### **Grand River Rainbow Historical Project**

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

#### Outlook Magazine

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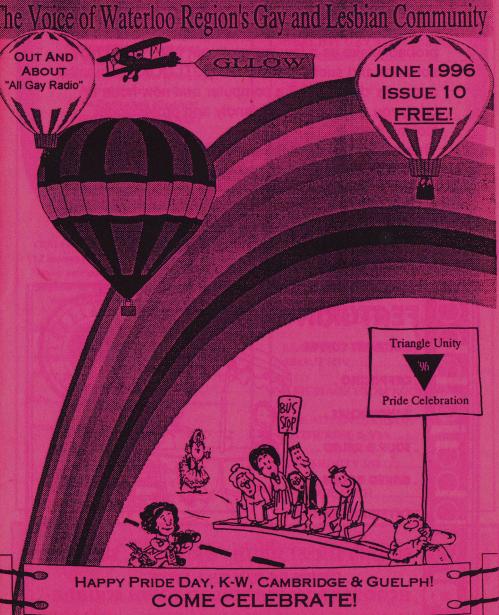
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# OUTLOOK

The Voice of Waterloo Region's Gay and Lesbian Community



KITCHENER CITY HALL ROTUNDA \* THURS. JUNE 27 \* 7PM



Please 'bear with us' while we get accustomed to our new computer system and publishing suite. It will probably take us a few issues to get used to the new software and such. We started OUTLOOK ten months ago on a 'dinosaur' of a computer and now hope to bring you a more reader friendly and professional looking format.

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Thank you.



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#### **CRIME WATCH**

### POLICE FEAR TRANSVESTITE MURDERS NOT THE LAST

The murders of two transvestite hookers 150 metres apart on a popular Cabbagetown "track" May 21 should be a chilling warning to others in the gay sex trade, police say.

"There is a strong possibility of the murders being linked and other people could be in danger," Det.-Sgt. Jim McDermott of the Metro Police homicide unit told reporters.

"If I was them, I'd be very, very concerned about being in this area," he said.

Both victims "appear to have been working as prostitutes in the area and both appear to have died about the same time," McDermott said. "We're treating their deaths as related.

A drag queen who decided to turn tricks on Monday night after his welfare cheque was delayed was the first victim found after the early-morning shootings. Some residents mistook the shot for Victoria Day fireworks.

Shawn Keegan, 18, formerly of Belleville, was found by security guards in a parking garage stairwell outside 40 Homewood Ave. at 12:05 a.m. McDermott said residents called police and reported "the sounds of gunshots" outside the highrise apartment building.

A man leaving for work and a bedand-breakfast owner spotted the second victim lying in an alley behind 65 Homewood Ave. around 9 a.m. His name has not been released.

Residents said both appeared to have been shot in the head, but police won't release details until after today's (May 22) autopsies. The slayings bring Metro's murder toll for the year to 22.

Dolores Thompson-Wood, coowner of the Homewood Inn, said "I saw the body when I peeked through the gate" behind her converted three storey brick home.

She said the victim, who wore white shorts, a white T-shirt and white sneakers, "had fingernail polish on his fingers." An open transparent umbrella lay next to the body.

Louise Ardella said a tenant in her nearby house found the body around 9 a.m. and told her "he was shot in the head."

Ardella said transvestite hookers "have been getting pretty bad the last couple of weeks, but this murder right in my backyard is pretty scary. I like my house but will probably move."

Friends said Keegan ran away from home when he was 13, had little family contact, could barely read or write and worked as a prostitute for more than 3 years.

"The best way to put it was Shawn was a very loving, caring person," said roommate Patrick McGuin, 19, who describes himself as the murdered youth's "first lover."

He said they were reunited a week ago at Pembroke House, south of Allan Gardens, after leaving a "squat" on Carlton St., where 50 street youth were recently evicted by city officials.

McGuin said Keegan was to page him the night he died, so they could discuss their drag-queen performance tomorrow night at Jack's Bar and Grill, "but I never heard from him."

Keegan was well-known for his imitation of pop singer Mariah Carey, "and because he's gone I'm going to do his piece, her song Hero, which is how I feel about him."

Despite taking precautions when he turned tricks, Keegan was diagnosed HIV-positive last year, friends say.

"He was very leery about working on the stroll, but was having a hard time paying his rent," McGuin said. "He was very thin and worried about not having enough to eat, so he went out again to raise money when his cheque didn't come."

Arlana Taylor, 21, undergoing a sexchange operation to become a woman, believes she was the last person to see Keegan before he was killed, likely "by a customer."

"We were working together" at Homewood and Carlton, where Keegan stood "waiting to pull a date," while wearing black tights, black platform shoes, a brown wig and a three-quarter length coat.

Anyone with information can call the homocide unit at 1-416-808-7400.

(Toronto Sun)

#### **UPDATE**

Pathologists in Toronto confirmed that the second victim was identified as Thomas Wilkinson. A third prostitute from the West End identified as Brenda Ludgate was also shot in the head. Officials say all the gun shots were similar and that all the bullets came from the same gun. Police are now searching records of convicted "johns" and hope to come up with some leads in this triple murder.

#### SUSPECT SOUGHT IN SLAYINGS OF PROSTITUTES

Police have fingered a 30-year-old tradesman as a chief suspect in the execution style slayings of three Toronto prostitutes.

Homicide detectives have asked forces around the country to look for Marcello Palma, a "clean-cut" 200 pound man who has been a heating and air-conditioning worker. He was last seen north of Toronto on May 27.

Palma is wanted on three charges of first-degree murder.

The three victims - two transvestites and a female prostitute - were shot in the back of the head within three hours of each other on May20.

Forensic tests showed they all were killed by the same gun. Police say the killer probably fired at his victims during Victoria Day fireworks.

Earlier this week, officers released a sketch of a red van with a red light on its roof seen near at least one of the crime scenes. Det.-Sgt. Jim McDermott said the sketch helped members of the community identify the suspect.

McDermott said police believe Palma did not know the dead hookers.

"Whether or not he posed as a customer, I cannot say... Hopefully when he's located he'll be willing to enlighten us."

(Canadian Press)

#### MURDER SUSPECT CAPTURED

30-year-old Marcello Palma wanted for the brutal execution-style murders of three Toronto prostitutes was located and arrested without incident in Halifax on June 1. Police nabbed the suspect outside the Sheraton Hotel on the Halifax waterfront where he checked in using his own name and American Express card.

For those working the streets of Toronto there was a great sense of relief knowing Palma is in custody.

