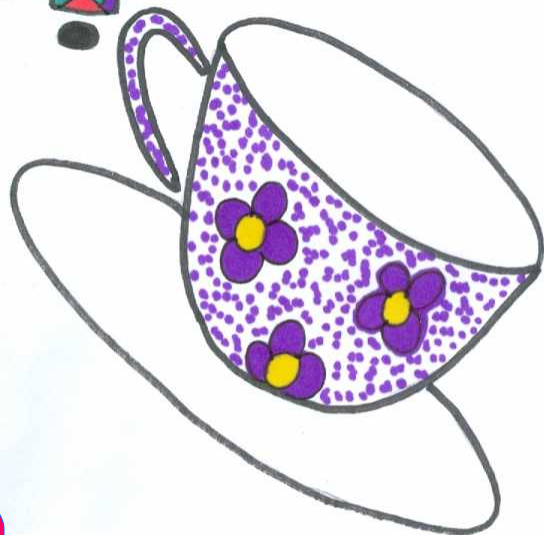


Queer Beans

A 'Zine for Youth, By Youth



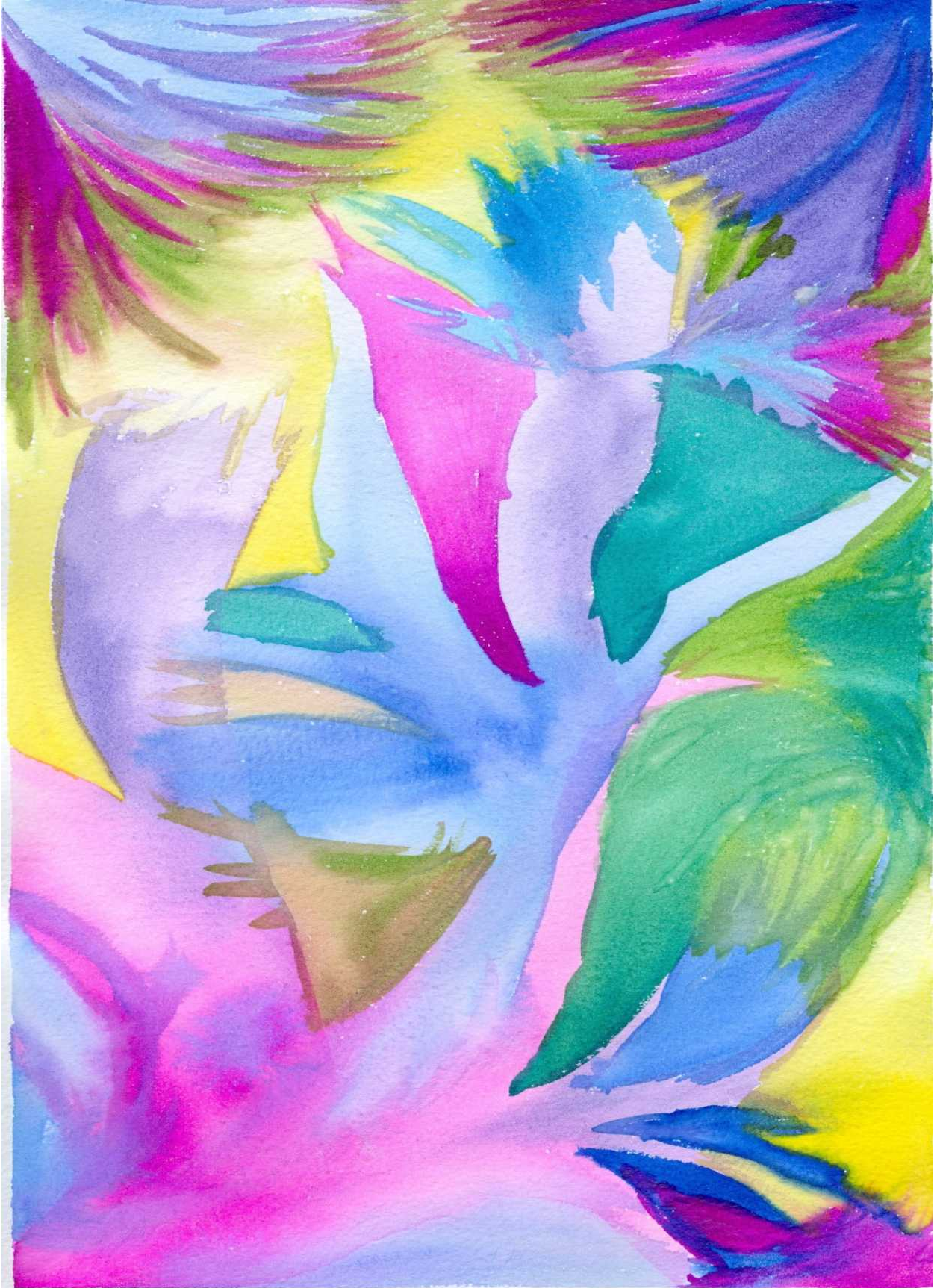
W
i
n
t
e
r

2
0
0
2

E
d
i
t
i
o
n

Pride for Youth
www.prideforyouth.org

Cover Art by Nelson



Flying

By Abby

Alan Cumming Wants You.... To Stop Using the Other “F-word”!

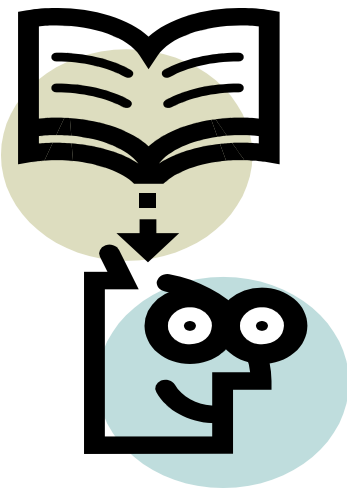
By Christina

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance against Defamation (GLAAD) unveiled a new public service announcement (PSA) starring Alan Cumming during the Sundance and Slamdance film festivals. In the PSA, the award winning actor describes the violence and harassment associated with using the anti-gay "f-word" and urges viewers to join him in erasing the phrase. The release of the PSA comes one year after the use of the slur at the Golden Globes. This sparked heightened media criticism regarding the word's acceptability.

