

# Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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



## *The Voice*

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Volume Three

September 2001

Issue Twelve



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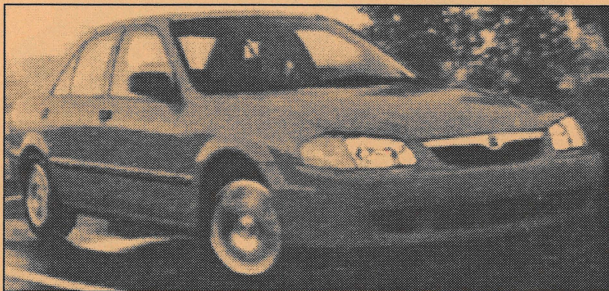
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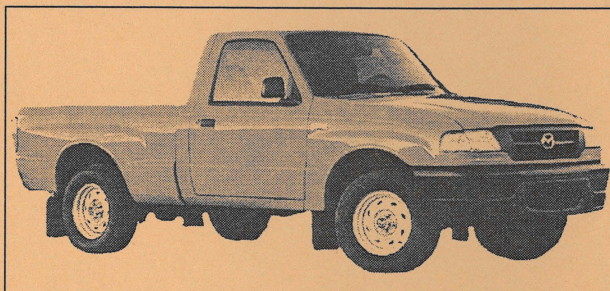
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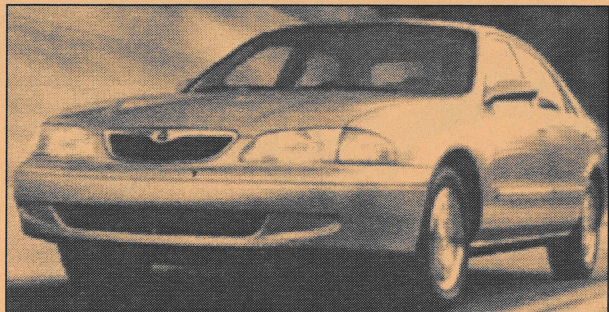
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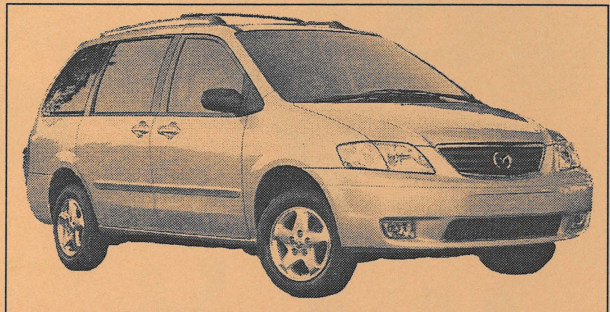
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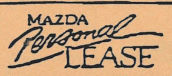
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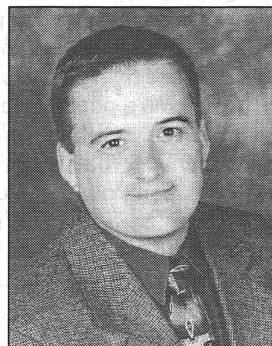
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# FIRST WORDS

## A community defined and divided by prejudice

By Lyn McGinnis



"Community" is a word we love to use. We have many definitions and symbols for who we are. Some still use the term "Gay Community," but most see this as being exclusive and spell it out as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, using "LGBT" for short. Still others use the old/reclaimed term Queer, meant to cover our diverse identities. Our rainbow imagery is meant to symbolize this diversity and harmony.

Unfortunately, we still see gay men being extremely sexist and hostile towards women. We see lesbians expressing contempt towards aspects of gay male culture. Both snub bisexuals as "fence sitters" and worse. Everyone pays lip service to welcoming transgender persons while laughing at them behind their backs. Clearly some feel better knowing there is someone even lower on the totem pole they can practice their own recreational abuse - meaning they haven't learned a damn thing from their own oppression. The result is we trample on any notion of community.

Many of us are dealing with emotional fallout from our childhood growing up queer. We have many burdens and wounds we carry around that are easy to bump into and cause new pain. We have coping patterns impeding our ability to create stable relationships with others, let alone build a cohesive community.

Then there is the issue of power. We have all felt power used to punish us for who we are. It seems strange given our personal experience, that power could be such a divisive force within our community.

The moment an individual or group stands up and tries to make a difference they are subjected to a continuous stream of abuse and criticism. The sub groups band together to shoot at anyone foolish enough to step into the spotlight. Their crime is attempting to build bridges between our little islands of difference.

This leads to few persons stepping forward when a general call goes out for help with community work. Few of us need any more abuse then we already face thank you, especially from supposed allies. Those remaining, feel isolated from the rest of the community they are trying to serve.

Don't we deserve to be happy and prosper? Must we do everything we can to sabotage any organized effort to make life work for us? Are we pathologically incapable of supporting and encouraging those trying to help us? If we were describing a person, we might be forgiven for calling them emotionally dysfunctional. What about when we are talking about "our community?" We are very far from being a united force dedicated to our collective liberation - and we have no one to blame but ourselves.

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## 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] 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.

Thanks for your coverage and airing of the issues surrounding the recent attack in Victoria Park. In the article, (August 2001) "Queer bashing: a sign of individual and cultural illness" by Lyn McGinnis, he claims that this bashing has as much to do with our culture as it does with anything else. I disagree. Cultural differences and such aside, those who resort to violence are manifesting more of their own lack of health than they are any cultural lack of the health of society. Aside from that I very much enjoyed the article and thought that McGinnis made some very good points.

Monty Meyers, London

I'm writing to let you know just how much I appreciate the "Claim Your Power" column. I have learned do much from Judy! I always find her articles so informative and helpful.

Anne W, Hamilton

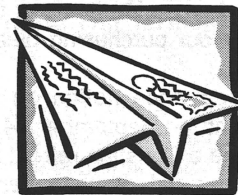
As someone without a computer I am very glad to see the news that is included in The Voice. Often I find very interesting news pieces in your magazine that I wouldn't have otherwise heard about unless my friends who are the net remember to tell me, which is rare.

Mike M, Waterloo

(Shades of Grey August 2001)

When is A.J. Mahari going to get off her preachy-high horse when it comes to public sex anyway? I mean, give us a break will you? What makes you think that you have the right to continue to bash those of us who have public sex? I'd really like to know. Could it be that as a woman, you just don't have a clue? Bet you don't publish this cause it's not a "fan" letter.

Paul S., Kitchener



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**Affirm United  
Conference  
By Paul Warder**

I had the pleasure of attending the Affirm United Conference this year in Cambridge, Ontario, from August 2 to 5. Wesley United Church was the host this year and the theme was "On the Road to Freedom: Trans-forming Stories", focusing on transgendered issues as they relate to diversity issues in the United Church of Canada.

The conference centred around fellowship, through meals, singing, and services, along with workshops and our theme speaker, Virginia Mollenkott. Virginia is a professor at William Paterson College in New Jersey and is the author of several books, including "Is the Homosexual my Neighbor?", "Sensuous Spirituality", and "Omnigender". Virginia showed us various references in the Bible to transgendered behaviours and imagery and she was both humourous and insightful.

All the events were held at Wesley United Church in Cambridge, however, on the Friday night, we all went to Westminster United Church in Waterloo for dinner and heard about their story on becoming an affirming congregation and also how they share their building with Temple Shalom, a Jewish Synagogue.

Gomorrahs Book Store, from Hamilton, had a display of books, magazines, calendars, and gay pride items at the conference for our purchasing pleasure.

Just some advance notice on an upcoming event: on September 14 to 16, there will be a Christian retreat for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered people and their families, friends and advocates at The Five Oaks Centre just outside Paris, Ontario. For more information, please see their website at "www.fiveoaks.on.ca", or call them at (519) 442-3212.

It was a great conference and wonderful to meet people from across Canada who are actively shaping and molding the future of the United Church of Canada.

Wesley United Church is located at 6 Cambridge Street in Cambridge and has services each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Westminster United Church is located at 543 Beechwood Drive in

Waterloo and has services each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

For more information on Affirm United, check out their website at:

**Kingston Men's  
Conference**

**Redefining Power**

The next Kingston Men's Conference will be held October 19 to October 21, 2001, at Kingston Hall at Queen's University in Kingston.

We often take power for granted. Sometimes we seek it. On other occasions we shun it. Much of the time, we struggle with it.

Power is also all too central in relations, both with partners and children (and parents). There's also power at work. How to cope in a situation where somebody wields power destructively. What to do if we're handed power. Both in relationships and at work, we seek to understand how to move from power over to power within.

Power and control are often lumped together but Tom Kral, whose musings at our planning day helped us to choose the topic, contrasts power and control: Power comes from within. Control comes from outside. Power is an end-in-itself. Control is a means to an end. Power nurtures itself. Control is as an addiction demanding more and more to satiate. Power is quietly satisfying. Control escalates in a demanding violence towards its targets.

The conference succeeds through its facilitators. And the reality is that we need about half of those attending the conference to serve as facilitators — and that means, obviously, those who have attended in the past, since many of the men attending each year are new. So please help us by making a commitment to facilitate now.

If you have e-mail, please contact Harvey Schachter at his@kos.net or, after June 23, Eric Hargreaves at erichar@kos.net will also be around. If you're without e-mail, you can call Harvey at 613-531-8287 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or on weekends) and he can return your call if it's long-distance on his toll-free line.

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## COLLECTIVE SOUL



### Who is for the people?

By Laurie Soper



If you detest politics, I don't blame you. Politics seems barely connected to people's everyday lives. Labels like left wing, right wing, socialist, capitalist, democratic, dictatorial, and other isms and "ologies," carry connotations of good or evil that can be irrelevant or even ridiculous in a given context.

Politics for the people means decisions are made with the welfare of the majority in mind. A true leader is loyal to the people, not to cash or prestige or popularity, and certainly not to ideologies and labels. That's what every nation needs. Can you name one in recent history?

Using this criteria for politics and leadership, you can evaluate any government. For one example, let's paint a typical scenario using hypothetical numbers. Each month Company B pays out \$5 million in bank loans and \$1 million in wages to their factory workers. In a downturn, consumer demand falls, the profit margin thins, and bankruptcy threatens. To save the factory and jobs, spending has to be reduced. What are the options? You either ask the banks to ease their interest rates and renegotiate the loans to Company B, or you chop workers' wages.

A true leader for the people would choose whichever option has the most benefits, or the least negative impact, for the most people. In this scenario the choice is obvious. Compare the number of factory workers generating actual product, to the number of people at the bank working to "manage" the loan payments. The ratio is huge—thousands to a dozen or less. Each factory worker in Company B generates millions of dollars of revenue per year

through product used by other people, while the bank creates loans out of thin air simply by crunching numbers. If the banks ease their terms, nobody suffers. Nobody loses benefits, seniority, jobs, cars or homes. The bank CEOs would still run away with millions of dollars in bonuses.

Yet most leaders place the entire burden on the workers. Although Bob Rae aligned himself with the left wing and socialist ideology, when he became premier of Ontario in the early 90s he earned the applause of card-carrying capitalists: when the recession hit, he demanded wage concessions from working people and demanded nothing from the banks.