Meanwhile, Metro detectives are continuing their investigation in Halifax and plan to return to Toronto with the suspect as soon as possible.

### EXPLOSION ROCKS POPULAR GAY BAR

.....

Police are investigating whether an explosion that destroyed a gay bar in Hull, Quebec early May 23 was set intentionally.

The blast demolished Le Club, a twostorey dance bar, shortly after the last customers and staff left at 4:30 a.m. No one was injured.

The explosion sent glass from the broken windows flying across the street.

Officials from Consumers Gas are investigating whether the explosion was caused by a natural gas leak.

(Canadian Press)

#### LOCAL AIDS GROUP CRITICAL OF HOME HIV TEST

A mail-order home test kit for HIV raises serious concerns about reliability and support, the executive director of the AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area says.

"We're mainly concerned about the lack of counselling available with this approach to HIV testing," Patrick Cupido said. "The level of support a person receives before and after the test has a real impact on the way they deal with their result."

The saliya-based HIV test, created by an

American doctor, promises an immediate indication of HIV status. But previous saliva-based tests for HIV have yielded significantly higher numbers of false positives and false negatives than lab blood tests, Cupido said.

Although it has not yet been approved by the federal government, a distribution company recently announced its intention to market the kit in Canada.

Confidential testing in Waterloo Region is available at test sites operated by the Community Health Department. Results are delivered by a counsellor and support is provided both before the test is administered and after the results are available, Cupido said.

(KW Record)

#### GAY PAREE GETS FAMILY VALUE

.......

Gay activists praised the French national railroad for agreeing to grant homosexuals who live together the same fare discounts it gives heterosexual couples.

(AP

#### **RULING KILLS ANTI-GAY POLICY**

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Colorado measure it said would deny homosexuals constitutional protection and make them "unequal to everyone else."

A constitutional amendment in Colorado banned laws that protect homosexuals from discrimination.

That amendment "identifies persons by a single trait and then denies them protection across the board," said Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority in a May 20th 6-3 decision.

"It is not within our constitutional traditions to enact laws of this sort."

Kennedy wrote.

It was the first major U.S. ruling involving gay rights since a 1986 decision in which the justices upheld a Georgia law that made it illegal for consenting adults to have homosexual sex.

The May 20 ruling did not address the legality of homosexual conduct. But the justices said the Colorado amendment denied gays a political right enjoyed by everyone else - the chance to seek protection from discrimination in employment, housing and public accomodations.

Such anti-discrimination laws do not grant homosexuals special rights, Kennedy said, but give them "protection taken for granted by most people either because they already have them or do not need them."

In a stinging dissent, Justice Antonin Scalia accused the majority of "imposing upon all Americans" the pronouncement that "animosity toward homosexuality...is evil."

Scalia called the amendment "Colorado's reasonable effort to preserve traditional American moral values" and added that it was not the court's business "to take sides in this culture war."

"The amendment prohibits special treatment of homosexuals and nothing more," Scalia said.

President Bill Clinton "believes the decision was appropriate," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry. He called the law "bad policy...inconsistent with our common values."

Colorado Attorney General Gale Norton said she was disappointed, adding, "The debate in Colorado was about whether special rights groups should be extended to a new group."

• The Colorado constitutional amendment, approved in 1992, has never been enforced because it was immediately challenged in court by gay men and women as well as three cities that had enacted gay rights ordinances.

The amendment would have cancelled gay rights ordinances enacted in Denver, Boulder and Aspen and barred enactment of any other gay rights laws or policies by the state or local governments.

AP)

#### PROJECT AIDS GAY-BASH VICTIMS

.....

Victims of lesbian- and gay-bashing will now find a sympathetic ear at Wellesley Hospital.

In a three month pilot program that's the first of its kind in North America, the hospital's emergency staff will strive to be more sensitive and effective when treating abused gays and lesbians. Dr. Brian Cornelson said some people who suffer assaults because of their sexual orientation don't go to hospitals because they fear the health care system isn't sympathetic or capable of providing the care they need.

"It's important that the person get appropriate health care because of the potential long-term emotional effects that lesbian- and gay-bashing may have," Cornelson said.

Studies indicate the psychological effects of being assaulted can be more devastating than the physical injuries. A survey of 368 gays and lesbians by the hospital revealed 78% experienced verbal assaults, 50% were threatened, and 83% knew of at least one person who had been physically assaulted.

(Toronto Sun)



Happy Canada Day!

### SUSPECT IN SLAYINGS APPEARS IN COURT

A man charged in the execution style slayings of three Toronto prostitutes last month appeared in court briefly June 4.

At the request of his lawyer, Marcello Palma, 30, was ordered to return to court June 18 when a date for a bail hearing will be set.

He's charged with first degree murder in the deaths.

He appeared relaxed during the few minutes he was in the prisoner's box.

After the hearing, Palma's wife, Rosa Mazza was near tears and refused to answer any questions from a throng of reporters.

Palma, the father of a 15-month-old child was arrested June 1 near a Halifax waterfront hotel. He was returned to Toronto on June 3.

Palma may also face questioning in a 1994 slaying, police say. A woman's body was found stuffed in a burning suitcase just steps from the suburban business park where he worked.

(Canadian Press)

#### HANNON LOSES JOURNALISM POSITION AT RYERSON

Gerald Hannon, the Ryerson teacher who rocked the Toronto journalism community with his work as a part-time prostitute, is losing his job at the university.

A hiring committee has recommended to the dean that Hannon not be retained to teach magazine writing to students at Ryerson Polytechnic University's school of journalism. Hiring committees decisions are usually final.

Hannon, who couldn't be reached for comment June 4, expected to be rehired for the fall. Don Obe, the director of magazine journalism at the school who has supported Hannon, believes Hannon and the professors' union will fight the decision.

Some journalists complained late last year that Hannon's writings included articles that suggested sex between men and boys was acceptable.

The controversy took off when Hannon admitted he worked part-time as a prostitute. In an interview with a university newspaper, he even divulged his rates and list of services.

A furious university administration suspended Hannon, then allowed him back in January after an investigation cleared him of spreading his ideas about pedophilia in the classroom.

Demonstrations against his presence at Ryerson followed and TV crews bumped into each other in the halls of the school interviewing students about the controversy.

The case raised issues of academic freedom.

(Ottawa Citizen)

#### **GAY PROM**

A media commotion over Toronto's first-ever gay prom has led to changes in plans for the event, says gay Toronto Board of Education Trustee John Campey.

The Friday, June 14 affair for students of the Triangle Program - themed Somewhere Over The Rainbow and featuring the crowning of a prom king and queen - was originally an official school event.

