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Raging homos

Has the gay lobby
become the bully? ▶8

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screens at Hot Docs.

ON SCREEN

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A taste of Havana
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wood furniture
Riverdale
café culture
East-end art
institution
Exploring
Kensington Market

XTRA

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New blood at the BIA



EDITORIAL
DANNY GLENWRIGHT

The new manager of the Church-Wellesley Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) had best roll up his sleeves.

Mychol Scully has replaced longtime manager David Wootton, whose contract was not renewed by the BIA board because he apparently doesn't possess the skills the BIA needs to participate in WorldPride and the 2015 Pan Am Games. It's a good thing board members realized that when they did — WorldPride is two months away.

Wootton has threatened to pursue a wrongful dismissal case, which means it hasn't been the most auspicious start for Scully. In addition, there are worrying signs that Scully may suffer from the same handicap as other board members who have often expressed an unwillingness to build bridges and listen to divergent views. In his first interview with *Xtra* after taking the job, Scully said he doesn't look at "Debbie Downer" media that talks about the death of the Village — "I don't read *Xtra* or any of the major papers. I'm a huge proponent of online information."

While that bodes well for the BIA's website, which is perpetually out of date and provides scant information about the community, it's a bit lacking as a communications strategy. It's all too reminiscent of BIA co-chair Avery Pitcher's 2012 letter that said she would speak to *Xtra* only if our reporters write positive things about the BIA.

There are ample constructive things to report on in the Village, but some members of the community maintain that the neighbourhood is increasingly divided — gay versus straight, condo owners versus renters, independent businesses versus chain stores, nightlife versus shopping destination. Many of these competing interests are not mutually exclusive, but if the BIA is to make them work together, its board members need to take their fingers out of their ears and stop shouting, "I can't hear you."

Scully lives near the Village and has 25 years of experience running a project management and media relations busi-

ness, so his employment could also be an opportunity for the neighbourhood. This is especially true as the BIA, Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam and The 519 implement several projects in advance of WorldPride, everything from new flags and banner poles to a rainbow-coloured crosswalk (see page 12).

Glen Sanderson, owner of Distinct Hair Design on Maitland Street, says the BIA comes up with lots of new ideas, but it lacks strategic planning that takes into consideration the diverse marketing needs of local businesses. He thinks the BIA rolls out too many incongruent projects that don't fit into a wider, long-term business plan for the area. He'd also like to see less money spent on one-day events like Halloween and more spent on attracting new businesses to the shuttered storefronts, or on initiatives like the streetside parklet patio project, which the BIA cancelled after one year. "It's easy to throw a party," he says. "Harder is pursuing marketing and getting new clients for the area."

But, of course, Sanderson's is just one view; other business owners will argue that the BIA should increase the amount it spends on street parties. This cacophony of opinions about the Village has often translated into inaction, most recently illustrated by the abandoned project to improve the corner of Church and Alexander streets. Wong-Tam says that while there's money for a bold new plan for the busy corner, stakeholders couldn't agree on a design, so they get nothing instead.

It's admirable that our councillor strives for unity, except it's unlikely she'll find it in the diverse neighbourhood. Surely all the stakeholders involved didn't agree on the plan for each wall painting in the mural project or the design for the rainbow gateway markers, yet these initiatives somehow were implemented.

Mychol Scully has his work cut out for him, but if he's able to encourage the right blend of Wong-Tam's consensus-building with the BIA's ability to generate new ideas, he might just succeed at helping the BIA bring new life to the Village.

Danny Glenwright is Xtra's managing editor.

FEEDBACK

Youth homelessness

It's time to start building housing for youth, not just shelters ["Raising the Roof," *Xtra* #768, April 3]. What happened to Tyler Johnston while he stayed at Covenant House was (and is, in my honest opinion) inexcusable and had no business happening (what if he was volunteering as a part of his courses at school and couldn't just drop everything and come home early due to curfew?). We need a system of housing for troubled youth that gives them a place to stay when they're kicked out of the nest early for whatever reason.

NEVILLE ROSS
TORONTO, ON

519 Pride DJs

What's wrong with this picture ["The 519 Launches Its First-Ever DJ Search," *dailyxtra.com*, April 3]? Toronto DJ legends Deko-ze, Mark Falco and Neill MacLeod have to win a contest to get a chance to spin? This is wrong on so many levels.

JOHN W
TORONTO, ON

David Wootton's dismissal

I hate to see our community fighting amongst themselves ["Former Church-Wellesley BIA Manager Threatens Lawsuit over Dismissal," *dailyxtra.com*, April 4]. If Wootton was dismissed, he has employment rights for wrongful dismissal and possibly a human rights complaint.

JERRY HERSZKOPF
TORONTO, ON

Based on the information in this article, one might think that the Church-Wellesley Village BIA should have terminated its "partnership" with the 519 Church Street Community Centre, rather than fire David Wootton as its manager.

KYLER J
TORONTO, ON

Cock

There is nothing new here ["Cock," *dailyxtra.com*, March 30]. The old literary closet of self-hate and self-loathing is now being dressed up as "queer." This play is just following the formula of so many novels, plays and movies of the past on the failure of gay male relationships. How many

“We need a system of housing for troubled youth that gives them a place to stay when they’re kicked out of the nest early.”

[RE: YOUTH HOMELESSNESS]



such stories have you read or seen where a young male character fools around with another man in his youth but ends up forming a long-term relationship with a woman (*Maurice*, etc). Even the Netflix series *House of Cards* has such a storyline. Alternatively, how many stories have you read or seen where a young male character is initially in a supportive relationship with a woman but ends up leaving her, coming out of the closet and engaging in a series of failed relationships with other men — while ending up being alone (*Making Love, A Smile in His Lifetime*, etc).

BRENT S
TORONTO, ON

Church Street

Church Street isn't starting to look like Yorkville — it's starting to look like the commercial part of Queen West or the Annex ["Signs of Life Returning to Church Street, Sort Of," *Xtra* #768, April 3]. There is lots of urban convenience but no particular character. The new dry-cleaner with locker service instead of actual staff is symbolic of much of downtown Toronto these days: no personal interaction required. Loblaws' checkout is like an automobile assembly line. At most of the food shops in the neighbourhood, you're lucky to get a hello or thank-you from the staff. Today at Church and Wellesley, a group of six heterosexual street people and their two dogs were having a drunken party on the sidewalk all afternoon. This is supposed to be a "gay" Village? Not

anymore. Toronto's gay community is so disparate and insular I would caution every young lesbian and gay boy in Canada to *avoid* Toronto. You'll live a hard, lonely life in this city. The gay village of the early 2000s *Queer as Folk* era is dead and gone. The only gays left are depressed middle-aged men who've been here since the '80s. In 10 years I've not seen one new gay club or gay restaurant open in the Village, only close down or move away.

RYAN
TORONTO, ON

A bank, a dry-cleaner and a fast-food joint don't sound like a "return to life" to me. Of course areas change, but I always thought Church and Wellesley would remain the gay mecca of Canada. It seems to me things started to change for the worse when Kristyn Wong-Tam took over. She has tried to make over Church Street to her liking, which means driving gay men out of the area.

KEVIN BROWN
TORONTO, ON

Proud FM

I think a more relevant technical issue is Proud FM's refusal to provide a nice normal M3U file so that we can stream the station in whatever software we choose, including iTunes ["Proud FM to Boost Signal Strength in 'Gaybourhoods,'" *dailyxtra.com*, April 7].

JOE CLARK
TORONTO, ON

Trans daughter

Love is unconditional ["My Butch Daughter Is Trans," *dailyxtra.com*, April 6]. Hate picks fights. Hate doesn't understand differences. Hate has no personal experience to draw from. Hate is learned. Love asks questions about the experience. Love takes time to listen and understand. Love always comes through because it knows it brings people together. Love is a mother's instinct.

BARRY WILLIAM TESKE
TORONTO, ON

The outcome that we seek is this — gay and lesbian people daring together to set love free.

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XCETERA

FROM THE PTP ARCHIVES
20 YEARS AGO

XTRA #247, APRIL 15, 1994

"When the *Toronto Sun* says that we're the radical fringe, they are perfectly correct," explains Queerculture producer Sky Gilbert. In its sixth year, Queerculture has transformed into an autonomous organization from Buddies, after the previous year's controversies.

OUT ON THE STREET BY KYLE BURTON



"If you could be a superhero, what would your superpower be?"



Marco
SOUND DESIGNER
I think I would have batlike hearing. I'd be a way better sound designer.



Alisha
SOCIAL-SERVICE WORKER
The ability to fly; I would never take the TTC again.



Richard
ART DIRECTOR
Mind control.

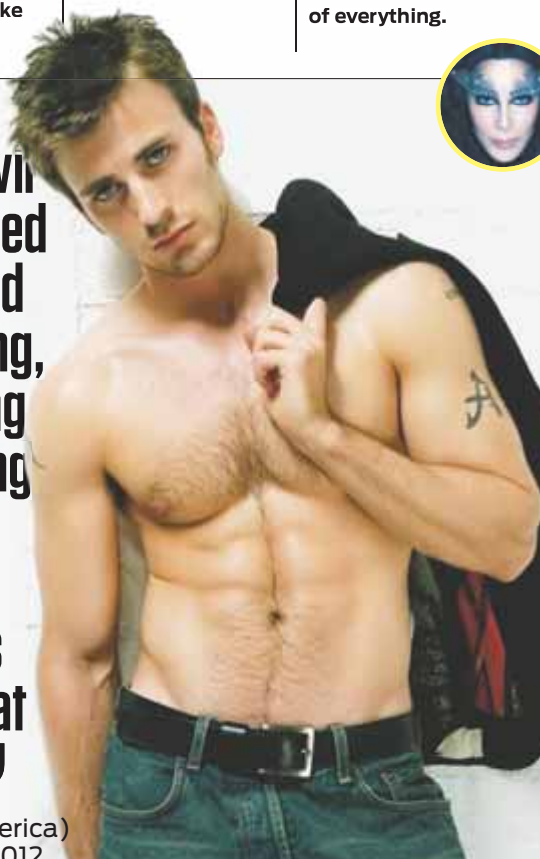


Hana
BANKER
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QUOTABLE

“It’s insane that civil rights are being denied people in this day and age. It’s embarrassing, and it’s heartbreaking. It goes without saying that I’m completely in support of gay marriage. In 10 years we’ll be ashamed that this was an issue.”

