

waynes

June 2008



Surely, God loves a parade!

WAVES

Cape Breton Pride: Everyday People

by Peter Steele

Here it is, June already! Of course, that means a summer of Pride week festivities is about to take off in a flourish across Atlantic Canada and the rest of the country. It's always a great time to celebrate who we are with old friends and new, as well as the communities that not only welcome who we are, but are proud to be apart of our celebrations. In recent years we've certainly enjoyed a number of accomplishments, especially in the political arena, but despite those wins and our growing visibility, homophobia still exists. Pride week celebrations today need to be more than just the

fanfare and the good times. With communities like Truro, Antigonish and Pictou turning back the hands of time it's important that we continue to make a statement about who we are, and who we are meant to be. With understanding comes true acceptance, so it is our duty to walk everyone down that beautiful road to enlightenment, and boy, have we done a great job decorating that road!

Here, in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM), we are so fortunate to have a municipal council and an extensive business community, always proud to be a part of celebrating our diversity. Their tremendous support is an

important part of our week-long festival, as well as the comfortable lifestyle we appreciate here all year long.

Everyday People, this year's Pride Week festival in the CBRM, will be held August 9 to 16. Activities will include some of last year's events and a few new ones. With our parade included as part of Action Week's ending ceremonies, everyone will be looking forward to this year's pageantry (August 10)



throughout downtown Sydney. Our Grand Marshall this year is Bette MacDonald, the pride of Cape Breton, and one of Atlantic Canada's most successful comedi-

ans. Everyone is welcome to stroll in our parade, and groups should be in touch with us to reserve a great spot. The post-parade barbecue party is sure to attract a huge gath-

Cont'd to CB Pride, p. 4

Right Reverend Bishop John Spong in Halifax

By Jane MacConnell, Board Member, Safe Harbour MCC

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church proudly presents Right Reverend

Bishop John Shelby Spong on Saturday June 7, 2008 at the Bella Rose Arts Centre, 283 Thomas Raddall Drive (New Halifax West High School) at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 each and are available by calling (902) 832-9100 or emailing: spong_hfx_tickets@ns.sympatico.ca.

Spong is a retired Episcopalian Bishop from Newark, New Jersey and has been a lighting rod for gay, lesbian and transgendered issues within the Church. He has written many scholarly books about religion. In fact, a number of his books question the tenets of Christianity. His latest book, "Jesus for the Non-Religious," paints a strikingly new and different portrait of Jesus of Nazareth. In it, Spong challenges much of the traditional understanding of the Jesus of history, from his miraculous birth to a virgin to the account of his cosmic ascension into the sky at the

end of his life, as well as other doctrinal supernatural events. Bishop Spong proposes a new way of understanding the divinity of Christ: it's not what you believe; rather it's how you live your life. Traditional Christians who still cling to dated concepts of the past will not be comfortable with this lecture.

Safe Harbour invited Bishop Spong to Halifax because of his progressive Christianity and staunch support of LGBT issues. Bishop Spong has been in religious hot water many times. Most recently, it was his September, 2007 letter to Dr. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the Episcopal Church, which landed him in the middle of another controversy. In the letter Bishop Spong attacked the Archbishop for his handling of the so-called "gay crisis" in the Anglican Communion. Bishop Spong indicated that Dr. Williams, the Archbishop, is a hypocrite, "... displaying breathtaking ineptitude and moral weakness." Apparently

Cont'd to Spong, p. 4

Cumberland Pride #1!

By Dana Osmond, Cumberland Pride Secretary

This summer, Cumberland Pride of Amherst, NS, will be celebrating its first Pride Week from July 7 to 13. A number of events in the works, including a flag-raising at Town Hall on July 7, an open-forum panel discussion on building a Gay/Straight Alliance in Cumberland County on July 12, a dance/social in the evening of July 12 and a family picnic at the week's close on Sunday, July 13. Other events are forthcoming and will be announced.

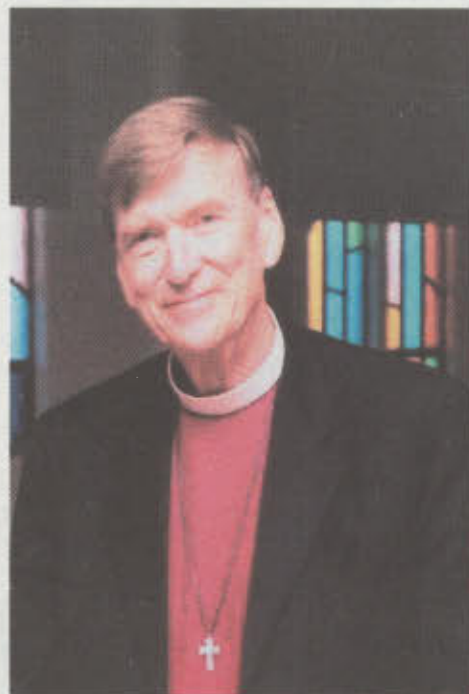
Cumberland Pride is meeting bi-monthly as Pride week approaches, on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Our website will be online shortly so that updates on these and other area events will be more readily accessible.

We have a small but thriving

We have a small but thriving LGBT community

LGBT community in the Amherst/Sackville area. Our celebrations will reflect the diversity that exists within the area, focusing on our common strengths and what the LGBT and straight communities can offer each other.

For more information, including getting dates and times for meetings, please e-mail us at cumberlandpride@hotmail.com or visit our website at cumberlandpride.sytes.net!



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Cumberland County Council Flag Flip

By Gerard Veldhoven

Cumberland County Council recently changed its flag policy in an obvious attempt to halt the request by Cumberland Pride to hoist the rainbow flag during Pride week in July. It made perfect sense to hold the ceremony the same day Amherst Town Council will host the ceremony. However, council unanimously voted to change flag policy, joining the homophobic stances taken by Pictou, Truro and Antigonish councils.

A formal request was sent to County Council to raise the flag and to proclaim Pride week. After two months no reply was forthcoming, so another letter was sent out. A week later Stephen Ferguson, Director of Policy and Research, wrote back and indicated

council members were working on deciding what to do about changing policy and promised to inform Cumberland Pride immediately. The Amherst Daily News reported the change in policy and Cumberland Pride has yet to be notified of the decision.

It has become a typical occurrence and the reasons for this are varied. However, upon reading the excuses, we soon learn it is all about discrimination against the queer community. These homophobic members of council are running scared they may not be elected again. So be it, but in the meantime they are allowed to legally discriminate against our community. It cannot, and must not continue, and hopefully the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission will become

involved in making a ruling that will encompass all of Nova Scotia, not just individual jurisdictions. These council members must be stopped in their tracks if we are to enjoy the rights we have fought for during the past years.

Thankfully, the Town of Amherst is ready to host the flag raising ceremony on July 7 in front of Town Hall. Unfortunately, county members of the GLBT community must wait, but the time will come to make these celebrations a yearly event in all communities across Nova Scotia. A number of ill-minded politicians will not get the upper hand. In the meantime, all are welcome to Amherst to help us celebrate.

Halifax Pride's Community Fair

By Ramona Westgate

In celebration of Halifax Pride Festival's 20th anniversary, we plan to make this year's Pride celebrations bigger and better than ever. In addition to the concert and beer tent, we are expanding the post-parade attractions at the Pride Festival site. The Community Fair will consist of more vendors, more community groups, and activities for all ages. We are even looking at holding competitions such as "The Gayest Dog" at the post-parade celebrations.

Our goal is to have more activities for Pride-goers and their

families to participate in. We are also planning to expand on the available space to include as many agencies as possible that provide services to our community, such

...competitions such as "The Gayest Dog"

as sister Pride organizations, GLBT health and well-being agencies, and sports and recreation groups. It is our vision that Pride-goers would have the opportunity to walk around the Community Fair and learn about services and activities

available to them throughout the Atlantic Provinces.

The Community Fair is a work in progress, and we would appreciate feedback from the community as to what they would like to see. For comments, suggestions, or to register your organization for the Community Fair, please e-mail me at ramona@halifaxpride.ca.



Rainbow Proud in Truro

By Paula Arsenault

Rainbow Proud is the LGBT community of Truro and surrounding areas, an organizational group that meets to plan activities such as parades, outings, dances and more. We meet the first Sunday of each month; however, we are taking a break during summer months. We could always use some more help, so if you are interested in joining our group or if you are looking for information about the LGBT community contact us by e-mail at rainbowproud@hotmail.com. Our website is in the works so send an email and to be kept up-to-date.

Truro Pride is a social group that gathers on Wednesday evenings at the Fair Trade Cafe, Prince Street in Truro. Look for our group—wearing blue t-shirts and perhaps a few rainbows too—marching in the July 1 Diversity Parade in Bible Hill. We have t-shirts in all sizes

with our logo for sale for \$15. They will be available at all our upcoming events or contact the group to get yours.

The next Rainbow Proud dance will be held Saturday, June 28, at the Truro Lions Club, 1100 Prince St. The event begins at 8:00 p.m. and will run through 12 midnight. The cost is \$8.00 at the door, and the event is for those 19 and older.

On July 12, canoe the Stewiacke River with your friends. We need some men this year to add to our canoe pack. Guys, be brave and join us women on the river! An added bonus this year will be a bar-

beque at the Stewiacke River Park for when we get out of the water. E-mail rainbowproud@hotmail.com for details.

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines: Jun 6, Jul 4; that is, the first Friday of each month. You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax): Monday Jun 9, Jul 7, Aug 5, Sep 8. Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, location: AIDS Coalition, 1675 Bedford Row. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax): Jun 15, Jul 13, Aug 10, Sep 14. Help build the paper—no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM, On the stands, in the mail, and online: May 23, Jun 27, Jul 25, Aug 22, Sep 14.

Our Cover:

Cape Breton Pride last year. Photo by Picturesque Photography.

Atlantic Pride Schedule

Prince Edward Island Pride events are being hosted by ARC. This year's dates are July 4 through 12. Check out ARC of P.E.I.'s website at www.arcpei.com for more information on this and other upcoming events.

Halifax Pride will be held from July 20 through 27. Check the website at www.halifaxpride.com.

Gerard Veldhoven, chair of Cumberland Pride, is happy to announce that group's very first Pride this year, to be held from July 7 through 13. Check their website at cumberland-pride.sytes.net.

Read all about Cape Breton Pride, August 9 to 16, in Peter Steele's article on Page 1.

Saint John, NB's Port City Rainbow Pride will hold its Pride celebrations from August 10 through 17. Check their website at www.portcityrainbowpride.com.

Moncton's River of Pride takes place this year from September 6 through 14. The website is www.fieremonctonpride.ca and has a full line-up of events.

A few Pride celebrations still are to be announced. Check their websites or send off an e-mail for more information: Pride of Pictou County, NS, www.prideofpictoucounty.ca • St. John's, NL, www.stjohnspride.net • Truro Pride/Diversity Committee, NS, contact Kim Cole at cole@tru.eastlink.ca

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.

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BLT Women of Halifax Road Trip

By Sue Andrews, Karen Clarke, Sharon Chiasson

The BLT Women of Halifax group recently took a road trip to Moncton, its purpose being to get rid of the winter blahs and just have fun. The BLT group is made up of lesbians, bisexual and transgender women; but events like this are amazing just because we are all just women having fun, no mat-

ter the logistics. The facilitators of the group see the strong bonds of friendship being built between the women. Friendships are not always easy, especially when you have been hurt in the past. This type of event is very important to the group and the members.

