

Volume 4, Issue 1: Spring 1998



NGALE AGM

Annual General Meeting Scheduled for the Weekend of April 25th-26th, 1998

NGALE Inc.'s fourth Annual General Meeting has been scheduled for the weekend of April 25th and 26th, 1998.

This year's AGM will be held in the first floor auditorium at the Corporate Offices of the St. John's Health Care Corporation on Waterford Bridge Road, near the Bowring Park duck pond. Attendance to all events is free of charge for the general public, but persons must be paid NGALE members (\$5.00 per calendar year) in good standing in order to cast votes.

Some details of the itinerary were still tentative at press time but the overall order of events is shaping up as follows:

Saturday, April 25:

- 12:30 pm Registration
- 1:00 pm Business Meeting
 - Review and Resolutions to Constitution
 - Elections (Co-Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer)
 - Committee Selection (Social/Education, Phone Line, Finance, Newsletter)
- 6:00 pm Social Event
 - Buffet at Emerald Palace, 56-A Kenmount Road

Sunday, April 26:

- 11:00 am Strategizing of Committees
- 1:00 pm Committees Report to Membership
- 2:00 pm Education Sessions
 - Keynote Speaker: Ms. Beth Lacey
Women's Issues and Concerns
 - Informational Speaker: Deputy Chief Ches Oliver
RNC - Community Police Relations

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For the most up-to-date information about AGM events, visit NGALE's web page at <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4291> .





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WHAT IS OUTLOOK?

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. Current issues are also available on our web page, as is postal delivery for a small donation.

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. Also visit our web page at <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4291/outlook.html>. ▼

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Letter to the Editor

by Jim Genge

[*Editor's Note: The following letter was received in late December 1997, just after Bill 21 was passed.*]

December 10, 1997.

Anything worth having is well worth fighting for.

For the past several years, gays and lesbians of this country and the province of Newfoundland have been discriminated against by the majority of prominent religious sects. Much bigotry and harassment [has been] directed against us by these people who [have] shown their true colors because of homophobia.

It is about time that everyone realized that gays and lesbians worldwide were born this way, and discrimination based on sexual orientation is as insidious as bias against people with other predetermined conditions.

Through interpretations of the Scriptures, we are aware that God did not allude prejudice and discrimination against any person.

Over the years, too many Fundamentalist preachers chose to ignore the true meaning of the Holy Bible. They continued to preach discrimination and prejudice against God's gay and lesbian people.

Through hundreds of letters to federal MPs and provincial MHAs, as gays and lesbians who chose to live in this province, we have been fighting continuously for our provincial government to amend the Human Rights Code to add the clause of sexual orientation so that we too shall be protected by the law that governs the majority of the people in this great nation - second to none.

This clause entitles us to be protected against all forms of sexual discrimination and abuse such as gay-bashing by those who, without reservation, would continue to hurt and maim whenever they chose to do so.

Now our wonderful day has arrived when our provincial government has seen fit to amend the Human Rights Code to legally grant us the protection against forms of homophobia that we so deserve.

Today, as a member of NGALE, I

stand tall and proud to be a Newfoundlander and a protected gay member of society.

Gay and Proud,

Jim Genge

Glovertown, NF.



NGALE's New Year's Eve Party a Success!

Thanks to the many sponsors and volunteers who made our first annual New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance a success. Over 50 people attended, and over \$300 was raised from the auction.

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The LGBT Support & Info Line by An Anonymous Volunteer

The main goal of NGALE since its formation has been to assist individuals from within the greater community who are dealing with their sexuality. One of the ways the NGALE group has tried to achieve that goal is through the operation of a support and information phone line. This service, now known as the Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgendered Support and Information Line, has been offered since early 1995.

A team of volunteers rotate through a two nights per week schedule to take calls from people with questions and concerns. Many of the volunteers report that the callers often indicate that they feel much better after the contact than they had before. Having that experience is also quite satisfying for the volunteers who end up feeling they have helped another person in some small way.

