

## *The Voice*

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# The Voice

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Volume Four

Issue Five

February 2002

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See Page 18



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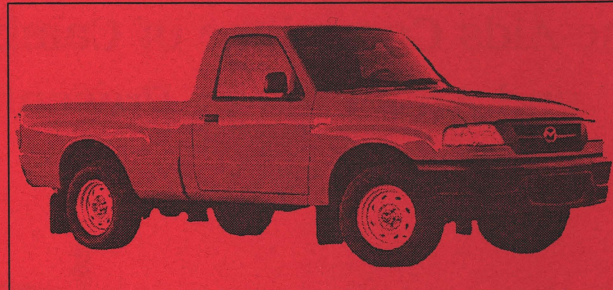
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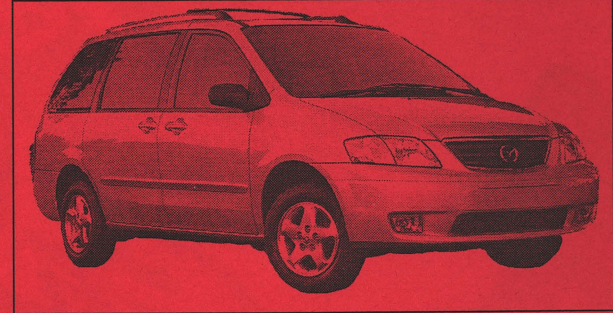
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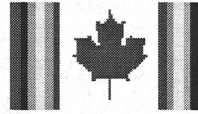
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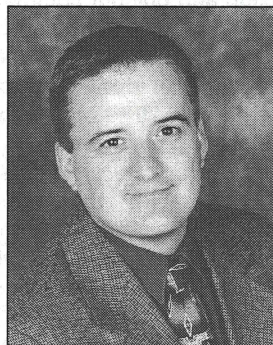
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# FIRST WORDS

## Coalitions are the answer

By Lyn McGinnis



"Pull yourself up by your bootstraps!" The 19th century American author Horatio Alger is famous for penning this line. It embodies a simplistic understanding of the individual's struggle for autonomy. This cherished American myth says any individual can beat the odds and succeed. This ideology pretends the context the individual exists in is fair and equal, if the person is a free agent, then any problems arising are that person's fault alone. It is the complacent voice of straight privilege.

This has led to the smug belief gays, lesbians, bisexuals and/or transgender persons are in the difficult situation we are in because of some deficiency in ourselves. The feminist movement has gone a long way towards discrediting this strategy of blaming the victim for their plight.

Because of this belief, we are very focused on individual achievement or failure, as opposed to collective movement making and broad social change. When confronted with a single child's need for a liver transplant, entire communities suddenly spring into action to help. These same communities lapse into inaction when the question of addressing problems within the entire health care system are involved, even though these problems are the true source of the much publicized child in need. This attitude of individual solutions over group organizing has done much to hamper our community's efforts to change very deep and broad systemic social problems.

We are not on a level playing field. Within this individual centered context, a queer person is encouraged to have counselling rather than join a consciousness raising group and become politically active in movements committed to social change. This is not to say some personal help may be needed to heal the experience of growing up in a homophobic culture,

but the real work begins when we put the emphasis where it belongs, on coalitions working towards changing the homophobic system itself. We need to challenge heterosexual norms as a whole. We need to divert energy and attention on an individual's success or failure, and refocus on the real culprit, a society needing to be critically re-evaluated.

While each individual needs to take on the challenge of living their lives honestly in spite of social disapproval, there must be more. We must gather together and continue to build coalition to address the larger concern of systemic intolerance. This month, The Independent Media Centre's (IMC) article announces the formation of the K-W Solidarity Network. (Page 4)

The goal of such a group is to bring together all those groups working for progressive social change and form coalitions to challenge the entire rotten system. This is one excellent example of how we can step out of our self absorption and pull our community up "by it's boot straps!" This can only be done collectively, just as intolerance and injustice is done collectively. During the 1970's playwright Tennessee Williams said: "The gay lib movement should consolidate with the other lib movements — the women's lib movement, and particularly with the revolutionary movements which are nonviolent — and become a single thrust toward the emancipation in America."

Have an opinion on this column or anything else you read in The Voice? Why not share it with us in our Have Your Say section or on our new Opinion Page?

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## THE VOICE MAGAZINE

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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.

I just love the columns by Kirk Read. I was very entertained by the one in your last issue. (January 2002, "I was a Teenage Lesbian") I hope that you will include more of what he has to say. He is a very entertaining writer. He makes me laugh and think.

Jack McDougall, Waterloo

Hey I just found The Voice. Tough magazine to get a hold of. I hear that it disappears really quick after it gets put out. Must be popular. That's great. Anyway I was so glad to finally find December's and January's. I love it!

You do a fantastic job! So much information. So much to think about. Keep up the good work. I know there is a lot of apathy around here and the gender-politics haven't treated you so great, A.J. - hang in there! You go girl!

Janice Poole, Kitchener

In response to a letter to the editor (January 2002 Have Your Say) I take great offence to what Donna S. of Waterloo wrote.

She asked why there was so much coverage in your December issue about Aaron Webster, the gay man who was murdered in B.C. She didn't feel that this was an important thing for us to read about. I totally disagree! I was very angered to read her lack of respect. She was intolerant and even bigoted in her views. Would she feel the same way if it had been a lesbian that was murdered?

The story wasn't whether or not park sex "should happen" but the death of an innocent man.

Thanks for the coverage that you did give to the very unfortunate and sad death of Aaron Webster.

Greg Adamson, London

*Peter D. Martel*

Chartered Accountant

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## Activists and Rainbow Chorus Unite! K-W Solidarity Network Comes Together By Kevin Smith



Social change in Waterloo Region can be a lonely job. With only 3 or 4 people showing up for some group meetings sometimes, and so much work needed for promotion and fundraising, it can be too much even for the most energetic organizers.

This is why a group of concerned citizens is forming the K-W Solidarity Network. Last Tuesday, 22 people from a variety of groups attended a meeting in downtown Kitchener to pave the way for this network. They dined on a delicious meal prepared by Food Not Bombs, who serve vegan meals to anyone in front of Kitchener City Hall on Saturdays from 1-3pm. To volunteer, you can call WPIRG at 888-4882.

After dinner, they talked about the many issues confronting their organizations. Many groups need help with promotion and fundraising. Worldwide Opportunities for Women (WWOW) visits low-income families in their homes, and provide advice on reducing utility costs. This is a pay-what-you-can service, so they make very little money with this project, and

need help from others to continue it. You can contact them at 578-9570 or [wwow@web.net](mailto:wwow@web.net).

The K-W Youth Collective have a youth drop-in downtown called "The Spot" (across from the Lyric, and above everyone's favourite juice bar). This is a youth-run space that works on many important youth and political issues, and is a thriving, volunteer-run place. They only need \$15,000 a year to operate, but their funds are currently running low. You can contact them at [youth\\_space@hotmail.com](mailto:youth_space@hotmail.com) or call them at 578-1425.

The K-W Independent Media Centre have a (bi?)monthly paper called the Blind Spot. It announces events and raises issues that deal with social and environmental justice. They hope that this network will allow them to expand this paper, with more funding, more articles, and more distribution possibilities. They also need financial help right now (surprise), and can be contacted at 244-1140 or [ontario@indymedia.org](mailto:ontario@indymedia.org).

Debate was pretty heated at the meeting when topics like working with the provincial Tory government came up. However, people realized that a diversity of approaches were required for social change.

Basically, the network wants to do joint promotion and fundraising, reach out to more diverse groups, develop more skills, and have more fun than any group could alone.

Greg Macdougall, one of the organizers, emphasizes the benefits of bringing people together. "It's the idea of gestalt — the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. We can do more if we're all working together, cooperating and pooling our resources — with unity and solidarity."

The current idea for this network is to hold three full-scale general meetings each year, where groups can come together to set up booths in a fair, have some social time for networking, and have a meeting to see where we're at. Regular, smaller meetings will also be held, where different working groups will collaborate on different objectives

of the network.

The communication group will be solving the problem of getting events posted to a common area, and getting them distributed by web, e-mail, phone, fax, and handout to as many people as possible.

The editorial group will be collecting articles, laying out the new, improved Blind Spot, and getting it distributed everywhere.

The fundraising group will be exploring the possibilities of various joint fundraising initiatives, like direct mail and grant writing.

The socializing group will be exploring monthly networking and party possibilities.

The TV show group will be looking into getting a show on Roger's cable that talks about various issues. Some have suggested that an expert talking among youth would be an effective format.

The response to these ideas has been quite strong so far. Various agency representatives want to be involved, as well as local concerned citizen and activist groups, and now even members of the Rainbow Chorus have expressed interest.

In spite of the repression following September 11th, the quest for social and environmental justice in Kitchener-Waterloo continues with zeal.

If you're interested in finding out more about events in the community, check out the web site <http://CommunityEvents.ca>. If you want more info on the Solidarity Network, contact the Indymedia folks at [ontario@indymedia.org](mailto:ontario@indymedia.org) or page us at 244-1140.

*Kevin Smith, of Waterloo, is a journalist who is interested in a wide variety of social and environmental justice issues. His current projects include print reporting, website management, and organizing for the K-W and Ontario indymedia collectives, as well as the K-W Solidarity Network. This article was submitted to The Voice Magazine by Kevin Smith.*

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## Transgendered man fights for custody rights

Testimony heard in a Florida custody case could have dramatic implications for transgendered people.

The on-going case raises a variety of questions, including: Does Florida law view a female-to-male transsexual as a man?

If a female-to-male transsexual marries a woman, is that marriage legal; and if not, does the transsexual have any child custody rights? Michael Kantaras was born Margo Kantaras in 1959 but completed sexual reassignment surgery in 1988. A year later Kantaras married Linda Forsythe in Lake Mary, Fla., and adopted her one-month-old son from a previous relationship. At the time of the marriage, Forsythe was aware that Kantaras was born a woman.

The couple then decided they wanted

a child of their own. Using sperm donated by Michael's brother, Linda gave birth to a daughter in January 1992. In 1998, Michael Kantaras filed for divorce and sought custody of his two children. Linda Kantaras then filed a suit of her own. She claims Michael is not her husband because he was never legally declared a man. And since the state of Florida does not recognize same-sex marriage, she claims they are not actually married and he is not entitled to custody of their children.

"It's typical of the type of problems transsexuals run into," said Denise LeClair with the International Foundation for Gender Education. "She was fully aware that the partner was transsexual. It didn't bother her then, but then she comes back and uses it as a weapon," she told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network.

