



individuality \*

\* being positive \* diversity \*

BOY VISION  
was printed by funds from

the  
lesbian & gay  
community

*Appeal*  
foundation

drug use

\* short stories \* romance \* safer sex \* information \*  
\* interviews \* coming out \* testing \* resources \* love \*

harm reduction \* cartoons \* exploring sexuality \*  
communication \* STD's \* poems \* sex \* risk reduction \*

## A NOTE TO THE READER

[A brief but serious note about the Zine and it's contents]

Thanks for picking up our Zine and looking through it !!

As Project Coordinator for Generation Sex-E! I am glad that the hours of work that individuals put into this effort have resulted in the articles, poems, short stories, personal experiences and information you'll find in these pages.

The opinions expressed herein represent those of the authors' and do not necessarily reflect those of Central Toronto Youth Services, or those who put together the Zine. This Zine took several months and lots of hard work from some dedicated people to put together. A special note of thanks to Dwayne, Damian and Dale who spent many hours working on this Zine. "Boy Vision" was developed as part of a Peer HIV Risk Reduction Project in the Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Program at Central Toronto Youth Services. This project was funded by Levi Strauss and Company of Canada Inc. The printing of the Zine was funded by a grant from the Lesbian and Gay Community Appeal.

As far as we know, this is the first Zine of it's kind to be produced in Toronto, for and by gay and bi guys under 25. For many of the guys who submitted material it was a personal submission which spoke from their own experiences and struggles. Some were concerned about being identified and thus remain anonymous. Many were thrilled that they would be able to reach a wide audience of their peers, as we hope to distribute almost 1500 of these Zine's across the GTA. Most of all, many of the guys who made submissions wanted to ensure that what they had submitted would not be taken out of context or used in a manner that they would not condone or appreciate. So I ask that if any person wishes to use material from the Zine, please contact me so that I can ask for their permission. I and the guys who submitted material would greatly appreciate this respect for their work.

I can be reached through various means :

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Thank you for your attention and I hope you enjoy the Zine!!



David Brownstone.

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Peer HIV Risk Reduction Project,  
Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Program,  
Central Toronto Youth Services.

Cover Design: Dwayne Pastrana



# Hey Guys,

We're the Peer Educators from the Generation Sex-E! project. It's been a fun and exciting six months, starting back in November '97. The primary objective of the project was to reduce the risks associated with HIV/AIDS among gay and bisexual youth. Some of the activities that we have been involved in have been organizing and hosting a forum at the 519 Community Centre, as well as outreach at the Second Cup, bars, bathhouses and dances. We work from a peer-based model, in other words, we are a couple of gay guys that have been hired and trained as peer-educators to work with other gay and bisexual guys. This innovative project is the first of this type in Canada. We have actively tried to reach and involve a wide range of guys in all aspect of the project. We have experienced incredible support - from individuals who volunteered their time to help out with the Forum and the Zine; from groups such as the Gay Men's Education Network, and organizations such as the AIDS Committee of Toronto; to financial support from Levi Strauss & Co. (Canada) Inc. and The Lesbian and Gay Community Appeal. We have both been touched by how supportive our peers are of each other at events that we have organized and through our various outreach activities.

While working in this project, we've met many fascinating people, each guy different from the next. Some guys had concerns about dating and relationships (especially about how to talk to their partners about sex). Others wanted to know about sexually transmitted diseases and levels of risk of certain sexual activities. No matter what people wanted to talk about, it was great seeing their interest in what we were doing. Also, we were amazed by the level of enthusiasm we received from guys for more peer-based activities, events, and materials.

In trying to come up with various ways to reach out to guys, we decided to produce something - a Zine - by and for gay and bisexual youth. Our goal was to offer young gay and bisexual guys an opportunity to share personal experiences around being young, queer and coming out; encouraging guys to have safer sex; and obtain info about HIV and STD's, support and resources. The submissions that we received include a wide range of opinions and perspectives, with minimal or no editing. We have many voices, and perhaps you will see yourself, your struggles, and questions reflected in this Zine.

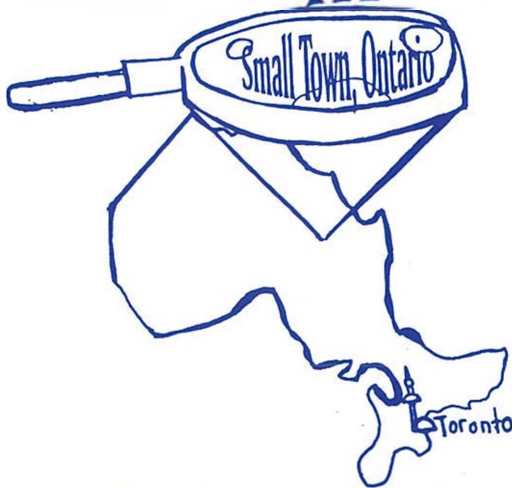
It is very encouraging to be involved with so many talented and supportive people, who truly care about themselves, each other, and their community. We recognize that we each have individual desires, values, struggles, and personal choices. We ask that you get the information and support that you need as you continue to explore and travel your personal journey. And finally, ENJOY!

Dale Kuehl  
Peer Educator  
Peer HIV Risk Reduction Project  
CTYS

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2009-107

# Coming out in



To be gay and a youth can be one of the most difficult things one must endure. You wonder why you were made like this, internalize feelings of hate and have feelings of isolation, hopelessness and loneliness. You feel as if there is nobody else who is like you and that you will not be accepted by family and friends. But if one lives in a large metropolitan centre like Toronto, there are resources that one can access to help deal with all these feelings, and there are places one can go to talk with others who share the same feelings as yourself.

I know about these feelings since I too, have had to experience the same feelings. Volunteering at the Lesbian Gay Bi Youth Line, an Ontario-wide peer support phone line for queer youth under 25, I am further reminded that a large majority of callers share these types of feelings of isolation and loneliness.

It is such a fulfilling feeling to hear the excitement and surprise in a caller's voice after you tell them that there is a coming out group in there area. The caller becomes aware that there are obviously others similar to him, and he has a chance to not feel as lonely or isolated. When you give resources like Lesbian Gay Bisexual Youth of Toronto, or Scarborough Youth Drop-in or the Fabulous Youth of Halton, you know that coming out is made less difficult because of the different places and people where one can go to talk.

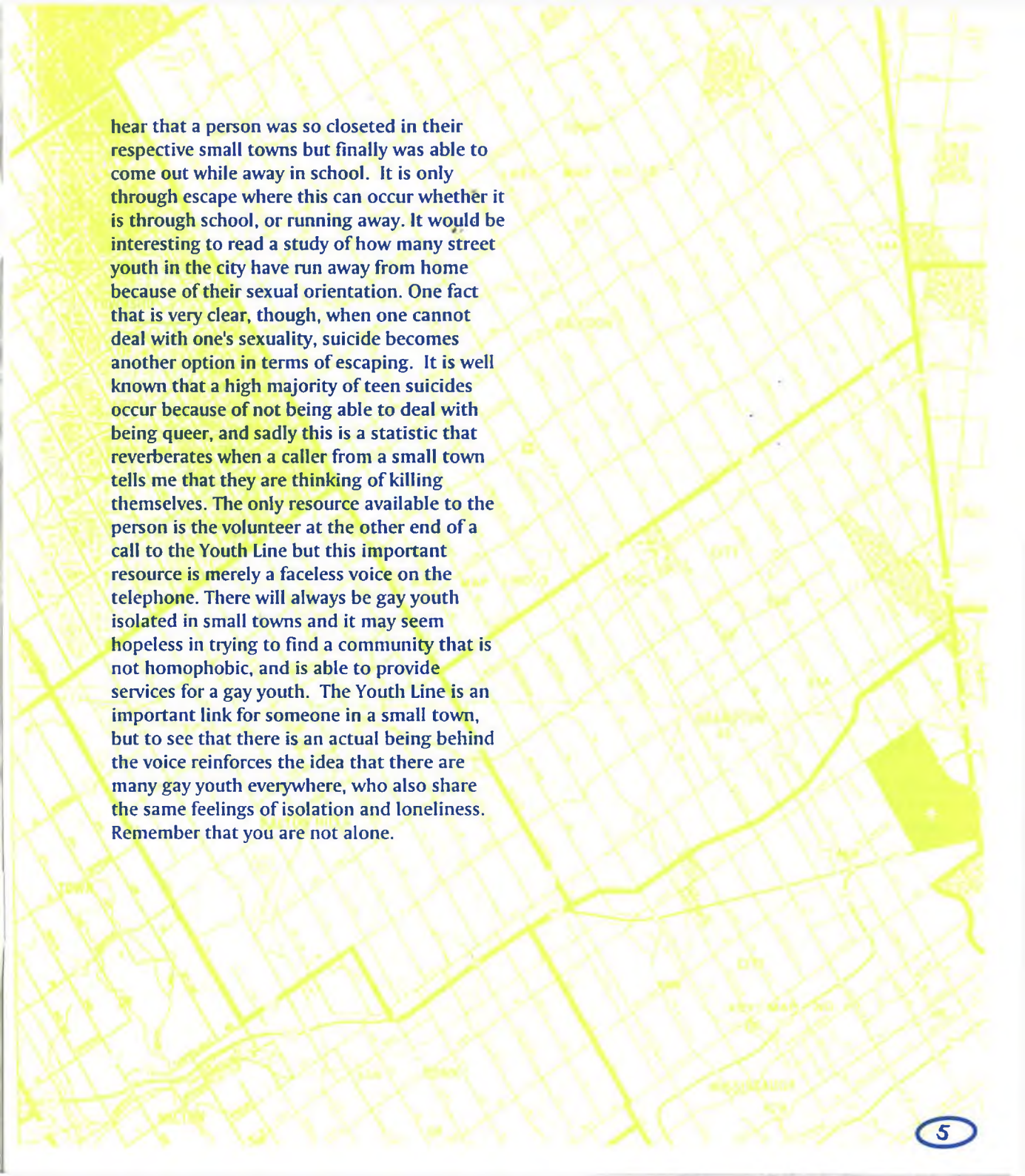
Unfortunately, in many places these resources do not exist and a person living in Small Town, Ontario is left with no one to turn to talk about feelings. Being a gay youth in the city is difficult enough but being a gay youth in a rural setting is a totally different experience all together.

It is not uncommon to hear stories of people who do not come out in their small town for fear of being talked about, ridiculed and rejected by the entire community. There is the fear of shaming the family and not only will people reject the gay person, the family of the gay person may also feel the rejection. Everyone knows each other in towns like this and being gay is probably not something that can easily be kept in the closet once a gay youth is revealed to be gay. There is a tremendous stigma attached to being gay, and I've had callers telling me that they want to run away from the town they live and live in the city where being gay is far more tolerated. People have also said that they have to suppress their feelings and in one case, had to get engaged to a girl so that the people in his town would not be suspicious.

It is quite frustrating to not be able to find a resource for people in small towns in the book of resources that we have at the Youth Line. Since many coming-out groups are in the city, many small town youth must commute to get to these groups. The majority of the time, these youth do not have access to transportation or money to get to these groups so they become trapped in an oppressive situation without a link to a world to which they should belong.

