

Bill 21 Passes

Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation Now Forbidden in NF Human Rights Code

International Human Rights Day 1997 had a very special meaning for gays and lesbians in Newfoundland and Labrador. Just the day before (on December 9), the provincial government passed third and final reading on Bill 21, an act to amend our Human Rights Code to add sexual orientation as a prohibited ground for discrimination.

The announcement was made at a press conference hosted by members of NGALE, NAN, the AIDS Committee, Human Rights Commission, Human Rights Association, Women's Centre, Amnesty International, local representatives of political parties, and other related organizations assembled to mark this important milestone in an ongoing struggle for equal rights.

See page 10 for the full text of the amendment.

Brian Hodder and Ron Knowling, both representing NGALE, expressed great pleasure in the amendment, noting that the only exemption in the Act is a provision stating that it does not apply to pension plans, in order to make it comply with the federal Income Tax Act. The exemption is worded in such a way that once same-sex couples are allowed to register pension plans under the federal Act, coverage will automatically be included in the provincial Code.

Although many companies are willing and able to provide survivor pensions to gay men and lesbians, just as they do to their heterosexual co-workers, Revenue Canada has for years refused to allow such pension plans to be registered under the Income Tax Act, and has threatened to de-register any existing pension plan which tries to do so. Without this registration, the pension plans and the contributions made to them lose their beneficial tax treatment, and money put away for retirement years becomes a taxable benefit now. Heterosexual co-workers, however, continue to enjoy tax-free savings for their retirement years, as well as the knowledge that their spouses will be provided for under the survivor pension.

Revenue Canada's official definition of spouse states (out of context)... "is a person of the opposite sex"... This is part of the definition of common-law spouse supplied by the Guide to Personal Income Tax.

Bill 21 awaits only royal assent, the formality of the Lieutenant Governor's signature, before becoming law. This is expected by Christmas 1997. Only Alberta, Prince Edward Island, and the Northwest Territories remain as the Canadian regions not offering protection for gays and lesbians under their Human Rights Codes. John Fisher, national Executive Director of EGALE (Equality for Gays And Lesbians Everywhere) said, "This is a tremendous step forward for all those who care about equality."

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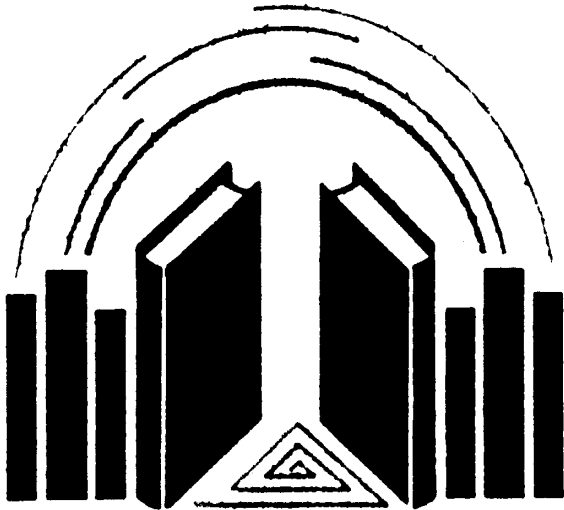
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24 Famous People Who Have Acknowledged Having Had At Least One Homosexual Experience In Their Lives

