

The Voice

Publishing History: 1998, October 9 (Volume 1, Issue 1) - 2003, March (Volume 5, Issue 5).

Copyright Permission: Copies of individual issues of *The Voice* have been reproduced with the kind permission of its Publisher, **A.J. Mahari**. No further reproduction is permitted.

Telephone Numbers & Email Addresses: These documents were published many years ago. Please do **NOT** use them as a source for telephone numbers or email addresses for local businesses or agencies. Current sources for that kind of information can be found on the Internet.

Redaction: Certain parts of the digitized text have been **blacked out** in accordance with our **Redaction Policy** (<http://www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/RedactionPolicy.html>).

SPECTRUM's Grand River Rainbow Historical Project maintains a separate collection of unmarked (unredacted) high-resolution TIFF image files of all page in the issues of this magazine for consultation as necessary.

NEW

FREE

OR A DONATION OF ONE LOONEY

The

VOICE

SERVING THE K-W AND AREA LGBT COMMUNITY

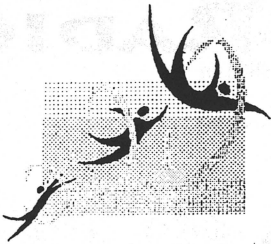
ISSUE ONE

VOLUME ONE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 9, 1998

The freedom of "The Voice"-let it ring...Celebrate it and this new community choice to inform you of everything!

Business Page: Feature Latte on the Loose

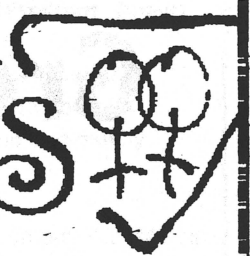


Thoughts On Suicide
Are We, As Lesbians, Invisible?
On-Going Events
Special Events

In The Spotlight:

"Kissin' Out Opening Doors Socially"
WOODS

in Waterloo and Wellington Counties



HI AND WELCOME !

OCTOBER 1998

THE VOICE BEGINS TO SPEAK!

New Look...



Same Great Taste!

Fridays at 9:30 p.m.

Serving Your Community
CKWR FM 98.5
Soft & Easy Favourites, Specialty, Multicultural

www.outandabout.on.ca

WE ARE NEW !!!


HI AND WELCOME TO THE VERY FIRST ISSUE OF "THE VOICE". THIS PUBLICATION WILL BE MONTHLY ; AND IS PICKING UP WHERE "THE OUTLOOK MAGAZINE" LEFT OFF.

IN FUTURE ISSUES LOOK FOR WORLD AND LOCAL NEWS, ENTERTAINMENT, ISSUE-ORIENTED ARTICLES, LIFESTYLE SECTION, ARTS SECTION, BUSINESS TO BUSINESS SECTION WITH A MONTHLY PROFILE OF A LOCAL LGBT OR LGBT-FRIENDLY BUSINESS AS WELL AS A PERSONALS SECTION, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, CLASSIFIEDS, COMMUNITY EVENTS/AGENCIES LISTINGS AND MUCH MORE.

"WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SPEAK OUT AND TO VOICE YOUR OPINIONS, CONCERNS AND INTERESTS!!

ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS CAN BE FORWARDED TO US AT:
THEVOICE@GOLDEN.NET OR YOU CAN REACH US BY MAIL AT:

THE VOICE
525 HIGHLAND RD. W.
SUITE # 219
KITCHENER, ONTARIO,
N2M 5P4



The Out-Reach Rainbow Alliance (ORRA)

A new K-W LGBT organization that meets on Thursday nights, at The Victoria School Center, 25 Joseph St, **(Program Room)** from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

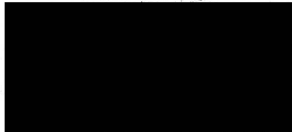
Beginning soon on some Thursdays ORRA will be meeting and doing some activities out in the community .

For more information contact: A.J. Mahari at [REDACTED] or through email at: [REDACTED]

or visit the ORRA website at <http://www.rainbow.on.ca/orra>



You can reach us at:



Ms. A.J. Mahari
Editor/Advertising

http://www.golden.net/~soul/the_voice.html

The Voice is published monthly. Deadline for submissions and for ad copy is the 15th of each month.

Alternatives

Counselling

Individual & Couple Counselling
Groups and Workshops

- ▼ Survivors of Child & Adult Sexual Assault
- ▼ Sexual Orientation
- ▼ Body Image/Celebration
- ▼ Chronic Pain; Fibromyalgia

Marion Markham, M.S.W.
(519) 741-5887

Box 29010, Frederick Plaza Postal Outlet
Kitchener, Ontario N2H 6S6

CONTENTS

Issue 1 Volume 1
Friday October 9, 1998

The views or opinions expressed in this Magazine are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of **The Voice**.

Editorial 3

Thoughts on Suicide..... 4

Ageism5

Business Page: Feature-
Latte on the Loose.....6

A Life Less Ordinary.....7

What's Happening.....8 & 10

Special Events 10 & 11

Love Makes a Family 12

Entertainment.....13

In The SpotLight-**WOODS**.....16

Are We, as Lesbians, Invisible?.....18

Books.....20

Writer's Corner.....22

Classified/Personals/Humor.....24



Editor- A.J. Mahari

The Voice is a new publication which has come about as a result of the discontinuation of Outlook Magazine.

Isolation serves no one. Through this publication, **The Voice**, and through the submissions from members of our community as well as keeping abreast of world news and events, we will not only be heard, but, we will be members of a stronger community that is linked and assisted in its basic networking by the voices of all.

The Voice wants to hear from you so that you can in turn be heard by others. When we share our thoughts, feelings, hopes, dreams, and fears our very existence is made much richer.

When we discuss the issues and concerns that we are faced with daily we can lighten our individual burdens with the realization and experience that, truly, we are not alone. It is with the understanding that our journeys as LGBT people are shared by others that we can come to a strong sense of ourselves individually, and as a community.

I salute the incredible effort that Mark and Rick put forth in publishing The Outlook Magazine. They contributed much to our our community. It is the hope of this publication that we carry on in that same tradition of service to the LGBT community.

