

The Voice

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The Voice

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Volume Two

July 2000

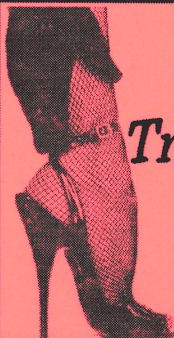
Issue 10



In this issue:

K-W Record Photo by Peter Lee

Flap over Flag! See editorial on Page Three about the response to the above photo in the Friday, June 16 edition of the K-W Record. "Faces in the Crowd" pride interview on Page Four. A new lesbian comic strip "Sweet Pea and Baby Cakes" on page Seventeen. Pride Collage - Pages Thirty to Thirty-Three.



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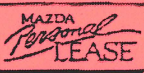
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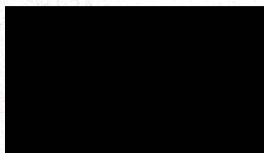


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Flags of Controversy?

Recently, in a letter to the editor of the K-W Record, entitled, "Don't Desecrate The Flag", (K-W Record, Friday June 23, 2000) a reader expressed concern over our use of various combinations of the Canadian flag and the Rainbow flag (pictured in Recent K-W Article - see cover and below) While this Record- reader wrote in such a way as to not appear to be anti-gay or homophobic one has to wonder why he chose to describe our usage of the combined Rainbow and Canadian flag as a desecration.



These concerns may stem from a divisive attitude. We are being asked to show our pride for each flag, or each aspect of our identities separately. Why?

Is that like saying, okay, so you're gay, fine, but could you be gay over there...apart from where we are straight?

Why do the flags have to be separate in order for us to be respecting and proud of both? The author of that letter said, "I hope that those showing their gay-pride this month will be equally vocal in showing their Canada Pride come the first of July" (K-W Record, Friday June 23, 2000)

He likened our use of the two flags combined to an advertisement for being gay when really the combination of those two symbols is an effort on our part to be more visible and to gain further acceptance. The inclusion of the Canadian Flag is evidence that we are, in fact, proud of both being LGBT and Canadian.

As a Canadian-lesbian I feel that the combination of flags best represents what home is for me. The combination of flags is a more representative embodiment of what it means to be an LGBT Canadian. It is not an abusive or disrespectful thing but a respectfully-inclusive thing that we combine those two symbols.

Each flag is only symbolic of country and orientation respectively. Neither has meaning beyond its symbolism. Symbolic meaning, more often than not cannot be universally applied in that different people or groups of people will want to add something more individual to the symbols that best represent their sense of themselves.



We are blessed, here in Canada, to have such freedom to apply our flag, our national symbol of unity and pride, to a more defined essence of who we are. Does that mean that we have dishonoured and desecrated the Canadian Flag?

To the author of that letter it would seem that our use of the Canadian Flag and the Rainbow flag should be kept as separate as perhaps they would like our cultures to remain. Rather like Bill C-23 and the amendments made to it that have left us with an "equal status", but separate in terms of the right to be legally recognized couples but still not to be married.

The combination of the two flags is a cultural statement about visibility and acceptance. There is no dishonouring of the Canadian flag when it is made even more inclusive to a certain group of Canadians. Do we not have just as much right to our own version of Canadiana and its representative symbols as any other group?

What do you think? We'd like to hear your opinions on this issue? Write a letter to the Voice editor and share your opinion.

(contact addresses on opposite page)

FACES IN THE CROWD - PRIDE INTERVIEWS

By A.J. Mahari

One of the information tables at this year's Tri-Pride event was the GLOW table. Along with all of the information that they had there they also gave out, for free, buttons with all kinds of cool sayings on them. Things like, "That's Miss Dyke to you!", and "That's Master Fag to you" to name just a couple.

I spoke with Jonathan, who is the current director of GLOW, and with Nigel, who is one of GLOW'S many past-directors.

Jonathan describes GLOW as, "a student-based peer support group." It serves both the student population at the University of Waterloo but also runs services that are open to anyone in the community as well. These services include, "a **GLOW phone-line that is staffed Mon & Tues 7:30-9:30pm, Wed 6:30-8:30pm, and Thurs & Fri & 7:30-9:30pm.** It is a resource and a confidential place for callers to phone to speak to a peer about issues related to being LGBT. We don't offer counselling but we do offer support - a friend on the line to have. In addition to that, we have our weekly discussion group that breaks into two parts. One is a coming out group, that is fairly structured. The other is the Rainbow Community Conversation Group

which deal with other topics in a less structured fashion. It is laid back and casual. Then as a part of that, we run a social every Wednesday night as well. It's a chance for people to get together in a safe environment. We also have a lending-library. It is rapidly-growing. We have a new office and lounge space, at the university, in the Student Life Centre.

GLOW is run as an extension of the Federation of Students. Jonathan went on to say that GLOW has been around in various forms for almost thirty years. "Actually, this fall will be the 30th anniversary of GLOW."

GLOW has an archive of information that dates back to its inception. Nigel has been working on re-organizing the archives and learning about the various different activities and people that were involved with GLOW in its 30 year history.

Nigel had this to say about the history of GLOW. "GLOW was founded in March of 1971. It started off with eight people who decided to form the group. It started about 20 months after Stonewall, so it was obviously influenced by the momentum of that and other things that were going on in the local community. At their very first meeting they had over 100 people attend."



GLOW has been able to exist in such a continuous fashion largely due to the help of members of the community who reside here and are not students. There is and always has been a very solid and long-standing relationship between the students involved with GLOW and non-student community members who are involved in GLOW. We are very fortunate to have such a historic organization in our community. And it is one that would not be possible without the welcoming attitude of the LGBT students of the university of Waterloo. If you've thought about attending a GLOW event or discussion group and thought again because you are older and or not a student Jonathan and Nigel want you to know that GLOW has always, and will continue to be very welcoming to non-student members of our community.

"We like to play a fairly active role in the community because we are an established organization." The fact that we are a constant in our local community is very important. We do our part." said Nigel.

Jonathan added, "We are very much aware of the role that we do

play in the community. We love to be involved in events at Club Ren for fund-raising and with community. I really feel that there is a lending back and forth of resources and people's time and a spirit."

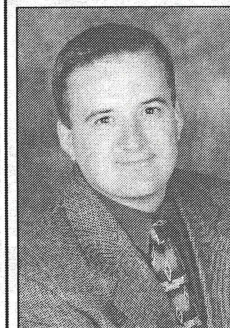
Recently, GLOW has formed a committee to start working on the plans for their 30th anniversary celebration which will take place in March of 2001.

When asked what it is like to be a gay-student at the university of Waterloo, Johnathan replied, "I have always felt very comfortable at Waterloo and very comfortable in GLOW. It's a very diverse group.

I, personally, have only ever had positive experiences at Waterloo and it's a very accepting environment."

"Certainly I find it safe. I don't think anyone has anything to fear about being discriminated against at the university. Nigel added. He then went on to say that "There is certainly a lot of support for gay people if they are looking for it. One of the things that has come up is that there really isn't a lot of visibility at the university because people are afraid to show outward displays of affection.

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FACES IN THE CROWD - PRIDE INTERVIEWS

Continued from page 5

On pride day I had a chance to talk to Scott Schau, the Chairmen of the Regional Pride Committee. (RPC)

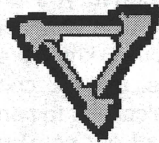


When asked how many people volunteered on the RPC committee this past year Scott said, "We had 5 or 6 people who were consistently coming, but we also had lots of other people coming in to help out with different things and ideas. So, we've had quite a few, but we could use more in the future though."

Scott believes that for every person who comes out and volunteers their time and talents to the RPC there are many different reasons. He also made the point that the more people who get involved the more that our local Pride celebrations can provide. He believes that everyone who comes to Pride is a volunteer as well, sharing their time and selves with community.

When asked what Pride means to Scott, he replied, "To me, personally, it is an internal celebration for the community to get together and to meet each other. I think it's a shame that we don't get out and do it more often. I think pride should happen a hundred times a year so we could just get out and meet each other and take pride in who we are."

The Voice extends our thanks to Scott and the RPC for all of their hard and dedicated work!



See our Pride Photo Collage (Pg 30) for a picture of RPC members who attended Tri-Pride 2000.

Kyle, who recently moved here from Toronto and who was very happy to find The Voice Magazine shared what Pride means to him.

"It means being united, being together. An opportunity for gay people to be free and visible showing those who are straight that we are not abnormal. It's activism."

On Pride day I also talked to Evie Hill who was the representative for PFLAG -Parents, Friends of Lesbians and Gays at their information table.

PFLAG was started in the U.S in 1973 by a teacher in Greenwich Village, New York who had a gay son who was taking part in the, then, relatively new Pride marches.

"When they were marching they started to talk. The idea formed that they would have a group for parents to support their gay children." Evie

also notes that: "Each area has its own PFLAG that has its own unique personality. In Kitchener, for example, it's a small group, that meets monthly. Everything is confidential. We talk we educate ourselves about gay issues. The mission statement is try

about our kids and ing to keep families together."

Parents with LGBT children and adult-children find PFLAG a safe, and relaxed place to just talk openly about their kids in ways that they can't necessarily do in their everyday lives and workplaces. They also help parents learn about the issues that face their children. They provide support.

"Their kids are the same people when they knew before, once they know that they are gay. There are issues of safety. We worry about the safety of our kids here because there is still verbal harrassment even though things are changing" added Evie.

PFLAG also supports those for whom religion is a very tough issue.

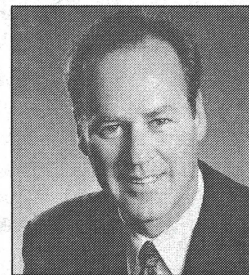
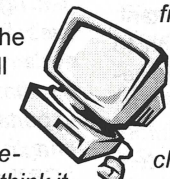
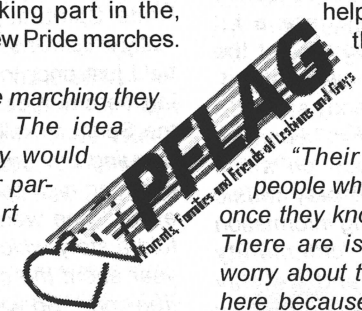
Most, in our community who have access to the web know of the work of David Welbourne, who is the webmaster for the Rainbow Community Centre at

www.rainbow.on.ca

Why does David do what he does so well in compiling all the information he put together? David says. "I like doing the work, I like researching, I always have. I think it is a necessary job. I just took to it like a fish in water, I guess." He does this, among other reasons because, "It's fun finding out things that I hadn't learned about before. I find connections between what we did five years ago and what we are doing now. You wonder where are

those people now. Often, I see the same names come up over and over again. You start to get a sense of where the community is after a while, which isn't obvious, you know, because we are all hidden from each other."

