

The Voice

Publishing History: 1998, October 9 (Volume 1, Issue 1) - 2003, March (Volume 5, Issue 5).

Copyright Permission: Copies of individual issues of *The Voice* have been reproduced with the kind permission of its Publisher, **A.J. Mahari**. No further reproduction is permitted.

Telephone Numbers & Email Addresses: These documents were published many years ago. Please do **NOT** use them as a source for telephone numbers or email addresses for local businesses or agencies. Current sources for that kind of information can be found on the Internet.

Redaction: Certain parts of the digitized text have been **blacked out** in accordance with our **Redaction Policy** (<http://www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/RedactionPolicy.html>).

SPECTRUM's Grand River Rainbow Historical Project maintains a separate collection of unmarked (unredacted) high-resolution TIFF image files of all page in the issues of this magazine for consultation as necessary.

The

VOICE

SERVING THE K-W AND AREA LGBT COMMUNITY
VOLUME ONE

ISSUE SIX

Friday MARCH 5, 1998



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!

grabba jabba

■ FINE COFFEE COAST TO COAST ■

FREE SPECIALTY COFFEE
WHEN YOU BUY A SLICE OF
CAKE AFTER 6:00 P.M.

80 King St. S.
Waterloo

**MAKE YOUR CAR OR TRUCK PURCHASE
A GAY-FRIENDLY EXPERIENCE
WE VALUE DIVERSITY**

*The Import King of Southwestern Ontario Brings To
You An Outstanding Selection of Pre-Owned Vehicles*

3.9% FINANCING 60 MONTH TERM **or** **CHOOSE GREAT LEASE RATES**

AVAILABLE ON 1999

PROTEGE • 626 • B-SERIES TRUCKS

with 1950 downpayment

available on

'99 PROTEGE LEASE FROM **\$199** PER MONTH
'99 626 LEASE FROM **\$269** PER MONTH
'99 B-2500 LEASE FROM **\$219** PER MONTH

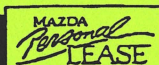


- 1997 Ford Probe GT - 6 cyl. 170 hp MINT 54 kms. 299 imth + tx.
- 1997 XR7 cougar 30th Anniversary Edition 21,000 kms. Leather, Loaded. 19,925
- 1997 Mazda 626s Cromos. 9 to choose from 40 or less kms. Fact Warr

- 2001 as low as 189/mnth + tx
- 1997 Mazda Protege's-8 to choose from 38 or less kms. Fact Warr 2001 as low as 139/mnth + tx
- 1997 Mazda B3000 6 cyl pickup only 12 kms. Fact Warr. Only 13,875
- 1997 Mazda B4000 Se + 4x4 top-

- of-the-line auto loaded 32 kms Fact Warr. Priced to sell at 21,925
- 1995 Nissan Altima GXE auto loaded 1 yr Warr only 10,450
- 1995 Chery Intrepid. All service records. 1 yr Warranty only 9,925
- 1991 Pont. Firefly Convertible low kms one owner 5,475

If there is a particular vehicle you are searching for, we will find it.



Ask about Mazda's University/College Graduate Program



GET IN. BE MOVED. Mazda

Waterloo North Mazda
NORTHFIELD AT THE PARKWAY

Winner of Mazda Canada's Dealer Distinction Award
Visit us on the web
www.waterloomazda.com
746-1666

Northfield Dr.
Weber St.
WATERLOO NORTH MAZDA
Conestoga Pkwy

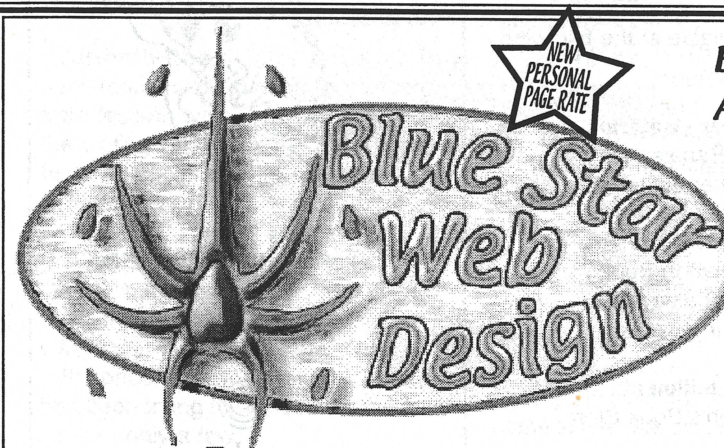
IN THIS ISSUE OF THE VOICE:



Editorial.....	3	Community Listings.....	28,30,32,33
St. Partick's Day.....	4	Entertainment.....	34
Shades of Grey (Column).....	6	People: Comedienne Kate Clinton...	36
Pink & Gray (Column).....	7	Singer Ernie Lijoi.....	37
Kalidescope (Column).....	9	People Profile: Lucie Blue Tremblay.	38
Q-Health (Dr J. Chernin).....	10	Humour.....	40
Lesbian/Bisexual Women&HIV.....	12	Books.....	42
HERSTORY.....	14	Book Review: "Poor Superman".....	43
A Living Paradox.....	17	Book Review: "Gay Old Girls".....	45
HIS-STORY.....	18	Musings of Reverie.....	46
BIZ SECTION.....	20	Teletubbies Meet Jerry Falwell.....	48
Business Page Feature-E TS.....	23	International News.....	50
A Living Paradox.....	26	Update: Matthew Shepard News.....	52
Spotlight -Guelph Rainbow MCC.....	24	The Story of a Relationship.....	54
		Classified Ads.....	56

The views or opinions expressed in this Magazine are those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent those of The Voice. All copyrights belong to each individual writer.

The Voice extends a place to be heard; a vehicle, through which we can affirm ourselves and come together in the embracing of differences. Share your Voice today!

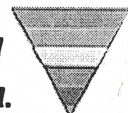


NEW PERSONAL PAGE RATE

BEEN THINKING ABOUT FINALLY DOING YOUR WEB SITE?? NOW IS THE TIME!

www.bluestarweb.on.ca/

Is the home business of Lyn McGinnis. Part of the les/gay/bi/trans community of Waterloo Region, I welcome the opportunity to help you or your organization have a **PROUD** presence on the web! Visit this address and see what I can do for you.





THE VOICE

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

(519) [redacted]

Email: [redacted]

Web Site: <http://www.thevoice.on.ca>

The Voice is published monthly. Next deadline for submissions and ad copy is March 25th, 1999.

Ads or submissions appearing in The Voice are not necessarily indicative of sexual orientation.

The Voice is available at the following places of business:

In Kitchener - Waterloo at:

Club Renaissance
Generation X
The Princess Cinema
Encore Records
Wordsworth Books
Grabba Jabba
Eye In The Sky

In Hamilton at:

Gomorrhah's Book Store

In Cambridge at:

Suite Surprises
The Robin's Nest

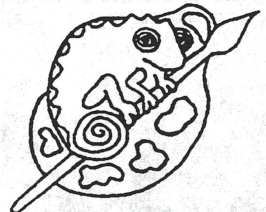
In Guelph at:

Talking Trees Bookstore
The Bookshelf


Editor/Publisher: Ms. A.J. Mahari
Assitant Editors: Rayne Jarvis
R. H.
Biz Section Editor: Darren Kregar
Advertising: Ms. A.J. Mahari
Ad Graphic Design: Lyn McGinnis

Advertisements: Should be submitted in black and white and be camera-ready. For a reasonable fee layout and ad graphic design can be contracted through The Voice, and will be attended to by Lyn.

To subscribe to The Voice, send \$30.00 (make cheques payable to The Voice Magazine) along with your name and address.



Wendy Bonza
Psychotherapist
Art Therapist



at
Lifestreams
Counselling Centre

Tel. (519) 741-1212
Fax (519) 741-8890
e-mail: BonzaW@aol.com

FINDING A BALANCE

Balancing issues and space in our community, in our activities, in this magazine is a delicately difficult reality until and

unless we hear the voices of more of you. What do you, especially the men want to see and what can you contribute?

A major challenge in putting this magazine together each month is to try to keep in mind and anticipate what all of the segments of our community will want to see, read about and what each of you will be interested in.

Currently there has been more involvement from lesbian women in the writing of articles than gay men, or bi-sexual men or women, or transgendered individuals.

Each of us is most familiar with our own interests, our own issues and our own passions and cares. I, of course, am no different in this area. Therefore, it is with concerted effort that this magazine has been trying to represent all with the input of only a few.

If you find that you enjoy reading this magazine but feel that we are missing the mark in some area that you would like to see covered more than it is now, I invite you to submit something. We very much value your contribution.

So why not submit your own written effort in whatever form you choose. This way you can see yourself and what you

care most about reflected in The Voice.

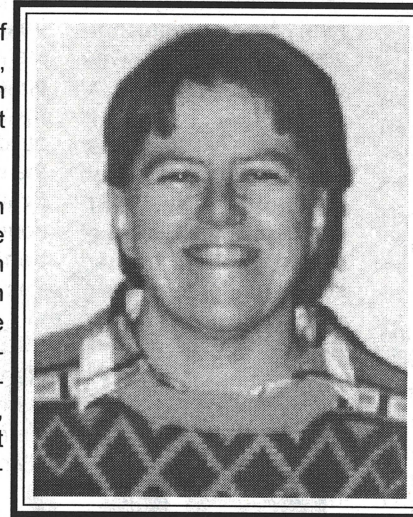
If you do not write, or do not have time to write we would still welcome your input. If you want to see something here that we have not included we are open to your suggestions and feedback.

It is and remains a goal of mine to balance the material in this magazine with contributions from

various places and sources with local content. In order to have the local content needed to represent our local communities, it is necessary for you, **YES YOU**, to share something of yourself with your neighbours.

One of the main goals with this magazine, aside from informing the community of up-coming events and so forth, is to promote an on-going dialogue. Through this dialogue we will, over time, come to feel that we are connected and able to express our opinions and give voice to our concerns. We will be heard and who knows, maybe even make a difference in the lives of many members of our community.

We value your **VOICE**, how about sharing it with our readers?



Ms. A.J. Mahari
Editor

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints.

Along with **St. Nicholas** and **St. Valentine**, the secular world shares our love of these saints. This is also a day when everyone's Irish.

There are many legends and stories of St. Patrick, but this is his story.

Patrick was born around 385 in Scotland, probably Kilpatrick. His parents were Calpurnius and Conchessa, who were Romans living in Britain in charge of the colonies.

As a boy of fourteen or so, he was captured by a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. Ireland at this time was a land of pagan Celts. He learned the language and practices of the people who held him.

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain, where he was reunited with his

family.

He had another dream in which the people of Ireland were calling out to him "We beg you, holy youth, to come and walk among us once more."

He began his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years.



Later, Patrick was ordained a bishop, and was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland. He arrived in Ireland March 25, 433, at Slane. One legend says that he met a chieftain of one of the tribes, who tried to kill him. Patrick converted Dichu (the chieftain) after he was unable to move his arm

until he became friendly to Patrick.

Patrick began preaching the Gospel throughout Ireland, converting many. He and his disciples preached and converted thousands and began building churches all over the country. Kings, their families, and entire kingdoms converted to Christianity when hearing Patrick's message.

Patrick by now had many disciples, among them Beningnus, Auxilius, Iserninus, and Fiac, (all later canonized as well).

Patrick preached and converted for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

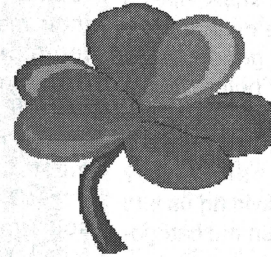
He died at Saul, where he had built the first church.

St. Patrick was a Christian missionary given major credit for the conversion of Ireland from paganism. So many legends surround his life that the truth is not easily found.

St. Patrick's Day

THE IRISH SHAMROCK

The origins of the shamrock are lost in antiquity, but legend suggests that it was used by St. Patrick in the fifth century to demonstrate the meaning of the Trinity. The shamrock is found on Irish medieval tombs and on old copper coins, known as St. Patrick's money. The plant was reputed to have mystic powers.... the leaves standing upright to warn of an approaching storm.



It is said that Patrick had a time of it trying to convince the people he met in Ireland to believe in the Holy Trinity. Reflecting for a moment, Patrick plucked a shamrock from the earth, and pointed to the three leaves on the shamrock, living proof of the Holy Trinity. Since then, the Shamrock has become the symbol of the land of Ireland.

The shamrock, worn by millions on St. Patrick's Day. The word is derived from the Irish 'seamrog', meaning 'summer plant', and it remains Ireland's most famous symbol.

SHAMROCK HISTORY

In written English, the first reference to the Shamrock dates from 1571, and in written Irish, as seamrog, from 1707. As a badge to be worn on the lapel on the Saint's feastday, it is referred to for the first time as late as 1681. The Shamrock was used

as an emblem by the Irish Volunteers in the era of Grattan's Parliament in the 1770's, before '98 and The Act of Union. So rebellious did the wearing of the Shamrock eventually appear, that in Queen Victoria's time Irish regiments were forbidden to display it. At that time it became the custom for civilians to wear a little paper cross coloured red and green.

As a symbol of Ireland it has long been integrated into the symbology of the United Kingdom, along with the Rose, the Thistle and the Leek of England, Scotland and Wales. So today, on St. Patrick's Day, a member of the British Royal Family presents Shamrock to the Irish

Guards regiment of the British Army.

THE LEPRECHAUN

The Leprechaun is an Irish fairy. He looks like a small, old man (about 2 feet tall), often dressed like a shoemaker, with a cocked hat and a leather apron.

According to legend, leprechauns are aloof and unfriendly, live alone, and pass the time making shoes. They also possess a hidden pot of gold.

Treasure hunters can often track down a leprechaun by the sound of his shoemaker's hammer. If caught, he can be forced



(with the threat of bodily violence) to reveal the whereabouts of his treasure, but the captor must keep their eyes on him every second. **If the captor's eyes leave the leprechaun (and he often tricks them into looking away), he vanishes and all hopes of finding the treasure are lost.**

SHADES OF GREY

By Ms. A.J. Makari

Butch? Femme? or Just Lesbian?

What determines a butch or a femme? Is it her dress, her mannerisms, or her state of mind? What a woman is on the outside, in and to the public, may not be at all representative of who she is in the bedroom. Whether a woman dresses and appears to be butch or femme is not indicative of her emotional or sexual inclinations.

For some women identifying as butch or femme is merely a matter of dress. For other women it is a state of mind. Then there are those women for whom identifying as butch or femme amounts to an entire lifestyle.

