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celebrating the lives and times of rainbow folk in Grand River country

Outlook Magazine

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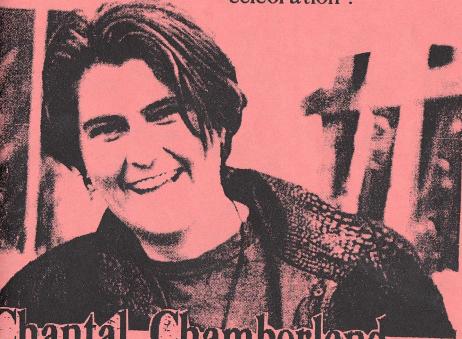
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WHAT'S INSIDE...

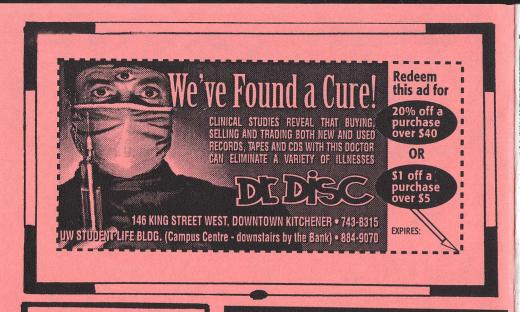
Miami Beach woos the world's \$17 billion gay and lesbian travel market.

.Coming Out: Worthy of celebration?

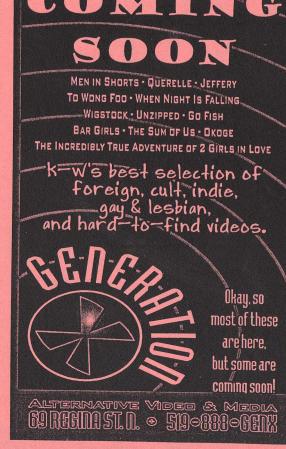


hantal Chamberland

"On Solid Ground"









Contents

- 4 COVER TO COVER ...Books of Interest
- 6 ENTERTAINMENT UPDATE ...TV/Music
- 7 CHANTAL CHAMBERLAND ..."On Solid Ground"
- 8 MOVIE PREVIEWS...What's Coming Up at The Princess Cinema
- 10 TRAVEL ...Miami Beach woos the world's \$17 billion gay and lesbian travel market
- 12 WHAT'S COOKIN'? ...with Chef Lance
- 14 HEALTHY GAY AND LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS ...Building Compatability
- WHAT MAKES COMING OUT WORTHY OF CELEBRATION?
- 19 WHAT'S HAPPENING ?...Community Events
- 20 READER'S CORNER ...Letters/Poetry/Viewpoints
- 22 LEARNING TOGETHER ABOUT HIV
 ...Testing and Counselling
- 25 CLASSIFIEDS
- **26 COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

...Services/Bookstores/Bars



Victory at the Courthouse

To this day, gays and lesbians live with a stinging memory of the last time Queen's Park said no to same-sex spousal benefits and rights, but our streak of fighting the government in court and winning continued on February 9.

The ruling has come down in a court case involving a recently separated lesbian couple. women were living together for 11 years, but when their relationship came to an end, one partner took most of their possessions. changed the locks on their home, their cottage and a business jointly held by the couple. The locked out partner said she should get support payments of \$5000 a month. The lawyer for her ex-partner and the Attorney General's office said she's not entitled to any support because Family Law Act savs the commonlaw spousal relationships can only exist between men and women.

Madame Justice Gloria Epstein in her 47 page decision disagreed. She says, "Same-sex relationships involve similar levels of economic dependence, mutual responsibilities, and emotional commitment as heterosexual relationships".

The winner in this court case is very pleased that she could be a part of creating such a big decision for same-sex rights in general.

Asked what she thinks about the ruling, Chris Phibbs, from The Campaign for Equal Families says, "It's a wonderful ruling from the angle of the gay and lesbian community. This is something that we've been arguing about and struggling for, for so long. Not only do we want same-sex rights, we want same-sex responsibilities too."

This ruling means that gays and lesbians with the means, must support each other when relationships iust like sour, heterosexual relationships, so they don't have to turn to the state for

It also shows that the courts are continuing to grant gays and lesbians equal rights, something the governments are continuing to fight in the courts, at the expense of the taxpayer.

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Murder on the Net

Virginia police are investigating a murder case in which the killer apparently met the victim through a computer "chat room."

Armed with a criminal search warrant, they recently descended on the headquarters of America Online and took dozens of files they hope will give them more evidence in the murder, which took place in New

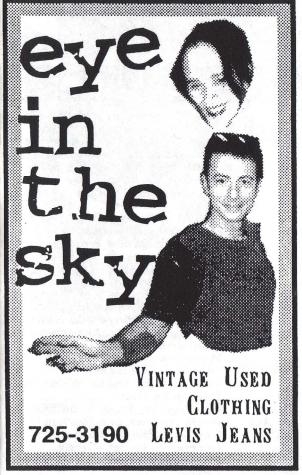
The man suspected of being the killer in the case apparently met the victim through a gay "chat room" on America Online. Chat rooms allow computer users with common interests to share information - to "talk" to each other via their computers.

But their off-line meeting Jan. 4 turned deadly, police say, when George Hemenway shot Jesse Unger in the head.

Unger, 39, was a computer systems analyst in nearby Princeton. Hemenway also 39, is a car mechanic and carpenter.

Hemenway remains in jail on murder charges. Police say he has confessed to the crime.

