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VANCOUVER'S GAY & LESBIAN NEWS

#433 MARCH 25, 2010

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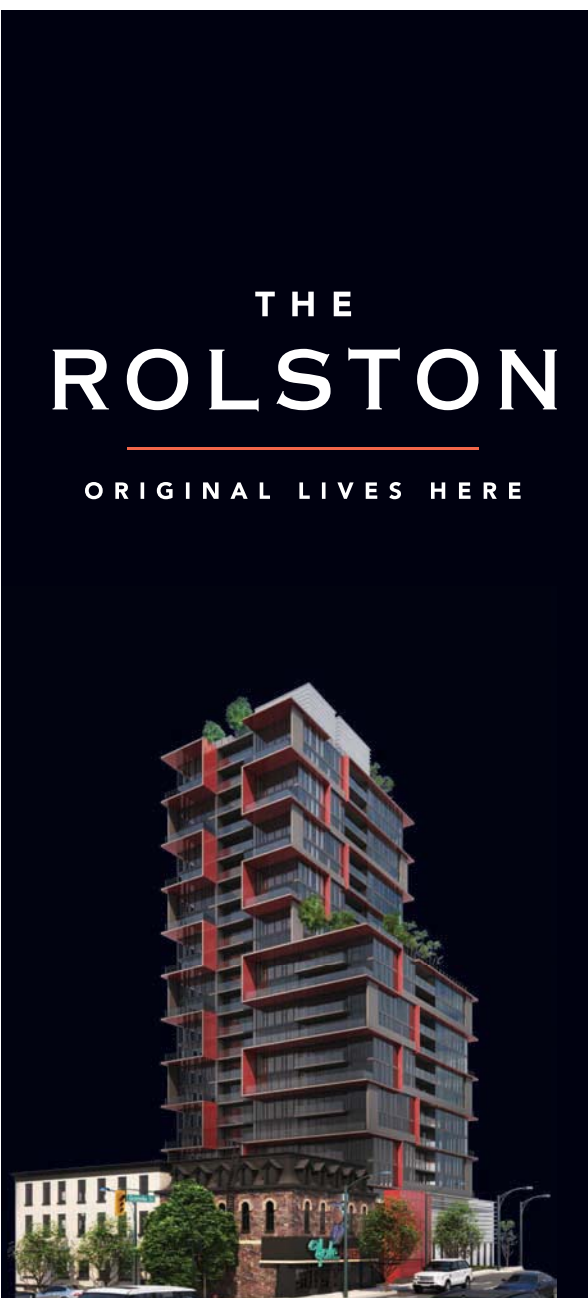
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Roundup



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BENEDICTE DESRUS/SIPA PRESS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Live from Africa

Kaj Hasselriis reports from Uganda, where gay people are still finding the courage to gather, plan and pray, despite a bill calling for their execution. **>14**

NEWSFRONT

Abbotsford youth group loses its grant

"We are the only youth group that offers this service for gay youth out in the Valley. So we feel like if we can't afford to run the group, then it could be a problem," director says. **>9**

Pitting religious freedom against gay rights

A gay couple is taking a Grand Forks bed and breakfast to the human rights tribunal for refusing to rent them a room. But the B&B's owners say they were only acting on their Christian beliefs and are therefore protected under freedom of religion. What trumps what? **>10**

OPINION

Bowing to political pressure

What Jason Kenney's deletion of gay references from the immigration guide and the removal of homosexuality from the DSM have in common. **>13**

ONLINE

Queer student activist hit by car

Samonte Cruz, a coordinator at Out on Campus and co-organizer of the alternative queer dance party Prance, was struck by an SUV while crossing Knight St on Feb 26. He's recovering from a broken neck, a fractured sternum and other injuries at home. **>xtra.ca**

All signs must be vetted with us first: Pride Toronto

After a week of intense criticism, Pride Toronto relents. **>xtra.ca**

XTRA SPECIAL

Your guide to our new look

From the front door to the back end, we've spruced ourselves up to give you all the news, analysis, arts, culture and community coverage you rely on, in a fresh, exciting new format. **>24**

OUT IN THE CITY

Out and proud Paralympian

Mary Benson, who played in Vancouver's lesbian Mabel League for years, overcame a serious brain injury to compete with Canada's Paralympic cross-country ski team in Whistler this month. **>17**

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VANCOUVER'S GAY & LESBIAN NEWS

Comment

“THE FIRST THING WE WERE TOLD BY THE WAITRESS WAS THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT WAS A GAY-FRIENDLY BAR. AREN'T THEY ALL WHEN THEY WANT YOUR MONEY.”

Looking for Nazis

Naked Eye
Robin Perelle



LEAVE IT TO ME TO MISS ALL the Nazi action on my birth-day weekend.

By the time I arrived at Braid, the neo-Nazis were already giving the crowd the finger and being escorted away for their own safety.

Moments earlier, the taller of the two bigots had drawn the crowd's attention by spitting on an anti-racism banner and saying something about finding his own friends.

Clearly, he wasn't looking to make friends in *that* crowd.

Neither was I, to be honest. I was more interested in the Nazis.

I followed the bigots up the stairs, hoping for a chance to pull one aside for a little in-depth questioning. I really wanted to find out more about them. What fuels their hatred. What sustains it. What makes them feel entitled to despise.

No such luck. Too soon, police bundled the somewhat beleaguered bigots onto the SkyTrain. But not before the doughier of the two assured us he doesn't hate lesbians. Only fags. And anyone who isn't white.

When asked why fags, he shrugs. I watch him, hoping for something illuminating. Instead he insists he didn't know the guy he's following; he simply met him on the bus. So much for an in-depth interview.

These two guys give Nazis a bad name, I think, as I make my way back downstairs to meet the protesters.

I'd heard about Sunday's protest from Maitland Cassia, who emailed *Xtra* two weeks ago trying to rally support for a counter-protest. Word had surfaced via Facebook that some neo-Nazis were planning a march to protest the international day for the elimination of racism.

Given the 200 counter-protesters I saw, I wouldn't be surprised if the less-than-stellar scouts decided to beat a hasty retreat.

Disappointed, I wander through the crowd, adjusting to the anarchist vibe. Not my usual scene, I note. But very queer in its own way.

This isn't the WinterPride crowd, Alex Mah agrees with me, laughing.

Mah is here to show the Nazis their hatred is not welcome in our city. "I don't think I'm here with the naivety that seeing a demonstration like this will change their minds," he says. But maybe it will change

other people's minds, he suggests.

"What would it take to change the neo-Nazis' minds?" I wonder.

"Maybe a really close relationship with someone who's not white," Mah suggests. "Like me coming out as trans, it really changed people's prejudices around me."

It's the old Harvey Milk argument: the more homos come out, the more people will realize their neighbours are gay and the more they'll relax or at least reconsider their hatred. I think it works well with average sheltered types, people who have never knowingly met a homo before and have little vested interest in hating us.

But would it work with neo-Nazis? With people who must already have had opportunity to meet others unlike themselves and still deliberately cling to their hatred as a way of life? Maybe it would. Depends what sustains their hatred, I guess.

At that moment, Cassia's voice booms through a nearby bullhorn, declaring the counter-protest a success.



THESE TWO GUYS GIVE NAZIS A BAD NAME, I THINK, AS I MAKE MY WAY BACK DOWNSTAIRS TO MEET THE PROTESTERS.

The SkyTrain ride back downtown is the highlight of my day. I end up sharing a car with a bunch of young people from Abbotsford, all committed to resisting hatred. Turns out Cody Baier was one of the original Social Justice 12 students who enrolled in the class then protested its withdrawal in 2008.

He not only protested, he marched off school grounds, despite threats of suspension, to demand access to a broader education. The school board eventually relented. Now Baier is looking forward to taking the class next year.

"It goes really deep into issues not usually explored in high school," he says. "If you want to get conscious about these issues, this is the class to take."

I imagine Baier and a teenaged neo-Nazi engaging in genuine dialogue. Then I imagine dozens such dialogues.

And again, I wish one of the neo-Nazis had stuck around to talk.

Robin Perelle is the managing editor of Xtra, Vancouver's edition.

INBOX

Send your correspondence to: 1033 Davie St, Suite 501, Vancouver, BC V6E 1M7, fax 604-684-9697 or email comments@xtra.ca. Letters must include the writer's full name, which is published, and telephone number, for verification only. We may edit letters.

Sell us out

ROBIN, YOU ARE PROSTITUTING the livability of the West End for space for Qmunity, and you are tempting the rest of the queer West End community to support this prostitution for all the wrong reasons ("Buy me off," March 11, Issue 432).

We need to vigorously oppose City Hall and Westbank Projects in going ahead with the horribly obscene proposal for 1401 Comox, as we need to oppose all other high-rise development proposals in the low-density zoned portion of the West End.

Suddenly City Hall has determined that it is okay to ride roughshod over the community and has started to allow precedent-setting developments grossly in excess of current zoning with a clear disregard for the community's input. 1401 Comox and 1640 Pendrell will be next, and the developers, smelling huge profits, are chomping at the bit to get their greedy hands on any piece of "under-developed" land in the West End.

Current zoning was established some years ago as a community plan. This zoning allows for a good deal of more-or-less affordable housing stock to exist in the area: a good number of older houses and two- and three-storey walk-ups. I see the zoning as a contract between City Hall and the neighbourhood. It implies a promise that this is the way things are, and this is the way it will be, unless a community-based planning process determines otherwise.

Robin, your desire for a Qmunity centre at this location is laudable, but please consider the consequences. Supporting Westbank will destroy the West End, and it will drive out many of the gay community who can now still afford to live here. Then you would not need a Qmunity centre here anymore.

*Wim Vanderpoll
Vancouver, BC*

I AM SORRY, BUT I COULD NOT disagree more with your recent editorial about the trade-off of a 20-plus-storey apartment tower here in the West End for a new location for Qmunity.

My first question is, do you actually live here in the West End? If you do not, then you really have no business offering your two cents' worth. If you do, it seems that you are quite out of touch with the majority of your neighbours.

I am surprised that you would actually fall for this pig in a poke; we all know how solid are the promises from developers. How many developments have been approved only to have the developer simply pay the city a "fine" in lieu of the promised amenities? What about the new Athletes' Village and all the social housing that was to come from that?

You say that the developer wants to offer Qmunity "space, free of charge." First of all, nothing comes for free; there is a cost to everything. And, as the saying goes, if something seems too good to be true, it probably is!

Yes, the West End needs more rental housing. However, before we rubber stamp whatever comes along, a new neighbourhood plan is sorely needed. If that means that Qmunity has to wait for new digs, or ends up elsewhere, so be it.

*John Merzetti
Vancouver, BC*

Score misses its shot

ON THURS, FEB 11, A GROUP OF SIX OF us gathered for the official opening of Pride House. It was an exciting event to be part of. We then heard that Score was the official party venue for Pride House. We felt like celebrating, so off we went to Score for a drink.

The first thing we were told by the waitress was that the establishment was a gay-friendly bar. Aren't they all when they want your money? After a quick look around, I was amazed at the lack of any sort of decorations (rainbow, Olympic or otherwise) except for a rainbow flag tucked away in the corner of the bar.

We asked about the decorations, and we were told that Friday was the big decorating day. It never happened.

Who picked this place to be the official celebration venue? We left that place disappointed and frustrated. We won't be back. Why does the gay community support this place? Let's party where we feel pride in ourselves and the place we are partying makes you feel proud. Score... sucks!

*Vernon Reardon
Vancouver, BC*

comment

"It's great to see that there are more gay Para Olympians OUT there ('Vancouver-area lesbian makes Canada's Paralympic team,' March 12, xtra.ca). Thanks."

—David M Lyons
Black Walnut Grove, BC

➔ To comment, go to xtra.ca. See story page 17.

Stay off Olympic bandwagon

I PRESUME DOUG BRIGGS WAS being facetious when he wrote that *Xtra* shouldn't have written anything negative about the Olympics (Letters, March 11, Issue 432). To suggest that the paper should have jumped on the bandwagon and offered the same kind of wholesale, uncritical support of the Games that much of the local media did would obviously fail to recognize the unique role of the alternative press.

Publications like *Xtra* exist to give voice to those who've historically been excluded from mainstream society.

Those thousands who draped themselves in Canadian flags, guzzled beer and shrieked in the streets for two weeks in a superficial expression of Canadian patriotism were more than adequately represented by the mainstream media.

Had *Xtra* devoted what few pages it has to the sentiments of the vocal majority, it would have betrayed its traditional readership — those who, regardless of their views on the Olympics, see this paper as one of the few that has always validated the experience of socially marginalized individuals, gay or otherwise.

Indeed, it is precisely those readers who are keenly aware that while thousands participated in Olympic festivities, many others had little reason to celebrate. *Xtra* should in no way be ashamed for drawing attention to those people.

If Mr Briggs can't stand anyone raining on his parade, I'd encourage him to leave *Xtra* for the rest of us who can appreciate alternative viewpoints. I can assure him that there are plenty of other papers he can read that will gladly feed his desire for a sanitized version of reality.

*Eddy Elmer,
Vancouver, BC*

AS ONE OF THOSE "RUDE" PROTESTERS, I feel compelled to respond to Doug Briggs' letter. Many Vancouverites voted against the Olympics in a farcical and rigged exercise called a plebiscite.

Our NO vote reflected our concerns about the well-known negative impact the Games would have on our community and beyond. To minimize those concerns as "dirty laundry" is rude, to say the least.

We live in a country with a shameful number of homeless people, where kids go to school hungry, where hospitals make people sick, where First Nations people live in dire poverty on their own territory, and on and on... because, we are told, there aren't enough resources to go around.

Yet, resources magically appear when there are wars to fight or sports stadiums to build or Olympic events to host. Not only are we told to accept those perverted priorities, but if we complain, we're told to shut up and support or even celebrate them. That's rude!

