

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/

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

Outlook Magazine

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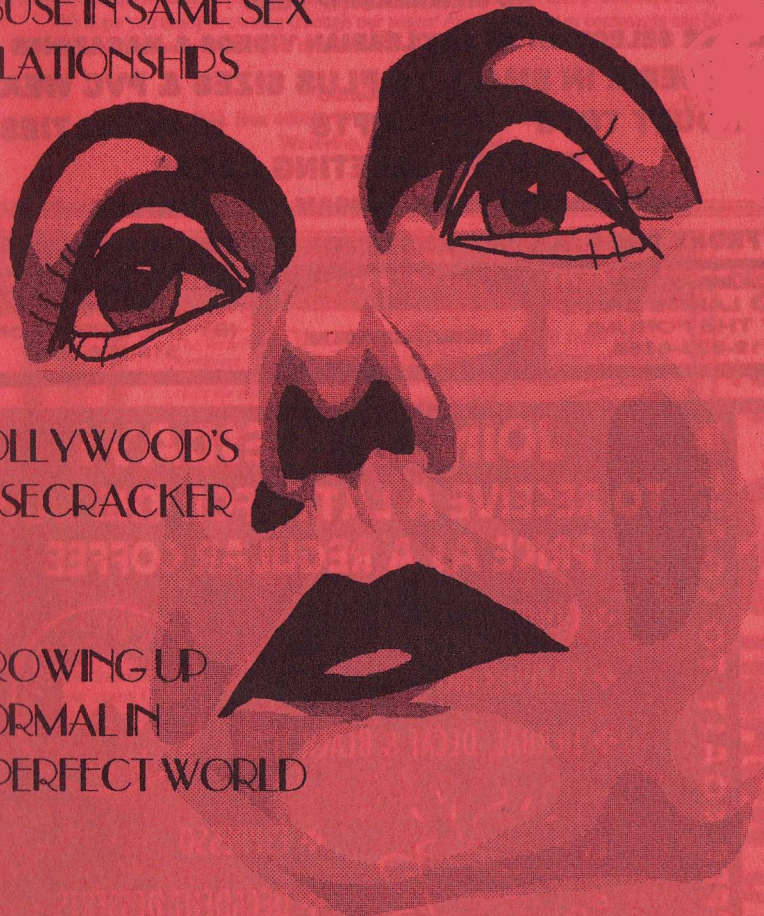
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OUTLOOK

Magazine Quarterly

The Voice of the Region's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Community
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ABUSE IN SAME SEX
RELATIONSHIPS



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NEWS, ENTERTAINMENT
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Welcome Back!

SPRING 1998
Issue 27 - Q1



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We're Back!

Hi all! After a brief absence, we're back and hopefully better than ever.

We were seriously considering suspending publication of Outlook Magazine altogether but our readers would have no part in that. After our last issue in November we received many, many phone calls and literally hundreds of e-mails asking if we would consider continuing the magazine with the help of many of those who called or wrote in. Thank you so much for your support!

Well, your wish is our command. We have decided to continue, but, with a few changes. We have changed our format from a monthly publication to a quarterly with printed issues being distributed in March, June, September and December. These pages will be updated at or around the same time.

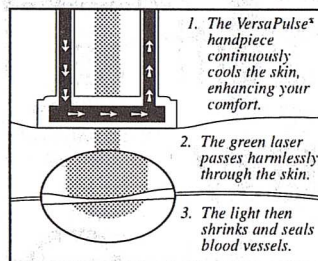
As in the past we will include Worldwide News, Entertainment, Links, Community Listings and events for our immediate area, a page dedicated to reader's submissions and of course, our feature articles.

We hope you enjoy browsing through our pages. Any questions or comments can be forwarded to us at: outlook@easynet.on.ca or reach us by mail at:

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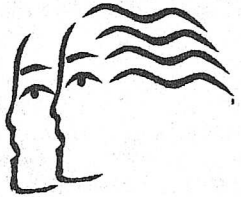
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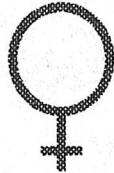
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
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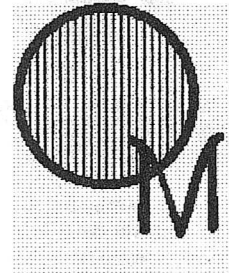
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...and a wonderful bunch
of volunteers and
contributors

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Issue 27 - Q1 ▼ March 1998

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authors and do not necessarily represent those of Outlook Magazine.

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Plans are now underway for the Waterloo-Wellington Pride 98 Celebration.
It will span a week in mid to late June, and will culminate with an outdoor
celebration on a weekend afternoon. In order to learn more information as it
develops, email: rpc@rainbow.on.ca; or telephone: [REDACTED] (Guelph) or [REDACTED]
(KW and Cambridge); or go to the website at <http://www.rainbow.on.ca/>
or attend the next meeting of the Steering Committee, Mar.21, 12:00 noon -
2:00 pm., Rm.2134, Student Life Centre, University of Waterloo.



Chairs For Charity Update

This year's Chairs for Charity Auction was
a huge success! The Rotunda at City Hall
was filled to capacity with participants
bidding on close to 60 exhibits; from
sculpture to paintings and photography, a
handmade quilt and even, yes, some chairs!
The yearly event raised approximately
\$15,000 that will go toward ACCKWA
programs. Bravo to the organizers and
volunteers and of course to all who
participated by purchasing tickets to the
event and bid on the exhibits!



Because Outlook has changed to our new quarterly format, we will be compiling important news stories from the past three months and presenting them here in our News column with each issue. As you know, in the past we have had quite a number of news article every month, however, because the number of issues published per year has been reduced we will be selecting through the vast amounts of news available and printing what we feel are the most important or memorable news stories during that three month period. For many more news related stories be sure to check out the links listed at the end of this section - they're a never-ending supply of information concerning our LGBT community.

NDP MP Survives Ordeal Thanks To Partner's Love

(Ottawa Citizen) VANCOUVER –Svend Robinson says it was his love for his partner Max Riveron that gave him the will to live after he fell down a sheer cliff while hiking alone on a remote part of B.C.'s Galiano Island.

The veteran federal NDP MP recounted for reporters this week how he dragged himself on Dec. 30 through about 400 metres of rugged terrain to a neighbour's house after breaking his ankle and jaw.

At one point during the ordeal, Mr. Robinson recalled, he was prepared to die. But thoughts of Mr. Riveron, a 25-year-old landed immigrant from Cuba, kept him going.

"I kept thinking of what it would be like for him to be alone, this guy who came to join me from Cuba. And I couldn't bear the thought of leaving him behind. My love was so strong and I felt that love for him. And so I got hope again."

The MP for Burnaby-Douglas, sitting in a wheelchair, his jaw wired shut, his shattered right foot in a cast, held an emotional press conference at Vancouver Hospital. Mr. Riveron sat at his side. The MP said his foot might be permanently disabled. His jaw was markedly altered. Leaving hospital after 13 days, he joked that his accident "must be a Tory plot to get Brian

Mulrone's chin back in the House of Commons."

Mr. Robinson, 45, said his brush with death occurred as he and Mr. Riveron prepared to leave Galiano Island after a three-day stay at a cabin they purchased earlier last year.

Mr. Robinson met Mr. Riveron a few years ago when he visited Cuba. Mr. Riveron is now studying educational linguistics at Simon Fraser University.

Mr. Robinson decided to go for a hike while Mr. Riveron packed up. While returning to the cabin, Mr. Robinson slipped down a mossy rock.

The MP suddenly found himself perched over a sheer cliff of 50 to 60 feet. He decided he would try to grab some rocks but plunged to the bottom of the cliff.

Mr. Robinson said he lay unconscious for about two hours. He said he awoke in deep pain with his right foot pulverized, a rib broken and his jaw hanging. "I was a basket case."

Mr. Robinson said he tried to call for help but couldn't because his jaw was smashed.

He used a stick to help himself move through the forest until he was blocked by a huge tree stump. He tried to manoeuvre around the tree but became trapped in its roots.

"I realized I was going to die because I couldn't move any more.

"And then I started thinking about what it meant to die. And I've been pretty damn lucky in my life. I've lived a lot. You know that. It's been amazing.

"Then I thought of people I am close to. People I loved and I came to terms with that. And I was ready to go. And then somehow I thought of this guy here, my partner, I thought about Max." Mr. Robinson said his love for Mr. Riveron "gave me the will to go on, to keep going." The MP said he then saw a glint from the sun on a water tank and knew there must be a cabin nearby.

"All I could do was crawl, but I was so determined that I was going to live. I took the bottom half of my stick and I somehow got myself out of the roots and dragged myself through the forest and kept going."

Mr. Robinson finally arrived at the house, where the occupant used a cell phone to dial 911. Mr. Robinson was taken by water taxi to Saltspring Island and transferred to Vancouver Hospital, where he underwent two operations on his jaw and another on his badly broken foot.

Mr. Riveron said he thought Mr. Robinson was going to die when he first saw him after the accident. But he said he became convinced his partner would survive after

he arrived at a hospital on Saltspring Island.

"I know this guy. I know how strong he is and how fast he recovers and the amazing things he has done through his whole life. I knew that he couldn't leave me."

Refusal To Proclaim Pride Day Results In HRC Inquiry

(Fredericton, N.B.) -- The New Brunswick provincial government announced January 14 that it will proceed with a Human Rights Commission (HRC) board of inquiry into charges that Fredericton Mayor Brad Woodside illegally discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation when he refused to issue a proclamation of Gay Pride Week. Woodside has maintained a firm position that he will never sign such a proclamation, saying that sex has no place in the council chambers.

The HRC had already found merit in the numerous complaints it received from members of Fredericton Lesbians & Gays (FLAG), but the provincial government minister in charge of the HRC, Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Roly MacIntyre, had hoped the two sides could negotiate an agreement. The negotiating



Mayor Brad Woodside

period was extended from January 1 to January 23, but Woodside refused to meet with the mediator more than once, and since no progress has been made, the inquiry will proceed. (Ironically, MacIntyre himself refused to make a provincial gay pride proclamation.)

Woodside is also utterly unmoved by two similar cases in Ontario, where this year Mayor Dianne Haskett and the city of London shared a \$10,000 fine and previously Hamilton Mayor Bob Morrow was fined \$5,000; Woodside's received well over a thousand letters, many including offers of money to help pay any fines. One FLAG member told Canada Press that she hoped the HRC inquiry would at least be an opportunity to educate the public about gays and lesbians.

Firm But Fair?

(GayTimes) -- The Government has introduced new immigration laws in Britain which recognize same-sex couples. But are the new laws really going to benefit lesbians and gay men.

The change in immigration policy was hardly unexpected. In August, High Court judge Lord Justice Simon Brown adjourned an appeal hearing by a

Brazilian gay man seeking the right to remain in the UK, on the grounds of his "committed" relationship, because of a "heralded or anticipated change in Government policy".

And yet, even with advance warning of a policy change, the British mainstream press was up in arms, whipping up hysteria with headlines about gay foreigners flooding the country.

At face value, the policy change was good news for gay couples. In a statement after the announcement immigration minister, Mike O'Brien, said the policy which Labour inherited for common-law and same-sex couples was unsustainable and could contravene human rights.

"The key requirement of immigration policy is fairness. It would be unfair to stop unmarried people in long-term relationships from being together... We are replacing an unfair policy with a fairer one," he said.

The first criterion of the new rules is that unmarried couples must have a relationship "akin" to marriage and one partner (of either sex) must be living and settled in the UK. Secondly, any previous marriage (or similar relationship) by either partner must have permanently broken down. Thirdly, the couple must be legally unable to marry (though not because of a blood relationship or age restrictions). Next a couple must provide evidence to show they have been living together in a stable relationship for four or more years; and they must be intending to do so permanently.

Once a foreign partner is admitted, the couple will have to show that the relationship has persisted for a further year before the foreign partner is granted settlement.

Finally, the couples must be able to maintain and accommodate themselves adequately without relying on public funds.

While the Home Office agree that the criteria which couples must meet are "stringent", a closer look at the policy change shows very little comfort to the majority of gay people wanting to settle in the UK with their partners, and it seems likely that very few will be able to meet the criterion.

Mark Watson, chair of the Stonewall Immigration Group, said that while the group was pleased that same-sex couples are recognized, there is disappointment too because the new laws for couples who cannot marry are much tighter than for those who can legally marry.

Previous common-law policy required that couples be together for only two years. Labour has doubled this, making settlement almost impossible for couples who, before the change, would have met the previous two-year period. And, although the Home Office has said it will accept time lived together overseas in the qualifying period, there is concern that the majority of gay couples may find it impossible to live together legally for four years when immigration laws have kept them apart? Neither partner is allowed access to public money in order to live. The Home Office confirmed that the foreign partner would be able to seek employment during the

12-month probationary period, but can not claim any benefits.

And the same applies to the British partner who, despite being legally able to claim benefits in the UK, would jeopardize or even nullify the settlement process if they lost a job and needed public funds to live. When asked by Gay Times, the Home Office was unable to confirm whether local authority student grants qualified as public funds.

Couples must also show that they have "adequate accommodation" which they own or occupy exclusively, again with no recourse to public funds. This rules out the cheaper living arrangement of shared houses, and, again, neither party would have access to housing benefits if earnings were lost.

Finally, if the relationship breaks down in the 12-month probationary period, that too would nullify the settlement process.

And if after all this the Home Secretary is not satisfied that each criterion has been met fully, the foreign partner will be refused leave to remain.

The law change has been branded a "cruel deception" by the gay activist group OutRage. The group's leading figure Peter Tatchell said: "It's hedged with so many restrictions and qualifications that hardly anyone will be able to meet the requirements. It will benefit very few same-sex partners."

Firm but fair? Not quite yet Minister.

DNA Links 2 Virginia Serial Victims

(NewsPlanet) -- There's been a break in one of the United States' longest-running cases of a suspected serial killer. Since 1987, there's been a series of a dozen murders of gay men in the Tidewater area of Virginia, their strangled bodies dumped naked in roadside ditches. A lack of physical evidence and the victims' milieu -- the street life of hustlers and drug addicts in nightlife neighborhoods serving thousands of Navy personnel -- had left police frustrated. The last victim was Andrew "Andre" Smith, killed in July 1996, and police were able to indict Elton Jackson of Portsmouth for that murder, for which Jackson will stand trial in April. But it's only now that physical evidence connecting Jackson and a second victim has been announced.

At a bond hearing for Jackson on January 15, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Michael Massie revealed that DNA testing on bedding from Jackson's home had found matches with both Smith and Reginald Joyner, victim number six. Joyner's body was found in Suffolk in March 1993.

Jackson had been known to be acquainted with Smith, as well as several of the other victims. Jackson has claimed that he and Smith had engaged in consensual

sex not long before Smith's body was found, but has denied killing Smith or any of the others. DNA testing had also helped to link Jackson to Smith, based on samples from cigarette butts in the ashtray of Jackson's car.

There are at least two unusual aspects to the killings. One is that some of the victims have been white and others African-American, when it is fairly rare for killers to select victims outside their own race. Another is that the victims showed no sign of struggle, although testing did not find evidence of drugs that might have subdued them. The strangulation method used would require considerable physical strength.

The bodies have been left in spots well-travelled enough that they did not go undiscovered for long. In at least three instances, there was a witness at a dump site who saw nothing less than an hour before the body was found.

Profilers identify the killer as "organized," one who intelligently plans the slaying and the removal of evidence afterwards, as opposed to the impulsive actions of "disorganized" killers. Organized serial killers are typically sexually motivated and keep "trophies," and have almost always been white men, such as John Wayne Gacey. Jackson's attorney has pointed out that he is an African-American of unremarkable intellect.

The victims in the suspected series have been Charles F. Smith (found in Chesapeake in August 1987), Joseph Ray (found in Chesapeake in 1988), Stacey Reneau (found in January 1989), John W. Ross, Jr. (found in January 1992), Billy Lee Dixon (found west of Norfolk in August 1992), Reginald Joyner (found in Suffolk in March 1993), Raymond Bostick (found in Chesapeake in June 1993), Robert Neal (found in Chesapeake in September 1993), Garland Taylor, Jr. (found in Suffolk in 1994), Samuel Aliff (found in Chesapeake in May 1995), Jesse James Spencer (found in Chesapeake in January 1996), and Andrew "Andre" D. Smith (found in July 1996).

George Leigh: Co-Founder of Gay Bookstore Chain Dies

(LA Times) -- George Leigh, 60, co-founder of A Different Light Bookstore in West Hollywood and other cities died on January 7 in West Hollywood.

Leigh was an attorney with Texaco Canada in 1978 when he suggested to fellow Toronto resident Norman Laurila that they open a "gay liberation bookstore." Leigh and Laurila, who had managed a bookstore in Toronto, set up their first A Different Light venue a year later in the Silver Lake area of Los Angeles. That store closed in 1992, two years after they opened the popular book shop in West Hollywood.

Over the years, they also established A Different Light bookstores in San Francisco and New York. Employees often felt Leigh ran the business more for pleasure than profit. He delighted in getting behind a counter to sell books and never blinked when the stores spent, rather than made, money to launch writers series, sponsor literary conferences or subsidize publication of controversial books.

UFMCC To Sponsor Historic National African American Conference

Los Angeles -- "In Our Own Language: A Conference for African Americans in UFMCC" will be held in suburban Washington, DC April 16-18, 1998.

This historic national conference is the first organized entirely by and for African American friends and members of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the world's largest predominantly gay spirituality organization.