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DRAMATIC RESULTS WITH NEW AIDS DRUG

Dramatic results with a new AIDS drug could mean a longer life for people with HIV.

Researchers saying the triple punch combination of experimental new drug with two already on the market, is by far the most potent treatment yet. The drug therapy seems to slow the growth of the virus and may even stall it for long periods of time.

The new drug. Krixovan, when taken with AZT and 3TC has remarkable results. "After 4 months, no virus was detectable in the bloodstreams of 24 out of 26 of the people who got combination," says Mark Bowers, from The San Francisco Foundation.

"Ninety percent of the individuals with HIV disease in these studies who have received this combination therapy cease to have detectable AIDS virus in their blood. That is very exciting and hopeful news by any measure," says Pat Christen, San Francisco Foundation.

The new drug Krixovan, is a newer type of medication being tested on humans. It interupts the life cycle of HIV, without killing the virus. Just how long it can stop HIV from growing isn't known yet.

It's not a cure, but the results are dramatic because so far, the drugs available don't do much to extend the life of people infected with

COVET TO COVET

Between The Acts: Lives of Homosexual Men 1885 - 1967

Edited by Kevin Porter and Jeffrey Weeks Published by Routledge

Between the Acts is a collection of stories of fifteen homosexual men who lived between 1885 and 1967, told in a series of moving and immensely readable interviews. Their memories and experiences give us exceptional insights into how gay men made sense of their needs and desires, and fashioned for themselves manageable personal and social identities.

These stories, sometimes entertaining, sometimes disturbing, are set in Britian in the time period between the acts; the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885 which made all sexual activity between men illegal, and the Sexual Offences Act of 1967, which partially decriminalized such activities under a number of severe restrictions.

Reading this collection of stories makes you realize how far we have really come in the gay movement, and how, along the way, attitudes and circumstances have changed.

Available at Kitchener Public Library or a bookstore near you.

Out of the Past:
Gay and Lesbian History
from 1869 to the Present
by Neil Miller
Published by Vintage Books:
a Division of Random House Inc.

Encompassing more than a hundred years of gay and lesbian

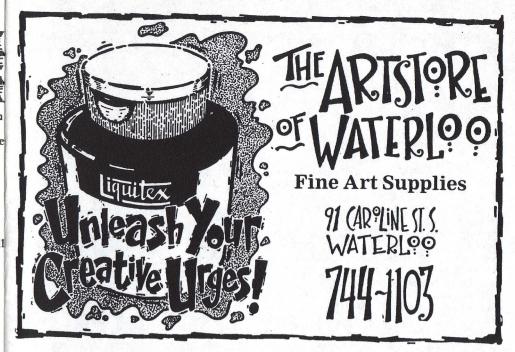
history, culture and politics, from the Plains Indians to 1920s Bloomsbury to America in the age of AIDS, this is an absorbing chronicle of the forging of homosexual identity, by the award winning author of Out in the World.

Neil Miller accompanies his narrative with portraits of ordinary men and women, as well as such figures as Walt Whitman, Eleanor Roosevelt, James Baldwin, T.E. Lawrence, Langston Hughes, and Martina Navritilova. Topics include:

- Frontier cowboys and Native American berdaches- men who lived and dressed as women
- . Women's friendships and "Boston marriages"
- . The trials of Oscar Wilde and Radelyffe Hall
- . Gay havens, from Belle Epoque Paris to Jazz Age Harlem
- . Gay and lesbian life in Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia, McCarthy's America and Castro's Cuba.
- . Mishima and homosexuality in Japan
- . The modern gay and lesbian movement

With excerpts from both contemporary and historical documents, this engaging panorama puts into historical context the ongoing quest for identity, civil liberties, and political power.

"Out of the Past is the best introduction to the lesbian and gay past and present that I know of. It's scope is vast, it's style lucid, it's understanding extraordinary." -Edmund White "A valuable record of suppressed history" - Rita Mae Brown



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ENTERTAINMENT

IV - Music - Movios - Concert Listings

& CONCERT LISTINGS &

Something To Sing About

On Saturday, January 27th, a small, enthusiastic crowd packed into the back room of Zion United Church in Kitchener to listen to Katherine Wheatley and then Cate Friesen sing. It was a wonderful evening of music, laughter, and the warmth of diverse communities coming together to participate. Katherine hails from Parry Sound and Cate from Toronto.

I had heard Cate before and was looking forward to hearing her sing some of her newest creations from her latest release Wayward. As always, many of her songs centre on people's stories and the struggles and joys of their lives. A current theme is of people she has worked with at a senior citizen's home. "Passionately Fond Of" is about an old man's 70 year love for his wife he's separated from in the Home, and his escape back to her. The song "Peggy Carpenter" is about an older woman living on the streets in Toronto. Cate also sang some of her old songs, such as a herstory about women who have passed as men in order to work or compete in a male society, and to be able to "flirt with all the girls!"

The next concert in the series will be Judy Small on March 9th and then Heather Bishop on April 20th JoAnn Loulan will be in Toronto on March 30th. For tickets phone 886-2375 or Readers Ink (Provident) Bookstore on University Ave., Wloo.

-Molly

Other Concerts in the upcoming weeks include:

* Feb. 21 Patti LaBelle at Massey Hall in Toronto. Call (416) 872-4255 to charge by phone.

Feb. 24 Chantal Chamberland at Club 121, 121 Hughson St. Hamilton.

Mar. 2 Ani Difranco plays Peter Clark Hall at University of Guelph. Tickets \$18.00. Also appearing at Waterloo's Revolution May 1.

