



Antigonish Celebrates First Pride Week

By Chris Frazer

It is with a great deal of pride that I am able to write that the LGBT community in Antigonish was able to enjoy its first ever Pride Week and its second annual Pride March, the week of October 8-12. Events were organized by X-Pride, the LGBT student group at St. Francis Xavier University.

This may come as a surprise to those who know Antigonish as the "Little Vatican" but LGBT students at X and their allies have been working very hard for the last four years to raise our profile on campus and in town. Our efforts are starting to pay off.

Rather than the usual June or July dates for Pride, we chose to celebrate around National Coming Out Day, October 11. This is a time when university students are back on campus and we have the critical mass and energy to organ-

ize events.

Things started with an LGBT Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday October 8. But the first really exciting day was Tuesday – the day when the Rainbow flag went up over St. FX University. The ceremony was incredible moving, complete with messages of support from LGBT alumni from as far away as Long Beach, California and London, England. Later that night we screened LGBT films.

We had hoped to have the flag over town hall too. However, initial encouragement from Mayor Kathleen Chisholm turned into hypocritical back-pedaling when she denied even meeting with us to discuss the idea; she even had the nerve to tell us we couldn't have a march either.

Wednesday arrived and we

marched! From campus, we headed down Main Street and past town hall, chanting "We're here, we're queer and we're not going to disappear!" Then we continued past Piper's Pub, the scene of two homophobic beatings in recent years. Then back to campus for a joyous celebration.

Thursday featured a forum on sexual orientation, with faculty and students discussing their research.

The wrap up was Friday with a Variety Show, and with 70 guests in the house, we enjoyed a surprise visit from Halifax's very own Boom Boom Lubalicious (thank you dear!) and a superb line-up of local talent that kept us roaring all evening long.

It was a week that we'll all remember for a very long time, and something that will keep us going through the long winter ahead!

NYE Party at Halifax Marriott Harbourfront!

It's hard to believe it's that time of year again – not only do we have to get the fall chores finished, and all the holiday shopping wrapped up, but there's the decision about what event or activity to attend for New Year's Eve. While there are lots of choices around for the straight crowd, it's harder to find a party

aimed just at us. But this year, the answer is easy: the Rainbow Community New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance - a unique opportunity for us to enjoy the best of what Halifax has to offer at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel.

The fully catered dinner and dance will be held in the tastefully appointed Acadia Ballroom begins

at 9 pm(?). As a world-class establishment, right on the waterfront of our beautiful harbour, the Marriott has an elegant lobby and gathering area overlooking the charming Historic Properties — this is a huge part of what will make this party exceptional.

NYE cont'd p 13

Truro Flag Flaps Again

Truro town council's decision not to fly the gay pride flag this past summer did not include the AIDS awareness flag. They agreed at that time to fly it at the request of the Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) for World AIDS day December 1. The NACS contacted

the town in a letter; the response was finding out on the radio that the town would not fly any other flags other than the three levels of government. They cited a by-law passed September 10 of this year. Bonnie Joldersma, the operations co-coordinator for NACS was "disappointed that the

Town Councilors did not notified NACS that this issue was on their Agenda for their Town Meeting. So no one from NACS was present to speak on behalf of this. I found out from the Media, on the morning news while I was getting ready for work, what was decided at the

Truro cont'd p 12



ISCANS held their Coronation Ball at the Holiday Inn Select Saturday November 3. The organization raised approximately \$9000 this year for their chosen charities. Pictured above are the charities' representatives in attendance were present to receive cheque donations. Story and more photos on page 9. (l to r) Mike Gorsman, Metro Turning Point Food Bank, Jessica McPhail, ACNS (Emergency Fund), JJ Lyons (in the habit) Manna For Health, Laurie Ehler, Bryony House for Women.

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World InterPride Conference Zurich 2007

by Gerrit Volkmann

I was honoured to be the sole delegate from Halifax Pride at this year's World InterPride Conference, held in Zurich, Switzerland, from October 11-14.

The conference was attended by over 160 delegates from Pride and Human Rights Organisations. 15 different countries were represented, with people coming from places as far as Sri Lanka and Australia. The conference theme was "United for Equality," and with such a diverse group of people

present it became very clear what this means.

The 4-day gathering consisted mainly of workshops and plenary sessions. The workshops were often excellent opportunities to broaden one's knowledge of how a Pride Organisation should work and how a successful Pride Festival can be organised. In the plenary sessions, we dealt with the infrastructure of the InterPride organisation, and elected new members to the executive.

The conference organisers (from Christopher Street Day Zurich) always made sure that our overall well-being was taken care of outside of the meeting rooms. Delicious gourmet lunch was provided everyday, a city tour was offered,

night life of Switzerland's gay capital.

One of my personal highlights was to meet Gilbert Baker, who created the rainbow flag in 1978 (the flag's 30th birthday is on June 25 2008!), and who took me and some fellow attendees out on the market square in front of the conference hotel and let us play with a 70 meter long rainbow flag (go to www.ip2007.org to watch the movie).

But the most valuable aspect of the conference was to exchange experiences and ideas with other attendees. In this respect it was



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Top: Halifax Pride Delegate Gerrit Volkmann with Gilbert Baker (San Francisco) creator of the Gay Pride Flag, Above left: Sabran Abeysundara (Equal Grounds, Sri Lanka) one of 160 international delegates , Above right: Playing with a 70 metre Rainbow flag in the heart of Zurich (Photo Credits: Dean Nelson Whistler BC Pride)

World AIDS Day Vigil

Halifax 2007

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Celebrate
and
Remember

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Frank	Kevin	John	Paul	Conrad	
Rex	Ron	Keith	Damian	Glen	
Raymond	Glenna	Paul	Michael	Earl	

and any other names we may have missed...

7:00pm
Saturday, December 1st, 2007
FRED. 2606 Agricola Street, Halifax, NS

A Community Event sponsored by AIDS CHALLENGE FRED.

especially memorable to have met Svyatoslav Sementsov from Belarus, Tomasz Baczkowski from Poland and Sabran Abeysundara from Sri Lanka. Being out of small insignificant Halifax and talking to these three guys made me realize very clearly how very fortunate we in Canada can consider ourselves as LGBT people. Those three countries and so many others still have a long way to go until one's sexual orientation is not an issue anymore. InterPride is one of the dedicated organisations to help the LGBT movement in struggling countries and to support emerging Pride organisations in hostile environments.

Lastly, I would like to thank DalOUT, Halifax Pride and Doug Melanson for their financial support towards my attendance at the conference.

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:
Dec 7, Feb 1, Mar 7, Apr 4, the first Friday of each month, send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax):
Monday Dec 10, Feb 4, Mar 10, Apr 7
Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, location TBA. submissions@wayves.ca, all welcome!

Layout Parties (Halifax):
Dec 16, Feb 10, Mar 16, Apr 13
Help build the paper – no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and helping even once or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM, [NEW LOCATION] Shambhala Sun Magazine, Suite 701 1660 Hollis Street, all welcome!

On The Stands and In The Mail:
Dec 21, Feb 22, Mar 28, Apr 25

Transgender Diaries

An Open Letter To Peter Duffy



By Denise Holliday

After 60 years of surviving as a transsexual person and finally reaching womanhood in possibly the hardest way known to "man," my experience with the world has at best been tumultuous. I have survived the school bullies and left the British military behind me with personal honour. I raised three amazing children and have been given a special gift of experiencing being a grandparent from a female

perspective.

While all that goes on, one might think the battle to survive is over. Unfortunately it never will be for any of us until professional writers like Peter Duffy learn to report facts and deliver opinions with professionalism. Until they take the time to not only witness an event and respond emotionally at a personal level, but also to examine their selves and report the whole story.

Mr. Duffy was so intent on reporting what disgusted him that he missed what was perhaps the biggest story of his life. He had an opportunity to change lives as he sat squirming in the back row. He was observant enough to realize he was in the minority but lacked understanding of himself so much so that he failed to realize the biggest problem for the speakers in

front of him was the man sitting in his seat.

Transphobia in the media is commonplace, as is homophobia. As long as professionally recognized publications like the Chronicle Herald pay people such as Mr. Duffy to produce the emotionally driven drivel that is presented as legitimate opinion from a professional reporter, innocent people who struggle daily to handle a multitude of offensive situations aimed at them will find themselves in danger of even more intense abuse.

When a person in authority speaks from his position of power, inappropriate expression of opinion can incite others to become aggressive regardless of the speakers intent. Such a situation arose recently in Truro when the Mayor linked God and politics in

a statement denying GLBT groups' flag-flying privileges. The only African Nova Scotian councillor on the council objected and this resulted in a minor racial incident at his home.

Mr. Duffy speaks daily from another powerful platform, the media, and he constantly abuses the privilege. This time he placed the members of the GLBT community in danger not by attacking someone in person but by insidious and emotional rhetoric that, by design or not, incited words and actions that put innocent people and their families in harm's way.

I ask all and any people who agrees that this should stop to write a letter to the editor of the Chronicle Herald to ask that this style of reporting be reigned in and perhaps have people like Mr. Duffy read a professional re-

port such as the one in the November, 2007 issue of Canadian Living which gives the whole story so readers can understand and decide for themselves. I have experienced people publicly and in an extremely threatening way expressing phobic opinions right in my face, and believe me when I say that no one experiencing such a sudden and vicious verbal attack considers it opinion. It is hate-mongering.

Congratulations and thanks to every single person who firmly and politely expressed their disgust with what amounts to one more tirade of phobia from Mr. Duffy. I would like to invite Mr. Duffy to join me on "Over the Rainbow" at CKDU's studio to discuss positive reporting.

I remind everyone that this is of course just my opinion.



Diamond Divas Revue

Returns

By Randall Perry

Join the Maritimes' best female impersonators and special guests for the eighth annual Diamond Divas Revue at the Capitol Theatre in Moncton on Saturday, February 23, 2008. Executive producer Wayne Richard and a host of volunteers invite old friends and new to come enjoy the offerings of returning and new-to-the-revue entertainers while supporting a great cause. All proceeds raised from this annual high-point of the winter go to Moncton Crisis And Referral Agency Inc. (CARA)

Producer Steve Laviolette returns for his fifth year as Master of Ceremonies. He's looking forward to a full house this year at the Capitol. Attendance has been steadily rising year after year, from around 100 attendees for year one to 600-plus during the last two years. This year, as in other years, one lucky audience member will win a diamond ring provided by a local jeweler. The silent auction also returns: place your bids early on a great selection of items, before the show starts, and finalize them during intermission.

This year's lineup consists of old friends and new talent. Fredericton's Julia Geoffrey will be

on-stage and it's rumoured that Halifax's Rouge Fatale will make an appearance. As is custom, the newly-coronated royalty of the Imperial Court of NS will be in attendance. With new numbers and energetic talent, the upcoming Revue guarantees something for everyone.

One of the special highlights of the Revue is the CARA presentation of the Florence Eaton Memorial Award for volunteer of the year. Last year's award was presented to Amber Baby, who will return to perform for her eighth consecutive year.

Returning for its fifth year, as a great precursor to the event, is Amoré Passion's Gastronomical Supper, held in the early evening before the Revue. Enjoy a five-course meal with wine and champagne in a private home and receive preferred, reserved seating at the Revue. The cost is \$130 per couple. For further information contact Mario Bourgeois at (506) 854-0220, or by e-mail at romance@amorepassion.com.

Tickets for Diamond Divas are \$15 in advance, on sale now, and \$20 at the door the evening of the event. Tickets are available from

the Capitol Theatre box office in Moncton. Call (506) 856-4379 (toll-free 1-800-567-1922) or visit online at www.capitol.nb.ca. Hope to see you at the Revue.

Our Cover:

Photo of a 70 metre Pride flag international delegates played with at the InterPride World Conference in Zurich. Photo credit: Dean Nelson (gayWhistler), BC.

Halifax Pride will have a planning meeting on Thursday December 13 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Please go to www.halifaxpride.com for location confirmation.

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wayves exists to inform Atlantic Canadian lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people of activities in their communities, to promote those activities and to support their aims and objectives.

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We're replacing it with changes to our distribution network. If you'd like to tell your friends from away where to get Wayves, see <http://www.wayves.ca>.

Halifax Pride's 20 Years to Now

In the summer of 1988, 75 brave souls gathered in downtown Halifax to assert their pride in being lesbian, gay or bisexual (transgender inclusion would come later). Some marched with paper bags over their heads to conceal their identities; some defiantly bared their faces to the bemused, hostile or indifferent passers-by.

Could they have foreseen the extraordinary changes that would follow on their courageous march: amendments to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act, same sex marriage and adoption rights, a Youth Project serving queer and trans youth, or that as many as 30,000 smiling, happy people - gay, straight and otherwise - would cheer on their successors - 7,000 strong! - only twenty years later? We can only wonder what were their hopes and dreams for our community of communities, but there can be no doubt that they

were marching on our behalf into history.

With November 11 and the Transgender Day of Remembrance just passed, and another World

In the summer of 1988, 75 brave souls gathered in downtown Halifax to assert their pride in being lesbian, gay or Bisexual (transgender inclusion would come later). Some marched with paper bags over their heads...

AIDS Day upon us, it seems a particularly fitting time to recall the original 75 Pride marchers. All of them, men and women, would in some fashion be touched by AIDS in the years following that first Pride march - it touches us still. If we can parade today in the broad sunlight with open faces, it's good to pause for a moment and remember those who bought us this freedom with struggle and courage and sometimes with their lives.

They gave us our fabulous festival, they willed us their flamboyance, humour and grace, and they passed to us their torch.

Well we're ready to raise that light up high! Long before Michael Bublé, the great Nina Simone was singing, "It's a new dawn, it's a new day" and Halifax Pride 2008 is "feelin' good!" We're getting ready to roll out an exciting 20th Anniversary celebration that

will honour our past, take pride and joy in our present, and embrace the challenge of our future. One of our first actions has been to honour someone with his feet firmly planted in both the past and future of Halifax's LGBT community, Daniel MacKay. Dan has given so much to Halifax Pride over the years; with years of cranky but sound advice still to offer, we are very proud to name Dan as a Member-for-Life of the Board of Halifax Pride. Next

up on our agenda is to invite you to the first of our open community meetings. After all, it's a birthday bash for the whole community, so we want to hear what you want to see! It's your party! Come on out

and have your say on Thursday, December 13, or just drop by to meet the new Board. Visit our website at www.halifaxpride.com for details about time and location. Happy Pride, Halifax!