According to the Rev. Elder Darlene Garner, conference organizer, "This conference will provide an opportunity for African Americans in UFMCC to affirm who we are in UFMCC and to celebrate the diversity of gifts and experiences we bring to the growing gay spirituality movement, and to the greater g/l/b/t communities."

Conference participants will include Dr. Kelly Brown-Douglas, professor of theology at Howard University School of Divinity; the Rev. Delyne Russell-Hinton, associate pastor of Belair United Methodist Church in Belair, MD; the Rev. Sandra Robinson, president of Samaritan Institute for Religious Studies; and the Rev. Darlene Garner, a member of the International Board of Elders of UFMCC and senior pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia.

According to Garner, "The

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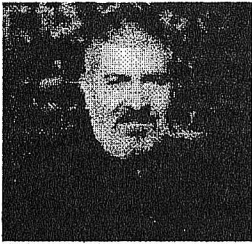
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The Reverend Troy D. Perry

three-day conference will provide exercises to create awareness of ourselves and our community. Through leadership training, African American lay and clergy persons will be equipped with spiritual and practical tools for reclaiming, maintaining and sharing our unique gifts with the g/l/b/t communities."

Conference brochures and registration information are available from UFMCC Headquarters by phone at (310) 360-8640 or by e-mail at info@ufmccq.com. And.....

The world's largest predominantly gay and lesbian church passed the \$6.2 million mark this week in fundraising for its new worship facility in Dallas, Texas.

The Rev. Troy D. Perry, founder and moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), the largest and oldest gay spirituality organization, congratulated the members of the Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church for this historic milestone.

"UFMCC members in Dallas have once again demonstrated those qualities that continue to make UFMCC one of the world's fastest growing religious bodies: commitment and sacrifice," said Perry.

"In Dallas, Texas, and in cities and towns around the globe, the members of UFMCC are living out our Vision Statement to "meet the justice and faith needs of people in growing numbers of countries and cultures," said Perry. "This magnificent new cathedral in Dallas will be a powerful reminder that gays and lesbians are a deeply spiritual people and are a vital part of God's work in this world," he added.

Plans by the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in Dallas call for construction of a \$25 million dollar cathedral which will seat 2500 persons.

With a membership of 2000 persons, the Cathedral of Hope MCC is the largest UFMCC congregation. UFMCC was founded in 1968 by the Rev. Troy D. Perry to provide positive Christian spirituality to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities. With headquarters in West Hollywood, California, the rapidly growing denomination is comprised of more than 300 congregations in 15 countries and an annual combined budget of \$15 million.

Forced Youth Treatment Legal

(NewsPlanet) -- If one of your parents has you kidnapped, it's a felony, but if both of them consent -- if they're sending you off for anti-lesbigay brainwashing, for example, or other b-mod -- it's legally for your own good.

You're awakened at midnight, bundled off with two large strangers in a locked car for a 700-mile ride despite

your protests, and sent on from there to a foreign country where you're held behind a high fence by people who can use physical restraints, pepper spray, mace or a stun gun against you and deny you any contact with the outside world. Have you been illegally kidnapped and falsely imprisoned? Not if you're a minor, the venue is deemed a treatment center, and your parents agreed to it all, according to an Alameda County, California judge who ruled January 20 in the case of David Van Blarigan, a 16-year-old who didn't even have the opportunity to testify on his own behalf.

The case has been closely watched by gay and lesbian groups because -- although this was not the case for Van Blarigan -- often the subjects of such forced treatment are young gays and lesbians whose parents won't accept their orientation.

David was able to manage a phone call from the airport in Jamaica before he was hustled off to Tranquility Bay, "a behavior modification school." He called his neighbor Neil Aschemeyer, an administrative law judge, who in turn contacted Deputy District Attorney Robert Hutchins.

Hutchins filed a civil petition to require David's return to Oakland, describing David's parents as "aiders and abettors" in the kidnapping and false imprisonment of their son, and charging that they exceeded the law in November by signing over all their parental authority to Tranquility Bay and to Brightway Adolescent Hospital in St. George, Utah (where David was evaluated before being shipped to Jamaica), including authorizing the restraints, pepper spray, mace, and stun guns. Hutchins believes that at the very least the process by which David was packed off to Jamaica constitutes psychological abuse, and that David may be in physical danger.

The Van Blarigans are genuinely convinced that they have acted in David's best interests, that he is "safer" in Jamaica than he would be at home with them. They pay something like \$3,000 per month to keep David at Tranquility Bay and continue to correspond with him. David's father, Jim, says that sending him away was the most difficult decision of his own and his wife Sue's lives, but that they would make the same choice if they had it to do over again. They describe David's problems as poor grades, refusing to attend church, and disrespecting them. He's been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder, for which he has been prescribed Ritalin.

David's perception, as stated in a letter presented in court, is that the family relations were a "power struggle" in which he tried to retaliate by hurting his parents for punishments they applied which hurt him.

The parents' attorney Daniel Koller insisted that the order Hutchins requested would constitute a "forbidden government intrusion into the sacred domain of parental rights" and that the situation was no business of the neighbor's, the prosecutor's or the state's. As for the restraints, pepper spray, mace, and stun guns, Koller took the position that, "Just because it's in a contract doesn't mean it's being used." In fact, he asserted that none of those methods were being used against

David.

Judge Ken Kawaichi emphasized that his rejection of Hutchins' request for David's return represented neither "a stunning victory or severe defeat" for either side. He believed that Hutchins had failed to present evidence that David is in imminent danger, and since the ruling was made "without prejudice," the case could be reopened if such evidence is found. (Hutchins believes there's no way to know whether David is harmed or endangered without his presence in Oakland to speak for himself, and he also said after the ruling that "this case dies at this point.") Kawaichi does see a gray area in the law with many questions unanswered, and is not happy with the notion of an American citizen being potentially subject to the physical "controls" without American supervision. Some other California courts have recognized some limited rights of teenagers to consent to or refuse such treatment.

However, despite Kawaichi's perception, a crowd of about 100 parents who were in the courtroom in support of the Van Blarigans definitely took the ruling as "a stunning victory," cheering and giving each other high-fives in celebration. Many of their children are in facilities similar to Tranquility Bay, while of course other minors were required to be in school at the time of the hearing.

There were a few child advocates present, though. Loren Warboys of San Francisco's Youth Law Center told the "Oakland Tribune," "It's a sad day for children

in America. A parent can send a kid off to any place for any reason. There is no rule protecting the teen-ager and that can't be right. There has to be some restriction." Shannon Minter of the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights told the Associated Press that, "You should not be able as a parent to have your child forcibly abducted and sent to another country against his will." Cathy Sutton, a parent who became an activist after her daughter died in a treatment program in Utah, hopes the dialog opened by the case will continue and lead to regulation of safety standards for such facilities.

First Lesbian Couple Weds in Amsterdam

(Data Lounge) AMSTERDAM -- Reuters reports Irma van Praag and Anna Kreuger became the Netherlands' first lesbian couple to wed under the country's new marriage law which went into effect on January 1.

The news agency reports more than 500 guests attended an elaborate ceremony held at the Amsterdam Hilton. The couple had reportedly booked the same wedding suite where John Lennon and Yoko Ono spent their honeymoon 30 years ago.

"John and Yoko were making a statement to the world, and that's also what we're doing," Kreuger said at a news conference. "We hope that in due course the legal exclusion with regard to child adoption will also be

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eliminated."

The law, officially known as the "Registration of Partnership," offers gay and lesbian couples the same marriage rights enjoyed by straight couples, barring joint adoption.

Dutch lawmakers have already voted by a comfortable majority to remove the adoption restriction and most think the matter will be resolved before the end of the new year.

Reuters says that at least 100 gay and lesbian weddings are planned in the Netherlands this year citing a figure released by Gay Krant, a Dutch magazine.

Van Praag, beaming before a sea of television cameras and photographers told members of the international press after the ceremony, "This is the happiest day of our lives."

London Introduces Effort to Lure Gay Travellers

(Data Lounge) LONDON – Reuters reports the London Tourist Board announced it was launching a special "pink" telephone information line as part of a major new initiative to attract gay and lesbian tourists to the British capital.

The advertising and marketing campaign will target lesbian and gay urban professionals between the ages of 30 and 50 in American cities with large lesbian and gay populations.

The promotion seeks to capitalize on the tremendously favourable press coverage London has received over the last several years, emphasizing the cultural and entertainment attractions of what Newsweek called recently "the coolest city on the planet."

"We know that London is probably commercially the largest gay scene in Europe and the value of the gay tourism market to the city is estimated at nearly one billion pounds," LTB spokeswoman Helen Jones told Reuters. "This is a huge market, particularly in the United States," she said.

The "pink telephone" hotline will offer tourists information on gay friendly restaurants and accommodations, bars, clubs, theaters and other attractions for gay tourists.

San Antonio High School Prom Open to Same-Gender Couples

(NewsPlanet) – Two lesbian students who wanted to go together to their May senior prom at John Marshall High

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School in San Antonio, Texas have won their chance to do so, now that a policy change has been announced. Previously, only heterosexual couples had been allowed to attend. However, the Northside Independent School District decided to allow both unpartnered individuals and gay and lesbian couples to attend as well as their heterosexual counterparts – although all are equally banned from kissing.

Marshall High principal John Bordano said the heterosexual-couples-only rule had been intended to stop groups of boys from disrupting the prom by flirting with other boys' dates, but that he wanted to "Provide fairness to all the kids. Provide them an opportunity to go to the prom whether they go as a couple, or they want to go by themselves."

Lesbian Police Captain Demands Equal Rights

(Prakash Naidoo) – In a landmark case to go before the High Court in Pretoria this week, an Alberton police captain is challenging her medical aid scheme, demanding the right to name her long-time lesbian partner as her dependent.

If the application succeeds, the National Coalition for gay and lesbian Equality will take to court a batch of similar cases against other employers, including the mining conglomerate Anglo American.

Mazibuko Jara, the head of the Equal rights project of the coalition, said this was the first court case of its kind to challenge discrimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace and would set an important legal precedent, not only for gay people, but for equality generally and the culture of human rights.

Captain Jolanda Langemaat, an officer who has served in the police force for 15 years, applied to the South African police Medical Scheme (Polmed) in March last year to register her partner of 11 years, Beverley-Ann Myburgh, as her dependent. But her application was refused in May when she was told that in terms of the scheme's rules she could not register her "friend".

Langemaat lodged papers in the High Court, naming the safety and security minister Sydney Mufamadi, police commissioner George Fivaz and the chairman of Polmed as the Respondents. In her founding affidavit, Langemaat said she and Myburgh had been in a continuous, committed relationship for about 11 years and although they could not marry, "we live in every respect as a

couple".

She said refusal by Polmed to register Myburgh as her dependent constituted discrimination on the basis of marital status and sexual orientation. It infringed on her right to equality and violated her right to fair labour practices, all of which were entrenched in the new constitution. Langemaat said the rules that Polmed had invoked to justify its decisions to refuse Myburgh access to the fund were in conflict with provisions in the constitution and ought to be declared invalid by the court.

The SAPS Gay and Lesbian Police Network, which has thrown its support behind Langemaat, said it was disappointed at the lack of commitment and progress in the force to establish full equality for its lesbian and gay members.

"Captain Langemaat is not asking special rights. She is claiming the same benefits, rights and privileges as her colleagues," said a network spokesman, Sergeant Dennis Adriano. In an answering affidavit, Polmed's fund manager, Eduard Boersema, said that while the policy of the department was not to discriminate against anyone on the basis of their sexual orientation, he opposed Langemaat on a technical point.

He added that the relationship between Langemaat and Myburgh was not one of dependency, but one of friendship "as a result of a love affair" and said whatever assistance was provided was "done on a moral and altruistic basis predicated on romance and pure love". He denied that Myburgh could be constituted a "dependent". "The said Beverley is to all intents and purposes a friend and lover of the applicant [Langemaat], who happened to cohabit with her," said Boersema.

Members of Polmed do not make any payment to the scheme as the state makes the full contribution, and Boersema said that to open it for the benefit of people who were involved in same-sex relationships "would be tantamount to opening the floodgates".

In her replying affidavit, Langemaat said Boersema's opposition to equal employment rights for lesbian and gay people was in direct breach of the policies stated by both the minister and the commissioner.

Pointing to changing social attitudes, Langemaat referred to developments last year when five of South Africa's leading universities and the Greater Johannesburg Metropolitan council decided to recognize gay and lesbian unions by extending full marital benefits to those staff

members.

South Africa May Adopt Gay Marriage

(Data Lounge) PRETORIA, South Africa – The South African Star reports legislation recognizing the legal right of gay men and lesbians to marry will soon be introduced in Parliament. Many legal observers predict the bill stands a good chance of passage.

Government sources quoted by the Star say the legislation is in line with the country's new constitution, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. Its introduction also follows a number of progressive family initiatives, such as a law passed recently giving fathers of children born out of wedlock the right to seek custody and guardianship.

The African National Congress came out in support of same-sex marriage at a conference held last December in Mafikeng. The ANC said that it has always sought justice for South Africans based on the "ideals of equality, dignity and freedom."

In addition to voicing support for gay marriage, the ANC directed the government to address custody, access, maintenance, immigration, and adoption rights for gay men and women.

Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi has not yet taken a public position on the gay marriage bill but has the option of passing it on to a deputy minister if he thinks it too hot to handle. Strong opposition is expected from leaders of the center-right African Christian Democratic Party.

Fiery Protest At Vatican - Man Sets Self Ablaze In Opposition To Anti-Gay Stance

(Reuters)Rome - A Sicilian man, protesting discrimination against homosexuals, set himself ablaze in Saint Peter's Square January 13 and tried to rush toward the basilica's entrance.

The Vatican denied the protest was aimed at the Roman Catholic Church's opposition to homosexual acts. But a police official said the seriously injured man, Alfredo Ormando, had written in a letter that his self-immolation was directed against society and the Church.

Gay and lesbian groups, who reacted with horror to the incident, said there was no doubt the man had chosen Saint Peter's Square to make a point. Its basilica is a center of pilgrimage and the scene of papal ceremonies and Vatican



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"Alfredo Orlando set himself alight under the colonnade of Saint Peter's Square to protest against traditional family values which discriminate against homosexuals, and against Catholic homophobia," gay rights group Arcigay said in a statement.

Orlando, 39, doused himself with gasoline and set himself alight as he stood near the Bernini colonnades around the square police said. His body ablaze, he ran toward the main portals of the 16th century basilica but succumbed to the burning and fell unconscious before reaching the entrance.

Police said he had suffered burns over 90 percent of his body. Doctors at a Rome hospital described his condition as serious.

In papers found in Orlando's jacket, which he discarded before setting himself on fire, the Sicilian wrote that his family and society did not understand the problems he faced as a homosexual, police said.

A Vatican spokesman said this did not mean that Orlando was protesting the Church's ban on gay relations. The Catholic Church does not condemn homosexuality in itself, but opposes sexual acts between gays.

BC Parents' Rights Begin

(NewsPlanet) - Everybody's Family Relations have gotten into the Act with the implementation of provisions covering gay and lesbian parents under British Columbia law.

British Columbia became the first jurisdiction in North America granting same-gender couples recognition equal to that of unmarried heterosexual couples for purposes of child custody, child visitation, and child and spousal support when amendments to the provincial Family Relations Act enacted in 1996 went into effect February 4.

Provincial Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh announced the new law, saying, "Children don't choose their parents' living situation, and they shouldn't have different rights, depending on how their family is structured. Children have the right to expect adequate support, appropriate custodial access and continuing caring relationships with both parents regardless of sexual orientation and marital status."

Now when gay and lesbian couples break up, both partners will have access to their children and responsibility for supporting them. While the Canadian Supreme Court will be reviewing the long-running case ("M v. H") of an Ontario lesbian seeking alimony from her former partner, were a similar case to arise in

British Columbia, the responsibility for spousal support and the court's authority to consider it would be clear. The law also allows couples to make the equivalent of prenuptial agreements to plan for division of property in the event of a break-up, and either party can go to court to seek amendments to such agreements.

British Columbia had already granted equal recognition to gay and lesbian couples for purposes of adoption, spousal benefits for provincial government employees, calculation of household income in determining welfare benefits, and even the provincial law against insider trading of securities. As University of British Columbia law professor and gay and lesbian law expert Doug Sanders said, "B.C. is the most progressive jurisdiction in North America."

Washington State Bans Gay Marriages

(Reuters) - Washington became the 27th state in the United States to ban same-sex marriages February 6 when the state legislature overrode a governor's veto to enact the ban.

It was Democratic Governor Gary Locke's first veto override, but the governor said he was consoled by the fact that the override meant Republicans would not send the gay marriage issue to state voters in a referendum.

"No governor likes to have a veto overridden," Locke said. "But at least this issue does not go to the ballot. I did not want a divisive, bitter campaign. I did not want contributing members of our society vilified or used for false fears and scapegoating."

Same-gender marriages are not now legal in Washington, nor in any other state. But conservative lawmakers worried that courts elsewhere might legalize such unions, and that Washington state might then be forced to recognize them.

State courts in Hawaii and Vermont have issued preliminary rulings in favor of homosexual couples who challenged their denial of a marriage license.

"It's because a bunch of unelected judges in another state could impose this on us," Republican Senate Majority Leader Dan McDonald said. "That's why we're



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doing this."

Plenty of Democrats joined the Republicans in the legislature to achieve the two-thirds majority needed to override the gubernatorial veto.

The vote in the House of Representatives was 65-28; in the state Senate, 34-11.

The legislation approved defines marriage as a contract between one man and one woman and says Washington will not recognize marriages performed elsewhere that vary from that standard.

