

Volume 4, Issue 2: Summer 1998



Pride Week '98

Seventh Annual Pride Week Celebrations to be Held Week of June 22nd-28th, 1998

St. John's will be celebrating its seventh annual Pride Week from June 22 to 28. Events are scheduled for every day of the week, including a press conference and social gatherings, culminating in a rally on the steps of City Hall and March for Freedom on Sunday afternoon.



Participants in last year's march on Water Street (Photo by M. Riehl)

Monday, June 22

7:00 pm - Nature walk around Long Pond, departing Bitters at Field Hall, MUN

8:00 pm - Adult swim at the Aquarena

10:00 pm - Coffee social at Hava Java, 216 Water Street

Tuesday, June 23

11:00 am - Press conference at AIDS Committee office, 347 Duckworth Street

9:00 pm - Poetry reading at the Ship Inn, 265 Duckworth Street

Wednesday, June 24

8:00 pm - Bowling and pizza party at Plaza Bowl, Ropewalk Lane

11:00 pm - Coffee social at Oliver's, 160 Water Street

Thursday, June 25

8:30 pm - Adult swim at the Aquarena

10:00 pm - Coffee social at Hava Java, 216 Water Street

Friday, June 26

6:30 pm - Scavenger hunt at the OUT▼POST, 186 Water Street

9:00 pm - Coffee social at the Poet and Peasant, 169 Water Street

Saturday, June 27

7:30 pm - Drag race at Scotia Square, Water Street

Pride Week dance at the OUT▼POST, 186 Water Street

Sunday, June 28

2:00 pm - Rally and March for Freedom at City Hall, New Gower Street

3:30 pm - Post-March social and barbecue at the OUT▼POST, 186 Water Street

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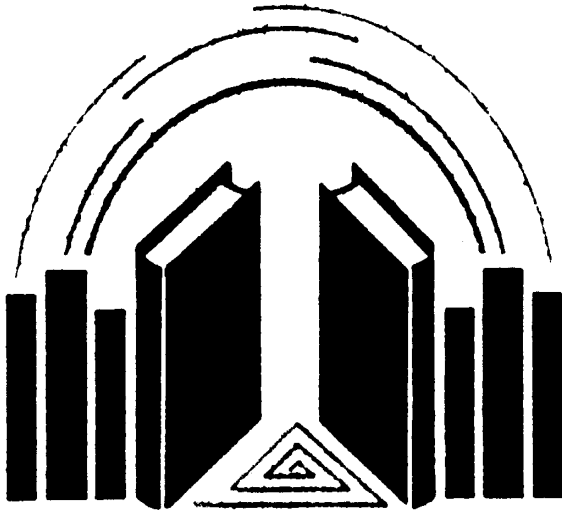
A Publication of Newfoundland Gays And Lesbians for Equality, Inc.
International Standard Serial Number 1480-350X

See page 3 for the full text of the Mayor's proclamation.



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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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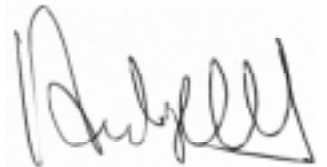
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Pride Week 1998

In late June people celebrate Pride Week across Canada. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people make a substantial contribution for society. Members of the homosexual community are however, often discriminated against in this same society. Discrimination and prejudice against LGBT people have many forms, from verbal abuse, degrading jokes and comments, and physical violence, to denial of services, housing, and spousal benefits. These actions are in direct violation of basic human rights and are often only based on individual judgement. The City of St. John's fully supports the adoption of sexual orientation as part of the Human Rights Code of Newfoundland and Labrador.