It seems Briggs would have preferred to cloak our "dirty laundry" in the Canadian flag and sweep the lot under the proverbial rug — to protect our guests' sensitivities, lest we disrupt their festivities. Too bad if the rest of us get stuck with the bill and with further cuts to services in our communities. That's very rude!

Disturbingly, while Briggs chastised *Xtra* for spoiling the "festive mood" of the torch relay, NATO/Canada continued its military offensive in Afghanistan during the Olympic "truce." And Briggs believes *Xtra* should be ashamed?

*Marlene del Hoyo
Vancouver, BC*

"The outcome that we seek is this — gay and lesbian people daring together to set love free." Xtra is published by Pink Triangle Press, at 1033 Davie St, Suite 501, Vancouver, BC V6E 1M7.

Xcetera

JUST SAYING

“This isn’t just about me and my rights anymore – now I’m fighting for the right of all the students at my school to have our prom.”

– Eighteen-year-old lesbian student Constance McMillen, who is suing her Mississippi high school for cancelling its prom rather than allowing her to attend in tuxedo with her girlfriend.



WOCKNER NEWS (CHRIS HAMPTON, ACLU)

TOP 7 KENNEY LIST

Top seven excuses Immigration Minister Jason Kenney gave for omitting gay history from Canada’s new citizenship handbook:

- 7 It made the guide sound too Obama-ish.
- 6 We needed more space for a Coke ad.
- 5 Canada already has a queen.
- 4 We didn’t want to scare the Ugandans.
- 3 Wouldn’t you rather ask about our economic action plan?
- 2 There’s more to gay history than Mark Tewksbury?
- 1 Come on! No one actually reads this thing.

– Cameron Herdman

UNDER A ROCK AWARD

And the prize for living under a rock the longest goes to...



Washington Post readers who cancelled their subscriptions after having their sensibilities bent out of shape by a front page photo of two men kissing, after Washington, DC, began accepting marriage licence applications for gay couples.

“That kind of stuff makes normal people want to throw up,” one subscriber wrote to the newspaper’s reporters. “People have kids who are being exposed to this crap. I will be glad when your rag goes out of business. Real men marry women.”

–Natasha Barsotti

LOOKING BACK

April 23, 1983

Vince Manis and Ron Krause carried the Society for Political Action for Gays (SPAG) banner in Vancouver’s annual Walk for Peace in 1983. The Vancouver Gay Community Centre (VGCC) followed right behind as both groups joined other gay and lesbian organizations, including the Lesbian Show on Co-Op Radio and the Lesbian Mother’s Defence group, to openly participate in the 80,000-person march across the Burrard Bridge to rally at Sunset Beach.

– Photo and text by David Myers

Do you have high-resolution photos of our community’s history, of people and places that may no longer exist? Email XWeditor@xtra.ca and share your memories today.

THE GIVEAWAY

BALLET BC launches its renewed and, they promise, rejuvenated company with *Re/Naissance*, featuring three Vancouver premieres and including *Short Works: 24* by Crystal Pite.



To win a pair of tickets, send an email with your name and phone number to xwcontest@xtra.ca. Put “BC Ballet” in the subject line and specify whether you would like the Fri, April 16 (8pm) or Sat, April 17 (2pm) show.



JUST CROWNED

RAYE SUNSHINE EMPRESS XXXIX



YOU CAN CALL ME Raye Sunshine. But if we get formal, the newest title I’m known by is the Supermodel Empress XXXIX Raye Sunshine.

YOU CAN FIND ME ALL OVER the Lower Mainland if you know where to look. Normally I’m all over the Odyssey nightclub like a kid on a Smartie.

MY WEEKENDS are mostly spent at the gym.

THE LARGEST THING I CAN FIT IN MY MOUTH We both know that I don’t eat. This gurl lives on Tic Tacs and air.

IF I WERE A MASHUP I’d be a mix of the Perry Twins’ talent, Robyn Graves’ grooves, Chyna Doll’s arms and Albert Einstein’s brain.

IF I DROPPED MY TOOTHBRUSH IN THE TOILET, I WOULD be on my BlackBerry so fast to my PA and she’d grab me a new one. What? Doesn’t everyone have a Personal Assistant?

IN THE NEXT LITTLE WHILE I’ll be all over the map, from J Lounge to Celebrities for Vancouver’s Next Gay Top Model, all the way to Queer Bash at Anza, and right back home to the Odyssey for the Zodiac parties. Just follow my Facebook page or go where the masses go, and pretty sure you’ll find me there.

–Sean Horlor, photo by Brandon Gaukel

IMAGINE

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Hotheaded MP Seeks Hot Majority

Recently outed minister of transport seeks discreet times with like-minded men to stand two feet away and out of camera range at gay fundraisers and in public. Must have own closet.

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Height: N/A
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Turn Ons: Oil sands, censorship, Stephen Harper, body scanners, underwear models, power, double standards. Flared nostrils step to the front of the line.
Turn Offs: Democracy, human rights, clean air, polar bears (unless they are wearing a harness)

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Last login: February 2, 2010 at 5:19 pm

–Tony Correia

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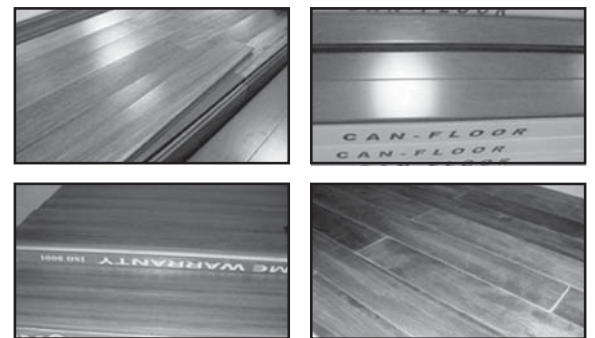
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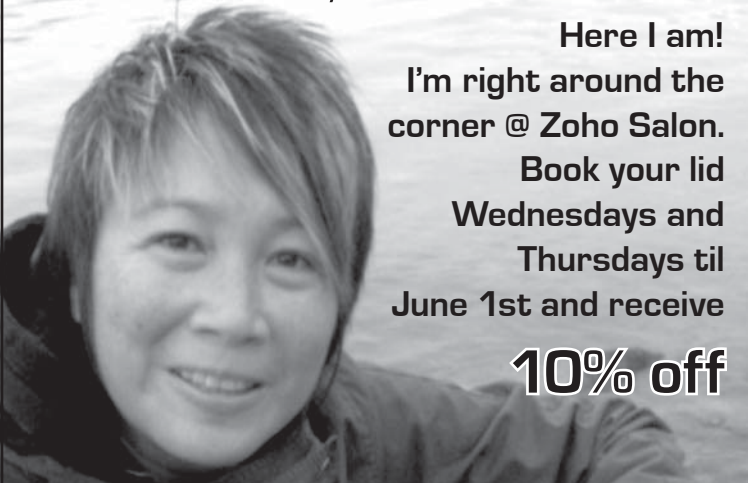
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HATE

WHITE PRIDE MARCH FIZZLES

Organizer declares counter-protest a victory

Natasha Barsotti

A USUALLY STAID SUNDAY morning at Braid SkyTrain station became a staging ground for a multicultural rally that drew about 250 people at its peak to counter a white pride march that never materialized.

"United Against Racism and Fascism," "Go Away KKK," "Proud to be of the Human Race," and "Nazi Scum Fuck Off" were among the slogans adorning the signage of those gathered under the banner of multiculturalism at the entrance to the station by 11 am — an hour before the white supremacist march was supposed to start.

As members of groups like Anti-Racist Action (ARA), No One is Illegal (NOII), Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice (SHARP) milled around in anticipation of a confrontation, a few said they spotted another sign on the train platform — one that read, "Proud to be a member of the white race."

But as quickly as it appeared, it vanished, along with the two or three people around it.

"How did our society collectively produce an adult who is of that mind frame and feels entitled to carry a sign like that and not be ashamed of it?" asked NOII activist and filmmaker Alex Mah, who said

he saw the sign.

"It makes you ask those bigger questions: How did this situation come about? Who is that person surrounded by, if that [is] the influence they had in their lives?" he mused.

Mah said he isn't under any illusions that the counter-rally for diversity was going to change the views of overt white supremacists.

"The people who are overt white supremacists, who will show up at a rally, the objective is just to shut them down, make them feel really uncomfortable and [let them know] they don't have that entitlement to spread hate around," Mah said.

"I don't know what it would take to change their minds," he admitted. Maybe a close relationship with someone who is not white, "where that changes their position," he offered.

The only other incident that fired the crowd up was the appearance of two men, one of whom spat on a banner as he walked through the crowd and into the SkyTrain station.

Some protesters immediately followed the men into the station, calling them Nazis, which they both denied, while giving their accusers the middle finger.

They also denied any affiliation to the white supremacist group that had planned to march.



"Well folks, I call this a success," said Maitland Cassia (above), who spearheaded the protest rally (below left) against a planned white pride march, March 21. TALLULAH PHOTOS

The two eventually took the escalator up to the train platform, pursued by several protesters, media and transit police.

As protesters and other media continued to press them on why they were at the station, one of the two men said, "Why not, it's a public place."

Then he said he was going to meet a buddy — "a black buddy at that. And I'm a racist too, guys. I hate every race equally," he said.

"I don't like gay people, that's for sure. You can put that," he added. "Yeah, I'm a bigot, whatever. I like lesbians, not fags."

The second man called the gathered crowd a "bunch of haters."

He said some masked protesters called him a Nazi after he asked them to show their faces.

The two eventually boarded a train out of the station.

At 12:45pm, organizer Maitland Cassia declared victory on behalf of those who showed up to support multiculturalism.

"Well folks, I call this a success," Cassia shouted through a megaphone to the whoops and applause of the crowd.

Almost two hours after they assembled, protesters crowded on to trains bound for Vancouver Art Gallery, the stated destination of the white pride march.

"We weren't here to impede them," Cassia later told *Xtra* on the steps to the gallery. The white supremacists had a right

to march, he said. But they weren't prepared for this level of opposition, he maintained.

It's important for every sector of the community to respond to white supremacy, he continued.

These people prey on marginalized youth, Cassia said, adding "people have a right to be aware when people are spreading hate propaganda."

"We showed up with numbers, because we have numbers," queer activist Peter Haywood said. "Just to see the diversity of people that came out today shows there's really solidarity and resistance to these Nazi skinheads" and their ideology of hate.

Haywood, who confronted a group of suspected neo-Nazis two years ago at Eastside Pride for tearing down Pride signage, said it's "really important to show there's a large opposition and that we don't tolerate this in Canada, we don't tolerate this anywhere."

"I was told there was going to be possible violence, and a possible retaliation, and I just wanted to be part of the movement going forward and not backwards," added New Westminster resident Chris, who did not want his last name printed. Chris was brutally gaybashed several years ago on SkyTrain. One of his alleged attackers was charged but never convicted.

"Hatred is something that I have to put a stop to," Chris stressed.

BUDGET CUTS

BC gov't axes grant to Valley youth group

'We can just barely make it on the money that we have': director

Natasha Barsotti

A QUEER FRASER VALLEY YOUTH GROUP HAS JOINED THE growing list of community organizations feeling the effects of the BC government's gaming grant cuts.

"Basically, their budget is wiped out," says NDP MLA Mable Elmore, who serves as deputy opposition critic for children, family development and childcare.

The Fraser Valley Youth Society (FVYS) runs a drop-in centre for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual, transgendered and questioning youth located on Montvue Ave in Abbotsford.

Last year, it got a grant for \$5,000 from the provincial government.

"I am writing to advise that your request for a regular 2009/10 community gaming grant has been denied," a March 9 letter from the Ministry of Housing and Social Development to FVYS states.

"Given global economic circumstances, the provincial government has had to establish priorities for community gaming grants, and this year the grants will include support for eligible organizations in the human and social services sector," the letter states.

"To help as many organizations as possible, the amount of funding we will be able to provide to any individual organization is limited, and some human and social services sector groups will receive no funding this year," it continues.

According to the ministry, the priorities for 2009/10 grants will be "programs that support low income and disabled British Columbians; programs that provide food, shelter and support to at-risk individuals; programs that support community health services; programs that fund nutritional and similar programs in schools for underprivileged children; public safety programs; a limited number of arts and culture activities; community education programs such as daycares and preschools; public community facilities like community halls and recreation facilities; youth and disabled sports; non-sport youth groups... and written three-year commitments made to community groups."

The letter concludes by saying that the denial of funding is "not subject to a reconsideration or review."

When asked, the ministry says FVYS' application was denied because it "failed to meet criteria and provide information required of all applicants."

"For example, the organization applied for the entire amount of their annual operating costs, which is not permitted under the eligibility criteria," the ministry explains in an email to *Xtra*, March 17.

"The organization was advised of these concerns in a letter from the Province dated March 9, 2010," the email notes, concluding "the organization is welcome to apply again 2010/11."

But FVYS director Loretta Hughes says the Society qualified for the gaming grant for two years running. "Nothing is different, we are exactly the same as we were, everything is exactly the same, and all of a sudden, we don't qualify."

The bottom line, says Hughes, is that the cut "makes it difficult for us."

"We have a big group, a lot of kids, we can just barely make it on the money that we have," she says.

"We are the only youth group that offers this service for gay youth out in the Valley. So we feel like if we can't afford to run the group, then it could be a problem," she points out.

"The kids could be without [support]."

Elmore says she plans to raise the issue during Question Period in the provincial legislature.

"The category [the FVYS] applied under is the public services for high-risk youth," Elmore notes. "Certainly, these youth in this area are at risk and a vulnerable group," she says, adding that she plans to ask Social Development Minister Rich Coleman to reinstate their gaming grant.