1. Voltaire (1694-1778), French Philosopher
2. Giovanni Casanova (1725-1798), Italian adventurer
3. Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910), Russian author
4. Winston Churchill (1874-1965), British statesman
5. Carl Jung (1875-1961), Swiss analytical psychologist
6. Tallulah Bankhead (1903-1988), US actress
7. Louise Brooks (b 1906), US silent screen star
8. Harold Robbins (b 1916), US writer
9. Arthur C. Clarke (b 1917), British science-fiction writer
10. Marlon Brando (b 1924), US actor
11. Richard Burton (1925-1984), British actor
12. Tiny Tim (1925-1997), US performer
13. Hugh Hefner (b 1926), US publisher of Playboy magazine
14. James Dean (1931-1955), US actor
15. Joan Baez (b 1941), US folksinger and political activist
16. Janis Joplin (1943-1970), US rock singer
17. Billie Jean King (b 1943), US tennis pro
18. Pete Townshend (b 1945), British musician
19. Oliver Stone (b 1946), US film director
20. David Bowie (b 1947), British rock singer
21. Daryl Hall (b 1948), US pop singer
22. Grace Jones (b 1952), Jamaican-born singer and actress
23. Howard Stern (b 1954), US media personality
24. Madonna (b 1958), US pop singer

— from *The New Gay Book of Lists*
by Leigh W. Rutledge

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Where We Are by Kevin Hicks

Here's a little rant to express some thoughts I've been having. Bear with me as I go along, me thinks I have a comment or two.

NGALE began meetings back in February of 1994 and has been functioning in various ways since that time. We are very near our fourth anniversary and I think it is fabulous. Many faces have come and gone during that time period, testimony to people needing different stuff at different times/stages of their own life journey. I think this too is fab, at least we have been here to serve the needs of those ready to come along to meetings and other functions. I know other groups have existed in the past and others besides NGALE exist now, this is also excellent. The more the better, the more people reached and helped, the better.

I can recall seeing notices for meetings when I attended MUN in the late 80's and being too nervous, not ready, foolish, shy, afraid to go to one. My point here is that there was some group there at that time and I am sure it helped some people and I know NGALE and other local groups are helping now. I hope that we can continue to be here to help people with understanding and accepting their sexual selves for a long time to come.

One of the ways NGALE helps people to grow and be-

come comfortable with their sexuality is the support and information telephone line. Great pleasure and satisfaction come from being involved with this project and knowing that people can call and speak with caring individuals and end up feeling a little better or more informed than they had been.

One thing leaves me a little troubled though, and that is how many people are out there that may be isolated and not have anyone to turn to, not have anyone to confide in. My hope for people who feel this way is that they contact with our group either by phone, mail or in person and begin making acquaintance. Getting in touch with NGALE doesn't require any type of commitment to see what we are about.

People who are not interested in group meetings but still want to meet people may consider coming to social events the group holds. Some individuals have had successes with personal ads for meet-

ing people too. (A word of caution on that one though, depending on choice of service it can be expensive.) These days more and more people are looking toward cyber space to connect too, successes have been had on that venue also. What ever the way people decide, we all have to do what is right for each of us in our own time. No one should tell another person to rush out and do something until they are ready.

Some people are hoping to meet Mr. or Ms. Right immediately, that may not happen. Most people don't fall in love with the first person they meet so people should be reminded to have reasonable expectations. It will take some pressure off and decrease the risk of emotional hurt.

One final word, what ever you do, play safe and protect yourself from sexually transmitted diseases.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all. ▼

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ABOUT Us

by Brian Hodder

Five years ago, Delwin Vriend began a fight that would consume a great deal of his energies over the next few years and could change the direction his province will take regarding equal rights for gays and lesbians.

It all began in 1991 when Delwin was fired from his teaching position at an Edmonton Christian college when his employer discovered that he was gay. When he went to Alberta's equivalent of our Human Rights Commission, he discovered that homosexuality is not mentioned in the province's Individual Rights Protection Act and therefore his complaint could not be acted upon. Because this was grossly unfair, Delwin challenged the decision in an Alberta court.

Initially, the case was found to have merit. A lower court judge agreed with Delwin's argument and ordered the province of Alberta to include gays and lesbians in their human rights legislation. However, this victory was to be short lived because the province appealed this decision to the Supreme Court of Alberta and were successful in their appeal. The court ruled that the Act doesn't deny homosexuals protection simply because it doesn't mention them. This decision was subsequently appealed to the highest court in our nation, the Supreme Court of Canada.

