

# LAVENDER RHINOCEROS

Victoria's Premiere Lesbian & Gay Magazine

Volume Two Number Seven

August, 2000 \$3.00



## Celebrating Our Pride

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Remembering  
Pride 2000

The Proclamations

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...And More



▲ Photos by Kevin Doyle, more inside— pages 10 & 11

## We're here – listen

"We need to learn to listen to those we don't agree with, and think about how to get along with those who aren't like us."



**Barbara  
McLauchlin**

Those words spoken by Josh Goldberg at the 2<sup>nd</sup>, I hope annual, *Queerly Incorrect* forum on us by us and about us, reflect exactly what I have been saying

lately. We are so emotionally involved in trying to invent ourselves and maintain what we have invented, it is hard when those "inventions" of ours are not respected and maintained the way we like/want them to be.

Therefore, the need to listen gains in importance for us. Why? Because we are getting what some very vocal people want—acceptance, tolerance, choice, rights which equal those of our heterosexual counterparts. Some of us are afraid of change; some of us are still angry; some of us are in what the movement for women oft called women's liberation, "outrage." That's the place where we go to emotionally when we realize maybe we've been had by the system. It is hard to be "had" by the system when the system doesn't even know you're there. But, being invisible doesn't mean we aren't being had.

Pride is about letting people know we are here, in all ways, in all our days, in our outrageousness, in our dignity, in our playfulness, in our gowns and busi-

ness suits, on our motorcycles, in our high heels, in our sneakers, tops up, tops down, topless, happy, cheerful, hopeful, progressive, proud, out and loud. When people (in power) know we are here they do something. It has taken a lot to make the changes and a lot of timing it right. What has been accomplished in terms of current rights and progress, lately, has been accomplished because some gay men and women got appropriately angry. They said "this law has to be changed" and they found lawyers and courts and somehow the money to back up their cases. This is how change is made today. For some causes and some reasons spouting ACT UP dialogue in written form brings focus and attention to things that need taking care of. I loved the folk with the drums telling Stockwell Day to go away.) It probably made the folk drumming and yelling feel better. But drumming is not going to make Stockwell Day go away. Our votes for the party that can beat the Alliance will make Stockwell Day go away.

We are earning and gaining rights. We are learning about each other; we are learning to listen and to be compassionate. We are learning about who we are and how wonderful we are and that we are individuals expressing who we are: happy, joyous and free to be.

Yes, it was an angry rebellion in the states that awakened America's gays. In Canada it was Pierre Trudeau who, as Attorney General, decreed the state had no business in the bedrooms of the nation. We've come a lot farther. And we didn't use our fists.

Lavender Rhinoceros was founded  
February 1999

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**Canadian Mail Publications Agreement #1610856. Published 12 times per year.**

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

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

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

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

Subscription are \$30 a year. Cheques are payable to Lavender Rhinoceros.

# Victoria and Oak Bay Proclaim Pride 2000



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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

## PROCLAMATION

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE DAY

WHEREAS we encourage the affirmation of everyone, regardless of their ability, age, class, race, creed, religion, sex or sexual orientation, the recognition of the dignity and worth of all people, and honour and respect for our differences so that we can help each other to be the best we can be as individuals and members of our diverse communities;

NOW THEREFORE I, Christopher M. Causton, Mayor of the District of Oak Bay, do hereby proclaim Sunday, July 2, 2000, as LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE DAY in Oak Bay.

Christopher M. Causton, Mayor  
District of Oak Bay



CITY OF VICTORIA



## PROCLAMATION

"GAY PRIDE WEEK"

WHEREAS gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons are no longer restricted to hiding out in emotional "closets" away from public view; and

WHEREAS gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons are now recognized as viable and vital contributors to Victoria in all walks of life; and

WHEREAS gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Victorians annually celebrate the freedom to be "out" with a parade and festival to express their pride, their playfulness, the support of churches, organizations and individuals and their many contributions to society as a whole.

NOW, THEREFORE I do hereby proclaim the week of June 26 to July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2000, as "GAY PRIDE WEEK" in the CITY OF VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, Two Thousand.

ALAN LOWE  
MAYOR  
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winds its way to  
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a grand celebration



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## Some Played Ball

There were five to a team batting a volleyball back and forth across the net on three-feet of sand and having a ball getting fit and having fun.

Those of us on the sidelines sipped cool drinks and watched the fun as the SPIKES volleyball team played Team Queer Victoria.

There was more here than a game. Despite the fun, Paul Jenns and Scott Wilson split the fee, \$50 for a two-hour session, and used the time as a pre-cursor to both Pride and the Gay Games in Australia.

What Wilson and Jenns want to see happen is a team from Victoria heading to Australia to participate in any aspect of the games each person or persons chooses.

As Paul explained it to me, athletes, dancers, well built body builders, golfers, martial artists and athletes, dancers, etc who are disabled are being encouraged to join him and Scott Wilson on Team Victoria.

"Scott and I are sponsoring tonight's event as a kick-off. We want to spend two weeks in Australia and we want to be cheered on by 300,000 other gays, lesbians and allies at the games in Sydney in Australia in 2002."

The guys have figured out that if we start now to save \$100 a month, or \$25 a week, we can be in Sydney and having our gay egos stroked 300,000 times over. Wow! Total cost, they estimate, is \$3,100.

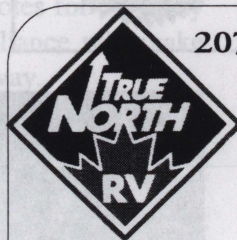
"We also see us going as a group that helps each other in their individual sport. Maybe we'll be lucky to get five. It's about fun as opposed to winning.

Sure, it would be neat to break the four-minute mile. But mostly we are eager to take part in the march in the opening and the closing. It would also be good to have support," Jenns said.

So, if you are interested, start saving now. And let us know of your interest, your sport and your need for further help. Maybe we can get something going. BMcL



▲ Geena Shmirnoff (left) runs for third base as the biggest crowd yet including Paul Jenns (right) cheers.



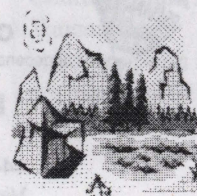
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# Some Hung Well...Queer Art 2000

By Claire Turcotte

*Queer Art 2000* represents an eclectic group of both emerging artists and some old warriors. Thanks to Martin Batchelor, Les Chan and Murray Schellenberg for their hard work in gathering these folks together for this celebration of PRIDE 2000. The Show offers us just a glimpse of these artists' works as the pieces in the exhibit are, I imagine, only the tip of the output iceberg for some of them.

While Emile Gobeil's *Lovers* pose in the window, self-consciously uncomfortable in their clothing, the sense of the vulnerability of the flesh lurks behind an in-your-face work by Maurice Hartle, as *Clothing Optional* unabashedly invites the beholder to remove the not so self-conscious codpiece. The large canvas is all the more striking for its position in the gallery window.



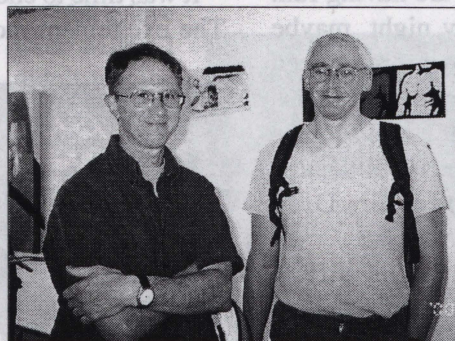
▲ Jenny Waelti-Walters and Karen Whyte

ately apparent in her coquettish handling of *Afraid of Painting* and I suspect Marla is not so afraid to paint. The warm flesh of her "coquettish painter" is awash with light, and painterly technique.

Karen Whyte's *Untitled* in acrylic on paper is a beautiful sensitive piece which holds the eye in an interiority of its own.

There were shadow paintings that were poignant with the loneliness and sometimes terror of passages. Some with figures trying to emerge from their backgrounds or just silently observing.

Jenny Waelti-Walters' works in acrylic on canvas both startle



▲ Richard Heiser and Scott Wilson at Queer Art 2000

There are other works encompassing the strength and vulnerability of the flesh.

Celebrating the corporeal experience is Kathleen Maloney's triptych, *Tic Tac Toe*. With the edginess of its stone surfaces and cave-like interiors one is reminded of ancient rites and altars.

Marla Stevenson's love of paint is immediately

luding to nature is in stark contrast to the blunt shadow figure in the title.

