

## *The Voice*

**Publishing History:** 1998, October 9 (Volume 1, Issue 1) - 2003, March (Volume 5, Issue 5).

**Copyright Permission:** Copies of individual issues of *The Voice* have been reproduced with the kind permission of its Publisher, **A.J. Mahari**. No further reproduction is permitted.

**Telephone Numbers & Email Addresses:** These documents were published many years ago. Please do **NOT** use them as a source for telephone numbers or email addresses for local businesses or agencies. Current sources for that kind of information can be found on the Internet.

**Redaction:** Certain parts of the digitized text have been **blacked out** in accordance with our **Redaction Policy** (<http://www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/RedactionPolicy.html>).

**SPECTRUM's Grand River Rainbow Historical Project** maintains a separate collection of unmarked (unredacted) high-resolution TIFF image files of all page in the issues of this magazine for consultation as necessary.

# THE VOICE

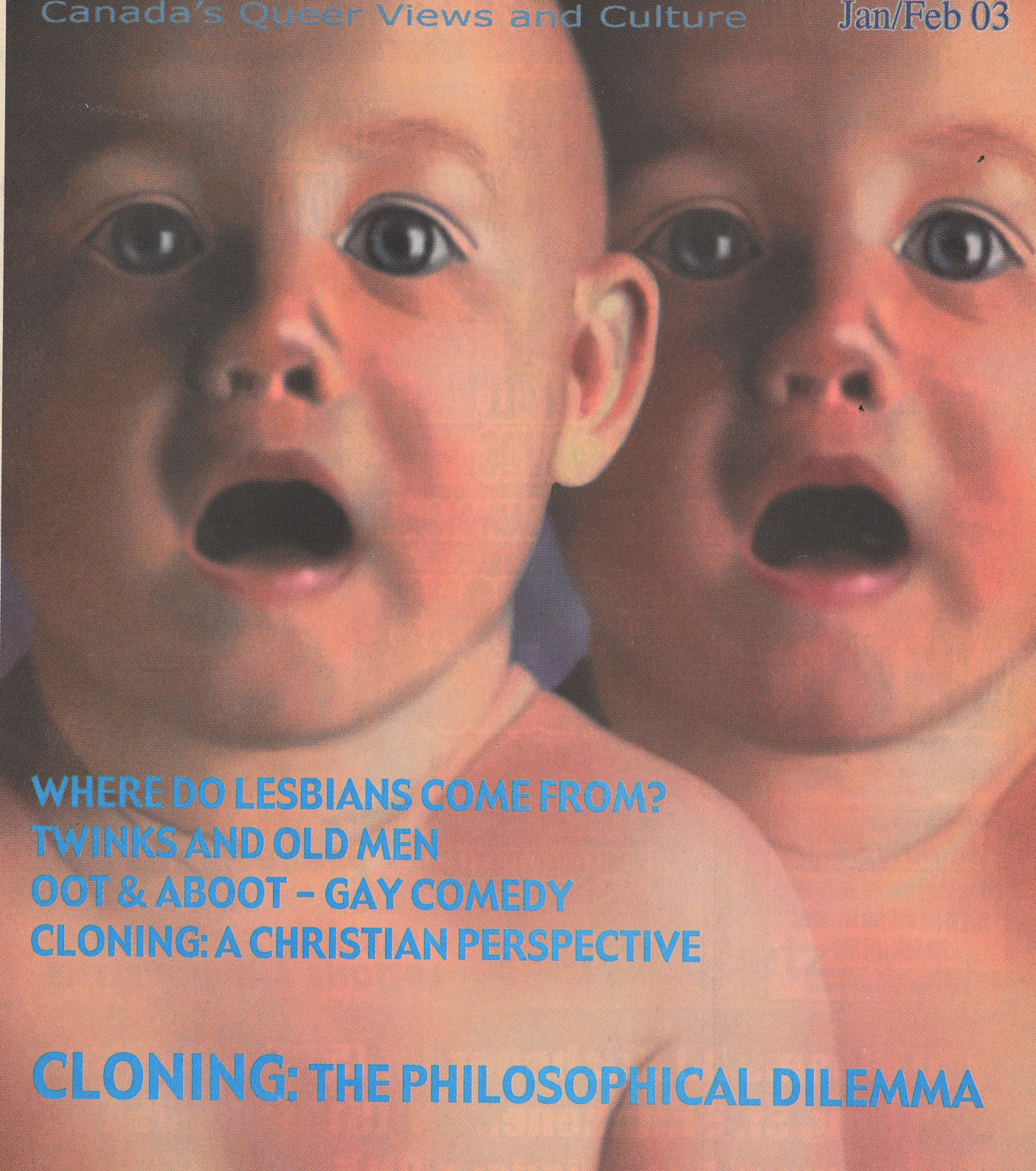
Canada's Queer Views and Culture

FREE

Volume 5

Issue 4

Jan/Feb 03



**WHERE DO LESBIANS COME FROM?  
TWINKS AND OLD MEN  
OOT & ABOUT - GAY COMEDY  
CLONING: A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE**

**CLONING: THE PHILOSOPHICAL DILEMMA**

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

# X-Citement

*Movies... And a lot more!!!*

For  
Adults  
Only



**OVER 6000 MOVIES FOR SALE/RENTAL  
ON VHS AND DVD!**

**3 FOR 2  
SALE ON ALL VHS  
& DVDS**

**(SALE ENDS JANUARY 31 2003)**

**SELECTIONS  
OF DVDS  
\$14.95**

**(reg. \$39.95 on selected DVDs)**

**(WHILE QUANTITIES LAST)**

- **MAGAZINES**
- **SPECIALTY ITEMS**
- **PRODUCTS FOR MEN, WOMEN AND COUPLES**
- **LARGEST SELECTION OF LOTIONS AND NOVELTIES**

**10 FREE RENTALS\***

\*with membership.

Earn free rentals & discounts with your Merit Card.

**VIP MEMBERSHIP**

V.I.P. members keep the movies for as long as you wish just by joining!

**"NO MORE LATE FEES"**

\*Inquire at store for details about getting your membership today!

**270 Bleams Rd. Kitchener, ON (519) 895-2138**  
**30 King St. E Kitchener, ON (519) 584-7549**  
**2615 Howard Ave. Windsor, ON (519) 967-9092**

# REGULARS

- 2 First Words
- 3 Have Your Say
- 4 Living Out
- 5 LGBT Spectrum
- 8 Three Dollar Bill
- 9 Unique Queer Lives
- 12 Need Wood?
- 17 Spiritual Life
- 18 Q-Health
- 20 Books
- 24 Community Listings
- 26 Business Directory
- 27 Classified
- 28 One For The Road



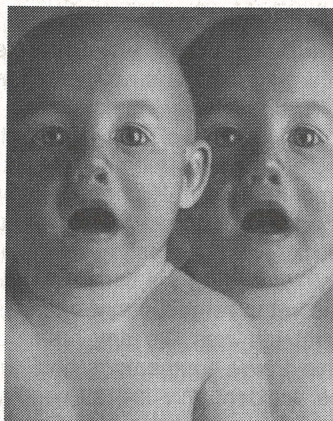
*The Voice Magazine is an independent media source published monthly.*

*It is an all-inclusive alternative vehicle for all segments of the LGBT community.*

*Our mandate includes the promotion of tolerance, understanding and acceptance of LGBT culture and alternative lifestyles. We are straight-friendly and accept submissions and issues straight-related, but, we place particular emphasis on our own sub-culture.*

# FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

- 6 Out and About - Gay Comedy
- 10 This RRSP Season
- 11 The Laramie Project Is Coming to Waterloo
- 11 Women Speak Up! - Cliterature in Kitchener



## Cover Story

- 14 CLONING:  
The Philosophical Dilemma

- 19 Business Feature: Eclipse: K-W Newest Gay Bar
- 21 Lesbian Marketing - Humour
- 22 Cloning: A Christian Perspective
- 23 The Life of a Queen

# KW HOMES 4 SALE.COM

Buying A Home!

RRSP Home Buyers Plan!

Selling Your Home!

Virtual Tours!

Financial Services!

All MLS Listings!

## Alan Goetz

Sales Rep.



Office 519-885- [REDACTED]

# FIRST WORDS



## Carpe Diem

By A.J. Mahari

Weapons of mass destruction, poison found in London, England, bio-terror threats, and the seeming certainty of more war -- we may be living on borrowed time. One could look at world events and easily conclude that various aspects of humanity are on one definite self-destructive course that leaves the rest of us unable to do anything but wait, watch, wonder and worry.

Carpe Diem should be the collective mantra of our world in this young century. A century that we all hope has the opportunity to progress, and age, as have all others before it.

Carpe Diem - SEIZE THE DAY!. Do all that you can each and every day. Cherish your life. Insist that your glass is half full and not half empty. Quest and and chase your dreams.

There are so many things in this world over which we, as individuals, have no control. Therefore, we need to live our lives in such a way as to balance the reality of a rising threat of destruction and death, along with the reality that where there is life there is hope.

All-too-often we take each and every day way too much for granted. As if, somehow, we have any say in how many days our lives will span. We don't. We have to live with the reality of our mortality in a way that enables us to be motivated to do what is most important to us each and every day. Don't take anything for granted. (In spite of Raelean claims to be cloning human beings in an effort to provide eternal life - see Cloning: The Philosophical Dilemma on page 14)

Along with the state of the world, recent and continually unfolding world events, there are the tragedies and accidents that befall individual, everyday, human lives.

A contributor to The Voice, a fairly well-known and respected member of our local community here in Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge and area, and a friend, Gordon Husk, was in a car accident on December 27th and (at the time of writing this) he has yet to re-gain consciousness. I'm sure that trip was like any other for him and his travel companions until the time of the accident. We are all sending positive healing, loving energy to Gordon and hoping for him to awake in such a way that he will be able to just carry on from where he left off. Nothing is certain at this time, however. What is certain, however, is that what has happened to Gordon brings home to me and to others who know him that we need to SEIZE THE DAY each and every day.

Gordon's most recent contribution to our pages was his two-part article, "vEXations" which garnered a lot of positive response and thanks to Gordon for his taking what was a personal situation and being giving enough to share it with Voice readers in the hopes of offering the kind of insight that can make a difference in many lives. It was not without humour and the gentle grace with which those who know Gordon, understand that he exudes.

Carpe Diem! It is the gift that you can give yourself and your loved ones, today, and every day. Time is a precious commodity. Respect and honour that.

**Publisher/Editor:** Ms. A.J. Mahari  
**Layout:** A.J. Mahari

**Copy Editor:** M. Erin Wright

**Advertising Sales:** A.J. Mahari

**Cover Design:** Ralph Smith

### **Voice Columnists:**

Noel Springwood, Sally Sheklow, A.J. Mahari, Mary Ann Moore, Charles W. Westfall, Woody Miller, Richard Burnett

### **January Contributors:**

Jeffery Chernin, Richard Sickinger, Mark Weiser, Kathleen Holland, D.J. Bad Weather, Gordon Gilhuly, Rick Brown

The Voice is published monthly. Deadline for submissions and ad copy is **February 20h, 2002** For our March issue.

The official views of this magazine are expressed only in editorials. Bylined columns, letters, articles or reviews represent the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the magazine.

Publication of the name or photograph of any person, writer, business, or organization, in articles or advertising is not necessarily indicative of the sexual orientation of said person, or anyone associated with or working for said business or organization.

The Voice Magazine welcomes article contributions from writers of all orientations and encourages writers to contact the editor for submission guidelines.

Copyright remains with each individual columnist/contributor. Permission must be obtained from each writer before re-printing or re-producing in any other print or web media.

### **PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW POSTAL ADDRESS**

**The Voice Magazine  
P.O. Box 844  
Stn. C,  
Kitchener, Ontario  
N2G 4C5**

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to  
the holidays we have  
combined our January/  
February issues. Begin-  
ning again in March we  
will publish in our usual  
monthly way.**

## THE VOICE MAGAZINE

P.O. Box 844  
Stn. C,  
Kitchener, Ontario  
N2G 4C5

Ph: 519-743-  
Fax: 519-743-

editor@thevoice.ca  
ads@thevoice.ca  
haveyoursay@thevoice.ca  
submissions@thevoice.ca  
info@thevoice.ca

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

### The Voice Magazine is available in the following locations:

**Kitchener:** Club Renaissance, K-W Book Store, Muses Cafe, Mostly Organic, The Stag Shop, Conestoga College, XCitementvideo, ACCKWA, Frequency Nightclub, Eclipse Nightclub

**Waterloo:** GenerationX, Grabbajabba, Adults Only Video, Wordsworth Books, Princess Cinema, University of Waterloo, (Student Life Centre), Wilfrid Laurier University, The Stag Shop, Holly Oak

**Hamilton:** The Embassy Club, AIDS Network, McMaster University, The WERX, Book Villa, Whitley Flowers, The Stag Shop, The Warehouse,

**Cambridge:** The Robin's Nest, Suite Surprises Xxotica, The Stag Shop

**Guelph:** The Bookshelf, University of Guelph, Black Mustard Bistro, Cafe Aquarius

**Brantford:** The PineTree Native Centre, Sweet Dreamzz

**London:** The Pride Library at UWO, The AIDS Committee of London, City Lights Bookshop, Club 181, Blackfriar's Restaurant, Club London, The Stag Shop, Village Harvest, Stalkers

**Stratford:** AIDS Action Committee of Perth County, Fanfare Books, Poor Yoric,

**Toronto:** 519 Church Community Centre, Glad Day Books, Club Toronto, Music Authority, Good For Her, Woody's, Zelda's,

**St. Catharines:** Aids Niagara, Club Rendezvous, The Stag Shop

And other select locations in Toronto, Windsor, South Western Ontario, and now distributed in select locations in Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal, and Halifax.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

If you have something that you would like to say about what you read in The Voice, send a letter to the editor. We'd like to hear from you. You can email us at [haveyoursay@thevoice.on.ca](mailto:haveyoursay@thevoice.on.ca) or go to our web site at [www.thevoice.on.ca](http://www.thevoice.on.ca) and click on **HAVE YOUR SAY** and use our form mail. Letters may be edited for purposes of clarity and space.

In response to Noel Springwood's article entitled "The Quest For Freedom" subtitled "Popping It" (Voice September 2002, Volume 4, Issue 12). I found this article to be a very positive and flattering portrayal of Pope John Paul II. If this were published by Catholic Register or other right wing religious publications, I would not be responding.

However as a recovering Catholic I have suffered greatly with low self-esteem bordering on self-hate due to "inner homophobia" because I believed that the Roman Catholic Church represented the word of God, period.

Finding this type of support for the Pope in a GLBT magazine was difficult and painful.

Inarguably, the Pope is the single most powerful and influential homophobic person in the universe. Freedom requires eternal vigilance so I just had to write and raise my voice.

I am also quite sure the Pope is aware of his church history surrounding the Papal Document "Humanae Vitae". The argument against homosexuality is the same one used for condemning artificial birth control. The then Pope Paul handpicked a commission to study the issue. But when the commission reported back, they could find no justification for the condemnation of birth control. Pope Paul rejected that conclusion. The reason given was quite simple, to acknowledge the findings would be to admit the Church had been wrong and undermine its supreme authority. In actual fact this decision is credited with Catholics no longer giving blind obedience to Rome and the Papacy

The opening line in Springwood's column, "He came, he conquered", along with "Catholics and believers of other traditions as well are left with what has to be a sense of affirmation." Well, when Catholic faith and other traditions are affirmed so also is homophobia affirmed. As for other traditions perhaps Noel missed the proclamation from the World Youth Day stage by the Toronto Bishop not to be fooled by other traditions, as Jesus is the only way.

Springwood also said, "Much of what the pilgrims garnered could be listed under three headings: a sense of identity...a sense of belonging...a sense of purpose.

*The GLBT individual is according to the Church "intrinsically disordered".*

Modern GLBT are expected to use inclusive language but I suppose it's ok not to when quoting the pope as he certainly excludes all women.

Springwood also wrote, "for me, the Pope uttered the most telling and understanding statement I have ever heard from any church leader 'Humanize the world'". Surely he, being a former Catholic priest, recognizes that vision for the Pope means the eradication of the GLBT community. Yet he concluded that John Paul II's coming vision and conquest had a lot to offer us in the queer nation. I would have agreed totally with you when my "inner homophobia" was at its peak.

