

WAVES

March 2005 *for atlantic canadians*



Interview with Augusten Burroughs



Boom Boom inducted into College of Monarchs



Vagina Monologues comes to St. John's



Karroll '93

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IS MARCH 8TH

Where You Can Find **wayves**
(updated 2004/11/12)

New Brunswick...

Bathurst: Gaie-es nor gays

Fredericton: AIDS New Brunswick; Boldon's Bookmart; Campus "Smoke" Shoppe; UNB; Molly's Coffee House; Student Resource Centre, St. Thomas University; UNB/STU Spectrum; Westminster Books, King Street; X-Citement Video, Queen Street

Moncton: Reid's Newstand; Rainbow Pride Store; SIDA/AIDS Moncton; Triangles; United Book Exchange, Mountain Road; X-Citement Video

Sackville: Bridge Street Café; Mount Allison; Tidewater Books

Saint John: AIDS Saint John; Mahogany Manor

Newfoundland...

Corner Brook: Corner Brook Status of Women

Gander: Gander Public Library

St. John's: AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador; Bennington Gate; LBGT M.U.N.; Our Pleasures; Shopper's Drug Mart, Le Marchant Road; St. John's Public Library; Word Play; Zone 216

Nova Scotia...

Amherst: Carvel Upholstery and Draperies; Cumberland County Family Planning

Annapolis Royal: The King George Inn

Antigonish: Antigonish Women's Centre; Student Union Resource Centre; Webb's Superstore

Bedford: Bedford Library

Bridgewater: Second Story Women's Centre

Canning: Canning Library

Dartmouth: Alderney Library; CD Heaven; Dartmouth North Library; Healing Our Nations; Jake's Video & Variety; Nova Scotia Government Employees Union; Wolfgang' Leathers; Woodlawn Library; X-Citement Video, Main Street

Halifax: AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia; Alteregos Café; Atlantic News Stand; Blowers Street Paperchase; Bookmark; Buy the Book and More; CD Plus; CKDU Radio; Captain William Spry Library; Counseling and Community Support Services; DALOUT; Dal-Tech; Daily Grind; Diamond; Fresh Salon & Spa; Fresh Start B&B; Grad House (Dal); HVM; Hairdressers' Market; Halifax Backpackers Hostel; Halifax North Library; Halifax Library - Spring Garden Road; Junk & Foibles; Keshen Goodman Library; Killiam Library; Khyber Club; Mount St. Vincent University - Rosaria Centre; Night Magic Fashions; Nooks and Crannies; NSCAD - supply store; N.S. Advisory Council - Status of Women; NRG; One of a Kind Clothing; Planned Parenthood Clinic; Random Play; Read All About it; Reflections; Robyn's Grocery; Seadogs Spa; Second Cup - Spring Garden Road; Shoe Shop; SUB, Dal and St. Mary's; Tool Box; Venus Envy; Video Difference; Vortex; Weldon Law Library; X-Citement Video, Quinpool Road; Youth Project

Kentville: Annapolis Valley Regional Library - Kentville Division; The Red Door

Lower Sackville: Halifax Public Library; Sackville Library; X-Citement Video

Middleton: Mark Rutherford; 92 Balcom Crescent, Nictaux

New Glasgow: Pictou County Women's Centre

Pictou: Pictou Library

Port Williams: Port Williams Library

Scotsburn: The Mermaid & Cow

Sydney: Harrison Society; AIDS Coalition; Sexual Diversity Office, UCCB

Tantallon: Tantallon Library

Truro: Central Nova Women's Resource Centre; MacQuarries Pharmasave - The Esplanade; NSCC Truro Campus; Northern Aids Connection; Colchester Sexual Assault Centre

Windsor: The Hants Youth Health and Resource Centre

Wolfville: Acadia Pride; The Atheneum, Acadia; The Coffee Merchant; The Odd Book; Wolfville Public Library

Yarmouth: TOOTS; Tri-County Women's Centre; Western Counties Regional Library

Prince Edward Island...

Charlottetown: AIDS PEI; Afternoon Delight; Reading Well Bookstore; That's Entertainment!

British Columbia...

Vancouver: Little Sisters

Ontario...

Ottawa: After Stonewall; One-in-Ten

Toronto: Glad Day Bookshop; Out on the Street

Quebec...

Montréal: L'Androgyne

Letters

Janet Hammock's review on New Brunswick writer Arthur Motyer's book "What's Remembered" is true to form. The book is very good indeed. I urge especially younger readers to read it. If you can't afford your own copy, check the library.

I've read "What's Remembered" two times. It's a gay novel written before the AIDS era, before the much acceptance of gays in today's world, and before coming out of one's closet could be extremely dangerous. But love is love and once you read the book, you'll understand.

Read the book and come to your own conclusions. Read it knowing the gay freedom we have today is because of yesterday gay men. The storyline is good and it's good reading indeed! Fiction, yes, but older gay men will relate to how life was once upon a time in the gay world in Canada.

I hope Arthur Motyer is tapping his computer keys for another book!

C. Towers
Yarmouth, Nova Scotia



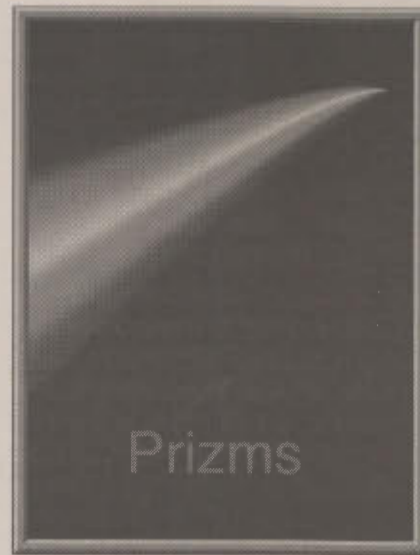
Dear Collective Members, Friends of Equality and Justice:

On behalf of Egale Canada, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate *Wayves* on its 10th anniversary and to underline how important your publication is to the pan-

You Tell Us!

Contrary to popular opinion, we here at *Wayves* are not omniscient. From time to time, as we sit pretending to do actual work, philosophical questions arise. Rather than trying to answer them ourselves (which would bring production to a total halt and deprive you of the magazine), we thought we would ask our readers to respond. This month's question is about Pride celebrations.

Over the past three-and-a-half decades, the GLBPH-BBTICQMOUSE community has made tremendous strides in winning our civil rights, among them legalisation of same-sex sex, non-discrimination in employment and housing, and general recognition of our very existence. The Pride movement has played a fundamental role in making all this happen. Now, with legalisation of same-sex



Canadian LGBTQ fabric.

The foundation of any social change is a well-informed citizenry. Independent and community media such as *Wayves* are key in ensuring that people have a solid understanding of the issues.

In addition to its information role, *Wayves* plays a crucial role in developing the community, allowing people to meet, learn skills, take on leadership roles... and to have fun, too!

We at Egale always look forward to receiving our monthly issue of *Wayves*.

Once again, congratulations! Here's to another successful ten years ahead.

Yours sincerely,
Gilles Marchildon
Executive Director,
Egale Canada

marriage imminent, we've got just about everything that we've been fighting for, which makes us here at *Wayves* wonder...

Is Pride still necessary?

Yes? No? Not Sure? Got comments? You tell us. Go to our website www.wayves.ca or email us at rant@wayves.ca

About Our Cover

Art: La Robe Rouge, by Heather Carroll, designed for the New World Theatre Club Luxembourg presentation of *The Vagina Monologues*. Used without permission, but with great respect! Also pictured, from left: Augusten Burroughs, the College of Monarchs prepares to induct

New Dance Bar For Ch'Town

Charlottetown's First All DANCE party catering to the gay and lesbian community. Expose yourself to the highly energized, highly social atmosphere of PRIZMS playing a mix of Techno-House-Remix-Pop. ALL DANCE ALL NIGHT.

The idea for PRIZMS was born from the need of a gay and lesbian safe space to compliment the monthly ARC dances. We felt that the time was right to create another venue for the GLBT community and their friends to go out and enjoy an evening of "all dance" in a safe space.

Thanks to Brennan's Pub on Victoria Row (Richmond Street) we now have that on a bi-weekly bases.

We offer a high energy and social atmosphere with ever changing dance music, lights and special effects. Plans for upcoming parties include Tarot readings, Tea Dance shows and games, live video links to other gay bars in Canada and a special Pride Event. Keep checking the web site at www.prizms.net for event updates.

