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Issue 46

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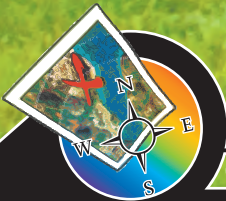
Gay Calgary

and Edmonton

magazine

Calgary and Edmonton
Fringe Festivals

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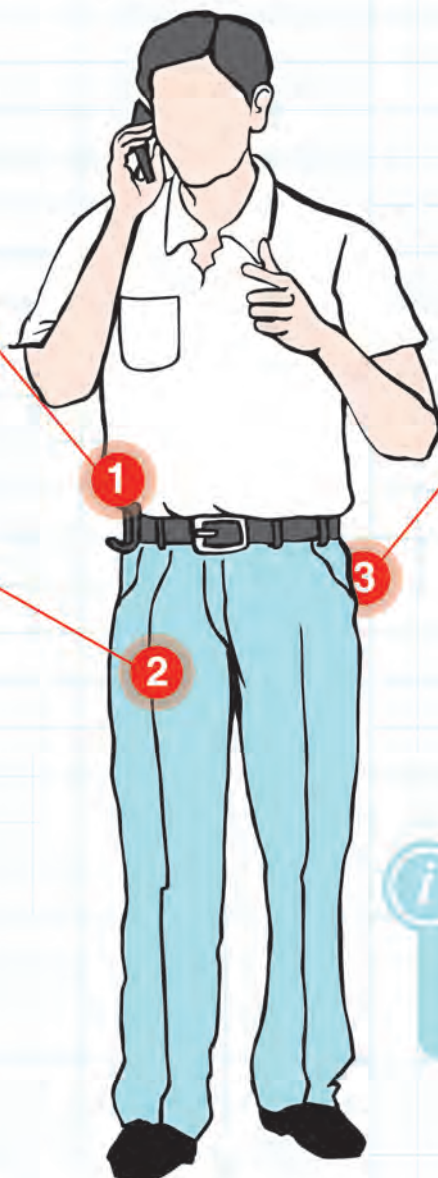
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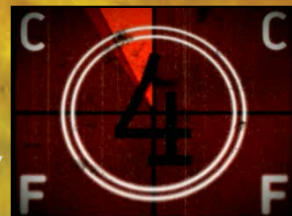


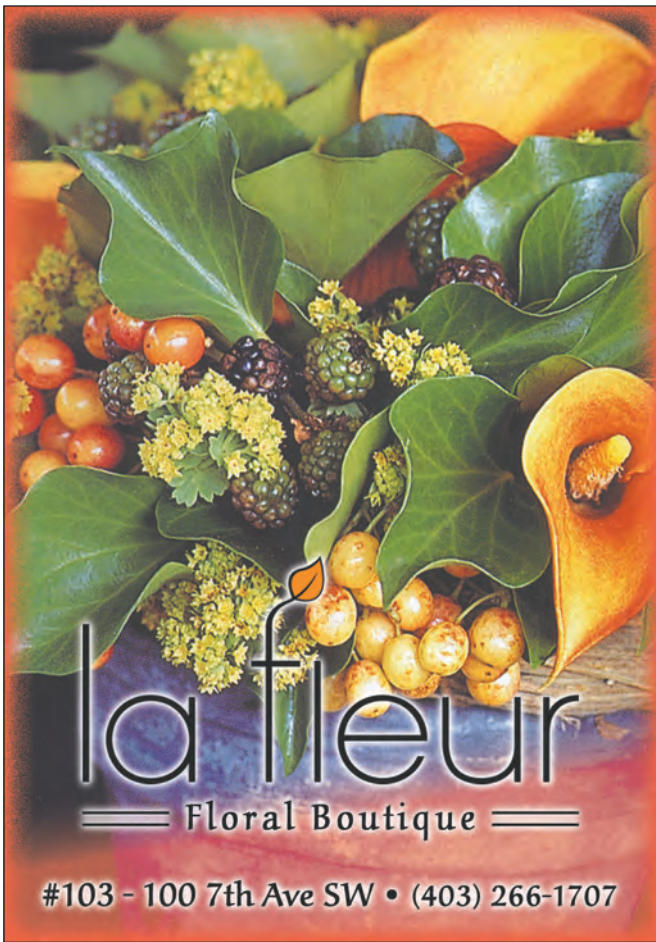
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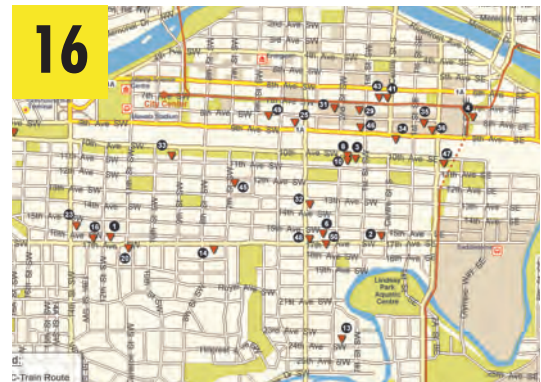
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magazine

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Life as a Computer

Letter from the Publisher

By Rob Diaz-Marino

I never thought an education in Computer Science would have brought me toward a better understanding of people. One would think the two were completely unrelated topics, since humans are not machines...but maybe that just depends on your definition of a machine. We are definitely not made of metal, nor do we speak in droning electronic voices, but we, like machines are at the mercy of our mechanical processes and repetitive cycles. This is how I see it; but brace yourself because this is a little deep...whoops, too late, it's already written.

The basic building block of the human brain – the neuron – is very simple in itself. It receives a number of electrical input signals used to determine an output signal. A group of neurons “learn” by configuring themselves to connect with one another in a way that produces a desirable behavior. When an undesirable behavior is produced, the group of neurons will fine tune their connections to try matching what they can discern as being correct. Only experience will determine if this is actually the case. Larger groups of neurons are capable of learning more complex behaviors – and humans have a greater potential for intelligence than other animals simply because we have a larger quantity of neurons.

Computers are capable of simulating the behavior of a neuron, and the interactions of large groups of neurons to produce some pretty complex behaviors. But neural nets have to be trained – just like people have to be taught – through exposure to relevant material and reinforcement of the correct responses. Assuming infinite computer processing power and speed, there are two things that currently prevent a computer from reproducing human intelligence: 1) We do not yet understand how to recreate the initial footprint of instincts and pre-wiring that a human neural network is built around; 2) We cannot deliver the same chemical responses and perceptual abilities of a body to a computer, that would allow it to experience and learn from the world as we do. Even if these two things were overcome, it would take just as long to train an artificial mind as it takes to raise an actual human being. Perhaps it would degrade and be rendered useless after a long period of time, just like our minds eventually do.

On a greater scale, humans are the “neurons” in a larger organism. Like a self-adjusting neural network, society as a whole influences the behavior of its members. People become a reflection of those around them – if treated with patience, understanding and respect, they themselves will exhibit those qualities. If treated like worthless degenerate monsters, that is what they become. A boy beaten and abused by his father will grow up to be an abusive husband and father unless a significant positive influence intervenes in his life.

It boils down to the fact that human beings are a direct product of their life experience. Even when we think we're being rebellious and going against the grain, pushing the boundaries of society, we are behaving exactly the way we have been programmed to. Every decision we make is based on our past experience – even the ones botched are a direct result. Society can put pressure on an individual to change their behavior but how can we ever hate them for being mistaken or different? Isn't the culmination of biology, culture and circumstance as much to blame? The end result is that the individual changes to fit in, or they rearrange their relationships with others for better or for worse.

On a different note there are aspects in the progression of life similar to the course of Software Development. It is an iterative process where the programmer creates a program to perform a certain behavior. When the program actually executes, the programmer usually discovers a whole slough of behaviors that were not intended. Then it's back to the drawing board to figure out what went wrong, fix the code and execute it again. Each cycle of fixing and testing is an iteration step, and it takes many before the program reaches the behavior that they intended. Sometimes fixing one problem introduces more, and fixing too many problems at once can cause the program to completely break down. Small steps are needed to verify that a design is becoming more robust, not exposing greater weakness.

As humans we undergo iterations as well. What determines the existence of the next generation is the ability of individuals in the human race to survive and procreate...there are plenty of breeders taking care of this for us, maybe a little too well. (As an aside, the world's population has grown beyond our means to sustain everyone...perhaps we will see more and more gay people in future generations as nature's response to this threat. I think this is a better alternative to bringing people into the world whose only fate is to die of disease, thirst and starvation.)

However, changes in society only occur ever so slightly, as the next generation is ushered in. The “rebellious phase” that most of us go through – the instinct that drives us to be as different from our parents and peers as we can – I see as nature's assurance that there will be change on a societal scale too. It is an instinct that makes us resist some of what our elders tell us. When they are right we learn the hard way, otherwise we discover a shred of new territory that they never knew.

Despite this small step of innovation, we more often than not become our parents – perhaps it is the result of being exposed to similar experiences throughout life. That corporate suit that we swore we would never be? Perhaps it is the eventuality of life as a successful business person. But every now and then a free thinker comes along that finds a new and sustainable definition of success, and they change the world forever.

Nico Hofferd

We received the sad news early last month that our former writer Nico Hofferd had passed away. That someone can die so suddenly and without warning, still so young, is truly shocking - it is all too easy to take life for granted. Her close friend Shone Abet wrote an article for us to honour Nico's memory - a difficult thing to do, summing a person up in a limited number of words (page 36).

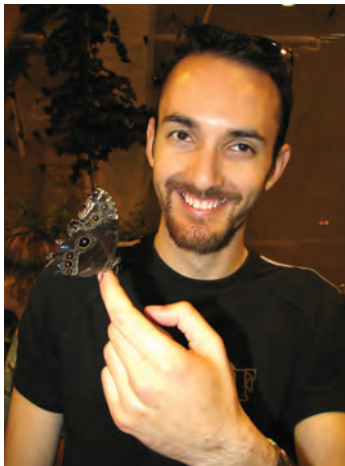
Steve and I could not attend the funeral; however we sent flowers along with our deepest condolences to her family. They responded to thank us and wrote in the card, "Writing for your magazine gave her a lot of joy - we are very glad she had that in her life."

Last Month

ARGRA was fabulous this year, with perhaps one of the largest turnouts we've seen. We rented an RV again this time, but managed to get a spot on the main grounds with the hookup we needed - power! The weekend consisted of Steve and I taking alternating shifts at the rodeo, and running back to the RV as we filled memory card after memory card with photos and videos. Boy did we ever get some cool shots (my personal favorite is the close-up picture of Chuck Browning with his shirt off), but sadly we can only publish a few of them in the magazine...for now. Once the day's competitive events were over, we rushed back to the RV to put together the slide shows of photos and videos that were shown at the evening dances. The ARGRA volunteers received a great deal of praise on that front, which they were happy to pass along to us.

Our writer Jason and his boyfriend Brendon spent some time out at the rodeo as well. Brendon is a good head taller than Jason, and Jason is a pretty tall guy to begin with - the two of them together drew quite a bit of attention. They reported to us that the strangest comment or request that they received that weekend was to Brendon, "You're so tall, can I see your belly button?"

At the Awards Ceremony we gave away our first buckle in Women's Break-away Calf Roping to Ty, who was also the only contestant to place in the category. I often wonder how many buckle sponsors hope nobody places in their category so that they get to keep the award themselves. It feels like a Scooby-Doo moment - "And we would have gotten away with it too, if it wasn't for you darn kids!"



Unfortunately somewhat of an indignity awaited us at the end of the weekend as we backed the RV off our camping site. As we had picked the vehicle up very near closing time for the rental company, they had been in such a rush to get us out that they neglected to mention that the black water valve comes initially open. Luckily most of the...stuff...remained stuck inside the tank, so we had only a small mess to clean. Argh.

Stampede was fun, though I didn't do my usual regimen of rides. I can never get myself organized ahead of time to pick up one of those Magic Passes, and everything was so expensive. On the news they talked about bottles of water going for over \$3 - you can buy a whole flat of bottled water for that price! We were there for Sneak-a-Peek night and saw some of Jann Arden's performance on the Coca-Cola stage. We couldn't help but snicker seeing all of the straight guys in the pink shirts and bandanas - some were tough enough, others just looked too gay. I'll smack my own wrist for that one...it was for Breast Cancer awareness - bad Rob!



Speaking of Breast Cancer, Jane Doe Marketplace and Café held a silent auction back in June and Barb mailed me just recently to inform us of the totals. Due to some rather heated bidding wars, she was proud to announce that the event raised approximately \$3000 toward her 60km walk in *The Weekend to End Breast Cancer!*

Later in the month I went out to Edmonton with Steve to check out Capital X, often described as Edmonton's version of the Stampede. Naturally they had some very different exhibits from what we're used to back at home - including a large butterfly tent where you can pay to enter and mingle with hundreds of living butterflies. They definitely seemed to like landing on certain people - usually with gray or brown shirts that looked like tree bark. Steve and I in blue jeans and black shirts did not receive as much attention, though one of the first to land on me picked my crotch as ground zero. Hah, just my luck.

This Month

August is traditionally the slowest month in the gay community with so many people away on holidays, but this long weekend has a number of special events happening at the bars...in Calgary at least. Keep an eye out for ads to this effect as you flip through this month's magazine.

The West Canadian Pride Campout is also happening right away this August long weekend. We were planning to personally attend for the first time this year. Steve is developing a nasty flu as we're getting the magazine to press, so we may have to play it by ear. I'm probably next.

Once again, August 6th is Steve's birthday and our 6th

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anniversary together! At one point in the past, Steve was miffed about his brother dating his now-wife for over 6 years before they tied the knot...now look who's talking!

Artists for Quality of Life has their 4th annual Cut-a-thon coming up on the 3rd of September, but watch for ads regarding the BBQ and Karaoke party at Money Pennies on August 19th and the Endless Summer Beach Party at the Backlot on September 1st.

Another interesting upcoming event is the Chili Cook-off competition being held in support of the HIV Peer Support group at the Calgary Eagle on Sunday September 2nd. Since Steve thinks of himself as a hot-shot in the kitchen, he's seriously considering entering. The Eagle is also holding their 3rd annual Straight to Diva competition in support of HIV Peer Support - the meet and greet to be held September 15th and show night of October 19th.

Bar Banter

There's this thing called "Common Courtesy" that we afford to people even when we don't know them. I'm happy to say most people have it most of the time, though on a bad day it can be really easy (especially with a drink or two in you) to say or do mean things to random strangers.

This might come without repercussions in the straight world, where there are so many people in the city that you are unlikely to bump into that same person again. But the cross section of gay people that put themselves out there are too small for most people to get away with it - don't piss in the water when you live in the swimming pool!

Gay people don't have gangs that call on their "bruthas" to "bust a cap in yo' ass" when you've "dissed" one of them - no, we're much more civilized. We have social groups and cliques that will collectively ostracize you instead. Furthermore, with so few people willing to volunteer, often individuals belong to multiple businesses or groups. See, that random guy you told off is actually a member of group X and group Y, and thanks to the wonders of technology he will likely find out who you are and place you on the unspoken blacklist amongst the members of both groups. Scary, but all too likely... thank god no guns, but a queen's strongest weapon has always been gossip. Don't think you can get away with it by memorizing who's who - these groups and social networks are constantly changing.

Though I can't condone

the ganging up, it's still all the more reason to treat everyone you meet respectfully. Even if you have a bad day and you do something you regret then it's best to apologize right away, knowing how fast information travels across the tell-a-fag network.

More importantly, don't get mad all over again if you catch the information on the rebound. It's typical for the person you pissed off to tell all their friends about what happened instantaneously, before you even have a chance to make reparations. Even if you settle the issue, you may still catch word about the original incident as it propagates - this can make the issue sound like it is still raw. Trust your first-hand knowledge above anything from the grapevine. If there is unfinished business, leave it up to them to tell you, not the rumor mill.

Who Made You the Center of the Universe?

I wrote a column about being proactive several months ago. Still I hear businesses saying, "if the non-profit groups want our help, they can come to us" and non-profit groups saying "if businesses want to help us, they can come to us." Why? "I'm too busy running a business to see what the non-profit groups are about," and likewise, "My non-profit group does so much for the community that everyone should know who we are and want to sponsor us." The irony of it all is that both get resentful when neither goes to the other. You can argue about who is rightfully the center of the universe, or you can just admit you're both wrong and spare yourself the righteous indignation and community stagnation. There's so much that can be built when everyone is willing to put themselves out there with free and open lines of communication.

Speak your Mind!

We know you've got something to say because you say it to us when we are out in the community. In the course of a month we tell a lot of people, "that's a really great thought, a great story, or some excellent feedback - you should write us a letter to the publisher to share it!" Unfortunately the letters rarely materialize. This is why, from now on when we're out at the bars with our cameras and you're telling us your stories, we will offer to take a video clip of you telling them. Think of it like the video-recorded opinion booths that are out there already (in far too small a number).

If you don't want your face on camera then there is always the forum area on the GayCalgary.com website, which has been open for discussion about the things we write about in the magazine. We'd love to get more interaction going, because we can gear our articles better toward what's on your mind. We do this already with the stories we're told in person, but online is another powerful option. Visit forums. gaycalgary.com, set up a login and speak your mind! ■

We want to hear what YOU have to say about the topics in this article, and any other articles in our magazine. Visit the chat forums at www.gaycalgary.com and write your heart out! Or write us a letter to the publisher by E-mailing publisher@gaycalgary.com, and we may respond to it in the magazine!

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Presented by:



Michael Phair

By Stephen Lock

In a province with so few GLBTQ activists, those who are tend to stand out. Amongst those, even fewer have the longevity – let alone the pizzazz – of Michael Phair, currently the Edmonton City Council member for Ward 4.

Phair is a fixture at a variety of events in Edmonton throughout the year, especially within the GLBTQ community. His Ward is the most diverse in Edmonton, not unlike Calgary's Ward 8. Representing the various communities that call Ward 4 home is something Phair takes very seriously, despite the often outrageous get-ups he is famous for wearing.

Phair has served his roughly 140,000 constituents for 15 years on City Council; a total of five terms. He plans to retire from politics at the end of this term and has no plans to seek either provincial or federal office, but does plan to seek another career.

“City Council members don't get a pension, so I will need to continue working somewhere in order to pay the bills,” he notes.

When he was first approached in 1989 with the idea of running for City Council there were very few openly gay or lesbian politicians in Canada apart from Svend Robinson (federal NDP). It wasn't until 1998 that Glen Murray became Mayor of Winnipeg.

