

# Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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



## *The Voice*

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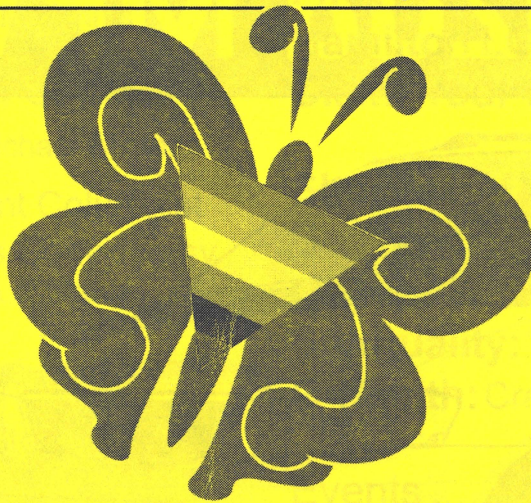
# The Voice

Serving the  
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South Central/Western Ontario

Volume Three

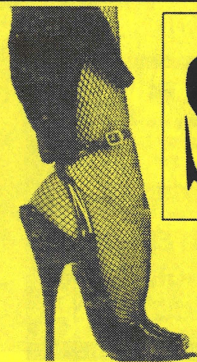
April 2001

Issue Seven



A New Way to  
Erase Internalized  
Homophobia  
See Page 8

This month  
The Voice highlights  
the issue of homophobia



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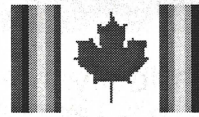
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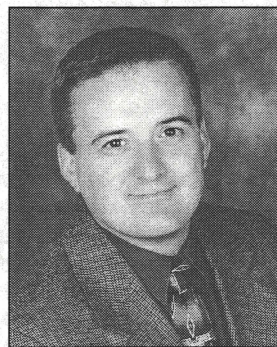
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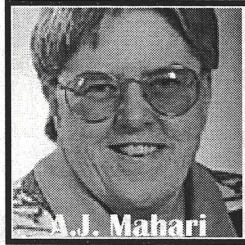
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# FIRST WORDS

## Words and Responsibility in a Homophobic World



**Editor: Ms. A.J. Mahari**

**Copy Editor: Shelley Durocher**

Ad Graphics  
Pride Album &  
Web Links: Lyn McGinnis

Advertising &  
Web Site: A.J. Mahari

Business Consultant: Darren Kregar

### Voice Columnists:

Judy Saltarelli  
Noel Springwood  
Bonnie J. Babin  
Darren Kregar  
A.J. Mahari  
Charles W. Westfall  
Dr. Jeffery Chernin

### April Contributors:

Michael Alvear  
Randy Seigel  
Gary Terpstra  
Warren J. Blumenfeld

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Each one of us must take personal responsibility for ourselves, our actions and our words.

This responsibility is inherent in our communication to others. Whether you are speaking formally or informally, the words that you choose will often say a lot more about you than what you are actually trying to say. Word choice is always important, but for a writer word choice is crucial. When a writer fails to take seriously the responsibility that word choice plays in the conveying of a message, then clearly that writer is shirking responsibility.

Writers write. They put out what they think or feel, what they have experienced, and/or what they have researched. Readers not only read, but they also interpret. Some meaning is inevitably lost to inter-

pretation in any written work. This is why it is so important for a writer to make a point clear. Misinformation, misinterpretation and miscommunication will result if the writer fails to accurately convey an intended message through skilled, respectful word choice.

Allowing for the fact that no writer can predict how accurately any reader will receive the intended message, there are some words that are just better left alone when communicating to a particular audience. A case in point: recently, in an Imprint (the University of Waterloo Newspaper) article, the writer of a column called "Outlook", a column about queer life, culture and issues decided to use the word "deviant" without any preface or developed context (see page 14).

Many would agree that this word is not appropriate when speaking about queer life due to the pejorative connotation that it has long held in general usage. Others would argue that a word is just a word and that it is the person who objects to it who has the "problem." I disagree. I think that poor or ill-advised word choice is irresponsible and can be damaging. I also believe that in this example, the use of the word "deviant" in reference to homosexuality, in a column with a very large heterosexual readership, is sending a mixed message. A message which has great potential to further fuel homophobia.

Homophobia exists externally. We internalize it in so many different ways and for so many different reasons. Some of those ways are so subtle that we may not be aware of much of what we have or what we continue to internalize. The same can be said for how internalized homophobia is directed outward. It can be directed outward just as unconsciously as it was originally internalized in the first place.

Homophobia is still a reality. We need to be sensitively aware of this. It is not only many straight people who need to overcome their homophobia but also many who are LGBT. We must choose our words responsibly to ensure that we are not speaking from our own internalized homophobia and that we are not adding to already existing homophobia.

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

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## HAVE YOUR SAY

In response to Shades of Grey: The Spirit of Voice (Jan 2000), I simply want to personally thank A.J. Mahari for writing this piece. I left Toronto's village to find my voice in the interstices of academe. Last night, I finished reading Adrienne Rich's ON LIES, SECRETS, AND SILENCE. I was applying it to my personal search for 'finding voice', when tonight while I was sharing my research on Gay and Lesbian History as part of our campus' Ally Network, my voice was squashed by a participant. I lost my train of thought and went back into my former self; a common out-of-body experience from childhood where I had no voice and my words were worthless. Although the challenger apologized for their words of disrespect, I am still reeling in my silence. Unable to sleep and weary from a much needed 'good cry', I sought words of comfort via the internet, as my faith is so minimal in the spiritual. Thank you for a glimmer of hope in my time of need and healing. Thank you for reminding me of my place in 'community'.

Michael Best  
Mount Allison University

In response to the "Lesbian Embrace of All Things Ugly", (March 2001) give me a break! Who does that guy think he is? Show me a gay man with a sense of anything but patriarchal-driven "beauty" and I'll eat my hat! A.J. I think you blew it publishing that. Come on, woman, whose side are you on anyway?

Marg Pittman - Hamilton

## 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 [REDACTED]@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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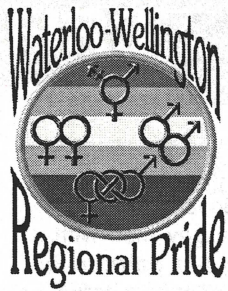
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## Waterloo-Wellington Regional Pride Up-Date

By Audrey Charbonneau

### CLUB RENAISSANCE FUND RAISERS

**"SHAMROCKIN" ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY** - Roll me over in the clover, what a GREAT turn out to the St. Paddy's Celebration on March 17th. "Party till the wee hours" was the aim of the Irish and the Irish-wannabes drinking green beer and Horny Irish Monkeys. Lots of giveaways and plenty of fun. The place was packed and some patrons even got a jump start on the Pridewear jewellery sales.

"Thanks" go out to our great Volunteers - Philip, Joseph, Paul and Richard and our Sponsors - Waterloo Region Community Health, Generation X, Angie's Kitchen, K-W Books, Grabbajabba, GoodLife Fitness Clubs, Muses Cafe. Hats off to Club Renaissance for their continual support.

**The NEXT Club Renaissance Party & Fund Raiser, RESURRECTION WEEKEND** will be on SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH. Keep THIS Saturday open to hunt for some sweet bunny. Bounce into Spring and come swing at the "Ren" for a night of fun, fun, fun. Help sponsor "Pride 2001 - Imagine: Be a Dreamer!" simply by attending this great gala and dancing the night away. We'll be looking forward to seeing you there.

### MUSES CAFE FUND RAISERS

**"AN EVENING WITH GREG UPSHAW"** The March 21st fundraiser at Muses Cafe was a delightful evening in this intimate and cosy setting. "Many Thanks" to Greg Upshaw, Mark Irschick, Rickie Neu and those great of Muses Cafe Dave Bell & Dan Des Rosiers for sponsoring this event. Greg Upshaw played acoustic guitar and sang soulful original tunes as well as

old favourites by Elton John, Sara McLachlan and Joni Mitchell just to name a few. Mark Irschick accompanied with guitar, flute and backup vocals, while Rickie Neu added the heart-beat rhythm on congas. The cafe filled quickly with patrons sipping from gigantic mugs and cups, enjoying oversized bowls of soup and wraps and tapping along to the easy listening tunes in an atmosphere reminiscence of old coffee house days. I look forward to coming to more of these evenings.

### "REMOVABLE RED"

Two grrrls, 2 guitars and occasional drums equal a body grooving good time. "Removable Red" starring Sara Dillon and Connie Buna are coming to Muses Cafe on April 25th. Yes you read right, Sara Dillon and Connie Buna will be performing at Muses to add their support to Pride 2001. I enjoyed Sara's Pride 1999 performance and look forward to seeing and hearing her again with Connie...an added bonus. If this keeps up I may be spending many hours at Muses.

### WHOLISTIC HEALTH SHOP JUICE BAR & LOUNGE - GREG UPSHAW PERFORMANCE

On Wednesday April 18th from 8-10pm Greg Upshaw will be performing in the lounge situated in the back of Wholistic Health at 119 King St. W, at Ontario Street, (kitty-corner to City Hall where parking is a dollar) in downtown Kitchener. Wholistic juice drinks are tempting, tasty treats that are well-worth trying. There is also a selection of wraps, soup, bagels, salads and more for both the adventurous and the health conscious. Join us for an evening of superb talent and entertainment.

### PROUD TO PERFORM AT PRIDE

**2001** - Back by popular demand, Greg Upshaw, Sara Dillon & Connie Buna are going to perform at this year's Pride Event, June 9th on Roo's Island, Victoria Park, Kitchener. We are most fortunate to have so much great local talent.

Our Pride Celebration would not be complete without Chris Edwards and Drew. Queen for more than a day, our Royals will be working their cute buns off to give us an outstanding performance.

Jack-of-all-Trades and Master of Ceremonies, Jason Gamble will again be keeping the party rocking as the MC.

### NEW VICE CHAIRPERSON & ENTERTAINMENT COORDINATOR

I am pleased to announce that Lyn McGinnis is our new Vice Chairperson. Lyn has also stepped in to organizing the entertainment portion of the Pride Celebration. Lyn's eye for detail and artistic flair will ensure that we will be in for a great time. Lyn has already proved to be invaluable in his trade as a Graphic artist. He has not only designed our logo but has done all the graphic work in the latest edition of the *Annual Rainbow Directory 2001*.

### RAINBOW CHORUS

Robert Miller has stepped down from the Vice Chair position to dedicate more time to the Rainbow Chorus as they are getting into their busy season. We would like to Thank Bob for his help and will continue to work with him and the Rainbow Chorus on upcoming events. The Rainbow Chorus is planning wonderful things. Watch next month for details.

## MARK YOUR CALENDER

APRIL 2001

**Currently** Annual Rainbow Directory 2001, available where you get the Voice -- pick one up at Pride 2001 or go to our web site to view it in PDF file format.

**Canusa** Pet Food & Products Fund Raiser

**Pridewear** jewellery on sale at Fund Raisers or contact WWRP

**April 1st** 69 days till Pride 2001

**April 11** WWRP Meeting, 7:00pm at Wholistic Health

**April 14** Club Renaissance - Resurrection Weekend

**April 18** Wholistic Health Shop Juice Bar & Lounge - Greg Upshaw

**April 25** Muses Cafe - "Removable Red"

**April 30** WWRP Meeting, 7:00pm at Wholistic Health

To contact WWRP call (519) 743 [redacted] or email - [wwrp@rainbow.on.ca](mailto:wwrp@rainbow.on.ca) [www.rainbow.on.ca](http://www.rainbow.on.ca)

### WHAT PRIDE MEANS

Have you ever gone to Pride? Which ones? What did you think of them? What did you like? What would you like to see or do differently?

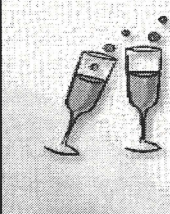
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# RESURRECTION WEEKEND!

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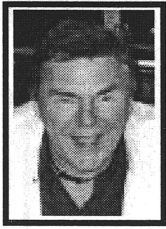
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## Community: A Dream, A Nightmare Or An Awakening Reality

By Charles W. Westfall



Sex, suds and smoke will neither build nor sustain a long term relationship. They do much less to sustain that elusive reality we so glibly call community.

With at least overt attacks against Queers diminishing and positive legislation and education evolving, the things that have driven the LGBT Communities are themselves weakening.

What is resulting is more and more assimilation into the mainstream of society.