When David was asked what Pride means to him, his response was, "Mostly, a chance to be yourself. And a sense of self-esteem. It gives a certain amount of freedom to express, you know, you're inner-self - who you really are. It is liberating. If you want to do something that's not generally associated with your gender or sex you can because you are making your own rules for yourself."



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FACES IN THE CROWD - PRIDE INTERVIEWS

Continued from page 7

I had a chance to speak with Sandy, who is one of the hosts of the Leaping Lesbians Radio show which airs every Thursday from 6-8pm on CKMS 100.3 FM.



I asked Sandy to share a bit about what the show is about. Sandy said, "It's a two hour radio show on which we play music mostly. We pass along information about up-coming community events for women and we play mostly women's music - music that lesbians or bisexual women like, or whoever." She said that the show has been on the air at CKMS since 1979 and that it has had wide-variety of different hosts. Sandy has been doing the show for over five years now. She finds trying to put different songs together in a way that the lyrics of those songs speak to her most challenging. She hopes that the mix of music, and specifically the lyrics will be entertaining to her listeners as well.

The Voice's business consultant, Darren, on what pride means to him: "It's about coming out and being yourself and not worrying about who is watching you on the other side of the river." Darren wonders why Tri-Pride doesn't take place in Waterloo. He added about Pride in Toronto, "I think in Toronto there is no fear of being spotted by someone you know." He feels that the number of gay people at Toronto Pride means more safety than the numbers at Tri-Pride have.

Rev. Anne Treadwell, of the First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo lead the Tri-Pride Spiritual Rally which was



held just prior to the official opening ceremonies. Anne described the Spiritual Rally as a, "matter of bringing our energy and enthusiasm and high spirits to the Pride event." She went on to say, "I retold a story which I had given last year about the creation of a hate-free zone. So we encircled the island with a ribbon and actually acted out this idea of a hate-free zone. And although we had to take down the ribbon almost immediately we hope that the concept will remain with people until next year."

Rev. Treadwell realizes that many who are LGBT have been hurt deeply by mainstream religion. "The belief of our congregation is that for each one of us it is really important to try to develop as much as we can in all aspects of our lives, including the spiritual aspect of our lives. I would go back to what I said earlier about that for me suggesting that meaning and purpose are important quests to be on. I can't imagine any way in which being LGBT could make that search for meaning and purpose any less important."

Rev. Treadwell added that, "we welcome people of all orientations, backgrounds and we have quite a few transgendered people in our

congregations. We welcome them whole-heartedly as contributing to the diversity of people which we think is extremely important and enriching -- not just called for by a religious orientation towards life but called for by just being human. If we can't welcome one another in our diversity I don't think we are truly developing as human beings.

The First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo is located at 96 Dunbar Road, South, in Waterloo. Although the church's name includes 'Waterloo' the congregation's members come from K-W and many surrounding areas.

"It is open to anyone who is interested in conducting their own search for truth and meaning. Anyone who is interested in this type of personal search, is welcome" concluded Rev. Treadwell.

Voice ad-graphic and web link/ Pride Album designer, Lyn McGinnis on what pride means:



"Pride is a tremendous affirmation saying, yes, that we are right to be who we are and to fight for the right to live our lives and to express ourselves and to contribute our part of the spectrum to the diversity of humanity - we're part of that. We need to contribute to a change in the culture to allow for us to be [an accepted] part of the rest of the human race.

On being a transgendered bisexual Lyn had this to say about life experience, "I think the whole community had evolved a fair bit, since I first came out 20 years ago. We,

as a community have come to terms with a lot of our own internalized prejudices and phobias." Lyn pointed out that we need to get involved and stay involved in community because the survival of our culture depends upon it.

The very popular and charming Chris Edwards was once again the Tri-Pride entertainment headliner this year. In between his sets I was able to speak with him.

Chris was glad he could be here. He works at a bar in Toronto as a female-impersonator. It is a job that



he, clearly, loves and is extremely good at! When asked what was most rewarding about his line of work Chris was very quick to say, "Putting a smile on people's faces and getting the love and the support from the people."

Chris is very exciting to watch and definitely captivates his audience. He also has a strong sense of humour and shares that with ease. When asked what the art of being a drag-queen is really all about Chris replied, "It's just the art of it, you know, going from a man to a woman, and making it exciting for the people who say 'oh my God, this man can actually perform as a woman'" Chris believes that we are all as one and that we should all be treated that way. He thinks that over-all people are getting more accepting and that the diversity that drag-queens embody can only help to bring us all closer together.

THE QUEST FOR FREEDOM

by Noel Springwood

Let's get a few things straight from the start. My tradition is Judaeo-Christian and I'm a Gay Man. To deny either reality as an influence on what appears here would be foolhardy.

On the other hand, they do give an indication of why the title of this column equates spirituality with freedom. Furthermore, it emphasizes spirituality as a kind of journey, not a destination. The journey itself can take many forms and the freedom constitutes an enabling power to be: to be oneself, to be alive and to be whole.

Many attempts have been made to capture these things in formulae, creeds and directives. At best, such attempts really only outline an approach or insight that has worked for some. The uniqueness of each individual person makes it necessary to adapt them to one's own situation.

Moreover, such attempts have been compared to a travel agency that only provides a map when a client purchases a tour.

The starting point to the journey is in a person's perception of him or herself. If that self is seen as good to start with, the journey begins well. On the other hand, there are often things that prevent a person from seeing that goodness and

worth. That's where the need for freedom comes in. It's a need to get rid of the blocks to the self-knowledge and self-acceptance and self-love that are required to live a full and happy life.

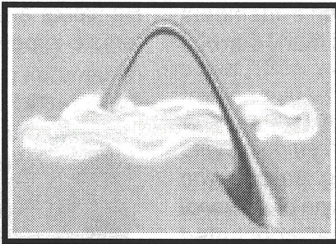
For a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgendered individual, that starting point is not just an understanding of their sexual orientation. It, as PFLAG reminds us, is found in the recognition of our sexual orientation and personal identity as unique and beautiful gifts.

That's something pretty hard to do in a world where prejudice and persecution against us is still all too prevalent.

In addition, gifts like these need care and nurturing. As each day brings new challenges and new joys, the gifts themselves are either enriched or diminished, according to our responses to them and the kind of life choices we make about them.

Nobody said the journey was an easy one; but, neither is it too complicated. Only human history and tradition have made it so. Perhaps in this series of articles, some of the paths can be straightened out and some of the rough spots made smooth. I certainly hope so.

It is, consequently, a pleasure to invite the readers of THE VOICE



to join me in this ongoing journey of discovery and share their own voices, insights, concerns and discoveries with all of us. Spirituality may, after all, be a very personal quest; but, it doesn't have to be a lonely one.

NOEL SPRINGWOOD (a pen-name - "Out of respect for his former associates, he is not using his real name.") served most of his life as a Roman Catholic Priest. He now lives in voluntary exile from that ministry in order to live and work openly within the LGBT community as a Gay Man. You can contact him through THE VOICE or email him at nspringwood@aol.com

Westminster United Up-Date

More than 400 United Church people — half minister, half laity — spent the last weekend of May at the Glen Abbey Recreation Centre in Oakville, doing detailed business on behalf of the church. It was the annual meeting of Hamilton Conference, which takes in six Presbyteries in a band running from Niagara Falls to Tobermory, and including Mississauga and Kitchener-Waterloo.

For Westminster, the highlight of the weekend was the debate and vote on the petition that originated in this congregation, calling for the United Church to look for ways of "healing for the damage inadvertently caused by the historic stance of our Church on homosexuality." Rev. Gary Boratto (Westminster's minister) spoke near the beginning of this debate, a short, emotional speech in which he told Conference that "We have a chance to be on the cutting edge of freedom, and life and love." His remarks were described by the next speaker, a youth delegate, as "the most beautiful thing I've heard here this weekend". The petition had previously been endorsed by Waterloo Presbytery, but we didn't know how Conference would react to it. After several more speeches, pretty much all in favour of the petition, a vote was taken. The motion was carried. Our petition will be on the agenda for General Council, the national governing body of the church, in Toronto this August.

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A PHOBIA-FRACTURED CULTURE

By A.J. Mahari



Homophobia is an irrational hatred or fear of homosexuals or homosexuality. Internalized homophobia is that same irrational hatred or fear of homosexuality, but turned inward on the self. When homophobia is internalized it is the result of us taking in and giving over-riding importance to the prevailing attitudes, norms or ideas that dominate the "market-place" of thinking and insidiously making them a part of our own thinking patterns. To one degree or another this happens to all of us. The issue is how we cope with it and what we choose to do to outgrow it -- or whether or not we end up stuck within those patterns of thinking that are most detrimental to both others and ourselves.

Living your life as a member of a minority -- being lesbian or gay, one does not have mirrored back to them a consistently-cogent sense of self. Living within a predomi-

nately heterosexual culture can often invalidate the experience and feelings of one who is not heterosexual. Most, if not all of us, have come to realize that we have had (or may still have) some degree of internalized homophobia. This internalized homophobia is often experienced as shame and can be a source of significant pain.

Homophobia, from without, or from within is painful and often difficult to deal with. As a lesbian or gay man you have, no doubt, been exposed to either homophobia from others or to your own feelings of internalized homophobia as you began to identify (or are beginning to identify) your orientation.

The way in which our world treats differences as "less than" and "wrong" or "inappropriate" can make coming to terms with who you are as a lesbian or gay man very difficult and painful. It is a process. It must be worked through before one can truly come to a peaceful place of self-acceptance that is not affected by homophobia.

We are exposed to much that is said and written about homophobia, generally and internalized

Jean-Paul Pilon

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homophobia, specifically, however, homophobia is not the only phobia that requires our attention in the LGBT community.