Gay and lesbian leaders vowed to carry on the fight against the same-gender marriage ban. "We're going to the courts," said Seattle Democrat Ed Murray, the only openly gay member of the Washington legislature. "We're putting together a legal team right now."

Murray called the legislative vote "dehumanizing" and unnecessary and said it violates state constitutional protections against discrimination.

"Millennium March on Washington for Equal Rights" Announced by National Gay Organizations

(Washington) -- The United States' largest gay and lesbian political organization and the nation's largest gay faith-based movement announced plans February 9 to sponsor a march on Washington in the spring of the year 2000. The event will be produced by veteran march organizer Robin Tyler who brought the organizations together to formulate planning.

The Human Rights Campaign and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches are exploring dates in spring 2000 for the "Millennium March on Washington for Equal Rights," the heads of both organizations said.

Several prominent organizations have signed on as endorsers, including the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, the National Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

Representatives from these organizations and others will be sought to participate on an organizing committee which will help facilitate the organization and presentation of the event.

"This march will set a new tone for a new century," said Elizabeth Birch Executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. "Full equality under the law will be our achievement in the new millennium."

"Together, we will solidify the gains we've made over the past decades and call upon our nation to live out its promise of 'liberty and justice for all,'" said the Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. "This march will set the pace for social justice and human rights."

The organizations are working closely with Tyler to

produce the event. Tyler was an instrumental organizer/producer of the past three marches on Washington dating back to 1979.

"Robin's depth of experience, community commitments and unstoppable energy uniquely qualify her to lead the organizing efforts for this historic event," said Birch and Perry.

"This is an historic time in our movement. Although we have much greater visibility and a measure of cultural acceptance, we must not be lulled into a false sense of security," Tyler said. "This march will once again show the self-esteem, strength and unwavering determination of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community."

The last march was April 25, 1993 and attracted more than 1 million participants, according to the organizers.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

New Gay Bathhouse in Edmonton

Plans are underway to clean up North America's northernmost city's gay community, but neighbours fear that bathing men (regardless of orientation) will make them sleazy.

For the first time in 17 years, there will be a bathhouse in Edmonton, Alberta, when Down Under opens.

Although gay bathhouses have remained highly

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controversial since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, Edmonton is believed to have been until now the only major city in Canada without one. The city's last gay baths, the Pisces Health Spa, closed down following a conviction for "running a common bawdy house" and a police raid that made about 30 arrests.

Along with baths, sauna, videos, and a snack bar, the new bathhouse will also have private rooms. Like other Canadian bathhouses, Down Under will distribute condoms to patrons and actively promote safer sex. Health authorities have not yet (Feb. 9) received a formal application from entrepreneur Jim McBride, although they were contacted less formally and plan to make a careful review of the set-up. Edmonton Mayor Bill Smith and openly gay City Councilmember Michael Phair concur that the only issues are compliance with licensing requirements and other regulations.

However, some of Down Under's neighbours-to-be expressed negative reactions to the proposed bathhouse in the "Edmonton Journal." One business owner was concerned that the presence of the bathhouse would drive customers out of the neighborhood. One employee was scared by the idea of a bathhouse, characterizing it as a "sleazy" thing while denying that it's having a gay clientele in particular had anything to do with her fears.

Toronto Metro Grants Workers DP

The City Council of the new super-city of Toronto, formed January 1 from the joining of a number of surrounding municipalities, has voted to extend equal spousal benefits to its gay and lesbian employees' same-gender domestic partners.

Only two of the formerly separate cities, East York and North York, had not been granting these benefits previously. Toronto's only openly gay Councilmember, Kyle Rae, said his colleagues had "passed the litmus test," and even one Councilmember who had opposed domestic partner benefits while previously serving in the Ontario parliament, George Mammoliti, said it was the right thing to do.

Better Protection For Children With Carers of the Same Sex

(Netherlands)--There is a need for better legal protection of children who are brought up and cared for by two persons of the same sex. With this in mind, it should also be possible for two persons of the same sex to adopt a child. The Council of Ministers reached this decision February 9 on the basis of a proposal by the State

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Secretary for Justice, Elizabeth Schmitz. The Cabinet decision is closely in line with the recommendations made to by the Kortmann Commission* in October 1997.

Adoption of a child from abroad is possible only if the new parents are married. This will not be changed. However it should be possible for two people of the same sex to adopt a child, provided this child is adopted within the Netherlands. At present only two persons of different sex or one person alone are permitted to adopt a child. The Cabinet does however feel that care is needed in dealing with adoption cases, since adoption is a measure with far-reaching implications, in which all ties between the child and its original parents are severed. For this reason, adoption will only be possible if it is certain that the child can expect - or will receive - nothing further from its original parent(s). This condition will apply for all adoptions in the Netherlands. If adoption is not (yet) possible or is not desirable, there is another way of offering protection to a child which is raised by two persons who are not both its biological parents, namely through the system of joint custody. This means that the de facto responsibility for the child is shared by the two carers. At present, joint custody can only be granted by the courts. In line with the recommendations of the Kortmann Commission, the Cabinet is proposing that joint custody should be granted automatically if the child is born within a registered partnership.

The key question is whether the introduction of the registered partnership means that the government has gone far enough in acknowledging the cohabitation of two persons of the same sex. The Cabinet feels that this is the case. Registered partnership, supplemented by the possibility of applying for adoption, means that registered partners have the same rights and obligations as married couples. The Cabinet is proposing that the system of registered partnership be evaluated in around three years' time. In view of this, the Cabinet feels that opening up marriage to partners of the same sex would be going a step too far at this juncture.

* This Commission, chaired by Professor S.C.J.J. Kortmann, was asked by the State Secretary for Justice



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to come with recommendations on whether civil marriage should be made possible for couples of the same sex.

Hard Lessons in Gay Tolerance 101

(Globe and Mail) *Virginia Galt* - Elmer Bagares says that when he was little, classmates pelted him with rocks because he and his brother were the only non-white students in their Kitchener-Waterloo school, and he wondered how much worse it would be if they also knew he was gay.

Later, in high school, he made friends - but some were blatantly homophobic, saying such things as, "If I ever met a fag, I'd kick his head in."

Now "out" and studying social work at Ryerson Polytechnic University, he helps to conduct workshops for the Toronto District School Board that promote an atmosphere of tolerance and acceptance for gay and lesbian youth.

The effort is not always welcome. Some parents are appalled that children are learning about gay love at school in workshops that do not always include information about the hazards of unprotected gay sex, said Chris Lindner, a mother of two young boys and York Region representative of a group called Citizens United for Responsible Education. "They make an emotional appeal to... impressionable kids who are trusting adults to give them the full story," Ms. Lindner said in an

interview.

Mr. Bagares recalls that, desperate to fit in, he played along, making gay-bashing comments himself. He even dated "a very nice girl" to see what it was like. "That poor woman," he said. "She dated four gay men in a row and we all came out to her."

At that, Mr. Bagares's audience - 12-year-old students at East Alternative School in Toronto - burst into laughter.

Some students, however, are hostile and some principals want nothing to do with workshops that challenge traditional social norms. But whether they like it or not, the issue of homophobic harassment is out in the open, and there is increasing pressure to do something about it.

Research shows that gay and lesbian young people are at much greater risk of committing suicide or dropping out of school than heterosexual teens. In the United States, school administrators are now being held accountable. Last month, Time magazine reported that gay students have successfully sued school districts for failing to protect them from their fellow students.

In Canada, a recent Young People's Theatre production, *The Other Side of the Closet*, provided a brutal portrayal of homophobic harassment in Canadian schools. According to social worker Steven Solomon, the play is dead on. He was left reeling by some of the comments high-school students made after they had seen it.

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After the intensive three-week series of workshops with Toronto students, "hearing the word fag 50 times a day, it took a while to shake it off," said Mr. Solomon, who works with the Toronto school board's human-sexuality program. "I felt as if I had been slimed."

But the appointment book is full, and he will press on, he said, because of the need. Students who would not dream of making racist or sexist comments seem to think it's perfectly acceptable to make derogatory sexual comments.

"That's so gay," is the current schoolyard lingo for anything deemed silly or stupid, and Mr. Solomon said a board survey a few years ago found that "fag" was one of the first words non-English-speaking children learned at their new Canadian schools.

The Grade 7 students at East Alternative were polite and intensely curious when two gay men and a young lesbian woman spoke to them. How old, they asked Mr. Bagares, was he when he realized he was gay? "I kind of knew when I was 3." How did his parents react? "My mother was okay with it. I mean she still feels, I think, that she would like to have grandchildren." (Gay men can, and do, become fathers, he added.)

Tim McCaskell, a student-program worker with the school board's equity studies centre, told the EAST class he first suspected he was different in the high-school locker room when other boys engaged in raunchy banter about girls. "I thought, 'I don't get it. What's all the excitement about?'"

He thought that perhaps he was just a late bloomer until he fell "head over heels in love" with a male friend in university.

Because sexual preference is such a touchy subject, workshops like this are conducted only at schools that ask for them. More than 100 take place in Toronto in a year, mostly in high schools, but they are rare in other parts of the country, Mr. McCaskell explained.

He and Mr. Bagares were invited to EAST as part of the school's equity-studies program — the students are also examining sexism, racism and discrimination based on age and social class. Often, however, board specialists are asked to visit schools in the wake of "an incident," Mr. McCaskell said, or teachers have decided that "the level of homophobic name-calling has become really difficult for them to deal with."

The sessions seem to improve the school climate somewhat as students reflect on the impact of their behaviour. In fact, some of the more effective workshops are conducted by teen-agers themselves, said Joanne Bacon, co-ordinator of Teens Educating and Confronting Homophobia. Sponsored by Planned Parenthood of Toronto, TEACH is a "peer education" program presented by gay, lesbian and bisexual volunteers plus some "straight allies."

"Societal homophobia produces an alarmingly unhealthy environment for many youth," Ms. Bacon said.

Researchers have estimated that the suicide risk for gay and lesbian teens is four times that of heterosexual

youth. Ms. Bacon also cited a 28-per-cent dropout rate, high rates of homelessness, eviction from the family home and substance-abuse problems, in addition to the heightened risk of contracting the AIDS virus.

Ms. Lindner said some adolescents are confused about their sexuality and could be swayed by presentations made by gays and lesbians. Everyone is entitled to be treated with respect, she said, but schools do not need special antihomophobia workshops to get that message across.

"You don't have to segment it because you end up opening the door for somebody who wants to make an agenda of it."

Mr. Solomon said that after a workshop students often write to him, some to say that homosexuality is unnatural and others to admit that they are still not comfortable with it but don't believe it should be discriminated against.

"And then," he added, "you get the students who call you later to talk, saying that they might be doing a project . . . the project turns out to be a coming-out session."

However, he advises them to think carefully before making a public declaration. The reality remains that most schools are not gay-friendly environments.

Britain Demands Territories Legalize Gay Sex

(Rex Wockner) — The government of British Prime Minister Tony Blair has demanded that Britain's five Caribbean Dependent Territories legalize gay sex, reported BBC Radio 5 Live's Out This Week.

A Foreign Office spokesman told the program that the anti-gay laws in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat and the Turks & Caicos Islands place the United Kingdom at risk of being found in violation of its international human-rights agreements.

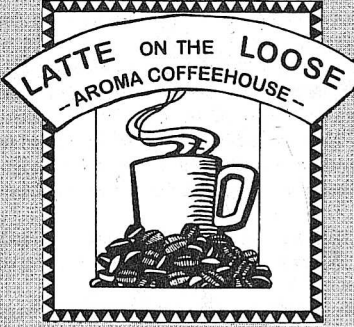
Anti-gay sentiment in the Cayman Islands was highlighted recently when the local government denied docking privileges to a cruise ship carrying 900 gay men. The tourism ministry said homosexuals could not be counted on "to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands."

Hismanal Interacts, FDA Warns

(PlanetOut) — Caution: what you take for your runny nose could be dangerous — especially if you're taking protease inhibitors or antidepressants!

The prescription antihistamine Hismanal (astemizole, produced by Johnson & Johnson subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals) has been found to interact dangerously with the protease inhibitors prescribed for HIV infection, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration announced February 9.

Examples of protease inhibitors which should not be combined with Hismanal are Crixivan (indinavir), Norvir (ritonavir), Invirase (saquinavir), and Viracept (efinavir).



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It has been found to have dangerous interactions with several other categories of drugs as well (some antibiotics, serotonin reuptake inhibitor antidepressants, asthma drugs, and a hypertension medication).

Even by itself Hismanal can adversely affect heart functioning and in rare instances cause anaphylaxis (dangerous allergic reaction). It should also not be taken with grapefruit juice nor at doses larger than prescribed, and is contraindicated for those with liver problems. Hismanal product labelling is being updated to reflect the new findings, but will not be banned because it is helpful for some people for whom there is no suitable substitute.

Historic Decision Grants Property Rights to Surviving Partner

Businessman Milton Alves Pedrosa, from Belo Horizonte capital of the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, won by unanimous decision of the Brazilian High Court the right to half of the estate of his partner, Jair Batista Prearo, who died of AIDS in 1989. The court reached its decision on February 11th.

Jair and Milton lived together for more than seven years. After Jair's death, Milton was unable to reach an agreement with his family regarding the flat which they had bought together, valued at US \$80,000.

The battle has been in the courts since 1992. Milton won the case at the first hearing, but Jair's family appealed and the second sentence was given in favour

of Jair's father, João Batista Prearo, 85.

February 10, the Brazilian High Court decided in Milton's favour. The decision is final. Summing up, Minister Ruy Rosado, stated "A judge nowadays cannot deny that two people of the same sex can form family ties."

The decision to award half the estate is in keeping with existing Brazilian legislation regarding the disposal of property in the case of married couples when one of the partners dies intestate, has no children but still has parents alive.

For the Brazilian Association of Gays, Lesbians and Transvestites (ABGLT) the case is a resounding victory and comes at a time when the bill for the recognition of Registered Partnerships between same sex couples is facing fierce opposition from evangelical and catholic members of the Brazilian parliament.

Toni Reis, General Secretary of the ABGLT said: "We congratulate Brazilian Justice for having honoured Milton's constitutional rights. We hope that this jurisprudence will serve to light the way of those members of parliament who are against equal rights."

P'Town Landmark Burns

(PlanetOut) - In the gay-friendly resort of Provincetown, Massachusetts, the historic Crown & Anchor Motor Inn, site of many a drag show, went up in flames on February 11 as part of a 5-alarm fire that did an estimated \$6-million worth of damage, despite heroic efforts by firefighters from miles around. In fact, it's believed that the entire Commercial Street historic district, with its narrow streets and closely crowded buildings, might have fallen victim to the blaze, had not the wind let up opportunely.

The fire apparently began accidentally with an electric heater in a room at the Whaler's Wharf mall used by the night watchman. The watchman, David Bragdon, saw the smoke and attempted to smother the fire with blankets, but instead they too caught fire, and soon arts and crafts materials nearby were acting as accelerants to send the flames racing through structures. Bragdon later attempted suicide with a flare gun, fearing he would be blamed, but survived with minor injury.

The Crown & Anchor was built in 1880 and included 32 guest rooms, 3 bars, 3 cabaret rooms, and a restaurant. Numerous costly gowns used in the drag shows were destroyed by the fire; one drag performer who saw the blaze, Billy Jean, said, "That's my whole career going up in flames."

The Crown & Anchor employed about 50 people. If it is to be renovated, it will have to be made wheelchair-accessible and add a wastewater treatment system, possibly adding some \$400,000 to other costs in rehabilitating the \$2.1-million building. According to one informant, Provincetown's only "sleazy" bar, the Vault, was also destroyed.

Setback For Gay Rights in Europe

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - Gay rights activists were shattered by a European Union high court ruling February 17 against a British lesbian railroad clerk who sought travel benefits for her girlfriend.

It had been considered a test case on workplace equality for homosexuals across Europe.

"We're gutted. It's unbelievable that in this day and age, we have a judgement that means that lesbians and gays effectively have no rights in the workplace," said Anya Palmer of the British gay rights group Stonewall.

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg said Britain's South West Trains did not violate EU law when it said the girlfriend of booking clerk Lisa Grant was ineligible for travel benefits available to the partners of heterosexual employees.

Lawyers for the couple, including Cherie Booth, wife of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, argued the policy violated the EU's founding treaty, which guarantees "equal pay for equal work without discrimination based on sex."

The rail company argued that the clause did not cover sexual orientation. South West Trains also denied free travel benefits to partners of male homosexuals.

Jill Percey, Grant's partner, said they and their supporters would campaign to have laws changed in Britain to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation. Blair's government is committed to reforms ending discrimination against gay workers.

The EU's executive agency said it was considering changes to its law to "plug the gaps" in anti-discrimination clauses. Any new proposals would need backing from governments of the 15 EU nations.

Black Nights For Moscow's Gays

(Sydney Morning Herald) - Many gays were arrested and beaten in Sydney 20 years ago, in a demonstration that launched the first Mardi Gras parade. But in Russia today the battle against gay discrimination is still in its early stages.

With their balaclavas and camouflage, and armed with machineguns and batons, the Russian anti-narcotics squad knows how to crash a party.

In a recent dawn raid on Chance, a gay dance club in Moscow, 14 officers pushed their way past the bouncer to where about 100 people were gyrating in front of a large video screen.

Terence, a 20-year-old American, had arrived in

Say What?! "Look, I'm 40, I'm single, and I work in the musical theater -- you do the math. What do you need, flashcards?"
--Birdcage star Nathan Lane on his sexual orientation to US magazine, February issue.