The media delivers the impression that politics can be so complicated, that it takes years of bureaucracy to achieve the smallest of victories for the people. But we all know it's a matter of political will. As another example of politics against the people, Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain hails from the so-called left wing and aligns his Labour Party with working people. Yet within weeks of being elected, he privatized the Bank of England. What does it mean to privatize a national bank? It means the foundations of a country's economy in the global arena—interest rates, the national currency, and the money supply—are managed and controlled by a few unelected executives who have no accountability to the many, no incentive other than personal gain and prestige.

On the other hand, when you have a true leader with integrity and vision, political will works in our favour. Back in the 40s when Saskatchewan farmers were suffering from the drought,

Premier Tommy Douglas wasted no time. He made it law that during times of drought the banks could not foreclose on defaulted farm mortgages. Then he tried to get the banks to waive interest payments during drought. When the banks refused, he took them all the way to the Supreme Court. Though the Court ruled in the banks' favour, Douglas made it clear whose side he was on. And the banks made it clear whose side they were on.

Soon after that, Douglas moved to provide electricity to every farmer in Saskatchewan, at the government's expense. The unions with the Power Corporation protested, saying it was going to infringe on their jobs. Again Douglas did not waver; he knew the majority would benefit over the long term if everyone had access to basic utilities. So he found a way to get the union on his side. He delegated, bargained and negotiated. Nobody lost their jobs. The farmers got their electricity.

Can you call him a capitalist or a socialist? Was he left wing, right wing, dictatorial, or democratic? Who cares? He was a leader for the people.

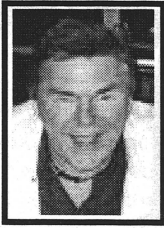
**Laurie Soper is a writer who lives in Cambridge, Ontario. A Voice exclusive.**

"Nobody realizes that some people expend tremendous energy merely to be normal." --Albert Camus

"I'm going your way so let us go hand in hand" -- William Morris

"I am hoarse from silence."  
--Theodore Roethke





## Much Ado About Not Much To Be Ado About

By Charles W. Westfall

City TV has an interactive call in show as part of their noon newscast. It features a viewer poll that usually attracts between four and six hundred responses. Viewers call one phone number if in favour of the question; another, if opposed.

A recent topic asked whether viewers approved of making resources about gay and lesbian families available to primary schoolchildren. The response was more than three times the normal volume. It was also resoundingly opposed to the idea. The proportion was at least three to one.

Those who called in to talk on air reflected a more balanced proportion. Those opposed, however, simply confirmed something that is not really news. Homophobia is still kicking around. The number and nature of overt attacks may have diminished but attitudes haven't changed. Not surprisingly, the familiar dismissal on moral grounds remains a favourite weapon for those seeking justification for their attitude.

The same topic was aired briefly on a Focus Ontario feature, with Janet Ecker as guest. Again, not surprisingly, she remained aloof from the issue, refusing to express a personal opinion at all and simply saying that the government doesn't like to get involved in such matters. For her and them, they are matters for the parents to iron out.

Her empty rhetoric was as disappointing as it was evasive.

Surely someone could have pointed out that books that promote understanding of a lifestyle are not intended to promote that lifestyle. Someone could have noticed that in home indoctrination could well foster a determined and negative bias in the young mind as it

develops. It would have been nice to at least mention that there are many levels of morality and social convention and that one person's perception is not necessarily best for all.

In a strange emphasis, host Troy Reeb seemed to go out of his way to point out that one of the books in question contained a picture of the two dads applying suntan lotion to one another. If the image of two persons of the same sex applying lotions is erotic or dangerous, then he'd better stay away from locker rooms, gyms and beaches. Give us a break, Troy.

To their credit, panellists and hosts on both shows admitted their support for the venture and expressed puzzlement over what it was that those opposed to it were afraid of. I was reminded of a discussion I had with The Reverend Ken Campbell. Although I asked repeatedly about the source of his fear and the nature of the threat he felt that Gays and Lesbians posed, he did not have an answer.

And there, it seems to me, lies the crux of the matter.

Opposition of this sort arises, after all is said and done, from a phobia. In this case, homophobia. Like all phobias, homophobia is an irrational fear of something that is not, in itself, threatening or frightening. Also, like all phobias, it can lie dormant until some situation arises that triggers it.

I think it's important to emphasise that there is nothing morally wrong with being phobic. Phobias can be the result of a natural tendency, a bad experience or prolonged conditioning. Left unchecked and untreated, however, they can easily explode into extreme negativity and violence. They can all too easily become destructive of one-

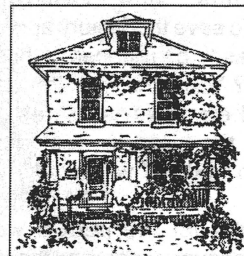
self and others.

Surely, the recommendation of the Ontario Primary School Teachers does not represent the same kind of danger. On the contrary, it has the potential to help eradicate homophobia from the start and before it has a chance to take root. If for no other reason, it deserves support and implementation.

This may seem to be much ado about not much. To me, however, it is a crucial step in the fight for understanding and equal rights. It is, in fact, much ado about something well worth being ado about.

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

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## Tom Cruise extends gay defamation suit

Tom Musbach, Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network  
Friday, August 24, 2001

The ex-wife of porn star Kyle Bradford denies that she defamed Tom Cruise when she sold a story to the National Enquirer detailing her ex-husband's alleged affair with the celebrity actor.

Kristina Ann Kirstin, along with Bradford (who also goes by the name Chad Slater), has been named in the \$100 million defamation lawsuit filed by Cruise last May.

The suit was originally focused on Bradford, who allegedly gave an interview to the French magazine Actustar that focused on his homosexual affair with Cruise. Bradford, who starred in several erotic wrestling videos, denied giving the interview, and Actustar

agreed to publish a retraction.

Lawyers for Cruise recently included Kirstin in a four-page amendment to the original lawsuit, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Kirstin's attorney, Chuck Kester, confirmed that she did speak with the National Enquirer and was paid for her statements. He added that she spoke to the tabloid only after the suit was filed and brought to the public's attention.

"Did she say anything defamatory? No," said Kester.

Kester's concluding statement incorporated titles from several Tom Cruise films: "Mr. Cruise had his 'Eyes Wide Shut' when he filed this lawsuit against my client. All he could see is 'The Color of Money.' But litigation is 'Risky Business,' and we are optimistic that the court will dismiss his claim in the near future."

## Gay student faked hate e-mail campaign

NEW YORK — Last year, when 25-year-old Edward Drago began getting hate e-mails, he complained to officials at the College of New Jersey, but little was done.


Then someone painted a swastika on the door of his dorm room, and officials began to get concerned and doubled security at Drago's residence hall.

When classes resumed this semester, the hate e-mails continued and spread to the offices of GUTS, the gay student organization in which Drago served as treasurer. The college called in local police after fear began to grip the whole campus.

During the height of the scare last semester, a large rally was held. Sophomore Jessie Burger said, "The rally had large faculty support, everybody was wearing the pink ribbons." Now, police say the whole thing was faked.

Drago has been charged with harassment and filing false reports, according to Dr. Jesse Rosenblum, a spokesman for the school. The psychology major was brought in for questioning by campus police and confessed to all the gay-themed crimes, Rosenblum said.

Rosenblum, however, did not know what Drago's motive was. The student was suspended pending a disciplinary hearing.



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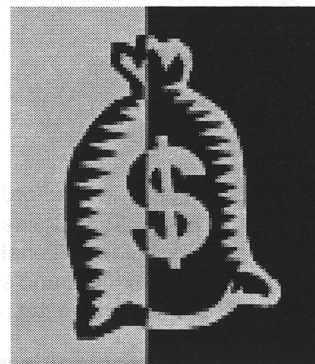
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## Starting a Small Business: Advantages & Disadvantages

By Darren Kregar



*So you want to start a small business. Are you really sure you want to start a small business? Following are advantages and disadvantages to starting your own business. Of course, I decided to list the disadvantages first hoping you will become discouraged and decide not to read the advantages next month.*

### The Disadvantages:

#### Irregular Cash Flow

Your income may be come irregular. When you work for someone else you will receive a weekly or bi-weekly pay. However when you start your own business your income will be based on fluctuations on the economy, competition, supply and demand and how effective you are in attracting customers on a regular basis to purchase your product or service. You will likely have no income for the first few months of your business as all earnings will be put back into the business to pay for incurred expenses.

#### Time Consuming

Your involvement with the business will generally be very time consuming, especially during the first few

years. In most cases you are the salesperson meeting clients, the marketing department who gets involved in networking to promote your business, the public relations department who deals with client problems and of course, you are also responsible for paying the bills and making deposits at the bank. If you have a family, you may have them help you with some of the work that needs completed. Not only must you work in your business to make sales and profits, you must not forget to work on your business. Working on your business involves attending conferences, building personal and entrepreneurial skills to help your business grow, updating your business plan and determining strategies to expand your business.

#### Financially Challenging

You will be under pressure to succeed from family, friends, investors and creditors. You must commit considerable financial resources toward the operation of your business at the start. This may include your savings, using credit cards and personal line of credits, spouses savings and or bank financing through loans or equipment leasing. Lines of credits, loans and leases obviously must be repaid (with interest) back to the financial institution granting the financing.

You are faced with the risk of losing all of your savings in the venture as well as accumulating additional debt due to circumstances within or outside your control. Health, family and marital problems may affect your business. If you are in a partnership, you and your partner may decide to split which may cause clients to not use your services in the future. Increase competition and downturns in the economy may have a negative effect on the net income of your business.

#### No Benefits

There is a lack of fringe benefits such as health, dental insurance, paid vacations, and unemployment insurance. You will not have any company pensions to look forward when your retire. Health and dental insurance is your responsibility and may be quite costly. During the first few years of business you will be lucky to take a vacation, without having to do business while on vacation. You also do not receive overtime pay once you work over 44 hours per week.

#### Paperwork

Considerable paperwork may be required by various levels of government. You are also required to sort and file your paperwork in a manner that is



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## Waterloo Region's AIDS Walk 2001

It is once again the time of year to lace up your walking shoes and support. ACCKWA (The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo & Area) in its largest fundraising event of the year! The AIDS Walk is on Sunday, September 23rd, at Roos Island in Kitchener's Victoria Park.

ACCKWA is a non-profit agency that provides support services and programs to individuals who are infected or affected by HIV and AIDS. ACCKWA also provides very important education and prevention programs and services to individuals and groups in the community. In addition, ACCKWA is a voice and provides advocacy for anyone affected by HIV/AIDS who many need support and services to deal with the many issues that arise with HIV/AIDS in Waterloo Region.