To many, university or college is a way to escape from this situation and it is very common to





hear that a person was so closeted in their respective small towns but finally was able to come out while away in school. It is only through escape where this can occur whether it is through school, or running away. It would be interesting to read a study of how many street youth in the city have run away from home because of their sexual orientation. One fact that is very clear, though, when one cannot deal with one's sexuality, suicide becomes another option in terms of escaping. It is well known that a high majority of teen suicides occur because of not being able to deal with being queer, and sadly this is a statistic that reverberates when a caller from a small town tells me that they are thinking of killing themselves. The only resource available to the person is the volunteer at the other end of a call to the Youth Line but this important resource is merely a faceless voice on the telephone. There will always be gay youth isolated in small towns and it may seem hopeless in trying to find a community that is not homophobic, and is able to provide services for a gay youth. The Youth Line is an important link for someone in a small town, but to see that there is an actual being behind the voice reinforces the idea that there are many gay youth everywhere, who also share the same feelings of isolation and loneliness. Remember that you are not alone.

# Bi by Nature



I think that I was born to be different. I have always stood by that belief and have been proud in my uniqueness. It hasn't been that I have gone out of my way to be distinctive; following the opposite path from those around me out of spite or to make some sort of political statement. It just seemed to work out that way, I guess.

At 25 years old, I have enjoyed a lot of new experiences, been a part of some amazing changes in the world around me, and generally have been pretty much a lover of the gifts of each new day. I have been fortunate that I have been able to taste life, and find it palatable. That was, until I came out a few years ago as a happy-go-lucky bisexual male.

I started off by hitting my straight friends with a "guess what?" a few days before my 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday. The majority of opinion that day was, "Oh, we knew you were something, we just couldn't tell what until you said it!" It became almost a trophy thing for them, which I found grudgingly amusing. Statements like, "Oh, Sam, this is Michael. Guess what? He's Bisexual! Isn't that the coolest? I am so jealous!"

Amusement aside, it was a warm welcome, which I know from my time at the Youth Line is not the norm for youth out there. Though, they had a hard time wrapping their minds around the idea that the day might come when that certain guy would come into my life and I would take the plunge. (No pun intended!)

So it was written, so it was. I met my first gentleman gallant about two months later at work of all places! We started dating and finally came the day for my introduction to the queer community, and all of his close friends. He knew I was bi, I told him straight up, but his friends didn't. He was "sort-of-OK" with it, which had left me puzzled, but I wasn't prepared for his friends' reactions at all.

I had it in my head that I would come into this community, showered with flowers, accompanied by dance and music and find instant acceptance, without any

of the tokenizing of my sexuality that seemed to follow me with my straight friends. I had been well received, until I opened my mouth to the comment, "What a cute gay couple you make," and said, "Well, he's gay, but I'm bi." In that statement, I found one of the surest ways to make enemies in the queer community.

I'm sure many out there have heard, or possibly have used, many of the stereotypes that seemed to have been attached to bisexual men and women. AIDS spreaders, sluts, deceitful, self-centered, confused... The list is longer than my arm. Everyone, from the common person to the media, has created an image from the ice pick wielding maniac to the confused yet destructive thorn of relationships.

I am not here to be a teacher of the true bisexual, thus clearing the myths by forgoing the realities. No one person could rightfully, in good conscience, define the label I fall under. Heck, I haven't met a person who could try to explain their own "label choice" in ten words or less. I've always been a big fan of people who have broken those bonds and refuse to put themselves in a little transparent box for classification.

I, however, am not one of those visionaries. I needed, for sanity sake, to define who I am by creating a foundation: bisexuality. From there, I have been able to follow the path my heart and soul have told me was the one for myself.

I'm not saying that I chose my sexuality; I was born this way, period. Being bi is no more a choice that being straight, gay, transgendered, or many others that we either haven't "labelled" yet, or my limited knowledge has been able to identify.

So, what does this all mean to the world at large? I guess that, above all else, it is an opportunity for me to take pride in being who I am by being open about it. There really isn't a bisexual community. There are a lot of men and women who are afraid to deal with the repercussions of stepping forward and showing their true nature by saying they are gay or lesbian in order to live in peace. They live their lives in secrecy, loving who they love, and shielding the outside world they live in from the knowledge of the person's gender they are currently with, when it doesn't fit their community's standards of acceptance.

Does that make sense to everyone out there? In a community who has lived with hate and suppression for so long, in return, it is doing the same thing to individuals who seem to come in less numbers than itself.



THERE IS HATRED, FEAR, AND IGNORANCE FROM THE OPPRESSORS, AND SELF-HATRED, SHAME, AND FEAR COMING FROM THE VICTIMS. SOUND FAMILIAR?

MAYBE IN SOME STRANGE WAY, THAT DOES MAKE ME A TEACHER, OR AT LEAST A SURVIVOR OF CRUELTY WITH A THICKER SKIN TO FINALLY STAND UP AND SAY, "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!" I'M WILLING TO SHARE WHAT I BELIEVE, IF PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO LISTEN, OR TO READ, AND TO THINK ABOUT IT. HERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT I THINK YOU SHOULD PONDER ON.

YOU MAY FIND A LOT OF BI YOUTH, LIKE MYSELF, DON'T BELIEVE THEY ARE "COMING OUT OF THE CLOSET". FOR MANY OF US, IT WASN'T PRIMARILY ABOUT HIDING OUR TRUE NATURE, BUT ABOUT NOT REALIZING AND/OR EXPLORING OUR COMPLEXITY.

THE WORLD BARELY TEACHES US ABOUT BEING GAY, LET ALONE THAT THERE ARE OTHER SEXUAL IDENTITIES THAT PEOPLE ARE, LIVE AND FEEL. I WAS FIFTEEN WHEN I FINALLY HEARD THE WORD "BISEXUAL" AND IT TOOK EIGHT YEARS TO GET A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT MEANT AND HOW IT AFFECTED ME. DISCOVERING MY NATURE WASN'T ABOUT OPENING ONE DOOR BY SHUTTING ANOTHER, BUT OPENING MORE DOORS WITHIN MY OWN HOUSE.

WHOW! THERE'S TAKING A METAPHOR TO THE EXTREME, HUH!?! TO PUT IT IN HUMAN TERMS, BISEXUALITY, IN MY OPINION, ALLOWS ME TO EXPLORE THE EMOTIONS I FEEL FOR OTHERS DESPITE THEIR GENDER. THE FLESH IS NOT A CONCERN WHEN YOU LOVE A PERSON AS A BISEXUAL INDIVIDUAL, BUT ICING ON THE CAKE TO THAT PERSON'S INNER ESSENCE.

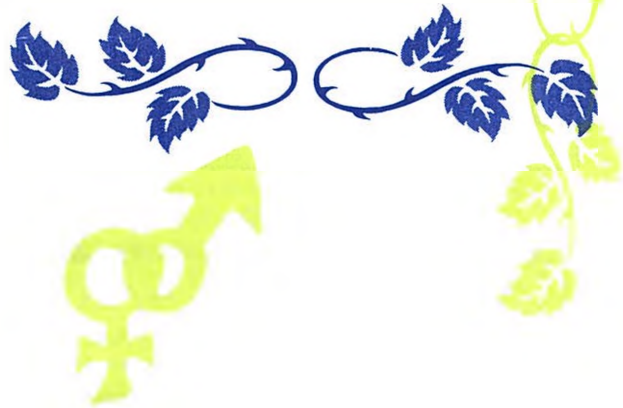
BISEXUALITY DOES NOT MEAN THAT I MUST LOVE BOTH A MAN AND WOMAN TO BE COMPLETE. PURSUING OPEN RELATIONSHIPS IS A LIFESTYLE CHOICE, AND MANY INDIVIDUALS ACROSS THE SEXUALITY SPECTRUM ENJOY THAT FREEDOM. I'M MONOGAMOUS, AS ARE MANY BI MEN AND WOMEN THAT I HAVE ENCOUNTERED OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, AND THAT IS MY PERSONAL CHOICE, SO I LIVE BY THOSE STANDARDS WHEN I AM WITH A PARTNER.

BISEXUAL MEN AND WOMEN ARE PROBABLY AROUND YOU AS YOU ARE READING THIS ARTICLE. IN MY VOLUNTEERING FOR THE QUEER COMMUNITY, I HAVE MET INDIVIDUALS WHO WORK FOR LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL PROGRAMS WHO DON'T FEEL SAFE TO IDENTIFY THEIR BISEXUALITY TO OTHERS. MANY INDIVIDUALS MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO STEP FORWARD FROM THE CONFINES THEY FEEL THEY MUST LIVE UNDER. PEOPLE NEED TO FEEL SAFE IN ORDER TO MAKE LIFE DECISIONS, LIKE ACCEPTING YOUR SEXUALITY.

NOW, LOOK AROUND YOURSELF AND LISTEN WHEN YOU WALK DOWN CHURCH STREET THE NEXT TIME YOU ARE OUT. WHEN AN OPPOSITE SEX COUPLE HOLDS HANDS ON CHURCH, WHAT IS THE GENERAL REACTION? BRING UP THE TOPIC ABOUT

BISEXUALITY WITH FRIENDS AND GAUGE THEIR REACTIONS. RENT A MOVIE WITH A BISEXUAL CHARACTER, SEE HOW THEY ACT OR ARE TREATED. LOOK INSIDE YOURSELF, AND SEE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT IT.

MAYBE I AM OVER-DRAMATIZING THE SITUATION...AND MAYBE I'M NOT.



# Latex & Lube:

## An Interview with James Murray

Outreach Coordinator for the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)

**Q #1: James, I know it may seem obvious, but where should people store their condoms?**

**A:** Keep your condoms in a dry place out of heat or sunlight. Avoid keeping condoms in tight jeans pockets, your wallet, or a glove compartment box. Keep condoms and lube close to your bed, and keep condoms on you whenever you go out clubbing, or on a date.

Find a brand that you like using. Condoms come in different shapes and sizes, so experiment with different brands to see what works best for you. You can use them when you jerk off to practise putting one on.

Condoms can only be used once. Don't forget to check the expiry date.

**Q #2: What advice do you have if the condom breaks during anal sex?**

**A:** As soon as you realize the condom has broken, stop fucking. Take the condom off and throw it out. The 'top' (the guy inserting his dick) should piss and clean his dick to wash out any bacteria.

It's safer if you do not continue fucking, even with a new condom. This is because, if there are any body fluids in the ass of the 'bottom', continued fucking will increase friction in his ass and increase the possibility of HIV transmitting if HIV is present in those body fluids. Do something else. There's lots of other fun, safe ways to get off without fucking.

One of you has to be HIV+ in order for HIV transmission to happen. Know that HIV does not transmit every time. If you are really anxious about what happened, there are free counselors available at the AIDS Committee of Toronto who you can talk to (340-8844).

If you think you might have been exposed to HIV, and you want to know, you can find out by getting an HIV test. One good place to go is the Hassle Free Clinic (922-0603).

**Q #3: Is the 'bottom' or 'top' at greater risk of contracting HIV?**

**A:** A lot of guys feel that if they are the one fucking someone, the 'top', then they can't get HIV. But, that's not true. It is very risky to fuck without a condom whether you are the 'top' or the 'bottom', the guy sticking it in or the guy getting fucked.