This appeal was argued

before the court in early November and a decision is presently pending. During the arguments offered before the court, it appeared that the justices did not look favorably on the case offered by Alberta and questioned whether they could justify excluding gays and lesbians from their legislation. Since this is the same court that a few years ago ruled in the Egan Decision that Canada should include homosexuals in federal legislation, it seems likely that a similar decision will be made in the Alberta case and gay Alberta's may finally gain equal protection from discrimination under the law.

If the appeal is successful, as appears likely, the Conservative government of Ralph Klein has said it will abide by the decision. Politically, a court ruling against them may save face for the Alberta government as they can then blame the court for the change and won't have to be seen by the Alberta electorate as being supportive of gay rights. While most people agree that legislation, it seems that this is the only way

such a necessary change will happen in Alberta.

Here in this province, our government has committed to changing our legislation during the present sitting of the House of Assembly. It is possible that they saw the writing on the wall regarding the Vriend challenge and decided the courts would not over turn the decision of Justice Leo Barry which ordered them to read sexual orientation into our code. They decided to act before being forced to act by the courts and have prepared an amended Act to present to the House.

If the Vriend challenge is successful and Newfoundland follows through and amends our Human Rights Code, PEI will remain the only province without protection for homosexuals and their present government has announced they are looking at making this change. We can only hope that in the near future all gays and lesbians in this country will have basic human rights protection. If there was ever a question of need for such legislation, the Vriend case provides concrete evidence. On top of his

dismissal from his job, Vriend and his partner were recently refused a rental apartment in Alberta because they are gay. If anything, this fact shows the type of environment created by excluding people from human rights protection the end, we all lose.



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Closets

by Faye Freeman

What does it mean to you when you hear the word 'closets'? Do you think of the closet as a place where you have been forced to live? Is there anyone in the gay community that has **not** been in the closet at one time or another? Some are forced to stay 'in the closet' about their homosexuality at work, at home and even with friends. The 'closet experience' is restrictive and it prevents us from leading life to the fullest. This brief article is **not** about homosexuality -- it is about coming out of *another closet*.

The 'other closet' that I am referring to is the mental health closet. Although we generally only refer to being in the closet when we are hiding our sexuality, there are many in the gay community who feel they have to hide their mental health problems as well. It becomes a double whammy of stigmatization. When I think of mental illness, I think of the stigmatizing terms that we hear all the

time like: "Crazy, Nuts, Wacko, Mental, and Insane". (I'm sure you could come up with additional terms if you were to give it some thought.) In addition to the above terms there are those lovely expressions like -- "He's a sandwich short of a picnic" or "She's not functioning on all four cylinders". We certainly have colorful ways of talking about mental illness. What do we really know about mental illness?

Do you know anyone with a mental illness? How did you feel when you learned of the illness? If you do not know anyone with a mental illness I would suggest to you that in all likelihood you have met someone but you were not made aware of the illness. Many people with mental illnesses will not openly discuss it for fear that others will treat them differently or completely reject them out of fear. The media loves spreading misinformation about mental illness (in the same way it sensa-

tionalizes events in the gay community). Contrary to what we read in the newspaper or see on the television -- the mentally ill, as a group, are not dangerous. Some are dangerous but so are some of the general public. I would have to state that persons suffering from mental health problems suffer the same fate in the media as the gay community -- sensationalism. An example in recent years has been the numerous reports of sexual abuse of children where the abusers claimed to be homosexual -- the fact of the matter was that they were pedophiles and whether or not they were gay was not a factor. But when the media reports on homosexual pedophiles, the general public hears homosexual = pedophile.

Right about now you're probably asking the question: "So who cares about mental illness? It doesn't affect my life." The an-

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Angela Through the Looking Glass

an ongoing feature by Angela Teal

This unfolds as the story of my 'coming out.' It was, and is true and is still unfolding.

