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November 2006

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Halifax Pride '07 Board Elected

By Bill McKinnon

The Halifax Pride Committee is making an early start in getting ready for 2007 - well ahead of last year. They held the Annual General Meeting in three sessions with last meeting on October 12 at the LGB Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St.

Final financial results for 2006 are not yet available but it looks like there may be a deficit but less than the retiring board was faced with. It seems that the City has still not finalized its billings and collection of money owed by some sponsors is uncertain. If there is a deficit it should be much easier to cope with than last year's when major fundraisers had to be held to pay it off. An auction at the Casino is being planned for early in 2007 to get things started but the date has not yet been set.

HIV Positive Peer Support Group

Halifax: Starting Tuesday, November 14th 6:30 - 8:30 introductory sessions at the ACNS 1657 Barrington St.

All HIV+ are welcome.

For more information, call Sybelle 425-4882/ 225 or Stephen 877-1932.

The new Board of Directors for 2007 was elected. Micha Davies-Cole & Tamara Matheson will serve as Co-chairs, Kari Gundersen as Secretary and Kimberley Fowling as Treasurer and the following are the activity coordinators on the Board: Events - Lee-Anne Poole, Marketing & Graphics - Kara Redden & Joseph MacNeil, Parade - Ed Savage & Chad Whiteway, Partnership - Hugo Dann, Public Relations & Media - Raymond Taavel, and Volunteers - Trent Slaunwhite. In addition the following were elected as directors at large: Andy Hewlet, Bill McKinnon, Curtis Cartmill, Daniel MacKay, Gerrit Volkmann, Maggie Heywood, Patrick Daigle and Shannon Coombs.

The Committee applauded the work of the two retiring co-chairs Hugo Dann and Patrick Daigle and also Daniel MacKay for his many years of service as Secretary.

PFLAG Membership Drive

PFLAG Canada is launching its PFLAG Canada Membership Program. "How many members do you have?" We have been asked this question many times. Membership numbers alone do not convey the strength and value of an organization, but numbers can be used as one indicator of effectiveness. The trust and appreciation of those who come to us seeking support and the high regard in which we are held by other organizations speak to the importance and value of our work. Now, we are asking you to stand beside us in support of our vision of a more open and accepting Canadian society.

Will you become a member? Registration is fast, simple and best of all, FREE. Full details are available online at www.pflagcanada.ca Membership means community and we are certainly one that deserves to be counted!

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Cherie MacLeod, Executive Director - PFLAG Canada Inc. 1633 Mountain Road, Box 29211 Moncton, NB E1G 4R3 1-888-530-6777 toll-free, (506) 869-8191 local (506) 387-8349 fax

Moncton Men's Dance

By Rob Myers, Mr. Leather Moncton 2006

The Moncton Leather Chapter and I are planning Moncton's first Man 2 Man "MEN ONLY" Dance on Friday November 3rd, at the Moncton Lions Community Centre at 473 St George Blvd. This "MEN ONLY" Dance is open to ALL GAY MEN within the community and it is not a leather only event.

This dance is for the MEN within our community to have a great night out together and to assist Moncton's "RECONNECT" Program which is this year's charity of choice for The Moncton Leather Chapter.

The "RECONNECT" Program is a YMCA affiliated agency to aid Moncton's Homeless Street Youth. We hope that we will be seeing you out for a great night and to support this important and necessary charity at MAN 2 MAN 4 MEN.

It all begins when the doors open at 10PM and goes until 3AM. Admission for this benefit fundraiser will be \$7.00 at the door. We have a special guest DJ to spin out great tunes, door prizes and a 50/50 draw will also be held.

For more information, email Rob Myers at aunnamission@hotmail.com

Queer Play Cumming Soon...

By Lee Anne Poole

In early December, Reflections Cabaret will be the place to see a seamless fusion of theatre and drag. Music numbers from the hilarious hit Broadway musical "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!" will be performed by local drag artists, Rouge Fatal, April Showers, Ben Dover, and Kowyn Dover, directed by Lee-Anne Poole.

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!" is a comedy about love and relationships in a world of heterosexuals. This production will flip it inside out, turn it on its ass, and transform this Broadway hit in to an East Coast queer fiasco!

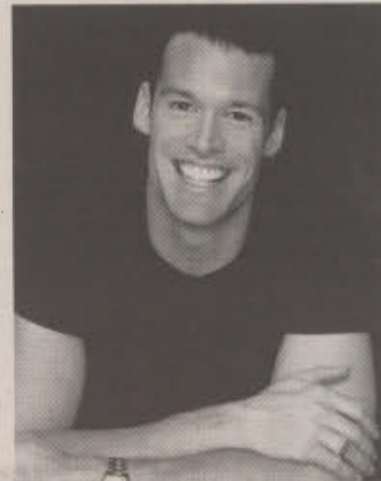
For more information or for rehearsal pictures, performance dates and prices e-mail queerplay@gmail.com. See You There!

Tewksbury Gives The Shirt Off His Back

By Bill McKinnon

The 3rd annual NSRAP Gala on Sept 30 in Halifax was a pleasant experience although attendance was down from last year. The first gala was the big gay wedding celebration; subsequent galas are anniversaries and much-needed fund raisers. The first two were at the Casino Hotel but the food seems better at the Lord Nelson and it's a classier place. The first year Darrell Dexter spoke, last year it was Troy Parry and this year Mark Tewksbury. Comedian Bette Macdonald MC'd the first two and this year we had another super Nova Scotia performer, Mary Ellen MacLean who is incredibly funny. This year also saw NSRAP with a new chairperson, Kevin Kindred who took over from Sean Foreman in June and is doing a wonderful job in his new position.

Mark Tewksbury is known by many as an Olympic athlete who won gold, silver and bronze medals in swimming and a caring humanitarian who has worked



to support sick children, special Olympians, and PHA's. He was co-pres. of the 1st Outgames in Montreal this summer, was host of Discovery Channel's "How It's Made", is a motivational speaker and has written two books, Visions of Excellence and Straight Talk from a Gay Jock (see review in June/06 Wayves).

Cont'd on Page 19

Youth Project Auction

By Sheena Jamieson

Join us for our 2nd annual "Anything Goes Auction," a fundraiser in support of the Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Project. We promise a great afternoon for all who attend.

It's on Sunday November 26th at Menzbar, 2104 Gottingen St,

Halifax. Brunch and viewing is from noon - 3 pm; plus a second silent auction.

If you have items to donate or questions, please call 429-5429. Keep checking our website (www.youthproject.ns.ca) for updated auction items.

Trans Sex Trade Worker Support Group

By Dawn Archambault

Later this fall Stepping Stone Association will be offering a new support group for Transgender sex trade workers. Stepping Stone Association is a user-directed non-profit organization that supports individuals involved in the sex trade by contributing to their health, safety and well-being. Our program users are currently or formerly involved in the sex trade, or are at risk of becoming involved in the sex trade.

Stepping Stone is the only organization east of Montreal that provides support services for sex trade workers. Stepping Stone holds the philosophy that all individuals have the right to self-determination; that those who work as sex trade workers have the basic right to safety and access to services regardless of their occupation.

"We are pleased and honored to

be expanding our services to reach more diverse populations," says director Dawn Archambault, "the trans community is a dangerously under-served, misunderstood, marginalized community and those involved in the sex trade are often further isolated and stigmatized. It is our intention to provide a safe, supportive environment where trans sex workers can share their stories, find support or just connect with each other."

The group will be facilitated by well-known Halifax Trans activist and Stepping Stone Program Coordinator Jeff Liberatore. Groups will run on alternate Tuesday evenings from 7-9pm.

For more information regarding this group or other services provided by Stepping Stone please contact us at 902-420-0103 or by email at jeff@stepping-stone.org

Wayves Says "Thank You, Ian Crowe"



It is with a tinge of sadness that we say "thank you" to our bookkeeper Ian Crowe who has decided to close the books on his time with Wayves Magazine.

Ian, a longtime community activist, has been our volunteer bookkeeper for many years now and done so much to help Wayves grow and move into the black, "keeping our dollars making sense" so to speak.

Wayves wants to extend our sincerest appreciation for his dedication and commitment over these past years. We invite you to join us in toasting and roasting Ian Crowe at Menz Bar on November 10, starting at 9:30pm.

With much affection Ian, your friends at Wayves say "THANK YOU!"

!
NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: First Friday of the Month

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Brought to you by...

- Bill McKinnon
- Cam MacLeod
- Daniel Mackay
- Denise Holliday
- Gerrit Volkmann
- Hugo Dann

- Raymond Taavel
- Sarah Stefanko
- Vance Maxwell
- Will Murray
- Your Name Here!

- Ian Crowe
- Jim Bain
- Jim McMillan
- Norval Collins
- Ralph Higgins
- Randall Perry

Upcoming PEI Pride Events

By Rene Murphy
First I want to let you know that we have a great article in the September issue of Wayves with some pictures of our Parade, you will find it on Page 9.

For those of you who have not checked out our site lately (www.peipride.com), I want to let you know about some important dates coming up.

July 7th through to July 15th of 2007 is our Pride Week. The theme for 2007 is "Carrousel of Colours". This theme will be for all of the events during the whole week as well as the Parade and the Dance. Our calendar will have

more information listed.

PEI Pride will be the host for InterPride in 2008. If you would like to help out, please let us know.

Now for more current events. If you wish more information check out the calendar. Some of the details are yet to be worked out.

The following events will be held in and around Charlottetown: Oct 28, ARC will be holding a Halloween Dance at the Delta; Nov 8 it will be Pride Trivia; Nov 18, Pride will be having a Dance at the Delta (it starts at 9:30pm); Dec 9 is Pride Variety Show; and Dec 9 is Bingo with a Penny Auction.

Jan 21 through to Jan 27 is our first winter Pride Carnival. There will be a lot going on.

Feb 14, 15, and 16 will be a show called 'CatTails and CockTails.' This will be filled with monologs of sexuality. If you would like to take part in this, please contact us. If you have a monolog, but not someone to say it, let us know about that as well.

Please show your support in Pride by your attendance. Let others know about the events and bring someone along with you. We are looking for people to help out at the doors of our events and to help sell tickets. Help us to have great functions for you to party at.

Wayves is looking for you!

A great volunteer opportunity awaits someone at Wayves Magazine. We are looking for someone who would be interested in committing to a couple of hours a month to help keep track of Wayves' accounts as our bookkeeper.

Experience is an asset however anyone with a sincere desire to participate in a dynamic and growing volunteer organization is encouraged to reply. Interested? Contact us at submissions@wayves.ca, subject line: Bookkeeper. Look forward to hearing from you!

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 in Canada, \$30 in the United States and \$35 elsewhere. Mail in your subscription request.

How to reach us...

wayves

P.O. Box 34090, Scotia Square
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3S1
submissions@wayves.ca
www.wayves.ca

Letters

First NB Divorce

Dear Wayves:
I am writing to let you know that the first - to our knowledge - male-male gay divorce took place in February of 2006 in Sackville. As one of the pair, and having gone through much to get married, not sanctioned yet by the government, here at Mount Allison University in Sackville, then the real wedding in Ottawa among the first hundred

or so couples, I think that the time has come to openly come out about this and the issues it raises for our community. If you are interested in this, and it has not been previously publized elsewhere, let me know. Perhaps the best course is an interview, or some other format.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing back from you. Regards,
Wade (Oulton-)Stillman.

From the Valley, to Lulu, with Love

By Doug Bennett
We, the Annapolis Valley Gay/Lesbian and All Genders Community were saddened when we heard of Lulu LaRude's Medical condition and we wanted to do something to help out if we could with medical expenses. On September the 2nd the Valley Gay Men's Coffee House held our monthly dance and a donation can was placed at the door asking for any donations. Near the end of the evening we took the donation can around to tables and again asking if anyone would like to contribute and we are pleased to be able to say \$155 was raised. Hopefully this will help in some small way. Thank you all who contributed to this worthy cause.

In the past we have also raised money for the Helen Keller Fund.

It shows that the GLBT Community is willing to help out when needed.

In the future at dances held on the first Saturday of each month, we hope to be able to raise money for other charities. Whether a great or small amount it all helps in time of need.

The Gay/Lesbian and All Genders Community of the Annapolis Valley wishes Lulu many years of Happiness and Good Health ahead.