At first, Phair wasn't interested in running for City Council as he was deeply involved in GLBTQ politics with GATE, the Gay Alliance Toward Equality, which eventually evolved into the *Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton* and then into *Edmonton Pride Centre*. He was



Individual | Spotlight

also one of five founding members of the *AIDS Network of Edmonton* (now *HIV Edmonton*) as well as being involved in a variety of other projects. However, by 1992 he started to seriously consider running for office, realizing much could be accomplished by having a queer voice at the municipal level, and tossed his hat into the ring during the '92 civic election.

Phair came from a background of political activity having been involved with GATE since 1980 where he initially took on the responsibility of organizing social functions - monthly dances, Pride, and fundraisers - before becoming involved in the political and advocacy aspect of the organization. He was familiar with the internal workings of politics, having worked as an Alberta Government bureaucrat for *Education and Early Childhood Services* as well as *Immigration and Settlement Services*. He also worked on a variety of election campaigns.

In 1990, GATE threw its support behind Delwin Vriend in his push to have sexual orientation included as a protected characteristic in Alberta human rights legislation (at the time, the *Individual Rights Protection Act* or IRPA). That battle would last several more years and be fought all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada with Ralph Klein's government fighting it every step of the way. In 1998, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in favour of Vriend's petition and 'sexual orientation' was to be "read into" provincial human rights legislation. Phair sees the success of the *Vriend Decision* as one of the high points of his political and community career.

Being one of the few openly gay political candidates at any level in Canada - and the first openly gay candidate to be elected in Alberta - his sexual orientation immediately became an issue and the media of the era constantly referred to him as 'the gay candidate', either inferring or outright claiming he would be a "single issue" politician. Phair's record clearly shows they were wrong.

Being gay has never really been that big an issue for Phair. He came out in the late 1970's during a period when the queer community was just beginning to form its own institutions, organize itself, and develop. By 1980 he was fully out and being approached by the media to speak on GLBTQ issues. He came out to his family, who do not live in Alberta, over the phone.

At first, his mother was reluctant to accept the information. His father didn't say much about it and Phair suspects he knew all along. His siblings were not at all surprised, with one sister stating she always knew - and what was the big deal anyway?

Phair has a flair for the dramatic and quickly established a reputation for showing up at functions dressed in often flamboyant and colourful shirts and accessories.

“I like to have fun and enjoy life,” Phair says about his public sartorial choices. “And, yes, my tastes really are that bad!” he laughs. One suspects Phair is being coy and, in fact, has excellent taste - this is simply recognized an opportunity to make his mark on the public consciousness and made a conscious choice to ‘enjoy the game as well as the name.’ If the media and his critics were going to make that big a deal out of his being gay, then Phair was going to have some fun with it.

Phair finds his shirts in second hand shops, the wardrobe department of local theatre groups who sometimes will loan something truly outrageous out to him, and from his involvement with *Carib Fest*.

“They make most of their costumes...and mine...from scratch, or adapt stuff, and I inherited a lot of my outfits from them. They’ve been great!” he chuckles.

As with any political career there have been high and low points. “One of the lowest points,” says Phair “was former mayor Bill Smith’s refusal to proclaim Pride Week, despite the previous administration under Jan Reimer having done so.”

“I was deeply disturbed by comments made by Mayor Smith, and others, about homosexuals and about Pride,” he adds, believing Smith’s position and public comments cast a dark stain on Edmonton’s reputation.

Mayor Steve Mandel has, in Phair’s view, more than made up for the disrespect committed under Smith’s administration. “Not only has Mayor Mandel been totally open to proclaiming Pride Week, and flying the Rainbow Flag in front of City Hall, but he marched at the head of the Pride Parade in 2005 along with then-Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan and various Liberal and NDP MLAs,” he notes, adding “The Mayor’s Breakfast, which attracted over 200 people this year, was a fundraiser for *Camp fyrefly*, the GLBTQ&A youth leadership camp.”

Phair is quick to point out his accomplishments are not his alone but, rather, part of efforts from a variety of people and organizations. Having said that, he is most proud of having assisted in establishing a GLBTQ-inclusive Ethics and Code of Conduct for the City of Edmonton, obtaining same-sex spousal benefits for City employees, the Edmonton Arts Council funding for Gay Pride, funding via Edmonton’s Grants Program to the Edmonton Pride Centre, and the establishment of an Office of Inclusiveness and Diversity; as well as the establishment, along with Murray Billet (now an openly gay member of the Police Commission), the GLBTQ-Edmonton Police Service Liaison Committee and the position of a Hate-Bias Crime coordinator within EPS.

Phair seems less willing to talk about the low points but did mention he was taken aback by the level of anti-gay rhetoric coming out of various MLA’s offices during the *Delwin Vriend* case. He was also very disappointed in Premier Klein’s threats to invoke the Charter’s Notwithstanding Clause in order to block having to include ‘sexual orientation’ as a protected characteristic in provincial



human rights legislation.

“It was a difficult time for all of us involved in the *Vriend* case,” notes Phair. “City Hall had to start monitoring calls coming into my office because I was receiving death threats.”

There has long been a rivalry between Edmonton and Calgary; sometimes good-natured and sometimes not so good-natured. However, there are distinct differences between the ethos of both cities and Phair is sensitive to that.

“It’s simply not the case of whether one city is better than the other,” he notes. “But, yes, I definitely see a difference in the culture between Calgary and Edmonton.”

Phair attributes the differences to several factors. “Because Edmonton is the capital, there is more talk about and more interest in politics here; it permeates city life,” he says. “Secondly, and I think this is changing, Edmonton is further from the US-Canada border and therefore, historically, has not had as strong an American influence as Calgary has had. We tend not to be as influenced, I don’t think, by the anti-GLBTQ rhetoric – and the culture that produces – as Calgary, which has a very strong American influence at a corporate level.”

Edmonton has always been a blue-collar city to Calgary’s white-collar, and Phair thinks that has played a role as well. Furthermore, he believes the strong influence of Eastern and Central European immigrants such as Ukrainians, Germans, Poles and Yugoslavs has made a difference. Many members of these ethnic groups settled in the Edmonton area in higher numbers than those in Calgary, which also has a strong European immigrant history from the late 19th and early 20th century exoduses.

“With Edmonton being geographically more isolated from other large urban centres, there was a tendency to create a strong local culture, to retain more of the Old World than what one might perhaps find in Calgary with its relatively easy access to the US and Vancouver, for instance.”

Phair has an abiding interest in history, having been a History Major in University as a younger man. That interest has also played a role in his civic work.

"I have always been fascinated by architecture and appreciate buildings, artifacts, and streetscapes for the intrinsic beauty they have," he says. "I think it is important – crucial – to understand our own history in order to have a sense of place and a sense of who we are. We need those visual clues to remind us of who we are and where we came from. ...It is important for a city to not only be functional but also for a city to be beautiful. I think Edmonton is a beautiful city, although in the 60's and 70's we destroyed much of our heritage and now it's gone forever."

He is, however, proud the City of Edmonton is the second municipality in Canada to declare an entire district historical, after the Crownsnest Pass. Old Strathcona, located on the south side of Edmonton across the river from the modern-day downtown and adjacent to the University of Alberta campus, is the 'original Edmonton' – much like Inglewood is to Calgary – and boasts many fine and ornate 19th Century and early 20th Century buildings. Phair sees another high point of his career as the designation of Old Strathcona (which is within his Ward) as an historical district.

Phair seems to be at every event in Edmonton and his energy is often infectious.

"I have no idea where that energy comes from; it's just part of what needs to be done," he says. "Sure, there are times when I just want to stay home and veg out in front of the TV, but I have a responsibility – as a City Councilor – to be visible, and I take my responsibility very seriously."

Phair notes that Ward 4 has more events than any of the other Wards and with all the different organizations vying for donations within the GLBTQ community, there is constantly something going on within the community.

"The GLBTQ community organizations are well-known, both here and in Calgary, for raising money for charitable causes. Be it HIV/AIDS, homelessness, youth, support programs within the community itself, whatever...and it's important the City of Edmonton be seen to be in support of those initiatives, which is where I come in," he says.

His penchant for "being everywhere all the time", he freely admits, has a political overlay to it. "I enjoy doing this. I've always been a social person, but I am also very aware visibility means votes, as cynical as that sounds... it's not meant to be cynical."

Is he worried about accusations of "over exposure" or of being a "media slut?"

"No!" he chuckles. "Not that there is anything wrong with being a slut, media or otherwise....but I suspect some of my fellow council members are quite happy I'm

out there so much. It gives them a break and it gives me, and therefore Council, an opportunity to address issues of concern to Edmontonians. I hear concerns about everything from pot holes to you-name-it, and it's important we hear that stuff, absolutely. ...I've been involved in advocacy all my adult life, a rabble-rouser if you will. I certainly could never be described as the type to sit back and be passive. I couldn't be, it's just not in me," he adds.

As an openly gay politician, however, Phair is very conscious of the tendency to be labeled "a gay spokesperson" and is therefore very careful that what he says is as reasonable as possible.

"Our community is so diverse on so many levels," he says. "No one person or organization could even begin to represent the community. I can only speak from my perspective and from my experience. It may reflect the perspective and experience of others in the community or it may not. Those of us involved in public advocacy on GLBTQ issues need to always be conscious of that, and I think we are, even as the media tends to label us as 'spokespeople.'"

Over the years, Phair has received several awards and citations for his work and contributions. The one that most took him by surprise was when the *Edmonton Journal* named him Citizen of the Year in 1986, during his tenure with the *AIDS Network of Edmonton*, the *Canadian AIDS Society* and *GATE*.

"Remember, this was in the early days of the AIDS epidemic and the gay men's community was under considerable attack and viewed with a high degree of mistrust, more so than even today, so I was shocked to receive it, I really was," he remembers. "In fact, when the *Edmonton Journal* reporter called me for a comment about receiving the award I thought it was a practical joke – a prank call - and hung up on him!"

The *Imperial Court of the Wild Rose* likewise acknowledged his contributions by awarding him the 1985 *John Desmit Award for Outstanding Community Involvement*. "I believe that was the first time the award had been given to someone outside the Imperial Court system," he says.

Another special award was the one given to him in 1999/2000 by *Catholic Family Services* in "Special Recognition" of his work and advocacy.

One honour he is especially proud of, however, is having a scholarship at the University of Alberta named after him: the *Michael Phair Leadership Award* for GLBTQ Undergraduates.

Michael Phair has left an imprint on Edmonton, and Alberta, politics – loud, flamboyant, over-the-top shirts, Dame Edna sunglasses, and Carmen Miranda headdresses not withstanding. An impression that will be long remembered. ■





Bocce For Beswick

FUN, EASY, NO SKILLS REQUIRED!!

Saturday, August 11, 2007 at Rotary Park

Raindate: Sunday, August 12, 2007

6th Ave. & 1st St. NE (between tennis courts & wading pool)

\$5/person - teams will be drawn

Bring the family... off leash dog area,
kids wading pool and playground.



Registration: 12 p.m.
Play starts: 1 p.m.

To register: call Mark at 669-9936 (leave a message) or e-mail at bakrboy@hotmail.com (please put "Bocce" in the subject line)

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE SHARP FOUNDATION



The **SHARP** Foundation
Society Housing AIDS/HIV Restricted Persons

Ad space
sponsored by:



Events Listing

Find out what's happening

Calgary Listings

Accommodations

Westways Guest House ●13
216 - 25 Ave SW • (403) 229-1758
<http://www.gaywestways.com>

Bars and Clubs

BackLot ●3
See our ad on page 43
209 - 10 Ave SW • (403) 265-5211
Open 7 days a week, 4pm-close

Calgary Eagle Inc. ●4
See our ad on page 27
424a - 8 Ave SE • (403) 263-5847
Open Wed-Sun 5pm-close
<http://www.calgaryeagle.com>

Money-Pennies ●9
See our ad on page 19 and 47
1742 - 10 Ave SW • (403) 263-7411
<http://www.money-pennies.com>

Texas Lounge ●6
See our ad on page 4
308 - 17 Ave SW • (403) 229-0911
<http://www.goliaths.ca>

Twisted Element ●33
1006 11th Ave SW - Front Entrance • (403)
802-0230
<http://www.twistedelement.ca>

Twisted Element Lounge ●33
1006 11th Ave SW - Back door Entrance • (403)
802-0230
<http://www.twistedelement.ca>

Bathroom and Sauna's

Goliath's ●6
See our ad on pages 10, 49, and 51
308 - 17 Ave SW • (403) 229-0911
Open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day
<http://www.goliaths.ca>

Businesses

Alykhan Velji
(403) 617-2406
Interior Decorator

Adult Depot
140, 58th Ave SW • (403) 258-2777
See our ad on page 10
Sex toys, and Straight, Bi, Gay video rentals, largest
Gay video rental collection in Alberta

B & C Financial Services
9298 Horton Road SW • (403) 250-55785
Insurance

Barbies Shop ●48
1518 4th Street SW • (403) 262-8265
Adult clothing store, shoes, Gothic, punk, fetish,
custom corsets and more.

Brian Mahoney & John McNeill
#10, 6020 - 1A St SW • (403) 259-4141
Re/Max Reality Professionals

BuBu Bear
(403) 852-6977
<http://www.bububear.ca>
Portable adult novelties

Courtney Sebree Aarbo ●24
1138 Kensington Road NW • (403) 571-5120
See our ad on page 34
<http://www.csalaw.ca>
Barristers & solicitors

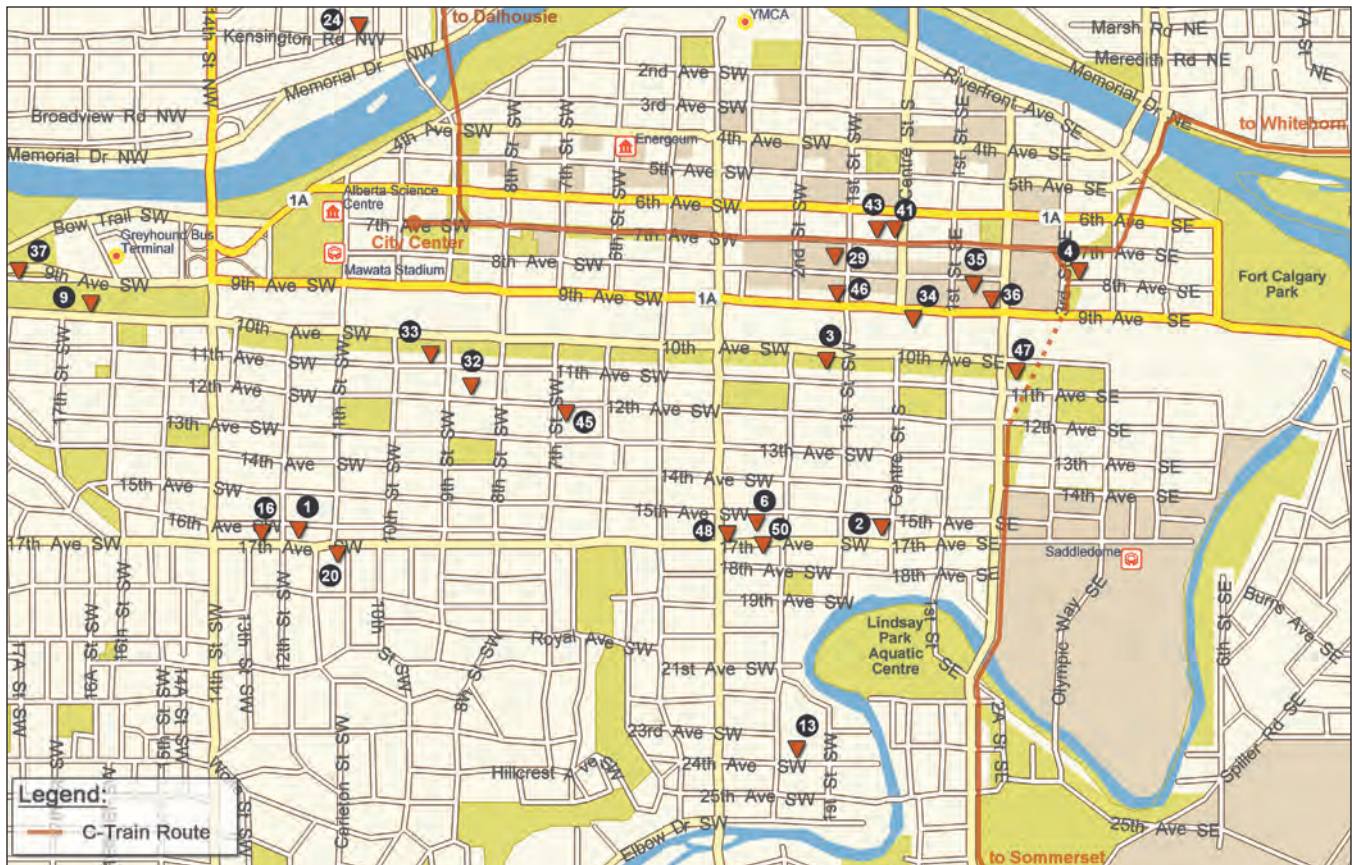
Chronos Apollo
#520 922 5th Avenue SW • (403) 237-2353
Physician directed skin care and more

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SAVE UP TO 60%*
*ON SELECTED ITEMS

1322, 17th ave. S.W., CALGARY • (403) 215.1800 • www.PRIAPE.com



Cruiseline

See our ad on page 64
 (403) 777-9494 trial code 3500
<http://www.cruiseline.ca>
 Phone chat room & talking classifieds for 18+

Deva Dave Salon ●32

910 12th Avenue SW • (403) 290-1973
<http://www.devadave.com>

eXude Productions

<http://www.exudeproductions.com>

See our ad on page 52

First Class Flowers

Elbow and Heritage Drive SW • (403) 255-2239

Inside

Corner of Blackfoot Trail & 34th Avenue SE • (403) 241-8550

Jane Doe Marketplace & Cafe ●50

See our ad on page 9
 311 17 Avenue SW • (403) 245-5263
 Calgary's Only Marketplace featuring Women Entrepreneurs. Coffee Shop too!