We currently have had three successful dances (thanks everyone) and will be having another on Saturday the 26th of February. For the month of March we are having parties on Saturday the 12th and 26th (future dates to be announced soon).

Times: 10pm - 2am; licenced event 19 and over. Upcoming Event Info at www.prizms.net

mea culpa

In the February issue we left out the by-line for *Dyke Night is Back!* on Page 6. It was written by Len DiPenta. Regrets.

"IT'S FILLED WITH PORNOGRAPHY" *

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Atlantic News

Moncton Pride

By Jeff Smith & Tina Hillier
Co Chairs Moncton Pride 2005

Moncton Pride is alive and well, and beating in the hearts of the gay community. This year's co-chairs Tina Hillier & Jeff Smith have taken on the sometimes over whelming task of heading up the Pride committee. They are skillfully supported by their secretary Kristal Arbeau, and treasurer Mario Marcantonio.

The team wanted to get back to basics, back to the reasons why we celebrate our diversity. They have chosen the theme "Purely Pride '05." Mary Martel has successfully captured this in a logo found on the group's webpage, www.fiertemonctonpride.com.

Pride has been set for the third week of June as usual, which makes the 2005 dates June 12th to 18th. There will be some changes this year, so stay tuned. There will be lots more news to follow.

The Moncton Gay Pride committee will be selling Peelers booklets to help raise funds for Pride. If

you are interested in purchasing a booklet or would

like to help the Pride committee do not hesitate to contact Jeff and Tina at monctonpridecochairs@gmail.com. They would love to hear from you. Until then we invite you out to our March colour party on the 12th of March. Hope to see you there wearing your green, Aye 'tis the luck o' the Irish!



Halifax Pride 2005 Dinner Theatre

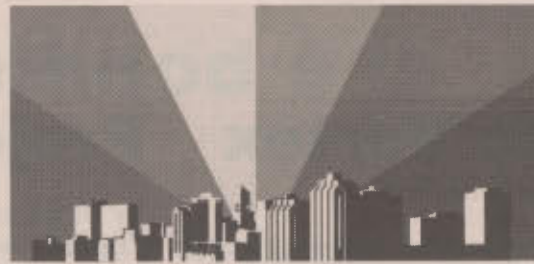
By Jay Thordarson

A night not to be missed transpires March 6th at Club Vortex. The Halifax Pride Committee presents an evening of entertainment unlike any other! The Class of 1995 is an interactive mock high school reunion in which audience members are the guests and the cast are a wacky group of former classmates. A night of unforgettable moments is sure to unfold as the audience is taken on a journey revisiting their high school past, complete with the colourful characters and dramatics that could only occur at a high school reunion. The soiree takes place at Club Vortex where the audience members are greeted as former classmates and are soon involved in the twisted and hilarious relationships of characters such as the Prom Queen

and her entourage, the Jock (turned gay), and of course, the anal retentive Student Council president who organized the whole event.

Audience members will enjoy a buffet-style dinner and dessert, dancing and entertainment while they interact with the characters. Secrets are revealed, old flames are rekindled and you learn more than you ever thought you would about the guy you sat next to in Calculus 101. The producers of the show advised audience members to keep their eyes and ears open at all times, for it will certainly be a night where anything can happen and probably will!

Michelle Langille and Joshua Lewis have conceived this incredible evening and are excited to be working with the Halifax Pride Committee on this fundraising initiative.



PROUD HALIFAX PRIDE '05

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Next Wayves

Theme For May:
Volunteering!

What works with
volunteering?
What doesn't?
Deadline for May:
April 1st.

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 902-463-0942. Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space.

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How to reach us...

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One Night Only! March 6th, 2005 - 7pm - Club Vortex 2215 Gottingen Street. Tickets available at Venus Envy or Club Vortex. Visa hotline: 444-3165. Tickets \$25 include show and a four course dinner buffet. www.halifaxpride.org

MCC on CBC

By Eldon Hay

A 30 person rally at Halifax's Metropolitan Community Church on Feb 8 drew a 7-10 minute segment on CBC the morning of February 9th broadcast across the Maritimes. "Churches in favour of same-sex marriage" was the theme. There were interviews with Darlene Young, Hfx MCC minister, the minister of the Unitarian Church and lay persons.

In my judgement, this is excellent public relations, not to persuade MPs, but in the court of public opinion. Darlene Young arranged it, supported by the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project.

Freddy's Outdoor Club

This is your opportunity to make new friends and enhance your social life while participating in activities like hiking, skiing, biking, camping, dining out, and plenty more. We are just in the beginning stages of organising this new Fredericton group and we are looking to see who may be interested in

planning, leading, and/or participating in a wide range of four season activities. If you have an interest in this exciting new group, or may be willing to help organise, please e-mail John at OutInTheValley@hotmail.com.

A la campagne, Club plein air de Fredericton

Ceci est votre opportunité pour de nouvelles rencontres et de rehausser votre vie sociale tout en participant à des activités telles que: marche à pied, ski, bicyclette, camping, souper, et bien d'autres. Nous débutons

tout juste l'organisation de ce nouveau groupe à Fredericton et nous voulons savoir si vous seriez intéressé d'aider à l'organisation, à la planification, au leadership et/ou à participer à ces activités quatre saisons. Si vous avez un intérêt pour ce group

voulez aider à l'organisation, s.v.p. joindre John par courriel à OutInTheValley@hotmail.com.

Brought to you by...

...your name here!

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Ian Crowe

Will Murray

Raymond Taavel

Sarah Stefanko

Jim McMillan

Daniel MacKay

Jim Bain

Ralph Higgins

Cam MacLeod

CLUB NRG Announces Relocation to Vortex

By Charles Hsuen

After five years, Club NRG will be moving its venue up the street to Club Vortex's present location at 2215 Gottingen Street. The move will take place on February 27, 2005 to a bigger space to accommodate its consistent growing clientele of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight customers. Everyone's favourite staff will be joining NRG at its new location as the bar will be moving lock, stock, and barrel.

In addition to the move, the critically acclaimed kitchen and its chef Greg Ferguson will be on board with a new menu and a newly designed restaurant, which will be named "Showtunes" in place of its former predecessor "Mobey's Restaurant". The new menu will boast a variety of dishes including "The Big Gay Sunday Brunch" and extended kitchen hours with a finger foods menu for those who love a late snack.

NRG will reopen its doors on February 27th with two big events including an Art Exhibit by local Visual Artist "Little" Gilbert LeBlanc and ISCANS King and Queen of Diamond Pageant. Most of

the regular lineup of events NRG customers are used to seeing will be moving to the new venue including, Karaoke and Wings with Troy on Tuesdays, and ISCANS Sunday show where Halifax's Best Female impersonators shine on stage. New special events are already set in place by various theatre companies including "The Class of 1990"

a dinner theatre/show put together in association with the Halifax Pride Committee on March 6th. The Foghorn Theatre

presents "The Real Inspector Hound" which is slated from March 7-12 and DaPoPo Theatre presents "The Modern World" which is set for April.

NRG (formerly known as Club Vortex is located at 2215 Gottingen Street; Halifax, NS; B3K 3B5. For more information, media inquires, or bookings, please contact Chuck Hsuen at: 902-444-3165.

NRG/Club Vortex 2215 Gottingen Street Halifax, NS B3K 3B5; 902-420-1323 Office: 902-444-3165 Email: managerofvortex@eastlink.ca Website: www.clubvortex.ca which will change to www.clubnrghalifax.com as of February 27th, 2005



Halifax Rainbow Health Project Update

By Dawn Archambault

This fall, two related projects began looking for input from family doctors, social serving organizations and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual; two-spirited and questioning community within Capital Health District on ways to improve the primary care services provided to the LGBTTIQ community.

During the fall of 2004 the Halifax Rainbow Health Project (HRH) and Capital Health's Primary Care Office conducted a series of focus groups and distributed a large number of surveys to gather information regarding the gaps in primary health care services for the LGBTTIQ community within the Capital Health District. A thorough literature review was conducted. The research results have

been posted on the NSRAP website. www.nsrp.ca

Planning workshops will be held in March 2005. During the workshop, the results of the HRH Project Research will be shared, including information regarding:

1) General research about LGBTTIQ health issues;

2) The assessment of current services for LGBTTIQ people gained through the interviews with Capital Health primary health care providers and LGBTTIQ-serving organizations;

3) Barriers and enablers to access for LGBTTIQ people in Capital Health identified through the focus groups; and

4) A summary of potential approaches for improving access identified.

