

## *The Voice*

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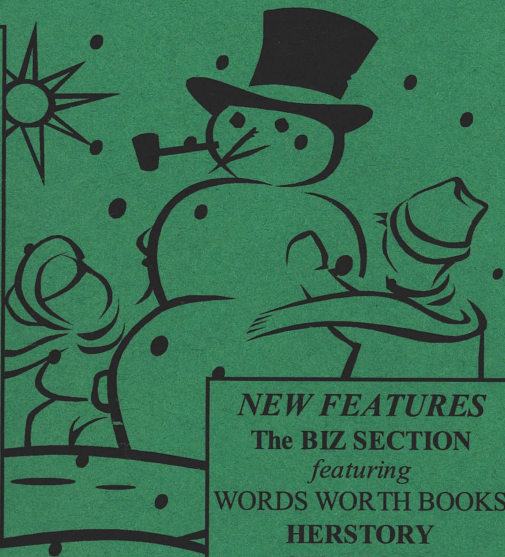
# VOICE

SERVING THE K-W AND AREA LGBT COMMUNITY  
VOLUME ONE

ISSUE THREE

Friday December 4, 1998

SEASON'S GREETINGS



## NEW FEATURES

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*featuring*

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**Editor/Publisher: Ms. A.J. Mahari**  
**Assitant Editors: Rayne Jarvis**  
**R. H.**  
**Biz Section Editor: Darren Kregar**  
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## EDITORIAL

### What's Real?

"When I was young my mother told me Santa Claus was real. When I got older she told me he wasn't  
One book says Jesus is real  
One book says he isn't...  
From-- "Nightcourt"

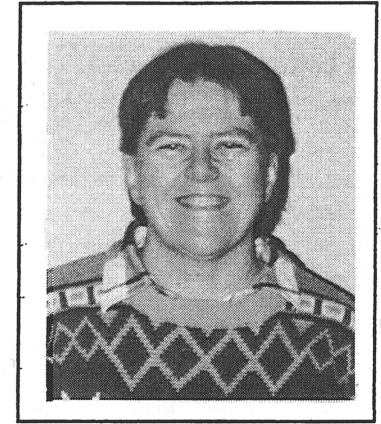
"Christmas is for children," I so often hear. Christmas comes but once a year; with so much stress and heartache disguised as cheer. Christmas!

Childhood is a time for dreams, and fairytales, and for the lucky, it is also a time of innocence.

The likening of Santa Claus to Jesus Christ does not come from the idle thoughts of youth. Santa's persona is usually played out by our fathers when we are children. The similarity here to God, the father is realized in that, for Christians, God, the father gave us each the original gift: the gift of life from which all other gifts then flow. Santa's giving of gifts can be seen as a way of teaching this lesson to children.

The gift-giving at Christmas time has become too much of a focus. Santa is more of a focus for children, often, than Jesus (God) is. So is it any wonder it's difficult to know what to believe?

We are raised with myths and fairytales and fathers who pretended to be some really nice guy in a red suit and all of this takes precedence all too often over what Christmas really is about for millions of people.



A.J. Mahari

Why is there the rush to spend money we don't have? Why the effort put forth to give gifts to people we don't like and never see? The secular Christmas that sees many running around in stores and throwing self-care out the window to be "with family" no matter what... during the holidays asks us to disbelieve in God because Santa is make believe. As a Christian, I choose to buy into the reality of God, of Jesus Christ, by leading with my heart and soul and not my wallet. Christmas is not to be found or experienced in the lights, the toys, the rush at the mall, the party at the office, or the dutiful dinner where so often there is no love. Rather, Christmas is to be found from within where one can truly commune with God. For it is only within the free-confines of the arena of the soul, that peace, joy and the celebration of the life that God gave to each of us can be realized, and further actualized into practice in one's own life.

God is real. Commercialism is the Santa Claus of your childhood.

What are you buying into?

## A Letter to My Mother:

I love you, and Merry Christmas!

I just thought you needed to know I'm very happy that you hung in through all of the tough times. I know there were a lot of those times, in your life.

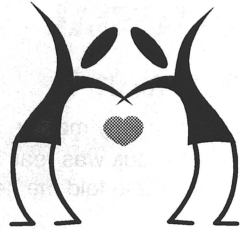
I am very proud of you. You realized that you had some problems and you went to counselling which has helped you in so many ways. It enabled you to get out more, to have a place to go, and to meet a lot of people and helped you to deal with some issues in your life.

I also want you to know that as long as you are happy, I am happy! I accept you being a lesbian

It hasn't changed that you love me. You are still my mom and you are still the same person on the inside.

I know at times that you think you didn't raise your kids the greatest, but everytime I talk to someone about having kids, I always say my mom did this, and did that, and that I will do the same.

When I was growing up, our family wasn't big on communicating or saying I love you, all the time. I think



it's important to let people know how you feel. That's why I have written this for you, here, mom. I want everyone to know that you are my best friend, that I love you, and that I couldn't ever live without you.

Thanks for always being there. I hope that you find someone wonderful.

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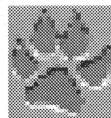
Merry Christmas, mom,

Hugs and kisses,

and love always, from your youngest daughter,

and of course,

Bailey.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS



### OPEN GAY ELECTED TO AUSTRALIA SENATE

Western Australian gay activist Brian Greig was elected to the Australian Senate Oct. 3. He will take his seat July 1.

A member of the Australian Democrats party, Greig ousted Greens Sen. Dee Margetts.

There is one other open gay in Australia's federal parliament Tasmanian Greens Sen. Bob Brown.

The Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology recently recognized "gender-identity disorder" clearing the way for gender-reassignment surgeries.

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### JAPAN'S FIRST SEX-CHANGE OPERATION

Japanese doctors performed the nation's first legal sex-change operation Oct. 16 on a 30-year-old woman who is in the process of becoming male.

They removed her breasts, uterus and ovaries and will later fashion a penis by transplanting flesh from elsewhere on the body.

### ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY MEETS WITH GAYS

The head of the Anglican Church, Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, met with members of England's Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement for the first time Oct. 16 at Lambeth Palace. According to LCCM: "In a very constructive and positive atmosphere it was stressed on both sides that transcending hostility was the central purpose of the meeting.

**PALIMONY SUIT FILED  
AGAINST SKATER**

TORONTO (AP) - Brian Orser, a pro figure skater and two time Olympic silver medalist, has lost a legal battle to prevent the public disclosure of a palimony suit filed by a former boyfriend.

Orser said Thursday he may have overreacted in trying to protect his privacy. Since Tuesday's ruling, he said "I have received a tremendous outpouring of support which has been a great comfort to

In court papers, Orser, 36, feared his career would be ruined by the revelation that he was homosexual. But Ontario Court Judge Susan Langwrote that such a disclosure would not attract any public stigma in today's society.

Toronto banker Craig Leask, 35, sued Orser in January, seeking monthly support payments of \$5,000.00, property and access to Orser's vacation home. The lawsuit could be affected by a case before Canada's Supreme Court on whether Ontario's alimony laws should

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(Matthew Shepard)

**Slain student's last moments**  
by Kevin McCullen (News Staff Writer)

**Suspect describes how he beat gay Wyoming man, watched as pal left him bound to fence**

**LARAMIE -- Matthew Shepard's tears cleared blood from a small part of his blood-caked face after he sustained 18 blows to the head from assailants who laughed at him as he begged for his life.**

Aaron McKinney, 22, admitted to authorities that he struck Shepard three times with his fists and six times with the butt of a stolen .357-caliber revolver the night of Oct. 6, and watched as partner Russell Henderson, 21, tied the University of Wyoming student to a buck fence, according to court testimony Thursday.

Visiting judge Robert Denhardt bound

over McKinney, from Laramie, for trial on charges of first-degree murder, robbery and kidnapping following an all-day preliminary hearing in Albany County Court.

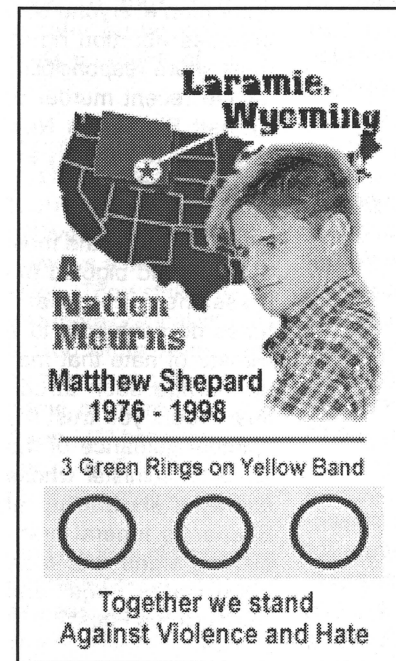
Denhardt heard testimony about McKinney's confession from Albany County sheriff's Detective Sgt. Rob DeBree, the lead investigator in a case that has attracted national attention, in part, because Shepard was gay.

Shepard, 21, was left tied to a fence for 18 hours before he was found. Albany County sheriff's deputy Reggie Fluty testified his head was covered with blood, except for a clean spot on his face "where he'd been crying and the tears went down his face."

He later died of his injuries at Poudre Valley Hospital. His autopsy disclosed he was struck 18 times in the head. He also was bruised throughout his groin area, indicating he'd been kicked, and the backs of his hands were bruised as he tried to cover his head, DeBree said.

McKinney confessed in an Oct. 9 interview with DeBree to joining Henderson in robbing \$20 from Shepard. Police later recovered Shepard's wallet in a dirty diaper in McKinney's home. DeBree also said McKinney told him that although he and Henderson knew Shepard was homosexual, the 5-foot-2, 105-pound Shepard did not "hit on him or make advances on him at the bar."

The pair lured Shepard out of the Fireside Lounge by pretending to be gay. But minutes later, as the three rode in a pickup truck, McKinney struck Shepard in the head with a pistol. DeBree testified that McKinney taunted Shepard seconds before he struck the first blow.



## International News

### Continued from page 5

It was acknowledge that difficulties which had strained relationships were serious and required sensitive handling if they were to be overcome."

The two sides may schedule another chat.

### BRITISH SCHOOLS TO STAMP OUT ANTI-GAY BULLYING

British Education Secretary David Blunkett will send guidelines to the nation's teachers and school administrators telling them it is their duty to stamp out anti-gay bullying.

Surveys have found that victimization based on sexual orientation occurs in 80 percent of British schools.

One British daily said the new rules mean "that those who abuse classmates with terms such as 'poof,' 'queer' and 'lezzie,' or resort to physical attacks, can expect to be disciplined."

Margaret Morrissey of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations is not impressed with the move, however.

"I defy the government to stop children calling each other names and we need to be very careful that a lot of time and money isn't wasted trying to do the impossible," Morrissey said. "When I was a girl we used to be told 'sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me' and told to get on with it. That's what we did. I think we're becoming softies nowadays." police said.

### TENNESSEE EDITORIAL FROM MEMPHIS

#### "For gays, it's an American Dream" by David Kushman

'Agenda' seeks only the basic rights heterosexual Americans take for granted.

The murder last month of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man in Wyoming who was viciously beaten, tied up and left to die on a fence, has stimulated grief, outrage and condemnation across the country, as it surely should have.

But rather than build support for the struggle for homosexual rights as an aspect of human rights, Shepard's lynching appears to have laid bare the growing polarization

that separates gay activists from their most bitter and outspoken opponents.

The issue of homosexuality continues to create deep ambivalence in this nation. Many Americans tell pollsters that they consider homosexual relations acceptable for other consenting adults to engage in, but at the same time find them morally wrong.

It isn't fair to say, as some militant commentators have suggested, that everyone who opposes homosexuality is complicit in Shepard's death, any more than everyone who opposes abortion rights must share responsibility for the recent murder of Barnett Slepian, a New York doctor who performed abortions.

Surely, though, the most extreme and bigoted expressions of these attitudes do contribute to a climate of hate that may encourage such atrocities. Would you trust the spiritual guidance of the so-called minister whose followers showed up at Shepard's funeral brandishing signs that read "God Hates Fags" and "AIDS Cures Fags"?

I've read enough of the scientific literature to be

persuaded that homosexuality is an orientation present at birth, not a sinful "lifestyle" or a "behavior" or an illness to be "cured." As gay activists routinely ask, why would anyone voluntarily choose a way of life that exposes him or her to so much abuse, harassment and bias?

Amid such divisiveness, what sorts of public policies might enable common ground to emerge? I'm skeptical that expanding state or federal laws defining "hate crimes" to include assaults on gays, and increasing penalties for such attacks, is the answer. If hate can be readily outlawed, why does so much of it remain?

Such proposals attempt to prosecute and punish thoughts, speech and motives rather than action - always a difficult proposition. They strike me as one more political attempt to substitute essentially symbolic responses to crime or more symbolic ones. ("Three strikes, you're out" legislation is another example.)

