

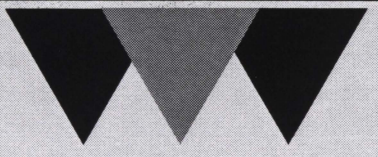
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# LAVENDER RHINOCEROS

Victoria's Premiere Lesbian & Gay Magazine  
Volume Two Number Three  
April, 2000 \$3.00



— What's Inside —



**The Mayor Responds**

**The Business of Getting Healthy**

**Je Me Souviens Hot Stuff**

**Queer Spirit and Catholicism**

**Buying a Home Together**

**Lesbian Book Club Starts**



## Teaming Up For Fun

▲ Janis Mullan, Val Utman and Barb McLaughlin gear up for Spring Fling 2000, story page 3

*photo by Lesley Davies*

## Vigilance is Important

Marsha Mildon and I got to talking about capital P political concerns. We were speculating on the horrors of a Canada with Stockwell Day at the helm. Our speculations may, alas, become reality.



**Barbara  
McLaughlin**

Stockwell Day is the current finance minister in Ralph Klein's Alberta Tory cabinet. He

admits in a Vancouver Sun column to Fundamentalist Christian beliefs. He was the man who took up the legal cudgel against an Alberta teacher tossed out of a Christian teaching institution because he was homosexual. Day is also bilingual, Ontario-born and raised, and he's a major player in the daily running of Alberta's government. He is, we speculated, wrongly highly-rated for his balanced budget and his keen fiscal responsibility. As Marsha, who spends a lot of time in Edmonton as editor of *Law Now* magazine pointed out, who wouldn't have a balanced budget with all that oil and gambling money pouring into the coffers?

While the Canadian Alliance is looking to a new future under a man with whom they could actually win, Stockwell Day, we at home are seeing some other nasty possibilities—a liberal government with Gordon Campbell at the helm.

The NDP may have its flaws, but it is still the best party we have going for us. With the NDP we have enjoyed accessible government. We've been listened to and won. Sure, there have been

NDP mistakes and major gaffs. But we haven't seen a fundamentalist chapel in the legislature or shady personal deals made with a lady in a funny hat.

When the time comes to vote, let's not forget who applied *human* rights to gays and lesbians living here. Let's remember that the more Stockwell Days emerging from the political right there are, the more likely we are to be targets of greater and greater discrimination. This morning I read the federal Tories are too far left. Yikes!

What are we facing if Stockwell Day gets in? And he might, you know. A general flat tax—supports everyone but the poor—a rescinding of legislature supporting equal rights for gays and lesbians, in fact it may once again be a crime to be gay. (If in Alberta being gay is good enough reason to be fired from a job, can "criminalization" be far away?)

Consider also a return to capital punishment, a rescinding of gun control laws. This is going to be one happy country to live in.

Don't tell me the March 4 fight at The Limit led by white guys in white muscle shirts wasn't a gay bashing. Don't tell me Noel Black and Kayshalee Snider don't have reason to be afraid when they call to talk of threats to their lives from bullies who find us easy targets.

We need to start looking at the broad political picture. And before it's too late, we need something in place to support those victims of lesbigay prejudice and hatred.

History has a lot of lessons to teach us. Germany was a wonderful place in which to be gay. Nobody worried about the odd harassment case. And then the far Right took over.

Lavender Rhinoceros was founded  
February 1999

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**Editor:** Barbara McLaughlin  
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While the Lavender Rhinoceros is a lesbian/gay publication it should not be assumed that all advertisers, contributors, letter writers are gay/lesbian. All may be assumed to be allies.

Lavender Rhino is a division of the Lesbian Community Connections Foundation. The LCC mandate is to provide a monthly written forum that celebrates all aspects of queer lives, to promote a healthy visible community by giving voice to and honoring diverse and common interests and to promote dialogue on such issues as class, culture, racial differences and diversity.

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Subscription are \$30 a year. Cheques are payable to Lavender Rhinoceros. Mail to: PO Box 5339, Stn B, Victoria, BC V8R 6S4

# It May Just Go Through – But Don't Hold Your Pens

*There just aren't enough conservatives and dissident Liberals to stop the Government's domestic partnership bill, and the public supports it by a landslide.*

The Canadian Parliament on February 21 approved by an overwhelming 160 – 61 the government's omnibus measure to amend 68 federal statutes to give same-gender couples legal status equal to that of unmarried heterosexual couples. The vote on its second reading sends C-23 on to the Commons Justice Committee for hearings. Clearly opposition from the Reform Party and from more than a dozen dissidents among the ruling Liberal Party will not be enough to stop the bill inspired by the Supreme Court of Canada's May 1999 ruling in *M v. H*. The

government's bill has landslide public support, according to a 1998 survey commissioned by the Ministry of Justice.

EGALE (Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere) was particularly pleased by the government's commitment. Prime Minister Jean Chretien did not allow the Liberals to vote their consciences. Chretien invited Liberal dissidents to absent themselves or abstain. EGALE urges us to call, to lobby or to write MPs in support of the bill. Reports indicate that calls opposing the bill are so far running far ahead.

The Liberal dissidents are sometimes referred to by their less-conservative colleagues as the "God Squad" who, while they don't agree on every issue, are fairly unanimous in their opposition to equal treatment of gays and lesbians. They believe, from different denominational viewpoints, that the

Bible declares homosexual acts to be sinful and they want them kept private, not endorsed by government. Their numbers include MPs Murray Calder, Pat O'Brien, Paul Steckle, Rose-Marie Ur, and Tom Wappel. Thirteen Liberals reportedly voted against C-23 on its second reading.

The larger number of opposition votes comes from the Reform Party. Although it, too, has consistently opposed equal treatment of gays and lesbians, it is working for two amendments to C-23. One would be the addition of a formal statement that marriage – as opposed to the "common law partners/conjoints de fait" term applied to both unmarried heterosexual and same-gen-  
*(Cont'd page 4)*

## Spring Fling Recipe

### A Lavender Rhinoceros Fun-Raiser

By Barbara McLaughlin

Take one magazine editor, me, a tax accountant who doubles as an impresario, Val Utman, and spice the mix with one chef for dogs who moonlights as a singer, Janis Mullan, and add that common touch—a need to celebrate! And, hey presto! A touch of teamwork which adds up to one grand night of fun for lesbians, gays, trannies, two-spirits, questioning, young, old and in between. Heck, bring your straight mother-in-law.

It's Spring Fling 2000! So Mark your calendar for April 8 and show up in yer dancing duds at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and you'll find yours at Munro's Books, or Dogs Day Bakery. You can call Barbara, 598-6490, too, but you have to pay for tickets in advance.

Last year we all had so much fun it

seems there's a need for hoofing it up to a live band. Gary Preston and the R&B Allstars are the band and lead vocals are by Janis Mullan who'll lead us in high-stepping good fun. Or a little cheek to cheek with gravy. Personally, I'm hoping they let Betty Krawczyk out of jail so she can dance with me again!

"We learned some things from the last one about what people like," notes producer Val, adding she'll leave the mike on stage for the music only.

If you are short of cash, call Barbara. Five are needed for clean-up crew. Let me know and we can arrange an exchange.

Spring Fling 2000 is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual live-action dance produced by Val as a fund-raiser for Lavender Rhinoceros. It's a win for all sides.





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## Domestic partnership bill (cont'd)

der couples under the bill – is between one man and one woman.

The other amendment would be the extension of legal recognition to all economically interdependent couples. That's something Justice Minister Anne McLellan has not ruled out for the future, and has said her department is researching. But the government will not allow for it in the current Modernizing Benefits and Obligations Bill in part because it does not have the same weight of judicial rulings behind it.