Often ghettos, like the Church/Wellesly Village in Toronto, or ghetto mentalities, promoted by widely available Queer oriented products and services, give the illusion that the LGBT Communities are much stronger. The truth is that there is probably more diversity within them than around them.

Having lived most of my life in a structured community situation, I have learned the hard way that to build and sustain a community demands a constant and consistent effort. It requires an infrastructure of common interest, purpose and perception that can support a superstructure of organization,

mobilization and direction.

I do not suggest that this can't happen in individual cases or circumstances. It often does with remarkably positive and far-reaching results. At the same time, the energy required to make such common effort an ongoing part of our lives seems to wane easily.

Like any community, the LGBT Communities have their share of movers and shakers, givers and takers, generals, drones and hangers-on. I fear that all too often it is the weaker element that prevails.

In saying that, I do not intend to put down those who enjoy the bars and baths. At the same time, I have to wonder about those whose main purpose in life seems to be anonymous sex, cheap highs and empty promises.

More and more of us are avoiding that kind of pretence for a quality life built on long term relationships, true friendship and a healthy lifestyle. For better or for worse, that translates into assimilation for the most part. By way of example, I like to refer to a remarkable poster published by the On-

tario Federation of Labour. It shows photos of about 20 men and women above a caption that reads, "Pick out the homosexual." The answer, as you might expect, is that they all are.

The trend to assimilation is strengthened by the increased visibility of Queers in sports, entertainment and politics. Moreover, stereotypes are being discarded more and more every day.

There are numerous support groups and service agencies. Opportunities for interaction and communication abound. There are many selfless individuals who use their talents and resources to support, encourage and challenge those who will pay attention, straights and queers alike. The ongoing efforts to raise funds for worthy causes is both legendary and laudatory.

The trend to assimilation seems to raise a serious question about how differences are perceived and handled. In short, in spite of the need for continued support for individuals who may be having difficulty accepting their sexual orientation, why do we have to promote the perception that we are different? The fight for equality seems to be based far more on commonality and common interests. To pretend that it is anything else seems to me to beg the question.

Ghettos are exclusive. Communities are inclusive.

At the same time, we can in no way end the struggle for equal rights and social acceptance. That will, in some cases, be a never ending effort. Moreover, if LGBT's and Queers, who include even more categories, want to live up to the name Community, they'll have to find more to hold them together than sex, smoke and suds. We do have a choice in the current state of social evolution, whether our communities are dreams, nightmares or awakening realities.

There may well be those who take exception to these observations; but, that's the way it looks to me, from Hamilton.

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

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## DR. LAURA DUMPED

"Dr. Laura": R.I.P.

In the end, Dr. Laura Schlessinger's ill-fated TV show went out in the most unlikely of ways for the big-mouthed host: quietly.

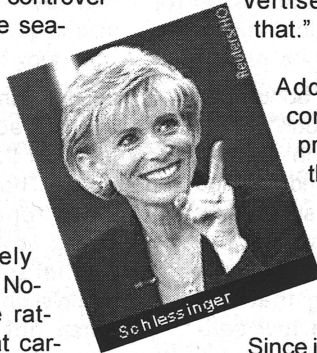
Paramount announced Friday that it has pulled the plug on the controversial Dr. Laura after just one season, with the final episode taped this week. The studio says the show might run through the fall before disappearing for good.

The announcement merely confirmed the inevitable. In November, facing minuscule ratings, the CBS stations that carried Dr. Laura in several major markets banished the show from its cushy afternoon time slot to the predawn nether-hours, effectively sealing its demise.

Said Schlessinger in a statement: "I have mixed feelings about the show ending after one season. On the one hand, I'm relieved, because taping a

one-hour show for television and then doing three live hours of radio every day was exhausting. On the other hand, I'm very proud of the show and sad we won't continue.

"We set out to create a program that offered daytime audiences a true alternative and we succeeded. I believe it could have earned a substantial audience in time, but the television advertiser boycott precluded that."



Added Paramount: "We commend Dr. Laura, her producers and staff for their desire to create an alternative program for daytime viewers, and are proud of their efforts to do so."

Since its September debut Dr. Laura has struggled through adversity. It was initially targeted by gay-rights activists for Schlessinger's alleged homophobia (she's called gays "deviant" and "biological errors" on her radio show), then Dr. Laura cut its advertising rates after major corporations pulled ads from the show. Facing advertiser backlash, ever-dwindling ratings and charges of anti-gay bias, the

show was subsequently canceled by its Canadian distributor.

**The cancellation was applauded by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation**, one of Dr. Laura's loudest bashers.

GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry said, "Well, the people have decided. Viewers and advertisers alike have decided that when given a choice, they will choose to reject those who advocate intolerance and advance an agenda of exclusion.

*"We have held Laura Schlessinger accountable for her defamation of our community. And we've sent a strong message that we are no longer an easy target for prejudice."*

With her TV days done, Schlessinger will concentrate her efforts on her hugely successful syndicated radio show. The morality-minded, advice-spewing personality (her doctorate is in physiology) draws more than 18 million listeners on more than 400 North American radio stations.

[http://entertainment.msn.com/news/eonline/040301\\_drlaura.asp](http://entertainment.msn.com/news/eonline/040301_drlaura.asp)

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# CLAIM YOUR POWER



## A New Way to Erase Internalized Homophobia

by Judy Saltarelli Neal



How do you feel about your sexual orientation? Are you ok with it? Or are you struggling to accept yourself in some way? How do you feel about coming out? Where did these feelings come from? What can you do to change them if they are negative?

Our thoughts and feelings about our sexual orientation, whatever that orientation may be, reflect the contents of "the writing on our walls"—the messages we absorbed from our parents, siblings, friends, teachers, religious leaders and other important people in our lives, the media, and the "gender script" of the society into which we were born. Those messages may have been etched directly by others, or we may have written them on our own walls ourselves, based on our interpretation of others' words or actions.

If your parents had an open, accepting attitude toward sexuality and the full spectrum of the expression of sexual orientation, chances are good that the writing on your walls is supportive and nonjudgmental. Most likely, it wasn't difficult for you to come out, and you may be quite comfortable with who you really are.

On the other hand, if they made snide remarks about members of the queer community or expressed or demonstrated outright hostility or fear, you will have very different messages inscribed on your mind's walls. You may be plagued by considerable self-doubt or even self-loathing. You may have experienced great pain in coming out, or you may still be deeply hidden in the closet.

The writing on our walls has a lot of information that is extremely valuable. For example, it contains data about what is safe and unsafe ("run if you see a saber-toothed tiger!" versus

"kittens are so adorable"), about how to get along with others ("don't cut in line") and so on. Much of this information is automatic, and enables us to function well without spending a lot of time thinking about the appropriate course of action. Our walls may also contain writing that can create unhappiness and low self-esteem.

In order to become more comfortable with your sexual orientation, you will have to change the writing on your walls. The first step is to write down all those messages. List all of your beliefs about sexual orientation, especially the negative ones. Also try writing down positive beliefs about being queer and listen for the "tail-enders" (the 'yeah but' messages that will inevitably follow). Those are your true negative beliefs. Don't "get into" those beliefs and memories—just note what they are. If you can't stay a bit detached from these beliefs, find a counsellor to help you do this exercise.

The next step is to erase these negative beliefs one by one and replace them with positive affirmations. There are a number of different ways to do this.

The fastest and most effective method of changing negative beliefs I have found is a type of emotional acupressure called Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT). I use it extensively with my individual clients and in the workshops I conduct. I never cease to be amazed by the gentle power of EFT.

EFT, which was developed by Gary Craig and Adrienne Fowlie, involves holding a troubling thought in mind while tapping lightly on a series of acupressure points on your own body. Gary believes that all negative emotions are caused by energy disruptions, and that these energy

disruptions can be removed by tapping on selected acupressure points while focusing on the negative emotion or memory. Therapists who are using EFT are reporting success rates averaging 80% or higher. There's a lot of therapeutic art involved in achieving such high success rates, and you may not have quite so much success if you're working alone. However, with a bit of sleuthing and perseverance, you can get quite good results.

Here's an example of how EFT works. Let's take a stereotypically negative comment about gays/lesbians to use as a sample of the writing you may have on your walls. Imagine that your parent frequently said: "all gays/lesbians are bad". (You can substitute your own message instead if you like.)

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First, on a scale of 0 to 10, rate the level of distress you feel when you revisit that thought. A zero means no distress at all, and 10 the most distress you can imagine. Write down your number.

Next, select a reminder phrase to use while you tap on your acupressure points. It could be "this belief" or "gays are bad" or whatever else serves to help you hold the longer thought concept in mind while you tap.

Now do the Set-Up: Tap briskly on the 'karate chop' point of your non-dominant hand (the fleshy part of the side of the hand that would connect with a piece of wood you were trying to break with a karate chop) with three fingers of your dominant hand while saying out loud: "even though I have this belief that gays/lesbians are bad, I deeply and completely accept myself." Keep tapping briskly while saying this three times.

Next, do the tapping sequence. This involves tapping with your index and middle fingers on a series of acupressure points on your head and upper body. Tap lightly but briskly 5 – 7 times on each spot. You may tap on either your left side or your right side, whichever ever feels best for you. Repeat your reminder phrase out loud each time you move to a new acupressure spot.

The seven-step shortcut sequence used in EFT is: [1] inner edge of eyebrow (near the bridge of the nose), [2] outer edge of the eyebrow, [3] cheekbone (on the top edge of the bony ridge just under the centre of your eye), [4] under your nose (midway between the bottom of your nose and your upper lip), [5] on your chin (in the indentation half way between your lower lip and the edge of your chin), [6] collarbone point (just below the central knob of either your left or right collarbone and [7] under arm (about 4" - 5" below your armpit). Repeat this entire sequence (1 through 7) at least one more time.

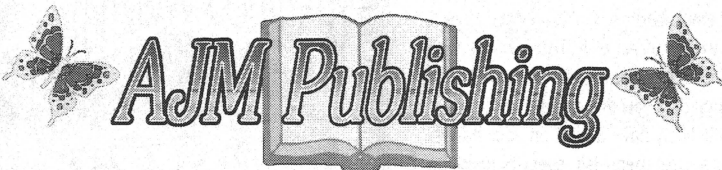
Now rate your level of distress again and compare it to the number you wrote down before you began tapping. Most likely it will be a bit (or a lot) lower. If it is higher than zero, do the set-up again, but change the wording to "even though I STILL have some of this belief that gays/lesbians are bad, I deeply and completely accept myself." Then do some more rounds of the sequence, changing your reminder phrase to "remaining feeling," and check your level of distress again. Usually it will have decreased to a 1 or 0 by now. If it hasn't, check to see if you are actually measuring the same feeling as you were before. Sometimes, when we release one

negative feeling another one pops up to be dealt with and we still "feel bad." You can go ahead and follow the same procedure for this new belief or feeling—just rate your level of distress on it and change your set-up and reminder phrases accordingly.

If the short-cut routine doesn't work, it may mean that you need to use the full EFT routine, or that you haven't defined the aspect to be treated accurately. Experiment with different wordings for your set-up and reminder phrases. Gary Craig has very generously placed on his EFT website detailed instructions for the full EFT routine and a free manual you can download and print ([www.emofree.com](http://www.emofree.com)).

Keep tapping away at the negative beliefs you listed, create positive new affirmations and repeat them frequently, and you may find that your internalized homophobia has greatly diminished or even disappeared! You may also find that you gradually develop more insight into your family dynamics and the wonderful options available to you. This is what 'emotional freedom' is all about.

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



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# Internalized Homophobia:



## The Enemy From Within

By Lyn McGinnis



Internalized homophobia is our true enemy. Whatever our Christian and other enemies do can't compare with how much damage we do to ourselves. We were all brought up in a homophobic culture. The first act of freeing ourselves is acknowledging we are homophobic and working towards breaking it hold on us.

This hateful legacy is diffuse. It lies hidden away in a multitude of secretive pockets and layers throughout our being. This means our inner environment is poisoned.

No wonder we drink too much and in many other ways abuse ourselves! As bad as this behaviour is for us, there is a far worse way of responding to this situation - giving in! Coming Out is a lifelong process. Living the life of a LGBT person is just the start. Unless we see our internal landscape as the true arena for our struggle to become whole and honest human beings, we will always have a far greater enemy behind us than in front of us. The first act of self affirmation is to face this inner homophobia and cleanse ourselves.