I found the *Shadow Pieces* by Petro Palaroan also disturbing in the lostness of the figures that seem to be disintegrating rather than emerging,

The haunting desire and vulnerability of *Mat and Rob* in Teneda Weber's silver gelatin print portrait moved me, as did Brent McTavish's *Bombay Eunuch*. Brent woos everyone with his love of photography and his comfortable style.

Martin Bachelor's cohesive collages and subtle compositions seem to reach for a memory of a dream that is just out of reach. The sensitive, unimposing piece *Roll Call*, hints of memories gathered and welcomed.

I love the always strong self presence of Rebecca Van Skyver's work though I had trouble connecting with the title, *Old Growth* since the piece was as velvety and sylph-like as young wood nymph.

I hope the artists continue expressing their personal and collective journeys and their personal styles and that they will come together again next year with new visions. Thanks to all of you.



▲ Susan Johnston chats with Jenny Holden and Rebecca van Skyver

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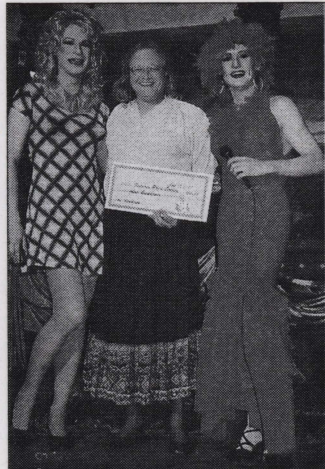
## Some Raised Funds

A lot of good work can be done while we are having fun. For instance, down at BJ's on a Wednesday night, maybe around 10 or 10:30 p.m. our now best-known drag queen



▲ PWA rep Billy Lennox accepts a cheque for \$1800 from Irma LaDouche and Taylor Mayd.

and artist, Irma La Douche, conducts a wild and woolly game of Bingo. Er, Drag Bingo, that is. What's the difference? It's cheaper than downtown: the cards are only \$2 for three cards. Furthermore, the money raised throughout the year goes to assist the Persons With AIDS Society. This year's "fun-raising" netted \$1,800 for the society. PWA rep Billy Lennox accepted a cheque to that amount presented jointly by Irma and her smart-talking team mate for the final night, Taylor Mayd.



▲ Funds for Pride: Geena Shmirnoff, Gail Owen and Irma La Douche.

Victoria Pride Society also benefited. For the Pride lot, Gail Owen accepted a cheque for \$900 towards the cost of running our annual celebration.

The ever-political Gail, took the opportunity to tell us that regardless of what the USA is doing, her scout troop called from Scouts Canada to offer her a post as leader should she choose to accept. This despite the fact Gail is out as a transgendered woman.

Lots of reasons to say: Well done!

## Some Got Crowned

It was time to choose another Miss Gay Vancouver Island. The excitement mounted as crowds gathered at BJ's to see whom five judges would choose from five incredibly beautiful and talented queens.



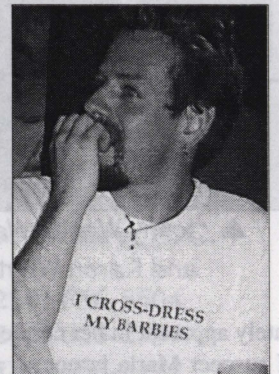
There were three categories supervised strictly by the queen of our queens, Rita One More Time: dress, talent, lipsynch and appropriateness of the chosen music and the ability to answer intelligently and convincingly a question pulled from Rita's hat and mind.

The final choices were Irma La Douche, a.k.a. Kevin Barnard and Geena Shmirnoff, a.k.a. Scott Clarke.

The marabou, sequins and rhinestones aren't going to be put away by either queen. Both are committed to raising funds for persons with AIDS.

Both are poster girls for the community and will, if possible, represent Victoria at other Pride events. Some funds raised also go to Santa's Anonymous.

Both are poster girls for the community and will, if possible, represent Victoria at other Pride events. Some funds raised also go to Santa's Anonymous.



▲ Husband Bryan Hoekstra suffers some tense moments before Irma La Douche is crowned Miss Gay Vancouver Island.

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# And Some Went To Church

By Barbara McLauchlin

It was a personal journey and it was the perfect way to end a time of Pride. The service for the Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation was attended by at least 30 gays and lesbians and led by Miki



▲ Miki Hansen speaks to the congregation

Hansen and her partner of 21 years, Daphne Armstrong. From Miki we got the kind of history our newly out and our youth and many of our community never knew, don't remember, and, alas, don't even know today.

From Daphne we learned of the commitment it takes to make a relationship work and how two people working apart and together have made a difference in the struggle for equal rights for women and for gays and lesbians and bisexuals, transsexuals and the intersexed.

For Miki, out but not proud, in the late 60s, and that includes 1969, the times for this "mild-mannered analyst" were hugely tough. She spent time in jail because the club in which she danced in Vancouver was raided. She was beaten up by the police. She was twice front-page coverage in the Vancouver paper, once for being arrested in that raid, another time for protesting the Viet Nam war.

"Stonewall had happened, but there was little or no awareness here. We lived in fear. My fear controlled how I was."

There was no medium to transmit information about Stonewall. There were no gay/lesbian magazines to keep us informed. Miki endured being fired for trumped-up reasons and being thrown off a sports team, until "the curling team made the finals."

During this period Daphne was married with two sons. Like Miki she was active in the movement for women's rights and equality, anti-Viet Nam and part of the to-

tal commitment to the political left. In 1978 she divorced her husband, and she and her two sons moved to the Kootenays.

"I fell in love with Miki. I didn't use the word 'lesbian.' I believed I just happened to fall in love with a woman. We've since raised two boys, have had our struggles, been involved in PTA, team drop-ins and did our best to provide a good family setting."

Today Daphne and Miki are still involved in making change and caring about people and community. Today they are still active together and separately in the process of making sure the world is a better place for us to live. Particularly Miki's story, the story of her struggles, the realities faced by those of us who dared to be out in the 60s, offered a tribute to all of us in a beautiful setting and in a beautiful way.

I think gays and lesbians outnumbered the straight folk at the service. Musical in-



▲ Daphne Armstrong chats over tea.

terludes and hymns were all played and sung by community members.

Supporting cast included cellist Ellen Himmer, clarinetist Walter Quan, and pianist Ian Anderson. Vocal music was provided in a gorgeous duet sung by Melaney Black and Lee Porteous, *Who Will Love Me?*

This Sunday, July 9, when the art show still hangs to remind us, but the major celebrations are a memory, was a deep felt and spiritual, and for me, a necessary conclusion to a wonderful celebration. Thanks Miki and Daphne. And thanks for echoing what has been said in editorial form in this magazine for two years: our gains are fragile. The Alliance and Stockwell Day are a threat. Believe it. Vote against it. Campaign like you've never campaigned before.



▲ Lee Porteous and Melaney Black sing out

## John Paul II. Is Anybody Home?

Commentary by Barbara McLauchlin

While Daphne Armstrong and Miki Hansen relived some of our history for us in a supporting and loving religious community at Capital Unitarian Universalist gathering, the Pope was denouncing the gay pride festival in Rome as offensive to Christians and said, homosexual acts are "contrary to natural law."

Daphne and Mikki concluded in their talk: "We look forward to a millennium that can be better if we continue to love one another regardless," while the pope worked to engender hatred of the gay community throughout the world.

Tens of thousands of people took part in an international gay pride parade in Rome, capping a weeklong festival the Vatican tried to get cancelled. For Pope John Paul II the festivities "during the grand Jubilee of the year 2000, and for the offense to Christian values in a city that is so dear to

the heart of Catholics all over the world."

One of Italy's gay activists, Franco Grillini, described the pope's words as a "sentence without appeal, adding that the true offense is homophobia and anti-gay prejudice fed by the Vatican hierarchy.

An event that was intended to open dialogue has instead caused a rift. But the church isn't totally winning in Italy. The Rome daily, Corriere della Sera, has asked why the Vatican didn't dedicate a Jubilee day to gays, as it has to so many other groups. "It would have been proof of a real ecumenism and rich generosity in this year of pardon," the paper said.

The egos at the head of this otherwise very worthwhile organization, the men in dresses who are afraid of losing their power, are once again setting themselves up for a fall. At least, I hope so. And I hope it happens soon.