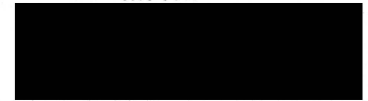
Do you want to be heard? Do you want to add your voice formally to the voices of many who have given much to our community over the years? Do you want to join in and take an active role?

What is the benefit you might ask? I think that the benefits are many and that they can be found in what it is to serve one's community and to be a part of building the very things that to one degree or another help to ensure the strength of the backbone of what we have and can continue to build upon.

To a great degree the strength and well-being of our community depends upon you! Lend us your voice by sending us a submission or by writing a letter to the editor.

The conversation of community, the concerns of culture, the commitment to inclusion and to the forwarding of our way of life, our esteem, and our worth, all speak to the reality that each and every one of our voices joining together forms the basic chorus that defines the very fabric of our existence as a community within a community.

The Voice welcome letters to the editor. Write to us today!
The Voice



Thoughts on Suicide

by **janelle t. wielhouwer,**
m.s.w. with larence kirkby-
mclean, m.s.w.

I'm 37 years old, and I've known several people who've killed themselves. As a therapist I 'get' why people do this - I understand the many different paths someone can take to arrive at a place such that taking their life makes sense.

Sometimes the bleakness, the isolation, the depression become all-encompassing. One's health could be at the point where one would rather die than face the pain to come. Sometimes the monsters of an abusive childhood are chasing faster than you can run. Sometimes from that personal history the hatred and the pain of others, taken out on you, rob you of your future - or so it feels. Occasionally it is the anguish of anger at others taken out on yourself. Sometimes it comes from a deep place beyond thought or rationality.

I've had those dark nights myself when worries seem so much larger and the vultures circle. There are times in everyone's life when they feel alone, and it can feel all-encompassing and unending. At my current age, those nights are much easier to endure than when I was 20. I guess I've learned I can live through them, it passes. And a hot cup of tea always seems to help (and an omelet, too, if I am to be honest. I am a firm advocate of 3 a.m. omelets as a self-care tool.) I've lost friends to suicide. There was the previous owner of a table, which lived in my kitchen for years, almost as many years as he had

ever lived. I was 17 when he died, I'm 37 now. No one ever had any idea why he had taken his life. I suspect it was in a moment of anger and rage.

There was the friend whose t-shirt lives at the back of my closet. She'd asked me to fix it, and died before I'd gotten to it. When I heard that she had killed herself, I woke up smelling her perfume for weeks. My grief was profound and I still carry it.

And, of course, the news of the deaths of Jackie and Dagmar hit our community hard. In the wake of that tragedy, I spent long hours thinking about death in general, and suicide in particular.

Now, I strongly support the right of people to end their lives if for whatever reason that truly seems like a better choice for them. However, most suicides are not carried out for those reasons, but because the emotional pain of the moment seems too big to contain. During those long, lonely nights when the vultures circle it can be difficult to remember to reach out, to ask someone for what we need.

Culturally, strength is valued, vulnerability is not. One of the accepted social lies is to say we are okay when we aren't. I believe this is at least part of what leaves us vulnerable to suicide.

It is a struggle to share our vulnerabilities with others - to be real, to cry, to grieve, to admit when worried and troubled. We all sometimes feel overwhelmed by what we think, feel, want, or by life circumstances. One of the constant surprises for me when I sit with people in my therapy practice is how often people feel totally alone while they

continued on page 24

AGEISM

by DJ

Everyone has experienced age discrimination at one point in their life. Who was not, as a child, given the impression that children ought to be seen but not heard? How often have you heard guys saying that they feared getting old? Indeed, how often have you see "42 year old man, looks 10 years younger, ISO?" "I want to define ageism to mean discrimination against someone solely based on age.

Thus, the laws which prevent the purchase of alcohol under a certain age is a form of ageism but the kind of ageism I am referring to here is mostly cultural. Unfortunately ageism is more evident in the LGBT community than in the general population.

Why? Part of the reason has to do with a lack of bonding which occurs in traditional marriage. Oh, I admit that some couples do form lasting relationships but without the commitment of a marriage certificate and the backing of courts and tradition, it has been easier for partners in the LGBT community to split whenever they pleased. Those couples who do survive for long periods are more an exception than a rule.

Individuals who are affected by the relationships they had as a child may seek a "parental" relationship because of something out of their early bonding experiences in their household of origin

There are also the images piped into our living rooms via TV of young people having fun and older people experiencing health problems. We are indoctrinated to believe that these are always present. What we don't see sometimes is the compassion, maturity, of them are more mature than many of my peers while others are so immature as to be laughable. I could easily fall for one of the mature young people. I have known people in their 80s who wanted new challenges and and caring that is in the heart of the individual if we classify them solely based on age. As a person in the education field, I have clearly been exposed to thousands of young people over the last 35 years. Some people in their 30s who wanted to be shut off from change.

We can't find such individuals until we get rid of preconceived notions stemming from our perception of age. While it is true to some extent that the body shows signs of aging, one can ameliorate the effects by taking care of oneself. I would rather meet someone who was meticulous in taking care of oneself regardless of age than someone who was sloppy and did not show any care. If we expect to be accepted as LGBT people, we should also be more accepting of people, regardless of age.

Peter D. Martel

Chartered Accountant

Kitchener, Ontario

Tel: (519) 741-1851 Fax: (519) 741-9451

BUSINESS PAGE

This month featuring

LATTE on the LOOSE

LATTE on the LOOSE was formed by Kelly Townsend and Liz Ellenton in 1993. After travelling together for the better part of a year they decided to start a mobile business serving Seattle style

expresso-based beverages to people at special events. They have served specialty coffees at many local festivals and trade shows, as well as at Kitchener R a n g e r games. They have also branched out into doing the catering of specialty coffees to parties, weddings, meetings and special events, both private and corporate. They are also the area distributor for Oscar Skollsberg's Premium Syrups and provide consulting and staff training in all aspects of the specialty coffee industry. Latte on the Loose are the 'Expresso Experts' in the K-W area.

In June of 1997, they bought the Aroma Cafe in the Atrium in Waterloo. As the only coffee-roaster-retailer in the area Latte on the Loose, the Coffee-house, now specializes in selling fresh

estate and rare coffee beans, specialty coffees, loose leaf teas, freshly squeezed juices, decadent desserts and Belgian chocolates.