Email: menembracingmen@yahoo.ca Website: faceitwithpride.tripod.com Phone: 902-765-2821 or 902-363-2041



Laws must not discriminate

Republished without permission from the NB Telegraph-Journal, October 6, 2006:

Canada has soldiers in Afghanistan fighting people who use religion to validate acts of terrorism and hatred. If the government of Canada passes laws in such a way that they allow some religious leaders to promote hatred or to discriminate against some of its own citizens, are we any better than those we are fighting in Afghanistan?

If we are going to behave like the people we are fighting, we might as well bring our soldiers home because our position will be hypocritical.

After all, the government cannot have it both ways.

Bart Firth Dawsonville

Important WAYVES Dates!

- Issue Content Deadlines:
Nov 3, Dec 1 (for Jan-Feb), Feb 2 (for Mar), Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1 (the first Friday of each month)
Send your ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!
- Production Meetings (Halifax)
Nov 6, Dec 4, Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 9
Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, CEF, 5443 Rainnie (above Century Computers), all welcome!
- Layout Parties (Halifax)
Nov 12, Dec 10, Feb 11, Mar 11
Help build the paper - no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and helping even once or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM, CEF, 5443 Rainnie (above Century Computers), all welcome!
- On The Stands and In The Mail:
Nov 25, Dec 22, Feb 23, Mar 23, Apr 27, May 25



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Cumberland Pride Support Group

By Gerard Veldoven

Opportunities for the GLBT community members who seek support and friendship in an open and friendly environment. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month in Amherst. Place: Trinity St. Stephen United Church, Hertz

Hall, 1 Ratchford St. Amherst, N.S. Need to talk? Need to meet others in your particular situation? Need to make friends? Need to simply socialize? Contact us. Call 902-660-5004 or 902-660-9507. E-mail: gaylords_1975@hotmail.com

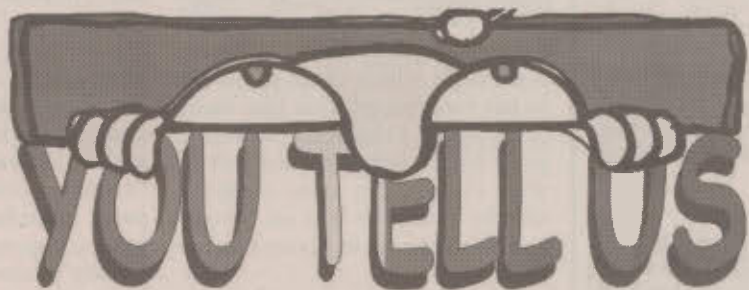
Club Chameleon Has Closed

By Bill McKinnon

Club Chameleon on Mountain Road in Moncton has closed after only a few months of operation. It was only in August that Wayves reviewed the opening. As we understand it the club did not catch on as it is some distance from

downtown and there may have been some risks in being in that neighbourhood late at night. It is a pity that Club Chameleon is gone for the Gary and Jill, the owners are nice people and they really tried to make a go of it. Perhaps another

club will open up someday soon, for competition is good; meanwhile Monctonians can continue to enjoy the warm hospitality that Triangles, Hub City's other gay bar been providing to the GLBT community for years.



AIDS Is A Gay Disease?

The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center has attracted a lot of attention with a recent media campaign: "AIDS is a Gay Disease," their ads declare, "Own It: End It." The L.A. Times reports the Center is targeting the gay male community who, they say, appear to be "slacking off" in their vigilance against the epidemic.

While it is true that men who have sex with men still constitute the majority of HIV/AIDS cases in North America, the L.A. Center's campaign is a radical departure from the traditional portrayal of HIV/AIDS as a disease that affects everyone. The Times reported some AIDS counsellors as concerned that the campaign will play into the stigma already attached to HIV/AIDS, and that it could be an obstacle to future research funding. In the Times article, the head of L.A. based AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Michael Weinstein stated

that AIDS is not a "gay" disease, "it is a disease of the immune system," he said.

One can't argue with Michael Weinstein's statement, but there's no denying that the campaign is at least provocative. Those of us who were around in the early years of the health crisis can remember the fear and hysteria surrounding what was briefly called the "gay cancer". Back then it was important to establish that AIDS posed a threat to everyone, not just gay men. We needed (and still need) the financial backing of governments and corporations, and the full support of the scientific community to fight this epidemic. Yet it was the gay community that faced the mounting casualties and mobilised in resistance. Furthermore, our community's response to HIV/AIDS has had a profound impact on community-based health care across the developed world. One

cannot examine any community health issue without seeing the footprints of our community's artists and activists who engaged in the fight against AIDS. From 'Walks for Life' to Fashion Cares, from coloured ribbons to the delivery of experimental treatments for those who are ill, we changed everything.

Now the world's focus on HIV/AIDS seems to be shifting towards women and the Third World. Can it be that North American gay men feel somewhat marginalised from this issue that once so dominated our lives? Or is it, what with our ready access to drug therapies and health-care, that we are in danger of becoming complacent? Is this a factor in the recent rise in rates of transmission? It was certainly a matter of concern for some gay male delegates attending the 2006 AIDS Conference in Toronto.

Last Month's Question

Last month's question, "How kinky are you?" solicited only four scant replies. Perhaps we should have followed one reader's suggestion that we expand the question. It seems we Atlantic Canadians are somewhat shy of confessing our kinks, at least in print. "Not very," wrote one Wayves' reader. However, a naughty sort responded, "If you think of it, I'll probably do it. I only draw the line at blood and brown."

When the question was posed at an editorial meeting, a member of the Wayves collective said that he'd tell us but for the fact that "you'd all get turned on!" Hmmm. What are that young man's secrets?

The last word should go to poetical reader offered, "While the world flies by in Leather and lace, my level of Kink is a sure disgrace.

This Month's Question:

We want to hear what the bright and beautiful Rainbow Readership of Wayves has to say. Are you for or against the L.A. Center's ad campaign? What do you think? You tell us:

Is HIV/AIDS a gay disease?

Where You Can Find wayves

New Brunswick...

Bathurst: Gais, es Nor Gays

Durham Bridge: Rivers Edge Campground

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

Moncton: Club Chameleon; Curwin News; Joe Moka Café; Reid's Newstand; SIDA/AIDS Moncton; Timothy's World Coffee; Triangles; United Book Exchange, Mountain Road; X-Citement Video

Riverview: Reid's - Riverview

Sackville: Mount Allison; Tidewater Books

Saint John: AIDS Saint John; Club Montreal; Feel Good Store; Hair Station; Mahogany Manor; UNBSJ Bookstore

Newfoundland...

Corner Brook: Corner Brook Status of Women

Gander: Gander Public Library

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

Nova Scotia...

Amherst: Carvel Upholstery and Draperies; Cumberland County Family Planning; The Hojo Café

Annapolis Royal: The King George Inn

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

Bedford: Bedford Library

Bridgewater: Sexual Health Centre - Lunenburg County

Canning: Canning Library

Dartmouth: Adult Cash & Carry; Café Tryst; CD Heaven; Healing Our Nations; Jake's Video & Variety; Libraries - Alderney Gate, Cole Harbour, Dartmouth, Woodlawn; Nova Scotia Government Employees Union; Novel Tease; X-Citement Video, Main Street

Halifax: AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia; Accent Gallery; Alteregos Café; Atlantic News Stand; Blowers Street Paperchase; Blue Moon Bistro; Bookmark; Buy the Book and More; CD Plus; CKDU Radio; Grounds and Community Support Services; DALOUT; Dal-Tech; Daily Grind; Diamond; FRED; Fresh Start B&B; Grad House (Dal); HMV; Hairdressers' Market; Halifax Backpackers Hostel; Junk & Foibles; Khyber Club; Libraries: Captain William Spry, Halifax North, Keshen Goodman, Killiam, Spring Garden Road, Weldon Law; Menz Bar; Mount St. Vincent University - Rosaria & Sexton; Night Magic Fashions; Nooks and Crannies; NSCAD - supply store; N.S. Advisory Council - Status of Women; One World Café; Outside The Lines; Planned Parenthood Clinic; Reflections; Room2Move Fitness; Seadogs Spa; Second Cup - Spring Garden; Shoe Shop; SUB, Dal and St. Mary's; Sweet Jane's; Teletech; The Donut Machine; Venus Envy; Video Difference; 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

Lunenburg: Elizabeth's Books; Second Story Women's Centre

Middleton: Mark Rutherford; 92 Balcom Crescent, Nictaux

Musquodoboit Harbour: wayves Advertising, 1030 Ostrea Lake Road

New Glasgow: Pictou County Women's Centre

Pictou: Pictou Library

Port Williams: Port Williams Public Library

Sydney: AIDS Coalition; Cape Breton Pride Committee; Family Service of Eastern Nova Scotia; Harrison Society; Sexual Diversity Centre, CBU

Tantallon: Tantallon Library

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

Windsor: Readers Haven

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!

Alberta...

Edmonton: Buddy's / Woody's / Steamworks

British Columbia...

Prince George: GALA-North Society

Vancouver: Little Sisters

Manitoba...

Winnipeg: Rainbow Resource Centre

Ontario...

Guelph: Out on the Shelf

Ottawa: After Stonewall; One-in-Ten

Toronto: Glad Day Bookshop; Out on the Street

Saskatchewan...

Regina: LGBT2A Centre, University of Regina

Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hello Tommo

Happy Spring to you. Still can't get over the fact that you in the Land of Oz are enjoying a warmer, brighter season even as the days grow shorter and the light becomes dimmer here.

A bright spot in this otherwise greyish emotional landscape and THE social event of the last six months was the eagerly anticipated wedding of Nicola and Dodger. Now, I've known Nicola for donkeys' years - since we were 17 years old. We have so much history together a no-blackmail pact was necessary. We know way too much about the other. Old jokes still crack us up and we've gotten through the best and the worst times together. I've known the important people in her life, attended all her public handfastings and been witness to the separations too. (Contrary to rumour, only one of these ever required the presence of the police!) And now, with Dodger she has found happiness, not the brittle, manic I-didn't-take-my-medication fantasy bliss, but instead a quiet, solid joy and contentment.

Dodger has a deceptively calm demeanour covering an inner spark of lively, wicked humour. One Christmas, we watched neighbourhood children singing carols door to door. Her look of sweet kindness never wavering, she whispered to me, "If one of those fuckers tracks through my lawn display, I'll kill him." I snorted into my eggnog and we became sisters!

Happiness is the best therapy.

Therapists, now there's another topic! I've gone through all the free ones - you get what you pay for! My last therapist suggested a little break would be good for us - and truthfully, he was beginning to look a bit worn down. I'd prefer a good Jungian psychotherapist with homo sensibilities but where does one look? The last one I met was still wearing love beads and had a macramé wall hanging in his office. And I was dating him!!

Nowadays when I feel overwhelmed I take a couple of old B&W films. You know, Tom, the tearjerkers - easier to cry for fictional characters than for myself but I always feel tremendously relieved at the end.

While I didn't actually break down into uncontrollable sobbing at Nicola and Dodger's wedding, I did find it all terribly touching.

The day began inauspiciously - grey skies threatening rain. In fact, right after the Scribbler and I arrived I thought a hailstorm had broken out but it was just the clatter of Birkenstocks on the stairs. Clearly there was a wide variation of interpretation of the words "cocktail attire". The Scribbler and I had consulted together and decided black was always the correct fashion choice. Sporting my new glasses - stylish but expensive (I Can See Dearly Now) I wobbled my head about, looking for old friends in the crowd. A young man with a Justin Timberlake haircut and close-cropped

beard caught my eye (He's bringing sexy back!), until I discovered the object of my lustful thoughts was the son of an old friend. I didn't immediately rule out the possible of a satisfying sexual relationship but I conceded that there would be complications. A woman with a trucker's tan jostled my arm breaking my reverie and I directed my gaze to where the betrotheds and the minister were beginning the ceremony.

The I Do's were duly pronounced and the traditional rites followed without incident - I was going to say, "without a hitch" but "hitched" they are - officially, publicly, and legally! A loving commitment that no one may put asunder, not even the political machinations of Mr. IcyBlueEyes or the specious moral arguments of hidebound religious leaders.

A general movement began then towards the buffet table. (Am I the only one who thinks it odd that most of the hors d'oeuvres at a lesbian wedding were the size and shape of meatballs?) Laughter and the flash of cameras occasionally broke into the relaxed atmosphere created by shared happiness and blueberry champagne. As I was raising my glass following one of the impromptu toasts to the brides, I noticed two familiar faces.

