

## *The Voice*

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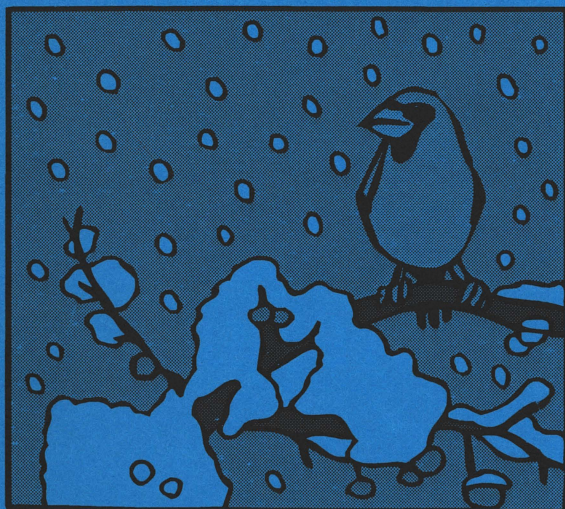
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**The**

# VOICE

SERVING THE K-W AND AREA LGBT COMMUNITY  
VOLUME ONE ISSUE FOUR

*Friday January 8, 1999*



**THE VOICE SPEAKS FROM THE HEART OF WINTER**

**NEW SECTION--Musings of Reverie Page 48**

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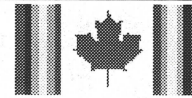
**SKY**

IN THE clothing & accessories

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3 PRINCESS ST. WEST

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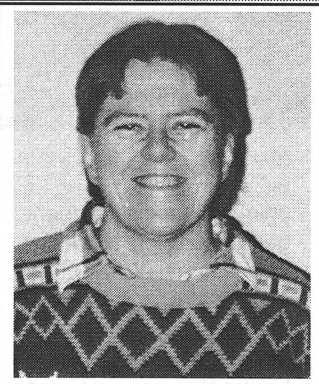
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# Viewpoint

## APATHY



**MS. A.J. MAHARI**  
**EDITOR**

is the absence of action and involvement. Apathy is about letting someone else do it. Apathy is sitting back: **waiting**: to see whether, indeed someone else will **do it**, as opposed to getting involved yourself.

Apathy is indifference. Is this indifference simply a lack of concern, interest and emotion; or is it a lack of courage? Fear is a fertile breeding ground for apathy.

What stops otherwise caring and committed individuals from being in action more in the service of their community, of our community? What are we waiting for?

Do we want to see a strong and vibrant community here, in K-W, and in all areas of South Western Ontario, or are we some how satisfied or okay with so much happening from and in Toronto?

If we don't live in Toronto, does it not then stand to reason that we have some commitment and various other reasons why we live where we do? Doesn't where you live matter enough to get involved?

Overcoming fear and dealing with what the world often slings our way is what it takes to defeat apathy. Nothing in a community, this one, or any other, can be built on, or by, dreams and wishes: **NO. Community can only be built by**

*the caring hard work and involvement of its members through action.*

Why do we allow this listlessness to go on?

Are we unwilling to define our concerns and meet the challenges that developing community entails?

If so, why?

Another challenge on the road to working through apathy is that of trying to see the Gay and Lesbian (bi & transgendered) segments of our community find more effective ways to come together and stay somewhat on shared pages with open lines of communication. No one person, or individual group, or activity can necessarily service the needs that span the diversity that makes up our community. However, without some effort to this end, the consequences may be the supreme reign of apathy and the continued and considerable segregation of what could be much more dynamic community. Apathy can be defeated through joined and more inclusive efforts, in action, designed to work toward a common goal of building and stengthening the infrastructure of the various sub-cultures that are our community.

This will not be accomplished by Gay men alone, or by Lesbians alone, or by bi's or transgendered alone, **NO**: it will take our coming together and truly embracing one another through all of our differences and reaching beyond our judgments, wounds and our fears.

## Matthew Shepard

### For: TIME'S MAN OF THE YEAR?

by A.J. Mahari



While many of you have likely already heard, Time Magazine held an online poll regarding who the Internet community thought should be their "Man of the Year" (results were announced December 20,). While there's no clear indication how much weight Time will give to this poll, Matt, at times did hold the lead. People, on the internet were encouraged to visit the page and to vote for Matthew Sheppard by different web sites and many messages to different email lists. Matthew Shepard's name was not on the Time list of choices but they did have a place where you could vote for anyone you wanted, listed or not.

This is Time's description of the "Man of the Year" decision: "The countdown has begun for TIME's 1998 Man of the Year

Each December since 1927, TIME has selected the "Man of the Year," the person who most shook up our world during the previous 12 months. Some cases, the choice has been symbolic or in

animate, such as "Endangered Earth" in 1988 and "American Women" in 1976. What headline grabber should take the prize this year? Monica Lewinsky or Kenneth Starr? The Internet or Viagra? Saddam Hussein or Alan Greenspan?"

Many across the internet were debating the issue of voting for Matthew Shepard. **Locally, in Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge and Guelph**, participants of our local email list had the following to say about Matthew Shepard and Time's "Man Of The Year Poll":  
**(Re-printed with the permission of the authors of the email posts)**

"I have to put my 2cents in here at this point. While I found what happened to Matthew Shepard to be horrendous and appalling, I find how we as North Americans have reacted to it even worse. How many people have been brutally murdered today let alone in the last 12 months? Why have you not nominated them as Time's 1998 Man of the

Year? Yes, Matthew was a gay man that was killed because he was gay, but what of the other gay men and women that have been killed for the same reason this year? We tend to take one news item and blow it up to point where the story being told is out shadowed by the story of the story being told. My question to people is "how has the killing of Matthew Shepard 'shook up' our world?"--**Scott S.**

**Mandi** then responded to Scott by saying: "Time for my two cents: I know that people are killed every year due to their sexual orientation. 95% of the time, it's not in the news, or reported. When it is, it should be talked about, and people should know why it's wrong. By putting Matthew up for man of the year award, it shows that there is a support out there of the queer community, and the fact that he is at number one right now makes me feel warm and safe inside. I know that the harsh reality is that maybe some of the people who are voting are only doing so because it's popular to

support the queer community right now because of the murder, but the thing you forget is that by having the opportunity to vote, those who are supportive of the community, but too afraid to do anything about it, are given a shot at showing their support, no matter how small it is. We can't condemn people for acknowledging only one of several murders. It's a start. Awareness needs to start somewhere.

**Scott** then replied to **Mandi**: "I am not condemning people for acknowledging only one of several murders; I am trying to get people to think about them. By asking, "how has Matthew Shepard's murder" shook up" our world?" I hope that people will stop and think about it. I am asking people to think about the issues involved before you vote for Matthew Shepard as Time's 1998 Man of the Year. Yes, Awareness needs to start somewhere, but it has to continue on to the next step for it to do any good. We get hung up on the issue that everyone is talking about and nothing further gets done.

My point is, I feel for Matthew Shepard and all the people that cared for him, and I do hope that this tragedy will help to bring

light to the problems. However, I would like to acknowledge all that have fallen before and those that will fall over this issue. It is up to us to continually bring these issues into the open and make people think about them all the time not just when a person is killed over them.

**M**, then added: "Well, it gave us a martyr, where we've neglected to notice others before. It shook us up as a community to feel fear again, or renewed fear. It reeks, to me, of selective uprisings of emotion. Think of the case in Oregon where a lesbian and disabled man were firebombed. Think of the Bottoms' case in the States. Think of Brandon and think of the endless number of crimes against queerfolk. Matthew Sheppard is a part of that, but he is not representative of it in the least."

**Dave Callandar**, (of Out And About Radio) who sent the original message to the email list to inform its members about the "Time Man of the Year" poll responded with: "I think a lot of people are missing the bloody point about nominating Matthew Sheppard for man of the year. I'm quite well aware that all of us face homophobia everyday,

and that there is no reason to martyr someone, placing him above all other queer folk. BUT.... Wouldn't it be nice for ONCE to see a huge national magazine say that they're story of the year has to do with the inequality and hate we all face? Wouldn't it be nice for Time to say "Queer rights and hate crimes against gay people are THE major story of 1998".

Here are some of the other people, and STORIES for that matter, that are also nominated... President Clinton, Monica Lewinsky, Saddam Hussein, and VIAGRA. I don't know about you, but given a choice between Monica, Viagra, and Mat Shepherd, I pick the one that gets one out of our stories out in front of mainstream culture. **As Harvey Fierstein is so fond of saying "Visibility at any cost"**

**Hans** wrote: "I am in total agreement with David. I think the whole tragedy discredited the religious right, because many straight people saw how incredibly insensitive it was of them to be protesting with those horrible signs at his funeral. He was killed because he was gay, would that not make him representative for hate crimes to some extent?"

**More on page 16**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

December 7, 1998

To The Editor:

"I recently picked up my first copy of **"The Voice"**. It's good to see someone from our community take on such a project. Congratulations on your willingness and courage to take on the challenge.

Let's face it; our "citizenry" have not exactly shown strong support for anything gay oriented in our area. For those who need convincing on this point consider the apathetic turn out to our "Pride Day;" if only one tenth of our people who travel to Toronto for the Pride parade came out for this day, there'd be ten times the number of people! Not yet convinced? Consider the distinct lack of a safe meeting place for lesbians, gays, and bisexuals and

**Voice Editor's Response:**

*Thank you for your letter and your kind and encouraging words.*

*You make a lot of valid points concerning what one could call, the apathy that exists within our community. Being so close to a large city like Toronto is one reason we have some of the challenges as a*

transgendered in our community. Need we wonder why "Homos" in this area want out? Fortunately, there are a few like yourselves, who pick up the slack and try to fill the void. Let's hope the support is there for you. The very best of luck.

Despite the good intentions, the choosing of the name, **THE VOICE** must be questioned! Surely no one should doubt the staff's ability to represent or "speak for" the Community, unless they are ready to try their hand at such a venture. After all, "Do not judge, lest ye be judged." In good conscience, the "Icons of the issue" should be informed that they have selected the same name as a long-standing booklet put out by a Church in Cambridge, a congregation far from supportive of homo-

*community that we do. A major part of what is lacking here, for us, is attributable, in part, to the environment in which we live. We live in a very conservative, "family values" neck of the woods. I believe it is only our efforts to community-build and our willingness to be visible that can hope to change the current climate prevalent in South*



sexual issues...in fact homophobic in its attitudes towards us! A matter you may want to address in a forthcoming issue???

In closing, the international scene is very important, but circulars like this one succeed only when containing stories on local issues. There are enough such local issues of interest to our people to justify their inclusion in your work. Hopefully this will happen as your readership grows.

Well, again, good luck! With the mix of people in our fairy town, you'll need it.

Always hot-to-trot and proud of it,  
**Sasha Servicemen**

**Western Ontario.**

*As for sharing the name, The Voice, with the Church you mention, seems now each side, each aspect of community, is duly represented to its members and that is as it should be. In order for all Voices to be heard each must accept the other's right to be and work to achieve middle-ground.*

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Two Women Deny Role In Killing Of Gay Student**

**Matthew Shepard**

### SEPARATE TRIALS, AND DATES SET

**Separate Trials in Gay Attack Associated Press December 10, 1998**

**LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) --** The two men accused of killing gay student Matthew Shepard will be tried separately, a judge ruled Thursday. District Judge Jeffrey Donnell gave no reason for the decision regarding Russell Arthur Henderson and Aaron James McKinney.

Prosecutors wanted a single trial, claiming two people accused of the same crime should be tried together. Defense attorneys opposed a combined trial but would not say why publicly. Thursday's hearing was closed to the public.

Henderson's trial was set for March 22, McKinney's for Aug. 9. The two are accused of beating and robbing Shepard on Oct. 7 and tying him to a fence outside Laramie. The University of Wyoming student died five days later. Investigators said he was targeted in

part because he was gay.

The men's girlfriends are charged with helping them dispose of evidence. Their trial dates have not been set.

### Death Penalty Sought

**LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) -** Prosecutors said Monday they'll seek the death penalty against the two men accused in the beating death of a gay University of Wyoming student. Aaron James McKinney and Russell Arthur Henderson, both 21, are accused of luring Matthew Shepard, also 21, out of a downtown bar. Police say the two robbed and pistol-whipped the 105-pound freshman, tied him to a log fence and beat him into unconsciousness. Shepard died Oct. 12, five days later. Shepard's murder brought condemnation from President Clinton, who renewed a call to expand the federal hate crimes law to include crimes based on a victim's sexual orientation, gender or disability.

**By ROBERT W. BLACK**

*The Associated Press*

### LARAMIE, Wyo. --

The girlfriends of two men charged in the beating death of gay college student Matthew Shepard pleaded not guilty Wednesday to helping the men dispose of evidence.

Chasity Vera Pasley, 20, and Kristen LeAnn Price, 19, both of Laramie, are accused of helping to dispose of bloody clothing that police say was worn by Pasley's boyfriend, Russell Arthur Henderson, 21.

District Judge Jeffrey A. Donnell did not set a trial date for either woman.