Part 1

When:

I think the first clue that I might be a different from all the other little boys - who ran around, hitting, kicking, punching and breaking things - was when I was seven. Since I could remember, I had always played with the girls and this was noticed and duly noted by the other boys. Little boys being - little boys - need victims (some never outgrow this) and I became the 'target' of this juvenile machismo. I was beaten-up, bullied and my life made a living hell on a regular basis. The teachers did little to interfere, perhaps in the belief that this pummeling might make a "man" of me. I went to an expensive English Private School, in a well-to-do area of London and, I was an embarrassment to them. My habit of not only playing with the girls, but unwittingly, behaving like them engendered a hostility from these adults, that translated itself into a form of official sadism. I was picked on in class. When I was made to stand to answer a question - and couldn't - a sadistic ridicule and scorn was poured over me and often, to their delight, I would break down and cry. But then, what did you expect, I was a sissy. One thing I remember though was that many of the girls didn't join in this fun . . . I told my mum and dad what

was happening to me, begging to be able to stay home. I was told that it was an expensive and exclusive school, and that I ought to be grateful or going there. Nothing was done.

One day - a 'last straw' was laid on my back and bruised, and desperately hurt emotionally, I came home and asked my mother if I could be a girl. Had I shouted a foul obscenity at a funeral, I don't think the effect would not have been as shocking. My father overheard me, I can remember him blazing at my mother, "You know what he's going to grow up to be don't you?"... A long deadly silence followed as I was stared at, in horror and disgust by my father - and compassion and fear by my mother. I had no idea what I had done, but I suddenly felt afraid and wanted to hide. My mother, I think, always knew, and would have shown understanding

and compassion, but she was terrified of dad. In that one moment - my life had, quite simply become not worth living, and, I wanted to die. That week, at the age of seven I seriously considered hanging myself from a length of broken clothes-line I used as a skipping rope - from a dead poplar tree at the end of the garden. I can remember wondering if it would hurt, how long it would take me to die - and I wondered if God would be angry at me? I had no idea, because God never spoke to me. It was close. I wonder how many 'professionals' or parents understand or realize that children can harbour these thoughts? Probably none. Reader, do you know who the best child psychologists are? Teddy Bears and Dolls - because they listen! When a child lies in bed sobbing his or her heart out, they hold the one thing that loves them unconditionally and that child knows - that they are listened to.

I was saved, so-to-speak, by one of the girls at school, I'll call her "Mary." Later that week, while everyone was in the playground, she found me hiding, crying, hidden behind the huge water-tank on the top floor. She had always been my special friend and somehow, even for a girl so young, she understood and knew what was going on. From that day on she clung to me as did many of the other girls and somehow... I made it.

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The Ladies Who Lunch

by Ron Knowling

What is the matter with Gays and Lesbians in this province? I ask because despite a large community and a province with a distinct identity Newfoundland's gays and lesbians seem to have had little success establishing any distinct and visible community. There are exceptions: currently there is a provincial AIDS Committee which oversees services to people with AIDS and HIV; and NGALE is running a phone line and publishing this newsletter. But, while the members of these groups are to be congratulated, after twenty-five years and more than half a dozen groups the achievement is modest even by the most generous standards.

For most gay and lesbian Newfoundlanders the only Pride March they take is the one from their doorstep to the airport. I could talk about the loss to the larger community. I could talk about the need for openness and communication, equality and acceptance. But after so many years working on one pro-

ject or another in the gay community I have found these types of encouragement generally fall on deaf ears. There is only one message that I can send out to gays and lesbians in Newfoundland and Labrador, "IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING NOTHING WILL CHANGE".

As this article is being written the government of Brian Tobin has brought forward an amendment to the provincial Human Rights Code which will enshrine protection for all Newfoundlanders regardless of their sexual orientation. This legislation has been a long time coming. When his government was elected in February, 1996 Tobin promised to pass an amendment to the Human Rights Code including sexual orientation. The legislation was postponed three times.