R and T are old friends who were valley queers before becoming metro homosexuals. Both were elegantly dressed although R, his hair now returned to a nearly natural colour, seemed a bit pale. T confided that they were just a teensy bit hung over and that R had gotten thrown out of a piano bar the night before for verbally assaulting the piano player who refused to play Mandy for the 9th time! Barry Manilow and vodka stingers, not a good combination.

R, looking slightly less wan after a second glass of vino, asked after B and Milosh. I informed him that they were living la dolce vita in Rome. He remarked, "We always intend to travel to Europe but somehow we always end up in the Caribbean." Thus equating the concept of international air travel to choosing the wrong exit off the 103 and ending up in Spryfield.

Next, the cutting of the cake and a reminder of the important things in life: love, laughter, chocolate and booze - and friends to share them with.

Love ya!

Crawford

How Long Does It Take To Come Out?

By Daniel Mackay

On a sunny, warm day in September, Peter Duffy and I sat down outdoors at the Mediterraneo to chat about - well, I wasn't quite sure. I thought perhaps Peter wanted to write an article about the gay community, and I wanted to tell him about my "Halifax Rainbow Encyclopedia" project. We warmed up chatting about a variety of things for a quarter hour, and then his notebook came out.

We spent a couple of hours talking over diet Coke and onion rings. I carefully chose my answers, providing some judicious but juicy tidbits for Peter, while trying to avoid actual calumny. He always takes pictures of his interview subjects, and he took a closeup wide-angle which made my hands in the foreground look like hams. As a favour, I showed him how to get a better proportioned picture with exactly the same composition by using the lens on "zoom" and shooting from about ten feet away.

I asked whether I could review a draft of the article before he sent it to the editors. The answer was a flat "no" - no one gets that.

A few weeks later, my face was on the front page of section B of the Chronicle Herald, right next to "QUEER EYE", set in 30-point, directing readers to page B3. Flipping the pages, I saw my huge hammy hands, and my tiny face somewhere behind them, beside the headline, "Trying to understand the gay world." (You can read the article online at <http://herald.ca/Search/532855.html>)

I was a little concerned about the exposure - not because of possible homophobia; my friends, family, and co-workers know I'm gay, and my clients can guess - but mostly because I'm a consultant. Our clients hire us to be impartial, so we stay out of the media's eye about the professional matter, and it's traditional to keep a

low profile generally.

Then the phone started to ring. My Dad called to say how great the article was, and congratulate me, and friends and relatives called to do the same. The following Monday, I got it at work: my co-workers called me "Media Star" and congratulated me on my 15 minutes of fame. Our office manager said that her 12-year-old had seen the picture and pointed it out to her; my boss said his kid had woken him up that Saturday morning clutching the paper in his hand, saying, "Daddy, your company's in the paper!" A young project manager from a competing company edgily hinted that he was very interested in the article. In the local newsgroup hfx.general, people commented about how progressive it was for Duffy to have chosen to enlighten himself.

At one of my client sites, the official newspaper clipping clerk cut out the article and stuck a post-it on it: "Hi Dan. Just in case you didn't get a copy." She drew a dimpled smiley after her name.

When do you stop coming out? Isn't a quarter century enough? Apparently not. I'll keep at it.



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Making A Difference: Mary Ellen MacLean

By Bill McKinnon

Mary Ellen MacLean is an actor/comedian/creator/director working in theatre, TV and film. She was a founding member of the physical theatre ensemble "Jest in Time" with which she toured world-wide for over 20 years, and starred in TV specials here in Canada with the company. Her one-woman play, "Frankie," toured to rave reviews across Canada as well as airing on

Bravo TV. She performed with Symphony Nova Scotia (SNS) in "Peter and the Wolf" and other SNS productions, and appears in the "Nutcracker" again this year at the Cohn (Dec 8-16). A few of the theatres she worked at are Neptune (NS), Mulgrave (NS), Festival Antigonish (NS), Live Bait (NB), Western Canada Theatre (BC), Buddies in Bad Times (ON) and The Sydney Opera House

(Australia). Recent film/TV appearances include "Wilby Wonderful" and "Hatching, Matching and Dispatching." Mary Ellen's latest movement play, "Velocipede," premiered in Halifax as part of Live Art Dance Productions in May to sold out audiences.

Mary Ellen finds time to help out the rainbow community. In July she participated in Halifax Pride's Gay/Lesbian literature

readings at the Spring Garden Library and most recently kept the NSRAP Gala 2006 crowd in stitches as MC/auctioneer and literally sold Mark Tewksbury's shirt off his back for \$2,500.

Mary Ellen will be hosting "Tits 'n Glitz" on November 10 at the Marriot Harbourfront. In January 2007, she will head to BC to direct "Molly Veil's" at Western Canada Theatre in Kamloops.

"Getting involved"

This concept has different meanings to different people. Some see it as taking on a certain event, others possibly leading a movement, others yet again volunteering to make a simple gathering happen.

Whichever way people offer their time, talents and energies, it all helps to create a more vibrant community for us all.

So in this issue, Wayves introduces a new series called "Making a Difference" where we will profile people like you, who come from all walks of life, whose efforts may sometimes go unnoticed and yet truly do make a difference.

Do you know someone who should be recognized? Contact us at www.wayves.ca.

For more about "Jest in Time" see http://nstp.ucis.dal.ca/zouppa_5222.html, for Mary Ellen's filmography see <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0533799>, for info on Symphony Nova Scotia see <http://www.symphonynovascotia.ca>, and for "Titz 'n Glitz" see http://www.titznglitz.com/new_find_an_event.htm

Sue Johanson Speaks at Dal

By Bill McKinnon

Sue Johanson was in Halifax on September 6 and spoke to Dalhousie University students at the Dal Student Union Building. She warned students about unplanned unprotected sex and the risks of unsafe sex for both heterosexual and same-sex activity. Sue is a member of the Order of Canada and according to her website she is Canada's foremost sexual educator and counselor. Sue's phone-in tel-



evision show, produced by Oxygen TV runs live from October to May at 12 PM Atlantic time. Check your TV guide for availability in

your area. You can phone into the show from 12 hour before it starts at (888) 203-8890 but that's the only way you can contact her. However, check out her website www.talksexwithsue.com. It has an entire world of information on everything about sex whether straight

or gay. You want to know about sex toys, anal sex, Chlamydia, fetishes, genital warts, stretching the penis, masturbation, blow jobs or whatever. Sue talks about it on her show and it's all written up on her website. It is a wonderful source of information on sex.

The "Sex Now" Project- Seeds for Growth

By Hugo Dann

In July 2005, during Pride Week in Halifax, more than 300 men participated in the Nova Scotia "Sex Now" Survey, the most comprehensive study yet made of gay men in our region, (albeit one limited to those men who attended Halifax's Pride Week). One year later, Wayves' July issue reported on its findings in a detailed article by Gary Brooks. Developed as a collaborative effort by Russell Westhaver of St. Mary's University, and Robert Allan, then Executive Director of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS), the survey reveals a vivid portrait of the men who completed the survey. It confirms some assumptions and confounds others while delineating who we are: our incomes; our social lives; our use of drugs and alcohol, and, most importantly, our sexual knowledge, practices and vulnerabilities. The 2005 survey's final report is available online. It makes for fascinating reading. Visit the ACNS website at www.acns.ns.ca and click on "Services". The report is listed under "Survey" on the right hand side of the page.

Now the project is taking a big step forward. In March of this year, representatives from the Atlantic region's major community based AIDS organisations: the AIDS Committee of Western Newfoundland; AIDS Committee

of Newfoundland and Labrador; AIDS PEI; AIDS New Brunswick; SIDA AIDS Moncton; AIDS St. John; the Northern AIDS Connection Society; the AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton; Healing Our Nations and the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia all met together in Halifax. Since then they have been holding regular teleconferences with Professor Westhaver. After revising the questionnaire, they are extending the survey beyond Nova Scotia to include all four Atlantic Provinces. The approach to gathering information has also changed to what is known as "Respondent Driven Sampling" (RDS), a method that relies on the men who participate to draw more men into the survey. This should allow researchers to map out the social networks that gay and bisexual men create, as well as incorporating men who have sex with men (msm) who don't identify as gay.

The participating groups handed out survey packages to certain selected individuals, known in the language of RDS as 'seeds'. Every package contained the questionnaire and three coupons, which the seeds were then to pass along to three other men. Each coupon has a number code and the toll-free number for the Research Centre at

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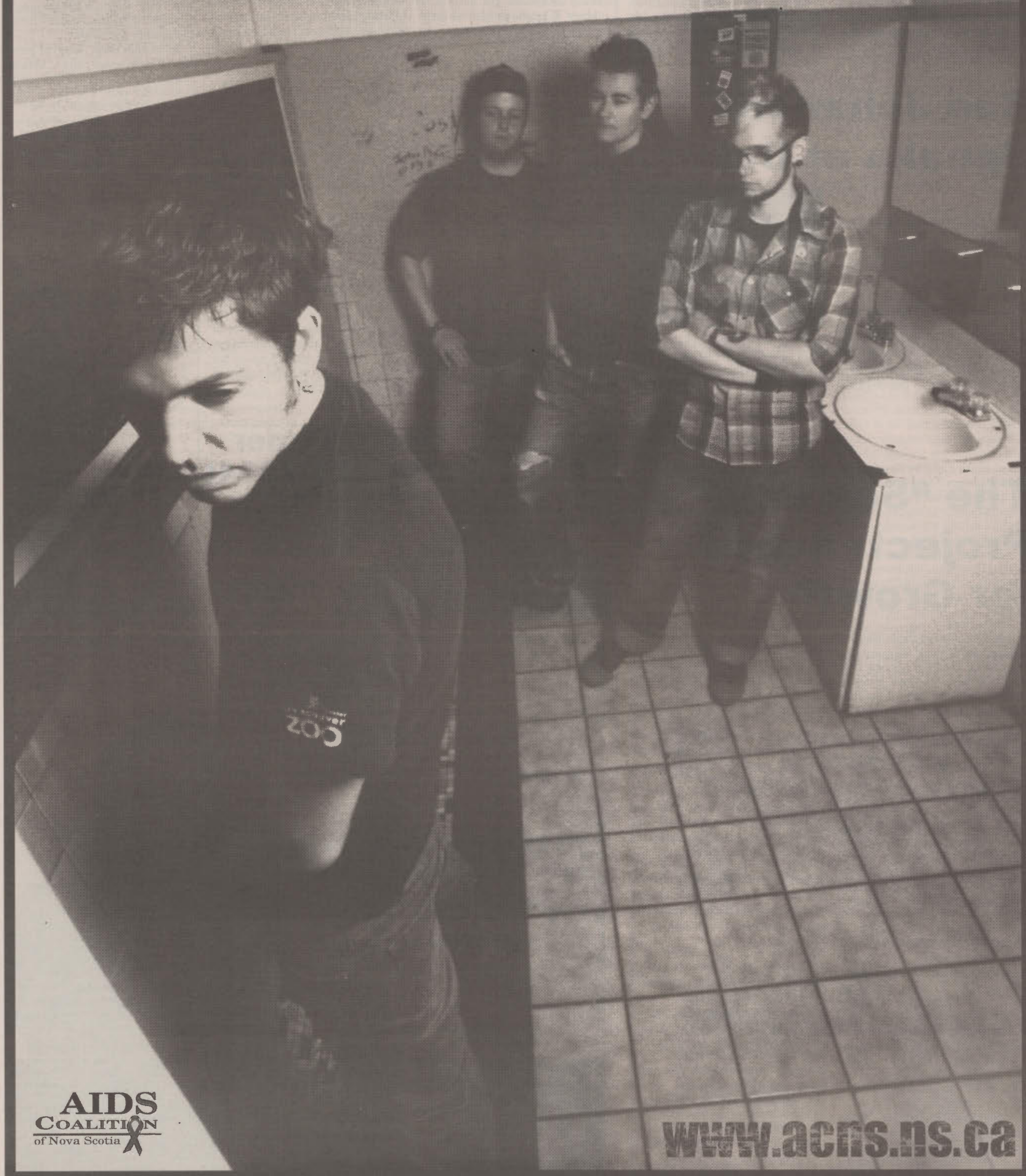
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Saint John Walk for Life Shines In Rain

By SarahRose Werner

Chilly autumn rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of the 150 walkers who turned out on Sunday, Sept 24, to support the Walk for Life. The walkers represented 12 teams plus numerous participants who came to walk as individuals. New teams this year were Old Navy and École Millidgeville North, making this the first year we've had participation from a middle school team.

