

Feb'95
Free

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Wayves

For People *That Way*
in Atlantic Canada



Embracing Diversity

by Catherine Lambert

The following article was prepared for presentation at Embracing Diversity: Ending Discrimination Against Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual People, Monday, November 28, 1994, New Glasgow.

I am speaking to you tonight as an open lesbian. I am speaking to you as a social worker who has listened to stories of women dealing with coming out. Tonight I will speak from my experience as a lesbian and as a social worker.

I sit with a group of women, waiting expectantly as one woman begins to talk about herself, about her life. In a group like this I need always to be prepared for what might happen as someone tells her story. I need to be prepared to help her, to help the others deal with what they are to hear. I usually don't know what someone will say but I must be ready. This woman speaks with eloquence. She describes what has been like for her to sit in this room listening to the others talk about their families, their husbands. She speaks hesitantly as she finally says to them that she is a les-

bian. The women in the room respond positively. They like this woman, she has responded to their individual pain with her own pain, with her comments of what has helped her. I know sitting her something else could have happened, someone could have been angry, could have told this woman she was dirty.

I am in a group of forty women. We are here to sing, to sing songs of justice of liberation. The group responds to the songs with passion. Faces smile, eyes connect, individual women join together in the group through music. There is a sense of peace. I find myself feeling quiet, feeling safe in a way I don't in my everyday life. I have come here to escape from the pain I must deal with on a daily basis in my work. Here I can escape into the safety of the fantasy of the unreal world. But in a moment that safety is destroyed as someone tells me that Roseanne Skoke has said that lesbians and gay men do not have rights as heterosexual people do, that they are dangerous to the family, that they are immoral, that they hurt families. I take her comments personally. I feel her knife go through me, wounding me. I sit in shock.

How can anyone say this about me, how can anyone think that I will destroy families. I who sit in my office day after day listening to sexual, physical abuse that occurs within families, listening to women talk about how their male partners have raped them, have beat them up, have sexually abused their children. I listen daily, hourly to the pain of women abused within the structure of family. I don't understand. I don't understand why I am blamed for this action. Why have I become a scapegoat for the violence that is destroying families?

I sit in this room with these women and realize there is no safety. As we sing our songs of liberation I am not liberated. I am a member of an oppressed group. I am a member of a group of people who threaten others because we dare to be different. I sit in that room of mostly heterosexual women and realize that my pain is different, that my sense of family is different. That I don't have available to be resources heterosexual people have.

When speaking with some of my heterosexual friends about the news documentary that aired recently on CBC about Roseanne Skoke they are shocked about her comments. They can't believe that this woman would say these things.

They seem to think most people would disagree with her. I am not shocked. I don't think most people will disagree with her. And often those who do disagree do not register their reactions. I talk about my fear of living in the country as an out lesbian, how my partner and I made a conscious decision to be out in our community, knowing that it is dangerous for us. I talk about my worry that someone will decide they don't like us because we are lesbians and will harm us in some way. They are sometimes shocked I would feel this way. They tell me it would not bother them if their children became gay or lesbian. But I notice their homes are void of anything other than heterosexuality. I see nothing that offers their children another choice. My partner and I become their only point of references. They have no material that shows our lives. Differences do not exist.

In one specific discussion with someone about gay and lesbian youth. I realize there is no understanding of the fear that exists for gay men & lesbians in coming out. The other person says I guess some people still feel they

the only lesbians in the group. I wait, expectantly for someone to ask us how Roseanne's comments have affected us. No one asks, the silence is deafening. I feel invisible. These are lovely, well meaning people. I tell myself it just didn't occur to them. I do feel isolated.

I worry about the people who come to see me, worry about their isolation, their lack of support as they deal with coming out. I remember coming out as an 18 year old in Halifax and realize that for many young people that isolation remains, that fear of being out remains, that wanting to be accepted remains. The difference now is that there are in some place someone to talk to. But what if you live in a small rural community, what if your father is making crude remarks about shooting all the god damn queers. How do you come out when your daily life reality says to be heterosexual?

How do you celebrate your first kiss with your best friend if the kiss is with someone of the same sex? How, as a daughter do you tell your mother/father that you are moving in with your lesbian lover? Can you hope for

press hatred for us. It is only when we embrace our diversity as people can we as people have a better world. It is our job to fight for the expression of differences as difficult as that fight is.

As a lesbian I live in a world of hatred, a hatred that affect me that angers me:

It angers me that I have no protection as a lesbian under the law.

It angers me that my family never discusses my relationship with extended family members.

It angers me that gay men and sometimes lesbians are beaten up and killed for expressing their sexuality.

It angers me that my brother who is heterosexual is called queer because he teaches figure skating.

It angers me that I am asked "are you married?"

It angers me that gay men are still accused of sexually abusing children when all the statistics clearly state that heterosexual men are the primary abusers of children.

It angers me that male children cannot say they are abused for fear of being labelled queer. It angers me that the secrecy of 1968 (when I came out) exists in 1994.

It angers me that lesbian mothers often lose their children in court cases, even though sometimes the father is an abuser.

It angers me that tens of thousands of gay men and lesbians died in Nazi concentration camps and this is still ignored.

It angers me that lesbians and gay men are held responsible for AIDS.

It angers me that I have to continually decide whether to come out to people and with that coming out have to deal with their response.

It angers me that my partner is called my "friend."

In all my angers I also have excitements.

I am excited that I am able to speak here tonight.

I am excited that because we have achieved so much we will not be pushed back into the closet.

As I am writing this I realize that my excitement is tempered by my fear, and my anger but I refuse to stop fighting for my life. I live my life as a lesbian knowing that there are those who hate me, who wish to harm me, who would shoot me but I choose to live my life in the knowledge that I and other lesbians and my gay brothers are fighting and we will survive and we have much to commemorate with each other.

I'm excited that because we have achieved so much we will not be pushed back into the closet.

need to remain hidden. I feel tired.

I am on the telephone with my mother. We are discussing a situation in her church. She tells me that they are looking for a new minister. I jokingly say, "Oh, Judy could go there." (My partner is a United church minister). My mother says casually, "Not in that church, one of the church members said if a gay man or lesbian came to his church he would shoot him." Such a casual remark. Does she not realize the meaning of that remark, what damage a remark like that can do. I will shoot her or him. We don't want those kinds in our church. Such a casual, hurtful remark.

I am in my office a woman comes for therapy she thinks she might be lesbian. She is terrified. What does this mean to her. What will her family think. She has fallen in love for the first time in her life. She is excited, thrilled and terrified. What will happen when family members find out. Will they still love her? Will they hate her for her choice? How can she celebrate her love for this woman?

I am in a small gathering in my home. My home is in Central Nova. My partner and I are again

respect, can you hope for a positive response? Can you hope for acceptance?

We live in a society that is sex-negative about any kind of sexual activity. We live in a society that exploits sex, especially regarding women & children. It is not surprising that Roseanne Skoke would make society's hatred of same-sex relationships a political issue. When a group of people begins to take a stand, refuses to remain hidden, refuses to stop pretending they are not who they are, refuses to maintain the status quo, refuses to stay oppressed, other people who have a vested interest in maintaining a status quo, who are terrified of diversity will feel threatened, will try to push us back into the closet.

I know that the love I feel for my partner is good. I know that the sexuality expressed in that relationship is honourable, is healthy and is life-giving. I know the opposition to my sexuality comes from a deep seated fear of being different. I know that being different means I and other lesbian and gay men face discrimination from society. A discrimination that not only harms us but also harms those who ex-

Feb'95 Vol. 1, No.1

Contents

Our New Name	2
Rumours & GALA	4
Gay Weight Trainer	5
Party Line	6
Quiet Noise	10
Marusya Bociurkiw	10
The Open Door	11
Community Calendar	12-13

Queer Internet Supplement

Reviews	14
Men'Sex Night '95	16
Doc & Raider	16
Queer Spirits In Jest	17
NeoFight Activist	17
The News	18
Dykes To Watch Out For	18
Classifieds	22

Our Cover

Whoopi Goldberg, Mary-Louise Parker in *Boys On The Side*. See page 18 for review.

Next Issue Deadline

February 21st

Wayves

By Chris Aucoin and Ross Boutlier

The Gazette is now history - at least the name is.

Earlier in January nine of the volunteers who have been bringing you the Gazette gathered in Hantsport for a pot-luck lunch and a brain-storming session about our name and our future. As we've been telling you for the last few months, and to celebrate ten years of existence, we've chosen a new name and we asked for your help by way of a NEW NAME CONTEST. We received a remarkable wealth of suggestions - most people made multiple proposals - via regular mail, email, and drop-off by people who knew us.

Several people have asked us why we wanted a new name. It's simple. The name Gazette (pronounced GAY-ZETTE) is play on the word gazette, a pun on the word gay, and pays homage to the Gay Alliance for Equality, which was the pre-GALA political institution at the time

of our founding, and our sponsor for many years.

Ten years later, the world has changed, and so must we. The word gay no longer means everyone in our g-l-b-t community, and in fact can be rather off-putting if you don't happen to be a gay male. There is no longer any connection with GAE/GALA, and we've managed to survive as an independent publication. Finally, we're tired of being called the "ga-zette", which is confusing at best since there is already one of those in Halifax, and there are several other 'gay'zettes across North America.

We decided to hold a contest. We asked our readers to help us choose a new name. We offered a prize: a ten year subscription

(marking our tenth anniversary) to the winner. The deadline was December 31, 1994.

We made our decision on the new name, waYves, after extensive discussion and thought about who we were. We ended up building on the best suggestion we received from two entrants, "Making Waves", a name which has been used before for a gay and lesbian publication, produced in Halifax (see the accompanying story for more on this).

Since two people suggested "Making Waves" we decided to award five year subscriptions to each. One winner is Mark Mutrie who works in oceanography in Halifax. Our second winner is Kim Vance, who is a regular, key

contributor to our collective. Co-winner Vance has donated her subscription to Betty-Ann Lloyd and Brenda Beagan in Vancouver. Thank you, Kim and Mark!

One suggestion we received which had significant support as our discussion evolved, and which is dear to our hearts (we're going to keep it in mind!) is "The Dandy Tomboy". It was the "first round draft pick" of more than one well-fed collective member. Other gems included simply "Zet", which many of us have been affectionately using to describe the Gazette anyway. It has a certain durability, and recognizability. Another top contender was Unbound, which fan's of the Gazette's literary supplement Punoqu

(read it upside down) will appreciate.

Some entries included graphical renditions of their suggestions. We were especially impressed with the entry "Atlantic Pride", which even included a mock-up of our cover.

Our entrants were thinking. One entry in particular was a long letter explaining all the meaning and depth behind the suggestion "SVEND" ("Sharing Very Essential News Delivery"), which intended to "...honour a man who honours us." We appreciated the sentiment.

To all who contributed, our thanks. You made us think, and you made us feel very good about what we're doing together, as volunteers.

Our choice, waYves, evokes for us making waves - promoting change by refusing to be still, by connecting us to our maritime heritage here in Atlantic Canada, yet identifying us as being somewhat out of step, a bit

Help Us Make Some Wayves

Wayves is produced entirely by volunteers. We'd like to do an even better job of reflecting the communities, events, lives, etc. of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. We can only do this if a few more of you out there give us a hand. No experience necessary. Like us you can learn by doing. We especially need people to write about what is going on in their own part of Atlantic Canada. Send us all the news your local media never mention. What about that community meeting or fundraiser? How many people showed up for this year's Pride Parade or picnic? Take photos of noteworthy events and send them in. If every community organization in the region sent us one press release a month we'd probably have enough "local" news to fill the paper. If you don't see YOUR life reflected here change that by writing about it. While we don't have an office or phone you can reach us by regular mail at

Wayves, PO Box 34090, Halifax, NS, B3J 3S1

or e-mail at

wayves@fox.nstn.ca

Our production meetings usually happen the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month, with the latter being the deadline for content. Our meetings are held in wheelchair accessible spaces (see Calendar for time and place).

Get involved. You can put in as little or as much time as you wish. There are many different production related jobs that we can use help with - from distribution to subscriptions - from organizing our graphics files (we'd love you) to drawing an original illustration to redesigning our entire publication. Don't be shy, we're already a pretty diverse lot and we don't bite - honest!

Making Waves

queer - if for no other reason than for the way we spell, how we choose to express ourselves.

The name waYves is not as threatening as Gaezette. People who are practicing doing OUT things like picking us up in a magazine store, or not hiding us from others while riding the bus, or forgetting to make sure we are locked away when the "rellies" come to visit will appreciate that. So will our advertisers, and the more and more places that provide us as a "customer service" on their counters. Make no mistake, though, there is no apology. We're unabashedly queer - and determined to be even more so.

The name also implies the effect that any individual person or group has, and will have, on those around them. No one exists in isolation. By living our lesbian or gay or bi or transgendered or homo or queer (whatever!) lives we affect our families, friends, coworkers, neighbors, etc., whether it be quiet ripples or tsunamis. Living our lives is a political act, an educational tool.

We don't know yet what will stick: waYves, Wayves, Wayves Magazine, or WAYves, etc., but we all liked the name. As our banner suggests, it is for people "that way" (hence the spelling), which in particular is for those who are outside the mainstream sexuality.

We want to evolve. We're hoping that more and more voices, minds and hands will join us by contributing to waYves, helping in its production and distribution, and helping our advertising base to grow.

We want more of every kind of people. We want more women. We want more people from colours other than white and cultures other than those already reflected. We want more correspondents from all parts of the Atlantic Region. We want to hear from expatriate Atlantic Canadians too! We want more people from outside the local gay and lesbian mainstream - and we want more of all of the above.

We already are a unique voice, and we look forward to remaining very much a healthy, relevant and progressive forum for building our collective self awareness here in Atlantic Canada. Go ahead - make some waYves.

by Lynn Murphy

On a chilly day early in 1981, four people stand on a rock with the sea behind them. Coats well-buttoned and caps jammed down against the wind, Robin Metcalfe, Jim MacSwain and Pat Dingle hug and smile; Anne F looks apprehensively back at her tripod, as if wondering whether the photograph will do justice to the occasion.

It was the launch of *Making Waves*, Atlantic Canada's first and only gay/lesbian quarterly.

Robin Metcalfe's first editorial explains the reasons for founding the magazine:

Unlike women or racial minorities, we are born without any visible mark of our outcast status. Unlike cultural minorities, we are born into the homes of strangers who can give us no language, no cultural heritage, no pride or identity to help us make our way in the world as lesbians and gay men. We must, each of us, alone at first and later, if we are lucky, with others, invent and create our gayness. Each of us must speak into the silence the words that will name, and thus create, ourselves and a community that can sustain us.

This quarterly is a way of speaking into that silence.

The only gay/lesbian periodical then appearing in Halifax was *Have You Heard*, a precursor of the *Gaezette*. As a newsletter for the Gay Alliance for Equality, *Have You Heard* was largely concerned with the management of GAE's club, The Turret. Other articles ran the gamut from a photocopied VD pamphlet (no mention of AIDS yet), to coy speculations on the latest love interest of "Miss I."

Making Waves was aiming higher.

The centerfold of the first issue carried excerpts from

speeches made by *Body Politic* writer Stuart Russell and author/lawyer Lorraine Clark at a public meeting on "Gays and the Constitution", sponsored by the Civil Rights Committee of GAE.

Carol M's article "Ku Klux Klan" covered Klan attacks against American lesbians and gays, and urged participating in the newly-formed Nova Scotia Coalition against the KKK. Over the next few months, the coalition successfully resisted a proposed Klan expansion into Nova Scotia.

Later issues documented conferences in New Brunswick, Maine, and Denmark; criticized mainstream media coverage of issues relating to homosexuality; and introduced book and theatre reviews.

Community events covered included a forum on "Gay

features in *Making Waves* was "Furry Frolics" by Anthony W, a comic strip in which fuzzy bears Ted and Fred explored disco, politics, and (most enthusiastically) each other.

Poetry (including Jim MacSwain's moving and hilarious "Cocksucker man"), a humour column, and drawings by local artists, rounded out the quarterly.

Even the advertisements in *Making Waves* now seem rich in history. The Alternate Book Shop, located in the Turret building, advertised *Mandate*, *Playguy*, and *poppers*. The *Body Politic* offered subscribers national gay/lesbian news monthly for just \$20.00 a year. Aamco Transmissions took a full page ad and offered a ten percent discount - "Ask for Ken."

The quarterly was committed to, and achieved fifty

meeting with the collective and its (male) reviewer.

Another fundamental tension in the community was addressed by the outgoing GAE president in the Summer 1982 issue. Stressing the need for a new community centre as the focal point of a vibrant community, he said, "The Turret is not the GAE, nor does it stand or speak for the Gay Alliance. The Turret has, over the years, developed into a disco club meeting the needs of a small faction of the gay community, a faction which is visible within the community at large, but which does not represent the gay community as a whole."

Prophetically, he warned, "It could be that the goose that lays the golden eggs has turned into an albatross around the neck of GAE."

Like the reign of decency described in Robin Metcalfe's fantasy fiction "The short, happy presidency of Ronald Dragon", the publication run of *Making Waves* was a short one: the third issue was the last. Always heavily involved in a dozen things, the editor, and most of the collective, moved on to other things.

Not unlike the bachelor uncle or maiden aunt your family didn't mention often, *Making Waves* is part of the family tree of the new Wayves.

Roll on, thou deep and dark blue ocean, roll!

Note: All the persons named in this article were named in the relevant issues of *Making Waves*, which during its run was sold in Montréal, Toronto and Boston, as well as in local bookstores and by subscription (four dollars a year). I hope that referring to them in *Waves* will cause them no difficulty at this remove in time.

Lynn Murphy was a member of the *Making Waves* collective, and will soon be boasting of contributing to the first issue of *Wayves*.

