needed help figuring out how to portray a lesbian on TV. But Bono wasn't cowed, asserting that even gays and lesbians who work in the industry need help avoiding stereotypes. She will work, she said, "with anybody who wants to try to do a better job." And that includes the folks who once hounded her: the editors of the tabloid press. She has struck up a relationship with Steve Coz, editor of the National Enquirer. "I've said to him, 'Let's stop saying, 'gal-pal,' already. Let's not say gay or lesbian lover. It's redundant,'" Bono says, smiling. "I get a kick out of him."

She's also served as a consultant for TV's "Hard Copy," after GLAAD took issue with a story about Gianni Versace's murder that suggested, she said, "he was asking for it." She's lobbied the show to abandon the phrases "sexual preference" and "gay lifestyle." " 'Preference' suggests there's a choice, and there's not. I like 'sexual orientation,'" she said. " 'Gay lifestyle' implies that there's one lifestyle inherent in being gay. They never say heterosexual lifestyle.' "

Nit-picky? Sure she is. But in a nonthreatening, strategic way. And she's gives credit when she thinks it's due. She liked the depictions of gay characters in "My Best Friend's Wedding" and "In & Out," and predicts that this year "is going to stand out as a big turning point for gays in the media."

If nothing else, it may be a pivotal moment for Bono. She is currently finishing her first book, a coming out guide for gays and lesbians and their families. Next, she plans to write a novel, which she wants to adapt into a screenplay. Already, she says, she has another film project in the early stages of development. She plans to produce it.

"That, ultimately, is where I want to go—to doing more creative stuff," she said, saying her projects all will reflect

her "activist slant." True to form, the ever-inclusive Bono is not limiting her aspirations to the big screen. "If I had an idea for a TV show, I'd absolutely be into that," says the woman whose childish face, thanks to her mom and dad, once peered regularly into America's living rooms. "TV is a wonderful medium to reach people."

### "Wilde" Film Opens in Britain

The new biopic on the gay literary iconoclast premiered last month, with its star's underwear taking a bow of its own.

"Wilde," the new film biography of 19th century gay writer Oscar Wilde, made its official opening in Britain — and would you believe it's been 37 years since the last one was made? It didn't leap to the top of the charts, or even the top 10, but then it won't have to be in the top ranks to make a nice return on its modest \$10-million budget. How it fares definitely has something to do with point of view: Wilde's grandson Merlin Holland felt it was unbalanced by being too focussed on his grandfather's gay sexual orientation; "London Times" critic Geoff Brown was disappointed that it wasn't more explicitly gay; and "Variety's" Derek Elley predicted that it could go far because it went "the whole enchilada on Wilde's homosexuality" yet "with its appeal cleverly positioned across the sexual spectrum."

For the film's star Stephen Fry, who actually resembles Wilde in age and appearance, it's the role of a lifetime, a cause of both "delight and terror" — and a reason to drop his trousers at the London premiere.

Holland has his own kickoff in progress, presenting his new book of Wilde photos, just one of several book projects he's involved in relating to his famous forebear. He had a chance to serve as a consultant on the film to the tune of \$8,000, but having read Julian Mitchell's script (based on a biography by Richard Ellman, one of more than 400 Wilde books in print) and had his recommendations rejected, he decided to absent himself even from the premiere. As both family member and editor of Wilde's papers, he finds historical errors in the limited medium of film, and especially regrets that more attention has not been given to Wilde's works. He actually counted the gay bits in the film to support his contention that homosexuality has overshadowed all else: he finds that of the film's 109 scenes, 11 have sexual physical contact and 30 more have dialog or body language — without even counting the courtroom scenes relating to Wilde's sodomy conviction.

On the other hand, Brown says the film is "timid in its treatment of sex, and never makes much headway in exploring the fatal attraction between Wilde and the destructive Lord Alfred Douglas (Jude Law)." And while Holland feels that inadequate attention is given to Wilde's

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genuine feeling for his family, Brown is particularly touched by the scenes between Wilde and his wife Constance (Jennifer Ehle).

The enthusiastic Elley feels the script "is far from just an in-your-face '90s version of the story...it equally addresses Wilde's love for his wife and children, the nervousness behind his outward courage as a convention-breaker, as well as his higher, Platonic ideals of beauty and youth." Elley praises director Brian Gilbert for the look of the film.

Fry believes he may in fact have been born to play the role of Wilde, and is ready to go to great lengths to demonstrate his adoration for the writer. He took his pants down at the premiere to show off boxer shorts with some of Wilde's greatest quotes — notably, "We are all in the gutter but some of us are looking at the stars."

### Valerie Taylor Dead at 84

The lesbian novelist who created Erika Frohmann has ended her "Journey to Fulfillment." Pioneering lesbian writer and Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame honoree Valerie Taylor (nee Velma Tate) died October 21 in Tucson, Arizona at the age of 84, according to reports on the Internet. The Aurora, Illinois native is best known for her lesbian novels of the 1950's and 1960's, particularly three with the lead character Erika Frohmann, a Jewish survivor of a Nazi concentration camp: "Journey to Fulfillment," "A World Without Men" and "Return to Lesbos." These and several other lesbian novels experienced a major resurgence when they were reprinted by Naiad Press in the 1980's. Her other titles include "Rice and Beans," "Prism," "Ripening" and "The Girls in 3B."

Taylor's literary activities extended beyond her novels, however. She was a published poet, a contributor to early gay and lesbian publications, editor of Chicago's Mattachine Midwest Newsletter in the late 1960's, an organizer of annual Lesbian Writers Conferences in Chicago in the mid-1970's, and a writer for Chicago trade publications.

Her social change activism included participation in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Society of Friends, environmental causes, and advocacy for the elderly. She also identified herself as the founder of Lesbian Grandmothers of America.

Although Taylor had three grown sons, it was the support of the gay and lesbian community — notably the women of Tucson's Antigone Books — which helped to make her financially impoverished later years more comfortable. Syndicated lesbian columnist Lee Lynch in 1993 published excerpts from a letter from Taylor expressing her gratitude for help she received after sustaining severe injuries in a fall at the age of 79. Taylor wrote, "I don't know that anyone has been kept as intensively by as large a group, unless it were Gandhi's followers who, he said, paid a great deal to keep him in poverty. My poverty is better described as simplicity."





## Janis Ian - Hunger

Only a handful of the great American troubadours is still creating viable music. Some of the others are dead, some are in creative eclipse, some are forgotten, and better, some are right and retired. But Janis Ian endures.