# What's A Word's Worth?

## Gay Parenting

By Maddy Aramis

*The Kid* (What Happened After My Boyfriend and I Decided to Get Pregnant: An Adoption Story)  
Dan Savage Penguin, 2000 \$18.99

*The Velveteen Father: An Unexpected Journey to Parenthood*  
Jesse Green Ballantyne, 1999 \$22.00

Gay male culture may have its hazards, but unplanned pregnancy generally isn't one of them.

We all know straight people can breed like rabbits when they feel like it. Even lesbians have a relatively easy time of it. With a willing donor, a close eye on the calendar, and some easy-to-find equipment, either or both women in a relationship can organize a conception. Gay men hold the dubious honour of having the most trouble consummating the act of becoming a parent.

Two books, *The Kid* and *The Velveteen Father* chronicle the trials and tribulations of gay men on the path to parenthood. In *The Kid*, sex-advice columnist, Dan Savage, tells the story of how he and his boyfriend decide to go through with an open adoption. In *The Velveteen Father*, journalist and novelist, Jesse Green, describes how he falls in love with a man who had already successfully adopted a little boy, Erez.

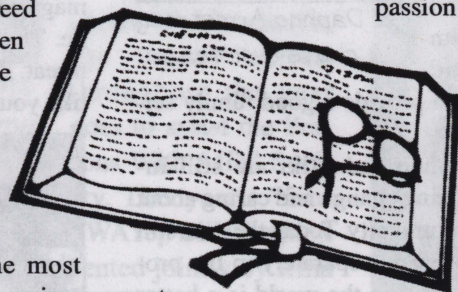
The tone of the two books is very different. Green's voice is sweeter, more gentle and (I'm going to be judgmental here) I have the feeling Green is settling into his role as second Dad just fine. Savage, on the other hand, doesn't seem to have the respect for his newfound fatherhood which the role deserves. How seriously can you take someone who says one of his main reasons for wanting a child was so he could get off the muscle-building treadmill and get fat? Okay, he was half joking, but still, there is a certain feeling that the man lacks the kind of commitment that will keep him sane and devoted to his child when his child decides to take off with the car and twenty bucks from Dad's wallet.

Which brings me to the real reason why these two books should be on the reading lists of every potential parent – straight, gay, or otherwise. How many people today can honestly say they have a "good" reason for having a child? How many adults actually give the subject much serious thought? Because it is not an automatic assumption that a gay man will grow up, get married, and have children, the gay men in these two books look long and hard at the reasons why an adult in today's society would choose to have a child. The commentary on the reasons (bad and good) why people have kids is extremely revealing as is the fact these men have to justify their decision at all. And yet, justify they do. Both authors take pains to explain what for mainstream adults is simply taken for granted. Not only do they feel they have to state the reasons why they would want to be parents, they also say clearly why they do not. They both distance themselves from man-boy associations,

and are painfully introspective when they reflect on the physical intimacies of bathing, changing diapers, and circumcision. These are open, honest, unflinching looks at what it is like to choose, consciously, fully, to be a parent while at the same time feeling like the critical eyes of society watch your every move.

In these accounts the personal becomes the political in the grandest of ways as these men break through what have been virtually impenetrable barriers for gay men wanting to adopt. The personal also remains just that, a private glimpse into the creation of a family life where once might not necessarily expect to find it. Both books contain surprises and insights, moments of tenderness and passion parents the world over will understand. They hold up the common mirror of parenthood to a world all too often determined to see distortions instead of the sharp reflection of paternal love.

Of the two books, Green's is more profound and philosophical, but both are entertaining and well written. I found myself quite captivated by the growing pains experienced by both families. I'd love to know how it all turns out in the end and hope one, or both, of these new dads will write more about their experiences as gay parents in today's America. And, yes, both these books are very much spawned of the culture south of our border. So, Canadian dads, would any of you care to share your stories? There's a good summer project if you have a bit of time on your hands and your kids are young (or old) enough to let you get some writing done!



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# Ya Gotta Love the Dance

By Zorya Plaskin

Religion and spirituality are often used as synonyms, but while the concepts are connected the words do not really mean the same thing. In common usage, religion refers to organized, structured systems of belief, worship and ethics. Spirituality, on the other hand, is much more personal and often mysterious.

What does "spirituality" mean to Victoria artist Phyllis Serota? "I think it's my relationship with my spirit or my relationship with God, whatever that means at this particular time of my life."

This particular time is trying for Phyllis, because of her brother's battle with cancer. "I've often said that the times I would understand prayer most strongly would be when I was working. But I don't know if I would necessarily say that right now, because I am understanding just a little bit more about prayer, because my brother's so sick."

Painting is a gateway to the spiritual realms for Phyllis – sometimes, at least. "Sometimes I think all my work is extremely spiritual. Sometimes I think it's not at all."

As she looks around her studio, in much of the work Phyllis sees people dancing. "And dancing to me is a very clear way of connecting with spirit. Some people are afraid to dance because they don't have a clear understanding of that."

Elsewhere, there's a lot of dancing in *Near the Sea of Galilee*, a large work which graces the dominant wall of the living room. The painting was inspired during a trip to Israel, when Phyllis visited a spa-like public bath. She was about to leave when she noticed the pool flowed into another part of the building which was marked as being for women only.

When she went exploring, she found a group of women, half of them nude. She was about to leave when one woman started playing a hand-drum, and they started singing.

"I have never seen anything like that. It was the most joy-

# Queer Spirit

ous scene. There was a sense of these women being together that we've lost."

Spirituality apart, though, Phyllis is not a particularly "religious" person. She was born into an Orthodox Jewish family, but religion was just a part of her personal tab-leau – until the trailing end of the Flower Power revolution, when she left Chicago and moved here.

"I left everything when I came here. It was 'turn on, tune in, drop out.' And I dropped out – of everything."

Phyllis has always been a rebel, and in those days she was rebelling against Judaism, along with other things.

Then, several years ago Phyllis came back to Judaism, or at least to Temple Emanu-El. Among the sequence of events were her trip to Israel, her Holocaust series, and some discussions and then classes with the synagogue's rabbi. Phyllis says it

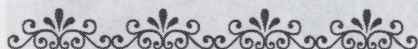
was the sense of community which brought her back. "You know, you start to have alliances, and you meet more people in a particular group like that."

Phyllis goes to Saturday worship about once a month, and she goes mostly for the community. The formal scriptures and dogma don't overly interest her.

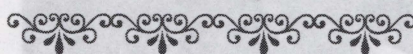
"You mean the old stuff? I don't want to read about it at all. When they go heavily into reading from Bible – which is every Saturday – I don't read it. I sometimes glance at it."

On the other hand, there is "a lot of ritual that I think is important in people's lives that is really lost in the general community." Like the idea of death, and how to handle death, and what to say at funerals, and what to do after somebody dies.

"All these things are all there in Judaism, and they're very practical and they're very wise. And they're 5,000 years old and they all work. You know, there's even a prayer in Judaism about seeing a rainbow."

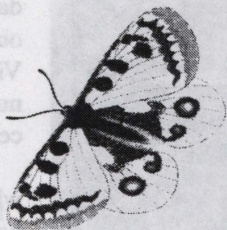


*"What is hateful to you do not do to your neighbour. That is the whole Torah. The rest is commentary."* Hillel



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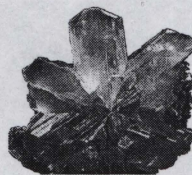
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# PRIDE 2000, V

*By Kevin Barnard*

We survived another Pride week here in Victoria, and what a success it was.

I would like to thank my fellow Pride Board Members first off for all their hard work and dedication. I think that the success of this year's Pride came mainly from how diverse and well-rounded the Board was: made up of members of the Transgendered, Lesbian, Drag Queen, Gay, and Youth groups within our community.