I think whether one is or can be defined as femme or butch lies in the eye of the beholder and that whether one seems to be femme or butch does not truly define who any woman is in totality. Butch and femme do not speak to more than the outer appearance and characteristics of a woman according to the

way in which these labels are applied.

Being a double minority in patriarchal society may be a large part of why we have adopted so many adjectives to define and re-define ourselves. Lesbian relationships, having no absolute patterned equivalent gender-roles like that of heterosexual relationships beg the question what are we trying to so categorize? Does sub-dividing us into butch and femme categories seek to negate the importance of balanced relationships? Equal sharing of weaknesses and strengths that compliment each other in a relationship, setting aside butch and femme expectations, is the essence of the freedom that we have to be who we really are in the celebration of what it is to be a woman loving a woman.

As women we have already been subjugated, categorized, and relegated within rigid role expectations exercised by a patriarchal society that leaves us in a second-class status at best.

Owing to this undignified affront many lesbians feel compartmentalized and or labeled even further by perceived stereotypical descriptions that fail to recognize their individuality. Many also feel that these labels, butch and femme, have come to their meaning in an attempt to placate the homophobic misunderstanding that in any couple relationship there must be a dominant "masculine" partner in association with a dominated "feminine" partner.

We, as lesbians, have a unique opportunity to celebrate the diversity among us in an embracing and unifying way. This can only be achieved through the open acceptance of who each of us really is, in total. It cannot be realized through butch or femme labels or (any other label). Labels are a comment about our dress, our mannerisms or a current state of mind and are not about who we really are. Who "we" are, as lesbians, is as unique as all of the countless characteristics that define us as individuals.

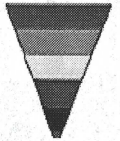


Check Out THE VOICE Online!

<http://www.thevoice.on.ca>

Email:

PINK & GRAY



Having just turned 50 and and wallowing in my first cold of the winter, old I feel. The mirror isn't very sympathetic either. Fifty can be middle-aged to most North Americans, but in Gayland, it's over the hill washed up. When I hear young gay men despairing at turning 30 years of age, my disbelief, especially as a newly born again gay man, as given way to the inevitability of the culture I now call home. For a closeted, unsure, hetero, father, softmale, whose gay impulses didn't really surface until his early 40's the gay worship of youth is an almost overwhelming barrier. My 'gay puberty' was not to be denied. Hair cropped, gray gone, waist slimmed, regular exercising with gay hormones gone amuck marked that first hedonistic coming out year. My final transformation into Gaydom was through New York's East side village. An overnight with a slightly older cyber chatter followed by guilt and tension in his rather 'over-gushing' relationship signaled time for me to move to a hostel where I was definitely senior to all those young beautiful scantily clad boys!! [YMCA song in background]. A gay 'village' where I was com-

pletely unknown and with blatant temptations everywhere was the catalyst to awkward 'cruising' on the pier, in the park and eventually an interesting 5 hour introduction to gay tantric sex. Overwhelmed, I left NY for the solitude of the woods, where my heightened sexuality respered for a day in my tent at a gay campsite. This gay-site, like most I know of, deserted during weekdays, blossoms into wild orgies on the weekend! Two different gaysites, one within ear-shot of a threesome was enough of an introduction to gay camping. In the midst of my bold emerging, occasional glimpses in the mirror and side-way glances from disdaining youth too frequently interfered with the spell. My 'age', never been a problem in the first 47 years, all of a sudden became a big issue. Not only had I too cope with changing relationships with my predominant hetero-fam-

Continued on page 8

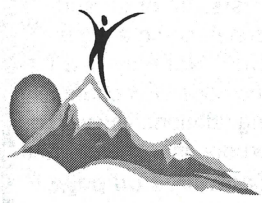
PINK & GRAY

Pink & Gray

Continued from page 7

ily, friends, co-owners, but I found myself not overly welcomed into Gaydom! I was in a land where most bore the scars of growing up 'different' and whose self-worth was continuously under attack by the dominant culture... which at best tolerated their lifestyle. Gathering in ghettos, they made their own fun and shocking exaggerated reaction to normal society. No wonder so many married men that I met at gay baths were so closeted. Better to be an intermittent sort-of gay and live in deceit and frustration than venture into a hostile culture of youth worship. Regardless, I had to true to myself on my continuing journey to find myself. Consequently, I'm out, I'm gay and there's no putting the genie back in the bottle. The second half of my life will be pink and gray.

Name withheld at the writer's request. The writer of this article is a local resident of Kitchener-Waterloo.



TUTU VISITS PROVIDENCE, RI

Retired South African Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu on February 21 keynoted a conference at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, repeating his call for an end to homophobia as well as racism. The 19th annual Brown University/ "Providence Journal" Public Affairs Conference (February 21-28) is entitled "Spiritual Life in America: One Nation Under God?" Referring to both the October bashing death of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard and to the dragging death of African-American James Byrd, Junior (for which the first suspect was found guilty today and two others are now awaiting trial in Jasper, Texas), Tutu rebuked those "who, while claiming to be believers, were not ashamed of being lynchers as well, those who, without compunction, could drag a man behind their truck to his gruesome death just because he was black, or could beat someone up and tie them to a split-pole fence, leaving them to freeze to death just because they were suspected of being gay."

Calling on the capacity crowd of 1,200 to work towards a "more inclusive" United States, Tutu asked them to oppose sexism, racism, and war, and "to oppose homophobia, to say that we should be as passionately opposed to those who discriminate against gays and lesbians as we were passionate in our opposition to apartheid ... and say that we are all members of one family -- the human family -- God's family."

Tutu found hope in the idealism of young people, and enjoyed both the "vibrancy" of worship services in the U.S. and what he saw as "a greater willingness to acknowledge religious plurality and diversity ... a greater openness on the part of the religion of the majority to claims and insights and contributions of other faiths." **No single religion, he said, "could ever hope to contain all the truth about God."**



KALEIDOSCOPE

By Rayne Jarvis

THE POWER OF PRIVILEGE

Anxiety and fear prevail as the new millennium rapidly draws nearer. These fears are not completely without reason, especially for the already underprivileged segment of our society. Contrary to popular opinion underprivileged does not automatically mean unproductive. In a money-based, white, heterosexual and patriarchal world the necessary socioeconomic status, required to be a legitimate and respected member of the community, eludes many of us.

Some of the most valuable contributions to society such as maintaining a healthy environment, caring for those of us who cannot care for ourselves, and the creation of art and literature have no real value in modern life. It seems ironic that many of these contributions come from 'wimmin', a traditionally underprivileged group. Subjugation of 'wimmin' has been with us throughout history and sadly remains with us, even today, both blatantly and underhandedly.

A sorry, a clear reflection of this is that, not only is there an International Women's Day, but that there is even a necessity to allocate a special day of celebration for 'wimmin', when each and every day should hold recognition for who and what we are.

Privilege, especially that which is underserved, more often than not creates blindness. It is when this blindness permeates society as a whole dangerous and tragic results not only occur, but are also tolerated and eventually accepted as normal. Historically, male privilege in particular, has been the root of a great deal of grief and injustice for 'wimmin', not only on this continent, but worldwide.

As lesbians we become yet another separately labelled group, within an already discriminated against female segment of society. Therefore we are marginalized, isolated and condemned to an even greater degree than

our straight sisters. As a result, for many of us, any injustices committed against us are just simply felt as another slap in the face, in the course of our already undermined lives as 'wimmin'.

If newspapers in our region are an honest indication of where we stand as individuals or even as a community, then we are indeed in a sorry state. Increasingly, both news articles and opinions from the public reflect an alarming trend towards a scapegoat mentality and redneck ignorance.

In the past the fact that you were a white male gave you extreme privilege. Now that previously excluded groups such as 'wimmin', the disabled, the poor, those of different colour or culture, sexual minorities and even children are claiming their rightful place in the

Continued on page 27

Health



Q Health
by Dr. Jeffrey Chernin

Examining Patterns may be Key to Healthier Relationships

Consider the following phrases about relationships: "I always meet people who are unavailable--they're either in relationships or they're from out of town." "Why do all of my relationships last less than a year?" "As soon as I let my guard down, they betray me." "It was great for a while, but now all we do is argue." Do any of these themes sound familiar? If so, examining relationship patterns could be a step toward healthier relationships.

The first stage of relationships, according to many psychologists, involves infatuation. It's the "this is the most wonderful person in the world!" stage (the Titanic Early Voyage Stage). The second stage is disillusionment. In short, it's when the differences and disliked qualities appear (the We Hit an Iceberg stage). This leads to the stage called battling for power and control (the We're Sinking stage). This stage may include fighting, withdrawal, criticism, and attempts to change the other person. Harmony and resolution are possible, but it takes work (the Rowing the Lifeboat to Shore stage).



Transitioning from smooth sailing to hitting icebergs is a predictable part of relationships. It is at this time that most couples begin to question the previously un-sinkable relationship. Many people break up at this point, but understanding that it is normal to go through this adjustment period and taking steps to build a solid foundation may help prevent its demise. more of these adulthood challenges may have never been learned.

As children, in order to deal with these feelings, we develop a belief system. This belief system consists of what we believe to be true about ourselves and others. Out of this belief system, we create coping mechanisms. These coping mechanisms are limitless, and examples include becoming a loner or being "the good child." Though these tools were indeed helpful as a child, these same tools may act as a barrier to healthy adult relationships. Add growing up gay, lesbian, or bisexual in a homophobic society and it can lead to feeling unequipped to navigate relationships and intimacy.

In order to attempt to heal these childhood wounds, we may as adults pursue potential lovers who verify our childhood beliefs about other people. In essence,


you may be attracted to people who be like your parents or family of origin in some way, unconsciously thinking that if you can change your partner, a part of you will be healed. Evidence that this is happening is if there is a pattern to the type of partners you find, the resulting feelings you feel or beliefs you verify about others, and if there is drama in your relationships. Other markers include a history of breaking up and getting back together, feeling like a victim, or never being good enough.

If you realize that this is happening in your life, there is an opportunity to outgrow ingrained patterns. It is possible to learn from experiences regarding the type of people we are attracted to and how attraction may relate to one's family of origin. And this is where healing emotional childhood wounds through relationships can occur.

You also have the opportunity to replace old patterns with new ways of relating, which is where growth takes place. Responsibility for choices and feelings may result, leading to happier, more satisfying relationships. Since relationships have evolved into vehicles which help people grow, working through issues, and being open to feedback, can provide much growth.



This article was submitted to The Voice by Dr. Chernin. Jeffrey Chernin, Ph.D. is an author and a psychotherapist in Carmel, California. He provides workshops and has written numerous articles for the LGBT community. He is also co-author of an upcoming book on counseling lesbians and gay men. Comments? [REDACTED]



WATERLOO REGIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ANONYMOUS HIV TESTING DROP-IN CLINICS

ACCKWA – 85 Frederick Street East, Kitchener
Thursdays 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.


99 Regina Street South, Waterloo
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

John Howard Society – 73 Water Street North, Cambridge
Mondays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE CLINICS

Monday and Thursday 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. drop in
99 Regina Street South, Waterloo

Tuesdays 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. drop in
150 Main Street, Cambridge

 510-882-2251

Lesbians/Bisexual Women and HIV

by Dr. Jeffrey Chernin

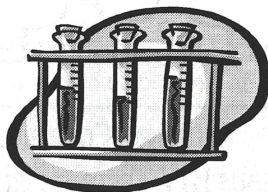
Women have not fared as well as men in the regard to HIV/AIDS treatment due to a relative lack of research and services. Lesbians and bisexual women have fared even worse. Despite very little research on lesbians/bisexual women and HIV, there have been a small number of studies which discuss risk factors for lesbians. Once considered invincible (there was an old adage that "If AIDS is God's curse, lesbians must be God's chosen people"), lesbians and bisexual women face similar concerns as heterosexuals and gay men in regard to contracting HIV.

While I am not a medical doctor, I did research for an upcoming book, and there is information which may be helpful to the women readers of this column. Therefore, be sure to consult a medical doctor about any decisions related to what you may read here.

Regarding woman-to-woman transmission, lesbians and bisexual women are at risk for HIV transmission in several ways. Several researchers have found that the virus is present in

vaginal and cervical secretions, menstrual blood, and blood from vaginal or rectal trauma. Therefore, female-to-female transmission is possible during sex.

Most often, however, lesbians acquire the virus through intravenous drug use. Needle sharing among drug addicted individuals is an extremely high risk factor. But since female-to-female transmission is possible, although the chances are not as high as they are as with male/female vaginal or anal intercourse and



male/male anal sex, safer sexual guidelines should be considered, and hopefully, utilized.

For lesbians and bisexual women who wish to have children through artificial insemination, although safety at sperm banks is high, there is a risk factor for lesbians and bisexual women who are having children in this fashion, as fresh and frozen semen

may carry the virus. Therefore, women should ask a prospective sperm bank if it tests donors at the time the donation is made and then six months later to secure the results.

A higher risk may be associated with sperm obtained informally by asking acquaintances, friends, or co-parents. The same precautions can be made as with sperm banks; women can ask a prospective donor to be tested twice in a six month period. Due to the lag time between infection and testing positive for the virus, however, a donor could have the virus and still have results showing sero-negative status. Therefore, a prospective lesbian/bisexual parent should consider factors such as how well she knows the donor, what his sexual practices are, and so forth, before becoming informally inseminated.

Turning to lesbians and bisexual women with HIV, there is an unfortunate lack of health services for women with HIV/AIDS, or programs which focus on HIV prevention, caring for women with HIV/AIDS,

and research which examines the effects of medication on women.

In fact, the safety and effectiveness of many of the new drugs have not been tested on women, so the dose level and toxicity may be unknown. In one recent study, although the disease was found to progress similarly in both sexes, women with AIDS tended to die sooner than men. Lack of knowledge regarding proper dosage

dramatic drop in AIDS deaths. The mortality rate, however, is dropping much faster for men than for women. Part of this disparity may be due to the notion put forth by researcher Silver in 1997 that, including the factors related to dosage and toxicity levels of medication, women tend to be diagnosed later in the disease process, have economic barriers to care, and may lack the information network that is readily avail-

reluctant or afraid to conduct the necessary research to make the headway that has occurred in the more recent past. In general, we have come a long enough way to help slow the spread of HIV, to develop prevention programs, and to provide care. But for women with HIV/AIDS, we still have a way to go.

This article was submitted to The Voice by Dr. Chernin.

Lynn Voortman ND
Doctor of Naturopathy

Relaxed and friendly environment.
Specializing in nutritional counselling,
supplements, homeopathy,
botanical medicines, acupuncture, craniosacral
therapy and applied kinesiology.