Thirty years after she emerged as the child prodigy in a hippie world scented with incense, tear gas, and cannabis, Janis Ian is writing and singing songs as powerfully as ever. *Hunger*, her debut album for Windham Hill Records, is a showcase for one of the most important composer-performers of our time. Almost alone among her contemporaries, Janis Ian has found a way to translate her extraordinary gifts into every era of modern American popular song. She stands unique as a talent that has received Grammy Award nominations in the '60s, the '70s, and the '80s and the '90s.

As the performances on *Hunger* show so eloquently, Janis Ian is moving toward the millennium in full command of her skills as an instrumentalist. Away from the singer of "Society's Child" and the hypersensitive wallflower of "At Seventeen," she still creates extraordinary social commentary songs. "Searching for America" and "Black & White" are two selections with some of the most insightful lyrics of her career. She also remains the most tender, empathetic and thoughtful of love-song writers. The woman who gave us Roberta Flack's "Jesse" and Amy Grant's "What About The Love" offers a clutch of tunes on "Hunger" that are positively heart melting: "Getting Over You," "House Without a Heart," and "Empty," as well as the uptown Latin "Might As Well Be Monday," a throwback to Ian's years in New York's barrio.

There is resentment and fury in Ian's new 'cheating' song "On the Dark Side of Town," and smoldering desire in the album's title tune. "Shadow" is about a reach that exceeds the grasp and the feeling that comes from aspirations that cannot be met. (Says Ian: "I always wanted to be Picasso, and I find myself ending up Cezanne...") The wryly humorous "Welcome to

Acousticville" is an anthem for traveling fold troubadours everywhere, a cross between Reverend Gary Davis and "Hotel California." It also contains what Sally Fingerett of the 4 Bitchin' Babes calls "The best lyric ever written!" In between the lotion and chlorine, Jimi Hendrix played a Martin D-18, and we all joined in as he began to scream, Welcome to Acousticville.

"I called this record *Hunger* because I felt that if there were one thing that carried through the whole album, it was that" says Ian. "Hunger. Some of my contemporaries don't have that any more. I'm a writer and a performer; that's what I do. I have never been 'hip.' I've always just marched on and made a living. I was lucky to have gotten in the door when I did, at such a creative time, and unlucky to be in my 40's when women are finally accepted in pop music. But I've never become bitter - I believe that bitterness kills art. That's probably why I still have my hunger, my creative drive."

Born in 1951, Janis Ian burst on the scene at age 15 with her controversial saga of interracial love "Society's Child." Self-penned and arranged, it topped the charts and created a storm of discussion that featured Ian on *The Tonight Show* and in *Life*, *Look*, *Time* and *Newsweek*. Her debut album, 1967's *Janis Ian*, garnered her the first of her nine Grammy nominations to date. Since then, there have been 15 albums, some as close as 9 months apart, some as far as 10 years.

She achieved a new level of popularity in the 1970s with her trio of masterpieces *Stars* (1973), *Between the Lines* (1975) and *Aftertones* (1976). The first contained "Jesse" which became a pop standard after Roberta Flack topped the charts with it. ("Everyone thought 'Society's Child' was a fluke, and I was a has-been at 18. 'Jesse' proved I was a real writer.") The second contained "At Seventeen" that sold over a million copies and earned Ian her first two Grammy Awards. The third was one of the most critically acclaimed albums of its day and featured Ian's friends Odetta and Phoebe Snow as supporting vocalists. ("I didn't stop after *Between the Lines*; the next album, *Aftertones*, gave me my first international number one record, and the world shrank.")

Janis Ian entered the '80s with the international disco hit "Fly Too High," a song featured on the soundtrack of the Jodie Foster movie *Foxes*. ("It gave me the number one record in Europe, Australia, Africa, and I had the fun of going out on a high-power disco tour, jumping around the stage like a lunatic.") This was one of several film-music ventures - Ian has either scored or contributed title tunes to such movies as *Virus* (1980), *Betrayal* (1977), *The Bell Jar* (1979), *Falling From Grace* (1992) and *Four Rode Out* (1969). She has also contributed to such television projects as the ABC *Movie of the Week Freedom* (1981) and the hit series *Murder She Wrote* (1987), and her songs have been featured on shows as

diverse as *The Simpsons* and *General Hospital*.

She won her next Grammy Award for children's music because of her work on the 1982 album *In Harmony 2*. The Recording Academy has also recognized her as a jazz artist by nominating her for a 1981 Grammy with Mel Torme as Best Vocal Duet for Ian's song "Silly Habits." Janis Ian has also written and sung radio jingles for such products as McDonald's ("I am the Egg McMuffin..."), AT&T, Nescafe and Budweiser. She has studied acting (with famed theater personality Stella Adler), directing (with Jose Quintero), scoring and ballet ("although I was for sure the clumsiest student she'd ever seen!")

People who see Janis Ian perform for the first time usually know none of this. Perhaps they know only the voice and a song or two. They invariably leave her shows stunned by her lead instrumental work on piano and guitar, as well as by the depth of her composing talent.

"I get told a lot, 'You play like a guy,' and I'm not quite sure I know what that means. I guess it's meant to be a compliment. I do know that back when I started, women just didn't play. They might strum along and accompany themselves, but they weren't players. So when people see me live for the first time, it's always this big surprise to them."

Janis Ian is truly a "musician's musician." Her songs have been recorded by everyone from Stan Getz to Bette Midler, from Glen Campbell to Vanilla Fudge, from Cher to Hugh Masakela, from Joan Baez to Etta James. She was among the guitarists chosen to salute the legendary Chet Atkins at an all-star gala this year that included Mark Knopfler, Larry Carlton, Travis Tritt and Clint Black.

"*Hunger*" comes at a time of intense creative renewal for Janis Ian. During the later 1980s she was beset by severe health and financial problems. The New Jersey/ New York native had spent most of her career in Philadelphia and Los Angeles, but in 1988 she relocated to Nashville to connect with the city's renowned songwriting and instrumental communities. Rock star John Mellencamp brought her back on disc after a decade of silence on the soundtrack of his 1992 *Falling from Grace*.

In 1993 she returned with a full collection of new material, *Breaking Silence*. It was nominated for a Grammy Award as Contemporary Folk Album of the Year. Two years later came *Revenge*, nominated as Pop Album of the Year at the Nashville Music Awards.

The genesis of *Hunger* came when Windham Hill Records approached her about contributing a piano duet to a compilation album. Not only was she receptive to the idea, but open to making her own album for them.

Windham Hill jumped at the opportunity, seeing Ian as a way to drive home their new slogan "No More Candles and Sandals."

"It's the first time in my entire life that a record company has treated me this way," says a delightfully surprised Ian. "They're not expecting me to be 19. They're not measuring my waistline. They are looking at 'Can she perform?' They wine and dined me the way my 19-year-old friends are getting wine and dined, and won my heart."