Stakeholders invited to the workshops include: primary health care providers, decision-makers within Capital Health, and community organizations with an interest in primary health care for LGBTTIQ people in Capital Health and the LGBTTIQ community. The outcomes of the meeting will be the identification of a long-term vision for enhancing access to primary health care for LGBTTIQ people, as well as the identification of one or more practical approaches for improving access. Participants at the workshop will be invited to participate in a working group to develop implementation plans for the identified approaches.

Questions for Cotler: Same Sex Marriage Saga Continues

By Ian Crowe

It's Friday evening and my deadline has arrived. I need to finish this column. It has been a hectic ten days.

Part of this activity began with a breakfast meeting with Irwin Cotler. He attended a fundraiser in town in late January sponsored by the Dalhousie Young Liberals. While I am reluctant to support the Party, the Young Liberals do good work. In one of my activist moods I went to see what he had to say. I was pleasantly surprised by the tone and content of his remarks. Oh, he softened the position with the usual claptrap about how the rights of the religious to refuse to

marry us must be upheld. He also told a cutesie story as to how his wife continues to hold the opposite view of the issue while his children ask him, "What's the problem?" All in all though, he gave a spirited defense of equal marriage. I believe he will capably champion the final battle in this increasingly tedious war for our rights.

I would have liked to ask a question of the Minister and there was ample opportunity for me to do so. He actively solicited tough questions. However, I chickened out. Doubly marginalized by not wearing a suit and being gay, I sat silently. Dawna Ring was

not so marginalized nor was she afraid. Dawna is one of those special kind of people who walk the talk. She rose to challenge the Minister to be consistent in the application of the Charter rights that Mr. Cotler had so eloquently stated by applying those rights to the case of the CPP survivors. Dawna is counsel in the Hyslop case and demonstrated her ethics by making sure the Minister understood that. He gave an answer that is part of my letter (below). I e-mailed this letter to the Department of Justice website almost two weeks ago. I received both a web acknowledgement and read receipt.

Continued next page

TIGHTROPE

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<http://gay.hfxns.org/LocalEvents>

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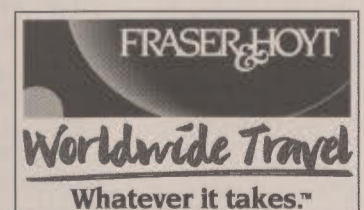
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I included my personal contact info and patiently waited for a reply.

More than a week went by and I was getting edgy. The absolute deadline was approaching and I had no answers to my questions. On Monday I phoned the Department of Justice to ask to speak to someone in the Minister's office. Eventually I got to leave a message with what was alleged to be the Department's communications division.

Thursday came and I called back, by now getting a little agitated. I left yet another message. Today, I finally called the Minister's office directly. An hour ago the Minister's Press Secretary promised she would have the Minister's answers to my questions for our next issue.

Those answers and what I hope are my final words on the marriage issue will be in April's *Wayves*. Don't miss it.

Dear Sir or Madame:

I would ask that you forward this to the appropriate person in the Minister's office - probably the Atlantic aide who accompanied the Minister at the Halifax meeting I am a contributor to *Wayves Magazine* in Halifax. I attended the Minister's breakfast meeting with the Dalhousie Young Liberals on January 28, and I am writing an article for our next issue. I have some questions that I was "afraid" to ask at the meeting and would very much like the opportunity to discuss these issues with the Minister so they can be clarified for our readers.

Here are my questions:

1. My husband and I will be legally married on June 18, 2005. It is 3 days before the 8th anniversary of our real marriage. We are discouraged by even the suggestion, as you have made, that our marriage would continue not to be recognized in some jurisdictions in Canada. When do you expect the legislation to pass?

2. The community is most concerned and tired of the increasingly desperate tactics of many in the anti-marriage camp. I know one man who claims he received 3 e-mails in one day last week at work from so-called pro family groups which were offensive and demeaning, in particular because they were aimed at him because of the ethnic nature of his name. Can anything be done about this?

3. Dawna Ring posed a question on an issue of great importance to the community. My understanding of your comments was twofold. First you argued that the CPP rights would cost \$X. These amount

Planned Parenthood à la Newfoundland

By Gemma Hickey

"Planned Parenthood is teaching kids to fornicate, teaching people to have adultery, every kind of bestiality, homosexuality, lesbianism - everything that the Bible condemns." Clearly Pat Robertson has a mixed-up view of Planned Parenthood, but he isn't the only one. Whenever I tell people about my position as LGBT Coordinator with Planned Parenthood Newfoundland and Labrador, they appear rather shocked. After all, what does planning your parenthood have to do with being gay?

Well, I'm not attempting to convert straight people, although I do have my share of toaster ovens. It isn't, as Mr. Roberson may think, part of my "homosexual/feminist agenda" to bully straight

couples out of procreating and eventually taking over the world. (Perhaps the latter is true.)

We offer a lot of services at PPNL. So many, in fact, that we've changed our name to the Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Health Centre in order to reflect that we're an organization that provides a variety of services to a variety of people. And — this is the key point — not just to straight people. True, the perception is that our clientele are primarily straight, but that's because I haven't been there before, at least not in my capacity as LGBT Coordinator. We have seven doctors, one nurse, four staff, thirty volunteers and a board of directors, and we offer seven clinics and four workshops.

We provide lots of other services too, but my focus in this article is on my position.

In order to get this position, I didn't have to "come out" as a lesbian, chop off my hair and wear comfortable clothing — I did that long ago. I've been involved with PPNL informally through presenting at their functions and sitting on their committees. I expressed an idea to the former Executive Director, Annette Johns and we developed a proposal. Finally, the funding came through and PPNL hired me as their LGBT Coordinator - a first for our province!

I do presentations, consultations and workshops on LGBT issues at schools and businesses. I hold interviews and focus groups with LGBT

youth, parents, guidance counselors, educators, nurses and doctors. I provide media updates. I ensure that all of our resources at PPNL are LGBT friendly. Furthermore, diseases don't discriminate, unlike Mr. Robertson. Whether you're gay or straight you need to know how to protect yourself against an STI or HIV/AIDS. PPNL doesn't promote adultery, bestiality or homosexuality. We promote inclusiveness, something that the Bible doesn't condemn. PPNL doesn't teach kids how to fornicate either.

We already know how to do that. Just ask our former Premier who said in jest that Newfoundlanders know how to do two things well. The first is fishing and, well, the second begins with an f too.

of dollars, you argued, would cost the treasury so much that future CPP benefits for all might have to be reduced. Aside from the reasonable argument put forward by Ms Ring you should know that dollars cannot be used as an excuse to perpetuate a human rights violation. Can you comment?

Secondly, you suggested that the matter of the ripening of the charter benefits only began at a date later than the charter took effect. You claimed, in this context, that this matter of the timing of the benefits had been included in the Reference. Would you please refer me to that part of the Reference decision and clarify this for me? I do not believe the issue of timing was raised in the Question or the Decision and I was puzzled by this claim.

If the Minister's schedule does not permit a ten-minute conversation, I would appreciate receiving some written comments.

Signed,
Ian Crowe

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KIBITZ AND BITCH

Dear Tom

So there I was, going through my night stand checking the expiry date on condoms - getting a head start on Spring cleaning - when I suddenly realized that Chinese New Year had arrived and it is now officially The Year of The Cock!! So, Gong Xi Fat Choy, Tommo! Ooh, I just know this is going to be a good year for me. It has all the right vibes.

It got off to kind of a weird start when my friend, GiGi, came by early the other day and caught me en deshabille. There I was in nothing but my Calvins (Zellers version) when she came yoo-hooing at the door and peering in the window. We both laughed but I told her that if we were Mormons we'd now be engaged. I wasn't really self-conscious about it - after all there was a big plate glass window between us, sort of what visiting day in prison must be like.

I've been trying to walk in the evenings but all this snow has made that a bitch. I know bikini season is still a few months away but a man needs to watch his waistline. Besides a wise guru once told me that a trim waist makes your dick look bigger. Not that I'm insecure about that - if I were placed in the middle of a bath house wearing nothing but a jock strap no one would confuse me with porn star Ken Ryker (do you think he suffers from lower back pain?) but they wouldn't mistake me for was Pee Wee Herman either if you catch my drift. Which brings me back to snow - shoveling it (with these delicate wrists!), crunching through sidewalks deep in it, skidding on the ice concealed under it. Alright I will admit it looks amazing late at night with a heavy full moon bouncing its light off it through the lacy naked tree branches but it makes it very difficult to do any man or boy watching. I rather enjoy mentally undressing perfect strangers encountered on the bus or supermarket or local mosque but when you have to start the disrobing by mentally hanging up their parkas it makes the whole fantasy a bit of a chore.