-- Rick Brown, London, Ont.

After seeing just three copies of The Voice I must say, exceptionally wonderful cover last month. (December Voice, 2002, Volume 5, Issue 3) It was a nice surprise. I also very much liked the cover story. I think it addressed some common and important concerns about internet related stuff that gay men need to think about. I know I'm sure thinking about what I do now and where I decide to meet and pick up.

-- Scott Anderson, Vancouver, B.C.

It was very nice to see some more local things, local meaning to K-W, Guelph, Cambridge and area in December's Voice. I hope that we will see this trend continue. I understand that other cities want to read about what's local for them too. I am a firm believer that whoever gets in touch with you and provides you information and so on, should be read about in The Voice. Love your magazine, keep up the great work!

-- Gary Corbett, Cambridge, Ont.

I have read with interest recent letters/articles 'The Voice' has published with regard to HIV and AIDS. Firstly I wanted to thank you and The Voice for giving 'voice' to these issues. As a recently HIV+ person and a member of the community

Continued on page 25



## Where Do Lesbians Come From?

### Last Man on Earth

By Sally Sheklow

Where do lesbians come from? Are we born this way? Do we choose it? Is there a maniacal Dr. Dykenstein in some cliffside la-BOR-at'ry piecing together exhumed body parts and jolting them to life on stormy nights with a giant Hitachi Magic Wand?

Born, chosen or created, lesbians roam the earth trying to find each other. Not an easy task in a world where all our identifying hairstyles are co-opted by mainstream fashion. If we are lucky enough to detect others of our kind, we must initiate contact.

But some of us are slow. I didn't jump into the arms of my first lesbian lover, I was pushed. Thank God(ess)! I may have stayed lost in hetspace forever if it hadn't been for my final boyfriend. What a pal. Kind and gentle—nothing like the other overpowering, self-absorbed, clit-ignorant college boys I knew. Boyfriend had a pretty face and was sweet as a bee charmer. His high tenor warbled through Bridge Over Troubled Water like a choir boy, which he had been.

We hiked to our special woodland hideout where he sang to me while I braided wildflowers into his long silky hair. We pranced and spun in the meadow. We were stardust. We were golden. And oh, so high.

Boyfriend lived across from an all-woman communal household where he bought his monthly lid. Those women didn't like men coming over, so Boyfriend asked me if I'd be his weed runner. I crossed the street with his money folded up in the pocket of my long tie-dyed skirt.

The pot-women were friendly. I could see they were compatible roommates, unlike the couple I shared a rental with, whose constant arguing partly motivated my frequent overnights at Boyfriend's place. I enjoyed visiting the commune but was eager to get back across the street and enjoy the purchase with my far-out guy.

Boyfriend was a good dancer, meaning he'd just slip off into his own world while I did the same. We liked to go out dancing, but I always got hit on at straight clubs. Not being the "keep your hands off my woman" sort of man, Boyfriend suggested we try our town's only gay bar. We went on a Thursday, "Women's Night." Nobody cared that Boyfriend was a guy, it was a real liberal place. I had no idea my own queer streak was as wide as k.d. lang's vocal range, but somehow I felt right at home.

I adored being surrounded by strong, confident, man-less women. I relaxed around them. But I also felt kind of sorry for them because they didn't have a great guy like my long-haired swirly boy groovin' over there in the corner of the dance floor.

Visions of the bar women danced in my head when Boyfriend and I went back to his place. He sure was open-minded: he complied with my request for dickless sex and cheerfully indulged my fantasy of him being a woman worshipper at my goddess temple. I had one terrific guy.

One day in our woodland hideout, my dancing queen gently suggested I might be a lesbian. That really hurt. It meant I'd failed at my efforts to comply with years of conditioning to be more feminine, more



soft-spoken so boys' feelings wouldn't get hurt and I wouldn't come off as some kind of queer. Boyfriend's comment stung. But he'd planted the seed.

Back at the bar, Boyfriend danced and I studied the bar dykes. I searched for any indication I might be one of them. I didn't walk or dress the way they did. I was terrible at shooting pool. I didn't even own one single bandanna. I was no lesbian.

But I got all tingly imagining what kissing one would feel like. In a mysterious bout of overactive bladder I kept dashing off to the women's restroom. I leaned against the stall and I longed for one of those bar dykes to pounce and smooch me into submission. I didn't mention that fantasy to Boyfriend, but he had my number.

His need for my weed-running services suddenly increased. He sent me over to the commune so often, I finally ended up staying the night. One of the roommates shared her bed with me and taught me everything I needed to know about being a happy lesbian. Real happy!

Before long, I only went across the street to Boyfriend's house to make my monthly deliveries. He was good-natured about it and never once said, "I told you so," although he certainly had.

After college he moved away. I like to think his next girlfriend pushed him into the arms of the Radical Faeries with whom he traipsed off into the woods to dance and sing with his kindred spirits.

The "born vs. choice" argument reminds me of him. Was I born this way? Did I choose it? Or did I just happen to have a wonderful boyfriend who steered me toward my natural destiny? If you run into him swirling around the dance floor, please thank him for me. I may have forgotten to do that.

*Sally Sheklow is a Pacific Northwest writer who dances with women. She can be reached at [sally@rio.com](mailto:sally@rio.com). Submitted to The Voice by Sally Sheklow.*

**Carlson Wagonlit Travel®**

**We specialize in LGBT friendly travel all over the world!**

**Call us today and mention this ad for a 5% discount on your next package booking!**

Owned & Operated By: Trillium Travel Services Inc.  
145 Dundas Street, Cambridge, Ontario N1R 5P1

**519-622-7077**  
[travel@cwtrillium.com](mailto:travel@cwtrillium.com)



## TWINKS AND OLD MEN

By Charles W. Westfall

The message was loud and clear and printed in bold caps, **"I DON'T LIKE OLD MEN."**

I'm used to some of the off the wall bio lines and comments in the chat rooms but that one kind of shocked me. I was tempted to enter a response, **"I DON'T LIKE TWINKS."**

I didn't enter that message but I got the message.

A lot of younger gay men, and women as far as I know but I don't because I'm not a woman and would have to take someone's word for it, think that the natural process of aging turns an individual into a hungry predator and sexual pervert.

I sincerely hope that not all young people think that. At the same time, I'm quite disturbed by the fact that even some do.

Okay. There are hungry predators about. There are unscrupulous perverts. Some of them are superannuated. To form a general conclusion about who they are, however, is nothing less than prejudice, bias, discrimination and, yes, hate. I hate, pardon the expression, to say it; but, within the LGBT Communities, hate crimes abound. Terrorism may not yet have emerged. Ostracism, denigration and disdain, however, are all too present. They are, sadly, directed mainly toward the elders of those communities.

I have to think of cultures and traditions that respect elders and even invite them into an active and sharing role in the development, maintenance and management of those social structures. Not so within the LGBT Communities.

Our world is one where narcissism and youth culture have come to dominate human life and epitomize human values. As a person ages, he or she is gradually edged out of any kind of active participation. The "mature", to use the polite word, are openly shunned, insulted or just ignored.

The unfortunate outcome of all of this is that what should be vibrant and significant communities often lack the kind of foundation that can give them security and depth. What actually requires careful thought and deliberation can be decided quickly and peremptorily. The results are not always as pretty as those making them happen.

More than that, though, our world is not

yet totally accepting of persons with varying sexual orientations or preferences. Many of those who are being dismissed as over the hill could, perhaps, provide some valuable insights into how to deal with what is, basically, a negative and intimidating social environment.

To dance the night away is certainly fun. On the dawning of the morrow, however, the memory of that fun will undoubtedly fade and, with the sun, reality will dawn.

Make no mistakes about it. I don't dislike twinks. I don't hate young gay men and women. I do have a serious concern about the attitude, there's that wonderful word that describes so many things, that some of them project.

I have many younger friends and get along famously. Many seek my counsel and advice on personal matters and, whether they follow it or not, appreciate the fact that I'm willing to offer it. I don't offer it arbitrarily, however, nor in any uninvited way. At the same time, I'm happy to say that my batting average in this regard is fairly high.

Ironically, in terms of this discussion, I have to admit that I don't like old men either. All too often, that dislike extends to myself.

There is an increasing sense of inadequacy and helplessness that each day brings. That means it's harder to like myself each day. I really don't need that feeling worsened by someone voicing open disdain about me and those like me.

At the same time, I have not given up an intense desire to serve the LGBT Communities in any way I can.

In terms of this discussion, I'm going to make a radical and bold suggestion. If anyone acts upon it, I can only hope that all involved will benefit from it.

Support groups exist for almost everything. So, why not have a support group for older and younger LGBT's? There are Gay/Straight Liaison Groups. I think that a Younger/Older LGBT Liaison Group would help improve the understanding and communication that is currently lacking..

I believe that there is a tremendous need for this kind of interaction. I value my younger friends because they help me get in touch with their priorities and percep-

tions. They value me because of my lived experience and perspectives. There is a natural and necessary kind of interaction here. It is a level of communication that is almost totally lacking and, almost as totally, tragic in its results

Just to cite one example, I have to think that even one suicide of a young person or an older person might have been prevented by that kind of interaction. To cite another, I have to think that even one or two lives could be enriched and strengthened by the kind of mutual support provided by that kind of bonding.

It is undeniably a given that twinks and old men live in two different worlds. I don't believe, however, that those worlds have to be totally remote\*from one another. I do believe that with minimal effort they can connect.

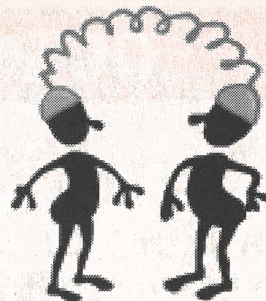
Twinks and old men may never like one another. I only hope that they never lose sight of the fact that, in the last analysis, they need one another. In a very strange but true way, they are one another. For some that's a frightening prospect.

It might well be impossible to tear down the walls. It may well be possible, however, to build bridges, before even that hope is lost.

I guess, for some as a measure of human worth, it all comes down to whom you like or don't like. To me, that's a terrifying prospect.

*Tactillians is a social group for older men and our admirers who enjoy touch and sensuality. Members can meet in small groups at private homes etc. (This is not an orgy club.) Primary locations are Hamilton and Toronto. For complete membership information, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tactillians>.*

*Charles W. Westfall is a Hamilton based writer. He can be reached at [weschar@sympatico.ca](mailto:weschar@sympatico.ca). A Voice Exclusive.*





# OOT AND ABOUT

By A.J. Mahari

Gone are the days when we, as queer folk, have to sit idly by and feel like the butt of endless jokes. Richard Ryder, (right) is the mastermind behind a gay comedy group known as Oot and About. He used to run his own show, "Richard Ryder's Big Fat Comedy Show" at The Red Spot in Toronto. It was there that he met Susan, who is originally from Kitchener, and Ted.

"I wanted to tour as a comic and being gay, there aren't a lot of places that my material would be welcome but I knew



the gay community would be more than interested in a night of comedy that didn't make them the butt of some joke," explained Ryder.

Ryder believes that a gay troupe will be an easier sell in many gay venues and they hope to do gay cruises as well.

Oot and About is self-described on their new web site as, "The gayest experience that one can have while keeping their pants on (oh sure you may wet them, but that isn't the point)." It is Canada's premiere gay stand-up group. They all live, and are based in



Toronto. Oot and About features the talented Ted Morris, (right) Susan Stewart, (left) and Richard Ryder.



"They decided to combine forces in early 2002 and debuted on April 7th, to a sold out crowd, at Tom Foolery's Comedy Club. Pride Week 2002, marked the group's second show at Tom Foolery's and was another smash hit." (Web Site)

Oot and About is officially, Ted, Susan and Richard. Part of forming their group, however, is their combined desire to share the comedy spotlight with an eclectic array of Canadian gay performers. They have shared the stage with Fionna MacCool, Dave Tomlinson Elvira Kurt and The B-Girlz, thus far.

Their first show was at Yuk Yuk's, in Toronto, November 17th, 2002 and they performed for a near capacity crowd. The Toronto Star reviewed their show declaring, "Oot and About are Absolutely Fabulous!"

When I asked Ryder what they had in the works, he said, "Oot and About are doing four shows at Yuk Yuk's over the next year the first of which will be Feb. 9 (Our Valentines Day show - see ad to left). The second show will be June 22, which is the Sunday before Pride Week in Toronto. We're also hoping to produce an all gay comedy festival in Toronto this summer. It's still in it's initial stages but we've got our fingers crossed. We're also working on a play."

I asked Ryder if he believes there is a difference between straight comedy and gay comedy.

"Gay people are born and raised by straight people. We have their prejudices, traditions, views, likes and dislikes, politics, families. We have all of it, and we're gay. I think that gay comics can be smarter comics because they've learned to think fast on their feet. What gay kid didn't learn to be witty or quick-thinking from going through the hells of public school? That's

"Oot & About is absolutely fabulous." - Toronto Star

February 9, 2002 \$15

**OOT & ABOUT**

Susan Stewart, Ted Morris & Richard Hyde

**OOT & ABOUT @ YUK'S**

224 Richmond St. West (E. of Duncan) - 8:30 P.M.

featuring: **Roberto Bozac & Linda Ellis**

Win a Valentine's Dinner for two @ **YUK'S**

With: **The B-Girlz**

not to say we're funnier, just less restrictive as to what's funny."

Ryder continued, "I like to perform for gay audiences because they'll laugh at anything if it's genuinely funny. They don't laugh at a fart joke because it's a fart joke. They laugh because it's a funny fart joke. They're used to looking at things from different angles so I think they're a smart audience. They're definitely a quicker one. You'd better make that punch line worth the trip."

Morris, Stewart, and Ryder are the producers and the organizers of Oot and About and do invite others to perform on their shows and consider them part of the Oot and About family.

When asked about his experience performing for gay audiences as opposed to more general or straight audiences Ryder said, "The first time I did comedy for a gay audience I never felt straighter, I never thought of myself as being a straight comic, but, when I was in front of a gay audience after performing for straight audiences for so long I felt like they weren't buying it. It actually forced me to own my own homosexuality" It's great, I've never actually had a bad experience in front of a gay audience, that's great, that's wonderful."



Oot and About's next show will be on February 9th, at Yuk Yuk's in Toronto (see ad opposite page). Tickets are \$15.

The Oot and About gang are hoping to tour. They want to get out there and make you laugh. They are looking for bookings and invite anyone who is interested in booking them to visit their web site and contact them from there. Their web site is relatively new but you can read more about each one of them at:

<http://members.rogers.com/ootandabout>

A.J. Mahari, of Kitchener is editor of The Voice Magazine. A Voice Exclusive.

# DJ BAD WEATHER

## DJ BadWeather - Top 10 Circuit House Tracks of 2002

- 1- Darren Hayes - Insatiable (Victor Calderone Mix)
- 2- Gloria Gaynor - I Never Knew (Hex Hector Mix)
- 3- Mike Cruz ft. Inaya Day - Can't Stop Dancing (Thunderpuss Mix)
- 4- Jennifer Lopez - Alive (Thunderpuss Mix)
- 5- Sheryl Crow - Soak Up The Sun (Victor Calderone Mix)
- 6- Sherrie Lea - Anyway (Hex Hector Mix)
- 7- Sono - Blame (Guido Osorio Mix)
- 8- Oscar G. & Ralph Falcon - Dark Beat (Murk Monster Mix)
- 9- Dolce - Sorrow (Orange Factory Mix)
- 10- Aaliyah - More Than A Woman (Richie Santana Mix)

DJ BAD WEATHER can be heard at Frequency Nightclub, 183 King St. W, Kitchener.

Club  
London

CAN'T YOU JUST FEEL IT

722 YORK ST. LONDON ONTARIO  
519-438-2625  
WWW.CLUBBATHS.COM

# Three Dollar Bill



## A View from abroad

By Richard Burnett

Lea DeLaria has a big mouth. She knows just what to say to get folks riled up. She became the first openly-gay comedian on network TV when she appeared on The Arsenio Hall Show back in 1993, and wowed audiences and critics alike with her return to Broadway as Eddie and Dr. Scott in the revival of The Rocky Horror Show last year.

