

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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



The Voice

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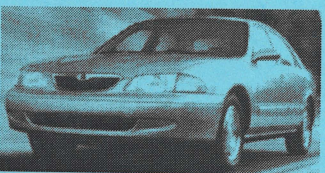
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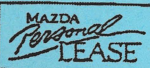
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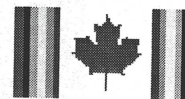
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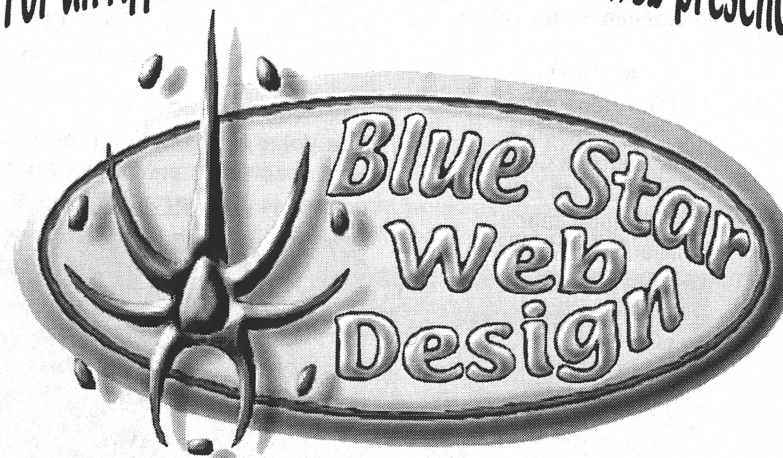
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WHO ARE "WE" TRYING TO BE?



Given the recent changes to many laws in Ontario and those still to come, the question that begs to be answered is, Who are we trying to be and what is it that we *really* want?

There is an on-going debate about what rights "we" deserve and how "we" can attain those rights in a way that is in effect "equal" and seen to be both just and "equal". While I advocate for "us" to receive equal treatment under the law, both within the letter and spirit of the law I wonder how much "we" may end up losing or sacrificing in what seems to be a quest for sameness. Do you really want the right to "marry"? Do you want your union or your relationship to be a "marriage"? How can we expect to enter into "marriage" or the semantics of same when the terms "husband" and "wife" are not adequate descriptors of who "we" are? Are there not some things that the straight world has made such a mockery of that we just don't need to "gain", "win" or have them? Is there not something to be said for alternatives and newly chosen, applied and defined words? Is there something perceived as inherently wrong with "our" lifestyles when it comes to relationships and the definition of said?

While there are some rights we definately will benefit from there are others that may be more detrimental than anything else. We must be careful that what "we" seek in a struggle for validation and acceptance does not compromise our integrity. After all we are not straight. So why then does there seem to be this race to be the "same" as those who are straight? Are we not putting our energies in the wrong direction and shaming ourselves in a quest for sameness? Wouldn't "we" be best served if "we" were searching for what it is "we" need in ways that celebrate our differences as opposed to ways that would assimilate us into aspects of a main-stream culture that would further threaten our identity?

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EDITORIAL

Low-income gays, lesbians will lose under tax changes

By Janice Tibbetts

Extending benefits won't put taxpayers on hook, study says

Southam News

OTTAWA - A majority of gay and lesbian couples will be financial losers when the federal government rewrites dozens of laws to include same-sex partners, says a Finance Department study.

Ottawa, which plans to change dozens of statutes next year, will save an estimated \$20-million a year in tax revenue, mainly at the expense of the poorest gays and lesbians. "You would have losers and most would be low-income earners," said Albert Wakkary, a tax policy officer and author of the paper, obtained by Southam News.

The biggest financial setback is that about two-thirds of same-sex couples will have to forgo the approximately \$28-million they collectively claim in the goods and services credit for low- and middle-income earners because partners will be required to combine their income. As a result, about 93,000 of an estimated 140,000 gay couples in Canada will have to pay almost \$300 more per year in income tax.

On the other hand, the government will lose about \$8-million in other benefits, mainly the married and equivalent-to-married credit for supporting a dependent.

Although the overall savings to the \$77-billion tax system will be almost

negligent, they dispel suspicions among critics that extending benefits to same-sex couples would be a drain on taxpayers.

The government also gained tax revenue when it changed legislation in 1993 to extend equal tax treatment to common-law couples. But tax breaks that affect common-law couples, such as child benefits, will be virtually non-existent for same-sex couples.

Ottawa is basing its figures on the assumption that 1.5 of couples are gay. The estimate comes from a 1990 Statistics Canada study on consumer finances, and includes homes in which two unrelated adults of the same sex live together, excluding students. The survey, which did not ask about sexual orientation, concluded that over 90 of same-sex households consist of two-income earners.

There is a concern that bringing gays and lesbians under the spousal umbrella could make the tax system harder to police because there is no way to confirm same-sex relationships in the absence of a marriage licence.

The prospect that couples will only claim their status when it is financially beneficial is a problem that also exists on a much larger scale for common-law couples of the opposite sex, says the paper.

The potential for abuse could be reduced if the government adopts registered domestic partnerships, in which all couples in relationships of economic dependency, ranging from widowed siblings to even old army buddies, simply have to sign up to be included in the benefits and obligations currently reserved for married and common-law couples.

Anne McLellan, the Justice Minister, said recently that the government is considering the prospect.

"Recognizing registered domestic partnerships could reduce abuse by providing veritable proof of a relationship," said Mr. Wakkary's paper, which was prepared last month and is based on 1994 data.

[This is why I (and other poor queers I know) have never thought that the struggle for gay marriage/ same-sex benefits should be a priority for our movement. They tend to only be "benefits" if you're a middle-class professional or a member of the well-paid (unionized) workingclass.

A fairer and more equitable approach would be to try to remove the privileges accorded to straight couples (and perhaps to ensure that, if there are to be benefits, they are accorded to all who bear the costs of *parenting*). And, at the same time, do the married the service --especially those who are poor and *especially* women -- of providing examples of alternatives to financial and social dependence. (As early feminists knew well, if marriage is really about love and commitment, it isn't well-served if it's based on such dependencies.)

COURT-MARTIAL STARTS FOR SOLDIER'S ACCUSED KILLER:

Dec. 7 marked the opening of the court-martial of Pvt. Calvin N. Glover, 18, who is accused of bludgeoning to death fellow Fort Campbell soldier Pfc. Barry L. Winchell, 21, on July 5. Although Winchell was not openly gay and by accounts appeared to be in the exploration stages of his homosexuality, he was perceived as gay and that is alleged to be Glover's motivation. Testimony was given at the Article 32 hearing, the military's equivalent of a grand jury hearing, that Winchell was often the subject of daily anti-gay harassment that was never addressed by supervisors. Also, it was reported that Glover talked about hating "faggots." The case is being watched carefully by gay activists, particularly the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), because it is considered to be the first anti-gay murder court-martial to occur under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" policy. C. Dixon Osburn, SLDN co-executive director, said he expects the evidence presented at the court-martial will show that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" is a policy that creates harassment. "It shows why 'Don't Ask' is an awful policy," he said. "Leaders need to step up to the plate and make sure all soldiers are safe." For more information contact SLDN's Steve Ralls at 202-█ Access to the proceedings can be arranged through Maj. Pamela Hart at 502-█

**Shepard Murder Trials, Boy Scouts Ruling,
and Canadian Supreme Court Decision
Lead the Top 10 Gay News Stories of 1999**

by Rawley Grau
Editor, Press Pass Q

Recently, **Press Pass Q: A** Newsletter for the Gay & Lesbian Press Professional polled its subscribers as to the most important gay-related news stories of 1999. More than 80 people responded - a group that included publishers, editors, and reporters at gay and lesbian newspapers and magazines from across the country. **Here are their top 10 stories:**

1. Matthew Shepard's murderers tried and convicted

Nearly eight months after Matthew Shepard was beaten, tortured, and left on a fence to die outside Laramie, Wyo., Russell Henderson, 22, one of the two accused killers, surprised observers by pleading guilty, before the start of his trial on April 5, to the kidnapping and murder of the 21-year-old gay college student. The trial of Henderson's accomplice, Aaron McKinney, 22, took place in late October, with McKinney's attorneys resorting to a "gay panic" defense: They argued that their client had attacked Shepard in a drug-induced rage after the gay man tried to grope him. The jury rejected this line of reasoning and on November 3 found McKinney guilty on two counts of felony murder, and one count each of second-degree murder, kidnapping, and aggravated robbery. In a plea bargain, McKinney was spared the death penalty, receiving instead a sentence of two consecutive life terms in exchange for agreeing to waive his right to appeal. Shepard's parents had asked the prosecutor not to seek McKinney's execution, calling instead for a time of healing to begin.

2. New Jersey Supreme Court strikes down Boy Scouts policy

On August 4, in a unanimous decision, the New Jersey Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling that the Boy Scouts of America had violated the state's civil rights law when it expelled Assistant Scoutmaster James Dale in 1990 because he is gay. This was the first time a state's high court ruled against the Scouts' anti-gay policy. The court said that because the BSA is non-selective in its membership and receives support from state and local governments, it cannot exempt itself from the state's civil rights law governing places of public accommodation and therefore cannot discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. Dale, 29, had been involved in Scouting for 12 years before his expulsion, winning over 30 merit badges and rising to the rank of Eagle Scout. The BSA intends to appeal the New Jersey ruling in the U.S. Supreme Court.

3. Canadian Supreme Court strikes down heterosexual definition of "spouse"

On May 20, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in an 8-1 decision that Ontario's Family Law Act infringed on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms by restricting its definition of "spouse" to persons who are actually married or "either of a man and woman who are not married to each other and have cohabited ... continuously for a period of not less than three years." The case, *M v. H*, involved a woman, "M," who was seeking spousal support from her former partner, "H," another woman. The Supreme Court gave Ontario six months

to remove the heterosexual definition of "spouse" from its laws. On October 27, the Parliament of Ontario revised 67 statutes, thus extending to same-sex couples all the rights and responsibilities enjoyed by common-law heterosexual couples, including obligations involved in a break-up, adoption procedures, and hospital visitation rights.

4. Jim Hormel becomes Ambassador to Luxembourg

On June 4, while Congress was taking its 10-day Memorial Day holiday, President Clinton used his recess appointment privilege to name James Hormel as ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, making him the first openly gay U.S. ambassador. The move came in defiance of Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, who, despite its approval by the Foreign Relations Committee, had refused to allow the nomination to come to a vote on the Senate floor, where it was expected to win confirmation. Lott and the conservative Republican leadership claimed that Hormel, a businessman and philanthropist, was unsuitable because he appeared in a Gay Pride parade with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a group of gay men dressed as nuns. Clinton had first nominated Hormel to the post in 1997.

5. Britain ends ban on gays in the military

The European Court in Strasbourg found on September 27 that the United Kingdom's ban on gays and lesbians serving in the military was in violation of the European Convention of Human Rights. The British government consequently agreed to abide by the ruling and suspended all current investigations of suspected gays and lesbians. The case heard in Strasbourg involved four former members of the Royal Armed Forces who claimed that investigations into their sexuality violated their right to privacy. In November, the British Defense Ministry announced that a new military code of conduct would be drawn up as soon as possible.

6. California passes domestic partnership bill

On October 2, California Gov. Gray Davis signed into law a bill that established a domestic partnership registry for same-sex couples and unmarried elderly couples, ensured hospital visitation rights for domestic partners, and provided health benefits for the domestic partners of state employees. California is the sixth state in the union to provide such benefits; the others are New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, Hawaii, and Oregon.

7. Gay issues prominent in 2000 presidential campaign

As the 2000 presidential campaign got off to an early start in the summer, the major presidential candidates couldn't avoid addressing gay topics. The Democrats, in fact, seemed eager to woo gay voters, with Vice President Al Gore and former Sen. Bill Bradley giving consecutive interviews in *The Advocate*, coming out against California's anti-gay Knight initiative, and speaking in favor of gay rights in the workplace. Bradley went so far as to suggest that "sexual orientation" be added to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, provoking criticism from gay leaders who feared such a move would detract from efforts to pass ENDA. In the Republican camp, Texas Gov. George W. Bush made conflicting statements about whether he would have openly gay people in his administration, while Arizona Sen. John McCain met with representatives from the Log Cabin Republicans. Bush said he would not meet with the group.