The fact that Latte on the Loose roasts at their location guarantees maximum freshness.

They are located at The Atrium, 33 Erb Street West, 884-0411, and their hours are Tuesday - Friday 10am-5:30 pm, Saturday 9am-5pm.

Kelly and Liz invite you to drop in and "see what quality tastes like!"

The Coffee-house offers a bright warm and friendly atmosphere.

The Atrium is located just to the side of Waterloo Town Square at the Zehrs end of the mall. Latte on the Loose is on the main level and is to your right as you enter the Atrium.

If you would like your business featured and to take out an ad in an upcoming issue of The Voice please write to us!



A Life Less Ordinary

By A.J. Mahari

Do you strive for a life less ordinary? I have, I think, to some unconscious extent, done just this. It seems to me now that to find peace and contentment within self, within the ordinary, is one of the blessings that life holds out to us if we care to turn inward and find it. Yes, so often, the world will judge us on what we do, on whether or not we have a successful and well-defined career, money, nice possessions. To me, living a life less ordinary speaks to a quiet accepted-understanding of who you are.

When we can accept the ordinary in our selves, in others, and in our lives, then we are truly willing to experience the gift that life is within the common confines of authenticity. Authenticity abhors aggrandizing accumulation of outwardly emptying edification that in essence tears down what one might, in actuality be trying to build. For anything that is rooted in a lack of authenticity often takes the aspects of a life less ordinary from a rooted reality and deposits them in the illicit gains of illusionary control. It is here that the ordinary, the simple truth about who you are and what you value, if others fail to attach esteem and worth to what you believe and value, can easily be derailed. Dedicated decency that does not meet with ordinary understanding strains the common acceptance of much that is over-looked, yet very present within this ordinary human condition.

It is within this condition, this existence, that each of has a place, a role, a function, a purpose and truly no one specific place, role, function or purpose supersedes another whether seeming ordinary or extraordinary in the eye of the beholder. I strive to ensure that my authenticity is withheld and upheld from

within, and that it also reflects a visible version of who I am and what I truly stand for and value.

To live a life less ordinary, within all that is so ordinary, is to consistently uphold what it is that one values; and to not allow who you are and what you stand for to be effected or influenced by anyone or anything in the name of convenience, ego gratification, or popularity.

Ordinary authenticity speaks to one's word carrying unmeasured meaning when one chooses to give it. Life less ordinary, existing in an average relativity, means taking the risk to care even when it hurts. It means reflecting back to the world around you a spiritual nature and reality that you and your Higher Power, your inner essence, are the masters of your attitude, and of your will, not circumstance!

Truly, in a life less ordinary, it is the way you play the cards and not the cards that you are dealt that makes the difference between a life that can be lived in gratitude or one that is lived in misery. Misery may be what many think seeks company, but, I do not know better company than spiritual peace. And the abundance of joy. Joy, contentment and happiness, in the life less ordinary are not sought destinations but rather are a matter of chosen attitude.

Living is, not just a condition for gain, not just an experience from which to take; it is also very much about what you choose to give. Love is every step. Actions do speak louder than words in a life less ordinary.

Do you strive to walk upon the reflective path of a life less ordinary?

What's Happening?

On-Going Events

Sundays

KW Aquatics Club (KWAC) swims at the Waterloo Recreation Center Swimplex on Father David Bauer Road in Waterloo. There are no membership fees, but members pay individually for admission to the pool. We are open to swimmers of all levels and orientations. We swim on Sundays from 9:00 am to 10:00 am, then go for brunch afterwards. For more information, e-mail us at

or phone
Kevin at [REDACTED], Mark at [REDACTED]

Rainbow Metropolitan

Community Church service to attend an LGBT-friendly Community Church try the Rainbow MCC, the Guelph congregation of the UFMCC. Services are under the direction of the Pastor, the Reverend Sid Bater, and take place each Sunday at 7:00 p.m. It is located at St. Matthias Anglican, 171 Kortright Road, at the corner of Kortright and Edinburgh Road. Call the Rainbow MCC at 519-[REDACTED]

Tuesdays and Saturdays

KW FrontRunners (KWFR) is a running and walking group. All runs and walks start at the Waterloo Recreation Center Swimplex on Father David Bauer Road in Waterloo.

Wednesdays

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual

Youth Discussion Group: A group for people aged 16-25, sponsored by ACCKWA and held in Waterloo, 7:00-9:00 pm. To join, or for more information, call Rob Gascho at ACCKWA at (519) [REDACTED] (Kitchener).

GLLOW Coming Out Discussion Group

explores issues in sexual orientation; [ROOM CHANGE!] Psychology, Anthropology and Sociology (PAS) building, 3rd floor lounge, University of Waterloo, 7:30-9:00 pm. Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgendered people, and those questioning their sexuality are welcome. Information: [REDACTED]. Discussion Group meetings resume in September, on Wednesday September 2, and back in our regular rooms at Hagey Hall, Rms.373/378. Information: [REDACTED]

GLLOW Night: a social evening in Psychology, Anthropology and Sociology (PAS) building, 3rd floor lounge, University of Waterloo, 9:00-11:00 pm. Everyone welcome; meet old friends, and make new ones!



GENERATION X CONGRATULATES THE VOICE ON THEIR FIRST ISSUE!

k-w's best selection of
foreign, cult, anime, indie,
Gay & Lesbian and
hard-to-find videos.
And damn cool mags too.



GENERATION X
ALTERNATIVE VIDEO & MEDIA

[10 REGINA ST. N.] [888-GENX]

Generation XXX is opening soon. Yes, it will have Gay & Lesbian Titles.