La Fleur ●41

See our ad on page 4
 #103 - 100 7th Avenue SW
 (403) 266-1707
 Florist Shop

Lammle's Western Wear

Chinook Centre • (403) 255-5292

Crowfoot Crossing • (403) 547-9808
 Deerfoot Mall • (403) 275-6877
 Market Mall • (403) 247-9224
 Marlborough • (403) 273-2233
 Stephen Avenue Walk • (403) 266-5226
 Westhills Town Centre • (403) 249-2822

Leather and Lace

2020 32nd Avenue NE • (403) 291-4060
 The art of romance

Lorne Doucette /CIR Realtors

See our ad on page 51
 (403) 461-9195
<http://www.lornedoucette.com>

Marcy Calberry /CIR Realtors

See our ad on page 49
 (403) 291-4440 or (866) 859-4440

MFM Communications

See our ad on page 45
 (403) 543-6970
<http://www.mfmcommunications.com>
 Web site hosting and development. Computer Hardware and Software.

More Better Buses

(403) 651-1692
 Providing unique, comfortable & affordable transportation. Charter us for: High School Graduations, Senior Groups, Pub Crawls and Sporting Events

Priape Calgary ●16

See our ad on page 16

1322 - 17 Ave SW • (403) 215-1800
<http://www.priape.com>
 Clothing and accessories. Adult toys, leather wear, movies and magazines. Gifts.

Rev. Nadene Rogers

See our ad on page 49
 (403) 247-0602
<http://www.weddingsmyway.com>
 Marriage Commissioner

Reyremark

See our ad on page 27
 Able Craftsman, Your home renovation specialist
 (403) 478-2411 • reyremark@telus.net

R. Cobalt ●45

See our ad on page 4
 735 12th Avenue SW • (403) 228-7822
 Hair & Aesthetics

Sol Sourced Weddings

See our ad on page 8
 (403) 270-9480
<http://www.solsourcedweddings.com>
 Wedding Commissioner

Z-Group

Voice over IP (VOIP) phone service and long distance
 (403) 770-1940

Community Groups and Organizations

Aids Calgary ●2

200, 1509 Centre St South • (403) 508-2500
<http://www.aidscalgary.org>

See our ad on page 10

2007 AIDS Walk for Life

Sunday, September 23, 2007 at Eau Claire

Apollo Calgary Friends in Sports

<http://www.apolocalgary.com>

Apollo Friends In Sports is a volunteer-operated, non-profit organization serving primarily members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered communities but open to members of all communities. We currently have more than 400 members and are growing fast! The primary focus of Apollo is to provide our membership with well organized and fun sporting events and other activities to allow them to participate and interact in a positive social framework.

Absolutely Smashing! Badminton- Winter Event

Curling- Winter Event

Squash - Winter Event

Volleyball.- Winter Event

Rainbow Riders Bowling League - Let's 10 Pin Bowlerama, 2916 5 Avenue NE, Wednesday's at 6:30pm. Season is from September to April. League fees are \$15.00 per Night. Shoe rental is \$2.00

Outdoor Pursuits - In attempting to meet our members requests for diverse sporting activities we have formed the Apollo Outdoor Pursuits League! If it's done outdoors we do it! (and occasionally we venture indoors too). This summer we will be hiking, biking, rock climbing, rafting and a whole bunch more. If you're interested in any of these or something else completely, get in touch with us. Tired of playing alone outdoors? Well this is a GREAT opportunity to participate in events you enjoy doing with other interested members of the community. To be added to the distribution list for regular updates please email outdoorpursuits@apollocalgary.com.

Golf - Contact golf@apollocalgary.com, Or by phone 276-8094

Lawn Bowling - For more information, please contact Chris or Phil at lawnbowling@apollocalgary.com.

Slow Pitch - Friday Nights - Slo Pitch League, Co-Ed * Rec * Drop-In, Every Friday at 7:00pm - starts May 11, 2007 (tentative - based on weather), West Hillhurst Community Centre, 18 Street & 5 Avenue NW (East Field)

Yoga - Winter Event.

ARGRA - Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo

Association
Hotline: (403) 541-8140
<http://www.argra.org>

Artists for the Quality of Life

(403) 890-1261
<http://www.afqol.com>

See our ad on pages 24, 30 and 63
Cut-a-Thon - Mon. September 3rd 10:00am to 5:00pm at Tomkins Park (17th Ave, 8th Street), Join us at Tomkins Park for the 4th Annual Donnie Peters Memorial Cut-a-Thon! Get your hair cut to help fundraise for the Positive Living Lunch program at AIDS Calgary. Entertainment for the whole family, including DJs, Prizes, and more! Haircuts: \$20 for Adults, \$10 for Children, \$20 for Pets

Between Men and Between Men Online

(403) 234-8973
<http://www.glcsa.org/>
Peer support, sexual health education for gay or bisexual men, as well as those who may be uncertain or questioning their sexuality. Discussions range from personal relationship or life issues, to sexual health and well-being.

Meetings at GLCSA Tuesdays 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Calgary Frontrunners Running Club

When: 9 am on Saturdays,
Where: Update! Coffee Junkies -795 1 Avenue SW (no longer meeting at Eau Claire Y)
What: Walkers and Runners between 5 km - 15 km from sub 5 min/km pace to 10 min/km pace.
Who: All are welcome - Typically about 15-20 men and women depending on the weather conditions
Contact: E-mail calgaryfrontrunners@shaw.ca or call Tim at (403) 660-6125

Calgary Gay Fathers
calgaryfathers@hotmail.com

<http://www.geocities.com/calgaryfathers>

Peer support group for gay, bisexual and questioning fathers. Meeting twice a month

Calgary Humane Society

See our ad on page 43
(403) 250-4455
<http://www.calgaryhumane.ca>

Animal Adoptions and for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Calgary Men's Chorus

(403) 262-6295
<http://www.calgarymenschorus.org>

Rehearsals are held from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Old Y Centre for Community Organizations, located at 223 12 Avenue SW.

Calgary Networking Club

At Money Pennies (upstairs)
1742 - 10 Ave SW

Calgary Networking Club (CNC) is back... after a 5 year hiatus, CNC is meeting again in Calgary on the first Thursday of every month. The networking meetings are open to all individuals who would like to promote their businesses or who would like to meet new people - no business affiliation is necessary.

CNC is for members of the LGBTQ community to make new friends or business contacts. This group is not age or gender specific.

Come listen to our monthly guest speaker, have a snack, and enjoy talking with some new people. Admission to the meeting is \$5, or a yearly subscription pass can be bought for \$25 (a 28% savings). If you have a GLCSA membership take an additional \$5 off your yearly subscription cost. GLCSA memberships will also be available at the meeting for \$10. (Call GLCSA for details on membership benefits).

For more information contact GLCSA at (403) 234-8973...or just drop in on the meeting.
Calgary Networking Club (CNC) is a Gay & Lesbian Community Services Association (GLCSA) event. Food and venue sponsored by Money Pennies Bar and Eatery.

Calgary Sexual Health Centre

304, 301 14th Street NW
(403) 283-5580
<http://www.calgarysexualhealth.ca>
Calgary Sexual Health Centre is a pro-choice organization that believes all people have the right and ability to make their own choices regarding their sexual and reproductive health. Calgary Sexual Health Centre started as a volunteer based, grassroots organization and has been providing comprehensive sexuality education and counselling programs to the Calgary community since 1972. In the early 70's, CBCA's work focused on improving access to birth control and increasing support for women facing unplanned pregnancies. Since that time Calgary Sexual Health Centre has evolved to include a range of services to ensure that individuals are able to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive well being. Our programs promote sexuality as a normal, positive and healthy part of life to be valued and respected. Currently

the Calgary Sexual Health Centre offers education and youth peer education programs, counselling and groups for women who are questioning their sexual orientation.

RU a lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirited or queer youth, ages 17-24? RU interested in helping make Calgary a safer place for people of diverse sexual orientation? If UR, we are looking for dynamic volunteers for our Anti-Homophobia Program. This program is intended to raise awareness and understanding among students about the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, two spirited, transgendered, queer and questioning youth. If you are interesting in sharing your experiences with other youth, and are available days, please call us at 283-5580 and ask for an Educator or contact pkrause@cbca.ab.ca.

Deer Park United Church and Wholeness Centre

77 Deerpoint Road SE - (403) 278-8263
<http://www.dpuc.ca>
Worship Time - 10:00am Sundays

Different Strokes

<http://www.differentstrokescalgary.org>
Swim Club.

Check website for current schedule

Did You Say Bike?

YOU TOO CAN PEDAL YOUR ASS OFF! Riders Wanted - experience or no!

Come ride your bike with us and make new friends, learn how to maintain your wheels, maybe even learn a few tricks, and best of all get fit!

Everyone welcome!

The Windmill at Eau Claire, 12 until 3-ish. Tasty snacks and refreshments later on.

For more info on a great motivational experience, E-mail us at ridingincalgaryrocks@hotmail.com

Don't Buy In Project

<http://www.dontbuyin.ca>
This Calgary Police Service Initiative aims to encourage youth to working towards an inclusive environment in which diversity is embraced in their schools and community.

Fake Mustache

Calgary's ONLY Drag King Show
Soda Lounge: 211 - 12th Ave S.W.
(403) 923-3953
<http://www.miscyouth.com>
calgaryfakemustache@hotmail.com
A benefit show for the Miscellaneous Youth Network, Fake Mustache is guaranteed to please! Come see our boys strut their stuff at Soda, the first Thursday of every month. \$5 cover. \$2 cover under 18. Advance tickets available at Barbies Shop.

All Ages show starts at 7:30. 18+ show starts at 10:15.

Gay Prairie Alumni

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gayprairiealumni/>
This group is for all gay/lesbian/transgendered alumni of Prairie Bible Institute and/or Prairie High School in Three Hills, Alberta. It's purpose is twofold: First, social -- to renew old friendships

and make new ones. Second -- to talk about our common experiences as gay people at a fundamentalist school. Any other questions, please feel free to ask.

Girl Friends

<http://members.shaw.ca/girlfriends>

GirlsGo Productions

(403) 510-2502
<http://www.girlsgo.ca>
Event production and promotion in Alberta for women. Check online for fun things to do!
Camping with GIRLSGO - Two opportunities to escape to a private, group campsite with other Women. August 24nd to 26th & September 7th to 9th

GLASS, Gay & Lesbian Association of Students and Staff

279R Student Union Club Spaces
University of Calgary
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~glass>
(403) 220-6394

GLCSA - Gay And Lesbian Community Services Association ●1

#4, 1230A 17th Avenue SW
(403) 234-8973
<http://www.glcsa.org>

Peer Support and Crisis Line - Front-line help service for GLBT individuals and their family and friends, or anyone questioning their sexuality. Please click here for further information on our Peer Support Program.

24-Hour Info Line - Calgary's resource directory for information, events, business referrals, organizations and support for the GLBT community.

Library - A great selection of resource books, fiction, non-fiction, videos and everything in between, all with a queer perspective.

Drop-In Center - A safe and supportive environment for one-to-one peer counseling for many issues surrounding family, coming out, homosexuality, loneliness and other issues.

Unity Pages - A service directory of GLBT or GLBT-friendly businesses, organizations, and services within Calgary.

Heading Out

(403) 234-8973
<http://www.glcsa.org/>

Peer group for men who are looking for an alternative social activity to the bar. Activities vary and are fun and entertaining. The group meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 7 pm to 9 pm.

HIV Peer Support Group

(403) 230-5832
hivpeergroup@yahoo.ca

See our ad on pages 11 and 51

Illusions Calgary

(403) 234-8973
<http://www.glcsa.org>

Social group for Calgary and area transgender

community members (cross dressers, transvestites, drag kings and queens). Illusions provides a safe, discrete and welcoming atmosphere, in which transgendered people can meet others of like mind. Illusions offers discretion, acceptance, compassion and a safe place to express your gender. Cross-dressing is the purpose of the group, but is not mandatory.

Inside Out

(403) 234-8973
<http://www.glcsa.org>

Peer-facilitated youth group for GLBTQ ages 15-25. The group aims to let youth know they are not alone, and to connect them with their peers. Every Monday, 7 pm to 9pm at GLCSA. It is a funky and safe environment with a variety of resources and activities.

ISCCA — Imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch

<http://www.iscca.ca>

Every Wednesday "Starlight Nights with a Twist" @ Twisted Element Lounge Dwn Strs

Shows start @ 9:30 pm sharp

Every Friday BBQ with the ISCCA @ the Backlot 5:30pm - 9 pm

Every Saturday Shooters with the ISCCA @ the Bunker/Texas Lounge 7pm - Midnight

Sunday August 12 @ The Eagle - BBQ with the ISCCA 6pm - 9pm

Sunday August 12 @ The Eagle - Drag Show 9pm - 11pm

Friday August 24 @ The Eagle - Shooters with Emperor 31 and the Court 11pm - 1am

Sunday August 26 @ The Eagle - BBQ with the ISCCA 6pm - 9pm

Integrity Calgary

<http://members.aol.com/DWFrancis/integrity.html>

NO SERVICES TILL FUTHER NOTICE

St. Stephen's Anglican Church, at 1121 - 14th Avenue S.W., is a very welcoming community that you may consider going to, they worship every Sunday morning at 8:00 am (traditional prayer book service) and the contemporary worship service at 10:30 am. Or try.

Rainbow Community Church of Calgary meets at Hill Hurst United Church off (Kensington Close NW). They're a GLBTQ etc. church (and straight folks are welcome too!) that seeks to provide tools for the spiritual journey thorough developing a supportive community. They are an interdenominational church in the Christian traditions with an evangelical and open flavour. Sundays at 4 PM. Pre-service prayer gathering at 3:30.

Knox United Church

506 - 4th Street S.W. • (403) 269-8382
<http://www.knoxunited.ab.ca/>

Knox United Church is an all-inclusive church located in downtown Calgary. A variety of facility rentals are also available for meetings, events and

concerts.

Worship Services

Wednesdays - Communion Service 12:10 pm
Sundays - 11:00 a.m. September to June
Sundays - 10:30 a.m. in summer July and August.

New Directions

(403) 234-8973 or glcsa@glcsa.org
<http://www.glcsa.org/>

Drop in peer-support group to provide support and resources for individuals who identify as transsexual or inter-sexed. The group meets every 3rd Friday of the month from 7 pm to 9 pm at GLCSA.

If you are transsexual, or know of someone who is, please contact our office for information and assistance. You are not alone! There is support!

Positive Space Committee at Mount Royal College

4825 Mount Royal Gate SW
Phone: 403-440-6383
Web: www.mtroyal.ca/positivespace
Email: stovcer@mtroyal.ca

The Positive Space Committee at Mount Royal College works to raise awareness and challenge the patterns of silence that continue to marginalize lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-generated, two-spirited and queer (LGBTQ) individuals.

Pride Calgary

(403) 262-3410
<http://www.pridecalgary.ca>

Pride Rainbow Project

prp@planet-save.com
<http://www.priderainbowproject.com>

The Pride Rainbow Project was started in Fall 2003 by 4 youth of the Unitarian Church of Calgary. The Pride Rainbow Project is a project designed to show support for same-sex marriage in Canada and elsewhere. It is a fabric rainbow banner approximately 5 feet wide, and the goal is to make it 3.2km (2 miles) long, in order to break the world record (set by a group in Florida at 1.25 miles)! It contains the 6 colours of the pride flag: Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, and Purple. The project is youth run, but anyone can help!

Primetimers Calgary

E-mail: primetimerscalgary@gmail.com
<http://www.primetimerscalgary.com>

Prime Timers Calgary is designed to foster social interaction for its members through a variety of social, educational and recreational activities. It is open to all gay and bisexual men of any age and respects whatever degree of anonymity that each member desires.

Rainbow Community Church

See our ad on page 21
Hillhurst United Church
1227 Kensington Close N.W.
Website: <http://www.rainbowcommunitychurch.ca>
E-mail: roneberly@shaw.ca

The Rainbow Community Church is an all-inclusive church. Everyone is welcome (and we mean it!). Services are held every Sunday afternoon at 4:00

PM.

Rocky Mountain Bears

<http://www.rockymountainbears.com>

Safety Under The Rainbow

<http://www.safetyrainbow.ca>

Mission: To raise awareness and understanding of same-sex domestic violence and homophobic youth bullying.

Project Areas:

Partnerships — Create partnerships with like-minded groups. Organize a meeting to discuss a province-wide cross-sector entity addressing domestic violence and homophobic bullying.

Training - Develop and pilot training modules that address GLBT domestic violence and homophobic youth bullying. See the website or contact the office for information on the next training session.

Research — Conduct an enviro-scan of services and support available to GLBT family violence and abuse victims.

Directory — Publish a province-wide directory of services and supports addressing same-sex domestic violence and homophobic bullying.

Survey — Conduct a survey on how same-sex domestic violence and homophobic bullying affects GLBT individuals. Contact the office if you would be willing to fill out this survey.

Sharp Foundation

Phone: (403) 272-2912
E-mail: sharpfoundation@nucleus.com
<http://www.thesharpfoundation.com>

See our ad on page 15

Travel Masters - Need a vacation?, Ed Smith at Travel Masters has agreed to donate 25% of his profit from WestJet bookings to The SHARP Foundation. So before you plan your next trip with WestJet, email Ed at TravelMasters

NEW Calgary Walk for Life 2007 — September 23, 2007

Become a member of The SHARP Team for Calgary's Walk for Life 2007, and help us reach our goal of raising \$12,000.

Bocce for Beswick — August 11, 2007

SHEQ Soulful Healing Ego Quest

(403) 234-8973 or glcsa@glcsa.org
<http://www.glcsa.org/>

A workshop for women that want to be themselves in a supportive, safe environment. It is a chance to grow and share their experiences related to women's sexuality. Runs for a ten week period on Thursdays at 7pm. Call Trudy or Krista at 585-7437. To participate, please call the exclusive SHEQ line at 585-7437 (you may leave a voice message for Trudy or Krista) or leave your name and a contact time/number with the Gay & Lesbian Community Services Association at 234-8973.

Urban Sex

<http://www.cjsw.com>

Radio Show — Every Wednesday from 9-10pm.

FISH CHIPS

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1742-10 ave SW

Focus on sexuality; gay bisexual lesbian trans gendered and straight issues here in Calgary and around the web. Listen on CJSW FM 90.9.

Western Canada Bigmen and Admirers
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WesternCanadaBigmenGroup/>

bigpaul41@yahoo.com

Womynspace
(403) 234-8973 or womynspace@glcsa.org
<http://www.glcsa.org/>

Peer social/support group for women providing an evening of fun, bonding, discussion and activities. Meets every first and third Friday 7pm to 9pm at GLCSA.