Henderson and Aaron James McKinney, 21, both of Laramie, have pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, kidnapping, and aggravated robbery and are awaiting trial.

Pasley and Price are charged with being accessories-after-the-fact to first-degree murder. The charge carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a fine of \$3,000.

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## SWISS MAN JAILED FOR HIV TRANSMISSION

A 51-year-old man in Winterthur, Switzerland, was jailed for three years Nov. 9 for causing serious bodily harm by passing HIV to his girlfriend whom he had not told he was HIV-positive.

Prosecutors sought to have the man jailed for 10 years but the defense argued successfully that he had not acted with intent to kill.

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## Duluth News Tribune Cabbie charged with sex assault for the alleged rape of a lesbian passenger

*By Chris Hamilton and Matt Nelson, News-Tribune staff writers*

A former Duluth cab driver faces two rape charges after allegedly sexually assaulting a female passenger last month, in part because of her sexual orientation.

Christopher Steven Ash, 25, of 419 N. 21st Ave. W., was charged Thursday with two counts of third-degree sexual assault in assault.

According to the criminal

complaint filed with the charges, Ash picked up the woman.

The woman was extremely drunk and said she wanted to go to the Duluth Detoxification Center.

On the way, Ash and the woman struck up a conversation and talked about both being in the Navy. He asked her if she was gay and the victim told him she was homosexual.

According to the criminal complaint, the victim said Ash then adopted a "nasty tone of voice" and told her "I knew the minute you walked out the door; you walk like a man."

The victim said she was concerned by the tone and began to feel alarmed.

Ash is charged with one count of third-degree criminal sexual conduct for allegedly raping the woman; the second charge alleges he knew or had reason to know the victim was mentally-impaired, mentally incapacitated or physically helpless. Both charges carry a maximum sentence of 15 years and (U.S.) \$30,000 fine.

## South Africa Woman Slain by Neighbors: For "Bringing Shame On Neighborhood"

*By DONALD G. McNEIL Jr.,--New York Times Service S. African woman slain for having HIV*

**JOHANNESBURG, South Africa** - A volunteer working to persuade South Africans not to discriminate against HIV-infected people was beaten to death last week by her neighbors, who accused her of bringing shame on their community by revealing that she was HIV-positive. The killing scared other anti-AIDS advocates and said it proved what they have said for years - although three million South Africans are infected with the virus that causes AIDS, nearly all are afraid to admit it because of the hostility they face.

The woman killed, Gugu Dlamini, 36, a volunteer field worker for the National Association of People Living With HIV/AIDS went public on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1.

South Africa has the world's fastest-growing AIDS epidemic. Up to 30 percent of adults there are infected.

## AUSTRALIAN AIDS DEATHS DOWN 80%

The new AIDS drug cocktails have reduced AIDS deaths 80 percent in Australia, says the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research.

Researchers compared statistics from 1990-93 with those from 1994-97.

During the same period, the percentage of people progressing from HIV-positivity to full-blown AIDS also dropped, by about 50 percent.

---

## Lesbian Poet in Running to be Poet Laureate

**London England**  
Ursula (U A) Fanthorpe shot from nowhere to become a leading contender for the post of Poet Laureate - the Queen's official poet - when The Guardian published her poem for Prince Charles on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

Originally a 66-1 outsider, U A Fanthorpe saw the odds on her shorten dramatically to 33-1 overnight. She is currently a 16-1 contender. The Royal Society of Literature will submit a list of names to the Prime Minister, who will make the final choice early in the New Year.

## LESBIAN TEEN'S HARD YEAR

Cincinnati Enquirer

The last year has been difficult for Jennie Workman.

Ms. Workman, now 18, was one of four gay, lesbian or bisexual teens featured in the Feb. 12 Enquirer.

She graduated from Sycamore High School in June.

She has enrolled at the University of Cincinnati and is majoring in child psychology.

She's still living at home but plans to move to Clifton early in 1999. She calls the neighborhood one of the few "gay-friendly" place to live in the Tristate. Ms. Workman has a new girlfriend, who's 18.

Ms. Workman's story told about her attempted suicide in ninth-grade. She felt she had nothing to live for because she would not be accepted for being a lesbian.

"I got some harassment after the article was in the paper, but most of the response was really positive said Ms. Workman, who was involved in school-based and city-wide support groups for gay teens.

## Conference: Ending Hate Violence against Lesbians and Gays

The Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project (NSW, Australia) is hosting an international conference, Ending Hate Violence against Lesbians and Gays, in Sydney at the time of the VI Gay Games in the year 2002.

It is circulating a set of draft proposals on the purpose of the conference and key planning matters. This draft paper is designed to stimulate ideas and provide a focus for discussion about the 2002 Conference. All responses and ideas about how the Sydney Host Committee goes about achieving what's in the discussion paper would be most helpful.

Responses will be received up until 28 February 1999. After which time the Sydney Host Committee will incorporate all feedback, where possible, into the plan. This document will then form the basis of a strategic plan to begin the process of planning for the conference in 2002.

**Continued on Page 27**

**SUICIDE  
YOUNG GAY MALES**  
BY D.J.



There are statistics which show that young people who are gay commit suicide very much more frequently than other young people. There appear to be several reasons for this.

Here we examine males since male suicide rates amongst gay youth are significantly more prevalent than those for females.

Let us look at a typical case. The individual youth has identified that he is different but maybe is unwilling to admit it to himself. At recess during elementary school, the sports and rough activity that attracted the boys in the class did not attract him. Perhaps, there was another boy to whom he wanted to talk or perhaps he preferred skipping rope or playing with the girls.

The young lad may not even realize what is going on BUT he is exhibiting the first signs of being gay. The other boys develop an attitude

towards this youth and perhaps even start to call him fag (in my day it was faerie) and ostracize him even more.

By the time the peer group is so extremely important as in puberty, the young boy is unable to relate to his peers. If he is in an environment at home or at school where it is unacceptable to be different (Dad wants him to excel at sports either because he himself excelled at those sports or because he did not have the opportunity to participate and is living through his son) the boy may withdraw and begin to believe that he is not worthy.

He still may not even realize he is gay but if he

does, he is scared to tell anyone - it is his own secret. Think of what this does to the youngster. He feels alone and afraid to be himself. The best way out is suicide. There is one other alternative - to hide from being different for all it is worth.

Note that one of the contributing factors to the boy's dilemma is his inability to communicate with peers, parents, and school authorities. How often our society isolates people but particularly over homosexuality! Those who censor books and materials used in the classroom often make it difficult for the child to see that there are acceptable alternatives. The teacher is effectively gagged.

**Continued on Page 51**

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**A Catholic Pledge to End  
Violence  
Against Gay & Lesbian People**

On page A16 of The New York Times, on **December 30, 1998** there is a full page ad with the headline: **"A Catholic Pledge to End Violence against Gay and Lesbian People."**

There are six paragraphs of text, followed by names and locations of sponsors. Many of the ad sponsors are priests and nuns.

The ad quotes a 1986 Vatican statement:

**"It is deplorable that homosexual persons have been and are the object of violent malice in speech and action. Such treatment deserves condemnation from the Church's pastors wherever it occurs."**

The ad also quotes a

1994 US Bishops' letter protesting the "slow motion violence of discrimination."

The ad states: **"Violence begins in our attitudes and grows into behaviors, which range from ignoring to ridiculing to attacking**

**gay and lesbian people. We ask our bishops and Church leaders to speak boldly when the rights of gay and lesbian people are destroyed and when they are maligned by politicians and other religious leaders."**

The ad offers two web pages : [www.nonviolence.org/pcusa](http://www.nonviolence.org/pcusa) and [members.aol.com/newwaysm](http://members.aol.com/newwaysm)

*Peter D. Martel*

**Chartered Accountant**

Kitchener, Ontario  
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**Quotes to Ponder**

"Fear of change causes some persons to be comfortable in their misery, secure in their mediocrity and paralyzed in their prejudice." -William A. Ward

"Tears lift your boat off the rocks, off dry ground, carrying it down river to some place new, some place better." -Clarissa Pinkola Estes

"Courage is the price that life exacts for granting for peace. The soul that knows it not, knows no release from little things." -Amelia Earhart Putnam

"Do not be known as a [person] of success; be known as a [person] of value." -Albert Einstein

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." -Anon.

"In depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer." --Albert Camus

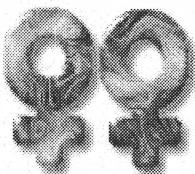
"When you look into the abyss, the abyss also looks into you." -Nietzsche

"Life must be lived forwards, but it can only be understood backwards." --Kierkegaard



# HERSTORY

## WOMYN SPEAK



### Lesbian Pride

by Andrea Dworkin

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Andrea Dworkin—From work

"OUR BLOOD: PROPHECIES  
AND DISCOURSES ON  
SEXUAL POLITICS"

For me, being a lesbian means three things --

First, it means that I love, cherish, and respect women in my mind, in my heart, and in my soul. This love of women is the soil in which my life is rooted. It is the soil of our common life together. My life grows out of this soil. In any other soil, I would die. In whatever ways I am strong, I am strong because of the power and passion of this nurturant love.

Second, being a lesbian means to me that there is an erotic passion and intimacy which comes of touch and taste, a wild, salty tenderness, a wet sweet sweat, our breasts, our mouths, our cunts, our intertwined hairs, our hands. I am speaking here of asensual passion as deep and mysterious as the sea, as strong and

still as the mountain, as insistent and changing as the wind.

Third, being a lesbian means to me the memory of the mother, remembered in my ownbody, sought for, desired, found, and truly honored. It means the memory of the womb, when we were



one with our mothers, until birth when we were torn asunder. It means a return to that place inside, inside her, inside ourselves, to the tissues and membranes, to the moisture and blood.

There is a pride in the nurturant love which is our common ground, and in the sensual love, and in the memory of the mother--and that pride shines as bright as the summer sun at noon. That pride cannot be degraded. Those who would degrade it are in the position of throwing handfuls

of mud at the sun. Still it shines, and those who sling mud only dirty their own hands.

Sometimes the sun is covered by dense layers of dark clouds. A person looking up would swear that there is no sun. But still the sun shines. At night, when there is no light, still the sun shines. During rain or hail or hurricane or tornado, still the sun shines.

Does the sun ask itself, "Am I good? Am I worthwhile? Is there enough of me?" No, it burns and it shines. Does the sun ask itself, "What does the moon think of me? How does Mars feel about me today?" No, it burns, it shines. Does the sun ask itself, "Am I as big as other suns in other galaxies?" No, it burns, it shines.

In this country in the coming years, I think that there will be a terrible storm. The skies will darken beyond all recognition. Those who walk the streets will walk them in darkness. Those who are in prisons and mental institutions will not see the

sky at all, only the dark out of barred windows. Those who are hungry and in despair may not look up at all. They will see the darkness as it lies on the ground in front of their feet. Those who are raped will see the darkness as they look up into the face of the rapist. Those who are assaulted and brutalized by madmen will stare intently into the darkness to discern who is moving toward them at every moment. It will be hard to remember, as the storm is raging, that still, even though we cannot see it, the sun shines. It will be hard to

remember that still, even though we cannot see it, the sun burns. We will try to see it and we will try to feel it, and we will forget that it warms us still, that if it were not there, burning, shining, this earth would be a cold and desolate and barren place.

As long as we have life and breath, no matter how dark the earth around us, that sun still burns, still shines. There is no today without it. There is no tomorrow without it. There was no yesterday without it. That light is within us--constant, warm, and healing. Remember it, sisters, in the dark times to come.

### TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

#### The Night and Danger 1979

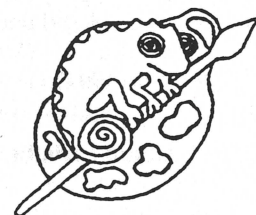
© 1979, 1988, 1993

by Andrea Dworkin

"The Night and Danger" was written as a Take Back the Night speech. In New Haven, Connecticut, 2000 women marched. Street prostitutes joined the March and old women in old age homes came out on balconies with lit candles. In Old Dominion, Virginia, blacks and whites, women and men, gays and straights, in the hundreds, joined together in the first political march ever held in Old Dominion, an oligarchal, conservative stronghold, as the name suggests. People marched fourteen miles, as if they didn't want to miss a footpath, under threat of losing their jobs and with the threat of police violence. In Calgary, Canada, women were arrested for demonstrating without a permit, the irony that a March is the safest way (arrests notwithstanding) for women to go out at night lost on the police but not on the women. In Los Angeles, California, the tail end of a double line of 2000 women walking on sidewalks was attacked by men in cars.

#### Woman by A.J. Mahari

you are:  
heart,  
soul,  
nurture  
grace, beauty,  
wind & water  
soft, seductive  
sensuously  
sweet;  
alive,  
learned,  
effortless,  
tireless,  
perservering  
proud & strong  
the music and  
the lyrics to  
life's splendid  
song.....



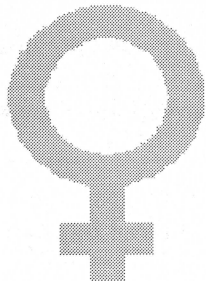
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### **The Quotable Lesbian Lesbian Activism:**

"We are always in a political movement, but not always in a political movement phase of a political culture" (Sarah Hoagland, 1996).

