

GAZETTE

No Charge

7/88



2 Letters



Did you ever wonder what direction an organization should take; for example, G.A.E.? Well hell, girl, there are a lot of people like you, that's right, not many people care or give a damn about what G.A.E. does or is doing or could do for you. But why is it like that?

Have you ever been to a meeting? Oh, too many - you find it tedious to listen to all the infighting over unimportant issues and people constantly being harassed without cause - I think they call them the Executive. Yet the Execs are constantly staging barbaric actions to hold on to their artificial power.

We now have a new constitution, I am so sorry I missed those meetings, I just bet they were a scream. Now that that has been accomplished what have we to keep the rabble busy with now? Aha, we are back to direction and who will lead us in the promised land. Oh, lordy, lordy.

Let's see, how about an inventory of what we have:

- a new clubhouse, to quote a famous local gay
- another new constitution
- a monthly newsletter
- a new radio station (Mondays at suppertime)
- a half dozen social and spiritual groups
- a telephone referral service

I must be missing something! Someone told me that there were about 10,000 gay and lesbian people in this province of ours and these are the only services we have to offer them - pretty miserable if you think about it. What do you mean, "How about me?" I coordinate two of the

social clubs in the gay community, what else should I do? Aha, got ya! I already do, my little peon sister. You want direction? OK, first, I would get the financial cesspool of G.A.E. into shape so it would be an open book to all. Then, getting a little ambitions, go for a G.A.E. health club and/or greasy spoon or coffee shop (allnighter) for times when the Hill is not too busy. Next a Bath House near the club or at least a bed & sitting service for those from out of town or who happened to get Gaybashed or thrown into the Moat during the evening.

Oh, ain't pipe dreams wonderful. Well, let's not be foolhardy, it is not us average folks that need to be kept busy - it's the academics (paper people) - surely to keep them happy and out of the average person's life; we best start them on a Policy Manual so that the rest of us will know what the hell to do if we ever decide to join G.A.E. and help them run the organization their way.

This document is the opinion of one person who has talked and listened at length to several who know what is going on. The scene is bleak but there is always hope that the black mood will retreat or at least they could paint the tables pale grey.

This article actually makes reference to a few people and if it offends anyone in particular then you got a problem with your ego to think that I would even bother to talk about you specifically but if the shoe fits, wear it.

This little bit of satire is not without argument and not only from those that are not really mentioned above but I have, as one says, thrown up a challenge and God only knows what will come of it.

GOD BLESS -- THE GENTLEMAN'S ACTION FOR EQUILIBRIUM

Don Murchy

The GAEZETTE is published monthly by the Gay and Lesbian Association of Nova Scotia (formerly G.A.E.). The purpose of the newsletter is to keep the community informed about the activities and issues of interest to G.A.L.A. and the Lesbian and Gay Community.

Publication or names or photographs of and person or organization in the GAEZETTE is not to be construed as an indication of sexual orientation of that person or organization. Opinions expressed in the GAEZETTE are not necessarily those of G.A.L.A. or the editorial staff of the GAEZETTE. Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space occupied by the error.

The GAEZETTE welcomes articles from anyone, anywhere. Material will be edited for length. Submissions should be no longer than 500 words and can be left at the coat check at Rumours, 2112 Gottingen St., Halifax, or mailed to:

GAEZETTE
Box 7126
Halifax North, N.S.,
B3K 5J5

Commentary



Out of the closet and into the pulpit

An incredible thing has happened. The United Church, threatening to come apart at the seams over the issue, has decided to allow openly gay or lesbian members of the church to become ministers.

Despite the worst fears of the outspoken, homophobic members of the General Council who spoke out against the motion, few of us are about to drop what we're doing -- being doctors, lawyers, journalists, restaurateurs -- and rush into the United Church clergy. But the importance of this resolution by the most mainstream of the mainstream of Canadian churches can't be ignored.

The United Church was formed out of odd alliance of the most conservative of protestant denominations and is now the largest protestant denomination in Canada.