And the idea of same-sex marriage needs a lot more examination, of its legal and economic as well as its cultural implications,

before many Americans will be prepared to embrace it.

That time, I suspect, remains a long way off. Congress and 30 state legislatures have passed laws that restrict marriage to a man and a woman. Voters in Hawaii and Alaska last week, by 2-to-1 margins, amended their constitutions to prevent court rulings from legalizing same-sex marriage. By contrast, court cases are pending in Vermont and New York that could authorize same-sex marriages in those states.

In the meantime, the best hope for decreased friction between gays and their detractors may lie in the continued movement of homosexual Americans toward greater visibility and participation in the political and cultural mainstream. I wonder how many gay people the most contemptuous anti-homosexual folks truly know - or, perhaps more accurately, realize that they know.

The gay people I know, in Memphis and elsewhere, aren't child molesters or degenerates or promiscuous Sodomites or marauding destroyers of civilization or, in Senate Majority Leader Trent

Lott's memorable characterization, comparable to kleptomaniacs. They're lawyers and journalists and politicians and artists.

They go to work and own homes and pay taxes and vote (Republican as well as Democratic) and serve their country and community and worry about their retirement savings and fall in love - monogamously. That is to say, they're Americans.

There may be gays who actually reflect the lurid stereotypes their opponents portray. I haven't met them. The gays I know have no sinister, lockstep "homosexual agenda" and seek no radical "special privileges," only the basic rights heterosexual citizens take for granted not to be ostracized or discriminated against or threatened - or murdered - because of who they are.

Is that really so hard to understand?



## Speech from the Matthew Shepard Memorial

[Editor's Note]

This speech was given at the Matthew Shepard Memorial March and Rally that was held on October 15, 1998 in Hartford, CT

by Harvey Fierstein

When I heard the news... what did I feel? The white blinding, brain shivering, blood rushing, vengeance seeking RAGE tore through my body nearly shredding my heart. What is the correct response to such a heinous crime? Where do we express our outrage? Who can we count on to extract our revenge? How could this happen in our America? Why is that beautiful, brave, caring, bright and loving gay boy dead?

The easiest to answer of those questions are "how" and "why": Because we are represented by politicians who feel free to call our lives a disease, an illness, a maladjustment and even a crime - and they do so with impunity. Because these politicians are not ripped from their elected positions with righteous indignation, but instead their coffers fill with donations and they are reelected to high

office time and again.

That is why Matthew Shepard was beaten bloody.

Because we turn for moral leadership to priests and pastors and ministers and rabbis who daily refer to our lives as "abomination". Because these men and women of God are not punished for that assault on our dignity and humanity, but are treated with respect and deference and their defamations are excused in the name of religious freedom. That's why Matthew Shepard was robbed and crucified on a fence.

Because talk-show hosts get laughs making jokes at our expense. Because comedians build careers aping and demeaning us. Because Heterosexual actors win awards portraying us as "almost real people". Because newspapers and magazines lose no readership addressing their audience as if every one of us is straight. That is why Matthew Shepard was set on fire and left to die.

Because WE, in vast numbers, **refuse to come out of the closet**, thereby sending a clear message that even **WE believe there is something to hide**; that our lives are shameful;

that being Gay or Lesbian is wrong. That is why Matthew Shepard is dead.

**So, how should we answer this unspeakable act of hatred?**

**WE** must begin by keeping a close watch, a constant visible and vocal presence at the trial of his slayers. We must not have a repeat of the Dan White fiasco. Let there be no "Twinkie Defense" for these cowards. Harvey Milk's assassination taught us a lesson we can NOT and will not forget!

**WE must stand up** in those cathedrals, synagogues, mosques and churches of hate- Stand up and state that we will not accept the preaching of exclusion. Stand up and walk out leaving them as bankrupt of members as they are of truth. Anything less, any compromise is permission to continue the persecution. Hatred has no compromise. If you need a place to put your faith and charity then seek an institution preaching love and acceptance for YOU.

**WE must get out and vote!** Let's stop electing representatives from our pockets and wallets. Let's stop making excuses for politicians who are good

on some issues but will not stand up for us. Trust me, my friends, any hack can pass laws protecting your bank account. Let's hold them to a higher standard than that. If they want our votes and our donations make them take the heat for openly supporting our right of full lawful citizenship. They are our representatives. Make them live up to that promise or vote them the hell out!

When you are watching television and a comedian defames us - pick up the phone and call the station. They listen. They count every actual caller as the opinion of 10,000 viewers. You have power. Use it. When a movie or TV show portrays our lives, but there isn't an openly gay or lesbian person to be found anywhere near it - stay home!!! Boycott. Hollywood actually believes they are doing us a favor portraying us as "just like straight folk". Send them the message that heterosexuality is NOT the gold standard of humanity. We are proud to be just as we are and need no whitewashing, thank you.

**Most importantly we must come out.** There is no other way. WE must come out at our jobs. To our families. To our poli-

ticians. To our neighbors. If you allow no one to assume you are heterosexual they will never again freely make that assumption about anyone. That is how we change the world.

Finally always remember that we live in a capitalist system. Every penny you spend is a vote for or against us. When you buy a car from a company that gives money to our enemies you have just voted against passage of the "Hate Crimes Bill". By the same token, when you use an airline that extends domestic partnership you have just brought us one step closer to the realization of equal rights for all.

**We must conduct our lives as open and proud members of a huge and powerful community. We must take hold of our own destinies.**

My sisters and brothers - We cannot bring Matthew Shepard back to life but maybe we can make his death the moment history records as the turning point of our struggle for freedom. It is within our power.

**LET'S CHANGE THE WORLD TODAY.**

## Lives Lost

by A.J. Mahari

Why has the world grown so cold?  
Why does this group hate that one, and that one, hate another?  
How is it that we know each other through the icy-thick walls of intolerance?

Do we? Can we?

Punch after kick, after punch, after knife wound, after gun shot fired-- of our shaming apathy it seems we still have not tired.

Looking into the center of a dominant culture-- sitting there wondering why 'they' don't let us in.

We deserve to be in, we are a part, so why do we still so often seek to live on the outside, looking in, denying who we are? What?: What are we waiting for?

--lives are being lost to indifference;  
to ignorance;  
to fear;  
to apathy;  
to intolerance;  
to the dark shadows of all of the closets they continue to dare us to remain hidden in;  
to death;--lives are being lost--on goes the carnage: have you assessed your cost? 11



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## Wonder-Child

by A.J. Mahari

*In and out of pain, feeling down, but also feeling hope and a renewed sense of inner-joy, tumultuous times treasured. Pain and sorrow, joy and hope, one coin, two sides, a toss-up from day to day.*

*Welcome wonder-child to the edge of the forest, faith's fantastic, friendly forest. I see you standing there, eyes blasting out of your bewilderment beckoning the bountiful beauty to beseech you. There is a wise and wonderous whisper spreading through the trees as they shelter you from the potentially problematic sky: holding you: caressing your soul in an unstructured moment of enigmatic ecstasy. There is pure energy and so much love pouring out of the whispering wheeze of the limbs of life swaying softly in the wistfully-warm-wayward-wind.*

*Do you hear that sound? Do you feel all the love that continues to abound? Are you standing there: wonder-child? Are you awestruck and amazed, whirled and dazed as the splendid-sensational-sunlight caringly-cascades*

*through the tall trees of life?*

*Love is that breeze. Love is emanating from those trees. This forest, this field of fulfillment; of dreams; of twigs; insects; flowers and teasingly-trickling streams is but one small aspect of your soul; of your Creator; and of the potential you have to create yourself anew, valuably-worthy and majestically-whole.*

*Drink it in wonder-child, it is yours to have and to hold, and to nurture. This fantastic forest of faith is to be discovered, nurtured, realized and appreciated. It is for the fruits of this forest that we so honestly hunger. The hunger of humanity held in a congregation of stupendously-transcendent omnipotence.*

*Now, say out loud in your inch of the unique universe: wonder-child: "Here and now, no matter the size of my tree, I am the forest and the faithful forest is me."*

## Evolution of

## Movement

by A.J. Mahari

*Come to me as I come to you  
meet me as I greet you  
walk this way as I walk toward you  
love me as I am loving you*

*Rising up and falling down  
Giving and taking  
Gaining and losing  
Sleeping and waking  
Rising up and falling down*

*Reaching...stretching  
ever growing  
tossing away the old, and  
then the new, fetching  
and all the while your humanity showing  
and on the easel of your life,  
slowly, slowly etching  
the picture that is revealing  
life, life so appealing  
the circle has come around  
many times since you were  
let down*

*fly little bird fly  
do not stay trapped in the  
cage by the question why  
Fly to me as I fly to you  
meet me as I greet you  
fly this way as I fly toward  
you  
love me as I am loving you*

*Peter D. Martel*

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## SAME SEX MARRIAGES

by Jane McKenzie

**This is the first of a three part series on same sex marriages.**

In this article I will be discussing the law. In the second article I will be discussing the advantages of equality and in the third article I will be discussing the disadvantages.

The leading Canadian Case is a Supreme Court of Canada decision called

Eagan v. Canada [1995] 2 SCR 513 which decided that the standard definition of "spouse" which excludes same sex couples is a violation

of one's right to equality before the Law as set out under section 15 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The Court had the option to "rewrite" all of the legislation with a discriminatory definition of "spouse". However, the Court specifically left it to Government to deal with the issue though legislation, failing which the issue would be addressed by the courts case by case.

This case effects the law across Canada. As a result of Eagan, Courts have ruled that same sex couples are entitled to spousal benefits, spousal pensions and spousal support and that same sex couples should be permitted

to adopt children. You may wish to check <http://www.egale.ca/legal/courts.htm> for an in-depth discussion of this developing area of case law. As a result of Eagan, it is widely anticipated that Parliament and the provincial legislatures will soon change the definition of spouse as virtually any legislation that does not treat same sex couples equally is unconstitutional. It is estimated that hundreds of statutes nation wide will have to be changed otherwise they will all eventually be challenged in the courts. Litigation is an extremely expensive way to enforce what, at present, seems to be an obvious right.

The NDP government did attempt to change the law when it was in office and it is quite possible that this was one of the key factors

that lead to its defeat in the last election. Its own members were widely divided on the issue as was the province in general. I remember an unsettling incident that happened to me personally. I was playing chess at a local chess club. My opponent out of the blue started talking about the proposed changes. He became visibly agitated and told me that he would be moving his family out of the province, should "homos" be allowed to marry. The room had been silent up to this point (as is the usual practice during tournament play). It felt like everyone in the room was looking in our

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Continued on page 16

14

## Imagine A Woman

by Patricia Lynn Reilly

*Imagine a woman who believes it is right and good she is woman. A woman who honours her experience and tells her stories. Who refuses to carry the sins of others within her body and life.*

*Imagine a woman who believes she is good. A woman who trusts and respects herself. Who listens to her needs and desires and meets them with tenderness and grace.*

*Imagine a woman who has acknowledged the past's influence on the present. A woman who has walked through her past. Who has healed into the present.*

*Imagine a woman who names her own gods. A woman who exerts, initiates, and moves on her own behalf. Who refuses to surrender except to her truest self and to her wisest voice. Imagine a woman in love with her own body. A woman who believes her body is enough, just as it is. Who celebrates her body and its rhythms and cycles as an exquisite resource.*



*Imagine a woman who honours the face of the Goddess in her changing face. A woman who celebrates the accumulation of her years and her wisdom. Who refuses to use precious energy disguising the changes in her body and life.*

*Imagine a woman who values the women in her life. A woman who sits in circles of women. Who is reminded of the truth about herself when she forgets.*

*Imagine yourself as this woman.*

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## Aristocat

by Rayne Jarvis

*Smug, aloof, superior.  
Glares, stiches, lazes.  
Then falls  
Who's smirking now?*

*"Sometimes, living on the edge  
is the only way to see what  
lies beyond the clouds."--Rayne Jarvis*

*"The most extraordinary  
and truly marvellous often comes  
in a plain wrapper."--Rayne Jarvis*

15

## SAME SEX MARRIAGES

Continued from page 15

direction. He then checkmated me and left the table leaving me wondering if my new hair cut had somehow provoked this outburst. My chess opponent is probably representative of the average view on equal rights for gay and lesbian couples. Indeed, there were several referendums on the issue of same sex rights during the recent American elections. The vast majority of voters voted against equality, thus creating a situation where laws allowing same sex marriages will most likely be re-written.

It would appear that the Courts and the public do not share the same view on same sex equality. The government, which is comprised of politicians whose ultimate goal is to be re-elected, has another option. Section 33 of the Constitution Act, 1982 allows federal and provincial governments to opt out of section 15 simply by adding a notwithstanding clause to any legislation that is in obvious violation of section 15.

It is clear that the debate will heat up as we get closer to the next provincial election. I understand that the Liberals are planning to include same sex issues in their election platform and the Conservatives have already made their position clear. Only time will tell which way the pendulum will swing. The scary thought of the day is that Hitler was elected by a landslide.