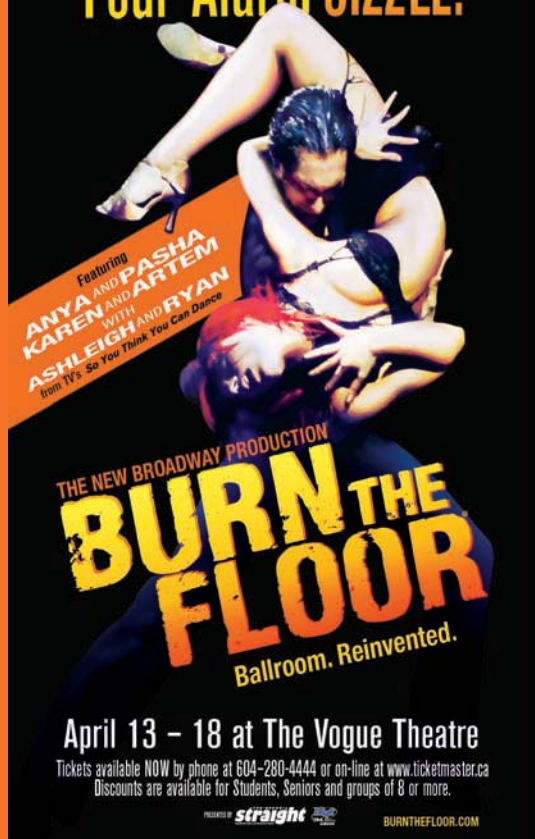
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Gay rights vs religious freedom

THE BC HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL will hear a complaint from a gay couple who say they were discriminated against by owners of a Grand Forks bed and breakfast.

But the owners say religious freedom allowed them to refuse to rent a room with a single bed to Shaun Eadie and Brian Thomas.

The information is detailed in tribunal member Murray Geiger-Adams' decision, who ordered the case to proceed on March 3.

The owners had applied for the case to be dismissed.

Eadie reserved a room at the Riverbend Bed and Breakfast on June 18, 2009, through Susan Molnar. Several minutes later, Les Molnar called and asked if Eadie and Thomas were a gay couple, according to court documents. Eadie confirmed they were.

"I'm sorry, I don't think it's going to work out," Eadie alleges Molnar told him.

Les Molnar, a Protestant evangelical Christian, acknowledges denying the couple the accommodation they reserved.

To "allow a gay couple to share a bed in my Christian home would violate my Christian beliefs and cause me and my wife great distress," he states in court documents.

The case is set to be heard May 4 and 5 in Kelowna.

—Jeremy Hainsworth

For more on this story go to xtra.ca

EDUCATION

CORREN CASE PROCEEDS

Tribunal rejects attempt to dismiss Social Justice 12 case

Natasha Barsotti

the board contended.

A GAY COUPLE'S HUMAN RIGHTS complaint against the Abbotsford School Board will proceed despite the board's attempt to dismiss it.

Murray and the late Peter Corren filed the complaint last year after the board ordered one of its high schools to drop Social Justice 12. WJ Mouat was the only secondary school in the district to offer the gay-friendly course. Ninety students signed up.

The Correns filed the complaint on behalf of the students and parents of Abbotsford School District "and in particular gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students and parents."

The Correns allege the district's decision to pull the course was discriminatory. They further allege the board's subsequent requirement for parental consent for students to take the course after its reinstatement was also discriminatory.

The school board denies any discrimination and tried to have the complaint dismissed.

The board argued the Correns are ineligible to file the complaint.

The Correns are neither parents nor students in the district and have no personal interest in the matter,

The Human Rights Tribunal rejected this argument on Feb 4, saying the Correns have an interest in the case because they helped develop Social Justice 12.

Moreover, the couple do not have to be members of the group named in the complaint filed to get a hearing, the tribunal ruled.

As for the school board's contention that the complaint be dismissed outright because no discrimination took place, the tribunal ruled that a hearing is required to weigh the competing evidence on that point.

The school board also asked the tribunal to dismiss the complaint because the group of students and parents the Correns claim to represent is too broad.

The tribunal sided with the school board on this point but still refused to dismiss the complaint.

Instead, tribunal member Tonie Beharrell gave the Correns until March 19 to narrow the class of people they claim to represent in their complaint.

The Correns' lawyer, Lindsay Waddell, says she's waiting to see if the school board appeals before submitting the amended complaint.

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global briefs

UK gay group decries gov't submission to religion

ENGLAND'S PINK TRIANGLE Trust (PTT), a gay humanist group, denounced the House of Commons on Feb 24 for passing an amendment to the Children, Schools and Families Bill that would allow sex education to be taught in a way that "reflects" a school's "religious character."

"This bill ... will shift the focus of the law as it applies to faith schools away from the needs of children, towards the religious prejudices of the school," said PTT Secretary George Broadhead.

A recent study by gay lobby group Stonewall found higher levels of anti-gay bullying in religious schools, Broadhead noted.

Transgenders challenge Guyana crossdressing ban

GUYANA'S SOCIETY AGAINST Sexual Orientation Discrimination filed suit in the Supreme Court on Feb 19 against the nation's ban on crossdressing.

The suit says the crossdressing law is "irrational, discriminatory, undemocratic" and unconstitutional.

The law makes it an offence when an individual "being a man, in any public way or public place, for any improper purpose, appears in female attire, or being a woman, in any public way or public place, for any improper purpose, appears in male attire."

The law is part of a section of Guyana's legal code that also bans gay sex.

Several transgender people were convicted last year under the crossdressing ban and fined 7,500 Guyanese dollars (\$36) each by Georgetown Chief Magistrate Melissa Robertson, who told them to go to church and give their lives to Christ.

Indian professor who had gay sex driven from university

AN INDIAN LANGUAGES PROFESSOR at Aligarh Muslim University in Aligarh, India, was driven from his job in mid-February after a TV news crew burst into his house and filmed him having sex with a male rickshaw puller, the Times of India reported Feb 18.

The report said that students sent the TV crew to Dr Shrinivas Ramchandra Siras' residence and that the footage was later shared with university officials.

University spokesman Rahat Abrar called the incident "a scandal that no institution of repute can overlook."

Siras left the school after he was suspended for "gross misconduct."

A Delhi High Court decision last year legalized gay sex in India.

— Rex Wockner

COMMUNITIES

GRIEVING SPOUSE TO WALK ACROSS CANADA

Shaira Holman wants to raise money for marginalized queers

Samantha Sarra

"I AM MAD WITH GRIEF," SAYS Shaira Holman, who lost her partner, Catherine White Holman, in a plane crash last November off Saturna Island. "I am in so much pain, so much grief; I don't know what to do with myself. People in that much grief go on walks and pilgrimages, that's what I am going to do. I just need to put one foot in front of the other."

Departing from Vancouver on April 1, Holman plans to walk more than 100 days across Canada to arrive in Toronto in time for Pride on July 4. She's calling it the Walk for Love.

"It gives me an alternative to suicide," she says. "I don't want to be here without Catherine. We had the biggest love of anyone I've known."

"I don't even like walking," Holman says, "so I think it will be quite an ordeal, penance maybe. I have a lot of guilt, survivor guilt. We had planned on going to the island together. If I had gone, we would have been on the ferry and she wouldn't have died. It's hard to forgive myself for that. Maybe I can let some of the pain go in the wilderness somewhere."

The 4,000-kilometre journey will be a fundraiser for the Catherine White

Holman Memorial Legacy Fund for queers living in poverty.

"I wanted a way to continue Catherine's work for marginalized people," Holman explains.

A well-respected counsellor and a founding member of Vancouver's Three Bridges clinic, Catherine wrote the Guidelines for Transgender Care and Care for Transgender Adolescents, considered the benchmarks on best practices internationally. She also helped launch queer health programs like Prism and helped people get access to funding and resources.

The Legacy Fund will have a very simple application process, Holman promises. "The application for disability is 26 pages. Catherine helped people fill it out and get the money they needed. This fund will continue that work. It's about need; people can use it for education or to help them get out of poverty, whatever they need."

Holman has started the fund by providing \$3,000 seed money and hopes to raise at least \$200,000.

Departing on April Fool's Day because she is a self-professed "fool for love," Holman says she'll be depending on the kindness of strangers along her journey. "Most people who go across



"I just need to put one foot in front of the other," says Shaira Holman. PHOTO COURTESY OF SHAIRA HOLMAN

the country have a support team, an RV that follows them, etc. I'm hoping that there will be a network of people along the way who can feed me, shelter me, carry my pack and, of course, donate to the fund."

"I am taking my dog Tilda with me," Holman says. "I don't have a sponsor, but Tilda does. Sophie's Pet Palace will be providing for her needs."

"It's also kind of an art project," adds Holman, who is the artistic director of the Pride in Art Society. "I will have GPS with me so people can track my journey and join in anywhere along the way. I will be walking every day and writing every night."

"I can't make sense of this thing that has happened," she says. "Catherine was my light and my light has gone out. This

is me trying to find that light again."

"Her body is not here, but I feel her all the time. I know she will be with me on this journey. She'll be saying, 'Honey, you don't like walking. You're from LA; you drive everywhere.' But she'll also say 'You're my hero,' because that's what she told me all the time."

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You can't unring this bell

Ask the Expert
Dr Pega Ren



Dear Dr Ren,

My girlfriend and I are both in our 40s and have been in a happy, open relationship for almost 20 years. Over these years we have developed a rhythm of frequent, expansive, satisfying sex and have both learned how to manage the ups and downs of a non-monogamous relationship. We are solid.

We've both experienced having new lovers and know how to weather that new-relationship energy. I'm in something now, though, that I haven't faced before, and I need some help with how to handle it.

I've taken on a new lover who has introduced me to a top/bottom dynamic absent in my full-time relationship. It's awakened in me some sort of sleeping giant, and my sense of my sexual self has dramatically shifted. Sex with "Beth" is different from anything I've experienced before, and I'm different now.

I crave this bottom space and know that after 20 years, my girlfriend is not going to welcome or complement it. This means I'm either dependent on "Beth" (which I don't want) or will eventually have to give up this new-found sexual persona.

What To Do?

Dear What To Do,

You have so many riches in your life that I'm tempted to remind you to count your blessings, but I recognize the anguish in your situation.

After years of a full and happy sex life with your partner, someone else has introduced you to a side of your sexuality you did not know existed. Now you feel delighted with your discovery, but torn between a fear of unwanted dependence on a secondary lover and loss of this new sexual expression if/when you return to your former situation with your main squeeze.

The good news is that you don't have to give up anything at the moment. You are free to explore the top/bottom dynamic by which you are so dazzled with your new lover for as long as that feels comfortable.

Dive in and swim freely. Find out if you are attracted by the newness of this or if it is truly something that calls to the core of you.

You may find that it is tied up with the excitement of the new woman and her "brand" of lovemaking, and when her allure fades so might your attraction to bottom space. Give yourself time to make that determination.

If you have 20 years of practice with a polyamorous relationship, I needn't tell you that now is the time to be giving your girlfriend extra reassurance that you two are strong and safe. Remind yourself how good your sex life is with her, and maintain good boundaries between what happens at home and elsewhere. This is not the time to introduce new sexual behaviours. She'll become suspicious and defensive immediately.

However, once your new love interest has cooled, moved on, or settled into an accepted part of your ongoing life, and you and your girlfriend are back on familiar ground again, you might want to share with her what you learned from "Beth." Do so delicately.

Or perhaps you may want to introduce SM as a fresh topic, suggesting the two of you experiment together to see if it adds some spice to your already hot sex life.

Though you tell me she would never go for this, and I don't doubt your knowledge of your own girlfriend, before you were introduced to a little kink, you didn't know what a fan you would be either. When she sees your reaction, she may stretch her limits in a way that will surprise and delight you.

But let's say you are correct and your gal gives you a thumbs-down on the top/bottom suggestion. What then?

You can't unring this bell. You can't unknow that you're kinky, nor do you need to apologize for it.

You don't need to be unsatisfied with the fine sex you have enjoyed for two decades or feel resentful towards your mate because she has different tastes sexually than you have now discovered in yourself.

Remember, you are wise and lucky enough to have designed an open relationship that makes room for differences and waxing and waning attractions. You are free to seek out those with whom you can indulge your desire to explore bottom space without insisting that your girlfriend share that with you.

It may not always be available to you, and sometimes it may be better than others. This may not be your first choice, but it's workable.

What you will have is knowledge that you have learned in your 40s something brand new about your sexuality. Who knows what you will learn in your 60s or 80s?

↑
YOU CAN'T UNKNOW THAT YOU'RE KINKY, NOR DO YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR IT.

Imagine what your girlfriend may discover about herself as your lives unfold. The two of you can share and mingle all these discoveries as they happen, incorporating what works together and keeping separate what is individually pleasing.

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VANCOUVER'S GAY & LESBIAN NEWS

SEAN HORLOR



Rogue minister

Queen's Logic
Tony Correia



A FEW WEEKS AGO, THIS *American Life* rebroadcast a story called "81 Words" about how homosexuality was removed from the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)* in 1973.

At the time, the definition of a mental disorder had less to do with science than with a doctor's personal prejudices.

The story described how a clandestine group within the APA — the GAYPA — worked to excise the association of its "white-haired conservative business psychiatrist" board members and play a more active role in social issues.

The day after the broadcast, it was revealed that Canada's minister of immigration, Jason Kenney, had removed all references to gay rights from the immigration handbook — with the exception of a photo of Mark Tewksbury. At least immigrants will know what a gay person looks like.

I guess the only real surprise here is he didn't add a paragraph on the sponsorship scandal the Conservatives are constantly beating off to.

I was struck by the similarities between the old *DSM* and the new immigration guide: both affect how people see themselves in society; both were guided by prejudice and

both were overseen by straight white men.

Where the stories diverge is, in the case of the *DSM*, it took a number of people working inside and outside the APA to achieve progress, whereas it took only one person to prevent progress in the immigration guide.

Opponents to the changes claimed the APA and Kenney were bowing to political pressure.

At least the psychiatrists who argued that homosexuality is a disease did their research. Granted, they studied self-loathing homosexuals, but at least they studied something.

Kenney did no such thing. He repeatedly ignored advice telling him to leave the references to gay rights alone. Instead, he pulled a Sarah Palin and went rogue.

