

Wayves



Halifax Pride's first ever float in The 13th Annual Chronicle Herald Holiday Parade of Lights! Groups represented were ACNS, ISCANS, NSRAP, Safe Harbour MCC, Wayves, and the Youth Project. Many thanks to all involved and especially to Halifax Pride Parade Coordinator, Ed Savage, aka Boom Boom, for scoring such a coup. Photo by Patrick Casey

Schlamp-Hickey New PFLAG AIDS Awareness Week – NB Canada Prez

Gemma Schlamp-Hickey of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, has been appointed the new President of PFLAG Canada. Ms. Schlamp-Hickey succeeds Helen Hesse of Winnipeg, who was a founding Director of PFLAG Canada.

Ms. Schlamp-Hickey graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Memorial University in 2003. As a student, she served as General Director of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered of Memorial University, Newfoundland (LGBT-MUN), during which time she wrote and presented a brief on same-sex marriage to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and

Human Rights (Halifax, NS).

Since 2003, Schlamp-Hickey has dedicated herself to numerous volunteer and professional pursuits aimed at advancing human rights, promoting health care in marginalized populations and improving community wellness.

PFLAG Canada is a national charitable organization that provides support, information and education to anyone with questions or concerns about sexual orientation and gender identity issues. The organization is a nationally recognized presence with a highly effective network of volunteers assisting in the support and recognition of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit,

intersex, queer and questioning persons, and their families, friends and community allies. The PFLAG movement began in Canada in 1985 and continues to broaden its mission as a national voice for a more open and accepting society for people affected by sexual and gender diversity.

The Board of Directors represents the geographical and cultural diversity of Canada, and includes: Gemma Schlemph-Hickey, St. John's NL (President); Ray Lam, Vancouver BC (Vice President); Earl Waugh, Cranbrook BC (Secretary); Ryan Walkinshaw, Toronto ON (Treasurer); Lynne Delorme, Prince Albert

Cont'd to p. 2

By Ted Gaudet

November 24 to December 1, 2008, World AIDS Day 20th Anniversary marks progress but no solution

World AIDS Day was first declared by the World Health Organization and the United Nations General Assembly in 1988. Since then, it has progressively become one of the most successful "international days" for raising awareness on a global issue. December 1, World AIDS Day, is the day when individuals and organizations from around the world come together to bring attention to the global AIDS epidemic. This year marks the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day and while we have come

a long way since 1988, there is still much more to be done.

AIDS Awareness Week's focus is to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS, reduce the discrimination faced by those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS, and to promote prevention. AIDS Awareness Week is important as it brings to light such issues as the stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV/AIDS issues, and the way it causes barriers to effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care. Fear of stigma and discrimination may prevent people from seeking information, treatment and support, and/or from acknowledging their HIV status.

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Diamond Divas 9 Tickets

Tickets are now on sale for the ninth annual Diamond Divas Revue, being held at the Moncton's Capitol Theatre on Saturday, February 21, 2009. All proceeds will benefit the Moncton Crisis and Referral Agency (CARA) Helpline Inc.

What a great last minute gift idea or stocking stuffer for Christmas this year! Tickets are \$15.00 in advance, \$20.00

at the door.

Give the gift of giving to support a most necessary agency and put a smile on someone's face by getting your tickets now through the Capitol Theatre Box Office only.

Contact the Capitol Theatre at (506) 856-4379, toll-free 1-800-567-1922, or through the web at www.capitol.nb.ca.

Cont'd from Aids Awareness, p. 1

In the midst of a global financial crisis, leaders must deliver on their AIDS promises and is highlighted by the theme of leadership. On this World AIDS Day, we celebrate the significant progress in prevention and treatment over the past two decades and also highlight how much more still needs to be done by leaders at all levels to reach universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010.

A number of events will be held in New Brunswick, including:

AIDS Saint John will join Mayor Ivan Court on November 24 at City Hall for the raising of the AIDS Awareness Flag, marking the beginning of AIDS Awareness Week.

In Moncton, AIDS Moncton will hold the annual Candlelight Vigil to commemorate World AIDS Day on Sunday November 30 at 10:00 am at St Paul's United Church, Cleveland Avenue, Riverview, with entertainment provided by the Moncton African Children's Choir.

In Fredericton, the Annual World AIDS Day Breakfast will take place on December 2 at Old Government House at 7:30 a.m., hosted by the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Herménégilde Chiasson, honorary Patron of the Partnership of NB Community-Based AIDS Organizations, for members of the Legislative Assembly and invited guests.

As for Nova Scotia, Healing Our Nations will hold a flag raising ceremony at Parade Square in downtown Halifax, followed by a reception at the Micmac Native Friendship Centre. Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week, held during the week of December 1-6, will be kicked off at this event.



October 3: Hundreds of supporters pour into Grand Parade to rally against Prime Minister Stephen Harper's proposed cuts to arts funding and comments about the arts community. Speakers included ACTRA Maritimes vice-president Sherry Smith and playwright Charlie Rhindress. Photo: Patrick Casey.

Cont'd from Schlamp-Hickey p. 1

SK (Director); Stacy Green, Lethbridge AB (Director); Jayme Harper, Oshawa ON (Director); Randy Thompson, Amherst NS (Director); Francine Proulx-Kenzle, Regina SK (French Speaking Member-at-large); Mark Childs, Toronto ON (Advisory Member-at-large); Don Uhryniw, Saint John NB (Advisory Member-at-large)

For information, please contact Cherie MacLeod, PFLAG Canada Executive Director, at (506) 387-8349. E-mail execdirector@pflagcanada.ca; website at www.pflagcanada.ca.



Our Cover:

Halifax Pride remembers the servicemen and women of the Rainbow Community at the Remembrance Day ceremony at Halifax Grand Parade. This is the second year that we have had the privilege of laying a wreath at the Cenotaph. Photo by Daniel MacKay, design by Cam MacLeod.

Wayves On Line!

Did you miss the last issue of Wayves? Or did your favourite distribution point run out of copies? Don't fret! Now you can visit www.wayves.ca, and download the current issue, and the archives too! We have 2007 back issues on line now and will be adding 2006 soon. If you'd like to be notified when the current issue is online- email us at submissions@wayves.ca!

NEW YEAR'S EVE



Wed., Dec. 31st
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Abegweit Rainbow Collective: Dances, Elections & More

by Shawn-Patrick McDonald

We are preparing for a busy winter season here at the Abegweit Rainbow Collective. Several dances are coming up at Mavor's, located in the Confederation Centre of the Arts in downtown Charlottetown, P.E.I. Regular dances have been booked for November 29, and December 13, and we are booked at Mavor's right until New Year's Eve 2010. Speaking of New Year's Eve, the White Ball will be held on December 31, and it is shaping up to be a huge event. We are also planning a youth dance and a GLBTQ and allies all-ages Christmas Dry Coffeehouse sometime in December.

Another major event for ARC is our upcoming Annual General meeting, to be held within the next few months. At this event we look forward to more volunteers from the community stepping forward to put their names in the ring. Some of our board is looking forward to a well-deserved break from community

service after doing so for the past couple of years. There are many opportunities to help out, such as sitting on the ARC Board of Directors or on one of committees, such as the 2009 P.E.I. Pride Festival Committee or the ARC Youth Committee. We also have a brand new Education Committee, jointly held by ARC and one of our major partners, the AIDS P.E.I. Board of Directors, that needs more representatives from the community. The Support Committee, which is currently inactive, deals directly with the spiritual, emotional and addictions issues of our community. We would like to see the goals of this inactive committee to become a reality such as a GLBTQ alcoholics- or narcotics-anonymous-type group.

