

WAVES



The 2008-09 Lady Thunder team. The members of the team in alphabetical order (not as in the photo) are: Cally McKinley, Captain; Kourtney Bamford, Katie Crawford, Hayley Dickinson, Tasha Dickinson, Allison Dolan, Tory Kubn, Jami Manderville, Alyssa McLean, Erin McLellan, Sierra Paul, Natasha Phillips, Sarah Ryder, Keyan Smith, Hannah Steeves, Amy Sutherland, Emily Tompkins, Taylor Wallace

Human Rights Award to be Presented to Woodstock High Hockey Team

By Francis Young

On September 16, the 2009 New Brunswick Human Rights Award was presented to the Lady Thunder Hockey Team of Woodstock High School at a ceremony in Woodstock. The team was chosen for the award as a result of the support shown by team members for players who were subject to name-

calling based on sexual orientation. "The way in which these young women responded to these incidents by promoting respect and acceptance for sexual orientation diversity within their hockey league serves as a model for the promotion of human rights among youth," said Dr. Gordon Porter, chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission. "Indi-

vidually and as a team, these women exemplify the leadership qualities in the promotion of human rights that make them worthy recipients of the 2009 New Brunswick Human Rights Award."

The Human Rights Award is an annual award created in 1988 to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights. It recognizes outstanding effort, achievement and leadership in the promotion of human rights and equality in New Brunswick as defined in the Human Rights Act.

For more information on the New Brunswick Human Rights Award and this year's recipient, visit www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/index-e.asp.

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Screening of Cleophas and His Own



In September of 1943, the typescript of a private, unpublished narrative was discovered in Corea, Maine, among the belongings of the American modernist painter and poet Marsden Hartley just a few days after his death. This powerful and poignant elegy called Cleophas and His Own was written by Hartley to assuage his grief at the loss of a young man he loved, is now a feature-length film directed by Michael Maglaras and produced by Terri Templeton of 217 Films. The film presents Hartley (played by Maglaras) seated in his makeshift studio in Corea in 1943 where, tired and ill, he recounts a

tragic story to an unseen visitor of the sad fate that befell the Francis Mason family: a family of farmers and fishermen with whom he lived on a remote island in Nova Scotia seven years before. Using Hartley's text in its entirety and preserving the poem's thirteen-chapter structure, the film uses flashbacks and employs 24 of Hartley's paintings and drawings to tell of the events leading up to and following the Atlantic hurricane of September 19, 1936, when Hartley lost the young man who had become the love of his life. Following the death of this young man, the last seven years of Hartley's life were

devoted to reliving these experiences through poetry and painting, leaving behind a body of work, second to none in the American experience, devoted to this young man's memory and his love the Mason family. On October 8, Maglaras will give a

lecture at 1pm in the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia auditorium, (free) and there will be a screening of Cleophas and His Own at 6:30 p.m., also free, in the CBC Radio Room with a reception to follow.

Regular Columns

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Deadline: the first Friday of every month!

Moncton Pride: Youth, We Need You!

My name is Nathan Adams, I'm 29 years of age and live in Moncton NB.

I was very glad to attend this year's Gay Pride festivities, this has been my first year attending and I have to say that I wish I had attended previous celebrations. I have been out to my friends and family since I was 23 and I am very lucky that I had the love and the support that I needed to feel comfortable enough to come out and be proud of who I am. Growing up gay in Miramichi was no easy thing to do.

Until this year's Pride I had never thought to much about all the struggles and challenges that the gay people face, not just in Moncton or New Brunswick, but worldwide. When I listened to Paul LeBlanc at this year's flag-raising and at the Rally following the parade, I began to look at gay culture in a whole new light. Paul made me realize that even with all the progress we made as a people over the years and how lucky we are that we are able to live our lives and be free and proud, we still face struggles and still have a long way to go before we can all say, "I'm gay, I'm proud," and

not have to worry about or fear the outcome. I consider myself very lucky to be Canadian. Listening to Paul speak about his visit to Morocco and the gay underground and how they had to live their lives in fear everyday, definitely put a lump in my throat. There is still so much progress that has to be made, and hopefully I will see it in my lifetime.

One thing that did upset me was the fact that there could have been a bigger turnout of gay youth. I was glad to see the few who attended held their heads up high and were proud and happy to participate in the events. However, as I walked down main street in the parade I noticed that there was a large amount of gay and bisexual youth, as well as an older generation, just standing in the sidelines. Think

about how much bigger and spectacular the parade would have been if even half of those people joined in and marched. I thought about a few close friends of mine that weren't as lucky as me when I announced to the world that I was homosexual.

Gay youth are very vulnerable. They are sometimes even disowned by family and friends for being who they are. They are at a higher risk for violence and for drug and alcohol abuse. They are more likely to commit suicide than other young people. It's sad to realize that many gay youth believe that their physical and emotional well-being depends on their ability to hide their sexual orientation. We need to find a way to help our new generation of LGBT youth realize that they are welcome and that all the support that they need is avail-

Many gay youth believe that their well-being depends on their ability to hide their sexual orientation

able for them. Where will Pride be in years to come if we can't find a way to show our youth that all the work that has done around the world is for the next generations to come?

After attending this year's Pride, I realize now that I have a responsibility to do my part and help make our community a safer and more respected part of everyday life. After marching in the parade and looking at the crowd along the street waving and cheering, I now consider myself a gay activist and with the help of other LGBT in our community there is no stopping us.

Every time that you tell someone that you respect a friend or family member who is lesbian or gay, or when you stop someone from calling someone a "queer" or speak up when you overhear someone who is putting down a "fag" you are a gay activist, and with your help we will overcome.

Keep on being proud of who you are.

NSRAP Gala

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) is hosting the sixth annual NSRAP Gala Fundraiser: Beyond Our Borders on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at the Halifax Harbourfront Marriott. John Fisher of ARC International will be the guest speaker and Candy Palmett will be the Celebrity Mistress of Ceremonies! John is the former executive director of Egale Canada, and Candy is a well-known comedian and activist in the Maritimes and Canada.

Tickets are \$100/person and proceeds go to our continuing work on behalf of the Rainbow Community. The mandate is to foster change in our communities so that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are valued and included. Please call (902) 402-4262 for tickets or email nsrap@nsrap.ca.

ARC PEI News

ARC PEI offers an urban nightclub experience in Charlottetown with fast and friendly hospitality to add to your night of enjoyment. We play the hottest dance music you want to hear, with the most current tracks from around the world. We encourage requests of your favorite dance music.

Our dance parties offer Prince Edward Island the only 100% gay friendly/operated event to go out in a harassment-free environment where you can party safely with you and your friends. To ensure this we have our very own professional security on site for your added protection.

After all of that we add in our mix of professional club lighting, lasers and LCD imaging with our crisp sound to ensure your night will not disappoint. The party will unfold on Charlottetown's largest dance floor. Come party with us at the Studio, located in the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown.

The following is our dance party schedule for this fall: October 10, October 31, November 28, December 19, and December 31

SIDA AIDS New Brunswick Red Tie Affair

AIDS New Brunswick is pleased to announce an exciting dining adventure featuring some of the best restaurants and finest chefs in Fredericton. The Red Tie Affair is a progressive culinary experience and will be held on Saturday, October 31. In conjunction with local restaurants Crowne Plaza, Racines and The Blue Door we are celebrating International Chefs Day with proceeds from the event going to support the work of AIDS NB. The cost is \$100 per person with a tax receipt for \$40.

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Knowledge is Power: Shattering Gay Men's HIV Myths

By Chris Aucoin

There's a Spanish proverb that reads: "A man too busy to take care of his health is like a mechanic too busy to take care of his tools." So guys... are you looking after your tools? The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia recently published the final report on the last Sex Now survey of gay men in Atlantic Canada. One of the things the survey found was that 33% of us held beliefs about HIV that are simply not true. The danger of this is that if we act based on those beliefs we could be exposing both ourselves and others to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. The survey confirmed this: those who held misconceptions about HIV were more likely to have engaged in unprotected sexual intercourse. So let's look at two of the myths that gay and bi men have about HIV (two other myths will be covered next month).

MYTH #1:

I can tell if someone's HIV positive by how they look.

You can't tell if you have HIV by how you look or feel. You can't tell whether another person has HIV by looking at him either. You can be HIV positive (HIV+) for up to a decade without showing ANY visible signs. Just because you can't see it however doesn't mean there's nothing to be concerned about. 25% of HIV positive gay men are not aware that they are infected. If you don't know you are HIV+ then the virus is both multiplying "like there's no tomorrow," and slowly but surely destroying your immune system. It's estimated that 75% of all new HIV infections amongst gay and bisexual men are the result of unprotected sex with a partner who does not yet know he is HIV+. Finding ways to reduce your risk is the way to go.

MYTH #2

A man with HIV would / should tell me he is positive before we have sex. You can't assume the other guy will tell you if he's HIV+. Why? Mainly because he can't tell you if he doesn't yet know (see Myth #1 above). Because of HIV stigma and discrimination many men don't get tested. To disclose that you're HIV positive likely means that you will experience stigma and discrimination while becoming a social outcast. Even within the "gay community" the social stigma is still huge (even though it's unfair and underserved). I know of an HIV+ man in Halifax (let's call him "Bill") who started dating again after a break up with his long-term partner. He avoided sex with the first guy he started seeing until he felt ready to disclose being HIV+. When he disclosed not only did the guy dump Bill, he then went around

telling people to stay away from him because he was HIV+! The irony is like condom-less sex.

As for keeping yourself from becoming infected, the bottom line is you can never truly know for certain what another person's HIV status is. They might not know. They might not tell. And you can't

75% of all new HIV infections amongst gay and bisexual men are the result of unprotected sex with a partner who does not yet know he is HIV+!

see it! It's more effective to assume that every sexual partner may place you at risk for HIV or other STTs and to take steps to reduce your risk. Contact your local AIDS organization (check out the listings in Wayves Groups & Services section) to help you talk more about that, frankly and openly. Take pride in your health, and guys remember: look after your tools.

Chris Aucoin is the Gay Men's Health Coordinator at ACNS. If you have questions or would like to talk, contact Chris (or any ACNS staff member). He can be reached at gmbc@acns.ns.ca or (902) 425-4882, ext. 222 Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Knowledge is Power

Here at the ACNS we receive calls from gay/bi men to talk about HIV testing, sex acts and ways to assess their risk. That's part of why we're here: we're not here to judge, we're here to help you understand the risks of your sexual behaviour (and there's nothing we haven't already heard). We know that many gay men are not getting tested and so they are unaware if/when they have become HIV+. The sooner you know your status the more options are available to you! It's recommended that any sexually active gay/bi man be tested for HIV once a year; and more often if you're engaging in risky activities

Where did the Events section go?