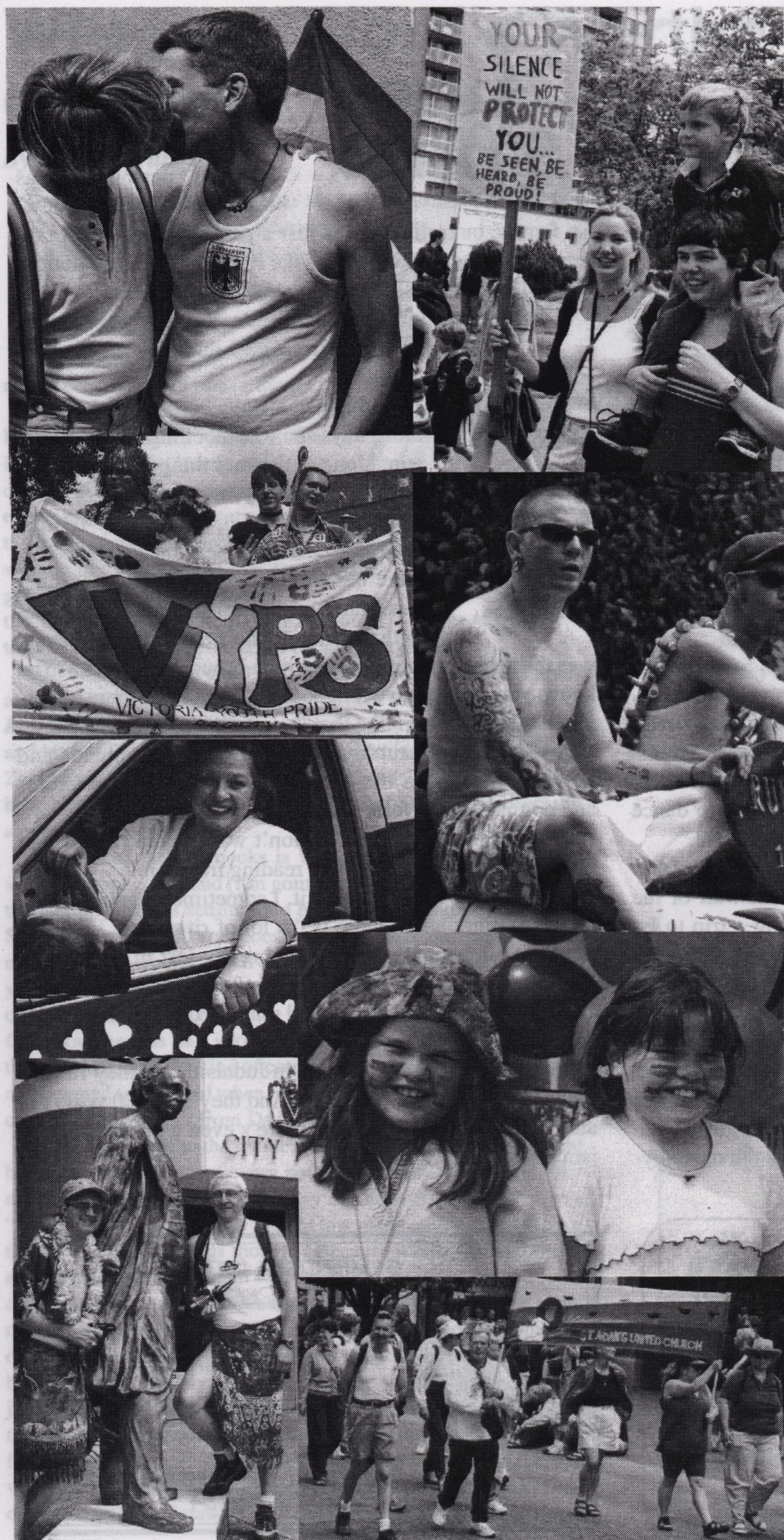
We also included as many of our community organizations as we could, with VYPS, SEXY, the Women's Creative Network, PWA, Spikes, Lavender Rhinoceros and PFLAG and Victoria Carriage Tours, David Tilson, City of Victoria Police and City Hall, and the province, Cynthia Callahan and Tim Stevenson. They were indispensable in seeing many of the duties organized and put into place.

The parade is growing every year, and this year we had 22 official entries, not to mention the hundreds to thousands of you who joined in to walk the route to Fisherman's Wharf. It is an amazing sight to see the mass of bodies following the Hush float as they dance their way down the street.

Despite a few raindrops, the festival was fantastic with an attendance of more than 3000. We had a successful first time kid's area with face painting and inflatable jumping castle organized by Judy Lightwater and staffed by PFLAG which kept the children amused throughout the day. The dunk tank, another first, though the water was cold and resembling sewage, still succeeded in raising several hundred dollars for PWA. The crowd took great pleasure in seeing several of Victoria's notable Drag Queens getting soaked in all their finery.

The entertainment kept the crowd up and dancing throughout the day, with many of our well known local talents, and with the Victoria Operatic Society doing a couple numbers from their recent and hugely successful production of *La Cage Aux Folles*.

Spikes Volleyball was on hand for those who wanted to join in on a game of volleyball. There was the usual assortment of kiosks with food and souveiniers to keep you fed, rehydrated, and sporting the newest in gay apparel. There were some not so usual kiosks as well, such as the Victoria



# What A Blast!

Police, on hand to do community outreach.

The many other events around Pride week included Queerly Incorrect, a successful open forum discussion on various issues within our community. Urge Tattoo Studios and Stacy LeBlanc organized the annual Tattoo-a-thon and Piercing-a-thon, raising \$1,200. for the Pride Society. The family dance after the festival at the James Bay Community Center was well attended by all ages. The Marcus Tipton Memorial DrallBall Game was at record attendance, with a little help from Monday Magazine dedicating their front cover to it.

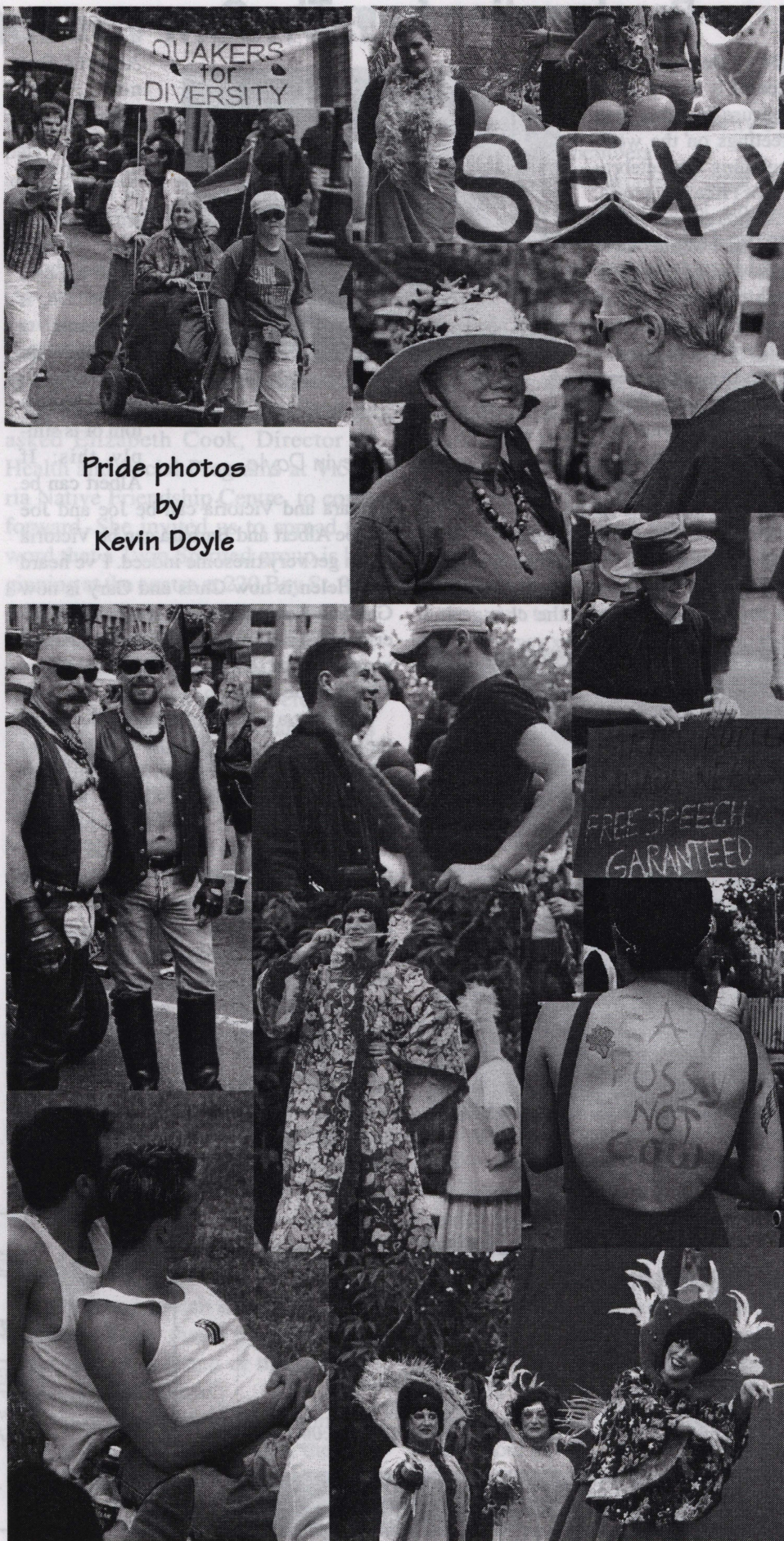
Not only the front cover, but Monday Magazine dedicated quite a lot of that issue to Pride, its events, and our community. The Daily on Shaw Cable also featured numerous members of our community throughout Pride Week, covering issues of bashing, coming out, media representation, and history. The media frenzy around Pride this year was quite unprecedented. The Globe and Mail and CBC Radio were also on the bandwagon. Our mayor, Alan Lowe, set in motion several months back by saying he would not march in our parade. Mr. Lowe, we never invited you in the first place! When the dust settled on all that, the City of Victoria and the Province of BC proclaimed June 26 to July 2 Gay Pride Week, and the Municipality of Oak Bay proclaimed July 2 as Gay Pride Day.