8. Falwell meets with Mel White and activists, agrees to tone down rhetoric

On October 24, the Rev. Mel White and 200 other gays and lesbians to Lynchburg, Va., met with Jerry Falwell and members of his Thomas Road Baptist Church. Falwell told the gathering that, although he would not change his

Continued on page 55

Bisexual Wits

By Lyn McGinnis

"I use my bisexual wits to cross boundaries, crack codes, and bring back a store of secret information society would like to use to keep us all in thrall. We don't have a chance at overcoming the barriers we were born into - female-male, gay-straight, class, color - without this kind of information," said Carol A. Queen in The Queer in Me.^{*} As both a bisexual and transgendered person, I have always found myself at odds with the world. In the difficult process of making sense of my feelings and why they seemed to be at war with everyone else's, I too have travelled through enemy territory and gained a few 'secrets.' We "queers among queers" find ourselves with one foot in the gay world and the other in the straight world . . . and yet another somewhere outside either world! We have reason to love and hate both of them, and even more reason to find a way for us all to communicate and better understand each other, healing ourselves and society. So, what is

this "secret information society would like to use to keep us all in thrall?" Our attitudes on sexuality are connected to our social, political, cultural, religious, and philosophical views. To be content with inherited assumptions and unexamined beliefs, is to lock important doors leading to greater understanding of ourselves and each other. An example of this is my own painful discovery after coming out as a bisexual and transgendered person. I am also biphobic and transphobic. The terms homophobia, biphobia and transphobia may be relatively new to the language, but they are as old as history. The terms mean fear, hatred, and intolerance of sexual and gender diversity. What this definition hides within it is a profound uneasiness with any behavior not conforming to North American sexual and gender-role stereotypes. Both can manifest themselves as a fear of being or appearing to be queer, or even appearing to associate with queers.

Jean-Paul Pilon

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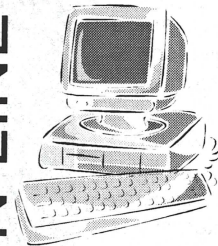
Our culture has taken the living rainbow of the human heart and separated, analyzed, categorized and cataloged it to death. Anyone brought up in this society has the seed of this fear and hatred of the entire spectrum of sexuality within them, including myself. I consider the presence of any "queer phobia" in my cultural conditioning like I would an inherited disease, something to struggle against and defeat every day. This struggle is one of the central defining characteristics of sexual and gender orientation minorities, we are all fighting an internalized system at odds with our hearts. This cultural virus is packed deeply in the inherited baggage we all carry. Part of the process toward our 'individuation' is sifting through this load and keeping what we need, adding what we don't have and throwing out what is useless. The reason we hold on to this baggage to begin with is it makes us feel safe. Adding to the problem is the fact that this deeply rooted prejudice is collectively reconfirmed daily in our culture. This is done both by the general population's unconscious acceptance of this legacy and the power elite's conscious promotion of it. I mentioned at the beginning that we have a foot in the gay world and the straight world. While some bisexuals choose to 'pass' within the heterosexual majority, we share with our gay sisters and brothers this hostile cultural legacy. I identify very strongly with the gay community. Our friends and our enemies are the same. In *Sexuality as a Continuum*, Rebecca Shuster^{*} touches on just a few of the possibilities, "bisexuals' lives provide new psychological and social understandings of sexuality

and closeness, highlighting the mechanics of sexual decision-making as potentially self-determined action. The bisexual experience calls into question traditional definitions of the nature of sexual identity development. Fluid, ambiguous, subversive, multifarious, bisexuality can not be denied."

^{*}Used with permission. From *Bi Any Other Name, Bisexual People Speak Out*, edited by Loraine Hutchins and Lani Kaahumanu, Alyson Pub. Inc.

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**Are You in a Relationship
With an Abusive Lesbian??**

Psychological abuse in lesbian relationships can be subtle and confusing. Political ideology and understanding of oppression can get twisted around to justify abusive behavior.

The following excerpt is taken from an article entitled "**Lesbian Violence, Lesbian Victims**;" *How to identify battering in relationships*," written by Lee Evans and Shelly Banister. The article appeared in *Lesbian Ethics*, Vol. 4, #1.

Here are some good questions to ask yourself:

1. Do I withhold information from my lover about my social interactions for fear of what she may do or say?

2. Do I have the feeling that it is somehow "bad" if I want to be emotionally intimate with someone other than my lover?

3. Does this relationship (fail to) foster a sense of community for me with other lesbians; does my lover encourage me to spend time with other lesbians?

4. When I am around my lover and other friends or family, am I nervous about what she might say or do to embarrass or humiliate me?

5. Do I ever find myself making excuses for my lover's behavior when we are out in public?

6. Do I feel like I am isolated from my friends and family, or feel like I have to stop spending time with my acquaintances and can only be involved with her circle of friends?

7. When I catch my lover in lies and then question her does she then make me feel like I've done something wrong, or make me question my own sense of reality?

8. Do I have feelings of being controlled, isolated, intimidated, exhausted, shame or guilt in my relationship with my lover?

Examples of coercive behaviors that occur in lesbian relationships:

ISOLATION

1. Your lover is so jealous that you limit your contact with other people so that you won't have to put up with her jealous remarks or rage.

2. Your lover constantly criticizes your friends for being too political and radical, or insufficiently political and radical.

3. Your lover decides she wants you to stay in the closet or go back into



the closet for her/your career's sake, or for her/your emotional well-being, or because she "knows what's best for you."

4. Your lover is always in the midst of a crisis, so that you can never leave her alone.

5. Your lover creates embarrassing scenes in front of your friends or family so that none of them feel comfortable visiting you anymore.

6. Your lover always seems to know what's best for you, how to dress, how to be a lesbian, who you should talk to, creating a you-and-me scenario.

MONOPOLIZATION OF PERCEPTIONS

1. You feel like it is easier to go along with your partner than to fight for your own decisions.

2. Your partner's explanations always seem to make more sense than yours do; her politics are always more correct; her opinions more important.

3. You watch what you say so that it meets with her approval.

4. Her very presence overwhelms everything else that is happening.

5. She's been out longer than you, therefore she tells you how and what you need to be doing in your life to be a lesbian, discounting you as an individual.

INDUCEMENT OF DEBILITY AND EXHAUSTION

1. Your lover wakes you up to fight in the middle of the night or keeps you from sleeping until she is ready to quit fighting.

2. Your lover criticizes you around a disability you have, belittling it and/or denying its existence or harmful effects.

3. Your lover tries to convince you if you'd just change your attitude (or something else about your lifestyle like the food you eat or how much you sleep), you could cure yourself.

4. Your lover expects you to be nurturing towards her when she knows that you are hurting, discounting your hurt and pain as not important.



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5 .Lying and manipulating about situations and when you confront her on it she blames you for hurting her, or making her angry, or not trusting her.

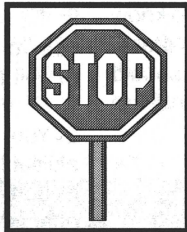
THREATS

1. Your lover threatens to come out for you ("out" you) to your family or to your job (employer).

2. Your lover threatens to slander you in your community.

3. Your lover threatens to break or destroy things that you love.

4. Your lover silences you with a look or an expression when you are in public.



DEMONSTRATING POWER

1. Your lover always claims to be politically correct and know the right way to do things.

2. Your lover always claims to know what you are thinking and what you are planning.

3. Your partner always seems to know more about you than you know about yourself.

DEGRADATION

1. Your lover puts you down in a way that makes you think there is something essentially wrong with you.

2. Your lover talks you into doing sexual things which are embarrassing to you or that feel bad.

3. Your partner "jokingly" makes fun of you in front of others.

4. Your partner interrogates you about past lovers or lovers she thinks you have currently, or that you do have currently.

ENFORCING TRIVIAL DEMANDS

1. Your lover demands detailed reports from you when you get back from shopping.

2. Your partner has rigidly defined ways of doing things that you must adhere to, from the way you clean the house, to making beds, washing dishes, driving the car, doing laundry, or your appearance, etc.

3. Your lover is hyper-critical of your way of doing things.

"CRAZY-MAKING" BEHAVIOR

1. Your lover tries to convince you that it's you and her against the world and that no one else can or will understand your relationship.

2. Your lover lies to you and then denies it; she contradicts herself in the same conversation and then denies making the contradictory statement.

3. Your partner changes the rules of the relationship without warning or explanation, leaving you constantly confused about what just happened.

(Advocates for Abused and Battered Lesbians.)

The Web Offers Us A Bridge

By D.J.

Recently I came upon a web site that provides a great deal of interesting dialogue between gays and those who are rabidly against us. It is called bridges-across and can be found at www.bridges-across.org.

Perhaps the most difficult group to deal with are those who use the bible to try to put us down. Bridges-across has links to other sites as well as many items which deal with the topic. Some of the recorded debates are quite interesting. And some actually come from some pretty big names, like Presidential advisor Tony Campolo.

Those who have heard of Rev. Mel White and Soulforce, the group which met with Rev. Jerry Falwell in October, will not be surprised that Soulforce is very much represented on the web pages of Bridges-Across. Soulforce in their training tries to discourage violence and pushes for Ghandi-like attitudes, and for many of us that is what Jesus portrayed when on this planet in human form.

The site itself is divided into sections dealing with readings, journeys, youth, faith, science, policy, and action. One can spend hours exploring if one is like me and interested in this dialogue.

In my own journey of coming out, I went from not knowing anything about homosexuality to despising it because of what I had been taught

about biblical passages, to accepting the message that God made me as I am and He does not make mistakes.

I have had a couple of friends who have trained for the ministry in the U.S. who are adamant that homosexuality is a sin. I also have a counsellor locally who initially when he found out about my being gay told me he felt it could be something I was born with BUT I would have to be abstinate or I would be sinning. I have thus been anxious to see that some of these well-meaning people have a place to go to be exposed to views that differ from their training. For me, it will be right up there along with Dr. Truluck's site for reference to those wanting to see what reasonable people on our side are saying.

Exploring our homosexuality and having people understand us is an important part of being accepted within the community as gays. I have served on District Health Council and various other bodies BUT I wonder if I would have been able to as a known gay quite yet? In the future as more and more education of the type offered by sites like Bridges-Across become available, it is my hope that the closet door might open more than it has.

D.J. is a resident of Kitchener-Waterloo. This column is a Voice exclusive.



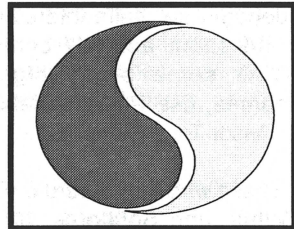
Learning to Live with your Partner

by Dr. Jeffrey Chernin

The purpose of the article is to help those of you in relationships to work through perhaps the most difficult period. It is the phase that includes the following thoughts: "The woman of my dreams has turned into this person I don't want anymore." "I used to tell everyone he was perfect, but was I wrong!"

Disillusionment, adjusting your lens from rose-colored to clear, is part of the Adjustment stage. At this point, harmony gives way to emphasizing differences between you, and a major part of this stage includes wrestling for control; Who's way are we going to do this? Who's taking care of which things?

There are several ways to work through the Adjustment stage, and working through it gives you the opportunity to develop a more solid foundation. Resolution is possible, but it takes a lot work. If both of you take responsibility for relationship challenges and do your part to resolve them, the chances for a long-term relationship grow.



After six months or a year into a relationship, it is predictable that you will change your opinion of your partner, because many traits which were overlooked or unknown come into view. Understanding that most couples go through this process can help them to get through uncertainties and fears. Many couples break up because the "C" word (commitment) comes into play. And instead of dealing with new fears of abandonment and insecurities, couples often break up at this point.

One of the reasons why adjustment is difficult is that each person has been raised with unique childhood circumstances and a unique set of social identities. Childhood circumstances include who you were raised by and how you were raised, having other family support or live-in arrangements, and being the oldest, middle, youngest, or only child), and so forth. Social identities include ethnicity, religion, age, association with groups and organizations, level of schooling, and so on. Amount of therapy, 12-step experience, HIV status, and other situations are part of one's current experience.

This notion of adjustment is one that is overlooked by many lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. For many there is a rush to sex and intimacy, and the opportunity to adjust to one another's lives becomes diminished. It is not unusual to hear stories such as; "We see each other 5 to 6 times

per week. We're wild about each other. Well... we've only known each other for 4 weeks, but s/he's great." Two weeks later, they have broken up (I call those relationships "Sparklers.").

There is often a problem with desiring intimacy too soon. Sometimes, people don't pay attention to the needed adjustment period. Taking things more slowly can help to give each person a more realistic view of one another and the time it takes to adjust to one another's lives.

Also, exploration is primarily what dating is about, and I have seen several common mistakes during this time. One mistake is to date unavailable people; people who are married, out of town, or just out of a relationship. Another common error is to demand to know what the other person wants, and if the person doesn't know if s/he wants a long-term relationship, it's not worth it to continue dating. Ironically, forcing the issue can push a potential partner away--it looks desperate and discounts the other person's wants and needs. A third mistake is to focus on what the other person wants, neglecting your own needs. This mistake often stems from feelings of insecurity, and it is important to learn to focus more on whether this person is a good match for you rather than whether you measure up to his or her expectations.