By Daniel MacKay

The short answer is: we can no longer do a good job of it. The Wayves Events section hasn't had a dedicated editor for some time, and in the opinion of the editorial team, the information there was not up to the standards of the magazine.

There are a number of reasons for this. First, it's relatively easy to for us to publish events from Halifax organizations, because most of the Wayves volunteer staff is here. But we're an Atlantic Canadian publication and we need events from all over, and getting information from New Brunswick and PEI was difficult; even Cape Breton had very little to say, and getting events from Newfoundland next to impossible.

The Events section has been a part of Wayves since the very beginning. Back in the early '80s when the GAE-ZETTE was the house organ for GAE, the magazine had a calendar of GAE events which was pretty well all that was going on that was gay; when we changed to Wayves and the focus expanded to all of Atlantic Canada,

the calendar was generalized and then converted to a big Events page with geographic sections.

So, for decades, the Events section was the only way for a queer to find out what was going on, but now that almost everyone has access to the Internet, every organization currently has its own email, FaceBook, and Twitter events feed. Often events are announced in these places well after the Wayves deadline (the first Friday of the previous month, the first Friday of the previous month.) We're a monthly magazine, and we have deadlines commensurate with that -- please, mark your calendars: the first Friday of the previous month.

We will continue to announce special events as small chunks of text in the front part of the magazine, where we put other Atlantic news pieces.

Also, Halifax does have a complete, unified Events page - just google for "gay Halifax events" which is maintained by a small group of volunteers. Also, Halifax does have a complete, unified Events page - just google for "gay Halifax events" which is maintained by a small group of volunteers. Anyone can add events, so it's up to date at all times.

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

Fridays: Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4; that is, the first Friday of each month (skipping January.) You can send your news, ideas, comments, criticisms, columns, cartoons and more to submissions@wayves.ca any time!

Production Meetings (Halifax):

Mondays: Oct 5, Nov 9, Dec 7. Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax):

Oct 11, Nov 15, Dec 13. Help build the paper - no special skills required, just enthusiasm, and joining us even once, or for a few hours helps a LOT! 9:30 AM. Email us for location.

We are on the stands, in the mail, and online on the fourth Friday of every month.

Wayves On Line!

Did you miss the last issue of Wayves? Or did your favourite distribution point run out of copies? Don't fret! Now you can visit www.wayves.ca, and download the current issue, and the archives too! We have lots of back issues on line too. If you'd like to be notified when the current issue is online- email us at submissions@wayves.ca!

Our Cover:

Otis in the Style of David Calliope: Expressions of the Muse August 24 Alderney Gate Landing Dartmouth by sculptors Joseph Landry, Brian Gazeby. For more information on their work: statues@ns.sympatico.ca. Cover by Cam MacLeod

Wayves

Wayves exists to inform Atlantic Canadian lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people of activities in their communities, to promote those activities and to support their aims and objectives.

Wayves is an independent publication, published every month except February by a non-profit collective. Anyone who contributes to Wayves is automatically considered to be a member of the collective and is welcome to participate in all meetings and discussions. Wayves reserves the right to refuse material that might be reasonably considered heterosexism, racism, sexism or an attack on individuals or communities. Opinions expressed in Wayves are not necessarily those of the editorial collective. The article submission deadlines are posted in the *Important Wayves Dates* section of this page. Articles should be a maximum of 1,000 words and may be edited for length. Submissions should be emailed in plain text to the address below. Articles and letters may be published with pseudonyms or anonymously, but Wayves must have contact information for the author. The copyright for all submissions remains the property of the original author/creator.

Advertising: Jim Bain, Advertising Manager, email at ads@wayves.ca or call 902-889-2229. Responsibility for errors in advertisements is limited to the value of the space.

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Wayves

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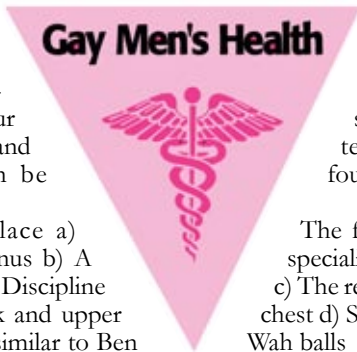
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distributors in Atlantic Canada and around the country. If there are none handy to your home, write to submissions@wayves.ca and tell us where we should be!

Sexual Word Power

By Angus Campbell

Knowledge does equal power, but does sexual knowledge equal sexual power? At the suggestion of a special friend and inspired by Reader's Digest (although I'm certain they rather graphic (ible), I thought laugh and maybe looking at terminology that may or may not be part of your sex lex. Have some fun and The answers can be



1. Pearl Necklace a) The fold of skin between the testicles and anus b) A specialized, soft rope that is used in Bondage & Discipline c) The result of ejaculating on your partner's neck and upper chest d) Sex toy that is inserted into the rectum – similar to Ben Wah balls
2. Venetian Blinds a) Sexual technique that includes rolling objects over the body b) Tantric sexual technique that focuses on touch c) Italian blindfold used in S&M d) Slang for foreskin
3. Isosexual a) Generic term for gays and lesbians b) Motto of a very sexually active gay man c) A voyeur who compulsively watches in isolation d) Recent term for people who place sex ads – In Search Of sexual activity
4. Docking a) Akin to rimming b) Mutual masturbation where the foreskin of one partner is pulled over the head of the other c) One partner masturbates the other almost to the point of ejaculation but then stops d) Slang for having sex with a sailor
5. Phimosis a) A Sunday Brunch cocktail made with champagne and orange juice b) The protective barrier a condom makes that prevents osmosis c) Similar to halitosis, it's the odour caused by not keeping the armpits and groin clean d) When the foreskin naturally covers the penis head so tightly that it cannot be pulled back to fully expose the head
6. Urophilia a) Condition in which a person derives sexual pleasure from urine b) Compulsion to suck toes c) From the Greek "uro" for tail, a fetish for tail bones d) The response you give when someone asks if you want to play Ophelia tonight and you don't want to, "No, Urophilia!"
7. Zagnutt a) A nut developed in Zagreb used as an aphrodisiac b) Having one's testicles sucked by two people at the same time c) The male "Brazilian" hair removal process d) Finnish sexual technique that enhances arousal and orgasm
8. Irrumation a) Irregular angle of the penis b) Non-compliance to safer sex advisories c) Face fucking d) Adding essences of rum to lubricants and other fluids
9. Velvet Underground a) Drag queens giving head in a parking lot b) Specialized conditioner for pubic hair c) Slang for sadomasochism d) International organization that holds velvet fetish parties
10. Felching a) A fetish for farting and belching concurrently b) The uncontrollable explosion of gas as a result of an overly large dildo c) The practice of oiling your partner from head to toe d) The act of sucking semen from your partner's rectum

Answers

1. Pearl Necklace: c) The results of ejaculating on your partner's neck and upper chest. Nothin' says lovin' like somethin' from his oven – and it's totally safe to wear! Black dress optional.
2. Venetian Blinds: d) Slang for foreskin. Curtain up, curtain down, I guess.
3. Isosexual: a) A generic term for gays and lesbians. One of many proposed terms as some feel that "homosexual" excludes women. Unfortunately it hasn't caught on.
4. Docking: b) Mutual masturbation where the foreskin of one partner is pulled over the head of the other. This can be especially pleasurable for uncircumcised men as the head of the penis may be extremely sensitive.
5. Phimosis: d) When the foreskin naturally covers the penis head so tightly that it cannot be pulled back enough to totally expose the head. Every man needs to keep his penis clean, but uncircumcised men may want to pay special attention to freshen up before sex, unless their partner prefers otherwise. If phimosis is bothering you, see your doctor. Treatment is available.
6. Urophilia: a) Condition in which a person derives sexual pleasure from anything to do with urine. Be aware. Urine may contain bacteria and viruses, and is not considered safer sex.
7. Zagnutt: b) Having one's testicles sucked by two people at the same time. It is possible to safely savour the double favour, just keep lots of condoms and lube at the ready for more intense group play.
8. Irrumation: c) Face fucking. Giving head can be a lot of fun. Although considered lower risk for HIV transmission, there are other STI's to avoid like syphilis, gonorrhoea, herpes, etc. Condoms help reduce the risk.
9. Velvet Underground: c) Slang for sadomasochism. Safer S&M includes having an escape phrase or signal. Whatever your kink, keep the communication lines open between you and your partner.
10. Felching: d) The act of sucking semen from your partner's anus. I never judge. My goal is to inform. This is a high risk activity for hepatitis, HIV, and other STIs unless you're in a committed, closed relationship. Free vaccinations for hepatitis A and B are available at many health clinics.

Interview With Tyler Nason

by Rob Frenette

The journey of acceptance has been a long and hard road for one former Woodstock High School student, who happens to be gay; the eighteen year old knows firsthand what it's like to have to overcome as he struggles with his sexuality. As Rob Frenette reports from Fredericton this young gay person says he still has a major struggle ahead of him.

Tyler Nason is like any other regular 18 year old, he loves music and computers but one thing different about from the rest of his friends is that he does not live at home anymore. Tyler is gay and once his parents discovered his sexual preference they kicked him out.

Tyler: *It was hard for them to accept it, and it kind of sucked for me, because I would have appreciated their acceptance. But it's all good. I have my friends.*

How did it make you feel when your parents did not accept you?

Unwanted. *It's who I am, right? So, if they don't accept who I am then what can they really do for me? That's me.*

Tyler says that while his mother has somewhat come to terms with his sexuality, his father still has issues.

Tyler lives in Fredericton now, he's hoping the move will give him a fresh start, he's starting grade 11 in the fall.

Cory Allen is Tyler's roommate; he says he wanted to give his friend a helping hand when he had nowhere to go.

Cory Allen: *Well, he's a young man who needed a little guidance, and I would like to try and teach him how to have proper work ethics and skills so that he will be able to get a job and keep it.*

Tyler can't seem to concentrate he has moved from job to job since

moving to the city. Tyler says his biggest obstacle was dealing with the fact that he was not accepted by everyone. His roommate Cory says religion plays a key role in the lack of acceptance, especially when it comes to Tyler's parents.

Cory: *It's unfortunate, very unfortunate, when religion or beliefs lead someone to disown their own son.*

Tyler says if he could give one word of advice for anyone questioning his or her sexuality, it would be not to be so hard on yourself.

