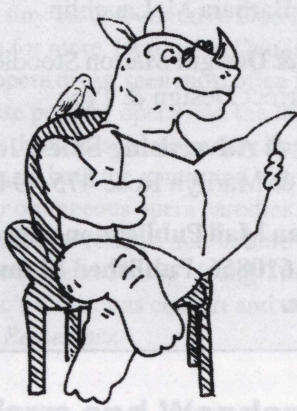


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LAVENDER RHINOCEROS

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



What's Inside

**LGBT Bookstore
Opens**

Remembering Laurie

**Derivative Duo
Joins Mosaic**

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Zany Derivative Duo joins Mosaic at their upcoming concert

Vendetta One. Common Sense Zero. Canada and BC Losers

More than ever I am worried about the creeping power of the religious right in this province. Waving a banner of Christianity that would have Jesus kicking the shit out of the temple all over again, the Surrey School Board has been allowed to win its case against the rights of all



**Barbara
McLaughlin**

Canadians to gain access to information.

I say "all" Canadians, because we as bent, queer folk are part of the fabric of what makes this country great. We have not only a right to be here, we have rights we have earned. We also, many of us, celebrate ourselves as Christians, spiritual, strongly believing, and religious.

The world knows what happens when one starts banning books from a platform of hate based on prejudiced belief. Ignorance festers and hate generates and perpetuates irrational fear. I guess that's what the Surrey School Board wants. As you know by now the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the Surrey School Board's right to prevent a gay teacher from reading, or allowing to read to his Grade One students utterly harmless books. Gay content? Yes, but hardly noxious. *Heather Has Two Mommies, Asha's Mums, One Dad Two Dads, Brown Dads, Blue Dads* and *Belinda's Bouquet* read with no more peril to young minds than *Tommy the Truck*.

What happened to the Canadian Justice system? How could any judge regard any of the books in question as detrimental to the spiritual, moral, sexual or otherwise, health of a Canadian school child? Further, how could the B.C. Ministry of Education fail to put the books on an approved list the minute they finished reading them?

Somewhere along the way someone should have noted that Surrey School board

is likely strongly influenced by Kari Simpson's Family Coalition and/or Focus on the Family which use their own religious agenda to pursue a campaign of hate.

We're talking about fundamental and basic rights to information. In a letter to the editor in the Vancouver Sun David Kipling writes, "Surely the Surrey school board's belief in the power of books is unfounded: The world's literature has evidently left them unmarked."

You know, I would include the actual words of Jesus Christ as being among the words unread.

My mind boggles that the religious right so enthusiastically embodies the word "Christian" when it is quite clear that their so-called views are based on old teachings and admonitions that Christ was sent to confront and change. Heck, if they want to go all "olde worlde" I might point out the 10 Commandments don't even mention us.

Yep! I reckon Jesus would be back to kick the shit out of the temple. And furthermore...Organisers of *Take Back The Night* might want to sip a bit of brotherly love themselves. There were so few women walking it was embarrassing. I'm speaking for myself, but I felt silly. For me the lack of turnout expresses two things: Poor, very poor advertising and a sense that the event has passed its prime as a woman-only event. The aboriginal speaker at the beginning of the march who admitted a need to take her young son with her wherever she goes lest friends, family and others in her community cause him harm unintentionally underscored my point.

Nancy, I'm sorry. I didn't feel empowered. How can I shout for freedom for women in general terms when I live in the most freedom-prone country in the world? How can I be one of so few and feel empowered by an event that seemed to have dragged out so few interested women?

How can I walk to ask for safe streets when the march is just one more thing that tells men we are angry and by excluding them, tell them they can have no part in helping us to work for change?

Lavender Rhinoceros was founded
February 1999

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Stewart & Marilyn Rose 475-4949

**Canadian Mail Publications Agree-
ment #1610856. Published 12 times
per year.**

All submissions may be edited for space and clarity. Copy is considered to be the property of Lavender Rhinoceros. Letters and submissions must be accompanied by address and telephone. Only under extraordinary circumstances, discussed with you will unsigned letters/articles be printed. Deadline for advertising and for written submissions is the 1st of the month prior to publication.

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.

Lavender Rhino sells individually for \$3.00 per issue at Bolen Books and Munro's, Headquarters Grocery in Courtenay and Little Sister's Books in Vancouver.

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

Coming and Going in the Arts

Sapphic Opera Joins Mosaic

The tiny bit of Derivative Duo I saw on *In The Life* has left me aching for more. Derivative Duo is coming to Victoria! The irreverent opera divas, seen most often in high tops and 50s ball gowns, translate popular opera into the language of Sappho. I mean they rewrite the words in lesbian/gay lingo. Barb Glenn and Susan Nivert illuminate both the comic and bittersweet sides of lesbian/gay life in their outrageous opera parodies. As lyricists and humorists they can massacre Mozart and hobble homophobic myths in a single aria. Join me at Phillip Young Theatre December 9 at 8 p.m. for Mosaic's Christmas concert and trip with the divas. It's a *December to Remember*.

A Warm and Wonderful Kilt

'Tis a bonny thing to watch a man in a kilt kiss a man in a captain's uniform. More than that, however, *Kilt*, the Belfry's opener for the 2000-2001 season is a tour de force in love and honour. I expected it to be a romp. After all, my goofy friend Glynis Leyshon is in it. I got much more. I got carried away by the story, a beautifully crafted plot, an interesting study in human relations, commitment, and point of view and, in the process, lots of wonderful laughs.

There are some stunning visuals as usual and one moment when Glynis proves her invincibility. *Kilt* is very gay and very warm and very funny. A delight to watch and feel.

Publicists Marc Dusseault tells me The Belfry has received (so far) three letters dissing the production: one from someone who hadn't seen it. All the more reason for us to support the Belfry.

The Best Dancers in the World for AIDS Fundraiser

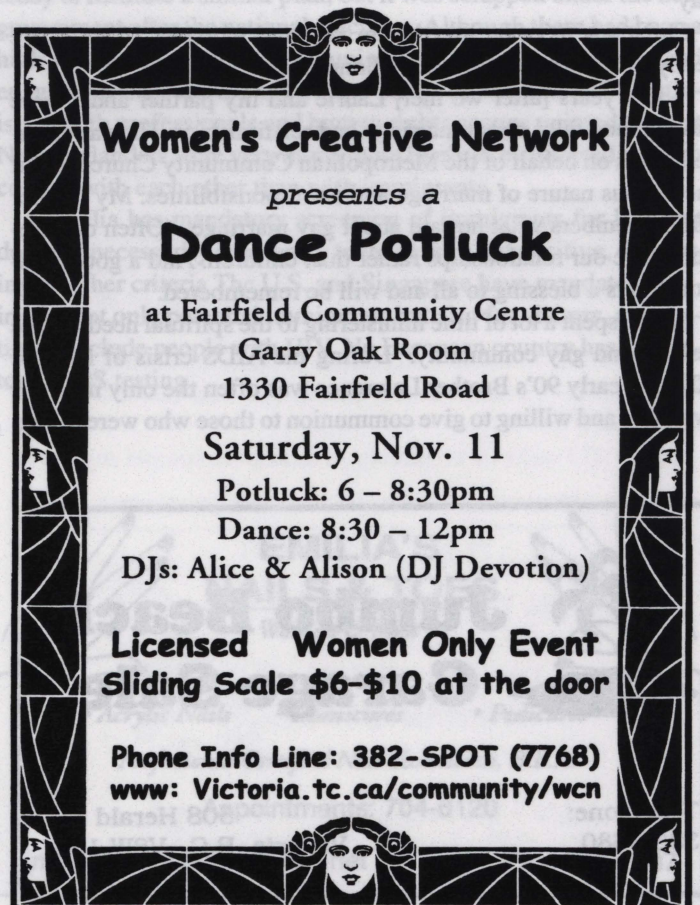
This list is wildly impressive for this once-ever-two-years experience. There's (sigh) Evelyn Hart, Debra Brown of Cirque du Soleil, Margie Gillis our own Big Dance with Lynda Raino, Lawrence Racine Choiniere, Tap Dogs, Craig Hempsted—to name a few. All these dancers and more are at the Royal Theatre December 1. Tickets are \$100 to \$25 and worth every penny. Get yours today at McPherson Playhouse Box Office 386-6121. Incidentally, December 1 is World AIDS Day. BMcL

Annual General Meetings

Women's Creative Network, d.b.a. G-Spot, has elected a new board which has quite a role to fill this year. The elected are old guards Debbie Frank, Larrein Trudeau, Jannit Rabinovitch, and new and inspired Lyn Davie, Elizabeth Conway, Mary Iverson and Eva Arros.

