

Gazze

SPRING 2011



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Gaze

SPRING 2011

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Born This Gay?

Featured
on page 8



Gaze

SPRING 2011

Sitting down at my desk – cluttered, as always, with a Hoarders-esque collection of Red Bull cans and reams of loose paper covered in hen scratch – it dawned on me this morning that nearly a year has passed since I decided to take the plunge and launch Gaze. And boy, what a year it's been, both for the magazine and for me personally. By and large, feedback has been extremely positive (there's always room for improvement!) and I remain encouraged by the ever-growing list of individuals who've joined our family of contributing writers, photographers, models, advertisers and distributors.

With that in mind, I'm very excited to report that beginning with this issue, Gaze will be available at Priape locations in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. Not only will this move enable us to better reach out to Atlantic Canadians who presently call these cities home, but also to the countless residents and tourists who visit Priape throughout the year.

Gaze will continue, of course, to be made available via our newly revamped website www.gazemagazine.ca, while Canadian mail-order subscriptions may be obtained by sending a cheque or money order for \$20 to Gaze Magazine, 647 Bedford Highway, Box 408, Halifax, NS B3M 0A5.

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the issue!



Published four times a year, Gaze is a magazine of news, opinion and comment designed for Atlantic Canada's GLBT community and its allies.

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Gaze Magazine welcomes written and photographic submissions.

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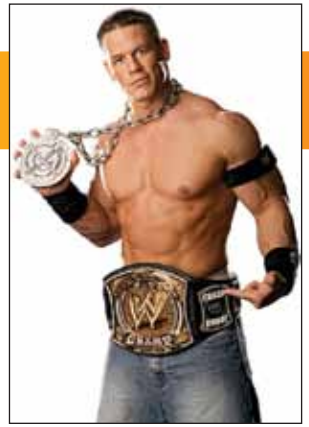
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On the cover: Spirit O'Tb

Photographed by Michael Boudreau

Special thanks to Spirit O'Tb, C!rcus and the staff at boom! Nightclub

Around the World



ARKANSAS: At press time, police had yet to make an arrest in the murder of 25-year-old transgendered female Marcel Tye, whose lifeless body was discovered along a stretch of highway one hundred miles east of Little Rock March 8. Tye, police say, sustained a single gunshot wound to the head prior to being run over by a vehicle and dragged several hundred feet. Investigators are confident Tye was run over as her assailant attempted to flee the scene. The FBI is not categorizing her slaying as a hate crime.

ONTARIO: Still no arrests in the April 5 assault of 24-year-old Valerie Bustros, who was attacked by three men at York University's Absinthe Pub. Accused of having wrongly entered the women's washroom, Bustros explained that she was a lesbian. A yelling match ensued, followed by a physical altercation during which Bustros was kicked in the face. Pub staff quickly came to her rescue, but the identities of her assailants were still unknown last week to Toronto police. "I can't believe this – it's 2011," she told reporters of the experience. " ...We still have a long way to go with tolerance."



USA: When it comes to gay drama, not even Glee has been able to hold a candle lately to the WWE, Vince McMahon's testosterone-laced wrestling franchise. Back in March, GLAAD (the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) took aim at former champ John Cena after he made "Brokeback" and "fairy" jokes about Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, who'd previously likened Cena's colourful wardrobe to "a big, fat bowl of Fruity Pebbles."

GLAAD called Cena's taunts – he also insinuated that The Rock and fellow wrestler The Miz were gay and on another occasion made reference to giving The Rock a 'pearl necklace' – homophobic and argued that such remarks send the wrong message to the WWE's young viewers. The WWE subsequently apologized for Cena's behaviour and announced it would partner with GLAAD on an anti-bullying campaign. Then, within days, wrestling commentator John Cole came under fire after he called fellow announcer Josh Matthews a "faggot" via Twitter. Cole soon deleted the remark, and 'apologized,' saying his comment "was obviously not meant the way it was taken." Most recently, WWE Diva Maryse, the Canadian-born ex-Playboy model, lit up the Twittersphere when she publically tweeted, "Ur sooo gay..." while trying to send a private message.

AUSTRALIA: A lesbian couple in Brisbane made history in January when they delivered quintuplets without the benefit of fertility treatment. Melissa Keever, 27, and Rosemary Nolan, 22, beat incredible odds – 60 million to one! – when Keever delivered five babies, conceived via a sperm donor, at 26 weeks. Twenty-five hospital staffers were required to deliver the couple's three girls and two boys, each of whom weighed less than a half-pound at birth. Queensland law dictates that Nolan has no parental rights and will not be able to adopt the children.



A large advertisement for PRIAPE MAG. On the left, a muscular man is sitting in a chair, wearing a black mask that covers his face and has yellow circular accents on his chest. The background is a plain, light color. The text 'PRIAPE MAG' is prominently displayed in the upper right. Below it, it says 'AVAILABLE AT PRIAPE.COM'. In the bottom right corner, there is a black box with the text 'SEX ISSUE SPECIAL PLAY' and 'Featuring COLTMAN Brenden Cage' above the 'COLT' logo. At the very bottom, it lists 'MONTREAL • TORONTO • CALGARY • VANCOUVER • PRIAPE.COM'.



Around the World



ST. LUCIA: International headlines publicizing a violent home invasion at a rental home occupied by three gay Americans last month had St. Lucia's tourism minister scrambling to assure the rest of the world that his Caribbean nation remained a safe travel destination. In publically denouncing the attack, which saw Michael Baker, his boyfriend Nick Smith and their pal Todd Wiggins beaten, berated and robbed by five men wielding guns and knives, Allen Chastanet described the former British colony as an island "respectful of people's own choices for religion, beliefs and perspectives on life." Describing the horrific event in a Facebook post, Baker said the violence he and his friends endured was "partly a gay bashing." "They asked if we were gay," he wrote, noting he was in the shower with Smith when the men arrived. "They began to tell us that they hated white people. They hated faggots... They asked if we were gay... They said if we were faggots they would kill us... They told us they had been watching us, and they hated us, and wanted us off the island. They said they would kill us if we did not leave." Tied up and tossed in the shower, the three men eventually managed to free themselves and make it to safety after their assailants fled. "Whether or not this crime was motivated by anti-gay sentiment, or during the course of a robbery, it is nonetheless unacceptable behaviour and Saint Lucia... will not tolerate it," Chastanet said. Homosexuality remains illegal in St. Lucia.

CHINA: Earlier this month police raided Q Bar, a gay establishment in Shanghai, and proceeded to arrest dozens of men for allegedly watching "pornographic" shows. Several reports have indicated that local law enforcers were particularly interested in the specifics of Q's go-go boy act. It's been suggested that the police complaint was prompted by individuals at a rival bar. Although China decriminalized homosexuality in 1997 and

ceased to categorize it as a mental illness four years later, it continues to be heavily stigmatized in many parts of the country.



UGANDA: Gay rights activist David Kato, one of three Ugandans responsible for achieving a court-ordered injunction preventing media outlets from outing alleged homosexuals, died in January after being bludgeoned with a hammer at his home. Despite widespread cries labelling Kato's death a hate crime, police were quick to link his death to the theft of various household items. Giles Muhame, the managing editor of Uganda's Rolling Stone newspaper, which previously published a photo of Kato on a front page dedicated to inciting homophobic violence, dismissed claims his paper had anything to do with Kato's death. "There is no need for anxiety or for hype," he said. "We should not overblow the death of one."

GEORGIA: Plans are currently afoot to add a 'gay' section to a downtown Atlanta cemetery. A spokesperson for the company that owns Crest Lawn Memorial Park told The Georgia Voice



the move seemed like a natural progression for gay men and lesbians as they gain greater acceptance in mainstream society.

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Hometown Headlines



CHESTER: Tanya Bloomfield, a transgendered female who made international headlines last year for seeking refugee status from the Canadian government, has left the South Shore to return to the United Kingdom. "My decision (to return) came about after a long bout of spiralling deep depression and the realisation that I would be fighting my immigration case in the courts for many years," the Irish national told Gaze via e-mail from Brighton, where she's currently serving as a Board Trustee for Brighton Pride. "I love Nova Scotia. I love the people who make Nova Scotia such a great place to live and those memories will stay with me forever." Tanya Bloomfield – born Timothy Bloomfield – moved to Nova Scotia in 2006, and soon thereafter married her female partner. But when their relationship ended three years later, so too did the spousal sponsorship application that would have allowed her to remain in the country.