Michael Kantaras' attorneys are arguing that despite being born a woman, he is now a man and the father

of the children and is entitled to all the rights normally associated with husbands and fathers. They also argue that ending his parental rights would be harmful to his children. The trial began Tuesday with testimony from Walter Bocking, a clinical psychologist and transgender expert who discussed sexual identity from a physical and emotional standpoint. Wednesday, the court heard testimony from Dr. Ted Huang, the physician who performed the sexual reassignment surgery. Circuit Court Senior Judge Gerard O'Brien has played an active role in questioning witnesses throughout the testimony. LeClair says it's time the government got out of both "the gender business and the marriage business. As long as the government is defining your sex for you and using it as the basis for who you can marry, we will continue to run into these problems," she says.\*

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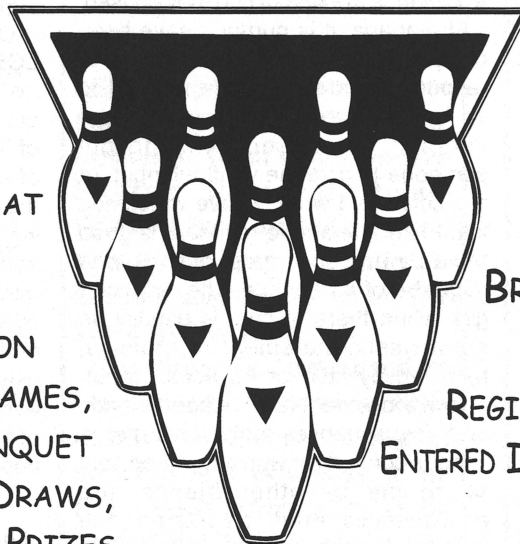
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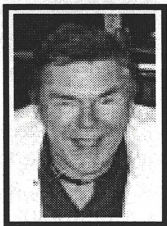
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## Enter At Your Own Risk

By Charles W. Westfall



Dante, in his epic poem *Inferno*, inscribes the entrance to Hell with the words, "Abandon hope all you who enter here."

Chat Rooms, however hellish at times, are not hell. You don't have to abandon hope to enter them. You do, however, enter at your own risk

I have to confess here that I spend at least some time lurking in Chat Rooms. I lurk, mainly, because I lack the verbal acuity and sharpness of wit to engage in open chatter.

Warnings about Chat Rooms abound and they do require the ability to dissemble well. My observation leads me to believe that Chat Rooms are all about image. Either someone has a lousy self-image and needs to bolster it, under the protective cloak of anonymity; or, someone has an inflated self-image and needs to bolster it under the protective cloak of anonymity.

Ironically, while those might be the compelling reasons for frequenting a Chat Room, many of the Chatters display an obvious and long term familiarity with one another. In fact, many spend as much time seeing and talking to one another in clubs, in coffee shops, in their homes and on the phone as they do in the Chat Room. Talk about electronic overkill.

Another factor prevalent in Chat Rooms is the relative age of those present. By and large it is a younger crowd and by and large that crowd is not much interested in anyone who could be characterised by the commonly used Gay euphemism "mature". In fact, many are downright rude to anyone who attempts to engage in any kind of conversation with someone so intrinsically unattractive. They tend not only to display but to reek attitude in ways no Drag Queen throwing shade could ever emulate.

An exchange observed recently is a case in point. One of the Chatters had obviously been trying to enter into some kind of private conversation with

some of the other guys present. Eventually, he voiced his desperation in the open Chat Room, "I'm getting tired of being told that I'm not someone's type before we even get a chance to talk to one another."

He was referring to those who had cut him off, unceremoniously and without much of a how die do, simply because of his age. At 38, he was bordering on the edge of "mature". At the same time, he was an attractive man, a talented man and, evidently, a sincere man. To be cut off, pre-empted, by a simple, "Not my type" or "Sorry, looking for younger", even by those who profess to be seeking conversation, friendship and company, has to be hurtful.

To make matters worse, several of the younger "men" in the room, chose to make light of his comments and proceeded to joke about age and attitude and attraction in, what I felt, was a particularly heartless and unfeeling way. Undoubtedly, the day will come when their comments, if they remember them at all, will emerge in their memories when they, themselves, experience the kind of hurt they caused.

At any age, it is hurtful. I have been deeply hurt by the same kind of response and a response not just to an invitation to meet. For about four years, I have been trying to get someone to give me youthful input for the columns I write. I have welcomed into my home and to my table, a good table by any standards, anyone who might be of assistance. The reaction I get, when there is one, is usually an enthusiastic statement of promise, followed by little or no actual input.

Now, those people have been friends and acquaintances that I have met in various contexts or who have been sent on to me by other friends and acquaintances. From the Internet, the Chat Rooms, I have on occasion found one or two people who have at least responded to an e-mail I've sent or who

express some interest in my projects. The common denominator is, however, the same. No follow-up. No action.

In November, a young man wrote THE VOICE requesting more content that would have a youthful focus. I invite that young man, and others like him, to contact me and to work with me to develop a column that can meet that demand. The absence of that kind of content is not attributable to any kind of oversight or omission. It is the result of non-involvement on the part of those who would enjoy and benefit from it.

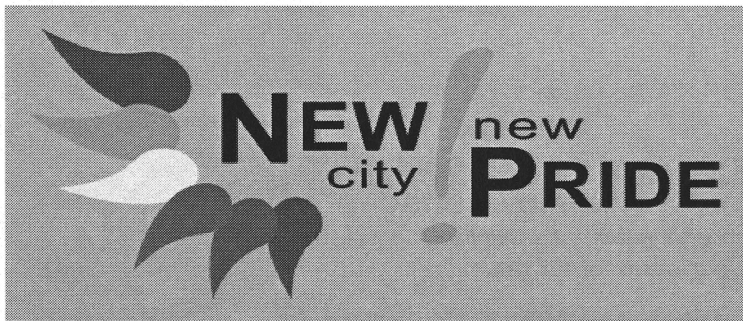
As I write, I am conscious of the fact that so far my pronouns have been mostly masculine. That happens. That simply reflects my experience. So, while I can't pretend to speak for Lesbians, I can invite them to accept the same invitation.

For those who feel that they don't have the time or talent, I promise to ghost write - to assemble, arrange, edit and articulate - whatever items you send to me via THE VOICE. I, personally, am very proud to be associated with this venture and hope that many others feel the same way.

While I may not have to abandon hope that goodwill exists within the LGBT Communities and while I may not fulfil my hopes of finding collaborators either among the readers of THE VOICE or in the Chat Rooms of the Internet, I will not lose hope in the ultimate realisation of a world in which common bonds can be found and fostered, between straight and gay, rich and poor, coloured and white and, even, someday, believe it or not, young and old.

Risky though it may be and though it lead me to the gates of Hell or the floor of a Chat Room, I will not abandon that hope.

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



**Hamilton Pride's 6th celebration** of Hamilton's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community will be taking place from Thursday June the 13th to Sunday June the 16th 2002.

At the Hamilton Pride Committee's January 15th planning meeting a logo was selected for the 2002 Hamilton Pride Festival. We are thrilled to announce that Jae Adams is the creator of the winning design for Hamilton Pride 2002 - New City! New Pride!

Joe Adams is a recent transplant to the Hamilton Area. Adams came to Hamilton to start an online "queer" lifestyle magazine for the LGBTQ community in the 905 region. Please feel free to browse Adams' website at <http://www.gay905.com> Adams attended the University of Toronto and was an active member of the group LGBT OUT while a student there.

(A copy of the winning logo has been sent to you along with this release.)

**Schedule events for Hamilton Pride 2002**

**Thursday, June 13, 2002**

- Opening Reception and a free outdoor movie showing at The Art Gallery of Hamilton.

**Friday, June 14, 2002**

- Women's Dance at the MacNab Street YWCA
- Men's Dance

**Saturday, June 15, 2002**

- Rally at Hamilton City Hall

- March from Hamilton City Hall to Dundurn Park
- BBQ, Vendors, and Musical Entertainment at The Dundurn Park Pavilion
- Mixed Dance in the evening

**Sunday, June 16, 2002**

- Jazz Brunch at Whitehern Historical House

Kazoo Supper Club is a Gold Level Sponsor for Hamilton Pride 2002!

If you require any further information please contact:

Lyla Miklos  
 Chair  
 Hamilton Pride 2002  
 e-mail: [pride@gayhamilton.com](mailto:pride@gayhamilton.com)  
 website: <http://gayhamilton.com/pride/>  
 mailing address: 256 Locke Street, Suite 152, Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 4B9  
 fax: (905) 524-0086

**Editor's Note: Attempts were made to get an up-date of information from Waterloo-Wellington Regional Pride. (WWRP) They did not respond to our attempts and no information was provided to The Voice by the WWRP. The Voice is committed to serving and informing community (not the playing of politics) and is willing to include such information in future if the WWRP sees fit to provide it to us.**

**Banning gay unions unfair, study says**

Restrictions on same-sex marriage are discriminatory and should be removed, the Law Commission of Canada says in a study released yesterday. Marriage should provide a framework in which people can express their commitment to each other regardless of sexual orientation, says the independent government-funded commission, which advises Parliament on law reform.

"There is no justification for maintaining the current distinctions between same-sex and heterosexual conjugal unions in the light of current understandings of the state's interests in marriage," the study says.

Two years ago, Parliament revised several laws to ensure same-sex couples have the same benefits and obligations as other common-law couples, but it excluded same-sex couples from participating in legal marriages. That exclusion amounts to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, said Nathalie Des Rosiers, president of the commission.

"What's important in our society is caring," she told a news conference. The exclusion of same-sex marriage is being challenged in the courts, but the issue remains controversial. Many MPs continue to support restricting marriage to heterosexual couples. The study suggests that, to defuse opposition, governments could move toward same-sex marriage in stages. Governments could enact a registration scheme for gay couples, then, "as the population becomes more receptive to it or as they [governments] become pressed by international or judicial developments," allow marriage. Two provinces, Quebec and Nova Scotia, recognize civil unions for gays and lesbians.

"If governments are to continue to maintain an institution called marriage, they cannot do so in a discriminatory fashion," the law commission says.

**Wednesday, January 30, 2002 - Print Edition, Page A7 (The Globe and Mail)**

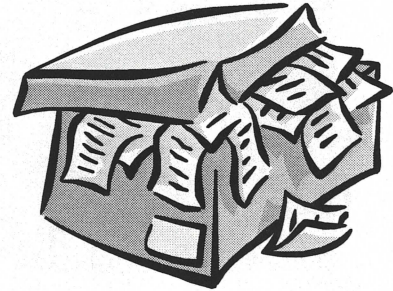
## GAY BIZ



### 2001 Tax Changes

*Highlights relating to the filing of your personal tax return.*

by Darren Kregar



#### **New Definition of the Word "Spouse"**

Social changes over the past few years have contributed toward a broader definition of what constitutes a "spouse." Most references in the Income Tax Act now refer to a "spouse or common-law partner." The term spouse means a party to a legal marriage. Common-law partner means a person of either the opposite or the same sex who has been cohabiting with the taxpayer in a conjugal relationship for at least one year, or is the natural or adoptive parent of the taxpayer's child.