Meantime as a result of *Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society* annual general meeting the following will steer this brave little ship: Chair Art Holbrook with Blair Lischeron, Gina Horne, Anne Skidmore, M.J. Bacon, Jim Stuart, John Aitken, Paul Jennis, Brian Oswald. The VARCS' mission statement was revised and ratified at the meeting at Red Cross House Sept. 26. It now reads: To offer community-based support and care to persons living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers. The new statement reflects the board's continued pursuance of the results of a strategic planning process and defines a shift from home-based support although it doesn't replace it. BMcL

The Pride Society board comprises Gail Owen, Bryan Hoekstra, Colin Easton, Warren Scott, Kevin Barnard and Garry Penny. Committee includes Barbara McLauchlin Paul Jennis and Scott Wilson. The board and members meet next to brainstorm.



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A Tribute to Lawrence Blakie

By Pat Ford

I met Laurie late 1984, early 1985 at a weekly gay coffeehouse that ran out of a local community centre. Both of us were fairly new to the gay community and new to the coffeehouse. I was a little wary when Laurie was introduced to me as the Reverend Brother Lawrence Blakie as my encounters with clergy hadn't always been pleasant.

But it wasn't long before his warmth worked its magic and we were talking and laughing and swapping jokes. We met often after that and we talked about many things, he told me about how he sneaked off to the catholic church when he was supposed to be going to boy scouts and about his conversion and calling. And how he joined the navy while under age and would have been kicked out except that he could sing and so was recruited to help entertain the troops. He claimed that was where he learned to do drag.

We talked about religion vs. spirituality, while my mother's church learned about homophobia. He gave me an essay he wrote entitled *On Homosexuality and the Bible*. "Give this to her" he said, "and tell her she is welcome to call me. Mom read his essay and later had a long talk with Laurie and ended up changing her view of homosexuality.

Thank you, Laurie. You helped my mother and me to form a closer and more loving relationship. And yes, she still tells off friends for making homophobic remarks.

Laurie helped many people to come to terms with their religious backgrounds and sexual orientation. He led a weekly gathering for gay

Christians to come together to talk and worship. If you were really lucky you got invited to dinner first.

A few years [after we met] Laurie and my partner and I were having long talks about marriage and relationships. He was counselling us on behalf of the Metropolitan Community Church about the serious nature of marriage and its responsibilities. My partner still remembers what he said about gay marriage. "Often our creations are our relationships rather than children. And a good relationship is a blessing to all and will be remembered."

Laurie spent a lot of time ministering to the spiritual needs of the lesbian and gay community. During the AIDS crisis of the late 80's and early 90's Brother Lawrence was often the only minister available and willing to give communion to those who were dying.

He was sometimes called upon to preside at their funerals. I remember finding out that he had been driving to Sydney soon after having chemotherapy treatments. He wasn't supposed to be driving but there was a gay couple in Sydney who wanted communion. Both were HIV positive, and Brad was dying and had been disowned by his family. Lawrence officiated at Brad's funeral too.

Laurie was a hard person to get hold of sometimes. His calendar was

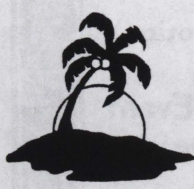
always busy. During the day he was often busy helping neighbours get to appointments or out visiting sick friends or helping his older siblings. If he was home, there were visitors. There was a family, newly immigrated to Canada- they were taking English lessons but needed someone to practice with.

Laurie offered his Sunday afternoons. Sometimes Laurie would phone to invite us for dinner. If I wasn't home there might be a message saying: "Sometimes I wish I was a princess. Instead I'm a queen. Come for dinner." It was usually something cooked in his crock-pot but it always tasted good.

Laurie had an active social life within the gay community. He'd always be found at pride day picnics hugging or being hugged by his many friends. He was willing to put up with the teasing he always got for the shorts he wore. We'd meet him at birthday parties and fundraisers, concerts and potlucks. Lawrence was never shy and could usually be found chatting and laughing with a group of old or new found friends. I once organized a surprise birthday party for Lawrence. He thought he was coming for dinner and a small anniversary party. He was thrilled when his friends started to arrive and we brought out the cake. He told me later that in his 70 years, it was the first time he'd ever had a birthday party. He had grown up in a large family who didn't have the money or time for birthday celebrations.

There is much more I could say about Lawrence: he was a lovely kind and generous person - a true Christian in the highest sense of the word. I loved him very much and will miss him greatly.

Pat delivered this eulogy to Brother Lawrence Blakie at his funeral September 19, 2000 at Saint Barnabas Anglican Church. He was a friend to many. Pat's tribute tells us most about a man many of us knew but barely. Yet all that knew him knew how much he loved his fellows.



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Canada Mulls HIV Immigration Ban

From *Planet Out News Staff*

Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan has put forward a bill to make HIV and hepatitis B testing mandatory for all prospective immigrants. She would also exclude those who are HIV+ or chronic carriers of hepatitis B. Both viruses disproportionately affect gay men. Criticism came swiftly from those who believe the blanket bans would be discriminatory; they would prefer the government make individual decisions balancing prospective immigrants' potential contributions against their possible health costs or risks.

Canada accepts more immigrants than most of the world's nations.

Health Minister Allan Rock, who in his career has been an advocate for the civil rights of gays and lesbians as well as for AIDS treatment and prevention, said the decision is entirely in Caplan's hands. She's also seeking stronger testing rules for those visiting Canada for more than six months but admitted that, "We know that it is impossible to shrink-wrap our borders."

Caplan indicated the plan would be discussed in the various provinces, but those discussions have not yet been scheduled.

Caplan confirmed Sept. 20 that she has instructed her staff to develop a workable plan for administering tests to all prospective immigrants. Physicians already have discretion to require HIV testing of immigrants, and those who test positive are not admitted to the country. "I believe that the important issue here is the health of Canadians," she told reporters. She said her move to change immigrant testing requirements was inspired by recent outbreaks of malaria and an outbreak of tuberculosis earlier this year, and that medical experts advised her to target HIV and hepatitis B based on research. [Ed. note: Tuberculosis tests are already given to immigrants; malaria is mosquito-borne].

One of those medical experts is Health Canada's Dr. Ronald St. John. He said that it wasn't actually known how many immigrants are HIV+ under current rules, but it was estimated at one per thousand, or about 200 per year. He said on the CBC's *The National* that, "We estimated that each annual group of immigrants and refugees coming to Canada would generate 37 [new] HIV infections [per year] if they were not screened [because many would be unaware they are HIV+]. And screening reduces that probability." Another estimate suggested that on the average each HIV+ immigrant would transmit the virus to at least one Canadian. An internal Health Canada memo called the current practice "the highest health risk option" and the proposed so-called Montebello Process the "best public health option."

Other experts estimated the lifetime cost of treatment for each person with HIV at about \$200,000 (range \$150,000 to \$260,000). [Ed. note: A 1995 report by a panel of experts found that heart disease among immigrants was actually more costly to our health system.]

But Canada's AIDS-HIV Legal Network spokesperson Ralf Jurgens told the *Calgary Herald* there is no public health justification for mandatory testing of immigrants, and that that's an official position of the United Nations. "We don't test all Canadians for HIV," he said. "The simple reason for that is that HIV is not easily transmissible. It is only transmitted through sexual contact or the sharing of injection equipment." University of Toronto Public

Health Specialist Dr. Robert Remis added on *The National* that, "We don't screen for the likelihood of developing breast cancer or heart disease or any other medical condition, so it would establish a precedent." AIDS expert Dr. Philip Berger of Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital told *The Toronto Star* that, "People can protect themselves." Berger noted that, "Since HIV prevalence is higher in African countries, this would be a 'good' way of keeping out immigrants from those areas. This policy will discriminate against people in the poorest countries in the world—mostly non-white countries."

Currently prospective immigrants face mandatory testing for syphilis and tuberculosis. Those who test positive for them are either allowed to enter the country once they've been treated and cured, or are allowed to enter the country but required to have follow-up monitoring to ensure that they are treated and cured. But HIV is not curable, so in Caplan's words a positive test "would make you medically inadmissible." Exceptions would be made for close family members (which should include same-gender partners) of Canadians or of approved immigrants, and in some cases for those who are seeking asylum from persecution in their homelands, including persecution based on their HIV+ status.

A similar mandatory testing and exclusion policy was proposed in 1995 by then-Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi, but was never implemented.

More recently, New Zealand's last Immigration Minister was ready to institute a similar plan, but it was scrapped under the new government after the national elections. Although there had been a high-profile case there of an immigrant male with AIDS who had engaged in unprotected sex with a series of women, AIDS activists, health professionals and human rights groups pointed out that New Zealanders were very much more likely to be infected through contact with each other than with immigrants.