With this measure of clarity, we can see the absurdity of supporting homophobic institutions and idea systems around us and work towards their destruction. Every time we speak out against the unexamined assumptions and undermine inherited ideas we contribute to the evolution of our culture. I recently saw the Brad Pitt film "Fight Club." In part, the film showed a group of persons organized to undermine the mainstream, consumer culture. Many scenes, including the climax at the end, could be seen as an anarchist's wet dream. With a thousand acts of subversion they challenged the status quo and displayed the power of a small group acting out of conviction against this bloated, complacent cow of a culture. While not an advocate of violence, I am convinced that if members of our community could deal with our internalized homophobia, we could change the world! Our problem is many continue to carry around and even support and promote the very homophobia we need to fight.

Many are watching the American remake of the British series "Queer as Folk." In a recent episode we saw one of the characters go through a great

deal of anguish thinking he had AIDS. When I had such an experience, I had been out for a while and certainly had a great deal of stress, but I never gave into internalized homophobia and renounced who I am. Unfortunately, in the television series, this character does. He is now the sad and humiliating spectacle of a gay man attending one of those "ex-gay" groups. There we find a group of self-loathing gays and lesbians, clearly in denial, pretending they are much happier now they are straight. The group is feeding on his hateful childhood religion of its members with its latent homophobia.

Part of freeing ourselves from homophobia involves critiquing all oppressions. They are all are forms of control within the context of an absurd, body-phobic culture. One aspect of this is our deep ambivalence around sexuality. It's as if we have decided it is a dangerous, vicious beast to be caged and only let out in extremely controlled circumstances. Truth is, it is just one more aspect of

being a whole, embodied person. It only becomes a monster when we are afraid of it. Those of you with dogs know if you pull on their leash every time they get near another dog you make them appear aggressive and will likely have a fight on your hands. If you just relax and let them visit, everything will be fine. When we are not afraid, we are relaxed, creative and spontaneous.

It has been my experience as a Bisexual and Transgender person, that I have had far more internalized homophobia to deal with than external homophobia. I took the time and energy to deeply examine where this energy came from within myself and how it was linked to my racism, sexism and the other inherited class and power-abuse concepts. Now I am very largely free of these energies. Whatever supported my internalized homophobia was treated the same as the homophobia itself. Nothing not supporting my living as a complete and whole person is allowed to cloud my inner landscape. There is always a remnant of course, but they are small and powerless leftovers.

Once I had largely worked through this process, I found others were less likely to challenge me.

Largely through words, I have now carried out a thousand acts of subversion against external homophobia. Given my internalized homophobia and classism are greatly diminished, there is very little anyone can do to stop me! My critics can see I am clear and at home with who I am.

I urge members of our community to engage in a similar process! Look for where you have mental contradictions and trace them back to their source. Your worst enemies are sitting inside you! If you keep to the rule that whatever does not harmonize with your core being is unwanted baggage, you will be on a path to freedom! Once you have rooted this inherited self hatred out, you will be much happier, healthier and more able to meet the challenges of this community head on.

*Lyn McGinnis, of Waterloo, is a web and graphic designer. His company is BlueStarWeb Design. He also does ad graphics for The Voice.*

**"If you keep to the rule that whatever does not harmonize with your core being is unwanted baggage, you will be on a path to freedom!"**

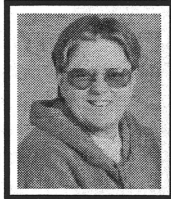
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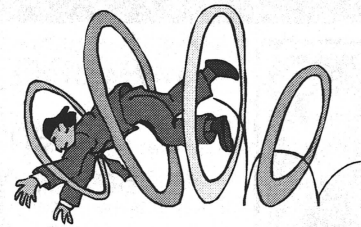
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# SHADES OF GREY



## Homophobia: The Enemy From Without

By Ms. A.J. Mahari



If internalized homophobia is our worst enemy it is a by-product of the world in which we live. External homophobia is as real an enemy as that which we internalize, no matter how much personal growth we may have achieved.

I would partially agree with my esteemed colleague, Lyn McGinnis, who points out, on the page opposite, that internalized homophobia is an enemy that lurks within us if we don't do the work necessary to overcome it.

However, in order for the "enemy within" to exist there has to be a source, other than self, that is feeding this enemy. I would argue that it is the enemy from without, a homophobic society riddled with right-wing religious fundamentalists who preach that their lifestyle is right and that ours is wrong.

While it is true that there is a lot that we can do from the inside out to take away the power or influence of the "enemy within," the fact remains that there is an effect from the constant rhetoric of religious zealots and other groups in society that simply refuse to give us

the unconditional personhood and equality to which we are entitled.

I believe very strongly that whether or not an individual is in a place inside that allows them to flourish for who they are in spite of any outward homophobia, we are all damaged to some degree each and every time some straight person doesn't "get it."

This is why it is so important to continue to speak out against any and all homophobia. And to do it in such a way that is respectful of ignorance and tolerant of hate. Lest we treat "them" the same as they treat "us." We may not change many minds but we need to be seen educating through the juxtaposition of their messages and ours. It isn't enough to just be okay yourself and think everything is fine. NO! There are too many

reasons to care. There are too many reasons to be a voice that counters the voices of hate, intolerance and homophobia. Those reasons include LGBT youth who may not yet feel secure in their own identities. Those reasons include those who for whatever reason are struggling to learn to like and, hopefully, eventually love themselves.

The enemy that is within is created by the enemy that is without. To some extent they are connected. Whether one wants to admit this or not, the reality is that as long as there is such hate, intolerance and homophobia *out there* there will be an effect for each of us inside.

As my esteemed colleague points out, he is clear about who he is and thus he feels he does not give as much room, if any, to those who would seek to shame him for his orientation and gender identification. I also believe that I am in a place where I have examined my own internalized homophobia as well. But the examination of our internalized homophobia does not in and of itself end this process. Underlying societal values are powerfully interwoven into the subconscious and it is at this level that the degree to which we could defeat homophobia based on our own inner work is questionable. Countering the constant bombardment of negative messages is an ongoing process. We have to work on the internal and the external in tandem and without the illusion that eliminating one will ever eradicate the other.

We have to understand that the degree to which our society is homophobic is the measure of how much our LGBT communities will reflect this homophobia. Seems to me it shows in how quick we are to oppress each other and in how fragmented our community remains.

**In order for the enemy of homophobia to exist within it has to come first from without. Homophobia is internalized through cultural messages. Our over-all culture still supports homophobic discrimination.**

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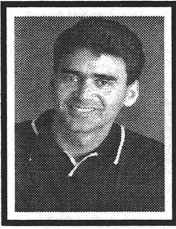
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# SLOUCHING THROUGH GOMORRAH



## Aging Disgracefully

### When Older Gay Men Betray Younger Gay Men

By Michael Alvear

Older gay men and younger gay men rarely talk to each other. We're like Italian salad dressing in the fridge. You can shake us all you want but eventually we'll lift, separate and retreat to separate halves of the bottle.

There's a reason for this and it's one of the most contentious, hurtful and polarizing issues in gay culture.

I always hated older gay men when I first came out. They made me nervous. In my early twenties, whenever I was introduced to an older man I always got the sense it wasn't my hand he wanted to shake.

When I was 24 I played in an out-of-town volleyball tournament. I stayed at the house of a man who volunteered his home to visiting players. He was 42. He was kind, generous and wise. On the flight home I realized he was the only "older" guy I had ever made friends with. Someone had finally broken through my belief that sex was the only thing older guys wanted.

A couple of weeks later my friend called to tell me he was coming into town on business. He sent me his itinerary, which hinted at unscheduled stops into my bedroom.

Thinking I was reading too much into it, I wrote him a quick note, decorously hinting at my own expectations of his visit. It went something like this:

"I can't wait to spend some time with you. You're the first older guy I've become friends with that didn't have a hidden sexual agenda. I just want you to know how much I appreciate that."

I never heard from him again. No response, no visit, no nothing. I went through my entire twenties without a single friendship with an older man. I felt manipulated by them. There were only two kinds of older men, as far as I was concerned: Those who made a pass at you and those who didn't.

Because they were more interested in your friends.

I couldn't even come close to charity

on the subject. Now that I'm over 40, I've had to come face to face with my own questionable behavior with younger guys.

I recently became friends with a 23 year old. We meet for coffee and talk on the phone a lot. He's sweet and playful, and lost and confused. He brings out the paternal in me. The problem is that's not the only thing he brings out.

One day he called and asked if he could come over. The guy he'd been dating dumped him and he needed to talk.

We were sitting in my living room couch when he suddenly started crying. I held him, my higher angels trying to shield him from the most familiar hurt in gay life.

But as he cried on my shoulder I could feel the heat of his skin on mine, and soon my higher angels were being crowded out by their darker twins. The sorrow in his heart and the comfort that he sought could not wake me from the softness of his hair and the smoothness of his skin.

I am not famous for restraint when I'm presented with an opportunity for sex. But even I could see it was fourth and one at the scrimmage line between decency and deficiency.

I slowly raised his chin with my hand. He looked up at me, blinking his tears away, trying to make sense of what was happening.

The hurt in his eyes didn't stop our lips from inching closer. I had created the kind of aching ambiguity that one man's desire can make of another man's pain.

Slowly our lips came closer, and slowly a thought echoed through me: "Don't do it"

I wanted him, but I also wanted something else: To be better than this.

Deep down I knew this kid wanted a friendship, not a romance. I was trying to do to him what all those older



guys tried to do to me when I was his age. In that space between his vulnerability and my desire I had an awful realization: I had become in my forties what I feared in my twenties.

But that didn't matter. The fuse was lit and there didn't seem to be a way of stopping it. Our lips were about to meet.

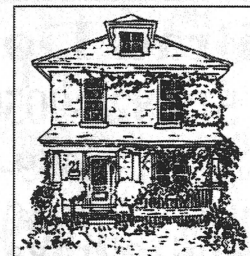
There is a moment in life, a moment between breaths, a rest between words, a pause between actions when character is either built up or torn down. I had reached that moment. I knew that whatever I chose next would follow me for the rest of my life. . . .

I slowly raised his chin with my hand. He looked up at me, blinking his tears away, trying to make sense of what was happening. He sought me out for comfort, support, and advice.

Not for this.

The hurt in his eyes didn't stop our lips

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from inching closer. I had created the kind of aching ambiguity that one man's desire can make of another man's pain.

The closer we got, the more my mind screamed *Don't Do It*. He was at one of the lowest points in his life. I could sense what he was thinking. He had already been abandoned by his boyfriend. Stopping me ran the risk of being abandoned twice in the same night.

I knew this but I went on anyway.

I could feel the quiet shock in his body as our lips touched. He didn't pull away. He received the kiss the way you'd receive something you didn't order. You sign for delivery, but you know it's a mistake.

With every button I released on his shirt I could feel the last bit of my integrity, the last gasp of honor and decency slump to the floor.

I had come full circle. I went from a young man betrayed by an older man to an older man who betrayed a young man. From victim to perpetrator, I had completed the cycle of distrust between old and young.

There are plenty of young guys who want the sexual company of older men. But the majority don't. What they want is friendship, guidance, advice and support. And too often, men like me use these potential gifts as a lure for sexual conquest.

In gay life, the line between sex and friendship is thin, transparent and constantly moving. It's hard to pinpoint the coordinates of the line's location, but it's easy to feel it once you cross it. It tends to shatter everything around you.

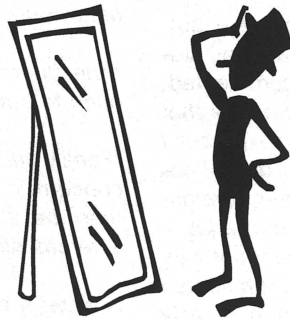
There is a famous question straight people have asked themselves throughout time: *"Can men really be friends with women?"*

We have our own version of that question: *"Can older gay men really be friends with younger gay men?"*

How can you truly be friends with somebody you have the potential to have sex with?

For straight people the question isn't that important. They get married, have kids and have a whole support system called society. We don't. All we have is each other, making everything up as we go along.

And that's why the answer to that question *must* be yes. It has to be if we're going to thrive, not just survive. It's enough to be victimized by a hostile dominant culture. To betray each other in the midst of that hostility is unconscionable.



I never heard from my 23 year-old friend again. My calls went unanswered and my letters unopened. There's a no return policy when you buy a piece of oblivion.