Even the advertisements in *Making Waves* now seem in rich in history.

rights" sponsored by Red Herring Co-op Bookstore; the formation of GAMES (Gay Artists Musicians

Entertainers Society); a performance at the Dunn Theatre by Sisters Elite & Co., Female Impersonators; the first Over-30's party; the Great Moncton Picnic, held in a popular cruising (and queerbashing) area over the vocal protests of Moncton City Council; an art show at Domsday Studios; and a lesbian Tupperware party.

One of the most popular

percent lesbian content, but tension between men and women was sometimes visible elsewhere: the fourth conference of the Atlantic Gay Association, held in Fredericton, offered both Boston writer Eric Rofes on "Feminism for faggots" and the *Body Politic*'s Chris Bearehell on "Bridging the gap."

Upset by references to drag acts in *Making Waves*' theatre review, representatives of Sister's Elite & Co. arranged an air-clearing

Rumours of my Death are Not Exaggerated

By Ross Boutiller

GALA, the Gay and Lesbian Association of Nova Scotia, owner of the Rumours Club in Halifax, has been facing a critical financial situation and a very uncertain future. The Rumours club, for many years the only gay and lesbian bar in Halifax, closed its doors for the last time the weekend of January 14.

Many were surprised Rumours lasted that long, but staff working off-hours as volunteers helped the bar stay open until New Years, which had a turnout of 500 people. After New Years all the bar staff were laid off, to be called back on a casual basis as needed.

GALA, meanwhile, met December 14 to evaluate the financial options that remained. After a presentation from their accountant where they were told the bar had the potential for profitability were it run more as other bars were run. There was also a presentation of options by the finance committee. The options, bankruptcy, leasing out the bar, and just limping along were discussed and sent back to the board and the committee by the membership for further development and clarification. It was noted that to meet GALA's then-current financial obligations (mortgage, taxes, building maintenance) the prospective leaseholder would have to pay \$15,000 per month to GALA.

The December 14 meeting also saw the membership rescind an action of the executive to bar Chris Aucoin from Rumours. Aucoin, an ex-president of GALA and a former employee of Rumours, had taken legal action against GALA and Rumours in a dispute over back earnings. A small claims court came down in Aucoin's favour in that dispute in January.

The December 14 meeting was also reminded by Doug Dixon that there had been no progress toward resolution of his dispute with GALA stemming

from the termination of his manager's contract. Dixon indicated that legal action was still an option he could use.

The GALA membership met again January 8. A series of motions were presented ending with one to close Rumours and one to dissolve GALA. These last motions were ruled out of order when an earlier motion committed the board and the finance committee to pursue an offer by Bob Bezanson to run the club as an independent business with an agreement to share the profits with GALA.

Bezanson is well known in Halifax municipal politics, having run unsuccessfully for mayor on two previous occasions. Bezanson has also been involved in the bar scene in Halifax for several years, including a stint as the disk jockey and manager's helper at Rumours.

The proposed deal was complex and the subject of strong sentiments since there would be no guarantee of profits, no guarantee of financial solvency for GALA, and no apparent financial risk to Bezanson. None the less, the motion to proceed with negotiation passed by a narrow margin. The membership seemed to prefer some option other than giving up.

One other motion at the January 8 meeting authorized the removal of forty boxes of historical materials from the Rumours property for safe keeping, and the establishment of an archives committee to determine the best disposition of the material in the interests of maintaining the record of GALA over its 21 year history.

The January 8 meeting also saw the resignations from the board and GALA of chair of finance Marilyn Lamb and vice-president Michele Rogers, who revealed deep divisions on the board and cited non-communication and exclusion from the decision making process. The board was already without a secretary.

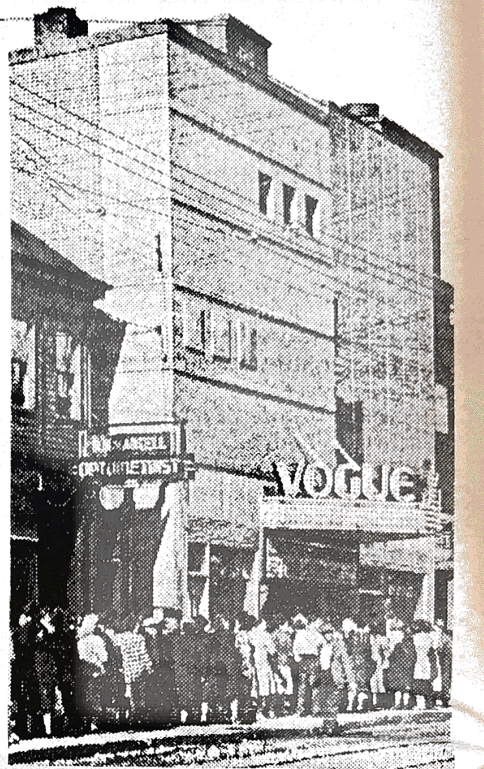
The next GALA meeting was scheduled and held January 18 in a cold, and now uninsured Rumours building. The power was still on, but barely. The meeting immediately ran into trouble because the membership had not been called to announce the meeting date, so that other than by word of mouth, members not at the January 8 meeting were unaware of this next meeting. It was decided to proceed anyway.

There was a motion to reconsider and another to rescind the previous meeting's decision to proceed with negotiations with Bezanson. President Jane van Kansas reported that all advice from legal and financial council was not to sign the proposed deal without significant changes. Kansas reported that negotiations to implement these changes were not going anywhere, and time had simply run out. The building had been listed for tax sale, the insurance had run out and was not available except at an exorbitant price with thousands of dollars needed upfront. Without insurance, she said, it was only a short time before the mortgage holder moved to protect their interests. Kansas refused to open the doors without insurance.

The membership passed without much dissent motions to close the business, giving the board authority to do whatever was needed to attempt to salvage GALA as an entity from the situation, without the club, and to reconvene the membership only if needed to pass a motion for bankruptcy.

The meeting also saw the election of two new board members, Norm Paddock as vice-president, and Gregory Stewart chair of finance.

It has been reported in the local press that GALA has received two offers to buy the Rumours property and that the board has made a counter-offer on one.



Rumours: Requiem or Reprieve

By Heather Burke

I never knew I cared so much as in the final hours in a cold and gloom even beer could not cheer. The decorations from the last 'gala' event—oversize balloons, foil-covered stars—are still burgeoning forth into the spacious skies of the theatre into which we poured our songs, our laughter, our chatter, our sweat.

It is so big; why are we at a loss to accommodate anyone? Let the choir sing on stage and entertain those newspaper people at their layout table on the dance floor while the youth group form a magic circle, choosing from a selection of furnished plateaus in the pit. Pride Committee is meeting on the second level creating placards and party favors. The coffee machine is on automatic. Who knows what evil lurks in the projection room: perhaps a course in midwifery for prospective lesbian parents!

Lord how we grew. The Turret was hot from the press of bodies. Even on Granville St. we plotted under dim lights, raucous voices hemming us in, with Gloria's permission. Now we have

what was once a disheartened theatre nurtured into new life, given the stark colours of drama, the brimming lights, the lewd screen, the pounding of your heartbeat from the speakers, the twinkling body of the dance. And not this alone but in the balcony a carnival: the games of chance, the aroma of popcorn, the concentrated calm of the billiards arena, the dizzying flash of hands at the bar. For resting and reconnaissance tables and chairs positioned to allow a continuum of sound from 'just look' to 'chatter loudly' to the 'we can have a private party' of the projection room.

Compared to the toy train station of Regina and the warehouse of London, it is a top-flight discothèque, brimming with activity—well, one night a week. Too much! And that has been the heart of the escalating aggrandizement of GALA and its central concern—too much razzle dazzle, too much paid professional attachment, too many obstacles to the effectual participation of all members in the political and social process.

Interior Health: Confessions of a Gay Weight-trainer

by Art Fisher

It's so stereotypical, isn't it? A gay man who bodybuilds? But there I am at the Y, two or three times each week, determined to work up a sweat.

First I do my stretches. Then, after a warm-up on the Stairmaster, I go through my routine with the weights; this usually takes an hour. I finish with about one hundred stomach crunches and some more stretches. By then, a snack and a long shower are physical delights, the final treats.

You know, when I wander through the products of gay commercial culture — the magazines and the slick urban papers — it's obvious I'm not alone at the gym. Gay culture is littered with the photographic evidence of their existence — these "buffed and bronzed" ideals of masculinity. They seem to pop up all over the place. For example, I can be in the midst of reading a very touching human story in *The Advocate* and then turn the page and — oops — there's another "perfect" body.

Of course, this isn't merely a phenomenon within gay culture. The striving for masculine perfection is at work within male culture — as a whole — in our society. And this striving is now identifiable as a source of psychological and physical sickness. Our society is now producing men whose symptoms parallel those commonly associated with female anorexia.

These are men who often appear — to everyone else — to be physically "perfect" products of bodybuilding. But what others see is not what they see when they look in the mirror. In their own eyes, for a variety of reasons, their bodies are unacceptably flawed, so much so that they often refuse to be seen in the shower, or on the beach. These are men who willingly inject steroids, starve themselves, anything, in the striving for the

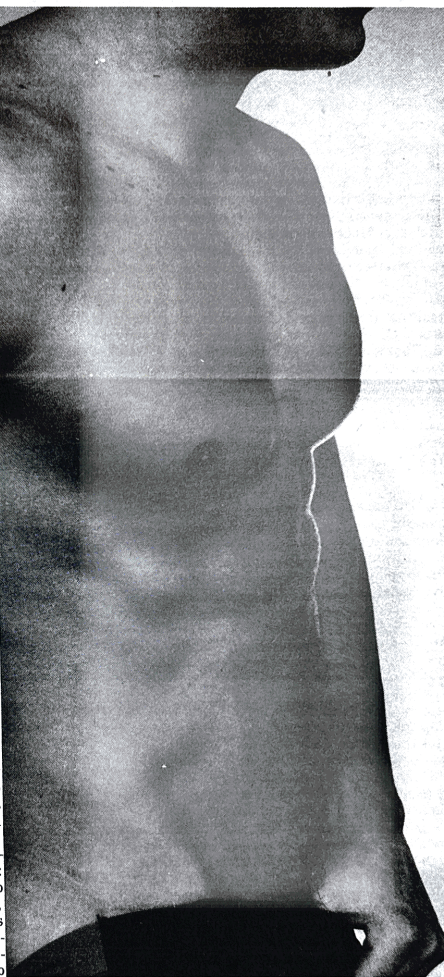
"shredded" or "shrink-wrapped" concept of perfection. They struggle toward the achievement of this cultural ideal, while — simultaneously — they view it as a personally unachievable goal.

But, if a straight male in our society can feel hopelessly inadequate in relation to this masculine ideal, then how can a gay male possibly feel? Doubly inadequate? Is this, perhaps, why the obsession with the masculine ideal seems to reach its zenith within commercial gay culture? Is this why many gay men eroticize, and thus celebrate, a masculine ideal which is — at the same time — such a source of feelings of personal inadequacy, shame, and emotional pain?

You might think this is odd, considering that I weight-train, but I have no erotic interest in the pumped-up masculine ideal. Those images of gay perfection imbedded in our culture — like icons seeking my respect — fail to arouse anything within me. I look; I think. I wonder about the often self-inflicting nature of gay life. Then I flip the page and move on.

I'm sorry; it's just not the exterior appearance of a man that gets to me. It's his person, his affection, his heart... give me these inner qualities and, the, you have to peel me off the ceiling. I mean, sexual arousal is so psychological; it's all in my head. (I know. I'm so warped. I think it comes from breathing in too much fresh air.)

So, then, why weight-train? Well, this is my point: we tend, in this society, to approach weight-training, fitness, nutrition, our bodies in general, with such a negative, exterior, appearance-focused attitude. We tend to think that, if only we looked "right", then we could like ourselves — and be liked. We often seem completely unaware of the alternative approach — a positive, interior focus on health and spiritual well-being. This approach begins with self-acceptance,



begins with liking ourselves as we are, and then moves toward making decisions about responsible health care.

There are lots of positive benefits to be gained — by both women and men — from weight training. Physical

strength, cardiovascular endurance, and metabolic rate are all increased. And so is bone mass, a protection against post-menopausal osteoporosis. And increased metabolic rate means our bodies are burning more calories all the time, not just

during exercise; this can result in lower body weight and lower blood pressure. All of these factors improve energy levels, boost self-confidence, and result in a sense of achievement.

We each have our specific fitness needs and goals. I began working out because I realized, one day, that stress was slowly killing me. Weight-training became one of my strategies for coping.

Now, I get benefits from weight-training I could not have anticipated back then. Perhaps the most rewarding benefit happens in the midst of my routine. I'll be working along, focused on the muscles being used, on my repetitions, my form and breath- ing, and I'll become aware of the fact that I'm in a very meditative state of mind. For this short span of time in my day, I'm free of problems, worries, regrets. I'm simply living, here and now, with my full consciousness focused on my body.

For myself, you see, weight-training and nutrition-consciousness and avoidance of smoke and alcohol, these are all spiritual acts. In caring for my body, focusing on its health, its needs and capacities, I feel like I'm recognizing its sanctity. I'm acknowledging that I'm a caretaker of a wonderful gift.

So, my actions are not negative forms of self-denial. They are, very much, positive forms of self-appreciation, self-love. They are satisfying and enduring rituals in my life. They are all about celebrating real — imperfect — physicality as an amazing enabler of life's experiences.

"Human beings are whole organisms whose parts are intimately connected; the effects of one's health ripple throughout this organism, affecting not only the physical but also the psychic and spiritual dimensions."

— O'Neill & Ritter, *Coming Out Within* (Harper Collins, San Francisco, 1992), p. 33.



LINE PARTY

Halifax Queer Pages

For the first time ever Halifax is getting a queer telephone book. The 1995 Greater Halifax Pride Guide will be a directory of businesses and services that at least welcome, lesbian, gay and bisexual people. In what is planned to be an annual publication you can find that lg/bi friendly plumber so you won't have to *de-queer* your house, a therapist who will work on your issues and not their unresolved homophobia, or a comfortable place to buy something special for your special someone. These resources are already out there but finding them isn't always easy - but it soon will be.

If you know of a gay/lesbian/bi positive business or service provider let them know about us, or even better, let us know about

them - you can use the form below to give us the basic information (at least a contact and phone number) that can then be used to follow up. If you ARE a community-friendly business or service provider, or community group use the form below to get your listing.

Planned for an early June release the Greater Halifax Pride Guide will allow thousands of metro Halifax area residents to have a listing of friendly businesses, services, community groups, etc. at their fingertips. The Guide will be printed in a compact user-friendly format that is equally at home beside the phone, in your pocket, or even the glove-compartment of your car. Basic listings are \$15. For display advertising rates see form below or phone (902)423-6999.

Thank You

Dear Wayves:
The family of the late Terrance James Martin (Terry) wish to thank all those persons who gave so freely of their time to make his last days meaningful.

Thanks to all those persons who came to our home, to sit with Terry.

Thanks to all who sent cards and made donations to the Persons With AIDS

Coalition in his name.

A very special Thank You to Howard McLean, for his work in coordinating the many volunteers.

Thanks to the staff at the Victoria General Hospital, especially the staff at the Medical Day Unit.

A Thank You to Father Cassie for coordinating the Celebration of Terry's life, and thanks to the Atlantic

School of Theology for the use of their chapel.

The AIDS Vigil Choir did a beautiful job providing the music - thanks to all.

Thanks to AIDS Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Persons With AIDS Coalition for all your support

Sincerely,
Wilson Hodder

Gay and Positive Men's Group

by Terry Goodwin

The third meeting of the Gay and Positive Men's Group was held on Saturday, January 21st in the lounge of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. We now have 18 members- all HIV/AIDS Positive Gay Men. We meet every second Saturday afternoon from 1PM until 4PM. The next meeting will be February 4th.

GAP Men was created because some of us felt that there was no concrete voice for positive Gay men in the AIDS and Gay community. There were groups for other minorities but none for us. At the first meeting, the consensus was that we would be an action and not a support group (pity party).

Since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic in the early '80s, it has been predominantly gay men who have created and run AIDS service organizations, not only looking after their own, but everyone else infected and affected by the disease. Recently, we seem to have been left out in the cold and have lost our voice. In Canada, we still make up approximately 83% of

HIV/AIDS cases. We are not financially compensated like the hemophilia community or those infected by tainted blood supplies, and most of us live (exist) would be a better term) on social assistance or Canada Pension Plan. To live on an income that is \$5,500 below Canada's poverty line of \$12,500 is a hard feat to accomplish. If no one will stand up for us as we have stood up for them, then we can and will do the work ourselves. Recently, several positive gay groups have established themselves across Canada and we have commenced communications with them. We have also connected with ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) and AIDS Action

Now for ideas on "problem solving" when words are not enough.

The Canadian AIDS Society (CAS) has agreed on the theme for AIDS Awareness Week 1995 to be Gay men and Homophobia. We have never been the subject of Awareness Week before, so we see that as a small victory.

CAS has started a National Task Force on Housing and Special Needs which will be working in conjunction with Phase 2 of the CAS Income Security project. I am the PHA (Person Living with HIV/AIDS) representative for Canada. I am looking for stories from PHAs concerning housing, needs and income problems; and anything concerning poverty. We have our first meeting in Montreal January 26th. I want to compile these stories not only for the Task Force, but also to present to Dr. Jim Smith (Social Services), Dr. Ron Stewart (Health) and Guy Brown (Housing) and see what we can accomplish.

The Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) at Dalhousie has come out with an interesting pamphlet called Proud But Cautious - homophobic abuse and discrimination in Nova Scotia. For a copy or for the full report call them at (902)494-6662.

If any men out there would like to come to a GAP meeting, please call me at the Coalition. The telephone # is (902)429-7922.

The 1995 Greater Halifax Pride Guide

First ever directory of businesses and services that support our communities and welcome lesbian, gay, and bisexual customers and service users. The definitive resource for gay, bisexual, and lesbian consumers. A must!

A **BASIC LISTING** is \$15 and includes name, address and telephone number(s).