The nature of calls that have been received range from quick questions about where/if the gay bar is, through people just wanting to talk to someone else who is "like them", to individuals in a crisis situation of dealing with family/friends reacting badly to information about sexuality issues. The volunteers have strived to assist with answers to questions and support in the hope of helping the caller move ahead in dealing with their particular concerns. There are two volunteers available during most shifts so that the volunteer taking the call has someone to rely on for support during and after an energy-taxing call. This

manner of operation means both caller and volunteer get what they need. It also provides two perspectives for a caller to get information from.

The phone line volunteers have a variety of backgrounds and are not all from the NGALE group. Volunteers on the phone line have come from members of Newfoundland Amazon Network (NAN), Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered Questioning Youth Group (GLBTQ Youth) and Parents Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Not all the people are active with the phone line 100% of the time; with seasonal and personal changes people change their availability. For that reason there are often opportunities for new people to become involved with the phone line as a volunteer. Anyone interested need only leave a message indicating their interest and we will gladly get you involved.

The phone line operates from 7:00 to 10:00 pm on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and the number is **(709) 753-4297 [753-GAYS]**. So whatever the reason, questions, issues, concerns or interest in becoming involved, get in contact during those times or leave a message for us. ▼

15 Terrible Historical Events That Gay People Have Been Blamed For

1. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
2. The fall of the Roman Empire
3. A plague in Constantinople (AD 543)
4. The fall of Visigothic Spain to the Muslims
5. The decline of medieval Arabic civilization
6. The Black Plague
7. The decline of Renaissance Italy
8. The poleworm infestation of the Netherlands (1730-1731)
9. The 1755 Lisbon earthquake
10. The rise of Nazi Germany
11. The assassination of President Kennedy
12. Earthquakes in California
13. The mid-1970's drought in western US
14. The appearance of AIDS
15. Hurricane Andrew

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



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Psychiatry and the Gay Community

by Faye Freeman

I'm sure that everyone has heard derogatory statements made about psychiatrists at one time or another. "Shrinks," as psychiatrists are commonly referred to, have made it a practice to change their patient's behaviours to fit the societal norms of the day. Over the years, if any group has earned the right to criticize the psychiatric profession it is the gay community.

Psychiatrists have tried to 'cure' us of our "sexual deviances" by any number of bizarre techniques. One of the most cruel forms of 'treatment' that was popular in the '60's was **aversion therapy**. In one example of this 'treatment', the patient was read passages describing homosexual behaviour and then given painful shocks. When an example of heterosexual behaviour was read no shocks were administered. In theory, the patient learned that homosexual behaviour was wrong and therefore became **'cured'** of their homosexuality.

In the Winter '97/'98 edition of OUTLOOK, I wrote an article about being a member of the gay community

and a very unwilling member of the mental health community (i.e., as a person with a genuine mental illness). From numerous contacts with people in situations similar to mine, I have learned that there is still a fair amount of hostility and distrust on the part of the gay community towards psychiatry. These negative attitudes were well deserved in the past. However, in recent years, the profession of psychiatry has managed to drag its heels into the 20th century.

Psychiatrists have as their 'Bible' the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders that gives them the guidelines for making a diagnosis. The DSM II published in 1968 listed Homosexuality as a mental disorder. However by the time of its 7th Printing in July 1974, the wording was changed. In the 7th Printing, Homosexuality was listed as a 'Sexual Orientation Disturbance', to be diagnosed only when the individual was disturbed by and wished to change his/her sexual orientation. In the DSM III little changed in the definition but the medical profession decided to hang a new term on the old

diagnosis -- this new name was 'Ego-dystonic homosexuality'. In the late 1980's, the DSM III-R dropped 'Ego-dystonic homosexuality' as a category for diagnosis. In both the DSM III-R and DSM IV (1994) the term homosexuality is not mentioned at all.

What does all of this mean for those of us in the gay community? It means that we can seek psychiatric help without being judged on our sexual orientation. If you or anyone you know has met a psychiatrist (especially in the last ten years) that has tried to insist on changing your sexual orientation then that professional is not only out of step with the '90's but with his/her profession as well.