“Alan Cumming feels passionately about this issue, and we are grateful he is joining us in our fight against homophobia and anti-gay slurs,” said GLAAD President Neil G. Giuliano. "Alan's message is so beautifully delivered and produced that it looks more like a short film. It's only fitting that it premieres during one of the most important festivals in the world."

The world premiere of the PSA took place at "And the Nominees are. . ." GLAAD's annual event where nominees and honorees are

announced for the GLAAD Media Awards. They recognize and honor media for their accurate representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. The PSA will next be seen at the 19th Annual GLAAD Media Awards in New York City, on March 17, 2008, and will then be released to broadcasters to air as a one minute or 30 second spot.



Becoming the Voice of Reason

By Brian

Many of the gay rights activists are LGBT youth. They're making their voices heard in the community. "Young people some barely in their teens are becoming

the gay rights movement's newest ambassadors." Children and teens that are or were being harassed for their gender identity/

orientation are taking a stand and speaking out. An anti-bullying law was passed in Iowa back in March 2007, thanks to the Gay rights activists making their tireless efforts such as rally's, protests, speeches, petitions, and so much more, arranging meetings to speak to senators, state legislators, spokesman, anything and everything they could possibly get their hands on. One person's signature doesn't look like it can make a difference but millions put together, obviously can. The youth of America is speaking out, with organizations for LGBT youth such as Pride Centers and support groups, Pride for Youth (yay!!) and more, when it comes to LGBT issues, always stay informed and stay active in your community!!

...Continuation of Alaska

mention all the wolves, bears, moose, caribou, rabbits, and beavers walking around. I guess it was pretty nerve- wrecking at first.

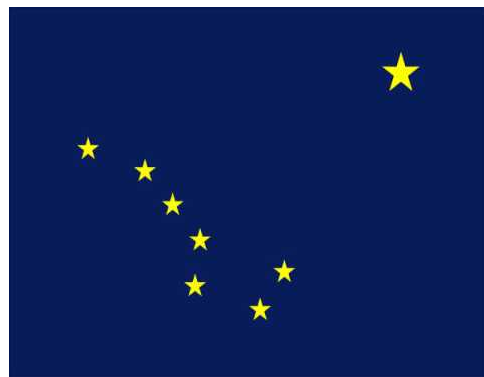
My first close encounter was at Denali National Park; where we were work for three weeks. This place was so beautiful; and this was where I had my one and only encounter with two live wolves. Anybody who knows anything about me will know that I am a wolf fanatic. They are my favorite animals for a lot of reasons; but from I told me; wolf encounters were extremely rare. But I got to see two of them up close.

We were working on one of the park service road; having fun and doing our work. When a moose came clopping up the road; and about an hour later. I left the group (Which was probably a stupid move; but I'm pretty fearless for the most part.) I went up the road to look for my glasses (Which I never found); when I saw these two furry things walking up the road. Now before we even were allowed to go to Denali; we had to sit in on a Wildlife Training Course; and the first important rule is no matter what; DO NOT RUN. That's probably the stupidest thing you could do. So it took me about a minute or so to realize that there were two full sized wolves; one white and one black; trotting up the road right in my direction. I slowly turned around and started waving my arms; half yelling, "WOLF WOLF!" I think it took a moment for anybody to realize what was even going on. One of the ladies who worked at the National Park; saw them and met me halfway; and we back up on the side of the road as much as we could. The wolves walked right past us; stopped, looked at us; and kept on walking up the road.

Talk about awesome huh? The Eskimos say that if you see a wolf; it means you will have good fortune. But it definitely was one of

my most memorable times; up in Alaska. It was probably even scarier when I had my first encounter with a bear. We were down in Katmai bay, which to get there we had to fly there on little 8 seated float plane, which takes off and lands on the water. That was another amazing experience. Katmai bay is a very famous tourist location; because of the bears; especially because it was the time of the salmon run. Our tents were enclosed around an electric fence; so the bears couldn't get inside. There were bears EVERYWHERE! But as long as you don't offend them, generally it's okay.

I deeply encourage anybody who wants to go experience and amazing time. Go to the AmeriCorps website. They had places all over the United States for you to pick and choose from to go. They paid for my flight down there; my room, board, food and other expensive. And most importantly they paid for the story of a lifetime.



Honoring Black History Month

By Anonymous

When it comes to African American LGBT icons of the past we think of Langston Hughes or Madam C.J. Walker, but how about those who made history and gained fame during our lifetime? And why not an individual of the transgender community?

Who none other than the diva that gave birth to the famous “Supermodel (You better work!),” RuPaul. This singer, songwriter and actor, also known as RuPaul Charles, made the queens gracefully drag their way into the spotlight.

RuPaul Andre Charles was born in San Diego, California on November 17, 1960. He was born into a family of two sisters and fortunately married parents but this didn’t last long; barely into his adolescent years. Little RuPaul had to deal with a lot of obstacles especially after his parents’ divorce. Everything in his personal life went downhill but yet he still had the potential and determination to keep going forth with his dreams. He dreamed of becoming a “star.”

The 47 year old diva accomplished so much for our community; both in the music industry and the media itself. She worked her way from moving to what she called “Hotlanta” (Atlanta, Georgia) and all the way up to working with Elton John, to getting signed on to a MAC Cosmetics contract, and soon having her own talk show, “The RuPaul Show”, on VH1.

Along all her hard work and accomplishments were her fans. They supported her all along. In July 2005, she was even presented with a “RuPaul Doll” by all kids who had grown up watching her on television. It sold beyond anyone’s expectations.