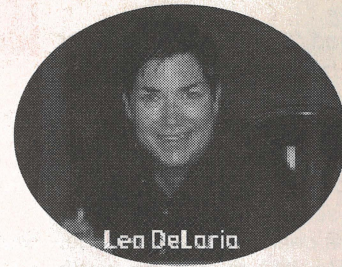
Love her or hate her, the stand-up comedian/singer/actor and bestselling author always draws a crowd. And she always packs a punch, not to mention a double-headed dildo.

"I'm a big bad-ass butch dyke who can sing the sweetest ballad you ever heard," DeLaria once said, and when I recently asked her who she has the hots for these days, she replied, "Kirsten Dunst - she's big on my hot list. Then there's Natalie Portman. And Britney Spears. Notice the young girl thing?"

Well, then, how about the Bush Girls, Jenna and Barbara, twin daughters of U.S. President George Dubya?

"The Bush girls!" DeLaria cracks up, laughing. "That sounds like a dyke bar I used to go to! I'm pretty sure I got drunk with one of them last week. The bad one. When you think their father was a drunk for 5,000 years - please! The apple doesn't fall far from the tree."

While DeLaria deplors the recent ground war in Afghanistan ("If there was no oil in the region we wouldn't be there"), she also can't believe the physical change in Afgan women. "When it all went down they dressed up like tranny crack whores. They went so far the other way that I wanted them to put their burqas back on!"



Lea DeLaria



That's not to say DeLaria isn't taking the war on terrorism seriously. "I've written a new song to revive Billy Joel's career!" she says, later adding, "I'm not an American - I'm a lesbian!"

DeLaria lives in NYC where she was performing in Rocky Horror on September 11th. She contrasts that experience with Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee celebrations.

"I was there. She rode through the streets in a solid gold carriage that if we could melt down could save two or three Third World countries."

Back in America, DeLaria says she has always been more than just a dyke comic, though she has no problem performing at the world's first all-gay comedy festival - We're Funny That Way in Toronto - or hosting the Queer Comics showcase at Montreal's Just For Laughs festival.

"They have Uptown Comics for black comics," she says by way of explanation. "It's not the straight white guys. Sometimes we can't all be on the same stage. But when I went on [Arsenio Hall] to do my thing, it wasn't a gay comedy thing. I'm up to the same standard everyone else is."

DeLaria is also an accomplished jazz singer who signed a four-record deal with Warner Brothers last year. Her first album Play it Cool sold well and DeLaria fondly remembers a gig

at the Hollywood Bowl this past summer. "It was a tribute to Billie Holiday with Dianne Reeves and all these other fantastic cats. It was 17,000 seats and very elegant," she says.

Elegant? Which begs the question, did DeLaria crack any of her notoriously raucous jokes onstage?

DeLaria laughs as she recalls a recent concert in a NYC jazz nightclub.

"I was onstage singing and there were a lot of jazz heads and bigshots there and I'd chat between numbers. Finally they all got up and left," DeLaria laughs again. "When you're a jazz personality they expect you to ACT like one. But it's really hard to separate singing and stand-up in my mind."

## Jean-Paul Pilon

*Barrister and Solicitor, Notary Public*

245 Frederick Street  
Kitchener, N2H 2M7  
Phone: 519-885-  
Fax: 519-885-

*Richard Burnett, of Montreal, is the Editor-at-Large for Montreal's HOUR, online at [www.hour.ca](http://www.hour.ca). He can be reached at [rburnett@hour.ca](mailto:rburnett@hour.ca). Submitted to The Voice by Richard Burnett.*

# Freedom and Remembrance

## Unique Queer Lives - Natalie Goldberg

By Mary Ann Moore

I don't usually read a book of poetry from beginning to end at one sitting but when I received a copy of Natalie Goldberg's recent book, *Top of My Lungs* (The Overlook Press 2002), I breathed all of it in one gulp. You just can't resist Natalie Goldberg. She has inspired writers for many years now ever since *Writing Down the Bones* was first published in 1986. I probably came across the book soon after and recommended it to everyone I knew. I even joined a group of writers whose intent was to follow Natalie's advice of timed writings using a fast-writing pen, not lifting the hand from the paper and losing control. That group of 17 writers dwindled down to 4 of us who continued to meet for about 3 years.



Photo by Michelle Huff

I continue to be inspired by Natalie's books, tapes and paintings and her chosen landscape too.

She makes her home in Taos, New Mexico where she teaches most of her writing workshops at Mabel Dodge Luhan House. Her poetry has not been published in book form in 22 years so this collection is really worthy celebrating. Inspired by Natalie's essay included in *Top of My Lungs*, "How Poetry Saved My Life", I sat down and wrote my own version.

Natalie's poetry sings in its ordinariness and attention to the details in every day. "Before poetry", Natalie writes, "I was lost. Now loss had a smell, a color, a texture. A fast train could split its side. I held lost childhood, lost shoe, lost moment. They belonged to me and I was found."

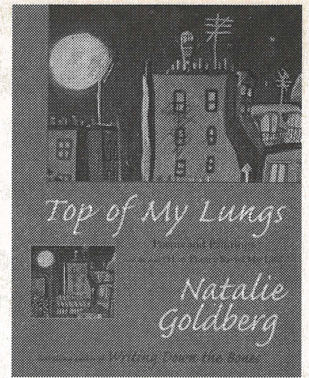
When I think of Natalie Goldberg, I think of a cup of coffee and a cookie. Sharing a turkey sandwich with a friend which she writes about in "Top of My Lungs", the poem that gives the book its title. In a recent article in *Shambhala Sun*, the Buddhism-inspired magazine, Natalie described using the slow-eating of a cookie as her meditation when an injury prevented her from sitting meditation. She's been practising Zen Buddhism for 25 years. It's in those ordinary things that the multi-layered, bigger story can be told. She said in that *Shambhala Sun* article, "If we can sit in a cafe breathing, we can breath through hearing our father's last breath, the slow crack of pain as we realize he's crossing over forever."

Natalie painted a portrait of her father Ben which is among the several paintings in the book that cheer you up just looking at them. They include those ordinary things.

House in Summer, Ohio. Blue Piano. '48 Chevy, Sante Fe. Natalie first came out to her readers, to my recollection, in *Wild Mind*, in her chapter "Crossing Boundaries". She described finishing writing her earlier book, *Writing Down the Bones*, and proclaiming she was done "And I want to be with women now". She found a similarity in crossing over boundaries to be with women and writing practice where boundaries melt. "The only thing that matched the wildness I felt inside when I wrote was kissing a woman".

Her intent for readers is to be inspired. The thing about poems is that while we are reading about the poet's experience of being Jewish, of still loving her ex-husband, her father, cities she has travelled to, we are remembering our own story and so we are inspired. Natalie's other intent for her poems: "may they help to bring you home". It's that tender notice of the small details that do bring one home and a coming out to that wildness in the way we express those ordinary things in colourful, vibrant ways. "Even though I am unhappy I come home singing at the top of my lungs".

Mary Ann Moore, is a writer living in Guelph.



Hear your own voice and experience the healing power of community in a Flying Mermaids writing circle. ~ Guelph & Toronto



Mary Ann Moore

Phone: 519-827- [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@interlog.com

Be seen. Be heard. Be amazed at what comes out of the stillness.

[www.retreatsonline.net/flyingmermaids](http://www.retreatsonline.net/flyingmermaids)

SANITARY CLEAN &

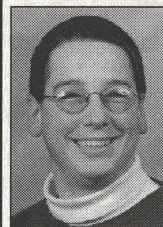
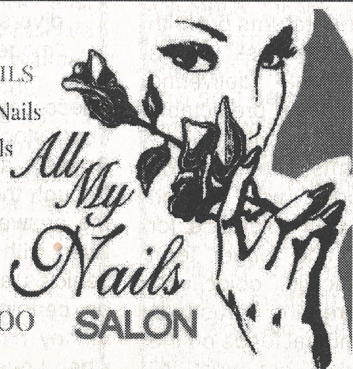
NATURAL LOOKING NAILS

- Manicures
- Pedicures
- Hot Wax
- Treatments
- Sculptured Nails
- Acrylic Nails
- Solar Nails
- Gel Nails

Gift Certificates  
[www.allmynails.ca](http://www.allmynails.ca)

22 KING ST. S., WATERLOO

~883-0882~



## HEALTHY CHOICES LIFE CONSULTING

- Life Consultant
- Reiki Practitioner

Valerie Cassel 519-393-[REDACTED]

# This RRSP Season

## Cut Through the Clutter To Investment Opportunity

By Kathleen Holland, CFP,  
Financial Consultant

A typical observation when talking about finances is that when people don't know what to do, they do nothing - and that's not good. It's my job as a financial consultant to cut through the clutter and give them understandable information they can use.

It's natural to the human condition: We tend to shy away from things we don't understand. For investors that can be a real problem, because the financial world is filled with the 'clutter' of difficult to decipher jargon - and when people are confused, they fail to capitalize on investment opportunities that will help them ultimately realize their dreams of a lifetime. So, in the spirit of the season - the Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) season, that is - let's cut through the clutter and take a clear look at what is without a doubt the best tax-deferred savings builder for most Canadians.

**An RRSP is ...** a tax-deferred retirement plan that allows individuals, prior to the end of the year in which they reach the age of 70 to set aside sums of money that are deductible (within limits) from taxable income. These moneys can earn income on a tax-deferred basis.

**You should make an extra effort to invest in an RRSP right now because ...** the March 3, 2003 deadline for 2002 tax-deductible contributions is quickly approaching. Your maximum allowable tax-deductible RRSP contribution is up to 18% of your previous year's earned income,

to a maximum dollar amount of \$13,500. You can "over-contribute" more if you want - up to \$2,000 extra in total. And, while any over-contributions won't be tax-deductible in the current tax year, that additional money will be busily working inside your plan generating earnings on a tax deferred basis, and you can deduct your over-contribution in a future year when you can only afford a contribution that is lower than your limit, or your maximum allowable limit is higher.

**An RRSP should be ...** part of an overall financial plan that is tailored exactly to your needs. When do you want to retire? What do you want to do after retirement? Do you have a home and want to pay off the mortgage? Do you want to save for a home? How much will you need to fund your children's education? The answers to these and other important questions about your life goals should lead to the development of a financial plan that includes tax, estate, retirement, investment and insurance strategies that'll help get you where you want to go.

**The most popular investment choices for the RRSPs of most Canadians are ...** mutual funds, because they are an effective way to achieve the objectives of your financial plan while enjoying the benefits of diversification. The concept of Diversification simply means spreading your investments over different types of mutual funds. This can dramatically reduce the risk of loss and enhance your opportunities for growth. Some mutual funds

offer the potential for higher returns but with increased risk; others aim at delivering stable and predictable - but usually lower - returns. The funds you choose will depend on your tolerance for risk and longer term financial objectives. There are thousands of mutual funds on the market, but most fall



into these basic categories:

- **Balanced Fund** (medium risk) - invests in a combination of equities (like stocks) and interest-bearing securities (like bonds), and usually produces a mix of earnings from capital gains, dividends and interest income.
- **Bond Fund** (low to medium risk) - invests in debt securities (like government and /or corporate bonds). Also called an Income Fund.
- **Equity Fund** (medium to high risk) - invests primarily in shares of companies available on the stock market.
- **Dividend Fund** (medium risk) - invests in shares of corporations that make regular dividend payments.
- **Global Fund** (medium to high risk) - invests most often in equities, but may also invest a significant portion of its assets in bonds or money-market instruments (a sector of the capital market where treasury bills, commercial paper and bankers' acceptances are bought and sold on a short-term basis) in several countries.
- **Money Market Fund** (low risk) - invests in short-term debt instruments (primarily treasury bills) offering safety and liquidity, but likely to earn less over the long-term than other funds.
- **Portfolio Fund** (low to medium risk) - also called the 'fund of funds' because it invests in other mutual funds. A good choice if you're looking for immediate diversification with a relatively "modest" investment amount.

These days there are more mutual funds than stocks - nearly 12,000 in North America alone. That's why it's vital to cut through the clutter and make sure you get the answers you need for your situation. Even with the wide variety of investment vehicles available today, people need to be certain of three basic things: Is my money relatively safe? Can I get it back when I need it? Will I have enough to fund

**IG Investors Group**<sup>TM</sup> *Advice from within*  
Solutions Built Around You<sup>TM</sup> *our community*

Kathleen Holland BSc., CFP<sup>®</sup>  
Investors Group Financial Services Inc.



254 Pall Mall St., Suite 300, London, ON N6A 5P6  
email: Kathleen.Holland@investorsgroup.com

(519)679-8993

TM Trademarks owned by Investors Group and licensed to its affiliated Corporations.

when I need it? Will I have enough to fund my retirement? Financial advisors who really know their clients will do everything possible to see that happens. This RRSP season, why not get 'clutter free' and on the right track to achieving your life goals with the help of an experienced financial advisor.

*This column, written by Investors Group Financial Services Inc., is presented as a general source of information only and is not intended as a solicitation to buy or sell investments, nor is it intended to provide professional advice including, without limitation, investment, financial, legal, accounting or tax advice. For more information on this topic or on any other investment or financial matters, please contact Kathleen Holland at (519) 679-8993.*

## WOMEN – SPEAK UP!

Women's erotica comes out into the open at an evening of "Cliterature" organized by local women. A fundraiser for Tri-Pride, Speak Up! will heat up the Mostly Organic Juice Bar on February 22, 2003.

Speak Up! is the brainchild of Shelley Secrett and Jennifer Corbett. It's a chance for women and trans-women to celebrate their sensual selves with readings, musical performances, toys and fun -- all in an open, comfortable atmosphere. Things are sure to get steamy with door prizes, food and drink, and more! Secrett (a star of the local drag king scene) will MC.

Corbett and Secrett hope Speak Up! will give local authors of sexy poetry and prose a forum to share their work with a welcoming community of women.

Writers and performers wanting to contribute can visit [www.rainbow.on.ca](http://www.rainbow.on.ca) for more information. Even if you don't want to read, you won't want to miss this. Remember, space is limited, so reserve your tickets early -- maybe for yourself and some favourite woman friends.

Speak Up! An Evening of Women's Cliterature Saturday, February 22, 2003 at 8 p.m. at Mostly Organic Juice Bar & Cafe, 119 King Street West, Kitchener-Tickets are \$10 each.

For more information see ad back inside cover.

# The Laramie Project

## Coming To Waterloo

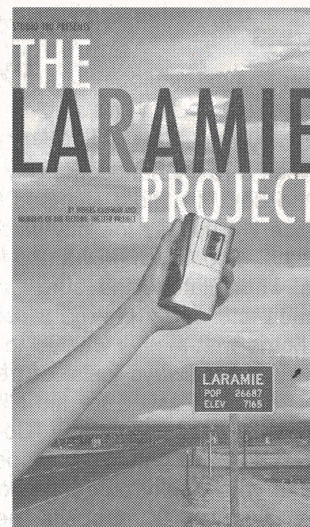
By Rick Sickinger

On Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003, a special benefit performance of Moisés Kaufman's ground breaking play, "The Laramie Project", will open at the Theatre for the Arts at The University of Waterloo. Funds raised at this benefit performance will be used to mount a major exhibition of The Canadian AIDS Memorial Quilt in Kitchener-Waterloo, during the week of Pride, June 9-15<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Studio 180 will be bringing its Toronto production of "The Laramie Project" to Kitchener-Waterloo for four performances only, March 5-8<sup>th</sup>. Studio 180 features a cast and crew made up almost entirely of University of Waterloo Alumni. Their production of "The Laramie Project" marks the first professional mounting of this critically acclaimed play in Canada.

Shortly after the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, an openly gay college student in Laramie, The Tectonic Theater Project traveled to the scene and compiled more than 200 interviews with the residents of Laramie, Wyoming over the course of a year and a half. Instead of a direct reenactment of the murder, the cast of eight actors portray over 50 Laramie residents as they come to terms with the crime and the resulting media focus on their hometown. "The Laramie Project" adopts this galvanizing event and the town of Laramie as a microcosm in which to explore: homophobia, capital punishment, religious bias, media scrutiny, class distinctions, and intolerance of our differences versus acceptance of them.

The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener-Waterloo and Area (ACCKWA) and the Tri-Pride Committee are co-sponsoring the display of the "AIDS Quilt". In order to assist them in this important goal, Studio 180 has designated their Waterloo Opening as a special benefit performance. All tickets purchased for this performance will include an invitation to a post-performance reception with cast and crew. Revenue raised that evening will be directly applied towards the cost involved in hosting the display of The Canadian AIDS Memorial Quilt.