If the issue of sexual orientation has been holding you back from seeking help about a problem then I hope this information will encourage you to take the chance to seek help. As with every profession, some psychiatrists are exceptionally good, some are average and others are to be avoided like the plague. The main

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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 2

Surviving:

The stage school brought out my talents and I became an excellent dancer and fairly good actor. I had a natural talent for mime and the make-up classes were heaven! Leichner Stage Make-up! Sticks 3 1/2, 5, 7, 9, all numbered for skin tones, Sable lip brushes . . . I had everything! I wish I had it again. I loved modern dance and adored ballet and of course, this ability led to more torment from the boys, who were, for the most part, clumsy, lacking any grace and coordination. But, I had to learn to survive, because apart from Mary and a few of the other girls, I had no one. I began to develop a role that I played well - for the rest of my life, up until a few months ago. The part I played was that of a "Man" as defined in the Standard Text version of "The Rules of Machismo." I hated it, and I think this ugly role would have eventually driven me insane, except for Mary. When alone with her, all the pretense fell away and I could behave normally, as a girl. It became a rather sweet conspiracy, and certainly a few of the other girls were in on it. We had some delightful weekend afternoons. My play acting as a boy began to work. My parents, teachers and the 'other' boys began to notice a change in me, I was becoming more 'masculine', more 'manly'. I was becoming less sensitive, somewhat more violent, played sports and was loud in the playground . My actions became less graceful, or 'limp wristed' I think they called it, and my walk began to resemble that peculiar ruptured gait of my 'peers.' My relationship with Mary was observed, noted and approved-of as it was generally believed that we had something going a sort of *nudge, nudge, wink, wink* thing. In fact, I was envied by the boys! Except for Peter G----- who, with rodent instinct, could tell I was faking it. Peter was an obscene, pig-faced monstrosity of


a boy and, the school bully, his size and violence giving him this role. He watched me and bided his time and then, one day in the playground, he confronted me - and out came all the old accusations, I was a 'queer' and I wasn't really a boy, just pretending, it went on, and on, and on . . . Getting worse, him jabbing me in the chest with his finger - harder and harder - saying "What ya going to do about it pansy? Eh Pansy, Pansy! Pansy! Pansy!?" Jab, jab, jab... and then a light came into his eyes and... he spat in my face!

It felt like I had been sitting there for days. I was home, sitting down at the dining room table, a cold cup of tea in front of me. A uniformed policeman, very kind man, was saying "Just tell me what happened son, just tell me what happened." . . . It's still like a photograph in my mind - burned in - I can remember that he looked really kind. Mum was crying, sobbing, in another room while dad stood in the doorway - looking at me with a mixture of delight, pride and astonishment. I had no idea what had happened except that I had a lot of blood on me and I was bruised all over. Finally I whispered, "He spat at me . . ." the horror and disbelief coming back as I said. As soon as Peter's spit

had hit me, it became another 'final straw,' only this time, all the years of pent-up pain, rage, anger and grief had exploded and . . . he was now in hospital. At the age of eight, I had beaten another human being to pulp... And it felt good. No charges were laid of course and the whole affair was hushed up. I was never bullied again. But the next time Mary and I played together, it was different, she was treating more like a boy, and I don't think she realized how much this hurt me... and deep inside, something died in pain. That day, I began to learn to hate myself. But, the years passed and our relationship grew and once more, I became her 'sister.' The boys at school left me very much alone - my going berserk having become legend, to be passed on to every new boy... Stay away from him, he's crazy..." I had become a loner, avoided by all. Except for Mary. Mary was both inside and outside as pretty as a flower. I often wonder if my affection for her has coloured her memory, but no, she was genuinely beautiful. I think I was eleven when she invited me to her parent's home in Dorset where they had a small hundred acre estate near Poole. Mum and Dad said yes and there I was, small suitcase packed, thermos and sandwiches, and off to the Station on my own! What an adventure! I was so excited, I knew that Mary's mum and dad were really rich (Daddy did something in the City of London and Mummy spent money) and I tried to imagine a home with servants! After changing trains a couple of times I arrived at the small station. It was an early evening in August and It was beautiful. The station was early Victorian and had real gas lamps. Looking down the track I could see huge elms and oaks and in the distance fields of wheat. For a city girl (yes - I will call myself that - my story) this was honey for the soul. I couldn't believe how beautiful the air smelled. I watched the little steam train, chuff - chuff - chuffing its way into the distance... I treasured these glimpses of heaven... After going through the ticket barrier