#### **Tax Rates**

Effective January 1, 2001, the tax rate in the second-lowest income bracket, between \$30,755 and \$61,509, was decreased to 22 per cent from 24 per cent. The rate applied to the lowest tax bracket, those individuals earning up to \$30,754, also decreased - to 16 per cent from 17 per cent. The taxable income limits on each of those brackets were increased by two and a per cent in 2001, reflecting changes to Canada's Consumer Price Index (CPI). Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) also created a new middle tax bracket. As a result of changes brought forth in the October 2000 mini-budget, a fourth tax bracket, for amounts between \$61,510 and \$100,000 inclusive, was introduced on January 1, 2001. The tax rate for this new bracket is 26 per cent. Now, only individuals with taxable income in excess of

\$100,000 pay tax at the highest marginal rate of 29 per cent. There is also no longer a five per cent surtax payable on basic federal tax above \$18,500 for high-income earners. This surtax was eliminated on January 1, 2001.

#### **Increase in RRSP Foreign Content**

The allowable foreign content limit for registered pension plans (RPPs) and registered retirement savings plans (RRSPs) was increased from 25 per cent in 2000 to 30 per cent in 2001.

#### **Decrease in the Capital Gains Inclusion Rate**

The capital gains inclusion rate with respect to gains and losses from dispositions of capital property stands at 50 per cent (one-half) for gains and losses realized on or after October 18, 2000. 2001 is the first full calendar year during which all capital gains and losses realized from capital dispositions will be at that rate. Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB) Payments Beginning July 2001, CCTB National Child Benefit supplement (NCB) payments to Canadians rose to \$1,255 for the first child (from \$977), \$1,055 for the second child (from \$771) and \$980 for each subsequent child (from \$694). The NCB supplement begins to reduce when net family income reaches \$21,744, (up from \$21,214). It is fully phased out at \$32,000, (up from \$30,004). Also effective July 2001, the maximum annual benefit under the combined

CCTB and NCB supplement increased to \$2,372, from \$2,081, for the first child; to \$2,172, from \$1,875, for the second child; and \$2,175, from \$1,875, for each subsequent child. The government has announced its intention to increase the maximum annual combined CCTB and NCB benefit for a first child to more than \$2,500 and to more than \$2,300 for each subsequent child by 2004.

#### **New Disability Tax Credit Rates**

The maximum basic disability tax credit was increased to \$960 (16 per cent of \$6,000), starting January 1, 2001. Also, the maximum credit associated with the disability tax credit supplement, the caregiver tax credit, as well as that claimed for an infirm dependant, was increased to \$560 (16 per cent of \$3,500) in 2001.

#### **Increased Education Support**

As a result of changes introduced in the 2000 mini-budget, the education tax credit for full-time students was doubled to \$400 a month and for part-time students to \$120 a month, effective January 1, 2001.

*Darren Kregar is a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University's Diploma in Accounting Program. He also owns Economical Tax Services. ETS provides both tax preparation for business and individuals as well as tax planning. Darren can be reached by email at [redacted] or by phone at (519) [redacted]*



## ECONOMICAL TAX SERVICES

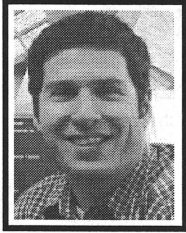
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## Q-HEALTH



### Expanding the Meaning of "Love" can make for a better Valentine's Day Whether You're in a Relationship or Single

by Dr. Jeffrey Chernin

Valentine's Day can be a difficult time. If you are single, you feel like Cinderella while every one else is at the Ball. For couples, there's pressure to have a romantic evening or give the perfect gift.

How can you enjoy the day if you're one of the people who struggle with it? Before discussing how to make the day more enjoyable, I'd like to offer some ideas about Love. Mostly, we are taught that love is all about romance.

From every corner of the media, we are led to believe that someday we will meet the right person, fall in love, and live happily ever after.

This idea perpetuates loneliness and a sense of failure, and we seem to ignore the fact that there are many kinds of love. Just as we as LGBT individuals want the general culture to accept same-gender love, we need to expand the definition of love to include its various forms of expression.

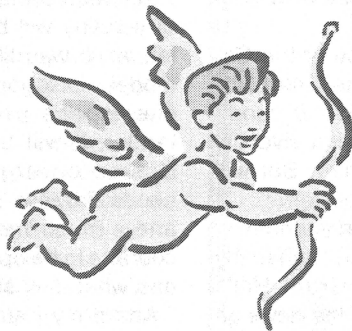
There are many ways to feel and express love. Even more than in our pre-September 11th world, cynics wonder aloud if love is possible at all. Not only is it possible, it is becoming imperative to our survival!

We should expand the definition of love to make love more real—to take it away from illusory "romance" and bring it into everyday reality.

Sometimes, expressing love takes a word, a gesture, or a token of affection. One of the greatest forms of love is giving time and attention to another

human being. Giving love—and not attaching strings or expecting anything in return—can make the world feel like a safer place.

I have read that since September 11th, volunteerism is way up. Perhaps it's a symbol of unity we feel, and perhaps it's a way to connect with people on a basic, human level. Either way, there is a feeling that love in action can be a response to hate. Another way to expand the definition of love is to include forgiveness.



Often, people think that if you forgive someone else, you are letting them off the hook. Rather, it's important to forgive others because ultimately, forgiveness is for you and you only. Not only can it take

give you peace of mind, but it can release you from the prison of bitterness and hatred.

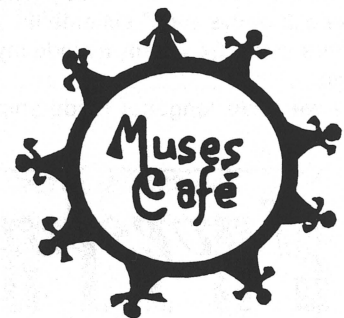
Like most other parts of our personalities, love is not a thing—it is a process. As we grow, we are capable of more love. And we can learn to express it in ways that others receive it. Like happiness, love must come from the inside.

In this article, I ask you to expand the meaning of Valentine's Day so the actual day can be less burdensome. This February 14th, remember that passionate love fades and that you have to build love for yourself, your partner, and your community.

*Jeffrey Chernin, Ph.D. is a Marriage and Family Therapist in Los Angeles. This article was submitted to The Voice by Jeffery Chernin, Ph.D.*

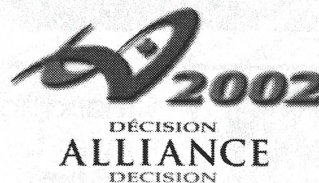


*Of music so delicate,  
soft, and intense,  
It was felt like an odour  
within the sense.*



*10 King Street East,  
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*Drag Queen Supermodel Enza (in her own words) & The Leadership Race of the Canadian Alliance Party*



How could he think that I, Canada's only drag queen Supermodel politician, would take this opportunity to promote my leadership bid for the Canadian Alliance?

A Supermodel thinks best while taking her daily milk bath, and the first question I asked myself while soaking was "Why would any one in her right mind want to lead a party that is in such disarray?" With memberships down and many of the party's original players gone, the party drowning in debt, it seems the Alliance is self-destructing! As I towelled off my 100% Great Legs, I wondered "If something's gone wrong on the right... what is it?"

It's not just that the Alliance is still a regional party. Yes, I'd like to suggest the party elects a leader from Ontario, but that might be a bit too obvious self-promotion. Besides, I don't think the real problem with the Alliance is where it started or where the leader comes from.

The big problem is that there have always been some people in the Alliance, and the Reform Party before it, who have hinted, or even said outright, that some voters just aren't welcome. Remember the "let's send homosexuals to the back of the shop" statements a few years back? So creepy it made my wig curl.

Now we have longshot leadership

candidate Dr. Grant Hill repeating his bizarre "homosexuals have an unhealthy lifestyle" statement. It's such a silly generalization—homosexuals have many lifestyles, some healthy, some not.

I do agree that we should be concerned about those who choose an unhealthy lifestyle. As I chose my outfit for today I worried about those who combine high-stress careers like, say, doctor and politician. I decided to offer Grant a makeover - the most compassionate thing a Supermodel can do for such a misguided, overstressed doctor-politician.

Not everyone in the race or the Canadian Alliance, thinks like Grant Hill. Stockwell Day welcomed my candidacy as evidence of growing diversity in the party. Good for him. But will Canadians take him at his word?

It seems there are hidden agendas at work. No sooner were the "unhealthy lifestyle" words out of Grant Hill's mouth, he suggested that his views on homosexuality shouldn't be an issue. Politicians can't pick and choose which of their views the public listens to. It's as if he wore the wrong handbag with his shoes and then asked everyone not to notice.

So this race is not just about returning my party to its grassroots. It's not about trying to unite the right and it's not even

about healing divisions within the Canadian Alliance. None of these! This race is about making sure the wrong person doesn't get chosen leader - again! It's about choosing a leader that Canadians can trust - not someone who says one thing, and does another.

"Funny," I thought as I touched up my lipstick, "but it's the drag queen in this race who isn't trying to hide anything." The last leadership race was to select a leader to move it forward as a national party. This leadership race will be to get it back on its *heels*. A reminder that I need some new shoes. The level of scrutiny will be tough. For the last leader, it was like being a catalogue model - look good in a wetsuit, but no one expects perfection. For the new leader, it will be more like being a Cosmo covergirl. The new leader needs flawless makeup, great outfits and - much more importantly - the courage to be open about who they are and what they stand for.

And if my party intends to gain any respectability and get back the members it has lost, and be ready for the next election, the new leader will have to work *Superfast, Superhard and be a Superperson*.

(Originally written for the Ottawa Citizen - [www.enza.ca](http://www.enza.ca))

## *Investment Planning Counsel of Canada*

**Financial Planning Professionals**

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

## ENZA'S PULLS OUT January 31, 2002



"You know, back in December, just six weeks ago, who would have thought that a Drag Queen could run for Stockwell Day's job?"

Probably very few!

Who would have thought that a Drag Queen would have the balls to speak in front of 400 staunch Canadian Alliance members in Chatham, Ontario? To hold them accountable for their past sins of racism, bigotry and homophobia? Probably very few!

Yet dozens of these people came up to me afterwards to congratulate me and say, "this was what the Canadian Alliance Party really needed to hear!" Folks, this has been an incredible ride, and I truly believe that I've already made a big difference in Canadian politics.

My website, ENZA.CA, has had over 200,000 visitors.... and I've received well over 6,000 emails in support of my campaign. In just six weeks my fabulous team and I have managed to come up with well over the 300 people required to nominate me, from all over Canada, in 85 different ridings, in all 10 provinces. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR FAITH IN ME!!! Without you folks I'm NOBODY!!!

Every media poll, serious or not, has had me on top.... Literally! So I've pinched a few nerves in Canadian politics. The media all across this great country of ours, are so supportive. Legs up to you girls and boys!

While we did receive some help from some Bay Street people, it didn't come close to reaching our goal. To date, we have raised about \$7,500.... Not enough to get us there!

For the past few days I've had my legal team looking into the possibility of mounting a court challenge under Section Three of the Canadian Charter, which basically states that every citizen has the right to run in an election regardless of their personal financial means. However, I've been told that this challenge would cost in excess of a quarter of a million dollars, and would take several years to reach the

Supreme Court of Canada. We have neither the resources nor the time.

I really don't want to lay any blame, but I have to tell you that getting people to sign up to be a member of the Canadian Alliance was like ripping people's pantyhose. Hands up - those of you who know how to rip pantyhose???