Tyler: *Just accept it for what it is and grow with it, because it's not just going to happen like that. It's a long road and it's hard, and you learn a lot about yourself. I find when you come to accept it about yourself, you learn to love yourself even more and you become a stronger person.*

Safe Harbour MCC Online Survey

Members of the Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) Interim Support Committee want to hear from you and have developed a confidential, online survey. The purpose is to get a general sense of how the community is feeling and what it is looking for, as well as to engage people to become involved in Safe Harbour MCC activities. The uses of this survey are varied, as is evident by the questions posed.

With the passing last September of Safe Harbour MCC's first Pastor, Rev. Darlene Young, the congregation has begun to call a long-term

pastor. Rev. Bob Bond continues to be the interim spiritual leader

Safe Harbour MCC "enthusiastically extends our hand in invitation to all to get on board, become part of the dialogue and be part of the change YOU seek! We cannot do it without you and strongly encourage you to take part – talk to your friends, engage others to participate, forward the web link to others."

The Worship Survey takes about 20 minutes to complete and may be found online at www.safeharbour-mcc.com, or by contacting the church for a hard copy at (902) 453-9249.

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Why Maine Matters

by Hugo Dann

The NSRAP Gala theme of Beyond Our Borders could not be more timely. Our LGBTQ neighbours to the south are in a ferment, and with good reason. Many of the rights we seem to have secured for ourselves as Canadians remain a dream for queer citizens of the USA. Even when they have gained a measure of equality, as when Californians were freed to marry their same sex partners, they are seeing it stripped away by citizen initiatives and plebiscites. The campaign to pass California's proposition 8, voted into law on the same day that Obama was elected President, was heavily funded by right wing and religious groups, including the Roman Catholic and Mormon churches. Now

Maine, our nearest American cousin faces the same struggle to protect their new-won freedom to marry, and with the same opponents. Marriage isn't the only issue, US queers are still fighting to gain the most basic rights and freedoms: the right to serve their country in its armed forces; freedom from discrimination in employment and housing; the passage of hate crimes legislation. It's been 16 years since President Clinton enacted Don't Ask, Don't Tell – a tragic policy for LGBT Americans in the military, 13 years since he signed the repugnant Defence of Marriage Act, 11 years since Matthew Sheppard was savagely and senselessly murdered. How many needless LGBT deaths – murders and suicides – since? Ameriqueers

are indeed in a ferment, and their outrage - fuelled by the inaction of Obama's White House – is expressing itself in a March on Washington (www.equalityacrossamerica.org) on October 10 – 11 (Canadian Thanksgiving). I almost envy our US brothers and sisters, their foes are so clear and present, their cause so bold and beautiful: full equality under the law. If I had any money at all, I would want to be in Washington that weekend. But I would also want to spend time in Maine.

The march is not without controversy. I've been following the debate on the Bilerico Project (www.bilerico.com), a terrific American blog about all matters LGBTQ. One of the chief concerns is that the march will sap

resources from key local fights such as Maine's. In November, they go to the polls to stop a citizens' veto on a same sex marriage bill already passed by their legislature and signed into law by their governor. How does this affect us? A loss in Maine would be a blow to our movement and yet another incidence of LGBT citizens having their established rights taken away; that should send a chill down every queer Canadian's spine.

What can we do? They can certainly use all the donations they can get (this fight could cost our side millions of dollars), but there are other ways to help. Maine's Freedom to Marry campaign is actively encouraging "volunteer vacations." Mainers and Maritimers are good neighbours

with strong historic, cultural and social bonds to tie us together. We'd make great door to door campaigners, we could assure them the sky won't fall! And we can share our stories: if your union has helped open hearts and minds, let Mainers know. If you're a person of faith and can share the support of your congregation, let them hear about it; write a letter to a newspaper in Portland or Augusta. Finally, I urge everyone to visit the No on 1 website (www.mainefreedomtomarry.com) and, if nothing else, send them a quick email to let them know what a great job they're doing – for all of us!

Ramblings From The Sanctuary Garden

What Good is Obscurity

I want to write about happiness, truth, beauty, honesty, rudeness, bullying, politics, what rights we have, what we "deserve to know," how we are owed this or that, what it means to be a victim, to be a hero, a friend, an aunt, a sister, a leader, a leper...what it means to be human and how we share this world, this land with all that is!

I want my writing to be significant, meaningful, envied, admired as if what I write is what I am. Quite a roadblock to writing is this longing, not to say narcissistic, and overbearing but human too I think. It is the unspoken, secret longings that rear up in moments unexpected, wishing to be heard yet hearing nothing; embarrassing, judging moments that can teach what needs to be learned. Yet isn't this somewhat moralistic or even puritan in its origins?

I walked amid the beach rocks and stones yesterday, tripping, slipping, bruised, and wondering at their round perfection.

The earth here is rocky, you have to work hard to be a good gardener, the soil is poor and needs lots of good things added to it-why is it I live in a place that is so harsh, turning slightly I hear the sound of water, tickling over the rocks, splashing down to the cove, further away the surf roars to

me over the inlet, unseen yet there in my imagination and in my living.

I long to understand how to live fully and lovingly but miss the mark when impatience tarts my words. So out to the land I go, my penance in hefting the pickax, moving rocks the earth has held in her embrace, rocks I thought had been taken out. And I turn slightly following the pulsating sound of the hummingbird's wings as it sucks nectar from the nearby Rose of Sharon.

How is being gay meaningful to me I wonder? Is it being a woman or a gay woman that is most significant! Is it growing up in a large Irish Catholic family where things happened in open secrecy or is it being the third girl, fourth from the top, fifth from the bottom birth order? Is it being sixth generation on my mother's side or second generation on my father's? Or maybe it is the first degree earned or the last that is most important, deeply significant event? What about being a liberal or a leftist, don't even consider conservative. How do we make sense of it all, the beginning, the middle and the yet to come time or do we even need to?

The water lies still and silent outside my window, the crows are caw-



ing, the red of the single geranium, a gift from a friend, bright against the deep green of the rugosa blooming fragrant and white. My mind stills, the questions sink like rocks being tossed

on the shore, out of my control. And out I go again, to engage in the work of the living, be it gathering rocks for my dry river bed, turning the compost, going to market, raising money for some cause that will be considered good by some and what a load of crap by another, making tomato sauce, or voting in the coming election. Now

isn't that a recipe for something rich and delicious!

Dilemma by David Buddbill

I want to be famous So I can be humble about being famous. What good is my humility when I am stuck in this obscurity?

(From "Good Poems," by Garrison Keillor)



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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hola Tom!

One of the best things about travelling is being able to talk about it when you get back. You get to sprinkle subtle references into your conversation like: Last week, when I was in Mexico..., or, This chicken is delicious but very different from the pollo los hornos I had in Puerto Vallarta. I really try not to become one of those boring people who can't talk about anything else except their voyages to foreign lands, but I must admit I don't try very hard. So, sit back, Tom, adjust your reading glasses and enjoy Crawford's viaje en México!

During my flight on the several planes that took me to Newark, then Houston and finally to Guadalajara, I was feeling a bit anxious. Here I was on my way to a country I'd never visited, to spend several days with people I had never met. Then, when I arrived in Guadalajara and my luggage did not, it seemed like an ill omen. So I get to my hotel with no change of clothes or hair product and just in time to leave for dinner. I quickly meet the other four writers—all francophone and quite relieved that I speak French—and we all pile into the van. During the ride to the restaurant I found myself between a French conversation on one side and a Spanish one on the other and what with travel fatigue, lack of food and the stress of missing luggage I felt rather overwhelmed. Imagine my joy, therefore, when we arrived at the restaurant and we were greeted by the owner and a tray of the largest margaritas I've ever seen. Mexico, I decided, was going to be fun! The restaurant was a former convent and reputed to be haunted although I saw no ghosts. The eyes of the monk painted on the wall near the men's room did seem to follow me, but I put this down to tiredness and tequila. The food—and you will appreciate this, Tom, being such a fabulous cook yourself—was a revelation! All the meals we had during our stay were totally unlike our ideas of Mexican cuisine. Instead of the expected barbecued ribs and burn-your-mouth spicy chili—which are really Texan recipes—there was an infinite variety of fish and chicken and beef with sauces with subtle, complex, lovely flavours. We did have food that was piquante but the spiciness only enriched the flavours rather than overpowering the tastebuds.

After a good night's sleep and breakfast, followed by the arrival of my luggage (Olé!!) we set off—I, properly dressed, gelled and moisturized—for an agave plantation. I snapped pics of rugged workmen swinging their machetes at the spiky plants then, off again for a tour of the José Cuervo distillery. I've never been a big fan of tequila, Tom, but when a smiling handsome waiter offered me a margarita to sip on during the short informational video, I found it impossible to say no. After tequila tasting and a substantial lunch,

the van took us five semi-somnolent journalists to an archaeological site where the vision of ancient round pyramids brought us back to full alertness.

Early evening found us strolling through the historic centre of Guadalajara: a series of plazas filled with fountains, sculpture, balloon vendors, sidewalk displays of woven goods and trinkets, musicians, dancers and crowds of people. We ambled along watching families with laughing children playing a game where a ball with a tail of glittering ribbons is thrown repeatedly into the air. This was the heart of the city and it was full of joy! Then I noticed a small boy of about 6 or 7 sitting against the wall of an ancient building, playing cheery tunes on an accordion, but with such a resigned, sad look on his face that it broke my heart. Two even smaller children, looking as dirty and uncared-for as he, held up cups to passers-by, begging for coins. I felt like one of those sparkly balls falling abruptly back to earth.

The restaurant we went to for dinner offered a live mariachi band, plus periodic displays of traditional dances on raised platforms spaced throughout the room. The mariachi music of harmonized voices with the sounds of guitar, violin and horns was achingly beautiful. Even more breathtaking was the young man who strutted out with his female partner for the first dance performance. Like the musicians, he wore a traditional short maroon jacket and very, very tight pants. He began energetically stomping, whirling and showing off intricate foot work in time to the music. The female dancer was very accomplished as well, although I couldn't pay her much attention, since my eyes were riveted to his ass and the way the dance showed off his impossibly firm, round buttocks from every angle. I've always thought that the way a man dances tells you what he will be like in bed. Well, after his performance I needed a cigarette and had to adjust the napkin in my lap.

Next letter: Puerto Vallarta, Tom!
Abrazos!

