

waynes

March 2007

for atlantic canadians



"Goodbye to a Blazing Star"

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Your Name Here!

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Dear Wayves,
(The argument in this article is largely dependent on a previous one, written by Sarah Rose Werner of Saint John. It is a privilege to acknowledge her fine thinking).

Moncton MLA John Betts berates NB Premier Shawn Graham for promising a \$2,000 grant to first year New Brunswick students, but then excludes students from the Atlantic Baptist University, and two other institutions in the province [Bethany and St. Stephen] ("Government should keep promise to all students," Times & Transcript [Moncton, NB], Jan 29, D8).

Graham's promise was made to all students entering a provincial university. ABU and the two others are private, not public universities. They should not get public tax dollars, for two reasons.

First, these private institutions do not meet provincial standards. According to the New Brunswick Human Rights Act, "recognition of the fundamental principle that all persons are equal in dignity and human rights without regard to race, colour, religion, national origin, ancestry, place of origin, age, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, sexual orientation, sex, social condition, political belief or activity, is a governing principle sanctioned by the laws of New Brunswick."

The Act prohibits discrimina-

tion in employment on various grounds, including sexual orientation. However, to be employed at ABU, staff and faculty must accept a "Lifestyle and Ethical Standards Covenant" in which they agree to "refrain from" homosexuality. Violation of this covenant is

Cont'd to Letter p 10

Mea Culpa

The photo on page 8 of the January-February 2007 Wayves was incorrectly captioned "Theresa Morris remembers her son Frederick." Frederick is neither of Ms Morris's two sons, who are both very much alive.

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1, Jul 6, Aug 3 (the first Friday of each month)

Send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax) Mar 5, Apr 9, May 7, Jun 4

Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, CEF, 5443 Rainnie (above Century Computers), all welcome!

Layout Parties (Halifax)

Mar 11, Apr 15, May 13, Jun 10, Jul 15
Help build the paper - no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and helping even once or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM, CEF, 5443 Rainnie (above Century Computers), all welcome!

On The Stands and In The Mail:

Mar 24, Apr 28, May 26, Jun 23, Jul 27

wayves

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

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

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

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How to reach us...

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Where You Can Find wayves

New Brunswick...

Bathurst: Gais.es Nor Gays

Durham Bridge: Rivers Edge Campground

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

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

Riverview: Reid's - Riverview

Sackville: Mount Allison - Student Services & Sexual Harassment Advisor

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

Newfoundland...

Corner Brook: Corner Brook Status of Women

Gander: Gander Public Library

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

Nova Scotia...

Amherst: Carvel Upholstery and Draperies; The Hojo Café; Sexual Health Centre - Cumberland County

Annapolis Royal: The King George Inn

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

Bedford: Bedford Library

Bridgewater: Sexual Health Centre - Lunenburg County

Canning: Canning Library

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

Halifax: AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia; Accent Gallery; Altaregos Café; Atlantic News Stand; Blowers Street Paperchase; Blue Moon Bistro; Bookmark; CD Plus; CKDU Radio; Counseling and Community Support Services; DALOUT; Dal-Tech; Daily Grind; Diamond; Fenwick Place; FRED; Fresh Start B&B; Gerrard Hall; Grad House (Dal); HMV; Halifax Backpackers Hostel; Libraries: Captain William Spry, Halifax North, Keshen Goodman, Killiam, Spring Garden Road, Weldon Law; Menz Bar; Mount St. Vincent University - Rosaria & Sexton; Newsbreak; Night Magic Fashions; Nooks and Crannies; NSCAD - supply store; N.S. Advisory Council - Status of Women; One World Café; Outside The Lines; Planned Parenthood Clinic; Reflections; Room2Move Fitness; Sahe Harbour; Seadogs Spa; Second Cup - Spring Garden; Shoe Shop; SUB, Dal and St. Mary's; Sweet Jane's; Venus Envy; Video Difference; X-Citement Video, Quinpool Road; Youth Project

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

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

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

Middleton: Mark Rutherford; 92 Balcom Crescent, Nictaux

Musquodoboit: wayves, 1030 Ostrea Lake Road; J&J's Restaurant

New Glasgow: Pictou County Women's Centre

Pictou: Pictou Library

Port Williams: Port Williams Public Library

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

Tantallon: Tantallon Library

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

Windsor: Readers Haven

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

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

Prince Edward Island...

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

Alberta...

Edmonton: Buddy's / Woody's / Steamworks

British Columbia...

Prince George: GALA-North Society

Vancouver: Little Sisters

Manitoba...

Winnipeg: Rainbow Resource Centre

Ontario...

Guelph: Out on the Shelf

Ottawa: After Stonewall; One-in-Ten

Toronto: Glad Day Bookshop; Out on the Street

Saskatchewan...

Regina: LGBT2A Centre, University of Regina

“Let my life be anything. Anything but boring.”



On January 30, in a posting on his website, Lulu LaRude, a.k.a. Charles McDuff Gillis, shared with us that his cancer was getting worse and doctors had given him about two months to live.

“I do know that in the meantime I am fortunate to find and fill some wonderful times with my friends and one and only true family, my mom and dad and of course my beloved bro and sisters,” Mr. Gillis wrote in what proved to be his final web posting on www.lulularude.com.

“They have never failed me and are there for me every minute.”

Mr. Gillis also had kind words for his husband, Billy, who shares his surname.

“Billy, what can I say but you are simply the most amazing man. Every gay couple out there should be deeply jealous. There is no one like you and never will be.”

Born in Fredericton, N.B., on November 12, 1963, Charles was the son of Joseph and Alexina (Jordan) Gillis. Throughout his life, he was a successful make-up artist, who had a natural flare for this passion. Affectionately known as “Chuck,” he will forever be remembered for his love of photography, and as being the entertainer who had a huge heart. It is as the often acerbic but always witty drag queen, Lulu LaRude, that Chuck will be mourned by the gay community across Canada, especially in Edmonton, Toronto and Halifax, where he made his home. He deeply loved his family, and he was special to all who loved him. He will be greatly missed and never forgotten by his husband, William “Billy” McDuff Gillis; by his parents, Joseph and Alexina Gillis; his brother, Joseph and sisters, Mary, Kathy, and Jo-Ann; and his many nieces and nephews.



His memory will be treasured by special friends, Priscilla, Trudy, Darrin, Kieran, Neon, Trash, and others, too numerous to mention.

Charles William “Chuck” McDuff Gillis passed away on Thursday, February 8 in Halifax, surrounded by his family and closest friends.

I remember the first night we went to LuLu’s show...

By Cameron MacLeod

I remember the first night we went to Lulu’s show. It was a cold, damp Thursday and we had heard we should head out to our favourite bar at the time, Club Vortex. There was this talent show thing that was a fun time. Several friends were there, and this would come to be the most reliable way to find friends to hang out with on any given Thursday.

Five Minutes of Fame with Lulu LaRude had only been going for two weeks so far, and was already hitting its stride. Anyone could sign up to perform whatever they wanted, however they wanted, for their so-called “five minutes of fame.” Now in a Halifax gay bar four years ago, “talent show” meant “drag show.” (Which is fine, said the author, envisioning letters to the editor from the amazingly talented and not at all intense Halifax crowd.) But somehow this show was different. Lulu and her erstwhile foil and (ahem) straight man Sandy gathered performers of all stripes and forms. The first show, if I recall correctly, had two drag queens, along with a folk-singing guitarist, a country-rock blaring regional sensation, and a physical comedy sketch to boot.

After each five minutes – which when truth be told ranged from 49 seconds to 6-7 minutes on occasion – the judges would chime in. Judges

were gathered from the crowd, and their role was not only to provide some scores but also to comment, Idol-style, on the performer’s work. Catty, bitchy, flirty, confused – and that was all just the first one! The judges also provided fodder for Lulu to express her opinion on the performer’s work – or on her suspicion of who was sleeping with whom that night.

Anyone who ever attended Five Minutes of Fame knows that the first marks were for (yell this part out loud) “TECHNICAL MERIT!”

The second set of marks was for Autistic Impression. That’s not a typo. Lulu even had a little hand-seizure and funny face to go with it. Politically correct she was not. In later weeks, then months, then years of watching Five Minutes of Fame, probably one of my favourite sights was the looks on the new audience members’ faces when they heard that for the first time.

Based on the scores from the first round, three performers would be invited to the second round. They could perform another number, which some actually had to frantically pick out, so convinced were they that wouldn’t get that far. Lulu always had encouragement for new performers and people that were breaking out of their shell, but for her, words of encouragement might be something like,

“did you see that shoelace she calls a dress?! God love ‘er!”

Not that Lulu herself couldn’t find the most stunning outfits to sparkle in. Her favoured way to describe an outfit included the likelihood of a button firing off it and blinding someone in the audience.

We always sat well back just in case.

I moved away from Halifax over two years ago, but Five Minutes of Fame is the one thing I couldn’t miss if my visit included a Thursday. It changed locations, upped the prize money, Lulu even tried to quit last summer – she loved the dramatic events. She left in a blaze of love from her friends and family too.

Lulu’s alter ego Chuck Gillis died after a long illness February 8, 2007. An audience regular said it best: “What a bright light in our lives, even those of us who only saw it in glimpses.”

Lulu’s final blog entry finished off as follows: “I will be back soon, till then much love and thanks for the Love, dont know what i would do with yu.” Located at www.lulularude.com, the entry quickly became a place to leave your respects for Chuck and his husband Billy.

How we’ll remember her best: “Wig out!”



Photo: Michelle Valberg

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Healthy Decision Making Fair

By Lynn Curwin

The Northern AIDS Connection Society (NACS) and the Truro campus of the Nova Scotia Community College Student Association are hosting a Change the World/Healthy Decision Making Fair on April 5.

This year the fair received funding from the Truro and Area Community Health Board's Change the World program. The fair was first held four years ago, and has been drawing more people every year.

"The biggest challenge is to organize it in a way that it gets the most exposure to a larger audience," said NACS Chair Al McNutt, "We would like to see more community groups get involved this year, and make the event as broad as possible."

Some of the organizations joining the NACS at the fair are the Colchester Sexual Assault Centre, Community Justice for Youth, Central Nova Women's Resource Centre, Public Health, and the Mainland Needle Exchange. There will be information on topics such as smoking, eating disorders, gambling, heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

By attending the fair, people interested in volunteering can find out what organizations are working in the community. It also provides an opportunity for people to find out what organizations might have someone available to speak to classes or at events.

