

## *The Voice*

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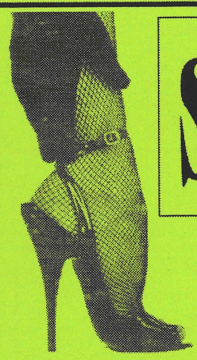
Volume Three

March 2001

Issue Six



*"The Lesbian embrace of ... .. all things ugly!" Page 10*



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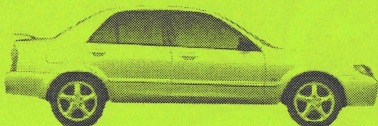


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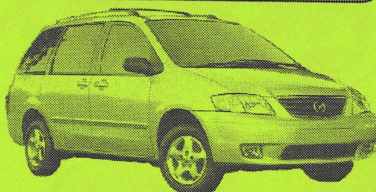
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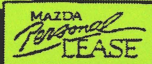
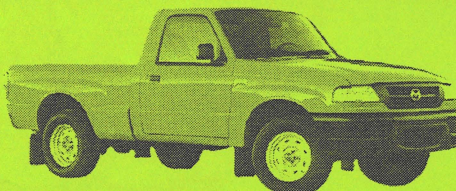
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## FEATURES

- 3 HAVE YOUR SAY**
- 4 PRIDE UP-DATE**
- 7 HIS-STORY:**  
Finding the Redneck Within  
By Kirk Read
- 10 THE LESBIAN EMBRACE  
OF ALL THINGS UGLY**  
By Michael Alvear
- 13 HERSTORY**
- 14 TRANSGENDER STORY**  
Susan Comes Of Age  
By Susan E. Gapka
- 20 FREE TAX ADVICE!**
- 23 CONFESSIONS OF A LATE  
BLOOMER**  
Naked in a Room Full of  
Strangers  
By Randy Seigel
- 24 BOOKS**

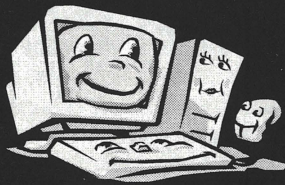
## IN THIS ISSUE OF THE VOICE



## COLUMNS

- First Words: Sensationalism.....2
- Hamilton LGBT: I Do. I do. But, Do I Really?.....6
- Shades of Grey: News Makers/Newsworthy?.....11
- Spirituality: Three Little Words .....12
- Gay Money: Retirement and Estate Planning.....16
- Mixed Nuts: Lost Youth.....17
- A Perspective on: Optimism.....22
- March Events.....9
- Community Events/Groups Listings.....26 &27

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# FIRST WORDS

## Sensationalism

There is too much sensationalism in media reporting. Sensationalism thrives on the ability to shock readers or listeners in strongly emotional and very dramatic ways. It goes beyond the story's worth and merit according to its facts and instead plays on controversy.

At what price? Often the price is high, especially for the subject of any such "story."

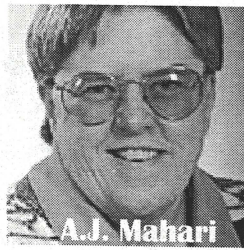
To what end? The almighty dollar speaks most loudly in a sensationalistic approach to the reporting of any news. The potential for harm far outweighs any potential for good. Sensationalism fails to increase awareness or encourage healthy dialogue across any abyss of difference.

Sensationalism clearly exploits many "news-makers" who become the victims of such media-hype. A media-hype that can only have at its root one main goal: the commodification of information.

There is value in stirring interest and spurring others to speak up and speak out, voice their opinions and get involved. But sensationalism does not accomplish this. What value does pure sensationalism really have?

How can we define sensationalism? What is the difference between it and a good news story? For one, a good news story is dealt with responsibly in the telling of it, the placement of it and the facts.

A sensationalistic approach to news can often be detected in the subject matter of a story. It can also often be observed in the over-all way in which a story is handled, reported and placed.



A.J. Mahari

That which is timely, important or just plain interesting is the backbone of a good news story when the facts are reported accurately and without the prejudice of opinion.

Sensationalism enters the fray when anything timely, important or interesting is pitted directly against an opposing view in such a way as to stir controversy.

Fuelling and then fanning the flames of sensationalistic controversy is not the responsible way to report the events that take place in any given community or in our over-all world.

A recent example of such sensationalism was evident in a K-W Record Article, "Speaking For God In Every Day Life," published on the front page of the K-W Record Feb 17th (See Shades of Grey page 11).

Sensationalism divides, distances and separates those of us who do not share the same opinions or beliefs by fuelling conflict and manufacturing chaotic-drama in the name of legitimate reporting. Sensationalism has little to do with accurate and neutral reporting of the news; instead, it is biased exploitation at its worst.

**Have an opinion? Write to us and we'll publish your comments in our Have Your Say section.**

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## HAVE YOUR SAY

What a fantastic magazine. Really love the new size too. It is easier to read. Keep up the great work!

Marilyn - Kitchener

I really like The Voice. But I have a question. Why isn't there more entertainment things included? Is it hard to get volunteers to cover entertainment?

Chris - Waterloo

Thank you for including the article "As Hard To Grow Old As It Is To Be Young" in your February issue. I found that very important. I had never thought about what it might be like to be lesbian or gay and be elderly. I've been so focused on trying to be okay with myself where I am at, finally, as a gay man at this point in my life. Thanks again.

Ronald - Hamilton

What a soap-box! We don't need lesbian and gay media anymore. We are finally making our way into mainstream culture. So why The Voice?

Danny - Brantford

### HAVE YOUR SAY



If you have something that you like to say about what you read in The Voice send a letter to the editor. We'd like to hear from you!

You can email us at [haveyoursay@thevoice.on.ca](mailto:haveyoursay@thevoice.on.ca) or go to our web site at [www.thevoice.on.ca](http://www.thevoice.on.ca) and click on **HAVE YOUR SAY** and use our form mail. If you'd like to snail mail us our address is on page two.

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# Waterloo-Wellington Regional Pride

March Up-Date  
By Audrey Charbonneau



## CLUB RENAISSANCE "LOADED SODA PROMO PARTY" AND PRIDE FUND RAISER

Many, many thanks to Club Renaissance and it's super staff for the great fund raiser on Saturday, February 24th to help sponsor "Pride 2001 - Imagine: Be a Dreamer!" Of course, as always, it was a wonderful success.

A surprise guest performer, the most popular Chris Edwards, drag queen extraordinaire, was present. If you missed the great show, shame on you!

Chris Edwards is a great supporter of Waterloo-Wellington Regional Pride and our Pride Day event. For the last two years, Chris has highlighted our Pride Celebration in Victoria Park and will again be present at this year's Pride 2001.

Additional Sponsors for our fund raisers are GoodLife Fitness Clubs, K-W Books, Muses Cafe, Grabbajabba Cafe and Angie's Kitchen. It's great to have the help of so many businesses in the community.

Thanks also to the volunteers -Marc, Gordon, Ronald and Joseph- for a job well done.

## CLUB RENAISSANCE "ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY" AND PRIDE FUND RAISER

Watch for the next Pride 2001 Fund Raiser on March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. Melt away the winter blahs and join the fun. You do not have to be Irish or wear green to enjoy this celebration.

## MUSES CAFE "AN EVENING WITH GREG UPSHAW" AND PRIDE FUND RAISER

Mark your calenders for Wednesday, March 21 and come on down to Muses Cafe, THE place to be in downtown Kitchener. Enjoy the outstanding performance of Greg Upshaw, a local singer, songwriter, guitar player. Greg is from Cambridge and has played at many bars and clubs in the area for a number of years, including Pride 1999. Come early to be sure to get a great seat, performance will be from 8:00 pm to closing, 10:00 pm. Thank you Dan Des Rosiers and Dave Bell for the opportunity and support for Pride.

## WWRP & CANUSA PET FOOD & PET PRODUCTS

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## ANNUAL RAINBOW DIRECTORY 2001

For the last several months a team of dedicated, hard working volunteers have helped put together the new Annual Rainbow Directory 2001. This year's Directory will be bigger and better than ever with 50% more listings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank A. J. Mahari, Lyn McGinnis, Steve Lebourveau, Philip Charbonneau, Richard Charbonneau, Ron W, Melody Alderwick, and Shelley Durocher for the many hours spent behind the scene working to get the best Directory to date.

**Copies will be available around the end of March where you pick up The Voice Magazine.**

## NEW SECRETARY

I am pleased to announce our new board member, Judy Saltarelli Neal who will join as Secretary. Judy is eager to help and enthusiastic to get involved with Pride. We look forward to working with Judy.

## MARK YOUR CALENDER FOR MARCH 2001

Now	-Canusa Pet Food & Products Fund Raiser
March 1st	-100 days till Pride 2001
Saturday, March 17th	-Club Renaissance "St. Patrick's Day Party and Pride Fund Raiser
Wednesday, March 21st	-Muses Cafe "An Evening with Greg Upshaw" and Pride Fund Raiser
End of March	-Annual Rainbow Directory 2001 -WWRP meeting

*To contact us about anything call us at 743-5015 or email us at [wrrp@rainbow.on.ca](mailto:wrrp@rainbow.on.ca)*

**A Voice Exclusive.**



## Dog Victim's Partner to Sue

**The increasingly complex aftermath of the fatal mauling of a San Francisco lesbian could lead to a victory for same-gender couples' legal standing in wrongful death cases.**

Sharon Smith, the lesbian partner of a San Francisco woman killed last month in a bizarre dog attack, announced plans this weekend to sue the dog's owners for wrongful death — but she may have trouble collecting damages since domestic partners are not afforded the same rights as married couples under California law. Current statutes allow only legal heirs like spouses, parents, and

children to sue for wrongful death, but Smith says she aims to force the elimination of such discrimination.

Smith's partner of nearly 7 years, lacrosse coach Diane Whipple, was attacked and killed outside her apartment by one of her neighbors' two giant Presa Canario dogs on January 26. The dogs' owners, attorneys Marjorie Knoeller and Robert Noel, could also face criminal charges in connection with the attack. "I want to see the two of them locked up," said Smith. "I believe they knew exactly what they had — what the dogs were capable of — and they let this happen."

Smith, 35, and Whipple, 32, had never registered as domestic partners with San Francisco or California. Under a law that went into effect on January 1, 2000, same-gender couples in California can register with the state and receive

hospital visitation rights and (in some cases) health insurance coverage (see PlanetOut News of January 4, 2000). California Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) introduced a bill last December that would expand the rights afforded domestic partners, granting them — among other things — the ability to sue for wrongful death.

Similar cases brought by domestic partners have failed in the past, but Smith, a regional vice president for Charles Schwab, remains undaunted. "There's a lot of support around this city. I think we're going to make history," she said. "I want to change some laws so that domestic partners have some recourse in the future."

She will likely receive legal assistance from gay and lesbian rights organizations that see the case as emblematic of state-sanctioned discrimination against same-gender couples. "The state can't have it both ways," said Kate Kendall, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "You can't condition a right on marital status, then deny a whole class of people the right of access to be married."

