

# Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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



## *The Voice*

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# THE VOICE

**FREE**  
Volume 5  
Issue 5  
March 2003

ONTARIO'S QUEER VIEWS & CULTURE



## VALENTINE'S DAY

*Marriage Challenge*

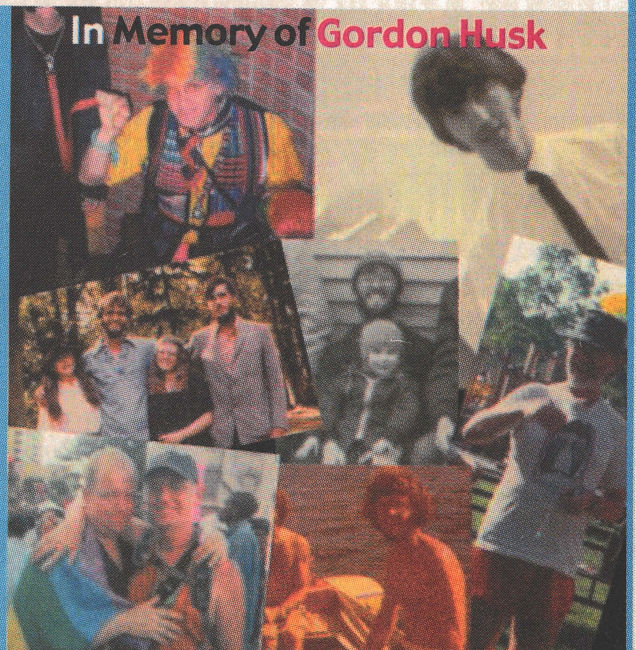
## GAY AND MARRIED

*Do Some Men Want It All?*

## MARRIAGE ACTIVISTS

*Kevin Bourassa & Joe Varnell*

**ORAL SEX** – *Lesbian Style*



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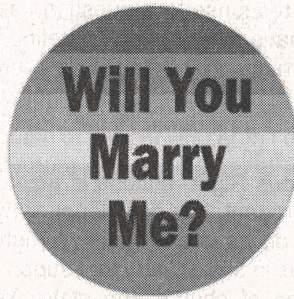
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*It is an all-inclusive alternative vehicle for all segments of the LGBT community.*

*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.*

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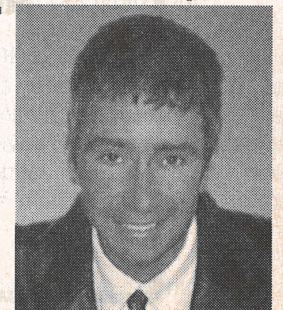
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# FIRST WORDS



## "Will You Marry Me?"

By A.J. Mahari

**This issue is dedicated to the memoir of Gordon Husk.**

Gordon passed away on February 5th, 2003, after being in hospital since a December 27th accident. In our last issue I wrote about our hopes that Gordon would recover, awake, and be able to carry on with his life. This was not to be.

As a send-off for Gordon, we begin and end this issue with him in mind. He will be missed by family and friends, our community in general, and of course, the pages of this magazine which were enriched by his contribution over the years. (See page 28)

### "Will you marry me?"

"Will you marry me?" That's the question that same-sex couples are demanding that our Federal Government answer.

The same-sex marriage debate continues. Mainstream (straight) media is all over this, often, sensationalizing the ever-widening gap between mainstream Canada, gay communities and the Religious Right.

The Government of Canada is now going to embark upon a 15 city tour across our country asking Canadians what they think about this issue.

Recently, CKCO-TV, in Kitchener-Waterloo aired a segment on this subject on their Provincewide Show. I was interviewed on the "for" side while a lawyer who represents the Catholic League was interviewed on the "against" side of the debate. Fair enough.

Much of what he said was the typical "religious-speak" we are used to hearing. What was very troubling, however, was this lawyer's response to a question as to who should have the authority to define or sanction marriage. His astoundingly-arrogant and ill-informed answer, as he pointed out "it shouldn't be judges, I'll tell you that for certain..." was "God".

This "Religious Right" attitude is actually more than arrogant, it is delusional. Why? Because we do have a Charter of Rights and Freedoms in this country that supports the separation of church and state. Yet, these religious types continue to pressure the government to continue its illegal and discriminatory imposition of the religious interpretation of what they believe marriage is.

They are now putting forth the rhetoric that the "Homosexual movement is about to end religious freedom in this country." (According to LifeSite's take on things). As they continue to muddy the waters with false accusations they fail to see that the debate is rather moot. Moot because this discrimination against same-sex couples has been ruled illegal in this country. All that remains to be done is for our government to stop cowering behind Christian fundamentalist constituents and listen to not only lesbians and gays but the majority of mainstream Canadians.

Our government needs to represent all of its people, not just the fundamentalists Christians. Our government needs to stop copping out by shoving things to the courts. They need to take responsibility now and do the right thing.

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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.

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

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**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, Whitely Flowers, The Stag Shop, The Warehouse,

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

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

**Brantford:** The Pine Tree 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 Yorik,

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And other select locations in Toronto, Windsor, and South Western Ontario. a

## 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.

Glad to see The Voice giving some space to what's going on with our local Pride in K-W. Tri-Pride seems to be working very hard to not only raise funds but entertain our community at the same time in many new and creative ways. It's nice to know that most people can put their heads together and solve the hassles that just a couple of people who aren't on "the scene" anymore created. Kudos to The Voice and to Tri-Pride.

-- Name withheld at writer's request

I enjoyed the article about the issues behind the philosophy and so forth involved in the issues around cloning. ("Cloning: The Philosophical Dilemma" Jan/Feb 2003 Voice). It really made me think. I also think that it was great that you took on that issues even though the tie to our community was minimal. It seems thought that the ramifications for lesbians and gays wanting to have kids may be affected by the outcome of all this debate about cloning. Well done.

-- Mary Jackson, London, Ont.

I just had to write to say how much I enjoy that Mark guy's columns. He's funny and right on with most of what he says. I think it is so cool when a young and good-looking dude takes the time to write about his experiences. Thanks Mark.

--Trevor McKnight, Toronto, Ont.

Well, finally! Finally, someone mentioned the amount of space that the Pope has been given in this very fine queer publication. I, too, am not for this. I agree totally with the guy who wrote in to the editor (Voice Jan/Feb Have Your Say) to talk about the Christian ex-priest guy going on in ways that support the Pope who I agree is the most homophobic human on the planet. Enough already Voice!

-- Darius Michaels, Windsor, Ont.

My question is why is there so much coverage in The Voice about AIDS. Isn't it, like, old news, really, come on eh? I think it's such a downer to have to keep reading about it. I don't really think it's such a big deal anymore. I'm 19 and I don't even know anyone with AIDS. How about more on other stuff?

-- Paul Griffith, Stratford, Ont.

Oh, I just have to add my two cents here. Tell me someone, anyone, what is up with these bars in Kitchener anyway. There was like one for eight years and then suddenly there were three. I hear now there are two. I never went to the one I saw in last month's Voice (Jan/Feb 2003 Business Feature, Eclipse NightClub) but I understand that it is closed already. What's up with that? Gay bars seem to be playing musical chairs in South Western Ontario, here today, new name tomorrow and gone the next day til they come back yet again as something else. I'm thankful for Club Ren. It may not be perfect but it's here and has been for sometime.

-- Brad Stevens, Waterloo, Ont.

Thanks to Noel Springwood for such a touching and moving article about kindness. (Voice Jan/Feb 2003, "We Need A Cup of Kindness") It's something we sure aren't reminded about near enough.

It is so true that often we don't realize how we've helped someone. If we are lucky we may find out at some point or they or someone else will let us know. But, since we often don't know we just have to make an effort to be kinder more often without expecting to be rewarded or even noticed for it.

--Bev Collins, Brantford, Ont.

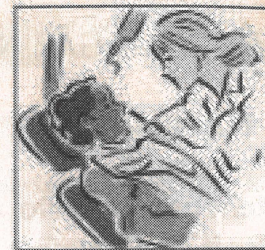
I found the RRSP article very helpful. I look forward to reading the Gay Biz, tax articles and anything on matters financial. Noticed you haven't has as many of those in the recent past. Sure hope you have more for us in months to come. They're so helpful.

--Cindy Smythe, Sarnia, Ont.





## Oral Sex By Sally Sheklow



Sexy root canal. Now there's a contradiction in terms. Like nuclear safety. But wait. Look deeper. Think about the elements of feeling sexy: the quickened pulse, the throbbing passion, the oozing fluids. Now consider our sexual hygiene habits these last fifteen or so years since droves of dykes joined our gay brothers in learning all about safe sex. Remember your first encounter with that sleek, taut, flexible little sheet of latex known affectionately as the dental dam? The thrilling subterfuge of liberating a tool of dentistry for carnal indulgence? I believe you are beginning to see where sexy and root canal meet.

I found it completely by chance. Somewhere in the deep recesses of my unconscious it lay lurking, crouched, ready to ambush me when I least expected it: reclined in the chair of the endodontist.

There I was, mouth crammed with wads of cotton the size of heavy-day tampons. A siphon hooked over my jaw suctioned my involuntary flow of saliva while a woman in uniform probed my main orifice with warm, latex-gloved fingers. I closed my eyes and tried to relax into the vinyl chair.

The very thought of needing a root canal had made me terribly nervous and I hoped to get through the ordeal using the deep breathing technique. As a back-up plan I could always pass out. I inhaled,

focused on my third eye point, exhaled and eased my death grip on the plastic-covered armrests.

The soles of the endodontist's Hush Puppies® squished softly on the polished floor when he walked into the exam room. He made some small talk, to which I could not reply because my mouth was full of sanitary products. Besides, I didn't want to come out of my meditative state and get all anxious again. Then, over the buzz and slurp of the suction machine came a particular unmistakable sound. Snap, rustle rustle, snap followed by the faint, exciting smell of talc. This guy was putting on latex gloves! Reflexes took over and my crotch dampened.

"Anything can be eroticized."

The workshop leader's words flooded back to me. About a dozen of us HIV prevention recruits had gathered at Liz and Carolyn's house for our first safe sex workshop. We crowded into the cozy living room. The lights were low and soft jazz played in the background. Liz served hibiscus tea and Carolyn set out a plate of mint milanos while we all found our spots and settled in.

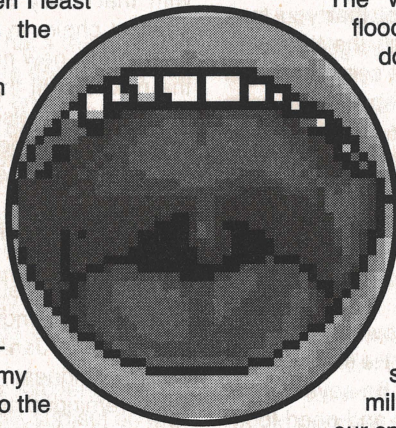
The invited presenter, a certified "sexpert" from San Francisco, spoke in a calm relaxing tone. She rattled off the information that would empower us to insist on safer sex for ourselves and to

spread the word to the community. Latex was the main deal, nothing most of us lezzies knew much about. She blithely introduced us to latex gloves, finger cots and dental dams and showed us how to put a condom on a sex toy—with our mouths! For the last 45 minutes we were asked to write a short erotic story using info we'd learned in the workshop. The evening ended with us going around the circle and reading our stories, which all included some rendition of "her swollen, hungry lips pulsated against the glistening latex dam." A hot and juicy time was had by all. The sexpert reminded us that anything can be eroticized and bid us good night.

I didn't really think the workshop had that much of an effect on me, other than getting instinctual nipple erections at the mere thought of a mint milano. It never occurred to me that I would so integrate the sexpert's words into my psyche that I would get turned on during a root canal! But it was happening. I squirmed in the reclining chair to accommodate my engorgement, miscommunicating a need for more Novocain. The puddle under me grew.

The endodontist delivered the coup de grace with the deft stretching of a dental dam over my offending molar's little head. My tongue automatically explored the underside of the slick rubbery shield. Erotic associations zapped across my synapses. I was anesthetized, aroused, and open for whatever these two latex-clad professionals intended to do to me. If I had been able to utter more than a cotton-muffled grunt, I'd have suggested they reposition the saliva siphon a couple of feet lower.