Not sure if Naturopathic Medicine is right for you? Book a free 15 minute consultation to find out.

13 Merion Street (near Edinburgh and Paisley)
Guelph, Ontario (519) 826-5959

and toxicity levels may have contributed to this situation.

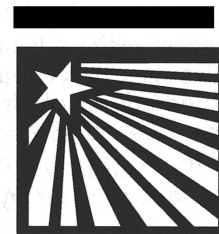
Furthermore, HIV/AIDS manifests itself differently in women than in men. Women need to be aware of PIV and other signs of HIV infection which are not generally discussed in HIV literature.

Due to the advancement of drug combination therapy, there has been a

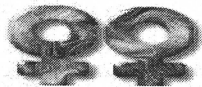
able to gay men.

Therefore, lesbians and bisexual women with HIV/AIDS have more obstacles to overcome in terms of preventing HIV and obtaining effective treatment. Ironically, this is the place where gay men found themselves ten to fifteen years ago. Back then, the U.S. had a president who never said the word "AIDS," and medical researchers were

Jeffrey Chernin, Ph.D. is a psychotherapist and author in Carmel, California. He has written numerous articles co-authored a book on counseling lesbians and gay men. Comments?



HERSTORY-WOMYN SPEAK



"We need to know that we are not accidental, that our culture has grown and changed with the currents, that we like others have a social herstory, filled within individual lives, community struggles, customs of language, dress and behavior that when looked at in their entirety form what we call herstory--the story of a people." --Joan Nestle

THE VIEW FROM HERE

by Morrigan

I am a Lesbian. I am a closeted Lesbian. There I've said it. Lightning did not strike me dead and the wrath of God did not fall upon me, but why am I still in the dark? At 32 years old I am only now beginning to understand the full grasp of my sexuality. I live in a relatively small and conservative town and I sometimes wonder if it will ever break out of the Mayberry curse.

A little background is required at this point; I am fairly well known in business and political circles. Sometimes this works for me but at this time I am afraid that coming out will not be in my best interest. I've spent many a long evening in the dark trying to figure out how I am going to reveal this part of my life. I have been forced to re-evaluate my

future plans and I have had to become an artful dodger of sorts, deflecting relationship questions.

For those of you who are screaming, "**Get over yourself**", I invite you to see it from where I am today. Did I always know that I wanted to be with a woman? I know that I didn't want to spend my life with a man. I pictured myself happily living alone with all the freedom and comforts life had to offer. I was going to pursue a career that would consume my life and I was going to play hard. A truly committed relationship did not even figure into the picture. About a year ago everything changed. **I had my first same sex encounter - a kiss. The passion, the excitement, the power, it just blew my world apart.** Even as I sit here struggling to find the

words to describe the feelings that filled me, I find that there aren't any. The woman who unlocked my heart is no longer in my life. It was brief but electrifying. I am convinced that she came into my life solely for the purpose of allowing me to acknowledge who I truly am. Now the real journey begins.

It has been said that admitting to a truth is half the battle, the other is acceptance. I accept who I am, I am just not sure how ready the world I live in is ready to accept me. My family doesn't know, my friends don't know, but I do have someone in my life and she makes my world shine. It is complicated, she is married with teenage children and she is also dealing with this twist in her life. We draw on each other's strength and love. We are both afraid because we know that we want to be together but we are not sure as to the path we must

travel to get there.

For those of you who are out and proud maybe my view from here will be a reminder that getting there is not always easy. Being in the proverbial closet is not so much a hiding place as it is a place of temporary safety where we can sit and look at the world and how we are going to fit in it. For those of you who share this place with me I hope that the telling of my journey will give us all strength to choose the path we most need to travel in our lives, the path of Pride and Acceptance.

I have used a pseudonym. I have chosen a Celtic goddess. In Celtic (Irish) mythology she was the High Queen and goddess of the Tuatha Dé Danann. She was considered a trinity; Macha, Badb, and Neman, all three bloodthirsty and feared by the enemies of the Tuatha Dé Danann.



Women's History

Women's History
Month Past
Present and Future

October 1998 Was
Women's History Month
In Canada

The first International Women's Day was March 8, 1911. [U.S] In 1981, Rep. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) cosponsored a Joint Congressional Resolution proclaiming the week of March 8 National Women's History Week. In 1986, the National Women's History Project (founded in 1979 by Molly MacGregor) helped expand the celebration to the entire month of March. In 1987 and subsequent years, the National Women's History Month Resolutions have been approved with broad-based, bipartisan support in both the Senate and House, and signed by the President.

<http://www.feminist.org>

1998 marked the seventh year that Canada celebrated Women's History Month (WHM) in recognition of the women who have played such a vital role in our Canadian heritage. This is an opportunity to instill a sense of pride in our historical origins as well as provide role models for other women - young and old.

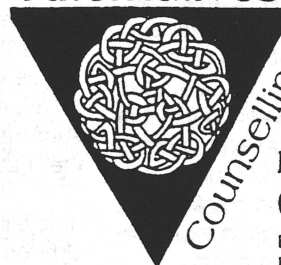
Last year's theme was, **The Business of Women:** an evolving story. The importance of two areas are unfolding - **entrepreneurship and unpaid work.** Caregiving and volunteer work - both of which contribute hugely to the economic and social structure of Canadian life.

<http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/whm/whm98-e.html>

This article was submitted to **The Voice by "Morrigan"** is a resident of **Corner Brook, Newfoundland.**

Happy Women's Day!! March 8, 1999!!!

Alternatives



Counselling

Individual & Couple Counselling
Groups and Workshops

- ▼ Survivors of Child & Adult Sexual Assault
- ▼ Sexual Orientation
- ▼ Body Image/Celebration
- ▼ Chronic Pain; Fibromyalgia

Marion Markham, M.S.W.
(519) 741-5887

Box 29010, Frederick Plaza Postal Outlet
Kitchener, Ontario N2H 6S6

A Living Paradox

by Ms. A.J. Mahari

How can it be that a "right-wing" fundamentalist homophobic "believer in God" can share the name "Christian" with me? They are opposed to me and do not believe that our "God" can love and care about me and them. Does this mean that one of us is not Christian and the other is? Does this mean one is "right", therefore, the other must be "wrong"? NO, I don't think so. I think it speaks more to the imperfection in the human condition than it does to what we should ascribe to any God, or Deity. It is about the fear and intolerance that is within the providence of humanity, it is not about religion.

There is a tragic sadness in the reality that it was the brutal crucifixion of Matthew that has once again and in a very "public" way, re-nued debate about all of the issues that stem from what many see as the outright clash of "Christianity" and any well-intentioned practical practice of the tenants of that religion and homosexuality or lesbianism.

I am, as a Lesbian Christian, straddling that ever invisibly-visible line between two worlds. My life,

often feels like a paradox. I "belong to," or "identify with," two groups which are more often than not diametrically opposed to each other. For as much as there is intolerance of "us" as gays or lesbians, in "their" (straight) world there is equal and as distressing intolerance for the gay or lesbian Christian within "our" community.

I have been as wounded as the next gay or lesbian



person by religion, and more specifically by the fundamentalist "right-wing" Christians. I still choose to believe in, to love, and to serve, the God that I grew up knowing. I do not want to push what I believe on to anyone, but, I **DO** want to be heard and respected for who I am and what I **DO** believe. It is a very central part of who I am.

It can be very difficult to find support and dialogue with regard to these very spiritual and emotional issues in a world that most define as in direct

opposition to the world of the Christian.

We need to address, the issues found in the arena of religion that further segregate us within "our" community. Whether one is Christian or one ascribes to another religion, or one does not practice any particular religion, each of us has a soul. A common point of reference from which to relate to each other without there being any need to shame anyone. We must take an active role in beginning to address and to heal the wounds that have defined us, to one degree or another, for so long. We can be free of these wounds without casting stones at each other. All too often in either "community" some use God (or their disbelief in God) to act out hate or intolerance thinking that they can somehow legitimize it. Hate or intolerance are not ever legitimate. We must be careful that we do not lack tolerance for others because they may not tolerate us well and we must go to great lengths to ensure that we do not hate the "hater."

It is difficult, at times to confront the level of pain,

anger, distrust and outright disdain for God - a God - any God, religion, or religious practices and beliefs that are harbored by many in our community. It is equally as painful to have my beliefs and my faith thrown in my face. It is also very painful to be asked how I can be a lesbian and believe in God. The answer is simple. All too often the answer is not waited for: **I am a lesbian, God knows this; and I have a relationship with my God that has been in my life since the beginning of my life.**

It has endured many a test, many a heart-ache, many a homophobic "Christian" attack. Most importantly, my relationship to God has endured my realizing and coming to terms with the fact that I am a lesbian. There were many dark nights of the soul in this process. I tried on more than one occasion, and in more than one way to run away from all that I believed in and knew to be true, based upon my experience. This was due to my own internalized homophobia. I will not ever do this again. **I am through apologizing to "my" community for who I am just as I am through apologizing and trying to appease homophobic "straights" regarding my orientation or my reli-**

gious beliefs.

I cannot and will not even try to defend much of what gets passed off as "Christian" these days. All I can do is respectfully stand up for what I believe in, and ask others to respect my rights and feelings and let me be who I am.

I do believe there is room for all beliefs and all of the many ways that each of us individually seeks to find and make peace with one's creator, or the spirit-force within you, or whatever you personally define that "source" to be in your life.



I think that there are many who, no matter which religion they follow, or how they choose to observe and or express their spirituality, have a legitimate fear of being hassled, criticized or rejected within our communities.

How many people have been driven from their faith due to their own internalized homophobia and shame stemming from their orientation? How many people have ended up denying who

they really are in an effort to continue to fit into that "mainstream" idea of what is "acceptable" to the majority in most religions? **The legacy of either of these experiences is often a blinding self-hatred that separates one not only from his/her creator, but also from one's self and from others as well as any potential for finding a lasting peace as not only a lgbt individual, but equally as a child of the universe.**

This paradox, while painful, is the backbone of lessons that have been teaching me how to find and be my authentic self. This journey of spirit and soul has also lent itself to the development of my character and my courage.

If we do not define for ourselves who we are and what we believe: if you allow anyone, any group, or any segment of society, gay or straight, to do this for us, then we may be to some extent be a strangers to ourselves.

Paradoxical pain is precious. I am a Lesbian Christian trying to bridge the gap between worlds. Perhaps I am one rung of that bridge just because I am: as I am: a Lesbian Christian.



HIS-STORY



Speaking Out And Coming Out - In Wyoming by Jason Marsden

Sometimes events move too quickly, and with too much urgency, for a journalist to indulge in reflection or entertain the ever-present chorus of doubting inner voices. Sometimes, our subject matter is too explosive to subject to the internal review we routinely use to assure ourselves that we are ethical professionals interpreting, not crafting, the events of our time.

That's what happened to me when my friend, Matt Shephard, was murdered because he was gay.

The morning of October 12th, the news of Matt's death after four days' fight against impossible odds had not yet diffused throughout the Casper Star-Tribune newsroom when the vile personal attacks began to curl out of the fax machine.

"Fag Matt in HELL!" screamed the clumsily cut-and-pasted screed from a church in Wichita, Kansas. It was the first of a succession of similar taunts. Because I am the only openly gay reporter in

the newsroom, and a friend of Matt's, my colleagues made a thinly veiled effort to hide these faxes from me, which failed in the vocal and pained exclamations that sprang from each new reader.

I knew this was a time I had to listen to my conscience. After four years of covering the energy industry, environmental regulation, toxic waste lawsuits and raucous but lopsided Wyoming elections, I had to step out from behind the wall of indifference and objectivity and tell my truth.

I had no choice but to come out to my readers, to make a statement that even a straight-seeming oil-and-gas reporter who shouts his voice raw over pro football could be a happily gay member of a rural and conservative community.

My editor and personal friend David Hipschman was supportive but skeptical, wondering if I'd thought through the ramifications of coming out to

100,000 strangers in the midst of one of the most controversial hate crimes in recent history. But I had. I expected reprisals, cold shoulders, a continuing daily apologia that would dog me in my professional career and come to define me.

Six weeks later I am relieved, gratified and still somewhat amazed that the "ramifications," the "effects," the "fallout" of my honesty have consisted of one solitary piece of unsigned hate mail, and more than 100 new friendships spanning the nation. In the first few days after the column appeared, I was interviewed by several regional newspapers and television stations, appeared on NBC Nightly News and on MSNBC, contacted by Editor & Publisher, quoted in the New York Times and deluged with phone calls from every friend I ever made in college. And despite all the exposure, letters of support kept coming. Hate letters didn't. I was asked again and again whether I had

crossed a line from reportage into advocacy - whether, in essence, I could ever work as a reporter in this state again. And I kept repeating the overwhelming support I was receiving from inside and outside my community, and the strong support of management and the corporation which owns my paper.

But the support that meant the most to me was from readers.

There was the boy in Alabama who said it gave him hope that he could come out of the closet one day, too. There was Raven, writing through cerebral palsy from Sacramento to tell me I had spoken up on behalf of everyone who differs from the norm. And there were the revealing and deeply personal letters from a federal judge, an oil field geologist, a New Ager in Boulder, an elderly grandmother in Virginia.

Coming out in print was one hell of a whirlwind, but it freed me. Becoming an optimistic sidebar to a tragic national saga is uncomfortable to someone used to asking, not answering, the media's questions. But it taught me courage and compassion, qualities good for even the most objective of reporters to know. To those who say I broke the rules by becoming a part of this story, I say: **I'm glad I broke the rules.**

The national furor over Matt's murder has quieted for now, and I feel like more of a professional than ever.

Jason Marsden is a reporter for the Casper Star-Tribune.

<http://www.nlgja.org/alternatives/wint99/outinwy.html>

Things You Can do to Make Your Community Less Sex-Hostile: (Suggestions From The Second Gay Men's Sex Summit:)

This summit was held last November, in Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

DEVELOP A SEX-POSITIVE CONTACT AT EACH LOCAL AIDS AND LGBT ORGANIZATION. Ask people about their sexual beliefs and cultivate contacts and support networks among individuals who believe in respect for sexual civil liberties and that sexual empowerment and the diminution of guilt and shame are key to health promotion.

TALK UNASHAMEDLY ABOUT YOUR DESIRES AND SEXUAL PRACTICES. Sex is not secret, shameful, or destructive to society. It needn't be privatized. Discuss sex. Feel no shame!

SERVING KITCHENER & WATERLOO!