It has an enviable record of leading, rather than following in a variety of progressive causes once thought outside the ken of the church in a modern, democratic society.

It was the first Church in Canada to allow women to become ministers. It takes an active role in criticizing government policies in a variety of areas, including disarmament, Third World development, South Africa, corporate responsibility, and sexuality.

The United Church has gone on record time and time again opposing discrimination against us. Rejecting the patronizing tone of other denominations -- we love the sinner but not the sin -- the United Church has decided what we already know: that a loving committed relationship can exist outside what is considered the traditional, Christian, heterosexual marriage.

This is was a radical step, and is still one that isn't wholly

accepted by the membership.

Neither will gay or lesbian ministers.

The same thing was said about women ministers, but members didn't flee the church in droves, seeking succor in denominations more to their liking, like the Baptists, Anglicans, or more radically, the Catholics.

The real importance of the United Church's decision lies in the fact that more than any other Church, it best represents a cross section of Canadians. Its attitudes, concerns and paranoias are pretty much those of the average Canadian.

This was a radical step

In raising the issue at all, the United Church was forcing its members to take a hard look at their attitudes towards us, and as Christians, forcing them to decide which they wanted: a rigid church that follows a literal interpretation of scripture, or a open church concerned with the spirit of scripture.

(As critics of an anti-gay theology point out, the Bible also contains passages that literally justify slavery, long unacceptable in this society.)

What the United Church does, so will the rest of our society, eventually. Even if its action benefits few and makes many briefly uncomfortable, it's such a radical step forward.

How much longer can governments deny us our rights, if the churches are beginning to recognize our humanity?

3

Narcotics Anonymous

Fighting a Hard-won Freedom

Happiness is a gay bar. Isn't it? What is found all too frequently, to make bar life "more fun" is alcohol and drugs. Alcoholism and drug dependency, two different problems, right? No. Often the two are intermixed. A lot of people have a dual addiction to alcohol and drugs.

4 Ever since the "if it feels good, do it" '60s, alcoholism and drug use has mushroomed throughout our society. Tragically in its wake it left a lot of people addicted to both alcohol and drugs. One problem would be bad enough, but, two problems... and what if on to of that you're gay or lesbian?

This is where Gay Narcotics Anonymous can help. Gay Narcotics Anonymous is a support group of people who realize that they are hopelessly addicted to drugs and alcohol. They are a branch of Narcotic Anonymous. Both are based on the structure and philosophy of Alcoholics Anonymous. The only requirement for membership is the desire to stop using alcohol and drugs. It is a non-religious, non-political, non-profit support group. No membership fees are required.

The principles and methods of NA do work to set people free from their (dual) addiction. Ex-addicts have found, however, that they need a support group to "stay clean" and to get understanding, experienced help in dealing with problems, "slipping up" and worries. Undeniably, as experience has shown, no one understands the worries, doubts, problems, fears, reversals, and insecurities of an addict better than other NA members. Many have been "clean" for years yet still go to weekly support meetings to be with people who have been or are addicted. It's a long hard battle with no overnight successes. However the NA program has and does work to set its members free from addiction. Usually the people who desperately need the help won't go for it. Not till their lives are terrifyingly out of control do addicts turn to NA.

Before that realization hits home like a bomb there is much self delusion and rationalising to hid the addict from the "shame" of his/her addiction. Members of NA recognize addiction as a disease. Addiction is

not a weakness or a shame. It is recognized and dealt with as a treatable disease. That disease has been treated and conquered by many addicts through the NA program.

Have you wondered if you might be an addict? If you have any doubts or curiosity read the questions below and answer them as honestly as you can.

The actual number of "yes" responses is not as important as how you felt and how addiction has affected your life. The first impulse by addicts is to dismiss or talk around the possibility of being an addict.

You can't get help unless you admit there's a problem. Whether street drugs or prescription drugs you use is not the issue, but, why you use them.

Foolishly, gay life tolerates, if not glorifies, drunkenness and drug use. The result has been tragedy for hundreds of thousands. Narcotics Anonymous can set you free. All it takes to join is the desire to stop using.