I am not proud of what I did. There is nothing wrong with 41 year-olds sleeping with 23 year-olds. There was just something wrong with *this* 41-year-old sleeping with *that* 23 year-old.

There is always something wrong when you sacrifice friendship for momentary pleasure. There is always something wrong with using experience and power to exploit youth and vulnerability. I had a responsibility to redefine what it means to be an older gay man and I failed miserably.

My only saving grace is life's propensity for pitching endless opportunities for redemption. There is always another chance to bat *for* the team instead of against it.

**This column was submitted to The Voice by Michael Alvear. He can be reached at:**

***The Dutch continue to lead the way on gay rights, becoming the first nation in the world to let same-sex couples wed legally.***

Two lesbian brides and six gay grooms became the world's first same-sex couples to wed legally, tying the knot on Sunday in a colorful communal ceremony in Amsterdam. They married minutes after a Dutch law allowing same-sex matrimony came into effect. The four couples exchanged vows in the rose petal-bedecked city hall of Europe's gay capital, Amsterdam, to the cheers and whoops of family and friends — some clad in tight black leather, others in sedate frocks and picture hats.

"You are writing history," Mayor Job Cohen, who officiated, told the couples just after midnight ushered in the new law. "This is the first civil marriage to be celebrated between two women and two men. That is unique in the world."

The Dutch parliament passed the gay marriage law — fiercely opposed by Christian parties — late last year, along with legislation allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children. The Netherlands had offered gays "registered partnership" since 1998, which allowed same-sex couples to regulate their relationship legally in a way largely like marriage.

But a desire to offer the symbolism of marriage to all, whatever their sexuality, drove the move to legalize homosexual unions in a country that sets the global pace in gay rights.

As the couples arrived at the city hall there were seven soberly dressed Christian protestors holding placards urging: "Come, let us return to the Lord."

"We want people to choose an alternative, we want to show them this is a much better way. We believe true fulfillment lies in God, not in the satisfying of their lusts," Frans Gunnink of Christians for Truth told Reuters.

Lesbians Helene Faasen and Anne-Marie were keen to stress that theirs was no different from any other marriage. "We're not pioneers. We're just grateful we've been able to do this. Now we just want to live a normal family life," said Faasen. Faasen's father, Peter, said she had made him proud. But he was sorry there would be no church wedding. "I'm a Catholic and with this Pope that's never going to happen," he said. Amsterdam chief registrar Evert Geuzinge said he expected the Netherlands would now see around 10,000 gay weddings a year, or 10 percent of the average annual marriage total.

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# University of Waterloo Imprint Columnist Sparks Controversy

By A.J. Mahari

The Newspaper at the University of Waterloo (UW) is called The Imprint. The columnist is Nigel Flear and the column in question is the Outlook article of March 16th, which had the title "Sexual Norms" in Flear's copy though no title appeared in the published version. "Outlook" is well-known on the UW campus as a "gay" column.

Flear has sparked considerable controversy with this article. This controversy, in part, has to do with what he actually wrote. It also has to do with the fact that he is the representative voice of queer life on the UW campus. And, perhaps, most importantly, the fact that he has been a co-ordinator of GLOW in the past.

The article can be read on line at:  
<http://imprint.uwaterloo.ca/issues/031601/4Human/features06.shtml>

My response to it in the Imprint can be read here:  
<http://imprint.uwaterloo.ca/issues/033001/2Forum/forum05.shtml>

Many now feel that the Outlook column gives us great reason to have to look out!

While there were objections to many parts of Flear's article, the greatest concern arose from his use of the word "deviant." While the word choice is not incorrect in terms of its technical use, it was a very poor and irresponsible choice given its overwhelming pejorative meaning in colloquial use.

In this particular column, Flear wrote: *"The strongest stigmas exist for deviant sexual behaviours . . . these include homosexuality . . ."*

We expect to see this written by anti-gay activists and by religious fundamentalists -- we don't expect this to be written without context by someone who is gay and who is ostensibly trying to speak to a straight-majority readership about gay issues. It is irresponsible and has great potential to do harm in the case of any reader who is not familiar with the reality of queer life.

The reality of what life is like for those of us who are LGBT is not a collective reality. We share some things or experiences in common but beyond that we are all individuals.

Flear not only presented his points in a rather fragmented way but he also attempted to convey his meaning without context. There seemed to be a lot of personal bias in what he wrote. That bias was extremely assumptive.

Among those at UW who were outraged by Flear's column was grad student Jeremy Steffler, who commented, *"My objection to the column was that the views in that article were expressed in a very biased way. They do not apply to everyone in the queer community. It literally reminded me of a lot of the tactics that very fanatical anti-gay activists use. Everything was presented as fact, without reference to any source, and when something of that nature is expressed in a queer column as a statement of fact anyone not versed in queer issues is going to take that as indeed being fact."*

Flear was attempting to talk about "Sexual Norms." This was the title of his column that for some reason never made it to print. Rafi Syed, co-ordinator of GLOW felt that if the title had been included it might have made the effect of the article even worse.

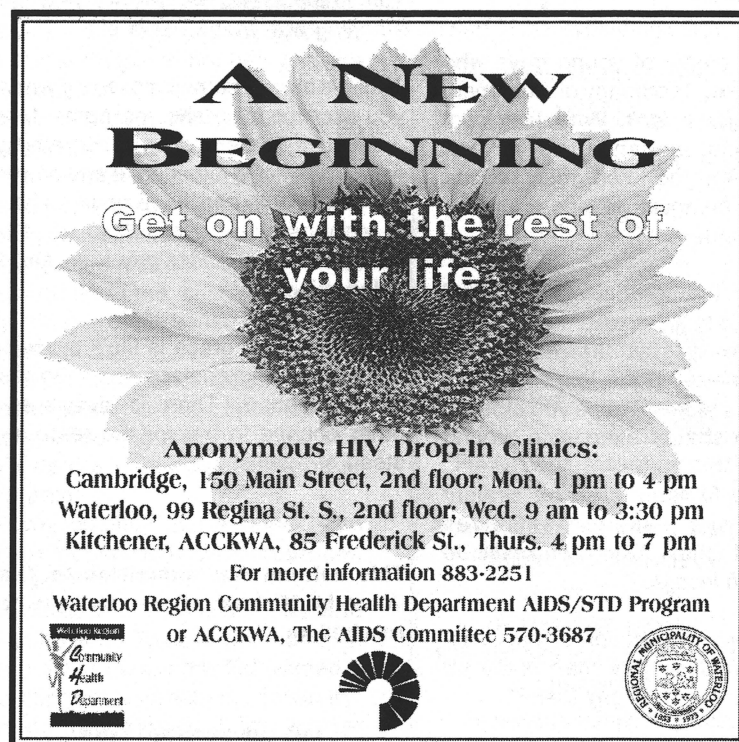
Flear's assumptive bias was evident in statements like:

*"The queer community tends to tolerate and accept more of these sexual behaviours than does society-at-large."*

*"The queer community is also more open to threesomes and group sex..."*

*"Family building is not a predominating concern in gay culture and thus gay men are allowed to be promiscuous, whereas straight men are not."*

A writer's responsibility is not limited to word choice. It also involves context and sources. To make the above listed statements without either was naive on Flear's part. When asked what his actual message in that column was Flear responded, *"To look at atypical*






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or ACCKWA, The AIDS Committee 570-3687



*sexual behaviour in the queer community and to explore why some behaviour is normative in gay culture, but is not in straight culture."*

The problem with this is that he didn't give us any factual data quoted from any source to make any comparison about queer life versus straight life. Many straight readers might well have assumed that everything Flear said was accurate, given that he is gay and has been the "gay voice" on the UW campus in the Imprint for over a year now. Herein lies the great potential for damage and the promotion of further homophobia.

When asked about his concerns in regard to Flear's column, Trevor Fenton, a UW student, replied, "I think that the damage is incalculable because I don't know how much weight people in general who read that column give to his opinions." He added, "He used a highly unadvisable and naive selection of words."

*Flear stated, "I am not especially concerned that people will get the wrong idea about the queer community based on what I have written. If someone thinks poorly of*

*the queer community and my article strengthens that opinion, it's important to remember they already thought so."*

It is the potential that his words have to strengthen those type of already existing opinions (often based on misinformation as well) that promotes homophobia. He is essentially making the assumption that what he writes has no bearing on what any straight reader may conclude. I strongly disagree. I think that what any writer writes has the potential to affect readers much more than that. That is why there is such a responsibility every writer must take seriously in the craft and act of writing. I believe that Flear's March 16th column may well have done damage through the promotion of homophobia.

Fenton added, "The damaging thing is the unfounded, uncorroborated, unproven generalizations Flear makes about the sexual behaviour of queer people."

Rafi Syed added, "I do think he has a responsibility to educate people and to portray a positive image of gay people."

Shelley Durocher, a third year honours

student in Rhetoric and Professional Writing said, "What he wrote plays directly into the hands of those who oppose homosexuality. With the use of 'deviant', the generalizations, and the juxtaposition of sex crimes with homosexual sex, the anti-homosexual activist/writer need only lift this article wholesale and provide it as damning evidence that the entire community is, indeed, 'deviant', in the more commonly understood usage of the word."


"When he used 'deviant', he might as well have used 'abnormal'; technically it means the same thing. But both carry strong societal meaning that has little to do with the original meaning of the words. We are 'other' because we 'deviate' from what is considered 'normal'. He should have thought it out more carefully. Promiscuity is considered 'deviant', 'abnormal' sexual behaviour. It gives the view of gay men as having no control of their sexual desires." was the conclusion of Melody Alderwick, Hon. B.A., M.T.S.

I asked Lyn McGinnis, of BlueStar Web Design and The Voice, if he had any reaction to Flear's use of the word 'deviant' and he said, "As someone who has at times made a living with words, I think of myself as pretty sensitized to their use. 'Deviant' is certainly never a word I would consider using. Unlike 'Queer' this is not an abusive term we have now re-invented for ourselves. If I were writing that column, I would have talked about those who 'don't conform to repressive norms,' or who are 'free from sex-phobic constraints,' That said, as someone who is both Bisexual and Transgender and has done pretty well every activity mentioned in the article, at least once, I didn't for a moment associate myself with the word. If I, who probably fit the stereotype of 'deviant' far more than most, am not affected by the use of the word, why are others?"

When McGinnis was asked about whether or not he saw these words as potentially problematic for those not well-informed about LGBT life he responded, "I guess there is a point that this could play into their world view. Given that in all the years the Imprint has had a queer soapbox column

**Continued on page 29**

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# GAY MONEY



## ASSET ALLOCATION - BALANCING YOUR PORTFOLIO

by Bonnie J. Babin,  
Investment Planning Counsel of Canada



Wouldn't it be nice if you could predict the stock market and bond markets — buy at the lowest price and sell at the highest price — outsmart all the market analysts and retire a multi-millionaire by the age of 35? Of course! But unless you are endowed with an extraordinary vision of the future, it's just a dream. The reality is that nobody, **not even the experts**, can predict the stock and bond markets with any certainty.

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Once you know your investment personality, the next step is to choose the investment vehicles that will allow you to achieve your goals. Your Financial Consultant offers a wide range of products to suit your every need. And, you can hold any of these investment products within your RRSP.

Once your asset mix and portfolio are set, you can sit back and relax. Simply review your portfolio once or twice a year to ensure that it is still on track. You may even need to rebalance it if one investment grows beyond your target for that asset type.

Talk to your mutual fund representative about the asset mix that's right for you.

\* **Mutual Funds sold by prospectus only. Unit/Share values will fluctuate.**

*Your comments and suggestions are welcome.*

*Please respond to e-mail address:* [REDACTED]

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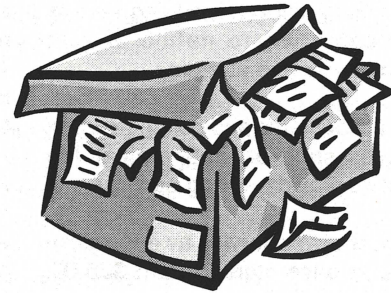
**BONNIE J. BABIN - Financial Planning & Tax Consultant - Phone** [REDACTED]

## GAY BIZ



### YOU HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE

by Darren Kregar  
Economical Tax Services



#### How should I File? Do I do my Own? Who Do I Use?

By now you should be aware that there are numerous ways to file a tax return to Canada Customs & Revenue Agency. Your options include E-filing, Netfile, Telefile, and the traditional paper file.

