

# SPECTRUM

*Black Triangle/Positively Pink*

## Symbols of importance

**BADGES!** *Once symbols of degradation, they are now symbols of pride and empowerment.*

by **Tristis Bhaird**  
and **Adrian Park**

In the fall of 1989 James Gill pioneered a gay column on the Spectrum page of this paper, and a gay and lesbian column has appeared here ever since. For the last twelve months the column has been shared by the pair of us, with Tristis writing "The Black Triangle" and Adrian "Positively Pink". so, why the titles?

The Black Triangle is a lesbian symbol that originated in the Nazi death camps, along with the pink triangle. Triangular pieces of cloth, stitched to the prisoners tunics indicated by their color which category of contragenic (look that up) they were: pink for gay men, yellow for Jews, brown for gypsies, black for "antisocials", red for communists and socialists, green....(Its all there in the history books...well, most of it)....Lesbians were in fact quite invisible, they fell under the black triangles as antisocials because they did not meet the Nazi definition of **womanhood (children, kitchen, church...the brood mares of the new Reich)**. Both gay men and lesbians have taken those symbols of degradation and turned them into badges of pride and empowerment - for those badges are also symbols of the fact that the most thorough and brutal assault on our existence failed!

Positively Pink, despite being a pun, as a title is fairly self explanatory. Both columns set out to provide a gay and lesbian perspective on current issues. They also set out to provide a gay and lesbian visibility on campus and in the community served by the Bruns. Neither of us are spokespersons for the local gay and lesbian community, the views expressed are our own alone. However, this space on the Spectrum page is not our monopoly, and it is open to anyone else from the gay and lesbian community, should they wish to make a contribution.

This column is one of a number of organized manifestations of the Fredericton gay and lesbian community. So if you're new, here is a rundown of what is available in town and on campus.

FLAG-Fredericton Lesbians and Gays is an umbrella organization for both men and women of all ages. They organize dances, usually monthly, which are limited to age 19 and over (liquor relations), but they are hard at work organizing a youth group. FLAG also holds regular meetings, and new members are always welcome. FLAG-MAG is published bi-monthly and is distributed free to members. It keeps everyone in touch with events here in town, and with what's happening elsewhere in New Brunswick. FLAG also has a substantial library available to its members.

GAYLINE-this phone line run by FLAG can be found in the phone book, under "gayline"-(457-2156 actually). There is a 24 hour answering machine, and between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, someone will be around to take calls personally. this is a confidential, and should you wish, anonymous service. Other phone lines that offer the same confidentiality are CHIMO (450-4357) and the University Counseling Service (453-4820).

GALA-the UNB/STU Gay and Lesbian Alliance is the organization on campus. There is a GALA mail box in the Help Center at the SUB. GALA hopes to provide entertainment, support and be a connection to the local community. GALA possesses a small resource

library and has arranged social events in the past. Watch this space for information about meetings.

Coalition for Human Rights Reform-is a political lobbying organization formed to promote changes to the provincial Human Rights Code. In the spring of this year the Coalition's efforts were rewarded with success. Sexual orientation is now a proscribed form of discrimination in New Brunswick, but their work is not done. the Coalition will continue to monitor the workings of the law, and to ensure that gays and lesbians have equal access to services in this province. anyone interested in the activities of the Coalition can contact them through the Gayline.

Womyn's Dance Association or-

ganizes regular dances for all women in a lesbian-friendly environment. they also organize coffee houses, sporting events and are open to new ideas. They meet regularly and can be contacted through the Gayline.

CHSR-FM (97.9), the campus-community radio station operating out of the SUB is gay-positive, and broadcasts two shows for gays and lesbians: "Fruit Cocktail" and "Dos Lesbos". These shows alternate in the same slot- 7:00 p.m. on Monday nights. If you are interested in taking part in the production of these programs get in touch on 453-4985, or drop into the station.

Speaker's Bureau-is a group of gays and lesbians on campus, part of GALA, who are prepared to act

as advocates, and an information resource for groups and courses discussing sexuality and related topics.

AIDS New Brunswick and Reproductive Health Center-neither of these organizations is exclusively gay or lesbian. However, if you are sexually active you need to be aware of them and the information they provide. Both organizations provide testing, counseling and advice. AIDS New Brunswick are also interested in new volunteers - telephone 459-7518. For Reproductive Health, phone 453-5200.

GAZETTE-a free publication for gays and lesbians in the Maritimes is published in Halifax by the Nova Scotia Gay and Lesbian Alliance. It is available by subscription, or from Westminster Books, King's Street.

### *The Wimmin's Room*

## Take back the kitchen

**VANISHED!** *All their office equipment is gone, but the wimmin's collective is determined to find out where.*

by **Rosalie Lawrence**

We, the members of the UNB Student Wimmin's Collective had hoped to be able to welcome new members this week in Room 31 of the Anthropology Building (in our assigned kitchen) BUT when we got there our cupboard was bare ... and so the poor collective had none! The telephone is gone, OUR answering machine is gone, our brochures etc. are among the missing. Sorry we didn't send you members a change of address card, BUT we were not informed that our address was being changed.

So, on Monday the 21st of September at 12:30 we will stage a TAKE BACK THE KITCHEN event. Hopefully it will not be necessary to arrive with pots and pans in hand (the weapons we supposedly know how to wield best) and maybe this little MISUnderstanding will be corrected. If not, be prepared, whoever took it upon themselves to rifle through our belongings, to face the fury of wimmin scorned.

Which reminds me, we are once again bringing Wen-Do instructors in wimmin's self-defense to this campus on October 31 and November 1. In the case you wonder why we feel the need to go to the time and trouble to present self-defence courses every year here's a little reminder:

- 1 girl in 4 is sexually assaulted
- Almost half of sexual assaults take place in daylight (We know from being on this campus for a few years that this one is absolutely true.)
- 10 womyn per month are murdered by their male partner.
- 4 wimmin in 10 are physically assaulted by their husbands or partners
- 40% of wife assault occurs during the first pregnancy
- 70% of sexual assaults against wimmin are by known attackers.

(See your Froshpack for the brochure on 'acquaintance Rape') This is where I'm supposed to tell you to call the Wimmin's Collective for more information but as you already know the phone is missing!

Whether we get the kitchen back or not we have a lot of work to do this year, like embarrassing admin-

istration into funding an on-campus child care (like every other decent university), get the phone back, eradicate sexism, (that should take at least both terms), have lots of potluck suppers, get the phone back,

conduct the memorial for the Montreal Massacre, lobby for a budget, get the phone back, write the Wimmin's Room, prepare a Wimmin's supplement in the Bruns., get the phone back...As you see we have a lot to do and although many of us have returned for another year many of our members

have graduated. We need your help and support. If you are interested in "wimmin's issues" (and I challenge you to tell me an issue that doesn't concern wimmin) meet us on Monday, September 21 at 12:30 and see for yourself that sisterhood is powerful!


PS: At the time of printing we have located our phone...in a box in the Woyemen's Studies office in Tilly... However, we still have no where to plug it in!

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