We hear a lot more about homophobia than we do, bi-phobia or trans-phobia. Yet, both are very rampant in gay culture, even today. Why? What is it that lesbians and gays fear about bisexuals and those who are transgendered? Can that fear and or hatred be likened to the fear and or hatred that some straight men or women still harbour against lesbians and gays? How can lesbians and gays turn around and do to others what has been done (or is still being done) to them?

LGBT culture is diverse, yes. However, more than that, it is fractured, fractured by the very thing that lesbians and gays have so long fought against. That is the irrational fear of difference and a less than educated understanding of that difference which is then often channeled into attitudes of "us" and "them" based upon stereotyped expectations resulting from a lack of personal education and growth.

Bi-phobia - an irrational fear or hatred of bi-sexuals and trans-phobia, an irrational fear or hatred of the transgendered are very real issues that LGBT culture must work harder at dealing with.

However, in order to deal with bi-phobia and trans-phobia lesbians and gays have to first come to a place of healing with their own experiences of homophobia and or their own remaining internalized homophobia. Don't be so quick to dismiss this as "not my problem". It

is a problem and one that we must all face in order to heal the fractures that exists within LGBT culture.

Older generations of lesbians and gays can learn a lot from the younger generations who seem to have a much greater capacity to deal more appropriately with the vast diversity of our culture. As lesbians and gays we must be open to better understanding ourselves, our own place in both the world and the world of LGBT culture. We must continue to increase our own level of and capacity for self-acceptance.

Self-acceptance is the first step toward being better able to relate to those who are bi or trans without prejudice. Ask yourself, do you want to continue to inflict upon these two groups the kind of pain and stereotyping that the straight world has (or does) inflicted upon you?

Our strength, as a culture, lies in our ability to overcome our own divisiveness and to fully-accept and support our diversity. In a world where being LGBT is still somewhat of an "island" experience it is up to each and every one of us to work toward a cohesive and authentic acceptance of ourselves and each other so that our culture continues to thrive. All of us, represented by those four letters LGBT, need a safe, comfortable and accepting place to hang the hat of our culture and identity in the arena of "community".

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.

“What’s Feelings Got to Do with It?”

By Dr. Jeffrey Chernin

During couples therapy, I would often hear a phrase that started out with “I feel...” followed by things like “...that you are not listening to me,” or “...you should do dishes when I make dinner.”

“That isn’t a feeling,” I’d comment. “That’s a thought.” Many people, even after years of therapy and self-help, do not understand the basic difference between a feeling and a thought.

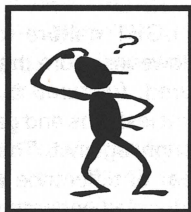
A feeling is something that you experience in your body, whereas a thought is a concept, notion, or opinion. When you feel something your heart may be pounding, your hands may be clammy, you may experience a heaviness in your chest, and so on.

Common feelings are: sad, angry, hurt, horny, frustrated, confused, and happy. More complex, and often harder to identify, feelings include aggravated, provoked, irked, exasperated, distressed, blue, flustered, and agitated.

Sometimes, it’s difficult to distinguish between feelings. For example, there is a thin line between excitement and fear. Even more uncommon but equally possible is to feel two seemingly different feelings at the same time. When you say that you have “mixed feelings” about something, it implies that it doesn’t make sense. But when you examine the logic behind it, it can be perfectly rational. For example, graduating from college can feel thrilling, disappointing, and scary at the same time. It’s a thrill to feel a sense of accomplishment, it is disappointing to leave friends and way of life behind, and scary because you may be uncertain about what’s next.

Conversely, two very different feelings can have the same physical sensations. A lump in your throat, heaviness in your chest, and breaking out in a cold sweat can occur when you are learning how to swim (feeling fear) and when you discover your partner is pregnant (feeling elated).

Perhaps the scariest, most confusing and difficult feelings emerge when you learn that you are gay, lesbian, or bisexual. Many non-gay people erroneously assume that same-sex attraction is merely physical, not realizing that there’s a huge emotional component to same-gender love.



And coming to terms with your sexual orientation involves a myriad of often conflicting emotions. They sneak up on you. They swirl. They overwhelm. Fear. Dread. Relief. Shame. Loss. Worry. Freedom. Anger. Apprehension. Turmoil. Uneasiness. Mistrust. Guilt. Confusion. Joy. Acceptance. And that’s just to name a few.

At some point, we all figure out how we’re going to deal with these complex, often contradictory emotions. No one is able to consistently express their feelings in a healthy way. At some point, all of us have had or are having trouble expressing feelings related to being LGBT.

So what do we do?

While many LGBT individuals have supportive, loving family and friends and come out without much problem, most of us start out by denying our same-sex attraction. You can rationalize away same-sex attraction or take drugs or drink in order to blot it out. In fact, there are many ways that people use to run away from feelings.

Allowing yourself to feel your feelings—even if you can’t easily label them—is critical to your well-being. Allowing yourself to feel and express emotions can give you the strength to not use drugs/alcohol/food and to cope with unpleasant emotions. It can give you a better mood, and alleviate depression and anxiety. It can lead to a better functioning immune system (several studies support this).

But dealing with feelings is a double-edged sword. We can all work to become better at expressing emotions, and at the same time, rely less on not dealing well with them. The other side, however, is to realize that you will never ever be perfect at feeling and expressing emotions. It is to recognize your humanity and that you aren’t perfect and never will be. That it’s even part of life to live with some brokenness or imperfection.

And becoming comfortable with that imperfect side of ourselves is not easy; it involves tolerating some very unpleasant emotions. The good news is that once you become comfortable in expressing emotions and with your inability to attain complete emotional maturity, you are on the road to being fully human and capable of loving yourself and others.

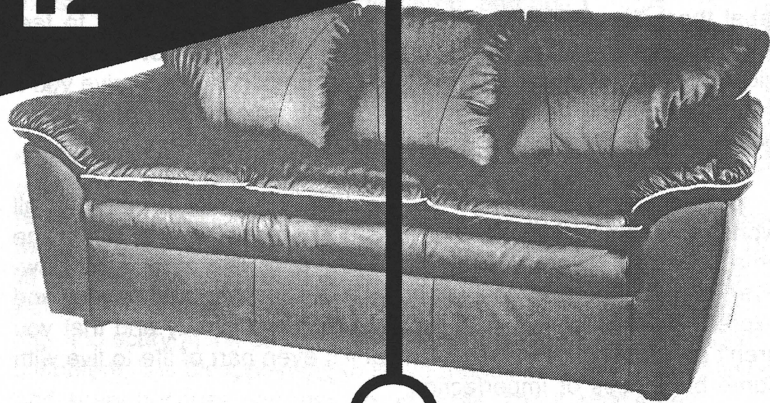
Jeff Chernin, Ph.D., resides in Los Angeles. He can be reached at [redacted]. This article was submitted to The Voice by Dr. Chernin. This article was submitted to The Voice by Dr. Chernin.

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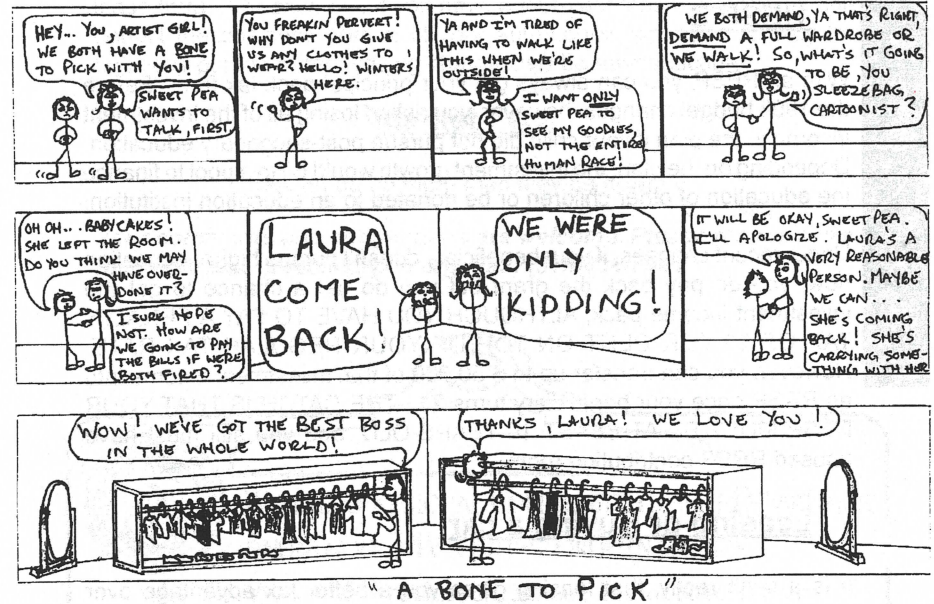
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The Voice would like to introduce you to a new comic strip - Sweet Pea & Baby Cakes by Laura J. Saunders, who is "an almost 40 year old lesbian". Laura lives in Mississauga, and has been drawing her strip since November of 1999. Sweet Pea & Baby Cakes want to make it big in show biz.

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GAY MONEY

by Bonnie J. Babin,
Investment Planning Counsel of Canada

Little Known Financial Planning Facts

RESP'S

With an RESP, you can always get your principal back tax-free. Before the 1998 budget changes, however, you risked losing all of the investment income in the plan if your child did not pursue post-secondary education. Depending on the plan, the investment growth would go to a pool to finance the education of other children or be donated to an education institution.

Under recent changes, if your beneficiary doesn't pursue higher education now, you do pay back the grant but you do get a chance to get the investment income back, ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE TO PAY A PENALTY TAX OF 20 PER CENT ON TOP OF YOUR REGULAR TAX RATE. However, you can transfer up to \$ 50,000 of that investment income into an RRSP once your beneficiary turns 21. THE CATCH IS THAT YOUR RESP MUST BE AT LEAST 10-YEARS-OLD, and you still must have unused RRSP contribution room.

