



AIDS Awareness Week 2009

From the ACNS Facebook AIDS Awareness Week Campaign

Maria MacIntosh, ACNS Executive Director believes one way to deal with stigma and discrimination is through social marketing campaigns.

“Currently we are developing programs and strategies to combat HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination. [Over the last few weeks leading up to and including] AIDS Awareness Week, Nova Scotians will see a coordinated response from all organizations involved with this very important and timely project. Looking at the big picture, if we can reduce HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination, not only will we improve the quality of life for PHAs but we can also teach prevention and awareness more effectively.

Eliminating stigma altogether requires a paradigm shift, and some may

think this is unrealistic. But studies show that through a variety of intervention strategies something can be done about stigma and discrimination on many levels. The general population can increase its knowledge about HIV/AIDS, can improve its attitude towards PHAs, and can increase its volunteerism in the AIDS field. Consequently evidence proves that this all can and will reduce the level of stigma and discrimination experienced by PHAs.”

In response to the stigma and discrimination experienced by People with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) in our province, a project funded by the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia was developed for release in time for 2008 AIDS Awareness Week.

See the full series of AIDS Awareness Week Campaign posters on Page 8.

WORLD AIDS DAY VIGIL
HALIFAX 2009

**HONOUR
REMEMBER
CELEBRATE**

ALL ARE WELCOME
7:00PM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 2009
MICMAC NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTER
2158 GOTTINGEN ST., HALIFAX

A COMMUNITY EVENT SPONSORED BY
AIDS COALITION
IT MOVES PEOPLE

Atlantic Canada Events

For more information, contact the AIDS agency nearest you:

Sydney, NS

Tuesday, December 1: Candle Light Vigil, St. George's Church on Nepean Street, Short reception at Loaves and Fishes will follow.

Truro, NS

Northern AIDS Connection Events -- go to Facebook: Northern AIDS Connection Society, www.northernaidsconnectionociety.ca email: nacs@eastlink.ca,

Halifax, NS

Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS World AIDS Day Event Tuesday, December 1

A gathering featuring youth performances, local speakers and a keynote address from Lois Chingandu, Executive Director, SAfAIDS, Zimbabwe, highlighting the impact of HIV/AIDS on women and girls both locally and around the world. Display of the posters, Information tables, light snacks and refreshments. An announcement of the youth poster contest winners.

Where: Italian Cultural Centre
2629 Agricola Street, Halifax
Time: 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
More information: aids@gov.ns.ca or 424-5730

St. John's, NL

AIDS Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador:
<http://www.acnl.net/index.shtml>

Fredericton, NB

AIDS NB: <http://www.aidsnb.com/>

Charlottetown, PEI

AIDS PEI: <http://www.aidspei.com> World AIDS Day Breakfast, Tuesday, December 1 7:30 a.m., Memorial Hall in the Confederation Centre of the Arts. Videos from CATIE's Prise Positive/Positive Take to be shown. Full buffet breakfast to be served. Tickets \$15.00; \$25.00 double. For tickets, contact Alana Leard at 566-2437 or email alana@aidspei.com.

World AIDS Day Vigil, Tuesday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m., St. Paul's Church, Prince Street, All faiths welcome.

Moncton, NB

SIDA AIDS Moncton: <http://www.sida-aidsmoncton.com/> Candlelight Vigil at St. John's Church, Sunday November 29 11:00 a.m.

The annual Candlelight Vigil to commemorate World AIDS Day is a special event attended by people from all over New Brunswick who have been affected by HIV/AIDS. All are welcome.

Saint John, NB

AIDS Saint John: <http://www.aidsstjohn.com/> Tuesday December 1, New Brunswick Lieutenant Governor, Graydon Nicolas. Honourary Patron for the New Brunswick community based AIDS organizations will be hosting a World AIDS Day Leaders Breakfast.

This has become an annual event with up to 60 invitees from local, provincial and federal government and other community partners. This year at the breakfast, AIDS Saint John will be presenting their Daniel Clowes award to Connors Brothers and St. Joseph's Church. The award

con't on p 8

We thought for sure our community would be there for us...

He's still the same guy. We're still the same couple. We need guidance. We need support. We can't easily talk about James's status, our options - HIV is difficult all alone.

Stop HIV/AIDS stigma & discrimination.

AIDS CHALLENGE
THE AIDS COALITION
OF CANADA

Regular Columns

Ask Ian 11 • Chef's Corner 10 • Gay Men's Health 4 • Groups & Services 12 • I Am What I Amherst 7 • ISCANs News 3 • Kibitz and Bitch 6 • The Last Word 14 • Letters 14 • You Tell Us 14

Deadline: the first Friday of every month!

Events Around Atlantic Canada

Safe Harbour MCC

Safe Harbour MCC invites those seeking a spiritual connection for the upcoming holiday season to consider celebrating with us.

This year, the four Sundays of Advent will offer the following themes:

November 29: What has you excited about the future? December 6: A message worth proclaiming December 13: Invitation to a party December 20: Holiday Homecoming.

Services are held at 11:00 a.m. at 3115 Veith Street where Devonshire, Young and Veith Streets come together. We will also have our Christmas Eve service of word, song, and communion at 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome to come and participate in these services to enhance your preparations for Christmas. For more information visit our website at www.safeharbourmcc.com. E-mail us at safeharbourmcc.eastlink.ca or call (902) 453-9249.

December Movies

Safe Harbour is hosting a movie series in December as well. Here is the schedule; all movies are at 7:00pm on Tuesdays at Veith House, 3115 Veith Street. December 8: The Homecoming; A Christmas Story! December 15: The Polar Express! December 22: It's a Wonderful Life!

Safe Harbour MCC is proud to

host the 19th annual community Christmas dinner this December 12, starting at 6:00 p.m. This will be the second year the dinner is named in honour of Rev. Darlene Young, long-time pastor for Safe Harbour MCC, who died a year ago September. The dinner will be held in a new location this year, at St. Matthews United Church on Barrington Street. This venue is slightly smaller than our location last year.

We hope to be able to accommodate as many guests as last year by asking the cooperation of persons who attend to move from table space when they are done eating to standing areas, so persons who arrive later can be seated. It is our hope that all will stay and mingle together as community, while maximizing the number of persons who can join us. Details are still in the works, but it is hoped there will be a piano present so singing can be part of the evening's festivities. Safe Harbour MCC will also be presenting its Rev. Darlene Young Community Hero Award during the dinner events.

This event is free to all who wish to attend. Donations will be gratefully received at the door from those who wish to help defray our expenses.

AIDS Awareness Week

World AIDS Day Activities/Events on Facebook:

Each year during weeks leading up to AIDS Awareness Week (AAW) and World AIDS Day (WAD) ACNS receives numerous inquiries about events and activities. As a provincial AIDS organization we have started an AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS) events page on Facebook. We would like to invite all organizations across Nova Scotia to join together to post information about AAW/WAD events and activities in your area. We plan to promote this site widely across the province and to the local media. Please send your information post to pc@acns.ns.ca and I will be sure to post your information to the site.

The following link will take you directly to the ACNS Facebook: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=323029205077. Let's stay connected and tell more people about how to get involved this year. Together let's make a difference.

ACNS Holiday Open House

The AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia is holding its Holiday Open House on Wednesday, December 9, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the ACNS offices, 1675 Bedford Row, Halifax (between Sackville and Prince Streets, and two doors down from McKelvie's Restaurant). Drop by to meet staff, volunteers and board members and share in some holiday fare and the spirit of the season. For more about this or anything to do with ACNS and its programs and services phone (902) 425-4882 or go to www.acns.ns.ca.

Wayves Halifax Meeting Rescheduled

The Wayves community meeting planned for last month has been rescheduled to January. The Halifax face-to-face get-together will feature a short talk by Benjie Nycum, LGBT activist, former founder of Young Gay America and YGA Magazine. There'll be finger food, and lots of time to talk about the magazine, and network with community leaders and queer literati.

The goal of the meeting is to get some feedback to people from whom we don't usually hear, kick around some ideas for the upcoming year, and get some more people involved with Wayves! And, since we're officially a society, we'll also be having a quick Annual General Meeting.