Mar. 11-12 k.d. lang plays O'Keefe Centre in Toronto as part of her "All You Can Eat" tour. Tickets are available now for \$29.50 -\$55.00. Call to reserve tix at (416) 872-2262.

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TV TALK

A&E airs the biography of closet case J. Edgar Hoover on it's Investigative Reports, Saturday, February 24.

Exotica - Canada's hot director Atom Egoyan delivers this critically acclaimed exploration of the passion that drives a disturbed auditor to visit a strip club in the wake of his daughter's death. Not for the easily offended. The Movie Network, Feb. 20, 28,

Teresa's Tattoo - A comedy about kidnappers who abduct a look-alike when their hostage dies. Cameo appearances by k.d. lang and Melissa Etheridge.

The Movie Network, Feb. 21, 26.

Nell - Jodie Foster received an Oscar nomination for her performance as a "wid child" with her own language who is found in the woods and studied by the local doctor (Liam Neeson) and a big city specialist (Natasha Richardson) The Movie Network, Feb. 16.

Chantal Chamberland is "On Solid Ground"



By 'The Party Animal'

Recently, partner and I took to the icy roads to see one of our friends and favourite singer/songwriters perform at Guelph's Albion Hotel. Chantal would be playing with a full band upstairs at the Albion a very intimate venue. When we arrived, there was only one other couple in the room and we wondered if and hoped it would get busier. It was 10 o'clock and the show was to start at 10:30. Sure enough and as always at Chantal's performances the room was filled to capacity minutes before show time. I have to say, this was a group of very eager enthusiastic partiers.

Most of material she played was from her first solo album, "On Solid Ground." However, she did manage to play a couple 'Open Mind' songs of which she was

now living in Australia | but will still contribute sones to future Chamberland projects.

You'll notice a few changes from her past performances with 'Open Mind' most notably the addition of a full band. Included in the line-up is Andrew Aldridge on guitars, John Kenyon keyboards, Chris Lamont on drums and Linda Persichini doing background vocals; and what a great job she does!

" On Solid Ground" is mainly made up of original songs written by Chantal with the exception of three written by her former 'Open Mind' partner, Cynthia Kerr. I have to say, I think Chantal did a great job, considering she hadn't written any songs prior to March. The first song she wrote was 'Never Coming Back', a tribute to her late grandmother what a beautiful song one half. The other it is. "That's a song half of 'Open Mind' is I've wanted to write

for a long, long time, but I was never able. I write about things I feel at the moment, and I'm hoping it will change. I want to take more chances."

Chamberland hoping to plug her wares both as a solo act and collaboratively all over North America. including a place she and Kerr performed three times over the life of 'Open Mind'. Nashville's legendary Bluebird Cafe.

So, while 'Open Mind' is a fond memory, Chantal feels she has an equally open future. probably lost a bit of the 'Open Mind' crowd, but I've retained a pretty good crowd. I'm glad I continued, I'm having a lot of fun." Chantal will be playing Hamilton's Club 121 at 121 Hughson Street on February 24. Make sure you check her out. You'll be sorry if you miss this one. While you're there. don't forget to pick up her new CD. It's grrreat!

Upcoming Gigs For Chantal Chamberland

- * March 9 Alexandria's SUDBURY
- * March 13 L'Exit MONTREAL
- * March 23 Albion Hotel GUELPH
- * March 30 LaLuna HAMILTON



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Red Firecracker, Green Firecracker

He Ping (China/HK, 1993) Subtitled

He Ping's long-awaited follow-up to The Swordsman in Double-Flag Town takes the sex war into dangerous, explosive areas. The setting is a small feudal town in North China in the early years of the Republic around 1920, say. The man is Niu Bao, a wandering artist, hired to paint New Year pictures for the Cai family, who own everything in sight and are the biggest local employers at the fireworks factory. The woman is Cai Chunzhi, current head of the Cai family - a role that forces her to dress and behave as a man. She finds the presence of a louche, macho male in the house curiously disturbing, and is soon making furtive visits to his guarters. But neither of them has reckoned with the wrath of the clan.

This is modern myth-making in the tradition of Red Sorghum, using an imaginary past to get to grips with the sexual undercurrents in Chinese culture. Actually "undercurrents" may be the wrong word: the climactic fireworks contest is as graphic a representation of phallic play as you could have this side of decency laws. He Ping enjoys himself as much as you will; the visual pyrotechnics match the sexual pyrotechnics, rocket for rocket.

February 20 7:00 pm February 21 7:00 pm February 22 9:00 pm

The Doom Generation

Greg Araki (USA/France 1995)

Greg Araki's first biggish budget film (it has a stunning stylized look) is an off the meter power surge in the apocalyptic tradition of many of the films of Jean-Luc Godard, Antonioni's Zabriske Point and Kubrick's Clockwork Orange. It is also Araki's first "heterosexual" film, although homoerotic overtones abound in the triangular relationship that develops between three beautiful, desensitized and otherwise screwed-up youths. Amy Blue, a 17-year-old speed princess, her naive boyfriend Jordan White and a sexy drifter Xavier Red are forced to take to the road after Zavier inadvertently blows the head off a convenience store clerk during an impromptu hold-up. What follows is a hallucinogenic journey into the world of macabre violence and unbridled sexual games, as the enigmatic "X" leads Amy and Jordan deeper and deeper into trouble. The soundtrack (Nine Inch Nails, Porno for Pyros, and more) drives home the theme of lost innocence among an MTV-fed subculture with an in-your-face industrial spit.