DISPLAY ADS (includes basic listing)
Business Card (3.5 x 2): **\$75**
Half Page Ad (3.5 x 3.75): **\$110**
Full Page Ad (3.5 x 6.5): **\$205**
Inside Back/Front covers: **\$300**
Back Cover (includes 1 colour) **\$400.**

Name _____
Address _____
Postal Code _____
Contact Person _____
Telephone (W) _____ (H) _____
Best time to call _____

Mail check or money
order and this form to:
or phone
423-6999

Pride Guide
PO Box 34090
Halifax, NS
B3J 3S1

Bubble Girls Unite!

Dear Bubble Girls:
I missed reading the first "Bubble Girl" article, but I totally agree with what Bubble Girl #2 had to say.

I've been thinking along the same line myself lately, and have been wondering how to get in touch with some mature women that I have more in common with. I'd like to be involved in some activities other than going to a women's dance every couple of months. Going bowling, taking in a movie, or taking turns going to someone's house to play some board games would be great.

Let's get together and talk! I have place a classified ad in this issue so we have a contact point.

Bubble Girl #3

Dear Wayves:
This may come as a "bravo" to last fall's October Conference, but the reinforcement is needed. Though unable to attend myself, due to prior obligations, I did enjoy the coverage in November's Gazette.

A couple of points made were very well thought out and presented.

If we as a community continue to allow ourselves to be pitted against other in mainstream society, it will only lead to harm. This is not to say we need not be active; rather, our actions need to be of a positive nature: one which will show that we are a good people, people of a loving, noble character, who, though different, are of good

character.

We need to concentrate more on our similarities than our differences: our need for family, for spousal benefits, for children, and right to adopt. We need to concentrate more on showing ourselves as normal, or above normal, part of society.

It may be interesting to see the reaction of the people to our donating to Christmas Daddies, the IWK, or other charities. Many of us do so now, but what if, when we did, we donated under an alias such as the Nova Scotia Gay Community? Or even the Halifax, Colchester or Inverness County Gay Community?

We need to come together as a community and as family. We need to become public in such a positive manner as to make people everywhere sit up and take notice, to realize that, though we may have differences, we have many similarities. Perhaps not only similarities, but a uniqueness of character by which we may be exemplified and looked up to. A character which sets us apart, and yet makes us who we are as a people.

Sincerely,
Brian W. Hurlburt

Dear Wayves:
I would like to hear from fellow gays and lesbians that are working for Sobeys or its parent company, Empire.

I have been working for Sobeys in Moncton for about nine years now and, since last fall, took the sudden decision to come out to my co-workers in the baker department. All of them knew any way, since I never pretended there was another person in my life but the man I have been with for thirteen years. It was just that I chose to

put a name on it, "I am gay."

Most of them have been OK with it. To my face anyway. One woman is upset because she feels she is forced to work with a gay person. I was assured by my boss that if she had a problem with me, she would just have to put up with it. He also said that if she ever said anything negative to me about myself, I was to let him know.

I was also asked if I would be interested in a management position if one came up. I told my personnel manager and my area manager that my partner and I would consider it on its benefits to both of us. So, I don't think I have hit the glass ceiling yet.

Sobeys is a great company to work for. I think it is time it recognizes us and gives us the same benefits for us and our partners. Quite a few Canadian companies have changed their benefits coverage lately, namely Canada Post and the Royal Bank. If those two conservative establishments see fit to include us, I feel Sobeys might think about it more seriously. I read that the Royal Bank can do this at a minimum cost.

All this is to ask fellow gay and lesbian Sobeys employees to contact me by mail if they are interested in becoming an informal Sobeys Gay and Lesbian Group. Don't forget that if I have been saying Sobeys all long, it also includes all the companies under Empire Holding. I'm also sure anyone writing to Sobeys head office with something positive on this matter would help us greatly.

Waiting to hear from you all,

Guy Paquet
56 Wrysdale Dr.
Moncton, NB
E1G 2C2

CKDU-FM: Ten Years On

by Gary Hanrahan
On February 4th, CKDU-FM, Dalhousie University's campus/community radio station, will celebrate ten years on the FM band, and as this issue of Wayves hits the stands, the station will be mid-way through its Tenth Annual Funding Drive.

CKDU has been a long-time supporter of the lesbian and gay communities. The core of the station's gay and lesbian programming is *The Word is Out*, currently heard on Monday evenings at 7 PM. Also in the spoken-word category is *Queer News*, heard Fridays after the BBC World News at noon. For the last several years, the station has also programmed "All Gay, All Day", a special day of programming to coincide with Pride Day celebrations.

These special broadcasts have landed the station in hot water. The CRTC imposed restrictions on CKDU's broadcasting license in the fall of 1993, as a result a single complaint received during that year's Pride broadcast. This resulted in a nation-wide

protest from 25 campus/community stations in October 1994, during which all of the participating stations programmed a day devoted to censorship issues, called "SEX-FM: Radio Uncovered."

Over the years, however, much of the queer content has appeared during what are ostensibly music programs. CKDU has proved itself very open to such content. At any one time over the last several years, there have usually been at least three or four music shows hosted by gay men or lesbians who were out and outspoken on the air. These shows have included Brenda Barnes' *Full Her Cup*, Dan Hart's *Din of Iniquity*, Robert Matthew's opera show *Tosca's Kiss*, or *Girl Cross*, *Grasshopper*, *Queer*, hosted by "Patti Stacker". Current shows include Jane Van Kansas' *Radio Free Kansas* and Liz Van Berkel's *More Than Oranges*.

CKDU-FM's Tenth Annual Funding Drive continues until Sunday, February 5th, and you can make a pledge by calling 49-HAPPY (492-2779).

Pride Logo Contest

The Pride Halifax Organizing Group (PHOG) offers a prize of \$100.00 for a logo to be used as the symbol for Lesbian and Gay Pride 1995.

Rules: The winning logo must be non-racist, non-sexist, and non-homophobic; suitable for reproduction on pins, buttons, and other promotional merchandise; and be an original work or concept of the person(s) in whose name the entry is submitted.

Preference will be given to entries expressing the history and diversity of gay/lesbian communities.

Entries may be camera-ready or in sketch form. Notes explaining the symbolism are optional.

Each entry should include the words "Pride 95" or "Pride 1995".

Eligibility: Multiple and joint entries are allowed.

The contest is open to persons or any sexual orientation.

Previous logo contest winners and members of the Organizing Group may enter. Contestants may not serve on the judging committee.

How to Enter: Entries must be mailed to Pride Logo Contest, c/o Wayves

magazine, Box 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax, NS, B3J 3S1

Entries must be postmarked by Monday, March 13, 1995.

Entries must be enclosed unsigned in a plain brown envelope which also contains a sealed envelope holding a sketch or photocopy of the entry signed with the artist's name, address, and telephone number. Multiple entries must be submitted in separate envelopes.

The winning entry becomes the property of the Pride Halifax Organizing Group.

Valentine's Dinner?

Of Course...
A Café & Bistro

Saturday, February 11th

4 Course Dinner

\$24.95 per person

"Community" Sitting
at 8:30 PM

Pre-sold tickets now on sale at our
Market St. location, 492-2455.

Please mention this ad or
"community" when purchasing tickets.

1858 MARKET ST., HALIFAX

GALA Archives

The Atlantic History Network, an informal group of lesbians and gays interested in the history and archives of gays and lesbians in Atlantic Canada, has accepted custody of the records of GALA. The papers were removed from GALA for safe keeping in early January, and a subcommittee of the Network with GALA representation will develop a plan for transfer of the records to an appropriate archival repository by the end of July. The plan for the documents will be publicized in Wayves, and a public meeting will be held for community input.

Concerned individuals may contact Lynn Murphy at 455-0193 for further information.

The Committee's first meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 2.

Sexual Discrimination in the Workplace

by Jim Genge

As most everyone knows that with the downturn in the fishery, work is almost not to be found; therefore, many workers are crying out to someone that they need jobs to survive on, which is perfectly true.

In Glovertown, Newfoundland, people who need a job, but do not want it and will not take it, are crying wolf. Why?

My business partner and I have landed a huge contract that can accommodate at least a dozen workers with good salary for eight to ten years, but because the workers in this town know me as a gay person, they do

not work for or with me, or us.

Homosexual discrimination is not new in the workplaces of Canada. There are thousands of cases where workers are being discriminated against because of sexual orientation. But this is a new one to me, where workers that desperately need employment will not work because one of the business partners happens to be gay.

To me, homosexuality is not a choice. It is inherited, and, as a gay person, I have continued to work against all odds and to live in a society where organized religion is a dominating factor, and plays

a big role in the lives of the citizens of Glovertown.

As stated previously, homosexuality is not a choice. Why would anyone really want to live their life where discrimination, prejudice, bigotry and hatred are against them? How can one compensate for the fact that he is gay? After all, the workplace is a workplace and not a pick-up joint.

Many of the would-be workers are receiving some sort of income, either UI, welfare, or the federal compensation for displaced fishermen. They are content to live the life of Reilly this winter; but what happens when their UI and compen-

sation cease to exist? They cannot return to the fishery.

At this point in time, my business partner and I are forced to go out of town to find substantial workers, who will work for a living and not "cry wolf" because one of their employers is gay.

This, my friends, is very typical of Glovertown.

[Jim has asked that we include his address with this article, so that other employers in a similar situation can contact him. Write to:

James Genge
229 Main St. North
Glovertown, Nfld.
A0G 2L0

Ed.]

Youth Group Concerns & Response

Dear Wayves:

At a recent meeting of the gay/lesbian/bisexual youth group, the issue of bisexuality was discussed.

I don't normally attend these meetings, because I've had a lot of support from friends while I've "come out" as a bisexual. However, this meeting interested me, because the speakers were a bi-couple (male and female) who, among other things, were going to talk about their relationship. Specifically, I hoped to learn from them how their relationship worked, and how I might adopt some of their ways into my own relationship.

My boyfriend, sister, and

girlfriend came along for my support and their education. For my boyfriend particularly, this was his first real opportunity to meet a couple who were similar to us - not the average straight-monogamous pair. He too had hoped to learn from their relationship and reflect on ours.

Unfortunately, our learning experience was cut short because we were asked to leave. My boyfriend is straight, and, despite his association with me, straight people aren't allowed in youth group meetings.

We left the meeting and ran to a bar - I needed a drink to deal with all of my

emotions! A thousand thoughts and feelings hit me: *Why is life so unfair? I wanted to understand! I wanted to belong! Where do I belong? How do I integrate both my worlds? Why discuss bisexuality if the opposite sex component isn't allowed? That was just wrong!!*

After thinking about everything for a while, I realized that all I had wanted was validation that my bisexuality and my relationship with my boyfriend were "normal".

I've accepted the fact that linking my opposite-sex relationship with my same-sex ones is not easy at the best of times. The youth group made it harder than I ever thought possible by not including my boyfriend! I had just managed to break down a few walls, and now I'm back where I started. How can I live out my bisexuality when neither the straight nor the gay communities accept my partners more than 50% of the time?

I know a few gays and lesbians who have had positive experiences with the youth group, but, based on my experience with them, I recommend to everyone who is bisexual that you not attend the gay/lesbian/bisexual youth group. They will tell you that being bisexual is OK, but you will have to leave your opposite-sex partner at the door.

What does this message tell you? Acceptance is few and far between!

Kirsten M. Schmidt

Dear Wayves:

Re: Letter from Kirsten Schmidt regarding the Youth Project's policy to restrict attendance at meetings to lesbian, gay and bisexual young adults.

As members of the youth project, we are concerned with this letter. We had not realized that our policy had such a negative impact on anyone. It is important to us that the groups be welcoming, safe, and supportive for all youth who are bisexual, as well as lesbian or gay. In fact, making our meetings safe and supportive was a major factor in our decision to limit attendance to people 25 and under who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. Our two social/educational/support groups also provide an environment where we can share common experiences and discuss issues that are important to us.

In addition, we offer special meetings, and social and recreational activities which are open to friends, family, and partners of group members. As well, our heterosexual supporters are welcome to drop in with a group member during the social time before our regular meetings.

Youth group policy, such as the one in question, is decided on by the whole group, which includes a number of bisexual youth. Our policies and procedures are not set in stone, but are discussed regularly.

In the past, policy-related problems have led to group

discussions and, in some circumstances, policy changes. Had the author of the letter brought her concerns to the group, the policy could have been further explained, discussed, and possibly modified.

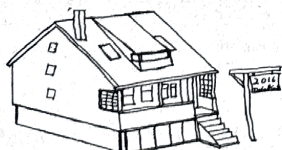
We understand the author's need for support and validation for her relationship, as this is something that we have each felt at some point. We realize that there may be a conflict between the need for a safe space for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth and the needs of bisexuals who are in relationships with heterosexual people. We can only hope that through our varied activities and on-going discussions, we can meet the needs of our diverse membership.

In the future, should bisexual youth wish to start their own group to address their concerns, the youth project would be in support of such a group. The youth project recognizes the importance of providing spaces for specific groups in our communities to get together (e.g., youth who are aboriginal, black, disabled, francophone, transgender, live in rural areas, etc.)

We welcome the participation and input of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth. For information, support, or resources, please call the Youth Project at Planned Parenthood Nova Scotia, at (902) 492-0444.

Sincerely,
The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth Project

Centre town ville bed & breakfast



Quiet and discreet, with old-fashioned Nova Scotia hospitality.

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2016 Oxford Street
Halifax, NS
B3L 2T2

Serge parle français

- Two rooms with shared bath
- One room with ensuite & private entrance
- Visa accepted
- Non-smoking
- Reservations preferred

Symposium XXI

Maine's twenty-first gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered conference will be held at the University of Maine's Presque Isle campus from May 26-29, 1995. The members of Northern Lambda Nord are for the fourth time playing host to the event.

The theme of the Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's Symposium XXI is "Coming of Age", to reflect the fact that this is Maine's 21st event, and to pose the question: how have the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities matured, both politically and personally?

Symposium planners are finalizing details of the conference, but already have confirmed that the Saturday evening entertainment will include a noted lesbian comic and a men's choral group. There is a pending anti-gay referendum on this November's state-wide ballot in Maine, so an important "town meeting" will also be held during the weekend.

As with the previous three times Northern Lambda Nord has hosted Symposium, it is expected that about a third of the par-

ticipants will be from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. NLN membership is drawn from both Aroostook County in Maine, and Madawaska, Victoria and Carleton Counties in New Brunswick. One of the keynote speakers will be a Canadian activist, as has been the tradition at the previous Presque Isle gatherings.

Accommodations at the University of Maine at Presque Isle dormitories will include all linen, blankets, towels and soap. The new campus centre and remodeled dining hall offer modern facilities for Symposium's Memorial Day weekend events.

There are several weekend packages to choose from (all payable in US funds only): Plan A includes three night's lodging, all meals and registration for \$109; Plan B includes two night's lodging, meals and registration for \$95; Plan C is one night's lodging, meals and registration for \$80; Plan D is meals and registration for \$65; Plan E is for registration only, for \$25. Registrations received after May 1 will be higher. A limited number of reduced-price "work ex-

change" registrations are available if requested in advance, as is child care.

To receive a registration form send a self-addressed business-size envelope to: Symposium XXI, PO Box 990, Caribou ME 04736-0990 USA, or call the Gay-

to sell items and/or distribute literature.

Symposium will provide tables in the campus centre for the following fees: \$30 (US) for profit-making businesses, \$15 for non-profit groups selling items for fund-raising, and free space for non-

ber listed above, or to Dick Harrison at (207) 498-0900.

Space at the conference is also being set aside for an exhibit of works by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered artists, hopefully in the new gallery space in the campus centre. Both two- and three-dimensional work is being sought. Pieces will be hung from Friday evening through to Sunday night or Monday morning. There will be no charge to display artwork. Space will be limited, so notification of intent to exhibit should be submitted to Symposium XXI/Exhibit, to the Symposium address, or one of the phone numbers above.

Symposium XXI is also looking for suggestions for discussion topics, and for people to lead workshop discussions during the conference. One workshop which has been confirmed is "Small Business Owners". Workshop facilitators will receive a reduction in the cost of their registration. Send suggestions for workshop topics, and names of individuals who are interested in leading workshops to

Symposium XXI/Workshops, again to the address or either of the two phone numbers above.



Lesbian Phoneline of Maine at (207) 498-2088.

The organizers of Symposium XXI have also put out calls for vendors or organizations who would like

profit groups distributing literature only. Table space must be reserved in advance; send requests to Symposium XXI/Vendors, at the address or phone num-

Action Alert

From EGALÉ, "Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere", your national voice.

What's Up?

The Government reneged on its commitment to introduce the long-awaited "sexual orientation" amendment to the Human Rights Act by the end of 1994.

Recent comments by the Prime Minister and Minister of Justice suggest the amendments may be "indefinitely on hold"! Just last week, Prime Minister Chretien stated "we have three more years or four more years to our mandate" to act on this issue. Minister of Justice Allan Rock recently said: "I don't know when that Bill will be presented. I really don't know when."

What's Next?

The House of Commons resumes sitting on February 6, 1995. We need to flood the Prime Minister's office with faxes, phone calls, letters to demand the immediate introduction of the amendments.

The Budget is likely to be released at the end of February (yet to be confirmed). The wake of the budget will be the next window of opportunity for introduction of the amendments.

What Can I Do?

1. Phone, fax and write the following:

The Rt. Hon. Jean Chretien, P.C., M.P. Prime Minister of Canada Tel (613) 992-4211; (819) 537-1820 Fax (613) 941-6900; (819) 537-6198

The Hon. Allan Rock, P.C., M.P. Minister of Justice Tel (613) 992-4621; (416) 231-2301 Fax (613) 990-7255; (416) 231-2052

Demand action on your rights. Let the P.M. and Minister of Justice know that we are tired of waiting for equality. Ask when the Human Rights Act amendments will be introduced and REQUEST A SPECIFIC RESPONSE.

2. Collect signatures on as many form letters to the Prime Minister as possible. It's very easy to take a stack to your local bar, community centre, social group or church. Fax or post the form

letters to the P.M. as soon as possible. To save long-distance costs, you can mail them in bulk to EGALÉ and we can fax them from Ottawa, if you prefer.