RE/MAX®
Twin City Realty Inc., Realtor
Independently Owned and Operated

ALAN GOETZ REALTOR
"Known for fairness, honesty & integrity"

519-885-0200 11 years of service

83 Erb Street West, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 6C2
Fax: 519-885-4914 • 24-hr. Pager: 519-885-0200



MEMBER OF RE/MAX 100% CLUB

"DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD"

THE BIZ SECTION

FREE TAX TIP! BE ORGANIZED!

by Darren Kregar (Economic Tax Services)

Over the course of a tax season, I am surprised how many individuals will come to my office with missing tax receipts. Many individuals will do tax returns for themselves and their friends, but are they claiming all deductions you may be entitled to. Tax laws are constantly changing. Even as an income tax preparer it is not possible to know every piece of tax legislation as a result I must purchase the annual tax guides by CCH (this is the publisher of the Income Tax Act). The tax act is over 2200 pages.

Be sure that you have all of the appropriate receipts and documentation that you require to either personally fill out your 1998 Income Tax Return or to have a tax service or accountant prepare your tax return correctly. Following is an overview of the documentation or receipts that you may require to fill out your tax return.

Do you have all of your Income Receipts?

Be sure that you have received all of your 'T' Slips. If you have worked for someone throughout the year you will receive a T4 or a T4A. Any interest or dividends you receive in the year will be reported on either a T3 or a T5. If you were unemployed you will receive either a T4E or a T5007. If you were short on income and withdrew from your RRSP you will

receive a T4RSP. There are other 'T' receipts but these are the most common.

If you have taken out a 'Home Buyers Plan' and have not contributed the appropriate amount as required back into your RRSP you must include this amount as income on your tax return.

Can you Deduct Employment Expenses?

If your employer, under a contract of employment, requires you to pay your own expenses, be required to work away from your employers place of business, you were paid in part by commissions bases on volume of sales AND you did not receive a non-taxable allowance for travelling expenses, you may be eligible to deduct employment expenses. Your employer must sign fill out a 'Declaration of Employment Conditions – Form T2200'. Employment expenses are claimed on the 'Statement of Employment Expenses – Form T777'. It is necessary to keep all receipts for those expenses that you are eligible to claim for at least 6 years.

Are you Self-Employed or Own Rental Property?

Again you must keep all of your receipts for at least 6 years. If you are self employed you are required to fill out the 'Statement of Business Activities.

All expenses claimed must be supported with a receipt in the case you are ever audited. To claim all of your allowable automobile expenses, be sure to also keep a detailed travel log of all business mileage over the year. Revenue Canada will not allow you to choose a percentage that you feel is adequate. Again, if you are audited Revenue Canada may re-assess your mileage to what they feel is appropriate according to your earnings or your type of business. If operate a home-based business, you need to know what percentage of the home is used for the business. You can only deduct a percentage of all your home expenses that may include heat, electricity, insurance, mortgage interest and property taxes. You are also able to deduct CCA (depreciation) on your business assets. Note: You can only deduct home expenses if you have net income from your business. You cannot create a loss with home expenses, however, you are permitted to carry-forward business-use-of-home expenses.

If you have rental property, you are required to fill out the 'Statement of Real Estate Rentals – Form T776'. With each of the above statements all expenses claimed MUST have supporting documentation in case Revenue Canada audits you.

Can you reduce your 'Taxable Income'?

If you have incurred the following expenses you may be able deduct them from your income: RRSP contributions, child care expenses, moving expenses, interest paid on 'non-registered' investments, safety deposit boxes, union dues, attendant care expenses. Be sure that you have proper documentation for any deductions you claim.

Are you claiming all of your 'Non-Refundable Tax Credits?

Most non-refundable tax credits are as such as they only reduce your federal tax owing and are not used to increase your tax refund. The most common non-refundable tax credits besides the 'Basic Personal Amount' are Equivalent-to-Spouse', EI and CPP premiums, tuition and education credits, disability credits, medical expenses and charitable donations. Tuition and Education amounts are shown on the form T2202. Any EI and CPP premiums paid are shown on your T4 receipts. If you are eligible for the disability amount you must get form T2201 filled out by your medical doctor, psychologist or optometrists.

If you are a low-income earner you may be eligible for the Personal Amount Supplement – Schedule 13.

Do you qualify for the Provincial Tax Credit?

To determine your eligibility for this credit you should have a copy of the property taxes paid or rental receipts from your landlord.

Regardless of your tax situation, it is imperative that you have all of the required document to process your tax return correctly. Any missing receipts may cost you in additional tax owing. It is also recommended that when completing your tax return you have a copy of prior year tax returns available for reference. If you come across any mistakes or find any additional receipts that were not claimed you should file a T1 Adjustment for the years in question.

NOW OPEN

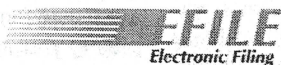


Economical Tax Services

“Your Affordable Tax Experts”

Services Available:

- Income Tax Preparation
(Personal and Small Business)
- Bookkeeping/Payroll
- Business Consulting
- Fax/Photocopying Services



22 King Street South (Lower Level)
Waterloo, Ontario N2J 1N8
(Ph) 519-746-6500

BUSINESS FEATURE

Economical Tax Services

Economical Tax Services is located at 22 King Street South in Uptown on the lower level. The owner, Darren Kregar, has been preparing tax returns for over 5 years. He opened ETS in January of 1998 after participating in an entrepreneurial program. Darren is a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University with a Diploma in Accounting.

In addition to income tax services for individuals and small business, **Economical Tax Services** also provides bookkeeping, business consulting and payroll services. Starting in April, ETS will also be providing fax and photocopy services, 'every day' office products, and scanning services.

I recently had the opportunity to interview Darren about his business and future goals,

TV: Why did you choose a career in Accounting and Taxation?

ETS: It all started back when I was... actually, I realized I wanted to go into my own business while taking courses at Conestoga College in marketing. I dropped out after the first year. Then I opened a casual clothing store in Elmira. After a relatively short experience in owning my own retail business, I decided to attend WLU in Accounting. Considering, I have always done well dealing with numbers it seemed to be an obvious choice.

TV: Why would I choose ETS?

ETS: I offer affordable prices, personable service and my goal is to ensure that you pay the least amount of tax possible. I also provide tax planning for each of my clients to minimize their tax owing for the following year.

TV: What tips do you have for someone who is either on a fixed or low income?



ETS: As a result of changes in tax legislation, low income earners may be eligible for a non-taxable credit of up to \$500.00. This is based on

your actual earnings. This credit will provide a tax savings up to \$125.00. Be sure you keep all of your rental receipts (or property tax bill) as you will be able to claim the Ontario Tax Credit. If you can afford a RRSP (even if its only a small amount) this will reduce your total income thus reducing your tax owing.

TV: What should all same-sex couples know when filing tax returns?

ETS: Considering Revenue Canada does not recognize same sex couples, yet. All individuals must claim as a single person. Therefore any benefits that a straight couple would be eligible for is not available to same-sex couples. I will provide more information on this topic in the April issue of 'The Voice'.

Continued on page 26

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

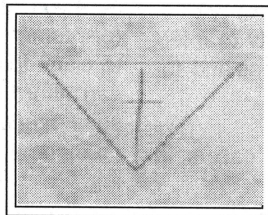
THE RAINBOW METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GUELPH

by Rev. Sid Bater & R. H.

As lesbian, gay, transgendered and bisexual people we are aware that most Christian churches demonstrate degrees of tolerance for us but few are welcoming and almost none see us as equals. The Metropolitan Community Church was started in 1968 in Los Angeles by Reverend Troy Perry as a church for all people but with a special ministry to the LGBT community. It was created as a place where it would be safe to be natural and to worship completely, being able to celebrate both our spirituality and sexuality as freely as people in other churches. It was also a place where anyone could aspire to more than just being the church organist or lay preacher. **The MCC** was a place where we were no longer marginalized.

The original intent of the MCC was that it should be a place where people who felt shut out by their own denominations could worship freely until these

other places offered the same acceptance. But that acceptance was so slow in coming that something wondrous happened. The MCC was created to meet a need in a certain place at a certain time and it was never intended to become a denomination. However the need for such a church was so great that congregations sprang up all over North America and worldwide. The MCC has become the fastest growing Christian denomination.



In 1995 it was recognized that the need for such a church existed in the regions of Wellington and Waterloo. Sid Bater tells the story as follows:

After struggling for some time to find a worshipping community into which we "fit", we discovered the difference between being

"tolerated" and being "welcomed". It was important to us that we were welcomed as whole beings not as people devoid of sexual orientation or desire. In many churches we found ourselves "welcomed" (tolerated) only if we left our sexuality at the door. To talk of our partnership, our family or home life was to alienate ourselves from the rest of the respectable church folk. I needed to be in a worship experience with God's people - my Christian family. However denying something so basic to the core of my being (my sexuality) was not acceptable. Arriving home after Sunday Service in tears one day, I knew there had to be something else and I had to do something about it.

I had been praying for some time, asking God to give me clear direction in my life. I had also been attending the Metropolitan Community Church Toronto (MCCT) absolutely amazed that God's presence was so real in

that place, a place where people could be themselves - in every way.

With more experience and my own sense of finally belonging, I began to realize more and more the need for this kind of ministry in my home town. I asked God what I could do and what I should do although I was afraid of the answer. I did however talk to the then District Co-ordinator about establishing a ministry in Guelph.

It was then that things began to happen. In the Spring of 1995, after I had started praying about the MCC God put fourteen

people in my path to convince me of the need and the desire for such a ministry. Each approached me and asked about such a church and my willingness to lead in its creation. Finally, in July I found myself in the V.C. food court, University of Guelph, when a young gay man came up to me and, not knowing about my struggle, asked me when I was going to startan MCC. I looked down at my dayplanner and chose the first Sunday after Labour Day, September 10th, 1995.

Nothing had yet been planned. Immediately it became necessary to

start to organize. In the space of one month a church was created. A steering committee including my partner, two excellent friends and a university student worked tirelessly to prepare. The possibility of sharing space in another church was offered by both a local United Church and St. Matthias Anglican Church. Miraculously, all was done and on September 10th 1995 the first service of The Rainbow Metropolitan Community Church took place. Fifty-four people attended the first service.

Continued on page 39

BUYERS & SELLERS

Make Your Move in '99



ANNETTE ESCOBAR
Sales Representative



BRUCE TAYLOR
Sales Representative

**CALL US
FIRST!**

ROYAL LEPAGE

Crown Realty Services Inc.

(519) 740-6400

24 hr. pager

STRIVING FOR EQUALITY

serving the Cambridge and Kitchener/Waterloo area



ETS Business Feature

Continued from page 23

TV: What services can you offer a new business or someone wanting to start a new business?

ETS: I can assist businesses setting up their books, preparing their GST/PST remittance forms, and providing advice on general business topics. I have helped some of my clients develop their business plans. I will spend time to ensure they understand their financial statements. My clients have access to a variety of resource materials which can help them achieve their goals.

TV: Can you tell me why you provide the other services that you do?

ETS: I want to provide a convenience to my clients as well as other small business owners in the region.

TV: What is your vision for Economical Tax Services in the future?

ETS: I have a few goals for the business. The first is to expand ETS to other cities in South-Western Ontario. The second goal

goal is to establish a small business centre in the region where business people can go to do research on new business ideas, buy office supplies and have access to business services such as bookkeeping, graphic design, insurance and human resources.

Just out of curiosity, now that you have operated 'The VOICE' for half a year, would you be able to provide my company with a testimonial on how I have helped you to date?

AJ: Yes, absolutely! I have found your advice very helpful from the very beginning. It was my coming to know you that actually helped me to be able to create what is now The Voice. It has been from so many of your initial suggestions that I have been able to begin to build a business.

Included among these suggestions was: to formally register The Voice as a business, keep it separate from any of my own personal endeavors, and to open a business bank account. Your guidance has also provided me with a rate

structure for advertising that you worked out for me based upon the costs associated with publishing The Voice.

You have also helped me through your sharing of ideas and marketing strategies as well as your consistent feedback and support.

When I decided to become a client of yours I had no idea how extensive your services would be. I have been very pleasantly surprised to find out that you very much get involved personally and can be called upon to answer any questions having to do with the running of my business. You have provided, literally, a steady-stream of excellent and valuable ideas that have helped me tremendously.

I very much value your contribution to the magazine itself from your original suggestion to include a Business Section to your contributions as the editor of that section.

Thanks and I look forward to continuing to work with you.

KALEIDOSCOPE

Continued from page 9

world, a sense of outrage is steadily growing amongst white heterosexual males. This insurgent reaction can be seen in the increasing popularity of various groups such as The Promise Keepers, the militant sub-division of Right To Life, The Moral Majority in the United States, and most of all, groups now protecting sexual abusers from the claimed **false memory syndrome** of countless victims. Only those with much to deny and hide would go to such lengths to protect themselves. Unbelievably, some white, heterosexual males now claim themselves to be victims of reverse discrimination, and accuse 'wimmin' of male-bashing when we are only stating the truth. This barrage of accusations is slowly but effectively stripping away the rights we once thought we had finally gained. Even the privilege of our recognition as victims is being taken away by the retaliatory labelling of today's society as merely a **victim** society. Essentially, this savagely belittles whatever progress we have made in the past, in revealing past wrongs

and healing the effects of those wrongs. On the other hand, this white male rage thoroughly exposes the discrimination that they have always testified to have never existed. Why else would so much anger be surfacing now when, at last, all people are beginning to be treated equally?

Furthermore, if we have already attained equal rights then why are the majority of low-paying and part-time jobs held by 'wimmin', why is there a glaring lack of affordable daycare for all children, why are so many 'wimmin' victims of male violence, and why has Mike Harris, our Premier, targeted the underprivileged (many of these being 'wimmin') in his "Common Sense Revolution"? It simply does not make sense. Most of all, why has it taken until now for it to be declared, by the Supreme Court of Canada, that **"NO MEANS NO"** and that there exists no such thing as **implied consent** in defence of sexual assault accusations?

In the Western World, despite the many advances made by 'wimmin', obvious discrimination remains,

much of it in the form of subtle but effective derogatory remarks and actions that we have simply learned to live with every day. Even a womyn doing a *man's* job is still considered, often enough, to be taking a livelihood away from some privileged male. In hard economic times it is possible for anyone, other than a white heterosexual male, to become a scapegoat. Taking ruthless advantage of this timeless truth, our government leaders have somehow managed to, cowardly but cleverly, shift the responsibility of what are systematic society-wide problems onto individuals themselves. Overall, compassion and caring are rapidly going out the window.