The fair will be held at the Truro campus of the Nova Scotia Community College. Before the event opens to the public there will be presentations for exhibitors. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., a panel will address issues like injection drug use, youth at risk, and the justice system. The fair opens to the public at 11 a.m. and runs until 3 p.m.

The NACS is also organizing a support group for family members of people with HIV/AIDS. The group will offer monthly sessions for people who are dealing with issues such as grief and loss, antici-

pated grief, and self care; and will provide access to resources.

"The reality of having a family member living with HIV/AIDS or dealing with a loss is often overwhelming," said McNutt. "With the stigma and discrimination attached to this virus, it is often difficult for family members to talk about their fears, loss and grief. A support group can often be very helpful to these people."

The annual art auction will take place on June 4 at the Best Western Glengarry, in Truro. The NACS would be pleased to hear from any artists interested in donating art work.

The AIDS Walk will be held in September, and a Christmas ornament sale is being planned for later in the year.

More information is available by calling 895-0931 and speaking to either Al or Heather. Information can also be found on the NACS website at <http://nacns.tripod.com/>.

BOOM Relunched

Hello Wayves Readers,

In November 2005, my wife and I began publishing BOOM Magazine, "Metro Moncton's Alternative" here in Metro Moncton. We launched BOOM to offer Metro Monctonians an uncensored, alternative, "indie" media brand in a province where Irving-controlled print media and censorship has sadly become the standard.

Sixteen months later and after listening very carefully to our readership and business supporters in 2006, we have decided it is time to make some significant changes to the publication. On Thursday, March 1, BOOM Magazine will be

By Ralph Higgins

Forget Canadian Idol! Forget Survivor or Big Brother. The only reality show worth looking at is the PriapeWear International Model Search and it is coming to Halifax on March 24, at Menz Bar on Gottingen Street. If you want to see the excitement of live auditions, competition and lots and lots of sex appeal then this is the show for you.

Competitors from all over the Atlantic region will have a chance to strut their stuff for the judges who will be looking for a number of qualities besides how well you fill out a tee shirt. Stage presence, ability to speak publicly, ease in moving and displaying clothing, and personality will all be key traits for the winning entrant, as well as that "certain something" that sets you apart from the rest. There will be three judges: one from Priape, one chosen by Menz

bar and a guest judge. Registration for the Halifax venue of the Model Search ends March 7. Full details are available by going to www.priapewear.com.

The winner of the regional search wins clothing and prizes from Priape and an all expense paid trip to Montreal to take part in the grand finale when Mr. PriapeWear International will be selected. The grand prizewinner receives a one-year contract to be the spokesperson and cover model for PriapeWear, a trip throughout Europe and the US, \$1,000.00 in clothing from PriapeWear and a photo session with well-known photographer, Robert Labiberté.

Priape Wear - at one time known as This Ain't Kansas - has been designing and producing tees, tanks, jeans, underwear, shorts and swimwear in Canada since 1999. Now they are bringing their quality and style to the international

scene. They are soon to open a store in Berlin and a German model search is already underway.

Model searches are being conducted as well in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal and a number of US cities.

Doug Melanson says of the Halifax gay community, "we are already on the map. Now it is time to shine a light on us." And part of that light of attention and glowing approval will be the spotlights gleaming on the contestants of Mr. PriapeWear International Model Search at Menz Bar on March 24. Real and live - the only air brushing of these contestants will be the collective sighs of admiration coming from the spectators! You won't want to miss this!



Rocky Horror (Stage) Show

The King's Theatrical Society proudly presents Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show, directed by Andrew Durkee. The cult classic will be performed Wednesday, February 28 to Friday, March 2 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, and March 3 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., in the Pit at the University of King's College (6350 Coburg Rd.) One week before the show, you can make reservations by calling 422-6011 ext. 102. Tickets cost \$5 for students, and \$7 general admission.

Audience participation in this show will be encouraged. Please feel free to show up in costumes, to dance along to the Time Warp, and to shout out your favorite lines. Due to safety regulations, however, the use of squirt guns, lighters, and the throwing of rice will not be tolerated during the performance.

Give yourself over to absolute pleasure: come see the Rocky Horror Show.



re-launched and on the streets again with more editorial content and an improved graphic design/layout. This new editorial content will also feature a new GLBT page/section that will cover events and issues specific to the community along with our print advertising partners.

We are currently looking for freelance writers and photographers who would be interested in covering the community for BOOM. If you are interested in contributing to this page/section, please contact me at scott@boommag.ca.

Scott Bulman, Co-Publisher



Last Month

Wayves received a variety of responses to last issues' "You Tell Us" question. They included a couple of replies which amounted to "keep up the good work," a suggestion for a "Dear Abby" style of advice column, a request for more coverage of community news and events (in advance and after the fact), along with a comment about the difficulty of recruiting contributors from across Atlantic Canada. One response made a suggestion for a writers "wanted" poster. There was a request for and offer of more lesbian content, a request for more inclusion of personal experiences (particularly those with a positive spin); and the observation was made that we are more than our sexual identity. Thanks very much to everyone who responded!

This Month

Imagine that you're a tour guide, taking a LGBT tourist around Atlantic Canada. Where would you take them? What would you see? Or, as they are planning their trip, they'd like to know why they should come here. Our question is:

As an LGBT tourist, why would you come to Atlantic Canada?

You Tell Us at: www.wayves.ca



Employment Opportunity

Egale Canada, Canada's national organization advancing equality and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-identified people and their families across Canada, is seeking an

Executive Director

The Executive Director is a dynamic, team-oriented individual responsible for managing the overall operations in a small but diverse organization.

The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of fundraising; superior communications skills (including media and government relations); experience in volunteer-driven organizations and office management (including staffing, procurement and budgeting) and a strong knowledge of LGBT issues. Other assets are the ability to work in French and English and willingness to relocate to the National Capital Region.

Please provide a covering letter, resume and the names of two references by February 28, 2007 to executivedirector@egale.ca.

For more information on Egale Canada and this position, please visit www.egale.ca

Transgender Diaries XIII



By Denise Holliday

One of the most basic things in life that especially for men, never usually changes, is our name. As a male to female transsexual this would be the hub of my wheel of transition. Everything else would come in various orders but all would revolve on the name change.

My spouse came with me the day I applied for the name change and officially became Denise. We went to Halifax and my spouse took a seat in the waiting area while I waited behind a couple of other people in the line-up. The area was open concept and quite large and the only others in the waiting area was a couple filling in the same type of forms I had brought from home. "Next." The voice was female and the face looked as tired and lethargic as the voice. With my emotions in high gear I stepped forward and placed the paperwork on the counter. I wish to change my name, I said. For a moment her demeanor froze and then her eyes flicked in my direction. Obviously the masculine voice and female appearance was not lost on this one. Looking down at the paper and occasionally back at me she was going over the paper work. Finally she reached the interesting part, you know, the part that said Denise was a man. "You're still married." It was a question and statement at the same time, as she looked at me with obvious amazement. "Yes," I reply quietly. Another set of eye flickers and a moment of uncertainty. Hmm, is your spouse aware that you are changing your first name to that of a woman? I smile and turn. In a voice loud enough for anyone in the waiting area to hear, since my spouse was at the other end of the room, I call out "are you aware of the fact I am changing my name to Denise?" "Yes, of course" she replies with a smile. The couple who were filling in forms

look up in response to this then go back to their own problems. The counter lady shrugged with a somewhat perplexed look on her face, stamped the documentation and told me I would receive the official paper in about six weeks. Denise was now a legal entity but still years away from being a fully female one.

The name change, two letters and letter confirming surgery and living full time as a woman allowed me to obtain a British female passport. With those I obtained my female NS drivers license and with those I received my official NS MSI card. There is a lot in a name, I assure you. Now I was myself at least in name and in part in my documentation. I could now legally start living and working as Denise. Many TS's tend to sometimes get a little too much rose coloured tint on our view of life. But not too worry, life soon steps in and reminds us of how cold and cruel reality can really be.

Few people seem to realize that regardless of education or ability, over 60% of transsexuals suffer from marginalization. If they are already in a marginalized group this tends to quadruple the potential and effect of marginalization. Often TS's leave home due to stress and violence at an early age and the group from ages 13 to 25 in North America have a 20% chance of being involved in the sex trade and/or living on the street. This group also has a HIV risk factor 10% higher than genetic female sex workers and the violence they are exposed to is often extreme even by so called normal standards.

Breaking Out of the Gender Binary

By Bill McKinnon

King's Pride and Dalhousie Allies held a panel discussion on gender issues at the University of King's College on Nov. 16. The Trans Panel discussion chaired by Sheena Jamieson included Staci Montgomery, a transsexual; Wenda MacDonald, Education Coordinator of Capital Health's GLBTI Initiative; J.T. Davis, a master's student at MSVU; and Jim Oulton,

a clinical therapist/social worker at the Abby Lane Hospital. The discussion's purpose was to hear transpeople and allies speak of their experiences and help us break out of the gender binary.

The terms "sex" and "gender" are confusing. Staci says sex is about what's between your legs and gender is about what's between your ears. Gender dysphoria/gender identity disorder is about the inadequacy of the gender binary for transpeople. It's about unhappiness with one's biological sex and/or its usual gender role; i.e., what's between the legs is out of sync with what's between the ears.

Transpeople experience problems growing up and as adults in a sex-gender conundrum of isolation and loneliness. If one goes through sex reassignment, the process is expensive—thousands of dollars, even tens of thousands. Transpeople face discrimination, harassment, and violence from the public, co-workers, employers and even families. They may be denied access to washrooms, housing, jobs, medical services and other ameni-

ties of normal life. Some succumb to substance abuse and are often the victims of hate crimes.

Outside Halifax, little has been done in Atlantic Canada by health care authorities to address transpeople's concerns. In HRM, however, Capital Health has undertaken an initiative with the vision of improving care for GLBTI people by focusing on their unique health needs and the role of health

care providers in addressing GLBTI needs. Health care for transpeople is about access and safety even if clinicians can be found at a defined safe place of entry. What does a transperson face if (s)he goes to emergency? In HRM, like most other places, there are no standards of care. A survey done at the Dalhousie medical facility revealed that there are no standards or clinical guidelines for nurses or social workers for services to transpeople. Some issues of concern include lack of sensitivity by clinicians, clinicians who are interested but don't have the information they need, use of the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care (a guide for health care professionals who assist the gender-questioning), and the adoption of clinical guidelines for family physicians. Capital Health is making progress, but the resources allocated are limited and there is a long way to go to achieve meaningful improvements.