Reform has jeered the Liberal Party for allowing judicial activism to dictate its actions, but a COMPAS poll commissioned by the *National Post* and reported February 18 has found that many Canadians disagree. Overall, 43% nationwide, supported the power of the courts to make law and only 28% rejected it, while the remainder was undecided. Of those who supported the courts, 31% said judges had taken "too little power away from elected officials" and 12% said "far too little." By province, Quebecois were the most resistant to judicial power with a total of 33% reading judges as taking "too much" or "far too much" power — yet even in Quebec, a plurality of 39% saw the courts taking "too little" or "far too little" power. Quebec has also shown some of the strongest support for recognition of same-gender couples, including modifying its provincial laws. In some provinces, the power of the courts was supported by up to 55% of respondents.

The poll surveyed 500 Canadians through January 26; results have a margin of error of 4.5%.

*Ed. note:* EGALE particularly recommends calls and letters to PM Chretien and to Justice Minister Anne McLellan, as well as Members of Parliament who can be located at: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/36/sm-mpcur-e.htm>. They also have called for contacting Citizenship and Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan to commit to equal recognition in immigration regulations of bi-national same-gender couples, who may not have been able to live together to qualify as common-law partners.



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## Lesbian Issues Workshops

*Sponsor: Victoria Lesbian Senior Care Society*  
*Venue: University of Victoria*

### March 27, 2000

Clearihue - Room A201 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Leader: Shannon Williams

Lesbians & the Law: Legal Issues & Lesbian Relationships.  
New Power of Attorney Law. LEAF Court Cases. Shirley Petten's recent case with WCB/Hospital Board. Charter of Rights

### April 17, 2000

Clearihue - Room A201 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Leaders: Debby Yaffe & Joanne Nicolson

Education Issues: Women's Studies her story & future.  
Sexual orientation issues in the primary & secondary schools.

### May 8, 2000

Clearihue - Room A303 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Leader: Dr. Ruth Simkin

Health Issues & Lesbian Relationships  
Providers, policy makers, planners. Issues around safe sex, aids & possible consequences of having multiple partners.

### May 29, 2000

Clearihue - Room A303 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Leaders: Milnor Alexander, Jannit Rabinovitch & Lenora Burke  
Politics: Where do political parties stand on lesbian issues?

Feminist Party: Need to change to proportional representation.  
How to make your vote count/campaigning.

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# I'm Not Colour Blind... I Am Colour Deaf

By Zorya Plaskin

I've had a challenge with colours all my life. Is that greenish brown, or brownish green? Is that royal blue, or navy blue? Why are there 53 shades of purple? Aren't some of them really mauve? Or violet? Or some other "colour?"

This difficulty has many times given rise to accusations that I'm colour blind. I have believed that, sometimes, although mostly because I thought that not being able to tell what a colour was amounted to being colour blind. This perplexed me, since I have passed a number of colour-blindness tests. I can read the numbers and discern the symbols without difficulty - I just can't tell you what colour they are; I don't know their names.

I recently heard that this experience is referred to as being "colour deaf." This made instant sense. I'm not colour blind; I can see the colours, and tell them apart. I just can't hear the names which most people use to describe them; I'm colour deaf.

This is a much more profound insight than might seem apparent, but unfortunately I don't have the time or space to go into all the details now. Except to comment on a sort of parallel (which seems to also involve a frequent topic of conversation in my universe).

I am always keen to see things in a larger context, and note the patterns which duplicate themselves on multiple levels. Thus, my challenge with labeling colours becomes a metaphor for how we relate to one another, how we colour/catergorize/label/stereotype one another. It is politically correct for us - according to social expectations - to be colour blind. (At this point, you may substitute whichever label you wish for "colour:" religion, race, sex, gender ... ; tall, short, fat, skinny ... ; African, Alien, Asian ... ; whatever.)

One of the ways in which so many of us do not walk our talk involves our

belief that we are politically correct, that we are colour blind. It's not nice to notice that someone's young/old/black/white/Christian/pagan/whatever. So we pretend that we don't, a powerful manifestation of denial. (Speaking of denial, why do so many of us insist on referring to ourselves as white when even the palest hermits are more of a beige colour? But what do I know? I can tell the colours apart, but I get lost among the names.)

---

**One of the ways in which so many of us do not walk our talk involves our belief that we are politically correct, that we are colour blind. It's not nice to notice that someone's young/old/black/white/Christian/pagan/whatever.**

---

I don't even think that being colour blind is an evolutionary goal. I think being colour deaf is much more appropriate to proceeding along our walk. I can see the colours/whatever; I am not colour blind. But I don't have time or

energy for the labels. I am deaf to those names.

This resonates particularly strongly with my pagan/Craft/Buddhist/Taoist/etc. philosophy that there are only two perspectives of reality - those of the individual, and that amorphous collective reality of the whole. We can group individuals into herds, if we really have to. But if we deny that we recognize which herd they come from, we don't realize all the little unconscious ways in which we deny the individual, and make it clear we *do* recognize the label(s) they carry, and the unconscious ways in which we relate to them according to our personal stereotypes for the particular labels we've assigned them.

Progress toward the Cosmic concept of dealing with colour/whatever - whether magenta, cyan, red... - involves having colour sight, being able to relate to the unique individual as a unique part of an infinite spectrum which comprises the whole rainbow. But it also requires being colour/whatever deaf, not paying attention to group labels, because - after all - they're applicable to neither the unique individual nor the whole.



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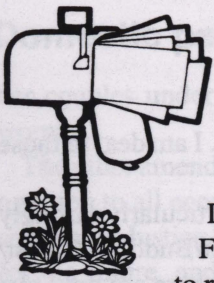
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# Letter to the Editor

## The Mayor Responds

Dear Barbara,

Further to your March editorial, I would like to reiterate comments that I made at a February 21 meeting with yourself and other representatives from the gay and lesbian community. In our discussion on the 21<sup>st</sup>, I stated that I respect all sectors of our community and am committed to promoting an open and inclusive government that listens to and is responsive to all citizens. I further emphasized that in my role as Mayor I have to make my decisions with the entire population in mind.



Originally, there was some exception taken to comments I made in the February edition of Island Christian Info. In that interview, I responded honestly to a direct question regarding my personal position with regards to the gay and lesbian pride parade. I stated that while I may not believe in the parade or advocate it personally, the local gay and lesbian population is an important part of our community and as such, should be supported. My reference to the Charter of Rights was cited only to emphasize the point that all citizens by law have a right to publicly express their personal beliefs.

I strongly support the separation of church and state and it is unfortunate that my comments were interpreted in a manner that implied I endorsed hatred. I take great exception to comments made by Barbara McLauchlin in the March 2 edition of Monday Magazine stating that I endorse hatred and gay-bashing. I believe my record and actions demonstrate a belief in, and commitment to, the principle of inclusion. In speaking about my personal values, my intent was to em-

phasize my belief in respect, compassion and tolerance for the views and concerns of our entire community.

I apologize to the Lesbian and Gay community for the extent to which this misunderstanding has been elevated and perpetuated. I sincerely hope, and believe, that we can work together to create a more tolerant and livable city for all peoples.

*Mayor Alan Lowe*

## Victoria Pride 2000

*By Kevin Barnard*

The pride festivities are coming along as expected after a panic last month. We were desperately short of board members and volunteers, so we held an emergency meeting. The result was that a number of people with a wide range of qualifications surfaced and came on board. We have divided up the various duties into committees and we are rolling along now as planned.

The parade and festival will be held Sunday, July 4th. We are working on a more visible parade route in front of the Parliament Buildings (don't hold your breath), and the festival will be at Fisherman's Wharf park, again. The Marcus Tipton Pride Baseball Extravaganza will be held Thursday, July 1st, on the Heywood end of Beacon Hill Park. We are still compiling all the other Pride Week events, and will keep you informed as they firm up.

If you are still out there wondering if you should get involved or not, get off your duff and call, for we can always use more bodies to make the workload easier.

Call Bryan at 385-3806 or e-mail him at [irmaladouche@home.com](mailto:irmaladouche@home.com) for more information or to volunteer. Looking forward to a fabulous Pride 2000. See you all there.

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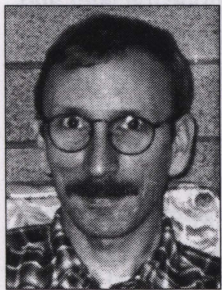


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# ...Then Comes Marriage...