Australia has mandatory screening of immigrants for HIV but does not necessarily deny entry to those who test positive, depending on other criteria. The U.S. and Singapore have mandatory testing for not only potential immigrants but also for visitors, and routinely exclude people with HIV. No European country has mandatory AIDS testing.



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Harassment? Not Easy to Beat

From Scott Wilson, Pride Action Group

It often comes as a surprise to ordinary people to learn that there is no law that prohibits harassment as such. Anyone is free to "harass" anyone else by any legal means. But there are certain specific kinds of harassment that are prohibited.

Criminal Code of Canada

Section 264 of the Criminal Code of Canada deals with "criminal harassment." It reads as follows:

1. No person shall, without lawful authority and knowing that another person is harassed, or recklessly as to whether the other person is harassed, engage in conduct referred to in subsection (2) that causes that other person reasonably, in all the circumstances, to fear for their safety or the safety of anyone known to them.

2. The conduct mentioned in subsection (1) consists of

(a) repeatedly following from place to place the other person or anyone known to them;

(b) repeatedly communicating with, either directly or indirectly, the other person or anyone known to them;

(c) besetting or watching the dwelling-house, or place where the other person, or anyone known to them, resides, works, carries on business or happens to be; or

(d) engaging in threatening conduct directed at the other person or any member of their family.

3. Every person who contravenes this section is guilty of

(a) an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years; or (b) an offence punishable on summary conviction.

Although the offence created by this section is called "criminal harassment," the only kind of harassment that is really prohibited is "stalking."

There are a few other clauses in the Criminal Code that deal with particular kinds of harassment:

Section 175 makes it an offence to cause a disturbance by "fighting, screaming, shouting, swearing, singing or using insulting or obscene language, by being drunk, or by impeding or molesting other persons."

Section 372(3): Makes it an offence to make repeated telephone calls to anyone "without lawful excuse and with intent to harass any person."

Section 423 makes it an offence to attempt to compel anyone to

abstain from doing a lawful thing, or to do something that the person has a right not to do, by:

- (a) using violence or threats of violence
- (b) intimidating or attempting to intimidate
- (c) persistently following a person
- (d) hiding tools, clothes or other property belonging to a person
- (e) following a person, in a disorderly manner, on a highway
- (f) besetting or watching the home or workplace of a person
- (g) blocking or obstructing a highway.

Human Rights Code of BC

The Human Rights Code does not even mention the word "harassment." Instead, the Code prohibits certain kinds of "discrimination," namely:

- Discriminatory publication
- Discrimination in accommodation, service and facility
- Discrimination in purchase of property
- Discrimination in tenancy premises
- Discrimination in employment advertisements
- Discrimination in wages
- Discrimination in employment
- Discrimination by unions and associations.

Once such discrimination is proven, it must then be shown that the discrimination was due to one of the specifically prohibited grounds: race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation or age.

School Act

Nothing in the School Act expressly prohibits harassment or requires the school to provide a harassment-free environment. The last section of the act does prohibit any disturbance at a school, but it is obviously dealing with something more overt than harassment directed at an individual student:

77 (1) A person must not disturb or interrupt the proceedings of a school or an official school function.

(2) A person who is directed to leave the land or premises of a school by an administrative officer or a person authorized by the board to make that direction (a) must immediately leave the land and premises, and (b) must not enter on the land and premises again except with prior approval from the administrative officer or a person who is authorized by the board to give that approval.

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) commits an offence.

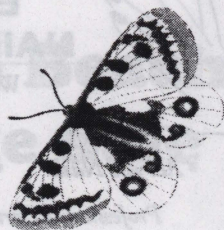
(4) An administrative officer of a school or a person authorized by the board may, in order to restore order on school premises, require adequate assistance from a peace officer.

Conclusion: There are no legal provisions that make school boards responsible for preventing harassment, bullying or intimidation of students. At common law the schools may have a "duty of care" to protect students, but there is little or nothing in the Criminal Code, the Human Rights Act or the School Act that would assist in any lawsuit.

Attempts to make schools into "harassment-free zones" will therefore have to be based mainly on persuasion and appeals for fairness. Threats of legal action or complaints based on human rights legislation are unlikely to be successful.

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Canada Dumps TV's Dr. Laura

Edited from Planet Out

Canadian TV viewers will see the last of anti-gay talk show host "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger on Oct. 6. Schlessinger was a victim of her own low ratings, Canadian syndicator WIC announced Oct. 5.

The TV show had only debuted in Canada Sept. 18, but WIC/Global abandoned hope that the show might somehow rebound from drawing less than 0.5% of households in Ontario and British Columbia, less than one-third of the audience anticipated.

Thus far, months of activists' lobbying, demonstrations, and pressure on advertisers have failed to dislodge Schlessinger from a single station in the U.S. The New York Daily News reported that low ratings have driven CBS flagship station WCBS-New York to seriously consider moving Schlessinger to a late-night slot.

Speaking for CanWest Global, head of programming Roy Gardner explained that, "Our audience has voted, and unfortunately they've cast a nay ballot for Dr. Laura on television ... essentially, you can't have a show on the air if nobody watches it.

"Like many critics, Gardner suggested that Schlessinger might have gone too far in trying to tone down her abrasive radio manner, saying, "I think that [lack of controversy] may have been part of its problem. I think the show may have been bland ... because she was being so careful not to offend anyone. It didn't have a hook."

Schlessinger's radio show has enjoyed some of the same popularity in Canada that kept it at the top of U.S. ratings. However earlier this year the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, the industry watchdog, delivered one of the most scathing critiques Schlessinger has ever received, labeling her "abusively discriminatory" in breach of the national broadcasting code for her descriptions of gays and lesbians as "deviant," "a biological error," "abnormal," "aberrant," "disordered," and "dysfunctional."

Only in Australia? Pity!

Edited From Planet Out

Along with supermodel Elle MacPherson and Paul "Crocodile Dundee" Hogan in the so-called Parade of Icons those controversial drag queens vamped sixty strong down the track behind a bus representing Australia's second-highest grossing film of all time, The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (1994). Some were garbed in actual costumes worn in the film. Appropriately enough, they were ushered by Kylie Minogue's cover of ABBA's Dancing Queen. There were only three cross-dressers in the film, but just about everything in the closing ceremony was considerably larger than life. Some of their names: Chelsea Bun, Mitzi Macintosh, Cindy Patell, and Trudi Valentine.

It seemed that for every Aussie who felt drag queens did not represent the nation's manly image, there was at least one who believed drag queens could not be omitted from a Sydney event - after all, the city's clubs feature five drag shows every night. But as U.S. National Public Radio remarked, there are no current plans for drag queens at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Church Bloopers

Laying Eggs and Doing It on the Carpet

From Ramona Scott

1. Don't let worry kill you - let the church help.
2. Thursday night: Potluck Supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
3. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
4. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
5. The rosebud on the alter this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
6. This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
7. Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.
8. Wednesday the Ladies' Liturgy Group will meet. Mrs Johnson will sing, *Put Me in My Little Bed* accompanied by the Pastor.
9. Thursday at 5:00 p.m., there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All ladies wishing to be "Little Mothers" will meet with the Pastor in his study.
10. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
11. The service will close with *Little Drops of Water*. One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.
12. Next Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so.
13. The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the church basement Saturday.
14. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
15. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

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Whose Life Are You Living?

"We limit ourselves by the way that we think. We must learn to think outside of our limitations." Lou Tice

Whose life are you living? It sounds like a simple question, but think about it for a moment. How much of what you do is be-

cause you think you should? How much is an ongoing effort to make others happy or try to meet their expectations of you?

One of the things most of my clients confront early on in our coaching is an increased awareness of the parts of their lives

that don't really belong to them. There's the closet-performer who turned her back on a career on stage because her mother was adamant she get a real job, the frantic would-be entrepreneur who spent years not developing her business ideas because she was too busy bailing family members out of their own business crises, the corporate executive who's finally "succeeded" beyond his wildest dreams but no longer remembers why he wanted to achieve what he did because he's happiest in his garden.

The sad thing is that once you set a course for yourself based on someone else's to-do list, a lot of time can go by before you even realize that something's missing in your life, and that something is you. You may be lulled into thinking that the cost of staying where you are is less than the cost of rediscovering yourself, but my experience with clients tells me exactly the opposite. Every step you take to allow a hidden part of yourself to come out and play not only breaks the fear cycle, but also brings new

energy and excitement in ways you can't imagine until you're willing to give it a try.

Someone shared a cool acronym with me the other day: Fear is False Evidence Appearing Real. Something to think about – after all, what have you got to lose?

Here are a few ideas to reconnect with living your very own life:

1. Grab a pen and brainstorm the top five things you'd honestly like to spend your time doing if you didn't have to earn money. Start with a list of 20 or so and hone it to include things that you love and you're good at, or would like to try. Be impractical and outrageous – it's only brainstorming!