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The Ladies Who Lunch

by Ron Knowing

One of the continuing debates in this province is the level of funding for, and adequacy of services provided by our health care system. The ongoing deficit debate and rising cost of health care has led some pundits to suggest that Canada's experiment with socialized medicine is a failure. It would be better for the country to move to a private system such as exists in the United States. People who suggest this generally do not mention a phenomena prevalent in the United States called "managed health care".

Managed health care is a system developed by the American medical industry to reduce the cost of health care resulting from health insurance plans with millions of subscribers. Under a private health insurance plan you pay a set amount of money for access to a range of medical services. When you get sick, you go to your local doctor, or a specialist and they outline the range of health care alternatives available to you predicated on their interpretation of your medical problem and the services offered by your health insurance plan.

Under a system of "managed health care" the insurance plans offer physicians "incentives" to reduce the amount they bill to health insurance plans. This is done by eliminating the more costly health care alternatives a doctor will mention to a patient. "Don't tell a patient about treatment 'X' it costs too much". The doctor is encouraged to propose the cheapest and shortest term treatment available. In short "managed health care" creates a system where a doctor's professional oath dedicates him/her to caring for patients but financial success is determined by doing as little for them as possible. The result could be more "efficient" health care which benefits the medical industry, it could also be a system which rations out health care to patients based on their ability to pay rather than their need.

Think about this. Imagine you have AIDS and are going to your doctor for care. Your health insurance plan is paying for the visit. Is your health insurance plan offering your doctor an incentive to keep information about new treatments from you because those treatments cost more? Its an ugly question. Its an ugly question which people with AIDS and HIV must confront everyday in the United States. Some American states are attempting to deal with the problem by passing laws prohibiting "gag rules".

The US federal government has limited the types of bonuses which doctors can be offered for containing costs.


In Canada this is not an issue. Our system of health care provides for unfettered communication between doctors and patients. This promotes the welfare of all Canadians and helps to defend the rights of the sick. Most Americans would give their eye teeth for such security. ▼

Are you a gay, lesbian, or bisexual Roman Catholic? Do you want to belong to a group that will affirm your faith and your sexuality? If you would like to help form such a group, please write in confidence to: Boxholder, 38 Pearson Street, #147, St. John's, NF A1A 3R1.

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Local and National News Headlines

Charitable Status Progressing

NGALE Incorporated's application for Charitable Status has been received by the Charities Division of Revenue Canada. It is estimated that the application should be approved within 6 months. Charitable organization status with the federal government will allow NGALE to issue tax deductible receipts for donations. ▼

School Board Elections

Ron Knowling ran as an openly gay candidate in the recent school board elections. Knowling ran in the Avalon East School Board, Zone 2 (St. John's West). Out of a slate of 13 candidates Knowling came in second last receiving 235 votes. Elected in St. John's West were Lynn Greene, 1975 votes; Oonagh O'Dea, 1700 votes; Cyril Hayden, 976 votes; Dorothy Bragg, 916 votes.

Members of the Gay and lesbian community who are interested in education are encouraged to volunteer with the school council of their neighborhood school. ▼

Building Fund Approved

At its February 4, 1998 meeting NGALE approved the creation of a building fund and voted to set aside 30% of all future revenues for project.

The building fund is part of an initiative designed to expand and formalize NGALE's operations in the St. John's area. The spaces which NGALE currently uses for meetings and social activities are controlled by other organizations, and as such the group is subject to the priorities of those groups and our activities are limited accordingly. Using space donated by other groups means that NGALE activities also lack the privacy which some members of our community require to feel secure. The building fund is designed as a long term solution to these problems by creating a fund which will eventually lead to the creation of a secure central location for NGALE activities and services to the gay community and the public.