But Campey says he was inundated by journalists - and worried calls from Board of Education officials - after the Toronto Sun ran a story.

"We had media people literally threatening to camp out at the school and snag students as they came out," says Campey. "There are students that are afraid of coming if they're going to run a gauntlet of cameras and microphones."

The end result is that the prom is still going ahead, but under the auspices of the Triangle Program's advisory committee - the board of education has withdrawn it's blessing.

The Triangle Program, run out of the

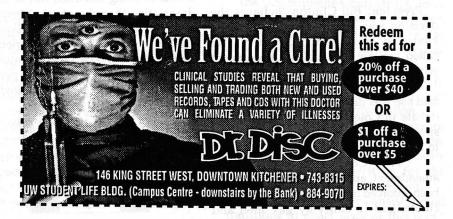
Metropolitan Community Church Of Toronto, began last fall and is an alternative "school" for students from grade nine to twelve who have left school, or are in danger of leaving, because of homophobia. There are currently 13 students.

John Terpstra, one of the program's two teachers, says that the scrutiny has meant that, like students at New York City's gay Harvey Milk School, his students have gotten media training.

Despite all the hoopla here, gay proms in the U.S. have become fairly common. Last year, 200 teenagers attended the homo prom in Hayward, a suburb of San Francisco. A prom in Phoenix, Arizona, had 50 attendees and the lesbian and gay prom in Los Angeles in 1994 had 200 students from 30 high schools across L.A. - and was fully backed by the Los Angeles Unified School District's Board of Education.

(Colin Leslie, XTRA)







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# Happy Pride Day!

## HEALTHY GAY AND LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS

Part V:
Taking Vows Making The
Commitment

by "Catherine"

Making the commitment to spend the rest of your life with your partner is a major life decision worthy of celebration. It is no accident that the heterosexual world makes such momentous occasions out of the ceremonies through which two people enter marriage. Weddings not only solemnize the state of union, but they also put others on notice that an important change of status has occurred for the two people involved.

Although same-sex marriage are not legal (yet), there are benefits to be gained from having a commitment or marriage ceremony. One is the mental benefit you derive from solidifying and clarifying your sense of commitment. Another benefit stems from the symbolic and spiritual significance of actually going through the ritual. There is also a benefit to the emotional components of a public declaration and celebration. This can in turn be a powerful reinforcement for your relationship.

Gay men and lesbians tend to slip too quietly into their relationships. They seal the deal privately between

themselves, move in, mention it to a few people, and hope for the best. If our liasons are to be the lasting unions that we want them to be, why don't we enter them with the announcements, rituals and celebration they deserve? Why don't we have the people important in our lives sharing the occasion in some way? After all, isn't entering into a partnership for life about as celebratory an event as you'll ever be involved in?

Usually, the taking of vows is an event that would take place at the beginning of a couple's commitment to one another. That need not be. however. Vows can be taken at any time in a relationship. They can be taken publicly or privately. People who are religious usually prefer a minister or rabbi (gay or gay supportive) to perform their ceremony. Others may choose someone else who has importance it their lives. Some may prefer simply to face each other in the presence of family and friends and say their vows unassisted by a third party.

For many people, music is very important as part of the ceremony, as is the exchanging of rings or other tokens. For some, symbolic gestures such as sharing of wine or the lighting of candles additionally solemnizes the occasion. Prayers would be included by those who are religious. The possibilities are endless and all depend on your own style and preferences as a couple.

We tend to keep much too quiet about our relationships. Sometimes we may have to because we are not "out" or for many reasons it may not be safe to announce our intentions.

If you are a gay or lesbian person working in a world that is predominantly heterosexual, it is unlikely that you will dance into your workplace on a Monday morning gleefully announcing that you and your same-sex lover have just decided to move in together. "They", on the other hand, are likely to broadcast widely the news that they have decided to share their life with another person. They put notices in the newspaper, mail out announcements, tell perfect strangers. They share their happiness, and, in return, they are reinforced in the rightness of what they are doing by the warm glow they produce in others by merely making the announcement.

Gay and lesbian relationships deserve the same recognition, so, to whom do you tell the good news? Well, there are your gay friends, and your non-gay friends and family who are in-the-know. And there is the entire gay and lesbian community. An announcement can be placed right here in our very own community magazine - OUTLOOK. Such notices would give emphasis to the relationship aspect of our community life, something we don't hear enough about at present.

I would like to invite and encourage all OUTLOOK readers to submit their intentions of commitment. We'd also love to read announcements commemorating those all-important anniversaries the first, fifth, tenth, twentieth, etc. These relationships need no longer exist in the shadows. It is time for these lovers' stories to be revealed to us. Their stories make up our

legacy and our vision. They can give us that sense of continuity - of the long sweep of years together - that we haven't had before.

We need them all, the announcements of relationships newly forming, of relationships that have endured the challenging early years, of relationships that have matured into a lifelong bond.

Commitment ceremonies/weddings are a celebration of love and life. Celebration is an essential ingredient of relationship success because it generates a renewal of energy that keeps us motivated toward furthering our goals. Let us all be proud and celebrate together, as a community, the love that enriches our lives.



### **TRAVEL**

WomenFest:
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Fifty-one hundred women from across the United States and Canada descended upon Key West last year for WomenFest '95.

All events during the five day period were filled to capacity, as hoteliers, restauranteurs, boat captains, club owners and other Key West businesses reported recordbreaking days and nights.

This year over 10,000 women are expected at WomenFest '96, making it one of the largest lesbian events in the world.

The goal for event staff is to continue to offer a full slate of events that highlight all that Key West has to offer, while making sure that all the women have "the time of their lives."

To accomodate the increased crowds this year, there will be an increased number of events scheduled. WomenFest will also be expanded from five days to a full week.

Once again, The Atlantic Shores Resort will be headquarters for WomenFest. Scheduled events include a hospitality suite, the infamous wet T-shirt contest, Tea by the Sea, and more.

New this year will be events at the Holiday Inn Beachside Resort located at the entrance of the beautiful island. Beachside will be hosting comedy nights and the WomenFest Tennis Tournament sponsored by 'OUT Magazine.

WomenFest '96 is scheduled to take place September 4-10, 1996.