KW Aquatics Club (KWAC)

swims at the Waterloo Recreation Center Swimplex on Father David Bauer Road in Waterloo. There are no membership fees, but members pay individually for admission to the pool. We are open to swimmers of all levels and orientations. We swim on Fridays from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, then go for dinner afterwards. For more information, email us at

[redacted], or phone Kevin at [redacted], or Mark at [redacted]

Thursdays

ORRA (Out-Reach Rainbow Alliance)

Currently provides a non-bar alternative social group and meets every Thursday from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the Victoria School Center, (in the Program Room), 25 Joseph Street, just behind the bus terminal. Enter via the David Street Entrance. For further information contact AJ Mahari at [redacted]

Saturdays

RainBow Ridge Dance every Saturday until the end of October. The Dance Club opens at 8 o'clock and is licensed. For more information, call the RainBow Ridge at 1-888-[redacted]



Special Events

October 5, Monday

WOODS Open Event: Legal & Financial Seminar at 6:30 pm. This is a free seminar, including dinner; learn how to invest wisely and avoid legal ramifications for same-sex couples. Limited seating at restaurant. RSVP to Dona by September 28th.

October 9, Friday

"Looking Backward, Moving Forward: Stories for the Next Millenium" **The Brethren/Mennonite Council for Lesbian and Gay Concerns (BMC)** invites you to join them in Bolton, Ontario for their biennial convention. The convention begins Friday evening, October 9, and concludes Monday morning, October 12. The main site for the convention is the Cedar Glen Conference

The keynote speaker for the weekend is Melanie Morrison, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, and an out lesbian. Melanie is a co-founder of Leaven Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to providing education and resources in the areas of sexuality, spirituality, anti-racism, and feminism. She is the author of "The Grace of Coming Home". For more information, contact the BMC office.

Mail: P.O. Box 6300, Minneapolis, Minn. 55406

Phone: 612-[redacted]

Email: [redacted]

October 13, Tuesday

"Homecoming" is a group that will be run by the Interfaith Counselling Agency, beginning on October 13th. This group is open to Lesbians, Gays, Bi-sexuals and Transgendered people 25 years and older.

They plan to explore the many emotional issues of living life as a LGBT

continued on page

Continued from page

person in today's society. There is a cost (\$120 for 10 sessions) and an assessment interview required. Call Interfaith at [redacted] for more information. There will also be another group beginning in the new year.

October 16, Friday Princess Cinema

Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss plays at the Princess Cinema at 9:20 pm. This movie's website :

<http://www.billyskiss.com>.

The Princess Cinema is located at 6 Princess St. W., Waterloo; website <http://princess.sentex.net/>.

October 22, Thursday

The Sum of Us begins its two week performance run at 8 pm at the Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre, 9 Princess Street East in Waterloo. Phone their box office at [redacted] to reserve your tickets.

"When it comes to love, sometimes father really does know best. A widower and his gay son explore the unique bond they share in this comic, touching look at dating and the mysteries of the human heart!"

See Entertainment section for more on "The Sum of Us".

October 24, Saturday

The Pink Party - 'Making History', a dance at Federation Hall, University of Waterloo Campus. Join campus and community members from Toronto, Hamilton, London and Waterloo-Wellington as we celebrate our Queer History. The fun starts at 9 pm! Throughout the evening, the irreverant "Lads In Lashes" will take centre stage to help 'drag' us through the subtle passages of time. This first annual 'all ages' Homohop is presented by Out & About - Queer

Radio and GLOW. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets are available at the GLOW office and at many local gay-friendly businesses. Call Mike at 519-[redacted] for more ticket information. Circle OCTOBER 24TH on your calendar and plan to attend this mega event. For more information or to volunteer call [redacted] or listen to OUT & ABOUT - Queer Radio heard Fridays at 9:30pm on CKWR 98.5fm.

October 31, Saturday Hallowe'en

RainBow Ridge Dance. Naturally, tonight will be a Hallowe'en Dance. The Dance Club opens at 8 o'clock and is licensed. For more information, call the RainBow Ridge at 1-888-[redacted]

"Hallowe'en Scream" Tickets are now on sale for this dance and costume party at the CNIB Hall in Hamilton, and has a "come as your favourite movie star" theme. Prizes, excellent music, and food are included. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$14 at the door (if they are available, and they likely won't be).

Tickets are now available from Sound Advice Professional Disc Jockey Services (in Kitchener) at [redacted] or at Gomorrah's in Hamilton (on James St.) at (905) [redacted]

November 20, Friday

PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meet at 8:00 pm. For the location of the meeting and more information, call Evie at [redacted] (Kitchener) or Sue at (519) [redacted] (Cambridge) or email them at pflag@rainbow.on.ca.



Love Makes a Family: Living In Lesbian and Gay Families.

Living in Lesbian and Gay Families is a photograph-text exhibit documenting over thirty families of diverse racial, cultural, economic and religious backgrounds with lesbian or gay grandparents, parents, teenagers, or young adults. This nationally-acclaimed exhibit travels to workplaces, schools, places of worship, libraries, community centers and public art spaces across the U.S. and Canada. The interview text accompanying the family portraits documents the lives, the courage, and the pride of lesbian and gay families everywhere.

Writers Pam Brown and Peggy Gillespie and photographer Gigi Kaeser created the exhibit in response to the silence about lesbian and gay lives that is not only the companion of homophobia in our culture, but the foundation.

"Love Makes a Family" is a presentation of truthful images of gay and lesbian people in the context of family.
-Sandra Gillis, Executive Director, PFLAG.

Love Makes a Family, plays a critical role in providing support to young gay, lesbian and bi-sexual people.
-National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

"Love Makes a Family," is timely, clear, powerful without being dogmatic, emotionally potent without sentimentality. Its message is political to the extent that all good art is political—it tells humanity's truth. I would like to see this exhibit in every house of worship, every school, every library, every possible public space.—The Reverend Victoria Strafford Unitarian Society

For more information, contact: Family Ties, P.O. Box 975, Amherst, MA 413-

Source: <http://www.familyties.org/>

What They Say About Us

"We all carry some variety of infirmity or sorrow with us -let's treat each other kindly. None of us is getting out of our human condition alive."—Bette Davis

"If we even tolerate any oppression of gay and lesbian Americans, if we join those who would intrude upon the choices of our hearts, then who among us shall be free?"

--June Jordan

The Bible contains six admonishments to homosexuals, and 362 to heterosexuals. This doesn't mean God doesn't love heterosexuals it's just that they need more supervision.