**A Twisted Tale.** The Whipple case has captured enormous attention in San Francisco and a good bit of national media coverage as well, not just because of the legal issues involved, but also because of the curious story of how Knoeller and Noel came to own two giant dogs that may have been trained for violence. Police have suggested that the couple may have bought Hera and Bane through an attack-dog business run by Paul "Cornfed" Schneider, an inmate in a maximum-security prison. Three days after Whipple's death, Knoeller and Noel legally adopted Schneider, a 38-year-old avowed white supremacist. Police are still trying to unravel all the threads and determine whether criminal wrongdoing was involved.

For their part, Knoeller and Noel have been defending themselves publicly. In a 19-page letter to a San Francisco prosecutor, the couple alleged that Whipple brought the attack on herself by using steroids or a pheromone-based perfume that excited the dog. They also claim she behaved aggressively, repeatedly refusing to stay in her apartment even as the dog attacked her. Some observers have expressed outrage at the suggestion that the victim was responsible for her own death, as well as by the homophobic undercurrents of the letter.

Smith has promised to donate any compensation from the potential lawsuits to a foundation she is setting up in Whipple's name.

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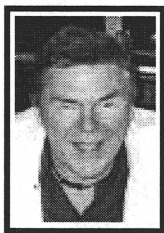


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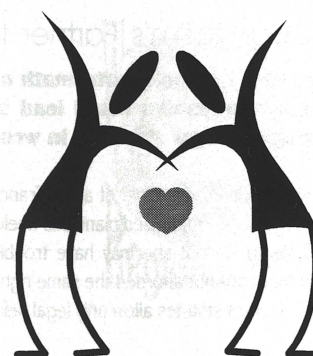


# HAMILTON LGBT



## I Do. I do. But, Do I Really?

By Charles W. Westfall



There's a lot of talk about marriage in the air these days. Especially among same-sex couples. It makes me wonder about a lot of things.

To start with, I read a headline somewhere recently that said that the fight for equal rights has to go beyond equal rights. Right on. Such a battle must involve much more about the human condition and the nature of commitment and love. They are not always in synch.

Among others, I wonder about the number of Gays and Lesbians rushing into marriage, in the face of strong social opposition. Having, in my time, had the opportunity to help many heterosexual couples prepare for marriage, I can only hope that they have even the tiniest inkling of the kind of commitment and responsibility they are assuming. Marriage is, indeed, not something to be entered into lightly.

At the same time, I have to say that it is, for the most part, Religious Traditions and Morality that have complicated this whole issue. By nearly always prioritizing breeding as the main purpose of marriage, these teachings have, effectively, eclipsed love as a strong motivating and validating factor. They have, moreover, usurped what should be a strictly legal and governmental responsibility.

At the same time, it cannot be denied that the majority of marriages today are failing. The current statistics read 50% across the board and in terms of new marriages, 87%. Marriage as a stable foundation of society and as any kind of long term guarantee of relationship seems to have become almost meaningless.

So why are so many LGBT's knocking

on the door: wanting to rush to the altar.

It's not, it seems to me, so much a question of getting "hitched". It is, however, a matter of freedom of choice. As long as same sex couples cannot choose the legal reality called "marriage", they are inferior and demeaned.

The reality of the problem, if we exclude the religious perspective, is simply one of recording the existence of a contract. The current legal situation here and elsewhere denies same sex couples the right to enter into a mutually binding contract with one another.

The stupid concession that recognizes them as "Common Law" couples only begs the question. The fact that Heterosexual Couples can choose this designation and Same Sex Couples can't says it all.

If a same sex couple enters into a contract, why can't it be registered? Registration doesn't necessarily involve approval. It simply recognizes that this legal commitment now exists. It's time our legislators, politicians and lobbyists woke up to this simple fact.

But, while I hope that the fight continues and prospers, I also hope that same sex couples do not enter into this state casually or lightly. It is a hard, long and rough road. Social and economic pressures can make it even worse. Marital bliss quickly fades after the honeymoon is over and matters that seemed inconsequential, in the beginning, can assume frightening proportions.

Heterosexual couples have the benefit of Marriage Preparation Courses and, usually, an extended period of personal counselling from a Pastor or Advisor.

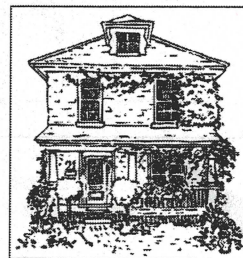
I would hope that in the fight for equal rights, these factors are not dismissed or ignored.

If the fight means anything, then the commitment must mean, at least, as much. Anything less would be a sham and a mockery. Just like so many of the so-called "marriages", legally recognized, legally registered and legally terminated, today.

The bottom line, I guess, is, when you say, "I do", do you know what you're doing and do you really?

**Charles W. Westfall is a writer living in Hamilton. This column is a Voice exclusive.**

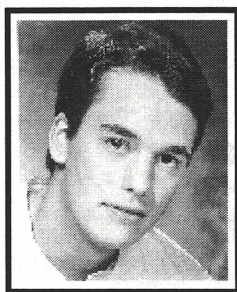
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## HIS - STORY



### Finding the Redneck Within

By Kirk Read



For the gay individual in a small town, there comes a time when everything starts to look good. I call it rural dementia. I live in a town of roughly 200 people, depending on the season. Sometimes I'll hang out at the post office, swapping gossip with our gay postal worker. In walks a completely gnarled up specimen of manhood. Not classically handsome. In Lake County, men are like comets. You see one that's remotely attractive and you run for the telescope. Six months ago, I'd have thought road kill, but nowadays I burn his visage into memory for later use.

I've always been drawn to genuine blue collar guys, not the guys who wear brand new construction boots and meticulously rolled t-shirt sleeves. I get weak when I see beer bellies, three day stubble and greasy cap brims. I can't explain it. I grew up around guys like that, so many of my first crushes were on mechanics and farmers. My reaction to such men is visceral and potent.

It's somewhere between "Be my sweet cowboy" and "Make me your bitch." I now live across the street from a trailer park, so there's no shortage of potentially sweet cowboys. At any rate, there's no shortage of beer bellies.

My friend Jerry shares my obsession. The other day we went to Wal Mart because he needed Polaroid film so he could snap nasty pictures of himself and send them to a married man in Fresno. I told him I hope to God I'm still that perverted when I'm 58. Jerry has gone full tilt into the redneck thing. He lives in a trailer and has an enormous 1969 Ford pickup truck, replete with a Jesus Saves sticker on the bumper. He even fires up yard debris on the county's eagerly anticipated Burn Day. The first time I smelled smoke, I called the cops. The man who answered calmly explained the concept

of a burn day to me in a soothing baritone voice. I wanted to ask him to come anyway.

Jerry's redneck pose is totally convincing until you realize he takes notes during Martha Stewart and arranges the yard in complementary color zones. In a word, he's versatile.

I have great ambivalence about shopping at Wal Mart. They donate mad amounts of cash to the right wing and force their employees to do a group pledge of allegiance ritual at the beginning of each workday. I limit myself to things I can't get at other nearby stores or things that are far cheaper than the small businesses I'd prefer to support. But in this area, being a small business doesn't mean that they're any less homophobic than Wal Mart. So goes the dilemma for a rural queer on a budget.

In my shopping cart, I had a package of blue light bulbs. I've resorted to 4 watt night lights to save power in my kitchen and hallway. The power crisis in California has been a mixed blessing. It's the first time in years that we've had a public dialogue about energy conservation. Naturally, President-Select Bush and his cronies are using the hysteria of Californians to tear the shit out of Alaska and who knows where else. Are you ready for more trickle down? We're there, kids.

The other thing I had in my shopping cart was one of those plastic toilet seats, the pillowy ones that hiss when you lift up off them. My booty gets special rights, like lotion-enhanced toilet paper. The energy crisis has meant that my bathroom is always icy cold and I've just had enough contact with that cold seat. Getting a plastic cushion toilet seat is, to be sure, a redneck rite of passage. My next purchases will be a strawberry air freshener for the rear view mirror and vinyl doilies for

the kitchen table. My inner redneck is coming out, and it's not all pretty.

Jerry and I spied one very surly looking man standing in the middle of the audio visual section. He was the epitome of blue collar fantasia. He's the guy that all those Colt videos have been aping for years. Jerry and I took hold of the cart to steady ourselves. Our Dirt Track Romeo seemed lost, staring up at the ceiling's hidden cameras. We started dry heaving and shaking. You could smell his testosterone drowning out the Britney Spears video pouring out of a wall of television sets.

Handlebar moustache, two days of stubble, muddy jeans, faraway blue eyes. His jaw was clenched tight and I knew in that moment that he knew how to barbecue. Jerry and I got our fill and headed for the fabric department to see what was on the dollar a yard table.

Cruising in Wal Mart is about the filthiest thing I've ever done, and that's a considerable assessment, given my rap sheet of misadventure. Sometimes it's comforting to fly under the radar, talking to these men in the aisles about mufflers and unsalted almonds. They have no idea they're being studied.

Once we got to the checkout line, Jerry fixed his gaze on the man in front of us, whose jeans hung down just over his ass crack. Jerry doubled over the cart, smiling with euphoria.

"I have x-ray vision," Jerry whispered to me. I do too. And out here in the boonies, that's such a blessing.

**Kirk Read's book "How I Learned to Snap," will be released in June. He lives in Northern California and can be found at [www.temenos.net/kirkread](http://www.temenos.net/kirkread). The article was submitted to The Voice by Kirk Read.**



# CLAIM YOUR POWER



## *The Power of Humour*

By Judy Saltarelli Neal



Humour plays a powerful role in our lives. It can be a wonderful stress and tension reliever, and it can lift us up when we feel blue. It can make a humdrum day vibrant and exciting. Humour can nurture us and heal a wounded heart. The power of humour is multi-faceted: as well as enriching our life, it can hurt and wound us.

Humour comes in so many different flavours: wry and ribald, poking and piercing, silly, gentle, juvenile, slapstick, thought provoking, oxymoronic, and the list goes on and on. It can cause us to momentarily smile or chuckle, and it can lead us to roll on the floor in gales of laughter or even spawn a giggle fit. It is said that laughter triggers the release of stress-reducing hormones, which is probably why we often feel so good after a big laugh. It can also strengthen the cardiovascular system.

Three basic types of humour come to mind for me. The first is positive, gentle and uplifting. It says "I'm ok, even with my little quirks." It teaches a child to find lightness and joy in life and it helps us find that lightness and joy, too. This kind of humour affirms our self-worth and that of others. Researchers are now finding evidence that it also strengthens our immune system.

The second involves noticing the humour in comparisons, inconsistencies, contradictions, conflicts and situational outcomes. It can be subtle, sublime, satirical, silly or slapstick. It can be a powerful teacher, helping us to see the world in a different way, and notice things we never paid attention to before. I'd

include here all of the ways we play on words. This kind of humour can be positive and affirming, neutral, or subtly negative. Many comics and cartoons fall in this category. Gary Larson's *The Far Side* cartoons are good examples. In one, for example, he depicts a dog in the back seat of his owner's car, tail a-wagging. Bragging to another dog outside, he says, "Hey, Biff. Guess what? After we go to the drugstore and the post office, I'm going to the vet's to get tutored."