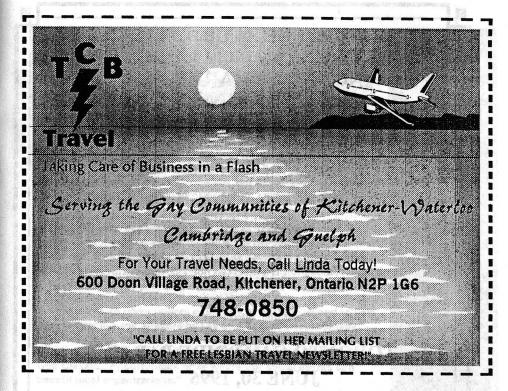
For More information write to: WomenFest Key West '96 201 Coppitt Road #106A Key West, Florida or call: 1-305-296-4238

#### Copenhagen -Europride

Thousands of gay men and lesbians from all over the world will come to Copenhagen for Europe's biggest pride event.

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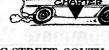
Cost: \$15.00 per person, limited to the first 45 people to book.

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-Ralph Waldo Emerson

#### LOCAL GOLFERS TAKE AIM FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV AND AIDS

The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area (ACCKWA) and the K-W 'Home' Chapter of Wilfred Laurier University Alumni are learning up and fee-ing off in the fight against AIDS.

With help from Rockway Golf Club and Wilf's Restaurant. ACCKWA and WLU's Home Chapter are sponsoring the 1st Annual ACCKWA Golf Classic on Thurday, July 18. This spectacular day of fun starts at Rockway with tee-off times between 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. (rain or shine), and ends with dinner at Wilf's.

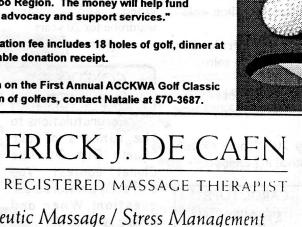
Along the way, golfers can win a host of great prizes, including something for getting a hole-in-one, the longest drive, and closest to the pin. Everyone will walk away with something from the prize

But the tournament provides more than just prizes and time on the links. It also gives golfers a fun way of doing their part to help people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. "Occassionally," said Peter Izzio, President of the K-W Chapter of the Wilfred Laurier University Alumni Association and Chair of this year's ACCKWA Golf Classic, "opportunities arise where our social events can benefit local organizations."

ACCKWA's Fundraising Coordinator Natalie Devereux explained that all money raised by this event will help support local programs. "Every penny raised by the golfers will directly benefit people living in Waterloo Region. The money will help fund ACCKWA's education, advocacy and support services."

The day's \$65 registration fee includes 18 holes of golf, dinner at Wilf's and a \$30 charitable donation receipt.

For more information on the First Annual ACCKWA Golf Classic or to register your team of golfers, contact Natalie at 570-3687.



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When Elton John cleans out his closet, there's enought to fill a department

The British pop star packed off 4,000 castoffs to Neiman Marcus in Atlanta, where hundreds of shoppers lined up June 4 to buy diamond-studded duds and designer clothing. The sale was to benefit his AIDS charity.

High-heeled platform shoes, fur-trimmed glasses and sherbert-coloured tuxedos have been a mainstay of Elton John's video and concert wardrobe for 20 years.

#### CONTEST **WINNERS!**

Congratulations to the winners of our "Come Out Of The Closet" contest. You correctly answered our question; When and where is 'The Celluloid Closet' playing in Waterloo Region? Each winner will receive a pair of tickets to see The Celluloid Closet'.

The answer is: The Princess Cinema from June 18-20. 1996.

The lucky winners are: Julie Stumpf. Wendy Stewart and Trish Burkholder, and Cheryl H. Thanks to all who entered!

#### PATSY

The award-winning musical tribute to Patsy Cline is a look at her amazing career from honky tonks and radio shows to triumphant appearances in Las Vegas and Carnegie Hall. You'll laugh, cry and stomp your feet to the passionate and powerful music of Patsy Cline.

Toronto's Queen Elizabeth Theatre at Exhibition Place is the perfect setting for Patsy, created by Dean Regan and starring Gail Bliss. The beautiful costumes and superb sets only add to the magic of Patsy. Until September 1. 1996 tickets, call TicketKing at 1-800-461-3333

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- 2. Housing Me Softly (Spank's White Label Mix) The Fugees
- 3. Wrong (Deep Dish Remix) Everything But The Girl
- 4. What We Need/If Madonna Calls Sam Traxx
- 5. X-Files (Paranormal Activity Mix) Dado
- 6. One More Try Kristine W.
- 7. Forever Young Temperance
- 8. Love Boat '96 (White Label Remix)
- 9. Let This Be A Prayer Rollo Goes Spiritual
- 10. Be As One Sasha & Maria
- 11. Mission: Impossible (Junior's Hard Mix) Clayton/Mullen
- 12. Down To Earth (Angeles Vocal Mix) Grace
- 13. Your Loving Arms (Todd Terry '96 Mixes) Billie Ray Martin
- 14. Happiness Is Just Round The Bend Brooklyn's Poor & Needy
- 15. Walking Wouded (Spring Heel Jack Mix) Everything But The Girl

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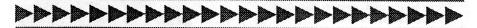
OCT. 1

OCT. 15

June 15, 1996

# THE GAY FAMILY IS HERE... AND IT'S WORKING

by Andrew Duffy (Southam News)



The noisy federal debate about gay rights has been drowned out in the Ottawa home of Todd Armstrong and Andre Cyr by the familiar din of their dog, two cats and eight-year-old son, Audlah

Armstrong and Cyr are gay men, "married" in a public ceremony in 1988. Four years ago, Armstrong became the legal, adoptive father of Audlah Geetah, orphaned by the AIDS-related death of his Inuk mother. Cyr has since successfully sued for joint custody of Audlah, and they are now a household that challenges the traditional notion of what constitutes a family.

They are the kind of gay family that made many MPs uncomfortable as Parliament debated a Canadian Human Rights Act amendment to prohibit discrimination against homosexuals.

(The act applies to federal government and federally regulated businesses, which employ about 10 percent of the Canadian workforce; it's intended to protect those employees from discrimination.)

Opponents of the bill, which passed in a free vote May 9, contend it will lead to same-sex benefits, gay

marriage and adoptions by homosexual couples.

Armstrong, 38, found it hard to listen to the debate as a gay man and an adoptive father. "What I found if it's all philosophical. It's not. We're real," he says, sweeping his hand toward a backyard busy with the stuff of childhood: Frisbees, balls, swings, yellow Tonka dumptrucks. "That mythical gay family exists. It's too late to bar the door."

There are already hundreds of gay and lesbian parents in Canada. In Ontario alone, 20 lesbians have gone to court in the past year to formally adopt their partner's biological children.

Toronto social worker Laura Rowe, 42, is a lesbian mother who shares parenting duties with a gay man, Ned Lyttleton, with whom she's lived for 16 years.