In addition to the joint team efforts of the members of the ARC Board, some members of the executive have chosen to also concentrate on their own personal pet projects on behalf of ARC. Female co-chair Alana Leard and youth representative

Adrian Maloney are striving to put new life back into our GLBT Youth drop-ins. If you wish to help them out with our Youth Project you can email arcyouth@live.ca. Male co-chair Shawn-Patrick McDonald is meeting with a colleague from Transition House for the early stages of founding a place where battered males can go in order to escape abusive partners. Currently there are no places in P.E.I. for abused men to go. Keep an eye on our website, www.arcopei.com, or call our office information line at (902) 894-5776 or 1-877-380-5776 for more details about these and other events. You may also call us to add your name to our list of volunteers to help us put on these events for the GLBTQ communities of P.E.I. and elsewhere. ARC is here for the community but we are also here because of the community.

World AIDS Day PEI Vigil

AIDS PEI will be holding its annual World AIDS Day Vigil on December 7, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, located on the corner of Prince Street and Grafton. This year's theme, according to the World AIDS Day website (www.worldaidscampaign.org), is leadership and is aimed at government leaders and policy makers and highlights the need for innovation, perseverance, and vision to help in the fight against HIV/AIDS worldwide.

Mark Hanlon, Executive Director of AIDS PEI, says World AIDS Day will be about bringing global attention to the global AIDS epidemic. "Although so much progress has been made, there is still no solution. Governments and other policy mak-

ers must take the lead and ensure that they are delivering solutions to the global fight. A failure to do so might result in the loss of hard-fought gains," he indicates.

Troy Perrot, PHA Liaison with AIDS PEI says, "PHA's also need to be involved in the decision making process. They are the people who will be most affected by the decisions made by policy makers and it is absolutely crucial that their needs are met and their experiences are used as a model for developing policy."

AIDS PEI will also be hosting several events during AIDS Awareness Week. For more information about AIDS Awareness Week and the vigil in Prince Edward Island, visit www.aidspei.com.

Everything to Do With Sex: Comes in January

Are you a curious adult wanting to explore your sexuality? Looking to learn more about everything from romantic dinners to bondage? The popular Everything To Do With Sex Show brings its spicy and lust-filled convention to Halifax from January 23-25.

Show organizers will bring all things sex and romance to the Cunard Centre in a relaxed and non-threatening event aimed at all sexual orientations, ages and fetishes. The

Halifax show will deliver the same calibre of products, seminars and top-notch entertainment found at the Toronto show.

As one of Canada's most unusual consumer shows, organizers are bringing the show to Halifax to keep up with increased demand. It will launch a new openness and appreciation for romance, sensuality, sexuality and self-improvement by sharing the love with everyone in attendance. Dozens of seminars and

exhibitions are slated for the three-day event covering every sexual stage from romantic dining to what's hot in lingerie.

Seminars and demos on a host of topics, contests, on-site demos and shopping will round out the experience. Expect the Dungeon, a demonstration area staffed by volunteer members of the fetish community, to be another crowd favourite. Here participants can see what's new and exciting in the BDSM community.

The Everything To Do With Sex Show runs from Friday, January 23, to Sunday, January 25, 2009 at Halifax's Cunard Centre. Complete information is available at www.everything-todowithsex.com.

AIDS PEI Twelve Days Of Christmas

AIDS PEI is once again holding its annual "12 Days of Christmas" fundraising campaign. The campaign, currently in its 19th year, raises nearly \$8,000 annually for AIDS PEI programs, services, and direct support for persons living with HIV/AIDS in the province. This year's coordinator for the campaign is George Clark-Dunning, a well-known face at AIDS PEI.

The 12 Days of Christmas fundraising campaign receives donations from local businesses with a value of over \$15,000. The donations are packaged to create twelve days of prizes valued at over \$1,000 per day with a grand prize on the final day of the draw. Clark-Dunning says that

without local business, the campaign could never be so successful. "Prince Edward Island provides us with a bank of generous businesses that donate services and products to help our campaign. We also have a fantastic base of volunteers who donate their time to help us get the word out and sell, sell, sell."

Tickets are available in stores across Prince Edward Island and the AIDS PEI office at 144 Prince Street. For the first time ever, tickets are available online. For more information or to purchase their tickets, visit the AIDS PEI website at www.aidspei.com or contact George Clark-Dunning at 12days@aidspi.com or phone (902) 566-2437.

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines: Dec 5, 2009: Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 3 May 1; that is, the first Friday of each month (skipping January.) You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax): Mondays Dec 8, 2009: Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 6, May 4. Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax): Dec 14, 2009: Feb 15, Mar 15, Apr 12, May 10. Help build the paper - no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM, **On the stands, in the mail, and online the fourth Friday of every month.**

wayves

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.

wayves is an independent publication, published every month - except January - by a non-profit collective. Anyone who contributes to **wayves** is automatically considered to be a member of the collective and is welcome to participate in all meetings and discussions. **wayves** reserves the right to refuse material that might be reasonably considered heterosexism, racism, sexism or an attack on individuals or communities. Opinions expressed in **wayves** are not necessarily those of the editorial collective. The article submission deadlines are posted in the calendar of the Community Events page. Articles should be a maximum of 1,000 words and might be edited for length. Submissions should be e-mailed - in plain text - to the address noted below. The copyright for all submissions remains the property of the original author/creator.

Advertising: Jim Bain, Advertising Manager; e-mail at ads@wayves.ca or call 902-889-2229. Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space.

Circulation: Jim McMillan - call 902-826-7356 (or e-mail wayves) or call Doug Brown at 902-463-3728. Subscriptions, per year, are in Canadian dollars: \$20 + 13% GST = **\$22.60** in Canada, \$30 in the United States and \$35 elsewhere. Mail in your subscription request.

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Atlantic and around the country. If there are none handy to your home, write to submissions@wayves.ca and tell us where we should be!

Reflections of the Way Life Used to Be

By Angus Campbell

So sang Diana Ross and the Supremes in 1967. That was the first record released under the new group name, and also the beginning of the end of an era. Two years later, "Some Day We'll Be Together" became the final number at their farewell concert.

Every December I reflect upon the way life used to be. Perhaps it's because I realize we're in our final approach before landing upon a new year. Most likely it's because December 1 is World AIDS Day and I remember life before the era of HIV. Condoms were for birth control, not STI prevention. STIs? Hell, do you mean venereal diseases? Back then there were no sexual health centres. There were VD clinics and we weren't so free to discuss their existence, let alone any personal experiences.

Through the mirror of my mind I remember the first time I got picked

up in a bar. I was 18. He was almost 30. He gave me gonorrhoea. I went to the clinic, told them it was from a girl I had met at a party (whose name

I couldn't remember because I was so drunk), got some penicillin and thought it was all over and done with. Wrong! I forgot the allergic reaction to penicillin when I was five and because of my forgetfulness broke out in a rash that covered my entire body.

I couldn't tell my parents the truth. They took me to the doctor, who diagnosed German measles. "Nein," but hey I wasn't honest with him, so how could anyone deliver an accurate diagnosis? I missed the last month of high school due to physician-imposed isolation and I learned how to macramé. After all it was the seventies.

Times have changed, especially when it comes to gay men's health. The sexual revolution of the sixties

became the catalyst of gay liberation. GRID, which later became known as AIDS, almost put a stop to everything, but we, as a community, united and organized ourselves to look after our own before any governments or most others were willing.

We owe a lot to many people: many scientists who worked diligently to discover and study the virus, and then set sights on treatment; many such as Princess Diana who changed world opinion and raised funds; many who gave hours of their time providing services, love and compassion; the all too many who fought and finally succumbed; and many who bravely continue to fight today.

If you can, show your support by attending an AIDS vigil in your area and celebrate the lives of our loved ones. If you can't, maybe light a candle and reflect. The war isn't over and each life lost is a battle lost. But we've won some important victories too. There isn't a cure or vaccine for

AIDS yet, but I have hope. Will 2009 be the year? How can we, all of us, put purpose above personalities and unite like we did before as a community in the war against AIDS? What can we do, individually and collectively, to stop the stigma and end discrimination?