Her latest work was her movie, “Starrbooty.” It was premiered at the New York Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The movie was a hit and later screenings in San Francisco, Philly and Los Angeles acquired rave reviews and sold-out crowds.

RuPaul Andre Charles is a man and woman at once and he/she had/has no problem letting that be known to anyone. She achieved her goals as a drag queen, male or female, and opened up many doors for us of the LGBT community. This African American drag queen diva let everyone know that “You better work” is only the beginning of a “Starrbooty”-licious continuation to “The RuPaul” extravaganza.

Blue Holidays

By Reporting Live From Planet Earth

The Holidays are often considered a time of merriment and joy, but they are also the time when the greatest amounts of people commit suicide. This is especially prevalent among teens identifying as LGBT.

Let’s talk numbers here; the rate of LGBT is appallingly high. For every straight man who commits suicide, six gay men commit suicide as well. Of all teen suicides, 30% of them are of LGBT teens. This is extremely disproportionate. If approximately 10% of people are LGBT then they should account for only 10% of teens suicides; however this is obviously not the case. The holidays can already be a miserable time for people, underlining their social, familial, and romantic situations. On top of these preexisting things, being LGBT may be hard to handle.

There certainly is enough taunting and discrimination to go around. LGBT teens may feel isolated and like they have no one to talk to. It may not seem obvious, but we have it pretty good in Nassau County. We have places like Pride for Youth for LGBT teens to go to. Teens in middle America have probably never even heard of such places. LGBT teens who live in this area (Also known as the “Bible Belt” of America) may feel homophobia closing in on them from all sides.

The aforementioned statistics are a bloody testament to what homophobia does to people. It makes them feel unsafe, different, hated, or even damned. It’s no wonder that there are more suicides than homicides among LGBT teens.



Camping Out

By Mr. Opinion

Recently I was watching Logo (The LGBT TV channel) and I found Myself watching the documentary "Camping Out". Camping Out was about gay teens going to a gay Christian youth camp. This surprised me, while I am both part of the Christian and LGBT communities I had not expected to see anyone similarly minded to myself on TV. The Camp's Purpose was to help gay teens become closer with God and more comfortable with their sexuality. They did many activities centered around God and frequently praised and/or thanked him. One of the pastors there said that what happens now-a-days is that gay teens feel pressured to pick either religion or their sexuality because of the Church's anti-gay stance. What ends up happening, he says, is that many gay teens either abandon the church and become overly sexual, or they become overly religious and stifle their sexuality. Part of the camp's purpose was to get a healthy balance of both religion and sexuality. Sexuality, the pastor said, is a gift from God and part of who they are.

So I sat there for an hour and a half of the two hour show (I missed the first half), and I started to feel upset. At first I could not understand why, all I saw were gay teenagers making friends, talking about their problems and becoming closer to God. After all of those good things, how could I be upset? Then I realized that was exactly it, their happiness was making me sad, I was jealous. The straight world is very oppres-

sive to the LGBT community. This may sound very obvious but it isn't obvious just how oppressive it is until it is thrown into contrast with a group of relatively healthy, happy and functional gays. There is so much pressure on men and women, boys and girls to act how they are "supposed to". A huge part of coming out is realizing that when God (whichever you believe in) or random chance (if your atheist) creates us, it doesn't conform to cultural expectations of gender and sexuality. We are who we are and then society tells us what parts of who we are just aren't acceptable. (Ex. Girls liking sports, guys expressing sadness whatever, etc.) It's fairly easy to believe these expectations to be normal when someone is straight and already fits in, and it's not their fault. What is wrong is when these people take it to the next level and start up a social inquisition against anyone not like them. Part of someone being healthy and happy is being themselves. These people have the right to be as oppressed, limited and emotionally warped as they want but they do not have the right to force it upon us. Nor do we have to measure ourselves against them as if they are some divine standard. Tolerating someone else for their differences as long as they hide who they really are is not tolerance at all.

I do not know how many times I have heard it before but it never meant so much to me before as it does now. Wherever you go, whoever you're with, just be yourself, because unless you show people who you really are, they will never learn to accept you.

Paris Goes Gay

By Christina

Socialite and heiress Paris Hilton is set to star in a role on the lesbian series, "The L Word". Hilton revealed that she is planning to start off as a guest on the show and then maybe move on to a more regular part, contactmusic.com reported.

She is happy about the possibility of appearing on the show, but is uncertain whether she has to play a gay part or even bare all for any scenes. "It's true. I have no idea what kind of character I'll be playing, but it's a good show," she said.



DEEP INSIDE

By Anonymous

Deep inside I just wanna be free,
Be with you and always we'd be...
Together.
No games and loving forever,
Holding hands, living our plans,
No demands,
Pure honesty, the way it should always be,
Laughing and smiling together,
We'd be with each other forever,
Deep inside I can feel it,
Right now I can see it,
I'm more scared and have always been,
For I have never been in love,
Only have had 1 taste of it before you,
Was too scared to get into something new,
But you,
You taught me how to be,
Myself and more,
Us in harmony,
It was hard at first becuz I only sang a melody,
And you already sang your song to another
soul,
You were tired of singing the chorus everyday,
For you have been used by a player in every
hurtful way,
It wasn't very fun,
And then you noticed what you've done,
You fell in love with me,
A sophiscated, young lady,
Nothing but a soul with a pure heart,
Waiting to feel your art,
All over me,
Color my soul and every day after,
Make every experience feel like a happily ever
after,
And so you wrote me a couple songs,
Captured me whole,
Never want to let you go,
Our love grew even after our "great depres-
sion",
Still trying to live past what caused our love

recession,
I knew you were lost and I tried to deny,
How much I've missed you,
Deep inside,
I still hear your lullaby and I feel your cry,
Tears of sorrow,
I never thought I'd love you again
Tomorrow,
Till I learned to forgive you cuz,
Deep inside,
I felt I had to put my pride aside,
Somehow my heart became once again my
guide,
Brought me back to yours,
We spoke and exchanged a couple thoughts,
Feelings,
I couldn't hide too long cuz I felt yours every-
day much more,
She had to go cuz u couldn't lie to her no mo',
You tried to forget about me with her,
But now after a whole year and almost two
months,
We're both wearing each other's promise rings,
And like we wear them everyday,
I promise on making you happy in every lov-
ing way.

