

John Milton Peter the Great Lord Byron Hans Christian Andersen Horatio Alger k.d. lang Jean Cocteau

# Pink Triangle Day

David Bowie Svend Robinson Billie Jean King Cole Porter Margaret Mead Alan Ginsberg Elton John

Sappho Plato Socrates Mithelangelo Leonardo da Vinci Benjamin Britten P.L. Tchikovsky E.M. Forster Virginia Woolf Noel Coward Tennessee Williams J. Edgar Hoover Roberta Ardenberg Amanda Rearse Bill Tilden Sophoboles

Harold Nicholson W.H. Auden Malcolm Boyd Johnny Mathis Sir Lawrence Olivier Tony Kushner Herb Ritts Collette Pope Bradatta IX Scott Thompson Eleanor Roosevelt Jean Genet Rita Mae Brown T.E. Lawrence Errol Flynn

**Pink Triangle Day** is a celebration of pride, pride in ourselves and in our community as gays, lesbians or bisexuals. As such, we have compiled a few snippets of material on aspects of the gay community we can be proud of. We cannot of course, cover all the facets that warrant coverage in such a small space, but hope what is here will be of interest to heterosexuals as well as gays and bisexuals. Be warned, not all is meant to be serious! Material submitted by James Whitehead, Adrian Park and Medgar Marceau

### Pride in.....our News.

In 1993 the American gay and lesbian newsmagazine, the Advocate, was awarded the status of "Americas best newsmagazine" in the forth Editorial Excellence Awards. The magazine was selected by a panel of 29 mainstream magazine editors and publishers, and came out tops despite strict competition from other newsmagazine giants such as "Time" and "Newsweek". The Advocate is available in the Harriet Irving Library, Periodicals section courtesy of GALA.

### Pride in.....People

As time progresses and the general feeling towards gays, lesbians and bisexuals tends towards acceptance, many people feel more comfortable coming out of the closet. Celebrities and other people in the public eye who 'come out' are of great value to the gay community. They provide much needed role models for gay youth and, being highly visible, emphasize to those who haven't entered the gay scene, that gays and lesbians are everywhere.

The household names around the margin of the page are a few of those people who have come out, or are known to have been gay or at least had some gay relationships.

### Pride in.....Poetry.

There are many famous gay and lesbian poets and writers, many of whom can be seen around the margin of the page. There are many more not so famous. The written word in prose can often reveal much more of what we feel than any form of scrutiny. Here are a few pieces from local gay poets.

### WORDS TO LIVE BY I, III and IV.

View your neighbour a friend,  
See your enemy as yourself,  
Let only good fall off your tongue,  
And question the roots of your angers.

Stand up for what you believe,  
So you can respect yourself,  
And at the same time,  
You will gain respect from others.

Accept yourself,  
Accept those around you,  
Be yourself,  
And encourage the same of others.

DARREN

### ESCAPE OF A CLOUD

My love is beautiful,  
Shapeless but rounded to bursting,  
Yet expression is wrong,  
To hold your hand, flaunting,  
Your hazel eyes are soft and yet sparkle,  
No barrier to your soul,  
And your gift to me alone.  
But beware, don't look too long,  
For our love is only to be shared  
Out of sight and out of mind  
Of those who have a different kind of love.  
If only we could float above,  
Over dreamy vales and hills,  
And stay out of reach of those saboteurs,  
Who want it all for themselves.

JAMES

### Pride in.....the written word.

**RUBYFRUIT JUNGLE** - Rita Mae Brown. 'A joyful, irrepressible novel by the irrepressible Rita, who showed us the meaning of gay pride before we had the words.

**CHAMBER MUSIC** - Doris Grunbach. A moving tone poem of a novel about a woman married to a famous composer, and her unfolding love for the tender, giving woman who nurses her dying husband.

**PATIENCE AND SARAH** - Isabel Miller. Everyone who reads this splendid, classic story of two country women in the nineteenth century forevermore lists it among his/her best novels.

**THE PRICE OF SALT** - Claire Morgan. The celebrated story of Carol and Theresa, first published in 1952. This famous and literate novel was the first to endow lesbian love with dignity.

**A SINGLE MAN** - Christopher Isherwood. This amusing, eloquent novel follows the singular life of a gay man in Los Angeles in the 1960's. Each generation of gay writers create a masterpiece defined by it's era and this is one.

**FINISTERE** - Fritz Peters. This is a love story, but a love story in a very special sense. Brilliantly and poignantly, it portrays a tortured young mans search for love.

**TALES OF THE CITY** - Armistead Maupin. Simply a classic. This is the first in a series of six books, which span a decade and accounts life, love, laughter, friendship and death in San Francisco from the 70's. This is a universally appealing book, gay or straight.

Other gay reading material can be accessed when using the Phoenix library database system by entering the keyword "GAY" or "HOMOSEXUALITY", some 270 titles of varying gay interest are available. These vary from gay history and relationships to gay liberation.