Everyone's buzzing about Bill C-23 – or are they? EGALE is asking for support from gays and lesbians by writing to their MP and the Prime Minister. Recent alerts from EGALE are calling for the government to do the right thing. But what is the right thing?



*Michael Yoder*

While benefits for same-gender spouses are certainly warranted, and the protection and support of children, in any relationship, is absolutely essential, I never remember anyone asking me if I wanted to be included in the homogenous world of marriage, sameness and “gee, we're just like you.”

When did EGALE conduct a referendum of gays and lesbians asking us if we want all this? Do we want to be recognized as equal or do we want to be recognized as “the same?” We're certainly neither in the eyes of many ordinary people (and politicians aren't a part of that group). I'm not the same as a straight man, nor do I ever want to be considered as the same. My relationship is not the same as a heterosexual relationship – similar in many aspects, but definitely not the same.

Gays and lesbians have always been in the enviable position of being able to determine, from scratch, what our relationships will look like. Unlike our straight counterparts who are handed a template from the time they're little kids. I suppose in many respects, despite Bill C-23, we'll still have the ability to shape our own futures, but I fear that the pressure placed on us by those involved in the “gay and lesbian rights movement” will steer us toward the blandness of weddings, summers in the mobile home and gingham curtains.

Who exactly are the people attempting to determine the future for gays and lesbians? Do they live next door to me? I don't think so. I think, like in any movement, there are a few people doing a great deal of work which is believed to be in the best interests of the rest of us. And that's scary. When

only a few lawyers and spokespeople for a national lobby group are talking about the majority of gays and lesbians, who haven't participated in any formal country wide debate about what it is we all really want, aren't we setting up an elite? We capitulate to a small group of “really smart people” who know what's best because they've done studies and know politicians.

We may end up getting the very things out of this that we don't want – to be considered “the same:” with all the social pressures of defined families, defined marriages, defined moralities and homogeneity. No more difference for us because now we're just like them and we can prove it by law.

God/dess keep us from those who want to help us.

## Je Me Souviens A Winner!

*memories of an expatriate Anglophone  
Montréalaise, Québécoise exiled in Canada*

*Reviewed by Maddy Aramis*

An evening at the theatre should be entertaining, provocative, and lead to rich discussions at a café afterwards. The Belfry's recent production, *Je me souviens*, did all of the above.

A one-woman show written and performed by Lorena Gale, the play takes a look at what it's like to be a black woman, an Anglophone from Montreal, who finds herself living in Vancouver. Referring to her character's status as “an exile in Canada,” Gale brings all the strangeness of Canada's multiple identities into sharp relief.

Slide images projected behind the acting space portray a changing Montreal from the '50s through to the present. The combination of Gale's high-energy performance, the intimate space of the Belfry's studio theatre, the intensity of the subject matter, and the striking projected images forces us to share pain, humour, intellectual and political challenges with Gale. There is no escaping this performance, no way to sit back and merely be entertained. The show is compelling and engaging and it would be difficult to emerge from the theatre unmoved.

Gale's first play, *Angelique*, was nominated for eight Audelco Awards (New York Black Theatre Awards), and was nominated for Outstanding New Play in Calgary's Betty Mitchell Awards. Here's my vote for bringing the play to Victoria. If *Je me souviens* is any indication, *Angelique* would be a show worth seeing.

Rating: ▼▼▼▼ on a scale of ▼ to ▼▼▼▼▼

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one that offers service as the most fundamental and deepest level. Nutrition, good health and cleansing.

Hmmm. Tell me more.

Danielle's business is actually a three-parter. She offers instruction and recommendations on nutrition, helps clients to a better lifestyle and gets right down to the root of the problem offering colon cleansings.

"Your colon is either a life-line or a death-trap."

Well, I'd certainly heard that before. A toxic colon, Danielle explains, can be the cause of constipation or diarrhea, fatigue, skin problems, parasites, backaches, menstrual problems, intestinal gas, prostrate problems, allergies, depression, hypertension, insomnia, headaches. Gads!

Well, we do spring clean our houses. And we do change the oil on our cars. Makes sense to me.

Danielle is a very attractive woman. Having a colon cleansing seems to me to be fairly intimate. Well, you get the picture.

Actually, men aren't shy at all coming to me. Nor are women or my lesbian friends, says Danielle. I'll even tell my clients my partner's name is Dawn and we co-parent her child, if we get to talking personally. I have to be vulnerable and I believe my openness and honesty attract my customers.

"At first I've had friends or acquaintances say 'I'm not coming because it's you.' And then they phone me later and say 'I'm coming because it's you.'"

Danielle keeps the F part of her name on her business card. Her first name is Faith and as she told Michael Losier, her business coach, who suggested she drop the F, "I want to keep the Faith!"

Faith and hard work and wise advice and being open and vulnerable and ready to go with the flow seems to be working for this young entrepreneur, she's 34, who sees herself running a health care centre in the future.

Her work is preventive medicine. For example, her nutritional work involves determining blood type and suggesting foods type O or type A might want to avoid, for example. Eating right, elimination, cleansing, maintaining high fibre, wholesome diet, drinking plenty of purified water daily, exercising daily and avoiding stress all add up to laughing and enjoying life.

In her spare time Danielle rides a motorcycle, reads Oprah's list of books, camps with Dawn in their Westphalia and attends a spiritually centred women's group.

She has her logo tattooed on her arm. Ask her to explain it to you when you go for a consultation, cleansing, nutritional advice and lifestyle change.

Isn't a business plan something you need to get a bank loan? Not necessarily. F. Danielle Allen set hers up to help her define her goals. I needed to know what it was I wanted to focus on, where I wanted to be in a year and what I would need to get there, she told me over tea.

Help and guidance is also useful and she urges new entrepreneurs to commit to working with a business coach. "Everyone should have one," she affirms.

Already that first business plan is a thing of the past and Danielle is holding to long-term dreams and aspirations as well.

Danielle is in an unusual business but

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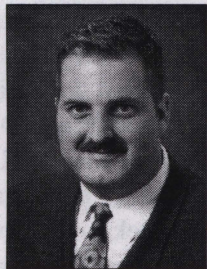
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## Getting the Most Out Of Business Networking Meetings

Want to get the word out about your business? Network. Business networking is such a success for many that they do not need to pay for advertising or expensive promotional campaigns. Networking with others at business networking meetings can, and does, attract business.



**Michael  
Losier**

Here are my top seven tips to assist you to enhance and improve your business networking skills:

(1) Bring your business cards.

Sounds simple, I know. I'm surprised at how regularly I meet people at networking groups who have forgotten or ran out of their business cards.

(2) Wear a name tag. When your name tag says who you are and what you do, it is easier for others to make conversation with you.

(3) Door Prizes. At many networking groups, you will have an opportunity to give away a door prize. Your product or service will get mentioned in a special way with attentive people listening.

(4) Set a goal. Eliminate your anxiety about having to meet everyone. Set a realistic goal that you know is attainable – perhaps three to four people at each meeting.

(5) Respect others. If there is someone to whom you want to talk and they are engaged in a conversation, respect their time with the other person and don't interrupt them. Stand off to the side. They will see that you want to talk to them. Bad manners may break in advance any rapport you hope to develop.

(6) Go often and be seen. Volunteer to help set up the meeting and meet new business connections.

(7) Have fun and be enthusiastic about your business.

*Michael Losier is a business success coach in Victoria, BC. Michael facilitates TeleClasses (classes over the phone) on business subjects, entrepreneurial success, and communication. To view Michael's free and fee-based TeleClasses, visit: <http://www.TeleClassCanada.com>.*

## What Does Your Garden Grow?

*"It is sheer folly to buy a packet of seeds or a container-grown plant just because you like the picture on the packet or label. You must first find out whether it is right for your garden."*

Dr. D.G. Hessayon, The Flower Expert

Have you ever decided on something you really wanted and were willing to work hard to get, and you gave it your best but it still didn't work and you got discouraged and gave up, thinking that it just wasn't in the cards for you? I know I have. And I see people around me doing this all the time. It's frustrating and demoralizing and if we're not careful. It can damage our ability to grow what we want in the gardens of our lives.