The meeting will be at The Hub, Halifax, second floor, 1673 Barrington Street, above Certainly Cinnamon, on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00pm.

Bring your friends, bring your ideas and bring your (figurative please) bricks and bouquets!

Sydney Gay Men's Health Workshop

A Gay Men's Health and HIV Prevention workshop has been rescheduled and will now be presented in Sydney on Friday, December 4, by Chris Aucoin, the Gay Men's Health coordinator of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. The workshop is intended for both healthcare workers and other service providers who work with gay and bisexual men as part of their clientele, as well as gay community advocates. Areas to be touched will include:

- population health and the gay men's health movement;
- harm reduction approaches to HIV prevention;
- health-related issues of particular concern for gay men;
- building "cultural capacity" with regard to gay men.

There is no charge for the workshop but advance registration is required. For more information contact Contact Chris Aucoin at (902) 425-4882 extension 222 (toll-free at 1 (800) 566-2437 ext. 222) via e-mail at gmhc@acns.ns.ca.

Gay Men's Health Team Volunteers Needed

The Gay Men's Health Project of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia is looking for gay and bisexual men 19 and over to do bar and/or community event healthy sexuality outreach. Men between 19 and 25 are especially needed. The average commitment (per event) would be between two to four hours and you can work just one or every one! You don't need to be a "sexpert" as any training needed is provided. Contact Chris Aucoin, Gay Men's Health Coordinator at (902) 425-4882 or e-mail gmhc@acns.ns.ca. Come have some fun, meet some good people and make a difference in your community.

Scotiabank Walk For Life

Thank you to all the Scotiabank AIDS WALK FOR LIFE Halifax participants, volunteers and supporters! You've made this year the most successful AIDS Walk Halifax. Special thanks go to our top walkers and teams: Mz. Vicki, Vince Charles, Glen Collins, RBC Pride, MAC Cosmetics and Team Hope.

The money raised from the WALK supports programming which enhances the health and well-being of Nova Scotians living with HIV/AIDS. You may still donate to the AIDS Walk for Life Halifax online at: www.aidswalkforlife.ca/halifax.htm.

Valley Youth Project

Get ready! The VYP will begin meeting again on November 19. Same time, same place, except that this year we'll be meeting on Thursdays. Tell your friends! And see you on the 19th! Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Youth-Project/22418494995.

Valley Youth Project Drop In

Sexual Orientation * Gender Identity Allies * Youth Drop-in every second Thursday from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the New Minas Civic Center. Ages 25 and under. Free bus tickets available. Free food. Free fun.

The Valley Youth Project aims to support queer, trans, lesbian, gay, bisexual and allied youth by creating safe social space. We are affiliated with the Youth Project (www.youth-project.ns.ca) and together we work towards making Nova Scotia a safer, healthier, and happier place for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth through support, education, resource expansion and community development.

AIDS PEI Has Moved!

AIDS PEI's new address is: 375 University Avenue, Unit 2, Charlottetown, PE, C1A 4N4

wayves

Moncton Pride, Atlantic News, Kibitz & Bitch, DAIQUT, Movie Reviews, Truro Pride, Editorials, Free CDs, Events Calendar, LGBT-MUN, Theatre Reviews, Charlottetown Pride, Political Commentary, Spectrum, Groups & Services, Fredericton Pride, Recipes, Sports Briefs, Legal Briefs & Grievs, Drag 101, Halifax Pride, Svend Robinson, Marc Hall, Scott Brisson, and more all the time! Moncton Pride, Atlantic News, Kibitz & Bitch, DAIQUT, Movie Reviews, Truro Pride, Editorials, Free CDs, Events Calendar, LGBT-MUN, Theatre Reviews, Charlottetown Pride, Political Commentary, Spectrum, Groups & Services, Fredericton Pride, Recipes, Sports Briefs, Legal Briefs & Grievs, Drag 101, Halifax Pride, Svend Robinson, Marc Hall, Scott Brisson, and more all the time!

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ISCANS Takes On the Christmas Season

By Nathan Boudreau

Hello to everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying the colder air and is crossing their fingers hoping the white fluffy stuff doesn't arrive anytime soon. As I do every month, let me first thank everyone at Menz Bar—Doug, David, and staff—for having us throughout the month of November for our two great events, our Spaghetti Lunch and our Annual Awards Show. Both events were a great time and fun times were had by all.

I must add that our Empress Boom Boom and Imperial Crown

Prince have done some traveling the past couple months. They have been in Toronto, St. Catharines and even as far away as California representing ISCANS.

Our monthly show for December will be our annual "Turn-About" show, where all our male titles come out as girls and the girls titles come out as boys. It's bound to be a very funny and grand time. Cover, as usual, is \$5.00, and it will be held on December 20 at 9:00 p.m.

ISCANS is also selling tickets for a chance to win a Coronation week-

end package, including two nights at the host hotel (Hotel Atlantica), two tickets to the State Dinner, the Coronation itself, 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.

As always, if you have any comments or suggestions, don't hesitate to let any of us know as we would love to hear from our members and our community. Also, you can email us at events@imperialcourtns.com.



Valley Youth Project

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Nov 19 '09

6pm - 8:30pm

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Ages 18 & under

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Valley-Youth-Project/22418494995>

Email us at valleyyouthproject@gmail.com

Moncton Magic Online Forum

By Nathan Adams

Moncton Magic is a LGBT Forum. This website is a place for members of the GLBT Community to come together, share stories, events, post topics and hopefully bring our community together as a stronger and more accepted place to live. I created this group with

the hope that it will help provide social opportunities where gay men and women will feel safe, understood, and supported, and help reach out to



articles that concern the LGBT Community. This website is also designed with a photo-gallery, a forum where you can discuss topics or events that are important to you, a guest book where you are free to leave a comment, as well as a blog where I share random stories and discuss topics that are important to me. The URL is moncton-magic.webs.com.

Thank-you for taking the time to view this site and hope you enjoy.

Lets all keep reaching out, and moving forward.

the LGBT community and let them know that they are not alone.

This website will help keep you updated on upcoming events, news

Groups & Services Updates

New: prideHealth, improving safe access to health care, is a program of Capital Health and the IWK Health Centre. If you are a member of the Pride community and need support with any kind of health care call Anita, Clinical Nursing Specialist, at (902) 220-0643. She is available

free of charge, offering complete confidentiality. She can also give you support if you are experiencing homo- or transphobia.

New: OUT Bowling: River of Pride – Rivière de fierté Inc. hosts bowling every Monday night at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$9.00, which included 3 strings and shoe rental. This is a special the owner has offered to the GLBT community. Dieppe Bowlarama, 476 Chemin Gauvin Rd. E-mail riverofpride@hotmail.com or visit www.fiertemonctonpride.ca.

Do you have a nonprofit group or service which should be listed in Wayves pages 12 and 13? Does your group need its information updated? Send a note to submissions@wayves.ca!

Mea Culpa

We missed a couple of important things in the November issue. The table of contents was incorrect, and the "About our Cover" should have acknowledged Randall as the photographer and Cameron as the designer. The list of names from the people on the cover should have also read, "The company of The Laramie Project reading."

Our Cover:

Image from the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. Illustration and cover design by Anita Martinez

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!

Important WAYVES Dates!

Issue Content Deadlines:

Fridays: Dec 4, Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 2; 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: Dec 7, Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 5. Help decide what goes in the next issue, 7:30 PM, Blowers St Paper Chase, Halifax. All welcome, every meeting.

Magazine Layout (Halifax):

Dec 13, Feb 14, Mar 14, Apr 11. 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.

Brought to You by // Where to Find Wayves

Angus Campbell
Anita Martinez
Cam MacLeod
Daniel MacKay
Jim Bain
Kim Fowlow

Ralph Higgins
Randall Perry
Raymond Taavel
Val Windsor
Will Murray
Zabrina Way

... and ...
Blowers Street Paper Chase for meeting space
Your Name Here!

Want to tell your friends where to get their own copy of Wayves? Your first stop should be to www.wayves.ca; you can download the current issue, a back issue, and also get the complete list of our

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!

Does Meth = Death?