— Chris Evans (aka Captain America) in an interview with *Playboy* in 2012



Sushi

A BIWEEKLY HELPING OF POP CULTURE, SERVED A LA CARTE



Beesting

According to a Cornell University study, the three worst places to be stung are the nostril, the lip and the penis.

Severed penis

Chinese doctors were unable to reattach a man's penis because he forgot to bring it with him when he biked to the hospital.



'Prescribe-a-Bike'

Doctors at the Boston Medical Center are writing prescriptions for memberships to the Hubway bike-sharing program to get patients moving.

Boston

Actor David Walton's hometown.

Burlesque

Walton plays "Mark the DJ" in the 2010 film.

Cher

The star of *Burlesque* and currently on the road with her *Dressed to Kill* tour.

\$312

Average price for a ticket to Cher's show in Philadelphia.

Tetris

A supersized version of the video game was recently played on the face of the 29-storey Cira Centre in downtown Philly.

Supersized

Name of a photo book by Giovanni that showcases a series of "enormous cocks."

ElephantTube

A website dedicated to well-endowed men and their admirers.

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TDSB votes to reaffirm support for Pride

Controversial motion calling for parade nudity crackdown fails

PRIDE NEWS
DYLAN C ROBERTSON

Toronto District School Board trustees voted to reaffirm the board’s support for Toronto’s Pride festival in a brief but impassioned debate April 9. Trustees swiftly defeated a controversial motion targeting nudity at the Pride parade and followed this with messages of support for LGBT people.

“You could feel there was a collective understanding of our struggles,” says Joy Lachica, a Grade 8 teacher with the TDSB. “It really resonated with me. I wasn’t expecting it.”

Lachica was among approximately 25 demonstrators who arrived with protest signs and rainbow bracelets to

oppose a motion proposed in March. That motion would have formally requested that the city enforce public nudity laws at the WorldPride parade in June. Trustee Sam Sotiropoulos launched the proposal, noting that the board has a contingent in the parade, which he feels is not a “family-friendly event.” The motion was delayed at a March 5 meeting, giving his supporters and detractors time to launch letter-writing campaigns.

The Campaign Life Coalition, a major political group in Canada’s anti-abortion movement, had published an “action alert” asking its followers to show their support for the original motion. Fewer than five people from the group were visible within both audi-



The Toronto District School Board contingent in the 2012 Toronto Pride parade.

ADAM COISH

ence areas, which were mostly pink as part of a board-endorsed national day against bullying.

A new motion, proposed by Trustee Maria Rodrigues, reaffirmed the TDSB’s support for Pride and queer students. After an hour of debate, vote counting

“It really resonated with me. I wasn’t expecting it.”

JOY LACHICA, TEACHER

NEWS BRIEFS

Proud FM to boost signal strength in ‘gaybourhoods’

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission approved Evanov Radio Group’s application to boost Proud FM’s signal strength in downtown Toronto in a decision released April 3.

The decision means that Proud FM’s signal will become more reliable and will reach a wider audience in the city.

“Our transmitter right now is at Yonge and Eglinton. We’re moving it to a location downtown, closer to the Village, Queer West, Leslieville — closer

to areas we’ve identified as gaybourhoods,” says Bob Willette, programming director at Proud FM. “It should, theoretically, improve our coverage to those areas.”

The CRTC decision allows Evanov to increase its average effective radiated power from 50 to 107 watts and change the antenna’s radiation pattern from non-directional to directional — 50 watts has proven too weak to penetrate downtown Toronto’s forest of condos.

Proud FM’s inability to obtain a stronger signal had been a difficulty in securing audience and advertisers in the past. The CRTC had previously approved similar changes in 2010, but Proud FM was unable to secure a lease on a new transmitter site.

Willette says that while there’s no official launch date for the new signal power, “it’s a priority for the company

that we launch as fast as possible.”

Proud FM can also be heard via its app and streamed via its website, proudfm.com. — Rob Salerno

Church-Wellesley Village BIA names new general manager

The Church-Wellesley Village BIA has appointed Mychol Scully as its new general manager after the acrimonious departure of its previous general manager, David Wootton.

Scully, who lives a short walk from the neighbourhood, comes to the BIA with 25 years of experience running his own project management, event planning and media relations business. He

is also an active volunteer with LGBT community organizations, including the Inspire Awards and the Imperial Court of Toronto.

“I am a big proponent of the living, breathing Village,” Scully says. “I very rarely read any of the Debbie Downer media that continues to talk about the death of the Village. I don’t believe the Village is dying. It’s certainly changing, and I think the BIA needs to be able to respond to that in an intelligent way.”

With WorldPride launching in just over two months, Scully will have his hands full getting the neighbourhood ready for its international debut.

“A lot of work is in progress, so I’m not

starting from scratch. I’m just working through the process to make sure the BIA’s component of the festivities is taken care of. It’s exciting,” Scully says.

BIA co-chair Liz Devine says that the organization was looking for a manager who can carry out the BIA’s ambitious plan for better communications and big events. The BIA’s previous general manager, David Wootton, says he was dismissed after he criticized the board’s direction, in particular

its focus on big events like the Pan Am Games. — Rob Salerno



Mychol Scully

For more on these stories, go to dailyxtra.com.

BULLY PULPIT

Now that gay people are part of the establishment, are we abusing our newfound power?

BY JUSTIN LING

ILLUSTRATION BY SISSYDUDE

I TRIED TO STIFLE A LAUGH.

“The activists don’t bring up marriage first of all; they start with one thing, then they move on to something else. Before you know it, they want same-sex marriage, then they want equality of adoption, then they want to promote homosexuality in schools. That’s the process.”

That was Diane Watts, a researcher and spokesperson for REAL Women of Canada, a socially conservative advocacy organization that I’ve profiled on numerous occasions. I was speaking to her on the evening that her group threw down the gauntlet over Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird’s “promotion” of homosexuality abroad. (Baird had criticized Uganda and Russia for passing anti-gay legislation.)

“We value the family, and our institutions have been changed because of the homosexual activism,” Watts told me.

Their views, of course, were readily brushed off. Every metre of their rhetoric was laughed at. How *drôle*.

Some comments were wry: “Why don’t they go off and suck up to their fundamentalist patriarchal and gay-hating friends in the Taliban?”

But 10 years ago, that rhetoric was pretty well commonplace. Politicians and proselytizers alike warned of the “homosexual lobby” and of the dystopian hellscape that would exist if gays kept receiving substantive, broader rights.

They were right, in the end; there really was a gay lobby, and it was damned effective.

That lobby made sure that our rights were not just an ebbing of the tide but became the core of our progressive society. Where the gay community was once a marginalized faction, we are now a part of the establishment. Where once the state worked to stunt our movement, it now fights other states who do the same.

While the struggle continues for smaller minorities within the queer community — trans people, for example — it is now blasphemy to advocate standing still on gay rights, let alone taking a step back.

From the bathhouse riots to grassroots organizing and ACT UP, we made it into the courts and eventually stuck our foot in the door of the political system.

But in this round of musical chairs, there is one group left standing.





John McKay

John McKay is the federal Liberal member of Parliament for Scarborough-Guildwood.

In his 17-odd years as an MP, he's come to be known as a sharp policy mind and as a dedicated social conservative. He was a member of the ever-shrinking pro-life caucus and was offside on his government's stated position on the gay marriage vote. McKay, an evangelical Catholic, argued that legalizing gay marriage would hurt the institution and increase divorce rates. He didn't end up voting against his government's bill; he abstained.

When discussing his support for a study to examine when human life begins — seen as a backdoor into regulating abortion — he told Sun News that his contrarian position on the issue made things “awkward” at times. “I don't like to go against my colleagues or the platform of the Liberal Party. It is not a lot of fun,” he said. But, he continued, “I think my opinion should count for something.”

But McKay's opinions have become less the convictions of one man and more the indictment of a political party. In the last week of the Toronto Centre federal by-election, Liberal MP Chrystia Freeland, then just a candidate, posted a picture in which she had her arm around McKay. That set off the ire of Justin Stayshyn, who works for the Ontario NDP.

“It may come across as a bit odd to have a candidate for the riding with Canada's highest proportion of LGBTQ people posing with her arm around a guy with a long record of opposing gay rights,” he wrote on his blog. He also took to Twitter to flatly suggest that Freeland's support for the queer community ought to be in question. Other partisans joined the pile-on, especially thanks to the awesome power of social-media groupthink.

Freeland's repeated and emphatic support for gay rights was irrelevant in the context — touching a man who opposed gay marriage eight years ago somehow taints that support, like he was afflicted with a terminal virus. Like a leper. Merely touching him could communicate the contagion and turn you, too, into a virulent homophobe.

This isn't just one-off partisan opportunism — though it is certainly that, as well — it's symptomatic of a shift. Bring up Employment Minister Jason Kenney in queer company and you're sure to hear some mumbling of “self-hating gay.” (There is no evidence of Kenney being gay, for the record.)

Kenney opposed gay marriage while the debate was had. When it was over, he muted his objections. Whether he opposes it now or not is immaterial — if he ever vocalized it, his political capital would plummet. And continuing to chide Kenney, or any other federal politician, over his past non-support of gay marriage dwarves, in a way that is emblematic of a long narcissistic streak in the cisgendered gay community, the fact that he refused to support the federal Trans Rights Bill.

The gay community has a chip on its shoulder from the politicians and preachers that it once fought, passing it off as a never-again mentality. That's bunk.

It's not a popular opinion, but it's true: the gay lobby has become the bully.

Ted Bird

Ted Bird was a morning radio host on Montreal's TSN 990.

In July, I was about to hop on the metro in Montreal and head to a panel discussion on a friend's podcast about the Sochi boycott. I got a message pointing me to Bird's blog, so I gave it a read. “Gay rights have evolved into a political issue in North America, but in many parts of the world it's still a moral issue, and it's no one's place to impose their moral standards on someone else's culture,” Bird waxes.

“Russia will evolve at its own pace. It always has, and always will. In the meantime, calls to boycott all things Russian from vodka to nesting dolls to Olympic Games because Bill can't hold Bob's hand at the Olympic Village in Sochi are as dubious as they are impractical,” he concluded in his on-air remarks, the text of which appeared on the blog.