I've learned that it makes better sense to take a tip from gardeners and approach the situation a little differently. If there's something you want to plant

in your life, take a good look around your garden first. There may be work to do here before it is able to sustain new growth.

We can't control the passing of seasons or the amount of rain or sun that our gardens receive. But we can do lots to amend the soil, find out where things should be planted so they'll flourish, and make sure that unwanted plants with far-reaching and tenacious root systems have a harder time taking root than the things we are choosing to grow.

Here are a few tips for your next gardening season:

If what you truly want to grow isn't available to plant just yet, or if the season's not right, take a tip from gardeners and plant a suitable fill-in crop—something that will feed nutrients to the soil, prevent weeds from taking over, and be pleasing to look at or eat while waiting to put in the dream crop.

Life is too short to spend it looking longingly over the back fence at the neighbour's yard. If there's someone you know who is successfully growing

things which wither and die in your yard, ask for advice on what you could be doing differently. Gardeners are generous with sharing their know-how and so are most people who've attained success in an area.

Create space. Sometimes the only way to get things to flower is to give them a good pruning.

While you're busy preparing to plant what you really want, don't forget to pay attention to the seeds that blow in on the wind and take root with no effort on your part. These are nature's volunteers and one of them may well grow up to be a plant you like even better than what you had chosen to grow.

*Joy Kirstin is a personal & professional coach who supports business people, managers, artists and regular folks to increase effectiveness, fulfillment and financial stability in their business and personal lives. She works with clients from across North America, staying in touch with weekly phone calls. Joy is affiliated with Coach University and is a member of the International Coaching Federation. Reach her at [joykirstin@pacificcoast.net](mailto:joykirstin@pacificcoast.net) or 250-361-4680.*

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**West Coast LGBT List:** Jeanne Rioux maintains a comprehensive mailing list for the lesbian, gay, bi, trans community. The list reaches lesbians and several gay men. The LGBT service is more than two years old and offers news clips, community events here and around the Canadian west coast, neat new URLs and website addresses, and classifieds. Until now the service has been free. *Now Jeanne is placing a value on this service.* There will be an annual fee of \$15 to be on the list. If you have a house for rent, an event for which you are charging a fee, or anything of community interest for which you are charging admission aiming for profit there will be a charge of \$10 to \$20. Community service ads will still be free. Call Jeanne at (250) 382-6695 and leave message, or email [jrioux@rainbowmagic.bc.ca](mailto:jrioux@rainbowmagic.bc.ca)

**Keltic Arts and Krafts** are lovely book marks, cards, giftwrap (small, medium-sized), papers, etc. made by Kathryn Eustacia Lee especially for you. there are also small items including plastic canvas crafts. Call Kathryn at 592-9356.

**Jumbo Beach** Garage Sale on Herald Street is a grand place to find odd things you didn't even know you needed, things

you did need and toys to play with for you or your kids. Visit or call 383-6680. They do deliver.

**Andria** is still eager to see you at *blue star* a funky place to buy drag or a new spring jacket, dress, skirt, pants, blouses or whatever good luck brings your way. Check out *blue star* at 3516 Quadra. *Pat the dog and kiss Andria.*

**BJs** new part-owner is lining up all kinds of entertainment for you. Check out BJ's. No smoking makes it a pleasant place to while away some cool down time.

**Dreaming The New Sacred Place(©):** dream workshop/study group. Find out how your DREAMS offer opportunity for growth, for healing, for understanding relationships, and more. Meet once a week for four weeks.

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**Dance Your Tootsies Off!** But leave your tutu at home. This year its *Spring Fling 2000* for lesbians and gays and bis and trans and Two-Spirits. Dance to live music featuring Janis Mullan with Gary Preston and the R&B Allstars at da Vinci Centre, 195 Bay St. April 8 from 8 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Tickets are \$15 at Munro's Books, Dogs Day Bakery or call Barbara at 598-6490. Sponsored by Valu 1 Productions as a fundraiser for Lavender Rhinoceros.

**Women of Size Clothing Sale:** Wanting a new wardrobe? Spring cleaning? For women size 20 and up, new/used clothing sale/swap Sunday April 9, 459 Chester Street, (Scout Hall, Fairfield). Sellers set up 9 to 11 a.m. Sales 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. FMI or seller registration call Karen 386-9530

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# How To Give A Cat A Pill

1) Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand.

As cat opens mouth pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.

2) Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.

3) Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.

4) Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.

5) Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.

6) Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.

7) Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set to one side

for gluing later.

8) Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with straw and blow down drinking straw.

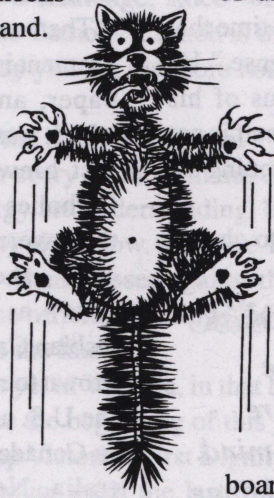
9) Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.

10) Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.

11) Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Throw Tee-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.

12) Call fire brigade to retrieve cat from tree across the road. Apologise to neighbour who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil-wrap.

13) Tie cat's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of fillet



steak. Hold head vertically and pour 2 pints of water down throat to wash pill down.

14) Get spouse to drive you to the emergency room, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table.

15) Arrange for SPCA to collect cat and ring local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

## How to Give A Dog A Pill

1) Wrap it in bacon.

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# Queer Spirit

By Zorya Plaskin

In the realm of institutional religion, perhaps no revolution is more unheralded than that which is slowly but inexorably gaining ground within the Roman Catholic community.

And Dennis Benoit, who arrived in Victoria less than a year ago, is quickly becoming a powerful agent of change, particularly in regard to the acceptance and celebration of queer spirituality.

"I have to do something," Dennis says. "If I have the opportunity just to be that voice crying in the wilderness ... I feel I'm being worthwhile on this earth [and that] I'm being a conscience to the church."

Dennis is not so naive as to think a new order is just around the corner, but he is confident that it is inevitable. "The cracks are there, in the church. And I think it's going to come. It might take another generation, but I still feel it's on its way. To me it's sort of like a parable that Jesus left. You can't put new wine into old wineskins. Something has to give. And the present structure to me is that old wine skin."

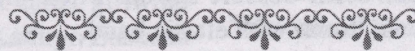
Dennis was born into the Catholic community and educated in Edmonton's Catholic schools. He then entered the Franciscan order, which took him to California where he spent a year as a noviciate and three years studying theology. He did not pursue

his plans to enter the priesthood, though, because he "felt at the time that the religious life was too intense." He was also becoming conscious of his sexual orientation, "but that itself is not the primary reason" for abandoning his studies.

He actually gave up going to church



*A Blessed Voice in the Wilderness "The entire universe is a state of mind. Change your mind, change your universe."* Uma Silbey



for awhile, but "I did not give up on God. That was no problem. But I did not feel comfortable in the institutional church. And being active in a Catholic parish, I felt, was too family-oriented."

Back in Edmonton, Dennis drifted back into the church because "something was missing. I did not want to abandon the spirituality and the theology. There's a whole body there that I found useful. And some of the music, some of the liturgies are good. And I didn't want to abandon that. So I drifted back – but not coming out."

Although still in the closet, he knew

"who I was, that I was a homosexual person. And I now use the words homosexually blessed, because I think of it as a gift from God. Even though I cannot prove it's a gift from God any more than I can prove the existence of God itself."

Then one day Dennis saw an advertisement in Edmonton's Catholic newspaper, an ad from Dignity Canada which was organizing a conference. "It just blew my mind. There are gay Catholics around! I'd sort of suspected there were." Dignity was established in 1969 – the same year as the Stonewall riots – as a support group for gay and lesbian Catholics. The organization has grown to more than 100 chapters across the U.S. as well as sister organizations in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, France, Italy, South Africa and elsewhere. In many chapters, Dignity provides the only experience some lesbian and gay people have with Catholic liturgy.