February 23 7:00 pm February 24 10:00 pm February 25 7:00 pm February 26 9:00 pm February 27 9:30 pm February 28 9:30 pm

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TRAVEL



VAMPING FOR NEW VISITORS

Hurricanes, riots, crime, awkward memories of actor Don Johnson running around sockless in a pastel linen jacket - deservedly or not, the developments of the past few years have not burnished South Florida's image as a prime tourist destination. And yet, even as the number of visitors to Dade County dropped in 1994, there was one conspicuous bright spot for local boosters: gay tourists, usually with gobs of money to spend, have been flocking to Miami Beach by the thousands. While Chamber of Commerce types in other cities might view this development with alarm, gobs of money or no, tourism officials in Miami Beach want the world to know all about their good fortune. "The gay and lesbian destination of the nineties!" crows a recently published brochure from the South Beach Business Guild.

Not so long ago, when most gays thought about Miami the first thing that came to mind was pop singer Anita Bryant's noisy but successful attempt in 1977 to repeal Dade County's gay-rights ordinance. Back then Miami Beach itself was largely a district of crumbling Art Deco hotels, a playground for cold-weather retirees. In the late '80s, however, the South Beach district was discovered by the ever restless fashion industry and quickly became a stopping-off point for photographers, models and other people who employ the word style as both a noun and verb. Today the area boasts not only chic stores, restaurants and Madonna but a thriving and increasingly visible gay population as well.

"I would now rank Miami just behind San Francisco and New York City (as travel destination), says Billy Kolber, editor of Out and About, a gay travel newsletter. Like straights, gays are drawn by the sun and beaches, but the comfort factor is perhaps an even bigger draw. "People will call me and ask if we have gay hotels," says Bob Guilmartin, owner of the South Florida Hotel Network, a Miami Beach reservation service. "I tell them, 'What do you need a gay hotel for? Everyone who works in the hotels is already gay.'"

Eager to tap into the lucrative market - gays in the U.S. alone are estimated to spend \$17 billion a year on travel - Miami Beach has begun aggresively courting it. Over Memorial Day weekend at the end of May, the city treated 17 journalists from European gay press to an all-expenses-paid, four-day tour of Dade County in hopes that the happy junkateers would then return home and crank out some nice puff pieces. Local businesses. eager to come off well, donated hotel rooms, meals and transportation. The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau sent invitations for a similar get-acquainted tour to 18 gay publications in the U.S. "It's not an ideological or political thing at all." says Jose Lima, a spokesman for the organization. "It's about hard dollars."

On any given day of the week, same-sex couples lounge on the beach at 12th and Ocean Boulevard, across the street from the now refurbished and landmarked Art Deco hotels. On Lincoln Road, a trendy pedestrian mall lined with upscale boutiques and restaurants, young men, stripped to the waist, stroll hand in hand. A sign in a popular bar avers, YOU WANT IT, WE GOT IT, HUNDREDS OF WOMEN WHO ARE HOT FOR OTHER WOMEN.

"I love visiting Miami because

With other tourists shying away, Miami Beach woos the world's \$17 billion gay and lesbian travel market. by Tammerlin Drummond (Time Magazine)

you meet an interesting collection of gay men from all over the world." says a 32-year-old college professor from Chicago who makes the trip twice a year. But not everyone is as thrilled with the lure of Miami Beach as a same-sex cornucopia. Locals have complained about noise and lewd behavior outside some nightclubs. "That's not the kind of society we want to see," says Phineas Weberman, a local Orthodox rabbi who claims that many tradition-minded families are abandoning the heavily Jewish area because of their new neighbours. Critics in other parts of Florida warn of dark - if vague consequences. "You are going to have a lot of people over the years who are offended by the large number of homosexuals there," says David Caton, president of the American Family Association of Florida, which has opposed gay-rights ordinances throughout the

For others, gay tourists' choice demographics outweigh any prejudice. According to travel-industry studies, gays as a group represent a particularly affluent brand of consumer. "They clearly spend disproportionately more on travel than any other group," says Rex Briggs, project manager for Yankelovich Partners, a polling firm that surveyed gay and lesbian spending patterns in the U.S. Gay travellers also tend to be more loyal than straights: surveys show they are especially appreciative of good service, and, if pleased, will return to a restaurant, hotel or resort again and again - as Miami's tourism officials discovered when they noticed that gays were continuing to visit even as less hardy travellers were being scared off by the area's troubles.

The message has not been lost on the rest of the U.S. travel industry. Consider the sudden about-face of American Airlines: in 1993 the airline was widely denounced after one of it's flight crews had a man with AIDS removed from the plane after he refused to put away his IV bottle; a year ago, the airline appointed a sales manager assigned solely to the gay and lesbian market. "We realized that gay and lesbian people travel an awful lot," says American Airlines spokesman Tim Kincaid, and so far the company has booked \$15 million worth of business from gay tours and conventions.

Virgin Atlantic wants a piece of the same action: the airline began running advertisements featuring a male couple in Out and the Advocate, America's two most prominent gay magazines. Meanwhile, Avis and National Car Rental have dropped the additional driver fees they used to charge same-sex couples who live together. All around the U.S., mainstream tour operators have begun hawking gay-only packages for everything from cruises to a ski week in Aspen.

While gays and lesbians welcome this new acceptance, no one thinks homophobia is going to disappear from the American landscape any time soon. Still, as any student of human affairs knows, money goes a long way toward buying social acceptance. As Miami Beach Mayor Seymour Gelber puts it, "Gays pay like everyone else. We're glad they're here."