MC Alesha Farren introduced this year's Honourary Walk Chair, Saint John's Deputy Mayor Michelle Hooton. Hooton is a strong supporter of the Sex Trade Action Committee (STAC), on which AIDS Saint John is a key partner. After Hooton had spoken to the crowd about the importance of the Walk, she and the other walkers swung into action as Sister Irene Beuchler led them in a bit of line-dancing before they hit the Harbour Passage trail. The City of Saint John has been lengthening the trail every year, so AIDS Saint John staff members "Nicky" Nickerson and Jeff Tibbo thoughtfully decorated it with encouraging signs reading, "Great work! Keep walking," and, "You're almost there."

The walkers raised almost \$11,500. The top team was the Dickison family, long-time supporters of AIDS Saint John who raised the money in memory of Wayne Dickison. Lois Martin, Wayne's aunt, was the top individual walker. Generous amounts were also raised by the Sisters of Charity, Wyndham Worldwide and Hampton High School. Sister Angie Martz was the runner-up for top walker, while Sister Zetta Whelley took the prize for "Golden" walker. The prize for youngest walker went to Terri-Lynn Reid's 15-day-old daughter, who's going to follow in her Mom's footsteps as soon as she starts walking on her own. Terri-Lynn has MC'd two previous Walks for Life and was one of the youth facilitators in AIDS Saint John's recently completed Harm Reduction Project.

The Walk wouldn't be possible without the efforts of AIDS Saint John's volunteers and sponsors. We'd like to thank the Hardman Group for the use of Market Square and the Leisure Services Department of the City of Saint John for the use of Harbour Passage. Local band Digby Wolf kept Walk registration rockin'. Thanks to Tim Horton's, Ganong's and Coca Cola, no one died of either starvation or caffeine withdrawal. Prizes were donated by Bayview Credit Union - which also raised almost \$800 - Paderno, Staples, Agnes Mew and Darlene Smith.

All funds raised by the AIDS Walk for Life will be used to fund programs in the Sussex-to-St. Stephen area, Health Region 2. However, AIDS Saint John also works in partnership with SIDA/AIDS Moncton and The AIDS Information & Support Centre to assist people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in the African country of Swaziland. On the same day as the Walk for Life took place in Saint John, volunteers in Hampton held a garden party that raised \$6,820 for people in the village of Nkamazi.

The amount of work that remains to be done in the fight against HIV/AIDS, both on a worldwide scale and here in New Brunswick, is daunting. But we're working on it - step by step.



Photo credit: Jeff Tibbo, Office Coordinator, AIDS Saint John. Clockwise from upper left; Route signs: "Great work! Keep walking." "You're almost there; our "Golden" walker, Sister Zetta Whelley (right) with Sister "Nicky" Nickerson, ASJ's Support and Volunteer Coordinator; Honourary. Walk Chair: Deputy Mayor Michelle Hooton; Sisters of Charity; and our Youngest Walker with her Mom, Terri-Lynn Reid.



Photo credit: Bill McKinnon. Scenes from the Halifax Walk For Life



Halifax Walk for Life Meets \$40,000 Target

By Bill McKinnon

The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS) held their annual Walk for Life in Halifax on Saturday, September 30. The weather was great, many people were there for the walk and spirits of the participants were high. It's all about community and the community was there in force.

I don't know how much money was raised but according to ACNS's website the four individuals who raised the most (all over \$1000 each) were Alan Stewart, Paul Laybolt, Vicki Star deKnight and Ron Nugent and the two top teams which each raised over \$1000 each were St John's United Church and Acadia Pride. Money does matter of course but what also counts is effort and willingness and heart whether an individual (or team)

raises (or donates) \$2 or \$2,000, it all counts and all adds up. It is of course not just about money for it also took about 50 volunteers to put on the event and their efforts are equally important as are the many businesses who provided money, goods and services to make the Walk a success.

The Walk for Life helps to support ACNS's Health Fund. Money raised from the walk helps to offset medical costs not covered by the Nova Scotia medical system for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Funds assist in providing special care, alternative therapies and vitamins. To learn more about ACNS and what it does, make a donation or get involved in future and on-going volunteering opportunities check out www.acns.ns.ca.

We Came Out at the Grawood!



Photos and story by Bill McKinnon

DalOUT, the LGBTQ society at Dalhousie University put on their Come Out at the Grawood celebration on October 6. It was a big success, with 60 – 70 people there, more than expected, and a lot for Thanksgiving Weekend when many students go home for the holiday. Most people were students but not all were gay, and the straights enjoyed themselves as much as did the gays. Everyone seemed to like the speed-dating, dancing, a really good drag show and door prizes from Venus Envy.. Although this was a fundraiser, the cover was only \$3, and \$1 of that will be donated to the AIDS Coalition. The DalOUT gang is a delightful, fun-loving group of individuals whose enthusiasm is infectious. For info on future events and more about DalOUT, see <http://societies.dsu.ca/DalOUT>

Halifax Really Loves Lulu

By Bill McKinnon

Menz Bar put on a wonderful "I Love Lulu" celebration for Chuck Gillis on Sunday, September 24 from 2 pm to 7 pm. HRM has honoured Lulu with an award for "dedication and fundraising in the community." Lulu, named by The Coast as Halifax's Best Drag Queen, was there with fellow divas and many other friends to welcome members of the Community for a time of triumph for Lulu's award-winning accomplishments, and to wish Chuck a speedy recovery from a brain tumour.

The most important booster for Lulu was Chuck's partner, Billy, to whom he was married on August 8; they were there as a couple very much together and supportive of each other. As Chuck wrote in his blog, "I love you more and more everyday. I can't remember what my life was like before I met you but I know it wasn't even 10% as good as it is now. You bring me joy and happiness every minute of every hour of every day and for that I will be forever grateful. Thank you my love."

It was a fun afternoon with many class acts. There was plenty of excellent entertainment, from Ryan MacGrath and the woodenhouse (his band), to divas Iris, Jenny Blake and others, the fabulous lesbian singer Bo, and finally the renowned folk/pop singer Yvette Boudreau. They were all stellar.

Ryan MacGrath and his band got the afternoon going with a selection of Ryan's own original songs. I have since had a chance to listen to their CD, and it's a keeper you won't want to miss. To get a copy, see his website.

Iris's appearance was a pleasant surprise. The fabulous Iris, a famous diva from the 80's and the days of The Turret, came out of retirement to honour Lulu and we learned that Iris had been a big influence when Chuck was beginning his career as Lulu Larude.

Then we were treated to some wonderful songs by Bo who is a remarkable performer with a really good voice. Bo knows how to put across a song.

After Bo sang, the dynamic diva Jenny Blake (a valued friend of Chuck's for 15 years), took over as hostess, and wowed everyone with her particular style of entertainment and charm. Jenny has a powerful personality and takes great pictures.

I missed Yvette, but heard that her performance was splendid.

Donations were graciously accepted to help Chuck through the adversity of the serious illness that he is courageously battling. Chuck has many friends in this community, and so many are willing to do what they can to help out. Venus Envy provided door

Cont'd on Page 18



Photo credit: Bill McKinnon.
Clockwise from upper left:
Ryan McGrath; Bo; Jenny
Blake; Jenny & Iris; Chuck
with husband Billy

Acadian Peninsula Pride Camping Weekend



By Michel Aube (GNG President)

Well another year has passed and another great camping weekend for Gais.es Nor Gay Inc. Labour Day weekend in September has been the honorary pride weekend for the Acadian Peninsula for the past 14 years and we have NO intention to stop this tradition. People from all over attend and have a blast with old friends and new friends. This year was more than just a Pride celebration, it was celebrating the anniversary of GNG which has been active for 15 years now. The participation this year was phenomenal and I can only hope in the years to come it gets bigger and better. The layout of this weekend had Winnebago's, Trailers, Tents, and Campers staying in the 8 cabins we have on the camp ground. This event is truly something to see, the many volunteers and the GNG committee

pride together and transform a mere camp ground into what is nicknamed "The Tent City"

Not only do we get to spend 3 nights with the most amazing people from the area and a far, we had activities as well. This was the first year that a Texas Holdem Poker tournament took place and was a complete success with 20+ players, the winner took home \$140. Thank you to Laurant and Raymond for their organizational skills for this event. Having our outside shops is a blessing, pride paraphernalia is abundantly available. Everything from Pride Flags, to "toys" these shops come fully equipped for your buying pleasure.

This was also a first for our camping weekend, we had "GNG Pride Idol" go underway on site this year and this was an extraordinary addition to our entertainment. What's more fun than singing for your free entry to next years

Pride Weekend? The participants all had fun and enjoyed themselves on this sunny Saturday afternoon, including myself. Thank you to Lise and Nat for doing a wonderful job at organizing this event.

With another successful camping weekend I want to thank everyone for attending and a huge hug and kiss to all the volunteers who helped make this weekend one of the best we have had, we couldn't do it without everyone's help.



"We just want our daughter to feel safe."

By Mary and Bill Kendrick

No conversation with your daughter starts well when it begins with, "I have something I need to tell you." In a split second your mind races through all the possibilities of what she might say next. "I'm pregnant." "I'm quitting university." "I've been assaulted." There's no end to what it could be and none of the choices are good.

The one we weren't prepared for, the one that never crossed our minds was "I'm a lesbian."

It was Christmas. This was not the present we were expecting to receive. Socks for me would have been fine. I'm sure Mary would have been happy with a sweater. But then Ainsley has never been much of a traditionalist.

There were tears. There were hugs and kisses. There was awkward silence and then there was lots of discussion. Ainsley knew we wouldn't reject her. Her upbringing gave her the confidence to know she didn't have to worry about our being angry. Although at a time like this you search your memory for any possible homophobic comment you might have ever made in her presence whether in jest or not. Anything you might have said that would have hurt her.

Almost two years later, it's still hard to describe our reaction to this revelation. Surprised? Definitely. Shocked? Somewhat. Worried? Absolutely. Despite our liberal values and the fact we have gay members of our extended family, this was different. This was our daughter. We love her unconditionally and while

we knew this revelation wouldn't change the way we felt about her, it was not what we wanted for her. We knew she didn't choose to be a lesbian but it seemed to us her life would be easier if she was straight. You don't get singled out for being heterosexual. And so we worried about what her life was going to be like.

If any word comes close to capturing how we felt, ironically it's Pride. We were proud our daughter felt comfortable enough in her relationship with us that she could tell us something in her life; proud that we had raised her to be a confident young woman able to recognize who she is. Our pride has only grown as we have watched her activism surface. She worked tirelessly to organize last year's National Day Against Homophobia event in Charlottetown and was involved in a number of Gay Pride activities.

Although she now lives and works in Toronto, for the past two summers she has come back to the Island to work at the Confederation Centre of the Arts as Stage Manager for the Young Company. It was during the first summer she was home we learned of an incident that has led us to come out of the closet as well. She and her girlfriend were verbally assaulted by a woman while attending an outdoor concert in Charlottetown. This woman took offense to them holding hands and showing affection and started screaming at

them. They were also subjected to rude comments as they walked down the street holding hands. It hurt them deeply and made them nervous about going out in public together. Nobody has the right to make other people afraid to walk the streets of our communities. Our tourism advertising may promote the Island as a kinder, gentler place but that's not the case for everyone. What our daughter

What our daughter experienced was mild in comparison to what many gay people are subjected to in P.E.I

experienced was mild in comparison to what many gay people are subjected to in P.E.I.

As parents, it's natural to want to protect your children from the cruelties of the world. It's difficult enough being young. It's even more difficult being young and gay. We felt we needed to become activists to support our daughter. We learned about PFLAG, an organization for parents and friends of people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or two-spirited (GLBT). We met a group of people who are just like us. People trying to make sense of why their daughters and sons are so ostracized for being who they are and looking for ways to make the Island a safer place for people who are GLBT.

Many parents whose sons and daughters have come out to them struggle with how to deal with the news. Members of PFLAG have helped many families work through their feelings by listening, accepting and not judging. Unfortunately, we've heard many parents and family members say they could never come to a meeting because someone might see them. The Island is a very small place.