Grad student J.T. Davis doesn't recall having a gender as a child but found a great disjunction between

Sex is about what's between your legs; gender is about what's between your ears

Cont'd to Gender p 14



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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITEH

Hey Tom,

You know, these days when I watch the news I'm never quite sure whether to be amused or outraged. First, there is the whole Grey's Anatomy controversy with Isaiah Washington calling co-star T.R. Knight a faggot, then publicly apologizing, then even more publicly denying it at the Golden Globes, then announcing he's going into rehab and therapy. Is this some kind of weird cosmic joke on the old saying, "Physician, heal thyself"? His decision may, in some part, have been influenced by the fact that the Disney/ABC TV has a very strict anti-discrimination policy and Washington's actions were grounds for dismissal.

Then, there's Paris Hilton, the famous... uh... famous... uh... anyway, Paris Hilton who reportedly made a home video in which she utters the f*gg*t word and the n*gg** word. You think it's the double "g" sound that is so appealing? Or maybe it is we who are being unrealistic. Isn't expecting Paris Hilton to be socially conscious a bit like asking Donald Trump for hairstyling tips?

And, most recently, during the Super Bore football game, Snickers ran an ad in which two men are so avidly eating the same chocolate bar that they end up mouth to mouth. EEewww! To make up for this lapse in manliness they rip out chest hair. This is supposed to be hysterically funny, one assumes. Interesting that so many still find homosexuality threatening. GLAAD and the Mathew Shepard Foundation have both issued public condemnations of the commercial.

As a recent guest on Ellen quipped, "Gay is the new black."

I think the only course of action is to face the issue head on. If Mr. Washington, for example, truly wants to atone for his behaviour how about an episode of Gay's Anatomy? I've already submitted an idea to the networks entitled "Don't judge a man until you've walked a mile in his Prada Slingbacks."

In my version, when Dr. Burke refuses to treat a patient who is a drag queen, the patient's mother, played by Cher, inflicts the evil eye on the physician, while singing Gypsies, Fags and Thieves. The doctor dismisses the curse as nonsense until he arrives home to find his front door painted lavender and his living room tastefully decorated. On his answering machine are threatening messages from Melissa Etheridge and Boy George. Subscriptions to International Male and Underwear Over the Rainbow start showing up in his hospital mailbox. His nights are plagued with a recurring nightmare of having his nipples pierced by Liberace while having his legs waxed. At work, when he does a follow up consultation on Liza Minelli's hip replacement, Liza proceeds to demonstrate how well the operation succeeded by kicking him in

the groin and calling him a homophobe.

When even his colleagues shun him Dr. Burke finally seeks help from a shrink, Dr. McNutbar. Under hypnotherapy, Burke confronts his prejudice and says he is sorry for his behaviour. The therapist says talk is cheap (except if you charge by the hour to listen to neurotics) and Burke must put his money where his mouth is. This leads to an unfortunate posthypnotic compulsion where Burke tries to perform fellatio on his wallet.

The curse is finally lifted after Burke gets drunk and submits to being spanked with a pink purse by McSteamy and McDreamy in the shower. (Viewer discretion is advised.)

Okay, silly, I know but I tend to make jokes when I'm angry - in case you haven't noticed. What is dangerous is the prevailing idea that name calling doesn't matter, that we should just shrug it off and forget about it. An American newscaster stated on the air that he didn't see what the big deal was and he thought the controversy was blown out of proportion.

The problem is name calling is powerful. Words are mighty. Think how we all react when we are called fat or stupid or ugly or any name that sets us apart from others. To be named different, odd, queer is to be set apart, is to be labelled not normal, which really means less worthy, inferior.

Names can produce deep wounds that remain long after the name caller has forgotten the incident. They stick with us and become the names we call ourselves - loser, timid, unattractive - working away like time-released capsules of contempt and hate.

If you've ever had someone say to you "I love you," you know the power of those simple words. Just as the phrase, "I've met someone else," carries an equal power. Just words? Think of the time spent by expectant parents selecting a name for their child. Just names?

We all have prejudices and ingrained negative associations. The key is to recognize them and realize that our judgement is less trustworthy in those areas. And we must take responsibility for our actions and our words; be aware of the names we use for ourselves and for others, even when not spoken aloud.

Consider all the many names you and I have called each other, Tom. Oh sure, insulting names spoken in jest, but most of all we've used a very potent name brimming with power: friend.

Love ya!

Crawford

Sadness... Still a Way to Go

By Eldon Hay

Call her Jean Smith. There she was, photo and all, in the obituary column of the daily newspaper. It took me an instant... I'm poor at remembering names... How did I know her?

Then - it came back to me. Jean had attended several consecutive PFLAG Canada meetings. It wasn't easy for her to do so. She was dependent on someone else driving her from the Seniors Home where she lived. I phoned for a while, she couldn't come for several meetings - arrangements were just too difficult. I continued phoning, but irregularly - at Christmas time.

Jean was a senior citizen, of course. She'd been married, had children, then much later divorced. She identified as a lesbian, somewhat shyly. It was difficult for her to admit that she was lesbian; though she did so at the PFLAG meetings. She had heard her adult sons and daughters speak about gays and lesbians - in very unflattering terms. She feared that if she came out, Jean wouldn't see her grandchildren again. She didn't want to risk that.

Sometimes youngsters fear coming out, what will their parents say/think? Will they be disowned? At the other end of life, sadly, sometimes oldsters fear coming

out, what will their children say/think? Will grandchildren be cut off?

Jean's obituary brought back those memories. And elicited others.

One conference, Montreale Bill Ryan told of an elderly woman in Vancouver, who walked in the Pride March, with a paper bag over her head. She wanted/needed the companionship of fellow queers; but she didn't want her own children to know.

I officiated at the funeral of a dear friend several years ago. Call him Bob Brown. His family was present, his wife, his son and daughter. Bob had been a long time PFLAGer, all his family knew he was gay. But there was an unspoken understanding that this was not to be made public. Not even at the funeral. The understanding was maintained.

I pay sincere tribute to Jean Smith and Bob Brown. Okay, that's not their real names. But you may know of other comparable situations/persons. These lived as best they could, we honour them. And we renew our efforts to create a new culture and community, so that future Jeans and Bobs can come out; and be the persons they really want to be, for themselves, and for all of us.

Bits

By David McConkey

Fronrunners, a GLBT running club (www.fronrunners.org) has entered a team in the Cabot Trail Relay for May 26 and 27 in Cape Breton. Ray, the team captain, based with Toronto Fronrunners would welcome additional runners for the event. Email Fronrunner Dave at sunshyne@nexicom.net and he will put you in contact with the team captain.

OutReach to Youth for the Out-Rights, OutGames and OutFest in Calgary in early April encourages youth participation and donations to support them getting there by those in the community who support them. Youth requiring assistance and donors are encouraged to contact Youth OutReach Request and Funding Coordinator at glisanaoutreach@sympatico.ca

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

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Spiritual Renewal MAC Leather Society

By Bill McKinnon

In March, Chris Glaser will be back at the Tatamagouche Centre to lead two spiritual retreats. I attended the one he led last year (See Wayves May/06, P 13) and found the retreat experience: inspiring, the fellowship: friendly, the accommodations: comfortable, and the meals: hearty and wholesome. Rev. Chris Glaser is the author of ten books, and is currently Interim Senior Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco, a church that welcomes all, including the homeless, dozens of 12-step programs, even a Buddhist "sangha." For more on Chris, check out www.chrisglaser.com.

The first retreat, March 21-23 (Wednesday, 7 pm to Friday, 1 pm) will be based on the life and writings of Henri Nouwen. The cost is \$320 (meals, accommodations and tuition) and the co-leader is Betty McKenna, coordinator of the Tatamagouche Centre. Whether you go or not, check out "Henri's Mantle: 100 Meditations on Nouwen's Legacy," edited by Chris Glaser (Pilgrim Press, 2002, p.211.)

A book review of Michael Ford's biography of Henri Nouwen can be found at jmm.aaa.net.au/articles/4673.htm. The reviewer writes, "Nouwen was a prophet to millions of people who heard him speak and read his books, but he also was wounded in so many ways. His life was one of paradox and pain. Nouwen, for example, knew some 1,500 people he counted as personal friends, yet he constantly struggled with intense feelings of loneliness;" and notes

that the biographer, "succeeds brilliantly in shedding light on Nouwen's inner life, particularly his angst regarding his homosexuality."

The second retreat, March 23-25 (Friday 7pm to Sunday 1 pm) is called, "Making Church a House of Prayer for All Peoples." The cost is \$340 and the co-leader is Rev. Bob Johnson, a minister in St. Andrew's NB. Bob who is a member of AFFIRM United (www.affirmunited.ca) has been organizing LGBT retreats at Tatamagouche for some time and one of many good words to describe them is "uplifting." The promo for this retreat reads, "Jesus taught inclusivity, saying that temples/churches should be houses of prayer for ALL peoples, regardless of gender or sexuality, race or ethnicity or nationality, ability or age - maybe even regardless of their spiritualities! God's tabernacle is big enough for all of us. How can our churches truly express God's all-inclusive welcome? Come to this retreat and discover new practical ways to grow into God's hospitable presence, and widen the circle of inclusion."

Tatamagouche Centre is in Nova Scotia near the Northumberland Strait in a beautiful rural setting. For more information or to register check out: <http://www.tatacentre.ca/>, phone 1-800-218-2220 or 902-657-2231, fax 902-657-3445 or email tatacentre@tatacentre.ca.



Road Show

On January 13, Club Montreal in Saint John hosted the MAC Leather Society 101 Road Show, the first show of the year for the MAC Leather Society. It was a fun, quaint evening with a very supportive and pleasant audience. Steve Laviolette, the MC opened the show with the introduction of the new Mr. & Ms. Atlantic Canada MAC Leather 2007: Rob Myers from Moncton, and Saint John's very own Marcy Walton.

The evening's entertainment included the

very talented Gilbert, who performed such hilarious acts as "Youngblood," "Patricia the Stripper" and "Equal Marriage". The angelic voice of Mr. A.C. MAC Leather, himself, singing "Advertising Spaces," by Robbie Williams, wooed the audience. The evening included a leather fashion Show which began with the casual wear, continued later with the minimal wear portion and concluded with the full leather segment. Each portion was narrated by Steve Laviolette who explained the relevance of each category.