**Jane McKenzie is a lawyer practising in Waterloo. This article is for information purposes only and is not in anyway intended as legal advice.**

## Risk Taking Is Free

*To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.*

*To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.*

*To reach out for another is to risk involvement.*

*To expose feeling is to risk exposing your true self.*

*To place your ideas, your dreams before the crowd is to risk their loss.*

*To love is to risk not being loved in return.*

*To live is to risk dying.*

*To hope is to risk despair.*

*To try is to risk failure.*

*But the risk must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.*

*The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing and is nothing.*

*He may avoid suffering and sorrow but he simply cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love, live.*

*Chained by his certitudes, he is a slave; he has forfeited freedom.*

**ONLY A PERSON WHO RISKS----IS FREE----Author Unknown**



## HIS-STORY

### Sex and Sensibility:

## Why are some men losing the latex?

**By Eddie James**

### The Baltimore Alternative

John Travolta, Boogie Nights, disco balls, bell-bottoms - everywhere you look, the signs are painfully clear that the '70s are back. And among gay men, a small but growing number are not just embracing the pop cultural kitsch of the polyester era, they are also adopting its pre-AIDS, anything-goes mentality when it comes to sex.

Every day, via e-mail and Web site message boards, "cum parties" - private gatherings designed for hooking up with men looking for sex without condoms - are announced in cities all over the globe. The fact that such parties exist in an age where the AIDS epidemic is still a deadly reality is hard to believe. With the major selling points of these parties being unprotected sex and poppers, they seem a relic of the disco era. But regular attendees say that in the latex-covered world of the '90s, these gatherings offer a freedom they haven't experienced since AIDS first stepped onto the dance floor in the early '80s.

The men who seek what they call "bareback sex" - a term that evokes the daredevil world of rodeo stunts - are often HIV-positive and make no secret

about it. In fact, most men joining the ranks of the barebacking movement have been positive for years and readily have unprotected anal sex with HIV-negative partners. Not surprisingly, the bareback scene is stirring up a lot of controversy.

The number of recent articles and books written on the subjects of gay male promiscuity and bareback sex could fill a warehouse. Gay pundits such as Michelangelo Signorile, Gabriel Rotello and Larry Kramer have chimed in with books denouncing the emerging subculture of bareback sex, while the barebackers themselves have taken to the Internet to spread their message more subtly. But it's not just the fact that HIV-positive gay men are having sex without condoms that is fueling a national debate, it is more their emergence as a very vocal, but strangely invisible, subculture and the unsettling gospel they preach.

Although unprotected anal sex is nothing new - men have been doing it throughout the AIDS epidemic - it has only been in the last year or so that men into bareback sex have started to organize. By creating a network of Web sites,

## HIS-STORY

Continued on page 18

newsgroups and mailing lists on the Internet, barebackers in all parts of the world can regularly meet to cruise for potential sex partners in almost complete anonymity.

The bareback scene appears to have started with some HIV-positive men who felt they had nothing to lose in having sex without condoms with other HIV-positive men. They're already infected, right?

In fact, unprotected sex between HIV-positive men is dangerous for a number of reasons. With a number of strains of the human immunodeficiency virus floating around, and each one attacking the body in a different way, the risk of being infected with a new strain through unprotected sex is very high. And the more virus you get in the body, the sicker you become. Moreover, this mixing of various HIV strains can make protease inhibitors and other antiviral drugs ineffective, and passing them on to another person, even one already infected with the virus, can make him resistant to drugs that could have helped him. AIDS educators are understandably worried about the effects this increase in risky behavior will have on the epidemic.

### Coming Together on the 'Net

Started by a group of like-minded men who bonded last year on the mega-

Internet service provider America Online, the Xtreme Sex Web site has played a major role in helping barebackers get organized. Webmaster

### (Matthew Shepard) from page 7

"Guess what? We're not gay. You're going to get jacked. It's gay awareness week," DeBree testified, relating what McKinney later boasted of saying to Shepard.

McKinney, who showed no emotion during testimony Thursday from five Laramie or Albany County officers, was the only defendant in the case to go through a preliminary hearing.

Henderson, his co-defendant, waived his hearing on the same charges and will be arraigned next month in district court.

Kristen Price, McKinney's 18-year-old girlfriend, and Henderson's girlfriend, Chasity Pasley, 20, also waived preliminary hearings and face arraignment next month on accessory charges.

Albany County Attorney Cal Rerucha refused Thursday to say if he would seek the death penalty against either McKinney or Henderson. Matthew Shepard's parents, Dennis and Judy, attended the preliminary hearing Thursday, but Dennis Shepard waved off reporters. The Shepards sat three rows in front of McKinney's family in a courtroom that drew more media than spectators.

### (Matthew Shepard) Continued from page 18

New details emerged Thursday about the case:

Laramie police contacted McKinney and Henderson before 1 a.m. Oct. 7 after the pair confronted two teen-agers on a street near Shepard's home, which they intended to burglarize. Police initially responded to the area on a report of vandalism after one of the two teens involved in the altercation with Henderson and McKinney slashed the tire of a parked car.

Police who questioned McKinney and Henderson that night spotted a pistol in the pickup truck the pair was driving. The pistol was covered in blood and appeared to have hairs stuck to it, Laramie police Cmdr. Dave O'Malley

testified. Police later recovered Shepard's credit card and his size 7 shoes from the truck, along with a blood-spattered coat that belonged to Henderson.

Price recounted in an interview with Laramie police Detective Ben Fritzen what McKinney told her about the night of Oct. 6. He said he was "pretty sure he killed a guy," Fritzen testified. Henderson laughed as McKinney struck Shepard after they led him to a fence line on the outskirts of Laramie. "He (Shepard) was basically begging, asking them to stop, saying they were hurting him, to stop and to let him go," Fritzen testified, recounting his interview with Price. Shepard's shoes were taken, although McKinney "originally had considered stripping him down to his underwear."



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## "As Good As It Gets" by A.J. Mahari

Life-"as good as it gets"....each moment we can experience as good as it is. Whether or not it is "as good as it gets" can only be assessed over time. In the here and now, each moment is, essentially, "as good as it gets". Each of us has the power, to determine in our own lives what the quality and experience of each of our moments, strewn together as time marching on, truly will be about. It is the sum total of those individual moments that in effect defines our overall experiences.

However you want define "IT", on any particular day, "IT" can truly only be, "as good as it gets," when there is honest, conscience effort on your part to do and be all that you can be and do. It is the striving for growth and understanding in each moment of your life that can make it be, "as good as it gets".

If we can't accept that each moment is , "as good as it gets," no matter how much it hurts, then, essentially, we are trying to live 'real' life from a 'dream' life. Life is not a dream, and what you dream is not life. Even in

the most painful of all moments it is possible to know, spiritually, that even those moments are as good as it they can get and be and that often those moments will offer us much more than peaceful, calm, untroubled or unchallenging moments.

In order to experience most, if not all, of the moments of your life in terms of each one of them being, "as good as it gets," we must learn how to be able to fill, "the unforgiving minute," with "60 seconds worth of long distance run." (Desiderata) The philosophical practicality in that long distance run must apply the knowledge that it is, "as good as it gets," while each moment is unfolding "no doubt as it should." (Desiderata)

If you do not have a sense of your life, moment to moment being, "as good as it gets," I would suggest the likelihood that you may well not be applying a sufficient amount of loving gratitude for what you do have and do know and for the life that you have been given the responsibility to open, to its fullest! Are you accepting enough personal responsibility in this moment, to love yourself, uncondi-



tionally? Don't let any moment pass you by. Seize each moment! Life lived in the trenches of each moment with acceptance and understanding and gratitude is definatley "as good as it gets."

---

*Every.....*  
by A.J. Mahari

*Everywhere you look, there you are. Everything you say, speaks of you. Everytime you plant a seed, you reap what you sow.*

*Everywhere, everything, everytime: dreams: the landscape of your soul realized in the sky of your thoughts. Feelings, like the planets of your inner universe: life; it is everywhere, everything, everytime you open your eyes.*



## Kindness by Rayne Jarvis

Overwhelmed by the seemingly endless deluge of self-help books, and advice on spiritual healing today, I often find an old song from the sixties, "Less of Me," coming to mind. One line in particular, the beginning line: "Let me be a little kinder," seems to encompass all that we need to know to make our world a better place to love and live in. We need, first of all, to be kind to ourselves, then extend this same kindness to others, and finally attempt to live in harmony with, and respect the natural world that surrounds us.

"Striving a little harder, to be all we should be," would help us "to think a little more of others and a little less of ourselves." Therefore, we could then maybe, "be a little blinder to the faults of those around us; be a little braver, when temptation bids us waver," and also, "be a little meeker with those of us who are weaker." Only in this way can we grow spiritually, and eventually attain integrity, grace and peace.

Obviously, we may learn a great deal about kindness before we have

even become adults. If we have been raised with kindness we usually grow up to become understanding adults relatively free of hatred and prejudice. More importantly, our sense of self-worth is also protected and nurtured by the kindness we have received when young. In fact, only by developing a healthy self-esteem, can we learn to love ourselves unconditionally. There seems little doubt that we can never be truly kind to others until we learn, first of all, to be kind to ourselves. Likewise, only when we feel worthy of ourselves, can we develop the courage and grace to acknowledge and accept kindness from others.

Furthermore, in order to create a more tolerant world, we need to let go of unnecessary labeles and definitions when looking at humanity in its vast and wonderful diversity. Although we must see our differences and identities clearly, we must also allow ourselves to see our sameness and the common life struggle we all share.

In fact, contrary to what many believe, there are no good or bad people. Instead, good and bad exists in each one of us--

we can only strive to keep a healthy balance. The American Native story of the trickster demonstrates the paradox of the teacher/fool or the anti-hero. This teaches us that it is only through our transgressions, as well as our virtues, that we can learn to be the best we can be.

Thus, a civilized society, by establishing both written and unwritten standards of acceptable behaviour, can help us keep ourselves balanced. However, when society's own ethics are distorted, we have to turn to our own will power and courage to establish our very own personal morals and proper behaviour. Clearly this has been shown repeatedly throughout history, especially in times of adversity, and even atrocity such as war. Unfortunately, when we temporarily leave or even lose our usual place in society, or even just the community that we live in, many of us succumb to varying degrees of unkind behaviour. Often this results from a lack of self-dignity and integrity which in turn leads to abuse of others mentally, emotionally and even physically. Indeed, it has been shown many times, how the wrong societal

**Continued on page 53**

## THE BIZ SECTION

*Serving the needs of the K-W LGBT Business Community*

### CUT TAXES! BE PREPARED

*by Darren Kregar*

With the end of the year in sight, April 30th's tax deadline is not so far ahead. Nearly 1/3 of all Canadians operate a small business whether it be at home or elsewhere. There are several key areas one should look at by December 31st that will maximize your deductions and reduce taxes owing.

#### CAR DEDUCTIONS

In order to deduct the use of your car you need to calculate the percentage of use as it relates to the business. To do this use a travel log to calculate the total km driven for business use. Based on the odometer readings calculate the total km driven for the year by subtracting the fair market value.

Many business people do

not have a travel log. It is recommended that you use your appointment book as a reminder of the business stops you made and don't forget trips to the post office or the office supply store. Estimate the total km travelled with this information, estimate the personal usage of the vehicle to determine the total km driven for the year. (Note: Be sure to record the odometer reading at the beginning of the year)

Be sure to keep all gas, maintenance, parking and car wash receipts. You can also deduct a portion of the interest paid on a loan for a new vehicle, licences and insurance. If you lease the vehicle, be sure to have a copy of the lease. You may be able to claim an amount for depreciation on the vehicle, to make this claim you need to know the cost of the vehicle or the fair market value.



Economical Tax Services offers at no charge, 12 monthly travel log to keep track of mileage.

#### HOME OFFICE DEDUCTION

You need to know how much space you use in your home as 'work space'

You can only make a claim only if you realize a profit. You cannot deduct any home expenses if you have a loss or create a loss with home expenses.

Be sure to know how much interest you paid on your mortgage, utilities, maintenance and repairs, rental payments (if any), insurance and property taxes.

#### TELEPHONE EXPENSES

If you have one phone line, you cannot claim the monthly service charges. You can claim any

charges for long distance calls or any special features you have obtained to handle calls. For example: ident-a-call, mailboxes for the business.

If you have a business line for the home, you must deduct personal calls from the amount owing.

Note: The same rules apply to cellular phones.

#### EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE PURCHASES

You may be able to claim an amount for depreciation (also known as capital cost allowance) on all assets purchases over \$200.00. CCA is a percentage of the value of the asset and is set by Revenue Canada for different items.

For example: Computers are depreciated at 30%.

Keep a separate file of all equipment and furniture purchases.

Note: In the year of purchase you

can only claim half of the allowable CCA permitted. If you purchased a computer at any time in 1998 you are permitted to claim only 15 percent.