3. Phone, write and meet with your own MP. This is your right as a constituent. Don't know who your MP is? Call 1-800-267-8683 or 1-800-667-3355 for your MP's name and number. All MPs can be reached at House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6, no postage required. Ask your MP to speak to the Prime Minister to request prompt action.

4. Stage media events around the time of the new session of the House (February 6). We need as many prominent public figures as possible demanding action from the Government as the House resumes.

It has been suggested to me that copies of letters to the Prime Minister and Minister of Justice on the topic of amendments to the Canadian Human Rights Act also be sent to the following senior Advisors to the Prime Minister:

Mr. Edward Goldenberg Senior Policy Advisor Prime Minister's Office Langevin

Block 80 Wellington Street Ottawa, K1A 0A2

and Ms. Chaviva Hosek Director, Policy and Research Prime Minister's Office, etc.

These folk may actually even read the letters!

Sample Letter

Dear Prime Minister: I am very concerned that the Government of Canada broke its promise to introduce the long-awaited "sexual orientation" amendment to the Canadian Human Rights Act by the end of 1994. Your recent public comments that you have "three or four more years" to act on this issue raise concerns that the Government is not committed to this equality issue at all.

When members of your own caucus have publicly stated that they consider homosexuality to be "immoral", "unnatural", "abnormal" and "inhuman," we consider that you have a responsibility to take a leadership role and ensure that the amendments are introduced without further delay.

This amendment is about basic human rights. It has been Liberal Party policy since 1978. In a recent

letter to EGALÉ, you wrote:

"The Prime Minister believes that a Government must be judged by its effectiveness in promoting human dignity, justice, fairness and opportunity."

Your willingness to act promptly and effectively on this important human rights issue will be the test of your integrity in respecting the equal rights of all Canadians. Vague promises are no longer sufficient. We expect results.

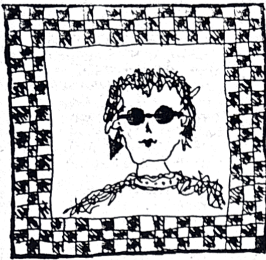
Please reply to this letter advising me when the amendments to the Human Rights Act will be introduced.

Yours very truly,

[Your name, address and phone number here]

c.c.: The Hon. Allan Rock, P.C., M.P., Minister of Justice EGALÉ

Equality For Gays And Lesbians Everywhere - EGALÉ Arts Court/ 2 Daly Avenue/ Ottawa/ K1N 6E2 Tel (613) 230-1043 Fax (613) 237-6651 Join the EGALÉ e-mailing list! Send e-mail to: <lawrence.aronovitch@mindlink.bc.ca>



Quiet Noise

by Jane van Kansas

When I came first to Nova Scotia I lived in Hubbards, outside the broadcast range of CKDU, the community radio station of the tri city area. I would see listings for queer shows in *Gazette* - *The Word Is Out*, *Fill Her Cup*, *More Than Oranges*, and envy those within the fifty watt range of the station. As I prepared to move to Halifax, in January 1993, *The Word Is Out* began advertising for a lesbian co-host and I began to imagine myself on the air.

Actually I had been imagining myself on-air for twenty three years.

When I was about fifteen, I got my first stereo. My parents had one of those cabinet models that looked like a cheap buffet, and some Harry Belafonte, Miriam Makeba and Beethoven records. My mother had seen Bob Dylan make his television debut, sometime in the earliest of the sixties, and she had a few of his albums.

Anyway, somehow it was night when, in the living room, I first got the receiver and turntable and speakers hooked up. Wisely my parents had bought headphones, and so it was me alone in the room and alone with the sound, in the dim, that I first heard stereo. It was an overnight show on CBC. I forget the host's name, but the show theme song was Cat Stevens' *Peace Train*. The dj had one of those mellifluous CBC voices, and he was speaking when the power light went red and I put the headphones on.

I thought he was in the room behind me. The magic

of a smooth witty voice inside my head made me laugh out loud. I never forgot, and never stopped wishing and never stopped thinking that I too had a face for radio.

I never forgot and never stopped wishing...that I too had a face for radio.

It has turned out well. I came into town and became a co-host, and then producer on the premiere lesbian and gay current affairs radio show. At CKDU, first on *The Word Is Out*, and then on over nighters I have finally been able to do what I always figured was magic.

And now, on *Radio Free Kansas*, there are the days when I cannot find the mood I want to communicate, I cannot find the music or the stories that tell whatever it is I wish could be told. Often I am trying to reach those clinging on the couch in their pajamas, melancholy and pessimistic. There are the days when I feel I do good radio, and there are calls in, people thanking or supporting or telling part of their own story, and I myself am gladdened and made near happy by the music and stories that are on the radio.

I have skills, good ones, thanks to my time at CKDU. I know how to splice audio tape, how to make a cart, cue a record, go on air. I have talked to Peter Gzowski, Cathy Jones and Jann Arden. I've learned about *The The*, Meryn Cadell and Everything but the Girl. I met The She Whose Name They Dare Not Speak. I know Kenny Lewis and Brenda Barnes and

Ariella Pahlke and Dan Smith and Chris Trowbridge.

CKDU is one of the most queer positive places I've ever spent time in. They

make a point of hiring queers. They make a point of airing queer shows, of putting queer stories on the news. They went up against the CRTC like David in a lamé loincloth when two gay pieces were deemed unac-

ceptable for day time airing. I am free to play Ani DiFranco, Ferron, Ian Stephens and Derek Jarman.

Sometimes I do feel out of place. I don't know the difference between a one inch punch and a nine inch nail. I don't always like the disorder of the station. I'm never sure if an all ages gig includes the likes of me. I play too much Carly Simon and Joni Mitchell. But all the same, there is a place and a welcome for *Radio Free Kansas* at the station, and I am grateful beyond the

telling that CKDU has allows me access to the air over Halifax. I owe the station big time.

CKDU is at 97.5 on the FM dial. The station began its tenth annual funding drive Friday, January 27, and it continues to Sunday, February 5. To donate, dial 49-HAPPY. The Word Is Out airs Mondays at 7:30 pm. More Than Oranges airs Tuesdays at 2:30 pm. Queer News airs Fridays at 12:10 pm. Radio Free Kansas airs Wednesdays at 10:00 am.



Marus Bociur

This article originally appeared last month, but was laid out incorrectly.

By Kim Vance

How do you go from being an avid anti-porn activist, to become one of many strong voices in a national anti-censorship groundswell? Or how do you make the reciting of a recipe for Ukrainian cabbage rolls so erotic, that your audience doesn't know whether to clap or sit there in silence trying to figure out just where you placed what emphasis on what word, and try to remember if they have that recipe at home somewhere?

Just ask Marusya Bociurkiw, that's pronounced Bosyer-kev. Unpronounceable? Well, as she reminds us on her business card: "There are some cultures where your name would be considered unpronounceable, you know."

Bociurkiw is a feminist/lesbian activist, writer, and film/videomaker of Ukrainian descent. (Try printing that on a business card!) She was in Halifax recently promoting her new book, *The Woman Who Loved Airports*, and showing her latest video *Bodies in Trouble*. Her creative writing has been widely published in journals and anthologies including *Fireweed* and *Dykewords*, and she has produced and directed over a dozen videos and films.

She began her reading at the Centre for Art Tapes with a piece from her new book

called *Blue Video Night*. The story features a videomaker sitting in an edit suite late one night. She is dissecting, frame by frame, footage of an erotic lesbian home video featuring her lover. "It was just an experiment in home video porn, a joke, really. Or, it was us performing our real selves. My desire to objectify her. Her pleasure at being objectified, which she normally would not reveal. The way it happens all the time, in the bars, at the dances, all that looking and being looked at. Yet she was, is, an active subject, too."

After warming (or heating) the audience up with that piece, Bociurkiw moved in to a couple of readings on food, emphasizing the point that she feels food does not play enough of a role in lesbian culture. Of course we cannot give her credit for having

Georgina M. Chambers, M.A.

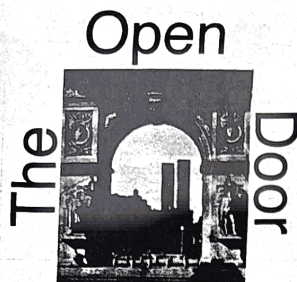
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Sliding Fee Scale



By Norm Paddock
The year was 1894. For gay people in Canada, in many ways, it was 1894. It was the epoch of hope; it was the era of deception and despair. It was the season of same-sex love; it was the prelude to prudish legal entrapment, persecution, and prosecution. It was the time to be cloistered in the closet; it was the escape to honorable freedom beyond 'the open door'.

On some gay and lesbian issues, there appeared to be moments of temporary clarity; such moments, on the other hand, were quickly obscured by the pedantic neu-

ral paralysis of certain politicians, who described 'homosexualists' as acting against 'the laws of nature, and whose sexual behaviour was, therefore, immoral. 'Homosexualists' retorted that they, too, were created in the 'image of God', and were, therefore, both 'natural' and 'moral'. In the eyes of aforementioned politicians, it was clear that we were all going straight to HELL! In the eyes of many significant others, though, we were all going directly the other WAY. We now give 'thanks' to our significant 'others'; we love you more than before 1994.

1994—it was the best of

years; it was the worst of years. The 'Spring thaw' was really hard on some 'homosexualists', especially those without live-in lovers. Hormonal rivers overflowed the banks and boundaries of ravishing 'cruising' grounds. In this regard, let it be remembered that on June 8 a district attorney and prosecutor for the Queen was moved to exercise his moral duty to attend a Gala meeting, an unusual event for the aforesaid Crown prosecutor, and inform the gathering of the legal implications of gay men cruising for sex in public places.

This prosecutor for the Queen spoke solemnly, much in the manner of Solomon and Solon, but certainly not with the sourness of the Queen. (What is it with this Queen's sourness? Is it that she has not yet seen all her male prosecutors? Or, is she, perhaps, a lesbian Queen, and consequently not sensually responsive to her hunky prosecutors?)

Pardon the digression, but during the aforementioned gathering of hormone-happy homos, this sapiential

counsellor for the Queen, with an engaging eye and concerned voice, articulated clearly what homos can and cannot do in public bathrooms, and other public places, e.g., nature parks. Poetic license acknowledged, the attorney's message might be paraphrased as follows:

Acts of sexual gratification, either narcissistically induced and executed, or in concert with other homos, if eye-balled by cops, security or security's electronic eye constitute indictable offences, when metaphysically proven to have been 'the real thing' by a duly constituted court of law. (Criminal Uncode, Chapter 666)

Also, 'acts of entrapment' are sometimes employed by 'peace' officers and security to encourage and ensure that horny perpetrators 'go far enough' to indeed break some anachronistic 'hung-over' law from the Victorian era, and thereby be simultaneously apprehended. A few interesting legal questions arise from such liaisons: e.g., if a crime is deemed to have been committed under such circumstances, who is the real criminal? Who is the victim? Can the apprehended criminal also be the victim? Suppose there was no victim, does it therefore follow that there was no crime?

All the above notwithstanding, the Queen's counsellor advised Gala members that in his experience "they are very successful cases." For whom? Presumably for the Queen! Well, God Save the Queen! Press PLAY for 1894 and spend an hour with Oscar Wilde, as he suffers in his cell from the same inhuman indignities.

Bravo for 1994 and its dying decade of an unevolving, socially

stagnated, and retrogressive century. On the home front, the gay and lesbian community declared war upon itself; it unfolded insidiously and manifested itself in that messy 'guerrilla' format with verbal conflict, person against person, and gender against gender. Unlike most wars of this type, this one was highly successful. By year-end, the demise of Rumours, the gay community's bar and social centre, was painfully imminent. Gala, with its proud history of twenty years struggling for the inherent rights and freedoms of homosexuals in Nova Scotia, is now (as this goes to press) begging for rescue from the flickering flames of the financial hell that has reduced Rumours to a residual mound of gay memories.

Yes, 1994 was a haven of hope; it was also the absolute doldrums of despair. "Letters from the Closet" recounted the lived experiences of Ross, Brian, their family members and friends. They left the closet door open, symbolizing hope.

"The Open Door" became a metaphor for the private hells and heavens of being gay and "out" to family, friends, colleagues, and your own little 'global village'. Yes, as a result clarity prevailed... really, really... the clarity of an emulsion of soft spring mud and freshly ejaculated squid juice.

In September, "The Open Door" announced the formation of "Tuoth", the Unchurch of the Homosapiens. Its chief precept requires that 'unconditional' love be practised between all interacting humans. "Keep the Faith, as we continue to make new "waYves."

Amen and Awomyn

ya kiw

written her first selection on food, as it was a recipe for Cabbage Rolls taken directly from the Starchy Foods chapter of a Ukrainian cookbook. However, much credit can certainly be given to the sensually delicious way this simple recipe was presented. I know what I'll be cooking over the holidays this year!

Her second "food selection" was from her book and is called *Food/Yizha*. "Ruta was very attentive but the truth of the matter was, she was thinking about dinner the whole time she was going down on Colleen." This passage is indicative of the humorous tone set in this selection, however an underlying message of Anglo-centrism and cultural identity conflict is present throughout this story and others in the book.

Bociurkiw refers to this

theme in her work as "travelling across identities". It was probably most obvious in the last piece that she read from her new book, *Mama, Donya*. This was a request from an audience member, actually, but the author felt that it was quite fitting, as it describes the often painful and bizarre humour of visiting biological families during holiday seasons.

In this series of passages, Ruta is trying to explain to her partner the turmoil she feels about her recent visit with her family. At the end of the story she uses the image of a stream with her in it, blocking its flow, the stream being her ancestry.

"I tell her about my Baba, Kateryna... who came to Canada with my mother on a stinking boat... My Baba, a seamstress since she was sixteen, who wanted nothing

more than to sew my wedding dress... And my mama, for whom grandchildren speaking to her in Ukrainian means continuity and future, the only genuine security she will ever accept in a country that daily makes her feel insecure."

Marusya Bociurkiw went on to please the audience further by showing her video, "Bodies in Trouble" which has shown in recent local film festivals. Overall, it was a wonderful evening. Bociurkiw's book, *The Woman Who Loved Airports*, is a fascinating read and a worthwhile gift for all during this holiday season, especially for those "travellers across identities". It is published by Press Gang Publishers (who helped sponsor her tour), and is available at select local bookstores. If they don't have it...make them order it.

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Atlantic Calendar

Monthly

1st Sunday

VALLEY LESBIAN ASSOCIATION Contact Emily at (902)242-3556 for additional information.

2nd Sun

LAMBDA NORTH MEETING 1:30 pm at the Gay-Lesbian Community Services Center, 398 South Main St., Charlottetown. Call (204)498-2084 for info.

Every Sun

SAFE HARBOR M.C. 7:30 pm in the Universalist Unitarian Church, 5500 Inglis St. Hfx. Call 454-2222.

THIRD LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

1st Monday **CARAS SERVICE** at 8 pm, St. Thomas Anglican Church, Oxford at John's, Halifax.

2nd Monday

PIA BRIV IN NIGHT from 8 - 10 pm at 5679 Spring Garden Rd., Halifax, Suite 300. No reservations.

2nd & 4th Mon

HUMANS AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA Meet from 5:30 - 7 pm in Room 1902 DAL RUM, University Ave., Hfx. All sexual-orientation welcome. Phone 464-0602.

Every Monday

HALIFAX GAY AA - 8:30 pm at St. Mary's Basilica, Spring Garden Rd., Halifax. Call 461-1119 for details.

1st & 3rd Tue

OUTLET A blend of lesbian, plays, and theatricals meets regularly in Wolfville. Call Christine at 542-2287/1460 for info.

2nd & 4th Tue

WOMEN'S GROUP FOR YOUNG LESBIAN & BISEXUAL WOMEN (25 & under) Drop-in/invite. 7:30 pm meeting at 7 pm at Pleasant Park/Don't N.Y. offices, 6150 Quinpoint Rd., Hfx. Call Maria at 492-0444 for info.

2nd Wednesday

FLAC GENERAL MEETING 7 pm, 1501 of the Science Library Concourse, UNB campus, Fredericton. Phone 457-2156 for details.

3rd Wednesday

NAMES PROJECT QUILTING CIRCLE Make a quilt panel in memory of a loved one.

February

3 Friday

AIDS SAINT JOHN DANCE will be held at the Reddy's Motor Inn, 1000 St. John's, Hfx. & C. starting at 8 pm. Admission \$5. For more information phone 452-AIDS(2437).

2nd Thursday

A REGISTER'S (OP FWA) SUPPORT GROUP at Suite 450, 5675 Spring Garden Rd., Hfx. at 8 pm. Call Christine Dineen at 454-8469 or Marilyn Whitehead at 462-4204 for more details.

Every Thu

BGLAD (Bisexual, Gay & Lesbian Association of Dalhousie) at 7 pm, Rm. 4007, Dalhousie Student Union Building, University Ave., Halifax. All welcome.

Every Friday

STEPPING OUT AT LALON at 6:25 Wilson St., Halifax at 7:30 pm.

1st & 3rd Sat

GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association for Support) Meetings at 7:30 pm in the Student Common Rm., Central College, Corner Brook. For info phone 634-1066.

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4 Sat

GAY AND (HIV) POSITIVE MEN'S GROUP meets at the AIDS Coalition Lounge, 5674 Spring Garden Rd., Suite 300, Halifax from 1 to 4 pm. Anyone interested should call Terry Gushen at (902)429-7922.

7 Tuesday

WAVES PRODUCTION MEETING. Anyone interested in being part of this publication can come to any of our meetings. You can also get involved by writing for us, taking photos, collecting local queer news to pass on, and so much more. This month's meetings will take place at the Thomas Randall Library, 255 Lacroix Dr., 7:30-9 pm.

8 Wednesday

GALA'S MEETING at 7:30 pm in the Council Room, 2nd Flr., DAL 508 (overhead accessible), 6136 University Ave., Halifax.