Halfway through the evening Ms. A.C. Leather and Wayne Richard (MAC Leather's VP) held a few draws and gave away door prizes sponsored by My Diversity Place Shop of Moncton, Club Montreal of Saint John, Triangles of Moncton, and Mario's Framing Shop of Saint John.

Then Ms. A.C. Leather had the privilege of introducing the highlight of the evening, the "New

Brunswick Village People." This group of guys is extraordinary! They performed a fabulous rendition of the ever popular "YMCA" by the Village People from the 70s. What a sight to see, and if you missed it this time I feel sorry for you. Hopefully you'll be able to catch them the next time they perform.

All in all, a very fun time was had by all who attended, and the MAC Leather Society was very excited to begin their Road

Show in Saint John, the home of Ms. Atlantic Canada Leather, Marcy!

The end of the evening introduced a Valentine's Day draw in which Ms. A.C. MAC Leather and Mr. MAC Leather Saint John (Irl Washburn) repeated every Saturday night at Club Montreal until February 10.

The MAC Leather tour enjoyed making its debut in January at Club Montreal. Kudos go out to Marsha and Irl, owner/staff of the bar, and the many out-of-town entertainers who all made for an enjoyable evening. Next stop was in Moncton on February 17, which included a Society brunch/meeting at which this year's schedule was finalized and discussions on a membership list were held.

March takes us to Petit-Rocher on Saturday March 24 at CLUB G.N.G. (www.gngnb.ca) with both local and out-of-town entertainment, a leather fashion show, door prizes and a 50/50 draw. A Society

meeting will be held on the March 25 with the MAC09 competition, scheduled for September 2 at Camp Ectus, high on the agenda. Merci a nos hôtes du NORD.

MAC Leather 2007, Rob Myers, will be hosting a "men-only party" at Triangles, (www.trianglesbar.com) Friday, March 30. Plans are in the works for a Halifax tour/meeting in April during the Fetish Ball weekend and maybe to another town near you. Let us know if you would like to host our tour or if you wish to request membership, contact us through our Secretary, Paul LeBlanc at 506 854 3081 or email chinman520@hotmail.com.

performed a fabulous rendition of the ever popular "YMCA" by the Village People

Poetry at Mollyz

By Bill McKinnon

If you like poetry or write it and like to read it in front of other writers, here is your chance. The Halifax Poetry Society meets every month at Mollyz Diner. Come and bring your poems. There is no charge but you can make a dona-

tion if you wish.

For meeting dates/time, see Wayves Events - Menz Bar listings. For more information on the group see the website of the Society of East Coast Literacy & Arts Network at www.eastcoastliteracyandarts.net.

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Welcome from Halifax Pride

By Michael Davies-Cole, Co-Chair, Halifax Pride 2007

Thanks to the tireless effort of the 2006 Pride Committee we are off to a great start for 2007. Last year we saw Pride grow and become the fourth largest in Canada.

We have come a long way from a few covered faces with banners and chants. But with growth comes other challenges. Pride has grown into a series of events which need many hands to help it along. In this day of too much work and too little time, a person may be left to wonder if they can indeed spare time to help out. I think of the saying "it takes a village to raise a child." Well, Pride is our child and our community is certainly one of the largest and gayest villages around. Pride welcomes all to help it grow. With growth comes recognition from the powers that be that we are certainly not a few covered faces any longer.

I came to Pride a long time ago in my own journey to see where I fit into the community. With many changes inside the community and the world around, it has not always been an easy quest and at times I have had to sit back and re-examine why I still do it. The answer I found was neither in the parade nor the party, but in the faces of the children being brought up in our community, children who can say they have two moms or dads, children who play in the crowd on

Pride day and no longer stand in the shadows.

Pride day may be a good party but that is not what the bottom line is about. It's about the legacy we can leave behind, one that helps stop the fear, the confusion and the persecution of those yet to come; because for every child who stands proud of his or her family and waves a flag along the side of the road there are still those standing in the shadows. We need our village to help make a change and our legacy to continue to grow.

There are openings for all avenues of interest in Halifax Pride. We urge you to spare the time you can and help us make that change. For upcoming Halifax Pride Events, check the big Halifax Rainbow events page, gay.hfxns.org, and click on "Events".

Thank you

Community Town Hall

"Halifax needs more gay and lesbian sports!" "We need a LGBTQ choir!" "More men's events!" "A dyke march!" "A community health centre!" "A Queer theatre company!" "More for youth!" "More for seniors!"

The chorus of voices crying out for change in the local (and provincial) queer scene is varied, sometimes competitive, and often most clamorous when we gather at

events like Halifax's Pride Festival. That's one reason why the Halifax Pride Committee wanted to hold a Town Hall gathering before the hoopla and partying starts in July. We want to hear from you about what you would like to see, not just in Halifax Pride 2007, but what you would hope to see developing in the community at large.

We will be partnering with any and all organizations that work on our community's behalf; we hope that many of them will be able to participate in this evening. We hope this will give all members of our diverse, rainbow world a chance to meet and hear from our leaders.

As this article goes to press, the location is still to be determined. However, set Thursday, March 8 at 7 p.m. in your calendars, and pay close attention to the events board on gay.hfxns.org, your local papers, TV and radio outlets for the location.

It's very possible that Nova Scotians may be going to the polls in 2007 to elect new federal and provincial governments. What do we want to say to the politicians? What are our issues? How can groups like Wayves, NSRAP and Pride best advocate for these causes on our behalf? We hope this meeting will help us all to better understand the issues that matter most to us. Come and make sure your voice is heard.

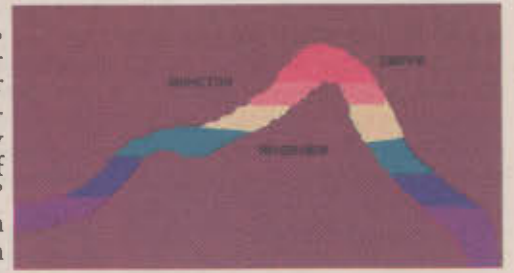
September: Moncton Pride

With the start of 2007, the organizing committee for this year's Greater Moncton pride festivities has adopted a new working name, "River of Pride-Riviere de Fierite," along with a new mission statement and has been working hard to provide

a variety of activities throughout the next eight months leading up to the main event, scheduled from September 8 through 16 inclusively. You may follow developments on our website at www.fiertemonctonpride.ca as well as checking the updated calendar of events on Triangles bulletin board. Suggestion forms and volunteers forms are also available.

It was in a red-hot decor, that the colour parties were resurrected on February 3 at Triangles. Guests were given a sneak preview of confirmed projects as well as those in progress while taking advantage of drink promotions and prizes offered by our sponsors: Finlandia, Moosehead, Hotel Beausejour, My Place Diversity Shop and Triangles.

Orange will be de rigueur on March 3, followed by the other colour parties on the first Saturday of every month, leading up to the all colour bash on August 4. The committee appreciates the continued support of Triangle's owners and staff who help facilitate all these fundraising opportunities (www.trianglesbar.com).



Le comite Riviere de Fierite se mobilise pour vous presenter un programme divers du 8 au 16 septembre prochain ainsi que plusieurs activitees d'ici la. De nature volontaire, le comite essaye de promouvoir ces demarches dans les deux langues officielles. Cependant il arrivera des circonstances ou ca ne seras pas possible. Nous apprecions votre comprehension et nous nous engageons a faire de notre mieux a cet effet.

Recently appointed volunteer registrar, Terry Clancy, tgoo@rogers.com, offers this:

Planet Volunteer: On our busy planet the demand for volunteers is becoming higher and higher. Volunteers are the foundation of all non profit charities, organizations supporting the cause strong and true. Volunteers are the legions of people that work endless hours for little reward, and are loyal members for their chosen charity. Many of their duties are meeting and greeting the general public, organizing, and manual labour. Volunteers will arrive with a vision in their soul and a song on their lips. I applaud all volunteers with pride.

DalOut and Allies



By Bill McKinnon

This article is about Dalhousie University allies but students at all universities, colleges, etc will identify with the issues. DalOut, Dalhousie's very active LGBT society met at the Dal SUB on January 18 with some non-gay friends for a discussion about the role of allies of the LGBTQ community. There were about 25 people. It was a fascinating discussion. Here are some of the points made.

Who is an ally? (S)he's a student, faculty or staff person (straight or gay) to whom a LGBT can go to and feel secure. Dal Allies publishes a list of those officially designated as allies and a person may apply to be put on the list. Some think of there being "big A" allies, the official ones, and "little A" allies, i.e. sympathetic straight friends and acquaintances. The role of allies may include being available for LGBT's to come and talk, providing an accepting environment, being a

good listener, and being open and accepting. Big A Allies need to be visible; often signs are put up to indicate a safe space.

Should professors be allies? Some are; some not; some may even be homophobic, and for many being an ally is an extra responsibility they do not want to take on.

In some areas of the university, allies are less evident than in others. The Engineering campus, for example, may be less hospitable because it is male dominated. Some times straights are not comfortable with gays because they are not familiar with them. Some collectively come across as homophobic but may be supportive on a one-to-one basis. Small A allies may be there too but invisible until you get to know them.

The question of telling or not telling someone you are gay was discussed. Sometimes not coming out may be more comfortable. A lot depends on self-confidence and perhaps parental influences. How do your parents talk of gays? Are they open or is it all hush-hush or negative? The discussion included some coming out stories from straights who told of gay-friends-coming-out-to-them experiences.

Homophobia/anti-gay sentiments exist in today's society. People tell gay jokes or make unkind,

hurting remarks. Sometimes it's just part of today's culture and not really intended as a put down, but when we are in the closet, newly out or not yet ready, little slurs and jokes can hurt. Different terms hurled at us or about gay people in general have varying levels of discomfort to our ears (depending on our age and background) e.g. queer, homo, dyke, faggot, "that's so gay," and worse. Fortunately, as we mature and are more comfortable with ourselves we become less sensitive to it all.

In a perfect world, there would be no need for allies, but it's not perfect. Allies can be important for students, somebody to stick up for you, you don't have to struggle alone with the hatred, phobias and ignorance of some straights. It means a lot when people are supportive and stand up for you. Allies help themselves too. Being an ally can also be a satisfying experience which could change the ally's life.

For more information on DalOut, see societies.dsu.ca/DalOUT, for a really good write-up on Allies, see dalally.student-services.dal.ca, and to learn about LGB Youth Project which supports Dal Allies and other ally groups and GSA's, see www.youthproject.ns.ca.