2. Take a walk at least once a day and notice your surroundings. Even a quick walk around the block counts. Moving and paying attention to what's around you gives your system a chance to attract new opportunities and discover new possibilities. Skeptical? Try it for two weeks and see how it makes you feel!

3. Post a list on your fridge, computer or bathroom mirror and leave a pencil there. Scribble down any and all ideas you have for ways to increase the enjoyment in your everyday life. Start doing at least one of them a week. If it feels too frivolous, remember that it's the simplest and smallest actions that often have the biggest results!

Joy Kirstin is a Leadership, Professional & Spiritual Coach who supports professionals, entrepreneurs and artists to make career transitions, increase business profitability, and live balanced and fulfilling lives. She coaches local and international clients over the phone, individually or in groups. Contact her to find out more or to book a free sample individual session: joylifecoach@canada.com or (250) 361-4680.



**Joy
Kirstin**



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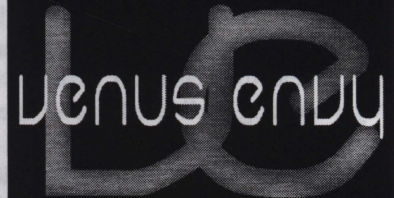
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Spot Changes

By Barbara McLauchlin

Maybe the demise of a physical structure isn't so bad after all. As co-founder of Women's Creative Network Society Su Hallat put it, "we've outgrown the place (G-Spot). Let's just move on."

Putting a positive spin on things is Su's trademark as I recall. It's also the spin board member and spokesperson Debbie Frank puts on things as she hands me the ad for a new series of programming.

"The board of directors made a decision to close the Spot. A rental increase didn't figure at all," Debbie adds referring to my note that the increase had been \$400. Not so. The increase was \$50 per month which translates to \$600 a year. Our landlord has been really supportive," she added.

"We're not rushing into things but the Spot envisions a future where many groups co-exist. First long-term plan, taking it slowly, includes a central office for coffee talk and regular schmoozing and networking, a space for support groups to continue and sufficient space to share with others who need space in which or from which to operate.

Immediately, the G-Spot will host monthly dances with potlucks. What a brilliant idea! We'll have a chance to meet, mingle, share and check each other out before dancing our tootsies off. Cost is on a sliding scale basis from \$6 to \$10.

A series of committees need heads as well. These include youth, performing arts, health stuff, drag shows, belly dancing, general entertainment. If you are interested or need any information regarding the first dance at Gary Oak Room of Fairfield Community Centre, call 382-7768. That's the spot information line. Meantime, we'll see you at the dance Nov. 11. Don't Forget to Remember.

Accessing Services for HIV+ and AIDS

In Victoria those living with HIV have a diverse range of services available to them, including those offered by the Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society, the Victoria Persons With AIDS Society and AIDS Vancouver Island.

The Victoria Persons With AIDS Society, is an organization directed entirely by individuals who are HIV positive. VPWAS offers a number of peer support programs to all persons living with HIV/AIDS. VPWAS also houses the most extensive and up-to-date treatment library on Vancouver Island.

AIDS Vancouver Island offers services in the areas of Education, Outreach, Advocacy and Support through its Education department, Client Services department, Regional and Remote Services and Street Outreach Services, including the Cowichan Valley Needle Exchange.

The Victoria AIDS Respite Care Society offers personal care and respite care for people living with HIV and their chosen caregivers as well as medical advocacy working with persons with HIV and their doctors.

Ed note: This information is culled from VARCS' Chair Art Holbrook's speech to the 300 or so of us who gathered to walk to raise funds to support those fighting AIDS. The annual Victoria AIDS Walk, which this year raised about \$35,000, helps all of these organizations. Seventy-five percent of funds raised go to AIDS Vancouver Island. The other 25 percent is divided equally between VARCS and VPWAS.

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The Business Block

A Book Store, At Last! And More

Story and photo by Cheryl Macpherson

Tucked into the Odeon alleyway between Yates and Johnson street next to the Kritters and Fins pet store is Victoria's newest woman's bookstore *Bleeding Rose Multimedia* at 102-764 Yates street. Resident feline, Hemingway, acts as greeter, security and lap-warmer, and will welcome you with a loud purr when you drop in to visit Sally Calich and April Grant.

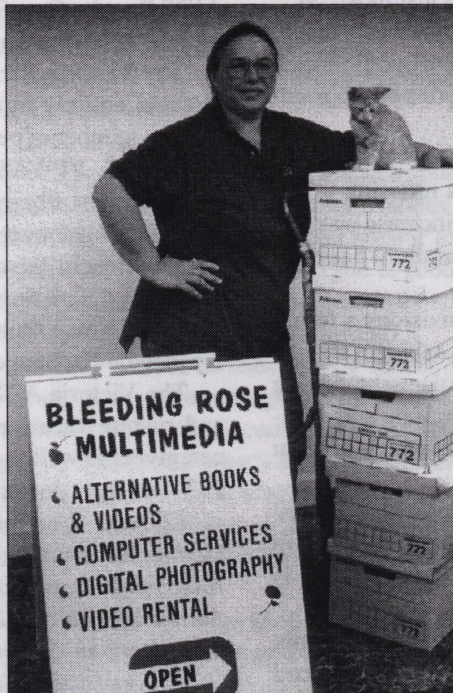
April describes the store as "a woman's book store with an inclusive focus".

Sally, who owns *The Bleeding Rose*, says that she has noticed a hole in the community since *Everywomans Books* closed. While thinking that someone should fill that gap, she thought why not me?

April and Sally met three and a half years ago on line, on the Xena Campfire Girls mailing list. Both are Xena fans. April admits to being a fanatic. A large cardboard figure of Xena, Warrior Princess, resides in the store. A Xena video night is being planned as a store event.

April is from Tampa Florida and is currently working on immigration proceedings based on her relationship with Sally. As soon as she is a landed immigrant, she plans to join her as a business partner as well.

On trips to Vancouver, Sally and April have been impressed by the way *Little Sisters* seems to be a central place to find information about what is happening in the LGBT community. Their hope is to provide Victoria with this kind of centre. The first purchase for the store was a huge corkboard, which will be available to anyone who wants to post an event, advertise a ser-



Sally Calich and Hemingway

vice, or contact others in the community.

"We don't want to be just a woman's bookstore," says April. "Our focus will be on new and used alternative books in various areas of interest, such as, gay and lesbian literature, alternative medicine, books on spirituality, and children's books." They will promote Canadian writers and distributors and plan to have book readings and signings by authors. A long-term goal is to eventually publish local authors.

The store will also carry alternative cards and calendars. "The kind of things that you

can't get in mainstream stores" says Sally.

Bleeding Rose Multimedia is licensed to rent videos and will be carrying a selection of lesbian and alternative videos. Already on hand are *Bound*, *Late Bloomers*, and *Everything Relative*.

Sally is in the process of designing the space to accommodate group gatherings for book readings, book discussion groups, and other events such as writers groups, and groups for mothers and mothers-to-be with a lesbian focus. Coffee, tea and a warm welcome to browse will always be available.

The other focus for this talented pair, is a woman-friendly computer and Internet education especially for those who don't have computer skills or are trying to re-enter the job market. They also specialise in digital photography and web design. Sally has 27 years of computer experience in design and development. April has been in computer support and design for ten years.

Sally says April is the one with the people skills, she has worked as a buyer for a video store and also has six and a half years as a bartender in a "classy" lesbian bar. Eventually they will have online sales with delivery for those who cannot get to the store.

The Grand Opening night for the store will be November 2nd, with great excitement planned. You can, however, visit the store before then. Sally and April may be contacted at *Bleeding Rose Multimedia*: Phone: 385-3099 E-mail: bleedingrose@telus.net Web site: <http://www.bleedingrose.com>

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The first North American Conference on Bisexuality, Gender & Sexual Diversity will be at UBC Conference centre August 9 - 12, 2001. The organizers are interested in your proposals.

NACB 2001 represents the first opportunity for the international community to come together to discuss aspects of bisexuality and gender under a purely North American context. As a reflection of the widespread diversity within the cultural fabric of this region, NACB 2001 is proud to present a multifaceted, multilingual event, with many opportunities for cultural exchange. Proposals for all subjects related to the region(s) of North America will be considered, and contributions from all levels of expertise, and experience are welcome.

