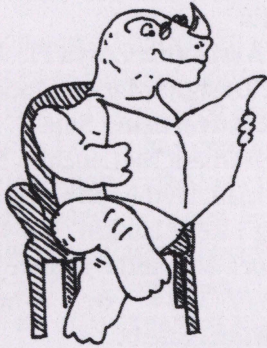


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LAVENDER RHINOCEROS

Victoria's Premiere Lesbian & Gay Magazine
Volume One Number Seven
August 1999, \$3.00



— What's Inside —

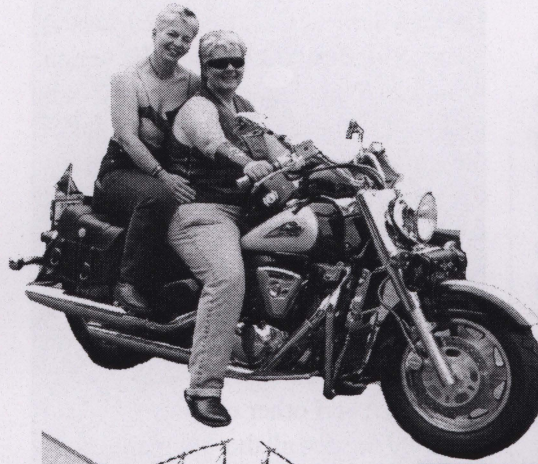
Opinions Fly Again!
Erik Ages takes on
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Pride Stories Galore

**Business of Art
And the Art of
Business**

**What's On Live for
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Inside...Peek!**



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Pride photos by Linda Wreggitt, Jennie Holden, Tim McLellan and Marion Stoodley



There's far too much reporting in this issue from your co-editor/publisher. As I lay on my couch the Friday before the parade, I realised that something has to change here. Michael has a full-time job. Rhino life is a full-time job. Reporters, men and women, are you out there? If you have some writing skills and the interest, the pay is nothing, the rewards are what you make them, and the people you get to meet are wonderful.

All that aside it was a grand Pride Week. The tiny Pride Board deserves our gratitude and I do hope enough of you out there are bored enough to want to join the Society and get un-bored and on board.

It does surprise me that the Society would suggest that without them the parade might not happen without them. After all there were at least three parades before the Pride Society got involved. It is also amazing to me that so much energy is put into saying what's wrong with our volunteer driven organisations.

I am also concerned that we are getting over-organised. There are more demands now on the larger community to buy advertising in our programs, sponsor events, underwrite events than ever before. There are too many societies putting on too many fund-raisers. The G-Spot is a big player here. In order to maintain a tiny space, which seems to be supported by an ever-growing few,

it continues to bring in events from out of town that it houses in venues other than the Spot.

Look how many societies there are: Lesbian Seniors Care Society, Musaic, Island Rainbow, Pink Umbrella which produces Pink Pages, Lesbian Community Connections which produces the Rhino, The Pride Society, Women's Creative Network which is G-Spot and a subsidiary production house, Victoria Youth Pride Society. We are a population at best of an out 3,500. (I don't buy the 10 percent figure—I work on one per cent and those whom I see at the parade and other events.

On the surface all these organisations look great. "What a hustling, bustling community Victoria is!" we might say. However, I note that we are also in danger of, if we are not already, fragmenting. Each of these societies operates independently of the other. We are becoming a series of little "communities" in danger of becoming little empires. We have a conflict of production dates, far too many fund-raisers, and far too little fun. Two fund-raisers late this 'season' were a complete bust.

I think we need two things: an umbrella group made up of representatives of each society who meet regularly to plan and co-ordinate activities and set cut-off dates, and a realistic sense of what the "community" can handle. And, I think we need a big winter carnival like Pride which is a fund-raiser pot for all or any of the societies involved to draw upon in times of need. Or, let's use the funds to build a community centre. Maybe we could create an endowment fund. We need to involve someone like Tanya Anderson. Think about it.

Barbara McLaughlin

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

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

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

Lavender Rhino sells individually for \$3.00 per issue at Bolen Books and Munro's, in Courtenay at Headquarters Grocery and in Vancouver at Little Sister's Books. A subscription is \$25 per year. Cheques are payable to LNews. Mailing address is PO Box 5339, Stn B, Victoria, BC V8R 6S4

the business of *Art*

By Barbara McLaughlin

Having an art gallery in your home, or at least as part of it, adds a new twist to the idea of home-based business. Artist Gloro Lovett has created a small, versatile gallery in the lower portion of her large Medana Street home. From here she conducts her business.

It's art; it's business. Those two words are often regarded as an oxymoron in the arts community.

According to Gloro the purpose of art is to expose it. She is exposing what she creates. "I am marketing myself in a way. I get to be able to sell and promote myself through this gallery."

Well, the gallery may have the purpose of exposing her work, but many women artists have been hung in the pristine space and sold well, too. That's Gloro's marketing and business skill. She has generated enthusiasm for the space and created a gallery that moves beyond the structural confines. Outside, the garden is a work of art. Flowers sprawl amid bits of green and settle comfortably in pots surrounding a wooden patio, with benches, swing and steps for sitting and chatting. From the gallery office window one can look out to more flowers. Even the watering can is a study in colour—sunshine and heat.

Gloro has found her market in her neighbourhood, which is hugely supportive. Naturally, the space is filled with lesbians/women and always there are men. She sends out 500 invita-



Heather Lynn Brown photo

tions—some from her data base, some from other artists.

She does have a business background. Gloro used to run a bed and breakfast out of her house, and in Toronto, she had a construction business. She employs a part-time administrator who is chiefly responsible for locating artists and staff and volunteers for openings.

"There's never a shortage of people for openings," Gloro tells me as we tour the gallery. "At least 80 per cent of sales are from opening nights."

The use of all space is important to Gloro. For this reason she usually likes to mix hanging work with sculpture and/or crafts like drums, or jewellery or pottery.

The upcoming show features Karen Wallace and her basketry, which Gloro asserts verges on sculpture. "I was astounded! Karen's work is so strong. It's quite amazing.

"I like to mix sculpture with my shows. It means I can use floor and wall space. Sculpture is an art form that doesn't sell, necessarily, but it gives life to the paintings and lends a natural environment to the art."

Similarly Gloro sees her garden as sculpture which lends itself to the exploration of art—sculpture inside, sculpture outside.

"It's part of the social aspect of being here," she adds, as we check out the garden.



There are practical reasons for having her gallery in her home: it reduces costs, saves on overhead. The space is conducive to a gallery which operates like Open Space was always meant to—art moving out of confines and into the open. And, Artinside gives her an opportunity to expose the art of women, which might not make it to the downtown galleries—new artists, and artists of repute who simply like the ambience and purpose Gloro has created.

Emotionally, is it satisfying? Well, "I get nervous just showing my own stuff.

Art is a spiritual lift. When I spend a day in a gallery or museum I feel closer to the spirit. Spirit as essence of me. It celebrates the spirit. There's energy like
(Cont'd page 4)

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The Business of Art (Cont'd)

what I'm talking about at openings. It's exciting and it means that the spirit is coming through."

More on the purpose of art: "It gives us our cultural heritage, it expresses us as a tribute to the spirit. We are always connected, always. I think. I paint because it's my focus on the world. I have no choice, either. I have to paint. It has to come out. The older I get, the less attached I am to the fashion of art. I'm not influenced by what is in style; not influenced by anyone but my own spirit. It's a beautiful place to be."

Work on the walls currently represents the present. Gloro reminds us we are so focussed on the millenium that we are losing 1999. She uses a feather in one mixed media collage to represent transition. "Time, deed, thought, action can blow away on you," she avers. A copper bracelet in the background is representative of healing. "My arthritis was bothering me when I painted this and I didn't want to stop."

Gloro uses pears in her work as representative of the female form. She uses reds and yellows because she likes warm colours. "They touch my soul."

If you haven't been to Artinside Gallery at 140 Medana Street, guys and gals, maybe it's time you checked it out. There's everything happening in and around you there.

Always.

PRIDE Week Opening at Legislature



Jim Scammell Photo

Honourable Penny Priddy, MLA Tim Stevenson and Royal Consort Prince Albert look on as Heather White presents flowers to Queen Victoria.



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Belfry Launches Summer Fun!

Here's a sure way to cure the summer, if it ever gets here, blues and blahs.

The Belfry presents All Grown Up, a 60s girl-group musical put together by Leslie Mildner and the gals in the show.

"It will be a lot of fun," promises Belfry's Marc Dusseault. "Quite a scream!"