Ronald Bayer, a public health historian, says that both sides of the *DSM* argument wrapped themselves in the banner of science. He says opinions on homosexuality have nothing to do with science but with morals and people's interpretations of what sex is for.

Kenney — who won't even admit he authorized the changes, despite the paper trail — has not offered gay Canadians the benefit of any reasonable explanation.

On a positive note, more people are appalled by Kenney's decision than emboldened by it.

All we can really hope for now is that people both inside and outside the Conservative party are working to excise it of its ideologues, so that maybe John Baird can someday come out of the closet for real.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

HOMOPHOBIA

IN THE PEARL OF AFRICA

Kaj Hasselriis



Last March, a trio of America's most freakish Christian zealots visited the Ugandan capital, Kampala, and preached hatred against gays.

Soon after, an ambitious young government MP, David Bahati, introduced a bill that calls for the execution of gays, the imprisonment of people who fail to report homos to the authorities and the elimination of all organizations that support gay rights.

Homosexuality has been illegal in Uganda since British colonialists criminalized it

back in the 19th century. It has never been accepted. But Bahati's bill takes homophobia to a whole new level, and he claims to be doing it in the name of a man who has great influence over Ugandans — Jesus Christ.

Xtra freelance writer Kaj Hasselriis went to Uganda to tell these stories. He's been filing reports for Xtra.ca — excerpts of which are reprinted here. Read the full series online.

PHOTO BY PAUL TEARLE/STOCKBYTE/THINKSTOCK

Gay Ugandans gather to pray, plan

MORE THAN 100 GAY AND LESBIAN Ugandans packed a hotel conference room in Kampala on Valentine's Day to talk about the anti-gay legislation that threatens all of them.

The main opposition to homosexuality in Christian-dominated Uganda comes from Christian conservatives, yet most gay and lesbian Ugandans are themselves Christian and fear that the homophobic preachings of anti-gay pastors are true.

"The Bible's message and the story of God's unconditional love can also be inspirational to the LGBT community," assured Sam Ganaafa, president of Spectrum Uganda, a local lesbian, gay, bi and trans organization. Spectrum Uganda co-sponsored the event along with the Unitarian Universalist Association of Uganda.

Conferences like the one held Feb 14 — called "Standing on the side of love: Re-imagining Valentine's Day" — are rare in Uganda. Organizers feared anti-gay outsiders might learn about the event and try to infiltrate or disrupt it, so the time and location were announced only at the last minute, by word of mouth.

"Let's resist bad laws being propagated," Ganaafa told the crowd. If the anti-gay bill passes, Ganaafa said, "our lives will never be the same again. I encourage you all to talk, raise issues and be courageous."



Ugandan gay activist Abdallah Wambere (aka Long Jones) at the Feb 14 conference. PHOTO BY BENEDICTE DESRUS/SIPA PRESS



Demonstrators carry anti-gay banners during a rally in Jinja, 72 km east of the capital, Kampala.

PHOTO BY BENEDICTE DESRUS/SIPA PRESS

HUNDREDS RALLY AGAINST HOMOSEXUALITY

IT WASN'T QUITE THE "MILLION MAN March Against Homosexuality" that organizers promised, but its size was still impressive — and troubling.

In a small town in southeastern Uganda called Jinja, 350 people demonstrated against gay rights on Feb 15. Young and old, they carried crudely made signs with homophobic messages, such as "Homosexuality is a curse, it leads to death!" and "Islam stands against homosexuality."

Many of the protesters' signs targeted one man in particular — US President Barack Obama — for speaking out against the anti-gay bill.

One anti-Obama sign showed a drawing of the US president with fangs in his mouth and horns coming

out of his head, along with the words "No pact with the devil."

Trevor Snapp, a US freelance photojournalist who witnessed the march, said, "If someone had been called out for being gay, they would have been ripped to shreds. Just the mere mention of homosexuality made people freak out, fall down and start shivering. It was really intense, kind of like a frenzy."

According to Snapp, the crowd was made up of two groups of people: middle-class churchgoers and poor, shoeless villagers who were encouraged to join the mob. "Underlying all of this is poverty," he said. "Poor, uneducated people are being

incited and manipulated by powerful preachers."

Snapp also saw three white men at the event who were identified to him as US Evangelicals. Yet most of the speakers blamed countries like the United States, Canada and Great Britain for spreading homosexuality. Snapp said one of the main messages was, "The West is giving aid to Africa but forcing it to become homosexual."

"There's a really clear desire of people to say 'Fuck you' to the West," he said, "and gays are being used as the scapegoats. The power of fear and scapegoating is exciting for these preachers, and they're sinking their teeth into it."

ONE YOUTH'S TALE OF JAIL & DEFIANCE

BLESSED BUSINGYE WAS KICKED out of his local supermarket in Kampala for being gay.

"Your presence makes us uncomfortable," the store manager told him last fall.

But that's nothing compared to some of the other anti-gay experiences Busingye has endured — and he's only 21.

"Let me face reality," Busingye says in a Kampala coffee shop, with defiance in his voice. "I can't turn back now. I'm young and I'm fighting for my sexual rights."

Busingye grew up in a small town in western Uganda called Mbarara. He started fooling around with other boys when he was 10.

In high school, Busingye had a boyfriend named John and six other gay friends. But one day, a straight boy who didn't like the attention of one of the gay boys ratted them all out. One by one, Busingye and his friends were taken to the principal's office and caned by everyone on the school staff.

"You've destroyed the school's name," the principal yelled as he beat them.

All the boys were expelled. Then they were arrested and faced years in jail. But local media attention over their arrests caused Amnesty International to spring into action. The human rights organization put a lawyer on their case and freed them

after just two days.

Busingye gets a mischievous grin when he remembers those 48 hours. "It was fun," he says. The boys were all locked up together.

Busingye's parents, however, were not amused. His father wants little to do with him. "My mother isn't the same person I knew a long time ago," he says, morosely.

Undeterred, he started a youth club at his new high school to help students deal with sexuality issues like HIV/AIDS and abortion, which is also illegal in Uganda. Then, Busingye started an NGO that acts as a network of youth clubs across the country. It's called Youth Reproductive Health Clinic Foundation (YRHCF).

If the bill to ban pro-gay organizations goes through Uganda's Parliament, YRHCF would have to fold — and Busingye could go to jail for a lot longer than 48 hours.

'I would kill a gay son,' says MP

At a human rights forum held Feb 19 in Kampala, a Ugandan Member of Parliament said he would kill his son if he discovered he was gay.

The MP, Otto Odonga, was immediately denounced by the forum's keynote speaker, Makau Mutua.

"I am baffled by the kind of hatred you spew against gay people," Mutua said, "including your desire to be a hangman. Would you apply to be a hangman if the person to be hanged were your son?"

When Odonga nodded yes, Mutua said, "There is something deeply wrong with you."

The forum, titled Human Rights and Sexual Orientation, made it clear that many Ugandans do not yet believe that homos are entitled to human rights.

"Human rights are not sacrosanct," Odonga said. "Private parts do not belong in the anus. We will not accept this kind of deviant behaviour in our society."

Another MP, Christopher Kibanzanga, angrily spoke out against the "vice" of homosexuality. He asked, "Who are bisexuals? What do they do? Has it just been imported into Africa?"

Most members of the audience — made up of about 80 students, academics, politicians and NGO leaders — appeared to be of sane mind when it comes to sexuality.

Mutua, the chair of Kenya's Human Rights Commission, stole the show when he attacked the anti-gay arguments of the two politicians.

"The kind of speech you made against gay people was the kind of speech that white segregationists were making all over America," said Mutua. "Those arguments are classic. They have been reproduced in every era by every segment of society. You didn't invent them."

Mutua went on to say he believes countries like Canada would be justified in holding back foreign aid if MPs pass the anti-gay bill. "There are consequences to being a member of the international community," he said.

on the web

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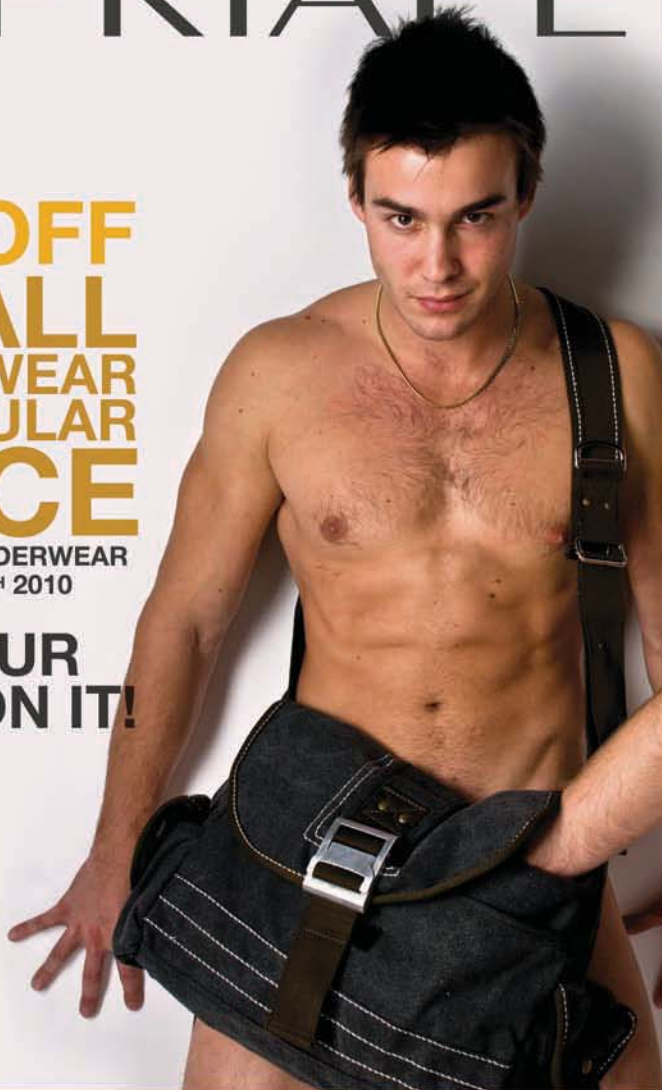
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Xtra sends our Gay Top Model faves on a date with Sean Horlor >18

PARALYMPICS

LOCAL LESBIAN IN PARALYMPICS

Former Mabel Leaguer competes in cross-country skiing



Mary Benson credits her partner, Kathy, for getting her into Paralympic skiing. "She will be the first face I look for when I cross the finish line, because she was the one who got me to the start line."

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY OXNER

Shauna Lewis

IF GOLD MEDALS WERE AWARDED for dedication, courage and humour, 2010 Paralympian Mary Benson would own the podium.

Like her fellow athletes, Benson, 49, of South Surrey has had to overcome some life-altering obstacles.

With her sunny disposition and infectious laugh, you would never know Benson suffered a serious brain injury after experiencing what she calls a "severe allergic reaction" to anti-smoking medication nearly a decade ago.

"It was just a really bizarre and freaky occurrence," she recalls. "It did insane things to my brain. It was almost like an electrocution or something. It just zapped out."

The incident left part of her left frontal lobe and a portion of her brain stem injured, forcing her to learn how to walk and talk again.

"The good news is I did quit smoking," she laughs.

But smoking was the least of her worries as Benson tried to rebuild her life through extensive rehabilitation for the many neurological issues

she faced.

It was during her stint in GF Strong Rehabilitation Hospital that Benson got involved in cross-country skiing, after a therapist suggested she take part in a program for people with disabilities.

At first, Benson was apprehensive. "I was like, 'No way!' At that point I couldn't walk down the street by myself," she points out.

But Benson soon gave in. "I decided to go and watch. I wasn't even going to give it a try because it terrified me. But once I got there and put my skis on, I felt 'Wow! I've got my life back!'"

Skiing became Benson's ticket to personal freedom, giving her the power of movement she had lost after her injury. "It totally gave me mobility. I could feel the wind on my face; I could move fast again. It was total independence, something I could do on my own."

An avid athlete — she played road hockey as a kid growing up on the Prairies, was captain of her ice hockey team in Winnipeg and played on several of the Mabel League's lesbian fast-pitch softball teams after moving to BC in the mid-1980s — Benson wasted no time getting back into sports and competing in national and international cross-country skiing competitions.

She won a silver medal at this year's Paralympic Nordic ski nationals in Alberta and placed eighth in the Paralympic World Cup in Germany. She made Canada's 2010 Nordic-Cross Paralympic ski team in February.

She credits her partner, Kathy Oxner, for getting her into Paralympic

skiing. "She has helped me like no one else and cares about me like no one else," Benson writes on her blog.

"She will be the first face I look for when I cross the finish line, because she was the one who got me to the start line."

Benson came out to her coaches and teammates right away. "I really didn't have any issues," she says. "Everybody was very accepting."

"It's important to be out because it is who I am," she explains. "I'm an athlete, I'm a good friend to people, I'm married, I'm one of a very large family. I'm all these different things and I'm also a lesbian. It's just who I am."

"I didn't want to pretend I was something different," she adds.

As open as Benson is, she also understands why many athletes stay in the closet.

"I'm not really surprised if they don't come out, especially if they're younger," she says. "Sponsors always want that boy or girl next door, and I don't think people necessarily see wholesome when they talk about gays or lesbians."

There is still homophobia in sports, she says. "I think people try to pretend there isn't."

Even she occasionally feels ostracized, she admits. "It is mostly just a feeling you have from some people."

She remembers a former coach who confessed to being "a little homophobic."

"A little?" she replied. "Is that like being a little pregnant?"

Although being an openly lesbian athlete is an important part of her identity, Benson says her sexuality does not define her sports career. "I'm in the Paralympics because I'm an elite athlete," she notes. "I'm not in the Paralympics because I am a gay or lesbian person."

Despite a terrible sinus cold that stopped her from completing the 15km women's free standing race, Benson battled on, earning a 12th-place finish in the women's 1km sprint and 14th place in the 5km cross-country standing classic in Whistler.

"I was hoping for better," Benson admits, but says the sinus cold affected her races.