Moscow the night before with a 12-month working visa. He was to get an introduction to the city he would never forget.

"They came in and started kicking people. People were screaming," he said. "The guy closest to me was kicked a few times and fell, then he was kicked again in the nose - his nose was bleeding all over the seat."

"There was one kid who was so scared, because the guy put a pistol to his head. He was told to put his arms behind his head, but he didn't because he was just frozen."

This is gay life, Moscow style.

A life where - even beyond communism and the arrival of "democracy" - you experience discrimination on a grand scale. Many say homophobia has increased rather than decreased in the new Russia.

Gays are often kicked out of their homes and lose their jobs if landlords or bosses become aware of their sexuality. No laws exist to protect employees or tenants from such discrimination.

It was a crime to be gay in Russia until May 1993, when the law against male sodomy was repealed in the wave of democratic reforms that followed the collapse of communism in 1991. The punitive law, introduced by Stalin in 1933, meant gay men were regularly jailed for up to five years with hard labour.

It's hard to determine how many men suffered in the gulags because of their sexual persuasion. Discussion of the anti-sodomy law was banned and criminal statistics were never a matter of public record in the Soviet Union.

But a 1994 report by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, set up in 1991 to fight for law reform and seek the release of those imprisoned, says thousands were jailed yearly from 1934, and quotes a Literaturnaya Gazeta report that 800 men were jailed in 1988. The Justice Ministry admits 227 were imprisoned as late as 1992.

Lesbianism was not illegal in the Soviet Union, but considered a mental illness. The report says a typical scenario involved a parent or teacher finding out about a relationship and having both partners committed for up to three months, forcing them to take mind-altering drugs. They would be registered with a psychiatrist for life, refused a driver's licence, could never work in the retail industry, and had to have regular check-ups and medication.

An American gay rights activist, Kevin Gardner, who has spent several years in Moscow, says the repeal of the anti-gay law did not change attitudes. In a report titled Gay and Lesbian Human Rights in the "New" Russia, Gardner concludes: "State law-enforcement agencies continue to treat gay-affiliated organizations as centres of criminal activity, and government structures refuse to register openly identified community groups. Gays and lesbians remain vulnerable to blackmail and intimidation, government-sanctioned and social violence,

and have nowhere to turn in instances of job and housing discrimination."

The 1994 report gives many examples of people being thrown out of their homes. "Even without the threat of incarceration, many Russian gays and lesbians fear they would lose their apartment and/or their livelihood if their sexuality became known," it says.

Gardner uses the raid on Chance, the first openly gay club in Russia, as an example of official violence. It was the second raid on the club in 12 months.

The first was in July 1996, a few weeks after President Boris Yeltsin's re-election on a democracy platform. The police were supposedly looking for the murderer of a deputy justice minister known to be gay.

On the second raid, the police said they suspected drugs were on the premises. The club's managers deny this and say the real reason was that the Russian mafia had decided the building would be more profitable as a casino. The instructions to the raiders - operating on the mafia's behalf - were to be as violent as possible to scare away the patrons, the managers claimed.

At a press conference after the raid, an Interior Ministry official said 31 people were arrested. Some were taken to hospital for forced blood and urine tests. Many of those arrested believed they were tested for HIV as well as drugs.

The rest were taken to police cells and held overnight without charge. During long interrogations many said they were taunted - "You homosexual, you lesbian" - and others claimed they had drugs planted on them. In his report, Gardner said the police threatened to take people to the woods and "shoot all you faggots".

Chance's owner, Pavel Chaplin, says the raids were an attempt to shut the club down. "These kind of raids are normal in Russia," he said. "We'll keep fighting for this club because it's a rare place in Moscow where gays

can get together in a safe space.

"You can talk about a democratic revolution, but this kind of incident shows a reversion to the situation there was in the 1930s. In front of everyone, they were planting evidence, they were beating people up. It was fascist aggression." Until five years ago, there were no gay clubs in Moscow. The three or four which exist now are in back streets, and most hide the fact they have a gay clientele. Unless you're a regular, you may not get in.

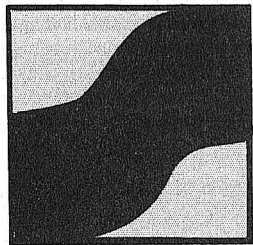
The authorities used to compile lists of homosexuals, who were then interrogated in the event of a crime being committed against other gays. Oleg, a 30-year-old who arrived in Moscow from a Siberian village in 1987, recalled being arrested and interrogated for 24 hours in 1988 after the murder of a Columbian man, a friend of his boyfriend.

The police had found Oleg's name in the murdered man's diary. "They kept on asking, 'Why did you kill him? We know you did it', and said if I signed a confession they'd let me go, but if I didn't they'd kill me." The prospect of being beaten up or even killed is a reality for gay Moscovites. Everyone seems to know someone who has been found dead. Club-goers talk of a gay serial killer being on the loose in 1996.

Gardner tells of the murder of a gay man in November 1996. His body was found lying on the floor of his apartment in his underwear with 22 stab wounds. "The murder was apparently one of many that occurred in Moscow throughout 1996, causing great fear in the local gay community," he says.

Many gays prefer to meet partners in parks or squares rather than go to gay clubs. Few would feel confident enough to come out at work.

One of the most popular outdoor meeting areas is the square outside the Bolshoi Theatre, near the Kremlin. By night it's a hive of activity, with dozens of men sitting or walking round as they talk. For some it's a pick-up, for others a social occasion. BMWs and Mercedes drive



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slowly past and youths go up to greet them.

"Mostly prostitutes," said Oleg, who works at the Three Monkeys, another gay club, where he estimates half the clients are prostitutes and the rest their customers.

For many it's a matter of survival. The prostitutes include government staff and soldiers, many of whom have not been paid for a year because there is no public money to cover their wages.

There are dozens of places round Moscow where men meet for sex late at night. Once they would have been jailed if caught. Now they are rounded up, driven to the other side of town and dumped.

Clearly, the Moscow mardi gras is still a long way off.

Danish Queen Invites Gay Couple To Royal Ball

(Rex Wockner Int'l News) — In a history-making gesture, Danish Queen Margrethe invited a gay couple to her Feb. 5 royal ball at Christiansborg Castle.

Margrethe and Prince Henrik stage the annual fete for members of parliament and government officials. Former health minister Torben Lund, 47, and his lover, Claus Lautrup, 30, were the lucky couple.

"We didn't want to be indifferent to the society in which we live," Royal Master of Ceremonies Christian Eugen-Olsen told the Extra Bladet newspaper.

The newspaper itself editorialized, "By welcoming a homosexual couple on the same footing as others, inviting them to dine at the finest table in the kingdom, the court has shown its respect."

In 1989, Denmark became the first nation to allow gays to marry, under a registered-partnership law that grants all rights of matrimony except access to adoption, artificial insemination and church weddings. Greenland, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden followed in Denmark's footsteps.

Gay Cubans Enjoy New Freedoms

(Data Lounge) --HAVANA, Cuba -- The Scripps Howard News Service reports gay clubs in Cuba, most notably clubs which feature entertainment provided by cross dressing cabaret singers, are no longer being closed down by authorities as a matter of course.

Until recently, both the participants and the audience would have been jailed for what goes on in the clandestine clubs of old Havana. The open display of homosexuality alone could earn them a three-month sentence for "public scandal" - not to mention a beating, and possible rape, by police. "These shows are really on the edge," said Lorenzo, the gay man in charge of the cabaret. "The police can knock the door down at any moment and arrest everyone here. They fine the householder 1,500 pesos (about seven months' wages) and confiscate the lights and sound system."

But Lorenzo's show has survived, partly because he has a good relationship with the neighbors - who attend

performances free of charge - and partly because the authorities have eased up on the repression.

Since the 1959 revolution, gay and lesbian Cubans were labeled social and ideological deviants. Many lost their jobs and some were sent to labor camps. Thousands fled the country. But in 1990 things began to change, and in 1992 President Fidel Castro declared that homosexuality was "a natural human tendency that must simply be respected."

"The only real change" said Lorenzo, who has been beaten and narrowly escaped a nine-month prison sentence, "is that instead of sending you to jail these days, they just fine you." Occasionally, there's a backlash, said Lorenzo. In September police closed down El Periquiton, a large, illegal gay disco in the capital.

Cubans told the news service that ever-larger numbers of gays are coming out, not just in Havana but across the country. Regular gay volleyball matches are held on the shores of Havana and everywhere, it seems there are ways in which the community is testing the limits of official tolerance -- as gays everywhere throughout history have done.

BC Schools' \$100,000 Book Ban

(NewsPlanet) -- A British Columbia school district is learning that book-burning can be an expensive pastime, but even parental support for gay-themed materials apparently can't teach the old right new tricks.

The Vancouver-area Surrey School District held a press conference February 18 to announce that it's spending more than \$100,000 to defend the ban on three gay-themed children's books it instituted in April 1997, necessitating what school board vice chair Gary Tymoschuk called "sacrifices in education throughout the district." A legal challenge to the ban brought by two teachers, several parents and one of the book's authors is scheduled to be heard in the British Columbia Supreme Court on June 29 (ironically, the anniversary of the three-day Stonewall uprising considered to mark the beginning of the contemporary movement for lesbian and gay civil rights).

Surrey school superintendent Fred Renihan said that any kindergarten or first grade teacher who tried to use one of the books in the district would be disciplined, but refused to respond when asked if the same contingency applied to higher grades. The three books, "Asha's Mum," "One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dad" and "Belinda's Bouquet," all portray children of non-traditional families without ever using the terms "lesbian," "gay" or "homosexual." Tymoschuk said that, "While the books may be fairly innocuous to adults in their portrayal of same-sex couples, they will raise a lot of questions in the minds of younger children about homosexual issues."

The school board's right-wing contingent has stood firm in the face of vocal opposition to the ban from British Columbia's premier Glen Clark, Minister of Education

Paul Ramsey, the British Columbia School Trustees' Association, and the British Columbia Teachers' Federation. The trustees say the response they've received from local parents, though, has been "overwhelming," and they've also found support from the British Columbia Confederation of Parents Advisory Councils.

Pope Strongly Condemns Gay Marriage

VATICAN CITY — Agence France-Presse, the French news agency, reports Pope John Paul II used a visit by Spanish bishops February 19 to condemn gay marriages as an attack on the institution of the family.

"We are seeing today a trend, very widespread in some circles, that threatens the very characteristics of the family," the pope told the bishops from Catalonia and Asturias.

The pontiff denounced those who "want same-sex unions recognized as families" and urged the bishops to "proclaim with pastoral firmness the truth about marriage and the family, as God made it to be."

The pope said his comments were directed not only at Roman Catholics, but "all men and women without distinction" because marriage is an "irreplaceable asset of society that cannot be indifferent to its degradation or destruction."

The Netherlands is currently the only country in the world that extends gay and lesbian couples the same legal rights and responsibilities as are given to straight couples. Though it passed what is considered to be the civil equivalent of marriage, the Dutch parliament stopped short of allowing gay and lesbian couples to "marry."

Olympic Coach: 'Our Team Is Really Open and Honest'

(Washington Blade) -- While the rising-star leagues of women's professional athletics in the U.S. have been reluctant to answer questions about the degree of Lesbian participation in their sports, the Canadian national women's hockey team at the Olympics says it's proud to answer the questions: There are open Lesbians on the team. Moreover, according to coach Shannon Miller, the diversity of sexual orientation on the team has proven an asset in building team cohesion.

"Are there some Gay women on our hockey team? Yes, there are. Do the straight women care? No, they don't. Is it an issue on our team? No, it's not," Miller told the San Francisco Examiner in an interview in Nagano, Japan. "Our team is really open and

really honest... and we're better and stronger because of it."

The Canadian team lost the gold-medal game to the U.S. women's Olympic team on Tuesday, Feb. 17. This year's Winter Olympics are the first to include women's hockey.

It has not been an easy road to acceptance of the diversity on Team Canada, however. The Toronto Sun reported Feb. 6 that an official with the Canadian Hockey association said "a disgruntled Toronto organization whose players used to dominate the national [women's hockey] team and don't any longer" started rumors about various women on the team being Lesbians. The rumors included an allegation that coach Miller had an "improper relationship" with one of the players in violation of league policy and that she cut other women from the team in favor of that player. But the official told the Toronto Sun that the association looked into the matter and "found nothing to the allegation."

And, two days before the final championship match between the U.S. and Canada, the San Francisco Examiner aired the rumors again, in a profile of Miller as the only female head coach of the six female hockey teams competing at the Olympics. Canadian Hockey official Bob Nicholson again emphasized that the association had investigated the allegation and found "no substance" to it.

"But we took it one step further," said Nicholson, "and we met with the team and talked about it, and talked with each individual player."

"Our job is to make sure that none of the players feel intimidated by a situation, especially a sexual choice situation," said Nicholson. "From where we stand, it's not important whether they're straight or gay or whatever, we want to make sure that they can play hockey."

The Examiner reported that Miller "does not discuss her own sexual orientation" and "considers it a private matter." She said the rumors made her feel "bad" at first but that now, "we just kill ourselves laughing about it."

-- Kai Wright



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Three Gay Afghans Survive Attempted Execution

ISLAMABAD, Afghanistan -- Three Afghan men convicted of sodomy survived an attempted execution in which they were buried alive for 30 minutes, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) agency reported.

Reuters, which picked up the story, quotes the AIP as saying the head of the Taliban Islamic militia was one of thousands of people who witnessed the punishment outside the southern town of Kandahar.

Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar ordered the three to be left for half an hour under the rubble of a stone wall which was felled on top of them by a commandeered Soviet tank. Their lives would be spared if they survived.

Pakistan-based AIP said the men were found alive when the pile of stones was removed and were taken to a hospital to be treated for their injuries. Fazalur Rehman, Ahmad Shah and Abdul Qahir had all been convicted by an Islamic court of committing sodomy.

Orthodox Afghan Islamic scholars believe a sodomite must be executed either by being pushed from a hill or by having a wall felled on top of him, Afghan sources in Pakistan said.

N.Z. Prime Minister Hypocritical Over Gay Rights

(New Zealand) --Prime Minister Jenny Shipley was shown to be a hypocrite over gay and lesbian rights when she answered questions in Parliament over legislation governing de facto property rights, Labour human rights spokesperson Tim Barnett said.

"Instead of using February 24's Hero Parade (a N.Z. pride event) as a cheap self-publicity event she should have brought back to Parliament the message that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is outdated and must go," Tim Barnett said.

Mrs Shipley told the House that she would not vote for gay and lesbian couples having the same property rights protection as de facto heterosexual couples. Yet at the Hero parade she said she acknowledged diversity in sexuality and wanted to promote tolerance of it.

"During question time she reiterated those statements, yet in almost the same breath she said unequivocally that she would not support amending the de facto property legislation which will be introduced to Parliament within a few weeks," Tim Barnett said.

"How can she actively support legislation which is so discriminatory against the gay

and lesbian community and still attend the Hero Parade with a smile on her face?"

Tim Barnett, New Zealand's only openly gay MP, said the Government had also torn the heart out of the Human Rights Act with the removal of the Consistency 2000 project - increasing the chance of discrimination against gay and lesbian couples.

"Under the Shipley Government, dozens of pieces of law which discriminate against lesbians and gay men will remain unchallenged on the statute book. For example, same-sex couples continue to be discriminated against by the Immigration Service.

"It says a lot about the strength of our diverse gay and lesbian communities that we can still find reason to celebrate when faced with such concerted attacks, but Mrs Shipley and the Coalition Government are not Heroes to the lesbian and gay community.

At the Hero Parade Mrs Shipley was happy to accept hospitality from the very people whose rights she denies," Tim Barnett said.



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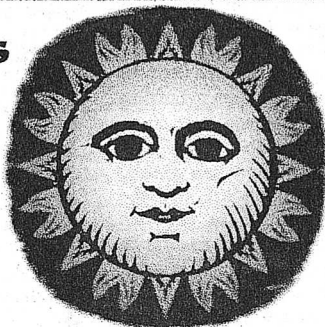
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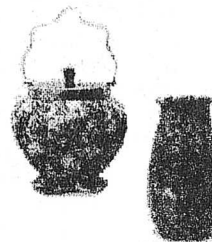
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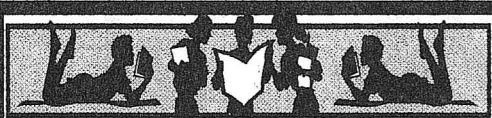
In the beginning of the first half of this century many English china manufacturer's produced a line of china with intricate designs of all over flowers. These floral transfer designs were reminiscent of chintz dress fabric, hence the name.

The most popular and collectable pieces are those of Royal Winton, James Kent, Crown Ducal, Lord Nelson, and Shelley, and their patterns Apple Blossom, Anemone, Chelsea, June Roses, Mayfair, Hazel, Evesham and Springtime. The early patterns tend to be designed with larger flowers, whilst the later, more popular works are smaller and more intricate.

Prices are rising but still affordable, and there are still some good buys out there for the keen collector.

Adelphi Antiques





Truman Capote

by George Plimpton
(Doubleday)

A thoroughly entertaining biography with anecdotes, gossip, fond tributes and venomous backbiting by a host of people from across

the spectrum of Southern, Literary, Gay and High Societies. By including interviews with so many very different characters, Plimpton provides us with a densely layered, often hilarious view of events from Capote's precocious childhood and brilliant entrance onto the literary scene to his fall from social grace and subsequent alcoholic decline. —BC (A Different Light)

He was the most social of writers, and at the height of his career he was the point where the glamorous worlds of the arts, society and politics all met—a status perhaps best exemplified by his still legendary *Black and White Ball*. Truman Capote truly knew everyone, and now the people who knew him best tell his remarkable story to bestselling author and literary lion George Plimpton.