Leasing or Buying a car

It is a myth really, that leasing gives you a better tax advantage over purchasing a car. As long as cash flow allows it, purchasing a car can often provide two benefits over leasing. First, the interest rate embedded into the lease terms is often higher than the rate available on purchase financing. Second, you can exercise some discretion with respect to deducting the 'depreciation' of the vehicle. When you have a (n) (operating)

Investment Planning Counsel
of Canada

Financial Planning Professionals

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

lease, you can only deduct the payments in the year in which they occur. When you purchase the car, there is a maximum amount of depreciation you can claim annually, and you have full discretion how much to use (up to the maximum) each year. That's helpful in a year where you have more expenses than usual. Then you can "save" the depreciation deduction for following years. I don't know of any rule of thumb, but your cash flow and the type of car you want may decide it for you.

If you leased a car and made a lump sum payment on the lease to reduce monthly payments, you can deduct the \$ 4,000 downpayment, but not all in one year. Instead, you should "amortize" the downpayment over the lease term. For example, if you have a four-year lease, you should only deduct the business portion of your automobile expenses so only the business portion of the leasing charges will be tax-deductible.

Market Fact

Market go up more than they go down!!!!

Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please respond to e-mail address: bbabin@ipcc.org Fax: (519)836-6949



WATERLOO REGIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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RAINBOW RIDGE

NEW MANAGEMENT, NEW ATTITUDE, AND IT'S WORKING!

It only took one weekend of camping to convince Grant Bradley, a Dufferin County native, that the Rainbow Ridge Resort was something spectacular. Grant grew up, on his family's farm, only four miles from the Resort. He had always admired the property.

His love of Real Estate once again sparked the opportunity to experience first hand the beauty of the cedar pine and hardwoods that dot the rolling landscape bordering the meandering Grand River. This Park offers a very

summer for that matter. One thing was going to be different, and that was the commitment that this is going to be a FUN PLACE so lets lighten up on the rules, be very open and receptive and listen to concerns.

We have, indeed, listened to the concerns of our customers and this has resulted in the prices being reduced and our services being increased. We receive continuous compliments on a daily basis about the way we treat our guests. The yard work we are doing and the

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New Owners! Fun Attitude!

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Open dance every Saturday night.

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secluded setting well away from the road leaving total privacy. What a great idea! A devoted gay and lesbian campground not only in his own backyard but within a one-hour drive from the Greater Toronto Area.

On their very first visit Grant and partner Pat inquired if the property was for sale. It was only a few months later when Real Estate signs appeared. Then, the pursuit was on. Not only for the sheer beauty of the property but also attracted to the concept of operating a gay and lesbian park that would provide an ultimate retreat for those of us who desire that seclusion and comfort of being in their own community. Rainbow Ridge is a place to meet new friends and to have a totally relaxed weekend or

improvements we are making. Our guests rave about Pat's cooking.

There is a NEW ATTITUDE and its working says Grant. The Park has never been as full. The best aspect of this resort is the fact that a male and a female now operate this campground. Since we have an almost even split of gay and lesbian seasonal trailer guests and the dance usually draws in equal numbers of males and females, we feel we can keep the gay and lesbian perspective in check and come out with a balance that represents everyone's interests.

We feature a dance every Saturday night, yes EVERY Saturday night, no more hit and miss.

Oh, you will be delighted to know. you can bring your own bottle, which amounts to a great night of savings. The Friday night campfire is a great place to make new friends. The pool, games room, and restaurant along with the enormous dance hall all add to the pleasure to be had here. The day offers a modern pool and a large sunbathing deck. Miles of nature trails along the grand river, fishing as well as just relaxing by the cedar trees will fill any void. "The recreation hall that seats over 200 along with the dance floor is available for your special event and we'll cater as well", states Pat.

With soaring fuel prices the location of #9 Highway at #25 (Trafalgar Road) is ideal. Only 90 minutes from downtown Toronto and a whole lot closer to Guelph, Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge, Barrie and all points in between make Rainbow Ridge an economical choice. Come for a weekend or just the dance. We welcome all who are LGBT and those who are gay-positive as well.

Many, who are now, seasonal residents were campers first, so why not come out and put our *new attitude* to the test?

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LAMPS AND LIGHTING

Lighting devices have evolved from simple stone age oil lamps to the popular electrified models of to-day. Aime Argant patented the first oil lamp in 1784. Around 1850 kerosene became a popular lamp burning fluid, replacing whale-oil and other fluids. In 1879 Thomas A Edison invented the electric light bulb, causing fluid lamps to lose favour and creating a new field for lamp manufactures to develop. Companies like Tiffany and Handel developed skills in the manufacture of electric lamps, having their decorators produce beautiful aesthetic bases and shades. Come see our large selection of lighting.

FACES IN THE CROWD - PRIDE INTERVIEWS

Continued from pages 4-9

Guess who else I had an opportunity to talk to on Roos Island? "A Day In The Life" creator and writer, Finnian Cole, who ventured over to Kitchener, from Hamilton.

Finnian sees herself first and foremost as a writer. When she decided to embark on the road to a career as a mainstream-novelist she thought the best place to start might just be by

writing a comic strip and producing a product that would enable her to make a name for herself. Finnian hopes to see "A Day In The Life" syndicated within

mainstream media because even though the characters in the strip are lesbians, Finnian firmly believes that their experiences are "everyday enough" to transcend their orientations.

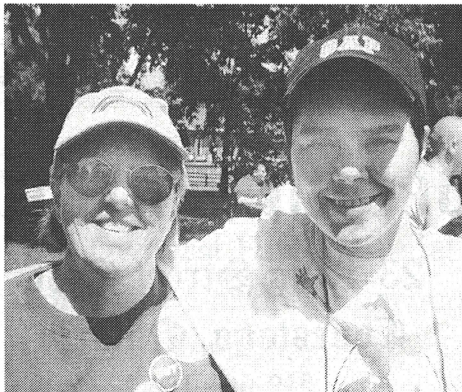
Finnian's other goal right now is to have her comic strip made into a situation comedy television show. "We are in production right now and we are going to begin filming three episodes of the situation comedy in the next couple of months."

Does Finnian anticipate any issues coming up for her, being a lesbian and approaching mainstream society with what may be viewed, at

least, initially as essentially a lesbian product?

"Yes. I have a very small fear around this issue. It won't stop me from doing what I want to do but I have the fear of being pigeon-holed."

Finnian recounted a news interview that she did with a local Hamilton television station who quickly referred to her comic strip as 'Finnian Cole's Queer Comic Strip' and she had not referred to it in that way.



When asked what the difference is between Finnian Cole the person and Finnian Cole the comic strip persona she had this to say, "Finnian Cole the person, well, I'm a very serious person. I am very honest and open. Finnian Cole the career oriented persona is a little more outgoing and not as shy. I can be shy when just being myself."

Finnian thinks that the climate for LGBT people who want to carve a career in entertainment or media is very positive. She thinks we are "getting in there big time, it's a good time."

The filming of the "A Day In The Life" situation comedy will take place in both Toronto and Hamilton. It will be premiered in Toronto and in Hamilton and sent to all the film festivals in Canada and the U.S next year.

When asked what pride means to her, after a little thought, Finnian responded with, "Unity and family. It's an opportunity for us to come out in the world and be proud of who we are, and that we are just people too -- accept us -- love us."



Sundays

Westminster United Church (an affirming congregation): Services are held each Sunday at 10:30 am. The Church is located at 543 Beachwood Dr. in Waterloo.

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]

KW-Friends of Dorothy, 10 Pin Cosmic Bowling, will return in September. [redacted]

Mondays

Lesbian Discussion Group & Lesbian Reading/Writing Circle - the first and last Monday of each month respectively. **START IN JULY.** For more information call [redacted] or email: [redacted]

www.thevoice.on.ca
(Click on Lesbian Groups Link)

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>

Discussion Group: A group for people aged 16-25, sponsored by ACKWA and held in Waterloo, 7:00-9:00 pm. To join, or for more information, call ACKWA at (519) 570-3687 (Kitchener).

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. For more info, call Marilyn at (519) [redacted]

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: [redacted] **A social gathering follows the discussion groups weekly from 9pm to 11pm.**

THE COMING OUT DISCUSSION GROUP

Wed July 5 - Sexual Exploration
 Wed July 12 - Politics and Sexuality
 Wed July 19 - As We Grow Older
 Wed July 26- Bisexuality

RAINBOW COMMUNITY DISCUSSION GROUP

Wed July 5 - Internalized Homophobia
 Wed July 12 - Public Displays of Affection
 Wed July 19 -Sexuality - what is it?
 Wed July 26- Hate groups and anti-gay organizations

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 [redacted] or Michael at [redacted]

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 at the Hamilton AIDS Network, 512 James St. N. For further details, please call (905) [redacted] ext.43, or e-mail Janet at: [redacted] www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/cafe/8922/

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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) 745-1166

NEW L.O.O.K - Lesbian Open Outreach Kitchener is a supportive and social organization for lesbian/lesbian positive and bi-sexual women in the K-W area. The contact person is AJ Mahari at [redacted] email: [redacted] or [redacted]

www.thevoice.on.ca
Click on [Lesbian Groups](#)

GUELPH

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>

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-[redacted]

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

WOODS: Women Out Opening Doors Socially is a social club for lesbians in K-W and area. In Kitchener call [redacted] In Guelph call Debbie at [redacted]

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)823-5806

CAMBRIDGE

Sexual Assault Center:
Cambridge.....(519)658-0551

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-[redacted]

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 [redacted]

Greater Hamilton Gay & Lesbian Business Association (905) 526-[redacted]

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: gibt@msu.mcmaster.ca www.msu.mcmaster.ca/services/gibt/gibt.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. Catherines:** (905) 685-0075

PFLAG--Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians & Gays. For information call [redacted]

Sexual Assault Center:
Hamilton.....(905)525-4162

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 (Hamilton) Monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month & there is a bar night on the second Saturday of each month. Men interested in the Leather/ Denim lifestyle are invited to attend both. For more information email Bill at: [redacted]

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

Monday July 3

Lesbian Discussion Group: 7-9 pm in the Glow Community Centre, Student Life Building, UofW. For more information call The Voice at [REDACTED]

Friday July 21

4th Annual Women's Voices Festival takes place from July 21-23, 2000 at the 90 acre Bean Town Ranch, near Ottawa. Join over 1000 women in 2000 at Canada's only music festival created entirely by women, for women. Attendees enjoy music, comedy and art presentations, plus rustic camping, recreation and interesting workshops too! Spend your summer vacation with us! Festival gates are open Friday 2pm-1am, Saturday 10am-1am, and Sunday 10am-8pm, rain or shine! (Campers that are arriving on Friday, are asked to arrive after 2:00 pm and before 10:00 pm.) Cost: Festival Pass \$50; 2-Day Pass \$40; 1-Day Pass \$20 (please note all relevant benefits and restrictions on the different passes). For more details, link to www.womensvoices.on.ca.

PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meet at 8:00 pm. PFLAG is a support group for people who are learning to understand and come to terms with the sexual orientation of family members or friends in a confidential and supportive

atmosphere. For the location of the meeting and more information, call Evie at [REDACTED] (Kitchener) or Sue at (519) [REDACTED] (Cambridge) or email them at: [REDACTED]

Saturday July 22

Friends of Dorothy Dance at 8pm in Brantford. Brantford's second GBLT dance! All welcome. Available through Pine Tree Centre at 25 King, Brantford. Phone Rod at (519) [REDACTED] ext.34 for location and other details.

Monday July 31

Lesbian Reading/Writing Circle: 7-9 pm in the Glow Community Centre, Student Life Building, UofW. For more information call The Voice at [REDACTED]

WANT TO START SOMETHING?

If you would like to start a group for men, or bisexuals or a transgendered group The Voice wants to be supportive. You can put a page up on our web site and use our phone number and email as contacts. Currently, A.J. is starting three new lesbian groups because she is a lesbian. She cannot speak for, or start groups for, the GBT segments of our community. However, The Voice is here to assist anyone who would like to start any GBT groups as well.

Call A.J. at [REDACTED] or email: [REDACTED]

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

NEW IN HAMILTON

Kindred Spirits: We are a social and recreational group for lesbians and bi-sexual women in the Hamilton/Burlington/Niagara area. The environment will provide a judgment free/non prejudice forum to explore social possibilities with fellow lesbians and bi-sexual women. We will go hiking, camping, clubbing, go to restaurants etc. There is a \$5 membership which will cover administration costs. We are a non-profit organization. For further information please call (905) 541-6821 or : KindredSpiritsOfHamilton@hotmail.com

BRANTFORD

A Rainbow of Hope. Brant County HIV/AIDS Support Group. Call 753-4937 ext.261 for information. All calls confidential.

GBLT adult social/support group of brantford and area. A safe place to meet people and be yourself. call 752-5132 ext.34

GBLT youth support group of Brantford and area. 753-4937 EXT 261

Pine tree Native Centre Of Brant Presents: **PFLAG...** Parents, Families & friends of Lesbians & gays Support group meetings held 3rd Tuesday each month. 7:00-8:30pm. all welcome. call 752-5132 ext.34 for details.

The Coalition for gay, bisexual, lesbian and transgendered youth of Brantford and area. (519)753-4937 ext.261. call and leave message. All calls will be returned. We advocate for you.

In a little over a year, Brantford's GLBT community has blossomed due to efforts from gutsy individuals in the queer citizenship sector of Brant area as well as gay positive service providers.

Now they have an adult GBLT social group, a GBLT youth group, a youth GBLT coalition, an AIDS support group called RAINBOW OF HOPE, a gay/straight alliance group in one of the high schools, a zero tolerance policy on harassment in the same school, outreach to other high schools, a community newsletter on the way -RAINBOW BRIDGES OF BRANT, Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG of Brantford & Area), and there is a dance committee that is busy planning it's second ever GBLT dance, set for July 22nd in Brantford.

For more information call Rod at (519) [REDACTED] Ext.34 during weekday office hours (9.00a.m.-4.30p.m.) or call Jane at (519) [REDACTED] or drop in at the Pine Tree Native Centre at 34 King street, Brantford, and ask Rod or Donna D for tickets.

Although tickets will be available at the door until hall capacity is met, order today to avoid disappointment. Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Brantford's Friends of Dorothy dance party.

Submitted by J.Wensveen

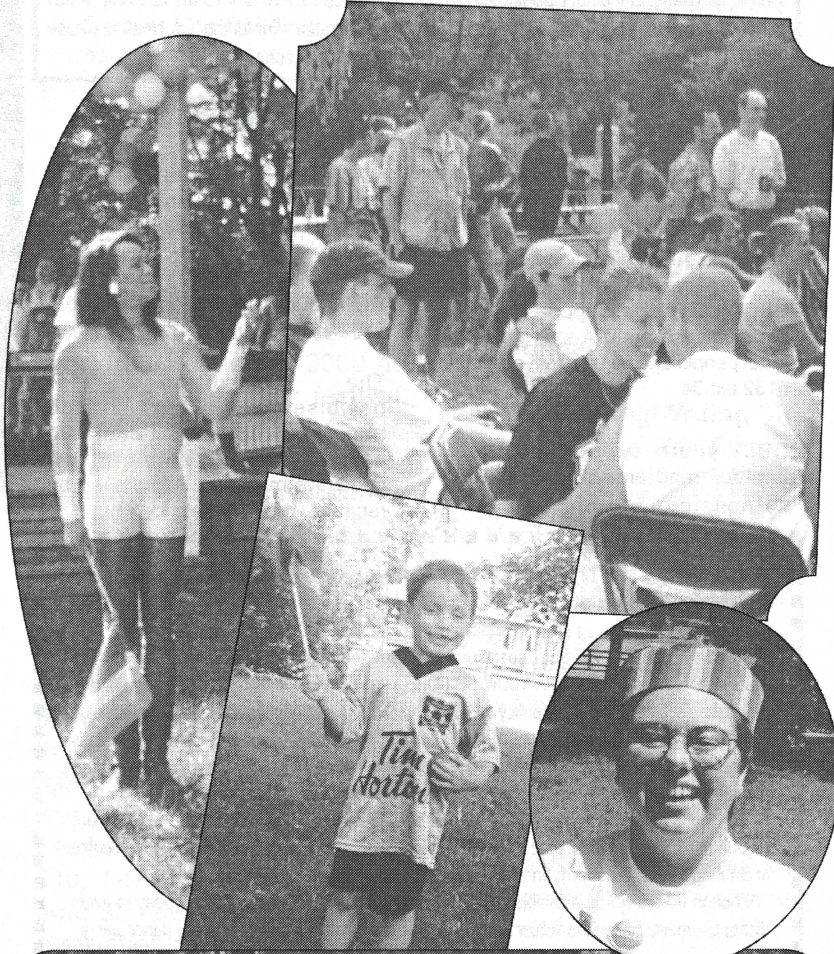
Editor's Note

The Voice editorial policy seeks to achieve a reasonable balance of content across all segments of our LGBT community. In order to maintain this balance we are looking for lesbian writers to ensure that this segment of our community is adequately reflected in our pages.

Regarding the Pride Photo Collage: (Pgs 30-33) efforts were made to include Hamilton's Pride but we were not provided any pictures, from Hamilton, by our deadline. In order to help us serve all communities better please keep us informed and up-to-date, with pictures or whatever relevant information you would like to pass on to our readers. --Thanks!

Tri-Pride 2000

Yours to Discover

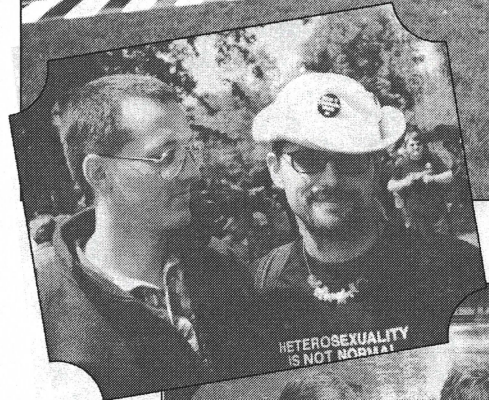


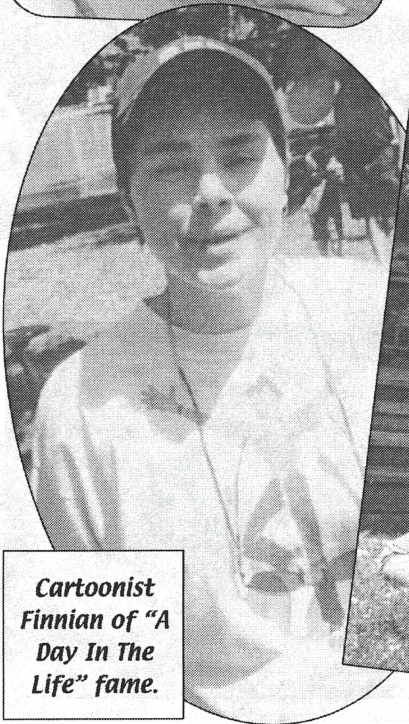
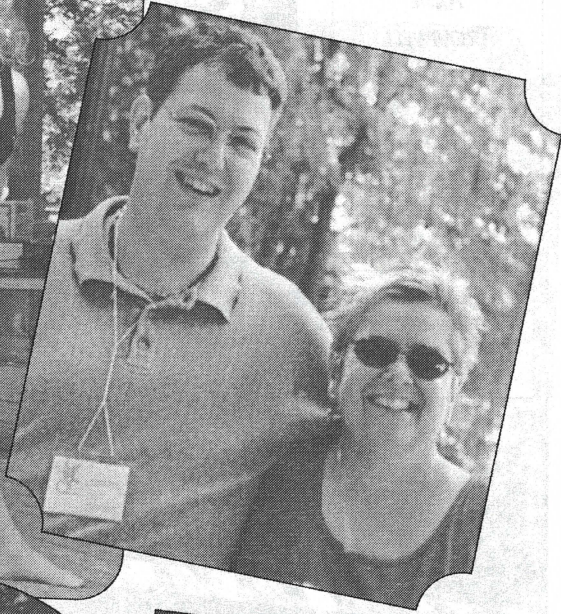
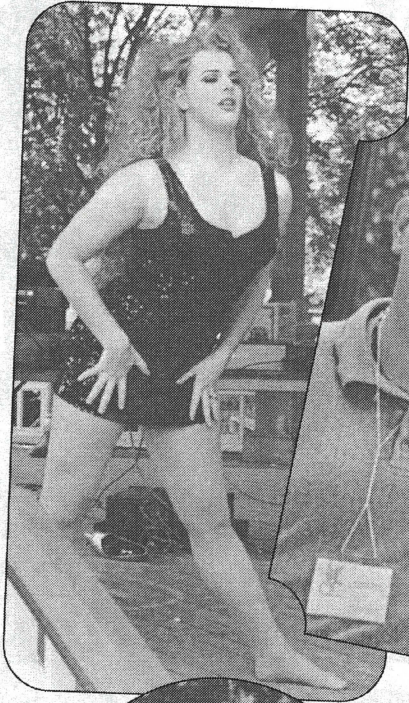
MANY THANKS TO OUR REGIONAL PRIDE COMMITTEE!

