

# O U T V I E W S

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*Informed, Involved, Making a Difference.*

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**From our "Family" to Yours**



## The Chosen Ones

The holidays. It's the time of year when we all crave a family connection. It can be especially hard for those of us, myself included, who for whatever reason do not live with or near our families of birth. Abandonment, disownment, work, necessity or in my case, love. It doesn't matter why we are not there just that we aren't and there is usually a big hole where that connection is supposed to live. Many of us turn to our chosen families to spend the holidays as well as the rest of our lives.

I have been blessed with a wonderful, intimate and loving chosen family, some of whom you can see on the cover of this issue as well as scattered though out it's pages. We are a motley bunch. Diverse for sure but bound by the way we care about each other, the care we take with each other's feelings, and the love we share. It is a connection I feel proud to have every day of my life. It colours everything I do and say. Why? Because I know that there are people who will take pride in my accomplishments, share in my successes, lift me up when I fail and who will embrace and love me for who I am and not who they want me to be.

Don't get me wrong, we fight. We argue, have different opinions and don't always agree but that's ok because we work at keeping our family together and a disagreement or difference of opinion would never be reason enough to walk away. That's what sets chosen family apart, the conscience choice. Birth families, no matter how wonderful, sometimes love you because they have to. It's blood simple. But with us it's a choice. We came together because we felt drawn and we stay together because we choose to work at it. It is a connection like no other I have ever experienced.

You know the feeling, we all do. We have the people who have shared our lives for a long time, who took the place of a lost brother or far away sister, of the child we never had or the mother we miss desperately. Sometimes we don't even think of them as family unless someone points it out or something makes us look at

them in a different way. So, let me take the time to ask you to look at the people in your life now. Think about the people who warm your heart with a look or a touch. Tell them you love them and how blessed and grateful you are that they are with you. Remember the ones who are no longer with us. Light a candle or say a prayer. These are the connections we must keep alive. The ones we must pass onto the next generation. Don't let another day go by without honouring them.

As for my family, I am not sure they know how I feel but I suspect they do. I try my best to let them know every day, in every way that I can, that they are vital to my existence. Whether I see them every day or not for months the love I feel is the same. If they didn't know before they will now and I hope that I never fail to be for them what they have been for me.

We are many things to each other and what we are will be different tomorrow than today. We are lovers, friends and partners, play buddies, moms, dads, brothers, sisters, former lovers, future lovers, children, we are constantly changing and the ebb and flow never stops.

We are laughter, flirting, tears, a joyful smile of recognition or pleasure, a mirror, a conscience, a wink, a twinkle in the eye, a grateful hug, a reality check, a passionate kiss, an overworked sigh, a sounding board, a stern rebuke, a cold shower, a hot night, a safe place to fall apart and the glue to put it all back together again. We are celebration, desperation, perspiration and passion.

We are family because we choose to be. We are the chosen ones.

April

PS-Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza, Happy Solstice, Happy Hanukkah. Send this year out with a bang and enter the New Year with a clean slate, a clear mind and all the passion you can muster. This issue is a bit larger than usual but it is for December and January. You can expect to see the next issue in your hot little hands the last week in January...at least I hope so...\*grin\*

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# Kudos & Complaints

## Welcome Back to The Era of Free Love!

Keith Brooks

Well, I don't know quite how to start this, so I guess I'll start at the beginning. 10 Years ago I lost my best friend to AIDS. At the time I was mad. Mad that he got the disease. Mad he was going to get sick. Mad he was going to die. Mad that this damn disease existed at all. When he went into the hospital, I never went to visit him. Not once. To his dying day, he kept asking for me. To his last breath, or so I've been told. Soon after that the guilt of not being there for my friend got to me.

I was studying to be a nurse. I decided to get into Community Health Care. Home Care to be specific. I was asked if I wanted to specialise in anything. I said I wanted to look after people who were HIV +. For five years I specialised in caring for those with HIV and AIDS. I would be with them till the end. I took on cases no one else would do. I did live-ins. I gave talks to groups and individuals. My superior's asked me why I was so passionate about my work. I explained that I wasn't there for my friend, so I would be there for all the others that were abandoned by their friends/family/etc. They said I was doing penance. I said, "Yes, I am". They said, "How long will you do this?" I said I'd know when it's time to do something else.

Four years ago my Dad had a stroke. It was either I move back to Victoria to care for him, or he would go into any facility that would take him.... his girlfriend (who doesn't live with him) was elderly and not up to looking after him. The government knew of my background in education in psychology.

They said there was a position here with someone of my skills in mental health. So, I moved back. I have still had the odd HIV case, but for the most part have specialised in looking after mental health assignments thrown my way. I have also spent the past 4 years rehabilitating my dad. After the stroke he had to be taught all over again, how to do things. Things like cooking/cleaning/dressing.

He is now able to do all of these. He still gets confused about things at times, but for the most part he is doing very well. So, I felt it was time to get back into living my own life as well. I started getting involved with the queer community. Socialising more. Going to parties. But I have discovered an alarming thing.

At each of these parties I was meeting people who had multiple partners. These people did not have two relationships on the go. Not three. Four? Nope. Five? Guess again! It was more like between 7 and 8 regular relationships. All being maintained at the same time. I would meet so many people, at so many parties. This is a small town. I would come to find out, many of these people thought their relationship with guy x was exclusive. I would say no different. Just file it away in my brain. Guy x was not just one person, by the way. It is many, many, people. They not only have the 7 to 8 relationships; they have lots of casual sex on the side. I continually run into people who say...Oh...I just slept with him last night!

The point of my story? These people are not asking the person's HIV status. Sometimes there is unprotected sex going on. Without saying that I know that a person is HIV +, I mention

"How do you know if this guy is HIV-?" "After all.... you had unprotected sex with him". They say to me "Well, if he was HIV+, he would have said something before I let him fuck me...right?" When I question the HIV+ person, he say's "Well, he wouldn't have let me fuck him, unless he was HIV+ ...right?"

People, what the hell is happening here? Are we back in the era of 'Free Love'?!!! What happened to always asking if someone is positive, or negative? What happened to 'Always wear a condom'? I hear that Barebacking is popular now. There will be people that deny it exists. I know from asking around, it's being done more and more. A new strain of HIV has appeared. First seen in England. While the evidence is still being examined, it is believed to have been caused by HIV+ people Barebacking. (This is fucking without a condom, by the way) Causing a new strain. One that is resistant to all drugs. If you have HIV, and you get this new strain, your meds will not help.

We don't hear as much about HIV and AIDS as we used to. Maybe people believe if you don't hear about it...talk about it.... it doesn't exist. So now we are back to this era of Free Love. Multiple partners....casual sex...not asking anymore about someone's HIV status....not wearing condoms. Yeah, I know the feeling is much better without them. But, is it worth dying for? I also know that people are living much longer with HIV, than they used to. It is being seen as a manageable disease.

Not a death sentence.

People who are not HIV+ are not aware though, of the discomfort of the meds and their side effects. That is why Ad campaigns, such as AROUSE are now being used to educate the public.

It may be a manageable disease, but it's a living hell to many. Your friends. The ones who are HIV+.

You see them for coffee. You see them at the clubs. What you don't see is the vomiting. The diarrhea. These friends that you go to the nightclub with. You don't see them resting all day in bed, to get the energy to go out for a few hours. When they cancel on you at the last minute and you think it's because they have some hot date. Well, it's not always that. Sometimes they are having a bad case of the 'Runs'. They are afraid of having an 'accident' while they are out with you. Many people would not believe the illusion that HIV+ people maintain outside of their homes. Many don't know the reality that waits for their friends, back at home. I know this. I looked after people like this. Some in this community, I still do. My friends see them on the street, and go "Ooooooh! Look at that stud!" Well, that 'Stud' is taking mega-pills.... with all the wonderful side effects! I never break patient confidentiality. I just tell my friends to always play safe. Don't judge a book by its cover.

Just because people are living much longer with HIV, it's not the quality of life they would choose for themselves. Believe me. Or better yet.... ask them. Better yet....get a volunteer job looking after HIV+ people. Do that for a while. See the reality. Then you may stop living the fantasy!



# The Rant



## It's the Thought that Counts

It's that scary time of year again. It's cold out there in consumer land. Did you squirrel enough away for everyone on your list? Did you check it twice? Trying to find out who's naughty? Isn't it a nice thought; it's the thought that counts.

Am I allowed to use the term Merry Christmas? Is that proper gay etiquette? I wouldn't want to offend anyone. Not everyone celebrates Christmas you know. Are we obligated to list off every term to everyone we meet? "I hope you have a great Winter Solstice, Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, Season's Greetings, Season's Beatings, and a Happy New Year!" That might take too long. It might be saner to simply say: "Hey, Yah broke yet?"

I made the mistake of wishing a fellow fag a Merry Christmas. He responded with a tirade that set me back a step. He did not celebrate Christmas he celebrated Kwanza and how insensitive of me to think that everyone celebrated the birth of Jesus! Not everyone is a Christian... blah, blah, blah.

First things first: Would you like a mint? Your breath is atrocious! Second: you don't have to believe in the whole Nativity scene in Bethlehem to celebrate Christmas. Third: I cheerfully wished him a Merry Christmas, I did not question his religion. He could have easily chimed in response 'Happy Kwanza!' That would have been perfect. That would have been civil. To show me that no, I don't celebrate what you do, but cheers anyway thanx for the thought. It is the thought that counts... isn't it?

I wonder if this gentleman said no to his Christmas bonus. Probably not, he privately justified taking it because in his mind it was a Kwanza Bonus. I am not being insensitive to those who celebrate alternative festive feasts. I am simply stating that the next time somebody wishes you a Merry Whatever and it doesn't necessarily coincide with what you celebrate. Simply chime in with your own cheers in the same heart felt tone.

At this time of year it isn't important what you wish your friends as long as it is honest and from the heart. So whether you are pining for Santa Claus or whistling Dradle, Dradle, Dradle. This should be a happy time of year, a time for both chosen and immediate families to get together and celebrate each other. That's Christmas to me or umm... Kwanza to you?

*Scott Michael Clarke*

PS: I think I'm getting coal in my stocking. I've been a bad, bad boy this year.

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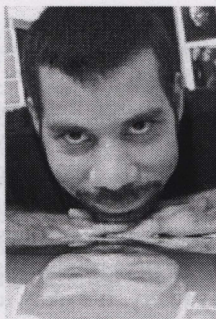
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## Life as a Tropical Fruit

By Ignacio Rodriguez



### *Chaps and a fruit bowl*

I've never been in drag. Well, not unless you count that time when I was about eight years old and while everybody was out I put on one of my mom's dresses (even though there was nothing in her wardrobe to my taste and she had no wigs) and a bit of her make up, which caused a great commotion thanks to an accidental stain on her bedspread. I already knew that I liked guys – I was head over heels for Xavier from Menudo – but I had no concept of “gay” much less of “drag queens” so I don't really think of that as real drag.

