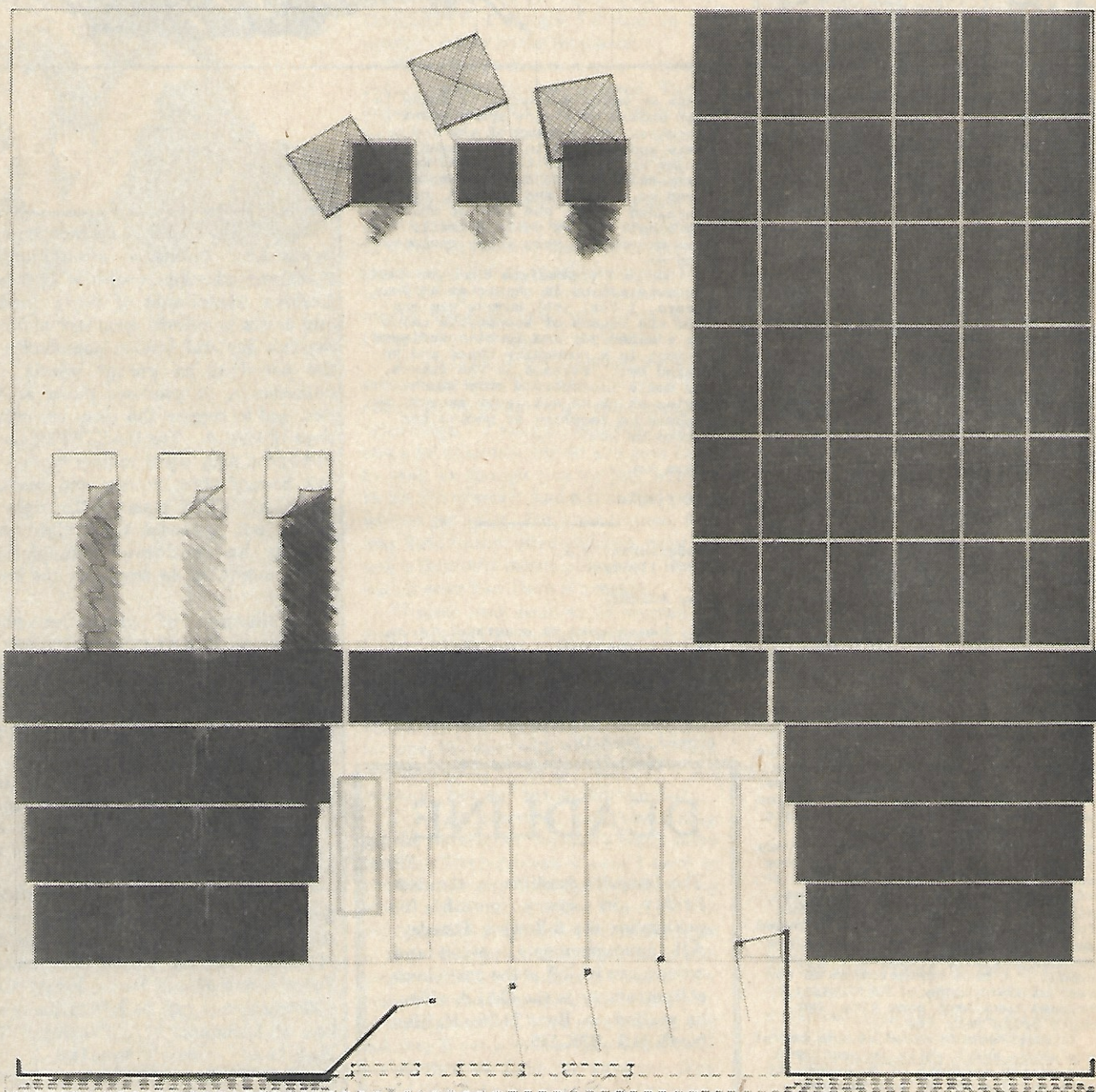


GAZETTE

For Lesbians and Gay Men in the Maritimes

Free

No. 5, May '90



Letters



Gary Dee
Emcee, La Cage
c/o Gino Empry
Public Relations & Personnel
Management Services,
Suite 104, The Maples,
25 Wood St., Toronto, Ontario
M4Y 2P9

April 23, 1990

Dear Gary:

I have already complained to the Manager of Rumours about your offensive humour as emcee of the La Cage show; I am now writing to you. I enjoyed the costumes, and song and dance routines of the rest of the troupe of La Cage, and congratulate them on their consummate professionalism. However, I found your humour profoundly offensive.

As a Joan Rivers clone, you picked five main targets, four of whom were women. This I feel is significant indication in itself of your profound misogyny, which I certainly had occasion to personally experience as your main target.

Your so-called humour, as well as misogynist, was: (1) racist, e.g. your implications that your Filipino neighbours would have eaten your dog. (2) ageist, e.g. upon learning I was thirty-eight: "My, my the years have not been kind." (3) looks ist, e.g. remarks like "If you've had plastic surgery, you've been ripped off," or that my outfit looked as if it "had come out of the Sally Ann on a good day." (4) size-ist, e.g. your opening remark to me: "You've got a big set of knockers on you," and (5) homophobic, e.g. your implication that "lesbians don't douche, that's what they have lovers for." While I appreciate that this sort of "attack humour" is widespread in the mainstream community, I feel it is an unacceptable form of humour for a community-owned gay and lesbian bar to book. I personally was deeply offended by your humour. I have communicated to the rest of the troupe of La Cage, "Please come back some time, but don't bring Gary Dee."

Your "making nice" at the end of the show, which while it confirmed for me the strength of my community support, did not in any measure lessen my sense of outrage and of

fense at being subjected to abuse in what should be a safe space where I can enjoy the company of the lesbians and gay men in our community. I came to the show to broaden my perspective on the drag issue, prepared to enjoy — and instead, took sustained abuse, the like of which, any single remark would normally have provoked a very angry response from me.

While I appreciate that you feel you were acting in character as Joan Rivers, I feel your humour was outside the bounds of acceptable taste for a mixed gay and lesbian audience in what is a community owned and operated bar. Perhaps in the future, you could incorporate more humour during which we all laugh at you, as opposed to laughing at people targeted by you.