Halifax Pride Board members, (l t r) Liz McQuaid, Trent Slaunwhite and Billy McDuff Gillis attended wreath laying Remembrance Day Services at the Halifax Grand Parade on Sunday November 11. After a ten year hiatus this revives a practice started in 1979 when GAE laid the first wreath in honour of "all the gay service people who died in Canada's Wars."

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this Christmas?

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Queerly Canadian
Ashley MacIsaac

One of the best fiddlers in the world, Creignish, Nova Scotia-bred MacIsaac tends to raise eyebrows both on and off stage. During his mid-nineties height of popularity, Maclean's interviewed him for their Honour Roll issue. His explicit remarks on his sexual orientation and activities led to his removal from the issue, and claims of homophobia. Today, appearing more sober and cleaned up, MacIsaac is no longer berating his audiences, but rather fronting a new rock band for a new recording label.

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It's All About Relocation

Menz Bar & Mollyz to move

By Randall Perry

When it comes to success in business, sometimes one has to roll with the punches. This is especially true when your building is bought by the owner of a boxing gym opening next door to your location and suddenly you're served with an eviction notice. Doug Melanson and David Landry, co-owners of Menz Bar and Mollyz Diner, two popular gay businesses in the heart of Gottingen's "gay village," have first-hand experience with out-of-the-blue crises and sudden changes in direction. In late October the owners of 2104 Gottingen Street, Christos and Helen Panagos, sold the building to entrepreneur Mickey MacDonald, former owner of DownEast Mobility. MacDonald owns Palooka's, a soon-to-open boxing gym located next door at the former location of Rumours and Wormwoods Dog and Monkey Cinema. The building purchased by MacDonald has been home to three previous gay bars before Menz – the Toolbox, the Eagle Halifax, and the Rainbow Room, opened originally in 1997 by Christos Panagos – and is considered by many to be a village landmark.

"We had discussed with the previous landlord [Panagos] the possibility of purchasing the building at some point," explained Doug, when asked if he had looked at the option of buying the building housing the two gay businesses. "We weren't planning on doing it this year, though; perhaps for the coming year. When the building was sold after the fire [that gutted the upper floors of the annex] it caught us completely off-guard. There was in excess of \$200,000 in damage and the landlord had only \$88,000 of insurance.

"He had approached us to let the inspectors, appraisers and structural engineers in but he did not tell us that he was doing this in preparation to sell the building to someone else. Our expectation was that, given the damage to the building, he was doing this to come back to us with a new price."

In any event, Doug and David have proven themselves masters of re-invention in the past, and the sale of the current Menz location has kicked their creative drive into high gear. "We are moving on," said Doug. "The next growth phase [for Menz and Mollyz] has been on the drawing board for some time now. We're looking at this whole process as a 're-birthing' for the businesses."

After looking at a number of potential new locations on Gottingen Street, Doug and David settled on the former location of Taz Records, located just across the street from the current location's parking lot. Construction is due to start in the near future on the main level, which will house a larger, expanded version of Menz Bar and a scaled-back, more intimate Mollyz Diner.

Doug sketched out his ideas for the Taz location flip. "Menz Bar is definitely going to have a larger dance floor and the overall theme is going to be more industrial than blue-collar. Several key elements have already been purchased and some ironwork for the superstructure over the dance floor is being done by our welder. We've purchased some large steel drums from northern New Brunswick and also have purchased some new bars locally.

"Mollyz is going to take on a whole new look and feel. The menu is going to be changed and the focus will be on lighter fare such as soups, salads, wraps, sandwiches, muffins and croissants for the morning, along with coffee and cappuccino. Of course, Mollyz will retain that little flair of the past and homey feel which we've become accustomed to."

Doug also plans to bring over some of the design elements already incorporated into the third floor "Partz Dept" section of the bar and install them in the dedicated pool table room.

As it stands now, plans are to hold the annual New Year's Eve party at the current Menz bar location. Dismantling of the current location is scheduled to start shortly afterward and Doug and David are looking forward to celebrating the third anniversary of Menz Bar when the new location opens later in January.

When asked if there's anything specific he's looking forward to, Doug laughs and says in a cheeky voice, "The view from the front windows. When you're sitting in the big, comfortable chairs, sipping latté, you'll be able to watch the hot guys walking to and from the new boxing gym across the street. In addition, for the next couple of years there will be a great view of the construction workers at the new condo developments under development. We expect the seats at the front of the new bar and café to be full at all times."

I say, table for one.



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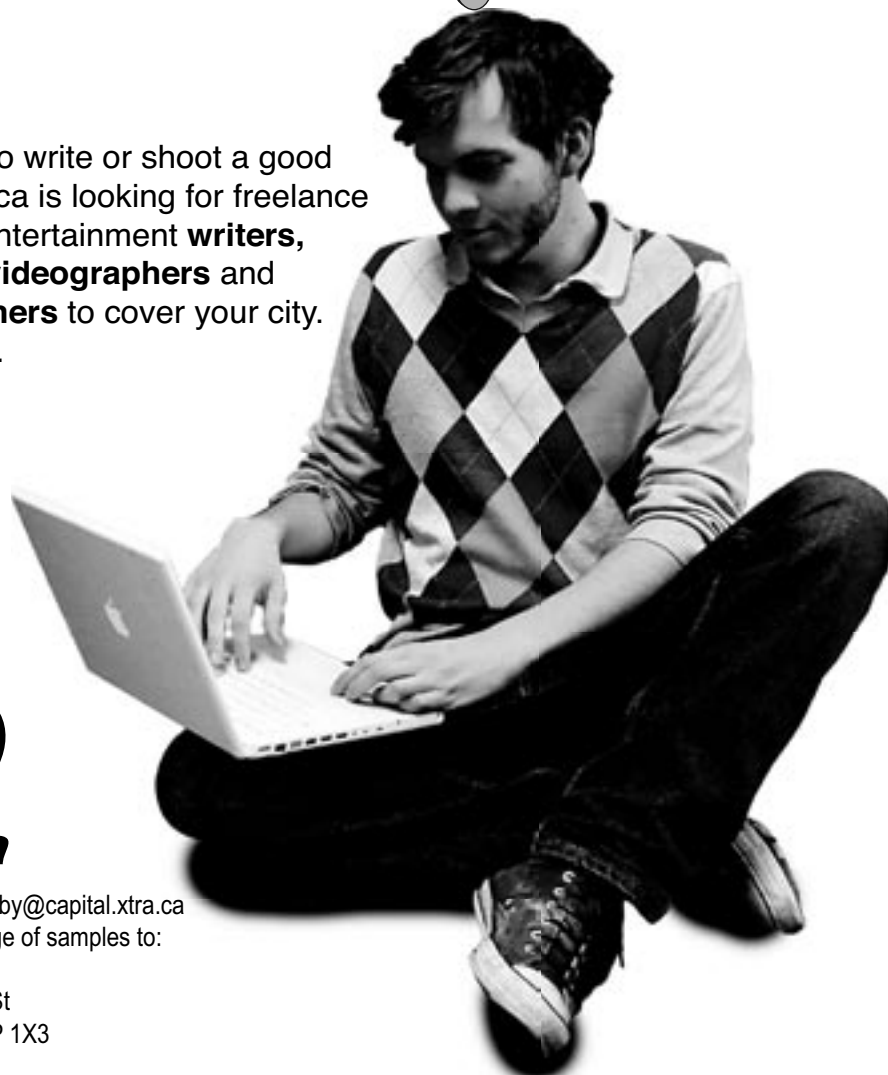
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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITEH

How The Grinch Lost Christmas

*All the gays in the world
Like rainbows a lot.
When the Grinch was the mayor
He most clearly did not.*

*When approached in the summer by the local Pride Committee
To fly their striped flag, he said, Not in my city!
It's all in the Bible, said the Grinch, take a look
(Although later admitting he hadn't read the whole book.)
We can't let you homos take over this way
It's against my beliefs. What would my church say?
And besides, said his council, we might ALL turn out gay
And dress up in costumes and swish and sashay
And dance to loud music in the streets on Pride Day.
What if little Sally and the other girl tykes
Give up all their Barbies and want to be dykes?
If Jason and Zachary and even wee Mike
Start trying on lipstick and not riding their bikes?
The council imagined, their collective hearts sinking,
A school full of children dressed as Cher and lip synching.
No, no, said the mayor, no gay flags or crowds.
(Just barely remembering not to say "fag" out loud.)
He refused to be swayed, would not budge an inch
Dark green with anger was the face of the Grinch.*

*As Christmas approached, it became even worse.
He ranted and raved, quoting chapter and verse
From the "Good Book", ignoring the town's empty purse
And the hard hit shopkeepers who now began to nurse
A grievance for the mayor who had brought down this curse
On their once fair city now as cheerful as a hearse.
"We've become known for being anti-gay
Now our former customers all stay away.
It's not how WE feel, WE don't deserve the name."
The Grinch, he ignored them and refused any blame.
He knew he was right in the decision he'd made
And grew more determined to continue his crusade.
"I wish homosexuals would return to their place
In the closet," he said. "Damn that Will & Grace!"
He frowned through the streets with his lime-coloured face
Removing all "queer" things, not even a trace
Was left when he finished in that once proud town
Of Oscar or Gertrude or Rita Mae Brown.
No Da Vinci, Caravaggio, no Quentin Crisp.
He tried to fire the librarian for having a lisp.
Muttering and growling about so-called gay rights
He stomped his way home with his sphincter clamped tight.*

*The town's decorations that year were all hidden.
Even small Christmas lights were strictly forbidden
By order of the Grinch. He liked it that way.
"Those things are all pagan and much much too gay!"
No baubles or ribbons or colourful display
Are needed or wanted in my holiday.
And for those who absolutely, positively must bake...
Don't even come near me with any fruitcake!"*

*On Christmas morning, the Grinch awoke to the sound
Of bells and singing, but from the next town.
Where the mayor and churches and all the towns folk
Had put up a sign for all to see when they woke
And it said in bright letters, iridescent and clear
Whether you're gay or lesbian, bisexual or queer
Straight or transgendered, all are welcome here.
They had remembered what the Grinch lost sight of
It matters not whom, but only IF you can love.
And gleaming up in the sky, in spite of the snow
Shining down like a smile - a very gay rainbow!*

Crawford

Jordyn (now) Has Two Mommies

By Kevin Kindred

Jordyn (now) has two mommies

One problem with Vital Statistics Act resolved, others continue. It seems like an overnight solution was found to the problem that couldn't be solved overnight.

Last issue, NSRAP reported on our efforts to support Jamie and Emily O'Neill in their fight for equality. The couple, married and with a new baby, wanted recognition as their daughter's legal parents, the same way a heterosexual married couple would be recognized. The problem—Jamie wasn't the birth mother, and wasn't the "husband"—so the Vital Statistics Act didn't have any process short of adoption.

A lot of people, uninformed of the facts, asked us why that was discriminatory. Isn't the birth certificate about biological parents? Of course, it isn't. If a married woman has a baby, her "husband" gets automatically registered as the "father"—even where he isn't, as in cases of artificial insemination. In those cases—for opposite sex couples only—the Act makes the married family unit more important than biological parentage. That's the same recognition the O'Neills wanted.

And, that's what they'll ultimately get. Thanks to increased scrutiny and political pressure, the Tory government found what it called a solution. They announced it in a press release, after spending a few days in the media talking about how it was a complicated problem, and it would take time to resolve.

They did not consult with NSRAP, who laid out the problem

for them in correspondence and a human rights complaint. Nor did they consult the O'Neills, or the many other couples who came forward to NSRAP to tell their stories. We have reason to believe they consulted with Department of Justice lawyers, but everyone else we spoke to at the government was as surprised as we were when Minister Jamie Muir announced that new regulations have been passed.

However they got there, the solution seems workable—as far as it goes. Where couples conceive using an anonymous donor, they will now have the right to be recognized as legal parents without having to adopt. In fact, it won't matter whether or not the couple is married—there is a process for unmarried couples as well.

Unfortunately, the one restriction is that the couple must conceive using an anonymous donor. If the donor is known, then the old rules still apply—meaning one set of rules for opposite sex couples, and another set for same-sex couples.

Anonymous-donor inseminations are a preferred method for

many same-sex couples. But it's an expensive choice, and some couples prefer to know their donor. Whatever the reason, it's clear that a solution that only helps anonymous-donor couples is an incomplete solution.

Did the government know that it was creating this inconsistency? Was it making a judgment call about which gay families were truly worthy of recognition? Or was it simply reacting so quickly that it didn't have time to thoroughly consider the solution—let alone consult groups like NSRAP, who understand the problem?

NSRAP will continue to deal with the government on this issue. What are our thoughts? Are you impacted by the issue? Has the new, partial solution worked for you, or has it left your family out? NSRAP welcomes your input via phone (444-7887) or email (nsrap@nsrap.ca).

However things resolve, the whole community owes a big round of applause to Jamie and Emily, and the other couples who were willing to tell their stories to further the fight for equality.

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Dawn's Early Light

Dear Dawn:

I am a grade 9 teacher with absolutely no experience working with gay youth. Recently, one of my students came out to me, and to be honest, I have no idea what to say or do. I do not even know what I don't know. In fact, I have no idea why he would choose me to confide in, but I am glad he did. I am heterosexual and admittedly in need of a little education regarding the issues gay youth face. A friend of mine mentioned Wayves as a resource, and I came across your column so I thought I would ask — how can I, as his teacher, best support this young man?

Sincerely JM

Dear JM:

Thank you for your question. Half the battle is admitting we don't know what we don't know. As a teacher you must admit that is where the journey into learning

...coming out is a life long process that may include many levels of homophobia some overt, some blatant and some occasionally violent.

begins.

This young man decided, for whatever reason, that you are a safe person to confide in and that's

wonderful — just having you there to listen is and will be a great support for him. It is also a great opportunity for both of you to begin learning together. There are some wonderful resources that can help.

A really good place to start is the LGBT Youth Project in Halifax. I can't tell by your letter where you are located, but if you are not able to physically go there you can visit their website: www.youthproject.ns.ca. There you will find many links to services, supports, information on school based Gay/Straight

Alliances as well as information on how to become an ally for this young man or any other LGBT-identified individual.

Having said that, one of the most valuable things you can do for this young man is be there, listen to him and offer support when needed. Unfortunately, coming out is a lifelong process that may include many levels of homophobia — some overt, some blatant and some occasionally violent — and how he experiences/internalizes these messages will certainly have an affect on his sense of self and self confidence. With your help and support, he can learn how to live and thrive in a world that is not always safe for young gay men. You may in fact be

Come To The Light!