A third category of humour is the type that makes fun of others or ourselves in a hurtful way. It includes jokes and routines that derive their humour from someone's misfortune or something the subject of the joke is unable to change, such as ethnic background, a

disability, or a physical attribute. Self-deprecating humour is often known as 'gallows' humour—because its use tightens the metaphorical noose around our own neck. The part of us that feels emotional discomfort is saddened every time we discount our self by joking about something we feel sensitive about. It's highly unlikely that this type of humour would enhance our immune system or reduce stress. At the level where the mind and body are one, it is more likely to be yet another factor that reduces our immune system's effectiveness: neuropeptides, the molecules of emotion, are liberally distributed throughout our immune system.

This category also includes passive aggressive humour: the "can't you take a joke?" hassling. Our wise Inner Self recognizes it as sarcastic, biting and cruel, loosely veiled in comedy. The perpetrator, recognized by the target's inner wisdom, usually denies his or her intent to be mean and claims the other person doesn't have a good sense of humour.

We can use humour therapeutically. One of my favourites techniques is the "yellow sticky" exercise. It is used to help people let go of all the little, aggravating things they are holding onto during their day that accumulate as stress. Here's how it works. Review your day (or your week), noting all the incidents that are still bothering you. Write the essence of each one on a separate yellow post-it note. Stick them all over your body. Then look at yourself in a mirror. Do you look like a bulletin board with a single lonely note on it? Or more like a fluffy yellow bird

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with all its feathers ruffled? Have a good laugh, and then pluck the notes off one by one. If you can let go of your annoyance and resentment about the guy who cut you off at the corner this morning, you can scrunch up that yellow sticky and throw it in the circular file. If it's still bothering you, put it back on until you can figure out how to let it go. This is a good way to reframe the situation and move out of a Victim orientation.

Personal empowerment guru Tony Robbins uses a lot of humour in his training seminars and workshops. One of my favourites is a neuro-linguistic programming strategy he had adapted. He suggests that you imagine you are Superman or Superwoman. Get up and strut around the room. Stand tall and puff out your chest. Feel your great cape swirling around you. Hear it rustle. Jump those tall buildings. Tell the world you are awesome! Do this for a few minutes, until you feel truly invigorated. Feel your power. Then go back to your seat. Don't sit on your cape!

**Judy Saltarelli Neal is a Counsellor and Personal Productivity Coach at A Different Way in Waterloo, Ont. This article is a Voice exclusive.**

"Wisdom arises from the sharing of concerned, intelligent people"  
- Bob McClendon

"I've created many a nightmare insisting on my own way."  
- Eamon O.

"It is not easy to find happiness in ourselves, and it is not possible to find it elsewhere."  
- Agnes Replier

"I learned how to survive, but not how to live."  
- Gilly A.

"The lowest ebb is the turn of the tide."  
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"If you want to be found, stand where the seeker seeks."  
- Sidney Lanier

## MARCH EVENTS

### Monday March 5

Lesbian Discussion Group meets 7-9pm at Wholistic Health Shop. For more information call A.J. at [REDACTED]

All films will be shown in room 1302 of the The Dav Centre at The University of Waterloo.

Brought to you by The Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG)

### Thursday March 8

The theme for *International Women's Day/Week 2001* is "*Canadian Women: Raising Our Diverse Voices for Positive Change!*".

"Margaret Mead: Feminist or Sell-out?" presented by Dr Harriet Lyons. 7 - 8:30 pm at Kitchener Public Library auditorium, 85 Queen St S., Kitchener

March 15 - 18 2001

### Rainbow Reels film festival.

Program:

Thursday March 15:

7:00PM Boys Don't Cry- presented by Mathsoc

Friday March 16:

7:00 The Celluloid Closet

9:05 Ma Vie En Rose (My Life in Pink)

Followed by Boyz and Boys & Grrls and Girls night at The Bomber.

Saturday March 17:

7:00 Chocolate Babies

9:00 Show me Love

Sunday March 18:

7:00 Wine & Cheese.

8:00 Slutty Shorts

8:30 Relax! It's Just Sex!

### Tuesday March 20

First meeting of **The Rainbow Parenting Network**. A forum for GLBT parents, parents-to-be, and those considering parenting to share ideas, resources, experiences and struggles. Rotary Community Resource Village, 151 Frederick St, Kitchener at 7 pm. For more information call [REDACTED]

### Wednesday March 21

**Greg Upshaw** will be appearing at *Muses Cafe* at 8PM - all tips donated to WWRP. For more information call 742- [REDACTED]

### Saturday March 24

**Epilepsy:** Building Understanding 10am-4pm at Calvary United Church. For more information call Epilepsy Waterloo-Wellington at (519) 743-2112

Do you have an event that you'd like to publicize? Get the word out by letting us know about it so we can include your event in our events section.

"The worst loneliness is not to be comfortable with yourself."  
- Mark Twain

"I care not so much what I am to others as what I am to myself."  
- Michel Eyquem De Montaigne

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

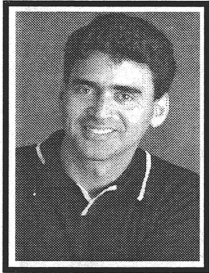
"Whether you believe you can do a thing or not, you are right."  
- Henry Ford

"If I have lost confidence in myself, I have the universe against me."  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"I was brought up to believe that how saw myself was more important than how others saw me."  
- Anwar El-Sadat



# Slouching Through Gomorrah



## The Lesbian Embrace of All Things Ugly

By Michael Alvear

### Why are gay women afraid of beauty?

There is a relentless sameness in most of the lesbian world, a dullness that pervades their community, not just in the way they look, but in everything around them—their bars, their restaurants, their cars, their homes. Almost everything about the lesbian aesthetic reminds me of the Post Office: Plain, boring, and ugly.

The lesbian refusal to celebrate physical beauty has cost them in ways they seem unaware of. Life is barren without beauty. Whether it's people, places or things, beauty enhances the quality of life. If you've ever been in an ugly house, driven by a dilapidated neighborhood, or work in a drab corporate building you know how the ugliness of life can wear you out.

Every society recognizes the inherent value of beauty. Except you, ladies. You wrap ugliness around you like a mink stole. It keeps you warm and comfortable and you don't seem to mind that something had to die for it. Like your spirit.

You can really see it in the way gay women dress. Most of the lesbian community acts as if the female body is something to be ashamed of, like you're repulsed by displays of female beauty.

What's inexplicable is that gay women are often the most bright, engaging, beautiful people I know. What happened?

Many gay women abandoned the pursuit of beauty as an understandable response to being emotionally, physically or sexually abused by men. By making themselves unattractive, they could avoid attention they didn't want.

While that may be an effective strategy for powerless, closeted girls, it's a sad and pitiful one for out and open women. What started out as a self-protecting strategy ended up being a soul-killing lifestyle. **What kind of community defines itself by what it repels?**

The lesbian embrace of all things ugly also seems to be a refusal to support the patriarchy's standard of beauty. Well, you go, girls. I can't think of a single good reason you should conform to a male standard of beauty.

But in your zeal to give patriarchy the finger, you lost your hands, arms, bodies and soul. You haven't just refused to celebrate the patriarchy's definition of beauty, you've refused to celebrate *any* kind of beauty.

This is totally counter to the human impulse, especially the female impulse. The pursuit of beauty—outward and inward-originated in matriarchal, not patriarchal cultures.

The Minoans, a pre-Greek civilization, for example, were a matriarchal society and the first ancient culture to produce art for its beauty rather than function. Many scholars believe this is the greatest Minoan legacy on the Greek world—celebrating art for purely aesthetic reasons.

In other words, it was the matriarchy that invented the idea of aesthetics. This seems lost on the lesbian community, which acts as if celebrating female beauty was something men came up with to exploit them.

Camille Paglia, the lesbian academic rottweiler, once said that lesbianism has no sense of beauty and pleasure and sensuality. In her book *Sexual*

*Personae*, she wrote "*The lesbian aesthetic does not exist. But if there were one, she would have learned from the perverse male mind.*"

Enter gay males. Say what you want about our vanity, no one can deny that our pursuit of beauty measurably improves the quality of *everyone's* life. Whether it's our bodies, our buildings, our living room or our yards, our sense of beauty adds to the world.

Gay women can learn from gay men on this issue. It's true that we're as excessive about chasing beauty as you are about avoiding it, but why learn from amateurs? Besides, vanity may be our burden, but leaving the world a better place is our legacy.

Gay women don't seem to hunger for beauty. You don't idealize it, cultivate it or celebrate it the way everyone else does. You have the chance to influence society's view of beauty by putting forth a different, more humane view of it, but instead you opted out completely. That's a shame, because the straight world could use a lesson or two on the true beauty of women.

What could be better than gay women setting new standards of beauty for *\*all\** women? Wouldn't it be great if society perceived the lesbian aesthetic as it sees the gay aesthetic? Nobody ever looked at the lesbian aesthetic and left admiring it or wanting to emulate it.

Ladies, you've cultivated ugliness long enough. I say cast off your potato sacks and show a little leg.

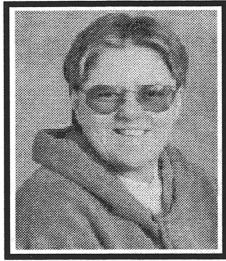
**Michael Alvear is a dead man. You can reach him at:**



**This column was submitted to The Voice by Michael Alvear.**

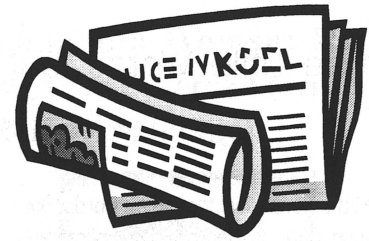


# SHADES OF GREY



## News Makers/Newsworthy?

By Ms. A.J. Mahari



On the front page of The Record, on Saturday February 17, 2001 was the article "Speaking for God in everyday life." The subject of this article was Cambridge's own Erika Kubassek. Widely known as a self-proclaimed prophetess of the Lord, Kubassek has been a news-maker for her actions and activism against homosexuality.

She has been charged with an assault which allegedly took place on January 14, 2001, at the Toronto Metropolitan Community Church prior to the first-ever legal marriage of a lesbian couple and a gay couple. At the time of the Walkerton E.coli outbreak she was banned from the Ontario Legislature for allegedly throwing eggs claiming that the cause of that outbreak was Ontario's pay-back from God for continuing to up-hold the court decisions which are granting well-deserved and long overdue human rights to lesbian and gays.

The placement and presentation of this story at first glance, at least, likely conveyed to the reader that it was absolute fact, like any other news story. It was, however, more about the opinions of the subject of the story. Newsworthy in this human-interest article, for lack of another way to put it, was the fact that Kubassek has to return to court, in Toronto, on March 8 to answer the charge of assault. Why was this a front-page story? What was its compelling newsworthy significance? God in everyday life is, for many people, a very positive part of life. The question is whose God and on what terms? For Kubassek to say that she speaks for God in her everyday life, beyond the scope of her own life, negates the personal responsibility she has, like the rest of us, for her actions. She continues to act out her beliefs in disrespectful and allegedly law-break-

ing ways. No one is above the law. Kubassek's seemingly false sense of entitlement is based upon her own interpretation of the Bible. While she has every right to her interpretations, she does not have the right to impose those interpretations in the form of her personal version of morality or Christianity onto others. A great number of Christians do not share her view of what it means to be a Christian.

Kubassek and others of her ilk act in what many would consider direct opposition to the tenets of the religion they espouse. In the process their messages are dangerous and damaging. They devalue the beliefs and faith of other Christians and alienate many people of other faiths. They perpetuate discrimination against lesbians and gays and continue to fuel homophobia.