In addition to these, you have a choice to make about whether or not you will do your own return or have someone else do it. If you do it yourself, you can either do your return by hand or purchase a software package. If you have someone else do your return, be sure that the person is knowledgeable.

#### *Should I do my own return or not?*

Many people are setting up small services to help people prepare taxes. For example, recently I noticed a flyer on a bulletin board for tax services with the same phone number as another flyer for driving lessons. Many individuals offering tax services at low rates do not offer e-file. They are only going to the local office supply store and buying a tax software program. Be sure to ask about their training and

experience. Tax legislation is constantly changing and even I, with my university diploma in accounting and studying advance taxation, will admit that I do not know everything in the tax act and will still look up information as needed.

As with any product or service, the higher the demand, the higher the supply until demand drops. So as a consumer, you need to ask questions to make sure that the person doing your taxes is knowledgeable and can help you increase your refund or reduce the tax owing.

The final group of people who offer tax services are other family members such as uncles, aunts or even parents. My only comment here is: How much do you really want your relatives or parents to know about your financial state? Again, how knowledgeable are they about tax. You may also want to keep in mind that the government has passed third party liability. If someone prepares your return and knowingly makes false claims to increase a

refund, besides yourself, that person can be held liable for the tax owing, penalties and interest that may be assessed.

#### *How do I file?*

First you need to decide whether you are going to prepare your return or not. Then you need to decide whom you will use to prepare your tax return if you are not going to do your own.

**E-file:** E-filing a tax return involves using the services of a third party to file your tax return. These persons must be approved by Canada Customs & Revenue Agency to provide this service. E-filing is similar to netfile in that your information is sent electronically to the government except that it is sent as part of a batch of returns by the e-filer. The e-filer is provided a filer number by the government. Some e-filers may also provide netfile services. The difference

**Continued on page 18**



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between these two versions of filing is that e-filing involves sending returns as a batch where netfile is sent electronically one at a time.

Most accountants and commercial tax services such as Economical Tax Services provide e-filing services.

The cost of this service by e-filers can range in price starting from \$25.00. Some e-filers offer a service in which they discount your return and advance you the funds within 24 hours. The cost of these services is 15% on the first \$300.00 of your tax refund and 3% on the remaining amount.

**Netfile:** Netfile is an electronic tax-filing option available to most Canadians. It allows you to file your return using the internet. To do so, you must have a 'web access code'. This is the number printed on your mailing label. In 1999, 3.8 million Canadians were allowed to file using netfile and 11.7% of these persons did so.

You cannot use netfile to amend a return, file a previous year return OR prepare a return for another person such as a spouse or a family member unless you are registered through Canada Customs & Revenue Agency as an authorized E-filer. This service is intended for the individual tax preparer as an option to file his or her return. You also cannot use netfile if you are in bankruptcy, a non-resident or have tax paying to more than one province. You cannot use netfile if you had a change in your address or name or want to change direct deposit information.

The main cost of netfile is that you must purchase a certified tax software program or web application. The cost for a software program ranges from \$25.00 - \$40.00 for a personal tax return.

**Telefile:** This method of filing your return can be used for returns identified as one of the following: T1S-A, T1S-B, T1S-C or T1 Special. Persons allowed to use this method will receive information about telefile in their tax package as well as a personalized telefile access code.

This form of filing your return involves

you completing your return manually and then calling a toll-free telephone number and following the instructions. Telefile is available from 8:30 am-9:00 pm Monday to Friday and reduced hours on the weekend.

**Paper file:** This is the old way to file a tax return. It involves simply a tax guide and the forms, a calculator, a pen and pencil and a few hours. If you need help with your taxes you may call CCRA directly at 1-800-959-8281 or go to their website at: [www.ccr-aadrc.gc.ca](http://www.ccr-aadrc.gc.ca). If all fails you may contact Darren at Economical Tax Services.

The advantages of E-filing, netfiling or telefiling are basically all the same. Refunds are generally received in 2 weeks, there is no paper return to file, there is a confirmation that the return has been received and the filing is secure and confidential. There are some restrictions that apply to netfile and can be obtained online at: [www.netfile.gc.ca](http://www.netfile.gc.ca).

E-filing allows you the opportunity to ask questions and receive tax advice from an accountant or tax preparer about your tax return or about a specific situation. The person filing your return should also provide alternative ways on how to reduce the tax you pay or increase your refund.

***Darren Kregar is the owner of Economical Tax Services (ETS). Economical Tax Services has been providing tax services to individuals and small business for the past 5 years and has been the tax preparer for 'the Voice'. ETS provides tax services at two locations: Uptown Waterloo and in Highland Hills Mall in Kitchener. The Highland Hills Mall location is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 am-8:00 pm, Saturday from 9:00am-6:00 pm and Sunday from 12:00 pm-5:00 pm. Waterloo is open from 9:00 am-6:00 pm, Monday - Friday, by appointment only. To schedule an appointment to meet Darren or his staff, call 578-7691 (Highland Hills Mall) or 746-6500 (Waterloo) during business hours.***

## Vermont house votes to ban gay marriages

By Ross Sneyd

**MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)** -- The Republican majority in the Vermont House is poised to explicitly outlaw gay marriage, just a year after a Democratic majority approved civil unions for same-sex couples.

Republicans won their first outright House majority in 14 years based largely on the backlash against granting marriage rights, benefits and responsibilities to gay and lesbian couples.

But the bill could encounter a frosty reception in the Democrat-controlled Senate, which remains hostile to the measure.

Last March, Vermont became the first state to recognize civil unions, giving gay and lesbian couples all the rights, benefits and responsibilities of marriage. The law, however, stops short of legalizing same-sex marriage.

Members of both parties said the bill was a clear political reaction to last year's civil unions debate and the election that followed.

"I defeated a 10-year incumbent without knocking on a single door because of his vote (on civil unions)," said Republican Rep. Craig Scribner.

Supporters of the bill said it was necessary to clearly state that despite civil unions, marriage was not open to same-sex couples.

"The bottom line is the majority of Vermonters do not want to redefine marriage to allow same-sex marriage," said Republican Rep. George Schiavone.

The two openly gay members of the House said it was demeaning for same-sex couples to be told again that marriage was not open to them.

As his partner of 17 years sat in a seat across the front of the chamber, Democratic Rep. Robert Dostis called the bill's language frightening.

"When you grow up gay, you live in fear of persecution and when you read this, it hits very deep."

**Halton Pride Organization receives Community Outreach Award**

The Halton Pride Organization is honoured to be the recipient of the Heinz Dorst Community Outreach Award at the North Halton Cultural Awareness Council's celebration of the U.N. Proclamation for "The International Day for

the Elimination of Racial Discrimination" on March 21, 2001.

This year the Council began an annual awards presentation giving recognition to Halton citizens who have excelled in promoting cultural and racial equality. The Heinz Dorst Community Outreach Award was presented to the Halton Pride Committee for its demonstrated sensitivity towards all citizens

of Halton and it's continuing efforts to raise awareness of Halton's diverse communities.

The late Heinz Dorst was a founding member of the N.H.C.A.C., which promotes racial equality and cultural acceptance in the communities of the Halton Region. Mr. Dorst's daughter and granddaughter presented the award to the Halton Pride Committee. "Tolerance is no longer an acceptable approach, acceptance is the goal", says Elizabeth Carmichael, Chairperson of the N.H.C.A.C. speaking on racial and sexual orientation equality.

Halton Pride Picnic - Celebrates the Diverse Expressions of Family.

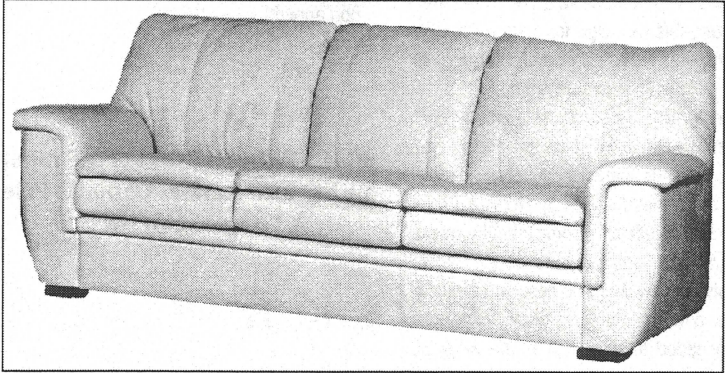
The Halton Pride Committee is pleased to announce the 2nd annual Halton Pride Picnic will be held on Saturday June 2nd, 12 noon - 6pm at the Bronte Creek Provincial Park. The event will be a celebration of Halton and neighbouring regions' diverse gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community, its friends, supporters and families. All are welcome and encouraged to take part.

This year's event will focus on family "Celebrating the Diverse Expressions of Family." Last year saw over 400 attendees, including families and youth. "The committee unanimously agreed to focus on the family after receiving such a positive response from the Halton communities last year." says Marcus Logan, volunteer organizer. Event attractions include nature hikes, music, arts and crafts, children's face painting and activity area, educational and health displays, local business booths, raffles and a barbecue. A special workshop on Gay Parenting will run during the day organized by Judy MacDonnell, a public health nurse educator, grad student and mother doing her PhD in lesbian parenting.

For more information, contact Jean Clipsham at [redacted] or visit our website at:

[www.haltonpride.org](http://www.haltonpride.org)

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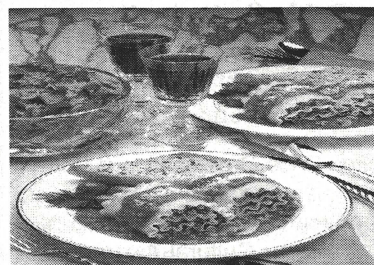
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## Spiritual Life: The Quest for Freedom

### Life Is A Banquet So Enjoy It

By Noel Springwood



"Life is a banquet and most sons of bitches are starving to death." Wonderfully zany Mame Dennis, one of my favourite characters in literature, was right on. Auntie Mame's advice, though, is not just good for her 10 year old nephew, Patrick, but it's something all of us can take to heart. Not just figuratively either. Literally.

The art of eating is intricately connected to the art of living. When one is in jeopardy, both are in danger of losing out.

The art of eating is certainly in jeopardy these days. Fast food and eating on the run have all but obliterated the custom of sitting down to a well prepared meal at a well-set table. The tragedy in all this and the loss is that, for humans at least, sharing food can be a very beautiful and intimate experience.

Why else would Valentine's Day hype concentrate on romantic, candlelit dinners for two? Why else would food figure so prominently in most major religious rituals? It is not just what you eat, but how and with whom you eat it.

There is an ancient Latin phrase that translates into, "A sound mind in a sound body." The wisdom of the ancients recognized that holiness and wholeness were interconnected. And the axiom, "Moderation in all things", should not be taken lightly.

I fully believe that at least once a week you should plan to host a dinner. It should be a healthy, balanced meal -- within your budget, of course. It should be presented as attractively as possible, with candles, flowers, table cloth and wine, according to your means and personal taste. You should invite friends and strangers to dine with you. Above all,

you should announce that the dinner is the evening's activity and that anyone who gulps and runs will be penalized severely.

If you don't trust your own culinary abilities, you can always divide the responsibility among the guests. Have everyone bring a different dish or course. That invariably helps make everyone feel more involved and connected.

A buffet style of presentation is all right, but a sit down experience works best. It provides a better focal point and puts everyone in closer contact with one another.

Anytime I've done this, and I do it often, I've noticed how even the most timid and awkward of my guests relax as the evening goes on. Conversation is generally stimulated by the imaginative preparation and presentation of the food. It quickly moves into other areas. If the group is large, there are often several conversations going on at once, like a kind of vocal fugue.

Three or more courses can enhance the whole experience and help make it last. For those who absolutely must, this can allow for a smoke break. It's also a good idea to have a kind of intermission between the main course and dessert.

On one memorable Christmas, at a time when I regularly hosted a dinner for strangers and strays, the door to the dining room opened just as we were sitting down and a friend walked in carrying a guitar case. I hadn't seen him for some time. He was a professional musician and had been on a U.S. tour. He said simply, "I knew you'd be here so I thought I'd come over and provide some dinner music for you." He proceeded to do just that. We were all

touched by an angel that night.

As something with a power to bond lovers and other strangers together, you can't beat food. It is a powerful community builder and energizer. It will, when prepared and served with lots of TLC and shared with others, nourish not just the body, but the spirit as well.

Life is, indeed, a banquet and all too many are starving to death on fast food and unhealthy food. Many are starving alone, without the camaraderie that also makes life worth living.