Dawn wants to hear from you. Let Dawn shed some light on your personal problems. Contact her at dawn@wayves.ca.

the only source of support he has. He is discovering who he truly is and this is something that should be encouraged and celebrated. I wish you and him the best of luck on this wonderful journey of discovery.

Dawn

Truro: Full Speed Aft

By Denise Holliday

November 1, 2007 marked a very special and wondrous day of beginnings for me and an exciting group of people from Truro who came together to implement a more diverse community. The group is called CoRDA (Colchester Regional Development Agency). The day was as wondrous as the people were charming. We had the grand parade and speeches followed by fireworks of emotion and just enough negative impact to make all the positive direction of the activities stand out as the true and needed way to go.

While my heart sang with joy over the acceptance level of all the Colchester creatures of this wonderful and diverse county, I had an uneasy feeling that the big bad wolf may at any moment make an appearance. While my timing was a little out, the Wolf was in the crowd and so well hidden dressed as one of the sheep that the whole thing went without a hitch and all the wonderful magical creatures left with joy in their hearts.

Someone suggested a wonderland day of diversity that someone else suggested should be called community day so as not to emphasize the division of groups, but rather

allow the diverse communities to display their individual qualities as a member of this wonderland community. I made a verbal statement and a mental note to consider making a Transition-Roast starting as beef at one end and transitioning to chicken breast at the other. It was my way of wondering how our diversity fits in with the other groups represented.

Two days later the Big Bad Wolf cast aside his sheepskin and at a pack meeting once again made an unexpected and unannounced act that left NACS and some in the GLBT community reeling. A previous arrangement to fly the AIDS flag was reaffirmed as still in motion as it was made prior to the horrific incident of the Pride flag v the Mayor. The council decided to revisit that option and cancelled the previous agreement without prior notice to the organizers. In an effort to hide the previous religious homophobic motivation for the flag incident the town council improved matters by deciding they would fly nobody's flag. The story of how they came for all the others and I said nothing, they came for me and there was no one left to protest, leaps into my vision.

What a sad day for the people

of Truro. To live in a town with so much potential in the people who live there and the businesses who have helped build it as a hub

Aft can't p 12



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Hurricane Patrick Hits Dalhousie Allies!

By Hugo Dann

Not 48 hours since Hurricane Noel muscled its way across the Maritimes and I'm sitting in my cozy Halifax apartment talking with Patrick Daigle. He may not be quite such a whirlwind, but his friends and colleagues will surely agree that Patrick has all the energy and determination of a tropical storm, and that's exactly what I'm thinking while he talks about his new job. Dalhousie University clearly takes its Allies program for LGBT staff and students pretty darn seriously! And if you doubt that, you don't know Patrick Daigle. In addition to pursuing his Masters in Social Work at the university, Patrick has recently been hired as the first Allies at Dalhousie Peer Advisor. While providing individuals with support and confidential counseling, he's also meant to serve as a walking resource centre for anyone in the Dal community - students, staff or faculty.

In Nova Scotia, the Allies card is administered by the LGB Youth Project where Patrick acquired many of the skills and experience he brings to his work with Dal Allies. After getting his first degree

at Saint Mary's, Patrick went to Dalhousie for Social Work with an eye to becoming a parole officer. As a field assignment he'd already accepted the Crisis Phone Line when a call came from the Youth Project. He began volunteering, and in the spring of 2005 was hired on as Support Services Coordinator. One of his many tasks at the YP was working on the Allies card, a program that identifies a "Safe Space" where anyone, but especially youth, can find people or groups that respect sexual and gender diversity and LGBT equality.

I asked him about how he made the jump - sorry, can't resist the alliteration - from criminals to queers. "During my placement at the Youth Project," he recalls, "I was co-facilitating a group discussion group with around 20 youth discussing what was going on in their lives - the homophobia they were facing in high school, seeing youth who'd dropped out of high school because of the homophobia they'd faced there, hearing them talk about getting into fights at school, with their families, because of being gay. Suddenly it was - in my first term all my papers were criminology, criminology, criminology! Then it was all gay youth and trans youth!"

Patrick had his own experience of homophobia while in high school, experiences that continued to a lesser degree when he moved onto an all-guy floor in his first year at Saint Mary's. It was in his third year that he began the process of coming out, "I wasn't even out to myself when I started! I wish there had been something like Dal Allies

when I was at university. That's why I want to be as visible as I can on campus, going to different groups and meeting professors, so that it's not just people who are in Dal Out that know about Dal Allies, but maybe they know someone who's just starting to think about coming out, or someone reads about it, they can know the service is here for them."

I met Patrick at a Pride Committee meeting in 2005 and was fairly awestruck when he stepped up to chair a festival that was almost \$10,000 in debt, but I didn't know him then. In a couple of months we were co-chairs and I got to observe him in action. In addition to working two jobs (or was it three?) and shepherding Halifax Pride 06 through some growing pains, he was also volunteering steadily with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). He may have left the Youth Project, but he's still working two jobs (or is it three?), still volunteering with MADD (among other things) and of course working on his MA. Oh yes! And lately he's taken up running! "I started out doing 3K, huffing and puffing all the way." Well he huffed and puffed his way to his first half marathon in about four months.

So is Dalhousie serious about meeting the needs of its LGBT community? It is one of only a handful of universities around the country to show this level of support for LGBT students and staff through the Allies program, and



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Kim & Lynn: Their Family Story

By Jeff Higgins

They sang together as children in the same Tatamagouche church choir. They've been partnered and lived in the same house on a quiet street in Bible Hill, N.S. for twenty years. Kim Cole and Lynn McKinnon were quite settled when they became adoptive parents of two boys, now aged 12 and 14. When describing the process of adopting, it became apparent that Kim and Lynn are both dedicated partners in life and in parenting. ("Partners in Parenting" was also the name of an article in the November 4, 2002 issue of "MacLean's" magazine featuring this family.)

Kim and Lynn's team approach to parenting has forged the strong bond that this family has. If they were not trying to start the same sentence at the same time, they were finishing it for each other. While they do admit to some differences in parenting style, everyone agrees that Kim is the "soft touch" of the two. Her wallet opens wider at the candy store and bedtimes are a bit more flexible.

Lynn says that when they adopted the boys, they were considered "special needs" because they were older. The boys were in the foster care system because their own family was not able to provide them with the care they needed. Kim and Lynn have been able to fill that need in abundance.

While the social worker encouraged them to foster the boys, the couple was adamant about adopting them. Lynn said that they "did not want the boys to feel like their home was just another foster home," they wanted the boys to know that this would be their home—PERIOD. Also, Kim did not want to be considered good enough to foster but not good enough to adopt.

When they had their initial home family study done, under the guise that Kim alone would be adopting them, the social worker realized it just wasn't going to work unless Lynn was included in the study as Kim's lesbian partner. And to their knowledge, theirs was

the first like that. Despite having a good home study, they did have one stumbling block: the caseworker for the boys had strong personal convictions against adopting the boys to a lesbian couple. Kim and Lynn contacted any politician who

"When you're enrolling your children in schools and programs, you're automatically outed."

would listen in hopes of putting the pressure on, but as luck would have it, the boys were put under the charge of another caseworker who was very supportive.

Kim's adoption of the boys went ahead in 2000, and about a year and a half later Lynn adopted them as well. Lynn's delay was caused by additional costs, as the legislation had changed favourably in 2001. Overall, both Kim and Lynn agree that the social service system had been and continues to be very supportive. They have a large support base of friends and family, with the exception of a few "traditional" family members who are slowly coming around. Their experience has and continues to be very positive and they "wouldn't have it any other way."

Lynn spoke of everyday challenges faced by any adoptive family, and it was obvious that both moms are very protective of the boys and work hard to make them feel they are safe and happy. Any fears the boys have from their pre-adopted days are dealt with directly

and with all available resources. The boys do not seem phased by the fact that their family is different from most of their peers'. Kim told a story of one of the boys who was confronted by a grade four classmate. The classmate tried to taunt him and said, "Your mom's a gay!" Kim's face showed immense pride as she retold her son's response. Her son replied confidently "No she's not, she's a lesbian." They have also found the school system to be very supportive, going so far as to provide additional help when they need it.

Adopting the boys has changed their lives. Lynn said, "When you're enrolling your children in schools and programs, you're

automatically outed. You have to cross out 'father' and write in 'mother' on the forms". She added that sometimes people pause, but they've never had a problem. When asked about raising boys, or whether the boys have a male role model, they usually talk about Lynn's brother, who will take the boys and their cousins to do the outdoor 'guy stuff.' They joked that Kim was a great male role model, often taking the boys four-wheeling in the woods.

Kim and Lynn's family is like any other modern busy family. Their home is a calm refuge from everyday life which can be seen by their dogs snuggled up to them snoozing on the couch. They work

hard to balance their busy work and home lives. Lynn is an accountant and has a home-based office, and Kim operates their Barkbuster franchise. Their oldest boy seems to be a budding entrepreneur and has managed to negotiate a "good-sized" fee for mowing their lawn.

In a small private garden ceremony, Kim and Lynn were married August 25, 2007 with another lesbian couple. While they wished the boys were old enough to be their witnesses, they did have their boys—their two best men—at their side when they legalized their twenty-year relationship.

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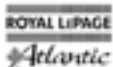
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ISCANS Coronation Week 2007

“Debutantes & Debauchery”

On Saturday November 3rd the ISCANS (Imperial Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society) held their Coronation Ball at the Holiday Inn Select. This was the culmination of a week's worth of activities that not only involved the local Society but drew in six other imperial courts and organizations from across the country: Vancouver and Surrey BC, Regina SK, Winnipeg MB, Hamilton and Kingston ON, and a special supportive contingent from Antigonish.

Some of these courts like Hamilton-Wentworth have consistently participated and supported ISCANS throughout its existence (they've been here 6 years in a row) and others such as Antigonish were present for the first time. The evening began with a splendid three course meal and included several award presentations.

One of the main reasons for ISCANS existence is to raise funds for

non profit charitable organizations in HRM and beyond. During their “back-to- basics-raise-one-dollar-at-a-time” Reign of 2007, Empress and Emperor VII Natassha N! and Cousin Cleatus designated four charities to be the beneficiaries of a year's worth of fundraising gigs. Almost \$9000 dollars from drag show fundraisers and quite a few other events (both in town and around the province) This year's benefactors were Metro Turning Point, Manna For Health, AIDS Emergency Fund, and Bryony House. Each of these organizations were presented with a cheque at the Coronation Ball.

The highlight of the evening of course was the stepping down of the current reigning monarchs, Emperor VII Cousin Cletus and Empress VII Natassha N! and the crowning of Boom Boom Lubalicious as Empress VIII. (This year Cousin Cletus will fulfill the role of

Regent for Emperor VIII since no candidates ran for this position.)

Cousin Cletus had this to say reviewing 2007 and looking ahead toward 2008: “2007 was the culmination of a majority of peoples ideas --- [the year's success] was what a Reign should be like. As Regent I want to continue the momentum we built in 2007



Top -Down Natassha N! and Cousin Cletus step down from Reign VII. Middle top: Out of Town Show - Out of Towners mug for the camera. Above Out of Towners go to town at Coronation. Bottom: The Antigonish contingent. Left: Newlyannointed Her Most Imperial Sovereign Majesty Empress VIII BoomBoom Lubalicious . Photo credits: Gerrit Volkmann and Raymond Taavel

and continue to raise money to help the less fortunate in our community.”

Boom Boom also took the opportunity to comment on the year ahead and shared a bit of his philosophy regarding ISCANS and the community:

“I am looking forward to a year of community outreach, involvement, and raising

lots of money for charity. I also want to see as many people involved this year as possible, ‘inclusion not disclusion’.”

ISCANS means alot to me and many others involved, I believe it is a great organization that anyone at all can be a member of or just get involved...I believe we all need to stand together when it comes to our community and so many of us end up separated for all the wrong reasons.”

A look ahead: “I want to see alot more unity in the gay community, all these different groups and clicks of people need to realize that we are all fighting and living with a common cause no matter what part of the community we represent whether it is Drag, leather, bears, gay, twink, older, younger, youth, transgender, bisexual, or two spirited. I want to see people respect one another for who they are not what we want them to be or think they should be.”

Here's extending best wishes for continued success to the the new monarchs of 2008!



Reviews

Through The Looking Glass: An Underdog Story



by Scott D. Sampson

In an age where pop culture is saturated by reality TV, bridging the gap between the everyday person and the celebrity, it is more evident than ever that the world loves a good underdog story.

As I spend the second of two afternoons at Mollyz Diner (no the "z" is not a typo) with Halifax singer/songwriter Dean Boudreau, the word "underdog" immediately springs to mind. Dean doesn't look like your average pop singer. He stands at about average height, well above average weight, wearing jeans, a t-shirt and black hoodie. He's quiet and a bit reserved. "I've got my flashier days," he says. "Sometimes I pretend I'm a rock star, though I'm the farthest thing from it." His eyes shift down to the table. "I've always felt like an outcast, being gay and the chubby kid and I've let it get in the way of my dreams for a long time."

Those dreams have begun to come true. At 26 years old, Dean released his first album on indie label Juiced-Up Records this past February.

Dean, now 27, grew up as the younger of two children in the small town of Riverton, NS. His father worked in a tire factory and performed as lead singer in a country band on the side. "There was always music in my home growing up," he says with a smile, "but Dad was of the mind that if it wasn't country, it wasn't music, so I grew up listening to George Strait and Reba McEntire. Until my parents split I don't think I knew much about pop, but once I got a taste there was no turning back."

When Dean was eight, his parents divorced and his father moved out—an event he sees as having seriously shaped the person he's become. "I think that was the first time I tasted pain, like before that time there was this sense of ignorant bliss to the bad things in life, and then suddenly you're eight years old and it feels like you can't depend on anyone or anything, and what else is a child if not dependent?"

With the nineties came adolescence and the difficult realization that he was different. The club music that defined the nineties provided an escape. "In junior high my friend Shane and I would spend weekends with a CD player and a cassette deck. We had really bad DJ names and we made these cheesy mix tapes. Anyone would

have thought we were lame but that was the shit to us, you know? Friday nights we'd be trying to tune in Halifax radio stations to listen to Chris Sheppard's Pirate Radio or watching "Electric Circus" on Much Music."

Despite his passion for dance music in his teens, a dance album was never something he saw in the cards, though his voice is reminiscent of dance-pop singers like Darren Hayes and George Michael (both of whom he cites as inspirations). An unreleased effort, "Lost In Paradise," contained only two club tracks, including hit-worthy "Do You Think of Me?" which attracted the interest of Philadelphia-based record producer Joey Cole, who churned out several remixes and suggested they work on an LP.