By Angus Campbell
(AngCam59@yahoo.ca)

If you're like many in Atlantic Canada, you probably a) have never heard of crystal meth, or b) don't think it's an issue locally. In recognition of National Addiction Awareness Week, and to bring attention to the drug's known use in our community, OUT! Alive presented the film "Rock Bottom: Gay Men & Meth" at the Youth Project in Halifax on Friday, November 13.

The hour-long documentary made by Jay Corcoran chronicles seven gay men in NYC and their experiences with crystal methamphetamine. Their graphic stories are powerful, touching, often chilling and provide an understanding as to why gay men may be especially vulnerable to crystal's allure. Shame, homophobia, uneasiness in social situations, rejection, stigmatized by HIV, sexuality-based identities, and "a paradigm of people unable to connect" were possible themes identified by meth users and counsellors alike.

Some believe (mistakenly) that meth is "the perfect drug for gay men" as it can be extremely inviting by offering a rush of intense pleasure, increased energy and confidence, and obsessive hypersexual prow-

ess (read risking everything for sex). It can also suggest the ideal escape from one's life and the chance to sexually experiment, inhibition-free.

But crystal meth can be one of addiction's slipperiest slopes. Dr. Richard Rawson of UCLA explains its highly addictive quality because "it produces the mother of all dopamine releases"—about 12 times as much as you get from food or sex.

So what are the major health issues? The brain's chemistry is changed with the continued use of meth, which in turn changes the brain's wiring and blocks people from feeling any pleasurable feelings. That's right—any pleasurable feelings.

Other concerns are "meth mouth" (more like death mouth—death to one's gums, and rotten teeth); sexual behaviour (PnP) online Party aNd Play hook-ups aren't uncommon with some staying up for days at a time; bareback sex with multiple partners and how the drug is consumed (smoking, injecting, snorting and anal suppositories known as booty bumps) can also put people at risk for hepatitis, HIV, and other STIs and infections.

After the film a group discussion ensued to share opinions and questions. Topics explored included the importance of being pro-active before the community is in crisis and what we as individuals and as a group can do.

Meth is available in three forms: crystal, powder and tablet. The latter is most popular in our region

Gay Men's Health



and many partners don't realize that Ecstasy is MDMA, and the MA stands for Meth Amphetamine.

People can't control how much meth is in Ecstasy either, so they are unaware if they are seriously damaging/re-wiring their brain.

A more popular drug of choice in our region is crack cocaine but the police admit that can change. They are committed to working with our community and with OUT! Alive.

As a volunteer committee sponsored by Capital Health's Addiction

Prevention and Treatment Services, OUT! Alive is actively seeking new members to help promote our community's health and well being. Please email me for further info for visit the Facebook page.

Methamphetamine addiction is known to be one of the most difficult forms of addictions to treat.

Personally I've seen a few friends in Vancouver battle crystal. I've witnessed the ebb and flow of addiction and recovery; of gay men losing almost everything, including their lives. But I've come to believe where there's breath, there's hope. Even meth breath.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

from

Doug, David & Staff

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\$150.00 an Hour: Where Do I Sign Up?

By Moi Man

As many of us know, there are many dark sides to the gay community. As in any community, there are parts that are hidden from the public eye. From 2001 onwards, I was working in Canada's thriving escort service industry. As of November 2008, I took my last out call. I know there are a lot of mixed emotions and feelings toward male prostitution in our community and the community at large. Male prostitution is mostly underground. Some of the comments that I have heard from friends and acquaintances over the past few years are, "People actually pay you for that? It must be all married men who are not getting it at home. I am sure it is all older men looking for younger guys." I would

have to say that it was the farthest thing from the truth. Most of the men that I met were men who knew what they wanted and were willing to use me for it.

One of the main driving forces that pushed me toward becoming an escort was the desire to be with someone. I deeply longed for that contact, not sexually, but just male to male contact. This desire is within us all whether you are male or female, gay or straight. We all long for physical contact. How are we finding our outlet for this?

I went looking for contact and when I didn't find what I was looking for, I ended up spending too many nights wishing I didn't do what I was doing. Before I knew

it, I was hooked on the lifestyle; all expense paid trips around the world, pampered weekends at high end spas, and all the money and drugs I could

It turned into an all-out addiction to sex, pills, other drugs, and alcohol. I couldn't stop.

use. Although I enjoyed some of the chaos, what price did I have to pay?

When I first started in the escort industry, I was doing it for the thrill. But when the thrill trickled out, I was left with a void in my life that I had to fill with extreme drugs to ease the mental turmoil of what I was do-

ing. This became the second biggest driving force that kept me addicted to the scene.

It turned into an all out addiction of sex, pills, other drugs and alcohol. I couldn't stop. I was on a fast train to death. Before I knew it, I was hopping all across Canada within a few weeks. All I found was loneliness and men who wanted to use my body. In this state, I hurt myself and all those around me. Family and friends were not exempt from what was happening. I was using people to get what I wanted but when I was stripped down to the bare, all I wanted was to be loved with no pressure of sex.

After eight years of this, I signed into detox and finally admitting I had

a problem and that I needed help. I am now taking steps to become the man I was intended to be.

I am currently living in recovery and I do have to say that walking away from that scene was the hardest thing I have ever done in my life. The hardest thing I have to do daily. But after leaving escorting for a year and eight months and leaving drugs behind, I am very thankful that I am alive. I would have to say "sorry" to all the johns that I let use me and to the ones I used. So here is to my recovery and to new starts for me and those of you who are reading this. There is hope out there. I know it is hard. I have been there but if I can do it, so can you.

Best of luck. MOI

12 Days Of PEI

By Alana Leard

AIDS PEI is pleased to announce that the 20th anniversary of the "12 Days of Christmas" campaign is underway with the first draw on December 6 and going through until December 15. "With approximately \$20,000 in prizes this year, we are extremely excited to launch this campaign," said executive director Mark Hanlon. "Also, Westjet is a major sponsor this year and one lucky ticket buyer will win two tickets to anywhere WestJet flies."

"The board is so pleased that many of the past businesses are back supporting this large fundraiser; some have been with us for 20 years," remarked George Clark-Dunning, member of the board and coordinator of this year's campaign. "I've talked with many of those that started the 12 Days and most are still involved today. It really touches me that they still see the importance of the work we do at AIDS PEI."

From the kitchen table beginnings, the first 12 Days fundraiser started as a way to help provide HIV-positive Islanders with financial assistance in purchasing medication, helping to cover medical travel out of province as well as other items that help improve the quality of life for HIV-positive people across the province.

Over the years, the 12 Days of Christmas has grown to be one of the biggest fundraisers for AIDS

PEI. As the number of HIV-positive people has grown, so have the financial requests for help when no other resources are available to clients.

"People have asked over the years why the tickets are still \$5.00. Everything else has gone up in price," said Clark-Dunning. "We thought about increasing the price of a ticket but paying a mere \$5.00 for a chance at winning all the prizes on our list, just makes buying them easier for our

regular buyers as well as accessible and affordable for new ones."

Tickets are available at locations across the province. Check your local newspaper for a location near you or call the AIDS PEI office at (902) 566-2437. You may also purchase your ticket online at www.aidspei.com.



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Leonard Preyra

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Season's Greetings

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Crawford Hastie's KIBITZ AND BITCH

Hey Tom,
Happy Hols and all that. Hope you're enjoying a Belgian hot chocolate...or maybe just a hot Belgian. Ho, ho, ho. Sorry, couldn't help it. I'm on a bit of a holiday high from practicing Christmas carols on the piano.

Music is so evocative, isn't it? I'm not big on the whole religion thing—I'll celebrate the solstice, Chanukah, Kwanza or Christmas and believe in aspects of all of them—but the music! Gotta love those old songs, from Bing Crosby to Boney M while decorating the tree.

I read where a right wing evangelical group was trying to organize a boycott against The Gap and its affiliated companies because The Gap refuses to use the word Christmas and instead insists on using holiday season etc. as being more inclusive. This group who claim to want to put the Christ back in Christmas also threatened and scolded a mayor in a southern town for having a holiday tree. It's a Christmas tree, they rebuked him, always been a Christmas tree. I hate to burst their bubble but the origin of a decorated evergreen is a pre-Christian symbol, as is the Yule log, mistletoe etc.