### **Lesbianism as Resistance**

"For a woman to be a lesbian in a male-supremacist, capitalist, misogynist, racist, homophobic, imperialist culture, such as that of North America, is an act of resistance" (Cheryl Clarke, 1981)

### **Lesbian Chic:**

"The recent flurry of articles on hip lesbians isn't about documentation...it's about creation: building a better lesbian, one palatable enough for mainstream consumption...to gain legitimacy and be taken seriously in the 1990s, cultures outside the mainstream must

prove they are free of the disruptive nature and threatening intent of activism past..." (Judith Schwartz, quoted in Cragin, 1997)

### **Lesbian Feminism:**

"Lesbian feminism proceeds from an analysis of gender interests which situates lesbians primarily as women rather than homosexuals, thus distinguishing it from gay theory which proceeds from an analysis of sexual identity and interests (a difference noted by Eve Sedwick). [Lesbian feminism] also bases itself in the primacy of identity, distinguishing it further from queer theory which lays primary emphasis on actions and performance." (Bonnie Zimmerman, 1996).

### **Lesbian Feminists:**

"Lesbians of the 70s, can be divided into lesbian feminists and feminist lesbians. The former usually 'came out' after being exposed to feminism and had a history of heterosexuality. The latter were usually lifelong or long-time lesbians with little or no heterosexual history, who integrated feminism into their identity. These differing paths to lesbianism were an important

factor behind the ideological contests and the lesbian civil wars of the 70s" (Y. Retter, 1998).

"Lesbian feminists are the bad girls who fail to love the male frame of mind that currently dominates gay and lesbian studies" (Sheila Jeffreys, 1994).

### **Lesbian History:**

"As a woman, as a lesbian, as a Jew, much of what I call history, others will not. But answering that challenge of exclusion is the work of a lifetime" (Joan Nestle, 1987).

"Lesbian history is under-researched and under-theorized" (Martha Vicinus, 1994).

### **Lesbian Invisibility:**

"Between the time of Sappho and the birth of Natalie Clifford Barney (between ca 613 bc and 1876 ad) lies a 'lesbian silence' of twenty-four centuries" (Bertha Harris In Our Right To Love, 1978). "Without a visual identity, we have no community, no support network, no movement. Making ourselves visible is a political act, making ourselves visible is a continual process." (Joan E. Biren in Visual

Communication, 1983).

### **Lesbian Persistence:**

"Lesbian suppression is so strong that if it weren't inherent in some, it would have disappeared [!]" (Marilyn Frye, 1996).

### **Cultural Feminism- Lesbianism:**

"Cultural feminism represents a retreat from the difficulties of political struggle into the self-validation that community-building offers. It further substitutes the fantasy of a united sisterhood for political theory" (Alice Echols, quoted in Howard, 1997).

### **Intersections of Oppression:**

"The concept of the simultaneity of oppression is still the crux of a Black feminist understanding of political reality...and is one of the most significant ideological contributions of Black feminist thought" (Barbara Smith, 1983, xxxii).

"The modifier 'multiple' refers not only to several, simultaneous oppressions, but to the multiplicative relationships among them as well" (Deborah King, 1988, 47).

### **Queer Theory and Politics:**

"The wholesale embracing of theatrical metaphor [in queer theory] denies the historicity of all lesbian roles, and their specific meanings at different historical times" (Martha Vicinus, 1994)

### **Lesbians about Women:**

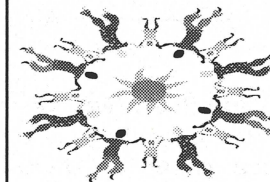
"As a writer, I am not deferential. Writing without apology and without trivializing the writing because one is a woman is a major contribution" (Andrea Dworkin, in Jenefsky, Without Apology, 1998, p.1)

### **About Lesbians:**

"In Anglo-Saxon Countries it seems...that female homosexuality means rather more than Sapphic lyricism, since it somehow acts as a stimulus to the social and political organization of women..." (Carl Jung in Civilization in Transition, 1922).



### **WOMYN'S READING CIRCLE**



*Beginning in January of 1999, will meet once a month. The night has yet to be decided. Phone 743-██████ for more information if you'd like to come out and join us. We will choose our reading selections by consensus.*



*The Voice would like to encourage submissions from lesbians. If you like to write or have anything you'd like to express please write to us!! Let's get visible and be heard!!*

**Matthew Shepard and Time's "Man of the Year" Poll**

Continued from page 5

While there was debate, not only on our local email list, there was also much debate across the internet, in general, as to whether or not Matthew Shepard should be Time's "Man of the Year." The results of the Time Poll were announced on Sunday December 20, 1998. Here is the decision that Time Magazine made and why.

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**MEN OF THE YEAR**

"What a year. What a week. While the House was preparing to impeach the President and American missiles were raining upon Iraq, we were assembling our traditional year-end issue. The news reinforced our decision, which we had been wrestling with until the final days, to choose as our **Men of the Year Bill Clinton** and his pursuer **Kenneth Starr**, whose shared obstinacy but radically different personalities and values caused them to become entwined in a sullied embrace and paired for history. The

year drew to a close the way it had opened in January, with events being driven by what these



two men had wrought. For better or for worse, for good or for ill. That has always been a part of our definition of Man or Woman of the Year: the

person or persons who most affected the news and our lives, for good or for ill, and embodied what was important about the year, for better or for worse."

**Walter Isaacson**  
 TIME'S MANAGING EDITOR

Did Time's decision for "Man of the Year" send any message in terms of gay and lesbian hopes to one day matter more in the main stream? Do you think this indicates the level to which the straight world was effected by Matthew's murder? Related or unrelated?

[Voice Editor]

**THE VOICE'S QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

**DO YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FIND YOUR COMMUNITY IN K-W AND AND AREA? IS OUR COMMUNITY A DIVERSE ONE?**

We'd really like to hear your answers to these questions.

Let your voice be heard. Share your voice and opinions with others in our community.

Giving voice to your


thoughts and concerns matters and gives you an opportunity to feel more a part of community.

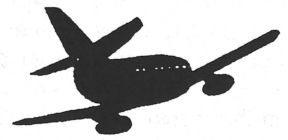
If you have an idea and or question that you'd like to see us ask our community please do write to us.

Write to us at:

**THE VOICE**  
 P.O. Box [redacted]  
 RPO Evergreen  
 Kitchener, Ont,  
 N2M 5P1

and we'll publish your response.

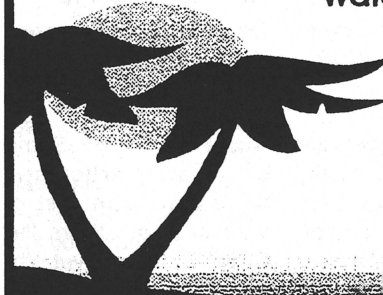





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## HIS-STORY

## BEARS A SUB-CULTURE



The most obvious characteristic of a bear is understandably his facial fur. So, that is the most logical place to begin. Using a capital "B" to denote "BEAR", we have added a sub-class characterizing "beard type" which combines a bear's beard's length, thickness, and overall "keptness", numbered from 0 to 9 and defined in the following way:

0 --Little/no beard, or incredibly sparse-- Such a beard is the absolute minimum that could ever be classified as a beard. We're talking 5-o'clock shadow, here! And yes, we are of the opinion that the beardless can still find company among the ursines!

1-- VERY slight beard-- This is the kind of beard that people have who want to have a beard, but can't grow one. Or someone who is contently at the 1-week phase.

2 - -Slight beard-- A beard

kept VERY short at all times, or thinned out.

3 --Thin beard-- A beard in all respects but kept thin and short.

4--Mostly full-- A beard that is full except for a few noticeable bald spots, or kept trimmed.

5 --Full beard-- A full beard not generally trimmed, though not generally bushy. May have a few bald spots on inspection. Usually full and roundish beards fall into this category.

6--Very full-- A full beard, not trimmed. May be slightly bushy but very full. Thick, full beards (moreso than B5's) are B6's. B6's beards also generally are higher up on the cheeks than B5's.

7--Longish/bushy beards-- A full beard or slightly thin beard with longish fur. This beard is not trimmed and does come away from the chin.

8--Very Long Beards--

These beards are usually very bushy and haven't seen clippers for a very long time.

9--Belt-buckle-grazing long beards-- The prototype is ZZ Top. Need we say more?

While beards can be an observable trait of bears, there are other things that different people take into consideration as to "what makes up a bear", and things that people like in their bears. So, bearing that in mind (pun intended) there are other criteria that can/should optionally follow the "B" designation.

### The Natural Bears Classification System

<http://www.skepsis.com/gibo/bears/NBCS/>

"The FUR factor": Some bears are particularly hairy about the rest of their bodies, others INCREDIBLY furry, yet others though rightfully bears, have little or no fur on their chests, arms, legs, back, butt, etc.

"The TALLNESS factor": To describe bears that are tall or short for their frame.

"The WEIGHT factor": For those who prefer their bears more or less fluffy.

"The CUB factor": For the junior up and coming bears.

"The GROPE factor": This is the amount one likes to be touched or pawed etc.

"The KINKY factor": for those who dare.

"The ENDOWMENT factor": sometimes a size queen's gotta do.

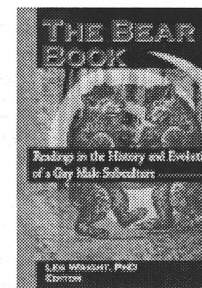
"The RUGGED/OUTDOOR factor":

"The PECULIAR factor": Some idiosyncracies --- no judgement made to whether these are "good" or "not so good."

In "The Bear Book:" through their voices, you'll learn about:

- bears and sexual identity
- gay male iconography
- sexual politics (gender, class, and body image)
- mass media and the current construction of bears
- bears, power, and glamor
- bears-as-image vs. bears-as-attitude

**The Bear Book** : Readings in the History and Evolution of a Gay Male Subculture by Les K. Wright (Editor), Lee K. Wright - - From Michelangelo's David to Calvin Klein's hunks in briefs, the cult of the beautiful male body has been at the heart of much



of gay culture. But there is more to gay life than buffed pecs and rippled abs. Les Wright's **The Bear Book** is a surprising collection of sociological and literary essays about gay bears: hefty, bearded men who look for the same attributes in their partners. The gay bear phenomenon started more than a decade ago--in response to AIDS, some commentators note here--and has become a defining identity for many gay men. **The Bear Book** examines the range of bear culture--bear magazines, bear clubs, bear Web sites--and in doing so explores how gay male culture in response to the

needs of its members and to the broader culture.

### The Bear Book

brings together an impressive range of bear viewpoints to explore this unique social and cultural phenomenon. On the personal level, you learn what beardom means to different people in their daily lives, and on a broader level, its cultural implications for not only the gay community, but also society as a whole. As this book moves across the wide spectrum of bear identities, you learn about the defining forms of identity, the significances of differences among masculinities, and the shapings of the bear movement.

"[http://www.tiac.net/users/codybear/bea\\_rbook.htm](http://www.tiac.net/users/codybear/bea_rbook.htm)"

### The Bear Book

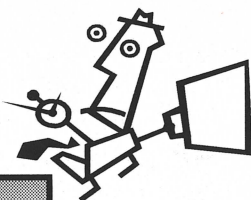
is the first compilation of sociological and cultural analytical investigations of the contemporary gay bear phenomenon. To this end, Editor Les Wright brings together both objective and subjective viewpoints to create a forum where bears can speak for themselves.

## THE B I Z SECTION

### THE BASICS OF RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLANS (RRSP)

#### PART ONE OF TWO

By Darren Kregar (Economic Tax Services)



As a general rule, if you are between the ages of 40 and 60, a figure equal to 60-75% of your current household income is a good approximation of what you will need for a comfortable retirement. Based on 1996 figures the maximum amount of CPP (Canada Pension Plan) and OAS (Old Age Security) that an individual may receive was \$1,127.00/month. For most individuals this amount is not enough taking into consideration living costs, health care expenses, travel rental costs or property tax. As a result, one should plan to supplement the government plans with company pension plans and personal savings.

#### Immediate Tax Savings

RRSP contributions are tax deductible, which means that every \$1 you contribute can generate a tax refund of up to

\$0.50 (the exact amount will depend on your marginal tax rate). A \$5,000 contribution could save you up to \$2,500 in tax savings or a refund. It should be noted that the maximum amount an individual can contribute is 18% of earned income from the prior year, to a maximum of \$13,500. Earned income includes employment income, rental income, self-employment income, royalties and alimony or separation payments received. You can find out how much you are entitled to contribute by looking at your Notice of Assessment - this is the form you get in the mail each year after filing your tax return.

#### Maximize your RRSP Contributions

If you are unable to maximize your RRSP contribution, you may want to consider borrowing.

In most situations you will be better off borrowing to make your contribution than not contributing at all. You are not entitled to claim a deduction for the interest on your RRSP loan; however, your contribution grows tax-free. If you have other investments (outside your RRSP), you may be better off to transfer a portion of them to your RRSP and then borrow to replace them. The interest will be tax deductible.