ST. JOHN'S: Zone 216, St. John's longest-running gay bar, shut its Water Street doors New Year's Eve after nearly 17 years in business, the result of a dispute between the building's owner and the city. Mobile events, like the one scheduled to take place on April 22 at the Bella Vista on Torbay Road, have been helping to fill the void while the popular dance club continues its search for a new home.

HALIFAX: On April 17, approximately three weeks after its Board of Directors recommended that Halifax's Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church "discontinue operations," the general membership voted 11 to 3 in favour of shutting down, thereby nullifying an earlier – and less realistic – April 3 decision to keep it open. Safe Harbour "has not been able to grow as a healthy, vibrant church after two years of study," read the Board's March 25 notice of motion, "(...and it) has demonstrated that it does not have the financial ability to support a fulltime pastor at a reasonable, living salary." Rev. Jennifer Paty, who spent 20 years in the United States Navy before being ordained in 2004, will be leaving Safe Harbour and returning to the U.S. after Easter. "...With the departure of Rev. Paty and our dire financial position there seems to be little alternative left to us at this point," the Board argued, adding that after 20 years in existence, it was no longer "reasonable to believe that we are able to sustain Safe Harbour as a vibrant presence in our community."



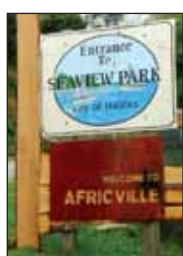
RIVERVIEW: New Brunswick florist Kim Evans landed in a bed of thorns in March when the Petals and Promises Wedding Flowers proprietor refused to provide service to a lesbian couple on religious grounds. "As a born-again Christian, I must respect my conscience before God and have no part in this matter," Evans explained in a media-

obtained e-mail. The New Brunswick Human Rights Act strictly prohibits businesses from refusing to serve customers on the basis of race, religion or sexual orientation.

HALIFAX/NEW YORK: Complaining that every big-screen comedy this season – starting with Vince Vaughan's *Dilemma* – appears to be filled with gay jokes, *New York Magazine*, via its *nymag.com* website, listed queer-friendly Halifax actress Ellen Page's new flick *Super*, in which Page utters "faggot" and "gay-ass", among the worst offenders.



HUBBARDS: Kendall Partington, who spent years wowing crowds with his musical talents in Toronto, is back in Nova Scotia and will be performing at the Trellis Cafe in Hubbards May 20. Currently a regular Saturday night fixture at Reflections Cabaret, Kendall can also be found on a regular basis at Our Friends Pub in Dartmouth and, on occasion, at Sherlocks Piano Bar in Truro. For his complete performance schedule visit his website, kendallpartington.ca.



HALIFAX: Seaview Park, an infamous gay cruising spot located minutes from Downtown Halifax, is poised to be renamed Africville, for the black neighbourhood demolished there in the name of urban renewal in the 1960s. "For all intent, the name has been changed," city infrastructure director Phil Townsend told *The Chronicle Herald* in early April, adding that

new signage will be forthcoming.

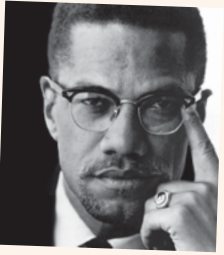


HALIFAX: Hello Sailor! – a temporary exhibit highlighting the history of gay men on the ocean waves – sails into Halifax's Maritime Museum of the Atlantic May 19. The U.K. display, which will include a local component, runs until November 27.

Queen Mary crew mourn Everton football club's disastrous performance in the late 1950s. Centre: "Jane", a steward. (Picture courtesy of Oral History Archive at Southampton City Council/Ocean Pictures/Cunard.)

Almost Gaymous

Malcolm X



When actor Ossie Davis delivered the eulogy at Malcolm X's funeral, he referred to the African-American civil rights icon as "our manhood, our living, black manhood!" To this day, forty-six years after he was gunned down at a rally in New York City, the eternal 39 year old – born Malcolm Little – remains the very personification of militant black nationalism. So when Columbia University historian Manning Marable, in his newly released biography *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*, revealed that his literary muse had been sexually involved with a white businessman, eyebrows were quickly raised. Interestingly enough, however, Marable's tome isn't the first to draw attention to the native Nebraskan's sexual proclivities. In 1991, Bruce Perry, in his book *Malcolm: The Life of a Man Who Changed Black America*, decreed that the activist had sustained a same-sex relationship with a transvestite named Willy Mae and, in his youth, had accepted money from men in exchange for sexual favours.

Samantha Fox



She's sold 30 million albums worldwide while grabbing the attention of libidinous men worldwide with her overt sex appeal and jaw-dropping magazine pictorials. But in 2003, four years after a guest appearance at a lesbian beauty pageant raised questions about her own sexuality, Samantha Fox, the U.K.'s most famous pin-up, publicly revealed that naughty girls, do indeed, need love too – sometimes from other girls. In her case, that girl was – and is – her manager Myra Stratton.

Harvey Levin



He may be out now, but ironically there was a time when celebrity muckraker Harvey Levin – owner of the gossip website TMZ – was so concerned his homosexuality would be discovered he didn't want to leave the house. "Obviously friends knew I was gay, but professionally I had to shut it out," the erstwhile People's Court reporter said in a public address last year. "And I believe, at the time, there was good cause for thinking I'd get fired." Eventually Levin, a former Los Angeles TV newshound who went on to create *Celebrity Justice*, reached the breaking point. "... I finally said, 'This isn't worth it.' And I just let it go. And nothing happened."

Gandhi



While Pulitzer Prize-winner Joseph Lelyveld's new book, *Great Soul: Mahatma Gandhi and his struggle with India*, may not actually employ the term 'bisexual,' assertions by reviewers that it hints at the legendary freedom fighter's homosexual preoccupation with a German-Jewish architect/bodybuilder named Hermann Kallenbach has nonetheless stirred up an international hornet's nest. The volume, which Lelyveld says is being grossly misinterpreted, has already been banned in several parts of India where homosexuality remained illegal until 2009 and continues to socially stigmatized.

Sara Gilbert



Best known for playing smart-mouthed tomboy Darlene on the hit comedy *Roseanne*, Sara Gilbert – Little House on the Prairie star Melissa Gilbert's half-sister – can currently be found spending her weekdays chewing the fat with Sharon Osbourne and the rest of her co-hosts on *The View*-esque daytime show, *The Talk*. In a relationship with TV producer Allison Adler since 2002 – they have two children – Gilbert came out in July 2010.

Seamus O'Regan



Last July, St. John's-born Seamus O'Regan, the Canada AM host who once served as a policy advisor and speech writer to former Newfoundland premier Brian Tobin, married his long-time partner Steve Doss (a former bar and restaurant GM at the Windsor Arms Hotel in Yorkville, Ontario) with little media fanfare in Port Rexton, NL. Word has it the couple's engagement party – reportedly attended by singer-songwriter Sir Bob Geldof – was thrown by none other than wealthy auto parts heiress Belinda Stronach. The *National Post* reported that Liberal MP Justin Trudeau and his wife Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau were among the celebrants at a soggy post-nuptial bash in Middle Cove.

Evan Darling



When openly gay NASCAR driver Evan Darling came out to his conservative New England parents at the age of 18, they shipped him off to a psychiatrist for six weeks in a futile attempt to 'cure' him of his homosexuality. Much to his parents' dismay, the doctor informed them they were the ones having trouble with their son's sexuality and that Evan was perfectly normal and well adjusted. His family remained unsupportive and in 1995, his lawyer father went so far as to take an active role in a lawsuit designed to prevent homosexuals from taking part in Boston's Veterans Day Parade. Meanwhile, his brother Brian, who today wields considerable power as the Director of U.S. Senate Relations for a right-wing think tank called the Heritage Foundation, is said to have been actively involved with anti-gay organizations while attending college. When Evan's parents stopped funding his education, he moved to Florida where his love and knowledge of automobiles led to employment opportunities with Jaguar and Ferrari. He jumpstarted his amateur racing career in 2002 and went pro five years later.