If both people are willing to let go of control and let things happen naturally, dating may evolve into a good friendship, as you discover that you would make better friends. And sometimes, there's that certain spark that causes the attraction to be mutual, and each person wants the relationship to grow, seeing each other more often, spending more time together, introducing sex after a while, and letting a relationship evolve. Although most couples go through the stages noted above, once a couple has built a more solid foundation through dating, you can weather the disillusionment and adjustment period so that falling in love is transformed into building love.

Jeffrey Chernin, Ph.D. is an author and psychotherapist in Los Angeles. He can be reached at [REDACTED] This article is a Voice exclusive.

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A NEED FOR CONCERN

By Rayne Jarvis

In the past several weeks a radical **Christian Fundamentalist group**, called **Renaissance Canada**, has loudly announced their presence in our community. Initially, this was achieved by the placing of a full-page advertisement in our local newspaper, The K-W Record, inviting readers to an "**Information Forum**". This ad, condemning the showing of a sex education play in our public schools, was blatantly offensive to what Canada supposedly represents in this day and age. The views expressed in this ad are, not only insulting to many of us, but are in actual violation of the very rules they are accusing others of violating. It is one thing to voice concerns and objections: another to viciously attack. As a person who does not believe in their philosophy, I personally take offense at being labelled an "uncivilized barbarian responsible for society's downfall." Who are they to speak for so many?

Furthermore, on the fifth of December, Renaissance Canada was once again given a voice; this time on CKCO-TV's "Province Wide", where their founder, Mr. Ken Campbell, again expounded their illogical views. **Ken Campbell**, the founder of Renaissance Canada, is also National Director of **Canada's Civilized Majority**, which is described as *an inter-faith lobby for God and for good in public schooling and public policy*. In his television appearance Mr. Campbell went even further than just condemning our public school system, but shamelessly

proclaimed his extremely bigoted view that sexual education belongs only within "a heterosexual family setting". This openly voiced homophobic opinion is simply hatemongering, and should not be tolerated anymore than his obvious denunciation of all those who do not believe in his particular 'godly' proclamation.

In regard to the showing of the play, "**Live On Stage Uncensored**", Waterloo Renaissance has reacted in a proposterous manner. In their newspaper ad, not only were accusations indiscriminately flung, but it was also announced that Renaissance Canada was considering the laying of criminal charges against seven trustees of the Waterloo County Board of Education, several school principals and certain officials of Planned Parenthood. The charge was to be that of "corrupting the morals of minors". As far as I can see it is Renaissance Canada themselves who are the ones who have acted criminally. They have publically slandered many well-meaning people. In attempting to corrupt vulnerable minds with antagonistic and hateful declarations they have passed off their agenda-driven distortion campaign as the absolute truth. If we were to allow extremists, such as those belonging to Renaissance Canada, to dictate their insular beliefs to the rest of our community future generations would be kept in complete ignorance of what is, after all, only typical human sexuality. Is this truly in the best interest of our children?

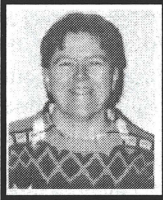
Renaissance Canada supporters seem to be of the mindset that sexual desires, resulting from the viewing of this play, will in turn lead to unhealthy immoral choices. Philosophical values are what create and shape sexual desires. Otherwise, we would be merely animals, at the mercy of our instincts. The distorted values and narrow-mindedness that is being displayed by Renaissance Canada have actually long been the main cause of unhealthy and damaging sexual behaviour. If we were to concede to the whims of this extremely radical minority we would be taking a giant step backwards. Schools are purportedly places for the education of young minds. We can only hope that this education includes guidance that is free from the prejudice of any and all religious dogma.

Children are people too, entitled to freedom of expression and the right to their own beliefs and values. There is no doubt our main purpose as the older and hopefully wiser generation, is to promote and encourage healthy and sound development of these values. This can best be achieved by example, tolerance of differences, and most of all, - truth. Despite the opinions of religious zealots, moral principles do not, and should not, have to be abandoned along with oppressive and out-dated religious values. Our children are already being sexually educated, often in inappropriate ways, by the media, entertainment and the influence of peers. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a counter-education that offsets the "truth" as defined by Renaissance Canada.

Maybe with the right approach we will then be surprised with the development of a truer and better social conscience than has been seen in the past. Renaissance Canada is an prime example of this unenlightened past. Giving a voice to their absurd rantings is a dangerous trend. We should not allow this trend to continue, no matter how high the monetary rewards are for those who accept revenue for providing a platform for groups like Renaissance Canada: who would do well, in my opinion, to pull their heads above the drivel that they preach before they drown in their own distorted mire of untruths and outright lies.

Unfortunately, their rantings have been dismissed by many as a legitimate entitlement to free speech. This may be true to a certain extent. However, there is an inherent responsibility that is a part of the right to freedom of speech. This responsibility rests with both the speaker and those being spoken to, whether they are actively listening or not. It is our responsibility to be rightfully indignant when insulted, and to respond in whatever way is possible, if only in everyday conversation with others. Finally, we absolutely cannot afford to overlook or dismiss their rantings as harmless because there are many who are hearing what they want to believe and blindly believing what they are hearing. Renaissance Canada threatens the hopes for an increasing inclusive awareness of difference: is there a need for concern?

Rayne Jarvis is a resident of Kitchener. This column is a Voice exclusive.



The Spirit of Voice

By A.J. Mahari

The importance of voice is often overlooked. Finding voice coincides with finding one's meaning, identity, strength, soul and worth. Your truth will not be known or understood if you do not seek it and speak it.

An enlightened awakening awaits you when you give meaning, worth and purpose to your life by voicing your authentic reality and personhood. As human beings our lives are shaped by what we are doing and saying. Sadly, in today's world, we are not often recognized enough for simply being who we are. Being in the spaces of silence that are not given voice, apart from one's spirituality, can be the result of the kind of shame that interferes with a person's ability to know, value and esteem him/herself.

What is the sound of silence? Who, even able to, would take the time to listen to it? Silence is often a dissociation from self and spirit; chosen or not. If we allow silence to speak for us the result is often oppression.

There is an inherent danger in continuing to be silent in the face of a multitude of words spoken by those who seek to define you. This silence, in the absence of a response to the voices of others, is screamingly-quiet. Those who remain silent will be overlooked, unheard and invalidated.

We need to be saved from our own silence. As lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people

if we do not speak our truth as a community we will continue to be marginalized by main-stream society. Giving voice to "our truth as community" means that it is crucial for each individual to find his/her voice.

The finding of one's authentic voice plays a vital role in the search for "true-self". It is through this finding of voice that one can find meaning, purpose and a strong sense of clear identity. "...the struggle to bring oneself to the fullest expression possible [is] the struggle to wrest ourselves from the gut-wrenching agony of being 'other'." ("Saved From Silence" by Mary Donovan Turner and Mary Lin Hudson.) Silence facilitates our being "other". If we listen and hear only the voices of others how can we not be "others"? We cannot fully be ourselves until we have given voice to our own truth. Central to one's own truth is the exploration and understanding of one's own spirituality. When we were created, we were created with promise, purpose and potential. Each of us has been given gifts. Gifts that are not always evident upon the surface of who each of us is. These gifts, are often hidden in plain sight. To unearth these gifts; our promise, purpose and potential, we must learn to see in the dark and to hear in the absence of sound. Clearly, we must set out to search in earnest for these aspects of ourselves and the spirit that is voice.

This search involves growth and change. The kind of growth and

change that equates with losing to gain. Losing to gain is always painful. It is also, equally as fruitful.

Why do so many choose to live their lives in the silent abyss that the absence of authentic voice creates? The perception may be that it is a less painful way to live. I would assert that it is far more painful in the long run. Likely, it all comes down to what you think you are living for. Are you living only for yourself? Are you living life without any thought to a "greater purpose"? If so, it can get very quiet in the middle of all of that noise. Your voice will drown in the perpetual noise that you expose yourself to in the running from who you really are. To live this way is to live the "unexamined life".

In the examined life one will meet with this voice of truth and reason when one meets with her own spirituality. The courage and the honesty required to live the examined life in and of itself gives rise to one's authentic voice. It is the search for meaning and more that simultaneously gives rise to both a loudly-silent voice and a gently-forceful voice. It is the source of the motivation to strive for all that life has to offer. It is where determination meets with humility in a way that enhances the ultimate gift: the gift of life. Sadly, too many people take this gift for granted. This gift granted by your creator spirit.

Through your voice you have the opportunity to be a part of the spirited-solution and to refuse to be a part of the unspoken problem. You have the opportunity to commit yourself to a life of caring, giving, growing and stretching. There are

many rewards for those who are brave enough to stand up and speak out. Greatest among those rewards is the opportunity to live your life in an honest and open way that does not allow shame to fester in your heart or soul.

Through the search for voice you will find your soulful-self. Speaking your truth first to yourself and then to others will see you build your self-esteem in such a way as to truly learn to value your voice. When one learns to speak through this authentic and spiritual voice and experiences hearing it, then one will have acquired the necessary spirit with which to hear the voice of others. With this capacity to hear others lies the potential for continued growth. Life's spiritual lessons are passed on to each of us, through each other. We are the vehicles for the verification of the veracity of voice. We are the beats of the drum that each different soul marches to on the path to enlightenment and self-actualization.

Voice connects one truth with another. Voice speaks to the human heart and soul. It is the honest and open expression of each of our truths that gives rise to a freely soaring and healing energy. The spirit of your voice awaits the acknowledgement and the speaking of your own personal truth. Let not silence be your legacy. The spirit of voice beckons you to your purpose. Voice your spirit and give your spirit a voice. Be a seeker of more. Refuse to be trapped in the oppression of secular silence. Raise your voice - dare to be heard!

The opinions expressed in this column are those of A.J. Mahari, only, and are not made from any editorial standpoint of The Voice Magazine.

SURVIVAL TIPS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

By Darren Kregar

No matter what type of business you operate - you've got to know how to keep it alive during periods of slow growth. Anytime the cash flow in a business, large or small, starts to tighten up, the money management of that business has to be run as a "tight ship."

Some of the things you can and should do include protecting yourself from expenditures made on sudden impulse. We've all bought merchandise or services we really didn't need simply because we were in the mood, or perhaps in response to an advertisement or the persuasiveness of a salesperson.

If you are incorporated, you can eliminate these "impulse purchases" by including in your by-laws a clause that states: "All purchasing decisions over (a certain amount) are contingent upon approval by the board of directors."

This will force you to consider any

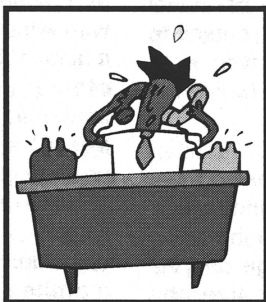
"impulse purchases" of considerable cost, and may even be a reminder in the case of smaller purchases.

If your business is a partnership, you can state, when faced with a buying decision, that all purchases are contingent upon the approval of your partner(s).

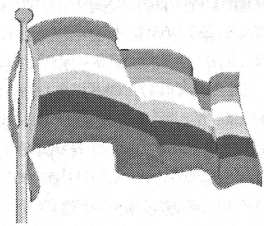
If your business is a sole proprietorship, allow three days to think about your purchase, and then to nullify that purchase if you think you don't really need it or can't afford it.

Particularly when sales are down, you must be "hard-nosed" with people trying to

sell you luxuries for your business. When business is booming, you undoubtedly will allow sales people to show you new models of equipment or a new line of supplies; but when your business is down, skip the entertaining frills



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and concentrate on the basics. Great care must be taken however, to maintain courtesy and allow these sellers to consider you a friend and call back at another time.

Your company's books should reflect your way of thinking, and whoever maintains them should generate information according to your policies. Thus, you should hire a bookkeeper or an accountant. He or she can determine your return on your investment, as well as the turnover on your accounts receivable and inventory. They can also help identify any potential financial problems before they become readily apparent, and certainly before they could get out of hand.

Many small companies set up advisory boards of outside professional people. These are sometimes known as Power Circles and once in place, the business always benefits, especially in times of short operating capital. Such an advisory board or power circle should include an attorney, a bookkeeper or an accountant, owners or managers of businesses similar to yours, and retired executives. Once your board is set up, you should meet about once a month and present material for review. Each meeting should be a discussion of your business problems and an input from your advisors relative to possible solutions. These members of your board of advisors should offer you advice as well as alternatives.

You will find that most of your customers have the money to pay at least some of what they owe you immediately. To keep them current,

and the number of accounts receivable in your files to a minimum, you should call them on the phone and ask for some kind of explanation as to why they're falling behind.

Something else that's a very good business practice, but which few business owners do is to methodically build a credit rating with their local banks. Particularly when you have a good cash flow, you should borrow \$100 to \$1,000 from your banks every 90 days or so. Simply borrow the money, and place it in an interest bearing account, and then pay it all back at least a month or so before it's due. By doing this, you will increase the borrowing power of your signature, and strengthen your ability to obtain needed financing on short notice. This is a kind of business leverage that will be of great value to you if or whenever your cash position becomes less favorable.