#### Don't Over-Contribute

If you over-contribute to your RRSP (contribute more into your RRSP than the allowed maximum, see above), a penalty of 1% of the excess amount per month is charged. On an over-contribution of \$10,000 the penalty is \$100/month. You are allowed to over contribute by \$2,000 without penalty, but, you are not permitted

to claim a deduction for this amount but it will grow tax-free. When you withdraw the \$2,000 from the RRSP, you will be taxed regardless. However if you leave this amount in your RRSP for 30 years, assuming you are earning 10%, your investment will be worth nearly \$35,000.

#### Spousal Income Splitting Opportunities

This can be accomplished simply by contributing to your spouse's RRSP. You will be eligible for the deduction, but your spouse, being the annuitant, will pay the tax on any withdrawals. **Note:** Any withdrawals your spouse makes from the spousal RRSP will be taxed in your hands if the contributions were made in the same year or in the previous 2 years. To avoid this attribution on withdrawals, the withdrawal will have to wait until the third calendar year after the last contribution. For example: in 1997 you last contributed \$5,000 to your spousal RRSP, in 1999 your spouse withdraws \$7,000, the

first \$5,000 will be taxed in your hands. It should be noted that same sex couples are not eligible for these benefits as Revenue Canada does not recognize same sex couples.

In next month's issue of *"The Voice,"* **The Basics of Retirement Savings Plans (Part 2)** will feature information on withdrawing from your RRSP.

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**FREE:** This is one of the most powerful words in the world of commerce. The idea of getting something for nothing is a major motivating factor. It attracts readers and builds anticipation.

**NEW:** Everybody is interested in something new and exciting. The word practically requires the reader to keep reading.

**BREAKTHROUGH:** This one's used when indeed there is something about what you are selling that represents a major new idea or an adaptation of a new approach to an old idea or product.

**MIRACLE:** People want to believe in miracles: a miracle solution, a miracle product, a miracle opportunity. The word will  
**Continued on page 22**

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## Internet Bank Would Target Gays

By **BILL KACZOR**  
c The Associated Press

### PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)

-- When banks refused to finance his planned gay and lesbian resort, Steven Dunlap scrapped that idea and decided to start a financial institution that would welcome homosexuals instead of spurn them.

The result is G&L Bank -- the initials stand for gay and lesbian expected to open here in the spring pending final approval from federal regulators, said Dunlap, the bank's chairman.

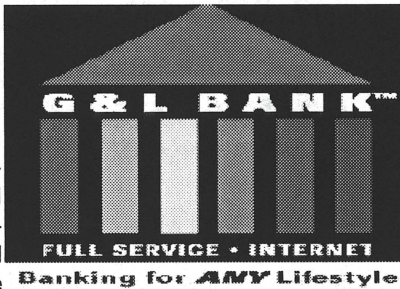
Not only would it be the nation's only bank catering specifically to homosexuals, it would be one of the first operating primarily via the Internet.

"The whole deal is to take banking away from you having to go to the bank and let us bring the bank to you," Dunlap said. He envisions gays and lesbians as an entry market but not the bank's sole customer base.

The bank's Internet site:<http://www.g-lbank.com>

"Just like Federal Express is doing to overnight delivery, I expect to be the No. 1 brand name in the Internet banking arena," Dunlap said. "You're going to sort of forget, potentially, what this G&L stands for."

"The Internet now allows us to deliver to this community without having bricks and mortar," Dunlap said. "It actually allows me to put a bank



branch in every house where there is a computer."

Internet banking remains in its infancy, however, so G&L has had to do extensive research and development. That effort is headed by G. Kay Griffith, G&L's president. She had always been interested in civil rights and the opportunity to be part of such a pioneering effort was too attractive to pass up. The bank's 11-member staff is almost equally split between homosexuals and heterosexuals.

## POWER WORDS

Continued from page 21

perform miracles in your ad copy.

**CLOSEOUT:** It gives you a strong way of getting across a bargain opportunity. This word has a sense of urgency attached to it that calls out for action.

**BARGAIN:** It too says that there is a price concession that makes a product or service appeal to a very broad audience. People love bargains. And by linking your offer to the word bargain, you are establishing your value as well as your product features.

(From: December 1998, **SUCCESS**, Joseph Sugarman p. 85)



## Six Ideas For a Prosperous New Year

by **KATHY KRISTOF**

San Jose Mercury News

*It's time to make some wise moves that will save you money in the new year. Here are a half-dozen ideas for a more prosperous 1999.*

**1. Do an annual investment review.** You don't have to do this often, but once a year investors ought to take a look at the individual stocks and mutual funds in their portfolios. If it's underpriced in your estimation, it's time to consider whether you ought to buy more. If it's overpriced, you ought to consider whether the opportunities are better elsewhere.

**2. Set up an automatic savings plan.** Years ago, people found it hard to save regularly because they found themselves walking past a variety of retail stores as they headed to the bank to deposit their checks. Today, there is no excuse. You don't need to walk to the bank. Almost every major corporation allows you to have your paycheck electronically deposited.

### 3. Review your insurance.

Over the past year, the competitive pressures in the insurance industry have been increasing, largely to the benefit of consumers. Everything from life insurance to property and casualty coverages are now being offered at lower rates than they were a year ago. Indeed, some insurance agents say that level-premium term life policies are now selling for about half what they cost a year ago.

### 4. Knock down consumer debt.

Do you maintain balances on your credit cards? If so, it's time to figure out how to pay them off. If you leave a balance on a credit card and pay only the minimum amount due, you're likely to pay for each item you bought four to five times before you're through. That's a waste, so, here's the plan: Go to [www.cardtrak.com](http://www.cardtrak.com) and see if there is a credit card that invites balance transfers at a lower rate of interest than you're currently paying, if so, switch.

### 5. Consider a refinance.

If you have a home and a mortgage, check your interest rate. If it's over about 7.5 percent, there's a very good chance that you can cut your costs by refinancing. Interest rates have dropped steadily over the past year and now hover around 7 percent for a fixed-rate mortgage. Moreover, there are a host of lenders who are offering deals with no up-front costs.

The one caveat on these no-cost loans is that many have prepayment penalties, so if you think you'll refinance again within five years or so, make sure you know what it will cost you on the back-end.

### 6. Clean out your closets.

You, your spouse and kids probably raked in a bundle of goodies over the holidays. So now is the ideal time to make some room. Besides, all of those old clothes, toys, shoes and other usable items that you give away might provide you with a tidy tax deduction.

And, while you're at it, scare up a manila envelope and write 'charity receipts' in big, bold letters. Then, every time you give away some cash or clothes, date the receipt and put it in the envelope.

**BUSINESS FEATURE:**

**THE HISTORY OF MY LAW PRACTICE**

By Jean-Paul Pilon

*This article originally appeared in Nulli Secundus, the Windsor Law Magazine, Winter 1997/8*

My practice is one that is geared to meet the legal needs of the gay and lesbian community in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. My purpose in establishing this practice this summer was twofold. First, I wanted to serve the day-to-day needs of a group of people whose needs were apparently not being met by local practitioners. Secondly, I hoped to provide a positive vehicle for social change in a smaller community outside of Toronto.

I conducted research while completing my articles and bar admission course in 1997 for the purpose of preparing a business plan for this practice. Through this research I determined

that there were a significant number of lawyers practising within the gay and lesbian community in

ans in the absence of legislative change...

It was my intention to operate a practice which would welcome all of the diversity of the area's gay and lesbian population. I also hoped that the practice would provide a much needed central point of reference within the community. To achieve these goals I instituted a sliding fee structure to attract to my practice those from all social classes within the community. I planned to advertise in a wide range of publications so as to raise awareness

of my practice among as many people as possible. I also began collecting information on community resources to provide to my clients and others who might need them.

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Toronto but very few elsewhere. I found this surprising given the monumental changes brought about by Charter litigation, which has expanded the rights of gays and lesbi-

**BUSINESS FEATURE:**



My business idea was well received by everyone I approached. In particular, the bank manager who approved my application for financing indicated that the bank recognized the reality of the changing family unit. Members of the bar and other professionals in the area were positive to the idea and were extremely helpful in assisting me when I had questions or required assistance.

I proceeded to open my office in downtown Waterloo in July of 1997 have been very busy since then.

My advertising campaign in the straight press provided the expected number of clients however my greatest success to date has been in attracting members of the gay and lesbian target market to the practice. At the outset I expected that it would take years to develop the practice within the community. My advertising in the gay and lesbian press proved to be

phenomenally effective and the impact of this advertising was immediate.

Despite my understanding of the structure of the community however I had underestimated the power of word-of-mouth advertising. Speaking to one person in many cases launched a domino effect leading to referrals to others. I also had not realized the extent to which the community was underserved, even though one of the reasons I started the practice had been to provide legal services to an underserved group. I had underestimated, for example, the reluctance of members of the community to reveal the details of their personal relationships to straight lawyers. Consequently, I found that members of the target group were extremely receptive to the idea of a gay and lesbian practice in their community and liberally provided referrals generating a large number of new clients.

The practice also serves

the needs of those outside of the gay and lesbian community and provides typical general practice services to the public. The fear expressed by several of my friends that my straight clients would bolt my practice when they discovered the characteristics of my core clientele has proven unfounded.

The ultimate goal of my practice is to raise awareness of gay and lesbian issues in my larger community. It is my hope that by providing legal services to the local gay and lesbian community and acting as a resource to the various groups within the community that my practice will contribute to an attitude of increased understanding and tolerance in the community as a whole.

**Jean-Paul Pilon is a lawyer practising in Waterloo.**



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### THE COALITION FOR SUPPORT OF LESBIAN, GAY, & BISEXUAL YOUTH IN WATERLOO REGION

by Marion Markham

The Coalition for Support of Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth had its beginnings in 1992-1993, when a group of concerned citizens began meeting to explore ways to support LGB youth in Waterloo Region. Today, the Coalition's membership is made up of youth, private counsellors, and representatives from Waterloo Region's Community Health Department; ACCKWA, (the Aids Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area); Waterloo District School Board, Guidance Heads; The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, Waterloo Region Teachers' Local; and Family and Children's Services of Waterloo Region.

The group came together in response to concerns raised by gay youth regarding the lack of services designed to meet their specific needs, and a growing awareness on the part of professionals that youth of minority sexual orientation faced very unique struggles.

Youth culture and families and schools can all demand a conformity at times that can't be achieved if one is lesbian or gay. Too often this leaves gay youth in the closet, in isolation, or in hostile environments. The results can be devastating:

■ the suicide rate for lesbian and gay youth is 4 times or more greater than for straight youth

■ one third of youth who complete suicide are gay or lesbian (despite common estimates that homosexuals comprise only one tenth of the population, and the fact that many don't come out until later in life.)

■ one third of street youth in downtown Toronto are lesbian or gay

■ 48% of street youth in downtown Toronto are from Southern Ontario (stats are from S.A.S.- Safe On the Streets)

The risk of HIV infection is especially high for young gay men, who may not have access to appropriate information regarding safe sex. Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are also more likely to drop out of school, leave home early, and abuse substances because of the hostile or homophobic environments they are exposed to.

The Coalition's focus has largely been on public education workshops for people working with youth, such as teachers, guidance counsellors, social service workers, and other health care professionals. It also provides advocacy and information to workers, parents and youth who ask for assistance. This past fall, the Coalition began a networking group for people working with youth, and for peer advocates in the schools.

Our most recent, and possibly most exciting, project is the launching of a planning committee to begin the planning of a

**Continued on page 47**

#### Future Voice Spotlight Features:

**If you have an agency, service group, or know of an individual serving our community that you would like to see featured in The Voice's "Spotlight" Please write or call us today!!! (Contact information is on page 2)**

**Conference:  
Ending Hate Violence  
Against Lesbians  
and Gays**  
Continued from page 9

The draft planning framework for the conference is at the 2002 conference website at: <http://www.eagles.com.au/~avp/2002/>

or can be downloaded directly as a 'word' file from:  
<http://maya.eagles.bbs.net.au/~avp/2002.plan.doc>

Send comments on the draft to the Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project, PO Box [redacted], Darlinghurst NSW 1300, Australia; or email: [redacted]

by 28 February 1999.

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To clean a gold leaf frame, rub the gold leaf with a cloth that has been dipped in Onion Juice.

If the veneer on old furniture is just loose, make a small slit in the wood,

with the grain of the wood. Use this as a way to apply the glue under the veneer.

If the veneer is bubbled up and loose, place a piece of cardboard on the wood and press with an iron set at medium heat. The heat should soften the glue and you will be

able to feel the wood give a little. Press down and weight the spot until the glue has redried.

To remove the musty smell from an old trunk, put a bowl of freshly ground coffee inside.

*Happy New Year!*



# COMMUNITY LISTINGS

*What's Happening?*

## Sunday

**Rainbow Metropolitan Community Church** service To attend an LGBT-friendly Community Church try the Rainbow MCC. Services take place each Sunday at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Anglican, 171 Kortright Road, at the corner of Kortright and Edinburgh Road. Call the Rainbow MCC at 519- [REDACTED].