On a more serious note, I had a bit of a shock the other day. I discovered that the man who had been giving me hea..uh, financial advice, was not at all the person I thought he was. I knew he was American (I like them as individuals) but it never occurred to me that he might beRepublican!

Gay Republicans - I knew they were theoretically possible, like the existence of the Abominable Snowman or the Academy Award for Tom Cruise, but I never dreamed I'd actually know one. Looking back I realize that there were little warning signs: his tendency to shed tears during military displays, an insistence on keeping his vest buttoned up - even during sex, his fondness for playing Sousa marches on his car stereo. But it wasn't until he said, "Let's watch Fox News" that the scales finally fell from my eyes. Even I have standards, Tom. Although I must say that I miss the way he handled my portfolio.

Got to go, Tom.

Love ya!

Crawford

Atlantic Canada's MPs and Bill C-38

By Cameron MacLeod
Bill C-38 was tabled in the House of Commons by Justice Minister Irwin Cotler early in February, and will be voted on for Second Reading and for the final Third Reading. It is expected to pass, but the margin will likely be close, judging by current estimates. The Wikipedia, an online community-editable encyclopedia, places the national tally at 165 For, 136 Against, with 5 unknown. 154 votes are needed for the legislation to pass.

If the legislation fails, 87% of Canadians will still have access to equal marriage, but unfortunately New Brunswickers and Prince Edward Islanders will still be forced to work through the court system to gain equality. Further frustration could result from a Conservative Party win in the next election, as they have suggested repealing the legislation (if it passes) or creating new, discriminatory legislation.

Wayves recommends contacting your MP, ideally by phone or by snail-mail letter, to tell them how you feel about their voting decision. Even MPs who are known to be very supportive, like Halifax's Alexa McDonough, are still being drowned in anti-gay rhetoric and letters. Additionally, Members of Parliament have let it be known that their offices are receiving huge amounts of electronic mail, leading most of it to be ignored; therefore, a paper letter or phone call will have the most impact. See the end of this article for contact details.

Here is the current list

(courtesy Wikipedia)

Claudette Bradshaw	Yes	Moncton/Riverview/Dieppe, NB
Scott Brison	Yes	Kings/Hants, NS
John Efford	Yes	Avalon, NL
Joe McGuire	Yes	Egmont, PE
Geoff Regan	Yes	Halifax West, NS
Andy Scott	Yes	Fredericton, NB
Total:		YES 6, NO 0

Liberal backbenchers are encouraged to vote for the legislation, but Prime Minister Paul Martin is allowing a free vote, meaning they vote as they wish without consequences.

Gerry Byrne	Yes	Humber/St. Barbe/Baie Verte, NL
Rodger Cuzner	No	Cape Breton/Canso, NS
Jean-Claude D'Amours	Yes	Madawaska/Restigouche, NB
Wayne Easter	Yes	Malpeque, PE
Mark Eyking	Yes	Sydney/Victoria, NS
Charles Hubbard	No	Miramichi, NB
Dominic LeBlanc	Yes	Beauséjour, NB
Lawrence MacAulay	Yes	Cardigan, PE
Bill Matthews	Yes	Random/Burin/St. George's, NL
Shawn Murphy	Yes	Charlottetown, PE
Michael Savage	Yes	Dartmouth/Cole Harbour, NS
Andy Savoy	No	Tobique/Mactaquac, NB
Scott Simms	No	Bonavista/Gander/Grand Falls/Windsor, NL
Robert G. Thibault	Yes	West Nova, NS
Paul Zed	No	Saint John, NB
Total:		YES 10, NO 5

Conservative leader Stephen Harper is allowing his caucus a free vote. However, the party is almost unanimously opposed to the legislation.

Bill Casey	No	Cumberland/Colchester/Musquodoboit Valley, NS
Norman Doyle	No	St. John's East, NL
Loyola Hearn	No	St. John's South/Mount Pearl, NL
Gerald Keddy	Yes	South Shore/St. Margaret's, NS
Peter MacKay	No	Central Nova, NS
Rob Moore	No	Fundy Royal, NB
Greg Thompson	No	New Brunswick Southwest, NB
Total:		YES 1, NO 6

The Bloc Quebecois is allowed a free vote, but is almost unanimously supportive. They do not have any MPs in Atlantic Canada of course.

The New Democratic Party supports equal marriage as party policy, and all members are required to vote for the legislation. If they do not, they could face sanction or expulsion.

Yvon Godin	Yes	Acadie/Bathurst, NB
Alexa McDonough	Yes	Halifax, NS
Peter Stoffer	Yes	Sackville/Eastern Shore, NS
Total:		YES 3, NO 0

To contact your Member of Parliament, visit their web page for contact details, at www.parl.gc.ca. For more reference details, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Members_of_the_38th_Parliament_and_same-sex_marriage

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All The Women I've Never Slept With Part V

By Lydia Perovich

It's one of the first collective outings of a (now defunct) group of queer Haligonians, and people are gathering at NRG. The initial introductions are followed by the division into smaller groups. However, I seem to be taken over by a tomboy that I've just met, and gently steered into one of the crowded couches in the back of the bar for a chat-up. Of course, I'm flattered by the attention, but soon the conversation becomes close to unbearable.

It's not that I was 28 and she barely a drinking age, or that our interests had no converging points. All that could have been manageable.

It's the sense of entitlement that she displayed, it's the I-set-the-agenda-here idea of seduction that made the night as pleasant as a protracted flu. Now that I think of it, had it all come to sex, it would have looked endearingly like Margaret Cho's joke about a short lesbian looking for her partner's G-spot (see the Cho Revolution). 'Yes, bitch, I'll give it to you,' with hand movements above her head and expression of total bewilderment. High on cockiness, low on performance. Indeed, I had another brush with the bloke-butchness that night.

Where on earth have some butches picked up cues from — the sitcom Men Behaving Badly? And where do the femmes who respond to such cues come from — the Britney Spears School of Woman-

hood?

All right, I know, I'm familiar with Judith Halberstam's argument that female masculinity, by the very fact that it is practiced by women, denaturalizes and destabilizes masculinity and men as its bearers. And that the difference between a butch and a bloke is that a butch has her partner's pleasure as a priority, not her own. Hogwash, I say. The way some butchness (and femmeness) is practiced

Sure, the division into fuckers and fuckees is a permanent dimension of any sexual situation, but I don't see that gay men build such an elaborate social scaffolding on top of this simple fact of sexual choreography.

solidifies and expands traditional masculinity instead of subverting it. One cooks, the other doesn't. One can drive, the other can't. One has a low-key voice, the other a high-pitched one. One manages the money, the other doesn't. One makes most major decisions concerning common living, the other chooses DVDs. One will get pregnant, the other would never. One won't hesitate admitting to insecurities and ignorance, the other one is happily doubt-free. One will possess the other, and the other will gladly be possessed. What are you, a butch or a femme, that's always a question, a butch or a femme, Tweedle-dee or Tweedledum... How much more boring can this life get?

Sure, the division into fuck-

ers and fuckees is a permanent dimension of any sexual situation, but I don't see that gay men build such an elaborate social scaffolding on top of this simple fact of sexual choreography. With lesbians, it becomes a lifestyle binary going into microscopic dimensions. I know a few straight couples who are queerer than some lesbian marriages, for crying out loud. Can we go beyond the notion that whatever we do, just because we're

outside of the mainstream and (*insert cry and howl*) oppressed, we should always be cut slack? Oh mamma, since we've been a target of authoritarianism since times imme-

morial, you can't blame us if we sexualize the said practices and that way try to displace them... the argument goes.

I fail to see how insulting your ex when you meet her in a public space works for the cause of human freedom (yes, that happens too in the land of bloke-butchness). Or the reason behind considering her your 'territory' once you had sex, for instance.

All this comes from somebody who is far from being a vanilla prude. I generally don't have any problem with dildoes, S&M, stripping for a living, prostitution, rape

fantasies, and find the idea of a consistently egalitarian sex a little perverse. If we try to strip sex of all its fantasmatic layers and purge the practitioners of all the differences of power, social standing, money, degree of independence etc. etc., the sex itself is gone. I am not saying the real sex happens only when we transcend our social limitations. What I am saying is, why cling to rigid identities, pray tell, when even straight men are finding ways to loosen up now? It is not necessarily the world with sexual divisions of labour, but the world without irony that is such a cold place to live in.