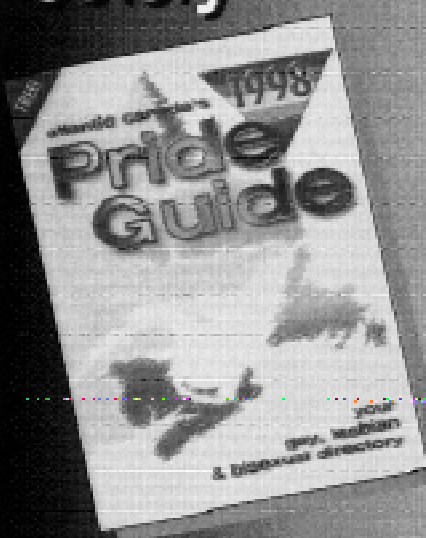
Five Newfoundland organizations, Newfoundland Gays And Lesbians for Equality (NGALE), LBGT-MUN (Memorial University), the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Questioning Youth Group (GLBQ Youth), Newfoundland Amazon Network (NAN) and Parents, Family and friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG Newfoundland) will be involved in activities for celebration during Newfoundland's Pride Week held in St. John's.

Therefore, the City of St. John's joins lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people in their struggle for recognition of their contribution to society and in their fight against homophobia and discrimination on the road towards a more open-minded and caring world to live in. We hereby declare the week of June 22nd - 28th to be Newfoundland's seventh celebration of Pride Week held in the City of St. John's.

Andy Wells, Mayor.



Atlantic Canada's Gay / Lesbian / Bisexual Directory



**Pick Up
Your FREE
Copy at:**

Corner Brook: Women's Resource Centre •
St. John's: Bennington Gate • Branwen
Books • Capital Video • Churchill Square
Video • International News • Newfoundland
& Labrador AIDS Committee • OUT▼POST
• Poet & Peasant Bookstore • Provincial
Advisory Council on the Status of Women •
Resource Centre for the Arts • St. John's
Status of Women • Zone 2-1-6

Or send \$2, cheque or
money-order, (shipping handling) to:
Pride Guide
1563 Walnut Street
Halifax, NS B3H 3S1

prideguy@hotmail.com

Newfoundland's Participation in Nation-wide Survey of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals

NGALE has been asked to assist with distributing copies of the survey within the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. The intention of the primary researchers and community based EGALE is to get as wide a picture of lesbians, gays and bisexuals around the country as possible. In order to facilitate as wide a sampling as possible we need to get surveys into the hands of people outside St. John's where NGALE is based. That goal can be achieved by contacting NGALE in one of the following ways to request a copy or copies of the survey.

E-Mail: ngale@geocities.com

Post: Box 6221, St. John's, NF, A1C 6J9

Phone: (709) 753-4297, leave a message

EGALE: 1-888-204-7777

Copies will also be available at NGALE meetings and events. All of the allotted copies for New-

foundland and Labrador will be sent to NGALE, so contacting us will likely be the most effective way of getting copies of the survey. The survey itself includes a postage paid return envelope to return the survey to the principal researchers, which should encourage a good response rate.

Remember, get a copy of the survey and encourage friends to do the same.

Kevin Hicks
NGALE Vice Chair



11 Admonitions In Leviticus That Fundamentalists Often Conveniently Forget About

1. Death penalty for using the Lord's name in vain (Lev. 24:16)
2. Prohibition against eating pork (Lev. 11:7-8)
3. Mandating of animal sacrifices (Lev. 4:1-10)
4. Death penalty for spiritualists (Lev. 20:27)
5. Human slavery sanctioned (Lev. 25:44-46)
6. Prohibition against eating fat (Lev. 19:27)
7. Forbidding of hair and beard trimming (Lev. 19:27)
8. Prohibition against eating crab, clams, oysters (Lev. 11:9-12)
9. Death penalty for adultery (Lev. 20:10)
10. The profanity of disabled individuals (Lev. 21:18-23)
11. Other prohibitions (Lev. 19:19) *

* Lists cattle cross-breeding, sowing fields with two kinds of seed, and wearing of cloth made of different fabrics as prohibitions

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

"Let's face it, everything filters out from the gay community first. Gay people are always far more along with things than the rest of the world... The gay community and the dance community are the ones who really latched onto us and made us who we are. With 'Conga', it was the gay clubs that made it a hit before anyone else and took it to the top."