Originally we didn't set out to become active in working towards making this a safer place for people who are GLBT. We were content to support our daughter in private and be public with only those we chose to tell. But our involvement with PFLAG Canada-PEI led us to assist with a series of workshops held last year in Summerside, Charlottetown and Montague out of which came two projects called Creating Safe Communities. One is in Summerside, the other in Montague. We have joined a group of individuals

from fields of health, justice, social services, education, government and the general public that has come together in each town to develop ways to make these two communities more inclusive. We want to address issues that have made many Island residents feel it's okay to target GLBT persons for scorn, ridicule and sometimes physical assault.

Our daughter should feel safe when she comes home.

Note: If you are struggling with issues related to gender identity and sexual orientation or know someone who is, you can call PFLAG Canada-PEI at 902-367-9081 or visit www.pflagcanada.ca. If your business or organization is interested in a presentation related to Creating Safe Communities, contact Mary or Bill Kendrick at 902-887-3620. You can also contact Abegweit Rainbow Collective or the LGB Youth Project toll-free at 1-877-380-5776



Canadian Military: Not As Open As You Think!

By Lynne Gouliquer

Canada is supposed to have one of the most advanced militaries in the world when it comes to GLBT issues, but the issue is not as well accepted as one might think it is.

We are two Canadian university researchers doing a study examining homosexuality and the Canadian military (past & present aspects of how it was handled and how people lived this experience). In order to understand this reality, we do interviews with past and present GLBT Canadian Forces (CF) service members and anyone who was or is partnered (GLBT partners) with a military member. For more details on our research please check out our web site (<http://tinyurl.com/hu3d4> or the same site in a longer version at: <http://v8nu74s71s31g374r7ssn017uloss3c1vr3s.unbf.ca/~carmen/militaryeng.html>).

Understandably, we are trying to reach a population that is very difficult to find. Earlier this spring, we decided that we would advertise in CF newspapers. These are newspapers that are in-large controlled by the military but still have a civilian private component (e.g., they make revenue by running classified and professional ads). The end of February 2006, the Naval newspaper, the Lookout, ran an editorial on our research (see web site: <http://www.lookoutnewspaper.com/archive/20060228/3.shtml>). We also ran a classified ad about the study for 2 weeks just prior

to the editorial's appearance. This was a successful undertaking as we had a couple of GLBT military people contact us to participate in our study. Given this success, we decided to run classified ads (yes, only a classified ad) in all CF newspapers in Canada. However, within one month, the Canadian military

...informing all CF newspapers not to run any of our advertisements

headquarters sent a message out to all bases, informing all CF newspapers not to run any of our advertisements. Yes a ban on a classified ad. We contacted the military department responsible for this ban, the Director of Human Resources Research & Evaluation, Colonel S.A.T. Eyres. He said that they, "the Canadian military" did not want it to appear as if they had approved or was associated with the research project.

We find it very strange that Canada's military that has done many things to be open regarding homosexuality and GLBT issues would come to such a decision. The Department couched its rationalisations with words such as "protecting the soldier from unwanted solicitations" and "its not in the best interests of the military mission," we wonder why embracing and prompting diversity is not important to the CF.

As you can see, despite the liberated nature of Canadian laws and CF policies (e.g., 1992), our military still finds a way to discriminate today.

OUTtv New Fall Schedule

OUTtv's fall schedule includes five new original series and the Here TV Thriller Dante's Cove, the second season of the popular male model hunt series, Cover Guy; Chris and John to the Rescue, a hilarious and quirky follow up to the first series which features the crazy antics of two young men "out to save the world, one Gay at a time," Let's Shop, an international series which takes the viewer to the world's shopping hotspots, and a brand new series which demystifies yoga and makes it fun - Crash Course Yoga with Nelson Tome. OUTtv will also have the Canadian broadcast premiere of the dark supernatural drama, Dante's Cove, now in its 2nd season on Here TV in the US.

Returning favorites include new episodes of Queeredge with Jack E Jett, new episodes of BUMP- OUTtv's popular GLBT travel series featuring hosts Shannon McDonough and Charlie David (from Dante's Cove) another season of the award winning Vancouver produced The House of Venus. And don't miss new episodes of the world's first Gay and Lesbian marriage show, I Now Pronounce You, and a brand new season of Picture This! Where couples Gay and Straight plan their renovations based on a wishlist of photographs and pictures. Naked News also returns to the schedule.

The fall schedule brings back new episodes of OUTtv's most popular shows and adds some great new series which are sure to be audience favorites. OUTtv is very excited about bringing Dante's Cove to Canada—a show which is a GLBT favorite in the USA. It's also a show our audience has been voting for!" says OUTtv VP Programming and Marketing, Wendy Donnan.

OUTtv is owned by 6166954 Canada Inc, a private consortium. Shareholders include independent TV production companies such as Shavick Entertainment, headed by James Shavick, Peace Point Entertainment Group Inc., headed by Les Tomlin, president, and co-

executive producer of GLBT travel series, BUMP!, and Re:Source Media headed by Kevin Fox. The original owner, Score Media Inc. (headed by John Levy) is also a shareholder. Another shareholder with a substantial presence in Canada is Pink Triangle Press, the country's largest and longest running gay and lesbian media group, a not-for-profit organization that has been a driving force in the gay and lesbian community for over 30 years. OUTtv is a digital specialty

network providing programming of interest to the GLBT community and GLBT-positive viewers across Canada. Originally launched in Sept/01, it is the world's first GLBT network to broadcast "24-7".

Superlative descriptions of shows and other claims made in this article may well be valid but they are OUTtv's - not Wayves'. OUTtv is available from Eastlink, Bell Expressvu and other cable/satellite services serving all or parts of Atlantic Canada.

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

Mid fall: the harvest now over, too early for holiday dishes, too late for something Halloween-ish. I think I will offer you another one of my soups. Soups and stews were always the backbone to most traditional cuisines. They were a good way of using up odds and ends of produce and meats, and could stretch a smaller amount of food to feed and satisfy a larger group. Soups and stews are one-pot meals that keep all of the nutrition in every bite from all of its ingredients in every bite you take and soak up with your bread. This soup is a meal on its own and can be vegetarian friendly if you sub veggie broth for the meats stocks that the recipe calls for. ENJOY!!!

Fire Roasted Tomato with Cheese Tortellini Soup

Ingredients for 6

1 med onion diced	1L diced fire roasted tomatoes (canned organic fire roasted)
2 stalk celery diced	1 cup white wine
10 cloves garlic crushed	2 L roasted chicken broth
1 shallot minced	2 L beef consommé
1 jalapeno pepper minced	Salt and fresh cracked pepper to taste
1/4 head white cabbage (shredded)	32 cheese filled tortellini (store bought fresh pasta)
1 tbps dried basil	
1 tsp dried oregano	

1. In a medium size soup pot, on med-high heat, sweat onions, shallots, celery garlic, jalapeno, cabbage and herbs until they begin to brown.
2. Add the white wine to pot and cook it down until reduced by half.
3. Add the tomatoes and broths bring to the boil, reduce heat and uncovered for simmer uncovered for 1 hour.
4. Cook tortellini in boiling salted water until tender, place in bottom of soup plate and ladle soup over top. Garnish with grated parmesan cheese and fresh chives

Love & Trust: More Than Sex

By Eldon Hay

Liberal MP Dominic LeBlanc made some comments: "One of the fundamental tenets of a democracy is the separation of church and state..." (NB Telegraph-Journal, 9 Sept 06).

This brought a response from a Catholic, Ted Doucet that LeBlanc can't have it both ways.

I countered with "Catholics disagree in same sex debate," quoting Amherst lawyer Peter Belliveau who wrote in the Amherst Daily News that "There is nothing that means more to me than my Catholic faith." Belliveau then goes on to disagree strongly with the pope and Archbishop Prendergast. Belliveau clearly distinguishes between a church wedding and a civil wedding - noting that both are legal in Canada.

On comes J. Esmonde Barry. In a petulant tone, he reminds me that every denomination has its dissidents. "Hay is wrong.. he tries to confuse readers by mixing apples and oranges." This is immediately followed by Barry's last paragraph: "If Eldon Hay is sincere about the gay cause, let him establish his credibility by telling the public when and why he had an epiphany to embark upon a mission advocating this gay lifestyle."

Then in the NB Telegraph-Journal under the title, "Love, trust matter more than sex," letter writer Barry asks, "If Eldon Hay is sincere about the cause for gays let him establish his credibility by telling the public when, under what circumstances and why he had an epiphany to embark upon a mission advocating [his cause]."

It's a privilege to respond. I've been gifted with a straight son, Keith, and a gay son, Ron. I love both sons, and their partners. It's inappropriate to say that either is sinful due to orientation. Each will be wrong if his orientation is used in a self-serving manner. In both, sexuality can be an expression of love and mutual trust, It's unbecoming to expect either will change his sexual orientation. Both were born the way; : neither of them "chose their lifestyle." Rather their orientation was given to them with the colour of their eyes. Actually, I'm doubly blessed. I have a gay son and straight son; I'm also the father of a lesbian daughter, Nancy, and a straight daughter, Heather.

Straight or gay sons, lesbian or straight daughters - these are manifestations of God's creation. Gratefully, in Canada, their essential equality is also guaranteed by law.

No Lesbians in Musical Theatre

Review by Bill McKinnon

"No Lesbians in Musical Theatre" is a delightful Atlantic Fringe Festival one-woman show by Amy Barratt from Montreal, a performer with style, humour and a wonderful voice.

"If you're a seven-year-old boy singing along to Broadway show recordings, you may not know you're gay yet, but everybody else does. But if you're a teenage girl who sings and dances with the local community theatre group, you couldn't be a lesbian, right? So why is Beth fascinated by fellow cast member Catherine? Is it really just her beautiful singing voice? And why does baby dyke Melinda secretly pretend to be Maria in the Sound of Music? And



what about the uptight lecturer Jane? Is there something she'd like to get off her chest? Three characters representing different decades (80s, 90s, present) take the stage in this one-woman show to tell their sometimes excruciating, sometimes hilarious stories, sing a

Cont'd on Page 14



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Transgendered Diaries X

By Denise Holliday

Something old something new - The old stuff was society's attitude towards people like me and something new was the internet. I will admit that the internet was instrumental in accomplishing what were to be the most dramatic changes in my life. Some I suppose would say the internet was to blame, showing only their ignorance of the situation I found myself in. I sat one night in the dark with this new world of the internet in front of me. I was so afraid, so ashamed, so confused and if I am honest, very close to suicide. A lot of people misunderstand suicide. Some people consider suicide as a coward's way out of life's problems. For someone like me the act is actually more because we have nothing that we want to live for. We are not able to be who people say we are. We cannot be who we know we are. Can you imagine working and raising a family, detesting the

very clothes you wear, and hating the fact food makes this body grow stronger in opposition to every desire and understanding of your heart and head? If we attempt to correct the imbalances that we feel, we are threatened with separation from family, friends, loss of access to our workplace and relegation to a place of social depravity along with a social un-acceptance that would destroy any sane person. To acquire these distinguished options we must find not one mental health professional but sometimes two to five. In my life time I have seen more than twelve. We must convince them we are sane. That wanting to cut off our genitals and remove healthy breasts and organs so rendering ourselves useless for purposes of reproduction is obviously a sane and logical step. As if to prove we are insane they would demand we first divorce our spouses (regardless of the spouse's desires) leave the home where we

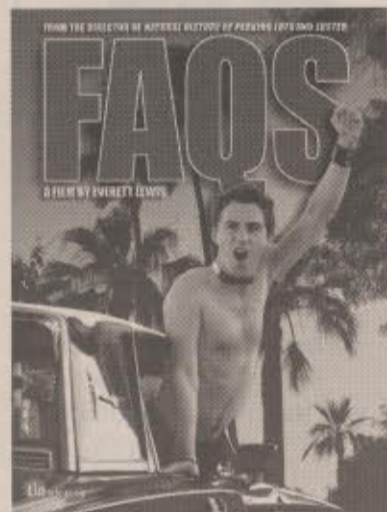
are loved and live in the opposite gender for a year without hormones, support or legal status. At the end of that year I am sure that they still thought we were crazy, but obviously determined. So they obliged us with hormones and discussed surgery. Of course the majority of our community have been required to pay for everything themselves; Often including even the counseling, whether we wanted it or not. As they put us through this trial of endurance they pointed out that very few survive. Hmmm, I have no idea why that would be.