"When Joey proposed we do an album, I sort of laughed it off at first. I jumped to the conclusion that making a 'dance' album meant 80 minutes of the same beats and painfully cheesy lyrics, but when the reality sank in that a professional was interested in working with me, I started thinking about the potential to challenge other people who had similar ideas about dance music and thought maybe I could do something to negate those stereotypes. That's what I set out to do."

His mission would not be an easy one, however. Several roadblocks sprang up and there were times when it seemed the album wouldn't happen. "There were some reservations about the openly gay lyrics, but my label was supportive, and before we finished production we chose a release date and started promoting."

After announcing the 06/06/06 release date, a computer system failure resulted in the loss of much of the unfinished material for Dean's album and put the project out of commission for nearly six months. "I've never been superstitious," he laughs, "but maybe I should be. It was devastating. It was the closest thing to having a miscarriage I could experience as a man. When the label reformed, Joey and I started working on new, much darker material but didn't really talk about our loss, until one day I brought it up and we both agreed that it would be a shame to let the old material go to waste, so we rebuilt."

What resulted was a 12-track examination of the anatomy of an intense and failed relationship, exploring love from its playful beginnings to its unfortunate and heartbreaking end. "Love Through the Looking Glass" is what he calls an "accidental" concept album, though 10 of the 12 tracks are self-penned. "I was writing an album and falling in love for the first time. The songs came as events transpired. In the end, it was evident we had a complete narrative aside from a few tracks we cut that didn't work. So the concept fell into place."

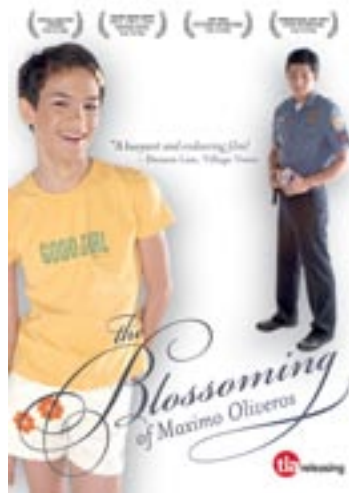
Of the title (and self-produced artwork based on Lewis Carroll's "Alice Through the Looking Glass") he says, "It is representative

of fairytale ideas of love created in popular culture, and how you'll find real life is nothing like that. It's also about reflecting on the experiences you've been through, only to truly see how they can change us we would need to go beyond the mirror and look within."

Love Through the Looking Glass is available now on CD and for digital purchase on iTunes, CD-Baby.com and various other online retailers.

For more information visit: www.deanboudreau.com or www.juiceduprecords.com

The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros



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Review by Ralph Higgins
Every filmmaker hopes to achieve the right combination of script, cast and direction, but only rarely do the elements combine to produce the sparkling magic of *The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros*. From the very first moments we are drawn irresistibly to Maxi's gentle loving spirit, and he remains with us long after the final credits have rolled.

Maxi is an effeminate twelve-year-old living with his father and two adult brothers in a poor part of Manila. While his family is engaged in bookmaking and petty theft, Maxi spends his day cooking, cleaning and taking care of the household. His free time is spent dreaming at the movies, dressing up for a make believe beauty pageant with his girl friends, and occasionally running bets for his father. No one is disturbed by Maxi's girlish ways. He is clearly the heart of the family and a strong current of love binds them all together. When Victor, a new police officer, arrives in the neighbourhood, Maxi falls head over heels for him but it quickly becomes apparent that his new friend's strict law and order principles will pose a threat to Maxi's family. Maxi's loyalties will be stretched to the breaking point as both sides push him to choose.

The director allows the story to unfold at an easy unhurried pace so that we become acquainted with the varied people and circumstances of Maxi's life. One sees both the poverty and the beauty in his

neighbourhood where violence is not unknown but tenderness also has a home. Realism is the keynote for all the performances; but it is the stunning achievement by Nathan Lopez as Maxi that truly sets this film apart. Maxi is an open, honest boy whose unchecked emotions flow through him as naturally as water. When he is happy he smiles and laughs. When he is sad he weeps. Lopez shows us the energy and overbrimming love that live inside Maxi and he brings a direct simplicity and naturalness to his performance that must surely be the envy of many veteran actors. It is impossible not to fall in love with Maxi in this remarkable film.

Creatures from the Pink Lagoon



Ariztical Entertainment (www.ariztical.com)

Review by Ralph Higgins
Creatures from the Pink Lagoon is a wonderful send up of B horror movies and gay melodrama – sort of Boys in the Band meets Night of the Living Dead, as the promo suggests.

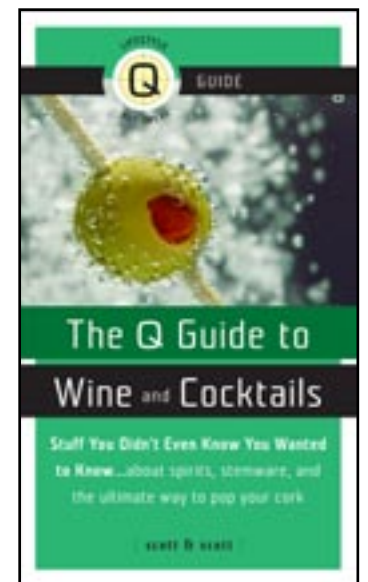
The year is 1967 and Stan is hosting a birthday party at his cottage by the lake for his best friend, Phillip. All the gay stereotypes are invited: Randall, the bitchy queen; Billy, the muscle hunk; Gary, the twink; Joseph, the nerd; and Phillip's boyfriend, Bobby, the tough guy still in the closet. Stan, the mother, is trying to sort out everyone's personal life and the air is filled with quips, laughter and, of course, bitter sarcasm.

As if gay life wasn't tough enough, radiation from the nuclear power plant has created mutant mosquitoes that begin biting men at a nearby rest stop creating man-eating zombies of the queer kind. Body parts begin to litter the shore line of the Pink Lagoon as the zombies stumble and shuffle – with some occasional dance steps in unison – towards Stan's cottage. At the party most of the relationships have broken up so being surrounded by flesh eating zombies provides a distraction from the anger and wounded feelings. The party boys must rally

their resources to avoid being the monsters' next meal.

The film is shot in glorious black & white with over the top melodrama and cheesy special effects. Silly lines are delivered with deadpan seriousness and the suspense is nicely punctuated with girlie screams from Nick Garrison, as Phillip. Sometimes it is a relief to watch a movie with no redeeming social value or message. *Creatures from the Pink Lagoon* is a high camp /low tech film made just for laughs, a great idea for your next birthday party.

The Q Guide to Wine and Cocktails: Stuff you Didn't Even Know You Wanted to Know...about spirits, stemware, and the ultimate way to pop your cork.



Scott & Scott
Alyson Books
Review by Ralph Higgins

Scott Pomfret and Scott Whittier are best known as the authors of the very successful male on male romance series, *Romantics*. (www.romantics.com). Now they have turned their attention, knowledge – and considerable wit – to the gay world of vino and spirits in *The Q Guide to Wine and Cocktails: Stuff You didn't Even Know you Wanted to Know... about spirits, stemware, and the ultimate way to pop your cork*.

Alyson has a series of Q books – *Q Guide to NYC*, to the *Golden Girls*, to *Oscar Parties*, for example – so this latest offering fits in very well with its blend of humour and solid information.

If you are tired of being intimidated by sommeliers at fancy restaurants, or bored by business acquaintances and ex-boyfriends who love to show off their oenophilic erudition (or even if you'd just like to know what "sommelier" and "oenophilic" mean) then this is the book for you.

Cont'd next page

Truro from p 1

Town Meeting meeting." She added, "Talk about feeling left out".

While the mayor and chief administrator for the town were unavailable for comment. Dianne Bennett-Cook a councilor said that while she was unable to attend the meeting she believes that the agreement to fly the AIDS awareness flag should have been honoured. Dianne Bennett-Cook was the sole councilor who voted in favour of raising the pride flag for pride week.

The vote to not raise flags other than municipal, provincial, and federal flags was unanimous, with only Dianne Bennett-Cook not in attendance. Said Laurie Denis, a senior administrator with the town, when she checked the minutes from the meeting. She added that the agenda for the meeting was posted on the towns website.

When asked whether she felt blind-sided by the decision Bonnie Joldersma said "Definitely". Al McNutt, the chairman of the NACS said he was "extremely disap-



pointed." And added, "I am totally blown away with the town's decision to, once again, lose out on a great opportunity," The Northern AIDS Connection Society provides education and awareness; which included a Diversity symposium held on Nov. 1 one week before this decision, that some the town council members attended. NACS was offered a banner by the town which they declined.

Aft from p 7

of Nova Scotia's economy. Despite being a transwoman I have lived and worked in and around Truro for over thirty years, both as a male and a female. Thirty years ago when we first visited Truro it was a small and very dirty little place. Today it is bright, busy and growing. As with all growth there are problems and the first key to fixing a problem is to recognize and admit to it.

In the real world there is no fairy tale Big Bad Wolf, only people who sometimes make bad decisions that can be corrected and people who can be respected for doing so. But it remains to be seen how many of the ordinary folk will stand and be counted to correct this increasingly silly, yet very soul destroying set of actions and attitudes taken by the Mayor of Truro. Call (902) 893-6076.

Q Guide from p 11

Scott & Scott give you all the necessary basic facts about wine, spirits, glassware, hors d'oeuvres and hosting a successful party and they do so with generous helpings of charm and humour, which, like a spoonful of sugar, helps the information go down, smoothly and easily. You might, in fact,

have such an enjoyable time that you won't even notice that you're learning.

Chapters such as Flirting with the Bartender and Wine Steward, Drinking Diversity and Party Fools will help build your confidence to explore the wide world of booze. Plus, there are enough tidbits of interesting but little known facts about labels, countries of origin, grapes etc. to enable you to prick the champagne bubble of pomposity the next time Cousin Albert is boring the relatives into

a coma at the family reunion.

The Q Guide to Wine and Cocktails besides being a fun read, is chock full of good, plain basic facts for the novice sipper or the more experienced alcohol connoisseur. It is an invaluable help if you want to try devising your own signature cocktail or just need a reference for selecting essential spirits and bar tools. It offers something for everyone, whether your taste runs to mint juleps, martinis, or an amusing merlot with good legs and an excellent finish.

Anglican Doors Remain Closed

By Gerard Veldhoven

The Anglican Church in Canada has decided not to bless married same-sex couples. Apparently, the vote was affirmative by delegates. However, the bishops voted against it by a vote of 21 to 19. In other words, not a very democratic process, making it redundant for delegates to vote at all.

This result does not change anything, and even if the bishops had voted in favour of blessing the married couples, in the final analysis segregation of the homosexual and heterosexual couples remains. Of course, this is the case at present. If the church had voted in favour of such blessings, I would question the reason for not performing same-sex marriages within the church. Surely, one is not different from the other. If the church had voted to bless these couples, therefore recognizing the fact they are legally married, then why not perform same-sex marriage ceremonies?

Unfortunately, the Anglican Church in Canada voted not to be a leader, instead opting out of a process leading to equality and equal marriage for gays and lesbians. This indicates the necessity for positive education of the clergy as well as members who occupy the pews. The churches profess to love all members of mankind. Why then is it such a struggle for the gay and lesbian community to receive acceptance and be treated with dignity?

Eventually, if the churches remain silent and refuse to embrace equal marriage, then it would seem

appropriate to only have civil marriage ceremonies. This is the case in a number of European countries, such as The Netherlands, where only civil marriages are legal for homosexual and heterosexual couples.

It is rather difficult to comprehend the reluctance of the church fathers to have an open mind to this issue. Church attendance is at an all-time low and each year fewer men and women enter theology schools. Churches must become more inclusive. The United Church of Canada, as an example, has made great strides in embracing equal marriage for church members. It is not a perfect situation, especially as it is up to each congregation to decide on whether to permit equal marriage. Still, it is a huge step in the right direction. The Anglican Church of Canada and others are lagging behind, therefore, depriving their gay and lesbian members of attaining equality.

Great things have happened for Canada's gay and lesbian community, but if the churches are not on board, citing sexual orientation as not being acceptable in the Christian Church, then the road ahead is filled with obstacles. As an advocate of equal rights, opportunity and equal marriage, I will continue to be a thorn for as long as I am able, and promote positive education as a means to attain acceptance and dignity for my gay brothers and sisters. Equal marriage will triumph, regardless of how churches will view it in the end.

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Chef's Corner



Let's face it folks, the key to a good Turkey dinner is the gravy. Many an over cooked bird have been rescued by a little extra gravy. But, when that gravy is bland, lumpy and starchy... well that just adds insult to injury. So, I am offering a recipe packed with flavor, and that will be sure to please. It is really easy to do and will change your opinion of Turkey dinner for ever. The key is creating flavorful pan drippings and thickening with roasted chestnut puree, (found at any good specialty food shop). Give this one a try and your family and friends can thank me later. Have a great Holiday Season and Merry Christmas!

Chef Darren is Chef and Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, Halifax's newest two star restaurant, 1537 Barrington Street, Halifax, N.S. For reservation call (902) 420-9626, www.chives.ca.

The Ultimate Turkey Gravy

Ingredients

1 medium onion (diced)
6 cloves garlic
1 carrots (diced)
2 stalks celery (diced)
4 sprigs fresh thyme
1 sprig fresh rosemary

1 tbsp dried summer savory
1 L roast chicken broth (low sodium store bought is fine)
1 cup sherry
1 cup unsweetened roasted chestnut puree (more if you like a thicker gravy)
fleur de sel and fresh ground pepper to taste

Method

1. Place the vegetables & fresh herbs in the bottom of your roasting pan, place the bird breast side up on the top. Rub the entire turkey with butter, then season with salt and pepper and the dried summer savory. Roast the bird in a 325F oven until the internal temperature of the thigh meat is 160F and the juices run clear. Remove from oven, tent in foil and rest for 20-30 minutes prior to being carved. (cooking will continue 10F up to the desired 170F).
2. Place the roasting pan with the drippings on a burner on med high heat, de-glaze the pan with the sherry, making sure to loosen all of the baked on bits, (the sherry will burn off so do be careful) add the chicken stock, bring to the boil. Strain the liquids into a sauce pan. Crumble the chestnut puree into the drippings, bring to the boil, whisking frequently to incorporate. If any of the chestnut does not dissolve press the gravy through a fine mesh strainer. Season with salt and pepper and there you have it The Ultimate Turkey Gravy.