Now back to the dark corner of NRG, zoom in on my tomboy still relentlessly patronizing me while I'm looking around for the rest of the group, or anybody at all to dance with. Butch or femme, butch or femme, the beat is repetitive and lulling, like beats of a rolling train... Butch or femme. Wake me up when we arrive.

Climb down and subscribe! No seriously, please relax.

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Magical Thinking by Augusten Burroughs

Review by Randall Perry

Augusten Burroughs is one of those writers who is best read when somebody is likely to be watching, perhaps on the bus or in a waiting room, so when you encounter some of his more interesting subjects – having sex with an undertaker in a full view of the dearly departed, graduating from a strip-mall modeling school at age fourteen, exacting his own special kind of revenge on telemarketers – your reaction can be readily gauged by those in the immediate area.

Burroughs hits his audience with a third wallop of slice-of-strange-life on the heels of his wildly successful memoirs *Running with Scissors* and *Dry*. What makes this outing different from the previous two is that the 27 pieces that make up *Magical Thinking* run the entire gamut of Burroughs's life, from his experience as a seven-year-old Tang commercial extra to observations about relationships and everyday living

while shopping at K-Mart.

While it may sound benign and uplifting – yes, there actually is something in this book that will make you smile in an “aw shucks” feel-good sort of way – plenty of gleeful, go-fuck-yourself wickedness abounds in such stories as “Key Worst,” in which the author and his partner journey to the Florida Keys and mingle with awful tourists; “Beating Raoul,” an exposition on the perils of dating; “The Rat/Thing,” on how to remove a rodent from the bathtub; and “Cunnilingusville,” a travel diary from a visit to Amish country.

One of the best pieces in the book is “Debby’s Requirements.” Burroughs acquires the services of Debby, a grandmotherly housekeeper, only to discover she’s a major control freak who ends up taking over the running of his life, and he takes action to expose her as the con artist she really is.

As in previous works, in

Magical Thinking we also meet a couple of other major characters in Burroughs’s life: John, his brother, in “Ass Burger,” and Dennis, his partner, in “My Last First Date,” who figures prominently in the second half of the book.

In this, his fourth book, Burroughs’s writing is still as clean, sharp and compulsively readable as his previous two memoirs and his novel. He is a person whose everyday life is stuff stranger than fiction, and he is not afraid to poke fun at the absurdities of ordinary people.

Magical Thinking is Burroughs at his conversational best. Whereas *Running With Scissors* and *Dry* also come highly recommended, they are at times difficult works with hard lessons to be learned. This new book finds a comfortable middle ground between the shocking and the everyday, a perfect read for the coffee shop or a crowded bus.



Interview with Augusten Burroughs

By Randall Perry

Early last November I had the pleasure of sitting down for a chat with Augusten Burroughs, best-selling author of the memoirs *Running With Scissors* and *Dry*. Burroughs was on tour promoting his new book, *Magical Thinking*, a collection of personal essays, and Halifax was his second and final stop in Canada. The laid-back, personable writer talked about his writing process and life in general before reading to a large audience in Dalhousie University’s Ondaatje hall.

Randall Perry: *Running With Scissors* is now

70-plus weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. *Magical Thinking* is, I think, number 9 on that same list this week. The Globe and Mail’s bestseller list is missing these two books. They’re not bestsellers in Canada. What’s wrong with us in this

country?

Augusten Burroughs: You know, I think it’s a bit later here. The books ship up here a bit later, so I would just check it in a couple of weeks.

RP: I recognised a few of the pieces in *Magical Think-*



ing as fleshed-out versions of bits from your previous work, like the piece about getting the blow-job from the priest and such. Was this by design, that you wanted to give us an expanded version of some of these things?

AB: I think some of it is,

you know, and some of it is a sort of accidental cross-over. There were a couple of things in *Dry* that I just touched on, a sentence or two, that I really expanded upon in *Magical Thinking*. Like the advertising story, which was originally in *Dry* (because *Dry* was my journal) and now called “Now a Word from Our Sponsor,” was a chunk of journal that I took out of *Dry*. Of all the books, this was the most fun to write. I could pop around and write about stuff like my crazy house

AB: Yeah, because it was my journal, you know, over a couple of years.

RP: There were two things that really struck me in *Dry*, those being the death of Pig-head, and your near-death experience with alcohol poisoning. Was that your break-

ing point?

AB: Yeah, having alcohol poisoning was definitely my wakeup call. You hear that alcohol can kill you, and you ask, so how? How can alcohol kill you? Well, I felt it. It can kill you by giving you a heart attack. I couldn’t fall asleep for 48 hours, my heart was beating so irregularly, and I had hives and they were entering my respiratory system. It was terrifying and I understood then that if I kept drinking I would die. The only reason I couldn’t let myself die was because I hadn’t tried to be a writer. I hadn’t tried to write just for me. I had written for advertising for years, but I had never tried to write for me, so that’s what I did. My novel, *Sellelevision*, just sort of exploded out of me in the space of a week, and it was through an amazing set of circumstances that it got published right away. As soon as the novel was published I started showing people *Dry*. That’s what changed everything: the writing I did for me, about me, is the writing that just took off.

RP: You’ve taken a lot of risks by putting yourself out in the public eye. You’re writing about things that most people would be embarrassed about. Take the old woman telling you about her Dr. Pepper enemas, for instance... is it because of the cult of celebrity we feel like we can tell our celebrities anything and not feel embarrassed?

AB: I think people feel comfortable telling me things because they feel I won’t be judgmental and I won’t think they’re weird. I can be kind of mean and snippy in the books, but I’m not judgmental. It’s not my nature and I think less of people because of the things they do. Unless they’re a certain kind of people, like the “Key Worst” people, that kind of spoiled, poorly-educated white trash.

RP: You’ve been compared to David Sedaris (author of *Me Talk Pretty One Day* and the recent *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*.) I think someone at the New York Times called this kind of writing the rise of the comic

Cont’d on p. 15

ISCANS Investiture 2005...

Reflections Cabaret



Empress V Deva Station and Emperor V Gary Turner on the Dais

Photo credits: Jake Rafuse



On Feb 9th, ISCANS held their Investiture ceremonies to acknowledge their volunteers. Empress IV Boomboom Lubalicious joined her earlier colleagues when she was inducted into the College of Monarchs.

Proud Halifax Pride Logo Launch

Reflections Cabaret Half Way to Pride February 2005



Star of the evening...new pride theme and logo is unveiled to much fanfare



Hundreds packed the club and got an early start to Pride



Mz Reflections April Showers headliner for Half Way to Pride



Like we said, hundreds packed the club and got an early start of Pride

Photo Credits: Bryn Vallincourt



It's the end of winter. Or is it the beginning of spring? In either case, not exactly speedo & BBQ weather now is it? It's one of those classic glass half full, or half empty scenarios. I guess it depends on the type of day your having. How many more weeks of winter did Mr. Ground Hog predict? I might just have to stuff and roast that unreliable little critter.

However, if you're not into stuffing hog, here is another easy and very tasty way to keep warm through the remaining chilly nights. This soup from "the old country" eats like a meal. It's one of the favorites at the Bistro and I get requests for it on a regular basis. Give it a try and let me know what you think. Enjoy!!!

Questions, comments, suggestions? Email Darren at chefdarren@hfx.eastlink.ca

Beware the Ides of March!

Tuscan Peasant Soup (serves 6-8)

Ingredients

- 4-6 hot & spicy Italian sausages (or milder version)
- 6 cloves fresh garlic (minced)
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 head julienned Savoy cabbage
- 1 lb disk sliced baby red potatoes
- 2 L Chicken Stock
- Salt & fresh black pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 large Spanish onion (small diced)
- 1/2 cup chopped sundried tomatoes
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 bunch julienned Swiss chard
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 500 ml whipping cream
- 1/2 cup chopped flat leaf parsley

Method

1. Pierce sausages with tip of sharp knife. Place them into a pan, just cover in water, bring to the boil, reduce heat and simmer until the meat is just set through. (approx 5 min) Drain & set aside to cool to room temperature.
2. Over medium heat sweat the onions, garlic, and tomatoes in butter & oil until onions become translucent. Add cabbage, chard and potatoes. Allow the greens to wilt, then deglaze with the wine. (Reduce volume of wine by half)
3. Slice the sausages into 1/4-inch disks and add to the pot.
4. Pour in the chicken stock, bring to the boil, reduce the heat and simmer for 15 min.
5. Stir in the cream and continue to simmer the soup uncovered for approx 1 hour.
6. Season with salt and pepper.