Featured in the show are Ellen Kennedy, Bonnie Panych and Lori Valleau. All Grown Up previews August 7 and opens August 12, running to August 28. Call The Belfry for tickets, \$15 to \$25, at 385-6815.

Retreat Secrets Revealed

Via Jannit Rabinovitch

The Women's Creative Network Society held its annual board retreat on June 5 this year. We're happy to report that the Network and the G-Spot are continuing to carry on. We discussed where we're at now, what's working, what we're going to do differently, and what we need from the community. Our current situation is that we do seem to scrape by every month financially, but just barely. Yes, we are a non-profit, but we only manage to keep the rent paid by putting on one big special event every month. We need more members. Enough new ones or renewals to at least cover the monthly rent, about 10-15 a month.

Our special events are all well-attended and much appreciated by the community. They cover quite a range—readings, the annual strip show, drag king shows, fabulous art and photography exhibits, keg parties, dances, a film festival, and concerts. Some of our regular events, Coffee Talk and Sappho's Salon, have a loyal following and have carved out an important spot for themselves in the hearts of our members.

In September, we're going to try to add several new monthly events to our menu: a coffee house with local talent, a forum on issues important to the com-

munity, documentary film night with local films and film makers, and an astrological birthday party. Also in the works are a cappuccino machine and better dance music.

This year we want to be more responsive to our members. To that end, we will have an open half-hour at the end of every board meeting, from 6:30 – 7:00 the first and third Thursday of each month starting in September. We want to put more energy into encouraging local talent of all kinds, finding new and more volunteers, getting even more people out to our events, and finding sponsorships.

Someday we hope to move to a wheelchair-accessible space, provide a funded counseling and support programme, hire a paid co-ordinator, offer regular office hours and the use of a computer. We'd also love to have a big-screen TV with those pay TV stations that have lots of gay/lesbian programming, a small retail outlet for local crafts and gay merchandise, and become a regular gallery for art shows.

If you have any questions or want to join, please call or come on down. We're at 1910 Store Street. Check out our website at <http://victoria.tc.ca/Community/WCN/>, call 382-SPOT (7768), or e-mail us at wcn-spot@yahoo.com.



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Melaney At The Movies

By Melaney Black

It's In the Water is an entertaining farce parodying homophobia and classism in small Southern towns. The local charity sorority decides Hope House, an extended-care facility, will be the recipient of their beneficence - that is, until they realise Hope House is full of AIDS patients. On the other side of town, an obviously gay man attends his daily Happy Heterosexual meeting.

Meanwhile, the local raging queen starts no end of trouble at a party when he announces, drunk, that he's gay because of something in the local water. Bottled water sales soar. And finally, a young sorority sister risks expulsion by not only continuing to visit Hope House, but also forming an association with a doctor there who is known to be a lesbian.

Stereotypes abound and everybody gets either their due or their just desserts in this amusing flick, much of which is predictable but well-executed. The unexpected twists add to the giggles and a couple of over-the-top performances give this light farce a little body. Watch for the sanctimonious leader of the 12-step clone. Now at Pic-A-Flic or order from Videomatica.

Some Prefer Cake taps a different vein for its comedy. I found it less than satisfying, but maybe I'm just getting old. It's the story of a young comic whose jokes are making her sister famous in the biz, but which don't work for the hungry comic. On her quest for sex, self and success, she encounters an eclectic group of characters and lovers who run the gamut from outré to obsessed. The overall perspective is youthful, the milieu urban and the angst plentiful.

A minor difficulty for me with the movie is that stand-up just doesn't play well in a movie because it's so scripted and self-conscious. But there are plenty of athletic hardbodies, passion and social surrealism to keep a viewer's interest.

This isn't so much a review as a commentary. For those who missed *After Stonewall: From the riots to the Millennium*, broadcast June 19 on KCTS, it was one of the best documentaries on American gay and lesbian history I have seen. Its focus was political, as were most of the interview subjects—either political writers, lobbyists or American politicians.

The usual quibble, however, is that Canada was poorly represented. I think we were mentioned once in the first March on Washington, as in "people came from as far away as Canada." Regardless, the documentary was informative, intelligent and well done. I'd recommend it for anyone.

Annual Queer Film and Video Festival

If you are planning on being in the big city, this is the big time August 5 to 15 for the 11th Annual filmfest.

Riding high on the smash success of last year's festival, Out On Screen and festival producer Video In Studios are at their audacious best. Last year the program sold out, so it's going to be even bigger and better this year with 36 programs including 11 feature-length films and more than 160 shorts from countries around the world.

Festival highlights include a journey which will take you Queer Across Canada with a series of shorts from BC to Atlantic Canada. There's an inspired lineup, they tell us, of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered works which is guaranteed to entertain, enlighten, shock, provoke, captivate and titillate.

Venues include the Pacific Cinematheque, Van East Cinema Robson Square, Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, The Blinding Light and Video In Studios.

Advance tickets and festival passes will be available at Little Sisters Book and Art Emporium, 1238 Davie Street, East End Book Company, 1470 Commercial Drive, and the Virgin Megastore. Festival hotline is (604) 688-WEST ext.2014.



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John O'Brien
Interactive Strategies, Inc.

John worked managing people and information for 18 years in the public and non-profit sectors before launching his own business as a consultant in knowledge resource development, the art and science of uniting people, information and vision.

Well qualified, John now specializes in assisting government, private companies and individuals to better understand and use the systems that work for—or against—their effectiveness.

"I help people achieve what they didn't think they could. Often there are systems in place that actually work against the goals and operational efficiency of the work environment."

John's work is to examine the situation and align the vision and values of the organization with the knowledge resources, staff and information, which make up communication, decision making and cultural systems, which naturally develop among groups of people.

John studied broadly at UVic before achieving Certified Records Manager status in 1989 and a Masters of Leadership and Training from Royal Roads University this year.

What makes John passionate about his work?

"I am excited by partnering with people to solve problems, helping them discover that they can see their world in new ways."

John's clients are diverse. "Government or private sector organizations draw as much upon my 'hard skills' like project management, facilitation, and knowledge of Freedom of In-

formation and protection of Privacy legislation as upon the 'soft' skills.

Working with individuals I find I act as more of a coach, a personal advisor."

Like so many people today, John wants to be close to his family, he has a daughter, Devon, and starting ISI means the freedom to choose how and when he works, so he works from home.

Good support is essential for a home-based business. "My partner Rob and my daughter have been extremely supportive since the start. I am privileged to have friends, colleagues and clients that love wrestling with ideas—that makes work fun!"

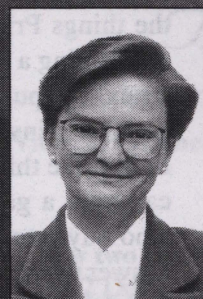
What do you bring to your business personally, I asked John. "I'm a quick learner, I grasp concepts easily, and truly enjoy working with my clients in a partnership style. And I like to give more than people expect."

And how do you promote your business? John participates in several associations. He sits on two boards, is on eight internet lists, teaches periodically at Camosun College and speaks nationally and internationally. John advertises in the Pink Pages Community Resource Directory and the Lavender Rhinoceros as part of his support of our community.

John O'Brien of Interactive Strategies, Inc. can be reached at 388-7791 or at isi@crosswinds.net or on the web at <http://www.crosswinds.net/~isi>.

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The Subject is *Yours* – The Opinion



Heather Lynn Brown photo

Ed note: Following the Queen's proclamation at the 'Lege' there was a flutter of opinion on Island Rainbow's List. I thought it good stuff and am sharing it with you here. Long Live Diversity!

Dear Editor

I'm going to commit community hara-kiri by declaring my impatience with the media launch of Victoria's gay pride week staged by "Queen Victoria" and "Prince Albert" at the BC legislature.

I know that anyone who makes an effort can make himself or herself a spokesperson in our quaint capital, particularly when no one else steps up to the plate. And I know that public gender-fuck has venerable roots in

Stonewall (and Renaissance Europe, and classical Greece, and debauched aristocracies since time began...and, well, probably everywhere else).

But the Mel Lastmans of this world have been around forever, too. When an affable Mayor Lastman broke away from the crowds at the Toronto pride parade to frankly suggest that public nudity made "gay people look crazy," I could feel 30 million Canadians nodding quiet agreement. Including me.

Carnavalesque activism may be visionary, but it can look precious in

broad daylight—if not on Yonge Street amid hundreds of thousands, then certainly in Victoria among an adoring crowd of ten. Back in the days when it shocked, I voted for it hands down. But today, it emphasizes our community's reputation for unrestricted narcissism, for living on vanity instead of paying the bills. Or in Lastman's language for being ridiculous.