The plans were set in motion, but the first date for the road trip to Moncton was cancelled because

of a storm. The next date for the event was April 26. The hotel was booked, the cars were filled with gas and off to Moncton we went. When we all arrived we went out to dinner and enjoyed great food and conversation. Afterward, we went to the hotel to get ready for the evening out at Triangles. When a group of diverse women get together its very interesting to

see how the communication of the conversation is. In the BLT group it is truly amazing to see everyone just being themselves, without judgment and just unconditional acceptance of each other. When we arrived at Triangle we were welcomed with open arms. We played pool and dance the night away, then continued the party with pizza



after arriving back at the hotel around 2:00 a.m.

This event was a great success. I am sure we will be laughing about this road trip for years to come.

ISCANS News

By Ed Savage

As a lot of you are aware, ISCANS is the Imperial Sovereign Court of Atlantic, Nova Society, an organization that raises much needed funds for charity. We hold events every week to raise money. In April, our Empress, BoomBoom, along with Dowager empress Natasha N, represented Halifax in Cal-

gary at Coronation 32. Empress IV and VIII BoomBoom and Regent Emperor VIII Cousin Cletus also represented Halifax in Edmonton for Coronation.

In May, ISCANS held a number of events, starting with Just for Laughs on May 4, the King and Queen of Diamonds show on May 11, a theme night on May 17 at

Blue Moon, and Natasha's birthday on May 25, all very well received with lots of funds raised. On May 19 we also held our Community Appreciation Barbeque, an annual event held every Victoria Day. Many thanks to all who came out to support us.

In June we will hold our annual ICP Ball at Reflections Cabaret.

Come out and support our ICP's VIII DynaMight, Rouge Fatale, Shane Jefferies, and David Cosens (what a team!) It should be fun. There will be a weekly show held at the Blue Moon every Sunday night in June. As well, look for our Empress and Emperor Cousin Cletus and the team out doing "Buck a Suck." If they approach

you and ask you to buy a sucker, please do so, as all the money goes to charity.

ISCANS would like to thank everyone for their support and remind you to mark your calendars for Coronation 2009, which will be held on February 7, 2009 at the Holiday Inn on Robie St., Halifax.

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ering, so come out for some great food and entertainment.

Gay Bingo will be replaced this year with a special drag show extravaganza hosted by our own Darren McKinnon. Robert Barrie, Donna Cameron and other guests will deliver a wonderful night of entertainment at our MusicFest on August 15, and we will celebrate the life of the late Heath Ledger with a screening of "Brokeback Mountain" during our free movie night on August 12. Other movie titles will be posted on our website soon.

Baseball will return once again, and this year will mark the inaugural awarding of the Pride Friendship Memorial Trophy in memory of our fellow Cape Bretoners who we've lost over the years. The Family Arcade and Picnic is always a special event, and everyone is certainly welcome. Be sure to bring the kids. Our Pride Dance has been switched to Friday night, August 15, so everyone can better enjoy the Beach Party, which takes place the next day, on August 16. As there is every year, and thanks

to our numerous sponsors, there will be prizes and give-aways at our events. Of course, more activities are still being finalized, and they will be listed at www.pridecapebreton.com.

We're always looking for volunteers for Pride Week, so if you're interested in getting involved with your community, email us at info@pridecapebreton.com, or contact a board member. So let me take this opportunity to invite everyone to visit us for Pride Week in Cape Breton this summer. The hospitality is always warm and



friendly. After all, this is Cape Breton! Come and enjoy yourself with some great everyday people.

Photos (and cover) by Picturesque Photography



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Spong, fm p.1

Dr. Williams, prior to becoming the Archbishop, held enlightened and welcoming views and opinions regarding homosexuality, but when he was appointed the Archbishop of Canterbury, he chose the unity of the church above the truth regarding the sexual preferences of some of the clergy leadership. This hypocrisy so infuriated Bishop Spong that he threatened to "out" all the closeted gay bishops within the Anglican Church and the Church of England. Thus Bishop

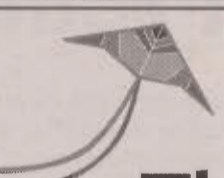
Spong has been blamed for further poisoning the tempestuous relationship between the US Church and the Anglican Communion. We at Safe Harbour welcome Bishop Spong and hope the lecture will bring about meaningful dialogue between the spiritual and the secular.

Safe Harbour will also be hosting Bishop Spong at our 11:00 a.m. Sunday worship service on June 8, at 3115 Veith St., Halifax. All are welcome.

JESUS FOR THE NON RELIGIOUS

JOHN SHELBY SPONG

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EGALE AGM in St John's

Gay Teens Surveyed Feel Unsafe in School

...we as a society have learned that homophobic bullying and name-calling is a significant problem in schools

By Susan Rose

Egale Canada released the results of phase one of the first ever national School Survey addressing homophobia and transphobia in Canadian schools at a press conference in St. John's, Friday May 9. The survey polled 1200 students from across the country and the results are based on those who self-identified as LGBTQ or straight and who were enrolled in school in the last year.

Over two-thirds of LGBTTIQ participants reported that they felt unsafe at school, compared to 1 in 5 straights participants. Almost a third (31%) reported having rumours spread about them on the internet and 41% had been sexually harassed.

The survey is designed to explore the experiences of homophobia and transphobia of students in grades 8 to 12 in Canadian schools. The aim of the project is to document the realities of life at school for straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, Two Spirit, intersex, queer, and questioning (LGBT-TIQ) students in Canada, including kids of gay parents, with the goal of providing policy makers and educators with information that will help them make schools safer and more respectful.

In recent years we as a society have learned that homophobic bullying and name-calling is a significant problem in schools here in Canada. It is not just LGBTTIQ students who are victimized. Students with same sex parents, and straight students are also affected.

The "Jubran case" for example where the Supreme Court of British Columbia ruled that the school Board had failed to protect a heterosexual student from years of homophobic name calling. In fact, this form of abuse is so common that students can hear "fag" or "gay" and other terms used as insults up to 75 times every day at school.

Helen Kennedy, executive director of Egale said the education system is failing our youth. The results of the survey are extremely disturbing. Almost 40 per cent of straight students reported that they had made homophobic remarks sometimes or frequently.

Studies show that students subjected to homophobia have higher rates of depression, suicidal thoughts, alcohol and drug abuse, and drop out rates. In Canadian society we've come so far with respect to human rights, why is the school environment so unsafe for LGBTTIQ students? Kennedy said the problem is being ignored by the very people who are there to protect the kids. She feels teachers aren't being adequately trained to deal with the issue. Egale is working with teacher colleges to help them develop courses dealing with homophobia. The second phase of the survey will be launched in the fall. It is available on line at www.climatesurvey.ca.

Egale held its Annual General Meeting in St. John's, Saturday May 10th where members elected a new board. The focus for the board this year will be issues facing the trans community and the Safe School Campaign.

Photo: Tom Decker, member Egale Canada and LGBT liaison officer for Toronto Police; Helen Kennedy, executive director, Egale Canada; Susan Rose, Atlantic representative and board member, Egale Canada





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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITEH

Hello Tom!

Thank you for the lovely birthday card and yes it did arrive on time. I presume a present will also arrive shortly? Parcel post is notoriously slower than regular mail, I know. So thoughtful of you, Tommo and with hardly any hints from me. The celebrations were the usual high spirited and friend-filled occasions. I do enjoy being fêted and it makes my circle of bosom pals so happy too. Dr. Martini invited me to dinner at his house where we had Gibson martinis – you know with the little pickled onions – as our pre-dinner drinks while he whipped up one of his usual fabulous culinary delights in the kitchen: Italian Chili with pepperoni. You can't beat a good sausage.

The following night I enjoyed another delicious dinner in my honour at the Anthill and Fisherman's Freud's house. By some arcane arithmetic the Anthill decided that this year was my champagne birthday and so she, FF and I shared a bottle of bubbly. I forbore from pointing out that we have been drinking champers at my birthday – and on many other occasions – for the last decade. It might have seemed ungrateful or worse, discouraged her from continuing the tradition. For several days in a row I received amusing birthday cards and phone messages– Monsieur Montréal called to wish me Bonne Fête - and even virtual gifts with automated messages on Facebook, which a more cynical nature than mine might regard as lacking in effort and enthusiasm.

All in all, the birthday provided a little oasis of pleasure in an otherwise very weird week. It all began with a tiny glitch on my computer system that required me to contact the support network. They needed to take over remote control of my computer to fix the little problem. Eight hours later Chandra and Prakash, my very polite and patient support team, had both given up. Apologetically they told me they had put in a temporary security system - rigged up with the technological equivalent of two rubber bands and a paper clip, I think – and said they'd send me a disk to complete the installation.

The following day I needed to go to the DMV to get my driver's license renewed. This simple procedure took over two hours since they too had some computer issues. Of the four stations, one was already out of order when I arrived and only two cameras were working. My frustration and pent up anger were not soothed during my sojourn in bureaucracy when over the increasingly loud mutterings of discontent from the public I kept hearing, "Oh dear. I've never seen that screen before. What do I do now?" I stuck it out though, Tom, and for once my license has a photo that

doesn't look like it was taken at gunpoint. But a pattern began to emerge. I had to go to the income tax office three times because I had the wrong documents. Twice. On spring clean up day instead of my landlord's old suitcase with a broken zipper being taken out to the roadside, my brand new suitcase got put out by mistake where it was grabbed up like a twink at a bathhouse. The next night, just before going to bed I knocked a bottle of grapeseed oil off the shelf in the kitchen– slippery oil and jagged shards of glass everywhere.

To take my mind off of the jinx I amused myself by trying to follow the labyrinthine American political system. Delegates, super delegates, popular vote, Electoral College... crazy! The only reason I watch of course is because with Barack Obama we finally have a politician I enjoy picturing naked. Oh come on, Tom! Yes we can!

There is a definite lack of sex appeal in the Canadian political scene. The rare bit of beefcake that one sees in the House of Commons almost always comes with bovine intelligence as well. Of the party leaders, Jack Layton is pleasant enough looking but not really sexy. Gilles Duceppe is too intense and angry. Then there is the Prime Minister whose physical touch would probably give frost bite. Or Stéphane Dion who has all the charisma of day old porridge. It's discouraging.

Fortunately the warm weather has arrived which always revives my spirits. The other day I was so caught up in the sensual delights of spring that I nearly threw myself down on a green sward among the wild violets just to soak up the joyous feeling of renewal and growth. Till I remembered that my jacket was suede and my jeans were freshly washed and the moment passed. Oh, but I do love this time of year with the smell of new mown lawns, the burnt offerings on barbecue grills and the visual delight of young bare-chested joggers wearing those tiny silk shorts that sometimes seem to be whispering my name. Lots of other wonderful sounds too – peepers, bird song, the chatter of horny squirrels as they chase each other across tree tops. And, of course, that most soul satisfying sound of all: the sharp crack of an ice cube when you pour gin on it.

Love ya!

Crawford

Northern AIDS Connection Society



By Al McNutt

The Northern AIDS Connection Society is getting prepared for their annual Art for AIDS Auction scheduled for June 2, 2008. This event will be held at the Best Western Glengarry Hotel. This initiative is yet another way of raising much needed awareness and necessary funds to deal with the ever increasing workload. If you are an artist or know of anyone wishing to make a donation for the main auction or the silent auction, please contact our office in Truro.

The HIV Family Support group just wrapped up and are presently dealing with evaluations and feedback. The one common concern was loneliness and isolation of those dealing with the loss of a loved one, especially when residing in a rural community. It is the Board and staff's hope to acquire funding to host a two-day camp for families sometime in 2009. This group was a very rewarding experience for the participants, staff and volunteers. The funding was provided by the Truro & Area Community Health Board. The Board of Directors would like to extend their sincere appreciation for this support.

The final details are being worked out to host our Transgendered Workshop. This initiative has been funded by Abbott Laboratories and will be a joint effort between Northern AIDS Connection and Denise Holliday from Maritime Transgendered Workplace Solutions. We hope to invite groups working directly with the Trans community and making a link with HIV/AIDS. Some groups we hope to attract are the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, Healing Our Nations, Stepping Stone, the

Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health, Dalhousie University, the Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on HIV/AIDS and more. Any enquiries should be made through our office.