I posted the link to Twitter and hopped on the metro. When I got out, it had turned into a tweet war between Bird and the rest, myself included — the situation in Russia is dire, we pointed out, and that's nothing to take lightly.

But the effigy burning of Bird went further. The bare-knuckles boxing match culminated in repeated calls, including from some other radio personalities in the city, to have Bird fired. It also included a blog by Adam Goldenberg, Kirby Simon Human Rights Fellow at Yale Law School and former Liberal speechwriter, in *Maclean's*.

“Why do we tolerate statements by sportscasters about the persecution of LGBT people in faraway places that we would instantly condemn if they were about any other group?” Goldenberg wrote. Later, he concluded, “Homophobia's defenders have a right to their opinions, and to express them how they wish, but the rest of us are just as entitled to demand that their patrons stop paying them to do so. We should hold advertisers and station owners accountable for what they're sponsoring.”

Homophobia? Is that what Bird's views are?

In another version of history, one where gay rights were still but a marginal notion, would gay advocates — such as myself, or Goldenberg — be chased off the airwaves for suggesting that Russia shouldn't be implementing such laws? Would that call-to-arms target us? Is it really free speech if you can expect pitchfork-wielding townspeople after you, and your livelihood, for each controversial opinion you express — even if it is odious?

Bird's views may force the hair on the back of our necks to stand up, but they are not akin to taking to air with the view that Russia's Jewish population should be rounded up. In that regard, some want us to have it both ways — they want us to be considered normalized, and accepted, yet still maintain that we are a political movement.

Rest assured, we are very much a political movement. And political movements can expect opposition. Which is why we must continue to agitate and reach out instead of trying to sublimate those who speak out.

I sent Bird an email and invited him for coffee. We met up at an ungodly early hour at the Tim Hortons in Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport.

continued next page ►

► *continued from previous page*

I asked him why he decided to opine on the gay issue at all.

“The more I read about calls for a Sochi boycott, the more I thought, ‘Well, a boycott doesn’t do any good.’ We’ve seen that historically. Then the other angle of it, of course, is what I perceived as the automatic assumption that anyone who is not vehemently and unconditionally opposed to the Russian laws is automatically a bigot and a homophobe,” Bird said.

Bird says he’s not necessarily in favour of the Russian laws — and certainly doesn’t excuse the violence against the minorities there. He says he wanted to offer some perspective on those who did hold conservative, moralist views on homosexuality but who don’t necessarily hate gays. People like his family.

Acknowledging that it sounds like a classic “one of my best friends is gay” defence, Bird told me the story of his openly gay cousin who died of AIDS in 1986. While Bird says his family may not have been entirely onside with his cousin’s sexuality, they still loved him, in a time when that wasn’t the norm.

But those people, the ones who did not evolve on the matter as fast as society at large, are painted as homophobes.

Bird never said anything homophobic, or even anything tremendously controversial, in his post. He tells me he’s largely indifferent to most questions concerning homosexuality — he accepts it’s biological and calls initiatives like You Can Play “terrific.”

He did, however, fail to entirely condemn the legislation, like most people. That, apparently, is grounds to have him fired.

He calls it a “lynch mob mentality.”

And maybe it is.

Bird wasn’t the only one who faced the wrath of the Sochi boycott crew. During the Games, a gaggle of Canadian athletes dared to take selfies with Russia’s autocrat-in-chief, Vladimir Putin, and post them on social media. Their comments were fawning and perhaps a little undignified. But the responses were swift and exact — those selfies are homophobic.

“You’re all dead to me,” wrote one Canadian gay rights activist, epitomizing a wrong-headed, albeit well-intentioned, campaign to demonize the athletes.

All in all, Putin’s anti-gay law is odious and contrary to the fundamental right to freedom of expression. But is it not less extreme than his decades-long campaign against the Chechens that has claimed thousands of lives? And what of his considerable support for the iron grip of ousted Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich? Or, perhaps, his obstruction that is costing thousands of Syrians their lives?

How is it that when a Canadian athlete hugs Putin it is an endorsement of homophobia but not of a genocidal foreign policy? And how have we expended so much energy in attacking fellow Canadians who never signed up to be activists? Energy that could be better spent on lobbying efforts for struggles that have obtained hardly a modicum of the attention that we focused on Sochi — like in Uganda, where gay rights group GEHO is struggling for resources as the state enforces draconian new laws that threaten to elevate state-sanctioned homophobia to

government-sponsored cleansing. Similar horrors are repeating themselves in Gambia, Nigeria, Kenya and elsewhere.

How is it that selfies are the real issue?

Perhaps it’s because we feel threatened at the first sight of seeing fellow Canadians not fitting into the narrative that we’ve demanded of them.

It is a very recent phenomenon, demanding that society at large need not just stop beating us, nor just tolerate us and not even just accept us, but that they have to like us. The queens ducking batons at Stonewall didn’t give a shit who liked them. We shouldn’t, either.

Quite the opposite: we should revel in the fact that nobody can defend or propose homophobia in this country and that we have to read into a selfie or a vague on-air rant on early-morning sports radio to delineate even a whiff of anti-gay attitude.

Bird was fired, in the end, but he says it has nothing to do with his on-air pontificating.

Bill Whatcott

Bill Whatcott is a social-conservative activist from Toronto.

In 2013, the Supreme Court fined him \$7,500 for dropping leaflets into mailboxes in Saskatchewan. Those leaflets, the court decided, contravened the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code. They further saddled him with the legal costs of his opponents. During his long run-in with the state, Whatcott has even seen the inside of a Calgary jail cell.

Whatcott’s flyers — and his almost comedic sandwich boards warning of the dangers of homosexuality — certainly bridged on hateful, and they were entirely incorrect. They warned of the horrifying sexually transmitted diseases that, he contends, are thanks to the vile homosexuals.

Civil liberties groups intervened in the Supreme Court decision, arguing that Whatcott’s freedom of speech ought to be protected.

“In their view,” wrote Justice Marshall Rothstein, delivering the unanimous decision of the court, “speech that is made in good faith and on the basis of the speaker’s religious beliefs should be given greater protection.”

But Egale Canada, the country’s premier gay rights group, argued that even someone’s deep-seated beliefs can be dangerous — they argued that Whatcott marginalized the opinions of sexual minorities.

This seems absurd when you consider that Whatcott is one man, facing a crushing majority of pro-gay Canadians. He’s no more likely to sway the population to backtrack on their overwhelming

support for gay rights than a forum post on neo-Nazi website Stormfront will convert the broader population into anti-Semitic racists.

Egale made the case that people like Whatcott present a danger and their opinions could inspire others to violence against the gay community.

One of the best arguments against that idea, however, comes from an unlikely duo — noted conservative commentator Ezra Levant, channelling the ideas of former Egale head Gilles Marchildon, to the House of Commons committee on justice and human rights.

“Marchildon was asked why he didn’t want to ban anti-gay speech, even the most vicious kind. He gave three reasons why he was for freedom of speech,” Levant told the committee.

“One, he wanted to know who the bad guys were so he could isolate them and argue against them. Two, he wanted what he called a teachable moment: ‘Look, people, we just saw an act of bigotry; let’s reeducate people on why that was wrong.’ Three, which I think may be the most important, he did not want to outsource his civic duty to some bureaucracy.”

Whatcott was certainly isolated. Yet, rather than just leaving him be to espouse his ill-informed insanity in peace, they went after him. He was dragged through the courts, flogged and even put inside a jail cell. His finances were destroyed; his life, essentially, ruined.

And for what?

On winning the fight

The absurdity of it all is that we’ve won.

Not every member of the queer community. Far from it. And hardly all of our brothers, sisters and fellow queer people worldwide have experienced the same victory that we have.

But if we’re talking about middle-class white gay men in

Canada? Hell, we arguably have it better than the average straight guy. That’s not a comfortable, or perhaps even conceivable, thought for a population so well trained in cultural guerrilla warfare.

Violence still occurs and discrimination still happens, but we don’t solve that by rooting out every homophobe and destroying them.

Xtra knows better than anyone. On Jan 5, 1978, charges were brought against the paper’s predecessor, *The Body Politic*, and its parent company, Pink Triangle Press, for publishing “immoral, indecent and scurrilous material.”

Those charges stiffened the editorial backbone

of the publisher. “They reinforced our opposition to state censorship as a form of social control — even control of material that might be controversial within our own communities,” Pink Triangle Press’s website reads.

It was an uphill battle from then on. You can find online a rather unnerving list of attacks on this paper by the *Toronto Sun*, which, in retrospect, verge on the comically absurd.

But the spirit of the paper, which would eventually become *Xtra*, survived. Its position is cemented as an utterly normal, mainstream publication. And it has maintained an editorial position that emphatically refuses to gang up on the little guy — even if that little guy doesn’t fit into the queer-friendly line that it commits to.

At the end of the day, where does it end? Do we go after every person who actively works against us — like Diane Watts and REAL Women? Do we destroy every funder of anti-gay movements — like Mozilla CEO Brendan Eich? Do we attack everyone who speaks out or makes a one-off comment — like Ted Bird or reality-TV bachelor Juan Pablo?

Where does it end?

Institutionalized homophobia, transphobia, racism or discrimination should always be fought. But teasing out the personal convictions of anyone and using it as a basis to take them out? That’s exactly what we experienced, and we know how oppressive it feels.

The queer community won its rights — and will continue to win its rights — by engaging the debate and winning. We won’t cement those rights in place by turning around and taking shots at those who haven’t come around to seeing us as normal, yet.

And we don’t reduce violence by engaging the state to attack our enemies. We do the opposite.

Gay rights are not a lucky break brought about by fooling the populace at large. Gay rights are not a fragile peace that can be broken by a man in a sandwich board with a strongly worded leaflet. Gay rights are the product of decades of struggle, and if you think a few holdouts are going to threaten that, you have another think coming, sister.

If you want to stand up for closeted youth or marginalized queer populations or our oppressed cohorts overseas, do it not by demonizing the few who don’t like us, but by holding up the millions who do.

I remember when, back home in Cape Breton, we held our first Pride parade. There was initially some nail-biting over the moral preening of a half-dozen anti-gay protesters assembled, but it was otherwise uneventful. In the years that followed, as the area’s small gay community became an integral part of the town, the small crowd dissipated to one man.

The local paper described him as “dressed neatly and all alone.”