Speaking of evergreens, our queer friends in the lone pine state recently had their right to marry repealed by a vote of 53 to 47%. This whole idea of voting on civil rights seems a bit strange to me. If it is by definition a right, then the process of voting makes no sense. This pervasive crazy idea that rights for queer folk would be harmful to others reminds me of the Anita Bryant campaign back in the days of Harvey Milk. At first she won some victories against homosexuals too, but the tide turned eventually.

I can't bear to watch American news lately as full as it is of the health care debate, "Don't Ask Don't Tell," same-sex marriage and opponents. And the Americans want to vote on everything! It's crazy. The line between democracy and mob rule is a very fine one. It's a wonder they get anything done on important issues. Oh, right... they haven't yet, have they?

So many of these "Christians" are so anti-everything, one wonders what they are in favour of? I have nothing against Christ. If he were here today I think he'd be on picket lines, taking part in marches for equal rights and working on funding for the arts and health care. I don't picture him attending Sunday church with those pinched-faced right wingers who are so disapproving of everything they've got frown lines on their souls.

And on this side of the border, the province of Alberta passed a bill which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. Good news, right? Ah, but there's a catch. It seems there is an "opt out" clause which allows parents to remove their

children from classes on sexuality, sexual orientation or religion. This attitude of I-don't-like-the-rules-of-the-game—so-I'm-taking-my-child-and-going-home would be laughable if it weren't so harmful to the children, teaching them that tolerance, acceptance, inclusion and rational discussion are just "options" in life, just suggestions for behaviour, not important aspects of civilized living.

But, let's focus on a real problem: How to dress the dolls this year? In the past, they've been choir boys, did a little naughty-but-nice tableau, and one year, they were just high-spirited boys "rockin' around the Christmas tree" and smooching under the mistletoe. Costumes are always a problem—expensive to buy and difficult to find, and I don't have the skills to sew a dozen sets of clothes. I'm sure I'll think of something by the time my Open House comes around.

The holiday season (sorry, evangelical nutjobs) is always fun, lots of parties with mulled cider, rum balls, eggnog and finger foods. I like the challenge of aiming for a full, nutritious meal made entirely out of nibbly foods.

And there is New Year's Eve to consider. I don't have a date yet. One of my favourite New Year's Eves was spent with a man with some rather striking tattoos in some very surprising places. And he had a very active, creative imagination for "play." Definite fireworks.

Before I go, I have to tell you a bit of sad news. My landlord, and old friend, died recently. So, no more waking up to the sounds of Chopin being played on the baby grand upstairs. I keep thinking I hear his voice—known so well to me after hundreds of conversations. Or I find myself listening for the footsteps I won't hear again. Learning to use past tense when speaking of him. Why does a death at holiday time seem so much sadder?

I like to imagine that maybe he and Liberace have met up somewhere and are playing Mozart for four hands and having a grand time gossiping about all of us. I also hope someone has convinced him to wear a colour besides beige!

Okay, got to run, Tommo. Need to rehearse the Bach Christmas Oratorio that the chorus is singing this year.

Have a great holiday, old friend and all the best in 2010!

Love ya!

Crawford

Holiday Season Survival

By Cal Callisto

Some of us find it difficult to survive the holiday season. In the GLBT community, you may experience stress, anxiety, loneliness and depression during the December holiday season, but you can do something about this problem. More specifically, this article is for members of the GLBT community who have a problem with alcohol or drugs, or are affected by others' addictions. I occasionally nibble on a bit of catnip but do not have a substance abuse problem, although my human is a long-sober alcoholic. Some others are not so lucky.

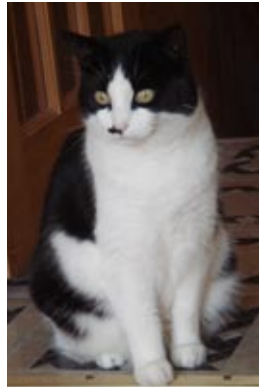
Staying close to a 12-step program, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or Narcotics Anonymous (NA), is the best way to remain safe, clean and sober. Don't isolate yourself—get out among other clean and sober people, for you will discover that they understand what you are going through. You do not need to be alone. There are many AA meetings everyday in Halifax throughout the holiday season, and at least one NA meeting daily. Most meetings still take place on holidays but you can phone to confirm. For AA meetings in HRM, phone (902) 461-1119 24 hours a day, or check the website www.aahalifax.org.

There will be lots of special events in December. E-mail aahalifax@gmail.com to be added to the e-mail distribution list for newsletters; phone AA in December for the latest information on special events; and check my blog for updated details. Club 24 (a dry club) at 2 Dundas Street in Dartmouth has a special event every Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. There will likely be a New Years Eve dry dance, and many other AA groups have special pre-Christmas dry events.

For Narcotics Anonymous, phone (902) 454-2413 or 1 (800) 205-8402, or check the website www.centralnovaarea.ca.

There is only one AA meeting group in Atlantic Canada specifically for the GLBT community, and it has been running for 27 years. This

is the Live & Let Live Group on Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. in the St. Matthew's United Church at 1479 Barrington Street in



The author

Halifax (at the bottom of the stairs next near Maritime Centre). Contact the group by phoning (902) 425-8383 or (902) 422-4972. Some people go to the Second Cup on Spring Garden Road at 7:00 p.m. before the meeting. Although there is only one gay-specific AA meeting, many GLBT community members attend other meetings.

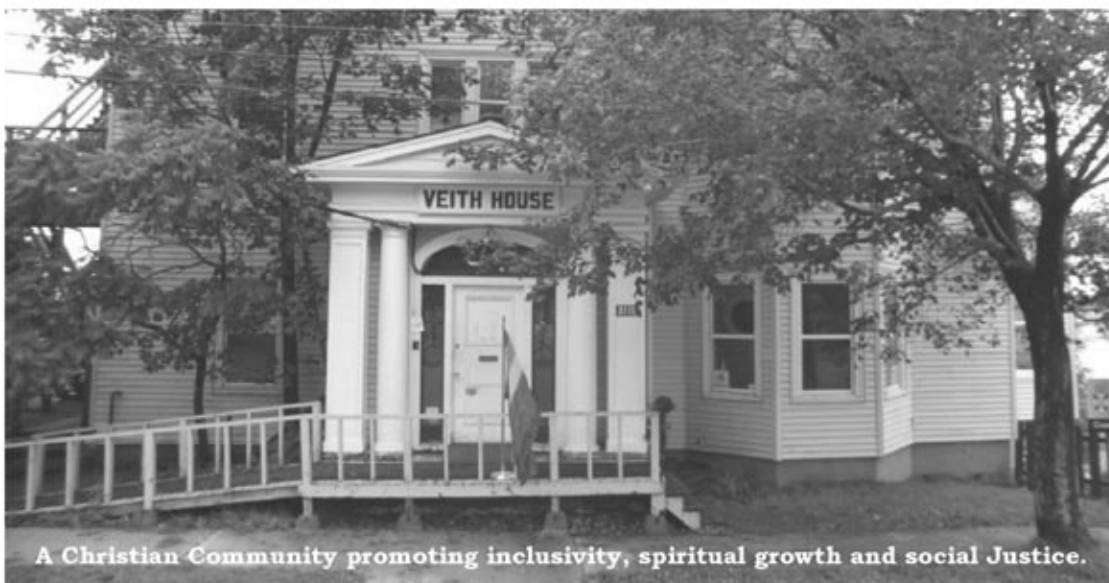
If you are affected by the alcoholism of others, get help from Al-Anon. Phone (902) 466-4077, or visit www.freewebs.com/alanonmaritimes.

There are many other safe possibilities outside of 12-step programs that do not involve the bar scene. Every day people (mostly gay, but not necessarily in AA) meet for coffee at the Spring Garden Cafe near South Park around 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. On Christmas Eve, many of these people get together for dinner. Christmas Day can be a downer as hardly any businesses are open, but some people go out for a buffet dinner at one of the hotels. The Atlantica Hotel at Robie and Quinpool streets is a good bet, as are the Citadel Hotel and Westin Hotel, but make your reservation well ahead of December 25.