The major problem with extreme religious fundamentalism is that it leaves no room for differing points of view, differing beliefs or even differing expressions of faith. Such rigidity only serves to marginalize and divide.

Extreme religious fundamentalism presents its message in a black and white, all-or-nothing fashion. It is an "us" versus "them" mentality. This, they claim, is love? Outrageous! What is loving about the judgment? What is loving about the abuse? What is loving about the condemnation? What is loving about the arrogantly-delusional exclusion of all who don't share the same biblical interpretations or definition of love?

Opposing views and different interpretations aside, love is not something that is imposed upon anyone for their own good. Fundamentalism, in God-like fashion, touts itself as the giver of eter-

nal life. It interferes with the right and freedom that each citizen has to determine his or her own path in life and to freely pursue it.

Having different opinions does not make the holder of one opinion all right and the holder of any other opinion all wrong. Speaking for God in everyday life is something that each one of us has the opportunity to do by putting our faith into action in socially-acceptable ways that do no harm to others. Ways that truly reflect a tolerant love and inclusiveness. Ways that do not devalue based upon differing philosophies or beliefs.

I do, however, long for the day when the extreme fundamentalist right stops fighting to prevent lesbians, gays, other Christians and people of other faiths from enjoying an equally-respected freedom of expression and relationship.

The fact that the K-W Record placed that "story" on the front page of their paper calls into question their intent. Was it that slow a news day? Were they just trying to be sensationalistic at the expense of Fundamentalist Christians, Christians in general and lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and the transgendered? In spite of their mandate to represent all sides in any arena of life the Record lost credibility on Saturday February 17th.

The cost of continuing to perpetuate that "us" versus "them" mentality is one that we all have to bear.

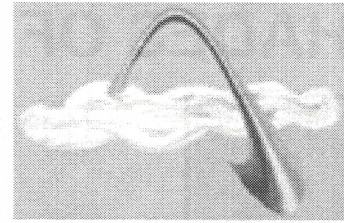
**The opinions expressed in this column are those of A.J. Mahari, only, and are not made from any editorial standpoint of The Voice Magazine.**



# Spiritual Life: The Quest for Freedom

## Three Little Words; But What Do They Mean?

By Noel Springwood



Three little words. Just three little words. But they cause more problems and complications than any other words in the English language. They are powerful and loaded.

They're not, "I hate you." That leaves little to the imagination or to doubt.

They are, believe it or not, "I love you."

Just by way of example, let me give an example. I shared my life with a younger man for a couple of years. I loved him dearly and spent a great deal of time, money and energy trying to show it.

He never tired of telling me, "I love you." Every time he did, however, the rational and sane person lurking inside of me would say, "Yeah, like Snoopy loves his supper dish." I even told him that on occasion. He just laughed.

Well, that whole situation is over now, although a level of hurt remains. I don't think anyone can ever love without some degree of hurt. In fact, all too often, the level of hurt defines the level of love.

So, while it doesn't really solve many problems, I thought that an overview of C. S. Lewis' The Four Loves, would be in order. He's a respected and insightful writer about things spiritual and the work is a classic of its kind. You can get it at your library easily. It might help you clarify what love really is and perhaps prevent you from using the phrase as arbitrarily and casually as it is all too often used in the LGBT communities.

Lewis sees four kinds of love. He calls them Eros, Amor, Caritas and Agape. Lest the multilingual sources of his distinctions get the better of you, I'll try to explain. They are not necessarily levels of worth. They are, however, levels of fulfillment. They represent a tremendously idealistic view of what can be possible in a human relationship. At the same time, they are worth thinking about.

Eros, all about the Erotic, is his first distinction. This is about the phenomenon of being together intimately and passionately in a physical and mutually affectionate experience. As with all the categories, mutuality is the key indicator of the presence of love. Traditional

moral values have, for the most part, limited this level of love to the breeding process. In fact, it can be a very real springboard to a deeper and more lasting relationship. The art of giving and receiving pleasure is not something to be slighted or trifled with. It is something worthy of exploration and sensitive experimentation.

Amor goes a step further in terms of looking at more of the person or persons involved. It embraces the whole human being and tries to understand and accommodate that reality in terms of the reality of the lover. It demands more work and generosity and usually a lot of talking out of perspectives, ideals and problems. It manifests itself in a very real effort towards mutual growth and fulfillment. It represents a kind of collaboration and involvement that touches the very core of a person's being. It is this level of love that usually leads a couple to want to commit themselves to one another in the relationship we have come to call *Marriage*.

Caritas goes beyond the personal the level of humanity. This level of love is almost totally altruistic. Expecting nothing in return, those who profess or attempt or reach it work to better humanity wherever and however they can. They can be found in the gutters with the drunks, in the alleys with the street people, in the hospitals with the dying and in the soup kitchens with the hungry and homeless. At

best, it is not a superior/inferior perspective. In fact, that is always a kind of manipulation that only serves the person using the disadvantaged to their own advantage.

No, charity is a genuine caring for others, the kind of unconditional love that many profess but few practise. It is, as Paul reminds us, patient, kind, not envious, not manipulative or proud. It is not ambitious, selfish, angry or perverse. It doesn't take pleasure in hurting others but in setting things right. It puts up with a lot, trusts much and perseveres to the end.

Ok, so I'm not going to get an award for biblical translation; but, you get the idea.

Agape, the final distinction that Lewis makes, is a kind of never-never land experience when everyone lives together in a kind of peaceful combination of all of the other forms of love. Translated as "Love Feast", it is a noble ideal and probably the closest definition imaginable of the Judaeo/Christian concept of Heaven. All too often, the failure to achieve Agape on earth makes a lot of seekers give up.

Giving up, though, is the only real failure in the search for love. Dangerously close to that failure and often leading to it is the careless, casual and flippant use of those three little words: "I love you."

If you dare to use them, make sure you mean them and make sure that you and your partner have the same understanding of what they mean. They are powerful words and can be either the most fulfilling or most destructive you ever use. The choice is yours. Choose well.

### Anger Management

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**NOEL SPRINGWOOD (a pen-name - "Out of respect for his former associates") served most of his life as a Roman Catholic Priest. You can contact him through THE VOICE or email him at:**

**A Voice exclusive.**



# HERSTORY

## Yachtswoman is Lesbian Icon

Ellen MacArthur, who became the fastest woman to circumnavigate the world in the Vendée Globe race, is rapidly turning into this year's lesbian icon.

During her historic race, MacArthur gave an interview to RainbowNetwork, the biggest website for lesbians and gay men in the UK, in which she spoke of life on board the Kingfisher. Whilst she did not come out as a lesbian, her presence on the site indicates that she has a gay-friendly attitude.

RainbowNetwork's Lesbian Lounge Forum has been inundated with messages that indicate the yachtswoman is not short of female admirers. Most base their admiration on the fact that she looks like a lesbian, with her short hair, fresh face and down-to-earth wardrobe.

She also exemplifies many of the qualities of lesbian iconhood, being unpretentious, talented, strong, determined, courageous and a headline maker. MacArthur dominated the news after returning to a crowd of 200,000 at Les Sables D'Olonne on the Bay of Biscay.

Sadly for her lesbian admirers, some media reports mention that the skipper of the Kingfisher has a boyfriend, although he is currently out of the limelight. Perhaps it's for the best, MacArthur's father once famously remarked that his daughter is "married to her boat".

## Lesbians' Death Sentence Denied

Officials in the Somalia's autonomous Puntland region say there was never a trial let alone a capital conviction of a lesbian couple, but the UN denies the denial.

Police in Puntland have denied a story widely reported in Somalia that two women were sentenced to death for being Lesbians. According to Mogadishu newspapers, the women were reported to have been found guilty of "exercising unnatural behaviour" by having a lesbian relationship. But police in Boosaaso, where the sentence was reported to have been passed, say the case never came before the courts. The Qaran newspaper in Mogadishu has now printed an apology to their readers. It had been reported that hundreds had packed the court in the northern coastal town. But no official confirmation was ever received from the Puntland authorities. Puntland declared itself autonomous from Somalia in August 1998 and has since set up its own administrative infrastructure. Somalia's first government in nearly a decade was appointed last year, but the authorities in Puntland are opposed to it.

Despite a retraction by the newspaper that originally ran this story, the United Nations' Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN) has named the women and claims to know where they're being held. IRIN cited unnamed local sources as saying the couple had come to the attention of authorities when one woman sued her partner for refusing to pay for her medical treatment. IRIN's latest report names the women as Ishmahaan Awil, 21, and Farhia (last name unknown), 19, and

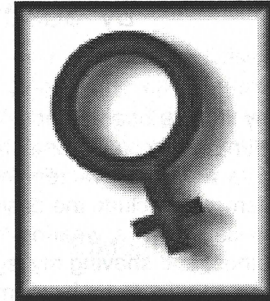
says they are being held incommunicado in Bosaso's main prison.

An execution date has not yet been set.

[www.planetout.com](http://www.planetout.com)

March 8, 2001

## Canadian Women: Raising Our Diverse Voices for Positive Change!



Canada will celebrate *International Women's Week (IWW)* from **March 4-10, 2001**, with the highlight being *International Women's Day (IWD)* on **March 8**.

The theme for *International Women's Day/Week 2001* is "*Canadian Women: Raising Our Diverse Voices for Positive Change!*" This theme was chosen to emphasize opportunities where women have raised their voices, have been heard and have made a visible impact. It acknowledges the influence of Canadian women to affect positive change for women in various aspects of life on the local, regional, national and/or international scenes - be it through paid or unpaid work - especially as the United Nations has declared 2001 the *International Year of Volunteers*.

### March 8

"Margaret Mead: Feminist or Sell-out?" presented by Dr Harriet Lyons. 7 - 8:30 pm at Kitchener Public Library auditorium, 85 Queen St S., Kitchener

### FREE

Light refreshments. All welcome

Co-sponsored by the Waterloo Region IWD Committee and the Kitchener Public Library. For more information - KPL 743-0271 or IWD 576-8447 (evenings)

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## TRANSGENDER STORY

## SUSAN COMES OF AGE

By Susan E. Gapka



Most of my life I've been compelled to wear women's clothes and fantasize about living as a woman. My earliest childhood memories include the desire of playing house with girls, wearing my mother's clothes, and shaving my legs at puberty. I ran in fear from my feminine desires until finally deciding to confront these feelings and pursue my dreams. This quest resulted in discovering Take a Walk on the Wildside, a crossdressers store and support club located in downtown Toronto.

Initially, I entered as a customer. I met Roxy behind the counter; she was

dressed in a pink frilly dress, high heels - and no makeup! Immediately the ice was broken! After considerable conversation about our unusual situations, I left the store feeling I had connected with a like-minded individual. The next day I nervously made an appointment for a complete female transformation. This

story will describe my first experience living as a woman, courtesy of Wildside.

On the journey to Wildside, I suffered the typical human fears anyone would encounter when facing a new experience. Early in life, I understood my behavior was different and grew to be alone and isolated. I accepted in my early years that to belong in the world I needed to live in society as someone who would not achieve my true identity. I was forced to live in "accepted" behavior lifestyles and settled on conforming to society. The stigma feelings prompted on the journey to Wildside nearly forced me off the streetcar and back to the safety of my apartment. However, the continuing compulsion to "dress up" combined with my well thought out decision to

explore my feminine side enabled me to enter Wildside at 1:00 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon.