Chuck Hsuen at NSRAP

A new year is upon us and as always we are hopeful that it will be an active year for NSRAP. A new face will help us with that and I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Project Coordinator - Charles Hsuen.

For the past five years Charles has been involved with various aspects of the Rainbow Community in Halifax. He was the former Events Manager for Club NRG/Evolution, in which he coordinated the application for their cabaret license with the Alcohol and Gaming Authority and the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. Charles Hsuen has also performed and emceed for countless Rainbow Organizations, including Halifax Pride, ISCANs, Manna for Health, Family Pride Camping Association, and the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia.

Charles is a radio broadcaster in HRM for three separate networks: SEASIDE FM 94.7 in Eastern Passage; VoicePrint, which broadcasts across Canada; and CKDU 88.1FM in Halifax, with an estimated audience of over 4.5 million listeners a week.

Over the next few months, Charles plans to work closely with various LGBT groups in Nova Scotia to promote awareness, coordinate events, and unify the community with NSRAP initiatives.

NSRAP has been working throughout Nova Scotia as a voice for the Rainbow Community since 1995, growing over the years, and relying on interested volunteers and active members who identify and bring relevant issues to the Board for action. We have developed strong links with many government departments and non-governmental organizations, especially in the areas of education, human rights, policing, legal/political affairs, health care, faith and religion, and community development.

For more information on NSRAP logon to: www.nsrp.ca. To contact NSRAP email: info@nsrap.ca.

Kevin Kindred, Chair of Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Suite 100 2786 Agricola St. Halifax, NS B3K 4E1 Office: 444-7887.



Jay Walsh



Photo by Aidan Tierney

By Ralph Higgins

When Jay Walsh returned to Halifax recently after years of being away, he was eager to continue with the sports activities he had participated in during his six year stay in Toronto. Although not a jock - he describes himself as much more comfortable with the literary and arts communities - he enjoyed biking, curling, hiking as social activities with an obvious fitness benefit. Additionally he derived great satisfaction in events like the Toronto Bike Rally, which is a major fundraiser for the Toronto People With AIDS Foundation.

A native Nova Scotian working in the public relations field, Walsh is committed to raising the public profile of the queer community and in bringing together others involved in sports and physical activity of all levels to improve and diversify the public image of what he sees as an already vibrant gay community.

"I'm not looking to participate in every sport in the city. I'd like to spearhead a cycling group, but more importantly I'd like to bring other people together from different disciplines who could lead or at least coordinate activities in their area."

What he brings is considerable experience in organization, communication and a strong focus on the goal of creating something

worthwhile and long lasting for the GLBT community. He began his participation with the Bike Rally as a volunteer and over several years his involvement increased to his being on the steering committee. Walsh believes that Halifax has the possibility of putting on this kind of major fundraising event and even hosting national LGBT tournaments.

Walsh is clearly enthusiastic about the possibilities here and knows that the first step is to talk with those already involved in physical activities. "It all starts with a get-together, a cup of coffee or a beer and some laughs. I'm realistic - I know it might take a long time. And I know there's a lot more research to do and people to listen to."

Whether you are interested in competitive sport, already involved in sport or fundraising, or are just looking for a social activity outside of the bar and club scene, Jay Walsh would like to hear from you.

He is looking forward to getting wheels turning - not just bike wheels, but also the small wheels in the brain that generate ideas and possibilities.

Jay Walsh can be reached at out.halifax@gmail.com.

Making a Difference: Gemma Schlamp-Hickey

By Bill McKinnon

Gemma Schlamp-Hickey, has entered Newfoundland and Labrador politics on behalf of the NDP. She sought election to NL's House of Assembly, in a by-election in the district of Kilbride on February 8. Gemma grew up in the district. The seat was vacated by former Conservative cabinet minister, Ed Byrne who was forced to resign from Premier Danny Williams's government.

Gemma realized that it is tough to win in a staunch Conservative district but accepted the challenge, received a lot of encouragement from the St John's LGBT community and even got help from Nova Scotia when Peter Stoffer, MP for Sackville-Eastern Shore pitched in to help in her campaign.

Gemma, who was married last summer and lives with her spouse in St. John's, has long been a tireless local advocate for gay and lesbian rights. As President of Egale Canada, Canada's leading advocacy group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-identified (LGBT) people, she recently applauded a Nova Scotian school board for its leadership in

adopting a comprehensive anti-homophobia policy; "The leadership shown by the South Shore Regional Board acts as a figurative lighthouse for navigating the sometimes treacherous waters of safety in schools. They are providing a beacon of decency, compassion, humanity and justice to be shone across the nation."

Gemma has served her community in many capacities, e.g.

trated the NL same-sex marriage court challenge and courted Halifax lawyer Sean Foreman as council for the couples.

On progress towards being accepted in NL, Gemma agrees that St. John's is very gay friendly, but maintains that there is a lot of apathy particularly in the rural areas. "People have identified me and called me as a person of support.

I'm hearing that there's a number of gay and lesbian people who live in these rural areas who experience harassment and threats and who just don't report it because they're not out of the closet and they're afraid that if they do report it and if they do come out, then the abuse will increase."

She adds many young people leave the province for the open gay communities in cities like Toronto and Montreal.

Gemma did not succeed in her election bid, but as Peter Stoffer told Wayves, "She's a Gemmacrat and is in for the long haul." Way to go Gemma! Thanks for making a difference.



as LGBT Coordinator at the NL Sexual Health Centre (a position she created), Chair of the AIDS Committee of NL, Executive Member of Canadians for Equal Marriage and as President of Newfoundland Gay and Lesbians for Equality. Not only did she co-lead the campaign for equal marriage across the country, she orches-

Girls will be Boys: An Exploration of Drag Kings

By Gloria Nickerson

I carefully laid everything out I would need. Plastic wrap, tape, hair gel, glue, eyeliner, eyeshadow, white tank, loose jeans. I cut pieces of my long hair into small pieces and put it in a little pile on the bathroom counter. I got undressed down to my femme undies and had my girlfriend help me bind my breasts flattening them by four rounds of tight plastic wrap secured by tape. I was mesmerized. I wore my jeans low. I greased my hair back and started gluing hair to my face. It had begun. I couldn't stop now.

Writing on drag kings and doing it are two entirely different things. I was not prepared for my own contradictions to gender that are so etched into my head I had to see myself dressed as a man before I finally got it. All gender play is subversive. It removes us a little further from the stereotypical heterosexual dichotomy of man/woman, masculine/feminine. I've been asked if I think gender exists. Of course it does, and we need to do for gender what we do for multiculturalism. I do not want a world of gender androgyny. I want

variation in multiple forms: men, women, girls, grrls, boys, boyz, bois, trans everything, genderfucks. We need to detach how we think of gender and how where we think it should belong. Whether a drag king is femme off stage or performing from an inner sense of masculinity or not performing at all, it still challenges the assumption that masculinity is firmly and immovably attached to the male body only. Wrong.

Gender is a social construct; it is malleable, fluid and wonderful. Gender is not permanently or naturally linked to our biological sex roles. Masculine and feminine are only ideas about gender identity that can change over time not just in society but also in an individual's lifetime. Starting at this assumption we can explore how our notions of gender are created and maintained to preserve a binary and segregated structure. In this system, masculinity is assumed to be naturally linked

to the male sex role and femininity to the female sex role. Exploring gender as a social construct allows for an opening of dialogue in the dominant heteronormative discourse; making room for variations of gender identity. In this mode of thought, gender becomes fluid and

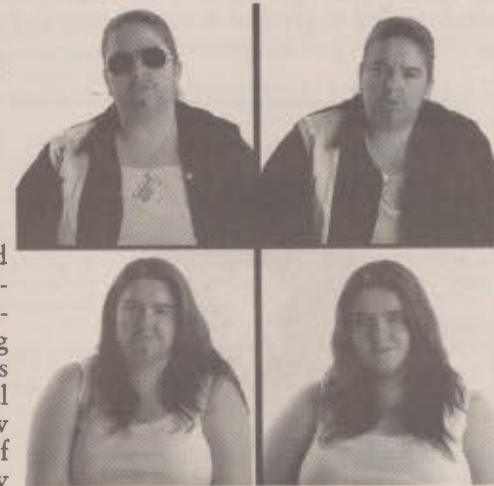
I want variation in multiple forms: men, women, girls, grrls, boys, boyz, bois, trans everything, genderfucks.

changeable and the possibilities for alternative gender identities emerge. Drag kings are not just

women who dress as men. Drag kings take gender and put in on the stage to explore its performative and political aspects. As a marginalized culture that is not accepted in the mainstream they possess oppositional power to challenge societal standards of appropriate behavior where alternative gender identities can be produced, validated and celebrated. By disturbing our notions of gender, drag kings, empower those who do not fit into the binary gendered structure by

dismantling gender and than making it dysfunctional in any recognizable manner. Making gender fluid destabilizes our naturalized societal norms to explore new and exciting categories of gender. Drag kings may vary in definition and performance but anything that disrupts gender and makes us question what is natural is productive in re-establishing the allocation of privilege and acceptance.

My favorite photograph ever is the August, 1993 *Vanity Fair* cover of Cindy Crawford giving kd lang a shave. I remember finding the magazine as a kid in my sister's closet. I'm not sure how long I stared at it in amazement, but I couldn't keep my eyes off it. I've personally explored more than a few gender stereotypes only to arrive here again in this in between place. I guess I'm trying to say that I'm sensitive to gender. And for the hundred times I've had to explain my thesis, usually to critical and comical expressions, I think gender matters. I think multiple genders should be celebrated without



scorn, distaste or fear.

Gloria Nickerson has recently graduated from St. Thomas University with an Honours in Sociology. Her thesis, "Girls Will be Boys: An Exploration of Drag Kings," includes a personal interview with Diane Torr, a famous performance artist and facilitator of the "Man For a Day workshop." (www.dianetorr.com.) Also, a professional photographer, the portraits of Gloria as Mick, her drag persona, are part of a photographic series for an upcoming exhibition. She will be presenting parts of her thesis at an upcoming Research Fair to be held at St. Thomas University. Anyone with comments, questions or if interested in being photographed should please contact Gloria at glorianickerson@hotmail.com http://newphotographers.net/Gloria_Nickerson/index.html.

Chef's Corner



Welcome back after our short hiatus. Oh, how the season has really settled in! Last time I wrote to you, we weren't sure if winter was really going to show its face. Now we're asking groundhogs for their supernatural predictions on how much more of this weather we will get. This month's recipe is comfort food for a frigid season. It's hearty enough to be great meal on its own with a nice slab of crusty bread. Its even suitable for clairvoyant rodents.