Thus, NACB 2001 seeks submissions in the form of proposals for papers, presentations, panel discussions, lectures, interactive workshops, readings, cultural events, performances, displays, and days of action to be held during the conference on all subjects relating to bisexuality, gender and sexual diversity. Proposals could be placed into one of the following general subject/track areas: * Gender * Sexuality * Activism * Youth Issues * Women's Issues * Relationships * Spirituality * Personal Growth * Health * Safer Sex & HIV * Body Image * Partners & Families of Bi * Media & Culture * Race & Culture * Arts & Culture * Film & Video History * Vanguard Research & Theory * Community Organizing * Technology & Cyberspace * Open-X *

The thematic concentration for NACB 2001 will be summarized by the following heading: "Unity in Diversity: The Many Faces of Bi & Queer in the Americas".

Please submit your proposal at the earliest possible date, to ensure it has the best chance of being implemented! Completed proposal forms, with all supporting materials, must be received by NACB 2001 no later than APRIL 1, 2001. Conference fees will be waived for presenters of all accepted proposals.

Send completed forms to: NACB 2001 - Call for Submission c/o P.O. Box 53515, 984 West Broadway, Vancouver, British Columbia V5Z 1K0 Further information about the conference can be found on the World Wide Web at: <http://bi.org/~binetbc/2001>

NACB 2001 is facilitated by a coalition of members from the Bisexual Network of British Columbia (BiNetBC).

Tax Benefits to Same Sex Couples

Peggy Maher and her partner were married in church several years ago. They have one child by AI. Peggy received this letter from Rev. Can. in Winnipeg following her request for info regarding Income Tax and same-sex couples which she passes on to us in hopes that it will help others.

Canada Customs & Revenue Agency formerly Revenue Canada sent this reply. We are replying to your letter of March 22, 2000 regarding your marital status. Please accept our sincerest apologies for the delay in replying. Before we can proceed any further, we will require that an election be made.

To update tax years that have been assessed, a request must be made in writing by April 30, 2001, or by June 15, 2001, if at least one partner is self-employed. The election must be signed by both parties and must include the name and social insurance numbers of both partners.

As a result of proposed amendments to tax legislation, same-sex common-law partners will be eligible for the same tax benefits, and subject to the same obligations, as married couples and opposite sex common-law partners.

The proposed changes will be effective for the 2001 and subsequent taxation years. However, as a transitional measure, clients will be permitted to jointly elect to be treated as common-law partners for 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Please return the information we requested within 30 days using the enclosed preaddressed mailing label. Ensure that the reference number on the letter and your social insurance number are quoted on your documents. If we do not receive a reply, we will reassess your return based on the information available."

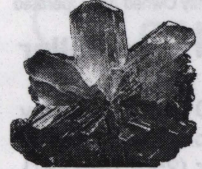


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I had the good fortune to be able to attend Karen Tulchinsky's writing workshop at Stonewall Guesthouse over the Labour Day weekend. I loaded up a new short story I was working on and headed out to Stone-



Linda Fraser

wall (I wasn't staying there as I live close enough to be able to commute) thinking that this would be helpful but a breeze. I was wrong. Karen is kind, knowledgeable, helpful and absolutely merciless. I worked harder at the

workshop than I have at many jobs. First, we did a general round of who are we and what we want from the workshop. There were seven of us in attendance six women and one man who came all the way from Cambridge, England. We immediately began doing an exercise where we had to make up a story on the spot passing it around the group and each adding our ideas. It sounds like a party game but it is actually a great exercise as it means coming up with stuff on the spot that fits with what came before. We did this a couple of times to stretch our writers' imaginations.

The next day we really got down to business. We wrote constantly, either timed writings where we were given sentences and told to write about them or working on our own ongoing works or on the new pieces Karen encouraged us to begin at the workshop. When we weren't writing we were reading our work to one another and getting suggestions and support. Whew! All three days were like that, structured and disciplined. Karen also spent time with each of us individually to work on our own writing. We joked about how structured it was

News Flashes

from *Nanaimo*

but we used all the time. There were no wasted minutes. One of the joys of this workshop was getting to listen to the work of the other people. What a talented group! Each of us brought our own style to the mix and there was laughter and sadness and great beauty in the work. The workshop ended Monday afternoon in time for everyone to get back to the Mainland or where ever else we were headed.

Karen was kind but stern. She had brought calls for submissions and also gave us websites where we could look up others. There was no question that this was about both writing and publishing. We were fed and sometimes got a little time off for good behavior when we were allowed to go into the hot tub, walk or just woolgather but mostly we wrote. We got many valuable suggestions from Karen on how to develop characters and work with dialogue as well as using description and shaping stories. Was it worth it? You bet. I hear that there will be another workshop with Karen at Stonewall over the November 11th long weekend and I highly recommend it!

Vancouver Island Lesbians in Progress – better known as VI LIPS holds mixed dances the last Saturday of every month at the Wellington Hall in Nanaimo (3922 Corunna) tickets are available at the door (\$8.00 members, \$5.00 non-members). This month's dance was Sept. 23 and it was packed. Lots of new faces in the crowd and all had a good time. Music was by our own Brenda of the Pride Baseball crew. Saturday was also Connie Chapman's (of Stonewall Guest House fame) birthday. I was in-

cluded but alas was in Vancouver for the weekend and was unable to attend. What else is new?

The strip competition at Neighbor's went ahead on Saturday September 16th and the winner was Brenda – that girl sure gets around! She was the featured gogo dancer at the disco night at the club (Oct. 7). Other doings at the bar include a Hallowe'en bash (Ted is being tight lipped about this but he's mentioned a Mardi Gras and a few other things). For info contact Neighbors at (250) 716-0505 (before 9pm please). Showings of erotic art by various artists will be on display at Neighbors monthly. The current show by Wendy D will be on Oct. 8 – Nov. 12. Artists who have work considered too risqué for general audiences are encouraged to contact Ted as there will be ongoing showings of various artists' work at the bar. This offer is open to all kinds of art – painting, sculpture, mixed media, whatever. Openings will be held the second Tuesday of each month.

A women's bathhouse night was raided by Toronto Police recently. Five large male officers entered the bathhouse ostensibly to check on the special occasion liquor license obtained by the organizers of the function. Women were questioned at length in various rooms and not permitted to leave. Officers invaded all areas of the bathhouse and generally harassed and intimidated attendees. The organizers and other women in the community have launched a protest and are charging the officers in question with sexual harassment among other things. A woman in Toronto I know sent me the gory details and I sent them to Rainbow B.C. and to the Westcoast Women's email list. I also took the liberty of sending them to a friend of mine on the Vancouver Police force to ask if there were anything that she could do.



(Cont'd page 13)



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Let's Move It On Health Care for HIV/AIDS

From BC Persons With AIDS Society in Vancouver

The Vice-Chair of the BC Benefits Appeal Board has delivered a judgement saying the government is acting contrary to "settled law." Vice Chair Judith Wilson, LLB, in a written judgement delivered last week, has basically told the Ministry responsible for BC Benefits that the right of HIV+ persons to needed health care goods and services is beyond contesting.

In her September 7 decision, Ms. Wilson wrote, "... it is disturbing to this Board that the Ministry continues to deny benefits on the basis of a position which is contrary to settled law. This is particularly disturbing since the individuals and the particular population affected is one that must be taken to be extremely prejudiced by the delay inherent in the appeal process ... "[More than] two years ago we told the government to make changes. They knew people were dying. It's apparent that fiscal concerns are being placed above people's lives," says Glen Hillson, Chair of BCPWA's Board of Directors. "The Appeal Board has used strong language before but this is clear evidence that they are becoming as extremely frustrated with the actions

of the Ministry as is BCPWA. That the Ministry continues to fight these cases is a disgrace. They lose every time yet they continue denying life saving resources to people with HIV/AIDS."

On June 12 BCPWA released a secret government report that recommended the government implement a monthly health allowance for individuals living HIV/AIDS receiving DBB II benefits from BC Benefits. At that time 40 individuals had died while waiting for their Schedule C claims to go through the torturous, lengthy appeal process.

"The Government has done nothing since June 12, to fix the problem. Ten more people have died waiting for Schedule C benefit, while going through the lengthy appeal process. An appeal process that is now officially deemed contrary to settled law" says Hillson.

As did the 40 before them - and hundreds of others, these 10 people all made applications for health benefits through Schedule C - a part of the BC Benefits Program that provides health care goods or services for "life threatening health needs." Even though all provided extensive medical evidence from their doctors indicating they had life threatening health needs, the ministry, as it always does, turned down their requests outright. Some appealed the denial to tribunals. In all cases the tribunals directed the Ministry to grant the health benefits. Tragically, they all faced another hurdle when these tribunal rulings were appealed by MSDES to the BC Benefits Appeal Board. It was during this lengthy process that they all died.

The Ministry claims it is appealing all these cases to avoid the long-term costs of

paying monthly health allowances. However, since 1997, they have lost 100% of their appeals to the BC Benefits Appeal Board and spent over \$550,000 doing so. These appeals also use a great deal of the resources of AIDS organizations in BC.