I shyly announced my arrival. Patti, Wildside's owner, explained that Amy would transform me into a woman. Alarm bells went off in my head! Who was Amy? Fears were laid to rest when I laid eyes on a young, beautiful woman who announced herself as Amy. Her friendly smile quickly laid aside my fears and nervousness. Still blushing, I was lead to a change room at the back of the store where my transformation would take place. Amy was kind and courteous. Choosing my clothes, I

picked a PVC dress, high black boots, and blond wig. Wow! The makeup was next. Amy moved with care and precession. Her friendly attitude assured me that things would be all right. Not everybody laughed at men who wear dresses. Upon completion of my transformation, I looked in the mirror and stood amazed. My greatest fear was I might

look like man wearing a woman's dress. Amy did not allow that to happen. I looked fabulous as a blonde bombshell in high black boots and the black PVC dress. I began to enjoy the experience.

As a child, I had received distinct messages concerning socially acceptable behavior. I asked my parents to play house with the girls so I could wear their dresses and was firmly told *No!* During a theatre dance show I noticed a boy wearing tights and asked if I could play that role next year. The instructor suggested it would not be appropriate and I never saw her again. Reaching puberty, I wanted to shave my face. Discovering no facial hair, I decided to shave my legs. I mentioned this event in school and the teacher quickly suggested "we don't

**"As a child, I had received distinct messages concerning socially acceptable behavior. I asked my parents to play house with the girls so I could wear their dresses and was firmly told, No!"**

talk about those things." Finally, another incident I vividly remember is as a young teenager. I traveled along the lakefront with a friend and we discovered a discarded bra. Without thinking, I put the garment on. Later, my friend told others and I was ridiculed. These negative incidents set the tone for any willingness to fully express myself. Recalling these childhood incidents recently encouraged me to make some recent lifestyle changes.

I grew up completely confused about my identity. I would wear woman's clothes in the privacy of my own home, and would only dream of living as a woman. On two occasions, I took steps to live as a woman, however lack of courage forced me to back out of pursuing my dream. Once at seventeen years of age, I strongly considered leaving my small town home to live in Toronto full time as a woman. The second occasion came about when my marriage broke down and I once again focused on living out my fantasy. This was short lived; it lasted a month. A drug-and-alcohol problem brought me into therapy for a number of years. This coupled with considerable journalizing about my early life forced me to examine this reoccurring situation in my life. The decision to enter the doors of Wildside did not come lightly.

Before my very eyes, I was a fabulously gorgeous blonde female. Amy told me now it was the time to join the girls upstairs. Another panic attack! I quickly met some girls upstairs and they were great. I was quickly put at ease when they complemented me on my appearance. I finally was living my dream! I found it very exciting. The girls said hello as they put on their own makeup. Misty showed me around and she took numerous pictures. Now, I needed to venture outdoors. It was daylight and I wanted to test my ability to pass as a woman. Terri



pointed out to me that my clothes ensured I would be mistaken for a hooker. Changing clothes took a while and it was early evening before I dared to venture outdoors as Susan. The walk was tremendous! I toured along Gerrard Street over to Parliament. Here at this corner my "coming out" almost ended abruptly. While crossing the street a tow truck barreled through a red light and came frighteningly close to knocking me off my heels. Had I ended up in the hospital because of this careless driver, my first experience as a woman would be one I would not want to repeat.

Journeying along Carlton Street, I encountered a comical situation. An older gentleman asked me for directions and I answered in a higher pitched voice. The look on this man's face was something to behold. He started grinning and I joined him as if he was in on my little secret. I immediately learned about keeping my deep voice to a minimum.

I entered Harvey's restaurant at the corner of Jarvis and Gerrard. I received extreme pleasure from ordering a hot dog, fries, and a drink. Sitting in the restaurant and eating was a blast. The highlight of eating in public outdoors was using the woman's washroom. Finally, on a full stomach and beginning to feel soreness in my feet, I proceeded back to Wildside.

After conversing with the other girls, we developed a plan of action for the evening. The first stop on the agenda was Zelda's where once a month the waiters crossdressed as they worked. A taxi delivered us to the door of Zelda's. Some other girls from Wildside were dining already so we joined them. A kind gentleman made room for us

since he was eating alone. I still remember that man and would like to thank him for accommodating us that night. Supper was fun and we chatted as girls usually do. A dumb blonde joke highlighted this part of the evening. I did not laugh; the joke completely went over my head. When informed of the humor in the punch line, I commented, "Well I'm only a dumb blonde."

**"For a woman to put on a pair of pants, is a step up the ladder socially. For a man to wear a dress is a step down the ladder"**

Our final destination was Zippers, a nightclub, which allows crossdressers to drink. Dancing consumed most of our time. Many men commented on my outfit and wanted to touch my dress. It is exciting to wear PVC and gauging by the comments it is fun to watch also. I was thrilled with all the attention. We chatted

and danced all night. I conversed with all the girls. It was exhilarating to discover that others had similar feelings growing up. We shared common feelings and experiences and I felt part of the group. Later, I developed a conversation with an amazing woman named Monique. This gorgeous woman invited all of us girls to a party that she and her friend Duane were holding next month. We said we would attend.

Finally, the evening ended with us going back to Wildside. I felt so wonderful after about my transformation that I paid to stay the night. The financial cost of spending the day and night at Wildside is miniscule compared with the trauma I lived not being able to express myself fully. We took many pictures of each other posing. We continued to gossip about beauty tips along and discussed the impact of growing up confused about our gender.

We went to bed without taking our makeup off (a no-no I have discovered). We woke up to Patti's magnificent breakfast of bacon and eggs with toast. Coffee and juice completed the meal.

I decided to shop at

Goodwill that afternoon since I missed out the day before. I was absolutely thrilled to shop as a woman. I tried on many different dresses and skirts. The saleslady was helpful and suggested that I would be welcome back anytime. A gentleman followed me around the store and held the door for me when I left.

Finally, I returned to Wildside where I grudgingly removed my makeup and clothes. I traveled home to watch the Super Bowl and wonder about how different my life would be.

## Epilogue

Since that day my life has drastically changed. I must thank "Take a Walk on the Wildside" for assisting me in becoming a complete human being. It is important for people like me to have a place to develop the courage to explore our inner desires. To the others out there who do not have the courage to come out, I suggest you try it. It is a completely liberating experience.

To the girls out there already out and doing it in style, keep doing it. You are an inspiration for girls like me. Again, it was the support and the encouragement of Wildside that opened the doors for this new girl in town.

## NEW GROUP

### TRI-YOUTH PRIDE

*LGBT High School Students*

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For more information contact Planned Parenthood at (519) 743-6461 and ask for Gail.

## Jean-Paul Pilon

*Barrister and Solicitor, Notary Public*

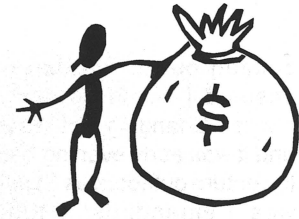
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Phone: (519) 885-  
Fax: (519) 885-





# GAY MONEY

by Bonnie J. Babin,  
Investment Planning Counsel of Canada



## Retirement and Estate Planning Checklist

Here is a checklist to help you with your retirement and estate planning:

### Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Quebec Pension Plan (QPP)

Now that you are retiring you need to decide when to apply for CPP/QPP. You can choose to start receiving CPP/QPP payments as early as age 60, however, your payments will be reduced by .5% for each month before age 65. This means that at age 60 you would receive 70% of the benefit that you would otherwise receive if you waited to age 65. You can also delay receiving your CPP/QPP until age 70. Payments will be increased by .5% for each month you wait after age 65.

### Retirement Allowance

If you will be receiving a retirement allowance when you retire, you can arrange to have a portion of it transferred directly to your RRSP with no taxes deducted.

### \$ 1,000 Pension Tax Credit

If you are 65 or over and have pension income you can claim the \$ 1,000 pension tax credit on your tax return. RRIF, registered annuity payments, and the interest portion of unregistered annuity payments also qualify for the pension tax credit.

### Spousal RRSPs

Spousal RRSPs are one of the easiest income splitting methods available. Income splitting reduces income taxes by shifting income from a higher-taxed partner to a lower-taxed partner. Spousal RRSPs should be used when one partner is expected to have a higher retirement income than the other spouse. This could be due to a much larger RRSP or pension plan or due to other taxable income.

Your RRSP contributions can continue even after your 69<sup>th</sup> year as long as you have earned income and your partner is 69 or younger.

### Review Your Will

As part of your retirement planning, you should review your will. Make sure that any changes in your family (marriages, divorces, births, deaths) have been taken into consideration in your will. Review your choice of executor. Be sure that your executor is willing to accept and has the time and ability to handle the wide range of responsibilities that go with this position.

### Insurance Needs

Insurance is a very important aspect of financial planning. Insurance

proceeds are paid, tax free, directly to your beneficiary. These proceeds can provide an immediate source of cash for needs that arise right away, such as paying bills. Waiting for your estate to be settled could take months. As well, insurance can be purchased to pay for any major tax liabilities that will arise as a result of your death. Insurance can also be purchased to provide ongoing income for your spouse.

### Record of Your Financial Affairs

It is a good idea to keep a written record of your financial affairs. This should include a list of all of your assets, including your insurance policies and the location of your safety deposit box. Provide as much detail as possible. You should include the amount of deposits, name of financial institutions, account numbers etc. Include a listing of all outstanding loans and sums of money owing. The location of your will and the name of your executor should also be included. Make sure that your executor and at least one other person knows where this information is kept.

**Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please respond to e-mail address: [redacted] Fax: (519) [redacted]**

*Investment Planning Counsel  
of Canada*

**Financial Planning Professionals**

**BONNIE J. BABIN - Financial Planning & Tax Consultant - Phone 519-836-2550**



## MIXED NUTS

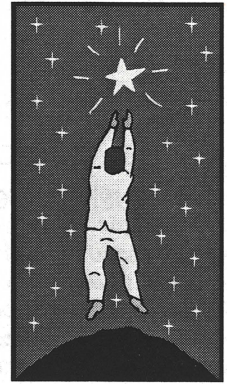
### Lost Youth

By Philip Charbonneau

The gay youth of our age are lost and abandoned. In this world there is no leadership or even interest in gay youth by the established older members of our culture. Also among the youth there

seems to be no ambition or desire for leadership or direction. This is detrimental to the growth and evolution of gay culture. The youth our the future and if we, both older and younger members of the society, are apathetic what does that say about our future? How many of the youth do you see running for parliament? Taking up the cause of equality? Or even running the Pride Events? I'd say few to none. Why

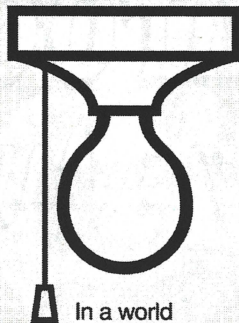
is this? We'll it's because they have been abandoned and forgotten. I, as a gay youth, see and even feel this almost every day. The established older gays and lesbians who in their youth fought hard



against the oppressiveness of ignorance and hatred now have become those who the youth must fight against. They ultimately control the culture through the suppression of the youth. By ignoring the ideas of the newer generations and not giving the same respect as they would to the other veterans of gay liberation, they are damning their own future. If these new generations do not learn from the predecessors how to fight the good fight, no change will ever come and our culture will stagnate. As for the youth, they seem not even to care that they have a long way to go to equality. Most are content just partying and finding the next screw or, worse, trying to make a life for themselves and just plain fitting in. Now honestly, I do like to party, I do enjoy screwing a whole bunch, I would like to make a life for myself, and fitting in a little isn't so bad. However, I also would like to be able to marry some day, possible adopt a child, not have to worry about losing my job for being gay, and simply be able to hold hands with my boyfriend in the mall without being stared at or ridiculed. These things will never change unless we make them, and the youth are the only ones who can ensure this is going to happen. What can we do? I don't know. Maybe more organizations run by youths could help. Maybe more events specially geared to gay youth would incite some pride. I simple don't know. I personally feel like oddity amongst my peers. Pride just doesn't mean what it used to.