Using the oral-biography style that made his *Edie* (with Jean Stein) a bestseller, George Plimpton has blended the voices of Capote's friends, lovers, and colleagues into a captivating and highly readable narrative. Here we see the entire span of Capote's life, from his southern childhood, to his early days in New York; his first literary success with the publication of *Other Voices, Other Rooms*; his highly active love life; the groundbreaking excitement of *In Cold Blood*, the first "nonfiction novel"; his years as a jet setter; and his final days of flagging inspiration, alcoholism and isolation. All his famous friends and enemies are here: CZ Guest, Katherine Graham, Lauren Bacall, Gore Vidal, Norman Mailer, Joan Didion, John Huston, William F. Buckley, Jr., and dozens of others

Full of wonderful stories, startlingly intimate and altogether fascinating, this is the most entertaining account of Truman Capote's life yet, as only the incomparable George Plimpton could have done it.

Less a literary convocation than an A-list gab-fest, this volume is filled over the brim with three things Capote cared deeply about: gossip, name-dropping, and himself. An oral biography (on the lines of Plimpton's *Edie*) may seem superfluous for someone as relentlessly self-publicizing as Capote. Over the course

of this conversational parade of witnesses to his sensational career, however, the familiar figures of the elfin young author of *Other Voices, Other Rooms* and the aged, substance-abusing author of the socialite-scourging *Answered Prayers* are shattered, or at least chipped away at, by the sheer variety of impressions, anecdotes, and reminiscences about an arguably remarkable, mercurial individual. Despite the recycled high points—arm-wrestling Bogie during *Beat the Devil*, going head-to-head with Norman Mailer on television, etc.—a multifarious, almost Proustian characterization emerges. Naturally there are the characteristic detractions of Gore Vidal and Mailer ("A ballsy little guy. But . . . those balls got swollen"), the slightly apologetic approbations of Carol Marcus and Joanne Carson, and innumerable opinions in between, from the likes of John Knowles, William F. Buckley, Kurt Vonnegut, the detectives from *In Cold Blood*, his betrayed jet set, and Plimpton himself. Plimpton has adroitly edited this mass of eyewitness accounts, conflicting testimony, and hearsay into a fairly complete narrative with a seductive aura. Only occasionally does he gloss over extended unpleasantness, such as the depths of Capote's destructive affair with John O'Shea, a married suburban banker; but he also gives space to smaller voices, including the strangely fond account by O'Shea's daughter Kerry (rechristened Kate Harrington by Capote for her teenage modeling career) of the avuncular Pygmalion figure in her life. Capote's flamboyant, fascinating life as related by other voices, other views. —Kirkus Associates.

The Gay Metropolis: 1940-1996

by Charles Kaiser

On May 20, 1996, "the Supreme Court voted six to three to throw out the Colorado state constitutional initiative that had forbidden protection for gay people from discrimination," Charles Kaiser writes near the end of his cogent, highly entertaining, and often downright dishy look back at the *Gay Metropolis*.

And if many gay activists saw this landmark decision as the most significant advance in a half-century of struggle for acceptance, Kaiser's readers will know, through his smooth, succinct marshaling of key historical (and personal) events, just how perilous — and at times joyously funny and bizarre — a struggle it really was.

The *Gay Metropolis*, as Kaiser defines it, is not only New York City (though it is his primary focus) but "encompasses every place on every continent where gay people have found the courage to be free." A profoundly



optimistic work of meticulous research (sources are compiled in an appendix) and interviewing (among the wittiest and wisest of many wonderful voices here are those of playwright Arthur Laurents, painter Paul Cadmus, and writer Gore Vidal), this history avoids the dullness and inflated jargon of an academic approach. Streamlined, intimate, rich in

dazzling anecdotes and sexual frankness, it is also probably the liveliest compendium of the essential facts, dates, and records — many of them explosive — ever gathered under the heading of gay American history. Kaiser ties this sweep of elements (the impact of war, show business, and art; the abuses of psychiatry, McCarthyism; The Beatles; Stonewall; Studio 54; the formation of ACT UP; and almost everything in between) to an analysis that is refreshingly sensible and compulsively readable, even when our hair bristles or our stomachs tighten in anger. Especially then.

In addition to illuminating the primary political and cultural topography of these changing times, Kaiser takes us on scores of fascinating side excursions. He shows us how the media created a link in public perceptions between criminality and homosexuality that has persisted (the Leopold and Loeb murder case and the riveting Lonergan scandal are both presented here among Kaiser's delectably lurid tales of a pervasive American underworld). He takes us backstage at Judy Garland's legendary Carnegie Hall performance (yes, it matters!), and then to her funeral. Kaiser's insider account of the mounting of "West Side Story" is a gem, and his ability to draw out such private yet highly significant dramas and weave them into the bigger picture gives his story the narrative drive of an American epic. The cast of characters, from the most obscure and pseudonymous trailblazers to the diabolically infamous, is unforgettable.

We learn of the secret proclivities of Francis Cardinal Spellman (nicknamed "Nellie Spellbound"), J. Edgar Hoover, and Roy Cohn, among many others. We arrive, on a hot summer night, at the Stonewall Inn (mob owned, the rent was \$300 a month; the nightly cover charge was \$3, which got you two drinks; the weekend take was usually \$12,000, and the payoff to the police was \$2,000 a week), and it isn't long before we're listening to 1992 presidential candidate Bill Clinton endorsing an end to the ban on gays in the military (Ross Perot also endorsed lifting the ban). But before we arrive at the near present, we'll swing by the Anvil, and Larry Kramer's apartment

over on Fifth Avenue; to the Supreme Court to hear arguments in *Bowers v. Hardwick*; to Cherry Grove and St. Patrick's Cathedral; to the editorial offices of *The New York Times*, and...

And there's much, much more in *THE GAY METROPOLIS*, a history that brims with wonderful stories and gossip and yet can just as swiftly shift gears and astonish us with the seriousness of its subject matter. Not the least of Kaiser's accomplishments is a kind of subtle yearning his book inspires for a vanishing 20th century that, it turns out, was filled to overflowing with grace and wit and guts we barely knew we had. But there are also many moments of a kind of heroic sweetness, such as New Yorker Jack Dowling's remembrance, to Kaiser, of spring nights in the 1950s.

I used to leave the San Remo [a gay bar], when it closed, in a Packard convertible with a friend. I would take the car off the road in Central Park and drive across the meadow. We would cruise the park, then pick cherry blossoms from behind the Metropolitan Museum, filling up the rumble seat. On the way home, we would drop the boughs off at sleeping friends' apartments before going home to bed ourselves. Although there was police repression against gays, the police were really quite naive. You could go cruising across the lawns of Central Park in an old car, and if they saw you, they probably wouldn't believe it.

Review by Brian Rieselman, the author of two novels, *Where Darkness Sleeps* and *Dream Girl*.

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HOLLYWOOD'S WISECRACKER

Seventy years before Ellen,
William Haines dared to be out of the
celluloid closet

by William J. Mann



So maybe the idea of "openly gay" hadn't yet been invented. That didn't stop William Haines from being out.

Hollywood's Number One Box Office of 1930 was a handsome, wisecracking matinee idol, the kind who teased the girls rather than seduced them. Offscreen, he lived openly with his male lover, and coyly told the press he didn't have time to get married because he was too busy buying antiques. It was a "wink, wink" attitude, and the fan magazines - so different back then - went right along with the game.

In those boisterous early days when movies were just learning how to talk, this was precisely the way William Haines lived his life. The word most used to describe him in the press was "wisecracker," which became code for "queer." In 1926, a reporter observed he had "a daring, ever-alert wit that shoots with the rapacity of a machine gun and the keen, cool thrust of a rapier." With such a reputation, he could get away with comments that might otherwise have been considered shocking. In a 1929 autobiographical essay he wrote for *Photoplay*, he revealed - among other things - that he used to steal and wear men's underwear from a nearby military academy and was once discovered dressed in his (female) teacher's clothing. The eager public read it all and laughed.

Haines disarmed those who might shake their fingers at him with a witty retort or knifely putdown. When Elinor Glyn - the pretentious author of *Six Weeks* - leveled her assessment that Haines did not have "It," Haines - ever the "gentleman" - replied that Miss Glyn certainly *did* have it. "But, madam," he added, "you left the 'sh' off of it."

William Haines was born in 1900, the son of a Virginia cigarmaker. Chafing against smalltown life, he ran off to New York, where he found glamour and excitement in the burgeoning gay world of Greenwich Village. It was here as a bonds salesman during the day and avid partygoer by night, that he formed the easy, self-affirming gay identity that remained with him for life. He never struggled with hiding his homosexuality; in the Village,

it was a simple fact of life. He formed his campy, ironic sense of humour during these years, when he palled around with chorus girls and drag queens, and played gigolo to a number of wealthy men and women. His friends included the young Jack Benny, George Burns, Orr Kelly and Archie Leach, later known as Cary Grant.

Chosen the winner of a "New Faces" contest, he was hustled off to Hollywood, where he played a number of undistinguished parts in first Goldwyn and then MGM pictures. It was 1926's *Brown of Harvard* that made him a star, and created overnight a new screen character: that of the "wisecracker," the witty, dandified leading man who's all arrogance and pomposity before eating "humble pie" and winning the girl at the fade-out. Haines' characters are informed by the ribald sensibility of the Village, and of 1920's Hollywood.

During the Roaring Twenties, Hollywood was a haven for free-lovers and free-thinkers. Gays and lesbians, living lives of relative openness, were integral parts of a community of people who lived on the edge: political radicals, heterosexuals who cohabitated outside marriage, drug and alcohol users in a time of Prohibition. Fan magazine reporters, often guests in Haines' home, had no motive to "out" anyone. Everyone benefited from playing the game, and there was an accepted sense of private versus public image.

By 1930 - after a string of hits with curiously queer titles like *A Man's Man*, *Lovey Mary*, *Navy Blues*, and *A Slave of Fashion* - Haines was named Number One male box office star in the country. But the political winds were shifting in Hollywood. Sound had added another realistic element to movies that had already become sexier, grittier and more violent. The Legion of Decency, composed primarily of Catholic priests and laymen, threatened an economic boycott of the industry if Hollywood didn't clean up its act. In response, the film industry adopted the Production Code, an ironclad list of do's and don'ts drawn up by a Catholic priest. Yet such a draconian measure did even more than restrict onscreen content. Offscreen, stars who did not fit the image of upstanding, stalwart, *heterosexual* citizens were cast aside. Clara

Bow - she of the many lovers and scandalous nightlife - was one of the first to go. Over at MGM, studio chief Louis B. Mayer viewed William Haines as trouble waiting to happen.

Haines' story resonates today for reasons other than movie glamour, although there's plenty of that in his life. His is actually the story of the Hollywood closet, of how a conservative backlash to art and culture can derail careers and shatter lives. It is the story of a community closing in on itself, of repressing its own, of stifling its own creativity.

The dramatic change in Hollywood from the early to mid 1930s is seen best when comparing Haines' life and career with that of Cary Grant - a performer with a similar style and equally as queer - just five or six years later. Haines lived openly with his lover, Jimmie Shields, for nearly fifty years. Grant married five times, all to women, despite living for a short time in the more permissive early 1930s with actor Randolph Scott. In the mid-1930s, studio pressure forced Grant and Scott into breaking up, and both hastily married women. Scott's marriage to a Virginia heiress was never more than in name only, but Grant tried to make a go of his union with starlet Virginia Cherrill. Yet within a year, they had separated, and Grant, depressed and conflicted, attempted suicide. When he recovered, he and Scott resumed cohabitation for a time, until Grant made another stab at marriage.

After 1933, the closet became the new paradigm for Hollywood stars, a model that has yet to be completely overturned. The irony is that since the time of Haines, stars haven't become progressively *more* out - Ellen and Anne notwithstanding. Instead, they became progressively more closeted (witness Rock Hudson, a decade after Grant.)

At the height of his fame, Haines delighted in innuendo. Once, when a producer asked him to stay late and work on a film, Haines teased that he had "to go to choir practice with Ramon Navarro" - whose own sexual orientation was the whisper of Hollywood. He also quipped that he and Garbo wore the same shoes. Most reporters - at least those "in the know" in Hollywood - got the gist. But as the political pressures changed, Haines' bosses became increasingly concerned.

Throughout 1931 and 1932, a good deal of effort went into changing Haines' image, putting him in more *manly* parts and sending out blind items to the press about what a "regular feller" he was. But a new breed of macho stars - Clark Gable, Jimmy Cagney - were moving in, and the Depression-weary public, scapegoating the frivolous excess of the Roaring Twenties - turned their back on William Haines. "What kind of guy is he anyway?" wrote one woman to *Movie Mirror*. "All this wisecracking - and still never married."

The press changed, too. A rougher, more sadistic edge emerged, with snide comments about Haines's love of antiques and "precious housekeeping" creeping into the columns. Louis B. Mayer, never fond of Haines or any of his gay employees, may have been looking for a reason to give him the boot. Legend says Haines was caught with a sailor at the YMCA and arrested by police; no records can be found to confirm this. But friends insist the final confrontation with Mayer actually occurred. As screenwriter Anita Loos described it, Mayer issued a ultimatum. "I'm going to give you a choice," Mayer told him. "You're either to give up that boyfriend of yours, or I'll cancel your contract!" "Without even a hesitation, Bill opted for love and told L.B. to tear up his contract," Loos wrote.

But trying to find work at another studio when L.B. Mayer had blacklisted you was next to impossible. Haines made a couple of forgettable pictures at a poverty row studio and then was finished. Unlike many of his contemporaries, however, he had an ace in the hole. As interior designer to his friends - Joan Crawford, Claudette Colbert, Constance Bennett, Carole Lombard, among others, all of whom might have been called his "fag hags" in a more modern era - Haines established himself in a new career. Over the next three decades, he became the leading and most influential decorator in Los Angeles.

Yet the fall of Haines' movie career is not just the story of one man. It is the story of the institutionalization of the Hollywood closet. William Haines dared to live a life of authenticity when most gays and lesbians chose paths of smoke and mirrors.

In his new career, Haines didn't have the same pressures to conform. And yet a brush with gay-bashing residents of El Porto Beach, where he had a summer home, led to



Haines with Joan Crawford
in MGM's *West Point*

nasty charges on the front pages of the nation's newspapers in 1936. Charges that Haines' guests - including Jimmie Shields - molested a six-year-old boy were found to be groundless. Research today reveals a pattern of anti-gay accusations against a number of area people, and there is evidence that nearby existed a pocket of white supremacist activity. Haines was the victim of what we would call today a hate crime.

Still, he triumphed over it, as he had the oppression of the studio. Supported by loyal friends like Crawford, Marion Davies, and Jack Warner, he flourished as an interior designer until the early 1970s, designing for such socially prominent figures as Betsy Bloomingdale, Ambassador Walter Annenberg, and Nancy Reagan.

That's what ultimately makes Haines' story one of success rather than failure. Despite being blacklisted by Mayer, despite the El Porto scandal, Haines did not retreat into the closet. He and Jimmie lived happily together in Brentwood for nearly fifty years. "Billy and Jimmie are the happiest married couple in Hollywood," Crawford told friends. Certainly the four-times-married star - along with many others - must have been envious. In the early 1950s, when Billy and Jimmie celebrated their 25th anniversary, Haines - ever the wisecracker - sent an invitation to none other than L.B. Mayer. At the bottom of the invitation he wrote: "And you said it wouldn't last."

On the day after Christmas, 1973, William Haines died of cancer, just a few days short of his 74th birthday. Jimmie Shields, heartbroken at the death of his spouse of nearly five decades, committed suicide three months later. He left a note that read: "It's no good without Billy."

Yet for all the poignancy, ultimately William Haines' story is one of triumph. Few stars have attempted to be as out as William Haines was in the 1920s and 30s. He seems a distinctly modern hero, possessing a queer sensibility and self-confidence not often found in the shadowy world of pre-Stonewall Hollywood, when lovers were kept in separate homes, marriages were arranged, and lies were told again and again and again.

But one man refused to play the game. William Haines took his losses, but he also ended up ahead. As Anita Loos wrote: "As a love-and-success story, Bill's legend was far more thrilling than any he ever filmed for L.B. Mayer."

William J. Mann is the author of the first biography of William Haines, Wisecracker: The Life and Times of William Haines, Hollywood's First Openly Gay Star, published by Viking.

THE ADVOCATE



By Jean-Paul Pilon, Barrister and Solicitor

Question: *I haven't heard of any big cases lately affecting the rights of gays and lesbians. Are there any cases I should be watching for?*

Answer: One of the more important cases likely to be decided in the near future is called M. vs H. The Supreme Court of Canada will probably hear this case early in the new year.

This case involves two lesbians who had lived together for more than ten years. When they separated, M. claimed spousal support from H. The Family Law Act currently only allows for spousal support after the breakdown of opposite-sex marriages and opposite-sex common-law relationships.