Yours truly,

Pat Dingle.

Fredericton, N.B.
April 13, 1990

Dear Editor:

Just a word to congratulate you on your newspaper. Your April 1990 issue was terrific. I enjoy both the local and international coverage.

Keep up the good work.

Signed, Francis.

DEADLINE

The Gazette deadline is the last Friday in every month for publication the following Tuesday. All announcements, notices and articles can be left at the coat check at Rumours, or in the GALA office, or mailed to Box 7126, Halifax North, N.S., B3K 5J5.

The GAEZETTE is an independent publication, published monthly with the financial support of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Nova Scotia and exists to inform members of Nova Scotia's gay and lesbian community of the activities of groups within the community, to promote those activities, and to support the aims and objectives of GALA. The GAEZETTE seeks to build a truly equal society by opposing homophobia, racism and sexism. The GAEZETTE reserves the right to refuse any material that might reasonably be considered homophobic, racist, sexist, or an attack on the community.

Publication of names or photographs of persons or organizations 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 of 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. Deadline is the last Friday of every month. Material will be edited for length. Submissions should be no longer than 500 words and can be left in the mailbox at Rumours, 2112 Gottingen St., Halifax, or mailed to GAEZETTE/Box 7126/Halifax North, N.S./B3K 5J5.

Commentary



by Kay Hall

I am a lesbian. I won't wear a dress either — but I will wear culottes for work!

In response to Kevin Elliott's "Commentary" in the April issue of the GAEZETTE, I thought I'd pass on one woman's views on the drag issue.

When I first saw a man in women's clothes I was somewhat bemused. Then I began to look at what most of them were wearing. It was then I began to explore my own feelings on the subject and to try and understand why men wanted to "dress up." Before I go any further, I know that there are women who wear men's clothes. In some ways I can understand that — men having the many privileges that they do. I'll buy men's jeans, flannel shirts, mostly because they are often a lot cheaper than those made for women.

To go back to my comment on what most men wear for drag. Very often, there's a vast length of leg and a plunging "cleavage." I have no doubt the outfits cost a lot of money, but do you guys have to look as though you've just left the Hollis Street area? And it is at this, many women get upset. For some women, who may have unsupported children, prostitution is their only means of income. How I wish it wasn't so, but it is a reality.

If some men want to be women so much that they cross-dress whenever possible, why don't they do something practical about it? Or would it be asking too much for them to give up their male privileges? By that I mean higher income, better jobs, the ease with which they obtain mortgages, etc. I am not resentful, but it is unfair. But, so I'm told, life is unfair.

I do get resentful now when drag queens show up on Women's Night every month. Twelve times a year I have to compromise my feelings and keep my mouth shut. At one time I thought that they came in drag on this particular night to avoid being razed by their male colleagues. Not so. It seems to be more of a belligerent and insensitive act on their part trying to prove that it is a man's world and that they'll get whatever they want, leaving women to fight for anything they would like to have. A reality. I'm not a man-hater, but I do feel hurt when some

men talk but will not listen.

Recently there was a drag show at Rumours. I chose not to go, but what I have heard from some women who did was that, yet again, a female "impersonator" denegated the style and wit of a famous female personality, thus degenerating women per se. And all for fun. Well, guys, I've news for ya — it ain't funny. On other drag show occasions women, as seen by some gay man, have been shown to be "inferior beings" much to the enjoyment of most of their audience. I'll be damned if I'll pay hard earned money to be verbally abused and to

I get resentful when drag queens show up on Women's Night.

watch those of my sex dragged (!) through the mud!!!

I do hope the men and women of the community who are interested in at least trying to resolve this issue, will meet and talk about it. I will listen. When I speak, I, and others like me, would like to be heard.

Signed, Kay Hall

THIS SPACE

is available to all members of the community to express their concerns or opinions. Submissions should be no longer than 500 words and be in by the last Friday in the month. Material that might reasonably be considered homophobic, racist, sexist or an attack on the community will not be considered for publication.

STREETsmART

Rumours Shows Its True Colors

By Kevin Elliott

HALIFAX — Local architect Ray Frizzell has chosen the front of the gay community centre on Gottingen St., to mount True Colors, a multi-media piece as part of the STREETsmART exhibition during the month of June.

Fifteen artists have been selected by a jury of artists and architects to exhibit work in vacant store fronts along the street.

Organizers say the idea is to demonstrate the cultural vitality and richness of the area, often hidden to passersby.

Frizzell proposes to use red, yellow and blue fabric, and lights of same color refracted through prisms to cascade color down the front of the building and onto the sidewalk.

"The light of the dance floor has, in this case, been transformed into a tangible state, one with renewed presence, one

which shows its 'true colors,' " Frizzell explains in his proposal. "It is emerging from the building, and about to spill onto the street, becoming one of the many colors that make up the richness of Gottingen

The light of the dance floor has been transformed into a tangible state.

St."

By day the colors appear as a frozen caption of the emergence. They succeed in adding to the daylight character of the street. At night, the frozen colors appear