I barely remember the drilling. I left the office of oral surgery numb-faced, giddy, and not just a little weak in the knees. That experience changed my life. Now squeaky shoes get me hot. I'm helpless around polyester print smocks. Put a chain-clasp paper bib on me and I melt. Come to think of it, I have been feeling a familiar aching throb in a hard-to-reach spot deep inside. I get all gooey just thinking about it. I probably need another root canal.



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## **Safe Sex, Safe Sex**

*(To the tune of So Long, Farewell)*

A parody by Sally Sheklow

***There's a lot of confusion  
among lesbians here  
And a log of denial, too  
But dykes do catch viruses so  
that's why I'm here  
To talk about safe sex with  
you, with you, with you  
I'm sure that you'll enjoy it  
As soon as you employ it  
So use safe sex, please do***

***Safe Sex, Safe Sex  
It's easy and it's true  
Just don't get blood or cunt  
juice into you***

***Safe Sex, Safe Sex  
For feelings so sublime,  
Use condoms on your dildos  
every time***

***Safe Sex, Safe Sex  
These dental dams are  
swe-ell  
And you can use Saran Wrap  
just as well***

***Be sure the lube you use is  
water based  
K-Y, H.R., and ForPlay are all  
safe  
We've learned this from our  
friends in San Francisco  
No Vaseline, hand lotion, oil,  
or Crisco  
Safe Sex, Safe Sex, Safe Sex,  
Safe Sex!***

*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.*

# **LIVING WITH AIDS**

## **Prejudice Is Pervasive For Those Who are HIV Positive**

**By Krystoffer Kytt**

I've been totally out of my closet since I was 17 years of age. I've come full circle with friends and family. I don't really give a damn what they think of me nor do I really care for whatever they've said behind my back.

I've had to endure the prejudices of many because I choose to be with a man and not a woman.

When I was diagnosed with HIV in the early 80's my life once again changed and I was faced with a new set of prejudices that had been set forth by society, the media and my community.

It's easy to deal with many things in this life but when your own community starts to shun those who become HIV positive it's no wonder that people begin to pull inward and away from others.

I recently read, in *The Voice*, about a guy who turned down getting to know someone who honestly and openly stated he was HIV positive. ("Need Wood, *Voice*, Jan/Feb 2003)

Unfortunately, the negative guy left the bar, absolutely "scared to death" of catching this virus. He didn't give a rat's ass about the positive guy or how he was left to feel later on. Sure, there may of not been any hard feelings but how many times has this positive guy been turned down because of his status? Don't you think that us 'puzzies' also need love and affection in our lives?

Not that many individuals have the courage and decency to tell the truth about their status and would rather bag a babe without disclosing it. Is there anything wrong with that if one plays by the rules of safe sex?

A person's status is a very private matter and many of us (myself included) feel it isn't anyone's business but our own. Not everyone will disclose their status and for those that are positive, they know the rules and regulations for practicing safe sex.

You're more likely to catch HIV from someone who doesn't give a rat's ass about you. There's no such thing as accidents when dealing with this virus and personal protection is vital to your existence.

I know lots of couples who are opposite of each other, one being HIV positive and

the other, negative. They both live very happy and loving lives together without the 'black cloud' of HIV disturbing them as they move about life together and not allowing the prejudiced attitudes of their peers dictate how they should really be living their lives.

Love doesn't see colour, boundaries, or disease. After living your life (for the most part) alone, having someone who's strong enough as a person to accept you and fall in love, regardless of HIV, is a dream shared by just about everyone.

To be "scared to death" over catching this virus is not exactly a bright way to conduct yourself in life since you can very well leave your favourite bar and get hit by a car or a bus when you least expect it, erasing any hope of obtaining the goals and dreams you've set forth for yourself.

Do you not think that positive individuals don't have the same idealistic dreams? News flash... we do. We want to fall in love. We want to have lives as normal as possible and achieve the same goals as we originally set out for ourselves, long before we got diagnosed.

The only difference now is we're HIV positive and we take life a little more seriously as opposed to many who, without this challenge, seem to think that they can take life for granted.

My heart goes out to anyone who gets rejected based on being HIV positive. Since my diagnosis my life really hasn't been the same. It has been more complicated to find a suitable mate.

As for the guy who left the bar, (in "Need Wood, *Voice*, Jan/Feb 2003) he really should be bitch-slapped for simply letting his ignorance dictate his life and passing on the chance of getting to know someone that could of very well been his Mr Right.

In any gay community, we strive for acceptance. How are we ever going to achieve this goal when our the prejudices that abound prohibit us from even accepting each other?

*Krystoffer Kytt, of London, himself, HIV positive is an advocate for those living with AIDS. A Voice Exclusive.*





## They Also Serve Who Stand and Wait

By Charles W. Westfall

I don't go to the bars often. When I do, I love to watch the bartenders at work. For one thing, in Gay bars, they're usually very good looking men. For another, they are a fine example of human engineering at work. They move with focused energy and quiet efficiency and rarely lose their mood of cool abstraction.

With all that in mind, I decided to ask one of those guys I knew about the job and it's challenges. I talked to Derek Scott, from The Embassy Club in Hamilton. This is what he told me about himself and his job.

I've worked here for about ten years. I grew up in Halifax, have lived in Brantford and have made Hamilton my home. I have a degree in Hospitality Administration and two Bull Dogs named Maggie and Petey. I love them, love my job and love The Embassy.

Like everybody like me, I'm looking for Mr. Right. But, hey, a guy can't have everything.

I love working in a gay environment. I can be myself, relaxed and no questions asked. My job also allows me to meet a lot of different people from all over. I'm a people person and that's a definite plus.

It's hard to make everyone happy, especially when we're really busy. Besides, there are so many tastes in music, men and liquor. There are pressures from the law as well. Monitoring people for over consumption, underage drinking and aggressive behaviour. I guess we try to do our best and hope that everyone is safe and has a good time and nobody gets hurt.

When you belly up to the bar to order, you don't realize what the bartender

has done to prepare for that moment. We do a daily inventory. That involves counting and measuring all the beer and liquor sold at the beginning and end of each shift. We clean and disinfect the bar area and do the dishes. Each bottle of liquor is weighed in ounces and is charged to the register by the ounce. We just hope that it all balances out. We also make sure that there are juices and mixes on hand and lemon/lime garnishes cut and ready. The fridges are checked for an adequate supply of bottled beer and we check on other supplies, like cups, bottled water, pens and paper.

It's always nice to meet a customer who seems to understand that we are trying to run an efficient business. It is also great to find somebody who is friendly, willing to chat a bit and who doesn't treat us like servants.

Sometimes, though, a customer will come in who thinks they can push us around. They snap fingers or yell, "HEY BUDDY". They get mad if we can't hear them when they order. They accuse us, ME, of ripping them off. They're just mad at the world, want to take it out on the closest person around, ME, and I just have to roll with the punches.

Most people in the service professions depend on tips to augment what is usually a very limited hourly wage. As far as I'm concerned, any tip is a good tip. It is an indication that I've been noticed and my efforts are appreciated. I think that people who never tip are both thoughtless and rude.

We have bouncers to deal with problem customers on the weekends. During the week, I'm on my own. If the



**BAR TENDING**

person doesn't leave when asked to, I generally call the Police. They solve the problem quickly and quietly. Usually, I don't have to make that call. A lot of times, the problem customer is someone with an outstanding warrant or who is breaking parole. Some people never learn, I guess.

Most people don't have fussy tastes when it comes to drinks. When it comes to music though, it's hard to keep up with what people want. I don't have many axes to grind. I enjoy my job. I'm glad I didn't waste time on one of those bartending courses available. Hands-on training is the best in this industry. Get a job as a bartender or waiter and go for it; but, stick to it.

I have to single out other bartenders as customers, though. Just because we share a common vocation doesn't give you the right to treat me like dirt or a lesser person. We are colleagues and should support and encourage one another is what is, after all, not an easy occupation or profession. We need one another to keep the whole scene as enjoyable as possible.

In my ten years behind the bar, I've met a lot of wonderful people. I appreciate the great encouragement I've received from so many of them. They are my friends and extended family. Everytime I meet them or anyone like them, I feel that my time and efforts have been justified.

Meanwhile, I just do my best to be here, standing behind the bar and serving you. So, what'll you have?

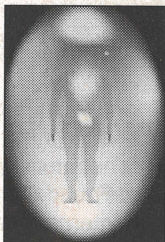
Well, Derek, next time I come in, you can pour me a small draught of Labatt ICE. Meanwhile, just keep up the good work and know that the hard work that you and others like you do has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated.

*Charles W. Westfall is a Hamilton based writer. He can be reached at weschar@sympatico.ca. A Voice Exclusive.*



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## DJ BAD WEATHER

### Top 10 Circuit House Tracks - Feb 2003

- 1-**Christina Aguilera** - Beautiful (Al B. Rich/Peter Rauhofer)
- 2-**Cher** - When The Money's Gone (Manny Lehman Mix)
- 3-**Leann Rimes** - Tic Toc (Thunderpuss Mix)
- 4-**Jocelyn Enriquez** - No Way No How (Outstanding/Al B. Rich)
- 5-**Whitney Houston** - Try It On My Own (Thunderpuss Mix)
- 6-**Jay J.** - Keep On Rising (DJ Chus & David Penn Stereo Mix)
- 7-**Sinead O'Connor** - Tears From The Moon (Robbie Rivera)
- 8-**Darryl Pandy** - Heaven (Junior Vasquez Earth Mix)
- 9-**Dirty Vegas** - I Should Know (Alex Neri Mix)
- 10-**Supreme Beings of Leisure** - Ghetto (29 Palms Vocal Mix)

**Party with Club Renaissance**

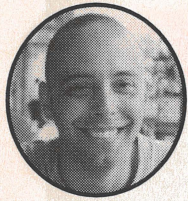
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# Three Dollar Bill



## Ashes to Ashok By Richard Burnett

The most loved and reviled gay activist in India is, hands down, Ashok Row Kavi. I call him the Larry Kramer of India because Ashok is loud, cantankerous and passionate. Like American author, AIDS activist and ACT UP founder Kramer, he is a national treasure in his country.

Both men attended the 5th International Conference on AIDS in Montreal in June 1989 - a watershed moment as far as world AIDS conferences go. That's because it was hijacked by activists upset their voices were being ignored by governments and the scientific community.

When then-PM Brian Mulroney addressed the 10,000 delegates, ACT Up activists waving "Silence = Death" placards chanted, "The whole world is watching, Mulroney - you've left us to die."

Ashok, 55, remembers it well. It changed his life. "I was so impressed with Montreal," Ashok says from Bombay. He was deeply affected by the display of radical activism. "On one hand Montreal had so much beauty and on the other so much misery. I didn't understand political gay identity then but I returned home [politicized] and began my magazine."

That magazine is Bombay Dost, India's first-ever gay publication. Then he founded the Humsafar Trust, India's first-ever gay AIDS service organization in a country whose HIV population now tops nine million.

"In Bombay there are only 700 women for every thousand men," Ashok explains. "So you know men are having sex with each other. At Humsafar 28 per cent of men who have sex with men test HIV-positive and the rate of transmission among trans sex workers is over 70 per cent."

Education and prevention measures are complicated by the fact there are no gay bars in India. But, as Ashok says, "Most bars are gay bars because women don't go out at night. So bars are homosexual anyway. The bar girls are usually boys in drag. The point is there are not enough women in Bombay: The government says there are 150,000 female prostitutes but there are only 15,000. They inflate the numbers to disguise the number of men having sex with men."

Which is why - in a nation where 80 per cent of gay men marry



## Ashok Row Kavi

- Ashok supports the gay group Naz Foundation India (and NOT the widely-reviled Naz Foundation International). Their lawsuit against India's ban on gay sex - punishable by up to 10 years in jail under the country's Penal Code - goes before the Delhi High Court on Nov 27. Says Ashok, "The judges have told the Crown they better come up with a proper reason why this section should not be struck down."