Serving suggestions

Top a generous portion of this hearty soup with fresh grated Parmesan cheese and chopped Italian parsley. Cut yourself a big piece of crusty bread. Grab a glass, (O.K. bottle) of chilled Pinot Grigio, pop in your favorite DVD, and settle in for a cozy evening at home.

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ADVANCING a tradition of EXCELLENCE

Antigonish goes queer while cartoon characters promote tolerance

By Gilles Marchildon

I was thrilled to be in Antigonish last month. (Yes, I truly was!)

Along with Kim Vance, from global LGBT advocacy organization ARC International, based in „downtown% Mosquodobit Harbour, we penetrated an institution that I later discovered is nicknamed „Little Vatican.% I can,t imagine that St. Francis Xavier University employs as many homosexuals as the Holy See but nonetheless, Kim and I were invited as keynote speakers for *Inside and Out: LGBT Issues in the New Millennium*.

Let me assure you that things are happening on the St. FX campus and in the highlands! There was a full house for our lecture. The session served as a kick-off for a week-long series of Pride events including a fabulous Friday night drag show titled *Priscilla, Queen of the Highlands*. The show drew an enthusiastic mixed crowd of

over 150 people — a shocker for both organizers as well as the night's entertainers, the Imperial Court of Halifax.

On Saturday, grassroots activists and university academics mixed with down-home folks from as far as Yarmouth and Moncton. *Reworking the Periphery: LGBT Lives in Rural Nova Scotia* provided a stimulating opportunity for people to share their personal stories, identify needs and determine community action.

And now, I'd like to address a bit of craziness that comes to us from the States.

The American founder of Focus on the Family, James C. Dobson, taking a break from promoting the incursion of his group into the equal marriage battle in Canada, momentarily turned his attention to that beacon of moral depravity and menace to the family cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants.

Addressing a crowd of rich donors in Washington, D.C.,

Dobson suggested that a pro-homosexual video that includes SpongeBob is an attempt to brainwash, kids.

SpongeBob is part of high caliber cast including Barney, Winnie the Pooh, Bob the Builder and the Rugrats ... with appearances by those subversive agents, Bill Cosby, Diana Ross and Whoopi Goldberg!

The video will be distributed in 61,000 American schools along with educational support material to promote tolerance. Of course, the video doesn,t mention sex or specifically refer to sexual

orientation but the mere idea of promoting toleration and respecting differences is just too much for Dobson and his ilk.

It's also too much for Ed Vitagliano from the American Family Association who wrote about the video's slippery slope. "A short step beneath the surface reveals that one of the differences being celebrated is homosexuality."

I wonder what gave it away? Of course, SpongeBob SquarePants! The yellow sponge character must live a double life, scrubbing his way into the pants of his sidekick Patrick.

Apparently, SpongeBob's favourite TV show is "The

Adventures of Mermaid Man and Barnacle Boy." Could it be that he has some kind of water-related fetish beyond any imaginable scale?

Cartoon characters promoting tolerance: the approach is novel and the goal is needed. In the fertile minds of the religious right, however, these fruits of imagination unfortunately turn to rot. Let,s just hope they leave our orchard alone. Maybe they could benefit from a visit to Antigonish.

Gilles Marchildon is Executive Director of Egale Canada, a non-profit organization that advances equality and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-identified people, and their families, across Canada. www.egale.ca



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To register YOUR business in this exciting new campaign, simply contact the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS) at 902 425-4882.

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Atlantic Canada Events Calendar

Amherst

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. lgbyy_amherst@hotmail.com, all emails confidential.

Third Thursday of each month

PFLAG Meeting 7:30-9:30pm at Maggie's Place, La Planche St, Amherst. Parents, friends, family & allies of GLBT community.

Annapolis Valley

Every Thursday

Valley Gay Mens Coffee House Meets every Thursday evening from 7-9 pm and also on the first Saturday of every month hosts a Gay/Lesbian dance from 9pm-1am. *Instead of a November dance, we're holding a Halloween Dance on October 30th! Costumes and all-request DJ! * If you need more information please contact 1-902-825-3197 or menembracingmen@yahoo.ca

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

Every Monday

South Shore Pride Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Club holds meetings in Bridgewater every Monday from 7-9pm. Call 685-3297 or email thoron_ca@yahoo.ca for details. www.geocities.com/Westhollywood/village/2384

Cape Breton

Feb 26

Gay & Lesbian Dance hosted by Group Harrison Society. Best Sound and Light Show this side of Montreal!!! Admission \$5.00, must be 19 years of age Dance to be held at Steel Workers Hall Prince Street, Sydney. For further details contact Group Harrison Society 564-6939.

Feb 26

Pride Committee will host a 'Midnight Bowling' party at Sydney's Heather Lanes. Tickets are available through the committee members, and are just \$10. each. This includes your evening of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and a chance at the prize wheel. Open to everyone, this will be a great evening of fun and laughs, and a little sporting rivalry. If anyone has any interest in future bowling nights, or in forming a bowling league, please let us know.

Mar 27-30

Men's Easter Retreat Week-end to be held at Camp Carter - New Harris, Seal Island, Cape Breton. Week-end is free but registration is required, so book your reservations for a fun filled weekend. Just bring pillows, blankets, refreshments, recreational equipment like snow shoes, skis (cross country), playing cards, favorite music, board games, winter apparel, etc. For further details contact Group Harrison Society 564-6939 between 9:00 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. Space is limited so register early

July 23-31

Cape Breton Pride Week! For news and updates of the island's gay and lesbian community, or if you have any questions,

concerns or suggestions, please visit our website at www.geocities.com/cbglea. If you wish to join our mailing list for updates as they occur, drop us an email and we'll be happy to include you.

Fredericton

Every Wednesday

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

Third Sunday of each month

Integrity Fredericton is holding services at the Anglican church in Oromocto. The priest there, Keith Howlett, can be reached at incense@rogers.com. Meetings at 4:00 p.m. with a eucharist followed by coffee. It is planned right now that the regular monthly meetings will be at 4:00 on the third Sunday of each month. For more information contact Hank at hen3ry@nbnet.nb.ca and my home number is 506-454-6967.

Mar 10, 24, Apr 7, 21, May 5, 19

PRIDE CHAT.... an informal and informative gathering where gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning and friends of the glbtq community can meet and discuss issues relating to our community, while being in a safe and comfortable environment. Pride Chat will have Guest Speakers on a regular bi-weekly basis to speak to the issues you want to discuss or learn about. Pride Chat meetings are at Wilmot United Church at Carleton Street entrance, beginning at 7:30 pm.

Fredericton Bar Calendar

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Thursdays - Retro night - 70s, 80s, 90s...
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Fridays and Saturdays - Happy hour 4-9,
All-extended-mix mainstream club music 9-2.

Sundays - New Brunswick's one and only T-dance! All-anthem dance music, 4-7.

Halifax

Every Sunday

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, 7:00 pm, Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola Street, Suite 108

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, Third and Fifth Tuesdays

LGB Youth Project 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, 2281 Brunswick Street.

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

LGB Youth Project Group 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

Every Wednesday

An all gay men's bowling league is starting up in the new year and I am looking for any men who are interested in joining. 7pm to 9pm at The Bowlaroma at Bayers Road Shopping Centre. If you are interested in joining contact Richard at 440-6729 after 4pm.

First Wednesday of each month

GAY FATHERS OF HALIFAX is a peer support group for gay and bisexual men. We meet the 1st Wednesday of each month. We also get together for a monthly Pot Luck social. For more info contact Gordon @ 446-7793 or Gilles at 448-3565 or Email GayFathersHalifax@hotmail.com or visit our website at <http://groups.msn.com/GayFathersOfHalifax>

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.