If you are given a membership certificate or wall plaque, you should display these conspicuously on your office wall. Customers like to see such "seals of approval" and feel additional confidence in your business when they see them.

In order to survive with a small business, regardless of the economic climate, it is essential to surround yourself with smart people, and practice sound business management at all times.

Darren Kregar is the owner of Economical Tax Services located at 22 King St. S., (Lower Level) in Uptown Waterloo.

This article is a Voice exclusive.



GAY MONEY

by Bonnie J. Babin,
Investment Planning Counsel of Canada

Putting a Dent in your investments Predictable trends bring best returns, strategist says From a recent talk given by Harry Dent

"I'm very bullish about the next decade, not because of the stock market fundamentals, but because we are seeing the most powerful convergence of demographics and technology in the history of the world." Dent's core idea is that if investors are armed with knowledge of people's highly predictable earning and spending habits, they can choose the sectors best positioned for the highest returns. Dent, who foresees a Dow at 35,000 by 2008 and then a bust to follow, says the next 10 years are especially ripe for creating the lifestyle you want by using what he calls "long-term timing."

"The truth is that economists don't understand our economy," he said. "In fact, I'd go so far as to say that that's the least successful

profession in all of history."

Dent poked fun at the dominant influence of Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan by questioning why investors worried about news of his impending marriage years ago. "The only economic news was that he might actually experience 'irrational exuberance' for the first time," said Dent, concluding that "It's not Alan Greenspan that drives the economy, it's Homer Simpson."

Chips, pets, motorcycles Homer, as an animated everyman, represents the spending habits of the average American, and stocks of those companies are where investors should direct their money, said Dent. With a backdrop of graphs, he showed how

Investment Planning Counsel

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BONNIE J. BABIN - Financial Planning & Tax Consultant - Phone (519) [REDACTED]

sophisticated "lifestyle data" can be measured "down to neighborhood blocks." To the amusement of the audience, he used a potato chip expenditure survey to illustrate his point.

The calculation works like this: The peak chip-buying age is 41.5 since the average person has his or her first child at age 27.5, according to Dent. Coincidentally, caloric intake hits its peak in the teenage years. The result: "(Teenagers) are eating you out of house and home 14 years later," he said. "It's simple human logic."

Similar knowledge about family expenses in the "pet cycle" can also make good investment advice, he said. The average family spends money on veterinary and pet services until age 46.5, and then spends less the rest of their lives. "When the kids go, the dogs go," he summarized. Finally, he pointed to a motorcycle chart which showed the average age of a "hog" purchase, an expense that is driven by midlife crisis on a wide scale, he said. "Who buys Harleys? Aging professionals at the peak of their earning cycle."

Population key Detailed consumer information will guide investors who are vigilant about following demographic trends, he said. "We say financial services, health care, technology, vacation and resort real estate are going to be strong outperforming sectors because that's where the baby boomers are going to be focusing en masse in the next 10 to 15 years.

"Population distribution and expectations are key to Dent's

forecasting. By measuring birth, productivity, and mortality rates, it's possible to predict the spending cycle that determines bull and bear markets. "It actually is sex that drives our economy," said Dent. "That's precisely why economists have never figured it out and never will."

When asked whether stock valuations are justified in an interview following his special address, Dent said they're justified but have reached their peak. "Everybody here on the panel (is) saying 'Oh, they're too high.

They're going to crash down," he said. "No, they're not going to crash down. That's not what history says. Valuations will collapse when the economy disappoints, and we're 9 or 10 years away from that." His method of investing in long-term demographic trends, hasn't yet caught on in the mainstream, he said. "This will get more and more known, but we still don't think most investors will be investing on this basis," said Dent. "That's why it's going to pay off to do it now. Do what people aren't Doing."

Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please respond to e-mail address: [REDACTED]

Fax: (519) [REDACTED]



This column is a Voice exclusive.



My name is Julie Casto and I am a home-based travel consultant for the K-W area, in association with Travel Only. I have 8 years experience in this business. In the past I worked for two local Cambridge agencies. Now, though, I have branched out and am on my own.

my home if that would be more suitable for you.

I am not gay, however I have a relative who is and I am very gay-positive. I can provide you with either a gay-vacation package or a general vacation package.

I describe myself as a travel consultant on wheels. I am very flexible and can visit with you, to arrange your travel plans, in the privacy of your own home, at a time that would be most suited to your schedule. Or I can meet with you in

Please contact me for any of your travel needs. I'll be able to provide you with friendly one-on-one service. I look forward to the opportunity to cater to your travel arrangements!



Julie Casto
Cambridge Area Consultant
Ph 519- [REDACTED]

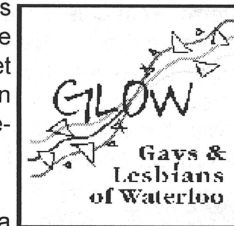
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"GAYS AND LESBIANS OF WATERLOO"
OFFERS A NEW COMMUNITY DISCUSSION GROUP

By A.J. Mahari

On Wednesday nights from 7:30-9:00 PM GLOW hosts two discussion groups for the LGBT community. The first group is called, "The Coming Out Discussion Group" and has been in existence for years. Sometime ago there was a second group begun for those who wanted to take part but who felt that the "coming out" topics were something that they had pretty much dealt with. This second group was facilitated by John Nauss who is headed off to England now. The group was just known as the second group. The two groups used to meet in one room first and then split up after an initial ice-breaking exercise.



Jim Parrott, who is a facilitator of GLOW's Coming Out Discussion Group (Group One) told The Voice that GLOW has now restructured the 'second discussion group' in an attempt to meet the needs of more members of the community. The group now has a new name, "The Rainbow Community Discussion Group" and while still meeting on campus this group will now be a more separate group from the 'Coming Out' discussion group.

Parrott also said, "Although the Rainbow Community Discussion Group will happen at the same time as the GLOW Coming Out Discussion Group, the two groups will NOT begin in the same room and then split. They will begin in different rooms." Parrott added

that The Rainbow Community Discussion Group, "is intended as a community discussion group."

J.B., who is one of the new facilitators of the new group said that, "...we changed the format of the [second] group to try and get more involvement from the community." He said future topics are being planned now and that "we hope to have a group that is driven by [its] participants..." They plan to have guest speakers and more advanced topics.

This group is being geared to those in the community who are older and or do not attend university. (See page 28 for location.)

The Rainbow Community Group's Topics for January include:

- Jan 12: Now That You Are Out - What Do You Do Next?
(Dealing with Family and Friends Long After They Know) PFLAG Guests (Matthew and Evie Hill)
- Jan 19: Establishing Long-Term Relationships (Friends/Lovers/Enemies)
- Jan 26: Internalized Homophobia

The Rainbow Community Discussion Group is sponsored by GLOW and The Rainbow Pride Committee.

Growing Up In The 90's -- Part II

The present circumstances have placed an entirely new set of social forces that have created some pleasant and unpleasant situations for lesbian youth. What this means is that society has progressed somewhat from the "Dark Ages" of the past in order to address the social ramifications of the present and future. The past few years have seen an emergence of issues dealing with homosexuality, bisexuality and other associated terms. Despite the continuation of negative perceptions of lesbian matters, society has made some progressive leaps into equalizing certain aspects of social life to include people of different sexual orientations. This is where lesbian youths face the dual-edged choice of coming to terms with their sexuality. The progressive stance of certain elements in society are balanced by the negative issues that continue to plague equality of the sexes and sexual orientation. Lesbian youths are socialized within this context and must deal with the duality of society's perceptions while coming to terms with their homosexuality or bisexuality. Michelangelo Signorile (Out, 1994) has heard the term "Post-Queer" generation, with regards to the current lesbian movement and youth. Last week, I addressed the issue of growing up lesbian in society from the point of view of a heterosexual social order. Now, I wish to address the problems lesbian youths face while dealing with the adult lesbian community. Perhaps, more than with the heterosexual community, lesbian youths tend to have just as difficult a time when confronted with the larger adult lesbian community.

One issue centers around society's negative connotations of "recruitment" of youths by homosexuals and bisexuals. The particulars of this point refer to the heterosexual perception that lesbians recruit naive and impressionable youths to become gay, lesbian or bisexual. And that coercion, the changing youths' beliefs, and proselytizing are the hallmarks of homosexuality/bisexuality. These false claims have, unfortunately, pervaded much of society's misconceptions of homosexuality and bisexuality to the point that even lesbians must occasionally succumb to this belief. What is meant by this is because of the social

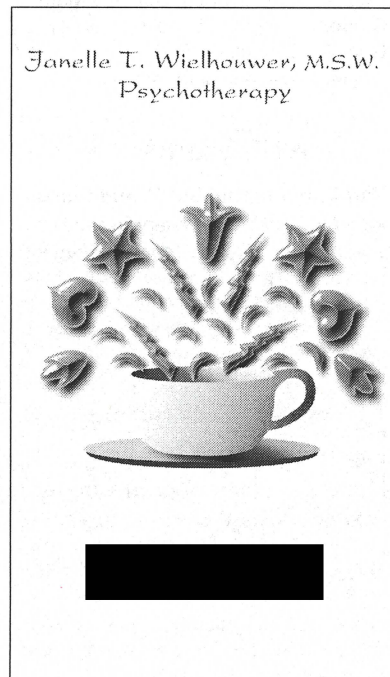


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misconception of the recruitment of youths, often the adult lesbian community needs to walk on eggshells when lesbian youths and adults are encountered together. Whether this is during a youth meeting, benefit, community organization or rally, the larger adult lesbian community is sometimes required to keep a distance from lesbian youth; even though there is a desire to extend some support for them.

In addition to this dogmatic stance of "recruitment," there is also the concern that members of the adult lesbian community may prey on lesbian youths in a sexual manner. The concerns are genuine, but hardly a solitary problem to homosexuals and bisexuals. In fact, approximately 95% of child/youth sexual assaults are committed by heterosexuals (Dr. Benjamin Spock, c. 1980's). Nevertheless, a small percentage of the lesbian community do have relations with lesbian youths. In some cases, lesbian youths are attracted to older lesbians, which creates a similarly difficult scenario. (Silverstein & Picano, 1992). Heron (1994) presented some writings from lesbian youths wherein a number of them made advances toward older lesbians who shied away from them in terms of sexual relationships. However, what many of the lesbian community do try to help lesbian youth with, are provisions of support, a comfortable and nonthreatening environment, and often a sympathetic ear for listening to their coming out experiences.

Aside from these concerns, there is also the "generation gap" between past and present lesbians. As one gay youth remarked in Signorile's article ("The Post-Stonewall Generation" in Out, 1994) "I think most older people-and the larger gay movement-are disconnected from queer youth." There needs to be an understanding between the adult and youth members of the lesbian community, and certain studies have addressed this issue. Cook and Pawlowski (1991) presented their paper for the Respect All Youth Project which stressed youth and homosexuality. Likewise, Mercier and Berger (1989) proposed letting lesbian youths tell their own stories and experiences.

Janelle T. Wielhouwer, M.S.W.
Psychotherapy

Sundays

KW-Friends of Dorothy, 10 Pin Bowling League, meets every Sunday at 3:45pm at the Brunswick Frederick Lanes, 385 Frederick St. Kitchener. (behind Frederick Plaza) Cost: \$12.00 (shoe rental included) For more information contact Phil at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

The Rainbow Metropolitan Community Church: An LGBT-friendly Community Church. Services take place each Sunday at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Anglican, 171 Kortright Road. Call Rev. Gessica Bell at [REDACTED]

AWARE K-W is a Christian gay-positive group with roots in the Christian Reformed Church. They meet every second Sunday evening of each month. For more information, call Gary ([REDACTED]) at [REDACTED], or Fred at [REDACTED]

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: gqe@uoguelph.ca 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. Call us for more details: 905-526-1074, or toll-free 1-888-338-8278, or email info@gomorrah.com <http://www.gomorrah.com>

Women For Sobriety

Create a New Life: a drug & alcohol addiction support group for gay women meets Wednesdays, 7pm to 8:30pm, Oasis Club, 146 Wyndham St., Guelph. Create a New Life provides a safe and confidential place for women to share their struggles with drugs and alcohol addictions. For more info, call Marilyn at (519) [REDACTED]

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 ACCKWA at (519) 570-3687 (Kitchener).