--Singer Gloria Estefan
to Chicago's Windy City Times, May 21.



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Impacting the Media, Mediating the Impact

by Lori Covington

"Choosy Moms choose Jif." Do you remember that commercial, and a thousand like it, basing their appeal on the authority of the archetypal housewife? You've also noticed the at-home pregnancy test-takers are all married women, resigned to discover they aren't pregnant and elated if they are. Peanut butter, detergent, toilet-bowl cleaner, medicines used by "Dr. Mom" and all manner of foodstuffs are shown on TV as provided (and used) by "Mom", the young, married, employed-yet-supremely capable housewife who, in TV-Land, manages the households of the world. TV Moms work all day (now), pick up the children from daycare, fix supper, and wash a few loads of clothes before starting on the floors. Like the Kindergarten teacher we believed was locked in a closet at school each night and only brought out to teach us again in the morning, TV Moms are omniscient and omnipresent. But, more like the Tooth Fairy, the TV Mom is more a figment of our collective imagination than she is a real member of the household.

It's common knowledge in the advertising world that women do most of the shopping (and buying), and it's as commonly understood (but rarely acknowledged) that women still do the majority

of household cleaning in households headed by a man and woman pair. Poor TV Dad is too lazy to fix supper and too dumb to wash a load of clothes without the advice and assistance of his Wife. He does paint, and do things to the lawnmower, but inside the house, the guy is a dud. But what do you expect from an advertising ideal?

The world of advertising is a place of sexism and, hence of heterosexism, where the division of labor is based on an assumption of sexuality, straight sexuality. In fact, the only single-sex couples we see in commercials are young college roommates, fighting over the last six-pack. Gay people, like unmarried women, (the ones who buy most of the early pregnancy tests) are noticeable in advertising only by their absence.

So what about those of us who don't fit into the household where all the cleaning, cooking, and pleasing is done by Mom? We still buy food and get the laundry done, don't we? Men who live without women and women who live together, although invisible in TV-land, are real and present in life, which is where we live, regardless of what the idiot-box says. And, although in a population minority (perpetuated, no doubt in

part by the brainwashing and blandishments of the tube), we can make choices that make our presence felt in TV-Land. The most obvious choices we make are the TV shows we watch, and we decide whether to support a show like *Ellen* because we like and identify with the main character, or we decide to ignore a show, turn it off, or even write the producers to complain if we don't like what it has to say.

When I started graduate school, my program was not known for being politically active. However, the latest Barbie doll caused a furor in our department. Someone created a Barbie who whined, "*Math is haaard*", and the students in my department gathered one day to call in complaints to Mattel from the university phone. Don't girls have enough obstacles in acquiring math skills, without being brainwashed by a brainless Barbie bimbo? One after the other, we took the phone and added our names to a list that crossed the nation. And Mattel pulled their puling Barbie doll. It was a small victory, Barbie being what she is, but a victory nonetheless.

And the spirit applies here, because gay, lesbian, and transgendered people buy
(Continued on page 9)

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Angela Through the Looking Glass

an ongoing feature by Angela Teal

Part 3.

This is the 'story' version of that first weekend. I have resurrected the dialogue and the feelings and though I admit, it is somewhat 'scripted,' this is what really happened. Now, if you would, come with me

Those long English country lanes, gigantic oaks that remembered William of Normandy and King Charles, long rows of elm trees. High hedges and beyond, fields that glowed with a harvest that spoke of a gentler age, where an English pub - was the fountain head of civilization. We drove up to the estate in a dark green Jaguar and up to the inevitable Gates, huge, black cast-iron, graceful and weighing many tons. The crushed flint driveway making the cliché sound - of an expensive car driving over it - and on up to the huge house, an ivy covered mansion really, surrounded by more trees. I was in awe and would have been intimidated - except for Andrew, dear sweet Andrew who, perhaps, sensing my trepidation used his gift of warm conversation to set me at ease and make me feel welcome! As we drew up the driveway, to the long flight of carved stone steps that led to the front entrance, a voice, high pitched and squealing in excitement broke the spell . . . "Aaron! Aaron! Aaron!" and down the steps flew an angel, Mary, golden curls flying, eyes wide and a smile that hugged my heart until it ached . . . My beautiful 'sister' . . . She nearly cracked my ribs and I was buried in an avalanche of excited chatter, while Andrew watched us, that smile . . . I was caught by his eyes again