9 Thu

FRIED HALIFAX ORGANIZING GROUP MEETING at 7:30 pm at the AIDS Coalition Lounge, 5674 Spring Garden Rd., Suite 300, Halifax from 1 to 4 pm. Anyone interested should call Terry Gushen at (902)429-7922.

10 Friday

ISLAND RAINBOW VALENTINE'S BALLOON DANCE raise funds for this year's Pride parade in Charlottetown. Door prizes, silent auction and more. Admission \$3. Phone 566-9713 for details and location.

11 Saturday

PI WOMEN'S VALENTINE'S DINNER & DANCE presented by Women's Entertainment Productions at 6:30 pm, 520 Regatta, 312 Underway. Please reserve your ticket early (ticket sales and Feb. 10). Send a cheque to Women's Entertainment (P.O. Box 2011, Charlottetown, C1A 7S7). Reservations for tables of six accepted. For information call the phonedial at (902)566-0173. Please do NOT wear scented products.

11 Saturday

BEAT THE BOY - THE MEN'S Valentine's PARTY presented by Guyton's 2nd Month & Men's 3rd Sat at The Church (5057 North St., Hfx.)

13 Mon

THE WOMAN'S RIGHT (A New Kind of Game Show) Hosted by Cathy Jones. This hour has 22 minutes. This fundraiser for Supporting Issues will take place in the McIntosh Room, DAL 513, University Ave., Halifax. Contestants include: Brenda Penney, Alana McDougall, Caroline Wright and Marcel Duckworth. Tickets are \$12 for Students/Underaged and \$15 Regular and are available at Entertainement Books or by calling 420-0103.

13 Mon

TEA PARTY a group to respond to the recent events regarding public sex charges at the Bayers Rd. Shopping Centre and Seaview Lookout Park in Hfx. Meeting will be held at the NSPWAC/AIDS NS office, 3400-6225 Spring Garden Rd., 7:30-9 pm.

14 Tue

PINK TRIANGLE DAY today is the anniversary of the first significant legal victory in Canada in favour of a sexual orientation issue. The case involved Pink Triangle Press, hence the name. Make a quilt panel in memory of a loved one. Bring material, thread, fabric, or any quilting accessories if possible. Quilting meetings are from 8:30 pm at the AIDS NSPWAC Boardroom, Suite 300, 5675 Spring Garden Rd., Halifax. For more information, contact: Maria (417) 5864 or (902)429-7922.

15 Wed

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18 Sat

SAFE HARBOR M.C. 7:30 pm in the Universalist Unitarian Church, 5500 Inglis St. Hfx. Call 454-2222.

21 Tuesday

WAVES DEADLINE & PRODUCTION MEETING Submissions for the March issue of WAVES.

19 Sunday

PLAG MEETING in Halifax area 2 pm. This month marks PLAG's 10th anniversary. Please meet at 443-3747 for location, info.

21 Tuesday

WAVES DEADLINE & PRODUCTION MEETING Submissions for the March issue of WAVES.

26 Sun

WAVES LAY-OUT MEETING Anyone interested in being part of this publication can come to any of our meetings. For info on location of layout and other details contact Chris at (902)423-0999.

28 Saturday

QUEER BLACK WOMEN'S MEETING at the CROSSROADS A BLACK WOMEN'S ART M.O.C. is looking for work covering the queer from dark lesbians & bisexual women. Send submissions to: At the Crossroads, CBW issue, P.O. Box 317, St. P. Toronto, ON, M5S 2S8 or phone 416-518-0296 for more information.

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PLAG MEETING in Halifax area 2 pm. This month marks PLAG's 10th anniversary. Please meet at 443-3747 for location, info.

21 Tuesday

WAVES DEADLINE & PRODUCTION MEETING Submissions for the March issue of WAVES.

26 Sun

WAVES LAY-OUT MEETING Anyone interested in being part of this publication can come to any of our meetings. For info on location of layout and other details contact Chris at (902)423-0999.

28 Saturday

QUEER BLACK WOMEN'S MEETING at the CROSSROADS A BLACK WOMEN'S ART M.O.C. is looking for work covering the queer from dark lesbians & bisexual women. Send submissions to: At the Crossroads, CBW issue, P.O. Box 317, St. P. Toronto, ON, M5S 2S8 or phone 416-518-0296 for more information.

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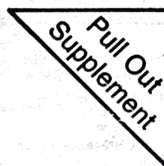
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We're Here, We're Queer, and We're on the 'Net!



by Gary Hanrahan

Since the Wayves (formerly Gaezette) now has Internet access (at least for e-mail), I thought it might be a good time to put together a list of Queer resources available on the Internet.

This list makes no attempt at being "complete"; first of all, things change too quickly on the 'net, and secondly, there's so much out there that it would simply take too much space to include every possible listing. I've tried to come up with a good sample of what's available, and will leave it to you - those whose specific interests are not met to try to find other resources which might better do so.

Anyway, here's the list, divided up by the type of access.

World Wide Web

The World Wide Web (WWW) is one of the fastest-growing parts of the Internet. This is due, in part, to the wider availability of Web browser programs such as Mosaic, and also to the fact that WWW allows access to its own HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) documents, but also for FTP (File Transfer Protocol), Gopher, and other formats. Here are a few sites, which will point you to a number of others.

CyberQueer Lounge

<http://cyberzine.org/html/GLAIDS/glaidshomepage.html>

CyberQueer is a guide to LGBT people places and things around CyberSpace. CyberQueer guide is also a how-to Queer-friendly instructional resource on using the tools and resources of CyberSpace via the WWW, World Wide Web.

Queer Resources Directory

<http://vector.casti.com/QRD/html/QRD-home-page.html>

The QRD makes a variety of resources available, both at their site, and via links to other sites. They also make file transfers from their site available via e-mail.

The FTP (File Transfer Protocol) site includes such items as the text of the Danish Registered Partnership Act. The Act, which went into effect October 1, 1989, was the first law to allow same-sex couples to be 'married' or have their relationships substantially recognized by a sovereign state.

As an example of how to retrieve files via e-mail, both the original Danish Partnership Act and later amendments are contained in a single file, named:

[pub/QRD/browse/danish.registered.partnership.act](#)

To obtain this file by email, send a message to:

FTPMAIL@qrd.org

with these lines in the body of the message:

```
open
cd pub/QRD/browse
get danish.registered.partnership.act
quit
```

To get a list of the commands which you can use for this FTP mail, send just the word "help" in the body of the message.

The QRD also maintains a list of LGBT organizations and magazines which are accessible via email. This list can be found at:

[/pub/QRD/electronic/email.contacts](#)

Resources for soc.motss

<http://www.skepsis.com/globo/motss/>

A companion WWW site to the soc.motss Newsgroup (see below).

The Sappho Mailing List Home Page

<http://www.apocalypse.org/sappho/>

The Sappho home page is "full of information about the Sappho Mailing List and other interesting stuff."

If for some reason your site does not have a WWW client for you to use, you can access it (WWW) at the following addresses using telnet. When connected to the site, login using the username www.

[telnet fatty.law.cornell.edu](#)
LOGIN: www

or

[telnet WWW.LAW.INDIANA.EDU](#)
LOGIN: www

Once connected to the WWW, you can enter the address of the site you want to reach. Enter the command: g, which will open an area at the bottom of the screen to insert addresses. Enter the WWW address, hit the return, and you are off.

If you have no Telnet or WWW access, you can get WWW pages from the following e-mail service. Send e-mail to the following address, and put the send command and the WWW address in the text body.

To: listproc@www0.cern.ch

(Text body message should read like the following.)

send <http://cyberzine.org/html/GLAIDS/glaidshomepage.html>

This, for example, will bring you the home page of the CyberQueer Lounge via e-mail.

E-Mail

Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International

The Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCT) is an advocacy and support organization of Lesbian mothers, gay fathers, bisexual parents, their partners and children. They have over 85 chapters located in 8 countries. GLPCT can provide some information and referrals on custody issues, adoption, surrogacy, A.I., and the rights of co-parents.

If you would like additional information or would like to receive GLPCT's quarterly newsletter, please send your name and address to:

GLPCINat@ix.netcom.com

Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere

There is also an organization for our children, Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) that can be reached at the following E-mail address:

KidsOfGays@aol.com

COLAGE offers a quarterly newsletter and support groups facilitated by trained professionals for children age 12 and above.

Internet Relay Chat (IRC)

IRC is a lot like CB radio for the Internet, with a couple thousand "channels." IRC is a powerful conferencing medium which hasn't quite found its place yet.

After you join a channel, anything you type immediately appears on the other participants' screens, all over the world. People can also send private messages to each other, and exchange files, usually pictures of each other.

Despite the raunchy names of the channels below, people spend most of their time in light chatter. Channel names are dynamic, coming and going all the time. Here are three popular ones (as of the end of '94):

#gaysex General chat channel for males and females.

#bearcave Big furry guys and their friends.

#sappho Invitation-only channel for lesbians. You'll be required to prove that you're female before joining, and you may be surprised how they accomplish this.

Once you're connected to IRC, you can find out about more channels. Some others at press time were: #gayism, #jack-off, #gaygif, and #gaymuscle.

Newsgroups

Usenet News consists of about 9000 discussion groups on almost any imaginable topic. Some groups may not be available at particular sites, as each site is free to decide which groups it will accept from the site "upstream", from which the news is received. To access Usenet News, your site must first have a news feed, and you must have access to some type of a newsreader program. (motss in the group names means "members of the same sex")

alt.homosexual

Slightly more political, slightly less chatty, and a bit more hardcore news than soc.motss.

alt.journalism.gay-press

A new group for gay journalism and gay journalists.

alt.personals.bi

Personals by or seeking bisexuals

alt.politics.homosexuality

As the name implies.

alt.sex.homosexual

Sames as alt.homosexual.

alt.transgendered

Boys will be girls, and vice-versa.

ba.motss

Bay Area - San Francisco and environs.

can.motss

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual issues in Canada

soc.bi

Discussions of bisexuality.

soc.motss

Issues pertaining to homosexuality. The original

gay- and lesbian-related newsgroup. Very chatty,

and a clearing house for every piece of

information relevant (and not) to gays and

lesbians. A high volume group - 200 articles per

day is not unusual.

Transgendered/intersexed persons.

Gay youths helping each other - a fairly new

group.

soc.support.transgendered

soc.support.youth.gay-lesbian-bi

Mailing Lists

Mailing lists are another form of discussion group, but which use regular e-mail for distribution of the postings to the group. Some of the mailing lists duplicate the content of Usenet newsgroups, thus giving access to those without a news feed or newsreader.

Unless otherwise specified, send a message with nothing in the Subject: line, and with **SUBSCRIBE listname** in the body of the message.

act-up

To subscribe, send mail to:
act-up-request@world.std.com

The act-up list was set up for the discussion of the work being done by the various ACT-UP chapters worldwide, to announce events, to exchange ideas related to AIDS activism, and, more broadly, to discuss the politics of AIDS and health care.

aids

To subscribe, send mail to:
aids-request@cs.ucla.edu

This is a distribution list for people who can't access the newsgroup sci.med.aids. Covers predominately medical issues of AIDS. Some discussion of political and social issues. Postings to AIDSNEWS and Health InfoCom News mailing lists are also carried.

Unlike info-aids, postings to aids@cs.ucla.edu are NON-confidential. The average number of postings to aids is about 2 per day. The average size of articles is very large (statistics, news summaries, etc.) sci.med.aids and aids@cs.ucla.edu are moderated. (see also "info-aids" mailing list)

alternates

To subscribe, send mail to:
alternates-request@ns1.rutgers.edu

Mail alternates is a mail list for people who advocate, and/or practice an open sexual lifestyle. Its members are primarily bisexual men and women, and their SO's. Mail alternates is intended as a forum, and support group for adult men and women who espouse their freedom of choice and imagination in human sexual relations, no matter what their orientation. Those who are offended by frank, and uninhibited discussions relating to sexual issues should not subscribe.

ba-sappho

To subscribe, send mail to:
ba-sappho-request@labrys.mti.sgi.com

Ba-sappho is a San Francisco Bay Area lesbian mailing list intended for local networking and announcements. Ba-sappho is *not* a discussion group.

This entry is included as an example of a region-specific resource, of which a number exist. Others include: bnj (BiNet/New Jersey), fl-motss (Florida), LA-motss, ne-social-motss (see below), etc. You will often see such lists included in messages which have been "cross-posted" to a number of lists.

BiAct-L

To subscribe, send mail to:
EL406010@brownvm.brown.edu

This is a bisexual activists' discussion list. Directions for posting to the list will be sent to you when you are added to the list.

BiFem-L

To subscribe, send mail to:
LISTSERV@BROWNVN.BROWN.EDU
Send a message with no subject line and the following message body:
SUBSCRIBE BIFEM-L *your full name*

BiFem-L is a mailing list for Bi women and Bi-friendly women. You will receive an acknowledgement of your message, and will later receive a message welcoming you to the list and explaining how to post messages. The list volume is 80-100 messages per day.

Bisexu-L

To subscribe, send mail to:
LISTSERV@BROWNVN.BROWN.EDU

This is a list for discussion of issues of bisexuality. Cordial and civilized exchange of relevant ideas, opinions and experiences between members of all orientations is encouraged - we do not discriminate on the basis of orientation, religion, gender, race, etc.

This list is not intended in the spirit of separatism from any other lists devoted to lesbian, gay and bisexual issues but as an additional resource for discussion of bisexual concerns in particular, by the same token, the existence of Bisexu-L should not imply in any way that other discussion lists are no longer appropriate forums for discussion of bisexuality.

BITHRY-L

To subscribe, send mail to:
LISTSERV@brownvm.brown.edu
Send the message:
SUB BITHRY-L "Your name"

This list is for the theoretical discussion of bisexuality and gender issues. It is neither a social group, nor a support group, nor an announcement or news forum. There are many other lists that serve those purposes on the networks. Cross-postings from other groups are strongly discouraged.

DSA-LGB

To subscribe, send mail to:
DSA-LGB-request@midway.uchicago.edu

DSA-LGB is a mailing list for members of the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Commission of the

Democratic Socialists of America, and for other people interested in discussing COMMUNICATIONS between sexual identity and the democratic socialist movement in the U.S. and other nations. The list is neither archived nor moderated.

euro-queer

To subscribe, send mail to:
majordomo@queernet.org

The first (not subject) line of the message should be:
subscribe euro-queer-digest (for the digest format)
subscribe euro-queer (for the separate-message format)

(If you are subscribing a different address from the one you are using to send the request, you should instead use a line of the form:

subscribe euro-queer-digest myotheraddress@my.other.system (for the digest format)
subscribe euro-queer myotheraddress@my.other.system (for the non-digest format)

EURO-QUEER is a list devoted to communication among European l/b/g/t activists, organizations and individuals. It has a specific focus on queer Euro-News and Euro-Activism, but it is also a forum for general L/B/G/T discussion.

To find out how other European queer groups are working and how the situation for queers is in different European countries, all subscribers are encouraged to contribute with queer-related information from their regions.

The list is not moderated, but the number of daily postings from each specific subscriber is limited to two messages. If needed this restriction may be suspended by contacting the list maintainer (euro-queer-approval@queernet.org).

It is also possible to post to the list anonymously by sending to "euro-queer-anonymous@queernet.org" (this will strip the "From" field and other identifying information from the mail header, then automatically send the message to the list). It is the policy of the maintainers not to release the names of recipients, and to attempt to keep the list private. However, e-mail is not secure, so do not count on this.

euro-queer-studies

To subscribe, send mail to:
majordomo@queernet.org
The first (not subject) line of the message should be:
subscribe euro-queer-studies

(If you are subscribing a different address from the one you are using to send the request, you should instead use a line of the form:

subscribe euro-queer-studies myotheraddress@my.other.system

EURO-QUEER-STUDIES is a list devoted to communication among European l/b/g/t researchers and students involved or interested in queer studies. EURO-QUEER-STUDIES is not intended to be a general discussion mailing list. Issues that are not related to the purpose of the list should be directed to other relevant lists.

Researchers and students are encouraged to contribute with information about their present projects, as well as with all kind of other information relevant to the purpose of this list.

The list is not moderated, but the number of daily postings from each specific subscriber is limited to two messages. If needed this restriction may be suspended by contacting the list maintainer (euro-queer-studies-approval@queernet.org).

It is the policy of the maintainers not to release the names of recipients, and to attempt to keep the list private. However, e-mail is not secure, so do not count on this.

euro-sappho

To subscribe, send mail to:
majordomo@seta.fi
with the following command line in the body of the message:
subscribe euro-sappho your@address

Euro-Sappho is a list for sapphic discussion on topics that are mainly of interest to European dykes. While any woman can join, subscribers should keep the international/European nature of the list in mind. List membership is open to women only.

Currently, the list has 120 subscribers from 20 countries including: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and USA.

If you encounter any problems with subscribing, send mail to:
euro-sappho-request@seta.fi

FTR-L (Fight the Right)

To subscribe, send mail to:
MAILSERV@PITZER.EDU

This list contains information and alerts on fighting anti-gay politics. This list is not moderated. It is intended to not only foster discussions of the activities of the Reactionary Religious Right and how we can combat them, but also to serve as an avenue of getting people involved in the fight. Posting of ACTION ALERTS is encouraged. If you have any questions about the list, please direct them to the list keeper, Michelle, at johnstom@cgs.edu

GAY-LIBN

To subscribe, send mail to:
LISTSERV@VM.USC.EDU
Send a message with the text:
SUB GAY-LIBN firstname lastname (no punctuation, no other text)
This is the list of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Librarians Network.

gaydads

To subscribe, send mail to:
majordomo@vector.casti.com

This is a discussion list for gay/bi dads, co-dads, and daddy wannabes. It is intended to provide a supportive virtual space for the parenting concerns of gay men. This list is unmoderated.