The queen and her consort didn't remove their clothing for the cameras.

But they wore the stuff I thought we looked tired in years ago, and I resent it.

Erik Ages

Just when one thought we were making progress, when things are getting better for us, comments like these serve to remind us how far we have yet to go. Sadly, inevitably, they come from within our own community, from those who ought to know better! Every year it seems, the same thing—censure from those who are embarrassed or discomfited, or offended, or otherwise mollified by any displays of flamboyance or outrageousness associated with Pride activities. And always the objections are justified by an appeal to political expediency. Let's all tone it down for the sake of social progress! What will the neighbours think?

Really, Mr. Ages, listen to yourself. Read what you've written. Nudity, drag, "antics", "carnavalesque" behaviour, infection, drunkenness, blisses of the ghetto! Are these the gay/lesbian associations uppermost in your mind? Do you really imagine these are the things Pride is about? Oh, there's no denying a significant portion of the straight population still thinks so, and some will invariably isolate and highlight these things to vilify us, but how can you, a gay man, pander to those who buy into this strategy? Is that the answer to acceptance—conformity? Is that the price you are asking us to pay? Well, it's too high for me.

You ask, is "this kind of behaviour, these attempts to surprise, shock or amuse...really productive any more in terms of queer activism, and our strategies to raise the benchmarks of tolerance and civility?" Damn rights it is! Haven't you learned anything from the liberation movements of this closing century, from our own history? It wasn't a "quiet revolution," sir, no polite walk in the park with tea and cookies. We didn't get here by being nice. It was a knock down, drag out (pun intended), bloody fight! It often still is. And who were the warriors, the shock troops of that fight? Who were in the front lines laying down their lives for our community while the rest of us cowered in our closets? Those outrageous, flamboyant, in-your-face, drag queens and bull dykes, those "freaks on the public stage," that's who! Those men and women are heroes and heroines. They deserve medals, not approbation. They deserve our pride. They don't deserve to be denied or abandoned.

The events here and around the world at this time of the year are not solely for the benefit of political demonstration aimed at mainstream society, they are a celebration of ourselves, by ourselves. It's our party, a commemoration of where we have been, how far we have come, and yes, how far we have yet to go. We rejoice in who we are, part of which (not ALL of which) is about outrageousness, and flamboyance, and nonconformity—those are things that we have to teach mainstream society, gifts we have to offer the world. It is about pride, not propriety. It is about respect, not respectability. It is about freedom, the freedom to be oneself however one defines that self. Tolerance has no value when it is offered only to those with whom you agree, and of whom you approve. We do not have to seek approval—we should, however, demand acceptance.

You suggest the key to our future, to
(Cont'd page 9)

Pages For The Community

satisfying life choices, as you put it, is ultimately in the approval of the Mel Lastmans of this world? What an appalling conjecture! We've fought too long and too hard to take back that key into our own hands—we'd all be damned, deservedly so, if we slipped back now into the time when we acquiesced in our own oppression, when our lives were governed by the perverse desire to seek approval from those who belittle and wrong us.

And if you can't get any of that, then for God's sake, Erik, lighten up! Don't be such a toffee nosed dowager. To hell with what the neighbours think. In the immortal words of the Divine Miss M, "fuck 'em if they can't take a joke!"

Joe and Barb—we love you and we're proud of you. Don't you ever doubt that.

Jeremy Davison

Hey Eric

Joe, as our wonderful Queen, et al were performing, it was fun, funny and enjoyable for most everyone present from the tourists, who asked to have their pictures taken with our Queen, to the politicians who stood beside him. Most people with any sense and a sense of humour recognized it for the performance it was and just enjoyed it.

It was the kick off for pride week and just as every day we don't parade down government street with placards and loud music, it was not meant to be "representative". It was meant to be showy. I can see a civil suit is probably in the



Victoria Gay Pride parade 1999

Marion Stoodley photo

works by the society for the imaginatively challenged for the fact that no accommodation was made for them.

As to the choice of drag and gender fuck what could be more appropriate. We cannot, I suppose, lay claim to the invention of this, but we have certainly perfected it and claimed it as our own. We cannot throw out or ignore those aspects of queer culture that seem to have become less important. To do so would be risk losing any sense of our history and the reasons good and bad that lead to the historical significance of things like drag and gender fuck.

In what way does drag or gender fuck emphasise our community's reputation

for "unrestricted narcissism, for living on vanity instead of paying the bills"? Drag at its best and gender fuck in particular is an expression of independence and a call for tolerance. They challenge societies mores and preconception and for those willing to try allow us to take a look at social constructs like "gender" and evaluate our society's acceptance of difference for its own sake. Now drag can get old and it can get tired but so can apologist nice gay men who do not see the suicide in the whole notion of buying "tolerance" with the notion that we are "just like everyone else." Implicit in that statement is the idea that someone can be too different. Now we may be able for a period of time, to move the line so that we are on the "inside" but only to live in fear that some day someone will decide to move it back. And make no mistake in the long view of history the line will get moved back. So there is little point in siding with the Mel Lastman's of the world.

I see no point in censoring pride parades to make them more palatable to Joe Shmoe on the street. Do I think that Joe's performance at the ledge will change the world or even Victoria. No. I make more headway in that regard with my boyfriend and public displays of affection, taking dance classes with him at the Y and being an unapologetic big ol' fag! But, as a kick off to a week where we are to celebrate our diversity, our heritage and our pride it was one hell of a show. Thanks Joe, Barbara, Lawrence and all.

Scott Wilson

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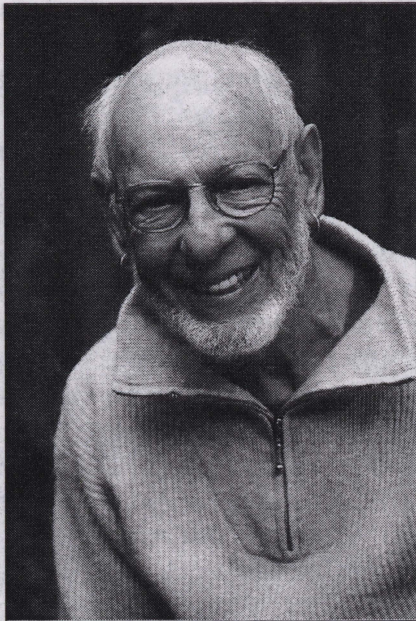
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Heather Lynn Brown photo

Best Wishes

Still looking, acting and feeling fitter than most, Grant Sullivan celebrated 75 years quietly at a dessert party with special friends. The party was organised by his long-time partner, Charles. Keep on looking good, Grant. We love you.

Time to Fringe

It's the 13th annual Fringe Festival from August 26 to September 6. This year performers come from as far away as South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, the UK and coast-to-coast in Canada. Some favourites include Sensible Footwear, the Weird Sisters, and Saucy Sirens.

Venues are all located around Pandora Avenue: Wood Hall and the Gym at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, the Downtown Activity Centre, the Royal Canadian Legion on Broad Street and Silver Threads. A sixth venue is being sought, organisers write.

The Fringe Club is at the Legion on Broad Street. You need your VISA button to get in.

Fringe Info Tent opens August 24 at the View St. entrance to the Victoria Eaton Centre from noon to 8 p.m. The tent is open for advance tickets, the Craig, a daily review publication, and last-minute schedule updates. Tickets are \$8 or less.

The Pass The Hat stage, a grand spot last year, runs on the lower causeway August 26-29 and September 2-6.

There's a totally free, Fringekids weekend in Market Square from noon to 4 p.m. Sat and Sun, August 28 and 29.

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Misty Takes Over the Tiara

By Barbara McLaughlin

It was Tulle Time!

Anybody who's anybody knows by now Misty Meadows is Miss Gay Vancouver Island for 1999-2000. She was chosen from among four gorgeous queens at BJ's during Pride Week.

It could have been her gowns, but more likely it was her sweet nature and her rollicking high-stepping strut, grind, and lip-synch to *If They Could See Me Now* from the musical *Sweet Charity*.

The first Miss Gay Vancouver Island, Virginia Slim, showed up in her Ungaro from Paris—a two-piece with slit and tiny little matching sash cum belt. "Ungaro is one of the world's most famous designers," Virginia told me. Her shoes, the other end of the tiara-adorned queen, were open-toed, white, Prada stilettos. Also known as David Penrice, this charming Virginia acted as fabric guide for me during the show.