Am I an Addict?

Only you can answer this question.

This may not be an easy thing to do. All through our usage, we told ourselves, "I can handle it." Even if this was true in the beginning, it is not so now. The drugs handled us. We lived to use and used to live. Very simply, an addict is a person whose life is controlled by drugs.

Perhaps you admit you have a problem with drugs, but you don't consider yourself an addict. All of us have preconceived ideas about what an addict is. There is nothing shameful about being an addict once you begin to take positive action. If you can identify with our problems, you may be able to identify with our solution. The following questions were written by recovering addicts in Narcotics Anonymous. If you have doubts about whether or not you're an addict, take a few moments to read the questions below and answer them as honestly as you can.

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1. Do you ever use alone? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Have you ever manipulated or lied to a doctor to obtain prescription drugs? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. Have you ever lied about what or how much you use? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Have you ever substituted one drug for another, thinking that one particular drug was the problem? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Have you ever stolen drugs or stolen to obtain drugs? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. Do you put the purchase of drugs ahead of your financial responsibilities? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 5. Do you regularly use a drug when you wake up or when you go to bed? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. Have you ever tried to stop or control your using? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 6. Have you ever taken one drug to overcome the effects of another? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Have you ever been in a jail, hospital or drug rehabilitation center because of your using? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 7. Do you avoid people or places that do not approve of you using drugs? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. Does using interfere with your sleeping or eating? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 8. Have you ever used a drug without knowing what it was or what it would do to you? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. Does the thought of running out of drugs terrify you? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 9. Has your job or school performance ever suffered from the effects of your drug use? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 17. Do you feel it is impossible for you to live without drugs? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | 10. Have you ever been arrested as a result of using drugs? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 18. Do you ever question your own sanity? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | | | 19. Is your drug use making life at home unhappy? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

Am I an Addict?

20. Have you ever thought you couldn't fit in or have a good time without drugs? Yes ☐ No ☐
21. Have you ever felt defensive, guilty or ashamed about your using? Yes ☐ No ☐
22. Do you think a lot about drugs? Yes ☐ No ☐
23. Have you had irrational or indefinable fears? Yes ☐ No ☐
24. Has using affected your sexual relationships? Yes ☐ No ☐
25. Have you ever taken drugs you didn't prefer? Yes ☐ No ☐
26. Have you ever used drugs because of emotional pain or stress? Yes ☐ No ☐
27. Have you ever overdosed on any drugs? Yes ☐ No ☐
28. Do you continue to use despite negative consequences? Yes ☐ No ☐
29. Do you think you might have a drug problem? Yes ☐ No ☐

"Am I an addict?" This is a question only you can answer. We found that we all answered different numbers of these questions "yes." The actual number of "yes" responses wasn't as important as how we felt inside and how addiction had affected our lives.

Some of these questions don't even mention drugs. This is because addiction is an insidious disease that affects all areas of our lives—even those areas which seem at first to have little to do with drugs. The different drugs we used were not as important as why we used them and what they did to us.

When we first read these questions, it was frightening for us to think we might be addicts. Some of us tried to dismiss these thoughts by saying:

"Oh, those questions don't make sense,"

Or

"I'm different. I know I take drugs, but I'm not an addict. I have real emotional/family/job problems."

Or

"I'm just having a tough time getting it together right now."

Or

"I'll be able to stop when I find the right person/get the right job, etc."

If you are an addict you must first admit that you have a problem with drugs before any progress can be made toward recovery. These questions, when honestly approached, may help to show you how using drugs has made your life unmanageable. Addiction is a disease which, without recovery, ends in jails, institutions and death. Many of us came to Narcotics Anonymous because drugs had stopped doing what we