Miss Ross says it simply and best: "Reach out and touch somebody's hand. Make this world a better place, if you can." And to all of our friends who are no longer physically with us, I believe that some day we'll be together.

There isn't a cure or vaccine for AIDS yet, but I have hope. Will 2009 be the year?



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Youth Project: Our Services

The Youth Project provides support and services to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, 25 and under, across Nova Scotia. Since 1993 the Project has been providing a safe, supportive, youth directed environment where youth can access information, peers, support, and social activities, and strives to meet the needs of target youth across Nova Scotia regardless of geographic region, socio-economic condition, race, religion, gender, sex, and ethnicity.

The Project offers a free, confidential individual counselling service to all youth 25 and under throughout NS. Self-referrals and referrals from other agencies are accepted. Our Support Services Coordinator, Julien Davis, is available to travel to meet with youth who are not able to come in to our agency in Halifax.

We are able to provide referrals to youth looking for an LGBT- friendly doctor, therapist, addictions counsellor, employment program and more. We are also able to refer transgender/questioning youth to specialized therapists or psychologists who are able to provide counselling and/or to assist in the transitioning process if desired. We are also able to connect parents/family to relevant support groups.

Two social-support groups for youth, Transformers and LGBTQ, both facilitated by Julien Davis and a trained volunteer, are offered. Both groups meet once per month. Please check our website for meeting times or contact the Youth Project.

We have many resources available free to youth, such as information packages on sexual orientation or gender identity, packages for parents and service providers. "Homophobia Hurts," a manual for teachers, is available for \$10.00. A book by and for transgender youth, "Transmissions,"



is available free of charge to youth or \$5.00 for service providers. We also have an extensive lending library with books and movies, and are able to mail out all of our resources to youth throughout the province.

We offer tutoring on-site to youth who are preparing to write the G.E.D. exam. A nurse is available twice a month to offer STI testing, referrals

and sexual health counselling. Free condoms and lube are available on-site. An on-site food bank, offering canned, packaged, and frozen foods (no fresh produce or dairy) and toiletries is also available.

The Youth Project is located at 2281 Brunswick St. in Halifax. Phone (902) 429-5429, fax (902) 423-7735. Website at www.youthproject.ns.ca.

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Ryan's Story: LGBT Youth and Canadian Education

By Susan Rose

As an Egale board member, I am proud to be a part of our national lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) human rights organization. Our community has made great strides over the past ten years because of the work of Egale and all its members. We can now get married and many of us live and work in communities where we feel safe to be who we are. Let's give ourselves a pat on the back. One might think the work of Egale is complete and that we have little left to fight for. Why do we still need a national organization that lobbies for the rights of LGBT people?

In March, Wayves magazine published an article entitled "Bullying: A Bathurst Response." It was about the life of Ryan Maynard, a Grade 10 student from Salisbury, New Brunswick. Ryan wanted to make a difference, so he decided to stand up and be counted. Instead of being congratulated for his courageous act, he was physically and verbally attacked. Now, his school day often begins with homophobic comments from fellow classmates. He has had many different objects thrown at him, such as eggs and footballs. Ryan says a good day will just involve dirty looks and being called "faggot." This former student council president cannot change in the same locker room because of the lies other students have told about him, so he has been forced to use another room with the door closed. Thankfully, he has both supportive friends and a family who loves him unconditionally. Because of

them, Ryan will make it. But as I read Ryan's story, I began to think about the many Canadian youth who are not as lucky and do not have supportive family and friends.

Consider for a moment how our education system impacts the growth and development of individuals in society. We know how important it is to ensure that all students leave school with their self-esteem intact in order to pursue their dreams. Is this the case for many of our LGBT youth?

Before I retired as a teacher, sometimes I felt isolated and unsafe at school. Sometimes I was reprimanded for speaking about LGBT issues in a positive manner. The most difficult aspect of teaching for me was seeing students who were struggling and being afraid to reach out to them because of how it might be perceived. There were days I experienced hurtful homophobic comments from colleagues. But because I was a person who had lots of support from family and friends, I was able to continue on my journey.

Think for a moment about how many LGBT teachers you know who are out to their students. How many of you felt complete isolation in school? Has much, if anything, changed? Because I am a member of Egale's board, I hear from LGBT youth all the time: they tell me that they do not feel safe or represented in their schools.

In May Egale released the results of phase one of its First National Climate Survey on Homophobia and Transphobia in Canadian Schools. These results show us that our LGBT

youth are struggling: 41% reported being sexually harassed and over two-thirds feel unsafe at school. What about representation in the curriculum? Don't we have rights? What about positive role models for our youth? There have been many LGBT individuals who have made great contributions to all sectors of society. Why are educators not per-

mitted to discuss sexual orientation when they discuss these individuals? When teachers discuss heterosexuals, they talk about their personal lives—whether or not they're married and to whom and whether or not they have children.

During the last few months two very disturbing things have happened in Canadian schools. In a Sudbury

high school, students listened in shock during a candidates' debate while David Popescu, an independent candidate, publicly called for the execution of LGBT people. The principal did not stop Popescu, hiding, of course, behind freedom of speech. Popescu later reiterated this

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Dear Santa

I know this is an extremely busy time of the year for you, and I know you're still upset about the elves unionizing and refusing to work twenty-four hours a day as they used to. You can blame higher education, the internet, the NDP or even the movie Norma Rae if you like, and I know it may have slowed down candy cane production a bit, but in these economic times every elf needs to think of his or her future. Has it made you grumpy, Santa?

That's kind of what I wanted to talk to you about, Santa: the lack of jollity in the world. Take Stephen Harper for example. Is there something you can do to get that broomstick out of his ass? I think we'd all be a lot more comfortable. It's like he's trying to do a remake of A Christmas Carol, except this time it is little Art who is crippled and needing help.

You know, Santa, in a way, you are the perfect representation of the artistic elite that he was so annoyed about. Think of it, you fly around in a bright sleigh announcing your arrival with lots of bells and whistles and ho, ho, hoing like mad (I can't imagine Harper saying Ho, Ho, Ho, can you?...unless he saw Jack Layton slip on some ice.) You come dressed to the nines in bright red and white (that's faux fur, right?), looking very well fed and perhaps, only perhaps... a teensy bit flamboyant! What he doesn't see is all the work that happened behind the scenes—the creators of the toys and books and skates and games. For every Santa enjoying the adulation, there are thousands of elves who never get a glimmer of the spotlight or get to enjoy the public handouts of cookies and milk.

Harper's attitude is almost anti-Santa. Was there some painful episode in his past, do you think? A holiday when he didn't get the John Wayne holster he wanted, a copy of Machiavelli's The Prince, or didn't find an autographed photo of Margaret Thatcher under the tree? Some bitter memory that has made him unhappy?

Does the House of Commons have a staff party, by the way? You know, an all-party party, with spiked punch, mistletoe and inappropriate use of the photocopier? Might not be a bad idea.

As for me, everyone thinks I'm doing very well "considering," meaning my underemployment and general lack of funds, and I suppose I am, most days. But that's why I could use a little more jolly in the world, Santa. I don't really need any gifts or toys—well, you could check with Priape.com, just to see if there is something new and fun I haven't tried yet – but something encouraging, hopeful would cheer us all up.

Even little things help. My own little elf, and pretend granddaughter, Muggie, brought me a new "Ken" doll the other day. I was out when she came by so she left him sitting on the doorknob, no clothes but demurely holding a flower in his lap. Made me laugh when I saw him. Probably a good thing that the doll has no balls 'cause he would have frozen them off sitting on a brass handle in the cold. Although he has no genitals, he does have nipples that could cut glass. Why is that do you suppose, Santa?