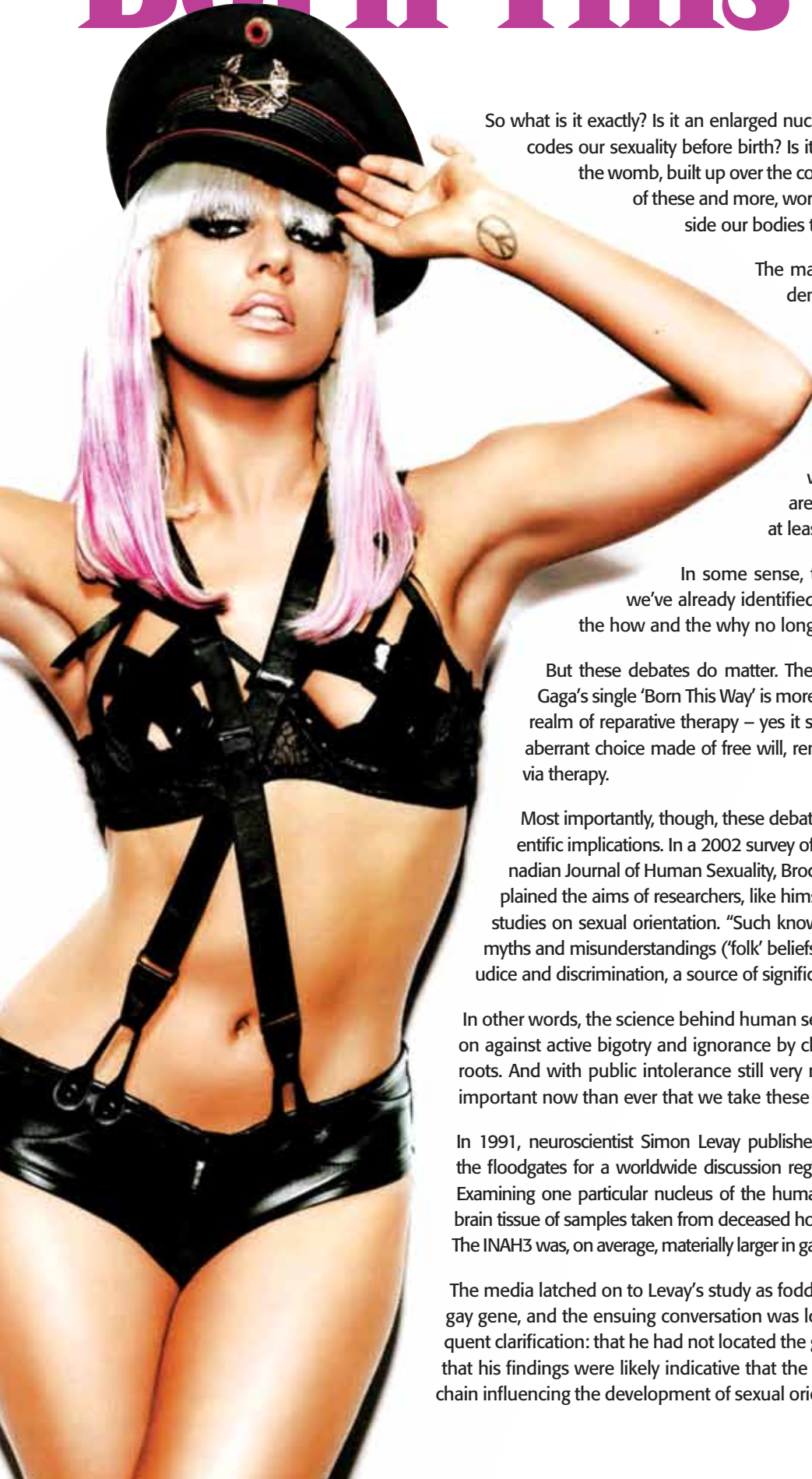
Bradley Manning



Arrested in Iraq in May 2010 for allegedly releasing thousands of sensitive government documents to Julian Assange's WikiLeaks website, 23-year-old U.S. Army Private Bradley Manning, who came out to his friends as a teenager in Oklahoma, continues to be detained in Quantico, Virginia, where he stands accused of various charges, including "aiding the enemy."

Born This Gay?

By Mark MacAulay



So what is it exactly? Is it an enlarged nucleus in the brain? Or some elusive gene that codes our sexuality before birth? Is it a maternal immunity to some substance in the womb, built up over the course of several pregnancies? Or could it be all of these and more, working in combination? What is it, inside or outside our bodies that influences how we'll identify later in life?

The matter has been the subject of debate in academic circles for decades now, but over the past 20 years scientific research surrounding sexual orientation has exploded, with a raft of theories emerging to promote biological understandings of homosexuality. Although scientists have yet to reach a consensus on exactly how homosexuality works at the level of the body, even skeptics are coming to accept that sexuality depends – at least in part – on one's biological makeup.

In some sense, these debates may seem academic in that we've already identified as straight, lesbian, gay, bi, trans, or queer; the how and the why no longer matter.

But these debates do matter. They matter in the cultural sphere, where Lady Gaga's single 'Born This Way' is more than just a pop song. They also matter in the realm of reparative therapy – yes it still exists – which treats homosexuality as an aberrant choice made of free will, remedied by the exorcising of one's gay ghosts via therapy.

Most importantly, though, these debates matter for their social, rather than their scientific implications. In a 2002 survey of contemporary research published in *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, Brock University psychologist Dr. Tony Bogaert explained the aims of researchers, like himself, who aim to increase knowledge through studies on sexual orientation. "Such knowledge," he wrote, "has served to counteract myths and misunderstandings ('folk' beliefs) that have been used to justify anti-gay prejudice and discrimination, a source of significant stress for many gay and lesbian people."

In other words, the science behind human sexuality stands to become a powerful weapon against active bigotry and ignorance by challenging anti-gay discrimination at its very roots. And with public intolerance still very much alive in our own backyards, it's more important now than ever that we take these debates seriously.

In 1991, neuroscientist Simon LeVay published a landmark study in *Science* that opened the floodgates for a worldwide discussion regarding the possible existence of a 'gay gene.' Examining one particular nucleus of the human brain – the INAH3 – LeVay compared the brain tissue of samples taken from deceased homosexual and heterosexual men. His finding? The INAH3 was, on average, materially larger in gay men than those of their straight counterparts.

The media latched on to LeVay's study as fodder for a growing debate over the quest for a gay gene, and the ensuing conversation was loud enough to largely drown out his subsequent clarification: that he had not located the gay gene – he hadn't even been trying – and that his findings were likely indicative that the INAH3 was but one link in a longer genetic chain influencing the development of sexual orientation. By this time, though, the 'gay gene'

theory had already invaded the public consciousness, where it's since remained.

Scientists, however, are more cautious than journalists, and the majority of researchers in this particular field are quick to point out that rather than searching for one specific answer to the question of biological sexualities, they are instead exploring every avenue, across many different scientific disciplines, to locate other possible links in the chain and, eventually, connect those links.

The result is a complicated picture of the science of homosexuality – one that offers up some fascinating theories. One such theory is known as the Fraternal Birth Order (FBO) effect, which maintains that on average, gay men have a greater number of older brothers than heterosexual men. In a 2006 study following up on earlier research, Tony Bogaert found that the FBO effect was evident even in cases where brothers were not raised in the same environment, leading him to suspect that the “older brother effect” was biological – not environmental – in nature.

The causal explanation offered by Bogaert refers to what he calls the “maternal immune response,” whereby a mother’s womb undergoes changes once she’s given birth to male children. “A mother’s womb environment changes because she’s had a previous male pregnancy,” Bogaert explains. “We think that there’s probably some immune response going on, to male-specific substances that a mother was exposed to in a previous male gestation.”

That said, Bogaert is quick to stress that his results are specifically contained to the question of the FBO effect and do not necessarily reflect the work being done by geneticists or neuroscientists like LeVay. Bogaert further clarifies that his research doesn’t preclude the potential for environmental factors, such as upbringing, from contributing to a person’s sexual orientation.

I ask Dr. Bogaert if perhaps this is a case of too many people – biologists, psychologists, geneticists and sociologists – addressing the same question from too many different angles to reach a consensus. “It very well may be,” he tells me, adding that he’s yet to be convinced that there is sufficient evidence to suggest that sexuality is determined by a single factor, and that a handful of plausible causes in some combination may each play a role in shaping one’s sexuality.

So what about this so-called ‘gay gene’? Is it simply media hocus-pocus? A drastic simplification of nuanced research dumbed down for broader audience appeal? Could one gene really be capable of dictating sexual orientation?



Simon LeVay



Tony Bogaert



Brian Ryter



Danny Jardine



Nicholas Christie

“Probably not,” says Bogaert. “But [the phrase] does get after this idea that there is probably some kind of biological effect, and there is probably a genetic effect going on. So if that raises the level of public knowledge, relative to absolute ignorance, then I think that kind of phrase is actually more helpful than it is negative.”

Raising the level of public knowledge is, as Bogaert wrote in 2002, a chief aim of current research, given that said knowledge may play a crucial role in reshaping public perception of homosexuality and the factors influencing sexual orientation development.

A number of self-identifying gay men contacted for this article believe sexuality is at least partly grounded in scientific factors, but argue that the same old spectres of ‘choice’ and ‘free will’ continue to propagate prejudice against gay men and women.