Operating outside the church proper, Dignity is committed to spiritual growth and development through liturgical celebrations, retreats and days of recollection, personal prayer, and study of scripture, theology and ethics. Dignity also welcomes people of all faith traditions, not only Catholics – although that is its primary focus. "When I come across people of other faith traditions," Dennis says, "it really strengthens my faith, because now I'm humbled because I'm just a small part of this whole universe, this whole creation. And I see the whole thing as a tapestry, that God

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has different faces, and we all have a little aspect of the truth.”

Finding Dignity was Dennis' major coming out experience. "Being in the same room with other gay Catholics was really a breath of fresh air," especially being "able to discuss sexuality and spirituality openly without fear of anything else."

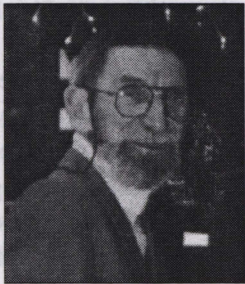
Being gay and Catholic is a challenge, since "of all the Christian churches, I think the Catholic Church is the most hierarchical. And the higher up you go, the more homophobic it gets."

But Dennis believes that "the homophobia that's present in the church is not present in every member in the Catholic Church. Even part of the clergy are understanding, but they are sort of in a silent majority right now. So there is some acceptance there." However, when pressed against the wall, supportive clergy revert to the official teachings, he added. The "they will, of course, toe the line."

Dennis is not spiritually out yet in Victoria, in that he's not active in any parish. But since the beginning of this year he has become active in setting up Victoria's first Dignity chapter. About a half dozen Catholics meet the last Sunday of every month for liturgical celebrations followed by discussion. For more information about Dignity Canada, check out the website at [www.dignitycanada.org](http://www.dignitycanada.org). For information about the Victoria chapter, call Dennis at 388-3675.

## Goodbye Jim

The people of Courtenay and Merville will miss him as much as his partner Jack Nesbit. Jim Egan died at



age 78. Last time I saw him, he looked like he had fought the good fight and was ready for a rest. Joe Carlson and I danced with Jim and Jack when we went up as Prince Albert and Queen Victoria to honour the couple's 50th anniversary of being together.

Jim can rest in good conscience. He was a prime mover in introducing the idea of gay/lesbian rights to pension benefits. He brought a visibility no other had to date, in our fight for Equality. Jim and Jack doubled as peer support for the gay and straight members of their upisland community. As well, Egan served terms in Courtenay's civic government. A lot of people, for a lot of reasons, have need to be grateful for Jim Egan's time on earth.

A celebration of Egan's life is planned for Saturday, March 25, 1-4 pm at the Courtenay Fish and Game Club on Robert Lang Drive. At Egan's request no funeral will be held. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to EGALE. - Barb McLauchlin

## International Gay Spirit Conference 2000 Seeks Papers

Tumescence and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center will jointly sponsor a day of personal, community and spiritual renewal for gay men on Saturday, May 20, 2000. This daylong conference, which will feature workshops, performance and lectures, will take place at the Village.

Papers dealing with Gay Spirit are solicited for review to be presented in afternoon sessions. Subjects may include Western, Eastern and Native American people's spiritual beliefs and their relevance to gay men.

Papers related to myth, personal and community renewal, Shamanism, and soul making are also welcome. Deadline for submission of papers is April 15, 2000.

This day of gay soul making will feature speakers including Mark Thompson, author of *Gay Spirit, Myth and Meaning*, Will Roscoe, Ph.D., author of *Changing Ones*, and Christian de la Huerta, founder of *Q-Spirit*, and author of *Coming Out Spiritually*. An evening performance based on the work of visionary gay poet Walt Whitman will be presented by acclaimed actor David Cohen.

Dr. Don Kilhefner, moderator of the conference, is the founder of Tumescence, a gay men's spirituality group and a co-founder of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center.

For further information about attending the conference or for paper submission guidelines, contact Jim Magary, Ph.D., Conference Co-ordinator, at Tumescence, PO Box 461144, Los Angeles CA 90046, or telephone (323) 735-5092, or e-mail THWAPP@aol.com. Black and white glossy photos of all speakers are available on request.

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# What's A Word's Worth?

By Maddy Aramis

Sitting at your government-issue desk mentally composing your letter of resignation? Longing to buy a big old house in James Bay and open a B&B with your sweetie? Don't quit the day job to start your own business until you've picked up a copy of *In the Pink: The Making of Successful Gay- and Lesbian-Owned Businesses*, by Sue Levin (Harrington Park Press, 1999).

Based on surveys completed by hundreds of gay business-owners in the USA, this book has lots to offer someone considering life as an entrepreneur. Clearly organized, the book starts right at the beginning. What are the common qualities of an entrepreneur? What experiences are useful? What gay-related factors motivate us as small-business owners? It then proceeds to discuss the nuts and bolts of starting and running a small business.

For each subject covered, Levin uses real-life examples to illustrate her points. Hearing about the trials, tribulations, and successes of other gay business owners is both inspiring and humbling. Businesses of all sizes and types are repre-

sented (from software developers like Quark to caterers, publishers, jewelers, cafes, and construction companies). Levin tackles issues of interest to any business owner. However, the gay focus of the book allows her to cover such issues as whether or not to come out to your customers, how useful it is to target our community in your marketing plan, the effect of AIDS on gay business, and some of the pitfalls (and benefits) of going into business with your partner.

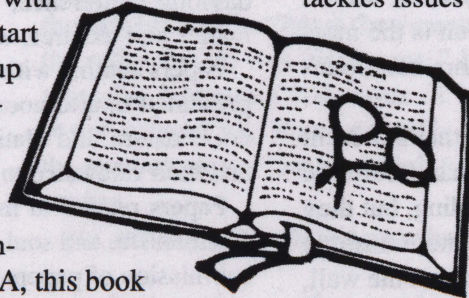
A balanced mix of inspiration and practical advice, this is a useful (and entertaining) read for anyone toying with the idea of going into business. Once you've made the decision to go for it, there is a comprehensive listing of additional references at the end of the book.

Rating: ▼▼▼▼ on a scale of ▼ to ▼▼▼▼▼

While composing this month's column, I tuned in to gaybc radio. You can find the station on the Internet by going to [www.gaybc.com](http://www.gaybc.com) and then selecting a program. If you don't have RealPlayer (free) installed on your computer, go to the "How to Listen" button at the bottom of the page and follow the links and directions provided. One of the best things about Internet radio is not only that you can listen to the live broadcast in real time (and add your pithy comments to the fray through the on-line chat room), but also if the program doesn't suit your tastes, you can go to the archives and pick previously aired programs more to your liking.

Unlike regular radio, you can fast forward, pause, or replay these archived shows to your heart's content. Typically, programs also provide links to guest speaker web pages or places on-line to buy books discussed. It was while listening to a gay arts and culture talk show that I heard the latest scoop on the Lammies and found the Lambda literature web site (<http://www.lambdalit.org/>).

(Cont'd next page)



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Here are this year's fiction nominees (for nominees in other categories, check out the web site): <?xml:namespaceprefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

### Finalists

#### Lesbian Fiction

*Bruised Fruit* Anna Livia, Firebrand  
*Faults* Terri de la Peña, Alyson  
*Salt Water and Other Stories* Barbara Wilson, Alyson  
*Shy Girl* Elizabeth Stark, FSG  
*Tipping the Velvet* Sarah Waters, Riverhead

#### Gay Men's Fiction

*Allan Stein* Matthew Stadler, Grove  
*Comfort and Joy* Jim Grimsley, Algonquin  
*In September the Light Changes* Andrew Holleran, Hyperion  
*The Book of Lies* Felice Picano, Alyson  
*The Coming Storm* Paul Russell, St. Martin's

The winners will be announced at a gala event to be held at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago, IL, on June 1, 2000. Tickets are \$100 each (\$95 if purchased before March 1). Additional Lammy readings will be held in Washington, D.C. (June 7), New York (June 15), and Philadelphia (June 17).