Then puberty came (so did I!) – and I grew body hair. Everywhere! All that fur covering me entirely killed any transvestite impulse I could have had, because the mere thought of shaving or waxing it all is enough to bore me to a comatose state. I know that there are tough queens that perform proudly showing their beard and hairy armpits, but knowing myself I'd try to be very chic, very glam, very camp, very Marlene Dietrich meets Eartha Kitt meets Megan Mullally with a touch of Carmen Miranda – so no one would be disappointed. I'm the Tropical Fruit after all! I'd have to shave, something I would do only to be on stage playing the MC from Cabaret or one of Genet's The Maids, or maybe, just maybe, for some oil wrestling. But I digress.

Since I accepted my sexuality I've met many Drag Queens, and I find them extremely interesting. They tend to be more honest to/about themselves, and more brave, than most of the “straight acting” members of our community. I guess it has to do with the fact that you can't hide that you are gay under all that make-up after all! Every time I hear some guy saying that Drag Queens give us – gay men – a bad image because they make hetero's think we are no more than a bunch of big-wigged make-up-wearing sissies tapping our heels to disco, I politely reply that:

1.- Had there been no Drag Queens, Stonewall, the pivotal event in the gay rights movement, would not have happened, because it was those queens who stood up and fought for the rights of all homosexuals, while the “straight acting” guys, the Mattachinees, (to whom we owe the fact that homosexuality is not considered a mental disease anymore) were whining for acceptance, saying that it's not our fault that we are gay. It is to Drag Queens we owe the notoriety and the achievements of the so called “gay liberation movement”!

2.- Accept it honey: the most macho of us uses make up, call it tattoo, body piercing, facial hair, or the discrete mascara lining around the eye, we ALL use some sort of make up...

However, if I were to be in drag my preference would be the opposite side of the coin: the Leather Drag – which by the way, has it's roots precisely in the Clone's rejection of the sissy by

becoming hyper-males, imitating Marlon Brandon in “The Wild One”.

Is Leather Wear really some kind of drag? To me it is. Why? Because I think that unless you embrace the “Leather Lifestyle” (whatever that means), if you don't wear it as your daily attire, if it is something you only wear to the bar or on special occasions, then it IS a kind of Drag. This year I had the pleasure of attending my first official Halloween Party and it amazed me that some of the guys were wearing leather. Considering that it was supposed to be a costume party, and you don't usually disguise yourself as yourself, I had to conclude that either they didn't have the imagination or enthusiasm to get a costume together or b.- their leather wear was the costume, their drag.

Some people fear and feel threatened by Drag Queens. They are misunderstood by many, even in the gay community. That's one of the reasons why they are attacked so much. Some people fear and feel threatened by the Clones, but of course that's part of their image. What we sometimes lose sight of is that we all have our little – or flamboyant – ways to escape from the routine and the insanity of our daily lives. Whether we dress as Super-Divas or Hyper-Men doesn't matter. Sometimes it's good to put on a mask and “get out of your skin” for a while, be daring, provocative... Now, how would I look in leather chaps and a fruit bowl in my head?

### **Random thoughts**

Here I would like to share my thoughts about a few issues I thought about during the year that I wouldn't write a full column about. As we reach the end of another year I want to move forward without these issues in my system:

1. Community is a state of mind. WE, the queer community, ARE a community, but only as long as we THINK of ourselves as a group, rather than as an aggregation of individuals... and there's no way you can create a community simply by bitching at and about the people who are actually trying to do something for, and in, the community.
2. If you have a complaint, DO SOMETHING. Don't just bitch about it while comfortably sitting at home or at the bar. Get off of your butt and DO SOMETHING about it.
3. Discrimination does exist. But it can also be rooted inside those being discriminated against. It's less mentally demanding to yell “I'm being discriminated against” than it is to be assertive and initiate action to end the discrimination.
4. If you sell porn videos, magazines and dildos, offer poppers to your customers the moment they come through the door, your ad in the newspaper shows a boy's bare butt and starts “XXX,” then YOU HAVE an adult shop... and there's nothing wrong with that as long as you accept it and stop attacking other people because of whatever sexual behaviour they engage in or whatever other stores – pretty much in the same line – sell.

That said: \*relieved sigh\*, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hannakuh, and a Wondrous New Year for all of us. May the God(dess) bless us all. See you next year!





**ambda Grey**

*editor's note: This is a column that is new to OutViews. We are very proud to have 2 amazing older members of our community sharing this column. This month Robin Roberts, an interesting and very well-respected member of our community. We hope this column will enlighten, entertain and enrage our readers in the coming months. The Lambda was designated the symbol of gay liberation by the Gay Activists Alliance of New York in 1970. It was adopted as the international symbol of gay liberation by the Gay Rights Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1974. The symbol was chosen because it stands for synergy — the concept that the whole is greater than its independent parts*

## **Making It Long-Term: Honouring the Grey**



I'm in love. I have been for 19 years. With myself, with my partner Diana, with nature, with life. I adore our children. I enjoy sharing life with my brother and sister. When I dream about winning the lottery, I think how rich I already am. Not that I'd turn the money down. I just wish everybody could have the inner peace and outer thrill with life that I have. Because lots of people have exclaimed wistfully about the comparative longevity of our relationship, that's what I'm addressing this month.

I can only talk about my experience. What works for me? Sometimes it's useful to define something by looking at its opposite, so I'll talk about what didn't work, first. In my other major relationship, instead of listening to my heart, I got together with my ex because he wanted to. At the moment I finally agreed to his prodding to say, "I love you" after six months together, I knew I had committed a huge travesty against myself.

I tried intellectually for 13 years to make him happy. Early on, I deepened my live-by-guilt routine by abandoning my socio-political stance to fit more co-dependently with my ex, whose formula for rational living was atheism and libertarian free enterprise. It was a very black and white way to walk through life, but being the dutiful, conscientious wife, I also felt safe hiding within the stripes of that zebra.

After we split, he leapt aboard the horse of Fundamentalist Christianity. At first perplexed by his switch, I eventually realized that for someone who is too afraid to step into a world of feelings, it is much safer to hide fanatically within clearly defined boundaries. That means one end of the spectrum or the other. No grey please. Grey is far too confusing and scary, and being scared would mean having to enter the world of feelings.

So when did feelings enter my life? Nine years into our relationship, when I first held our newborn son, the depth of maternal love astounded me. How could I look at his beautiful face

so endlessly, play with his perfect, tiny fingers so happily, remain so besotted with every little thing he did or uttered? After three years of parenting, my husband commented that "our marriage was like an old shoe: it was comfortable, but boring". He wanted to play around. That wasn't part of my recipe for love and marriage, or a model I wanted for my son. While working on this, I sought various counselor's assistance. One day, while journaling, I wrote a whole paragraph consisting of nothing but "It's okay to cry. It's okay to cry. It's okay to cry," as if the act of writing those words would turn a tap for me to actually feel them.

The turning point came when Diana, with whom I'd become friends while cruising together aboard our respective family boats, not only observed what others could plainly see, but had the nerve to comment on my dysfunctional marriage. "It hurts me to see you being treated that way," she said. All of a sudden, I realized that it wasn't just my imagination. As we were parting from one of our sailing cruises, she pressed a piece of folded paper into my palm. In it, she'd astutely jotted ten words: "Always remember that you are completely loveable and totally worthwhile." I kept that note in my pocket for the next several months, hauling it out in moments of solitude, as though it were a piece of super-subversive, coded information and I was the spy holding the key. As I turned that key, I found myself peering into a murky mirror of emotions. The reflection of their existence was finally becoming clear enough to grasp.

After experiencing Diana's aware listening, which enabled me to finally shed those tears I'd only written about before, I realized how much I'd been stuffing my feelings back inside. As she had learned techniques for successfully tapping into and releasing these feelings seven years before we got together, she taught me initially, and then I set up time with people so that I could do the same. We'd take turns, sharing time instead of money, with first one of us giving really clear, listening time, then the other returning the favour. We took care to make sure that we shared time absolutely equally.

The sole purpose was to let go. Letting go could mean laughing, yawning, crying, non-stop ranting or talking, shaking, but always with the ultimate goal of re-assessing our original premise at sharing time's end, to see if we could think more clearly about it, which we almost always could. If not, we'd just keep on shedding, like the proverbial butterfly emerging from its cocoon. It was a lot of work, but it's also a family joke that 'Persistence' is my middle name. I understood how the energy consumed by stuffing down old emotional crap had so thoroughly crippled my current ability to live life with zest.

That is the essence of what keeps our relationship fresh, loving, thrilling. We had no idea that we were lesbians until we got together. With four children to co-parent as well, it seemed at first like running in front of a bulldozer, just dealing with daily emotional issues. Knowing it was crucial, we made sure to encourage the other to feel and release immediately. Gradually, the pathways opened wider until the bulldozer receded into the far distance. When working on old, major issues, we'd have get-togethers two or three times a week on an ongoing basis, sometimes with ourselves



and sometimes with others. When it was too hard for us to listen to each other's pain or fears, one or the other of us would freeze up or fall asleep in associative self-defense. That's when our network of allies came in handy. We'd either call them to share venting time on the phone, or make dates to share longer sessions. In the process, we uncovered a lot about not only how oppression sits on top of the homosexual community and how it works to divide and separate us, but how oppression keeps writers and artists from thriving, and also how parents and children become isolated during crucial growing time.

Early on in our relationship, Diana said that one of the things she really admired about me was "my vulnerability". I blushed; annoyed with myself for exposing it, as though I'd been running down a street naked. Fortunately, she was relentless in her admiration, and I was persistent in learning my lessons about feelings. Love bloomed as though we were lotus flowers yanked out of frozen tundra and plopped in tropical mud.

In my old paradigm, I'd have run from anger, my own or others. After our first major blow-up, I jumped in our old Volvo and drove from our Gordon Head home to Cadboro Bay beach for a walk. Eventually I returned, and we shared our fears honestly. Because it felt so good to be understood that deeply, I never felt compelled to run again. Soon after getting a grasp on the health to be gained from actually feeling, I saw anger for what it is: a blanket for fear. Fear of love, fear of isolation, fear of not being good enough, fear of whatever. Diana came from a family that exploded passionately, expressing emotions and the day's events in a roller coaster of competition. I came from a family that repressed feelings, judged anger as immature, and overt passion as either naïve or uncivilized or both. When we honestly shared and let go of our stuff within the safe confines of a loving, attentive, aware listener, the volcano inside her fell almost dormant, while the volcano inside me actually bubbled happily for the first time. Neither volcano felt threatening. Both of us understood the feelings and supported their safe release. Most importantly, we

never allowed our volcanoes to erupt: we committed to helping the other to open the vents with the first bubble, or made sure, if we felt incapable of productive support, that we found somebody else in our listening community to provide it. Within the community, there is a vow of confidentiality: nobody ever discusses or refers to anybody else's material.