BCPWA is demanding the government fully implement the report that recommends the benefits be provided and end this insidious game of delay. It is urging Jan Pullinger, the Minister of MSDES, to give authority to District Supervisors to approve such requests at the initial application stage.

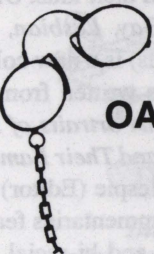
BCPWA notes that Burrard MLA Tim Stevenson was a signatory to the previously secret report and commends his support for its implementation.

Contact: Rick Barnes, Director of Communications, BCPWA (604) 893-2209 (office), (604) 728-3637 (cell), 604 893-2251 fax

News From Nanaimo (cont'd)

When I spoke to her she had passed the info on to the Hate Crimes unit of the Vancouver Police Force. I am hoping that there will be some kind of official response from the Vancouver Police protesting the actions of the Toronto officers.

That's all for this month but I'll keep you posted on doings in our part of the world...



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What's A Wordsworth

By Maddy Aramis

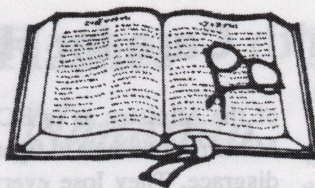
Tipping the Velvet

The reviews have been great, the novel won a Lambda Literary award, and it was personally recommended to me as being a great read, but Sarah Waters' story of London's 1890's was, overall, disappointing.

The plot is simple enough – girl meets girl, girl loses girl, girl meets another, not quite so nice girl, and then yet another girl (but never forgets the first girl), and finally ... Well, I won't give away the ending, but suffice it to say, the storyline could have belonged to any one of my friends. There are no surprises here, no deep revelations, and not enough emotional complexity in the narrator's character to elicit any meaningful bond with the reader. Yes, Waters' writing style is tight enough, yes, her historical backdrop is real enough, and, yes, the circumstances of the heart in which her heroine finds herself entangled are familiar enough. But somehow the novel still falls short of being a particularly good read.

It's exceedingly difficult to write well about sex, and one of the weaknesses of the book is the heavy-handed way in which Waters navigates the minefield of her character's sexual peccadilloes. The work is strongest when she lingers on descriptions of the life and times of late 19th century London, or delves into the emotional depths of her character's psyche. Unfortunately, Waters doesn't do enough of the latter and, as a result, it is very hard to connect with Nan King who seems more a mouthpiece for delivering the author's careful research about social change during the era than a fully realized, complex and compelling individual. Sure, Nan King does a few interesting things, but because her emotional life often seems shallow, it's very hard to care much about whether she succeeds or fails in her quest to find a meaningful relationship and a healthy sense of self.

Many disagree with me, however. A review in The Independent on Sunday says, "An unstoppable read, a sexy and picaresque romp through the lesbian and queer demi-monde of the roaring nineties ... take it with you. It's gorgeous." A reviewer from the Observer writes, "This is a lively, gutsy, highly readable debut, probably destined to become a lesbian classic." One customer on Amazon.com wrote this comment, "An incredible romp through the cities of England and the streets of London. Sarah Waters has a true gift for



bringing characters to life ..." and another said, "This novel passed BOTH my tests of a great book: characters I truly cared about and a feeling of emptiness when I had to close the back cover." Which just goes to show that if you give 13 lesbians the same book to read, you'll get 13 opinions.

Coming Out Stories On-line

The literary quality of some of the stories you'll read at this website (<http://gayissues.about.com/newissues/gayissues/library/content/blcoming.htm>) is uneven to say the least. However, the variety is astounding and the tales by turn joyous, miserable, touching, and affirming. A fun site to visit, this about.com site also has lots of articles and links of interest to the GLBT community.

Now It's Time to Say Goodbye, by Dale Peck

Billed as a literary gothic thriller, *Now it's Time to Say Goodbye* follows two gay men after they leave Manhattan and move to a small town in Kansas where racism, bigotry, and violence abound. They find themselves caught up in a gripping mystery when body parts belonging to a former homecoming queen start showing up in local mailboxes. By the sounds of it, this isn't one to be read alone after dark.

If You are Quick

... you might still be able to catch the chifon issue of the Church-Wellesley Review online at <http://www2.xtra.ca/cwr/> This quirky queer literary magazine features poetry, prose, and interviews by both big name contributors big names like Timothy Findley and emerging writers (mostly from Canada, the USA, and Britain).

Looking For a Few Good Heroes?

Brave Journeys: Profiles in Gay and Lesbian Courage, by David Mixner (dubbed "the most powerful gay man in America" by *Newsweek*) is a collection of profiles of men and women who have made profound contributions to the gay rights movement during the last fifty years. Characterized by their courage, conviction, and determination, these are individuals who have taken on the political machine, the armed forces, and public perception with their determined struggles for equality.

Family Time

Check out these titles about queer parents and their kids. *Out of the Ordinary: Essays on Growing up With Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Parents* (Noelle Howey, et al – Eds) is a new collection of stories published by St. Martin's Press written from the perspective of the kids. *Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Parents and Their Families* by Gigi Kaeser (Photographer) and Peggy Gillespie (Editor) is a collection of photographs and mini-profiles/commentaries featuring families with gay, lesbian, transgendered, and bi-racial parents. A wonderful challenge to heterosexual assumptions about "appropriate" family structures, this is a reassuring book of visual affirmations.



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Lest We Forget

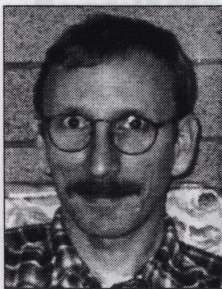
Remembrance Day is soon here. Dare I say that we *vaguely* remember just about everything?

We remember the pink triangles. Do we remember that gay men were a part of the S.S.? Of course, I wasn't there during the Night of the Long Knives, but weren't gay men Nazis, as well as concentration camp victims?

Stonewall happened. There were a lot of drag queens and lesbians there, apparently. I wasn't there, but from accounts I've heard from those who were there, it was a bunch of innocent bystanders and straight street hustlers hurling the rocks. Very few lesbians (it wasn't that part of the Village). Very few drag queens (it wasn't that kind of a bar).

The AIDS Crisis arrived. Lots of lesbians were there (I've been told), caring for their gay brothers struck by this strange illness. In my recollection, there were a few women, but not many. Most of them were straight, but not entirely, who sat by the bedsides, quaking in fear because they, like everyone else, knew little about the disease inflicting their gay brothers.

We have the propensity, as humans, to remember things conveniently, to remember things the way we want to, but we certainly aren't always accurate. There is a politics to remembering, and that politics dictates what we can and cannot remember.



**Michael
Yoder**

I remembered a person I knew who had died from HIV. He had contributed to the cause, worked diligently and tried in his way to make things better. Over the email list (I should have checked to whom I was copying), I remembered the human parts of him that made me smile – the parts that brought me to a better understanding of who he was as a person.

I was brought up short when I read other emails that reminded me I had failed to place him on the HIV pillar of demi-godhood. A spot reserved for all those who contribute to "the cause". I was smack up against the politics of remembering and I didn't like the feeling it left me. I felt ashamed for having remembered a person I cared for and loved, because I had remembered him in the wrong way.

Gay men have done great things – yes. Lesbians have done great things – yes. But please! I think we do ourselves a disservice to buy into the idea, like "the noble savage", that we are without our darker and sinister aspects. We have been a part of hatred and discrimination. We have turned our heads when others needed help. We are human beings and as such we are not perfect. Is there harm in recognizing our human-ness? I don't think so. If we can see the plank in our own eye, perhaps we can help our brother/sister with the speck in theirs.

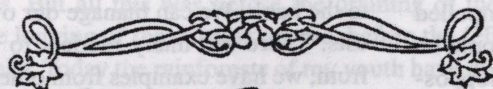
Or we can continue to shape our memories on what we think the rosier of pictures *ought* to be: unrealistic and super-human. And we'd better be ready to live up to that image. It's a tall pillar and the fall is tremendous.



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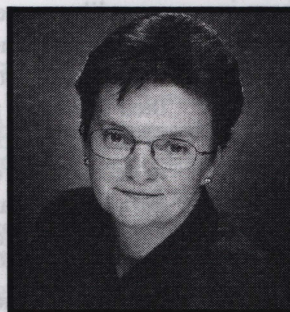
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Prisoner of conscience in the war of the woods

Reprinted from *Vancouver Sun*,
Saturday, October 7, 2000.

72 year old great-grandmother Betty Krawczyk and another Elaho Valley logging protester were sentenced Sept. 15 to one year in jail for criminal contempt of a B.C. Supreme Court injunction in the summer of 1999. She regrets the jail time, but not the struggle.