—Lynn Lavner

JEAN-PAUL PILON
Barrister and Solicitor,
Notary Public

- Civil Litigation
- Wills, Estates, Powers of Attorney
- Human Rights Law
- HIV Issues
- Same Sex Issues
- Real Estate

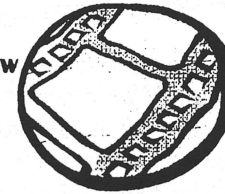
Legal Aid Accepted
Evening & Weekend Appointments Available
Free Initial Consultation

10 Regina Street North, 3rd Floor
Waterloo, Ontario
Phone: (519) 885-5759 Fax: (519) 885-5695

ENTERTAINMENT



Movie Review



"I think I do"
by Clayton Chrusch

As I begin this first film review, it occurs to me how much easier it would be to review something more clear-cut: either a profoundly meaningful piece of art or some toxic vapour belched up from the Furnaces of The American Movie Making Industry. But as it is, I will review, "I think I do," a film neither particularly good nor particularly bad.

"I think I do," has a reasonably straight forward plot. Gay Bob Wants Straight Brendan. Brendan rejects Bob. A few years later, they are reunited at the Friends' wedding. Straight Brendan turns out to be gay after all. Now Brendan wants Bob but Bob is engaged to Boyfriend. Bob must choose between the safety of Boyfriend and the allure of What-Might-Have-Been.

This film distinguishes itself by its casting. Some casting person had the unusual talent of choosing interesting faces, all of which somehow turn out to be quite appropriate. Bob (Alexis Arquette) has a big nose and big lips.

In any other movie, he would be cast as the guy who never gets a date. In this movie, he must choose between more than one partner. Brendan looks like he was cast for a mobster movie. Carol, the bride, looks like Tooti from "The Facts of Life." Don, the one night stand, looks like a yogic flyer. These actors aren't the physically perfect specimens movie-goers are used to, which seems appropriate in a movie where the prettiest men and women have to worst luck in romance. With this film and with recent films like, "As Good as it Gets," it would seem Hollywood is making a healthy gesture of casting non-models as romantic leads.

The characters have casual sex, get engaged, act cute with their partners, marry, cheat, separate, and reunite. They desperately want happiness but never achieve it. This movie is really about a bleak reality, about how we confuse love and desire, about how we don't really know what we want, about how nothing seems to make us happy. At least that is what I think. Whether or not there is real substance to this movie is, for the most part, idle speculation. The substance, if it is there, is buried beneath a sitcom-like surface: funny but mindless.

"*The Sum of Us*," is the often funny, sometimes sad, story of a young gay man, his straight father, and their attempts to find love. Much of the humour comes from the father's efforts to be helpful, and the idea that there's such a thing as being **too** supportive. The largely gay audience (OK, I'm making assumptions here, but it sure seemed that way to me.) ate it up.

So, when K-W Little Theatre elected me President (motto: just dry clean it and send me the bill), I was pleased to see that one of our directors wanted to do "*The Sum of Us*." Although it has obvious appeal to gay people, it is non-threatening enough that you can take straight friends, and even parents, to see it. If, after seeing it, your father starts trying to rustle up dates for you, you can't say you weren't warned.

"*The Sum of Us*," a stirring comedy about family values," runs October 22-24 and 29-31 at 8 pm, and October 25 and November 1 at 2 pm at K-W Little Theatre, 9 Princess East, Waterloo. Tickets are \$12, or \$10 for KWLT members and groups of 10 or more. To reserve tickets, call 886-0660.



WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT US

"Heterosexuality is not normal, it's just common." —Dorothy Parker

"We all carry some variety of infirmity or sorrow with us -let's treat each other kindly. None of us is getting out of our human condition alive."—Bette Davis

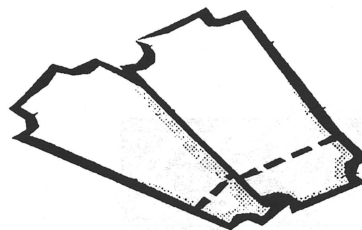
"If we even tolerate any oppression of gay and lesbian Americans, if we join those who would intrude upon the choices of our hearts, then who among us shall be free?"—June Jordan

"The Bible contains six admonishments to homosexuals, and 362 to heterosexuals. This doesn't mean God doesn't love heterosexuals, it's just that they need more supervision."—Lynn Lavner

"The next time someone asks you, 'Hey, how did ya get to be a homosexual anyway?' tell them, 'Homosexuals are chosen first on talent, then interview, then the swimsuit and evening gown competition pretty much gets rid of the rest of them.'"
—Karen Williams

"It wasn't easy telling my parents that I'm gay. I told them at Thanksgiving. I said, 'Mom, would you please pass the gravy to a homosexual?' She passed it to my father. A terrible scene followed."—Bob Smith

"Feminism encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians."—Pat Robertson at .



K-W Little Theatre Presents The Play: "The Sum Of Us"

Our Kind of Family Values by Steve Hutton

One of the most complicated words for our community is "family". Most of us have had difficulties with our relatives about our sexuality, and the term "family values" is generally wielded by people who hate us. These days, some people have never had a problem with their

families ("Mom, Dad, I like taking it up the bum; please pass the corn."), but they're a distinct minority.

On the other hand, many people are working to reclaim the idea of a family. People in long-term relationships are insisting on the same recognition that legally married couples have. A few gay men and a larger number of lesbians are raising children. And PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) get an enthusiastic response at any major gay event.

It was with this in mind that, four years ago, I went to see an Australian film called "*The Sum of Us*" at the Toronto Film Festival. (The fact that it included a couple of cute guys with Australian accents making out was hardly a factor at all.)

Thinking of **BUYING**
or **SELLING**
a **HOME?**



CALL US FIRST!

ANNETTE ESCOBAR
Sales Representative

BRUCE TAYLOR
Sales Representative

ROYAL LEPAGE

Crown Realty Services Inc.