If you do nothing else then, at least try the formula I've suggested. Adapt it to your own tastes, needs and circumstances but begin to enjoy that banquet in all its fulness. You'll be amazed at how much you'll help others, as well, discover that life can be beautiful.

And while you're sending out invitations to your special dinner, you might keep me in mind. I'm not just a good host; I'm a great guest. I never refuse and I'll even bring a bottle of wine.

Bon appetit!

**NOEL SPRINGWOOD served most of his life as a Roman Catholic Priest. A Voice exclusive.**

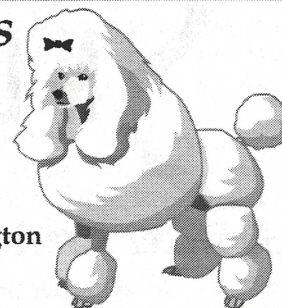
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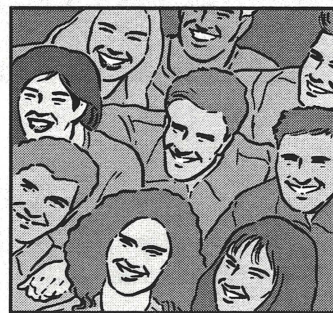
## AWAre K-W

by Gary Terpstra

Most mainline Christian Churches in the past have been totally non-supportive of the desire of gays and lesbians for full inclusion into their respective home churches. The Church's approach has ranged from silence to the "don't ask don't tell" approach "to outright rejection. Under this climate

of hostility and misunderstanding *Aware* was formed in the early 90's by a small group of gays and lesbians and their allies from the Christian Reformed Church.

In the summer of 1998, Waterloo hosted the 7th annual *Aware* Convention, comprised of different *Aware* Groups from Waterloo, London, Toronto and Grand Rapids. The week-



end culminated in a banquet at Bingham Park with Rev. Mel White, author of Stranger at the Gate: To be Gay and Christian in America, as key note speaker. Close to 200 people showed up for this event.

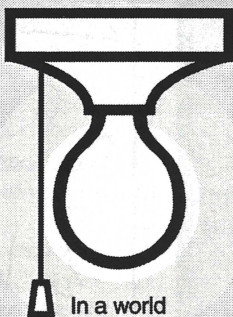
AWAre is an acronym for "As We Are" and is similar to other gay, faith based groups such B.M.C. (Mennonite Brethren), AFFIRM (United), INTEGRITY (Anglican), and DIGNITY (Roman Catholic). Our mandate is for the churches to stop their anti-gay, homophobic rhetoric which we believe is totally unbiblical. The Church's inability or unwillingness to deal with this contentious issue continues to hurt many young people and their families and we feel it is time to for this to stop. We live in an enlightened society and we should not have to tolerate the same old biases that we've had to deal with for years. It is time for common sense to prevail.

With this goal in mind, *Aware* meets on the 4th Sunday evening of every month. We get together informally in each other's homes, leaving lots of time for sharing and socializing over coffee and dessert.. We invite people of all ages and different church backgrounds who could benefit from our group to contact us by either calling Gary at [REDACTED] or Ada at [REDACTED] email [REDACTED] Confidentiality ensured.

We'd be pleased to have you come and join us.

***Aware* is listed monthly in The Voice's "Community Groups" section on page 26 under "Sundays".**

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## APRIL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Drumming Circle First Tuesday of every month at Wholistic Health, 119 King St. W. Call Kathy at [REDACTED]

### Tuesday April 10

Tri-Youth Pride group meets 4-6pm. This group is for LGBT high-school students. For information call Gail at [REDACTED]

### Saturday April 14

Club Ren: Resurrection Weekend

### Wednesday April 18

8-10pm Greg Upshaw will be performing in the lounge at Wholistic Health Shop Juice Bar and Lounge, 119 King St. W in downtown Kitchener. (WWRP fundraiser)

### Tuesday April 24

Tri-Youth Pride group meets 4-6pm. This group is for LGBT high-school students. For information call Gail at [REDACTED]

### Saturday April 21

Spring Fling dance in Hamilton: Smoke Free - hosted by Sound Advice Professional Disc Jockey Services, in cooperation with the Hamilton Gay and Lesbian Business Association. CNIB Hall, Hamilton - For tickets or more information call Laura at Sound Advice (905) [REDACTED] or transformations@canada.com

### Wednesday April 25

8-10pm Removable Red, Sarah Dillon and Connie Buna will be performing at Muses Cafe, 10 King St. E (WWRP fundraiser)

For a list of groups and activities that take place on a regular basis please see page 30. Or check them out on line at [www.thevoice.on.ca](http://www.thevoice.on.ca) by clicking on Community

### Friday April 27

Book Launch: Home Truths: Lesbian Mothers Come out to Their Daughters. Compiled by Gloria Kropf Nafziger. The Women's bookstore in Toronto at 7pm. For information email: [REDACTED]

### Saturday April 28

Book Launch: Home Truths: Lesbian Mothers Come out to Their Daughters. Compiled by Gloria Kropf Nafziger. at 2:00pm in the Green Room at the Bookshelf, in Guelph. For information email: [REDACTED]

### Sunday April 29

Naomi Taylor's popular 3 piece Rock n' Blues Band will perform at Hamilton's The Embassy Club - for details see page 29

### APRIL, MAY & JUNE WWRP PLANNING MEETINGS

All at 7pm at Wholistic Health 119 King St. W in downtown Kitchener. For information call 743-[REDACTED] or email: [wwrp@rainbow.on.ca](mailto:wwrp@rainbow.on.ca)

Wednesday April 11  
Monday April 23  
Monday April 30  
Wednesday May 9  
Thursday May 17  
Thursday May 24  
Thursday May 31  
Thursday June 7

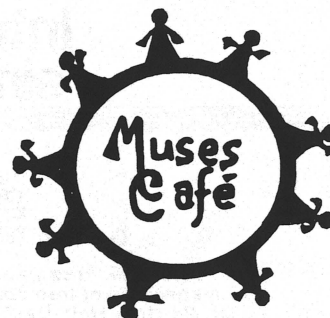
### May Events

London Lesbian Film Festival  
(see page 25)  
May 3 - 6, 2001

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.

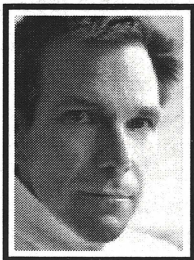


*Come away, O human child!  
To the waters and the wild  
with a faery, hand in hand,  
For the world's more full of weeping  
than you can understand.*



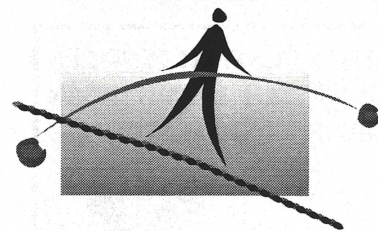
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## HIS-STORY



### Confessions of a Late Bloomer Short Circuiting Relationships

By Randy Siegel



Since divorcing my wife and coming out five years ago, I have had a string of short-term relationships. With each relationship, I string another pearl.

Most of these relationships last only months, and some of the breakups are painful. Sometimes pain best drives the point home.

Through these seemingly insignificant relationships, I am learning more about myself and how I lose myself in relationships. Not anchored, I am swept away by another's emotions, opinions or moods. I lose my power.

I am learning that when I lose my power I short circuit any chance of a meaningful relationship. I become resentful. These power outages generate anger, mostly with myself.

I have heard it said anger is based upon unmet needs. Not addressing my needs is one way in which I lose my power, and losing myself is a key reason my relationships break up.

The longest I ever dated a man was nine months. I had hoped to create a relationship of equals, yet I was not grounded enough in my own identity to withstand his strength.

I did not hold true to my values. Fearing his judgment, I could not express my true feelings, needs and desires.

For him, I took up tennis although I did not enjoy it. As a couple, we did all the things he loved and too seldom the activities I enjoyed.

Trying to appear perfect, I edited my conversation. I was reluctant to share all my beliefs about religion and relationships for fear he would not approve.

I was afraid of losing him. I was fearful of being abandoned. At the root of my fears was the fear of being alone.

I felt I had to change to keep him. "If only I was buffer, blonder, smoother, smarter or richer," I thought. "If only I was enough." By even contemplating changing, I was not true to myself.

Not in touch with my true self, I lost my footing. I became untethered. My anchor broke and I drifted out to sea.

As I became aware, confident and content with all I am, I found dry land.

I am learning, "I am enough."

After ending a recent phone conversation with a friend, I was exhausted. Like a psychic leech she drained every bit of energy I had.

I am learning not to blame, but to examine. Accepting responsibility, I asked, "What am I here to learn?"

I saw, once again, I was losing my power. Playing her parent, I had tried to fix her brokenness. I had given advice when she had asked for none.

The next time we talked, I just listened. This time, I did not make her problems my own.

In both friendship and dating, I want a relationship of equals. No longer will I sacrifice myself for another. In my next relationship, I will stake my flag and shout, "I am!"

I will be watchful for when my power is waning. I will be aware when, like acid, fear bubbles forth.

I will address concerns despite my fear of abandonment and conflict. No longer will I be afraid of being alone.

I will not change myself for anyone, nor try to change him or her either. I will not become the parent, or worse, play the role of a child.

I will enjoy the relationship for what it is today instead of fantasizing about the future. I will see my friends and lovers for

who they are and not the people I want them to be.

I will remember that intimacy starts with sharing self, yet I will stop giving to the point I resent it. I will allow others to give to me in return.

But most of all, I will stay true to self and my values. I will remember all love begins with loving me.

In the past, I looked in the eyes of strangers searching for someone to complete me. I now look into the mirror knowing my search has come to an end.

I am grateful for these precious pearls and the exquisite necklace they are forming. Now more secure, confident and complete, I can stand steadfast in a relationship of equals. My personal power in place, I will not be swayed.



### Ten Warning Signs for Personal Power Outages Randy Siegel

1. Not discussing concerns for fear of conflict or losing the other person.
2. Feeling like a child around your lover.
3. Acting like his parent.
4. Role-playing. Acting charming, over-confident, cheerful around the other person.
5. Giving more than comes back, sometimes to the point of resentment.
6. Fast forwarding into the future while losing touch with the present.
7. Trying to change the person. Offering too much advice.
8. Ignoring inappropriate behavior.
9. Hoping your partner will change if only I am enough.
10. Obsessing about the other person or the relationship.

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

# HERSTORY

## EIGHT YOUNG ATTENDEES THROWN OUT OF MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL



Eight young attendees, variously identifying as tranny boys, boydykes, FTM, and lesbians were evicted from the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (MWMF) after they refused to meet the Festival's "womyn-born womyn only" policy.

The Festival's first expulsion occurred in 1991 when attendee Nancy Burkholder and a friend were both forcibly evicted after she identified herself in a workshop as a transgender woman.

Since then, gender activists, Lesbian Avengers and members of Transsexual Menace have camped out on public property across from the Festival's Main Gate to hold "Camp Trans". Camp Trans is an annual cooperative effort to do outreach and education on Michigan's discriminatory policy and its inconsistent application.

Past evictions had focused narrowly on transgender women and the eight's expulsion marks the first time the "womyn-born womyn only" policy has been used against transnie boys, boydykes, FTMs, Lesbian Avengers, and young gender-variant women. It was widely viewed by most observers as turning a new page in the escalating conflict over the policy's application.

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

## The Response of the Michigan's Women's Festival to Camp Trans 2000 and the entire issue

### *What's a Festival Without a Controversy?*

For a quarter century, the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival has been a magnet for the debates and disputes of the larger feminist and lesbian communities. This year was no different, as the Festival was the scene of a protest demonstration by a group of activists calling themselves "Camp Trans Y2K" (CTY2K).

The hallmark of Michigan has always been its creation of separate, self-defined and honored womyn's space. A flier developed through weeks of dialogue in the worker community and distributed to all festival-goers stated, "For one week a year, the Festival provides a space for us to gather as womyn who were born as, and have lived our entire life experience as womyn. This is a rare and precious community that we share for this week, and as Festival organizers we feel that one of the important ingredients in this community is that we have shared our entire life experience - however varied that may be - as womyn."

CTY2K activists expressed their opposition to the Festival's womyn-born womyn focus from Forest Service land across the road from the Festival's front gate. On Friday and Saturday, August 11 - 12, a group of about 25 activists entered the Festival and caused a series of small disruptions.