I know it's silly, a grown man enjoying his dolls but since I've put off growing up all these years why start to act my age now? Besides, look how many men and women you see with glowing faces in the toy store during the holidays. They're not just looking for presents for their kids, they're remembering, they're reliving. How many of them are longing to buy that train or colouring book or doll for themselves but don't dare do it? For others Christmas is a time of nostalgia for a past that never was. We sit dreaming into the Christmas tree trying to recapture a memory when what we are really doing is trying to create now the Christmastime that we didn't have then.

I know every year I watch the same schmaltzy old movies that I used to watch as a child at Christmas. I watch them over and over because they have happy endings: grumpy people discover the spirit of Christmas; people who are unhappy have their problems solved; the person or thing threatening to destroy Christmas fails. There is singing and feasting and everyone is...well, jolly. I never thought that they reflected my world; I watched them because they were telling me that such a world might be possible someday. When Auntie Mame (that fabulous model of how to raise a gay child) sings "We Need A Little Christmas," she's singing about a time to believe in possibilities; a time when hope isn't silly and jolly isn't ridiculous.

You seem like the go to guy for "jolly," Santa, so I thought I'd ask for your help.

Happy Hols

P.S. You know I was kidding about not wanting any gifts, right? Course you did; you're Santa!

Crawford

Breast Screening Provincewide in NS

The Advisory Council on the Status of Women is the provincial government agency that promotes equality, fairness and dignity for women, by bringing forward concerns and advising the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Act. Through research, policy, education, and partnerships, the council works to ensure women have an equal voice in society, fair pay and pensions, freedom from violence, and good health and well-being.

Women can now call one toll-free number 1-800-565-0548 or 473-3960 in Halifax Regional Municipality to make mammogram appointments. All breast screening services in the province are now under one umbrella, meaning that Nova Scotia women will have access to co-ordinated and consistent cancer diagnoses and follow-up anywhere in the province.

Study for Gender, Sex, and Health

Canadian Institute for Health Research CIHR's Institute of Gender and Health (IGH) is consulting with

stakeholders to explore how the institute should focus its energy and resources over the next four years. IGH welcomes and encourages written input from individuals or groups with an interest in gender, sex and health research. www.cwhn.ca/hot/call/default.html#igh.

Caregiver Connect

VON Canada (Victorian Order of Nurses) launched a new tool for Canada's nearly three million caregivers: "Caregiver Connect, from Caring to Sharing/De l'entraide au partage, aidants en réseau." This innovative bilingual web portal will provide access to information and resources that caregivers need to care for themselves, to provide better quality care to their family members and/or friends, and to connect and share with other caregivers through a virtual discussion forum. www.caregiver-connect.ca/en-us/Pages/Home.aspx.

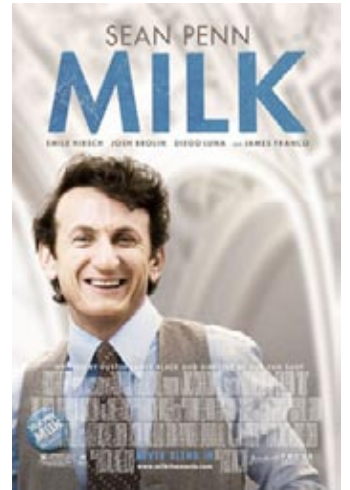
Get "Milk"

By Angus Campbell

If you know who Harvey Milk was, you want to see the film that bears his name. If you don't know, then you really need to. What sets "Milk" apart from anything previously done about the first openly-gay elected official in the US is the examination of his personal life. The role is played by Sean Penn who may just get an Oscar nod for this performance.

Many of Harvey Milk's real-life friends appear in the film and thousands volunteered as extras. Parts were shot at his real business location, Castro Camera.

Don't miss out on the big screen story that is as important to gay history as Stonewall. And take some friends. I'm sure you'll want to talk about it afterwards. Opens December 5, 2008.



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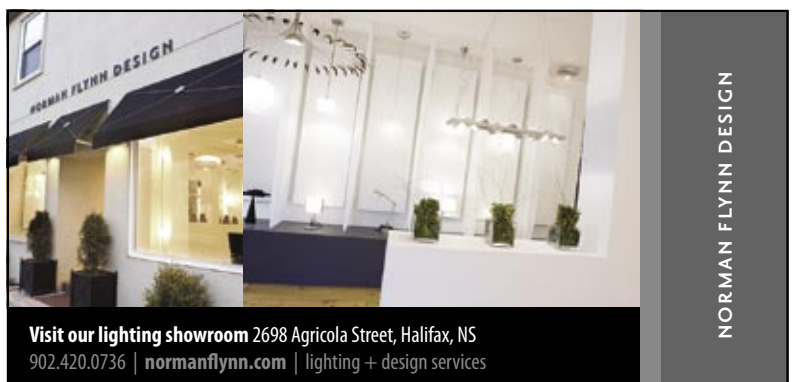
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AIDS Awareness Week—Addressing HIV, Stigma and Discrimination

In response to the stigma and discrimination experienced by People with HIV/AIDS (PHA's) in our province, a project funded by the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia is ready for release in time for this year's AIDS Awareness Week. The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS) in Halifax will oversee the project in collaboration with the Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) in Truro and the AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton (ACCB) in Sydney.

Stigma can be defined as "a quality that is seen to mark an individual as different or bad" and discrimination is "the behavior or action tied to stigma," for example, the negative treatment of people based on certain characteristics. Many factors contribute to stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS such as fear; association with already stigmatized behaviors such as man-to-man sex, injection drug use or sex-work; and religious or moral beliefs. Stigma and discrimination can do real damage to people's lives affecting someone's work, housing, medical services, safety, fear and depression. The impact on a PHA's mental health and overall well-being is exactly why a project of this kind is necessary.

In 2003 Health Canada sponsored a survey of the knowledge and attitudes of Canadians regarding HIV/AIDS. Roughly 85% of respondents noted that they could be friends with someone who was HIV-positive. The response and comfort level of survey participants changed when specific scenarios were offered. Fifty-five percent of Canadians would be somewhat or very comfortable if their child was attending a school where someone was known to be HIV-positive, and only a little over half of Canadians think that PHA's should be allowed

to serve the public in positions such as dentists or cooks.

Maria MacIntosh, ACNS Executive Director, believes that one way to deal with stigma and discrimination is through social marketing campaigns. "Currently we are developing programs and strategies to combat HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. Over AIDS Awareness Week and the weeks leading up to the holiday season, Nova Scotians will see a coordinated response from all organizations involved with this very important and timely project. Looking at the big picture, if we can reduce HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination, not only will we improve the quality of life for PHA's but we can also teach prevention and awareness more effectively."

Eliminating stigma altogether requires a paradigm shift, and some may think this is unrealistic. But studies show that through a variety of intervention strategies something can be done about stigma and discrimination on many levels. The general population can increase its knowledge about HIV/AIDS, can improve its attitude towards PHA's, and can in-

Additional Event Notes

Our Holiday Season Open House will be held on Thursday, December 11, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. All are welcome to join ACNS and celebrate with refreshments and fun.

Over AIDS Awareness Week we are also holding HIV/AIDS workshops at women's organizations in HRM.

Over the month of October–November we are also delivering workshops on Stigma and Discrimination with PHA's from HRM, northern Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.

ACNS also worked in partnership with the Canadian Treatment Information Exchange to offer a 4-day Body Mapping Program for PHA's here in HRM at the end of October (www.catie.ca/bodymaps/gallery.shtml).

crease its volunteerism in the AIDS field. Consequently evidence proves that this all can and will reduce the level of stigma and discrimination experienced by PHA's.