GayNet

To subscribe, send mail to:
majordomo@queer.net

This is a list about gay, lesbian and bisexual concerns (with a focus on college campuses), including (but not limited to) outreach programs, political action, AIDS education, dealing with school administrations, social programs, and just finding out what other support groups are doing. Items of general gay/lesbian interest are also welcome. The list is not moderated.

Other administrative questions and requests should be sent to the e-mail address "gaynet-approval@queer.net".

gender

To subscribe, send mail to:
majordomo@indiana.edu

Gender is a list created for the purpose of discussing gender issues. The intent is to provide an open-minded forum for discussion of gender stereotypes vs. individuality, gender roles and particularly how people can get beyond these restrictions. Any related topic is fair game, and anonymous "posting" is available.

gl-asb

To subscribe, send mail to:
MAJORDOMO@QUEER.NET
with the following content in the message:
subscribe gl-asb
end

The "gl-asb" list is a discussion list for discussion of bondage and SM topics for gay men and lesbians. It is intended to provide a forum for discussion and stories with an atmosphere of gay and lesbian culture perceived by some as being less prevalent in the alt.sex.bondage news group than they wish.

GLB-NEWS

To subscribe, send a message to:
LISTSERV@BROWNVN.BROWN.EDU or
LISTSERV@BROWNVN.BITNET
with the body of the message containing the command:
SUB GLB-NEWS your name

Subscriptions will only be activated by the Editor-at-large. This is designed to shelter the list from unwanted "bashers" who might be able to use the list contents to blackmail or coerce members. By default, all subscriptions will have the CONCEAL=TRUE attribute set.

GLB-NEWS exists as a read-only repository of information for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and sympathetic persons. It is designed to present informational articles from a variety of source mailing lists in a single forum for quick and compact delivery.

As they are received by the Editor-at-large, articles which would classify as information will be posted to this list. Headers will be stripped and (as much as is possible) articles will be edited to remove personal references. This will be done in order to preserve the anonymity and safety of the authors. Only at the explicit request of an original author will this guideline be relaxed. An Author may request their name to remain on articles by sending mail to the Editor-at-large. All articles posted to GBL-NEWS will have a Reply-To: header tag which will point to their list of origin. If you are unable to post a reply to the origin list, you will have to contact that list's moderator and request that special action be taken.

Direct all questions to one of the Editors-at-large:
David B. O'Donnell atropos@netlab.cis.brown.edu
Julie Waters JULIE@drycas.club.cc.cmu.edu

glbpoc

To subscribe, send mail to:
glbpoc-request@ferkel.ucsb.edu
glbpoc is a mailing list for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people of color. To be added to the list you must provide your full name and a complete internet address.

GLQSOC-L (Gay/Lesbian/Queer Social Science List)

To subscribe, send mail to:
LISTSERV@BINGVMB.cc.binghamton.edu
Send, in the body of the message:
Subscribe GLQSOC-L Your Name

GLQSOC-L, the gay/lesbian/queer social sciences list, is meant to facilitate coordination and communication among sociologists, anthropologists, historians, political scientists, economists, psychologists and anyone interested in these approaches to anti-homophobic research by/for/about lesbians, bisexuals, gays, queers, trans*, trade, dykes, uranians, etc. etc. It is a forum for debate about our various theories, methods, and insights, and for scholars to discuss their research. Please feel free to post announcements, calls for papers, job openings, or anything that will strengthen the infrastructure of our field.

info-aids

To subscribe, send mail to:
info-aids@rainbow.UUCP (Ken Davis)

This list is intended to act as a clearinghouse for information, and discussion about AIDS, including alternative treatments, political

implications, etc. Exchanges files with AIDNEWS@RUTVM1.BITNET. The list is open to anyone with the time and inclination to participate. The mailing list will be confidential and known only to the members. Anonymous postings will be accepted. (See also "aids" mailing list)

khush

To subscribe, send mail to:
khush-request@husc3.harvard.edu

Khush is a mailing list for gay, lesbian, bisexual South Asians and their friends. We define South Asian as people from or descending from countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka. The purpose of this list is to discuss South Asian gay culture/experiences/issues, as well as form a social and support network. Currently the list is unmoderated and anybody can join or leave the list at any time.

LA-motss

LA-motss-announce

To subscribe, send mail to:
la-motss-request@flash.usc.edu

This is an online social and political forum for gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues in the Los Angeles and Southern California area. Anything posted to the announcements list is automatically forwarded to the discussion list. You may choose to receive announcements only, or receive both announcements and general discussion.

Labrys

To subscribe, send mail to:
C_LOUISE_VIGIL.OSBU_NORTH@XEROX.COM
Include the word labrys in the subject line.

Labrys is a mailing list that provides a safe space for lesbians to discuss topics of interest. The membership is restricted in order to provide a space for lesbians. The forum is free form with the exception of occasional moderation should the charter be violated.

LesAc (Lesbian Academic list)

To subscribe, send mail to:
majordomo@vector.casti.com

The LesAc list is open to lesbian and bisexual women who are graduate students or faculty members; MTF lesbian or bi identified transsexual academics are also welcome to join. If you do not fall into these categories but would still like to join, send a note explaining your situation to:

lesac-approval@vector.casti.com

lgb-sports

To subscribe, send mail to:
listmanager@hookup.net
with the following in the body of the message:
subscribe lgb-sports

You will then receive a confirmation message.

This is a mailing list devoted to gay, lesbian, and bisexual sports topics. The Gay Sports list (approx. 140 recipients currently) will accept all manner of discussions on virtually anything that seems relevant. The list is unmoderated, so no one will censor or inhibit messages.

What makes a sport gay? Well, nothing, really — but gay, lesbian, and bisexual athletes often have special concerns, experiences, and goals that they'd like to talk about.

If the automated system fails to work for some reason, send mail to Joe Clark, the owner of the lgb-sports list, at

owner-lgb-sports@hookup.net or
joelclark@hookup.net or
joelclark@scilink.org

Mail your contributions to the Gay Sports list to
lgb-sports@hookup.net

LIS (Lesbians in Science)

To subscribe, send mail to:
ZITA@AC.GRIN.EDU

The list serves as a forum for discussions, as a resource for professional and personal information-sharing, and as a social network and support group. Womyn only.

MEDGAY-L

To subscribe, send mail to:
LISTSERV@ksuvm.ksu.edu

Send a one-line message:
SUB MEDGAY-L Your Name

This is the official list of the Society for the Study of Homosexuality in the Middle Ages, an affiliated society of the Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University.

moms

To subscribe, send mail to:
majordomo@qiclab.scn.rain.com

Send a one-line message:
subscribe moms Name <optional email address>

The "moms" mailing list is for lesbian mothers, lesbian co-moms, and lesbian mom-wannabes. This list is women only. All subscription requests will be approved manually by the list owner. Women only.

ne-social-motss

To subscribe, send mail to:

major-domo@plts.org

Announcements of social and other events and other happenings in the North East (of the continental United States) of interest to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people.

noglstp

To subscribe, send mail to:

noglstp-request@elroy.jpl.nasa.gov

This list is sponsored by the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, Inc (a 501c3 organization). Their national office is in Pasadena, CA and can be reached at (818) 791-7689 or PO BOX 91803 Pasadena CA 90019. They also have a newsletter which is available to membership. The list traffic is light and is varied, but slanted towards scientific and technical issues and concerns of our glb subscribers.

pflagnet

To subscribe, send mail to:

pflagnt@aol.com

This is a list for the group Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

pulse-list (Pulse Magazine Electronic Edition)

To subscribe, send mail to:

listserver@drink.demon.co.uk

The first two lines of the message (not subject) should be:

subscribe pulse-list

get pulsecurrent

This will both subscribe you for future issues, and retrieve the current issue as well. There is no charge for this service.

The magazine has an e-mail address as well:

pulse@drink.demon.co.uk

queernet

To subscribe, send mail to:

major-domo@queernet.org

Send the message:

subscribe queernet [your name, email]

This is a discussion group for Queer Nation.

queerplanet

To subscribe, send mail to:

major-domo@vector.casti.com

This list is for general discussion of queer issues.

Queer-Debate/Debate-Digest (forum for gay and anti-gay activists)

To subscribe, send mail to:

major-domo@vorton.mankato.msus.edu

Include in the body of the message the line:

subscribe queer-debate

or subscribe debate-digest

These lists have two purposes: 1) They are designed to provide a forum to end some of the factional flaming that is taking place on other mailing lists. This has led to lists that are no longer able to serve their assigned purpose; 2) Perhaps, just maybe, it will bridge a few gaps and change some opinions and lead to some understanding.

Essentially, you are free to talk about whatever you want and you are, in many ways, encouraged to argue. But, there are a couple of rules that need to be adhered to. This is in order to present accurate information and a useful forum: 1) No personal attacks or insults. That's just childish; 2) Any material presented as factual must have a citation. Making blind and ignorant claims is again pointless; 3) Anonymous posting though single-blind remailers is not permitted.

queer-e

To subscribe, send mail to:

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Send the message:

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This is the distribution list for an interdisciplinary queer studies electronic journal.

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A discussion list for lesbian, gay, or bi moms, dads, co-moms and co-dads, and mommy and daddy wanna-bes. It is intended to provide a supportive virtual space for the parenting concerns of lesbians and gay men and queer-identified bis. Networking is encouraged! The list is unmoderated.

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This is a list for discussion of queer studies.

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In the subject line, write:

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RightWatch is a new, electronic newsletter which has been created to serve as a clearinghouse for news on the Reactionary Right (RR). Editorials are also welcomed.

Articles and opinion papers will be included as space permits. A hardcopy version of RightWatch is coming in the near future.

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sappho

To subscribe to the regular version, send mail to:

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Subscriptions to the digest are now handled automatically; there may be some overlap between when you get ON the digest and OFF the regular list so please be patient or wait until you're off the list before sending your digest subscription request.

The mail sent to sappho-request does not go to some automated list-handling software at this time. It goes to a human being. While human-readable requests are not required, they are preferred. Also, if you have to be removed from the list *quickly*, it helps to put something in the subject header to indicate this (like "TAKE ME OFF NOW!!"). When sending request stuff, it helps if you include your address in the message (sometimes headers get messed up and addresses become difficult to decipher). It also helps to say whether you're on the regular list or the digest version (see below).

Remember: Sappho membership is limited to women. Sharing postings with men (without the permission of the author) is considered inappropriate and rude and not very nice. Sappho is open to all women, but only women may join.

scotsgay-list

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with the following in the body of the message:

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ScotsGay is a new monthly magazine published in Edinburgh, which is also available via free subscriptions over the Internet.

Writing in the first issue, editors said: "Gay publishing in Scotland has suffered far too long from outdated approaches which ignore the reality of contemporary life for lesbians, gays and bisexuals. ... ScotsGay will be arty but notarty. ScotsGay will be light but not lightweight. ScotsGay will cover the scene, the off-scene and the obscene. ScotsGay will keep you in touch with the politics which affect all of us."

Transgen

To subscribe, send mail to:

LISTSERV@BROWNV.M.BROWN.EDU

Transgen is a list specifically for and about people who are transsexual, transgendered and/or transvestites. The list is open to the public. TRANSGEN may be received in two formats. To set TRANSGEN to post-by-post format, the proper command is SET TRANSGEN MAIL. To set it to digest format the command is SET TRANSGEN DIGEST.

uk-motss

To subscribe, send mail to:

uk-motss-request@pyra.co.uk

The uk-motss mailing list is for gay people in the UK, or those who are interested in the UK gay scene / politics. It is a supportive environment for those unwilling or unable to read the soc.motss newsgroup, and confidentiality is assured. Anonymous posting is available.

This supplement is sponsored in part by



Reviews

Boys on the Side



By Pamela Brennan
Boys on the Side, written by Don Roos and produced by Herbert Ross, is a light hearted new movie with some intense scenes, about three very different wommin who experience love.

The focus of this comedy (slash heart wrenching) film, is on the bond that forms between Robin, (Mary-Louise Parker) Jane, (Whoopi Goldberg) and

Holly, (Drew Barrymore) as they embark on a cross country adventure. Because the lesbian presence is never waning and the straight content isn't overpowering, the viewer is met with a good balance of the two. Thus, the viewer can draw his/her own conclusions as to these wommin. Either way, the love is satisfying for the viewer because she/he is touched, which appears to be the writers ultimate goal.

The characters are somewhat stereotypical, with the lesbian in butch, complete with boots, leather, and a thumb ring, the

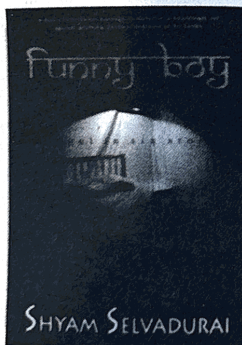
het in mainstream businessperson attire, and the bisexual (draw your own conclusion because it's rather ambiguous) is into the hip, look cute, yet hard scene. Don't despair though, the passion, the insights, some bizarre attractions and relations, and the acting are nothing short of superb. Oh, and lest we forget the soundtrack, which features such artists as Melissa Etheridge, Sarah McLachlan, The Cranberries, Annie Lennox, and Roy Orbison. Also the film, as well as the disk, hosts the Indigo Girls. I haven't heard the disk so we can only hope it includes Whoopi Goldberg's ver-

sion of Janis Joplin's Piece of My Heart and Orbison's Anything You Want.

Jane's sense, Robin's sensibility, and Holly's senselessness become evident as they progress from running, to running from the law, to running from one another, to realizing the strength of their haphazard friendship. This classic Hollywood combination with a queer twist, (pardon the pun) is both humorous and thought provoking, since the wommin deal with a wide variety of issues. They range from the very serious AIDS dilemma, to interaction with the idealistic patriotic boyfriend, named Abe

Lincoln. It's easy for the viewer to be attracted by how each character deals with the problems they face. Their predominant characteristics mesh together so that by movie's end, each has brought out that quality in the other.

So here's the deal, this mainstream movie features a visible dyke in it but I wouldn't say it's a queer movie. I also wouldn't say that it's a straight movie. What I am saying is that it really doesn't matter. Both sexualities are presented as normal. In this flick love on all levels is taken at face value and it transcends sexuality.



Funny Boy

Funny Boy by Shyam Selvadurai reviewed by Ross Boutillier
If you read the anthology "Meanwhile, In Another Part of the Forest", edited by Alberto Manguel and Craig Stephenson, you will undoubtedly remember fondly the story "Pigs Can't Fly", about a young boy's "spend-the-days" at grandparents

young boy preferred to play with his young girl cousins in the constantly repeated, carefully orchestrated game called bride-ride, the re-enactment of a wedding ceremony, where the boy, Arjie, always played the bride, fully attired in a resplendent old sari.

This short story forms the first chapter of this moving and beau-

tiful growing up of a "funny boy" in a culture where everyone is expected to adhere to rigid, traditional forms. This culture, where this powerless, yet willful and elegant child grows into increasingly troubled and dangerous self-awareness, is itself heading toward a terrible, bloody explosion of violence and bigotry as the Sinhalese majority turn in fear and rage against the

apart, the family clings to its traditions with an earnestness and fear born of hatred and pain from similar violence in an earlier generation.

This book, though, is not black and sorrowful, even as it chronicles the approaching abyss and the awful climax. Instead, with an eloquent wit and patient understanding, it tells us what it was like, growing up different in

school we might have known seem like paradise, finding that first love in spite of everything, and finding out what being different really means - finding out and surviving.

This is Selvadurai's first book, something I have mixed feelings about. On one hand, it is so good book it's hard to hope what follows will keep up. On the other hand, there is much really good

The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe



By Kim Vance
The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe has just finished its run at Neptune theatre in Halifax. The play, written by Jane Wagner, gained international acclaim in 1991 when it was transformed into a two-hour, Tony Award winning movie starring Lily Tomlin.

The play centres around Trudy, a bag lady from New York City, as she escorts a

performer is challenging enough, let alone a 3-hour comedy where the actor is a woman, the play is quite women-centred, and the 14 characters cross gender, race, class, sexual orientations, and age. Not an easy job, especially in front of the some of the typical season-ticket-holding folks at Neptune. However, Seana McKenna pulled it off with ease. I had seen the movie in 1991, and somewhat idolize Lily Tomlin's skill and wit, so I did

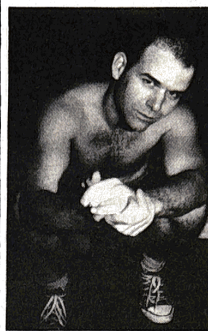
I really had a sense that I was listening in on a conversation between five people

group of visiting space aliens and attempts to enlighten them on human idiosyncracies. Trudy, and all of the other 13 characters, were played by Seanna McKenna, a popular Canadian actress, and well-known in the Maritimes after her recent appearance as Blanche Dubois in Theatre New Brunswick's version of A Streetcar Named Desire.

The play, often considered Lily Tomlin's magnum opus performance, presents its starring actor with one of the most difficult tests of skill in the profession. A play featuring only one

not attend the Neptune version with any high expectations. Especially when I realized that, unlike in the movie, there would be no set or costume changes during the play. Seanna McKenna was going to have to portray 14 different characters by voice, posture, and geture alone. I maintained low expectations.

Needless to say, I was pleasantly surprised! After a long exhausting week, this woman peaked my interest for three straight hours, late into a Friday night (a very difficult task for even the most beloved ones in my life). And watching



The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me

A Theatre Review
by Chris Aucoin

The kiss referred to in the title is the metaphoric "kiss" of pride the author/character received in viewing *The Normal Heart* - Larry Kramer's famous play about the early days of the AIDS crisis. Having once been underwhelmed beyond belief by a production of *The Normal Heart* I had reservations about what to expect from this play. However, any reservations I did have were easily put to rest a mere 15 minutes into the performance.

The play is David Drake's fairly well-written and often witty one man show. The plays only character presents episodes from his life (not necessarily in chronological order) that all relate to his sense of self as a gay boy/man and to his relation to the homophobic world he finds himself in before, during (and after?) the AIDS crisis and related struggles for human rights.