It's high risk for both because both create the conditions necessary for HIV transmission to happen:

- ☆ if HIV is present, there is enough HIV in cum or blood to enable transmission
- ☆ the friction during fucking can create abrasions and tears on the penis and on the lining of the ass, so there is the possibility of blood and cum being there and there is a way for HIV to get into either person's blood stream.

**Q #4: How risky is oral sex (sucking someone) for getting HIV?**

**A:** Sucking is a low-risk activity. Low risk means that some guys have gotten HIV through sucking but it is rare. Most guys with HIV got the virus through unprotected fucking. You can make sucking safer:

- ☆ be aware of the condition of your mouth. If you have sores in your mouth, have had recent



dental work, or your gums are sore and red, the risk of getting HIV is higher.

- ☆ Avoid brushing your teeth several hours before and after you have sex.
- ☆ Use a latex condom on his dick before you suck it. There are flavoured condoms available to make this more fun and tasty.
- ☆ Lick the shaft of his dick and his balls, avoiding the head (top) of his dick. HIV is in the cum and pre-cum of someone infected, so avoiding those fluids in your mouth greatly reduces the risk.
- ☆ Avoid cum in your mouth. Ask your partner to let you know when he's going to cum so you can stop sucking and jerk him off to finish.
- ☆ Spit cum out right away. It's safer to get his cum out of your mouth.

**Q #5: Do you have any suggestions to make using a condom less awkward and uncomfortable?**

A: You can make condoms less of a drag by getting used to them. Practise with a condom on your own first. Use a condom for masturbating sometimes. Find a condom that is comfortable for you and that you are familiar with using.

Before you put a condom on make sure your dick (or his dick) is hard. Put a small dab of water-based lube inside the tip of the condom and squeeze the tip as you place the condom over your hard dick. Roll the condom all the way down to the base of your dick. Put lots of water-based lube on your dick and on/in his ass before you start fucking. When you're done fucking, hold the base of the condom to your dick as you take your dick out of his ass. This will ensure that the condom doesn't roll off into his ass by accident. Throw the condom away and wash your hands. Cleaning your hands

before you touch your face can protect you from hepatitis A and parasites.

**Q #6: We often hear guys state that once you are in a relationship you don't need to use condoms. When, if at all is it safe to stop using condoms?**

A: It's easy to feel secure in a relationship. After all, we trust him and we love him. We want to feel close and it can seem silly after awhile to use a condom. Unfortunately some guys feel pressured in a relationship to not use a condom to prove their love. But, it is important to use a condom for fucking, even with your boyfriend, because guys in relationships do get HIV.

If you want to stop using condoms, there are a few things to do first:

- ☆ talk to each other about sex and your relationship. What happens if one of you has sex with someone else? Is that allowed? If not, what happens if one of you makes a mistake? Can he come to the other one and be honest without fear of losing him? You need to understand how each of you feels about sex with other guys, and you need a plan in place in case that happens.
- ☆ Both of you need to be tested for HIV. Then, you need to wait six months without having unprotected sex. Get tested a second time. Once you know the results of these HIV tests you will be better informed to decide if you want to stop using condoms.
- ☆ Re-visit the agreement from time to time. Check in with your partner. Has anything happened to change the agreement? Are you still comfortable with the agreement?
- ☆ If you know the HIV status of yourself and your partner, you can make an informed choice to stop using condoms. Remember,

communication and honesty is the key to keeping both of you safe and healthy, and after all - love and trust is about looking out for yourself and

☆ your partner.

**Q #7: What options are available to guys that have an allergy to latex?**

A: There are a few good options for the partner who has a latex allergy:

First, he can use a natural skin condom on his dick, and then a latex condom over the natural skin condom. Natural skin condoms do not protect you from HIV, so you need to have the second, latex condom as well to provide protection. Be sure and place some lube inside the tip of the latex condom so there isn't too much friction between the two condoms.

Second, the person getting fucked can use the so-called 'female condom'. The female condom is made of polyurethane plastic, not latex, so it is stronger than latex condoms and transmits sensation better. You can use any kind of lubricant with it, too. The female condom does provide protection from HIV. You can place it up your ass before sex and the guy doing the fucking doesn't have to worry about putting anything on his dick. Once you are finished throw the condom out. It's good for one use. You can buy them at drug stores in Toronto, but they are more expensive than regular, latex condoms.

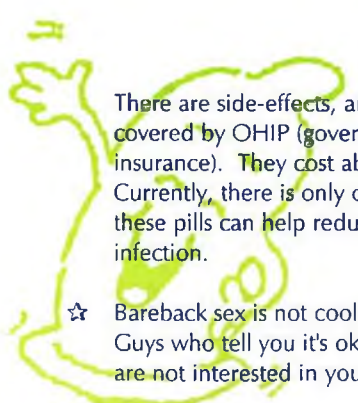
Third, you guys can do lots of other great, hot things to get off together besides fucking. Let your imagination go wild and think of all the hot things you can do to get each other off.

**Q #8: James, do you have any additional info for gay and bi guys that can make sex safer?**

A: There are a few myths that some guys believe that enables them to rationalize having unprotected sex. Do you ever talk yourself out of condoms in the moment you are about to have sex? Here are some facts to remember:

- ☆ Young guys do have HIV. In fact, some studies show that HIV transmission is increasing among young gay and bisexual guys.
- ☆ Guys who look healthy, who seem nice, who dress cool, can have HIV.
- ☆ Guys who tell you they are 'okay' can have HIV. They may have HIV and not know it. They may have HIV and be too afraid of rejection to be honest about it. After all, they're human too! Nobody likes to be rejected.
- ☆ Asking someone if they have HIV is not protection from the virus.
- ☆ Being in a relationship and being in love do not protect you from HIV. The only way a relationship can be protection is if you are both open and honest about the sex you are having (outside the relationship) and you have both been tested, twice.
- ☆ There is no cure for HIV infection. People still die of AIDS. There are treatments that are showing promise. They don't work for everybody and we don't know if they are going to work in the long-term.
- ☆ There is not a pill you can take the morning after unprotected sex to avoid HIV. There is a combination of pills, called Post-exposure Prophylaxis, that some people have tried after they think they might have been exposed to HIV. If you want to get these pills you can try an emergency room or a doctor. You will need to get there as soon as possible, ideally within three hours of having been at risk for the virus. You will need to take the pills for one month.





There are side-effects, and they are not covered by OHIP (government health insurance). They cost about \$1200.00. Currently, there is only one study that showed these pills can help reduce the risk of HIV infection.

- ☆ Bareback sex is not cool, and it's not safe. Guys who tell you it's okay to fuck bareback are not interested in your safety or your health.

Whether or not you have HIV, there are good reasons to fuck with a condom. Condoms protect you from many sexually transmitted infections and HIV. If you want to use condoms but find that sometimes you don't, call the AIDS Committee of Toronto and book an appointment to see a counselor. It's free and confidential. That's what they are there for -YOU.

**ACT Hotline - 340-8844**  
**Hassle Free Clinic - 922-0603**



**Dick Around?**



**S S E T**

# I REMEMBER CORSICA

White Saturday morning sunlight glaring through open shades, the insides of my eyelids flaring red as I turn over and stretch my arm over the spot next to me on the bed. It is empty. I sit up and leaning on my left elbow, rub sleep from tired eyes.

"Good morning," says a young man's voice. Ray is at the foot of the bed, dressed in red cotton boxers and an old white t-shirt covered in faded paint stains and smudged finger prints.

I drop back into bed and watch him. He is sitting on an old wooden stool, its three legs covered with coloured stickers. Balanced on his lap is a sketch-pad, which he scratches in with a stick of charcoal. He glances up at me, and then back down at his page. "You moved," he comments.

"Are you drawing me?" I ask him.

He nods.

"Why?"

"Because you look so peaceful when you sleep." He traces another line, then blows on the page. Charcoal dust flies from the pad and settles on his bare knees, which have grown a shade darker from the charcoal.

"You draw me when I sleep?" I ask.

"I was drawing you while you were asleep. But now you're awake so I suppose I've gotta wait until tomorrow morning," he says. Sun glints off of his lip ring.

"But why draw me when I'm sleeping? I'd be more than willing to pose. If you wanted." My mouth feels dry when I speak.

"Cause it's different when you're awake." He hops off the stool and climbs into bed, his tall frame shadowing over me. He smiles. "I've watched you when you sleep, you're like a completely different person. You just shut down. You curl up, your arms tight at your sides, your legs bent at the knee and



up near your chest. And then your whole body stiffens, which is when you fall asleep. It's really weird after that."

"How?" I ask slipping my arm around Ray and pulling him closer.

"Cause you go into the deepest sleep I've ever witnessed. Your whole body goes limp. And I imagine all of your energy leaving the surface of your body, your skin, traveling into your centre, where it gathers up into a tight little ball, right here," he pokes me in the stomach, then spreads his hand open.

"I didn't know all this happened when I sleep. Maybe I should watch *you* sleep." I whisper into his right ear.

"You can't."

"Why not?"

"You'll be sleeping. And I'll be sketching you." He brushes his lips over mine.

"Well, make sure you make me look good."

"That wont be a problem." He smiles down at me. I crane my head up and kiss him.

"Is that it?" he asks, brushing hair away from my forehead.

"Gotta take a shower first."

"So do I," he says, showing me his charcoal stained fingers. "I guess it'd save us some time if we both took one together, no?"

"I agree. Gotta conserve water."

Then Ray is on his feet and is leading me by the hand out of the room into a cool hall, and an even colder bathroom. But as we strip down and step into the shower, I realize that peacefulness Ray sees is there everytime I'm with him, except it's not in my stomach. It's in my heart.

FIN

## *standing before god*

*"If there is no hope for your salvation, God alone knows that; but if you will never return and serve the Lord, I ask the Lord to take you quickly. I don't want my boy to live for years a life of sin and come to a sinner's grave and stand before God with a mountain of judgment against him.. I'd rather you die young if there is no hope of your salvation."* An excerpt of a letter from my father.

It was Christmas of ninety-seven. I had come out to my parents a year and a half before. But at that time I had bought into the idea that I could change. With enough prayer, with the help of pastors, and friends I could make myself not feel this way. I was sure I could make myself "normal", I just needed to try harder. I pictured myself with a wife and children, out preaching God's Word, saving souls. It was what everyone expected of me. It was what I tried to want for myself. I woke up some mornings half expecting to be suddenly attracted to the girl that sat next to me in church, and repulsed by the guy who lived in the apartment beneath me.

So much had happened in that year and a half. A month after I came out to my parents, I moved three thousand miles away. After a couple of months living with family friends I moved into my own apartment. I spent most of that winter, when I wasn't working or at church, in my apartment writing what I was sure would be a great work on how to overcome homosexuality with the help of God. Yet I realized somewhere during that winter that no matter how many times I went to church, how long I prayed, or how much time I spent studying the Bible, I wasn't changing. In fact, I was becoming lonelier, and more depressed. I remember spending hours, and sometimes an entire day, laying on my bed sobbing and begging God to somehow change me. When I realized that no matter what I did nothing was

changing the situation, I began questioning my faith, and most of all the church's doctrines and beliefs. I felt that I had been born gay for some reason, and God, whomever he/she may be, had a purpose for me. That summer, I came out directly, for the first time, to one of my best friends outside the church. I was amazed when he accepted me as I was. In fact, it made our friendship closer.