If you head south in time to catch any of these events, don't forget to let us know here at the Rhino - we'd love to hear about your experiences and share them with our readers.



## It's Softball Season!

Come out and support your favourite team at the Ice Breaker Tournament April 8 and 9 at Vic West Park (behind the DaVinci Centre). Provincial Government Women's Softball League regular season games start April 12.

## Womyn's Book Club Off To Rousing Start

by Gail Schacter

Our first meeting was a fabulous success. There were seven of us present, and as several others had mentioned that Wednesday was not a good evening for them, the meeting time has been changed to the second Thursday of every month.

Lively and informative discussion ensued. This will be a womyn's book club (womyn authors), and not just lesbian content or author. Members wish to have the meeting in two parts - a discussion of a book which will be pre-determined, and then an open discussion of books which members would like to recommend to others. Members are also encouraged to bring books which they are able to share with others.

The books which will be discussed at the next two meetings are:

April 13: *Possessing the Secret of Joy*,  
by Alice Walker

May 11: *Monkey Beach* by Eden Robinson  
June 8: TBA

Please respond to [camassia@home.com](mailto:camassia@home.com) if you wish to be placed on our email mailing list, and indicate if you do not wish to have your address noted on any future postings. Unless you indicate otherwise, postings will have addresses on them so the members can contact one another.

The next meeting will be held April 13th, 7pm at the G-Spot, 1910 Store St. Cost is \$2.00, which goes to the G-Spot. All are welcome.

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# Purchasing Property With Your Partner

By Brooke Miller



**Brooke  
Miller**

Buying a home is exciting! Whether it's your first or your tenth home, your primary residence or a revenue property, the anticipation and excitement that go into the purchase are greater than when you make the decision to buy almost anything else. Not to mention that it's probably more money than you will ever spend on any other acquisition.

When you buy a piece of property, the dream-maker comes out to play, questions arise and your brains begin to whirl. What color will we paint the walls? How will we lay out the kitchen? What about the garden, where will the fruit trees go? Will we have room for our parents? We plan for the future, we prepare a nest and we experience optimism at its finest hour.

Same-gender partners are absolutely no different (as we all know), from opposite gender partners when buying property. We experience the same thrills of this nesting ritual as any of our friends or families who happen to be straight. When the actual act of purchasing our abode occurs, the rules are identical. As with any other couple, all you need to decide is whether you wish

to hold the property as Joint Tenants or Tenants in Common. Holding the property refers to the title and how the land and improvements are to be legally registered.

Of course, your lawyer is the person to advise you on which form of ownership will be most appropriate in your individual circumstance. However, to help you understand a little before you

**When you buy a piece of property, the dream-maker comes out to play, questions arise and your brains begin to whirl. We plan for the future, we prepare a nest and we experience optimism at its finest hour.**

start the process, I will explain briefly the differences between Joint Tenancy and Tenants in Common. Joint Tenancy is how many heterosexually married couples hold property. The property is held jointly and undivided. The greatest benefit to a Joint Tenancy, is in the situation where one partner predeceases the other. The surviving partner would become the sole owner of the subject

property. In this case, the property should not be held up with the processing of estates and possible claims with the deceased partner's family or other beneficiaries. It is a very clear definition as to the intentions of the property owners.

Tenants in Common, on the other hand, allows for ownership of property that is somewhat more flexible. By that I mean two (or more) individuals can own portions of a home. One partner may wish to legally own a greater share of the property; this can be achieved by registering the title as Tenants in Common. In this case, one person, for example, can hold 40% and the other could hold 60%. Looking at this from an estate perspective, the owned portion can easily be willed to a beneficiary. However, the property will be tied up in the legal ramifications of the probate system.

Whichever way you choose to hold your property, is entirely up to you. The bottom line — the right way is whatever you feel comfortable with.

*Brooke Miller is a Real Estate Consultant with RE/MAX Camosun in Victoria B.C. Brooke facilitates Purchase and Sale Agreements between Buyers and Sellers of residential and commercial Real Estate transactions. If you have any real estate related questions, please feel free to contact Brooke at (250) 744-3301 or brooke@coastnet.com.*

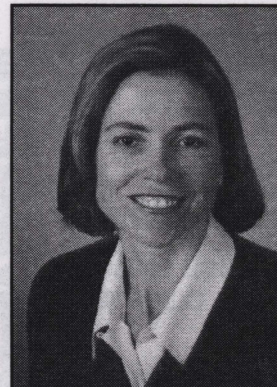


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# ARIBA! Add Zip To Lobster Dish With Tequila

By Marcia Hewitt-Hicks

Just by uttering the word "tequila" at a gathering of people, one is guaranteed to hear more than a few moans. Everyone who has tried this Mexican menace knows its deadly nature. It earns the nickname "Te-kill-ya" well indeed.

Classically, the scenario goes like this. All are primed for a fun-filled evening of laughter and merriment when



**Marcia  
Hewitt-Hicks**

a guest arrives with a 40-ounce bottle of tequila and announces "It's shooter time!" (I know you've been there, I can tell by the look on your face.) Out come the lemons and the salt. At first you are reluctant, unsure of the whole situation. Until you have had your first shot and everyone is hollering, "ARIBA!" By the second shot you are really getting the hang of it — even love the taste. "The lemons cut the alcohol and they're packed with vitamins too," you reassure yourself. You slam back your third shot and by this time you are starting to feel like you've bought a one-way ticket to Mexico. Many people have said that tequila is more like a drug than a drink, and you feel like you really understand. You start to see cacti and ponchos, beaches and sombreros. You think the world is one big taco bar and you are dishing out a huge helping with extra salsa on the side. Suddenly, everything changes. The next thing you see is white porcelain, a big bowl of it. You are heaving every ounce of liquid from your stomach and wondering if you are ever going to feel good again.

I saw a T-shirt once with a picture of a guy on the front who was lying flat out, completely dazed. The caption above his head was: "One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, FLOOR." I

laughed and we exchanged knowing glances.

Nonetheless, many of us are still charmed by tequila's magical powers. It has its place and understanding that place is the key to living in harmony with tequila. I no longer slam it. Instead I drink to taste it. While traveling in Mexico I ordered a shot and was promptly handed the tequila menu. Like a tourist, I picked one that "sounded nice." Also on that trip I discovered *La-Co-Ca-Ra-Cha* which is a drink made of 1/3 tequila and 2/3 kahlua. It is delicious but its service is the most entertaining aspect. One waiter lit the elixir on fire and poured it gracefully from one silver gravy boat to another. Meanwhile, the other waiter placed a bandana around my neck and an ice-filled funnel in my mouth. The whole concoction was poured down my throat as the entire restaurant bellowed "La-Co-Ca-Ra-Cha". While at home here in Victoria, I opt for the civilized approach of drinking it out of a glass.

Tequila has many uses. Don't be afraid of it. Use it to marinate fish or brush it on a chocolate cake for a little extra zip. Introduce it back into your life with caution for you never know when it's going to sneak up on you again and reap its revenge.

## Lobster Hot Pepper Pasta with Creamy Tequila Sauce

serves 4

2/3 lb. pasta  
4 cloves garlic minced  
2 tbsp. olive oil  
1/4 tsp. dried red pepper flakes  
2 tbsp. tequila  
8 roma tomatoes, diced  
1/3 cup whipping cream  
6 ounces cooked lobster (other shellfish such as crab can be substituted)  
fresh parmesan, grated

Bring to boil a large pot of salted water. Add pasta and cook until desired tenderness. Drain.

While pasta is cooking, warm olive oil in fry pan and add garlic and dried pepper flakes, heating gently. Sauté until soft and fragrant. Remove from heat. Add tequila and stand back as the alcohol may flame up! Return to heat and boil gently for a minute. Add tomatoes to pan and sauté. Add cream next and cook several more minutes. Season with salt and pepper and then add the lobster. Add more cream if desired and serve immediately tossed with pasta and topped with parmesan cheese.