A Guarded Wish

By Behind the Boy's Cabins under the Little
Dipper

For when I wish upon a star
'Tis you I wonder how you are
Though many miles keep us apart
I shall keep you in my heart
'Till once again I see your smiling face

So when the winters' come to pass
The life's brought back into the grass
Back in the place I call my own
So very far but still my home
I wish to kiss you, if so willed by God's good
grace



Glass House

Photo by Abby

Homoscopes Personalities

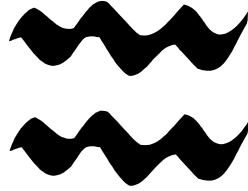
Aquarius (The Water Carrier)

January 21 to February 19

Traits

Positive side – Friendly, humanitarian, honest, loyal, original, inventive, independent and intellectual.

Dark side – Intractable, contrary, perverse, unpredictable, unemotional and detached.



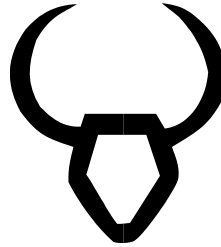
Taurus (The Bull)

April 21 to May 21

Traits

Positive side – Patient, reliable, warmhearted, loving, persistent, determined, placid and security loving.

Dark side – Jealous, possessive, resentful, inflexible, self-indulgent and greedy.



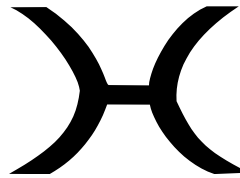
Pisces (The Fish)

February 20 to March 20

Traits

Positive side – Imaginative, sensitive, compassionate, kind, selfless, unworldly, intuitive and sympathetic.

Dark side – Escapist, idealistic, secretive, vague, weak-willed and easily led.



Gemini (The Twins)

May 22 to June 21

Traits

Positive side – Adaptable, versatile, communicative, witty, intellectual, eloquent, youthful and lively.

Dark side – Nervous, tense, superficial, inconsistent, cunning and inquisitive.



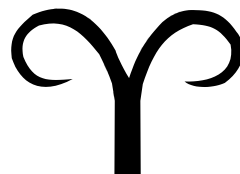
Aries (The Ram)

March 21 to April 20

Traits

Positive side – Adventurous, energetic, pioneering, courageous, enthusiastic, confident, dynamic and quick-witted.

Dark side – Selfish, quick-tempered, impulsive, impatient, foolhardy and a daredevil.



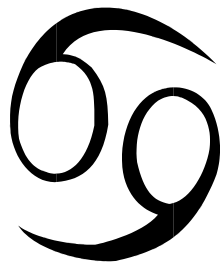
Cancer (The Crab)

June 22 to July 22

Traits

Positive side – Emotional, loving, intuitive, imaginative, shrewd, cautious protective and sympathetic.

Dark side – Changeable, moody, overemotional, touchy, clinging and unable to let go.



Homoscopes Personalities (continued)

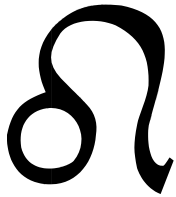
Leo (The Lion)

July 23 to August 22

Traits

Positive side – Generous, warm-hearted, creative, enthusiastic, Broad-minded, expansive, Faithful and loving.

Dark side – Pompous, patronizing, bossy, interfering, dogmatic and intolerant.



Scorpio (The Scorpion)

October 24 to November 22

Traits

Positive side – Determined, forceful, emotional, intuitive, powerful, passionate, exciting and magnetic.

Dark side – Jealous, resentful, compulsive, obsessive, secretive and obstinate.



Virgo (The Virgin)

August 23 to September 23

Traits

Positive side – Modest, shy, meticulous, reliable, practical, diligent, intelligent and analytical.

Dark side – Fussy, a worrier, overcritical, harsh, perfectionist and conservative.



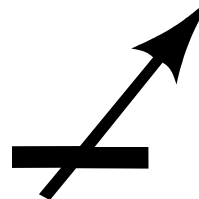
Sagittarius (The Archer)

November 23 to December 21

Traits

Positive side – Optimistic, freedom-loving, jovial, good-humored, honest, straightforward, intellectual and philosophical.

Dark side – Blindly optimistic, careless, irresponsible, superficial, tactless and restless.



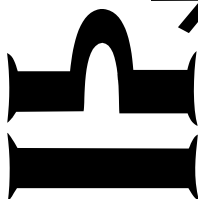
Libra (The Scales)

September 24 to October

Traits

Positive side – Diplomatic, urbane, romantic, charming, easy-going, sociable, idealistic and peaceable.

Dark side – Indecisive, changeable, gullible, easily influenced, flirtatious and self-indulgent.



Capricorn (The Goat)

December 22 to January 20

Traits

Positive side – Practical, prudent, ambitious, disciplined, patient, careful, humorous and reserved.

Dark side – Pessimistic, fatalistic, miserly and grudging.





Homoscopes

by your friendly mystic



Aquarius- You are filled with good energy today. Suddenly you can see what you want to do -- or get, or be.



Pisces- Attach to a group today. Even a date will go better if you're at a party or out with friends as well. That social part of you will make it show off your best side



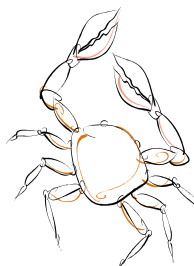
Aries- You should be able to figure out an answer that keeps you and your people happy



Taurus- Take a moment to remind yourself that you never need to compromise on the traits that are important to you. It's a good day to focus on your ideal mate and who knows, you might be one step closer to finding him/her.