Don't forget about Safe Harbour MCC, either. Check their website for many Christmas activities at www.safeharbourmcc.com.

For up-to-date information, check the blog bumperandpepper.wordpress.com, which will be updated with more details by the time this article is in print, including information for Atlantic Canada outside of Halifax, including other parts of NS, and for NB, PE and NL.

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I Am What I Amherst

By Gerard Veldhoven

Another year coming to an end. The queer community is now ready to celebrate the holidays with special events. The Amherst area is no exception and as usual the Cumberland Pride Society has organized the annual Holiday Gay-La Dinner and Dance on Saturday, December 19. Anyone wishing to attend may purchase tickets by contacting Lisa Hill-Power at cumberlandpride@hotmail.com or by calling (902) 660-5143. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and must be purchased by December 12. This event always draws a great crowd and is open to members of the Society, their families, and friends from the queer and straight community.

I must begin by acknowledging all the people involved in planning, organizing and bringing to fruition all the events that succeeded in making the GLBTTQ community in this part of Nova Scotia more visible, and indeed place a permanent stamp on this area of Nova Scotia. The fantastic work by these dedicated members of the Cumberland Pride Society will be appreciated for all time. Quite an accomplishment for a group that saw its beginnings only three years ago, in my opinion.

Amherst and area had some pioneers determined to make a difference. The first couple to openly live together, bringing up two children, was a first in this north-western part of Nova Scotia. That couple was Norman Carter and me—and that dates back to 1975. It was the talk of the town. Norman and I set up the first business here in 1978 that was referred to in the earlier days as “the business run by two fruits.” We actually became quite accustomed to that. As the years went by, the whole town was quite aware of this “first,” and as I became more involved as an activist people looked for more information as to what would happen next. I was constantly battling with MP Bill Casey and others, challenging the various churches to conduct same-sex marriages. The list goes on. On October 16, 2004 Norman and I were married in what turned out to

be the first public legal same-sex marriage performed in Atlantic Canada. Another first for Amherst. CTV and CBC made certain it was recorded as historical. So you see, even a small community also is able to boast some firsts in queer history.

The town folk have been very supportive for the most part. Let's not forget Mayor Jerry Hallee and now Mayor Rob Small, the council of the town of Amherst and CAO Greg Herrett. So far, it has been a blast!

Personally, it has been a year of many rewards. As I stepped down as Chair of the Cumberland Society, it became apparent to me that the society has grown and has expanded its scope of activities and events. Of course, our own Pride Week must be the most obvious event, illustrating the commencement of growth of the queer society in this area. It has blossomed into a full-fledged company of citizens proud of who they are and what they represent. I must mention that I do feel somewhat proud that I founded Cumberland Pride, and additionally that it still exists and is growing under the new leadership of Susan Reid. Susan has promised great plans for further growth. Of course, many have been involved in its success.

This year I was honoured to be nominated for the Order of Nova Scotia. Even though I was not chosen to receive this high honour, I was nevertheless overwhelmed by the fact that my brothers and sisters in the queer and straight communities were so kind. I was indeed honoured and humbled by this effort and I shall treasure it always.

As I write my autobiography and being involved in a study regarding senior GLBTTQ members in long-term care facilities, I remain busy with a definite purpose in mind. That purpose is to assist in establishing goals that in time will bring together all who treasure equal treatment. That is an arduous task, but Amherstonians are well on their way to recognizing we are all the same.

Anyone wishing to attend a meeting of the Cumberland Pride Society can

contact cumberlandpride@hotmail.com or call our secretary, Lisa, at (902) 660-5143. Meetings are held the third Monday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Trinity Room, Hertz Hall, Trinity St. Stephen United Church, Ratchford Street, Amherst.

This is all for now from Amherst and I wish you all the happiest of holidays. Till next year!

Art By Anita



"I call this piece 'Save the Trees.' You'll understand why..."
Anita L. Martinez

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Fight HIV/AIDS-related Stigma & Discrimination

Events

Cont'd from p. 1

is presented to an individual or group that has given outstanding leadership in the fight against HIV infection and AIDS, or whose sensitivity, understanding and compassion have resulted in highly significant support for infected and affected persons.

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Factors which contribute to stigma and discrimination include:

- HIV/AIDS is a life-threatening illness and people are afraid of contracting it, this is often the result of needing additional resources for education and support across NS
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A disproportionate number of PHAs living with depression only further exacerbates a person's ability to be adherent to highly active retroviral therapy (95% adherence is required). This is another important link between HIV/AIDS, stigma, discrimination and mental health.

But it doesn't stop there. According to the Canadian AIDS Society, "stigma and discrimination associated with the disease continue to make it difficult to teach prevention and awareness to those most susceptible to infection."

Stigma and discrimination can do real damage to people's lives affecting someone's work, housing, medical services, safety, fear and depression. The impact on a PHA's mental health and overall wellbeing is exactly why a project of this kind is necessary.

Stigma can be defined as "a quality that is seen to mark an individual as different or bad" and discrimination is "the behavior or action tied to stigma", for example, the negative treatment of people based on certain characteristics.

Lulu LaRude Scholarship Auction Raises 4K



By Raymond Taave
 Photos: Anita Martinez
 On Tuesday, November 10, Reflections Cabaret held a fundraising auction and show called Remembering Lulu. The fund has two main purposes: to keep the memory of Lulu LaRude alive and let people know what an amazing, kind, loving, talented, and giving person Lulu was; and to raise money for students in the performing arts or health care areas. All the money goes to September scholarships. The scholarship committee consists of Stephen Filek (creator and

administrator of the fund), William McDuff Gillis, Priscilla Love and Tim Humphrey. "The Remembering Lulu LaRude show was a huge success," said Filek. "We were able to celebrate the life of a wonderful human being. We looked back on cherished times and let people know who Lulu was." The event generated over \$4,000—the funds collected from the cover charge were added to the \$1,000 earned from the auction, and donations from Reflections (\$200), Lulu's sister Kathy (\$200), Sammi Khalife (\$200) and Jenny Schmid (\$40). There were also numerous prod-

uct and gift donations, including gift certificates to Hamachi House, Dofsky's Bar & Grill, Yuk Yuk's and James Mitchell Limousines. "This Hour Has 22 Minutes" also donated prizes; a colour print was donated by Chyloe Gallant; a gown was donated by Gina Gibb; chocolates came from Max Blades and Elle Noir at Laura Secord Chocolates; a gift bag was donated from Redken, and many more donations from the community. All proceeds will go to the scholarship fund and a \$400 donation will be made to the War Veteran's Fund in Lulu's name. Stephen says "Lulu LaRude, also

known as Charles "Chuck" McDuff Gillis, was many things—a loving husband, devoted friend, drag celebrity, make-up specialist, costume designer, emcee, entertainer. Lulu was the total package, with the ability to captivate an audience like no other. Her career spanned over 25 years and in that time she thrilled tens of thousands. Some notable highlights included performing at The Ribbon of Dreams AIDS Benefit which starred country superstar Trisha Yearwood; doing makeup for the Rankin Family; hosting her own television show; creating the Mz. Gay Halifax Pageant; raising thousands of

dollars for charity; doing The Loud and Queer Cabaret, which showcased LGBTQ culture in Edmonton; hosting her own show, Five Minutes of Fame; sharing a makeup business, Making Faces, with Priscilla Love; becoming Empress IX of Edmonton; and marrying the love of her life, Billy McDuff Gillis." Wayves volunteers - managing editor Raymond Taavel and photographer Anita Martinez had a blast at the event. The above photo spread was Wayves' way of recording a special person and special moment in the life of the Atlantic Canada LGBT community.



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Chef's Corner



With the holiday season just around the corner, I have decided to offer up a simple yet delicious baked dip perfect for all of your holiday entertaining. Whether you're having friends over, or you're going to a potluck this is always a crowd pleaser. I like to serve this dish hot from the oven with spiced baked pita chips, fresh rounds of French baguette, but any of your favourite crackers will do. It is also nice with a vegetable crudity platter. I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2010.

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.