Thom Fitzgerald deserves credit for even attempting what is necessarily a physically (on stage for over an hour and one half with no intermission) and artistically demanding role. The fact that he did credit to this 3-

dimensional character is even more a testament to the quality of his performance and this entire production.

At his best Thom Fitzgerald is brilliant in his portrayal and at his worst he is adequate - no small feat in any role. And this role covers a wide range of emotional content, texture, and even stages of 'coming out' and he communicated that content with clarity throughout the performance. The weaker aspects of the performance (and again they were weak only in comparison to the strength of the performance overall) seemed to be about his being perhaps a bit insecure with the scene or moment - something that hopefully was no longer the case after opening night jitters go away. Or perhaps this slight unevenness was more a reflection of the collective process with which this production was directed - mind you I've seen productions with a single director have no continuity or clarity of vision at all! All in all still only a minor complaint anyway.

In addition to a strong perfor-

mance this production at Dalhousie's Sir James Dunn Theatre was backed up with simple and at times stark lighting and set pieces that perfectly suited the play. The music used to segue between the scenes was well chosen and (mostly) well utilized - especially in the plays only musical number (again job well done by Mr Fitzgerald).

As an old acting instructor friend would say, putting on a play is about making choices - what to wear, how to say a line, where to stand, etc. There was really only one choice in this production that I question - because it detracted from the play by distracting me (and others I would later learn) from the performance itself - and it wasn't a minor distraction. It was in the use of images of men who have died from AIDS and more specifically in how and where those images were presented. Perhaps the execution of that idea deserves a reconsideration.

Out of a possible five triangles I give this Charlantan Theatre Collective production

▲▲▲▲

McKenna portray two lesbians raising a gifted child, on the stage of Neptune, was probably one of the most affirming experiences I've had in a while. Her performance was so convincing that I really had a sense that I was listening in on a conversation between five people at one point.

For those who missed the Neptune performance, this would be a great opportunity to lobby your local theatre community to stage this production. Seana McKenna has performed *The Search for Signs...* in Winnipeg, London, and Ottawa, and brings with her a wealth of talent and visibility as one of Canada's leading actors.

In Halifax, the Neptune production of *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* has also sparked a re-

newed interest in the film version. Several video stores have commented that they have had numerous inquiries about the film. Unfortunately, it has not been released on video in Canada...yet. Some stores suggested that I try major American video chains, because they may

have the American-released version, but no such luck. I think Atlantic Canadians will have to wait for its Canadian release. Rumours have it that Lily Tomlin never wanted the video released at all, but if it will make its way here, and it will be worth the wait!

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MEN'S SEX '95

By James Shedden

- The number of Gay and Bisexual men who never use condoms when fucking (anal sex), either getting fucked or fucking someone else (25/20%) is twice as high in Atlantic Canada than the national average (12/11%).
- The highest proportion of men who have not been tested for HIV antibody was observed in the Atlantic re-

gion (46% in Atlantic Canada and 35% across Canada).

- Men in Atlantic Canada (22%) have the highest rate of worrying about finding sex partners (18% across Canada).
- The incidence of gay men who test positive being rejected by other gay men is three times as high as the

national average (29% in Atlantic Canada, 10% nationally).

- The reported health service problems of people living with HIV in Atlantic Canada are well above the national average.

All of these figures come from the Men's Survey '91, the first Canadian survey of Gay and Bisexual men and HIV infection.

If the results seem startling to you that is their purpose. How much do you think those statistics have changed in the past three years? Even if you don't give a lot of credit to statistics think about your life as a Gay man in Atlantic Canada. How easy is it for you to have sex? How much do you enjoy sex? How confident are you to live as a Gay man or identify yourself as a man who has sex with men to others you care about? How easy was it for you to pick up this newspaper?

AIDS Nova Scotia has begun the third phase of the MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN PROJECT (or MEN'S SEX PROJECT for short). Funded entirely by the Provincial Department of Health (and one of the very few initiatives the provincial government has developed for Gay men), the MEN'S SEX project hopes to educate men about their sexuality with other men, outreach to men having sex with men and organize men to take control of their sexuality, and their lives.

There are two distinct parts to this project:

The Men's Outreach Group is dedicated to assisting men in the metro Halifax area in learning more about safer sex, creating workshops for the men's community, condom distribution, possible dances or social events, having displays at the various bars, and during the summer months distributing safer sex information, condoms and lube in areas where men cruise for sex.

The group is headed by Ned MacInnis and a core of about 10 diverse volunteers from the men's community.

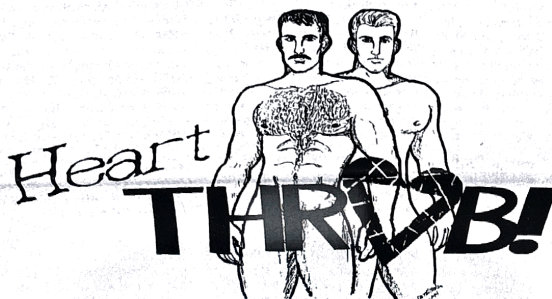
The Rural Outreach Project is making contact with men in other parts of Nova Scotia. There have been contacts made in 6 rural communities and we are hoping to make more contacts throughout Nova Scotia. Through workshops, social contacts, and organizational support, this is a real chance for Gay men and men who have sex with men to form networks across the province. The rural project is being taken on by James Shedden with the assistance of men from across the province.

We are hoping to do a lot with this project, but we can't do it alone. This is a real chance for Gay men and men who have sex with men to take charge of their sexuality, form bonds, and think about what it means to have sex with other men, no matter what your orientation. We are always looking for help, in the metro area for assistance with the outreach group, and especially in the rural areas. We would like to develop ongoing and expanded contact with men from across this province. Ned and James can be reached at the offices of AIDS Nova Scotia (5675 Spring Garden Road - Suite 300). The office phone number is (902) 425-4882. If you are interested in finding out more about the project, or want to get involved give us a call, we'd love to hear from you.

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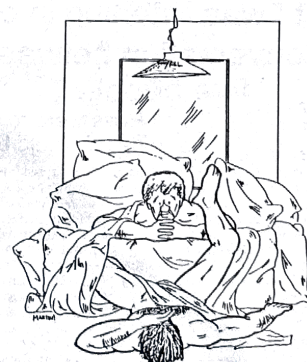
Advance tickets include one pre-paid drink.

Tickets available from the Entitlement Bookstore (5675 Spring Garden Rd.), Red Herring Co-op Bookstore (1555 Granville St.), AIDS Nova Scotia (Suite 300, 5675 Spring Garden Rd.) and, if available, at the door.

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DOC & RAIDER

by Sean Martin



I believe the phrase you're groping for is
"Thank You".

Queer Spirits in Jest

by J. Randy Bowers
This, the second in a series of musing on spirituality, focuses on Gay Spirituality through excerpts from recent letters. Currently, from a friend named Joey in Toronto. Other than the writer's names, other names and situations have been changed, if they might identify certain people.

Dear Randy:
Dughan salamet for your letter and post card. I so enjoy hearing from you. Also, thanks for the ad with your picture on it.

Sorry to hear about the situation with Adam. Homophobia is alive and well. How fortunate that friends came to your support.

I gather from your letter that you've resolved the question of your sexual orientation? Is that a correct assumption? How you've suffered in that painful struggle! If you've discovered and begun to accept your sexual self, how happy I am for and with you. Some people never resolve the question in their minds. Outside the mind, it never is a question and cer-

tainly not a problem. Gay or straight is not a choice; it's a state one simply is.

Society, upbringing, etc. coerces one from the truth. Again, on the realm of Being and Reality, society is wrong, as it is in so many other areas. Will that Change? Some individuals do, but most people are too terrified to explore the depths. "Mankind cannot bear too much reality," as T. S. Eliot put it.

Don't get snarled in the present day ridiculous, absurd myth that gays, lesbians and bisexuals are only different from others in their sexual orientation.

Your insights on sexuality-spirituality hit the truth. However, so very few would ever allow themselves to perceive the intimate connection between the two. Most people don't understand either reality. Push on!

As you approach having to decide a research theme, your mind will inevitably teem and frolic, flip, and become fragmented splinters. A gay, lesbian and bisexual dimension would be very helpful. If you do pursue this, Randy, may I suggest you do so from a new, fresh per-

spective? The multitude of shit so far done is so stuck, reactionary and utterly boring.

In a book I've just read, I found some enlightening critique, but even more important, a couple dynamic new things. Dynamite, even if I don't agree with some of the steps taken by the writers. (*Gay Spirit: Myth & Meaning* by Mark Thompson, ed.)

If you do anything on said

ence is an absolute necessity in the evolutionary press, both physically, culturally and, more profoundly, spiritually.

The divinely-given vocation of gays, lesbians and bisexuals is a precious imperative and completely unique. As long as we limit our vision with societal and/or "religious" established lashing, blind fear will keep us from discovering our precious identity and our voca-

tion. Enough, I'm getting carried away! Sorry!

I remember marching in the second Gay & Lesbian March in August 1979. It was astounding that we had 250 people. In Toronto, it began with a few gay groups - Dignity being one - and we marched in August on the Sunday closest to when Pierre Trudeau's bill allowing or legalizing homosexual behaviour in private (1969) was brought in. So we'd begun our Canadian march in 1977 or '78.

In 1981, the vicious bath

raids in February here in Toronto sparked such strong active response that the decision was made to march on the last Sunday of June (Stonewall, USA), since it came first in time. There is a connection between politics and spirituality, just as there is a connection between spirituality and sexuality. Making those intimate connections can be frighteningly revealing.

It's late. I still have thoughts to write from your letters. Shall write very soon. My thoughts keep growing, challenging, on ideas we've been discussing via these "paper flowers."

Do write soonish. Keep Trekking. It's worth every drop of blood and soul.

Love,
Joey

Note: if you would like to contribute to this dialogue on spirituality and related topics, please forward your letters or notes to *Queer Spirits in Jest*, c/o Wayves.

J. Randy Bowers is an MA student in Human Ecology at Mount St. Vincent University, and is currently in training as a Counselor and Mediator.

The NeoFight Activist

By Brian Mombourquette

As the months turn into years, I am learning that the relationship that Ross and I share is primal to my life. It has taken on the solidity of reality - not just a vision, but a need. I know that protecting this relationship has become akin to self-defense. Both Ross and I seek to strengthen our partnership continually, and we seek the support of those we love in this quest. The one thing missing from the equation remains the lack of support from our laws and systems.

I will be one of the first to admit that things have changed a great deal over the last thirty years. When I was a little boy, the only things I heard about queers were that they were sick, or evil, or worse. Today, while there remains a portion of the world which holds these notions, there is an ever-increasing number which stands up and defends gay men and lesbians as being worthy of protection from discrimination, or mistreatment. Many have gone on to change

the laws of the land to give us a better chance at happiness and equality. But this does not mean that these same people understand how to defend "the relationship".

For years, I resisted entering into a relationship because of the difficulty I foresaw in getting my family to "come around". Now,

when medical problems arise. As a gay couple, we have no intrinsic visiting rights in the hospital room. We are not necessarily notified or consulted as the next of kin. Queer couples are invisible in the eyes of the law, and there are few places where it makes as much difference as inside a hospital.

In trying to prepare for our

with the reality that death can one day separate us. Taken abruptly, or over a period of time, it would make little difference, for the one thing that we cannot prepare for, or make plans for, in the way that any other couple can, is the death of a same-sex spouse.

There is little room as of yet in our society for this situation.

If Ross were to die on the way home from work today, God forbid, I would be left unable to maintain our home.

with the majority of both clans having accepted us as a couple, I am beginning to realize just how much work remains. When there is a dance, for instance, it is difficult for me to consider how we would tag along. When the topic of RRSPs, or tax benefits comes up, all I can do is rage against a government that refuses to see us. There is always the risk of being perceived as two men, rather than as a couple. This can be frustrating at best, dangerous at worst.

One of the most frightening things about this scenario is

lives together, Ross and I had living wills drawn up, and gave each other limited medical power of attorney, as well as legal, and named each other as domestic partners in our wills. It is the best we can do. The lawyer was very sensitive to our needs, and struggled to suggest all the possibilities. We hope that we will not need any of these documents for many, many years to come. I know that we are both comforted by their existence, however imperfectly they protect us.

All this pales in comparison

Our world typically still doesn't understand the tremendous strain it places on us in situations like this. In addition to the emotional shock, there is the tremendous legal battle which can sweep all away in its path. There is no way to get bereavement leave at many workplaces. There is no way to pass on a pension, or an RRSP. There are so many stumbling blocks it isn't even funny.

If Ross were to die on the way home from work today, God forbid, I would be left unable to maintain our home. I would lose the apartment in a matter of

months. I would potentially have to take vacation time in order to grieve properly. I could even lose many of the possessions which we share on a daily basis. The list goes on.

For me, this serves as just one more reason why I do my best to be "out" in this world. I know that it is ultimately up to me to demand a better existence. No one is going to rush up and say, "look, we made the world a better place for you", because improving the world takes a lot of sacrifice. Not too many of us were born saints, I'll wager, and so I am learning to rely on my own abilities, and to work towards the future one day after another. For me, there is no other way. I must remain true to myself and the relationship, and in doing so, I am committed to the fight. The neo-fight. Brian Mombourquette is working hard to defend a way of life that few can truly understand, but all can know in time. Pull Quote - The one thing missing from the equation remains the lack of support from our laws and systems.

the News

wayves

News editor: L. Charlene Vacon
Contributors: Rex Wockner, Patrick Barnholden, Kim Vance.

Homophobia group forms

WOLFVILLE — A "bunch of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals" calling themselves **OUTLET** has come up against the very homophobia that they were trying to protest against. After initiating a poster campaign coinciding with Pink Triangle Day to confront homophobia, posters were defaced with slogans such as "Go home fags" and "Thanks for giving us AIDS." A spokesperson for the Wolfville, NS, group said that the reactions, while troublesome, were not surprising. The campus of Acadia University has had to deal with numerous homophobic incidents. **OUTLET** has also been attentive to federal concerns. In late 1994, they met with Annapolis Valley-Hants MP John Murphy to discuss Bill C-41, the hate crimes amendment, and the proposed new Human Rights legislation. Murphy said he intended to support C-41, and that gays and lesbians deserve Human Rights legislation. He agreed to

bring his positions up with colleagues in caucus.

Since that meeting, Murphy and Alan Rock have communicated to **OUTLET** their intent to see through the Human Rights amendments.

Rumours Abound

HALIFAX — Now that Rumours (Halifax's largest gay and lesbian bar) is closed, rumours are spreading about possible new facilities opening. The only story that seems at all consistent, is that any new facilities



emerging will likely mean the creation of separate social spaces for men and women. There has been talk of an exclusively male bar in the works, and given the popular recent appeal of women-only events at Rumours and the Halifax Curling Club, it is more than likely that a new space for women will also emerge. In late January, about a dozen local lesbians got together at a public meeting to discuss the needs of the lesbian community around a women-only space. Given the inter-

est expressed at the meeting, and the wave of support shown for women's dances lately (you can't get tickets unless you know the right people), it is only a matter of time before a new social space for women in Halifax will emerge.

Pink Triangle Day.

HALIFAX — The day is set aside to celebrate the reclamation of the pink triangle, a symbol used to mark homosexuals during the Holocaust. In commemoration of the victims of Nazi persecution, gays and lesbians defiantly wear the pink triangle, which also comes in black or lavender versions.

Tens of thousands of gay men and many lesbians were persecuted and arrested during the Nazi regime, and thousands were killed. The idea of reclaiming the symbol was introduced in July, 1974 at the Seventh Annual Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men in Ottawa by a Nova Scotian, Robin Metcalfe, on G.A.E.'s behalf.

Gay & Lesbian long distance

HALIFAX — Canada's first queer Long Distance Savings Plan is coming soon to Atlantic Canada. **FREEDOM RINGS** is a cooperative venture between Bluesky Communications and ACC Long Distance Inc. ACC has been in the long distance business since 1984 specializing in corporate clients and university campuses. Bluesky Communications is a gay-owned information service that is setting up the community contacts to the not-for-profits which will receive a percentage of the long distance

revenues brought in through the **FREEDOM RINGS** program.

Since Dec. '94 **FREEDOM RINGS** has been set up in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, British Columbia and Alberta. In Ontario you can earmark which



gay/lesbian or AIDS charities you would like a percentage of your long distance bill to go towards. Similar arrangements are being set up across the country. The Atlantic provinces are still in the planning stages, but a company spokeswoman said it would only be a matter of time.

P.E.I. Pride

CHARLOTTETOWN — Canada's smallest province has a new gay and lesbian organization. Island Rainbow has formed largely as a result of last year's first ever Pride Parade in Charlottetown. They are already planning this year's for July 15th. The 8 member committee is currently hosting a series of fundraising dances (see Atlantic Calendar) to help support this year's events and other community-related projects. Anyone interested in finding out more should contact the PEI phone line at (902) 566-9733.

Workplace Support

By Rex Wockner
OTTAWA — Half of Canadians told pollsters they would speak out in support of a coworker if the employee faced discrimination based on sexual orientation, reported National Capital Xtra!. And 81 percent said an out gay or lesbian would face discrimination at work, according to the poll conducted by the Angus Reid company.

The survey also found that three in four Canadians would feel somewhat com-

fortable having a gay friend and one in three have one.

Little Sister's

VANCOUVER — December 20, Joe Arvay wrapped up arguments in a BC Supreme Court. Representing Little Sister's Book Emporium in their 40-day battle against Canada Customs, Arvay has argued that detention of material at the border is applied in a discriminatory way to gay and lesbian works.

According to an *Angles* report, Arvay ended arguments by saying that the fundamental problem is not merely in the administration of the law, but with the actual legislation in the Criminal Code, a matter that legislators will have to deal with.

Little Sister's pointed out both inconsistencies and patterns in the Canada Customs' application of provisions in the Customs Act pertaining to obscenity. Books headed for Little Sister's were detained often when the books were already available at other Vancouver-area booksellers. *Hustler*, *Madonna's Sex*, and others passed through the border while *Pat Califia's Macho Sluts* was seized. *The Joy of Gay Sex* was detained, while *The Joy of Lesbian Sex* came through.