The court case is a major step for the massive gay subculture rising up in Asia - 100 million gay men alone, half of them in India and an even larger number in China.

"They're well-educated but need to take control. But we cannot discuss gay rights without talking about the rights of women and children. India is a very patriarchal society. Men do whatever they want. When they come [to Humsafar] with STDs, they do not even come with their wives."

Dykes have it worst. That said, Ashok says Canadian filmmaker Deepa Mehta's controversial 1996 film *Fire* about two Indian women who fall in love was insensitive and thus deeply offensive. "This is the tragedy of many Indians who live abroad - they've lost touch and don't know what the hell is going on here. In your [Christian] culture," Ashok tells me, "[homosexuals] are a religious abomination. But we never had that here. We are told we are part of the scenery - just don't be a strident queen."

Does that mean Western-style gay identity is not culturally possible in India? "What we have to take from the West we have to take. Everybody wears jeans but how many know that jeans came from India?" Ashok asks rhetorically. "There is no such thing as East and West anymore. We are linked."

So Ashok continues to fight for gay rights. Last month he co-organized the first International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) Asia regional conference and, on the eve of the Nov 2-9 Gay Games, spoke at Amnesty International's gay-rights conference in Sydney. And plenty of gays and lesbians back home hate him for it. "I'm exhausted. I've had it. I'm on antidepressants. Imagine phone calls from within the community telling my mother about my sex life? The hatred is so strong but my name is prominent. The community is so full of hatred and self-cannibalism. There is no unity, no identity. But there are a lot of men sucking other men."

Again, Ashok's defiance and fire reminds me Kramer. I tell him so. "I met Larry and I had two big fights with him," Ashok says, laughing. "I told him to stop screaming and shouting. I don't think he could take me. I said, 'Shut up! You don't know what we are going to experience in Asia. So fuck off!' We were two big queens. I enjoyed his company very much."

Essential buttplug: Mail tax-deductible donations to: Humsafar Trust, P.O. Box 6913, Santa Cruz West, Mumbai, India, 400054.

*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.*

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# BLACK HISTORY

## BROTHER OUTSIDER: THE LIFE OF BAYARD RUSTIN

By Ron Welker

Another Black History month of celebrations has come and gone. Toronto's African-Canadian community obviously had the numbers and the resources to present the widest variety of events but other areas such as Waterloo Region held a number of activities as well.

Did you take the time to participate in any of them as a member of the African-Canadian family or as a member of the larger Canadian family?

Until that much hoped for time when Blacks no longer live in a world that in many ways is suspect and biased against them from the start, the February celebrations could not be more necessary for the integrity of us all.

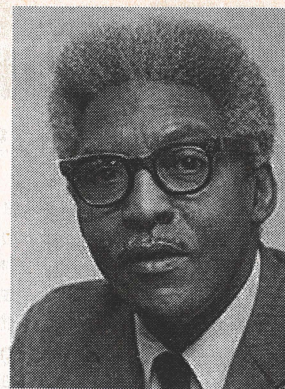
Within our gay/lesbian/transsexual/bisexual family, the same racial intolerance should be examined and dealt with to further strengthen whatever sense of community we already share together.

Until the recent PBS release of the documentary BROTHER OUTSIDER: THE LIFE OF BAYARD RUSTIN, few of us would ever have dreamed that one gay man was largely responsible for the success to date of the U.S. civil rights movement for African-Americans that paved the way for the subsequent gay liberation movement.

Bayard Rustin (1912-1987) was a major organizer in the struggle to obtain civil, legal and human rights for African-Americans and lesbian and gay Americans.

In February 1956, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had not personally embraced non-violence when Bayard arrived in Montgomery, Alabama to assist with the fight for equality. There were armed guards outside King's house and his staff carried guns. Rustin personally persuaded the boycott leaders to adopt complete non-violence. Just as Gandhi had started a nonviolence movement that eventually ended British rule in India, Rustin trained King's group in Gandhian nonviolent direct protest.

Immersed early in politics by a pacifist Quaker grandmother who had never questioned his gayness, Bayard had refused to be inducted in the Second World War and had been jailed for urging others to burn their draft cards. He had spent 22 days on a chain gang after being arrested in Chapel Hill, North Carolina "for sitting with a white man on a bus." His sexuality had been publicly condemned in a 1953 California conviction "for lewd vagrancy in a public park".



Unfortunately, the Pasadena arrest was used against him after he organized several Prayer Pilgrimages and marches and assisted in the early days of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

The then already influential Texan Democrat Lyndon Baines Johnson saw Rustin as a radical threat to the movement and encouraged Black leader Adam Clayton Powell to force Rustin to the sidelines.

Although he had to resign from King's organization, Bayard continued to work hard for the labour movement and returned in triumph to help with the 1963 March on Washington. The great success of 1963 resulted in an alliance with his former enemy Johnson.

Bayard later wrote that the 1964 elections marked a turning point in American politics. "The Democratic landslide was not merely the result of a negative reaction to Goldwaterism; it was also the expression of a majority liberal consensus. The Negro vote (North as well as South), while not decisive in the presidential race, was enormously effective. It was a dramatic element of a historic mandate which contains vast possibilities and dangers that will fundamentally affect the future course of the civil rights movement."

After Johnson assumed the Presidency there was a major push for civil rights legislation that had sat on the back burner for years. And Rustin had the ear of the President at long last.

This gay pacifist labour leader from the African-American community was proud to declare at a gay and lesbian march that the GLBT community had become "the barometer for human rights. At his passing, Norman Hill wrote that "the Black community lost a legendary and tenacious tactician and organizer whose fearless devotion to principle and direct action laid the monumental building blocks that, piled one on top of the other, made the civil rights movement the powerful moral juggernaut that changed the nation."

Ron Welker, of Waterloo, is a volunteer with B.E.A.T. - the Black Education Awareness Team at the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto.

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# Pride Prom Success

By Jeremy Steffler

On January 31, 2003 the first ever Pride Prom was held at the Walper Terrace Hotel in Kitchener, Ontario. One hundred people graced the runway at this "Vintage Hollywood" themed event, which was by all accounts a resounding success!

The idea for hosting a „Pride Prom% sprang from last spring's controversy over Marc Hall attending his high school prom with his boyfriend. A small group of friends in the Kitchener-Waterloo area were discussing this controversy and mused at how difficult it can be for a same-sex couple to attend a formal event. We considered high school students attending their proms, university students attending their graduation formals and wondered if same-sex couples would find these safe and supportive environments.

Furthermore, we reflected on how much had changed over the years, imagining how foreign the thought of a same-sex couple attending a prom would have been a decade ago. After all this time, it amazed us how political and controversial this situation could be. Wouldn't it be nice to attend a formal event where you didn't feel like the token same-sex couple on display? Wouldn't it be great to attend a formal event with other members of the LGBT community, not to announce our presence to the world, not as a means of political protest or activism, but simply to get together and have a good time?

After this discussion, it became clear that simply talking about such an event wasn't

enough. And so, after many meetings, hours of planning, the many pitfalls and hurdles one encounters in planning any social event and continuously redefining the true meaning of "elegance on a budget", our dream of a Pride Prom became a reality!

The Walper Terrace Hotel provided the perfect ambiance for the event. The evening began with cocktails and appetizers in the hotel's piano lounge, providing all guests with the opportunity to meet and greet friends (old and new) before the main event. Entertainment during the cocktail hour was provided by our talented pianist, Mr. Michael Brown, who graciously volunteered his services for the evening, as well as the impromptu vocal talents of one of the guests.

After cocktails was the main event! Guests were escorted to the Crystal Ballroom, decorated in black, white, silver and gold!

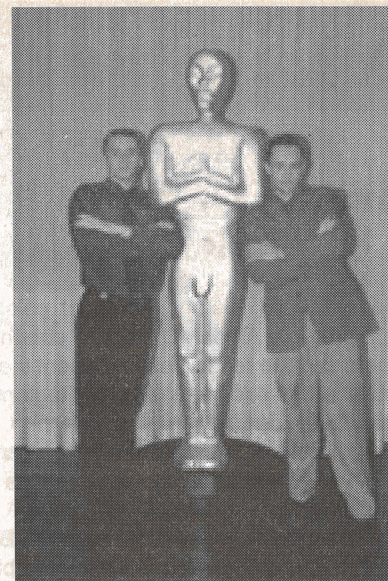
A lit archway, accented with fabrics of gold and silver, candlelit place settings, balloon bouquets, and a large

papier-mache Oscar statue created by local artist Robert Murphy, accented the already luxurious atmosphere of the ballroom.

Guests were treated to an amazing three-course dinner catered by the hotel, consisting of garden salad, either Chicken Kiev or Cheese Cappelletti as the main course and Oreo cheesecake for dessert. Following dinner, the dancing began, with music provided by Mr. Jeyas Balaskathan!

Despite all of the preparations for the event, the highlight of the evening was definitely the one thing the organizers had no control over- the guests themselves.

It was great to see so many people, young and old, clearly enjoying the evening! Everyone was dressed up for the occasion, some choosing traditional formal wear,



others opting for styles more reflective of their personal tastes- everyone beautiful! I think I speak on behalf of all of the event organizers when I say that just seeing the smiles on the guests, faces made all of the effort worthwhile! In the end, the event was exactly what we had hoped for- a fun formal evening, free of scrutiny and politics, where everyone was free to be themselves!

On behalf of the entire organizing committee (Mike Firmani, Jeff Landeen, Christine McAuley, Jeffrey Pelich, Michael Schmidt, Steven Singer and Scott Williams), I would like to thank the multitude of individuals that supported this event! We thank all of our volunteers for all of their efforts.

We also thank our many sponsors, including GLOBAL (Gays, Lesbians or Bisexuals at Laurier), GLOW (Gays and Lesbians of Waterloo), The Voice Magazine, Tuxedo Royale, Mostly Organic Juice Bar, WPIRG (Waterloo Public Interest Research Group) and the many individuals who have chosen to remain nameless. Finally, we want to thank all of the guests who supported the event and made it such a success! Without all of your generous support this event simply would not have been possible!

Who knows, perhaps the first KW Pride Prom will eventually become known as the first annual KW Pride Prom! This experience has proven to me that all it takes is a few good friends, the support of the community and the willingness to follow through on a dream.

*A Voice Exclusive. Pictures by Monique Campbell.*



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# SPIRITUAL LIFE: The Quest For Freedom

## WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

By Noel Springwood

The most common element found on Earth is water.

Water is what, so far, distinguishes Earth from the other planets in the universe. Water is what sustains life. Water covers more of the planet than land. Water, in fact, is the major component of living things, including human beings.

So common is water that the ancient Greek philosopher, Thales, taught that it was the only element and that everything was composed of one or another form of this common element.

Water has loomed large in religious thought as well. Ancients saw the Earth existing in a vault consisting of "the waters above and the waters below." Few religious traditions fail to include an account of a massive flood. Probably because much of Western religious tradition was born in a desert milieu, the concept of water as a source of life and refreshment found popular acceptance. It readily became a symbol of spiritual nourishment. In Christian teaching, Jesus, himself, provides the water of life.

More recently, the image of water has gained a new prominence because of increased emphasis on the coming Age of Aquarius, symbolized by a figure pouring out water from the heavens. It is to be a New Age of peace, harmony and understanding.

Every 2146 years, according to Astrologers, a new sign dominates the universe. Thus, the era before Christianity was the Age of Aries. Christianity was the Age of Pisces. We are currently on the threshold of the Age of Aquarius.

The Vatican, through the Pontifical Council for Culture, has recently published a document entitled, *Jesus Christ: The Bearer of the Water of Life*. It is subtitled, *A Christian Reflection on the "New Age"*. This is no doubt because of this new emphasis on water. It looks to me like an attempt to both justify and consolidate traditional Christian theology in the light of this change, much of which they see as running counter to their own beliefs.

The document purports to present New Age thinking and spirituality in a context that promotes understanding. In the long run, I feel that it only reluctantly achieves a measure of this goal.

For most of the document, the authors lump together just about every human attempt at finding meaning and fulfillment

in ways other than those defined by their theology. Citing out of context examples from disparate sources, they then form conclusions that, for the most part, tend to misrepresent much of what they are claiming to elucidate.