Our partnership with the Halifax Sexual Health Centre to provide HIV Anonymous testing in the Truro area started in April. We are hoping that this initiative will add to the broad range of services offered at our Truro location. It is the intent of Northern AIDS Connection to advocate for a similar service to be offered in the Pictou and Cumberland County areas.

The staff has been extremely busy applying for funding to hire a summer AIDS Walk for Life Coordinator. Preparations are already getting started towards strengthening our sites in Truro, New Glasgow and Amherst and we hope to have an additional site in the Elmsdale area this September.

The Northern AIDS Connection Society is active as a key partner in the organizing and promotion of the week long Diversity Event to be held in Colchester County. Our organization is making plans to host an event "The Life & Times of Janet Connors." We hope this will be well attended. During this week there will be a whole range of activities and events scheduled throughout the communities in the Colchester area.

The Open House and Healthy Decision Making Fair are being postponed until the fall.

For enquiries or information please contact us at 902-895-0931 or by email at nacs@eastlink.ca. Our address is 33 Pleasant Street, Truro, N.S. B2N 3R5.

Ultimate Frisbee in Halifax

Lookin' to Score (formerly known as Suck-My-Disc), HURL's queerest and most spirited ultimate frisbee team is recruiting for the summer season.

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and impromptu parties; and are committed to one game and two practices each week

Interested in playing? Join the 'SUCK MY DISC, SUNDAY HURL TEAM' Facebook group and send an email to Kim Speed at neuschnee@gmail.com

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Gay Men's Health

Read This... Literally!

By Angus Campbell
Many years ago my best friend from high school bought me "The Joy of Gay Sex" for my birthday. I was thrilled. Unfortunately, my dad wasn't when he found it in my bedroom, and promptly destroyed it without my knowledge. "When you're in my house you live by my rules," he said. I moved out shortly thereafter.

Things have changed a lot since that day, and so have gay men's health issues, especially sexual health. So last week I bought myself a belated birthday present: "The Advocate Guide to Gay Men's

Health and Wellness," by Frank Spinelli, M.D. The book is informative, fun, and necessary for all gay men, especially for those over 35.

This guide includes sections on everything: Coming Out to your Doctor, the Gay Male Physical Exam, Sexual Compulsion and Addiction, the Male Pap Smear, and more. Dr. Frank includes lots of tips, such as relationship tips (talk,



listen, boundaries, expectations, outcomes) and many personal experiences. My favourite is the following:

"The first time I encountered a patient with an irretrievable foreign object was on a quiet Friday night in the E.R. A male nurse named Paul woke me up in the call room and handed me the chart with a Cheshire cat grin. Staring at the diagnosis, Paul had written F.O. (foreign object) with a smiley face in the O. 'That's right doll face,' he said. 'You're on.'"

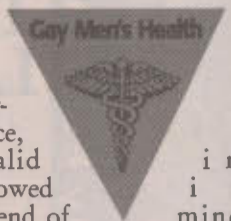
Inside the GYN room I found Robert, a 35 year old male lying

on the exam table huddled in the fetal position moaning quietly. He had inserted a dildo into his rectum four hours earlier and was unable to remove the object. After performing a rectal exam, I was able to palpate the tip of the base of this dildo. I instructed Paul to administer some sedation in order to relax the patient, and after 15 minutes of prolonged steady traction, I was able to remove it. As I fell back onto the floor with the dildo on my lap, Paul exclaimed, 'It's a boy!'

Although this book was written

primarily for an American audience, it's still valid in Canada. I showed it to a gay friend of mine who is a friend of he said he had no interest in reading it. Half an hour later I asked him to go buy his own copy as I wanted mine back! Available at Venus Envy for \$24.95.

Got health and sexual health questions? Email me at angcam59@yahoo.ca.



Income & Food Security for Nova Scotia PHAs

By Larry Baxter and Jennifer Heatley, Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS

The ability to meet life's most basic needs is a constant struggle for many people living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) in Nova Scotia.

"You are always weighing off one choice against another," says one PHA, commenting on the fact that many PHAs must choose between purchasing food and paying for rent or for other items such as electricity.

Focus groups conducted with PHAs in 2006 for the Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS (the Commission) explored income support as a quality of life issue facing PHAs. The consequences can be detrimental to health, resulting in high levels of stress, living situations that may be unhealthy and/or unsafe and poorer nutrition. Proper nutrition is often sacrificed in the face of meeting other basic needs such as shelter.

For another perspective on nutrition, Commission Chair, Larry Baxter, and another Commissioner participated in the 2007 food costing survey done by the Nova Scotia Food Security Network, in conjunction with Mount Saint Vincent University and the Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection. The results released in late April show that the average cost of a basic nutritious diet for a family of four in NS in 2007 was \$648.33 per month. This means that approximately 120,000 Nova Scotians cannot afford to eat this basic nutritious diet.

For a single male the sample food basket was \$223.13. For optimal health, people living with HIV/AIDS require a high protein nutritious diet which will cost even more than this basic food basket. The affordability analysis indicated that this lone male on provincial Social Assistance at the base level would have a monthly deficit of \$217.39. However, recipients with health issues can apply annually

and may qualify for up to \$150 a month for dietary supplements.

The dilemma of balancing income, nutrition and housing became even more evident when the results from a Housing and HIV study by the Ontario HIV Treatment Network were reviewed recently with researchers in Halifax.

Housing related security, supports and stress have a significant impact on the physical and psychological health of PHAs.

Under the umbrella of the provincial Strategy on HIV/AIDS the Commission will add these research findings into its ongoing analysis and discussion of income, food and housing security with the Department of Community Services and other government

Recipients with health issues may qualify for up to \$150 a month for dietary supplements



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departments, as well as community based AIDS and chronic disease organizations.

For more information on these studies and other aspects of the provincial HIV/AIDS Strategy, contact the Commission at 424-5730 or aids@gov.ns.ca.

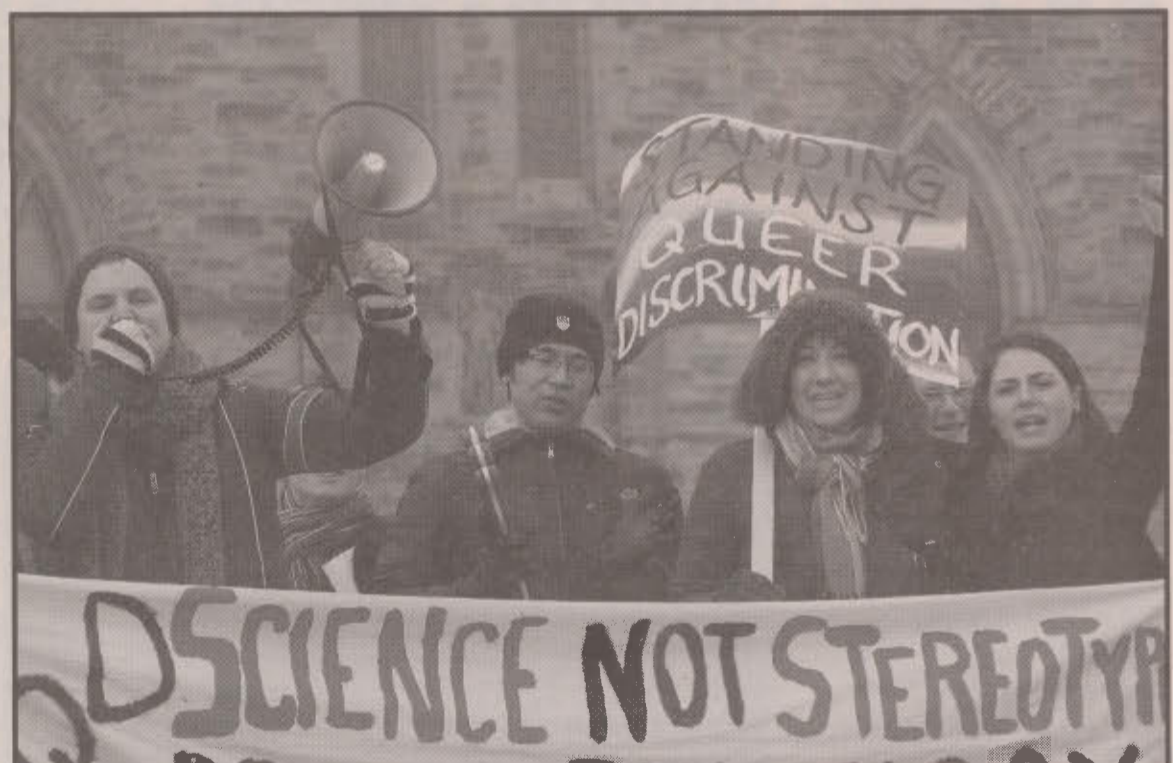
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Essentially Queer, Queerly Essential

For the Love of a Queen

By Graham North
Part I

Nothing I haven't seen before, she thought. I can do this.

The spotlight in Eureka Love's eyes was blinding, and although she couldn't see the audience at Reflections Cabaret, she could feel the scrutiny in their eyes judging her every move.

Eureka was filling in as the host of Five Minutes of Fame, a weekly event that attracts Halifax's finest drag queen talent to compete for bragging rights and \$200 in cash. The regular host, legendary drag queen Lulu LaRude, was away in Edmonton headlining a fundraiser for the annual Loud 'N' Queer extravaganza. Eureka had only ever dressed in drag once before—for Halloween, which every real queen knows does not count. Now she was expected to perform multiple routines in front of a mob of drag veterans.

No pressure, she tried to convince herself. Yeah, right.

The crowd was silent as they watched the rookie wobble onto the stage. A sharp eye might have

picked up a strangely confident smirk in the corner of Eureka's mouth, but most of the audience only watched the shaky steps of an inexperienced drag queen.

Before she began, Eureka Love glanced down past her quivering knees and stared at her feet, and it occurred to her again whose stilettos she was trying to fill.

There's no other way to put it: Lulu LaRude is the Queen of Queens.

Even after death.

For 25 years, Chuck Gillis was the undisputed face of Halifax's budding drag scene. He created Lulu LaRude, a flirtatious, curvaceous and sassy woman with a presence that demanded attention. She exuded an aura of royalty.

Lulu personified the expression, "larger than life." The 43-year-old Caper stood comfortably taller than six feet with a bulky, solid frame. In six-inch heels, Lulu towered above her drag kingdom, waltzing gracefully with every step. In every way, the drag community looked up to her. She was an unstoppable force.

You only need to talk to a couple of Lulu's friends to understand that unstoppable is not an exaggeration—it's an understatement. Lulu was once walking home from a show in Edmonton in full drag when five guys jumped her in a parking lot. She didn't even bother to take her heels off as she pummelled all five of her befuddled attackers. "I won't start a fight," says Lulu, "But I sure as hell won't lose one."

Lulu LaRude had been a drag queen since she was 17 years old, at which point she burst onto the unsuspecting Edmonton scene. Her passion, charisma and attention to detail distinguished her from the few drag queens in Alberta in 1982. She cared about every step, every movement, and every lyric from every song. Her alter ego, Chuck, was a successful makeup artist, and he helped bring a realistic and natural look to Lulu's character. Stephen Filek, the manager of Reflections, says Chuck "could do anything. Give him a hot glue gun and he'd have an outfit in 10 minutes."



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always made it her duty to make sure everyone was having a good time. She wasted no time on negativity.