Eliminating stigma altogether requires a paradigm shift


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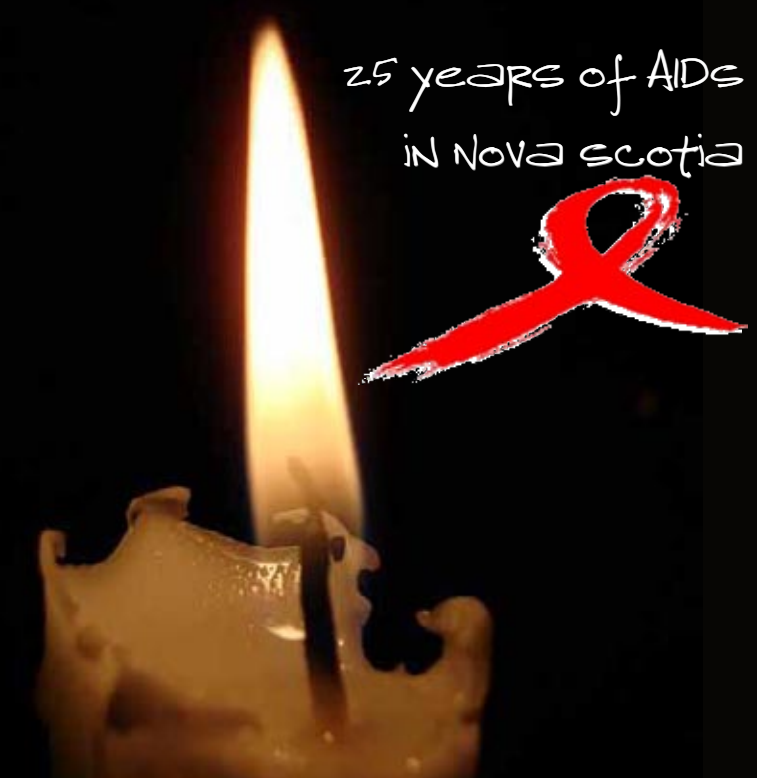


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A Rural Point of View

By Paula Arsenault

ho•mo•ge•neous: of the same or a similar kind or nature; ho•mo•sex•u•al: of, relating to, or characterized by a tendency to direct sexual desire toward another of the same sex; the prefix 'homo' came from one of two roots; one is Latin, and it means 'man.' The other is Greek, and means 'the same.'

Homo – slang word for homosexual (From Merriam-Webster's online dictionary)

Being homo in a rural homogeneous community is difficult for anyone who feels that being homosexual is the same as desiring one ice-cream flavour over another. When people in the small community find out that you like a flavour of ice-cream that

is not available or has to be imported they tend to sit a bit further away from you at church socials. It is easy to fall into a xenophobic trap when one has never travelled or seen anything beyond provincial borders.

How quickly the topic of your sexuality is spread through the area, much like a spring grass fire. Luckily just like that grass fire it soon goes out when the weather changes or the price of gas goes up. However, folks in tight knit rural communities do not forget. At community gatherings when the spirits have loosened tongues—not at the summer gospel tent—at the yearly beer garden, hands get frisky and trips are made to the bathrooms together.

What makes a homo come out

in a homogeneous community? Sometimes, before this can happen, it is necessary to leave the rural community to take a trip to a bigger setting where there is anonymity and accepted differences. There, as a new solo homo, it can be a challenge to uncover the world of homosexuality.

... hands get frisky and trips are made to the bathrooms together ...

For some, it is found in dark alleys between buildings; for others there are personal ads in mainstream newspapers; others happen upon a paper totally devoted to all things homosexual, or wander into a club or coffee shop or community centre where the like-minded hang their hats.

For some of us you can take the homo out of the country but you can't take the country out of the homo, and like a flock of geese in fall we eventually find our way back home. Older and wiser we take fa-

miliar paths with a new perspective and we may even figure out that our un-related aunts who live together are not there by chance, but choice. Other skeletons in family closets start rattling and soon stories get told and we become keepers of the next generation of oral family histories.

We find our places in homogeneous communities in new ways. In times past it was not so easy and not so obvious. We are now found participating in community theatre, and in the local arts and cultural community. Some of the old timers who know the ropes keep an eye open for rainbow stickers on vehicles in yards and boldly introduce themselves in the local hardware parking lot.

The homogeneous community has much to learn from us. They ask questions about sexual practices, they try to figure out our ways of knowing and they even get bold enough to ask about who is or is not gay. This can be disconcerting at the best of times, and downright ignorant in the worst of times. It is not as if you all of a

sudden gain special wisdom from eating at the tree of homosexuality. Those who have never tried or even considered trying a new flavour of ice-cream, cannot imagine the many flavours available and may simply be curious. The dilemma of being out or not is often caused by the fear and discomfort caused by these types of probing personal questions.

Luckily we belong to a generation of homosexuals who are benefiting from those who fought rainbow wars before us. We need to remain vigilant and on guard for the rights we have earned and fought for. The new generation of homos in homogeneous communities will find a smoother rainbow road. They may even be able to choose flavours of ice-cream only dreamed of before at local corner stores. Our lives lived openly and honestly will bring a rich diversity to rural communities, and as farmers know the more diversity in crops planted the healthier the harvest will be.

I Am What I Amherst Cumberland Pride Society

By Gerard Veldhoven, Chair,

It has been a very busy fall thus far. Much has been accomplished not only by the Cumberland Pride Society but, according to Stephen Harper, now we have a "sweet and colourful fruit" occupying the Prime Minister's office. What more could the queer community ask for? Well, let's not dwell on that.

On a much happier note, our plans for "The Holiday Gay-la Celebration" are complete and now we look forward to that Turkey dinner and dance on December 13. The planning committee is working diligently to make sure of its success. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased by contacting Sue and Debbie at (902) 661-1874, or Norman and Gerard at (902) 660-5004 by December 5 at the latest.

A committee will be formed shortly to begin making plans for next summer's Pride Week, to be held during the week of July 13-

19, 2009. We are confident for yet another great time in Amherst and Cumberland County. Last summer was phenomenal. We will settle for nothing less. However, we will strive for more activities, such as the first Pride parade in Amherst. Speaking of parades, Cumberland Pride entered two vehicles and twelve participants in the Moncton Pride parade in September.


On October 28, we welcomed Denise Holliday into our midst to conduct a trans workshop in Amherst. The workshop turned out to be a resounding success, attended by 35 professionals, students, and others interested in learning about this fascinating subject. This inimitable lady is without doubt a fountain of information. As the workshop progressed we learn that her knowledge, statistics and personal experience is at her fingertips. She also has a wonderful way of sharing that information. The Cumberland Pride Society



was indeed honoured to have hosted this event. Denise also spent some time in Amherst to socialize with our society members.


A new vice-chair was voted in at our October meeting. Sue Reid took on her duties at once by organizing the planning committee for the "Gay-la" celebration. Our thanks go to Lisa Snider who served as vice-chair for the past two years.

Be sure to pick up next month's issue of Wayves for more news from Amherst.



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Halifax MP New NDP Education Justice Critic

Megan Leslie, newly elected MP for Halifax, will now be the NDP Critic for Post Secondary Education and Deputy Critic for Justice and Urban Aboriginal affairs.

Leslie says she will approach all critic responsibilities from an advocacy position. "I will work on both these files from the perspective of working to find solutions, as opposed to just criticizing the government on these issues", she said following the November 18th NDP Caucus meeting on Parliament Hill.

Marriage Equality Protests Across USA

By Cam MacLeod

Across the United States and around the world on Saturday, November 15, protests both large and small were held to promote equal marriage rights. They were organized informally and communally with tools like Facebook and email, and were a delayed reaction to the successful passage of multiple anti-equality ballot measures in the recent US election.