One cannot avoid last year's Miss Gay Vancouver Island, the lovely Rita One More Time, a.k.a. David Hardwicke. What a gorgeous tribute to age and queens everywhere, Rita is. She showed up the picture of grace and dignity in her hostess gown of bright red poppies lying on a field of navy blue chiffon. Her splendid cleavage was a tribute to rhinestone accessories.

Misty first appeared in a black velvet, floor-length gown with peacock-feather beading at the bodice, and a deep vee back.

Gina Smirnoff wore cranberry organza over black velvet, and removed the organza before answering one of the prepared questions.

Best-dressed contestant as far as I was concerned was Irma La Douche, whom, I understand, makes her own clothes, as does Rita. And can she wear them! She arrived in white tulle



Linda Wreggitt photo

with iridescent silver glitter appliqué.

Nunni totally impressed me with her belly dancing. Wow! I've seen belly dancers. I've taken belly-dancing lessons. Nunni was inspired! Her harem pants hardly moved, her motions underneath were so fluid. Sigh!

The answers to questions asked impressed me with how much in tune these queens are with themselves and their roles as drag queens. Misty told us drag is part of who she is. Gina regrets nothing and wouldn't change a darn thing about her; Irma added that queens are noted for their bitchiness and bitterness, and she recognises that some find the idea nega-

tive. She works to change community attitude toward drag—and, of course, to preserve some of the stereotype.

At the end of it all, Rita One More Time presented Jackson Meyers, chair of Persons With Aids Society, with a cheque for \$3,526.80 she personally raised as reigning Miss Gay Vancouver Island. Misty, you've got big shoes to fill.

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Sound Bites from a *Queerly Incorrect* Panel

By Barbara McLaughlin

Ask a certain panellist to define a certain word and, even a moderator as out and about as Marc Mertens blushes and redefines—the word, that is. In response to the question, how do you define “sex”, the first responder replied quickly, “Any kind of touching that has connections with my cunt.”

“Er, I see,” replied Marc, turning gaily pink, “anything that’s extremely intimate with the ‘hoo-hoo’”. And from that moment on, ‘hoo-hoo’ was the operative word. I forgot to ask Marc how it’s spelled.

The silliness right at the beginning set the tone for a romp through a delightful evening of talking that could probably have gone on all night.

The event organised by AIDS Vancouver Island, at Herald Street Centre for the Arts, and called *Queerly Incorrect*, was billed as a coffee-table discussion on sex, love and relationships.

A set of Bauhaus style chairs in solid green, blue, grey, olive, peach, lavender and leopard (guess where Marc sat) were positioned around the requisite coffee table. Panellists were Jannit Rabinovitch, older lesbian; Giles Baxter, 21, gay; Jordanna Duffy, 16-year old lesbian; Jason, bi, who volunteered from the audience; volunteer Christine from Nova Scotia, older transsexual bi; and Richard O’Connor, 62, gay, partnered for 35 years. Now that’s almost diversity. We were missing men or women of colour or handicapped.

Diverse opinions there were. Skilfully manoeuvring his panellists around the trickier stuff, Marc led the gang through such hot-button topics as butch, femme, relationships and the word love, and what is monogamy anyway?

When someone suggested a top can be on the bottom or a bottom can be on

the top, Marc quipped, “could you draw that for me later?”

Butch/Femme and Feminine

Do femmes exist without butches? There seems, according to the panel, a large range of genders and way too many labels, especially in lesbian community. It was sort of agreed that butch was at one end of the gender continuum and something that causes the other person (a femme?) to behave in certain ways. This comment was debated from

Butch, femme, top, bottom, love, self-esteem, non-monogamy and “hoo-hoos”, the six panelists of the Queerly Incorrect panel left no stone uncovered.

the floor as the butch speaking couldn’t imagine that she was the ‘cause’ of someone identifying as femme. It was more or less accepted that to the majority the femme/butch thing relates to who some of us choose to be with.

Quickly it was noted that feminine for men is bad. Femme also is not highly valued by cultural inheritance (from the straight community) so naturally, femme for men is by definition ‘bad’. Men have had a harder time in the continuum. Gay men want to be accepted by the straight community but they can’t have “friendships” in the same context as women have.

“It has to start in schools,” another panelist noted. Society asks that all persons fit the norm and put down people who don’t fit. “Diversity needs to start in schools. Fear stopped me from fully expressing who I am and kept me from being happy. It means a lot to me to be who I am now.”

Now for Love

On the topic of love things got a bit more heated. It’s a word that philosophers plunk into the category ‘metaphysics’ and call it abstruse or difficult to understand. Not this bunch, however.

“My partner has all of my respect and concentration. It’s chemistry. It’s attraction, and sex is an extension of love,” was one strong statement. Another said: “The critical part is sexual feeling. I love myself first. I look forward to loving someone else and, don’t define love for the individual.” “Love is love, period,” said another.

“How do you know if someone loves you back?” “They tell you,” was the response. And this comment: “I’ll never

love anyone as much as I love my daughter. Too much focus is placed on a partner. I feel like a failure if we break up.”

Now into monogamy and non-monogamy, roared the noble six. This statement from a lesbian: “The latter (non-monogamy) is looked down upon. So you don’t see or talk to each other for six weeks, so what? There’s too much stress and pressure in monogamy. A few people will last more than 20 years. Long-term and open don’t compute. Why is the objective one person?”

“Gays wanting to be accepting are opting into the straight ideal. Gay marriage is about two individuals going in the same direction. Can you love only one person? Can you run out of love?”

“Our world operates under the feeling of scarcity. There’s not enough of everything. We’ve let ourselves buy into this idea of: a selflessness in love; we need the ability to receive love; we aren’t supposed to like the way we look, external genitalia don’t match, I don’t like myself, I didn’t like what I see in the mirror. We’re told we’re not okay. There’s no orifice, no thing that we can’t buy a product to fix it. Keeping our self-esteem in a certain place is

Queerly Incorrect (cont'd)

what marketing is all about.”

“Self-esteem issues are complicated,” said one. “I learned to love myself. I asked myself, ‘how do I want to be loved?’”

“Respect, honesty, love, communication are essential components of love in relationship,” said another.

From the floor we heard that at different places in our lives we want different things. “It is important to listen to where ‘they’ are at. We need a loving community and acceptance of ourselves at all ages and of all genders.” Back to the panel. “We spend a lot of money on therapy. Some personal issues are obstacles. We have big trust issues, some of us, we need to learn what our triggers are, find what our roadblocks are and be able to be in ‘not trigger’ mode, but engage in a conversation about it.”

“Trust, for example, is this about me ending, or why do I change everything

into same old problems. Finally, I can at least recognise the triggers and talk if I talk about them in a different way.”

The idea that “One person cannot satisfy everything,” was quickly rebutted: “Yes, they can. I put a lot of work into it, [relationship] self-nurture means taking care of self.”

“There are way too many labels, especially in lesbian community. There’s a large range of genders. We need to celebrate and honour whatever works for you in community.

“It took me many years to love myself and identify. I don’t have a muscular body. I have a woman’s legs. I love me inside, but I had to learn. Until I learned to love myself I couldn’t return love.”

“Others want to get over the monogamy thing and the ‘family value’ thing. If we could just be who we are: long-term, short-term.”

“We are redefining masculinity and

femininity. Being transsexual is not who I am. It’s part of people describing what I’m going through. The problem is with society, not with me. Not with the person.” Agreement from panel member: “Labelling people butch/femme, people trying to grasp concepts causes lot of trouble with people in general. Sad we can’t just accept a person. Fear is generated when we don’t fit in.”

Trust seemed to be a big issue. “It can be scary, but we can find a way to move forward and get passed past hurts and bad treatments. Love comes when we can be vulnerable. The key is to be in the present and trust what’s going on. We have to trust ourselves first, trust our intuition.”

A panelist noted there’s more homophobia in gay community than in the straight. “We have to stop blaming others for what’s going on in our own community. Take a good look at it.”

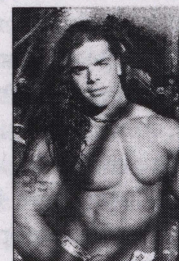
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**Dr. Misty
Watson**

Your mattress plays an important role in the quality of sleep you have. Too hard or too firm a mattress with insufficient support can wreak havoc with a body which is already overworked. A pillow which does not give sufficient head and neck support can increase muscle tension and even aggravate headaches (waking with neck pain and/or headaches is a sure sign that your pillow is not the right one for you).

When looking for a mattress (or when evaluating your current mattress), there are four things to look for: appearance, size, comfort and support. The mattress surface should look and feel plush, and the tailoring and fabric should be of good quality. Sloppy stitching or cheap fabric can significantly reduce the life of your mattress.