When Lulu was bubbly, the crowd had a wonderful time. When she was mad, it was even better. For the Queen of Queens, the stage was her kingdom. "Get the fuck off my stage!" she ordered one audience member who made the unthinkable mistake of walking across her stage, then throwing a beer bottle. Within seconds,

Lulu had picked up the bottle and whipped it right back at him. The audience erupted in cheers as the bouncers kicked the offender out of the bar. Queen Lulu simply returned to her throne.

The fire of life in Lulu LaRude was not fuelled by anger or contempt, however. It was purely

passion. She loved her kingdom and the elegant craft it represented. Lulu's grace was mystifying for her overbearing physique, her moments smooth and exacting.

She can't be a man... can she?

To many, she was an angel. A fabulous, foul-mouthed angel.

And Five Minutes of Fame gave her wings.

So when Eureka Love—the rookie—stumbled clumsily onto the Reflections stage in the omnipresent shadow of Lulu LaRude, the pressure was suffocating.

"Oh, I'll just put on a wig and it'll be no problem," she had always joked.

Not quite.

Somewhere beyond the glare of the spotlight, the eyes of Halifax's premier queens—renowned for

their cattiness—were following Eureka's every move.

But Eureka was ready.

The confident smirk in the corner of her mouth widened into a stunning smile as Eureka soared off the stage and hung slow-motion in the air. She landed impeccably in her pumps on the ground below, then immediately tore into Lulu's flagship song, "Cotton Fields":

When I was a little bitty baby
My mama done rock me in the cradle

In them old cotton fields back home

The fast-paced notes churned out of the speakers and drifted into the ears and open mouths of the host's dumbfounded audience. In Lulu's classic outfit of black corset, grey skirt and purple shrug,

Eureka pranced around the stage with ease.

Two weeks of practicing in heels had paid off.

By her second number, Eureka had washed herself of apprehension and found her groove. She slipped into "black drag"; a transition that requires the queen to dust her face and arms with black powder on top of the makeup. Eureka would later learn that it's much easier (and far less messy) to pull black nylon leggings over your arms, but tonight it didn't matter.

What's a little black powder? Eureka Love had shocked the drag world.

That was the beginning: so easy, so fun.

But Eureka never could have prepared herself for how much harder it would become when Lulu LaRude asked her to do the unthinkable...

(to be continued)

"It's one thing to do drag," Lulu would say, "but it's another thing to make it look easy." From head to toe, Lulu LaRude made it look easier than anyone in the business.

You could feel her in the room, says a close friend, even if she wasn't talking, and even if she wasn't in drag. She boosted everyone's spirit. She laughed the loudest, smiled the biggest and

"It's one thing to do drag," Lulu would say, "but it's another thing to make it look easy."

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Healing Our Nations: The Atlantic First Nations AIDS Network

By Gabe Saulnier
 Healing Our Nations (HON) is a not for profit Aboriginal HIV/AIDS which serves the Atlantic region: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick; Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. HON was also known as "The Atlantic First Nations AIDS Task Force" and changed to the current HON several years ago. We are located at Suite 3, 15 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, B2Y 2N2. Office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. We have a toll free number, 1 (800) 565-4255. We do not have caller ID and your calls are confidential. Our email address is hon@accesswave.ca and our website is www.hon93.ca.

As part of our services, we offer free workshops to your First Nation/Aboriginal community or organization. We also offer cross-cultural training for mainstream organizations. All you need to do is call us and book a time for your workshop. We offer workshops ranging from a couple of hours to a full week.

Our workshops are as follows: AIDS 101; Hep C 101; Sexually Transmitted Infections; HIV/AIDS and Aboriginal Women; HIV/AIDS and Aboriginal Youth; Caring for Aboriginal Persons Having AIDS; The Reality of Crystal Meth; Empowering Aboriginal Women—Moving Forward; Step by Step—A Community Response to HIV/AIDS; Gender and Sexuality; and Cross-Cultural Training.

All these workshops are delivered to your group, community or organization in a manner respectful

of traditional ways.

Healing Our Nations staff currently consists of Monique Fong (Executive Director), Theresa Morris (Community Health Educator for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland), Gabe Saulnier (Community Health Educator for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island), and Pete Adema (Accounting and Information Technology). Alison Lloy, a former social work placement, is a research assistant with HON.

If you have any questions about HIV or AIDS, do not hesitate to call our office anytime at the toll-free number above. If you get the answering machine, please leave us a message and we will get back to you. Feel free to drop by our office—we would love to give you a tour.

Fundraising

HON has a fundraising project on the go, called "Making a difference one nickel at a time." For some time, HON has had an Aboriginal Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (APHA) Fund, a fund which helps members of Healing Our Nations with buying food supplements, vitamins, and medications. If you are an Aboriginal person living with HIV and have a valid status card, you can get a monthly cheque to help you. Unfortunately, the bank balance is extremely low, and HON and the APHA's rely on fundraising to maintain a balance in this account. As a fundraiser, we are asking you to save your pop cans, returnable

bottles, and juice containers, return them to your local Enviro Depot and donate the funds to the APHA Fund. We are counting on you to help our APHAs! If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Gabe Saulnier at 1 (800) 565-4255.

Refresh your HIV/AIDS knowledge

HIV stands for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. AIDS stands for

Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome. You have to have HIV before you get AIDS. AIDS is a collection of illnesses that you get because you have HIV. There is no cure for HIV/AIDS. Anyone can HIV/AIDS: it does not just affect gay men and it's not found only in big cities.

Every day, more and more of Aboriginal people become infected with HIV. Right now, it is estimated that over 500 Aboriginal people a year get infected with HIV. Many people do not even know they are infected with the virus and unknowingly pass it on

by having unsafe sex or sharing needles. The infection rate among Aboriginal people is estimated to be 7 times higher in the Aboriginal community than in mainstream society.

You can get HIV from having unprotected anal, vaginal or oral sex, sharing drug needles, or coming in direct contact with infected blood. If you are pregnant, you can pass it on to your unborn child.

You cannot HIV from hugging, dry kissing, holding hands, using the toilet, using dishes, from water fountains or swimming in a pool. You cannot tell by look-



ing at someone if they have HIV or AIDS, the only way you can find out is by having an HIV test. This test can be done at your local hospital or if you are near a city, there may be anonymous testing offered there.

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Raising The Bar

Menz & Mollyz Relocated, Renovated, Reinvented

By Angus Campbell

By the time this goes to press, the new Menz Bar and Mollyz Diner should be open, barring any inspection problems from the city. Doug, David and crew have been working long and hard, and their efforts are evident everywhere. The new venue is extremely spacious, interesting and inviting.

"It's taken much longer for us to rebuild, re-invent and re-create, but the wait has definitely been worth it. I'm proud to be working towards making Halifax's community the envy of any other city," says Doug Melanson co-owner.

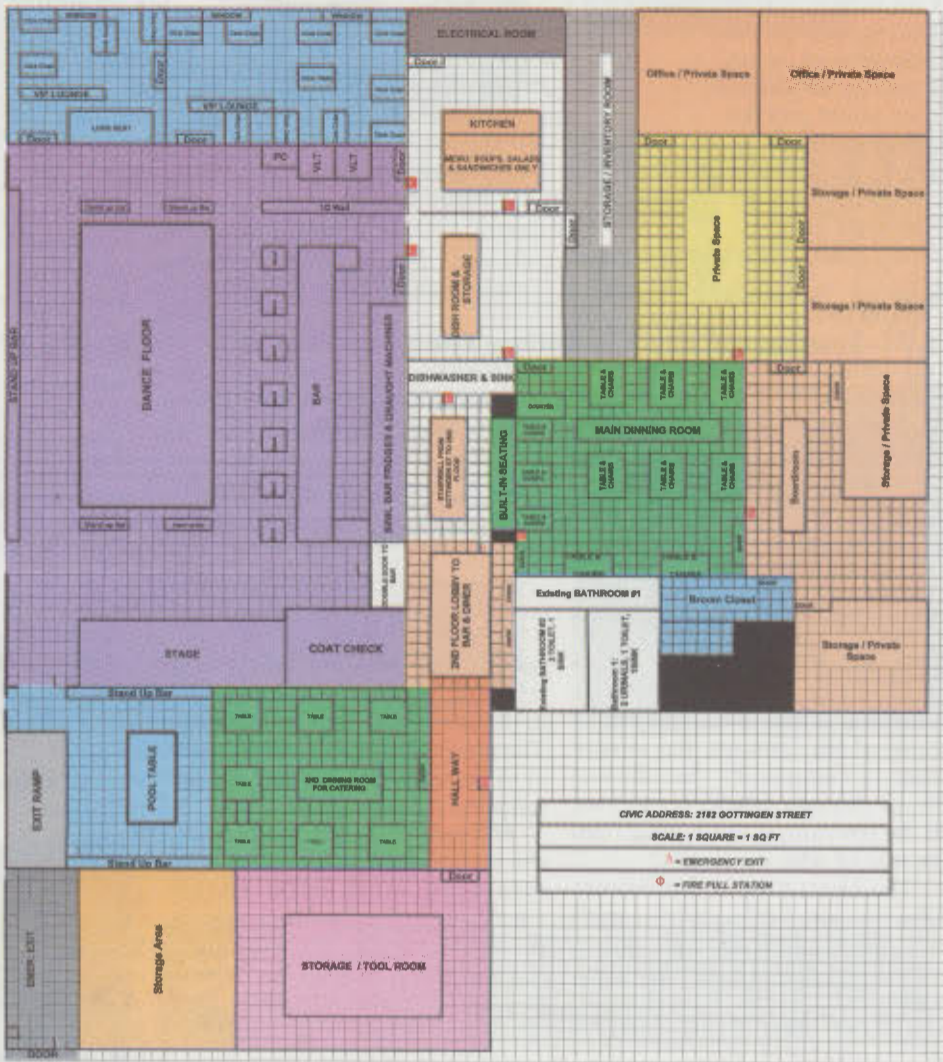
The dance floor and bar account for only a third of the place. Well appointed VIP lounges, already nicknamed the Head Room and the Tail Room, are available for private functions, and there are two separate dining rooms. As you can see from the floor plan, there are so many rooms, you'll be aMAZED (pa-dum-pum).

I don't want to spoil any surprises by describing the new decor, because I suggest you experience

it firsthand, room by room. But if you're one who can't wait, check out www.menzbar.ca and scroll halfway down the page for a number of photos. On my most recent tour it was obvious Doug is really proud of their new baby. And so he should be. They haven't just moved down the street, they've created an exciting new space for

Halifax's Rainbow Community and visitors.

I'll always have fond memories of the old spot, and I'm really looking forward to making new ones at 2182 Gottingen Street. I once read on a menu that "good food takes time to prepare" ... and so do good establishments! Congratulations to the Menz and Mollyz team!



Employment Opportunity Calendar of Events Editor

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Open to residents of Atlantic Canada. E-mail applications to submissions@wayves.ca

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July 7th - 12:30

Public Forum - Hartz Hall
July 12th - 1:30-4:00pm

Pride Dance - Old Warehouse Cafe
July 12th - 8pm-1am - \$7.00

Family Picnic - Northport Park
July 13th - 11am

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Chef's Corner



Now that spring feels like it is here to stay, it's time to fire up the back yard grill and invite friends over for fabulous cook out. This recipe has become a family favourite. It works great on pork, beef or chicken and keeps for up to a month in a sealed container in the fridge. The secret to great BBQ ribs is a good dry rub, time for them to marinate, a long slow, low heat cooking process and of course a kick ass BBQ sauce. You will want to make sure your covered grill is heated to and maintained at 275°F and have 3 hours worth of propane. Give the raw ribs a generous coating of the dry rub, wrap them tightly

in plastic wrap and let marinate in the fridge overnight or for up to 24 hours. Place the ribs racks meaty side up and let them slow roast for 2 - 2 1/2 hours, then turn them over, baste the underside with the sauce, let it bake for another 10 minutes, then turn them over and repeat the same process to the other side twice. And there you have it, perfect fall of the bone BBQ ribs. Happy grilling! In next month's issue we will be cooking lobster.