All pledges collected for Waterloo Region's AIDS Walk remain in the community and are used to provide services right here in your community. Through your participation in the AIDS Walk, you are ensuring quality programs and services are available in our community. You are also helping to continue to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and the need for continued compassion for anyone infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

For those who are unable to walk, there are many volunteer opportunities available on the day of the event. Volunteers are crucial to the success of any large scale special event. The AIDS Walk relies on the support of many volunteers. This offers a great opportunity to be a part of the Walk and festivities and to meet incredible people, while still helping an important cause. You can volunteer in groups with friends or family, or on your own. We have a variety of positions that we can match to your area of interest and time preference.

Please contact ACCKWA at 570-

3687 or [www.acckwa.com](http://www.acckwa.com) for more information about the AIDS Walk, to register, to volunteer, or to find out about the programs and services we offer. Join us and support the fight against HIV/AIDS.

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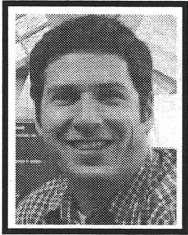
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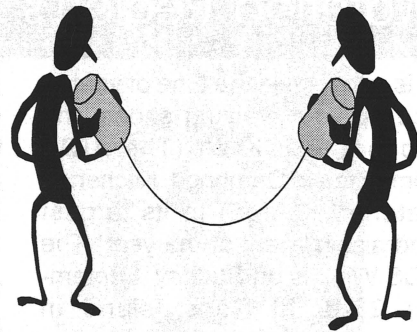
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## Communication is Key for Relationship Challenges

By Dr. Jeffrey Chernin



Every relationship has challenges, and there are several ways to work through them. The most important of these ways, perhaps the only way, is through open communication.

A vital aspect of communication is trying to understand one another's point of view. You can do this by taking your own and your partner's thoughts, feelings and desires into account on an equal basis. By doing this, you are in effect acknowledging that there are two points of view and that there may be many options for relationship challenges.

Regardless of how well you communicate, conflict is inevitable. Since conflict happens in every relationship, it is the way you handle conflict that will influence how smoothly your relationships will go.

One problem is to try to have things resolved Now. If your urgency causes you to bring up something right before bedtime or on the phone (or through e-mail) at work, it can make matters worse. Rather, discuss issues when you're together, perhaps over coffee or a meal. Also, sometimes it's better to let a little time pass before bringing up a subject, but remember that your partner may not recall who said what and who did what if you wait more than a few days.

If you handle conflict by withdrawing, it can bring up fear in you partner, who in turn may feel emotionally abandoned. If you're a person who withdraws, consider using more direct ways to express feelings toward your partner, and avoid the temptation to manipulate by staying silent.

And speaking of manipulation, there are several relationship games to avoid. The first one is "I'm mad at you and you should know why." Your partner is not a mindreader, and don't expect him or her to be. Another one is

called IGYNYSOB, or "I got you now, you son of a bitch." It's the game of waiting until he/she does something you don't like several times and then pouncing on your partner like a lion on its prey instead of saying something each time it happens. This game is related to "cashing in," which is letting gripes pile up before you lose it.

In general, avoiding using hot-button words. Couples tend to develop patterns: one partner says a hot-button phrase, such as an accusation, the other partner gets upset and replies with a predictable response, and so on. If you know your partner reacts when you use a certain word or phrase, simply say something else.

Also, it is important not to argue about what was said in the past. Typically, this type of argument leads to going round and round.

To avoid these and other games, it is important to learn conflict resolution skills. One major component of conflict resolution is to specify an action as opposed to identifying a trait. For example, mentioning that your partner doesn't pick up his or her clothes will probably lead to a more productive discussion than saying that s/he's lazy. In fact, calling your partner any names, such as moody, controlling, ignorant, etc. can escalate an argument, and dis-

cussing an action has a better chance of leading to a resolution.

One tool for working together to solve problems is to show each other that you are listening. Using a technique called "active listening." Active listening does not involve interpreting what your partner is saying. That can only lead to him or her getting frustrated or feeling misunderstood. It's not simple parroting either. It is rephrasing and/or summarizing what you understand your partner is saying to you.

For example, if your partner says, "I was so embarrassed at the restaurant when you started raising your voice," an active listening response is, "So you were embarrassed when I started to yell." Also, in order to actively listen, ask questions to solicit more information as you attempt to understand your partner.

Another tool is to use "I" statements. "You" statements are debatable and lead to defensiveness. "You made me angry by leaving," is an example of a You statement. Instead, try saying, "When you left the house, I felt angry." Those kinds of statements are hard for your partner to dispute, and it explains to him or her how you feel as a result of what happened.

When conflict arises, partners at times hurt each other. Generally, part-

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ners think that the person who is right doesn't have to apologize. Rather, if your spouse is upset, apologies reduce hurt feelings, and it doesn't matter who is "right." And an apology is complete only when you commit to yourself not to do it again. When you commit to not doing it again, an apology becomes one of the highest forms of communication.

So, in order to build a solid relationship foundation, avoid games and learn to communicate. If you reach stalemates, a third party, such as a therapist, can be helpful to develop better communication. And in my experience with clients, communication difficulties are almost always at least half of the problem.

**Jeffrey Chernin, Ph.D. is an author and psychotherapist in Los Angeles. He can be reached at [REDACTED] - This article was submitted to The Voice by Dr. Chernin.**

## Greying LGBT's

By Donald H. Kausler and  
Barry C. Kausler

It is believed that the proportion of older people who are homosexual differs little from the proportion of younger people. This means that there are about 3 million elderly homosexual men and women in the United States. A myth of aging is that elderly homosexual men and women are, on the average, more lonely and more despaired than elderly heterosexual men and women. This may have been true before the onset of the gay rights movement in 1969, but it seems unlikely today.

Surveys during the past 10 or so years have indicated that gay older men show diverse lifestyles and considerable well-being. The majority do not appear to be depressed, lonely, or sexually frustrated. Many of those interviewed revealed that they are still sexually active and that their sexual relationships are very satisfactory. Virtually all of the elderly gay men interviewed indicated that they preferred their sexual contacts to be men of similar ages rather than young men.

Similar surveys of older lesbians reveal that, on the average, they are comfortable with their sexual preference and that they appear to be in excellent mental health. There is some indication that lesbians may discontinue having their sexual activities at an earlier age than do gay men.

It has been argued by some gerontologists that homosexuality may actually be adaptive to the usual stresses of aging caused by society's frequent devaluation of its elderly population. A homosexual preference may help the

individual to become more independent early in life and to avoid being entrapped in traditional sex roles.

Homosexuals have become familiar with the stigmatization often associated with homosexuality, and may therefore be more adaptable than heterosexual elderly people to the stigma associated with aging.

However, the little evidence available fails to lend much support to this belief. A study conducted in the mid-1980s revealed that more than 80% of the older lesbians interviewed felt positively about their sexual preference, but only about 50% felt positively about aging.

A problem facing homosexual older people is the fact that senior centers, retirement communities, and nursing homes are all traditionally heterosexually oriented. Homosexual participants and residents are therefore likely to feel constrained and isolated in these facilities. Of interest are the results of a survey of older lesbians in which only 5% of those interviewed said they attended a senior center, and most of them indicated a strong preference for lesbian or lesbian/gay facilities and services. This problem is likely to be resolved in the future as the rights and needs of homosexuals, including those of elderly homosexuals, are increasingly being recognized.

*Source: Excerpt from "The Graying of America: An Encyclopedia of Aging, Health, Mind, and Behavior." (second edition, 2001), by Donald H. Kausler and Barry C. Kausler (HTML at U-Illinois Press)*

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## Homosexual panic' killer wants new trial

Ann Rostow, Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network  
Friday, August 24, 2001

Attorneys for Oklahoma death row inmate Gerardo Valdez filed an application for a new trial yesterday, arguing that his civil rights were violated and that a doctor has since revised the inmate's psychiatric profile.

The lawyers state that, as a Mexican citizen, Valdez was not told he had the right to confer with the Mexican consul under an international convention governing criminal law.

In addition, the appeal includes an affidavit from the state psychiatrist who originally testified that Valdez was fit to stand trial for the 1989 murder of Juan Barron. The psychiatrist, Cecil Mynatt, now says that he made a mistake. According to wire service reports, Mynatt now believes that a childhood jeep accident left Valdez brain-damaged and not responsible for his subsequent behavior.

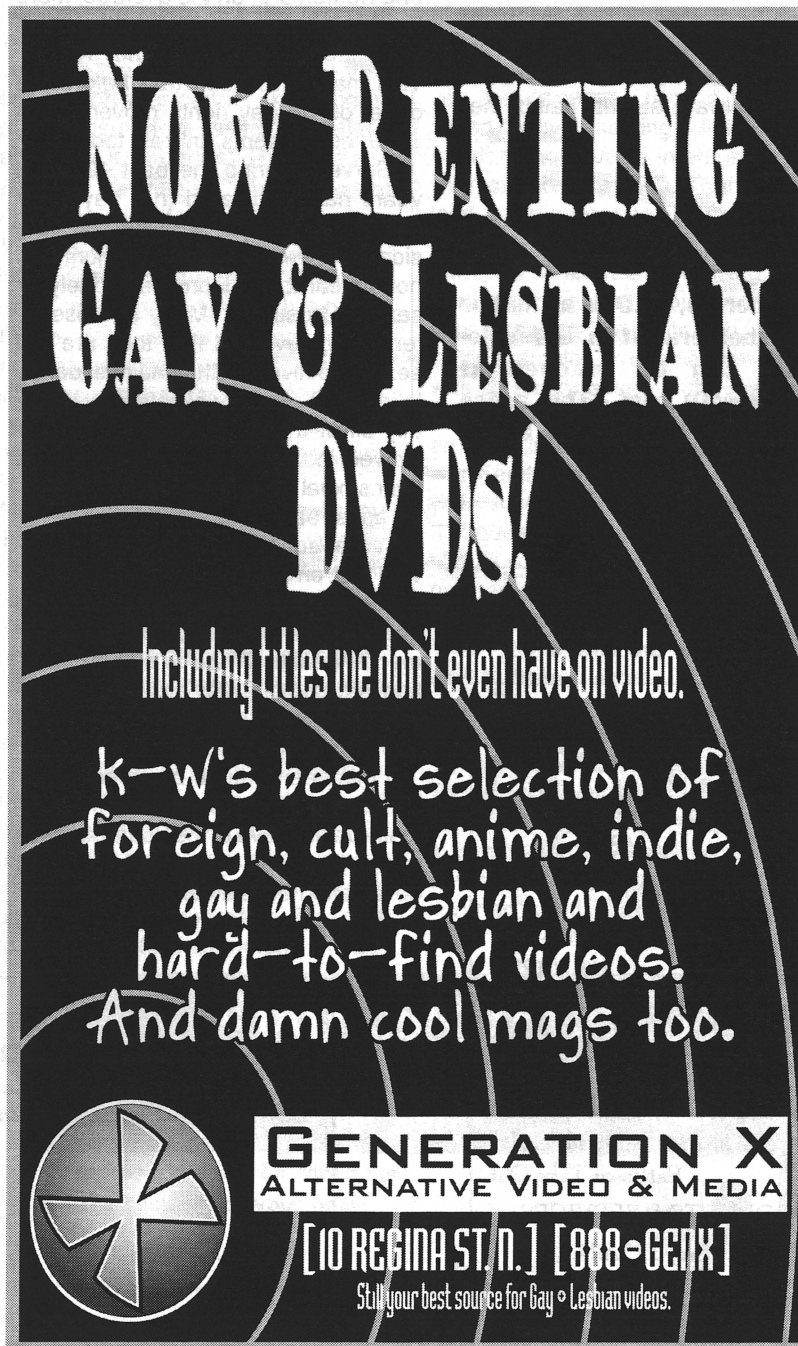
In 1989, Valdez took Barron home from a bar, shot him twice and burned his body in a barbecue pit. He told authorities he killed Barron because of unwanted sexual advances.