## Lesbian Issues Survey

Women's Creative Network is sponsoring a survey of lesbian issues. The study will identify issues of concern to lesbians, particularly those influenced by federal legislation, policy, and programmes.

Please return your lesbian issues survey by May 10, 2000. If you haven't filled in a survey call 598-6034 or email [lesbian\\_survey@home.com](mailto:lesbian_survey@home.com) to receive a copy by email.

There will be two focus groups to discuss these issues: one group for lesbi-

ans 18-29 years; the other for lesbians over 30 years. If you want to participate in a focus group call 598-6034.

Groups will take place Wed., May 10 and Thursday, May 11 from 7:30 to 9:00 pmat Fairfield Community Centre. Please call Judy Lightwater, 598-6034 or email her at [jlightwater@pacificcoast.net](mailto:jlightwater@pacificcoast.net) to reserve your spot. Refreshments will be served.

Thanks, it really does make a difference to federal policy makers to know who we are and what's important to us.

## Man! I feel like a Woman!

*New Country? It's downright revolutionary*

by Geneva Jones

Moving day, three years ago. Little did I know the cable guy was about to change my life. After hooking everything up, he turned the set to CMT, channel 35, to check things out. I had no idea what CMT was, but it was music, so I left it on while I unpacked. By the time I realized I was listening to Country Music Television I was hooked.

If even the mention of country music is enough to make you roll your eyes or run screaming from the room, I'll bet you haven't checked it out recently. It's not all big hair and "thankin' Jayzus" anymore. New country is a blend of rock, pop, folk and blues. Subjects range from wife abuse to suicide to PMS.

Sure, even new country is a celebration of heterosexuality, but it's no longer stand-by-your-man territory. These women take no crap from their men. "Treat me right or I'll be gone" from Sara Evans', *The Crying Game* or "Give me two arms that want to hold me, not own me" from Jo Dee Messina's, *Stand Beside Me*.

If an abusing husband doesn't get the message "It's time for retribution" from Martina McBride's, *Independence Day*. And, if you liked Fried Green Tomatoes, then *Goodbye Earl* by the Dixie Chicks will be right up your alley. Ah, the Dixie Chicks! Don't let the name and the matching peroxide hairdos put you off. These fun-loving women are fine musicians.

On a lighter note, *Guys Do It All the Time*, by Mindy McCready is a nifty little tale of role-reversal. Feeling a bit moody? You'll love Calgary's yummy Teri Clark's *I'm An Emotional Girl*, "Sometimes I laugh, sometimes I cry, sometimes I do both and I don't know why."

New country isn't all politics, of course. There's lots of lovin' and leavin' and laughin' and cheatin'. Vince Gill's *If You Ever Have Forever on Your Mind* is a bluesy ballad that makes monogamy sound downright contemporary. *Drink, Steal, Cheat and Lie* by Michael Peterson manages to be both witty and romantic. By the way, fellas, if you're into cowboys, he's pretty easy on the eyes, too. All of which brings me to Canada's own Shania Twain, la prima donna assoluta of crossover pop-rock-country. Love her or hate her, you've got to admit this is a strong woman, confident in her sexuality and not afraid to laugh at herself. She brought down the house at the Grammys last year with *Man! I Feel Like a Woman!* Shania in thigh-high boots, bustier and black choker, backed up by luscious male models. Honey, if this is country, then you can count me in.

## Melaney At The Movies

*Reviewed by Melaney Black*

**The pINCO Triangle -**

**directors: Patrick Crowe and Ruth Whiston**

Who knew Northern Ontario had such a sense of humour? If there are more Sudbury natives like directors/ cinematographers Patrick Crowe and Ruth Whiston, there is hope yet for homophobic, redneck INCO Nickel.

Just how many miners snuck off to inspect each other's shafts in the dark underground caverns beneath Sudbury's pride and joy? How many would admit to it? Are there lesbians brave enough to remain in Sudbury, loud and proud?

And did you know that the terrain surrounding Sudbury was used as a model for both before *and* after shots of the effects of a nuclear holocaust? Just how picture perfect were those miners profiled in the INCO newsletter?

Crowe and Whiston blow the blasting caps off the lives of Sudbury nickel minions with an entertaining blend of satire, cheesy newsreel footage, interviews and music featuring none other than Parachute Club's Lorraine Segato.

The humour is truly homegrown Canadian, the production numbers hilarious and the education value gentle. While not a classic, it's a welcome comic relief in the oeuvre of traditionally dark and convoluted Canadian independent filmmaking.

**Two Brides and A Scalpel**

**director: Mark Achbar**

In deep contrast, this documentary about a Nanaimo man's quest for gender reassignment and her ultimate legal marriage to a lesbian (he was biologically still male at the time of the ceremony) left me both moved and disturbed.

Faithfully documented by partners Georgina and Linda, this is a story that undoubtedly sparked many a discussion about the natures of gender and love. It is at times funny, moving, painful and challenging. It is always honest, courageous and lovingly intimate in its portrayal of the relationship between two people who overcome amazing obstacles to love each other.

Graphic depictions of gender reassignment surgical procedures and Georgina's reaction to them are among the most difficult and enlightening scenes of the documentary. As both the psychological motivations and ramifications of physical gender reassignment are beyond my understanding, I don't feel qualified to comment on them. But from a purely clinical point of view, the physical transformation is profound.

Satirized by *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* and sensationally depicted in certain mass media, *Two Brides* is more heart-wrenching than heart-warming. But at its compassionate core is the marvel of what human beings will do to love themselves and to be loved.

# Little Lezzie Flashes



excited and happy. Partner **Lee Ker** has finally retired as treasurer of the G-Spot. She noted that during her two-year term she only worried twice about the rent...**Margo Farr** rented a grand hall and celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday swimmingly with friends in and out of the pool at Gordon Head Recreation Centre...**Janis Mullan** is celebrating the success of Dog's Day Bakery. Lots of customers. She's gearing up for the big Spring Fling 2000 dance at Da Vinci Centre April 8. The bakery has tickets. Great to meet **Tim Strachan** the manager of Santiagos who has noted lesbian support for the Tapas restaurant and bar...As usual **Robin Durkin and Joann Nicholson** reported athletic adventures. This time they skied Mount Washington with 10 others. Apparently the number 10 is a good one price-wise and for sharing psychologically — at \$46 per for the weekend. **Les Chan** is insisting he was cold when the cover photo was taken for his book, *Don't Stir-fry in The Nude*. If you don't get it, check the cover of last month's Rhino or, better yet, pick up a copy of the book. It's selling well. In the midst of some negativity going on, Les is happy to report that his last year's nemesis,

Mary, has called to say she was wrong to criticize and carry on because he's gay. Mary is a big light in a grey area these days...Popped into **Friends of Dorothy's** with **Joyce Pate**. Lots of giggles and repartée. We were joined by the luscious **Kate Boylan** and the gorgeous **Indianna Matters**. Non-stop talk and some of it was even intelligent! ...The critics are right. Food at Friends is quite yummy! ... When you get to be my age ya gotta be careful. While I was interviewing one of the prettiest cleansing experts I've ever met, **Danielle Allen**, she told me she was doing a workshop about Crohn's and Colitis. Hey! Can I come to that? I'm old enough to be a crone! Heck, I am a Crone. I noticed she was looking at me oddly and finally, I got it. Blush! Well, there's lots of people out there think I have positioned myself well in that one and I don't mean age-wise!...On a totally other note our own **Kevin Barnard** as alter-ego **Irma La Douche** is going to be flaunting it grand style in the VOS production of *La Cage aux Folles*. It opens May 5 at the McPherson Playhouse. Maybe then, The Rhino will retrieve a writer. Have a very satisfying month. Later...