*"Your life is yours to live. You are free to chose the path you walk but know that as the prodigal son you're on a dead end road... Mom and I pray daily asking God to save your soul. You were not meant for a life of sin."*

Some people have told me that they think I'm gay as a result of something in my upbringing. Like somehow they had a more straight upbringing than I did, and if I had had their parents I would be just as "normal" as they are. But you know, I can't really think of a more straight childhood than mine. My father was the perfect, upstanding fundamentalist Pentecostal pastor. My mother was a stay at home mom, who on Sundays provided the music for church services at our small church. In fact the realization that there were other people like me, didn't hit me until recently. Even the mention of the word "gay" was taboo in our house. The subject was avoided as much as possible, except to mention how evil homosexuality was and how they all deserved God's judgment. I remember my father saying that all gay people should be sent to an island and killed. Rather a cliched statement to make, but it didn't exactly do wonders for my self-esteem at the time. I was raised with the vision of a nuclear family, Sunday school, prayer, and church several times a week.

As with most gay youth, I knew I was different at a very early age. I always felt isolated from my peers. Even my parents realized that I was different. Of course, they thought I had a special calling from God. I was twelve when I realized what the difference was. I started to withdraw slowly from



the people I had contact with. Usually I stayed at home, in my room, reading, watching movies, or writing. If I felt isolated before this, you can imagine how I felt during this time. Not much changed for about six years. I dropped out of school after my first year of high school, and began doing my courses at home. I also started working at a department store, but I always stayed home except to go to work. The only real contact with people was church, which of course was mandatory in our house, but I didn't feel like doing that either. Finally in the Summer of ninety-six, I knew I had to tell someone what was really bothering me. I went to a youth-evangelist at church and told him. He assured me that I could change, and he told me I should tell my parents.

*"...That's where we are. I was concerned and burdened when I went to prayer. I felt something was wrong but had no way of knowing. The trips to Montreal worried me..."*

I kept going to church for awhile after I came out. I guess I was afraid to give up entirely on that side of my life when I didn't have anything else to fall back on. Eventually I started meeting people, and through them more people, and I soon had a small group of people who supported me. I also started going to Montreal with them. I remember walking into the first gay club I ever went to. I was very uncomfortable, but I also felt for the first time that I was somewhere I belonged. I also started smoking, which is how my parents found out that I wasn't exactly obeying all the church rules. I stopped going to church, I left one night in the middle of service, and walked home in the middle of a snowstorm. I'll probably remember that walk for the rest of my life.

Many things have changed since that night. I have moved again, this time to Toronto. I have met others who have similar pasts. I learned that my family would not always be there, but I also found that there are so many others who will love me unconditionally and support me in my life. I have

also realized that things could be worse, and have come to accept the way things are and work for a better future. I am still learning to forgive my family for the things they say. I know that they only see one side of things. As for religious beliefs, I can't really claim to have any at this time. I believe that whoever made us, made us like this because we are supposed to be this way, and that he/she loves us the way we are.

### Books and Other Info

*Coming Out Within: Stages of Spiritual Awakening for Lesbians and Gay Men*  
Craig O'Neill and Kathleen Ritter Publisher: Harper San Francisco

*Freedom, Glorious Freedom: The Spiritual Journey to the Fullness of Life for Gays, Lesbians, and Everybody Else*  
John J. McNeill Publisher: Beacon Press

*Is the Homosexual My Neighbor?: A Positive Christian Response*  
Letha Dawson Scanzoni, Virginia R. Mollenkott  
Publisher: Harper San Francisco

*On Being Gay*  
Brian McNaught, Publisher: St. Martin's Press

*Prayers for Bobby: A mother's coming to terms with the suicide of her gay son.*  
Leroy Aarons with Mary Griffith Publisher: Harper San Francisco

*Things They Never Told You in Sunday School*  
David Day Publisher: Lavender Press

*Two Teenagers in Twentv: Writings by Gay and Lesbian Youth*  
Edited by Ann Heron Publisher: Boston: Alyson

*We Were Baptized Too: Claiming God's Grace for Lesbians and Gays*  
Marilyn Bennett Alexander and James Preston Publisher: Westminster John Knox Press

\*\*For SUPPORT GROUPS FOR SPIRITUAL GAY YOUTH see page

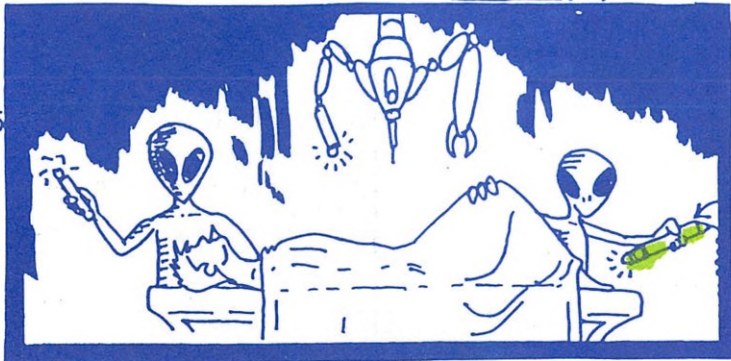


"ANAL PROBING MADE EASY!!"



ABOARD A STRANGE CRAFT IN EARTH ORBIT... :104 033 Mx:

... AN ALIEN ABDUCTION IS IN PROGRESS



NOTE: ANAL PROBE!!



"Hey!.. I hope you guys are gonna put a codornn over that. Cause I wouldn't wanna catch anything!!"

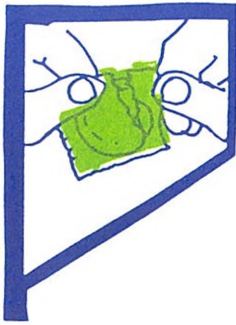


Note: Puzzled!

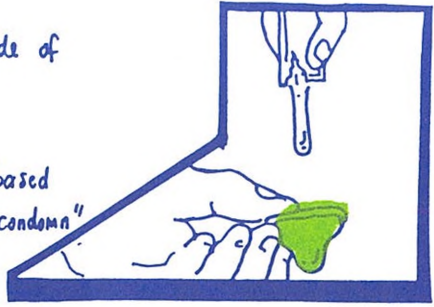


"Here! Lemme show you what I mean..."

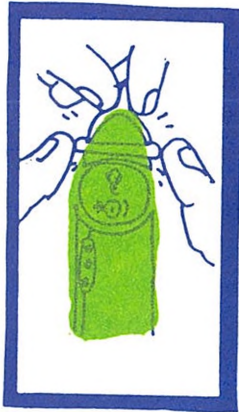




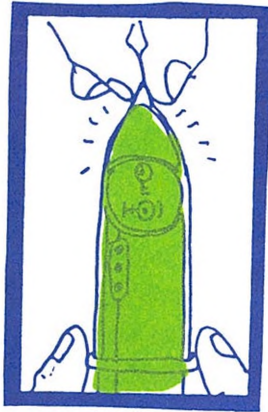
1. Open with care by tearing along side of package.



2. Put a drop of water-based lube into the tip of the condom



3. Pinch air from tip of condom and position over the head of erect penis or in this case, anal probe



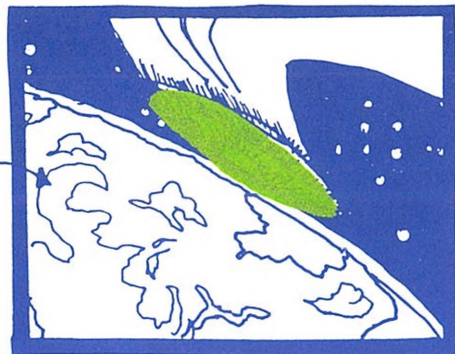
4. Unroll condom all the way down shaft of erect penis (or anal probe.) Then use lots of lube on the outside of the condom.



Note: Alien ready with lubed up anal probe.



ALIEN ABDUCTORS CONTINUE WITH THEIR EXPERIMENTS...



Note: Fluffy clouds.

END...

# COMING OUT ISN'T EASY

I lived near the city square so I can see the fire works from here. I purposely stayed at home and celebrated by myself, for this new year resolution with no one I have the courage to share, because coming out isn't easy. That was December 31, 1997.

Sunday morning 10 a.m. talked with my parents about plans for entertaining visiting friends and family in the summer. All this time rehearsing my part in my mind. Monday April 27<sup>th</sup>, viewed apartments in the city, I liked the Victorian style house in the Annex because of the historical architecture and the attic above the bedroom on the upper floor. All this time rehearsing my part in my mind. Tuesday I left work early, 3:30 p.m. I am at home, I pace through the hallway, I move to the kitchen, "...maybe I should tell them in here." I can never set the perfect stage, so I move to the sitting room. "I think it's better to tell them in here." All this time rehearsing my part in my mind.

Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1998. 1:20 a.m. I rehearse silently in front of the bathroom mirror. "I think I will tell them first thing before breakfast." Later, 6:15 p.m.

collected boxes. Mother: "What are you going to do with all these boxes?" Me, fumbling for words: "Oh I am keeping these

for a friend." Mother: "And the ones already in the garage, for the same friend?" Me: "Yah!" Thursday, 6:30 a.m. my four brothers and two sisters and I joined Mama and Papa at the breakfast table. Mother: "Yu, what doctor Stan said about the cramps in your stomach?" Me: "Maybe it might related to stress." Mother: "I could have told you that, you have been a workaholic since the new year started. Are you saving money to buy an engagement ring for some one? You know I don't like surprises." Choking on a piece of half chewed toast I left the kitchen.

Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, while at work I hear my mother's voice, "You know I hate surprises." My father's continuous religious values and the need for loyalty to the family relationship and the power of the family name keeps holding me back. Or is it shame? Yet all this time rehearsing my part in my mind. Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1998 the news paper boy throws the paper against the front door. It is 8 a.m., Mama has made coffee, she joins Papa who is reading the



news paper in the TV room. I am ready now, feeling my pressure points pounding, my heart pounding heavy, very heavy, blood a little cold, armpits are wet, very wet, throat dry. I take my position, Papa turns the newspaper page, it makes a very loud noise, the sound of a whip striking an object, but it gives me my cue. For the final time I rehearse my part before saying it aloud to that critical audience.

"Mama, Papa, this is not easy, but you must know the pain you will feel will disturb me. I have always lived your life, the truth is I have lived a lie, cause I have a love that you will not approve of, this love is real, deep inside me. Coming out isn't easy. I look back at the love you gave me, the counseling, discipline to keep me holy, I wonder if it was in vain or is my life style merely human. Every day of my life has been a mystery, questions asked, answers lost, am I crazy? I block my mind out in disbelief but tears pour out and comfort me, you must know this is the real me." "What are you steering at?" ask mother, "Do you need the sports section?" Me: "The sports section?"

Sunday morning 2:10 a.m face hanging down from the foot of my bed, pillow clutch to my face, silent screams, tears seeping through, all this time rehearsing my part in my mind and thinking of the pyrotechnics to follow if the family finds out I am GAY.