The reason the Tobin government was able to get away with such apathetic behavior was because of the lack of visibility of gays and lesbians in our communities. It is a testament to our lack of spirit that we have been treated in such a cavalier manner. But, if members of our community do not participate in political parties, community groups, and local committees we can expect very little else.


The idea purpose of the Human Rights Code is to ensure all Newfoundlanders participate in making decisions about our communities. It recognizes that Newfoundlanders are a diverse collection of people with many different abilities and behaviors. The Code attempts to ensure that our democracy provides an equal forum for that diversity.

But if the Gay and Lesbian community refuses to participate in our communities and our democracy then by default we will lose our forum.

Rights are not something which pass away. But, they are built on participation and dialogue. If we don't take the opportunity, provided by the amendment to the Human Rights Code, to express ourselves as men and women, civil servants and business owners, single-parents and unemployed people, to express ourselves as gays and lesbians, then we will have failed to live up to the expectations and needs of our democracy and no amount of government rights legislation, however well intentioned, will protect us.

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Local and National News Headlines

NGALE Incorporates

Newfoundland Gays and Lesbians for Equality has taken another step towards establishing itself as an official charity. In mid-November Ron Knowling submitted documents to the provincial government for NGALE's incorporation as a charitable organization. Incorporation allows NGALE to establish its limited liability status in the case of bankruptcy, and also will allow the group to acquire permits for potential upcoming fundraising events.

Directors of NGALE Inc. are Derrick Bishop (Co-Chair), Brian Hodder (Co-Chair), Jennifer Copeland (Secretary), Michael Riehl (Treasurer), Derek Moore (Social Committee), and Kevin Hicks (Phone Line Committee).

The next step in this process is an application to Revenue Canada for registration of NGALE as a Charity under the Federal Income Tax Act. This will allow NGALE to issue tax deductible receipts for any donations it receives. This process is almost complete and the application should be sent to Ottawa before the middle of December. The next review of charitable status applications will begin in the Charities Division of Revenue Canada on January 5, 1998. ▼

Civil Servants May Get Same-Sex Benefits

A committee of the provincial government is currently recommending to government that the civil service group health insurance plan provide benefits to same sex couples.

The government's group insurance plan is overseen by the Government Group Insurance Committee and is composed of civil servants from treasury board, Department of Health, Newfoundland Hospital & Nursing Home Association, and the public sector unions. The committee's mandate is to make recommendations to government with respect to the Group Insurance Plan of public sector workers.

Over the past year the issue of same sex couples and their access to the benefits of the group health plan have been actively debated in the committee. In November committee chairman, Robert Smart (Treasury Board) informed the committee that a report had been presented to government in the form of a cabinet paper. The report in question recommended that changes be made to the government group insurance plan to allow for same sex benefits.

At this point it is unclear when government will be delivering a decision on the issue. ▼

Newfoundlander Addresses Canadian Labour Congress

by Rebecca Woodrow,
Canadian Union of Public
Employees National
Pink Triangle Committee

"It's about dignity, safety, pride, and solidarity," said Nancy Riche, Executive Vice President of the Canadian Labor Congress and native Newfoundlander, addressing the opening evening of the first CLC conference for lesbian, gay and bisexual union activists.

On October 15, 340 lesbian, gay, bisexual union activists and their allies gathered in Ottawa. The issues discussed were; homophobia, legal decisions, contract provisions, negotiation strategies and creating a safe space in workplaces and communities. There were people from all the provinces and territories. People spoke about how important it was to have this opportunity to meet other lesbian, gay and bisexual union activists, network and have fun.

The most moving event of the conference for me was at the closing plenary when Nancy Nichol, a former York University faculty member who lost her job because of discriminatory treatment, stood at the microphone to ask conference delegates to support her and her

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Our Own Worst Enemies

by James E. Clarinet

The views and opinions I'm about to express are my own, and do not reflect the views and opinions of the editors of this newsletter. What I'm about to discuss is something that's been on my mind for quite some time, and I have decided to use this forum to talk about it. And what I'm going to discuss is something that has never been discussed all that much either here or in any other publication, and that is stereotypes.