## Monday

**Queer Static** at the Trasheteria, every Monday from 10:00 pm to 3:00 am. The Trasheteria is located at 52 Macdonell in Guelph. This is a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender friendly event, sponsored by **Guelph Queer Equality** and the Trasheteria. No cover, a \$2 donations is suggested. Contact GQE at:

[REDACTED] for more information

## Tuesday

**Guelph Queer Equality (GQE)** meets every Tuesday from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in UC536, the University Centre's Mature Student Lounge at the University of Guelph. Contact GQE at:

[REDACTED] for details.

## Wednesday

**Wednesday Pride** at the Spiral Club, an evening for the queer positive, transgendered, lesbian and gay community. Spiral Club is at 122 Woolwich St., Guelph, [REDACTED].

## Wednesday

**Hamilton Coming Out Proud Discussion Group** We meet every first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings start at 6:30 pm at Gomorrah's. Call us for more details: 905- [REDACTED], or toll-free 1-888- [REDACTED], or email [REDACTED]

**ACCKWA Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Youth Discussion Group:** A group for people aged 16-25, sponsored by ACCKWA and held in Waterloo, 7:00-9:00 pm. To join, or for more information, call Rob Gascho at (519) [REDACTED]

**GLOW Coming Out Discussion Group** explores issues in sexual orientation; Hagey Hall Rms. 373/378, University of Waterloo, 7:30-9:00 pm. Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgendered people, and those questioning their sexuality are welcome.

Information: [REDACTED].

**Topics For Both Groups To Be Announced at this month's meetings**

**GLOWnight:** a social evening in Hagey Hall Rms. 373/378, University of Waterloo, 9:00-11:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. Meet old friends, and make new ones.

**GLOW's Second Discussion Group** also meets in Hagey Hall Rms. 373 & 378, University of Waterloo, 7:30-9:00

Calling all  
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to Club Renaissance



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Brian Setzer Orchestra, Johnny Favourite Swing Orchestra,  
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Red & the Red Hots, Crescent City Maulers, Benny Goodman,  
Glen Miller, Big Joe Turner, Cab Calloway, Woody Herman,  
Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Count Bassie, Big Rude Jake,  
Diana Krull, Indigo Swing, Blues Jumpers,  
Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers, Gene Krupa with Irene Day,  
The Mighty Blues Kings, Billie Holliday, Ella Fitzgerald, Janis Joplin,  
Jimmy Smith, Shirley Horn  
and more!



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Website: <http://web.idirect.com/~clubren>

# COMMUNITY LISTINGS

*What's Happening?*

## Swimming

**KW Aquatics Club (KWAC)** swims three times a week swims at the Waterloo Recreation Center Swimplex on Father David Bauer Road in Waterloo. We are open to swimmers at all levels and of all orientations. There is a small entrance fee each time you swim; join us afterwards for some refreshments too. Telephone Mark at 747-█ for more information.

## Running

**KW Front Runners** is a running and walking group. Telephone Mark at 747-█ or Peter at 741-█ for details.

## JANUARY EVENTS

### Friday January 15

**PFLAG** (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meet at 8:00 pm. PFLAG is a support group for people who are learning to understand and come to terms with the sexual orientation of family members or friends in a confidential and supportive atmosphere. For the location of the meeting and more information, call Evie at 742-█ (Kitchener) or Sue at (519) 650-█ (Cambridge) or email them at █



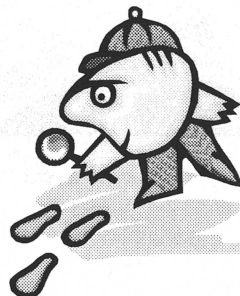
## JANUARY EVENTS Continued

### Tuesday January 26

**Homecoming: Living Fully As A Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Person**, an educational support group for men and women over 25, who are facing the challenge of defining and embracing their sexual identity.

#### Included for discussion:

- Complexities Surrounding Sexual Orientation
  - Toxic Nature of Homophobia
  - Impact of Shame on Identity, Sexual Expression and Relationships
  - Coming Out Process: An Individual Journey
  - The Risks and Benefits of Coming Out
  - The Effects of the Chronic Suppression of Feelings
  - Organizing Lives Without Sexual, Legal or Religious Support
  - Creating Meaningful Relationships Without Role Models
- Winter 1999: January 26 to April 6 (March 26 excluded)  
 Cost is \$120.00  
 (10 sessions, Tuesdays 7-9pm)  
 For more information call Judy-Lee or Debbie at Interfaith at 743-█



# COMMUNITY

## Social and Service Organizations

**Distress Line-** (519) 745-1166

**Lesbian/Gay/Bi-sexual Youth Line:**  
1-800-268-YOUTH

**Two Spirited People of First Nations:**  
Toronto-416-944-9300

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

**ACCKWA** (The Aids Committee of Cambridge, K-W and Area) 85 Frederick St. E., Kitchener, Ont., (519) 570-3687

**ACGWC** (Aids Committee of Guelph and Wellington County) 204-85 Norfolk Street, Guelph Ont., (519) 763-2255

**AWARE K-W:** A Christian gay-positive group with roots in the Christian Reformed Church, meets every second Sunday evening of each month. For information call Gary Terpstra at 747-█ or Fred Rolleman at 741-█

**Brethren Mennonite Council For Gays and Lesbians**, P.O. Box █, Eastwood Square, Kitchener, Ont, N2H 6S9

**COLLAGE: (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere)** Provides education, support and community on local and international levels. 415-█ or contact Sarah at █

**Women's Centers:**  
UofW (519) 888-4567 ext. 3457

**Substance Abuse:** (Kit) (519) 741-3827

**OUTline:** A support and resource phone line for people dealing with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues at the University of Guelph and the surrounding area. Phone lines open every evening; Sunday through Thursday, 7 to 10 pm and Friday and Saturday, 6 to 9 pm. Call (519) 836-4550 or email [outline@uoguelph.ca](mailto:outline@uoguelph.ca) or web: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/~outline>

#### Sexual Assault Centers:

KW.....(519)741-8633  
 Brantford.....(519)751-1164  
 Cambridge.....(519) █  
 Guelph.....(519)823-5806

**Waterloo Region Alliance For Equal Rights-Kitchener-**(519) 743-5832

## RADIO SHOWS

**Woman Made Collective Show**  
CFRU 93.3 FM Airl Mondays 6-7pm

**Women's Spin-- CKMS 100.3 FM**  
Airl Wednesday Nights-6-8pm

**Leaping Lesbians-- CKMS 100.3 FM**  
Airl Thursday Nights-6-8pm

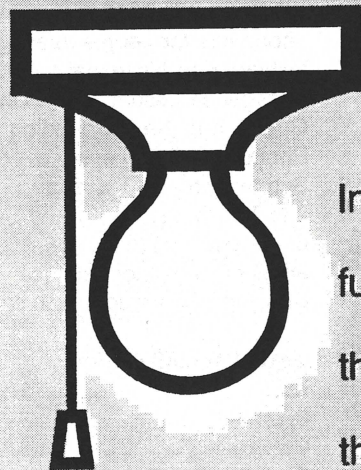
**Nowhere To Hide--CKMS 100.3 FM**  
Airl Wednesday Nights-8-9pm

**Fag Factory--CFRU 93.3 FM**  
Airl 2pm Thursdays

**Queer's Kick Ass-CFRU 93.3**  
Airl Thursdays 11pm-1am

**Out & About Queer Radio Friday at 9:30pm**  
on CKWR 98.5 FM.

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# Entertainment

## MOVIE REVIEWS "Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit"

**Director:** Beeban Kidron  
**Cast:** Geraldine McEwan,  
Charlotte Coleman



**Review:** Adapted for BBC-TV by Jeanette Winterson from her novel of the same name *Oranges* chronicles the coming-of-age of a young British lesbian, Jess (Geraldine McEwan). In her turbulent struggles with her domineering evangelist mother (Charlotte Coleman), Jess grows up to be a fiercely independent young woman. This poignant story features a marvelous ensemble cast and charming performances from the two lead actresses. The film received the Audience Award for Best Feature in the 1990 San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

## Midnight In The Garden of Good and Evil-1997



**Director:** Clint Eastwood  
**Cast:** Kevin Spacey, John Cusack, Jack Thompson, Alison Eastwood, The Lady Chablis, Irma P. Hall, Jude Law, Dorothy Loudon

**Review:** With his most ambitious film to date, though not necessarily his most accomplished, director Eastwood takes a walk on the wild side--Southern style--in bringing John Berendt's best-seller to the screen. Eastwood wouldn't exactly be at the top of the list to helm a Southern Gothic mystery-comedy, but its theme of murder and of its moral ambiguity have found their way in many of his best and most recent films (*Unforgiven*, *A Perfect World* etc.) Based on a true story, "Midnight In the Garden of Good and Evil"

casts Cusack as John Kelso, a New York writer assigned to cover an exclusive society party in Savannah. Agendas change, however, when Jim Williams (Spacey), the party's host, is arrested that night for shooting his hustler boyfriend (Law). Was it self-defense or premeditated? Eastwood is able to convey the rhythms of Southern culture and attitudes with a leisurely tempo, though at 154 minutes the film is entirely too long... Also of note are Thompson as Williams' dedicated and bulldog attorney; Hall as a spiritualist who may know more than she lets on; and stealing every scene she's in is The Lady Chablis, a transvestite playing herself who has undoubtedly learned through years of performing just how to snare the spotlight.



## Bound

**Director:** Larry Wachowski & Andy Wachowski



**Cast:** Jennifer Tilly, Gina Gershon, Joe Pantoliano

**Review:** A heart-pounding thriller about two women who try to cheat the Mafia out of \$2 million. Pulsating with sexual tension, *Bound* is a landmark Hollywood film for its depiction of the two gutsy lesbian heroines: Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon. The two are slinkingly beautiful, their initial scenes together nearly melt the screen and the sex scenes are incredibly hot. Far from simply a "lesbian" film, this riveting, taut crime drama is a must for all queer audiences.

## Boyfriends

**Director:** Neil Hunter & Tom Hunsinger  
**Cast:** James Dreyfus, Mark Sands, Michael Urwin, Andrew Abelson

**Review:** This insightful and vastly entertaining comedy-drama, depicting three troubled gay male couples, is both knowingly funny and unflinchingly on-target.

The story revolves around an Easter weekend country retreat arranged for six young gay friends and bed-mates. But what begins as a relaxing time soon unravels into a series of bed-hopping, ego-bruising emotional turmoil



to rival the grand-daddy of gay male angst films, "The Boys in the Band!" A hilariously painful dissection of gay men's re-

lationships--almost required viewing before calling U-Haul.

## Theater Review: Comedy casts two gay couples in Bible tales

By Clifford A. Ridley  
Philadelphia Inquirer  
THEATER CRITIC

**NEW YORK** -- It has not been a good theatrical year for gay biblical revisionism. First, we were visited with Terrence McNally's *Corpus Christi*, which told the story of Jesus as if He were a 20th-century gay man. Now comes Paul Rudnick's *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, which appropriates a familiar homophobic gibe to transform Adam and Eve into Adam and Steve, with a lesbian pair named Jane and Mabel for company. Rudnick's play has the virtue of being funny, at least most of the time, but it isn't appreciably more trenchant.

The comedy at the New York Theatre Workshop is really two plays, one per act. In the first, Rudnick seems to be reworking *The Skin of Our Teeth* as he introduces Adam, Steve, Jane and Mabel as

the world's first humans and parades them through various biblical events -- the expulsion from Eden, the flood, the exodus -- up to the birth of Jesus. Much of this is rather more free with logic than you may accept, but it does allow the playwright to indulge an agreeable fondness for anachronism. (During their cave-people phase, the four principals enumerate their contributions to humankind: the wheel, the lever, shampoo and conditioner in a single bottle.)

The possible existence of a god is much on everyone's mind -- Adam is a believer, Steve is not -- and comes to the fore in the second act, which takes place on Christmas Eve in Adam and Steve's New York apartment. Steve has AIDS; Jane is pregnant with a child conceived with Adam's sperm; and among the guests invited for the evening are a flaky female Mormon and a disabled lesbian rabbi, on hand to marry Jane and Mabel. Describing life's unfairness, the rabbi says, "I'm paralyzed and Brooke Shields has a series."

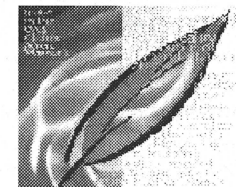
Where Act 1 owes its tone and substance to Thornton Wilder and biblical film epics, Act 2 is clearly Rudnick's homage to *Angels in America*. But it's no less scattershot than Act 1, being an uneasy mixture of mordant gags (many supplied by Steve Bartlett, a stitch in several supporting roles) and theistic argument about the apparent contradiction of a god who promulgates both life and death. Rudnick resolves the discussion neatly enough, but it's impossible to ignore the feeling that you've heard most of it before.