Frederick the Great Freddie Mercury John Hurt King Edward II King James I Divine Peter Greenaway Derek Jarman Harvey Fierstein Harvey Milk Liberace Gaius Caligula Truman Capote Alexander the Great RuPaul Richard the Lionheart Gertrude Stein Rudolf Nureyev Andy Warhol Gore Vidal Charles Laughton

## SYMBOL OF Pride

When Hitler took power in 1933, he launched a campaign to persecute gay people. Due to their anti-conformist approach to the Nazi ideal of manhood, thousands of gay men were sent to concentration camps. Here, they were identified by pink triangles on their clothing. Today, the Gay community has reclaimed the symbol as one of strength and solidarity.

The black triangle was used in the concentration camps of the Nazi regime to signify non-conformists. Lesbians, because of their anti-conformist approach to womanhood were identified by this mark. Today, as part of the reclamation of the symbols of aggression, the lesbian community uses the symbol as one of strength and solidarity.

## QUEER

The term Queer has been used for many years to denote someone different from the norm, most recently it has been used to suggest "sexual deviation". Since the Stonewall riots in 1969 the gay community has been becoming more vocal and active and has taken the phrase Queer out of the mouths of their enemies and now use it to encompass all diversity within the gay communities. From drag queens to diesel dykes, Queer is a rallying cry of PRIDE.

### Pink Triangle Day-why?

It may be hard to see the connection between a 3rd century Christian martyr (Valentius of Umbria), a symbol of Nazi tyranny (the pink triangle) and a late twentieth century movement for human liberation—but the connection can be defined. Valentius of Umbria (later St. Valentine) was subjected to judicial murder for his part in an underground cult that was destined to subvert an empire where human life was a tradeable commodity, liberty a privilege bestowed on the deserving, and all sense of dignity subject to the will of the state—the Roman Empire. In the course of that subversion Christianity acquired a taint of secular authoritarianism it has spent great effort to shed, periodically, during the last 18 centuries. All subsequent attempts to subjugate the human spirit to dogma, by Inquisition, by absolute monarchs, by Puritan theocrats and more recently Biblical illiteratism, trace their pedigree to that ill-matched hybrid.

When the late nineteenth century racial and national supremacists placed duty to the state and the people above respect for human dignity it was no chance happening that their most poisonous scion, the German Nazis, should look to Imperial Rome as their model. Among the 'corrupting' influences they sought to eradicate from their "Thousand Year Reich" were the teachings of the "Rabbi Paul", for which Valentius died. The other humans who had no place in their dystopia were the contragenics, the race-defilers: Jews, Gypsies (ironically the most Aryan of all Europeans), Slavs, communists, socialists, any Christians who resisted, the mentally and physically disabled, and homosexuals. A continent-wide network of industrialized degradation and death was established during their brief hegemony. Death-squads operated in the van of advancing armies, pogroms organized and encouraged, survivors were banished to ghettos and slave labour camps. Finally, six extermination factories were established in occupied Poland. By 1945 nearly 10 million contragenics had been slaughtered, over half in the camps.

It was not a random hell, for its practitioners made clear in their few published memoirs, its circles were carefully defined and graduated. Contragenics were classified in a carefully defined hierarchy of humiliation. Each rank identified by coloured badges that were eventually standardized as triangles sewn onto their prison garb. At the top, and often used as "kapos" or "trusties" came the green and red triangle prisoners—the incorrigible criminals and politicians. Lower in the hierarchy stood the brown triangle prisoners, the gypsies; while at the base came the anti-socials (black triangles, including in their numbers lesbians), Jehovah's Witnesses (purple triangles), Jews (yellow triangles) and gay men (pink triangles).

Since the birth of the modern gay and lesbian movement in the 1950s, and its transformation into a political movement after the Stonewall rebellion of 1969, numerous symbols have been devised or co-opted for use. During the 1970s one

symbol came to stand for pride and defiance—the pink triangle. Along with the rainbow flag celebrating diversity, what was once a mark of degradation has come to symbolize strength and witness.

The events of 1933-45 were not purely a German phenomenon. As the Reich expanded across Europe local fascists and nationalists joined in the slaughter for all manner of reasons. The ultimately victorious Allies ignored the Jewish Holocaust until the evidence became overwhelming. Pink triangle prisoners liberated from the camps often suffered re-incarceration under criminal codes that remained unreformed for another 20 to 30 years. Witness to these events is not simply a cry of "Never again!", it is a reminder, in the words of Richard Plant, of "the spectres [that]...come to life whenever fanatical fundamentalists of any sect—religious or secular—take over a nation and call for holy war on its most vulnerable and vilified minorities."

Adrian Park

DID YOU KNOW...  
... That the FLAG Gayline is not just for crisis calls?  
... The Gayline has information available 7 days a week and 24 hours a day?  
... The Gayline is a great way to keep informed of upcoming events?  
SOMETHING.. SOMEWHERE...  
... could be happening without YOU  
457 2156  
We can't phone all of you, but you can phone us!  
Stay informed.

### Pride in.....terms

Hearing gay people talk, many heterosexuals discover a hidden language of terms and phrases they are not normally exposed to. The following words are just one tiny aspect of the diversity we see in the gay and lesbian culture. How politically correct these terms are is open to debate, but many are used in jest by the gay community itself, thereby defusing them as derogatory words.