Got the winter blahs? Well then, it's time to throw a party. Chef Lance is passing on a few recipes to spice up that buffet table. To start off with, here is a quick and easy appetizer that will make your mouth water.

Chicken Livers with Water Chestnuts

This delicious combination of flavour and texture makes Chicken Livers with Water Chestnuts a great way to start off a meal.

8 lean bacon slices
8 chicken livers
8 canned water chestnuts
3/4 tsp. black pepper
1/2 tsp. ground ginger
4 tbsp. soy sauce

Heat the oven broiler to medium heat. Wrap each slice of bacon around a chicken liver and water chestnut. Spear each assembled piece on to metal skewers, (3 or 4 to each skewer). Sprinkle with pepper and ginger and brush with soy sauce. Place the skewers under the broiler, and turning them occasionally, cook for 8 to 10 minutes. Brush again with soy sauce, remove from skewers and serve. Serves 4.

Yum, sounds tasty, but lets get on to the first course.

Cucumber and Pork Soup

A simple yet exotic Chinese soup with a fresh flavour, Cucumber and Pork Soup makes an interesting and different first course for a dinner party.

5-1/2 cups chicken stock

1 tsp. salt

1 tbsp. soy sauce

- 8 oz. pork fillets, cut into very thin strips
- 2 medium-sized cucumbers, peeled, halved lengthways, seeded, and cut into 1/4 inch slices

In a large, heavy saucepan, combine the chicken stock, salt and soy sauce together. Add the strips of pork to the pan and bring the mixture to a boil over moderate heat. Cook for 10 minutes. Add the cucumbers to the pan and bring the soup back to a boil. Boil for 3 minutes, or until the cucumbers are translucent. Pour into a warmed soup tureen and serve at once. Makes 6 servings

These are just a couple of dishes for your buffet table, but don't forget those of us with the sweet tooth. This following recipe should do the trick.

Chocolate Rum Truffles

A delicious and elegant party sweet, Chocolate Rum Truffles take a very short time to prepare. Brandy can be substituted for rum if you prefer the taste.

4 oz. dark semi sweet cooking chocolate, brken into pieces

3 tbsp. dark rum

1/4 cup unsalted butter, cut into small pieces

3 oz. icing sugar, sifted

3 oz. ground almonds 1 tbsp. unsweetened cocoa

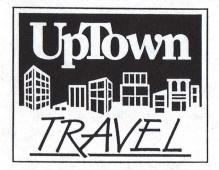
In a bowl placed over a pan of hot water or in a double boiler, melt the chocolate with the rum, stirring occasionally. As soon as the chocolate has melted, remove from heat. Add the sugar, butter and

almonds, stirring constantly with a wooden spoon until the mixture becomes smooth and very thick. Set the bowl aside to allow to cool to room temperature. When at room temperature place in the refrigerator for 30 minutes. When the mixture is cool enough to handle, make approximately 30 small balls by rolling in your hands. Sift the

cocoa onto a greased cookie sheet of on wax paper. Roll each ball of chocolate in the cocoa until generously coated. Store in the refrigerator until ready to serve.

I'm ready already! Better double this recipe up if you want any left for your guests.

Bon Appetit!



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SALES & LEASING

Gay and Cosbian Relationships

Building Compatability

Partner selection for lesbians and gav men can be either a frustrating experience or an enjoyable process of getting to know each other. It all depends on your attitudes and having a good knowledge of self and the criteria you base your selection on. So, what criteria do we use in making our choices of possible mates? Whether we want to admit it or not, most of us start with looks, either a popular accepted standard of what's attractive, or our own personal preferences. We start there, but unfortunately many people stop there. For those who move beyond physical appearance, the following criteria are often taken into account: responsiveness to one's self, a pleasing personality, a semblance of sanity, and some evidence that the person will be liked by one's friends or family. But these are not the only qualities needed to hold up to the demands of a long term relationship. According to Betty Berzon. Ph.D., the following list of guestions should be asked by single lesbians and gay men of themselves when they are getting to know a potential partner:

Is this a person-

* who seems as if she/he will grow as an individual and not become overly dependent on me to make her/his life work?

* who is in touch with her/his feelings, who can talk about them freely, who is comfortable expressing anger as well as affection?

* who doesn't have to run away from

conflict, who is willing and able to confront relationship problems and work on them?

* who listens when I talk, who gives me the feeling that I am being heard and understood.

* who can give as well as receive, who would be able to take care of me if I should have that need?

* who can receive as well as give, who is able to ask for what she/he needs, so that a relationship would afford opportunity for both of us to give as well as receive?

* who functions on an intellectual level that is similar enough to mine so that one of us would not be chronically at a disadvantage with the other?

* whose life experience is similar enough to mine so that we can understand and respect each other's values and needs?

* who likes the same kinds of recreational and social things I like, enough to build a life together that would be mutually enjoyable? * who is comfortable with her/his sexuality.

and are we compatible in our sexual patterns?

Only through interacting over time will you be able to assess another person's qualities and possible compatability. Too often gay and lesbian couples conduct their courtship AFTER they have moved in together, which can lead to a variety of problems. Go slow and keep in mind that intimacy builds with time.

*This is the first installment of a five part series.

Next month: Pt.2 "Power and Control Issues"

"Love requires respect and friendship as well as passion. Because there comes a time when you have to get out of bed."

-Erica Jong

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What Makes Coming Out Something Worthy of Celebration?

by Richard D. Mohr

to buy a washing machine. "I want a really basic model," he tells the salesman, who in response asks if he's married. He hums and says no. The salesman continues, "Well, when not known. On this account, you do get married, you'll want a delicate cycle for her dainties." Later, my friend guiltily admits, "I should have just come out to him. I was caught off guard.