Festival staff - representing a mix of butch, femme and other womyn across a gender-identity continuum, most active in trans-ally work - met the group at the gate and distributed copies of the Festival's policy statement, which included a request that the transsexual community respect and support womyn-born womyn space and provided explicit notice that individuals who self-declared as male-to-female transsexuals or female-to-male transsexuals might be denied entrance or asked to leave.

Despite provocation from the activists throughout the two days, Festival staff held firm to their commitment that no one's gender or sex would be questioned on the land. If an individual

clearly self-declared as a male-to-female or female-to-male transsexual during the course of the protest action, they were asked to leave. As a result of this clearly and repeatedly articulated policy, the wrist tickets of 4 individuals were removed. Their money was not refunded, consistent with the Festival's policy that no refunds are provided after July 6th.

"Michigan has always been home to womyn-born womyn who represent every point along the continuum of gender identity: from butch to femme and beyond butch and femme, including many who consider themselves transgendered. We remain committed to providing space for womyn-born womyn to gather in celebration of our diverse identities as womyn-born womyn," says Festival organizer Lisa Vogel.

"It saddens me that the young womyn we used to call 'baby-dykes' are now growing up questioning the validity of the very concept of being female. Many of us growing up, myself included, struggled fiercely with the limited societal definition of what being a 'woman' meant. That's why we created this Festival --- as an exploration and celebration of the full range of how we are and all we can be as womyn. We refuse to see "woman" turned into a dirty word or defined as an out-dated construct.

"The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival remains clear and firm in our commitment to maintain the Festival as womyn-born womyn space. At the same time, we stand as allies with the trans community and refuse to be forced into false dichotomies that equate being pro-womyn-born womyn space with being anti-trans.

"We believe the greater queer community is strong enough to support separate space for all affinity groups. There are times all oppressed communities need separate spaces, even away from their allies. The Festival community learned this in the creation of a separate and honored Womyn of Color space. We call upon the transsexual community to respect and support the community at Michigan, which by its very definition is separate space for womyn-born womyn."

<http://www.michfest.com/Updates/controversy.htm>

## The Reeling Spinsters Present...

### The Tenth Annual London Lesbian Film Festival

May 3 - 6, 2001  
McKellar Theatre  
Room 290 of the UCC at the University of Western Ontario.

All screenings will be at the McKellar Theatre, University Community Centre (UCC), University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada. The UCC is located on the east side of Western Road between Elgin and Lambton Roads. Parking is available across the street (look for signs). There is a pedestrian underpass to get you from the parking to the UCC. If you require further directions or a map they have that information on their web site.

<http://liff.lweb.net/>

Thursday, May 3rd  
Screening open to all  
7:30 pm

(doors open at 7:00)  
Friday, May 4th  
Womyn only screening  
7:30 pm  
(doors open at 7:00)

Saturday, May 5th  
Womyn only screening  
3:00 pm

(doors open at 2:30)  
Sunday, May 6th  
Screening open to all  
3:00 pm  
(doors open at 2:30)

Tickets  
Per Screening \$8  
Weekend Pass  
(all 4 screenings) \$28  
Gala Pass  
(all 4 screenings plus the Gala Reception) \$35  
Gala Reception  
(in advance) \$10  
Gala Reception  
(at the door) \$15

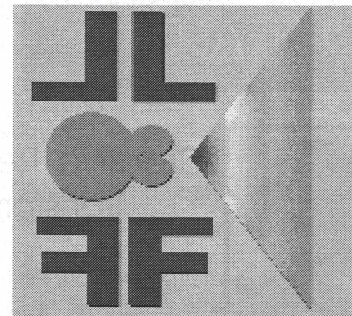
Tickets are available in locations in London and Windsor and in Waterloo at:

Words Worth Books  
100 King Street South  
Waterloo

(519) 884-2665

There may also be a limited number of tickets available at the door, but we recommend purchasing your tickets early, as the festival has sold out in previous years. Festival attendees from out of town may purchase advance tickets through the mail. Please call Yvonne at (519) [REDACTED] for more information.

P.O. Box [REDACTED]  
956 Dundas St. E.  
London, Ontario  
N5W [REDACTED]



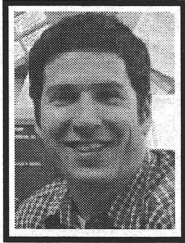
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## Creative Responses to Homophobia: Transforming Barbs into Benefits

by Dr. Jeffrey Chernin



In the middle of February during the year's coldest temperatures, hundreds of same-sex couples locked lips in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

No, their lips weren't locked as a result of tongue-freeze. The gay community of Ann Arbor held a Kiss-In as one of a series of peaceful responses to the homophobic hate-mongers who blew into town.

And yes, it was the infamous, ubiquitous Fred Phelps, leader of the Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) who had come to hold anti-gay protests.

Prior to their arrival, queer community groups mobilized to come up with some creative responses.

There were several activities, and one was at /aut/Bar, one of the four protest sites targeted by the WBC. The bar pledged \$1.00 for every minute that Phelps' group protested. Happy for the hateful intruders to stay a while, employees of /aut/Bar kept the WBC members warm by providing free coffee. At the end of the day, /aut/Bar raised over \$6,500.00 for their local LGBT Political Action Committee.

This recent example reminded me of the "angels" who spread their wings over the WBC members who held hate-filled signs at Matthew Shepherd's funeral. The angels spread their wings to block the WBC's offensive messages from the mourners' line of vision.

As another example, the male half of a heterosexual couple verbally harassed some gay people while walking past a gay bar in Philadelphia. Before the couple knew it, there was a queer throned descending on the couple. Suddenly, a drag queen ran out of the bar holding a balloon bouquet. Instead of becoming violent, the atmosphere turned festive, and the relieved couple was eventually freed.

These actions lead to two questions. The first question is, is it better to "bash back," to devise verbally or physically violent responses to the violence against us?

Because as everyone everywhere has witnessed, violence as a response to violence seems only to generate more violence. To illustrate, look at the endless eye-for-eye reprisals of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Conversely, think about the world-wide sympathy for the Palestinians if they had developed a plan of passive resistance to respond to Israeli aggression.

And because nonviolent resistance has a more positive, longer lasting impact. Ghandi. Mandella. King. The Dalai Lama. And others like Tich Naht Hahn, who created a place for war-weary South and North Viet Nameese to rest during the Viet Nam war, who's work still continues. Or Sister Juana Inez de la Cruz, a "heretic" who lived in the late 1600's; astronomer, inventor, poet, painter—a woman who dared to defy the Church by reading and writing! Her poetry has endured for four centuries, and her work is still popular in many countries.

The second question is, in the realm of possibility, what creative responses to homophobia are yet to be developed? What ideas can transform even the most harmful acts into something positive for our community?

The answers are starting to be realized by Soulforce (meaning satyagraha, or relentless nonviolent resistance). Organized by Dr. Mel White, Soulforce is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching and applying principles of non-violence in the cause of justice for LGBT individuals. See their website, [www.soulforce.org](http://www.soulforce.org), for their mission and programs.

Other answers will be realized by

putting our heads together to develop constructive responses. I would like one outcome of this column to be ideas for nonviolent responses to hate.

Please allow me to start with two ideas. The first one is to kick Ann Arbor's action up a notch by utilizing their fundraising formula in every community. When the WBC or other hate-group comes to your town, make sure the community raises a ton of money and rains queer kisses upon them till they go home to tend to religious activities like feeding the poor.

The second idea is to stage an annual Marriage protest, whose purpose is to let the general populace understand the strength of our desire to legally marry. The tactic is for you and your partner to go to your courthouse and for each of you to get married to a queer couple of the opposite sex (be sure to go over the legal particulars in your locale!). Soon thereafter, every married "couple" in the country would all go back to the courthouses on the same day, at the same exact moment, to annul the marriages in protest.

Those are my two ideas. Now, I'd like to receive yours. E-mail me your ideas for responding to homophobia, and I will print the best and brightest in a future column.

**Jeffrey Chernin, Ph.D. is a Marriage and Family Therapist in Los Angeles. He can be reached at**

**This column was submitted to The Voice by Dr. Chernin.**

## **HOW HOMOPHOBIA HURTS EVERYONE: A THEORETICAL FOUNDATION**

by Warren J. Blumenfeld

Within the numerous forms of oppression, members of the target group (sometimes called minority) are OPPRESSED, while on some level members of the dominant or agent group are HURT. Although the effects of oppression differ qualitatively for specific target and agent groups, in the end everyone loses.

1. Homophobia locks all people into rigid gender-based roles that inhibit creativity and self expression.
2. Homophobic conditioning compromises the integrity of heterosexual people by pressuring them to treat others badly, actions contrary to their basic humanity.
3. Homophobia inhibits an individual's ability to form close, intimate relationships with members of ones own sex.
4. Homophobia generally restricts communication with a significant portion of the population and, more specifically, limits family relationships.
5. Societal homophobia prevents some lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people from developing an authentic self identity, and adds to the pressure to marry, which in turn places undue stress and oftentimes trauma on themselves as well as their heterosexual spouses and their children.
6. Homophobia is one cause of premature sexual involvement, which increases the chances of teen pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Young people, of all sexual identities, are often pressured to become heterosexually active to prove to themselves and others that they are normal.
7. Homophobia combined with sexphobia (fear and repulsion of sex) results in the elimination of any

discussion of the lives and sexuality of LGBT people as part of school-based sex education, keeping vital information from all students. Such a lack of information can kill people in the age of AIDS.

8. Homophobia can be used to stigmatize, silence, and, on occasion, target people who are perceived or defined by others as gay, lesbian, or bisexual, but who are, in actuality, heterosexual.
  9. Homophobia prevents heterosexuals from accepting the benefits and gifts offered by LGBTs: theoretical insights, social and spiritual visions and options, contributions in the arts and culture, to religion, to family life, indeed, to all facets of society.
  10. Homophobia (along with racism, sexism, classism, sexphobia, etc.) inhibits a unified and effective governmental and societal response to AIDS.
  11. Homophobia diverts energy from more constructive endeavors.
  12. Homophobia inhibits appreciation of other types of diversity, making it unsafe for everyone because each person has unique traits not considered mainstream or dominant. Therefore, we are all diminished when any one of us is demeaned.
- ### **WAYS TO INCREASE LGBT VISIBILITY AND REDUCE HOMOPHOBIA**
1. Be aware of the generalizations you make. Assume there are LGBT people where you go to school, where you work, in your family, etc.
  2. Notice the times you disclose your heterosexuality.
  3. For sensitization, hold hands with someone of the same sex in a SAFE public place.
  4. Wear pro-LGBT buttons and T-shirts.
  5. Read positive LGBT books and periodicals, and include them in your

school or workplace libraries and offices.

6. Attend LGBT cultural and community events.
7. Challenge homophobic jokes and epithets.
8. Use inclusive, affirming, or gender-neutral language when referring to sexuality and human relationships in every-day speech, on written forms, etc. Say the words lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender each day in a positive way.
9. Include Sexual Orientation as a protected category in your anti-discrimination policies.
10. Extend Domestic Partnership benefits to LGBT employees on par with heterosexual employees.
11. Develop support groups for LGBT people and heterosexual allies.
12. Monitor politicians, the media, and organizations to ensure accurate coverage of LGBT issues.
13. Work and vote for candidates taking pro-LGBT stands.
14. Coordinate discussions and workshops, and include material in educational curricula on the topic of homophobia and LGBT experiences.
15. Implement and participate in a Safe Space program in your school or workplace.

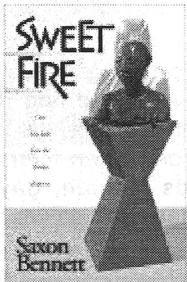
(excerpted from From Homophobia: How We All Pay the Price, Edited by Warren J. Blumenfeld, Boston: Beacon Press, 1992)

CONTACT INFORMATION:  
Warren J. Blumenfeld  
PO Box [REDACTED] Northampton, MA  
01061  
Tel: (413) [REDACTED]  
Fax: (413) [REDACTED]  
E-Mail: [REDACTED]

# BOOKS



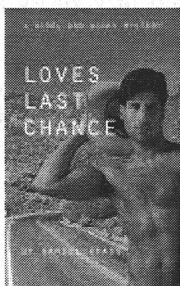
## Sweet Fire by Saxon Bennett



We've all dreamed of a place where lesbians outnumber everyone else, if only to fuel our private fantasies. Saxon Bennett creates Heroy Arizona for us and plops a manipulative ex-girlfriend that anyone can hate in the midst of a happily nesting couple starting a new life with their daughter. At times Sweet Fire is soap operaish, but I hardly think that's at all a bad thing in a book that is so funny, so sexy and so on target about what happens when a community of lesbians takes over a town. I enjoyed it beginning to end.