Pride president Peter Steele spoke to the *Cape Breton Post* about that neatly dressed man: “We never mind him being there. Every time he’s there, we all make it a point to wave and say, ‘Hi, how are you?’”

We are the majority, now, and we should take a lesson from our experience as the vocal minority.

We should wave and say, “Hi, how are you?” ✕



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New projects underway in Village

New banners, gates, crosswalks, info pillar on tap for Church-Wellesley neighbourhood — but no parklets

COMMUNITY NEWS
ROB SALERNO

As construction season gears up for 2014, residents of the Church-Wellesley Village can look forward to a host of new neighbourhood projects — both to get the Village ready to host WorldPride and to leave a lasting legacy afterward.

These will include new flags and banner poles to identify the neighbourhood as the Village and market WorldPride throughout downtown, the installation of a new “information pillar” at Church and Wellesley, and new permanent gates that can be used to close the street during festivals. This is in addition to previously announced improvements and projects under construction, such as a new rainbow-coloured crosswalk, the renovation of Cawthra Park and the sidewalk in front of the 519 Church Street Community Centre, the completion of the Church Street Mural Project and the installation of new bike lanes.

It all amounts to a lot of work going

into the neighbourhood, which Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam attributes to the city's efforts to get it ready for the world's attention during WorldPride and the Pan Am Games. “It's three blocks that gets a lot of attention,” she says. “That's a lot for one neighbourhood.”

One project residents won't be seeing is last year's popular Church Street “parklets.” The temporary wooden sidewalk extensions will remain in storage this year unless the Church-Wellesley Village BIA can find another BIA willing to rent them. The BIA doesn't have the funds to pay for their installation and maintenance this year, and they'd be in the way of needed water-main upgrading scheduled for August and September.

BIA co-chair Liz Devine could not confirm whether the parklets would be back in 2015. Instead, businesses on Church are being given the option to extend their patios onto the sidewalk during Pride Week for 2014, and Wong-Tam says “six or seven” have applied for the extensions.

Church Street will be closed for a

street party for both weekends of WorldPride — a first for the festival. The BIA hopes the first weekend will have more of a community feel and is sponsoring an art tour of the neighbourhood that will show off the Church Street murals, as well as art that will be installed in storefront windows throughout the neighbourhood. “The first weekend of WorldPride is going to be very neighbourly, getting to know your Village and focus on residents and community and local celebrations,” Devine says. “I'm really looking forward to being able to showcase that.”

Meanwhile, another project appears to have fallen by the wayside. Wong-Tam says she's dropped efforts to animate the large public space at the corner of Church and Alexander streets, which were touched off when the removal of benches from the space caused an outcry. Wong-Tam says neighbours were unable to agree on a design for the corner, but the city still has funds set aside for the project should they



The popular “parklet” project will not be rolled out this year because the Church-Wellesley Village BIA does not have enough money to pay for it. ADAM COISH

come to agreement. “[Residents and neighbours] need to gather consensus amongst its membership, speak to the residents, determine whether they have some form of consensus, then work together,” she says.

The BIA has also had a plan for years to improve and expand the sidewalks throughout the Village, which would add more permanent seating and trees. The BIA had planned to time this work

with the city's water-main and road work, but it no longer has time to raise the necessary funds or complete the required environmental assessment before water-main work begins this summer.

The BIA and The 519 have together secured funds for several of the improvements, including the new banners and gates. These come from development charges and sponsorship by the Pan Am Games and the Yellow Pages. **X**



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Mother Clap's mollies

One of history's first documented fag hags was a hoot



HISTORY BOYS
MICHAEL LYONS

My roommate, a queer, trans-identified guy, recently watched an episode of *1 Girl 5 Gays* during a cable trial. The show is pretty self-explanatory: a straight woman lords over a rotating panel of five gay guys who dish on pop culture and sex. My roommate was confounded by the content but more so the dynamic. "Why are gay men so obsessed with straight women?" he asked, citing diva worship, celebrity culture and fag hags.

While the terminology — describing a woman who loves gay men — is contentious, fag hags have a historical precedent.

In the early 1700s, a married woman named Margaret Clap, affectionately referred to as Mother Clap, owned a popular gay establishment in London. Mother Clap kept a "molly house," catering to dozens of men every night and even more on Sundays. Though she served alcohol, probably fetched from a neighbouring tavern, her house was likely a private residence or coffee house, a place for sex and socializing rather than a bar or brothel.

In the main room she served drinks, and there were beds in all the other rooms. "The Chapel," or "The Marrying Room," was a popular feature: a room on the main floor with a large bed, overseen by a man known as Eccleston. There was a door, but it was often left open so others could observe the "marrying."

While little is known about Mother Clap's early life, it's clear she was lovingly committed to her patrons. One story describes her joking about testifying at the trial of a man named Derwin, who was up on charges of "sodomitical practices." She swore to Derwin's "good character," which so confused the magistrate Derwin was acquitted.

Most of what's known about Mother Clap comes from court transcripts. In *Mother Clap's Molly House*, historian



While little is known about Mother Clap's early life, it's clear she was lovingly committed to the gay patrons of her molly house. JORI BOLTON

Rictor Norton painstakingly reconstructs her downfall, at the hands of a spurned lover turned police informant. He brought a constable of the Society for the Reformation of Manners — a faction of zealous Christian moral crusaders — into Mother Clap's, and the agent provided evidence against the matron and her patrons. A raid was organized and took place in February 1726. In the ensuing trials, the society's agent described how the mollies would sit in each others' laps, "kissing in a lewd Manner, and using their Hands indecently. Then they would get up, Dance and make Curtsies, and mimic the voices of Women. 'O, Fie, Sir! — Pray, Sir: — Dear Sir. Lord, how can you serve me so? — I swear I'll cry out. — You're a wicked Devil. — And you're a bold Face. — Eh ye little dear Toad! Come, buss!'"

The men would brag about what they'd gotten up to in the marrying room: "The Company talk'd all manner of gross and vile Obscenity in [Mother Clap]'s hearing, and she appear'd to be wonderfully pleas'd with it," the agent said. When Mother Clap faced a jury on charges of keeping a disorderly house, she quipped, "I hope it will be consider'd that I am a Woman, and therefore it cannot be thought that I would ever be concern'd in such Prac-

tices." Less comical is that in the fallout of the raids, three men were hanged, Eccleston died in jail awaiting trial, and Mother Clap was found guilty, fined, sent to the pillory (a punishment similar to the stocks), and sentenced to two years in prison. While displayed in the pillory, she was treated so harshly by the public she fainted several times and was sent to prison in "convulsive fits." Newspapers suggested she wouldn't survive the ordeal, and that was the last heard of her.

I imagine Mother Clap as a gregarious, vulgar, witty dame, maybe a bawdy matchmaker, loved by her patrons as much as she loved them.

For young gay boys who don't like regular "guy" things, straight women are often our first taste of loving peer acceptance. I can't imagine I'd have survived high school, or even university, without a wonderful group of women who were my closest friends. They were a major support when I was figuring out my sexuality, and I know my experience isn't singular. While I'm not a fan, I would suggest that *1 Girl 5 Gays*, in a way, continues the proud tradition of the fag hag. X

History Boys appears in every issue of Xtra.



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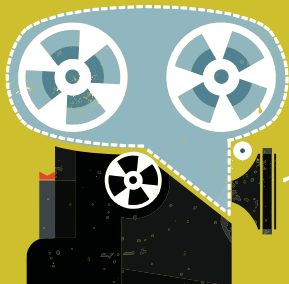
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Out in the City

“I don’t believe in ‘queering’ definitions, nor in ‘institutions’ like marriage or family.” Writer Paul Aguirre-Livingston ▶16

MOORE DONNA

To say that performance artist Jimmy Moore is an avid Madonna fan would be a gross understatement. Moore has been touring his Material Girl-themed shows across North America for the last 15 years and will soon hit the stage at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, for the very first time, recreating Madge’s wildly successful *MDNA* tour.

“I am reproducing the complete *MDNA* tour. I’ll be onstage with four dancers for a non-stop, two-hour show,” Moore says. “I’ve done this show about 15 times in the last year, but it’s the first in Toronto. I hope people will show up.”

Moore says emulating the Queen of Pop can be cost-prohibitive at times, considering how often the singer reinvents her look. “It’s a singer who costs me a lot to impersonate. But you know, she has brought me so much success, so I don’t mind the investment... It’s completely different when I think of my work as Michael Jackson. He’s dead now, so there’s no possibility of having surprises in the future.”

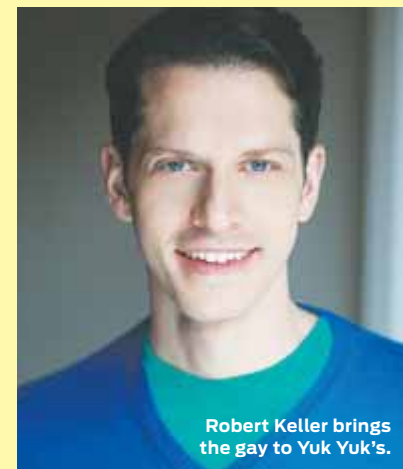
In the last 15 years, the Montreal-based impersonator has staged his shows in New York, Las Vegas and Vancouver. “I really look forward to my performances at Buddies because I really want to invest the time in Toronto. I love the city and I love the people. Everybody has been so nice to me.”

—Ryan English

Jimmy Moore Does Madonna: The *MDNA* Tour is Fri, April 25 and Sat, April 26, 8pm, at Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. jimmymoore.ca



Jimmy Moore does Madonna.



Robert Keller brings the gay to Yuk Yuk’s.

QUEER COMEDY GOES MAINSTREAM

Toronto has several popular queer comedy nights — including Queer as Fuck at The Steady and 120 Wednesdays, a new open-mic night at Club120 — but none of them is what you’d call mainstream. That is, until now: Robert Keller is set to host a new monthly queer comedy night at Yuk Yuk’s.

To Keller, it is unacceptable that there’s no recurring queer comedy show at any of the major comedy clubs in Toronto. “Not to diminish [other queer comedy shows], but we should have a commercial show. Frequently, shows are tip-based, which is fine, but there should be a platform for queer comedians to go and get paid,” he says.

Called *OUTrageous! With Robert Keller*, the show will take place the last Wednesday of each month. Audiences will file in to one of our favourite gingers, DJ Johnnie “Orange Pekoe” Walker spinning pop and R&B, and each show will begin with Keller performing a musical number featuring some eye-candy. “I’m working with two of the most gorgeous backup dancers you’ve ever seen, and, naturally, I insist they be shirtless,” Keller says.