- Baby Dyke - a lesbian who is in the process of discovering, accepting and reveling in her new social, cultural and sexual identity. At the risk of sounding patronising, baby dykes are often adorable as babies.
- F.I.T. - Fag in Training. Like a baby dyke, but male.
- Blotch - a girlfriend who steals your boyfriend. Also the main reason for doing brunch (see below).
- Closet - A place where gays and lesbians keep their clothes. They may also contain skeletons. Used to be where gays and lesbians lived.
- Drag Queen - a gay man who dresses like a woman for the sake of cultural entertainment. They usually sing, dance and look glamorous. Some look better than women. Mind you, some look absolutely hideous!
- Friend of Dorothy - a gay man. Origin: Judy Garland had a big gay following. Hence anyone who's a friend of Dorothy is likely to be family (see below).
- Family - a gay persons queer friends. The millions of gays and dykes that live and love in every corner of the planet!
- Lesbian - why does this word always get a chuckle? Origin: One of the earliest documented lesbians was Sappho, a musician, poet and teacher of young women. She lived on the Greek island of Lesbos around 600 B.C., hence lesbian. Thus anyone living on lesbos was/a Lesbian, even all the men!
- Gay - Origin: A reclaimed term. Gay men were thought to lead unhappy, drab lives by heterosexuals, hence calling a gay man 'gay' was a taunt. A rather appropriate term now considering the happier, colourful and lively lives most of us are lucky enough to lead.
- Camp - a place to pitch your tent. Also when a gay man is acting just a little effeminate, he is described as being camp.
- Fag Hag - heterosexual females, usually of baroque proportions, who hang around with gay men. We love you, especially when mom comes around and we need an instant girlfriend.
- Hissy - a mini nervous breakdown that requires a large crowd to witness. May range from a small crying fit to a full scale caustions. Regardless, one thing is crucial: public spectacle. Otherwise, what's the point?
- Clone - Few clones exist these days, being a relict of the seventies. A clone is a gay man who dresses in a black leather jacket and cap, with jeans and a white T-shirt, and has a big moustache. They all looked alike, hence were called clones.
- Doomy Queen - not a good bed partner! Lies back and says "Do me".
- Homosexual - One who has sex at home.
- Homophobe - One who has an irrational fear of homes.
- Girlfriend - means boyfriend. Don't use boyfriend to mean girlfriend, it doesn't work! Follow?
- Size Queen - ahem! Someone preoccupied with size. My mother said it was quality, not quantity that counts!
- Muffin - any gay or straight man who is big, robust and dim witted and yet still enjoys the finer things in life: like hanging out in patio bars in Miami and weeping over the passionate piano playing of lesbian lounge musicians.
- Queen - any violently effeminate person (or the Queen, use as appropriate). Should only be used in jest.
- Faggot - In England these are methalls. The term actually refers to a bundle of sticks, commonly used to build the fire over which witches were burnt. The occasional gay man was thrown on too, hence the association. Pleasant, huh?
- OUT - the level of consciousness a gay person achieves once they no longer deny and suppress their homosexuality. You will not find homophobia in your spellchecker. I just made it up. it means that you are aware of your existence as a gay person.
- Que! Surprise! - a lachtrous and facetious exclamation of false surprise. Syn: predictable.
- Butch/fem couple - the very stereotypical same-sex couple with one masculine and one feminine partner. I just want my partner to know, I am NOT the woman!
- Dyke - a sea wall, common in Holland. Even if leaky, don't try and stick your finger in one you don't know well!
- Diesel dyke - a lesbian who dresses in leather/bikers clothes. May also drink diesel!
- Snell her! - an exclamation made when someone does something notably pretentious and vile. It is a compliment your friends use to express their approval of your stooping to even lower levels of social acceptibility.

### Pride in.....Ourselves.

Pink Triangle Day is an opportunity to find aspects of the gay community in which we can place our pride. But we should not overlook ourselves. Here in Fredericton, social outlets for gays and lesbians have come and gone with alarming regularity. Yet the community still manages to rally together in order to provide a social outlet for everyone. Besides the social scene, far more fundamental changes have been brought about by our local community. Changes to the list of characteristics which cannot be legally discriminated against is one notable example. Provision of a help, counselling and information telephone line is another. The financial generosity of a number of businesses in town cannot go unmentioned. To name them would not be appropriate here, though they know who they are, and we are all indebted to them. We should also be proud of those heterosexuals who accept us for what we are, different, not bad. I'd say that's plenty of reasons to be proud of ourselves.

GALA is open to all students and faculty at UNB, STU and pre-university students in the Fredericton area, be they gay men, lesbian, bisexual or gay-positive heterosexuals. GALA has regular biweekly meetings on Fridays at 7pm. Our organised events occur after the brief news/business part of the meeting. These events have included feature films, some with gay related storylines/characters/actors/actresses, games, informal speakers and dessert nights. Our room is open for a drop-in centre on alternate Fridays from 7pm onwards (between the regular biweekly meetings and at the same location). The drop-ins allow people to meet and catch up on news, go on to the social club or just to get some peer support during coming out.