ACCKWA and Tri-Pride believe that an exhibit of this nature will offer a much needed platform to inform, enlighten, and educate the community at large regarding AIDS and LGBT issues.



Fittingly, both non-profit organizations involved operate under philosophies and mission statements that encompass moral themes found within the play.

The Canadian AIDS Memorial Quilt is made up of more than 500 three-foot by six-foot panels. Each panel was created in memory of someone who has died of AIDS. These individual panels, as well as the sheer size of the quilt itself, stand as powerful visual symbols of both personal loss and the enormity of the AIDS pandemic. The exhibit will feature Opening and Closing Ceremonies that celebrate and pay tribute to the many Canadian lives lost to AIDS. The "AIDS Quilt" is managed by The NAMES Project Canada.

Your \$12.00 ticket for March 5<sup>th</sup> buys you admission to a professional production of an insightful, relevant, and thoughtful play and lends much needed support to our local Aids Organization and Pride Committee in bringing this worthwhile exhibit and memorial to our community. This is surely an opportunity not to be missed.

For more information:

Studio 180 and The Laramie Project  
[www.studio180.ca](http://www.studio180.ca)

The NAMES Project and to view the Quilt online [www.quilt.ca](http://www.quilt.ca)

Tri-Pride Committee [www.rainbow.on.ca](http://www.rainbow.on.ca)

*Rick Sickinger, of Stratford, is in his second year as the Events Director for Tri-pride. A Voice Exclusive.*

# NEED WOOD?

## Tips for Getting Timber

By Woody Miller

### Hey woody!

Last week a really handsome guy hit on me at the bar. I almost slumped to the floor, since I'm usually the guy who does the chasing. I could tell he wanted to sign the deal immediately and sure enough, 15 minutes later he offers me a contract: "Come home with me." I wanted to in the worst way but I always insist on reading the fine print so I asked for his HIV status. Positive. Me? Negative. "Cool," he said. "Not so cool," I thought. Woody, I'm not one of your freaky readers who think projectile diarrhea, fat deposits, nervous shakes; headaches, flues and pneumonia are "manageable" symptoms of HIV medicine. I'm scared to death of getting HIV. Anyway, the guy sensed my discomfort and said he understood if I changed my mind; that he was going to the restroom and if I was still here he'd know that I was interested in going home with him and if I wasn't, well, no hard feelings.

Even though I really liked this guy, I immediately left the bar. Do you think I was

wrong for saying no to him?

-- Regrets

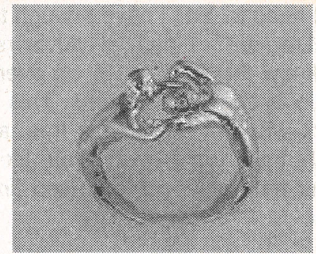
### Dear Regrets:

Wrong? How about wrong squared? How about wrong cubed? How about wrong to infinity? You let a hottie get away for a little thing like HIV? Please tell me you're a new reader. I can't bear the idea that I constantly write about safe sex and all it did was go up your eye and out your ass.

Tell me, what would you have done differently with this guy than a guy who would have said he was negative? Emphasis on "said." Just because someone says they're negative doesn't mean they are.

Oh, don't act shocked that people lie to get laid. I do it all the time. Anytime I'm after some hottie who says this column repulses him I heartily agree and tell him that I personally pounded woody the last time I saw him.

Wait, that's not really a lie. But you get my



point. Even if a guy's being truthful about testing negative he could still be positive. Remember, it takes up to three months (in rarer cases up to six months), after exposure to the virus for enough antibodies to be detected in the test. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a test after three months is accurate for most people, with about 99 percent of people seroconverting or showing antibodies after six months.


Now where was I? Oh, yes, your stupidity. Talk about falling off the idiot tree and hitting every branch on the way down. You gave up great looks, sincerity and class because there's a bug in his blood? I see a long cold winter ahead of you.

Help me understand something: Why would you say "No Thanks" to someone just because of their HIV status? I'm negative and I've never said no to a poz guy I was interested in. Ever heard of kissing and masturbating? Otherwise known as "Smack and Jack?"

# THE WAREHOUSE

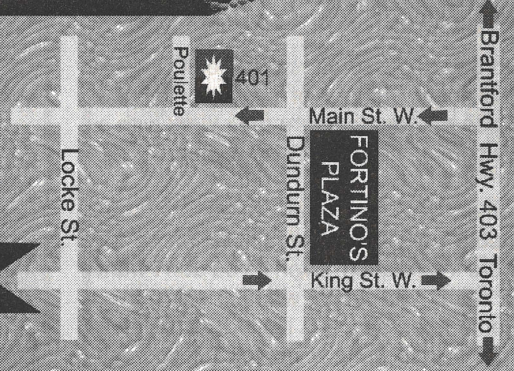
## SPA AND BATH

**NOW OPEN UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

-  TANNING BED
-  STEAM SAUNA
-  DRY SAUNA
-  HOT TUB
-  POOL TABLE
-  XXX MOVIE ROOM
-  FREE PARKING

**OPEN 24/7**

**A CLUB FOR MEN**



Take the 403 to the MAIN STREET EXIT  
Travel EAST on MAIN STREET  
Pass DUNDURN ST.  
Next right is POULETTE  
TURN RIGHT AND PARK IN BEHIND

**CALL TO FIND OUT ABOUT OUR SPECIALS !!!**

401 Main Street West, Hamilton (905) 523-7636

Plus, I don't know if you've ever heard of them, but there are these doo-dads, what-cha call 'em, I forget, that are really helpful in keeping you safe. Oh, yeah. Con-DUH-ms.

I do admire you for one thing, though. You have the nerve to ask people their status. Most people don't. It's important because if you know someone's positive you are much more likely to play safe than if you don't know their HIV status at all. That's why so many of us don't ask—because staying in denial helps us justify unsafe sex.

Here's what I would have done if I were you. When he disclosed his status I would have grabbed him, given him the longest, deepest kiss of his life, told him I was negative and pushed him back against the wall.

And then I would have said, "You got a problem with that?"

### Hey woody!

About the HIV-negative guy who refused to go home with the positive guy he was attracted to—you should be ashamed of yourself for advising the guy to go against his conscience. I would have told him to stick to his ideals even if it means walking away from someone you like. Sometimes we have to do this in order to keep and maintain our own self-respect.

Judging from the way you answered him, I can see you're obviously "Dick minded" and don't care who it's hooked to as long as you get it, and then deal with the consequences later. I guess you are what you eat, huh?

Sometimes you have to go without in order to better enjoy what you want. The negative guy should keep listening to his heart and he will be rewarded.

Woody, you need to realize that the people seeking your help take what you write seriously. Use a little discretion. If you want to throw yourself to the wolves, that's fine, but don't take everyone else with you.

-- Disgusted with you

### Dear Disgusted:

How dare you label the dismissal of an HIV positive man as an act of conscience? Conscience is a deeply held set of ethical and moral principles. Since when is going home with a positive guy unethical? Since when is it immoral? Who died and left you Jerry Falwell?

If you were a regular reader you'd know I don't throw people to the wolves.

Well, unless they're dates refusing to put out. But for you I'd make an exception. Problem is, wolves have taste and they'd just throw you back. Which might be good, actually, because then you'd have time to read the next two letters, which answer

your pathetic view of the world much better than I could.

### Hey, woody!

First off I want to let you know that I actually enjoy your column. Yes, you irritate me, yes you make me angry but you also make me smile and laugh. And most importantly, THINK.

As I was reading about the person afraid of the "hottie" who was positive I shook my head in sadness. One night I had a similar situation. Unlike your letter-writer, when the guy I was interested told me he was positive I said, "I know enough to not be afraid, but not enough to know what to do."

I asked if he was willing to help me learn and to work at making me comfortable. Trust me ... it was a GREAT night.

There are a lot of very sexy, sexual things that can be done with little or no risk. And I'm glad you said so.

Your last line in the column reminded me of a lady from my church who went to visit an AIDS hospice. She extended her hand to one of the patients and he said, "You don't want to touch me; I've got AIDS." The woman drew back her hand and said, "You don't want to touch me; I've got allergies." And then she went over and hugged him.

Anyway, thanks for a memorable column. Keep up the good work!

-- On your side

### Hey woody!

I just read the column about the negative guy walking away from the positive guy and I just had to send you a big thanks! I am HIV-positive, single and dating. Needless to say it's not an easy road.

Six years ago, when I came back from the brink of death by the new cocktails, I predicted that cross-status dating would be the biggest social situation gay guys would face. Because the meds are so effective negative guys can't practice "visual discrimination" like they could in the past. And that puts their desire on a collision course with fear. Thanks for pumping up one and deflating the other. You're the best.

-- A hot fan

*Need Wood? Ask woody how to spice up your sex life. Email him at [needwood@attbi.com](mailto:needwood@attbi.com). Submitted to The Voice by Woody Millier.*

**A PROUD MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY**

**PAUL D. CURZON** Associate Broker/RRS/CRS  
579-██████ Off/Pgr.  
16 years of dedicated experience  
HALL OF FAME member  
[www.AllKWHomes4Sale.com](http://www.AllKWHomes4Sale.com)



**RE/MAX** Twin City Realty Inc., Realtor  
842 Victoria Street North, Kitchener  
Independently Owned and Operated  
"Servicing Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge and Area"

**THE LATEST & GREATEST  
IN GAY & LESBIAN  
VIDEOS AND DVDS!**



**GENERATION X  
ALTERNATIVE VIDEO & MEDIA**

**10 REGINA STREET NORTH,  
WATERLOO 888-GENX**



# CLONING

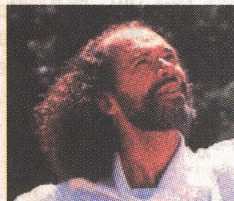


## The Philosophical Dilemma

By A.J. Mahari

Technology waits for no person. It just keeps marching on. There was a time, I think, when to some degree or other, consensus was sought after and achieved before "progress" was pushed full-throttle forward and therefore defined as a "good" thing. It would seem now that we are not only behind, but, perhaps not even seeking to question enough before new technologies are forged, and implemented. Is this to benefit humanity or to make trillions of dollars? What is at the heart of this genetic quest? What is the cost of this so-called progress? Why aren't we assessing this before we take action? Why must we run from dilemma to dilemma?

Brave new world, standing on the brink of self-destruction, along comes a genetic dream, or is it a nightmare, holding out the promise of immortality by taking cloning one major step forward from the therapeutic realm. Enter The Raelian Movement, founded in 1973, in France, by Claude Vorilhon, (left) a former French Journalist, who took the name Rael; his book is "The Final Message". He claims to be a direct descendant of extraterrestrials who created human life on Earth through genetic engineering.



Enter The Raelian Movement, founded in 1973, in France, by Claude Vorilhon, (left) a former French Journalist, who took the name Rael; his book is "The Final Message". He claims to be

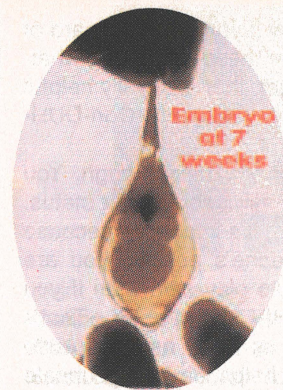
a direct descendant of extraterrestrials who created human life on Earth through genetic engineering. The basic tenet of this movement is, "The old Hebrew phrase 'Elohim' -- usually translated as a name for God -- should have been interpreted, according to Rael, as a reference to non-Earthlings 'from the sky.' These entities are, Raelians say, responsible for the creation of life on Earth."

Quoted by CNN, Rael has said, "The Raelians eventually hope to develop adult clones into which humans could transfer their brains. Cloning a baby is just the first step. For me, it's not so important. It's a good step, but my ultimate goal is to give humanity eternal life through cloning."



Recently, Brigitte Boisselier, (above) the chief executive officer of the Raelian-founded company Clonaid, caused a mini-media frenzy when she announced that they have several babies due to be born soon that are the result of cloning. Two babies have supposedly been born. The first baby, known as "Eve was created using DNA from the mother's skin cells and is a genetic twin of her mother, a 31-year-old American citizen", Boisselier told CNN.

To make a clone, scientists first take an egg and remove all of its genetic material. Then the nucleus of a cell -- any cell in the body -- is taken from the individual to be cloned and inserted into the hollowed-out egg. The cell is then given a jolt of electricity or put in a chemical bath to activate cell division

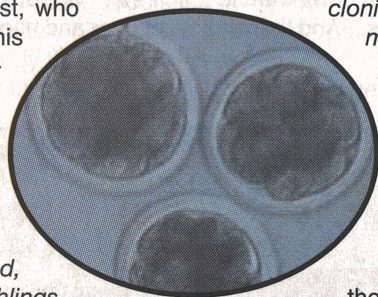


-- essentially tricking the cell into doing what a fertilized egg would normally do. Then the embryo is implanted into a woman's uterus and the baby is hopefully carried to term.

There has been absolutely no scientific proof offered by Clonaid that they have, in fact, cloned and had successful births of healthy, viable, human beings to date.

The Christian Coalition of America condemned the announcement, saying it will push for a law banning human cloning. Roberta Combs, president of the Christian Coalition of America, was quoted by CNN as saying, "The cloning of human embryos for the purpose of performing destructive research and experimentation, such as that which just occurred with that of 'Baby Eve,' is an aberration. It shows a total lack of respect for life and must be prevented."

If we set aside the cloning of human beings for a moment, the other aspect of this philosophical dilemma has all to do with the cloning of embryos to harvest stem cells for research, mainly at this point, and the potential curing of many diseases, disorders and/or conditions that millions of people suffer from.



I asked, Dr. G. Elijah Dann, Ph.D., Th.D., (right) Department of Philosophy, at both The University of Western Ontario, and University of Waterloo, what the basic difference between cloning for stem cells - stem cell research - and the cloning of human beings is.



"Those are the two big distinctions that scientists and ethicists want to make. The first, therapeutic cloning, is when, at least in theory, we are able take an individual's own DNA and through the cloning process have an embryo and take the stem cells from that embryo that would be used for the individual's own use. The embryo, normally only about five days old, is then destroyed after the stem cell harvest.



It's at a very early stage after conception. However, pro-life people would say that human life is created at conception. Others say this early stage of embryonic development we can't categorize as a person, even if one were to assess it as being human life. It's just a human protoplasm, there's no nervous system, very early in the embryonic developmental stage."

When asked about the ethical considerations regarding these issues, Dr. Dann, explained, "Utilitarianism argues that we should do what is best for the most amount of people. Because it destroys the embryo it pays no attention to individual rights and this is the juncture at which it becomes ethically problematic for many, from a critical perspective. We ignore basic individual rights and override basic notions of justice. It's the sense that the good of the

many outweigh the needs of the few. We're not dealing with an individual. The embryo has no mind, no opinion. It may be human life, but, at that primitive stage it is not a rational agent."

I was left wondering whether there has to be rationality to measure the existence of human life. Whether or not the embryo, in the first few weeks of life, (or two months for some), is a human being is at the heart of this philosophical dilemma.

Dr. John Shea, M.D., F.R.C.P., writes in an article published on the LifeSite web site, (<http://lifesite.net/features/stemcellembr/STEMCELLPOINTS.html>) that, "Science has nothing to say about the value of human life." He also states that, "The use of embryonic stem-cells for research kills the embryo." and, "We must never allow human beings at the embryonic stage, or at any other stage to be used for experimentation."

"Life is present from the moment of conception." are the words of Dr. Jerome Lejeune, late professor, and world renowned geneticist, at the University of Descartes, in Paris.

C. Ward Kischer Ph.D., a scientist, and human embryologist, wrote in The American Bioethics Advisory Commission's, ABAC Quarterly, Fall 2002, "Abortion, partial birth abortion, in-vitro fertilization, human fetal research, human embryo research, cloning, and stem cell research are all core issues of Human Embryology. Yet, in all of the Supreme Court cases since 1973 [Roe vs Wade] and at all of the Congressional hearings on these issues, no human embryologist has been called as a witness and no reference to Human Embryology has ever been made. The media have especially ignored Human Embryology in their many articles on the core issues. The media have preferentially published a distortion of this science while totally ignoring the many references available for factual information. The impact of this on public policy has been staggering. Every one of the core issues identified above is ultimately distilled down to the question of 'When Does Human Life Begin?' The answer is there in the textbooks of Human Embryology, that 'human life' begins at fertilization, or conception. At any point in time, during the continuum of life, there exists a whole, integrated human being. The continuum of human life was understood in generic terms even by the ancients. This is why it is dogma in Human Embryology that the fetus is a second patient, and why that dogma is an imperative in clinical medicine. Today, we now know, because of observations of the damage done by environmental insults such as drugs and alcohol, that the embryo is also a second patient."