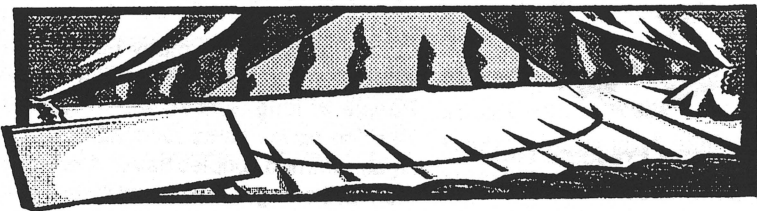
(519) 740-6400 24 hr. pager



STRIVING FOR EQUALITY

serving the Cambridge and Kitchener/Waterloo area

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



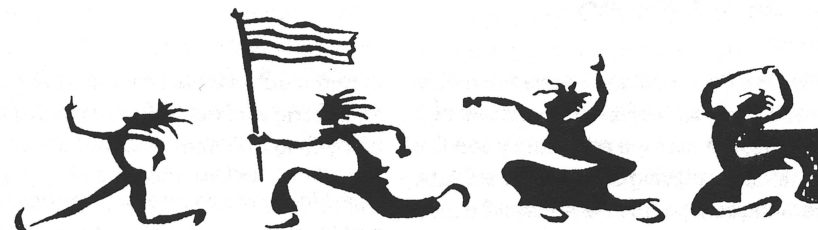
by A.J. Mahari

Each month The Voice will be spotlighting a social group, service group, or individual in our community. Our first spotlight is on K-W's lesbian social group, WOODS.



W O O D S is an organization that offers social activities and support exclusively to women in the cities of K-W, Cambridge, Guelph, and surrounding areas. Woods is primarily a lesbian organization but also welcomes lesbian-friendly women. The group was formed ten years ago by some lesbian women and largely focused on outdoor and more active kinds of events. Woods, at that time, stood for, Women Out Of Doors. In recent years the focus of the group has changed considerably. There is not the same primary focus on outdoor or physically active activities. Woods now stands for, Women Out Opening Doors Socially.

The club is membership driven in that each member has a say as to what events will be planned. So, events very much reflect the interests of the group's current members. There is no "planning committee" and members hold planning meetings in which everyone has a voice. Events are sponsored and hosted by individual members of the group.



Events that members partake in include; Pot Lucks, Golf, Game Nights, Dances, Billiards, Canoeing, Camping, Scavenger Hunts, Movie Nights, Book Exchanges and much more.

The club has 30 active members and is still very much growing. Memberships cost \$10 for a single woman and \$15 for a couple per year. Woods also does offer sliding membership fees to any woman who is on disability or otherwise cannot meet the full cost of membership. The group is very aware of issues of privacy and confidentiality and for this reason offers both "open" and "closed" events. The group member who is sponsoring any given event decides whether or not an event or meeting is "open", or "closed". Closed events are for members only and offer a very safe environment for any woman not fully out or for anyone just in the process of coming out. Open events are also open to women who are not members of the club.

During my interview with Dona, she added, "Woods is a good social/support group which provides good comfort, especially if a woman is new to the region, or just coming out. Woods operates year round and is a safe, comfortable venue for lesbians." Dona then added, "When you become a member of Woods your interests become the interests of the club also."

If you are interested in WOODS and or would like to get more information; in K-W, the contact person is Dona at [REDACTED] in Guelph the contact person is Debbie at 822-7876. Dona can also be emailed at [REDACTED]. You can write to WOODS at: [REDACTED]. The website is located at: <http://www.golden.net/~dmw>

If you have a group or social organization, or would like to suggest an individual from our community that you would like to see "In the Spotlight" write to us today!!!

Are We, as Lesbians, Invisible?

by A.J. Mahari

Are we, as lesbians leading invisible lives? I can see my life and you can see your life, but, can we adequately see the existence and living of one another? Can we adequately find one another?

Henry David Thoreau said that "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation", a quote which illustrates the invisibility that I am speaking of whether or not we, as women, and more specifically, as lesbian women, are included in the term "men" for the purpose of Thoreau's quote.

I believe that Thoreau's quote speaks to our invisibility, as women firstly, and as lesbians, secondly, in what is not only a heterosexually-dominated society, but also is a male-dominated society.

Are we leading lives of quiet desperation? Is our isolation real or imagined? Is our visibility or lack of said due to our personal choices and issues in our lives or does the fact that we are lesbian contribute to the likelihood of this "quiet desperation", and or invisibility?

I would assert that my experience as a lesbian has been an invisible one in many ways. I think that this is changing somewhat, but, still the issue of acceptance meeting with visibility and invisibility meeting with acceptance prevails. I, like many of you, I am sure,

spend a substantial amount of my time interacting with people whom I have little if anything in common with.

Lacking any sameness with regard to innate core issues with others, I think, can easily produce feelings of invisibility. There often is not any acknowledgment or understanding of who I am in most interactions in my life. Therefore, as a lesbian woman in a straight and male-dominated society I continue to seek the way to live my life in an open and inclusive way in the world in which I must live it in. This can be, and sometimes is, very much a source of pain. It is during these painful moments that we owe it to ourselves to find the kind of visibility that gives credence to our humanity and that will render the quote of Thoreau invalid. I do not want my life to be about quiet desperation. My life is a gift from the universe and I refuse to return it unopened. And as I open it, bring it into the light of visibility as a lesbian, woman and a human being, I do so fully in acceptance of the pain that it takes to bring about change.

Change in ourselves and change in our world is what is required. I believe it is required from each of us, as lesbians. These changes would see us being able to be not only much more visible to each other, much more visible in our community but also much more visible in the context of the larger society as a whole.

Continued on Page 19

Are We, As Lesbians, Invisible?

Continued from page 18

If I live my life in quite desperation who benefits? If I live my life in the small space that many would give it, who benefits? If, I, instead, decide to live a very visible life in which I seek, at every opportunity, to educate, by being fully me: then I will not only benefit, but, others will too.

Invisibility increases homophobia because it gives all of us a false sense of acceptance when really we have not been visible enough to challenge whether or not there is true acceptance. It is therefore, important that we do not allow ourselves to sink into the mindset of invisibility equaling acceptance.

Invisibility is disenfranchising to the human spirit, and anything but acceptance. Is there a conspiracy to silence? Is there a fear of visibility? Or perhaps there is a sense that, presently, we are just not taken seriously by various segments of society? After all aren't women, generally, still a rather invisible-minority anyway? Certainly, there is still an inequity of power that is to some degree perpetuated by this lack of visibility of which I speak.