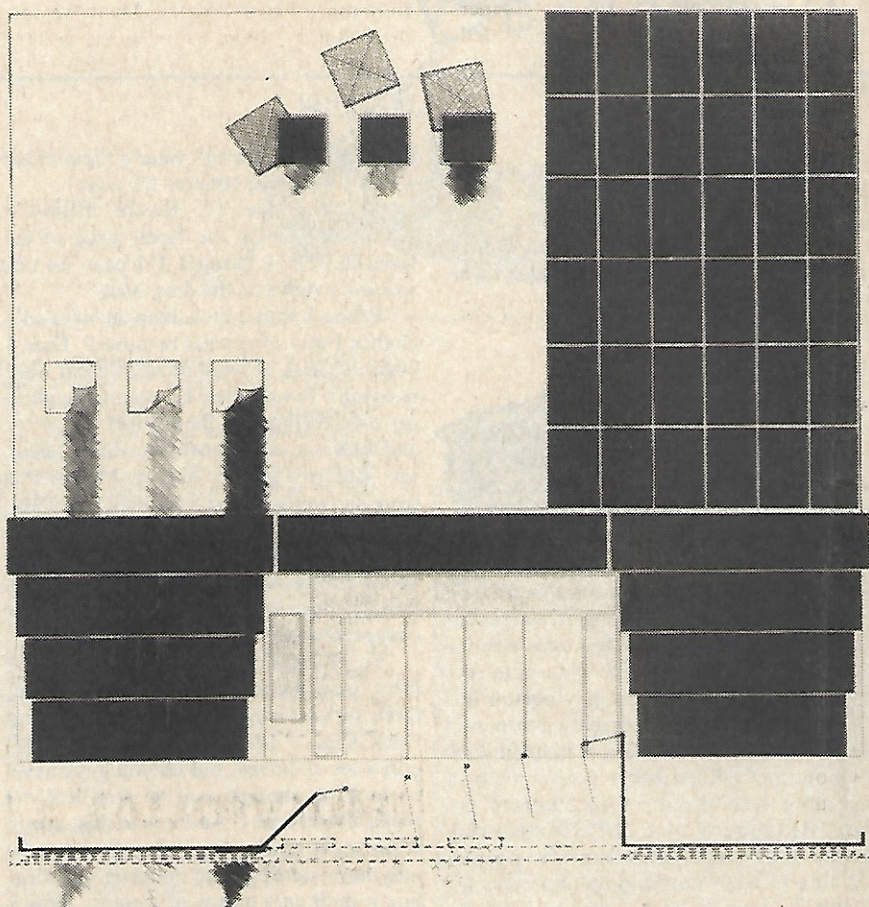
somewhat more reserved as a diversion is created across the street. This diversion takes the form of light, diffracted through prisms located in the upper windows of the club, splashing onto the opposite sidewalk in a full spectrum of color."

"The proposed installation addresses a duality in circumstance; the ability to show one's 'true colors' yet combine forces to support a larger group, i.e. being a member of Gottingen St.," Frizzell says.

The month-long festival is being organized by Uptown Connection, the Gottingen Main Street Program, the City of Halifax and the Department of Small Business Development.

Organizers say the response from the artistic community has been excellent and the quality of the work is high.

Artists working in a variety of media have been chosen, including painters, sculptors, video artists, photographers, architects and designers.



When The Whole World Knows

by Terry Richard

FREDERICTON—This past January I summoned up enough courage to actually state in my university's student newspaper that I was a gay man. The editorial titled "Secret" detailed what my life had been like from being in the closet to ultimately coming out. I felt it important to share with other gay people my own story because knowing you're not alone makes things a little easier. I also wanted to show others that you don't have to be afraid to say who and what you are. Thus, January 19th, 1990 (the day the letter was printed) will be a day the world found out.

The first thing I did that morning was to actually get a copy of *The Brunswickan* as I didn't know if the editor would print the letter. Whenever you submit a letter to a newspaper there is really no guarantee that it will be printed. I can't tell you what a feeling it was to see my story in print so that others, hopefully, could get some help out of it. The hardest thing for me to face (and I still have this problem) was the constant staring from people. When people know you're gay, they do tend to stare. With some this is because of ignorance, but with others they are simply interested in seeing what a gay person is all about. I'll never forget that afternoon when my English professor was handing back our thesis reports, when he came to my name. A solemn quiet spread over the class. I felt like Dolly Parton when her dress split at the Grammy Awards a few years ago. The only difference is that I wasn't embarrassed. I really felt proud that others knew about me.

Throughout the following week I received an overabundance of positive reactions from both gay and straight people. Many even said they learned a lot from what I was talking about. It was great to know that people could identify with what I was saying.

I also went into doing this with the realization that I would face some ambivalent feedback. Hey, not everyone likes us. However, nothing prepared me for what was to be printed in *The Brunswickan* the following week. Two Education students blatantly condemned me and my letter for saying I was gay and that I intended to be a teacher. They went so far as to say that I gave the entire Education faculty a bad reputation. How preposterous! How absurd! How mad I felt! Instead of calling these two bigots every name I could think of, I wrote a second letter, "Secret II" (I didn't think of the title, the *Brunsw* did)

about why I felt a person's sexual preference shouldn't make any difference in one's career. Again, the great part about all this was that the bulk of support came from many heterosexuals. Many wrote to the editor in support of what I wrote and condemned the two students for what they said. Not only did I personally feel that the heterosexual community was sticking up for me, but I felt the gay community on a whole was being supported.

If I learned two things from printing my editorials, it's that there are still hard-headed bigots, and many heterosexuals, although they may not understand our lifestyle, generally care about who we are. I do believe the gay community is finally being recognized. This is the first step. UNB finally realizes (and I've been there for three years) that homosexuals do exist on campus and in society in general. The next step, and I feel this is being initiated, is to get respect for who and what we are. After all are we not human like anyone else.

Many people have asked me where I got the courage to write these letters. It was basically a matter of me wanted to voice myself to tell the world that being gay is OK. There are no awards or brownie points for publicly declaring your

homosexuality. Perhaps in the nineties we will get the respect we deserve.

We in the gay community have a long road to travel, but I feel the end to that road is getting closer. There are now gay teachers, politicians, entertainers, lawyers, doctors and many other people who publicly declare their homosexuality. I feel this is right. Perhaps there are many gay people who feel we should repress who we are, however, doing this will only keep heterosexuals prevailing over us. Do we want to continue to be repressed? We do have our rights. I was once even accused of "advertising" who I was, but publicly declaring you're gay is not advertising. It is making heterosexuals aware that we are here. Is it advertising when a guy and a girl walk hand in hand on campus? Of course it isn't, yet if my lover and I were to do the same thing it would be called advertising. Hopefully by the mid-nineties this will change. The bottom line is that the more we come forward for our rights the better things will become. We have to educate those who do not know what we're about. Remember, the joy of living is basically doing what you want to do. Don't be afraid. Onward!

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Justice Stalled: No New Human Rights Act

By Kevin Elliott

HALIFAX — Plans by the Nova Scotia Attorney General's department to bring in a new Human Rights Act appear to have been stalled by the Conservative government's fear about protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination.