To be a womyn is indeed a handicap in itself; to be also either poor, disabled, old, coloured or lesbian is an added trail. To be all of the above can be disastrous. Many will argue that this is a load of man-hating, radical, feminist crap, but if you happen to be a woman, and wear any of the above labels, then you will know differently. When, as 'wimmin', we do succeed, we usually fly higher than ever thought possible.

Continued on page 39

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Sundays

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-██████████

Mondays

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: ██████████

██████████ for more information

Tuesdays

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: ██████████

██████████ for details.

Wednesdays

Hamilton Coming Out Proud Discussion Group We meet every first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings start at 6:30 pm at <http://www.gomorrah.com>". Call us for more details: 905-██████████ or toll-free 1-888-██████████

██████████ or email ██████████

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 **ACCKWA** at (519) ██████████ (Kitchener).

GLOW's 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: ██████████

GLOW's website is at <http://www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/clubs/glow>

Discussion Topics For Group 1:

March 3-"Media Images and Role Models"

March 10-"Gender Roles"

March 17-"Jealousy: The Fourth Deadly Sin & the LGBT World"

March 24-"Leading a Double Life"

March 31-"Issues in Outing: The Shattered Closet Door"

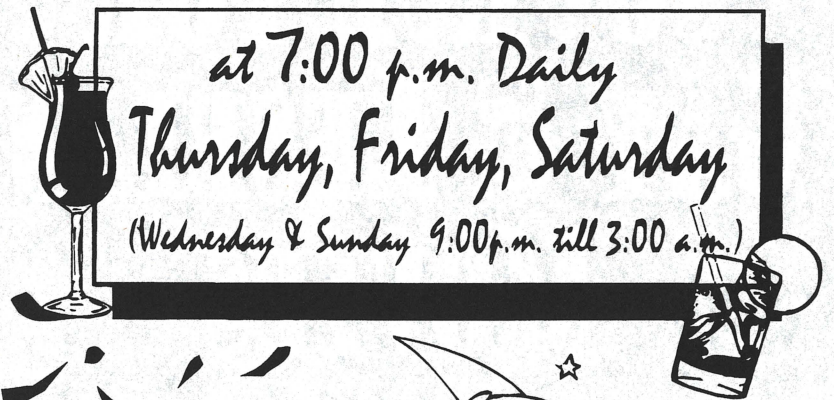
GLOW's Second Discussion Group also meets in Hagey Hall Rms. 373/378, University of Waterloo, 7:30-9:00 pm.

Both the Second Group and the Coming Out Group meet together in one room for the introduction and icebreaker question, then the Second Group moves to the other room for their own discussion or activity. The groups rejoin for the social at 9:00 pm.

GLOW Social: a social evening in Hagey Hall Rms. 373/378, University of Waterloo, 9:00-11:00 pm. Everyone welcome; meet old friends, and make new ones.



Come'in and wet your whistle . .

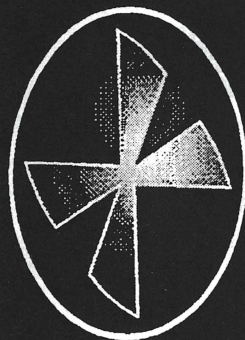


Proudly supporting K-W's LGBT Community since 1994

COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU ARE!!!!

GENERATION X IS YOUR BEST SOURCE FOR GAY & LESBIAN MOVIES

k-w's best selection of
foreign, cult, anime, indie,
Gay & Lesbian and
hard-to-find videos.
And damn cool mags too.



GENERATION X
ALTERNATIVE VIDEO & MEDIA

[10 REGINA ST. N.] [888-GENX]

Generation XXX is opening soon. Featuring the best in adult video (Gay & Lesbian titles also available).

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Wednesdays Continued

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].

Thursdays

Hamilton Transsexual Peer Support Group: If you are post-op or pre-op transsexual or are dealing with gender dysphoria, come join this bi-weekly peer support group. Meetings begin February 4, 1999 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm and will continue bi-weekly thereafter. Meetings will be held at the Hamilton AIDS Network, 512 James St. N. For further details, please call (905) [REDACTED] or e-mail Janet at: [REDACTED]

MARCH EVENTS

Sunday March 7

Waterloo-Wellington Region Pride Committee Meeting from 3 pm to 5 pm. Location: Rm. 173, Environmental 2 Building, University of Waterloo. Inquiries can be directed to Scott at: [REDACTED]

Next meeting after this one is on Sunday March 21.

Friday March 12

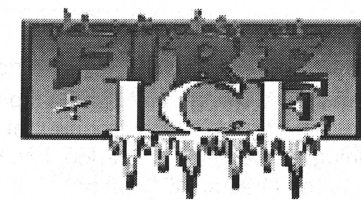
College Royal from March 12 to March 14, sponsored by GQE (Guelph Queer Equality).

Saturday March 13

FIRE + ICE

We've got your cure for the winter "blah's". **Out & About - Queer Radio** presents a Dance Party that'll "Heat Up Your Night".

The producers of last fall's Pink Party are back with the first **ALL AGES** bash of the new year. On Saturday, March 13th join all your friends and hundreds of revellers as we come out of the cold and pump up the heat.



The coolest DJ with the hottest music, lights and action will set the stage for this sizzlin' hot party. Don't be left out in the cold this winter. Plan to attend **Fire + Ice, 9pm Fed Hall, Saturday, March 13th.**

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. For more information or to reserve tickets call 519-[REDACTED]. **Listen to Out & About - Queer Radio** every Friday at 9:30pm on CKWR 98.5 fm to win 'free passes' to this red hot event.

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Friday March 19

Spring Break Ends

Bus Trip to Toronto's Gaybourhood, sponsored by GQE (Guelph Queer Equality).

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 [REDACTED] (Kitchener) or Sue at (519) [REDACTED] (Cambridge) or email them at [REDACTED]

Sunday March 21

Waterloo-Wellington Region Pride Committee Meeting from 3 pm to 5 pm. Location: Rm. 173, Environmental 2 Building, University of Waterloo. Inquiries can be directed to Scott at: [REDACTED]

Sunday March 28

GLOW Event: To Be Announced GLOW's monthly event is a fun activity held on the last Sunday of every month. These are gay, and gay friendly events (So bring your friends). All ages and skill levels welcome. This group is Out for fun. If you are interested in more information or being a contact for future monthly events, please contact Kevin at [REDACTED]

Wednesday March 31

Rekindling the Innovative Fires:

a seminar for Business Owners, Investors and Professionals. The seminar begins at 7:30pm, at the Italian Canadian Club, Guelph.

Successful Marketing Strategies

-- Peter Barrow, Barrow Communications Inc.

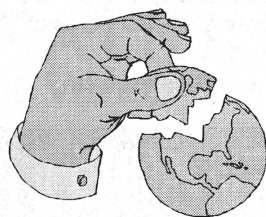
Need Capital for Start-Up or Expansion?

-- Business Development Bank

Sponsored by Business Development Bank of Canada

To register, please contact Bonnie J. Babin, Financial Concept Group, (519) [REDACTED] or (519) [REDACTED]. The next seminar in this series will be on May 5, 1999.

if you have a group or organization that is not listed here, or if you know of a Social or Service organization that you'd like to see made known to our readers please write or call us and we'll be glad to let others know what you have to offer to your community.



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 Refomed Church, meets every second Sunday evening of each month. For information call Gary Terpstra at [REDACTED], or Fred Rolleman at [REDACTED]

Brethren Mennonite Council For Gays and Lesbians, P.O. Box [REDACTED], Eastwood Square, Kitchener, Ont, N2H 6S9

COLLAGE: (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere) Provides education, support and community on local and international levels. 415 [REDACTED] or contact Sarah at litw6350@mach1.wlu.ca

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 web: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/~outline>

Sexual Assault Centers:

KW.....(519)741-8633
Brantford.....(519)751-1164
Cambridge.....(519) [REDACTED]
Guelph.....(519)823-5806

Waterloo Region Alliance For Equal Rights-Kitchener-(519) [REDACTED]

RADIO SHOWS

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

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

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

Leaping Lesbians-- CKMS 100.3 FM
Airls Thursday Nights-6-8pm

Queer's Kick Ass-CFRU 93.3
Airls Thursday Nights 11pm-1am

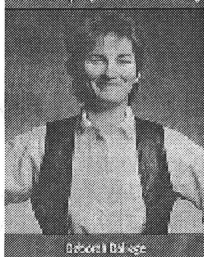
Out & About Queer Radio CKWR 98.5 FM
Airls Fridays at 9:30-10:30pm

TELEVISION

10% - Qtv broadcasts Sunday's at 11:30 PM-Tune to channel 20 in KW, channel 8 in Guelph, or channel 13 in London.

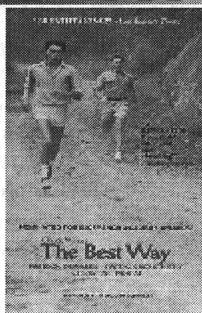
Entertainment

COMING OUT
Is A Many Splendored Thing



Coming Out Is A Many Splendored Thing

A comedic short film on lesbian self-realization, coming out and getting that first date! Comedian Daliege recounts her childhood, coming out to mom and entering the real world of dykedom.



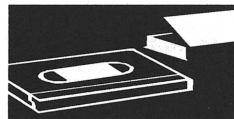
The Best Way

A summer camp for boys is the setting for this absorbing study of the tensions and sexual attraction of two male counselors. A fine drama on sexual identity and male friendships.



In a Year of 13 Moons

A passionate and pessimistic account of the final period in the doomed life of a transsexual named Elvira (ex-Erwin), who underwent a sex change operation on impulse to please a rich eccentric who no longer loves him/her. Now alone, Elvira seeks help from friends and her former wife, only to be repulsed and/or betrayed. 13 Moons is one of Fassbinder's most chilling and captivating efforts. As with his other films, RFW challenges and disorients the viewer with his sporadic sentimentality and harsh detachment. Volker Spengler excels as Elvira, an innocent sexual casualty in a desperate, and ultimately futile, search of aid.



Gay couples can now meet with an objective, understanding person to help find creative ways forward.... This is **not** counselling.

Difficult People a problem at work, home, in the gym? **CALL**

Gordon Husk, MSc. - mediator

Tel.: (519) 884-3883
Fax: (519) 884-0923
respect@golden.net

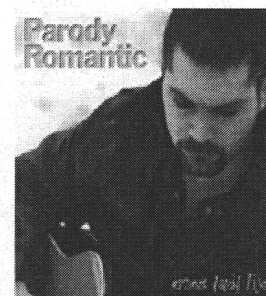
Entertainment

MUSIC



Advise and Consent

Charles Laughton (a gay man outed by his wife Elsa Lanchester after his death) stars in this political drama which examines the political machinations of a controversial Secretary of State nomination. Don Murray is a Senate committee investigator who is blackmailed when it was uncovered that he had a homosexual affair while in the military. John Granger plays his old lover. The first Hollywood film to go inside a gay bar.



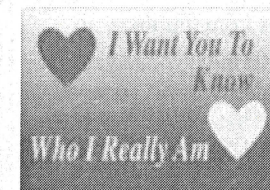
Title: "Parody Romantic"
By: Ernest David Lijoi
(His first CD)

Genre: Folk & Acoustic, Adult Contemporary
Home: Boston, Massachusetts

Description: An insightful combination of emotionally evocative lyrics and melodies. Nice voice and acoustic guitars.

Songs: No Pain, How Was England?, Chandler Street

Lucie Blue Tremblay



I Want You to Know Who I Really Am
(cassette single)

"Tremblay tells the tale of a child coming out of the closet with heartfelt empathy on this sweetly orchestrated ballad. Direct without being heavy-handed, this song holds incredible strength for those wrestling with the issue of disclosing homosexuality, while providing perspective for those with loved ones making the commitment of sharing the truth of their lives. Larry Flick, Billboard Magazine Feb. 17, 1996.

Peter D. Martel

Chartered Accountant

Kitchener, Ontario
Tel: (519) 741-1851 Fax: (519) 741-9451

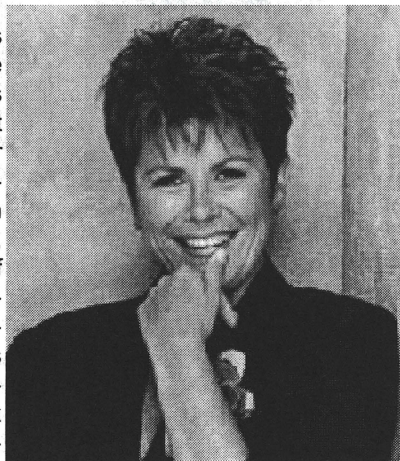
People

"Her amiable presence and endless energy lightens your heart - when it's not making your stomach hurt from laughing so hard"

Kate Clinton is America's premiere "fumerist" - that's shorthand for feminist +humorist - and her agenda includes political material as fresh as the daily news, savvy send-ups of modern family relationships and illuminating perspectives on life as a gay American. Kate's new book from Ballantine entitled Don't Get Me Started is currently in

writer on The Rosie O'Donnell Show during its roll-out period in 1996.

In 1993, Kate's one-woman show, Out Is In, debuted in Los Angeles to



KATE CLINTON

its fourth printing and selling well. Based on past and present monologues, it's filled with thoughts both insightful and riotous. In addition, she writes a monthly column for The Progressive in which she waxes by turns comical and philosophical about the state of our nation and those who have put us in such a state. She recently started writing a quarterly column for The Advocate and has written pieces for the New York Times and George magazine among others. Kate served as a

rave reviews and then moved to New York where it enjoyed a 3-month, held-over run off-Broadway. Throughout 1996, Kate's one-woman show, All Het Up, toured cities across the country.

Other career highlights include appearances on Comedy Central, Good Morning America, Nightline, CNN, C-Span, Entertainment Tonight, and hosting In The Life, and The World According To Us. Kate also partici-

pated in a staged reading of Tony Award-winner Tony Kushner's play, SLAVS with Olympia Dukakis, Tracey Ullman and Madeline Kahn at the Walter Kerr Theatre in New York. In addition, Kate has five comedy albums to her credit including the recently released Comedy You Can Dance To.

Kate Clinton is the lesbian you want to take home to meet your parents. It's no accident that the show ends with an audience in tears of laughter and gratitude." Los Angeles Times

<http://www.kateclinton.com/>

"When I hear music, I fear no danger. I am invulnerable. I see no foe. I am related to the earliest times, and to the latest."