Their bottom line, and starting point, is, in terms of what I learned as a child, "There is no salvation outside the Church."

I must admit, to their credit, that they do not issue a wholesale condemnation of the persons who explore alternative roads of spirituality or religion. They do, in fact, specifically warn against over generalizations. At the same time, they see the trends they talk about as presenting a major threat to the existence of Christianity. They in no way consider any kind of coexistence as possible. "No one can serve two masters."

Personally, I have trouble with their equating of such systems as Hinduism, Buddhism, Freemasonry, Zoroastrianism, Spiritualism, Feminism, Rosicrucianism, Transcendental Meditation, New Age Aestheticism, Jungian Psychology, Diversity and Wicca. Talk about mixing apples and oranges. When I studied Theology, they were all categorized as Secular Humanism, Satanism or Materialism. Now, they've become "New Age."

Of course, the drug culture, student rebellions, ecology, holistic medicine, mind expansion, the peace movement and the power of positive thinking also get a nod as indicative of a revolution that needs to be dealt with. Woodstock and the musical Hair are listed as landmark events. Not surprisingly, some theological perceptions and spiritual innovations within their own church also come under scrutiny.

Part of their solution is to encourage greater understanding of this complexity of cultural expressions. Another part is to attempt to Christianize both the expressions and their proponents with the water of life, Jesus. They propose widespread evangelization. In fact, they issue an invitation to all Christians to take the Good News out of the cathedrals and into the marketplace.

They do admit that some of the ideas held by some of these systems, or movements, can be positive, healthy and worthy of consideration and, even, adoption. They even admit that part of the reason why people are searching for alternatives to traditional religious establishments is that those establishments have simply not met their needs. I think that's putting it mildly.



Their admission put me in mind of Aldous Huxley's statement: "Christianity hasn't failed. It's never been tried."

So, taking a leaf from their own book, while conceding that there are great and good people found in any of its many manifestations, traditional Christianity too often has become the plaything of those whose purposes served only to distort the Gospel message and turn it into a caricature of itself.

I was encouraged last summer to hear John Paul II talk about humanizing the world. On the surface, this document seems to bolster that hope. Ultimately, however, I see it as just one more attempt to justify a patriarchal, authoritarian and dogmatic establishment.

That establishment should, if it is to be true to its founding principles, be a fluid, humane and refreshing pool of wisdom, love and wholeness. I'm not really sure that the Pontifical Council for Culture, in spite of its protestations to the contrary, has reflected much of that.

One of the categories in a Gay.com profile is Religion. I laughed when I read one entry, "They sprinkled water on me. Does that count?" Well, according to a recent case in Quebec, unless the same person sprinkles the water and says the words, it doesn't count. For hundreds of people there, they sprinkled the water and it didn't count. So much for any kind of innovative effort to be inclusive or humane.

Ironically, too, while water is used in many ways in a religious context, it is rarely consumed, as such. We even read about Jesus turning water into wine. This brings to mind Coleridge's words: "Water, water everywhere, but nary a drop to drink."

Those words might not be entirely applicable to the recent Vatican document on the water of life and how it is to be accessed. It can't really be said that there's not a drop to drink in either of those things. I just find them hard to swallow.

(Readers who wish to read the entire document can access it at: [www.vatican.ca/roman\\_curia/pontifical\\_councils/cultr/](http://www.vatican.ca/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/cultr/))

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.



# NEED WOOD?

## Tips for Getting Timber

By Woody Miller

### Hey woody!

I've been dating "the perfect" man for about three months now. We spend a lot of time together and we get along remarkably well. BUT. We just don't have sex!!! We have enjoyed each other a few times like in the first month and played a little since but DAMN, the kitti is itchin'. I am having thoughts of plowing another. No one specific but I am getting tired of downloading faces and getting off on them. He tells me he doesn't know where he is because of an emotional break up with his "perfect man." We can't even go to certain parties because the ex MIGHT be there. My dilemma is I think I am falling in love with him and I'm afraid that my heart is going to be trampled regardless of the protective bubble I maintain. I don't want to pressure him and run him off, but do I keep investing in a relationship that's going to go belly up?

-- In love & Unfulfilled

### Dear Unfulfilled:

I've learned that you cannot make someone love you. All you can do is stalk them and hope they panic and give in.

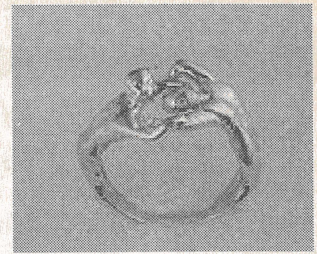
Listen, your "perfect man" told you his ex was his "perfect man." Let's do a little math here. What's missing in his equation? YOU.

My advice: Bolt. Tell him the truth: He's not ready for you. He's not ready for anybody. Let this be a lesson: Never be the first guy a man dates after being dumped by his "perfect man." He'll always see you as the consolation prize.

### Hey, woody!

I'm in an open relationship with a boyfriend who gets online to get us extra playmates. He gets the "how big is your dick?" question all the time. We're both turned off by it and we've come up with a solution for your readers.

When a potential online trick asks, "How



big is it?" don't answer. Ask them, "How tight is your hole?" Use no other word but "hole." You'll be amazed at how fast the size queens shut up.

-- Just A Helpful Thought

### Dear Just:

What can I possibly add to that? Thanks for sharing your wisdom, along with your boyfriend.

### Hey, woody!

I've been HIV+ for a while but just started taking protease inhibitors. The meds have dramatically raised my T-cell counts and lowered my viral load, but there's just this tiny problem: They've given my dick a flat tire. Do you think it's psychological or is there something about the meds that are making my putter flutter?

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-- Help me, I'm melting

#### Dear Help:

A brand new study has confirmed that all HIV medications, especially protease inhibitors, can create some sexual dysfunction. The inhibitors are especially prone to put doubt in the trouser trout. The study showed that among patients taking protease inhibitors, 27% reported sexual dysfunction, compared to 4% of the men who weren't taking drugs, and 0% of the men who went home with me.

Some scientists think that it could be psychological. Protease inhibitors are a component of the "drug cocktail" used to fight HIV. They require a strict dosing regimen. You've gotta take this pill with water, that one with food, the other one with a martini and the last one with a grain of salt.

It can be such a pain in the ass, these dosing regimens that they can do a number on your head, reminding you that you have a serious, complicated life-long illness. Isn't HIV fun? Gosh, I really ought to stop wearing condoms. I'm missing out.

It's not clear whether the drugs have direct physiological effects on sexual function. All we know is that decreased libido and erectile dysfunction are documented side effects in a significant minority of people taking HIV medication. Consult your doctor to see if he can experiment with different medications, dosages or even a regimen of testosterone.

#### Hey woody!

I've enjoyed your column for a while now but last week you turned me off. Was it REALLY necessary to call members of the Bush Administration "evil"? You were answering a reader's question regarding doubling condoms for extra protection. You could very well have left out the part where you called the people who are in charge of our nation "evil." Remember, you are a model for many gay men who look to you for advice. Tolerance is VERY important.

If gays and lesbians are to be accepted as equals then you must accept Republicans and others that you do not like as equal. I was very disappointed to read such a thing in your otherwise good column of factual and medically accurate information. Woody, even in jest it is not a good thing to show intolerance. You would be offended at a joke told at your expense, wouldn't you? And no, I am not an old poop either. I am a young and muscular psychotherapist.

-- Wish you'd stop

#### Dear Wish:

A young and "muscular" psychotherapist? Did anyone else catch that?

You're not an experienced, or competent, or compassionate therapist; you're a "muscular" one. What the hell does that mean? That you run your sessions in a tank top and make your patients do push-ups?

The psychologist in my panel read your letter and wrote me this note: "woody, even your educated readers are idiots." He went on to say you're an insecure narcissist who needs to re-read the DSM (the shrink's bible—the Diagnostic & Statistical Manual). He also thinks you should send him a couple of shirtless pictures.

Christ, I've gotta find new shrinks for my panel. They're all starting to sound like me.

Now listen to me, you delusional, body-dysmorphic girlie-man. I joke that Bush is evil and you babble about my insensitivity. Did you write Bush a letter when he called North Korea "evil"? Or did the word "axis" throw you off?

As for your precious republicans, I reserve the right to back over anyone I want with my whoop-assmobile. Helping people with medically accurate advice just isn't enough for me. I need more out of life. Like, pissing off the likes of you.

#### Hey, woody!

Every time I take Viagra I get this bluish-colored vision. My partner even gave me a color test and I had trouble seeing the difference between them. I don't mind going blue for a while, especially when it helps me pop the weasel so easily, but I'm worried about long-term effects. Will I damage my eyes if I keep using Viagra?  
-- Say it isn't so

#### Dear Say:

It isn't so. There's no evidence that Viagra causes eye damage, with the exception of poking your partner's eyes out if he gets too close when the pill kicks in. Some doctors suspected that it might decrease blood flow to the nerves that control vision (since it lowers blood pressure overall). But the latest study in Ophthalmologica showed that not only did none of the scientist know how to pronounce the name of the journal, but that even high doses of Viagra did nothing to alter blood flow to the eye.

*Need Wood? Ask woody how to spice up your sex life. Email him at needwood@attbi.com. Submitted to The Voice by Woody Milller.*

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# GAY AND MARRIED

## DO SOME MARRIED MEN WANT IT ALL?

By Matt-Allen Pearcey



For some guys it's easy to know if they are gay or not. From their first teenage hormonal urge they know they like guys. For others it isn't as clear. Winnipeg-born Mark always had a vague sense of connection with other boys that was a step beyond male bonding. He didn't know how to interpret his feelings, so he shoved any sense of attraction he had for guys deep down inside himself. What he did know was that he felt insecure around women. He wasn't a jock or a brainy-type, and he considered himself a loner.

Mark met Linda at a basketball game when he was in high school; they were both 17. He hadn't dated girls at all before meeting her. They shared genuine connection: enjoyed the same music, went to sports events together, and spent many nights talking late into the night. When Mark was with Linda, he felt comforted, he felt real. "Before I met her, I always wondered if I would meet a woman I could connect to." On the night of their high school graduation they kissed for the first time. He felt a real attraction to her. Or so he thought. He wouldn't know until years later that it wasn't romantic attraction, rather it was friendship.

Two years after graduation they married, had two children, and were respected members of their community. For six of the years they were together everything seemed to roll along smoothly. Despite their declining sex life, they still valued each other, doted on the children, and enjoyed being in each others' company. They saw each other as soulmates, as best friends and companions. Their children were the lights of their lives, a boy and a girl. As the seventh year of their marriage approached, the glow of their picture-perfect life began to fade. Increasingly it seemed that everything they did centered around the kids, and as time went on, the children were the only reasons they were together.

Mark's and Linda's relationship had always been something of a role-reversal when contrasted to traditional marriages. Linda had a high-powered, high-paying job as a general manager for a big arena. Mark was a stay-at-home husband, who sometimes worked part-time jobs to stay in touch with life outside the home. Their unspoken arrangement worked for many years, but Mark started to feel restless. He couldn't figure it out, until he met Sam.

Sam was a 21-year-old bartender at the restaurant at which Mark was waiting tables. He was bright, energetic, darkly good-looking, and took an interest in Mark. After several intense chats Sam asked Mark to go have coffee with him one afternoon. They laughed together, shared their personal stories, and connected in

a way that made Mark's heart jump up into his throat. Mark was blown away at first by his attraction to Sam. His feelings of guilt and desire for Sam, and their eventual sexual encounter, started him on a path that would lead to the end of his marriage, his coming to terms with being gay, and his search for a place in the gay community – a struggle he is still dealing with today, three years after the divorce.

The guilt he felt about cheating on Linda was overwhelming. But it was more than just the cheating. Mark felt worse about the fact that although he still loved Linda and the children, he knew that being with her wasn't right and probably never was. He worried that Linda would feel that her marriage to him had been a sham. He feared that he would lose the kids, although Linda wasn't the vindictive type. Mark also wondered if he could find a place in the gay community, a group to which he had difficulty connecting.