Note: This method works quit well with duck, goose and leg of lamb. Omit the summer savory, and add 1/2 cup of dried cherries, cranberries or blueberries to the finished sauce. Just simmer the sauce with the dried fruit until they plump.

The Net Just Got A Lot Sketchier

Joey D'Amato-Basha

I may sound like a traitor to twenty-something males everywhere, but I'm all for people finding love. Yes, even the elderly, and the unfortunate-looking. Even people who still play "Magic: The Gathering." I sincerely hope they end up banging boots with that special someone in a Klingon costume.

Where I draw the line, though, is here: gay prison inmates who post profiles on the internet, hoping to find someone on the outside to write to them. They don't deserve love; they deserve to be lampooned in print!

I found the site www.gayprisoners.net last week and I haven't stopped lomiting ever since (yes, lomiting: vomiting and laughing at the same time). Family, co-workers and friends have all had to suffer

through my lame ass jokes about being somebody's long-distance bitch.

But without delving into the obvious moral issues associated with kind of place, I'm going to stick to good old fashion roasting.

So please, spare me the pontiff's address if your great uncle's friend's brother who was a really nice guy, but just happened to smoke meth and jack cars, found love in prison. May they live happily ever after. The end.

My qualm, though, is with some of the jokers on the site. Right under their name and crime section on their profile, there is a brief blurb about how sweet sensitive they are. Some of these guys (nay, studs!), are in the slammer for capital crimes. Some for the really

unspeakable shit.

However, far be it for me to keep you studs from finding the jailbird of your dreams. I'm willing to bet that, once you get passed the neck tattoos and home made sex changes, some of these guys are really worthwhile:

Check out inmate number #3350C9. Sure, he was convicted of three counts of aggravated sexual assault with a minor, and he looks like a truck driver from hell, but he loves camping and the outdoors. Such joie de vivre!

Hands off, ladies! Otis P. Owens looks like a ladies man, but he's looking for a submissive hermaphrodite to keep him company on those lonely days in the slammer.

And given his wrap sheet, it looks like if you're that special "someone" he'll keep you really, really high. All the time.

But if you're really looking for a badass, look no further than inmate #446C05. He stands 6'5, 270lbs, with giant tattoos and a mean mug. Second-degree robbery, second-degree escape, three counts receiving stolen property, theft by unlawful taking, resisting arrest, failure to register. Ambition is just such a turn on!

My only guess is that people who actively respond to these profiles are either really desperate, have sick Oz fantasies, or they're simply having a laugh like me.

Just check out the site. And



Inmate #3350C9

please, pardon me for pointing out the obvious here, but do any of you think it strange that these guys aren't getting enough love inside the slammer?

NYE from p 1

This is a hotel that knows how to do it up right. Regularly hosting wedding receptions and formal events, they have the chefs and the kitchen and serving staff lined up to provide an exceptional welcome and a great meal to start off the evening for the guests. Then the tables will be cleared and the dance floor will be open until 2am, with a pause at midnight for a New Year's toast and a buffet snack for those hungry dancers.

The Waterfront Hotel is ready and waiting to offering their best service to the Rainbow Community. And Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church is looking forward to hosting this event. As Bob Fougere, member of the Events Committee says, "It's time for a party that will rock the socks

off anyone who comes."

The Rainbow Community New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance is sure to be an exceptional event, and with any profits going to Manna for Health special needs referral food program, your ticket

may even help make the New Year better for someone else. So don't miss it: get your tickets now by calling (902) 453-9249 or at Venus Envy (Visa and Master Card accepted.) At \$85 a person for this first-class event,

you'll want to act quickly before the tickets are gone!

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church is a Christian Church with a special welcoming and affirming ministry for the Rainbow Community. Worship is every Sunday at 11am, Veith House, 3115 Veith St., Halifax.

While there are lots of choices around for the straight crowd, it's harder to find a party aimed just at us.

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Atlantic Canada

AtlanticCanadianLesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces. email: AtlanticCanadianLesbians@groups.msn.com web: groups.msn.com/AtlanticCanadianLesbians

AtlanticPoz: A new discussion group is for individuals living with HIV in Atlantic Canada. web: health.groups.yahoo.com/group/atlanticpoz/ Egalé President & Atlantic Director, St. John's, NL: (709) 690-5244 email: gemma@egale.ca web: www.egale.ca

Gay Men's Gathering: at PO Box 36054, Halifax., B3J 3S9

GaySpaces: Free postings of GLBT-friendly places to live in Atlantic Canada. email: info@gayspaces.org web: www.gayspaces.org

Gender Expressions Atlantic: Support for transgendered individuals ranging from Crossdressers to Transsexuals. email: gender_expressions@hotmail.com web: www.geocities.com/gender_expressions/ (No scheduled meeting. Occasional social events, by invitation only.)

Halifax Transguys: support group for transmen at any point in transition, locally and in Atlantic Canada. at Please write for further information on our upcoming meetings and social events.

Healing Our Nations, Dartmouth: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. (902) 492-4255 email: director@accesswave.ca web: www.healingournations.ca (Healing Our Nations staff meet once on a weekly basis. Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 15 Alderney Dr., Suite 3, Dartmouth, NS. B2Y2N2

Maritime Transgender Workplace Solutions Project, Upper Musquodoboit: Transgender Issues Workshops and information resource. (902)568-2935 email: denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www.3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews (No meetings, Workshops by arrangements, Information source when requested. Newsletter Odds & Sods bi-weekly)

Mr Atlantic Canada Leather Society, assorted cities: Dedicated to developing gay leather communities in the Atlantic region. email: chinman52@hotmail.com

Names Project (AIDS Memorial Quilt): panels - helping create, and lending. 902-454-5158 email: larrybaxter@ns.sympatico.ca web: www.quilt.ca (Call if interested in volunteering or making a panel) at 3544 Acadia St. Halifax, NS B3K 3P2

Project E: Presentation for youth, on gender expression, myth busters, proper terminology and other facts. web: www.freewebs.com/xprojece/ at available via web page

Propitiation: A fellowship of gay and lesbian Anglicans and their friends. 416-977-4359 email: propitiation@hotmail.com (We meet in members homes on a Saturday or Sunday Evening once every other month for Evening Prayer Discussion, refreshments and fellowship.) at --contact for meeting location. We prefer our heritage, worship, and Spirituality of the Book of Common Prayer. We are troubled by such right wing organizations as the prayer book society and Essentials.

Wayves Magazine: Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine!. email: submissions@wayves.ca web: wayves.ca (Editorial meeting one Monday night a month; layout one Sunday a month; see the Calendar on our web page) at downtown Halifax - email us for details

New Brunswick (506)

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church, Saint John: invites you to worship!. 634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com web: www.cqsunited.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St, Saint John, NB

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick, Fredericton: committed to facilitating community-based responses to the issues of HIV/AIDS. 459-7518 email: sidaids@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.aidsnb.com (Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM)

AIDS Saint John, Saint John: improve quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV, reduce the spread through education 652-2437 email: aidssj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aidsaintjohn.com

East Coast Bears, Fredericton: adult men who are, or like, masculine, hairy men. 506-455-2856 email: info@eastcoastbears.com web: www.eastcoastbears.com (See webpage for schedule.)

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays, Fredericton: Occasional social events and Email listserv. email: jamesw@stu.ca web: www.geocities.com/westhollywood/3074

Gais.es Nor Gays Inc. (GNG), Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area): A bilingual volunteer association serving gay men, lesbians and bisexuals of northern New Brunswick. email: info@gngnb.ca web: www.gngnb.ca (Dances are held at GNG club every Saturday night. See www.gngnb.ca for a list of upcoming events.) at 702 rue Principale, Petit-Rocher NB. Look for rainbow flag and/or door with pink triangle at rear of parking lot.

Integrity, Fredericton: Supports and encourages Gays and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. web: www.anglicanbeads.com/Integrity/ (Watch our website for details of 2007 planned events, (coming soon). Membership in Integrity is not indicative of sexual orientation.) at St John's Anglican Church, 59 Broad Road, Oromocto, New Brunswick.

Moncton Line Dancing, Moncton: LINE DANCING for all levels from beginner to advanced. No partner required. No dress code. , meets every Wednesday (8:30pm sharp) at Triangles Bar, corner of St. George and Archibald.

Moncton Transgender Support Group, Moncton: Transgenders, their allies, families and friends. email: ellisk@nbnet.nb.ca (Meets Monthly, email for time and place.)

PFLAG Canada - Fredericton, Fredericton: all welcome. email: pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/Pflagfredericton/, meets 4th Wednesday (7-9 pm (except December: 2nd Wednesday)) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton 874 York St. Fredericton NB E3B 3R8

PFLAG Canada - Moncton, Moncton: GLBTT2IQQ persons and their parents, families and friends. (506) 869-8191 email: monctonnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflag-canada.ca/moncton.html, meets 3rd Monday (occasionally on the 2nd Monday — please call) at 7:30-9:30 PM at U. de M. in Rm 302, Adrien-J.-Cormier Building.

PFLAG Canada - Sackville/Amherst, Sackville NB/Amherst NS: Support and education for GLBTT2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location alternates monthly between Sackville: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street, and Amherst: Maggie's Place, 12 LaPlanche Street

PFLAG Canada - Saint John NB, Saint John: Provides support to anyone dealing with issues of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. 648-9700 email: wandr@nbnet.nb.ca, tiggerj@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.pflag.ca/saint-john.htm (1st Friday of each month September - June at 7pm. No meeting in July & August.) at 116 Coburg Street in Saint John, New Brunswick in the Community Health Centre next to St. Joseph's Hospital.

Port City Rainbow Pride, Saint John: Pride Celebrations Committee. email: events@portcityrainbowpride.com web: www.portcityrainbowpride.com

River Of Pride, Moncton: Organizes, promotes and produces Moncton's Pride events!. email: monctonpride2007@gmail.com web: www.fiertemonctonpride.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and last Tuesday (contact laisha@nbnet.nb.ca for further meeting and event dates) at Triangles bar 234 St.George St. Moncton NB

Safe Spaces Fundy Region, Saint John: Committed to ending discrimination around issues of sexual orientation in youth. email: safespaces@gmail.com web: www.safespacesfundy.com (See our webpage for schedule of meetings and socials etc @ www.safespacesfundy.com)

Safe Spaces Moncton, Moncton: Safe Spaces offers support & counselling to GLBTQ Youth between 14-25. 869-6224 email: safespaces@nb.aibn.com web: www.safespaces.ca

Safe Spaces Moncton Region, Moncton: Support Groups for GLBTQ Youth (14-25 years old). 506-854-3049 email: info@safespaces.ca web: www.safespaces.ca

Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library, Saint John: over 300 fiction and non-fiction titles. 634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com (open Monday through Friday, 9 AM to noon.) at the office of Centenary Queen Square United Church at 215 Wentworth Street.

SIDA AIDS Moncton, Moncton: offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness. 859-9616 email: sidaidsm@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at 165A Gordon St., Moncton, NB, E1C 1N1

Spectrum, Fredericton: social and support group for students, staff and faculty at UNB and STU. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: www.unbf.ca/clubs/spectrum, meets every Tuesday

(7 pm) at SUB 203

The UNBSJ Q-Collective, Saint John: A social and support organisation for UNBSJ students, staff and faculty. 506-648-5737 or 648-9227 email: QCollect@UNBSJ.ca web: www.UNBSJ.ca (The UNBSJ Q-Collective is interested in hearing from other university LGBTQ organisations and would like to possibly meet or collaborate.) at various locations; event particulars will be emailed to anyone who registers with the UNBSJ Q-Collective and/or who gets the UNBSJ weekly "E News". Past events include the annual Rainbow Peace March, guest speakers, movie nights, participate in Maritime Pride Parades, Supporters of PFLAG Canada's "Communities Encourage Campaign" and "Champions Against Homophobia".

UN sur DIX - l'Association des étudiant.e.s GLB de l'Université de Moncton, Moncton: Visé à éduquer, à sensibiliser et à offrir des ressources dans la langue française. email: unsurdix@umoncton.ca web: www.umoncton.ca/unsurdix/ (Visitez le site Web ou envoyez un courriel pour en apprendre davantage au sujet du travail que nous accomplissons.)

UNB/STU Women's Collective, Fredericton: Women of all ages and orientations. , meets every Monday at 5pm at the University Women's Centre at the SUB

Woodstock GLBT Youth Advocate and Family OutReach, Woodstock: Books, movies, advice, directions, contacts, and support etc. for the family. 328-4868 email: richardb@nbnet.nb.ca

Newfoundland & Lab (709)

AIDS Committee of Newfoundland & Labrador, St. John's: HIV/AIDS education and support for male/female/transgendered, all ages, Newfoundland and Labrador 579-8656 email: info@acnl.net web: www.acnl.net

Conception Bay North AIDS Interest Group, Conception Bay: Conception Bay North AIDS Interest Group is a volunteer organization, education and prevention 709-596-4433 email: cbn.aids.intgr@nf.sympatico.ca web: www.cbnaig.org (Taylor Bldg., Carbonear Road, P.O. Box 993, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, A0A 2M0)

Gay Urban Youth Zone Project, St John's: designed to increase HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and STI knowledge and awareness 579-8656 (ext. 28) email: chris@acnl.net web: www.acnl.net at Tommy Sexton Centre 47 Janeway Place Pleasantville, across from the old Janeway Hospital AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador

LBGT-MUN Resource Centre, St John's: LBGT-MUN is an information/resource, service, and peer support centre staffed by trained volunteers!. 737-7619 email: lbgtmun@mun.ca web: www.mun.ca/lbgt/ (Open Monday-Friday 9-4. Biweekly meetings for members and volunteers.) at Smallwood/University Center, UC-6022. Building located on Prince Phillip Drive. Call us! Get involved! LBGT-MUN: "A Positive Place, for Positive People!"