I am glad to report that unlike the shrink that offered me shock therapy and the other shrink that told me as long as I admitted I was a sinner, they would treat me; today's healthcare is a little better informed and even the ill-informed know enough to find us better help. But still the majority of the people treat us in order to help make us

what they think we are rather than who we are. Of course the pinnacle of success for a transsexual is to complete transition and gain that treasured status of legal male or female in; I love this part, our chosen gender. We never choose to be the new gender, we just find it impossible to live in the lie of the gender someone else placed on us at birth. After all, who knows who you are better than you yourself. While some struggle with sexual orientation issues, for the most part they know which gender they are. Transsexuals often never really have a sexual orientation that can be clearly defined. After all, sexual orientation is based on the gender status of the two parties involved. Since we "change" gender and some are guided by our new gender and others by our old, it becomes impossible to define with certainty our sexual orientation status. We never have a gender that can be fully accepted by all and so the only

thing they can define is which gender we prefer to have sex with. All the surgery, shrinks and training amounts to being challenged for almost every basic right a person thinks they have. They even got to say whether the name we chose was acceptable. So, I sat in the dark. I was afraid, I was very afraid. I had found a support site and typed an email, then I sat and I sat, and I sat the whole time, in the dark and crying quietly. After several hours I hit the send button and as soon as it said sent I hit the close down button and went to bed. Only now I was even more afraid. "Oh My Lord" I cried in my heart as I cried tears into my pillow, "what have I done."

Next month: Do I or don't I?



Review

www.tlareleasing.com

review by Ralph Higgins

The opening scene of *FAQS* is at a motel where India, a young homeless gay man, has just had sex on camera for money. Afterwards, he goes to a diner and discovers the "money" in the envelope is actually just paper. India is not having a good day. Angry and discouraged, he is heading back to the underpass

where he's been sleeping when he runs into two gay bashers who chase him into an underground garage. His bad day seems to be getting worse. But rescue arrives—not a knight on a white charger, but rather a drag queen on stilettos named Destiny.

India is taken home and becomes part of Destiny's family, which already includes a boyish lesbian named Lester. Destiny's household has only two rules: no sex without condoms, and two hours of nudity a day to overcome shame about bodies.

Safe and accepted in a place to call home, India becomes fired up with the zeal to rescue other gays and to get revenge on the straights who've mistreated him. When he meets Spence, a young man whose reasons for revenge are even more compelling than his, the two begin to make a plan, but how far can they follow revenge without themselves being destroyed?

Rescue and revenge are the main themes in this tribute to queer activism but director and writer, Everett Lewis, has also made *FAQS* a very individual human story full

of humour and warmth. Joe Lia makes his film debut in the role of India and gives a wonderfully natural performance, seemingly fearless in showing the vulnerability of a young man reeling from hurt yet retaining a yearning for affection and love.

The star of this film is undoubtedly Allan Louis as Destiny, the mother figure, advisor, flamboyant performer and friend. The role was created specifically for Louis and he inhabits it. From the slightest gesture of her perfectly manicured nails to the haughty shake of her bewigged head, Destiny is an irresistible force of nature: Mother Nature—and just as regal, strong, nurturing and protective of her children.

There are flaws in the film: the narrative is occasionally jumpy and the hostility of the evil straight world is rather oversimplified, but the actors give fine, convincing performances and overall *FAQS* has considerable charm.

September from Page 20

one geographic centre but rather a triangle created by Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John. The NBRA flew into the New Brunswick triangle and vanished. In an attempt at geographical equity, meetings were rotated among the three municipalities. In practice, this meant that different groups of people attended each successive meeting and often spent most of their time redoing the work from the previous meeting. Five years later, the NBRA exists only as an e-mail list.

Not only does New Brunswick lack a geographic centre, the three largest municipalities are all located in the southern part of the province, making it difficult to get full participation from the north. Furthermore, roughly a third of New Brunswickers are Francophone, so any truly province-wide group has

to be able to operate in both official languages.

These problems are not insurmountable, but to date they've prevented the formation of a provincial group that can provide political leadership on LGBTT2IQ issues. Temporary task forces may form in reaction to specific issues, as happened with the Lord government's bill on civil marriage officials. As things stand now, however, the responsibility for educating New Brunswick MLAs lies with individual New Brunswickers and, where they exist, with local groups.

Sources: the CBC, the New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal, the Fredericton Gleaner and the websites of the Government of New Brunswick and of Parliament

No Lesbians from Page 13

few standards and try to solve the age-old question: "where are the lesbians?"

I loved the snippets of songs she sang to illustrate her story - "The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music" ... "My Time of Day" ... Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered" - to name only a few.

There were memorable lines too: "I came out to fit in ... nobody believes you're a dyke with long hair ... the butch girl who doesn't fall in love with everyone she sleeps with ... I knew I was different but didn't want anyone

to notice ... what do you do when the one thing in life you want (your straight friend) is the thing you can never have ... lying there listening to her breathing ... it comes to you that all you can ever hope for will not happen for there will always be another guy and she will never choose you ... and you learn that 11 Bayer aspirins taken one at a time will not do the trick for you are too much of a coward to either end your life or to go on living ... (and lastly) ... My thesis: No Lesbians in Musical Theatre - is it Biology or Conspiracy?"

It's a pity the show was only 45 minutes long.

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Events >>

Amherst

Second Monday

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

First and Third Wednesdays

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

Third Thursday of each month

Cumberland Pride Support Group: Opportunities for the GLBT community members who seek support and friendship in an open and friendly environment. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month in Amherst. Place: Trinity St. Stephen United Church, Hearzt Hall, 1 Ratchford St., Amherst, N.S. Need to talk? Need to meet others in your particular situation? Need to make friends? Need to simply socialize? Contact us. Call 902-660-5004 or 902-660-9507. E-mail: gaylords_1975@hotmail.com

Annapolis Valley

Every Thursday

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House Meets every Thursday evening from 7-9pm and also on the first Saturday of every month hosts a Gay/Lesbian dance for ages 19 and up from 9pm-1am. If you need more information concerning themes or other events that may take place call 902-765-2821 or email 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 group at Valley_Girls@yahoo.com.

Bridgewater

Third and Fourth Mondays

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

Third Saturday of each month

(except June 24)
Wileville Dance 9PM to 1AM. Smoke free. For more details call 685-3297 or email info@southshorepride.ca or www.southshorepride.ca

Cape Breton

Nov 26, Dec 17, Jan 28, Feb 25, Mar 25, Apr 29, May 27, June 24

Meetings will be in the same place (Family Place Resource Centre), same day (Sundays) and same time (7:30 - 9:30 pm). All are welcome. If you know of anyone who would benefit from our meetings - they can contact us at sydney@southshorepride.ca, sexual diversity centre 563-1481, Celeste 563-1389 or B. Durdle 563-1443.

Charlottetown

November 8

Pride Trivia - see www.peipride.com for more information.

November 18

Pride PEI will be having a Dance at the Delta.

Starts at 9:30 pm. - see www.peipride.com for more information.

December 9

Pride Variety Show - see www.peipride.com for more information.

January 21-27

Our first Winter Pride Carnaval. There will be a lot of things going on during that week. - see www.peipride.com for more information.

February 14-16

A show called 'CatTails and CockTails'. This will be filled with monologues on sexuality. If you would like to take part in this please contact us. If you have a monologue, but not someone to say it, let us know about that as well. - see www.peipride.com for more information.

Fredericton

Every Wednesday

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

Third Sunday of each month

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

Fourth Wednesday of each month

PFLAG Fredericton meets at 7 PM at the

Unitarian Fellowship, 874 York Street. Everyone welcome. Discussion, guest speakers, support and special events. For more information email pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca. Confidentiality assured.

Last Saturday of each month

Inject some colour into the long grey winter! Every month through Pride Week on the last weekend in June, celebrate the colours of the Pride flag. Join us in fêting this month's colour: PURPLE. Wear it on your clothes, on your shoes, on your face, in your hair or on top of your head. Have fun with it and watch for prizes on upcoming Saturdays. boom! Nightclub, 474 Queen Street

Fredericton Bar & Business Calendar

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Thursdays - Retro night - 70s, 80s, 90s... All dance mixes from a different decade each week. Open 4-1.

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

Bedford United Church, 1200 Bedford Highway, Bedford. We are an Affirming Congregation and

welcome everyone. Services at 9 am (Casual & Contemporary) and 11 am (Quieter & Traditional). June 25-Sept. 10, 10 am service. For more info, call 835-8497.

Every Sunday

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Services are Sunday 11:00pm, AND the second Sunday of the month at 7:00pm, at 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@yahoo.com. Possible events that are being planned for the winter semester include sexuality awareness week, movies nights, potlucks, guest speakers, and many more. There are always spontaneous meals and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join.

First and Third Tuesdays

LGB Youth Project Social Drop-in Nights. This is

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<< Events >>

an unstructured event. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever, 6-9pm, 25 and under, 2281 Brunswick Street. Contact 429-5429, youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca, www.youthproject.ns.ca

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

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

First and Third Sundays

BLT-WOMYN OF HALIFAX. This is a Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's GROUP! 6pm - 7pm, at DALHOUSIE WOMEN'S CENTRE, 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) Come to a discussion night or send us your e-mail address or call a moderator (Sue @ 499-0335). If you have any questions or concerns. A discussion group for Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgender women, who will meet to have open discussions, in a positive environment. To discuss topics concerning ourselves and our community. This is a bi-weekly meeting on Sunday evening at 6pm - 7pm (1st and the 3rd. week of every month) and an online discussion/chat group (every 2nd and 4th week at 6pm - 7pm on line)- We are working on an Online Chat at this time. <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/> or blt-womynofhalifax-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca

First and Third Wednesdays

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

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

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

First Wednesday of each month

GAY FATHERS OF HALIFAX is a peer support group for gay and bisexual men. We meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month. We also get together for a monthly Pot Luck social. For more info contact Bruce @ 469 5490 or Gilles @ 448-3565 or email GayFathersHalifax@msn.com or visit our website at <http://groups.yahoo.com/GayFathersOfHalifax> If you are interested in facilitating meetings, organizing activities or simply meeting a great group of men, then send us an email.

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.

Nov. 9, 23, Dec. 7, 21

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

Nov. 12, 26, Dec. 10, 24

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

Nov 7, 2006

Healthy sexuality workshops at Venus Envy: Cheap Thrills: Do it Yourself Sex Toys, cost:

\$20.00 (limited income \$10.00) 6:15pm 1598 Barrington Street Pre-registration is required, please call 422-0004 For full details visit www.venusenvy.ca

Nov 14, 2006

Healthy sexuality workshops at Venus Envy. I'm Coming! A Guide to Women's Orgasm cost: \$20.00 (limited income \$10.00) 6:15pm 1598 Barrington Street Pre-registration is required, please call 422-0004 For full details visit www.venusenvy.ca

November 14, 30

The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia is pleased to announce the start-up of Halifax's only HIV+ Peer Support Group. This will be a peer-facilitated group, open to all HIV+ persons. 6:30-8:30pm. The group will meet at ACNS which is located at: 326 - 1657 Barrington St, Halifax. To register for the program or for more information please call Cybelle Rieber, Support Coordinator @ 425-4882 x 225 or the Program Facilitator, Stephen @ 877-1932.

Nov 24, 2006

Healthy sexuality workshops at Venus Envy: Going Down: A Guide to Fellatio, cost: \$20.00 (limited income \$10.00) 7:15pm 1598 Barrington Street Pre-registration is required, please call 422-0004 For full details visit www.venusenvy.ca

November 26

ANYTHING GOES AUCTION for the LGB Youth Project! Menz.Bar, Brunch and Viewing from noon to 3 pm. Questions and Donations 902-429-5429. Check out www.youthproject.ns.ca for information on auction items.

Halifax Youth Project Calendar

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

Week 1

Monday - Transgender Discussion Group: A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what trans youth have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. A place to talk about trans issues and make new friends! 7-9 pm, 2281 Brunswick St.
Tuesday - Discussion Group (ages 18 and under) A structured environment with facilitators present to keep discussion on track, while at the same time

helping to lead discussion in the direction that the youth wish to go. The discussions focus on what the youth present have to say, rather than the facilitators lecturing about whatever topic is being discussed. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick St.