Crawford

SEXSI at Dalhousie U

A group of students at Dalhousie are starting SEXSI, a pro-sex student organization on campus for those who want to explore sex issues. The acronym stands for Students Exploring Sex Issues, and the purpose of this group is to provide a safe, healthy, positive, friendly and fun environment for students to explore sexuality and sex issues.

It will be an inclusive group to look at serious issues like sexual violence exploitation but also to explore and experiment with sexuality and fun things like fetishes and toys. Most of all we just want to create a safe place where people don't feel ashamed to talk about sex and explore sexuality. We plan on having film nights, discussion groups, field trips, and being involved in events in the larger community such as Take Back the Night. Some of the sessions could be separated off from a main group to create safe spaces for individuals

identifying on certain issues. The group will partner with other societies and community groups to achieve its goals, where interests and goals align. The group is open to students and non-student community members, men and women.

We're still looking for people who want to be organizers and co-conspirators. Your responsibilities would be fairly light: facilitation of discussion at meetings on a rotating basis, sourcing out materials, information and topics and communication with members. Avalon Sexual Assault Center will be providing training for those who want to be involved as organizers and facilitators in the first week of September. If you are looking for more information interested in being a member, getting updates on events, or being an executive please email dwc@dal.ca or call Jocelyn at (902) 402-9061.

Northern AIDS Connection Society

An exciting expansion of NACS is the new Hepatitis C Aware project which set up focus groups in the northern region of Nova Scotia for persons living with HCV and those at risk. NACS also has an extensive variety of information resources on HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C in the resource library.

AIDS Awareness Week is coming up in the last week in November and World AIDS Day on December 1st. The staff and volunteers of NACS are planning to display sections of the AIDS quilt at the NSCC Truro Campus, at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, in Amherst and in New Glasgow. There will also be a candle light vigil held in Amherst and New Glasgow on December 1, 2009. There will be planned displays and presentations during AIDS Awareness Week.

The first annual Open House will outline the history of NACS and track its successes and achievements, as well as highlight future endeavors of the society. The society plans to have the event sometime in mid to late December. The organization hopes to attract local business owners, members of the general public and local politicians.

The chair of NACS Board would like to share an update from the Cumberland region: "I have been busy getting the word out regarding the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life. Making people aware of the importance of the walk, and how it is our biggest fundraiser of the year. I feel good about the walk this year, with respect to the amount of people who have expressed interest. We appreciate the support from the various media in the area."

Experience pays off.



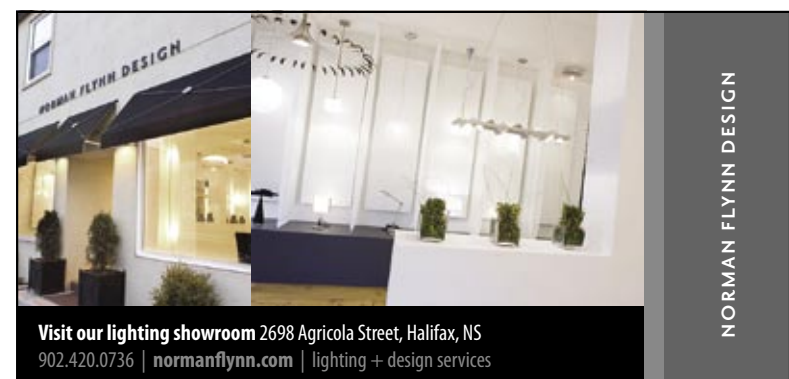
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Ten Years of Fierté Moncton Pride



Photos by: Remy St. Coeur

Moncton Activists Gather for Community Forum: Discuss new Provincial Queer Network

By Nick Logan

Moncton may not be the legislative capital of New Brunswick, but it could soon become the queer capital of the province.

As a part of the city's 10th anniversary Pride celebration earlier this month the organizing committee, known as River of Pride, assembled a group of queer activists, educators and allies at City Hall for a first-ever

community forum.

"I think this is going to be, hopefully, a day in history in the queer scene in New Brunswick," River of Pride spokesperson Paul LeBlanc said, addressing the small crowd.

Because of Moncton's size and central location in the Maritimes, there was an overwhelming sentiment the city should serve as an example of unity.

"We need to admit that Moncton is awake, very alive and vibrant, whereas Saint John and Fredericton are dormant, where many activists are," says Roger LeBlanc, a kinesiology professor at the Université de Moncton.

The discussion — moderated by Pflag Canada executive director Cherie MacLeod — included representatives from the Multicultural Association of the Greater Moncton Area (MAGMA), AIDS Moncton, the Canadian Labour Congress and the president of CUPE New Brunswick, Daniel Lègère.

The goal of the brainstorming session was to establish the first steps toward sharing resources. Gay rights advocate Rev Eldon Hay — winner of the 1997 New Brunswick Human Rights award and a member of the Order of Canada — called the gathering a "seed bed," saying a network of organizations would better serve

"the broad needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community."

MacLeod highlighted the mountain of work that still needs to be done to end homophobia in the city and the province.

"In New Brunswick," she says, "we don't even recognize Coming Out Day in October."

Schools need to address homophobia in the classrooms and hallways, she says, by opening up dialogues and creating safe spaces.

But, some attendees expressed concern that principals can be quick to dismiss the topic of sexuality for fear of parental backlash.

"There is this big fear," says a representative of the local Pflag chapter, "If any teacher takes a stand for homosexuality or stands up for a gay student, there will be a backlash."

The effects of gay-bullying can be life-long, says Greg Daborn, who is also one of the founding fathers of Moncton Pride. He spoke of the taunts and harassment he endured growing up, leading to his marks plummeting and a fear of ever coming out.

It's not just the target that suffers, Daborn says, pointing out the time wasted by teachers and administrators when bullying becomes a problem at their school.

"It struck me that not only does homophobia on the school ground

hinder the victim, it hinders everybody," he says.

The 25 attendees discussed ways to increase visibility in the community, year round, as well as how their individual groups could build a stronger network of information sharing. Currently, the province has the New Brunswick Rainbow Action (NBRA) network, but it really only operates as a rarely-used email list. Most of the crowd had no idea it even existed.

"I was flabbergasted," LeBlanc says of learning about NBRA, adding, "it only comes alive when there is an issue. You've got to keep people upfront and fresh."

Although time was limited, the group set forth plans to interact more and invite one another to conferences and meetings. Knowing there is a room full of people willing to work together is the first step, says River of Pride secretary Ed Oldford. "We all want to do something, but sometimes we don't stop and realize what we've done. Let's look at the gifts that we bring to the table and how do we take them to the next level."

This article was first published by Xtra.ca, Tuesday, September 01, 2009

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Established, Emerging Artists

By Raymond Taavel
Over the last several weeks I've had the opportunity to explore Halifax's incredibly vibrant art scene.

On August 24 I was treated to a unique art show and performance organized by Halifax-born sculptors, Joseph Landry and Brian Gazeby. This openly gay couple, together for over 20 years as partners and artistic collaborators, staged

"Calliope: Expressions of the Muse" at Alderney Gate Landing Rotunda, Dartmouth, NS. "Calliope" was a three-fold presentation: a retrospective of two decades of their work, an unveiling of several new sculptures and a theatrical preview of some upcoming projects. Illustrated here is their nearly 3 meter tall study, "Otis in the Style of David" which was on display.

Currently they have a few of their work on display at **Art & Jules Gallery, 2089 Gottingen St.**, Halifax.

Some of their pieces were on display at the gallery for **Go North: A Studio and Gallery Tour of North End**

Halifax held Saturday, September 12. Over 40 galleries, studios and alternative art spaces were part of the day long event that included well known community venues as **The Bus Stop Theatre** and **Fred**. Besides the work of Landry and Gazeby Art & Jules will be displaying several new works from Halifax photographer **Mario Allen**. Mario was quite excited to have this opportunity to show his photos in a gallery setting for the first time. His unique black and white photo perspectives will be on display for the next several months at the gallery.



Left "Otis in the Style of David. Photo: J Landry/B Gazeby, Above, Mario Allen. Photo: R. Taavel

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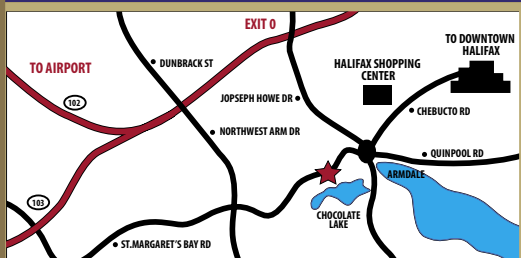
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Anita's Pic



Photo: Anita Martínez

Ian's Advice

By Ian Mullin
Dear Ian:

I made a move a few months ago, and was hoping to find love in my new environment. Alas, the few gays I can find are completely terrifyingly unappealing. Should I just sit and wait? Try to just branch a bit? Or stop looking for a relationship and just become really slutty?
Signed, GOING OUT OF MY MIND

Dear GOOMM:

While I can't deny my love of the slut-fest I think you just need to think of a different approach. Most homosexuals are not wearing it on their sleeve. So unless you're sporting an "I'm a big gay" t-shirt as you ride to school on a unicorn, you're probably as invisible as the gay-hottie you seek. You don't seem to be a "ra-ra pussy/dick lickin'" man/lady (or man-lady) because you went straight to "the few gays I can find are terrifyingly unappealing."

Why are they unappealing? Would

they not make suitable scalps for scalping? Could you not wear them as an outfit? No. I put two and two together and deduced that you were looking for some action. That's where you're giving gays way too much credit. Sometimes they don't put two and two together. Or one and one rather.. two and two is a four-some and you didn't ask about that. Sometimes they don't put one and one together. There are other quiet, shy gay men and women who don't like to gay it up each day. Don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting closet cases, who will just make you feel terrible. I mean genuine out gay folk who just think they'll hang back till a good one says, "I'm gay."

Well... this is obviously not the solution. This is why homosexuality is not unlike the junior high dance, everyone is against the wall judging the dancers but desperately wishing someone would ask them to dance, or wishing they had the courage to

ask someone to dance. Suggestions:
1) Go online. It's how the shy gays find each other. Just be wary and ask questions. It's an option. 2) Volunteer. Gays have caring in their hearts. 3) Ask people out early in the game. Attractions can turn to obsessions and then quickly turn into creepy and before you know it you're too terrified to ask. Ask early so if it doesn't work they're not thinking, "how long has he/she been after me?" since you've only known each other for a week. 4) Network through friends, co-workers. No blind-date garbage. Get invited to events where a gay or two will be in attendance. Best of luck. Play safe.