What's that you say? Straight people have been stereotyping gays and lesbians for years and this has been discussed numerous times? That's true, but I'm not talking about straights stereotyping gays; I'm talking about gays stereotyping gays.

You may laugh, but bear with me. It has come to my attention over the couple of years since I was introduced to the gay community that we are probably more guilty

of stereotyping ourselves than the straight population has. Numerous times I have been with friends, and we might see someone walking down the street, walking through the mall, sitting down having coffee or whatever, and one of my friends will say, "Oh yeah, he's gay." to which I ask "He is?" The other friend will respond, "Of course, just look at him." Now I'm willing to bet if you overheard a straight person making a comment like this, you might be a bit more upset.

Now I understand the good-natured kidding and joking that we participate in habitually. That's not what I'm complaining about. I have a problem when people take these views to the heart and truly believe them. I am also aware that some gay men and women claim to have the so-called "gay-dar". Not that I'm disputing it's validity, but in most cases, the people making these

assumptions aren't basing it on gay-dar, but on these stereotypes.

Let's pause for a moment and define what a "homosexual" is. As I understand it, it means "someone who is attracted to the same sex/gender". I don't believe anywhere in that description does it say someone who "has a lispy voice" or "dresses flamboyantly" or "wears earrings in both ears" or whatever. I mean, there are lots of gay men and women out there who don't fit into any gay stereotypes and therefore are "straight-looking". Doesn't it stand to reason that there are straight men and women who are "gay-looking"?

Just think about it for a while, and don't be so quick to jump to conclusions about someone's sexual orientation just by the way they look, sound or act.

I'm Jim Clarinet, and that's my opinion. ▼

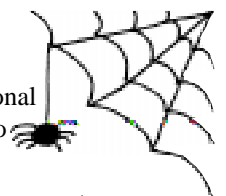
(Continued from page 8)

cause. The delegates gave her a standing ovation and started chanting "So-So-So-Solidarity". She was moved to tears. To me, this is what solidarity and pride are all about.

"We're creating the space for activists to talk," said Nancy Riche, "but we're talking about real change, and how union activists can work with the community activists to make it happen." ▼

The Web Corner

Each issue we'll take a look at several local, national, and international sites on the World Wide Web which contain information of interest to the L/B/G/T surfer.



- Newfoundland-Labrador Human Rights Association (<http://susie.stemnet.nf.ca/NLHRA/newhome.htm>): Useful information about all aspects of human rights in our province, including the full text of the Act, current exclusions, and recommendations for inclusion.
- Gay Canada (<http://www.gaycanada.com>): Also known as the Canadian Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Resource Directory (CGLBRD), this is the mother of all Canadian queer sites. A must-visit site, it contains a wide variety of information on Canadian cities, business, events, and people.
- Planet Out (<http://www.planetout.com>): One of the biggest gay sites on the net, also the official site of Out magazine. Brimming with information on people, places, entertainment, and much more.

Don't forget to visit NGALE's own home page at <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4291>, or send us e-mail at ngale@geocities.com.

The Text of Bill 21

Be it enacted by the Lieutenant-Governor and House of Assembly in Legislative Session convened, as follows:

1. The Human Rights Code is amended by adding immediately after section 5 the following:

"5.1 A provision of this Act shall not apply to the expression of a limitation, specification, exclusion, denial, or preference based on a prohibited ground of discrimination in a pension plan where that discrimination is the result of compliance with a requirement for registration of that plan under the Income Tax Act (Canada)."

2. Subsection 6(1), sections 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 18, and 19 of the Act are amended by adding immediately after the word and comma "sex," wherever it occurs, the words and comma "sexual orientation,".