“People think that you can take a pill and be cured,” observes Brian Ryter, a Dartmouth man who came out seven years ago, following his two brothers, “or you can be brainwashed and be cured. It’s not a disease, something that can be treated as just a temporary thing.”

Saint John resident Danny Jardine, who studied biochemistry at the Master’s level, agrees. “The world is still a pretty hostile place for LGBT folks,” he notes, “so why would anyone ‘choose’ to put themselves through what many go through because of their sexuality? If it was a choice, I don’t think 10 per cent of folks would choose it, based on the difficulties.”

Although these men were fortunate to have families and friends who were supportive of their coming out, both recognize the potential hazards that exist for young men and women concerned about revealing their true sexualities to those closest to them.

“I do definitely think that a biological connection would make it much easier for those youth(s) struggling with coming out,” says Jardine, who hails from Prince Edward Island. “I had a great experience and was fully supported by family and friends, so it does not matter to me as much individually, but I do think it would help many by erasing the stigma.”

“My parents, though shaken, were really loving and supporting,” explains Nicholas Christie, a food scientist currently working in Moncton. “Terrified at the time, I waited for my last night at home on holiday to do it. I even went so far as to ask my sister to take me to the airport in the event that it went badly.”



The oldest of three children, St. Stephen, New Brunswick-raised Christie, like Jardine, also has a younger lesbian sister.

"The idea of being 'born this way' could give some comfort to those who are struggling but I would like to think that the discomfort is something to get past. Once you get past this discomfort, the reason you are gay seems irrelevant.

Both men, however, use nearly identical language to express concerns regarding a possible dark side to this current scientific research. "I worry that depending on your point of view, you might be predisposed to carry forward the idea of a biological basis to a conclusion that one should try to adjust this condition," says Christie, "to sway sexuality back to heterosexuality. I would find this work sad and a terrible waste of resources."

"I don't believe that inordinate amounts of money and time should be spent on the study of it," echoes Jardine. "Much like the colour of one's skin, we can understand that biology is the cause but there is no need to study it forever. Instead, we just accept it." Like Christie, Jardine also points to the potential for this research to "open the door to genetic engineering." Perhaps the greatest challenge facing us in the future, then, will be to harness the promise of such research without lifting the lid on Pandora's Box in the name of "correcting" sexual orientation. These are pragmatic concerns from men who have immersed themselves in science, and who understand that while science itself remains neutral, it can be made to cut both ways by those who employ it.

As interesting as this topic may be, the science of homosexuality matters little in the daily lives of these men. While Jardine, for

instance, admits to finding the theories "interesting," the practical reality of his daily routine remains unchanged.

"Whether or not some chromosomes are wired in a certain way has no impact on how my life is led," adds Christie. "I don't place much importance on the idea of genetics in the formation of my sexuality. If it were true, it changes nothing."

It wouldn't provide comfort to know, definitively, that you were "born this way"?

"I gather no comfort from the idea of a biological basis for my sexuality, as I require no comfort," he answers. "To say one needs comfort is telling of a latent discomfort."

I received a very similar message from everyone I interviewed: that the need to live honestly, without having to consider your sexuality an anomaly or cause for question, is paramount. If science can help achieve that goal on a personal level, great. If not, then perhaps it's a question best left to academics.

"I've been in both worlds," says Brian Ryter. "I've been in the gay world and the straight world. They're very, very similar. (But ultimately) it's the game of happiness – the game of being comfortable with who you are."

"And the number one thing is to find somebody that you can love, and who can love you back, with no judgment. It's the same world." 🐾

Mark MacAulay is a writer in Halifax.



Write On!

I just read your Gaze Winter 2011 edition. Great job and bravo to you for sticking with it and making it work. I am not a gay person and have no inclinations in that direction but I have many gay friends, all of whom I profoundly endorse.

My friend, (Chez Tess owner) Liz Cunningham handed me your magazine and pointed out the story written by your contributor Jenna Conter. That is absolutely fascinating and creative writing by Jenna. So poetic and inspirational. Super quality.

If you have not been to Chez Tess, you must go there and meet Liz. You will love her and her big, new restaurant and enjoy the best crepes in the Maritimes.

Rod Malay, Artist

Please continue the good work that you are doing. I enjoyed your magazine very much; it's very informative and entertaining.

T. Burns, Halifax



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Halifax 2011

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Coconut Grove Private party, no admission with out a ticket.

*Tickets for all events available as a weekend pass or individually at:
CD Heaven, Fashionably Dead, Night Magic, Booty Boutique and Venus Envy.



FASHIONABLY DEAD



WAVES

Gaze

Booty Boutique



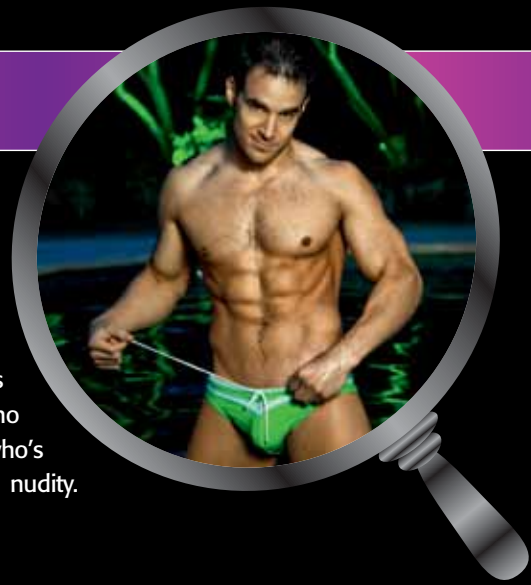
MADAME RED

Pap My Cherry

HOTEL

Fabulous Finds

Suburban Pleasures – The perfect combination of rich colours, tasteful surroundings and near-perfect male specimens (including Canadian model Malachi Marx) make erotic photographer Mark Henderson's coffee table book a must-have for any gay yuppie. Not unlike Henderson's 2008 picture tome *Household Idols*, *Suburban Pleasures* is as much about home decor as it is about human form. Which is why, in terms of presentation, it surpasses *Legend Men* – another 2010 offering from German publishing house Bruno Gmunder – a smaller-sized publication featuring the work of Ron Lloyd, who's been known to photograph the occasional Maritimer in the buff. Contains nudity.



Spirit of the boom!

The recent addition of Spirit to boom!'s existing stable of Circus Dancers has, without a doubt, made it harder than ever to challenge the Fredericton hot spot's self-designated reputation as Atlantic Canada's "sexiest small nightclub."



Circus performers (clockwise from top: Chris Butt, Peter St-Laurent, Kevin Beets (a.k.a. Ciaphas Cain) and Kimmy Murphy.

Spirit joined Circus, boom!'s take on a popular clubbing movement that combines outrageous fashion, hipster culture, music and live performances, last fall and can be found – with few exceptions – at the Queen Street watering hole every Friday night; Circus performs every second week and at special pride colour events.

Because Spirit – a.k.a. Spirit O'Tb – is a character, the once-competitive swimmer behind the trademark Venetian mask says he prefers to maintain the air of mystery his portrayal creates by remaining anonymous. Well, with a body like that, I

think most of us can learn to live with the compromise.

For more information on Circus and Spirit, visit:
<http://on.fb.me/circusboom>

Photography by
Michael Boudreau



Fabulous Finds



"Our values are the real Canadian values" – With a federal election set for May 2 and Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative Party closer than ever to securing the majority government they've long coveted, you owe it to yourself to take the 46 seconds required to view this 2005 video of Canada's then-Opposition leader addressing the "Adam & Eve, not Adam & Steve" contingent in the nation's capital. <http://bit.ly/harpergaymarriage>



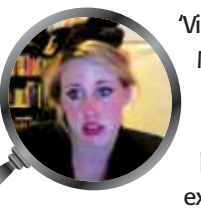
Riverdale – Long-time Archie fans will squeal with delight then recoil in horror as they watch everyone's favourite comic book redhead and his famous high school posse struggle to cope with life in the 21st century. Set to Requiem for a Dream's 'Lux Aeterna' – one of Black Swan composer Clint Mansell's most recognizable works – this fantastic three-and-a-half minute not-for-profit fan film-trailer sheds a new and disturbing hypothetical light on the members of Archie's Riverdale High gang as they battle drug abuse, wrestle with their religious convictions and come to terms with their sexuality – and homosexuality. <http://bit.ly/riverdalespoof>