The first show will open with Ian Lynch (*1 Girl 5 Gays* and *MuchMusic’s New Music Live*) and Ted Morris (CBC’s *Stephen and Chris* and CTV’s *Comedy Now!*), followed by headliner Gavin Crawford, well-loved for his current and insightful character-based comedy. “Getting Gavin is a huge coup, and we’re thrilled to have him. He’s very busy and difficult to book. He’s only performed at Yuk Yuk’s once before,” Keller says. “He’s sort of not what you’re expecting; he’s very unassuming, but he’s a perfectionist and does so many interesting things.”

—Jeremy Willard

OUTrageous! With Robert Keller is Wed, April 30, 8pm, at Yuk Yuk’s, 224 Richmond St W. roberthkeller.com

Jewel of the Jewish Film Festival

The work of Montreal director Joe Balass, whose contribution to the Jewish cultural oeuvre is peppered with stories of displacement, resilience and self-acceptance, has been chosen by the Toronto Jewish Film Festival for its 2014 festival showcase.

Balass has three films screening in the festival, what he calls his Iraqi Trilogy. All three are documentary features telling stories of fractured identity and the struggle to acclimate to new languages, cultures and continents. The first to be screened is the historical *Baghdad Twist*. In addition to shedding light on an eradicated population of Iraqi Jews, Balass humanizes his birthplace, which is often associated with war. “The film is trying to imagine a place that no longer exists,” he says. “The basic premise... is that I saw an old Super 8 film of a wedding in 1965 Baghdad — an Iraqi/Jewish wedding — where people were dancing the twist. And then, a couple of years later, people were being imprisoned and hanged, tortured. And things deteriorated so rapidly that we were forced to leave.”

Add a dash of queer to Balass’s already rich



Photos included are from *La Longueur de l'Alphabet* and *Nana, George and Me*. JOE BALASS

cultural background and you get *Nana, George and Me*, which includes interviews with his nonagenarian grandmother and flamboyant uncle, George, who divulges sexy secrets from his ostentatious London mansion (George’s monologue about foreskin is a highlight).

The final film in the trilogy is a French-language documentary called *La Longueur de l'Alphabet* (*The Length of the Alphabet*). The film profiles Canadian writer Naïm Kattan, whose extensive literary history is interwoven with archival footage and personal interviews that detail his experience moving to La Belle Province early in his career. “For me, Naïm represents the new generation of Iraqis — that transplanting of the flower that was cut in Iraq — and watching it blossom,” Balass says. “I think we’re all like lotus flowers in that sense. We can float around and still bloom.” —Ryan Kerr

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival takes place Thurs, May 1–Sun, May 11. For venues and screening times, visit tjff.com.



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All in the family

New anthology examines queer relationships

BOOKS SCOTT DAGOSTINO

I once mentioned my family in passing and was stopped in mid-sentence. "You don't have kids. You mean your boyfriend and your dog?"

"Yes," I said, "My family."

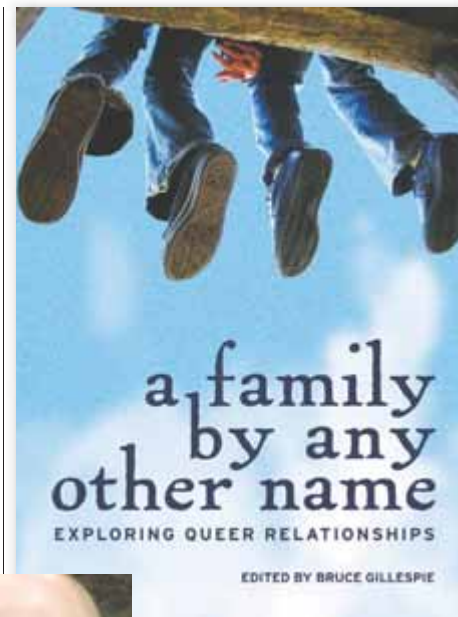
My memory might be embellishing, but I think there was an eye-roll at this. Nevertheless, I have not stopped using the phrase.

"I think queer people have always been very good at choosing who they consider family and creating a much broader range of what a family can be," says Bruce Gillespie, editor of the new essay collection *A Family by Any Other Name: Exploring Queer Relationships*. The fifth in a series of books from TouchWood Editions about "the changing nature of the family in the 21st century," it's a book Gillespie felt had become necessary.

"In some ways, we've become complacent about same-sex rights in Canada because we've had same-sex marriage for a reasonably long period of time," he says, "but I think it's timely to explore where families are today and how they're different."

Gillespie approached a wide range of queer authors and collected "adoption stories, insemination stories, marriage stories, and I left it open for other things... I loved getting a story on gay divorce because I'd never even considered that at first," he says, also citing Ellen Russell's powerful story of losing her partner to cancer as a haunting example.

The book's gentle blue cover doesn't prepare readers for more than a few harrowing tales of struggle. *Xtra's* managing editor, Danny Glenwright, reveals how he and his partner endured racism in South Africa, while journalist Noreen Fagan writes of the tortuous process of uprooting her family from Zambia to Canada, where her son Sebastian declares at Pearson Airport immigration, "Mum, I like this country. That was the first time we've ever been called a family." Jason Dale, a teacher in Port Dover, writes of his agonizing struggle to adopt a child from foster care and "wishing that every parent was vetted so thoroughly before conceiving or raising children." Double standards abound, but, as nearly every author within asserts, the fight for



Bruce Gillespie edited the essay collection, the fifth in a series about the changing nature of the family.

family is worth it, even if some of us struggle with the definition.

"I saw that firsthand when I started collecting stories," Gillespie says. "One said, 'You may think I fit what you're looking for in the word 'family,' but I find that word totally offensive.' It's a word that's so loaded, and it's been used by the religious right for such a long time, but I wanted this book to say that we are family. Whether we're married or in civil unions or polyamorous or monogamous or we have children or we don't, all these supportive communities of people who care for each other are families."

"I find 'family' to be a very lovely idea indeed, but it can also be incredibly restrictive and vindictive," says Berlin-based writer Paul Aguirre-Livingston, whose essay was written over a dismal Christmas when his family failed him. "I don't believe in 'queering' definitions, nor in 'institutions' like marriage or family," he says. "I would suggest we champion words like 'clan' or 'household' or 'kin.' Fuck, call it 'dynasty' if you want. How's that for fabulous?"

Toronto theatre critic Dorianne Emmerton writes of incorporating a partner's child into her poly fam-

ily and says, "I think that if you're raising kids, whether you're in a same-sex couple, an opposite-sex couple, a triad or as a single person, if you're raising kids in a way that consciously resists socialized gender expectations, then that is queering family and it's really crucial."

Or perhaps not. "I really enjoyed Dorianne Emerton's piece because it challenged my ideas about relationships and parenting," says Vancouver playwright Rosemary Rowe. But she disagrees about the kids. Her essay, "Aspiring Lesbian Aunt," is a hilarious manifesto on not having children. "I didn't want to come off like a jerk who's saying, 'Parenthood, I shit on it! I shit on your parenthood!'" she says,

laughing, but notes, "I love that we've reclaimed the word queer and I love that we appear to have reclaimed 'family,' too."

Calgary poet and editor Dale Lee Kwong says her contribution was cathartic. "I believe in full disclosure," she says. "Secrets create shame, and I suspect our personal situations are more universal than we realize. I had one painful family anecdote I debated whether to share, and in the end I convinced myself it was vital that I didn't hide the incident or candy coat it."

That kind of honesty and openness is what Gillespie hoped for with this book, and his contributors rose to the challenge. His only regret is that the widely praised final piece by trans storyteller S Bear Bergman was also featured in the author's own collection *Blood, Marriage, Wine and Glitter*, published earlier this year ("His book made it to market first!" he says, laughing), but Bergman was delighted to take part in this collection:

"I often hear people say it takes a village to raise a child, because that's the quote that Hillary Clinton popularized.

But I hear from people who I'd trust to know that the actual quote is 'It takes a village to raise a villager.' And that seems more true to me, and also like more of a challenge.

What strikes me about the pieces in this book is that many of these people are doing exactly that — I really appreciate their company." X

A FAMILY BY ANY OTHER NAME: EXPLORING QUEER RELATIONSHIPS
Edited by
Bruce Gillespie
TouchWood Editions
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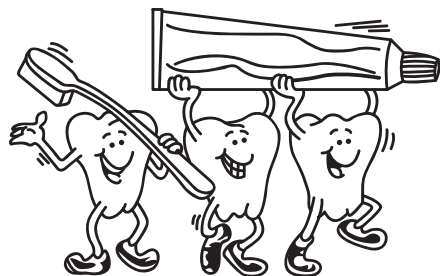
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The following venues will host private events on April 23rd in support of Fife House and the A Taste for Life event:

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Earth | Rosedale | 1055 Yonge | TD Private Event
Gossip Restaurant | 50 Prince Edward Island Cres. | TD Private Event
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HOT DOCS

HEATS UP

Now in its 19th year, the Hot Docs festival has grown to be a major international showcase for documentary film, featuring 197 entries from 43 countries. Here are a few of the highlights.

BY CHRIS DUPUIS



Equal-marriage activists demonstrate in front of the US Supreme Court in *The Case Against 8*.

Dancing in the gardenias

Though it was shot partially in Germany with a cast of Belgians, Thomas Wallner's *Before the Last Curtain Falls* was born on a train somewhere between Toronto and Montreal, when Wallner struck up a conversation with a German broadcaster who urged him to catch a performance called *Gardenia* at Montreal's Festival TransAmériques.

"The piece was so full of authenticity and very moving," Wallner says. "It brought the house down. When they called to ask if I would consider directing a film based on it, the answer was an emphatic yes."

First mounted in 2010, *Gardenia* was the creation of choreographer Alain Platel and director Frank Van Laecke. It brought together eight elderly gay and transsexual performers to tell their stories through movement. After 200 shows in 25 countries, it returned to Belgium for its final run, and Wallner arrived to document its last days.

"We felt like intruders," Wallner recalls. "Lunging into the fray backstage amidst the cast dressing and undressing. You saw bodies of all shapes and sizes, ravaged by time. Scars from operations and places where gravity had done its work. But they had such dignity about them, a kind of naturalness."



