

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/

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

Pride Pages

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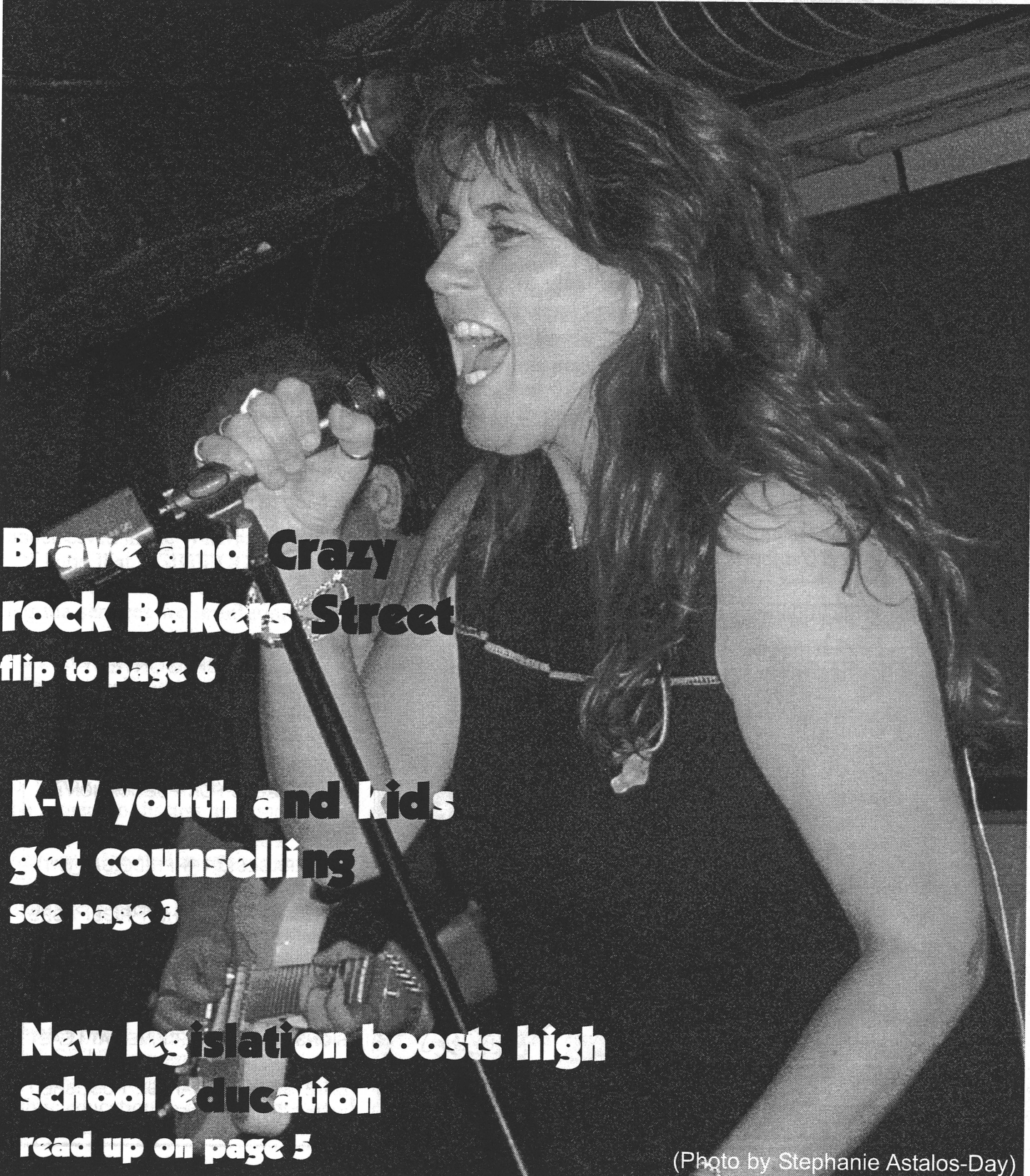
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PridePages