Of course I was taken on the 'Grand Tour' throughout the house, empty of staff, a weekend - they were sent away, just the 'children' at home. The parents, rich, neglectful, unaware, distant, were in Scotland doing something barbaric involving grouse and Andrew . . . Our 'baby-sitter' and guardian was left in charge. Mary had grabbed hold of my hand and was dragging me for what seemed miles, through long hallways

lined with portraits of ancestors in uniform and armor, stables, orchards, kitchens (so huge!) Libraries . . so many books! I had no idea that such things really existed . . . But it was a matter of course for her, a fact of life that meant little and her sweet personality and that of her brother Andrew was so unaffected and natural, that I felt at home.


In retrospect, I think that for just a few times in our lives we are allowed to spend a day or two in heaven, just to keep us alive, this was my first day.

My high ceilinged room was beautiful, I had a huge bed, a desk, it's own telephone, beautiful furniture and there was a button by the bed that rang all the way down to the kitchen and, best of all . . . it had it's own bathroom and a shower! Showers were, then, a rarity in England and just standing under the endless hot water was pure heaven. I never forgot the bath towels, as big as bed sheets, so soft and fluffy! That evening we descended on the kitchen to do our worst! Dinner was prepared by all of us with tremendous laughing and giggling, again . . . Andrew's eyes caught mine, again the warmth . . . He supervised, but Mary was the brains . . . and the meal was superb. Funny, because I can't remem-

ber what it was. That night I was allowed wine! A rather nice Sauterne I do believe. After supper we went upstairs, Andrew to do some studying and Mary and I, to her room where, I saw every dress she had, all of her many dolls and we played with her huge German-made doll house. There were little lights inside the rooms that turned on and off and many of her dolls were to scale . . . The layer of happiness was perfect, the 'real' had ceased to exist. It was getting close to bed time and Andrew had dropped the hint. Mary went for a shower and I engrossed in the dolls and doll house was left alone. On her bed, laid out, her nightdress tickling the corner of my eye. I could see the frills and the ribbons and like a magnet, I felt my pulse quickening and I was drawn to it. I picked it up but as soon as it's material ran through my fingers, I was struck with a soft lightning and I was paralysed - for some reason, the touch of pure silk had stunned me and I felt scared. I stood up, in a fog, and walked to the mirror and held it against myself, slowly turning, looking, imagining what I would be like to wear it But the silence in the room was too long and looking past my reflection - I saw Mary standing in the doorway, her eyes wide in shock! I nearly fainted . . . and sat down heavily down on the bed clutching the nightdress against me my head reeling . . . Suddenly, her arms holding me tight her head against mine, her voice whispering urgently in my ear, over and over again . . . "It's all right, it's all right, shh, it's all right, it's all right" holding me tight, and I felt my heart break, tears of relief fell from my eyes . . . and she, gently picked up the pieces. She said "I know, Aaron . . ." I looked into her eyes and then she, making sure I was listening, said it again, slowly "I - know . . ." She then sat on the bed with me and explained everything she had realized about me, she knew that I was a girl . . . and little by little a huge weight was lifted off my heart and . . . She held me tight for a long while and said that we would talk more tomorrow - and when I got up to go to my room, she suddenly said "Here!"

(Continued on page 9)

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The Ladies Who Lunch

by Ron Knowing

"We all lived together in the big cabins, mostly on stretchers with springs and a mattress, though there were still a few of the old bed bunks with straw mattresses, on which two men slept side by side under one blanket. I was on the straw for a few nights. I slept with a quiet decent fellow who was going to get married in the spring. Unfortunately, I guess in anticipation of the event, he lost control of himself during one night. Imagine! I woke up with this fellow busy giving me the works."