Over the next year NGALE will be developing a profile of its requirements for a physical space in conjunction with the group's mission statement and strategic plan. This profile will combine the needs of the group and the local community with the projected challenges of owning and operating a building. Sections will include a marketing campaign to solicit donations

for the building fund from potential corporate sponsors, a business plan for the building, an outline of resources to be housed in the building, and the projected uses of the building my members of the gay community and the public. ▼

EGALE Shocked by Supreme Court Judge's Anti-Gay Slur

"I'm stunned. I just can't believe it," said John Fisher, Executive Director of EGALE. "Judge Binnie's comments are totally unacceptable, and betray a lack of awareness of the history of discrimination suffered by gays and lesbians."

Earlier this week, Mr. Justice Binnie, the latest appointment to the Supreme Court of Canada told a legal fraternity at Osgoode Hall that he wondered whether it would be a "faggoty dress-up party". Just days from now, on Wednesday, March 20, Mr. Justice Binnie is due to hear a landmark lesbian and gay equality challenge to Ontario's Family Law Act.

"Next week Judge Binnie will be

(Continued on page 11)

STOP THE PRESSES!

Vriend Wins Case Against Alberta

The Supreme Court unanimously ruled on April 2 that Alberta has violated the Canadian Constitution by its acts of discrimination against gays and lesbians. Delwin Vriend recently challenged the province's refusal to include sexual orientation in its human rights legislation.

Bi Themselves

by James E. Clarinet

Well, I'm back again. After my last article I wasn't sure about writing another one, because I didn't think my words would have an impact on anyone. I have since learned that they have, in a positive light. Therefore, I feel the need to express my opinions here once again. Last time, I expressed my views on the gay community's attitudes when it comes to stereotyping ourselves. I thought I would talk about a similar subject this time around. Another form of prejudice, if you will. And that is bi-phobia.

Some of you may be wondering what I'm talking about. What I'm talking about is how some of us have shut out a segment of our community just because they don't quite fit into the category of "queer" or so they say. For some reason, some people don't believe bisexuality exists, or if they do, they don't understand it. I'm hoping that I can shed some light on the subject.

Let me first define what bisexuality is. It simply means that a person is attracted to both sexes. Nothing more, nothing less. It doesn't mean that someone wants to sleep with both sexes at the same time, or that they are incapable of settling down with one person. Yet, this is what some people think bisexuals are. They are also not people who are "sitting on the fence" as some people put it, not being able to fully accept their alternative sexuality.

Let me address the latter issue first. I am a gay man. I've always been a gay man, but for a time in my life, I did go through what you might call a "bisexual" stage. I'm willing to bet many of you have too. I tried

to convince myself I was attracted to women, because I couldn't deny my attraction to men, so I could live a somewhat "normal" life. Despite this, I still believe that true bisexuality exists. Many people, men and women, are attracted to both sexes. I sometimes envy these people, because they get the best of both worlds.

And as far as bisexuals not being able to remain in a committed relationship, that is utter nonsense. Just because someone is attracted to more than one gender, doesn't mean you constantly need companionship with more than one gender. I have friends who are bisexuals, some in committed relationships. They are happy with the people they are with, and don't feel the need to drop their partners for the other gender.

Let me put it this way. I am in a very committed relationship. I am also attracted to other men. That's normal. It doesn't mean I'm going to drop my guy for the first man that catches my fancy. My boyfriend has many qualities that I find attractive. Other men have qualities that I also find attractive, which my boyfriend doesn't have. But I'm happy with him and that's all that matters. Bisexuals are no different. Of course there are bisexuals who will screw anything that moves. But so what. There are gay men and women, and straight men and women, who do the same. Only they stick with one gender. That doesn't mean we're better than them. Just different.