Attorney General Tom McInnis has admitted privately that his new bill, which adds sexual orientation to the list of banned forms of discrimination, hasn't been approved by caucus.

Government caucus chair Al Mosher says decisions are made by consensus, which hasn't been possible in the case of the new human rights bill.

"That one, in all fairness is a difficult one for us and we've not been able to reach a consensus on the proper wording of it as yet," says Mosher. "I think it's going to come, but it hasn't as yet."

Mosher isn't commenting on whether the legislation will make it to the floor of the legislature before the session ends in June.

Sources inside the government say a small, vocal minority, afraid of a public

backlash over the trials of priests and former priests in Newfoundland for child sexual abuse, is blocking the bill. Premier John Buchanan himself is said to be among those opposed to extending protection to gays and lesbians.

**They've been
so inept at
preparing
legislation.**

NDP Leader Alexa McDonough says no important bills have been introduced this session, which is typical of the way the government is operating.

"I think they've been so hopelessly inept in the way they've gone about preparing legislation that they're either losing their nerve in terms of introducing it, or they simply don't have it ready," McDonough says.

"Their usual way of operating is to di-

vide one group against another and try to score political points in the process and you can't do that when you're dealing with something as fragile as . . . vicious discrimination against various groups in society."

"All we're doing at the moment is pitter-patter with minor pieces of legislation," says Liberal Leader Vince MacLean. "A new Human Rights Act or amendments to the present act are long overdue."

MacLean says his caucus is prepared to support a reasonable new Human Rights Act, so that isn't keeping the government from bringing it in.

"They're afraid to deal with those major issues," MacLean says. "They're afraid to deal with lobbies who don't like changes in the Human Rights Act."

McDonough suggests that controversy over bills like the Human Rights Act is generated by the government's partisan approach to dealing with major issues.

"They would like the public to sort of believe 'look this is so complicated and so controversial, how can you blame the government that they don't move on it?'"

Mosher defends the government's record, saying the caucus is hard at work on substantial new legislation.

"We've got to go over those bills thoroughly to try to pick out what might be a problem before they're introduced, otherwise the problems will be picked out for us by the members opposite," he says.

Lesbian & Gay Youth Group Formed

HALIFAX—A discussion and peer support group for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth and young adults will be holding its first meeting this month. It is envisioned that this group will provide a forum for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth to talk about issues relevant to them in an open and supportive atmosphere. The group is open to all lesbian, gay and bisexual

youth, age 25 and under and will be run entirely by its members.

The first meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10 at 7pm at the Children's Aid Society of Halifax, 5244 South St., Halifax. Following meetings will be announced in upcoming issues of the GAZETTE and on posters at Red Herring Co-Op Books and at Rumours.



Tuesdays from
5:30 to 6 p.m. on CKDU-FM
97.5. News, events and issues of
interest to gays and lesbians.

CKDU 97.5 FM

HIV/AIDS Support Group

by Leon Chubb

The threat of being HIV+ and the fear it inspires have forced many individuals to adopt a variety of coping mechanisms. These coping mechanisms range from outright denial to differing levels of confrontation with additional risk behaviours — including significant adaptations of life style. If these coping efforts are successful, fear subsides to a level of reasonable caution or may banish altogether. If they are unsuccessful however, fear may proceed unchecked, at times progressing to ir-

ruptions in various aspects of daily life, beyond those attributable to any physical disease; i.e., panic attacks, phobic symptoms, generalized/acute anxiety, morbid obsessions, anger, depression, self-absorption, despair, social withdrawal, decreased concentrations and self esteem, and withdrawal from co-workers, family and friends.

Among those who are AIDS/HIV+ anxious, there are individuals who respond to their fears by turning to agencies like the Metro Area Committee on AIDS, in an effort to seek guidance.

Here at MACAIDS, our approach to support is designed to meet the dual goals of building rapport and addressing issues specific to the client's distress. Our approach is supportive: we work together with the client to restore and maintain function and pre-existing comfort.

For more information on the Metro Area Committee on AIDS' Support Services, contact me, Coordinator of Support and Volunteer Services, at 425-4882.

They adopt a variety of coping mechanisms.

rational levels, prompting actions which can be destructive and debilitating.

Virtually all individuals with this syndrome have experienced (to some degree)



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MAY

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Coming Next Month! PRIDE WEEK 1990		1 Halifax Gay A.A. Lesbian and Gay Rights Nova Scotia	2 Gay and Lesbian As- sociation (GALA NS) Lesbian Support Group Tai Chi for P.W.A.	3 Halifax Gay A.A. Hiv+ and Living Well	4	5 Gay Narcotics Anony- mous
6 Sparrow	7 Dartmouth Gay A.A. Lesbian Choral	8 Halifax Gay A.A.	9 Race Relations Com- mittee Tai Chi for P.W.A.	10 Halifax Gay A.A. Hiv+ and Living Well Pride Week Meeting	11	12 Gay Narcotics Anony- mous
13 Sparrow	14 Dartmouth Gay A.A. Lesbian Choral	15 Halifax Gay A.A. Lesbian and Gay Rights Nova Scotia	16 Gazette Staff Meet- ing Lesbian Support Group Tai Chi for P.W.A.	17 Halifax Gay A.A. Hiv+ and Living Well	18	19 Gay Narcotics Anony- mous
20 Sparrow	21 Dartmouth Gay A.A. Lesbian Choral	22 Halifax Gay A.A. Affirm	23 Tai Chi for P.W.A.	24 Halifax Gay A.A. Hiv+ and Living Well Pride Week Meeting	25 Law and You	26 Gay Narcotics Anony- mous
27 Sparrow	28 Dartmouth Gay A.A. Lesbian Choral Law and You	29 Halifax Gay A.A.	30 Tai Chi for P.W.A.	31 Halifax Gay A.A. Hiv+ and Living Well	1 Leather/Denim/Uni- form Law and You	2 Gay Narcotics Anony- mous

To have your contributions included on this Community Calendar page contact GALA Program Coordinator at (902)423-2292.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Affirm -- Halifax/Dartmouth Chapter -- Gays and Lesbians in the United Church. For information and meeting times contact Al at (902)423-3072.