PFLAG Canada - St. John's: Information or referral to one of our parents. email: gemma@egale.ca web: www.pflag.ca

St. John's Pride, St. John's: St. John's Official Pride Organization. 709-746-6564 email: info@stjohnspride.net web: www.stjohnspride.net

Nova Scotia (902)

Acadia Pride, Wolfville: Acadia's GLBT group. 585-2165 email: acadiapride@acadiau.ca web: euler.acadiu.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (7:30pm (during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

Acadia Women's Centre, Wolfville: 585-2140 email: 057996c@acadiau.ca web: axe.acadiu.ca/womencentre (Acadia SUB Second Level Balcony)

Affirm United, Halifax Metro: GLBT & Friends support, action and worshipping community within the United Church. 902-461-4528 email: alstew@eastlink.ca at Box 33067, Halifax, NS B3L 4T6

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton, Sydney: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms!. (902) 567-1766 email: joannerolls@accb.ns.ca; christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca, meets 1st Tuesday (6:00pm Board Meetings - Anonymous HIV Testing Available - See website for full calendar of events.) at 150 Benticock St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6H1

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, Halifax: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. (902)429-7922 email: acns@acns.ns.ca web: www.acns.ns.ca

Alcoholics Anonymous, Halifax: Live & Let Live AA Group for GLBT community- (902)

463-7895 email: courage449@yahoo.com web: www.rationalunacy.com/cout, meets every Monday (at 8pm) at St Matthews Church, 1479 Barrington St, Halifax (Use side door near Maritime Centre at bottom of stairs)

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing, Halifax: 455-9656

Bedford United Church, HRM/ Bedford: An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome. 835-8497 email: bedfordunited@eastlink.ca web: www.bedfordunited.com, meets every Sunday (9 am service - Casual and contemporary service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone.) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

BLT-Womyn of Halifax, Halifax: Bi Sex-auls, Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's Discussion Group. Sue's # 499-0335 email: sueandrews1964@hotmail.com web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynof-halifax/ (Every second Sunday evening 6pm - 7:30pm) at Dalhousie Women's Centre 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Bluenose Bears, Halifax: Club for bears and those who like them. 463-4312 email: bluenosebears@accesswave.ca, meets 3rd Wednesday

Cape Breton University Sexual Diversity Centre, Sydney: We provide a welcoming environment for GLBTQ people and their Allies. 902-563-1481 email: sdc@cbusu.com (M-F 9-4pm. Call or drop by for event listings, Ally Training, and Anti-Heterosexism/Homophobia Workshops!) at the Students' Union Building, Cape Breton University.

Colchester Sexual Assault Centre, Truro: Provides support and information to anyone (GLBTQ included) affected by sexual assault and abuse. 902-897-4366 email: trurosexualassault@hotmail.com (80 Glenwood Drive, Truro, N.S., B2N 1P3 Mon-Fri 9:30-4:30)

Cumberland Pride, Amherst & Area: for: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals. 660-5004 email: cumberlandpride@hotmail.com, meets 3rd Thursday (7:30 PM)

DalOUT, Halifax: LGBTQ Society at Dalhousie. 494-2190 email: dalout@dal.ca web: societies.dsu.ca/dalout, meets every Thursday (During the academic year we meet at about 7pm each Thursday night.) at Dalhousie University, check OUT our website or contact us for details

Family Pride Camping Association (Rainbow Spirit), Halifax: FPCA plans events for GLBT families with kids of all ages. From Camping weekends to bowling events. email: info@fpca.ca web: www.fpca.ca (Contact us if you are interested in helping out or would like to be contacted when we have events.)

Frontrunners Halifax, Halifax: Running/walking club. 422-7579 email: Bruce.Greenfield@dal.ca web: www.frontrunners.org/clubs/halifax/, meets every Saturday, and every Tuesday, and every Thursday (Sat: 9:30am, Tue: 6:00 pm, Thu: 6:00pm) at Main gates of the Halifax Public Gardens, corner of Spring Garden Road and South Park Street.

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL YOUTH GROUP AT Q.E.H.: Jeanie Buffet, Counsellor, at 421-6797

Get Out, Halifax!, Halifax: Recreation activities (team activities, cycling, running, rowing - you name it) for metro & beyond!. web: www.getouthalifax.ca at Visit and get on the email list for more info.

GLB CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE (SUNS): 494-6654 at c/o the Students' Union of NS

Group Harrison Society, Cape Breton: Dances, Socials & Support Group for Cape Bretoners. (902)270-6969 email: groupharrisonsociety@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/groupharrisonsociety, meets last Saturday (of every month Admission \$6.50 - \$5.50 for members- Best light and sound show around! Restricted 19 yrs and over) at Steel Workers Hall, Sydney

HalGal Mailing List, Halifax: events and information for queer/lesbian/bi/trans women and their allies in Halifax. web: groups.yahoo.com/group/hal-gal

Halifax Rainbow Speakers, Halifax: Speakers available, contact us if you are interested in joining also. 494-6662 web: www.thenovascotiapublicinterestresearchgroup.dal.ca (Call for times & locations)

Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society, Halifax: Fundraising. 902-449-7612 web: www.imperialcourtns.com, meets 1st Sunday, and 2nd Sunday (Executive Meetings Are Currently Held Every Second Sunday) at Meeting Locations Vary

Intensity Dance, Halifax: non-profit dance collective and presenting organization. email: intensitydance@yahoo.com web: intensity-dance.tripod.com

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Project, Halifax: support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under from across Nova Scotia. 429-5429 email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca (support and connection across, Week one: Monday - Transgender Discussion group 7-9 pm; Tuesday - 18 & under Discussion group 6-8 pm; Week two: Tues. Drop-in - 6-8 pm; Wed. - Movie Night 7-9 pm. Week three: Mon. Transgender Discussion group - 7-9 pm; Wed. Activity Night. Week four: Tues. Theme Drop-in - 6-9 pm; Wed. Movie Night - 7-9 pm. A youth food bank and STI testing on site. Please refer to website for times and details.) at 2281 Brunswick Street.

LGB Youth Support Group Lunenburg County, Bridgewater: fun social/support group for under 25 through the Sexual Health Ctr & LGBYouth Project. 527-2868 email: LunCo@NSSexualHealth.ca (Postponed until further notice: Volunteer facilitators needed! (over age 25))

Manna For Health, Halifax: A special needs referral food bank for those living with life threatening illness. 429-7670

Northern AIDS Connection Society, Truro: HIV prevention education initiative serving counties Colchester, Pictou, Cumberland & East Hants. 895-0931 email: nacsns@hotmail.com web: nacsns.tripod.com (Our Board of Directors meet bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month. Annual General Meeting held regularly in June. See webpage for contact numbers in your area of northern Nova Scotia.) at 33 Pleasant Street, Truro, N.S.

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project, Halifax: fostering change through networking, education, outreach & community education. 902-444-7887 email: nsrap@nsrap.ca web: www.nsrap.ca at TBA

Outlaw, Halifax: Queer Law Students Association at Dalhousie Law School. (Meetings vary. Please email if interested.) at Dalhousie Law School. 6061 University Avenue. Halifax, Nova Scotia.

PFLAG Canada - Amherst/Sackville: Support and education for GLBTT2IQQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (Contact us for meeting details.) at Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

PFLAG Canada - Halifax, Halifax: support and education for parents, family and friends. (902) 443-3747 email: ab274@cbeucto.ns.ca (September-March: 2nd Sunday of the month, 2-4 PM April-June: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7-9 PM) at individual homes

PFLAG Canada - Middleton, Middleton: Parents & friends. 902-825-0548 email: middletonns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/middleton.html, meets last Friday (7-9pm) at the Wilmot Community Centre civic address 13972 Highway #1 wilmot. Wilmot is located just between kingston and Middleton. The hall depending on direction that your coming from. Left if your coming from the East side and Right if your coming from the West direction.

PFLAG Canada - Sydney, Sydney: PFLAG Sydney provides support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. Karen 564-8728 email: sydneyneyns@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (of the month at 7:30pm. No meetings for July and August.) at Family Place Resource Centre 106 Townsend Street, Sydney NS

PFLAG Truro: 662.3774

Positive Connections: Teleconferenced support groups for people living with AIDS. email: connections@acns.ns.ca, meets every Monday (evening 7:00pm - 8:00pm) at by phone. No long distance charges. For more info call 425-4882 ext 228 or 1-800-566-2437 ext 228 or e-mail.

Pride Cape Breton Society, Sydney: Dances and Social Events. Monthly dances are Adults Only! Check website for other events. (902) 539-4627 web: www.pridecapebreton.com (Dances on the 2nd Saturday of every month. Check website for dance theme!) at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

Pride Guide Publishing: publisher of community focused maps, directories, event programs and more. 902-423-6999 email: prideguide@eastlink.ca

Pride of Pictou County, New Glasgow: All GBLT in Pictou County. 695-5222 web: www.PrideofPictouCounty.ca (see web page for meeting info)

Quakers, Halifax: Quakerism emphasizes that we all manifest the Divine. 429-2904 web: hali-

Events >>

Amherst

Second Monday

PFLAG Amherst/Sackville - in Amherst one month, Sackville the next. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, Sackville: 165 Main Street. Amherst: 12 La Planche Street.

First and Third Wednesdays

Amherst and Area, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Group Meeting, 7-9pm. Anyone who is GLBT or questioning their sexuality in the Amherst, Oxford, Springhill, Pugwash and Parrsboro areas is welcome, this is a safe space where anyone can come and feel safe in talking about their sexuality and just being themselves without fear of ridicule or harassment. Igby_p_amherst@hotmail.com, all emails confidential.

Third Thursday of each month

Cumberland Pride Support Group: Social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals in Amherst, Nova Scotia. Meets the third Thursday of each month. Contact information: Gerard Veldhoven at 902-660-5004 or E-mail: gaylords_1975@hotmail.com

Annapolis Valley

Every Thursday

The Annapolis Valley Gay Mens Coffee House meets every Thursday Evening from 7-9pm. Also on the first Saturday of each month host an over 19 gay/lesbian Dance from 9pm-1am. October 6th and October 27th are the next two dances and there is NO dance in November. The 6th is the Thanks giving dance and 27th is the Halloween Costume Dance. Further info contact menembracingmen@hotmail.com or 902-765-2821.

Every Sunday

Valley Girls is a social group for lesbians in the Annapolis Valley. Coffee Group on Sundays. For more information e-mail the grou at Valley_Girls@yahoogroups.com.

Bridgewater

Third Saturday of each month

Wileville Dance. Smoke free. For more details call 685-3297 or email info@southshorepride.ca or www.southshorepride.ca

Cape Breton

Every 2nd Saturday

Pride Cape Breton Society hosts community dances at the Southend Community Centre in Sydney; admission just \$5., and open to those 19 yrs. of age and older.

Charlottetown

...see Prince Edward Island

Fredericton

Every Tuesday

Spectrum, UNB and STU's social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, queer, questioning, etc. students. As a group, our aim is to create a safe and supportive space for those who are questioning or discovering their sexuality, as well as providing a social outlet for members of the campus LGBTQ community. While our membership is primarily composed of UNB and STU students, everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. 7 pm, Top floor of SUB 203 (in the Sexuality Centre, across from the Ballroom) Everyone is welcome! For more information please contact us at spectrum@unb.ca

Every Wednesday

UNB/STU Women's Collective, at the University Women's Centre in the SUB, 5pm. Contact Lyndsey Gallant at gvnkr@stu.ca or call 450-3870.

Third Sunday of each month

GLB ANGLICANS AND FRIENDS Integrity is a non profit organization of Gay and Lesbian Anglicans and Friends. Membership in Integrity is not indicative of sexual orientation. Integrity Fredericton was formed in October 2004 and supports and encourages Gay Men and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. A Eucharist followed by a coffee hour discussion is held at 4:00 PM on the third Sunday of each month at St. John's, 58 Broad Road, Oromocto. For more details check out website: www.anglicanbeads.com/Integrity

Fourth Wednesday of each month

PFLAG Fredericton meets at 7 PM at the Unitarian Fellowship, 874 York Street. Everyone welcome. Discussion, guest speakers, support and special events. For more information email pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca. Confidentiality assured.

Fredericton Bar & Business Calendar

BOOM! NIGHTCLUB

Fredericton NB, 474 Queen St. 463-boom (2666) www.boomnightclub.ca
Thursdays: Three sum Thursday's 8-cl
Music: 3 Recent, 3 Retro, 3 Requests
Specials: \$3 Shooters, \$3 Beer, \$3 Energy Drinks, \$7 Triples
Cover: None
Fridays: House Heaven 8-cl
Music: Mainstream club tracks and videos to start your weekend off right.
Cover: \$3 after 11, \$4 after 12.
Saturdays: POWER 8-cl
Music: The only genuine big-city club scene in the city.
Cover: \$4 after 11, \$4.50 after 12.
Sunday's double header: Sunday Social 4-7
Music: Laid back inviting social atmosphere
Cover: None
Sunday Open Turntables 10-cl
Music: Live DJ's spinning at crowd level
Specials: \$ 2.25 Select Beer 10-11, \$3 Select Beer, \$3 Shooters, \$5.25 Doubles
Cover: \$2

Halifax

Every Sunday

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Halifax: a Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GLBT community. Everyone is welcome! 453-9249 email: safeharbour@eastlink.ca web: safeharbourmcc.com, meets at 11 am at Veith House, 3115 Veith Street, Halifax

Every Sunday

Bedford United Church. 1200 Bedford Highway, Bedford. We are an Affirming Congregation and welcome everyone. Services at 9 am (Casual & Contemporary) and 11 am (Quieter & More Reverent in tone) Starting June 24-Sept. 9, one 10 am service. For more info, call 835-8497.

Second Sunday of each month

Play Group for Queer Families! 3-5pm Board Room (Play Room) at Needham Community Recreation Centre, 3372 Devonshire St (north end Halifax, near intersection of Duffus & Novalea, bus routes 7 & 9) Bring a snack for your child(ren). We will be collecting money from each family to cover the cost of the room rental, likely \$2-4 per week. For info, call 422-8780 or email lynnmacdonald@hfx.eastlink.ca

First and Third Tuesdays

Formerly known as the Queer/Straight Alliance, Mount Pride in the GLBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. We are an active and online group that meets bi-weekly on tuesdays at 12 noon in the diversity center in Roseria on campus, and online at mountpride@yahoogroups.com. Possible events that are being planned for the winter semester include sexuality awareness week, movies nights, potlucks, guest speakers, and many more. There are always spontaneous meals and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join.