#### INTEREST EXPENSE

Interest you pay on charge cards can also be deducted. If you use one card exclusively for business, those finance charges are 100% deductible. If your card is used for both personal and business expenses the interest must be prorated.

#### HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Premiums paid to a private health plan on behalf of yourself, employees, spouse or children may

be made as a business deduction. Payments are deductible to a maximum of \$1,500.00 for each of the self-employed person and his/her spouse AND \$750.00 per child (assuming there are no full-time employees)

Before consulting your income-tax preparer or accountant, have all your receipts, invoices, cheque stubs and any information organized, to substantiate a claim. It will save you money on your final billing for services. If you don't have the time to do organize your receipts make an appointment to bring your 'shoebox' to your tax-preparer or accountant in January or early February. Note: Procrastination could cost you more in services.



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## HOLIDAY MADNESS

*avoiding the stress...*

by Darren Kregar &  
A. J. Mahari

It's Christmas time again. You are self-employed and have little time or money to celebrate the holiday season. What do you do??? Here are a few tips to help you get through the season.

- 1 Be sure that the work that "must" be done really needs to be done. If something can wait til after the holidays, let it!
- 2 Plan ahead! Check with your clients to determine their holiday schedules and needs. Co-ordinate your time off with your regular clients and inform them of your schedule.

- 3 Enjoy the holidays in the company of others. Host a Christmas party for clients and/or staff. Attend a networking function, not only will you get the opportunity to socialize and enjoy the festive season, but also let others know about your business.
- 4 If cash flow is tight, shop around. Many stores offer excellent values at this time of the year. You can also buy nearly new items from many of the second hand stores which offer items such as CDs, books, clothing and household items.

And if all else fails and you still get stressed out – RELAX – put your feet on the desk and take a break.

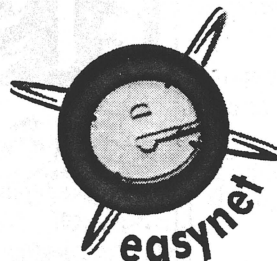


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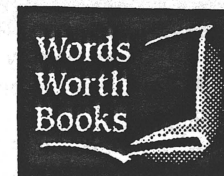
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**Words Worth Books:** the favourite independent bookseller in Waterloo Region for almost fifteen years. Located at 100 King St South in Uptown Waterloo, the store carries a full range of new books for adults and kids, plus magazines, newspapers, a few cards and music CDs. The ambience is relaxed, with comfy chairs to read in, if a little crowded. Recently a well-read customer came in with a list of new books to order, only to be pleasantly surprised that they had all of them in stock! But if you do need to order something, **Words Worth** should be your first choice. The staff knows books and how to get



them in. They have access to over two million titles and can search their database by keyword if you're not sure of the title or the author's name. The bookstore has sponsored author events for the past 15 years at the Seagram Museum and now at the Clay and Glass Gallery. This fall's lineup included Tomson Highway, David Adams Richards, Shyam Selvadurai, Anne Fleming, Bob Rae, Stevie Cameron and Sebastian Faulks. The series returns next February. Their gender studies section covers both gay and lesbian fiction, erotica and nonfiction. There's also a feminist section including areas on

abuse, eating disorders and female wellness plus a men's section. But what about the big box bookstores? The owners of **Words Worth**, Chuck Erion and Tricia Siemens, have been anticipating their arrival and are working on plans for expansion. While the superstores carry more titles, they can't match the book knowledge of Words Worth's staff. "And all our titles

are handpicked by us, not by some central bureaucracy," said Chuck. Plus, it's free to join their Book Club: and you get a \$5.00 coupon after \$150 in purchases. As Walter Stewart said recently,

"Thank goodness, then, for booksellers, who have always provided shelf-space for oddballs, dreamers, and dissenters, in the certain belief that today's Received Wisdom will be tomorrow's litter. Books, in all their variety, represent people, in all our variety."



# COMMUNITY LISTINGS

*What's Happening?*

## Sunday

**Rainbow Metropolitan Community Church** service To attend an LGBT-friendly Community Church try the Rainbow MCC. Services take place each Sunday at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Anglican, 171 Kortright Road, at the corner of Kortright and Edinburgh Road. Call the Rainbow MCC at [REDACTED].

## Tuesday

**Guelph Queer Equality (GQE)** meets every Tuesday from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in UC536, the University Centre's Mature Student Lounge at the University of Guelph. Contact GQE at: [REDACTED] for details.

## Wednesday

**Hamilton Coming Out Proud Discussion Group** We meet every first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings start at 6:30 pm at Gomorrhah's. Call us for more details: 905-[REDACTED], or toll-free 1-888-[REDACTED], or email [REDACTED].

**ACCKWA 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 (519) [REDACTED].

**GLLOW Coming Out Discussion Group** explores issues in sexual orientation; Hagey Hall Rms. 373/378, University of Waterloo, 7:30-9:00 pm. Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgendered people, and those questioning their sexuality are welcome.

**Information:** [REDACTED].

**Dec 2-**"Friends or Lovers? How Do We Decide?"

**Dec 9-**"LGBT Friends and Straight Friends - Finding a Balance"

**Dec 16-**"1998 in Review... Looking Ahead to 1999"

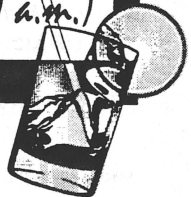
**GLLOWNight:** a social evening in Hagey Hall Rms. 373/378, University of Waterloo, 9:00-11:00 pm. Everyone is welcome. Meet old friends, and make new ones.

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# COMMUNITY LISTINGS

*What's Happening?*

## Wednesday Continued

**GLLOW's Second Discussion Group** also meets in Hagey Hall Rms. 373 & 378, University of Waterloo, 7:30-9:00 Both the Second Group and the Coming Out Group meet together in one room for the introduction and icebreaker question, then the Second Group moves to the other room for their own discussion or activity. The groups rejoin for the social at 9:00 pm.

**Dec 2-** "HIV in Our Community"

**Dec 9-** "Marriage and Parenting"

**Dec 16-** Movie Night

## Swimming

**KW Aquatics Club (KWAC)** swims three times a week swims at the Waterloo Recreation Center Swimplex on Father David Bauer Road in Waterloo. We are open to swimmers at all levels and of all orientations. There is a small entrance fee each time you swim; join us afterwards for some refreshments too. Telephone Mark at [REDACTED] for more information.

## Running

**KW Front Runners** is a running and walking group. Telephone Mark at [REDACTED] or Peter at [REDACTED] for details.

**Distress Line-** (519) 745-1166

**ACCKWA** (The Aids Committee of Cambridge, K-W and Area) 123 Duke St. E., Kitchener, Ont., (519) 570-3687

**ACGWC** (Aids Committee of Guelph and Wellington County) 204-85 Norfolk Street, Guelph Ont., (519) 763-2255

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

**Anselma House:** Crisis shelter for abused women with or without children. 24 hour crisis line.....742-5894

**AWARE K-W:** A Christian gay-positive group with roots in the Christian Refomed Church, meets every second Sunday evening of each month. For information call Gary Terpstra at [REDACTED] or Fred Rolleman at [REDACTED]

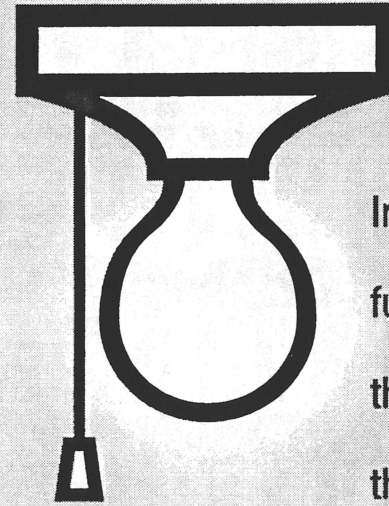
**Brethren Mennonite Council For Gays and Lesbians**, P.O. Box [REDACTED], Eastwood Square, Kitchener, Ont, N2H 6S9

**COLLAGE: (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere)** Provides education, support and community on local and international levels. [REDACTED] or contact Sarah at [REDACTED]

**Lesbian/Gay/Bi-sexual Youth Line:** 1-800-268-YOUTH

**Two Spirited People of First Nations:** Toronto-416-944-9300

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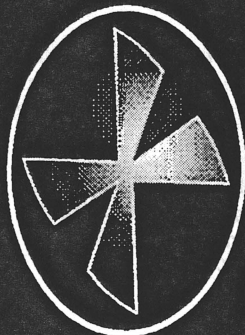


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## COMMUNITY LISTINGS

*What's Happening?*

Continued from page 28

December Events

**GLOBAL:** (Gays and Lesbians or Bisexuals at Laurier)

Email: [REDACTED]

**Outline:** A support and resource phone line for people dealing with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues at the University of Guelph and the surrounding area. Phone lines open every evening; Sunday through Thursday, 7 to 10 pm and Friday and Saturday, 6 to 9 pm. Call (519) 836-4550 or email [outline@uoguelph.ca](mailto:outline@uoguelph.ca)  
web: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/~outline>

**Sexual Assault Centers:**

KW.....(519)741-8633  
Brantford.....(519)751-1164  
Cambridge.....[REDACTED]  
Guelph.....(519)823-5806

**Women's Centers:**

UofW (519) 888-4567 ext. 3457

**Substance Abuse:**

Kitchener- (519) 741-3827

**Waterloo Region Alliance For Equal Rights-Kitchener-**

[REDACTED]

**Wednesday December 9**

SMBD 101at HALO, 649 Colborne St. (upstairs), in London, at 8 pm. This workshop will cover the basics. Discussion (only) will cover local area resources, definitions & descriptions, roles, power, scenes (both public and private), party etiquette, safe play & health issues, and pretty much anything else that may come up. Both novice and experienced players, who can share knowledge with others, are welcome.

Fee: Sliding Scale \$5-10.

**Friday December 11**

SMBD 201 at HALO, 649 Colborne St. (upstairs), in London, at 8 pm. This is the hands on portion of the workshop showing techniques, toys and equipment. Please bring your own toys (some will be available) if you would like to participate. Please note: This is not a play party. It is a teaching workshop which will focus on safe, sane and consensual use of bondage, flogging, spanking, wax, piercing and other such delights. If anyone can think of something that might be interesting, let me know. Bottoms are also encouraged to volunteer for the demos. :)) Tops as well....we ain't picky.

Fee: sliding scale \$5-10

# COMMUNITY LISTINGS

*What's Happening?*

Events continued from page 31

## December 12 & 13

Anniversary Open House Gomorrah's celebrates its two-year anniversary this weekend, and invites you to attend its open house during regular hours. Expect hot cider and cake. Gomorrah's is located at 158 James Street South (Lower) in Hamilton.

## December 18

**PFLAG** (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meet at 8:00 pm. PFLAG is a support group for people who are learning to understand and come to terms with the sexual orientation of family members or friends in a confidential and supportive atmosphere. For the location of the meeting and more information, call Evie at [REDACTED] (Kitchener) or Sue at (519) [REDACTED] (Cambridge) or email them at [REDACTED]

**WOODS** Closed\* Event: Christmas Party (and short planning meeting) at 4 pm. This year WOODS is providing the turkey and the ham; the other fixin's will be potluck. Bring along whatever you like to drink and a \$4-5 gift (preferably homemade) to be exchanged using the dice game. RSVP by December 5th to



Juliane and Emilia. Closed means that this event is restricted for WOODS members only.

## Thursday December 31

### New Year's Eve Gayla

Come celebrate the new year at the C.N.I.B. Auditorium in Hamilton! There's hors d'oeuvres from 7pm to 9 pm, dancing from 9 pm to 2 am, and prizes galore! Tickets become available October 31st at Gomorrah's.

**WOODS** Closed\* Event: New Year's Eve Bash-Everyone is invited to Wanda and Denise's to ring in the new year. Call for time. RSVP by December 12th. Closed means that this event is restricted for WOODS members only.

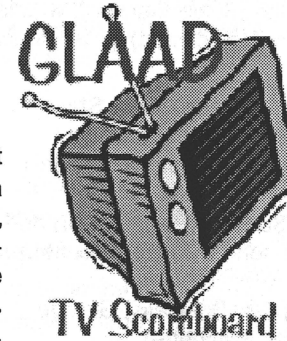
**RainBow Ridge** New Year's Eve Dance Call the Ridge for more info at 888-[REDACTED]



# ENTERTAINMENT



There are currently 24 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender characters on television!