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

Potato, Cabbage, Smokey Bacon and Cheddar Soup

Ingredients

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 med size winter cabbage (cored and shredded) | 1/2 lb bacon (diced) |
| 2.5 lb Yukon gold potatoes (washed, peeled and diced small) | 4 L chicken broth |
| 1 Spanish onion (peeled and diced small) | 1 cup white wine |
| 3 ribs celery (small diced) | 1 cup heavy cream |
| 3 cloves garlic (minced) | Salt & pepper to taste |
| 2 tbsp olive oil | 1/2 cup grated old cheddar (for garnish) |

Method

Crisp the bacon on medium high heat, remove from pan and reserve the fat drippings. In a large soup pot, sauté onions, garlic, celery and 1/2 the potatoes and cabbage in the bacon drippings. Add the chicken broth, bring to the boil, reduce and simmer until fork tender. Puree the mixture in a blender, pass through a fine sieve, add the cream, season and return to pot and keep warm. In a fry pan in the olive oil sauté the remaining cabbage and potatoes until cabbage starts to wilt, add 1/2 cup white wine, cover and let simmer until vegetables are tender, season with salt and pepper. Add this to the finished soup. Bring to serving temperature, ladle up a serving, garnished with bacon bits and grated cheddar.

Spring for Life in Moncton

Spring for Life was developed in 2003 by the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research in recognition of the need to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. While medical advancements have prolonged and enhanced the lives of people living with HIV, they laid a foundation for belief that AIDS is no longer a problem. This most devastating endemic has been relegated to the backburner. This campaign raises awareness and supports the CURE/CARE sides of the fight against AIDS: the need for research, to find a cure, and community-based services and prevention

work.

Spring for Life engages a coalition of AIDS agencies and the private sector in the fight to end HIV/AIDS. Hundreds of businesses will participate by raising funds and awareness in support of HIV/AIDS research and enhanced prevention work. Bright and beautiful gerbera daisies will be on sale March 19 - 24.

You can buy daisies in Moncton at WINNERS, 35 Plaza; HOMESENSE, 125 Trinity Dr; Blue Cross Centre; Moncton Hospital; Highfield Square Mall; Studio Paul LeBlanc; and Moncton Farmers Market. For information please contact SIDA/AIDS Moncton at (506) 859-9616 or sidaidsm@sidaidsmoncton.com or visit www.springforlife.ca



Cont'd from Letter p 2

grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment "without notice or compensation."

I'm a taxpayer. I object to the funnelling of provincial funds, whether via the \$2,000 first-year credit to students or in any other form, to any academic institution which operates so flagrantly in violation of a governing principle of provincial law.

Secondly, the four provincial universities in NB fall under the responsibility of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Committee, which is directly accountable to the Council of Atlantic Premiers. The Commission reviews all new programs and incipient modifications as well as monitoring the universities' quality assurance mechanisms.

ABU and the other private universities are subject to no such scrutiny; they may or may not do

a good job - the province has no way of knowing. Common sense and responsible governing says that provincial dollars must go where the province can assure itself of the quality of the job being done.

Eldon Hay, Sackville, NB



Kim Cole

Behaviour Therapist & Trainer

1-866-418-4584

Email: kim@barkbusters.ca
Website: www.barkbusters.ca



Help give hope, one daisy at a time.

Buy a bouquet for \$5 during the first week
of Spring to help end AIDS.

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- | | |
|---|--|
| Wednesday, March 21st
Dalhousie University Student Union Building
IWK Health Centre (Gallery)
Dartmouth Ferry Terminal
Scotia Square Mall | Saturday, March 24th
Dartmouth Farmers' Market at Alderney Landing
Mic Mac Mall
Halifax Shopping Centre |
|---|--|

For additional information on selling locations across Nova Scotia, please contact: Jessica at 425-4882 x228 [fund@caas.ns.ca](mailto:jfund@caas.ns.ca)



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Events >>

Amherst

Second Monday

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

First and Third Wednesdays

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

Third Thursday of each month

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

Annapolis Valley

Every Thursday

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

Every Sunday

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

Bridgewater

Third Saturday of each month

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

Cape Breton

Mar 25, Apr 29, May 27, June 24

Meetings will be in the same place (Family Place Resource Centre), same day (Sundays) and same time (7:30-9:30 pm). All are welcome. If you know of anyone who would benefit from our meetings

- they can contact us at sydneyne@pflagcanada.ca, sexual diversity centre 563-1481, Celeste 563-1389 or B. Durdle 563-1443.

Charlottetown

What's coming up on the island? If you don't tell Wayves, who will?

Fredericton

Every Tuesday

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

Every Wednesday

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

Third Sunday of each month

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

Fourth Wednesday of each month

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

Fredericton Bar & Business Calendar

BOOM! NIGHTCLUB

www.boomnightclub.ca, 463-Boom! (2666) 474 Queen Street

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

Fridays and Saturdays - Happy hour 4-9, All-extended-mix mainstream club music 9-2.

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

Halifax

Every Sunday

Bedford United Church. 1200 Bedford Highway, Bedford. We are an Affirming Congregation and welcome everyone. Services at 9 am (Casual & Contemporary) and 11 am (Quieter & Traditional). June 25-Sept. 10, 10 am service. For more info, call 835-8497.

Every Sunday

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, Halifax: A Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GLBT community. Everyone is welcome! 453-9249 email: safeharbour@eastlink.ca web: safeharbourmcc.com (Every Sunday 11:00am, and also a 7:00pm service on the Second Sunday of the month.) at 2786 Agricola St. Bloomfield Centre, Suite #108

Second Sunday of each month

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

First and Third Tuesdays

Formerly known as the Queer/Straight Alliance, Mount Pride in the GLBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. We are an active and online group that meets bi-weekly on tuesdays at 12 noon in the diversity center in Roseria on campus, and online at mountpride@yahoo.com. Possible events that are being planned for the winter semester include sexuality awareness week, movies nights, potlucks, guest speakers,

and many more. There are always spontaneous meals and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join.

First and Third Tuesdays

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

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

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

First and Third Sundays

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

Mar 1, 15, 29, Apr 12, 26, May 10, 24

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

Mar 4, 18, Apr 1, 15, 29, May 13, 27

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

Mar 5, 22, Apr 2, 19, 30

Halifax Pride, Committee meetings are held at the LGB Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St. at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome; so get involved. To learn more about Pride, check out www.halifaxpride.com

Halifax Youth Project Calendar

Youth Project events operate in a 4-week schedule. To find out what week we're operating

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2104 Gottingen Street, Halifax • www.MenzBar.ca

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Vancouver Feminist Action Project

The Vancouver Feminist Action Project, a group of undergraduate students and community activists, is hosting the Strengthening the Ties Conference on third wave feminism(s) in Vancouver, BC, May 24-26, 2007.

This conference will focus on the work of undergraduate students, while including feminists from graduate programs as well as professional, activist, and business-communities.

We recognize that feminism has become a movement marked by challenges both from within

and without. These have resulted in fragmentation. We believe that we can help re-establish a strong network of feminists that can collaborate on an issue-to-issue basis to effect powerful social action.


We are looking for presentation proposals for our conference. Please send an abstract of no more than three pages in length to feminisms@gmail.com by March 1, 2007. Presentations can be either 20 or 30 minutes long, including discussion. More details are available at the website below.

We welcome submissions that reflect research or activism related to a range of topics that fall under the scope of feminism. Please refer to our website for more information. We welcome participants of all genders, abilities, and backgrounds.

We welcome feedback, questions, and requests for more information, write V.F.A.P., Grandview RPO, P.O. Box #78074, Vancouver BC V5N 5W1, email feminisms@gmail.com or check out www.feminisms.ca.

Events continued

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.



Safe Harbour

Metropolitan Community Church

Join Us for Worship

11am every Sunday
and 7pm the second Sunday
of each month
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Suite 108
Bloomfield Center

Phone: 453-9249
Email: safeharbour@eastlink.ca
www.safeharbourmcc.com
ALL are WELCOME!



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groups

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

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

research

Étude -- LGBT & Canadian Military -- Study: Were you discharged for homosexuality? Are/Were you a LGBT soldier? Or their Partner? Congédié(e) dû à votre homosexualité? Êtes/Étiez-vous militaire LGBT? Ou leur conjoint(e)? <http://tinyurl.com/yab8yy> May07

spiritual

CALLING ALL ANGLICANS An Integrity chapter has been formed in Nova Scotia. Call George 902-757-1706. For Propitiation (traditionalist Anglicans) call Peter 416-487-7406 (evenings).

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

support

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

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

wanted

Pet Sitter to look after medium size, gentle, older dog, from time to time, while owner is out of town. Location: Northend Halifax. Prefer someone to live in, however open to other options. If interested, contact kel_v@hotmail.com.

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

The Return of Wolfgang Leathers

In residence in the Back Room of

Adult Novel Tease

804 Main Street, Dartmouth

444-4430

noon til 5 - Tues thru Sat

Cont'd Gender from p. 5

people" who are caught in the "trap of pronouns" and face a variety of possible terms to describe themselves, including: "gender queer," "transsexual," "transgender," or just plain "gender-fucked."

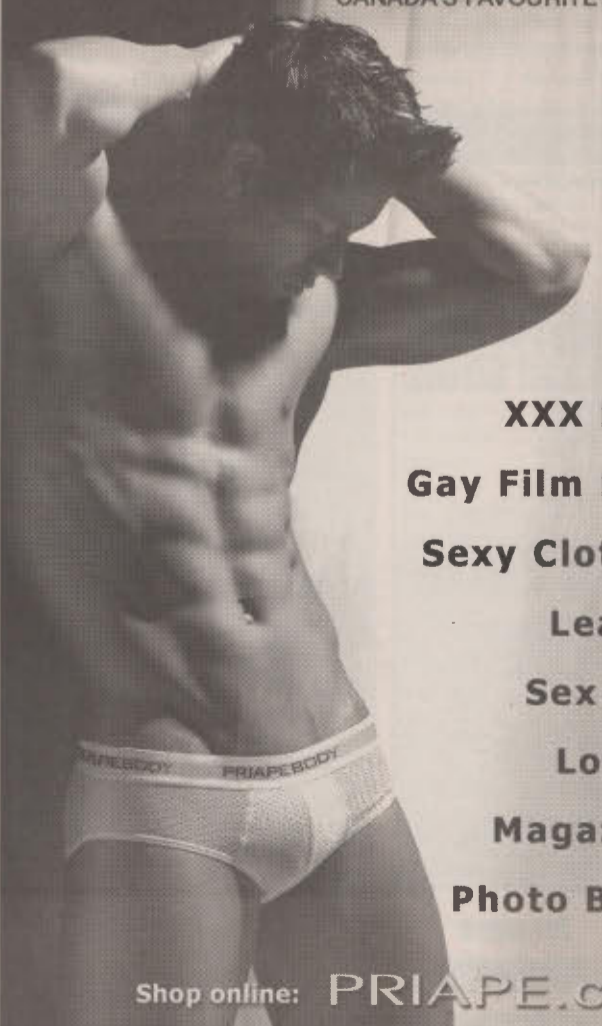
J.T.'s studies are influenced by "Transwarrior" Eli Green—a social justice gender-junkie who runs TransAcademics.org and focuses on gender-based systems of oppression—and the work of another Transwarrior, Leslie Feinberg. These Transwarrior's websites are interesting.