**Philip Charbonneau is a resident of Kitchener. A Voice Exclusive.**

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## Bed, Boys & Beyond

The original cast recording of the acclaimed Off-Broadway musical revue.

The original cast recording of *Bed, Boys & Beyond*, the acclaimed new musical revue, is now available on DINK Records. Featuring an original score of 19 songs, *Bed, Boys & Beyond* explores the confusing, poignant and often hilarious lives five young men facing the challenges of being "Gay Today." The recording, with music by Alfredo Alvarez, book and lyrics by Jeff Dobbins, and performances by the original Off-Broadway cast, was released nationally on February 2001.

During its four-month Off-Broadway run, *Bed, Boys & Beyond* garnered considerable critical acclaim and was selected as "Critic's Pick" by both *TIME OUT NEW YORK* and *THE NEW YORK POST*. *PLAYBILL* described the score as "Beautiful, comedic, empowering, titillating and sweet," *THEATREMANIA.COM* cited the show as "One of the best-written revues we've seen in a long time," and *NEW YORK DAILY NEWS* praised the show as "One of the best revues in town. A witty and terrifically tuneful look at gay life."

Produced for records by Joey Mendoza, DINK's previous releases include the Stage series ("How I Love You," "The Human Heart" and "True Colors" featuring re-arranged musical theater songs sung men-to-men); and just recently, the highly praised premiere cast recording of *Heading East* with Paolo Montalban. Spearheaded by Art Collins and Joey Mendoza, DINK Records is committed to the showcasing of non-traditional musical theatre voices.

*Bed, Boys & Beyond* is distributed by Allegro-Music Corp., and will be available on February 14, 2001 in all major music retailers in North America including Virgin, HMV, Tower Records and on-line sites such as Amazon.com and CDNOW. Mail order: 800.288-2007 (Allegro) or visit [www.dinkrecords.com](http://www.dinkrecords.com)



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# HIS-STORY

I have truly blossomed since coming out

By Keltie

I am probably one of the few people who feared coming out to my parents even though they are founding members of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays in Brampton.

I wondered if they might see me at a gay function. I had never been interested in dating in high school or university and I attributed this to shyness. I had always known that I was different but never quite realized why. I was not aware of gay people or the gay community.

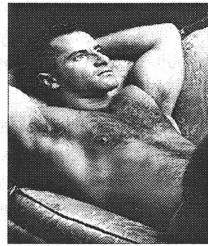
About ten years before I came out, my sister cleared the way for me when she came out to my parents. Unfortunately for her, my parents were not ready to be supportive; they wondered what they had done and how she could be "cured." Finally, they found acceptance talking to other parents of lesbians and gays. My parents had actually known I was gay for several years before. They even talked to me about it but I was not ready.

At age 27, I was cruised in a 1000 voice choir and I accepted his proposition. I knew I was gay and desperately wanted to meet other gay people. I so wanted a mentor or someone who could show me the community. My gay life consisted of reading Xtra and going to Provincetown but I was too scared to talk to anyone or to venture into a bar. After about 6 months, I decided I needed to meet people so I went to Metropolitan Community Church. I dressed up and I felt totally awkward. I returned on a regular basis and gradually met more people. I realized that there were so many gays and they did not fit my narrow stereotypical view. The church has a wonderful positive atmosphere where everyone is valued and loved. My concept of God changed dramatically.

I eventually told my parents in April, after having attended a meeting for gay teachers. There was immediate acceptance and my sister cheered. It was a wonderful experience to walk with them in the Pride Parade with P-Flag.

There was such enthusiasm and people asked if they could be adopted. I had never fully understood how loving my parents were. The next Pride parade, I was in a relationship and was not wearing quite the conservative walking shorts and button up shirt as the previous year.

In Sept., I was regularly attending MCC. I joined Toronto Triangle Squares as a way to meet people. I was a little taken back to be kissed socially by a stranger the very first night. Square dancing has been a way to meet people, travel to other communities, have greater acceptance of myself and just have a huge amount of fun.



Through my parents activism, I was outed a little bit more. They had a letter to the editor published about their family when the N.D.P. were trying to pass the same sex legislation. CBC Man Alive did a show about father and gay son relationships. My first reaction was that I did not want to do it

but I wanted to share with others my parent's unconditional support and love. My school board became quite concerned about what was going to happen with a teacher coming out. My staff have been completely supportive. I have not formally been out to my students. Recently, I have had trouble trying to include same sex couples in a picture book about families even though the board has recently released a wonderful equity document. I am told not to talk about my being gay even if I am asked.

So many people look back to their youth and think of the glory days. I would never want to return. I remember once filling in a survey and having to think what my response would be if you could change your sexual orientation. It is so odd to wonder why I went through such torment. I think much of the reason was the lack of visibility of gay people in my life and in the media at the time. I have truly blossomed since coming out.

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# FREE TAX ADVICE! BE PREPARED

By Darren Kregar  
Economical Tax Services



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

Be sure that you have all of the appropriate receipts and documentation that you require to either personally fill out your 2000 Income Tax Return or to have a tax service or accountant prepare your tax return correctly. Following is an overview of the documentation or receipts that you may require to fill out your tax return.

## Do you have all of your Income Receipts?

Be sure that you have received all of your 'T' Slips. If you have worked for someone throughout the year you will receive a T4 or a T4A. Any interest or dividends you receive in the year will be reported on either a T3 or a T5. If you were unemployed you will receive either a T4E (Employment Insurance) or a T5007 (Social Assistance/Worker Compensation). If you were short on income and made a withdrawal from your RRSP you will receive a T4RSP.

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

## Can you Deduct Employment Expenses?

If your employer, under a contract of employment, requires you to pay your own expenses, be required to work away from your employers place of business, you were paid in part by commissions bases on volume of sales AND you did not receive a non-taxable

allowance for travelling expenses, you may be eligible to deduct employment expenses. Your employer must sign fill out a 'Declaration of Employment Conditions - Form T2200'. Employment expenses or claimed on the 'Statement of Employment Expenses - Form T777'. It is necessary to keep all receipts for those expenses that you are eligible to claim for at least 6 years.

## Are you Self-Employed or Own Rental Property?

Again you must keep all of your receipts for at least 6 years. If you are self employed you are required to fill out the 'Statement of Business Activities - Form 2124'. All expenses claimed must be supported with a receipt in the case you are ever audited. To claim all of your allowable automobile expenses, be sure to also keep a detailed travel log of all business mileage over the year. Revenue Canada will not allow you to choose a percentage that you feel is adequate. Again, if you are audited Revenue Canada may re-assess your mileage to what they feel is appropriate according to your earnings or business. If you are a home-based business, you need to know what percentage of the home is used for the business. You can only deduct a percentage of all your home expenses that may include heat, electricity, insurance, mortgage interest and property taxes. You are also able to deduct CCA (depreciation) on your business assets.

**Note:** You can only deduct home expenses if you have net income from your business. You cannot create a loss with home expenses, however, you are permitted to

carry-forward business-use-of-home expenses.

**Note:** If you have not kept a travel log for your business mileage, estimate your mileage based on your day planner entries and the total kilometers driven throughout the year.

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

**Tax Tip:** As a self-employed person, you have until June 15, 2001 to file your return. If you owe CCRA any tax, the tax must be paid by April 30, 2001.

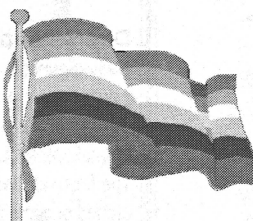
## Can you reduce your 'Taxable Income'?

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

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

Most non-refundable tax credits are as such as they only reduce your federal tax owing and are not used to increase your tax refund. The most com-

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mon non-refundable tax credits besides the 'Basic Personal Amount' are Equivalent-to-Spouse', EI and CPP premiums, tuition and education credits, disability credits, medical expenses and charitable donations. Tuition and Education amounts are shown on the form T2202. Any EI and CPP premiums paid are shown on your T4 receipts. If you are eligible for the disability amount you must get form T2201 filled out by your medical doctor, psychologist or optometrists.

**Do you qualify for the Provincial Tax Credit?**

To determine your eligibility for this credit you should have a copy of the property taxes paid or rental receipts from your landlord. You may also be eligible for the Ontario political contribution tax credit or the OHOSP tax credit.

**Do you have a same-sex partner?**

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency for the tax year '2000' will only recognize a common-law spouse as two persons living together in a conjugal relationship and are of the opposite sex. The other type of partner you may have is of course the one who you are married to.

However, If you file separately you will need to know your spouses net-income, social insurance number and birth-date.

Starting in the year 2001, CCRA will be recognizing common-law spouses as common-law partners. Common-law partners are any two persons, regardless of sex living in a conjugal relationship for at least 12 months. For the year 2000, same-sex partners may choose to file as common-law according to the General Information Guide

on page 11.

Also as a transitional measure CCRA will however allow you and your partner to write to them electing to be recognized as common-law for the years 1998 and 1999. This election must be submitted no later than April 30, 2001 or June 15, 2001 if one of the partners are self-employed. I highly recommend that you do some tax planning before you make this election to re-do your taxes for the year(s) you wish to be recognized as common-law. Some of the credits you may have been eligible for as a single person may not be available when your incomes are combined, such as the GST credit. However, you may be able to claim such expenses as medical expenses when you combine both partners' medical receipts onto one return.

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

**Economical Tax Services is now open both in Waterloo at 22 King St. S. (Lower Level) and at Highland Hills Mall in Kitchener.**

*Note: Economical Tax Services is gay owned and operated. Darren Kregar, the owner of ETS would be glad to assist you in any tax planning around the same-sex partner/common law legislation.*

**A Voice Exclusive.**

**Suicides in state top homicides**

Massachusetts residents are four times more likely to kill themselves than die by homicide, far higher than the national trend, and gay high school students attempt suicide at a particularly high rate, according to the first analysis done of suicide in Massachusetts.

The Department of Public Health study, to be released in May, found that there were 503 suicides and 123 homicides in Massachusetts in 1998, the most recent year with data available.

State officials say the suicide-murder ratio probably hasn't changed since then; if anything, the number of suicides may be higher because they are considered underreported by 20 percent to 30 percent.

Nationwide, in the U.S., there were about 30,000 suicides and 18,000 homicides in 1998, according to the data.