The sessions took place at studios in Austin, Woodstock and Nashville during the first six months of 1997, and the result will be released September 30th. *Hunger* is the work of a woman whose talent has already carried her through one of the most impressive pop-music careers of our time. And it's a career that shows no signs of slowing down; *Hunger* will see to that.

"Actually," says Ian with a chuckle, "I think one of the reasons musicians keep doing what they do and writers keep doing what they do, is that we're totally unsuited for anything else. And I for one am much too lazy."

## Three Dogs and a Bakery

Sarah Jean, Dottie, and Gracie have made their television debut in an unusual cooking show, radiating all the ease of veteran television dogs like Lassie - and upstaging their openly gay owners.

With their owners, Dan Dye and Mark Beckloff, they star in the new *Three Dog Bakery* show, televised by The Food Network.

While Sarah Jean, Dottie, and Gracie seem right at home on the set, their owners are still getting comfortable with life in front of the cameras.

"Mark and I are the worst thing on the show right now - we're amateurs," Dye says with a laugh.

The show is the latest success for *Three Dog Bakery*, a multi-million dollar natural dog food and treat business that life partners Dye and Beckloff started in 1990 out of their Kansas City home. Now an international 13-bakery business, *Three Dog Bakery* is scheduled to open new shops in New York, Chicago, Dallas, and Boulder in coming months.

When Dye, Beckloff, and their dogs did a guest spot on another show on The Food Network, a network vice-president was impressed enough to offer them a show of their own.

On their show, they demonstrate how to prepare gourmet dog treats - and sometimes even sample their wares themselves. Appearing on the show has been a challenge, Dye says, noting that he and Beckloff now appear more natural in front of the cameras.

"We needed to quit taking it so seriously," he says. "We had been on TV before, but this was a lot different."

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The dogs were completely at ease with it. They were so relaxed it's irritating – people at home will think we've drugged those dogs. They're just at that age where they like to lay around a lot."

Dye adds that he and Beckloff may bring a few puppies on the set to liven things up. Even with a few frisky puppies, Sarah Jean, Dottie, and Gracie are likely to retain their celebrity status. In New York City recently, the dogs were recognized by a woman walking down the street who had ordered biscuits from the Three Dog Bakery catalog.

Dye and Beckloff are projecting revenues of eight million dollars for their company this year – quite a jump from the \$1,500 they earned in their first year. Their products are sold through their own bakeries and by mail order, as well as by stores such as PetSmart, Waldenbooks, Borders, and Neiman Marcus.

Each episode is divided into three segments. Dye and Beckloff open the show in the kitchen as they demonstrate how to prepare Snicker Poodles, Scotty Biscotti, or one of their many other treats. In the second segment, they interview a guest – early shows included a dog surgeon, a holistic vet, and a groomer. Future episodes may feature celebrities and their dogs. The third segment is a taste test where the dogs sample a treat. Dye and Beckloff also answer viewer questions about dog care and health.

Dye, Beckloff, and the three dogs are scheduled to return to New York in December or January to tape 13 new episodes. Dye says the early ratings are positive but not yet a good indicator of how well the show will do over the long term.

On television, as in their business, Dye and Beckloff neither hide nor promote the fact that they are gay. A high-powered media consultant once asked if they wanted people to know they were gay partners, hinting that they may want to downplay it in order to appeal to mainstream American.

"We laughed," Dye says. "It's so much a part of who

we are. We talk about our dogs like they were our kids. I'm sure The Food Network doesn't care. I'm sure half their viewers are gay – it's a gourmet cooking channel – c'mon."

**Overheard: Notable Quotes**

"While exploring the challenges and rewards of intimacy on her new album *The Velvet Rope*, singer Janet Jackson drops a few hints that nasty boys aren't her only interest. One interlude finds her flirting with a girlfriend, and on a delicate version of the Rod Stewart chestnut 'Tonight's the Night' she leaves the original lyrics intact, suggesting that the object of her affection may be female."

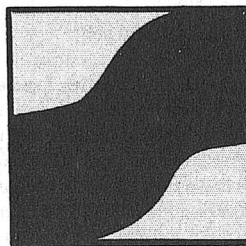
--From an Oct. 5 review in the Los Angeles Times.

"I hope I live to see the day when you can have one child who's gay and another who's not, and it's all just part of who they are."

--Betty DeGeneres, Ellen's mom, to the St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, Oct. 3.

"No one knows what we have together, no one. ... I always used to be so envious of married people. Now this is it for me, for both of us, forever. ... Anne's taken a lot of flack for what she's done, but in 25 or 30 years, when we're still together and out of this business, we can look back and laugh. Maybe it's a horrible thing to say, but Anne and I both had the same reaction when Princess Di died, that she had just found the man of her dreams and then he died, and how could you go on living after that without that person? If Anne goes, I want to go, that's how strongly I feel."

--Ellen DeGeneres on her lover, Anne Heche, to TV Guide, Oct. 11.



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Recently we reviewed Daniel Harris' new book, *"The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture"*. You may recall reading about the most controversial chapter titled *"The Kitschification of AIDS"*. Barbara Hunt, Executive Director of Visual AIDS has had the opportunity to question Harris about that topic. Here is what he had to say...

# The Kitschification of AIDS

Interview with Daniel Harris on the subject of "the kitschification of AIDS" and how we have "sold" the epidemic to the public. Harris is the author of *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture*. "The Kitschification of AIDS" was one of the most controversial chapters in this book, containing his disturbing analysis of the AIDS Quilt.

***In some senses, "the kitschification of AIDS" could be replaced with "commodification"; how does the media representation of people with AIDS become part of the "marketing package"?***

In *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture*, I talk a lot about the marketing of what I call the "AIDS product." My thesis is this: in the early stages of the epidemic, the Reagan and Bush administrations refused to allocate the money necessary to cover basic costs of research and treatment, with the result that movie stars, and not government officials, became the epidemic's statesmen, its panhandlers, the ones who were forced to seek alternative sources of funding out in the open market, in charity balls, rock concerts, and fashion benefits. Because of insufficient federal funds, activists were forced to turn the disease into a commodity and sell it to the public like any snack food, compensating for the lack of government support with private support, with charitable contributions, which they extorted from the public by arousing pity for the victims, by packaging the epidemic in sentimental clichés that reduced potential donors to a state of maximum susceptibility. The more money that was needed for the disease, the kitschier it became. Had the Republican administrations of the 1980s been more responsible, the epidemic would not have spawned nearly as many sentimental images which activists designed expressly to overcome consumer resistance and prime the pumps of private contributions. So I see kitsch in crudely economic terms, as a practical response to federal irresponsibility, which provoked a massive PR blitz as tacky as any advertising campaign for a new shampoo or a dish detergent.