The World's Worst Place to be Gay? – BBC radio DJ Scott Mills travels to the Republic of Uganda in an effort to shed light on Africa's most-homophobic nation in this disturbing documentary, available in its entirety on YouTube. Follow Mills as he views first hand the unfathomable hardships faced by known gays and lesbians in that country and the danger Mills himself ultimately encounters after admitting to Member of Parliament David Bahati, the driving force behind Uganda's infamous "Kill the Gays" Bill, that he, too, is a homosexual. <http://bit.ly/worstplaceintheworld>



Zach Wahls on 'Ellen' – Nineteen-year-old Zach Wahls, an engineering student raised by two lesbians, sits down with talk show host Ellen Degeneres following his impassioned address to the Iowa House of Representatives in opposition of a bill that would repeal an existing law legalizing gay marriage in that state. The House ultimately passed the bill 62-37, but has, to date, been prevented by Democrats from clearing the state senate. <http://bit.ly/Zach-Ellen>



'Victoria Jackson' speaks out against The Little Mermaid – Inspired by former Saturday Night Live performer Jackson's public condemnation of Glee's same sex-kiss (see p. 22), New York-based comedienne Anne Solstad – as Jackson – explains why the Disney classic is inappropriate for children, what she thinks of "that ginger tranny's crustacean best friend" and why she would never let Prince Eric be part of her world. <http://bit.ly/VJparody>



Lady Gaga 'Born This Way' parody – A brilliant homage to the meat-dress maven's gay anthem, with particular attention given to that whole Madonna rip-off debate. <http://bit.ly/ladygagaspoof>



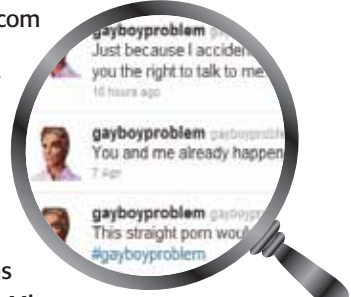
No Son of Mine – In this eight-minute video, Fredericton native Denis Theriault plays Josh, an openly gay man struggling alongside his sister Alice (Whitney Illsley) to come to terms with the harsh realities of his sexuality. Theriault, who currently lives in Halifax and appeared alongside Rosanna Arquette and fellow Canadian Rachel Blanchard in the 2008 feature film Growing Op, also wrote, directed and produced the short film. <http://bit.ly/moviebydenis>



Zeb Atlas's 'Love Hangover' – Almost as funny as the aforementioned 'Gaga' video but for all the wrong reasons. Muscle-bound porn star Zeb Atlas teams up with soul singer Pearly Gates (of Flirtations fame) in this laughably infectious cover of the 1976 Diana Ross hit, 'Love Hangover'. The song's catchy beat and Zeb's oft shirtlessness make the video watchable, but it's his bizarre facial expressions and spaztastic back-up dancers that make it hilarious! <http://bit.ly/zebatlas>



Violet Tendencies – The official trailer for Violet Tendencies, the third full-length comedy by filmmakers Casper Andreas and Jesse Archer (Slutty Summer and A Four-Letter Word) starring Facts of Life alum Mindy Cohn (Natalie) as the world's "oldest living fag hag." Available on DVD May 24. www.violettendenciesmovie.com



@gayboyproblem – Log on to Twitter to find out why "our problems are like straight problems ...just sluttier and more fun." www.twitter.com/gayboyproblem



Closet Letter – closetletter.org was developed by Newfoundland native Michael Browne in an attempt to highlight specific instances of discrimination based on sexuality or gender identity. "Discrimination and homophobia can occur in settings beyond the hallways of school and... doesn't end at graduation," he says. Discrimination, explains Halifax denizen Browne, can be subtle or violent and it can happen to anyone, anywhere. The goal of Closet letter, he says, is to learn about these events from a first-hand perspective. Closet Letter also has a Facebook page and can be followed on Twitter at www.twitter.com/closet_letter



Critics' Corner

Pink Blood: Homophobic Violence in Canada Douglas Victor Janoff, U of T Press, 2005

Two men walk home along a dark street discussing the evening's events at a local gay dance. Out of nowhere, a carload of young men approaches, hurling homophobic insults. A physical assault ensues and one of the men is attacked and beaten; the police and an ambulance are called to attend to the injured. The date was February 28, 2010. The location: Sydney, Nova Scotia.

As news of the incident made the rounds, I began to ask myself how safe gays and lesbians in Canada really are. Am I actually safe in my community? Or am I just naïve? My search for answers takes me to *Pink Blood*, Douglas Victor Janoff's anthology of homophobic violence in Canada.

In it, Janoff examines several hundred crimes perpetrated against gays and lesbians in Canada between 1990 and 2005, looking specifically at media coverage of homophobia-related crimes; theories behind societal homophobia; the impact of homophobic violence on its victims; laws regarding homophobic violence; "Homo-cides"; and homophobia within Canadian policing.

Even though we're barraged every day with myriad accounts of crimes committed in our respective communities, it's worth noting that victims of homophobia-related crimes frequently shun the media for fear of being outed simply by being identified. It's this same fear that prevents victims from reporting these crimes to the police. As a result, communities end up taking less and less responsibility for these crimes, thereby perpetuating further victimization.

While homophobia among members of society's educated sector has been greatly reduced in recent years, Janoff notes how pervasive it remains within society as a whole – particularly in rural areas – and identifies five key motives underlying societal homophobia: religion; the secret fear of being homosexual; repressed envy; a perceived threat to values; and resentment stemming from the perception that homosexuals don't procreate.

Homosexuality, Janoff contends, continues to be stigmatized in society because it violates gender norms. Society tends to become uncomfortable when individuals participate in what they believe to be behavior inappropriate for their gender. In Vancouver, when a gay-bashing victim complained to the police he'd been assaulted, the officer responded with: "Well what did you expect wearing that scarf?"

The impact of homophobic violence is difficult to calculate, however, financially speaking, queer bashes can result in thousands of dollars in damage and, in some cases, permanent disabilities which effectively rob victims of their livelihood. Moreover, the emotional cost can be profound. Queer bashing victims experience depression, anxiety, headaches, nightmares, crying, agitation, restlessness, weight loss, increased drug and alcohol use, self loathing, shame, and isolation. The impact of homophobic violence is unique in the sense that the victim has been attacked based solely on his or her identity. "Gays aren't like other victims," explains a hate crimes officer in Toronto. "You can't just buy a lock. You can change your name, but you just can't change who you are."

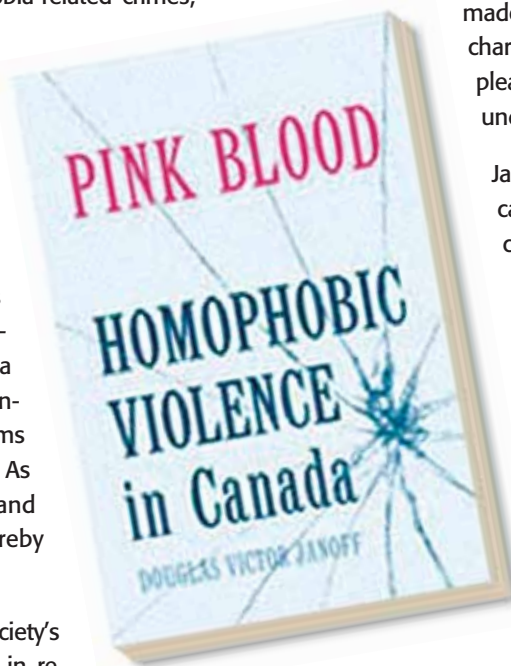
And even though there are laws in Canada designed to prosecute offenders who commit hate crimes, they are problematic in that they are applied inconsistently across the nation; the victim's definition of what constitutes a hate crime may very well fall short of the legal definition. And plea bargains are often made by prosecutors whereby the hate crimes charge is often removed in exchange for guilty pleas on other charges, leading to an overall underreporting of hate crimes.

Janoff explores a large number of murder cases in his book – including those of Lucien Bertin (Halifax), Roderick MacLeod (Sydney), Donald Pettipas (Halifax) and Gregory Jodrey (Wolfville) – and, in particular, examines the way in which the justice system treats homophobia-related murders and the "homosexual advance" defense sometimes used by killers. In cases where the murderer stated he killed because the victim made a homosexual advance towards him/her, sentences were often reduced or plea deals reached.

This particular section of the book is especially interesting in that it essentially paints a double standard; if a man killed a woman because she made a pass at him, the justice system would nonetheless want him prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Comparatively, the chapter Janoff devotes to the development of Canadian hate crime law is a significantly slower read, but necessary if the reader is to fully comprehend understand the law as it currently exists. 📖

– Mark MacPhee



Chasing Rainbows

By Karen Bailey

The pieces never fit.