Mark started thinking about his attraction to Linda and why they were together. Did he really love her? Mark feels he does. But he wasn't genuinely attracted to her physically. He found her physically attractive, but not erotically appealing. "There's a big difference between finding someone to be good-looking and being really into them sexually and emotionally," he said.

Mark knows now that his initial attraction to her centered on the friendship they had developed and the comfort he felt with her. In fact, he recalls feeling a sense of relief the first time they had sex. "The plumbing worked, and I was really glad I was able to perform," he says. "Now looking back on my initial reaction to our first time, I should have known I was gay, but I guess I blocked it out. I wasn't ready to acknowledge it."

Researcher Daryl Higgins, Ph.D., who has studied 26 gay and bi married men, found that "the two most common reasons respondents cited for entering into marriage were 'it seemed natural' and they 'wanted children and a family life.'"

This is not surprising when you look at the overwhelmingly strong messages young people are sent regarding marriage and normalcy. In my own research study of 20 gay and bi married men across North America, I found that every respondent had some difficulty relating to the gay community, and they saw the only way for them to have a healthy life was to get married. Most of the respondents I spoke with wanted children and didn't think they could do so if they lived as openly gay men.

For those gay and bi married men who come out, it is not an easy





road. Some lose child visitation and custody rights, they strain under the financial burden of maintaining two households (especially right after coming out), and they lose lifetime relationships with family and friends. However, most respondents to whom I've spoken indicate that in spite of the difficulties of coming clean with their sexuality, they are relieved once they have done so. They often don't have a clear idea of their sexuality until later in their marriage. At first blush it doesn't seem logical that they can both know and not know that they are gay. The unconscious isn't always connected to the conscious mind. In Mark's case, he had a sense that he was attracted to men, but because of the negative social climate which existed when he was a young adult, and because of his own internalized homophobia, couldn't bring it to consciousness until later in his life. When he was more psychologically aware of himself, he was able to discover a part of himself that up until that point had been a mystery to him.

A common misconception about gay and bisexual married men is that they consciously lie about their sexuality to get married so they can seem "normal." That is true for some gay and bi men who marry, but an overwhelming majority of the men to whom I've spoken indicate they didn't lie. They weren't clearly conscious of their same-sex attraction, whether exclusively gay or bisexual in nature, until after a few years (and, for some, many years) into the marriage.

It is understandable, though, for wives and family members to feel betrayed. The years of their marriages feel lost to them, and once the husbands disclose their sexuality, the lives of both are

forever changed. Many wives have to start their lives over, develop new relationships with their husbands and to themselves. Dr. Amity Pierce Buxton, Director of the Straight Spouse Network, says, "Most straight spouses are too disoriented or emotionally paralyzed right after the coming out to examine their pain. Many [straight] spouses feel that their sense of identity has been damaged by day-to-day compromises, by criticisms from the partner, or by their own self-blame."

Of the estimated one million North American men who are in mixed-orientation marriages, a great number never come out of the closet. Many of those who do come out report being happier than they were during marriage, despite the difficulties they and their families experience. A great number experience depression, alcohol abuse, and a sense of self-loathing while they are in the closet. Both Buxton's and my studies report that approximately 65 percent of the men try to stay with their wives after they come out. Of those men, some have a level of sexual and emotional connection with other men. Others make a clean break with the marriage and develop relationships solely with other men. No matter what roads these men take after disclosure, from their perspectives they're trying to live lives of authenticity.

*Submitted to The Voice by Matt Pearcey. For more information or to order a copy of Matt Pearcey's upcoming book (to be published mid-2003), "Now That She Knows, Married Men Come Out" email [mattallenpearcey@hotmail.com](mailto:mattallenpearcey@hotmail.com)*

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# SAME-SEX MARRIAGE



## An Up-date Interview With Kevin Bourassa

By A.J. Mahari

I interviewed Kevin Bourassa and Joe Varnell, extraordinary same-sex marriage activists, last July (appeared in August 2002 Voice). With the debate heating up I recently asked Kevin for an update of the events of the same-sex marriage quest in their lives. They are one of the couples who were married in January 2001 at the MCC in Toronto.

**A.J.:** *Can you summarize what you've been since July, when we last spoke, when the ruling came down - that as of yet, has failed to see same-sex marriage legalized?*

**Kevin:** Since our Ontario court ruling and the disappointing federal government appeal, we have continued our effort to raise public awareness and education about the many issues involved with same-sex marriage. Since last June we have travelled 30,000 kilometers and we have visited 15 cities and over a dozen universities and colleges.

In addition to our public appearances, we have also been writing pieces for academic publications including a journal from the University of New Brunswick Law School and a feminist/psychology adjudicated academic journal from the United Kingdom.

We have met with politicians, academics, activists, faith communities, all kinds of media, unions, and community groups, and most importantly, we have been continuing to work with individuals and couples from across the country, in an effort to encourage more people to come forward and share their stories within their community. Our visibility and positive presence will lead us from tolerance to acceptance.

**A.J.:** *How are things generally going for both of you? Can you describe the ups and downs of the past six months or so?*

**Kevin:** *The Ups* - The encounters that we have had with individuals across the country. The privilege of meeting so many different people who share their experiences, lives and stories with us. This happens in every city we visit.

At London Pride, for example, we were moved to have a young man come up and proudly hand us a rainbow handkerchief. He had come out that weekend and wanted to thank us for making it a little easier. We've carried that flag with us to every

city we visit. Two moms proudly held up their young son and told us that because of the same-sex marriage decision, they were hopeful that their boy would grow up not knowing a world where there was homophobia. A dyke on a bike, proudly coming up and presenting us with a rainbow button that said "Will You Marry Me?," "I made this myself" she proudly explained.

*The Downs* - The parliamentary committee that has been struck to examine how to respond to the demand for same-sex marriage has been very disappointing. The committee's behaviour has been appalling and their purpose seems to be to push an already forged opinion on people, rather than to listen to the witnesses.

The government is really in a "yes or no," situation. Either they will give us equality or they will ignore our constitution and discriminate against us. The committee has value if it is positioned as a public education exercise, but the Justice Minister is wasting valuable resources if he persists in turning it into a charade of justice where human rights are determined by the tyranny of the majority.

**A.J.:** *How much time are you devoting to the cause of same-sex marriage being legalized?*

**Kevin:** 60 - 75 hours a week. Joe: 15 hours a week. (on top of working a 50 - 60 hour week at CIBC).

Last year, we managed to squeeze in a 3-day vacation weekend in Mexico City, but the remainder of our vacation time and our disposable income went to funding our outreach across the country and on the Internet.

One of the things that we miss most is having as much quality private time as we would like. There is so much to accomplish and so many people willing to contribute to this great issue, that it is hard to walk away from opportunities.

**A.J.:** *Where do things stand with that right now? Do you feel that you are any closer to having your marriage legally recognized in Ontario now than you were six*



*months ago? Why, or why not?*

**Kevin:** The clock continues to tick (count-down to July 12, 2004) on the government, despite the federal government's appeal. So we are closer, chronologically, to having our record of marriage registered and the laws rewritten. But the government's appeal of the Ontario and Quebec decisions, and the continued farce of the parliamentary committee, give us little encouragement. We expect that the politicians will once again hide behind the robes of the Supreme Court of Canada, refusing to change the laws until the court orders them to do so.

**A.J.:** *What are your thoughts and feelings regarding the "community"? Is the LGBT community behind you? Or is there a lack of care/support? Whichever may be the case can you talk about how that has (or still is) impacting all that you are doing?*



**Kevin:** As we travel we are seeing an increased level of awareness around the many issues involved in same-sex marriage. To some, the issue is a matter of choice: gay and lesbian couples should have the same options available, in formalizing their relationships, as opposite-sex couples. To others, it's a matter of our Charter rights: no person or family should be second-class in Canada. People of faith are concerned when one faith view is allowed to prevail over others and find expression in our laws: separation of church and state (or church and hate). Our sources of support are diverse, from the east coast bears to the west coast unions.

As many people begin to recognize their connection to the issue, more and more



people are adding their voices and support. Most recently, the power of this kind of contribution was demonstrated during the nation-wide call for equal marriage on Valentine's Day. (See page 18)

However, given that our leaders have decided to waste our tax dollars and hijack our Charter of Rights, we hope that the LGBT community will become even more vocal and engaged in ending discrimination. We encourage people to contact us for ways they can help.

**A.J.:** *What have you been doing with your web site and otherwise in the past six months to continue the "fight" for legal recognition of same-sex marriage?*

**Kevin:** Since its launch in November 2001, our website [equalmarriage.ca](http://equalmarriage.ca) has continued to grow. Last year, we received 373,124 visitors (3,724,265 hits) and we expect that we will receive over 1 million visitors in 2003. It has become one of the Internet's leading same-sex marriage sites. Our email newsletter subscription is growing and increasingly, reporters, academics, and the public are using the site as a source of information on the progress of our case and related events and news.

**A.J.:** *What is your analysis or understanding of the current political environment regarding same-sex marriage? Who do you see as being for it, who is against it in government? For those who are behind you is there a party, or are there candidates in up-coming elections that would be best to support and if so why?*

**Kevin:** Certainly, there have been some individuals that have been very vocal in their support (Sheila Copps, Real Menard, Bill Graham, Allan Rock, Hedy Fry, Alexa McDonough, Jack Layton, Joe Clark). Surprisingly and disturbingly the most vocal opponents seem to be coming from the Liberal party (Wappel, McKay, Bryden). These "alliance liberals", seem far more interested in pandering to our lowest common denominator for re-election rather than comply with our Charter.

The only parties who have walked the talk of respect for all Canadians are the Bloc Québécois and the New Democratic Party. They have consistently shown that they are not fair-weather friends to the gay community. In the upcoming elections, we are going to support Jack Layton in his effort to unseat our current member of parliament, Dennis Mills (Liberal). Mr. Mills was kind enough to send us a Christmas card depicting him in genuflection before the Pope, a world-leader in the promotion of discrimination against gays and lesbians. We would rather see Mr. Mills, and his party, honour our Charter. Others apparently agree. A group called Liberals for Layton wants the New Democratic Party leader to replace Mr. Mills, because the Liberal party has abandoned its core values of equality and justice.

Readers can contribute their financial support to help cover legal expenses for any of the marriage cases in Canada by visiting the donations page on our web site (online donations accepted) or by sending a cheque payable to:

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A second fund has been established to help defray costs related to participation in Pride parades. Again, information is available on our web site, or donations can be made to EQUAL MARRIAGE PRIDE, again in care of the Bruce E. Walker Law Firm.

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

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# Same-Sex Marriage: Valentine's Day



## Call For Equal Marriage Opens Opportunities For Change

By Kevin Bourassa and Joe Varnell



The idea had been kicking around for a couple of years. Why not celebrate equal marriage on Valentine's Day, the one day a year when equal love is celebrated? We had included the idea in a proposal that we circulated two years ago, but somehow nothing ever came from it, until Los Angeles-based Rev. Dr. Troy Perry, founder of the world-wide Metropolitan Community Churches, came to Toronto. He was a guest our friends, George Olds and Ian Taylor. Through their networking, a world-renowned sponsor of a continent-wide call for equal marriage was found.

With Rev. Troy's support in place, we knew couples from across the United States would be ready to step forward on Valentine's Day. We issued a similar call, through [equalmarriage.ca](http://equalmarriage.ca) and Canada News Wire, asking Canadian couples to appear in their towns and cities, in compliance with their charter right, to request a marriage license.

Within a few hours, Wayne and Arthur Toole, a Moncton couple, joined our effort. It's not an easy thing to do, no matter where you live, but this couple, first on the line, began giving media interviews soon after. For others, it was a private moment of protest, and the media respected the privacy of couples in Fredericton, and elsewhere, who wished to remain outside of the media eye.

Media interest in same-sex marriage has been strong in every city we visit. So we knew, when local couples agreed to share their stories, that their messages would resonate across the country. It proved to be a powerful message, as newspapers, radio stations and television networks carried the stories in local voices nationwide.