White males and the elderly in Massachusetts committed suicide at the greatest rates between 1996 and 1998, the years covered in the study. Men over age 85 killed themselves more than younger groups, at a rate of about 35 deaths per 100,000 people.

The study also found that about 10 percent of Massachusetts high school students attempted suicide, according to a survey of about 4,000 students in 1997. Broken down by sexual orientation, about 40 percent of gay and bisexual students attempted suicide, compared to about 10 percent of their heterosexual peers.

Ellen Connorton, coordinator of violence prevention and intentional injury at DPH, said gay students are not considered predisposed to suicide.

"They are no more mentally unstable than other students, but they are susceptible to victimization by their peers," Connorton said.

Mental health specialists say that a lack of suicide prevention programs can lead to a pattern of intentional deaths in communities. According to those specialists, there is rarely a single cause for suicide;

**Continued on page 22**

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# A Perspective on ... Optimism

By Melissa M. Smith

Ever have one of "those" days? You know the one I mean. You sleep through your alarm on the morning that you have to be at work early for an important meeting. You go out to the car and find it won't start because the battery is dead. When you finally get jump-started you get stuck in traffic on the highway. After showing up an hour and a half late to work there is a message on your desk: "The boss wants to see you."

Just great.

After the boss gives you a piece or two of his mind (that he can ill afford to lose) about your tardiness he hands you a box filled with a jumble of disorganized files, papers and memos with instructions not to leave today until you have taken care of it all. Even if you frantically work through lunch and on into the afternoon you think to yourself, "Great. There go my plans for a romantic dinner with the hot young thing you met the other day." As you trudge back to your cubicle you can't help but think...LIFE SUCKS!

Or does it?

No matter how you define one of "those" days, we all have them from time to time. Inconvenient things, even bad things, happen all the time. When these things happen to us, we have a choice to make. We can choose to learn and grow from the experience, or we can choose to be miserable, and in our attempts to be miserable, to make those around us miserable. No matter what our choice, it is a choice. A choice that we all must make every day of our lives.

Recently in Vancouver a young man died. He was 16 years old. He was an up-and-coming actor, who had been dealt a rare and terminal disease in life. He knew he was going to die. Even on his deathbed he chose to embrace and celebrate his life and all of the good things he had been able to enjoy. 16 years old, with the Wisdom of Solo-

mon. He made the choice to celebrate and embrace the life he did have, rather than dwell on the life he would never enjoy.

Wow! That puts things into a real and personal perspective, doesn't it?

Next time you find yourself developing a bad attitude about the circumstances in your life take a moment to think about that young man. And then ask yourself. Is my glass half empty or half full?

The choice is yours.

**Melissa M. Smith is a freelance writer who lives with her partner and their family, both 2 legged and four-legged, on Vancouver Island in British Columbia. You can contact her via email at [REDACTED] A Voice exclusive.**

## Suicides

Continued from page 21

rather, it often grows out of a cycle of depression, violence and abuse, or emotional crises.

While acknowledging that gay students attempt suicide at a higher rate than their peers, Jacobsen said that funding should not be limited to one group.

"It's such an important issue, it really needs to be integrated into all youth programs," said Jacobsen.

He said these efforts - which include preventing teen violence and improving school health programs - helped lower the suicide rate among 15-to-19-year-olds in Massachusetts. That rate, 6.6 per 100,000, is the third-lowest in the nation.

Some council members said that many school officials and parents find the subject too personal and inexplicable to discuss in-depth.

Connorton suggested several steps to prevent suicide, including: better training for school counselors and those who work with the elderly; adding trigger locks to guns and special jamba to windows; selling "smart guns"; and redesigning bridges to make jumping from them more difficult.

<http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2>

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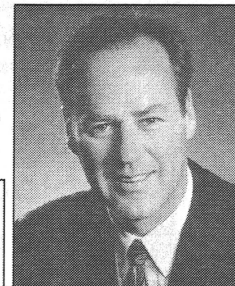
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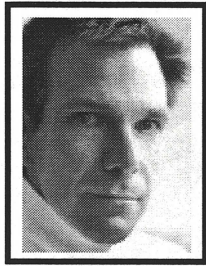
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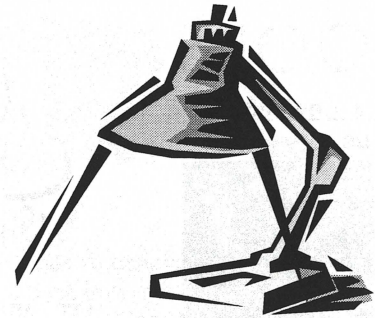


# Confessions of a Late Bloomer



Naked in a Room Full of Strangers.

By Randy Siegel



It sounded more like a sex party than a course in intimacy, but my friends insisted I do it. Still skeptical, I signed up.

I had heard of "Body Electric" ever since I came out six years ago. In fact, I had dated a man who had been a course assistant, and he wasn't so hot in bed.

Even though I knew of it, I wasn't sure what it was. After sending in my deposit, I wasn't any more enlightened about what lay ahead.

Several weeks later, I received a letter confirming my registration. In it, I was given detailed instructions on how to prepare.

Among other things, I was not to do drugs or drink booze before or during the workshop. No sweat, I thought. Then I read the next paragraph.

"Please do not ejaculate within 24 hours of the start of the course, or during the weekend." Now they were going too far!

On the morning of the class, I was anxiously driving to the midtown motel the workshop would be held in. Embarrassed, I looked away when I asked the clerk which room the Body Electric course was in.

As I walked to the back on the motel, a handsome man about my age joined me. "Going to the Body Electric workshop, too?" he asked. Things were looking up.

The room was a generic motel banquet room; about 20 men were milling about. I began inspecting my fellow students imaging how each would look without clothes.

As we talked, I found most of the participants were as nervous as I was. Like me, few knew what to expect other than at some point we would have to strip.

I am far from modest, but something is far different about taking your clothes off in a class. Plus, I was afraid I might get an erection, or worse, shoot off and get kicked out of the class.

The instructor, a trained therapist, invited us to sit in a circle on the floor. Fully clothed, we introduced ourselves, then the teacher outlined our day.

A collective sigh of relief was sounded when he mentioned we wouldn't get naked until later. We would get to know each other better first.

By the time we did strip, I was ready. I had bonded with each man in my class and was relieved to learn the room was an "erection-friendly" zone.

We were placed in random groups of four, and a bandanna was placed on one man in each group's shoulder. That man was instructed to present the bandanna to the group and ask them to massage off his clothes.

My group consisted of a handsome young man in his late 20s, a heavy set

man in his 40s, a well-toned 60 year-old man and me. The young man held out the green bandanna. After blindfolding him, we lovingly caressed him while gently slipping his

t-shirt over his head.

Slowly and respectfully we took off the rest of his clothes. They seemed to melt away from his body. When he was naked, it was another man's turn.

I was the last in my group to have my clothes removed. By then, all my anxiety had disappeared. I totally trusted the men in my small group.

Once my blindfold was removed, I looked around the room. All of us, including the instructor, were naked.

Some of us were fat, others skinny; a few were hairy and others were smooth. Some worked out, but most did not. Our dicks came in all shapes and sizes. Some dicks were hard while others were soft.

We were the *body eclectic*, not the *body electric*. I could now be with these men for who they were and not how they looked.

Over the next day and half, we used breath, ritual, movement and touch to explore our and each others' bodies. Through these exercises, we could examine our attitudes on sex.

I realized I had always equated ejaculation with sex. The way I performed sex paralleled the way I lived life: I placed more value on the destination than I did on the journey to get there.

Sex, I now saw, was about connection, creativity and communication. By using mind, body and heart, sex was more erotic and I could forge stronger bonds sexually with others and myself.

Once the seminar was over, I had to agree my friends were right. Being naked with a room full of strangers had taught me what intimacy is truly about.

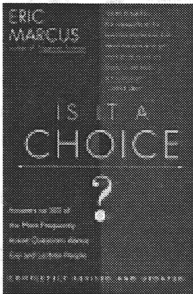
**Randy Siegel is an Asheville, NC-based writer and speaker who specializes in the challenges of coming out later in life. He can be reached through The Voice or at [redacted]. This article was submitted to The Voice by Randy Siegel.**

**Peter D. Martel**  
Chartered Accountant  
Phone: 519-741-1851  
Fax: 519-741-9451



# BOOKS

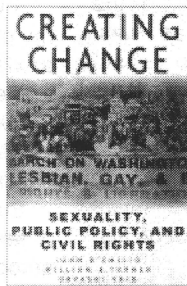
**Is It a Choice?** by Eric Marcus



There Is No Such Thing As a Stupid Question. In this newly revised edition, Eric Marcus provides insightful, no-nonsense answers to hundreds of the most commonly asked questions about homosexuality. Offering frank insight on everything you've always wanted-and needed-to know about same-gender relationships, coming out, family roles, politics, and much more, including: How do you know if you're gay or lesbian? What should you do if your child is gay or lesbian? Do gay parents raise gay children? If you think a friend is gay or lesbian, what should you say? Why do gay men and women want to get married? What does the Bible say about homosexuality?



**Creating Change : Sexuality, Public Policy, and Civil Rights**  
by John D'Emilio (Editor), William B. Turner (Editor), Urvashi Vaid (Editor)

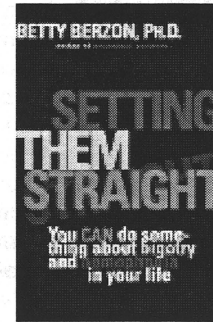


Creating Change tells the story behind some of the most bitterly contested and controversial public events and public policy battles in the past generation and possibly in American history. In the thirty years since the

Stonewall Inn riots marked the beginning of the modern gay and lesbian movement, there has been a dramatic change in the texture of gay and lesbian life and in its relationship to American society. Despite an apparently deepening conservative hold upon national and state politics, this shift has been as extensive - over a comparable period of time - as that witnessed in race and gender relations.

Creating Change traces the work and gauges the impact of the gay and lesbian movement since Stonewall. It explores a critically significant, though often ignored, area in which change has occurred - the world of public policy making, especially at the level of the federal government - and scrutinizes the who, how, why, and what of it. A work of scholarship and a work of passion, it recounts how a specific constituency - gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans - were able to make tremendous progress despite seemingly insurmountable barriers. Creating Change is the story of the way in which the American political and cultural landscape became what it is today and how social change is brought about.

**Setting Them Straight : You Can Do Something About Bigotry and Homophobia in Your Life**  
by Betty Berzon



A psychotherapist presents an innovative approach to confronting the discrimination faced by gay and lesbian individuals that reveals why people hate, how to channel anger, the origins of prejudice, and how to prevail in homophobic situations.

While I was in the USA 2 years ago I purchased this book and found it to be really good. Dr. Berzon gives some good tips on how to deal with the different people one is likely to come up against regarding homosexuality. Of course not every situation will be like those described, nevertheless its suggestions can help you to formulate your own responses. I would have preferred to see a few more methods in dealing with religious fanatics since we have plenty of zealots here in this country too. There was one section in dealing with a homophobic co-worker which was quite good but yet not everyone has a boss that looks the other way. What can one do if both your co-workers and boss are bigots? This is difficult indeed. Fortunately Israel is somewhat more liberal than the US in that we have laws which protect one's rights in the workplace, as well as the home and during compulsory military service. Sadly not everywhere in the world are gays protected by law.