I was generally happy until I was fourteen. Sheltered, but happy. As far as I knew children were to be seen and not heard. They were expected to eat their supper and go to bed early. Simple as that.



By the time I turned fourteen, however, my seemingly idyllic Kings County surroundings felt more like a prison. I found myself being subjected daily to ceaseless, relentless, cruel teasing. 'Bullying' had yet to become fashionable and 'teasing' was harmless fun, countered by the recitation of that age-old rhyme about sticks and stones. Given a choice, I'd have gladly taken the broken bones.

I was bullied because I was quiet, because of my bad '80s hair, and because I was gay. But I wasn't. Gay, I mean. Some day, I was going to have a husband and 2.5 kids and a cat and a dog because "that's what people did."

It didn't bother me that people thought I was gay. Nor did it bother me that people *were* gay. As I found out, my feelings toward homosexuality hadn't been learned from my mother. When asked once for her thoughts on gay people, she'd instantly – and rather uncomfortably – told me, "They are unnatural and against God."

Her response triggered an uncomfortable feeling inside me. Was it anger? Well-behaved children didn't get angry – especially at their parents. And parents were always right. Weren't they? And why did it affect me anyway? It didn't.

I hadn't been raised religious, but because my mother had identified homosexuality as an affront to God, I went with it and attempted to suggest to her it would have been silly of God to create people who went 'against' him. I'd learned about the existence of homosexuality right about the same time I learned the world was over-populated. I combined the two in my head and thought perhaps gay people were created in order to prevent overpopulation. Gay people can't procreate, I figured, and are happy just living as couples without the presence of children. All straight couples had children, I assumed. Why else would they do that awful thing described in the encyclopaedia in the hallway? My mother was getting increasingly angry, prompting me to remember my place: seen but not heard. Whatever. It was fine.. I liked boys, right? Of course I did. Because I was an obedient child who refused to be a disappointment and who had no interest in being disowned.

My first boyfriend was Gary. I was 18. The relationship went well for ten days and then continued on miserably for six years. And eventually, there was Dave. He was nice to me, but there was no spark, no chemistry, nothing. And yet we would ultimately become husband and wife. After all, he said he was fine with the fact that I may never want to have sex ever again. Sex wasn't important he'd said. That worked for me. I thought sex was just one of those things you put up with so you could have a boyfriend or a husband. And I had to find a husband; I was nearly a decade past my dad's old-maid warning.

Prior to the wedding, Dave and I met Faye, Abby and Bernadette, three women who somehow became completely involved in the planning of our ceremony. They took care of the date, the clothing, everything – even a bachelorette night at a strip club where I sat, inconspicuous and nervous, hoping none of the men would touch me.

During the time we spent with the trio, I found myself nervous and fluttery around Bernadette. I looked forward to seeing her, only to later find myself too nervous to talk to her. I wondered if she was

single, which I realized was an odd thing for me to be wondering. I wanted to... I stopped myself. I wanted to *what*, exactly? Girls like boys. I stopped all thoughts and swallowed all feelings then and there and I married Dave.

I continued to feel guilty and confused even after Dave and I had tied the knot and continued to see counsellors for guidance. I'd been in counselling for years by this point, having already been diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, triggered, I was told, by the years of sexual abuse I'd suffered at the hands of my first boyfriend. THAT was why I couldn't have sex. Of course I wouldn't like it after having it forced on me for years. There was only one problem: he'd forced it because I'd refused it. Because I didn't like it. Eventually, it was discovered that my testosterone levels were low to non-existent, thus providing me with both a medical *and* a psychological excuse for not wanting to have yucky, repulsive sex that left me sick to my stomach.

I never discussed the whole bizarre Bernadette situation with a professional, or the fact that in one of my wedding photos, I'm turned away from Dave, towards Bernadette as she stands beside me clutching my arm. Wires had gotten crossed, signals misfired, systems malfunctioned. That was all. What I did mention was that I didn't like my husband. And I certainly didn't love him. But shouldn't I want to have sex with him? Should the thought of doing so leave me sick, shaking and panicking? Should I, on my wedding day, have dreaded the newlywed kiss most of all? It wasn't just cold feet I had, but a sick sense of dread at the thought of kissing my new husband. Repulsion.

Post-traumatic stress, I was assured. I could get better. I could learn to love my husband, learn to be attracted to him. Unbeknownst to me at the time, my psychiatrist was trying to cure my homosexuality. I was told to let it go for now; it wasn't a big issue since my husband was okay with things the way they were. We could "come back to it" when other things were more settled.

Oddly enough it was at a McDonald's that things finally started to come together. It was there, in a free daily newspaper that actor Woody Harrelson had credited a dairy-free lifestyle with curing his acne. That was all I needed to know. It took two weeks. Not for my skin to clear up, mind you; that didn't happen. But my hormones finally straightened themselves out. Turns out I was allergic to the protein in milk. My body, for the first time in years, decided it craved sexual intimacy.

My mind, however, still wasn't convinced. I looked at my husband. Ugh. Did I have to? I decided I did. But my body, though convinced it wanted physical contact, could not fool my mind into thinking this was the way to go. Repulsion, still and feelings of sickness. I went through with it anyway. And then, immediately afterwards, at 4 a.m., I told Dave I thought I might be interested in having sex with a woman. He appeared oddly okay with it, suggesting however I should explore it on my own. He wanted me to figure things out, to be happy.

Then at 37, I found myself without even looking. At 37, I woke up and realized I was gay. It wasn't exactly that easy or that quick. There was a bit of a process, a bit of denial. At first I thought I was bisexual,



but a bi woman who was interested only in women and felt no connection to men whatsoever. It took me a month to figure out that because I liked women, being bi wasn't the only option. In fact, being bi pretty much depended on the fact that I also liked men, and I'd already spent years in counselling complaining that I didn't. I'd always been gay, but thanks to a combination of inept parenting, hormonal issues, and inefficient counselling, I'd been led to believe I was ill, sick, flawed, damaged. Repression, as a means of protection from the threat of parental abandonment, was my problem.

As soon as I began to make sense of it all, I was able to rebuild my life. It was better. I was stronger. Happier, but still confused. I told my mom – in a letter – “I'm a lesbian.” Her reaction? “Don't tell anyone. Your father can never find out.”

As a child, it had been my Dad who pulled me from the seedy underbelly of Sunday school, disturbed by the bad language and offensive gossip he heard outside every Sunday while waiting to collect me. Church was no place for a child, and I was left with the impression that the Bible itself was indecent; it read like pornography. All that begetting and such. He'd probably have a big problem with homosexuality.

Unfortunately for my mother, her pleas for silence on the sexuality front were in vain. “Everyone knows,” I told her. “It's my Facebook status.” I had hidden it for too long and hiding it had made me ill. Coming out to myself had made me start to heal instantly, so I figured coming out to the world might even give me superpowers. And it has.

I'd attended gay pride parades before, dressed in rainbow attire and waving a rainbow flag. “It's important to me to go,” I'd told my husband. “I need to support them.” In fact, at my first gay pride parade three years ago, I told him I wished I was gay. He laughed, but it all makes sense now.

“I know the pieces fit.” The lyric from Tool's ‘Schism’ was my quiet way of coming out on Twitter. I ‘met’ Kat on the social networking site in November 2009, her attention drawn to me by something I'd directed at musician Danny Lohner, whom we both followed. She answered my coming-out tweet with the song's next line: “Because I watched them fall away.”

The online connection between us was strong, despite the fact Kat was a pure lesbian and I was a married woman nine years her senior living an ocean away. I was absolutely smitten and told her so.

One of six children raised in the southwest corner of England, Kat has known she was gay since she was 15. She had an easier time coming out than I did – at first, my brother and cousin insisted I must be straight because I'd not yet been intimate with a woman – in part because her older brother had come out eight years before her.

Meanwhile, for 37 years, I lived in a world where nothing made sense. But when I saw Kat for the first time at the airport, everything seemed to fit in an instant. Everything was beautiful. She was beautiful. That night, after we got back to my place – the apartment I still shared with my soon-to-be ex-husband who went away for a week to give us space – we ended up sitting on the couch. I can't remember what we were talking about; I wanted her to kiss me so badly I couldn't concentrate on the conversation. And then suddenly, we weren't talking. She was kissing me. I was definitely home.

Within a year we were living together and on January 17, Kat became my wife. We were married at home of Gary Dockendorff, the Justice of the Peace she chose to perform the ceremony. My cousins Hilary and Tracy were witnesses. We wore our everyday clothes and wrote our own vows because we wanted the thoughts, the feelings to be ours. Danny Lohner, who'd brought us together, garnered a mention and subsequently congratulated us, via Twitter, on our marriage.