**GLAAD** announced that lineup would include a and recurring lesbian, gay, characters of color. Join-television's first gay male new sitcom **Will & Grace**. reflects out lesbian, gay, questioning characters on daytime and primetime original programming. The following list reflects televisions current lineup.

the 1998 fall television unique array of regular bisexual and transgender ing them will be national lead character on the **GLAAD's "TV Scoreboard"** bisexual, transgender or

TV Show	Characters	Network
<b>All My Children</b>	Kevin Sheffield (Ben Jorgensen)	ABC (Daytime)
<b>Chicago Hope</b>	Dr. Dennis Hancock (Vondie Curtis-Hall) and Dr. Lisa Catera's (Stacey Edwards) assistant Andy (Todd Louiso)	CBS (Wednesday)
<b>The Drew Carey Show</b>	Drew's heterosexual cross-dressing brother, Steve (John Carroll Lynch)	ABC (Wednesday)
<b>E.R.</b>	Emergency Room Intern Dr. Maggie Doyle (Jorja Fox) and nurse Yosh Takata (Gedde Watanabe)	NBC (Thursday)
<b>Friends</b>	Ross' (David Schwimmer) ex-wife Carol Wylick (Jane Sibbett) and her spouse Susan Bunch (Jessica Hecht)	NBC (Thursday)
<b>Homicide: Life on the Street</b>	Detective Tim Bayliss (Kyle Secor)	NBC (Friday)

Continued on page 34

TV Show	Characters	Network
Linc's	Sexually questioning daughter of bar owner Russell "Linc" Lincoln (Steven Williams), Rosalee (Tisha Campbell)	Showtime (Thursday)
Mad About You	Paul's (Paul Reiser) sister Debbie Buchman (Robin Bartlett) and her girlfriend Joan (Suzie Plakson), who is also Jamie's (Helen Hunt) gynecologist.	NBC (Tuesday)
Nash Bridges	Nash's (Don Johnson) sister Stacey Bridges (Angela Dorhmann) and receptionist Pepe (Patrick Fischler)	CBS (Friday)
NYPD Blue	Officer Abby Sullivan (Paige Turco) and receptionist John Irvin (Bill Brochtrup)	ABC (Tuesday)
Profiler	VCTF Computer Specialist George Fraley (Peter Frechette)	NBC (Saturday)
Rude Awakenings	Billie Frank's (Sherilyn Fenn) Addictions Anonymous friend Jackie (Rain Pryor)	Showtime (Thursday)
The Simpsons	Mr. Burns' assistant Waylon Smithers (Harry Shearer)	FOX (Sunday)
Spin City	Director of Minority Affairs Carter Heywood (Michael Boatman)	ABC (Tuesday)
Suddenly Susan	Pete the mailroom guy (Bill Stevenson) and Pete's husband Hank	NBC (Monday)
Will & Grace	Lead character Will Truman (Eric McCormick) and his good friend Jack (Sean Hayes)	NBC (Monday)

<http://www.glaad.org/glaad/glaad.html>



**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

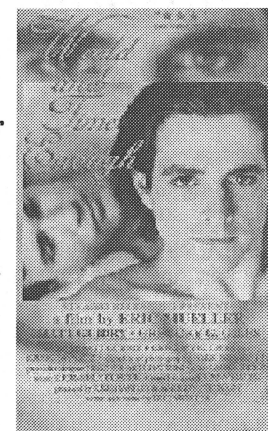


"All Over Me"

**Director:**  
Alex Sichel

**Cast:**  
Alison Follard,  
Tara Subkoff,  
Wilson Cruz,  
Cole Hauser,  
Leisha Haley

**Review:** While gay and lesbian coming-of-age films seem to be a dime a dozen, this tender drama of a gawky teenager's realization of her lesbianism is far from ordinary. For this independently made film from the Sichel sisters (Alex and Sylvia) wonderfully captures the growing pains of adolescence and the joy, tentativeness and excitement of the protagonist's emerging lesbian identity. Set in New York's Hell's Kitchen area, the story focuses on Claude (Alison Follard) and her best friend Ellen (Tara Subkoff) during the hot summer. Claude feels completely alone, suffering not only from the typical neurosis of adolescence but from her unrequited love for Ellen, who is enthusiastically straight. Moody and uncommunicative, with only the music of Patti Smith to sooth her soul, Claude eventually finds solace with a wannabe riot grrrl and fellow baby dyke Lucy. A story about change, separation and self-discovery that is both knowing and amazingly sensitive. Gay teen actor Wilson Cruz co-stars.



**Director:**  
Eric Mueller

**Cast:**  
Matt Guidry  
Gregory G.  
Niles Kraig  
Swartz

"World and Time Enough"

**Review:** Mueller's directorial feature film debut is an engaging and poignant comedy-drama that has enjoyed strong popularity at gay and lesbian film festivals. The story focuses on the lives of two lovers: HIV-positive conceptual artist Mark (Matt Guidry), who is out to "save the world," and the carefree, trash-collecting Joey (Gregory G. Giles). Narrated by a dishy friend (Kraig Swartz), their tender relationship unfolds as we learn about them, their friends, their frustrations and work, and the one common need that unites them: the incessant search for the father they never had. The film's strong points are the witty dialogue, a bitchily catty narrator and the all-too-rare situation of two young men deeply in love with each other, while its weaker points lie with its increasingly maudlin story line. Marketed as a "Generation X Queer Comedy," World and Time Enough (filmed in Minneapolis and St. Paul) is a great example of the regional growth of gay and lesbian filmmaking.



# HUMOUR

## Email Goof

Mr. Johnson, a businessman from Wisconsin, went on a business trip to Louisiana. He immediately sent an e-mail back home to his wife, Jennifer.

Unfortunately, he mistyped a letter and the e-mail ended up going to a Mrs. Joan Johnson, the wife of a preacher who had just passed away.

The preacher's wife took one look at the e-mail and promptly fainted. When she was finally revived, she nervously pointed to the message, which read: **"Arrived safely, but it sure is hot down here."**

## EXPERTS WARN OF THREAT FROM 100GB BUG

Firebringer News Service (FBNS) - Experts warned today of a new and deadly threat to our beleaguered civilization: the 100GB Bug.

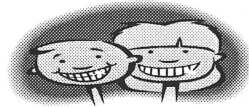
As most people know, McDonald's restaurant signs show the number of hamburgers the giant chain has sold. That number now stands at 99 billion burgers, or 99 Gigaburgers (GB). Within

months or even weeks, that number will roll over to 100GB.

McDonald's signs, however, were designed years ago, when the prospect of selling one hundred billion hamburgers seemed unthinkably remote. So the signs have only two decimal places.

This means that, after the sale of the 100 billionth burger, McDonald's signs will read "00 Billion Burgers Sold." This, experts predict, will convince the public that, in over thirty years, no McDonald's hamburgers have ever in fact been sold, causing a complete collapse of consumer confidence in McDonald's products.

The ensuing catastrophic drop in sales is seen as almost certain to force the already-troubled company into bankruptcy. This, in turn, will push the teetering American economy over the brink, which, finally, will complete the total devastation of the global economy, ending civilization as we know it, and forcing us all to live on beetles.



"The people who know -- the sign-makers -- are really scared of 100GB," one expert said. "I don't know about you, but I'm digging up a copy of THE FIELD GUIDE TO NORTH AMERICAN INSECTS and heading for the hills."

## An Annoyed Passenger at the Airport

An award should go to the United Airlines gate agent in Denver for being smart and funny, and making her point, when confronted with a passenger who probably deserved to fly as cargo. During the final days at Denver's old Stapleton airport, a crowded United flight was canceled. A single agent was rebooking a long line of inconvenienced travelers.

Suddenly an angry passenger pushed his way to the desk.

He slapped his ticket down on the counter and said, "I HAVE to be on this flight and it has to be FIRST CLASS."

The agent replied, "I'm sorry sir. I'll be happy to try to help you, but I've got to help these folks first, and I'm sure we'll be able

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to work something out." The passenger was unimpressed. He asked loudly, so that the passengers behind him could hear, "Do you have any idea who I am?"

Without hesitating, the gate agent smiled and grabbed her public address microphone. "May I have your attention please?" she began, her voice bellowing throughout the terminal. "We have a passenger here at the gate WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHO HE IS. If anyone can help him find his identity, please come to the gate."

With the folks behind him in line laughing hysterically, the man glared at the United agent, gritted his teeth and swore "F\_\_k you!". Without flinching, she smiled and said, "I'm sorry, sir, but you'll have to stand in line for that, too."

The man retreated as the people in line continued laughing at him.

## A Pain of a Patient

A big shot business man had to spend a couple of days in the hospital. He was a royal pain to the nurses because he bossed them around just like he did his employees.

None of the hospital staff want to have anything to do with him.

The head nurse was the only one who could stand up to him. She came into his room and announced, "I have to take your temperature." After complaining for several minutes, he finally settled down, crossed his arms and opened his mouth.

"No, I'm sorry, the nurse stated," but for this reading, I cannot use an oral thermometer." This started another round of complaining, but eventually he rolled over and bared his rear-end.

After feeling the nurse insert the thermometer he heard her announce, "I have to get something, now you stay JUST LIKE THAT until I get back!"

She leaves the door to his room open on her way out. He curses under his breath as he hears people walking past his door laughing. After almost an hour, the man's doctor comes into the room.

"What's going on here?" asked the doctor. Angrily, the man answers, "What's the matter Doc" haven't you ever seen someone having their temperature taken?"

After a pause, the doctor confesses, "Well, no. I guess I haven't. Not with a petunia anyway."

## Eight signs you have nothing to do at work...

1. You've already read the entire Dilbert page-a-day calendar for 1998
2. You discover that staring at your cubicle wall long enough produces images of Elvis.
3. You've figured out a way to get Gilligan off the island.
4. You decide to see how many Mountain Dews you can drink before the inevitable explosion occurs.
5. People come into your office only to borrow pencils from your ceiling.
6. No longer content with merely photocopying your butt, you now scan and enhance it with Photo-shop.
7. You now require only a single can of cola to belch the names of all seven Dwarfs.
8. The 4th Division of Paperclips has overruled the Pushpin Infantry, and General White-Out has called for reinforcements.

## "Marrying Apartheid"

by Steve Bryant & Demian

In the wake of anti-gay votes and continuing opposition to legal marriage for same-sex couples, some activists have advocated "reciprocal benefit" or "domestic partnership" plans as a more attainable objective. Partners Task Force for Gay & Lesbian Couples opposes that course for reasons of both strategy and principle. We instead advocate continuing the pressure for the fully equal civil right of legal marriage.

Domestic partnership, at first glance, seems an attractive alternative. It appears more winnable -- even opponents of legal, same-sex marriage have rhetorically proposed it as a "lesser evil." It nonetheless represents a system of apartheid, less heinous than South Africa's, but similar in principle. It is plainly designed to treat one group of citizens in a separate and inferior manner despite their identical circumstances.

Many churches apply the same logic when they perform a marriage ceremony for an opposite-sex couple and call it a "marriage," then employ an identical ceremony for a same-sex couple and call it a "union." It's apartheid.

Nowhere in the world are same-sex couples accorded legal marriage rights, not even in Denmark, Greenland, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, where they have laws allowing for "Registered Partnerships." Same-sex couples are accorded nearly every right of marriage, excluding adoption and the right to be married in the state church. But while their apartheid is a generous one, it remains separate, unequal and therefore demeaning.

In the United States, domestic partnership programs have amounted to little more than tokenism. For example, consider the inequitable barriers to workplace health coverage for domestic partners, the most valuable benefits so far accorded. In order to qualify, many plans require a signed affidavit stating that the partners live together and are "mutually responsible for each other's economic welfare." Some require that the relationship exist for a given length of time. Legally married couples applying for benefits face none of these requirements.

To be comparable to legal marriage, a domestic partnership policy would need to provide for 150-to-350 rights and responsibilities, depending on the couple's state of residence. Further, it would need to activate at least 1,049 federally regulated rights and responsibilities that are triggered by legal marriage. Furthermore, these benefits would need to be portable so that partnerships remain valid when crossing state lines. Otherwise, a couple's right to hospital visitation would be rendered invalid should they have an accident while traveling out-of-state.

Surely politicians supporting domestic partner benefits as a compromise have in mind only modest handouts -- not the whole package. Practically speaking, a complete domestic partnership plan is highly unlikely, simply because of the number and complexity of laws. Further, if we manage to replicate all of the provisions of legal marriage, why then call it something other than "marriage"?

**"This article is reprinted with permission of Partners Task Force for Gay & Lesbian Couples which retains all copyrights."**

## OPENING THE GIFT

by A.J. Mahari

Life is a vehicle through which your essence and the essence of the universe, or your God, challenge you to continue to open the gift that has been bestowed upon you.

The gift is life. The opening is the experiencing of life in a way that allows you to continue to open up. A very significant part of the opening of the gift of life is learning through process to let your authentic self flow through, be present and rejoice.

This is a painful process. Life is a gift but our authenticity must be hard fought for in a world that strives to make each of us into what it wants us to be.

Celebrate your individuality. Embrace your wounds. Love yourself. Open your gift. Allow your authenticity to be.