Reviews

Sundowner Ubuntu - A Russell Quant Mystery

Anthony Bidulka
Toronto: Insomniac Press, 2007
ISBN:978-1-897178-43-0
\$21.95

www.insomniacpress.com

Review by Gary Brooks

Widowed by the death of her corner store-owning husband and surprised by her new wealth, Clara Ridge approaches Saskatoon private investigator Russell Quant to see if he can find her son Mathew. Twenty years earlier he'd been kicked out of the home by a father fed up with his son's continuing trouble with the law that had ended up in a stint in reform school. There had been no contact since. Now Mathew's mother wanted Quant to "find him—tell me where he is, what his life has

become, where he lives, where he works and then...well, then I'll decide what to do. Maybe... maybe I'll just send him some money anonymously. All I know for sure is that I want to know if my son is alive or dead. And if he's alive, I'm going to help him."

Bidulka is an experienced writer—this is the fifth in the Russell Quant series of mystery/adventures—and it's apparent from the first three lines. Fast-paced, somewhat slick (but in a positive sense) this is not an easy book to put down. As in the previous



Grilled Baby Back Ribs with Sweet Onion and Molasses BBQ Sauce

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2 tsp brown sugar
1 tsp sea salt
1 tsp cracked black pepper

BBQ Sauce

3 cups sliced Vidalia onions
4 cloves garlic
2 tsp butter
2 tsp olive oil
1 cup molasses
1/3 cup apple cider vinegar
1 cup tomato ketchup
2 tsp liquid smoke

1/4 tsp ground cloves
1 tsp mustard powder
1 cup crushed pineapple with juice
1 cup Sake (rice wine)
1 tsp Chipotle Tabasco sauce
1 tsp sea salt

Method

1. In a large saucepan slowly caramelize the sliced onions and garlic over medium heat in the butter and oil until they are very dark brown and sticky.
2. Add the remaining ingredients and simmer for 30 minutes.
3. Purée the sauce in a blender and you are ready for use.

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

books in the series, Quant's search takes him far from Saskatoon, this time to southern Africa where he learns about Ubuntu, the intense sense of community that allowed South African blacks to survive in the townships: "I am what I am because of who we all are."

The characters in Sundowner Ubuntu are deftly drawn, with even the minor characters coming to life in distinctively individual ways. The detective Quant is gay

and is involved in a relatively new relationship, although there is little in the book that is explicitly sexual. The novel won't be the first choice of those who look for detailed descriptions of sexual couplings.

My first reaction in reaching the end of this book was to head to my computer to find how to get a hold of the four earlier books in the series—as high a compliment as I can think of for a new-to-me author.

Crossing Borders

By Will Carr
GLB Publishers

www.glb-pubs.com

Review by Ralph Higgins

In 1953, Will Carr, a twenty-seven year old gay

Jewish man leaves his safe but dull life in New York to seek adventure in Europe. Travelling alone, he purchases a tiny Renault in Paris which will be his home and companion for the next several months as he heads south into Italy and then onto all the countries bordering the Mediterranean. Carr has set out on a voyage of discovery, propelled not just by a desire to see the world but also by the need to give himself the time and distance to explore his inner world. The borders of the title refer not just to those manmade lines that divide one country from another but also the parameters of secrets that we all carry. In Carr's case the fact that he is Jewish is a secret he prudently does not reveal in the Middle East less than a decade after the creation of the state of Israel. His homosexuality, on the other hand, is a secret too long kept hidden and one he longs to share with another man.

Crossing Borders is the vivid, colourful account of both those journeys from his first romantic tryst in Rome to the unexpected adventures and friendships that dotted every stage of this rite of passage. Carr tells his story with frankness and a kind of wide-eyed wonder, sharing his fond memories of this stage of his life and of the young man he once was. Curious incidents could not shake his youthful optimism and faith in the basic kindness of people. It was often his very innocence that kept him safe in circumstances that only in retrospect did he realize were dangerous.

More than a fascinating travelogue, Cross Borders is a moving glimpse into the life of a gay man almost twenty years before Stonewall, a great addition to the understanding of our history.



Lay Chaplaincy Services

Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax
5500 Inglis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1J8
uuchurch@eastlink.ca
902-429-5500

Susan Stephen & Gwen Armshaw Lay Chaplains
sstephen57@gmail.com armshaw@hfx.eastlink.ca

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Camping News

By Jane Morigan

With the arrival of the Spring Equinox this weekend, I felt it was a good time to get in touch with you to let you know that The Mermaid & The Cow Campground will be opening earlier this year (June 13), and to introduce you to my brand new website which will give you lots of information and hopefully will get you thinking about visiting the campground once again this coming summer!

On the website, I have added a drawing of the layout of the campsites, and soon you'll be able to make reservations online using PayPal. The nightly rate for a campsite has not increased since last year (it's still \$25 for 1-2 adults), and I have adjusted the seasonal

rates for the longer season. The address is www.themermaid-andthecow.ca.

My plan is to stay in touch with you periodically throughout the year with this newsletter, so that you are up-to-date with developments at the campground and have all the pertinent information easily at hand.

I hope that you are well and happy, and I look forward to welcoming you once again to The Mermaid & The Cow Campground this summer!

All the best, and cheers,
Jane



presents

punoqun

The Atlantic Queer Arts and Literature Magazine

We want your work!

- Submissions should be:
- >Original and unpublished
 - >fiction, creative non-fiction or poetry
 - >1500 words (500 words for poetry)
 - >The creator lives in any of the Atlantic Provinces

Deadline is July 25, 2008 - either by e-mail

punoqun@wayves.ca

or by mail

punoqun, PO Box 34090, Scotia Square, Halifax, NS, B3J 3S1

Look for an announcement on the gala launch of punoqun 2008 soon!

Save 25%

Print and present this coupon for a saving of 25% off the regular price, for the Opening Weekend... June 13th and 14th! This coupon is transferable to another person, and please check out the website for more information!

Offer Expires: June 18th, 2008

Reviews, cont'd

Deadly Vision

By Rick R. Reed

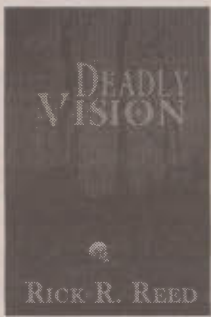
Regal Crest Enterprises, LLC www.regalcrest.biz

Review by Ralph Higgins In Deadly Vision, Rick R.

Reed has taken the Cassandra story and given it the plot twists and touches of horror his readers have come to expect from this prolific and popular author.

Cass D'Angelo is a struggling single mother in a small Ohio town who is bored, lonely, and worn from facing her mother's steady disappointment and disapproval. The one bright spot in this twilight life is her young son, Max. When Max goes missing during a sudden thunderstorm, Cass begins a frantic search. A branch from a lightning struck tree knocks her unconscious and changes her life. Waking in the hospital, Cass begins having visions about two local girls who have gone missing. She is frightened by this newfound ability and further horrified by her intuitive knowledge that there is a serial killer on the loose. As in the Greek myth, no one believes Cass and she, herself, curses her new abilities and the contact with evil they have brought her. But, when a flash of insight shows her that the killer has now turned his focus on her family, Cass realizes she must trust in her new abilities to find the killer before he can strike again.

Reed demonstrates again his ability to reveal the inner longings that animate our daily lives as well as what can happen when those same drives become warped into something inhuman. Deadly Vision is a tale told with persuasive logic and a steady building of intensity that will have you turning pages late into the night—after drawing the curtains and double checking the lock on the door.



for today's families

Do you want to make a difference? Do you want your voice heard?

The Nova Scotia NDP Sexual Diversity Committee is seeking to engage Nova Scotia's LGBT community in our party. The committee serves as the community's voice on NDP policy and shares LGBT perspectives on life in Nova Scotia.

Have your say . . .
Join the Nova Scotia NDP and become a member of our committee!
 For additional information and to join the Nova Scotia NDP:
 Email: ndpadmin@nsndp.ca Phone: 800-753-7696 Web: ns.ndp.ca

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Womensdance@eastlink.ca

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WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

Atlantic Canada

Al-Anon/Alateen: for families & friends of problem drinkers. Does someone you know have a drinking problem? 466-7077 web: www.freewebs.com/alanonmaritimes

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

AtlanticPoz: A new discussion group is for individuals living with HIV in Atlantic Canada. web: health.groups.yahoo.com/group/atlanticpoz/

Egale Canada - Atlantic: (888) 204-7777 email: egale.canada@egale.ca web: www.egale.ca

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

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

Healing Our Nations, Dartmouth: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. (902) 492-4255 email: director@accesswave.ca web: www.hon93.ca (Healing Our Nations staff meet once on a weekly basis. Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 15 Aldemey Dr., Suite 3, Dartmouth, NS. B2Y2N2

Maritime Transgender Workplace Solutions Project, Upper Musquodoboit: Transgender Issues Workshops and information resource. (902)568-2935 email: denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/winparpemeus (No meetings, Workshops by arrangements, Information source when requested. Newsletter Odds & Sods bi-weekly)

Mr Atlantic Canada Leather Society, assorted cities: Dedicated to developing gay leather communities in the Atlantic region. email: waydo7@hotmail.com

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

Narcotics Anonymous: a fellowship of recovering drug addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. 1-800-205-8402 web: centralnovaarea.ca at Call the phone number or visit the web page for meeting times and places.

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

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

Wayves Magazine: Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine!. email: submissions@wayves.ca web: wayves.ca (Editorial meeting one Monday night a month; layout one Sunday a month; email us to be notified of meetings & deadlines!)

New Brunswick (506)

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

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

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

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays, Fredericton: Email listserv of events/news in the Fredericton for gblt men and women. email: jamesw@stu.ca web: www.geocities.com/westhollywood/3074

Gais.es Nor Gays Inc. (GNG), Petit-Rocher

(Bathurst area): A bilingual volunteer association serving gay men, lesbians and bisexuals of northern New Brunswick. email: info@gngnb.ca web: www.gngnb.ca (Dances are held at GNG club every Saturday night. See www.gngnb.ca for a list of upcoming events.) at 702 rue Principale, Petit-Rocher NB. Look for rainbow flag and/or door with pink triangle at rear of parking lot.

Integrity, Fredericton and area: Supports and encourages Gays and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. email: davidstaples@rogers.com, meets 3rd Sunday (Group gayhers for a Service on the third Sunday of each month at 4 pm in ChristChurch Cathedral, Fredericton)

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

PFLAG Canada, Moncton: Supporting all people with questions or concerns about sexual orientation and gender identity issues. (506) 869-8191 email: monctonnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html, meets 3rd Monday (Occasionally on the 2nd Monday - please call) at 7:30-9:30pm, University of Moncton, Adrien-J.-Cormier Bldg., Room 302

PFLAG Canada - Fredericton, Fredericton: all welcome. (506) 455-7190 email: pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/Pflagfredericton/, meets 4th Tuesday (7-9 pm (except December: 2nd Tuesday)) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton 874 York St. Fredericton NB E3B 3R8

PFLAG Canada - Sackville/Amherst: Support and education for GLBT2IQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: sacknb-amns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/en/prov-list-e.asp?RegionNo=6&ProvAbbr=NB, meets 2nd Monday (Phone or e-mail for meeting location and details.) at Sackville: 112 Main Street or Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

PFLAG Canada - Sackville/Amherst, Sackville NB/Amherst NS: Support and education for GLBT2IQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location alternates monthly between Sackville: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street, and Amherst: Maggie's Place, 12 LaPlanche Street

PFLAG Canada - Saint John NB, Saint John: Provides support to anyone dealing with issues of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. (506)648-9700 or 648-9227 email: saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/saintjohn, meets 1st Friday (1st Friday of each month September - June from 7:00-9:00 p.m. No meeting in July & August.) at 116 Coburg Street in Saint John, New Brunswick in the Community Health Centre next to St. Joseph's Hospital.