Vigor Calgary
(403) 255-7004
<http://www.vigorcalgary.ca/>

Violence in Gay Male Relationships (VIGOR) is a committee of professionals dedicated to increasing the awareness of gay men's domestic violence and the services available to them.

"Yeah... What She Said!"
Every Monday evening from 8:30-9:00pm
CJSW 90.9 FM
yeahwhatshesaid@gmail.com

Youth 4 Youth
(403) 283-5880
<http://www.youth4youth.com>

YouthSafe
<http://www.youthsafe.net>

Alberta's website for youth with sex-and-gender differences. Youthsafe.net lists the resources, information and services to help youth find safe and caring spaces in Alberta.

Restaurants

Calgary Eagle Inc. ●4
See our ad on page 27
424a - 8 Ave SE • (403) 263-5847
Open Tues-Sun 4pm-close
<http://www.calgaryeagle.com>

Jane Doe Marketplace & Cafe ●50
See our ad on page 9
311 17 Avenue SW • (403) 245-5263
Calgary's Only Marketplace featuring Women Entrepreneurs. Coffee Shop too!

Money-Pennies ●9
See our ad on page 19 and 47
1742 - 10 Ave SW • (403) 263-7411

Theatre and Art

Alberta Ballet
<http://www.albertaballet.com>
OTHELLO - October 25 - 27, 2007 in Calgary
NUTCRACKER - December 19 - 23, 2007 in Calgary
DANGEROUS LIAISONS - February 7 - 9, 2008 in Calgary

MOZART'S REQUIEM - March 27 - 29, 2008 in Calgary
GISELLE - September 13 - 15, 2007 in Calgary

ATP, Alberta Theatre Projects ●36
Phone: (403) 294-7402
<http://www.ATPlive.com>

AXIS Contemporary Art
107, 100 - 7 Ave. SW • (403) 262-3356
rob@axisart.ca

Monday to Friday: 10am to 6pm
Saturday: 10am to 5:30pm
Sunday: 11am to 3pm

First Thursdays (the First Thursday of each month):
10am to 8pm

Broadway Across Canada
<http://www.broadwayacrosscanada.ca>

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra
<http://www.cpo-live.com> • (403) 571-0849

Fairytales International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
<http://www.fairytalesfilmfest.com>

Looks Could Kill Art Boutique
Art Central, lower level #11, 100 7th Ave SW • (403) 264-7576

One Yellow Rabbit ●35
Big Secret Theatre - EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts • (403) 299-8888
<http://www.oynr.org>

QUAB Gallery Inc. ●43
212, 100th 7th Avenue SW • (403) 261-2855
<http://www.quab.ca>

Pumphouse Theatre ●37
2140 Pumphouse Avenue SW • (403) 263-0079
<http://www.pumphousetheatres.ca>

Skew Gallery
1615 10th Avenue SW • (403) 244-4445
<http://www.skewgallery.com>

Stagewest
727 42 Avenue SE • (403) 243-6642
<http://www.stagewestcalgary.com>

A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline, by Dean Regan, July 5 - September 9, 2007

Although she will never be replaced, "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline, by Dean Regan" is a tribute to her spirit and a celebration of the music of her life. One of the all time legends of country music, Patsy Cline impressed everyone the moment they heard her. Ironically, her music talent was never really rewarded until "Walkin After Midnight", which was recorded 10 years after she began singing professionally, which set her on the road to the acclaim she deserved. Then came "I Fall to Pieces", "Crazy", "She's Got You", "Leavin on Your Mind", "Sweet Dreams", and "Faded Love". Patsy Cline died in a plane crash on March 5, 1963. Her enduring musical legacy is witnessed by the fact that she is the number one jukebox play in the world. On August 3rd, she was inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Stride Gallery ●47
1004 MacLeod Trail SE • (403) 262-8507
<http://www.stride.ab.ca>

Theatre Junction
<http://www.theatrejunction.com>

Truck Gallery ●46
815 1st Street SW (Basement) • (403) 261-7702
<http://www.truck.com>

Vertigo Mystery Theatre ●34
161, 115 - 9 Ave SE • (403) 221-3708
<http://www.vertigomysterytheatre.com>

Edmonton Listings

Bars and Clubs

Boots & Saddles ●5
10242 106th St • (780) 423-5014

Buddy's Nite Club ●6
11725 Jasper Ave • (780) 488-6636

Prism Bar & Grill ●8
10524 101st St • (780) 990-0038
<http://www.prismbar.ca>

The Roost ●9
10345 104th St • (780) 426-3150
<http://www.theroostniteclub.com>

Woody's ●12
11725 Jasper Ave • (780) 488-6557

Bathroom and Sauna's

Down Under Baths ●7
12224 Jasper Ave • (780) 482-7960
<http://www.gayedmonton.com/>

Steamers ●10
9668 Jasper Avenue • (780) 422-2581

Steamworks ●11
11745 Jasper Ave • (780) 451-5554

Businesses

B & D Emporium ●13
New City Compound, 10081 Jasper Avenue
<http://www.bdemporiumedmonton.com>

Cruiseline
See our ad on page 64
(780) 413-7122 trial code 3500
<http://www.cruiseline.ca>
Phone chat room & talking classifieds for 18+

Pride Construction
(780) 239-9197
Construction and Renovations

Community Groups and Organizations

Buck Naked Boys Club (Edmonton)
Naturism club for men.
Meets the second Saturday of each month.
(780) 471-6993
<http://www.bucknakedboys.ca>

Edmonton Vocal Minority introduces



Yemaya

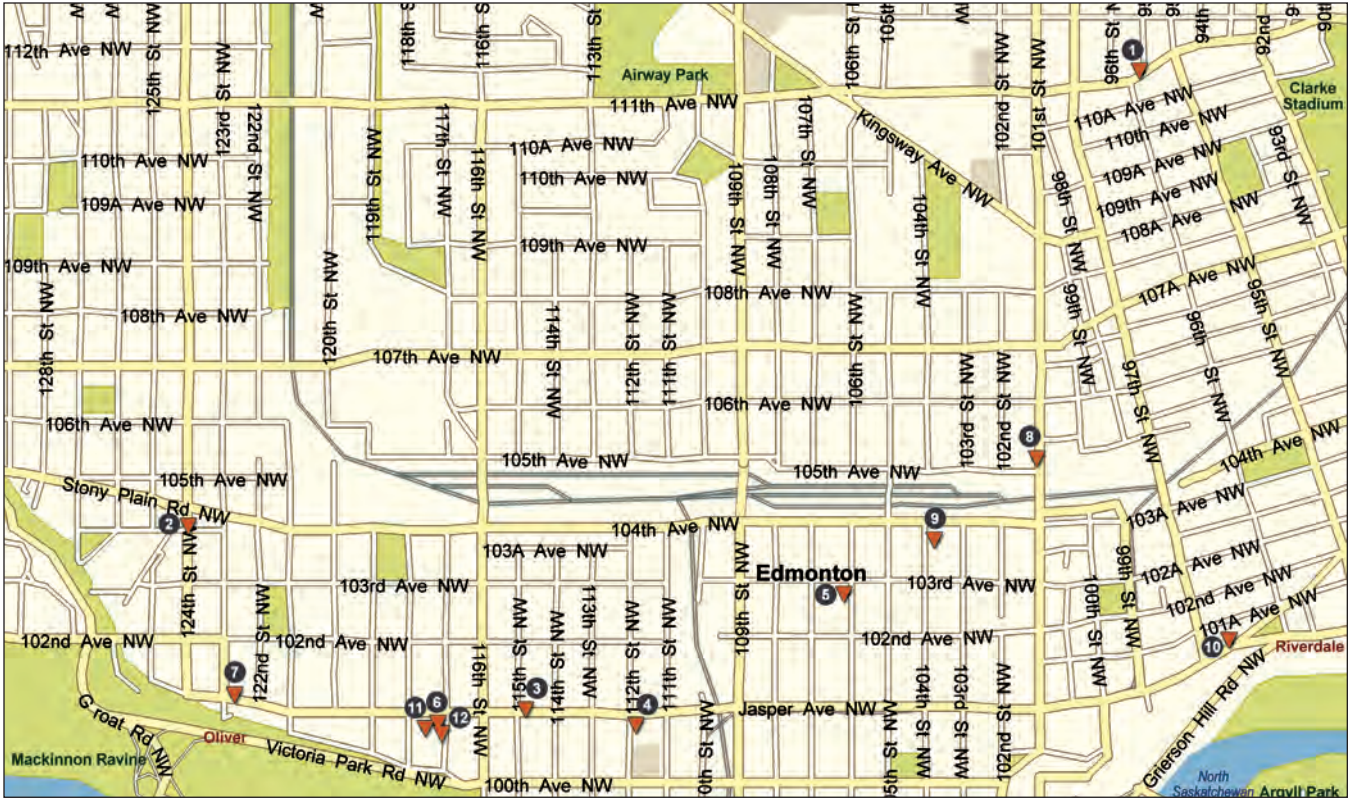


uncomMEN

two new Edmonton Queer choirs

Voice placement interviews are by appointment on **Sunday, 9.September** or **Monday, 10.September**. Call **780.488.1498** or e-mail sing@evmchoir.com for an appointment or for more information. Visit www.evmchoir.com for complete details.





Our club has been meeting continuously for over 10 years. The similar club in Calgary ceased to exist several years ago. Naturism is being social while everyone is naked, and it does not include sexual activity. Therefore participants do not need to be gay, only male, but almost all participants over the years do self-describe as being gay or bisexual.

Camp fyrefly

7-104 Department of Educational Policy Studies
Faculty of Education, University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G5
<http://www.fyrefly.ualberta.ca>

Edmonton Pride Week Society

<http://www.prideedmonton.org>

ERBA - Edmonton Rainbow Business Association

#3379, 11215 Jasper Avenue • (780) 4915-4458
<http://www.edmontonrba.org>

Our primary focus is the provision of networking opportunities for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) owned or operated and GLBT-friendly businesses in the Edmonton region. Membership is open to all kinds of entrepreneurs, from tradespeople to professionals to commission

salespeople.

The Edmonton Rainbow Business Association After Business Mixers. Held on the second Wednesday of every month 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Edmonton STD ●4

11111 Jasper Ave

Edmonton Vocal Minority

<http://www.evmchoir.com>
Phone: 780-479-2038

See our ad on page 20

Free To Be volleyball

Amiskiwy Academy, 101 Airport Rd. (near the downtown airport)
Every Wednesday and Thursday night, 8pm-10pm

Welcome GLBT players!

Wednesday night recreational level: All players and skill levels welcome. Contact Marc for more information: padremark@hotmail.com, Tel: (780) 445-0365.

Thursday night intermediate level: Coaching and drills provided. Contact Alex for more information: flipside@telus.net, Tel: (780) 424-9984. (Please note that there is limited space on the intermediate night)

HIV Network Of Edmonton Society ●3

11456 Jasper Ave

See our ad on page 49

<http://www.hivedmonton.com>

AIDS Walk for Life 2007 (September 23rd, 2007)
- The 16th Annual AIDS Walk for Life will take place Sunday September 23rd, 2007 at Edmonton City Hall! Remember how fun the last one was – the sunshine, the prizes, the food, the entertainment... and more!? Or if you're new to town and didn't have the chance to join us – this is your chance to join one of the most easy ways to show your support, help out a great cause, meet new friends, and do something healthy for yourself! It's a 5km walk around the heart of downtown, and everyone is welcome – even pets!

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

<http://www.gayedmonton.org>

Friday August 3 / 07 at Woodys Pub 10 pm
Scholarship Show - The ISCWR is looking for students continuing their education at the post secondary level to distribute annual scholarships. Applications available at the clubs, Pride Center or contact Bobby at bobbyxvii@hotmail.com.

Sunday August 12/07 at Diamond Park in the Valley 10 am - 5pm "Tits with Mitts and Balls" a softball tournament pitching drag queens against lesbians in a fun- fundraising game. Come on out and support your favorite girls!!!

Friday August 24/07 at The Roost Night Club 10 pm Entertainer of the Year 2007 Competition
Nominate your favorite Edmonton performer before August 20/07 and the top 5 nominees will compete for the title. This event is half judged and half voted on by the public so come out and vote for

your favorite performer!!

Living Positive (Edmonton Persons Living with HIV Society) ●2

(780) 488-5768
<http://www.edmlivingpositive.ca>

Providing confidential one-on-one peer support for infected or affected individuals... Internet support peersupport@edmlivingpositive.ca

Northern Chaps

<http://www.northernchaps.com>

Northern Chaps is Edmonton's original leather, latex, fetish, uniform club. We have been in existence officially since 1987 but have been in existence originally around 1982 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Everyone is welcome to join or attend events

Northern Chaps is a social group existing for the purpose of providing a safe, accepting social climate to people interested in the leather/fetish/uniform lifestyle.

Northern Chaps believes that people should be free to express their individuality and to exercise personal lifestyle choices without social constraint, to the extent that they do not interfere with the freedoms of others.

In particular, Northern Chaps defends and pursues this belief on behalf of gay men and lesbian women who, through positive alternative lifestyles, seek to explore the boundaries of their sexuality, including the use of certain associated dress, signs and symbols, and safe, sane and consensual behaviors.

Pastor Ron welcomes everyone to the Rainbow Community Church of Calgary!

Services: Hillhurst United Church
1227 Kensington Close NW
Sunday, 4pm

roneberly@shaw.ca • www.rainbowcommunitychurch.ca

Pride Centre of Edmonton ● 1
95A St. and 111 Ave. • (780) 488-3234

Talent Showcase

Saturday, August 18th, 2007

At Prism Bar & Grill (10524 - 101 Street, Edmonton) Doors open: 6pm, show starts: 7pm Door prizes, silent auction, art exhibit, & more... Tickets: Advance (Available from Pride Centre): \$7.00 At the Door: \$10.00

- Bears Movie Night

Bears club of Edmonton meets the last Sunday of the month for movies 1 - 6 pm in the TV room at the Pride Centre of Edmonton 95A St. and 111 Ave. Ph: (780) 488-3234

- Trans Education/Support Group

Support and education for all transsexual, transgendered, intersexed, two-spirited and questioning individuals meets 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, 2-4 pm at the Pride Centre of Edmonton 95A St. and 111 Ave. Ph: (780) 488-3234

- Sunday Night Mens Discussion Group

Mens social and discussion group meets every Sunday @ 7 pm at the Pride Centre of Edmonton 95A St. and 111 Ave. Ph: 488-3234, Contact: Rob Wells - robwells780@hotmail.com

- Saturday Movie Night

Weekly movie nights, with themed movies and discussion afterwards at the Pride Centre of Edmonton 95A St. and 111 Ave. Ph: (780) 488-3234. from 2:00 to 5:00

- The HIV Positive Gay Men's Group

Drop in caring circle every Thursday, 1-4 pm @ 7-9 pm in main area, at the Pride Centre of Edmonton 95A St. and 111 Ave. Ph: (780) 488-3234
Facilitator: Mark, HIV Outreach
The HIV positive Gay Men's Group is a place for gay men to come and share their feelings on how it is affecting their personal lives. This is a personal private time for them to express how it has changed their outlook on life. As well to support and help each other dealing with being HIV positive. Whatever is said in the room stays within the room. Remember! You are not alone!

- Youth Understanding Youth

Youth support and social group meets every

Saturday from 7 to 9 pm at the Pride Centre of Edmonton 95A St. and 111 Ave. Ph: (780) 488-3234 Contact: yuy@shaw.ca (www.members.shaw.ca/yuy)

- Womospace

1st Sunday of every month from 10 am to 1 pm at the Pride Centre of Edmonton 95A St. and 111 Ave. Ph:488-3234 Contact Womospace for details <http://www.gaycanada.com/womospace/>

- Prime Timers

Monthly Member Meetings at the Pride Centre of Edmonton 95A St. and 111 Ave. Ph:488-3234

- Suit Up and Show Up Big Book Study

Saturdays at 12 noon. At Pride Centre

- Sick and tired of being sick and tired? Cocaine Anonymous meeting

Thursdays 7-8pm CA Hotline 425-2715

- Youth Drop-in

Every Wednesday at 5:00pm
Open to all youth 25 years and under
Contact brendan@pridecentreofedmonton.org or call 488-3234 for more info.

- Men's HIV Support Group

Will be meeting on each second Monday of the month. At the Pride Center, Edmonton Starting in April, from 7pm to 9pm.

- Parents Rock the World Workshops

PFLAG Canada: Edmonton Chapter - Workshop Series Tuesdays, Pride Centre (95A St. and 111 Ave.) 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Ph: (780) 488-3234
A series of workshops for Parents of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning children. Each session will feature a 30 - 45 minute topic specific presentation, followed by a group discussion. Social time for sharing and networking will follow at the end of each session. Call the Pride Centre to register or for more details.

- GLBT Seniors Drop IN

Every Thursday Pride Centre (95A St. and 111 Ave.), 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
The Pride Centre is thrilled to introduce a new program serving our GLBT seniors. Hosted by Jeff Bovee, contact the Centre at 488-3234 for more info.

Team Edmonton

Soccer - will be on the South field of the Oliver

School every Thursday from 7 - 9pm. 10227 - 118 Street. (weather permitting) For more information contact soccer@teamedmonton.ca

Theatre and Art

Alberta Ballet

<http://www.albertaballet.com>

OTHELLO - November 2 - 3, 2007 in Edmonton

NUTCRACKER - December 14 - 16, 2007 in Edmonton

DANGEROUS LIAISONS - February 15 - 16, 2008 in Edmonton

MOZART'S REQUIEM - April 4 - 5, 2008 in Edmonton

GISELLE - September 18 - 19, 2007 in Edmonton

Broadway Across Canada

<http://www.broadwayacrosscanada.ca>

Broadway Across Canada

<http://www.broadwayacrosscanada.ca>

Lethbridge Listings

GALA/LA - Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Lethbridge and Area

(403) 308-2893 (live on Mon. and Wed. evenings until 11 p.m.)

<http://www.newgaylethbridge.ca>

Monthly dances (Sept.-May) at Croatian hall Call for directions, or for information on P-Flag, campus groups and monthly pot-luck dinners

Red Deer Listings

Affirm

Composed of LGBTQ people, their friends, family and allies. No religious affiliation necessary. Activities include support, faith and social justice discussions, film nights, and potlucks! Affirm meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7PM at Sunnybrook United Church, (403) 347-6073.