By Betty Krawczyk

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Glen Parrett has recently sentenced me to a year in prison without parole. A solid year is a big whack out of a 72-year old woman's remaining years but I accepted that possibility and responsibility that morning I stepped out on the logging road in the Elaho Valley to stop Interfor logging trucks. This was not an impulsive decision.

In my life, civil disobedience has reared its challenging head more than once. An early hands-on experience as part of a struggling union sensitized me to the need in society for occasional non-violent protest. When the civil rights movement came to my home state of Louisiana I was treated to a front-row demonstration of how civil disobedience could change things for better. And my education was furthered by the anti-Vietnam War protests. And while the Vietnam War eventually drove me and my family to Canada, the protests didn't stop until the mightiest government in the entire world had to give way to the will of its own people and bring the soldiers home.

I was born in 1928. Had I been born in Canada, I would not have been considered a legal person. It wasn't until 1929 that the British Privy Council overturned the Canadian Supreme Court ruling that denied women were persons, and stated unequivocally that women were indeed to be described as legal persons. Was the British Privy Council less sexist? I don't think so. They were simply staring civil disobedience in the face in the form of thousands of uppity British, American and Canadian women who weren't afraid of jail. The law changes as we change, as we as a people demand more equality.

Today in Canada, I think too many judges refuse to recognize the evolution of law.

Protesting at
Ministry of
Forests
photo: Marion
Stoodley



They prefer to think the law has come to them all of a piece, conceived in purity like the Immaculate Conception, born in an unsullied state with no mitigating factors, handed down by the gods, immutable and unchanging. In fact, the law comes to us like all human births, through struggle, pain, and blood, not from the gods on high, but from ordinary people who shape and push and create the law, usually into a more equitable framework. This is how democracy works. This is democracy.

The apparent intransigence of the legal system in the face of non-violent protest demonstrates, at least to me, a studied ignorance of the history of law, however well versed a judge may be in particular case law. Judges have the power to hand out all-encompassing injunctions that stipulate anyone, anywhere, who in any way contributes to the impeding of logging operations in our public forests, is guilty of contempt of court.

But I am especially troubled when citizens like myself are brought before the same judge who gave this all-encompassing order. I am worried that judges could then become a party to the dispute instead of impartial arbitrators and feel compelled to defend their own orders. This would be unfair, unjust and a disgrace to a supposedly democratic country.

At 72, some people think I'm too old to risk jail sentences like I've just received, but I tell them it wasn't always this way. We evolved as a species in communities where elders were routinely moderators of society and stewards of the land - not just chiefs, but all elders. This evolutionary harmony between young and old has been destroyed culturally by the worship of tech-

nology, by the persuasive youth fetish that considers aging a disease and by an economic production system that turns everything into a commodity to be bought and sold. Elders are encouraged by our new culture to be self-indulgent, play golf, take cruises if one can afford them; if not, play the slots or bingo. We are not encouraged to use our talents and experiences in any serious way, certainly not to interfere with the feverish destruction of our life-support systems.

People ask - but what about the forest workers' jobs? And I ask - but why should we value jobs that destroy our communal property? We need a revolution in our forests. Tree farm licences are only given out to the largest, most ruinous of corporations. This is a scandal. It has always been a scandal. Our very first forest minister actually sold the cutting rights to our forests back in the 50's to the largest companies. Bob Sommers spent two years in prison for this but the stolen goods, our property, remain in the hands of the receivers of stolen property.

But we, as the rightful owners of the forests of B.C., can demand our property back. We can start with Interfor. Each of the old-growth trees Interfor is hijacking out of the Elaho Valley is worth \$100,000 or more. This is public forest and this should be public money, right? A goodly portion, anyway? Aw, but no. Not only does Interfor get it all, aside from a mere pittance they have to grudgingly pay for stumpage fee, but taxpayers have to pay for cleaning up the mess Interfor leaves behind in the forests. And to add absolute insult to absolute injury, citizens also have to pay for the lengthy mass trials Interfor initiates against protestors but which are speedily taken over by the Crown, which in turn results in lengthy incarcerations, also paid for by the taxpayers. What a sweet deal for Interfor! They must howl with laughter all the way to the bank. We can manage our own forests. There are many models to choose from; we have examples from other countries, models that respect the forest, that treat nature with respect instead of contempt. I was raised in the swamps of southern Louisiana; a rainforest so generous in its varied life forms one could literally live off the land. There were quail and wild geese, catfish, crayfish, shrimp and crabs, wild salad greens and wild rice! Just to gladden the landscape we had pelicans and
(Cont'd page 17)

Eating For Results

By David Sloniegora

Getting Fit & Staying Healthy

When it comes to exercise, an important compliment to working out is proper eating habits. Eating properly does not mean starving yourself all day in order to lose weight, only to eat like a horse at night. Nor does it mean buying the latest bestseller diet book and following it to the letter, only to stop three weeks later because you are extremely fatigued by eating only lettuce or fruit or protein.

Furthermore, when your pantry is full of "every supplement-in-the-form-of-a-pill-known-to-man", but the closest thing to real food in your kitchen is a box of Ding Dongs, you might want to reevaluate your eating situation. In this article I will give you 10 useful tips in order to eat for good nutrition and to keep your bodyfat levels at their best (but of course you have to exercise!)

1. Start your day off with a good breakfast. Like bears, our metabolism slows down considerably when we are sleeping due to our decreased activity levels and the body's perception that we are in a "starving state," so we tend to burn much fewer calories while in Lala Land. Therefore, eating a substantial breakfast in the morning is what the body needs in order to get into gear and start running again. Keep this in mind: about two thirds of the energy of your required food intake is actually needed just to digest the food you eat!

2. Eat smaller, more frequent meals (every 2-3 hours): After about four to five hours, when pretty much everything you

have eaten has been digested and assimilated, the body's metabolism starts to slow down. Furthermore, more frequent eating is required in order to keep blood sugar levels from fluctuating, as low blood sugar levels are what makes people feel tired, cranky and really hungry that they will stuff just about any kind of junk food in their mouth.

3. Eat a variety of foods: This is important because some foods are richer in certain nutrients (vitamins and minerals) than others. In the case of certain vegetables, cooking is a good way to soften up the cellulose and make them easier to eat and digest, but be careful not to overcook them as they can lose a lot of their nutrients.

4. If you are a vegetarian, make sure you are properly combining your foods. Examples of food combining are: peanut butter and whole wheat bread, and black beans and rice.

5. Eat less at night: Try to cut food intake after 6p.m. or 7 p.m. especially carbohydrates (i.e. rice, pasta, etc) since they will more than likely be stored in your body as fat due to your decreased activity levels (sleeping, reading, or watching TV).

6. Eat more fiber: Soluble (from fruits, oats, barley and legumes) or insoluble (from vegetables, wheat, cereals) fiber per day is recommended in order to lower blood cholesterol. Soluble fiber also "swells up" inside your stomach and intestines, giving you the feeling of fullness, so you end up not eating as much.

7. Drink lots of water. Drinking a couple of glasses of water before your meal will also fill you up so you end up eating less.

8. Eat slowly. Engaging in conversation while you eat and putting down your fork after each bite while thoroughly chewing your food are a couple of tricks you can also use in order to prevent yourself from eating too much.

9. Eat the foods that you like. All you have to do is eat smaller portions of your favorite foods, or eat them less often. What you can do for any particular meal is change the proportions of the foods around a bit. For example: Instead of having the traditional big steak with lots of potatoes and a little bit of vegetables on the side, you can take a smaller piece of steak, a smaller portion of potatoes, and fill the rest of the plate up with veggies. You'll be eating less calories, but you won't feel deprived of your favorite foods. Or, you may want to try lower fat steaks, which are those with the name "round" or "loin" (i.e. eye of round, round tip, tenderloin, sirloin, top loin).

10. Ask yourself "Am I really hungry?" We tend to eat when we are not hungry. Being aware of this can actually be a very big step in controlling your weight.

Ed Note: I invited David Sloniegora to send us his column monthly. David has a degree in Exercise Science from Concordia University, several exercise-related certifications (including NFLAC/Concordia University, Weider/Andre Begin enterprises, and ACE), a (in-progress) dietetics degree from McGill University, and more than seven years of experience as an exercise specialist.

Betty Krawczyk (cont'd)

flamingos. To remind us that our earthly paradise wasn't meant just for our enjoyment there were alligators, wild cats and water moccasins. But all this was before the draining of the swamps, before the logging of the cypress groves, before the felling of the mighty oaks. Today the rainforests of my youth have disappeared, along with most of the wildlife, save the water moccasins. Two-thirds of Louisiana's wet lands have disappeared and there is a three-year drought upon the land. The climate has become so hot without the climate-moderating wetlands that many southerners have lost their historic fear of hell, having already become accustomed to it, so to speak. The eco-systems on this continent are extremely fragile. And so is democracy. If we really want these twin wonders, these incredible gifts that make life worth living, then we must fight for these over and over again. If we don't, the alternatives are complete corporate rule and a trashed, logging-

induced desert of a continent to leave to our grandchildren. I don't want to be in jail. I want to be home with my family. However, I feel the issues expressed here are so important they must be voiced regardless of the consequences. We are a democratic nation. I believe in Canada and that all power ultimately resides in the will and consent of the people.