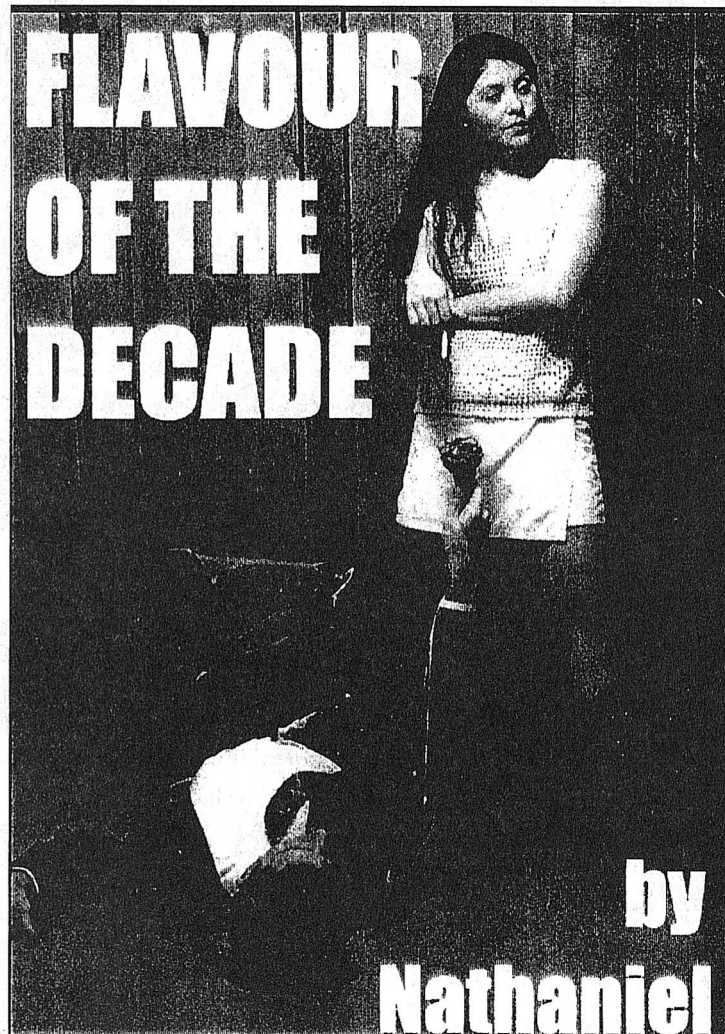
This provision of the Family Law Act recognizes that intimate relationships often give rise to emotional and financial interdependencies. It allows a disadvantaged spouse to obtain financial support from the other to assist after the breakdown of a relationship. In this case, H. argued that gays and lesbians suffer the same consequences upon the dissolution of relationships and that they should be entitled to the same support as heterosexuals under the legislation. H. successfully argued in lower courts that this provision of the Family Law Act discriminated against lesbians and gays and that it contravened the equality provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Even though lower courts have decided that the provision limiting support to heterosexuals is discriminatory, no change will take place until the Supreme Court of Canada decides the issue. A decision allowing for support in gay and lesbian relationships will likely have a huge impact in the gay and lesbian community and will hasten changes to other legislation that discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation.

Please send questions to: The Advocate, c/o Outlook Magazine, P.O. Box 40002, Waterloo Square P.O., Waterloo, ON, N2J 4V1 or email to outlook@easynet.on.ca.

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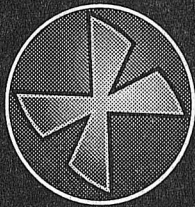
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IN LOVING MEMORY COLLEEN COOLIN

It's hard to believe, but almost a year has gone by since our dear friend Colleen Coolin passed away on April 7, 1997. We miss the way her eyes would squint whenever she'd put on her wonderful smile, and that was often. Colleen was always up for a good time - jumping at the chance - whenever an invitation to party was directed at her. She was a true spirit - always looking at the bright side of things - even when they looked bleak. Gone, but certainly not forgotten....our friend, Colleen.



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Abuse In Same Sex Relationships

by Janelle Wielhouwer and Larence Kirkby-McLean

Forms of Abuse

Isolation works to make the abuser more important to their partner. They try to control what their partner does, where they go, and who they see., or even what they think.

Intimidation works on both an emotional and a physical level. It can involve using looks and gestures to induce fear as well as breaking property. The implicit message is 'i can hurt you'

Using privilege involves making all the decisions, acting like 'the head of the house' - having a sense of entitlement.

Threats can be used to be controlling and abusive. Common threats are to hurt your partner or someone or something important to her. Others are to hurt yourself, or to out your partner to work or family. This can be particularly silencing for lgbt folks.

Children and/or pets can be used as a threat, or may actually be harmed.

Sexual abuse occurs within same-sex relationships. This can involve coercive sexuality, criticizing sexual identity - butchness, femmeness, insistant on partners monogamy/non-monogamy, with-holding of affection/sex, sexually-based name-calling, crueiling criticizing sexual performance.

Economic Abuse - making partner ask for money, trying to create and keep partner financially dependant

Emotional Abuse -making partner feel bad about themselves, name-calling, making partner feel crazy or abusive, mind games

This is the first in a series of articles by Janelle and Larence addressing mental health issues with a queer twist.

On Thursday night, things are a little tense at home. Lots of us know that feeling - the one where you worry about how you phrase things you say, and there are lots of silences during the TV commercials. You tersely kiss each other goodbye Friday morning, trying really hard not to fight. Turning the key in the door that nite, your mind races through the day, trying to find anything that your partner might find upsetting. You feel nervous. Deep down, you are scared. You vow that you will avoid this one. But there is an argument. It could be over you having lunch with a friend, or the dishes you left in the sink, or the \$10 you spent after work. This is a familiar pattern to you, and you feel the tension in the pit of your stomach. You don't know if this will be one of those arguments that blows over, or one which will result in name-calling, or one that will leave you trying to hide a black eye. That's the worst, y'know - standing in front of the mirror, trying to hide the bruise before you go to work. Shame. Shame and humiliation. If it's one of those really bad ones, you might get flowers delivered to your work on Monday, or dinner out Monday night. Your friends and colleagues envy you. They think your partner is wonderful, doing those loving things for you. You lived through hell on the weekend, but no one else knows that. Your partner promises that things will get better and you believe it, because you want to, and so, for some time things seem even better than ever, and you begin to trust that it is over. But sooner or later, things will start to get tense between you again, and the cycle repeats.

Abuse in a relationship always occurs in a pattern. There is a tension building phase, that may last anywhere from minutes to days, followed by an explosion of some sort, which will be followed by the honeymoon phase, which can last days to months. During the honeymoon the abuser promises to change, and may even make a counselling appointment, quit drinking or make other changes. The couple may feel very close, have wonderful sex, and wonder why they ever fought at all. The thought of fighting seems unbelievable and they are sure it will never, ever happen again. But the honeymoon always leads back into the tension-building phase, where little things again begin to irritate and the tension will increase until another explosion occurs. This is referred to by experts as the Cycle of Violence.

We like to believe in our community, and often feel united against the outside, homophobic world. We think of the greatest threat to our safety being homophobes gay-bashing, and that certainly is a big safety concern. But, beyond that, like straight folks, we aren't always safe in our own homes. A survey of lesbians in Toronto found 10% identified as being victims of violence in same-sex relationships. This is a similar statistic to that found for straight folks. Violence occurs in same-sex relationships with alarming regularity and most people struggling with this feel they are the only ones in our community to do so. This makes it harder to identify abuse and harder to reach out once it is identified. People who are victims of abuse, either physical or in other forms, often feel deep shame and believe that it is all their fault and if only

they had changed something, it would be much better. To feel like they are the only ones makes them more ashamed and less able to first of all identify the abuse and secondly to speak out about it. When they do talk about it, we as a community tend to minimize the abuse. We must break the silence. It serves no one.

Violence in relationships is about power and control. It's hard to feel much power over anything for a lot of people and we all try to control our environment in small ways. We like the temperature at home to be comfortable for ourselves, and there is nothing wrong with that. It becomes a problem if our needs always override that of others, and if we accomplish that through tactics like physical or emotional bullying. The person needing to be in control may be that way for lots of different reasons, insecurity, childhood issues, or just because it feels better. They show their need for power and control in lots of different forms. See the sidebar on types of abuse.

Straight abusive relationships and same-sex abusive relationships have lots in common, but there are some important distinctions. Let's first cover some of the basics about abusive relationships. Abuse can happen in a relationship regardless of race/ethnicity, class, religion, education, financial status, professional status, age, or sexual orientation. People often wonder why the victim doesn't just leave if they don't like the abuse. People don't leave bad relationships for lots of different reasons. Firstly, the honeymoon period can be a very

intense one emotionally and serves to increase the bond of the relationship. Regardless of the abuse, the victim will still love the perpetrator, and doesn't necessarily want the relationship to end, just the abuse. Also, the victim often blames themselves for the abuse. The abusive behaviour begins gradually so that by the time a crisis is reached, the abuse is not something that would have been tolerated earlier, but a desensitization process has occurred. Self-esteem is greatly damaged by abuse - a slow erosion occurs of a persons ability to feel good about themselves. Not feeling good about yourself makes leaving any relationship more difficult.

A common myth about abuse is that you can always tell someone who is abusive. This is false. People who are abusive may be wonderfully charming to family

and friends and may treat their partner better in front of others as well. We all want to believe 'people like me wouldn't do this' and 'people I like wouldn't do this'. Neither of these are true either. People we like, care about, are allies with, who are like us in many ways, can be and are abusers or victims of abuse.

Substance abuse does not cause domestic violence. It can make the abusive situation worse, with more frequent and more severe blow-ups, but it by itself does not cause the abuse. So, not drinking does not make the abuse go away, although it may improve the situation, and is a good idea along with other methods of dealing with the issues.

Within same-sex relationships, political ideologies can become enmeshed with abuse issues. The abuser can accuse the victim of being abusive themselves, and this often is such a strong statement that the one being accused will give in. "Oh, I didn't know it was abusive to _____ (fill in the blank), but if it feels that way to you, then I'll work on it." This is a confusing and complex one, and is best dealt with by discussing this stuff with people we care about and respect. It is important to challenge the ways in which we are all abusive, but there are times when we need to consider why someone is saying that to us.

It's always important to keep in mind that no one ever deserves to be abused. It doesn't matter if they lied, cheated, or nagged endlessly, their partner always had options other than abuse. When someone has lived with abuse for a while, they become angry and resentful. Because of the abuse, it isn't safe for them to express their anger directly. This can lead to all sorts of less direct ways of expressing anger, including being late for mutual arrangements, being distant or withdrawn, losing interest in sex, or being cranky to be around. This is a result of being abused.

Vastly different behaviours can be abusive, and sometimes it's confusing to try to figure out if something is abusive or not. Usually, we can identify physical abuse - it's slapping, choking, pushing, hitting, etc. It is abusive even if it isn't a roundhouse punch. A little push

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against the kitchen counter is still physical abuse. When there is violence in a relationship, especially in the queer community, we want it to go away - we want to minimize it. Sometimes people talk about 'mutual violence'. This is misleading. Someone fighting back does not make them abusive, or make the abuse equally their fault.

In particular for queers, abuse can involve how out they are. Abusers may encourage their partner to be more closeted, or may threaten to out them or may criticize the politics of their partners friends. There is a particular dynamic among lesbians wherein the abuser may say 'real lesbians don't wear....' or "real lesbians treat their partners". This is particularly used if the abusive partner has been 'out' longer.

There are some unique dynamics regarding the S/M community and abuse. Abuse within S/M relationships, or those relationships where some sex play involves S/M elements isn't related to consensual sexual activities. No means no, even within S/M relationships. This is particularly important to stress because there is a tendency to think, 'well, if you're into that kind of thing, what would you expect?' That is akin to blaming a woman for being assaulted because she wore a short skirt to a party. It is simply a nonstarter as an excuse. The abuser in an abusive S/M relationship is not always the top, either. It is particularly difficult for someone who is known to be the top, and who may dress the part frequently, to admit that their partner is abusive. There is no reason to believe that violence occurs more or less frequently among s/m relationships.

Abuse in same-sex relationships is not related to butch/femme dynamics or appearance. It can and does happen regardless of size, or manner of dress.

Resources for lgbt folks in abusive relationships are riddled with difficulties. Homophobia, both internal and external is a barrier to service. Many lesbians who go to a shelter will disguise the gender of their partner, at least initially. Shelters are problematic in that there is at least a fear, and often a possibility that the partner could also show up claiming to be abused and get admitted. In a survey of local shelters for women, Guelph Women in Crisis does take a description of same-sex partners during the intake interview and if it is a high risk situation, will ask for a picture in an attempt to screen out the abuser. Anselma House indicated that any woman who is being abused by anyone - be that partner regardless of gender, sister, or someone else will be included under their mandate.

However, anecdotal evidence suggests that the response from the police and the legal system is somewhat unreliable, in that it largely depends on the individual officers responding to the complaint. Some people have received excellent responses, however.

For folks who are quite closeted, the problem is magnified. No one is going to understand very much if you say that your roommate is hitting you and you are finding it difficult to leave. You are unlikely to be connected to the queer community and you will feel out of place in the straight community as well.

Queer folks have a lot of compassion for survivor issues, as just so many of us are survivors of one type of abuse or another. This makes us wonderful understanding partners, and also makes us more likely to excuse some abusive behaviour. However, people are responsible for their own behaviour, regardless of the issues they are facing.

Resources simply do not exist for men who are being abused in a relationship, regardless of the gender of their partner. Some counselling resources are available, but there is no shelter apart from those for the homeless. Folks who are trans deal with a lot of difficulties accessing resources as well.

If you or someone you know is abusive, confront the behaviour in as loving a way as possible. The abuser can get help to deal with their anger, rage, and need for control. This is a difficult area to change, but I have witnessed people struggle to make some remarkable changes in this area.

If you or someone you know is being abused, break the silence. Make sure the victim is as safe as possible. Help them leave or move if they need to. Listen to them and believe them. Don't help them look at their role in the 'problem'. This isn't helpful unless or until the abuse has been dealt with.

Earlier I covered that we like to think abuse doesn't happen to people like us. I'd like to go even further than that. In our lives, there are times when each one of us does things that are unfair, inappropriate, mean, or even abusive. Every one of us has been abusive about something at some time. Abuse isn't something that happens over there. To someone else. It happens in our own backyards, in our front yards and even at our kitchen tables. This doesn't mean that we are all abusive people - that evolves from a pattern of being abusive. It's important to understand our own potential for abuse though, because it's very easy to demonize those who are abusive regularly within their relationships, and although I want to be clear that they need to change their behaviour, they also are deserving of compassion.

Resources

Books:
Men Who Beat the Men Who Love Them by David Island and Patrick Letellier. New York: Harrington Park Press, 1991
Naming the Violence: Speaking Out about Lesbian Battering edited by K. Lobel. Seattle, WA: Seal Press, 1986

Violent Betrayal: Partner Abuse in Lesbian Relationships by Claire Renzetti. Newbury Park, Ca: Sage Publications, Inc., 1992.

Violence in Gay and Lesbian Domestic Partnerships (Monograph Published Simultaneously As the Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services , Vol 4, No 1) Claire M. Renzetti (Editor), Charles Harvey Miley (Editor) 1996

On-Line:

Domestic Violence in Lesbian Relationships http://www.en.com/users/alison/1_dv.html **Advocates for Abused and Battered Lesbians** excellent site with lots of information [http://www.isomedia.com/homes/AABL/Stop Abuse for Everyone](http://www.isomedia.com/homes/AABL/Stop%20Abuse%20for%20Everyone) <http://www.ursula.uoregon.edu/~jarubick/safe/> **Gay and Lesbian Domestic Violence Resources** <http://www.web.apc.org/~jharnick/violence.html>

Human Rights: Are They For Everyone?

Marty Schreiter is in some ways an exercise in opposites. He is a confident businessman and also a competent teacher. He is a man of restraint and also a man of controlled conviction.

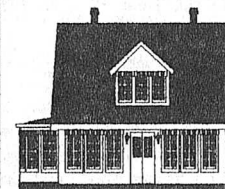
I met Marty at Gay Pride Day in Kitchener's City Hall. He approached me at our Outlook booth and said that he had seen our publication and that he wanted Scheiter's to be involved with Outlook and that he wanted space for advertising. He gave me the idea that this publication was something that was something important to the

image of Schreiter's Furniture; but more importantly, it was dear to his heart.

Fast forward to a court case in Alberta that we reported on in a previous issue. Delwin Vriend who was hired as a laboratory co-ordinator by King's College in Edmonton in December 1987 and fired in January 1991 when the college learned he was gay.

Vriend had made a complaint to the Alberta Human Rights Commission alleging that he was discriminated against because of his sexual orientation. His complaint was rejected because IRPA (Individual Rights Protection Act) does not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Mr. Vriend commenced a civil action under section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, claiming that IRPA violates Section 15 because it does not provide protection from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Mr. Marty Schreiter, among others, voiced their disagreement to the Alberta Court of Appeals decision on behalf of Mr. Vriend and all gays and lesbian Canadians demanding that something should be done about this. As it stands, the case has been appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada - now it's a waiting game - we may have to wait until May or even later to hear the outcome. One thing is for sure, thank goodness for people like Marty, who stand up with conviction for the rights of gays and lesbians across this country.



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An Historic Challenge: High School Students Learn Gay History Through Drama

by Charlie Herman (Washington Blade)

Teacher Elizabeth Pringle

Twenty years ago a man confessed to killing a liberal mayor and a Gay government official. His lawyers claimed that he was on a sugar-high after eating too many Twinkies, and was therefore not in a normal state of mind when he committed the murders. The jury found him guilty of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced him to less than eight years in prison. Outraged at the verdict, citizens gathered in the streets and rioted. The killer committed suicide within a year after his release.

That is the story of assassin Dan White, San Francisco Mayor George Moscone, and openly Gay City Supervisor Harvey Milk.

Though the story is an important part of Gay history, it does not stand out in the minds of many Americans, and is probably not taught in history classes in many of the nation's high schools.