A huge thank you to all those who put in their time and effort to make this a wonderfully successful Pride for everyone to enjoy. And a huge thank you to all of you who came to celebrate with us. It is so empowering and inspiring to see our community come together in front of the world to celebrate not only our unity, but also our uniqueness and individuality.

Stay proud all year long, we are who we are the other 364 days of the year as well!

## Victoria Pride Society Annual General Meeting

Elections for next years Pride Board will be held Sunday, September 24, 7:00 PM, at the BCGEU Building at 2994 Douglas Street. Formore information, or to reach the Pride Board, call 385-3806.



Pride photos  
by  
Kevin Doyle

# Proclamation from The Queen

My dear fellow queers! It is my great pleasure to bring you greetings on the week beginning the celebration of Pride in Victoria.

Although we are in Victoria, I would like to acknowledge Pride celebrations go on in all parts of this very splendid province. Please join us in sending greetings to Nanaimo, Prince George, Kelowna, and Vancouver, who show their Pride with celebrations throughout the summer.

Albert and I have been thinking a great deal about how our various lables are tripping us up! It used to be just my skirts. I do suppose you noticed the change in



▲ The Royals hobnob with Tim Stevenson, Vancouver Burrard MLA

Photos by Kevin Doyle

Barbara and Victoria can be Joe and Joe can be Albert and Barbara can be Victoria it can get very tiresome indeed. I've heard that Helen is now Chris and Gary is now Gail and Kevin turns into Irma almost every night— well, what if we encourage our provincial and federal governments to have a look at the question of gender.

There are a number of genders that aren't the same any more. So why use the word gender at all. It is my understanding that one cannot discriminate against another because of gender. So, why in heavens name do we have to include gender definition on any document. My passport right now might get me through customs. However, if I were Albert next year, I couldn't get to Reno let alone Arabia. And if I did and somebody looked twice how long would I last in Arabia? We can pause to thank the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force for 15 years of hard work on our behalf on this issue.

We have fought the good fight for gays and lesbians and somewhere along the way the bisexuals have gradually been better ac-

cepted. But let a woman who used to be a man into a rape relief centre, good as she is at her job, all hell breaks loose.

The time has come for us as gays and lesbians to support our transgendered, transexual and intersexed community in their fight for recognition and for their proper place of respect in our world community. The time has come for government to get rid of the labels that don't matter.

And for all who may not get it, think about how hard it was to come out of the closet. Now think about how hard it is to come out of your own insides and then come out of the closet!

And for Kayshalee who has grown so much, who has had to fight more discrimination than most as an intersexed person identifying as a lesbian, we salute you.

We salute our government in beautiful British Columbia, in middle-sexed Ottawa, and we salute our many friends and allies in the straight community who join us every year as throughout this province and this country we celebrate the very special people that we are.

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▲ The Royals pose with Kayshalee Snider



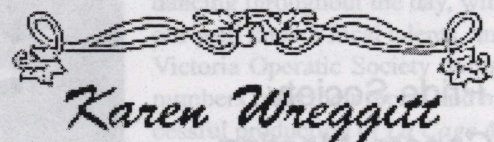
▲ The Queen abandons protocol with Warren Scott

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# Some Talked..... Queerly Incorrect

By Cheryl MacPherson

On June 29<sup>th</sup> an expectant group of people gathered in the St Ann's Academy auditorium to participate in discussions about topical issues for the GLBTI community. The event was the second *Queerly Incorrect* discussion presented by the Men's Wellness Program at AIDS Vancouver Island.

We were welcomed by one of the hosts, **Marc Mertens**, a Gay Community Outreach Worker, who quickly had the audience on its feet with some questions which required standing or sitting in response. This activity was followed by a game of "Master Says."

Marc also introduced the panel members who had been chosen to offer some diversity of experience, gender, age, ethnicity and community. The panellists included: host **Jim Kirk** who has a background in Education, was a realtor, married for seven years and entered Art School in Victoria at age forty-eight.

**John Threlfall**, famed for his ability to keep things queer in Monday Magazine's calendar where he is an editor. John was described in Monday's advertising for this event as "straight but not narrow."

**Gail Owen**, born Gary Jordan Owen in 1951. Gail had sex reassignment surgery on March 8th 2000. She is a member of Zenith – a transsexual support group in Victoria and the BC Director for the Canadian Task Force for Transgender Law Reform. **Romina Miranda** is a 23 year-old Chilean-born woman who grew up in Victoria. She was recently graduated by The Victoria Motion Picture School. As a queer woman of colour she involves herself in youth activism and considers herself an artist. **Josh Goldberg**, a transgendered person F to M, was introduced as an unrepentant cross-dresser. He has been heavily involved

in the social justice movement for the past 15 years, studies Chinese medicine and is involved with Transcend-the-Transgender Support and Education Society.

**Judy Lightwater** has been active in the women's rights and gay rights movements. She has lived twenty-one years as a lesbian and is a writer and non-profit management consultant.

Before opening the discussion Marc asked Elizabeth Cook, Director of Health and Social Programs at Victoria Native Friendship Centre, to come forward. She invited us to spread the word that a Twin Spirited group is beginning at the centre at 220 Bay St. 384 – 3211.

Panellists were asked to speak freely on a variety of subjects and they did. Although the listed topics were Pride, marriage and community many others were touched on especially after the break when discussion was opened to the floor. Adoption, immigration on humanitarian grounds and the safety of coming out in the school system were some of these. The opening question posed by Jim was, "how is it different to be gay and out in Victoria compared to being gay and out somewhere else?"

The next topic was introduced was Pride. A survey done at BJ's which posed the question "Do we still need a Pride Parade?" Reasons given by participants for continuing were community unity, to be there for gay youth, and to show the greater community that we are around. Later, a person from the floor talked about Pride being a celebration for some people who are fiercely proud of their struggle to come out; he said also that it was his way to show that he is proud of the community that came before.

Discussion on politics in the community pointed out the fact that there is indeed a spectrum of views and differ-

ent issues were considered priority by different panel members.

On the topic of marriage for same sex couples, Jim asked the panel, do we want the right to marriage, which brings us the same problems as the straight community such as alimony. Judy responded. "We incorporate many things from the straight community. The fact is some people have a choice and some don't. This is about a choice, about having the civil right."

Other comments on this topic were that we should be defining our own sense of self not just following the norms of society. Josh expressed his fear for those who will be expendable if we want to fit in. From the floor a concern was expressed that inviting the state into private relationships may legalise certain types of relationships and may create divisions in our own community.

One of the young people asked whether it was easier or harder to come out in schools in Victoria. Several young people spoke of their difficulties. One young woman said that coming out at school was more difficult than coming out to family and friends.

A statement from the floor sparked discussion was that while we are oppressed we're also the best oppressors and that we need to clean up our own "back yard". Another audience member received strong reactions when stating that she expected the same from the GLBTI community as any other part of society as far as appropriate behaviour is concerned.

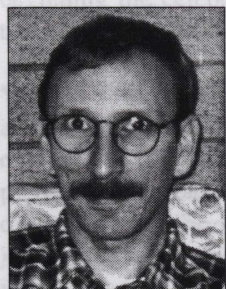
Overall the evening was both entertaining and thought provoking although there was a sense at times that people's opinions were not given equal respect. In Josh's words, "We need to learn to listen to those we don't agree with, and think about how to get along with those who aren't like us."