When Vanessa Van Durme had her sex-change operation, she was looked at as a monster.
AXEL SCHNEPPAT

The film blends scenes from the final performances and interviews with the cast. We hear stories of coming out, of working as prostitutes and drag performers, of the men they've loved and hated, and how it is to live out their golden years. One is a political activist. Another mops floors in a brothel. Inspired by doing *Gardenia*, one is now touring with her own solo show.

Though *Gardenia* began as a reflection on the gay/trans experience, *Before the Last Curtain Falls* is ultimately more about aging, loneliness and the search for love. "I told a friend about the film, and he had a very strong reaction,"

Wallner says. "He was deeply uncomfortable with perpetuating the cliché of the lonely old queen, which speaks to this fear of being alone at the end of your life. Though none of the characters have found love at the end of their lives, you get a strong sense they've found themselves."

Before the Last Curtain Falls screens Mon, April 28, 8:30pm at the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, 506 Bloor St W, and Tues, April 29, 4pm and Fri, May 2, 12:20pm at the TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King St W. hotdocs.ca

Supreme Court snowball

When Ben Cotner and Ryan White first began shooting *The Case Against 8*, they weren't entirely sure they had a film on their hands. Charting the lawsuit challenging California's Proposition 8, the pair's project began with a basic desire to record history.

"For the first year, there wasn't any real conversation about the final product," Cotner says. "It was about documenting the process in case the lawsuit snowballed into something historic. It wasn't really until the Supreme Court took the case four years in that we definitely knew we had a film."

"It's not fun shooting 600 hours of footage without knowing if you really have a movie," White adds. "But that comes with the territory when you're making a film about a court case."

The story begins on the eve of Nov 4, 2008, the same day Americans elected Barack Obama. This is also, of course, the day Proposition 8 passed, reversing the California Supreme Court's decision from May that year and halting marriages for same-sex couples in the state. *The Case Against 8* follows the process in forensic detail, from the first musings about a lawsuit in a Los

Angeles restaurant, through finding plaintiffs, selecting a legal team and, ultimately, through the SCOTUS decision to uphold a lower court's ruling and return the right for marriage equality to the state.

Both the film and the lawsuit hinge on the odd-couple partnership of Ted Olson and David Boies, previous adversaries in the Bush versus Gore political battle in 2000, which ultimately saw George W Bush become president. As articulated in the film, the choice to bring together counsel from both parties in the case was seen as a means to make marriage equality a non-partisan issue.

Though the film serves as an in-depth look at the legal process and the five-year record of one group of people's lives, for the filmmakers it's ultimately something bigger.

"It's about taking bold, sometimes risky moves to stand up for your rights," Cotner says. "We think that's a message that's universal and that will hopefully resonate, even in countries like Canada that are beyond the marriage-equality debate."

The Case Against 8 screens Wed, April 30, 10:30am at the Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles St W. hotdocs.ca

MORE QUEER PICKS



Lady Valor: The Kristin Beck Story After decades of fighting for his country, decorated American Navy SEAL Chris Beck explores liberty and personal freedom in a new way as he embarks on his most challenging mission ever: transitioning and beginning life as a woman.



To Be Takei *Starship Enterprise* helmsman George Takei discusses his various personas, from William Shatner's nemesis to gay sex symbol, while preparing his dream project: a musical based on his childhood inside a Japanese-American internment camp.



Portrait of Jason Part of the Redux program, Shirley Clarke's 1967 film tells the story of an African-American street hustler and aspiring cabaret singer in his own words. Shot over a single 12-hour day in the subject's New York living room, this seminal piece of cinéma vérité explores race and class unlike any film before or after it.

Go to dailyxtra.com for our video coverage of Hot Docs.

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Fabulously FAT

Fashion Art Toronto grows up



**TORONTO
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RYAN G HINDS**

Ask around and it seems Fashion Art Toronto may have officially grown up this year. A former FAT model is now competing on *America's Next Top Model*, and the list of established industry folk who've been involved during the event's formative years continues to grow. But if you ask me, FAT retains its scrappy indie cred; the five-day style, culture and nightlife orgy is nowhere near being mainstream. Even with a new venue (Regent Park's Daniels Spectrum) and ever-expanding programming, organizer Vanja Vasic is keeping a balance between alternative artistic expression and organizational maturity.

That goal is reflected in this year's theme of In Fashion/Un-Fashion. Vasic promises that local fashionistas will see grit versus glamour, earth versus industry, and masculine versus feminine collections writ large on the runway, guaranteeing that the event will maintain its distance from the other big fashion game in town. FAT will never be World MasterCard Fashion Week, but at the same time, Fashion Week could never be FAT — and that's a very good thing. Don't believe me? Just ask this year's designers.

First-timer Michael Zoffranieri worked for six months on his collection, titled *Queen*, which is "all about encompassing royalty and a modern idea of power: strong, soft, beautiful. I'm playing

with structured woven fabrics mixed with softer knits and chiffons, stiff silk with rabbit fur." The Ryerson fashion student has two years left in his program but is impressively ambitious with his work. "The community that comes out of FAT is a warm one. Everyone who shows comes out a little bit changed, so I want that. I want to change and share that experience of changing with other people," he says, adding that he feels no pressure about showing his collection on the runway.

At the other end of the nerves spectrum is returning designer Mic Carter. "Trying to be innovative and have a concept and aesthetic that is authentic and not reductive? I absolutely get nervous!" By day, Carter is a Grade 5/6 elementary school teacher, but by night he's the designer behind *L'uomo Strano*. He studied fashion at Britain's Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design and is a head-turning local nightlife fixture. His FAT show last year damn near shut down the runway and featured the kind of clothes both fashion writers and connoisseurs dream about. To say he exploded onto the scene would be an understatement; Carter displayed such a rare blend of editorial vision, impeccable craftsmanship and to-die-for design skill that a year later people are *still* talking about his collection.

He's well aware that living up to that isn't going to be easy. "I ended up taking an entrepreneur class, and now I have a viable business instead of just a passion project," he says. "Design allows me to



Designer Mic Carter stole the show at last year's FAT. Can he do it again?
MIC CARTER (SELF-PORTRAIT)

put something on someone so without them even engaging anybody, they're communicating and sending a message. That has a huge appeal!"

When I ask him what we can expect to see in his runway show this year, his answer reveals the philosophy behind *L'uomo Strano*: "I started looking past gender, enquiring what clothing will look like when gender isn't an issue. It's not specifically menswear ... it's more about elegance overlaid on the body in ways that prioritize innovation and functionality. You can wear these clothes practically and not just for a gala. I'm in love with leather; I'm in love with leather culture, and I think it's fascinating how we interact and bond with leather. You'll see lots of leather, satin, sheerness and tulle along with dynamism and Afro-futurism."

Much like Zoffranieri, Carter wears his ambitions on his sleeve. Although he's got both age and experience on the younger designers, he has great respect for what FAT brings to the city. "Vanja runs a tight ship," he says, laughing. "FAT is accessible in ways that other fashion experiences — both in Toronto and internationally — are not, which allows for fashion artists to engage in community building and dialogue. It's unique, and there's a massive difference in how creativity works here versus other cities."

There's that word "versus" again! If you expect nothing else, expect contrast to be the name of the game this year.

Whether it's a debuting designer mixing structure with softness or last year's champ pitting leather against satin, FAT will do what it does better than any other fashion event in the city: blaze a path and point the way forward for designers and consumers alike. ✕

Toronto at Night appears in every second issue of Xtra.

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ART

Generations of Queer

An exhibition comprising work by Robert Flack, Elisha Lim, Kiley May and John Greyson, including *Prison Arabic*, a video of flashcards Greyson drew while imprisoned in Egypt. Runs until Sat, June 28, various times. Onsite [at] OCAD University, 230 Richmond St W. Free. ocadu.ca

COMEDY & CABARET

Singular Sensation: A Musical-Theatre Open Mic

Jennifer Walls invites amateur crooners to perform their favourite songs accompanied by a live band. Every Monday, 9:30pm–12:30am. Statlers, 487 Church St. No cover. statlers.ca

Shaken, Not Stirred: A Cabaret Fundraiser

A night of art, comedy and libations to benefit the School of Toronto Dance Theatre's upcoming graduation and trip to Ottawa for the Canada Dance Festival. Tues, April 22, 7:30pm. Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. \$8–15. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Gay Trivia

Drag divas Gina Hamilton and Bunni Lapin host a night of outrageous trivia and fabulous prizes. Every Tuesday, 9pm. O'Grady's, 518 Church St. Free. ogradyschurch.ca

Club120 Wednesday

Standup comedian Mandy Goodhandy presents a weekly open-mic comedy night. For more info, contact toddklinck@gmail.com. Every Wednesday, 8pm–1am. Club120, 120 Church St. No cover. club120.ca

Queer as Fuck: Comedy Open-Mic

Catherine McCormick, the creator of Laughs at Slack's, presents a twice-monthly comedy night in the west end. Features such comedians as Rush Zilla, Adrienne Fish and Ashley Moffatt. Wed, April 23, 9:30pm. The Steady, 1051 Bloor St W. PWYC. thesteadycafe.com

Hypnotixxx: A Slightly Naughty Comedy Hypnosis Show

Brandon the Hypnotist takes audience volunteers on a risqué and slightly rude jaunt into the subconscious. Thurs, April 24, 7pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. \$10 advance, \$15 door. pubaret.com

Sharron Matthews: Surprise Night

The beloved cabaret diva performs whatever tunes suit her fancy. Fri, April 25, 9pm. The Flying Beaver, 488 Parliament St. \$20 advance, \$25 door. pubaret.com

HEALTH & ISSUES

The 519 Legal Clinic

A free, accessible service for low-income people. Volunteer lawyers provide legal advice, referrals and help with forms and letters. The confidential and private visits are first-come, first-served. Bring any necessary documents. Every Thursday; registration 6–6:30pm.