People would say, "ENZA, I want to support you but I just cannot bring myself to join the Alliance Party because they really FREAK me out."

That, Ladies and Gentlemen was the biggest stumbling block I encountered and I really believe that the lack of support for my nomination bid is a scathing indictment on the Canadian Alliance for their racist, bigoted and homophobic views.

ENZA then presented a cheque for \$700 to Kyle Scanlon, Executive Director of the LESBIAN, GAY BI YOUTH LINE".

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## *A Gay Christian Is Not An Oxymoron*

By Noel Springwood

We writers and would-be prophets need affirmation and encouragement almost as much as we need breath. So, when Robert Richardson wrote THE VOICE in December saying nice things about this column and how it has helped him feel better about himself, I was elated.

Then, he tossed the zinger. He asked for a specific treatment on how to reconcile being a Christian and being Gay.

It's actually a very good question: one that bothers many of us. I'm sure that Robert realises that this column is an attempt to come to grips with it, bit by bit. The ultimate answer, unfortunately, is in the hands of God. Nevertheless, and I hope without jeopardising God's role in all of this, I'd like to tackle the question here.

I have to say, right at the start, that I think that the question should really be, "How do I reconcile being Gay with other Christians?" I do not believe that there is any fundamental conflict between any of the various sexual orientations and Christianity or the Judaeo-Christian Tradition, for that matter. The problem arises from how those traditions are interpreted and applied. It doesn't take a certified historian to know that the way those traditions have been applied has led to some of the most horrifying examples of violence, cruelty and intolerance known to humankind.

Throughout history and into the present day, many contradictory practices have been easily reconciled with the Judaeo-Christian Traditions. What comes to mind, off the top, is the exorbitant and

usurious amount of interest charged by Credit Card Companies. Everyone complains about it; but, I'm sure those enjoying the profits sleep quite soundly in their beds and sing quite loudly from their Church Pews.

"Not the same thing", you might think. No, not the same. Worse. People are devastated and destroyed by that practice. Being of a particular sexual orientation is hardly in the same ballpark.

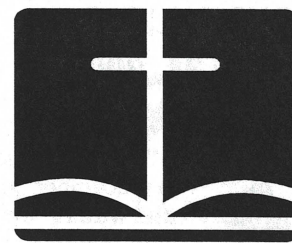
So, we've got to get to the heart of the matter. Christian sexual morality. Well, it all stems from a time when the desire



to build a strong and healthy race was predominant in a very primitive world. In fact, humanity was in its infancy and the need for some kind of law and order, to say nothing of hygiene and health, was great. Certain prophetic individuals were able to translate these needs into a powerful reality. Whether or not the anthropomorphic descriptions of how God directed these efforts are factual and actual, there was a strong movement towards the building of a healthy and powerful society that could lead the way in human development.

It is no wonder then that Sexual Morality was based almost solely on procreation and childbearing. This tradition has been carried over to the present day to the extent that the development of new members through baby making is almost a precondition for membership in many Churches. What chance does a Gay or Lesbian have against that kind of pressure.

Add to that, the "Hate the sin but love the sinner" motto that epitomises the attitude of some mainstream Christian



Churches towards Gays and you have quite a wall of opposition, in the making if not in actuality.

A local Roman Catholic School Board Official was quoted recently as saying, "We accept homosexuals as persons but do nothing that would condone or promote their lifestyle." I feel that this kind of contradictory and confusing mindset does much to perpetuate the kind of difficulties that Gays and Lesbians, at least, have with mainstream religions. Granted, it is not out and out persecution. It is, however, a devious and hurtful attitude designed, in the long run, to force people to change the reality they were born to live with.

By calling Homosexuality an aberration, disorder or sinful deviance, these people are denying one basic reality. Every human being is a distinct and different individual. That is of the essence of personality. To categorise human beings is tantamount to treating them as cattle, to be herded and driven at the will of the masters. Nothing could be further from the truth. Nothing could be further from the teachings of Christ or the tenets of Christianity.

That leaves us with the question of how to deal with our orientation. We are born this way and who we are is, in the end, a gift of the Creator and Our Ancestors. For many of us, this means that the years in which we grow up are peppered with conditioning and programming that go against who we are and what we are discovering about ourselves. Ironically, as this is happening there is also a bonding and loving relationship being established with the very persons who are shaping our attitudes and futures.

There comes a day when a choice has to be made, then. The choice is between living my life as I have received it and as I know to be good and true or to give in to parental and/

or priestly power and deny my very self and identity. That is what I mean when I say that the choice is not between being Gay or Christian but between being Gay and living as a Christian with other Christians.

This is not an easy choice. Compromise is often the order of the day. Perhaps connecting with a more Gay Positive Church can help. Perhaps it will mean abandoning organised religion and seeking out a more pervasive "spiritual" way.

Whatever the choice, it should be made with confidence in the personal identity of each individual. It should be made with the understanding that some hurt will accrue. It should be made with the prayer that those who matter may have their minds and hearts opened to all the realities involved. It should be made humbly and with the sincere desire to find fulness of life and to enhance the capability of loving possible for everyone. It is the prayer of all who seek with a sincere heart, who love unconditionally and who accept themselves as the beautiful creatures they are.

There are many books written on the subject. Check with your local Gay and Lesbian Retailer for titles. There are people available to talk about these things further and with your specific life context in mind. Anyone interested in carrying on the discussion is welcome to e-mail me:

A final note to remember is that Jesus, himself, was not a Christian. He was a Jew: but a radical and revolutionary who railed not against any kind of sexual behaviour, but against hypocrisy, inflexibility and intolerance. Those who seek to reconcile their Sexual Orientation with Christianity would do well to follow his example and seriously question any group that parades those very attitudes in the name of Christianity.

Sometimes, it's enough to make Jesus turn over in his grave.

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

## New Group: Calling all Bears



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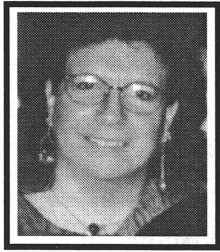
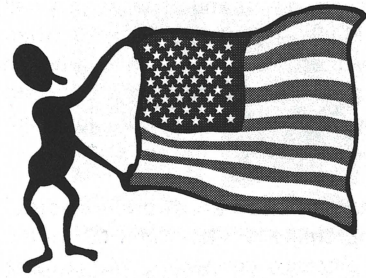
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## September 11 is not an X-Files Episode!

By Lyn McGinnis



**"Day dreams about massive government conspiracy take all responsibility for our cultural role in the way the world is and returns us to the pre-September 11 navel gazing and self-absorption."**

Since September 11, 2001, people around the world have been asking what happened and why. Lately the question in vogue is what *really* happened? The answer to this question opens up a totally different pattern of thinking - the conspiracy theory. To my knowledge there are two distinct September 11 conspiracy theories making the rounds in different parts of the world.

"Pssst! I know a guy who knows a guy - no names - who says . . ." The first set of "what *REALLY* happened on September 11" is all the rage in the Middle East. There the buzz is all the Jewish persons usually working in World Trade Centre Towers mysteriously called in sick that morning and no Jews were injured or killed. These "facts" are just plain wrong by the way. A quick scan of the memorial web sites out there clearly shows Jewish casualties. As well I just happened to see a news item recently about a Jewish man who survived the attack and months later took his family to Israel, believing it was a more meaningful trip than to Disneyland, only to survive a lone suicide bomber and be rushed to hospital.

Did he miss the "International Jewish Conspiracy" memo about not going to work on September 11? Perhaps the entire story was staged as an attempt to dissuade gullible folks like me from believing the diabolical truth? Anyway, in the Middle East the theory goes the reason the "International Jewish

Conspiracy" was behind the World Trade Centre attacks was to discredit the Arab cause. It seems to me entertaining for a moment such an obscene idea itself discredits the Arab cause and Arabs should be the first to disassociate themselves from it! I must also add my discomfort at even using the term "International Jewish Con-spiracy," which was used by Hitler as a justification for his outright war on the Jewish people. I used the term as a form of sarcasm against this conspiracy theory and mean no disrespect to the memory of those who suffered because of it.

"Pssst! I know a guy who knows a guy - no names - who says . . ."

In all likelihood most of you have heard the American variety. Vision TV aired a two-part program recently promoting the theory. They sent out spine chilling e-mails to several lists I'm on enticing viewers to watch. There was also a lecture delivered by Guelph Professor John McMurtry on December 9, 2001, at U. of T. The lecture has received wide attention. It was titled, "Why there is a war in Afghanistan?" According to McMurtry, there is evidence of CIA, FBI and other dark forces having "foreknowledge" of the attacks. We are told several foreign governments

passed on warnings of preparations for such attacks. There is no doubt a superpower receives a flood of intelligence information and doesn't

always interpret it correctly. This reminds me of the Pearl Harbour attacks and how the U.S. government had many warnings they ignored. Gee, was Pearl Harbour a conspiracy too?

"Pssst! I know a guy who knows a guy - no names - who says . . ." Anyway we are told about intercept planes

being secretly ordered to stay on the ground, all sorts of extraordinary technologies went unused and dark reasons why black box recordings haven't been re-released. We are also reminded of absurd plans laid down during the hysteria of the Cold War to perpetrate a terrorist act in the U.S. and blame it on Cuba.

Why would the United States do this to itself? The answer is oil. We are told the U.S. wants to build a pipeline through Afghanistan to access oil reserves in former Soviet republics. A terrorist attack would also creating conditions for strengthening the hand of the military and intelligence communities. As a bonus it would up the ratings of an unpopular president! Oh, okay, when you put it that way . . . Can't you just see the Oliver Stone like movie epic coming? Instead of "JFK" we'll have "Dublya" in giant letters across the screen floating on a sea of reddish oil. Interestingly enough the Middle Eastern and American

**"Can't you just see the Oliver Stone like movie epic coming? Instead of "JFK" we'll have "Dublya" in giant letters across the screen floating on a sea of reddish oil."**



conspiracy theories have at least one point of convergence. Neither of them believe the tape of Osama bin Laden having a friendly after dinner chat with friends about the attacks is real. Even the University of Waterloo's student paper earnestly comments: "In an age when Lord of the Rings can be made, seeing should not necessarily mean believing." Another point of convergence is the United States itself.

In the Middle East version, the U.S. is the power behind Israel and therefore complicit in the mass murder of its own citizens.

Don't get me wrong! I certainly am a ferocious critic of many aspects of the American "military industrial complex." I've read my Noam Chomsky and have eyes in my head. It certainly

has been an odd experience to find myself listening in hushed tones as "George Dublya" suddenly sounds so . . . "Presidential." National disaster certainly has been kind to him and I am well aware there are many powerful interests who are well served by the post-September 11 climate.