Serving the greater LGBT communities of Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge and Guelph

February 2006 Kitchener, Ontario www.tri-pride.ca info@tri-pride.ca



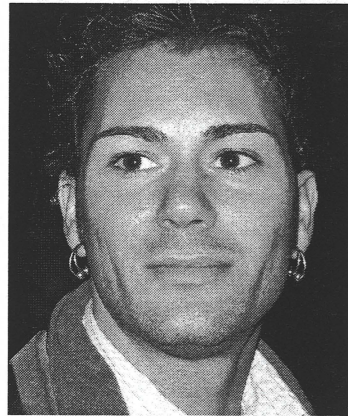
**Brave and Crazy
rock Bakers Street**
flip to page 6

**K-W youth and kids
get counselling**
see page 3

**New legislation boosts high
school education**
read up on page 5

(Photo by Stephanie Astalos-Day)

2006 tri-Pride theme selected



**Dave Bell
Co-Chair**

The 2006 tri-Pride theme has been selected!

This year's theme, "Wave of Acceptance", was chosen for many reasons. The increased recognition by our provincial and federal government bodies have been acknowledged country-wide. The number of opponents to the same-sex marriage issues that were not re-elected and often replaced by more sympathetic MP's was gratifying. The people have spoken!

On a closer-to-home view, members of our community are everywhere. At work, at school, in your family, in your neighbourhood, at your church – who doesn't know a gay or lesbian? When there is someone in your life that is affected adversely by society and its laws, it's difficult to condone unfair and adverse rules and behaviour that can hurt people you know personally. We are part of an accepting community.

Having a distinct identity as a community within a whole has made us strong. While there is still some struggle to make ourselves accepted and respected as individuals like anyone else, we can all take time to welcome the change that has been effected. We may need to make greater waves in our future efforts to be accepted, but we can appreciate that the years of waves crashing on the shore have all gone back to the sea and become part of it once more. We belong to a strong and vibrant gay community, within the greater communities of Kitchener, Waterloo, and Cambridge. We belong to a great community!

Let's celebrate tri-Pride 2006 with a "Wave of Acceptance"!

Sorry, no snow!

Due to the lack of fluffy white stuff, the Pride Slide at Trashmore has been postponed to Sunday, February 19, at 2 p.m.

We're hoping there will be enough snow on the ground by then for the members of the community to come out with their toboggans, GTs and crazy carpets for a slipping and sliding good time.

The event will still be free for all ages, and will still have some steaming cider to warm hands and stomachs.

So come out to meet this year's

committee in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

For more information please contact us at events@tri-pride.ca



(Internet photo)

CALL FOR CONTENT

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE COVERED IN THE PRIDE PAGES? MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN PIECE TO THE PRIDE PAGES FOR PUBLICATION?

IF SO, PLEASE E-MAIL PRIDE PAGES@TRI-PRIDE.CA WITH THE WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY AND HOW. THE PRIDE PAGES WANT TO FEATURE WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU!

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEFORE THEIR EVENT DATE SO THEY CAN BE PUBLISHED IN THE PRIDE PAGES.

New counselling services in K-W for youth

By DENISE MÜLLER

Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo region expressed a need for support services for LGBTTTIQQ children and youth in the area. After approaching K-W Counselling Services and submitting a joint proposal to the Ministry of Child and Youth Services, the OK2BME project was born.

The support and outreach program is committed to providing children and youth and their families with appropriate and effective LGBTTTIQQ-positive support, and is funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.

John Wilson, project coordinator, said he is both excited and proud to be developing an initiative that will connect with the LGBTTTIQQ populations that have historically been underserved in the Waterloo region.

"I hope that LGBTTTIQQ young people will feel comfortable accessing the services we're offering and that they will provide us with feedback about those services," he said.