So I hope I've enlightened you a bit on bisexuality, and that we shouldn't exclude them from our

community. They need just as much support as we do, maybe even more so. They're a minority within a minority, and as such, get criticized by the gay and straight population. I hope you will be more accepting of these people in the future.

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

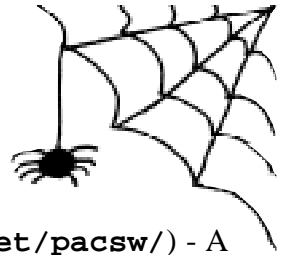
(Continued from page 5)

point to remember is that you are a 'consumer' of a service, and the psychiatrist is the service provider. If you are not satisfied with the first service provider you meet then keep shopping around until you have found someone that you can work with. Sometimes it is a matter of a personality clash or possibly that the psychiatrist's style doesn't work for you but whatever

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(no one there - he had wandered off to have his tea) I found myself met by a tall, slim young man who introduced himself as Andrew, Mary's brother, and as I looked at him, something amazing happened! It was like a warm arrow straight through my heart - I had never in my whole life felt like this and I felt myself going weak as his smiling eyes held mine. He noticed - and I remember the look of surprise and warmth in his smile, a smile that drove all the shadows away . . . He drove us to the estate. ▼

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.

- Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women (<http://www.thezone.net/pacsw/>) - A rich local resource for women and feminists featuring a large selection of booklets, briefs, and workshop transcripts.
- Queers Online (<http://www.queersonline.com>) - A brand-new cross-Canada page with a comprehensive search engine, news headlines, in-depth news articles, reviews, and lots more.
- The Data Lounge (<http://www.dataounge.com>) - A great gay general interest page containing international information, gossip, an advice column, entertainment news, opinion forums, and other fun sections.

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 .

Another area of the Internet getting a lot of attention is chat rooms. While there are many different types of chat on the 'net, ranging from simple real-time text conversations all the way up to audio and even video, one of the most popular is Internet Relay Chat (IRC). When connected to an IRC server, you can join thousands of different discussion areas (even more than one at a time), or create your own channel just as easily. Many Newfoundlanders (both local and expatriate) congregate on the **#GayStJohns** channel. Here's how to configure your PC to join in the fun:

1. Download an IRC client program for your computer. One of the best ones is called **mIRC**, and you can download it for free from the web page <http://www.mirc.co.uk> . Run the setup program that you've downloaded to install mIRC on your system.
2. Configure it to use a nearby server on EFnet. The nearest one to Newfoundland is **irc.nbnet.nb.ca** in New Brunswick. You can set up mIRC to use it by going to the **File** menu and picking **Setup**. Press the **Add** button, and in the window that appears, type in a Description (eg. "New Brunswick") and the address (irc.nbnet.nb.ca). Click the **Add** button to put it in your server list. On the main **Setup** screen you'll need to type in your Full Name and E-mail Address (both of which can be fake if you want to remain anonymous), as well as a Nickname (the name you'll be known by when on IRC) and an Alternative (in case someone else is using the primary Nickname you chose).
3. Once dialled in to your Internet provider, press the **Connect** button on the **Setup** screen (or the spark icon in the upper left-hand corner of the main screen) to connect to the server. Once on, you can get a list of all currently active channels by typing /list in the status window and join a channel by typing (for example) /join **#gaystjohns** . Note that you can join several channels at once, but it gets hard to manage screen space (not to mention juggle conversations) with any more than a few at one time.
4. There are lots of options you can customize (mostly under **File** → **Options** and **Tools**) such as automatically connecting to a server and joining your favorite channels when you connect, etc. You can also transfer files (such as pictures) to the people you're chatting with using DCC. Another popular feature is the Notify List, which will let you know when friends have joined IRC.

(Continued from page 8)

sitting in judgment on one of the most important lesbian and gay equality cases to come before the Supreme Court”, said Jan Cheney, Chair of EGALÉ’s Legal Issues Committee. “The Court has the power to finally recognize gay and lesbian Canadians as equal - or to strip us of everything we’ve worked so hard for. Central to the Court’s ability to rule on this issue fairly is a need to understand how sometimes discrimination is so deeply embedded in our language, our thoughts and our social structures that it can be perpetrated unwittingly against society’s most vulnerable groups.”