BY: YU

# Support In

## SUPPORT IN DOWNTOWN TORONTO

### Central Toronto Youth Services - Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Program:

The program also offers individual counselling and professionally facilitated psychoeducational/support groups for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth 25 and under. We have separate groups for males and females.

CTYS is located at 65 Wellesley St. East on the 3rd floor at the corner of Church Street in Toronto.

Contact: Intake Co-ordinator at (416) 924-2100 between 9am -5pm or via e-mail: lgbyctys@interlog.com

### Lesbian, Gay Bi Youthline

Peer support phone line staffed by lesbian, gay and bisexual youth volunteers. Operates 7 Days a week from 3 pm to 11 pm.

962-9688 for local callers (Metro Toronto)

1-800-268-9688 for long distance callers only

### Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth Toronto (LGBYT):

A peer - led support and social group for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth 15 to 25.

Meets Tuesdays from 7:30 pm -10 pm and Saturdays from 1:00 pm -3:00 pm at 519 Church Street Community Centre.

Contact: (416) 925-9872 ext. 2880, or c/o 519 Church Street Community Centre at (416) 392-6874.

### Lesbian Youth Peer Support (LYPS):

A peer-led group for lesbian and bisexual women up to 25.

Contact: c/o 519 Church Street Community Centre at (416) 392-6874.

### Lesbian and Gay Student Support Group (Queer Peers):

A support group for lesbian/gay students in Toronto Board Schools, run in conjunction with Delisle Youth Services.

Contact: Steve Solomon at (416) 397-3752.

### Positive Youth Outreach:

A peer support group for young people living with HIV.

Contact: (416) 921-3808.

### Asian Lesbian-gay-bisexual Peer Support Service (ALPSS):

Provides services in Chinese, English, Tagalog and Vietnamese. Services include: one-to-one peer counselling; support groups on coming out, family and relationship issues; and drop-in peer counselling Tuesdays 5 - 9pm & Sundays 2 - 6pm at 33 Isabella St. Suite 107, Toronto. Buzz 526.

Contact: (416) 920-ALPS (2577).

### Jewish Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Support & Social Group:

Weekly meetings, Tuesdays 6-8 pm. Bloor JCC, 750 Spadina Rd. Room 212.

Contact: Nurit at (416) 961-9344 or

Recorded info (416) 925-9872 ext. 2114

### Stark Ravina Mad:

Alcohol and drug-free events for lesbigay youth under 30, sponsored by the Youth Substance Abuse Program (Y.S.A.P.) at the YMCA, 45 Charles St. East, Toronto.

Contact: Crystal, Farzana or Linda at (416) 515-1917.

### Camping Out:

Camping out runs wilderness and adventure-based life skills and support programs for non-heterosexual youth, their friends and children of lesbians and gays. The programs are designed to help young people (ages 14-21) dealing with issues of sexual orientation to face, with confidence, the extraordinary challenges of their daily lives. Programs are year-round with most intake in the spring/summer.

Contact: Peg or Michelle (416) 340-7476; e-mail:

campout@web.net or check out their web-site:

www.web.net/~campout

## SUPPORT OUTSIDE DOWNTOWN TORONTO

### Durham Youth Triangle:

Social/educational group for lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, up to 25 years of age, living in the Durham Region. Meets twice per month.

Contact: Shawn Hall at (905) 728-8553.

### Lesbian, Gay, & Bisexual Youth in Peel:

Peer discussion and support groups.

Mississauga group meets Tuesdays from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the Square One Youth Centre.

Brampton group meets Wednesdays from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the Rotary House, 145 Main St. South.

Contact: (416) 925-9872 ext. 2142.

### York Region Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Support Group:

A support group for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth 26 and under. Meets first and last Monday of every month 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm.

Contact: 1-800-268-YOUTH or (416) 962-YOUTH or York Region Public Health Department at (905) 940-1333 or 1-800-461-2135.



# The G.O.T.A.

## East Metro Youth Services & Scarborough Board of Education:

Drop-in group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth in Scarborough.

Contact: Sandra Rennie at (416) 438-3697 ext. 247 or ext. 600.

## North York Support Group for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth:

Run out of the North York Board of Education every Tuesday evening from 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm.

Contact: Jan Creelman at (416) 395-4286.

## Mississauga Lesbian & Gay Peer Student Support Group:

Support group for youth 25 and under. Meets at Hwy 10 & Dundas.

Contact: (416) 925-9872, ext. 2189 or Joanne (416) 569-0529.

## Burlington Group - "Fun & Esteem Project":

Sponsored by the Hamilton AIDS Network and the Halton Regional Health Department AIDS Project, this is a casual drop-in group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth. It meets every first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Contact: 1-800-563-6919 ext. 50, or (905) 528-0207 (if you live in Burlington).

## SUPPORT FOR SPIRITUAL GAY YOUTH

### GLORY (Gay and Lesbian Organization for Spiritual Youth)

A small informal group for youth under 25, dealing with issues of Christianity and coming out. Meets every other Friday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Contact: Russell Walker at (416)694-9041 or Sam at (416)284-9127

### MCCT Youth Group

A support group for youth 14 to 25 who are coming out, and dealing with issues of sexuality and spirituality. Meets every other Wednesday at MCCT, 115 Simpson Avenue.

Contact: Philip at (416)406-6228

### Christos M.C.C.:

They offer an open Church service, spiritual counselling and education, and are in the process of establishing a program for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth.

Contact: Pastor Susan Mabey at (416) 925-7924, or Sandi Mansfield at (416) 975-9103.

## COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY GROUPS

These groups may provide only social support or group support to students at their respective institutions.

### The Coalition of Jewish Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Students at York University:

Provides services for Jewish gay, lesbian and bisexual students within the Jewish community.

Contact: Jewish Student Federation at (416) 736-5179.

### Bisexuals, Gays and Lesbians of Ryerson (BGALORI):

Support and social events open to students or non-students. Weekly meetings held Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, Rm. L162, Jorgenson Hall, Ryerson.

Contact: (416) 979-5000 Ext. 7527, or *RyePride* at (416) 925-9872 ext. 2129.

### Seneca College LGB Club:

Newnham Campus, Rm. 3142H.

Contact: (416) 925-9872 ext. 2207.

### Transgendered, Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay Alliance at York University:

Providing support, referrals, social, political and educational programs.

Contact: (416) 736-2100 ext. 20494.

### Freedom Alliance of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals & Friends of Scarborough College:

Contact: (416) 925-9872 ext. 2105.

### Glendon's Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance:

Meets Tuesdays at 12:30 at the Women's Centre, Rm. D124, Hilliard Residence, Glendon.

Contact: Amanda or Jill at (416) 736-2100 ext. 88197.

### Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgendered of U of T:

Support group & social events.

Contact: (416) 925-9872 ext. 2041.



# Painting My World in Purple

Many moons ago, I lived in a land called The Closet. Here, I was sheltered from reality by my internalized homophobia and my misperceptions of the Queer community. I was kept in tune and in touch with that world by the straight media. I saw images of gays and lesbians and rejected the idea of me being one of "them" because the media did not portray images of people like me, but rather a community that epitomized flamboyance and decadence.

Ingrained in my head were articles of images of Pride Day celebrations, particularly of the Gay Pride parade. In The Closet, images of drag queens, leather men, and effeminate, loose-wrist, lispng men invaded my television screen and the local newspapers. I sat, watched, and rejected this lifestyle because I did not identify as being any of the above mentioned images.

Ironically, in The Closet, the media became my outlet and source of truth to the outside world bombarding me with negative, biased propaganda concerning the gay and lesbian community. Coming out of The Closet, I found myself encountering all the images that the media had shown, but also, I discovered a vast diverse community, which was a shocking but pleasant surprise. As I watched my first Gay Pride parade, I saw the drag queens. I saw the leather men. I saw the effeminate, loose wrist, lispng men. But what I was also able to see were gays, lesbians and bisexuals who were -dare I say it-ordinary!

When I was in The Closet, ordinary and average did not belong in the vernacular of the straight media. As I think back in retrospect, it seems unfortunate that the images I saw as a closet queer were also the same images that the naive, ignorant, and/or bible-thumping straight world saw. These are images, which aid in the justification of their homophobia. This is not to say that drag queens and leather men are negative, but rather the media's deluded, one-dimensional portrayal is. As I mentioned earlier, the queer community is diverse and varied encompassing many peoples and many sub-cultures. Pride day is a day to celebrate this diversity.

As we celebrate the different colours of our queerness, the straight media has unabashedly mixed our paints into one bucket, and thrown the paint onto the faces of the rest of the world. The colour they have mixed together is puce, a colour that is not the least flattering to us nor admired by others. How appropriate it is to have the rainbow flag as one of the symbols of our community. The different colours of the flag are analogous to the different colours of our queerness.

If the straight media could view the world as I saw it during my first Pride Day, the images broadcast and painted would be endless, since the variety within our community is just that endless! Along with the drag queens and the leather men, one would see volunteers of the Lesbian Gay Bi Youth Line leading that parade, or the parents and friends of PFLAG proudly marching with the queer children. These are the images that should be included but are never shown. How about the pictures of a lesbian couple being dragged around by their toddlers? Or coverage of the two gay men who proudly wore shirts that bore "30 Years Together and Proud"? What about the people living with AIDS in their wheelchairs, who are the epitome of courage and strength? These are the images that should also be included by the media because these are the ones that help in legitimizing us as normal people and not social cultural anomalies.

It is still positive for the media to portray the more flamboyant images of the community because they are identifiable and distinct to Queer culture. It may sound cliché, but for the outside world to better understand and accept us for whom we are, the media must become artists. To paint the most life-like and realistic portrait they must use the entire colour palette.