Mar 10, 24, Apr 7, 21, May 5, 19

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

Feb 27, Mar 13, 27, Apr 10, 24, May 8, 22

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

Mar 5

MAC Leather Society Annual General Meeting, 4pm, Mobeys, Gottingen St. This will be the Annual General Meeting at which the Board of Directors will be elected for 2005. Please reply if you have any questions or are interested in becoming a Board member. www.macleather.net

Mar 5

MAC Leather Society Bar Night: "Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy", 10pm, NRG2, Gottingen St. Got a thing for cowboys?? Well saddle 'em up and ride 'em down to NRG2, parrd-ner! www.macleather.net

Mar 6

Join the Aeolian Singers as they present "Celebrating Women 2005" at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, Dalhousie Arts Centre, at 8:00 p.m. This year's special guests include singer/songwriters Susan Crowe, Cindy Church and Lisa Lindo and actors Marcia Kash and Martha Irving, in a tribute to poet Elizabeth Bishop. Tickets are \$25 and are now on sale at the Cohn Box Office. Post-concert profits will benefit the Marguerite Centre, the only residential facility in Nova Scotia for women recovering from abuse and addiction. For more tickets, please call the Cohn Box Office at 494-3820 or toll free at 1-800-874-1669, or

on-line at www.dal.ca/artscentre. All seats are \$25 unreserved.

Mar 6

The Halifax Pride Committee presents an evening of entertainment unlike any other! The Class of 1995 is an interactive mock high school reunion in which audience members are the guests and the cast are a wacky group of former classmates. One Night Only! 7pm - Club Vortex, 2215 Gottingen Street. Tickets available at Venus Envy or Club Vortex. Visa hotline: 444-3165. Tickets \$25 include show and dinner. www.halifaxpride.org See more details on page 3 of this issue!

Apr 2

MAC Leather Society Bar Night: Jock Strap, 10pm, NRG2, Gottingen St. Theme night: jock strap ... more revealing details to follow. www.macleather.net

Apr 23

MAC Leather Society Bar Night: Fetish Ball, 10pm, Vortex, Gottingen St. Back by popular demand, the 2005 Fetish Ball! Anyone there last year will be sure to be here again this year. Anyone who missed it last year ... well, here's your chance to experience the Halifax fetish scene as you've never witnessed before. There will be a 50/50 draw, monitored change room, and coat check. www.macleather.net

July 18-24

Halifax Pride Committee - committed to a proud Halifax. Pride week July 18-24th, 2005. For info call 902.423.1213 or visit www.halifaxpride.org

Halifax Bar & Business Calendar

MOBEY'S

www.clubvortex.ca, 2215 Gottingen
Kitchen open till 9pm. Great food, outdoor patio now open.

Sundays: Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm

NRG

www.clubnrgHalifax.com

Mondays: Retro Night w/DJ Face
Tuesdays: Karaoke & Wing Night hosted by Troy 20c wings with \$100 prize.

Wednesdays: Studio hosts Open Drag - \$75.00 prize

Thursdays: Karaoke & Wings with Justin, 20c wings with \$100 prize

Fridays & Saturdays: Dancing all night

REFLECTIONS

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Sundays: DJ HedFones spins all your favourite dance music all night. Sundays also host amazing Drag Shows, Benefits, C.D. Launch Parties, and much more!

Mondays: Manic Monday and poor student night, where 10 bucks gets you a loooooong way! DJ HedFones spins, make a request! No Cover.

Tuesdays: Dave Smith hosts Karaoke, with cash prizes and lot's of fun. DJ HedFones follows. No Cover.

Wednesdays: The amazing Dita Parlow hosts her weekly Game Show - SmartAss. This is a trivia and prize based game. Hundreds of dollars in cash and prizes is available to be won each week. DJ HedFones spins after. No Cover.

Thursdays: we have bands till 1, then we have retro dance music till 4am with DJ Electro or DJ Malaka. No Cover.

Fridays: Bands till 12 then we have the largest and best electronic club night in Halifax. Amazing DJ's from around the world.

Saturdays: DJ HedFones and Squirt Saturdaze heat up the dancefloor with today's hottest music until 4am! Check out our amazing light show and soundsystem. Enjoy hot dance, r&b, pop,diva,top40,retro,requ ests,and more!

Reflections is open 7 days a week. from 1pm-4am Monday-Saturday and 4pm-4am Sundays, wheelchair access, 5184 Sackville St. 422-2957, 1-877-422-2957 toll free

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Mondays - Student Night - Free Locker with ID

Tuesdays - LOCKERAMA - All Lockers are \$10

Wednesdays - Hump Night - Get your 1/2 Price pass for your next visit with the purchase of a Room or Locker

Thursdays - Naked Night - Towel Optional!

Saturdays & Sundays - Early Bird Special 6AM till Noon - Rooms are \$10, Lockers are \$5

Sundays - Cruiseline Night - Free Cruiseline Pass with every Room or Locker

Check Out our website at www.SeaDogs.ca for our list of upcoming events.

TOOLBOX EAST

Mondays: Queer as Folk

Fridays: Kink & Oz

Sundays: Six Feet Under

VORTEX

www.clubvortex.ca, 2215 Gottingen

Wednesdays: Womyn's Night, live entertainment, 8pm shows, dinner til 9pm

Fridays: Five Minutes of Fame with LuLu LaRude, Halifax's best anything-goes talent show, with prize money!

Saturdays: High energy dancing with DJ's spinning till 2AM!

Sundays: Best Sunday Brunch in Halifax. "Whale of a meal" (The Coast), 11:30am-2:30pm

Moncton

Second Tuesday of each month

GLBT Support, 7:30pm at 245 Lutz St in Moncton. We discuss the realities of life within the GLBT community, share stories and gain support from others. Meetings are confidential, and new people are always welcome. For more info, call 506-863-1888

Third Monday of each month

PFLAG Moncton has monthly support meetings from 7:30-9:30 in room 339 of the Taillon bldg at U.deM. campus. Everyone is welcome at our meetings.

Second and Fourth Mondays

SAFE SPACES MEETING, 7pm. Support group for GLB youth, 14-25. For more info, 869-6224 or safespaces@nb.aibn.com

Montréal

July 9 - August 5

A group of Acadians from everywhere are planning to participate at the first Outgames Rendez Vous Montreal between July29 until August5 2006. There will be dozen of gays and lesbians from all around the world who will participate at that cultural and sporting event. If you do your inscription before the end of 2004 you will have a reduction of your inscription fees. If you want to join

WANT TO LIST AN EVENT FOR OUR READERS? SEND YOUR EVENTS DETAILS TO SUBMISSIONS@WAYVES.CA NOW! EVENT LISTINGS ARE FREE! MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE CONTACT INFO!

our acadien team please contact us at yvonbonbon@hotmail.com

Saint John Bar Calendar

BABYLON EAST

www.babyloneast.ca
The newest sociable gay bar in New Brunswick, on South Market Street. Grand Opening Weekend Sept 2-5!

CLUB MONTREAL

Wednesdays: No cover, free pool
Thursdays: No cover, karaoke with prizes
Fridays: No cover, open turntables
Saturdays: \$5 cover after 10 PM
Sundays: No cover, free pool
Your birthday: no cover, one free drink, just show your ID!

St. John's - LBGT-MUN

Every Friday
Coffee House: Every Friday, 12-2 (LBGT Office, 6th Floor UC, 6002) Every Friday we invite anyone and everyone to come to LBGT and enjoy a cup of Coffee or Tea (regular or herbal) with us (members, non-members, etc). It's a great chance to vent, meet some new people, etc. Our office is located in UC-6022.

Every Third Wednesday
Arriba's Night! Arriba's is a bar in the same building as Quintana's De La Plaza, in Churchill Square. We get together and attend this venue on a regular basis, due to its closeness to MUN and the fact that these are "Student Saver Nights" (drinks are cheaper and there are free nachos with every drink!). Before going to the venue, people are asked to meet at LBGT-MUN at 4:30pm to head over (and to grab seats before everyone else - teehee). Make sure to wear some Pride stuff so we can tell that you're there to meet us! (Note: this venue is 19 years and older)

St. John's Bar Calendar

Zone 216
216 Water St, 754-2492
http://www.hello.to/zone216
Winter Hours
Open Friday and Saturday Nights 10pm-late
No cover before 12 Friday
No Cover before 11 Saturday

Tatamagouche

Nov 25-27
Rainbow Weekend 2005 at the Tatamagouche Centre! More information available from robertj100@hotmail.com

Truro

May 14
Gay in May Dance, Lion's Club in Truro \$7.00 admission / bar on location.

Sept 17
2nd Annual Country Hoe Down Dance Lion's Club in Truro \$7.00 admission/ Bar on location Wear you best cowgirl or cowboy outfit...you might win a prize!

Wileville

Third Saturday of each month
Dance 9PM to 1AM. Smoke free. For more details call 685-3297 or email info@southshorepride.ca or www.southshorepride.ca

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:
Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, June 3, July 1
Send your ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax)
Mar 7, Apr 4, May 9, June 6, July 4
Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, CEF, 5443 Rainnie (above Century Computers), all welcome!