# Law Behind The Times

Rowe believes the government's gay rights law is hopelessly behind the times. "Gay women have been having children for years," says Rowe, who has had two children by artificial insemination.

"We've always found a way to make family life work, to share responsibility for the children,"she says. "And the law has to catch up with human behavior so that the people in the gay community can feel safer, and more secure in their jobs, relationships and child rearing."

Cyr, 35, is a federal government statistician and a man who always longed to be a father despite recognizing his homosexuality as a boy.

"I always knew that I would probably like fatherhood," he says. "It was my mom's biggest disappointment when I told her I was gay. She thought, 'Oh you'll never have kids now."

Through a set of sad and unlikely circumstances, though, Cyr became "co-father" to Audlah Geetah.

The story of Audlah's adoption begins in 1989 when his mother, in Iqaluit, was diagnosed with AIDS.

With no facilities to look after her in the North, her social worker contacted Armstrong, the founder of Bruce House, a residence for people with AIDS. Leetia Geetah came to Bruce House with her then 18-month-old son, who would often stay with Armstrong and Cyr on weekends to give his mother time to herself.

#### **Dying Request**

Audlah spent more and more time with Armstrong and Cyr as the months passed, and his mother asked the men to look after her son upon her death.

Geetah died in February 1991, and in her will asked that Armstrong and Cyr be given custody of Audlah. Adoption proceedings began a month later. The law at the time didn't allow Armstrong and Cyr to apply as a couple for adoption, so Armstrong applied as an individual. (British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan now allow homosexual couples to apply to adopt.)

Officials from the Children's Aid Society assessed Armstrong's suitability as a parent and recommended to family court that the adoption be granted. The adoption order was issued in May 1992, and Cyr then sued his partner for joint custody of the boy.

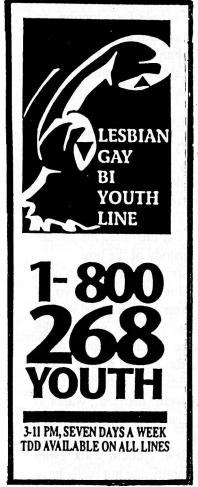
Armstrong and Cyr hold to family values that many would admire. Armstrong, a social worker and college lecturer, now works part-time so he can be home when his son returns from school. And Cyr who didn't live with Armstrong until they were "married", wants to be held financially responsible for his family.

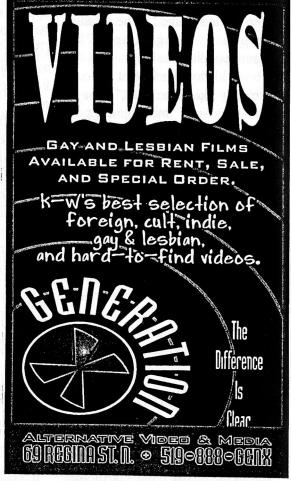
"By law, I could walk away from this family and not really have any responsibility to them. This, to me, is the government being wasteful. We all know what's in the best interest of the family here."

"I'm willing to take my responsibility as a parent, but if I was to die, my family has no responsibility to my son. That security is not there for him."

For Armstrong, the debate is simple. "I think it would be wonderful if all families remained intact and were happy and functional. That would be the best situation, but that's not reality since we live in a world full of deadbeat dads, child and spousal abuse."

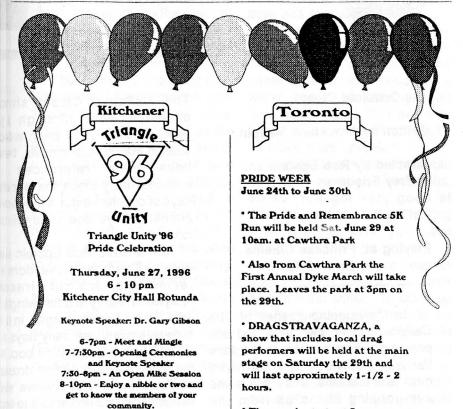
"Do I think all gay people should adopt? No. But I don't think all people should have children, either."





# HAPPY PRIDE DAY!

Your guide to what's happening in both Waterloo Region and Toronto for this years Pride Celebrations. COME ON OUT!



### WOMEN OUT OF DOORS

For more information contact:

Alan Fraser @ 519-



Lesbian Social & Recreational Club

\* The parade starts at 3 pm on Sunday, June 30 at the corner of

Gerrard and Church Street!

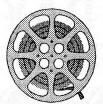
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# coming out... of the CELLULOID CLOSET



#### Film Documents How Hollywood Treats Gays

The Celluloid Closet

Written by Armistead Maupin

Directed by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman

Rating: AA

Playing at: Princess Cinema June 18-20

...............

In the opening scenes of *The Celluloid Closet*, the funny, sad and perceptive documentary that traces the way Hollywood has portrayed gays and lesbians, there are some eye-popping film clips from the earliest days of movies.

From a flickering silent film, we see a fastidiously groomed man described as "Clarence the clerk - one of nature's mistakes in a land where men are men."

In Wonder Bar, a 1934 Al Jolson musical, a well-dressed man interrupts a waltzing couple and asks if he can cut in. When the woman agrees, he grabs her partner and the two men happily dance off together.

"Ooooh! Boys will be boys!" squeals Jolson as he grins at the camera.

The Celluloid Closet shows audiences that although gay characters have not been widely seen in mainstream movies, there have been references to homosexuality since the earliest days of cinema - even if they were almost always one-dimensional jokes.

Film-makers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman have done a remarkable job of tracing Hollywood history and following the way things have changed in the movies since those early days.

Inspired by Vito Russo's book of the same name, they use dozens of film clips, and interviews with directors, writers and actors to look not only at the history of gay and lesbian characters but also at the effects such portrayals had on the audience.

These issues are important, the film makes clear, because Hollywood movies are not just entertainment, but a way of absorbing views of the world, of learning how to see people.

Novelist Armistead Maupin, who wrote the narration, sums it up: (Homosexuality)... was there as something to laugh at, or something to pity, or even

something to fear. These were fleeting images, but they were unforgettable, and they left a lasting legacy. Hollywood, that great maker of myths, taught straight people what to think about gay people and gay people what to think about themselves.

The Celluloid Closet traces Hollywood images from the mid-1930s through the late 1950s, when studios were bound by the Production Code, a rigid set of rules about what could and couldn't be portrayed on screen. Yet film-makers managed to sneak subtle references to homosexuality into their works, often in a sneering way and often to make villians more unsavoury.