Gemini- A change is in the air and its going to be a good one. If I was you I will definitely pay attention to this. This change could mean love.



Cancer- Use your head when things get messy. Your heart may be pounding harder than it ever has. You should be able to work through whatever it is with your friends or your lover.



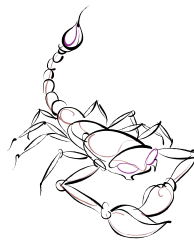
Leo- You know what you want, but you can't let anyone get in the way to blind you from what you want. Be strong and continue to strive.



Virgo- No matter how much you hate to hear advice from your friends; right now it is the best time do listen to them. You even may be surprised to hear what they have to say.



Libra- If your days have started off a little bit too rough; take a breather, because things will get better by the afternoon. Just wait and see.



Scorpio- Things have been kind of stressful for you. Maybe it's your job or friend. It's time to fight back with a thing called: making time for yourself. This means take a little vacation to get your mind on track again.



Sagittarius- Every relationship is a dance, but good for you because you're dancing to the beat.



Capricorn- You're responsible at times which can/has make/made your friends jealous of you. They will be even more jealous when they see things come together for you.

On The Road to Justice

By: Kayla Cohen

“.. An Evaluation of GLBT rights and movements; past and present”

Gay liberation has been a struggle throughout history. Although the earliest Civil Rights activists have little or no documentation, we know that there have been people battling since the beginning; battling for our rights as living, breathing individuals who deserve our chance at freedom and equality. One of the earliest document groups of civil rights activists was Henry Gerber Society of Human Rights, which was started in 1924 – which was quickly suppressed due to its principles to protect those who were “Different” then the mainstream. After Henry Gerber had completed his service in World War 1 he settled back in Chicago, where he published two issues of the first gay magazine entitled, *Friendship and Freedom*.

Most of the road to freedom for the LGBT community or even African American rights and woman’s rights took a back seat in history until the 1960’s. The 1960’s were activists at their finest. Working to fight for equality for all people to have every day rights that most American citizens were allowed to have. A new generation of LGBT youth banded together to begin fighting for the equality that they deserved. These actions lead to the Stone-wall riots. On June 27th 1969 the police began a normal raid into a gay bar, in NYC’s own Greenwich Village, where the policemen often arrested gay men, simply for the fact that they were gay. So the patrons of the bar decided to riot against the discrimination, and fought back violently against the police. For three days GLBT people and supporters alike protested against the police; some resulting in violence and arrests, simply because the police raided a Gay Bar, which at the time was happening in Gay Bars all across the country. People today still honor the Stone-Wall riots as a stepping stone to GLBT freedom, and honor them with Pride Parades, and annual marches.

The first national Gay Rights march began on October 14th 1979 and had over 10,000 participants. This was a huge turnout, and one of the first stepping stones to lobbying publicly and peacefully, in Washington D.C. And of course the on-going battle of the right of marriage in the GLBT community. The first case of it was in 1972, when the supreme court of

Minnesota deemed that it was not against the constitution to deny gays the right to marry. The topic of same sex marriage has been a hot debate in politics ever since. Depending on the state; will most likely depend on what kind of laws or bans on things like gay adoption will be. For example in Iowa they consider that now allowing gays the right to marry is discriminatory, which is obviously correct. Because any judgment based on somebody’s lifestyle and the way they are is in fact unconstitutional. These are some of the states, which have some advances in gay right equality, which still isn’t gay marriage yet, but it’s a step in the right direction, Connecticut, California, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, and Washington.

Hate crime laws were passed in the late 1969 after the Stone-Wall riots. Hate-Crimes make crimes committed to a certain group of people illegal, and came up with equivalent laws, rules and punishment according the types of crimes. One of the most popular GLBT hate crimes to this date was the awful Matthew

Shepard case. Shortly after midnight on October 7th 1998, Matthew Sheppard was robbed and brutally beat to death by 3 attackers who posed as gay men to get him in their car. This horrible accident gained nationwide attention; and supporters of Matthew Sheppard and his family. Hate Crime laws are important because they make sure people don’t get away with committing crimes against people who can’t change who they are.

Under these umbrella terms; The Supreme Court came up with Anti-Discrimination laws, which prevent jobs from not hiring a certain group of people for any type of job based on their Creed, Sexual Orientation, Skin Color, National Origin, Religion etc. Housing laws were also passed; which now make it illegal for people who are buying or selling houses to discriminate against potential buyers/tenants. Which is over-all a good thing. Just like with woman’s right, and African American rights, Gay rights have come a long way, but we still have a long journey to go. How long will it take for the GLBT community of America, to be able to live freely and peacefully, protected by their country as free individuals, to be able to love and marry and peruse the pursuit of happiness with whom-ever they chose, hopefully within our generation? In the mean-time we need to keep fighting, to be able to alter our futures; to choose a path of freedom and equality for everybody.



WE ARE EVERYWHERE!!!!

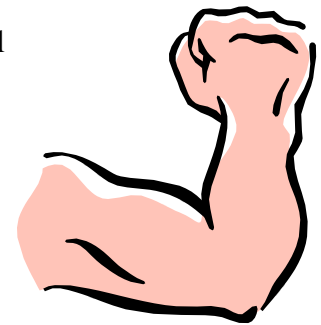
By Brian

Everywhere you look; anywhere you go there is QUEER looking right at you. You see it in the media, The Advocate America's #1 selling LGBT magazine, CURVE magazine, #1 selling lesbian magazine in America, BUST magazine, OUT magazine, there're even LGBT radio stations such as Sirius satellite radio's OUTQ radio, gay TV shows The L word, Queer as Folk, we even have our own channel, LOGO.

There are sections in bookstores only for LGBT material, our own dictionary, celebrities, singers Tila Tequila, Lance Bass, even one of the Spice Girls Mel B (scary spice) actors, Alan Cumming, Angelina Jolie, comedians Ellen DeGeneres, Margaret Cho, etc. We have places made for us to hang out in such as Pride For Youth (yay!!) bars and clubs, centers for our

homeless youth such as the Ali Forney Center, we have conventions, strikes, parades, conventions, support groups our own towns, our own day, our own month, our own freakin' flag!!!