— Gerard Fortin and Boyce Richardson. *Life in the Party* (Montreal, 1894), 38.

Gerard Fortin's brief account of a same sex experience in a bunkhouse is one of the rare accounts we have of the world of the gay male in the early twentieth century. The uniqueness of this nugget of information highlights the hidden nature of much of gay history, and the resulting difficulty in building a history of gays and lesbians.

History is a powerful tool for creating a sense of community and belonging and is consciously used by ethnic and national groups to build narratives which detail the development of nations and cultures but often ignore the stories of mi-

norities who do not fit these monolithic moulds. One of the great problems for a diverse population such as the Gay community is developing an awareness of our history outside of this pattern. Because of the fact that we are identified as a group linked "only" by our sexuality, rather than acceptable categories like "nationality" or "culture" our stories and experiences are marginalised. We are a community which exists across the spectrum of human society yet because of discrimination we have been forced to hide and the result is that our history is more difficult to find.

Despite this evidence is available demonstrating that gays and lesbians have been a rich and active part of our history. In the 19th century gays and lesbians emigrated to North America seeking better opportunities and greater personal freedom not available in Europe. One German emigrate wrote to a "sexologist" about his feelings in 1882 after leaving his home to avoid persecution. "One thing is true. Our loves bear as fair and noble flowers incite to as praiseworthy efforts as does the love of man for the woman of his affections. There are the same sacrifices, the same joy in abnegation even to the laying down of life, the same pain, the same joy, sorrow, happiness, as with men of ordinary natures..."

We live in a democratic society which pays lip service to the ideal that all people have the same dignity

and rights whatever their sex, religion, ability, affiliation, and most recently here in Newfoundland and Labrador sexual orientation. As we consider the statements of the gays and lesbians of earlier times we should consider the sacrifices they made. They are the pioneers who carved out the routes we now walk in our daily lives. Isn't it time we began to talk about them and record our own experiences for posterity so that future gay communities will have an open and positive history to draw on? ▼

Outlook regretfully notes the sudden passing of Jacqueline (Jackie) Brown, B.S.W., age 35, on May 29. Jackie was an active community supporter and advocate. She will be sadly missed.

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Local and National News Headlines

NGALE Annual General Meeting a Success

NGALE Inc.'s fourth AGM was held on the weekend of April 25-26. Amendments were made to the Constitution, a new executive was elected, and committees were struck. Featured speakers included Beth Lacey and Sgt. Robert Shannahan of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary. Several new members also attended, from as far away as Corner Brook. ▼

Nova Scotia Government Extends Same-Sex Pension Benefits

The national lesbian and gay equality organization EGALE welcomed today the decision of the Nova Scotia government to settle the court challenge brought by Wilson Hodder and extend equal pension benefits to those in same-sex relationships.

"We are delighted that the Government is recognizing its constitutional responsibility to treat gays and lesbians equally," said Kim Vance, EGALE Board Member from Nova Scotia. "Rather than fighting to maintain a position which is clearly discriminatory, the government has chosen to affirm the right of all Nova Scotians to equal workplace benefits. ▼

Lesbians and gays contribute equally to pension plans and are entitled to the equal benefit of those plans."

The decision of the Nova Scotia government also increases pressure on the federal government not to appeal the recent ruling of the Ontario Court of Appeal in *CUPE & Rosenberg v Canada*. In that judgment, the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled unanimously that the "opposite-sex" definition of "spouse" in the pension registration provisions of the federal Income Tax Act is unconstitutional. The federal government has until mid-June to decide whether or not to appeal the decision.