GLOW's Coming Out Discussion Groups explore issues in sexual orientation; Hagey Hall Rms. 373/378, University of Waterloo, 7:30-9:00 pm. Information: 884-4569. **A social gathering follows the discussion groups weekly from 9pm to 11pm.**

NOTE: Until February 2 groups will meet in The Modern Languages Building. Group one in room 104 and group 2 in room 119. (see page 25)

Group One's

Topics for January include:

- Jan 5 - What I did Over the Holidays
- Jan 12 - Coming Out to Yourself
- Jan 19 - Coming Out to Others
- Jan 26 - Coming Out to Your Parents & Relatives

For the "Second Group" see page 25

Alice's Dinner Club, a Hamilton gay and lesbian group of food connoisseurs meets every 2nd Wednesday at 6:15 pm. For information call Joan/Barb at 905-[REDACTED] or Michael at 905-[REDACTED]

Wednesday Pride at the Spiral Club, an evening for the queer positive, LGBT, Spiral Club is at 122 Woolwich St., Guelph, 836-4802.

Thursdays

Hamilton Transsexual Peer Support Group (FTM - MTF) 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) 528-0207 ext.43, or e-mail Janet at: [REDACTED]

www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/cafe/8922/

Club Renaissance Proudly Presents
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AID FOR AIDS BENEFIT!
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Info Line: 519-570-2406
Toll Free: 1-877-635-2352

Saturday January 15

Queer Campus Activist Conference on the weekend of January 15-16 in Toronto. For more info, email Bonte Minnema of LBGTOUT at [redacted]

Rainbow Chorus Anniversary Concert in Guelph. We welcome back all past members and encourage new members to join us at this exciting time.

Thursday January 20

OUTline Needs Volunteers! Training Starts Today! OUTline, the phone support line for Guelph and Wellington county is currently looking for volunteers! OUTline is a wonderful opportunity to give back to your community. To express interest, or to receive an application, e-mail Jonathan at outline@uoguelph.ca or call him at (519) [redacted]

Friday January 21

Proud Voices is a five-part gay and lesbian speaker series that is taking place at the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall, at 31Kings College Circle, Toronto. Today at 7:30 pm:

Sandra Bernhard
"Life and All of its Secrets"



www.proudvoices.com

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: pflag@rainbow.on.ca

Saturday January 22

LBGTOUT Provincial Queer Youth Talent Showcase at the HangaR, 100 St. George St., Toronto. Show time is 10pm; dance until 3am! Cover with student ID is \$4, or \$2 before 10pm; without ID, the cover is \$5. Would you like to be a performer at our cabaret? Are you 27 or under, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and/or queer identified? Come and share your comedy, music, spoken word, song, drama, and other talents. Sign up today. Call 416-946-5544 or email: lgbout@campuslife.utoronto.ca. Show dates: January 22, March 25, and May 27.

Friday February 4

Proud Voices at the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall, at 31Kings College Circle, Toronto. Today at 7:30 pm: **Michelle Douglas**, "Saving Private Douglas: How a Military Follower Became an Activist Leader"

www.proudvoices.com

Special thanks to David Welbourn for his compilation of community events online at The Rainbow Community Center.
www.rainbow.on.ca/events

KITCHENER-WATERLOO

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

Anselma House: A crisis shelter for abused women with or without children. 24 hour crisis line: (519) 742-5894

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

K-W Distress Line- (519) [redacted]

Global: is available to help anyone in the Laurier community who is dealing with LGBT issues. Staff, students, or faculty can reach GLOBAL directly at the club's e-mail address 00global@mach1.wlu.ca Laurier Peer Help Line 884-PEER.

GLOW Phone Line: 884-GLOW. Information and peer support.

Sexual Assault Center:
KW.....(519)741-8633

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

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

WOODS: Women Out Opening Doors Socially is a social club for lesbians and lesbian-positive women in K-W and area. In Kitchener contact Wanda at 846-9197 and in Guelph the contact person is Debbie at 822-7876

G U E L P H

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

GUELPH QUEER EQUALITY (GQE)
University of Guelph - gqe@uoguelph.ca

HOWL: Hanging Out With Lesbians is a social group for women (lesbian, bisexual, transgender and gay friendly) ages 25 and up who are active in Guelph and area. Women may contact HOWL through Outline (519) 836-4550

OUTline: A support and resource phone line for people dealing with LGBT issues at the University of Guelph. **Phone lines**

are closed Wednesdays and Saturdays (for the summer) Open 7 to 10 pm other evenings. Call (519) 836-4550. outline@uoguelph.ca <http://www.uoguelph.ca/~outline>

Rainbow Chorus: is a choir that performs and will also be **hosting dances for the LGBT community every month through to July and then starting again in September.** For information you can contact Robert at [redacted] or Cory at [redacted] <http://www.webpoint.net/~cory>

Sexual Assault Center:
Guelph.....(519) [redacted]

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge Help Line: [redacted]

Sexual Assault Center:
Cambridge.....(519) [redacted]

If you have a group or an organization that you would like listed here please call, write, or email us at The Voice.
(contact addresses are on page 2)

HAMILTON

Alcoholics Anonymous-For the location and time of the Gay, Lesbian and Alternative Lifestyles Group in Hamilton call: (905) 522-8399.

Alternatives for Youth- 126 James St. South, Hamilton - 527-4469

Anonymous HIV testing by appointment 905-546-3541--walk-in sites:YWCA--75 McNab Street Hamilton, Ontario Wednesdays 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. 905-546-3541 for more information Hamilton General Hospital Outpatient Department Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. 905-546-3541 for information

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Centre at McMaster University, Hamilton Hall Room 412 - Call 525-9140, ext. 27397

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Youth Line 1-800-268-9688

Gay Fathers Support Group-3rd Tuesday of each month. For information Call 522-0607

Greater Hamilton Gay & Lesbian Business Association (905) 526-1074

GLBT Centre at McMaster Office
Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:30 to 4:30 at Hamilton Hall, Room 412. (905) 525-9140, Ext. 27397 or e-mail: glbt@msu.mcmaster.ca
www.msu.mcmaster.ca/services/glbt/glbt.htm

Hamilton Aids Network -- 528-0854
Anonymous Testing for HIV appointment only --546-3541

Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police-General Assistance: 546-4925
Jane Mulkewich, GLBT Task Force 546-4910
Complaints against Officers 546-4776
Street Crime/Hate Crime: 546-3831

Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Public Health Department-Sexually Transmitted Disease Services, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4 to 5:30 pm. A walk-in clinic; no Health Card required. Hamilton General Hospital, Outpatient Clinic

Community Education 546-3541 to book a presentation or consultation

Emmanuel House Palliative Care
Good Shepherd Centres (905) 308-8401

MCC--Centenary United Church 25 Main Street West Hamilton (McNab Street Entrance) 2nd and 4th Sunday: 2 to 5 pm 526-1147

Narcotics Anonymous Hamilton: (905) 522-0332
Brantford: (519) 759-2558
St. Catharines: (905) 685-0075

PFLAG--Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians & Gays. For information call 662-1510

Sexual Assault Center:
Hamilton.....(905) [REDACTED]

Sexual Health Information Line
905-528-5894--Confidential telephone counselling and information provided by a Public Health Nurse regarding sexual health issues--M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Street Health Centre-- Wesley Centre 777-7852

The Golden Horseshoe Leather Association For information check out their website at <http://home.interlynx.net/~ghla1> or e-mail them at ghla1@interlynx.net

Women's Centre of Hamilton-75 MacNab Street South, Hamilton 522-0127

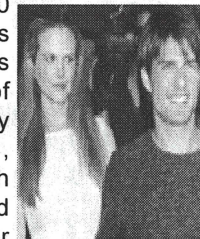
Michael Revisits the Loo



Published reports say that George Michael's new video "Outside" raised a few eyebrows when it premiered on MTV last month. The video is said to include a number of homoerotic scenes, including a "re-creation" of Michael's now-infamous arrest for public indecency in a Beverly Hills park restroom. The arrest led to the singer subsequently coming out on CNN a few days later. The new song is one of two new tracks on an upcoming greatest hits album from the former Wham! man. If you haven't seen this video, check it out!

Cruise Patrol

The London tabloid Express has been ordered to pay Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman in excess of \$300,000 U.S. dollars as well as legal fees of approximately \$250,000, after a British court found no basis for the paper's report that the couple's marriage was a sham, orchestrated to cover-up their homosexuality. Cruise and Kidman plan to donate the money to charity.





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*We Value Diversity in
our Community*

a film by Christopher Reeve



GLENN CLOSE BREKET PINEA WHOOP! GOLDBERG
ROBERT SEAN LEONARD DAVID STRATHAIRM



In the Gloaming

In the twilight of a lifetime comes reconciliation.

Originally produced for HBO, this hour-long drama marks the emotionally stressful turning point for a family nearly torn apart by the tragedy of AIDS. It also marked a turning point for actor Christopher Reeve, making an acclaimed directorial debut. This moving drama proved that Reeve could succeed in his second career, drawing upon his own experience to elicit fine performances from his distinguished cast. Robert Sean Leonard plays a gay man in his early 20s who returns to the home of his affluent parents in upstate New York, dying from AIDS and wishing to spend his final months with his family. While his mother (Glenn Close) responds with care and compassion with the help of a live-in nurse (Whoopi Goldberg), his father (David Strathairn) is unable to accept his son's sexual orientation, much less his inevitable death. It's a showcase for superior talent and a remarkable achievement for everyone involved.

Videos reviewed in The Voice this month were provided by and are for rent at:

GENERATION X ALTERNATIVE VIDEO AND MEDIA

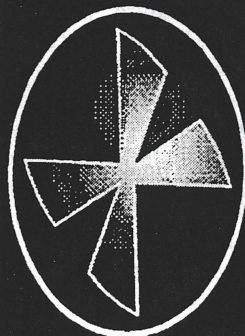


An intriguing cast helps but can not save this bisexual urban drama. The story attempts to be a poignant yet hard-edged love fable which set among the hustlers, trannies and homeless of New York City. It tells the tale of the strained love triangle between a charismatic bisexual, a male prostitute and a tempestuous Latina.

When Gary (Thomas Jane), a sensitive rookie male prostitute also falls in love with the magnetic, longhaired Valentino. The two men's initial meeting on the streets of a seedy New York (actually filmed in L.A.) is a sexually charged affair culminating in a hungry, passionate kiss. When Valentino become ill with AIDS, the two, in a fight to be his caretaker, are forced to look at themselves less as rivals and more as family. Emotionally charged but the characters never feel real or at all sympathetic.

GENERATION X IS YOUR BEST SOURCE FOR GAY & LESBIAN MOVIES

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foreign, cult, anime, indie,
Gay & Lesbian and
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[10 REGINA ST. N.] [888-GENX]

Generation XXX is opening soon. Featuring the best in adult video [Gay & Lesbian Titles also available].

Mike Greaves

Her Latest CD -- **BREAKDOWN**

It's hard to believe that it's been 10 years since Melissa Etheridge broke out onto the scene with her benchmark-setting debut, the self-titled Island release and that includes the unforgettable hit, "Bring Me Some Water." Since Melissa Etheridge was discovered in 1988, she's sold more than 25 million records worldwide, and garnered not only public adoration for her uncompromising honesty, but numerous critical awards as well including two Grammys and the prestigious ASCAP Songwriter of the Year award.

After five high-octane powered anthem-filled albums, Melissa breaks it down in her most recent release, **Breakdown**, getting raw and gritty, showcasing her soul-touching songwriting in simple, unadorned

arrangements that get to the heart of her message. This is getting back to the roots of Melissa's both critical and popular acclaim--her lyrics touch on universal and deeply human concerns of loss, confusion and dread and has a rare knack of transforming them into inspiring messages of love, consciousness and hope.

After the first lengthy break she has taken since the beginning of her career, Melissa returns not only re-energized as a songwriter and performer, but as a mother of two. But

if you think contentment in her personal life has led to complacency in her music, guess again.

"I challenged myself on this album," she explains. "I would not let myself coast. From the writing of the words to the melodies, I challenged myself to be the best I could be."

From the spiritual hunger and longing of the first single, "**Angels Would Fall**," and the unadorned vulnerability of "**Breakdown**," to the foreboding and emotional shadows of "**Into the Dark**," and the sage "**Truth of the Heart**," Etheridge embraces the raw honesty and truth her fans have come to expect.

"I really took my time with this album, and the songs all came from great places," explains Melissa. "I dug deeper than I ever had before."

The tight intimate arrangements and adventurous sounds for Melissa are a result of her collaboration with touring guitarist John Shanks, who also co-produced this album. *"The sound of the record has a lot to do with John," explains Melissa. "He really inspired me musically. My goal was to be able to sit down and play each of the songs acoustically, because*



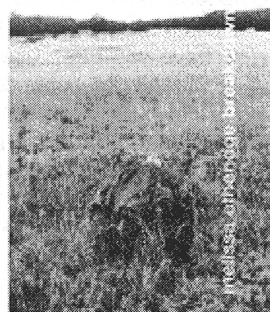
obviously it was important that the song be there from the beginning. After that we recorded them with three or four instruments, cut the vocals live, and then built on that. This time I did let go a bit on the musical side, though. I trusted the talents of my collaborators."