The counselling services provided through K-W Counselling Services and partner-agencies is free.

Wilson said he is looking forward to young people connecting with the project to discuss any issues or concerns they may have and that they are interested in exploring.

"We are about to launch a social/recreational group in the Cambridge area and will start other, similar groups in the region as well," he said.

Wilson said he doesn't think the benefits of the project are limited to the LGBTQ communities.

"There is a significant focus on public education in this project and

I am hopeful that we will help to create change on an institutional and community level as well as on an individual or family level."

Through public education, the project aims to help increase the community's acceptance of all forms of difference, not just those related to sexual orientation or gender identity.

"We won't change everyone's attitude, but I believe we'll be able to inform the attitudes of some members of the community," he said.

The project is planned to run for three years, but Wilson said he would like to see it continue beyond the initial three-year period.

Feedback received from the community points to the need for more formalized support services to meet the needs of the LGBTQ children

and youth in the area. If the demand and funding is available for OK2BME, then the service can continue to be provided.

"Community support and partnerships, which we are cultivating, will increase the likelihood that we are able to access the funding required to continue the program," Wilson said.

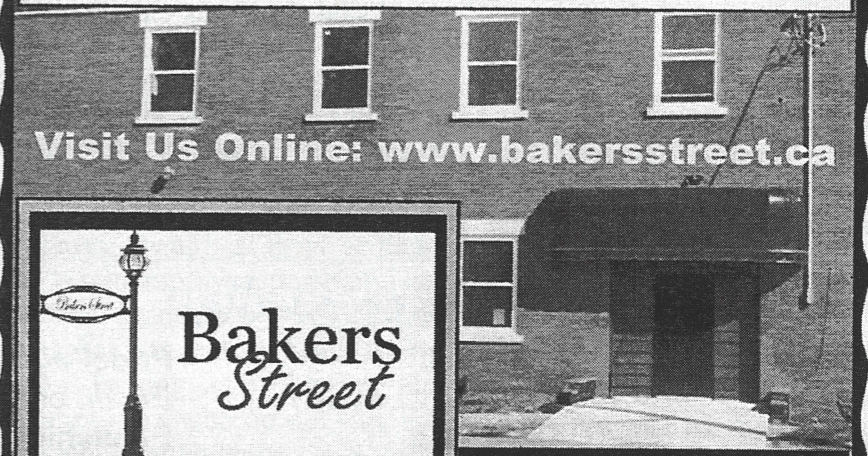
If you are interested in learning more about the project, or would like to talk to a counsellor, contact John Wilson at 884-000 ext. 212 or e-mail at johnw@kwcounselling.com or contact the intake person, Marnie, at ext. 205 or e-mail marnie@kwcounselling.com

More information on OK2BME can be found at www.ok2bme.ca


Wilson said the website should be up shortly.

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Ford's gay support not supported

By DENISE MÜLLER

The Ford Motor Co. is under fire by the American Family Association (AFA), who wrote Ford a letter accusing the US's second-largest automaker of going back on a promise to not advertise with several gay publications.

"We strongly suggest that Ford remove itself from involvement in the cultural war and apply its resources to building the best product possible. We cannot, and will not, sit by as Ford supports an agenda aimed at the destruction of the family," said AFA Chair Donald Wildmon in the letter.

The AFA gave Ford an ultimatum to pull its ads from the publications and stop supporting gay groups or risk a boycott of Ford products.

In 2005, the automaker promised to remove most of its brands, with the exception of Volvo, Jaguar and Land Rover from gay publications after meeting with the AFA in regards to the boycott and 110,000 signatures supporting it. But the decision did not suit everyone, especially not gay and lesbian organizations.

"We are deeply dismayed that Ford has entered into a confidential agreement with the extremist

American Family Association that required Ford to stop advertising in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered media," a group of 17 gay and lesbian organizations said in a joint statement.