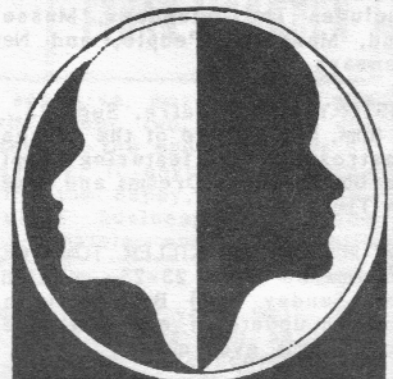
needed them to do. Addiction takes our pride, self-esteem, family, loved ones, and even our desire to live. If you have not reached this point in your addiction, you don't have to. We have found that our own private hell was within us. If you want help, you can find it in the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

"We were searching for an answer when we reached out and found Narcotics Anonymous. We came to our first N.A. meeting in defeat and didn't know what to expect. After sitting in a meeting, or several meetings, we began to feel that people cared and were willing to help. Although our minds told us we would never make it, the people in the Fellowship gave us hope by insisting that we could recover. Surrounded by fellow addicts, we realized that we were not alone anymore. Recovery is what happens in our meetings. Our lives are at stake. We found that by putting recovery first, the program works. We faced three disturbing realizations:

1. We are powerless over addiction and our lives are unmanageable;
2. Although we are not responsible for our disease, we are responsible for our recovery;
3. We can no longer blame people, places and things for our addiction. We must face our problems and our feelings.

The ultimate weapon for recovery is the recovering addict."

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730 - 10pm



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Film

6

WINGS OF DESIRE (Wormwood, Sept 9-15, 7 & 9:15) The story of an angel who returns to Earth and falls in love with a trapeze artist.

ARIA (Wormwood, Sept 16-23, 7 & 9:15) 10 directors (including Goddard and Ken Russell) have each chosen a favorite operatic aria to render on screen...

WHITE MISCHIEF (Wormwood Sept 23-29, 7 & 9:15) The mysterious murder of a British Earl disrupts the various hedonistic shenanigans in the British colony of Kenya during WWII.

WITHNAIL AND I (Wormwood Sept 16-18, midnight & Sunday 2pm) Two desperately down and out actors in the 60's escape to their worst nightmare -- a weekend in the country, with a hilarious gay twist.

COMMUNITIES (National Film Board Theatre, Sept 16, 7 & 9pm, FREE) Part of the NFB's 15 year retrospective of the Atlantic Centre, includes The Islanders, Mussel Mud, Margaree People, and New Denmark.

HISTORY (NFB Theatre, Sept 23, 7 & 9pm, FREE) More of the 15 year retrospective, featuring Empty Harbours, Empty Dreams and Fixed in Time.

RETURN OF THE KILLER TOMATOES (Wormwood Sept 23-25, midnight and Sunday 2pm) Believe it or not, an update of one of the ten worst films ever made.

CHANGES (NFB Theatre, Sept 30, 7 & 9pm, FREE) More of the 15 year retrospective, featuring Off-shore Oil: Are We Ready?, and Herbicide Trials.

A HANDFUL OF DUST (Wormwood, Sept 30-Oct 10, 7 & 9:15) An adaptation of a little-known Evelyn (Brideshead Revisited) Waugh novel.

DOGS IN SPACE (Wormwood, Sept 30, Oct 1-2, 7-9, midnight and Sunday 2pm) What Nashville was to country music, so this film is to punk.

VOICES (NFB Theatre, Oct 7, 7 & 9pm, FREE) The 15 year resto-

spective continues with The Author of These Words, Alden Nowlen: An Introduction and In Love And Anger.

ATLANTIC FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL (Wormwood, Oct 11-16) including Finding Mary March, The Squamish Five, Codco The Movie, Something About Love, Madame Latour, Box of Sun, I Will Not Make Any More Boring Art, Comic Book Confidential, Calling the Shots and Tales From Gimli Hospital. For details call 426-5936.

BULL DURHAM (Wormwood, Oct 17-20, 7 & 9:15) A romantic comedy about baseball.

Music

OPEN MIKE NIGHTS (Pub Flamingo, every Monday, Free) Hosted by Mark MacMillan of the Heartbeats. Any local and all talent.

HARBOUR FOLK SOCIETY, Grad House, Dalhousie, first Saturday of every month and every Wednesday, \$3 members, \$4 non-members.