Theatreworks Bacchanal — Buddies, Thurs, April 17

The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. the519.org

FTM Support Group

Trans men share their experiences in a supportive environment. Takes place the first and third Friday of each month. For more information, contact ftmtoronto@yahoo.ca. Fri, April 18, and Fri, May 2, 7:30pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. the519.org

SOY Monday Night Drop-In

Queer youth ages 14 to 29 gather to watch movies, participate in art projects and special workshops, and chat with Supporting Our Youth's community mentors. For more info, contact jcaffery@sherbourne.on.ca. Every Monday, 5:30–8pm. Sherbourne Health Centre, 2nd floor, 333 Sherbourne St. Free. soytoronto.org

Positive Routes to Recovery

A peer-led support group for gay men working through substance abuse issues. Takes place the first and third Tuesday of each month. Tues, May 6, 6–8pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. pr2r.org

LEISURE & PLEASURE

Queer Fear: Elvira, Mistress of the Dark

In celebration of the first anniversary of Queer Fear, the monthly horror-movie night screens *Elvira, Mistress of the Dark*. Macabre attire is encouraged. Mon, April 21, 8pm. Videofag, 187 Augusta Ave. PWYC. videofag.com

Shadows

Based on a true story, Margo MacDonald's play looks at the life of Eva Le Gallienne, a 1930s actress who, at the height of her career, was outed in the press and disfigured in an explosion. Runs until Sat, April 19. Videofag, 187 Augusta Ave. \$20; \$15 artists, students, unwaged. videofag.com

The Last Confession

David Suchet, best known for playing the strangely mustachioed Belgian sleuth Poirot, stars as Cardinal Giovanni Benelli, a man who must investigate the sudden and mysterious death of Pope John Paul I. Royal Alexandra Theatre, 260 King St W. Sat, April 19–Sun, June 1, various showtimes. \$35–119. mirvish.com

Gender Failure

Artists Ivan Coyote and Rae Spoon present a multimedia show about failed attempts to fit into the gender binary. This is also the Toronto launch of their book *Gender Failure*. Wed, April 23, 7pm. Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St W. \$15. ivanecoyote.com

Cock

The Canadian premiere of the Olivier Award-winning comedy about John, a man who, when he takes a break from his boyfriend, accidentally meets the girl of his dreams. Runs until Sun, April 27, various showtimes. The Theatre Centre, 1115 Queen St W. \$25–35. studio180theatre.com

Hackerlove

Inspired by Bradley Manning and Adrian Lamo, Sky Gilbert's new play is about a queer love affair

between two fictional characters in the midst of the 2010 WikiLeaks scandal. Wed, April 30–Sun, May 11, various showtimes. Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. PWYC–\$30. buddiesinbadtimes.com

SEX & BURLESQUE

Spit Magazine Play Party

A play party for kinky folks of all genders and orientations aged 19 to 35. There is also a live porn shoot for *Spit* magazine in a sectioned-off area. Mon, April 21, 9pm. Oasis Aqualounge, 231 Mutual St. \$15. oasisaqualounge.com

Dog Play vs Pup Play

In this workshop, Master Tony (ILS 2009) explains the transformation from human to canine and the distinction between dog play and puppy play. No dress code. Sat, April 26, 3–6pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. \$10. blackeagletoronto.com

Sapphic Aquatica

Women and trans people enjoy a sauna, outdoor heated pool, plush playrooms and ice-breaker games. Takes place the last Sunday of each month. Sun, April 27, 8pm–2am. Oasis Aqualounge, 231 Mutual St. \$20. oasisaqualounge.com

Beyoncé vs Rihanna Burlesque

This A Platinum Production diva-off pitches the songs of Beyoncé against those of Rihanna to determine whose best complement the art of burlesque. Sat, May 10, 10pm. Club120, 120 Church St. \$10. club120.ca



Beyoncé vs Rihanna Burlesque — Club120, Sat, May 10

Play Again?

Gamers gather to play *Super Mario*, *Tetris* and other games on a big screen, as well as such board games as Trivial Pursuit and Scrabble. Every Tuesday, 7pm–2am. Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. Free. henhousetoronto.com

The Mums & Mums-To-Be Potluck

The monthly family support program hosts a potluck where queer people who have or are planning to have children can socialize, share information and celebrate. Sat, April 26, 10:30am–1:30pm. The 519 Community Centre, 519 Church St. Free. the519.org

Inside Out Launch Party

Hosted by Gavin Crawford, the queer film festival's official launch features a silent auction and music by DJ Craig Dominic. Wed, April 30, 7:30pm. The Burroughes, 639 Queen St W. \$10 suggested donation. insideout.ca

Punk Rock Bingo

Jenna Syde hosts a night of getting pissed and playing bingo to punk rock. All proceeds go to charity. Wed, April 30, 9pm. The Beaver, 1192 Queen St W. Free. beavertoronto.ca

STAGE

Theatreworks Bacchanal

Eric Morin hosts a saucy Berliner cabaret to benefit Theatreworks Productions' upcoming staging of *Paulo and Daphne*. Thurs, April 17, 7pm. Buddies in Bad Times, 12 Alexander St. \$40–80. buddiesinbadtimes.com

The Last Five Years

This story of a half-decade love affair is told in two ways: Cathy tells the story backward and Jamie tells it forward, and the two meet only once, at their wedding in the middle of the show. Runs until Sat, April 19, 7:30pm. The Winchester Street Theatre, 80 Winchester St. \$25 advance, \$30 door. thelastfiveyears.brownpapertickets.com



Gender Failure — Gladstone Hotel, Wed, April 3 ADAM PW SMITH

CLUB SCENE

Thurs, April 17

Peepshow DJ Pagano (UK) makes his Toronto debut spinning house and circuit beats. Presented by Prism. 10pm–5am. Coda, 794 Bathurst St. \$20 advance. prismtoronto.com

The Smirnoff Best Chest Contest Sofonda Cox, with Sapphire Tittha Reign, hosts the shirtless boys competing for \$300 in cash prizes. Prism Pride ticket giveaways. DJ Mark Falco on decks. Midnight. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Fri, April 18

Barbershop: Grease Lightning Edition DJ Michael K spins for the guys with slicked-back hair and leather jackets. 10pm. Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. \$5 after 10:30pm. henhousetoronto.com

Pop Asia DJ Sumation spins top 40, house, K and J-pop, with VJ Gary White in the lounge and a performance by Cassandra Moore. 10pm. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. flynightclub.com

Tough Customer Cigar Party LeatherSIR Canada and LeatherSIR/Leatherboy present their annual cigar party on the patio. Featuring a plaster mummification demo by Master Tony (ILS 2009). 10pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. blackeagletoronto.com

DFMO DJs John Caffery and Produzentin spin for the dancefloor makeout. Special performance by Judy Virago. 10:30pm. Buddies, 12 Alexander St. \$5. buddiesinbadtimes.com

Sat, April 19

Black Eagle Saturday Torn Rubber Saturday, with the Toronto Rubbermen Network hosting a no-dress-code party for rubber enthusiasts and friends, 4–9pm; Daddy Cool, with DJ Joe Black spinning original disco classics (no remixes), at 10pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. blackeagletoronto.com

Cherry Bomb DJs Cozmic Cat and Denise Benson spin for the ladies and their friends, with guest DJ FeelGoodSmalls spinning hip hop, nu disco and indie dance. 9pm. Andy Poolhall, 489 College St. No cover before 10pm, \$8 after. facebook.com/cherrybombtoronto

Masquerade DJ Cory Activate spins retro beats for the official victory party of the Central Canada LeatherSIR, Leatherboy and Community Bootblack Weekend. 9pm–3am. Erotico Lounge, 461 Church

St. \$10 advance, \$15 door. spearheadtoronto.com

Deep Endz DJs Eytan Tobin, Young Bran and Stephen Thrasher spin house, techno and everything related. 10pm. The Steady, 1051 Bloor St W. No cover. thesteadycafe.com

Easter Weekend DJs Shawn Riker and Mark Falco spin house and EMD. 10pm. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. flynightclub.com

Jockstrap DJ Deko-ze spins house and EDM for the scantily clad dudes. 10:30pm. Marquis of Granby, 418 Church St. \$10. facebook.com/jockpartyto

Go Hard: Fourth Anniversary DJs Blackcat, Pleasure and Lady Supa on decks. Introducing the Go Hard "Make It Rain" series, with performances by Tokyo Blu and Mr Arquez. 10:30pm. Club120, 120 Church St. \$10 before 12:30am, \$15 after. club120.ca



Mighty Real — The Round, Fri, April 25



Jockstrap — Marquis of Granby, Sat, April 19

Sun, April 20

Woody's Sunday Hollywood Broadway Show, co-hosted by Tynomi Banks and Sapphire Tittha Reign, with D'Amanda Tension, at 6pm; Old School, hosted by Georgie Girl, at 9pm; Five Smokin Hot Divas, hosted by Georgie Girl, with Devine Darlin, Sofonda Cox, Cassandra Moore and Jada Hudson, at 11pm. DJ Blue Peter on decks. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Mon, April 21

Dodgeballer Night The Gay Ball Society hosts a flirty social, with DJ Blue Peter on decks. 8pm. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Tues, April 22

Games Night Eric Cashmore hosts a night of play and playing around. DJ Chris Steinbach spins. 8pm. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Dinner and Drag Race House of Filth hosts a viewing of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, with Judy Virago, Igby Lizzard, Allysin Chaynes and Nancy Bocock. Untucked follows, and a live performance wraps things up. 9pm. Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. No cover. henhousetoronto.com

Wed, April 23

College Night DJs Sumation and Craig Dominic spin top 40, dance, EDM and urban for the studious crowd. 10pm. Church, 504 Church St. No cover. churchonchurch.com

Thurs, April 24

Ladyplus Parties DJ Todd Klinck is on decks for the meet-and-socialize event for T-girls and their friends. Spontaneous T-girl go-go shows and private VIP dances throughout the night. 8pm. Club120, 120 Church St. \$5 before 11pm, \$10 after. club120.ca

Woody's Thursday Launch party and star-studded show for A Chorus Queen, the official drag musical of 2014 Pride, at 9pm; The Smirnoff Best Chest Contest, hosted by Brooke Lynn Hytes, with Tynomi Banks and DJ Mark Falco, at midnight. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Ultimate Thursday DJ Craig Dominic spins top 40, dance, EDM, urban, dancehall and soca beats. 10pm. Crews & Tangos, 508 Church St. No cover. crewsandtangos.com

Fri, April 25

Cue Poc DJs Sissy Fuss and Nik Red spin queer jams for queer people of colour. Hosted by Hiba Al-a-Mode. 10pm. The Beaver, 1192 Queen St W. \$5. beavertoronto.ca