Asked what's next for the Paralympic skier, Benson laughs and says, "laundry."

Someday, she adds, she would like to coach emerging Paralympic athletes herself.

But for now, she's happy just to revel in her own Paralympic experience. "It was completely living the dream. The feeling of getting there was pretty awesome. I couldn't imagine anything more amazing. It was just totally surreal."

FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT



Whataya want from him?

Well, a downtown venue might have been nice, but at least pop's hottest, gayest new glamstar — the sexy, talented, Bowie-inspired Adam Lambert — is coming to Vancity. Or close enough. Lambert performs at the Red Robinson Show Theatre in Coquitlam on Thurs, April 8 and the River Rock Casino in Richmond on Fri, April 9. They may be casino stops, but the Coquitlam show is his first concert in Canada ever. Score one for the Lower Mainland.

PHOTO BY SONY MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT CANADA

Check out our video interview with Adam Lambert at xtra.ca

listings >

SPORTS

Out for Kicks Soccer Registration

Vancouver's GLBT-friendly soccer club hosts its annual registration for the upcoming season Wed, March 24. Co-ed recreational league welcomes members of all levels of experience. The Fountainhead Pub, 1025 Davie St, 7-9pm.

Gay Day at Vancouver International Auto Show

Bent Car Guys host a lunch at Jimmy's Taphouse, 783 Homer St at 1pm. Head over to BC Place at 3pm, then end the night at the afterparty at Numbers, 1042 Davie St, 10pm. Sat, April 3. bentcarguys.org

MUSIC

Ember Swift

Swift plays a rare solo show of older tunes and her new, Chinese-influenced music from the Lentic project, Thurs, March 25. \$10. The Railway Club, 579 Dunsuir St, early 7pm show.

Scatterheart

The band that's "fighting to make rock 'n' roll fun again" appears with guests Bike and Los Furios, Sat, March 27. \$15. Commodore Ballroom, 868 Granville St, 9pm show.

For more listings go to xtra.ca

comment

"As a spouse of someone who is in a chair and does take part in SitSki this is AMAZING to see."

—Dale Black, Walnut Grove, BC

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COVER STORY

BUT CAN THEY KISS?

✓ RILEY

Age: 24

Signature Look: "The Cox Block"

Date: Commodore Lanes & Billiards

Start: 4:30pm

Finish: 7:30pm

AS WE STEP INTO THE BOWLING ALLEY, Riley warns me, "Most of my balls are going to end up in the gutter."

"I have a lot of experience with gutters," he adds.

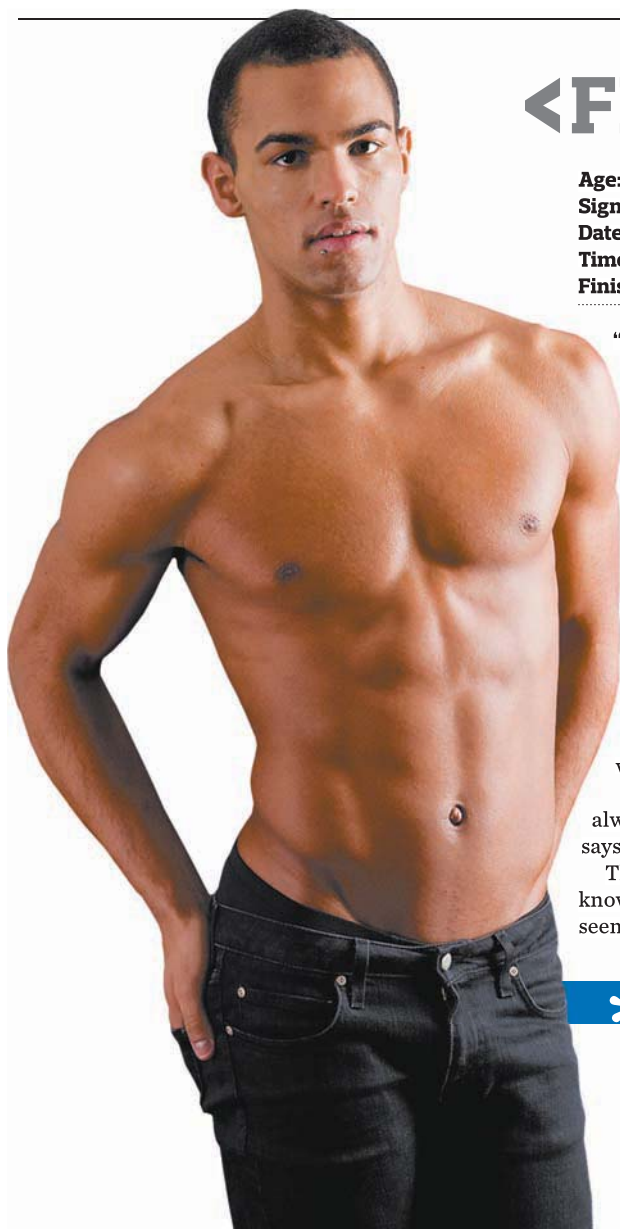
We definitely have that in common. We also wear the same size bowling shoe and neither of us knows how to keep score. Fact: Commodore Lanes is so old, you have to keep score by hand.

Riley looks like he was born in a gym — the way he looks in his grey T-shirt makes me sick. Good sick, but still sick.

He is the fitness/underwear model of the top model group and is probably the nicest guy I know. He has an undergraduate degree and could become a doctor, but wants to

Xtra sends our Gay Top Model faves on a date with **Sean Horlor**

Photos by Janet Rerecich



◀ FRASER

Age: 19

Signature Look: "The Fraz"

Date: Stanley Park Pitch 'n' Putt (Par 3)

Time: 1pm

Finish: 3pm

"NICE SHOT," I SAY. "DO YOU ALWAYS shoot so far?"

We're on Hole 12. Fraser smiles and his lip stud catches the sun, but he doesn't get my juvenile attempt at flirtation. Golf club in hand, he's what would happen if Diesel held a runway show on a golf course: knitted sweater, great legs, nice ass and fitted jeans pulled low enough that his underwear is showing.

My first impression: he's well put together, a sign that he's ready to model, in my mind. He was 10 minutes late meeting me, though, which won't fly in the fashion world.

"It must be really hard on the knees always bending over for balls," Fraser says, after finally putting it in.

This time I can't stop myself: "I don't know, from the looks of things today it seems like you've had a lot of practice."



the deets

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To his credit, he laughs and asks if he heard me correctly. I assure him he did.

I know he's 19, but still, after an hour of "I need to practise stroking" and "What a nice hole" and "Do you want me to grab our balls," I am ready for a head explosion (sexual reference intended).

In our pre-interview, Fraser told me he'd never been on a real date. This, combined with his being the youngest contestant, landed him a spot in my top three.

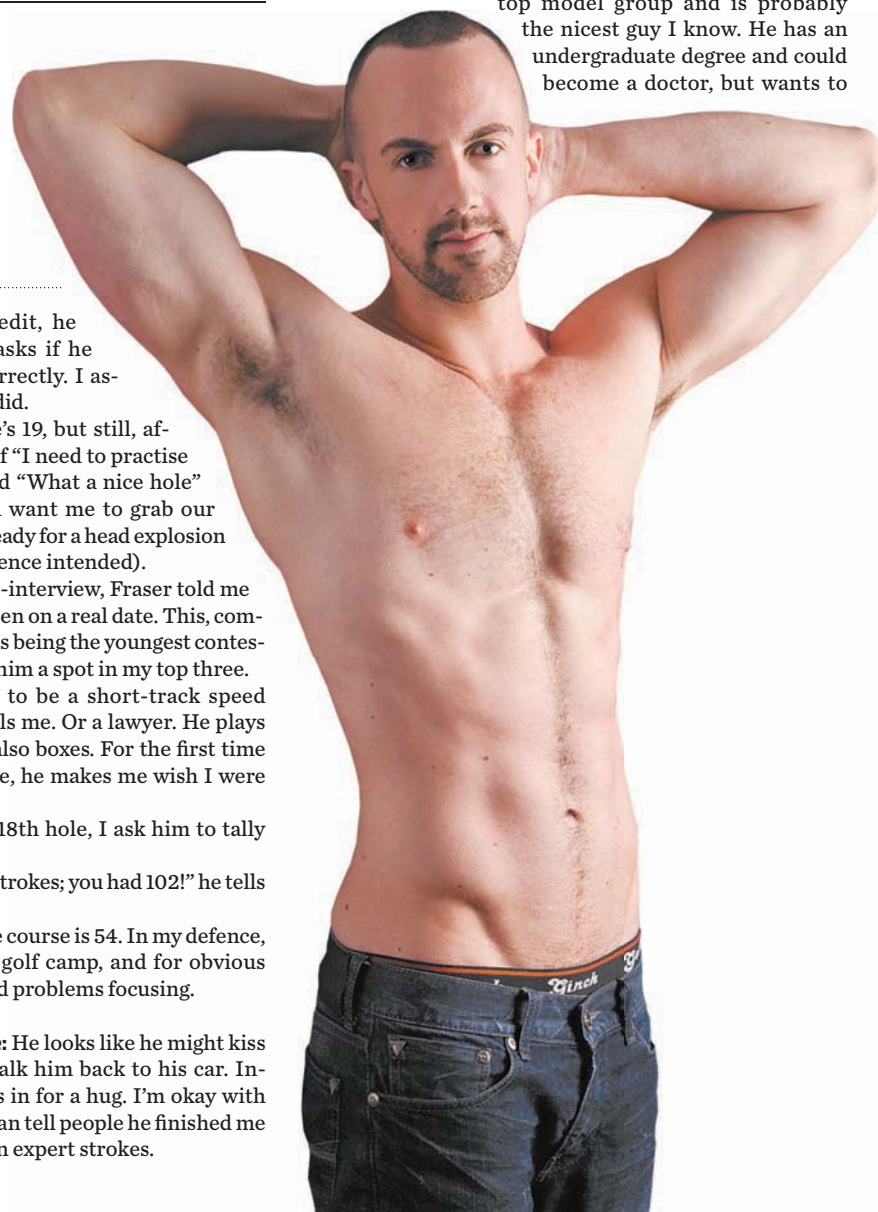
He wants to be a short-track speed skater, he tells me. Or a lawyer. He plays hockey and also boxes. For the first time in a long time, he makes me wish I were younger.

After the 18th hole, I ask him to tally the score.

"I had 95 strokes; you had 102!" he tells me, smiling.

Par for the course is 54. In my defence, he's been to golf camp, and for obvious reasons, I had problems focusing.

The Goodbye: He looks like he might kiss me after I walk him back to his car. Instead he goes in for a hug. I'm okay with it. At least I can tell people he finished me off with seven expert strokes.



listings >

For more listings go to xtra.ca

PARTIES

Sistahood Celebration

The three-day festival kicks off its 10th anniversary with a gala featuring feminist avant-garde film and cabaret on Thurs, March 25. Films by Asa Mori, Amber Dawn, Thirza Cuthand and more. Performances by Va Va Vunderbust, Morgan Brayton, Little Woo (pictured) and others. \$15. Vancity Theatre, 1181 Seymour St, 7pm doors. sistahoodcelebration.com

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Join us to celebrate the new look. Host Sean Horlor plus Raye Sunshine, Tony Correia, The Bobbers, Aedan Saint, Gay

Top Model finalists. Music with DJ SHE. By donation in support of OUR Spaces. J Lounge, 1216 Bute St (off Davie), 7:30pm. 695 Smithe St, 11pm-7am.

Vancouver's Next Gay Top Model

The finale takes place Thurs, April 1 with live performances, hot models, fashion and special guest celebrities and, of course, the announcement of the winner. \$25 advance at Little Sister's. Celebrities Nightclub, 1022 Davie St, 9pm doors.

Tribe II

Big Rogers present an April Fool's party, Thurs, April 1 with DJ Neill MacLeod (TO)

and DJ Adam Dreddy. Gorg-O-Mish, 695 Smithe St, 11pm-7am.

Hershe Bar

Kick off flygirl's party season with DJ Rocket and DJ Soulfunkee on Thurs, April 1. Let your inhibitions go in a sexy, sultry New Orleans-style club. \$12 advance at Little Sister's and Kokopelli's. Red Room, 398 Richards St, 9pm-2am.

Lez Hookup: Girl-Girl Speed Dating

Need a change of pace? Meet new faces Sat, April 3 at this lesbian-owned and -run event. \$26 tickets available at lezhookup.com. Includes one drink and tapas. No tickets at the door.

St Augustine's Café, 2360 Commercial Dr (near SkyTrain), 5:30-8:30pm.

Thickset

Hang out with bears, cubs and friends, Sat, April 10. DJs Big Top and Mickey Moniker spin electro, indie, new wave and more. \$5 before 10/\$10 after/\$5 with Rubbout wristband. Anza Club, 3 W 8th Ave, 9pm-2am.

FILM

Word is Out: Stories of Some of Our Lives

Billed as the first feature-length documentary on gay and lesbian identity, this 1977 film features 26 diverse subjects who describe their

struggle to live a decent life in America. Thurs, March 25 at Pacific Cinematheque, 1131 Howe St, 6:45pm. \$9-10.50.