National Listings

Businesses

Entre Nous

1-866-467-5252

<http://www.entrenousnetwork.com>

Love and Pride

Gay and Lesbian themed Jewelry

<http://www.loveandpride.ca>

Squirt

See our ad on page 62

Dating and hookups website

<http://www.squirt.org>

Wega Video

Adult DVD's

<http://www.wegavideo.ca>

Community Groups and Organizations

Alberta Transgender Support and Activities Group

<http://www.albertatrans.org>

A nexus for transgendered persons, regardless of where they may be on the continuum.

Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition / Coalition santé arc-en-ciel Canada

P.O. Box / C.P. 3043

Saskatoon SK Canada S7K 3S9

306-955-5135

toll-free / sans frais 1-800-955-5129

fax/ télécopieur 306-955-5132

<http://www.rainbowhealth.ca>

<http://www.santearc-en-ciel.ca>

Egale Canada

#310, 396 Cooper

Ottawa, ON K2P 2H7

1-888-204-7777 toll free

Stephen Lock - Regional Co-Director (Male)

Prairies/NWT/Nunavut

(403) 708-5302 cell phone

<http://www.egale.ca>

stephenlock@egale.ca

Egale Canada is the national advocacy and lobby organization for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, trans-identified people and our families.

Membership fees are pay-what-you-can, although pre-authorized monthly donors are encouraged (and get a free Egale Canada t-shirt). Egale has several committees that meet by teleconference on a regular basis; membership on these is national with members from every region of Canada.

Theatre and Art

Brothers TV

See our ad on page 24

<http://www.brotherstv.com>

OUTtv

See our ad on page 3

<http://www.outtv.ca>

If you would like to add your business or non-profit group to the list above, please call (403) 543-6960, or toll free 1 (888) 543-6960 or E-mail magazine@gaycalgary.com. You can add your information to the GayCalgary.com directory on the website for free.

GayCalgary.com endeavors to have the information here as accurate as possible. Events and listings can change at any time so it is recommended that you check with the establishment before you head out.

Non-Profit groups get free listings. Business receive a listing once an ad has been placed. The business listing will last 1 year after the appear up to ad has been placed unless there is a GayCalgary.com service located at that business.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

Their business enables us to continue sponsoring advertisement space for GBLT non-profit and charity groups!



Call us at: (403) 543-6960
or toll free: 1-888-543-6960
or E-mail: magazine@gaycalgary.com

Steamworks

By Chris Garvey

Edmonton bathhouse Steamworks has been open for a short three years, yet in that time it has managed to carve out a sizable niche of the market it caters to. Its success, both with locals and travelers, has been earned through its sheer size and the caliber of experience offered. Customers from around the globe have told management that Steamworks is a world-class establishment.

Steamworks co-creator and partner in ownership, Henk Kalkman, is pleased with this response because it is exactly what was gunning for. “[Steamworks was opened because] there was nothing offered of this size,” he explains. It is truly massive: 7000 square feet, laid out on two floors including 2000 square feet of beautifully tiled showers, sauna, and steam rooms (yes, plural). If size matters, then Steamworks is hung like a horse.

Scale was not the only concern for Kalkman and the other co-creators; to be unquestionably awesome, Steamworks would have to be top-notch in every way. To gather ideas, the lot of them “went on a bathhouse tour of North America”, he states. This research has paid off. It was decided that Steamworks would be “designed as a place to have a sexual adventure”, with the effect of being in a maze, to “never know who or what will be around the next corner”; even the lighting was modified to “enhance the visual appeal of customers,” Kalkman says. Every effort was taken to create a bathhouse that would rival those found in the biggest cities on the continent.

One would intuitively expect such an undertaking to be plagued with major problems in construction and operation, but Steamworks has not been burdened with any serious trouble at all. The one issue with its construction had to do with its huge size – a space so large had to be professionally drafted for the City of Edmonton to allow licensing! The owners were congratulated by a health inspector for keeping Steamworks so clean and, Kalkman explains, “a visiting vice-cop said it was the nicest place he’d been in.” He made clear how proud he and the other owners are of Steamworks and its operation – they love the look of it and the way it runs. Customers respond in the same way; the bathhouse has reached maximum capacity more than once, which can be a rarity in the city.

One issue Kalkman wishes to address is the rumor that the building housing Steamworks is slated to be demolished to make way for condominiums. This is not true, and Kalkman surmises that the rumor started

Review | Business

when construction began on a nearby building and scaffolding was directly in front of the business. Rest assured, Steamworks is here for the foreseeable future and has no plans to close.

A number of promotional grabs are available for the steamer on a budget: a visit on a Thursday earns the guest a free pass for a following Thursday; and a visit on a Friday/Saturday earn you a free pass on Sunday. As well, they offer a daily special from 4 pm to 7pm where lockers and rooms may be rented for six dollars and nine dollars respectively. Regular prices range depending on the time of visit from six to thirteen dollars for a locker, and from nine to eighteen dollars for a room. Double rooms are also available, and so are a few other specialties you may enjoy trying if you haven’t before.

If you’ve never been to Steamworks, you owe yourself a trip even if just to steam off some summer sweat. Have fun and play safe. ■

Steamworks
11725 Jasper Avenue (rear entrance)
(780) 451-5554

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Search our extensive Online
Business Directory

or post your business info for FREE!

(Now including listings for Edmonton!)



Visit our Online Directory at:
<http://directory.gaycalgary.com>

AFQOL and The Backlot Proudly Present

ENDLESS SUMMER BEACH PARTY

Saturday Sept. 1st @ 5pm

Party with Tawde! • Win a Prize! • Be Entertained!
Get Lei'd, Skewered and enjoy "sex on the beach"
with our Boys of Summer!!

And keep Silent.. 'cuz our Auction is MAJOR!

Feel the Heat of another
incredible AFQOL Fun-raiser!

AFQOL.com



THE BACKLOT

209 - 10th Avenue SW



GAYCALGARY.COM VIDEO CLIPS

To watch these clips, please ensure that you have the latest version of your favorite media player installed (ie. Windows Media Player, Real, Quicktime).

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www.gaycalgary.com

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**An independent comedy/variety
TV series produced in Calgary**

Brothers TV

We're now on **OUTtv**

Primary Broadcast: **Sundays at 4:00pm MT (6:00pm ET)**

Rebroadcast: **Tuesdays at 10:00pm MT (midnight ET)**

www.BrothersTV.com

Q Scopes

"Take a hike, Sagittarius!"

By GayCalgary Staff

Venus squaring Mars provokes libido and creativity. Mars is moving forward from Taurus to Gemini, and Venus is retrograding from Virgo into Leo. This activity creates bold talk and uncertain or ill-considered action. Be very careful what you wish for, especially out loud!



ARIES (March 20 - April 19): Baby wants to play! But it's going to end up costing you in ways you hadn't bargained on. Caution and forethought were never the best traits of your sign; this would be a good time to work on developing them!



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Most families are mortal embarrassments, but we see the flaws at home far more clearly than our guests do. (At least we'll invite the guests back!) These universal constants are driving you mad. Think about home improvements, but don't act now.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): With your current inability to keep a secret, you must be careful to listen to none. Your own secrets - so deep and dark, even you don't know them - can come to light in playful banter, so be careful whom you play with!



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Your friends will surely enjoy your charitable impulses, but let a little generosity go a long way. Spending like a drunken sailor could leave you with a titanic financial hangover.



LEO (July 23 - August 22): You feel pretty, and you *are* pretty. Everyone already sees that, and even your slightest efforts to play up your glamour will only push you way over the top. Relax, honey. You're already too fabulous.



VIRGO (August 23 - September 22): You want to be absolutely correct, but nobody is! Don't fret. Worrying about it can lead you into silly arguments, provoking others to feel criticized and take offense, even when your aims are entirely self-critical.



LIBRA (September 23 - October 22): Your reputation as a lover is getting around, perhaps with details you'd prefer to keep quiet. Take it all with good humor. Cheerfully refusing either to admit or to deny anything may be your best bet. Or invite some of the gossipers to find out for themselves.

Lifestyle | Astrology



SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21): You're concerned about your career, but you have other problems closer to home. Discussions, even arguments, with your partner should clear the air, perhaps even shedding light on those issues at work!



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 20): Your wanderlust is showing, and that could be causing both general nervous tension for you and irritation among your colleagues. Go ahead and get away if you can. At least put on the lederhosen and go for a hike in the hills.



CAPRICORN (December 21 - January 19): You're feeling a little too frisky, and everyone's noticing it. Getting it out of your system won't stop the indiscretion; but if everyone suspects you of philandering, you might as well be guilty!



AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18): Are you showering your darling with too much or too little praise and attention? Pay close attention to your baby's needs, but you're still likely to get it wrong. Talking about it at home helps. Listening is even better!



PISCES (February 19 - March 19): Wanting to shine at work can cause friction with your colleagues. Just do your best work, let it speak for itself, and make sure to share all due credit - and perhaps a bit more - with the rest of the team. ■

Hot or Not?

Come to the Calgary Public Library to discuss what you really think about bodies and weight.



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

I need heterosexual and homosexual women and men to take part in a focus group about the way people judge bodies. You will be grouped with other people of your gender and sexual orientation. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Also, all participants will receive a free electronic copy of my completed thesis.

To ask questions or to participate, please contact me, Maren Conrad, at (403) 467-8709 or at mlconrad@ucalgary.ca. This research is supervised by Dr. Russell-Mayhew (shelly.russell-mayhew@ucalgary.ca) and Dr. Alderson (alderson@ucalgary.ca).

Adult Film Review

Erotikus, Dangerous Island, Men at Work and Stars

By Jerome Voltero



“Men at Work” by Alpha-male Media, Courtesy of Adult Depot

Strangely the cover gives an impression that the porno is going to be about blue-collar construction workers. I picked it up because I thought I could make a wise crack about the numerous constructions sites adjoining the city block I live on (damn the fact that none are visible from my balcony).

The closest scene to this effect was the very first one, where electrician Darren and grease monkey Curt Rog-

ers work on separate tasks in an underground boiler room. There is a tangible animal magnetism between the two as they exchange glances and try to continue going about their work. When Rogers bends over to check a pressure gauge right beside Darren, the randy electrician can't keep his paws to himself. They share some steamy smooching, and reveal their many tattoos as they disrobe one another. Alone together, they have all the time they need to go through the whole gamut of foreplay.

My favorite scene was number 3, where two beefy business men played by Carlo Cox and Luca Falcini, take a diversion from their work. Cox is having trouble concentrating, so starts watching a porno on his computer to take his mind off things. Falcini notices his associate rubbing a bulge in his pants, and decides to wander over after Cox gives him an encouraging wink. Both men have goatees and shaved heads, making the scene reminiscent of something from an Yvon Goulet painting.

Check out the movie to see the remaining two sexy scenes in a leather store and a barber shop!



“Fucking with the Stars” by All Worlds Video, Courtesy of Adult Depot

Well I have to give them points for originality. I've watched “Dancing with the Stars” only once in my life, and only for a good reason: Joey Fatone. This porno mimics the reality TV format where a panel of celebrity judges observe and comment on our

Review | Adult Male

stars...fucking. This can be a bit weird if you're trying to get your rocks off. The host is drag queen Coco LaChine, and one of the judges is Chi Chi Larue. As the contestants go through their routine, they show the judges' reaction. There is a lot of talking; they interview the contestants before and after their routines, and afterward they each rate the porn stars from 1 to 10.

The first contestant is Kevin Brown, an all around good looking young guy...he'll be more to my liking when he grows up though. He strips, pole dances, flirts with the judges, and is joined on the pimp-pad by Zackary Pierce to show off his partnering skills.

Next up and much more to my liking (as I bite my fist in excitement) is furry Mexican hunk Manuel Torres! He goes through the same solo routine as the last contestant, but meets up with cute puppy Derrick Hanson for some hot hot HOT action! Later on Luca DiCorso pairs off with another favorite, Arpad Miklos, and tattooed stud Derrick Vineyard has a go at Jamie Donovan.

A fun twist at the end of this video is that you can log on to the website and vote for your favorite stars, just like the real TV shows! Once you cast your vote, you get to see how the contestants are measuring up to one another.



“Erotikus” by Centurion Pictures, Courtesy of Priape

This DVD is the fourth edition of the Centurion Muscle series, so prepare yourself for some beefy men! The cast includes furry dawg Jake Deckard, black stallion Erik Hunter, and muscle daddies Shane Alexander, Brock Hunter, Brendan Davies, Xerxes, and Hank Dutch.

Shane Alexander and Xerxes are paired in the second scene, almost looking like a mirror image of one another. Alexander has a major tattoo across his back, both nipples pierced, a lock and chain around his neck, and some thick gauge earrings that I swear could double as PA's. They start out with some kissing, nipple biting and pit licking, progressing to sucking and rimming. The body worship last for a pleasant eternity before they finally get some penetration happening; surprisingly Alexander is the bottom. If only that damn leather seat didn't creak!

The next scene we have a three way between Hank Dutch,

Erik Hunter and Brock Hunter...no relation. Erik emits manly growls as he simultaneously gets pounded and sucked.

If you want to see a tangle of big, hairy, sweaty muscled men then go out and buy this DVD already!



“Dangerous Island” by Cazzo Film, Courtesy of Priape

This German import is filmed against some beautiful scenery. A gay couple rides along steep mountain roads to a remote location looking out over the ocean. Thinking that they are alone, the two have sex and then relax for a while on a picnic blanket. But when one of them wanders off for a post-sex pee, he is violently kidnapped and drugged by a group of guys in army pants. His partner sees this happening and jumps on his Vespa

to pursue them, but tragically takes a wrong turn and loses them.

Meanwhile a different couple drives out to get frisky in the mountains (though they get started in the car), and end up being invited into the remote mansion of a strange man in a wheelchair...the same mansion where the kidnapped man was taken. Something fishy is going on, and it's not smegma!

This is a film of sex and murder. The men are mostly the young and hairless type with athletic builds – sadly the creepy guy in the wheelchair is the only one that was my type, though I felt guilty for watching the wheelchair sex. I know this film's collection of studs will drive many people wild...if they can stomach the idea that not all of them survive.

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Q Puzzle

"Handle Up Front"

By GayCalgary Staff

CLUE: a crossword which gives new meaning to some famous queer names.

Across

- 1 Davis of *The Virgin Queen*
- 6 Neeson of *Kinsey*
- 10 Von Trapp family escape route
- 14 Swashbuckling Flynn
- 15 Poet Seward
- 16 Ballet move
- 17 Tree for Lord Alfred?
- 19 Angelina's tomb-raiding role
- 20 Tongue ending
- 21 Words in an analogy
- 22 "Keep your pants on!"
- 24 Goes to seed
- 25 Poet Cullen
- 26 Not a dress size for Edna Turnblad
- 29 Like most movies of 1-Across
- 30 Title for producer R. Cowen or D. Lipman
- 31 Queens' ___ Park
- 33 Standing up straight
- 37 McDermid's ___ in *the Blood*
- 38 Beat (out)
- 40 Switch end
- 41 R.E.M. frontman Michael

- 43 Singer La ___ Jackson
- 44 Lesbian porn star Hartley
- 45 Like *Tales of the City*?
- 47 Most like Nelly?
- 49 Ball whackers, in ping-pong
- 52 Ho Chi ___ City
- 53 Left out, as letters
- 54 Fruit of Peter Pears?
- 55 Baudelaire's evil
- 58 Singer Norah's father
- 59 Residence for Sylvia?
- 62 "___ Ordinary Man" (*My Fair Lady*)
- 63 Place for Young men?
- 64 LuPone Broadway role
- 65 "So ___, Farewell"
- 66 The Oscars, e.g.
- 67 *After Delores* author Schulman

Down

- 1 Adam, created by a woman named George
- 2 Boy who shoots off arrows
- 3 Stephen McCauley's ___ *Enough*

Fun | Crosswords



- 4 Dress up, with out
- 5 Cass of The Mamas & The Papas
- 6 Stays hard
- 7 411
- 8 Singer DiFranco
- 9 Strand, as a seaman
- 10 Tool for food and wine specialist Ted?
- 11 Rock-bottom
- 12 1929 Cole Porter tune
- 13 Where to find Uranus
- 18 To the rear, when cruising
- 23 Mapplethorpe model, often
- 24 Dessert for writer Christopher?
- 25 He waved his stick in Mudville
- 26 They touch the bottoms of religious people
- 27 Come out
- 28 Hatcher of *Desperate Housewives*
- 29 Male offspring that goes either way?
- 32 The I's of Socrates

- 34 Lake traveled by Ohio ferries
- 35 Leopold and Loeb
- 36 Just so
- 39 Like Hans Christian Andersen
- 42 *Island of Lost Souls* director Kenton
- 46 One that can bite you in the sack
- 48 Measure of manhood
- 49 Bareback sex, e.g.
- 50 You must remember this
- 51 Piece in the parlor
- 52 Top-notch coffee
- 54 Un-American idol
- 55 Gay beach near San Francisco
- 56 Nick was his master
- 57 *Starting Over* bisexual
- 60 Announcement from the cockpit
- 61 Breeder need

Answer key is on page 62

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Building Community

Why the T is Still 30 Years Behind the G & L

By Mercedes Allen

It's unnerving. I shift in the chair a little, trying not to attract the attention of the man seated beside me, who seems intent on digging for my personal information. When I first took this seat in the waiting room, the area was relatively empty, but it has slowly populated itself, like a scene from Hitchcock's *The Birds*. There is a conversation somewhere behind me about the lesson someone's going to teach his buddy with his fists. Directly across, there is someone staring directly at me and breathing heavy, as though he'd just been sprinting - despite the fact that he has been seated for over ten minutes.

The waiting room is usually much less predatory: with people wandering around aimlessly, or reception staff behind a shielded counter being boisterously asked for rides home, or talking with loose acquaintances about which shelter they're staying in or how they're going to get their stuff back. Someone might be standing at the courtesy phone, not caring if her conversation in shaky voice about how she is cleaning herself up is overheard, the withdrawal hoarseness and shakes painting an ironically poor picture for the person on the other end of the receiver. But today feels more like a full moon day. Now echoes of someone vomiting in a washroom reverberate down the hall past the elevators.