Upon reflecting on the lead-up to that Cadboro Bay escape, I asked Diana what would help her in moments of pique. She said, "Just hug me and keep me safe until I cry." Next time, I wouldn't let anger get the better of her, just held her firmly yet gently, with absolute love. Soon she stopped struggling and cried, the tears washing away the fear as my love kept shining through her film of self-doubts. From that simple, loving exercise, I also extrapolated a few lessons: how quickly I could safely permit myself to express my anger also, how loving attention could dissolve the underlying issues, how necessary it is to let them vent in bits instead of big blow-ups, and how consistently love waits on the other side, even if we're momentarily blinded while in the heat of the miniscule moment.

Growing into homosexuality with four kids aged 4, 5, 13 and 16, all of whom had their own passions, agendas, homophobic friends and peer pressures, is certainly a recipe for disaster and a failed relationship. That the recipe failed and our relationship still blooms is mostly due to our awareness of how to release emotions on a regular basis without letting them build up. We own our own stuff, are committed to growth, support each other in our ongoing goals, and have tried to model all of that to our kids. We're thrilled that our three sons have grown into men who are strong enough to cry, and that our daughter has grown into a woman who is strong enough to set clear boundaries. We continue to be the cheering squad for each other, for those in our community, for any who cherish staying in love.

For me, it all started when I made my first courageous step out of my ex's black-and-white life, into the grey misty land of feelings. What a relief to feel the passions of our souls open within each prism of that once-foggy, foggy dew! We've won the lottery that counts the most, and we'll continue to feel it.

End-Notes: If anyone is interested in adopting some of our techniques, I'd suggest three things:

1) If you don't have time to share equally, go for professional counseling, but insist on a counselor who encourages tears, and honours you as the most capable, intelligent, person able to solve your own problems after being attentively, safely heard.

2) Training helps. It's like jogging for the mind, for people healthy enough to set aside their own distress and give equal listening time. Although we originally practiced it through a grass-roots organization, called "Re-Evaluation Co-Counseling", they have since moved in what we consider to be a homophobic direction.

3) Thus we would recommend only the theory called, more simply, "Co-Counseling". For an over-view of the techniques that worked for us, and a free, downloadable manual: <http://www.shed.ac.uk/personal/c/cci/cciuk/index.html>

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Keith Brooks Photo by S. Calich

## Q & A with Rick Barnes

An Interview by Keith Brooks

**KB: I'm here with Rick Barnes of AIDS Vancouver. Hi Rick. What exactly is your position with AIDS Vancouver?**

**RB:** I'm the communications co-ordinator. That involves public relations, strategic planning, and government relations. It's in the community development department of AIDS Vancouver.

**KB: How long have you been doing this?**

**RB:** With AIDS Vancouver for a year. Before that I was with the BC Persons with AIDS Society for one year. Prior to that I established the AIDS group in the Cariboo.

**KB: What's new at AIDS Vancouver?**

**RB:** AIDS Vancouver has gone through some very big changes recently. The biggest change being due to the change in the epidemic over the past five to seven years. It's become evident that you can't become situated in one area where the epidemic started. We can't just be situated in the West End of Vancouver. We have over the past year, had support workers, case managers, working out of other offices in the downtown eastside. We are expanding that now. We have moved some of our staff to Kitsilano. They are involved in community development.

**KB: How long has AIDS Vancouver been around?**

**RB:** AIDS Vancouver is Canada's oldest AIDS Agency. It was established on August 4th, 1983. It was started by a group of gay men, who were then dealing with what was known as the gay cancer. These people decided to get together and do something about this gay cancer. It was established as the Vancouver AIDS Society. Next year will be their 20-year anniversary.

**KB: To what do you attribute the increase in the past few years, of AIDS cases.**

**RB:** There are several demographic groups. There is an increase amongst women, between 13 and 25. Women now make-up 24 percent of those newly infected with HIV. This we believe is largely due to lack of awareness. Also, women are often not in a position to negotiate safer-sex options with their partner. There is a lot of education required for men who are having sex with women. About the need for safer sex practices. There has also been an increase in intravenous drug use. Young gay men are on the up swing, as far as HIV numbers are. Also men in there late 30's and 40's. These men lived through the AIDS epidemic of the 80's. Now they are tired of the same sex options.

**KB: One thing we are hearing more & more about, is the practice of BareBacking.**

**RB:** Barebacking is pretty prevalent. Part of this is communication. You get two people together, and the fellow who

is on the receiving end says 'well he must be negative, because he would put a condom on if he was positive'. The guy who is inserting is saying 'well, he must be negative, or he would be making me put a condom on'. It's that little ability to communicate with each other, at that particular intimate moment - is not happening in some cases. That's aside from some people who are actually choosing to have unsafe sex.

**KB: There has also been talk about people saying 'well, it's ok if everybody doing it is HIV positive.'**

**RB:** Well, people who are HIV positive, it appears now they could be infected with another strain of the virus. There have been some studies on this for a while. It now appears you can become re-infected, with a different strain. This will affect the drugs you are currently taking. It can also make the current infection even worse. There is more research required for this, but preliminary stuff has indicated that two positives can cause themselves more damage, by having unprotected sex.

**KB: Recently there was an event in Vancouver, which was called Euphoria. Could you tell our readers about Euphoria?**

**RB:** Yeah, Euphoria was an event that was sponsored and done in co-operation with AIDS Vancouver, with Gay West, The Centre, and others in Vancouver - gay men. It focuses on gay men's wellness, and this is the direction that AIDS Vancouver is going with our prevention messaging. We are getting away from talking to people about safe sex. What we are talking to people about is their over-all well being. How do you feel about yourself? Where do you live? What are your living conditions? How do you support yourself? These questions have been found generally to encourage people to make less-riskier decisions. Whether it's to use drugs, have unsafe sex or even drive a car really fast!

**KB: Euphoria was like a street fair?**

**RB:** Yes. Euphoria took place at Dave & Bute. Right outside The Centre. This being the Gay/Lesbian/Bi-sexual/transgender centre.

**KB: How long did this event last?**

**RB:** The fair was for one day. It went from 12 to 6pm. We had entertainment. We had several booths there. We had people doing handwriting analysis. People that could talk to you about dating - meeting Mr. Right. People talking and receiving information about general health. We had people from Three Bridges Clinic there to address some of those issues. You could even go and get an anal pap smear! This is a matter that is very important to gay men. Prostate cancer, other cancer's, are a particular problem. Right now, the health-care system isn't doing a very good job of checking that. Gay men should be having these pap-smears on a regular basis. Your doctor will probably tell you, you don't need it - we'll tell you, you do.

**KB: Do they plan on making Euphoria an annual event?**

**RB:** Yes. We are looking at more collaboration with other groups. Other health care professional's as well. To generate the discussion in the gay community as well - that's what we are hoping to do.

**KB: There is an issue of confidentiality, especially in smaller towns.**

**RB:** Oh, there is no doubt about it. The fact that even today, if you have HIV or AIDS, and you're getting a test - you must be doing something (to be worried).



**KB: How long does it take to get the results back from an HIV test?**

RB: It takes 2 weeks.

**KB: I haven't heard or read about it recently, but there was a thing where they were trying to come out with a home kit. There was a lot of controversy about this. It is like the home pregnancy test. What are the thoughts behind AIDS Vancouver about that?**

RB: The home kit is you can go home, take the test, it's inaccurate. It doesn't tell you what your options are. It doesn't tell you what you are facing, or are potentially facing. It's quite an emotional event, to receive the results of an HIV test.

**KB: My concern also, was that with the home kit, your results are almost immediate. As opposed to the test at the lab which is two weeks, for the results.**

RB: Yes. You are compromising some of the quality of the test. The data that you are using... Even the test you wait for, for 2 weeks - if it comes back positive - they are going to do another one, to ensure that it is positive. The other advantage is you are going to your health-care practitioner. They are going to tell you about the results. They are going to tell you what to expect. They are going to counsel you. It may seem that you are ready, and that you are prepared - some people might be - but I suggest most of us would be quite devastated, as many of us have been, with the results of an HIV test.

**KB: Let me ask you about the AIDS awareness campaign called AROUSE. It started up this past spring correct?**

RB: Yes. It started in February. AROUSE is the campaign "Cocktail or Condom". The campaign came about because we were looking at more anecdotal evidence that suggested that gay men were faced with going to the clubs, going out, and actually saying the new HIV drugs were pretty good. People they saw with HIV looked not too bad. They were thinking that HIV, and they do think that HIV, is a manageable disease. That there is this magical drink that you take.

**KB: Some people believe there is a cure.**

RB: A cure, yes! I remember going out and looking at the people in the community. A lot of the younger people would say "here's a cocktail", so they thought you just sit down and drink this cocktail! So you have a drink and boom! It's gone! This campaign is to clarify exactly what the cocktail is. The campaign focuses on the side effects of these HIV meds. The message coming from that is, it is no picnic! HIV meds are a miracle for

those with HIV, but if you don't have to get yourself into a position having to take those meds, then you are much better off. You don't see the diarrhea; you don't see the side effects.

**KB: You see that person for the short time they are out in the day, out at the club, and oh...they look gorgeous & healthy and wonderful. You don't see the rest of the day that they are resting and sleeping, and they are having the diarrhea, and they are having the vomiting.**

RB: You don't see them saying "I can't go out tonight, although I would like to, because I know I'm not going to get from that chair to the washroom".

**KB: You don't realise, that one time you have seen them at the club, they have saved up their energy all week - just to go out for two hours.**

RB: That's right. Now, many people with HIV do quite well on the drugs. But the side effects are there. You have to take other immune-builders. Vitamins. You have to really watch what you eat. People must understand that these HIV meds are no picnic. That's what this campaign is about.

**KB: There has been print media, and also TV commercials?**

RB: The TV commercials played on local television stations for a period of time. About 2 to 3 weeks. They also played on Pridevision for about 5 months. Five to six times a day. Very well done. It's now a campaign that is being looked at on the National level, and International level. What was a real surprise on my recent trip to San Francisco, is they are now using a similar campaign - focussing on HIV meds. Their campaign was launched on Wednesday October 9th. It is on bus shelters, subway shelters, magazine ads, and posters. They are more direct than our campaign. They show people who are positive, in the various stages of the disease. With the various side effects highlighted.