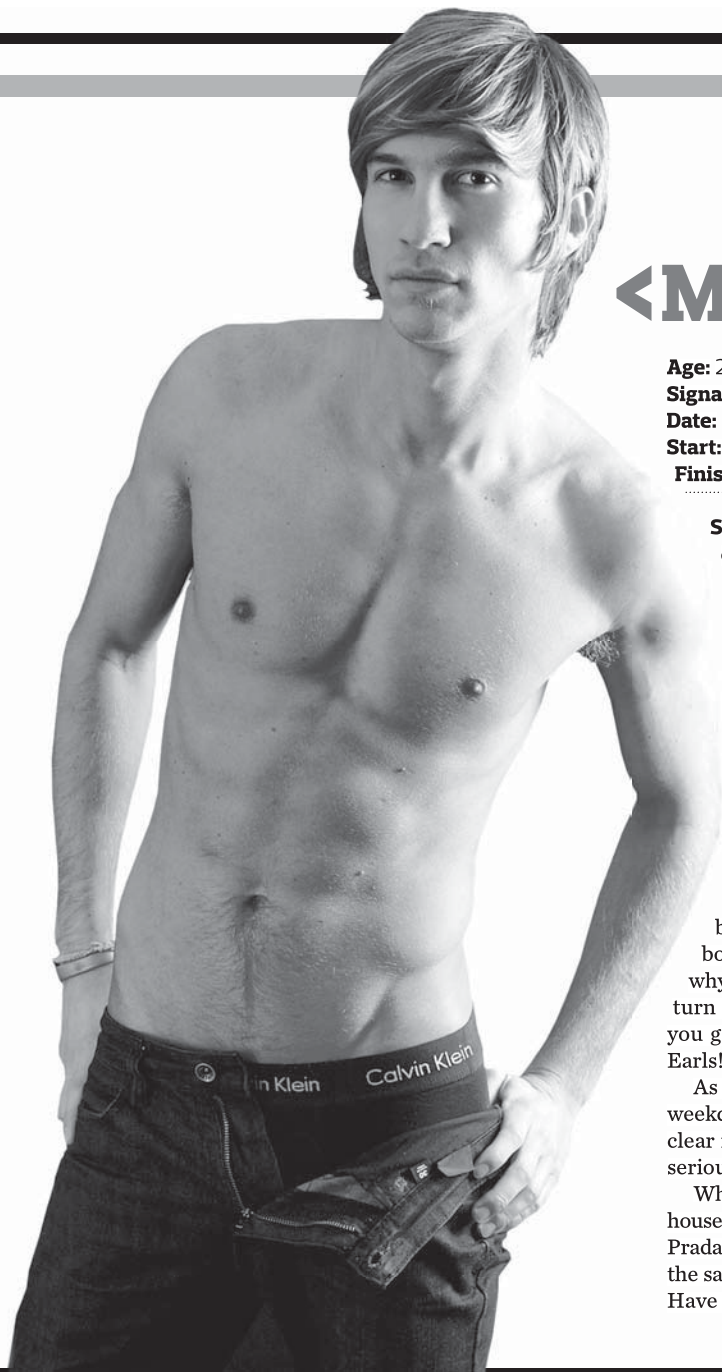
Fruity Flicks

This month's screening is *Yossi & Jagger*, about an Israeli army commander and his lover who serves under him. In Hebrew with subtitles. Fri, April 2. Free. #103-1033 Davie St, 7pm. qmunity.ca

THEATRE

Savage Parade

The conflicting loves of 19th-century poet Paul Verlaine, who carried on an affair with Arthur Rimbaud while married to Mathilde Mauté, are explored in



<MICHAEL

Age: 25
Signature Look: "The Porter Pout"
Date: Earls (at Hornby and Smithe)
Start: 1:30pm
Finish: 2:30pm

produce music. His jokes are sharp but not mean, and he's just the right amount of shy.

In short: he embodies everything I like about being gay. He would be the perfect boyfriend, people. And yes, he's taken.

"I'm a serial monogamist," he confesses.

I also have a confession to make: I first saw Riley on the Davie bus about a year and a half ago, cruised the shit out of him, but was too shy to ask him out.

When I tell him this over beers, taking a break from bowling, he says, "You should've."

Oh cool. Thanks, Riley. Way to rub it in.

Here's another confession: Riley is actually a good friend of mine. He and his boyfriend, Adam, are amazing and fun and make me want to vomit puppies on a regular basis.

Riley and I end up playing two games of 10 frames. I win the first then beat Riley by one point in the second. I'm convinced he let me win the second. He's that goddamn nice.

The Goodbye: At the corner of Davie and Burrard, after a couple of drinks at Licorice, and always a fan of pushing my luck, I ask Riley for a kiss. To my surprise, he gives me one, and even better, he blushes after! It is of the sisterly closed-mouth variety, but I'm pretty sure his boyfriend will still bottle me in the throat for it.

SO MICHAEL AND I WERE

originally supposed to go out for karaoke and drinks, but he chose to go out with his boyfriend that night instead. I even suggested all three of us go to karaoke — imagine how much fun that would be, a threesome date! — but he said no to that too.

So... I ask Michael to go for sushi instead.

And then he suggests we go to Earls because he doesn't like sushi.

Now, I don't mean to be a bitch, but you can spend time with your boyfriend whenever you want. That's why you're dating each other. This may turn out to be the only interview-date you get this lifetime, girl, and it was at Earls!

As we sit down for burgers with the weekday business crowd (the worst), it's clear from the start Michael is the most serious model of my three dates.

When I ask him about a dream fashion-house gig, he laughs and says, "I want to say Prada, but almost want to say Valentino at the same time." He pauses. "Or Burberry. Have you seen their new commercial?"

That's the look I want."

Michael currently works as a hair stylist and was actively scouting representation in Vancouver before his Gay Top Model stint. He plays with his hair a lot while talking and tells me so, but he also has the nicest hair of any guy I've ever met, so he's justified.

He tells me he's thinking of moving to Europe after building up a portfolio here.

I want to tell him that he's a walking version of "She's Got the Look" by Roxette and go "La la la la you've got the look!" But I decide to save my serenading for a future karaoke date with some other guy.

The Goodbye: He gets a sheepish look on his face as I walk him back to work and tells me, "I promised you a hug and that's what you're getting." True to his word, he hugs me and that's that. Waa waa.

on the web

For Sean's pre-interviews with all 10 Gay Top Models hopefuls, go to the Vancouver page of **xtra.ca**

listings >

For more listings go to **xtra.ca**

this musical drama. April 8–10 at Waterfront Theatre, 1412 Cartwright St, Granville Island. \$20–27 at brownpapertickets.com or 1-800-838-3006.

DANCE

Timberline Dance Society

Weekly line/two-step dance lessons and party every Thursday. Always a willing partner available; just show up. Partial proceeds from \$5–10 donation go to A Loving Spoonful. St Paul's Anglican Church, 1130 Jarvis St, 7pm. timberlinedance.org

YOUTH

Dare to Stand Out Conference

The Vancouver School Board, in association with Out in Schools, Gab Youth Services and Jer's Vision, holds a day of workshops for students to address homophobia and gender stereotypes in their schools. Wed, March 24. Queen Mary Elementary School, 2000 Trimble St, 8:30am.

Queer History Workshop

Ignite! Youth Festival presents an evening of films, discussion and presentations for ages 13–24. Screenings of the Queer History Project's *The Portside*, *The Love That Won't Shut Up* and *Rex vs Singh*. Free. Sat, March 27. Purple Thistle, 260–975 Vernon Dr, 6–9pm. igniteyouthfest.ca

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Yoga at HIM

Health Initiative for Men offers a yoga group for men every Friday. Register@contacthim.ca or 604-488-1001. Bring your own mat. By donation. #310–1033 Davie St, 7–8:15pm.

BOOKS

Jen Currin Book Launch

Night of poetry and music Sat, March 27 to celebrate the launch of Jen Currin's *The Inquisition Yours*. Free. Café Montmartre, 4362 Main St, 8–11pm.

SEX, FETISH & KINK

MVK BDSM

Full day of kink, Sat, April 3 from Metro Vancouver Kink. Includes afternoon workshop BDSM 101 (3–4:30pm. \$10–20 sliding scale); Special General Meeting (4:30–6pm, admission free); evening workshop Fire Play (6:15–7:45pm. \$10–20 sliding scale); and Vancouver Dungeon BDSM play party (8pm–1am. \$20 or \$25–35 with a workshop). Capri Hall, 3925 Fraser St. 778-783-0334.

Wild Kingdom Fetish Fashion Gala

Fetish and burlesque shows, body modification performance by Russ Foxx, DJs Pandemonium, R-Lex and Ceebas. \$10 advance/\$12 online at clubvibes.com. Sun, April 4, Celebrities, 1022 Davie St, 9pm–late.

Rubbout 2010

Party weekend April 9–11 for rubber enthusiasts and leathermen consists of various events: VML Rubber Party (Fri at Numbers, 1042 Davie St, 9pm); Rubbout Party (Sat at 1255 Seymour St, 8pm. \$10); Play Party (Sat at M2M, 1210 Granville St, 11pm); Rubbout Brunch (Sun at Pumpjack Pub, 1167 Davie St, 11am). Complete details at rubbout.com

FUNDRAISERS

GOT Curves, Will Travel

Girls On Top Risqué Cabaret raises money for a trio of women's shelters, Fri, March 19. \$10. Darby's Pub, 2001 MacDonald St, 8pm.

Dining Out for Life

Eat out and make a difference, Thurs, March 25: more than 200 restaurants will donate up to 25 percent of your food bill to Friends for Life and A Loving Spoonful to support people living with HIV/AIDS. Complete info and list at diningoutforlife.ca

Team Vancouver Brunch

La Brasserie will donate 20 percent of all food proceeds and \$5 from every glass of champagne to Team Vancouver on Sun, April 4. Enjoy spicy bratwurst and 30 hard-to-find European beers. La Brasserie, 1091 Davie St, 10am–3pm. teamvancouver.net

Bingo for Life

Joan-E hosts Gay Bingo every Wednesday. Proceeds go to Friends for Life Society. DJ Drew. \$200 cash prize. Celebrities, 1022 Davie St, 8–10pm.

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HEADS UP

Club pages

CELEBRITIES NIGHT CLUB

1022 DAVIE ST, VANCOUVER
604-681-6180

WED, MARCH 24 Bingo for Life with Joan-E and DJ Drew. \$200 Cash Prize! From 8pm-10pm. 100% of proceeds benefit the Vancouver Friends for Life Society. Red Hot: the cruising grounds are open. DJ Denny Kindel spins the hottest dance music for all to dance to. \$3 highballs and much more. Party until 3am. No cover before 11pm.

FRI, MARCH 26 Stereotype presents special guest DJs. Check out celebritiesnightclub.com. Doors open from 9pm-3am.

SAT, MARCH 27 Release, with resident DJs the Threesome. Doors open from 9pm-3am. Special drag performance by Jaylene at 11:30pm and midnight. Go-go dancers all night.

TUES, MARCH 30 Mixed night where gays, lesbians, trans and straights all get along. DJ Darylo. \$3 highballs. Doors open at 8pm.

WED, MARCH 31 Bingo for Life with Joan-E and DJ Drew. \$200 Cash Prize! From 8pm-10pm. 100% of proceeds benefit the Vancouver Friends for Life Society. Red Hot: the cruising grounds are open. DJ Denny Kindel spins the hottest dance music for all to dance to. \$3 highballs and much more. Party until 3am. No cover before 11pm.

THURS, APRIL 1 Vancouver's Next Gay Top Model. A massive show of fashion, catwalk and live performances, complete with a parade of special guest celebrities and personalities, and of course the announcement of the winner. Advance tickets are \$25, available at Little Sister's Bookstore.

FRI, APRIL 2 Stereotype presents special guest DJs. Check out celebritiesnightclub.com. Doors open from 9pm-3am.

SAT, APRIL 3 Release is Celebrities' flagship party, the very best of what we do. Western Canada's hottest and biggest gay club-night. Featuring Vancouver's hottest gay DJ act the Threesome and monthly international superstar guests. Sexy go-go gods, circus performers and tons of hot boys. Dress to be seen. Arrive early to avoid the lineup. Doors open from 9pm-3am. Cover is \$10.

TUES, APRIL 6 Mixed night where gays, lesbians, trans and straights all get along. DJ Darylo and special guest DJ Rico Uno. \$3 highballs. Doors open at 8pm.

WED, APRIL 7 Bingo for Life and Red Hot Wednesdays: Gay bingo from 8pm-10pm. You can win some amazing prizes and be entertained by some very snappy drag queens. Red Hot Wednesdays: DJ Denny Kindel spins the hottest dance music for all to dance to. Party until 3am. No cover before 11pm.