There are awards, scholarships, resorts, hotels, websites; you name it we've got. But this revolution and privileges we have didn't happen overnight. We've come a long way from the Stonewall Riots back on June 28, 1969 we still struggle with getting more rights such as equal treatment, getting marriage rights, gay parenting/adoption. We may not have ALL the rights our hetereo-counter parts do, but that's why we still got to fight, because sometimes you have to fight for your happiness, and what you believe in.



Interview with William Shakespeare

By Nelson Rodriguez

As children were/ are told about life and love. A day where we would all experience sadness, anger, rejection, and a form of affection. We believed that wishes did come true and held a magnificent meaning to them. Our parents read us fairytales as a method of historical and moral lessons. However, as we grew older we came to realize that the fairytales stayed with us. William Shakespeare once said "But love is blind and lovers cannot see." I suppose many of us have heard this saying, but what did Shakespeare mean? How did he feel?

If I had the opportunity to invite someone over for tea and music; Shakespeare would most definitely be one of them. Being born on the same day as Shakespeare, (April 23rd), already shows that we both have a passion for writing. Writing is a way to express ourselves and demonstrate human creativity. A poet, actor, dramatist, and playwright all are terms which define Shakespeare. He had a great un-

derstanding of human nature and embraced it in his literature. His use of words was impressive and now has become part of our speech. William Shakespeare was able to make his readers believe him. Captivate beauty and imagination. Take them to a place that was timeless and help them realize that the good life is inspired by love and guided by knowledge. I would also ask him if he was in love with a young man. That's a question that has been floating in my mind for awhile.

Although he was married, he wrote seventeen sonnets to a mysterious man by the name of "Mr. W.H". In these sonnets he expressed his love to him and asked him to marry him and have children. If that was true, it would be wonderful. Two males who could call each other their soul mates and not feel ashamed on how society views them! Shakespeare is an inspiration to me. A man that was able to shape people's attitude towards the world. A lover, with beautiful impersonification and passion for his writing!



Street Boy

By Nelson Rodriguez

Step by step, cross the street
Look down and watch the imperfections of the concrete.

Greet the strangers with a smile
Realizing that you'll only see them once in a while.

You're a beautiful boy
Full with so much love and joy.
Count the lines on your hand
Read them and try to understand.

You're like the odd and unusual.
The one who reads about magic.
A street boy who writes poems
And enjoys the feeling of tonight.

Finding reasons to change the world
Taking pictures of circles and swirls.
You enjoy the painting on the street walls
But most of the time you love walking by yourself.

You ride the train on a winter evening
Others stare at you
Thinking what a beautiful boy you've grown into.

Tower Of Magdala.

By Nelson

Rare beauty, intelligent mind
just being one of a kind.
Pictures, stories and music
recalling her past
Hoping to be contrasted.

A girl like her,
hard to find, hard to keep
Dreamin' of her prince charming, while
deeply asleep.

Cross the street,
Get some green tea & sit on the love seat.
You notice your life is incomplete.
You long for someone who is nice & sweet.

Fall into a deep sleep.
Feeling the beauty of the night breeze.
Sometimes it's best to dream a fairytale
Notice how the trees do wail.

You're inspiration is the cloudy sky
And you play with the feeling of July,
Because your life is your message.



Magdala, just wants a boy to love.
Finding subjects to share and talk of.
Reckon, she's got more to
give
and just praying to outlive.

Living in her high tower
watching the beautiful rain-
bow shower.
Staring at the imaginary line
where the sky meets the sea
and hoping love is guaranteed.



So, You Thought It Was The Tar That Caused Cancer...

By Erik

Think again. Cigarette companies will have you believing anything just as long as you continue to buy their products. The fact is, although insoluble tars are a contributing factor to the lung cancer danger present in today's cigarettes, the real danger is radioactivity. According to U.S. Surgeon General C. Everette Koop (on national television, 1990) radioactivity, not tar, accounts for at least 90% of all smoking related lung cancer.

Tobacco crops grown in the United States are fertilized by law with phosphates rich in radium 226. In addition, many soils have natural radium 226 content. Radium 226 breaks down into two long lived 'daughter' elements -- lead 210 and polonium 210. These radioactive particles become airborne, and attach themselves to the fine hairs on tobacco leaves.

Studies have shown that lead 210 and polonium 210 deposits accumulate in the bodies of people exposed to cigarette smoke. Data collected in the late 1970's shows that smokers have three times as much of these elements in their lower lungs than non-smokers. Smokers also show a greater accumulation of lead 210 and polonium 210 in their skeletons, though no studies have been conducted to link these deposits with bone cancer. Polonium 210 is the only component of cigarette smoke which has produced tumors by itself in inhalation experiments with animals.

When a smoker inhales tobacco smoke, the lungs react by forming irritated areas in the bronchi. All smoke produces this effect. However, although these irritated spots are referred to as 'pre-cancerous' lesions, they are a perfectly natural defense system and usually go away with no adverse effects. Insoluble tars in tobacco smoke can slow this healing process by adhering to lesions and causing additional irritation. In addition, tobacco smoke

causes the bronchi to constrict for long periods of time, which obstructs the lung's ability to clear itself of these residues.

Polonium 210 and lead 210 in tobacco smoke show a tendency to accumulate at lesions in specific spots, called bifurcations, in the bronchi. When smoking is continued for an extended period of time, deposits of radioactivity turn into radioactive 'hot spots' and remain at bifurcations for years. Polonium 210 emits highly localized alpha radiation which has been shown to cause cancer. Since the polonium 210 has a half life of 21.5 years (Due to the presence of lead 210), it can put an ex-smoker at risk for years after he or she quits. Experiments measuring the level of polonium 210 in victims of lung cancer found that the level of 'hot spot' activity was virtually the same in smokers and ex-smokers even though the ex-smokers had quit five years prior to death.