- H. D. Thoreau

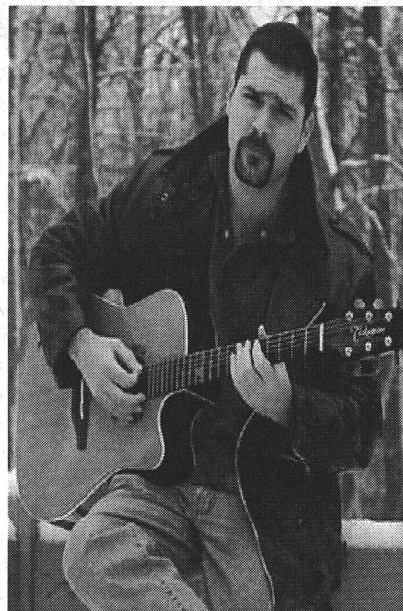
"Music is a moral law. It gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness, gaiety and life to everything. It is the essence of order, and leads to all that is good, just and beautiful, of which it is the invisible, but nevertheless, dazzling, passionate, and eternal form." - Plato

People

My Childhood:

I grew up in Dedham Massachusetts where creativity was illegal and all children were properly stifled and repressed. Despite the limitations placed on our self-expression, we managed to enjoy each other's company at the weekly book burning. I remember, in 4th grade, a classmate was overheard using the word Boob. From then on, any book that contained the letter 'B' was considered blasphemous and burned.

they're the Beatles. Anyone that dislikes the Beatles is clearly stupid and should be mocked thoroughly.



Ernie Lijoi

Musical Influences:

As stated before, Stephen Sondheim. He is a master of combining lyrics, timing and texture in such a manner that a performer cannot help but be emotionally involved while performing his material. The Beatles are also high on my list. But then again, whose list AREN'T they

I also love a lot of the old standards: Porter, Gershwin, Loesser, and Berlin. The drama queen in me likes to put a gardenia in my hair and lip synch to Billie Holiday. But that might be more information than you want to know. Then there is U2, Sting, REM... what can I say?

<http://members.aol.com/guineabear/ErnieBio.html>

"During an interview with Ernie I mentioned a comment a friend had made to me about his music: "I don't get it. If he's a gay artist, then why doesn't he use the word gay or queer in any of his songs?" Ernie's opinion of that kind of reaction- "Well, I'm Italian too, but I didn't use the words guinea or wop either". In many of the queer recordings I've listened to the words "gay" "lesbian" and "queer" are overused. Lijoi doesn't make this mistake. Anyone listening to the song "Chandler Street" will be quite sure of the singer's orientation as he talks about the building where he lives. We are all more than our sexuality, and Lijoi makes that perfectly clear. The song "How Was England?" is a bitter sweet remembrance of a friend lost in the Pan Am crash of 1988 in Lockerbie Scotland. The track "Carried Away" is a tribute to the artists who have influenced Lijoi, and to the entire creative process. **Being a gay man, it's no surprise that you'll find tunes like "Pride" and "Heal Me" among the tracks on his CD.**

Source: Out And About Radio's Dave Callendar <http://www.outandabout.on.ca>

People

PROFILE

LUCIE BLUE TREMBLAY

French Canadian singer-songwriter Lucie Blue Tremblay has been making magic in the U.S. and Canada since 1986. She uses the power of her romantic balladry, the charm of her very personal, self-accompanied performance, and her passion for her bilingual heritage to weave a spell. And the magic works because Lucie Blue comes to her audience as a powerful truth-teller, whose gift is to share her own honest human experience through her music.



Lucie Blue Tremblay

Lucie Blue's self-titled debut album "**Lucie Blue Tremblay**" was voted Top Ten Album of the Year by the Boston Globe in 1986; her subsequent American tours and laudatory reviews helped build a loyal audience in the United States. LBT's second album "**Tendresse**", continued a tradition of diversity, using cuts from studio and

concert acoustic and synthetic instruments, and, as always, mixing French and English selections. In 1992 Lucie Blue released "**Transformations**", this time with the help of

producer Teresa Trull, Daniel Loyer, leading Canadian musician producer- including Vicki Randle (courtesy of the Brandford Marsalis Tonight Show Band), Paul Davis, Bonnie Hayes, Marc Russo (from Yellow Jackets), Nina Gerber,

and Ray Obiedo (courtesy of Windham Hill).

Lucie Blue's performing credits include major concerts around the world such as Carnegie Hall in New York City, Expo 92 in Seville, Spain, Saint Malo, France as well as performances with James Taylor and Randy Newman.

Lucie Blue's new CD "**I'm Ready**" is a powerful and diverse collection of musical works which contains both live and studio cuts. It is produced by Daniel Loyer and Lucie Blue Tremblay on a new label (Maggie & Shanti Musique) in Montreal, Quebec.

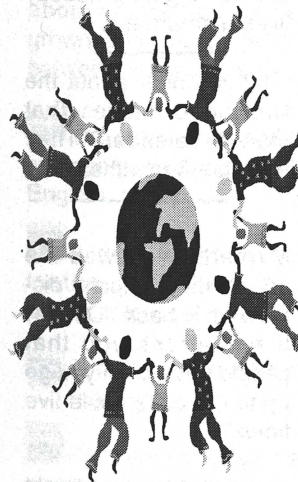
Lucie Blue is gearing up for the "**Ready Tour**" in Canada, the US, Australia and New Zealand. <http://www.luciebluetremblay.com>



Kaleidoscope

Continued from page 27

This is because to succeed at all we have to try one hundred times harder than any man. Indeed, if "necessity is the mother of invention", then hardship alone has created many outstanding and truly gifted 'wimmin'. As lesbians, our feminine spirit can life us higher than, and far beyond the role of victim. We may not be privileged by society's standards, but as 'wimmin' loving 'wimmin' we are privileged beyond belief. Finally, International Women's Day can be a unique opportunity to truly celebrate what and who we are, as 'wimmin', in a still predominantly male-privileged world.



THE RAINBOW METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GUELPH

Continued From Page 25

TRMCC is advertised as a safe place reaching out to all people but especially the marginalized and is centered on the LGBT community. The main focus is to provide this group with its own spiritual community. It does not discriminate. The church was originally conceived as a place where all Christians could celebrate their spirituality and sexuality and to offer a bridge for those already belonging to other denominations - hence the opportunity for dual membership. It is a place where everyone is free to worship.

It is hoped that the church may go on to provide other services to the community using the skills and talents of people within the church. Some services may be discussion groups on women's relationships, men's relationships, families and singles issues all with a Christian and ethical basis.

I BELIEVE THAT GLBT PEOPLE ARE VERY SPIRITUAL IN THEMSELVES. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF MUCH OF THE SPIRITUAL ABUSE OUR PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED AT THE

HANDS TO THE LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, WE SUFFER. THERE IS MUCH SPIRITUAL ABUSE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND IT WAS NOT BEING ADDRESSED. IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE TIMELESS MESSAGE OF GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE TO BE SHARED HERE. THE MESSAGE OF FORGIVENESS, OF DIGNITY, OF BELONGING IS FOR US TOO!

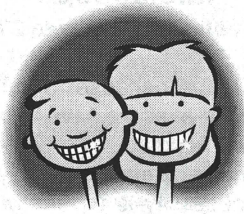
The Rainbow Metropolitan Community Church meets Sundays at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Church 171 Kortright Rd. (corner of Kortright and Edinburgh) Guelph.

Contact: TRMCC by phone at: (519) [REDACTED]

by mail at : P.O. Box [REDACTED] Stone Road Mall Guelph, On. N1G 4T4



HUMOUR



A _____ IS :

A banker is a person who lends you their umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it begins to rain.

An economist is an expert who will know tomorrow why the things he predicted yesterday didn't happen today.

A statistician is someone who is good with numbers but lacks the personality to be an accountant.

An actuary is someone who brings a fake bomb on a plane, because that decreases the chances that there will be another bomb on the plane.

A programmer is someone who solves a problem you didn't know you had in a way you don't understand.

A mathematician is a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat which isn't there.

A topologist is a man who doesn't know the difference between a coffee cup and a doughnut.

A lawyer is a person who writes a 10,000 word document and calls it a "brief."

A psychologist is a person who watches everyone else when a beautiful girl enters the room.

A professor is one who talks in someone else's sleep.

A schoolteacher is a disillusioned person who used to think she liked children.

A consultant is someone who takes the watch off your wrist and tells you the time.

A diplomat is someone who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will look forward to the trip.

A writer is someone who is determined to tell you something whether you want to know it or not. The writer wants to clearly tell you what they think you need to know in words that you won't understand.

How can it be "unseasonably cold" in winter?

I went there, but there was no there there.

Why do they report power outages on TV?

Did you know that "verb" is a noun?

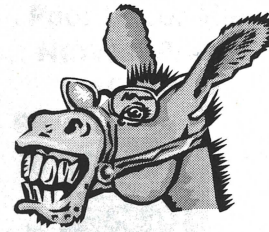
I walked in a bar the other day and ordered a double. The bartender brings out a guy who looks just like me.

A donkey had an IQ of 186. He had no friends at all though. Even in the animal kingdom, nobody likes a smart-ass.

Did you hear about the two blond thieves that stole a calendar? They each got 6 months.

My partner chewed me out at the company picnic a while back. "Doesn't it embarrass you that people have seen you go up to the buffet table five times???"

"Not a bit," I replied. "I just tell them I'm filling up the plate for you!"



YOU KNOW YOU LIVE IN SYDNEY, WHEN....

Co-workers tell you they have eight body piercings each but not one can be seen.

You make over \$100,000 per year and still can't afford a house.

You never bother looking at the train schedule because you know the drivers have never seen it.

You've been to more than one baby shower that has no father, two mothers and a sperm donor.

You have a very strong opinion about where your coffee beans are grown, and you can taste the difference between Sumatran and Ethiopian.

You catch a bus and are shocked at two people carrying on a conversation in English.

A man walks on the bus in full leather regalia and crotchless chaps....You don't notice.

A really great parking space can move you to tears.

You are thinking of taking an adult class and can't decide between Yoga, Aroma Therapy, conversational Mandarin or a building your own website class.

HUMOUR

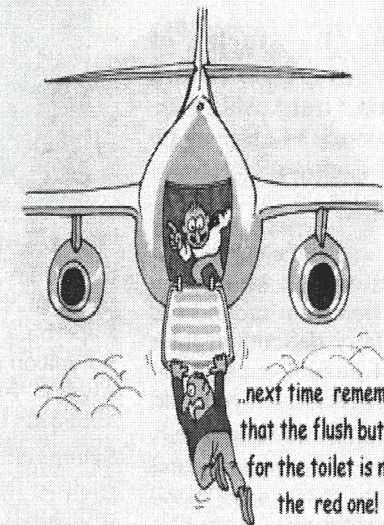
"You know you're getting older when your knees buckle and your belt won't."

"What scares me most about the concept of Good Old Days is that someday, these will be the Good Old Days."

"A Michigan Graduate was suffering from constipation, so his doctor prescribed suppositories. A week later the grad complained to the doctor that they didn't produce the desired results. "Have you been taking them regularly?" the doctor asked."

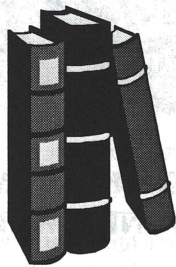
"What do you think I've been doing," the grad said, "shoving them up my ass?"

Fer sell cheep: IBM spel chekker.
Wurks grate.



www.ohmygoodness.com

**B
O
O
K
S**



Early Embraces :



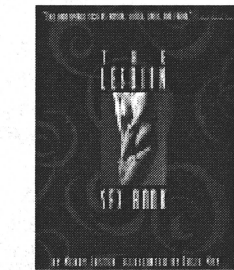
take a tantalizing and illuminating peek at just how lesbians begin the process of exploring their sexuality. Occasionally poignant, sometimes funny, always unflinchingly real, *Early Embraces* is an original collection not to be missed.

tion, and penetration, as well as intimacy, nonmonogamy, health, and political correctness. Original.

True-Life Stories of Women Describing Their First Lesbian Experience by Lindsey Elder (Editor)

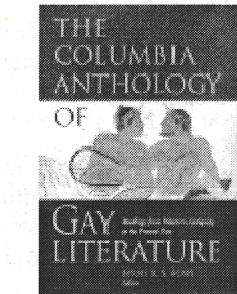
Review:

This collection of real-life first-person stories by women from around the country describing their first sexual experience with another woman sparkles with laughter, awkward moments, and plenty of hot sex. These sometimes naughty, sometimes nice stories



The Lesbian Sex Book by Wendy Caster, Julie May (Illustrator) Paperback - 191 pages 1 Ed edition (May 1993) Alyson Pubns; ISBN: 1555832113

Synopsis: An illustrated guide to lesbian sex deals with such practices as cunnilingus, masturba-



The Columbia Anthology of Gay Literature : Readings from Western Antiquity to the Present Day (Between Men-Between Women: Lesbian and Gay Studies) by Byrne R. S. Fone (Editor)

Hardcover - 912 pages (June 1998) Columbia Univ Pr; ISBN: 0231096704

**Poor Super Man
NeWest Press
1995**

**Review:
by Clayton Chrusch**

In one scene of Brad Fraser's play, *Poor Super Man*, David, the main character, allows his lover Matt to penetrate him. This scene has an unapologetic, honest, and graphic depiction of gay sexuality; it has ribald humour; but it also has tenderness and something almost sentimental in the symbolic meaning of this scene- which is that David finally allows another person to penetrate his emotional barriers. This unlikely juxtaposition of elements characterizes the whole play.

David is a hugely successful painter, of "children on meathooks and tattooed erect penises," whose success and seclusion cause a creative drought. He decides to return to his previous job of waiting tables in order to, "meet people. Overhear things. See new faces." This plan works. He meets Matt who becomes his muse and lover. Unfortunately Matt is married to Violet and furthermore Matt passionately maintains that he is straight. As this inevitable conflict plays out, David must also witness the dis-

with the emotionally needy Kryla and the death from AIDS of his transsexual roommate Shannon. (I really like Shannon. She seems to me a kind of Teiresias, an all-

solution of his friendship knowing prophet not wholly male nor female, who can see the spirits of the dead.)

The plot is convincing and moves along quickly. We learn that David has a history of falling for straight guys who inevitably leave him for women. We learn that Kryla has a habit of leaving men "before it gets messy." Everyone has a neurosis to get over, a childhood story line that they keep playing out over and over again. We begin to see what the Superman and comic book motifs represent.

The characters feel comfortable with the old order, the world as they knew it as children. Though they are adults, they must constantly continue the uncertain and painful process of growing up. In the symbolic language of the play, they must accept Superman's death. It would be negligent to discuss this play without talking about its language. Characters speak in short, witty, rapid-fire, sentences, full of allusions to pop culture. Instead of saying, "I have bad news," David says, "I

have seen the face of horror and it is Betty Rubble."