But the Ford Motor Co. isn't the only one to advertise in the gay publications. Mercedes-Benz and the Toyota Scion line have full-colour spreads. And then there are such popular brands as American Express, Paramount Pictures and Bud Light that also buy ads in the publications.

Ford spokeswoman, Kathleen Vokes, said Ford appreciates dialogue with all their customers.

"Ford is proud of its tradition of treating all with respect, and we remain focused on what we do best - building and selling the most innovative cars and trucks," she said.

The automaker continued to run its ads, not just for Jaguar, Volvo and Land Rover, but for all eight of its brands in the targeted publications.

Ford said there was clearly a misperception about its intent.

"It's our hope that this will remove any ambiguity about Ford's desire to advertise to all important audiences and put this particular issue behind us," the automaker said.

Jeffrey Montgomery, executive director of the Detroit-based Triangle Foundation is one of the 17 gay and lesbian organizations that prepared a joint statement about the advertising issue.

"As far as we're concerned, when Ford made its statement to us last month, the matter was finished and we went on with our lives," Montgomery said. "The AFA can't seem to do the same."

Detroit Free Press columnist, Tom Walsh, said Ford simply wants to sell cars and trucks to as many people as it can.

"Ford Motor folks could care less what goes on in people's bedrooms. Their futures depend on what's in people's garages," he said in a column.

Ford car and truck sales dropped from 4 million vehicles five years ago to 2.9 million in 2005.

"But targeting Ford for a harangue right now is like asking an airplane pilot to fix a lavatory light when he's busy trying to keep the plane from crashing during a bad storm," Walsh said.

An editorial in the Lansing State Journal said, "gay people drive cars too," and asked if the AFA was going to boycott grocers who sell food to gay people.

New legislation to change future of youth

By DENISE MÜLLER

Education Minister Gerard Kennedy introduced legislation Dec. 13, 2005 to expand successful education programs across the province.

Under the proposed Bill 52, students will be required to attend school until the age of 18 and school attendance will be coupled to students' driver's licenses.

Kennedy said there is more at stake than ever before for students to get a post-secondary education that is high quality, meaningful and prepares them for their future.

"It has been 50 years since Ontario updated the school-leaving age requirement," Kennedy said. "It's time that our 21st century high schools provide the kind of programs that are relevant to students today and support parents' ambitions for their children.

The bill will mandate that comprehensive student success programs be made available by all school boards.

These programs will allow students to have greater access to advanced co-operative education, dual credits, apprenticeships and other outside learning opportunities to complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

It is expected that these changes will make students feel more engaged because they will have learning choices that are relevant and valuable. Students will then have a diploma that is matched to their strengths, interests and career goals.

The legislation would also allow an amendment to the Highway Traffic Act, requiring 16- and 17-year-olds, who want to apply for their driver's licenses or upgrade to the next level, to provide evidence that they are attending school or are excused from school attendance.

"Enforcement measures are intended as a backstop to these important student success programs and to send a strong signal that we are taking responsibility for student achievement," Kennedy said.

The hope is, that this will prevent students from dropping out of secondary schools.

The \$1.3 billion Student Success Strategy has already shown progress. The graduation rate increased from 68 per cent in 2004 to 71 per cent. The government's graduation target is 85 per cent by 2010.

Individuals without a high school diploma earn almost 40 per cent less than those who graduated from a secondary school or have a trades certificate. Also, people between the ages of 15 to 24, who drop out in Ontario, are almost twice as likely to be unemployed compared to those who graduate.

Fines for students whose attendance is lacking, as well as parents and employers who do not support a student's attendance, will also increase to \$1,000 under the legislation.

This policy (or something similar to it) is already in place in several states in the U.S.

ROOF gets temporary new roof

By JOHN MILLOY

I know that the entire community was greatly saddened by the fire that occurred at Reaching Our Outdoor Friends (ROOF) just before Christmas.