In his new affidavit, Mynatt claims Valdez was suffering "from paranoia, specifically triggered in this instance by homosexual panic." In addition, "he is brain-damaged and was under the influence of alcohol." The doctor reversed himself after reading medical notes and other documents provided by Valdez's defense lawyers.

Oklahoma governor Frank Keating has granted two stays of execution for the 41-year-old killer, most recently a 30-day reprieve beginning Aug. 17. According to Reuters, however, Keating has rejected a request for commutation to life in prison from Mexican President Vicente Fox, and has remained unmoved by continuing protests by death penalty opponents.



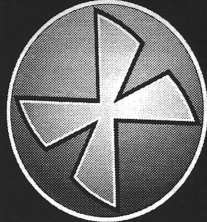
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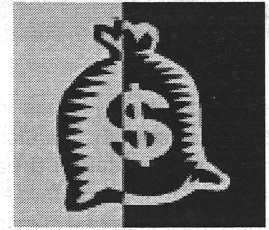
# GAY MONEY



## ESTATE PLANNING

### WHEN SHOULD YOU PREPARE AN ESTATE PLAN?

by Bonnie J. Babin,  
Investment Planning Counsel of Canada



Some people think they are too young to do estate planning. Yet age is not the main factor. We all hope to live to a healthy old age; not all of us will. As soon as you have some assets or a family, you should have an estate plan. Estate planning is not something that you do at the end of the day. Rather, it should be part of your ongoing financial strategy. People in their late forties bury their friends, people who were in their peak earning years who hadn't stopped to consider that they may be mere mortals. Despite all our medical and technological advances, we cannot escape death. Now this does not mean that we should live in paranoia. It just means that every once in a while you should imagine what would happen if you were suddenly not in the picture. And take the appropriate measures.

Like any financial plan, your estate planning requires periodic tune-ups to keep it effective. If you change partners, a review of your estate plan may indicate that changes are needed to reflect your new personal circumstances. If the people appointed in the will are unable or unwilling to act on your behalf, the documents should be updated. If your assets increase or decrease in value, the amount of income tax due to your final tax return will change. And importantly, your estate plan should reflect changes in tax legislation, succession law, and family law. If you retire at 65 and live to be 85, that's 20 years of changing legislation and family dynamics.

When it comes to estate planning, it is better to be too early than too late!

#### DO YOU WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO BE ONE OF YOUR BENEFICIARIES?

Governments are waiting for you to die - so they can collect those final income taxes. Since the \$ 100,000 capital gains exemption was eliminated, estates face higher income taxes than ever before. The tax planning side of estate planning can help keep more for your beneficiaries, reduce your taxes, or provide a higher income for yourself in your retirement years.

Even Canadians who do not consider themselves wealthy by traditional standards have accumulated significant wealth during their lifetime. People who are now 60 or more were taught to be savers. They also invested in property - property whose values rose rapidly through periods of high inflation. (You may remember when houses cost \$ 10,000!). The values of personal real estate and other assets have increased the net worth of more than one generation of Canadians. Surveys reveal that more disposable wealth is about to change hands in the next two decades than ever before.

If leaving a large estate is not one of your priorities, you might look at ways to reduce the size of your taxable estate. You might spend more money today on yourself or give some away. Take your RRSP (Registered Retirement Savings Plan) or RRIF (Registered Retirement Income Fund). Many people believe it is better to leave money in these registered plans for as long as possible but this is not always the case. So let's say you are 62 and your partner dies. Without planning, up to half of your RRSPs will be collected as income tax by Revenue Canada. A RRSP worth \$ 150,000 when

you die, will have a tax bill of up to \$ 75,000. Of course, you want to be sure that you have enough for your needs, but do you really want the government to be a major beneficiary? I'm not advocating that you run out and spend all of your RRSP but you may want to see if the tax bill at death can be minimized and your income over your lifetime maximized.

#### SAME-SEX COUPLES

While the laws affecting same-sex couples are changing, I wouldn't wait for them to be fully in place in order to cover your estate planning needs. There are steps you can take now to protect your partner.

Be sure to prepare wills that clearly state your instructions and name your partner as the beneficiary on RRSPs/RRIFs, life insurance, annuities and pension plan, where appropriate. Also prepare your power of attorney.

Consider registering assets as joint tenants with rights of survivorship (not in Quebec) or, for added privacy, setting up a living trust prior to death.

If there are children involved, set up testamentary trusts for any assets they might inherit and name the appropriate guardian in your wills.

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

*Investment Planning Counsel  
of Canada*

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This time of year always brings mixed emotions. It's never easy to watch the summer (and our vacation dreams) die. At the same time, even those who haven't seen the inside of a classroom in years still associate September with new beginnings.

For gay and lesbian teens, back to school too often means back to exclusion, back to lies, and back to abuse. But it doesn't have to be that way. True, there may not be much we can do in the short term about the more deep-seated forms of homophobia. But there are ways of making high schools and colleges friendlier places for GLBT students, teachers, and staff.

The biggest, most difficult step, of course, is coming out. Just identifying ourselves goes a long way toward creating an environment of tolerance and respect.

And since everything is easier with a little help from your friends, we've provided a list of guidelines for starting a gay/straight alliance at your school.

Of course, coming out when you're on the other side of the classroom has its own set of issues. If you're a gay or lesbian educator, or know someone who is, check out GLSEN's coming out tips for teachers

## Start a Gay-Straight Alliance in 10 Steps

A gay-straight alliance (GSA) is a school-based group organized to end anti-gay bias and homophobia in schools and create positive change, making schools a welcoming and safe place for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The steps listed below are intended for use in public high schools where other extracurricular clubs already exist or are allowed. Because situations and schools vary, there are no simple steps that apply to every school. Go to [www.studentprideusa.org](http://www.studentprideusa.org) for more help in starting a GSA in your school.

### 1. Follow Guidelines

Establish a GSA the same way you would any other group or club. Look in your student handbook for your school's rules regarding clubs. Some schools require students to go through a process for establishing a club -- this could include drafting a constitution or showing student interest.

### 2. Find a Faculty Advisor

Find teachers or staff members who you think would be allies or who have already shown their support for sexual orientation and gender identity issues. See your school rules for more information about who can be a club advisor.

### 3. Find Other Students

Work with a diverse range of students who are interested in such a group. You may check with other existing clubs for students who might have an interest.

### 4. Inform the Administration

Inform administrators of what you are doing right away. It can be very helpful to have them on your side. They can work as liaisons to teachers, parents, community members, and the school board. If an administrator opposes the GSA, give him or her information about the Federal Equal Access Act (EAA). You can find more information and copies of the EAA on the Student Pride Web site.

### 5. Pick a Meeting Place

Look for a meeting place within the school that offers some level of privacy, yet is still accessible.

### 6. Advertise

There are many ways to advertise -- your school bulletin, announcements, flyers, or word of mouth. Don't be discouraged if your flyers are defaced or



torn down. Plan to have people check on them throughout the day and replace them if necessary. Eventually, whoever is tearing them down will give up, or be reprimanded by the school. Besides, advertising your group and having words up such as "gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender" or "end homophobia" can be part of educating the school, and can actually make other students feel safer -- even if they never attend a single meeting.

### 7. Plan Your Meeting

Of course you want to have a good meeting, so plan ahead of time. There are tons of things you can do, from discussions to inviting speakers, from workshops to games. Visit Student Pride online for ideas.

### 8. Hold Your Meeting!

You may want to start with a discussion about why people feel the group is needed or important. You can also brainstorm about what your club could do this year.

### 9. Establish Ground Rules

Many GSAs have ground rules in order to ensure that group discussions are safe, confidential, and respectful. A lot of groups have a ground rule that no assumptions or labels are used about a group member's sexual orientation.

### 10. Plan for the Future

Develop an action plan. Brainstorm activities. Set goals for what you want to work toward. Also, look into local GSA Networks in your town or city.



## Just The Facts

The following is a fact sheet that summarizes important statistics about the impact of homophobia on gay and lesbian youth.

### Self-Realization

Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth report first becoming aware of their sexual orientation at age 10.(1)

The mean age of lesbian and gay youth becoming aware of their first same-sex attraction is 9.7.(2)

### The School Climate

"We were picked on. We were called 'queer' and 'faggot' and a host of other homophobic slurs. We were also used as punching bags by our classmates, just for being different."

97% of students in public high schools report regularly hearing homophobic remarks from peers.

39% of LGBT youth surveyed reported that no one ever intervened when homophobic remarks were made in school. 47% of youth reported that someone intervened only some of the time. Other students were more often reported to intervene than were faculty (82% reported intervention by students, compared to 67% reported for faculty).

53% of students report hearing homophobic comments made by school staff.

20% of secondary school counselors report that counseling a homosexual student concerning gay issues would not be personally gratifying, and do not consider themselves competent in counseling gay adolescents.

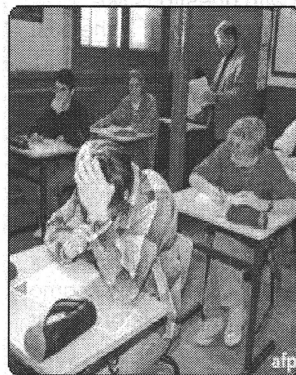
41.7% of LGBT youth do not feel safe in their schools because they are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

### The Family

"On reflecting about homosexuality, I've learned that: my religious tradition taught me to believe that my son was a sinner; my medical support system taught me to believe that my son was

sick; my educational system taught me that my son was abnormal; my legal system views my son and his partner in an unsanctioned relationship without legal rights and protection that are afforded my married daughter; my family, immediate and extended, provided no acknowledgment or support for having a gay relative in its midst; my major communications sources treated homosexuality as deviant." -- father of a gay son

28% of American households consist of married parents with biological children;



7% consist of married parents with children where a father works outside the home and the

mother at home.

In 1998 almost a quarter (23%) of children lived with only their mothers, 4% lived with only their fathers, and 4% lived with neither of their parents.

In Philadelphia, 34% of lesbians and 33% of gay men report abuse by family members as a result of their sexual orientation.

26% of adolescent gay males report having to leave home as a result of conflicts with their family over their sexual orientation.

42% of homeless youth self-identify as gay/lesbian.

### Anti-Gay Violence & Harassment

"I just began hating myself more and more, as each year the hatred towards me grew and escalated from just simple name-calling in elementary school to having persons in high school threaten to beat me up, being pushed and dragged around the ground, having hands slammed in lockers, and a number of other daily tortures." -- a gay male high school student

69% of LGBT youth report experiencing some form of harassment or violence in school.