***In your recent book, you express some cynicism about cultural initiatives like the Names Quilt. These initiatives, much like the Red Ribbon Project, are often the only way in which liberal and middle-class people have involvement with AIDS — do they succeed in educating people about HIV/AIDS and/or lobbying for increased funding? Do you think they serve a valid function?***

As much as I deplore AIDS kitsch for its sentimentality and its insulting infantilization of the epidemic's victims, I think it has been unquestionably effective. It has raised enormous amounts of money and if it has done this at the expense of good taste, well, then, too bad. On the other hand, please don't think that just because it has been effective, I'm going to reserve judgement and hold off on submitting it to the sort of rigorous analysis it deserves. Nothing is untouchable in my view, and when a society says that something like the Quilt is beyond reproach because it is all for such a good cause, this inviolability brings out the pitiless skeptic in me and makes me want to understand how the Quilt really works and why we use colonial imagery as the basis for a commemorative monument designed to mourn a group of pariahs who don't immediately bring to mind images of quaint old grannies in bifocals and bonnets stitching up a storm. If you think about it, the Quilt is a mysterious non sequitur within the context of gay culture and I found myself asking why we chose it.

My first objection to the Quilt is simply this: placing the epidemic within the context of this mythically pure colonial history is part of the way we sanitize the victims of AIDS, enshrining them within this cluttered museum of tacky folklore so resonant with wholesome patriotic feelings and nostalgia for a simpler agrarian America. This whole process of purification implies that AIDS victims are indeed truly guilty of something, namely, for having sex, and need to be sanitized, need to be cleansed in a warm bath of colonialist kitsch. Few of your readers, I hope, are going to buy this. In short, there is a very thin line between the Quilt and guilt.

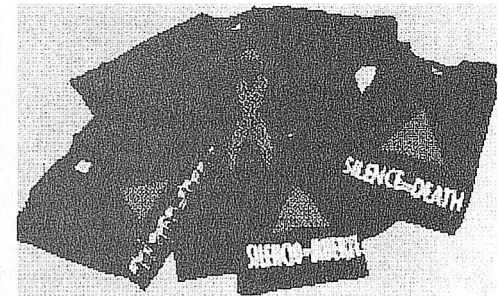
Secondly, I object to the Quilt because I see it as one of the ways we have marketed the disease for public consumption. In order to sell a "product," namely AIDS, to the American public in the absence of federal funding, activists used one of the key techniques of consumerism, the evocation of the pastoral realm of the homemade. In a decadent industrial culture like our own, one of manufacturers' key marketing techniques is to conjure up a time before the mass production of goods, before assembly lines, a time when industrious craftsmen made everything by hand, cobbling together their colorful handicrafts by the sweat of their brow. The Quilt reeks to me of spurious nostalgia for this never-never land of agrarian simplicity, the same nostalgia you see on peanut butter jars emblazoned with "old-fashioned" and white

bread wrappers with "homemade." Consumerist nostalgia does not seem appropriate to me in mourning the deaths of grown-ups. You may ask me, "well, aren't you judging people's grief?" and I have to say, yes, I am. I can only say that I personally don't want consumerism and all of that "homemade" and "old-fashioned" crap at my graveside.

***What do you mean by "the kitschification of AIDS"? Where did this phrase come from?***

A couple of years ago at Christmas time, I was walking in San Francisco's Castro district with a friend of mine who has AIDS, the artist Sammy Cucher (of Aziz+Cucher fame), and we passed a greeting card boutique that had a Christmas tree in its window festooned with garlands of red ribbons and glass ornaments stencilled with the words "miracles can happen." My friend has maintained throughout his illness a blessedly wry sense of humor about the state of his health and he turned to me and said dismissively, "this is just AIDS kitsch." There was something so treacherous and religious about this display, replete as it was with associations of Christian miracles and Norman Rockwell families singing carols on cold winter's evenings, drinking mulled cider around the open hearth singing carols and gazing lovingly at the Baby Jesus in his creche. Across the street, we passed another boutique window displaying "Silence = Death" t-shirts and red ribbon brooches made out of rhinestones and then, as we walked on a little further, we came to Under One Roof, the nonprofit gift store for AIDS charities next to the headquarters of the Quilt, where we saw Cuddle Wit teddy bears wearing still more red ribbons and yet another rack of t-shirts, this time stencilled with the words "We're cookin' up love for People With AIDS." The Shop for AIDS Relief, as it is also known, even stocks a line of AIDS-specific sympathy cards sporting inconsolable naked men sobbing on tombstone angels while inside the text reads "I wonder at times why some are chosen to leave so soon. Then I remember who has left, and I know. God must have wanted them home because he missed them."

By the end of this macabre walking tour through what started to seem like the epidemic's strip mall, I was so repelled by the intimate alliance between commerce and death that I had decided to write an essay about how AIDS has been exploited by entrepreneurs and why the disease is so prone to sentimentalization, to this orgy of bad taste. You have to understand that I was walking with this very intelligent man who is not in anyway pitiable and woebegone but hilarious and campy and smart, and these infantilized images of helpless AIDS victims reduced to sniffing poster children begging for our charitable embraces seemed so insulting to him personally, so undignified. The whole thing reminded me a little of Jessica Mitford's book *The American Way*



of Death, in which she crucifies price-gouging undertakers and how they exploit the emotional vulnerability of their bereaved family members in order to sell them all kinds of unnecessary mortuary luxuries that end up costing a fortune. As someone raised on Mitford, I saw the mountains of funeral trinkets around me as further evidence of the deplorable commercialism of the American Way of Death. This said, I'll have to admit that when the essay was finally written my friend, its muse, disagreed strongly with much of it, especially my controversial characterization of the Quilt as a propaganda device that employs Colonialist nostalgia in order to sanitize the disease. As revenge, he jokingly said he was going to add a codicil to his will requiring me to participate in the quilting bee to make his panel. He knows how much this would annoy me since I can't stand any group activities, especially the public sob-ins that are so popular these days. I'll have to say that his macabre sense of humor about the epidemic stands in my mind in healthy contrast to the maudlin images of PWAs (hate that expression!) purveyed by the media and the AIDS kitschifiers.