Betty Krawczyk, inmate number 03793924, resides in the open living unit at the Burnaby Correctional Centre for Women. She spends much of her time working on an appeal of both her convictions and sentence. **WRITE BETTY AT:** Burnaby Correctional Center for Women, 7900 Fraser Park Dr. Burnaby, BC V5J 5H1 Let Premier of BC Ujjal Dosanjh know what you think about logging of the grizzly and spotted owl habitat and the 1000 year old trees of the Elaho Valley by Interfor at: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/prem/feed/>, phone (250)387-1715, fax (250)387-0087.

No Time To Stop Pride

By Theo Labadie

The *Georgia Strait* produced a special series of essays for us in time for Pride entitled *Goodbye Parallel Universe*. The writers of these featured articles would have us believe that our oppression is almost over. The distinctions between gay and straight are blurring; our rights are enshrined in law. Time to retire Pride and kick back to enjoy our freedom. Whoa, Nelly.

Let's take a step back and look carefully at queers' collective situation. Are things as good as they seem? Certainly, our rights to freedom are upheld by legislation. We can adopt, and can now bring our lovers into the country as straight people do, although our significant others must wait a longer time period before being granted citizenship. Our

sexuality is no longer criminal nor is it any longer officially considered to be a mental disorder. Life seems good. But those of us who can enjoy these freedoms often forget that every individual queer still must struggle heroically to demand these rights. Each and every one of us, at one time or another, must come out. Living in a culture that tolerates homosexuality but does not include it means virtually every child raised in this culture is still raised as if they were destined to be heterosexual.

The fact that so many people are queer in the midst of what can only be described, as a society, which promotes the exclusivity of heterosexuality, is a constant wonder to me. That so many of us do not make it is proof of this regimentation.

Dan Savage writes in *Sit Back and Watch the Gay Universe Implode* ... "back in the bad old days, many of us were rejected by our families ... These days of course, gays and lesbians whose families love and accept them are much more common; we no longer expect to be rejected as a consequence of being open about who we are." Dan has obviously never heard that Hamod Nastoh threw himself over a bridge in Surrey this year – either because he was gay,

Living in a culture that tolerates homosexuality but does not include it means virtually every child raised in this culture is still raised as if they were destined to be heterosexual.

or that he feared the consequences of being perceived as gay. Ben Archer argues in *It's the End of the Parade*, that such tragedies are isolated incidents. He hasn't done his homework.

Young gay men are six times more likely to commit suicide than are young heterosexual men. Young lesbians are two times more likely to commit suicide than are young straight women. These are national statistics from 1996 and they are true for both the United States and for Canada. More alarming, these figures viewed as a percentage. Of all suicides of young women, about 66% include homosexuality as a factor. In all suicides of young men, 66% jumps to about 86%. It isn't a coinci-

dence that the worst school-age insult is still the word *faggot*.

We need to examine these sobering facts closely. Young adults would not be killing themselves if they thought that there was a place for them and their sexuality in this world. They aren't pulling this notion from thin air. They're getting it from their classmates, their parents and from the many subtle and blatant messages of this society that homosexuality is considered by many to be the deepest possible flaw. No amount of rationalization, no amount of material goods or financial security, no group of carefully selected friends changes the fact that for every person in this society that embraces us completely, there are many more that merely tolerate us and many more that want us to disappear. Is this good enough? Is it time to retire Pride like the writers in the *Georgia Strait* would have us do? Taking my cue from Archer and Savage, I must say that I do recognize that my freedom is great in relation to other queers in the world. I do not, however, overestimate this freedom. Get out of your sandbox and into suburbia and talk to the Average Man. Talk to the parents of Hamed Nastoh. You'll find that our rights have only a tenuous existence.

Pride doesn't need to be retired. We need the more than 50% of the population that is transgendered, bi, lesbian or gay to come out and join the parade. We need to take it off the unbeaten path of Beach Avenue and take it to Surrey and Town Hall. For those of us who see the world coloured by their own limited view I can only wish a deep and abiding shame.

Someday I'll just be one of the guys.

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Hey, **Pierre Trudeau**, we're going to miss you. I'm personally grateful for more than your 1969 bill to get the state out of my bedroom. I'm grateful for a man who taught us to accept responsibility for our actions; who taught us to laugh at our selves; who said it was okay to be ourselves (even behind her majesty). Now, if you had butted out of Meech...Hugely enjoyed a seaside ice cream with our Nanaimo correspondent **Linda Fraser** and her friend

Lynette Jarrett. In the where have I been department, I learned that thong-like underwear is "butt floss" and "grave robbers" are those of us who like older men or women. Speaking of older men and women, **Joe Carlson** trimmed my once golden locks and while we discussed the future of the monarchy **Judy Bell** came in for a trim. We wound up spending a fun coffee hour and tour of Judy's and **Elaine Lewis'** nearly-finished house. It's just as cute and compact as they are... Had a long chat/interview with **Nancy Paterson** who is part of a research team for SWAG. Nancy challenged me to walk in a *Take Back the Night March*. I did and I felt silly. I really do think it's time the event grew up and let the men whose support we need walk with us...**Alison Campbell** has tuned herself into bridge, both duplicate and kitchen variety, in a big way. The lady legal eagle has more than 182 master points. You may find her in your bridge column one day...Scoring points for the ecology as well as handling some high-profile work on our community's behalf is **Kathryn Chapman**. She got herself some roller blades and now can be seen flying down the streets from Oak Bay to downtown where she lands full-stop at **Arvay/Finlay** law offices. ...Over coffee with my favourite colon therapist **Danielle Allen** discussions included our health and how to find women. Well, talk about two equally floundering femme fatales. I am grateful to Danielle, actually. She got me started on the road to fitness. And she's cute, too. If you have to have someone at the end of a long tube, better it be a qualified cutie. Just got a note from

Danielle to let me know she's celebrating one year in business...Speaking of that end of the business...**Joy Martin a.k.a. Ms Romance** of the Romance Shop called to tell me she has 1600 square feet. No, she hasn't found a bigger dildo. It's her new store in Courtenay... We are sure getting options in the book-buying department. **April Grant** and **Sally Calich** are opening Bleeding Rose Multimedia store. See story this issue. We've had a major drought in the bookstore-place-to-congregate scene. Much gratitude to all those who are featuring lesbian and gay books including Paul and Dark Horse. Happy browsing!



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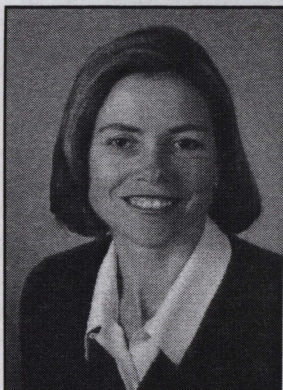
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The G-Spot: Club for Women, Lesbians, and Trannies 382-7768

Camosun College Lesbian Collective. Alternate weeks. 370-3484

Victoria Lesbian Seniors Care Society: Reva @ 250 388-4161 Mail P. O. Box 39022 James Bay Postal Outlet V8V 4X8
Musaic: Lesbian & Gay Choir. Box 8533 Victoria, BC V8W 3S1, 360-1966

Outdoors Club: 474-8159 email Kanaice_sls@telus.net Sherry Norie s.norie@home.com

Pink Pages: Community Resource Directory Box 5231 St. B, Victoria V8R 6N4 Email pinkpage@gayvictoria.com

P-Flag: Information, 385-9462

Prime Timers Victoria: email victoria@lasvegasnv.net

VYPS: Victoria Youth Pride Society (14-25) 413-3177 vyps@writeme.com

COMMUNITY NOTES & HAPPENINGS

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS: Information meeting, Oct. 22, 234 Menzies Street Room 5. Come and enjoy a light lunch after the 10 a.m. worship service. Phone 472-6262.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Victoria Pride Society meets Sunday Sept. 24 at BCGEU offices on Douglas St. at 7 p.m. It's a fun job. Come on out and participate/re-cap/ add/comment.

TRANSCEND, a transgender organization, is compiling a directory of resources and services for transgendered people and their families. We want to know what you think would be most useful to include in the directory. Phone us at 413-3220 or email transcend@islandnet.com.

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 (250) 537-7773 or e-mail caffyn@saltspring.com.

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