The specific sections referred to are as follows:

6. Right of the public to services.
7. Right to occupy commercial and dwelling units.
8. Harassment of occupant prohibited.
9. Discrimination of employment.
12. Harassment in establishment prohibited.
14. Discriminatory publications.
18. Functions of commission.
19. Special programs.

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Book Corner

by Kevin Hicks

And This Too Shall Pass

E. Lynn Harris

Doubleday

I've recently read my first novel by E. Lynn Harris, but it will not be the last. *And This Too Shall Pass* has intrigued me to the wonderful style and realism created by Harris in his storytelling.

The story in this case is of Zurich, a rookie quarterback who discovers and explores his sexual identity with some substantial reservations. Like many, Zurich's family plays an important part in his life and Zurich has his grandmother Mamma Cee as the matriarch for the whole family. When Zurich is in trouble or distress, both of which find him in the context of the novel, Mamma Cee "feels" it. Surprising even herself, she gets on a plane to visit Zurich to ensure everything is going to be OK for him.

There are a couple of levels of things happening in the novel both internal and external conflicts which cannot happen without instigators of those conflicts. Harris' characters are presented in such a way as to show the vulnerable sides to all. Additionally, one has to observe that individuals we may see as destructive are sometimes driven their own internal conflicts. All in all, Harris has created a novel where no one actually loses in the end, people may end up with less than expected, but no one is without support.

This novel was a quick read and not an easy one to put down. I could hardly wait to see what would happen next and see if Zurich would survive allegations of rape and to find out if he and Sean ever get together. Interested yet?

Harris' previous novels are *Just As I Am* and *Invisible Life*. ▼

(Continued from page 5)

swer to that is that "I care" because 'the other closet' is the place where I hide the dreaded secret of mental illness. Yes, I've 'outed myself' -- I have Manic Depression (also known as Bipolar Disorder). For those unfamiliar with this illness, **some** of the common symptoms are: Mania -- *heightened mood, decreased need for sleep, racing speech, impulsiveness and easily distracted*; Depression -- *prolonged sadness, significant changes in appetite and sleep patterns, irritability, agitation, anxiety, pessimism, loss of energy and inability to concentrate*. (Please note: nowhere in these symptoms is there any mention of serial killing.)

The illness of Manic-Depression will affect 1 in 100 people in their lifetime, which means that approximately 5000 Newfoundlanders have the illness and approximately 500 of this number are gay. Those are the statistics on just one illness, it doesn't include other illnesses like depression, schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder and a host of other problems. The issue here is that we are talking about an illness not a moral defect or a weakness in an individual's personality -- it's just an illness like diabetes or high blood pressure that can be controlled by the use of medications.

Hopefully the day will come when a cure is found for these illnesses. In the meantime we need to educate ourselves to prevent further myths and to stop the stigma. ▼

NGALE wishes to thank the following businesses for donating items and services for the silent auction fundraiser at our New Year's Eve party:

Wenches & Rogues
Byron's Clothing
Pasta Plus Café
Living Rooms
Jungle Jim's
Hava Java
Abba Inn
Fred's Records
Empire Theatres
Software Plus
Fog City Brewing Co.
The Body Shop
Stone House Eatery
The Head Room
Allandale Nurseries
Bennington Gate Books
RTW-Next Apparel
Monroe House B&B
Zellers
Magic Wok Eatery
Belbin's Grocery
Margaret Dunn Cosmetics
John Jacques Hair Design

Outlook is always looking for new submissions, including:

- ▽ Editorials, commentaries
- ▽ Current events reports
- ▽ Activities of associated groups and organizations
- ▽ Book, movie, music, arts, and website reviews
- ▽ Drawing, poetry, humour, and short fiction

Contact us (see right) for details and a copy of our submission guidelines.