THE SATTALITES (Pub Flamingo, Sept 13-17, \$5 Tues-Thurs, \$7 Fri-Sat) The Toronto band returns..

SWALLOW'S TALE (Pub Flamingo, Sept 20, \$4) Authentic, traditional Celtic music...

BLACK POOL/FLAGS FOR EVERYTHING (Pub Flamingo, Sept 21, \$3) Two of Halifax's newest and most exciting independent bands..

54-40 (Pub Flamingo, Sept 22-24, \$6 Thurs, \$8 Fri-Sat) This Vancouver band is riding a crest of popularity following their third album...

AMOS GARRETT (Pub Flamingo, Sept 27-Oct 1, \$4 Tues-Thurs, \$6 Fri-Sat) Canadian born and one of the most respected names in the business...

JESSE WINCHESTER & TOM PAXTON (Cohn, Oct 1, \$16.50/\$15.50) The best of country and folk...

COWBOY JUNKIES (Pub Flamingo, Oct 5-8, \$4 Wed-Thurs, \$6 Fri-Sat) Laid back soulful blues from this Toronto band...

PENTANGLE (Cohn, Oct 8, \$16.50/\$15.50) British folk, blues and jazz quintet on their 21st anniversary tour...

BOB'S YOUR UNCLE (Pub Flamingo, Oct 11-12, \$3) One of the most talked about bands on the west coast...funkbeat pop.

Mon

The Word is Out. Each Monday at 5:45 on CKDU-FM 97.5. News, events and issues of interest to gays and lesbians in Metro

Dartmouth Gay Alcoholics Anonymous, each Monday 8:30 pm, St. Peters Church Hall on Maple St.

Tues

Lesbian and Gay Rights Nova Scotia, meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7pm in the Children's Aid Society building at 5244 South St.

Women's Program Nights, every second Tuesday of the month at Rumours, 2112 Gottingen St.

Narcotics Anonymous, 8:30pm, Rumours, 2112 Gottingen St. More info call Jim 423-5582.

Wed

Gay And Lesbian Association Nova Scotia, (Formerly G.A.E.) first and third Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm, Rumours at 2112 Gottingen St.

Atlantic Gays and Lesbians in Healthcare and Human Services, meets the second Wednesday of every month. For details call Ken, 453-4320.

Thu

Gay Alcoholics Anonymous, each at 8:30pm, Field House. 422-5875 for information.

The Town

Dance

FOUR THE MOMENT & FRIENDS (Pub Flamingo, Oct 14-15, \$6) Halifax's own a capella sensation...

TOOLS FOR PEACE BENEFIT (Pub Flamingo, Oct 18, \$5) Featuring Arauco, Henry and The Hamburgers and the Latin Laddies.

Stage

DARK NIGHT THEATRE, Cunard Street Theatre, every Monday, 7:30pm. The NS Drama League invites writers, directors, and actors to do dramatic readings of original plays by Nova Scotian and Canadian playwrights.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Neptune Theatre, Sept 23-Oct 23) Shakespeare's classic comedy.

LORD OF THE RINGS (Cohn, Sept 29 & 30, \$18/\$14) A unique presentation of the classic Tolkien tales using more than 70 life-size puppets, lasers, spectacular sets and sound effects.

THEATRESPORTS (Pub Flamingo, Oct 4, \$3) Bizarre improv comedy, part of the Back-to-School-Pre-Christmas-Step-into-Fall-Sale.... all scenes must go.

NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA (Cohn, Sept 21-24, \$21/\$19) Program includes Serenade, Trapdance, Sleeping Beauty Act III, La Bayadere Act III and Four Temperments.

THE RANDY GLYNN DANCE PROJECT (Cohn, Oct 15, \$16/\$14) Glynn, a Dalhousie alumni was featured dancer in the Danny Grossman Dance Company for nine years and has a growing reputation as a choreographer.

Review

One Last Waltz
by Ethan Mordden
St. Martin's Press
196 pages, \$11.95

In writing his first novel, Ethan Mordden has taken a radically different tack than in his earlier collections of short stories, "Buddies" and "I've a Feeling We're Not in Kansas Anymore."