Choral -- Lesbian and/or Gay -- Now forming. Men interested in singing contact Colin at (902)422-7008. Women interested contact Anne Bishop at (902)424-2323.

Dartmouth Gay Alcoholics Anonymous, each Monday at 8:30 p.m., St. Peter's Church Hall on Maple St., Dartmouth. CALL AA Central Service (902)424-5623.

Dignity -- Persons interested in forming local chapters of Dignity (RC) or Integrity (Anglican), are invited to contact Father Mike McDonald at (902)429-7922.

Gaezette -- Staff Meetings take place in the Projection Room at 2112 Gottingen St., Halifax at 8:00 p.m.

Gay and Lesbian Association of Nova Scotia (GALA NS) meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at 2112 Gottingen St., Halifax in the Projection Room. For more information call (902)423-2292.

Gay Narcotics Anonymous, Saturdays at 3 p.m. in the PWA Coalition office, 2093 Gottingen St., Halifax. For further information call (902)429-7922.

Halifax Gay Alcoholics Anonymous, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. at the Commons Field House, Halifax. CALL AA Central Service (902)424-5623.

HIV+ and Living Well Support Group -- Call P.W.A. for time and location (902)429-7922.

Kinship Canada -- Seventh Day Adventist group. Call (902)435-1310 for information.

Leather/Denim/Uniforms for men. Camaraderie, fellowship, and play in a safe, confidential atmosphere. Call Ken at (902)422-8041 between 5 p.m. - 10 p.m. or Wilson at (902)465-3083 for more information.

Lesbian and Gay Rights Nova Scotia (LGRNS) meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Projection

Room, 2112 Gottingen St., Halifax. For more information call (902)455-5729.

Lesbian Support Group, Call Darlene at (902)422-6385 for time and location.

New Brunswick Coalition for Human Rights Reform, meets the second Sunday in the month in Fredericton. Call the FLAGline at (506) 457-2157 for times, places.

Out & About -- An outing club: camping, biking, skiing or whatever. Call Gayline at (902)423-7129 for information.

Over 30's Club -- For those who would like an alternative to the bar scene. For information contact Don Murchy at (902)455-0623.

Pride Week Meetings are held in the Projection Room, 2112 Gottingen St., Halifax at 8:00 p.m. Call (902)423-2292 for details.

Race Relations Committee meets the second Wednesday of the month at 8:00 p.m. at 2112 Gottingen St. in the Projection Room. For more information call (902) 423-2292.

Sparrow, an interdenominational Christian group, meets each Sunday at 8 p.m. in the PWA Coalition office, 2093 Gottingen St., Halifax. Call Rob at (902)429-7850 or Norman at (902)429-4397.

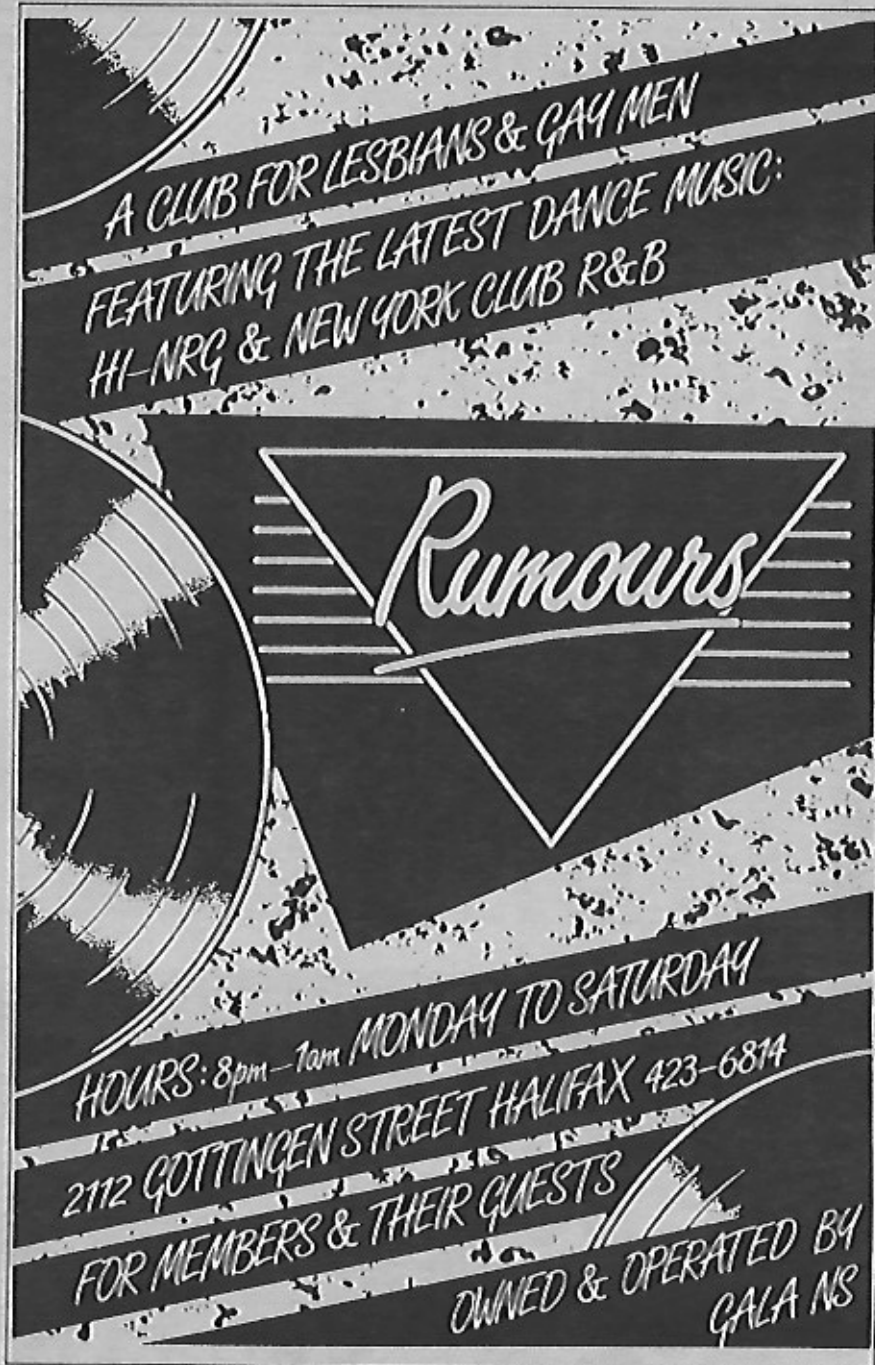
Tai Chi for P.W.A. -- Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the PWA Coalition office, 2093 Gottingen St., Halifax. For information call (902)429-7922.