Because Rudnick cranks out funny lines the way Bayer cranks out aspirin, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* is blessedly easy to take even at its most aimless, and the cast directed by Christopher Ashley (headlined by Alan Tudyk as Adam, Juan Carlos Hernandez as Steve, Becky Ann Baker as Jane and Kathryn Meisle as Mabel) is pleasant company. Yet the play feels thrown together, a casserole of a few good ideas and quite a bit of filler. Notable in the latter category is the omnipotent stage man-

ager (Amy Sedaris) who wanders through the show cuing every single effect -- a fittingly godlike device, but eventually a tiresome one.

## Adriene Wentworth Water In The Eyes of Time

All ye who find chant albums centering and useful, please take note! Founder of the Christa Healing Institute in Colorado, Adriene Wentworth has created a 1995 album of nine mantras set to



**Water In The Eyes of Time** original music of rhythmic upbeat melodies. Gentle bells, keyboards, didgeridoo, percussion, strings and nature sounds accompany the mantras to Gayatri, Lakshmi, Krishna, Ganesha, Rama, Shiva, Durga, Hanuman and Panduranga. These meditative chants were created to empower, heal and invoke protection. A beautiful and interesting weaving of sound and voice; recommended for stress relief!

## How Mark Tewksbury Came Out

The Canadian Olympic swimmer made a big splash with the announcement that he's gay, and succeeded in making the occasion pride-filled and spiced



with humor 1992 Olympic backstroke champion Mark Tewksbury picked the time and the method by which he would

make it entirely public that he's a gay man, and he wanted to make the event not just proud, but joyful. He chose December 15 for the airing of an interview on CBC's Newsworld and the opening of his one-man show "Out and About" at Toronto's Buddies in the Bad Times Cafe (performed that night as a benefit for the Casey House AIDS hospice), and followed up with a media conference on December 17. His remarks have also raised a couple of specific issues regarding corporate dis-

crimination and the lack of pride proclamations by his native Calgary.

Although a couple of editorials have taken a who-cares position on the matter, Tewksbury's had some 65 additional requests for interviews and at least 17 writeups in Canadian media so far, so clearly there is interest. After all, he was not only the nation's sweetheart as an athlete, but was also visible everywhere for awhile in product promotions and charity pitches, and went on to be a popular motivational speaker. He said himself that, "Maybe it shouldn't be an issue. I'm hoping in 10 years, it is not. But the reality of 1998 is, you're here, we're here ... it is an issue, it still is."

First, it should be understood that Tewksbury has not been very closeted since leaving swimming after the 1992 Olympics - he just hadn't discussed his orientation with the media or in public. He was seen in gay venues around Toronto even in 1992. Although when "Frank" magazine tried to follow up on it then, Tewksbury's agent had them publish a letter de-

nying that Tewksbury was gay and even inventing a girlfriend, and in 1994 Tewksbury went to Australia rather than face the "outing" music -- but by May of this year, Toronto's gay magazine "Xtra!" ran a photo of him arm-in-arm with another man, his partner Benjamin Kiss.

Tewksbury even realizes that many people had already assumed he was gay during his swimming career. He said, "It would be hard for people not to have known. There was no girlfriend. I was 'way out there. If you guys [in his theater audience] could have seen me, I was screaming back then, too. I was just leading cheers, that's all. But I was very good at what I did. People wanted to be like me. It was an incredible way to see how creative you can be. The swimming part was here, and the sex part was over here. And never shall those two meet. And it's OK, as long as we don't speak about being gay and touch people."

When a "financial institution" which is "not a bank" (and definitely not the Investors Group, a significant sponsor of his swim-

ming career) cancelled a six-figure contract for his motivational speaking services on the grounds that he was "too openly gay," Tewksbury came to a turning point. Once he told the world that this was what led him to become still more open, naturally there was great interest in just which financial institution had been so blatant in its homophobia -- but Tewksbury is standing very firm about not telling. On the one hand, he said he "did not want to dwell on the negative;" on the other, he wanted to first consult with the company to make sure his sexual orientation was not merely an issue for one or two individuals there.

His one-man show, which he hopes to take on the road (even back home to Calgary), relates his life story just as his motivational speeches did, but including and emphasizing his sexual orientation -- and humor. "I'm not just gay, I'm a screamin' queen, so if we're going to use a label, let's get it straight!" he said. "I always knew. My first sexual fantasies were about men. And then we went through the 'playing

with Barbies in the bathtub' stage. And there was the whole drag queen side," beginning with trying on his mother's clothes in his childhood. (In the show, he plays several characters, including his grandmother and a cheerleader.)

But it was no laughing matter to grow up gay in Calgary, which Tewksbury described as "not the most diverse of cities in the country," although he refused to be baited into describing it as redneck. "The voice inside my head for years was focused only on the things about me that I hate. Because I've been coming from a place of fear, of half-truths. When I was growing up, I used to stand in front of mirrors and think about killing myself because I was gay. And that's still the number one motivation behind teen suicide. That little part of me remained locked up for 30 years, and finally at 30, I am free of that. I am open to who I am. I've never felt freer, better, more whole as a human being than in the last couple of days. My worlds are finally integrated. It's too painful to live a double life."

In his youthful struggles, "Luckily there was swimming. Luckily there was sport. I think sport saved my life to a certain extent when I was a teenager." And he even feels that his struggles as a gay youth somehow made him a stronger competitor, although he says that, "Sports is the last closet." He had a crush for some time on swimmer Victor Davis, who knew Tewksbury was gay and looked down on him for it -- but didn't blow his cover. Tewksbury describes Davis as having "spit in each of his opponents' lanes to intimidate them." But at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, where the two men were part of Canada's 4x100 medley relay team, Davis put his arm around Tewksbury while psyching him up for the team's bid for a silver medal. Tewksbury said that, "was the first time that I felt like I had been accepted for being gay, and for being a swimmer." They won the medal.



# People

New mom **Jodie Foster** made a rare appearance

as a host, along with Isabella

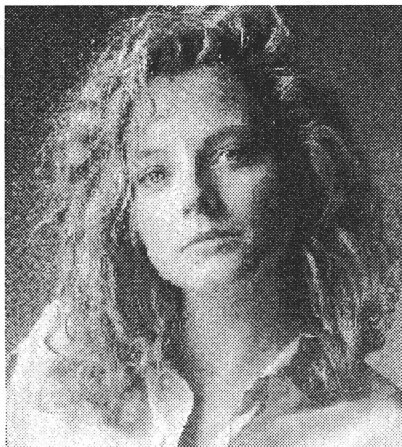
Rossellini and Winona Ryder, at the Film Foundation's recent showing in L.A. of the restored version of 1948's *Joan of Arc*, which starred Rossellini's mom, Ingrid

Bergman. In greeting the crowd, Foster joked that she was delighted to be there because it let her get out of the house to see a movie, which "I haven't done in four months." She went on to say that as a young actress she'd been inspired by Bergman's *Joan of Arc*, and felt the movie would give hope to young actresses today, who might think: "Do I want to be a bimbo on *The Love Boat*? No, I'll be *Joan of Arc*."

## Foster's Acting Method by Martha Sherrill

Freedom is the problem. When Foster got out of college, at Yale, she

lapsed into a six-month depression, she says, the result of endless open



## JODY FOSTER

skies of no plans and no focus. She thrives on limitations and scripted life. Routine. She thought then she might give up acting entirely, since the roles coming her way were lousy, passed over by lesser actresses. "My ego was too big at that point," she says, "to go back to smaller roles or TV or commercials. I didn't want to humiliate myself." She considered becoming a writer; it had been easy to pump out papers and articles at school. She just followed the rules, completed assignments.

(Excerpt from Dec '94)

## GEORGE MICHAEL REVEALS DETAILS OF HIS TEAROOM BUST

by Rex Wockner

Gay pop singer **George Michael** revealed details of his April arrest in a Beverly Hills, Calif., park toilet during a live interview on MTV Nov. 4.

"I got followed into the restroom and then this cop -- I didn't know it was a cop, obviously -- he started playing this game, which I think is called, 'I'll show you mine, you show me yours, and then when you show me yours, I'm going to nick you,'" Michael said.

"Actually, what happened was once he got an eyeful, he walked past me, straight past me and out, and I thought, that's kind of odd. I thought, maybe he's just not impressed. And then I went to walk

back to my car, and as I got back to the car, I was arrested on the street. ... If someone's waving their genitalia at you, you don't automatically assume that they're an officer of the law. ... I've never been able to turn down a free meal," Michael joked.

Michael said he isn't in an open relationship, he's

# People

just oversexed. "I'm not saying that I have an open relationship with my boyfriend but he knows who I am," Michael said.

"He knows that I'm generally oversexed, so he's been very, very good. ... We love each other and he understands that it was a stupid mistake and he's forgiven me, I hope."

Michael thinks his arrest may have involved some cooperation between Beverly Hills police and Britain's tabloid press.

"I don't think it was by chance that this happened to me," he said. "We have some fairly vicious people in the country where I come from and they work in certain streets in London. I think it might have had something to do with it. ... There was a little more cooperation than you would expect between the police and the paparazzi."

Michael also said he didn't feel outed by the arrest because he thought he was already out. "I really thought to my fans I outed myself with the last album because -- and it wouldn't seem that

way in America because in America there hasn't been that much publicity about me in the last seven or eight years because I just haven't been here or been on TV -- but, actually, there's been a lot of publicity about my sexuality over the years in Europe and my ex-partner's death was reported very widely, so when I dedicated the album to him and wrote the album for him, I felt like I was coming out to my fans, and I didn't really care about people who weren't interested in my music," he said.



"So, I certainly wasn't gonna go to [the journalists on London's] Fleet Street and say, 'Yes, I'm gay,'" Michael said. "The main point is that I outed myself in my life about eight or nine years ago and I've been out with everyone in my life -- even casual acquaintances, my family, friends -- anyone who's met me within that time has known that I'm

gay, just not the press.

"So, really, this doesn't feel like an outing, this is just public outing. But any gay person who comes out realizes that the tough bit is your friends and family and that was a great thing - it was a great, liberating thing and I did it a long time ago. I don't know if I would have come out to the press. They would have got me, some way or other. This is how it ended up because I wouldn't give it to them."

Michael's new single and video, "**Outside**," which debuted during the MTV broadcast, is all about public sex and police repression of its practitioners.



# HUMOUR



## FELINE PHYSICS

### Law of Cat Inertia

A cat at rest will tend to remain at rest, unless acted upon by some outside force - such as the opening of cat food, or a nearby scurrying mouse.

### Law of Cat Motion

A cat will move in a straight line, unless there is a really good reason to change direction.

### Law of Cat Magnetism

All blue blazers and black sweaters attract cat hair in direct proportion to the darkness of the fabric.

### Law of Cat Thermodynamics

Heat flows from a warmer to a cooler body, except in the case of a cat, in which case all heat flows to the cat.

### Law of Cat Stretching

A cat will stretch to a distance proportional to the length of the nap just taken.

### Law of Cat Sleeping

All cats must sleep with people whenever possible, in a position as uncomfortable for the people involved, and as comfortable as possible for the cat.

### Law of Cat Elongation

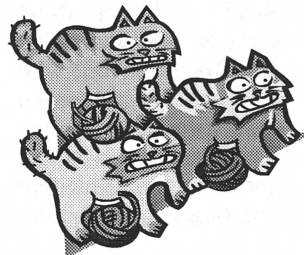
A cat can make her body long enough to reach just about any counter top that has anything remotely interesting on it.

### Law of Cat Obstruction

A cat must lay on the floor in such a position to obstruct the maximum amount of human foot traffic.

### Law of Cat Acceleration

A cat will accelerate at a constant rate, until he gets good and ready to Cats must attend all meals when anything good is served.



### Law of Dinner Table Attendance

Cats must attend all meals when anything good is served.

### Law of Rug Configuration

No rug may remain in its naturally flat state for very long.



### Law of Obedience Resistance

A cat's resistance varies in proportion to a human's desire for her to do something.

### First Law of Energy Conservation

Cats know that energy can neither be created nor destroyed and will, there

fore, use as little energy as possible.

### Law of Refrigerator Observation

If a cat watches a refrigerator long enough, someone will come along and take out something good to eat.

### Law of Cat Embarrassment

A cat's irritation rises in direct proportion to her embarrassment times the amount of human laughter.

### Law of Furniture Replacement

A cat's desire to scratch furniture is directly proportional to the cost of the furniture.

### Law of Cat Landing

A cat will always land in the softest place possible; often the mid-section of an unsuspecting, reclining human.

### Law of Pill Rejection

Any pill given to a cat has the potential energy to reach escape velocity.

### Law of Cat Composition

A cat is composed of Matter + Anti-Matter + It Doesn't Matter.

## Comedy Quotes

Have you ever noticed... Anybody going slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac?

--George Carlin

You have to stay in shape. My grandmother, she started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She's 97 today and we don't know where the [heck] she is.

--Ellen DeGeneris

I'm not into working out. My philosophy: No pain, no pain.

--Carol Leifer

The second day of a diet is always easier than the first. By the second day you're off it.

--Jackie Gleason

I went into a McDonald's yesterday and said, "I'd like some fries." The girl at the counter said, "do you want fries with that?"

--Jay Leno

The reason most people play golf is to wear clothes they would not be caught dead in otherwise.