***Why do you hate the expression "PWA"?***

I hate it because I can't stand the sort of Candy-Striper optimism that lies behind it. I also detest its implicit rejection of the expression it has supplanted, "AIDS victim." Throughout the epidemic, we have tried to "empower" the victims of the disease in the usual ineffectual ways in which people empower the powerless when they really can't do anything at all to help them: by tinkering with terminology and by promulgating images of indomitable superheroes triumphing over their disease and "living with AIDS" rather than dying from it. What is wrong with the word "victim"? People infected with HIV are the casualties of a biological accident; they did not "choose" their disease, nor can they simply tell it to "be gone!" as many of the crack-pot holistic healers would have some of their cult members believe, sending the virus packing simply by writing it a polite letter of dismissal in which they tell it on no uncertain terms that it has "outstayed its welcome." "Person With AIDS" is just a bit of linguistic costume jewelry, a verbal red ribbon, a cheap euphemism to hide the fact that something has happened to us that we can't control. I

don't see anything pejorative about being a totally powerless victim of a virus.

On the other hand, I do see something dangerous about those who persist in believing that AIDS victims are the ones with the ultimate power over their disease because this produces a climate in which we can blame the victim, which is, after all, what Right Wing extremists want to do. Moreover, if you are constantly told, as the diabolical Louise Hay tells her followers in an effort to "empower" them, that AIDS is the result of an internal division within their psyches and that you "choose" to become infected, those who suffer from the disease could potentially feel very guilty and unhappy about inflicting this terrible scourge on themselves. So I think psychologically and politically we are a lot better off as victims than as empowered PWAs.

I'm distrustful of the mindless optimism of the self-help and human potential movements with their happy-go-lucky, "can-do" attitudes and their efforts to interpret everything as a function of the human will. There are simply some things we can't control in our lives and this

flies in the face of the fundamental ethos of a society saturated in pop psychology, namely, that we alone are in charge of destinies and that our bodies are mere physical extensions of the will, having no independent biological reality as pure inert objects subject to the same rules that govern the rest of the inanimate universe. We have lost our sense of fatalism as a culture and this has surely made it a lot harder for us to deal with the epidemic. Had we not been so thoroughly indoctrinated in the superficially genial precepts of self-help and human potential, we would have been much more prepared to accept the reality of our powerlessness and wouldn't have struggled so hard to deny that we were victims.

*I assume that you're not minimizing the positive benefits of political empowerment (such as access to healthcare, control over medical treatments, etc), but isn't there a danger that your views will be taken as defeatism and thereby an acceptance of the lack of AIDS funding.*

Yes, there is some danger that my views could result in political ineffectuality but I certainly hope that they won't. When I speak of fatalism, I am talking primarily about the individual's relationship to his own illness, to his own fate on a psychological level, on how he is resigning himself to the possibility of death. I have simply seen too much false optimism, watched too many people die having never managed to make peace with their illness, all because they have been fed so many uplifting bromides that assure them they are going to make it simply by thinking truckloads of inspirational thoughts. Consider for a moment the sort of frustration sick people

are liable to experience when the warm-and-fuzzies that self-help opportunists sell them (often at great cost) turn out to be worthless panaceas. The sort of fatalism I would like to encourage in people is a philosophical and psychological fatalism. At the same time, I hope that people will maintain an activist's stance politically, at least those who have the physical strength to be out there on the front lines. But you are right and I think I have to admit that you have caught me in a contradiction: there definitely is a danger that resigning oneself to one's illness could result in political impotence. Let us not forget, however, that many AIDS activists are either not yet sick or are not infected at all so there are many others to carry the torch at this point besides bedridden people in the advanced stages of the disease. Some people simply shouldn't be forced to man the barricades but should be getting on with the business of dying. I have always been very troubled by Dylan Thomas's line "don't go gently into that good night." Marching angrily into that good night, shaking one's fist and protesting every step of the way, seems to me, frankly, a fate worse than death.

*I'm interested in the relationship between your views on "AIDS victims" and the kitschification of AIDS, as the image of the AIDS victim is so crucial to the fundraising efforts you discuss earlier. How is the acceptance of being an AIDS victim that you propose better (or different) than the media representation of the pitiful pathetic AIDS victim?*

The state of resignation and acceptance isn't necessarily weak and pitiable but can actually be powerful and self-possessed. Stoicism, which is essentially what I'm advocating, is in my view a philosophical attitude that connotes strength and self-control, not maudlin self-pity, not feebleness, not debility. The body may go to hell but the mind remains intact so the type of resignation I am talking about is the internal resignation of the individual, which involves an energetic assertion of the will and not whiny passivity. There is an enormous difference between the infantilized PWA as seen in the iconography of AIDS kitsch, clutching his teddy bear and looking woebegone and pitiable, and the self-assured stoic whose battle with his illness can't be neatly represented in treacherous images of cuddly poster children like the sad-eyed Ryan, White warming his "tiny blue fingers," as People magazine put it, over the coils of his mother's stove. A hard-nosed stoic doesn't make a very effective or marketable poster child. To sell this disease to the public, we needed the big glycerine tear sliding down the fat, rosy cheek. Do you know anyone who wants to cuddle someone as tough and uninvitingly insular as a stoic?

*-Interview conducted for Day Without Art, organized by Visual AIDS.*

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## Magnificent Moscow

by Vladimir Kabakov  
(Our World Travel Magazine)

It's been almost two and a half years since President Yeltsin canceled the notorious article 121 of Russia's criminal code and decriminalized gay sex. Under the Soviets, Moscow was officially the center of the country's political, economic and cultural life. Today the city is rapidly becoming the pivot point of the gay and lesbian community in the country.

Although official organizations dedicated to the rights and freedoms of gays have discovered the same problems experienced in the Western nations both outside and inside the various fledgling groups. Opposition from political groups and the Orthodox Church (too soon forgetting their own persecution at the hands of the state) have hindered the members, while infighting has weakened each group's effectiveness.

Life goes on and the gay men and women in Moscow managed to grow and change in the heady atmosphere of freedom. Today we start businesses, publish newspapers and congregate at events and festivals. Nowhere is the strength of gays more apparent than in the night club circuit.

Not long ago one would find out where a particular social evening was to be held by having a small paper thrust in one's hand on a Friday night giving directions to a hall or building utilized usually once for the occasion. Police protection might be bought and a temporary disco was set up for the evening. More recently somewhat permanent clubs and discos have materialized and a number of cafes have become popular with local crowds of men and women.

The excellent club "Chance," organized by Pavel Chaplin, occupies several rooms, one surrounded by aquariums. Plans call for



special dances and cultural events as well as weekend parties. Two new, large discos have opened, "Pyramid" in Cinema Mir and "Mask" at the Central House of Artists. "Pyramid," decorated with elements of ancient Egypt offers large public areas and intimate, cozy corners for socializing. Our World readers will be familiar with the owner of this club, Roman Kalinin. He, at an early age, was the motivating force behind gay liberation in Russia, coming out during the days of upheaval and visiting the United States to foster relations and to solicit assistance for Russia's unorganized gay movement. Our World featured an article on Roman when he visited San Francisco and met Ray Ruiz. Of late he has been more of an entrepreneur than an activist.