One of the primary groups working to harness the supportive crowds and energy is www.jointheimpact.com, which is in planning for their next coordinated event, www.day-withoutgay.org, which encourages individuals to "call in gay" to work, and devote their time elsewhere for a day.

The primary catalyst appears to be the passage of Proposition 8 in California, which passed with only about 52% support, but surprised much of the country and world which expected the more liberal western state to support equality and remain the second state in the US with marriage equality. At present, only Massachusetts and Connecticut have equal marriage, along with Belgium,

Canada, Norway, South Africa, and Spain.

Courtesy of Andrew Sullivan of The Atlantic, selected comments from the protests:

Vancouver: "Until the day comes when we have equal civil rights as our straight neighbors, thanks but no thanks. Canada is now our new home. I cannot tell you how good it feels to have equal civil rights under the law."

Las Vegas: "Well over 1,000 people rallied outside the Las Vegas GLBT Community Center."

Cumington, MA (population 785): "We gathered on the lawn of our local general store to protest Prop 8, stand up for marriage equality, and celebrate love. The grandparents held signs; the children danced; the dogs wore veils."

Toronto: "A little over 100 people braved the raw, wet day to stand in front of the U.S. Consulate on University Avenue in Toronto to join their sisters and brothers in supporting the right to marry."

Missoula, MT: "Passers-by on Broadway were honking their horns & giving us the thumbs-up."

Chicago: "We even ran into one (straight) wedding party near the Hancock Tower that took some signs and held them up for us."

Amsterdam: "I can sponsor my next of kin – parents, children, spouses of my parents – for a green card, but not my wife. I can bring my dog to the US, but not my wife."

Greenville, SC: "As this is the center of the Bible Belt, we were unsure of what reaction we would receive from passing motorists and pedestrians. What a pleasant surprise, the only fingers displayed to us were in the shape of a V."

Santa Fe, NM: 'Marriage means something,' said one of the speakers. This speaker then told of the sudden death of his partner of thirty-four years. They had a trust; they had papers of all kinds; they had planned and prepared for every contingency – except for a lack of respect and regard for their 34 year commitment to each other. The funeral home insisted they could not cremate this man on the word of his partner of three plus decades; they needed an OK from a family member. No document, however legal, mattered on that loss and shock filled day after the unexpected death of this speaker's partner of 34 years – thirty-four years."

Andrew Sullivan added to the end of one story he posted on one protest: "I remember a story told me during the AIDS epidemic. A man was visiting a friend dying in hospital. It was a grim scene, as it often was in those days. The next bed in the ward had a curtain drawn around it. And from behind that curtain, you could hear someone quietly singing. The man told his friend, 'Well, at least that dude is keeping his spirits up, however sick he is.' And the friend replied:

"Oh, that's not the patient singing. He died this morning. And his family came to collect the body. That voice you hear is the man's partner. The family didn't approve of his relationship and they have barred him from coming to the funeral and kicked him out of their shared home. That song he's singing is the song they called their own. It was playing when they met. He used to sing it to him all the time when he was dying."

"He's still singing it even though they've taken the body away. He's singing it to an empty bed. I guess it's the last time he feels he'll ever be close to the man he loved. They were together twenty years. The hospital staff don't have the heart to ask him to leave yet."

Until you have been treated as sub-human, it's hard to appreciate how it feels. We will not give up. And we will win in part for the sake of those who never made it to see this day."

Divas For Dollars

Come join us at Reflections Cabaret on December 14 for "Divas for Dollars," a fundraising event in support of Feed Nova Scotia. The event will be hosted by Elle Noir, Mz Reflections 2008-09, and Farrah Moan, Mz Gay Halifax 2008-09. Some of Halifax's best drag talent will perform, including the fabulous Euerka Love and 2008 Coast award winner for Best Drag Talent Rouge Fatale.

A silent auction will be held for products and merchandise from local businesses including Casino Nova Scotia, Night Magic and Venus Envy.

Cover is \$6.00, from which a dollar will go to the Lulu LaRude Scholar-



Elle Noir Co-host of Divas for Dollars
Dec 14 Reflections Cabaret

ship Fund. Come out at 11:00 p.m. sharp to support this worthy cause.

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Chef's Corner



This recipe is for all of you who always work way to hard preparing the perfect Christmas for your families. You know who you are. There never seem to be enough time to get everything done, other than hiring your own personal staff to do all your shopping, wrapping, cleaning, decorating, entertaining, cooking... (Do you feel the stress building up yet?)

Relax, because Chef D. is offering you a little help with a recipe that will save time and stress. Whether your family is of the Christmas Eve or Christmas morning traditions, this recipe works really well either as a late night or morning treat. My mom calls this recipe her "Christmas morning life-saver." It can be completely prepared up

to two days prior to Christmas, then just popped into the oven after midnight mass, or the next morning. It bakes while you watch your loved ones open their gifts. Try this one out, you'll thank me later.

On a personal note, I would like to wish a very Merry Christmas to you and yours, and Happy Holidays to all of you of other faith traditions who also celebrate at this time of year. May the true spirit of the season bring harmony to all peoples of the world in these troubled times. Peace to you all...

Next issue: Something Chocolate!

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.

Christmas Morning Life Saver (Savoury Breakfast Bread Pudding)

Ingredients (9" x 13" non-stick pan)

16 thick slices of day old brioche or white bread (crust removed)	1 cup crushed corn flakes	1/2 cup sliced scallions
1/2 lb thinly sliced baked ham or Canadian back bacon	6 large eggs	1/4 cup small dice red pepper
1 cup (each) grated aged cheddar and gruyere cheeses	1/2 tsp salt	1 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce
	1/2 tsp pepper	1/2 tsp dry mustard
	3 cups 18% cream	
	1/4 cup minced white onion, or	

Method

1. Whisk together the eggs, salt and pepper, onion, red pepper, Worcestershire sauce, dry mustard and cream.
2. Rub the inside of the baking dish with just enough butter to coat. Place enough bread slices to cover the bottom of the pan. Layer one half of the cheese, then the ham, then the remaining cheese.
3. Pour half of the egg mixture over the ham and cheese, top with the remaining bread slices, and pour on the remaining egg mixture.
4. Wrap tightly in plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight or up to 48 hours.
5. Pop into a 350°F oven and bake uncovered for 45 minutes. Top with crushed corn flakes and return to oven until the flakes have toasted—keep an eye on this as not to burn the topping.

Serving suggestions

For easier serving, let the casserole sit tented with foil for 10-15 minutes before cutting. If serving in the evening it's really nice with a light salad of mixed greens with dried cranberry vinaigrette, or in the morning with fresh fruit, drizzled with honey and yogurt. Enjoy!

Ramblings from the Sanctuary Gardens

By Bethana Sullivan

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along. You must do the thing you think you cannot do.'"—Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962), U.S. First Lady, diplomat, human rights activist.

Recently, a colleague described how he experienced my writing: "It is like you are circling around the edge and I wonder when you are going to enter into it." A very astute and provocative comment I have been pondering ever since. I have a felt sense/image of the pioneer wagon train forming a circle to protect itself, its most precious parts deep inside at the centre, the core of life, both past, present and future.

At the same time I have been pondering the meaning of October 31, November 1 and 2. These days form a wonderful and extraordinary trilogy

of festivals: Samhain/Hallowe'en, (October 31), followed by All Hallows/Saints (November 1) and All Souls (November 2). Samhain, a Celtic festival, celebrates summer's end and winter's beginning. It is a final celebration of summer's end and the end of harvest; it is a time to gather in that which will feed us through the winter's darkness, not only our body but also our soul and spirit.