Enter, stage left, Elizabeth Pringle. A teacher in the drama department at Washington's Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Pringle is directing students in a production of Emily Mann's play Execution of Justice, which picks up the story after the double murders and shows the trial that proceeds.

But it is not a chronological retelling. As Pringle puts it, the play is "like a collage and jumps around. Plot is not the driving force." Pointing out that all the characters in the play were real people and that Mann has used their actual words, she describes the play as "documentary theater."

Pringle decided to produce the play at the school because she knew it would be a challenge for everyone involved. The 25 high school actors in the production have to overcome the play's untraditional narrative structure and yet, as Pringle says, "have to come out [on stage] and be in character. Every moment they have to be prepared."

Pringle also believes that the subject matter of the play

challenges the students. It examines Gay culture in the 1970s, "something not in the curriculum of high school." The play raises questions about why White killed these two people, how the jury reached its verdict, and what the value of a human life is worth.

Execution of Justice is not a "Gay play," Pringle stresses. "It's a people play," she says, pointing out that it was "labels that got them shot." Liberal Mayor Moscone. Gay Supervisor Harvey Milk.

"We objectify people with labels and think we can do whatever we want," Pringle observes. The reaction of her students to the Gay issues raised by the play, according to Pringle, has been wonderful. "In this day and age, for the young, hip and cool, it's fine [to be Gay]," she notes.

"Pink" French Film Turns Golden: Ma Vie en Rose

The French film about a transgender boy and his family, won the Best Foreign Film Golden Globe award on January 18.

Openly gay and lesbian nominees Rupert Everett ("My Best Friend's Wedding") and Ellen DeGeneres ("Ellen"), as well as the gay-themed films "In and Out" and "My Best Friend's Wedding," the TV show "Ellen," and portrayals of lesbian and gay film characters by non-gays Joey Lauren Adams ("Chasing Amy") and Greg Kinnear ("As Good As It Gets"), were shut out for prizes.

"Tales of the City" Sequel to Air

The broadcast of Armistead Maupin's "Tales of the City" on Public Television several years ago provoked such a howl of protest from social conservatives, PBS said it had no choice but to drop its sequel.

The four-hour 1994 mini-series depicted a very gay, very 70s San Francisco long on gay cruising, bathhouse pick-ups, deep kissing, bawdy humor, and sleeping around. Its sequel promised even more of the same. That, according to the San Francisco Chronicle, made PBS very nervous. They announced after facing down conservative threats the first go around, that they were backing away from airing the sequel. Maupin was devastated.

Four years later, Maupin is celebrating, as is the fee-



based cable channel that will broadcast "More Tales of the City" this June. These are good days for the author, says the Chronicle, quoting Maupin's recollection of the final days of shooting of "More Tales" in Mexico.

"We were all exhausted, it was raining," said Maupin, "and I was looking around and I thought, I'm a happy man.

I wrote this story and here are these two hunky straight guys sitting there just playing tonsil hockey all night..."

"I thought, 'Things are changing. The world is changing, and we're helping to do it. We're doing it the way I always wanted to it, which is to show that this is about love. It's about affection. It's about people connecting."

The Chronicle says the sequel, picking up just days after "Tales" left off, takes place on the Pacific Coast of Mexico and in Nevada, in addition to San Francisco, and will air as a two-part saga when it debuts on Showtime.

Olympia Dukakis, who played Anna Madrigal in the original PBS drama and who returns in Showtime's "More Tales" told the Chronicle it was a "little triumph that somehow what was attempted to be buried did not get buried." Laura Linney, who returns as Mary Ann Singleton, put it a little differently. Aping the PBS slogan, "If PBS won't do it, who will?" she declared, "Well, the answer is Showtime!" Check listings to find out where to find "More Tales of The City" on your television dial. - (Data Lounge)

Bank To Donate To Elton Foundation

Now that Elton John has struck a sponsorship deal with Citibank, he's already breaking new ground on the road.

John will appear in the bank's commercials in exchange for sponsorship of his "Big Picture" concert tour and a \$1 million donation to his AIDS foundation, a donation the bank made January 22.

Citibank will be sole sponsor of John's 65 -city

international tour under the deal. Financial terms were not disclosed. John said the sponsorship will help him sell records in places like Japan, Australia and Europe.

The tour kicked off in Biloxi, Miss., new territory for John. "I've never, ever played Mississippi before (and I've been coming to America for 30 years," John said. - (LA Times)

Madonna to Star in The Red Door



Madonna is expected to play a woman reconciling with her AIDS-stricken brother in her first starring role since Evita.

She agreed to star in The Red Door, directed by Mattia Karel, a week after participating in a reading of the script alongside Stockard Channing and Rod Steiger, Daily Variety reported.

Madonna plays a woman who, with her brother, endured an abusive childhood at the hands of their father. The siblings drift apart but reconcile when he becomes sick with AIDS. Production is to begin by summer. (AP)

New Tori Amos album details

(Jam! Music) -- Tori Amos has finally signed off on her long-awaited new album, "From The Choirgirl Hotel".

The album, which will be in stores in Canada and the U.S. on May 5, contains 12 songs.

Recorded in a 300-year-old barn in Cornwall, England, it was produced by Amos. Amos will take the unusual step of playing a short tour well in advance of the May 5 release of "From The Choirgirl Hotel". Though no dates have been finalized, the three-week swing will likely take in a dozen cities in North America, from mid-April to early May.

At this point, it appears that Amos will play only one date in Canada. That show is pencilled in for Toronto, venue to be announced, on April 28, though that is still subject to change.

Amos will premiere her new album with an appearance on David Letterman's Late Show, April 10.



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Monday, March 9, **Cruising**, directed by William Friedkin. A young, naive cop goes undercover to catch a serial killer preying on New York's gay S&M community. Working almost completely isolated from his department, he has to learn the complex rules of this society, and begins to question his own sexuality. Starring Al Pacino.

Saturday, March 14, **When Night is Falling**, directed by Patricia Rozema. The film is a retelling of the myth of Cupid and Psyche. Camille, a teacher at a Calvinist college engaged to marry a fellow teacher, meets an uninhibited lesbian circus performer, and unsure of her feelings she must make choices about her career, her sexuality, and her

impending marriage. Starring Pascale Bussieres, Rachel Crawford, Henry Czerny, David Fox, and Don McKellar. Canada, 1993.

Monday, March 23, **Breaking The Code**, directed by Herbie Wise. Humorous and compassionate, this film focuses on the life of Alan Turing (Derek Jacobi), a mathematical genius responsible for helping the Allies break the German Enigma Codes in WWII. But Turing's life takes a turn for the worse when he admits his homosexuality in a time when such activity is illegal.

Saturday, March 28, **Hotel New Hampshire**, directed by Tony Richardson. An adaptation of John Irving's novel about an eccentric family who establish new hotels wherever they go, and their adventures - social, sexual, and political. It is noted for its wonderful assortment of oddball characters. Starring Jodie Foster, Beau Bridges, Rob Lowe, and Nastassja Kinski.

Monday, March 30, (9:00 pm - 11:00 pm) **The Boys of St. Vincent** - Part 1 of 2, directed by John Smith. The story of sexual and physical abuse inflicted upon young boys while they lived at the church-

run St. Vincent's Orphanage in Newfoundland. The religious and civil authorities, fearing a scandal, conspire to cover up the crimes, but fifteen years later, still unhealed, the victims go public with their shocking story. Starring Henry Czerny, Johnny Morina, Brian Dooley, Brian Dodd, Lise Roy, Sebastain Spence, and David Hewlett.

Monday, March 30, (11:00 pm - 1:00 am) **Johns**, directed by Scott Silver. A homeless street hustler and his naive friend turn tricks as fast as they can so the hustler can spend his birthday, Christmas Day, in a luxury hotel. Starring David Arquette, Lukas Haas, Wilson Cruz, and Keith David.

Tuesday, March 31, (9:00 pm - 11:00 pm) **The Boys of St. Vincent** - Part 2 of 2.

For a complete listing of Showcase movies check out their website at: <http://www.screen.com/showcase/revue.html> This site is updated monthly.

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ACTION ALERT

THE CENSUS 2001 PROJECT CONTINUES

Following our last Action Alert, EGALE members from all across Canada wrote in to Statistics Canada to protest the fact that in the last census: a) There was no mention of gays, lesbians, or bisexuals. b) There was no mention of same-sex families. c) Those in same-sex relationships had no choice but to indicate their marital status as "single". Your voice can make the difference!

EGALE recently spoke to organizers at Statistics Canada, and it is clear that they are hearing the message: it is not good enough to ignore us and our relationships in the 2001 Census. If you haven't already done so, you can still submit your written comments (no later than 31 March 1998) to:

Pamela White, Manager
2001 Census Content
Determination Project
Statistics Canada,
3-B4, Jean Talon Building,
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6
Telephone: (613) 951-6994
Fax: (613) 951-9300
e-mail:
consultation2001@statcan.ca

SUBMISSIONS

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

We are actively seeking participants who who like to see their work in Outlook Magazine. As always, we're on the lookout for your letters, short stories, and especially feature articles that would be of interest to our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered communities. Forward your material to our mailing address at:

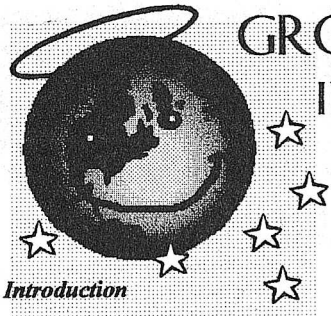
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GROWING UP NORMAL IN A PERFECT WORLD

by Tommy In Toronto

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person who was extremely fearful of "them", while at the same time needing to understand "them", in order, I suppose, to understand myself.

This paper serves as a testament to the fact that people are a lot more alike than they are different. It also serves as a testament to the never ending assault exerted by a "perfect" society on a person's self-worth, dignity and value as a member of the human race. This addendum is about the many individuals that I spoke with, their experiences and views on life. It is about the fear felt by a heterosexual male growing up in a rigid and unaccepting society. It is as much about being gay, as it is about being myself. This paper in a strange sort of way, is my catharsis.

In the beginning... Life in a small town

I was first exposed to the hatred felt by many against gay individuals while growing up in a very small city, in southern Ontario. I was 13, and in grade eight at the time, and a new kid in school was labelled a "faggot" by the "in crowd" for no apparent reason. This was my first introduction to both the definition of the word, and to the fear that I slowly developed for anyone whom I suspected of being gay.

This new kid, whom I'll call "Keith", was good looking, very athletic, and quite smart. I didn't know then, nor do I know now if he was really even gay. Keith spent his entire school year being ridiculed by the "in crowd", while myself and everyone else just watched and did nothing. During recess, Keith would always try to make new friends by approaching fellow classmates and saying 'hi', but everytime they would walk away from him without saying a word.

I can still clearly remember the day that he approached my group of friends. Specifically, he approached me. I began talking to him as I would any other person that approached me. It was at that point when my friends yelled out, 'Lets Go, Tom' as they began walking away. I stood there immobilized. I looked at them in the eyes, and visually pleaded with them to stay. All they could do in return was to calmly say, 'Are you coming with us, or staying with him'. I looked at Keith and then looked at the ground, and cowardly whispered 'Im sorry', as I too turned around and walked away from him. Eventually, he ended up spending every recess alone in a secluded area of the school grounds.

The desire to intervene, for myself at least, was overpowered by the fear of being found "guilty by association". As I witnessed firsthand the degree of hate expressed for a person labelled as being "gay", I slowly began to develop a fear of being different, rather than a defiance against similarity.

To say that this experience had a tremendous impact on me would be a gross understatement. It was my personal introduction to, and the beginning of an emotionally suppressed way of living, where full expressions of feeling for those whom we care for are censored in order to conform to the views of a society that does not care. As I will soon explain, what I learned from those around me to be an accepted expression of one's masculinity, was in fact an expression of fear in not being able to truly express oneself emotionally.

Every straight, homophobic male individual, I am sure, must have his reasons for feeling the way that he does. Judging by the degree of pressure exerted by one's peer group during the adolescent stage of life, it is not surprising to see young males adopting the views and beliefs of a heterosexual society. Masculinity is influenced by outdated views that subscribe to a state of being which is low on emotion and its expression, yet very high on both physical and emotional detachment.

It is amazing to see that any form of affection directed towards other males must be confined within a very narrow social circumstance - i.e., sports, drinking with the buddies, friend lying on a deathbed, etc. All allow for affectionate expression, but only with conditions - justifications for behaviour that would otherwise be deemed inappropriate between members of the same sex.

Joseph Niesen, in his article "Heterosexism: Redefining Homophobia for the 1990s", defines heterosexism as "the continued promotion by the major institutions of society of a heterosexual lifestyle while simultaneously subordinating any other lifestyles" (p.25). There are two key terms that deserve to be emphasized in the Niesen article: "continued promotion" and "simultaneous subordination".

By allowing heterosexism to continue, society allows this vicious cycle to revolve unchecked. In effect, by suppressing those who are different, we are also suppressing different views of masculinity (for there are many) from being adopted (through personal choice) by young people. Thus, heterosexist ideology, and the fear of anyone different that it creates, is allowed to go on, and on, and on - while young people are robbed of the opportunity to observe, and select for themselves that model of masculinity which is most comfortable for them.

For myself, the term heterosexism did not exist until I encountered it in the literature during my 2nd year of

University. In fact, I remember in high school expressing quite negative feelings towards the existence of homosexuality. Being the playful and affectionate person that I was, I resented not being able to express affection towards my close friends. I couldn't tell them how important they were to me, or that I loved them very much. I couldn't hug them like I used to do when I was little. In fact, my entire array of emotional expressions were condensed into the form of a firm handshake, and a pat on the back. In my mind, it was the fault of that "dreaded disease", and considering that I didn't have it, I questioned why I should have to suffer because of it. Alternate forms of expression did not exist. There were no other models of masculinity to adopt. We were all, in essence, clones of a heterosexist world.

It is important to emphasize as I write this, that I have not metamorphized into some radical, outspoken, champion of human rights. There are a number of aspects with respect to gay culture/behaviour that I disagree with, and find quite disturbing - but I no longer harbour the fear or hatred that I once possessed for a lifestyle that was different than mine

When you stare in the eyes of those you hate, and receive nothing less than acceptance back, it is difficult not to experience some type of resentment for your inexplicable feelings.

New choices and directions... Point Zero.

I can still remember my first day of the "Psychology of Sexual Orientation" class - my turning point in acceptance of others, and the reason for this paper. As I stood outside waiting for the course director to attend, I was immobilized with fear. From my perspective, everyone around me was gay. Everyone who saw me there would think that I must be gay as well. It was an irrational fear, much like the fear that some people have of balloons. I had many reservations about taking the course, but I wanted to become a doctor, and doctors must be without prejudice. Anything less would equate to substandard medicine. So I convinced myself to weather the storm, and insure that I make eye contact with no one, lest it be mistaken for a sexual cue.

If the behaviour that I'm describing seems ridiculous in nature, it's because it is. As ludicrous as it seems, it was very real to me. And looking back at it now it saddens me to realize that there are a great many individuals in society that would react in the same way that I did, if not worse.

The first class was a turning point for me in that it began to extinguish the fears which I seemed to be obsessed with earlier, while at the same moment providing me with a valuable view into a world that I had only learned about from the prejudicial views of ignorant people. I

will not attempt to describe all of the changes that took place in me during the duration of the course, but I must make mention of that point in time when I decided to further investigate the subject of homosexuality "outside" of the classroom.

While reviewing various articles for my research paper on sexual orientation, I encountered a study that was written by a Dr. Remafedi. I cannot recall the title of the study (surprisingly I remember the author's name), but I do remember it evaluated the psychological effects of being gay in a straight world, while in the adolescent stage of life. Though I do not remember the specific details of the article, it presented numerous "case examples" of young individuals who would rather kill themselves, than be themselves. Imagine for a moment, everything is perfect in life, except for that one aspect of your identity that is condemned by "everyone" around you.

The Remafedi article was the kick that I needed to actually do something more than simply attend a classroom for one semester. It instilled a need to take what I had learned, and move onto the next step of venturing into the real world.

465-5000... Making Contact

I decided that the best way to eliminate my fears, and to achieve a sense of understanding and acceptance would be to actually make contact with someone who was gay. After many months of hesitation, I decided to phone a local gay date/friendship line. The only other person who knew what I was planning to do was my best friend. And he was more than supportive of my endeavour.

Once on the phone line, (after overcoming extreme anxiety) I made sure to leave a completely honest and open message stating that I just wanted to talk. I spoke to a large number of gay individuals that night, and suffice to say the experience was not what I expected. They were neither after my body, nor out to coerce me. The experience was indeed quite anti-climatic. Though I made quite a few "friends" at this point, for some reason I still didn't feel comfortable. They were still very alien to me. Different, very, very different.

The funny thing about the way that I felt after speaking to these individuals was the fact that I was speaking with regular, everyday people who happened to be gay, yet in my mind I did not think of them as people - they were 'gay people'. It is such a stupid, illogical way of thinking that it irritates me greatly as I write this. But it is an important insight (my opinion) into why heterosexuals are so reluctant to truly accept gay people without thinking of them as inferior in some respect. It is one thing to tolerate (as I feel most people do these days), and another to truly accept. After allowing some time to go by, I called the line again and decided to clear my mind of preconceptions and carefully listen. Though it was very difficult at first

A Message From...

ACCKWA

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Kitchener, Waterloo & Area



Volunteer Drivers Needed

Drivers seem to be in short supply once again. We are in need of volunteers who are available during the day for either in or out of town rides. The position is very flexible and we can work around your schedule. Even one hour a week would be a great help. Also, we need more of our Cambridge volunteers to get involved, for we often have Cambridge rides that make sense for local volunteers to do.