--Roger Himon

I'm desperately trying to figure out why kamikaze pilots wore helmets.

--Dave Edison

If it weren't for electricity we'd all be watching television by candlelight.

--George Gobel

I am not a vegetarian because I love animals; I am a vegetarian because I hate plants.

--A. Whitney Brown

Suppose you were an idiot...And suppose you were a member of Congress...But I repeat myself.

--Mark Twain

Maybe there is no actual place called hell. Maybe hell is just having to listen to our grandparents breathe through their noses when they're eating sandwiches.

--Jim Carrey

It's man's ability to use language that makes him the dominant species on the planet. But I think there's one other thing that separates us from animals. We aren't afraid of vacuum cleaners.

--Jeff Stilson

What do people mean when they say the computer went down on me?

--Marilyn Pittman

Why is it that when we talk to God we're said to be praying, but when God talks to us we're schizophrenic?

--Lily Tomlin

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**"Beginnings:**  
Lesbians Talk  
About the First  
Time They Met  
Their Long-  
Term Partner"  
by Lindsey Elder  
(Editor)



**Review:**

Love at first sight? Cynics beware! In these 50 short narratives of new love, lesbians describe their first meetings with the women who would later become their life partners. For almost all of the writers included here, the ground shook, the clouds flew apart, and the sun scattered diamonds on the path (or maybe lesbians just love a good story).

In each of these tales, there is a moment when sparks flew. "I was almost

blinded by her electric light," writes Delane Daugherty, "and astounded at how everything else dimmed a little." Jules Torti agrees: "She was the one; I knew this instantly." For Shilpa Mehta, "it was as if, for a moment, time had stopped just for us." And then there's Merrill, who made such a bad first impression on Mary, the beautiful new dyke in town, that when she asked her to call sometime, Mary looked away and said: "We'll see. But I don't think so." Some of the most touching stories in **Beginnings** describe situations in which women were forced to break up families and long-term relationships to be with each other, compelled to seek happiness even at the risk of causing pain. A warm read for

a chilly night; balm for incurable romantics. -- Regina Marler

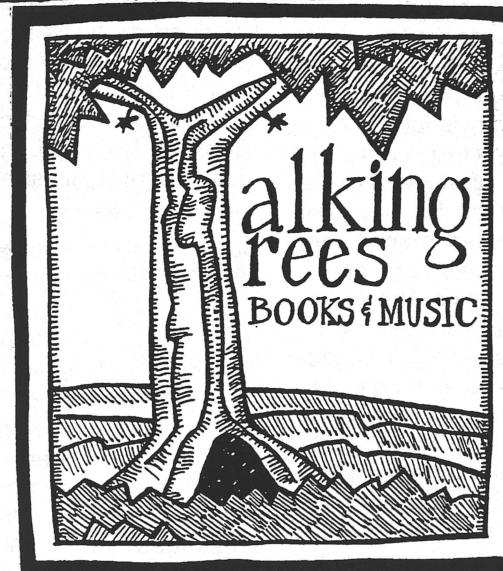
**Synopsis:**

Lesbians describes the first time they met their long-term partner, detailing initial adventures that range from wild to mundane, from hilarious comedy-of-errors encounters to near-spiritual minglings of the soul. The women who tell their stories in this collection point up several important life lessons: that first impressions are not necessarily accurate, that romance can often come quite unexpectedly, and that a beginning frequently marks the end of a long, long search .

Lesbians describe the first time they met their long-term partner, detailing initial adventures that range from the wild to the mundane, from hilarious comedy-of-errors en

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### "Beginnings"

Continued from page 43

counters to near-spiritual minglings of the soul. Whether meeting for the first time in a Laundromat or on a blind date, in a bar or at a parent-teacher conference, the women who tell their stories in this collection point up several important life lessons: that first impressions are not necessarily accurate, that romance can often come quite unexpectedly, and that a beginning frequently marks the end of a long, long search.



**Tom of Finland : His Life and Times**  
(Stone-wall Inn Editions)  
by F. Val-

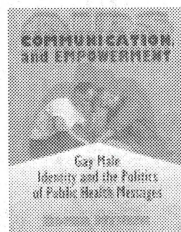
**entine, III Hooven**  
Paperback - (December 1994) --198 pages

Perhaps no one has had a greater influence on gay male fashion than illustrator-cartoonist Tom of Finland. In this volume his unusual and triumphant life story is told in words and pictures. The pictures, of course, steal the show, as Tom's bubble-bottomed macho men fight, love, and punish each other. There's still much to be said about Tom's impact on American and European gay culture, but this book provides a good starting point not only for Tom's fans who want to learn about the man behind the leather-clad images, but also for the uninitiated who've always wondered where the leather-cap-and-chaps look originated. Sadly, with Tom's death the flow of testosterone-packed pictures has stopped, but volumes like this show that there is still life in his legend.

#### Synopsis:

Scandanavian illustrator Tom of Finland is acknowledged for having

shaped the erotic imagination of gay men. With Tom's full cooperation before his death, Hoover has written a biography of the man, and traced the evolution and impact of his art on the world. Includes photos, illustrations and cartoons.



Aids, Communication, and Empowerment :

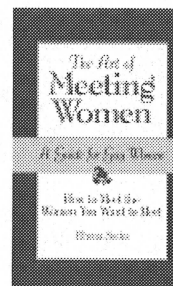
Gay Male Identity and the Politics of Public Health Messages by Roger Myrick (Editor) Paperback - 141 pages (January 1997) Haworth Pr;

**"Becoming Visible:" A Reader in Gay and Lesbian History for High School and College Students**

**Kevin Jennings (Editor)**  
Covering two thousand years and a wide range of cultures, this history reader brings gay men and lesbians out of hiding and into the classroom.

### The Art of Meeting Women : A Guide for Gay Women

by Rhona Sacks  
Paperback - 192 pages (February 1998) Slope Books  
I S B N # : 0966069803



### "The Art of Meeting Women,"

gives you all the tools you need to meet compatible gay women easily! This book contains a powerful self-help program that begins with guided personal reflection and effective self-esteem boosting then moves on to the inside knowledge of where the women are and proven strategies for connecting through enhanced social skills.

#### Learn how to:

- Find new friends
- Conquer shyness
- Overcome fear of rejection
- Approach women comfortably
- Introduce yourself with ease
- Ask a woman for a date effortlessly
- Create happy relationships

Here's What The Critics Are Saying About The #1

Bestseller, "The Art of Meeting Women"

"The Art of Meeting

Women Is Simply Brilliant -- A Very Important Asset To All Lesbians."

--Queer News

"This Book Belongs In Every Single Lesbian's Library. The Word Here Is, Buy One For A Friend, And Buy One For Yourself."

--The Louisville Letter

"The Pocket Book and Bible For Those Seeking Companionship In The Lesbian Community. This Insightful Book Offers A New View Of The Lesbian Dating Scene, As Well As Real Ways To Get It All Started."

--Between the Lines Magazine

"With numerous exercises and examples, Sacks makes you want to run out to the nearest party and risk rejection. The Art of Meeting Women Is For Everyone."

-- The Advocate

Excerpted from "The Art of Meeting Women" : A Guide for Gay Women by Rhona Sacks. Copyright © 1998.

"Many gay women express dissatisfaction with the lesbian social scene. Over and over again I hear women talk about how hard it is to meet the women they want to meet."

"We want to meet other gay women for obvious reasons: friendship and romance. Unfortunately, we aren't always sure how to do it. We are social creatures by nature, but we don't come with instructions as to how to make contact with each other effectively."

"When I first started dating women, I noticed how difficult it was for gay women (including myself) to be assertive about meeting each other. It surprised me how many of us were infected with a devastating disorder, social insecurity."

"What causes those glue-traps on the bottom of our shoes which stop us from walking toward a woman we want to meet and those dust-mites in our throats which keep us from introducing ourselves?"

"Traditionally women have been socialized to be passive. These childhood lessons strangle our adult social skills."

**"Straight Jobs, Gay Lives:"** Gay and Lesbian Professionals, the Harvard Business School, and the American Workplace.

**Authors:** Annette Friskopp Sharon Silverstein;  
**Publisher:** Simon & Schuster;

**What It's About?**

With hundreds of first-person stories, Straight Jobs, Gay Lives is the first in-depth look at the careers and personal lives of gay and lesbian professionals. Contents include:

- Being Closeted vs. Coming Out
- Discrimination and Success
- Role Models, Mentors, and Networking
- Race and Gender Issues
- Parents, Partners, Children
- HIV/AIDS

There is also an extensive resources section including the nondiscrimination and domestic partner benefits policies of over 600 companies, along with hundreds of gay employee group and gay professional group contact listings.

**What's the Harvard Business School Connection?**

**Harvard Business School**

(HBS) graduates are among the world's most sought after corporate managers and business professionals. Straight Jobs, Gay Lives is based on interviews with over one hundred gay and lesbian graduates of HBS from the 1940's to the present day.

**STRAIGHT JOBS GAY LIVES**

GAY AND LESBIAN PROFESSIONALS,  
THE HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL, AND  
THE AMERICAN WORKPLACE

ANNETTE FRISKOPP  
AND  
SHARON SILVERSTEIN

enties. They work in virtually every business field - and their pre-business school experiences are equally varied. No other gay workplace book includes such demographic diversity among its sources. In depth interviews. Interviews lasted from one to two hours, and were painstakingly transcribed. Quotes in the book reflect the richness of these stories, and many last for paragraphs rather than sentences.

In depth analysis. Straight Jobs, Gay Lives does not simply report findings or promote a political agenda. It offers an in depth look at where the movement for equal rights re sexual orientation in the workplace is going, and how so ciety is

How is "Straight Jobs, Gay Lives," different from other books on gay workplace issues?

Diversity of the interviewees. Perhaps surprisingly, Harvard Business School graduates are a heterogeneous group. We interviewed men, women, whites, Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, Protestants, Catholics, and Jews from their twenties to their sev-

likely to change as a result. By comparing the obstacles and successes of gay people near the top of the economic ladder with the experiences of other gay professionals, Straight Jobs, Gay Lives is able to suggest opportunities for personal empowerment and activism that are open to every gay man and lesbian. Comprehensiveness of resource listings.



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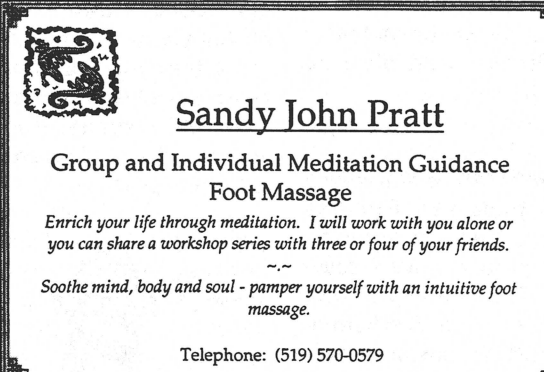
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**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

Continued From Page 26

leadership/networking retreat for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth from smaller centers in Ontario. Health units, AIDS committees, schools, other coalitions, like ours, and LGB youth groups (such as the flourishing Rainbow Youth here in Waterloo Region, sponsored by ACCKWA) were contacted, and the planning committee now has representations from across Southern Ontario and the Near North. The retreat is intended to bring areas in Ontario, where LGB youth are much more isolated, and where they have fewer opportunities to network with each other than LGB youth in larger centers like Toronto.

*The Coalition for Support of Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth welcomes new members, especially youth, who are interested in volunteering a few hours each month. For more information regarding volunteering, call Marion Markham at: (519) 741-5887*



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**Psychiatrists Converting Gays**

By **ROBERT WELLER**

**DENVER (AP) --** The American Psychiatric Association's board voted unanimously Friday to reject therapy aimed solely at turning gays into heterosexuals, saying it can cause depression, anxiety and self-destructive behavior.

"All the evidence would indicate this is the way people are born. We treat disease, not the way people are," said Dr. Nada Stotland, head of the association's joint committee on public affairs.

Therapy aimed at one due to their orientation implies that orientation is a disease, which it is not. It is therefore, unnecessary.

# MUSINGS OF REVERIE

## REVERIE

BY A.J. MAHARI

Reverie, silent reverie; softly soaking deeply into the conscious desires of all that you wish for; and of all that you may not even dare to imagine.

Imagine, your reverie, silent at first, then slowly, finding voice; dreamy notions becoming reality by simply believing in them: imagine.

What was once very loud and energetic has now been quieted and silenced by years of steady wind wearing on your soul. But, alas, the winds of woe will shift. Allow into your stream of consciousness wonder and awe and hope and faith and your reverie will not be able to remain silent for long.

Raindrops falling securely to puddles. Puddles safely being splashed by the nature of life's activity. The ebb and flow of nature when all is harmoniously in balance. The beauty of the balance be-

tween rain and drought. It happens as it is supposed to happen, in the natural order, without anyone to try to figure it out.

This balance between safety and security, fear and healthy risk is what the challenge of life is all about.

Take your silent reverie and splash it around in the puddles of your soul. Still waters may run deep, but the cost to your landscape may be broad and steep. Dreams are made to be realized and not merely wanted from afar. Dream your dreams, give them voice, give them life. Allow yourself to shine brightly. Yes, giving voices to your imaginary visions increases your choices.