**UNITARIAN
MINISTER
ANNE
TREADWELL
DECLARES ROOS
ISLAND A
HATE-FREE
ZONE**

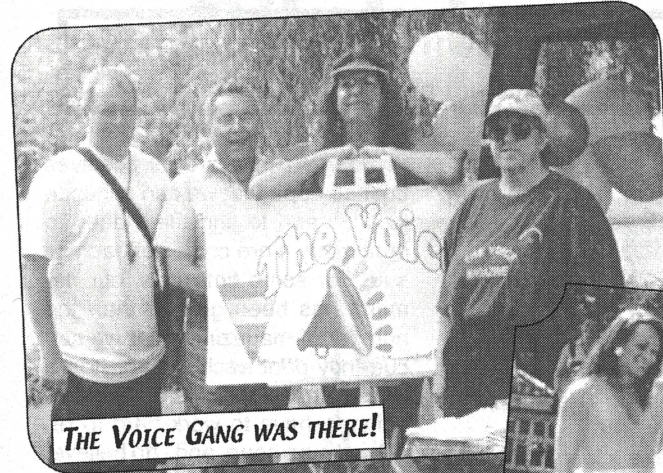


**Tape was used
to symbolize
the creation of
safe space.**

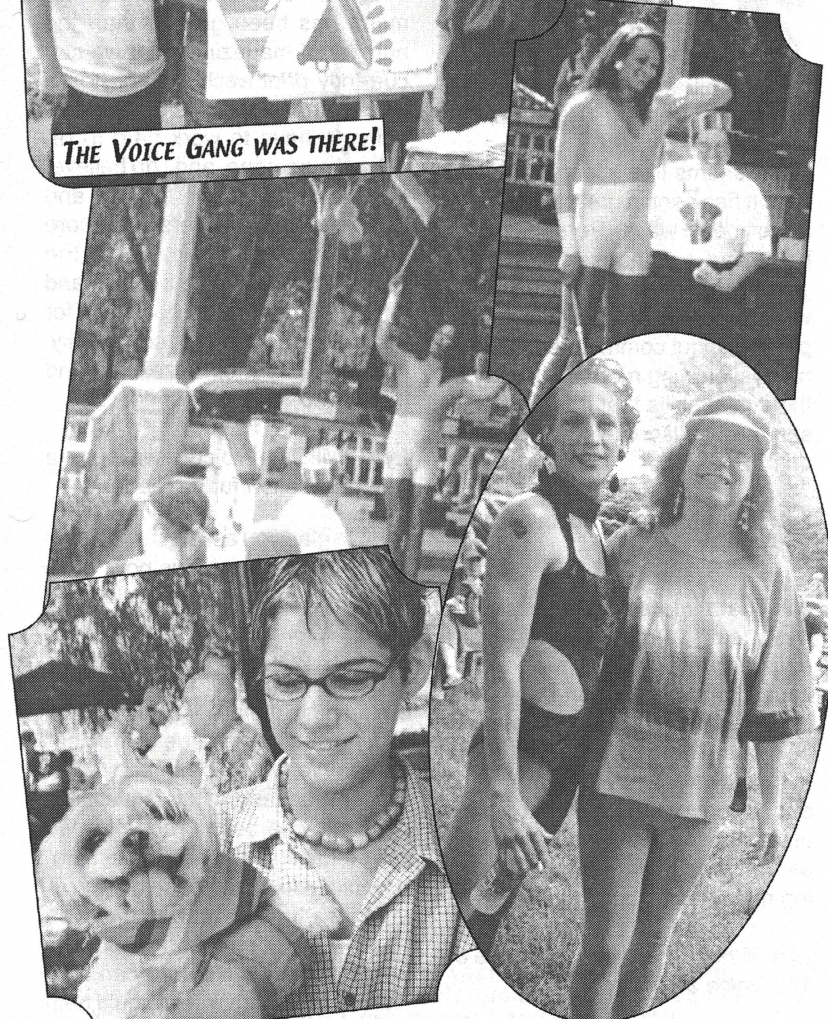




**Cartoonist
Finnian of "A
Day In The
Life" fame.**



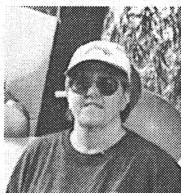
THE VOICE GANG WAS THERE!



In the near future there will be a huge collection of pictures of Tri-Pride 2000 on The Voice Website's Pride Album. Thanks to our many photographers for their contributions! Please contact The Voice if you have pictures you would like to have included here. Go to: www.thevoice.on.ca Click on Pride Album.

FACES IN THE CROWD - PRIDE INTERVIEWS

Continued from pages 7,9 & 22



Lyn McGinnis interviewed Voice editor, A.J. Mahari, at Tri-Pride 2000.

Lyn: Can you tell us a bit about this road you've been on in creating The Voice?

AJ: It seems like a long road right now. It has been a great experience in so many ways. Personally, it's been and continues to be a real growth experience. I am learning to work more with many different people and about commitment and I'm always learning more in the way of the actual skills that it takes to assemble and layout The Voice each month.

Lyn: What led you to even start doing this?

AJ: That's interesting because I always feel like my answer is inadequate. I think I really started because I am a writer and I wanted a place to write. I wanted my voice to be heard. Then, from that I've come to realize just how much I care about community and that I care about hearing other people's voices as much as I care about expressing my own.

Lyn: What do you see the future of The Voice as being?

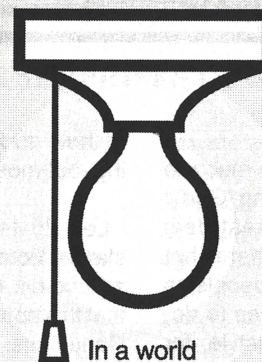
AJ: That's hard to say at this point. We have been holding fairly steady in terms of our advertising base and revenue as well as our distribution

numbers. These are all positives but I do hope that we can continue to grow and to find the money to print many more copies of each issue. For some time now, our demand has been greater than the number of magazines that we can currently print each month. It is a nice dilemma but one that we are going to have to work hard to resolve. I sure hope, and I do believe, that we can continue to grow and to involve more writers and more voices as we seek to serve the LGBT community in a positive and affirming way that is balanced for each segment of our community, lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and those who are transgendered.

Lyn: Will The Voice always be a free publication for its readers?

AJ: I'm glad you asked this. We are currently assessing this now. If we want to continue to grow and to reach other neighbouring communities as well as give our advertisers an even greater return for their advertising dollars I think we are looking at some charge in the near future. We would be interested in reader-feedback on this issue. If we decide to charge for The Voice we will be looking at \$1-\$2 maximum. It would help us increase our circulation so that we can draw even more advertisers. And of course with more advertisers we can continue to grow. I think this would help strengthen our communities as The Voice provides visibility, information and networking which are all important to our cultural survival and community infrastructure.

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Quoting Scripture for our own ends...

By Michelle Steiner

Dear Dr. Laura,

Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's law. I have learned a great deal from you, and I try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind him that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination. End of debate. I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some of the specific laws and how to best follow them.

When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the Lord (Lev. 1:9). The problem is my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. How should I deal with this?

I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as it suggests in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?

I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanness (Lev. 15:19-24). The problem

is, how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offense.

Lev. 25:44 states that I may buy slaves from the nations that are around us. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans but not Canadians. Can you clarify?

I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself?

A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination (Lev. 10:10), it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this?

Lev. 20:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle room here?

I know you have studied these things extensively, so I am confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging.



INSIDE ITALY

By Julie Casto of Travel Only

THE SURPRISES OF SIENA

Siena, in the province of Tuscany, is not far from Florence and was once the city's rival in wealth and power.

When strolling through Siena you will only hear the sound of your own feet, as Siena was the first European town to ban traffic in 1965 in its ancient walls.

Walking allows you to discover a different Siena than the one the guidebooks talk about. There are so many splendid masterpieces in the museums, but more important still is the living museum of the town itself.

This is a museum to be understood and enjoyed by strolling through the narrow streets that intersect with one another and suddenly lead into vast open spaces in front of churches, or by walking around and through the Piazza del Campo, the true heart of Siena, dominated by the soaring Torre del Mangia and the Palazzo Pubblico, built in Gothic style.

One of the reasons Siena remains as one of the most important Middle Age town is that it has changed less than others, continuing to reflect its own essence in its architecture and urban layout, and accepting the new only when it can be assimilated and incorporated in the past.

Siena still lives ideally in three centuries stretching from 1260 to 1555, from victory over the Florentines at the Battle of Montaperti to definitive defeat by the troops of the Emperor Charles V, who handed the city over to Florence. Siena then closed in upon itself, as though it's inhabitants were trying to suppress the memory of defeat.

From late spring to early autumn you will find everything geared to the Palio. The Palio horse race, one of the world's most famous events is held yearly on July 02nd and August 16th. You will find flags hanging from windows and at street corners to mark one of 17 territorial districts, the distant roll of drums, the battle of drums echoing through the night and even the bustling steps of passersby, many wearing the scarf or colours of their district. The year 2000 marks the turning point between the second and third millennia and will showcase a third Palio in September.

The town of Siena is bursting with life and projected into the future but always respecting its past.



Julie Casto

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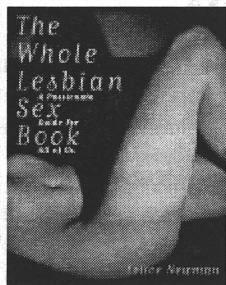
www.travelonly.on.ca

CLIA - IATA



The Whole Lesbian Sex Book:
A Passionate Guide for All of Us
by Felice Newman

Paperback - 200 pages 1 Ed edition (December 1999)



Cure for cancer? End to world hunger? What's left to do after the publication of Felice Newman's

definitive guide to lesbian sex? Drawing on a wide range of published sources as well as her own notoriously graphic questionnaire circulated by e-mail--stunning mild-mannered office workers as it reeled across their computer screens--Newman has compiled an exhaustively thorough how-to guide for practices as exotic as play piercings and as pedestrian as oral sex. Along the way, she offers a primer in sexual politics and lesbian manners at the turn of the century. The S/M hanky code is laid out once and for all. There is even a (brief, happily brief) section on celibacy.