Third Lesbian Conference -- Organizational meetings held at Veith House, 3115 Veith St., Halifax at 2:00 p.m.

The Word Is Out -- Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. on CKDU FM 97.5. News, events, issues and interviews of interest to gays and lesbians in Metro Halifax. For more information call (902) 424-6479.

Vespers Choir for Pride Week. All those interested please contact Bill Elliot at (902)429-0309.

Vigil Choir -- All those interested in singing at this year's AIDS Vigil please contact Glenn at (902)429-7922.



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Out on the Town

TV/Radio

THE LAW AND YOU (Halifax Cablevision, Channel 10) This regular program produced in association with the Public Legal and Education Society of Nova Scotia features a two-part interview with J.C. Aucoin of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Nova Scotia and Maureen Shebib of Lesbian and Gay Rights Nova Scotia. Part one will air May 25 at 9 p.m. and again May 28 at the same time. Part two will air June 1 and again on June 4, also at 9 p.m.

The program will also be carried on the following cable systems: Able Cablevision, Cape Breton Cablevision, Kings Cable Ltd., Mid-Valley Cablevision, Seabreeze Cablevision, Seaside Cable T.V., Shaw Cable, Tri-Town Cable T.V., Viking Cable T.V., Windsor Cable T.V. Episodes from the series are also available from the Halifax regional library.

THE WORD IS OUT (Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m., CKDU-FM 97.5) The only gay and lesbian radio show in the Maritimes now runs a half hour in a new time slot...

SPINSTERS ON AIR (Saturdays at noon, CKDU-FM, 97.5) Music for, by and about women.

WOMEN'S TIME (Thursdays at 5:45 p.m., CKDU-FM, 97.5) Interviews about women's issues.

ARE YOU BEING SERVED (Fridays at 11 p.m., PBS Bangor Cable 4) Dull British sitcom about a department store that has a gay character working in the menswear dept.

PEE WEE'S PLAYHOUSE (Saturdays at 11 a.m., MITV Cable 6) Swish? Did somebody say swish?

Music

MELISSA ETHERIDGE (Metro Centre, May 15, \$22.50) Winner of this year's Grammy for best lesbian, er, female folk singer.

Review

Eighty-Sixed
by David R. Feinberg
Penguin
\$10.95, 326 pages

By Kevin Elliott
If Woody Allen were gay and wrote novels, he'd produce something like this, according to the book jacket. And for Woody Allen's sake, I hope that's not true.

The book describes two years in the life of B.J. Rosenthal. The first, in pre-AIDS 1980 is a fairly witty and funny description of one young man's search for a boyfriend in the sexual obstacle course known as New York.

Feinberg is a pretty good writer. And his humor is biting and often bang on.

The pages of angst and amusement are peppered with chapters of helpful advice on issues like How to Get Rid of the Trick That Won't Leave, Boyfriends: Pro and Con, Hints for Alfresco Sex.

But in the last section, B.J. (!) becomes a neurotic wreck over the risk of AIDS. Paranoid that his days of sexual abandon will catch up with him at any moment, he lurches from doctor to therapist.

This section is written with the same flippant style as the first, but now it completely loses its impact. The amusing chapters are now titled Sensitivity Exercises for Death, How to Stay Celibate in the Age of Anxiety, Some of the People

Film

BEAUTIFUL DREAMERS (Commercial theatres) A Canadian film about a minor incident in the life of the great 19th Century American (gay) poet Walt Whitman.

CRY BABY (Commercial theatres) John "Pink Flamingos" Waters' latest film, starring teen heartthrob Johnny Depp, Patty Hearst (yes THAT Patty Hearst), Iggy Pop and Joe Dallesandro (who make his mark in Andy Warhol's films). Waters calls this his first boy film. I guess Divine doesn't really count...

THE HANDMAIDS TALE (Commercial theatres) Based on Margaret Atwood's disturbing novel of the same name about a not-too-distant future where the United States has become a repressive theocracy. One character, Moira, is an outcast because she is a lesbian.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER



EIGHTY-SIXED



"If Woody Allen were gay and wrote novels, he'd produce something like David Feinberg's 'Eighty-Sixed'." —The Washington Post Book World

DAVID R. FEINBERG

I Distrust.

It's just not funny.

Still boyfriend-less, B.J. watches a man he barely knew die of AIDS. It's wrenching, and the humor feels gratingly inappropriate.

The book jacket claims this bestseller is destined to stand as one of the preeminent novels about AIDS.

That's hard to imagine.

Woody Allen would never make a funny movie about dying of a horrible, lingering illness.

Alcohol & Drug Dependency

by James Gill

A couple of weeks ago I heard a fascinating statistic: alcohol related falls area a higher cause of death among young people aged sixteen through twenty-four than alcohol related car accidents. What this seems to indicate is that we have become more responsible when it comes to drinking and driving, but not when it comes to drinking.

When I began writing this column I did so with the desire not only to present gay and lesbian issues, but more importantly, to present lesbian and gay perspectives on social issues. I am not entirely happy with the term "gay and lesbian issues" because an implication can be read in to say that heterosexuals need not be concerned with these issues. The issues we raise are social issues. While we have the principle responsibility of pursuing them, everyone must be concerned. Certainly no one would assert that a white South African has no business protesting apartheid. By precisely the same logic, heterosexuals should be supporting our struggle for equality rights, and men should be supporting the struggle for women's rights.