When I asked Dr. Dann who he thought the 'gatekeeper' of this exploding technology should be he said, "That's a good question. The gatekeeper is society, the trained specialists need to get the information out for us as a society to discuss. We live as a society and a community. What we decide to do as a society or community, what we decide to do as individuals, impinges upon society as a whole. So, no matter how convinced we are as to the rightness of something we have to be very careful that we are not transgressing in that pursuit."

"Some critics of stem cell research would say that when you are creating human life, in order to take what is necessary for the rest of us from it. It could be saying something about our value of human life. It's not an argument that I think that the logic of which forces us to bend a knee to it. At that early stage of embryonic development you don't have a person, it's something that's humanly genetic. Take a cell out of any other part of your body and you have human life too, it could be argued. The question, ethically, is can we get at the good without harm?"

When it comes to therapeutic cloning with embryos, we have the question of harm to the embryo, well does that constitute harm, something that cannot feel anything, or know anything. Is it harmful to the entity? It may be harmful to the rest of humanity because it may be telling as to how much we value humanity, whatever its form, however."

If the measure of the morality or ethics of cloning stem cells has to do with the philosophy of doing the most good for the most people, without causing harm, many would argue that it is the murder of a human being and that is extreme harm.

When it comes to the cloning of actual human beings the reality is, by most scientific accounts, that we are not beyond a stage where, "with reproductive cloning the greatest concern is that it is not a science by any means. For every successful clone that you have (depending on the species) you could have 200-300 or a 1,000 miscarriages, and terrible mutations. That violates the basic principle of biomedical ethics which is 'Do no harm,'" explained Dr. Dann who then went on to say, "Let's imagine that they [The Raelians] are able, which of course hasn't been verified by any scientific body, but, if they have been going through with experimentation, how many miscarriages came about before they had the claimed successful pregnancy? Not only that, but, the child that is born will undoubtedly face health problems. Dolly [cloned sheep] has faced an abnormal age development, she's faced onset of arthritis. Scientist know that if you have a successful clone there will be unforeseen health problems that a cloned human being will face and that's morally reprehensible to create a life that will end up in sickness, disease and premature death."

So, where are the Raelians coming from? Why do they think they can do this, where is the proof? The Raelians are a religious sect that apparently doesn't believe that human beings have souls. Interesting contradiction. I also find it interesting that they come to the media, at this point in time, and without any substantiated scientific evidence of their claims. It seems to follow that they want publicity likely in an effort to increase followers and funds. They come to the media forefront in interesting and highly troubled times in the history of humanity. Could the heightening sense of possible global annihilation or looming horrific death, as some media sensationalism would have us believe, interestingly enough without the substantiated proof that should be required there as well, be the motivating force behind this latest quest for eternal life?

Dr. Dann, added, "When we think about immortality is it something we should even wish for? Ancient myths talked about those who chased immortality and the sadness they apparently experienced with its attainment. What does cloning say about our human situation, our mortality? The fact that we cannot control everything in our environment. If we think that cloning a child, for example, that was killed in an accident will bring back that child,

Continued on page 16

guelph cambridge kitchener-waterloo hamilton & area

**Dave Vervoort** M.Sc.  
couple, family & individual therapist

**enhancing lives, enriching relationships,  
embracing diversity**

out and proud to serve the lesbian, gay, bi,  
trans, two-spirited communities

e-mail

519 • 821 •

## Cover Story Continued From Page 15

we are seriously misguided. What does that say about our collective psychology? In North America, and perhaps even more particularly in the United States, there is a sense that whatever they wish for they believe that they have a right to have."

When I asked Dr. Dann where the 'science of philosophy' stood on cloning, he said, "It depends on the philosopher that you are talking to. Philosophy is the domain in which biomedical ethics grew up in the past thirty years."

The Raelian-Clonaid claim of actually cloning a baby that was born, recently, listed the parents of the second cloned baby as a lesbian couple. Brigitte Boisselier, was quoted by CNN, as saying, "The cloned baby will be identical in every way to person whose cells were used. If we assume sexuality is genetic then the baby will be the same sexuality as the parent. Perhaps this will prove one way or another the debate over nurture versus nature."

I asked Dr. Dann what his thoughts on this were and he said, "I don't think it will prove anything regarding nature vs nurture. We already have clones walking among us, they're called identical twins. When I teach biomedical ethics each semester I point this out. We have naturally born clones already. There's been studies done with twins separated at birth. In some cases the twins had remarkably similar interests and tastes even though they were nurtured differently. If the baby was cloned and the baby does turn out to be homosexual I don't think it proves anything because we are still not sure if it's the environment, choice, or genetic - we are not going to resolve anything."

In Boisselier's own statement she begins with "If we assume sexuality is genetic..." which is an important fact to begin with before going any further. Maybe one day we will have some conclusive scientific evidence as to the cause or origin of

homosexuality. Maybe we'll never know. There is also an inherent danger in this quest. Another dilemma, because if the origin or 'cause' is known then perhaps those with extreme homophobia and a desperate need to have their kids turn out as pre-determined (and perfect) as possible, to say nothing of the religious fundamentalists and their desire to 'weed out' homosexuality, any revealed 'gay gene' could then through genetic engineering be altered to eliminate us sending us yet another shaming and incorrect message about ourselves as equal human beings.

It could easily be argued that wanting to clone someone who is just like you, or is a vehicle for your life perpetuated, somehow, is nothing more than grandiose narcissistic false sense of entitlement that wreaks of megalomania. Doesn't strike me as very healthy.

Who wants to live forever? Who would want to have to endure the trial and error process and live on in some cloned version of genetic 'self' with memories that would have no experiential reference from which to derive any meaning?

Are we playing God? Who knows? Are there not things that occur in the process of life and death that are just best left to the natural order of things, to destiny, to fate, to whatever you believe is the power and/or control beyond and outside of human reach?

The ultimate human quest unfolds in the arena of our constant pushing to see just how much lies within the domain of humanity to effect, change, control, and/or alter - perhaps herein lies the core of the philosophical dilemma which begs three questions. When does life begin? Will we ever be satisfied? What's next?

A.J. Mahari, of Kitchener, is editor of *The Voice*, and a freelance writer. A *Voice Exclusive*.

# THE VOICE MAGAZINE

Canada's most  
comprehensive  
and inclusive LGBT  
magazine.

Advertise your  
product or service  
to over 20,000+  
readers. Be seen in  
The Voice.

The Voice  
Your Window On  
Community

Ph: (519) 743-  
Fax: (519) 743-  
ads@thevoice.ca

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

MOVING???

Call **TOTAL-RELOCATION**  
**MOVING AND STORAGE**

Local and Long Distance  
CANADA OVERSEAS U.S.A.

Toll Free: 1-800-265-6401

Stratford 272-2208      Kitchener 748-5403      Guelph 821-7700

Agents for **UNITED**  
Van Lines



## WE NEED A CUP OF KINDNESS

By Noel Springwood

With the strains of Auld Lang Syne still ringing in my ears, I venture into a New Year.

It's a time for apprehension, reflection and resolution. It's a time to look back and assess the achievements and failures of the past year and to form an action plan for the year ahead.

The popular Robbie Burns song, that has come to signal the start of the New Year, invites me to "take a cup of kindness, yet, for auld lang syne." Roughly translated, that means that I shouldn't hold grudges nor carry burdens from the past. It encourages me to look kindly on my fellows and wish them well.

I think, though, that it might not be as simple as it sounds..

The whole notion of kindness has been seriously and widely tested in our times. It's hard to look kindly on terrorists, despots, thugs, money grabbers and hypocrites. It's hard to accept, with any degree of equanimity, vicious attacks on and crimes against humanity itself. It's hard to feel confident enough to be kind when the scattered storm clouds of war and pestilence are spreading with alarming speed and magnitude. Nevertheless, there is still a tendency to reach out, to do one's share, to try to make a difference, to do the right thing. At this time of year, that tendency is especially strong and prevalent.

Perhaps, in the light of that tendency, it would be good to remember the words of a famous American journalist, playwright and politician, Clare Boothe Luce, who said, "No good deed goes unpunished."

Her words reflect a healthy cynicism about the dangers of getting involved. In these days of class action lawsuits and cash settlements masquerading as attempts at healing, they seem especially appropriate.

At the same time, the need for more kindness, understanding and, yes, forgiveness has perhaps, never been greater.

The whole thing can be quite daunting if I think about it too much. At the same time, I can't ignore it. What do I do?

Another quote comes to mind, when I think about this problem. I don't know who said it; but, I sure believe it. It simply reminds me, "The true prophet doesn't know it."

Now, I believe that we are prophets for

one another. I believe that a prophet, or angel if you will, is someone who sheds a positive light on a murky situation. I believe that it is within the power of each person to contribute to the wellbeing of others and the ultimate good of the whole world.

The wisdom in the quote about prophets, for me, lies in the fact that it distinguishes prophets from do-gooders. Prophets act spontaneously, from genuine inclinations in their heart, without any particular plan or agenda. They call it the way they see it. Do-gooders, it seems to me, are too often just busy bodies who seek opportunities to either inflate their own egos or to deflate the egos of others. All too often, they are controllers disguised as enablers.

Perhaps, an example will help make things clear.

A number of years ago, a colleague and I decided to do a round of visits during the Christmas vacation. Several of our students from the residential school at which we taught had invited us to meet their families during that time and we were anxious to do just that.

One evening, quite coincidentally, we were close to the home of one of those students and so stopped by for such a visit.

When the door opened, his mother welcomed us with words that shocked us, "Thank God you're here. N.N.'s father has just attempted suicide. You'll be a great comfort for him and for all of us."

We must have been, because a short time ago, thirty-five years after that evening, I received a phone call. It was from the young man in question. He said simply, "I've finally tracked you down. I just wanted you to know that I'm all right and have a wonderful profession and family, that I remember your kindness to me and that I wanted to thank you."

That kind of thing happens frequently. It always serves as a reminder of just how influential I have been and can be in the lives of others. It is both an affirmation and a warning.

To my credit, I am always amazed when it happens. In the light of what I said earlier, it shows that my spontaneous acts of kindness were far more effective than I ever intended or knew. It demonstrates that I'd

better be careful about how I treat others because the benefit or harm could well be far greater than I could ever suspect.

In this time of new beginnings, I think it's a good idea to remember that. Resolutions are easy to make but hard to keep.

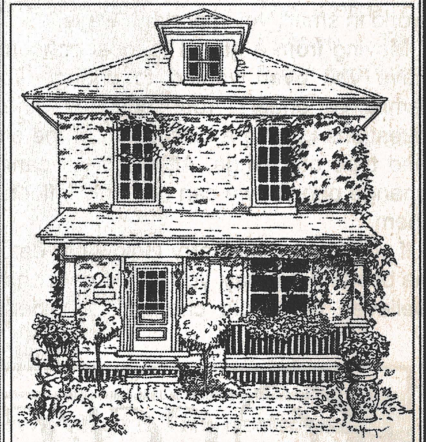
Perhaps, the best resolution of all is, after all, to heed the words of Robbie Burns and take that cup of kindness for auld lang syne. If I do that, I can let the chips fall where they may. Sometimes, that's all I can do.

Sometimes, that's all that's necessary.

*Noel Springwood served most of his life as a Roman Catholic Priest. Email him at [noelspringwood@sympatico.ca](mailto:noelspringwood@sympatico.ca). A Voice Exclusive.*



### Nunn's Hollow Guest Suites, Woodstock



Private baths, separate entrance,  
large guest-only areas.  
Wonderful romantic dinners  
available.

Friendly hosts John and Jim.  
Jacuzzi, fireplace,  
stained glass, antiques.  
519-539-9780

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



## Change

By Dr. Jeffery Chernin

A hot topic at the beginning of each new year is change. Change is inevitable, and there are three types of change. The first has to do with events over which we have no control, or global changes. The second has to do with what I call our "sphere of influence." The third is what we have most control over - our personal change.

When things are changing around us, it is important to exercise the control we have over our attitudes. Whenever I hear someone talk about "the good ole days," I think that this is a person who is stuck in the past and clings to certainty.

On the other hand, since most change happens outside of our control, the healthiest way of coping with change is to realize that it is inevitable.

When change occurs on a global scale, and especially if you feel despair for the world, you still have options. One way to feel better is to get involved. Not everyone has the capacity to devote their life to causes, but each of us can impact our world in small, yet important, ways.

Moving from a global to local concerns, have you ever wanted to change your family of origin? Your spouse? These questions involve a discussion of the second type of change. Although we cannot change people, we can certainly influence them.

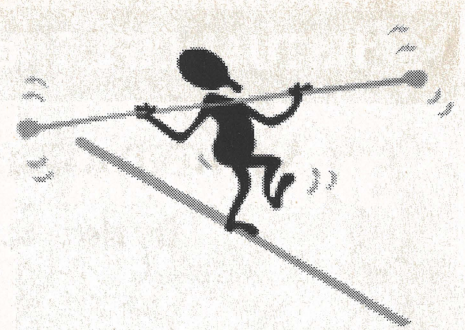
If you remember Barry Goldwater before he became pro-gay, you would never have believed he would change. Considering

that his grandson came out to him prior to his conversion, the power of his grandson's influence should not be underestimated.

Perhaps one of the most amazing stories regarding our sphere of influence involves a skinhead and a Rabbi's family. The skinhead continually harassed The Rabbi and his family by telephone, but they were always kind to him. One day, while talking to the rabbi's wife, the skinhead simply opened up about his personal life. He continued to call and began to strike up conversations with the entire family, and he came to like the people he once despised. Eventually, he renounced his racism, became their friend, and to this day, he publicly speaks out against racism. I believe that this family and the ex-skinhead are aware of their ability to influence others.

As with the people in this story, we can also change the way we respond to others. This leads to the third type of change: changing ourselves. It's a hard balance. Sometimes, we try too hard to change, and a useful metaphor for the self-defeat caused by attempting rapid change is dieting. Dieting is self-defeating because our "set point," or equilibrium, can only shift in small increments.

Unfortunately, new year's resolutions are similar to diets, and they generally don't work. That's the reason that there is always a large influx of people at the gym in January that always subsides by February. Most 'resolutioners' are tenaciously deter-



mined to work out every day of the week, which is too much for beginners, and then when they start missing, they give up.

That's not to say that you shouldn't resolve to make changes. In fact, that's how personal change begins: with an idea. What generally works, however, is making small changes over a period of time rather than making unrealistic promises or doing too much at once. Not giving up also works: for example, it often takes people dozens of attempts to finally quit smoking.

Also, be sure that your motivation comes from within. And don't be too hard on yourself. Slipping or "relapsing" is part of personal change. We can't learn to walk without taking our share of falls.

So, for personal change, remember to make small, realistic goals. Don't make promises to yourself that you can't keep. This will only make it more difficult to change. Don't try to change others: You can't force people around you to be different than who they are. You can influence people, though, and as for those changes completely outside of your control? The less you wish for things to be different, the more satisfied you'll be.

*Jeffrey Chernin, Ph.D. is a psychotherapist in Los Angeles and is the author of „Affirmative Psychotherapy of Lesbians and Gay Men.“ He can be reached at JNChernin@AOL.com. Submitted to The Voice by Dr. Chernin.*

## CCj/ClearLine

Proudly supporting the local LGBT community for five years!  
We offer a full range of hosting environments and internet domain services backed by friendly 24x7 support.

*Does your website or domain need a home?*

Contact us: [info@ccjclearline.com](mailto:info@ccjclearline.com)

519.741.2157

Welcoming [www.thevoice.on.ca](http://www.thevoice.on.ca) to our hosting environment!