I can respect the desperation of the poor, and the debilitating nature of having one's sense of worth stripped away. But it can be intimidating when one is newly observing this from a woman's perspective.

I'm seated in a mental health clinic that carries case-loads ranging from the bankrupt and destitute referred by Social Services, to outpatients from the local mental hospital, to parolees required by law to check in with and be monitored by their caseworkers. Some people are there because they have no other financial options; others come from criminal backgrounds, sometimes dramatically so. The clinic treats junkies and people suffering from abstract dementia, alcoholics, violent offenders and paedophiles... and transsexuals.

To be fair, the other psychiatrist in Alberta who specializes in Gender Identity Disorder (the medical term) works from a Hospital centre in which transsexuals share a waiting room with hyper-actives, those suffering from ADD, people with learning disorders and children with other problem behaviour - not as troubled, perhaps, as those in this office. But that is the extent of psychiatrists in the Prairies who are GID-certified. We fall in with the heaviest-cases for treatment.

Opinion

Ironically, we transsexuals may provide these doctors on the front lines with some rare and rewarding moments of relief from the emotionally stressful caseload that they often carry. The other mental disorders that they deal with can be regulated, medicated, go into remission and monitored. Some achieve a level of success keeping their conditions in a place of stability for the remainder of their whole lives, with an admirable amount of determination and discipline, and often with the support of those close to them; but alas, many do not.

In contrast, transsexuality is a "mental disorder" that can be completely cured by a surgical procedure. It must be a refreshing experience to see someone come into the office who was once broken, suicidal, desperate, directionless, confused and tormented since childhood when they felt hamstrung at every level of development - to see them gradually develop into empowered, liberated, positive-thinking people with more self-esteem than they believed possible. There are other challenges that transsexuals face post-surgery, of course: finding a stable career, acceptance within families and communities, establishing loving relationships. Seeing them achieve that moment where they can finally embark on that journey without the baggage must be a powerful experience. At the end of the day, there can be some feeling of accomplishment.

In 1973, homosexuality was stricken from the any classification as a mental disorder. Thirty-five years later, the "transgender phenomenon" still is. Welcome to life in the margins in the 21st Century. Transgender parents are still at risk of losing their children because they are often seen as mentally unfit. Aside from a few rare locales that have ended the practice, the fact that someone has genitalia different from what is expected is still often successfully used to plea bargain sentences for hate crimes down to a few short months. When a Lethbridge community publication announced a recent pension victory as the "last major battle" for the gay community, it was hard not to feel somewhat forgotten.

But to blame the state of the transgender community on the actions of the larger gay and lesbian community fails to take into account many of the ways in which the transgender community hamstring itself; first and foremost is the rule of stealth. For transsexuals, this means "blending" and avoiding detection, even to the extent of avoiding association with the gay and trans communities. For cross dressers, this means remaining in the closet, afraid of exposure and similarly afraid of association. Don't get me wrong: it should not be expected for all transgendered people to be visibly out, especially with the stigmas still lingering from the days of Jerry Springer. But

the lack of visible spokespeople leaves the trans community largely without a voice.

It also doesn't help that there is no single umbrella that transfolk are willing to gather under. The transgender community is horribly fragmented among several different lines, using several different terms, each of which has several different definitions. Transsexuals, cross dressers and tangential groups that sometimes fight such association; genderqueer, intersexed, two-spirits, bi-gendered, androgynous form an uneasy alliance at best. Transsexuals alone are divided among male-to-female, female-to-male, pre-op, post-op, semi-op, non-op, full-time, part-time. They are often further divided by sexual orientation - straight, gay, bisexual, pansexual, all of which can be defined differently if one is thinking from the identified gender or the birth genitalia. Despite all of the fears, the "transsexual empire" never materialized, because no one could agree on anything.

This was made clear to me again recently. My own personal choice to keep my male part but get rid of the baggage elicited responses of "you're sabotaging yourself," or "I was afraid of the surgery too, but now I feel much better," or "you'll change your mind." Some now question whether I'm "transgender" at all, but what else would I be? It's not a decision that I've made lightly, especially when GRS cost is covered by Alberta Health Care but orchiectomy is not; in addition there is the fact that as long as I continue to have the defining anatomy, the law will continue to regard me as "male." Like transition itself, a person wouldn't

make that choice unless there was a real, pressing need.

The discussions about labels and definitions and "who is real" only serve to divide the community and prevent it from working toward any lasting change. Certainly, the smaller segments of the transgender community need to have their own spaces, their own groups to discuss and explore those things that are unique to them and those needs that are their priorities. But without the all-inclusive spaces and mutual respect, there can be no consensus, and no voice of strength.

There are also some inherent differences that have prevented the transgender community from inheriting the gains made by the GLB. Despite the number of human rights motions since the 1970s to protect rights based on sexual orientation, it wasn't until 1993 that an anti-discrimination law was passed (in the State of Minnesota) specifically protecting transgendered persons. For the gay community the issue is one of sexual orientation, while for transfolk it's about gender identity and/or expression. What unites us is that we all experience homophobia, and the live outside of the traditional genetic-male and genetic female pairing. We have strong reasons to keep that alliance, but we also have a very different core issue at heart.

When Susan Stryker screened her film, "Screaming Queens, the Riot at Compton's Cafeteria" in Edmonton, the question came up in the follow-up discussion as to why Compton's (which took place 3 years earlier than Stonewall) didn't provide the spark for the Gay Liberation Movement. In addition to the fact that political unrest was commonplace and unremarkable/unreported in San Francisco in the 1960s, she also pointed out several cultural revolutions that took place or developed more fully in those three years. Her speculation was that perhaps in 1966, Western culture was not yet ready for the debate about sexual orientation. In a follow-up discussion she elaborated that in 1969, society was certainly ready for the debate about sexual orientation - not necessarily ready to accept it, only that it was ready for the fight that took shape. Perhaps it was still not culturally ready for the fight about gender identity and expression. I (and she) don't know if this is definitively true or not, but certainly by 1973, this was the perception held by the GLB community.

And it may have been true that in 1969, North America was not ready for this dialogue - perhaps even in 1979. By 1989, it becomes much harder to argue this case. But by 1989, there was still very little transgender-specific community to take up the torch, while the GLB community was already set on its course. Not much changed until the past decade. By 2007, even though the trans community is fractured and the TSeS and CDs are still arguing about how the other's causes don't properly represent them, the media is carrying some of the torch for us. Some recent examples being the trans-positive Barbara Walters 20/20 special on transgendered children, or the rush to put transfolk into soap operas.

Society is past ready. We, however, are not. We need to change that. ■

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Artists for Quality of Life

Calgary Organization Helps Pick Up The Pieces

By Allison Brodowski

There is something to be said in a world where an expanding city cannot see the virtue in providing basic needs such as shelter and food to those suffering from HIV/AIDS. Once again Artists for Quality of Life, a small non-profit group, is taking a proactive step to boost the spirits and brighten the everyday life of these individuals.

Artists for Quality of Life (AFQOL) was founded by Donnie Peters in the early 1990's. The efforts of the organization took form with its annual *Cut-A-Thon* to raise money and create community for those living and coping with HIV/AIDS. Their fundraising has gone largely to support the Positive Living Lunch Program started by Minni and George Coulson in 1988. The program's Friday lunches offer men, women and children an opportunity to come together and create community through meeting others like them over a hot meal. For some, this is the only hot meal they get with any regularity.

The loss of Donnie Peters restricted funding to the lunch program as his work had helped with grocery bills and basic cooking essentials for years. The push for this year's *Cut-A-Thon* is to return the valuable program to a bi-monthly schedule and introduce a coffee and support program to revive the community that existed in the lunch room at the AIDS Calgary offices,

"The most important thing when living with HIV/AIDS is community. It's everyone's disease - someday everyone is going to know someone living with AIDS," says Linda Huston, a representative of Artists for Quality of Life who is carrying the program into its fourth successful year.

The *Cut-A-Thon* brings the top hair stylists in Calgary to Tomkins Park for a one-day extravaganza that the whole family can enjoy, with discounted \$10 dollar hair cuts for kids; it's perfect for back to school! The events are planned keeping the young ones in mind, with face painting, pop corn stands, and clowns. Other entertainment includes a live band and local DJ's, making for a memorable day.

The event draws salons all up and down city streets: Ginger Group, Fringe, Affinity, Jami Symons Salons and Chrome, just to name a few.

"Where else can you go and get a \$20 hair cut from professionals who normally charge \$70?" comments Huston.

In hopes of maintaining the lunch program, Artists for Quality of Life is embarking on several events over the summer to make good on their promise of whole com-

Community | Spotlight

munity participation. They are doing this by bringing a large selection of event venues into the mix:

June 28th of this past pride month saw the imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch throw their Celebration of Stonewall party at Twisted Element. On August 19th, Money Pennies will be holding a charity BBQ - the place with the best burgers in the city is no small endorsement for a good cause. September 1st will be the "Endless Summer Beach Party" hosted at the Backlot, with the promise that getting "Lei'd" and "skewered" can be a very pleasurable experience. The aforementioned *Cut-A-Thon* will culminate the summer festivities on September 3rd, running from 10am until 5pm, ending in a volunteer after-party at Twisted Element.

The funds garnered by these spectacular events are moved quickly where they are needed. "None of the money raised goes to the shuffle," Says Huston. "The extras are all given to us by our generous sponsors."

Artists for Quality of Life does a great deal for the people who have been largely forgotten in the waves of hard won political over the last decade. AFQOL remains strong in the fight against the stigma of a disease that has ravaged our communities for the last thirty years. It is closer to all of us than we care to think, and continues to be the epidemic of our time.

Artists for Quality of Life

Aug 9th - Money Pennies Charity BBQ

Sept 1st - Backlot's Endless Summer Beach Party

Sept 3rd - 4th Annual Donnie Peters Memorial Cut-a-thon

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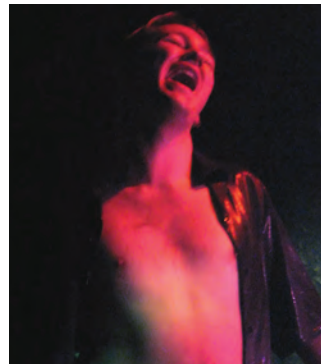


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Allison Russell

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Before law school, Allison completed a degree at Simon Fraser University and spent over 10 years as a practicing musician in Vancouver.

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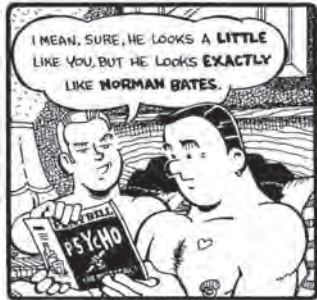
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Nicole "Nico" Hofferd

July 5th, 1973 - July 7th, 2007

By Shone Abet

On Saturday, July 7th, Calgary lost a friend, activist, artist and writer. Nico Hofferd wrote for Gay Calgary Magazine from October, 2005 to January, 2007. Her contributions to our community ran far beyond the walls in which we knew her. She was a voice for the disenfranchised as a Student Advisor at Bow Valley College. She was a Vagina Warrior, a radio personality with CJSW, and a community activist through her many coffee groups, volunteer activities, and forays into the theatre community. Nico came to experience it all, there's simply no doubt about it.

Before the tribute portion of Nico's funeral, I sat quietly staring at her picture, waiting for Nico to make her grand entrance - no entrance followed. During the funeral, Kyemara sang "His Eye Is On The Sparrow". It was poignant, exquisite and heart breaking all at the same time. If Nico had been in the room all we would have heard were her cheers, instead only silence. So in honor of Nico, and the thousands of standing ovations that she would have received in her lifetime, I asked guests to join me in a standing ovation for our friend, sister, daughter, activist, artist, and inspiration. It was spontaneous and beautiful, just like Nico.

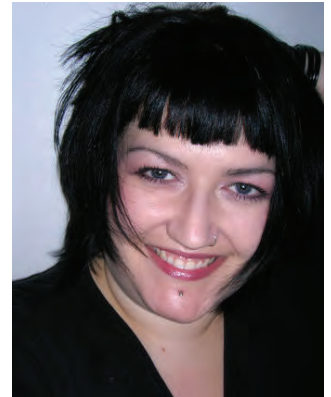
Below is an excerpt from the tribute that followed her standing ovation:

"Searching for the perfect story, quote, or phrase that would sum up my crazy, sad, hopeful friend I found nothing. There were glimmers of her, beautiful windows into her life that she so generously shared with all of us, but no snippet would ever convey who she was to everyone. It's like coming back from a trip over seas and a friend asks 'So how was your trip?' and you want to say to them 'Pull up a chair, do you have three months?'... I imagine Nico mixing a up a cup of chai with her angel friends, and one of them asking her, 'So... how was your trip?' and her responding, 'Pull up a cloud, have you got 34 years?'

I imagine she would talk about her sisters, her school mates, her parents and her many pets. She would talk about all of us, her strays, the beautiful souls she brought together through her passion for activism, fashion, music, and all things performance - her fascination with the far corners that we as human beings go to experience pain, passion, love, peace, and connection with ourselves and each other. She would quote music, gloriously sad and joyful music.

I'd like to think she would mention me, and our bond that seemed to form so quickly. That she would talk about our late night excursions to the Blackfoot Truck stop all glammed up to the nines after performing, and being served by ladies in hair nets wearing pink nurse's scrubs. The way that heads turned when she walked in the room. About furniture construction and how when I asked if she had tools she promptly presented the pinkest ones I've ever seen. How we would practice our performances, laughing and pushing each other over and how she played that tambourine like the 'Tambourine Rock Star' she really was. How she made me cry with her poetry, and incited outrage in so many of us with her stories about the disadvantaged members of our communities that didn't have enough advocates

People | Spotlight



like her. I'd like to think that she would talk about her marriages and how she was such a hopeless romantic. I know she carried sorrow about hurting people she loved, but an acceptance of doing the best she could along the way. There is a quote in her live journal that spoke volumes of our friend Nico, 'I demand unconditional love, and complete freedom, and this is why I am so terrible.' I believe this to be one of the reasons she was so beautiful, so free and so fraught with life's joys and sorrows. I believe this is why she saw beauty in all things, and in all of us, without judgment but only love. I know she recently gave advice to a member of her family, saying whatever it is you do, whether born of love and joy, or fear and sorrow, do it with love. Remember to do it with love.

I am so blessed to have known someone so light - filled with compassion, and laughter, and connection to everything that moved her. Like all the angels I have been blessed to know, she filled me with a sense that I was the best person I could ever be, and in the same breath she inspired me still to be better.

Driving over miles of northern Alberta highway, blanketed with rolling hills, mountains, and a never ending sky, she came to me in the smell of sweet grass and wild flowers, I caught a glimmer of her in my own eyes checking the rear view mirror, and as I wept all the way through a Pink song, unapologetic, passionate, and alive... she spoke to me in words I think she would say to each and everyone who was touched by her life. 'I'm not dead, just floating... I'm not scared, just changing... and you're my crack of sunlight.'"

After the death of a family member, on Monday, May 21st, 2007 Nico wrote:

"The thing about good-byes is that you always wish you had more time. I remember writing about a death in my family a little while ago and saying, 'We all thought we had more time' - but the truth of the matter is - we never would've had enough time.

There is never enough time to touch each part of a life that has touched you. Even if that 'life' is somewhat of an object, a holder of life. Of memories. You can't reach every crevice and corner, each punctuation that rings out.

I had the time. It wasn't enough. It wouldn't ever be enough. Saying good-bye rang with finality, even if it wasn't the final time. It could be. I blink backwards, freezing the face in my mind's eye, knowing it'll fade anyway. Memories run together, a sangria of flavors. Bitter/sweet/bittersweet. It was. It is. Goodbye."

Goodbye sweet Nico.

The Edmonton Fringe Festival

By Christopher Garvey

This summer in Edmonton has been the usual mix of roasting hot weather broken only by the occasional awesome thunderstorm, packed restaurant patios everywhere, and construction. But any Edmontonian should realize there is still one important ingredient missing – the Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival, this year named “2007 – Live and Let Fringe”. In extreme brevity, the Fringe is North America’s largest theatre festival comprised of performers from around the world, performing at numerous venues. Some of these locations are used as theatre space only during the Fringe out of the need to accommodate the large numbers of actors and estimated 800,000 audience members! The Edmonton Fringe is so massive that it literally dominates Old Strathcona, the community where it takes place – the streets swell with fringe-goers and businesses actually change their regular hours to “fringe hours” because of the influx of people. It is Festival City at its best.

Fringe theatre festivals began as an alternative to mainstream theatre. Despite the incredible growth that the Edmonton Fringe has experienced in its 26 years and its well-deserved entrenchment in Edmonton’s theatre scene, it still remains true to its grassroots heritage by offering audiences theatre that may never be seen otherwise. For theatregoers, this means the chance to see works that, due to queer content, may not be produced by the mainstream theatre community.

For those uninitiated to fringing, do not be afraid – the event is high-energy, but low-key. Its casual approach to theatre has been a large part of its success because it is so easy for first-timers to fall right into place and have a great experience.

There are however, a few things to keep in mind. Starting at the bottom, think of your footwear. The festival is traversed by walking – expect to be on your feet a lot, especially if you intend to go between the incredible street performers. Tickets are no longer sold at the venue of the play, which means one less line-up if you buy your tickets online. But if you want some green onion cakes or an elephant ear, be prepared to wait...so you might as well do it in comfortable shoes. Weather is always an issue – dress accordingly and remember that you will be outside most of the time. Monitor your alcohol consumption at the beer gardens, especially if it is

Preview | Theatre

hot outside. The amazing Fringe volunteers that donate their time should not have to deal with your (ahem) inebriated underside. Catalogues of all the events are available on site and at 7-Elevens around the city. Be sure to pick one up and see if anything catches your eye.

The most important thing to consider for a great Fringe experience is attitude. There is a casual camaraderie among fringe-goers and it would serve you well to respect it and to revel in it. Everyone at the Fringe is, in a sense, there together; it makes the person beside you closer than just a stranger. Think of it as being in the same club at school, only multiplied by a few hundred thousand. It is this sense of community that dominates the streets and audiences of the Fringe, and that is integral to its operation. Hordes of volunteers donate their time, and it is through informal word-of-mouth communication among fringe-goers that information about plays is spread.