The size of your mattress is a major detail to consider. When in doubt, opt for the bigger size. This will give you more room to move and will allow you to turn more easily during the night without waking. If you sleep with a partner you will need at least a queen size.

Support is the most important detail

of your mattress to evaluate. You want to look for a mattress that has extra support in areas where most of the body's weight rests, usually in the centre third of the mattress. If there is insufficient support in this area, the spine will sag and you will be more likely to develop back pain because of the stress on your muscles and ligaments. An important component of support for a traditional mattress is the coil count in the inner spring system. The more coils there are, and the greater their thickness, the better the quality of the mattress. The larger your mattress is, the higher the coil count should be.

Firmness of the mattress is important. Spend at least 15 to 20 minutes resting on it in the store (they are used to this, and won't think you are taking a nap) to ensure it is right for you. Err on the side of the mattress being a little too firm so you don't get stuck with a soft mattress which does not offer enough support.

The foundation, or box-spring is an often-overlooked part of mattress purchase. The foundation acts as a shock absorber, preventing the wear and tear which occurs with continuous use. You want to purchase a mattress and foundation together in order to extend the life of your sleep investment.

When you buy a used mattress, the same rules apply. You want to pay attention to the quality of the material, and you especially need to ensure that you have spent at least 15 to 20 minutes lying on it to ensure that there is enough support for you. Saving a few dollars on an old and soggy used mattress can cause some major problems, and you can often purchase a very good quality futon or compressed-foam mattress for only a little more money. Futon mattresses have come a long way in quality and comfort, and compressed-foam mattresses are also an excellent choice. Use the same criteria in evalu-

ating which mattress is best for you.

When you purchase a pillow, it is important to ensure there is sufficient support for your head and neck. Ideally, your neck should be parallel to the surface of the mattress when you are sleeping. Spending tons of money on a pillow does not necessarily mean it will be right for you. This is especially true of the expensive orthopedic pillows sold at some specialty stores. The rolls in these pillows are designed for an average-sized and shaped human, and most of us do not fall into that category. Some stores will allow returns on pillows as long as they are still in the original packaging, but make sure you ask at the time of purchase. Above all, keep trying until you find a pillow which works well for you. And once you do find one, buy an extra because pillows do need to be replaced every couple of years.

Sleep well!

Dr. Misty Watson is a Chiropractor in practice on the Saanich Peninsula



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AVI Acclaims New Board

By Barbara McLaughlin

The most colourful moment at the Annual General Meeting for AIDS Vancouver Island was the appearance of its executive director. Ruthann Tucker scorned her basic black and dazzled us with a bright orange shirt. When we got accustomed to the light we listened to lengthy reports and learned of a variety of successes.

David Swan was elected Chair by acclamation, as were five new directors for the 1999-2000 years. The new board now consists of nine elected members instead of a previous 13. The bylaws were changed at the meeting for the society June 26 at James Bay Community Centre. Serving with the new and formally elected chair is Michael Scott Curnes, Ron Hollingshead, Nicole Sawka, Carolyn Showler and Trish McOrmond.

Trish cited the need to develop a strong community presence for AVI as "HIV/AIDS becomes less visible in mainstream media."

According to financial statements AIDS Vancouver Island operates with grants totalling \$1,274,711.

Membership fees are down. Attendance at the meeting was half of what was expected—there were 60 chairs for 30 bods. Attendance seemed to be down at the walk last year, it was noted during a discussion period.

AIDS organisations across the country are experiencing the 'downturn' Ruthann responded.

All in all it was a pretty regular, pretty typical meeting. Discussion from the floor pointed out that the AIDS Walk is run by AVI and funds raised would be distributed on a percentage basis to the other Aids Service Organizations.

Awesome Conference for Queer Youth

By Storm

(An outreach Services Youth)

Check Your Booty, held recently at UVic, was a holistic health conference for Queer Youth (gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered and questioning) and their supporters. Youth from all over BC came together to learn new and interesting "stuff" and make new friends—while having a good time, of course.

During the conference, positivity and laughter constantly surrounded us as we attended the workshops and met new people. Workshops offered ranged from drugs and alcohol to self-defense, from AIDS/HIV to the dating game, issues of concern to queer youth. But what really caught my attention was the youth platform.

At the youth platform, youth brainstormed ideas on how we would like the community as a whole to treat us. Two of our demands are the right to publicly display affection for our same-sex partners and not be judged by others, and the right to express thoughts and emotions that differ from our heterosexual peers. The recommendations are being prepared and sent throughout BC to community organisations, government offices, and citizens to inform them how we feel and ask them to make reforms.

We also attended an awesome dance and BBQ where we hung out, talked and had a great time. One of the coolest ideas I saw was when somebody taped posters on the walls, each poster headed by a youth's name. With felt pens in hand we walked around and wrote comments on the posters — narly!

I have to say this was an experience of a lifetime. I hope it happens again next year with more sponsoring organizations. Check Your Booty changed my life and I think other peoples' as well. I can't wait until the next one.

Youth Honours Rhamona

From John Trueman

Rhamona Vos-Browning, General Coordinator of Youthquest! Lesbian and Gay Youth Society of British Columbia, a longtime partner of the Victoria Youth Pride Society, has been awarded Xtra West's "Humanitarian of the Year Award."

For more than five years, Rhamona has worked tirelessly for the betterment of queer youth in BC. His legacy can be seen in the Youthquest! network of nine gay and lesbian drop-ins in the lower mainland and Vancouver Island, queer youth representation on major government committees, and continued funding for queer youth organizations in the lower mainland.

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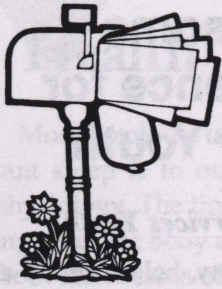
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Letters to the Editors

Having just read Michael Yoder's comments in the July Rhino, I must admit to being somewhat befuddled. What exactly are you trying to say, Michael?

It's obvious you like your penis; but why such infatuation with your genitalia if, as you also say, "this has less to do with plumbing and more to do with wiring?" And if it's the wiring that counts, do you really believe you would lose your sexuality if, for whatever reason, your penis were amputated or permanently paralyzed?

Are you still living in a black-and-white world where there are only "real" men and "real" women? Where we differentiate between the two on the basis of their genitalia? What about the really queer people whose wiring not only doesn't fit their personal plumbing, but also doesn't fit the other version either? The comment "both kinds of plumbing" implies there are only two choices; the word both usually refers to a set of two. Did you know that inter-sexed people sometimes have plumbing which is simultaneously both, sometimes neither?

And on the subject of wiring, do you really think there are only two types?

Have you read any of Kate Bornstein's work, or Leslie Feinberg's? When someone says they can't identify with being on one side of the bi-polar gender boundary, do you assume that they must support this black-and-white system and mean they want to be on the opposite side? Might they mean that while others identify them as "man" or "woman" on the basis of their plumbing and other physical packaging, they do not subscribe to the either/or system of cataloging?

As far as the alleged apologists go, there is growing recognition of the harm done to us all through thousands of years of patriarchy. Patriarchy has been, essentially, the rule of "men" over everything they could control, including "women." Of course this does not mean that every single "man" is personally responsible; "every" is one of those words which is rarely true, along with "always," "ever," and "never." Patriarchy is a function of black-and-white thinking. If you want to build bridges, build a bridge to a better world where there are more colours than just black and white. And where anyone with the same plumbing as you is not necessarily saddled with the same label. Remember, it's supposed to be the person inside who counts.

Zorya Plaskin

Canadian Party of Women

By Betty Krawczyk

Do women's organizations, such as the Canadian Party of Women, need to formally recognize the spiritual dimension in the task of bringing forth a new, women-led vision of the world, and if so, just what form would such a spiritual recognition take?


Joy Kirstin, in her talk to CPOW entitled *All You've Ever Wanted to Know About Witchcraft But Were Afraid to Ask*, presented possible alternatives to the hierarchical, highly structured types of meeting which are the norm in the patriarchal world. She also discussed ways in which women might come together in a more open, relaxed, and even prayerful setting.

Discussions centered on how we might unify politics, social activism, and the search for the spiritual. It was a wonderful meeting. Joy, you were an inspiration to us all and we thank you. CPOW meetings are held on the last Friday of every month at 7:30. For more info, call Betty at 382-6378.