*They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself. --Andy Warhol*

*Things do not change; we change. --Henry David Thoreau*

*Nothing endures but change. --Heraclitus*

*Change is the constant, the signal for rebirth, the egg of the phoenix. --Christina Baldwin*

# Business Feature: Eclipse

## A New Gay Bar In Kitchener

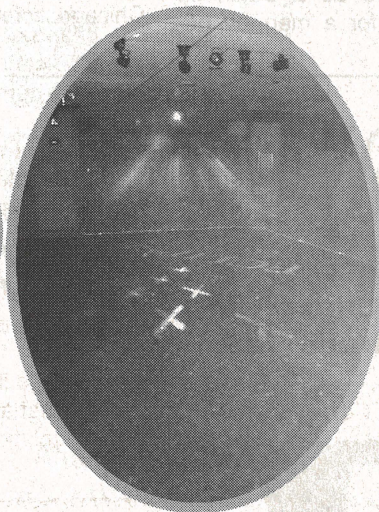
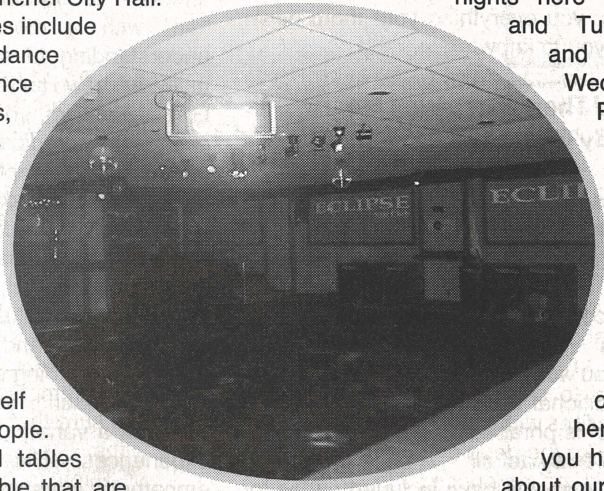
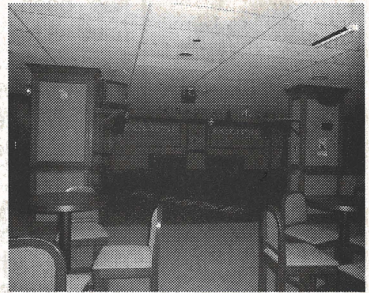
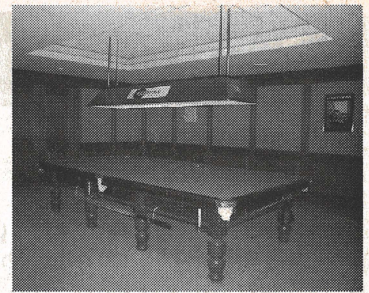
Eclipse is located at the corner of King St. W and College St, behind the Lion's Club and beside Kitchener City Hall.

Some of our features include a 3500 square foot dance floor, the largest dance floor in the Tri-Cities, three private rooms with free bookings for private parties or that can be used just as a place to go with your friends to play some pool and socialize.

The building itself can hold 400+ people. There are five pool tables and one snooker table that are free for your convenience. There are also four dart boards, big screen tv's and fantastic sound and lighting systems. We

welcome all age groups.

We are open seven nights a week. Our nights here include: Mondays and Tuesdays, Dancing and Socializing, every Wednesday is an All Request night; Thursdays are Theme Nights, Fridays - Retro; Saturdays also feature All Request, Sundays are Drag nights. Our staff is very friendly, courteous and always here to help you. If you have any questions about our bar or comments please feel free to contact us at [eclipse1@rogers.com](mailto:eclipse1@rogers.com) or (519) 745-  
 [REDACTED]



Submitted to The Voice by Eclipse. Pictures provided by Eclipse. A Voice Exclusive.

### VOICE BUSINESS FEATURES

Voice Business Features are offered to all advertisers. If you'd like to advertise in The Voice, call us for our rates and you, too, could be featured here for thousands to see.

(519) 743-[REDACTED]  
[ads@thevoice.ca](mailto:ads@thevoice.ca)



**Nightclub**

**Biggest Gay Dance Floor in the Tri-cities**

**Theme Night Thursdays  
 Retro Fridays  
 Top 40 Club Saturdays  
 Drag Night Sundays**

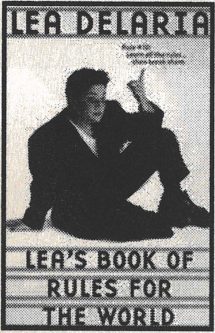
**Open 7 Days A Week**

**FREE POOL ALL THE TIME**

**239 King St W (off College) Kitchener 745-[REDACTED]**

# BOOKS

## Lea's Book Of Rules by Lea DeLaria



Rule #10: Learn all the rules...then break them. Lea DeLaria has been breaking rules all her life. Now she offers some of her own....Cross Howard Stern with Sandra Bernhardt, add a one-two punch, and you have stand-up comic Lea DeLaria, who plays

to rave reviews on and off the Broadway stage. Now, in this uproarious collection of essays, DeLaria shares her Modern Day Ten Commandments and X-Rated Rules for the World with anyone bold enough to read them.

From fashion advice "Never point at anything beige and call it cool"(Rule #4) to the five myths of ex-girlfriends and the facts about fake breasts, DeLaria offers straight-talking wisdom for a world desperately in need of some raunchy humor. Here Lea shares glimpses of life as a Butch so butch she's mistaken for a man--by her

gynecologist. Read all about it as Lea falls hard for the girl of her dreams...reveals how Judy Garland helped her to find her first New York apartment...and gives an appreciation of sex toys that is as outrageous as it is heartfelt.

From her promising beginnings as a Nice Italian Catholic girl to her headlined adventures with Nice Italian Catholic girls, among others, here is Lea DeLaria, the stand-up, lay-down, in-your-face comic who tells you everything your mom never wanted you to know.

## And Then There Was Me By Gloria Finbeiner

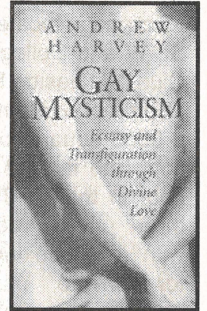
Finally, a baby book for gay, lesbian and single parent families. This delightful and colorful book contains all the pages you would find in a traditional baby book, but is phrased to be friendly to all families. Also, we have included pages for you to document sperm and egg donor information in addition to surrogate mother information. Although the book appears to be bound, it actually is held together with Chicago screws which allow you to add



and remove pages easily - all the while maintaining the look of a bound baby book. This baby book was created especially for gay, lesbian and single parent families celebrating the birth

of a child. Parent references are gender neutral and a single parent family tree is included.

## Gay Mysticism By Andrew Harvey

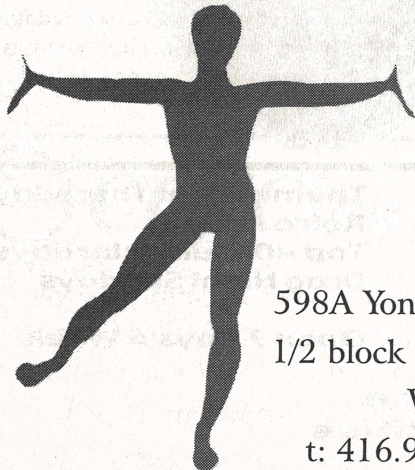


Books about homosexuality and religion have traditionally attempted to reconcile "sin" with a modern understanding of sexuality. Andrew Harvey's Gay Mysticism, however, is predicated on the assumption that sin and sex don't need to be reconciled and that gay sexuality is innately spiritual. Excerpting passages from 60 gay and lesbian writers--covering 20 centuries and at least a dozen traditions including classical Greek, Native American, Sufic, and Christian-- Harvey explores a variety of religious and sexual experiences. His extensive research, empathetic perspective, and compelling grasp of spirituality make this book not only unique, but also vital to an understanding of contemporary theology and religion.

Have you read a good book lately? Like to share your thoughts on it? We welcome book reviews from our readers. If you'd like to recommend a book or send us a review please email us at [submissions@thevoice.ca](mailto:submissions@thevoice.ca)

# Glad Day Bookshop

Everything Under The Electronic Rainbow



598A Yonge Street  
1/2 block North of  
Wellesley  
t: 416.961.4161

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

## Immigration is for lovers!

We are proud of our ever-growing family of delighted gay and lesbian couples united at home in Canada, and one of the highest success rates with same sex couples. Canada's new immigration regulations make expert guidance even more important than ever. Avoid time delaying and costly mistakes by working closely with a former Canadian Immigration and Citizenship Officer and friendly staff. We offer a full range of Immigration and Citizenship services: visa extensions, employment authorizations, family sponsorship, and independent applications. Let us be your personal guide, providing professional care from start to finish.

We only work with clients who we feel have the best chances of success.

"Your staff are true professionals and always willing to help" F.T.

Call us today to discuss your situation.

### FERREIRA-WELLS IMMIGRATION SERVICES

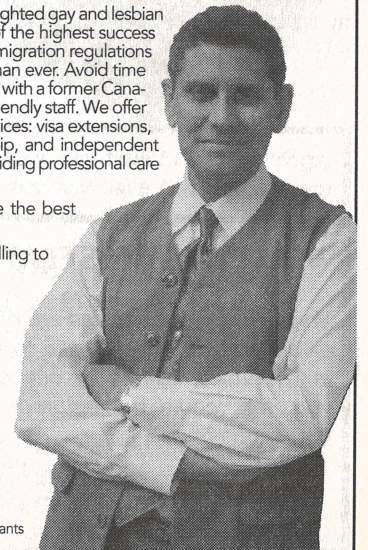
538 St. Clair Ave. West, Toronto  
ON M6C 1A4 (at St Clair West subway)

416-651-8889

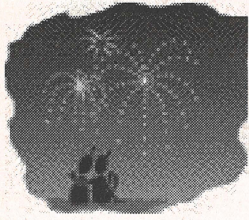
email: [info@immigrationservices.ca](mailto:info@immigrationservices.ca)

[www.immigrationservices.ca](http://www.immigrationservices.ca)

Member Organization of Professional Immigration Consultants



# Lesbian Marketing



Many women wonder about Lesbian Marketing and have asked for an explanation. Perhaps the following analogies will help clear up any misunderstanding or confusion:

You see a great dyke at a party. You go up to her and say, "I'm fantastic in bed."

-- That's Direct Marketing.

You're at a party with a bunch of friends and see a gorgeous dyke. One of your friends goes up to her and pointing at you says, "She's fantastic in bed."

-- That's Advertising.

You see a gorgeous dyke at a party. You go up to her and get her telephone number. The next day you call and say, "Hi, I'm fantastic in bed."

-- That's Telemarketing.

You're at a party and see a gorgeous dyke. You get up and to-  
straighten your dress. You walk up to her and pour her a drink. You say, "May I," and reach up to straighten her AIDS ribbon brushing your breast lightly against her arm, and then say, "By the way, I'm fantastic in bed."

-- That's Public Relations.

You're at a party and see a gorgeous dyke. She walks up to you and says, "I hear you're fantastic in bed."

-- That's Brand Recognition.

You're at a party and see a gorgeous dyke. You talk her into going home with your friend.

-- That's a Sales Rep.

Your friend can't satisfy her so she calls you.

-- That's Tech Support.

You're on your way to a party when you realize that there could be gorgeous dykes in all these houses you're passing. So you climb onto the roof of one situated toward the center and shout at the top of your lungs, "I'm fantastic in bed!"

-- That's Spam.

## Individual and Couple Counselling Anger Management

**LGBT POSITIVE**

Susan A. Cox

MASc. (Psychology)

Tel. 519-747- [REDACTED]

Fax: 519-747- [REDACTED]

## REDUCE STRESS ... EMPOWERING REIKI REIKI TREATMENTS-REIKI CLASSES

Karen Rendell, Reiki Master

595 Woolwch St. Guelph

(519) 827- [REDACTED] or (519) 820- [REDACTED]



Canada's largest selection of

SEX TOYS & GEAR

BOOKS, VIDEOS & DVDS

SAFE, SLIPPERY & SENSUAL STUFF



**come**  
as you are

online catalogue!

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

701 Queen Street West, just west of Bathurst | 416.504.7934

WORKER OWNED & OPERATED | PAPER CATALOGUE AVAILABLE

## Waterloo Region Community Health Department

### Anonymous HIV Testing Drop-In Clinics

ACCKWA - 85 Frederick Street East, Kitchener

Thursdays 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

99 Regina Street South - Second Floor, Waterloo

Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

150 Main Street - Second Floor, Cambridge

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

### Free and Confidential Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinics

Monday and Thursday 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. drop in

99 Regina Street South - Second Floor, Waterloo

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

150 Main Street - Second Floor, Cambridge

519-883-2251





# CLONING

## A Christian Perspective

By Rick Brown



The issue of cloning, from a religious point of view, is important to the GLBT community because those who most emphatically condemn it, are the religious right or if you will "fundamentalists". If hard pressed to actually give reasons they will undoubtedly refer to their self-titled concept "natural law" which they also use to condemn all sex outside of two married heterosexuals who do not use any birth control devices.

This irrational circular reasoning concept uses, as its only base, that they know the will of God in very black and white absolute terms. Since God is a name for God which is a name for God and therefore, ultimately a mystery, their argument has no value whatsoever. Further to this point, when discussing God and ethics in particular, I think that we all should follow the doctrine of the 15<sup>th</sup> century theologian Nicholas of Cusa. "Since all presumed knowledge is in fact conjecture, the height of wisdom is *docta ignorantia* or "learned ignorance" which recognizes it's own impotence"

From a general point of view the current difficulty with cloning is the fear of the unknown and the unknown cannot be controlled. Rest assured that if we could somehow give the nay sayers sole absolute control over cloning, in my opinion, they would suddenly become proponents of it.

If we are to look at this issue without bias it's necessary to be aware of the sources of judgement here, but not draw any conclusions based on them alone.

Myself, I graduated from King's College in 1996, with a BA in Religious Studies and would describe myself as a gay devout follower of Jesus Christ. However, unlike most organized religions, my faith is in a living mysterious God still revealing his/her will. My Creed, if you will, can best be described in the words of Andrew Murray, a turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century evangelist.

*"Love and study your bible and your*

*religious teachings, but when it comes to your daily life let the Holy Spirit be your guide"*.

I am an ex-Catholic and that bias is clearly present in my opinions, yet I hope fair and just. I have been an active member of Holy Fellowship MCC in London for many years but these thoughts are personal and not meant to reflect necessarily their point of view.

The Pope has come out strongly condemning cloning. We must take into consideration the fact that the Catholic Church has many notions about what humanity is supposed to be, according to their divine insights. Unfortunately, they refuse to look at human

experience as part of the equation. As for religions in general, history shows more human beings have been murdered in the name of God than any other. Or to be precise it is in the name of "fundamentalism".

The very "fundamentalism" of which the Pope is a well-known and strong proponent. This is attested to by his exceptionally supportive actions surrounding the Opus Dei cult.

Another vociferous opponent is President George Bush. He is about to go to war with Iraq regardless of the UN report on weapons of mass destruction. It reasonable and rational speculation that thousands will die for a personal and political motive versus any perceived threat to the world.

The Raeleans are a religious sect with some rather "far out" premises (pun intended) but no proof has been presented that they are anymore a cult than the Catholic Church. While nothing is substantiated including their claimed cloning there is nothing in their belief's that I have read that is irrational and Jesus was crucified for expressing His understanding

of God and the meaning of life. They are not secretive in their beliefs and they have had a booth at Toronto Pride for the last few years, which confirms they are inclusive of the GLBT community.

Finally and definitely ironic, St. Augustine of Hippo a 4<sup>th</sup> century Catholic Church, Father and Theologian, is my source for judging cloning. The seeds of the

Church's anti-sexual theology are found in his writings.

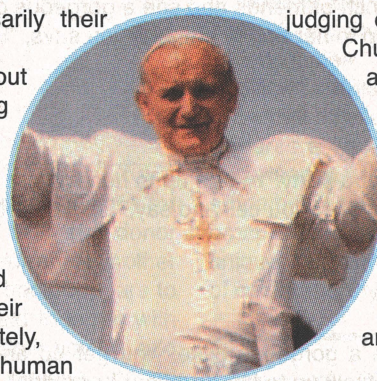
An ex-swinger himself he stated that "*sex within marriage is a necessary evil*". Yet I introduce him here because I find also in his writings the foundation for Gay Theology, sexual ethics and all ethics in general.

Augustine writes in his fundamentalist's interpretation of Treatise #7 on John's First Epistle which I have included here.