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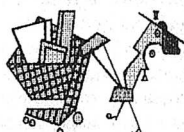
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Fundraising Committee Looking For New Members

The Board Fundraising Committee is reforming and looking for new ideas and new faces! The committee will help ACCKWA to develop long term fundraising strategies. The committee will focus on areas such as corporate giving, community development, planned giving and major gift prospecting. Call the office for details.

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(especially at hearing males [for the first time in my life] use the term "boyfriend" when referring to their significant other), I persevered and continued to call on a daily basis. Over the course of a couple of weeks I realized that what used to bother me, now no longer did. The gay individual was now becoming more real, more "normal" to me. But the people I spoke with hadn't changed - I had. It was an amazing development for me, because it actually supported (to my doubting mind) what I had read with respect to the notions of normality.

The individuals that I spoke with ranged in age from 16 to about 60. It was sad to see that normality for them could only be realized in the presence of others who were gay. It is unfair for many gay people to not be able to be themselves in the presence of close family members, or "straight" friends. How ironic that individuals can be their real selves and be accepted in the presence of strangers, yet not by those that are closest to them. Though I realize that many gay people have accepting and loving families, a great deal do not. And from what I've been told, even those with accepting families feel as though they must "walk around egg shells" during certain occasions. Full expression for many is never truly achieved.

After a period of about 2 months I had spoken to a large number of individuals. I had learned a great deal of what it is like growing up gay in a straight world. We often see psychological analysis that show a greater degree of "psychological problems" amongst gay individuals. It is surprising that these studies seldom implicate an unaccepting society as a contributor to the problems. I can understand now why the course that I took was so negative towards "text books" which define homosexuality as "abnormal", "deviant" etc... Initially, I was in support of these texts. If it's different, it's abnormal. The majority is the norm, and the minority is not. Simple. It was obviously the other way around, but I did not know because I was never "allowed" to know.

A new beginning...

There were a few individuals that I shared common interests with, and decided to stop talking to them via the "free line", but directly over the phone. This was the beginning of a new way of thinking, and behaving for me. It was the next big step to actually achieving normality in my new found friendships. The relationship that I had formed with these three individuals was very symbiotic in nature, because it not only allowed me to change as a person, but it also allowed them to do the same.

The change that was taking place for me was a subtle and slow process. A great deal of emotional confusion and turmoil was also swirling in my mind at this time. There was one occasion where I actually began to

question my own sexual identity, because of the fact that I actually "enjoyed" speaking with (a.k.a. being friends with, spending time with, liking...) someone who I knew was gay. One of the problems I had was that I couldn't discuss my feelings with anyone that I was close to (e.g., family, close friends etc...). In a way I suppose I experienced (to a much lesser extent) what it is like for a gay person - wanting to let those close to you know how you're feeling, but not being able to.

I continued to speak with my friends on a regular basis, and developed a great degree of trust in them. Because of this, I also began to adopt many of their characteristics with respect to being able to express oneself in an honest and open manner. Traditionally, or should I say "heterosexistly" (sp?), expressions of sensitivity, affection, and openness have not been a part of the "masculine" psyche. Yet it amazed me that the adoption of these very "non-masculine" traits resulted in a more intimate, and satisfying relationship with my girlfriend, as well as with my closest (straight) male friends.

Though I was quite ecstatic at the results of this open emotional expression, I somehow also felt cheated at the fact that I did not get to enjoy these new found feelings of closeness while growing up. I had been lied to. Masculinity was not a rigid, unemotional way of acting. It was, for me atleast, a strength that allowed oneself to express their feelings in an honest way to the people around them.

Then... and now.

I have one close gay friend now whom I speak with on a regular basis. He is like all my other friends, except much closer in a way. It's been almost two years since we started talking, and we still haven't met. The reservation to meet is mutual, because, as he stated (and I feel the same way) "this friendship is so important to me that I'm afraid we might not 'hit it off' as well as in person, as we do over the phone". It is amazing (a word repeated many times in this paper for a reason) that reality is structured in such an orderly, yet very chaotic way. There are times when I question how long it will be, if ever, before I am completely (100%) comfortable with who I am, and with what I subscribe to.

It should be apparent by now that what began as an exercise in finding answers and achieving a greater understanding of gay individuals, was in reality an attempt at understanding myself.

This quest for a better 'me' has generously returned many priceless dividends, and continues to do so in every aspect of my life. When I look back at the tribulant journey however, I can't help but realize that very few will do the same. I have no answers. Unless a change is made in the way that society thinks, there will only continue to

be a greater division amongst people who share the same basic needs. With respect to what the gay community is all about, it is now obvious in my mind. It is about being human - in every respect of the word.

It has also become apparent to me what is meant by the term 'pride' during the various gay pride days. I could never comprehend why anyone would want to celebrate a 'pride', or feel a sense of 'pride' with respect to sexual orientation. I am straight, but you would never see me 'celebrating' my orientation. It was not an aspect of a person that I believed deserved any form of celebration. In fact, most of the people I had questioned didn't seem to know either, or were not able to explain it to me.

Based on the way that I feel now, I think that this sense of 'pride' is not about one's sexual orientation, but about one's personal achievement in finally being able to accept themselves completely - without fear, and without reservation. It is, I would suggest, a pride in the total acceptance of one's self.

As I ponder the changes that have taken place in me, I realize now that I have become (in heart) who I used to be - the playful, sensitive, affectionate, open, and 'blind-to-differences' seven year-old that I once was. For this, I am truly grateful.

Visit the author's webpage at:
<http://members.tripod.com/~tommyguy/index.html>



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Community Health Department
 AIDS/STD Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

by appointment only
 Telephone: 883-2251

walk-in first come, first served
 Thursday 4pm. - 7pm.

3. Confidential HIV testing:

CAMBRIDGE 150 Main St.

WATERLOO 99 Regina St. South

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

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

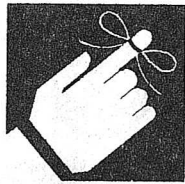
These clinics offer a service that is positive towards gays, lesbians, straights and bisexuals. "Working" girls and guys are welcome.

For more information call 883-2251

AIDS/STD Program

What's Happening?

Events of Interest - Here at Home & Around the Globe



Rainbow Youth

Rainbow Youth is a support, discussion and social group for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth (16-25) in Waterloo Region. The group is a project of ACCKWA's Education Program, and runs every Wednesday night from 7-9 p.m. If this group sounds like it would be for you, please call Rob (Education Coordinator) at ACCKWA, 570-3687.

Guelph Queer Equality

QGE holds queer dances every Monday night at the Trasheteria in downtown Guelph - a requested \$2.00 donation at the door or more if you can afford it!

QGE also holds meetings every Tuesday night at the University of Guelph, University Centre, OTAS Lounge (UC536) at 7 p.m.

M.C.C. Rainbow Church

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

TG BOYS

Transgender Group for Female-to-Male TG/TS folks. People can be non-operative, pre-op,

post-op, mid-transition, or whatever.

This group is meant to provide FTM's with a much needed forum to chat, socialise, and seek peer contact. Interested folks should contact Marshal at 519- [redacted] It's an informal, relaxed, and self-directed group.

The Gaymers

The Gaymers, a group of women and men get together once every few weeks to play Magic, Titan, Cosmic Encounters, and other board or card games. Contacts:

Steve [redacted]

or Cait [redacted]

All Gay Radio

Mondays: OUT & ABOUT with your hosts Dave, Alan and Brenda airs every Monday from 9-10 p.m. on CKWR 98.5 FM. **WOMAN MADE COLLECTIVE SHOW** airs Mondays from 6-7 p.m. on CFRU 93.3. Also on CFRU 10pm-Midnight "FINGERS, FISTS, AND KY" hosted by The Marshal. Dyke Radio with a transgender twist...featuring dyke/trans-centric readings, music, and lots more. Always controversial.

Tuesdays: GIRLS TASTE GOOD with your host Kristyn airs at 2 p.m. on CFRU 93.3 FM.

Wednesdays: NOWHERE TO HIDE airs from 8-9 p.m. on CKMS

100.3. Also on CKMS, **WOMENSPIN** airs from 6-8 p.m. **Thursdays:** Listen in for LEAPING LESBIANS on CKMS 100.3 FM from 6-8 p.m. **THE RAINBOW RADIO NETWORK** can be heard Thursdays on CHRW 94.7 at 10:15 p.m. **FAG FACTORY** with your host Adam airs at 2 p.m. on CFRU 93.3 FM from 11pm-1am "QUEERS KICK ASS" hosted by Line. Always different...making the most out of queer anger - only on CFRU 93.3 FM.

He Shoots... She Scores!

The Toronto women's and men's Amsterdam Gay Games hockey teams are playing each other as a fundraiser for all Team Toronto teams including KW's T.O.O.L.S.

When? Friday March 13 -- 7pm
Where? St Michael's Arena
Bathurst & St.Clair - Toronto
Cost? \$5.00
Amsterdam bound grls play boyz intermission events: boyz figureskating and clowning around, shoot out contests, etc. Promises to be lots of fun and entertainment!! Come on down!!!

Social Group for Lesbian/Bisexual Women Over 25

Regular meetings once a month, plus social outings like bowling, potlucks, trips to the Robin's Nest, pool, etc. Casual, fun, informal. Call OUTline 519/836-4550 for more info.

GLLOW Coming Out Discussion Group

The Coming Out Discussion Group provides a safe and confidential environment in which we can explore our sexuality through sharing experiences with one another. We operate as a support group, rather than a therapy or counselling group. You become part of the group just by sitting in the circle. You aren't forced to talk in the group; you talk when you are ready. Everyone is welcome to these sessions.

The GLLOW Coming Out Discussion Group meets on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:30 pm. We will be meeting in Room 378 of Hagey Hall (Humanities Building) at the University of Waterloo.

Schedule of Topics

March 4 - Bisexuality: Exploring our Feelings and Misconceptions,

11 - Peer Groups, 18 - Media Images and Role Models, 25 - Politics and Sexuality. **April 1 - Crushes and Infatuations, 8 - Hometowns: Where I Came From, 15 - Same-Sex Couples, 22 - Marriage and Parenting, 29 - Breaking Up: Dealing with Ex's in a Small Community. May 6 - Coming Out to Yourself, 13 - Coming Out to Others, 20 - Coming Out to Parents and Other Relatives, 27 - How Do I Meet People? June 3 - Discrimination from Within the LGBT Community, 10 - Safer Sex and Related Issues, 17 - Growing Up Different.**

Drop In Support

Drop in support for Queer Youth under 24 in Guelph every other Tuesday afternoon at "Change Now" Youth Center. Call [redacted] for exact meeting dates.

KW Aquatics Club



Gay men, lesbians and their friends who like to swim are welcome to join KWAC, the Kitchener-Waterloo Aquatics Club. The group generally meets to swim at the Waterloo Recreation Complex three times a week. We welcome all skill levels and ages. We 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 Lindsay at [redacted] or Mark at [redacted] for details.

KW Frontrunners

Interested in running or walking? Call Lindsay at [redacted] or Mark at [redacted] to find out more about joining KW Frontrunners. Everyone is welcome.

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Letters
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"Silence"

Silence may be the cruelest and most irrational form of non-verbal communication.

Nothing says "Don't bother me, or intrude on my thoughts and feelings", as strongly as silence.

Silence also conveys how much you aren't trusted, loved, nor respected.

Silence is selfish, cowardly, hurtful and can be deceitful. Silence "shuts out" loved ones and builds walls around our loneliness.

Silence assists anger in festering 'til it becomes rage - therefore it is ugly.

Silence contains bitterness.

Silence shares nothing - therefore gets nothing.

Silence answers no questions, nor asks for any clarification.

Silence denies us our rights, by not speaking our minds, we rob others of their right to understand.

Silence shuts down communication lines and can even put boundaries around friendships.

Silence does enormous damage. Silence cannot be seen - but it is heard, loud and fucking clear!!

(c) Sharon Gay, 1997

I dress alone...
amongst
the clothed...
amongst
the living...
living naked...
dressing alone...



rakidd
copyright 1998

I hope that Mark and Rick can continue to provide such an excellent resource to our area...I know the work it takes to put together such a resource and they have both been so helpful to me in the recent past...many thanks to them both!
- Jimbo, Guelph

...can do and will do - as stated in our opening letter, we will be continuing, but on a quarterly basis. Thanks for the words of encouragement!

Thanks for the energy put into Outlook, and thanks to the rest of you (us) who are putting in lots of energy to ensure the existence of queer resources in our region.
- Cheryl, OUTline - Guelph

Put your thoughts down on paper...send it in...see it here!
outlook@easynet.on.ca

Excerpts from a lengthy and very moving letter from Jim Parrot; a very active member of Waterloo Region's LGBT community...

I am writing this letter as an open letter to Mark and Rick, who have been the sustaining forces behind Outlook Magazine for the last few years.

I imagine that many of you are familiar with Outlook, and realize the valuable service it has been providing us in this area. By providing us with a print-based vehicle of communication, it has been invaluable in our development as a cluster of LGBT communities.

I think it appropriate to acknowledge the hard work and dedication that they have brought to this project. Thanks, Rick and Mark!

It is way too easy to take the various LGBT services in our area for granted, and to assume that each of them (whether a magazine, radio show, telephone support line, or group) is financially sound, and has no problems finding people to keep them going.

And the moral of this story? - If a service matters to you, and you have some free time, why not volunteer to help the service? You may not have the skills or the temperament to get involved in a particular service, but there is a good chance that there is some other service that will be right for you.

-Jim Parrot, Waterloo
...gee thanks Jim - you're making us blush!



I have been reading Outlook for the past few issues now, and I must say that I think this magazine is what the area needs.
- Ron, Brantford

I am happy to hear that Outlook is continuing on a quarterly basis. I appreciate Outlook as it is the first time that we can actually hand out a nice compact publication and have a presence in the community, so again, I am glad you are taking it to a quarterly instead of not at all.
-jnn

I would like to express my gratitude for your efforts providing Outlook for our community. I never imagined Outlook was run by only two people!
- Thomas, Waterloo



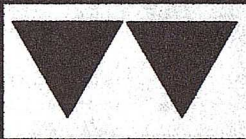
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COMMUNITY LISTINGS



Social and Service Organizations - Help Lines - Groups

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

123 Duke Street East
Kitchener, ON
(519) 570-3687

ACGWC (AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County)

204-85 Norfolk Street
Guelph, ON
(519) 763-2255

AIDS Hotline

Ontario Ministry of Health
1-800-668-2437

ANSELMA HOUSE

Crisis shelter for abused women with or without children.
24-hour Crisis Line.....742-5894

AWARE K-W

A Christain gay-positive group with roots in the Christian Reformed Church, meets on the evening of the second Sunday of each month. For info call Cary [redacted] at [redacted], or Fred [redacted] at [redacted]. Email [redacted]

Brethren Mennonite Council for Gays and Lesbians

P.O. Box 43031
Eastwood Square,
Kitchener, ON. N2H 6S9

COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere)

Provides education, support and community on local and international levels. 415-861-KIDS or contact Sarah at [redacted]

DISTRESS LINE

Kitchener - (519) 745-1166

GLLOW (Gay and Lesbian Liberation of Waterloo) U of W

(519) [redacted] or visit our website at:
<http://www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/clubs/gllow>

GLOBAL (Gays, Lesbians or Bisexuals at Laurier)

email: 00global@mach1.wlu.ca
webpage: <http://www.wlu.ca/~wwwclubs/www/global.html>

GQE (Guelph Queer Equality)

Meetings every Tuesday in UC536 at 7 pm at the University of Guelph.

YOUTH LINE (Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Line)

1-800-268-YOUTH

M.C.C. Rainbow Church

Pastor Sid Bater (519) [redacted]
or email to: [redacted]

OUTline

A 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 through Thursday, 7 to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m. Call (519) 836-4550 or email us at: outline@uoguelph.ca Be sure to visit our website at: www.uoguelph.ca/~outline

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

QUEERS ONLINE

Source of information for Canadian gays and lesbians with features, news, reviews, erotica and much more. Visit us on the web at www.queersonline.com

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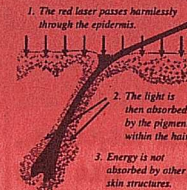
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WOODS (Women Out Opening Doors Socially) Primarily lesbian and lesbian friendly. Contact us by email at: [redacted] or the old fashioned way:

WOODS
580 Beaver Creek Rd., Box D #9
Waterloo, ON.
N2J 3Z4
www.golden.net/~dmw

If you know of an organization or group that should be listed on this page, call (519) [redacted] or email us at: outlook@easynet.on.ca

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The light is absorbed by the pigment of the hair follicle (see diagram), which destroys the hair without damaging surrounding skin.

Does it hurt?

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Is it permanent?

Early indications are encouraging. Laser hair removal is a relatively new procedure, so no long-term results are available.

How long does it take?

A single 45-minute laser hair session will clear the entire bikini area. A typical electrolysis session, however, may only clear two inches in 45 minutes.

How many treatments are required?

It varies with each person. Because hair can be at different stages in a growth cycle, once an area is cleared, additional treatments are required to remove new hair entering a growth cycle. Usually 4-6 treatments over a year.

Is it safe?

Yes.

How much does it cost?

Many clients find laser hair removal is less expensive than electrolysis. Following a free consultation, you will receive a written estimate for the cost of your Silhouette treatment.

To arrange a FREE consultation or to attend a FREE seminar, please call 744-1533.



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