**KB: You don't show people in this campaign. It's just animation.**

RB: Yes. Of the drugs. Very cleverly done. Very powerful. You can go to the AIDS Vancouver website, and watch the AROUSE video. We are looking to expand upon that program, over the next year.

**KB: I want to talk to you about HIV infection due to the drug use. Vancouver does have a needle program. How has that been going? Has it proven to be successful?**

*(continued on next page)*



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(continued from previous page)

**RB:** The needle program and the needle exchange program, particularly in the downtown eastside, has been very successful.

What we have seen, is HIV rates have been going down steadily, since 1995. There were 900 new HIV cases in 1995. That number is quite a way's down now. Part of that is due to the needle exchange. The needle exchange has been mobile. It is available in many locations. Now what we need to do is take the next step. We need to go to some of the low thresh-hold services, such as a safe-injection facility. This is where people can come in, use the clean materials, and then have the ability to contact the health-care professionals - a social worker, someone who knows where they can find housing, where they can find food. To have the opportunities to get off the street, and have access to treatment facilities.

**KB:** What is the government's position on this? Are they supportive? Have they been supportive?

**RB:** The provincial government is quite, with respect to this. The federal government, the former minister of health, Alan Rock, was very supportive. Right now the city of Vancouver & Mayor Owen has been very supportive of getting this off the ground. The concern now is we are in the middle of a Municipal election. Will this be a priority for the new council? Public opinion is we are advancing drug-treatment options and moving in a means of harm reduction. In the downtown eastside, and the rest of Vancouver.

**KB:** What sort of relationship does AIDS Vancouver have with AIDS Vancouver Island?

**RB:** AIDS Vancouver Island and AIDS Vancouver work together on various projects. We are hoping to talk to them about some of the program's we are dealing with now, and if there is a willingness or an opportunity, to do so over there. We are hoping to be able to continue working with AIDS Vancouver Island.

**KB:** There is a regular communication-dialogue that does go on?

**RB:** Yes.

**KB:** I wanted to touch on your trip to San Francisco. You went there on holiday, but...

**RB:** I did take time out to do a couple of things. I wanted to check out the GLBT Centre. Brand-new.

**KB:** And what are your thoughts?

**RB:** Absolutely wonderful. We can only dream to have something like that in Vancouver. Something like that would help to focus on issues of queer health. That's what we need. A focal point in our community. The Centre in Vancouver operates out of a very small second floor office. It's not very inviting to go into. In San Francisco there is space at this new centre. Space for cultural opportunities. Space for workshops - for all the community to come together.

**KB:** It's almost like a template for the future. Like you could almost see it here.

**RB:** I could almost see it. Yes. We need to get some people in the provincial, federal, and municipal governments excited about it. Perhaps even the community can get excited about working with The Centre, and having something like that happen here in Vancouver.

**KB:** What are the numbers for HIV infection, in comparison to Vancouver?

**RB:** HIV infections in San Francisco are somewhat higher than in Vancouver. The one thing that we do know is trends in San Francisco, New York, and Toronto, tend to show-up in Vancouver a year and a half later.

**KB:** Trends?

**RB:** Trends in numbers (statistics). We saw that with syphilis, and other STD rates, increasing in San Francisco 4 years ago. 2 years ago, that became a problem here in British Columbia. Within the last 2 years, we have seen the increase of HIV/AIDS cases here. New infection rates amongst gay men, and others.

**KB:** Is there anything about the AIDS organisations in San Francisco that did not impress you?

**RB:** The thing that made an impression upon me was the funding from the private sector was so significant. What did not impress me was the funding from the Federal government in San Francisco-it comes with a lot of strings. It's a republican/conservative Federal government, which is not letting anyone talk about anything but abstinence.

**KB:** Well, I think that's all the questions I will ask for now. Thank you very much Rick.

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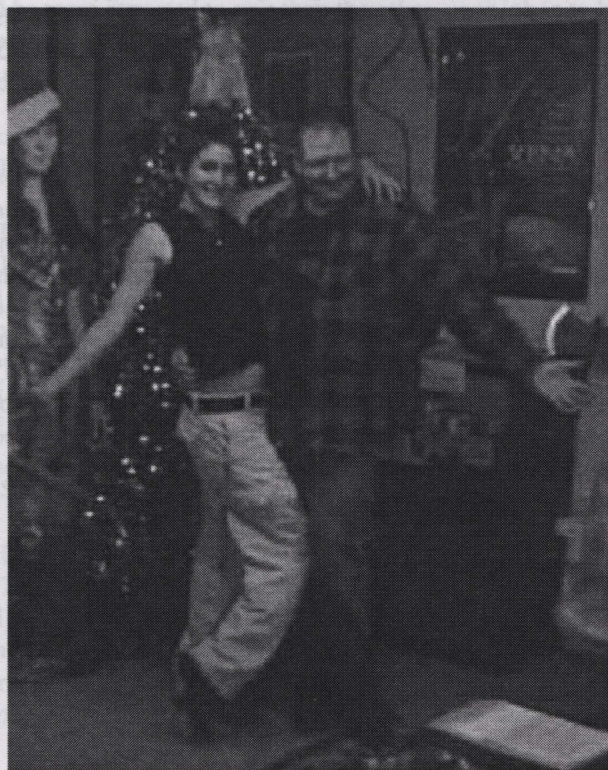
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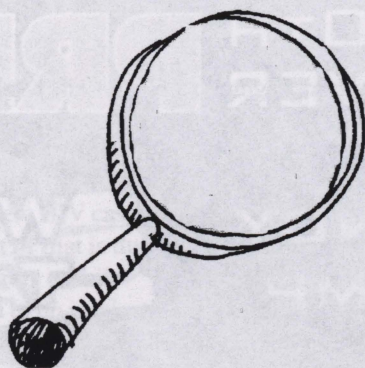


Some of OutViews & Bleeding Rose staff and volunteers. Pictured are L-R: Thomas, David Hardwick, Scott Clarke, Sunni Ross, Sally Calich, Kevin Barnard, Keith Brooks, Nacho Rodriguez, London Morgan, Tamara Morgan, Victoria, Niko, Diana Denney, Robin Roberts. (photo by April Grant)



## Through a Queer Lens

*Queer News that never makes it to the front page*



**(New Haven, Connecticut)** As a student gay activist Larry Kramer hated Yale. As a graduate the noted author and playwright despised it for its homophobic policies. But, that is all in the past now. Yale has adopted an equality policy, and Kramer and his alma mater have reconciled. The 57-year-old returned to Yale to speak at Morse College. Talking about the state of activism and gay rights, the famous shit disturber let everyone know where he stands. "I do think it is the responsibility of every citizen to be an activist about something," Kramer said. "If you aren't, then you're not being a decent human being." Kramer said that it is not necessary to be a full-time activist but that everyone should find a cause to work for.

**(Nashville, Tennessee)** The YMCA of Middle Tennessee is now demanding proof that people seeking family memberships are in heterosexual marriages, a decision that has angered gay activists in the state. The Y says it began the clampdown after it found membership "inconsistencies."

"The definition of the family is rooted in the YMCA's historical mission, our community's traditional definition of a family and the state's definition of a family," said Phil Newman, a spokesperson for YMCA of Middle Tennessee. The YMCA has no national policy on what constitutes a family. Some YMCAs define families broadly as two or more adults with children, while others specify marital status.

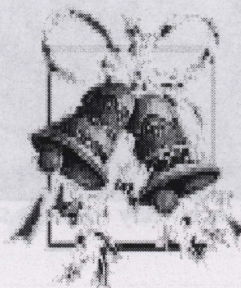
**(London)** John Savident, who plays butcher Fred Elliott on Coronation Street, says he is lucky to have survived the attack, which happened after he invited Smith to his home in the early hours of December 1, 2000, following a night out in Manchester's gay village. A regular on the world's longest running soap opera, he thought he was going to die when a man he picked up in a gay bar stabbed him in the neck. The court documents show that Savident met Smith in the Napoleon, one of Manchester's best-known gay night-spots and invited him home to talk about the theatre. Savident told the jury, he went into his bedroom to plug in his mobile phone to recharge its battery and was shoved face down into his bed at knife-point. In the struggle that followed, Smith's knife

pierced Savident's neck, slicing through a minor blood vessel and missing the main artery by less than an inch. Savident, a former policeman who is married with two children, lost about two pints of blood as he lay on his bed while Smith searched his flat and garage.

**(Vancouver, British Columbia)** The blessing of same-sex unions by Anglican churches in Vancouver has been put on hold indefinitely. The decision was announced last month by New Westminster Bishop Michael Ingham. The blessings were approved by the diocese last summer in a vote that drew criticism by the outgoing Archbishop of Canterbury, and provoked some churches to seek removal from the diocese. The bishops, meeting in Toronto last month, while calling for a moratorium on the blessings by other dioceses, did not order New Westminster to abandon plans to begin offering the ceremonies this fall. Even though three Greater Vancouver parishes have asked Ingham to proceed, the bishop said he has decided to delay final approval in order to have a dialogue with the dissident priests.

**(Toronto)** A judge has given approval for a \$400 million dollar class action suit against the Canadian government on behalf of 8,000 gays and lesbians. "It's the first time in Canadian history that a class-action lawsuit is going to be used to redress discrimination against gays and lesbians," said lawyer Douglas Elliott. The case involves pension benefits the plaintiffs say are owed to them following the deaths of their life partners prior to Jan 1, 1998. The government began recognizing gay relationships with legislation passed in 2000. The law was backdated to 1998 giving the surviving partner in gay and lesbian relationships pension rights. The plaintiffs argue the law should have been retroactive to April 17, 1985, when equality guarantees were included in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Canada's Bill of Rights.

**(Ottawa)** Ottawa police have called in the hate-crimes unit to investigate the killing of a 35 year old gay man. The body of Christopher Raynsford was found in his downtown apartment. Police say he had been beaten to death. Friends said Raynsford had told them a month before the killing he had been threatened and robbed by a stranger he met in an internet gay chat room. "It is a gay bashing incident, certainly," said Fortier. Raynsford's body had been in the apartment for some time before it was discovered. Ottawa police have issued a warning to people who use internet chat rooms. Users need to be careful of whom they invite into their homes.







Canadian history that a class-action lawsuit is going to be used to redress discrimination against gays and lesbians," said lawyer Douglas Elliott. The case

### Love's a Drag...

*with Reta One More Time*

Dear Reta

I have two friends that are lovers and I find I am sexually attracted to both of them. I would love to have a three way with them but I don't want to cause any problems. It would just be a sex thing. What should I do and are there any tips you can give me so that it is fun for all of us?