"The CUPE case will be the litmus test of the federal government's commitment to equality," said John Fisher, Executive Director of EGALE. "Today's de-

cision from Nova Scotia clearly demonstrates that governments can act responsibly in advancing equality issues if they have the will to do so. In deciding to extend equal pension benefits, the Nova Scotia government made extensive reference to their wish to respect the unanimous judgment in the CUPE case. If the federal government appeals that same ruling, they will be disgracing themselves and all Canadians who care about equality. We call upon the federal government to do the right thing and bring its pension legislation and other laws into conformity with the Charter of Rights." ▼

Queering The Nation Conference in Ontario

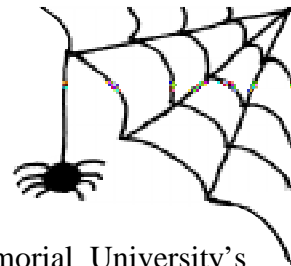
Queering the Nation is a national broad-based conference working towards unifying, refocusing and re-energizing our diverse and expansive queer community. The conference's basic principles are to challenge boundaries, develop strategies, empower, educate, and raise mainstream awareness. The conference will be taking place from June 24 - June 27, 1998 at York University and coincides with Pride Week activities in Toronto. ▼

STOP THE PRESSES!

Provincial Employees Get Medical Benefits for Partners

The Newfoundland Government has announced that same-sex partners are now covered for medical benefits (prescription drugs and dental work) under its Blue Cross health insurance plan.

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.

- LBGT-MUN (<http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~lbgtmun/>) - Home page of Memorial University's Lesbian/Bisexual/Gay/Transgendered group. Also visit their Resource Centre in the TSC, room T-2022D.
- Life on Brian's Beat (<http://www.web.net/~jharnick/>) - A personal page featuring a wide variety of Canada-wide queer resources and other useful information.
- National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (<http://www.nglftf.org/>) - America's premiere gay rights organization.

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. ▼

World's First Ever Gay Sketch Comedy TV Show Premieres on CBC Television, June 22

Come out, come out wherever you are! *In Thru the Out Door*, the world's first openly gay and lesbian sketch comedy show premieres on CBC Television on Monday, June 22 at 9 p.m. [9:30 in Newfoundland]. It's risk-taking, ground-breaking, eye-popping, thought-provoking -- and funny!

Sketches skewer subjects as diverse as televised religion, strained relationships and ridiculous stereotypes. *In Thru the Out Door* is outrageous comedy which is accessible to all audiences while remaining credible to its lesbian and gay core.

In Thru the Out Door features a stellar ensemble cast of North America's finest gay and lesbian comics, including comic sensation Jonathan Wilson, best-known for his hit one-man show *My Own Private Oshawa*; Elvira Kurt, whose television appearances include her show-stopping episode of the hit CBC Television comedy series *Comics!*; Maggie Cassella, queen of the popular *We're Funny That Way* gay and lesbian comedy festival; and Craig Francis, a member of Montreal's award-winning *On The Spot* improv group.

The show also stars tall, dark and hilarious Bob Smith,

author of the best-selling book *Openly Bob*; Suzanne Westenhoefer, the first Out comic to host a solo TV comedy special; Jaffe Cohen, author of the recent book, *The King of Kings and I*; and stand-up scene-stealer Robin Greenspan.

The cast is joined by extra special guest star Lea DeLaria, whose bravado performance in the smash Off Broadway revival of *On The Town* won her universal critical acclaim. She is currently performing in the Toronto production of *Chicago*. Legendary Canadian music diva Carole Pope writes and performs the theme song and music for the show.

Taped in Montreal before an enthusiastic audience, *In Thru the Out Door* will be seen later this year in the United States and Australia. Insiders assure us that there is no truth to the rumor that the show is being considered to replace *Ellen*. *In Thru the Out Door* is created and produced by Andy Nulman and directed by Michael McNamara. Executive producer is Dan Redican. The 60-minute special is a production of Nul Man's Land and Distributions Rozon Inc., in association with CBC Television. ▼

— Courtesy of the CBC-TV Website

OUTLOOK now carries news items and quotes from world-renowned gay journalist Rex Wockner.