**Betty Krawczyk** called to say she's expecting a three-month sentence for her work as an eco-feminist. She asked me to insert a special thanks to all who wrote to her when she was in jail last. Who knows what will happen when the old gal gets to court March 13. We'll keep you posted. The trial is expected to last a month. So sharpen your quills or your wire cutters...One practically needed a crowbar to get into the highly successful Women's Mixer at Santiagos. What a grand idea! Supported mainly by dykes, the mixer was a fund-raiser for Sandy Merriman House. It did raise funds! **Deb Wood** reports \$500 made and 70 women attended. Let there be more! It was great to reconnect with **Janet Lironi** who, in November, reconnected with a daughter she put up for adoption. Janet and daughter are



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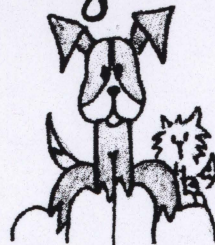
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADS & SERVICES

Rhino's Web Page designed by With Pride Designs: <http://members.home.net/lavrhino/guestbook.html>

ALL ads are \$15 first 25 words and .50/ word thereafter. Call 598-6490.

Deadline the first of the month prior to publication.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**LOOKING FOR HOME:** Responsible lesbian couple with well-mannered dog and cat seek 2 bedroom home in Fairfield or James Bay. Call Ann or Kathy at 595-1575.

**GETAWAY:** In Port Renfrew. Rent by night or week - three-bedroom house, fully equipped, beach view, near Botanical Beach and West Coast Trail. Reasonable rates: 388-0754 Website: <http://www.islandnet.com/~gspot/wwr/>

**SPINSTERVALE IN COOMBS:** Offers rustic cabins at \$7.50 per woman per night. Larger cabin sleeps 4 to 6. \$30 per weekend. Inquire about farm-hand position or work exchange. (3-hrs per day equals room and board. Call (250) 248-8809. Email [Sunshine@macn.bc.ca](mailto:Sunshine@macn.bc.ca)

**PHOTOS:** All photographic needs—wedding, butch/femme/ display/ pride business cards and ads. Call Heather 388-0754.

**TAROT AND RUNE:** readings, spiritual guidance on how to face the challenges in your life. 10 years experience. \$40-50/hr sliding scale. Joy (a.k.a. Aurora) 361-4680.

**WOMEN OF SIZE CLOTHING SALE:** Wanting a new wardrobe? Spring cleaning? For women size 20 and up, new/used clothing sale/swap Sunday April 9, 459 Chester Street, (Scout Hall, Fairfield). Sellers set up 9 to 11 a.m. Sales 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. FMI or seller registration call Karen 386-9530.

**DREAMING THE NEW SACRED PLACE:** Shamanic Dreamwork. Dream Analysis, consulting, study programs, apprenticeships with a Jungian Framework for healing the Feminine and exploring your

own Guiding Myth. Works to release old patterns. Accesses personal Divine Images and Allies for wisdom and life direction. Claire Turcotte, Keeper of the Dream, Reiki Master, Shamanic Practitioner, Crone. 595-0088

**HOROSCOPE READINGS AND TAROT:** Call Zorya to find out how your life is going and where you're at in life. Highly recommended. (250) 380-2960

**ARMCHAIR WANTED:** Call Marion, 598-1257

## COMMUNITY NOTES & HAPPENINGS

**THE TOLL FREE #:** to express support for gay-straight alliance clubs in B.C Schools is: B.C. Teacher's Federation 1-800-663-9163. (It's an easy call; I did it.)

**FTM (etc)** is a peer-run support and discussion group for all people assigned female at birth who identify all or part of the time as male. Drop-in is the first Saturday of every month at AIDS Vancouver Island, 304-733 Johnson St. For more info, call the Transgender Resource Line at 413-3220.

**ON SALT SPRING ISLAND Gays/Lesbians/Allies:** meet on the third Sunday of the month, from 2 p.m.-4 p. m. at the Seniors for Seniors Building, 379 Lower Ganges Road (across from GVM). Plan social events; get involved in education, exploration and visibility projects. For more information call 537-2227 or e-mail [caffyn@saltspring.com](mailto:caffyn@saltspring.com).

## PERSONAL

**FUN-LOVING,** spontaneous experienced eclectic seeking long-term romance. Am independent, passionate, caring, active, more butch than femme. Seek friends to play with, a lover to glory in, a partner to walk beside. Let's talk and hear each other. Reply Lavender Rhinoceros, P.O. Box 5339, St. B Victoria, BC V8R 6S4 and label Box 202.

**I AM A 36-YEAR-OLD:** healthy, professional and large woman interested in meeting a gay man (with or without a partner) who would like to become a father. If you would like to experience the joys and adventures of co-parenting contact Lavender Rhino P.O. Box 5339, Station B, Victoria, BC V8R 6S4 and label Box 201.

**PITCHER NEEDED:** For women's softball team in recreation league. Call Mary, 598-8040

## SERVICES, ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS

**AIDS Vancouver Island:** 384-2366, 304-733 Johnson St. V8W 3C7

**The G-Spot:** Club for Women, Lesbians, and Trannies 382-7768

**Camosun College Lesbian Collective.** Alternate weeks. 370-3484

**Victoria Lesbian Seniors Care Society:** Milnor, 360-2779 Mail P. O. Box 39022 James Bay Postal Outlet V8V 4X8

**Mosaic:** Lesbian & Gay Choir. Box 8533 Victoria, BC V8W 3S1, 360-1966

**Outdoors Club:** 474-8159 Also email [Kanaice\\_sls@bc.sympaico.ca](mailto:Kanaice_sls@bc.sympaico.ca) Sherry Norie [norie@telus.net](mailto:norie@telus.net)

**Pink Pages:** Community Resource Directory Box 5231 St. B, Victoria V8R 1H0 Email [pinkpage@gayvictoria.com](mailto:pinkpage@gayvictoria.com)

**P-Flag:** Information, 385-9462

**The Victoria Status of Women Action Group:** Services available: free use of computers, resource library; info on local events and organizations that work with and for women. 383-7322. 130-645 Fort St. (Yarrows Bldg.) Email [swag@pacificcoast.net](mailto:swag@pacificcoast.net) Fax 388-0100

**UVIC Gay/Lesbian faculty and older students**

**VYPS:** Victoria Youth Pride Society (14-25) 472-4393 [vyps@writeme.com](mailto:vyps@writeme.com)

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Interested call Kristen **384-5258**  
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**Belly Dancing Party**

3rd Saturday 8pm \$5 Everyone

**Wise women**

4th Saturday, 7:30-9pm  
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on interpreting your dreams**

**Qi Gong with Mariah**

Tuesdays 6-7pm, by donation,  
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**Saturday Morning Coffee Talk**

10:30am – 1:30pm with Debbie &  
Fran - \$2 for everyone  
**chair massage** with Mariah,  
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**Drop in Jam with Paula**

8:30-10:30pm 2nd & 4th Mondays

**Find Your Feet with Andrea Hill** on

**April 28th** 7 - 9 pm -by donation  
For shy dancers who want to find a  
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
						<b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm
2	3	4 <b>Qi Gong</b> 6-7pm with Mariah	5 <b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm	6	7 <b>Coming Out Support Group</b> 7-9pm	<b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm
9	10 <b>Drop in Jam</b> with Paula 8:00 - 10:30 pm	11 <b>Qi Gong</b> 6-7pm with Mariah	12 <b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm <b>New Writers Group</b> 7-9pm	13	14 <b>Movie Night</b> <b>Bring your own popcorn</b> 7pm	<b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm <b>Belly Dancing</b> 8pm
16	17	18 <b>Qi Gong</b> 6-7pm with Mariah	19 <b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm	20	21 <b>Coming Out Support Group</b> 7-9pm	<b>New Format Wise Women</b> 7:30-9pm <b>talk and discussion with Claire on interpreting your dreams</b>
25	26 <b>Drop in Jam</b> with Paula 8:00 - 10:30 pm	27 <b>Qi Gong</b> 6-7pm with Mariah	28 <b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm <b>New Writers Group</b> 7-9pm	29	30 <b>Find Your Feet with Andrea</b> 7-9pm	<b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm

**Events at the Womens' Creative Network are:**

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**Second show  
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