Signed Lover Lover

Dear LL

The first thing Sweetie is to be open and honest with both of them. There are several things to consider the most important of which is are they sexually attracted to you? 3 ways can only happen if the couple is secure in their relationship and the fear of losing their partner is gone. If you tell them that it is just a sex thing and have good communication then that should clear that problem up. As far as tips go well be prepared to give and receive. One of them will be more attracted to you then the other, your job is to be the aware of the other, making sure it is a true 3 way, not one sitting at the side watching. Always treat both with respect and it could turn out to be a lot of fun. Always be sure you play as safe as you can. Good Luck and have fun.

Love Reta

Dear Reta

I just found out that a man I meet at the bar 8 months ago and had sex with is HIV positive. Now I am going to have to be tested. If my parents find out they will freak out. I have told all my friends about him but I would like you to put his name in your column so that lots of people know about him. What else do you think I can do?

Signed very angry

Dear VA

The first thing I would recommend is that you take a valium and calm down. 8 months ago this man may not have known he was positive. If you played safe you should not have too much to worry about, if not whose fault is that? It is not the other person's responsibility to protect you. That is your job and yours alone. As

far as your parent finding out, there is such a thing as DR/patient confidentiality; no one needs to know. Some people will tell you when they are positive some do not. Most times when a person is honest it frightens people off, at least from having sex with them. We all need to be held and loved especially HIV positive people. Their emotions have not changed, just their condition. As far as putting his name in my column I ask you this, if you were positive would you like your name put in? I think not. Therefore I must decline your request. It sound like you have never been tested before. As a sexually active person I would recommend that you be tested every six months or at least once a year. It is free for high-risk groups. I also suggest that from now on you assume that everyone is positive and in that way you will always play safe. I would also recommend that you contact Mr. Jim Oliver at AVI for counseling or at least for information. He is a very nice non-judgmental person who will respect your confidentiality and help you in any way he can. I know that this is not an easy time for you, it is not easy for any of us, and the wait for your results can be very stressful. I will say a prayer that you will have a good report.

Much Love Reta

*Do you have a question for Reta? E-mail  
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## What My Pockets Have to Say

By Linzy

There are some things I **WANT TO SAY** but can't **speak out loud**. So I scuff the ground with **my foot** and **kick** at whatever's around. I'd rather **stick my hands in my pockets** and try to **look away** or cross my arms on **my chest** and **not look you in the eye** rather than share with you what I have to say. Cause if I did then **you might know** what I'd want. What I'm doing around **all the time** and why I **fumble when I speak**. You see I'm kind of a **shy guy** and the words are stuck somewhere in my pockets. When I stick my hands in **as deep as they'll go** and shift them from front to back **I am looking for those words** cause I'd really like you to know...I'd really like you to know what is so **deep inside the layers of** my pants. I'd like to think that **you have no idea** but in my time I might let you know. I don't **tell you about this** cause then you might get a hint of that. **You might know I like you** because I'm here. For now I'll look at you and **stick my hands in my pockets** so that then **you might know**. Because I have some words **I want to say...**

**They are just too deep** for a boy like me to reach.

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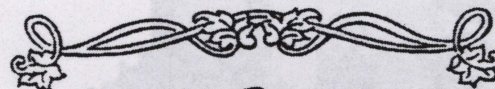
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# Arts & Entertainment

## BURNT MONEY (2000)

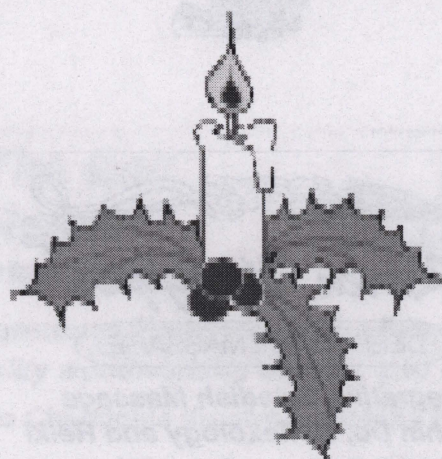
*A Review by Ignacio*

Ángel hears voices, and El Nene always takes care of him. They are known as "The Twins", but they are not brothers. They are infamous professional criminals. They are lovers trying to revive their breaking relationship with an adrenaline rush. What happens when everything goes wrong? What can you do when you find yourself with all the money you could wish for but fugitive, isolated from the world?

Directed by the Argentinean Marcelo Piñeyro (*Cenizas del paraíso*, 1997), *Burnt Money* is the true story of a South American Smokey-and-The-Bandit-like couple, who stole 7 million pesos and the subsequent chase and hold up, in 1965, turned into a novel by Ricardo Piglia, and now a movie with script by Marcelo Figueras and the director he. Eduardo Noriega (Ángel) and Leonardo Sbaraglia (El Nene) lead the plot, with their great performances.

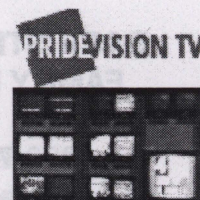
It's slow rhythm and the vintage look of the beautiful photography give a definite taste of old Film Noirs, with all their doom and gloom, to this award winning movie, praised by the critics, which might take Eduardo Noriega a step closer to a break through with the Anglo-Saxon public, following Penélope Cruz, his co-star in "Abre los ojos" (Alejandro Amenábar, 1998), playing the same role that Tom Cruise performed in the American remake, *Vanilla Sky* (2001).

*Burnt Money* is an interesting sample of Latin-American cinema – more interesting is the fact that it has been rated R-18 in Argentina and banned in other South American countries for not condemning homosexuality -, but probably the book would give a better insight of the characters. And if you are looking for a "gay story", this is not what you'll find here. However, Eduardo Noriega's presence in the movie makes it all worth while.



## Pridevision Puts Itself Up For Sale

*staff news writer*



Bleeding massive amounts of red ink and drowning in bad blood the world's first GLBT television network put itself up for sale December 20.

Pridevision opened with high hopes 15 months ago, but the digital channel has never managed to attract an audience. "Just by saying they were gay they thought the gay community would flock to them no matter what they put on the air," one broadcast observer noted. "Their other problem was marketing as a 'stand alone'. It may have made sense in big cities, but gays in small towns were not about to call the local Cable Company and say 'I want that gay station'. It is just too threatening for a lot of gays outside cities like Toronto or Montreal."

Most other digital stations were sold in bundles at greatly reduced rates. However, by offering itself as a separate entity the station was able to carry XXX rated movies, positioning itself as a sort of gay Playboy channel. Some believe that may have killed them before they even got started, as porn is not always a staple of GLBT lives.

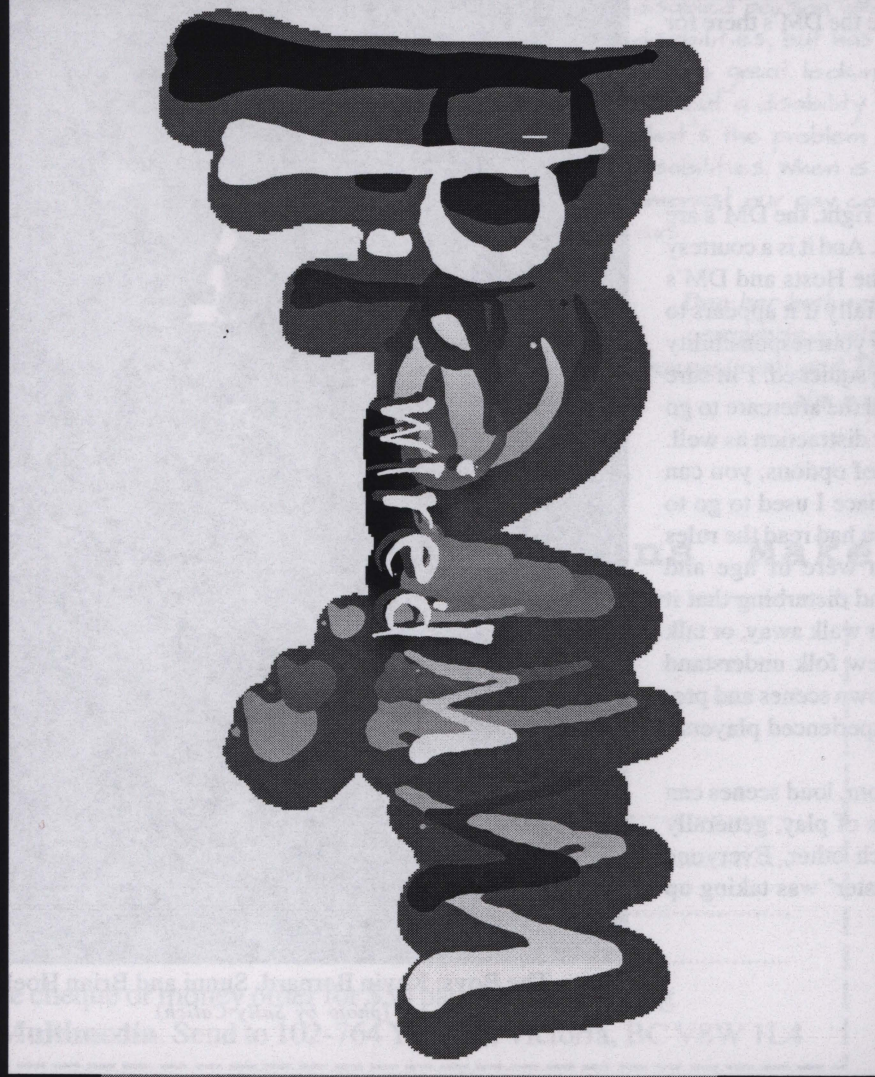
The station was never able to attract more than 22,000 subscribers Pridevision said in a statement. The statement did not indicate how much money it had lost, but its publicly traded parent company, Headline Group will release its financial statements early next month. Earlier this month Pridevision went on a scavenger hunt for new viewers with an ad campaign called "Help Us Get It Up". The ad campaign, which used discrimination as a cheeky ploy, was not well received by the gay community and Pridevision would not say how many, if any, subscribers it gained.

As the announcement was made of the station being put up for sale, Pridevision slashed all but about 30 positions nationwide in a third wave of cutbacks. All local programming had been chopped earlier in the year with the station choosing instead to broadcast several hours a night of gay and lesbian porn movies and a string of ancient reruns.

Another viewer noted that the programming was never what they had promised. "They kept talking about spending millions on shows but we never saw it. All we saw was bad porn and the same comedy episodes of bad series over and over again. Where were the news shows? The interviews? Current events?"