It's fall again. The first day of school. Two minutes into class. After drawing attention to the syllabus listings of my office information, I do a mental push-up and proceed: "I've also given you my home telephone number; there's an answering machine and my lover is willing to take messages, though please don't try his patience with complicated ones." The sentence floats out over the room, some students get it, some don't, some, still sleepy-eyed, aren't even listening. But word gets around. Word is out. I've just come out to fifty strangers.

October 11 is the day marking the annual celebration of National Coming Out Day. What is it that we celebrate? What makes coming out so worthy of celebration? Why for so many gay people is coming out the central event of their lives? The answers are courage, freedom and dignity.

Now, many gay theorists mostly trendy academics - claim that the very idea of coming out is bugaboo. They hold that there is no lurking inner gay essence that somehow is first discovered by the gay person within him or herself and then made manifest to others through an act - coming out whereby that which before was concealed is now revealed. They

A gay friend new to town needs claim rather that society induces or constructs the person as gay and so also always knows that the person is gay even though both society and the person pretend that this fact is homosexuality is an open secret, a secret that is always giving itself away.

> But the issues of whether one's sexuality initially is an open or a complete secret, and whether it's causes are society, genes, or something else, are largely irrelevant to understanding the coming out processes.

Coming out is primarily a moral rather than cognitive act. It is not a matter of knowledge but of acknowledgement. In coming out, one acknowledges one's sexuality to oneself and presents it to others in such a way that even if they know of it already, they can no longer act as though they don't. Coming out is the claiming of one's sexuality as one's own (wherever it came from) and raising it as an issue for others where relevant.

As the lesbian theorist Joyce Trebilcot has put it, coming out is primarily a matter of taking responsibility for sexuality: "Coming out is not merely a matter of reinterpreting one's past: it involves taking responsibility for being a lesbian both in the past and in the future."

Coming out is socially important because it dashes the shame generated by the open secret, the dirty little secret that runs: "We know that you know that we know. but we won't mention it because your sexual bearings - you - are as embarrassing to acknowledge as excrement."

Coming out says no to the humiliating rituals of "don't ask, don't tell." Coming out is a refusal to go along with society's presumption that for all public purposes, being a person means being heterosexual.

But because this presumption is so central to society's understanding of itself, coming out will not be socially viewed as merely an irritation, like hooliganism. It will be viewed, like civil disobedience, as an act of treason - a challenging of the very ground rules by which society, largely through unacknowledged habit, constitutes itself. And so coming out is a major act of moral courage. Indeed as modern culture becomes ever more bureaucratic, mechanistic, and socialistic, the coming out process affords one of the few remaining opportunities to manifest courage.

But what's in it for the individual? Many gay activists hold that the point of coming out is that it makes you feel good and it gives you power. The truth, though, is one which gays' parents in particular don't want to hear: coming out is not chiefly a means to happiness and power; indeed it typically requires putting these values at risk. Coming out cedes away privilege and it's powers. It increases one's exposure to discrimination. It gives one a heightened awareness of the ways in which society despises gays. These changes are not near occasions of happiness.

But no one who goes through the coming out experience ever willingly goes back into the closet. For people get something else, something more important, out of the experience.

They get a sense of self, a sense that, for better or worse, their life is their own, that it has a ground. This is something quite different from acquiring materials and benefits or enjoying, say, sex or a

Coming out is an ultimate adventure, for it constitutes the surfacing of the individual as capable of guiding her life by her own lights. To be so positioned is to be a person, to live in freedom, to have dignity. In their willingness to sacrifice their own happiness, privileges, and benefits, gays and lesbians through coming out reconsecrate personhood, freedom, and individual dignity as the highest human values.

We are right, then, to celebrate coming out and to give it it's special day. Coming out is the heart of gay pride. What is worthy of celebration is not the simple and perhaps given fact of being gay, but our doing something about it for the good.

That we mark coming out, like a birthday, with one special day should not mislead us into thinking that coming out is an event, like being born, which is singular, unique. and done once and for all.

Everyday living itself will occasion the need for coming out on a rolling basis. The paradigm case of coming out is not that of telling mom and dad, but of telling sleepy students and clerks at Sears.

Richard D. Mohr is the author of Gays/Justice: A Study of Ethics, Society and Law.

Quote of the Month (9)

"To dream the person you would like your partner to be is to waste the person your partner is." -Anonymous



Well then, why don't you try

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If you're a Bingo fanatic and can't seem to put that dabber away, bring it on out to Uptown Bingo Palace in Waterloo. You'll get your fix of Bingo and at the same time help support ACCKWA (The AIDS Commitee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area). These games are a weekly event and help raise funds for the region's AIDS Service Organization. COME ON OUT! Upcoming Bingo will be held at Uptown Bingo Palace, 17 King St. South in Waterloo on:

-Wednesday, February 21
-Thursday, February 29
-Tuesday, March 5
-Thursday, March 14

11am-3pm
13pm-6pm
13pm-6pm

CHANTAL CHAMBERLAND

If you missed Chantal's performance at Guelph's Albion Hotel last month, don't miss her at her upcoming gig at Club 121 in Hamilton on February 24.
Club 121 is located at 121 Hughson St. in downtown Hamilton. Her brand new CD, "On Solid Ground" will be available.