As a Transgender Bisexual Queer I know all of this is very dangerous. Bush is still a symbol of the deeply rooted homophobia in our culture. I have spent a lifetime observing these roots and how they are entwined with all other forms of oppression. I can see how these oppressions are the tools of the elites sharpened in crisis and fear. Quite rightly there have been many concerns about the potential for abuse in the new security measures. Our culture is corrupted by these oppressive structures and the powerful elites who defend them, clearly represented by Georgie Boy. Yet while he is no friend of ours and represents many regressive and homophobic elements on our continent, this doesn't mean I subscribe to these September 11 conspiracy theories. Truth is I don't subscribe to hardly any of them. I just don't think humanity is mentally and

emotionally up to it. The bigger they are, the less likely they are. Think about it, all these grand theories are based on sweeping assumptions of widespread complicity by large populations who can't normally agree on the most mundane matters. Yet these groups form an "invisible government cabal" that are absolutely leak proof and run with extraordinary efficiency. How are such organizations

**I can stand at the border and shake my head at our dear friends in the "Excited States." Part of their baffling psychology includes an inbred distrust of government dating back to their revolution against colonial rule. Sometimes this distrust turns pathological, leading to the immense reality of September 11, becoming trivialized into a silly X-Files episode.**

formed? How are members chosen to be part of them? Is the US government secretly rounding up all sociopaths and psychotics and putting them in charge of "black operations" intended to further military and other evil agendas? Hearing the details of several supposed inconsistencies in government actions on September 11

reminds me of the obsessive chronicling of details of perennial conspiracy fav-ourites from the UFO "cover up" at Roswell, New Mexico to the Kennedy assassination. What bothers me the most about these conspiracy theories is they draw attention away from the good "why" questions. What Arabs and others should be asking is why is it the Middle East seems so hopelessly mired in bad history and bad government? What North Americans should be asking is why do so many in the Middle East feel the U.S. is an enemy and dance in the streets when loaded

planes fly into crowded buildings?

In honestly asking these painful questions people could stretch themselves to see new perspectives and reexamine comfortable assumptions. Day dreams about massive government conspiracy take all responsibility for our cultural role in the way the world is and returns us to the pre-September 11 navel gazing and self-absorption.

As a North American, I can do my best to comprehend the ancient and troubled world of the Middle East, where powerlessness and corruption breed paranoia and the search for someone to blame. Political and religious leaders must take their responsibility for feeding this anger and helping to fuel the fires of extreme hatred.

As a Canadian, I can stand at the border and shake my head at our dear friends in the "Excited States." Part of their baffling psychology includes an inbred distrust of government dating back to their revolution against colonial rule. Sometimes this distrust turns pathological, leading to the immense reality of September 11, becoming trivialized into a silly X-Files episode. "The Truth is Out There!" Yah, well here's the truth right in front of us: "When things go terribly wrong, it's easier to believe it's an evil plot rather than things are just plain out of control."

Alex Jones, who is in the film "Waking Life," is apparently the source of much of these conspiracy theories. His web site is: [www.infowars.com/](http://www.infowars.com/)

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

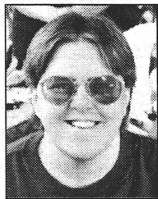
## Jean-Paul Pilon

*Barrister and Solicitor, Notary Public*

245 Frederick Street,  
Kitchener, N2H 2M7

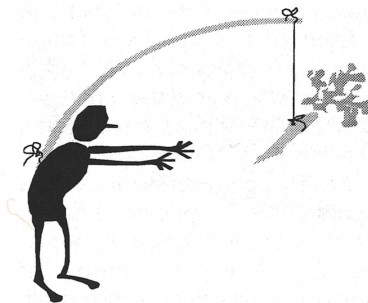
Phone: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]



## Exclusivity, Segregation Separateness and Oppression

By Ms. A.J. Mahari



Recently, on a local community email list, The Rainbow List, there was a post asking list/community members if they would like to see a web site specifically geared to local gay-owned or gay-positive businesses. It was put out in the form of a brief "market survey" asking just that people respond with to each question with the answer, yes, or no.

What was suggested via the questions was having a central web site that would list gay or gay-friendly dentists, doctors, churches, work-out centres, restaurants and pharmacies.

Many agreed that this would be a very good idea. One man pointed out that he was new to this area and that he thought such a site would be helpful in making initial connections with needed services. However, not all agreed. There was one particular poster who vehemently disagreed siting that to undertake such a separate initiative is

to live on an island called 'GayLand' in fact. (see "Opinion" on page 28)

While it seems to make sense that there would be some way of sharing information about positive and negative experiences with health care providers or businesses is it not somewhat reverse discrimination to be so exclusive? How many businesses will be canvassed or asked their view and approach to those who are LGBT as part of their business practices? How can such a site provide any kind of comprehensive listings if there is not a general and very widely circulated survey that reaches not only those who are LGBT but all businesses and service providers in our

area?

A good idea in theory but one that could set a dangerous precedent in practice. Do our orientations come into play in every aspect of life?

**What are we reaching for? What is the carrot at the end of the stick of LGBT expectation? Is it individual or collective? Is it forwarding our inclusion and further acceptance or is it keeping us separate from others?**

Are we practicing the very kind of exclusivity that we protest about experiencing from the straight world? Why? Isn't that reverse discrimination?

Do we want or need to live in 'GayLand'? Is that healthy? Isn't 'GayLand' rather outdated and unnecessary now? Why remain insulated in 'GayLand' when the world is a liberated oyster that awaits us?

Isn't the real issue more about respect? How can we expect to be respected by those who are straight when much about our *community* and or its politics are seemingly exclusive? The major dysfunctional aspects of our *community* can be seen perpetuating this "us" versus "them" mentality not only aimed outward at the straight world but aimed inward at members of our own *community*, such as it is. There is an on-going competitive, tearing-down in pursuit of the cherished carrot at the end of the LGBT stick of collective inclusion that has long been sought after. Trouble is that segments of every LGBT community mistakenly think the way to end this reaching pursuit of the coveted carrot of acceptance is to push each other out of the way. Focusing too much on exclusive LGBT connections continues to separate us from the rest of humanity. Are we not the ones doing most of the oppressing from within now in 'GayLand'?

**Exclusivity, segregation, separateness, and oppression**, are all a part of the recipe for the intolerance of difference and a lack of respect, on both

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150 Main Street - Second Floor, Cambridge

Mondays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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sides. This perpetuates the fight for the *illusion of control*. It is the abdication of responsibility to one another -- not control -- that leads so many, on both sides, to actively seek and advocate for the oppression of the other. When there is this *out of control* fight for the *illusion of control*, amid oppression, everybody, whether straight or LGBT, loses.

There is segregation. It presents itself in the oppression that exists within our LGBT communities. It has all to do with tearing down in the name of supposed building up. It is the advancing of personal agendas over the greater good. It is a dysfunctional pattern that we seem bound by because there is too much posturing for *control* and not enough public-spirited efforts to truly serve the greater good.

This blight of bumptious blundering that is born out of a need to ward off the type of oppression that many of us know all-too-well leaves no doubt that this exclusivity is not going to be of the benefit that some purport it will be.

Why is it that those who have experienced such abject oppression for being who they are, struggle to come out, to accept themselves, and to esteem themselves only to turn around and re-oppress in the name of *community*?

Trying to include some services, business and information while excluding others just perpetuates the segregated and divided way this *community* plays at building itself. Is it any wonder that of what actually has been built there is very little of it that remains standing? We need to pay much more attention to inclusiveness and acceptance versus the pervasive political power-plays that are corrupting the integrity of our relationship to all that *community* should represent and be.

There are already major web sites that promote anything and everything in this area. I'll bet they'd include gay information too. Why continue to try to re-invent the wheel?

What are we reaching for? What is the carrot at the end of the stick of LGBT expectation? Is it individual or collective? Is it forwarding our inclusion and further acceptance or is it keeping us separate? Do we want to live in 'GayLand' or the real world?

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

## FEBRUARY/MARCH EVENTS

### Friday February 8th

Rainbow Chorus Valentine's Dance  
9pm at 611 Silvercreek Parkway in Guelph. Cost is \$5.00. All who are over 19 are welcome. For more information call Dave at 821- [REDACTED] or go to:

[www.geocities.com/rainbowchorus](http://www.geocities.com/rainbowchorus)

### Saturday February 9th

Boyz & Boys & Girls & Grrls Night, a mostly-LGBT-student pub & dance night, 9pm-2:30am, at the Grad House at The University Of Waterloo. This is ALL AGES event! Cost is only \$2 in advance and \$3.50 at the door. There is a limited capacity of 150 people, so we recommend you purchase tickets in advance!

### 2nd & 4th Tuesdays in Feb

Tri-Youth Pride group meets 4-6pm.

This group is for LBGT high-school students. For more information call Gail at [REDACTED]

### 2nd & 4th Wednesdays in February

On the second Wednesday of February, Glow will hold its Heart to Heart Discussion Group. On the fourth Wednesday in February the Diversity Discussion Group takes place. For more information on either group or the Coming Out Discussion Group call GLOW at 884-4569

### Each Monday of February

The Rainbow Community Conversation Group meets once a week, every Monday, at 7:00 P.M. in 119 Hagey Hall (University of Waterloo Campus). This group meets to discuss topics of interest to the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Trans-gendered/Queer Community.

### Coming In March

March 8 is International Women's Day- (locally) Sunday March 3 Advocating for Wellness: An interactive health fair with women who promote helping wellness in our community 12-4pm at Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex on Father David Bauer Dr in Waterloo

Sponsored by the Waterloo Region International Women's Day Committee - For more information call Dianne [REDACTED] for more information and bus tickets are available if required.

### Saturday March 9

Friends of Dorothy Bowling 3rd Annual Charity Tournament for Breast Cancer & Now ACCKWA

For more information call 579-[REDACTED] or email:

[friendsofdorothys\\_kw@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsofdorothys_kw@hotmail.com)

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Sliding Fee Scale

## Security Job One For New Gay Bar

By Richard Beales  
Brantford Expositor Staff

**BRANTFORD** - Gary Johnston is getting ready to paint the town pink. The 30-year-old former sales and trading associate for CIBC World Markets is banking on a different kind of investment \_ he's going to be the sole proprietor of a gay bar and community centre on Dalhousie Street. The club, called One, will open in mid-February at site of a former downtown Chinese restaurant, across the street from the Federal Building. It will be the first gay establishment in the city since 1996, when the short-lived Red Rocket cafe closed its doors a little further east on the same street.

"This is the second club I've opened," Johnston says, "the first being in Toronto." He knows he's in for a different set of challenges this time.

"A gay bar for Brantford is a big deal, especially downtown," he acknowledges. "So security is going to be my No. 1 priority."

A newsletter promoting the business is being circulated, and it notes that One is hiring staff. The first position advertised is "doorperson-security." Johnston is sending a message that hostile behaviour \_ whether it's violence, degrading remarks or

defacing the property \_ won't be tolerated.

"In addition to extremely heavy (internal) security, I've hired a security company on an on-call basis," he says. "I'll be having the police in, too. I want an extremely good relationship with the police."

Johnston expects a few problems, but he feels the cause is important enough to stay the course. He moved back to Brantford three years ago and found the lack of a same-sex gathering place distressing. "For gay and lesbian people here, there really is nothing," he says. Small groups have attempted to get something organized, but have failed. Enter One.

"There's definitely the market, the need," he says. "I wouldn't be doing this if there wasn't the market. Brantford is the last city of its size (in Ontario) to have a permanent gay establishment."