Over half of the radioactive materials emitted by a burning cigarette are released into the air, where they can be inhaled by non-smokers. In addition to lead 210 and polonium 210 it has been proven that tobacco smoke can cause airborne radioactive particles to collect in the lungs of both smokers and non-smokers exposed to second hand smoke. Original studies conducted on uranium miners which showed an increased risk of lung cancer due to exposure to radon in smokers have been re-run to evaluate the radioactive lung cancer risk from indoor air radon. It turns out that tobacco smoke works as a kind of 'magnet' for airborne radioactive particles, causing them to deposit in your lungs instead of on furniture. (Smoking indoors increases lung cancer risks greatly.)

It has been estimated that the total accumulated alpha radiation exposure of a pack-a-day indoor smoker is 38 to 97 rad by age 60. (Two packs a day yields up to 143 rad: and non-smokers receive no more than 17 rad.) An exposure of 1 rad per year yields a 1% risk of lung cancer (at the lowest estimate.)

Untitled

By Brian

I know what you're feeling. You once had it all, but suddenly you fall and you're scared and alone. You don't know where to go, what to do, or who to trust. You don't even know who you must help to recover; so they can help you make it. So they can help you through the bad times, the good times, and the days you'll never forget. Those days that once had you down to the ground; bent down on your knees with your eyes wide open. But you can't even see, can't even scream, and can't even speak. You're afraid to get up; to feel around, because you're walking on sinking ground. There's a hole in your body where your heart used to be. Your life flashes in front of your eyes; and all you can do is weep and cry. You don't even try to think about what

you'll do next, because it involves blood and pain and it gets you upset. But I want to be there, help you recover, and hold you forever. I want to comfort you in times of need. Then your wounds will heal; they'll cease to bleed. Don't give up innocent one; I know your burden weighs a ton. But soon you'll see a brighter day has begun.



Words of Dying

By Contemplating-dreamer

Tell me when we were happy.
Tell me when we were sad.
Tell me when we were rash.
Tell me when we were logical.
Tell me when we had dreams.
Tell me when everything just made sense.
Tell me when we became close.
Tell me when we gave a damn.

Tell me why the world has changed.
Tell me why it will never be the same.
Tell me why we grew apart.
Tell me why we never trusted each other.
Tell me why you made me cry.



Tell me why you told those lies.
Tell me why you treated me right.
Tell me why I should be here.

Tell me how I was true.
Tell me how I was worth it.
Tell me how I was a good person.
Tell me how I was pretty.
Tell me how I am ugly.
Tell me how I was smart.
Tell me how I am a moron.
Tell me how I mattered.

Tell me... tell me the truth.
Tell me... Tell me I am horrible.
Now will you tell me why I should not die?



What Do You See?

By Emo-shun-all

(This piece is in response to the ethnic fighting in Kenya. For more info, look up the Monday, January 28th edition of The New York Times)

Open your eyes and tell me what you see,
Violence all around wait, how can that be?
We're in a perfect little world with perfect little lives
We try, we strive, to be average,
To keep it all the same,
Don't break the grand illusion,
Is the name of the game
You don't see the smoking guns put into their holsters,
Somehow miss all the funerals made for soldiers
You don't hear blessed Mary's mournful sobs,
Don't hear the death screams from the lunatic mob
Because you refuse to SENSE...
Anything too painful

So I've had it up to here with your self induced blindness
Ignore the blood 'cuz you'd rather be mindless

Please, please, tell me, is it true,
No amount of blood will be proof enough for you?
To break the illusion?

What about that mother dead on the floor?
From her open wounds her blood freely pours
While her little one hides behind the closet door,
Not knowing what it was his mother lost her life for

So let me ask you just one more time,
Do you see? Do you see,
The reason for my miserable rhyme?
The blood is all around us, running through our veins
Pumping through our hearts,

And then splattering, hitting the walls, ceiling, floor
Can't you see the BLOOD?
Can't you see it in that perfect little world of yours?

This is so hypocritical because I don't do anything about it either

You know what? Never mind
That's too much to ask of you when being mediocre,
Is all you'd ever live for

I never should have asked, it's all too scary
Let's just ignore the blood-tears of Mary

Untitled

By Stratus

The sandman tugs at my eyelids and my bones sigh in exhaustion. The scent of melon and strawberry tickles my nose. To my left is the girl with the beautiful strength, to my right the boy with the cornflower hair and the ocean in his eyes. The light of day sneaks into the room. The mistress of dreams caresses my face, calling me, calling me to her land of horrors and beauty. A land where one may be eaten alive, or be held in your arms the one who never looked her way, nor ever will.



Where is the line drawn?

By: Hippie for life

The world is filled with such hatred today. It always has been. Human beings have in a sense been plagued by their own ignorance and individual need for superiority over one another. They continue in cyclic patterns throughout the centuries. There is always hate among groups toward others. As the groups who were originally tortured become generally accepted, they in turn attack/persecute new and old ideals that disagree with their view(s). There is a constant search to find "inferiors" and express "power" among many individuals and groups. These so-called "hate groups" come about from solicitation, self-centered/opportunistic individuals (who search to simply make life easier for themselves), and so on.

People are taught certain values from childhood by their parents, other family members, their community, as well as religious groups they associate/are affiliated with. But what parts do media play?