Students who said they had experienced anti-gay harassment were four times as likely as non-harassed youth to say they had been threatened with or injured by someone with a weapon at school in the past 12 months, and seven times as likely to report having missed at least one day of school in the past month out of fear for their safety.

Heterosexual students who had been harassed because someone believed they were gay were three times as likely as non-harassed heterosexual peers to report having missed at least one day of school in the past month out of fear for their safety.

### Health Issues

"Due to societal fear and ignorance, my teachers and counselors labeled my confusion as rebellion and placed me in the category of a troubled discipline problem. But still I had nothing to identify with and no role models to guide me, to help me sort out this confusion, and I began to believe that I was simply alone. A few weeks into my sophomore year, I woke up in a psych hospital after taking my father's camping knife violently to my wrists and hoping for success." -- lesbian student

In Seattle, 35.8% of gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth, compared to 22.5% of heterosexual youth, reported to be engaging in high-risk or heavy drug use.

Gay, lesbian, bisexual youth are more than four times more likely to have attempted suicide in the past 12 months than their peers.

LGBT youth report chronic stress from anti-gay harassment. In a study conducted among predominantly black and Hispanic gay and bisexual adolescent males, 50% reported stress from being ridiculed for being gay or bisexual.(18)

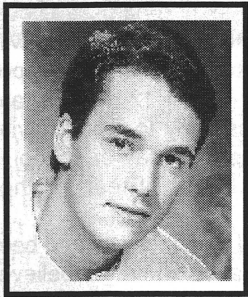
24% of GLB youth reported getting pregnant or getting someone pregnant.(19)

*GLSEN is the largest national organization bringing together students, teachers, parents, and concerned citizens from all walks of life, working to end anti-gay bias in schools across the nation.*

*GLSEN is the original source of this information which can be found at:*

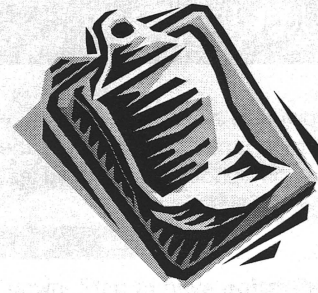
[www.planetout.com](http://www.planetout.com)





## Cute Boys With Clip Boards At Midnight

By Kirk Read



Where I come from, we had a name for those people: *Nosy neighbors*. Picture this — you're in the Castro, it's midnight on a Saturday night, and you're halfway to all-liquored up. Suddenly, right in front of you is *Stop AIDS Man*. *Stop AIDS Man* is usually a 15 year-old with a clipboard and a red jacket.

"Do you have time to take a survey?" he says.

Well, usually they're right cute.

"Sure, I've got time," I say.

I'd just moved to the city and thought he was going to ask me for my zip code to register me for a free trip to Vegas. What followed was not a contest registry, however. That child proceeded to ask me filthy, intimate questions about my sex life.

Well, I'm half-drunk, so I'm able to overlook this community servant's, invasive nature. I veer WAY off topic. I have nary a shred of that fabled Southern restraint, which managed to elude my family altogether. So I'm telling him all about my fetish for men who give piggy

back rides, cigar sex, and how I might really like to explore human dog training with the right person.

Meanwhile, men are stopping on the sidewalk, just sort of milling around. I'm a cheap date, so the few beers in my blood have raised the volume of my voice and have pinched what little Southern accent I possess into an obnoxious drawl.

This poor little volunteer is writing down every word I say and flips the paper over several times to accommodate my answers. He keeps

trying to bring me back to his questionnaire with questions like "How many partners have you had in the past three months?"

To which I respond "Sugar booger, I just moved to San Francisco, it's after midnight, and I'm all tore up. I can't count that high."

Stop AIDS Man, undaunted, thanks me and gives me a handful of condoms in garish neon colors. Eroticizing latex is enough work without having to come to terms with someone's fluorescent green penis.

Stop AIDS Man gathered his satin cape and flew away into the night. I guess I was really loud, because I got three phone numbers following the interview. Thank you, Stop AIDS Man.

Looks like I'm not the only one getting dates from street surveys. The results

***"Some of the harm reduction strategies reported by bi/gay men include having unprotected sex only with partners with the same serostatus, having fewer unprotected partners, and considering the differing risk factors for tops and bottoms."***

of a similar survey conducted by the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in cooperation with the New York City Health Department were recently released to coincide with New York's LGBT Pride festivities. GMHC's strategy is celebratory, and their press release

(www.gmhc.org) leads with the statement that members of the queer community volunteered thousands of hours to make this survey happen. While it's heartening to see so many people willingly beating the pavement for the cause, there could be a conflict of interests here. Volunteerism is advocacy, while science, even social science, is objective. The message is "if queers want to be studied, we must do it ourselves."

One of the summary's surprises is that only 13% of the men reported

being HIV-positive, which is far less than the commonly held belief that half of all bi/gay men in San Francisco and New York are positive.

The survey took a more nuanced approach to anal sex without condoms; unprotected anal intercourse describes condomless anal sex with a person whose serostatus is the same, while unsafe anal intercourse describes the same act with a partner whose serostatus is either unknown or different. In other words, members of a monogamous gay couple from Iowa are not considered "barebackers."

Some of the harm reduction strategies reported by bi/gay men include having unprotected sex only with partners with the same serostatus, having fewer unprotected partners, and considering the differing risk factors for tops and bottoms.

The nuance proved too much for the mainstream media to handle. The press release was followed with two very different takes on the story from the New York Times and the Associated Press.

Beneath a color picture from the gay pride parade, the New York Times ran a story on its front page with the headline "Study Says Gay Men Reducing Levels of Risky Sexual Behavior." The story contained lines like "young gay men are heeding messages about the need for precautions." The overwhelming message of the article and its timing was "Bravo, gay men! You're responsible after all!"

The Associated Press, however, led with "More than a third of homosexual men in New York City don't use condoms when they have sex, but most of those who have unprotected sex are trying to reduce the risks of HIV infection in other ways." Where the Times explained the nature and history of the survey, the first third of the AP



article was obsessed with unprotected anal sex and the percentages of men who have it in varying configurations. The moral of the stories? Buttsex is far too creepy for Middle America, kids. Either ignore it altogether (the media approach of the 80s) or lead with it in a sensational way (the media approach of the 90s).

One of the lessons of the barebacking debates last year was that boiling things down to black and white is dangerously simplistic. When San Francisco's Stop AIDS Project released its survey results to the Centers for Disease Control, the media, both mainstream and queer, had a field day. A 5% increase in the reporting of unprotected anal sex over several years was met with screams of "Gay men are suicidal!"

The stories of gay male sex are always told by media DJs who spin a slight hit record forward and backward. Pundits of all persuasions loop, sample and scratch this single as a back beat for whatever wall of sound they want to deliver. Yeah, boyeee, that shit is dope! But the studies themselves have limits, which go unexamined by alarmists and advocates alike. The respondents are disproportionately white, and the studies don't have built in factors for adjustment. No one has bothered to ask whether gay men might be a little shy about fessing up to barebacking while talking to a trained sex educator on the street. And what about the staggering numbers of men who have disappeared into cyberspace? These men on the street surveys are not reaching the rapidly growing number of men who meet the majority of their sexual partners online.

While I applaud GMHC and Stop AIDS for undertaking these studies and for training and managing an army of volunteers, I am wary of these efforts being treated as legitimate social science. I am reminded of the Advocate sex surveys of the early 90s, which provided interesting and enlightening information about a particular group of people. The importance of both sets of studies is undeniable, but diminished by the people they didn't reach.

And Lord knows I can't bitch \*too\* much about Stop AIDS Man. After all, he got me several dates.

**This article was submitted to The Voice by Kirk Read. He can be found at [www.temenos.net/kirkread](http://www.temenos.net/kirkread)**

## **EGALE ATTENDS WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM, RELEASES REPORT ON THE INTERSECTION OF RACE AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION**

On the eve of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, taking place in Durban, South Africa, from August 31 to September 7, 2001, EGALE Canada released a report on the intersection of race and sexual orientation, and announced the participation in the World Conference of EGALE representatives Kim Vance and Fiona Meyer-Cook.

### **The Report:**

The report, which is available in English, French and Spanish, compiles experiences of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people of colour, and of two-spirited people, based on personal interviews. It was authored by Wayne van der Meide, a gay man who identifies as mixed-race (Indo-Caribbean and white-Dutch). He is currently working as a human rights lawyer in Canada, and has also worked in South Africa and the U.S. in areas including discrimination related to race, gender, class & sexual orientation.

### **The Conference:**

EGALE is committed to developing

its involvement in issues of multiple discrimination, in the hopes of building stronger coalitions within and across equality communities, and better fulfilling our mandate on behalf of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people within Canada," said Kim Vance. "It is essential that these issues be advanced at the World Conference. Around the globe, lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people continue to face staggering levels of violence, torture and discrimination - even at the hands of their own governments."

The recent decision by United Nations Member States to deny conference accreditation to the International Lesbian and Gay Association, is one measure of how far the international community still has to go in addressing these issues. Those of us who are fortunate enough to live in a country like Canada - whose government delegation has been at the forefront of advancing these issues internationally - have an increased responsibility to participate and support equal treatment for all human beings at the international level."

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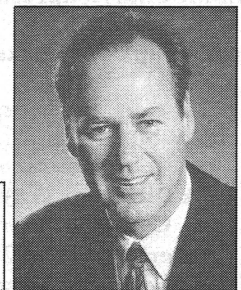
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## Queer as Your Folks

Michael Bronski, Boston Phoenix

Do lesbian parents raise queer kids? A recently published study says they do. It's easy to predict how socially conservative lawmakers will use the study. But national gay organizations — the ones who've spent millions of dollars trying to convince mainstream America that gay people are just like straight people — face a tricky decision.

In "(How) Does the Sexual Orientation of Parents Matter?", a 24-page article published in the April issue of the *American Sociological Review*, University of Southern California professors Judith Stacey and Timothy J. Biblarz found that the children of lesbian parents were more likely to experiment with same-sex relationships than those raised by heterosexuals. Girls raised by lesbians tended to be "more sexually adventurous and less chaste" than those raised by straight parents, while boys tended to be just the opposite. Boys also tended to be more fluid in their definitions of gender roles, while girls were much more independent and assertive. Children of both genders were found to be more sexually and culturally tolerant than their peers.

Biblarz and Stacey, who is also a member of the Council on Contemporary Families, came to their conclu-

sions after reviewing 21 psychological studies conducted over the past 20 years on children raised in lesbian families. (Studies of children raised by gay men had smaller statistical samples.) The 21 studies, conducted from 1981 through 1998, examined a range of family groupings and dynamics (from lesbian couples raising children conceived through donor insemination to families headed by parents who came out during previous heterosexual marriages). Each of these studies originally concluded that there are no significant differences between children raised in lesbian families and those reared in heterosexual ones. Stacey and Biblarz have little criticism of the methodology used in these studies, but after reviewing the data, they found that the authors' conclusions didn't completely represent their findings.