Because of the huge number of plays, it is impossible for local media to adequately review them. In its place, you have the word on the street, the buzz, at the Fringe itself, and it is highly trustworthy. Veteran fringe-goers are a fount of information and can be seen talking in groups about plays that are top-rate or bombing. They are your best assets if you are try to get an idea of what to see. Don’t hesitate to ask another fringe-goer if he or she has seen a great play - that is what true fringing is about. Enjoy being part of a festival where it is possible to see some excellent theatre just by trusting the word of a stranger. That being said, I would have to hand in my gay card if I didn’t mention Darrin Hagen and *Guys in Disguise*. This would be a great first-time act for people of any sexuality.

The Edmonton Fringe Festival
August 16th – 26th

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Bareback Mountain:

Today's Sequel to the AIDS Epidemic?

By Kevin Alderson, Ph.D., R. Psych.

"I met a guy off the Internet again and he was over at my place and we were starting to have sex, and he asked me to fuck him without a condom, and it was fine with me because I wasn't being fucked. I was doing it. And so we did it and then I think it was about two or three days afterwards, we got together again and that's when he disclosed to me that he was HIV-positive, which at that time I didn't know that I was. And maybe I wasn't at that time, so that threw me a bit. But he kept on assuring me that, you know, I was safe because I was the top" (30s, Scandinavian, HIV+). [1]

"If a partner is willing to 'bottom' they must already be positive or willing to take the risk. Similarly, a partner who 'tops' is assumed to be negative because this is considered less risky. Moreover, it is thought that a positive person would not be so irresponsible as to knowingly infect someone else. Such assumptions thrive in the silence around HIV-serostatus." [2]

There's nothing quite like sweaty sex on a hot August night – bodies grinding in spastic contortions with each other. Sounds yummy, and it ought to be. However, some have apparently forgotten common sense as they continue to navigate today's sexual landscape.

I recently went in for my annual sexually-transmitted disease (STD) tests, and was greeted with the usual, "Good day, Dr. Alderson." I was then informed that an increasing number of young men are reporting that they are neglecting to use condoms for high-risk sex when sexually involved with other young men. This was anecdotally reported to me, which means that it may simply be this one worker's experience and therefore not represent a true behavioural trend. Nonetheless, the report intrigued me, so I went in search for this month's *Queer Quest* to find out if barebacking is on the increase. *Barebacking* is the colloquial term for intentional unprotected anal intercourse. Many researchers have qualified the definition in several ways, but what I was interested in were sexual interludes that would be considered "high risk." If you are in a monogamous long-term trusting relationship with someone and both of you are HIV negative and devoid of other STDs, unprotected anal intercourse does not place either of you at risk for contracting HIV or any other STD. I need to emphasize the word "trusting" here, however, as many individuals in so-called monogamous relationships cheat on each other. I don't want you to think I'm paranoid (well, I am a bit), but I wasn't born yesterday either. Cheating is more common in same- and opposite-sex relationships than many people realize.

Although the actual percentage of men who have sex with men (MSM) engaging in bareback sex is unknown, estimates range from as low as 10% to 14% to as high as 45%. The greatest number of barebackers are themselves HIV positive.

Queer Quest

[3]

Let me just give you the straight goods on gay sex and HIV transmission. First, the single largest group of people being infected with HIV remains MSM, according to a 2006 report by the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, a division of the Public Health Agency of Canada. [4] Second, the first increase since the 1980s in new infection rates among MSM in Canada occurred in 2000, and there appears to be a slight increase in 2005 compared to 2002. Third, the result of several studies from Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia all reveal a similar trend of recent increases in the incidence of HIV among MSM. Fourth, there are increases in HIV-associated risk behaviours and/or STDs among MSM in the United States, Amsterdam, and Sydney, Australia. Now brace yourself: several different reports reveal that HIV infection rates are once again increasing in several countries, particularly among young gay men! [5, 6, 7] At a 2003 conference, the Centre for Disease Control in the US reported that the number of gay and bisexual men diagnosed with HIV during 1999-2002 increased 17 percent. [8] This increase is largely being attributed to barebacking.



It is likely that barebacking continued since the first cases of AIDS were discovered in 1981, although the numbers were considered extremely small. [9] Now, however, this high-risk behaviour is on the increase. Barebacking was mentioned as early as 1996 in an article by Jesse Green in *The New York Times Magazine*, a practice he referred to as *Flirting with Suicide*. [10]

Several Internet sites actually cater to those who are seeking this kind of experience. Barebacking has been attributed to the rise in popularity of using the Internet for making sexual connections. [11] Never before since AIDS erupted onto the scene (note: before AIDS, condom-less sex was normative behaviour in the gay community) has it been possible to arrange for sexual liaisons with such a cavalier attitude toward a person's safety. Many reasons for the rise in barebacking behaviour have been documented, including (a) Internet availability; (b) use of party drugs, particularly crystal methamphetamine ("crystal meth"), but also including ecstasy, GHB, and ketamine; (c) attitudes toward condom use; (d) safer sex fatigue; (e) erectile difficulties while wearing condoms; (f) identification or isolation from the gay community; (g) internalized homophobia; (h) racism; (i) inner turmoil and depression; (j) antigay violence; (k) sense of fatalism; (l) childhood sexual abuse; (m) wanting to experience greater physical stimulation; (n) wanting to feel closer emotionally

to a sexual partner; (o) “a desire to rebel against established norms (i.e., to do something taboo or ‘racy’)”; [12] and (p) access and knowledge about the HARRT drugs themselves. Furthermore, loneliness, HIV status, unmet intimacy needs, and love are possible other contributing factors. [13]

Men of all ages are participating in barebacking [14], and there is a perception by many that AIDS is not the threat that it used to be, or even that the epidemic is over. [15] Dr. Robert Hogg, Director of the Population Health Program at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, reported in 2006 that although significant increases in life expectancy have occurred since advent of the drug cocktails, or more appropriately referred to as *highly active antiretroviral therapy* (HAART), life for HIV-positive persons is still not as long as for people without the virus. His best educated guess, based on available data and current demographic models, was that an infected 20-year old commencing HAART will live another 30 years. This is still significantly longer than the 12 year expected life span under the earlier mono- and dual therapy drug regimes. But life expectancy for an uninfected 20-year old is 57 more years for a man and 62 more years for a woman! Dr. Hogg also reported that there is no difference between the sexes in life expectancy for those first starting HAART. I don’t mean to report this to scare you, but I’m not going to shield you from what you need to know either.

Furthermore, the HAART drug regime is not fun. Possible side effects associated with HAART include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, skin rashes, headaches, fever, chills, depression, neurological symptoms (like tingling sensations, numbness, paralysis), and redistribution of body fat to the torso. Also, 10-30 percent of people who receive HAART fail to respond or experience viral breakthrough. [16] For those who are already HIV-positive, barebacking places them at risk for “superinfection,” meaning that they may acquire another strain of the HIV virus which is resistant to HAART; they may experience rapid loss of CD4 cells; and they place themselves at risk for contracting other STDs which may lead to immune system deterioration. [17]

There are few HIV-positive gay men who would want to infect someone because they know how onerous the disease is. [18] However, there are some, and that will be the subject (along with harm reduction strategies) of next month’s column where I focus on the small group of individuals who want to infect others, known as “gift givers,” and those who want to become infected, known as “bug chasers.”

Sexual negotiations (i.e., the transactions we go through in initiating and engaging in a sexual opportunity) are complex phenomenon, and they occur with far too many assumptions. For example, research has shown that barebackers do not generally insist on not using condoms: however, if their partner does not have one handy, the assumption is that one is not needed or wanted. An assumption held by one Toronto participant included the belief that the partner ought to have known he was HIV-positive simply because of the building he lived in! [19]

Furthermore, men who identify as barebackers “are more likely to perceive that responsibility for safer sex rests with their partners and not themselves. That higher levels of sexual compulsivity were also found among the barebackers in [their] study may be related to this finding.” [20] In other words, barebackers do *not* generally have your health interests at heart! Instead, they are concerned about their own sexual gratification, and they are often impulsive in getting their needs met. Those individuals who do become HIV-posi-

tive invariably blame themselves for having done so, [21] meaning that there are a lot of negative emotions (like guilt and shame) to work through. Guilt and shame: does that not ring a bell for the emotions many if not most of us experienced when we came out as gay or lesbian?

Don’t kid yourself: “Since its first appearance in 1981, HIV infection and AIDS have reached pandemic status.” [22] As of 2004, it is estimated that 21.8 million people have died from AIDS worldwide, with 40 million living with HIV. At the end of 2005, it was estimated that 58,000 people in Canada were living with HIV infection (including AIDS). [23] Think about it...and act accordingly. Your life might just be worth salvaging, but only you can do it.

Dr. Alderson is an associate professor of counselling psychology at the University of Calgary who specializes in gay and lesbian studies. He also maintains a private practice. He can be contacted by confidential email at alderson@ucalgary.ca, or by confidential voice mail at 605-5234.

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The Wet Spots

By Jason Clevett

Kinky, funny, charming and talented. The *Wet Spots*, Cass King and John

Woods are Canada's top bisexual married musical sex comedy act. Ok, they are likely Canada's only bisexual married musical sex comedy act, but that doesn't take away from their talent.

Exploding onto stage like a hypnotic whale, Woods and King seem to shock the audience by breaking out in the tender, jazzy YouTube video smash *Do You Take It?*, about a blossoming relationship with an important question to be asked - do you take it in the ass? The duo mixes in very raunchy comedy with songs like the Hawaiian ditty *Labia Limbo*, and the song *Texas Annie* about an outlaw smuggling dildos into Texas - one of the seven states where it is illegal to buy sex toys. Seeing Cass in full-on glam getup screaming at an audience member to spank her (harder) is an image that will definitely linger in your mind.

What's remarkable is how this act is balanced by her incredible voice, which seamlessly changes genres from blues to country to German cabaret-style song.

Woods and Cass recently sat down with GayCalgary and Edmonton Magazine for lunch before a show at Yuk Yuk's comedy club. Casually clad in shirts and jeans, the duo spoke about a show that has been performed in front of Bikers, Shriners, and college cafeterias as well as at events like the first queer arts festival in South Africa and headlining pride gigs. With a name like "The Wet Spots" it should be fairly evident what patrons are getting into, but sometimes the show catches audience members off guard.

"It happens all the time, especially if we are booked on a multi-act bill. It's funny because we come from this place where we write where nothing is taboo, but these are just pretty Burt Bacharach love songs. That is really what we try to put out there. But what happens when there are people in the audience who just aren't having it, is that there is this antagonistic dynamic that comes up and we have to work really hard to just keep giving the love," King said.

"It is challenging because there are people sitting there shooting daggers at you, and you can see it in their faces. Sometimes we will get a couple sitting right at the front of the stage and he is really upset about it and she is laughing her ass off. They can't leave because she is having a good time and he hates our guts. It is really interesting to watch this dynamic of how humans behave

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when they are faced with something they don't like. As long as people kind of know what they are coming for, or what they are going to get, it's fine."

The show does get labeled Triple-X, although it doesn't really apply.

"Any 14 year old that has ever clicked their mouse knows we aren't triple-x. I would hazard a guess that in any audience that we would play for, most of the people...have actually seen triple X pornography everywhere," said Woods.

"To an extent I think whether you are queer or straight or whatever, pornography is something that the taboos

around it are nearly as strong as they were even ten years ago, because of the accessibility. It's not all that threatening. What I find interesting is when people who are maybe comfortable watching hardcore images get more threatened by songs about the same thing.... Like a song about threesomes - sometimes people are more freaked out by the song than actually watching three people get it on in porn. I think it's [the prospect of] discussing it publicly. We all tend to think of our sexuality as being very private things and here we are busting the taboo of discussing it in public."

It is an interesting dynamic that is presented. The audience at the show we attended did seem kind of confused when the pair announcing their marriage, to which King comments "but you're thinking [my husband] looks like a fag". Cass later flirted with a girl in the audience, saying "you can get off in 11 minutes? I love girls like you because I can get you off and we'd still have time for some CSI!"

"I think it is important for bisexuals to out themselves because otherwise there is invisibility being in a het' couple. Above and beyond that, the other layer to the issue is that if you out yourself as bisexual, particularly if you are in a coupled relationship, the question is raised of 'how do you make that work?' ...That brings about questions of monogamy vs. polyamory and that opens a whole big kettle," explained Woods.

Being bisexual means that they have likely had a great variety of different sexual experiences. It's something that they take with them when creating material.

"We do write from reality, there have been times when we have rolled over after finishing what we were doing and said something. We have this country & western song called 'I'm sweaty and stinky and covered in lube', and that is something that I actually said once. ...If people can relate, that is funny. We haven't written about some of the crazy stuff we have done because people wouldn't relate to it," said King.

It is remarkable that the pair is able to balance their personal and professional life. Married in 2003, they don't have a specific answer as to how the relationship works.

"We used to do a lot of drugs," Woods quipped. Cass answered a little more seriously. "It is a hard question because we still don't really have that worked out. Some days everything works out and it is really easy, and other days...you have to stop working so you can work out your personal stuff and we kill each other. It's not perfect, it's a balancing act. The good news is we get to talk about our act with each other, most comedian spouses won't allow that."

The internet has been a vital part of the success of The Wet Spots. The video for "do you take it" has had more than 2.5 million downloads on YouTube.

"We started to find that a lot of the really big opportunities were rolling in outside of Canada after awhile. Making the video created a global awareness about the act - what's wonderful about the whole viral YouTube

thing. Back in the day if you had a video on TV, and say a million people were watching that program, if you were really mainstream maybe a quarter of those people liked it. If you are a crazy polysexual sex comedy duo instead of a quarter it would be maybe 1% of those watching," explained Woods.

"When it is on YouTube, the 1% that like it send the link on to their friends, who send it on to theirs, etc. It grows and becomes a self selecting thing - it is always there. Making the video and having it reach that critical mass of numbers...it created this amazing thing and got to a chunk of people that would like it. ...Would we be able to do what we do without it? Yes but I don't think it would have the reach."

The Wet Spots
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Calgary's Population

Younger And More Masculine

By Stephen Lock

The recent results of the 2006 Census have been released and the figures show some surprising information.

For instance, Calgary is now the “Man Capital of Canada” according to a recent Calgary Herald headline, with 49.9 percent of the population being male. Not only that, but it's a predominately young male population with males in the 20-24 age bracket comprising 40.1 percent of the population.

St. John's, Newfoundland follows with 38 percent falling into that demographic and Edmonton, our sister city here in Alberta, clocking in at 37.9 percent. Vancouver, a city one would think young males would seek out, comes in at number eight with 37.1 per cent.

Part of the reason Alberta, and Calgary in particular, have such a high number of young men is due to the booming economy. The median age of your typical Albertan male is 36 years old, the lowest in Canada. Alberta is the only province in Canada where men outnumber women.

One of the Calgary Herald articles mentioned many of these men are not interested in dating, let alone marriage, at this stage of their lives, choosing to focus more on career advancement. No mention of what percentage of this demographic is gay, but I am willing to assume it is a significant one. I thought it interesting that the male population in Calgary was almost 50 percent and the highest in Canada. It certainly bodes well for Calgary gay men looking to hook-up!

Getting into what percentage of a given population is actually gay is always tricky. Estimates of the incidence of homosexuality in society range from something like one percent up to Kinsey's famous 10 percent or higher...and all the figures come under intense debate. When Statistics Canada surveyed the number of people who identified as homosexual – a rather flawed way of establishing such numbers for reasons I will get into in a moment – the number was one percent.

The thing is, when you have an unknown individual show up at your door doing the census and that individual enquires as to what your sexual orientation is, a significant number of individuals in our community would choose to either not answer that question or give a false answer. Methodologically, this means of gathering information is not considered a good one by those who conduct studies. It's fine for the purposes of census taking, but beyond that – especially when one delves into the realm of sexuality or other 'private' areas – it is too inaccurate.

Politics

The Christian Right, who always had difficulty with Kinsey's findings and have roundly dismissed his methodology, latched onto the one percent figure as indicative of the disproportionate influence the so-called 'gay agenda' has had on Canadian politics and culture.

My tendency is to think the one percent figure reflects those within our community who are *openly* gay, lesbian or bisexual and who take little issue having that information listed in some government database, report, or census or otherwise known. The remaining percentage have fears – real or imagined – of such personal information ending up in exactly such a database, and what the result of having it there might mean, and therefore refused to answer or gave a false answer.

Since StatsCan only records numbers for demographic purposes (some of which, in turn, are used for program development and/or government funding of such programs), it wasn't like “Smith, John D., born September 1971, homosexual common-law, residing at such-and-such an address” was going to end up in some Big Brother file somewhere.

Of course, in an era of political paranoia, terror watches, and scapegoating, one can hardly blame individuals for having such fears.

The downside of this increasingly younger demographic is as follows. While over 10 million Canadians are over 50 years of age, comprising almost one-third of the population and tending to have significant spending power, this age group often finds itself condescended to, if not outright ignored by advertisers.

Another recent Calgary Herald piece, written by Susan Proudfoot, noted advertisers tend to portray this group as “people who do nothing but sip coffee while fretting over life insurance and incontinence products.” Some might argue this attitude is long overdue, given the dominant influence of baby-boomers over the last 30-odd years in all areas of the culture, and it is now time to focus on Generations X & Y.

The irony here is Boomers are the same generation that created youth culture as something distinct, and attention worthy to begin with. Madison Avenue certainly had caught on to the phenomenon well before the Summer of Love in 1969, or at least shortly thereafter, but has failed to realize the Flower Children of that era have aged. Ad agencies still market to youth and continue to ignore 'mature' consumers.

There has long been a generational divide. Good grief, it was the baby boomers who, if not created it, certainly

glorified it. We tended to think it was the previous generation who did that with the emergence of the concept of 'teenager' in the 1950's and popularized by such youth anti-heroes as James Dean. "Don't trust anyone over the age of 30" was the rallying cry throughout the demonstrations that marked the 1960's. It amazes me that those who market, and profit from, consumerism have not kept pace with the large demographic blip of the Baby Boomer Generation, and it's generally highly disposable income. It would appear tracking that demographic would be Economics 101. Certainly, companies want to create a base of faithful consumers and often will do that by marketing to a younger demographic but, if that base is then abandoned or ignored as they age, it seems to be self-defeating or at least short-sighted.

I suppose one could say the chickens have come home to roost. As a gay male 'Boomer,' - the generation that warned against trusting anyone over 30 - I hear individuals who I perceive as contemporaries (even though I am 20-plus years older in some instances) refer to establishments that cater to a 'mature' crowd as "wrinkle bars" and lament about how older gay men and lesbians have no respect for the younger crowd. Respect cuts both ways...