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What a Difference a Territory Makes

By Barbara McLaughlin

It must have been culture shock for Karen Muirhead as she listened to the reports for AIDS Vancouver Island. Karen, guest speaker at the AVI AGM, heads the West Kootenay and Boundary AIDS Network, Outreach and Support Society better known as ANKORS.

Her region covers 24,000 square miles, about the size of Vancouver Island, her budget is minimal, her staff is four, and the problems facing her staff don't equate to life in the big city.

For instance, in small communities, anonymity is of paramount importance. The area is pretty right wing and conservative. Therefore, many HIV/AIDS afflicted seek treatment outside their own communities. As well, providing services in this region, Karen told us, often means extensive travel for staff and volunteers who have had to connect within 16 separate and unique communities. Confidentiality is an issue and concern equating with travel and safety for the rural workers. "As ANKORS workers we are well known – having a coffee with one of the staff can out an individual by rumour and innuendo."

ANKORS programming is based on the principles of client-driven service. Work involves an intricate circle of development of HIV/AIDS-aware communities by building and

maintaining real, effective partnerships with persons living with HIV or AIDS, their family and care partners, community leaders (political and social) and other community members.

It can be touchy work. Karen explained that "as AIDS service providers, educators, support persons and prevention workers we must acknowledge and honour the existing net-

works in each community which we provide service to. We are responsible to introduce ourselves to these established networks and find a way to do our work without taking over or appearing to do so.

"The information and services that we have to offer from our outreach and support programs to needle exchange program-

ming needs to be woven into the community and into their established networks. Services are not accepted, if as outsiders, we announce our expertise and parachute into these communities 'bringing the word'".

The tools are needs assessment, facilitation abilities, and resources. The end goal is to ensure the communities all are able to provide services for their community members, and that these services are safe, relevant and need-specific.

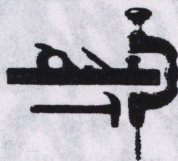
For specialised care and treatment individuals in the region must travel to larger urban centres. This can take 12-14 hours on a bus, seven to nine hours by car. And to fly, you need to travel to Castlegar and hope that the plane can get out. Worse, accompaniment, lodging, and support are often not available to individuals once they leave their home community.

On an optimistic note, Karen said "services for PLWHIV/AIDS have improved. Although there continues to be more room for growth, there is a commitment in our region, from our communities, to enhance our existing programs and to provide the best care that we can."

“As ANKORS workers we are well known – having a coffee with one of the staff can out an individual by rumour and innuendo.”

Karen Muirhead: On providing HIV/AIDS services in the West Kootenay/Boundary

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What's A Word's Worth?

By Maddy Aramis

**The Healing Journey for Couples:
Your Journal of Mutual Discovery**
Phil Rich, EdD, MSW and Stuart A. Copans, MD
John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1998, \$23.95

Looking for something to do during the dog days of summer? How about a little intense interpersonal growth and bonding with your partner? If this sounds like an adventure you can't resist, pick up a copy of *The Healing Journey for Couples: Your Journal of Mutual Discovery*.

This workbook offers a mechanism by which couples can "get to know one another better, work through life experiences together, and develop healthy relationship skills." You can do the exercises in any order, though the organization of chapters seems to follow a logical progression.

Starting with setting some ground rules together, the workbook moves on to explore family histories, your perceptions of your partner (and your partner's perceptions of you), and your respective communication and conflict-resolution styles. Exercises toward the end of the book focus on enhancing intimacy within the relationship.

Using a format whereby both partners take turns writing answers to questions, filling out checklists and then discussing responses to the exercises, the book encourages open conversations on a wide range of issues.

Not for the emotionally squeamish, the questions cover lots of intimate and potentially sensitive territory. For couples looking to grow, explore and bond (or, to nail down the exact reasons why they are incompatible and should break up ASAP), *The Healing Journey for Couples* looks like a challenging but fun way to spend some quality time together.

**To Sappho, My Sister:
Lesbian Sisters Write About their Lives**
Lee Fleming, Editor
Gynergy Books, 1995, \$16.95

I love stories of real women, their emotions, their families and their relationships. In *To Sappho, My Sister*, I found lots to satisfy my morbid curiosity about how other women live their lives, get along with each other (or not), and how lesbians forge connections within their families (both those of origin and alliances chosen later).

This collection of writings explores the special bond shared by sisters whom happen to be lesbians. As you might imagine, no two sets of stories are alike.

From the delightful rollicking romp of the three busty Perreault sisters as they shop for sexy lingerie at Marshall Field's, to the sometimes tense and difficult relationship of dyke icon Alex Dobkin and her sister, Julie, these stories cover a lot of territory.

These women speak frankly of jealousy, love, competition, support, encouragement and concern. These are sisters of all shapes and sizes from Canada, the USA, Australia, Germany and Sweden. Entertaining and provocative, *To Sappho* is a moving read that speaks both to blood bonds and those we create and nurture by choice.

I would have liked more photos (and better quality reproductions for those that were included), but this is a minor complaint given the overall strength of the writing.

(Cont'd page 19)

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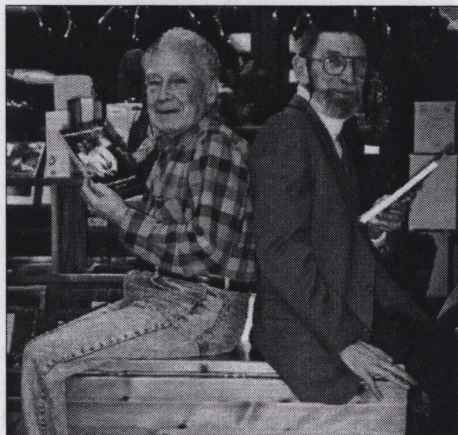
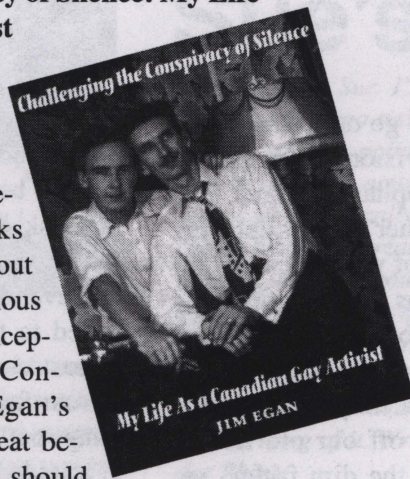
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Challenging the Conspiracy of Silence: My Life as a Canadian Gay Activist

Jim Egan

The Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives, 1998

I don't generally like to re-view badly written books (with so many great books out there, why give up the precious space?), but I'll make an exception for *Challenging the Conspiracy of Silence*. Jim Egan's book should have been great because it tells a story which should be part of our collective Canadian gay consciousness. After all, Jim Egan and his long-time partner, Jack Nesbitt, used the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to challenge the "discriminatory exclusion of pension benefits to same-sex couples under the Old Age Security Act." They are folk heroes, of a sort, and folk heroes are supposed to make good story material.



Jim Egan, right, and partner Jack Nesbitt at a Comox book signing.

Marion Stoodley photo

Long before their joint battle (and way before such activity became de rigeur), Egan was busily working away as a gay activist in Toronto.

Starting in 1949 and continuing into the 1960's, Egan was one of Canada's first vocal gay activists. He tirelessly penned letters, articles and editorials in an attempt to educate the public about the realities of homosexual life.

To make this book a truly compelling read, however, Egan's work needed some serious editorial help to shape a strong narrative line. Instead, the book is a somewhat rambling, inexplicably boring text. The archival material (photos, copies of vintage Egan letters and articles) and the introductory and concluding comments by Don McLeod don't exactly save the book, but certainly keep it from being a complete disaster.

Having said all that, this little volume belongs on the shelves of patriotic members of this country's gay community. Certainly, Jim Egan deserves more than a moment in our thoughts and definitely more than a passing 'thank you.'

Snippets:

Watch out for these recently released titles:

To Believe in Women: What Lesbians Have Done for America, a History

Lillian Faderman John Radziewicz (Editor)
Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999

"A comprehensive and convincing history of how lesbian women in the late 19th and 20th centuries pioneered social reform and feminist movements of their time."

The Ins and Outs of Gay Sex: A Medical Handbook for Men

Stephen E. Goldstone
Dell Publishing, 1999

Based on rave reviews submitted by readers to the Barnes and Noble web site, this book sounds like a winner. Informative, practical, comprehensive, and accessible, *The Ins and Outs* is billed as the *Our Bodies, Our Selves* for gay men.

Don't forget, support your local independent bookstores. Order your copies of these titles through Bolen Books or Munro's, or Little Sisters if you are in Vancouver.