Having done a series of interviews in advance of the big day, Wayne and Arthur were met by five television stations and four radio stations when they showed up at a Service New Brunswick government office on February 14 at 10:00 a.m. They were accompanied by supporters including the Rev. Dr. Eldon Hay (PFLAG Canada).

New Brunswick set the pattern, for the most part, of experiences in provinces across the country. Local reporters picked up the stories of couples in every participating city, and national media,

accumulated the stories from east to west, showing the breadth and depth of our stories and our lives.

In Newfoundland, Jacqueline Pottle and Noelle French presented themselves to the local marriage registry office at 10:45 a.m. They were accompanied in solidarity by members of the Newfoundland and Labrador Gays and Lesbians for Equality.

Prince Edward Island was our only province not represented this year. Nova Scotia saw two lesbian couples and one gay couple present themselves in Halifax for a marriage license. Halifax was only one of two cities where it was reported that the clerks seemed uncomfortable with the request (Calgary, Alberta was the other city).

In Quebec, Dominique Dubuc and Sylvia Robert went to the Palais de justice de Sherbrooke to request a marriage license. In Montreal, three couples (Mona Greenbaum and Nicole Paquette, Gabriel Pinkstone and Monica Perrazzo, Nathalie Ricard and Emine Pyale-Sheard) appeared at their local Palais de justice. Gabriel Pinkstone was fresh from providing testimony Ottawa's justice committee hearings on marriage (she was one of the witnesses treated poorly by the committee, prompting media criticism of the process).

Ontario had couples in London (Kerry Kearns and Linda Speers) and Sudbury (another couple that wished to refrain from media exposure), and Toronto. We arrived at Toronto city hall with George and Ian, as part of a group of supporters including Barb McDowall and Gail Donnelly (Ontario marriage case), the Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes (Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto) and Kyle Rae (Toronto City Councillor). Two other couples also requested a license (Cameron MacLeod & James Kramer, William Cross & Troy Bishop), and a third solitary man requested a license on behalf of himself and his intended spouse.

"Our struggle is with the federal government," said Ian Taylor, "and we call for them to let justice roll down like a mighty river."

In Manitoba Michelle Ritchot and Steffhany Cholakis went to an office on Portage Avenue to ask for their marriage license, accompanied in solidarity by

supporters from the Rainbow Resource Centre. The manager politely informed them that only a man and a woman could apply, but that he would be happy to accept the application when the government changes its laws. Four couples (full names withheld) did the same thing in Saskatoon, at the University of Saskatchewan.

Outside of Halifax, the only other city that wasn't completely professional and polite was Calgary, Alberta, where local activists Keith Purdy and Rick Kennedy showed up at the downtown registry at noon. When Keith announced that he was there to pick up a marriage license for himself and Rick, the clerk was heard to mutter something about, "I knew this was going to happen ..." and shooed media away.

Couples in British Columbia demanded their rights in Kelowna (Neal McKenna and Navin Vasudeu), Vancouver (Rowly Johnson and Duncan Wilson), and Victoria (Dianna Denny and Robin Roberts, our friends in the B.C. marriage case). And like all the other provinces, each couple was refused access to a marriage license.

We had no expectation of that unlikely event: not just yet. We didn't measure our success in those terms, nor did we expect an overwhelming of couples who would be willing to participate across the country. After all, the thought of exposing your personal life to news media is disconcerting to most and it's not the ideal way to spend a romantic Valentine's Day.

Success is found in the stories Canadians heard across the country – messages of love on behalf of equal marriage. By speaking and working for equality in our local communities, we are learning more about others and about ourselves. In the process, we have opportunities to become more accepting of each other.

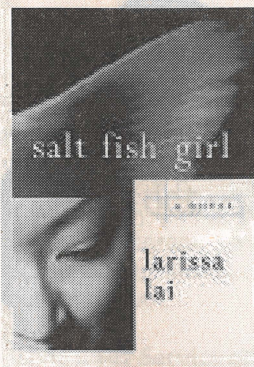
"A rather eccentric unkempt old guy stopped to chat with the reporters," a supporter commented on the scene outside the Alberta registry. "After a couple of corny jokes that had nothing to do with marriage, he asked what the filming was about. He was told CBC was covering a story on a same-sex couple trying to apply for a marriage license. I was prepared for a reaction from him. Instead, he chuckled and said, 'Hope they have better luck than I did!' Suddenly he appeared to me as a rather sweet old guy, when two seconds before I was preparing to deal with a raging redneck ..."

Is there a better measure of success on Valentine's Day?

*Kevin Bourassa and Joe Varnell are the authors of Just Married: Gay Marriage and the Expansion of Human Rights (Doubleday Canada). Their website is [equalmarriage.ca](http://equalmarriage.ca)*



## BOOK REVIEW Salt Fish Girl



Lai's debut novel *When Fox is a Thousand* was short-listed for the Amazon.com / Books in Canada First Novel Award in 1996, and her second effort is sure to garner wider critical attention and introduce her to a larger audience. In *Salt Fish Girl*, Lai has

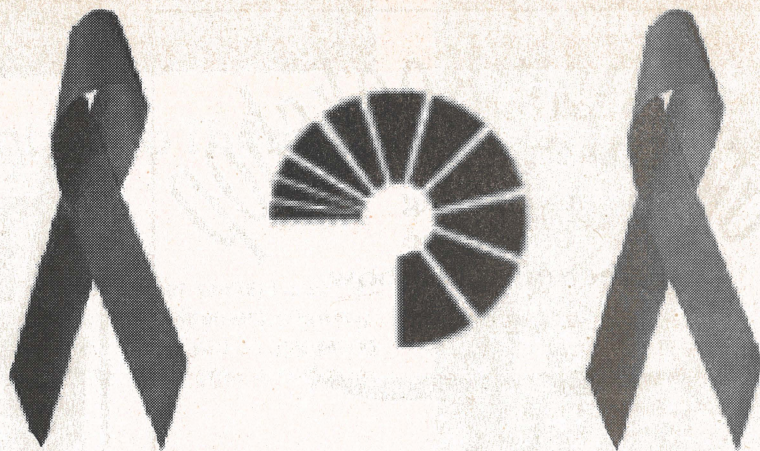
created a sophisticated dystopia by plundering and subverting creation stories, Chinese cultural lore, Greek mythology, fairy tales, pop culture and current events. Crafting a picture of brooding dysfunction rather than a tale of apocalyptic prophecy, Lai effectively critiques both the disguised brutality of post-industrial capitalism and the looming threat posed by the indiscriminate application of biotechnology in the name of human progress.

The female narrator, by turns a girl, woman and fish, is the connecting thread weaving together two distinct narratives in the novel, one unfolding in nineteenth century China and the other set in the mid twenty-first century in the Pacific Northwest.

In China, protagonist Nu Wa's desire for other women and a life beyond mere subsistence lead her to make violent, criminal choices. In a futuristic British Columbia, the protagonist Miranda is born into a society where corporations govern cities, factory workers are genetically engineered, corporate jobs are virtual reality video games and people are at risk from an epidemic known as the dreaming disease, where victims cannot escape the unfiltered horror of our collective memory of past events.

Miranda, an outcast born with an explicable scent about her of durian fruit, perpetual, sensual and malodorous, eventually separates from her family and rebels against her society in ways that allow her to uncover devastating truths about her own origins and the world around her. In crafting this paranoid and darkly comic novel, Lai demonstrates that she is both a gifted storyteller and incisive social critic.

*Nairne Holtz is a lesbian writer and librarian based in London, Ontario. Her short fiction has been published in the last two years in Canadian and American literary journals and American lesbian anthologies. This review is excerpted from her annotated bibliography of Canadian lesbian and bisexual women authors which is available on the web at <http://www.uwo.ca/pridelib>*



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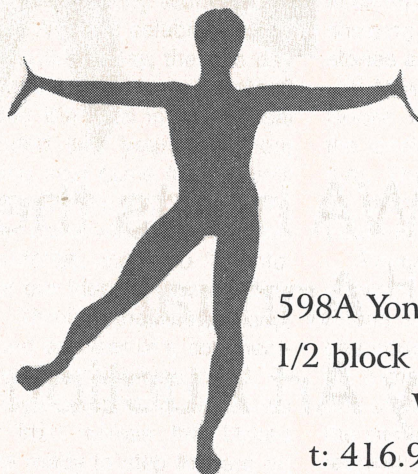
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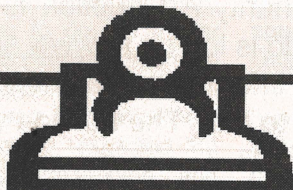
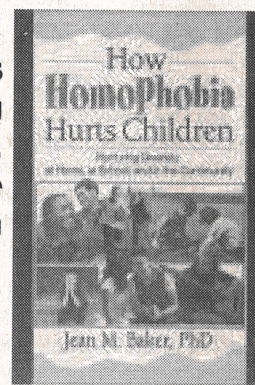
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# free your mind



The Book for Gay,  
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Ellen Bass  
with  
Kate Kaufman

**Free Your Mind: The  
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Free Your Mind speaks to the basic aspects of the lives of gay, lesbian and bisexual youth: Self-Discovery; Friends and Lovers; Family; School; Spirituality;

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# Gay Biz

## Taxes: To Do Them Or Not To Do Them?

By Darren Kregar

It's that time of the year again to file your taxes and once again you have many choices on the ways you can file your return. These choices range from doing it yourself by pen and paper or buying a software program, using a tax service or accountant or having a family member fill out your return.

### Using a Tax Service or Accountant:

Hiring someone may be a good idea if you are seeking tax planning advice, recently retired, or own a business. Sometimes the additional fees you pay may actually be recovered in saved taxes! Be careful whom you hire for tax planning, since some individuals are more competent than others.

Income tax preparers are just that. These individuals most often have the least amount of training compared to tax practitioners. For those of you who despise doing taxes, have simple tax situations and want your return completed for a small fee, visiting a preparer may be the way to go. Many preparation companies will charge a percentage of your refund in addition to a fixed fee. For example a return with an expected refund of \$500.00 may cost you \$51.00 to prepare. Other companies will charge based on the number of tax slips you have and the schedules that are used.

If your tax situation is complex or different from the previous year, you may want to consider an accountant or a tax professional. For example, if you run your own business, sold rental property, or have capital gains you would more than likely want to visit an accountant or a tax professional. Just a reminder that not all accountants specialize in tax.

Most accountants fees start at \$50.00 for a personal return. You are looking at paying at least \$150.00 per hour. But remember, with these fees come experience, education and specialization.

### Questions to ask a tax professional:

What services do you offer? Some professionals only offer tax services while others

will help you with other matters such as estate planning and retirement planning. Some firms will assist you in preparing financial statements for your small business.

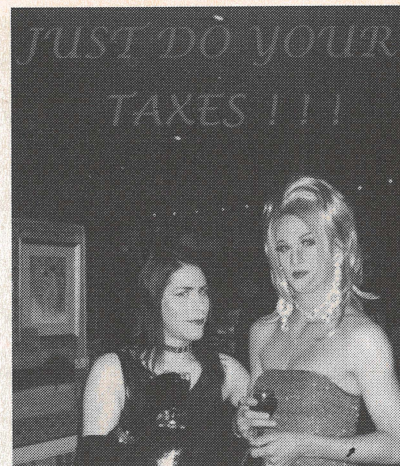
Have you worked in this area before? You may want to make sure your professional has some experience with the type of business or return you need to file.

Who will prepare my return? Unless you are dealing with a sole practitioner, the person you're speaking to will not necessarily prepare your return. Also ask if your return will be reviewed prior to completion or being sent to the government and who reviews the return.

Are you gay-friendly? Of course business is business and more than likely no matter what business you ask this question to will say yes. The best place to locate a 'gay' friendly tax professional is to look at local directories of businesses that are published by our local pride committee or the advertisements in 'the Voice'. With the changes relating to common-law partners that now apply to same-sex partners it may be beneficial to look at a service that provides services to the LGBT community. You may find that a business organization may have individuals in the firm that are gay, but the business may not necessarily be supportive of the LGBT community.