Take, for example, the question of the children's sexual orientation. Whereas the original studies found that lesbian parents do not produce a higher percentage of gay or lesbian children than heterosexual parents, the reality, as Stacey and Biblarz point out, is a little more complicated. In one of the original studies, 25 percent of adults raised by lesbians (six of 25) reported having a homoerotic relationship, as compared to none of those (out of 20 surveyed) with heterosexual parents. In another study, 64 percent of the adults with lesbian parents (14 of 22) reported that they would consider having a same-sex relationship, as opposed to just 17 percent of those with heterosexual parents (three of 18).

It's true that the people raised by lesbian parents were not more likely to be gay in the sense of identifying themselves as homosexuals in adulthood. That was the question the original studies asked. But their sexual identities do seem more open-ended. And the new study does seem to show that, as Barnard women's-studies professor Ann Pelligrini says, "queer families are going to produce queer kids. By 'queer,' I mean kids who can resist thinking in cultural norms. Kids with a sense of difference who have the capacity to be critical of 'common-sense notions' of

what families should be."

So what's the problem? What parents wouldn't want their children to be tolerant? Their girls to be ambitious and assertive? Their boys to be communicative and emotional? And given the endless cultural fretting about women being from one planet and men from another, who wouldn't be happy to raise young women who are sexually assured and young men who exhibit a little less eagerness in their sexual adventures?

Traditionalists and moralists, that's who. To social conservatives, many aspects of Stacey and Biblarz's study simply confirm what they've long believed: gay men and lesbians should not be parents. Just ask Lynn D. Wardle, a family-law specialist from Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School, who continues to be interviewed on this topic even though many legal scholars and sociologists consider his work deeply flawed by his bias against gay rights. He told the Associated Press, "This is a flashing yellow light that says before you legalize gay adoptions you better think clearly. The social science doesn't support those kind of radical reforms."

Although the study came out just three months ago, it's already being used as evidence that lesbians and gay men are unfit to be parents. It's been offered for that purpose in *In Re Adoption of Luke*, a Nebraska second-parent-adoption suit brought by the lesbian partner of a child's birth mother. (Conversely, however, the study is also being cited in pro-gay briefs in such cases as *Lofton v. Butterworth*, a class-action suit challenging Florida's bar against adoptions by gays, and in same-sex-marriage cases in Ontario, British Columbia, and Quebec.) Both researchers recognized the possibility that their study could be used against gay families; they wrote of the need to "recognize the political dangers of pointing out that ... a higher proportion of children with lesbigay parents are themselves apt to engage in homosexual activity." But they thought that the subtle realities of gay parenting deserved public discussion.

"I have no doubt that this work will be abused and it could conceivably do harm in some individual cases, but that will always happen," Stacey tells the Phoenix. "In the end, I believe, it is always better to be truthful and honest

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about people's lives."

Until Stacey and Biblarz embarked on their review, every previous scientific, sociological, or psychological examination of children raised in lesbian families focused on one question: were the children put at a disadvantage? The answer was always an overwhelming "no." Meanwhile, because most of the researchers understood that their studies could, as Stacey puts it, "be used by politicians, policymakers, judges, and even other academics and scientists as ammunition against judicial and legislative decisions on a whole range of issues relating to gay and lesbian parenting, custody, adoption, and foster care," they downplayed some of their findings — especially concerning the sexual identity and behavior of the children — in some subtle and some not-so-subtle ways. Stacey says that the original researchers did this not so much out of "political correctness" as out of "political anxiety."

One of the primary purposes of the Stacey-Biblarz study was to explore the political need to downplay the differences — which they describe as "modest and interesting" — between the children of lesbians and those of heterosexuals. Toward that end, their study calls for a "less defensive, more sociologically informed analytic framework" to study gay and lesbian families. As Stacey has pointed out in nearly every interview she has given since the study's publication: "Differences are not deficits."

But a "less defensive" atmosphere may be difficult to achieve now that, as Paula Etlebrick of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force puts it, Stacy and Biblarz have "burst the bubble of one of the best-kept community secrets." As it's trickled out from academic circles to the mainstream media, the Stacey-Biblarz report has received an enormous amount of publicity from the New York Times, the New York Post, Newsday, the Washington Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Nation, and even the China Daily. And Stacey has been interviewed on the Fox News Channel's The O'Reilly Factor and National Public Radio's The Connection.

With the cat out of the bag, some mainstream gay-rights groups are still sticking to the old script. Mary Bonauto of Boston's Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, for example, says the

best news of the report is that it "forcefully reaffirms the fact that there is nothing detrimental about gay and lesbian parenting." Others are embracing the differences between the new findings and the old. "Of course there are enormous similarities in gay and heterosexual families — curfews, fights about television, household chores, homework. These are problems all families face," says Felicia Park-Rogers, founder and director of Children of

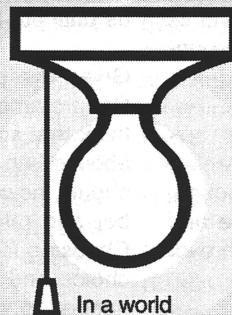
Gays and Lesbians Everywhere. "But we also have to admit that lesbian and gay parenting is also different and that difference is often quite wonderful."

Ironically, however, it seems riskier to stress what should seem like the best news: that, as Stacey says, "the study shows the real benefits of being raised in a gay family."

But why? Surely at least progressives,

Continued on page 25

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# Spiritual Life: The Quest for Freedom

## Matters of Life and Death: Mostly Death

By Noel Springwood

Chances are that while you are reading this column, 100 people in Canada, 10 people in Ontario and 1 person in Toronto are in the process of taking their own lives.

For them, the pain of living has become too great to bear and they are doing what they feel is necessary to escape it. The pain can be physical or emotional, caused by internal or external factors and be real or imaginary. Whatever its nature and cause, it has become unbearable.

When I first heard the statistics on suicide in Canada, I was, quite frankly, shocked. On second thought, though, it is not so surprising that more and more people are choosing death over life.

There have been times when suicide was considered an honourable death. Take for example Socrates allowed to drink poison as a form of execution or the custom of Roman officers falling on their sword rather than undergo capture and disgrace. There have also been times when suicide has been considered a grave sin and even, if unsuccessful, a serious crime. Certainly, the example of Judas, as told in the Bible, did nothing to enhance suicide as an option.

In our times, physician assisted suicide is no longer a rarity and the practice has even received national support in countries like the Netherlands. Attempted suicide is no longer a crime and victims of suicide are routinely given Church funerals.

I believe that it is hardly possible, at times, not to contemplate suicide. To act on that impulse, however, would seem to demand a very troubled and intense mental state. On the other hand, suicide support groups exist and you can even find books that describe the most effective and least uncomfortable methods of taking your life.

In all of this, it is, perhaps, good to remember the words of St. Paul who reminds us that it is not an easy thing, even for a good person to die. As natural and universal as death is, it represents an enormous transition that we can never understand fully in advance. Certainly, those who have had near death experiences have given us some inkling of what the experience can be. At the same time, the reality evades us until our turn comes.

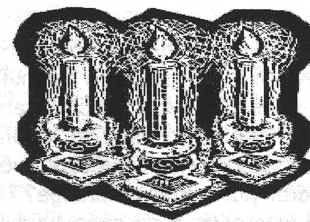
Given the preponderant number of Queers among the suicide statistics, I think that sober and rational thoughts about death are certainly in order. They should, however, be balanced with sober and rational thoughts about life. Choosing life is undoubtedly the best choice and life is not always what is handed to you. Life is often what you make of it.

I have known many individuals suffering from extensive debilitating diseases. To my great chagrin, most of them found inner strength that could give me comfort at times when I found it impossible to reach out to them. The smile of a mute paraplegic confined to a hospital bed, seen while I was still quite young, remains with me still.

The words of a clerical colleague, speaking at the funeral of his sister, who had taken her own life, come to mind. "At least she thought there was a better life somewhere."

I believe that a life lived without thoughts of death is incomplete. Death is a part of life. I believe too that the process of grieving, of letting go, is also a part of life. However, without denying those realities, there is also an avenue of joy and fulfilment.

That avenue requires self-knowledge and self-discipline. It also requires a sense of belonging and purpose. It prospers in a supportive context. It requires a constant struggle against giving up or giving in. At the same time,



there is the challenge of Dylan Thomas's words, "Do not go gentle into that good night ... rage, rage against the night."

It is all too easy to feel that I am not worth the effort. That my life does not count. That my death would pass unnoticed and unmourned. That I do not deserve to live any longer. Those perceptions do, indeed, make death look like the easy way out.

Death is, indeed, the way out. You can't, after all, get out of this world alive. My hope is that those who live and read these words do find reason to live and to live happily. My great fear is that in some cases words are not enough to stop someone bent on suicide. My prayer is that those who contemplate such action may find someone to share their burden and walk with them through life.

To those who don't, who become a suicide statistic, my fondest wish is that they have found a better life. To those of us who survive their going, my appeal is to grow in the kind of sensitivity, mutual respect and support that will discourage others from following them.

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

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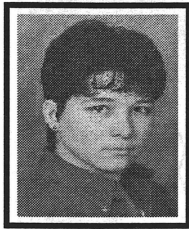
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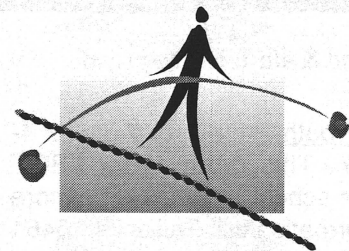
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## PASSIONATE RELATIONS



### Sexual healing, baby

By Jasmine Neaves



Marvin Gaye's song always confounded me. What on earth did he mean by sexual healing? I never bothered to listen closely to the lyrics, so I never found out what he meant. But Life asked me for a dance and I found out firsthand.

So to speak.

Before that moment, I always thought of sex as a celebration of love between two people. I thought of it as a physical consummation, or the ultimate expression of the "spiritual" or "emotional" love between two people. I never understood sex as an opportunity for healing.

The Anglo-Saxon verb to heal means to become whole or becoming one. Becoming whole can mean, in the words of k.d. lang, mending wounded seams ("Wash me clean") in order to become one with ourselves, to bring fragmented parts together in unity. It can also mean becoming one with someone else, with many others, or with the universe.

Healing comes in many forms. You can bawl on the shoulders of someone who holds you close to contain your sobs. You can enjoy a week by the lake to get back in touch with yourself after months of stress, through fresh air, fresh sights, fresh sounds, and the evening silence in utter darkness. You can heal through sleep, as many of us do every night. Healing can take place over a few seconds or a few years. Opportunities for healing are everywhere, if you open up your mind and body to them.

Many years ago I suffered a deep depression that lasted for months. Reprieves came in rare moments,

sensations, tastes. Early one morning I was just waking up on the couch at my sister's house, once again on the verge of tears. She laid her infant son beside me. As she opened the living room drapes to the orange rays of the eastern sun, my 11-month-old nephew began to study my face with his eyes. I felt a tear fall. He lifted his tiny hand and began to trace the tear with his fingers. More tears fell. I felt a oneness with this nephew of mine, long before he could have been conscious of how powerful his touch was. Thirteen years later he can still heal people through his hands.