At the End of A Rainbow

By Jennifer Bigelow

At the end of a rainbow
I was born to be free
I struggled and struggled
But was trapped within me.

At the end of the rainbow
I long to be free
But first I must search
To find the real me.

Confusion, bewilderment
Was all I could see.
Why is this happening
Only to me?

I've searched the world over
I've found the "real" me
At the end of the rainbow
At last I am free.

Jennifer is a member of our transsexual community.

The Bakerwench BBQs

Marcia Hicks

Well, I don't know about you, but all this heat just makes me want to spark up the Barbie. I can see all you dykes now, shifting uncomfortably in your arm chairs as you remember setting fire to those dolls that every adult member of your family insisted on giving you as a girl, even though you asked repeatedly for a race car. Actually, I'm speaking of another toy altogether, one which people of all persuasions enjoy, and that is the barbecue. Alas, has there ever been a summer without some form of outdoor cooking? Be it a camp fire at the beach or a solstice bash, some hot coals and a bit of suitable food are all you need for a little barbecuing bliss.

But wait, barbecuing is not just a summer sport! Here's a story that will convert you to a 'any day-is-a-good-day-to-barbecue' person. Picture it—it's the blizzard of '96. It's Christmas

Eve and the lights go out. The power is down, no television, no radio, no music, and—no appliances! Egad, how will we make dinner? After debating over the options, of which peanut butter sandwiches was one, my girlfriend and I decided our best bet was the barbecue. We trudged out onto the patio, shovelled a path (luckily it wasn't that far) and brushed off our old friend. Looking through the dim fridge, we collected some veggies, a couple of Portobello mushroom caps and Kaiser buns and threw them onto the sizzling grill. We cracked a bottle of homemade wine, lit some candles, and voila we had ourselves a meal that we shall never forget.

So what about the here and now? All I can say is, if you have a barbecue, don't limit yourself to burgers, steaks, hotdogs and Heinz barbecue sauce. Try

grilling an assortment of veggies, meats or seafood on a skewer (wooden ones need to be pre-soaked). Corn, still in the husk, is also a great barbecue item. It also should be submerged in water for several minutes before being introduced to the flame. The marinade is almost certainly the most important flavour factor. I usually grab whatever jumps out at me from the pantry, mix it in a lidded jar with some vinegar and oil and either soak my bits for grilling in it, as in spongy foods like vegetables, or brush it on after. Brushing the foods with the marinade is always a good idea to counteract the drying effect of the barbecue and also to introduce yummy flavours. The best thing to do is to just use your imagination. Whatever you fancy, chances are you can make it on the barbecue. Anyone have a good recipe for grilled ice cream?

Grilled Pizza (serves 2)

Marinade:

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup wine or balsamic vinegar
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- 3 tbsp. mixed fresh herbs (1 tbsp. dried)

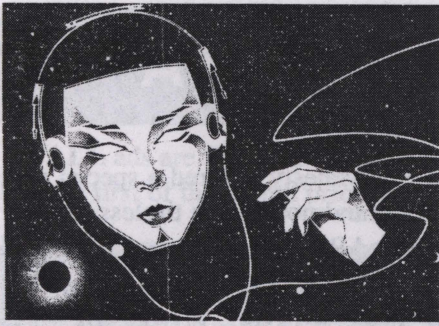
Pizza:

- 6 wooden skewers, soaked in water
- 1 Recipe of regular pizza dough
- 2 medium zucchinis
- 1/2 small red onion
- 10 medium sized mushrooms
- 4 bell peppers, of varying colours
- 8 small shrimp or slices of pepperoni
- 1/4 cup tomato paste
- 1 tsp. crushed dried herbs (oregano and basil are good)
- 1 cup grated melting cheese, like mozzarella or cheddar.
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese

Combine all marinade ingredients in a jar and shake vigorously. Slice zucchini lengthways into 3 or 4 slices, about .75cm. thick. Place in container for marinating. Slice the half onion in half, and separate the rings. Add rings of onion and mushrooms to the zucchini and pour over prepared marinade. Let sit, turning occasionally for 1-2 hours. Meanwhile, grill peppers directly on barbecue, turning as each side starts to turn black. When finished, remove and place in a paper bag. Let steam for 5 minutes and remove to cool. When cool to touch, peel off

blackened skin. Remove veggies from marinade, place zucchini slices on hot grill. Skewer mushrooms, onions and shrimp and place on barbecue. Cook veggies, basting and turning until nicely brown. Roll out pizza dough and put on a sheet of oiled aluminium foil. Grill until firm, then remove to the kitchen. Brush with oil or marinade and flip over onto cookie sheet. Spread on the tomato paste and sprinkle with herbs. Chop veggies into bite-sized pieces. Top the pizza shell with vegetables and meats and then cheeses. Press down on the pizza to prevent bits falling into the barbecue. Transfer carefully onto the grill, and with the dial set to its lowest setting, grill for about 8 minutes, until all ingredients are hot (if you can wait that long!).

Any questions or suggestions? Email me at bakerwench@hotmail.com



AUGUST 1999

Aries: You may be restricted from being as flamboyant as you'd like socially, due to 'resources.' Watch telling yourself to acquire said 'resources.' What you say and do appear to be two different things. This month indicates the following: Catch a social disease! Accidents from trying too darn hard. Frustration—then, you'll realise to bet on 'sure' bets. Stop worrying about nothing, watch for bad temptations. The second half of the month will be on a more day-to-day basis. Seems you haven't got the point across fully. You will get some of your 'want' though.

Taurus: In the first couple of weeks, a storm brews on the home front with partners, which can seriously affect your career. In the second two weeks you'll feel a lot more alive—just the debris to sort through. Then walk, run, jump, fly away. You're giving it your best. Two loves working here, one old one new. You'll have to be ruthless in deals to win. Around the 16th is an opportune moment to put things right. You'll have enough of people interfering in your life. It is your life.

Gemini: Action has reaction. Something you should be aware of this month. Regular trips may be prone to mishaps and some desires may be crushed—your month can be a bit of a yo-yo, so, hold on tight and you'll soon get the rules. By the end of the month you'll be feeling like a lucky little Gemini to the point of being cocky. Seems you'll have most of your happier times at home. Plus, you are due for exciting messages and visits. Are you the seducer my mother warned me about? Or is it seduction you seek. Lucky prey!

Cancer: Poaching can pay off. But, be prepared for rejection too. Sex, flings, affairs, partnerships and other variants are thrown into your life, but beware of breakage and loss of property. Fun on the scene is great, just check out travel plans.

Sue's Sun Signs

My name is Sue. I'm 40, English, Taurus sun and Virgo rising. Your natal chart is your starting point, so as time passes planets move on, activating stages of your life; if you drastically move so does your chart. When you read the sun signs, flit through them all; you may find that other signs fit certain parts of you simply because you have either progressed there, or it relates to your ascendancy—you have a strong activation in that sign. You'll soon get the hang of it. Write to me c/o Lavender Rhino.

Don't you think you can afford it? Stop worrying; there is a way. No deceiving yourself now, but boy does it feel Great! Getting all butch or femme? Whichever it is, it'll be to an extreme, so put your creative energy to good use. Just watch over-indulgence or you'll pickle your liver.

Leo: An extremely busy personal life for you this month. Career opportunities abound though you can be your own worst enemy by holding back. Get on with it. Be you. Roar. You're in for financial and material gains. You're in demand. Keeping up with it all can drain you, so don't get those claws out just because it interferes with your relations. It's a battle for results, but results you get. You've got to energise yourself. So, no worrying or cop-out reasoning. You're the boss of your own domain.

Virgo: Sometimes you can be a behind-the-scenes pain in the arse. This is one of them. You'll gain by being up front and not from bitching. Watch the aggressive driving, too, as losing your licence can muck everything up. You'll have fun and entertainment at the beginning of the month, and you'll be in mountaintop mode the rest. You'll throw all your worries off on the 18th. You'll be a Doer. You'll procure your Desiree.

Libra: Social activity and love affairs for you—read your opposite sign Aries to mirror the atmosphere. You can enjoy all the fruits if you play your cards right. Showing a little of your backbone goes a long way. Take care how far you take experimentation—there's nothing wrong with a little restraint. Speak nicely now

to manoeuvre the fish. Sexual fun and favours in private are fun. Maybe even a nice juicy windfall.