Still in love with New York, Mordden instead tells the story of a poor Irish immigrant family, and the three sons who each grow up and find something different in their lives and in their families.

Hardly a warm portrait, it is a gritty street story about family ties that bind tighter than love.

Mordden avoids the temptation of making the youngest, gay brother

STONEWALL INN EDITIONS

ONE LAST WALTZ



SMP

ETHAN MORDDEN

the sensitive, moral conscience of the other two. In fact, one wonders at the end just what he is saying, if anything, in presenting the happy, married middle-class businessman as the most sensible and sympathetic character.

Mordden writes very well, but this novel begins with an Irish lilt that is disconcerting at times, ridiculous at others. But this odd device fades as the Irish-ness of the characters fades.

It's an odd choice of subject for a writer whose previous passions include the odd characters that populate New York's gay world, and opera. And yet, "One Last Waltz" is operatic, and undeniably New York.

It is not his best work. It lacks the humor and the humanity of his short stories. But it is a first novel that promises more, better, later.

-- Kevin Elliott

Thur Fri Sat Sun

Politics Anon-
th Thursday
Commons
Call
for more in-

Youth Group meets every other Saturday beginning July 25th. Call Gayline for meeting places and times each week, 423-7129.

SPARROW, an interdenominational Christian group. Each Sunday, 8pm, St. John United Church, corner of Willow & Windsor St.

Seventh Day Adventist Kinship Group. Contact Box 408, Stn C., Toronto, Ont. M6J 3P5

8 Rumours

Gloria Borden

Randy Kennedy, Bob Bazanson, the manager Sheila Cummings, and myself are going to be working together in trying to get things rolling at Rumours. In the very near future we hope to be using the time between eight and ten

PM for things like a Jive Contest, Wet T-Shirt Contest, Tug of War, Dirty Dancing, the Rock and Roll Fifties and maybe even the Roaring Thirties. Name it and we are going to try it, but we need your help to make it all happen.

Reunion

The Rumours bar is preparing a reunion for the Nova Scotia Gay Community in the coming year, 1989.

We hope to make this a very successful event and would like to extend an invitation to all of you. For further information please contact the bar at Rumours.

Turret Night

A Turret Night is in the making and maybe we will make it a monthly happening depending on the response. Down the road a bit, Rumours is planning a reunion. All details will be available later this year. We can make this all happen, and we welcome any suggestions.

Entertainment

In order to provide a successful year of entertainment for you, it's necessary to incorporate new talent. If you're interested, please fill out the form below.

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

CHOICE OF ENTERTAINMENT: _____

Please drop off in the suggestion box at Rumours.

Thank you,
Gloria Borden

Pool Table Rules

House Rules for the Pool Table

1. No smoking over the pool table.
2. Don't set drinks or cigarettes on the table.
3. No loud, abusive language.
4. Don't take cues away from the playing area.
5. Use cues only for playing pool.
6. Table winner breaks.
7. Combination off own ball.
8. The cue ball will be removed from the table when the lights come on.
9. No visible betting around the pool table.
10. Absolutely no arguing or fighting in the playing area.
11. Opponents will be listed on board.
12. Respect both table and opponent at all time.

CKDU 97.5 FM

THE WORD IS OUT!

"THE WORD IS OUT" IS METRO'S LESBIAN AND GAY RADIO NEWS PROGRAMME. IT CAN BE HEARD EVERY MONDAY EVENING AT 5:45 ON CKDU 97.5 P.M.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH PRODUCTION. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. INTERESTED? LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER WITH THE COAT-CHECK AT "RUMOURS"

Fuck Aware Parties

J.J. Lyon

How would you like it if you threw a party, and nobody came?

I felt like my deodorant had failed. All kidding aside, I can only hope that you didn't see the sign, and that the flyers didn't get into your hands. I have to hope that that is the case, because if the real reason is that you don't care, then I'm afraid many of you will slip back into unsafe sex practices, and that will kill you!