Let's continue the dialogue.

# Life is a Drag...

By Michael Yoder

I was watching Channel 28 (Showcase – cheap plug). They had an entire week of gay and lesbian theme programs for Pride Week in June. One commercial that struck me was of well-known lines from a variety of movies, read into a big 1940's style microphone by drag queens. I loved that commercial. It made me laugh.



**Michael  
Yoder**

Drag Queens are our Sacred Clowns. They've lost a huge amount of their importance in our culture since the "straight acting and appearing" cult-of-manhoo appeared. And they are isolated (often) by our internalized heterosexism and homophobia. I don't imagine it's easy finding relationships if you're a drag queen in a community that shies away from things that aren't "het" or "straight appearing" but I wish to heaven they'd be able to take their rightful place as the sacred gay icons they are.

Drag Queens teach us only one (absolutely essential) thing – get over yourself. Don't take anything seriously. Drag Queens can teach everyone that – straight, gay, lez, bi, trans, inter, questions, whatever particular group you identify with.

We are all of us far too serious.

Drag queens remind us that we are not here for a long time, but a good time. They

remind us that dancing and disco and being outrageous are the heretical things that make us unique. I remember the stir caused by Canadian drag artist Craig Russell in the late '70s. I remember clearly, sitting in the darkened Royal Theatre watching him transform into Bette Davis and Ella Fitzgerald and Peggy Lee – all gay icons in their own deliciously sinful right. And I remember that I lost myself in those moments. I became as entranced with the mystique of the humour of irresponsibility as everyone else that nearly 30 years ago. The few times I've done drag (a very few, unfortunately), gender fuck and true, I lavished in the ability to become "other" – to lose my inhibitions and take life for what it is – LIFE! Drag Queens remind me that life is funny. That life is glamorous. That life is a cabaret (old chum). Without Drag Queens there would be nothing to remind us that the mundane is surmountable, that sequins make us smile, and that Judy Garland is, in fact, the queen of all things.

There is no end to the misery we can look at every day. The poverty and the homelessness and the pain of others are all too apparent. And like the author(s) of Numbers said it (poverty) will always be with us. But Drag Queens can take us momentarily away from the sadness of our existence into a world where we can think of the transitory-ness of all things – the world of the impossibly silly. Our own stupidity played out in Technicolor and gold lamé. The brightest and best of all possible worlds.

I raise my glass to the Drag Queens. Long may you reign.



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# The "Other Side" of Hornby

By Theo Labadie

Four years ago, a disastrous love affair shipwrecked me on the doorstep of a friend's cabin on Hornby Island. Since that fateful day, I've had much time to uncover the steps that led me to this place-to reflect on a life lived largely in cities. Four years later, after much soul searching and many adventures, I find myself standing on the shore of that same island's great beach staring south at the orange haze that signifies the air of "The Big City." For all the island's natural charms, I'm terrifically bored. It's time to go home.

The Islands have little to offer a single gay man. There are no bars or bathhouses, no theatres or cruisy coffee bars. In fact, there are none of the accoutrements of gay city-life. Perhaps one might find the occasional compatriot — or, if one is lucky, a brief fling — but one cannot count on openness. One thing this island is *not* is radical.

What one does find in abundance are middle to upper class retirees; old American draft dodgers; disgruntled and burnt out PhDs; beleaguered single mothers and the ever-present hippie, both old and new. Lesbians can be much easier to find than can gay men if you know where to look. They came to commune with the Goddess and forgot to leave the city behind. You may find one hiding behind her white picket fence and her new, imported Volvo.

Hornby is famed for many things, foremost being its beauty. It offers some of the best beaches in all of B.C. and on sunny days it can be seen to glow like a green gem in a mirror-blue setting. Yet famed only amongst the Islanders themselves, is their open-mindedness — a malicious rumour that I am more than glad to dispel.

I did not live through the 60's. I was born

in the last of the years of "The Summer of Love," in 1969. All of my knowledge from that era is second hand-from books I've read and people I've met. Talk to the Islanders and one will find that the majority of them are holdovers from that great age of twentieth century enlightenment, yet somehow one half of the sexual revolution never arrived here. These unwashed, organic granola-worshippers have not yet grasped the idea that homosexuality is natural in the most specific sense.

A single mother acquaintance of mine—an unconventional creature, was used to dress from head to toe in cheap East Indian tablecloths and came complete with a hyperactive toddler who's first utterance was the word "fuck." She listened intently one day as I related to her the difficulty of being gay on Hornby. When I concluded, she looked into the distance thoughtfully as if to tease wisdom from the air. Presently she brought forth a suggestion. Perhaps, she said, gay people should organize and start a class-action lawsuit against the Petrochemical Transnationals. After all, they are responsible for polluting the environment with the toxins that messed up our hormones and made us homosexual in the first place.

I stared at her. She was dead serious. I was about to give her a crash course on biology 101 but before I could, her child cut the air with a loud "fuck!" Enough said.

Summer brings tall grass, rare wildflowers, dragonflies and hummingbirds to Hornby. It also brings freedom. Gone are the Islanders' gumboots and heavy woollens. Bare feet and Balinese skirts are brought out into the sun. In what might pass for downtown Hornby sits an open-air café with seats made from upright logs. One sits

with a cappuccino as if perched on a Trouble board, unperturbed by the elements.

It was late afternoon. Across the café sat the only other person there. He was a beautiful young man with a head of curly, strawberry blond hair—an Adonis—and son of New Ager and nationally renowned painter. The sun gleamed off his naked, freckled shoulders and I watched him unobtrusively — and admired him. He caught my eye and opened his mouth to speak. We had never spoken to each other before. I heard a single word.

"Cocksucker," he said.

A million retorts flashed through my mind, all of them inadequate. It took me a moment to gather my resolve. I needed a response, quickly.

I looked to the trees that surrounded us and I realized that the New Agers had missed something. Living in the middle of Paradise, they neglected to listen to Her lessons. I had an uncanny feeling that I was not merely witnessing the forest; I was indivisible with it. It was a very Aquarian experience.

"Naturally," I said and raised my cappuccino to my lips.

## Quotables

Eva Arros has this to say as both chef and performer:

"The guys were late delivering their wienies" *re: cooking for Pride.*

"Let it be said that *Lola Wants* will not step aside for a six-foot penis especially a deflatable one." Lola is a character in her outrageous repertoire. *Re: competing with dildo at Romance Shop.*

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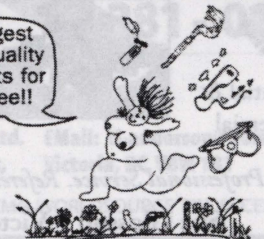
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# Language for Change?

by Kristen Elder

You may have seen this slogan on the back of people's T-shirts at the Pride Parade this year: *Fuck Safe, Shoot Clean, Dance Proud*. This slogan also graced the ad that AIDS Vancouver Island put in the Lavender Rhinoceros' Pride issue. Perhaps you were offended by this slogan, and thought that it didn't promote a "nice" impression of Victoria's queer community. Or perhaps like me you thought it was about time that the message of safer sex and safer substance use could be spread so concisely, with poetic flare. Perhaps like me you could see the value of clear language in reaching people and embracing the diversity of the queer community that does include substance users. Quite frankly, I was happy to see AVI use this slogan in their campaign this year, and hope that they continue to find creative ways to do public education and help save lives.

It seemed like a cool and memorable way to get attention about safer sex and substance use without being overly preachy. For those of you who found the slogan alienating, maybe you need to look at your judgements, of whether you are in denial about the fact that people in the queer community need to be reached about safer sex and drug use. Words like "fuck" are instantly recognized and speak concisely in the ver-

nacular, the language of the people: the meaning is clear. Would a slogan like "make love carefully & dance proudly" have as much impact? I think not. The slogan's use has caused dialogue to erupt within Victoria's queer community. Dialogue about language use and how we want the queer community to be portrayed has led to people talking about safer sex and substance use in our community. Such dialogue is paramount to preventing further infection among the population, and so the slogan has proven effective for public education.