He feels that if One catches on, it will help to create more of a gay-comfortable atmosphere in the city, and might encourage young people to stay rather than head off to live in Toronto or other larger cities.

"Smaller centres lose a lot of gay and lesbian people because of homophobia," he says.

The renovation process is well underway but there's still much to be done. The seating and kitchen areas have been cut back, and a dance floor has been added. There will be live entertainment, but not loud bands. Softer mood music will prevail, perhaps with a singer or a pianist, he says.

The bar will welcome straight patrons as well, as long as they are gay-friendly.

Johnston is keen to have the facility operate on many levels: as a meeting place for youth groups, school groups and other organizations, on a not-for-profit basis.

"Whatever works for the community" will be the guiding principle, he says. "For example, I could close the bar for the entire day on Tuesdays for a youth group. It is a balancing act, but gay bars are experts at it. Every gay owner . . . has his own issues and struggles." Fund-raisers for specific interest groups are common.

"Giving back to the community is an integral part of gay business," he says.

(Source: Brantford Expositor)

## ACCKWA PROUDLY PRESENTS THE 9th ANNUAL CHAIRS FOR CHARITY



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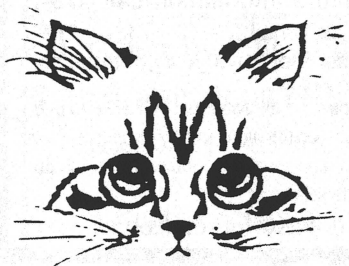
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# Is Gay Sex Trying Too Hard to Be Straight?

By Bill Weintraub

Though few people realize it, our sexuality, like most things in life, is political, and our sexual choices, which we like to think of as coming from a place deep within, are actually heavily influenced by cultural messages, some of them conflicting, about what sex and gender should be.

For example, a mere forty years ago, virtually everyone, whether gay or straight, believed that only heterosexuality - specifically penile-vaginal heterosexuality - was normal and healthy, and that homosexuality was always the result of a dysfunctional family, an illness that had to be psychiatrically treated and cured.

Four decades later, relatively few consider homosexuality a disease. But, with many of the goals of the gay rights movement achieved, and the rise of a global and remarkably uniform LGBT culture, some of us have begun to wonder whether gay men haven't fallen into their own version of the "Hetero Trap," the belief that only one way of having sex is normal and right.

Despite all the talk of honoring diversity among us, when it comes to sex, most gay men have a very rigid and culturally-dictated standard: you're not really gay, they'll tell you, if you don't have anal sex.

Yet, and though not many men remember this today, anal sex didn't always rule the roost in gay male life. In the 50s and 60s, oral sex was more popular, and guys into anal were sometimes derided as "brownie queens."

At the beginning of the 70's, when hippies reigned and bell-bottomed pants were all the rage, sex among gay men became a sort of smorgasbord, and it was considered really un-cool to ask your partner to have a kind of sex he didn't like. "Do your own thing" was the watchword, and instead of talking about "screwin'", guys got into "ballin'" - sex that wasn't goal-oriented and that

was a lot more like play.

But around 1975, life became more conservative, and gay men did too. The long hair and loose clothes of the androgynous 60's were replaced by the tight jeans, clipped moustaches, and buffed bodies of the clone era, and everyone, it seemed, had to march in step — we all had to look alike, think alike, and have sex the same way: anally.

When AIDS hit, paradoxically, the community didn't turn away from anal, but actually rallied behind it, as part of

an effort to defend the rights of people with AIDS who'd been infected through anal sex long before anyone knew what HIV was.

Although at first safer sex educators talked about non-anal alternatives, over time, they began concentrating on getting guys to use

condoms, since, after all, most HIV transmission among gay men was through anal sex.

So, by the late 90s, even as straight society in Europe and North America became significantly more tolerant of LGBT people, gay men had actually become intolerant of the sexual differences within their own community. Yet, despite all the emphasis on anal sex in gay male life - from porn to Queer as Folk, to articles in major newspapers like the NY Times - there are large groups of gay and bi men who don't have anal sex.

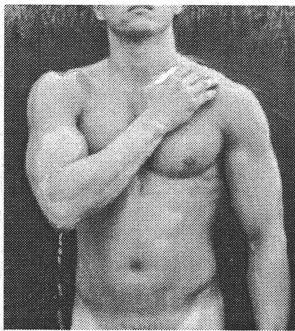
One such group are men into a type of non-penetrative sex often called frottage, or "frot."

Though there are variations, frot is most often phallus-to-phallus sex that's done face-to-face and heart-to-heart as well.

Frot is full-body and very sensual, and unlike anal, partners aren't divided into tops and bottoms.

Men into frot usually discover it when they're young, and frot remains a lifelong passion.

And though some may do oral sex,



most have no interest in anal - for them, anal sex, far from being an aid to intimacy, is a barrier and a turn-off.

Unfortunately, because cultural messages equating anal with gay are so ubiquitous and strong, men into frot are frequently and almost obsessively derided and denigrated by men into anal, asked when they're going to grow up, told it's time to move on, and generally pressured and even coerced by guys who want them to have anal sex.

Sometimes they're even raped.

Faced with such unrelenting pressure, most feel they don't have a home among gay men: some become celibate, some go back into the closet, and some participate in anal - going along to get along, but not enjoying it. Recently, however, men into frot have begun to organize using the internet, and there are now a number of clubs on the net where men into frot can connect in cyberspace.

We call our site Heroic Homosex to honor all those guys who've resisted the enormous peer pressures to have anal sex instead of the sort of sex they love; and because we've discovered that in addition to frot, we share certain values: we love the passion and equality of frot, we're at home with our masculinity, and we cherish loyalty to the man we love.

Not only do we not do anal sex, but we don't hesitate to tell men into anal that we're angry about the constant pressure to do anal, and that we think there are significant problems with anal besides: that there's far too much promiscuity and drug use associated with anal, that too often one partner is effeminized, and that it's a vector for disease.

Although no form of sex is 100% safe, frot carries far less risk than anal - you can't get HIV, hepatitis, syphilis, gonorrhea, or intestinal parasites from frot.

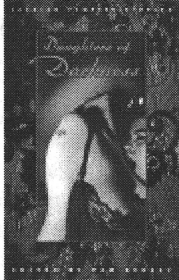
We don't want to force men who like anal to give it up, we think it's time the idea that "if it's not anal, it's not really gay," was laid to rest.

If you're not into anal, want to connect with other men like yourself, or just want to know more about us, check us out at [HeroicHomosex.com](http://HeroicHomosex.com).

**This article appeared in the online zine [365Gay.com](http://365Gay.com)**

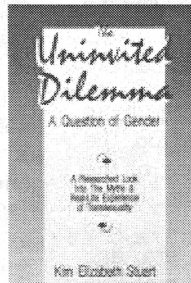
# BOOKS

**Daughters of Darkness :  
Lesbian Vampire Stories**  
by **Pam Keesey (Editor)**



Daughters of Darkness includes the most popular lesbian authors of erotic fiction—Katherine V. Forrest, Pat Califia, Jewelle Gomez, Robbi Sommers, Karen Marie Christa Minns—as well as the most famous lesbian vampire story of all time, “Carmilla,” written in 1871 by J. Sheridan LeFanu. “In Daughters of Darkness, lesbian vampires woo, seduce, and otherwise overpower their intended. There is lovemaking in zero gravity, vampirism transposed to the S/M scene, and steamy encounters in a variety of locales. But take away the supernatural aspect and Daughters of Darkness becomes a tribute to an even more compelling subject: the sexually aggressive woman and her archetypal roles, from nurturing goddess to dangerous predator.”

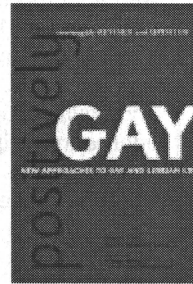
**The Uninvited Dilemma :  
A Question of Gender**  
by **Kim Elizabeth Stuart**



The Uninvited Dilemma is different from the autobiographies and clinical studies on transsexuality. It represents two years of research involving carefully structured, in-depth personal interviews with seventy-five transsexuals, consultations with members of the medical and mental health communities, and conversations with loved ones of transsexuals. This book will give you an understanding of the true nature of transsexuality. It is a remarkable reading experience for all who are interested in the human condition and exploration of the most fundamental aspect of our humanity.

Ms. Stuart was born and raised in Oakland CA and attended local schools and a nearby university. She has four children, all of whom are now adults.

**Positively Gay : New  
Approaches to Gay and  
Lesbian Life** by **Betty  
Berzon (Editor), Barney  
Frank**



The original edition of this book sold 35,000 copies, and was widely praised for its practical treatment of diverse topics affecting gay and lesbian life. This fully revised and updated edition includes an all-new section on AIDS, highlighting how the gay and lesbian community has banded together to fight this disease and offering coping and survival strategies for those infected or at risk. Other chapters cover such important, but often overlooked, topics as: — building successful same-sex partnerships — reconciling religious dilemmas — coming out to ones family — the special experience of gay people of color — legal issues, discrimination, and voting power



**Comfort and Joy : A Novel**  
by **Jim Grimsley**



Comfort and Joy alternates scenes of Ford and Dan's courtship with their trip to North Carolina to meet Dan's family. Like any couple anywhere, they argue about money and their families; unlike some couples, they also argue about Dan's health and Ford's reluctance to kiss. In chronicling their history, however, Grimsley gets at something fundamental: the strange mixture of love and hate and anxiety at the bottom of every relationship, gay or straight. “You're really not as bright as I am and that's a problem,” they both think, being “honest” with themselves, then wonder: “Why do men stay together?” The easy answer, of course, is that they love each other. The more complicated one is that, in living together, they've begun to dream the same dreams, breathe in rhythm, lay down “crevices” inside themselves in the shapes of each other. This, Dan thinks, is enough: “enough, without words, to keep them silent about the fact of their hates and their fears, their deep concerns about each other, and the certainty that one of them would die first and neither of them knew which one it would be.”

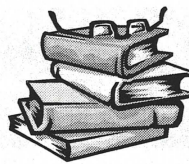
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## BOOK REVIEW/INTERVIEW



In "How I Learned to Snap," Kirk Read paints a richly detailed picture of growing up as a gay teenager in Virginia in the 80's. With his military father and adorable, supportive mother, Read takes an unflinching look at his adolescence, and how it shaped him. Many of the stories jump off the page with an energy that immediately pulls you into the scene, seeing it vividly through Read's eyes. Personally, my favorite sections all involved Jesse Fowler, the older openly gay boy at school, the one who taught him to believe in himself, as well as to snap. Of course, that may just be projection, since I never had a Jesse to show me the way.

But this is not one of those golden reflections of an idealized youth, or one clouded through so many years of retelling that it has strayed from reality. In many parts of the book, Read doesn't have the answers, and at other times, you even empathize with his parents to some degree and wonder what this precocious little kid must have been like for them, trotting around the house in his neon-yellow sweater because the Color Me Beautiful lady said he was an autumn. Or doing an ABBA dance number in front of a houseful of his father's military buddies. Or arguing with his Bible Belt dad that the Holy Trinity was clearly "bullshit." You get the idea.