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

River Of Pride, Moncton: Organizes, promotes and produces Moncton's Pride events!. email: monctonriverofpride2008@gmail.com web: www.fiertemonctonpride.ca, meets 1st Sunday, and 3rd Sunday (contact ilaisha@nbnet.nb.ca for further meeting and event dates) at Triangles bar 234 St. George St. Moncton NB

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

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

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

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

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

The UNBSJ Q-Collective, Saint John: A social and support organisation for UNBSJ students, staff and faculty. 506-648-5737 email: QCollect@UNBSJ.ca web: www.unbsj.ca/clubs/qcollective (The UNBSJ Q-Collective is

interested in hearing from other university LG-BTQ organisations and would like to possibly meet or collaborate.) at Various locations; event particulars will be emailed to anyone who registers with the UNBSJ Q-Collective and/or who gets the UNBSJ weekly "E News". Past events include the annual Rainbow Peace March, guest speakers, movie nights, participation in Maritime Pride Parades, Supporters of PFLAG Canada's "Communities Encourage Campaign" and "Champions Against Homophobia".

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

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

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

Newfoundland & Lab (709)

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

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

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

PFLAG Canada - St. John's: Information or referral to one of our parents. web: www.pflag.ca (For support or information on chapter meetings regarding PFLAG Canada contact Gemma Schlamp-Hickey, Atlantic Director at gemmahickey@yahoo.ca or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at ddeacon@mun.ca)

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

Nova Scotia (902)

Acadia Pride, Wolfville: Acadia Student Union's LGBT2IQ group. 585-2165 email: acadiaipride@acadiau.ca web: euler.acadiau.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (9:00pm(during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

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

Affirm United, Halifax Metro: GLBT & Friends support, action and worshipping community within the United Church. 461-4528 email: alstew@eastlink.ca

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton, Sydney: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms!. (902) 567-1766 email: joannerolls@acnb.ns.ca, christineporter@acnb.ns.ca web: www.acnb.ns.ca (Free Anonymous Testing 1-902-567-1123 Check our Website for events and updates.) at 150 Bentinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6H1

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, Halifax: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. (902)425-4882 email: acns@acns.ns.ca web: www.acns.ns.ca

Alcoholics Anonymous, Halifax: Live & Let Live AA Group for GLBT community. (902) 425-8383/422-4972 email: courage449@yahoo.com web: www.rationalunlucy.com/cout, meets every Monday (at 8pm) at St. Matthews United Church, 1479 Barrington St, Halifax (Use side door near Maritime Centre at bottom of stairs)

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing, Halifax: 455-9656

Bedford United Church, HRM/ Bedford: An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome. 835-8497 email: bedfordunited@eastlink.ca web: www.bedfordunited.com, meets every Sunday (9 am

service - Casual and contemporary - with free coffee and muffins before church to take into this service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. Call to confirm worship times as occasionally we have a 10 am combined service.) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

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

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

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

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

Cumberland Pride, Amherst & Area: for: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals. 660-5004 email: cumberlandpride@hotmail.com web: cumberland-pride.sytes.net, meets 3rd Sunday (2-4pm)

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

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

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

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

Girl-ish Productions, Halifax: Girl-ish puts on hot and heavy bi-monthly-ish dance parties for queer-ish folks and their friends. email: girlishproductions@yahoo.ca web: www.girlish.ca

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

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

Hal-Gal Mailing List, Halifax: Low-traffic Yahoo group providing events and information for queer women in the Halifax area. email: halgal@yahoo.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/hal-gal/ (Join the list to keep in touch or post your events.)

Halifax Sexual Health Centre, Halifax: Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. 455-9656 web: www.HalifaxSexualHealth.ca

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

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

Northern AIDS Connection Society, Truro: HIV prevention education initiative serving counties Colchester, Pictou, Cumberland & East Hants. 895-0931 email: nacs@eastlink.ca web: northernaidconnectionsociety.ca (Our Board of Directors meet bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month. Annual General Meeting held regularly in June. See webpage for contact numbers in your area of

northern Nova Scotia.) at 33 Pleasant Street, Truro, N.S.

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

Outlaw, Halifax: GLBTQ & Allies Law Students Association at Dalhousie Law School. email: chad.skinner@dal.ca web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2416842853 (Meetings vary. Please email for further information or check out our Facebook group.) at Dalhousie Law School. 6061 University Avenue. Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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

PFLAG Canada - Middleton, Middleton: Information and support for GLBT community and their friends and families. 902-825-0548 email: middletonns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/middleton.html (Check online for meeting times and locations- or phone 825-0548)

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

PFLAG Truro: 662.3774

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

Pride Cape Breton Society, Sydney: Dances and Social Events. Monthly dances are Adults Only! Check website community events. (902) 539-4627 email: info@pridecapbreton.com web: www.pridecapbreton.com (Dances on the last Saturday of every month. Check website for dance and special event dates!) at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

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

Pride of Pictou County, New Glasgow: All GBLT in Pictou County. email: chair@prideofpictoucounty.ca web: www.PrideofPictouCounty.ca (see web page for meeting info)

Quakers, Halifax: Quakerism emphasizes that we all manifest the Divine. 429-2904 web: halifax.quaker.ca, meets every Sunday at Library at Atlantic School of Theology, Franklyn St. All very welcome.

Queer Play, Halifax: A Queer performing arts group in Halifax NS. email: queerplay@gmail.com

Rainbow Playtime, Halifax: Food & social meetings for same sex families with tots or couples considering parenthood. 461-9414

Red Door, The, Kentville: Youth health adolescent center counselling, for up to age 30, all ages STD testing. 679-1411 (Monday through Friday, 1pm to 5pm, Wednesday open to 6:00) at 28 Webster Court

RESPECT, Truro: Students Making Healthy Decisions. 893-6300 email: respect@nsac.ca at P.O. Box 550, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E3

SAAFE (Supporting An Alternative Friendly Environment), Truro: Social/support group at the NS Agricultural College. 893-6300 email: lyoug@nsac.ns.ca (Meetings as requested. Membership changes each academic year.)

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

Saint Mary's Campus Outreach Society: Second Story Women's Centre, Lunenburg: We offer a meeting space for women, support counselling, programs, and referrals. (902)640-3044 email: secstory@eastlink.ca web: www.secstory.com at Second Story Women's Centre is located at 22 King Street, Post Office Centre, Lunenburg.

Sexual Health Centre for Cumberland County, Amherst: Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. 667-7500 email: shccc@ns.aliantzinc.ca web: cumberland-county.csh.info (9 - 5 drop-in or appt) at 12 LaPlanche St. Confidential, hassle-free. Free condoms.

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. lgbyp_amherst@hotmail.com, all emails confidential.

Third Sunday of each month

Cumberland Pride Support Group: Social and support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals in Amherst, Nova Scotia. Meets the third Thursday of each month from 2-4pm. Contact information: Gerard Veldhoven at 902-660-5004 or E-mail: gaylords_1975@hotmail.com

July 7-13

Cumberland Pride Week! Events in the works are a flag-raising at Town Hall on the 7th, an open forum panel discussion on building a Gay/Straight Alliance in Cumberland County on July 12th, a Dance/Social in the evening of July 12th and a Family Picnic at the week's close on Sunday July 13th. Other events forthcoming... Cumberland Pride is meeting bi-monthly as Pride Week approaches- Sunday afternoons from 2-4. Also we are about to get our website online so that updates on these and other area events can be more readily accessed. We have a small but thriving LGBT community in the Amherst/Sackville area and our celebrations will reflect the diversity that exists within the area, focusing on our common strengths and what the LGBT and straight communities can offer each other rather than focus on our dividing points. For more information or to get dates/times for meetings, please email cumberlandpride@hotmail.com

Annapolis Valley

Every Thursday and First Saturday of each month

The Annapolis Valley Gay Men's Coffee House meets every Thursday Evening from 7-9pm. Also on the first Saturday of each month we host an over 19 gay/lesbian dance from 9pm-1am. There are various themes for dances so call or e-mail for directions and info to the following: 902-765-2821 or menembracingmen@hotmail.com or yahoo.ca.

Groups & Services Continued

Sexual Health Centre for Lunenburg County, Bridgewater: Confidential info, education&support for everyone. Safer sex supplies, library, pamphlets, workshops. 527-2868 email: LunCo@NSSexualHealth.ca web: www.LunCo.cfs.h.info (Hours vary. Open by appointment or by chance. Please call ahead.) at 4 Hillcrest Street Unit 8, Bridgewater. (On the corner of Dufferin and Hillcrest Streets). Closed during summers.

South Shore Pride Social Club, Bridgewater: for 19 & older. 685-3297 email: info@southshorepride.ca web: www.southshorepride.ca, meets 3rd Saturday (- dances - 9:00PM to 1:00AM) at Call or email for location.

Tatamagouche Centre, Tatamagouche: We are an affirming centre, welcoming all gay, lesbian, and transgendered people. 1.800.218.2220 email: tatacentre@tatacentre.ca web: www.tatacentre.ca

Team Halifax, Halifax: All GLBT over 18, athletes and performance artists, as well as anyone willing to help out. 422-9510 web: www.teamhalifax.com (No fixed schedule at this time, look on website for further details.)

The Rainbow - Atlantic Awareness Society, (Cape Breton/Halifax/Annapolis Valley): email: tpineo@hotmail.com web: To be released

The Youth Project, Halifax: support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under from across Nova Scotia. 429-5429 email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca (support and connection across, Week one: Monday - Transgender Discussion group 7-9 pm; Tuesday - 18 & under Discussion group 6-8 pm; Week two: Tues. Drop-in - 6-8 pm; Wed. - Movie Night 7-9

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 Saturday of each month (except July)

Wileville Dance. Smoke free. Door prizes. Cash bar. Must be 19. For more details call 530-5986 or email info@southshorepride.ca or go to www.southshorepride.ca

Cape Breton

Every 2nd Saturday

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

Charlottetown

...see Prince Edward Island

Fredericton

Every Tuesday

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

Every Wednesday

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

Third Sunday of each month

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

Fourth Wednesday of each month

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

Fredericton Bar & Business Calendar

BOOM! NIGHTCLUB

Fredericton Nb, 474 Queen St. 463-boom (2666)

www.boomnightclub.ca

Thursdays:

3 Sum Thursday's 8-cl

Music: 3 Recent, 3 Retro, 3 Requests

Specials: On beer and spirits

Cover: None

Fridays:

NEW HOT NIGHT "CIRCUS" 8-cl

Music: Indietronic/ Dancers/ Special events

Cover: \$4

Deal: Be here before 12, pay \$4 and receive \$10 CIRCUS cash

Saturdays:

POWER 8-cl

Music: Main stream big city/ High energy

Cover: \$4 after 11, \$4.50 after 12

Sundays double header:

4-7 Sunday Social

Music: Laid back inviting social atmosphere

Cover: None

10-cl Sunday Open Turntables

Music: Live dj's spinning at crowd level

Specials: On beer and spirits

Cover: \$2

Halifax

Every Sunday

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

Every Sunday

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

Second Sunday of each month

Play Group for Queer Families! 3-5pm Board Room (Play Room) at Needham Community Recreation Centre, 3372 Devonshire St (north end Halifax, near intersection of Duffus & Novalea, bus routes 7 & 9) Bring a snack for your child(ren). We will be collecting money from each family to cover the cost of the room rental, likely

Prince Edward Island (902)

Abegweit Rainbow Collective, Charlottetown: Serving GLBT Islanders, their friends and families. 894-5776 email: info@arcpei.ca web: www.arcpei.ca, meets 2nd Tuesday (7:30 PM) at 144 Prince Street

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

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

GLBT Youth group, Charlottetown: Safe Space Drop-ins. 367-3408 or toll free 1 877 380 5776 email: youth@arcpei.ca web: youth.arcpei.ca (E-mail us for further details.) at 144 Prince St.