Are you living a life that is invisible? Do you ever stop to ask yourself why? If you are living a more visible life to what degree do you think are you a part of the solution?

Acceptance does not go hand in hand with tolerance, just as tolerance does not enable us to achieve any visible

equal status either. In order to get, have, or win this coveted visible acceptance I would put forth that we need to decide to actively pursue it. In a world where difference still equates, only at best, with tolerance, and not with acceptance, it is up to each and every one of us to, in whatever way we can inspire a growing sense of visible sisterhood and community.

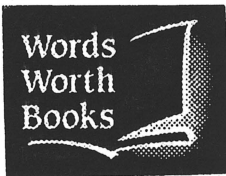
Daily, I strive to find ways to ensure that I am not leading a life of "quiet desperation", but, rather a self-accepting life of ample visible inspiration.

Our invisibility is tolerated, by society, but, it is not acceptance. It takes actual acceptance to bring about lasting change. Achieving this type of acceptance cannot take place without the pain that must be endured as part of the process of the growth of a society, and the growth of each individual lesbian.

People learn to accept what they become familiar with. Familiarity is born of experience and exposure to that which would otherwise be, at best, only tolerated.

Experience and exposure to difference, both individual or collective in nature and origin, is the necessary backdrop to a well-defined understanding of self as mirrored back through relative reflection that does not bare the comparing light of sameness in an undetectable or invisible way.

Are we, as lesbians, invisible?



The independent bookstore for independent minds.

Words Worth Books welcomes the LGBT community.
Pick up a copy of our Fall Author events Calendar including Nov. 18 at C₂G₂
Anne Fleming UW grad and lesbian author of *Pool Hopping & Other Stories*
reading with Tomson Highway *Kiss of the Fur Queen*

100 King St. South Uptown Waterloo 884-2665

BOOK REVIEW



By Rayne Jarvis

"Getting Used To Dying" by Zhang Xianliang

This thought provoking autobiographical novel, set during the years since the Second World War, is a series of present-day occurrences in the life of the main character and memories of his past life.

The very first chapter reflects on when the main character, "began to want to kill him." "Him" in this context, means his inner-self. In other words the writer contemplates suicide. This is further explained once we realize, that, "Getting Used To Dying," is narrated by two voices which belong to the same person. Although, in our eyes this is regarded as a psychosis, in modern Chinese eyes it is a portrait of normality.

"Death became second nature to him but he lacked the strength or tenacity to die."

"If dying were as easy as walking, this overpopulated world would soon be rid of two-thirds of its people."

The second chapter tells how, in the year 2001, the writer finally is able to kill, "him." Thus this means, at the age of 65, he eventually achieves his life-long wish. After this we are then taken to the present-day-world where the writer is flying from China to San Francisco. He dreams of the time he first met, "A" in Beijing.

Continued on Page 21

Continued from page 20

He hopes to meet her, once again, upon arrival in the United States. Throughout the book the story alternates between the present and the past. In this way the writer, who is the main character, explores and explains his present actions through the description of past traumatic events. One of the most shocking of these events is portrayed in chapters 18 and 19. The main character, the writer, is taken, along with 40 other prisoners, to be executed. He is the only one left living after all of the others are shot to death. This is more of a death than death itself would have been. Left shocked and confused he sees before him the results of the bullets fired--"When he [a soldier] turned around he saw his eyes. Absolute horror filled those eye sockets." Even more appalling than the carnage before him, was the fact that a small child had been forced to witness the killings. She was being punished for having yelled, "reactionary slogans." A placard, displaying the writer's (main character) name, had been placed on the little girl. Her name had been placed on him.

*"She's me!
I am her!
And neither of us is anyone!"*

The narrator tells us, "Although that one gun may never have been fired, a bullet of fear and repression had lodged inside the brain. Every intellectual in China lives with this kind of bullet in his brain." The main character lives through this ordeal, and many similar episodes, so many times that he, in fact, gets "used to dying."

The reader of this book is taken through various scenes in the past. Also, past and present meetings with various women are reflected upon. These women are only portrayed as "A, B, and C." Only one name, Natalie is known.

In 1989, the writer returns to China, to complete, "Getting Used To Dying." Although he had been given opportunity to stay in the West as a political refugee, to this day he chooses to remain in China, where he faces further persecution. "I must go back to get the bullet that belongs to me! And it does not matter where I try to take refuge--the gun knows exactly where to aim. The connecting line between gun and bullet is like a barrier that has been set across my life: It keeps me from creating, from achieving, and it also prevents me from doing anything wrong."

Significant in this book were the words, "the end" which were spoken by the main character often to his other inner-self. He killed his "other self" in the year 2001 in a very symbolic and meaningful way.

As the shot rang out, I saw before me a sexy Christ lying on a sheet of white clouds. The high walls of a labour reform prison rose behind him. On the prison walls were written these slogans:

**change bad to good,
the future is glorious,
from each according to his ability,
to each according to his need."**

Episodes in the book span the anti-rightist campaign of the late 1950's, the Cultural Revolution, and the repression of the late 1980's in China while alternating between the present and the future. After the events of June 1989, in Tiananmen Square, the novel was banned inside China. At this time, Zhang Xinling is under investigation by the Chinese government once again.



**LETTERS
OPINIONS**

**POETRY
PROSE**

Sorry

By Jason Spence

Everybody wants a piece of me,
but still I put you at the end of the line.
How it breaks my heart to cause you the
pain, to see the tears you cry like vain.

Give me the chance to prove it and I'll
make it up to you.
I still believe in you with a love that will
always be standing so strong and true.
I still believe in me and you.

Somewhere along the way,
I guess I just lost track, only thinking of
myself never looking back.
For all the times I hurt you, I apologise
now, I am so sorry it took so long to fi-
nally realise how.
Give me the chance to prove, that noth-
ing is worth losing you.

**Write to us if you have a poem or
piece of prose that you'd like to
share!!**

Depression: Two Pantoums-Choice

Day One

Crows harking, harking.
Summer surrendering, dying,
Drearly killing
Time, as it drones on.

Summer surrendering, dying,
Everywhere, nowhere
Time, as it drones on.
Death beckoning, caressing.

Everywhere, nowhere
Life, longing for escape.
Death beckoning, caressing,
With dangerous ease.