First and Third Tuesdays

LGB Youth Project Social Drop-in Nights. This is an unstructured event. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever, 6-9pm, 25 and under, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthprojec t@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

LGB Youth Project 18 and under Support meetings. This is a structured environment, with facilitators present to keep discussions on track, while at the same time helping to lead the discussion in the directions that the youth wish to go, as well as making sure the group guidelines are enforced. The discussions focus on the youth present having a say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed, 6-8pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

First and Third Sundays

BLT-WOMYN OF HALIFAX DISCUSSION GROUP! This is a Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgendered womyn's Only! -Free Group, NO Dues, NO Fee's- MEETINGS are every second SUNDAY. @6pm - 7:30pm(Please remember when appling to this group, send full name and a contact number or call sue at 499-0335, everthing is kept PRIVATE!) LOCATION: DALHOUSIE WOMEN'S CENTRE 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) HOW TO JOIN THIS GROUP: Come to a discussion night or send us your e-mail address or call a moderator (Sue @ 499-0335). If you have any questions. A discussion group for Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgendered women, who will meet to have open discussions, in a positive environment.To discuss topics concerning ourselves and our community. This

is a bi-weekly meeting on Sundays. http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/ or sueandrews1964@hotmail.com

First and Third Wednesdays

LGB Youth Project Movie Night, 25 and under, starting at 7pm. 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

LGB Youth Project ages 18-25 Support meetings. This is a structured environment, with facilitators present to keep discussions on track, while at the same time helping to lead the discussion in the directions that the youth wish to go, as well as making sure the group guidelines are enforced. The discussions focus on the youth present having a say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed, 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthprojec t@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

Second Wednesday of each month

Spirituality for Lesbians, 7:30-9PM. We seek to deepen our relationship with God, knowing that God loves us and calls us into life just as he has created us. Persons of every or no denomination are welcome. For info about the place of the next meeting call 459-2649 and leave name and number. Personal mailbox: confidentiality assured.

Dec 6, 20, Jan 3, 17, 31

Anonymous HIV Testing, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia 1657 Barrington St, Suite 321, 5-8pm. 425-4882 for an appointment.

Dec 9, 23, Jan 6, 20

Koinonia Ecumenical Church – Meaning ‘community’. Services bi-weekly at 12:30pm at Halifax Feast downtown. Pastor Elaine, 876-8771 or koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca

Dec 1

World AIDS Day Vigil, 7pm, 2606 Agricola Street. Sponsored by ACNS and FRED.

Dec 31

Rainbow Community New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance, Sponsored by Safe Harbour MCC, at the Marriott Halifax Waterfront. 7:30pm Reception, 8pm Dinner, 10pm Dance, Midnight Champagne and Buffet, \$85/person, Proceeds go to Manna for Health Special Needs Food Bank. For tickets or information contact 902-832-9100 or brucergoddard@hotmail.com.

Halifax Youth Project Calendar

Youth Project events operate in a 4-week schedule. To find out what week we're operating in, please see our website or contact us! www.youthproject.ns.ca, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, 429-5429

Week 1

Monday - Transgender Discussion Group: A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what trans youth have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. A place to talk about trans issues and make new friends! 7-9 pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

Tuesday - Discussion Group (ages 18 and under) A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what the youth present have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick St.
Wednesday - Discussion Group (ages 18-25) A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what the youth present have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 7-9 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Week 2

Tuesday - Social Drop-in Nights (ages 25 and under) This is a facilitated but less structured event. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick street
Wednesday - LBG Youth Project Movie Night (ages 25 & under) come out for a movie & popcorn! 7 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Week 3

Tuesday - Guest Speaker & Discussion night (ages 25 & under) A new speaker every week to educate & spark discussion. This is a structured environment. 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick street
Wednesday - Activity night (ages 25 & under) A chance to have fun and perhaps learn something new. Activities will be on this night lasting two and a half months. First activity class IMPROV



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2007

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groups & services cont'd

ca web: faceitwithpride.tripod.com (Coffee every Thursday 7-9pm, Dances on the first Saturday of the month, for the exception of in November. There is two dances held in October, On the First Saturday and the Last Saturday of that Month and NO Dance in November.) at email or call for locations or special events or themes

Venus Envy Bursary Society: An annual award open to all women studying in NS. web: www.venusenvy.ca/halifax

X-Pride, Antigonish: social & support group at X. 867- 5007 web: www.stfx.ca/people/xpride

Prince Edward Island (902)

Abegweit Rainbow Collective, Charlottetown: Serving GLBTQ Islanders, their friends and families. 894-5776 email: info@arcpei.ca web: www.arcpei.ca, meets 2nd Tuesday (of each month) at ARC Offices at 144 Prince Street, 3rd floor

AIDS PEI, Charlottetown: 566-2437 email: info@aidspei.com web: www.aidspei.com at 144 Prince Street

Gay PEI Mailing List, province-wide: Electronic mailing list for all GLBT, questioning and friendly, focus is on PEI. email: gay-pe-owner@yahoo.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei (It's an electronic list, there aren't meetings. You can join and start posting at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pei at any time. All first posts are moderated to stop spambots, otherwise, it's an open list.)

GLBT Youth group, Charlottetown: Safe Space Drop-Ins. 367-3408 or toll free 1 877 380 5776

email: youth@arcpei.ca web: youth.arcpei.ca at 144 Prince St. We have a lending library, books, movies, magazines and a place to hang out and chat. Special events planned throughout the year.

Narcotics Anonymous, Charlottetown: a fellowship of recovering drug addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. 566-9733 or 1-800-205-8402 (Mondays & Fridays 8:00pm) at 178 Fitzroy St

PEI Pride, Charlottetown: Organizing The Island Pride Festival July 7th -14th, 2007. (902) 388-0969 email: pridepei@isn.net web: www.peipride.com (See webpage for meetings www.peipride.com) at 286 Fitzroy Street, Charlottetown, PE or phone (902) 388-0969

PFLAG Canada - PEI, Island wide: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI. 902-887-3620 email: pflagpei@eastlink.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca, meets 3rd Tuesday at Ferry Road Centre, 24 Ferry Road, Cornwall, PE

PRIZMS, Charlottetown: PEI's first all dance party! Catering to the gay and lesbian community. email: PRIZMS@canada.com (please email for upcoming events and location information) at PRIZMS expose yourself to the high energy- highly social atmosphere. "PRIZMS - Dance in the Light" Email for upcoming events dates and places

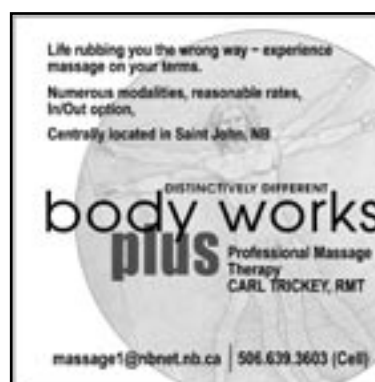
UPEI Rainbow Alliance, Charlottetown: Fellowship, information, social events, awareness-raising. All welcome. email: rainbow@upei.ca web: upei.ca/index.php at see UPEI Women's Centre for more info

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support

HALIFAX RAINBOW SPEAKERS: Project Proud Lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgendered, two-spirited and queer volunteers wanted to participate in public education workshops. No special knowledge or experience necessary-training, practice and support provided. Let your rainbow shine! Ramona 902-494-6662, nspirg@is2.dal.ca

HALIFAX TRANSGUYS is a support group for transmen at any point in transition, locally and in Atlantic Canada. Please write: halifaxtransguys@yahoo.groups.ca for further info on our upcoming meetings and social events.

DOES SOMEONE YOU LOVE HAVE A DRINKING PROBLEM? You can see what it's doing to them, but can you see what it's doing to you? To learn more about the help & hope we offer to friends & families of problem drinkers, call us at 902-466-7077, or visit our website at www.freewebs.com/alanonmaritimes

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Deadlines at the front of the paper! (hint: always the first Friday of the month!)

groups

MARITIME GAY WOMEN starting group in Moncton to make friends. Hope to meet people who ski, play cards, like nature, Maritime travel, golf, whatever you're interested in. If you're alone, or would like to meet



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musical events



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December 19 at 7pm~
Christmas Eve Family Service, Dec 24 at 4:30pm~
Communion with Carols
Dec 24 at 7pm~
www.stjohnsunited.com

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP

Welcoming all who are affected by gender diversity: individuals who are trans-identified, their partners, parents, friends and families.

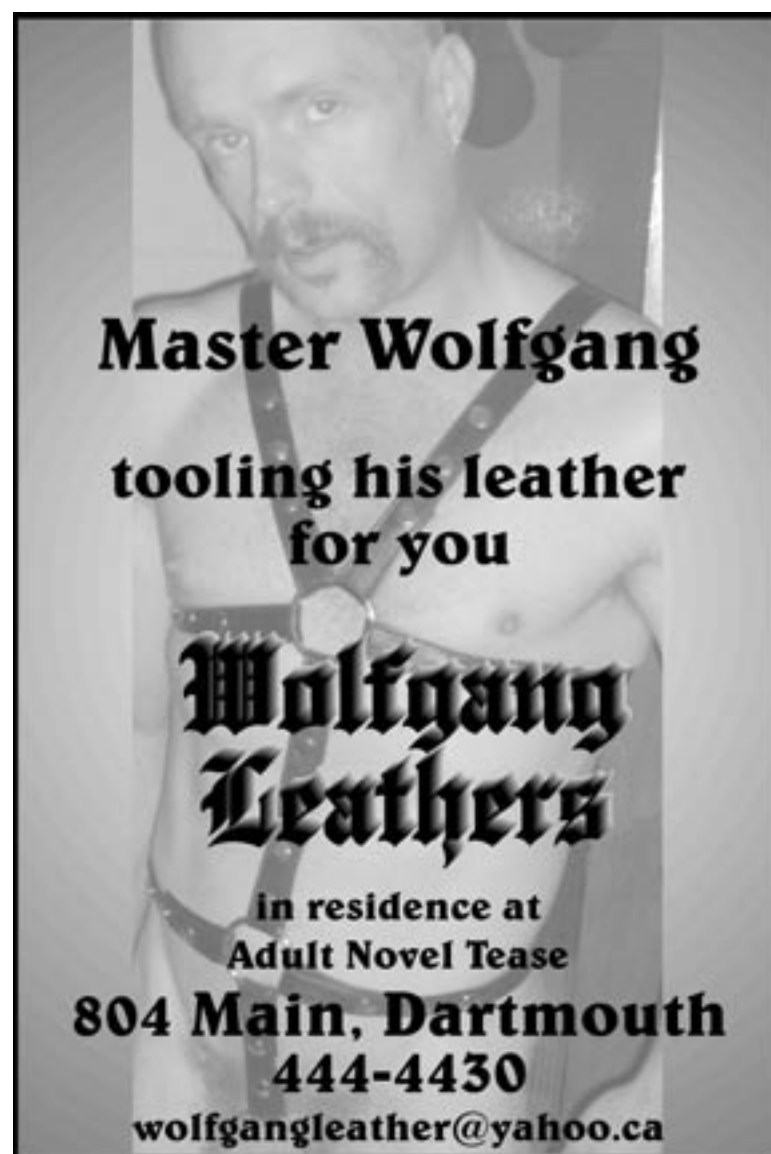
Adrien-J.-Cormier Building, Room 302, Université de Moncton
Facilitator: Eldon Hay (506) 536-0599, eldonhay@nb.sympatico.ca
3rd Sunday of the month: 1:30 - 3:30pm except December, (2nd Sunday)

Send events to submissions@wayves.ca now -- Event listings are free!

Make sure you include contact info!



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Moncton Pride, Atlantic News, Kibitz & Bitch, DalOUT, Movie Reviews, Truro Pride, Editorials, Free CDs, Events Calendar, LBGT-MUN, Theatre Reviews, Charlottetown Pride, Political Commentary, Spectrum, Groups & Services, Fredericton Pride, Recipes, Sports Briefs, Legal Briefs & Griets, Drag 101, Halifax Pride, Svend Robinson, Marc Hall, Scott Brison, and more all the time! Moncton Pride, Atlantic News, Kibitz & Bitch, DalOUT, Movie Reviews, Truro Pride, Editorials, Free CDs, Events Calendar, LBGT-MUN, Theatre Reviews, Charlottetown Pride, Political Commentary, Spectrum, Groups & Services, Fredericton Pride, Recipes, Sports Briefs, Legal Briefs & Griets, Drag 101, Halifax Pride, Svend Robinson, Marc Hall, Scott Brison, and more all the time! Moncton Pride, Atlantic News, Kibitz & Bitch, DalOUT, Movie Reviews, Truro Pride, Editorials, Free CDs, Events Calendar, LBGT-MUN, Theatre Reviews, Charlottetown Pride, Political Commentary, Spectrum, Groups & Services, Fredericton Pride, Recipes, Sports Briefs, Legal Briefs & Griets, Drag

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Opinion: Gay Men Have Sex!

By Jim Bain

Gay men have sex. In fact, every gay man I've met in 52 years enjoyed having sex, the more the better. Most, not all, incorporated this enjoyment into their lives in a healthy and robust manner. Those few that didn't were prevented, not by the sex, but by the attitudes and expectations of the society around them. They, to a man, wanted to be what parents, teachers, and friends expected them to be; sex with other men didn't fit into this model.

In modern days, gay men seemed to have gained a measure of tolerance. However, who, how, how often, and with how many we have sex can still be a matter of prejudice—even by the most liberal and strong of our potential allies.

In our "Letters" column this issue you are going to find the latest clash between well-meaning friends and the common social morals of gay life.

As we were preparing last issue, we discovered that our magazine was being censored by a couple of people that normally would be considered friends, if not allies, of the LGBT community. In Newfoundland, Angela Crockwell of

the Community Youth Network, in St. John's, was cutting the back cover off our magazine. The magazine was being sent to her organization at her request.

Ms. Crockwell was upset that the ads promoted sexual exploitation. We were upset that the magazine was being censored. In our way of thinking, the Cruiseline ads have nothing to do with sexual exploitation and we felt that the perception was wrong, if understandable. We wrote to Ms. Crockwell explaining what Cruiseline actually did and what they contribute to LGBT life in Canada. We also offered her the chance to write on the issues that really were concerning her in our pages. No reply on her part was offered.

The four letters from Newfoundland in our letters column are just as we received them. They all accuse us of misrepresentation and missing Ms. Crockwell's point. I don't think that we did. She's concerned with the sexual exploitation and the effect such exploitation has had on her charges. We just didn't feel that Ms. Crockwell's actions

had much bearing on her concerns. OUR concern, OUR outrage came from, in our opinion, the unjustifiable censoring of our magazine.

It was the letter from Gloria Williams, the third we received, that caused me to have an epiphany of thought. Ms. Williams points out that the Cruiseline ads are "around the promotion of making a connection primarily for sex." She continues, "The message in your advertising is NOT (emphasis hers), 'Call, Connect, Build a Healthy Relationship.'"

The main problem here, the point of disconnection, is that there cannot be anything healthy about "a connection primarily for sex" to Ms. Crockwell and Williams. However, for me, and almost every gay man I've ever met (we're talking thousands, if not tens of thousands, of men here.) such an event can be healthy, joyous, invigorating... you get the idea.