CLUB 816

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816 GRANVILLE ST, VANCOUVER

SAT, MARCH 27 The Basement. Vocal Trance DJ Lace

SUN, MARCH 28 The World. House DJ Jesse Creede and DJ Nick Bertossi

SAT, APRIL 3 The Basement. Vocal Trance DJ Lace

SUN, APRIL 4 The World. House DJ Jesse Creede and DJ Nick Bertossi

FOUNTAINHEAD PUB

1011 DAVIE ST, VANCOUVER
604-687-2222

WED, MARCH 24 Red Truck pints; Beefeater gin highballs

THURS, MARCH 25 Grower's Cider; Alexander Keith's pints

FRI, MARCH 26 Polar Ice Vodka highballs; Kokanee pints; Naughty Shots

SAT, MARCH 27 Smirnoff Ice coolers; Granville Island pints; Naughty Shots

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RELEASE SATURDAYS

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HEADS UP

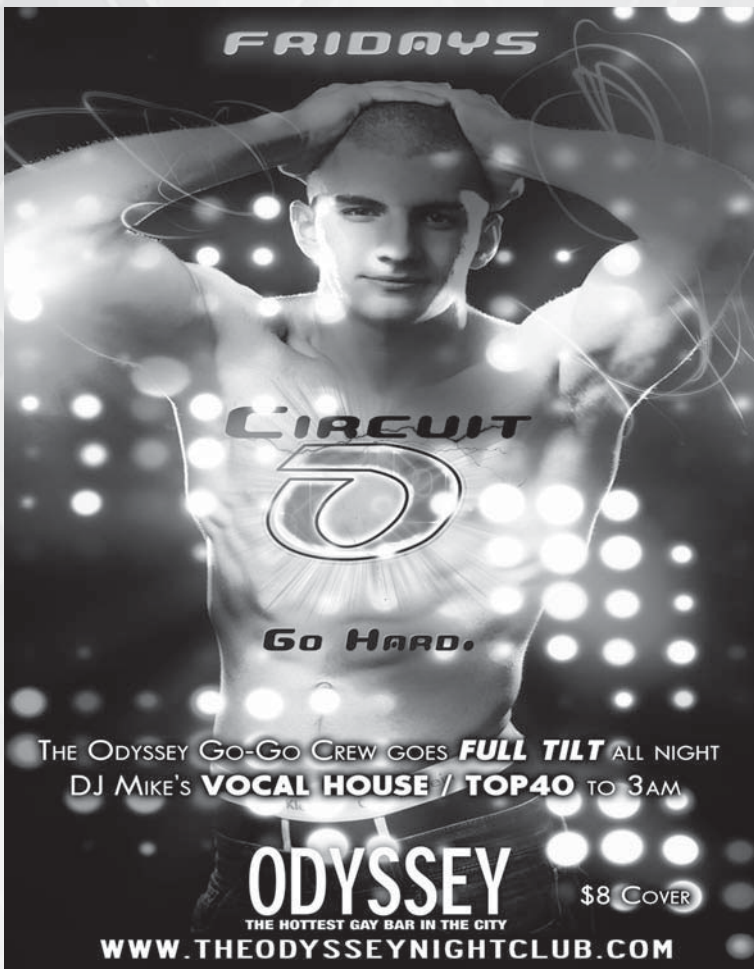
Club pages

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(downstairs) 604.684.6011



SUN, MARCH 28 Caesars; OK Spring pints
MON, MARCH 29 Labatt's Blue pints; Jackson Triggs wines
TUES, MARCH 30 Smirnoff Twisted coolers; Russell pints
WED, MARCH 31 Red Truck pints; Beefeater gin highballs
THURS, APRIL 1 Grower's Cider; Alexander Keith's pints
FRI, APRIL 2 Polar Ice vodka highballs; Kokanee pints; Naughty Shots
SAT, APRIL 3 Smirnoff Ice coolers; Granville Island pints; Naughty Shots
SUN, APRIL 4 Caesars; OK Spring pints
MON, APRIL 5 Labatt's Blue pints; Jackson Triggs wines
TUES, APRIL 6 Smirnoff Twisted coolers; Russell pints

NUMBERS

1042 DAVIE ST, VANCOUVER
604-685-4077

WED, MARCH 24 Numbers Idol competition grand prize is valued at \$11,500. Hosted by Barb Snelgrove, starts at 9pm sharp. Complimentary Funbox from 9pm-12am \$11.50 jugs of Winchester. Doors open at 8pm. Cover starts at 9pm. \$5. Door prizes.

THURS, MARCH 25 Join DJ Del for a night of great music. Two Buds or Two Blues, \$8.50. Funbox open. Doors open at 8pm. Cover starts at 9pm. \$3. Door prizes. Funbox open.

FRI, MARCH 26 Dance party with DJ Drew/DJ Del. All your favourite dance tunes. Doors open at 8pm. Cover starts at 9pm. \$5. Door prizes. Funbox open.

SAT, MARCH 27 Dance party with DJ Shelly. Best light show in the city. Doors open at 8pm. Cover starts at 9pm. \$5. Door prizes. Funbox open.

SUN, MARCH 28 Numbers Idol competition grand prize is valued at \$11,500. Hosted by Barb Snelgrove, starts at 9pm sharp. Complimentary Funbox from 9pm-12am. \$4.11 pints of Winchester. Doors open at 8pm. Cover starts at 9pm. \$5. Door prizes.

MON, MARCH 29 Live band 3Sum'n joins Shari, Jeff and Tom every Monday in the Loft, 9:30pm-12am. Latin night downstairs with DJ Noe. Doors open at 8pm. Cover starts at 9pm. \$3. Door prizes. Funbox open after 3Sum'n.

TUES, MARCH 30 DJ Tim plays all your favourite tunes. No cover. Funbox open.

WED, MARCH 31 Numbers Idol competition grand prize is valued at \$11,500. Hosted by Barb Snelgrove, starts at 9pm sharp. Complimentary Funbox from 9pm-12am \$11.50 jugs of Winchester. Doors open at 8pm. Cover starts at 9pm. \$5. Door prizes.

THURS, APRIL 1 Join DJ Del for a night of great music. Two Buds or Two Blues, \$8.50. Funbox open. Doors open at 8pm. Cover starts at 9pm. \$3. Door prizes.

FRI, APRIL 2 Dance party with DJ Drew/DJ Del. All your favourite dance tunes. Doors open at 8pm. Cover starts at 9pm. \$5. Funbox open. Door prizes.

SAT, APRIL 3 Dance party with DJ Shelly. Best light show in the city. Doors open at 8pm. Cover starts at 9pm. \$5. Funbox open. Door prizes.

SUN, APRIL 4 Numbers Idol competition grand prize is valued at \$11,500. Hosted by Barb Snelgrove, starts at 9pm sharp. Complimentary Funbox from 9pm-12pm. \$4.11 pints of Winchester. Doors open at 8pm. Cover starts at 9. \$5. Funbox open. Door prizes.

MON, APRIL 5 Live band 3Sum'n joins Shari, Jeff and Tom every Monday in the Loft, 9:30pm-12am. Latin night downstairs with DJ Noe. Doors open at 8pm. Cover starts at 9pm. \$3. Door prizes. Funbox open after 3Sum'n.

TUES, APRIL 6 DJ Tim plays all your favourites. No cover. Funbox open.

ODYSSEY

1111 HOWE ST, VANCOUVER
604-689-5116

WED, MARCH 24 Faux Girls at 11:30pm. Lips Inc starring Willie Taylor and Carlotta Gurl at 12:30pm. \$3

THURS, MARCH 25 Shower Power. Hot guys get wet starting at midnight. DJ Mike spins vocal house and Top 40. \$5. Service until 3am.

FRI, MARCH 26 Circuit 'O'. DJ Mike spins vocal house and Top 40. Hot go-go boys. \$8. Service until 3am.

SAT, MARCH 27 Fallen Angel. DJ Drew's Top-40 remix sets. Go-go boys. \$8. Service until 3am.

SUN, MARCH 28 The Boa Show. Legendary drag in its 16th year. Joan-E and friends at 11:30pm. \$3. Service until 3am.

MON, MARCH 29 Industry Night. All drinks \$3. No cover for hospitality industry; \$3 for others. DJ Drew to 3am.

TUES, MARCH 30 Frequency Show at 11:30pm and 2am. Top-40 drag featuring Raye Sunshine, Kamelle Toe and special guests. Two for one highballs.

WED, MARCH 31 Faux Girls at 11:30pm. Lips Inc starring Willie Taylor and Carlotta Gurl at 12:30pm. \$3.

THURS, APRIL 1 Shower Power: hot guys get wet starting at midnight. DJ Mike spins vocal house and Top 40. \$5. Service until 3am.

FRI, APRIL 2 Circuit 'O' featuring DJ Mike and hot go-go boys. \$8.

SAT, APRIL 3 Fallen Angel. DJ Drew's Top-40 remix sets, go-go boys. \$8. Service until 3am.

SUN, APRIL 4 Feather Boa: legendary drag night in its 16th year, featuring Joan-E and guests. Shows at 11:30pm. \$3.

MON, APRIL 5 Industry Night: all drinks \$3; no cover for hospitality industry; \$3 for others. DJ Drew to 3am.

TUES, APRIL 6 Frequency Show at 11:30pm and 2am. Top-40 drag featuring Raye Sunshine, Kamelle Toe and special guests. Two for one highballs.

1181

1181 DAVIE ST, VANCOUVER
604-687-3991

WED, MARCH 24 Wild. Ryan Steele hosts. \$4 vodka. \$6 vodka-Redbull. DJ Robyn Graves.

THURS, MARCH 25 Reloaded. \$7 double highballs. DJ Adam Dreddy.

FRI, MARCH 26 Mumbles' Madhouse. \$5 Corona and \$5 Mike's Hard served up by hot, shirtless beerboy. DJ Mumbles.

SAT, MARCH 27 Tight Night. \$5 Peroni beer. Tequila and Jager shots, \$5. Hot local rotating DJs.

SUN, MARCH 28 \$4 highballs, \$4 draft. DJ Mumbles hosts with guest DJs.

MON, MARCH 29 Monday Madness: Industry night. \$4 highballs; \$5 house wine.

TUES, MARCH 30 Chill: Chill music. Classic cocktails, \$7 double Knockouts. \$5 Stella.

WED, MARCH 31 Wild. Ryan Steele hosts. \$4 vodka. \$6 vodka-Redbull. DJ Robyn Graves.

THURS, APRIL 1 Reloaded. \$7 double highballs. DJ Adam Dreddy.

FRI, APRIL 2 Mumbles' Madhouse. \$5 Corona and \$5 Mike's Hard served up by hot, shirtless beerboy. DJ Mumbles.

SAT, APRIL 3 Tight Night. \$5 Peroni beer. Tequila and Jager shots, \$5. Hot, local rotating DJs.

SUN, APRIL 4 \$4 highballs, \$4 draft. DJ Mumbles hosts with guest DJs.

MON, APRIL 5 Monday Madness: Industry night. \$4 highballs, \$5 house wine.

TUES, APRIL 6 Chill: Chill music. Classic cocktails, \$7 double Knockouts, \$5 Stella.

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Hits, misses and jock straps

Cocked & Loaded Sean Horlor

a bit, boys. Do your research and say hi when you see him out. He's a good guy to know.

Misses

HEY, DID YOU NOTICE THAT *Xtra* has a fresh face or what? New look, new format, a new listings section (oooh!) and a new approach to telling all the lesbian *transformations* taking place in Vancouver right now... with a dash of the same ol' slutty *Xtra* that we've all come to love over the years.

Just check out my cover story this issue.... Yeah, they paid me to go on dates and then write about it. It's like telling a whore (or Horlor) to go whoring. Imagine.

Now, in the spirit of new *Xtra*, we've decided to give *Cocked & Loaded* a little nip and tuck too.

My ADD nowadays is so bad I can hardly read a menu, so we're going to break b-b-b-break *Cocked & Loaded* down into three easy-to-reference sections, one of which will appear in a feature bar!

Read it and weep — literally:

The **Coronation Ball**. Not because it was bad, but because I was too goddamn tired to make the March 13 ball, which I'm sure the drag community will make me pay for over the upcoming months.

Turns out Raye Sunshine will be spreading her wings this year and infiltrating an event near you soon. Odyssey's little moneymaker was crowned Empress XXXIX at the ball. I managed to catch up with her for a quick interview, featured in the new *Xcetera* (page 7), so check it out.

Another miss was **Gay Top Model** hopeful **Toban** during a modelling contest at J Lounge's new Brunch Talk series on March 14. The models were asked to pose on the couch in a way that would make the audience want to buy it.

Toban tried to do his best Tom Cruise impersonation and broke the couch with a single, booted leap. Funniest thing I've seen this year.

Hits

As you can tell by this issue's scene photo, someone was stupid enough to give me a microphone the other week at the **Rock the Hem Line** fashion show at Celebrities on March 11. Yeah. Girl emceed it. What's the world coming to, Vancouver?

And no, this isn't a megalomaniac plug. **Rock the Hem Line** was a charity event for the Play 4 Phil Foundation put on by promoters Rob Trinh and Brandon Howe.

Turns out I give more than just hand jobs, people. Call me!

On the other hand, pity the designers, Malene Grotrian and Vancouver's Ryan McKillop (who recently launched a men's underwear line), for being subjected to my interview stylings on stage.

Those smiles were stage smiles and can you blame them? Show me a designer who doesn't want to talk about their inspiration in front of an inebriated crowd at 12:30am, and you'll be showing me someone who has learned to hightail it to the bathroom when the emcee closes their late-night club runway show.

Now here's a fun fact: Ryan McKillop's jock straps are really comfortable, and he's out on the town quite



Cocked & Loaded's Sean Horlor emceed **Rock the Hem Line**, March 11, helping raise money for the Play 4 Phil Foundation to support at-risk youth. PHOTO BY GEOFF HOWARD

Knights of Malta-Dogwood Chapter & The Limestone Phoenix Charity Foundation present
MR. STUD CONTEST SERIES 2010
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A LOVING SPOONFUL

4 CONTESTS
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DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?
1 STUD

Mr. Jock 2010 - Will Endowed
Mr. Cowboy - April 1, 2010
Mr. Denim/Leather - May 6, 2010
Mr. STUD - May 29, 2010
J Lounge - Davie Village
1216 Bute Street (off Davie)
8PM - 11PM

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& EVENT DETAILS @
www.knightsofmalta.ca

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ABSOLUT VODKA
CANDICE ALBACH {the photographer}
J Lounge

My Top 3 to-dos for the next two weeks:

- 1) 560 OPENING, SATURDAY, MARCH 27
This four-level superclub is Vancouver's newest gay space and is located at 560 Seymour St. DJ Honey Dijon (NYC), DJ Colby B (Seattle), DJ Dreddy (VAN) and DJ Dickey Doo (VAN) will be spinning. Hosted by Miss Cotton.
- 2) GAY TOP MODEL FINALE, THURSDAY, APRIL 1
Another year, another finale at Celebrities. The 10 finalists need your votes to win. Advance tickets at Little Sister's. My money's on Riley.
- 3) TRIBE II, THURSDAY, APRIL 1
Big Rogers is throwing the official April Fools' Day and unofficial GTM afterparty at Gorg-O-Mish with DJ Neill MacLeod (TO) and DJ Dreddy (VAN).

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THE NEW LOOK

OUTSIDE, INSIDE AND BEYOND

Your guide to the new Xtra

Join the discussion

Comment is home to hard-hitting analysis by Xtra staff writers and editors. It's also your place to have your say. Whether you leave a comment on Xtra.ca, email your ideas directly to an Xtra editor or write your thoughts out longhand for delivery by snail mail, your comments are critically important. You're not just a consumer of information; you're an active participant in the storyline.



The front door

A cleaner and updated cover design allows Xtra to present rich illustration and photography without the limitations of standing elements. Retired is the familiar Xtra logo, formerly in the top left corner of each cover. This allows for cover illustrations and photography unmarred by the logo position.