"Mask" features a circus decor with a large dance floor surrounded by niches offering table service and an intimate environment. The "Triangle," created with financial support from foreign organizations, attracts a large number of non-Russians as well as locals. This club caters to three sections of the Moscow community, gay men, lesbians and bi-sexuals. One of the clubs major organizers, Vlad Artsatbanov, stated, "Activities and events will be varied and divided between the

three groups." And "Triangle," as a social club, offers a number of options including culture and sports activities, media, interaction with gay and lesbian organizations in other cities and countries, plus problems in education and job placement. Special attention is to be devoted to safer sex and AIDS education.

It should be noted here that two other centers focusing on AIDS are available for education and to assist those infected and a special Russian "Bolshoye Spasibo" goes out to two Americans for their active participation, Julia Stakhoviak and Kevin Gardner. Additionally, the Russian state has taken on the responsibility of treating AIDS patients and supplying medicines free of charge, particularly heartening because of the difficult economic conditions and high prices at this time.

The standby clubs continue in the city center. "Premier," a popular hangout featuring famous actors, singers and dancers, such as Liudmila Gurchenko and Serge Penkin, and "Underground" lately redecorated and upgraded, still draws large crowds who enjoy dancing and socializing.


The gay newspapers in Moscow continue to educate and inform on the community's culture, history, religion, health update and world news, playing a major role in the growth of gay and lesbian awareness. Publisher and editor of "1/10,"

Dima Lichev, fulfills a great service by bringing data on many topics including religion, although regretfully this area is limited at present to the MCC. "RISK" and the magazine "ARGO" are published by V. Artanov (pen name for Vlad Artsatbanov organizer of "Triangle"). Artanov has also created a company, ARGO, taking several directions including an information bureau, events and even travel. Last year they organized the first gay group to tour Greece.

Kremlin Tours, a full-service travel and tour company, concentrating on overseas travelers to Russia and Eastern Europe, is led by Piotr Nikitin, one of the publishers of yet another gay newspaper, "Impulse." Readers will note that an article on the firm was included in last month's issue of Our World.

And lastly I will put in a plug for myself in my capacity as a gay travel specialist developed over years of escorting gays around Moscow and other parts of Russia, plus my contacts and trips to Europe and the United States. As many readers are aware, I have been assisting travellers literally since our new freedom dawned, and have met a number of you through the magazine. I am now certified by the Gay and Lesbian Travel Services Network and look forward to escorting many more of you in the coming years.

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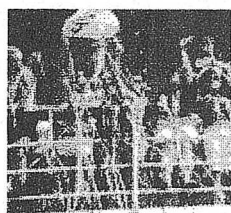
One of the most interesting and successful conferences to be held in the last few months was the International Lesbian Conference, where the problems of women's equal rights in the arts, science and other spheres of life were discussed. German representatives concentrated on feminist history and psychological assistance for lesbians, while the Russian delegation spoke about women's literature and cinema. They also touted their new club Harmony in Moscow. And for the first time, films were shown from the San Francisco Film Festival, including a selection devoted to lesbian cinema.

I hope this update on the Moscow gay and lesbian scene will entice travellers to visit our beautiful country. Be assured that you will receive a friendly welcome and enjoy the culture, history and thriving gay and lesbian community who always enjoy meeting our brothers and sisters from overseas.

For further information on touring Moscow and Russia, contact: Kremlin Tours, PO Box 44, 105318 Moscow E-318, Russia. Telephone (7-085) 962-9178. Fax (7-095) 962-9244. For a guide in Moscow and other parts of Russia, write to Mr. Vladimir Kabakov, Rostovskaya NAB 3-144, Moscow 11912, Russia.

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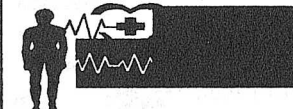
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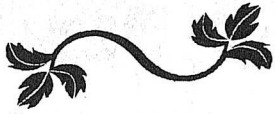
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# READER'S CORNER

POETRY, LETTERS, OPINIONS

## Affiliation



after the coma  
I brought you a loosely bruised bouquet  
every Tuesday  
I fasted in your arms  
I smelled chocolate on your pores  
you offered nonchalant nods  
not realizing  
a preference was seeding  
wondering blind in the soil  
what to clutch  
"...oh yes, now I remember you  
that whole falling in love thing...  
...I'll get right on it"

you barely breathed, left me  
teething on vague roots  
you've gathered your things  
and collected polished rings  
instead of sprawling in  
instead of spraying in  
my bed snug  
where I lie  
copying your shrug  
whoever you were

I've named my dustbunnies after you

1997 - Nathaniel

Dear Outlook,  
I picked up a copy of your magazine at the Princess  
the other night and I have to say I'm impressed! I  
moved from Ayr just last month - you can just  
imagine the gay community there! - and it was really  
refreshing to see a gay and lesbian publication sitting  
out in the open! I thoroughly enjoyed reading it cover  
to cover. You sure cram a lot into each issue! Keep  
up the great work.

- Jen (Waterloo)



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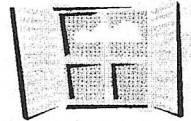


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## No Reply



I'm throwing small pebbles at your window  
But you don't open it.  
I know that you're at home, you haven't left the house for hours now.  
You don't call me up, and when I try to call you up, you hang up.  
Sometimes, I had your mother on the phone, but she said you're not at home.  
That's a lie!  
When we meet by chance on the street, you act like a stranger  
and walk on by without a word.  
You didn't congratulate me on my birthday.  
You say malicious things behind my back, you agitate other people against me.  
You have changed, since you know IT.  
When I told you about IT, you left my room without saying good-bye.  
We've known each other since we were kids, we were friends, we understood each other.  
What's different now?  
I'm throwing another small pebble at your window  
But it's still dark beyond it.  
No answer.  
No reply.