John Levy, chairman and CEO of Headline Group, said the station "continues to have discussions with third parties regarding potential strategic investments in or the sale of PrideVision." The company would not disclose what those "third parties" might be. But, some industry insiders are looking south of the border to Showtime. The US cable channel owned by media giant Viacom (CBS, Showtime, MTV) has announced it will soon launch its own GLBT station with original programming, news shows and live broadcasts.





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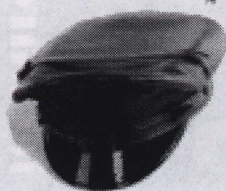


**men@avi.org 384-2366**



## Help me Daddy!

*Advice from Super Bitch Daddy*



Dear SBD

The last play party I went to had the requisite dungeon masters (DM's) hanging around to make sure the party was safe. Everything was going tickety boo, my honey and I finished a nice flogging scene and I was doing after-care, her head in my lap, stroking her hair. I was pretty focused on her but the scene across the room was escalating to the point where I couldn't help but be distracted. It appeared to be a knife play scene and even though the rules said no blood play it was pretty clearly bloody and the bottom was shrieking. I started to feel concerned and looked up for the DM's, one was out smoking, his back to the door, the other was watching them from the other corner of the room, talking and laughing with another player. Soon others were stopping their scenes; it just seemed to completely take over the party. The top was someone who commands a lot of respect and I think the DM's didn't say anything because they didn't want to disturb the 'Master'. And no one said anything except for some bitching afterward, and it was rumored to be fake blood. What the hell are the DM's there for if they aren't gonna keep players in check?

Pissed-off player

Dear PoP

Play party etiquette can be a dicey. You're right, the DM's are there to make sure the party is safe for everyone. And it is a courtesy for players doing extreme scenes to inform the Hosts and DM's that may alarm or distract other players, especially if it appears to break the rules (real or fake blood). But it's also your responsibility to get off your ass and pipe up if you are being squicked. I'm sure you're honey wouldn't mind if you interrupted the aftercare to go to a DM with your concern if it would ease her distraction as well. If you are uncomfortable, you have a couple of options, you can leave, or you can say something. One play space I used to go to had a mandatory declaration to sign saying you had read the rules (including the role of the DM's), that you were of age and understood that if you observe scenes you find disturbing that it was up to you to take appropriate action, either walk away, or talk to a DM. DM's are also supposed to help new folk understand stuff that may seem out of the ordinary, take down scenes and pre-negotiated rape scenes can challenge even experienced players.

If the space is small or there is only one room, loud scenes can make it difficult for others at different stages of play, generally everyone should try to be respectful of each other. Everyone deserves equal space, sounds like mister 'master' was taking up more than his share.

As far as the local scene hierarchy goes. That's bullshit, if the DM's are too chicken shit to approach the king of the castle if he's outta line, they don't deserve to wear the armband.

If the rules are clear to everyone those rules should apply to everyone, and if there is an exception all players need to be informed. Some parties seem to be more flexible about rules but if safety concerns make people stop showing up, and no one says anything that's just pathetic. And by the way, you don't have to be a 'top' to speak up, and there is no shame in being squicked about stuff, we all have our limits. Creating safety for everyone is a challenge but it's up to the community to create that together. After all it's supposed to be about having fun ain't it?

Bitch Daddy.

Here are some links for party rules and etiquette:

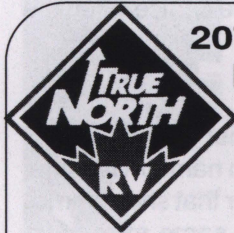
<http://www.sexuality.org/l/bdsm/links.html>

[http://www.victoriafetishsociety.com/education/play\\_party\\_etiquette.html](http://www.victoriafetishsociety.com/education/play_party_etiquette.html)



The Boys: Kevin Barnard, Sunni and Brian Hoekstra  
(photo by Sally Calich)





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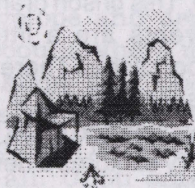
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# My Vision

*By Guest Columnist, Don Boulding*

I've been living in Victoria for almost eight years and out as a gay man with a disability in the last five years. There are only a few places I feel comfortable in the gay community. However, it seems that the bar is really the only place to meet people. I have a learning disability as well as a physical disability and quite often sexual predators and hustlers take advantage of me because of my disability.

If I won the lottery, I would create a gazebo type centre for the gay community; making sure people with disabilities are included. What I'd like to see is a place where gay disabled people can go to be ourselves with other able people without having to go to the bars, bathhouses or parks.

Two big questions to think about. If you were the owner of a gay organization, bar or bathhouse, would you hire the great looking guy or would you hire a disabled person who not only struggles as a person with disabilities, but has to prove that he's just as capable as the great looking guy? Are you willing as a person without a disability to befriend someone who does? That's the problem I face as well as other gays with disabilities. When is this discrimination going to stop amongst our gay community? The choice is each of ours.

*Don has both retail and hospitality experience. He is currently a volunteer at AVI, the YMCA, Hostel International and The Bleeding Rose (who will be hiring him part-time in the new year).*

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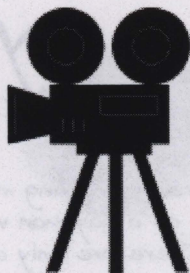
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**Keep it in mind!**



## Flick Flak

By Melaney Black



### Replay – by Catherine Corsini

For me, the initial drawing card for this French-Canadian flick was the presence of Pascal Bussieres, the seminary teacher from "When Night Is Falling". Hair cropped short, she plays an intense woman who is obsessed with her best childhood friend. After a disastrous adolescent episode, the two friends, both aspiring actors, split up and go their separate ways. Years later, Bussieres, now a dental appliance maker and apparently happily married, attends a play where she sees her old friend. Nothing has changed for Bussieres, whose obsessive attraction reawakens slowly, but builds to predictable proportions.

This movie is very French in that it steps into a time frame, tells its story, and leaves as abruptly and mundanely as it entered. There are no tidy endings, happy or otherwise, in French films, and this is no exception. Everything is rather edgy, but played without malice or violent psychosis, which is somewhat of a relief. Personally, I'm not happy with the idea of the pendulum shifting back to old dramatic lesbian psycho clichés.

The dynamic between the two women definitely has erotic tension, each one manipulating the other for their own purposes. While the individual performances are credible, I found the staging of theatrical scenes within the film to be very unsatisfying.

### Just One Time

This is an American effort, more mainstream than not, that somewhat turns the tables on the standard straight male fantasy of having sex with two women at the same time. A Roman Catholic firefighter, engaged to be married to a woman he professes to adore, keeps pleading with her to have sex with another woman while her fiancé watches, then joins in. And there's a time limit on this fantasy: it has to happen before their marriage so they are not breaking any vows of fidelity. Hoo boy.

The bride-to-be is more than reticent about the idea, and decides to make a few terms of her own. She'll fulfill his fantasy if he goes on a date with a gay man – just one time. Caught in the headlights of his own bright idea, her fiancée agrees. However, he drags (no pun intended) his fire hall buddies along for moral support. Well, guess who has the best time? The previously phobic firefighter buddies. Meanwhile, the macho firefighter's bride-to-be is discovering her lesbian neighbor Michelle, the furniture restorer. It's a pale romantic comedy, but a couple of twists are appreciated, and everything is handled respectfully. Some chuckles, a few over

the top portrayals – make it a backup movie choice when the one you really want has been rented.

### Stranger Inside

Cheryl Dunne continues mastering her craft in this very successful film about a young black woman named Treasure, so desperate to be reunited with her mother that she commits a crime in order to be transferred to the same maximum-security prison as her mother. Their reunion does not go smoothly, however, and the "new fish" is left to ponder what the hell she's done to herself. Treasure tries to make alliances without making fatal mistakes or incurring the wrath of sadistic guards, all in an effort to ingratiate herself to her mother Brownie.

Without spoiling the direction in which the story line spirals from there, writer/director Dunne's tale is compelling and often uncomfortable. This prison drama is gritty and real, even though some events are a little too pat, some performances a little too cliché. There are the everyday cruelties and the excessive ones that drive the plot, the inevitable fights over dalliances and deals with crooked prison officials. But Dunne's story explores a new facet of how far a woman will go to be loved.

### Bond

The only real interest this would hold for a lesbian audience is the high eye candy factor of the string quartet it promotes. Four young women, two Brits and two Aussies, were thrown together by a promoter and launched as an electronic string quartet. Oh, they are real musicians, they say, apparently award-winning ones. They have hit singles all over Europe, too. However, you only get a sense of what they can really do when they take a break from the high-tech bow sawing and do an acoustic number that actually requires playing. Save a few notable solos by the individual members, most of the real musical weight is carried by the backing string orchestra.

Although billed as a classical group, these really are pop arrangements, pop presentations and definitely pop sexuality. And frankly, their short, repetitive song forms get boring, which is why you begin to focus on what the young women are wearing, how much skin is showing – you get the idea. This is a flesh for fantasy group created for boys by boys who used the classical angle to infuse a little- well, class into the act.

Their lead fiddler and the violist are especially good when allowed to play. If truth be told, lead violinist Hayley has enough energy to fire the entire group. The cellist, Gay-Lee, is the other sexpot whose gyrations behind an electronic cello form can be more distracting than entertaining.

I'll reserve real judgement until the time I hear that they have lasted more than two years. Until then, the group really needs a good stage director/choreographer.





photo by Linzy Nelson

## Alex Tucker What a Character!

I have always been told, 'Alex your such a character.' I have never been quite sure what that meant, until the other day when I went shopping for a new bank account. I didn't need the kind of fluffy bank account that lets everyone know that you are hording money with the flash of a shiny new gold withdrawal card. I simply wanted to put my money into an envelope and deposit it for a rainy day. The kind of account where my money would do some good. Ah, I know that Coast Capital Savings has that kind of account and they say they care about the little people. As it turns out I am not such a little person after all. Upon entering Coast Capital savings invisible flags went up. As I approached the tellers desk to open my new account she surveyed me for a minute, reviewed my information and with a few strokes of her key pad had me labeled as an awful, decrepit, despicable, derelict, who does not pay student loans. A 'character' in other words.

It would appear that the first thing that Coast Capital does before even getting to know your full name is to run a credit check and so placing you into a small box of ones and zeros (1s and 0s), computer code for not desirable. Should there be a few 'ts' not crossed or the scattered 'i' not dotted, well I felt that they would have me arrested if they could. Lucky for me I was only pegged to be the undesirable sort, 'Character' she stated and therefore not wanted as a member of this community Credit union. I was left with the shocking notion that this woman had just talked to my mother. When I demanded to know how the other 95 % of despicable, derelict characters got their bank accounts, I do know a few, she merely

directed me to the door. I guess they were not in default with Jean Cretian and his band of merry men on capital hill.