## Love's Last Chance by Krandall Kraus

Fate has strange and wonderful plans for wise-cracking Nigel Adams and cynical, aristocratic Nicky Borja, who are accidentally thrown together in a Tuscany villa, where they have both fled to escape from life and its heartbreaks. Hostility and bickering turn to fireworks in the unwelcomely close quarters, and as the summer progresses, a fiery romance is kindled from oil

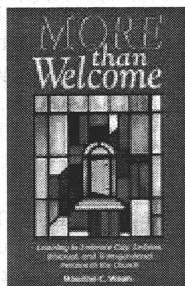


and water. Love After Death is a delightfully poignant and funny blend of mystery and romance, exploring the possibilities of love in the face of danger and the resurrection of the human heart.

## More Than Welcome Learning to Embrace Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Persons in the Church

by Maurine C. Waun

She covers some basic problems with the way the Bible has been used to justify hatred of "sexual minorities" (Waun's term for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people), though there are more comprehensive studies available on this aspect.

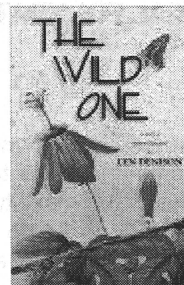


Waun's knockout punch is the individual stories she presents, and this section was definitely the most painful for me. In six chapters, Waun re-

counts the stories of LGBT people relating to pastors, churches, fellow parishioners, and their relatives and friends. It was in this section that I realized my "understanding" of these people's situation had been shallow at best, and actively hurtful at worst. Over and over, the author lets the stories speak more forcefully than she could, identifying institutional and personal prejudice, bigotry, indifference, and apathy.

I highly recommend this book to all. The question isn't "should we allow gays in the church?" They're there. The question is: how do we follow Jesus' teaching, and love those who are different from us? Waun does an excellent job presenting a Gospel-based, theologically-sound, pastorally-sensitive answer to that question.

## The Wild One by Lyn Denison



Widow Rachel, struggling to raise her two kids alone, needs a hired hand for her landscaping business. Quinn, just out of prison, needs a job. Quinn likes her wildness and enjoy discomfiting Rachel, who enjoys Quinn's presence a little too much.

This story would be almost cliché -- the general plot of lots of serial romances -- if it weren't for how Quinn's wildness is the very reason she is vulnerable to Rachel -- and Rachel's kids. It's Quinn, not Rachel, who is thrown for a loop by feelings she has for Rachel. Rachel, too, is an interesting character. This was my first Lyn Denison book and I'll be looking for more.

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## U of W Imprint Columnist Sparks Controversy

Continued from page 15

*under many different names, the intent has always been to try educate straight students about the reality of queer life. I suppose this column could do some harm by re-enforcing stereotypes."*

*McGinnis then added, "The purpose of a column is to make people think about things differently and challenge them to look at something in a new way. I think this one succeeded. By the way, I can also tell you what he said is fact. What are the consequences of this? The same as with any opinion piece. It will get people talking, that is what it's supposed to do. I think here what we are seeing is the ire of the insecure and the sex phobic trying to kill the messenger. If someone is not out yet, or is out but is a long way from being strong and self confident about it, the consequence may be a bit of squirming, but they'll survive."*

*When asked about his general reactions to Flear's Outlook column, McGinnis went on to say, "I can't live my life worrying about how other people think. The only person's opinion I need to hear about is the one in the mirror. We can't be true to ourselves one minute and then pretend we are nice little straight suburbanites the next. Nigel dared to lay out in very brief, very general form, some ways that we can be ourselves and how some of us are a teensy bit further along in freeing ourselves from the sexual repression of this culture. I say thanks Nigel. Good for you and don't worry, these little tempests pass."*

So, what do you think the issue is here? Is it that each one of us needs to be responsible only for freeing him/herself

from internalized homophobia? Does a strong reaction to Flear's column mean that the problem lies more with the reader than with the way Flear chose to write? Where does the spread of homophobia lay? Should we only care about how we feel ourselves? Or do we need to think in larger terms than that? Do we not need to care about what many see as the perpetuation of homophobia by a gay man in a gay column? Do we need to have *one of our own* making the argument of those who would strip of us of the rights and freedoms we now have and block us from the attainment of those we are still in pursuit of?

Each one of us does have to deal with our own internalized homophobia. However, do not ever forget why that is. It is because homophobia is still so rampant in society-at-large today that we are then affected to the degree of internalizing it. We wouldn't have any reason to internalize that which is not externally all around us, now would we?

However, despite all concerns, I must add that Flear does his best and stands up to be heard as a "gay" voice. For that he deserves credit. I know only too well how quickly many in our community can make the accusation that any writer must somehow up-hold the values of "gay-ness" and "speak for all of us." Or how dare we say this or that because our lonely voices echoing in the winds of straight voices are not representative enough of individual queer persons. To this I say, hey, RAISE YOUR OWN VOICE. Nigel Flear is out there trying, as am I. Who else is chomping at the bit to speak out?

## Popular Rock n' Blues Band To Appear At The Embassy

Naomi Taylor's popular 3 piece Rock n' Blues Band will set bodies in motion at The Embassy Club, in Hamilton, on Sunday, April 29. The concert begins at 10:30 p.m. The trendy Embassy Club is at 54 King Street East, in downtown Hamilton, with easy access from everywhere.

Naomi is proud of her 20 year record of performances in, around and for the LGBT Communities. Her band was one of the entertainment highlights at last year's Pride Day Celebration in Hamilton. **You can read more about Naomi Taylor and her career in the May issue of THE VOICE.**

Meanwhile, be sure to come out and enjoy her unique and energetic stylings: some of the best Rock n' Blues this side of Chicago.

## Individual and Couple Counselling

## Anger Management

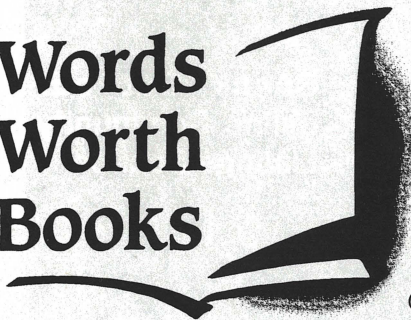
*LGBT POSITIVE*

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

**First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo** - Open and diverse congregation respecting a wide variety of backgrounds and experience. Christians, Post-Christians, non-Christians, mystics, pagans and humanists - all are welcome. 10:30 Sunday mornings. 96 Dunbar Road South, Waterloo  
www.gpcmp.com/waterloounitarian/

**Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto (MCC)** 115 Simpson Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M4K 1A1. Phone (416) 466-6228  
www.mcctoronto.com

**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** meet on the first Monday of every month, at the Wholistic Health Shop, 119 King St. W. in Kitchener - 7pm to 9 pm For more information call [redacted] or email: [redacted]  
[www.thevoice.on.ca](http://www.thevoice.on.ca)  
Click on [Lesbian Groups](#)

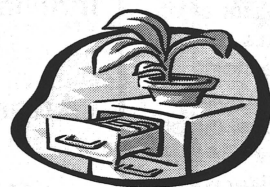
## TUESDAYS

**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 on the U of W Campus at 7pm. For more information call 884-GLOW.

**The Rainbow Parenting Network** - A forum for GLBT parents, parents-to-be, and those considering parenting. For more information call 743-[redacted].

**Tri-Youth Pride** - meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at Planned Parenthood - 4-6pm. For more information call Gail at [redacted]



## WEDNESDAYS

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

**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

**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: [htpspg@gto.net](mailto:htpspg@gto.net) <http://home.golden.net/~kcr/htpspg/htpspg.html>

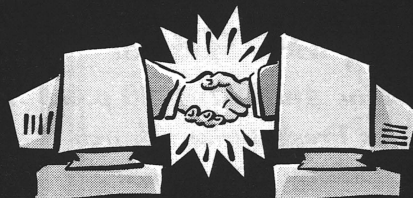
## BI-MONTHLY

**PFlag (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)** meets bi-monthly. PFLAG is a support group for those with an LGBT family member. Children or teens with a gay parent(s) may also seek support from our group. Call Evie at [redacted] (Kitchener) or Sue at (519) [redacted] (Cambridge) or email them at: [pflag@rainbow.on.ca](mailto:pflag@rainbow.on.ca)

Do you have a group that is not listed here? Would you like to change that? Email us at [redacted] or call us at (519) [redacted] Help us keep our community up-to-date!

## The Voice Magazine On Line

See what's **NEW** comprehensive and convenient just for you!



Check Out our online **Community Listings Section**

<http://www.thevoice.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

**BMC (Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian & Gay Concerns):** A social group that provides support for Mennonite GLBT people, their friends and families. Various events throughout the year. For info write P.O. Box 43031, Eastwood Square, Kitchener, ON N2H 6S9, or call Colleen at [REDACTED]

**Coffee Club** - If you like to drink coffee and just chat. 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:** is a social club for lesbians in K-W and area. In Kitchener call Leslie at [REDACTED] or email [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. Catherines: (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.

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

**GLBT 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

### 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.

Or if you'd also like to be listed on our website:

## WHAT DOES PRIDE MEAN?

### FREE GIFTS

Have you ever gone to Pride? Which ones? What did you think of them? What did you like? What would you like to see or do differently?

*The Voice and Waterloo Wellington Regional Pride want to know what Pride means and are willing to give away gifts in order to get your opinion.*

In 100 words or less describe what pride means and receive a free gift. Simply write or email your thoughts and ideas about Pride to the Voice with your name, address and phone number and you will receive a free give plus your correspondence will be printed in the June "Pride" issue of the Voice.

Deadline for all comments is May 15th, 2001. This is your opportunity to tell it like it is.

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

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**Kitchener, Ontario**

**N2M**

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

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

## On Line

Waterloo-Wellington Regional Pride sponsors two new email lists. One, WWRP is an announce list that will keep you up to date on the activities and plans of the WRRP. The other is an interactive list with the purpose of community-building and the discussion of issues relevant to the LGBT communities of Southern Ontario.

To join one of these lists email:  
**[wrrp@rainbow.on.ca](mailto:wrrp@rainbow.on.ca)**

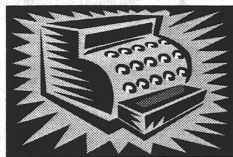
For further information check out our web site at: **[www.rainbow.on.ca](http://www.rainbow.on.ca)**

The Voice Magazine online has news, articles, tons of links, our Pride Album, and much much more and all there for your convenience.

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The Voice Magazine online - community at a glance!

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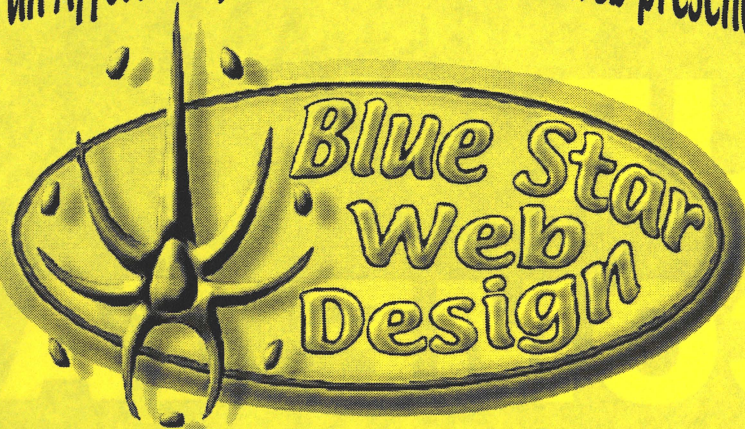


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[www.bluestarweb.on.ca/](http://www.bluestarweb.on.ca/)

Your WWRP Committee has been working hard for you! Later this month you will find your annual Rainbow Directory at all the places you pick up The Voice.

It has doubled in size and is your resource for LGBT-positive organizations and businesses in Waterloo and Wellington Regions.

We are also working on Pride weekend, June 8 - 10. Watch The Voice Magazine for details.

If you would like to be involved in this celebration of your community, please contact us:

[wwrp@rainbow.on.ca](mailto:wwrp@rainbow.on.ca)

519-743-5015

visit your WWRP web site:

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


Waterloo-Wellington

Regional Pride



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