Love is at the center of the gift of life. This love is a universal and unconditional love. This love will challenge you. This love can hurt, both to give

and to receive. Love, unconditional love,

is at the center of the gift of life. Start from where you are today. Open your gift, develop your life and yourself lovingly and in earnest. There is no resource more valuable than you and I. There is no time more precious than the time that we can spend with ourselves and with others in love, kindness and understanding.

The most beautiful gift of all, is life.

Each of us has a life to live, and to share. Share yourself with yourself, and then share yourself with a friend today.

Life is precious. Don't take life for granted. Appreciate the gift no matter what struggles you may be facing.

Opening the gift-- that is living!

At Christmas time many gifts are given. The most precious of all gifts that you can give, however, is the gift of who you are. Along with the gift of your time and your company.

Truly the best gifts, within the gift of life, itself, do not come wrapped up in packages. They are found in the communing and sharing spirit of each and every, open, heart. Will you strive to pass on throughout your life --- the gift, that your life truly is?

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**QUEER DHARMA**

**Voices of Gay Buddhists**

Edited by Winston Leyland.

\$19.95 paperback. (0-940567-22-9)  
\$50.00 hardcover. (0-940567-21-0)

Over thirty-five writers and fifty separate works are featured in this illustrated, ground-breaking book of 416 pages with articles from various Buddhist traditions (Vipassana, Zen, Tibetan). An introduction by the editor is followed by Kobai Scott Whitney's "Vast Sky and White Clouds: **Is There a Gay Buddhism?**"

Queer Dharma has six major sections:

Excerpt from book:

**BUDDHISM & HOMOSEXUALITY: HISTORICAL ESSAYS:** Includes article on same-sex sexuality at the time of the Buddha; also historical articles on homosexuality in Japanese and Thai Buddhism.

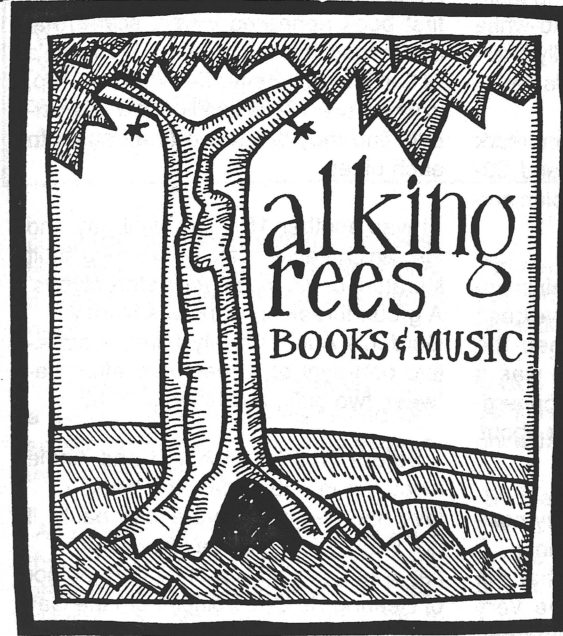
**THE DHARMA AND GAY LIFE: PERSONAL ACCOUNTS:** Gay people write about their sexuality and spiritual life and how they've integrated the two in such pieces

as: "Practicing Together as a Gay Couple," "Wisdom Mind Meets Gay Sexuality," "Gurus and Lovers," "Zen in Black Leather", "Homophobia and Spiritual Teachers," "Coming Out Into Dharma Bliss," "Grief and the Path to Awakening," "Two Meditations," "Stories About My Teacher Issan Dorsey Roshi," "Buddhism, Healing and Gayness: A Personal Journey," "Surviving High School".

**INTERVIEW WITH POET AND TIBETAN BUDDHIST JOHN GIORNO:** He speaks frankly about gay lovemaking in Buddhist monasteries, about the recent statements of the Dalai Lama, about the AIDS project he has coordinated, about his practice of thirty years, and about his teacher, H.H. Dudjom Rinpoche, one of the greatest Tibetan Buddhist spiritual masters of the century.

**CONTEMPORARY BUDDHISM AND HOMOSEXUALITY:** Articles by a wide range of writers, including Jeffrey Hopkins' "Reason and Orgasm in Tibetan Buddhism," Zen teacher Charles Koren Baker's "Zen and Gay Love," Mark Marion's "Gay Male Intimacy

"I'll be Homo for Christmas"



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## BOOK REVIEW: "THE SHARED HEART" - 40 PERSONAL STORIES

### ROMANTIC STORIES 'BUILD A BRIDGE' FOR GAYS, LESBIANS

by SUE CORBETT

The Shared Heart, a collection of 40 personal stories about romance and first loves, brims with life-affirming testimony, and its striking, black-and-white photographs portray an ethnically interesting mix of attractive, young faces.

But what makes this book a landmark of sorts is that the teenagers and 20-somethings profiled are gay, lesbian and bisexual.

Their candor in talking about their sexuality is not only novel, it would have been impossible 20 years ago. When the book's author, Adam Mastoon, was a teenager in the 1970s, he was too terrified of his own feelings to speak about them.

"The silence and the lack of any positive image of other gay or lesbian people communicated to me that the feelings I was having must be very wrong," Mastoon recalled. 'The Shared Heart' is my way of building a bridge to others who feel that sense of aloneness."

It's a bridge no one person could have built. The road to a book whose subtitle is Celebrating Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Young People was paved by the gay-rights crusaders who often paid a heavy price for their sexuality.

But even as acceptance of gay and lesbian people has grown, a murder in Wyoming becomes a wrenching reminder of the intolerance that routinely

led to violence in the not-so-distant past. For teenagers confused about their own sexuality, Matthew Shepard's brutal death last month can only lead to more soul-searching.

In that search, it's comforting to see how gay and lesbian characters have evolved in literature for young audiences. The canon is still relatively thin. It has been less than 30 years since the first book appeared with a scene that challenged the taboo: John Donovan's I'll Get There, It Better Be Worth the Trip, in which two 13-year-old boys unexpectedly find they are sexually attracted to each other.

It was another 15 years until gay and lesbian characters starred in young adult literature or moved beyond stereotypes. A groundbreaking work was Nancy Garden's Annie On My Mind, a sensitive portrayal of a teen love affair between two girls, published in 1982.

Before Liza loved Annie and Annie loved her in return, gay and lesbian love had nearly always ended badly, if not tragically, in freak accidents or car crashes, said Roger Sutton, author of Hearing Us Out: Voices from the Gay and Lesbian Community.

"Gay and lesbian people were the worst drivers this side of the Mississippi," Sutton said. With homophobia at the wheel, Sutton says, these early books did not do much to assuage fear in the reader.

"If you were a young gay kid reading these books, you couldn't help but feel you had a dangerous life ahead of you," he said.

Though gay characters stopped dying off, throughout the 1980s authors

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continued to struggle with how to sensitively portray the gay or lesbian experience in books that teenagers would read.

Sexual awakening has always been a touchy subject with parents and for school librarians; homosexual awakening was a brave new world.

As a result, gay characters in books in the early 1980s were marginalized and often functioned as sidekicks or minor players, for comic relief or as a sop to liberal sentiments. When the subject of the book itself was homosexuality, gayness was often presented as a disability or as something that could be overcome.

Christine Jenkins, an assistant professor of library science at the University of Illinois and an expert on the evolution of gay characters in young adult novels, recalls a spate of 1980s-era novels in which girls fell for studly boys, who turned out (gasp!) to be gay, and a subgenre, which she calls the "girls' boarding schools" stories.

"In these books, a girl would go off to boarding school or summer camp and be seduced by some vampy temptress but by the end she had learned her lesson," and was no longer homosexual, Jenkins said. "Just because you did it once didn't mean you would do it again."

By the end of the 1980s, the form began to mature. Barbara Wesba's Crazy Vanilla featured the first portrayal of the gay community.

Ron Koertge's The Arizona Kid made waves as the first "gay comedy." It's a what-I-did-on-my-summer-vacation story in which a 16-year-old spends his vacation with a uncle he doesn't know well.

The uncle is openly gay, but his sexual orientation is not the story itself. "He's just part of the passing parade of things that happen in this story," Jenkins notes. Since 1989, several novels have moved beyond the standard coming-out story.



## Books continued from page 43

Francesca Lia Block's Weetzie Bat series about punk life, M.E. Kerr's Deliver Us From Evie and Rodger Larson's What I Know Now are all stellar stories that include gay characters, explore the issues central to their lives and resist pat resolutions.

"We're past the stage of the 'problem' novel now," said Jenkins. "Being gay or lesbian isn't portrayed as the terrible, terrible secret which it used to be. Now it's presented as 'There's one more thing you should know about my best friend.'

These books laid the groundwork for a book like *The Shared Heart*, which, despite its potential for controversy, has been warmly embraced by school librarians.

School Library Journal, the magazine whose reviews of books greatly influences which books will get purchased, gave Mastoon's book its top rating. His photographs on which the book is based were prominently displayed at the American Library Association's annual convention this summer and he's making arrangements to take the exhibit to the University of Wyoming.

"I would venture to guess that the people who killed Matthew Shepard don't know a single gay or lesbian person and what we don't know, we're afraid of," Mastoon said. *The Shared Heart* is a window through which we can see the ways we are the same."

### QUEER DHARMA Voices of Gay Buddhists

Continued from page 40

and the Dharma," Clint Seiter's "Applying Buddhist Dharma to Casual Sex,"

Dennis Conkin's "The Dalai Lama and Gay Love," Tom Moon's "Obstacles to Intimacy in Gay Male Relationships: A Buddhist Perspective," Myo Denis Lahey's "Queer at Heart: Dharma Practice and the 'Gay Self.'"

#### GAY FICTION ON BUDDHIST THEMES:

From the 17th century love letter by a monk to a young man ("The Monk from Kyoto Who Hated Cherry Blossoms"), to recent fiction ("A Window in the Wall").

#### QUEER DHARMA POETRY:

Includes six poems by Allen Ginsberg ("Why I Meditate," "Thoughts Sitting Breathing II" etc.) plus prose piece "Allen Ginsberg on Buddhism and Gayness," poems by other writers (Richard Ronan's "Buddha's Kisses," Trebor's "Make My Boyfriend a Buddha") ...

"Thought-provoking and satisfying...the book provides convincing evidence that the Buddhist sangha, or community, has put down solid roots in the U.S., and that gay people are among its most committed and passionate members." --Harvard Gay and Lesbian Review

"Groundbreaking and intensely moving."--Issanji

"Buddhism can help Gay men--not by giving a definition, but by teaching us a new way to being aware of ourselves and the world . . . Queer Dharma is a rich resource for gay men who are searching for ways to integrate their spiritual and emotional/sexual lives." --Gay Buddhist Fellowship Newsletter  
"Queer Dharma is a phenomenon -- the first anthology ever that mixes the gritty experience of being gay in America with the nuances and flavors of Buddhism. It's an exciting book simply because it presents perspectives that are

44

completely new. Our favorite themes of love and sex are at center stage, but so too are the Buddhist notions of suffering and the release from suffering. What gay man over 23 doesn't see the connection?" --Larry White, Bay Area Reporter

"Over 35 gay men have contributed to this anthology of fiction, poetry, art, scholarship, and personal testimony about what it means to be a gay Buddhist practitioner." --Tricycle

"In the article 'Practicing Together as a Gay Couple' I met Michael C. Hyman, a gay Zen Buddhist and father, who somehow makes domesticity seem profoundly heroic ... Part 2 also includes pieces on coming out, love and loss, recovery, SM, casual sex, working with the dying, and the much-loved queer teacher Issan Dorsey." --Turning Wheel, Journal of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship.

"Buddha Dharma in 10 Minutes" -- a charming but very profound overview of the spiritual power of Buddhism.