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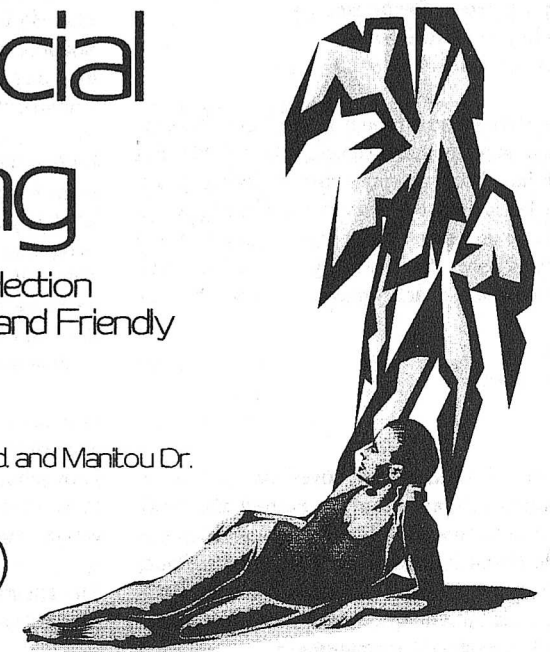
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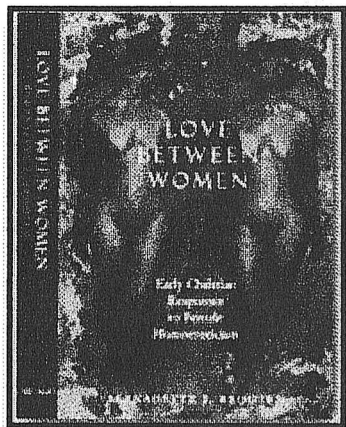
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# Cover to Cover

Books of Interest



**Love Between Women:  
Early Christian Responses To  
Female Homoeroticism**  
*Publisher: University of Chicago*

When Bernadette Brooten wrote *Love Between Women*, some people listened; others didn't. But people have been ignoring lesbian history for years. In her book, Brooten examines ancient views on love between women and shows that since ancient society is gone, Paul's writings in the Bible that condemn homosexuality may have faded a bit, too.

A Review  
by Gip Plaster  
©1997

Bernadette Brooten's book *Love Between Women* got someone's attention; it earned the 1997 Lambda Literary Award in Lesbian Studies and an award from the American Academy of Religion, but it was ignored by much of the lesbian and gay media. Its subject matter, though, has been ignored and misunderstood for centuries.

The central argument of *Love Between Women: Early Christian Responses to Female*

Homoeroticism, is simple: Both Christian and non-Christian writers in the Roman world were aware of sexual love between women, and nearly all rejected it. Christians and non-Christians both condemned woman-to-woman love because they believed that women are by nature passive and should subordinate themselves to men. Many of today's scholars believe that lesbian orientation and relationships were unknown to ancient writers.

So what does this mean to us? If lesbian love was condemned, then it must not have been unknown. That means that some current scholars are wrong, but it also means much more than that.

In 1980, John Boswell's book *Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality* laid much of the framework for gay Christian studies. Today, writers like Mark Jordan, who wrote *The Invention of Sodomy in Christian Theology*, attempt to correct and expand Boswell's views of gay men's Christianity.

Little work, though, is published about how lesbian women were viewed in the early Christian church. That is perhaps in part because many scholars believe that early thinkers considered sex to be about physical penetration. Since women are incapable of penetrating each other according to that line of thought, scholars conclude woman-to-woman sex was not identified in ancient cultures.

Brooten's book reexamines that argument and suggests that not only did early Roman thinkers know about women who were sexually attracted to women, but she says writings of the time condemned these women.

This rejection, she says, is a result of ancient active/passive sexual roles.

"Roman-period writers presented as normative those sexual relations that represent a human social hierarchy. They saw every sexual pairing as

including one active and one passive partner, regardless of gender, although culturally they correlated gender with these categories: masculine as active and feminine as passive," Brooten says. "Males could be either active or passive... whereas females were always supposed to be passive."

To further clarify her point, Brooten said in an interview, "Roman-period writers sometimes accepted sexual love between males, especially when such relations were unequal, such as between a free-citizen male and a male slave or an older man and a youth. In such relations, the natural social hierarchy was preserved." If people should violate this hierarchy, their behavior was deemed "contrary to nature." From this, she says, Biblical writer Paul concluded that homosexual sex was unnatural. We can conclude, then, that if those roles are removed, the condemnation fades away, too.

Brooten says her book is an important addition to four fields of study. First, her work contributes to ancient history in general because of the number of previously untranslated and never-before-collected sources she presents. Second, the evidence she uses to support her conclusion that lesbian love was condemned by the early church creates a tapestry of documentation that is woven into women's history.

"My book contributes to women's history by documenting the existence of woman-woman marriage, of the brutal surgical procedure of selective clitoridectomy for women who displayed 'masculine desires,' and of women seeking out magical practitioners to help them attract other women." Brooten says.

She says her work also provides lots of new research on the history of sexuality.

"It contributes to the history of sexuality by analyzing the differences between the cultural conceptualizations of female and male homoeroticism in antiquity, by documenting the concept of a long-term or lifelong erotic orientation in ancient astrology and ancient medicine, by demonstrating that 19th-century medical writers were not the first to classify homoerotic behavior as diseased, by analyzing the interplay between ancient religious views and understandings of sexual behavior, and by delineating the gendered

character of Roman-period understandings of the erotic," Brooten writes.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly for many readers, the book contributes to New Testament Bible studies by clarifying that the condemnation of homosexuals in the early church involved their society's gender roles and by providing a new background for current discussions about same-sex love.

The news, then, for lesbians in the ancient world wasn't good.

"Medical writers prescribed mind control and clitoridectomy to control female homoeroticism. Astrologers described it as caused by the stars and yet nevertheless unnatural and impure. Early Christians called sexual love between women unnatural and deserving of death, imagined that women engaged in such love would suffer horrific tortures in hell, and warned nuns against it," Brooten said in an interview.

But at least there was news, according to Brooten, and not the void that many scholars think existed. And when we remove the ancient cultural rules, the news for lesbian Christians today seems even better.

Her work, like much research about women, has been ignored to some degree. But if any gay men or lesbians don't know about Brooten's work, they are missing an important piece of the anciently-rooted puzzle from which we assemble the modern lesbian and gay community.



**Dream Lover**  
by Jane Fatcher  
Published by Alyson

In the end, the best books are the ones about the basics: falling in love, being in love, making love work. That's the measure of Fatcher's compelling, challenging take on what happens when high school sex-mates meet as middle-aged adults: can the rapture be recaptured? In answering that question, Fatcher (author of *Crush and Promise Not to Tell*) writes with authority, insight and no shortage of shimmering sexual and instructive emotional scenes, between Kate Paine, a reclusive



lesbian artist, and Ellie Webster, a hedonistic long-wed socialite who can't easily escape her bruised family past. There is a page-turner of a tale, made more potent by the richness of both the two central characters and the women and men around them: Futcher's craft has nothing to do with clichés.