Highlights include descriptions of sex writer Tristan Taormino's private consultation with Betty Dodson, the author of *Sex for One* described as "the mother of masturbation": "I was so excited about this adventure that I nearly peed in my pants," recalled Taormino, "I was going to touch myself for Dr. Betty Dodson!" (In the end, Newman reports, "Tristan earned an A+ in pelvic thrusting, but got a big 'needs improvement' in the breathing department.") Although it sometimes skimps on the details, especially with regard to women's

health, *The Whole Lesbian Sex Book* is so rich, inclusive, and authoritative that it invites challenge. Now inventive lovers can ask each other: "Is it in *Whole Lesbian*?" (See Chapter Excerpt page 40)

Rough Stuff : Tales of Gay Men, Sex, and Power

by Simon Sheppard (Editor), M. Christian (Editor), Pat Califia (Introduction)

Rough Stuff:

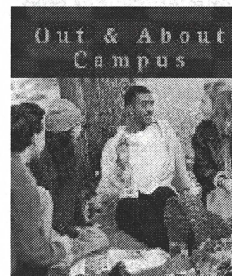
Tales of Gay Men, Sex and Power is a collection of erotic short fiction exploring the exchange, use, and misuse of power. Going beyond the world of traditional leathersex fiction, the hot, edgy stories in *Rough Stuff* explore the darker side of desire. Well-known writers and talented newcomers spin boundary-pushing tales of lust, adventure, and love. In settings ranging from a Belgrade apartment to New York's raunchy leather bars, pro wrestlers, tattooed skate punks, gangsters on the run, and cigar-smoking bondage masters take the reader to places he's never been before. Well-written, intelligent, and sexy, the stories in *Rough Stuff* are destined to expand readers horizons and stretch their limits. Assembled by acclaimed erotic writers M. Christian and Simon Sheppard, with a forward by Pat Califia, *Rough Stuff* is arousing, challenging and surprising, celebrating the varieties of male/male erotic experience, taking sex to the outer limits.



Out & About Campus:

Personal Accounts by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender College Students

by Kim Howard (Editor), Annie Stevens (Editor)



Many of the stories in *Out & About Campus* are as upsetting or enraging as one would imagine,

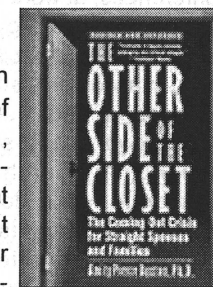
given the scenario of a queer or questioning youth thrust into a historically straight institution and surrounded by other equally insecure young people. Tales of intolerant classmates and obstructive professors abound, with the usual threats of violence, gay bashings, and episodes of self-loathing. But the gradual movement toward acceptance of "diversity" on college campuses since the mid-1980s has clearly altered the social landscape. In "Sisterhood," for instance, Stephanie J. Stillman recounts her gradual coming-out to her sorority sisters, most of whom had figured it out for themselves and none of whom condemned her as she had expected. In "Competitive College," Ruth Wielgosz explains the informal designation of "Big Dyke on Campus" at Bryn Mawr and describes the requirements for the position (as listed in the college newspaper), which begin with "(1) Has lots of attitude, very self-confident," then move on to "(5) Unattainable, or nearly so, (6) Many people have crushes on her, and many more feel too unworthy, and (7)

Visually impressive, especially with regard to hair." Several contributors describe their political activism on campus and their service work for other gay students. Overall, these stories provide an encouraging look at an unprecedented cultural expansion.

The Other Side of the Closet:

The Coming-Out Crisis for Straight Spouses and Families

by Amity Pi-erce Buxton



Based on five years of research, Buxton candidly looks at coming-out problems for the two million straight men and women who were or are married to a gay, lesbian, or bisexual mate. "Penetrating vignettes .

An invaluable book incorporating the author's seven years of research and interviews with hundreds of spouses with insights derived from her own teaching and counseling work. Contains stories and tactics for straight spouses and their families to constructively cope with a mate or family member who declares his/her homosexuality. Analyzes six key issues a straight spouse faces when a partner 'comes out' including damaged sexuality, threatened marital relationships, conflicting spouse/parent roles, devalued self-concept, destroyed integrity and shattered belief systems.

Excerpted from: "The Whole Lesbian Sex Book"

(Continued from page 38)

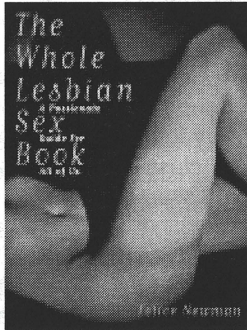
Chapter 6

Communication and Finding Sex Partners

"Where can you find sex partners? Well, just about anywhere. At school, in sessions of academic conferences, at work, at a bar, at a dance club, at the gym, on the subway, at a sex party, in a women's studies class, in your queer youth group, at a 12-step meeting, at church or synagogue, while doing community activism, through introductions from friends, via ex-lovers (and even the occasional ex-husband), and of course over the Internet. More specifically, you can meet sex partners while shopping for sex toys, at a Dyke March organizing meeting, in line at the queer film festival, at the women's basketball playoffs, on parent/teacher night at your child's preschool, while marching in your local Pride parade, at the International Ms. Leather competition, at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, at Novice Night at your local S/M group, in your neighborhood queer bookstore, through your polyamorous lovers, and in the park while walking your dog!

GEOGRAPHY, NOT DESTINY

Whether you live in Louisville or London, the basics of meeting po-



tential sex partners are the same. Sure, finding lovers becomes difficult when you can count the dykes on your campus on your fingers and still have a couple left over to vent your frustration! If your town boasts few queer social resources, you'll have to muster all your creativity (and self-confidence) to find sex partners. But even in cities with bustling queer communities-New York, London, Berlin, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Sydney-the well seems to run dry at times. You can fly to San Francisco for the annual Pride parade, line up on Market Street with the cheering crowd half a million strong, and overhear an adorable pierced-and-tattooed dyke complain that she can't find a lover. Deprivation thinking will keep you, well, deprived. Honestly, if you think negatively enough, you'll discover a dyke shortage in P'town at the height of summer. Want to find a girlfriend, a trick, fuck buddy, or summer fling? Indulge yourself in every erotic delight at your disposal-especially your own erotic imagination and capacity for self-pleasure. And in the meantime, learn how to talk about sex. There's more to finding sex partners than moving to a city with favorable demographics or buying a new black leather mini-skirt-though you will look irresistible in the East Village. Before you rent the U-Haul or spend next week's paycheck, learn some basic communication skills. You'll be a more confident and competent partner-and you'll learn about yourself in the process.

SURVEY - WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

The Voice Magazine is seeking to grow. Do you value this resource? Do you want to see it remain in our community? We are looking for ways to raise our revenue so that we can put out an even better end-product and more copies per month to meet what is a growing demand. Should our advertisers have to bear the brunt of all of the cost of The Voice? Is a \$1.50 per issue unreasonable?

We would very much appreciate hearing from you. Please take a few minutes and either fill out this survey and mail it in (address is on page 2) or respond to us by phone - (519) [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

- 1) Would you pay \$1.50 for The Voice which you have been reading for free for almost two years? If not, why not?

- 2) Would you go to a bookstore to purchase The Voice?

YES _____ NO _____

- 3) If you are not out, would you drop by The Voice to purchase your copy?

YES _____ NO _____

- 4) By purchasing The Voice, you could be doing your part to help ensure that this source of information and news continues to be a part of our community. Do you feel that you have a role to play here - that by paying \$1.50 per month you could be giving back to your community?

YES _____ NO _____

- 5) Would you consider subscribing to The Voice?

YES _____ NO _____

Please also let us know if there's something that you would to see in The Voice that isn't presently addressed. Care to volunteer?

**A BUMPER YEAR FOR PRIDE AT THE WEST
END OF LAKE ONTARIO**
By Charles W. Westfall



Hamilton Pride has come and gone for another year and what a Pride it was.

Started as what was almost a private potluck picnic 5 years ago, the celebration has grown to a 4 day event.

Where Pride is concerned, it seems that numbers are important. I've learned the hard way to be careful giving an estimate even, in round figures. It depends so much on who gives you the estimate and how many estimates you hear. I can safely say, though, that organisers estimate a total attendance over the 4 day period well into four figures.

On Thursday, June 8, there was an evening of entertainment, refreshments and film on the patio of the Hamilton Art Gallery. That got things off to a good start.

Next night, a Woman's Dance was a sell-out. Also on that night, "The Vagina Monologues" was performed by Half the Sky Feminist Theatre Co. The play was repeated the following evening, as well.

Crush and The Bombay Club were busy centres for revellers late into the night. (Read, early in the morning) and were packed throughout the festivities.

Saturday, the first ever Hamilton Pride Walk was held. Several hundred participants gathered at City

Hall for speeches and then proceeded, with appropriate chants and whistles, to Dundurn Park. On the way, they passed thousands of Jehovah's Witnesses, gathered for a conference, without unpleasantness of any kind. Sometimes storm clouds disappear.

At Dundurn Park, an afternoon of marvellous entertainment kept the celebrants entertained all afternoon. The variety and talent displayed were of the highest calibre and, as organisers had promised, there was something for everybody. That included a bar, barbecue and displays by local groups, writers and artisans.

Notable among these were the members of the Hamilton-Wentworth Police/GLBT Task Force. They not only had a great display but mingled readily with the crowd, chatting and affirming and stopping at the various displays to show interest and encouragement. This, if nothing else, is a fine example of the progress that has been made and continues to be made through this valuable group of professionals and volunteers.

That evening a dance was held at the park pavilion, rounded off for many at the clubs.

Sunday was the occasion of a Spiritual Service at the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton. This group has gained quite a following among the LGBT Community here in a relatively short time and the service

was well-attended and enjoyed by all.