For some synergistic reason, the Christian church initiated All Saints Day in the ninth century and All Souls Day in the tenth. Samhain was overlaid with Hallowe'en and, as Tess Ward writes in "The Celtic Wheel of the Year," took on the "connotations of being a night when dead spirits were close and ancestors remembered." Much as I may want to rail against such oppression it does seem that the time of year lends itself to such meanings. Lighting bonfires on hillsides to remind us of the sun's power and to guard us from the dan-

gers of the dark are enduring rituals. Samhain/Hallowe'en is the doorway to the dark half of the year, awakening our fears of change and death. It begins a time, if we allow ourselves to enter in, to look at our fears, letting our darkness come into the light of consciousness. It is this journey from

... letting our darkness come into the light of consciousness.

outer darkness to inner light, to the light within the darkness, a journey of discovery, of finding allies in the darkness, of reacquainting ourselves with the streams of ancestral life and life experience running through our being, that is celebrated in costumes and masks of present day. This day we dress up our fears and fancies, trick or treating, daring and retreating, re-enacting the archetypal plays of the mythic realm and of our imagination. And then we celebrate the triumphal remembering of the darkness of the night with the symbolic light of All

Saints or in the modern translation, of consciousness.

In my own rambling way I find this all makes sense to me; the quotes, the conversation, the readings and inner musing begin to come together in a gestalt of understanding and I arrive back at the still point of "ah ha!" and the dance continues.

I am the wagon train, "circling around, circling around the boundaries of" my life*, protecting that vulnerable core of being, choosing each day in many ways whether or not to open to engagement, to understanding, to letting in the new or to continue a pattern of defence, to letting fear rue the day, remaining cut off and estranged from the sources of life. And I am Eleanor Roosevelt, facing my fears, learning from them, calling upon memory of a life lived to bolster courage. And I am part of the streams of ancestors running through me, the fearful father, the wounded mother, the silent community. And I am the

adventurous father, the engaging mother, the giving community. I am the darkness and the light and each day I must choose how I live.

The trilogy of days is a reminder that there is no easy way; death, life, light, darkness, love, hate, celebration and tears, both real and metaphoric, are with us all the time; we choose, we regret, we learn, we celebrate, we make mistakes. It isn't as simple as thinking each "right" decision is a burst of light or each "wrong" decision is a mini death. It is all part of the whole web of life and there is a path, there is journey from light to darkness to light, one that is repeated over and over again. This is the one constant, each moment we choose, in light and in darkness, I choose.

* "I Circle Around" chant, Arapaho Ghost Dance song recorded on Songs of the Sacred Wheel, by the Earth Dance Singers.

Do you work in Alberta?

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We are recruiting participants to be part of a study about lifestyle factors that may contribute to the transmission of HIV/AIDS or other STD's. If you are 19 years of age or over, have left NL in the past year to work in the oil industry in Northern AB and have returned home at least once during this time, we are interested in talking to you. Participation is voluntary and confidential, and will include up to two, roughly hour long interviews. Please contact Sarah at the AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador - 1-709-579-8656 ext. #27 or sarah@acnl.net.

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womanspoolnight@gmail.com - "Women's Pool Night" on Facebook

Cont'd from Ryan's Story, p. 5

sentiment on the radio as he very clearly stated that Egale's Executive Director Helen Kennedy should be executed.

In New Brunswick, author Alex Sanchez, whose book, "Rainbow Boys," was on the American Library Association's list of Best Books for Young Adults in 2002, was not allowed to address students at Charlotte County high school students because some parents were not comfortable with him speaking positively about gay youth. Keith Pierce, the Superintendent of Charlotte County School District 10, said that he changed his mind about allowing the author to speak in schools after meeting with school principals.

In light of these two incidents, it begs the question: Do we still need a national organization to fight for the rights of our LGBT youth? I believe we need Egale now more than ever. Schools are not safe for anyone unless they are safe for everyone.

To the hundreds of Ryans in our communities, I say, hang in there! As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Our lives begin to end the day we do nothing about things that matter."

For more information or to get involved with Egale's Safe Schools Campaign, please visit the website at www.egale.ca.

Review

Dancing With Tina

By Terry Oldes

STARbooks Press, 2007

Review by Daniel MacKay

In the introduction to this book, the author, Terry Oldes, promises a tale of a lifestyle unimaginably beyond sordid. Early in the text he introduces us to his experience as a crystal user and to Kurt, a spectacularly handsome, fascinating white knight non-drug user. Or is he?

Although Oldes has chosen a style more like a several-hundred-word breathless letter from a teenager, ("You're going to think this is so incredibly stupid of me to say...") it works on a visceral level: by the time I was on page 200 and had stepped away from the book I could feel myself irrationally recoiling from ads that mentioned "hooking up" and, when online on gay.com, barking like a neurotic dog at anyone who mentioned PnP.

One of the most charming parts of Oldes' style is the way he illustrates a feeling or a thing by painting with a stream of consciousness-style set of pop culture symbols. It won't age well, but for now, it is very effective and fun. He also repeatedly reminds us that he is telling his story and experience, with no promises that it might be relevant to anyone else's. After a couple-page discussion of simultaneous crystal, Viagra and popper use, he finishes with: "Hard core drug

users will say, "Calm down and stop being so uptight." Others would say, "How can you possibly suggest mixing drugs is okay?" Well, I'm not suggesting anything. I'm just giving you my experiences. Everything needs to be placed in context."

Oldes seriously loses his pace halfway through the fourth chapter, "Peace"—perhaps intentionally.

One of the other topsy-turvy

Dear Wayves:

I just wanted to say hi and how wonderful it was to have a great article summarizing the health concerns of gay men in the last issue. Hope we'll see more of that coming up with some in-depth look at the issues in upcoming Wayves.

Curtis

Dear Wayves:

Congratulations to the Pride Committee for its classy float in the Parade of Lights parade in Halifax on November 15. It was a pleasant surprise and even in the drenching rain of that evening the float was fantastic. Job well done.

Fatima Aziza

Halifax

Dear Wayves:

The most underrepresented group in Canadian society today is single people. There is no lobby group or anyone fighting on their behalf. Throughout the years single people have paid a greater portion of the burden of Canada's social programs with little thanks from the public.

Therefore, I am a bit disturbed when I read "The Amherst Corner" by Gerard Veldhoven in the November issue of Wayves.

I don't understand why you list your holiday event as \$30.00/couple or \$20.00/single. Where is the logic behind the pricing? Will two people that come as a couple eat 25% less than two singles?

We are all single and shall always be so. Some find more comfort joining in a relationship with a soulmate, be

it for a deep and committed life of love and sharing or a more casual friendship where the partners may meet on frequent occasions and share love and understanding. Actually, I think most people would prefer to have a soulmate but that is not always possible. That said, it is very acceptable to be single be it gay or straight. Most singles are independent, contented and comfortable with themselves.

I would like Mr. Veldhoven to explain to me why he thinks it is right to have single gays subsidise couples at the Amherst holiday event. Don't we get enough of this from the heterosexuals?!

James Mason

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ideas in the book is the idea of courage. Oldes says that it didn't take courage to quit—his quitting was done out of fear.

The review copy I received is full of typographical mistakes: spelling errors, inconsistencies, and nonsensical grammar—as if the book had been spell-checked by a computer and not proofread by a human. I started marking it up at page 25 at

about one mistake per page. Shame on STARbooks Press for presenting this vibrant voice so poorly!

What makes this book unique is that the chronicle of a battle against death by drugs is matched, page for page, with a simultaneous story about maturing through relationship co-dependence. It's where Oldes paints both of these pictures on the same piece of canvas that magic happens.



Students rally at Canada's Parliament against a ban on gay organ donors.

Lay Chaplaincy Services

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The Last Word

Christmas, Not Just Blue

By Randall Perry

When I was a kid, the Christmas season in my house officially began with delivery of the Sears "Wish Book" sometime in early October. Sears catalogues were plentiful around the house, as it seemed one would arrive pretty much every month. But the Wish Book was special—it was as if the company saved the brightest and shiniest colours for last, splashing it liberally throughout its pages, making the book almost a Christmas decoration in itself.