All I can say is I am glad that they did not discover why my student loan was in default. How could I have possibly gotten out alive after they found me to be a Transsexual, Lesbian, ex-con Newfie. Oh well, I had to lower myself to cross the road and go up three blocks to the big multi-national bank that thrived on characters like me. Right away they blurted out how they were different, "going to give you a better rate and a higher interest on your hard earned cash" the teller exclaimed. Well that all fine and dandy I thought, but are you going to call me names?

I settled for their fake smiles and greedy paws shoveling my money into a bag to be later deposited under the hundreds of crisp mattresses out back. I walked away knowing this character could finally write a check. Oh wait society doesn't take checks anymore...You really are a 'Character' Alex.

*Alexandria is a native Newfoundlander known for her fun loving nature and strong character. She is a self-defense instructor, author and lover of nature. Good to her friends and kind to animals, what more could you ask for?*

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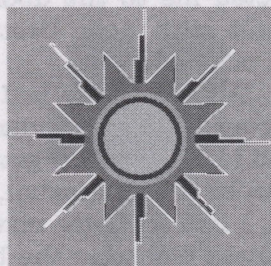
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## Red Ochre

by Gordon M. de Frane



### Hunger of the Imagination: *I Still Believe*

It's our hunger of the imagination that propels us to the moon, to reach for the stars; to welcome into our homes a jolly rounded figure of an elfin like man in a red suit trimmed in white, each 25<sup>th</sup> December.

Kate Belsey an English Professor and academician posits a need to retain the anxiety of the real and not find explanations for everything we encounter in life.

My elders and teachers have taught me that the most difficult journey we could ever make is not to the moon; it is not to colonize some distant light in the night sky. Our most challenging journey they assure me is traversing the gulf between our minds and our hearts. The anxiety of the real for us is to make sure that we do not dwell excessively in our minds, reasoning things out.

A season of light is upon us.

It's our hunger of the imagination that allows us to believe in a mystical being dressed in red serge and trimmed in white sable. It also allows us to say that this happy fellow lives in the far North. It is further said that he is rather fond of children—the occupation of making toys is evidence of that fact. The legends further go on to say that he along with his helpers work 364 days of the year preparing for that one big night on 25 December, since the birth of the last sacrifice.

It's not such a stretch of the imagination for a Salish person to believe in what is otherwise considered not real. I mean after all we have the *stlulte'luquum* (dangerous little beings), the Sasquatch, the Thunderbirds, just to name a few.

For most of my youth my imagination was active in the belief in the Big Guy in Red. No not anyone of the Bishops or Monsignors of the Holy Roman See. I mean Santa of course. I believed because my parents told me that he existed. My brother and I faithfully left cookies, sandwiches and milk for him. We even provided bunches of the freshest carrots for his reindeer, since they were just as important to his annual visit to our house as he was.

And just like magic, every year on Christmas morning my brother and I would wake to discover that the tree groaned under the weight of gifts; the empty plates and glass and carrot tops fortified our belief. However, I think I was 9 or 10 when I had my first unsupervised visit in my parent's bedroom.



It happened not long before the big event was due to happen. That's when my imagination was altered. That's when my anxiety of the real manifested itself.

For those parents out in Victoria land whatever you do, do not hide gifts labeled from Santa under the bed—children's gaze is at that beneath-the-bed-level. We see everything from down there. So be forewarned. If you follow those simple steps you may be able to extend that magical period of belief for your children for an extra year or two at least. Personally, I'm still not sure that I ever got over the revelation that my imagination's hunger had fed where no sustenance was believed to be there.

But while my imagination suffered a blow and my willingness to suspend reality was now sharply curtailed, I still remember an experience that followed my second great epiphany. I had an encounter with the uncanny as Freud is wont to say. To this day, the memories of that anniversary Eve of the birth night still whispers softly over the glowing embers of my imagination.

I had stirred from my pillow and left for a short respite my dreams of sugarplums and chocolates and Japanese Mandarins and such delights. Rather unusually nature had called you see.

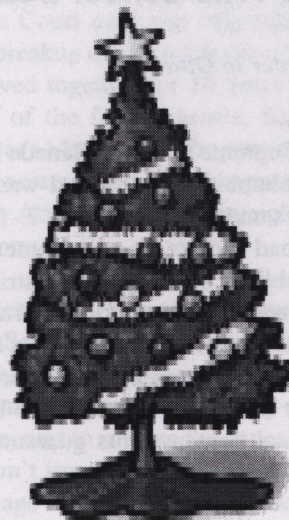
So I crept from my bed. Rubbed the sleep from my eyes and stumbled to the washroom. Anyway, after doing my business I made my way back along the same warm and familiar linoleum path that pointed me to my bed. As I passed through the still passageways of my home, I thought I would give my imagination's hunger one more kick at the can. I took up residence at a safe distance from the tree that stood at the centre of the room. I had reasoned that it was still early and that Canada's proximity and postal code meant that my home would be nearer the end of the list than at the top. I wrapped myself in a blanket, like every good little half-breed boy and waited.

I dozed. Then a sound stirred me from my shallow sleep. I looked at the tree. It was bathed in moonlight that streamed in between the folded Venetian screens. The tinsel and glass ornaments glittered in the eerie light. Then I noticed that the tree itself appeared to glow from within in its branches and even the very needles emanated a soft green light.



Then I noticed an image moving about the tree. It seemed consumed with its efforts and paid no attention to me. I closed my eyes thinking that I was seeing things. I reasoned that I would open them one at a time. First I opened the left one; then I opened the right one. The image remained just out of focus. It was still busy at the tree. In the next instant, its actions came to a halt. It turned and fixed both eyes on me. It smiled. Then raised both hands and was gone in the next glimmer of moonlight.

I've never forgotten that night. It has stayed with me as one of those impossible yet true stories that we often hear about. It continues to create an anxiety of the real for me whenever I attempt a scientific reasoned answer for what I saw. Over the years, I have come to just accept that someone had visited me or something truly marvelous fed my imagination that Christmas Eve. I have since learned that sometimes an answer does not exist and that's okay. I have learned that without the anxiety of the real, people would never dream of going to the moon, never believe in the little people, and would just stop leaving cookies and milk and bunches of carrots every 25 December.



## More Family Photos

**On the left:** Tamara Morgan and daughter London. **Below:** Tim Perry and Sally Calich





## Banning Gay Books Wrong Supreme Court Tells School Board

by Ben Thompson

365Gay.com Newscenter in Ottawa

(Ottawa) The Supreme Court of Canada ruled December 20th that a British Columbia school board was wrong to have banned three books on same-sex parents. In a 7 - 2 ruling the court said that the Board had violated a requirement in provincial legislation that the public school system be strictly secular and non-sectarian. The Surrey BC School Board had argued the books, *Asha's Mums*, and *One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dads*, offended the religions of some parents. The court did not address a second and broader issue over whether the ban violated the Canadian Constitutional human rights guarantees to gays and lesbians.

The ruling means the Surrey board can look at the books a second time and if it finds they do not meet purely academic criteria they could remain off the shelves in schools throughout the district.

The case began in 1997 when teacher James Chamberlain sought board approval to use the three well-known books on children with gay parents in his grade one class. The books initially gained approval when several parents told the board the books were well written. But, when another group of parents objected on the grounds their regions are opposed to homosexuality the Board reversed itself and banned the books from elementary schools throughout the district.

Chamberlain, who is gay, a teacher's group, and others, went to court, arguing the board had no power to ban the books. He also asserted that the book ban violated Canada's Charter of Rights provisions that guarantee equality and bar discrimination against gays and lesbians. Lawyers for the Surrey Board argued that the books were not suitable for five and six-year-olds, and pointed to opposition to their use by parents who oppose homosexuality on religious grounds. A trial judge sided with Chamberlain in 1998; saying public schools must be strictly secular. The BC Court of Appeal reversed the judgment in 2000, saying the books could be banned as classroom learning resources but be made available in the school library.

Gay rights groups praised Friday's Supreme Court decision. "The court today has affirmed the right of children in same-sex parented families to see themselves and their families reflected in the school curriculum," said John Fisher, Egale Canada's Executive Director. "This is an unequivocal victory not only for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Canadians and their families, but for all Canadians, in that it affirms the right of children to a bias-free curriculum that teaches the values of equality, tolerance and respect for diversity that we as a society hold so dear," Fisher said in a statement.



## Local Reaction to Surrey Verdict

*Ignorance is not bliss. The more educated and better enlightened we are, the better we can live our lives and make informed choices.*

~~~Kevin Barnard

*Congratulations queer parents (hopefully). Our children as well as all other children in public school systems need to learn tolerance. Well, by these books being allowed into school libraries and curriculums we are one step closer to teaching all kids some basic ideas of acceptance, tolerance, understanding and anti-phobia. To have not accepted books of this kind, especially for religious reasons, would have simply promoted negativity and prejudice to queer parenting. Diversity needs to be embraced, loved and taught not pushed into the closet and called offensive. It is time for BC and Canada to catch up to other nations and get queer friendly.*

~~~Tamara Morgan (mother of 2 year old London)

*Another case of North America being behind Europe in the teaching of tolerance and acceptance of others. It has been shown that a person's views toward others are ingrained during our early years. We are not born bigoted but taught.*

~~~Keith Brooks

*We have been waiting for this decision for a long time. We need to teach our children very early that all families have value and that all people should be honoured and loved. This is the kind of thing that should be happening all over. Though there is a loop hole that could allow the Board to still ban the books, public opinion is where the real battle will be won. This will make people think and talk about the issue.*