For advice from Ian e-mail ian@trrrash.com.

So What About Love was performed as part of 19th Atlantic Fringe Festival September 3-13.

Original music and lyrics written by Andrew Chandler, Garry Williams and Amy Rietstma. This last minute collaboration was the result of things gone awry with a planned Fringe production of "What About Luv?" The musical explored the many aspects of love, forlorned, unrequited, satiated, doubted in all of its most beautiful, painful and messy permutations—straight, gay and points in-between. These performers truly didn't waste a good crisis producing a delightful work.



Clockwise Andrew Chandler, Holly Arsenault, Garry Williams, Amy Rietstma. Photo credit & review: Raymond Taavel

ISCANS Update

By Nathan Boudreau

Hello to everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying the back to school season—especially for those who have the kiddies. As many slow down when the cooler air arrives, ISCANS does not and instead we go full steam ahead. Let me first thank everyone at Menz Bar— Doug, David, and staff—for having us once again in September where our College of Monarchs show was a great time.

Coming up this month is our monthly show on October 25 at 9:00 p.m. \$5.00 cover. Please join us on October 4 for a birthday celebration for our very own Empress 2, Mz Vicki and join us for Thanksgiving dinner on October 12.

All of these events will be happening at Menz Bar. ISCANS is also selling tickets on a Coronation weekend package. It includes two nights at our host Hotel Atlantica, a pair tickets to State Dinner, Coronation and Victory Brunch, along with free admission to the Out of Town show. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are selling quickly. Be sure to get yours at any of our shows or contact any member of the Executive.

If you have any comments or suggestions, contact us at events@imperialcourtns.com.

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Chef's Corner



I seem to have gone from a grilling frenzy earlier in the season, to soups aplenty. They do say that a kitchen is only as strong as its soups, so as I sit here writing this article, I am thinking of all the beautiful local sweet corn now available at market. This month I offer you a soup that we make often at this time of year and which we used a bit of a play on words in naming. I use the kernels, the cobs, and corn meal to make this wonderful late-summer soup. It uses all of the corn and has a truly intense sweet corn flavour. Give this one a try and I am sure it will become an instant favourite.

Chef Darren is Chef/Co-owner of Chives Canadian Bistro, 1537 Barrington St., Halifax, N.S. Voted "Establishment of the Year 2008" by the Nova Scotia Association of Chefs and Cooks; awarded two out of three stars "Where to Eat in Canada 2009"; new member of "La Chaine des Rotisseurs International." Reservations (902) 420-9626.

Corn "Off The Cob" Soup

- | | | |
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| 6-8 cobs of peaches and cream sweet corn | 1/2 cup finely diced smoked bacon, or smoked turkey leg | 1 carrot small dice |
| 2 cups whole milk or cereal cream | 1 cup minced onion | 1 large red pepper small dice |
| 6 cups low sodium chicken or vegetable broth | 4-6 cloves crushed garlic | 1/2 cup cooking sherry |
| | 1/2 cup minced celery | 1/3 cup corn meal |
| | | 1 cup heavy cream |
| | | 1 tbsp fresh chopped sage |

Method

1. Shave off all the corn kernels from the cobs and set aside. Place the cobs in a large stock pot with the milk and broth and simmer for 1 hour.
2. In a large saucepan over medium heat fry the bacon until browned, add onions, carrot, celery and garlic and saute until golden, and then corn and peppers and do same. This will take approximately 15 minutes
3. Deglaze the vegetables with the sherry and let reduce by 1/2. Add the corn broth, bring to the boil. Whisk in the corn meal then let simmer 1 hour to cook out the corn meal and thicken the soup
4. Add the cream and sage. Heat through and serve in pre-heated bowls.

Serving suggestions

I like to serve this soup with a smoked ancho chili flavoured sour cream and a piece of warm homemade corn bread. This soup is also really good garnished with steamed mussels, or garlic and chili sauteed shrimp. Enjoy!

I Am What I Amherst



By Gerard Veldhoven

The summer of 2009 is at an end bringing with it fond memories of the many Pride celebrations that took place around the Maritimes. Amherst celebrated as well and the local queer community had a great sense of accomplishment. We are now into fall and look forward to the activities that will occupy our thoughts going towards the end of this year. Generally, holiday activities are planned now. However, before that takes place I must report on our latest news from Amherst.

At our August meeting I resigned as Chair of The Cumberland Pride Society. Following three years at the helm my time must end in order for me to continue with my work as an advocate for equal treatment. I have really enjoyed those years and during that time our Society has grown and become a viable organization. Aside

from the fact that I believe three years is long enough for one person to hold office in a particular capacity, I also have other ambitions. I wish to continue with my previous work as an advocate for equal treatment. Much remains to be done. I have begun a study on equal treatment for senior GLBTTQ members in long-term care facilities in Nova Scotia. This is well underway, but much more time is needed in order to report on this very important issue. As well, I am writing my autobiography and as I am in the advanced stage of my life I must make haste to accomplish these efforts.

Susan Reid takes over as Chair of the Cumberland Pride society. She has served as Vice-Chair for the past year and I feel she is perfect for continuing to bring great leadership to our society. Norman Carter continues as Treasurer and Lisa Hill-Power

as Secretary. These positions may remain or change next March at the society's AGM.

That brings me to the Moncton Pride Parade. Cumberland Pride had an entry of two decorated vehicles and twelve individuals. The BMW sports car had Corey Hunter, just fabulous in drag, sitting on the back.

We had a great time and also very pleased we had the opportunity to help River of Pride celebrate. This was our third year for our involvement in celebrating Pride with our brothers and sisters in Moncton.

This is all for now from blueberry country. More to come in the November issue.

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...parents
...allies

so they can do a better job of supporting the trans-identified person in their life!

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6:30 - 8:30 pm at
The Youth Project
2281 Brunswick, Halifax
902.431.8500
transfamily@eastlink.ca

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WAYVES GROUPS AND SERVICES

Atlantic Canada

Al-Anon/Alateen: for families & friends of problem drinkers. Does someone you know have a drinking problem? 466-7077 web: www.freewebs.com/alanonmaritimes

AtlanticCanadianLesbians: Online Group For Lesbians from the Atlantic Provinces.

AtlanticPoz: A new discussion group is for individuals living with HIV in Atlantic Canada. web: health.groups.yahoo.com/group/atlanticpoz/

Egale Canada - Atlantic: (888) 204-7777 email: egale.canada@egale.ca web: www.egale.ca

GaySpaces: Free postings of GLBT-friendly places to live in Canada. email: info@gayspaces.org web: www.gayspaces.org

Gender Expressions Atlantic: Support for transgendered individuals ranging from Crossdressers to Transsexuals. email: gender_expressions@hotmail.com web: www.geocities.com/gender_expressions/ (No scheduled meeting. Occasional social events, by invitation only.)

Healing Our Nations: Healing Our Nations is an Aboriginal HIV/AIDS service organization that serves the Atlantic region. (902) 492-4255 email: director@accesswave.ca web: www.hon93.ca (Healing Our Nations staff meet once on a weekly basis. Training offered on request at no charge for Aboriginal peoples and/or organizations.) at 15 Alderney Dr., Suite 3, Dartmouth, NS. B2Y2N2

Maritime Transgender Workplace Solutions Project: Transgender Issues Workshops and information resource. (902)568-2935 email: denisesined@ns.sympatico.ca web: www3.ns.sympatico.ca/winpapernews (No meetings, Workshops by arrangements, Information source when requested. Newsletter Odds & Sods bi-weekly)

Mr Atlantic Canada Leather Society: Dedicated to developing gay leather communities in the Atlantic region. email: waydo7@hotmail.com

Names Project (AIDS Memorial Quilt): panels - helping create, and lending. 902-454-5158 email: larrybaxter@ns.sympatico.ca web: www.quilt.ca (Call if interested in volunteering or making a panel) at 3544 Acadia St. Halifax, NS B3K 3P2

Narcotics Anonymous: a fellowship of recovering drug addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. 1-800-205-8402 web: centralnovaarea.ca at Call the phone number or visit the web page for meeting times and places.

Project E: Presentation for youth, on gender expression, myth busters, proper terminology and other facts. web: www.freewebs.com/xprojecte/ at available via web page

Wayves Magazine: Atlantic Canada's queer news and lifestyle magazine!. email: submissions@wayves.ca web: wayves.ca (Deadline: the first Friday of every month; Editorial meeting: the Monday following that; layout the Sunday following that. Email us to be put on our notification list!)

New Brunswick (506)

Fredericton

AIDS New Brunswick / SIDA Nouveau-Brunswick: committed to facilitating community-based responses to the issues of HIV/AIDS. 459-7518 email: sidaids@nbnet.nb.ca web: www.aidsnb.com (Office Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:30PM)

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays: Email list-serv of events/news in the Fredericton for gblt men and women. email: jamesw@stu.ca web: www.geocities.com/westhollywood/3074

Integrity: Supports and encourages Gays and Lesbians in their spiritual lives. email: integrityfredericton@live.ca web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=46207976587, meets 3rd Sunday (4:00pm) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton at 874 York Street

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. (506) 455-7190 email: pflagfredericton@yahoo.ca web: www.geocities.com/Pflagfredericton/, meets 4th Tuesday (7-9 pm (except December: 2nd Tuesday)) at Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton 874 York St. Fredericton NB E3B 3R8

Spectrum: social and support group for students, staff and faculty at UNB and STU. email: spectrum@unb.ca web: www.unbf.ca/clubs/spectrum (Meets Fridays during the school year. See webpage for location.)

UNB/STU Women's Collective: Women of all ages and orientations. , meets every Monday at 5pm at the University Women's Centre at the SUB

Moncton

AIDS Moncton: offers support to people living with HIV and their families and friends, education and awareness. 859-9616 email: sidaidsm@sida-aidsmoncton.com web: www.sida-aidsmoncton.com at 80 Weldon St, Moncton, NB, E1C 5V8

Moncton Line Dancing: LINE DANCING for all levels from beginner to advanced. No partner required. No dress code. , meets every Wednesday (8:30pm sharp) at Triangles Bar, corner of St. George and Archibald.