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

Week 2

Tuesday - Social Drop-in Nights (ages 25 and under) This is a facilitated but less structured event. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever. 6-8 pm, 2281 Brunswick street

Wednesday - LBG Youth Project Movie Night (ages 25 & under) come out for a movie & popcorn! 7 pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Week 3

Tuesday - Guest Speaker & Discussion night (ages 25 & under) A new speaker every week to educate & spark discussion. This is a structured environment. 7-9pm, 2281 Brunswick street
Wednesday - Activity night (ages 25 & under) A chance to have fun and perhaps learn something new. Activities will be on this night lasting two and a half months. First activity class IMPROV classes. 6-8pm, 2281 Brunswick St

Week 4

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

Halifax Bar & Business Calendar

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Wednesdays - 7pm-11pm Swing dancing "All Welcome", 11pm-2am "Act it Out" w/Boom Boom; Can you act?? Bring

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November LINE UP

Wed. Nov 1, Bear 777 Birthday Karaoke Party Extra Prizes & CAKE!

Fri. Nov 3, - 5:30-8:30 MARTINI TIME with Songmaster BO aka Jennifer L.

McNail

- 10pm-2am Party with DJ Electro
Sat. Nov 4, Leather Night with DJ NEEDLES!
Sun. Nov 5, Caesar Sundayz & TEA Dance



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Mon. Nov 6, KARAOKE with TREVOR - Mystery Jack Song, Win up to \$300
 Wed. Nov 8, KARAOKE with BEAR777 - Mystery Jack Song, win up to \$300
 Fri. Nov 10, 5:30-8:30 MARTINI TIME with Songmaster BO aka Jennifer L. McNeil - Then Party with DJ Electro!
 Sat. Nov 11, Dance to the sounds of DJ Needles
 Sun. Nov 12, Caesar Sundayz & TEA Dance from 3pm till 7pm!
 Mon. Nov 13, KARAOKE with TREVOR - Mystery Jack Song, Win up to \$300
 Wed. Nov 15, KARAOKE with BEAR777 - Mystery Jack Song, win up to \$300
 Fri. Nov 17, Come Celebrate the BIG Boss's 45th B'Day! CAKE & FOOD @ Midnight!
 Sat. Nov 18, BLUE COLLAR NIGHT & TOP 40 with DJ NEEDLES!
 Sun. Nov 19, Caesar Sundayz & TEA Dance from 3pm till 7pm!
 Mon. Nov 20, KARAOKE with TREVOR - Mystery Jack Song, Win up to \$300
 Wed. Nov 22, KARAOKE with BEAR777 - Mystery Jack Song, win up to \$300
 Fri. Nov 24 5:30-8:30 MARTINI TIME with Songmaster BO aka Jennifer L. McNeil - Then Party with DJ Electro!
 Sat. Nov 25, LUMBERJACK Party & MOOSE SEASON II DRAW! with DJ Needles
 Sun. Nov 26, Noon-6pm, Youth Project Brunch & Auction Caesar Sundayz & TEA Dance from 3pm till 7pm!
 Mon. Nov 27, KARAOKE with TREVOR - Mystery Jack Song, Win up to \$300
 Wed. Nov 28, KARAOKE with BEAR777 - Mystery Jack Song, win up to \$300
 Fri. Dec 1, Dancing with DJ Electro
 Sat. Nov 2, Leather Night with DJ NEEDLES
NEW YEAR EVE TICKETS ON SALE DECEMBER 1ST, 2006!

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 Tuesday Karaoke with Troy Ward. \$100 Cash Prize every Tuesday. DJ HedFones follows with great dance music till 3:45 am no cover
 Wednesday - Great live bands on stage till 1am followed by Retro night with DJ Electro and DJ Sapho till 3:45am
 Thursday - Lulu LaRude hosts 5 Minutes of Fame - The anything goes Talent Show where we give away \$200 cash every Thursday. 10pm \$3. DJ HedFones till 3:45am.
 Friday BUMP Fridays with Halifax's Premiere House DJ Sonny D. We continue to define the underground with the best house, techno, and breaks around! \$5 10pm to 3:45am
 Saturday - Squirt Saturdaze with DJ HedFones. The Ultimate dance night in the City of Halifax with Dance, Top 40, Pop, Retro, R & B, and more! 10pm to 3:45am \$5
 Sunday - We feature either great dance music or drag shows, special events, etc.. 10pm start. Cover varies.

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 Thursdays - It's NAKED Night! DROP your Towel
 SAT. & SUN. - Early Bird Special 6am till Noon, Rooms are \$15 & Lockers are \$7.50 & Beverage Specials till 6PM!

Moncton

Third Monday of each month
 PFLAG Moncton has monthly support meeting from 7:30-9:30 in room 302 of the Adrien-J.-Cormier bldg at U de M 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

Last Saturday

Moncton Leather Chapter Leather Nights at Triangles! With the interest and number of people that have started wearing Leather in Moncton, it only seems natural to have a monthly Leather Night so that any man or woman can wear their Leather and know that they will not be alone in doing so when they go to Triangles.

November 3

Moncton's first Man To Man Dance! Moncton Lions Community Centre at 473 St George Blvd. Dance starts at 10 pm and will run til 3 am. There will be great tunes, prizes and a 50/50 draw. Admission will be 7.00 at the door. Proceeds going to the Moncton Leather Chapter whos charity this year is Moncton's Reconnect Program, a program affiliated with the YMCA in aid of Moncton's homeless and street people.

November 17

WOMEN ONLY DANCE with Disco and 70/80's music. This could be a hoot!!! I'll be giving away some prizes as well... check out the web page! www.trianglesbar.com

Moncton Bar & Business Calendar

TRIANGLES

234 St. George St, open Tues-Sun 8pm-2am
 Tuesday & Wednesday: Free Pool, Beer / Bar Shots / Shooters \$3 all night
 Thursday: Karaoke Night, Beer / Bar Shots \$3 until midnight, Shooters \$2.75 all night
 Friday & Saturday: Dance Music with DJ daBoss, Summer Special Beer with Shooter \$4 11pm-midnight
 Sunday: Request all your favourite songs with DJ daBoss, Beer / Bar Shots / Shooters \$3 all night
 Check out our monthly events page at www.trianglesbar.com, and send comments & suggestions to thegirls@nb.sympatico.ca

Sackville

Second Monday

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

Saint John

Third Saturday

Gay Men's Supper Club, 220 Germain St. http://www.portcityrainbowpride.com/ for more information.

Saint John Bar & Business Calendar

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 - LGBT-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 & Business Calendar

Zone 216

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

Sydney

...see Cape Breton

WAYVES DATES!

Check out the front of the magazine for Wayves deadlines and meeting dates -- all are welcome!

Wileville

...see Bridgewater

Wolfville

Every Second Tuesday

Kings County Prostate Cancer Support Group, 7-9 pm in the East Kings Memorial Public Health Centre on Earncliffe Ave in Wolfville. You can ask questions you forgot to ask the doctor or nurse and you can think aloud to help you make your decisions. There is growing evidence that your participation in a group of people who have gone through the processes you are now facing is mentally beneficial and may well contribute to your recovery from prostate cancer interventions. We are an easy-going informal group of 12 men, some of whom bring their spouses/partners to our monthly meetings. Know that you are truly welcome to join us and if you need more information please get in touch with me by e mail dickgroot2003@yahoo.ca or by phone 542 6125. Our correspondence address is the same as my home address: 210 Main Street, Wolfville NS B4P 1C4.

Sex Now from Page 7

St. Mary's University in Halifax. When a coupon-holder calls in, he is invited to participate in the survey and to become a seed himself. Think of a seed growing into a tree with branches spreading out in all directions; each new branch represents a new generation in the tree's growth. The more generations between the seed, its branches and their offshoots, the more the survey becomes truly "respondent driven". This ensures that the data collected is randomly generated and therefore more valid.

Research assistants at St. Mary's compile the data, and this is an important guarantee of confidentiality. St. Mary's has strict protocols in place and only grants its ethical approval to the project if those protocols are adhered to. If a man with a coupon calls the toll free number, the survey (including coupons to pass along) will be sent to him by mail, but his address is not stored in any file or database. The researcher will ask if it's possible make a follow-up call to see if the coupons are

being distributed, but that's up to the respondent and he is perfectly free to decline. If the man calling in is uncomfortable receiving the survey in the mail, he can complete it over the phone, using only the number code on his coupon. He will remain completely anonymous to the researcher. The only drawback there, from a research point of view, is that the chain is broken and that respondent will not himself be a seed. Even the identities of the original seeds are protected, known only to the persons who contacted them. Approximately one hundred surveys have been handed out so far and more than half have been completed. Calls are now coming in from the next wave. It is crucial, however, that seeds pass on their coupons and follow up in encouraging their contacts to call the research line.

The revised survey's questions take only a few minutes to answer, but they will reveal an accurate picture of our community's health and well-being, and the more men

who participate, the more detailed that portrait will be. Since the survey relies on our engagement with it as a community to succeed, we have not only a vested interest in that success but a measure of ownership in the results. The "Sex Now" Survey has the potential to do much more than gather statistics relating to HIV/AIDS, as vital as those are. It may well have a defining impact on how health-care providers and institutions from across Atlantic Canada, along with their federal counterparts, approach the whole area of gay men's health. Perhaps most importantly, with its snapshot of who we are, with all our differences and subtleties, it guarantees that we are no longer invisible, and can never be made so again.

Hugo Dann is the new Gay Men's Health Coordinator with the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. You can email him at gmhc@aens.ns.ca.

prizes, bartenders Blaine, Jason & Simon donated their tips, Ryan MacGrath and the woodenhouse contributed the proceeds from sale of their CD. All of those talented entertainers gave their time and of course Blaine Linden orchestrated the event, and Menz Bar made it all possible. As Chuck put it, "it was a good size crowd and they raised quite a bit of dough."

I had seen Lulu perform but never met him but now that I have met Chuck and Billy I can see why everyone says: "I love Lulu," for he is a wonderful guy who deserves our support. This was an afternoon without too many speeches but instead a lot of love for and from Lulu (aka Chuck).

The next big event coming up is Lulu Larude's 25th Anniversary Celebration on November 12 (10.30 pm) at Reflections Cabaret. Lulu

says of this "Join me and many of Halifax's finest as we celebrate my silver anniversary as a drag performer. Thanks for the love."

To read Lulu's blog see http://www.lulularude.com For information on Ryan MacGrath and the woodenhouse and their music see www.thewoodenhouse.ca To learn about Yvette Boudreau and Bittersweet's CDs see http://bittersweetonline.ca/Yvette.html



Classifieds

groups

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

Men's Reading Group meets regularly in Halifax. Come meet interesting people and discuss gay literature. Check our webpage at www.menread.com. Email menread@gay.com or contact 454-9111 for more information.

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research

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spiritual

CALLING ALL ANGLICANS An Integrity chapter has been formed

Tewksbury from Page 5

Mark was fabulous as the 2006 guest speaker and much better in person than on TV/radio. He has really beautiful eyes and his photographs do not do him justice. I had several opportunities to talk with him. He is so personable and approachable and makes you feel that you are important to him. What a guy!

Mark shared many valuable insights in his talk. Before Mark came out his reality was one of living in shame and not being able to talk about it. Mark's ties with his family are great now but weren't when he came out. "If I could just tell them I am gay everything would be okay, but what I thought would happen didn't. Instead of coming together, we fell apart." It was not great in the world of sport either when Mark came out. He says being gay sets you apart for he would hear "It's okay that you're gay ... just don't talk about it." Mark spoke of the "toxicity of labels" and notions in Olympic sports that all male athletes are straight and all female athletes are lesbians; slowly the myths are fading and the lot of gay athletes is getting better. The Outgames were for Mark working together with the mainstream world to build bridges of mutual respect between the straight and gay world and attitudes started to shift. Mark's life since coming out is one of progress so that he is now a person who is gay - not just a gay person. We can all follow Mark's example using his book as a guide for what to do and what not to do.

There was a silent auction for

in Nova Scotia. Call George 902-757-1706. For Propitiation (traditional Anglicans) call Peter 416-487-7406 (evenings).

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 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.

HOW TO PLACE ADS

CLASSIFIEDS: 25 words for \$9, 25 more for \$6, 10% off if you run the ad 3+ issues.

EVENTS CALENDAR, GROUPS & SERVICES: free.