A clip of *The Maltese Falcon* shows the first meeting between Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart) and the effeminate Joel Cairo (Peter Lorre). Cairo introduces himself with a gardenia-scented business card, prompting a look of disgust from Spade.

In Caged, a 1950 drama set in a women's prison, a decidedly butch old prisoner (Hope Emerson) drools over a new young inmate. "Let's you and me get acquainted, honey," she says with a leer. "You may be a number to the others but not to me."

Movie makers weren't always so negative, and *The Celluloid Closet* shows how they sometimes included between-the-lines references.

Stewart Stern, who wrote the screenplay for Rebel Without A

Cause, talks about Plato (Sal Mineo), the sensitive teen who worships James Dean's character, is shunned by other boys and eventually killed.

Although Stern couldn't be explicit about the character in 1955, he says, "any film is at the same time an expression of a writer, and it's an offering to an audience to create their own film. If I were writing the film today I'd be much more specific."

Novelist Gore Vidal, who wrote several screenplays in the 1950s, says: "You got very good at projecting subtext without saying a word about what you were doing."

Vidal proves a hilarious example from the 1959 Ben Hur for which he wrote the script. To spice up the "gorgeous junky" movie, he and director Willian Wyler told actor Stephen Boyd, who played Ben Hur's rival Messala, to imagine that he and Ben Hur had been teenage lovers and that Messala longs to revive the affair. Vidal adds that they were careful not to mention the idea to the notoriously right-wing Heston.

When Boyd meets Heston in the film, he gives him the kind of look Mae West gave Cary Grant. "There are looks he gives that are just so clear," Vidal says with a satisfied smile.

Some of the most affecting moments in *The Celluloid Closet* come in the interviews, when gay writers, actors, and directors talk of how frustrating it was to grow

up almost never seeing their lives reflected on screen.

"If you're a gay audience and you're accustomed to crumbs, you will sit through the whole movie just to see an outfit that you think means they're gay," says writer Susie Bright.

Playwriter and actor Harvey Fierstein (*Torch Song Trilogy*) tells how he yearned while growing up to see gay characters on screen.

Fierstein even defends the effeminate male characters that were used for cheap laughs: "My view has always been visibility at any cost. I'd rather have negative than nothing."

As movies grew up in the 1960s, there were more explicit references to gays and lesbians, but they were still seen as doomed to unhappy lives.

The Celluloid Closet provides examples from several movies, including Advise and Consent, the 1962 melodrama about a man who is blackmailed by a former lover and ends up killing him.

Armistead Maupin saw the movie when he was a teenager just becoming aware of his sexuality, and was terrified. "I felt that something dreadful was going to happen to me and at the end of the road would be suicide. I got that impression from the movies."

From the 1970s on, the film shows us how movies like *Victor-Victoria* and *Torch Song Trilogy* and *Silkwood* have slowly changed things for the better, with their suggestions that gay people could lead contented lives without despairing over their sexuality.

But we're also told that even in the 1990s, too many Hollywood

producers are timid.

Writer Bright talks about her anger when the novel *Fried Green Tomatoes* was brought to the screen and the relationship between the two young women in the book was softened into a close friendship for the movie.

Film-maker Jan Oxenberg criticizes Philadelphia, the big-budget film that was hailed by some as a breakthrough for having a gay central character played by a big star like Tom Hanks.

Whatever the positive attributes of the film, she says, it's still "a story about a gay hero who dies. It remains to be seen whether Hollywood or the general public will accept a gay hero who lives."

Still, The Celluloid Closet ends on a hopeful note. As clips from 1980s and '90s film like Parting Glances, Longtime Companion, The Sum of Us and The Adventures of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert help show, audiences no longer have to wait for Hollywood studios to grow up.

Independent and foreign filmmakers working outside major Hollywood studios have made their own statements and created their own heros - gays and lesbians who don't have to apologize to anyone.

A clip from the 1976 comedy *Car Wash* typifies the new attitude. Insulted by a red-neck, an effeminate man (Antonio Fargas) quickly puts him in his place.

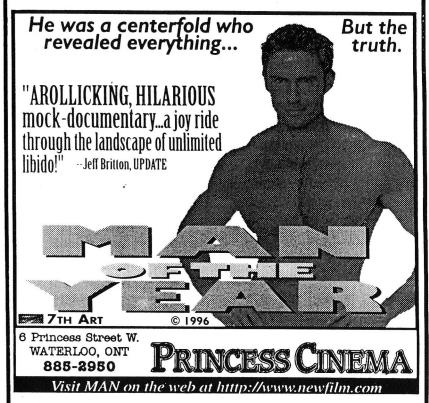
"Honey," he drawls, "I am more man than you'll ever *be* and more woman than you'll ever *get.*"

-STEVEN MAZEY, OTTAWA CITIZEN

Being a Playgirl Man of the Year is surely one of the oddest jobs one can ever be asked to perform. A far odder one, though, is to be a Playgirl Man of the Year - a job which demands a 12-month committment to serving as a slab of prime beefcake for more than a few dreamy North American women - when you're secretly gay.

"Christopher Harris, Globe and Mail

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DIRK SHAFER STARRING DIRK SHAFER, VIVIAN PAXTON, MICHAEL ORNSTEIN



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# Cover to Cover

Stone Butch Blues / Transgender Warriors -A look at the works of Leslie Feinberg

Reviewd by Deb Schwartz (OUT Magazine)

When Leslie Feinberg walks down the street, jaws drop, people stare unabashedly, and some cry out, "What is that? A man or a woman?"

"From one community vantage point I could be referred to as a butch lesbian," says Feinberg in an arresting voice somewhere between alto and tenor. "From another standpoint people could call me a female to male crossdresser or drag king." Recently, when she fell ill and was hospitalized, nurses referred to her as "it", a "martian," and a "monster". She even awoke from sleep to find them gathered around her bed staring.

While these nurses may have been disturbed by their inability to classify their patient, Feinberg's own literary struggles with her gender identity and expression have made her one of the best known activists in the nascent Transgender movement. With the 1993 publication of her novel 'Stone Butch Blues' (Firebrand Books), the romantic tale of a pre-Stonewall butch's coming of age in working

class Buffalo, New York, Feinberg began speaking to standing-room-only crowds around the country; the book has recently been optioned as a movie to be co-produced by independent film maven Christine Vachon (Go Fish, Swoon).