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

PFLAG Canada - PEI, Island wide: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI. 902-887-3620 email: pflagpei@eastlink.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca, meets 3rd Tuesday at Ferry Road Centre, 24 Ferry Road, Cornwall, PE or Stratford City Hall check with Mary or Bill Kendrick on this months location by calling 902-887-3620.

\$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 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 DISCUSSION GROUP! This is a Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgendered womyn's Only! -Free Group, NO Dues, NO Fees- MEETINGS are every second SUNDAY. @6pm - 7:30pm (Please remember when applying to this group, send full name and a contact number or call sue at 499-0335, everything is kept PRIVATE!) LOCATION: DALHOUSIE WOMEN'S CENTRE 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Driveway) HOW TO JOIN THIS GROUP: Come to a discussion night or send us your e-mail address or call a moderator (Sue @ 499-0335). If you have any questions. A discussion group for Bi-sexual, Lesbian, Transgendered women, who will meet to have open discussions, in a positive environment. To discuss topics concerning ourselves and our community. This is a bi-weekly meeting on Sundays. http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynofhalifax/ or sueandrews1964@hotmail.com

First and Third Wednesdays

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

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

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

Second Wednesday of each month

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

June 5, 19, June 3, 17, 31, Aug 14, 28

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

June 8, 22, June 6, 20, Aug 3, 17, 31

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

July 24

ISCANS will be presenting a wonderful night of Entertainment and Talent. On July 24th during pride We will be presenting At 2nd Glance, The best Female impersonator of Atlantic Canada in a very lavish downtown location. Talent from all over the Maritimes and a Couple from across Canada will be here to dazzle Halifax during Pride. So watch for details in the next issue and come out and support Reign VIII's Charities. EmpressIV & VIII BoomBoom Lubalicious and Emperor VII and Regent Emperor VIII Cousin

Cletus at this wonderful night of Fund Raising and entertainment.

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

BLUE MOON BISTRO/BACK BAR

2099B Gottingen St., Halifax, (902) 446-3644 5 pm-2 am, 7 days a week

Mondays - Poor Student Night--Cheap drinks and Halifax Has Talent! Come join Mz. Vicki and Friends. You could win a fabulous prize from Blue Moon or Mz. Vicki. \$3.00 cover

Tuesdays - Karaoke w/ Troy Cheap drinks and Cash prizes for the Karaoke winners! 10pm. Wednesdays - Swing Out! Hot happenin' students of Dal, SMU, and MSVU swing dance til the wee hours. Come watch or learn how to swing dance to the great tunes of Big Band Mary you DJ Hostess! NO COVER.

Thursdays - Karaoke w/ DJ Specialtee. Cheap drinks and cash prizes for the karaoke winners. 10pm.

Fridays - DJ Specialtee. Spinning the latest tunes and the hottest remixes. No cover. Cheap drinks all night long! 10pm.

Saturdays - DJ Troy or Special house DJ's imported for your dancing pleasure. Hot bartenders and even hotter drink specials. 10pm No cover.

Sundays - ISCANS presents...ReignVII's chosen charities benefit 100% from an inexpensive cover or silver collection. 10pm Visit us for more details @ Friends of BlueMoon on Facebook or www.imperialcourtns.com

MENZ BAR

Halifax's Gay Village 902-446-6969 www.MENZBAR.ca FREE INTERNET & WI-FI 7 DAYS A WEEK

REFLECTIONS

Events

5184 Sackville Street
(902) 422-2957, toll free (877)422-2957
Fax (902) 422-2970
mail@reflectionsclub.com
www.reflectionsclub.com
Open 7 days a week, Mon-Sat 1pm to 4am, Sun
4pm to 4am, Manager: Stephen Filek

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902-444-3647 - www.SeaDogs.ca
In the HEART of Halifax's Gay Village
Mondays - Student Night, FREE Lockers with
Valid Student I.D.
Tuesdays - TOONIE NIGHT - \$2 Bucks OFF
Lockers, Drink Specials till Close!
Wednesdays - HUMP NIGHT - 1/2 price pass
for your next visit
Thursdays - It's NAKED Night! Towels
Optional
Fridays - Black Out in "The HOLE"
SAT. & SUN. - Early Bird Special 6am till
Noon, Rooms \$15 & Lockers \$7.50 &
Drink Specials till 6PM!
Sundayz - FREE 30 Minute Cruiseline Pass
from 6pm till Close

Moncton

Every Thursday
LGBT AND FRIENDS VOLLEY BALL! École
carrefour de l'acadie gym. No experience required.
Info: Roger 383-1410 or Oscar 855-1328. \$5.00
/ player includes refreshments.

Tous les jeudis
VOLLEY BALL POUR LGBT et AMI-E-S. École
carrefour de l'acadie. Aucune expérience requise.
Infos: Roger 383-1410 ou Oscar 855-1328. \$5.00

/ joueur (rafraichissements inclus)

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.

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
Wednesday: Learn to Line Dance - no charge!
Thursday: Karaoke Mystery Song - \$25 added
each week until the correct song is picked! 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
Our colour parties are back - watch for the blue
party, coming up June 2. Check our website for
upcoming Colour Party dates.

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 Second Friday
General Meeting every second week. They take
place at UC-6022 at 11:00am.

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

Truro

Every Wednesday
Truro Pride: GLBT support group in Colchester
County, Nova Scotia. (Coffee hour at the Fair
Trade Café on 535 Prince Street in Truro, every
Wednesday evening at 6:00pm. For information
call Northern AIDS Connection Society at 902-
895-0931 or email truropride@hotmail.com

First Sunday of each month
Rainbow Proud: We are the LGBT community
of Truro and surrounding areas. We are an
organizational group that meets to plan activities
ie: parades, outings, dances and such. We meet
the first Sunday of each month. (Taking a break
during summer months) We could always use
some more help, so if you are interested in joining
our group or if you are looking for information
about the LGBT community contact us by email:
rainbowproud@hotmail.com. Our website is in
the works so send an email and to be kept up
to date.

June 28
Rainbow Proud Dance in Truro, Saturday, June
28th, 2008, Truro Lions Club, 1100 Prince St.
8pm - 12 midnight \$8.00 at the door. 19 years
and older only.

July 12

Canoe the Stewiacke River with your friends
— We need some men this year to add to our
canoe pack, be brave and join us women on the
river. note: added bonus this year Barbeque at
the Stewiacke River Park for when we get out
of the water. Email rainbowproud@hotmail.com
for details.

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.

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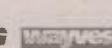
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Is AA / NA for Gays and Lesbians?

By Hugh C

Last month's article on sex and drugs may have given readers the impression that Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or Narcotics Anonymous (NA) is not welcoming to gays and lesbians, but this would be a misconception. These fellowships are welcoming to anyone who wants to deal with an addiction problem regardless of race, gender or sexual identity. A gay specific group could, however, be helpful to deal with specific issues surrounding some unique aspects of gay culture—particularly connections between drugs and sex—and it would supplement rather than compete with any existing groups.

Unless you've gone to AA or NA you may not understand what it's about. It is simply a fellowship of people who want to deal with a problem in their lives. It is non-professional and not affiliated with any other groups to keep the central focus, which is addicts helping addicts live a better life with drugs or alcohol. Principles incorporated within the 12 steps of AA or NA include: admitting there is a problem; seeking help; engaging in a thorough self-exami-

nation; confidential self-disclosure; making amends for harm done; and helping other addicts who want to recover.

Central to the both programs is an emphasis on practicing spiritual principles. AA and NA are non-religious, and each member is encouraged to cultivate an individual understanding—religious or not—of this process of personal change and growth. Learning to accept help from addicts openly and honestly sharing their intimate good and bad times is a powerful spiritual experience with no connection to religion. Members are free to accept anything as their source of proper direction, as long as they are willing to change behaviours that lead to using, be honest and keep an open mind—some members joke a teacup is ok if it works. Regardless, the main thing about the program is "it works if you work it."

Do you think you might have an addiction problem: drugs or alcohol? Some questions to ask yourself are: Do you ever use alone?

Have you ever manipulated or lied to a doctor to obtain prescription drugs? Do you regularly use a drug when you wake up or when

Have you ever used a drug without knowing what it was or what it would do to you?

you go to bed? Do you avoid people or places that do not approve of you using? Have you ever used a drug without knowing what it was or

what it would do to you? Do you feel you need drugs to feel good, fit in, or party?

Addiction is a progressive disease that is accompanied by denial of the problem. Addicts usually feel others are the problem and they can stop using whenever people, places or things change. The addiction starts slowly and it's frequently difficult to tell its happening. If you think you might have a problem, just drop a note to gaynans@hotmail.com—all inquiries will be answered and kept en-

tirely confidential. If you're thinking about attending a meeting to see what its about, you'll be welcomed with no strings attached. Meetings of both AA and NA occur daily in Metro Halifax and in many areas around Atlantic Canada. To find them, just type "Alcoholics Anonymous" or "Narcotics Anonymous" and your location into Google and you should find a meeting list easily.



TheBearMall.com

By LairBear

Whether you are looking for that helpful bear plumber that everyone's been talking about, a bear to fix your computer or a bear to smile at you while you order some lunch, check out our business directory on www.thebearmall.com.



We've searched for bear-owned and operated, and bear-friendly businesses and services. From bars to bistros, on-line games to porn, we will cover it all. Entertainment, travel, accommodations, health and wellness and a lot more. Whether you're planning a holiday, looking for a relationship, or a new doctor, we make it easier.

We're just getting started and the list will continue to grow, but you can help. Know a good bear business? Tell us. Do you own a business, provide a service to the bear community, or know of one that should be on our list? If so send us the information. These are not paid listings, these aren't paid for listings. We list them absolutely free.

Each month we shine the spotlight on a particular business. The site posts listings of business and services either run by or for bears, or who are bear-friendly.

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Pride? Necessary?

By Randall Perry

Once again June has rolled around, time for that alcohol-fuelled marketing juggernaut called Pride. Christmas in June—and July, August and maybe September, depending on where you live—for naughty and nice queers everywhere, when the price of everything from rainbow trinkets to hotel rooms suddenly goes through the roof.

It's also time for the annual "whither Pride?" debate. Why do we have parades and put ourselves on display like that? Why are Pride parades full of freaky-looking people—leather men with their asses hanging out of their chaps, bitchy drag queens, butch dykes and (insert favourite icky queer stereotype here)? Why can't "normal-looking" people march in these parades so the cameras can show the real us? We have same-sex marriage now, so

is Pride even necessary anymore? I've been asked all these questions and more, and every year I give the same answer: "Yes, Pride is necessary." And then I explain.

Pride was born from the need to protest—the Stonewall bar raids in 1969 in New York and, to a Canadian extent, the Toronto bathhouse raids in 1981—and protest we did, right out in the city streets, some with faces to the sun, others with paper bags over their heads. We encountered hostility and drew cheers; in many cases we just drew curious onlookers. We had everything to lose, so we marched and protested to minimize our losses and attempt to correct the inequalities that existed in laws and minds. Some of us did lose: our families, our jobs, our

homes. Some of us lost our lives.

But we stared to gain. Little things, here and there... small victories, eventually leading to one of movement's holy grails, marriage—in Canada, at least. We've gained not because of Pride itself,

There are those who would, if given the chance, gladly march us off to the gas chambers or burn us at the stake.

but because Pride has helped to give us the extraordinary strength required for us to put in the long hours on the telephone and in the meeting rooms and on the organizing committees. Pride—both the idea and the practice—gives us a

shot in the arm (and a kick in the ass) to continue the fight.