Ariel P. Vente





## Positively Living!

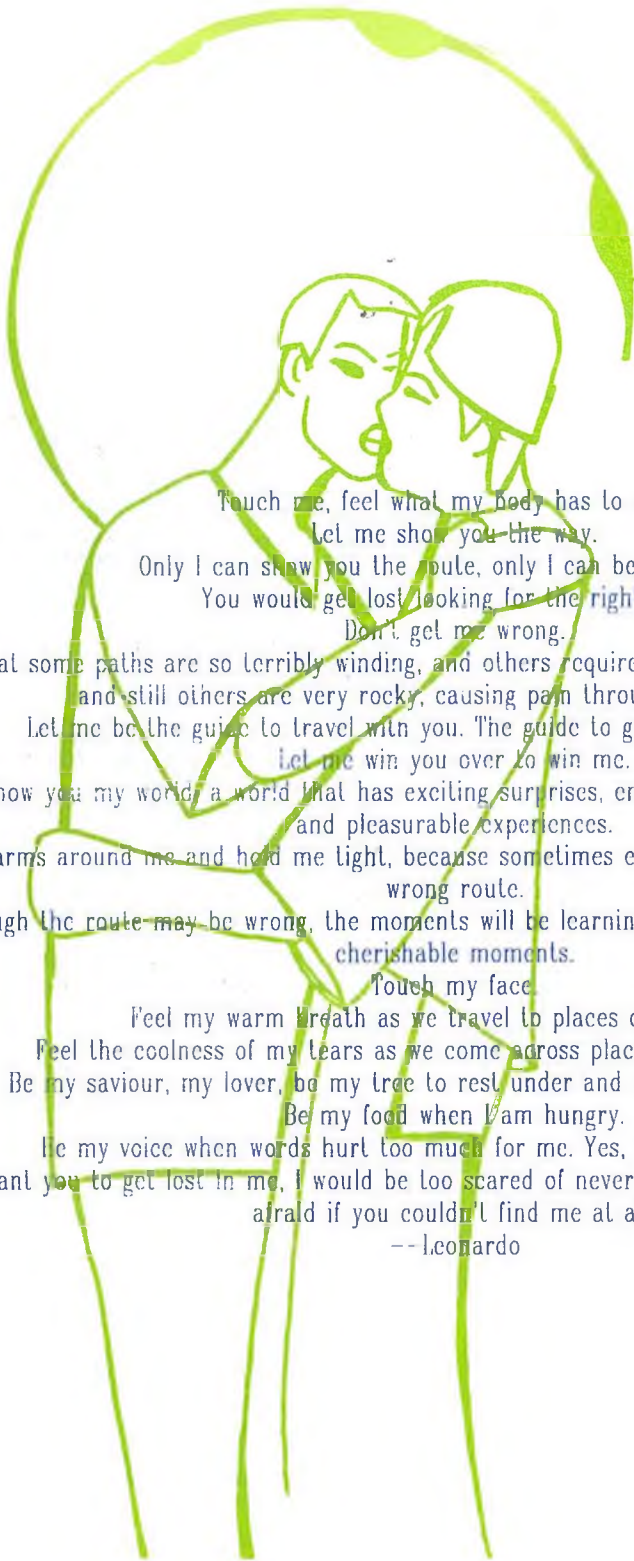
I was 18 and found out you were HIV+, what would you do? You may think I know what your answer would be. Trust me you don't! At 18 I had dreams of living home and going to university and eventually becoming some hot-shot lawyer. Those dreams fizzled away the minute I heard the words, "You're HIV+." Barely anybody knew that I was gay and some of the people that did, didn't react very well, so how was I going to tell them about this?

I started to blame myself. I guess it was only natural. What if I had been a better person? What if I wasn't gay? But the truth is that being gay or being a "better" person has absolutely nothing to do with being HIV+. I also thought that I had had my share of shit happen to me in my life so why was this happening to me. I've had my fair share of shit happen to someone else. Some things you just can't explain.

My family took it horribly and my boyfriend never wanted to talk about it. Friends were what kept me strong. They treated me like they did before and some of them kept on getting good marks, doing volunteer work and taking care of his grandmother while dealing with HIV.

That fall I left for university, but not to study. God knows that I wouldn't be alive and I did everything that I wasn't able to living at home. I partied, I drank, and I did lots of different drugs. That was my way of dealing with being HIV+ in a new city where I knew no one. That was my chance to blend in. At the end of my first year of university I was going to be kicked out. I convinced the university to wipe out my year as if I was never there. I got a doctor's note stating that I was severely depressed. That was true.

Getting away from home gave me time to deal with what I had. I've stopped seeing myself as the disease and as someone living with a disease. I never thought I would live to be 21 and once I passed it my whole outlook changed. I realized that I am going to live. Live a long life. But realization hit hard. It meant cutting down on partying, cutting out the drugs, and cutting the drinking to a total minimum. The other big change I made was cleaning out my life. I mean, I stopped hanging around "high-maintenance" people. People who just suck the life out of you. I now have a handful of friends that I share everything with and we all take care of each other. What I find strange is that I probably the strongest one.



Touch me, feel what my body has to offer.

Let me show you the way.

Only I can show you the route, only I can be your guide.

You would get lost looking for the **right** path.

Don't get me wrong.

It's just that some paths are so terribly winding, and others require you to carry such a heavy burden,  
and still others are very rocky, causing pain throughout your body.

Let me be the guide to travel with you. The guide to guide you, to guide me.

Let me win you over to win me.

Let me show you a world, a world that has exciting surprises, enchanting dreams, exotic fantasies  
and pleasurable experiences.

Put your arms around me and hold me tight, because sometimes even I have been known to take the  
wrong route.

Although the route may be wrong, the moments will be learning experiences and maybe even  
**cherishable moments.**

Touch my face.

Feel my warm breath as we travel to places of familiarity.

Feel the coolness of my tears as we come across places of complete chaos.

Be my saviour, my lover, be my tree to rest under and my cloud when I dream.

Be my food when I am hungry.

Be my voice when words hurt too much for me. Yes, I want you to be me.

I don't want you to get lost in me, I would be too scared of never finding you, but I would be more  
afraid if you couldn't find me at all.

--Leonardo



# The Truth About Treatment

## 1. *How important is starting treatment after testing HIV positive?*

There are two schools of thought about treatment. Some researchers argue that it is very important to start on a treatment plan as soon as a person tests positive to eliminate or reduce the viral load. When a person's viral load increases, the greater the chances are of developing AIDS quicker. Other people argue that it is not essential to start treatment early because a person's viral load can remain low for several years, therefore why would a person start treatment when their viral load may be low for 4 to 5 years or more.

## 2. *What exactly is a cocktail?*

A cocktail is a combination of 2-3 or more anti-viral drug treatments that a person would be on. It is not recommended that a person use only one anti-viral drug as the virus will become resistant to the drug, and therefore be ineffective. Optimal drug-therapy would include three or more anti-retrovirals.

## 3. *What are the different treatments available in Canada?*

There are two types of anti-viral drug therapy treatments approved, and several other drugs are available through special access programs. Some of them are reverse transcriptase inhibitors and protease inhibitors. In addition to these drugs, vitamins, minerals, balanced diet, exercise and good rest are important. Alternative medications such as herbs and different tea are believed to have positive affects.

## 4. *Is there a typical treatment regime (dosage, side effects)?*

Prescriptions vary from medication to medication. One person may only have to take their medication twice daily, while another person may need to take

their medication three times a day. In addition, some drugs need to be taken with food, some do not. There is a variety of restrictions, depending on the type and/or combination of drugs a person is on.

## 5. *How effective are these treatments?*

The effectiveness of treatment varies. Approximately 50% of people on a drug therapy treatment have had success, meaning they were able to sustain their viral load below 500. This success rate has meant that the death rates for people with HIV have decreased. However, there are still many people that do not benefit as much from the cocktail treatment and therefore develop AIDS quicker.

## 6. *Is it possible to take the same treatment for 10-15 years?*

It is too early to tell whether it is possible or not. Some people have been taking cocktails for a couple of years and it has proven to be effective.

## 7. *Is it harmful if a person forgets/misses a few dosages?*

When a person misses a dose, it may allow the virus to replicate or mutate, and become resistant to the treatment. If this occurs, that particular drug combination will no longer be effective.

## 8. *What impact does recreational drug use have on treatment?*

Because "street drugs" are illegal pharmaceutical companies do not test for negative consequences they may or may not have on treatment. Researchers believe that when a person combines both a cocktail and street drugs they compete with each other to make it through the organs. There have been a few cases where people have overdosed by combining ecstasy with their treatment drugs.

## 9. *What are specific issues that youth may be faced with that adults may not in deciding to get on a treatment program?*

Youth often lead very busy and hectic lives which make following a strict treatment regimen difficult. They tend to also be involved in activities that require

them to have a lot of energy. As mentioned earlier, a healthy diet and rest are important for a person with HIV, which may be difficult for youth. The younger a person begins treatment the earlier a persons body is exposed to the drugs, and it is uncertain how effective treatment will be through the years. Also, the long-term effects might be different for youth than for older adults.

**10. What are some important messages for youth about treatment?**

While beneficial treatments are available, they are not a picnic. HIV/AIDS is still a serious illness. Do not be fooled into thinking that viral treatments are simple, because they are not. It is not glamorous to have HIV/AIDS. There are numerous side effects that people experience while on viral treatment like headaches, nausea, diarrhea, kidney or liver problems, weight gain/loss to list a few. Don't think that someone who is having good results from treatments has been cured of AIDS or is no longer able to transmit HIV to others, they can.

**Interview with Ralph Wushke (CATIE).  
Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange  
In Toronto: (416) 944-1916, Elsewhere: 1-800-263-1638**

**NEW!**

**GROUPS ABOUT...  
DATING, SEX & RELATIONSHIPS**

A series of discussion groups for gay and bi guys.  
A series of 3 groups will occur @ CTYS, starting in July '98.  
Two more groups will follow in Fall '98 & Feb. '99!  
**CALL: (416) 924-2100 for more info.**  
E-mail: [lgbyctys@interlog.com](mailto:lgbyctys@interlog.com)



# perfect sex

by Martin Aeternum

*When it comes to sex, men are animals.*

*From the first time you see that person of your desire to now, sex is a constant on the mind of just about any guy. When you listen to people talk, sex is the predominant issue at hand. I'm sure you've walked down the street and had someone check you out, smile, glance or even stare.*

*Depending who the person is, you can be anywhere from annoyed to enticed. We always feel this way, but why? Sex is an animal instinct. In most cases this is usually a rationale for the act. Other animal instincts include killing, gallivanting in the nude and going to the washroom in public areas. Will we allow ourselves to be brought down? People are rational. Animals are not. There is always the choice to have sex or not to have sex. In animals it is almost a mechanical action which cannot be stopped whatsoever. I know this may sound a little like fundamental-religiousism. It's not. Let's take a look at why.*

*In my last paper, "On Human Sexuality," my research proved that relationships which begin in sexual intimacy have a 90% chance of failing within the first few months. Relationships that moved "slowly" with a center based on caring for the other person, growing and developing with each other and "wholesome" activities had a 60% chance of lasting greater than a year. Now this 60% might seem dissuading, but*

*think of people you have dated in the past. Some people were just wrong to begin with. Research also suggests that people who approach others with sex on their mind are more likely to cheat on that person should a relationship beyond sex develop at all. Complications are also likely to arise from other various things as well. That is not to say, however, that this will always be the case -there is always that 10% chance. If you're not one of those people who can go a night without sex, think about this. Most men find it more pleasurable to have sex in the openness of romanticism. Foster that relationship, build the flame between that special someone. When it comes time to have that special night, use candles, a bottle of wine, some strawberries and move romantically into it. Building up to sex is one of the most romantic things that can build the bridge between two people. If you can't afford a private secluded evening, there are always things like sitting by the lake, watching the moon glitter over the water. Look into your lover's eyes and notice how the water reflects the moon into his eyes. Spend the night as children of the moon. Enjoy yourself, and never forget that one of the biggest things of waiting is the safety. When you really know someone, it's much better than someone you just found at the club. Romance can provide some of the best sex you could possibly imagine. Give it a try.*

[Ed.'s Note: Some of the stats mentioned above might be questionable. First night sex may not be the downfall of relationships. Think about what you desire and then go for it!]

## *NOTES ON TALKING WITH YOUR PARTNER ABOUT SAFER SEX*

So you've met a really hot guy and you've been dating for a while, or it's a one-night stand. How do you negotiate safer sex? Well....it is not always easy, and there is certainly no manual that you can follow. However, here are few tips for you to consider when talking to a partner about sex.