### Do it yourself:

Many people still file their return by paper and pen. This is the cheapest way to get



your return done. The problem doing the return yourself is that you may miss something. However by preparing your own return, it provides you the opportunity to think about some tax planning.

You may choose to purchase tax software to calculate your return. Advantages of using software is automatic calculations. Some programs offer more on-line help than others, including warning diagnostics, helpful suggestions to save some tax and filing reminders. Programs that offer more tend to cost more. Remember, computers aren't people. They can't look at numbers to determine if they are reasonable or if they are correct. No computer will talk to you or tell you to think again before making a deduction or a claim for a non-eligible medical expense. Most tax software programs sell for \$29.95 and up. (See ad Page 22)

*Darren Kregar is the owner of Economical Tax Services. He is presently enrolled in the 5th level of the CGA program and is a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University's Diploma in Accounting program.*



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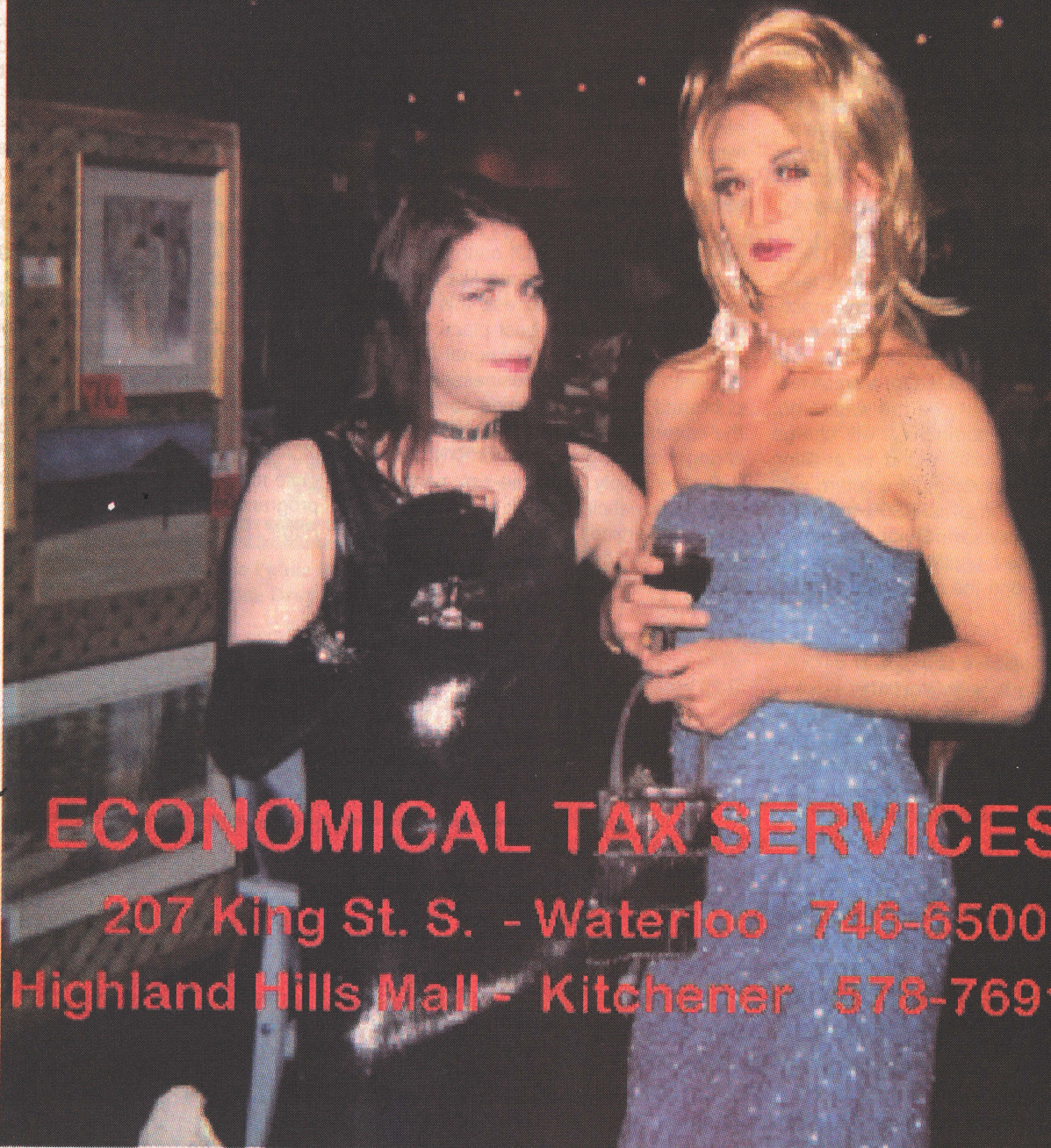
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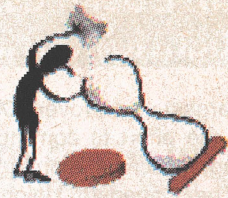
**Highland Hills Mall - Kitchener 578-7691**



# 'De-Twink' Yourself!



By Mark Weiser



Being a twink is funny and cute til you're about 25. Maybe even before that. But once you start to get older, being a twink is just bad news. Yes, I was a twink. Some may argue that I am still a twink, but, I'd like to disagree. In the last few months, I have officially 'de-twinked' myself for very good reasons.

My desire to evolve from my twink status began last summer. I remember it well. There I was, at KW Pride with my buddies, drinking girlie drinks and basically fagging it out. I had bleached hair with green tips. I was wearing a tight shirt that sported "I Love Porn" and very snug blue jeans. In a nutshell, I was trying to be cute and bitchy all day. Suddenly, I saw this gorgeous man that I hadn't seen in a while. I thought that I was pretty and sly. Me and my drunken haze made our way over to this man. He was working security at the beer garden.

I sneaked past him with my beer and started dancing behind him like a big queen, waiting to be caught. When he finally told me to get my ass back in the beer zone, I insisted on having my picture taken with him. This, of course, was way after I blabbed to everyone that I wanted a piece of this guy as loud as possible so that he would hear. He didn't think I was attractive. He wasn't even flattered by obvious interest.

So, after being shut down for the first time ever (it's true!) I decided that I needed a different tactic, and that being a twink just wasn't fun after all. Now I'm going to share with you how to rid yourself of twink status.

**Get a natural hair colour:** Highlights are fine, but every twink out there wants to be the bleach blond so that they stand out. The spiky blond hair – very original. The Lisa Simpson look is just so passé. 99% of people look better with their natural hair colour (excluding those that are gray) and that's why we are given it. So make use of it! Or, at least go for something subtle.

**Expand your musical horizon:** You just know that you are a twink for life if your music collection consists of house music. Ever heard of Nickleback? Or The Chili Peppers? No manly-man is going to want to be stopped at a red light with you and

your Christina Aguleira girlie music blasting out the window. So mix it up a bit and dare to be butch! And no, Rob Zombie is not a type of shooter.

**Shut Up:** It's not nice to say, but it's true. If you don't have anything positive to say, then don't say anything at all. It's fun to be catty, and we all are to an extent, but if you are trying to land a hot guy for more than a one-nighter it is probably not in your best interest to be flapping at the gums. No potential man wants to hear a twink yapping about his mother, or ex, or going on about how he got laid last weekend. Newsflash: Who didn't get laid last weekend!? So I would like to advise that you simply shut up if you are going to be nasty and just relax and have fun. And I already recognize the irony in me bitching at you like this, so don't bother going there.

**The Wardrobe:** I personally love the way twinks dress. If you want to exit Twinkland, then you have to make some major changes to your wardrobe. Anything shiny just has to go. Strolling around in a silver shirt only makes you look like a giant pie plate, or the star of Bethlehem or something. And sparkles on the face? What are you thinking? Men's cologne is a must, not perfume, you fag! Lose the eyeliner, the mascara, and lip gloss – you look like Tammy Fay Baker. Oh, and try to find a pair of pants that aren't so tight and a shirt that comes down to your waistline.

**The Gym:** I'm not suggesting that you have to be a gym rat, or that some twinks don't go to the gym, but you gotta beef up a bit! Again, it's totally cute to be skinny

right now, but what happens when you are 35? You are going to be this bone-rack of a queen sitting up at the bar bitching and sipping your Singapore Sling! I suggest a little exercise so that when you get too older you'll look great.

**Drop the attitude:** Will someone please explain to me why most twinks think it is somehow cool to be mean all the time? I admit, I have taken pleasure in it before, but, I don't understand why I did it. Nobody appreciates the attitude, and besides, it's a good way to get decked. I can't remember the last time I saw a twink win a fight, so being an asshole is probably not a good idea. Face it, you're a really sweet guy underneath the walls, so just be yourself and command respect by being real, not by slicing everyone attitude.

Do you think that I am completely crazy? Do you think 'de-twinking' yourself can improve your life?

I 'de-twinked' myself. Did it land me the stereotypical dream man? Yep. Remember the hot guy from KW Pride that wouldn't give me the time of day? Well, he now belongs to me. He got to see who I really am and liked what he saw, and we get along fantastically. I miss being a twink, and it's not a bad thing to be one at all, but it's fun just being myself as well. Plus, I scored the best man in the world. To think he actually shut me down before! Fuck, I'm brilliant!

*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.*

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## CUPE Defends Our Right to Marriage

Canada's largest union (over 500,000 members) has joined the effort to convince Parliament to end marriage discrimination against gays and lesbians. The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) defended the Charter right of marriage for Canadian same-sex couples today when they met with the House of Commons Justice Committee. CUPE has a 20-year history of defending equality rights, including marriage, for the LGBT community.

"We think it's about time the federal government made it legal," said Judy Darcy, National President of CUPE.

Darcy made the presentation to the committee with Fred Hahn, a member of CUPE's Pink Triangle Committee.

Hahn commented on the Justice Minister's unacceptable alternatives to ending marriage discrimination, including the possibility of introducing a separate civil union regime, or the possibility of the government getting out of the marriage business altogether.

"Supporting an all-out marriage ban might incite a backlash against the lesbian and gay community," Hahn said, "and a separate-but-equal system of civil unions would make us look like we're not ready for the marriage club ... lesbians and gays deserve full societal recognition of our relationships."

CUPE's submission to the marriage committee said that denying gays and lesbians the right to marry sends "a dangerous message because discrimination is part of a continuum of abuse that also includes harassment and violence ... and even the occasional murder."

"We see the extension of marriage rights to same-sex couples as a natural step in the evolution of equality rights in Canada," the CUPE submission concluded. "Equal marriage for lesbians and gay men will one day be a reality in Canada, whether now or in the future. All it will take is a willingness on the part of Parliament to take leadership on this issue and treat all Canadian citizens equally."

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

## 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

**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 [howl@brantford.com](mailto:howl@brantford.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 Information** - 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 Hamilton-** 75 MacNab Street South, Hamilton 522-0127

## KITCHENER(519)

**ACKWA** 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

**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**  
 661-3574

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

**HIV Care Program:**  
 646-

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

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

**MCC- 645-0744**

**SWON - (South Western Ontario Nudists) Contact Benson at 434-**

## 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

**GayPartnerAbuseProject**  
 876-

**Hassle Free Health Clinic**  
 922-0603

**Metropolitan Commu-nity Church** - 406-6228

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

**Out! Spoken Advocacy**  
 927-

**Pride Information**  
 927-

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

**Rainbow Voices of Toronto** - 944-

**The 519 Church St. Community Centre** 392-6874. Community information, [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-

**Aids Committee of Windsor** - 973-

**GLBT Book Club**  
 973-

**Lesbian and Gay Council**  
 - 973-

**MCC** - 977-

**Organization of LG Students University of Windsor** - 253-4232

**PFlag** - 973-

# AIDS Vaccine

**SAN FRANCISCO, California (AP)** -- An experimental AIDS vaccine being developed by VaxGen Inc. does not appear to protect most people from the disease, but does show promise in protecting blacks and Asians, the company said.

The overall expected rate of infection was not reduced in the high-risk people who volunteered to take the vaccine, VaxGen said late Sunday.

However, the expected infection rate for the 314 black volunteers who received the vaccine was reduced by 78 percent -- a finding the researchers said was unexpected. The rate was reduced by 67 percent for all nonwhite volunteers other than Hispanics.