At other times I have felt healing through food, words, music, poetry, sunshine, laughter, wine, cannabis, art, film, cardiovascular exercise, sport, a bath, or a freshly ground cup of espresso latte. And then, to my utter surprise, I found it through sex.

So many loose ends in my body and soul...such intense emotion, anguish, loneliness, and love...such an extreme craving to find expression, release, communion...carrying a wearisome weight of tribulations on my aching back, yearning to lose myself in the ancient country called Woman.

And there she is.

Little do I know the pleasure of her kiss will heal me as it does. I close my eyes as she inhales my soul into her mouth, and seconds later, when our tongues begin to sing in harmony, my entire body is pulled into a centrifugal swirl. I don't feel my feet anymore, and the galaxy begins revolving around us with dizzying speed.

I become the thunder and she the meadows and forests and mountains.

I pour torrents upon her glistening grasses until her rivers flood their banks. I dive in, and the surging undercurrent buoys me afloat. Then suddenly I am the beach, and she is the sunshine and the waves, washing over me, washing me clean, cleaner and cleaner again, inside and out. As she enters me I become blind to all direction. Am I lying down or am I flying? Am I circling the planet or are the stars circling me? Milky Way indeed.

Doesn't it feel like you're dissolving? Dissolving like two separate icebergs becoming one ocean. Two parts becoming one whole. Healing.

"Yes, but Ms. Neaves," you counter: "where is the love? Does she truly love you? Or is it just a sexual relationship?"

And I reply: if I invited you to my home and served you a gourmet meal that renewed and regenerated your spirit and body, would you ask me, "Yes, but do you love me?"

I still can't tell you the lyrics of Marvin Gaye's song. But now I certainly recognize the tune.

**This column is a Voice Exclusive.**

"Of all the misconceptions about love the most powerful and pervasive is the belief that 'falling in love' is love. But it does lead us to make commitments from which real love may begin and gives us a foretaste of the more lasting mystical ecstasy that can be ours after a lifetime of love."

M. Scott Peck



# SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY EVENTS

2nd & 4th Tuesdays in Sept

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

2nd & 4th Wednesdays in Sept

On the second Wednesday of July, Glow will hold its Heart to Heart Discussion Group. On the fourth Wednesday in July the Diversity Discussion Group takes place. For more information on either group or the Coming Out Discussion Group call GLOW at [REDACTED]

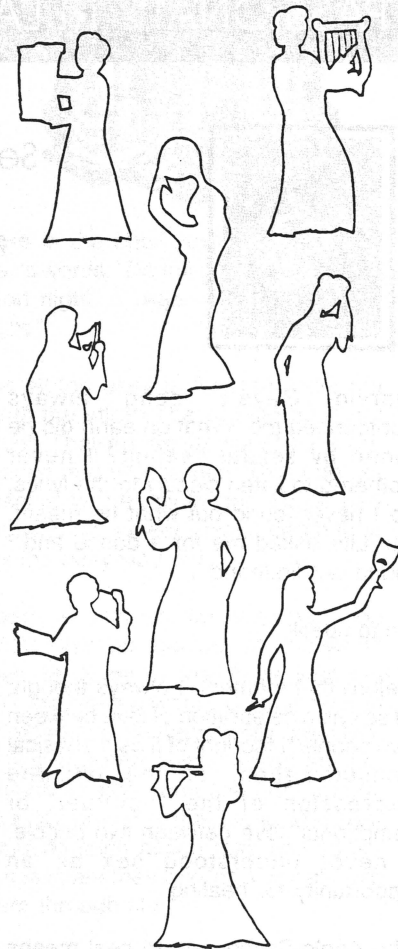
For a list of groups and activities that take place on a regular basis please see page 30. Or check them out on line at [www.thevoice.on.ca](http://www.thevoice.on.ca) by clicking on Community

## Waterloo-Wellington Regional Pride

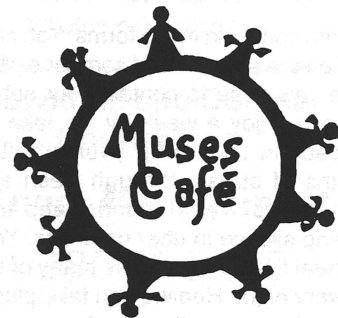
We will be beginning even earlier this year to organize next year's Pride Weekend. Volunteers are welcome to come and join in the process of not only planning pride but helping to continue to build this community organization. [wwrp@rainbow.on.ca](mailto:wwrp@rainbow.on.ca) or call (519) 743-5015.

Sunday September 23rd  
ACCKWA AIDS Walk  
(See back cover for more details)

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. [REDACTED]



*There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.*



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## Waterloo Region Community Health Department Anonymous HIV Testing Drop-In Clinics

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

150 Main Street - Second Floor, Cambridge  
Mondays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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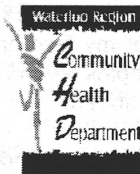
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Tuesdays 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. drop in

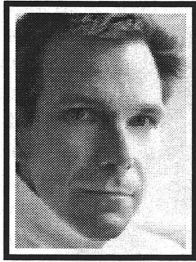
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## HIS-STORY



### Confessions of a Late Bloomer Sex, Homosexual Men and Heterosexual Marriage

By Randy Siegel



Like the sweet siren's song, my homosexuality called out to me. By strapping myself to the mast of heterosexual marriage, I resisted its magnetic pull.

I swapped my sexuality for security. My self-image was based on being a mainstream, married man.

Today, some gay friends marveled I could have been married. Having sex with a woman, they just couldn't understand.

Sexual researcher Alfred Kinsey reported homosexuality and heterosexuality are neither bipolar nor mutually exclusive. While lifetime exclusive homosexuality is relatively uncommon, some degree of homosexuality over the course of a lifetime is not.

Kinsey created a seven-point scale measuring degrees of homosexuality, assigning "0" to exclusive heterosexuality and "6" to absolute homosexuality.

Most of us fall between 1 and 5, he claimed.

While I was a superb lover mechanically, something was missing. My ex-wife felt she was "making love to a machine."

While we had sex at the beginning of our marriage, the frequency soon diminished. Most homosexual men report their sex lives with their spouses are stronger the first year or two.

For me, sex became a dreaded duty. Avoiding the dirty deed as often as possible made me feel guilty for not meeting her needs.

Seven years into our marriage, my ex-wife tried to seduce me for the first time. She hoped to resurrect our dying sex life. I panicked fearing I could not perform.

An elephant was sitting in our living room, and we chose to ignore it. Rarely did we discuss our waning sex life.

I masturbated constantly. Dreams of naked men always danced in my

head.

When she would travel, I would rush to a convenience store across town. I would purchase a copy of Playgirl and Playboy hoping to fool the clerk.

Immediately tossing aside the Playboy, I tore open the plastic imprisoning my Playgirl. Like a starving man at an all-you-can-eat smorgasbord, I feasted on glossy pages of well-hung men.

Like my fantasies, I kept the magazines hidden. Then one day I almost got caught.

When my ex-wife and I flipped our mattress, a photo of a naked man spilled out on the floor. White as a ghost, I turned to my spouse to see what she would do.

Faced with a Pandora's Box she was unwilling to open, my ex-wife apologized, explaining it must have been stuck to her box spring from her single days. Looking back, this was one of many clues my ex-wife chose to ignore.

Magazines weren't my only source of sexual fantasy. I also enjoyed a massage at a local hotel. I couldn't wait for it to be over as I enjoyed the steam room and sauna far more than the massage.

I loved leering at naked, sweaty men in the sauna. I felt I was still faithful as long as I "looked but did not touch."

Another gay friend who was married shared a similar story. He said he used to work out at the YMCA since its steam room was so sexually hot. He would flirt, sometimes flaunt, but that's all he would do. It was important to him to stay faithful to his wife.

All was fine until a man followed him home. My friend freaked. He switched gyms for fear he'd be caught or caves into temptation.

I too was proud I remained faithful. While it was easy to be self-righteous,

I had to wonder what I would have done if an opportunity had arisen.

After several years of marriage, many gay husbands begin to stray. Married men make up 54 percent of anonymous sex in men's restrooms according to a study by Land Humphrey. Hustlers report most of their clients are married and online gay chat rooms are filled with married men.

While clandestine sex is anonymous and quick, these men risk being arrested. One married friend made a pass at an undercover policeman and ended up in jail.

Fear kept me faithful but could not keep me married. Like many homosexual men in heterosexual marriage, I craved passion and intimacy in my life.

I was losing the battle for security. My sexuality was winning the war. I began to entertain thoughts once too horrific to consider. I began debating coming out to my wife.

Once the gates were open, I could not close them. Within six months, I would ask for my wife for a divorce.

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.

"I ask about the sky, but the answer is about a rope" -- unknown

"The only courage that matters is the kind that gets you from one moment to the next." -- Mignon McLaughlin

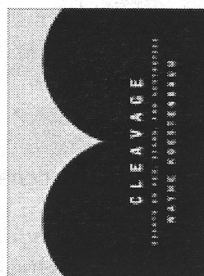
"If you were absolutely convinced that you had no feeling in your hand, you'd be relieved to burn your fingers." -- Jean Kerr



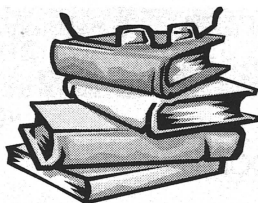
## BOOKS

### **Cleavage: Essays on Sex, Stars, and Aesthetics**

by Wayne Koestenbaum

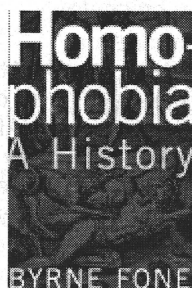


One of the most engaging commentators alive today, Wayne Koestenbaum has turned his sights on the very fabric of American culture in *Cleavage*. For those familiar with the wit and poignancy with which Koestenbaum's previous books have investigated such subjects as opera (*The Queen's Throat*) and pop iconography (*Jackie Under My Skin*), this collection of essays will not disappoint. Running the gamut from a brief history of cleavage ("I've always loved cleavage. It reminds me of long division and other old-fashioned mathematical skills learned in grammar school but no longer useful to me in adult life.") to profiles of Alec Baldwin and Melanie Griffith ("Alec is a smart guy. He uses words like 'template.' We hit it off.") to musings about paparazzi, masculinity, and the glamour of reading, *Cleavage* is a writerly collection that surpasses the origins of many of its essays as journalistic assignments.



### **Homophobia: A History**

by Byrne Fone



Byrne Fone's ambitious history of homophobic culture includes a list of people who were executed for sodomy during one year in the 18th century. Among them are a man who was strangled and burned; another who was drowned in a barrel of water; another who was scorched, strangled, and burned to ashes; another who was strangled, burned, and his ashes thrown to sea. Although neither homosexuality nor homophobia existed as a category at the time, the fear that compelled such elaborate and total erasures is enough to give anyone a complex.