Words change meaning unexpectedly. At one point Kryla says, "Anyway, I was at this wine and cheese at the Centre that was too whiney and too cheezy." The play plays with words. The affectionate parting greeting which is, early on, "Love ya. Mean it," unexpectedly shifts in shape, suggesting new meaning as the play goes on. It becomes the two person greeting, "Love ya," reply: "Mean it," and later, "Mean ya," "Love it," and finally ends as something that might or might not be a rejected plea to revive Kryla's friendship with David, "Love me," "Mean ya." It would be interesting to see what different actors would make of this subtle thread weaving through the play.

Fraser does give us plenty of action and narrative. We also get character, metaphor, and debate. Not only does Fraser have something to prove about theater, he also has a battle to fight against homophobia and sexual repression.

Clayton Chrusch is a resident of Kitchener-Waterloo.

The Columbia Anthology of Gay Literature:

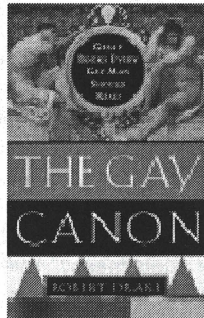
Review:

It would be impossible to compile a complete survey of gay male literature; the very looseness of the definition of "gay" (not to mention the wealth of possible material) would overwhelm the project. Despite that, Byrne R.S. Fone has fashioned a useful, intelligent, and amazingly functional volume that traces gay male themes from classical antiquity to the present day.

Drawing on a variety of traditions and cultures--from ancient Greece to modern Egypt, from the Hebrew Bible to the Russian revolutionary Sergei Esenin--Fone has reprinted not only significant texts, but has also supplied readable, intelligent introductions that illuminate the subject. Most of the material here, apart from a short section on Latin American and Cuban writing, is steeped in a Western European

tradition; the book nevertheless conjures a good case for a gay sensibility--or rather a series of sensibilities--that amazes, alarms, and endures. --

Michael Bronski
Amazon.com
(www.amazon.com)



The Gay Canon: Great Books Every Gay Man Should Read by Robert Drake

Review: There are countless works of interest to gay men in print right now--anthologies, novels, memoirs, and more. It is a reflection of progress that there is such an openly recognizable culture. Yet how to make sense of the

choices offered? What do gay men need to read? What books have shaped the gay heart, mind, and soul?

The Gay Canon gives its readers answers to these questions. Not only does it list the one hundred great gay books that have influenced writers and continue to shape the gay imagination, it also provides a deeper, more comprehensive look at the twenty-six most seminal works, each of which is followed by a series of useful group discussion questions. Reaching all the way back to Gilgamesh and continuing through classics like Leaves of Grass, Confessions of a Mask, and The Wild Boys, as well as more recent books like Borrowed Time, The Gay Canon consistently avoids impenetrable academic literary criticism in favor of a more popular introduction for general readers and book groups.

"GAY OLD GIRLS" Review: by Rayne Jarvis

"Gay Old Girls," by Zsa Zsa Gershick, is a unique collection of personal lesbian biographies. Not only entertaining, but enlightening as well, this book takes us on a journey back in time. In a series of retold interviews a diverse group of women, all over sixty years of age, reminisce on their past sorrows and joys whilst living lesbians lives: **"But if you had to keep it a secret especially if you were a business person or professional upper middle class you had to remain secretive. you didn't make friends with other people very much. It was like living in a harem, except in a harem where the sultans kept changing favorites. And there's always plenty to fight about in any relationship."** (Valerie Taylor, Lesbian novelist and Quaker.)

These intimate portraits, reaching out to both younger and older readers, give us a much needed insight into a lesbian history which, until recent years, has been woefully neglected. The lives of these women span a period in American history from Depression Days, through war and post war years, to the

much changed world of today.

For many of these women their own truth, of being gay-oriented in a predominately straight world, did not always come easily or at a young age. Although the words they speak reveal to us the vast changes that have come to pass over the years, we are also made painfully aware of the distance yet to be covered.

While reading these accounts of both happy and sad times, we cannot avoid seeing the pain and loneliness now being faced by many of these lesbians, who are now growing old in, whatis still, mostly, a hostile heterosexual world. **"But what I'm noticing is that because I'm older, people tend to neuter me anyway."** (Suzanne Judith) **"...many people believe if you're differently abled, you obviously have no sex life!"** (Valerie Taylor)

What Zsa Zsa Gershick has achieved here, in first of all gaining the confidence of these women--many of them "hypervigilant and exceedingly discreet" --and then skillfully assembling their stories, is truly rare and wonderful.

Decidedly, "Gay Old Girls," is "an important and significant contribution to Lesbian heritage." (Book Jacket) Most of all, this book manages to shine a light into our lives today, by portraying how we are at least no longer considered by perverts. We need to hear and remember our "herstory," so that we can manage to remain forever vigilant in preventing the destruction of whatever progress we have made, even though this may entail, for many of us, many personal sacrifices along the way. Nevertheless, realizing and affirming the courage of lesbians women in the past, can give us a great us a great deal of the hope and inspiration that we so preciously need for the future. undoubtedly, what would help to make this future brighter would be, if today, books such as this would be read, not only by the LGBT community, but the straight community as well. "Gay Old Girls," is definitely an excellent choice to recommend to friends, regardless of whether they are gay or straight.

"I WILL TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT STORIES. THEY AREN'T JUST ENTERTAINMENT. DON'T BE FOOLED. THEY ARE ALL WE HAVE." (Leslie Marmon Silko)

Rayne Jarvis is a resident of K-W.

Words Worth Books

ALL CULTURAL STUDIES INCLUDING GAY AND LESBIAN BOOKS ON SALE IN MARCH 20% OFF

100 King Street South, Uptown Waterloo
Open 9 to 9 weekdays, 9 to 6 Saturday,
12 to 5 Sunday - 884-2665
"WATERLOO'S FAVOURITE INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE"

MUSINGS OF REVERIE

JOY

BY A.J. MAHARI

**"YOUR JOY IS YOUR
SORROW UNMASKED"**

—Gibran

In order to tap into and be fully able to experience joy we must first grieve our losses, and our sorrows in life. Grieving our sorrow opens us up and creates room in our hearts for us to feel and experience joy. This is often an on-going process.

If you can cry then you can laugh. It is the expression and release of your tears that will enable you to be just as expressive in other times with your laughter.

Laughter is shared joy.

Joy is the hunger of every human heart and soul. It is a natural part of you that life tends to encroach upon. Find it, and identify it within yourself and then openly guard it.

Joy, unlike, bliss, can be experienced even amidst turmoil and pain in your life. Realizing the potential to feel joy is not dependent upon any circumstance or person in your life. Your joy depends only upon your being open to it.

It is from the center of your soul that your joy rises up to enhance the experience in any given moment of what it is to be whole: whole moments of mentored mirrored magical mystery.

Joy is not the absence of pain. Joy is the splendid acceptance of pain. Moving through your pain will bring you joy. Joy is simple. Emotions are often mixed and difficult. Life is complicated.

Joy is simple.

"HOPE FLOATS"
by A.J. MAHARI

Hope floats inside of every human being who chooses to be open to it. Hope is as much a part of one's existence as is the blood rushing through your veins. Hope floats from the heart to the soul, from the heart to the mind and from the mind to the soul and back to the heart: throughout your body: hope: the blood of hope is the circle of life.

Each of us is the embodiment of our creator; in the flesh. We are the arms that can reach out to embrace each other. Soul is the spirited seat of authentic self.

Hope lives in your trust. Hope lives in your faith. To have an enduring hope you must trust your faith and have faith in your placed trust.

Hope floats freely foraging an ever growing light of love that leaves in its wake, in the shadows of all of your doubts: your living out of fear; your living out of rage; your negative ruminating; your living out of any desperate search for anything or everything that you do not have or possess. Hope sets us free to live in what is. Hope sets us free to live in a way that allows you to just be...and to feel a contented happiness in this being: just because: because no matter what your circumstance today, you know how to tap into that soul-place inside--the ultimate gift to and source of your life. Hope lives there. Your hope awaits you there---always!

Hope floats when you allow it to. Hope, like the endless motion of water that is never tired of flowing, is a reservoir of kindness and gentle love that you can give to yourself and to others.

Hope floats: just because it can. Hope: just because you can!



WILD WOMAN GARDENS

• inspired designs • planting • stonework • ornamentation •

519-334-3411

Adelphi Antiques

23 King Street East,

Conestogo, Ontario

519-664-1663

We Buy and Sell Antiques

Friday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.

William Moorcroft was first employed as a potter by James Macintyre & Co. Ltd., of Burslem in 1897. He established the Moorcroft pottery in 1913. The company initially used an impressed mark "Moorcroft, Burslem" a signature mark "W.

Moorcroft." followed. The majority of the art pottery wares were hand thrown, resulting in a great variation among similarly styled pieces. Colour and marks are keys to determining age. Walker, William's son, continued the business upon his

father's death and made the same style wares. "Moorcroft" with export pieces also marked Modern pieces are marked simply "Made in England". Prices have steadily increased over the years, and still enjoy a very strong market.



Teletubbies Hubabaloo:

The Children's Television "Conspiracy" One might have thought that the impeachment trial had ended with all the media scrambling that took place after the Associated Press reported

that **Jerry Falwell's National Liberty Journal had published "Parents Alert: Tinky Winky Comes Out of the Closet," alleging that the Teletubby Tinky Winky is intentionally being presented as a gay role model.** Outlets local and national scrambled to cover the story and get reaction from LGBT organizations. The "Alert" included such brazenly obvious "gay clues" as:

■ **"He is purple - the gay-pride color"**

■ **"His antenna is shaped like a triangle - the gay-pride symbol"**

■ **Tinky Winky, who is played by a male with a male voice, carries a red bag described by Falwell as a "purse"**

■ **In a Washington Post "editorial" (see below), Ellen DeGeneres is pictured alongside Tinky Winky on a list of "who's in, who's out." (Note: Tinky's "In" not "Out")**



Falwell referring to a pop culture "hot list" as an editorial is questionable, if not downright wrong, but then other sources repeat the mistake, not checking the article in

question. Among the coverage of Tinky Winky's outing, some highlights were:

■ **ABCNews.com's Interactive Tinky Winky, that let you click on an area of the Teletubby's picture to find out what Falwell objected to about it.**

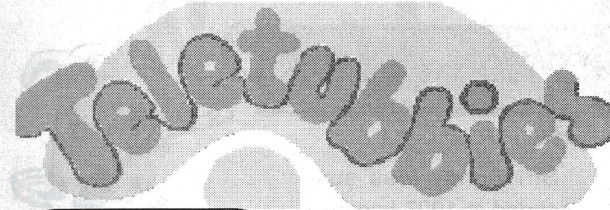
■ **The Washington Post's Hanna Rosin opening her column about the controversy with "Maybe it was the time Tinky**

Winky gave that 'big hug' to Dipsy. Or maybe it was the time he 'fell on his back' if you catch the drift." She also gets a great quote from author Andrew Sullivan involving Bugs Bunny, Elmer Fudd, Pinocchio, Boys' Town and Batman and Robin.

■ **MSNBC.com had an unfortunately titled story, "Falwell endorses gay Teletubby story" (as if the story didn't originate with him), and a poll asking "Do you think Tinky Winky was created to promote the homosexual lifestyle?" After an e-mail from GLAAD, the poll changed "homosexual lifestyle" to "homosexuality."**

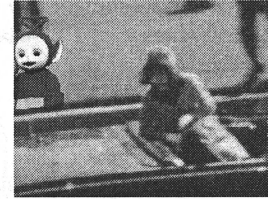
■ **Fox News, titled their coverage "Falwell: The Antichrist May Not Be Jewish, But The Purple Teletubby is Definitely Gay," referring to Falwell's apology last week for a speech in which he stated that the Antichrist was alive, disabled, in his 30s and Jewish.**

<http://www.glaad.org>



Tinky Winky has been fired by the BBC..

Well to be more accurate, **the actor inside the suit (37 year old Dave Thompson) has been given the boot.**



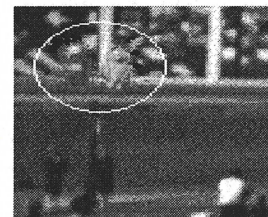
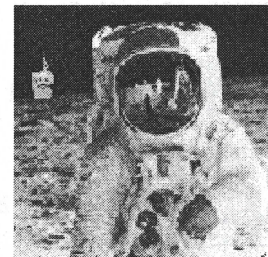
Due to "artistic differences", Dave has been given the boot after 70 shows. Another actor will replace him, but this is not good enough. Remember when Bungle was replaced in Rainbow?? Well.. Tinky Winky will not be the same without Dave..

Dave believes that it had something to do with his voice. His was the only one of the Teletubbies to be dubbed..

To protest against this injustice, write to:

**Viewer and Listener
Correspondence
BBC Television
Villiers House
The Broadway
Ealing
London
W5 2PA**

**Email: Childrens BBC at
Childrens@BBC.Co.Uk**



<http://www.netsoc.ucd.ie/~raymo/secret.html>

FALWELL DENIES PREVIOUS STATEMENTS (February 16, 1999)

In a statement posted on his personal web site (<http://www.falwell.com/>), the **REVEREND JERRY FALWELL NOW DENIES** making any comments regarding the Teletubby Tinky Winky's supposed role modeling for the "homosexual lifestyle." The statement reads: "Dr. Falwell has never seen the teletubbies' [sic] TV program. Dr. Falwell has never commented in any way on the teletubbies. He did not "out" Tinky Winky". He then goes on to charge that: "[t]his entire controversy is the worst form of yellow journalism.... clearly designed to stereotype and damage Dr. Falwell." **THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE, BY DAVID REED OF ASSOCIATED PRESS, REPORTED ON A "PARENTS ALERT" PUBLISHED IN DR. FALWELL'S NATIONAL LIBERTY JOURNAL**, a monthly newspaper, which told parents that Tinky Winky used lesbian and gay symbols, thereby making it a "role model."

<http://www.glaad.org>

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

40,000

AT MELBOURNE PRIDE

Melbourne, Australia's fourth gay-pride parade attracted 40,000 people to Fitzroy Street in the St. Kilda neighborhood Feb. 1.

The two-kilometer procession -- sponsored by the mayor and city of Port Phillip, a government entity that encompasses several Melbourne neighborhoods -- featured 85 contingents.

As is often the case in America, the loudest applause went to Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and to Dykes on Bikes.