Read seems to have taken great pains to be as honest to his experience as possible in this book. And, unlike many books for youth, Read doesn't shy away from talking about drugs, buying his first porno magazine, or having sex with older men. The book is broken down into vignettes that take you from fourth grade through high school graduation, and it is just about his life, rather than it being about the boy who took a boy to the prom, or who started a GSA, or the boy who tried to kick ROTC off campus. Read is just a boy dancing in front of his mirror, wanting to be Michael Stipe, and reacting to all the cards life deals him,

and it's refreshing because it has no agenda beyond showing him getting through everything.

The thing I really noticed about the book where it's almost kind of a "Toy Story" thing, where there is a lot for youth, but then there's stuff for the adults. It doesn't strive for the P-FLAG stamp of approval.

I was very aware that I was writing a difficult book, because the recipe for a young adult book is generally to tell the story and to take out all the sex. Or if you want to sell a young adult story to an adult audience, you add more sex. And I just didn't want to be dishonest

about what my life as a teenager was like, which included sex and drugs. Which is not to say it's filled with sex or drugs... there's nothing gratuitous or over the top. Everything is told with the same even keel, whether it's talking to your mom or going to buy a porno. **Since it is such a good book for youth, was addressing that type of content a concern at all?**

*"I knew keeping the sex in would alienate some people, and would keep it out of some school libraries. But, I didn't want to see another coming-of-age story that soft-pedaled sexuality and hid it and closeted it. That's really a disservice to queer teenagers, to give them all these rainbow messages and 'be yourself' messages, and then lie. And in our coming-of-age films and books, sexuality is either left out or framed in a way that is created by and for middle-aged men. You see all these French coming of age movies with lurid portrayals of gay youth that are nostalgic recollections of what they wish their sexuality had been like as a teenager. For me, I had sex with older men, and it wasn't a horror movie. They were good experiences. And I think a lot of young gay men, especially, have experiences with older men that aren't abusive, and that needs to be discussed."*

**The other thing I liked in the book a lot was the tone. It was very present tense,**

**as far as telling us things as you were living them then, but at the same time, it would kick in that you were writing it later in life. And the balance worked really well...**

*"I immersed myself in all of these memories, and I was able to write from inside the experience, or as close to that as I could get. One of the things I hate about a lot of memoirs is that they pretend to be much wiser. Usually you have a 50-year-old writer approaching their teenaged years with this kind of offensive wisdom, and I didn't want to do that. I really wanted to capture that awkwardness and embarrassment and giddiness, all of the things I felt as a teenager. I didn't want to get the book bogged down in so much reflection that I lost the immediacy."*

**What is it like being on this side of the process now, the book is finally out?**

*"There's a whole range of feelings. I saw my book in a store today for the first time, and I'm in the window. My face is on this spinning wheel in the middle of the Castro. It was very moving and gratifying, and I love doing readings. On the other hand, everyone I see on the street that I know even vaguely come up to me and ask me how the book's doing, what about my tour, and the same questions over and over. It's sort of like a mother with a newborn child, people ignore that mother. It's all about the baby. So, I'm feeling a little of that. It's traumatic sometimes and little things like that can trigger big panic attacks from me, where I just feel like, 'Oh God, I have no privacy.' You're kind of on a roller coaster all the time. But, the other day I got my first fan letter from a teenager, an e-mail from a 15-year-old who said everything I ever could have imagined wanting to hear. The book had helped him, he thought it was wonderful."*

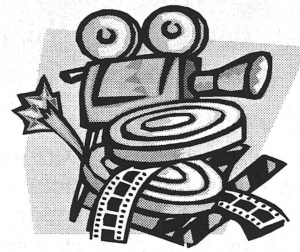
**For more information on Kirk and his book, visit his Web site at:**

<http://www.kirkread.com>

**Excerpted (with the Kirk Read's permission) from an interview by Jeff Walsh, editor of Oasis Magazine.**



Making OUT on The Screen:  
10 Romantic Boy/Boy, Girl/Girl Screen Kisses  
By Steve Stewart



"Come on Charlie, who took the kick-back? Please tell me it's Kramer. If it is I'll give you a big kiss on the lips. Tongue, no tongue, your choice."  
—James Garner to Jack Lemmon in *My Fellow Americans* (1996)

Leonardo Di Caprio, Will Smith, Dennis Hopper, Josh Brolin, Anthony Hopkins, Dean Cain, Ashton Kutcher, Sting, William Hurt, Antonio Banderas, Jeremy Irons, Daniel Day-Lewis, Keanu Reeves, Christopher Reeve, Tom Selleck, Matthew Broderick, River Phoenix and Michael Caine have all done it. So have Kate Hudson, Liv Tyler, Sharon Stone, Kate Capshaw, Elle MacPherson, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Kate Winslet, Uma Thurman, Ally Sheedy, Susan Sarandon, Helen Mirren, Kyra Sedgwick, Drew Barrymore, Neve Campbell, Salma Hayek and Greta Garbo. What do they all have in common? Each has experienced the thrill and shock value of a same-sex screen kiss.

The first time I ever saw two guys kiss on screen was in John Schlesinger's **SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY** (1971). In this groundbreaking film, Murray Head plays Bob Elkin, a long-haired, free-spirited, bisexual artist, sexually involved with both a man and a woman. Glenda Jackson plays his 30-something female lover, Alex. The late Peter Finch plays his 40-something male lover, Dr. Daniel Hirsh. When Peter Finch and Murray Head shared a passionate and extended kissing scene it was pretty risqué at the time. To my knowledge, this was the first time two men had shared a "romantic kiss" on screen (In 1968, Rod Steiger had kissed John Phillip Law in *THE SERGEANT*, but it ended with a beating).

Thirty years later, in **AMERICAN PIE 2** (2001) Denise Faye and Lisa Arturo play Danielle and Amber, two sexy women who may or may not be lesbians but who offered to kiss each other in front of Jason Biggs and Seann William Scott, if the boys will do the same. In the scene, played for laughs, the boys are repulsed, but being horny young teens they can't resist seeing the women and do it anyway.

In between these two films, there have been hundreds of memorable girl/girl, boy/boy screen kisses. Sometimes the kiss is used to make a dramatic statement, sometimes it's just a scene used for titillation or comedic relief. And sometimes a big deal is made about the kiss, but it never actually takes place. Such is the case with **IN THE ARMY NOW** (1994) in which Pauly Shore and Andy Dick play "minimum-wage" misfits and buddies, Bones and Jack. On a whim, they enlist in the Army reserves for the extra money. When they are called into active duty they try to avoid it by pretending to be gay lovers. When the commanding officer demands that they prove it by kissing each other, they decide they'd rather risk their lives in combat!

In **KISS ME, GUIDO** (1997) the kiss is used as the focus of the entire plot. Nick Scotti plays an Italian "Guido," a sweet and innocent pizza boy who wants to become an actor. His first job turns out to be in a gay play, in which the hunky, homophobic straight boy discovers that kissing a man isn't the kiss of death after all.

If you're looking for a romantic date flick, however, I'd recommend the following:

**DR. T & The Women** (2000) Richard Gere plays a popular Texas gynecologist whose family is coming apart at the seams. On the eve of her wedding, he discovers that his daughter Dee Dee (Kate Hudson) is a lesbian. And if that weren't enough of a surprise, he discovers that her maid of honor, Marilyn (Liv Tyler), is also her lover. The two young women share numerous kisses and finally run away together at the wedding ceremony.

**FRIENDS & LOVERS** (1999) features Danny Nucci as David, a sweet and lovable gay man who's too shy to find a boyfriend. In his mid 20s he's still a virgin. On a weekend trip to a ski resort, his group of straight friends give him the courage and push he needs to meet another gay man, played by Leon—and to lose his virginity. Everyone in this sweet and fun film finds romance, including the gay guy, for once. And to top it off, Nucci and Leon get to share an innocent kiss.

**GET REAL** (Great Britain/1998) stars Ben Silverstone as Steven Carter, a 16-year-old gay student struggling to come out of the closet. Brad Gorton plays John Dixon, a macho, high school jock, struggling to stay in the closet. The two opposites become lovers and struggle together with their situation. A warm, tender, realistic and well-acted film. Silverstone and Gorton share a couple of passionate and very romantic kisses.

**A GIRL THING** (2001) Finds Stockard Channing playing a psychologist whose clients have multiple sexual problems. In the first of several segments, Elle Macpherson plays her client Lauren. Lauren, who has always been straight, unexpectedly falls for Casey (Kate Capshaw), a serial bisexual. They date, make love and kiss numerous times, but Lauren is too uncomfortable "being different" to make it a lasting relationship and they eventually part friends. Steven Spielberg reportedly loved his wife's lesbian liplock.

**MAKING LOVE** (1982) Michael Ontkean and Harry Hamlin made headlines when they liplocked in Arthur Hiller's daring film of the time. This was the first mainstream American film to deal openly with the theme of homosexuality, to feature "normal" gay lead characters and a happy ending. Michael Ontkean plays Zach, a young married doctor who becomes involved with Bart (Hamlin), a male patient. Bart is an attractive, single, successful gay man terrified of commitment, but he becomes the catalyst for Zach to come out of the closet and eventually find love with a male partner. Includes the now famous kissing scene between Ontkean and Hamlin.

**QUEEN CHRISTINA** (1934) Set in Sweden in 1632, a young Christina (Greta Garbo) assumes the thrown when her father, the King, is killed in battle. Christina has been raised by the King as a boy, to take his place one day. The Queen has many admirers but

only has eyes for Countess Ebba (Elizabeth Young). In the most memorable scene of the film they share a kiss on the lips and plan to meet later for a trip to the country—is that a euphemism?

**THE RAINBOW** (Great Britain/1989) Set in Victorian England, Sammi Davis plays Ursula, a young woman desperate to break free of the suffocating moral constraints of the time. While still in school, she experiences her first love affair with her swim coach, Winifred (Amanda Donohoe). Winifred, bound by tradition, later accepts a proposal of marriage from a man, but not before Davis and Donohoe share passionate lesbian kissing and love scenes.

**SEBASTIAN** (Norway/1995) is a very innocent and sweet tale about Sebastian (Hampus Bjorck), a 16-year-old teen who realizes he's gay. When he kisses his straight friend Ulf (Nicolai Cleve Broch), the straight boy is shocked, and so is Sebastian. But the

kiss forces him to accept who he is and he comes out to his friends and family, and they accept him too.

**SET ME FREE** (aka *Emporte-Moi*) (Canada/1999) features Karine Vanasse as Hanna, a 13-year-old girl who feels alienated from her dysfunctional parents. At a dance, Hanna meets and falls for Laura (Charlotte Christeler). The two girls share passionate kisses and begin a relationship. A nicely realized coming-of-age tale.

