

PINK TRIANGLE DAY

Explaining Pink Triangle Day

The significance of pink and black triangles:

The international gay movement claimed the pink triangle as a symbol in the early 1970s. Lesbian activists have claimed the black triangle as a lesbian symbol comparable to the pink triangle for gay men.

The symbols originated as a re-

sult of the colour-coded identification system employed by the Nazis to label different classes of prisoners in concentration camps during World War II. Jewish prisoners wore two yellow triangles superimposed to form a Star of David, political prisoners (social-

ists and trade unionists) wore red triangles, conventional criminals wore green, Jehovah's Witnesses wore purple, emigrants wore blue and homosexual men wore pink. A category known as "asocial", which is said to have included lesbians, wore black triangles.

The organization that dare not speak its name

BY ANGELA FAILLER

The provincial organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirited, and transgendered liberation, first established over a year ago, has yet to decide upon a name. This has not, however, prevented the group from continuing to organize and network throughout Nova Scotia.

At the latest meeting in Wolfville (January 25, 1997), the following statement of purpose was developed by the group: "We seek to foster change in our communities and our society at large so that people of all sexual orientations are valued and

included. We will achieve this through community development, networking, outreach, and political action."

As described by the statement of purpose, the provincial organization hopes to raise awareness, encourage diversity, strengthen communities and fight discrimination by creating networks with other equality-seeking groups and by organizing specific political action projects around queer issues. The organization also intends to work with and support already established and newly-forming queer and queer-friendly groups in Nova Scotia.

Membership in the provincial organization is currently open to people of all sexual orientations who support the group's ideals

as recognized by the statement of purpose. Meetings occur every three months with the location rotating around Nova Scotia in order to reach communities beyond the Halifax "center". To date the group has met in Halifax, Truro, New Glasgow, Antigonish and Wolfville. Plans for the next meeting to be held in Yarmouth at the end of April are under way.

For more information contact Angela Failler at (902)-429-7091 or by email at afailler@is2.dal.ca. You can also contact Wayves at wayves@fox.nstn.ca. Rides to Yarmouth can be arranged. Check the March issue of Wayves for details about the next meeting.

1. What do you think caused your heterosexuality?
2. When and how did you first decide you were a heterosexual?
3. Is it possible that your heterosexuality is just a phase that you might grow out of?
4. Is it possible that your heterosexuality stems from a neurotic fear of others of the same sex?
5. If you've never slept with someone of the same sex, is it possible that all you need is a good gay lover?
6. To whom did you disclose your heterosexual tendencies? How did they react?
7. Why do you heterosexuals feel compelled to seduce others into your lifestyle?
8. Why do you insist on flaunting your heterosexuality? Can't you just be what you are and keep it quiet?
9. Would you want your children to be heterosexual, knowing the problems they face?
10. A disproportionate amount of child molesters are

- heterosexuals. Do you consider it safe to expose your children to heterosexual teachers?
11. With all the societal support marriage receives, the divorce rate is spiralling. Why are there so few stable relationships among heterosexuals?
12. Why do heterosexuals place so much emphasis on sex?
13. Considering the menace of over-population, how could the human race survive if everyone were heterosexual?
14. Could you trust a heterosexual therapist to be objective? Don't you fear that he/she might be inclined to influence you in his/her own leanings?
15. How can you become a whole person if you limit yourself to compulsive, exclusive heterosexuality, and fail to develop your natural, healthy homosexual potential?
16. There seems to be very few happy heterosexuals. Techniques have been developed to change if you really want to. Have you considered aversion therapy?

Scale Study

I. It is easier to play scales within a cold score she imagine her fingers marked another way squinting into the air after one of the darker passages tired of wincing like a newborn blinking against the light already wondering about patterns the difficulty of honing the sharpness of desire matched by the flippancy of a tone radiating through or the familiar whistling air passing through her head no maybe next time she'll try learning scales love made precise by repetitions the daily betrayals made finite syncopated by pressing love repeated again and again and again falling back on skin's memory fingers understanding what to do the mind stumbles at first at the thought solid practice in this place where each note sounds peculiar feeling even the driest lines measuring her words working towards melody a falling in line scale down to the perfect silence love in its precision made infinite

II. This casual mark on a five lined creased map in the sound she is watching for the first time a five lane highway maybe where anything you catch is out of focus two women passing in a blur I know so little of you marked early before the open marked and still the waiting lines write me a rising scale that I may understand the lines of you but the even the first enters too marked passing her in the clearest line what mark do you make out from the blur? this dare to make her laugh would it trouble her? intention is only momentarily clear would her cheek turn to watch the passing rising line pause to write or carry on her mark still not through would she be one to exchange her love for safety food for fuel to carry on beyond the blur you o unmarked you

— Kelley Lewis

FROM THE MANDATE OF HUMANS AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA (HAH), A WORKING GROUP OF THE NOVA SCOTIA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

Homophobia: Fear and hatred of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual people and same sex attractions both internalized and within society.

Heterosexism: The assumption that heterosexuality is the only normal and natural way of being, as well as, the assumption that everyone is heterosexual unless otherwise stated.

Homophobia is often characterized by lashing out against Gays, Lesbians and Bisexual people whereas heterosexism often affirms heterosexual people only and may not intend to target gays and lesbians in a negative way. Nevertheless, heterosexism is just as damaging as homophobia. Both are presently enforced by virtually all institutions in our society and both reinforce each other.