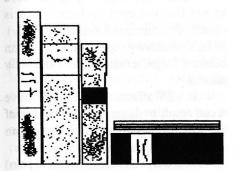
For many readers, the "realness" of 'Stone Butch Blues' was assumed to be autobiography. "I get letters addressed to Jess [the narrator] or messages they want to pass on to Big Al or other characters from the book," Feinberg says from the Jersey City apartment she shares with Lamont Poetry Prize winner Minnie Bruce Pratt. Feinberg's increasing visibility comes amid a new wave of interest in things transgendered that goes beyond RuPaul's latest gig, from transgender performance artist Kate Bornstein's book 'Gender Outlaw' to the upcoming movie on murdered crossdresser Brandon Teena, tentatively titled 'All She Wanted".

Feinberg's new book, the lavishly illustrated 'Transgendered Warriors', will be published by Beacon Press. 'Warriors' suggests the important roles played by transgendered people as spiritual and political leaders throughout history, from tomboy icon Joan of Arc to the Two-Spirit traditions in Native American cultures and a 19th century riot in Wales in which male peasants dressed as women

crashed through toll barriers on horseback.

At 46, Feinberg is a contributing editor at the socialist 'Workers World' newspaper, a member of the Workers World Party national committee, and a parent to Pratt's two sons from a previous marriage, Ben, 25 and Ransom, 27. Financially, her life is a struggle, due in large part to what she calls her "gender expression." Although she doesn't discuss the specifics publicly, after some surgery and some male hormones Feinberg describes herself as "so genderambiguous it's almost impossible for me to think what kind of job I would get at this point."

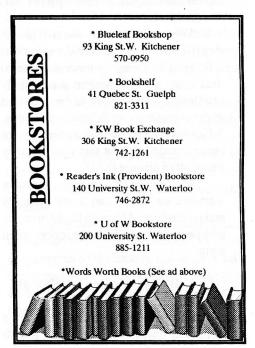
Thoughtful and earnest in conversation, Feinberg is aghast at the prospect of glamourous and girly Drew Barrymore playing female to male crossdresser Brandon Teena on screen. She laughs heartily at the suggestion that Drew might also take the starring role in 'Stone Butch Blues'. "Oh, Lord," she says. "I hope not." or "Oh my God, I can just see Meryl Streep as Jess.



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INTERAC



# Learning Together About HIV Dermatological (Skin) Conditions

#### Part 10 of 13

People with HIV develop numerous skin conditions. Some are relatively benign and easily treated, while others, like Kaposi's Sarcoma can be disfiguring and debilitating. But, no matter how simple the skin condition may appaer to be, its emergence should be acknowledged as a possible sign of decreasing immune function and should be followed up closely.

Seborrheic dermatitus, psoriasis and folliculitus are common and treatable with topical steroids, ultra-violet light (PUVA) and antibiotics.

Warts and genital warts (Human Papilloma Virus or HPV) are viral infections and may be more difficult to deal with. HPV in women is especially problematic and needs to be biopsied under colposcopy for definitive diagnosis. 5-Flurouracil cream or laser therapy are recommended to treat this viral sexually transmitted disease (STD).

Molluscum contagiosum, a bumpy wart-like condition can occur genitally and on the face. Although liquid nitrogen may be initially effective, the lesions often recur.

#### Herpes Simplex I - (HSV-I)

Herpes Simplex Virus was once discussed under the heading of mouth

ulcers in the last issue, but it is important to note that when HSV does not respond to Acyclovir, a consultation with a specialist may be necessary to rule out Acyclovir-resistant HSV.

#### Herpes Simples II -(HSV-II)

HSV-II is similar in appearance to HSV-I, but type II erupts in the genital region and can produce lesions on the penis, vagina, anus and perinium. Treatmentis similar to that of HSV-I and is usually successful.

#### **Herpes Zoster**

Varicella zoster virus (VZV) is the virus that causes chicken pox in children and then becomes dormant in the body. When the immune response deteriorates, the virus re-emerges and is the cause of shingles. Shingles is an extremely painful condition in which the virus follows the nerve pathways from the spinal cord across the abdomen unilaterally (it is usually evident on one side of the body). In HIV positive people, the lesions can become large, crusted and extremely painful.

If VZV affects the 5th facial nerve it can result in damage to the cornea of the eye on the affected side, and an opthamologist should be consulted.

Post-herpetic neuralgia (nerve pain)

can be a severe problem and may require the expertise of a pain specialist to control it. Tricyclic antidepressants and Zostrix cream have proven to be helpful.

#### Kaposi's Sarcoma - (KS)

As noted in the last issue, KS is the more common malignancy (cancer) found in a person with HIV infection. KS is more likely to appear in HIV positive gay or bisexual men than in other HIV positive populations, and there is some speculation that a sexually transmitted infection component is involved.

KS lesions are a cancer of the connective tissue and are similar to bruises in appearance, but do not blanch (turn white) when pressure is applied. The lesions can be solitary or multiple, flat or raised, progress slowly or rapidly. KS needs to be monitored closely, and if it spreads to the internal organs or is associated with edema (swelling) or ulcerations, this indicates that immune function is severely compromised. KS lesions in the lungs or stomach can be fatal.

#### <u>Decubitus Ulcers</u> -(Pressure Sores/Bed Sores)

Anyone who is malnourished, losing weight and fatigued has the potential to develop pressure areas. Monitoring skin integrity, especially over boney prominences (hips, knees, shoulders, ankles, heels ,ears) is essential for a person with AIDS. Any redness in these areas that does not resolve within 20 minutes of

repositioning is cause for concern. Additional padding should be used on all beds and chairs and if an open area develops, nursing management with appropriate dressings is essential.

In terminal phases of AIDS, when the individual is bedridden, repositioning a small amount approximately every twenty minutes is a priority to preserve the skin integrity and prevent existing pressure areas from worsening. Adequate pain management helps reduce the discomfort experienced with frequent repositioning.

#### Other Neoplasms -(Cancers)

Lymphoma, a cancer that affects the lymphatic system is becoming increasingly common in persons with AIDS. Since the lymph system travels throughout the body, lymphomas can be found in the gut, bone marrow, internal organs or the central nervous system. Although non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is the most frequently seen, Hodgkin's and Burkitt's lymphomas also impact persons living with AIDS. Primary central nervous system (CNS) lymphoma is also seen, although this is rare.

Lymphoma ia a life-threatening AIDS related malignancy and is usually seen in late-stage disease. It is characterized by enlarged lymph nodes (glands in the neck, groin and arm pits), weight loss and low grade fever with or without night sweats.

Chemotherapy, radiation therapy and alpha-interferon may be helpful to slow the progress of the cancer, but seldom halt the spread of the disease. Expert palliative care to control pain and symptoms is needed for the person with advanced lymphoma.