“Public confidence in the administration of justice requires that any marginalized group be able to come before the highest Court in the land, confident that their constitutional equality rights will be upheld”, said Fisher. “How would we feel about a judge who publicly made a derogatory racial or anti-Semitic slur on the eve of a landmark race equality case?”

“If a Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada can use a hateful, derogatory word like ‘faggot’ without thinking twice about it, what hope is there for gays and lesbians in our struggle for equality? If the Supreme Court denies us our rights, where are we going to turn?”

“We were deeply concerned when Mr. Justice Binnie was appointed because he had previously represented extreme right-wing evangelical groups, arguing that gays and lesbians should be excluded from the definition of “family”. When the Judge was appointed, however, we felt it important to give him the benefit of the doubt. Now we have to wonder whether that trust was misplaced.”

“This underlines the urgent need for judicial education programs to directly address sensitivity to lesbian and gay equality issues,” said Jan Cheney. “Clearly, many judges are not familiar with the perspectives of those marginalized groups whose equality rights they are adjudicating. Judicial education is no longer a luxury - it is essential to maintain public confidence in the administration of justice.”



Book Corner

by Wayne Osmond

If Only for One Night

James Earl Hardy

This is the latest in Hardy's *B-Boy Blue* series (the first two being *B-Boy Blues* and *The Second Time Around*). As in his other books in the series the central character is Mitchell Crawford.

Mitchell is still living with Pooquie and they are very much in love. Mitchell is planning on attending his 10 year high school reunion. However, Mitchell has some reservations about attending this reunion. These reservations are a result of his former gymnastics teacher/coach, Mr. Reid. Mitchell and Reid had a relationship during Mitchell's last year of High School. Their relationship never really ended with any finality so Mitchell still feels the effect of this. Much of the novel deals with the beginnings of the relationship between Mitchell and Mr. Reid, how they met, their first kiss, first hug and first sexual encounter. All the while Mitchell is struggling with his feelings about Mr.Reid and Pooquie.

The insight given into what proves to be Mitchell's first real love adds a new dimension to Mitchell himself. We see him as a love-struck teenager with whom some of us can relate, we also see the inner struggle between his feelings for Pooquie and his feelings for Mr. Reid. We encounter some of Mitchell's high school chums interspersed throughout the novel. These add some humorous moments to the novel and add to the climatic meeting between Mitchell and Mr. Reid. Will Mitchell take another chance with Mr. Reid or will he remain faithful to his Pooquie??. You'll have to read the novel to find out.

This novel is quite short(only 200 pages),it is loaded with information about Mitchell and other people that were a part of his life, it is a fast read and provides added insight into Hardy's main character Mitchell Crawford. The novel provides an interesting ending. There maybe opportunity for another novel in this series.

Our Mission Statement

NGALE, Inc. is a community-based, not-for-profit volunteer organization dedicated to providing support and education to and for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered persons, and the public in general, in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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 voice mail 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 Queen of the Desert*, *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 *The Hanging Garden*, *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 Spring 1998

April 1 (Wednesday): NGALE regular meeting.

April 8 (Wednesday): NGALE social event.

April 11 (Saturday): Easter dance, regular location. Admission \$5.

April 15 (Wednesday): NGALE regular meeting.

April 22 (Wednesday): NGALE executive meeting and social event.

April 25-26 (Saturday, Sunday): NGALE **Annual General Meeting** (see cover story).

May 6 (Wednesday): NGALE regular meeting.

May 13 (Wednesday): NGALE social event.

May 20 (Wednesday): NGALE regular meeting.

May 27 (Wednesday): NGALE executive meeting social event.

June 3 (Wednesday): NGALE regular meeting.

June 10 (Wednesday): NGALE social event.

June 17 (Wednesday): NGALE regular meeting.

Visit our web page at <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/4291> or call the Support & Info Line (see above) for up-to-date event news.