It is always a dangerous game to start talking in generalities. Not all of the "older generation" sits around bemoaning the lack of respect shown them by the "younger generation" and not all of that generation dismisses anyone over 45 as irrelevant. Having said that, when I turned 50 it appears I suddenly became invisible and, apparently, mute. It came as bit of a shock.

My appreciative gaze was no longer returned by men I might pass on the street, or it would be met with glaring hostility even by those I knew to be gay men. I often felt unheard in mixed-generational settings. I started being called "Sir" a lot more often (and being a Leather bottom, this was more jarring than it might otherwise have been). In one instance while at The Eagle an individual I found to be quite 'hot' asked a mutual friend who 'the old guy' was, referring to me. The attractiveness quotient of that individual took an immediate nose-dive although I am gradually seeing the humour in the comment and my reaction to it.

With 40.1 percent of the Calgary population being between 20 and 24 years of age, I don't hold out much hope things will improve unless there is a recognition all of us - youth and those of us who have been around since God's Bar Mitzvah - have something valuable to contribute to our community and receive the respect due to each of us.

Stephen Lock is a long time gay activist and free lance writer in Alberta. He is the former Secretary and co-director for Egale Canada in the Prairies/NWT/Nunavut Region, a founding member of the Sexuality and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee (aka Police Liaison Committee), and was the producer and host of a semi-monthly GLBTQ radio show, Speak Sebastian, for 14 years on CJSW FM 90.9 (currently on hiatus). He lives in Calgary with his partner of 26 years and their 'fur child', Joey, a Bishon-Cavalier Spaniel cross.

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Press Releases

By GayCalgary.com Staff

Calgarian has the #1 most discussed video of all time on YouTube

A Calgarian man who gave away \$1000 US of his own money to have the most comments ever on a YouTube video, has achieved his goal. Early this morning Josh Rimer's "\$1000 YouTube Experiment" officially hit the number one spot with the next video in line thousands of comments behind.

In his video, Josh Rimer promised to give away \$100 US every time there were 5000 new comments added to the video by randomly selecting one of the comments in that set of 5000 and sending the person who wrote that comment the money. After passing 50,000 comments and giving away a total of \$1000 US, many of his viewers decided to keep commenting on the video until it reached the number one spot, which ended up being over 115,000 comments.

"I couldn't believe how so many people said they just wanted to see me reach my goal and didn't actually care about the money," says Josh. "A whole little community started right in the comment section of my video with people coming on every day and adding hundreds of comments at a time."

Josh now has over 750 regular viewers who are subscribed to his YouTube videos and receives over 50 personal messages a day from them and other YouTube members outside of his experiment video. He plans to use the exposure to help propel his career as an actor and has begun working on his own TV show which he'll be shooting later this summer.

From Now till Zen

July 20, 2007 - Calgary, AB

There is only the *Now*. One of Calgary's celebrated and influential artist Lisa Heinrichs is reaching a pivotal point in her career this October as she launches the opening of a brand new Studio/Gallery in Art Central revealing exhibitions of a different breed. Heinrichs will be to the 21st Century what Pollock was to the 20th.

"When I paint, I paint with conviction and passion. My paintings are an extension of who I am and how I interpret the world, a rendering of my reality," says Heinrichs.

Featuring the progressive works of Lisa Heinrichs celebrating the *Now*, this kind of artistic serenity is captivating, relieving the tensions of living in such a hasty environment. Being exposed to the drawing calmness of

Press Releases



her work allows a surrender of all worry.

Thursday October 11th, 2007 will commence a series of open exhibition art parties to continue throughout the year, an invitation to enjoy and relate to the compelling Zen art collection. For the first time the art you see, you will perceive with all your senses. Truly connect yourself to this incredible collection through a very unique at ease experience.

Come to experience the sensations of Heinrichs textured, radiant and cultivated expressions. It is true that art can transform an environment; Zen art will cleanse and refresh that environment.

For more information on the works of artist Lisa Heinrichs, visit her website at www.creamydreamy.com.

The Edmonton Fringe Festival
Event Details:

Full Moon Disco Art Party
Thursday October 11th, 2007
Art Central - 100 7th Ave SW
5:00pm - Midnight
Open Bar

The Calgary Fringe Festival

By Jason Clevett

It is finally here! August 10th - 19th brings the second Calgary Fringe Fest to Calgary. Here is just a sample of the many shows that will be taking place in assorted venues throughout Calgary for those nine days! Make sure you check out the website for full schedules and additional event listings.

First up are three films that will be part of the Calgary Fringe Film Festival, held at the #1 downtown Legion.

Semper Fi

Jeff Key is a Marine - body and soul. You can tell the instant you look at him - six feet four, square-jawed with a quiet authority that is tempered by an easy Southern drawl.

Born in rural Alabama - schooled in the Church Of Christ, Jeff is a true believer in God and in Country. Jeff Key is also Gay, and this film is Jeff's story; how a spiritual kid, who passionately loved his church and struggled desperately with the secret he carried in his heart - a secret his pastor refers to as an "abomination." It shows how this kid from Alabama set out for Hollywood where he found freedom, acceptance and deep friendships. This acceptance gives him the courage - at thirty-four - to join the Marine Corps.

After the terrible events of 9/11, knowing he could get out by telling his superiors who he really was, Jeff Key decides to go to war for the country he loved. Once in Iraq, his patriotic heart is broken by what he sees. Back home, Jeff uses his war journals to create a one-man show with which he travels the country revealing the

dignity and power of his experience in a play that never finches from what it meant to be Gay and at war.

AIDS

What if everything we've been told about AIDS is wrong? What if HIV is not the virus that causes AIDS, and that the HIV antibody tests were completely flawed? What if the drugs given for it cause symptoms indistinguishable from AIDS, and many of the people working in the field of AIDS are self serving opportunists? This film explores a scenario where AIDS is the most popular, profitable disease ever, where tens of thousands of scientists and foundations are lining up to feed at this endless trough. There has been complete and total suppression of the dissident voices - even gay activists who have spoken out against the flawed war on AIDS have been ostracized.

This documentary by Gary Null shakes the AIDS tree to its foundation. This is the in-depth, uncensored, unpurgated documentary that lets dozens of quality voices go on the record to share their views on AIDS.

Oh Michael Oh Jesus

Oh Michael/Oh Jesus is an experimental narrative focusing on a man wrestling with his inner demons and deities. Two monologues, delivered by the same character and actor, follow the man's journey of self-acceptance of his innate homosexuality - from his initial fantasy with a male stranger crossing a street to his sexualization of the crucified Christ.

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The actor is shot in front of a green screen and directly addresses the camera, with newly-shot, found, and archival footage flashing behind him. The story deals with issues of fantasy, reality, obsession, lust, sex and murder, prayer, sex with Christ and, finally, redemption. Sometimes graphic, sometimes poignant, always engaging, the main character tells us about his slide into self-loathing and the climb back to stability. Beautifully written and powerfully acted.

Theatre Shows:

Lay Down and Love Me Again

James Howell wrote and stars in this critically acclaimed show, which has been seen worldwide including the UK, France, Czech Republic and the United States. Kevin wants to stage a solo show but cannot get organized to get out of his bedroom. Pajama-clad he practices monologues satirizing academia, religion, gay culture, theatre, psychobabble, hospitals, cynicism and sentimentality. It is a dark, Robert Crumb-like story of family.

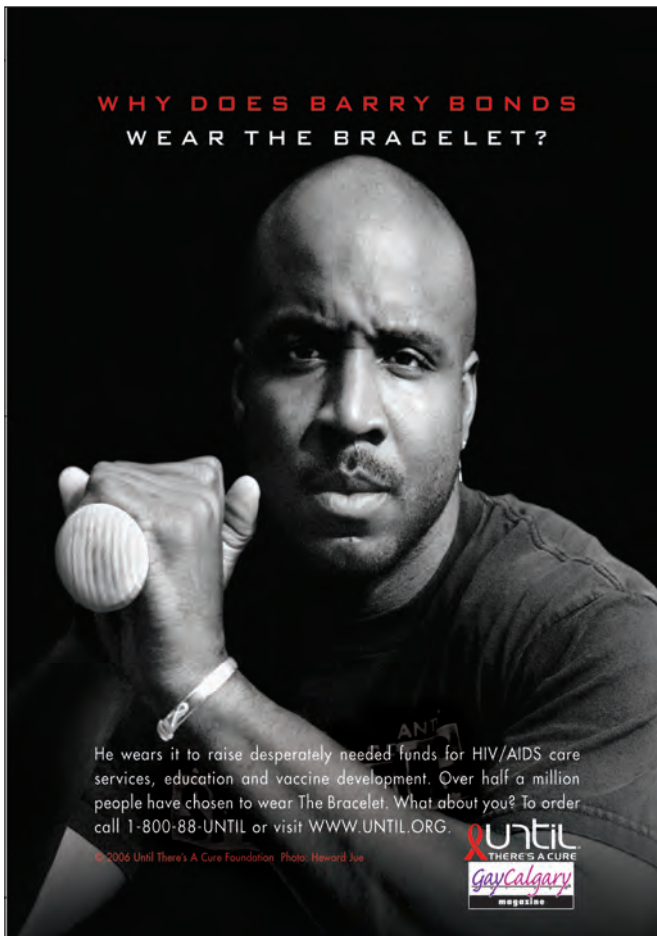
Buildings and Bridges

Written and performed by Chala Hunter and Sarah Warren, Buildings and Bridges was created after reading an article about a woman who jumped from a bridge into

oncoming traffic with her two year old child earlier this year in Toronto. Hunter and Warren explore how women are portrayed in the media and when a gentle action can turn to a harmful one. Buildings and Bridges is a comic and heart-filled story about girls and women, about Paris Hilton and changing the world...or trying to. The play follows three stories in alternation; the journey of the woman on the bridge, a blind date, and the intimate life of a young couple. The play is woven together through the narration of two little girls who speak in the form of haiku.

Also a big part of any Fringe Festival is dance, as is the case with "private-i!" from Winnipeg's Jolene Bailie, and Calgary's local theatre legend Denise Clarke. Private-i integrates the worlds of dance and theatre to reveal a charming discovery of human emotions, set to music composed by Paul Aucoin of indie group *The Hylozoists*. Having received rave reviews from coast to coast, this all-ages show is a must see.

A show that will surely be popular is Miss April Day's school for burgeoning young strippers. This one-woman musical comedy is loosely based on the real life experiences of its creator June Morrow. Morrow told us that she has received a great reaction from the LGBT community in Ottawa, Toronto and Winnipeg where she has already performed the show.



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"I think this is because of two things: one, there is a fair bit of campy humour in the piece (it's part cabaret, part stand-up, part parody, part musical, part puppet show, etc.); and two, the message of the piece is that stripping, in my experience, wasn't so much about taking things off as it was about putting things on. We put on layers that started with makeup and stage names and fake tans and fake attitudes and morphed into the fantasies of strangers; fantasies that we didn't often share but that we took on until eventually the layers ran so deep we forget where they ended and we began. I think a lot of LGBT people relate to this idea of feeling like you have to pretend to be someone you're not to be accepted. And so, at the end of my play, I ask people to strip away the fake masks that they put on to expose love and enjoy who they truly are. It's a kind of universal message but one that maybe resonates louder with queer audiences than others. Of course, that said, although there are poignant moments it is also a very funny show. At one point I drag someone out of the audience and give them a lap dance and it isn't always a guy."

We also asked Morrow about the cute guys that strip down for drunken girls and gay boys at ladies night.

"I do have two friends who strip at Remingtons, a gay male strip club in Toronto. From our discussions, my understanding of their experiences [at the club] is that it was very similar to the [experience] I had dancing for straight males in the same city. In Ontario, regardless of the club's orientation, strippers make most of their money hustling for lap dances. So finding a regular who will pay you regularly to be his/her pretend-boyfriend/girlfriend is the best way to secure an income. Of course to find those people you have to wade through a lot of other customers who will test your boundaries and often want more from you than you can legally give them.

"Like in the clubs where there are women dancing, some male dancers cross this line and others don't. I think male strippers also face the challenge of having to look hot all the time (which can be some work especially as you get older) and certainly the challenge of what to do when you want or need to get out of the business. Strip clubs are a kind of surreal worlds where the money and ego stroking can be intoxicating but, on the flip side, it's much too easy to start judging your self-worth on how many people find you attractive (i.e. buy private dances). It's kind of like a distorted mirror reflecting all the superficialities of society. Exiting this world and coming out into the daylight can be a real challenge. I know guys who dance for straight women say they get more hooting and hollering from the audiences and probably make more money, but they too have to hustle. I think the main difference is there probably isn't the same amount of 'possessiveness' of customers that you see in

the female strip clubs. Female strippers can be quite catty and vicious to each other when competing for cash and attention, which is a point I make in my show, where one dancer is constantly spreading dirty rumours – some true, some not - about another dancer. I think male strippers probably take it more in stride as an aspect of the business and may actually have more camaraderie among themselves."

In Fringe fashion, we recently received a humorous warning in our mailboxes:

"WARNING! A couple of F Heads have chosen to target our fair city on a universal quest for art. Armed with a questionable sense of humor, a flare for the dramatic, and a thirst for adventure, the F Heads are here. Scoping our bustling city for the answer to the question everyone has been asking; "Where's the art at anyway?" Is our city ready for this invasion of thespian proportions? Who are these F Heads? Where did they come from? Where will they show up next? Are they dangerous? These are just a few of the questions people have been asking as these strange aliens make tracks through our friendly city. One thing is certain. The F Heads are here, and they seem as though they will be here for a while."

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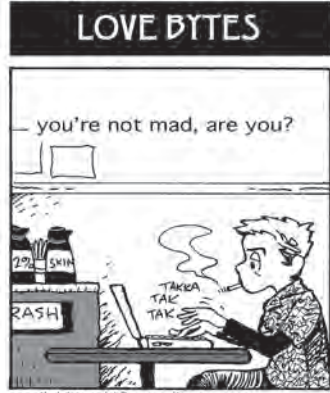
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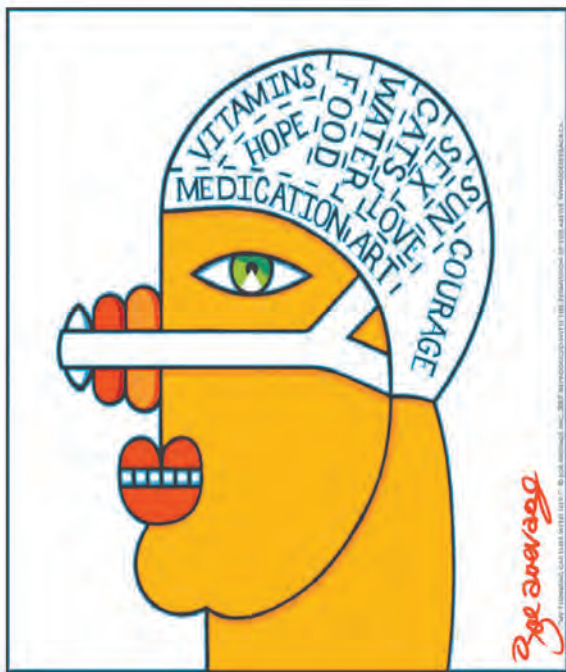
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A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline

A Legend comes to life at Stage West

By Jason Clevett

Patsy Cline is one of the most legendary voices, not just in country music, but music over all. Even if you are not a fan of country or classic genres, you instantly know songs like *Crazy* and *Fall To Pieces*. This original legend, who died on March 5, 1963 in an airplane crash, is brought to life in Stage West's 152nd production, running until September 9th.

Part musical revue, part sketch comedy, *A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline* was created by Dean Regan in Vancouver has been produced throughout North America, and is approved by Cline's estate. Cline is portrayed by actress Devra Straker, previously seen in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. While not a dead-on impression, Straker's version of Cline is close enough to give you chills. She is joined by fellow Stage West alums Aaron Walpole (*Canadian Explosion*), as DJ Little Big Man, and Paula Macneill (*Canadian Explosion, Rocky Horror Show*) and Keith White (*California Dreaming 1 & 2*) as backup singers. They are ably backed up by a live band, lead by Musical Director Brent Rock.

The show is based in a radio station where DJ Little Big Man is playing a tribute night to Cline. He speaks small anecdotes about songs and performances throughout Cline's career, which Straker then comes out to perform. Interspersed are amusing sketch bits, such as live "radio commercials" that were reminiscent of the era for products like Mr. Clean. These bits are some much appreciated, energetic comedic relief considering that much of Cline's music is soft and slow.

While the show features great performances, its weaknesses lie in the script. It doesn't really tell the story of Cline's life, instead focusing solely on the music. Cline sung frequently of sorrow and heartbreak, and her own comes through clearly in her voice on recordings, however the reason for her heartbreak isn't touched on. Cline's second husband Charlie Dick was an abusive alcoholic, even as much as they loved each other. The songs and story would have been that much more compelling if we actually knew the stories behind them, as opposed to "I remember when Patsy played this song in Nashville."

As always, Stage West presents a quality buffet alongside their shows. The barbecue pork ribs with honey hoisen

Review | Theatre



sauce are some of the best ribs I have ever had; the herb cheese medallion with pesto cream sauce was delicious, and the blackened haddock loin with orange marmalade glaze & buttered corn was an absolute treat. We were thoroughly stuffed by the time they cleared the buffet, barely having room for dessert... not that it slowed us down!

A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline is going to mostly appeal to the singer's fans. Even as someone who isn't, enough of her songs are familiar to find the show enjoyable. But if you are, you simply must see this show as Straker captures her essence, making for a live Patsy Cline experience!

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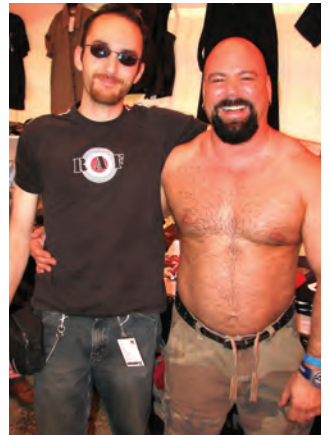
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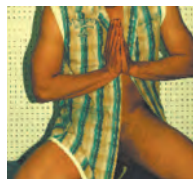
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Personal/Friends 906

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