Perhaps you need to know a little more about the infamous "Fuck-aware Party". This workshop is designed to help gay men deal with their anger and

frustration over the need to re-think the ways they make love. It exposes them to the limits, the fun and the excitement available with condoms, (shit, you feel so butch...). It allows you the opportunity to let your imagination run free about new ways to express yourself, sexually. It helps you to learn how to talk about sex, and limits ("Fuck you, Mary!" is really too negative to be considered conversation) and finally helps to bring about a new awareness of ourselves as caring, loving, Hot, Healthy, and Horny men.

Now that doesn't seem to be too bad a way of spending a Saturday afternoon, does it??

This workshop, developed in New York, for the Gay Mens Health Crisis organization, has been evaluated by several independent studies, to be the most effective method, outside of personal counselling, to get gay men to change their high risk behaviour with comfort, and therefore save their lives. And that, by the way, is the bottom line. If you don't eliminate high risk behaviour, you will surely die a slow, painful and degrading death.

So, if you want help and company while you learn, join us for a party and leave your worries behind you.

For more information, contact J.J. at 425-4882.

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HUGE

HUGE

HUGE

From the Net...

Newsgroups: soc.motss
Subject: Gay conversion fluid!

IS THERE SOMEONE YOU WISH WAS GAY?

Do you have a hunky dormmate who talks about nothing but "screwing pussy"?

Is someone at work a perfect AIA from the Summa Puerorum --- and a perfect 0 on the Kinsey scale?

Then, folks, we have the product for you! Yes, it's *new*

EVERQUEER!

It's odorless!

It's colorless!

It's very tasteless!

Just one ounce in his coffee--in his shampoo--in his washing machine--and it goes to work. Just grab your Crisco and wait! In a week, he'll be listening to Bronski Beat, reading the Advocate, and posting to soc.motss, or your money back!

Remember, look for

EVERQUEER
CORRECTION FLUID

in finer drugstores everywhere!

Personal size (1 ounce bottle)

Large size (3 ounce bottle) for those difficult cases . . .

Ambitious size (55 gallon barrel) for lifeguard shower rooms, aircraft carrier mess rooms, et cetera.

Limited warranty: If product fails to convert a straight in one week, the product purchaser may send the unused portion of product to

EverQueer Products
Bernstein Bldg., Room 39
1104 W. Castro St.
San Francisco, CA

for a full refund.

NOTE: EverQueer Products is NOT liable if the corrected person is not attracted to the product purchaser.

Tim, the Bizarre and Oddly-Dressed Enchanter
Center for Supercomputing
Research and Development
at the University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

From: rob@pbhyf.PacBell.COM
(Rob Bernardo)
Subject: Re: Speaking Out
Date: 15 Jul 88 01:49:09 GMT
Organization: PacBel,
San Ramon, CA

[+ marks indicate a quote from the original article -dan]

+ SPEAKING OUT

+ Jo Montana
+ The Melting Pot, July, 1988
+ Viva Rock Hudson! The Marlboro
+ Man (remember that macho cow-
+ boy, firmly straddling his
+ steed?) has come out of the
+ closet. He came down with AIDS
+ and is speaking to high school
+ audiences around the country on
+ being Gay and especially about
+ safe sex. A hearty thank you to
+ another pillar in the
+ community.

His name in Christian Haren and
I'm not sure he was recently in

the closet. I met him when he was president of the (now defunct) Pacific Coast Gay Rodeo and Horseman's Association, in 1981 or 2. (I can't stand this chatty style of journalistic writing that winds up overdramatizing to the point of inaccuracy.)

You may have seen him on one of those network prime-time news "magazine" shows a month or two ago. One very moving clip showed him talking informally with some high school students after the talk he gave to their class. They were standing around Christian, with the camera right there. This one boy said something to the effect of: "Before you came and spoke, I would have been one of those guys who'd say bad things about people like you. But now I understand a lot more [etc. - some or other sentences of togetherness]." And the kid's voice began to crack and he went up to embrace Christian rather warmly. And this was in front of network cameras!

