

# the pink triangle

the gateway

part 2

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Photo Bruce Cardave

## Coming to grips with homosexuality

by Shaun Cody

After the recent publication of the Gateway's AIDS supplement (March 13) and the Pink Triangle part 1 (March 20), people informed me that they had a new name for the paper. The Gayway.

Looking back at myself a few years ago, I would have found these comments funny. Formerly, I had no use whatsoever for homosexuals. I thought that homosexuals should — well — be lined up and shot.

Thus, jokes or comments that slighted gays did not bother me. In fact, I enthusiastically related them. And I still let slip a fair number of homophobic remarks.

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But now, I cannot find much humour in comments that abuse homosexuals. After a long and, unfortunately, stubbornly resisted change in my attitudes, I have begun to see homosexuals in a different light. I see them as people. As humans. As humans just like myself, but with a sexual orientation that differs from my own.

Homosexuals are treated as deviant freaks in our society. They are made to feel ashamed of what they are. Yet feelings are something a person cannot explain. We cannot judge people on the basis of sexual preference.

However, I still struggle to avoid making abusive or judgemental

remarks towards gays. I can see that homosexuals may be warm, caring, compassionate human beings with a different sexual orientation. But I

cannot accept homosexual sex as normal or natural. I still resort to labelling people I dislike as fags.

Some may say I've come a long

way towards being tolerant and understanding. Others will say I've got a long, long ways to go.

### Students tolerant

**OTTAWA (CUP)** — Eighty-six per cent of Canada's college and university students believe discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation should be prohibited, according to a Gallup poll conducted last fall.

The poll results are based on personal interviews with 1,043 people aged 18 and over in 105 census areas across Canada. Gallup conducted the poll with financing from

the Gay Community Appeal of Toronto.

After students, the next highest per cent of support for gays and lesbians came from people living in Quebec, with 77 per cent of those polled opposed to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Quebec is also the only province which includes protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in its human rights charter.