I think that saving lives is more important than politeness. I think that polite language is closely associated to an educated elite class of people who may be in denial about the reality of HIV infection and substance use in the queer community. Even if the message did offend some people, at least it got out, and will hopefully help prevent the spread of disease. The slogan is effective because it gets in people's faces, provokes reaction and discussion about the issues of safe sex and substance use. It encourages people in the queer community to work together on issues that affect us, and not live in denial about these issues. It encourages us all to look at how we define community, who gets included or excluded.

# We Lost Some Heroes

In the midst of all the hoopla and the celebrations around Pride we do need to take time to remember a couple of gay men who died. We are closest perhaps to Jack (John) Nesbitt, who lived with partner and activist Jim Egan for more than 50 years. Jack died in his home-town of Courtenay just before Pride celebrations got underway here just a few months after the death of Jim.

In Halifax Wilson Hodder, another man who changed the way the federal government treats gay couples, also died.

Hodder had just received the Canadian AIDS Society leadership award in honour of his lifetime victories.

After a three-year battle Hodder took on the Canada Pension Plan Act after he was personally denied the right to collect survivor benefits from his same-sex partner. Thanks to his work, the Nova Scotia government redefined the word spouse to include same-sex couples. Then in 1998, the federal government agreed gays and lesbians have a right to their partner's survivor benefits and introduced changes in the law.

Last year Hodder was one of the first gay men in Canada to receive those benefits.

Even near death, Hodder continued to work for the rights of gays and to fight the personal and the political in his battle with and against AIDS.

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# Discover How The Universal Law of Attraction Can Build Your Business

By Michael Losier

Bring to mind a time in your life when you can remember deciding that you wanted something - a trip, a relationship, a job or even a change in your life. Now, can you remember how things started to appear in your life that were in alignment to what it was you said you wanted? Perhaps you attracted a phone call, the perfect contact, or a magazine or newspaper article? This is the *Universal Law of Attraction* at work. The law states that whatever we give our attention to will come to us. If this is true that the Universe responds to our energy or what we put out, then what we say and think about our business is a direct reflection of what we attract. If you are curious about what it is that you are saying and feeling about your business, you need only to take a look at what you are getting - it's a perfect match.



**Michael  
Losier**

So, what does *Law of Attraction* have to do with business? Everything! Have you heard people or maybe even yourself say, "business is slow," "I'm not getting any new clients," or "It's hard to get customers in the summer," and so on. The Universe does not decide whether this is good for you or not, it simply responds to what

you are putting out there.

Here is a formula that will assist you in deliberately creating the experience you want to have in your life:

- (1) Identify the Desire
- (2) Prepare a Desire Statement
- (3) Raise the energy of your desire

Here is an example of a desire statement that can assist you in attracting more customer and clients to your business.

"I am in the process of attracting the right perfect client/customer to my business who fully enjoys my products and services. The Universe is unfolding and orchestrating all that needs to happen to bring to me new clients, increase exposure to my business, and the right perfect contacts. I love how it feels knowing that the Universe is creating a path for streams of contacts and money to flow through me in exchange for my products and services. It is my intention to attract all that I need to enjoy the abundance that is there for me."

This desire statement is a tool that will assist you in raising the energy for you to build your business more easily. If there are words or statements in this example that do not feel right for you, change them and make it your own - remembering that the Universe responds to what you are feeling - not the words you use.

Michael Losier is a Personal & Business Success Coach who teaches his clients how to deliberately create what they want in their lives and businesses by using the Universal Laws of Attraction. Michael will be offering a presentation in September, 2000, on the topic of Law of Attraction. For more information about the presentation or for a private consultation, e-mail Michael at [Attraction@Canada.com](mailto:Attraction@Canada.com) or contact him by telephone at 250-380-9282.



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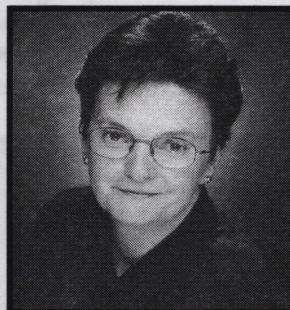


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# Take Back Your Time and Get Back Your Life!

Are you one of those people who never has enough time? Many of my clients have had the same trouble, and have dramatically increased the quality of their lives by adjusting how they treat time.

The issue really isn't about time - it's about priorities. If you always tell yourself there's not enough time, you're pulling a big mind trip on yourself, and worse, you're falling for it! Every single individual on earth has the exact same amount of time available to them everyday.



**Joy Kirstin**

Now, I'm not suggesting that everyone has the same number of responsibilities to meet. But no matter who you are or how much is on your plate, if there's something you chronically don't have time for, then time is not the issue. Priorities are. And the sooner you can acknowledge that, the sooner you'll

be able to make lasting changes in how you spend your time.

If you are chronically over-committed, get honest about why. How much of it is out of a need for approval, recognition, praise, love, control, money, rather than pure enjoyment? If unmet needs are running your life, the cost of doing things the way you're doing them is far too high - physically, emotionally, and even financially. When your time is chock-a-block with non-priorities, there's no room for better opportunities to find you, or more importantly, for you to find yourself.

When we started working together, one of my clients (I'll call her Lisa) was one of those "really busy" people who did a lot of complaining and worrying about her lack of time and the many activities she wouldn't let go of, but in actual fact, she spend much less time on any of them than she thought. She went through the steps listed below and it quickly became that she was doing much more tv watching, procrastinating, and using visits with friends as distractions than she did on the things she thought were her priorities. And because she hadn't identified "down" time as a priority, she didn't get much enjoyment from the time she spent just hanging out because she felt that she was avoiding what she really wanted to do. And she was.

That was several months ago, and she's made a lot of changes. She's learned to put "time off" into her life as a priority, and when she takes it, she's much more able to enjoy it. As soon as she started meeting this need, she became more productive at work and her creativity kicked into high gear on personal projects she'd been

putting off doing for a long time. She's now making more money, working fewer hours, and launching a performance career on the side.

When you get honest about what your priorities are, your life often will magically shift to support them. I won't kid you - it can be excruciating to pick up your magnifying glass and get real with yourself about where things are at right now, but its essential to creating lasting change. And once you do, you'll soon find other pieces falling into place with less effort on your part than you can imagine!

## Action Steps to Take:

(1) Keep a time inventory for 1-2 weeks - a daily record of how you spend your time. There are no right or wrong answers. And you don't have to change anything unless you choose to.

(2) Let go of something. Anything. Right now! If it makes it easier, think of it as a six-month leave of absence from that activity. At the end of six months, you can reevaluate. Schedule something you love doing into the time you have just reclaimed.

(3) See how much enjoyment you can derive from each moment throughout your day, no matter what you're doing. The more times you can pause for even 30 seconds to breathe, center and become aware of the moment, the more easily time will flow in all the other moments.

*Joy Kirstin, Personal & Professional Coach, supports professionals, small business owners and lots of other folks to make career transitions, increase business profitability, and live balanced and fulfilling lives to achieve greater success while living balanced lives. She coaches local and international clients over the phone, individually or as part of a group of people facing similar challenges. Contact her for more information on individual coaching, or to find out how to join one of her "Take Back Your Time" ongoing coaching groups: joykirstin@pacificcoast.net or (250) 3614680.*

Copyright 2000, Joy Kirstin. Note: A similar article appeared in my free email newsletter, May 2000.

"The Bible contains 6 admonishments to homosexuals and 362 admonishments to heterosexuals. That doesn't mean that God doesn't love heterosexuals. It's just that they need more supervision."

-Lynn Lavner

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# How a Relaxing, Fun-Filled Week-end Made Writers Creative

By Connie Chapman, Ladysmith

And they're going to do it again! Karen X Tulchinsky hosts another writer's weekend at Ladysmith's lesbian-owned guest house, Stonewall, September 1,2,3 and 4, 2000.

Six writers gathered at Stonewall Guest House at the end of June to see if great food, a hot tub, country air and companionship would unleash their creativity. The end results were more than they expected. Participants left with a story well under way - and a greater appreciation of themselves as a writer. Here is what the writers said about the weekend.

"The luxury of having others take care of me for 2 days was absolutely liberating for the writing process. Being in a retreat environment is incredibly invaluable to the writing process. Wonderful environment."

"Karen's laid back approach to writing and working on our pieces always puts me at ease and into a space that is comforting. This allows me to reach deep down inside and write from my soul."

If you've been promising yourself to start a story before the summer is over or if you want a focused time to continue to write, join with others for the Stonewall Labour Day Writer's Weekend. Call and book now.