ROOF is an important organization dedicated to helping our community's street youth.

The outpouring of community support that followed the loss of ROOF's home included a decision by the City of Kitchener to allow the organization to use the building formerly occupied by Kitchener's KOR Gallery on Joseph Street on a temporary basis. I was pleased to attend the official opening of this new facility and see first-hand how important ROOF is to the Waterloo region.

For more information on ROOF, please visit the organization's website at www.roof-agency.com

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make smaller *Board meetings*

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The tri-Pride committee is always looking for new members, as well as volunteers for specific events - if you're interested, please email: info@tri-pride.ca

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Local band rocks Cambridge bar

By **DAVE BELL**

On January 27, several members of your tri-Pride committee attended a live performance by Brave and Crazy at the Bakers Street bar in Cambridge.

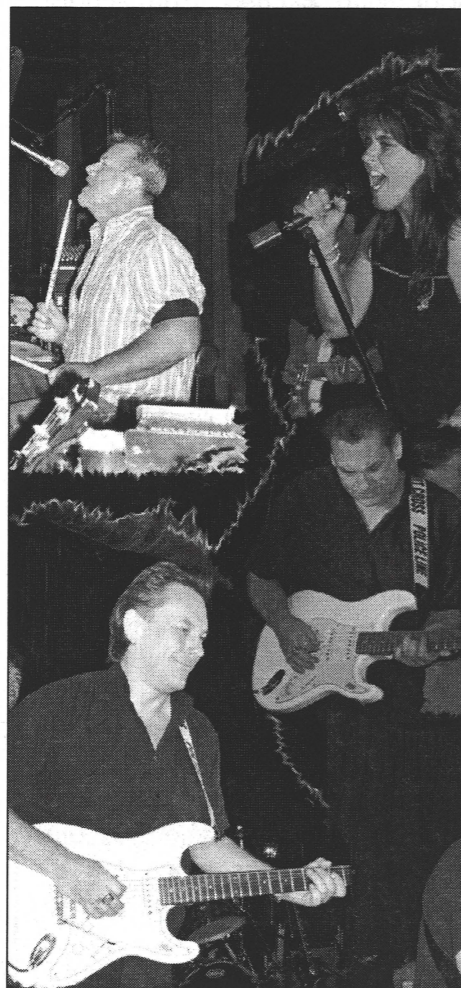
Admittedly, we were a little skeptical in going, as we hadn't had much exposure to the styles of music being performed. However, within minutes of being there, we all agreed that we were glad we came - this band rocked!

This five-person band consists of Samantha Pollard as lead vocalist, Suzie Burmester as lead guitarist and singing harmony, Stephen "Stephee B" Billings on drums, Ron Stark on bass, and David Henman on rhythm. With well over one hundred years of musical experience between them, each member of this band brings a lot of passion to their music on the stage, whether it's songs from the 50's and 60's, their extensive repertoire of Melissa Etheridge songs and other popular artists' tunes, or their own successful forays into writing and recording their own music.

Some of the popular Melissa Etheridge songs that Brave and Crazy performed were Refugee, Ain't It Heavy, I'm The Only One, It's A Heartache, Bring Me Some Water, and Similar Features.

Regardless of the time or day or size of crowd, this is no lightweight pop band. When you come to see Brave and Crazy, be prepared to rock!

Their next show at Bakers Street is on April 13, at 9 p.m. For additional information, including how to get to this bar, please check out the website at <http://braveandcrazy.com>



(Photo by Stephanie Astalos-Day)

Brave and Crazy rocked the house at Bakers Street in Cambridge on Jan. 27. Sam Pollard, lead singer, is also the bar co-owner.

AIDS4AIDS

Thursday, February 23

This year our feature act will be Chris Edwards from Toronto alongside Miss Drew & Crew.

The night will include:

Silent auction
Chinese auction for pride quilt
Head shaving (stylists on site)

Donations accepted
at the door.