If a guy does not want to use condoms (for whatever reason) then you might want to ask yourself, does this guy really care about my health or his own health and safety. Chances are he doesn't! If he really cared about you, why would he want to put both of you at risk or do something you're not comfortable with?

There is a wide range of sexual activities that two guys can do, besides just sucking and fucking (that's not to say they aren't fun too). Safer sex is a lot more than just using condoms and lube. It is about making choices. It about taking care of yourself and the person your having sex with while exploring a wide range of activities that turn you on. Remember that the biggest sex organ that any guy has is between his ears, not his legs. Your brain is the most powerful sex organ...so use it, be creative! We've all heard its not what you've got, but its how you use it. Think about different ways to talk about sex....be playful, humorous, enticing, erotic, honest and speak from the heart. Whatever works for you is what matters.

Although this might sound simplistic, knowing your limits, and what your comfortable doing and not doing sexually helps. Only you can decide what's right for you, nobody else. Don't let someone else decide what's right or healthy for you. Thinking about this stuff before you are in a situation might make negotiating easier. Talking with your friends about sex, guys, relationships, a one night stand etc., can help you decide for yourself your limits and help you practice talking about what you want. Thinking ahead of time about how you can negotiate sex can make it easier too. Are there things that you wouldn't be comfortable doing on a one night stand that you would do in a relationship? For example, I won't fuck if it is a one night stand.

Be honest and open about how you feel about sex when your getting to know someone. In addition, remember that sex is supposed to be fun and pleasurable for both people. Knowledge is power! If you have questions or concerns about safer sex or negotiating, use the services listed in this zine. The people that work in these places care about your health.

-Dale



# Testing, Testing, 1-2-3...

...and some info on STD's

An interview with Rob Teixeira  
of the Hassle Free Clinic.

## ***What are the Services the Hassle Free Clinic provides?***

We provide a full range of STD testing, treatment and prevention as well as anonymous HIV testing with pre and post-test counselling. We also offer both of these services in some bathhouses.

## ***Who are the staff at the Hassle Free Clinic?***

We have doctors, nurses, counsellors, paramedics and social workers on staff.

## ***What is the atmosphere like at the Hassle Free Clinic?***

The staff work hard to provide an sensitive and warm atmosphere. The philosophy of Hassle Free is to be informal and non-judgmental about what clients tell us and to ensure strict confidentiality. We have a long-standing reputation as a very progressive clinic that has lots of experience working with gay and bi men both treating and dealing with concerns around STD's and anonymous HIV testing.

## ***Does Hassle Free serve a lot of youth?***

Generally the majority of youth are mid to late 20's. We don't see a lot of teens but we certainly welcome more young guys to access our services.

## ***Now, down to some questions about STD's and HIV testing. How can a person tell if they have gonorrhoea or chlamydia?***

Urethritis is an infection of the inner lining of the penis. The two most frequent types are gonorrhoea and chlamydia. Gonorrhoea is a bacteria that causes symptoms in 2-6 days. Chlamydia is a bacteria-like organism and takes about 7-21 days. Symptoms can be burning when urinating; discharge that can be white, yellow or clear; itching sensation inside the head of the penis. Antibiotics will cure both of these infections. Condoms will prevent transmission of the gonorrhoea or chlamydia if used properly.

## ***What exactly is herpes, and how is it contracted?***

Two related viruses, herpes simplex 1, and herpes simplex 2 cause herpes. Symptoms of herpes are blisters, or sores, that are often itchy or painful. They appear 2-20 days on the part of the body that met the infection. The sores start to heal within a week, but can take several weeks to disappear.

You can get herpes by having direct contact with the herpes sores. Usually it is not contagious if there are no sores, but there have been a few people that contracted herpes although the infected person had no visible sores.

## ***What STD's can a person get from rimming?***

It is possible to contract Hepatitis A, B, and parasites. Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. Symptoms can include: flu-like symptoms, dark urine, pale-coloured stool, yellow coloured skin and eyes, pain in the right upper side of the abdomen. Hepatitis A

can be contracted through rimming, but also by contaminated water or food. Hepatitis B is generally found in the blood, semen, and saliva. It can be contracted if someone else's infected blood or semen gets into your blood stream. It is possible to get Hepatitis B through unsafe anal sex, or if get semen in your mouth. Intestinal parasites can be contracted the same way as Hepatitis A. There is no treatment for hepatitis.

**Can a person be vaccinated against Hepatitis A, B, and C?**

Vaccines are available for Hepatitis A and B. The hepatitis A vaccine is two injections over six months, and hepatitis B is three injections over six months. Hepatitis B vaccine is free in Ontario for those people at risk (gay/bisexual guys). The hepatitis A vaccine must be purchased.

**When should a person be tested for HIV?**

It is recommended that if a person has multiple sexual partners, or has engaged in risky or unsafe sex (anal intercourse without a condom). If a person has had unsafe sex, they have to wait for three months before the HIV virus can be detected in the blood stream. A person should feel prepared and have support in case they test HIV positive.

**What would be a person's reason for being tested for HIV on a regular basis?**

People get tested for a number of reason's, but mostly it is because they want some reassurance that they are HIV negative or they have a regular partner that is HIV +, so they get tested every 6 months. Guys should remember that HIV does nothing to prevent HIV, so they should always look at their behaviours to ensure they don't become infected.

**How does someone get an HIV test at Hassle Free?**

It's very simple. All they have to do is call and make an appointment. Usually they only have to wait a week for an appointment.

**Oh, yeah and what about getting checked out for STD's?**

All guys have to do is drop by our Clinic during Men's Clinic hours. We also have a variety of info sheets about various STD's in our waiting room.

**Men's Clinic Phone # : (416) 922-0603**

**Hassle Free Clinic Locale:**

**556 Church Street 2nd floor**

(up the stairs, down the hall and to the right)

**Men's Clinic Hours:**

Mon & Wed.....4pm - 9pm

Tues & Thurs.....10am - 3pm

Fridays.....4pm - 7pm

Saturdays.....10am - 2pm





# LABEL YOU -- LABEL ME

BIRTH  
MALE FEMALE  
ETHNIC CAUCASION  
INTELLEAGENT AVERAGE STUPID  
HOMOSEXUAL BI-SEXUAL STRAIGHT  
RIC MIDDLE-CLASS POOR  
ETC... ETC... ETC...  
DEATH

These are just a few examples of labels we may often visually see.

I am sure most of us have a general understanding of what the word label means. Most of us may have begun, or refined our own definition to suit our lifestyles. A definition that can and does change as often and as frequently as we choose fit.

Labels can be found on almost every article of clothing, entertainment, and lifestyle. We publicize labels throughout the media, in our schools, through our upbringing, and our social interaction.

We often live by or for labels. However, we may not always realize what the (self) limitations and suppressions are that can and may be associated with many of our 'social labels'.

In a broader view of our society, ask yourself a few questions:

*What roles does a mom 'generally' portray?*

*What separates us from using a common bathroom?*

*What sex 'generally' builds, and what sex 'generally' decorates?*

As a child I was often labeled as a 'fag'. I can even look back throughout my years and notice my 'feminine' qualities. While the other boys played soccer, I could be found jumping rope. While the other boys found entertainment

through catching frogs and grass hoppers, I could be found preparing a home cooked meal. They labeled me 'gay' because I chose another venue rather than the 'typical masculine role'.

When I moved out of the city, and farther north to a new environment, I found that the same label had also moved with me. At the age of seventeen, I was 5'9 weighed 220lbs, and was a very unhygenic person. I dreaded going to classes and disliked walking throughout our cramped halls between periods.

I had a difficult time using the bathroom when my peers were in there because I was afraid rumours would fly. When I would join a group of males smoking in the bathroom, I would often hear a comment being thrown in my direction. Not only was I labeled for being gay, I was also labeled as a pervert.

These same labels made it difficult for me to participate in gym. I was afraid that and body contact with another guy would confirm their already rising suspicions. Getting changed would have had to be the most difficult part of gym. I would try to find an excuse to go in as late as possible so that most of the guys would already be changed and out.

This affected my social life as well. I was the clumsy, overweight, dopey, third wheel, kind of guy; at times that's what I saw myself as. I would drink beer like a fish and eat anything and everything.

When I first stepped into Colby's, my first gay bar, I truly felt at peace. My first words (to myself) were, 'This is where I belong. My suffering was for this. It's for my new life and my new world.' I was home. I was at a place where other people like me were labeled as 'fags'. As I heard the door close behind me, I realized that this world and this life of mine was to always be enjoyed in this box.

I visited every chance I could. I went during the week and on weekends. I celebrated many holidays among the rest of the people who were labeled and sealed into this box of ours. I would lie to my friends about where I was going. With the help of society I labeled Colby's as my happiness, and I didn't care about what went on with the world outside because I was safe in this labeled house of mine. In turn, my label revealed its limit and I began to lose contact with many of my 'straight' friends.

Ask yourself these questions:

*Should a gay male be allowed to enter a straight club?*

*Can he try to be intimate with a man in that club?*

*Does he risk the chance of getting physically hurt by that man and/or others?*

I frequent Church Street a lot, simply because it is where I can find most of the same types of people, like me - gay. This area has been labeled as the "Village". Because of this, many people who have begun to 'come out', have done so safely and discretely.

Does this mean that we need solely to stay within our perimeters? No, this offers us a safe place to retreat to. To know that even when you leave Church Street, be it with friends, lovers, or alone, and you are tired of fighting a world filled with labels, you can come back to a place where we are all the same, (Or are we?)

We can look at Church Street as a street filled with gay, lesbian and bisexual people, or as a street obscenely concentrated with a wide variety of people from many walks of life. Either way you choose to look at it, it is a safe haven and a much easier way of meeting people of the same sex.

I do not feel a need to write an explanation on labels for *you*. I am *not* here to dictate, explain, or analyze for *you* or to *you*. These are some of my beliefs and some of my

values. I know what works for me and how I can change myself to be a better person. I know that these values and beliefs, and my future values and beliefs are not carved in stone. I know I can change them to suit my needs.

I also know that I am striving to be a better person, and if you label me, then you label me. I do know this - that when I can be a better person to myself, I can be a better person with you.

*Where do you stop and where do you begin?*

*How do you change where you fit it?*

*Who holds your fancy and what is your treat?*

*Is judgement our least or ultimate defeat?*

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

~Leo

savior

slut



Barbecued Pork or Mushroom  
Chicken Egg Foo Yung  
Chicken Egg Foo Yung  
Sausages Egg Foo Yung  
South Sea Special Egg Foo

FOUR  
Chicken with Pork Fried Rice  
Sweet and Sour Spaghetti  
Chicken Chow Mein  
3 Egg Rolls

VEGETARIAN  
Tofu with Mixed  
Six Fried Mixed  
Tofu with Onions  
Steamed Broccoli  
and Vegetables

I am god to YOUR idolatry but it is  
I that do the prayerless worshipping,  
I am a woman on my back, a bitch on my knees,  
Do YOU even know the colour of my eyes, the shape of my face,  
Or can YOU only recognize the nape of my neck,  
Or am  
I so good that YOU only see the darkness of YOUR closed eyelids?  
Is that how  
I look to YOU?

i am YOUR porcelain princess, china doll, concubine,  
YOU desire me for  
I am nothing but YOUR hole,  
That is what constructs me, for otherwise,  
I do not have existence.