Justice Ken Smith has reserved decision in the case, with 270 exhibits to go through before rendering his decision.

Janine Fuller, manager, and Jim Deva, co-owner of Little Sister's were confident that the store presented a sound case, *Xtra West* (December 29) reported.

Cammermeyer

OTTAWA — The story of the highest ranking female officer ever to be kicked out of the military airs on NBC

Dykes To Watch Out For



Feb. 6.

Col Margarethe (Grethe) Cammermeyer was a 26-year veteran of the US army when she was dismissed because she was a lesbian. In the made for tv movie, *Serving In Silence: The Grethe Cammermeyer Story*, Glenn Close will play Cammermeyer, next to Judy Davis as Cammermeyer's lover.

A kiss between the two lovers has become an issue, with the Family Defence Council pressuring NBC to remove the scene. Close responded to concerns about the kiss by saying that "the movie would be dishonest without it," but that it was certainly not the central issue in the movie.

Barbra Streisand, who produced *Serving In Silence*, had to convince Cammermeyer that her story should be told in a movie. "[Streisand] told me that she felt this issue was the most important of our decade," Cammermeyer told interviewers. "At that point, I felt that if she feels it's that important, then it's not for me to stand in the way of this happening."

Cammermeyer returned to military duty after a court ruled that the discharge was unconstitutional.

G.I. Jane

TORONTO — A recent study by the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry suggests that boys who engage in "cross-gender" behaviour, which includes playing with dolls, are more likely to be gay.

Girls who "engage in traditionally masculine activities" also showed a propensity toward lesbianism.

Sunera Thobani, President of the national Action Committee on the Status of Women told the Canadian Press that it would have made much more sense to spend money on a study of homophobia or how to end discrimination than this research which "takes us back to pre-historic times."

Liberty Street

CBC TV — Billy Merasty says he is demonstrating his "oral culture." Merasty, featured on the cover of Jan. 20, *Xtra!*, is a gay native playing one on national television.

In CBC's new twentysomething show *Liberty Street*, Merasty's character Nathan is a key figure, at least in the first few episodes. Already this season Nathan has dealt with poverty, homophobia, and gay bashing.

Critics say that, while the show is worth seeing, its lib-

eralism and corniness make it difficult to take too seriously.

Liberty Street airs at 8:30pm, Wednesdays, on CBC.



Bell must offer benefits

By Rex Wockner

TORONTO — An arbitrator ordered Bell Canada to offer spouse benefits to gay employees Nov. 29.

In a binding decision, Rick MacDowell said Bell had breached its contract with the Canadian Telephone Employee's Association, which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Most Canadian government employers and government-affiliated corporations have extended benefits to same-sex spouses but the private sector has moved slower.



Don't cry, kid

TORONTO — Scott Thompson, star of the hit TV show *Kids in the Hall*, was a bit miffed when he spoke with *The Washington Blade* in January. Thompson said that "the whole gay thing" has only gotten him work at AIDS benefits, and his career is suffering as a result.

Apparently feeling let down by Canadian queers, Thompson said, "I've been an open gay comedian for 10 years in Toronto. I'm probably the most famous fag in this country, and I've never been on the cover of my own gay paper (*Xtra!*)."

Black And Blue success

MONTREAL — The BBCM Foundation announced Nov. 8 that more than \$62,000 in contributions to AIDS care groups had been made as a result of the annual *Black and Blue*

Party.

This represents an increase of 55% over last year's donations.

From the 62 grand, \$40,000 went to AIDS Community Care Montreal, and \$5500 each to *Fotra de depannage de medicaments*, *Foundation d'aide directe SIDA Montreal*, *Foundation Joel Gregory*, and *Maison Ludovic*.

This, the fourth *Black and Blue* Party, attracted 4587 participants.

The Montreal-based BBCM Foundation, comprised of the *Bad Boy Club* and the *Good Guys Montreal*, is a registered non-profit organization created by a group of Montreal professionals to generate much-needed AIDS care funding.

Promises, promises

OTTAWA — Another broken promise is no surprise.

After years of government promises to amend Federal Human Rights legislation to include sexual orientation, the Liberal government reneged on a promise to introduce the legislation before Christmas.

Federal Minister of Justice Alan Rock says that he still plans to bring forward the amendment. The PM has been reluctant to have two controversial bills in the House of Commons so close together, reported *Xtra!* Gun control legislation has come under fire from opposition critics and lobbyists.

Fears that MPs Roseanne Skoke and Tom Wappel will leave the Liberal caucus for the Reform Party of Canada only make the Grits more reluctant. This scenario would make Reform the official opposition.

Queer refugee

By Rex Wockner

TORONTO — A gay man from Venezuela was granted refugee status in Canada Jan. 2 4 after officials convinced themselves he had been tortured and raped three times by Venezuelan police because he is gay. Jose Luis Ortigoza showed

both physical and psychological signs of torture, Canadian doctors told a panel of the Immigration and Refugee Board.

"There are no words for how I feel," Ortigoza told the *Toronto Star*. Ortigoza arrived in Toronto Nov. 6 to meet his lover, Carl Rizzo of New York. They met in 1992 in Venezuela. The two intended to stay briefly in Toronto to improve Ortigoza's chances of getting a visa to live with Rizzo in New York.

Rizzo now plans to seek Canadian citizenship.



Camp Sister Spirit

LOS ANGELES — The US Memorial Day Weekend (May 26-30, 1995) will once again be memorable for Mississippi as 1,000 gays and lesbians from all across America ride to the aid of Wanda & Brenda Henson. Along with numerous volunteers, this lesbian family has defended their 120 acre "Camp Sister Spirit" folkschool from an ongoing, religious-right-inspired campaign of violence, harassment, intimidation and death threats. There have been over 64 incidents to date, including telephone death threats, mail-bomb threats, explosives at their gate and a dead dog tied to their mailbox.

The climate of hatred that has been spawned in the surrounding communities is palpable and deadly. Two gay men were murdered recently just 15 miles away.

With no help from the government in sight, veteran gay and lesbian activists have decided to take the defense of Camp Sister Spirit into their own hands. Robin Tyler, a prominent lesbian

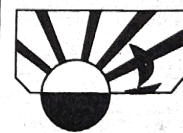
activist who originally called for and emceed the 1st March on Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights, and subsequently produced the Main Stage for the 2nd and 3rd Marches, and Rev. Troy Perry, founder of Metropolitan Community Churches, the largest organization of gays and lesbians involved in the religious community, will go to Camp Sister Spirit over Memorial Day Weekend to help complete the work started by the Hensons.

In addition to helping build the property, money will be raised to help Camp Sister Spirit pay for expenses for a federal lawsuit to be filed under the anti-Klan act for the harassment they have received.

Because of the escalating violence against lesbians and gays all over the world, an international lesbian/gay version of the Clothesline project will occur during this time at the camp. The purpose of the Clothesline project is to bear witness to the survivors and victims of the war against women, both the casualties of the war, and the wounded. This display shows the extent of the problem with a visual impact similar to the AIDS quilt.

"We have marched on Washington and celebrated 25 years of Stonewall in New York. America must know that this was not a 'phase of activism' — that we shall continue the struggle all over this country until civil rights are extended to everyone," said Tyler.

Contact: UFMCC, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd. Suite #304, Los Angeles, CA 90029 Attn. Project Camp Sister Spirit or call Frank Zerelli at (213) 464-5100, ext. 212.



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Can't change 'em

WASHINGTON — The American Medical Association, reversing a 13-year-old policy, has stopped recommending efforts to turn unhappy gay men and lesbians into heterosexuals.

In a report adopted by the AMA's governing House of Delegates earlier this month, the association calls for a "nonjudgmental recognition of sexual orientation by physicians."

"All patients, regardless of their sexual orientation, have a right to respect and concern for their lives and values," says the report, entitled, "Health Care Needs of Gay Men and Lesbians in the U.S." "However, gay men and lesbians face ostracism and discrimination from some health professionals."

The policy paper, adopted at a meeting Dec. 6, replaces a 1981 paper titled, "Health Care Needs of the Homosexual Population." The 1981 paper supported treatments aimed at changing the sexual orientation of homosexuals. "The notion that gays could not be turned into heterosexuals, it said, was a myth."

The American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses in 1973.

The AMA policy paper also cites a 1994 study that found 64 percent of its members believed that homosexual patients risked receiving substandard care if they disclosed their orientation.

The policy paper urges doctors to consider "the special needs of gay men and

lesbians who have significant partner relationships." It suggests that physicians talk to gay patients to determine whether they want their partners to make medical decisions for them should they become unable to decide for themselves.



New HIV vaccines

Within 18-24 months, two new HIV vaccine trials will begin. The tests will be performed on heterosexual drug users in Thailand and homosexual men in Brazil.

World Health Organization officials say that between 4,000 and 20,000 people in the two countries will take part. Small scale testing on humans has been underway in Europe.

The associated Press reported that women would be included in initial tests in Thailand. WHO estimates that one in five men and one in twelve women are HIV-infected in Thailand, compared to one in 250 people in the US.

Balkan network

By Rex Wockner
Info AIDS in Zagreb, Croatia, and the gay group Arkadia in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, are forming a gay-activist network for the Balkan states.

The network will receive and dispatch information,

make referrals, and build coalitions with non-gay associations.

"The most important aspect of the network... will be its contribution to the grassroots initiatives that are sprouting throughout the region," said Info AIDS' Amir Hanusic.

United Nations AIDS czar

By Rex Wockner
The United Nations Dec. 12 named Belgian doctor Peter Piot as its first AIDS czar, charged with mobilizing the resources of all U.N. agencies to fight the disease, reported Reuters.

Piot has been associate director of the World Health Organization's Global Program on AIDS since 1992 and is a past president of the International AIDS Society.

"Faced with a truly global emergency... it is imperative that the United Nations response is comprehensive and effective," Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in announcing Piot's appointment.

Piot will head up the AIDS work of six U.N. agencies: the World Health Organization; the Children's Fund; the Development Program; the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the Population Fund; and the World Bank.

Piot has plans in the works to test two HIV vaccines in Thailand and Brazil.

By the year 2000 it is estimated that up to 40 million people worldwide will be HIV-positive.

Indonesian AIDS Project

By Rex Wockner
The European Commission

last week donated \$900,000 to fight AIDS in Indonesia's top three cities -- Jakarta, Surabaya and Bandung.

Sixty-seven Indonesians have AIDS and another 208 are HIV-positive, Welfare Minister Azwar Anas said. "The government is determined to fight AIDS with all efforts and funds so the conquering of AIDS becomes a part of our national development plan," he added.

According to the Reuters news service, officials say privately that the HIV rate could be 200 times the official figures.



S/M Consent case before EC

By Rex Wockner
The European Commission on Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, Jan. 18 accepted the case of three gay British men who were jailed for having consensual sado-masochistic sex.

The arrests were part of British police's infamous "Operation Spanner" in which 16 men were charged with assault in 1990 as a result of SM sex play in their own homes. They were sentenced to up to four-and-a-half years in prison.

The sentences were reduced on appeal.

British courts said consent is not a defense in sex acts where bodily harm is committed. The European Commission disagreed.

The commission will try to settle the case directly with the British government. If that fails, it will go to the commission's committee of ministers or the European Court of Human Rights.

"The European Court has recognized that the individual in Britain has a right to privacy with respect to their sexual lives," one of the men, Roland Jaggard, 47, told Reuters.

The European Commission and European Court are part of the Council of Europe, a human-rights organization formed by 33 nations.

Yeltsin rejects testing law

By Rex Wockner
Russian President Boris Yeltsin in late December returned to parliament legislation mandating HIV testing of foreigners, tourists and Russians who are at high risk for AIDS or work in certain professions.

Yeltsin told the Duma, the lower house of parliament, to rework the bill.

Non-governmental AIDS organizations in Moscow took credit for Yeltsin's move and said it was the first time they had impacted AIDS policies.

Swedes can marry

By Rex Wockner
Two men in the northern town of Ostersund were the first to tie the knot after Sweden's law legalizing gay/lesbian marriage took effect Jan. 1.

Hans Jonsson, 42, and Sven-Olov Jansson, 58, were married at City Hall by former member of parliament Jorn Svensson, who publicly supported same-sex marriage as early as 1973.

Parliament legalized gay marriage June 7 by a vote of 171 to 141 with 5 abstentions and 32 absences.

At the time, Prime Minister Carl Bildt stated: "We accept homosexual love as equivalent to heterosexual. Love is an important force to personal as well as social development, and should therefore not be denied."

Denmark legalized gay marriage in 1989, Norway in 1993. More than 3,000 gay couples have wed in Denmark.

No queers in Polish military

By Rex Wockner
Poland removes proven gays from its military by diagnosing them with "personality disorders," reports the newspaper Nowa Trybuna Opolska.

"The homosexual community has difficulty as a whole [with] institutions and legal entities," noted Poland's Association of Lambda Groups.

In addition to military harassment, gays are under the surveillance by the Interior Ministry, are discriminated against by police, see their careers limited by corporations, the church and government; have trouble renting space for gay bars, suffer hate-language in the media, and are mistreated by the health sector, the association said.

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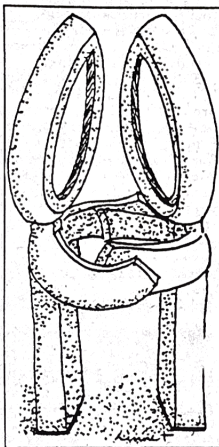
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Brazilians support Gaillot

By Rex Wockner
Members of Brazil's oldest gay organization, Grupo Gay Da Bahia, picketed the state of Bahia's Roman Catholic Cardinal, Lucas Neves, Jan. 20 to protest Pope John Paul II's recent suspension of French Bishop Jacques Gaillot.

GGB members distributed pamphlets and condoms and carried banners supporting Gaillot, who was removed as bishop of Evreux, France, and assigned to an inactive diocese in the African nation of Mauritania, because of his vocal support of condom use and gays.

GGB head Luiz Mott said Bahia's state capital, Salvador, pop. 2.5 million, is a center for the "candomble" voodoo religion which, he said, has gay gods and openly gay priests.



Australian in-semination

By Rex Wockner
The parliament of Australia's Northern Territory has banned single women and lesbians from accessing in-

vitro fertilization programs.

"The territory government believes that the best possible relationship for a child to be born into is a stable, loving relationship between a man and a woman," said territory Attorney General Fred Finch.

In-vitro fertilization is available to all women on a case-by-case basis in Australia's other states and territories. (Chicago Tribune)

Chinese dykes commit suicide

By Rex Wockner
Two Chinese lesbian lovers killed themselves Dec. 4 by injecting Lysol because one wanted to marry a man and the other didn't want her to, reported the Xin Min Evening Daily.

The women, aged 22 and 26, lived in Suihau in Heilongjiang province and had been lovers for several years, the newspaper said.

Most Chinese gays and lesbians cave in to social pressure to marry.



February is Black History Month. Wayves salutes two historical figures: singer Bessie Smith (1894-1937) and writer James Baldwin (1924-1987).

South Asians gather in India

By Rex Wockner
About 70 gay men from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka gathered at year's end near Bombay, India, for the region's first-ever gay conference. They demanded that India repeal its law against gay sex, which is punished with up to 10 years in jail, according to gay activist and magazine publisher Ashok Row Kawi, who organized the confab. He said men jailed for homosexuality are forced to work and are chained in their cells.

Delegates also appealed for research on gay themes in ancient Indian literature, poetry and folklore.

"We need sex education in schools and to tell students that homosexuality existed in ancient India," Kawi told AP. Kawi believes there are 50 million gays in India, almost all of them closeted.



Kiss this

By Rex Wockner
London's Lesbian Avengers staged a kiss-in outside the Channel 4 network headquarters Jan. 7 to protest the removal of a lesbian kiss from the early showing of the TV program Brookside.

The kiss, between character Beth Jordache and her new squeeze, Viv, was shown on the 8 p.m. airing of

the soap opera but removed from the repeat which aired the next day at an earlier hour.

According to *Capital Gay*, "Channel 4, spurred by shock-horror stories in the tabloid press, deemed [the kiss] too steamy for 'pre-watershed' viewing."

The Avengers sported "Kiss Me Quick" hats and waved "Don't Snip The Snog" placards.



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Wayves is an independent publication, published ten times a year by a non-profit collective. It exists to inform lesbians and gay men in Atlantic Canada of the activities of groups within their communities, to promote those activities and support their aims and objectives.

Contributors this month: Rex Wockner, Kim Vance, L. Charlene Vacon, James Shedden, Norm Paddock, Lynn Murphy, Brian Mombourquette, Catherine Lambert, Daniel MacKay, Jane van Kansas, Gary Hanrahan, Art Fisher, Norval Collins, Ross Boutillier, The Bubble Girl No.3, Heather Burke, Pamela Brennan, Chris Aucoin.

Anyone who contributes to Wayves is automatically considered to be a member of the collective and is welcome to participate in any meetings or discussions.

Wayves seeks to build a truly equal society by opposing homophobia, racism and sexism. Wayves reserves the right to refuse any material that might be reasonably considered homophobic, racist, sexist or an attack on the community. Publication of names or photographs of persons or organizations in Wayves is not to be construed as an indication of sexual orientation of that person or organization. Opinions expressed in Wayves are not necessarily those of the editorial collective.

Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

Wayves welcomes articles from anyone, anywhere. Deadline is the fourth Tuesday of every month. Material will be edited for length. Submissions should be no longer than 1,000 words and can be left at Rumours, 2112 Gottingen St., Halifax, or mailed to: Wayves/Box 34090/Scotia Square/HALIFAX, N.S./B3J 3S1. Email to wayves@fox.nstn.ca.

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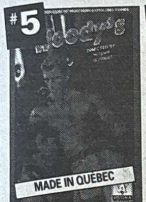
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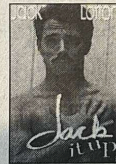
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