Rob Bernardo

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THE KOSHER

Horatio Beeswanger On Assignment

The lobby was deserted as I entered 2112 Gottingen St. Normally I wouldn't have felt uneasy about going to the club at 7:30 on a Wednesday night, but tonight was The Meeting.

It was one of those nights when G.A.E. (G.A.L.A.) members slither silently in from the shadows to discuss the fate of gay men and women in Nova Scotia.

Who were these people? What did they do at these meetings? Where the hell were they?

I was determined to get some answers. There was one problem -- my true identity had to be hidden.

If it was learned that "Ace" reporter H.B. was in attendance, "Ace" would probably be thrown out.

(You see "Ace" was recently unjustly barred for 30 days simply because he felt a little too warm on the dance floor one night and decided to shed a few articles of clothing.)

To get the real scoop, I had to go undercover. I decided to disguise myself as a heterosexual. Complete with plaid hunting jacket, tattered jeans, fishing rod and touque, I was ready to infiltrate enemy lines.

But still, where were they?

I listened carefully and as usual, my keen sense of hearing picked up the murmur of muffled voices from below.

By god it was an UNDERGROUND organization!

My heart was pounding and I began to fear for my safety. But then I remembered that I had packed my Sears Rambo water pistol and a box of heavy duty elastic bands.

I WAS READY.

The descent down the stairs re-


minded me of a horror movie where the hero lost his footing and fell into about a million man-eating killer worms. I swallowed and somehow managed to move my lead-filled feet towards the bottom of the damp, dreary, dimly-lit...den.

The voices got louder.

Then, without warning, PLOP!

My keen sense of hearing picked up the sound of muffled voices from below.

I tripped on the last step. They must have had a booby trap. When I hit the cement my box of elastics went sprawling out in front of me. Anticipating attack, I poised myself as a sniper, lying on my stomach, picking up an elastic, cocking my thumb and pulling back, ready to fire on any sucker who dared to come in range.


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No one did.

They just stared at me with a very strange look. Perhaps they had never seen a heterosexual before. I had done my homework well.

After I got back up and dusted myself off, I limped over to the coffee table.

Wounded in battle. Undoubtedly a story for my sister's grandchildren.

At the coffee table, someone tried to trick me into revealing my true identity by signing a book. Not to be outwitted, I signed "Mr. Vanderzam".

After a brief skirmish over the last coffee cup (which I won) I



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11

Horatio Beeswanger

took a chair at the back and pulled out my Campfire notebook.

The meeting was abruptly called to order. The executive began working their way towards the weary wooden table at the front. Both male and female representatives seemed lost and dazed. Perhaps they were both looking for their portfolios.

Next came the bleary-eyed secretary looking as if she spent the last week sailing on her water bed. The chairperson followed, an intimidating woman who seemed to cause the ground beneath her to tremble.

She got to sit in the plastic chair at the centre of the table (executive privilege).

After a brief delay the treasurer finally appeared. Apparently he and some of the staff were upstairs fighting off some creditors. I really don't think the stretcher was really necessary. After they plunked him down on the table all I could see was a black eye and a cut lip on our monetary mentor.

The executive was now complete. Order was now called and the reading of the previous meet-

ing's minutes began. I seized the opportunity for another refill of coffee.

This was a mistake.

When I turned around there was a stomach staring me in the face. I recognized this stomach. It was four feet wide and four feet thick. Terror engulfed me. The hair on the back of my neck stuck up, the blood rushed from my head and my family jewels lost their value.

It was HIM!.

I was determined to get some answers.

Four feet above that bellybutton would be the face of a man who could blow up a car with one spit.

I fumbled for my pistol but it was too late. He picked me up at the back of the neck with his thumb and index finger, held me

out as one would with a shitty diaper or soiled tampon. Then he indignantly carried me up the stairs, opened the front doors and flicked me across the street.

I have no idea who this football team is or why he hates me so much but he does the same thing to me every time we meet.

So, if you want to find out what goes on at a GALA (GAE) meeting, go yourself, because I ain't going back.

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