PFLAG: Supporting all people with questions or concerns about sexual orientation and gender identity issues. (506) 869-8191 email: monctonnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/moncton.html, meets 3rd Monday (Occasionally on the 2nd Monday — please call) at 7:30-9:30pm, University of Moncton, Adrien-J.-Cormier Bldg., Room 302

River Of Pride: River of Pride INC. is a wholly volunteer-managed, non-partisan, not-for-profit committee that organizes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Two-Spirit Pride events in Moncton-River-view-Dieppe to commemorate and celebrate vast diversity within our communities. email: riverofpride@hotmail.com web: www.fiertemonctonpride.ca (See webpage for schedule.)

Safe Spaces Moncton Region: Support Groups for GLBTQ Youth (14-25 years old). 506-854-3049

UN sur DIX - l'Association des étudiant.e.s GLB de l'Université de Moncton: Visé à éduquer, à sensibiliser et à offrir des ressources dans la langue française. email: unsurdix@umoncton.ca web: www.umoncton.ca/unsurdix/ (Visitez le site Web ou envoyez un courriel pour en apprendre davantage au sujet du travail que nous accomplissons.)

Mount Allison University, Sackville

Catalyst: Catalyst, Mt. A's Queer-Straight Alliance, provides support & information for all Mt. A students, staff, and faculty through meetings, seminars, and social events. Everyone is welcome. email: catalyst@mta.ca web: www.mta.ca/clubs/catalyst/ (Catalyst meets approximately every week from Sept-Dec and Jan-April. For meeting info contact the president at catalyst@mta.ca or the Students' Administrative Council at sac@mta.ca.)

Petit-Rocher (Bathurst area)

Gais.es Nor Gays Inc. (GNG): A bilingual volunteer association serving gay men, lesbians and bisexuals of northern New Brunswick. email: info@gngnb.ca web: www.gngnb.ca (Dances are held at GNG club every Saturday night. See www.gngnb.ca for a list of upcoming events.) at 702 rue Principale, Petit-Rocher NB. Look for rainbow flag and/or door with pink triangle at rear of parking lot.

Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBTQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: jhammock@mta.ca, meets 2nd Monday (7:30 to 9:30pm No meeting in July and August.) at Meeting location alternates monthly between Sackville: United Church Parlours, 112 Main Street, and Amherst: Maggie's Place, 12 LaPlanche Street

Saint John

Affirming United Church - Centenary - Queen Square United Church: invites you to worship!. 634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com web: www.cqsunited.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30am) at 215 Wentworth St,

Saint John, NB

AIDS Saint John: improve quality of life for those infected & affected by HIV, reduce the spread through education 652-2437 email: aidssj@nb.aibn.com web: www.aidsaintjohn.com

Gay Men's Supper Club: web: www.portcityrainbowpride.com, meets 3rd Saturday (See webpage for more information) at 220 Germain St

PFLAG: Provides support to anyone dealing with issues of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. (506)648-9700 or 648-9227 email: saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/saintjohn, meets 1st Friday (1st Friday of each month September - June from 7:00- 9:00 p.m. No meeting in July & August.) at 116 Coburg Street in Saint John, New Brunswick in the Community Health Centre next to St. Joseph's Hospital.

Port City Rainbow Pride: Pride Celebrations Committee. email: events@portcityrainbowpride.com web: www.portcityrainbowpride.com

Safe Spaces Fundy Region: Committed to ending discrimination around issues of sexual orientation in youth. email: safespaces@gmail.com web: www.safespacesfundy.com (See our webpage for schedule of meetings and socials etc @ www.safespacesfundy.com)

Saint John LGBTQ Lending Library: over 300 fiction and non-fiction titles. 634-8288 email: cqsunited@nb.aibn.com (open Monday through Friday, 9 AM to noon.) at the office of Centenary Queen Square United Church at 215 Wentworth Street.

The UNBSJ Q-Collective: A social and support organisation for UNBSJ students, staff and faculty. 506-648-5737 email: QCollect@UNBSJ.ca web: www.unbsj.ca/clubs/qcollective (The UNBSJ Q-Collective is interested in hearing from other university LGBTQ organisations and would like to possibly meet or collaborate.) at Various locations; event particulars will be emailed to anyone who registers with the UNBSJ Q-Collective and/or who gets the UNBSJ weekly "E News". Past events include the annual Rainbow Peace March, guest speakers, movie nights, participation in Maritime Pride Parades, Supporters of PFLAG Canada's "Communities Encourage Campaign" and "Champions Against Homophobia".

Woodstock

Woodstock GLBT Youth Advocate and Family OutReach: Books, movies, advice, directions, contacts, and support etc. for the family. 328-4868 email: richardb@nbnet.nb.ca

Newfoundland & Labrador (709)

PFLAG Canada - St. John's: Information or referral to one of our parents. web: www.pflag.ca (For support or information on chapter meetings regarding PFLAG Canada contact Gemma Schlamp-Hickey, Atlantic Director at gemmahickey@yahoo.ca or Diana Deacon, St. John's chapter contact at ddeacon@mun.ca)

St. John's

AIDS Committee of Newfoundland & Labrador: HIV/AIDS education and support for male/female/transgendered, all ages, Newfoundland and Labrador 579-8656 email: info@aenl.net web: www.aenl.net

Gay Urban Youth Zone Project: designed to increase HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and STI knowledge and awareness 579-8656 (ext. 28) web: www.aenl.net at Tommy Sexton Centre 47 Janeway Place Pleasantville, across from the old Janeway Hospital AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador LBGT-MUN Resource Centre: LBGT-MUN is an information/resource, service, and peer support centre staffed by trained volunteers!. 737-7619 email: lbgt@munsu.ca (Open Monday-Friday 9-4. Biweekly meetings for members and volunteers.) at Smallwood/University Center, UC-6022. Building located on Prince Phillip Drive. Call us! Get involved!

St. John's Pride: St. John's Official Pride Organization. 709-746-6564

Nova Scotia (902)

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL YOUTH

GROUP AT Q.E.H.: Jeanie Buffet, Counselor, at 421-6797

GLB CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE (SUNS): 494-6654 at c/o the Students' Union of NS

Hepatitis Outreach Society: Since 1999 the Hepatitis Outreach Society has been providing support, education and prevention information for those infected and affected by hepatitis in the province of Nova Scotia. 420-1767 in HRM or 1-800-521-0572 email: info@HepatitisOutreach.com web: www.HepatitisOutreach.com at Our office is located at 2973 Oxford Street, between Liverpool and Cork streets. Please call to make an appointment or email Program@HepatitisOutreach.com.

Positive Connections: Teleconferenced support groups for people living with AIDS. email: connections@acns.ns.ca, meets every Monday (evening 7:00pm - 8:00pm) at by phone. No long distance charges. For more info call 425-4882 ext 228 or 1-800-566-2437 ext 228 or e-mail.

Saint Mary's Campus Outreach Society:

The Rainbow - Atlantic Awareness Society: email: tpineo@hotmail.com

Venus Envy Bursary Society: An annual award open to all women studying in NS. web: www.venusenvy.ca/halifax

Amherst

Sexual Health Centre Cumberland County: Open and inclusive services: information, education, workshops, free condoms. 667-7500 email: shccc@ns.aliantzinc.ca web: cumberlandcounty.cfsf.info (9 - 5 drop-in or appt) at 11 Elmwood Drive. Confidential, hassle-free. Free condoms.

The Cumberland Pride Society: for: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual individuals. 660-5004 email: cumberlandpride@hotmail.com web: cumberland-pride.sytes.net, meets 3rd Sunday (2-4pm)

Antigonish

X-Pride: social & support group at X. 867-5007 web: www.stfx.ca/people/xpride

Bridgewater

Sexual Health Centre for Lunenburg County: Confidential info, education&support for everyone. Safer sex supplies, library, pamphlets, workshops. 527-2868 email: LunCo@NSSexualHealth.ca web: www.LunCo.cfsf.info (Hours vary. Open by appointment or by chance. Please call ahead.) at 4 Hillcrest Street Unit 8, Bridgewater. (On the corner of Dufferin and Hillcrest Streets). Closed during summers.

South Shore Pride Social Club: for 19 & older. 530-5986 email: info@southshorepride.ca web: www.southshorepride.ca, meets 3rd Saturday (-- dances -- 9:00PM to 1:00AM) at Call or email for location.

Halifax

Affirm United: GLBT & Friends support, action and worshipping community within the United Church. 461-4528 email: alstew@eastlink.ca

AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia: non-profit, community-based AIDS organization, provincially mandated. (902)425-4882 email: acns@acns.ns.ca web: www.acns.ns.ca

Alcoholics Anonymous: Live & Let Live AA Group for GLBT community. (902) 425-8383/422-4972 email: courage449@yahoo.com, meets every Monday (at 8pm) at St Matthews United Church, 1479 Barrington St, Halifax (Use side door near Maritime Centre at bottom of stairs)

Anonymous HIV/AIDS Testing: 455-9656

Bedford United Church: An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada - ALL welcome. 835-8497 email: bedfordunited@eastlink.ca web: www.bedfordunited.com, meets every Sunday (9 am service - Casual and contemporary - with free coffee and muffins before church to take into this service. 11 am service - Quieter and more reverent in tone, coffee after service. Please call to confirm worship times as occasionally we have a 10 am combined service.) at 1200 Bedford Hwy at Sullivan's Hill, near Atlantic Gardens

BLT-Womyn of Halifax: Bi Sexauls,

Lesbian, Transgender Womyn's Discussion Group. Sue's # 499-0335 email: sueandrews1964@hotmail.com web: ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/blt-womynof-halifax/ (Every second Sunday evening 6pm - 7:30pm) at Dalhousie Women's Centre 6286 South Street (Beside Dalplex Drive-way) Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Bluenose Bears (BnB): BnB is a private men's membership based social group for Bears and their admirers. Membership Fees are \$5 for a year. Event Fees are \$1 for Members and \$2 for Guests. Email for more info! email: BluenoseBears2008@yahoo.ca (Social Gatherings are generally held once a month, on a Tuesday evening.) at Menz Bar (often) but venues vary. Sorry, no 'drop ins'. Members and their Guests only!!

DalOUT: LGBTQ Society at Dalhousie. 494-2190 email: dalout@dal.ca web: societies.dsu.ca/dalout, meets every Thursday (During the academic year we meet at about 7pm each Thursday night.) at Dalhousie University, check OUT our website or contact us for details

Frontrunners Halifax: Running/walking club. 422-7579 email: Bruce.Greenfield@dal.ca web: www.frontrunners.org/clubs/index.php?club=Halifax, meets every Saturday, and every Tuesday, and every Thursday (Sat: 9:30am, Tue: 6:00 pm, Thu: 6:00pm) at Main gates of the Halifax Public Gardens, corner of Spring Garden Road and South Park Street.