▼  
**Two Flutes Playing:  
 A Spiritual Journeybook for Gay Men**  
 by Andrew Ramer  
 Alamo Square Press

Love, sex, gay mythology, tribal wisdom -- these are some of the spiritual subjects to savor in Andrew Ramer's collection of, well, wisdom: short short essays on man-man love, a seer's overview of history and reality, of gay roots and queer existence, of the "rightness" of aligning the mind with the body, spirit with flesh. Though just published in May of this year, Ramer's book has been talked about for years, based on lectures and workshops he's conducted on meditation, angels and gay spirituality; at last it's available, a heady healing new arrival on the short shelf of work exploring the inner soul of men who love men.



▼  
**Resentment**  
 by Gary Indiana  
 Doubleday

Resentment takes an acerbic bite out of the sprawling, surgically-enhanced butt of Los Angeles, lifting the glitzy skirt of public spectacle to expose private

catastrophes that lurk and fester outside the limelight. As various human dramas unfold, they are pinned like bugs against the backdrop of the media circus. A flea circus mirrors the larger one, but is infinitely more marvelous, also a little more grotesque. This is precisely Resentment's charm.

# THE ADVOCATE



By Jean-Paul Pilon, Barrister and Solicitor

**Question:** *My partner and I are purchasing our first house together. She is not out to her family and I am worried about having to deal with them if anything happens to her. How can we protect ourselves to ensure that they do not inherit the house from her?*

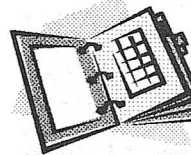
**Answer:** This is a complicated question which should be discussed with your real estate lawyer. Each of the choices that you could make could have unintended consequences and it is important that your choice be an informed one.

Briefly, there are two ways in which you and your partner could jointly own the property. You could take title as **joint tenants** or as **tenants in common**. In both cases it would most often be presumed that you would each own half of the property. As joint tenants, if you or your partner were to die, the half owned by that person would automatically pass to the surviving partner. If you were to take title to the property as tenants in common the part owned by the deceased partner will pass to his or her beneficiaries under a will. If there is no will, her part will go to her closest relatives as defined in Ontario legislation. I explained in my column several issues ago that this legislation does not recognize gay and lesbian relationships.

There are many other issues to be considered, such as cohabitation agreements and issues relating to the sale of the property, which you should discuss with your lawyer before making a decision.

Make a Will Week is November 17-23, 1997. This is the perfect opportunity to make a will or update your old one. Keep an eye out for more in newspapers and on the radio.

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.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

### EVENING OF REIKI

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

- November 19 - Peer Groups
  - November 26 - Initiating an Intimate Relationship
  - December 3 - The Role of the Internet and Other Media in Coming Out
  - December 10 - 1997 in Review...Looking Ahead Towards 1998
- 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 GLLOW website at <http://www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/clubs/gllow/> or call the GLLOW 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, a gay-friendly running group.

### 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, Dec. 6.

### 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

**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**

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!!

### FREEDOM: SONGS OF SEASONAL CELEBRATION

The Rainbow Chorus (Waterloo-Wellington Chorus of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Friends) Presents "Voices of Freedom: Songs of Seasonal Celebration" 8:00 p.m. Saturday November 22 at Chalmers United Church, 50 Quebec St., Guelph. Tickets are \$10.00.

### WORLD AIDS DAY VIGIL

Once again, please join ACCKWA (The AIDS Committee of Cambridge,

Kitchener, Waterloo and Area) for a World AIDS Day Vigil. This is a time for remembering our losses and to join the community in an evening of music, readings and a candle lighting ceremony. Monday, December 1, 1997 at 7 pm. Victoria School Centre, 25 Joseph Street in downtown Kitchener.

### MACDONALD STEWART ART CENTRE

358 Gordon Street (at College Ave.) Guelph, 519-837-0010

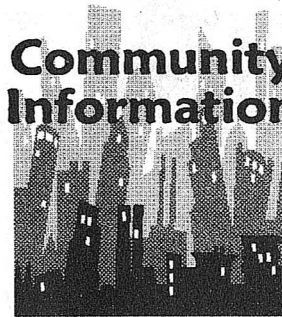
Saturday, November 29:

Two new exhibitions opening on second floor - UNTITLED: NON-OBJECTIVE OBJECTS Non-objective sculpture from the late 60's and early 70s.. Non-objective is loosely defined as completely independent of subject, a style commonly mistaken as 'abstraction'. ROBERT FLACK Robert Flack was born and raised in Guelph. His unique photo-based work was coming to international attention when he passed away in 1993, and continues to elicit interest and scholarship. This exhibition commemorates his life and work.

Monday, December 1:

Day Without Art/World AIDS Day. The MSAC will shroud Evan Penny's MASK as part of its annual observances of DWA, commemorating and celebrating the lives and work of artists lost to AIDS-related causes.

## Community Information



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

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 98.5 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

**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



Community Health Department  
AIDS/STD Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Confidential HIV testing:

CAMBRIDGE 150 Main St.      WATERLOO 99 Regina St. South

STD Clinic - 2nd Floor      STD Clinic - 2nd Floor  
walk-in: first come, first served      walk-in: first come, first served  
Tuesday 3 - 5pm.      Monday & Thursday 3-6pm.

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

For more information call 883-2251      AIDS/STD Program

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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](http://www.angieseats.com)



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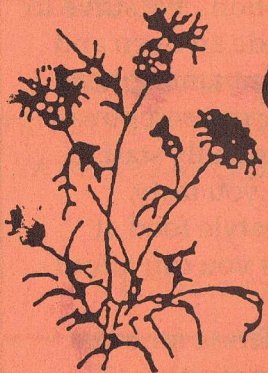
**748-0850**

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

**IGTA**

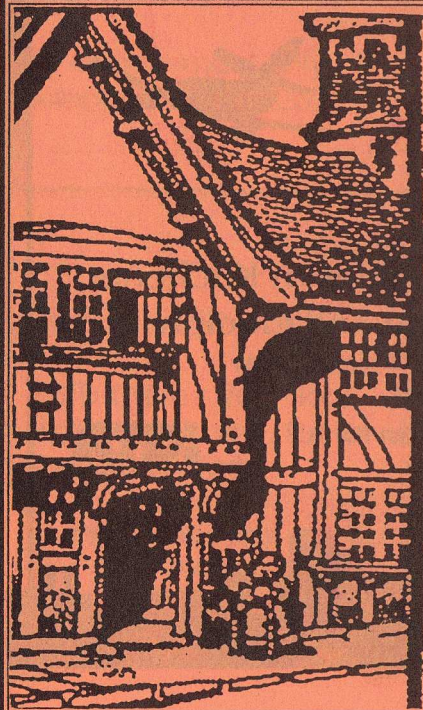


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