Layout Parties (Halifax)
Mar 13, Apr 10, May 15, June 12, July 10
Help build the paper - no special skills

required, just enthusiasm, and helping even once or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30AM, CEF, 5443 Rainnie (above Century Computers), all welcome!

On The Stands and In The Mail:
Mar 26, Apr 23, May 28, June 25, July 23

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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 & Grievs, 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 & Grievs, 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 & Grievs, Drag 101, Halifax Pride, Svend Robinson, Marc Hall, Scott Brison, and more all the time!

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Augusten Burroughs Continued

Cont'd from Augusten, p. 8

to ask that kind of question. I mean, there's Dave Eggers and David Sedaris. I guess there have always been funny memoirs. I thought Ann Sexton's Self Portrait in Letters from the 1970s were hilarious just because, that's for sure, so whether comic memoir is a trend or not I really couldn't say.

RP: How does your partner, Dennis, feel about appearing in about half of the essays?

AB: Oh, he's happy about it. He rolls his eyes sometimes (laughs). I don't put anything in that would upset him. He's read it and finds it funny that he would be in it, but has a hard time believing that he'd be remotely interesting.

RP: Do you find time to write when you're on a book tour?

AB: No, I don't really write on tour because it's so busy. I've been on the road now for one month solid and it's basically been a different city almost every day, with two events each day and then lots of media. But I take notes.

RP: Can you tell me anything about your next project?

AB: My next book is called Possible Side Effects. It's more true stories. I think it comes out in the spring of 2006.

RP: It was great talking to you, Augusten. I'm a huge fan and it really was a privilege. I love the books and can't wait for the next one.

AB: Thank you, and it was my pleasure.

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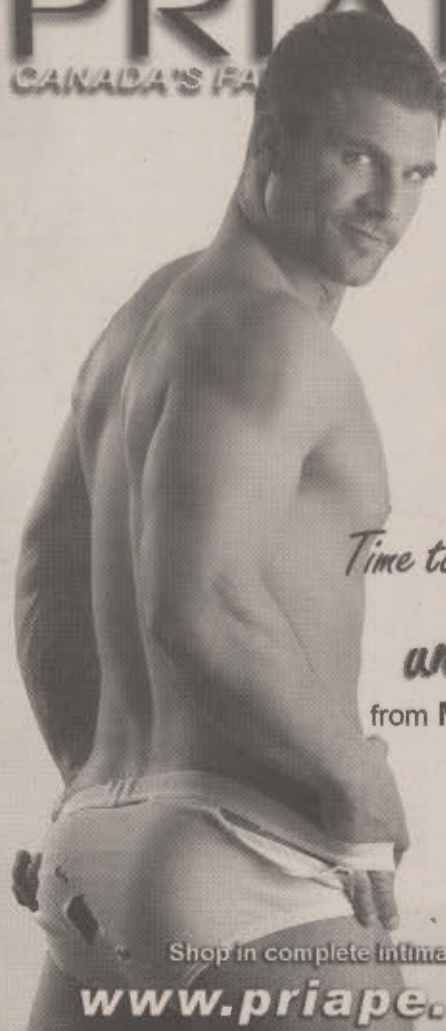


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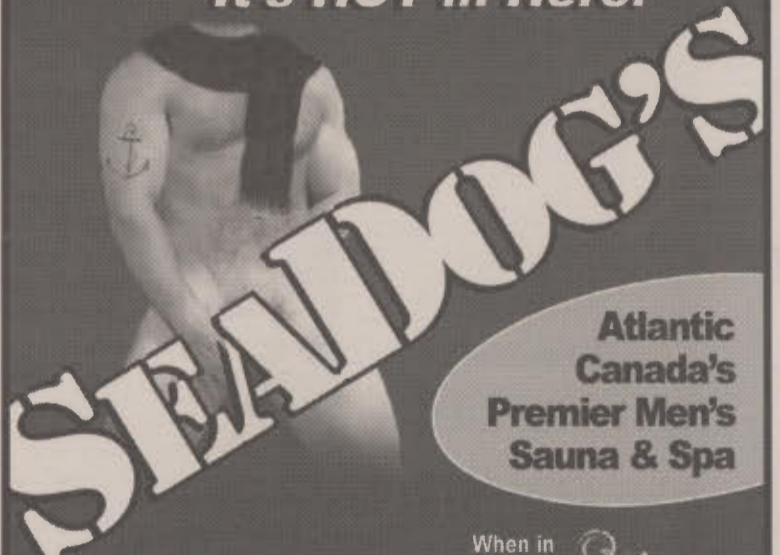
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groups

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OUT AND ABOUT WOMYN is a social group for lesbians in greater-Halifax. Visit their website at www.geocities.com/outandaboutwomyn for detailed information, or email oaaw@hfx.eastlink.ca

SAPPHO ABOVE 30 (S.A.T.) Established in 1998, a get-together / talk group for lesbians over 30, in a private home setting, to meet, talk, discuss life issues, relationship problems, or just want a good conversation in a safe environment? cmrdphc@hfx.andara.com or call 455-6041 A real chatroom, not a virtual one!

Men's Reading Group meets regularly in Halifax. Come meet interesting people and discuss gay literature. Check our webpage at www.menread.50megs.com. E-mail menread@gay.com for more information or contact Trevor Dreesbeck at 429-0378.

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LESBIANS, GAY MEN, BISEXUALS will find themselves welcome by Quakers, who recognize that there is "that of God in every person." Call (902) 429-2904 for more info.

Support

GAY DISABLED: Anyone who is, or anyone interested in the gay disabled, and would like information on being both gay and disabled, or if you are and simply would like to chat, please feel free to contact me at: leave your name and telephone number, daytime only before 4 p.m. at 1-902-832-0453 and I'll return your call ASAP.

GAY FATHERS OF HALIFAX Is a peer support group for gay and bisexual men. We meet the 1st Wednesday of each month. We also get together for a monthly Pot Luck social. For more info contact Gordon @ 446-7793 or Gilles at 448-3565 or Email GayFathersHalifax@hotmail.com or visit our website at <http://groups.msn.com/GayFathersOfHalifax>

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.

YOUTH PRIDE GROUP Bridgewater. Contact through Second Story Women's Centre, at 543-1315 or seestory@auracom.com

SEE PREVIOUS PAGE FOR HOW TO PLACE ADS

Viva Las Vaginas

By Lynn-Marie Corcoran

Being a lesbian in St. John's, Newfoundland is not always the most fun.

I mean, it is a small place, with only one gay bar, but sometimes, being a lesbian in this city is a blast! There is a resource centre in this town composed of many fabulous

The Vagina Monologues! Part of the V-Day celebrations, this show has got to be the most fabulous show I have ever seen! It was an honour to be a part of it.

What was even better than being a part of a group of over 30 women pouring their

goes on. So, all the while, this female dominatrix is on stage moaning and panting, red-faced, messy hair... wooo. It's a sight to see. It makes one proud to be a lesbian. So, this

brief little article is a tribute to women, a tribute to the WRC, and a tribute to V-Day. Thanks everyone for being so fabulous! Viva Las Vaginas!

men didn't like her moaning, so she moved on to discover women and become a sex-worker, strictly for women's pleasure

women. You can find it at Memorial University; it's called the Women's Resource Centre, or WRC. This organization is run as a collective, allowing everybody an equal say. This equality extends very warmly to the lesbians among the university setting. Since joining the WRC's membership, I have experienced nothing but warmth and acceptance. The women there are fabulous, open, loving people. We work together to end violence against women, fight for women's rights, and the rights of all students. But most of all, to them, I am a woman first, a lesbian second.

Anyway, this warm and fuzzy rant is heading somewhere; it's leading towards a topic which has consumed the last few weeks of my life,

hearts out on stage about vaginas, was seeing several straight women stand up there on stage, in front of hundreds of people, and tell lesbian stories! One of my favourite monologues is that of a woman who went from being a lawyer to a moaner. Yes, a moaner who loved to make noise during sex, with men. However, men didn't like her moaning, so she moved on to discover women and become a sex-worker, strictly for women's pleasure. This is the most hilarious monologue you will ever hear. This marvelous lesbian story goes on to incorporate all the different types of moans this worker draws out of her clients! There's the clit moan, the vaginal moan, the "uninhibited militant bisexual moan," and the list



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