Sagittarius: It's hard work attaining your desires, but any baggage you're carrying has started to dissolve. Beware bottling stress. At the start of the month, ensure you plant some seeds for the future and life's little surprises. You'll need to use your natural talents for the challenge of life. There are parts of life where joint effort is needed so accept help, accept your limits, boundless as they may seem. Pay attention to your vehicles. There's good things coming your way, especially the first week and the 28th/29th.

Capricorn: Your social calendar is demanding, but it enables you to show what you are made of—and progress you will. This reflects on your personal relationships, a nice boost indeed, which is truly appreciated. A nice holiday, camping, or trekking. Watch for slippery rocks. Keep an eye on the fire. Popularity is yours. So, if you're single, you're in for some fun, fun, fun. Planning is good, but some "off the cuff" stuff is exciting!

Aquarius: Obtaining contentment at home induces comfort and fun. New furniture, décor. Financing is needed. Check fine print on forms. Wheeling and dealing, partnerships. Beware of becoming super bossy, but be a Doer. Enthuse, by all means, and keep your cool. Your good intentions may not be recognised, but eventually you'll advance yourself with a new understanding of how things tick. Well, you did try to warn people and by the month's end you show that you meant every word of it.

Pisces: Travel and new deals, new love. For the fulfilment of these your routine must be changed. People aren't mind readers, so hurry up and realise that. The effort you're making to satisfy your ambitious nature may go unnoticed by most. There's a lot of 'wanna be' here that's healthy, so if you 'wanna be' six foot tall when you're only five foot, get stilts. Don't get sly, it doesn't become you and will be spotted, or you may find that it's you who stands in the poo.



Little Lezzie Flashes

What a Pride Week this was! My dears, I am still toasting in the delights and roasting in the peripheral fatigues. **Les Chan** was able to donate \$250 to Persons With AIDS Society as a result of his Chinatown Tour. We had a grand bunch out for the parade. The entertainment at the wharf was outstanding and homegrown!! If I remember nothing else at the drag baseball game, it was watching **Irma La Douche** being carried off second base perfectly poised with hand waving... **Lawrence Aronovitch**, MLA **Tim Stevenson** and Health Minister **Penny Priddy** joined the Queen and consort for official Pride Week proclamation...The party that evening in the Debeck lounge afforded Albert the opportunity to explain the pink triangle to Labour Minister **Dale Lovick**. He was astounded to learn further that when the allies freed the Jews from the concentration camps, the homosexuals were re-arrested to continue serving their sentences. We have come a long way, babies... On a lighter note, dressing with the queen and the adorable **Kate Boylan** usually has its moments. This time Herself raised her skirts and said: "Pull my tulle, will you Kate?" Until Albert's mind flashed to material things...Tourists and locals sure seem to enjoy the queen. Albert was, however, a bit miffed when in full drag and walking ahead of Joe Carlson, still in civvies, and Kate, a Victorian commented Oh, how delightful, it must be Pride Week. Without missing a beat, Joe replied, "thank you." Albert hit him with her umbrella. Albert was later honored to receive a gift during the parade. **Heather White**, a.k.a. Dorothy and

presenter of flowers to Her Majesty, offered a special card and gift to Albert via her grandmother, the tireless **Audrey Scammell**, member of Island Rainbow...**Rowan Percy** had this to say, in part, to departing Musica conductor, **Ian Riddell**. "You are embarking on a time in your life when everything starts anew. I know for myself now how this can be very healing. You can relax more, take what you need for yourself after the years of giving so much of yourself to your choirs, your students and to music. I hope your joy of music and your passion will always help you fulfill your ambitions and dreams." Ian's party, chaired by **Karey Perks**, was a grand success and a fine tribute to a man who has offered a lot, to his community, to his spiritual centre, to his school students. And, shucks, just spending time with Ian was good for me...Pride week was a special time for making new friends. **David Hardwicke**, and **Richard O'Connor** have to be the sweetest guys. Then there were **Sunny, Robert, Doug**, the Royal Hotel's **Angus** was over from Vancouver, as were Xtra West's **Gareth Kirkby** and **Brandon Matheson** who brought the indomitable **Carrelin Brooks** (much cuter than her photo in the paper) and left after giving away all their copies. Gareth looked over at me and the Rhino table and said, "We're leaving now." The Lez quipped, "Sure, if you're going to give it away!"

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

COMMUNITY NOTES & HAPPENINGS

Here's a Place to Put Your Community Spirit if you are not already involved. The Pride Society is holding an extraordinary general meeting Wed. August 11th at 7pm at Aids Vancouver Island boardroom. Depending on the number and commitment of the people who attend this meeting, the society will decide if there will continue to be a Victoria Pride Society, or any Pride events next year. Most of the present Board is leaving after this year, so your presence at this meeting is crucial to the continuance of this important event for our community.

THE OUTDOORS CLUB: In Parksville: July 24-25 Day trip or camping. Includes mini-golf and tour of Parksville, walk to Qualicum Falls, etc. Call Victoria outdoors Club for details.

GOLF TOURNAMENT and BBQ: Sat. 2 p.m. August 7 at Juan de Fuca course. First 30 to sign up will be playing scramble rules. BBQ later at Kanaice's house. Cost \$10 per person. Rental of clubs \$5 at the golf course. Register by July 12. Kanaice 474-8159; Nora 478-3565 or Sherry (250) 743-9765. More info at G-Spot. Women's Outdoors Club.

HORSEBACK RIDING: August 15 at Spring View Stables. Trail Ride for \$30 for 90 minutes. Let Sherry know by August 3 so she can book horses.

CPOW: The Canadian party of Women meets last Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Call Betty, 382-6378 or e-mail Jannit_jrabino@ampsc.com

WOMEN'S AIKIDO in Vancouver: Sundays 11 a.m. to 12:30. On-going sessions resume September at Trout Lake Community Centre in Vancouver, 3,350 Victoria Drive, near Broadway Skytrain. Drop-in \$16. For information (604) 739-4233.

WKWA In Kootenays: is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Kootenay Women's Festival, August 6-8 near Nelson. Live Dance Band, Workshops, Music & literary Salon. Info: 250 352-9916 or wkwomyn@netidea.com

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

WITCH CAMP in Vancouver: July 25-August 1, 1999 Reg. BCWC Box 21510, 1850 Commercial Dr. Vancouver, BC V5N 4A0

FOURTH ANNUAL BiNET BC conference on bisexuality, gender and sexual diversity August 27-29 at Roundhouse Community Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews (Davie and Pacific) in Vancouver. Events include art auction, workshops, dance and films and barbecue. Looks great. Conference sliding scale but recommended prices \$35 to \$45 depending on days. Early registration for all events \$35 before Aug 6. At Little Sisters and (604)875-6336 or binetbc@hotmail.com

PERSONAL

RUNNING GROUP: For gays and lesbians to run. Gar Fisher @ 658-1613. All levels.

TENNIS FOR GUYS: Call David 388-0393 or Jim at 382-2970

(Ads cont'd next page)

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This Way Out Radio: CFUV 101.9 FM Mondays 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Queerly Canadian: CFUV Radio 8:30-9:00 p.m. 101.9 or 104.3 cable

AA for GLBs etc: Front Runners Group meets Tuesdays 383-7744

AIDS VANCOUVER ISLAND: 384-2366, 304-733 Johnson St. V8W 3C7

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

Camosun College Lesbian Collective. Alternate weeks. 370-3484

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

Karaoke Night: With Stacey at BJs Mondays 9 p.m.

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

Outdoors Club: Sherry: norie@bc.sympatico.ca or tel. (250)812-5751 Also Kanaice e-mail Kanaice_Scott@bc.sympatico.ca

Pink Umbrella, Pink Pages: New Address Box 5231 St. B, Victoria V8R 1H0

P-Flag: Information, 642-5171.

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

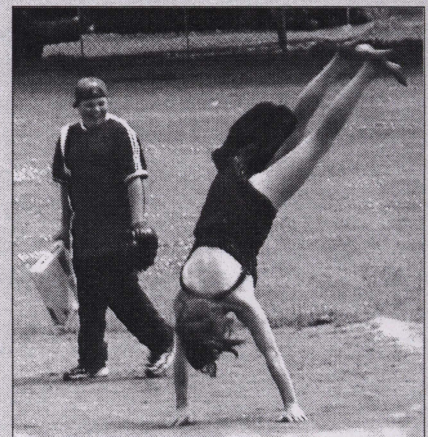
VYPS: Victoria Youth Pride Society (14-25) 472-4393 vyps@write.me.com

Holding Third

Geena Smirnoff at the ready



Canada Day Dragball



Crowd Pleaser

Nat giggles as Irma La Douche cartwheels onto base

Photos by Linda Wreggitt

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