Baked Lobster and Artichoke Dip

Ingredients

8 oz package cream cheese (softened)	chopped)	2 cloves minced garlic
1 cold pack frozen knuckle and claw lobster meat (drained and rough chopped)	1/4 cup thick sour cream	1 tsp chopped fresh chives
Zest of one lemon	1/4 cup mayonnaise	1 tsp chopped fresh tarragon
6 oz can artichokes (drained and chopped)	1/3 cup aged parmesan cheese (split)	1 tsp green jalapeno Tabasco sauce
	1/2 cup fresh bread crumbs	Sea salt and fresh cracked black pepper to taste
	2 tsp melted butter	

Method

1. Fluff the cream cheese in a stand or hand held mixer until soft and creamy. Fold in all other ingredients except for half of the parmesan, bread crumbs and butter.
2. Fill a one inch deep 6"x4" porcelain baking dish.
3. Mix the bread crumbs, parmesan and butter together and sprinkle over the dip.
4. Bake on middle rack of a preheated 350°F oven for approximately 20 minutes, or until bubbling and the crumb topping is golden brown.
5. Remove from oven and let rest for 5 minutes prior to serving.

They Plaaayed Ball!



By C. Lamarche

Right off the bat, the 2009 season proved a good one for Halifax's East Coast Rainbow Softball Association (ECRSA). This year, the ECRSA grew to six teams and over 100 players, and it saw one of its teams play internationally.

A recreational, slo-pitch softball league for people of the GLBT community and their straight allies, the league is open to players 19+ of all skill levels. The league's goals are to foster softball play, good times, and community support.

By connecting with the ECRSA, softball enthusiasts can expect to touch base with good times. Just ask the players from any of the six teams that were up at bat this year: Bibby's Big Spender\$, the CoHos, LED Roadway Lighting, Menz Bar, Rosie's Riveters, and Venus Envy.

Don't be fooled by the term "slo-pitch." This sport is full of thrill and upset. Sure, you know about Halifax Pride's yearly high-drama highlight, the Dykes vs. Divas game, but check out this sleeper, described by Menz Bar team captain Douglas Bungay: "We were playing a team and were losing by 8 runs...In the 8th and 9th inning [we] overcame that deficit to win the game." If that doesn't get

you shaking pom-poms at the diamond, nothing will.

The play went further afield when the Company House team, the CoHos (formerly Mollyz), went to Copenhagen, Denmark, in August to compete in the World Outgames. Batting a thousand, so to speak, the CoHos seized silver for Canada in the Women's Slowpitch division. Go team, go!

As for regular ECRSA play, the league's season came into full swing in September at the Halifax Commons during the league playoff tournament. Spread out over two days, the eleven-game tournament started winding up in game 9, in which the CoHos eliminated Rosie's Riveters. The CoHos then moved on to games 10 and 11, the back-to-back final



games, both played against Bibby's Big Spender\$. (Bibby's loss in game 10 forced the second game between the two teams.)

Some-how, despite the pizza festivities in between the last two games, the two teams played on to the end. (One player was seen to heave, as she ran in to home plate—

but that proved to be just a gag.) In the end, the CoHos came out as tournament champs, and Bibby's Big Spender\$ emerged as the regular season winners. Mary-Ann Daye, the CoHos captain, reports that her team was pleased with winning the championship for the second year in a row, even with a .500 season.

To view full coverage of the 2009 season, including final standings, visit the league's website at www.ecrsa.ca

Halifax Softball Tidbit: Dykes vs. Divas Results 2009

This year, the Divas extended their winning streak. It's now 5 games for the Divas and 1 for the Dykes.

"The Dykes came back in the bottom of 7th to get 5 runs in, but still lost 9-5 to the Divas. All in all, special thanks to Wayne the UMP for being a great guy, and having a wonderful sense of humour. Also thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors, fans and of course the players for making this another successful event. See you all again next year!!"

(go to the Schedule page). If you're inspired to play softball next year—or to be a fan—check out the main part of the league's website, which includes general information and a list of required gear for season play (pom-poms not included). To connect with the ECRSA, join the Facebook page as posted on the Halifax Pride Divas vs Dykes Baseball Facebook page. Touch base with the rainbow softball and slide in to good times!



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Restaurant Review

Chez Tess Finesse

Review By GPB

The latest addition to Halifax's local community restaurants is *Chez Tess* at 5687 Charles Street, just off Agricola. Specializing in crêpes, the more refined French version of the pancake, the new restaurant is named after the mother of proud community member and owner Liz Cunningham.

The 28-seat licensed dining room is everything one might expect in the city's increasingly up-market North End. The look is simple—in the way that only something extremely well planned and executed can be. The feel is warm, with modern art, interesting light fixtures, and a *de rigueur* darkly polished concrete floor. And I'm particularly looking forward to sitting out next summer on the veranda. Liz has definitely gotten "the look" of her new crêperie right; without being

overly formal, it is distinctive, up-to-date, yet relaxed.

Arriving at the restaurant, one is greeted by black-dressed staff. A quick look at the menu confirms that as much attention has been paid to it as to the room's physical design. The menu's focus is on the crepe, both savoury and sweet. So delicious was the Roscoff that I've ordered it all three times I've visited *Chez Tess*: "Thinly sliced honey ham, Swiss cheese, green apple and asparagus, rolled in a crepe and drizzled with warm Emmenthal cream reduction." (Next visit, it will be the Seafood Medley.) The savoury crêpes, each presented differently, are made with buckwheat flour and served with a salad. My companion on one weekend visit (to whom I owe the clever headline) had perfectly cooked eggs

Benedict presented in a crepe tied into a bag-like shape. Also available are carefully prepared soups (lobster bisque was thick and richly flavoured),

The 28-seat licensed dining room is everything one might expect in the city's increasingly up-market North End.

attractive salads, interesting looking appetizers, and quiche.

On my last visit a friend and I shared Fruit Nachos, an ideal way to complete a leisurely meal. Having never seen these on a menu, I checked online for recipes; they were crude in comparison to the sophisticated but unfussy version on offer here. Vanilla flavoured crêpes were broken into

nacho-sized bites and mixed with banana and strawberry.

Accompanying the plate of "nachos" were generous portions of a red berry puree (strawberry and raspberry—with

not a hint of a seed) and of Chantilly Cream, both perfect for dipping or drizzling across the top. And the coffee—appropriately, for an establishment in this area, Java Blend—was excellent with frequent refills by attentive staff.

Each of the dishes I or a companion has tried have been carefully thought out, beautifully prepared, and attractively presented. This is cooking of a high order, never overly

fussy or given to excessive use of "in" ingredients with strong, clashing flavours—the curse of so many high-end restaurants these days.

Liz Cunningham and her staff deserve high praise for *Chez Tess*. An interesting and attractive room, original menu, well prepared food, pleasant and attractive service: they have much to be proud of. (Lunch for two, with a well deserved tip: \$35.00.)



Photo by Rob Isbister

Ask Ian

By Ian Mullan

Dear Ian, I'm a queer woman who is engaged to a straight man. I've dated both men and women in the past, and although I'm definitely still attracted to lots of different people, I'm ready to make a commitment to just one. My problem is this: now that I'm engaged, everyone assumes I'm straight! How can this be avoided, without bringing any and all conversation back to my sexual identity? Signed, Invisible queer

Dear Invisible, I think there's an assumption by some that all people in a committed relationship or marriage (gay or straight) become sexless. If it's functioning properly then each person should not have eyes for anyone else, or if they do they're made to feel that it must mean they're unfulfilled

and missing something in their life. So it makes sense that people look at your relationship and think, "She's bisexual, that relationship is unfulfilled from the start." If you insist: "No, I

Dear Ian, I'm a queer woman who is engaged to a straight man.

have no plans to cheat with a woman, I'm happy," then they think, "Well, I guess she was straight all along."

Every single day you'll meet both men and women you want to sleep with, but you won't. Just like every day I meet someone I want to tell off, but I don't. Every day I'm sure people think on their drive to work, "If I turned a little bit to the right I

could hit that guy on the sidewalk," but they don't. The world is full of endless opportunity, yet we're finite in our choices, because we make a commitment to ourselves and to others to respect them and treat them well. Marriage is just one of those choices.