So what has this to do with substance abuse? Not much, on the face of it, however, I raise the issue to explore whether the issue is any different in the lesbian and gay community. On the whole, I think not. I am the first to admit that to argue on the one hand that we are essentially no different from everyone else, and on the other that we are affected differently by alcohol and drug dependency is generally inconsistent.

I believe that gay men and lesbians face a host of additional social problems during adolescence. I do not believe that the effects from this are always (or even usually) negative, and in any event I do not think that they contribute to any higher rate of alcoholism or drug abuse. Indeed, I have known some gay men who have had serious emotional problems who had no problem with an alcohol dependency.

One issue which has come to my attention concerns Alcoholics Anonymous programs. Those programs have, among their focuses, spirituality. This is not to say that there is anything religious about the program, in fact it is quite the opposite. However, I know of several lesbians and gay men who have had great difficulty with this aspect of the program.

I think that this stems from the manner in which they have come to deal with religion. There is no question that gay men and lesbians face tremendous crises when trying to reconcile their religious beliefs

with their sexuality. Many abandon organized religion, and some, in so doing, abandon any spiritual notions. I do not think that this problem is peculiar to lesbians and gay men, however, among us it may be wider spread.

We must all be concerned.

Another difficulty for gay men and lesbians in these programs is simply the problem of dealing with personal issues in an environment which is perceived to be heterosexually dominated. Many gay men and lesbians are not comfortable dealing with issues which they perceive to be connected with their sexuality in an atmosphere where they are not sure that their sexuality will be understood or accepted.

Some programs, like Gay A.A. and N.E.W.S. (New Women in Sobriety) have arisen to deal with the particular difficulties which gay men and lesbians have felt in established programs. These are generally found only in large centres, though.

Of course there is the other side of the coin. I know well adjusted gay men who are comfortable in their sexuality, hold devout religious beliefs, and gain tremendous strength from programs like A.A. In the end, I think I am right in my suspicion that substance abuse in the lesbian and gay community is no different than in the community at large.

We must be conscious, though, that on every social issue there are perspectives not only from the gay and lesbian community, but also from women, racial minorities, and other groups. At the same time, the issues raised by all of these groups are, in the end, social issues with which we must all be concerned.



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THE NEWS

Zzhivago's Stripshow Canned

HALIFAX — The owner of Zzhivago's, Halifax's second gay bar, complains the provincial liquor commission has two sets of rules for dealing with strip clubs, after being forced to cancel a male strip show Apr. 16.

Marianne Beaudry and consultant John Finlayson decided to cancel their show because they said they couldn't get a straight answer from liquor officials about what guidelines the strippers would be expected to follow.

But police showed up anyway. "They're just waiting," Finlayson told the Halifax Chronicle-Herald. "I've got (liquor board) people in her all the time."

The two say they've had a string of problems with the liquor board since becoming a gay bar last November. Beaudry says inspectors are in the bar 10 to 15 times a week.

But liquor board officials deny the allegations. Russell Durling, director of inspection services says he doubted inspectors were there that often.

Durling says Zzhivago's is fully licensed for strip shows.

An official from Rumours, Halifax's other gay bar, operated by the Gay and Lesbian Association of Nova Scotia, says it has never had difficulty with the liquor licensing board.

Tha Din Trial

HALIFAX — A 19-year-old man and his uncle who brutally beat a gay man to death in a Halifax cemetery Nov. 5, 1988 have been convicted and sentenced to jail for the killing.

Chucky Rogers was sentenced to life in prison Apr. 6. His uncle, Michael Rogers, 25, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced Apr. 11 to eight years in jail.

The younger Rogers told the court he didn't mean to kill John William Tha Din, and only struck him with a wooden club to knock him out.

But a witness told the court he saw Rogers strike Tha Din repeatedly until he no longer moved.

The court was told the pair had decided to rob a homosexual or drunk to get money for drugs, after spending the evening shooting cocaine.

"They're an easier market . . . more fragile," the witness said.

But the pair only found \$10 in Tha Din's wallet, and after leaving him senseless in the cemetery, headed up to Citadel hill.

Rogers admitted that if he had found another victim he "would have rolled him too."

The jury recommended the younger man not be eligible for parole for 15 years.

Chester Dr Misinforms

CHESTER, N.S. — A doctor in Chester, N.S. is distributing AIDS information from a homophobic group in the U.S. that promotes quarantine for those testing HIV+ and suggests the virus is easily transmitted by other means than sexual contact.

Dr. David Baker has been giving his patients information from a group calling itself the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Eradication Foundation.

Among other things, the group claims there is an "eight-fold or greater chance of being infected if one lives in a household with a person with AIDS."

The group calls for mandatory testing, and calls advocating the use of condoms to prevent infection an "unscientific and deadly assumption."

Another HIVE brochure, also distributed by Baker, warns that women are at substantial risk of contracting AIDS through rape.

The Foundation's director, Dr. William T. O'Connor, claims the media

and falsely spreading the idea that most people needn't fear getting the virus.

"This is the result of a very carefully orchestrated propaganda campaign by a small fraction of this society designed to protect what they perceive to be their civil rights," O'Connor says in a covering letter, also distributed by Baker.

O'Connor boasts that his expert testimony in a recent case in Los Angeles caused the court to rule that courts have no power to enforce anti-AIDS discrimination legislation because those infected with the virus presented an unacceptable risk of death and disease.

And he says his privately-published book, AIDS: The Alarming Reality, prompted the state of Illinois to invoke mandatory AIDS testing for Marriage applicants, and convinced the state of Nevada to bring in mandatory testing of prostitutes.

It's not known whether other doctors in Nova Scotia are also participating in this kind of fear and hate mongering.

Vice Principal Sentenced

KENTVILLE, N.S. — A former vice-principal at a high school near Kingston, N.S. has been sentenced to a year in jail on two sex-related charges involving a male student.

Donald Edgar Schnare, 51, was convicted in February of sexual exploitation and anal intercourse with a person under the age 18.

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During the trial, Schnare's lawyer argued unsuccessfully that the Criminal Code sections dealing with anal intercourse violated the Charter of Rights because it discriminates against homosexuals.