Jim Oulton works with people considering sexual reassignment. Some clients want surgery and hormones; some want one or the other or neither. Client assessment follows the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder (DSM - IV). Individuals may be classified in four ways: by Sex--M or F; Identity--M, F or in-between; Gender - M, F or in-between; and by sexual orientation.

There is hope and help now available in Nova Scotia for trans-people—not what there should be, but much more than there used to be. For information on support groups, contact Staci at mileneum@hotmail.com.

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Not In Our Name, Reviews

By Marla Kavalak, Moncton, NB
On Friday, December 8 a crowd of approximately 300 people gathered at Moncton City Hall to show their opposition to recent cuts made by the Conservative Government under the leadership of Stephen Harper. This public rally, organized by the Coalition Against the Harper Government Cuts, brought together representatives of various groups including the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the Public Service Alliance of Canada, the Canadian

... and then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak.

Federation of University Women, the New Brunswick Childcare Coalition, the Common Front for Social Justice, among others.

Cries of "Equality Now!/Egalité maintenant" could be heard between the addresses of various guest speakers before the group marched to MP Greg Thompson's Main Street office to deliver their message. The rally was held in protest of the devastating cuts to groups across the country who work tirelessly to help end violence, poverty and discrimination at a time when Canada is recording budget surpluses.

The Prime Minister has supported Canadian involvement in Afghanistan under the guise of supporting rights for women in that country while explaining his recent cuts by saying that women are now equal in Canada. Perhaps Mr. Harper doesn't realize that women earn, on average, 14 percent less than men in New Brunswick; many continue to struggle with inadequate childcare arrangements; and many flee violent homes to stay in New Brunswick's transition houses each year. During his campaign, Mr. Harper said that, if elected, he would enact measures to ensure that Canada fully upholds its commitments to women in Canada.

Ironically, the government recently eliminated equality from the mandate of Status of Women Canada. This appears to be in direct opposition to the campaign statement above. According to Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, chair of the NB

Advisory Council on the Status of Women, "[Status of Women Canada] no longer funds what it was created to do, advance women's equality. Canadian governments have up to now felt some responsibility towards making real the promise of equality written in the Charter, by assisting groups working to end violence, discrimination and poverty, for example." Oh, but do you think that women are the only targets? Let's look a little

closer. The federal government has moved to abolish the Court

Challenges program. This program provided access to the courts to establish rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and served seniors, handicapped Canadians, victims of sexual assault, and official language minorities, among others. It also served the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, two-spirited and queer community. New Brunswick Liberal MPs, Brian Murphy and Dominique LeBlanc, both attended the rally. The December 9th edition of the Moncton Times and Transcript quoted LeBlanc as saying "I don't blame them (in reference to the rally), it's a totally obscene example of an ideological government. We have a \$13 billion surplus and you turn around and cut literacy and women's programs!"

These cuts have a clear impact on many of Canada's most vulnerable citizens. Of concern is that this could be only the beginning, especially if there are few consequences or little negative fall out as a result of these decisions. So if you find yourself asking, "How do these cuts impact me?" perhaps Pastor Martin Niemoller can best help you understand:

"First they came for the socialists, And I did not speak out - because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, And I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, And I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me, And there was no one left to speak for me."

King's "Laramie Project"

By Dan MacKay
King's Theatrical Society (KTS) performed the play, *The Laramie Project* on Friday, February 2 at the University of King's College in Halifax and donated the proceeds to the Matthew Shepard Foundation (www.matthewshepard.org.)

The KTS production was directed by Kalie Glick and Nisha Platzer and produced by Martin Curran.

This is the second time Halifax has had the *Laramie Project*; see Mike Goodwin's review of Menial Sins' Theatre Company's production in the December 2004 issue of *Wayves*.

The *Laramie Project* is a docudrama by Moises Kaufman chronicling actual interviews conducted with the residents of the town Laramie, Wyoming in the wake of the homophobic murder of Matthew Shepard. Kaufman and his theater group recorded these encounters in 1998, and used them as the foundations to create a shocking and relevant piece of theater about intolerance, acceptance, and the life of a small town. It's interesting to consider that the students who performed in this production are about the same age or maybe a bit younger than Matthew Shepard was when he was killed.

35 Cents

by Matty Lee published by Suspect Thoughts Press (www.suspectthoughtspress.com)

review by Ralph Higgins
In *35 Cents* Matty Lee remarks that books were one of the things that changed the direction of his life and this remarkable memoir may very well change yours. Certainly it will challenge your assumptions about gender and sexuality as well as cause you to rethink notions of wisdom, innocence, blame and what we mean by "normal."

Abused and largely abandoned by his biological family, Matty Lee falls into a pattern of skipping school, petty crime, drugs and hustling. The 35 cents of the title refers to the amount he first earned for sex. These circumstances are, unfortunately, not unusual

High On Highsmith

Review by Calandra Smith
I fell in love with several of Highsmith's creations before I ever knew her name. During a browse at Venus Envy over Christmas 2006, Andrew Wilson's book, *Beautiful Shadow: A Life of Patricia Highsmith* [Bloomsbury, London UK, 2004] caught my eye and now here I am, recommending it wholeheartedly as an inspiring read for lesbians, and those with writing aspirations in particular, but essentially for anyone who likes user-friendly biographies. Wilson has presented us with a well-researched, moving, and hard-to-put-down take on the world-renowned American lesbian author of many works which include the well-known *Strangers on a Train*

Kings' production of this difficult piece was absolutely brilliant! I was expecting the student production to be a little rough around the edges, but the performances were magnificent; there were a couple of mangled lines which is not unusual for the first night of even a professional production. On the other hand, the things I expected to come up a little short - the timing and pace and diabolically difficult deployment of character - were perfect.

The most difficult set of roles in the play are for the actor who plays the town limo driver "Doc" O'Connor, the bartender, Ron Phelps, and a number of other characters. Actor Ira Henderson delivered the nine different personalities with power and precision. Each of the characters has a different presence, stance, accent, and speaking cadence, and he was right on the mark for each, even when playing a soft-spoken farmer back-to-back with a raving Phelps. Frequently in this piece, one person is speaking while the other actors have to be invisible on stage to let the audience focus, and when he wasn't "on" he was frozen, like a statue. And he's a big redhead and devastatingly handsome :-)

these days. What is remarkable, however, is that Lee managed not merely to survive these less than ideal conditions, but to thrive and grow while retaining an open, generous spirit and a loving heart.

A straight kid, raised and nurtured for the most part by gay men, many of whom he met by hustling, Lee's story is a clear declaration that no one need be defined by his past or restricted by current situation. This extraordinary memoir is, in Lee's words "a celebration of this life and the strange and beautiful people in it."

Lee tells his tale with simplicity and disquieting honesty. Exuberantly sexual, though often confused about love (and who of us is not?) Lee embraces every moment of his seedy, sordid existence. He hides

There are two or three places in the play where the actor plays both the interviewer, an actor from an experimental theatre in NYC, and the interviewee, a redneck from the US midwest, face-to-face. Both characters face the audience and the actor switches personality between each question and answer - if it was film, there would be one camera behind each person, and it would be edited back and forth. It's a tough bit o' work, and Ella Bedard carries it off perfectly.

Of course the KTS production is over so you can't see it, but you can watch the movie, *The Laramie Project* (2002) based on the play. The DVD is available from www.chapters.indigo.ca or www.amazon.ca, or you can rent it from Video Difference or other video outlets, or borrow it from the Halifax Public Library (for sure) or maybe other Atlantic Canada libraries. For more about Matthew Shepard, see his Wikipedia page.

On February 28 to March 3, KTS is presenting the Rocky Horror Show complete with audience costumes and participation! See the notice on page 4 for that!



nothing, apologizes for nothing in recounting his quest to understand the forces that shape his life, and to find a place of safety and acceptance.

Although he has ample reason to become hard and cynical, Lee is never bitter, rejoicing instead in the loving, supportive people he finds everywhere "even in the darkest of parked cars and leather bars." By turns hilarious and heartbreaking, *35 Cents* is a treasure and the kind of book that will make you want to cheer.

(memorably filmed by Hitchcock), *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (Paramount's production starred Philip Seymour Hoffman, Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jude Law and Cate Blanchett) and its four sequels, among numerous others.

Highsmith is sensitively revealed as a complex and somewhat bizarre, but ultimately fascinating, subject - a tortured, talented, prolific and promiscuous writer of macabre and unsettling short stories and novels, including a classic lesbian pulp fiction novel initially published under the pseudonym Claire Morgan in 1952 as *The Price of Salt*, and reissued in 1990 under her own name as *Carole*. Wilson's sympathetic treatment of Highsmith made me not only see and feel her,

but actually fall even more in love with the tragic Ripley-esque beauty. This book left a void I'd love to see filled with Carole, which Hugo Dann has promised to review for you, faithful reader. So stay tuned, but remember the man being fickle, I may have to step in and do Carole myself.

In writing about Patricia Highsmith, I also can't resist noting that my name, Calandra, means one "Who Rises High" - thus the title of this review



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Elder Abuse: Tossing Old Faggots on the Fire?

By Bill McKinnon

Getting old is problematic for GLBT's. It's not all joy for straights either but we tend to be more isolated, prone to loneliness and invisible. This article addresses part of a many-faceted, complex problem.