No one chooses to be gay, straight or bi. But we choose marriage. We're part of the first generation to redefine what marriage means and there are going to be some bumps along the way. People are going to think you're straight when you walk down the street holding hands with a man, and especially when you marry a man—there's no easy way around that. I suggest you keep fighting the good fight, redefine marriage in your own way... and stock up on

rainbows.

You can get advice from Ian by

emailing ian@trrrash.com, or anonymously at www.trrrash.com.



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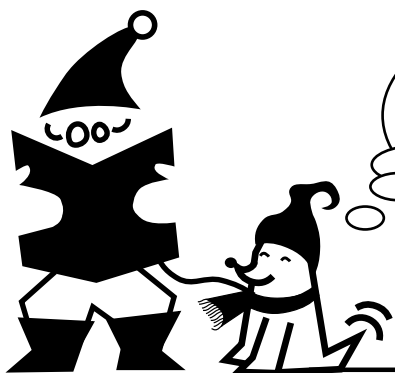
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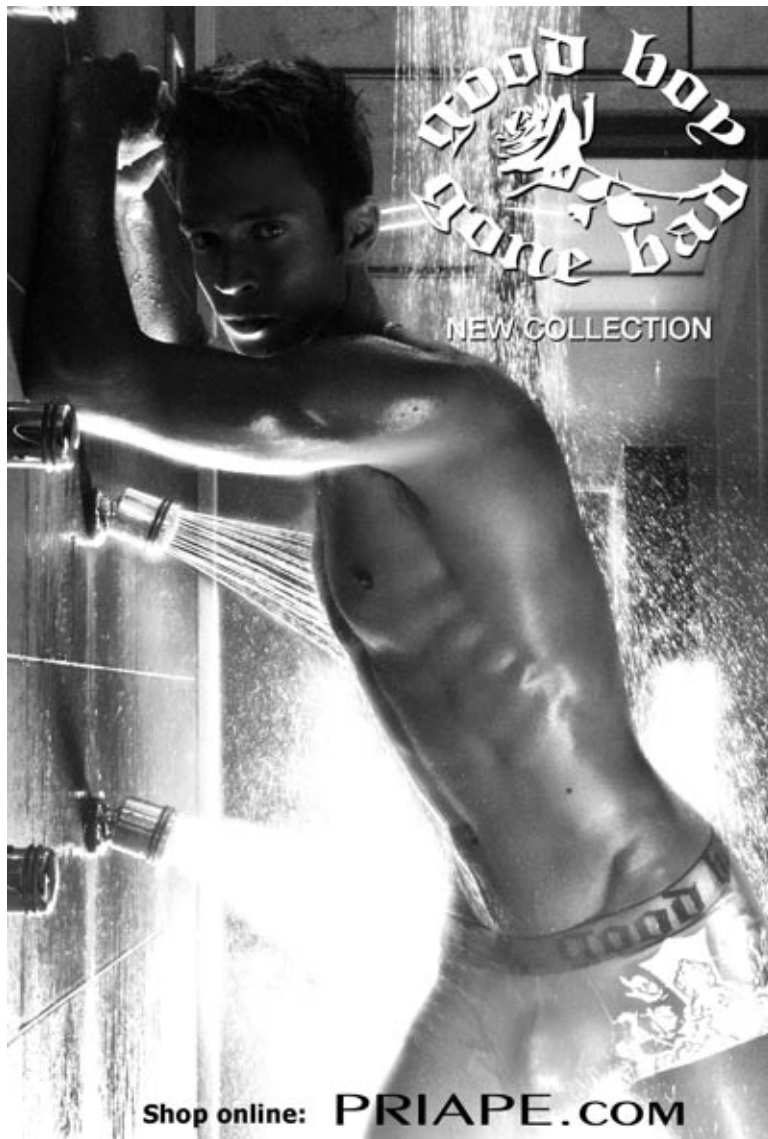
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ca, meets 1st Thursday (902-431-8500) at Halifax Youth Project, 2281 Brunswick St
 Play Group for Queer Families: 422-8780 (3-5pm) at Board Room (Play Room) at Needham Community Recreation Centre, 3372 Devonshire St (north end Halifax, near intersection 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)

prideHealth: prideHealth is a program of Capital Health and the IWK Health Centre. If you are a member of the pride community and need support with any kind of health care call Anita our Clinical Nursing Specialist, number below. She is available free of charge, offers complete confidentiality, and can also give you support if you are experiencing homo or transphobia. prideHealth- improving safe access to health care. 220.0643

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

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: safeharbour-mcc.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: faceitwithpride.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.sympatico.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 GLBT/21QQ persons, friends & family. 506-536-4245 email: sacknb-amns@pflagcanada.ca web: www.pflagcanada.ca/en/prov-list-e.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@cbusu.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@pridecapbreton.com

web: www.pridecapbreton.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: tatacent@tatacentre.ca web: www.tatacentre.ca

Truro

Colchester Sexual Assault Centre: Provides support and information to anyone (GLBTQ 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: northernaidconnectionsociety.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.)

Wolfville

Acadia Pride: Acadia Student Union's LGBT21Q group. 585-2165 email: acadiapride@acadiau.ca web: euler.acadiau.ca/~apride/, meets every Monday (9:00pm(during academic year)) at Beverage Forum (old SUB)

Acadia Women's Centre: 585-2140 email: womens.centre@acadiau.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

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.

Charlottetown

ARC -- Abegweit Rainbow Collective: Serving GLBT Islanders, their friends and families. 894-5776 email: info@arcpei.ca web: www.arcpei.com, meets 1st Monday (6:00pm at 375 University Ave Suite # 2 Charlottetown, PE)



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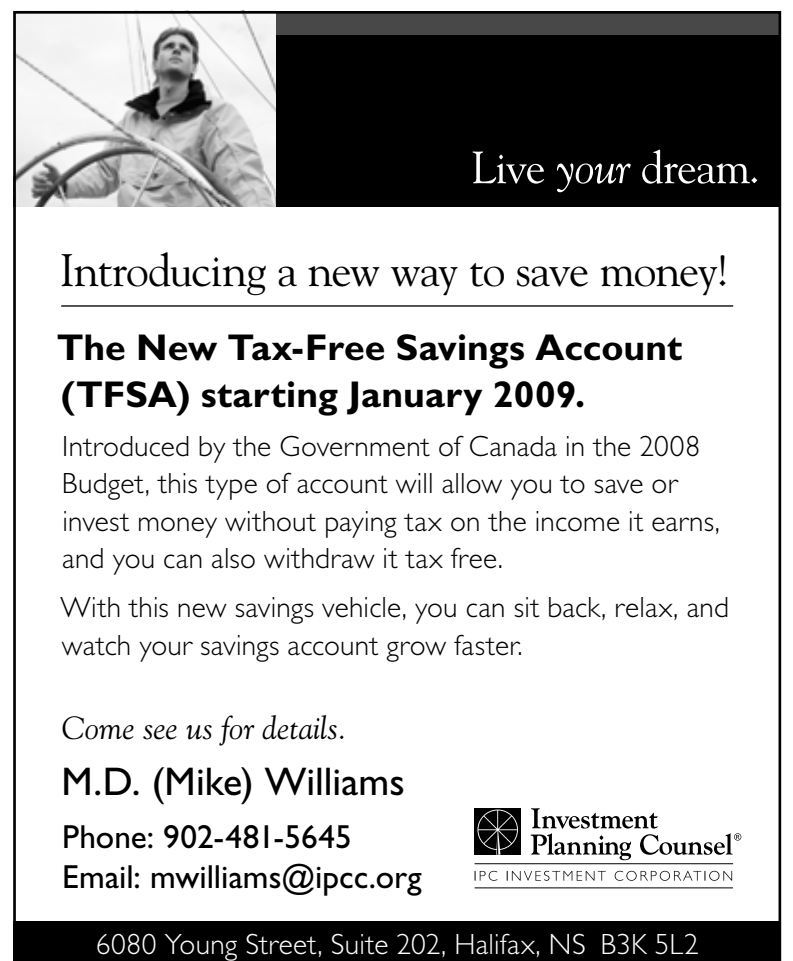
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The Last Word

Grateful Scribbles from the Associate Editor's Pen

By Randall Perry

Another year is almost done and as October melts into November and freezes into December we can count on two recurring themes: people pissing and moaning that the Christmas marketing season starts earlier every year, and those same people pissing and moaning that somebody took the "Christ" out of Christmas by called that green thing a "Holiday Tree."