The age of consent in Canada is 14, but there is a separate Criminal Code section banning anal sex with anyone under 18.

Schnare's involvement with the student began in 1985 when he was a student in Schnare's math class.

New Weird Gay Cronenberg Flick

MONTREAL — Canadian horror director David Cronenberg is making a film out of American gay writer William S. Burroughs' orgiastic and hallucinogenic bestseller, *The Naked Lunch*.

Cronenberg himself has written the script for the \$20 million movie, with the approval of the book's 76-year-old author.

Naturally the film will be somewhat different than the book, first published in 1959 and instantly controversial.

"To do the book literally would cost \$400 million and it would be banned in every country in the world," Cronenberg says.

Caretaker claims HIV+ a factor

TORONTO — A former caretaker at a United Church in Toronto says he was fired because he is gay and tested positive for the HI virus.

William Cousintine, 47, has filed a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Commission, complaining that he was fired four days after telling the minister he

had tested HIV+.

"I think that it it'd been anything else but AIDS or...homosexuality, there would have been some sense of compassion," Cousintine said.

Rev. Harry Denning, minister to the 2,000 member congregation refuses to comment on the matter, saying it would be inappropriate as long as the complaint is under investigation.

Cousintine was hired as the church's caretaker Dec. 4, 1989, but fired Mar. 5, 1990.

Jim St. James

TORONTO — Jim St. James, Canada's longest surviving person with AIDS, died Mar. 24, 1990 at Casey House Hospice, almost six years after being diagnosed.

St. James became known to millions of Canadians through a series of TV ads that began, "Hi, my name is Jim and I have AIDS."

His struggle with AIDS prompted author June Callwood to write a book about him — *Jim: A Life With AIDS*.

He was an early driving force behind the Toronto PWA Foundation.

Fag Elected Law School Prez

KINGSTON — The Law School Society of Queens University has elected an openly gay man as president.

Christopher Kendall says he decided to run for the post because he was "tired of seeing that same conservative people running the society."

Kendall says homophobia wasn't a big issue in the campaign, although some incidents did occur, including graffiti in campus washrooms.

New Democrat thrown out fighting

EDMONTON — A New Democrat member of the Alberta legislature was kicked out of the house Apr. 9, for expressing his anger over a ruling limiting debate on the province's new human rights legislation.

William Roberts, an Anglican minister, was thrown out after the Speaker ruled there could be no debate on extending human rights protection to gays and lesbians.

The Conservative government has introduced a number of changes to the Individual Rights Protection Act, but protection for gays and lesbians was not among them.

The NDP has been attempting to amend the act to include protection.

"I was frustrated that gays and lesbians in this province do not have their voice heard in the legislature," Roberts said.

The last time the Speaker of the Alberta legislature threw out a member was in 1952.

Gay witch hunt

EDINBURGH — The judiciary in Scotland is in the midst of a gay witch hunt, after reports that one judge was seen entering a gay bar, and that others used rent boys, or male prostitutes.

A January news conference by Lord Justice General Hope intended to clear the air has instead fanned the flames of controversy.

One judge has resigned.

Editorials in newspapers say that it is impossible to be a sexually active homosexual and maintain the public trust.

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THE NEWS

HIV+ Woman still at large

YELLOWKNIFE — The Territorial Officer of Health has lost a bid to release the name of a woman he says has tested HIV+ but refuses to practice safer sex.

The woman no longer lives in the North West Territories and Dr. Ian Gilchrist wanted to use her name on a radio show to encourage her former partners to come forward to be tested.

Gilchrist says the woman refused to give the names of people she slept with saying she couldn't remember, possibly due to the effects of alcohol.

But lawyers for the woman succeeded in getting a court injunction blocking the release of her name pending a court hearing.

There are reports that RCMP were pressing for some kind of action against the woman and that Gilchrist decided to go public to keep the police out of the matter.

Saccary fights back

TORONTO — James Saccary, who was turned back at the U.S. border last Sept. 9 because he is gay, is launching a legal challenge.

Saccary was asked repeatedly about his personal life and whether he had AIDS during an almost two-hour interview with U.S. immigration officials at Toronto's Pearson Airport.

Less than a month later another man, Ross Waddell, was turned away while en route to see the AIDS quilt in Washington. Waddell was repeatedly questioned about the number of men's numbers in his address book.

Saccary has already won a victory of sorts. In March, the U.S. Immigration Department agreed to withdraw the charge that he is inadmissible in return for the withdrawal of Saccary's application to enter the U.S.

That leaves him free to re-attempt entry in the U.S. and protest the legislation in a U.S. federal court.

If he does so, he plans to argue that homosexuality is not a sickness, as defined under the immigration law.

Saccary's lawyer has set up a defence fund, and donations can be sent to 97 Maitland St., Toronto, Ont., M4Y 1E3. If the case does not proceed, the money

raised will be given to the Lesbian and Gay Community Appeal of Toronto.

Feds rap REAL Women's knuckles

VANCOUVER — The anti-feminist group REAL Women may lose its federal funding after a letter sent at taxpayers expense raised a storm of controversy over its attacks on homosexuals and feminists.

The letter, about a REAL Women conference in Vancouver, says the group is trying to stop the upcoming Gay Games.

"The thought of Vancouver being known as ... Sodom North because we are more accepting of (homosexuals') lifestyle is sickening," says Peggy Steacy in the letter.

The letter also describes gays as people with "disgusting, filthy" practices who

are "simply reaping what they have sown" with AIDS.

And it suggests that the murderer of 14 women at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal last year "just might have been a man whose child had been aborted by a feminist and that had been enough to trigger a terrible response to the abuse of his childhood."

B.C. Tourism Minister Clifford Michael defends paying for the letter, saying groups drawing large numbers of visitors for conferences or conventions can have their postage paid for by the ministry, but his department does not review the contents of the mailings.

The federal minister responsible for the status of women, Mary Collins, says REAL Women may not get the \$260,070 in core funding that it has applied for this year. The group has also asked for \$130,500 for a conference.



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Lee Fleming has edited *By Word of Mouth: Lesbians write the erotic* (gynergy books, 1989)



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