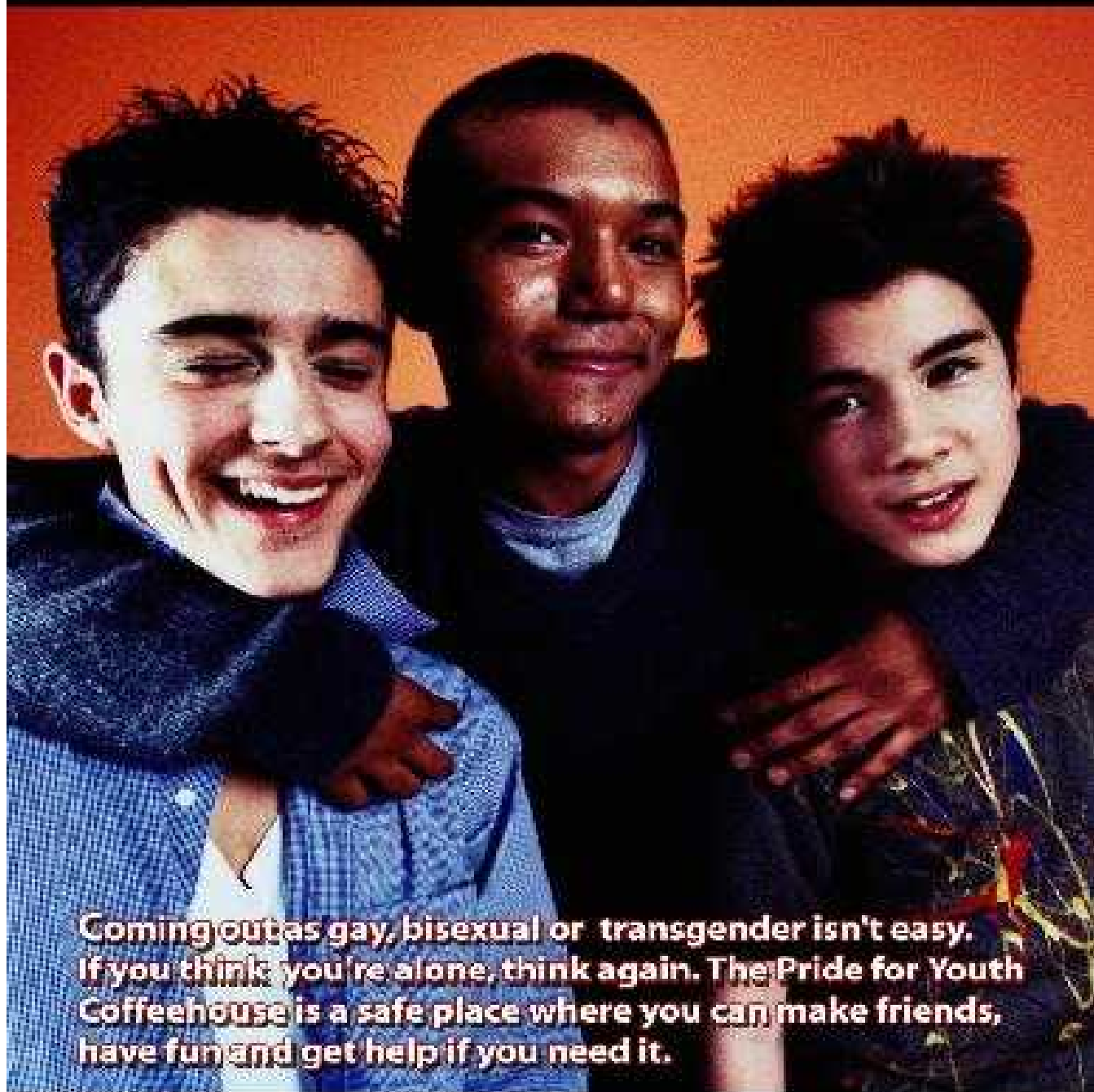
There is a huge issue at the moment concerning the effects of video games. Everyone has their own beliefs concerning it. While I do not personally believe that video games give/make people have certain thoughts or commit certain actions; I do think that people who already have hateful thoughts are strengthened and given more ideas and motivation through them. Not everyone is going to murder a person because they do so in a game, however, there are individuals who would. Furthermore many games out promote intolerance. Whether someone takes physical action or not, the ideas can be implanted in the mind set. Some people claim video games are not real, and that they are just a fun fantasy world. Well, these people should ask themselves why people find simulated murders, rapes, and so on fun/entertaining. Why is violence such a big fantasy? Games, movies, and books alike; which focus on violence and sexual promiscu-

ity sell the most. The more blood, nudity, and anguish there is the better.

For an example there is a fairly new video game out; which was released in October of 2006; called "Left Behind: Eternal Forces." It is a Christian video game that literally invites players to roam about the simulated streets of New York City; on a quest to kill "non-believers," including Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and homosexuals. It was and is marketed as "an attractive option for children." It is featured along with another video game from the same company called "Ethnic Cleansing." In that video game, you participate in a race-war. The object is to kill "sub-humans," including Blacks, Latinos, and Jews (they also allow points for the killings of homosexuals even though they are not a "race"). There is another game called "Nightmare," that requires players to ethnically cleanse and "gun down the brown." The executive behind the games said that they possess "redeeming content" and "require players to defend against the physical forces of evil." If we allow games like these to exist, what does it say about culture today? What does it say about any hope there is left for humanity? According to Dr. David Walsh, "Media is very powerful, particularly in shaping attitudes and values."

If games like those are suppressed we as a country would be practicing censorship. This is a touchy subject for many people who find censorship of disagreeable and unconstitutional. So that is out of consideration. Then comes the issue of how ;in an age like today where there is so much technology, and anyone can get hold of a game; can we control who receives these games? But then isn't picking and choosing who is fit to play them without a mental break down another form of discrimination? There is no real answer and there probably never will be for the subject. But at some point a line must be drawn. At what times does media go too far? When does a game cross a line? And finally; how can we help to stop it?

THIS IS WHERE IT ALL CAME TOGETHER



Coming out as gay, bisexual or transgender isn't easy. If you think you're alone, think again. The Pride for Youth Coffeehouse is a safe place where you can make friends, have fun and get help if you need it.



Pride for Youth Coffeehouse
2050 Baltimore Ave. Baltimore, NY 11710
(516) 670-0000
www.prideforyouth.org