After the wedding, Kat and I went to my parents' home on the North Mountain for a ‘sneak attack’ honeymoon night. We said nothing about the ceremony, but when Mom mentioned that my cousin Keith was getting married, I came close to saying, “Huh... Kat and I did that.” But I didn't. And our wedding night was peaceful and beautiful.

“She thinks we're just companions,” Kat had said on an earlier visit. That may have been true, but having a mother who reacts to the shock of her 37-year-old married daughter coming out, getting divorced and marrying a woman with only minor visible discomfort and without awkwardly making an issue of it is about the best I could hope for.

My ex-husband Dave seemed genuinely happy to hear we got married. I wasn't surprised – he'd been the best husband a lesbian could have hoped for.

Meanwhile, everyone who'd seen me with men and now sees me with Kat reacts the same way: “Oh ... now that makes sense.”

The pieces fit. 🐾

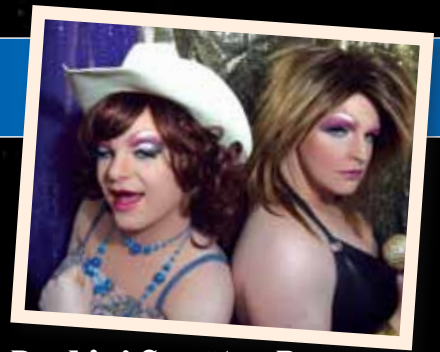
Karen Bailey was born and raised in Nova Scotia where, at the age of five, she befriended a three-legged tomcat she called Nancy – named in honour of a pretty little girl at her school – despite the fact ‘she’ was a ‘he.’ A graduate of St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Karen currently resides in Halifax with her new wife and their two feline companions.



Outings



Menz Bar, 6th Anniversary



Rockin' Country Drag Show, Reflections



Reflections, 15 Years



White Party, St. John's



Queer Acts, The Company House



Tommy Sexton Benefit



Pink Broom, Halifax



Menz Bar, St. Patrick's Day



PUMP, Orange Party

Additional photos available on our Facebook page.

Outings



Boom!



Reflections Grammy Show



Menz Bar Mardi Gras



King & Queen of Diamonds, Reflections

Guerilla Gayfare



Menz Bar, So You Think You Got Talent?

MUN Queer Prom



Please note: the appearance of photographic subjects is Gaze is not necessarily indicative of their sexuality.

Outings

FANCY GAY DRESS BALL



Photos by
Timothy Richard Photography
www.timothyrichard.com

Gaybourhood Watch



Born in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Craig Roy is the owner/operator of It's All About You Event Co-ordinating in Halifax.

- 1. What was your favourite childhood Halloween costume?*
I love anything vampire!
- 2. What was your first paying job?*
As a child, I use to babysit for friends, relatives and neighbours.
- 3. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?*
My childhood memories are kind of a blur, but I can recall sketching fashion.
- 4. Which person has had the greatest influence on your life?*
Definitely my grandmother! She has helped me evolve and grow into the person I am today. She has always been my biggest fan.
- 5. Who was your teenage celebrity crush?*
Cindy Crawford for sure, however, that changed in later years to the hot and rugged Colin Farrell!
- 6. What sport did you play in high school?*
My passions were volleyball and baseball.
- 7. What qualities do you most admire in a man?*
A sense of humour is a must. Also honesty and good communication skills.
- 8. What qualities do you most admire in a woman?*
Same.
- 9. Last place you went on vacation?*
Florida with an ex, who now is a great friend.
- 10. Person living or dead you'd most like to meet?*
Colin Farrell.
- 11. What is your greatest regret?*
Not pursuing my passion for architecture.
- 12. What is your greatest fear?*
Not being able to help friends if they need me.
- 13. What is your biggest pet peeve?*
Definitely the sandals and socks look. It's just wrong!
- 14. Facebook or Twitter?*
I am a Facebook enthusiast and recently discovered Twitter.
- 15. Blackberry or iPhone?*
Blackberry for sure. I cannot function without it!
- 16. Colin Firth or Colin Farrell?*
Colin Farrell, hands down!
- 17. Favourite colour?*
It would have to be the It's All About You Events company colours: green and gray. I love these colours!
- 18. Do you wear pink?*
Yes, I love pink. I have many different shades.
- 19. Who would play you in the movie of your life?*
Leonardo DiCaprio.
- 20. If you had to describe yourself in one word, what would it be?*
Charismatic.

Set the Mood!

Setting the stage for a romantic proposal and/or a special occasion takes a lot of planning. Why not let It's All About You Events take away the stress, so you too can enjoy the romantic evening.

It's All About You
EVENT COORDINATING

itsallaboutyouevents.ca

Reality Bytes



They should have had a celibacy campaign and tell kids that 50 per cent of teenagers now have this new STD from oral sex. That's what they should be doing, instead of trying to make kids gay.

– Former *Saturday Night Live* performer Victoria Jackson telling *Showbiz Tonight*'s Brooke Anderson why she felt a kiss between gay *Glee* characters Kurt and Blaine was 'sickening.'

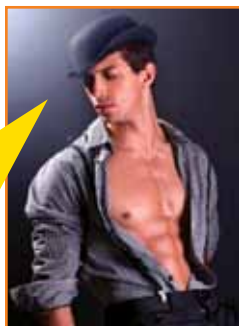


What do you want them to do? Go away and die? Should they kill themselves? Stay in the closet and fool women into marrying them?... What a nutjob! Her religion's telling her that gay is bad, therefore anybody born gay for the rest of their lives has to live in her fucking shitty world. Or they have to hide.

– Radio talk-show host Howard Stern, responding to Victoria Jackson's *Glee*-related hissy fit.

I raised my hand and said, 'Since I can't get married or adopt a child in the state of New York, I can't possibly be an impartial judge of a citizen when I am considered a second-class citizen in the eyes of the justice system.'

– Openly gay actor/model Jonathan D. Lovitz explaining his sexuality-based dismissal from jury duty.



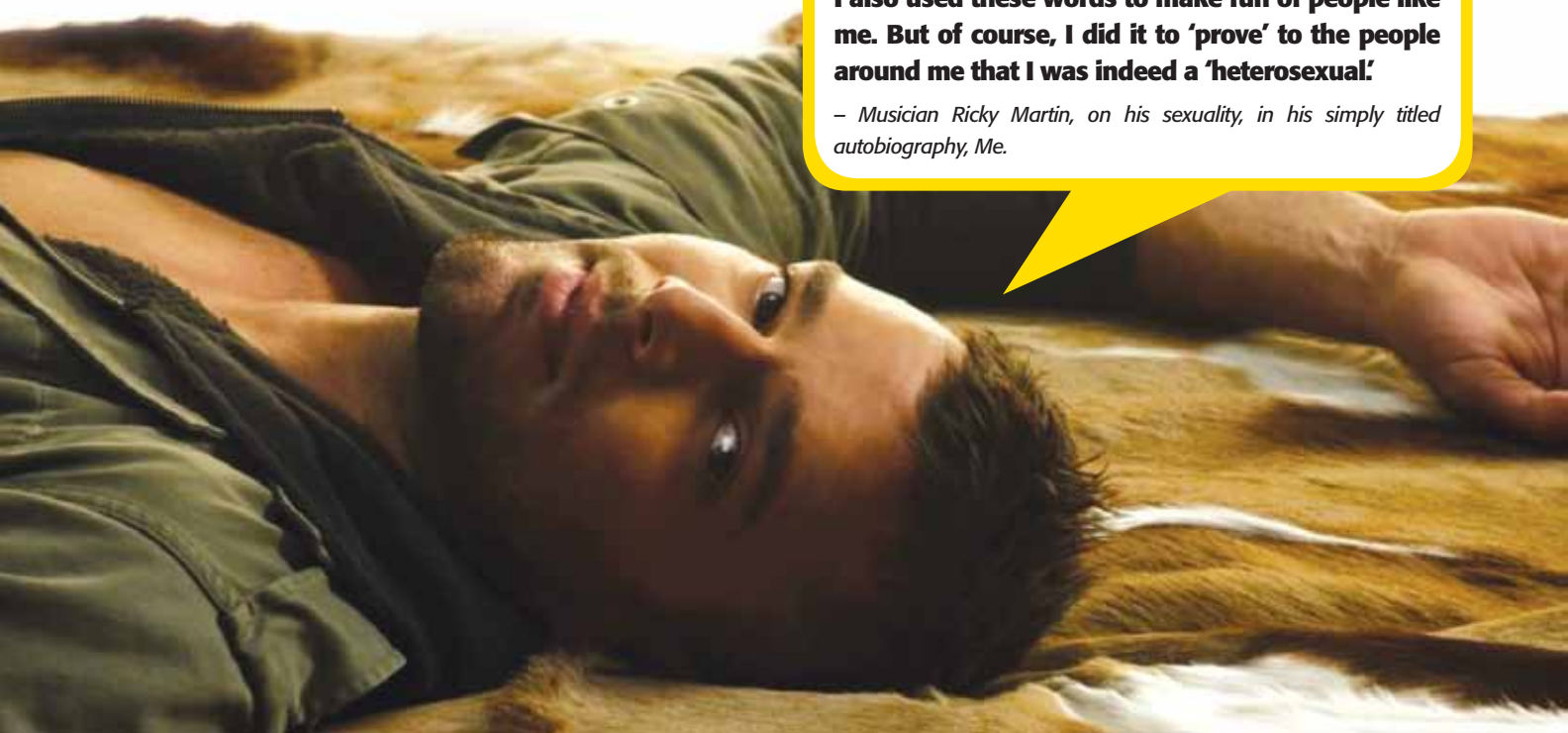
The media often characterizes homosexuals as one-dimensional people with no depth whatsoever, as if a human being could be reduced to his or her sexuality. The very language used all over the world to denominate homosexuals is terribly degrading: words such as 'faggot,' 'queer,' 'dyke,' 'sissy' and others which only serve to perpetuate hatred and discrimination among the younger generations... I am not going to lie; at some insensitive point in life I also used these words to make fun of people like me. But of course, I did it to 'prove' to the people around me that I was indeed a 'heterosexual'