Being the non-religious guy I am, I ignore it all and have decided that this year I will put up my tree early and fling myself into the saccharine and the tinsel, Scrooginess be damned!

One of my little indulgences as Associate Editor of Wayves is this column, which occupies the top half of the last page of every issue, wherein I get to discuss anything my heart desires. Over the past month I've been scanning through previous editions of the magazine, reading through past contributions and thinking about what Wayves has to offer the community, and vice-versa.

Like every publication, we have our supporters and our detractors. We've been around for twenty odd years and I'm quite sure that we're going to continue our monthly appearance online, in the mail, and out on the newsstands and in the myriad drop-off locations.

The global economic recession is hurting print publishing. A number of GLBT publications in the United States have either massively re-tooled their existing properties or have shut down altogether. Regent Media's venerable "Advocate" went from a bi-weekly to a monthly, and as of 2010 will ship to subscribers bundled with "Instinct" magazine. Window Media, parent company of numerous Blade publications, including the 40-year-old "Washington Blade," filed for bankruptcy in early November. But true to the spirit of rising above adversity, the former staff of the venerable old publication will re-launch as "The D.C. Agenda."

I've had the pleasure of writing

for and editing two gay publications over the years. Roughly ten years ago I contributed to and for roughly half its life I served as editor for a Prince Edward Island 'zine called "ARC Quarterly." It was Island-produced with Island writers and advertisers.

*I will put up my tree
early and fling myself
into the saccharine
and the tinsel*

It had a print run of 500 copies. I remember helping to hand-collate, fold and staple the first issue, the photocopier at AIDS P.E.I. huffing and chugging away as it spit out the double-sided, two-up 11" x 17" pages. It was a heady experience, involving a lot of hoop-jumping and late nights, and it was a shame that the magazine folded after about a dozen issues or so. I wouldn't trade the experience

for anything.

So too are late nights involved with Wayves. And not just me. A whole host of dedicated volunteers give generously of their time and energy and talents to put this little bit of GLBT word and picture gold together eleven times a year. I want to take a few column inches to extend personal thanks by name to some of my long-time round-table Wayves colleagues, the ones who help keep me sane when there are just

too many words to deal with: Daniel MacKay, Jim Bain, Raymond Taavel, Angus Campbell. Thanks to Ralph Higgins for his friendship and his prolific columns and reviews. Thanks to Anita Martinez, who once saw me as a Rembrandt painting—and whose "Blast from the Past" photos are endlessly fascinating. I also want to extend a public "Welcome to the Team!" to Val and Zabrina, who have

the task of proofreading and copy-editing the submissions before they fall under my nit-picky gaze.

Thanks to all who submitted work for publication. The number and variety of voices we encounter month over month is a testament to our community members' ongoing interest in sharing their stories, events and opinions.

Many thanks to our advertisers, you who keep us financially afloat.

And, of course, thanks to you, Constant Readers. Without you, we wouldn't have a reason to exist. Thank you for picking us up every month, and remember to continue supporting the advertisers whose products and services appear in the magazine.

So, along with Scrooge, recession be damned. Wayves is here to stay, and so are we. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays—however you want to say it, have a great one. And while we're at it, Happy New Year. Here's to a fabulous 2010.

Letters

Dear Wayves Readers:

Every year on November 11 we have Remembrance Day in memory of the many men and women that have fought wars in the name of peace. Yet we never remember the soldiers that are the many young gay people that have fought some personal wars and lost. These are the young gay men and woman that had been fighting the wars of abuse and ended up losing their lives. These people were not killed by bullets but by abusive words. These people were not militant or destructive. They were just young people trying to enjoy a normal peaceful life. Many people would not agree that it is the same thing as the wars we remember on Remembrance Day. Those wars lasted just a few years, for those gay men and women it was a lifetime war. I am sure that this problem affects gays of all ages, not only young gays.

I have just finished reading the September issue of Wayves and I must say that I really enjoyed the article by Nathan Adams. He mentions two words: queer and fag, that he found abusive. I and many others do too. These words are used in every issue of Wayves just like they are the most common words in the English language. Yet these two words have killed thousands of young gay men and woman. If we hear anyone on the streets calling us those names we are offended or insulted, so why should we use them ourselves. I have looked up the definition of those words and this is what I found. "Queer: odd, unusual, strange, out of alignment, not quite right, mentally unbalanced, worthless, weird, freakish. Fag: a repellent male, abusive or offensive slur against a homosexual man." So why use these words? We do not like it when the straight world uses them to describe us so why should we use them. Remember these same words have caused the death of thousands of young men and women. I know

personally that none of those definitions are even close to describing me. Kinky yes; but none of the above. I know many gays and none of them are described by the above either.

I am a little older than most readers of Wayves. I am 58 and one thing that I have learned in life is that many times when someone protests against something, they are their own worst enemy. Before we ask better of our neighbours, we must clean up our own act.

We are very happy during our Pride week but these youths cannot walk in our parades. They are gone forever. They will never again sit and laugh with their parents, their brothers and sisters, or see their nephews and nieces grow up to have fun in life. I bet these parents are not celebrating during Pride week like the rest of us. Let's work hard to stop using those offensive words in the memory of our young gay soldiers that have lost their life. They lost their war but we can win it for them. Let's change our banners to, "I am not queer. I am not a fag. I am a gay boy or I am a gay girl."

To remember our gay soldiers that have lost their lives for the peace they never had, please bow your head for a minute when you read this and at every Remembrance Day in the future.

Eric Comeau

To the Editor

Kudos to Wayves for Gerard Veldhoven's regular feature, "I Am What I Am Amherst."

I agree with Gerard that it is outrageous that Atlantic Baptist (now called Crandall) University is to receive twelve million Canadian tax dollars.

Gerard condemns the federal Conservatives for putting up the money. And Gerard writes that Crandall has an anti-gay policy regarding the admission of students.

It's not that simple.

Actually it was the provincial Liberal government which pledged six million, which was granted, if the federal government matched it. The feds did. So both major parties, both Liberal and Conservative, are involved in the outrage.

Again, Crandall's employment policy website makes clear that openly practising gays and lesbians will not be tolerated in faculty and staff ranks, effectively barring the door to queer applicants. Crandall may not be an auspicious place for gay students; but it does not officially shut them out.

Keep coming with "I Am What I Am Amherst"!

Eldon Hay, Sackville

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Last Month

The question for November was, "When will people in the GLBT community stop having to 'come out'?" Will that phrase ever disappear?" The question produced 22 responses, ranging from the simple ("No") to the verbose ("I live in hope that the phrase 'come out' will one day dry up and blow away. What if people just are who they are and live their lives and don't have to make announcements about or apologies for the way they live and whom they live with? Sounds like a brave new world to me.").

Of the responses received, 11 of them fell firmly into or leaned toward the "No" column. There were no firm answers in the "Yes" column but 9 responses headed in that direction... one person offered "50 years if we work hard enough."

The remaining 2 responses appeared to fall into neither column and instead offered something to consider, for example, "Until we realize that it's now time to grow up, take responsibility and start developing integrity, people will continue to hide as gutless children while secretly pointing fingers and blaming others for their own lack of morality and fortitude."

One response indicated, "Coming out' is an individual thing and has to take place only when the 'person' is ready." Another responded, "It will never disappear, but it will change meanings—coming out will be something kids do to parents and friends as they figure themselves out, whereas today it's more about being open about something they already figured out."

One respondent posed an interesting question as to what might happen when and if the idea of coming out disappears: "When it does happen the GLBT community will no longer exist. Something other than 'what they had to come out about' will be required as the defining characteristic of the community, and I doubt they will be able to find anything. What can a community largely defined by protest do when it is no longer necessary to protest?"

This month's question:

Same-sex male couples are often thought to be at an advantage over female couples in their career and financial aspirations. We want to know if this is true, especially in Atlantic Canada. Are the men you know richer than the women you know? Why do you think that is?

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