#### The Eye

The eye is the target of numerous opportunistic diseases in persons living with HIV infection. Kaposi's Sarcoma, cryptococcus, herpes (simplex and zoster) and HIV itself may all, at some point during the course of the disease, affect the eye and reduce visual acuity (ability to see).

By far, the most commonly encountered eye infection is cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis. Persons with HIV infection and a CD4 count less than 100-150 are at risk to develop CMV retinitis. Regular eye exams are recommended every one to six months to facilitate early detection, and any newly developing visual problems should be checked by an opthamologist as soon as they arise.

CMV attacks the tissue of the retina and, if left untreated, will quickly destroy the retinal attachment and lead to total loss of vision in the affected eye. Prompt retinal re-attachment has been successful in restoring vision in some people. Retinal detachment is a clinical emergency and must be attended to immediately.

Next Month: Neurological Manifestations - The Nervous System



"Two men, one cart, fresh pasta - think about it."
-Suzanne from 'Designing Women'

#### A Message From...

### ACCKWA

The RIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area 123 Duke St. E., Kitchener, Ontario (519) 570-3587

#### ACCKWA SEEKS BINGO VOLUNTEERS!

ACCKWA is presently recruiting new people to join the Volunteer Bingo Team. These bingo sessions are held at Uptown Bingo Palace in Waterloo (in the plaza beside Waterloo Town Square). All it takes is a minimum of four hours of your time to get involved. Please consider assisting ACCKWA with this very important fundraising activity. Call Tracey for more information at 570-3687.

THE
OFFICE
WILL
BE
CLOSED
JULY 1
(CANADA DAY)

#### GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL YOUTH GROUP

A discussion group for gay, lestian and bisexual youth (16-25) is currently running. If you are interested please call Rob at 570-3687.



Saturday, July 6/96 Rain or Shine 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

You can help out! Make a donation!

We need a variety of quality items to sell. Baby goods, toys and household articles are good sellers.

Remember...one person's junk is another's gold!

Purchase some items!
You never know what treasure you may find.

#### BINGO!

If you're a Bingo fanatic and can't seem to put that dabber away, bring it on down to Uptown Bingo Palace in Waterloo.

You'll get your fix of Bingo and at the same time help support our local AIDS Service Organization. These games are ongoing events which help raise funds and awareness within our community. COME ON OUT! Upcoming Bingo dates are as follows at Uptown Bingo Palace, 17 King St. S. Waterloo.

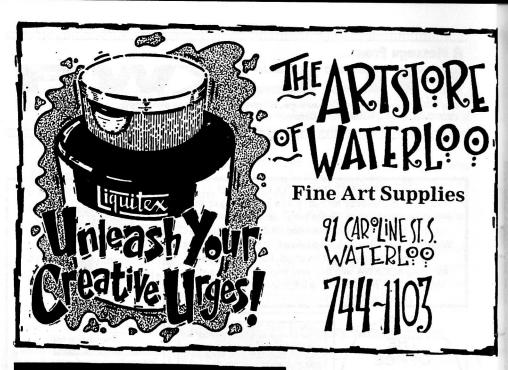
Tuesday June 18 at 7pm . Friday June 28 at 11am . Friday July 5 at 11am . Saturday July 13 at 3pm . Monday July 15 at 7pm

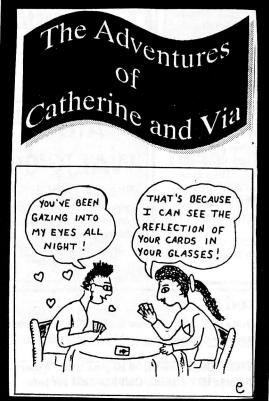
### AIDS WALK '96

Sunday, Sept.29/96
If you wish to get involved in this amazing event, volunteer positions are still open. Call Tracey or Natalie.

#### Where can I get tested?

- . Duke St. Clinic, (ACCKWA) 123 Duke St.E., Kitchener. Every Thursday from 4 7pm. No appointment necessary. The counselling and testing is done by registered nurses.
- Waterloo Regional Community Health Department, 99 Regina St.S., Waterloo. Offers anonymous testing through their HIV clinics. Call 883-2251 for info.





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# Community Information



ACCKWA (The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area) 123 Duke Street Kitchener, Ontario 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 763-2255

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

AIDS Information and Education 205 Queen St. E. Fergus, Ontario 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: BMC, 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 745-1166

GLLOW (Gay and Lesbian Liberation of Waterloo) U of W

Guelph Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Equality

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

Ontario AIDS Network Toronto 1-416-364-4555

Project Angel 250 Dundas St. S. Suite 221 Cambridge Ontario N1R 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 St. Community Centre on the first Saturday from 1pm-4pm. You are most welcome to attend!

Sexual Assault Cen	itres
K-W	741-863
Cambridge	658-055]
Guelph	823-5800

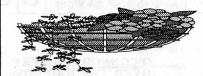
Substance Abuse Prevention Kitchener 741-3827

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

Waterloo Region Alliance for Equal Rights

Women's Centre U of W 888-4567 ext. 3457

WOODS (Women Out Of Doors) P.O. Box 13 Campus Centre P.O. Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G0



#### **GAY RADIO**

'Listen Up! Listen In!

Out and About with your hosts Dave and Alan airs alternate Tuesdays from 8pm-10pm on CKWR 98.7 FM

Womenspin on CKMS 100.3 FM airs Wednesdays from 6pm-8pm

Nowhere To Hide airs Wednesdays from 8pm-9pm on CKMS 100.3 FM

Thursdays listen in for <u>Leaping Lesbians</u> on CKMS 100.3 FM from 6pm-8pm

CIUT 89.5 FM is home to <u>Gaywire</u> every Thursday at 7pm

The Rainbow Radio Network can be heard Thursdays on CHRW 94.7 at 10:15 pm

Women Made Collective Show airs Mondays from 6pm-7pm on CFRU 93.3

Fingers, Fists and KY is brought to you in part by The Lesbian Avengers and airs Mondays from 10pm-12am on CFRU 93.3 FM

Girls Taste Good with your host Kristyn airs Tuesdays at 2pm on CFRU 93.3 FM

Fag Factory with your host Adam airs Thursdays at 2pm on CFRU 93.3 FM

#### Travel Agents

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#### **WORD SEARCH**

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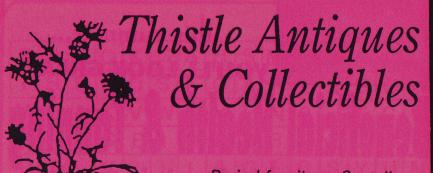
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