Byzantium '90s Night DJ Craig Dominic takes over the monthly residency, spinning classic faves. Best '90s costume wins a prize. 10pm. Byzantium, 499 Church St. No cover. byz.ca

Regretro DJs Ace of Case, Wei Back and Party McFly spin for the queer scream-and-sing-along dance party. 10pm. Henhouse, 1532 Dundas St W. henhousetoronto.com

Mighty Real DJs John Caffery and The Robotic Kid spin classic and nu disco, house and bass, with a performance by Man Chyna. 10pm. The Round, 152A Augusta Ave. mightyreal.net

XXX Men Only DJ Alain Plamondon spins the "porn and fuck party you always wanted." With live models, pornstar show, porn shoot and darkroom glory-hole action. A men-only event the last Friday of every month. 10pm–4am. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. \$8 before midnight. flynightclub.com

Sat, April 26

Pop Machine DJs Shane Percy and Aural spin pop, retro and dance classics. 10pm. Wayla, 996 Queen St E. \$5 before 11pm, \$10 after. facebook.com/waylabarnounge

Sin DJs Chez and Cory Activate spin, with the Men of Sin dancers enticing the

Dinner and Drag Race — Henhouse, Tues, April 22

men. 10pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. \$5 before midnight, \$10 after. blackeagletoronto.com

Fly Saturday DJs Kevin Bailey and Alain Plamondon spin house and EDM. 10pm–5am. Fly, 8 Gloucester St. flynightclub.com

Sissyboy Hissyfit: Big Trouble with Man Chyna DJ Orange Pekoe spins top 40, '90s hits and hip hop for the Asian-themed night. Performance by Man Chyna, who's also serving up a pan-Asian buffet. 11pm. The Beaver, 1192 Queen St W. \$5. beavertoronto.ca

Sun, April 27

Underbear DJ Knight Muzik spins house and top 40 for the last Underbear of the season. 50/50 draw and prizes from Northbound Leather, Iceberg Vodka and Out on the Street. Proceeds go to the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation. 4–10pm. Black Eagle, 457 Church St. No cover. blackeagletoronto.com

Sapphic Aquatica Monthly bathhouse event exclusively for women/trans-identified people looking for fun and safe sex play in a clean, inviting space. The last Sunday of every month. No cis men, please. 8pm–2 am. Oasis Aqualounge, 231 Mutual St. \$20, includes locker and towels. oasisaqualounge.com

Sinful Sunday Chow Mein and Leelando Calrissian perform burlesque, with an after-show dance party. 9pm. Cherry Cola's, 200 Bathurst St. No cover; tips accepted. facebook.com/sinfulsundaysburlesque

Mon, April 28

Drag Race Viewing Party Scarlett Bobo and Daytona Bitch host the weekly dinner and bitchfest, with Bradley serving up food and libation. 8pm. The 8th Deadly Sin, 6 Gloucester St. No cover. the8th.ca

Tues, April 29

Woody's Tuesday DJ Mark Falco spins for boys taking advantage of the low day prices. 8pm. Woody's, 467 Church St. No cover. woodystoronto.com

Wed, April 30

Lights, Camera, Auction Gavin Crawford hosts and DJ Craig Dominic spins at the Inside Out launch party and silent auction. Food and drinks provided by Urban Source, Barefoot Wine, Steam Whistle and Iceberg. 7:30pm–midnight. The Burroughes Building, 639 Queen St W. Suggested donation \$10. insideout.ca

Club120 Wednesday Open-mic for comedians, magicians, illusionists and burlesque performers, with Mandy Goodhandy. Open-mic performers must show up before 8:45pm. 8pm. Club120, 120 Church St. \$8, \$5 guest list (toddklinck@gmail.com). club120.ca

Submit your event listing to listings@dailyxtra.com. Deadline for the May 1 issue is Wed, April 23.



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XPOSED

ANNA POURNIKOVA
PHOTOS BY
ALEJANDRO SANTIAGO &
BECCA LEMIRE

1> Hotnuts had a Betchelorette party and invited every single Queer West player to prance with them. **Max Mohenu** got in the spirit as best as a butch man can and broke up his black-on-brown-on-white outfit with a lovely pink lei. You gotta hand it to him for that incredible leather and suede letterman jacket.

2> At first I kinda felt creepy looking at **Michelle's** black-tie Pussy Riot getup, but the longer I looked the more I enjoyed it until I've arrived at this sort of staring obsession with her balaclava-clad Barbie face. It takes one really hot face to look good with a nylon stretched over it.

3> Oh, **Peg Zilla**, you perfect little creature, you. Peg is demonstrating the quintessential Best-End craft-drag look. The shoes on shoes; the monochrome colouring in tights, wig and top; the askew eyebrows and glitter unibrow. But finally — it's the cross-eyed "this is art" look on her face that nails it. The true evolution of club kids embodied in this perfect MacBook ad.

4> **Mikiki Mikiki** is wearing all the colours at Hotnuts' Betchelorette blowout party at The Garrison. Somehow it's not too much. Somehow. I have to take a moment to thank Alejandro Santiago for these incredible pics: Becca was sick for this one with a really bad bout of that hangover that's been going around.

5> **Dwayne** is looking very on-point at the AGO's Mas-

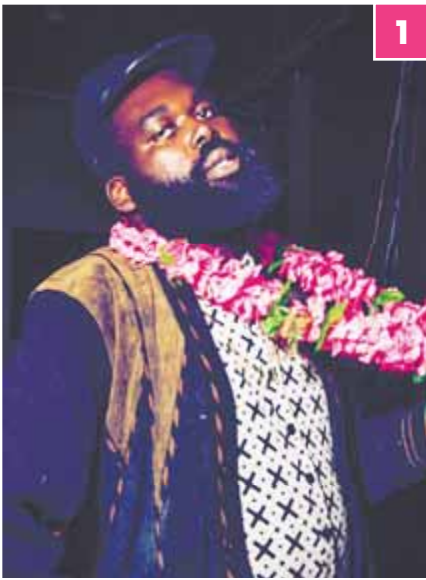
sive 10. There's a certain polished look that Toronto tends to have. It's not quite fashion; it's almost mall. The haircuts are too perfect, the jackets never fit, but Dwayne here works the polish to his advantage with an extremely pared-down, simple, but well-constructed coat and slightly tousled look. Thanks for not sucking, bro.

6> Back on the fashion tip: there were a lot of misses at Massive 10 this year, but then again, these corporate affairs attract all kinds. **Francis Zih** was like a fucking unicorn in that sea of sale-rack black knock-off and smart heels. The tailoring on his jacket alone is worth a blowjob in a location of his choosing. The crisp checked shirt in complementary green and ruffled necktie provide a lovely frame for his "frame"-style fascinator. Francis wins the award for best dressed at Massive 10 this year. Hands down.

7> Speaking of blowjobs, **Joseph** of Joseph and the Mercurials is one of those dudes that everyone loves: boys, girls — I bet he could pick up a bull dyke at a pool hall if he wanted. He's just got that charm. And chops, too: the Mercurials are always a good bet.

8> **Rose, David** and **Justin** are really partying it up (by drinking a lot of sponsored beer) at the AGO. Justin has been involved in this party in some way or another for as long as I've known him, and this year he had a large piece in the show. I'm also feeling (begrudgingly, I must admit) their 2008 throwback style. There are so many accessories and colours here. It's like the glory days of dance music when money was thrown at everything.

9> My god, **Sarah**, what I would give to be your outfit. Black leather turtleneck under light one-shoulder casual sweater and matching black fanny pack, anyone? Could you just die over and over for her Siouxsie Sioux sans makeup look and perfect fringe? Could you?



Xposed appears in every other issue of Xtra. For this week's Deep Dish column, by Rolyn Chambers, go to dailyxtra.com.

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NAME: **PJ SHIELDS**
AGE: 35 SIGN: **TAURUS, ARIES CUSP**

"A night out can be with friends for drinks, a walk in the park, a circuit party or a leather event," PJ says. "I wear many hats and my mood leads me around, so things can either be really planned or totally random, and that's the fun — never really knowing what's going to happen." The Pitbull go-go dancer is turned on by confidence, something that was necessary during his wildest sexual experience: "driving out to the middle of a park in San Francisco on the back of a bike and walking in just far enough we could hear the road but not see it. Kneeling in front of my alpha and him soaking my jeans, blowing him, then climbing back on the bike and heading straight to dinner in my wet denim. Hottest date ever."

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Checking in with Jeremy: Week 14



BODY BREAK JEREMY WILLIARD

I've now lost 20 pounds, and although I'm not very muscular, I look much less like an ogreish Seth Rogen than I did before. I haven't been this light in at least five years. I fit into clothing better, I move better (I find myself bouncing out of chairs, rather than having to fight my way up), and it's great to feel confident about how I look. My partner and I went to a sex party the other night, and I felt mostly comfortable frolicking nakedly in front of a crowd — and we got several compliments for our performance! Not bad for three and a half months of exercise.

On my own I wouldn't have been able to make this kind of progress. The program at Evolution Fitness addresses just about everything I need in order to change my shape, from my time with the nutritionist to my personal trainer to the support of various friendly staff members around the gym. Evolution is a smaller, boutique-style set-up, so all the trainers — not just my own — keep tabs on my progress and offer helpful tips whenever they can. And while they're giving me advice, I can surreptitiously check them out.

There's a newness and a coziness to the space. Unlike the last gym I belonged to, all the equipment works, nothing's falling off the walls, and during my time there some new amenities have appeared. As soon as there seems to be a need for something — *Accio!* — it's there. (Obsessive



Jeremy is now confident enough to romp around naked at sex parties.
COURTESY OF EVOLUTION FITNESS

Harry Potter nerds like my partner will know "*Accio*" to be a summoning spell.) I suppose it helps that the owner is always at the gym, either working out, which is an impressive sight, offering encouragement or setting up some new furniture.

Over my remaining two weeks at Evolution, I think I'm mainly alternating between three different workouts, focused on the lower body, upper body and back. It's doable but

tough. And my elation over finally escaping planking — I can't emphasize enough how much I hate planking — is somewhat diminished by a new hell that is doing lunges while holding dumbbells. There's also this annoying swoopy-batwing thing, where I stick out my ass, bend over and swing my arms out from my sides while holding dumbbells. I'm sure my trainer just makes these things up to make me look absurd. **X**

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