~~~Justine Rogers

*Finally! Now if we can just get the government to distribute condoms in schools and allow same-sex couples to get married then we might actually be on the path for a better future!*

~~~straight person walking by



## Common-Law Ruling Stirs Debate

News Staff

The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled 8-1 that common-law spouses should not be treated like married couples in regard to dividing their property after the relationship ends. The December 19 ruling has opened a countrywide debate on the issue and is raising awareness. Many common-law couples believe that at some point they gain the same rights as married couples said family lawyer Martha McCarthy.

"It's never been true. And it still isn't true following the Supreme Court of Canada decision. So it is an opportunity for some understanding, perhaps some dialogue among couples about what rights and obligations should accrue if they have chosen not to marry," she said.

McCarthy said that the court has slowly assisted in the evolution of our idea of family over the last five or six years. "And so most court watchers have said that we're moving in the direction of the equal recognition of all unmarried relationships, and married relationships," McCarthy said. But while McCarthy saw inroads being made, she said the ruling means that the situation that existed in the past continues to stand.

"But I think the good thing is that there's an opportunity to talk about it and understand, because many unmarried couples believe that at some point they become as if (they are) married," she said. McCarthy said couples should find out what rights and obligations they have if they choose not to marry.

### The battle for same-sex marriage

Overall, the ruling raises rights issues for same-sex couples and could assist their court battle for the right to marry.

"It (the ruling) says marriage is an intensely personal choice, fundamental to our liberty and freedom and so the implication is how could we possibly call it those things and say that gays and lesbians stand outside of normal society, so to speak, and can't marry," McCarthy said.

John Fisher, the executive director of Equal Rights for Gays and Lesbians (EGALE), said he thinks the decision does strengthen the case for same-sex marriage. "It's interesting that in its decision, the court restricted its judgment to heterosexual common-law couples," Fisher told a news conference. "That demonstrates a recognition by the Supreme Court, that same-sex couples, while they may also be common-law, do not have the same rights, the same choices as opposite-sex couples to marry or not.

"We anticipate that the value of choice is one that the court obviously has placed emphasis on and which will therefore influence the parliamentary committee when it hears these issues in the New Year," he said.

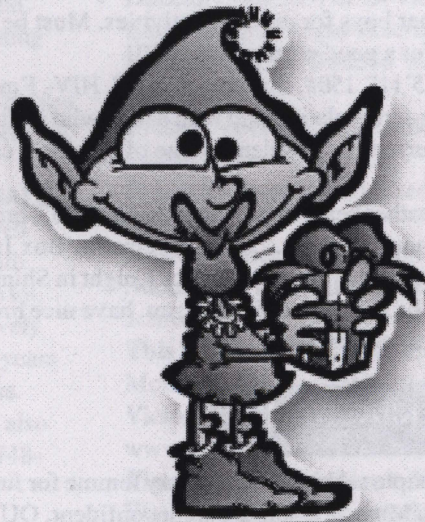
### The common-law debate

The Supreme Court case was originally pressed forward following the 1995 breakup of a Nova Scotia couple. Susan Walsh and Wayne Bona lived together for 10 years and had two sons. Walsh wanted half of the family assets. But like many other provinces, Nova Scotia's Matrimonial Property Act, requires married couples to split their assets 50-50. Walsh argued that Nova Scotia's Matrimonial Property Act breached equality rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Nova Scotia Supreme Court dismissed her argument. However, the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal agreed with Walsh in 2000 when it ruled the section of the act that excludes common-law couples was an unjustifiable breach of equality rights. The province eventually asked the court to reverse the appeal ruling on the basis that governments can't impose marital obligations on those who decide against marriage — opening the way for the Supreme Court of Canada decision.

Walsh and Bona, meanwhile, have agreed to share their assets 50-50.

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# Personals, Puzzles and other Fun Stuff

**Instructions:** Word searches have a theme. The first person to get the theme and send a response to [puzzles@bleedingrose.com](mailto:puzzles@bleedingrose.com) could win a subscription to OutViews.

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I A P A E I P E G O Y E A A A  
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To respond to an ad: mail your response to 101-764 Yates St., drop a response in the mail box at Bleeding Rose or e-mail your reply (with the box number in the subject line) to [personals@bleedingrose.com](mailto:personals@bleedingrose.com). To place an ad: e-mail your ad to [personals@bleedingrose.com](mailto:personals@bleedingrose.com).

## MEN SEEKING MEN

**ATTRACTIVE**, tough and tender leather daddy seeking experienced leather boys for outdoor activities. Must be vibrant males and ready for a good workout! Box 101

**GAY MALE**, 36, 5'11", 150#, slim attractive NS, HIV-. I'm looking for a long-term relationship with a man who is fit, clean shaven and not currently a resident of one of our local care facilities! Box 102

**LOOKING** for leather bears to rub fur with. I am 6'3", brown hair, hazel eyes, moustache. 32, 210# and versatile. Box 103

**TALL**, good-looking guy, 24. Looking for Knight in Shining Armor. You must be handsome, funny, trim, have nice breath and laugh at my jokes. Box 104

## WOMEN SEEKING WOMEN

**POLY** lesbian couple seeking kinky, funny femme for fun, play and maybe more. Must be a self-assured, confident, OUT, switch who is willing to experiment. No games, no drama. NS Box 106

**YOUNG-HEARTED**, fit, chick, 26, seeks older femme. Must be honest, funny and in good head space. Movies, dancing, dinner? No smoking, drugs or drinking. Box 107

## QUEER COMBINATIONS

**TRANSMAN** looking for sex with men. Box 151

**LESBIAN**, 34, looking for others for play and friendship. Maybe more. Box 188

**DYKE BOTTOM** looking for others for support and friendship. male or female, gay or lesbian. Box 189

**POLY** lesbian couple seeking kinky, funny folks for fun, play and maybe more. Single lesbian femme or other lesbian couples welcome. Must be a self-assured, confident and OUT people who are willing to experiment. No games, no drama. NS Box 194

## SEX, FRIENDSHIP and OTHER VARIATIONS

**DYKE** Mid 20's switch looking to play with singles and couples. Not looking to train just to play and play hard. Box 169

**NAUGHTY** school girl seeks experienced femme woman to administer spankings and scolding. Must be willing to train a brat. Box 105

**QUEER** woman with one child seeking sperm donor. Gay/bi man preferred. Co-parent role optional. Box 169

**WANTED:** Thea Gill for casual meetings involving coffee, tartan ties and knee high socks \*panties optional Box 108



# What's Going On?

Web Page <http://outviews.ca>

**ALL notices are \$15 first 25 words and .50/word thereafter. Call 385-3099.**

**Deadline the first of the month prior to publication. Email April [bleedingrose@telus.net](mailto:bleedingrose@telus.net)**

**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT:** Male couple seeks other gay/lesbian couples, caregivers and survivors in greater Victoria for support for Alzheimer's and other dementias. For info, call Ken at (250) 744-3850 or e-mail [bassobear@shaw.ca](mailto:bassobear@shaw.ca)

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

**FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH:** 5575 West Saanich Road, welcomes all to worship together in an atmosphere of inclusiveness, acceptance, and respect on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Services of Union and other services supporting LGBT life in community are part of our Unitarian tradition. Phone 744-2665 for further information.

**INTERESTED?:** in forming a support group for lesbians who have a brain injury or have had to deal with a brain tumor. Partners welcome! For more information please call Brenda Vallillee: 479-9602, mornings or leave a message if no answer. Or email [brenster@sprint.ca](mailto:brenster@sprint.ca).

**GETAWAY TO PORT RENFREW:** Explore Botanical Beach, mile long Crescent Beach, hike the West Coast/ Juan de Fuca Trails, swim in Fairy Lake, or lay by the woodstove and puruse our little library from this quaint, ocean view paradise. Equipped, three bedroom bungalow rented by the night - low rates: 388-0754

**VICTOR WIEBE B.Ed:** Counselling, Spritual Guidance 250-381-3127

**FOR SALE:** 2 hair stylist sinks with all plumbing, good condition. \$300 obo for the pair. Will seperate if need be. 385-3099

**NOW HIRING:** advertising sales people for Out Views. Good commission rate and excellent working environment! Call 883-3099 and leave message for more info.

**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 & visibility projects. For more info call (250) 537-7773 or e-mail [caffyn@saltspring.com](mailto:caffyn@saltspring.com).

**DREAMING THE NEW SACRED PLACE©:** Dream Analysis, Consulting, Study Programs, Apprenticeships, Shamanic Dreamwork, with a Jungian framework. Dreamwork offers opportunities for spiritual growth, healing, release of old patterns, birthing new ones. Accesses personal Sacred Images and Allies for wisdom and life direction. Claire Turcotte, Keeper of the Dream, Reiki Master, Shamanic Practitioner, Crone. 595-0088.

**SPIKES VOLLEYBALL:** meets Wednesdays, Lansdowne Jr. Secondary Sch 8:30pm

**HAVE YOUR YOGA INSTRUCTOR?** Certified Hatha Yoga instructor (chakra system) Available for individuals and small groups. 29yrs. experience. Sliding scale. Eva 384-7701

**DINNER CLUB:** Monthly potluck dinners to meet new women and get to meet old friends. Call 383-2131

**COTTAGE NEAR THE SEA FOR SALE IN PORT RENFREW** - \$114,500: Well maintained three bedroom home, with water and mountain views, on large lot, one house from the beach. Collectively owned and casually operated for 5 years as a nightly rental/getaway business. Annual 50% revenue increase. Can also facilitate group purchase. Duncan: 748-1579 Victoria: 385-3064

**BODY ELECTRIC:** Man to Man massage. Relax. Come to your senses. Integrative bodywork by certified masseur. 595-2098

## SERVICES, ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS

**AVI:** 384-2366, 1601 Blanchard St.

**Bleeding Rose Books & Afterdark:** 101/102-764 Yates St. 385-3099. Mon-Sat 10 to 7, Sun 12-5 <http://www.bleedingrose.com>  
**Blue Star Consignment:** 3416 Quadra St., 477-0055

**Dyke Dimensions Radio:** CFUV Mondays, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. FM 104.3 Cable FM 101.9

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

**FTM (etc)** Peer-run drop-in is the First Saturday of every month at AVI, 304-733 Johnson St. Transgender Resource Line at 413-3220.

**Lesbian Seniors Care Society Victoria:** 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

**Peabody's:** Gift & Art, 633 Courtenay St., 383-3459

**Pink Pages:** Community Resource Directory Box 5231 St. B, Victoria V8R 6N4 Email [pinkpage@gayvictoria.com](mailto:pinkpage@gayvictoria.com)

**P-Flag:** Duncan 709-2353 Victoria 385-9462

**Prime Timers Victoria:** email [victoria@lasvegasnv.net](mailto:victoria@lasvegasnv.net)

**Prism Lounge:** Broad Street at Johnson 388-0505

**Rosie's Diner** 615 Johnson St.

**Steam Works:** Health Club for Men 582 Johnson St. 383-6623

**This Way Out:** CFUV 10:00 to 1:30 p.m. Mondays 101.9 or Cable 104.3

**Victoria Pride Society:** 385-3099 [www.victoriapride.com](http://www.victoriapride.com)

**Victoria's Rainbow News:** 598-6490

**Women's Creative Network:** [www.victoria.tc.ca/community/wcn](http://www.victoria.tc.ca/community/wcn)

**Women's Outdoors Club:** 474-8159 email [Kanaice\\_sls@telus.net](mailto:Kanaice_sls@telus.net) Sherry Norie [s.norie@shaw.ca](mailto:s.norie@shaw.ca)



# Happy Holidays from the Bleeding Rose

*'Your One Stop Queer Shop'*

Mon-Sat 9am-8pm, Now Open Sundays 9am-6pm

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