Fone repeatedly describes homophobia as "the last acceptable prejudice" The deeper question provoked by his evidence is why difference, of any kind, provokes such violent reactions in the world around us.

### **As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who Was Raised as a Girl**

by John Colapinto



Picture this: Two identical boy twins are born to a Canadian couple, their foreskins sealed at the tip. They are taken to a hospital where the doctor uses a cauterizing gun to circumcise them. The surgery goes very, very wrong, and the doctor winds up slicing off one of the boys' entire penis. The parents are advised to raise their castrated baby as a girl.

Sound like the beginning of a David Cronenberg film? Unfortunately it's a true story, one that Rolling Stone writer John Colapinto covers in *As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who Was Raised as a Girl* (Harper Collins). Colapinto's book is filled with revealing, touching, and infuriating accounts of the boy, Bruce, who was raised as a girl, Brenda, and his attempt to mend his life. What struck me was how Bruce/Brenda's early experience as a girl helped eventually shape him into an adult with a heightened sensitivity to the way women are treated. Sometimes a little gender confusion can be a good thing.

### **The Danish Girl**

by David Ebershoff



In this first novel by the publishing director of the Modern Library, the Danish husband of a young painter gets a little too excited when his wife asks him to try on stockings, shoes, and a dress for a portrait she is finishing. Based on historical figures, *The Danish Girl* unravels as Einar Wegener slowly becomes the girl in the painting. Einar's wife, Greta, a confident Californian, names her husband's alter ego Lili. Lili becomes Greta's muse, Greta's paintings start to sell, and the couple move to Paris. There, Lili starts to replace Einar on public outings with Greta. The couple decide that Einar will become Lili once and for all, and Einar sets out to Dresden, where under the care of a surgeon-psychologist he will change his gender.

Set in the decadent glitter of pre-World War II Copenhagen, Paris, and Dresden, *The Danish Girl* is a simply told story about love that surpasses the limitations of identity.

### Significant Others, Friends, Families and Allies of Trans People

Tell us your stories and thoughts, show us your pictures and art or whatever you do that expresses how you feel. We are looking for anything trans-related by you that we can use in a SOFFA space during the: "Sexin' Change: Reclaiming our Genders and Bodies" conference in Toronto this October. Help Us Make History!

**Submit pieces by September 30 2001 to:**

Meri · 51 Grosvenor St. #214 · Toronto · Ontario · M5S 1B5 ph: 416-928-6978 · mperrative@hotmail.com

Please include your name, address, phone number/email and how you want your piece displayed (if applicable). Anything 3D, please call first.

## Queer as Your Folks

continued from page 19

straight as well as gay, believe it is better to raise children who are emotionally secure about sexuality and gender than children who aren't.

If the findings from "(How) Does the Sexual Orientation of Parents Matter?" were taken to their logical conclusion, however, many progressives would have to admit that the report is an implicit critique of heterosexual parenting. Stacey and Biblarz found that "nonbiological lesbian co-mothers" are "more skilled at parenting and more involved with the children than stepfathers" and that "lesbian partners in two-parent families ... enjoy a greater level of synchronicity in parenting than do heterosexual partners."

This message may not be one the gay movement is willing to broadcast, especially because the value of less rigid gender roles is at odds with moderate — never mind conservative — views. After all, history has repeatedly shown that for the gay movement to sustain its core values while fighting for legal rights requires not just integrity, balance, and planning, but also a certain amount of deception.

Given that much of its lobbying for political reform rests atop a public-relations battle for social acceptance, the gay-rights movement has worked hard to show that homosexuals are no different from heterosexuals. Faced with

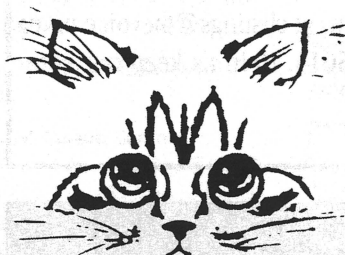
charges of indiscriminate promiscuity from the right, the movement responded by painting a happy portrait of homosexual monogamy and fidelity. And so we have a political movement that plays up gay-marriage lawsuits and plays down the fact that, generally speaking, gay culture is much more honest than mainstream culture about the myriad ways in which sexual desire can be expressed. Accused of being sinful, again by opinion-makers on the right, gay leaders have pushed an image of homosexuals as people of faith (never mind that many religions actively condemn gay people and have, throughout history, led social and legal attacks against them). Just look at last year's Millennium March, co-sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign and the Metropolitan Community Church.

To a large degree, this strategy has worked. The past three decades have seen tremendous advances in securing lesbians and gay men the basic rights of parenting that are immediately, and often unthinkingly, extended to heterosexuals. Second-parent adoption, which allows the unmarried partner of a legal parent to adopt his or her partner's child without terminating the partner's parental rights, is available in 16 states (including Massachusetts). Despite massive pockets of lingering

prejudice, parents who come out are no longer routinely denied custody of, or visitation rights with, their children. Foster-care policies are now far more lenient than they were 15 years ago. Some volunteer groups that work with youth — with the obvious exception of the Boy Scouts of America — now welcome gay men and lesbians. And while a 2001 Gallup poll showed that 40 percent of Americans do not think homosexuals should be elementary-school teachers, that's down from 54 percent who held such views in a 1992 Gallup poll.

These gains have come about in large part because mainstream society has become convinced that gay people are just like everybody else. And in an absolute sense, gay people are just like straight people: good, bad, patriotic, devout, apostate, untruthful, conniving, honest, sluttish, flawed, horrible, and wonderful in curious and fantastic ways. But gay people are also different — also in curious and fantastic ways. The question now is whether gay leaders will have the courage to say so out loud.

*Michael Bronski is the author of The Pleasure Principle: Sex, Backlash, and the Struggle for Gay Freedom (St. Martin's Press, 1998). He can be reached at mabronski@aol.com.*



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# COMMUNITY GROUPS

## SUNDAYS

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

**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.gpcamp.com/waterloounitarian/](http://www.gpcamp.com/waterloounitarian/)

**Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto (MCC)** 115 Simpson Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M4K 1A1. Phone (416) 466-6228  
[www.mccutoronto.com](http://www.mccutoronto.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 3rd 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]

## 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 o f 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 ACKWA and held in Waterloo, 7:00-9:00 pm. To join, or for more information, call ACKWA at (519) 570-3687

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]

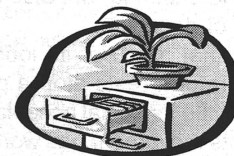
**Women For Sobriety** - Create a New Life, a drug & alcohol addiction support group for gay women, meets

## THURSDAYS

**Hamilton Transsexual Peer Support Group (FTM - MTF)** If you are post-op or pre-op transsexual or are dealing with gender dysphoria, come join this bi-weekly peer support group. 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Hamilton AIDS Network, 512 James St. N. For further details, please call (905) 528-0207 ext.43, or e-mail: [htspsg@gto.net](mailto:htspsg@gto.net)  
<http://home.golden.net/~kcr/htspsg/htspsg.html>

## BI-MONTHLY

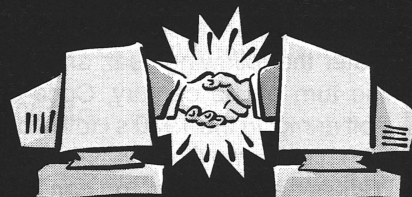
**PFlag (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)** meets bi-monthly. PFLAG is a support group for those with an LGBT family member. Children or teens with a gay parent(s) may also seek support from our group. Call Evie at [REDACTED] (Kitchener) or Sue at (519) [REDACTED] (Cambridge) or email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



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.

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: glbtadultsocialbrant@yahoo.ca

## CAMBRIDGE

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

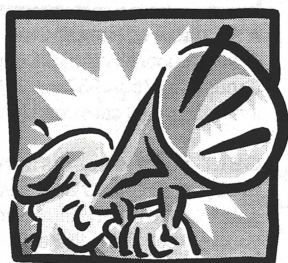


## Classifieds

### 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:



### WANTED

Single professional woman looking for a mature, responsible, kind, caucasian healthy gay male interested in fatherhood.

email:

or

Write to The Voice (Address on page 3 - attention C-1) or call us at The Voice and we'll pass your message along.

*The Voice Welcomes Your Submissions*  
If you have something you'd like to submit, please write, email, or phone us today.

### The Voice Magazine

P.O. Box [REDACTED]  
RPO Evergreen  
Kitchener, Ontario  
N2M [REDACTED]

Phone: (519) [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

The Voice Magazine is On Line at:  
<http://www.thevoice.on.ca>

## On Line

Waterloo-Wellington Regional Pride sponsors two 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:  
[wwrp@rainbow.on.ca](mailto:wwrp@rainbow.on.ca)

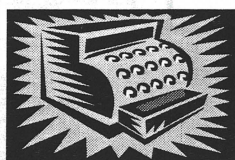
For further information check out our web site at: [www.rainbow.on.ca](http://www.rainbow.on.ca)

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

Check back often as we keep adding new pages. We want to keep you informed!

The Voice Magazine online - community at a glance!

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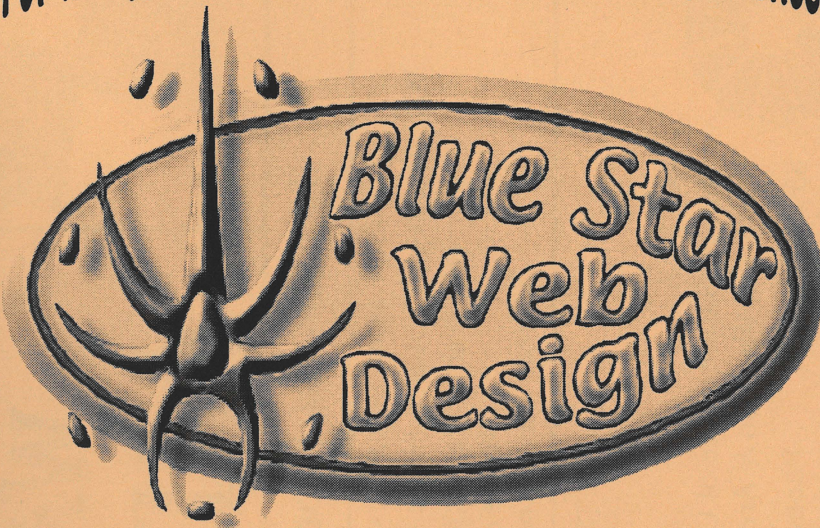
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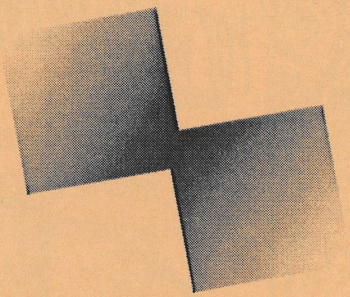
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Kitchener, Waterloo & Area  
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Kitchener, ON Fax 519-570-4034  
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