*"It is not what a human does that must be considered but the mind and will behind it. Such is the power of love. See that it alone discriminates, it alone discriminates the doings of humans - ONCE AND FOR ALL THEN A PRECEPT IS GIVEN YOU. LOVE AND DO WHAT YOU WILL."* In other words cloning itself is morally neutral.

In conclusion, I believe our challenge as Christians is to strive for heaven on earth. That is to unite, without compromise, the notions of fully divine and fully human. In this case, Religion and Science. To date collectively we have not been even remotely successful in either domain. Maybe cloning is part of that goal?

*Rick Brown graduated in 1996 with a BA in Religious Studies. he has been a member of Holy Fellowship MCC in London for many years. he is presently completing a multi-faith post graduate program Groundswell and is founding an international group SEARCH. Supporting Education About Religious And Cultural Homophobia he can be reached by email at: rmbrown@uwo.ca. A Voice Exclusive.*



# The Life of a Queen?



## In Or Out of Drag

By Mark Weiser

The Queen has just finished her tour. Her last stop: Club Renaissance in Kitchener, where she makes a grand entrance, handing her expensive coat to the door staff and snubbing the nearest twink as he gazes at her. She kisses the hand of Miss Drew and then elegantly maneuvers through the crowd of men that welcome her.

She makes her way to the bar, but doesn't have to order a drink as it is already sitting there. The bar owner knows exactly what her highness wants. The Queen sips back her perfect shot of Jack Daniels with great fluidity, then tips the bar staff accordingly. Suddenly, The Queen hears her name being called by a familiar voice "Mark, when the fuck did you get here?"

I was only declared "Queen" a few weeks ago (although I am sure many have called me that before). I was standing outside the bar on a Friday night, smoking furiously, and bitching to a friend about some lawyer that had pissed me off at work earlier that day. Needless to say, I was not being quiet. Suddenly, a group of men passed us, and I heard one of them say "what a queen!"

A few drinks later, when meaningless conversation evolved, I said to the bartender "yep, I am a queen, and therefore, I get to pick my royal family, and you're part of it because you always get me a drink really fuckin' fast. You will be my royal bartender". He looked at me like "you're cut off".

The thought of being royalty is actually kind of fascinating. One day, shortly after that person called me a queen, I was daydreaming as to who my Royal Family would consist of. So here it is...and remember, you have to like it as I am A Queen, or I will have you beheaded (circumcised???) and exile your family to Sweden where they will be forced to party with ABBA. So here is my new family and servants:

**My King:** Lenny Kravitz. Hello? He's only completely hot! I'm sure he would help make the whole procreation act that a queen must fulfill much more fun (even though this queen can't bear children, we would have fun trying). Besides, when I am

tired and burnt out from my day of shopping and power lifting diamond bracelets, he could sing me a little lullaby to put my over-worked fanny to sleep.

**My Princess:** Britney Spears. Like I said, I can't have kids, so I have decided to be the evil stepmother instead. Imagine her scrubbing your floors and polishing your shoes. She'd be kind of like Cinderella, except never in a position to take my throne. "No carbs after midnight or you'll turn into a pumpkin!". I'll even make her sing the lines "hit me baby, one more time" as my guards discipline her.

**My Prince:** Justin Timberlake. Hey, I'll do anything to keep him from recording another song ever again, even if it involves tricking him into thinking that singing is not "royal". Plus, Justin and Britney would then be brother and sister - can you say incest? Someone call the damn Enquirer and submit a story about poor Queen Mark and her rotten kids!

**My Butler:** The "former" Queen Elizabeth. "Get outta that wheelchair and answer the damn door, I'm the queen of this land now, sweetheart!"

**My Body Guard:** Wrestler Chynna. She's scary, and that's why I like her. This woman is guaranteed to keep everyone, including my mother, out of my castle. She's so tall she can even stand up in the mote.

**My Chef:** Carnie Wilson. Only because I have a bet with the King of Spain that after a year in my kitchen she will be back up to 350 pounds. She simply will not be able to handle being around all that expensive, naughty food. He thinks he's gonna win the bet, but I have a feeling I'll be collecting my \$7 billion and bottle of vodka from him by Christmas.

**My Mister (like Mistress):** Mr. Leather Man Toronto 2002, Bill Dearsley. Need I say much more? I get a little bored and stiff now and then just like everyone else.

**My Maids:** The Spice Girls. Hey, I am providing them a wonderful opportunity to show that there is life after the Spice Girls, and that they can each be successfully employed by me. \$4 per day should be sufficient.

**My Chauffeur:** O.J. Simpson: Who else would be better for the job? I mean, if he

can out run the cops across 25 states without harming anyone, then he will get me where I need to go, safely and on time. You peasants always take those, who beat the American legal system for granted. Maybe Kato can come for the ride to roll out my red rug, and then tell the world he knows nothing and has never seen me?

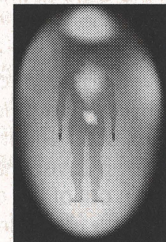
So there you have it - my Royal life. See, the lesson here is that you can always turn something negative into a positive. I was called a queen and got pissed off, and now I am wishing I was one. Just another one of life's little fuckovers.

*Mark Weiser, of Kitchener, is a Mortgage Underwriter in Toronto. He can be reached at [v\\_flytrapp@hotmail.com](mailto:v_flytrapp@hotmail.com). A Voice Exclusive.*



## What Colour is your Aura?

See your aura and chakras in motion with state-of-the-art computer technology.



Services from \$25

Thursday, Friday and Saturday

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

No appointment necessary

*Much more than a bookstore...*

# HollyOak

24 Regina Street North, Waterloo  
519-725-2681 \* [www.hollyoak.net](http://www.hollyoak.net)

## Poetry on the Move

The organizers of the *Cafe at the End of the Universe Reading Series* are pleased to announce that the readings will be moving to a new location. The Series, which has been running for ten years, will have its first presentation at the Metcalfe Inn at 59 Metcalfe Street in Elora on Sunday February 2, 2003. The readings will continue to take place 7:00 pm on the first Sunday of each month.

The first featured reader at this new venue will be local writer, Sheila O'Hearn who lives in Fergus. She has published numerous poems in literary magazines in Canada and abroad. She has written and is seeking publication for her two novels, and is currently researching material for a third book.

After much freelance work as book reviewer, columnist, she now works as a staff writer on a weekly newspaper.

The second featured reader, Gordon Gilhuly has been writing for over thirty years and in that time has published two full-length books of poetry with Borealis Press of Ottawa and has also been published in eight anthologies. His first book, *Not Having Constructed My Ark*, is in its second printing and his most recent book, *Every Poem is a Love Poem*, was nominated for the 2000 Governor General's Award for Poetry.

Area readers may have seen Gilhuly's poetry in a number of the *Waking Ordeals* anthologies, published out of Guelph; his short stories in *Writers Under Cover*, published by the Cambridge Writers' Collective; and *Winners' Circle 6*, published by the Canadian Authors' Association of Toronto. He is also the writer of an award-winning one-act play, *Coming Into Rooms*. Gilhuly is the host of the *Cafe at the End of the Universe Series*.

As always, there will be an open mic portion during the evening to encourage new writers to share their work and to provide a chance for more established writers to 'test drive' new works. There is no cover charge for the readings. Why not come in out of the cold, get warm by the Metcalfe Inn's cosy fireplace and enjoy some excellent poetry - the perfect early Valentine's evening. The poetry of love is on the menu. Food and drink from the outstanding Metcalfe Inn's kitchen is available.

For more information contact Gordon Gilhuly at (519) 576-4139 or at [ggilhuly@rogers.com](mailto:ggilhuly@rogers.com)

## Family Internet Resource

### Family Pride/LGBT Parenting Network

<http://familypride.uwo.ca>

## ONTARIO COMMUNITY LISTINGS

### BRANTFORD(519)

**A Rainbow of Hope.** Brant County HIV/AIDS 753-4937 ext.261

**GBLT adult social/support group of Brantford** and area. Call 752-5132 ext.34

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

**Narcotics Anonymous** - 759-██████████

**Pine tree Native Centre Of Brant - PFLAG** 752-5132 ext.34.

**The Coalition for GLBT youth of Brantford** 753-4937 ext.261 and leave message.

### CAMBRIDGE(519)

**PFlag** - Sue 650-██████████

**Sexual Assault Center:** Cambridge..... 658-0551

### GUELPH(519)

ACGWC (Aids Committee of Guelph and Wellington County) 2 Quebec St, Suite 206, Guelph Ont., 763-2255

**GAY FATHERS' SUPPORT GROUP** of Waterloo-Wellington meets the 3rd Monday of every month. Call Jon at 823-██████████ or Dave at 821-██████████

**GUELPH QUEER EQUALITY** University of Guelph - [gqe@uoguelph.ca](mailto:gqe@uoguelph.ca)

**Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis** - 24-hour Crisis Line: 836-5710 or 1-800-265-7233 -**Sexual Assault Centre:** 823-5806 - **Transitional Support Program:** 836-6865 - **Rural Women's Support Program:** Fergus - 843-6834 Erin - 833-2301 Palmerston - 343-5192

**HOWL:** Hanging Out With Lesbians - social group for women (lbt) 25+ Women may contact HOWL through Outline (519) 836-██████████ or [howlap@ctdram.com](mailto:howlap@ctdram.com)

**OUTline:** the University of Guelph. Call 836-██████████ [outline@uoguelph.ca](mailto:outline@uoguelph.ca)

**Rainbow Chorus:** Choir and hosts LGBT dances.

Bob Miller at 584-██████████ or Colleen at 836-██████████

**Women For Sobriety** - drug & alcohol addiction support group Marilyn at 823-██████████

### HAMILTON(905)

**Alcoholics Anonymous--** (905) 522-██████████

**Alice's Dinner Club** - Joan/Barb at 905-318-██████████ or Michael at 905-528-██████████

**Alternatives for Youth-** 126 James St. South, Hamilton - 527-██████████

**Gay Fathers Support Group-** 3rd Tuesday of each month. Call 522-██████████

**Greater Hamilton Gay & Lesbian Business Association** (905) 526-██████████

**GLBT Centre at McMaster** 525-9140, Ext. 27397 [glbt@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:glbt@msu.mcmaster.ca)

**Hamilton Aids Network** 135 Rebecca Street 528-0854

**Hamilton Aids Network** 135 Rebecca Street 528-0854

**Hamilton Coming Out Proud Discussion Group** 905-526-██████████ toll-free 1-888-338-██████████

**Hamilton Transsexual Peer Support Group (FTM - MTF)** - 528-0207 ext.43, or

e-mail: [htpspg@gto.net](mailto:htpspg@gto.net)

**Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police-- General Assistance:** 546-4925 Jane Mulkewich, GLBT Task Force 546-4910

**Kindred Spirits** - lesbians and bi-sexual women 541-██████████

**LGBT Youth Social Group** 905-528-0207 ext. 66

**Narcotics Anonymous** (905) 522-██████████

**PFLAG** -- 662-██████████

**Sexual Assault Center:** Hamilton.....525-4162

**Sexual Health Informa-tion** - 905-528-5894

**Street Health Centre** Wesley Centre 777-7852

**The Golden Horseshoe Leather Association** - Men interested in the Leather/ Denim lifestyle. 549-██████████

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

### KITCHENER(519)

**ACCKWA** 85 Frederick St. E., Kitchener, Ont., 570-3687

**Anselma House:** A crisis shelter for 24 hour crisis line: 742-5894

**BMC (Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian & Gay Concerns):** Colleen at 836-██████████

**Gay Men's Group:** social group for men of all ages and orientations. Gordon 747-██████████

**K-W Distress Line--** 745-1166

**KWFriends of Dorothy, 10 Pin Cosmic Bowling** call Paul at 579-██████████

# ONTARIO COMMUNITY LISTINGS

# Have Your Say

Continued from page 3

in Hamilton/KW, I cannot emphasize strongly enough the importance of open and frank discussion about these issues. With the recent increase in HIV amongst our community it goes without saying that more and more people need to be well educated and practice safer sex.

Despite the fears and anxiety that one experiences regarding disclosure of HIV status, I believe it to be a conscientious obligation. I also wish to stress to your readers that for HIV+ persons this a very difficult and scary prospect, but one I feel that is necessary. If you as a non-HIV+ person meet someone who you are attracted to, find interesting and want to be with and they disclose to you their status, be honest, be compassionate and be willing to learn what you need to learn to protect yourself. It is pretty easy...practice safe sex...and talk openly about your fears and be willing to dispel any myths you may have.

I have observed first-hand the misconceptions many gay men still have about HIV and to some degree this surprises me given the history we have commonly shared. As a PHA (person living with HIV) in a healthy, vibrant way it is more important than ever that we all understand the need to feel part of our community. It is also important to emphasize to your readers that most PHA's would never intentionally put anyone else at risk and besides it is easy to prevent, HIV does not transmit easily. Not getting tested or not disclosing to 'avoid sticky moral dilemmas is not a sustainable approach.

I encourage 'the Voice' to continue an open dialogue in our community to help dispel the myths and help foster a compassionate and supportive environment. Continue to support your local HIV/AIDS organizations, for they make a world of difference. Someday there will be a cure and in the meantime we need our community to have courage and hope

--J.C., Kitchener-Waterloo

I enjoyed reading the article that compared being gay at Christmas to Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer. (Voice, December 2002, "The Rudolph Effect). It gave me a lot to think about and made me feel better about myself at a time of year that I always struggle with. Thanks.

--M.J., Stratford

I was in attendance at the Bruised Fruit Tri-Pride Fundraiser. I enjoyed A.J.'s article about it too. Thing is that I seriously wonder why more people aren't coming out and supporting these events. Seems the Pride Committee has made some positive changes and is working pretty hard for all of us. Why not come out and support them? They are bringing quality entertainment to the Tri-city area. --B.T.M., Kitchener

PFlag - Evie at 742-████

**Sexual Assault Center:**  
KW.....741-8633

**The Rainbow Par-enting Network** - A forum for GLBT parents, parents-to-be, 743-████

**Tri-Youth Pride** - Gail - 743-████

**YouthDiscussion Group:**  
ages 16-25, 570-████

## LONDON(519)

**AIDS Committee of London** - 388 Dundas St. Unit 120 - 434-1601

**Forest City Bears** - Membership info and events on our web site: [www.gaycanada.com/fcbears/](http://www.gaycanada.com/fcbears/)

**Gay and Lesbian Alumni of The University of Western Ont** - 432-████

**GLB Student Affairs - U of Western Ontario**  
661-████

**GLOS - Gays and Lesbians of Old South.**  
[www.commplus.net/glos](http://www.commplus.net/glos)

**HIV Care Program:**  
646-6207

**Homophile Association of London (HALO)**  
388 Dundas St. 433-████

**London Pride Committee**  
- 388 Dundas St. Suite 210 433-3551 ext 3

**MCC-** 645-0744

## NIAGARA(905)

**LGB Youth Line**  
1-888 679-6884

## ST. CATHARINES(905)

**AIDS Niagara** - 111 Church St. 984-8684

**Friends of Dorothy Dance Committee** - 988-████

**Gay & Lesbian Alliance**  
984-████

**Narcotics Anonymous**  
(905) 685-████

## STRATFORD(519)

**AIDS Action Committee of Perth County** - 86 John St. S. 272-2437

**Down The Street** - 30 Ontario St. 273-████

## TORONTO(416)

**Affirm United** - 466-████

**Aids Committee Toronto Hotline** - 340-8844

**Amnesty International Members for LGBT Concerns** - 469-2100 ext. 264

**Equality For Gays and Lesbians Everywhere (EGALE)** - Laurie Aaron, 532-████

**Canadian Gay and Lesbian Archives**  
777-2755

**Central Toronto Youth Services** - 924-2100

**Coalition of the Support of Lesbian and Gay Rights in Ontario** - Box 822, Stn. A. Toronto, Ont., M5W 1G3, 405-████

**CounterPoint Community Orchestra** - 658-████

**Gay Fathers of Toronto**  
- 410-████

**Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Youth Line**  
1-800-268-9688

**Gay Partner Abuse Project**  
876-████

**Hassle Free Health Clinic**  
922-0603

**Metropolitan Community Church** - 406-6228

**Ontario Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce**  
410-1174

**Out! Spoken Advocacy**  
927-████

**Pride Information**  
927-7433

**Rainbow Ballroom Dance Club** - 363-████ or 534-████

**Rainbow Voices of Toronto** - 944-████

**The 519 Church St. Community Centre** 392-6874. Community information, support groups, anti-violence programme, the AIDS Memorial. [www.the519.org](http://www.the519.org)