### Nothing But the Girl: The Blatant Lesbian Image ed. by Jill Posener and Susie Bright

Freedom Editions, \$21.95 pb

150 strong sexy subversive photos selected by co-editor Jill Posener, whose discerning eye makes this valuable collection a visual treat; add in co-editor Susie Bright's commonsense introduction asserting the liberating power of lesbian erotic images, and you've got a book which stealthily blends the political, the artistic and the masturbatory . . . which suits the school library, the coffee table and the bedside table all at once.

searching  
for  
grace



Cynthia Kear

by Cynthia Kear

"Searching for Grace" is unique in that it accomplishes what few fictions do -- it hits home both emotionally and intellectually. This hardcover edition, published in Britain when no U.S. publisher was interested (their loss) ranges across the medical landscape of AIDS-afflicted east Africa and the fashionable landscape of the art worlds of New York and London, and the spiritual landscape of love and loss, of one sister for another, of one woman for her partner -- a potent breadth and a deeply satisfying read. ----Ibis Publishing - \$24



by Toni Morrison

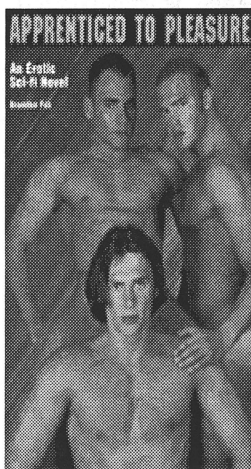
Morrison's first since winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993, this brilliantly realized novel begins in a day of irrational violence in 1976, and then Paradise moves

back in time to tell the story of Paradise "the one all black town worth the pain." It is also the story of the women who have come to live together at "the Paradise moves back in time to tell the

Continued on page 46

## Paradise Continued from page 45

story of Paradise - "the one all black town worth the pain." It is also the story of the women who have come to live together at "the Convent" and how the Convent" and how the growing suspicion of their neighbors leads to destruction and death. Deeply moving and written in prose as supple and sure as any she's previously produced, Paradise adds considerably to Morrison's reputation as the one American novelist to honestly confront the pervasive problems of race and gender in our society--while never losing sight of her art. --BC



**An Erotic Sci-Fi Novel**  
Brandon Fox  
\$14.95  
paperback  
(0-943595-64-9),  
192 pp.

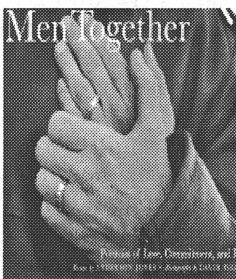
As a musician in Pella's finest brothel, Ander thought he knew all about sex between men. He was wrong. Two visitors, handsome young lovers, draw him irresistibly to a revelation: intense pleasure can be a gateway to magical realms, and sex is the key that opens the gate...

"This is an erotic novel (definitely!), but it's even more a sword and sorcery adventure and a gay romance. The main character is a young musician named Ander, and the story starts when he meets two foxy guys who visit the brothel where he works. Trouble shows up and Ander discovers his new friends are far more mysterious than he had imagined...

"I love the characters, who are people you really like and enjoy having adventures with. They are emotionally involved with each other. I think this makes the erotica way more interesting than in most novels. The sex is vital to the plot, not just thrown in. There are lots of surprises and an element of humor. So, if you like classic sword and sorcery (colorful magic, quests, adventures) as well as gay erotica, this is your book. I thought it was a blast!" --online review by Zack at Amazon.com

**Men Together: Portraits of Love, Commitment, and Life**

By  
Anderson Jones  
David Fields



**Hero Magazine** said, "One of the finest photo essay books we've seen, Men Together manages to capture both the joys and pains of men in long-term relationships. The book features 29 committed couples from a variety of backgrounds. The photographs stunningly capture the beauty of two men together. The well written essays are honest and inspiring."

**Beautiful, warm, moving**

Like one of the other reviewers on this page, I grew up without positive Gay role models, and it took decades for me to learn self-respect. This book reminds us that well-adjusted Gay couples can be found throughout our culture, something that's important for young Gay people to learn and for older Gay people to remain aware of.

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## HIS-STORY

### Sex and Sensibility:

## Why are some men losing the latex?

Continued from pages 17-18

Pigbotm, a North Dallas software engineer who declines to reveal his real name, says in the site's introductory pages that he wanted to extend the men's newfound sense of community by creating a Web page.

Xtreme Sex doesn't sugarcoat its mission to provide a forum for HIV-positive gay males interested in unprotected sex. Its banner advertisements have shocking headlines like "Get an Education - Fuck a Student" and "Poz Cum - the Fuck of Death." It's this frankness that has caused many gay leaders and at least two major gay newspapers to blast the site.

Chicago's Windy City Times and the Dallas Voice have declared an all-out war against the site, saying that it is leading men to their deaths by promoting unsafe sex. But not all people feel that the site is evil. One HIV-positive member sang the site's praises in a message board posting: "You have helped me in showing me that there is life after all this. ... Thank you for once again giving me back the freedom that I felt had been taken away from me."

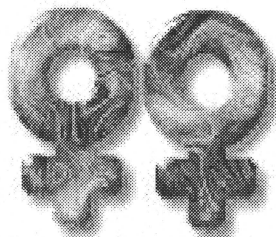
While Xtreme Sex caters to HIV-positive men interested in condomless fluid exchange, the second most popular hang-out for barebackers on the 'Net was originally designed for men inter

ested in sex with other men, period. Sponsored by the adult Web site Bedfellow, cruisingforsex.com is the official "Web site for men looking to know where to meet men for sex." The site lists places where men can find glory holes and other meeting grounds for sex in every state and every major university. The site also hosts chat rooms, editorials, reviews of personal home pages, and entrapment alerts.

Cruising for sex.com has also been the target of the police, who regularly monitor postings to the site in efforts to enforce public sex laws. The site states often that it is against the practice of bareback sex in theory, but also says that barebacking is a personal choice and that it doesn't condemn barebackers themselves. The most shocking thing about this budding subculture is the small but steadily growing number of men who are HIV-negative, but come to both Web sites actually seeking to be infected. Why would anyone seek out the AIDS virus? There seems to be no satisfying answer. Pigbotm, in fact, denies that that is what is happening in most cases. He writes on his Web page that "the majority of these HIV infection requests come from men who are already HIV-positive and want to experience some sort of fantasy about being infected." Continued on pages 54-55

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## HERSTORY WOMYN SPEAK



### "To take our condition seriously:

black women as well as white women know that the oppression most readily acknowledged by both black and white people in America—even by those who justify and practice racism—is racial and/or class oppression. To assert women-hating as a constant fact of life both within the black community and as a fact of white women's lives, for both black and white feminists, taking an immense and courageous step beyond past political positions, old analyses of power and powerlessness. The dismissal or postponement of 'women's issues' (as if 'women's issues' were not central human issues) 'by radical' and 'revolutionary' groups is part of the mass psychology of male supremacy; that women have accepted it at all is a measure of our indoctrinated self-denial. It is that same self-denial which has allowed us to endure without protest the spiritual nausea induced in us by jokes about old

maids, mothers-in-law, Jewish mothers, dykes, prostitutes; by pornography; by the daily bulletins of male violence against women; by our knowledge that men we have nurtured, supported, and done time for were not our spiritual and emotional equals, and that our selfhood, our womanhood itself, has been contemptible or terrifying to them. The anger and pain aroused in us by language, images, acts that defame and destroy woman has taken three forms: compassion (for our rapists and batterers, not for each other); denial and laughter (boys **will** be boys; a sense of humor is **so** important); all the old, and tangled rage of woman vs. woman. To permit ourselves to acknowledge the depth of woman-hatred that is counted, tolerated, and justified in everyday life is frightening; yet somewhere, we all know it, and I believe that as this fear becomes more conscious it also becomes healthier. Unanalyzed pain leads us

to numbness, subservience, all to random and ineffectual bursts of violence. As separate individuals, woman have rarely been in a position to use our pain and anger as a creative force for change. Most women have not even been able to touch this anger, except to drive it inward like a rusted nail.

To the extent that I can imagine being a black woman, a black feminist, I can imagine carrying a particular fear in me: that white feminists, and other white women who have 'changed their lives' in the light of the feminist movement, might still possess the capacity to delude themselves into some compromise of inclusion into patriarchy, into the white male order. That they and (we) would not emotionally believe what they (we) intellectually profess as to the need for an end to patriarchy. That their (our) physical, genetic knowledge would fail to rise like warning nausea where selective treatment of

women offers money, prizes, 'life-style liberation,' personal solutions, to the few --and those few, overwhelmingly white. That they (we) would not recognize the forms of suicide we have practiced in the past, under their newest guises. (The first woman to be cloned? The first Lesbian Secretary of State? The First Mother on the Moon?) That, unable or unwilling to fathom the destructiveness of racism as black people live it, they (we) will also fail to fathom the violence of gynophobia as they (we) are living it.

But this, of course, is not solely a black feminist nightmare.

The contradiction, the taboos, of difference. They said to us: **That flesh, darker or lighter than your own, encloses a foreign country. You cannot know it. It speaks another language, it is alien territory: otherness.** At the same time they told us: **You cannot find wholeness with one whose body is formed like your own, one who like you has only a clitoris, only a vulva, one who like you is in a state of lack. You must seek the opposite, The Other, Him whose difference from you means power, means**

**mastery. Without Him you are powerless, unfinished. With her you can only be two halves, unbalanced, mutilated, contemptible.**

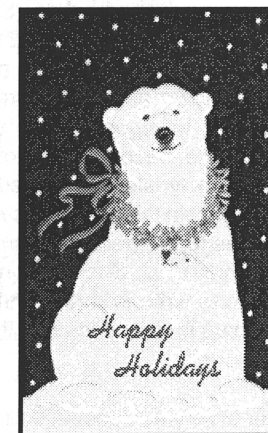
But in you I seek both difference and identity. We both know that women are not identical: the movement of your mind; the pulse of your orgasm; the figures in your dreams; the weapons you received from your mothers, or had to invent; the range of your hungers--I cannot intuit merely because we both are woman. And yet, there is so much I can know. What has stopped me short, what fuses my anger now, is that we were told we were utterly different, that the difference between us must be everything, must be determinative, **that from that difference we each must turn away; that we must also flee from our likeness.**

As a lesbian/feminist, what can passive subservience to those orders mean to me, but that I passively consent to remain an instrument of men, who have profited from slavery, imperialism, and forced heterosexuality and motherhood, organized prostitution and pornography, and a

separation from each other? What can obedience to those orders mean, but that my woman-identification is mere 'sexual preference', my erotic self still distorted and constrained?

As I thrust my hand deeper into the swirl of the stream--history, nightmare, accountability--I feel the current angrier and more multiform than the surface shows: There is fury here, and terror, but there is also power, power not to be had without the terror and the fury. We need to go beyond rhetoric or evasion into that place in ourselves, to fill the force of all we have been trying--without success--to skim across.

From the book:  
"On Lies Secrets And Silence"  
by Adrienne Rich



## The Poet Sappho

One of the great Greek lyrists and few known female poets of the ancient world, Sappho was born some time between 630 and 612 BC. She was an aristocrat who married a prosperous merchant, and she had a daughter named Cleis. Her wealth afforded her with the opportunity to live her life as she chose, and she chose to spend it studying the arts on the isle of Lesbos.

In the seventh century BC, Lesbos was a cultural center. Sappho spent most her time on the island, though she also traveled widely throughout Greece.

She was exiled for a time because of political activities in her family, and she spent this time in Sicily. By this time she was known as a poet, and the residents of Syracuse were so honored by her visit that they erected a statue to her.

Sappho was called a lyrist because, as was the custom of the time, she wrote her poems to be performed with the accompaniment of a lyre. Sappho composed her own music and refined the prevailing lyric meter to a point that it is now known as sapphic meter. She innovated lyric poetry both in technique and style, becoming part of a new wave of Greek lyrists who moved from writing poetry from the point of view of gods and muses to the personal vantage point of the individual. She was one of the first poets to write from the first person, describing love and loss as it affected her personally.

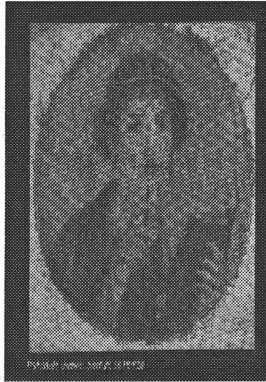
Her style was sensual and melodic; primarily songs of love, yearning, and re-

flection. Most commonly the target of her affections was female, often one of the many women sent to her for education in the arts. She nurtured these women, wrote poems of love and adoration to them, and when they eventually left the island to be married, she composed their wedding songs.

That Sappho's poetry was not condemned in her time for its homoerotic content (though it was disparaged by scholars in later centuries) suggests that perhaps love between women was not persecuted then as it has been in more recent times. Especially in the last century, Sappho has become so synonymous with woman-love that two of the most popular words to describe female homosexuality--lesbian and sapphic have derived from her.

How well was Sappho honored in ancient times? While she still lived, coins of Lesbos were minted with her image. Plato elevated her from the status of great lyric poet to one of the muses. Upon hearing one of the songs, Solon, an Athenian ruler, lawyer, and a poet himself, asked that he be taught the song "Because I want to learn it and die."

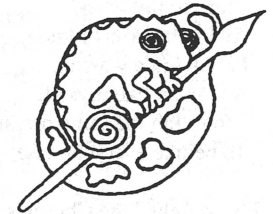
In more modern times, many poets have been inspired by her works. Michael Field, Pierre Louys, Renée Vivien, Marie-Madeleine, Amy Lowell, and H.D. all cited Sappho as a strong influence on their work. Given the fame that her work has enjoyed, it is somewhat surprising to learn that only one of Sappho's poems is available in its entirety--all of the rest exist as fragments



of her original work. At one time, there were perhaps nine complete volumes of her poetry, but over the centuries, from neglect, natural disasters, and possibly some censorship by close-minded scholars, her work was lost. Late in the 19th century, however, manuscripts dating back to the eighth century AD were discovered in the Nile Valley, and some of these manuscripts proved to contain Sappho's work. Excavations that followed in ancient Egyptian refuse heaps unearthed a quantity of papyrus from the first century BC to the 10th century AD. Here, strips of papyrus--some containing her poetry--were found in number. These strips had been used to wrap mummies, stuff sacred animals, and wrap coffins. The work to piece these together and identify them has continued into the twentieth century.