Doors open at 9 p.m.
and ladies take the stage
at 10:30 p.m.

DJ N.S.J
spins between sets

**PREVENTION IS
THE ONLY CURE!**

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Geisha movie americanized version of original novel

By **DAN DESROSIERS**

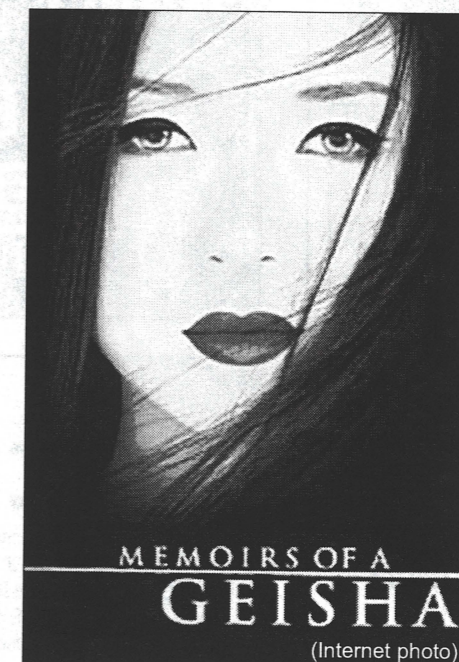
I wanted to read the book first. My reasoning was that a movie is only a few hours but a book is much longer. I would rather know the ending and plot points of a movie than those of a book. Finishing the book made me want to see the movie even more, the book was just that good. I am still not certain if this was a good idea or not.

Memoirs of a Geisha, adapted from the novel of the same name by Arthur Golden, follows a young Japanese girl on her journey from her life as Chiyo, a young fisherman's daughter in the small village of Yoroido on the Japanese Sea, to her adult persona Sayuri, one of the most well known performers in the history of the famous Geisha town of Kyoto. Living a life out of her own control, a precocious young girl makes a resolution to seize what control she can and steer her life in a more favorable direction. The audience is taken along on the journey through her life.

The premise of the movie remains the same as that of the book, but many of the subtleties of the book have been excluded. Unsurprisingly, the movie has been westernized and simplified to appeal to a greater audience. A few key plot points have been changed, and for reasons unknown to me, a number of trivialities have been altered as well. This is where I question my decision to read the

book, because I don't know what left me more disturbed; the way the story had been altered or the way the audience was dropped into the middle of a plot line and expected to know what was going on.

It's a good movie. The characters are well presented and well portrayed. The setting is historically accurate and beautiful. It's a great story, but as far as books turned movies go, it was possibly a poor choice. There are too many years and too much culture to fit into a movie and still maintain the interest of the audience. There are too many hidden meanings contained in the book that just cannot be expressed in the time a movie affords. I recommend you watch the movie, but if you want the true experience, read the book!



Newest GLBT Cinema on
DVD at Generation X - Video
& Media

Exposed: The Making of a Legend (DVD)

Synopsis: This surprisingly candid, behind-the-scenes documentary on the making of the multiple award-winning gay adult hit, BuckleRoos, is a labor of love for all involved - not to mention a smashingly entertaining watch. - Erik Schut

As Luck Would Have It (DVD)

Synopsis: In this unusual tale of gay parenting, a closeted gay university professor is awarded guardianship of a 17-year-old teenage boy. Lots of comedy brews as he deals with his "wife," his lover, the teenager and his girlfriend.

Sex/Life in L.A. 2: Cycles of Porn (DVD)

Synopsis: An appropriately revealing and insightful study of the gay adult film industry, focusing on several subjects chronicled in the filmmaker's previous documentary on the same subject.


Dieux du Stade : Making of the 2006 Calendar (DVD)

Synopsis: 36 Nude Sportsmen: The French rugby champions of the "Stade Francais" Paris and their guests filmed in the nude during their photo sessions for the 2006 calendar.

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