## WATERLOO(519)

**First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo**  
96 Dunbar Road South  
742-████

**Gays & Lesbians of Waterloo GLOW University of Waterloo** - Peer support & info line & Coming Out Discussion groups 884-4569

**Global:** Wilfrid Laurier University LGBT support. Peer Help Line 884-PEER. [00global@mach1.wlu.ca](mailto:00global@mach1.wlu.ca)

**Westminster United Church** 543 Beachwood Dr. (an affirming congregation)

## WINDSOR(519)

**ACW Youthline** - 973-7671

**Aids Committee of Windsor** - 973-0222

**GLBT Book Club**  
973-████

**Lesbian and Gay Council**  
- 973-████

**MCC** - 977-████

**Organization of LG Students University of Windsor** - 253-████

**PFlag** - 973-████

# Business

# THE VOICE

To advertise  
on this  
page call

The Voice at

519-743-

## Books

**Glad Day Books**  
598A Yonge St.  
Toronto, 416-961-4161

**Words Worth Books**  
100 Kings St. S.,  
Uptown Waterloo,  
884-2665.

*"Independent minds support independent book stores"*

## Counselling

**Susan Cox, M.A.Sc. (psychology)** - Individual and couple counselling, LGBT positive - anger management, 279 Weber St. N., Waterloo, 519-747-

**Christina Edwards, M.Th., OAMFT,** Registered individual, couple and family therapist - \*EMDR for trauma, anxiety and self-esteem. Confidentiality in a friendly, safe environment. Phone: (519) 740-

**Dave Vervoort, M.Sc.** Couple Family & Individual Therapist - Out & Proud to serve the les/bi/gay/trans community (519) 821-

## Counselling

**DeMers, Norm M.A.Sc. (Psychology),** Individual and couple, depression, self-esteem, grief, inner critic, etc; LGBT positive, 35 years experience. 115 Norfolk, Guelph. (519)823-

## Entertainment

**Generation X Alternative Video and Media,** 10 Regina St. N., Waterloo, 888-GENX

## Legal

**Jean-Paul Pilon,** Barrister and Solicitor, Notary Public, 245 Frederick Street, Kitchener. 519-885-

## Real Estate

**Paul D. Curzon,** Associate Broker/RRS/CRS Re/max Twin City Realty Inc. 842 Victoria St. N., Kitchener. 519-579- (Off/Pgr)

**Alan Goetz,** Sales Rep., Re/max Twin City Realty Inc. 519-885- toll free - 1-877-450- kwhomes4sale.com

## Words Matter In Advertising

By Brett Krkosska

Ad sales punch to describe your merchandise or sales offer - use one of the following words. It may be helpful, used alone, or with other words. They have been selected from successful ads for your convenience in preparing copy.

### Motivating Words

Absolutely. Amazing. Approved. Attractive. Authentic. Bargain. Beautiful. Better. Big. Colorful. Colossal. Complete. Confidential. Crammed. Delivered. Direct. Discount. Easily. Endorsed. Enormous. Excellent. Exciting. Exclusive. Expert. Famous. Fascinating. Fortune. Free. Full. Genuine. Gift. Gigantic. Greatest. Guaranteed. Helpful. Highest. Huge. Immediately. Improved. Informative. Instructive. Interesting. Largest. Latest. Lavishly. Liberal. Lifetime. Limited. Lowest. Magic. Mammoth. Miracle. Noted. Odd. Outstanding. Personalized. Popular. Powerful. Practical. Professional. Profitable. Profusely. Proven. Quality. Quickly. Rare. Reduced. Refundable. Remarkable. Reliable. Revealing. Revolutionary. Scarce. Secrets. Security. Selected. Sensational. Simplified. Sizable. Special. Startling. Strange. Strong. Sturdy. Successful. Superior. Surprise. Terrific. Tested. Tremendous. Unconditional. Unique. Unlimited. Unparalleled. Unsurpassed. Unusual. Useful. Valuable. Wealth. Weird. Wonderful.

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

Do you have a business or service that you would like to list in our Business Directory? Let our readers know you are out there.

# Directory

# CLASSIFIED

# THE VOICE

## SUBMISSIONS

The Voice welcomes your submissions. We want to hear from you. Why not write to us?

Raise your voice and be heard. If you want to submit an article please write to the editor with your proposal and for submission guidelines.

We want to tell our readers what is going on in your area.

editor@thevoice.ca

submissions@thevoice.ca

haveyoursay@thevoice.ca

## HELP WANTED

Advertising Sales Representatives part-time, to work on a commission basis. Send your resume to The Voice, P.O. Box 24015, RPO Evergreen, Kitchener, Ont., N2M 5P1

## VOLUNTEER

The Voice is looking for volunteers to join our growing crew. Do you like socializing, partying, organizing parties? Do you take pictures? Get in touch with us? Want to find out more? Email us at: volunteers@thevoice.on.ca

## PERSONALS

Fun guy, 24, looking for, well, fun! New around here so I sure could use a tour. If you'd like to meet to talk or whatever please write.

Reply to Ad G-1

Caring, slim, healthy, professional, interesting, gay man, 60, seeks life-time companion 40-50 who is honest, loving, fun, fit and emotionally available. Curious? Let's talk.

Reply to ad G-2

## PERSONALS

54 year old lesbian needs out-going group of women to enjoy movies, dining and theatre with. I'm just looking for social company.

Reply to ad L-1

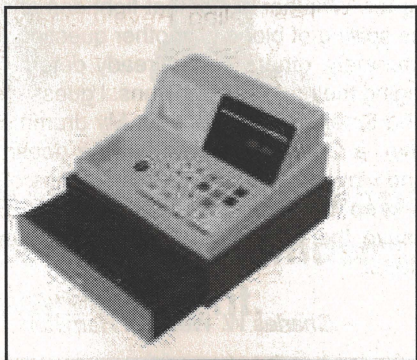
45 year old single white lesbian looking for a soul-mate 35-55 years of age with substance physically, spiritually and intellectually. I like movies, dining, reading, deep conversations, the simple things, quite times, honesty, and am an animal lover. I am a proud fat dyke wanting to meet a larger fem. Hoping to find that someone special to have a relationship with that we could build over time.

Reply to ad L-2

72 year old single white lesbian seeks companion 65-75 preferably in London, Ont., I am retired, not into the bar scene. I am hoping for a warm hand and a compatible soul with a dash of whimsy, a sense of humour, and a taste for some mild adventure.

Reply to ad L-3

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**  
*THEY ARE SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY*



When you purchase goods or services from our advertisers, be sure to let them know you saw them in The Voice!

**Classified ads**

**\$10 for the first 25 words**

**10 cents for each additional word**

**Send to**

**The Voice Magazine**  
P.O. Box 844,  
Stn C,  
Kitchener, Ont.,  
N2G 4C5

# CLASSIFIED

## ONE FOR THE ROAD



### Lotus Land, Bushland, and A Mad Mad World

Somewhere in the world they're singing about a new age, the Age of Aquarius.

For thirty-five years, they've been singing about it and for hundreds of years they've been predicting it, analyzing it and hoping for it.

It all sounds so pat, so simple, and so dreamy:

When the Moon is in the Seventh House and Jupiter aligns with Mars Then peace will rule the planets, and love will steer the stars, This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius

In Astrological terms, Aquarians are those born between January 20 and February 18. In Astronomical terms, Aquarius is a constellation seen by the ancients as a water-bearing angel. During the Age of Aquarius, the cleansing and refreshing water is poured out over a parched and hostile world creating a new world order and an age of peace, prosperity, understanding and freedom.

As the world readies for what could undoubtedly be a major military confrontation, I have to ask whether the dream of a new age is just that, a pipe dream, or a definite possibility in the light of the many anomalies with which we currently live.

Our neighbours to the south are panicked about a relaxation of the law which prohibits the possession of small amounts of Marijuana for personal use. At the same time, they feed their fighter pilots amphetamines so that their fingers don't freeze on the trigger when the order comes to "FIRE!"

The Canadian Military has recently accepted the claims of same sex partners for benefits and support. In a strange turnabout, the U.S. Military is trying to deal with the awkward and, ultimately, hypocritical policy known popularly as "Don't ask: don't tell." Ironically, with an international crisis in the making, some Senators are suggesting that if the Draft is re-instituted, then that policy should be abrogated or changed. It would make it too easy for individuals to avoid the Draft.

Hey, everybody knows that Gays and Lesbians are just as capable of killing for their country as anyone else. And there are just as many conscientious objectors among Gays and Lesbians as there are among Straights. It's just one more example of the kind of madness pervading what we still euphemistically call the Civilized World.

The Age of Aquarius envisions a real paradise: Harmony and understanding / Sympathy and trust abounding / No more forces of derision / Golden living dreams of vision / Mystic crystal revelations / And the mind's true liberation.

When those words were first written, it was a time of discovery and revolutionary growth in human understanding. Civil disobedience was exhibited by the burning of Draft Cards to protest the war that nobody wanted and everybody hated. At the same time, a new drug oriented culture was emerging, focusing on Marijuana, Hashish and Acid. Sexual intimacy and expression found new liberation in free love and commune living. It was a time of dropping out, tuning in and turning on.

These days, not much of what they sang about, protested about or reveled about back then seems at all radical or revolutionary. We've come a long way baby. Even the lyrics, nudity and gentle

**"Politics: n. Strife of interests  
masquerading as a contest of  
principles." --Ambrose Bierce**

irreverence of Hair fails to shock any more. "Sodomy, fellatio, cunnilingus, pederasty, masturbation can be fun. Join the holy orgy, Kama Sutra everyone." They read like the personals page in any of the Queer tabloids. Or the Straight tabloids, for that matter.

So, are we at the dawn of a New Age? Is it the Age of Aquarius or the Age of Armageddon?

It looks like Canada is on the road to becoming a Liberal Lotus Land, a nation of potheads led by a team of jackasses. The U.S. has become Bushland, a weird and aggressive fantasy theme park bent on universal control and dominance. Meanwhile, "a crazy planet full of crazy people is somersaulting all around the sky." It's enough to drive you nuts.

I remember reading graffiti in a stall in New York City way back when. Someone had written, "Fighting for peace is like fucking for chastity. So, pull out Dick." That anonymous washroom poet had a point. Outside that washroom, people were writing, "Make love not war" on tenement walls and subway cars. Two fingers raised in the familiar Churchill "V" for victory sign were a common greeting: a universally understood sign of peace.

Somewhere in the world today they're still singing about the Age of Aquarius. Is that song blind hope, wishful thinking or a true expression of a heartfelt belief and desire? Will that age be an outpouring of purifying and liberating waters or a floodgate of oppression and destruction?

Lotus Land, Bushland and a Mad Mad World: the world we live in. The only world we've got. It's not just a small world, after all. It's a Queer, Queer World: worth living in, worth sharing and worth fighting for. Whether or not that fight demands violent aggression and the spilling of blood is another question entirely.

Unfortunately, others have already determined the answer and are singing their own battle hymns. I guess those are songs I can't sing and tunes I can't dance to. My drummer may be a different drummer, a Queer drummer; but, he doesn't play the drums of war. And I love to sing; but, only the songs of freedom.

"God keep our land glorious and free". "God bless America." "God save the Queen(s)." "This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius..."

-- Charles W. Westfall, Hamilton

*Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy.*

-- Ernest Benn

*It is the duty of every citizen according to his best capacities to give validity to his convictions in political affairs.*

--Albert Einstein

an evening of CLITerature!

Speak  
up!



February 22, 2003  
8PM

Mostly Organic Juice Bar  
119 King Street West  
Kitchener

Tri-Pride Fundraiser  
Tickets \$10  
Great Door Prizes  
Reserve Now - Limited Space  
[www.rainbow.on.ca](http://www.rainbow.on.ca)

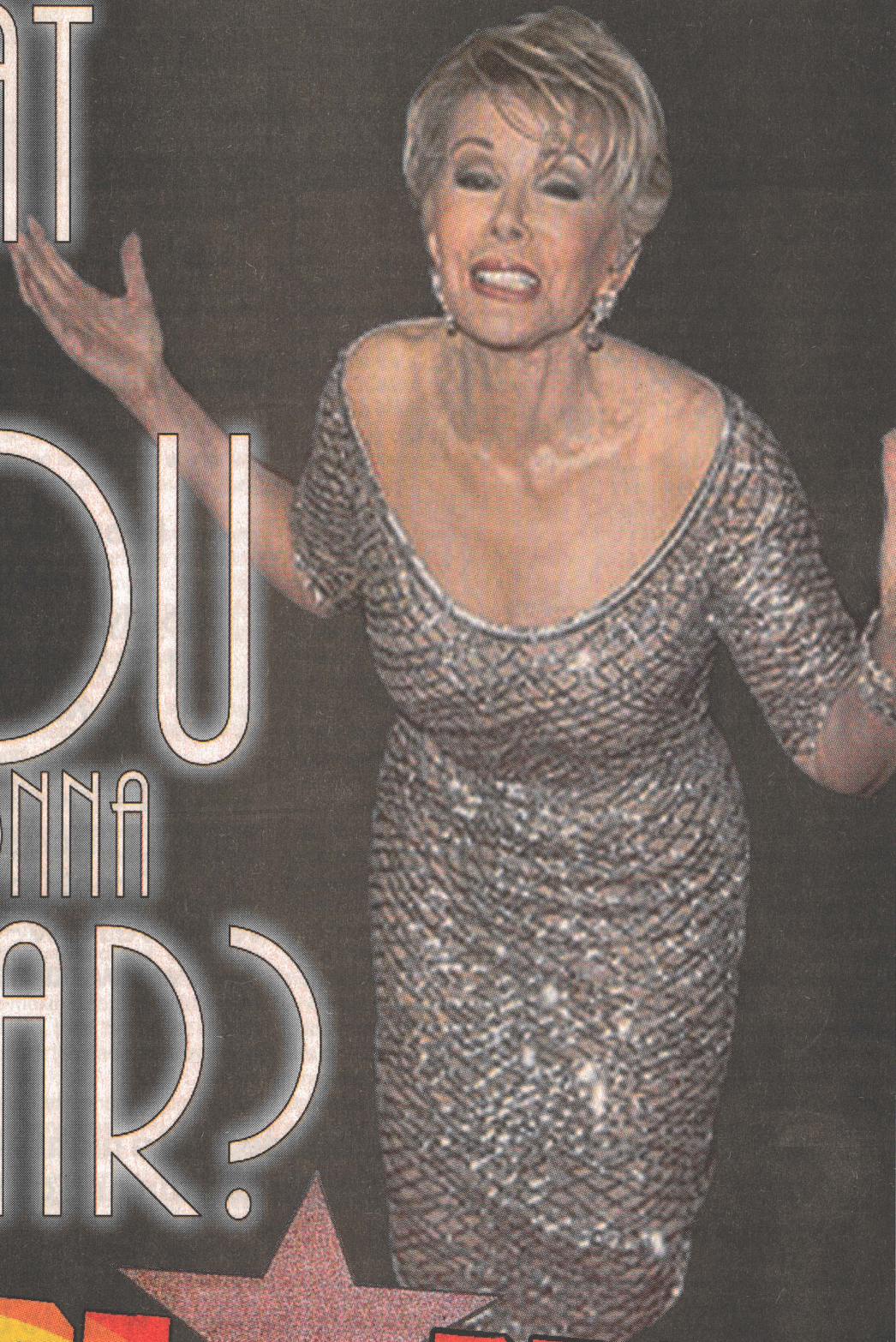
Celebrate your sensual, sexual side with a night of erotic readings by local women - plus music, toys and fun and all in an open, comfortable environment.

Do you write sexy prose or poetry? Want to be involved?  
Visit [www.rainbow.on.ca](http://www.rainbow.on.ca)

**WOMEN AND TRANS EVENT ONLY PLEASE**



WHAT  
ARE  
YOU  
GONNA  
WEAR?



PRIDE PROM

"VINTAGE HOLLYWOOD"

FOR TICKETS  
EMAIL [PRIDEPROM@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:PRIDEPROM@HOTMAIL.COM)

WALPER TERRACE HOTEL  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2003