Cruiseline, and any sex that results because of the use of its services, is a part of gay culture. For the vast majority of the men who are its members, a very healthy part of gay culture. It is light years beyond

putting ourselves in jeopardy in parks and on street corners in the dead of night. Is there a chance of sexual exploitation? Certainly, but the same chance is also there in visiting a coffee shop, a hockey rink, or a church.

If Ms. Crockwell cuts out the Cruiseline ad from our paper it says something far beyond the fact that she is "unwilling to advertise phone services that invite people 18+ to 'Call. Connect. Get Off.'" It shows a basic misunderstanding of gay sexual morals. It shows the people in her youth centre that there is something wrong about the very sex-positive life that the majority of gay men live. In MY opinion, it is very futile for her to censor the magazine when her charges have to live a life outside the walls of her centre. She also misses the chance to engage in a meaningful discussion of what is and isn't sexual exploitation and whether or not it is possible to have a happy and healthy, simple sexual encounter.

It is very simple to provide a "plenitude of rainbows and supportive quotes," as Mr. Shortall

points out that Ms. Crockwell does. It is very easy to attend Pride Events and International Day Against Homophobia demonstrations. It is quite another to work towards having a real understanding of gay culture, of our organizations and institutions, and the sex-positive morals that have grown up around our oppression. It is even harder to take that understanding to the next step and examine within yourself your opinions and reactions in regards to the differences between your morals and ours.

Finally, let's just blow off the cheap shots about how much Cruiseline pays us for the ads. Wayves Magazine, well before this latest dust-up, was refusing ads from the so-called "escort services"—even when VISA cards were waved in our face. If we felt something was really harming the community no amount of money would buy us.

Letters

Combatting Homophobia in Ourselves

Busy, busy, busy! Running here and there! No time to think! Foot-high pile of Wayves arrives with a thunderous crash in my mailbox, catches on a rock, and hangs there! Gotta take it in to Mel's Tea Room and put it on the shelf of freebies next to Here and The Argosy.

I take a peek at punoqun. Oh, so brief a look... a five-second glance. Eyes light on a few choice words, a few wild lines. And, just like that, I decide it is verging on pornographic.

I do not take it to Mel's. Instead, I write to three friends about my snap judgement and my foot-dragging reluctance about taking Wayves in... because of punoqun. Then I go on my trip, for five days.

I come home. Oh jeez, what to do about Wayves and the insert? Am I supposed to take this garbage in, wave a cheery hello to the nice married couple (my neighbours) who own the store, and place it in the window? I don't want to! No way! I mean, I would be endorsing it if I did that, right?

(I still had not actually read punoqun. I could tell what it was like from that one second glance last week, right?)

My three friends (lesbian and straight) have already written me sensitive thoughtful e-mail replies.

Maybe I should remove punoqun, and take Wayves to Mel's without it, one suggests. No, I immediately reply, I can't do that.

It would be censorship and I am against censorship.

Maybe people could come to your house to get it, suggests another, and then she takes back the suggestion as "not a good solution."

I continue to do nothing. (And at this point I still have not looked at it again since my initial snap judgement peek.)

Today one of my friends writes again: What have you decided to do about Wayves? I really like the insert, she says, particularly the piece by my friend... should I come by to pick it up at your house?

Oh, dear. So, with dinner steaming on the table, I grumble over to my pile of Wayves on the sideboard, pluck out punoqun, and open it to page four. I decide I will read the damn thing cover to cover.

As I munch on my Shake 'n Bake chicken and winter squash, and read line after line, page after page, I realize within moments that I have made an enormous and horrible mistake... that I have acted in a manner I have spent years deploring in others.

I read on. I come to my friend's friend's piece and discover it is beautifully written and very deep. After finishing that, I become immersed in a poignant account of the unravelling of a marriage, hand in hand with the recognition of true love elsewhere – a love, sadly, not pursued – a dream passed by,

lost forever. And a pantingly-hot recounting of a sexual encounter with a loved one. And a prose poem in which the poet reflects in a profound yet simple way upon the situation in "Brokeback Mountain."

I reach the end. I know what has happened and I feel astonished, surprised, shocked and ashamed. I have been a homophobic, censoring person.

In haste I had made a snap judgement based on glancing at a few words and phrases. That was wrong. I had held a lofty, elitist attitude about the consistently "high quality" I thought all the writings should be. That was wrong. I had acted on my snap judgement – wrote to friends – without even having read the volume through. That was wrong, too.

All of these things are what a homophobic, censoring person does. I had become exactly like the people I am always struggling to enlighten. After all these years, I had thought it impossible for me to be blatantly homophobic. But it wasn't impossible – it had happened.

Right away I started to examine the set of circumstances around my unexpected homophobic reaction. It didn't take long to see some of the obvious reasons:

1) Because I had been in a hurry, I did not read the material I criticized, but decided it's worth, anyhow. (How many times – mil-

lions? – have the Canada/U.S. border censors turned back books and videos intended for Little Sisters Bookstore in Vancouver without looking at them?)

2) I had decided, based on the few words and lines I had seen at first glance (in the first two poems), that the quality of the writing was poor. As it turned out, although the first two poems did not become my favourite pieces in the volume, I grew to like them. There was more to them than individual words. And I found that many other pieces were very appealing to me. Before reading the book, with a broad sweep of my black censor's pen, I had painted out the entire volume of writings.

3) Because I didn't know what to do, I temporarily withheld the paper from others. That's censorship at its worst.

Those are a few of the obvious reasons. I felt more compassionate and forgiving towards myself when I searched for deeper underlying reasons. Prior to reading punoqun I had had little previous exposure to good, creative writing of gay, lesbian, bi, intersex and trans persons. I have read only a few gay novels and short stories, and a handful of poems that explore with sensitivity the images, feelings and thoughts of gay persons. As I read the story told by the married man, I felt I was reading something precious coming from

deep within this man's heart. This was a gift the writer offered to me, the reader, something very special, and something I realize, now that I have encountered such writing, I have been missing. When I re-read the first two poems I felt happy that the writer had found words to offer a joyous, gutsy, poetic rendering of his lustful joy in the pleasures of bodies together! These were the first happy, celebratory gay poems I had ever read in my life!

In closing, I want to sincerely thank all the writers who contributed to this landmark Atlantic Canada publication, and to congratulate Wayves for your fine initiative. Among other things, it taught me a valuable lesson about my own internalized homophobia: how we can never be entirely free of it, living as we do in this still-homophobic society... and that we must be on the lookout for it in ourselves no matter how liberated and diversity-supportive we may feel we are.

Oh, and in case you're wondering: my loving partner Marilyn and I delivered Wayves and punoqun to Mel's this afternoon!

Janet Hammock
Facilitator, PFLAG Canada
Sackville, NB/Amherst, NS
Chapter



Dear editor:

Does being unwilling to advertise phone services that invite people 18+ to "Call. Connect. Get Off" within a youth centre that supports youth who are at high risk for sexual exploitation make me homophobic? Absolutely not. The editorial "Baby & the Bath Water" did not reflect my opinion, or my concern regarding the Cruiseline ad, therefore I am hoping I can be heard through this letter. My concern was quite simply that the Community Youth Network, St. John's works with many youth both above and below the age of 18 who have been exploited for other people's sexual gratification. They are people who work in massage parlors, strip clubs, phone sex lines, and also on the streets of St. John's. These youth are vulnerable, dealing with issues of poverty, homelessness, addictions, mental health issues, and illiteracy. As an organization, we have worked hard to bring awareness to these issues, and to understand that the reason people are working in this area is often about survival, having a place to sleep, or access to drugs. I am in no way suggesting, or did I suggest, that the people who work at Cruiseline are exploited; I suggested that the youth CYN supports are at risk of exploitation. I felt it was cause for concern that our organization, which supports youth who struggle with issues of sexual exploitation, could sit at our kitchen table and read an ad that promotes the sale of sexual arousal. I feel strongly that these perspectives must be taken into account if a magazine such as this wants to be available to as broad of a population as possible. I am bewildered why it was so easy to dismiss my points as homophobia, and a discomfort with images of men loving other men. How much revenue does Wayves get for those ads?

Angela Crockwell, Community Youth Network, St. John's

Dear Wayves:

As Executive Director of the Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Health Centre I have attempted to make the Centre as inclusive as possible. This would include having Wayves available for our clientele. The magazine is in our waiting rooms and is given to clients to take home when requested.

NLSHC hosts a Queer Social Group, for youth ages 16-18. This group is the only one of this type in our city. The only funding we have been able to secure is from the Community Youth Network - St. John's Region (CYN). Further, the only location we have been able to secure to host our Queer

Social Groups is at the CYN. The Executive Director of this organization, and the one who ultimately approved funding and our request to host the group at this location, is Ms. Angela Crockwell.

I was deeply disturbed by your recent editorial that slammed Ms. Crockwell's reputation, with the accusation that she is homophobic. Your criticism and comments were very damaging. This is a woman who works tirelessly for youth. She chairs a committee that deals specifically with the problems surrounding the sexual exploitation of youth. With her experience working with sexually exploited youth I feel that that Ms. Crockwell has raised excellent concerns with the Cruiseline advertisement and I agree with her.

I, too, have issues with the advertisement. While I continue to have the paper available at my Centre I also wondered if I should remove the last page. The advertisement not only fulfills the stereotype that gay men are promiscuous it also fulfills the stereotype that for all men, heterosexual or homosexual, that size matters! The issues being raised are about providing materials and resources that encourage healthy messages around sexuality.

I strongly feel that for you to suggest that Ms. Crockwell is homophobic is completely unjustified. The editorial attacks Ms. Crockwell's character and has upset a unified group that fights against homophobia. Ms. Crockwell deserves a public apology.

Sincerely, Brenda Kitchen, Executive Director, Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Health Centre



Dear Editor,

I am sure you would agree that wars have started from reactions to misconceptions! In your editorial, "Cutting Out the Baby With the Bathwater," you have distorted the character of an outstanding role model in the community of St. John's, NL because you, Wayves, were not listening, rather, were reacting.

Whether the back cover of Wayves depicts a heterosexual couple or a homosexual couple is not the point. The concern that was raised, (which I share), around your Cruiseline ads happens to be around the promotion of making a connection primarily for sex. Many of your ads feed into a stereotype of gays that many community organizations, including the Community Youth Network of which Angela Crockwell is Director, works tirelessly to correct. The message in your advertising is not "Call, Con-

nect, Build a Healthy Relationship." Rather, the ads boldly express that "Size Matters" and "Call, Connect, Get Off."

My employment includes work with street youth through a program called Street Reach. Some of the people that I meet include sex trade workers. Their experiences have moulded their "choices" or lack thereof. Some of these experiences include sexual exploitation, and/or unhealthy relationships around sexuality from a young age. In my quest to promote healthy relationships, I do not see a place for your advertising. For the same reason, I do not see a place for advertising any other kind of activity that sends the message that sex is a commodity to be bought and sold. We are working to empower people around building healthy options.

The Community Youth Network and the Street Reach program take pride in a diverse and anti-oppressive approach to practice. This is not about Ms. Crockwell being homophobic or uninformed. This is about providing materials and resources that encourage healthy messages around sexuality. You missed the point! In fact, you defend the advertising because the ads bring in revenue for your magazine. Sadly, as a reader of Wayves, I feel disappointed that such a wonderful resource would sell out to sex line ads at the expense of what many



community organizations value. I believe you owe Ms. Crockwell a public apology. Interestingly, you did not print her actual communication with you, rather, your perception of same.

Peace & light, Gloria Williams; RSW, MSW, BSW, Community Activist, St. John's, NL, Supporter



Last month's question:

In the last Wayves issue we asked you dear readers "If the right person came into your life and you chose to settle down with that person would you consider raising children, either biologically or through adoption? We received a total of eight responses, 2 No, 3 Yes and one unsure.

The two people who commented both saying no however one was a qualified no.

"I've already made my contribution to the next generation by helping my mother raise my younger siblings. I had to learn how to change diapers when I was 8. Bleh!"

"No, not right now, but when I'm ready I would consider it. Ready means being at a place where I was secure enough financially for one thing. Children need to be raised in a home environment where there is security and stability in order to enjoy a good quality of life.

This month's question: Do you plan on making any New Year's resolutions? You Tell Us at wayves.ca!

of the Gay Urban Youth Zone project, Concerned Citizen of the Atlantic Provinces



Dear Wayves:

I am writing to clarify false information. I believe you gravely misrepresented Ms. Crockwell in the November Editorial (2007). Atlantic Canada's LGBTQ magazine had a cover story focusing on the Cruiseline advertisements, arguing that people who had issues with the Cruiseline ads were homophobic. In the editorial, you failed to acknowledge points that Ms. Crockwell raised in e-mail responses, and you painted a grim picture without providing background information. I know nothing of the other individual you referenced, but I do know about the Community Youth Network and Angela Crockwell Executive Director of CYN.

The Community Youth Network connects with youth, helps them go where they want to go, and assists youth, primarily 12-18 years old, achieve their full potential. The CYN offices have a plentitude of rainbows and supportive quotes, they have Outlive Homophobia Posters, International Day Against Homophobia Posters, resources for gay and lesbian youth, and posters from the GUYZ Project. They host St. John's' only LGBTQ youth drop-in service, and they are represented on the Gay Urban Youth Zone Project Advisory Committee.

I started getting Wayves delivered to CYN, who recognized that it was a great resource to have at their location. The staff, including Ms. Crockwell, also attend Pride Week, International Day Against Homophobia events, and provide

opportunities for LGBTQ service providers like myself to be able to reach other service providers and raise awareness about issues regarding sexual orientation. They are allies in the fight against homophobia.

For you to suggest that CYN and Angela Crockwell are homophobic due to a legitimate concern with the advertising your newspaper chooses to publish is completely false and unjustified. I feel that you need to provide a public apology to Ms. Crockwell, and I think that your editorial staff should be held accountable for this misrepresentation. Thank you, Chris Shortall Gay Urban Youth Zone Project Coordinator



Cover Images: Cruiseline "Size Matters" 2007 advertising campaign



Dear Wayves:

Hello, my name is Maisie Walker and I am proud to say that I represent MAC Leather as an independent, winning Miss A.C. MacLeather for 2007. I reside in Miramichi with my partner of 13 years, Patience, and we have four children, 11 dogs and three cats. I first became interested in being a leatherwoman in 1996, thanks to two of our good leatherman friends. Leather opened up many new aspects in our lives — the power it holds, the thrills it provides and the FUN! I am looking forward to my year as Miss A.C. MAC Leather and to whatever adventures it brings. Looking forward to meeting new friends and seeing old ones. See you out there, Maisie Walker, Miramichi NB



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