The reasons and motivations behind Pride have changed with our gains. However; we must continue the work. By no means can we as a community of queer individuals think that just because we've hit the mainstream in some areas of life everyone now loves us. A marriage license, some non-discrimination clauses and a few un-closeted characters on television will not stop homophobic municipal councillors from changing flag-flying policies, nor will they quash hateful comments in the letters to the editor section of the newspaper or fundamentally change the intrinsic homophobic attitudes that still exist in our society. There are those who would, if given the chance, gladly march us off to the gas chambers or burn us

at the stake.

We must stick together. That means all of us, from the stereotypes to the archetypes. Effeminate gay men and mannish lesbians exist just as surely as those invisible queers who "pass," and Pride brings us all together as one fabulous, freaky, fucked-up, fun family. We empower and draw strength from each other, despite our penchant for petty sibling rivalries. We all don't have to like each other, but we are all engaged in attaining the same goal of equality for all.

Pride is necessary, if only to celebrate what we've achieved and brainstorm ideas for what we want to achieve in the future. The time to protest may be in the past and we have different sensibilities in 2008. Whatever the reason, we've earned the party.

All Bluenose Queers Deserve to Celebrate

By Gerard Veldhoven

As summer descends on Nova Scotia, a number of communities in our fair province will be out in full force to celebrate Pride week. For a few years now the queer population in towns and counties across the province have enjoyed the support of their community councils. There is much to celebrate, to be sure. Generally, the outcomes have been positive. Pride week will be proclaimed, rainbow flags will be hoisted and some Pride

parades will certainly enhance the town and city streets with colourful displays. This is how it should be. However, all is not well in Bluenose country.

Nova Scotia's queer population is well aware of news items during the past year, as the meaning of diversity is totally ignored. The outbursts by Truro mayor, Bill Mills, still ring vivid in our minds today. Antigonish and Pictou counties strongly denounced equal treatment of the GLBT communi-

ties by not allowing the Pride flag to fly on government property. Rhetoric bordering on hate was the order of the day. Papers were signed to deny any support whatsoever by town and municipal officials. The question is this: what fosters such intolerance and why does the queer community deserve such outrageous treatment? The answer is obvious: the fight must continue.

Those areas lucky enough to have garnered support from of-

ficials must band together to assist in any way in order to end this terrible fiasco. Our nation has spoken and entrenched in the laws of Canada that members of the GLBT community are protected from discrimination. Equal marriage is the order of the day, as is equal opportunity, as is equal treatment. Some town and county officials seem to think they are above these laws. A pure display of arrogance.

We must fix this breakdown. The queer community must unite

and speak with one voice. If we fail to do that, then we fail our queer brothers and sisters in their effort to gain dignity and respect. Unity is unbelievably valuable in gaining ground.

So, when we begin our celebrations let's not forget those who are unable to publicly raise the Pride flag. We must all get involved and continue the fight.

Sex, Laws and Harperism

By Kevin Kindred

You probably didn't notice, but on May 1 the Harper government gave gay men another kick in the rear.

That's the date when the government raised the age of consent for sex (or, as they'd prefer to rebrand it, the "age of protection") from 14 to 16. After 116 years, it seems the Conservatives thought it was time to "protect" more young people from the ability to consent to sexual intercourse.

I don't like this law, though, for two reasons.

First, in general, I think laws should accomplish something, other than making the Conservatives feel good about themselves. I was at the committee hearings into this law, and I didn't hear anything convincing me that the existing age of consent was a real barrier to protecting kids from sexual exploitation. Everything that should be illegal on that front pretty much is. We need more support for law enforcement, and more support for kids at risk—not more laws.

Changing the age of consent is a political solution, because it allows the government to look like their doing something when they're really not. And, it plays particularly well for the Conservatives. It satisfies their craving to legislate about

sex and our private lives, without having to actually grapple with a complex social problem that might require spending tax money on useful social programs. As a bonus, it avoids the need to engage young people in the solution and thus—horrors!—acknowledge them as maturing sexual creatures.

Secondly—and the real reason I was at the Committee hearings—the Harper government ignored calls from activists to finally, finally remove the special laws targeting anal intercourse.

Did you even know that the Criminal Code says anal intercourse is illegal? In my experience, most don't. We've been sold the story that Pierre Trudeau took the state out of the bedrooms of the nation, and legalized gay sex.

That's part of the story, but not the whole story. In reality, Trudeau's government was able to put some major limits on the criminalization of homosexuality, but not to eliminate them completely. After 1967, the Criminal Code still said that "buggery" was illegal. But there were now defences which excused the crime when committed by two adults over the age of 21, if there were no others present. Svend Robinson tackled this issue in the 80's, and could only get the

age lowered to 18, where it stands today.

So the Criminal Code allows you to have sex at 16, anywhere that isn't a public place—unless you get the butt involved. Then, it's 18; and "public" suddenly means anywhere with more than two people—even your own bedroom.

Sound discriminatory? Courts in Ontario, Quebec, BC, Alberta, and here in Nova Scotia have told us so, since gay men are clearly targeted, though they certainly aren't the only ones having anal intercourse. In the Nova Scotia case, the accused had to make his own arguments on the issue in front of the Court of Appeal (though NSRAP was able to provide some support).

And yet, with all that history, when the Harperites decided to finally "modernize" the age of consent, they conveniently ignored the anal intercourse law. Groups ranging from the Canadian Bar Association to Egale Canada to medical organizations called on the government to correct that historical wrong, but they buried their heads in the sand.

Then, when we reached the Committee hearings, we were told that—oops!—since anal intercourse wasn't part of the Government's

original bill, it was too late to make amendments. We were told, of course, that the government might choose to pass a law about this at some point in the future. I'm not holding my breath.

So, when it comes to "protecting" teenagers from sex, Harper is more than happy to get involved, even without evidence of effective-

ness. But when it comes to protecting gay men from discrimination in the Criminal Code, the Conservatives are nowhere to be found.

Luckily, though, Stephen Harper's old enough to consent to having his own head up his ass.

Kevin Kindred is Chair of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project



Last Month's Question

Our question was: "It's May! It's May! Outdoor sex starts today! Where is YOUR favourite place for outdoor sex? Why?" and we got a couple of delightful responses:

"Really? In May? Is this a scheduled event? I don't think I got the memo on that. So many choices but I'll have to say my back yard. Why? It's secluded, private and I already know where all the ants nests are!" and another: "Well - it's not quite outside, but I like my garage - then again, I have a thing for sweaty, dirty mechanics... ;)"

This month's question

Can we keep Pride alive all year long? How?

You tell us at: wayves.ca

Friday
May 30

Homos in Hell:
Rockin' the Gaybourhood 2
Hell's Kitchen, Marquee Club
2037 Gottingen Street

Thursday
July 3

Out Bid: Pride Auction
Casino Nova Scotia
1983 Upper Water St.

Halifax Pride Week
July 20 - 27

Harbour Boat Cruise
Dykes vs Divas
Retro "T" Dance
Flag Raising
Time Out Lecture Series
Reel Out Film Festival
Reading Out Loud
Pride Ceilidh
Family Picnic
Comedy Night
&
More!!!

Halifax Pride Day
July 26

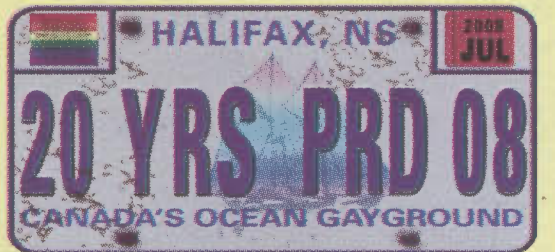
Interfaith Prayer Service
20th Anniversary Pride Parade
Pride Concert
Beer Garden
Community Fair and Fête

For information
on these & other Pride Events
visit www.halifaxpride.com
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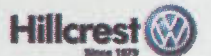


Halifax Pride
2008

20th anniversary
20-27 July

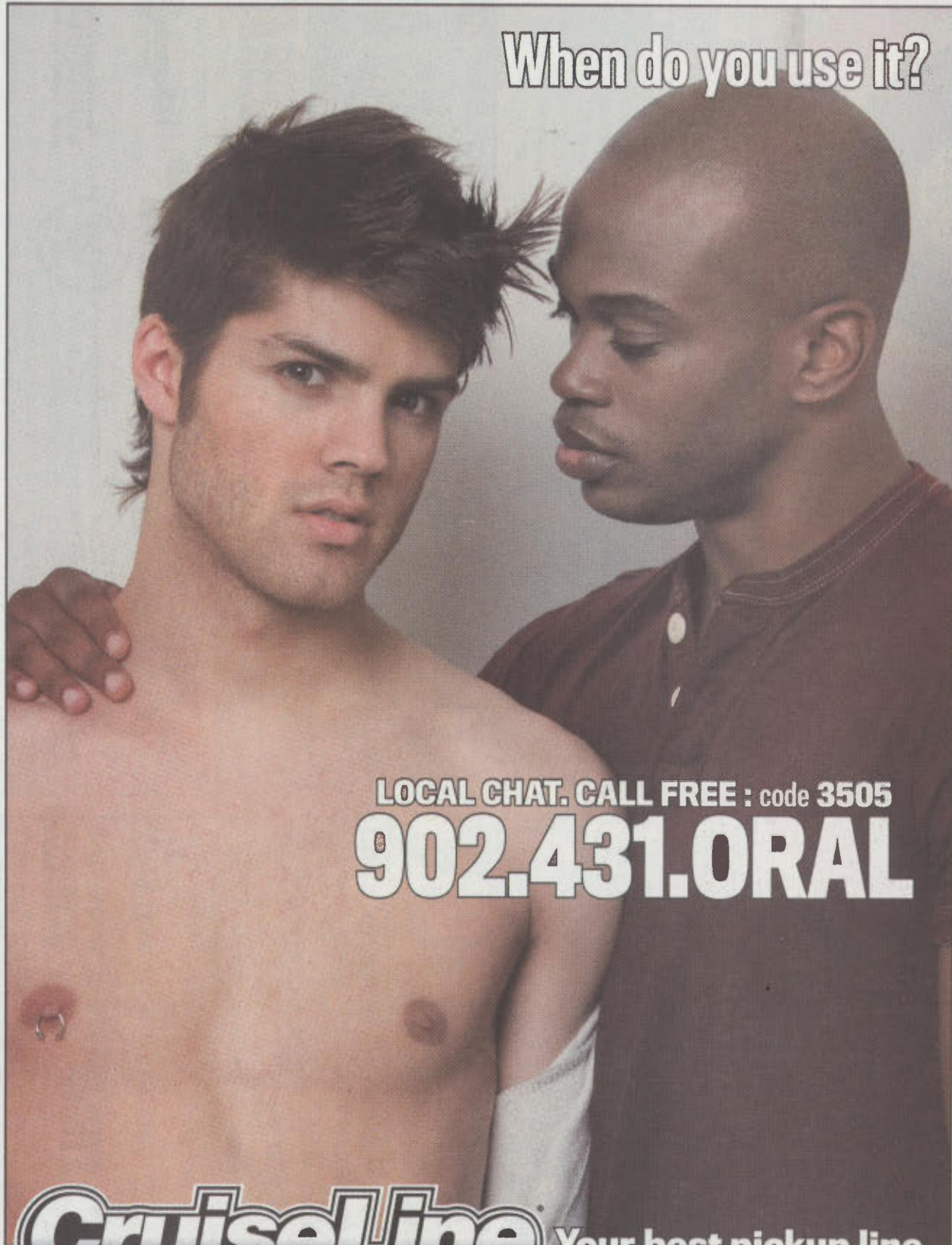


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