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Deadlines: page 2! (hint: always the first Friday of the month!)

most of the over \$4,300 in items donated by generous sponsors and a live auction for other items. Mary Ellen is a marvelous auctioneer. One surprise auction item was Mark's shirt, the one he was wearing so you can say he literally gave us the shirt off his back. Believe it or not, somebody paid \$2,500 for it. This was probably the highlight of the evening although Mark's talk, Mary Ellen's humour, the food and the fellowship were well worth the \$90 ticket price.

Why is what may appear to be an elitist event necessary? Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) has been working since 1995 to advance the rights of the Rainbow Community. A lot has been accomplished in the time NSRAP has been around but there is also a lot yet to be accomplished so lots of help is needed in money



PHOTO:ROBERT LALIBERTE

Who are the HIV/AIDS experts?

By Gerard Veldhoven

Health Minister Tony Clement must be an expert on HIV/AIDS issues. He said that he refuses to deal with the "so-called experts" at the conference in Montreal. He fails to realize that these men and women are the experts. The medical researchers and the activists who must continually fight with the powers in governments around the world for proper funding to curb the pandemic, these are the people in the thick of the problem. The millions who have died and the millions still living with HIV/AIDS are the experts.

Clement and his boss Stephen Harper have deliberately ignored this world conference. As soon as the Prime Minister indicated he would not make an appearance, the red flag went up, way up. He accused the conference of being politicized. Well, it has to be, if governments refuse to dole out enough money for research. If politics were taken out of the equation, there would be no assistance forthcoming from the government coffers. This week has certainly opened the eyes of people from around the world. It is without doubt a slap in the face for caring Canadians and, most of all, for the thousands who live with HIV/

AIDS and the researchers who must be provided the financing in order to find a vaccine to cure this dreaded pandemic.

This unfortunate incident once more illustrates the unwillingness of Stephen Harper to acknowledge anything to do with what he thinks is a gay disease. It shows a pattern so obvious. It seems a deliberate attempt to grasp at anything involving the queer community and put it in the trash bin. The shameful behaviour of the Prime Minister and the Health Minister is totally unwarranted and unacceptable to our community, as well as to the straight community. As the world watched and listened, the Conservative government faltered in any effort to embrace this issue with the dignity it deserves. It was a sad week for Canadians as Harper and Clement especially, suddenly became the experts. Neither of these men is a scientist or medically trained.

As I look out over the Trant-ramar Marshes from my Amherst home, I see lots of sunshine today. However, a dark cloud has been in evidence for awhile and I thank Stephen Harper and Tony Clement for darkening the landscape of Canada, by their failure to make

a genuine effort to demonstrate concern for the thousands of men, women and children affected by this stupendous pandemic. Senseless and shameful attitudes hinder the progress required to help the sick people of Canada and the world. Shame on the inaction by the Canadian government and our leaders.

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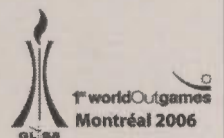
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the auction of items so generously donated. I am sure the very capable Board will learn from its mistakes and do better next year.

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September 18 New Brunswick Election: The Topple That Wasn't

By SarahRose Werner

Looking for the effect of LGBTT2IQ issues on the September 18 provincial election in New Brunswick is like looking for a needle in a haystack that doesn't contain any needles. For one thing, despite the media headlines - "Liberals topple Lord's Tories" - there was no revolution. 80% of the MLAs returning to Legislature will be previous incumbents. Of the 11 "newbie" MLAs, only four won against incumbent candidates. The other seven won seats in ridings where the incumbent was not running again.

Shawn Graham's Liberals lost the popular vote by 1,333 votes. However, when the dust settled, the Liberals had managed to pick up three extra seats to give them a total of 29, while the Tories lost two seats and were left with only 26. The Liberals didn't topple the Tories. They snuck past them.

In Fredericton-Silverwood, former Justice Minister Brad Green, a long-time opponent to equality for same-sex couples in marriage and adoption, lost by 455 votes to Liberal

Rick Miles. In Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak, Liberal incumbent Kelly Lamrock, with a strong record of support on LGBTT2IQ issues, won by 1,017 votes against Tory challenger Heather Hughes, vice-president of the Fredericton chapter of the Canada Family Action Coalition.

The LGBTT2IQ vote in action? Maybe, maybe not. One Fredericton voter explained the outcome this way: "[Green] was seen as Lord's right hand guy in Fredericton and Lord has pissed off Fredericton in many aspects. Thus Lord's gov't (and Green) got defeated. Fredericton overall went Liberal... Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak where Kelly Lamrock (Lib.) ran and won has been supportive of LGBT issues, but again... Fredericton overall seemed to want the Conservatives out of power."

Bernard Lord himself and his Minister of Family and Community Services, Tony Huntjens - no friend to same-sex couples on adoption issues - both won their seats by 989 and 282 votes respectively.

The only party that mentioned LGBTT2IQ issues at any time during the campaign was the NDP, led by Allison Brewer. At the time Brewer was elected to the leadership less than a year before the election on September 25,

2005, there was some mention in the media of the fact that she's an out lesbian. However, this didn't appear to come up again during the 2006 campaign.

At the time of the election, the NDP had not held a seat in the Legislature since October 13, 2005, when former Leader Elizabeth Weir resigned. The party's election campaign was plagued by a lack of financial resources. The NDP also at times seemed disorganized, as when seven of its 55 would-be candidates failed to meet the deadline for submitting their applications to the Chief Electoral Officer.

For whatever reason, the NDP failed to gain any seats and won only 5% of the popular vote. This is the lowest percentage they've won since 1974. (In 1978, they won 6%,

One Saint John voter described the Liberal candidate in his riding as friendly but self-admittedly clueless on LGBTT2IQ issues.

and in the 1982-2003 elections, they won 9-11% each time.) In the wake of these results, some NDP candidates publicly criticized Brewer, while others defended her. One of the critics was Roger Duguay, the NDP's strongest contender with 26% of the vote in Miramichi Bay-Neguac. According to Duguay, Brewer was a tough sell to Francophone voters because she's not fluent in French and to Catholic voters because she was a founder and former manager (1994-1999) of the Morgentaler abortion clinic in Fredericton. The fact that she's a lesbian apparently had no effect.

At the same time, NDP president Pat Hanratty appealed to members for increased financial support. Major political parties in New Brunswick receive an annual allowance from the province based on the number of votes they received in the most recent general election. For the past three years, the NDP has been receiving an allowance based on the 36,989 votes it garnered in 2003. In September's election, that figure dropped by 48% to 19,212 votes. This decrease will cost the NDP approximately \$31,000 each year until the next election. And to make matters worse, only two NDP candidates - Duguay and Brewer - won the

minimum 15% of the vote required to get a rebate on their election expenses from the province.

Historically, the NDP has shown the strongest support for LGBTT2IQ rights of any political party in New Brunswick. What happens if the NDP goes under?

Where do we go from here?

Whom can we look to for future political leadership on LGBTT2IQ issues in New Brunswick? The Lord government's record was dismal. They had to be forcibly hauled into the 21st century by the NB Human Rights Commission, the provincial courts and the federal government (see sidebar). Graham's Liberals have, on the whole, been less than vocal.

When a court decision on June 24, 2005, legalized same-sex marriage in New Brunswick, the Lord government reacted by putting forward a bill that would have allowed any civil marriage official to refuse to marry a couple on the basis of the official's personal religious beliefs. The only open opposition came from the NDP's Elizabeth Weir. Weir single-handedly blocked the bill by refusing to provide the unanimous consent required to "fast-track" it so that it could be passed before the Legislature shut down for the summer. The Liberals were notably silent.

Generally speaking one could say that when it comes to LGBTT2IQ rights, the NB Liberal MLAs are very much like New Brunswickers as a whole. A few, such as Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak's Kelly Lamrock, are long-time friends and supporters. It's almost certain that a few are less than friendly. It's worth noting that in the federal arena, three Liberal NB MPs voted against the Civil Marriage Act. Two of the same MPs were sitting in Parliament in September 2003 and voted against the Act to amend the Criminal Code (hate propaganda).

The majority in the middle are probably at least willing to engage in a friendly chat, but not necessarily well-informed. One Saint John voter described the Liberal candidate in his riding as friendly but self-admittedly clueless on LGBTT2IQ issues.

Prior to the election, a group of five members of the LGBTT2IQ community in the Moncton area requested meetings with both Lord and Graham. According to one group member, "[We] spoke to [Graham] about the Liberals' lack of position on anything GLBT. We were basically asking for the Liberals to develop a party policy surrounding equality (not just GLBT). Given it was election time, we didn't get a firm commitment to develop policy but he did promise to meet with us following the election. I think that this is a good step. The same group attempted to get a meeting with Lord and were not

able to do so."

Another group member agreed that "[Graham] was warm and inviting and I think he has fueled (in us) a push for policy language to be introduced at the next convention. I have a feeling he might even support it." However, the same person questioned whether or not Graham "gets" the denial of equality when it occurs "as a pervasive obstruction of access."

If there's a need to educate Liberal MLAs on LGBTT2IQ issues in New Brunswick, who's going to provide the education? There is no province-wide group working on this task. A group called the New Brunswick Rainbow Alliance (NBRA) attempted to get off the ground in the spring and summer of 2001. However unlike Nova Scotia, New Brunswick has no

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1999-2006: The Lord Government In/Action

June 7, 1999: The Tories under Bernard Lord take control of the Legislative Assembly.

June 29, 2000: The Modernization of Benefits and Obligations Act receives the Royal Assent. By this Act, the federal government changes its definition of spouse and creates a new common-law partner definition that is non-gender specific.

January 1, 2001: Survivor benefits being paid to common-law partners under pension plans legislated by the province are cut off because New Brunswick relies on the federal Income Tax Act definition of spouse and never added the new federal definition of "common-law partner" to its pension statutes. These benefits will not be reinstated until 2004.

June 4, 2001: Nova Scotia begins allowing couples to register domestic partnerships. Asked if New Brunswick might consider doing the same, Justice Minister Brad Green replies, "It's not a policy change that the government has considered at this time."

May 30, 2002: Charged by NDP Leader Elizabeth Weir that New Brunswick denies same-sex couples the right to adopt children, Bernard Lord replies that both single people and married couples can adopt children in New Brunswick. "The single individuals, there's no discrepancy as to what type of relationship they are in. The individuals can be living individually. The individuals can be living in a mixed relationship or they can be living in a same-sex relationship."

June 9, 2003: The Tories under Bernard Lord retain control of the Legislative Assembly, although by a narrower margin than in 1999.

July 28, 2004: The NB Human Rights Commission rules that the province must allow a lesbian to adopt her partner's birth-child. On August 12, Bernard Lord announces that the province will not appeal the decision.

August 5, 2004: Human Resources Minister Rose-May Poirier announces that "for now" her department will apply the definition of common-law relationship used in the Family Services Act regulations to allow payment of survivor pension benefits to the people who were cut off more than three years before. She is unable to say when this policy change will be reinforced by legislative change. She also denies that the policy change has anything to do with complaints currently before the NB Human Rights Commission.

February 1, 2005: Bill C-38, An Act respecting certain aspects of legal capacity for marriage for civil purposes, receives its first reading in the House of Commons.

February 7, 2005: Family and Community Services Minister Tony Huntjens states that if Bill C-38 fails, New Brunswick will maintain its existing adoption laws, which prevent same-sex couples from adopting a "third-party child" that is not the biological offspring of either would-be parent.

June 23, 2005: Judge Judy Clendenning in Moncton rules in favour of four same-sex couples, agreeing that New Brunswick's current definition of marriage violates their rights. Her ruling clears the way for same-sex marriage in New Brunswick, regardless of the future of Bill C-38.

June 28, 2005: Bill C-38 passes in the House of Commons.

June 28, 2005: Justice Minister Brad Green introduces Bill 76, An Act to Amend the Marriage Act, in the Legislative Assembly. If passed, the Act would allow any "person who is authorized to solemnize marriage under [the Marriage] Act" - including civil marriage officials - to refuse to solemnize a marriage that is not in accordance with that person's religious beliefs." Bill 76 receives its second reading on June 29 but Elizabeth Weir blocks its passage on June 30, the last day the Legislature is scheduled to sit before breaking for the summer.

July 20, 2005: The Civil Marriage Act receives the Royal Assent.

September 18, 2006: The Tories lose control of the Legislative Assembly to the Liberals under Shawn Graham.



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