Many translations of these fragments are available today, with each of these translations offering a different approach to her work. Translating Sappho's poetry is challenging, partly because of the fragmented nature of the material. In reconstructing a poem, the translator must either trail off into oblivion periodically, or speculate on the missing pieces and take the risk (for the sake of lyric flow) of introducing elements that Sappho did not intend. Breaks in the poem can affect the intact lines, as well, robbing them of critical context. Even with the complication of fragments aside, a translator still has to decide how to translate the ancient Greek text, where to insert line breaks, how to stress each word, and any number of technical details that affect the meaning and the lyricism of the resulting poem. It makes sense, then, for those who are interested in Sappho's work (and not fluent in ancient Greek) to read multiple translations to obtain several viewpoints. From ancient times to today, Sappho has

remained an important literary and cultural figure. Her works continued to be studied and translated, new poets are inspired by her constantly, and speculation on her life remains popular in the form of fictionalized tales and ardent research. For a woman who has been dead for over two thousand years, this is quite an achievement.



Wendy Bonza

Psychotherapist  
Art Therapist



at  
Lifestreams  
Counselling Centre

Tel. (519) 741-1212  
Fax (519) 741-8890  
e-mail: BonzaW@aol.com

### NEW EMAIL LIST

### AMAZON WOMEN OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO (AWOSO)

If you'd like to join this list  
and or get more info please  
email [redacted] or go to

<http://www.thevoice.on.ca>

## WRITER'S CORNER

### "Loving a Woman" by Cindy S. Horn

Confused about my life,  
Not knowing where to go,  
I turn to my lover,  
And in her arms I know.  
I'm loving a woman...  
A woman like myself,  
Who's felt the same pressure  
To be like everyone else:

"Fly straight," the Church said.  
"Marry a man."  
"Raise his kids -- be happy if you can."  
"How dare you!" I cry,  
"I'm not living a lie."

I want her for my wife--  
A warm and loving soul,  
To cherish forever  
In a world that's often cold.  
I'm loving a woman...  
A woman like myself,  
Who's love is a treasure  
And compares to nothing else:

"Fly straight," my mom said.  
"Marry a man."  
"Feed his ego -- be happy if you can."  
"How dare you!" I cry,  
"I'm not living a lie."



### Womyn's Reading Circle

*Beginning in January, (the night still has to be selected) we will be starting a reading circle for womyn. If you are interested in joining us please call 743-5015. We will be meeting one night a month.*

**John N. Nauss B.A. H.D.&c  
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Courses and Workshops  
offered ongoing and tailored**

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

## Kindness

Continued on page 21

attitudes or apathy cannot only create, but also excuse monstrous and evil actions. One striking and tragic example of this was the recent murder of Matthew Shepard. We can only hope increased tolerance and acceptance eventually comes about from this horror. Even though it is extremely difficult, maybe even impossible at this time, we need to also extend kindness to those responsible for this hideous crime. This does not mean excusing, but understanding if we can, what led them to allow themselves to become what they have. Obviously revenge, even if only held in the heart, achieves nothing but further hatred. If each one of us were to take "an eye for an eye," very soon we would all be blind.

Finally, beyond extending kindness to ourselves and others, we need to achieve, "a fundamental acceptance of our own biological nature," by refusing to continue the

abuse of Mother Earth. Kindness is the very foundation of this necessary change in attitude; and the only way to truly respect and care for this planet, and what lies beyond it. By systematically destroying what the Earth has to offer, we are throwing away what is necessary to sustain life itself. Without unpolluted air, water and soil, and a diverse range of life forms, there will no longer be any life at all.

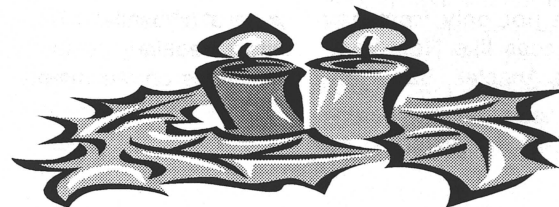
Unfortunately, with each passing day, this seems a greater and greater possibility. Obviously this would be the ultimate unkindness to ourselves and others as it would be totally irreversible. For this reason I can only hope, for my grandchildren's sake and that of all others that the new millennium will usher in a new age of understanding and spiritual awakening--the true age of Aquarius. Likewise, it is hoped that this new and exciting world will embrace, love, and

value equally all people whatever colour they may be; of whatever age, ability or gender, and of course, sexual orientation. Although such a perfect world seems impossible today, it would seem to be an ideal worth striving for. Finally, it may even be this middle-ground that eventually gives us greatest peace---a place in time where kindness, not hatred, paves the way.

**Peace And Good Will???**  
by A.J. Mahari

"Peace and Good Will..." are talked about quite a bit at this time of year. One can't help but wonder where it goes after the Christmas season ends each year.

I have often wondered why each of us as part of humanity cannot try harder to extend this to one another as a condition of our living rather than just as some extension of a defined season: in which so much surface behaviour sees us simply going through what are often the single-minded motions of self-service. If each of us remains more concerned with ourselves, then "Peace and Good Will..." will surely not be possible. 53



## Sex and Sensibility: Why are some men losing the latex?

But the HIV-negative ranks of the barebacking movement are not only made up of those seeking HIV infection. Members of another similarly growing group have no desire to become HIV-positive, but are still flocking to Xtreme Sex's message boards and its members' bareback parties. It's not that these HIV-negative barebackers don't know about the life-or-death consequences of their actions. A surprisingly high number of negative barebackers have already seen a friend or partner die from the disease. They come purely for the thrill of raw sex.

"I do think about it a lot as I'm HIV-negative & plan to stay that way," reads a typical member's posting to the boards at Xtreme Sex. "No one cums in me & the only cum I eat is mine. I bareback top only. My lover died of AIDS. I went through the whole thing, ending in wasting syndrome and a fatal bout with PCP. Barebacking is

definitely not wise, but we are looking for a type of intimacy that doesn't frequently happen since AIDS."

### Who Are These People?

The slew of articles written on the subject imply that the group of men identifying themselves as barebackers is made up primarily of young party boys in their 20s who are anxious to travel back to a time when the love was free and the party never ended. But this is not necessarily true.

On the Queer Bareback list, an e-mail list that boasts over 500 men from around the world as members, barebackers come together to discuss where they can find willing sex partners and to read announcements of area sex parties. Although the twentysomething circuit party crowd is represented, it is men in their 30s, 40s, and 50s that make up the majority of the participants. And they are not only from gay Meccas like New York, Los Angeles, San Fran-

cisco, and Miami. Barebackers from Phoenix, Knoxville, Dallas, Memphis, Cincinnati - and yes, even Baltimore - have signed on, as well as men from practically every other major city in the country. Barebacking is not even a uniquely American phenomenon, as the presence of men from England, Germany, Holland, Australia and Nigeria would attest.

Besides their dislike of condoms, a common thread that binds the world's barebackers is a deep resentment toward any authority figure, be it the government, the Centers for Disease Control, the police or their parents.

### Responsible Barebacking?

Despite their lack of trust in the medical and pharmaceutical industries, some barebackers are in fact concerned with their own health and the health of their sexual partners. Mark J., a medical professional at a hospital in Baltimore, regularly posts messages on the moral-

## Sex and Sensibility: Why are some men losing the latex?

ity of barebacking, stressing that HIV status should be discussed with sex partners.

"There are lots of unknowns about the transmission of HIV, and a large number of uninformed men out there," Mark J. recently wrote. "I think that it is perfectly acceptable, if not a requirement, to talk about the methods of transmission and the risks. A young guy new to the gay scene, living in Podunk, USA, may not have had the access that the rest of us have had to the current literature and science and medicine of HIV. He might just stumble on a bareback Web site or mailing list one day and see all these other guys having wonderful, unprotected sex. If he jumps headfirst into barebacking without understanding the risks, he will be committing suicide."

### Why Do They Do It?

The word intimacy comes up often on in online discussions. Barebackers post message after message about

the joys of going condom-free and how it is a way of reclaiming some lost right of passage, a concept that is difficult, they admit, for others to understand.

In the June 1997 issue of POZ Magazine, Stephen Gendin tried to explain the appeal of bareback sex to the publication's readers.

"I can't comment on a negative guy's decision to go raw, but for us positive men, the benefits are obvious," Gendin wrote. "The physical sensation is much better. The connection feels closer and more intimate. The sharing of cum on the physical level heightens the sense of sharing on the emotional and spiritual planes. ... How do I justify pursuing acts with other positive men that many would describe as callous, even malicious? Am I guilty of skirting the facts in pursuit of pleasure? Or is the reinfection science shaky enough that it's not irrational for positive men to go skin-to-skin? With the risks so hazy and the benefits so brilliantly clear, no wonder riding bareback is

all the rage. For me, being infected in the first place is such a doomful event that any act that brings pleasure, even a risky one, is worth grabbing for."

But most barebackers say it is no one's business why they choose to lose the latex. They claim it is an individual choice and AIDS has no place in the barebacking culture.

"I bareback because I like it and don't give a shit about HIV," writes Gary Bryant of San Francisco when questioned about his reasons for barebacking.

"It's my personal decision and I don't need a bunch of verbal masturbation from guys who are still unsure, or who think their choice not to bareback is universal law," he asserts. "Everyone has their own opinion on AIDS and what they feel are acceptable risks."



## Classified

**For sale:** an ab-flex, new, never used. \$50 Comes with video and booklet.

Call [REDACTED]

## Personals

### Searching For Soul Mate

Vibrant, energetic, and full of life, I am a 40 year old lesbian, intense, a deep thinker, seeking a single and sincere lesbian between 30-50.

Are you looking for someone who values honesty, and loyalty above else?

I am interested in meeting a femme that knows who she is, what she wants and how to value and be herself.

I enjoy the simple pleasures in life such as movies, walks, good conversation, music and romantic adventure.

Reply to Ad # A-1

### Merry Christmas

Mary-Jo, Kate & Jennie, Jessica and Shawn and the rest of my family!!!

Love Mum and Grandma

### Merry Christmas

GORDO!!!

Love,  
Sick Boy

## Looking For Love

Single lesbian, 46 years old enjoys reading, writing, movies, music and walking; looking for an understanding, thoughtful woman who is a freespirited deep-thinking soul.

### Reply to Ad# A-2

**If you would like to let people know that you are out there why not put an ad in The Voice?**

**Or if you would like to reply to an ad write the address below and be sure to include the ad number on the outside of the envelope.**

**Send your ad, or reply to an ad at:**

**The Voice**  
**P.O. Box [REDACTED]**  
**RPO Evergreen,**  
**Kitchener, Ont.,**  
**N2M 5P1**

## Womyn's Social

### Recreational Volleyball

If you want a fun night out for some exercise-this is the event for you. Projected start will be in January. There will be a small fee. No super-jock attitude but skill is OK- a lot of laughter is mandatory. Call Wendy at [REDACTED] with first name, phone number and preference of week night.

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## WANTED

'The Voice'

Entertainment Editor

(Benefits should include 'freebies' - but no pay - yet!)

## CARRIE

A very special hello, & **MERRY CHRISTMAS** to you!! Thinking about you, sending you my love and support to let you know I am with you, and here for you, always. With love, Lindy, and all, for, *you know who. GET WELL! And Merry Christmas to J.B. and Alice, & Tyler too!!!!* 56

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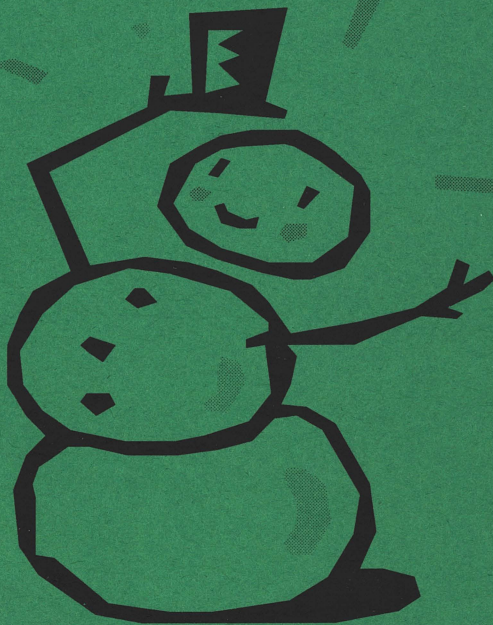
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*SPECIAL THANKS TO :*

DARREN, R.H., RAYNE, JANE, DJ, JEAN-PAUL,  
S. VAUGHT, ALL THOSE WHO HAVE PROVIDED  
ARTICLES AND TO OUR ADVERTISERS

*Merry Christmas to All ...*

*and to all ...*

*a Good Night !!!*