In addition to Etheridge's stalwart touring mates drummer Kenny Aronoff, bassist Mark Browne and of course Shanks, an acclaimed team each with particular talents, were brought in to round out **Breakdown's** sound. Melissa's



Ferrone and Wallflowers' keyboardist Rami Jaffee.

Melissa Etheridge says she misses the road, and is looking forward to connecting with live audiences touring in support of **Breakdown**.



<http://www.MelissaEtheridge.com/melissa/hers/index.html>

Good Will

Straight actor Eric McCormack was initially nervous about telling his parents he had been cast as Will Truman, a gay New York City attorney on the NBC comedy **Will & Grace**. "Sure enough," he told an October edition of *People*, "the first thing my mother said was, 'No Eric! Not a lawyer.'" In addition to his parents' support, it seems television audiences have also fallen in love with Will.

**A Cross-Dressing Carey**

In a past episode of the ABC hit sitcom **The Drew Carey Show**, Drew (Carey) and his heterosexual cross-dressing brother Steve (John Carroll Lynch) square off over the clientele at Drew's favorite watering hole, **The Warsaw**. GLAAD has seen the episode and spoken with the production team about the character of Steve. Much to the producers' credit, this sitcom has done more for American television audiences' understanding of cross-dressers than any other sitcom in recent TV history. Steve Carey is given an incredible amount of dignity, despite the often odd and twisted world the other characters seem to inhabit.

<http://www.glaad.org>

CAMILLE PAGLIA

By Robin Bernstein

In Praise of the Vernacular

Robin Bernstein interviews a pop icon

Camille Paglia seems to enjoy her own contradictions. She is a feminist who criticizes the feminist establishment, a lesbian who celebrates the penis, an atheist who defends the Catholic Church, a libertarian Clinton Democrat who praises Rush Limbaugh and Howard Stern. She authored the best-selling 700-page scholarly tome, *Sexual Personæ: Art and Decadence from Nefertiti to Emily Dickinson*, but she loves to expound upon her "evangelical love for popular culture."

With the publication of two more best-selling books and dozens of cover stories on popular culture, plus her appearance on countless television programs, Paglia has entered the mainstream discourse of which she is both student and critic.

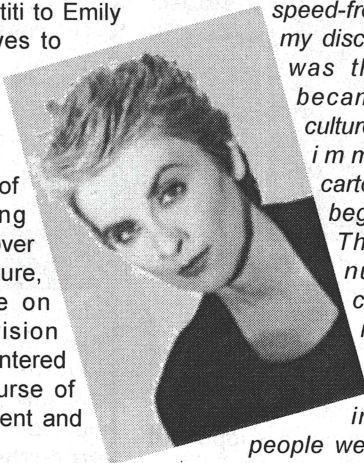
RB: Are you a pop culture icon?

Camille: Yes, that seems to have happened, bizarrely. I've only been on the scene since 1990. This large book, *Sexual Personæ*, was issued by Yale University Press without my photograph and with no publicity about me, and within the year *The New York Times* asked me to write about Madonna. And from that moment forward, I entered the pop culture stratosphere. It was not only that I was commenting on popular

culture; it was also my style, which is rather vernacular. I have this very American voice. I am the product of Italian immigrants, so I'm in love with the American idiom. I use slang a lot. When I started to be asked to go on television, suddenly I was up there behaving as no one had ever seen an academic behave. I was immediately called "the academic Joan Rivers," because of the speed-freak velocity of my discourse. So that was the moment I became this pop culture figure. Almost immediately, cartoons about me began to appear. The sheer number of cartoons about me in so many different places indicates that people were processing me as a popular culture phenomenon.

RB: How have you been used as an icon within the gay community?

Camille: Well, right from the start, the gay community attacked me. In the gay and lesbian newsletter of the MLA, the review of *Sexual Personæ* called me a Nazi. It called *Sexual Personæ* "the most evil book ever written." The PC assumptions in academe and among gay activists then are not to



be believed. Every fascist, Stalinist attempt was made to silence dissenting voices. I was constantly compared to a Nazi. I kept talking my talk and putting my ideas out there, and slowly but surely everything shifted. I used to be attacked by the *Advocate*, but now I'm a columnist for the *Advocate*. That seems to me one of the most profound symptoms of the speed of cultural change, the lifting of the black cloud of censorship that hung over the Left.

When I came on the scene, the *Village Voice* put me on the front page with a bunch of conservatives: "Wanted for Intellectual Fraud." My criticism of what we all now know as the "PC" discourse is acceptable now, but when I came on the scene in 1990 or '91, people didn't understand yet what I was talking about. So when I criticized liberalism or liberal excesses, they all said, "Oh, she's a neo-conservative." You're either one thing or the other; you're either a progressive or a neo-con. I said, "This is sick!"

RB: Does your image in popular culture represent something different now?

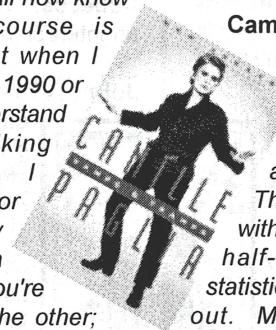
Camille: I no longer have the problems that I had in the beginning, but my position within the gay world is still very controversial. There are people who absolutely adore my work, and there are people who loathe me, those identified with the Foucault establishment. But I think it's clear that my side is gaining because it's just more fun. I mean, I have the

drag queens on my side! So I think that step by step the power base of my opponents is shrinking. That "theory" thing that people thought was so interesting even five years ago is now really a bore, as everyone knows. You can see the academics who are desperately trying to follow in my footsteps - all the wannabes - slowly divesting themselves of all the Lacanian rhetoric. I am single-handedly responsible for the death of Lacanian feminism! I consider that one of the great successes of my career.

RB: So are positive gay images in popular culture worthless?

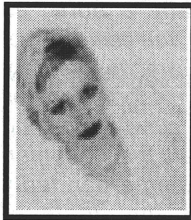
Camille: Everything you read now about gayness, it's all very simplistically affirming. It uses words like "homophobia" about anyone who doesn't like it. The whole discourse is filled with lies right now. Lies and half-truths and fudged statistics. I'd like to sweep it all out. My platform is about understanding that civilization as a whole is what we ultimately belong to. I mean, I'm Italian-American; I'm constantly talking about my ethnicity, but I am also interested in the norm. I think the minute you get a group that defines itself separate from the whole, they're off on a branch. They're sawing themselves off from the trunk of a tree. And that branch is going to break.

Excerpted from: *The Harvard Gay & Lesbian Review*, Volume III, No. 2, Spring, 1996.



Everything but a Crystal Ball...

By Rebecca Anstett



I recently had a chance to hang out with an old friend by the name of John Huculiak. You may know him as Johnathan Kane. You may know him as something else. You may not know him at all. You should. Born in North Bay, and educated at Wilfrid Laurier University, John is a divination practitioner and teacher, currently residing in Toronto

Rebecca: "Are you psychic?"

John: "No, I'm not psychic. I've experienced a lot of crazy things in my past...getting vibes off of cue balls, coffee mugs, just feeling that I should take a walk down the street and meet up with some interesting people. To me, true psychics are few and far between. During my travels with psychic fairs, I've met many fake psychics who use the expressions that people give to candy coat and fake readings. I hate that."

Rebecca: "Have you ever had a reading done by a fake psychic?"

John: "It was pure bullshit. You can tell off the bat if they switch their answer mid sentence during a reading."

Rebecca: "So why did you do it?"

John: "I was curious and interested in the paranormal at that time. Following, I wrote a letter to the address written on her business card and told her that I did not have any siblings, or sons for that manner...hell, I was only 18! There was no response at that time until I wrote to the psychic fair, and she responded that tarot cards weren't an exact science."

Rebecca: "When did you first find an interest in this?"

John: I've been interested in tarot cards since I was in grade 3. I started my studies into tarot around age 13, mentored under 2 people that I still consider to be true psychics. I've been doing tarot openly for 6 years. I learned tarot cards and rune stones at the same time. Bone casting I learned in 1992 and I'm still learning palmistry, which I started 4 years ago. The I Ching I learned in 1987; it's one of the easiest to get acquainted with. Mah Jong happened around 1987 as well. I seem to learn things in twos.

Rebecca: What about divination?

John: "Divination is like doing a jigsaw puzzle. Each kind of divination allows you to put more pieces together to see the bigger



picture.

Rebecca: "Tell me about some of your experiences."

John: "There's lots of interesting experiences...predicting people to be pregnant two months before they know, for example. One time, I had a person say that none if it was true so I gave the money back because if they're not satisfied, what's the point of paying. Later that night, this woman arrived at Club Abstract, my usual hang out in Kitchener, handed me the money and said, 'I believe now.' I predicted that her boyfriend was not only cheating on her in New York, but living with the woman and was going to admit his guilt in the next 48 hours. And he did."

Rebecca: "Any further comments?"

John: "A lot of people say I'm a happy and content and that's a good thing that I have this kind of demeanor. It's because of what I believe in and following what I believe in, following it to the letter every day. Many people haven't found something to believe in. Usually they have someone to believe in which is not how you should follow your life. Find out what you believe in."

Rebecca: "One final question: If you could be any tarot card, which would you be?"

John: "The magician. He blends everything together. He's the catalyst. He's the fifth element. No Bruce Willis pun intended."

For more information on mystical arts, or to learn more about John Huculiak, please visit his website at:

http://members.tripod.com/~tarot_man



RADIO



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

Women's Spin-- CKMS 100.3 FM
airs Wednesday Nights-6-7:30pm

Nowhere To Hide--CKMS 100.3 FM
Gay-blend of free-range music
Airs Wednesday Nights 7:30-9pm

Queer Radio Hamilton--CFMU 93.3 FM
Hamilton Airs Thursdays 5-6pm

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

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

Q Files - Monday's 9-10 pm on CablePulse Ch 24 in K-W.

Bastard Out of Carolina



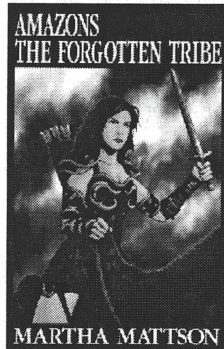
By Dorothy Allison
 Paperback - 309 pages
 Reprint edition (March 1993)

At her birth in Greenville, South Carolina, Ruth Anne Boatwright is nick-named Bone because she is so long and skinny. Because her Mama is fifteen and single when Bone is born, a stamp in "oversized red-inked block letters" reading "Illegitimate" blots the bottom of Bone's birth certificate, and Bone's Mama never gives up her efforts to have this stamp removed. The Boatwright family is large and stormy, especially Bone's talented, handsome, hard-drinking, womanizing uncles. Granny Boatwright and her daughters are known for how beautiful they used to be, before too many children and not enough money carved deep lines into their faces and bent their backs. Bone understands and supports her Mama's desperate need for love until it leaves Bone with scars that won't go away. Bastard Out of Carolina is an emotionally stunning story of criminally familiar pain; of the strength and struggle it takes to survive it; and of the importance of having at least one person smart enough to tell you to "get out there and do things, girl. Make people nervous and make your old aunt glad."

by Edward Taussig
 Paperback - 288 pages
 (June 1998)



Author Edward Taussig shares hundreds of reasons to celebrate being gay. A compendium of fun facts, multiple choice quizzes and aphorisms, modeled after the popular 1,003 GREAT THINGS ABOUT GETTING OLDER.



Amazons the Forgotten Tribe
 by Martha Mattson, Chris Briscoe (Illustrator)
 Paperback - 412 pages
 (June 1998)

Amazons the Forgotten Tribe tells the secrets of sexual attractions and the truth about being gay. This nonfiction book is a HETEROSEXUAL'S JOURNEY into the gay and lesbian world to understand sexuality in all its complexity, and, surprisingly, simplicity.

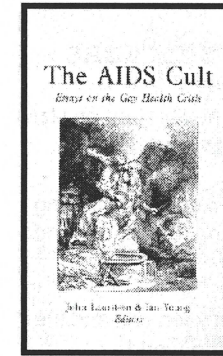
Includes twelve personal stories, the author's journal, a TIME LINE social and legal history of homosexuality and the prejudice against it. The biology and genetics of sexuality, the BIBLE and sexuality, and more. Eleven charming full-page ink drawings by Chris Briscoe illustrate the stories.

Includes a GLOSSARY of the vocabulary of the gay community. Why are men fascinated with Amazons? Do they exist? What does a man want in a woman? Why are heterosexual men attracted to lesbians? Learn about the mysterious relationships between the sexes -- heterosexuals and homosexuals. What is it like to find out you're married to a gay man? How many sexes are there? Read about GENDERBLENDS. Lesbian women and gay men tell their stories.