A Pride Brunch at The Bombay Club, rounded out the weekend. And rightly so, everyone was pretty tired by that time.

Organisers, participants and sponsors deserve a special commendation for the efforts they made to make this Pride in Hamilton the Best Pride Ever.

A week earlier, Halton had held its first Pride Day. Several hundred participants gathered at the Bronte Conservation Area for a day of fun and frolic, highlighted by displays by local groups and artisans. They promise bigger and better things for next year and are already well on their way to making them happen.

Now, the problem with success is improving on it or at least repeating it. Never fear about that though. Pride is here, in at the West end of Lake Ontario, to stay.

That being said, the storm clouds are gathering.

ONTV Hamilton has scheduled Dr. Laura as part of its Fall line-up. It is not only members of the LGBT community who are outraged by this pretentious and opinionated (expletive deleted). She is accused by many of her listeners of being arrogant, aggressive and obnoxious, to say nothing about being insulting and crude. I have only one question for those listeners. Why continue to listen? No, two. Do you like getting angry?

ONTV Hamilton already overplays "The Comedy Kitchen", a show that

invariably makes openly negative and mocking comments about gays, in particular, and women, in general. Ben Guyatt, the host, may be considered funny by some. To me, he is a big, fat, arrogant, self-centred, ignorant (expletive deleted).

NOW is the time to contact ONTV Hamilton to urge them to put an end to this kind of verbal abuse and exploitation. If enough people write, phone, fax or e-mail, protesting the new programming and the current trash, they may just get the message. A few Gay/Lesbian owned or positive businesses withdrawing some sponsorship would also boost the cause.

Email: feedback@ontv.wic.ca

The evil of the few is made possible only by the silence of the many. Add your voice to the mounting tide of opposition. Let your voice be heard. Make it count. Help make a difference.

Pride does flourish at this end of Lake Ontario. This is just one more way to prove it.

Hello Hamilton!

Do you have something you'd like to advertise?

Do you want to submit an article?

Contact The Voice at

This 'N That . . . About Love

By Elynor Vine

I have a wonderful friend who lives across the world from me, who for years has been desperately trying to get me married off and settled down with a dyke of choice (who shall hereafter be referred to as DOC) and spend the rest of my life in a state of hormonal bliss. All I have to do is say a name and sigh and she's off.

Mind you, this was also a project of hers when she lived around the corner from me. For some reason, she has an uncontrollable need to see every dyke in the known world coupled. I don't know, I've never been able to figure out how this aberration began. I try but it gives me a headache. I think it's all those ginger cookies she buys at Sainsbury's when she goes to England.

In this lesbian nirvana that she has swirling around in the Twilight Zone of her mind, my friend has worked out every conceivable aspect of my coupled life. To accommodate my disability, I'm living somewhere warm where my muscles won't ache, and do we dare hope, where it's possible that being able to purchase lox means something other than what one puts on doors to keep out thieves.

There's a house with no stairs and a kitchen just my size, equipped with top-of-the line, state-of-the-art appliances, in case I feel like boiling something or cleaning a chicken. There is a 75-inch television and a VCR that magically

programs itself, although I actually do know how to do this in real life. I can't get that broad in my computer to shut up about my files being ready, but I can program my VCR! Okay, so it eats the tape, but I can program it.

There is a salt water pool and a fire place. Why I should need a fire place if I'm living somewhere warm is beyond me, but after a certain point, I do not think it's polite to mix logic with fantasy. It gets her rattled. Don't ask about salt water pools either...she says it's a good thing because the beach has too much sand and too many bugs which gets into things and then you have to clean.

She is a creature for whom comfort was invented. I know better than to question such pronouncements. And, somewhere else on the list, which is far too long to record even in cyberspace, there is Dykedom Rule number 36, which requires 8 zillion cats and a water bed. I hate waterbeds. I get seasick. But what can I say, it's a rule, am I right?

Last but certainly not least, to accommodate my hormonal needs, there is the DOC, her own self, whose sole ambition in life, according to my friend, is to make passionate love with me at frequent, random intervals so that I'm not forced to buy that vibrating tongue in three speeds that I keep threatening to do—and to keep me in chocolates. This is altogether acceptable. If it's my karma to die of excess,

what better ways to achieve it? The burning question is, can these activities be accomplished at the same time?

Which brings me to very nub of the issue, my friends...the DOC. Now according to my friend, since Mortality has taps on her sneakers and can now be heard clicking her way down the road behind me, standards in this regard, she thinks, should be as flexible as possible. Since she has been a regular in the soap opera that has been my love life, I try not to put too fine a point on this.

Now the thing about this search is that there are no guidelines. Remember when you first came out to yourself and decided an hour later that you had to have sex with the first available woman you laid eyes on (even if she was bald, toothless and had scales) to make sure you really were a dyke? And wherever you went all you could do was look at every woman you saw and wonder if she were straight or not?

Finally, when every body fluid you had was seeping out of every pore of your body and you were about ready to explode, the opportunity did present itself and you couldn't remember what any of the books said you were supposed to do? So you went back and dug out all those tattered erotic novels and re-read all the underlined paragraphs until you had the descriptions etched into your brain with a blow torch? You know, the good olde hormone days. Well, I've had my moments and because I have no "type," there have been a variety of names and sighs over the years to keep her busily aggravating and grumbling to herself about how dense I was when it came to women.

For example: she whose closet had no door or light bulb; she with the wealthy lover she couldn't stand but who's lifestyle she desired and wouldn't leave but who wanted me on the side; she who was all sharp bones and angles and secrets whose rules I never understood. Get the picture?

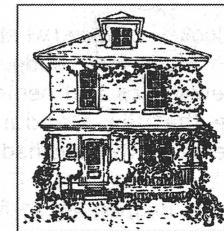
Love and her hit men Anxious, Nervous, Scary, Rejection, Pain, Stress and Seymour (the snake in The Garden) seemed always to hang out together on these emotional adventures and I thought that's how it's supposed to be. Like it's what you have to put up with. That "no

pain, no gain" crap. Who inflicted that on the world? Some man with penis envy I'm sure. Well, did you know that Fate is Love's first cousin? True. A little known fact that hasn't been made public. She's a game old girl who lives in cyberspace. Doesn't see so well, gets confused and lost sometimes—wanders around and bumps into things. You know how it is? But when she's in the right place on the right track, she has a lot of influence over Love and chases off the hit men. Trust me on this. So instead of hearing Johnny Mathis is your head all the time singing "When Sunny Gets Blue," well, you suddenly hear Ezio Pinza singing "Some Enchanted Evening" and somewhere at the other end there's the DOC.

Where are you?

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Confessions of a Late Bloomer

Second Adolescence: A Search For Authenticity

By Randy Siegel

Divorce was the harbinger of my second adolescence. Unlike the first, I did not have the home field advantage of being straight. In addition to dealing with divorce, I was coming out.

Regardless of circumstance or age, adolescence is about change and choice.

"You can emerge from this time as a moth that becomes a beautiful butterfly or a snake that simply sheds its skin," suggested a wise counselor.

For 40 years, I had played by the rules, paid my dues and reaped the benefits. I lived the American dream. Suddenly, the straight man's measure of success — book smarts, business success, and social responsibility — no longer applied.

How I looked replaced what I had done. A pretty face, budding biceps, perky pecs and penis size became the new standard for measurement. My world had gone metric.

Wanting desperately to fit in, I hired a trainer, joined an aerobics class, and started a low-fat diet. Since high school was the last time I had been in a gym, I was starting at ground zero.

Despite hours of blistering workout sessions, I soon learned I would never reach the gay body ideal. Nevertheless, I kept at it. A good body and pretty face are standard issue for the successful gay male.

A friend in his 30s has had three

"procedures" over the past several years, spending tens of thousands of dollars only to improve his appearance marginally. Another, who is quite handsome, plans surgery to suck out "a

pinch" of excess fat from his back.

For me, changing my hairstyle was less painful than surgery. Every six

months I sported a new "do," often inspired by the movies. Recently, my hairdresser switched to action flicks after a three-year run of Merchant Ivory films. Harrison Ford and I now share the same short cut.

Costuming also played a role in my second adolescence. "What's the theme tonight?" my friend Roy inquired. "Southwestern," I replied, laying out the night's outfit: jeans, a western shirt and cowboy boots. Other clothing options included the executive, preppy, general and slut (black "Slinky Top" and tight jeans). My schizophrenic wardrobe symbolized my search for self.

My first foray into the world of men was as successful as an Atlanta debutante's coming out party at the Piedmont Driving Club. I was fresh, not jaded; street smart, yet naïve; and, later I learned totally unequipped for what lay ahead.

Body building, hair and costuming were fun for a while. Keeping things superficial protected me from looking deeper. Eventually, I became restless, and feelings of inauthenticity overwhelmed me.

"Is this it?" I wrote in my journal one night, not happy in the skin-

deep place I had created.

"Find a world in which your personhood can thrive," a therapist wisely counseled. "Follow your feelings home," a friend further suggested.

My inner compass would pave the way, not others' expectations and approval. No longer would society shape my soul.

Sometimes, we become who we are by ceasing to be who we are not. While some of the roles I played reflect aspects of my personality, they do not define me. I am not a gay man; I am a man who is gay.

I am blending my old and new lives. I am reclaiming those values I previously treasured while cherishing newfound ones.

Confidence mingles with humility. Playfulness complements intensity. Being more open leads to deeper and more meaningful relationships.

My intentions change, too. I work out to stay in shape rather than get a date. Community work allows me to express my creativity rather than simply gain recognition.

The more I dance to the drumbeat of my heart, the more in harmony I am with the world.

Five years after my divorce, I am still finding myself. It's a life-long process. But stars now light a once-dark path. My second adolescence offered another chance at authenticity, to correct my course at midstream, and become a butterfly and soar.

After surviving his second adolescence, Randy Siegel divides his time between Atlanta and Asheville, N.C. He is a nationally recognized writer, speaker and trainer on reclaiming authentic self. He can be reached through THE VOICE or [REDACTED]

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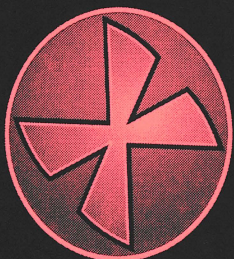
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