Stonewall Guest House is a luxury B&B in a beautiful, relaxed country setting. Discuss literature in the hot tub. Find inspiration in the forest, by the fishpond or stroking the award winning horses. Savor the gourmet food.

Karen X. Tulchinsky is the award-winning author of *Love Ruins Everything*, a novel which was named one of the top ten books of 1998 by the Bay Area Reporter, and *In Her Nature*, which won the 1996 VanCity Book Prize. She is also the editor of eight anthologies of contemporary fiction, including the best selling *Hot & Bothered*. She writes for numerous magazines including the *Vancouver Sun*, *Quill & Quire*, *DIVA*, *Girlfriends*, *Herizons* and the *Lambda Book Report*. She is currently completing a new novel, a play and a screenplay version of *Love Ruins Everything*. She teaches ongoing creative writing workshops and lives in Vancouver. The course is geared to writers of all levels and all genres., Each writer will have the opportunity to create and develop one short work of fiction, with the support of the instructor and other participants. During class time, we will focus on topics such as writing a first draft, overcoming writers block, how to write even when you don't feel inspired, writing a first short story, or first novel,

play or screenplay, finding your own voice, developing character, plot, setting, dialogue. There will be group sessions as well as private writing time for each writer. Participants will have the opportunity to read from their work and offer feedback to others.

The weekend starts Friday early evening and ends Monday afternoon. Pick up at the ferry or airport. Includes accommodation, all home cooked, healthy, delicious meals (special diets accommodated), access to all amenities, and superb instruction. All this from \$400.00 per person.

Call 250-245-3346 or email [relax@stonewallinn.bc.ca](mailto:relax@stonewallinn.bc.ca)

## Transcend Receives Grant

From Joshua Goldberg

The Capital Health Region has provided a grant to Transcend Transgender Support and Education Society to assist the organization to raise awareness of transgender issues, research resources available to transgendered individuals, and create a library resource on transgenderism.

Through an initiative called *Reaching Out*, Transcend, a non-profit society registered in BC, will: create and distribute a directory of community resources to assist transgendered individuals and their families; publish a brochure to make health, education, professional, and community organizations aware of Transcend's speaker's bureau on transgender issues; and establish a lending library of published resources on transgender subjects for service providers, transgendered individuals, and their families.

The Reaching Out initiative is also supported by the assistance of Victoria's NEED Crisis and Information Line, AIDS Vancouver Island, and University of Victoria Pride Society. In addition, Transcend is seeking the assistance of other organizations and individuals who can help make *Reaching Out* as effective as possible.

The Community Fund grant of \$4,750 will pay for out-of-pocket expenses such as printing, mail, photocopying, phone costs, and library acquisitions, while the majority of the project's costs, labour, will be carried out on a volunteer basis.

**Transcend** was established in 1999 with the goals of promoting the well-being of transgendered persons by developing and maintaining programs of support and advocacy, and promoting understanding within the wider community of transgender experience and issues. In a separate initiative, Transcend is creating a peer support group.

For more information, please contact Transcend at (250) 413-3220. Or write to Transcend Transgender Support and Education Society PO Box 8673 Victoria, BC, V8X 3S2.

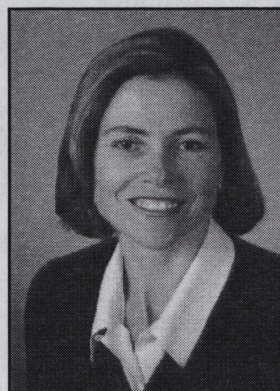
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADS & SERVICES

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

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

Deadline the first of the month prior to publication.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**LESBIAN HOUSEMATE WANTED:** In Vic West, off Galloping Goose. Spacious home to share with two lesbians and two loveable dogs. Near bus. Garden space, laundry. \$425/month plus utilities. 383-9789.

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

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY NOTES & HAPPENINGS

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

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

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

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

## PERSONAL

**DANCE?** I'm looking for a partner, lesbian or gay, to seriously study ballroom and Latin dancing. I'm five foot eight and will lead or follow. I'm up for Gay Games in Australia 2002 as well. Call Melanie at 383-9546

## SERVICES, ACTIVITIES & CONTACTS

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

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

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

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

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

**Outdoors Club:** 474-8159 email [kanaice.sls@telus.net](mailto:kanaice.sls@telus.net) Sherry Norie [s.norie@home.com](mailto:s.norie@home.com)

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

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

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

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### Keg party

Saturday August 12

9pm-2am

Cover: \$5.00 - \$3.00

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fund raiser for the *W C N* and the *Holly House*



## Party Hardy

with Debbie & Friends

Saturday August 26th

8:pm-1 am

Cover: \$5.00 - \$3.00

DJ's: "Alice & Allison"

Women only Event

Licenced



This is our summer fund raiser **PLEASE** attend

## **\*\*BARBECUE\*\***

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women  
only



Outdoor Fundraiser for the Women's Creative Network / G Spot

Sunday August 27th, 2pm

**\*\*At The Art House\*\***

Limited tickets : Available at the Spot

or phone CATHY AT 382 - 8244

Tickets : \$15 waged, \$8 unwaged/& or children

**No pets  
please!**

A selection of salads and tofu hotdogs will be available for vegetarians,  
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and be prepared to Enjoy !!!

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Women-fun-coffee-women-fun-coffee-women-fun-coffee-women

event information <small>see reverse for special events</small>	<b>August @ the spot</b> <div>women's creative network Come on out to support <b>YOUR spot</b></div>						
	sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
<b>Coffee Talk</b> 10:30am – 1:30pm Wednesdays \$2 for everyone hosted by Larrein & Kayshalee. a friendly time to drop in and chat. Dream Work with Clair – Phone First: 595-0088  <b>Coming Out Support Group with Tammy</b> 384-2366 *Welcome new members* 1st and 3rd Friday's 7-9pm  <b>New Writers' Group</b> *Open to new members* Interested call Kristen 384-5254 2nd & 4th Wednesday 7-9pm  <b>Party Hardy</b> 4th Saturday 9pm-2am \$5-3  <b>Pool Night</b> 3rd Saturday, 7:30-9pm unlicensed, Women only  <b>Qi Gong with Mariah</b> Tuesdays 6-7pm, by donation, sliding scale.  <b>Saturday Morning Coffee Talk</b> 10:30am – 1:30pm with Debbie & Friends – \$2 for everyone chair massage with Mariah, available most Saturdays  <b>Drop in Jam with Paula</b> 8:30-10:30pm 2nd & 4th Mondays  <b>Victoria Womens Outdoor's Club</b> Contact Kanaice at 474-8159 Sherry at s.norie@home.com			<b>1</b> <b>Qi Gong</b> 6-7pm with Mariah	<b>2</b> <b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Coming Out Support Group</b> 7-9pm	<b>5</b> <b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm
	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Qi Gong</b> 6-7pm with Mariah	<b>9</b> <b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm Writer's Group 7-9pm	<b>10</b> Womens Book Club 7-9pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm <b>The Famous Pips Keg Party</b> 9-2am
	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Drop inJam</b> with Paula 8:00 - 10:30 pm	<b>15</b> <b>Qi Gong</b> 6-7pm with Mariah	<b>16</b> <b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Coming Out Support Group</b> 7-9pm	<b>19</b> <b>Pool Night</b> 7:30-9pm
	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Qi Gong</b> 6-7pm with Mariah	<b>23</b> <b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm Writer's Group 7-9pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm <b>Party Hardy</b> 9-2 am
	<b>27</b> <b>BBQ</b> 2pm at the <b>ART HOUSE</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Drop inJam</b> with Paula 8:00 -10:30 pm	<b>29</b> <b>Qi Gong</b> 6-7pm with Mariah	<b>30</b> <b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <b>Coming Out Support Group</b> 7-9pm	<b>2</b> <b>coffee talk</b> 10:30am-1:30pm
	<b>Events at the Womens' Creative Network are:</b> <b>•WOMEN-ONLY</b> unless indicated *all genders*. this policy includes and welcomes transgendered and transsexual people. <b>•ALWAYS</b> available on a <b>SLIDING SCALE</b> , a sliding scale means that if you have more, you pay more, if you have less, you pay less: <b>Come out</b> and support <b>YOUR Spot</b>						up-to-date information always available @ 382-SPOT (7768) 1910 store street (just past Capital Iron) wcn_spot@yahoo.com <a href="http://victoria.tc.ca/Community/WCN/">http://victoria.tc.ca/Community/WCN/</a>