Outlook is the quarterly newsletter published by NGALE, Inc. (Newfoundland Gays And Lesbians for Equality). It serves as a forum for editorial commentary and a resource for listings of current community events. It's also a showcase for drawing, poetry, humour, and short fiction along with book, music, arts, and website reviews. Each issue contains information on NGALE, its activities, and meeting times for those interested in joining the group. Advertising from local gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses, along with classified word ads and public service announcements round out the content.

Typical production runs are about 200 copies per issue, and Outlook is distributed province-wide. There is no cover charge, with paper and duplication costs covered through donations paid for commercial advertisements.

Requested donations for commercial advertising are \$60 per full page, and proportional fractions thereof (\$30 for 1/2 page, \$20 for 1/3 page, \$15 for 1/4 page, \$7.50 for 1/8 page, etc.). When paid in advance, 4 ads may be placed for the price of 3. First-time advertisers receive a business card (1/8-page) ad **free of charge**. We can work with camera-ready ad copy, or design one for you. Classified ads may also be placed for a donation of \$1.00 for up to 30 words, 10 cents per additional word.

For more information contact us via mail at: Outlook, P.O. Box 6221, St. John's, NF, A1C 6J9, via internet e-mail to **ngale@geocities.com**, or leave a phone message at (709) 753-4297. ▼

About NGALE

NGALE is a community-based, non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to providing support, education, and advocacy to and for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and other sexual minorities in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

NGALE currently meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in Conference Room C in the Corporate Office of the St. John's Health Care Corporation, located on Waterford Bridge Road across from the Bowring Park duck pond. Look for the "Nurses Entrance" sign on the brick building off the parking lot. **Note that we have moved our meetings from their former location at the AIDS Committee offices due to a lack of space.** The business portion runs from 7:30 to 8:30 pm, while the social/discussion portion runs from 8:30 to about 9:30 pm. We have someone at the entrance waiting to let people in for about 10 minutes before each part of the meeting begins. Coffee or a snack at a nearby restaurant often follows the meetings.

NGALE members may remain as anonymous as they wish. Meetings are casual but organized, and are as much a forum for support and social interaction as for advocacy and activism. Ten to twenty-five people typically attend. Visiting travellers and tourists are welcome to drop by.

The Lesbian/Bisexual/Gay/Transgendered Support and Information Line

Call us at (709) 753-4297 [753-GAYS]. The Support and Information Line offers live consultation from trained male and female volunteers between 7 and 10 pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. A message system and pre-recorded information is available throughout the rest of the week. An information package is also available for mailout. We do not subscribe to *Call Display* or *Caller ID*.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Questioning Youth Group and PFLAG

The LGBTQ Youth Group meets on a monthly basis, currently the second Wednesday. Call the Support and Information Line (above) for location and time, and also for information about our PFLAG (Parents and Family/Friends of Lesbians And Gays) group.

Social Events

NGALE often has informal social events on alternate Wednesdays from meetings (ie. the second, fourth, and sometimes fifth). We might go to see a movie, bowl, meet at a local pub, go on a nature walk, etc. We occasionally have more organized gatherings such as pot-luck parties, dances, and sometimes bring in relevant films to local theatres (such as *Priscilla*, *Jeffrey*, and *Love! Valour! Compassion!*) to raise funds and public awareness. Members often attend other community events as a group as well. We participate in the AIDS Walk and Pride Week activities, as well as seeing relevant films brought in by The MUN Film Society (such as *Lilies*, *Priest*, *Beautiful Thing*, and *The Celluloid Closet*, or plays at The LSPU Hall (like *Lemons*, *Under Wraps*, and *Charlie and the Angel*).

Current Events for Winter 1997-1998

December 20 (Saturday): NGALE pot-luck Christmas party.

December 31 (Wednesday): NGALE New Year's Eve party (dinner, dance, and silent auction fundraiser).

Come along to a meeting or call the Information Line (above) to find out more about our party events.

Visit our web page at <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4291> for an up-to-date events list.