Life, longing for escape.
Drearly killing,
With dangerous ease.
Crows harking, harking.

Day Two

Yesterday I did not die,
The time did not seem right,
Death so much feared,
Death so much desired.

The time did not seem right,
The raging, crying, soul,
Death so much desired.
Longing for escape.

The raging, crying soul,
Unable to break free,
Longing for escape
Who would understand?

Uable to break free,
Death so much feared,
Who would understand?
Yesterday I did not die.

It Begins With The First Step

by A.J. Mahari

It begins with the first step. What
does? Each and every journey or
relationship in our lives begins with a
first step.

Often we are required to make profound
changes over the courses of our jour-
neys and each change is a new step
forward.

The first step, and subsequent steps, in
any endeavor in life call to us to over-
come our fear, and to continue to move
forward in our lives knowing when to
risk and when to rest.

Balance is everything in each step that
we take.

Each step begins with the first step
which can only be taken after we have

allowed ourselves the gift of our own
individual thoughts.

All of our steps in life are somewhat
measured and reflective of who we are
and their success or failure and their
worth or lack thereof is found in their
integrity and in their desire.

Stepping to the beat of your own drum-
mer how can you not appreciate it when
you experience someone else's beat?
Freedom and acceptance of each oth-
ers drummers and resulting steps is a
very inclusive practice as we all seek to
be accepted for who we are, what we
believe and what we care about.

Are you stepping? Are you standing still?
It all begins with the first step.



TCB



Travel

Taking Care of Business in a Flash

Serving the Gay Communities of Kitchener,
Waterloo, Cambridge and Guelph

For Your Travel Needs Call Mark Today!
519-748-0850
email: tcbtravel@golden.net




CLASSIFIED

If you have a product, service, or item you would like to advertise in The Voice classified please write to us by the 15th of the month prior to when you want your ad to appear. Classified ads cost \$5.00 a month, maximum 25 words, and 10 cents a letter for each subsequent word.

PERSONALS

The Voice will also be including a personals section. If you'd like to run a personal ad please observe the 15th of each month deadline and the cost for a personal ad is \$10. This includes forwarding any responses to your ad to you by mail. Please include your name, address and phone number for our records only.

PAYMENT FOR ADS

Please make all payments by cheque or money order and make your cheque or money order out to A.J. Mahari (Editor).

HUMOR

The Zen master steps up to the hot dog stand and says: "Make me one with everything." The hot dog vendor fixes a hot dog and hands it to the Zen master, who pays with a \$20 bill. The hot dog vendor puts the bill in the cash drawer and closes the drawer. "Where's my change?" asks the Zen master. And the hot dog vendor responds, "Change must come from within."

REST IN PEACE

A new business was opening and one of the owner's friends wanted to send flowers for the occasion. They arrived at the new business site and the owner read the card; it said "Rest in Peace". The owner was angry and called the florist to complain. After he had told the florist of the obvious mistake and how angry he was, the florist said,

"Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry you should imagine this: somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying,

"Congratulations on your new location."

Thoughts On Suicide continued from page 4

experience things that are relatively common human experiences. Sometimes I imagine that we are all living in little cubicles that we have to stand on tippy-toes to see over in order to connect. But the secret is that together we can move the cubicle walls out of the way so we can be with one another in closeness, in joy and in sorrow. Let's work with each other so we can all live in better health and happiness.

John N. Nauss B.A. H.D.&c
Holistic Consultant

Constitutional Iridology
Homeopathy (all types)
Nutrition/lifestyle
(including Ayurvedic)
Bach flower/gem/
crystal remedies

Applied Kinesiology
(several types)
Psychotherapy
Radionics/Vibrational
Voll Acute testing/treatment
Geopathic testing
Courses and Workshops
offered ongoing and tailored

420 Weber St. North, Suite 101,
Waterloo, N2L 4E7
519-747-1611
jnn@golden.net



SERVICES OF UNION FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES

and other rites of passage

FIRST UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF WATERLOO
96 Dunbar Road South, Waterloo

742-0432

BEAVER CREEK HOUSING CO-OP

A 50-unit townhouse complex, across from Laurel Creek, close to trails, universities, schools. Operated by members. An inclusive, diverse, friendly, safe community, with organic garden plots, landscaping, trees, playground.

Call for the date of our next open house/information evening.

590 Bearinger Road, Waterloo 886-1081

Fax 886-0905
e-mail: office@beavercreekcoop.on.ca
Visit our web site: www.beavercreekcoop.on.ca



LIGHTS! CAMERA! ATTRACTION!



"SEXUAL CHAOS ERUPTS!"

...THIS ENVELOPE-PUSHING ROMANTIC COMEDY PICKS UP SEVERAL STEPS BEYOND WHERE 'THE OPPOSITE OF SEX' LEFT OFF!
 -STEPHEN HOLDEN, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"BOLD! WITTY! HILARIOUS!"

-KEVIN THOMAS, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"SPARKLING! HIGH-SPIRITED! A CHERRY TART OF A STORY!"

-LISA SCHWARZBAUM, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"A BREAKTHROUGH! ...A FEEL GOOD, AUDIENCE INTOXICATING FANTASY!"

-JOHN ANDERSON, NEWSDAY

★★★★★
ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS!

-MIKE CIDONI, ABC-TV



Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss

TRIMARK PICTURES PRESENTS A RED SKY PRODUCTION A BILLY'S HOLLYWOOD SCREEN KISS FILM BILLY'S HOLLYWOOD SCREEN KISS CASTING BY JANE ROBERTSON COSTUME DESIGNER JANE ROBERTSON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JANE ROBERTSON PRODUCED BY JANE ROBERTSON WRITTEN BY JANE ROBERTSON DIRECTED BY JANE ROBERTSON



www.billyskiss.com



WILL RECORDS



14 ADULT ACCOMPANIMENT
 REQUIRES OVERSIGHT OF 14

COURSE LANGUAGE, MATURE THEME

OPENS FRIDAY, OCT. 16 - MONDAY OCT. 19 • FOUR DAYS!

PRINCESS CINEMA

6 Princess Street West, Waterloo 885-2950 <http://princess.sentex.net>