"This is the first time we have specific numbers to suggest that a vaccine has prevented HIV infection in humans," VaxGen vice president Phillip Berman said in a prepared statement Sunday night. "We're not sure yet why certain groups have a better immune response."

The Brisbane, California-based company said it planned to continue developing the vaccine and will examine more closely why it worked better in blacks and Asians than it did in whites and Hispanics.

The experiment, which initially involved 5,400 people at high-risk for the disease, had been criticized by some activists who say it could encourage risky behavior. Even if the vaccine proved effective on some level, there might be no way to tell if it has worked on a particular individual.

But VaxGen has won widespread praise from doctors and the FDA for its handling of an ethically difficult test. The company counseled patients in the experiments to practice safe sex because the vaccine may not work and because one-third of the volunteers received the placebo.

The publicly traded company's stock has risen and fallen dramatically during the last year as rumors of the experiment's results swirled. It sold for as low as \$4.81 a share and as high as \$23.25. It closed at \$13.02 in trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market Friday.

Experts believe a vaccine is the only way to stop the worldwide AIDS epidemic, which has already killed 20 million people and infected 40 million more.

Merck & Co. is developing a different type of vaccine that has showed promise in early human testing, but researchers caution they are still years away from proving whether it works.

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



# Business

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### Counselling

#### Susan Cox, MAsc.

(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-

davevervoort@sympatico.ca

### Counselling

#### DeMers, Norm MAsc. (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. 519-885-0200, toll free - 1-877-450- kwhomes4sale.com

### Advertising Terms

<http://advertising.utexas.edu/research/terms/>

A

**Accordian insert** - An ad inserted in a magazine, folded with an accordian-style fold.

**Accumulation** - An audience-counting method, where each person exposed to a specific vehicle is counted once within a certain time period.

**Acetate** - Transparent plastic sheet frequently used for overlays in ad layouts.

**Ad copy** - The printed text or spoken words in an advertisement.

**Adjacencies** - Time periods immediately before and after a television program, normally used as a commercial break between programs.

**Adnorm** - A measure of readership averages for print publications over a two-year period, used as a baseline for comparing specific ads to an average.

**Advance premium** - A premium provided to a consumer, on the condition of some later purchase.

**Advertiser** - The manufacturer, service company, retailer, or supplier who advertises their product or service.

**Advertising** - The general public frequently views advertising as encompassing all forms of promotional communication.

**Advertising elasticity** - The relationship between a change in advertising budget and the resulting change in product sales.

**Advertising page exposure** - A measure of the opportunity for readers to see a particular print advertisement, whether or not that actually look at the ad.

**Advertising plan** - An explicit outline of what goals an advertising campaign should achieve, how to accomplish those goals, and how to determine whether or not the campaign was successful in obtaining those goals.

**Advertising research** - Research conducted to improve the efficacy of advertising. It may focus on a specific ad or campaign, or may be directed at a more general understanding of how advertising works or how consumers use the information in advertising. It can entail a variety of research approaches, including psychological, sociological, economic, and other perspectives.

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

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## 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

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

## PERSONALS

44 year old single white lesbian, wanting to meet others (40-55) for friendship, dating, maybe a relationship. I enjoy the outdoor, the theatre, movies, dancing, dining out, and live concerts. I'm into cycling, music, playing guitar, computers and cross-stitching.

Reply to Ad L-4

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

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

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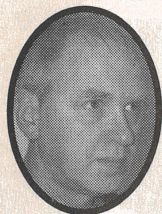
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# CLASSIFIED





**"No man is an island, entire of it self, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main, ... any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind..." -- John Donne**



## **GORDON HUSK 1949-2003**

Gordon Husk, throughout his life, was always helping others. It came as naturally to him as his own breath. He was a strong and colourful character who was a deep and passionate man. Flowing in and out of the system - money had no grip on him. He was instead gripped by happiness for himself and for others. From priest, to hippy, to queer, I will always love him and have utmost respect for him.

-- Liam Husk (Gordon's Son)

It's very difficult to capture the life of a person in a few paragraphs. Life contains so many facets that when you try to shine light through it, the light splits and what remains is a myriad of rainbow colours, each of which can be described in turn, yet none of which represent that person completely.

As I lay in bed this morning trying to capture my dad, Gordon, in my mind, what came to me was the image of dad bare-foot in the grass in our backyard, his eyes meditatively closed in the early morning sunlight, gracefully moving through his morning sun exercises. When I was small I used to try to join in, but in more recent years I used to stand aside and watch, hesitant to break in on this quiet ritual by which he centred himself before starting the day. Lest I mistakenly give you the impression that he was always a quiet, pensive man at home, my mind jumps to images of dad bounding playfully down the stairs, whistling as he prepared waffles in the kitchen, or singing clips of half-remembered songs, inverting the forgotten words as he went along.

I remember dad playing the flute he had carried since high-school, spending hours pouring over books on social and political issues, singing playfully to his dog, making tea in the kitchen (though he later converted to coffee), and cooking spaghetti (a meal he never tired of, no matter how many times we ate it).

I will miss our conversations. I will miss logging onto the internet at 2am and knowing that within minutes I would receive a friendly message from him. I will miss being called 'Jess' (he was one of the only people who regularly shortened my already short name); I will miss having a dad to come home to.

Our memories of Gordon are probably different. Maybe you remember his writings, or his infallible (sometimes dark) sense of humour, or his presence in a crowd, or some other un-named

aspect of his person. I can offer you only the memories and impressions I carry of my dad, but perhaps when my memories are added to your own, we will perceive more of the colours of Gordon's life than any of us saw alone. -- Jesse Husk (Gordon's Daughter)

In August of 1997 I began chatting online with a man who would later become my lover, boyfriend, companion and best friend. Up to that point I had not come out and was not comfortable with being 'gay'.

In early October, I agreed to meet him at a Tim Hortons. This man was wearing this horrid colourful vest and my first thoughts was get him some new clothes.

Meeting and getting to know him changed my life. It was on the May 24th weekend, 1998, we had cycled to St. Jacobs for the afternoon, it was that afternoon we decided to classify us as 'boyfriends'. We later moved in together in September 1998. He was my first. We shared many experiences over the years to follow and most importantly, he brought me out.

I met his children, Jesse and Liam and his former wife, Rebecca. I am very fortunate to have spent over 5 years getting to know his family which I now consider as part of my family. This guy was always thinking about others and would do anything to help out, especially his family.

Our relationship ended during 2002 but this man and I remained very close. We enjoyed being with each other. He was always there when ever I needed help or needed to talk to someone. We spent Christmas eve together as well as boxing day. On December 27, 2002, everything changed. He was a back seat passenger in a car that was involved in an accident. On February 5, 2003, he passed away.

I lost an ex and best friend. But what I have inherited are memories, a new family - Jesse, Liam and Rebecca, and my personal acceptance of being gay. I also learned from him that

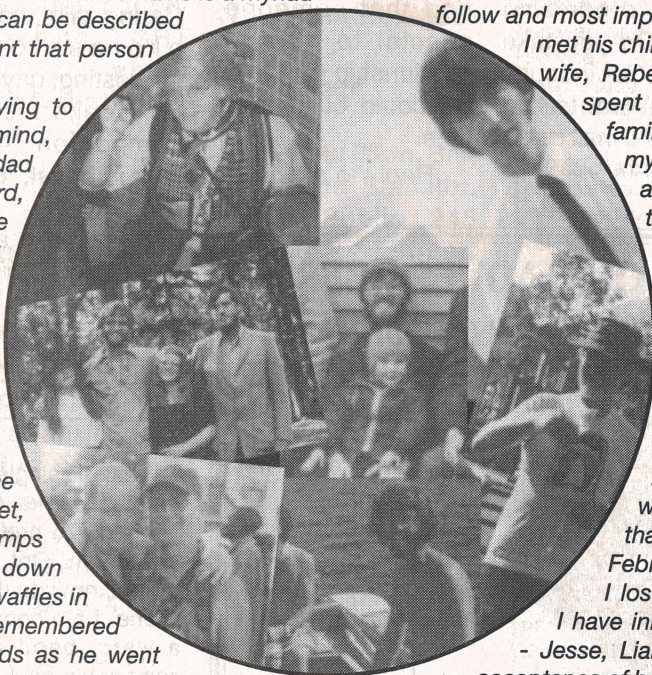
you can never say 'Thank You' enough and that when you love someone, don't take that for granted make sure to say the words, 'I Love You', often.

Gordon Husk, my lover, boyfriend, companion, and best friend, I will always miss you and I will always love you.

--Darren Kregar (ex and best friend)

Gordon was a caring and involved human being. Peaceful, helpful and giving. He taught me much. I will always treasure those lessons. I will miss him. In passing the sun has set only to rise again in another place and time. Journey on friend...

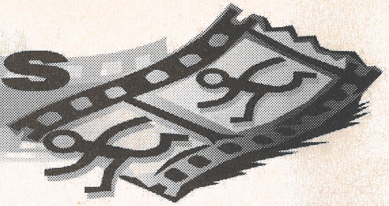
-- A.J. Mahari



Picture Collage of Gordon by Liam Husk.



# Rainbow Reels Queer Film Festival March 13-16, 2003



**FREE ADMISSION TO ALL SCREENINGS EXCEPT OPENING NIGHT**

The Rainbow Reels Film Festival is a festival of queer themed video and film brought to you by the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group & sponsored in part by the University of Waterloo Federation of Students



**March 13: Princess Cinema**  
9:20 Trembling Before G-d

**March 14: POETS, Carl Pollock Hall, Atrium  
University of Waterloo**

6:00 Yapping Out Loud \*  
8:00 Divas: Love Me Forever  
9:30 21

**March 15: Davis Centre, Rm. 1302  
University of Waterloo**

6:00 Rewriting the Script \*  
7:30 Danny in the Sky  
9:30 Songs of Freedom

**March 16: Davis Centre, Rm. 1302, University of Waterloo**

7:00 Canada: Sperm Bank of Satan \*  
7:30 Sneak Preview of an Independent Canadian Film \*  
8:45 Iron Ladies

For more festival information go to: <http://rainbowreels.org/>  
or contact W.P.I.R.G. at  
(519) 888-4882 or [info@wpirg.org](mailto:info@wpirg.org)

\* films followed by discussion with film maker



**federation of students**  
university of waterloo





# **“Dorothy’s Best” Invitational Cosmic No-Tap Tournament**

Doorprizes



Draws

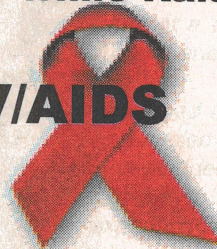
**Friends of Dorothy  
Bowling League**

(The only Gay/Gay Positive Cosmic Bowling League in the Tri-City Area)

**Come on out for a Day of Fun and Laughter while Raising  
Money and Awareness for**



**BREAST CANCER and HIV/AIDS**



**March 8, 2003**

**At Brunswick Frederick Lanes (519) 576-1160.**

Located at 385 Frederick St., Kitchener behind Frederick St. Mall

**Registration & Social: 12:00—1:00**

**Bowling: 1:15 PM**

Cost: \$30.00 per bowler in advance or 35.00 at the door

(Includes 2 games bowling, shoe rental, Dinner, Doorprize ticket and awards ceremony at Club Renaissance)

**For More Information contact Paul Curzon at:**

**Friends of Dorothy’s Bowling League**

23 Herlan Ave

Kitchener, On, N2G 2C4

(519) 579- [REDACTED] or - Email: [friendsofdorothy\\_kw@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsofdorothy_kw@hotmail.com)

Payment Options: Certified Cheque, Cash, VISA or MasterCard

**Make cheques payable to: Friends of Dorothy Bowling League**

Registration will also be accepted directly at Brunswick Frederick Lanes with MasterCard or Visa, at (519) 576-1160. **Just mention Dorothy’s Best Tournament. Ask for Darlene, Sue or Mark**

All monies received will be given to the CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY and ACCKWA. Prizes for top team, Low team and top individual Male and Female. All awards include Handicap.

**You'll have a Gay ole time !!**