"I did not know Elton John was gay - I did not know anything about his personal life. Being that he is gay, I think it made a statement saying he understood where I was coming from."  
Eminem




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**Anonymous HIV Drop-In Clinics:**  
 Cambridge, 150 Main Street, 2nd floor; Mon. 1 pm to 4 pm  
 Waterloo, 99 Regina St. S., 2nd floor; Wed. 9 am to 3:30 pm  
 Kitchener, ACCKWA, 85 Frederick St., Thurs. 4 pm to 7 pm

For more information 883-2251

Waterloo Region Community Health Department AIDS/STD Program  
 or ACCKWA, The AIDS Committee 570-3687

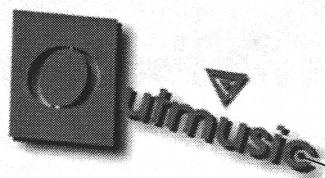


## OUTMUSIC Announces 2001 OMA AWARD WINNERS

**March 1, 2001 - New York** – **OUTMUSIC**, the organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered musicians, announces the recipients of the 1st Annual **OUTMUSIC MEMBERS CHOICE AWARDS** -- the OMAs. OMA categories are: Outstanding New Re-

ording (2000 releases), Outstanding Legacy Recording (releases prior to 2000); Outstanding Live Performer; Outstanding Songwriter; Outstanding Support (non-musical); and the organization's highest award, **OUT-MUSICIAN of the Year**.

The OMA Awards recognize excellence in recordings, live performance, support, songwriting and LGBT cultural working by **OUTMUSIC** members. In



a series of ballots, members selected the recipients, making the OMAs a true peer award, honoring success on a scale other major industry awards may overlook. OMA recipients are recognized not only for their artistic excellence but also for their participation in the organization and their efforts on behalf of gay musicians everywhere.

Quite by accident, the OMAs arrive at a time when the words "gay" and "music" swirl in the mainstream culture. Conceived long before anyone saw the recent controversies the 2001 music industry has endured and inspired, the OMAs are perhaps the strongest response by the gay community. The OMAs seek to raise awareness of LGBT music by recognizing those musicians from within our community who are actively working to make a difference and preserve LGBT culture.

### The 2001 OUTMUSIC AWARDS are presented to:

Outstanding New Recording: *GWEN AVERY* (Sugar Mama), San Francisco, <http://www.gwenavery.com>.

Outstanding Legacy Recording: (2 OMAs) *DAN MARTIN & MICHAEL BIELLO* (Human Being, 1992), Philadelphia/New York *ROBERT URBAN* (Elegies, 1999), New York, <http://www.roberturban.com>.

Outstanding Live Performer: *ROBERT URBAN*, New York, <http://www.roberturban.com>.

Outstanding Songwriter: *JON GILBERT LEAVITT*, New York, <http://www.geocities.com/jgleavitt>

Outstanding Support: *DANIEL JENKINS* (Outvoice), San Francisco, <http://www.outvoice.com>

OUTMUSICIAN of the Year: *DEIAN McBRYDE*, New York, <http://www.mollyboy.com>.

### Congratulations to the 2001 OMA RECIPIENTS!

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

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## COMMUNITY GROUPS

### SUNDAYS

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

**AWARE K-W:** Aware K-W. A discussion and support group for gay Christians, their parents and friends who have been disillusioned by the church's often negative approach to homosexuality. We meet the 4th Sunday of every month. For more information call Gary at [REDACTED] or Ada at [REDACTED].  
Email [REDACTED]

**KW-Friends of Dorothy,** 10 Pin Cosmic Bowling - Sundays at 3:15 pm at Brunswick Bowling Lanes - Frederick St. Mall. For more information contact Katherine at [REDACTED] or Mark at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

### MONDAYS

**The Lesbian Discussion Group** returns in March. For more information call [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] email: [REDACTED]  
[www.thevoice.on.ca](http://www.thevoice.on.ca) [Lesbian Groups](#)

### 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](mailto:gqe@uoguelph.ca) for details.

**The Rainbow Community Conversation Group** Now meets on Tuesdays in Hagey Hall (UofW) at 7pm. For more information call 884-GLOW.

### WEDNESDAYS

**Hamilton Coming Out Proud Discussion Group** meets every first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings start at 6:30 pm. Call us for more details: 905-526-1074, toll-free 1-888-338-8278 - [info@gomorrah.com](mailto:info@gomorrah.com)

**Rainbow Chorus:** Holds rehearsals every Wednesday Night. The first rehearsal of the new season is Wednesday September 6th, 7:30-9:30 pm at the Guelph Unitarian Fellowship, 122 Harris St. at York Rd., Guelph. For more information call Robert at [REDACTED] or [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

**GLOW's Coming Out Discussion Groups** explore issues in sexual orientation; Modern Languages Rm 104, University of Waterloo, 7:30-9:00 pm. Information: 884-4569. **A social gathering follows the discussion groups weekly from 9pm to 11pm.**

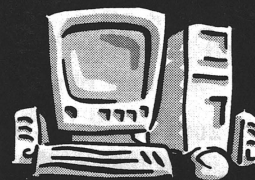
**GLOW's Coming Out Discussion Groups** explore issues in sexual orientation; Hagey Hall, University of Waterloo, 7:30-9:00 pm. Information: 884-4569. **A social gathering follows the discussion groups weekly from 9pm to 11pm.**

**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]

**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. 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Hamilton AIDS Network, 512 James St. N. For further details, please call (905) 528-0207 ext.43, or e-mail: [htspsg@gto.net](mailto:htspsg@gto.net) <http://home.golden.net/~kcr/htspsg/htspsg.html>



THE VOICE ONLINE

[www.thevoice.on.ca](http://www.thevoice.on.ca)

## Waterloo-Wellington Regional Pride Annual Rainbow Directory

*Will be available by the end of March.*

It will be distributed in Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge, Guelph, Brantford and Hamilton wherever you pick up your monthly Voice Magazine.

If you wish a copy mailed to you (at mailing cost only) call 743-5015 or email [wrrp@rainbow.on.ca](mailto:wrrp@rainbow.on.ca)



# COMMUNITY LISTINGS

## 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

**Coffee Club** - Attention: Lesbian and Gays - If you like to drink coffee and just chat but you don't feel like there is anyplace to go where you can just be yourself, now there is. For more information call - Peter at [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.

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

**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 Leslie at [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]. In Guelph call Debbie at [REDACTED]

Want to add a resource?  
Contact The Voice today!

## GUELPH

**ACGWC** (Aids Committee of Guelph and Wellington County) 2 Quebec St, Suite 206, 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  
www.uoguelph.ca/~outline

**Rainbow Chorus:** is a choir that performs and will also be hosting dances for the LGBT community 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

## 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 - Wednesdays 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. 905-546-3541-Hamilton General Hospital Outpatient Dept. Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. 905-546-3541

**Community Education 546-3541** to book a presentation or consultation

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

**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-[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: 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

**Kindred Spirits:** a social and recreational group for lesbians and bi-sexual women in the Hamilton/Burlington/Niagara area. (905) 541-[REDACTED]@hotmail.com

**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-[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 Secretary - Ron at [REDACTED] or phone (905) [REDACTED]

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

## 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.

To find out more information about anything else happening in Brantford email: [REDACTED]@yahoo.ca

## CAMBRIDGE

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



## Classifieds

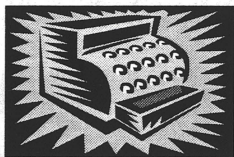
### PERSONALS

Want to connect with others or that potential someone special? Your ad could be here!

### Community Listings

If you have a group or event that you would like to have listed in our Community Listings please let us know! Likewise if you have any new information for your group or event contact us so we can keep things right up to date.

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## *The Voice Welcomes Your Submissions*

If you have something you'd like to submit, please write, email, or phone us today.

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Kitchener, Ontario  
N2M [REDACTED]

Phone: (519) [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

**The Voice Magazine is On Line at:**

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

## Waterloo-Wellington Regional Pride *Pride 2001: Imagine Be a Dreamer!*

*Plans are well underway for this year's Pride Celebration. Volunteers are always both needed and welcome. If you'd like to get involved and come out to a Pride-Planning meeting please call us at 743-5015 or email us at [wwrp@rainbow.on.ca](mailto:wwrp@rainbow.on.ca) for time and location of up-coming meetings.*

Voice Classified Ads cost \$15.00 a month. Advertise your product or services to the LGBT community. Do you have something you'd like to sell? Are you looking for that someone special or want to make new friends or start a new group? Voice Classifieds are a great way to let others know about your product, service, merchandise for sale, or your new group.

If you'd like to place a classified ad our deadline is the 20th of each month.

[REDACTED]  
Mailing address is at top of page



**March Is Epilepsy  
Awareness Month**

**Epilepsy:  
Building Understanding**

**March 24, 2001  
10am-4pm**

**Calvary United Church**

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Epilepsy Waterloo-Wellington  
741 King St. W., Kitchener  
(519) 743-2112



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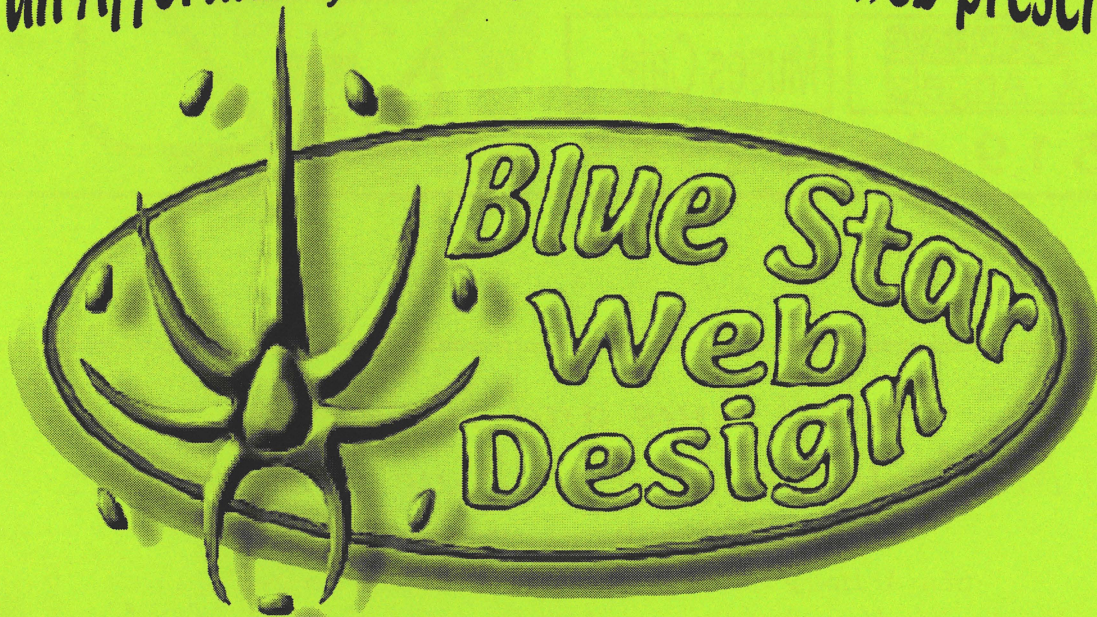
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