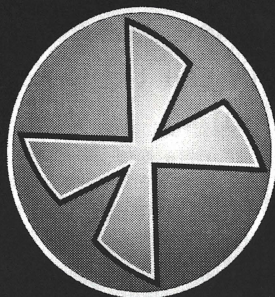
**SPLENDOR** (1998) is a sweet and perfectly cast tale, featuring Kathleen Robertson as Veronica, a young woman who falls in love with two handsome young men. Abel (Johnathon Schaech) is a struggling writer and Zedd (Matt Keeslar) is a struggling musician. The two men move in with Veronica and discover that kissing and sex with each other isn't so bad either. When Veronica becomes pregnant, however, she turns to Ernest (Eric Mabius), a wealthy director, for security.

In the last 100 years of cinema, there have been fewer than 100 same-sex screen kisses on screen. I've simply selected 10 of the most romantic. For a complete list of actors and actresses who have shared gay and lesbian screen kisses (including those listed at the beginning of this article) visit [www.companionpress.com](http://www.companionpress.com)

This article was submitted to The Voice by Steve Stewart who is the author of [OUT ON THE SCREEN: The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Guidebook to more than 2,000 movies and videos from around the world.](#) For more information about this book, or to sign up for his FREE monthly "Naked Hollywood Newsletter," visit [OUT ON THE SCREEN](#) which is not sold in bookstores and is only available directly from the publisher at:

[www.companionpress.com](http://www.companionpress.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.gpcomp.com/waterloounitarian/](http://www.gpcomp.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]

## MONDAYS

**The Rainbow Community Conversation Group** Now meets once a week, every Monday at 7:00 P.M. in 119 Hagey Hall (University of Waterloo Campus). For more information [www.qlife.on.ca](http://www.qlife.on.ca)

## 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 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. 7:30-9:30 pm at the Guelph Unitarian Fellowship, 122 Harris St. at York Rd., Guelph. For more information call Bob Miller, Director, Rainbow Chorus at (519) [REDACTED]

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

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 Wednesdays, 7pm to 8:30pm, Oasis Club, 146 Wyndham St., Guelph. For more information call Marilyn at (519) [REDACTED]

## THURSDAYS

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

## BI- MONTHLY

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

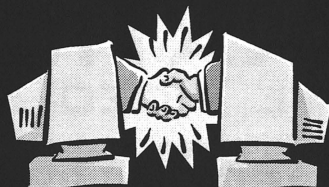


Do you have a group that is not listed here? Would you like to change that? Email us at [REDACTED]

or call (519) [REDACTED]

Help us keep you informed!

The Voice Magazine On Line



[www.thevoice.on.ca](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 [redacted] Eastwood Square, Kitchener, ON N2H [redacted] or call Colleen at [redacted]

**Gay Men's Group:** is a social group for males of all ages and orientations. For more information call Gordon at (519) [redacted]

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

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

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

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

**Waterloo Region Alliance For Equal Rights-Kitchener-**(519) 743-[redacted]

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

**WOODS:** is a social club for lesbians in K-W and area. In Kitchener call Leslie at [redacted] or email [redacted]

Want to add a resource?  
Contact The Voice today!  
[redacted]

## 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.

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

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

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

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

To find out more information about anything else happening in Brantford email:

[redacted]@yahoo.ca

## CAMBRIDGE

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

## Equality For Gays and Lesbians Everywhere (Egale) Update

### Immigration Action Alert:

Towards the end of last year, the Canadian Government published a first draft of new proposed immigration regulations. These regulations set out the criteria for deciding when same-sex partners will be eligible to immigrate to Canada as members of the family class.

Unfortunately, the regulations require that couples cohabit in a conjugal relationship for one year before they will be recognized as members of the family class. This requirement is wholly unrealistic in the immigration context, where couples often cannot cohabit, precisely because they are separated by immigration requirements! The only exception in the proposed regulations is for couples who cannot cohabit for fear of persecution. While Egale welcomes the exception, it is far too narrow to cover the range of couples who will be excluded by the family class provisions.

Anyone not recognized under the family class may still be admitted on

humanitarian and compassionate grounds, but there are substantial disadvantages to this approach. Humanitarian and compassionate decisions are made on a discretionary basis, which can lead to arbitrary results. Unlike the family class, there is no right of appeal from a refusal on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. Family class members are exempted from the medical inadmissibility provisions, an exemption not necessarily available to applicants on humanitarian and compassionate grounds.

Heterosexuals can avoid the cohabitation requirement altogether, simply by marrying. A married spouse has automatic access to Canada as a member of the family class.

Egale is finalizing a brief on the proposed regulations, which will soon be available on our Website at [www.egale.ca](http://www.egale.ca). We will also be appearing with LEGIT and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network at hearings before a Parliamentary Committee next month.

In the meantime, the government is seeking public feedback and community-members need to make their voices heard! Contact Johanne DesLauriers, Social Policy, Selection Branch, Citizenship & Immigration

Canada today - ph: (613) 941-9022; fax: (613) 941-9323; Jean Edmonds Tower N, 7th floor, 300 Slater St, Ottawa, ON, K1A 1L1.

### Call upon the government to:

(i) eliminate the cohabitation requirement altogether. It is unrealistic in the immigration context;

(ii) process applications by couples intending to live common law directly under the family class, not under the arbitrary humanitarian and compassionate category;

(iii) broaden the exceptions to the cohabitation requirement to include couples unable to live together, for example, because they are separated by immigration requirements.

**To join Egale or support us financially, just fill out the secure form at:**

[www.islandnet.com/~egale/intro/appeal.htm](http://www.islandnet.com/~egale/intro/appeal.htm)



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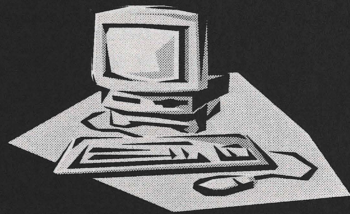
## ONTARIO MEN'S SURVEY COMMUNITY IN ACTION

The 2002 Ontario Men's Survey will question Gay and Bisexual men on social issues, sexuality and HIV. This two-part study, guaranteed anonymous, is an important follow-up to the 1991 National Men's Survey. During the coming weeks we will approach men in bars, bathhouses and local community groups.

For more information on how to participate, call ACCKWA

1-519-570-3687  
OR  
1-888-266-1449

or visit us online at:  
[www.mens-survey.ca](http://www.mens-survey.ca)



THE VOICE ONLINE

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## Classifieds

*The Voice Welcomes Your Submissions*

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

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**Kitchener, Ontario**

**N2M [REDACTED]**

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: (519) [REDACTED]

**The Voice Magazine is On Line at:**  
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## Community Listings

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

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## On Line

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

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The Voice Magazine online - community at a glance!

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

(519) [REDACTED]

Mailing address is at top of page

## OPINION

*Editor's Note: The following have been re-printed from posts on a local email list with the writers' permission. This discussion resulted from a brief gay market survey that was posted to the list as referenced in "Shades of Grey" (page 16)*

I do not believe in segregation. For anyone who answered yes to the survey questions, you should go buy an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and name it 'GayLand'. Perhaps I used the word segregation out of context? What I'm trying to say is: does it matter if my dentist is straight or gay? What would a gay pharmacy provide that a straight one wouldn't? When the gay community goes out of its way to separate itself it sends a message that it *does* matter...it *is* a big deal that we are gay. When the message we should be sending out is "sexuality doesn't matter". We have the capacity (and every right) to live without having to be so god-damn exclusive. That, I think, is liberation -- not a fucking guidebook showing us to the back of the bus.

**--Anonymous 21-year-old**

**MW replied:** Personally, I don't think it's segregation at all. It is support. I would like to think that I would support a gay/lesbian or gay/lesbian positive business to thrive if the services they provide are on par with others. I would like to know where I can go to worship where I will be welcomed. For someone who has health issues that require specialized information (e.g. HIV/Hep info) having a pharmacist that is informed is important.

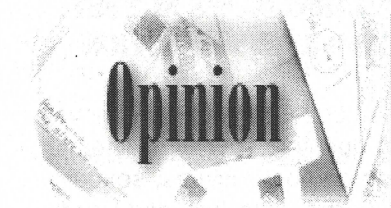
"The oppression of any people for opinion's sake has rarely had any other effect than to fix those opinions deeper, and render them more important."

--Hosea Ballou

A lot of dentists and doctors fall under the same categories. I am not -- repeat not -- saying they have to be gay. As a gay man I would more likely access those services knowing I am welcome where I might have to disclose my sexual orientation than those where I may not find that same acceptance.. If you think that all of the above provide equal and professional services you are sadly mistaken. I was one of those people that you made reference to that answered yes to all of the questions. I take offence to your comment and judgement of me not knowing me or anything about me or for that matter anyone else who may have answered the same way.

The woman who has orchestrated this [brief gay market survey] is trying to get current and accurate information for those who live here and those who may visit which is also a benefit to the community in so many ways. It's a lot of work and having someone in the community willing to take it on is a big plus. Certainly you are entitled to your opinion but please don't trash everyone else who does not think the same way you do. --MW

**james writes:** There is no clear line between liberation and oppression. There will be no time when we can say "yesterday we were oppressed;



tomorrow we shall be liberated." Our society, as I am sure the reader is aware, is constantly in flux, and currently the fluxion is moving from oppression of our community towards liberation of its members.

Certainly individual characteristics play a major part. I might be liberated, while my friend, as gay as me, may be oppressed.

Our state of mind can significantly modulate the collective social energy we experience in our quotidian endeavors.

This is all to say that your point is definitely valid. I'd say I'm darn near completely liberated with respect to my sexual orientation, and that when oppressive overtones creep into my interactions with social institutions, such as pharmacies and lawyers, I have the strength to immediately counter them in a socially- healthy fashion. But others are ill equipped by constitution or circumstance to do likewise, and go through life constantly being drained by passive oppression every time they go to the pharmacy or their lawyer. Affording those of us who find themselves in such circumstances an opportunity to conduct their business in less negative environments conserves their energy for other things. Such individuals might find the suggestion that they should emigrate to 'GayLand' threatening. Many who are sensitive to our society's lingering oppression, notwithstanding identify, very strongly identify with it, and gain much comfort from their friends and families who would have no basis for existing in 'GayLand'.

But I also recognise that there is a somewhat more militant component of our subculture that does nothing to mitigate the segregations tendencies our very status as a subculture engenders. People who move almost entirely in queer circles may do so to ease the discomfort they experience when moving in supercultural circles, or they may do so to bolster their sense of "gayness" or identity.

The latter goal is indeed insular, and partakers of it do not need to actually emigrate to 'GayLand'; they are already there in their minds. Living life in 'GayLand' can boost one's self confidence, and I shall not judge anyone for doing so. But I believe the way to liberation travels in another direction. -- James Partanen

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### Did you know

Metal saltshaker tops can be kept from rusting or oxidizing if they are cleaned or sprayed with a silicone product. Wax will also help. Add raw rice or a few dried beans to the salt, it will absorb moisture and keep the salt pouring.

In many old books you will see the suggestion that Ivory Snow, a pure soap, was recommended for washing vintage fabrics. Today this is false because Ivory Snow changed their formula in 1993 and it is now a detergent which is not safe for all fabrics.

*Do you have an opinion about this topic or any other? If so, please write to us and Raise Your Voice! Our contact information is on page two. We want to hear from you!*

# Click it on.



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