Reverie, silent reverie; softly soaking deeply into the conscious desires of all that you wish for; and of all that you may not even dare to imagine. Claim this reverie, it is yours and you deserve today and every day.



**"Don't make today's judgments based upon yesterday's memories"**  
by Leo Buscaglia in his book: **"Born To Love"**

There is little doubt that we are largely products of our memories. Without our being fully aware of it, past experiences have a way of weaving themselves into an ever expanding web of entrapment, ensnaring our present view through past beliefs. When we attempt to establish what is, we are bogged down by what was.

But there is hope. No one is permanently preprogrammed. We all have the ability to assimilate new experience. But to do so, we must battle our memories and lessen their power. Unless we want our future to be nothing more than a rehash of our past, we must be aware of the power of the past to affect our behavior. Only then can we be free to create our future.

**"Our memory is a monster; You forget...it doesn't. It simply files things away. It keeps things for you or hides things from you...and summons to your recall with a will of its own. You think you have a memory, but it has you!"** John Irving

# MUSINGS OF REVERIE

## MAKING IT

BY A.J. MAHARI

"Something inside **SO STRONG**....I know that I can make it...I know that I can make it" (Kenny Rogers)...I know that I can make it!!! Knowing I can make it, makes all of the difference in the world.

Making it **IS** living each moment of each day to the best of your ability. Making it means coping with what life in and through all of its paradoxical polarities beseeches you to hold. The joyfully-sorrow-filled growth; the deceptively-truthful risks of reality; the laughter and the tears; the aspirations realized in the daylight and the failures equally met with in the dark of night: all of it is the sum total of your learning experience. The beckoning burgeoning bravery that you show in your dedicated determination to make it through each and every day of the gift-given to you....your life: is what love is.



Making it is the difference between now and what used to be. There lies the difference between now and what used to be.

If I knew then what I know now...If I knew then: what I know now:.....then maybe; maybe, I would have known how...maybe: I would have known how to not hurt so much and to not have hurt others equally as much as I was hurt.

What I have now, is now. Who I am now is the sum total of all that I've learned so far. I will do my best with that. And there lies the difference between now and what used to be.

When you hurt it is hard to let someone inside. Often when you hurt you do not even fully let yourself inside to make that difference between learning the lessons and merely suffering the pain. The pain that teaches us and enables us to grow is **NOT** suffering. Suffering comes from being unwilling to be grateful by refusing to learn the lessons that living brings to bear in everyday experience.

Be grateful for this moment, for this day and for every lesson that life sees fit to teach you. Value the experience that each day unfolds for you to flow with and through toward yourself and your soul.

Anything can happen.... happen....anything can happen, as long as we keep on believing.

Making it is the difference between now and what used to be. Loving yourself, authentically and consistently, without penalty at the hands of your vulnerabilities, needs, and dreams: there lies the difference between now and what used to be.

"To return to an alert innocence is not so much an effort, like moving a pile of bricks from here to there, as it is standing still long enough to let the spirit find you. It is said that all that you are seeking is also seeking you, that if you lie still, sit still, it will find you. It has been waiting for you a long time. Once it is here, don't move away. Rest. See what happens next.

--Clarissa Pinkola Estes Ph.D.

**Suicide—  
Young Gay Males  
Continued From Page 10**

Those in society who make snide remarks, who call different people fags accentuate this reaction. Religious leaders who crusade against homosexuality make it difficult if the child is being reared in a home where religion is important. The message of judgement rather than love comes across.

As a parent myself who raised three boys, I would have found it difficult (but possible) to accept one of my sons coming out to me at an early age although if one were to come out to me now, I would hug him and be there for him. Perhaps my own coming out made a difference BUT a parent often has hopes for grandchildren and such so when my boys reached puberty between 1980 and 1986 I would have had a difficult time with it particularly since my wife would NOT have accepted it. Indeed, I was one of those who was different back in elementary school and learned how to hide it by trying to show the world I was heterosexual myself.

Interestingly, I was raised during the 50s when I knew nothing of homosexuality and even

though I knew I was different from the other boys, and I looked at other boys in scouts etc. the subject was completely taboo. My own coming out did not start until I had reached the top rank in my career and my sons were becoming independent. I can attest that the hiding can not last - one has to be honest with self and after burying it so long it is more difficult to admit one is gay in one's youth. I have heard men in their 40's and 50's who only came out after depression, alcoholism, and other such problems made them admit they were not living the life they were born to live. Once they come out, things are much better. Trying to live a lie is difficult at best.

Parents have a responsibility to make themselves available and to listen to our children. Too often in our world we let the TV and day care and neighbours look after them and do not begin to try to understand. If only the young guy can reach out to his parents, it will be immensely easier - I could not with my parents and hope I was there for my boys. As I admit I would have had difficulty at first, I would like to think I would have been open to them still and that

they knew it. I believed in guiding rather than ordering and I spent much time with my sons - I tried not to be judgemental as my ex was.

Parents, teachers, and others have to be raised to be open and accepting. Hate does not always happen in cases where someone is assaulted physically. Too often as sault comes from those whom we trust parents, teachers, religious leaders who use mental assault rather than physical. How different it would be if people could be loving and caring rather than judgemental and hurtful!

**D.J. is a resident of K-W.**

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### THE VOICE

***Welcomes your submissions!! Write to us at either our regular address or email us and submit something today!!***

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## WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

### LOCAL CHURCH BECOMES AN AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

by Paul Warder

During 1998, Westminster United Church explored becoming an affirming congregation. An affirming congregation within the United Church of Canada is one that recognizes bisexual, lesbian, and gay persons as people entitled to all the rights and responsibilities of membership in the Church. Basically it means that everyone is welcome to attend the church, become a member, and/or become actively involved in the church.

The process of exploring what it means to be an affirming congregation involved a congregational discussion with a minister and lesbian couple from Bloor Street United Church in Toronto, which is an affirming congregation. Another congregational discussion was held to look at what the scriptures and the United Church had to say about homosexuality and what it all meant. A congregational survey was held on the issues and a few more

smaller discussion groups.

The following paragraph was added to the Westminster's Mission Statement at a congregational meeting held November 22, 1998:

***"To create an environment of openness for all people. To affirm that all who seek to live faithfully regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, sexual orientation, or social circumstances are welcome to full participation in the life of the congregation. To foster full opportunity for participation by all in the wider church."***



Church Council will be looking at changing our advertising, a service to celebrate becoming an affirming congregation, performing same sex unions, and developing plans for continued support of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in the coming months.

Westminster United Church is located in the Cedars Worship Centre at 543 Beechwood Drive in Waterloo. Temple Shalom and Westminster United Church share the Cedars Worship Centre. Westminster's services are held Sunday mornings at 10:30 am.

There are other affirming congregations in Ottawa, Kingston, Peterborough, Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Calgary, and Vancouver, with other congregations in the process of looking into it.

**Paul Warder is a resident of Kitchener-Waterloo.**

## *The story of a relationship...*

### **A Child is Listening...**

by Mary A. Griffith

"Because of my own lack of knowledge, I became dependent upon people in the Clergy. When the Clergy condemns a homosexual person to Hell and eternal damnation, we, the congregation, echo 'Amen'. I deeply regret my lack of knowledge concerning gay and lesbian people. Had I allowed myself to investigate what I now see as Bible bigotry and diabolical dehumanizing slander against our fellow human beings, I would not be looking back with regret for having relinquished my ability to think and reason with other people...people I trust for truth and guidance in my life and in the life of our gay son.

"God did not heal or cure Bobby as he, our family and Clergy believed He should. It is obvious to us now why He did not. God has never been encumbered by His child's genetically-determined sexual orientation. God is pleased that Bobby has a kind and loving heart. In God's eyes, kindness and love are what life is about. I did not know that each time I echoed 'Amen'

to the eternal damnation, referring to Bobby as sick, perverted and a danger to our children that his spirit was broken until he could no longer rise above the injustice of it all.

Bobby ended his life at age twenty. "It was not God's will that Bobby jump over the side of a freeway overpass into the path of an eighteen-wheel truck, killing him instantly. Bobby's death was the direct result of his parents' ignorance and fear of the word gay.

"An injustice has been done not only to Bobby but to his family as well. God knows it isn't right that Bobby is not here with loved ones. Correct education about homosexuality would have prevented this tragedy. There are no words to express the pain and emptiness remaining in the hearts of Bobby's family members, relatives, and friends. We miss Bobby's kind and gentle ways, his fun-loving spirit, his laughter. Bobby's hopes and dreams should not have been taken from him, but they were. We can't have Bobby back; if we could we would say to him, as I say to all gay

and lesbian people around the world, these benevolent words of Leo Buscaglia:

**'Love yourself -- accept yourself -- forgive yourself and be good to yourself, because without you the rest of us are without a source of many wonderful things.'**

"There are children like Bobby sitting in our congregations. Unknown to you, they will be listening to your 'Amen's' as they silently cry out to God in their hearts. Their cries will go unnoticed for they cannot be heard above your 'Amen's'. Your fear and ignorance of the word gay will soon silence their cries. Before you echo 'Amen' in your home or place of worship, think and remember...**a child is listening.**"

**Bobby Griffith lived June 24, 1963 - August 27, 1983**



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## WRITER'S CORNER

### Poems - Poetry - Prose

#### In the Name of a God That Is Love

by Richard K. Smith

In the name of a God that is love,

**They hate.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They discriminate.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They exclude us from their spiritual worship.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They suddenly expel us from loving family relationships.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They insist our commitments mean nothing.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They prevent us from legally marrying.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They deny the multitude of gifts of creativity we have freely given the world in so many areas.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They attempt to legislate discrimination against us.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They reject us in every way while many of us experience depression and substance abuse.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They steal our children and say we are unfit parents.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They decide we are unfit to defend our country, and even after we have proven them wrong they expel us with our medals and decorations.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They do not appraise us individually but condemn us all.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They laugh as the suicide rate among our youth soars.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They keep us from reaching out to our youth to protect them.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They attack us physically wounding maiming and killing us.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They lose all sense of compassion and love and turn into vicious beasts.**



In the name of a God that is love,

**They judge, "It's God's punishment," as the horror of AIDS devastates us.**

In the name of a God that is love,

**They say, "Let AIDS kill all the faggots."**

And I become introspective,  
And I think on these things,  
And I wonder - **WHERE IS THE LOVE?**

**A person should have a garment with two pockets. In the first pocket there should be a piece of paper on which is written: "I am but dust and ashes."**

In the second pocket there should be another piece of paper on which is written: **"For me the world was created."**

--Ancient Piece of Wisdom

"I want to live each day for itself like a string of coloured beads and not kill the present by cutting it up in cruel little snippets to fit some desperate draft for a TajMahal in the future." --Anon.

**"Truth is the root of much humour."--Anon.**

## MUSINGS OF REVERIE

Continued from page 48

#### SELF-RESPECT by Leo Buscaglia ("Born For Love")

"When we have a healthy respect for ourselves, there is no limit to what we can succeed in doing. When we believe that everything is possible for us, accomplishment becomes natural.

No one knows better than we what is essential for our own growth and

happiness. Those who direct their own lives don't depend upon kindly gnomes or favorable alignment of the planets. They use knowledge, experience, hard work, belief in themselves, and optimism to achieve their goals.

There are no barriers to our dreams so long as we believe in ourselves as the source of our happiness. We will be on the way to having what we want when we have set

our minds to believing we can get it, and not a moment sooner."

"Whether you think you can or think you can't you are right."--Henry Ford

"Those who try to do something and fail are infinitely better than those who try to do nothing and succeed."--Anon.

"Happiness is not the absence of problems but the ability to deal with them." --Anon.

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or SELLING  
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for some exercise-this is  
the event for you. Pro-  
jected start will be in  
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small fee. No super-jock  
attitude but skill is OK- a  
lot of laughter is manda-  
tory. Call Wendy at [redacted]  
[redacted] with first name,  
phone number and pref-  
erence of week night.

## Personals

### New in town

Gay male, 24, athletic,  
looking to meet other gay  
males in town. I enjoy  
opera, dancing, movies,  
and going out to dinner.

Reply to Ad# B-1

## Personals

Hey you.....HI!

Vibrant, energetic, and full  
of life, I am a 40 year old  
lesbian, intense, a deep  
thinker, seeking a single  
and sincere lesbian be-  
tween 30-50.

I am interested in meeting  
a femme that knows who  
she is, what she wants  
and how to value and be  
herself.

I enjoy the simple plea-  
sures in life such as mov-  
ies, walks, good conver-  
sation, music and roman-  
tic adventure.

Reply to Ad # A-1

## Looking For Love

Single lesbian, 46 years  
old enjoys reading, writ-  
ing, movies, music and  
walking; looking for an  
understanding, thoughtful  
woman who is a  
freespirited deep-thinking  
soul.

Reply to Ad# A-2

To reply to personal ad  
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N2M 5P1

Put the ad number on the  
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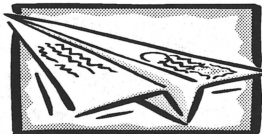
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