Get Out, Halifax!: Recreation activities (team activities, cycling, running, rowing - you name it) for metro & beyond!. web: www.getouthalifax.ca at Visit and get on the email list for more info.

Girl-ish Productions: Girl-ish puts on hot and heavy bi-monthly-ish dance parties for queer-ish folks and their friends. email: girlishproductions@yahoo.ca web: www.girlish.ca

Hal-Gal Mailing List: Low-traffic Yahoo group providing events and information for queer women in the Halifax area. email: halgal@yahogroups.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/hal-gal/ (Join the list to keep in touch or post your events.)

Halifax Sexual Health Centre: Anonymous HIV testing, open and inclusive sexual health clinical services, education and workshops. 455-9656 web: www.HalifaxSexualHealth.ca

Imperial and Sovereign Court of Atlantic Nova Society: Fundraising. 902-449-7612 web: www.imperialcourtns.com, meets 1st Sunday, and 2nd Sunday (Executive Meetings Are Currently Held Every Second Sunday) at Meeting Locations Vary

Koinonia Ecumenical Church: Meaning 'community'. Call or email Pastor Elaine for more information. 876-8771 email: koinonia@ns.sympatico.ca (bi-weekly at 12:30pm) at Halifax Feast, Maritime Centre

Manna For Health: A special needs referral food bank for those living with life threatening illness. 429-7670

Mount Pride: GLBTQ group at Mount Saint Vincent University. email: mountpride@yahogroups.com, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 12 noon) at The Diversity Center in Roseria on campus, and online (see email) Possible events that are being planned for the winter semester include sexuality awareness week, movies nights, potlucks, guest speakers, and many more. There are always spontaneous meals and events that are always fun. This group is open to anyone who would like to join.

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project: fostering change through networking, education, outreach & community education. 902-444-7887 email: nsrap@nsrap.ca web: www.nsrap.ca at TBA

Outlaw: GLBTQ & Allies Law Students Association at Dalhousie Law School. email: chad.skinner@dal.ca web: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2416842853 (Meetings vary. Please email for further information or check out our Facebook group.) at Dalhousie Law School. 6061 University Avenue. Halifax, Nova Scotia.

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. 431-8500 email: halifaxns@pflagcanada.ca, meets 1st Thursday (902-431-8500) at Halifax Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St

Play Group for Queer Families: 422-8780 (3-5pm) at Board Room (Play Room) at Needham Community Recreation Centre,

3372 Devonshire St (north end Halifax, near intersection of Duffus & Novalea, bus routes 7 & 9) Bring a snack for your child(ren). We will be collecting money from each family to cover the cost of the room rental, likely \$2-4 per week.

Pride Week: Producers of Atlantic Canada's largest LGBTQ cultural festival. 431-1194 email: info@halifaxpride.ca web: www.halifaxpride.ca (July 19 - 26, 2009)

Quakers: Quakerism emphasizes that we all manifest the Divine. 429-2904 web: halifax.quaker.ca, meets every Sunday at Library at Atlantic School of Theology, Franklyn St. All very welcome.

Queer Play: A Queer performing arts group in Halifax NS. email: queerplay@gmail.com

Rainbow Playtime: Food & social meetings for same sex families with tots or couples considering parenthood. 461-9414

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church: A Christian Church with an affirming ministry to the GBLT community. Everyone is welcome!. 453-9249 email: safeharbour@eastlink.ca web: safeharbourmcc.com, meets every Sunday (11 am) at Veith House, 3115 Veith Street, Halifax

Spirituality For Lesbians: We seek to deepen our relationship with God, knowing that God loves us and calls us into life just as he has created us. Persons of every or no denomination are welcome. 459-2649, meets 2nd Wednesday (7:30-9PM, phone for meeting locations)

Team Halifax: All GLBT over 18, athletes and performance artists, as well as anyone willing to help out. 422-9510 web: www.teamhalifax.com (No fixed schedule at this time, look on website for further details.)

The Youth Project: Support, education and social activities for youth 25 and under across Nova Scotia. Weekly events, plus a youth food bank and STI testing on site. 429-5429 email: youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca web: www.youthproject.ns.ca, meets 1st Tuesday, and 3rd Tuesday (6-9pm) at 2281 Brunswick Street. 25 and under. Please refer to our website for details and schedule of upcoming events. LGB Youth Project Social Drop-in Nights. This is an unstructured event. It's a chance to hang out with old friends, make some new ones, and just talk about whatever,

Trans Family Nova Scotia: We are the Parents, Partners, Family, Friends & Allies of Trans-Identified Individuals. supporting one another. 902-431-8500 email: transfamily@eastlink.ca, meets 3rd Monday (6:30 to 8:30 pm) at The Youth Project (2281 Brunswick St., Halifax)

Universalist Unitarian Church: an inclusive liberal religious community 429-5500 email: uuchurch@eastlink.ca web: UUCH.ca, meets every Sunday (10:30; see website for special events) at 5500 Inglis St Kentville

Red Door, The: Youth health adolescent center counselling, for up to age 30, all ages STD testing. 679-1411 web: thered-door.ca (Monday through Friday, 1pm to 5pm, Wednesday open to 6:00) at 150 Park Street

Kingston

Valley Gay Men's Coffee House: socials for gay men; gay & lesbian dances 19+. 765-2821 email: menembracingmen@yahoo.ca web: facetwithpride.tripod.com (Coffee every Thursday 7-9pm, Dances on the first Saturday of the month, for the exception of in November. There is two dances held in October, On the First Saturday and the Last Saturday of that Month and NO Dance in November.) at email or call for locations or special events or themes

Lunenburg

Second Story Women's Centre: We offer a meeting space for women, support counselling, programs, and referrals. (902)640-3044 email: secstory@eastlink.ca web: www.secstory.com at Second Story Women's Centre is located at 22 King Street, Post Office Centre, Lunenburg.

Middleton

PFLAG: Information and support for GLBT community and their friends and families. 902-825-0548 email: middletonns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/middleton.html (Check online for meeting times and locations- or phone 825-0548)

New Glasgow

Pictou County Centre for Sexual Health: 695-3366 email: youth.access@ns.symphatico.ca

Pride of Pictou County: All GBLT in Pictou County. web: www.PrideofPictouCounty.ca (see web page for meeting info)

New Minas / Annapolis Valley

Valley Youth Project: Sexual Orientation. Gender Identity. Allies. Youth. email: valleyyouthproject@gmail.com (6-8:30 most

Wednesdays through May) at New Minas Civic Center, 9209 Commercial St. Ages 25 & under. Free bus tickets available. Free food. Fun activities. Join us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Youth-Project/22418494995

Sackville NB/ Amherst NS

PFLAG: Support and education for GLBT2IQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: sacknb-amns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/en/prov-liste.asp?RegionNo=6&ProvAbbr=NB, meets 2nd Monday (Phone or e-mail for meeting location and details.) at Sackville:112 Main Street or Amherst: 12 La Planche Street

Sydney

AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton: Support, advocacy, prevention/education for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Free condoms!. (902) 567-1766 email: joannerolls@accb.ns.ca, christineporter@accb.ns.ca web: www.accb.ns.ca (Free Anonymous Testing 1-902-567-1123 Check our Website for events and updates.) at 150 Bentinck St, Sydney, N.S. B1P 6H1

Cape Breton University Sexual Diversity Centre: We provide a welcoming environment for GLBTQ people and their Allies. 902-563-1481 email: sdc@cbsu.com (M-F 9-4pm. Call or drop by for event listings, Ally Training, and Anti-Heterosexism/Homophobia Workshops!) at the Students' Union Building, Cape Breton University.

Group Harrison Society: Dances, Socials & Support Group for Cape Bretoners. (902)371-8752 web: groupharrisonsociety-dancespi.piczo.com, meets every Saturday (of every month Admission \$6.50 -\$5.50 for members- Restricted 19 yrs and over) at 780 Upper Prince Street Horizon Achievement Centre (Kinsmen), Sydney

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. Karen 564-8728 email: sydneyns@pflagcanada.ca, meets last Sunday (of the month at 7:30pm. No meetings for July and August.) at Family Place Resource Centre 106 Townsend Street, Sydney NS

Pride Cape Breton Society: Dances and Social Events. Monthly dances are Adults Only! Check website community events. (902) 539-4627 email: info@pridecapebreton.com web: www.pridecapebreton.com (Dances on the last Saturday of every month. Check website for dance and special event dates!)

at Southend Community Centre. Maps are at our website.

Tatamagouche

Tatamagouche Centre: We are an affirming centre, welcoming all gay, lesbian, and transgendered people. 1.800.218.2220 email: tatacentre@tatacentre.ca web: www.tatacentre.ca

Truro

Colchester Sexual Assault Centre: Provides support and information to anyone (GBLTQ included) affected by sexual assault and abuse. 902-897-4366 email: trurosexualassault@hotmail.com (Mon-Fri 9:30-4:30) at 80 Glenwood Drive

Northern AIDS Connection Society: HIV prevention education initiative serving counties Colchester, Pictou, Cumberland & East Hants. 895-0931 email: nacs@eastlink.ca web: northernaidconnectionociety.ca (Our Board of Directors meet bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month. Annual General Meeting held regularly in June. See webpage for contact numbers in your area of northern Nova Scotia.) at 33 Pleasant Street, Truro, N.S.

PFLAG: Support & education on issues of sexual orientation & gender identity. 662.3774

RESPECT: Students Making Healthy Decisions. 893-6300 email: respect@nsac.ca at P.O. Box 550, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N.S. B2N 5E3

SAAFE (Supporting An Alternative Friendly Environment): Social/support group at the NS Agricultural College. 893-6300 email: lyoung@nsac.ns.ca (Meetings as requested. Membership changes each academic year.)

Truro Pride: A group supporting GLBT individuals in the Colchester County. 895-0931 email: truropride@hotmail.com, meets every Wednesday (6:30 p.m.) at FairTrade Cafe

on Prince Street, between Commercial and Dominion Streets.