The Lighter Side

by Gay Guy and Ron Knowing

A guy walks into a bar ... once inside, he realizes it's a gay bar, but he decides, "What the heck, I really want a drink."

So he sits down at the bar, and the gay bartender says to him, "What's the name of your penis?"

The guy says, "Look, I'm not into any of that. All I want is a drink."



The gay bartender says, "I'm sorry, but I can't serve you until you tell me the name of your penis."

So the guy looks at the man sitting to his left who is sipping on a beer and asks, "Hey bud, what's the name of your penis?" The man to left, with a smile, looks back and says, "*Timex*."

The guy asks, "Why *Timex*?" The fella proudly replies, "'Cause it takes a lickin' and keeps on tickin'!"

A little shaken, the guy turns to the fella on his right sipping on a margarita, "So, what do you call your penis?" The man to his right turns to him and proudly exclaims, "*Ford*, because quality is Job 1", he then adds, "Have you driven a *Ford* lately?"

Even more shaken, the guy has to think for a moment before he comes up with a name for his penis. He turns to the bartender and exclaims, "The name of my penis is *Secret*. Now give me my beer."

The bartender begins to pour the guy a beer, but with a puzzled look asks, "Why *Secret*?"

The guy says, "because it's strong enough for a man but made for a woman!" ▼



I was out walking with some friends in Butterpot Park a few days ago and as is wont to happen when a group of gay men get together, the topic of conversation turned to sex, and specifically pornography. While in some circles this topic might lead to uncomfortable silences or strident denunciations, this group of shrinking violets expressed the consensus that along with their mother's apple tarts and coffee bars, porn was a pretty good thing. The only thing lacking to make porn leap ahead of its competition was a culturally specific genre of the material for Newfoundlanders. Just as gay porn helped many gay men to find and develop their sexual identities in the 70's and 80's my friends and I wondered if a genre of porn set in Newfoundland might help to develop the identity of gay Newfoundlanders.

This sent the entire group (gaggle?) into "gales" of laughter as we offered possible cultural icons which could be spun out as the title for a Newfoundland porn video. Instead of allowing our identities to be regulated by events and narratives developed in Los Angeles or Toronto we bravely broke from convention and created a distinctly gay version of Newfoundland's culture and heritage. The discovery of Newfoundland by John Cabot, "Doing Time on the Matthew"; The salt fishery, "Going down by Jim Long's Stage" or "The Truck System Pays Off"; The lumber camps, "The Badger Drive"; The Newfoundland Railway, "The Newfie Bullet"; The American bases, "Making Time with the Yanks".

This is pretty juvenile stuff. But, in the spirit of social protest and with the desire to fortify Newfoundland culture each of us pledged to work to appropriate another part of Newfoundland heritage for the Gay community. Jim and Sam would work on the brutal injustice and mistreatment of Newfoundlanders under the Fishing Admirals, Dick and Sean agreed to look into the history of livestock in Torbay, Hal and Jeff wanted to look at the development of "Labour Relations". The only problem is that when we finally got to this stage I was left with "Cod Liver Oil". ▼

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*.

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 "Corporate Offices" sign on the brick building off the parking lot. Meetings start at 7:30 pm and run to about 9:30 pm. Coffee or a snack at a nearby restaurant often follows. Business matters are discussed at the first meeting of the month, while the second meeting is used for less formal support and social discussions.

Social Events

NGALE often has informal social events on alternate Wednesdays from meetings (i.e. 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*).

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.

Current Community Events for Summer 1998

June 17, July 1 & 15, August 5 & 19, September 2 & 16 (Wednesday): NGALE meetings.

June 24, July 8, 22, & 29, August 12 & 26, September 9 (Wednesday): NGALE social events.

June 22- 28: Pride Week/March for Freedom Celebrations - see cover story.

May - June 28: *Jack Was Ev'ry Inch a Sailor* exhibit of homoerotic art at the Eastern Edge Gallery, Baird's Cove.

July 1 (Wednesday): Canada Day concert in front of the Confederation Building, featuring *The Village People*.

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.