Mattson asks the questions you want to ask. This positive and objective book has been enthusiastically received by both heterosexual and homosexual readers, clergy, and the full age-spectrum of readers from teenagers to people in their nineties.



The AIDS Cult: Essays on the Gay Health Crisis



by John Lauritsen (Editor), Ian Young, Andrew Cort, Cass Mann, Michael Callen

THE AIDS CULT is the first book to deal with the real reasons gay men are becoming sick in ways that are called "AIDS".

The editors, John Lauritsen and Ian Young, and the other six contributors to The AIDS Cult are all at least skeptical of the hypothesis that a virus is the cause of the dubiously defined illness known as "AIDS". However, even those who accept the orthodox AIDS model will learn much from THE AIDS CULT, which examines psychological and cultural issues - the ways religious intolerance, group fantasies, toxic drugs, pharmaceutical propaganda, deadly counselling, and a Cult of Doom have acted together to destroy the health of gay men.

Continued on page 45

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BUMPER STICKERS:

Honk if you've never seen an Uzi fired from a car window.

To me, good exercise is soaking in a tub, pulling the plug, and fighting the current!

In the battle between you and the world, bet on the world.

The most common greeting in Florida: How's the hip?

When agnostics die, they go to the Great Perhaps.

In Canada, we have two Seasons...six months of winter and six months of poor snowmobiling.

Isn't it ironic that they have a documentary on floods and the host is Roger Mudd?

**Top 10
Songs
for
People
Over
40:**



10. Lets Get a Physical
 9. Ain't No Burrito Mild Enough
 8. Johnny B. Olde
 7. How Do You Mend a Broken Everything
 6. The Lack O' Motion
 5. Hair Potion Number Nine
 4. Doctor My Eyes (And Ears and Joints and Back and...)
 3. To All the Girls I've Disappointed Before
 2. A Hard Day's Nap
- And the Number One Song for People Over 40...

1. Knock Knock Knockin' on the Bathroom Door

**Doesn't It Annoy
You When...**

...you buy an answering machine so you won't miss any calls, and then everyone who calls, hangs up

...you tell someone that a door is locked and they try to open it anyway, like it'll magically open for them and not you.

...someone says, "well, to make a long story short" and then they go on telling it for another 15 minutes.

...you have to inform five different sales people in the same store that you're just looking around.

...you rub on hand cream and can't turn the bathroom doorknob to get out.



...a waiter or waitress is not around at any time other than right after you put food in your mouth.

...the power goes out, and you discover every flashlight you have has dead batteries.

...someone gets in the express lane at the supermarket and writes a check or uses a credit card.

...the elevator stops at every floor and nobody gets on.

...you almost ALWAYS back up your computer files but the week you don't, your hard drive crashes and you lose everything.

**Real Newspaper
Headlines**

1. Include Your Children When Baking Cookies
2. Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Experts Say
3. Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
4. Drunks Get Nine Months in Violin Case
5. Iraqi Head Seeks Arms
6. Is There a Ring of Debris around Uranus?
7. Prostitutes Appeal to Pope
8. Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
9. British Left Waffles on Falkland Islands
10. Teacher Strikes Idle Kids
11. Clinton Wins Budget; More Lies Ahead
12. Plane Too Close to Ground, Crash Probe Told
13. Miners Refuse to Work After Death
14. Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
15. Stolen Painting Found by Tree
16. Two Sisters Reunited after 18 Years in Checkout Counter
17. War Dims Hope for Peace
18. If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last a While
19. Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
20. Man Struck by Lightning Faces Battery Charge
21. New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
22. Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Space
23. Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
24. Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half
25. Typhoon Rips through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

We put the "k" in "kwality."

Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time.

Experience: a name everyone gives to his mistakes.

Does fuzzy logic tickle?

BOOKS

Continued from page 43

The Aids Cult

In his Introduction Ian Young writes: "The orthodox view of our protracted health crisis -- as a highly infectious contagion from without -- has been found wanting.... we must seek the causes of this and other medical dilemmas in our own society, our own assumptions, our group-fantasies, our regimens, our recreations, and our rituals."

The essays in THE AIDS CULT take aim at such targets as the Moral Majority, the AIDS Quilt, AIDS counsellors, the Public Health Service, and the pharmaceutical industry.

Both editors have been active in the gay movement since the 60s, which lends weight to their criticisms of some aspects of the homosexual subculture: drug abuse, dehumanized meeting places, unhealthy sexual practices, and a cultic acceptance of victimhood. John Lauritsen maintains: "The time has come for gay men to do a ruthlessly honest reappraisal of our environment, our identities, and the ways that we live." With the burden of fear lifted from them, there is no reason why those with positive HIV-antibody tests should not live to a ripe old age.



By Mary Ann Moore

I just released a CD of my poetry recorded at Sound on Sound in Kitchener.

It's called **When My Heart is Open**



based on the title of one of the poems in the collection. Maria Pezzano, a Guelph artist, painted the cover image of a mermaid with a heart on her chest. I chose Maria to illustrate the cover as I enjoy her whimsical paintings and subject matter. She uses colours as if they are straight from a child's paintbox. Sarah Clark Design, also in Guelph, was responsible for the graphic design of the CD and booklet of poems. I am pleased to have my poems presented in this way: in print and recorded, as I think poems are meant to be heard.

In the women's writing circle I facilitate, I keep saying writing is about the process and what we learned along the way. It's not about the finished product. But I must say it's great to have the poems gathered in one place. I am now free to create a whole new collection of poetry.

I wanted to share one with you that I shared with a Toronto editor who described my poetry as "Sylvia Plath meets the New Age". This particular poem was written for an eggplant party I went to. One of my friends decided we should honour the eggplant, dress in purple, eat eggplant dishes and write eggplant poetry.

One of my new friends in Guelph admires what she calls "my sense of wonder". I think that's what helps me write poetry and to create an extraordinary life out of an ordinary one. I wish you all some of that sense of wonder for the New Millennium.

Ode to the Eggplant

Wondrous bulbs of aubergine
 nestled in tissue like new leather shoes
 shiny purple skin
 a size to be reckoned with
 regal among vegetables

Oh great Goddess Baba Ganouj
 we pray to your aubergine thighs
 skin of amethyst smoothness
 innermost spongy secrets
 so absorbent
 so without boundaries
 firm and glossy
 when pressed you bounce right back

when filled you become dolma

with meat and yogurt sauce
 spread open
 you're most at home with the vegans
 filled with rice and olive oil
 becoming Empress Eugenie's Turkish lover

you love to be with parmesan
 with tahini
 minced garlic
 lemon juice
 cumin
 ratatouille is your dyke day
 mixing with others
 you stand out in a crowd

you are great Baba Ganouj
 a taste sensation
 slippery when wet
 priestess of the garden bed
 Baba Ganouj

**Mary Ann Moore is a writer in Guelph
 This column is a Voice exclusive.**

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FOLK ART

The definition of what constitutes folk art is still being vigorously debated among collectors, dealers, museum curators, and scholars. Some want to confine folk art to non-academic, hand-made objects. Others are willing to include manufactured material. In truth, the term is used to cover objects ranging from crude drawings by obviously untalented children to academically trained

artists' paintings of "common" people and scenery. The folk art market is subject to hype and manipulation. Neophyte collectors are encouraged to read Edie Clark's "What Really is Folk Art". Finally the folk art market is extremely trendy and fickle. What is hot today can become cool and passé tomorrow. Collecting folk art is not for the weak of heart or the cautious investor.

THE BOMBAY CLUB:

A REAL JEWEL IN HAMILTON'S LGBT CROWN

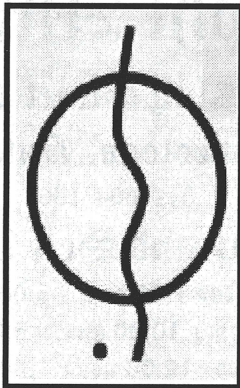
By Charles W. Westfall



Located at 121 Hughson Street North, The Bombay Club, tries to provide a comfortable, clean and homey venue for relaxation and conversation. Moreover, the Owner, Shawn Pudsey and his capable and friendly staff, are working hard to bring the community here a variety of entertainments and activities. They try not only for diversity, but for high standards of excellence and efficiency.

The name, Bombay Club, originates partly from the fact that Shawn lived for a time in India. But, it was chosen, also because he feels it helps to emphasise elements of the exotic and distant as well as the familiar and close at hand. The decor helps to carry out this notion by blending the soft tones of interior brick, terra cotta paint and extensive woodwork with a fireplace, comfortable couches and chairs and soft lighting. The whole is highlighted by travel posters, charts, maps and curios from abroad and accented by an airplane propeller. The upstairs cabaret/dance area has been entirely renovated to make it an attractive and suitable performance and dancing area. In addition, there is an ample choice of meeting areas which community groups are encouraged to use. The downstairs

lounge is mainly that: a comfortable place for quiet enjoyment. Game shows, dances and cabaret shows will be held in the upstairs area. Shawn feels that the entire ambience combines the friendly with the classy and in a town where fund raising activities abound, Shawn has tried to balance the number of these out of consideration for the sometimes strained resources of his patrons.



Co-managers Alex and Stanton are usually on hand with Shawn to welcome visitors, young and old, new and familiar, and to help ensure enjoyment and satisfaction. On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, you can find Miss Millie behind the bar providing great conversation and great service, too.

A very community minded person, Shawn has become involved in a number of significant efforts in this regard. A member of the Hamilton-Wentworth Police/GLBT Task Force and the newly formed Greater Hamilton Gay and Lesbian Business Association, Shawn is very sensitive to issues facing members of this community. To this end, there will be regular Women's Nights in the Dance Club.

Meanwhile, The Bombay Club, seems to be a very real hub of activity and variety. Monday nights

are Britcom nights. Tuesday's is Movie Night. On Wednesday nights, Tatyana hosts Trivial Pursuit with lots of prizes available to be won. On Thursday, Ivonna Please presents her popular drag show. On Fridays, in inimitable and incomparable Robin Sophia calls the numbers and the shots at Wingo followed by a Late-late Drag Show. On Sundays, Hamilton's Bingo Queen, Mercedes, takes over the dais and calls out winning numbers for Wingo fans. Sometime in January, Karaoke will be introduced.

The Bombay Club is the new home of The Golden Horseshoe Leather Association, a very socially active group noted for its remarkable philanthropy. The Imperial Court of Hamilton-Wentworth will hold its Investiture there on January 29.

On January 16, HMIRH The Empress of Buffalo will host one of her famous and popular Wing Ding nights, featuring Buffalo style wings and a fantastic show. If you haven't seen this a performance by The Empress, you are in for a great surprise and a treat. She is a knockout.

Always sensitive to the wishes and needs of his customers, Shawn has also provide some interesting additions to the simple bar menu that is always available. There are special Spaghetti nights and Fish and Chips nights and a few more surprises in store.

Also, in a wonderful and laudable co-operative effort, Miss Bombay, Miss Windsor, Miss Crush and Miss Embassy do a circuit tour of the four bars on weekends making sure

each establishment has the benefit of the talents of each of the performers. Shawn thinks that this is a great community building gesture and I concur. I also think that Shawn, himself, has achieved a notable presence and fine reputation for community support and involvement. For that alone, he deserves the continued support and encouragement of the community.

It may have been worth the trip to Acton to visit the Old Hide House for the best in leather apparel. You may be sure it is worth the trip to Hamilton to visit The Bombay Club for the best of times, the best of company and the best of service.

Charles W. Westfall is a resident of Hamilton. This column is a Voice exclusive.



ER RN Comes Out

If you happened to catch ER a month ago, you may have been puzzled about recurring character Takata Osh, an Asian-American nurse played by Geddy Watanabe (16 Candles, Gung Ho). In the episode, an injured gang banger says he doesn't want a "Chinese faggot" to treat him. Takata's matter-of-fact response, "I'm Japanese." ER, America's top-rated program, has confirmed to GLAAD that this did in fact signal the coming out of the character. This brings ER's lesbian and gay count to two (including Dr. Maggie Doyle played by Jorja Fox), and Watanabe represents the only gay Asian-American character on TV today.

<http://www.glaad.org/>

Starting Something New...