I am YOUR Honda: Asian and a smooth ride,  
I am a trophy mounted on YOUR manhood,  
I am YOUR fountain of youth; it is my water that brings YOU rebirth,  
It is YOURs that poison my soul.

i am YOUR Oriental feast, YOUR Asian delicacy,  
I am rice, spring rolls, noodles of YOUR main course,  
YOU help YOURself to this Asian buffet, while  
I starve for food, while  
I starve for affection,  
YOU greedily consume me...  
I am left with nothing....

I could be filled with passion,  
I could be filled with desire,  
I could be the man of YOUR dreams yet  
I am not a man in YOUR eyes but merely a voice in boyish wrappings,  
I could be many things, but with YOU,  
I will never really be me.

-Ariel P. Vente

His lips droplets on a thornless rose.

his eyes a cascade of light

too bright to truly look into

his eye brows, temples on a

Sacred site oh what a wish

to hold him in my arms.

The snapping as he chews

his gum a beacon for my

A t t e n t i o n

I want his affection

his moving eyes a massage

upon my soul.

He is

I am

I will wish





## **Drug Use and Harm Reduction.**

No Zine for gay and bisexual guys and HIV risk reduction would be complete without a section on drug use. We acknowledge that some guys choose to use drugs, and that it is not up to us to judge whether it is right or wrong. However, we are aware that using drugs can impact on a person's judgement around who they may hook up with, what they may do, how or if they practice safer sex and it may increase your risk for contracting HIV and other STD's.

Do you find that you are less likely to care about condoms if you've been drinking or taking drugs? Do you ever wake up in the morning after a night of partying and have regrets about stuff you did sexually with another guy? Are you more likely to have sex when you've been drinking or taking drugs?

These are some of the questions that are useful in assessing your risk for HIV when you are drinking or taking drugs.

The risky thing about drugs like poppers or 'e' (ecstasy) is that guys use them when having sex. But, like lots of drugs, if we are high when we have sex we might be less likely to use a condom, or take precautions to avoid HIV and other sexually transmissible infections.

If you find that you are in risky situations when you are high or drunk, plan ahead. If you're going to use drugs and alcohol, do them with friends you know and trust. Keep someone sober in the crowd. Carry condoms on you, and try not to use so much drug that you can't use good judgement and look out for yourself. Try to get high in a place that you feel safe, with people that you feel safe with.

If you find you are not using condoms, you are not alone. For some guys, it's not automatic. Get support. It's out there.

**INFO about condoms and safer sex...ACT - 340-8844.**

### **What is harm reduction?**

It's just the idea that if you are going to use drugs you should know how to use them safely, so that there is less of a chance that you will get hurt, sick or in trouble.

It's not saying it's okay to use drugs. It's not saying it's bad to use drugs. The deal is that whether or not you use drugs is up to you. It's your choice. But, if you are going to make that choice you should at least have all the facts, and you should know how to use more safely.

There are risks associated with every kind of drug you can take. There are ways of making every kind of drug safer. Learning to minimize the risks, or do things that will make the risky things about drugs a little less risky is what harm reduction is all about.

If you are curious about drugs, think you might try them some time, or are already using drugs, take some time out to get some facts about the harm reduction strategies you can use to make your high a safer experience.

**INFO about drugs and safer use...Toronto Raver Info. Project (T.R.I.P.) - 504-6131.**

## Poppers & Sex

A lot of guys like poppers. Poppers are those little tiny bottles sold as video head cleaner, or something like that, and you open the lid and sniff the fumes from the bottle. Poppers give us a rush, help us to feel less anxious in a club or when we're having sex, or they just give us that edge to let go and have a good time.

The risky thing about poppers is that a lot of us use them when we are having sex. But, like lots of drugs, if we are high when we have sex we might be less likely to use a condom, or take precautions to avoid HIV and other sexually transmissible infections.

## Quick Harm Reduction Tips!

### Some General Tips:

- \*Take smaller amounts when it's your first time, or a new supply, or when you're taking other drugs, like HIV medications.
- \*A good rule of thumb is that less is more. Large or frequent doses can increase the side effects without adding to the experience. You don't know how your body will react so take it slow.
- \*Try not to mix drugs and alcohol.
- \*Try to buy from a reliable supplier whose goods you like or your friends have tried. If you don't have one, shop around. Ask questions.

If you are using 'e' (ecstasy) you need to be careful about getting too hot or dehydrating (not enough water in your body). This is especially true if you are using and clubbing at the same time. Dancing under hot lights, combined with drugs like 'e', can make you too hot. That can be risky.

\* Sip water periodically.

\*Chill out. Take dance breaks every hour. Chill with friends. Cool down.

## Drug Information and Referrals:

Addiction Research Foundation (ARF).....	(416) 595-6079
Drug and Alcohol Registry of Treatments (DART).....	1-800-565-8603
Mainline.....	1-800-686-7544
Metro Addiction Assessment Referral Service.....	(416) 481-1446
The WORKS (needle exchange).....	(416) 392-0520
Community AIDS Treatment Information Exchange.....	(416) 944-1916
	..... 1-800-263-1638



# MY GREATEST CRIME

My maze of life was born within  
I walked alone above all sin  
Treading serpents under foot  
Yet there below I dared to look  
And amongst the dust to find  
Somehow, Somewhere peace of mind

And then I thought for just a time  
What had been my greatest crime  
Was to look so far below  
And just to judge, but not to know

I looked for Him both far and near  
But did not know I'd find Him here  
Here in all this dust and clay  
Where I was born to spend my day

And then I thought of life sublime  
Where do we walk in the hands of time?  
Where is he but here within?  
And what is not, if life is sin?

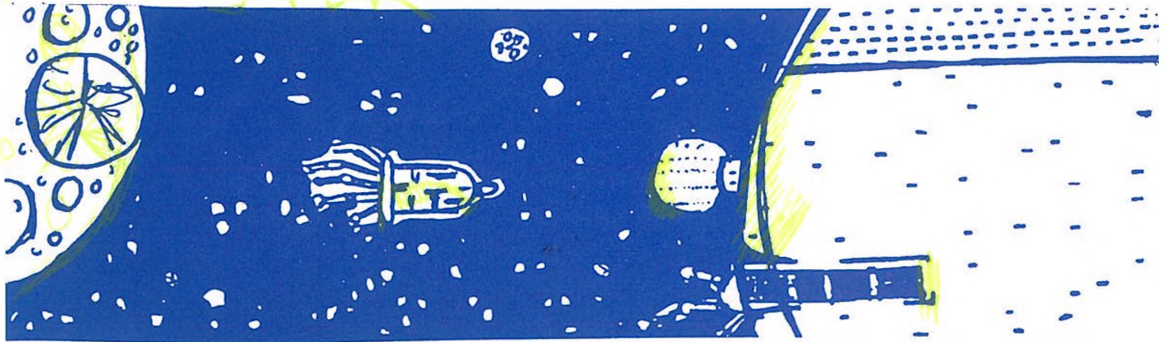
For what is life without the song?  
And what in life to us belongs?  
And what is death but life anew?  
What in life do we pursue?

When I lay and dreamed that night  
A vision passed before my sight  
I saw him lift my eternal soul  
And there to rest within my goal

Then there upon my bed I cried  
With pain and bitterness inside  
For I too long had walked above  
And what in life is not to love?



# Monster by Damian Mellin



The Healer who came from the planet enters the space dock. The good and wise Healer has a weight upon his chest - something so heavy that it is too hard to bear. The hatch leading to the main area of the space station opens. In a fit of panic thousands of voices lunge out at him. The voices are scared and in need of answers. A monstrous creature has gotten on the ship and has already laid its effects upon a good portion of the general populous. The healer in a semi-reassuring voice asks the scared people to refrain from asking their questions. The creature, which has already destroyed many men and women, has not subsided in its spread. Its instinctual need to spread is evident. This horrible thing, an "IT" if you will, may only be spread through one way. Not through the air like the flying Grodas on Alpha 10, "IT" doesn't even attack through the skin like a Leehork worm on Palmarass 7. This monstrous "IT" can only attack in one simple way, but how and why does this thing keep on growing and feeding upon the lives of family and crew of this station?

The Healer speaks up and the crowd silences. He tells of the way in which it attacks. The Healer starts to talk about Secala. All the mothers cover their children's ears. Secala is the most sacred and special time that lovers can go through. "For some, it is also where babies begin." The Healer tells that during that time it can attack. The one way to stop it from not attacking is to use THE DEVICE. The Healer pulls THE DEVICE from his pocket and shows it to everyone. The ruler of the station has been told that there is a never ending supply of THE DEVICES. The Healer shows them how to use THE DEVICE. The Healer then goes to walk back into his ship. The ruler of the space station talks to him, "What about the monstrous thing? Will it spread? What about the ones that have been attacked - what shall we do with them?" The Healer takes a step forward and then pauses.

"For the ones that have been attacked they need love they need affection. They have been through a lot and will go through a lot more before the illness is done with them. "IT" is in your hands. Only you can stop the spread.





## ....AND FINALLY - A FEW RESOURCES:

### HIV/AIDS RESOURCES:

<i>AIDS Committee of Toronto</i> , Main Line.....	(416) 340-2437
TTY Line.....	(416) 340-8122
E-mail.....	ask@actontario.org
Web Page.....	www.actontario.org
<i>Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention</i> .....	(416) 599-2727
E-mail.....	aids@interlog.com
<i>Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention</i> .....	(416) 977-9955
E-mail.....	blackcap@web.net
<i>Asian Community AIDS Services</i> .....	(416) 963-4300
E-mail.....	gaap@interlog.com
Web Page.....	www.interlog.com/~acas
<i>Centre for Spanish Speaking People AIDS Program</i> .....	(416) 925-2800
<i>Street Outreach Services</i> .....	(416) 926-0744
<i>Toronto Public Health</i> .....	(416) 392-6958
E-mail.....	bdowner@city.toronto.on.ca
<i>VIVER: Portuguese Outreach Project</i> .....	(416) 532-4828
<i>Positive Youth Outreach</i> .....	(416) 921-3808
Outside T.O. ....	1-800-90-YOUTH
E-mail.....	peer@positiveyouth.com
Web Page.....	www.positiveyouth.com

### HIV TESTING:

<i>Hassle Free Clinic</i> (and STD testing & treatment).....	(416) 922-0603
<i>Shout Clinic</i> (& general medical clinic for street youth).....	(416) 927-8553

### INFO ABOUT DRUGS & NEEDLE EXCHANGES:

<i>The WORKS</i> .....	(416) 392-0520
*they can provide a listing of needle exchanges around town.	
<i>Toronto Raver Information Project</i> .....	(416) 504-6131

### COMING OUT SUPPORT:

<i>Central Toronto Youth Services</i> .....	(416) 924-2100
<i>Lesbian, Gay &amp; Bisexual Youth Toronto</i>	
c/o 519 Church St. Community Centre.....	(416) 392-6874
<i>Lesbian Gay Bi Youthline</i>	
In Toronto.....	(416) 962-9688
Across Ontario.....	1-800-268-9688