– Musician Ricky Martin, on his sexuality, in his simply titled autobiography, *Me*.



What do you care who's sleeping with who?... Does it affect your day? I don't think it does... I support marriage equality... C'mon, wake up. What's wrong with equal rights for everybody?

– Whoopi Goldberg explains her view on same-sex marriage in her *New Yorkers for Marriage Equality* PSA.



Reality Bytes



I don't think President Bush is doing anything at all about AIDS. In fact I'm not even sure he knows how to spell AIDS.

– Oscar-winning actress and renowned AIDS activist Elizabeth Taylor criticizing U.S. President George H.W. Bush's handling of the AIDS crisis during a conference in July 1991.

We have just lost a Hollywood giant, but more importantly we have lost an incredible human being... She earned our adoration for her stunning beauty and for being the very essence of glamorous movie stardom. And she earned our enduring love and respect for her compassion and her courage in standing up and speaking out about AIDS when others preferred to bury their heads in the sand.

– Sir Elton John reacting to the March 23 death of Dame Elizabeth Taylor.

I live in New York. New York is a place with lots of gays, and I think it's great. But I'm not in favour of gay marriage.

– Businessman, TV personality and potential 2012 presidential candidate Donald Trump, discussing his stance on same-sex unions in NY with Fox News's Greta Van Susteren.



Why is it always the ones who can't master straight marriage who feel gay marriage is such a terrible idea? Are they afraid someone might actually show them how to do it right? The latest example of this crazed hypocrisy is that one-haired developer/reality star Donald Trump.

– Village Voice columnist Michael Musto

"I felt fully committed to being gay. And it was time to tell my parents. I told the ones I had left. One afternoon at tea... I broached it with my stepfather Allan. 'I want you to know that I'm dating women.' He studied his Earl Grey for a moment, looked at me, and admitted, 'So am I'."

– Actress Meredith Baxter discusses her coming out in her controversial autobiography, *Untied*.

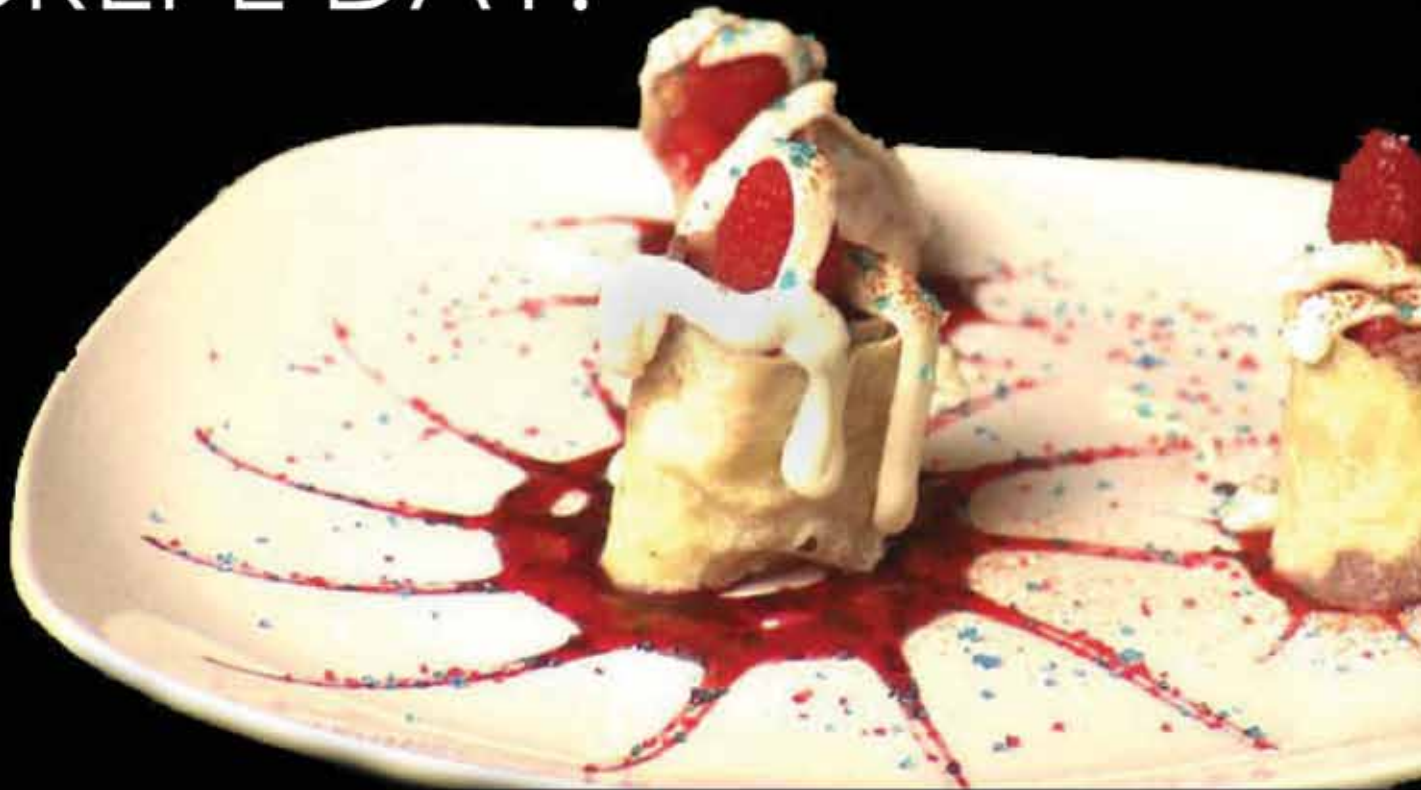
The first time I saw him playing with a doll, it definitely brought some uncomfortable feelings to the surface... (but) the look he gave me as he held up Barbie for me to see was priceless and I will never forget it. His eyes lit up and a huge smile crossed his face. He was so excited as he described the doll to me and his brain was travelling so fast, that his mouth couldn't keep up. I couldn't understand a word he said, but I got the drift. Since that day, my son has loved dolls, princesses and anything pink or purple. Although I will admit at times it has been frustrating, I would not change my son in any way. I know that if this continues, he will be forced into uncomfortable situations and have to deal with bullies and taunts... I am well aware of the adversities and obstacles (my children) will face from bullies because I used to be one.

– C.J.'s dad, a police officer and former bully, describes the challenges and rewards involved in raising his four-year-old son on his wife's blog, *Raising My Rainbow: adventures in raising a slightly effeminate, possibly gay, totally fabulous son*. Follow along at raisingmyrainbow.com.



Chez Tess

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Chez Tess is gay owned and operated and proudly welcomes the LGBT community!

Check out our website for events and specials, including 'Dinner and a Show' partnerships with The Company House.

HOURS

Brunch	Sat & Sun	9:30am - 2:30pm
Lunch	Tue - Fri	11:30am - 2:30pm
Dinner	Tue - Thu	5:00pm - 8:00pm
	Fri & Sat	5:00pm - 9:00pm



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