R.O.T.C. (Toronto)

(Righteously Outrageous Twirling Corps) will be visiting our area on Sat. Feb. 17. They are competing in Ontario Colour Guard Competitions so come on out and show your support to our community's entry in these competitions!

-Forest Heights Collegiate
255 Fischer Hallman Rd.
Kitchener, Ontario

-6pm - 10 pm

-Admission \$5 - \$7
For more info. call (519) 763-8947

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The Schoolhouse
611 Silvercreek Parkway, Guelph Admission \$4.00 LLBO Licensed For more info. call G.L.B.E at

Kitchener City Hall's Rotunda is the setting for this year's Womynfest '96. The International Women's Day Coffee House will feature entertainment, dance. song and poetry. The Health and Wellness Fair includes information and demonstrations of this area's women's health and wellness services. All events are wheelchair accessible and admission is free! For more information please call Susan at

This year, GLLOW (Gay and Lesbian Liberation of Waterloo) celebrates it's silver anniversary. It's hard to believe but the organization has been serving our community for 25 years! To mark the occasion, GLLOW will be hosting a dinner and dance at Waterloo Inn. The event will have a buffet dinner featuring 1/4 Chicken & Pasta Primavera, You can also sit back and listen to quest speaker SVEND ROBINSON. Tickets for the dinner and dance are available for \$25.00. If you prefer, you may attend the dance on it's own by purchasing tickets at the door for \$7.00 or save by getting them in advance for only \$5.00. Tickets are available by calling UW Feds at 888-4042 or GLLOW at (Mon. - Fri. 7:30 - 9:30 pm.)

Where: Waterloo Inn
475 King St. N.
Waterloo, Ontario
When: Saturday, March 9, 1996
Dinner: 7:00pm
Dance: 10:00pm

If you know of any events that would be of interest to our community and should be listed in "What's Happening?" drop us a line or give us a call. Write to us at: "What's Happening?" c/o Outlook Magazine 37 Vanier Drive, Suite 1109 Kitchener, Ontario N2C 1J4

or call us at: (519) 570-3453

Reader's Corner



On The Serious Side...

by Molly

Illness, loss and dying...unfortunately these are the thoughts that have been on my mind alot, lately. I think we spend much of our time living as though these realities don't really affect us, until suddenly they do. Then, what inner resources have we built up to help ourselves and each other to cope?

Two friends of mine are very ill with cancer. One has been a friend for many years and though I don't see her often, (she's married and living some distance away,) there is always a very warm connection between us when we talk or visit. Even when I came out to her; although she lives in a very conservative community, she was not condemning, but compassionate and trying hard to understand the issue in more personal terms - as it applied to a friend whom she cared about.

I have struggled with remaining hopeful and optimistic and at the same time being realistic enough to prepare for the loss that terminal illnesses bring. It was in one of these realistic moments that I was struck by the realization that even though I don't see her much, I would miss her terribly, and that everyone that has known her warm, caring, and generous self would also feel this loss. It also struck me that while she is not well-known, the world itself would have lost someone special, simply because of the effect of her being here in it.

The other friend of mine I have only met recently, but like many others who now her, I felt an immediate connection, an energy and strength that are inspiring - the way she lives her life as a woman, proud to be a lesbian, strong against the challenges, and committed to building a community in the various ways she defines it. I know that she would be terribly missed by many more than myself. Once again, I was struck by that same thought - that the world would lose someone who does make a difference.

There's not much to do with this impending sense of loss, besides recognize the blessings of knowing such people and attempt to carry on the legacy that they leave to us.

I did not know Dave Grant personally, but I was aware of the many ways in which he stood up for the gay/lesbian community in his own local area; how he took on many of the political issues and fought the fight with the determination and courage that it took. We have all benefitted from his taking action and speaking up for our needs and goals, and will miss him being with us.

As I think of the various people in the communities of my life and the differences that they make by being who they are, the only thing I can give back is to remember their inspiration to me to strive to make a difference by who I am to the people around me, in my community, in my world, and to more fully appreciate them while they are still here.

Untitled

Only time can tell the truths we hide We wear our masks to conceal the pain inside.

We wish for the acceptance we cannot find Desires and needs become hidden deep within our mind.

For gender makes no difference in matters of the heart So let's strive to live in harmony instead of separate and apart.

Be who you are and sing your praises loud For you are uniquely you so love freely and be proud.

"Catherine"



Dear "Outlook Magazine",

I would like to congratulate you on the launch of your magazine. I've been picking it up around town at various locations since your premier issue came out September. It's nice to see that Outlook is not just available at gay bars and gay businesses, but also at book and music stores across the region. I have to say, in the few months Vour magazines quality is getting better. May I suggest, that your readers' send you stories of 'coming out'? I think it would be a very interesting topic to cover, as everyone comes from such a diversity of backgrounds, it would be really cool to compare their experiences with our own. I look forward to the next issue! Thank you.

> Jim D. Waterloo

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Learning Together About HIV



HIV Testing and Counselling

For many people, the idea of going for HIV testing is extremely stressful. Not only is HIV a chronic, longterm disease, it is infectious, sexually transmittable, and potentially fatal.

Unfortunately, the benefits of early diagnosis and treatment are not so well known. Similar to other life-threatening diseases, such as cancer, early detection and treatment of HIV infection can delay the onset of symptoms and alter the course of the disease, thus improving the prognosis.

Early detection is also extremely important from the perspective of preventing transmission of the virus to others. Since an infected person may be totally symptom free for up to ten years or longer, he or she can potentially infect others unknowingly. HIV antibody testing is the only way that people can know their status prior to developing symptoms.