This year the Wish Book arrived in late summer, and although the thing

still holds a measure of the magic for me, that magic was tempered knowing I could be reading it on the beach under the sweltering August sun.

I really do enjoy Christmas. I'm not a religious person, so I tend to revert back to my childhood and take my pleasure from the baubles and lights and all the tinselly excess that comes with the season.

It's not cheer, though, for everyone. This time of year society pulls out its "togetherness" trump card and many people are left out in the cold. In the queer world, for a myriad of reasons many of us spend the season

by ourselves. Some of us are cut off from our immediate and extended families simply by being who we are. Many of us, no matter if we're single or partnered, feel left out. On the outside, tidings of comfort and joy; on the inside, a blue Christmas. This can be a very depressing time of year, and believe me, it's real. I've been there, and I'm not afraid to tell you it's difficult for even the most together of us to manage.

The best gift you can give this holiday season is your time and your presence to your fellow gays. Pick up the phone and call. Drop by with sweets.

Volunteer. Be there for someone because you know how good it feels to have someone there for you.

It's my wish for all that this holiday season is one of peace, joy and love. Be good to one another; be good to yourself. Indulge all your senses. Give freely of yourself and accept the goodwill of others. Decorate your tree with all the colours of the rainbow—not just blue—and delight in the magic of the season, surrounded by the families you create and inherit.



Chilli Bears Not So Chilly

On Tuesday October 21, 2008 The Bluenose Bears gathered for a private catered dinner of Chilli and Garlic Bread at Mollyz Restaurant, in the Menz Bar facility. There was a turn out of thirteen guys for dinner which followed a time of socializing and a round of introductions. We were honoured that this delicious meal was prepared and served up by none other than Molly himself!! A big thanks

goes out to Doug and bartender Darryl for their usual exemplary service and sense of humour!

The next Bluenose Bears official gathering will be our annual Christmas Dinner which will be served up on Tuesday December 9, 2008 at Menz. Molly is clicking his heels together yet again to prepare another grand feast to satisfy the

palates of the Bear Community! Tickets are by advance sale only and must be purchased and paid for by Thursday, Dec 4th 2008. For more information or to arrange for your ticket purchase, please contact us at BluenoseBears2008@yahoo.ca

Bluenose Bears is a membership based social group for bears and their admirers.



Letter: Harassment in the Workplace

Recently a colleague of mine, with whom I'd worked for about two years, resigned his position. He told his supervisor that he simply had enough and could no longer work in that environment, then he packed his things and left. No two weeks notice. No long goodbyes. Just gone. That's the "official" story. Sadly, though, this colleague had confided in me about the goings on in his work area before he left. I feel compelled to tell his story; not to vent my frustration but in hopes to educate others.

Having only come out about a year ago myself, I was going through a lot of personal things I'm sure so many others have gone through before. It was at this time my colleague, Joe, confided in me that he too was gay. Since that time, he helped me deal with life simply by being a good friend, listening to my problems and not be judgmental. Soon our roles would be reversed. Joe began having problems with another co-worker and then it was my turn to listen. This co-worker heard Joe having private phone conversations with his boyfriend and after putting two and two together began teasing Joe. Not directly to his face, though... the individual would constantly make inappropriate references to other people in the office while making sure Joe knew that they were really directed at him.

Joe put up with it for a while until I convinced him to go to Human Resources. Our employer has a very strict policy about this sort of thing and he should put it on record. My faith in the company bureaucracy was rock solid and I was confident that Joe would get the problem taken care of.

HR immediately expressed shock over the treatment Joe was being subjected to in the workplace, and

his supervisor and department heads were all called upon to get to the bottom of this despicable act. After a lengthy meeting between these people, who are supposedly in a position of authority, the accused was called in to join them for a talk. However, the accused denied everything and said he didn't understand where all this was coming from. He smiled at Joe and told him that there was obviously some misunderstanding and that he'd like to take Joe out for a beer sometime. The accused was given a lecture and everyone was sent on their way.

All was quiet for awhile until Joe started having problems with another co-worker. This time, the guy wasn't as subtle. He continually ranted to anyone who would listen about how all queers and fags should be shot, thrown in a hole and buried. Joe and several others heard him make these comments. Joe told me about it and says it was okay because he felt that at least this guy was being honest about his opinions, that he was not being sneaky about it and poking at him with innuendos and jokes. I rolled my eyes and told him I didn't share that opinion and I thought he should also nip this one in the bud. Joe declined.

I wondered how Joe could be okay with one guy making inflammatory comments yet get pissed off by similar, yet more subtle comments made by someone else. Joe's reluctance to force the issue on the second co-worker eventually gave the first guy cause to start up again with the off-colour jokes, since clearly Joe must be okay with it. This situation continued for awhile until Joe decided to approach his supervisor again to report the first co-worker. He was asked if anyone else in the office had heard the comments, and Joe assured him

that several people would corroborate the allegations.

It was a little shocking to discover that not a single person appeared to have heard anything at all. Without corroboration, Joe was told that his accusation had no merit. Joe then brought up the comments that the second co-worker made, and he was told that the co-worker is entitled to his opinion. A little upset, Joe asked his supervisor, "So if my opinion is that all black people should be shot, thrown in a hole and buried, then that's okay?" The answer: "Oh no! You can't say that."

Joe had no recourse. With everyone turning a blind eye to the goings on and having a spineless supervisor, what can he do? He decided just to do his job and try his best to ignore the crap going on around him. Try as he might, however, the stress of everything eventually boiled over and Joe could take it no longer. Too exhausted to fight, he simply quit.

Harassment in the workplace is a serious issue. Unfortunately, unless people have experienced it, they simply don't see any point in speaking up when they witness it. Whether they like it or not, that very attitude puts them in the same boat as the cowards doing the harassing. Joe was not only a victim of office harassment by two individuals in the office. He was also a victim of a conspiracy of silence.

Someone—anyone—who heard the comments could have spoken up and come to Joe's defense. At least he would have known he wasn't alone.

I can't help but feel a lot of people in my office are now saying to themselves, "One down... one to go." Rest assured I won't be going down without a fight.

Author's name withheld by request



Hey everybody! FRANzine's back, doing a guest spot at the You Tell Us desk. The chair's a little big for my demure figure, but I have been known so sit on a variety of things of various sizes.

Only seven people responded to last month's survey question, "What do you plan to do for a winter vacation?" As Elizabeth (Madeleine Kahn) says in Young Frankenstein as she and the monster (Peter Boyle) are about to go at it again, "Seven's always been my lucky number."

Three talked of heat: going to Mexico for February, getting steamy at home, and seeing a long distance flame. (I've done that too, hon, a few times actually. Don't listen to the nay-sayers. Enjoy!) Two spoke of working hard and then having fun: one will cross-country ski and the other is having engagement pictures done. (Awww!) One complained of Menz Bar cover prices. (Does that mean you're NOT going to Menz Bar for your winter vacation? Might I suggest you arrive before 10:00 or just don't go? Life need not be complex dearie.) And my favourite response to, "What do you plan to do for a winter vacation" was... drum roll please: "Go to Alaska and fix Sara Palin's hair."

(Small confession, 'twas I, but I didn't know I would have this assignment... teehee)

Speaking of responses, did you see Frank Magazine's retort to me slapping their wrists for not crediting a photographer for one of their covers? In their November 11 issue (good timing Frank) they ran the following picture and text. Frank, baby, I have to ask, "Did you remember to pay the photographer this time dear?" And I'm so top of the pile, because I am a top, and you know it. Wink wink.

Happy Holidays Everyone!

This Month's Question:

If you could do just one thing in 2009 to improve your community, what would it be?

You tell us at: wayves.ca



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