A new brand for a bright future

Formerly, each of the Xtra publications and Xtra.ca bore a separate, distinct logo. The new, simplified and iconic logo will mark all of Xtra's work, in your neighbourhood, across Canada and around the world. Also, look for Xtra's mark on promotional material for sponsored community events and organizations nationwide.



Navigation

Roundup is Xtra's front foyer. It's your guide to all things Xtra, inside the publication and beyond. Roundup not only outlines the selection of news, analysis and arts coverage waiting in the pages of your print edition, it also directs you to great video, audio, photographic and additional print features online at Xtra.ca.



The evolution of Xtra



1984

A star is born
Xtra got its start in January 1984 as a spinoff from the late, great institution of sexual liberation, *The Body Politic*. Xtra was conceived as a marketable and free back-pocket entertainment guide, distributed mainly through Toronto's bar scene.



1987

A sister falls
In February 1987, *The Body Politic* suspended publication. Xtra changed considerably in a short period of time. It remained true to its roots as a light bar-and-culture read, but began also to fill the news and analysis vacuum left by its predecessor.

Curiosities abound

Xcetera is Xtra's new showcase of compact news-and-culture imagery and pop-cultural tidbits. Sometimes a picture really is worth a thousand words, and Xcetera offers a way to tell stories more visually. Each installment of Xcetera will look and read differently. Get to know your neighbours and neighbourhood, enter an Xtra contest, learn about your history; Xcetera will guide you there.

Xcetera

JUST SAYING: "This isn't just about me and my rights anymore - now I'm fighting for the right of all the students at my school to have our prom."

TOP 7 KENNY LIST: 1. We needed more space for the parade 2. Canada already has a parade 3. We didn't want to cause the Queen's 4. We didn't want to cause the Queen's 5. We didn't want to cause the Queen's 6. We didn't want to cause the Queen's 7. We didn't want to cause the Queen's

APRIL 23, 1983: The Vancouver Gay Community Centre (VGCC) held its 25th anniversary celebration at the Vancouver Convention Centre. The VGCC was founded in 1958 and has since become a vital part of the Vancouver LGBTQ+ community.

THE GIVEAWAY: A contest where readers can win prizes by submitting photos or stories related to the LGBTQ+ community.

BITCHHUNT: A feature where readers can find out who is dating who in the LGBTQ+ community.

ONLINE NEWS: ARTISTS IN PRIDE: TORONTO: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION SHOULD BE OFFENSIVE QUESTIONS UNDER A PAPER MACHINE APPROVED IN YOUNG MEN: JUDGE DELAYS VERDICT IN MALAWIAN GAY COUPLES' CASE • MORE AT XTRA.CA

Out in the City

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT & LIFESTYLE

AFTER ALL, AT LEAST I CAN TELL PEOPLE THAT HE FINISHED ME OFF WITH SEVEN EXPERT STROKES

LOCAL LESBIAN IN PARALYMPICS: Former Mabel Leauger competes in cross-country skiing.

FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT: Whatops want from him? A look at the latest in pop culture and entertainment.

LISTINGS: A guide to upcoming events, shows, and performances.

COMMENT: A space for readers to share their thoughts and opinions on current events.

Upfront

DISPATCHES | ISSUES | OPINION

PEOPLE IN THAT MUCH GRIEF GO ON WALKS AND PILGRIMAGES, THAT'S WHAT I AM TRYING TO DO

HATE: **WHITE PRIDE MARCH FIZZLES**

Organizer declares counter-protest a victory

Natasha Barzotti

A USUALLY STAY SUNDAY morning at Braid SkyTrain station became a staging ground for a multicultural rally that drew about 250 people at the peak to counter a white pride march that never materialized.

"It makes you ask those big questions: How did this situation come about? Who is that person surrounded by? Is that person surrounded by...?"

BC GOV'T AXES GRANT TO VALLEY YOUTH GROUP

"We can just barely make it on the money that we have": director

Natasha Barzotti

A QUEER FRASER VALLEY YOUTH GROUP HAS JOINED THE growing list of community organizations feeling the effects of the BC government's gaming grant cuts.

"Basically, their budget is wiped out," says NDP MLA Mable Elmore, who serves as deputy opposition critic for children, family development and childcare.

News that affects your life

Upfront is your gateway to the same hard-hitting news and analysis you've come to expect from Xtra. Here you'll find more numerous and more concise news pieces than you've been used to. And look for a tighter relationship between Xtra in print and online.

What's going on near you

Out in the City is your source for arts and culture coverage. You'll read the same great arts and culture stories, reviews and commentary that you've come to expect from Xtra. Listings feature hot happenings next to relevant stories. Find yourself, your friends and your future exes in Xposed, the scene in pictures.

DESIGNED BY The new look of Xtra was designed and art directed by Lucinda Wallace of Wallace Creative (lucindawallace.com).

Easy on the eyes

Xtra's new body font, Chronicle Text, designed by Jonathan Hoefler and Tobias Frere-Jones, is far more space efficient than Xtra's previous font. This improvement allows us to pack more news and analysis into smaller packages. But just because the new font is a touch smaller doesn't mean you'll need a jeweller's loupe to read it. Chronicle Text is easy to read and appropriate to virtually any application, on any paper stock, in the new Xtra. Also, body copy in the new Xtra is fully justified and presented on a more sophisticated column grid. This gives an orderly and contemporary look to every page.

The display copy is set in Prelo and Prelo Slab, companion typefaces that provide a wide variety of weights, designed by Dino dos Santos.

You'll also notice more and larger photos and illustrations, which make the new Xtra not only easy to read but easy on the eyes, too.

Chronicle text was designed in four grades, each optimized for different paper stocks and printing presses

chron-i-cle | /ˈkrɪnɪkəl/ n. A factual or account of important or historical events in the order of their occurrence; a work of nonfiction that describes a particular event or series of events. v. [trans.] Record (a related event) in a factual and detailed way.

1993 Then there were three

By 1993, Pink Triangle Press, Xtra's publisher, was flourishing, and Xtra prospered along with it. Inaugural issues of Xtra West hit the streets in Vancouver that year, and a few months later, Capital Xtra premiered in Ottawa.

1999 Into cyberspace

By 1999, Xtra had already made its first furtive steps online. Evolving steadily over most of the next decade, Xtra.ca roared to life in 2008 as an integral component of Xtra's work.

2010 A new look for a bright future

The next step in Xtra's evolution represents a more contemporary look and reader experience in print, greater integration with Xtra's online incarnation, and a clear commitment to readers that Xtra will maintain the highest standard in gay and lesbian news, analysis, arts and culture coverage for many years to come.

XPOSED

Photos by Rosamond Norbury

Sat, March 13@
Empire Landmark Hotel

March 13 marked the Dogwood Monarchist Society's annual Coronation Ball, where the court crowned its new Empress XXXIX and her entourage. The ball was a classic. The room was jam-packed with tiaras, crowns, gowns, divas and their minions. The Queen Mother, DeDe Drew (Empress IX), worked her 30th anniversary performance, as did the stellar Christopher Peterson, performing live for her 25th anniversary. Courts came from as far away as Kentucky to see the uncontested Marty "Mojo" Stevens and Raye Sunshine sworn in as Emperor and Empress XXXIX. It was a wonderful, well-attended evening.



1) Gouda Gabor, Roxy Diva and Sabrina Seville.
2) Christopher Hunte (Symone) and Pol Harrison.
3) Connie Smudge and Laurie Sluchinski.
4) Doug Gonzales, Carlotta Gurl, Victor Fantasy and Will Trainersnow.
5) Bill Monroe and Mimi Michel.
6) Kentucky's Nicole Diamond and Daddy Wayne.
7) Emperor Marty Mojo Stevens and Empress Raye Sunshine.

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Average Joe's

Group for gay-poz males meets every Wednesday for pool, pizza and socializing. More info at bcpwa.org. Upstairs at Numbers, 1042 Davie St, 8-10pm.

Average Joe's Café

Join other gay-poz men at a daytime alternative to clubs, every Friday, 3-6pm, Speakeasy, 1239 Davie St. More details at bcpwa.org

ESL Conversation Group

Improve your English and meet other gay guys on Wednesday nights. HIM, #310-1033 Davie St, 6:30-8:30pm. 604-488-1001 or register@contacthim.ca

Something To Say ESL Group

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Trans Social Support Group

Weekly drop-in to connect, share, discuss and learn. #103-1033 Davie St, 6-7:30pm. 604-684-5307.

Club 4050

On the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, gay men in their 40s and 50s gather to share thoughts and experiences in this discussion and social group. Newcomers welcome, registration is not required. Slightly before 7pm, buzz #610-1033 Davie St. Wheelchair accessible.

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Xtra! ASK A REALTOR

I heard that there are new rules from CMHC going into effect, what does that mean for me?

On April 19, 2010 changes to the mortgage insurance rules go into effect. The highlights are that:

1. All borrowers have to meet the standard for a 5 year fixed rate mortgage, even if going for a lower rate mortgage for a shorter period of time.
2. The maximum you can withdraw when refinancing your mortgage has been reduced to 90% from the current 95%.
3. Investment properties now need to have a 20% downpayment.

The basic theory behind these changes is that it will prepare Canadians for the inevitable interest rate hike by ensuring that everyone can actually afford their home. This effect will be felt mainly by first time investors that may not qualify under the new rules, or the first time home buyer in terms on buying power.

Will it slow the real estate market in Vancouver?

In the short term we may see less rental inventory on the market with less potential investors.

For the first time home buyer, the requirement to qualify under a higher mortgage, the overall amount that you can borrow effectively decreases. If you currently qualify for a \$400,000 mortgage under a variable 3 year term, you might only qualify for an approximate \$360,000 mortgage under the new rules. (values used for illustrative purposes)

When looking for properties, this will drastically change what is available in your price bracket, and you may not be able to afford the place you were looking at before April 19.

While I do not believe that any of these rules will have a drastic impact on Vancouver Real Estate, I do believe that there will be a period of adjustment, and hopefully level the playing field for first time homebuyers and investors.

Klaus Rode is a licensed Broker in Trade Services and Property Management at Bruce Ward Realty LTD.

www.twitter.com/klausrode

Classifieds

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ANNOUNCEMENTS >

Obituaries



With great sadness, the family and friends of Ian Quinn announce his death at St Paul's Hospital on March 11, 2010. A long time resident of the West End, Ian was a familiar face to many and he could often be seen (or heard) riding his bike or enjoying a good cigar. He brought energy, enthusiasm and humour to everything he did and he shared it with so many of us - from his workplace at the Pharmacy Dept at St Paul's to his favourite spot at the Pumpjack. Ian is missed especially by his Brothers of the Border Riders Motorcycle Club. His love of riding was such a big part of his life and through his many travels he made countless friends across the Pacific Northwest. Being a big of Prairie Boy from southern Alberta also meant that he was born to curl and he got a lot of ice time and laughs with his many friends at the Pacific Rim Curling League. To those of you who showed so much love and compassion over the past two years throughout Ian's struggle with A.L.S. we are grateful to each and every one of you. Please share a message or anecdote on Ian's Facebook page so we can keep the love and the laughter alive.

Donations in Ian's Memory may be made to the ALS Society of B.C. A Celebration of Ian's life was held March 18th at The Vancouver Rowing Club

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Where reality TV and porn converge

Woody Reviews Ed Woody

THE LINE BETWEEN REALITY TV AND the porn world has been getting blurrier and blurrier lately.

Shows like Survivor and the various Idols are the perfect home for those "fame at any cost" people. And they're not drawing the line at getting nekkid.

First there was Big Brother 9's "Crazy James" who got his big blond cock out in a few clips for DirtyBoyVideo.com.

Numerous cast members from VH1's Tool Academy whipped out their own tools for solo scenes on StraightCollegeMen.com - scenes which landed the site with a cease-and-desist lawsuit.

The execrable Jersey Shore has spawned two porn spoofs - a straight one (Jersey Shore XXX available at jerseyshorexxx.com) and a gay one (Jersey Score at jetsetmen.com).

The interesting thing is that every one of the guys in the straight version has a gay porn past and - get this - one of them actually performs in both the straight and gay versions at the same time! Talk about blurring the line.

The latest reality stud to make the crossover is BB10's openly gay rodeo cowboy, Steven Daigle, and he ain't just riding bulls anymore. Steven Daigle XXXposed is his first foray into hardcore porn and he's going at it whole hog - Facebook and Twitter accounts, saucy photos on TMZ, even moulding his own dildo.



After being caught on camera-phone hooking up in a West Hollywood gay bar, Big Brother 10's Steven Daigle gleefully plunged into porn. PHOTO FROM C1R.COM

The plot is basically a fictionalized retelling of how Steven came to star in a porn film at all. We start off at a West Hollywood gay bar, MC'd by directrix Chi Chi LaRue herself and featuring various WeHo fixtures. Steven hooks up with a go-go boy in the bar's bathroom, and of course the whole thing is caught on camera-phone. Chi Chi finds the tape and likes what she sees, and the next thing you know, a star is born.

Steven is definitely sexy enough and is clearly comfortable in front of a camera. He sucks dick with the hugest grin on his face, like he can't believe how much fun he's

having. And in a post-Xtube world, his big scene is wisely directed in a shaky, real-life style, giving the whole thing a great you-are-here feel.

But don't forget the other hot, if slightly random, stuff going on here, like teacher Slade slamming his torpedo-sized dick into student Brandon Lewis (who by the way is a dead ringer for soap One Life to Live's Scott Evans, movie star Chris Evans' openly gay and equally hot brother).

Steven Daigle: XXXposed is available from c1r.com and stevenexposed.com.

ARTS & LEISURE >

Events

REGGAE-SOCA DANCEHALL 1st Sat of every month starting Apr 3. Sullivan Hall in Surrey 9pm-3am. \$10 at the door. For info call Orvis 604-209-5081 calypsosohutbc.com

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