The gay rainbow flag flew over St. Kilda Town Hall all week.

NORWEGIAN LESBIAN PRIEST REINSTATED

Norway's state Lutheran church faces a possible split after the bishop of Hamar in the southeast of the country reinstated a lesbian priest who had been barred from the pulpit after she married her

girlfriend under the nation's gay-partnership

law.

Siri Sunde was suspended in 1997 because church rules prohibit ordination for persons in gay partnerships.

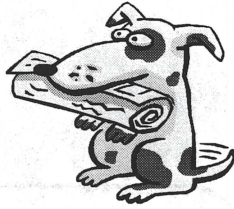
But Sunde's bishop, Rosemarie Koehn, believes the ban is wrong and sent Sunde back to work.

"With the same justification the church has used to change its view in other cases, it must change its view about homosexuality," Koehn said. "There is not a theological basis for excluding clergy for entering a partnership."

Sunde called Koehn's decision "a victory for Christ."

"It is the Holy Gospel and love which have triumphed today," she said. "I am very relieved."

Norway's gay registered-partnership law grants every right of matrimony except access to adoption, artificial insemination and church weddings.



COSTA RICAN BISHOP CLEARED

The Roman Catholic archbishop of San Jose, Costa Rica, did not violate a law that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation when he denounced a planned gay-pride festival last August, a court ruled Feb. 6.

The gay group Pink Triangle had sued Archbishop Roman Arrieta for saying officials should block the event. Arrieta could have been sentenced to 60 days in jail.

FRENCH PROTEST GAY PARTNERSHIPS

Tens of thousands of people marched through central Paris Jan. 31 in protest against a partnership bill that grants unmarried couples -- gay and straight, romantic or not -- spousal rights in areas such as inheritance, housing, taxation, workplace benefits, social security and social-welfare programs.

New Look...



Same Great Taste!

Fridays at 9:30 p.m.

Serving Your Community
CKWR FM 98.5
Soft & Easy Favourites. Specialty, Multicultural

www.outandabout.on.ca

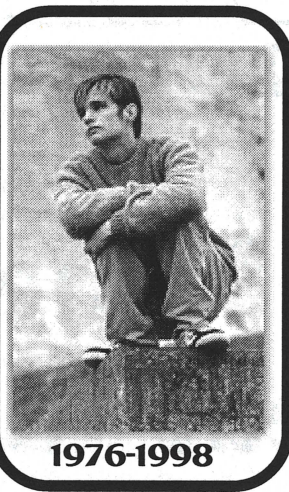
UPDATE ON: THE MATTHEW SHEPARD STORY

MATTHEW SHEPARD: HIS PARENTS SPEAK

Judy and Dennis Shepard, parents of Matthew Shepard, recently spoke for the first time in the press about their son, his murder, and the aftermath. They appeared on Dateline NBC on Friday, January 29, in an interview with Katie Couric. The Shepards, dignified and soft-spoken, talked about their son with love and sorrow in a deeply moving and respectful way. Unfortunately, the story itself was marred by poor writing, talking about how Laramie was no place "to live a gay lifestyle," and how Matthew, while at the University of Wyoming, was not one "to flaunt his sexuality." But this did not detract from the honest, straightforward way in which the Shepards spoke about their son.

THE MARCH ISSUE OF VANITY FAIR MAGAZINE features a long piece on Matthew Shepard and the events and people surrounding his murder. Entitled "The Crucifixion of Matthew Shepard," writer Melanie Thernstrom talks to Shepard's parents, people who were

Matthew's friends, those who were friends with his alleged assailants, and the residents of Laramie. Thernstrom has done an enormous amount of personal research, and it is obvious she spent a significant amount of time in the place where Matthew lived and died. There are choices that many may argue with: Thernstrom's discussion of Matthew's depression, his health and HIV status; and there are those who would say



1976-1998

that these are as relevant as the facts of his murder, making him human, whole instead of a one-dimensional martyr.

GLAAD learned through a spokesperson that the Shepards have been upset at the response to

their appearance on Dateline NBC, when they learned that some members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community felt that they weren't "supportive" enough of their son. How can anyone know what they have gone through, and how can anyone question their love? The Shepards are starting a foundation to do work in the area of human rights: one of these areas will indeed be for lesbian and gay rights. Their willingness to speak about Matthew, and to begin to try and further the work he had sought to do in the future is nothing but supportive. We can only hope that the community can continue to do that work as well, in the many ways and venues there are to do it in. -- **GLAAD**

1-MATT'S MOM JOINS CROSS-COUNTRY TREK

Judy Shepard has announced the "**INTERNATIONAL HIKE AGAINST HATE AND VIOLENCE**", a 2,500 mile Alaska-to-Laramie journey to begin in June. The hike will take a "Flame of Hope" from Skagway, Alaska, on June 3 to Laramie on Oct. 12, when a ceremony as

well as lighting of a permanent flame are planned.

2-WYOMING KILLS HATE CRIMES BILL FOR YEAR

According to the Associated Press on February 3, "four months after gay college student Matthew Shepard was beaten to death, a move to pass a hate crimes bill in Wyoming was scuttled Wednesday by a legislative committee. The committee killed two bills, and supporters said that ended their hopes for the year. State lawmakers have rejected similar measures four times since 1995."

3-GAY GROUP OP- POSES DEATH PENALTY FOR KILLERS

According to the Casper Star-Tribune, "a national gay rights organization has condemned an Albany County prosecutor's decision to seek the death penalty against two men accused of killing a gay University of Wyoming student. The group, Queer Watch, issued a challenge to other gay rights organizations to take a similar stance against capital punishment in the high-profile case....In a telephone interview Michael Petrelis, a Queer Watch member

in San Francisco, denounced the 'continuing silence of prominent gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered organizations' about capital punishment. Putting anyone to death for the murder of Shepard is just as barbaric as tying the victim to a fence post and leaving him to die in sub-zero temperatures,' he said."

SOURCE FOR STORIES

1-2-3 WAF:

<http://www.wiredstrategies.com/shepard.html>

More On Matthew

by A.J. Mahari

"TIED TO A WOODEN FENCE, TORTURED, AND LEFT TO DIE, 21-YEAR-OLD MATTHEW SHEPARD--A BRIGHT, SENSITIVE FRESHMAN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING--HAS BECOME A NATIONAL SYMBOL OF VIOLENCE AGAINST GAYS."

--Vanity Fair Magazine

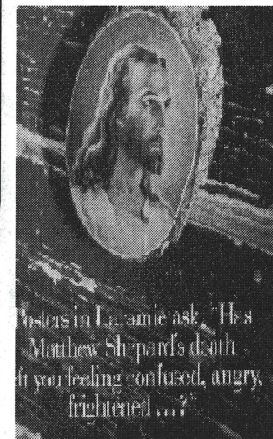
This is how **Melanie Thernstrom** begins her article entitled, "**The Crucifixion of Matthew Shepard**," in the March '99 issue of the magazine, **Vanity Fair**, which is on sale currently.

The article is very in-depth and is 15 pages long. It explores a lot about Matthew, his life and death, the town of Laramie Wyoming and

looks more closely at the lives of the two men accused of killing Matthew Shepard, as well as the issue of hate crime.

"MATTHEW HAD THE POSTURE OF A VICTIM," JUDY SHEPARD SAYS. "WHEN HE WALKED DOWN THE STREET HE HAD THAT VICTIM WALK." --Vanity Fair

Melanie Thernstrom does a very good job of bringing to light many of the issues that have not been assembled and disassembled for deeper understanding in any media effort since Matthew was murdered.



This picture appears on the seventh page of the article which also shows the living room where one of the accused killers lived. A strong message perhaps to both "sides?"

The story of a relationship...

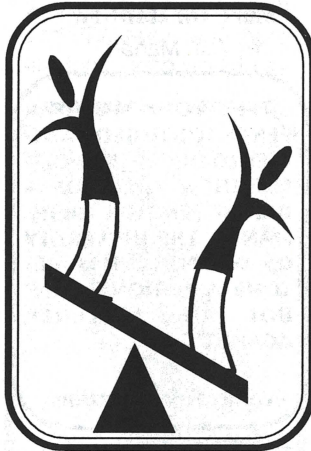
FRIENDSHIP-THE SOMETIMES OF ALWAYS

Sometimes people come into your life and you know right away that they were meant to be there...to serve some sort of purpose, teach you a lesson or help figure out who you are or who you want to become. You never know who these people may be but when you lock eyes with them, you know that every moment they will affect your life in some profound way.

And sometimes things happen to you at the time that may seem horrible, painful and unfair, but in reflection you realize that without overcoming those obstacles you would have never realized your potential, strength, will power or heart.

Everything happens for a reason. Nothing happens by chance or by means of good luck. Illness, injury, love, lost moments of true greatness and sheer stupidity all occur to test the limits of your soul. Without these small tests, life would be like a smoothly paved, straight, flat road to nowhere. Safe and comfortable but dull and utterly pointless. The people you meet affect your life.

The successes and downfalls that you experience can create who you are, and the bad experiences can be learned from. In fact, they are probably the most poignant and important ones. If someone hurts you, betrays you or breaks your heart, forgive them



because they have helped you learn about trust and the importance of being cautious to whom you open your heart to. If someone loves you, love them back unconditionally, not only because they love you, but because they are teaching you to love and open your heart and eyes to little things. Make every day count. Appreciate every moment and take from it

everything that you possibly can, for you may never be able to experience it again. Talk to people you have never talked to before, and actually listen. Let yourself fall in love, break free and set your sights high. Hold your head up because you have every right to. Tell yourself you are a great individual and believe in yourself, for if you don't believe in yourself, no one else will believe in you. Create your own life and then go out and live it. Please share this with anyone who you believe has made a difference in your life! --Anon.

[Editor's Note: The title was added and did not appear with the original.]

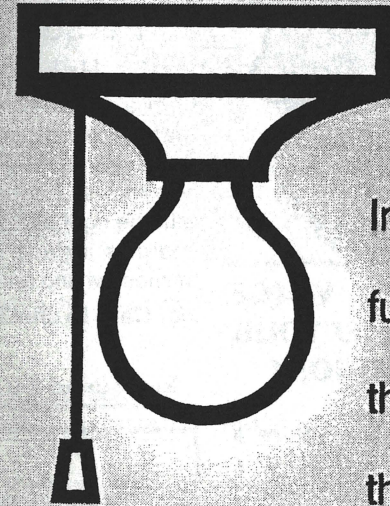
"We can only learn to love by loving."

--Iris Murdoch

"Love withers under constraint; its very essence is liberty; it is compatible neither with obedience, jealousy, nor fear: it is there most pure, perfect and unlimited, where its votaries live in confidence, equality and reserve."

--Percy Bysshe Shelley

Click it on.



In a world
full of choices
there is one
that shines
brighter than
the others.

We make the Internet simple.



Golden Triangle On Line

No setup fee. Free web browser and email software. 24 Hour Help Desk support.
10 megabytes of free space for your personal website. Corporate accounts available.
Golden Triangle On Line, [REDACTED]

CLASSIFIED SECTION

Counselling

Kathy Frey

HSC, ICADC, CUP

Addiction Counselling Services

Individual - Group Work
Body Work

LGBT Relapse
Prevention

Specific Women's Issues
Aftercare/Relapse
Prevention

Kitchener-Waterloo
& Area

(519) [REDACTED]



NEW mIRC CHAT CHANNEL ONLINE

Hey there everyone. I just thought I would take know that there is a new channel in the midst of being registered. The channel name is #gaykw and of course is for the gay lesbian bi etc.. community in the tri-cities area. For more information contact Dave at: [REDACTED]



THE VOICE WELCOMES YOUR SUBMISSIONS

If you have a picture, a story, an article, or a poem that you'd like to submit please write or email us today!

The Voice Magazine
P.O. Box [REDACTED]
RPO Evergreen
Kitchener, Ontario
N2M 5P1
Email: [REDACTED]

YOUR VOICE

We welcome Letters To the Editor!



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!!

OUR ADVERTISERS ARE SUPPORTING US!!

Personals

Hi !

I am a single 40ish lesbian looking to meet women for friendship and who knows...maybe more with the right person? My interests include music, movies, writing and reading. Care to chat?

Reply to Ad # L-3

BUSINESS NETWORKING

for the local LGBT business community

MARCH 25, 1999

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

22 King St. S.,
Lower Level
Uptown Waterloo

for more information:
Contact Darren at:
(519) [REDACTED]

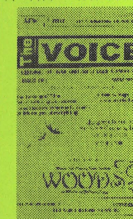
This is a no-charge event

GUEST SPEAKER:

Gordon Husk

*Topic: Dealing with
Difficult People*

The VOICE



OCT '98

First Issue



NOV '98

Mathew Shepard

Stories



DEC '98

BACK ISSUES

NOW AVAILABLE!!!



JAN '99



FEB '99

To order your back copies today send your cheque or money order to:

THE VOICE
P.O. Box 24015
RPO EVERGREEN
KITCHENER, ONTARIO
N2M 5P1

Each issue will cost **\$5.00**
(includes shipping & handling)



SERVICES OF UNION FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES

and other rites of passage

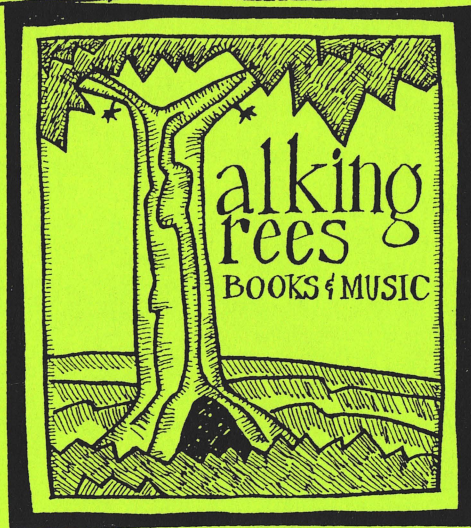
FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF WATERLOO
96 Dunbar Road South, Waterloo

742-0432

One is not born
a woman,
one becomes one.

• Simone de Beauvoir

Happy NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY Month!



Guelph's BEST
selection
of new and used
BOOKS & CDs



open 7 days a week

- 10% teacher/librarian/senior discount
- STUDENTS → 10% off with Student Saver Card
- We pay CASH for your BOOKS & CDs
(we're looking for: gay & lesbian, Canadian and
alternative literature.)

we're not just GAY friendly • WE'RE GAY!

168 WYNHAM ST. N. GUELPH
(at Woolwich) 519-822-6201

Fax: 519-822-0719