Pre-test Counselling

It is essential that all persons considering HIV antibody testing be provided with counselling prior to undergoing the test. For many people, going in for HIV testing is an emotionally charged event. The aim of counselling is to help prepare for the impact of the test results,

whether they are negative or positive.

Counsellors explore the rationale for testing and the implications of the results on the individual's life and/or lifestyle. The person being tested is also encouraged to examine his or her own coping skills and support network and, if required, consider a period of counselling to help develop the necessary skills to cope with the test results.

Your Family Doctor

All general practitioners are able to order the HIV antibody test. Your doctor will ask what your risk activities have been. Not all family doctors are familiar with pre- and post-test counselling, and you may wish to discuss your doctor's comfort with doing the necessary counselling prior to having your test done by him or her. Also, it is important to know, that your test results will become a part of your permanent medical record if done out of your doctor's office.

It usually takes two weeks for the test results to come back. For many people, this is an agonizing time.

Post-test Counselling

Receiving HIV antibody test results is often more stressful than going for the test, or the waiting. And the reactions to the results,

whether positive or negative, are as variable and unique as the people themselves. Because this is such a stressful time, people may not remember much of what they were told at the time. Health professionals experienced in counselling know that this is not a good time to do any teaching, and if the test result is positive, follow-up appointments can be used to reinforce teaching and answer questions.

Who Are You Going To Call?

The news that an HIV antibody test is positive is devastating: whether it is your own or the results of someone close to you. It is a particularly vulnerable time, and the most important first step can be the most daunting... getting help in dealing with the emotional turmoil. Like any medical "bad news", shock, denial and fear are felt almost immediately by anyone receiving a positive diagnosis.

Help is available from several sources. There are skilled and knowledgable psychologists, physicians and counsellors at the hospital, STD Clinic and at our local AIDS Service Organization; (ACCKWA), who have had years of experience counselling in the field of HIV infection.

It is essential that anyone who

offers to provide post-test counselling be trained, non-judgmental, and sensitive to the numerous lifestyle issues that may arise.

When speaking to persons living with HIV, they often tell of the feelings of isolation and loneliness experienced when first dealing with their diagnosis. Unlike other life-threatening diseases, such as cancer, many people do not know anyone else who is HIV positive. Although professional counselling is extremely beneficial at this time. many persons living with HIV say how important it is to talk with someone else who is living with HIV. There are programs set up at ACCKWA that will give you the opportunity to do just that. You will meet other persons living with HIV and AIDS which will open up the lines of communication within your peer group. They are the HIV positive Support Group and The Quality of Life Group. If you need to talk to someone call 570-3687.

In the next issue of 'Outlook' we will examine Immune System Basics and HIV Progress. We will cover topics such as:
-The Immune System and HIV:
What Happens?
-The Destruction of CD4 T-Cells

-HIV Symptomatic and AIDS

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Deadline for March 15 Issue is March 10

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION

SERVICES

ACCKWA (The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, K-W and Area) 123 Duke Street Kitchener, Ontario 1-519-570-3687

AIDS Clinical Trials Hotline Information on FDA listed clinical trials accessible from Canada 1-800-TRIALS-A

AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County 265 Woolwich Street Guelph, Ontario 1-519-763-2255

AIDS Hotline Ontario Ministry of Health 1-800-668-2437

AIDS Information and Education 205 Queen Street E. Fergus, Ontario 1-519-843-2460

Brethern Mennonite Council for Gays and Lesbians
A social, spiritual and educational group for gay/lesbian/bisexual
Mennonites, Brethern and affiliates.
Churchgoers and non-churchgoers who are interested in connecting with others who share these roots and influences, write to: B.M.C
P.O. Box 43031 Eastwood Square
Kitchener, Ontario N2H 6S9

Canadian AIDS Society Ottawa 1-613-230-3580

Community AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE) Toronto 1-416-944-1916

CKWBL (Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo Bisexual Liberation) P.O. Box 28002, Parkdale P.O. Waterloo, Ontario N2L 6J8

DISTRESS LINE Kitchener 1-519-745-1166

GLLOW (Gay and Lesbian Liberation of Waterloo) Waterloo 1-519

Guelph Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Equality Guelph 1-519-

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Line 1-800-268-YOUTH

Ontario AIDS Network Toronto 1-416-364-4555

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Acton.....1-519-

Cambridge.....1-519-Guelph.....1-519-

Project Angel (Waterloo Region AIDS Memorial) 250 Dundas St. S. Suite 221 Cambridge, Ontario NIR 8A8

Rainbow Alliance
Are you a deaf gay or lesbian?
There is an organization for the deaf called The Toronto Rainbow
Alliance of the Deaf. We have meetings once a month at the 519
Church Street Community Centre on the first Saturday from 1pm - 4pm.
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Cambridge 1-519-658-0551
Guelph 1-519-823-5806

Substance Abuse Prevention Kitchener 1-519-741-3827

Two Spirited People of First Nations Toronto 1-416-944-9300

Waterloo Region Alliance for Equal Rights

Women's Centre (U of W) Waterlool-519-888-4567 ext. 3457

WOODS (Women Out Of Doors)
P.O. Box 13
Campus Centre Postal Outlet
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GAY RADIO

OUT AND ABOUT with your host Dave C. airs alternate Tuesdays on CKWR 98.7 FM 8:30 - 10:00 pm.

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NOWHERE TO HIDE airs Wednesdays from 8pm - 9pm on CKMS 100.3 FM

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KW Book Exchange 306 King St. W. Kitchener, Ontario 1-519-742-1261

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