Wolfville

Acadia Pride: Acadia Student Union's LGBT2IQ group. 585-2165 email: acadiapride@acadiiau.ca web: euler.acadiiau.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (9:00pm(during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

Acadia Women's Centre: 585-2140 email: womens.centre@acadiiau.ca (Acadia SUB Second Level Balcony)

Prince Edward Island (902)

AIDS PEI: AIDS PEI creates a supportive environment for PHA's to all residents of PEI. 902-566-2437 email: info@aidspei.com web: www.aidspei.com at 144 Prince Street Charlottetown, PE C1A 2R6

ARC -- Abegweit Rainbow Collective: Serving GLBT Islanders, their friends and families. 894-5776 email: info@arcpei.ca web: www.arcpei.com, meets 2nd Tuesday (7:30 PM) at 144 Prince Street

Gay PEI Mailing List: Electronic mailing list for all GLBT, questioning and friendly, focus is on PEI. email: gay-pe-owner@yahoo.com web: groups.yahoo.com/group/gay-pe/ at All first posts are moderated to stop spambots, otherwise, it's an open list.

GLBT Youth group: Safe Space Drop-Ins. 367-3408 or toll free 1 877 380 5776 (E-mail us for further details.) at 144 Prince St.

PFLAG Canada - PEI: Providing support, education and advocacy for GLBT persons, their families and friends in PEI. 902-887-3620 email: pflagpei@eastlink.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca, meets 3rd Tuesday at Ferry Road Centre, 24 Ferry Road, Cornwall, PE or Stratford City Hall check with Mary or Bill Kendrick on this months location by calling 902-887-3620.

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The Last Word

Appropriation Appropriate

By Randall Perry

Language is an amazing thing. Words are the powerful building blocks by which we actualize our world: the people, places and things around us and the ideas, concepts and realizations that make up our relationships with one another.

Part of the dichotomy of language is its incredible power to heal and inspire, yet also to hurt and convey hatred. Words are never black and white entities. There is no such thing as good and evil in language. There are always shades of grey and traces of “what if” present in the mix.

As a writer and lover of language I don't believe words are “good” or “bad.” I do realize, however, that language is all about context and that certain words in our culture carry more burden than others, many times depending on the very people who utter them. Why is it, for example, that the word “nigger” can be used freely among a segment of the population with certain skin tones, while for more fair-complexioned others it's so shocking it can only be

referred to in polite conversation as “the n-word”?

How is it that as gay man I can use words like “faggot” and “queer” in conversation with my homos, but if my straight colleagues used it to refer to me they'd be whisked off to a lobotomizing session of sensitivity training?

This kind of word and language appropriation happens all the time in our culture, when certain words and phrases are more acceptable within some contexts and groups than others. With the rise of global communication via the internet we're more in touch with people around the world than ever before, exposed to ideas and contexts to levels unmatched to those of our forebears. One might think we as a global people would be more enlightened; more highly attuned to the sensitivity of others.

Being human, though, we are not.

We still stumble. We still make jokes at the expense of others, even when we don't believe there's any harm being done.

As I write this, the Atlantic Film Festival is about to kick off. When you

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read this, it will be finished. (Such is the nature of on monthly publication schedule!) The Festival returns with its annual offering of GLBT content, presented under the moniker, “That's So Gay.” I attended screenings last year and I plan to attend them this year. The lineup looks excellent again this year.

So what does the AFF have to do with appropriation of language? Here's the question: where else have we heard the phrase before? On

the bus? In the schoolyard? On the street? When I was in school, a long time ago, “That's so gay!” was thrown around as an exclamation of special negativity, and it's still around all these years later, so much so that organizations like GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) throw large amounts of resources into advertising campaigns such as their “Think Before You Speak” (www.thinkb4youspeak.com) initiative.

When does irony become epithet? Or does one open the door for the other? Is the usage of such a phrase as a marketing tool inherently wrong, or is it simply a harmless take-back of what is ultimately some silly little word play? Remember when “Queer as Folk” was jokingly referred to as “Queer as Fuck” and “Queer-Ass Folk”? The program once spoofed itself with its “Gay as Blazes” storyline... and then the joke suddenly held no punch.

Perhaps I'm reading too much into this. Sometimes the joke is lost on the very people who should see it as such. Personally, I have no problem

with the usage. But that's just me. Having survived years of torturous schoolyard bullying I know just how much damage words can inflict, yet as a writer I know words are ultimately not the fearsome things some make them out to be.

There are untold numbers, though, who still have no qualms pounding others—especially our vulnerable youth and others at risk—with spiteful words and hateful fists. This is the segment of the population who see what is essentially a clever quip used as marketing tool and point to it to justify their own homophobic actions.

Is the phrase worth bringing up a “should they/shouldn't they” debate? Was it worth these few hundred words? Should the Atlantic Film Festival think about re-branding its queer film segment? Or is the segment so blazingly gay that you can't help but shake your head and say, “yep, that's pretty gay!” You decide.

Letters

Thanks Ralph!

Dear Wayves

Many thanks for running Ralph Higgins's review of my novel, *Death In Key West*. With the great number of books being published these days, authors can only hope to get such kind and generous notice.

I'm also very glad to see that the first LGBT community I was privileged to call home now has such a prestigious publication to its credit.

Yours, Jeffrey Round

in the 70's and 80's was a tortured, convoluted process that took years to complete. Society is less homophobic now but challenges still remain. Let's do what we can to inspire hope in our GLBT youth.

Barend Kamperman

Stonewall Didn't Pave

Dear Wayves:

I enjoyed your article in August called

“Cancel Pride.” I don't believe that “Stonewall paved the way” for anything in Canada. The historic event that propelled us forward was the decriminalization of homosexuality in 1969. We found our political voice and power with the 5,000 strong riot/march after the bath house raids in 1981, onto the legislature steps in Toronto.

Please remember we fought and marched and raised legal funds for years to get to the equality we now

enjoy. I was there in Halifax in 1988 and also marched in New Glasgow before moving to Toronto.

The Canadian Lesbian Gay Archives is the largest gay/lesbian archive in Canada and is a great source for fact checking.

I always read Wayves. The paper provides an essential link for easterners. Keep up the good work!

Roger Johnson, Toronto

LGBT Youth

Sure, GLBT youth living at home and restrictive situations have access to queer websites. This is not enough to help them be their best, healthy selves. I live out in the country. I wear a rainbow band on my wrist and a “This is what a GAY MAN looks like” button. The reactions I get are generally positive. The young are quick to notice. It's one of the few ways I have to publicly affirm the worth of GLBT people. It's like saying to the closet case, “Look, here I am. I made it. So can you.”

My gaydar senses tell me there are still a lot of our young people “hiding out there.” They are realizing who they are but are cautious about being open for various reasons. How can we mentor them? Is anyone trying? We used to have the Gayline in Halifax, founded by Ed Slade. I volunteered on it during the 80's. The best thing we ever did for those who called was listen, ask good questions, give helpful information and encourage them. I urge GLBT people and groups and the churches to come up with ways that we can encourage our young folk.

Remember when you were young and isolated from positive input about who you were. My own coming out



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This month's question: Does your doctor know you're queer? Why or why not?

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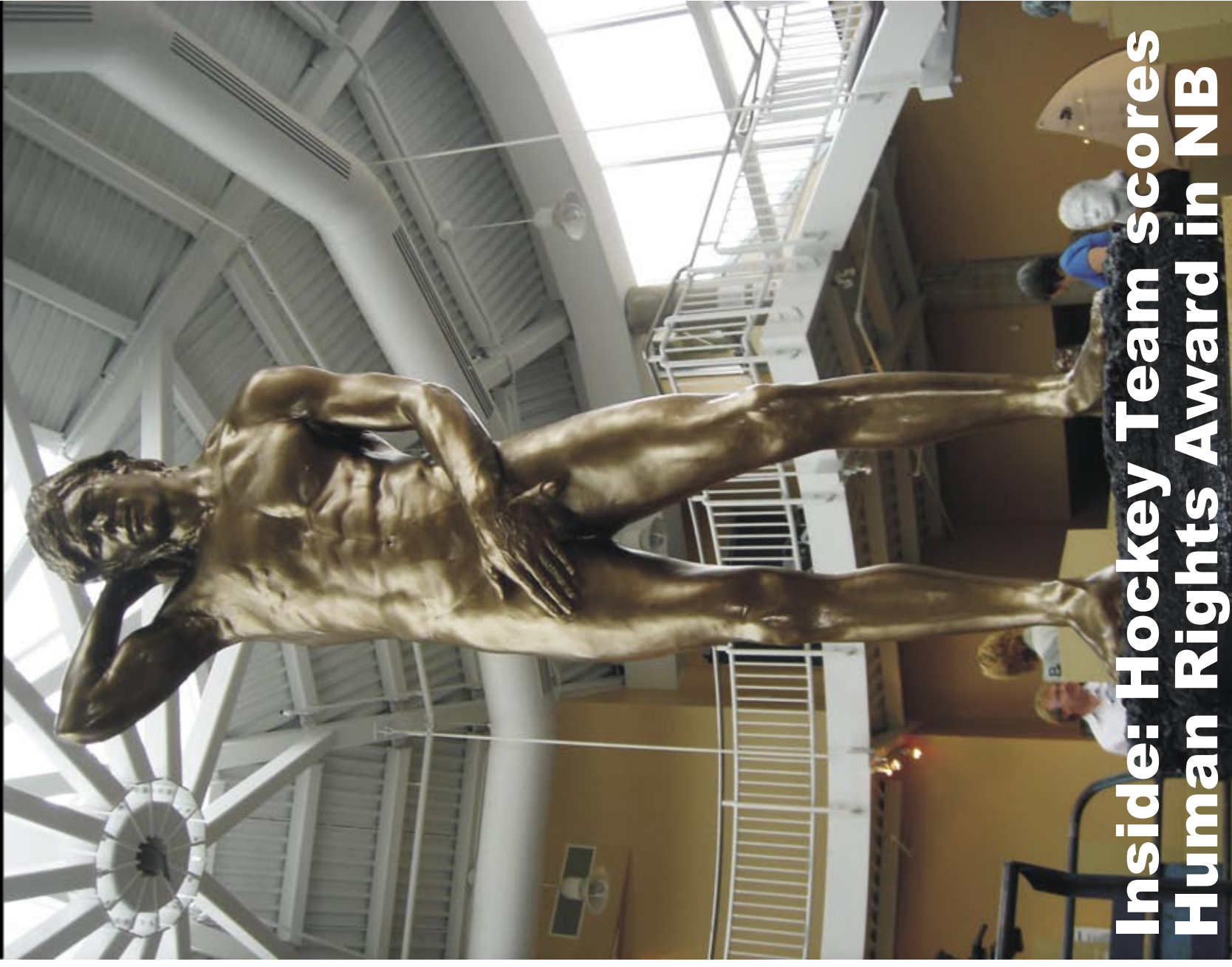
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