By Timothy Lee

I never thought Waterloo region offered much to do in the queer community. In Toronto, there is a queer group for just about any leisure activity—sometimes there are even several. The comparison isn't fair, given the respective populations and population densities. But then we have to ask: "Do large-city urban folk socialise more readily than small-town inhabitants do? Do urbanites charge full-speed ahead rounding up troops for new interest groups while rural-town residents figure it to be pointless to even try?" Living in K-W has trained me with a philosophy that if an interest group doesn't exist, then make one. A lot can be learned by joining existing queer groups and even organising new interest groups. Past successes and failures illustrate the group strategies that work and the strategies that don't. The second largest hurdle in forming a new interest group for the queer community is announcing its arrival. There are many resources in the local area that can help you advertise your group. Here is a sample of current resources:

- **Group meetings:** University groups such as *GLOW* and *GQE* hold weekly discussion groups. Announcements are often made at the beginning of meetings. You can announce your new group at the meetings or have the co-ordinator announce it for you. Local college groups and groups sponsored by ACCKWA also run regular meetings.
- **Phone-lines:** *Outline* and the *GLOW phone-lines* open in the evenings to provide information and support over the phone. You can add your group info to the phone-lines' libraries of information so volunteers can provide details of your group to the next caller asking about community groups.
- **E-mail lists:** The *Rainbow List* connects many members of the queer community electronically through e-mail. Both announcements and discussions flow through this communication channel. You can announce your group by contacting the list manager. While you're at it, join one of the lists and keep up-to-date on other event announcements.
- **Web-sites:** The *Rainbow Community Web-site* houses a vast amount of queer community information online. You can post your group's information on a single dedicated page by contacting the webmaster. From then on, you can publish this electronic URL address, say on a business card, as a place where people can find more info about your group. Incidentally, the webmaster can also publish dates and times of your group meetings in the web-sites EVENTS section. Check it out!
- **Local publications:** *The Voice* is the monthly LGBT community publication—the same one you are reading this article from. You can place advertisements in *The Voice* to be published at the beginning of the next month. Speak to the editor to submit ads or even a spotlight

article for your group. *Echo Weekly* is another publication you can advertise in.

- **Tri-Cities Pride Day:** The *Regional Pride Committee* organises the annual Pride Day festivities in the Tri-Cities area every June. Each year a gallery of booths is set-up for queer-related groups. You can get much exposure of your group by setting up your own display. Contact the committee to reserve your space.
- **Air-waves:** The *Out and About Queer Radio*, although currently in hiatus, broadcasts a weekly programme of queer-related news, sports, arts, entertainment and comedy. You can have the hosts announce your group. Watch for news on the radio show's resurrection.
- **Clubs:** The *Robin's Nest* and *Club Renaissance* attract a regular crowd of active nightlife participants. Announcements for local community groups are occasionally posted near the entrance of the club or bar. You can speak to managers about posting information about your group.
- **Queer-Friendly Businesses:** The *Bookshelf*, *Generation X*, *Words Worth Books* and the *Princess Cinema* all support the queer community. Information for queer groups is frequently posted at these establishments. Speak to the owners and add your group announcement to the boards!

Hit half these targets and you will get the attention of a good portion of the local queer community. Once you have the spotlight, the real work begins. The largest hurdle in forming a new queer interest group is keeping the interest of potential participants. Group organisers often overlook the details that are critical to starting up a new group. The neglect of such guidelines discourages potential participants and consequently causes the group to fall apart. As expected, the guidelines are based on common sense. They are obvious but can give new members a reason to leave the group when they are not followed. Here are the guidelines: some apply to the new group announcement, while others apply to the way you handle the group meetings.

- Clearly state the purpose of the group or event. If people don't know what the group is for, they will realise at some point later that the group is not for them. Both the group and individual end up their wasting time. In some cases, if the description of the group or event is not clear, people will ignore it altogether.
- Fully describe how to join the group or attend the event. State the time of meetings or a brief schedule of events. State the location of meetings with explicit directions. You don't want to lose potential participants because they can't find your meeting room.
- State how to identify the organiser(s). With queer groups, you want to avoid confusion that may cause embarrassment, e.g. the classic mistaken identity scenario: "Excuse me, are you with the queer movie club?" "I beg your pardon?!" "Oops..." Make yourself especially easy to identify if you are meeting in public places.

Continued on page 53

LEAP

By A.J. Mahari

"When in doubt, make a fool of yourself. There is a microscopically thin line between being brilliantly creative and acting like the most gigantic idiot on earth. So what the hell, leap."

(Cynthia Heimel, "Lower Manhattan Survival Tactics" in The Village Voice)

Life is full of thin lines and interpretations of those thin lines.

Just as what one considers to be brilliant another will think of as idiotic, one man's garbage is another man's treasure. This is why it is so important in life for each of us to be who he/she wants to be. Be who you are. Do not let anyone else's definition or interpretation of you

stand as gospel. The gospel about you rises up and lives within you. It is yours. It doesn't have to be proven to anyone. You are the domain that houses your truth.

Life beckons us often to leap. It seems that if we aren't in action we are seen to be (or we feel we are) STUCK and or sitting on some proverbial fence between destinies.

When you take a leap you are in movement. Leaping is action. Action taken will become growth understood. To leap is to also eagerly accept something that is offered and to make it a part of your experience. Chances are offered to us. Chance is all there is. Think of the distance you can cover in your life, in your issues and in your self-

actualization when you leap. Sometimes situations in our lives call for the sudden transition that a leap can provide.

Consider also the "leap of faith". Nurture your soul. Dare to be "the fool" if that's what others want to think. You and you alone will know better. Courageous is he/she who dares to differ.

I am a child of the universe being born, born again and re-born every



moment. I can trust myself enough to leap. I want to know the spontaneous joy of leaping in my life. I deserve this freedom. I will be open to taking an occasional leap. I want to have the fullest experience of what it is to be alive as my precious gift of life continues to

unfold. I will not be held back by the perceptions of others or by any "thin line".

Leaping is exercising your right to be freely who you want and need to be. Let no one take that away from you. Leap to the beat of your own drummer. Dance to the music of the magic that you can create in life, for yourself. Do not rely on anyone else to introduce you to your own spring-board. You must find this for yourself and from within yourself. Let your memories motivate you to move on.

Learn to leap lovingly. Do not let any thin line hold you back. Nor do you need to worry about what others think.....LEAP! Your life is your journey. Embrace it fully.

Starting Something New....

Continued from page 51

Greet newcomers to the group properly. Introduce yourself, find out their name, tell them what the group is doing so far, and introduce them to others already in the group. It's important to make them feel comfortable amongst the others right away. If they feel isolated from the rest of the group even before the meeting begins, they will abandon the group. Be sure to follow-up with newcomers by asking how they're doing mid-way through the meeting and even subsequent meetings.

- Pre-meet newcomers if necessary. Sometimes it may be necessary to meet newcomers before the first meeting. Perhaps they are naturally shy. Or, perhaps the nature of the group dictates this method of meeting. One example is the queer swim group I joined in Ottawa. The group contact met me before my first practice and discussed the swim group. It was an excellent way to ensure I didn't get changed into swimwear just to find out I had joined a swim club way beyond my ability.

- State the targeted social group. A 50 year old won't feel comfortable in a group consisting of only 20 year olds and vice versa. If you intend to cater to a broad range of social groups, ensure all groups are visibly represented.

- Get contact info of group members. Obtain phone numbers and e-mail addresses of participants so you can announce special events and inform them of changes in meeting times/locations. Just imagine how upset someone would be if they drove from out of town to attend your meeting and you decided to cancel it at the last minute.

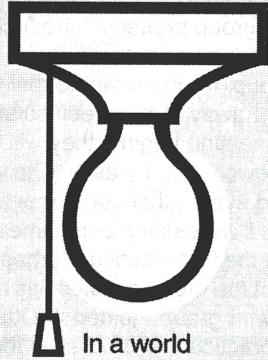
- Get feedback from group members. Though you may be the organiser for your group, remember it is a group, and therefore the group members' interests should be reflected in its activities. It is through this feedback that you can improve the way your group runs.

These guidelines are the basics for running a well-organised group. Depending on the nature of your group, you may implement these guidelines slightly differently. However, the fundamental requirements remain the same. The group's dynamic depends on these requirements. Be proactive in your group forming endeavours. Let's see more interest groups in the Waterloo Region queer community. Good luck in the New Year!

Timothy Lee is a local university student originally from Toronto. Comments and feedback can be sent to him at The Voice or by e-mail at [REDACTED]

If you'd like more information about any of the groups or organizations mentioned in this article you can call The Voice at (519) [REDACTED] or email us at [REDACTED]

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Top Ten Gay News Stories of 1999

Continued from page 7

view that homosexuality is sinful, he would try to tone down his anti-gay rhetoric. No food or lemonade was served at the gathering, as had originally been planned; instead, there were only small bottles of mineral water. Falwell had been reprimanded by some evangelicals for planning to share a meal with "sexually immoral" people.

9. Congress fails to pass hate crimes legislation

On November 17, the Republican congressional leadership killed the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1999, with the White House making no attempt to save it. The hate crimes legislation had been passed in the Senate in July as part of the Commerce, State, and Justice appropriations bill, but it was not part of the House version of the bill and was omitted in conference in the version that went to President Clinton to sign. The president, however, vetoed the bill. Last-minute efforts to revive the hate crimes law failed as the White House agreed in negotiations with Republican leaders to let the bill die.

10. United Airlines surrenders in dispute over San Francisco domestic partnership ordinance

In early August, United Airlines announced it will offer full domestic-partnership benefits to its gay employees. The announcement came after two years of court battles between the Air Transport Association, which represents the major airlines, and the city of San Francisco, which in 1997 passed a law requiring the companies it does business with - including those that lease its airport - to offer domestic-partnership benefits equivalent to the benefits offered married spouses. In May, a federal judge upheld the city ordinance and ordered the airlines to offer certain benefits. The ATA asked the judge to postpone the effect of that

decision pending appeal, but on July 30 the request was denied. Soon after United's announcement that the company would offer partnership benefits beginning in May 2000, two other major airlines, American and U.S. Airways, said they, too, will offer domestic-partnership benefits.

"Women are only now beginning to uncover our own truths, many of us would be grateful for some rest in that struggle, would be glad not to lie down with the shards we have painfully unearthed, and be satisfied with these. Often I feel this like an exhaustion in my own body."

-- Adrienne Rich

"...no person is your friend (or kin) who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow and be perceived as fully blossomed as you were intended. Or who belittles in any fashion the gifts you labor so to bring into the world."

--Alice Walker

"The greatest human quest is to know what one must do in order to become a human being."

--Immanuel Kant

"Dignity does not consist in possessing honors, but in deserving them."

-- Aristotle

"In truth it is life that gives unto life -- while you, who deem yourself a giver, are but a witness." --Gibran

"If you do not tell the truth about yourself you cannot tell the truth about other people."

-- Virginia Woolf

The Voice Classifieds Page

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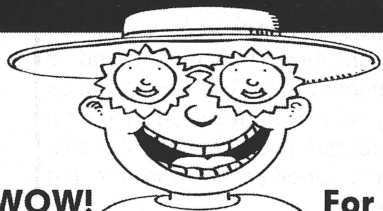
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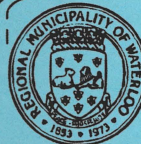
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Single Lesbian Wants To Meet Other Single Lesbians

Hi, I am in my 40's and looking for friendship primarily, with the possibility of dating. I am interested in meeting other single lesbians who are not into the bar scene. Sense of humour and above average intelligence would be wonderful!

Reply to Ad # L-1

Male, early 30's wishes to meet other gay males for **friendship only**. My interests include music, movies, good conversation, quiet times, dinners out. If you'd like to talk please drop me a line.
Reply to ad G-2



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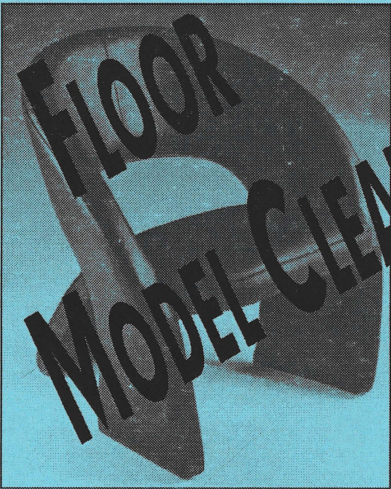
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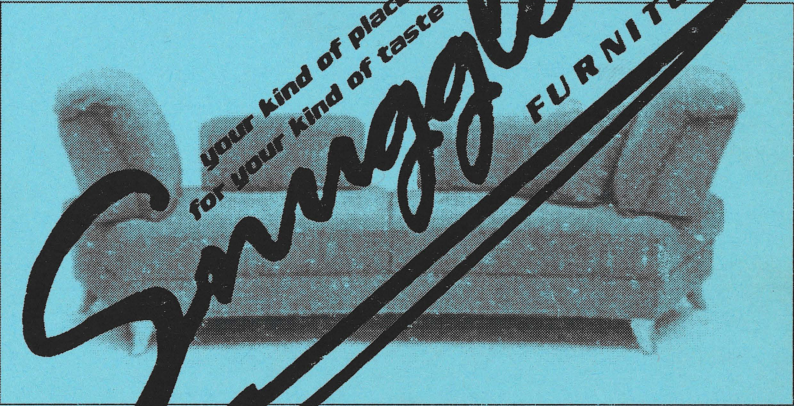
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