As baby boomers and silent gen'ers (born from 1925 to 1942) reach the twilight years, we become vulnerable. Eyes, hearing, and memory deteriorate. Illnesses become more serious, it becomes harder to get around and eventually we cannot cope on our own. Our previously cheery disposition may also morph into irritability.

When we reach the vulnerable stage, others may take advantage of our situation. I don't just mean picking up rough trade and being beaten up. The person who abuses or neglects us may be our spouse, partner, relative, or roommate. We can be a target for abuse from those who want our property and money. Some significant others

may abuse us because they have personal problems and take out their frustrations on us. Verbal and physical abuse may be there too from those we would expect to be loving and caring. Alcoholism and internalized homophobia may also be factors. This is a reality of old age and abuse occurs more frequently than some imagine.

What are some danger signals to watch for? He (or she) may want to use our credit or debit card and says he needs our PIN so he can go-get-things for us. He may want us to give him a power of attorney so he can look after us and/or make out a will in favour of him and give it to him to look after, or ask us to co-sign or guarantee a loan. He may ask us to sign a paper but "Don't bother to read it." He may say "what do you mean, you want to know what I did with your money?" He may even threaten to put us in a seniors' home unless we sign over the house. If we let it happen, we could end up penniless,

alone and in an institution. We may want to share our prosperity with others but this has to be our choice, not their decision to help themselves.

It gets worse. I have heard there are said to be no gay seniors in Halifax's Northwood Centre. That's another downer as is the health care and social services systems where treatment of GLBT's is often in a homophobic environment. Where do I go when I can no longer cope by myself? When GLBT's retire to an old age facility or hospital, do they also have to go back into the closet as well as being unloved and abused?

Abuse and neglect do not have to happen; we can protect ourselves. Here are some ideas. Learn all about elder abuse and make a plan, consult a law firm which specializes in Elder Law (such as Boyne Clarke or Bedford Law) develop a support system including friendships with people we are sure we can trust, join a church such as

Safe Harbour and a seniors' club and become involved, make contact with social workers who can and will help us, stay close to true friends and stop isolating. Refuse to be pressured by anyone, learn assertiveness and don't allow people to treat you like a doormat. When you make your will, consult your lawyer and people you trust, and when it's necessary to give a power of attorney, be careful.

We may well care for the person who is abusing us; we probably do. Protecting ourselves does not necessarily mean rejecting the abuser altogether. Maybe we can get help for him or her too but ultimately we have to safeguard ourselves. We may also be part of the problem, so professional counseling can be obtained to determine to what extent our behaviour and attitudes need to be changed and then take responsibility and action to fix our share of the relationship's difficulties.

Some elders slip into a submis-

sive state and allow significant others to bully them because they fear being left alone and decide being abused is better than isolation. It does not have to be that way. We don't have to face our declining years in dystopia. If we make a choice to say no to abuse and prepare ourselves, we will end up okay and not like an old faggot tossed on the fire while someone else enjoys the prosperity we deserve. We can live out our lives in reasonable comfort and without undue stress.

This article was inspired by a talk on elder abuse (in general), given at Northwood by Jeanne Desveaux, an Elder Law lawyer. There are lots of references on the web including www.forge-forward.org/handouts/tgelderabuse-neglect.html, and www.gaywired.com/article.cfm?section=9&id=362, which specifically address LGBT elder abuse.

Transphobic Situation — and Related Stress

By Denise Holliday

Since December 1, 2006, I have had two very clear situations that triggered responses within me that I was not pleased with, and those around me will often not understand.

The first was a transphobic verbal abuse, as someone I did not recognize started ranting at me at an unexpected moment, as I was entering what I had always considered a safe space. My reaction was to avoid further antagonism and retreat as quietly as possible, not wishing to get into a fight with this unknown male person. In doing this I forgot some basic stuff, including taking down a vehicle number, remembering a description etc. This left me feeling upset and vulnerable. This was to be a

catalyst for other things in the days to come, that had been ongoing in my life.

Last year I was working for a company on an hour-by-hour basis, and they seasonally lay off in June-July. I was then unable to get unemployment insurance, due to lack of hours, and was forced to call Welfare. It would be several weeks before Welfare found time to see me, so I needed to borrow money to get through. I explained the situation about transphobic issues to my worker, whose response was "Well, you knew that going in." The person was referring to my awareness of social displeasure regarding my "choosing to transition."

After several months on welfare, the company offered me some

three-hour-a-day jobs, and I realized that was only five-to-ten dollars more than the gas but would add hours to my unemployment total. After a lot of small ones and a couple of longer jobs, I was running approximately a 50% cost factor. I discussed this with the worker who said they only allowed me to keep three dollars of every ten. This meant I was actually losing around two to three dollars for every ten earned. I pointed this out and the worker's response was to tell me I had the option to turn down work I would lose money on. After another week and a half working for what I perceived to be less than nothing, I was stressed out and while working almost passed out. I resigned and after resting, went home. The next day

I attended a public meeting with Welfare officials and while they were polite, their comments and terminologies were like a match in a propane tank and I blew.

Do I think it was appropriate? Probably not. Were the people who were there directly responsible? No.

Was the way I handled the situation the best? Absolutely not. When you are systematically raped of your self respect, personal safety assurance and your ability to provide your own basic needs are marginalized to a point of non-existence, it is hard to be politically correct. People earning thirty to sixty thousand dollars a year sit in judgment of people with issues that the workers often have little or no knowledge of, and when poor people eventually stand up in their hunger and frustration and scream enough is enough, they (we) get accused/treated as if we are mentally unstable.

After a life time with only six weeks of unemployment, I found myself eight years plus into transition with issues related to finding work, and some issues after finding work. I have had my integrity attacked, been ordered to leave a female washroom by management and had to face situations where I was isolated simply due to being transgendered.

We suffer transphobia from heterosexual and gay communities. The transgendered people that do well and have the money to complete surgery often look down on those who do not. Those who suffer major marginalization are estimated to be around 60% of our community. Education is not a guarantee. Ask the teachers who have lost the jobs over the years.

Governments and businesses are changing their statements and benefits, but as the gay community has experienced for years, without further education, the gatekeepers block access to many. What can we do? Keep our heads high, keep track on paper of everything that happens and share our thoughts with friends who care. If someone acts inappropriately, and is representing a company, then consider at least telling the company about the way that person made you feel.

Organizations such as PFLAG, Safe Harbour Church, NSRAP, ACNS, LBT and Wayves have people who have knowledge and can direct you to sources of assistance or advice, but we have to ask for their help. They do not read minds. Recognize that not all issues in life are transphobia related and constantly re-appraise your situation.

On 24th Jan. 2007, I personally responded by sending an open letter to all municipal councillors, MLA's and MPs as well as some mainline media. I had six responses. None were from parties involved (who received copies) or media and the follow-up contact promised by the Premier's office has not materialized at this point of time. My local councillor, Stephen Stretch has not responded and my local MLA, Brooke Taylor's secretary assured me he would be informed of my email over a week ago. NDP critics promised to forward their comments to Minister Judy Stretch along with a copy of my email. Still, by government standards, it is early days.

Any questions or comments are welcome; simply address them to The Editor.

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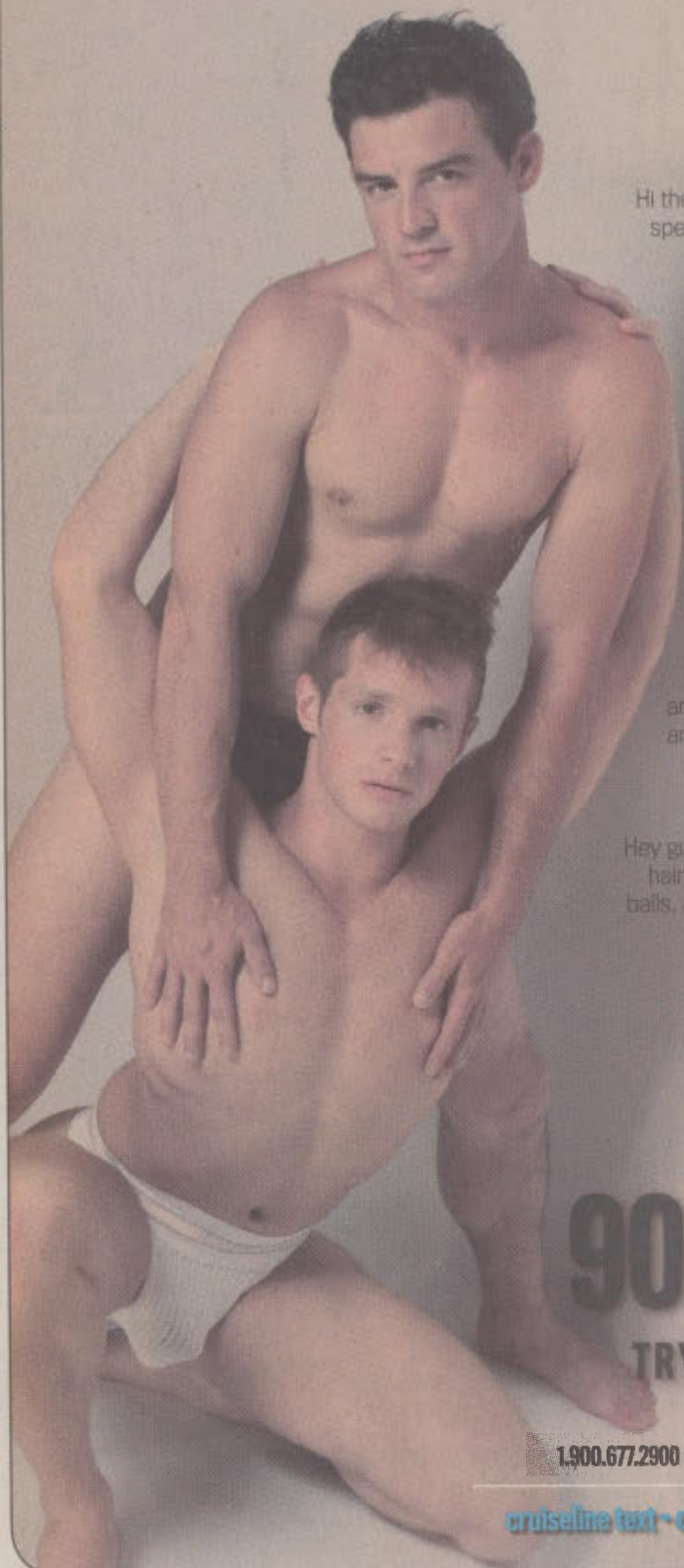
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