

# SPECTRUM

## God, gays and the gospel

CHURCH! It is rather fortunate that a church exists which is founded on the acceptance of homosexuality as a lifestyle.

by Tristis Bhaird

It hasn't been easy to decide what to say this week. My topic is a church - a Christian church to be precise. I have some qualms about

saying that one church, or one belief, is preferable, because that means that another is wrong. When it comes to homosexuality and the Christian church, however, comparison is more on the measure of

tolerance vs intolerance instead of whose god is bigger than whose. What Christian homosexuals usually end up looking for is how much a church or congregation is willing to change to be either more accepting of them, or less aggressive in their intolerance ("love the sinner hate the sin" instead of "Sodom was destroyed and so shall you be! Get thee behind me Satan!") Both bleak positions are offset by sub-groups of the mainstream churches made up of fellow homosexuals who practice the faith as a segregated congregation through the week, and attend the regular service on Sunday.

I have to make it clear right now that I don't feel there is anything wrong with these groups. They are perfect for the people who need them, and can work within them. There are some people, though, who are not able to reconcile the hatred the rest of their denomination has against homosexuals, or the interpretation of the Bible that church has chosen. For these people, it is rather fortunate that a church exists which is founded on the acceptance of homosexuality as a lifestyle. That part is a given, and they can get on with the worship part without any more haggling.

One example of this is the Unitarian Church. They are interesting, accepting, and incredibly friendly. This column is not about them, though.

Over the summer the United Church of Canada held its conference in Fredericton. A lot of church business was discussed, covering a lot of different issues. As only one of many, the issue of whether the

### THE BLACK TRIANGLE

church should support same sex marriage did not take up near so much of the attendants' time as the local press would have had us believe, but still there were some interesting moments around it.

A friend asked my lover and I if we would be a billet for an out of town woman who was here to listen in on the debate. Because her church was not quite a member of the organization, she didn't get much of a voice, but she could participate in the groups, and listen from the bleachers.

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Lydia L. Segal is the Eastern Canadian District Co-ordinator for The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (Lydia, and MCC for short) She turned out to be a very interesting person, and we had several in depth conversations about what the Bible says about homosexuality and love, gay marriage, and the history of the MCC. I was fairly impressed with

what she had to say.

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Currently, the nearest MCC church is in Halifax. However, Lydia Segal will be coming back through our province this weekend. She will be bringing lots of information with her. If there are people in Fredericton who want to form a congregation she can answer the questions of how, and guide you through the set up. She will also bring a video "God, Gays and the Gospel". Even if you're not interested in doing the church thing, but have some questions, I recommend talking with her.

The info meeting is at 2:00 PM on Saturday at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall on Charlotte Street.

### COMMUNITY POLICING

#### Parking regulations

Fredericton's parking regulations come from two pieces of legislation, city by-law #46 and the Motor Vehicle Act. The later punishable under the provisions of the Provincial Offences Procedures Act (POPA). In the case of regulations duplicated in the M.V.A., we are issuing the ticket under the city by-law.

Since arriving in the area in August 1992 we have noticed a large number of cars parked in areas where it is prohibited. These zones are marked with signs indicating the limits of each area. A good example is found on Windsor Street between Montgomery and Kings College. As you drive down the hill from Montgomery, the first sign indicates that there is no parking in the 10 meter area from Montgomery to the sign post. The second zone is at the intersection of Gregg Ct. This area is considered part of the intersection as defined under the M.V.A. and therefore parking is prohibited.

A similar zone is in effect at the next intersection, Windsor at Fenety. The final zone in this section extends from the intersection with Valleyview to the intersection and in the interest of increasing visibility, the city prohibited parking further than the customary 10 meters. The signs are posted in these areas, and sometimes it may take a moment to digest the arrows and time limits and prohibitions.

Cyril Hawkins is a Traffic Engineer with the City of Fredericton and tells us that these zones are determined by sight lines required for the safe flow of traffic at an intersection. These types of regulations are those that the city has the authority to create, modify, or repeal in the interest of public safety. Many of these regulations are duplicated under the M.V.A. with the only difference being the fine schedule under POPA. The following is a list of some of the more common parking violations about which we receive complaints:

Section 193(1) M.V.A. Did park where prohibited

- a) on a sidewalk
  - b) in front of a driveway
  - c) within an intersection
  - d) within 5m of a fire hydrant
  - e) on a cross walk
  - f) within 5m of a cross walk
  - g) within 10m of a stop sign/traffic light
  - h) within 15m of a railway crossing
  - i) where official signs prohibit
- 193(1) handicapped parking  
194(1) fail to park on right and within 50 cm of curb  
46(18) C.B.L. Between December and March, no parking on any city street between midnight and 7 am.

Parking violations under the city by-law bring a \$25 fine while the same offence under POPA would bring an \$80 fine.

If you have any questions about parking regulations or any policing issue, we encourage you to contact the Mobile Community Police at 451-5908.

## NOTICE

### Residence Community

Single & Double Rooms Available

Contact the Dean of Residence's office  
Residence Administration Building.

or call 453-4800 or 453-4858

### Halloween and superstition

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connections. The Druids of ancient Britain had a religion and culture that were intertwined with nature. Apparently, in the Druidian world, it was common practice to summon spirits by knocking on tree trunks. (Please, PLEASE do not show this article to any Elvis fans!) The Druids can be thanked for giving us the superstition of "knocking on wood". Brian Mulroney can

be thanked for making it a widespread behavior among Canadians.

Finger-crossing is supposed to have originated in Greece after the spread of Christianity. It is the fastest and simplest way of representing of the Christain cross. The practice was traditionally used to ward off dire evil.

The Triangle was a form sacred to most of ancient Egypt, the land which gave us Pythagorean Theorem. In most cultures, trian-

gles and pyramids have traditionally been the mystical symbols for Life. The act of walking under a ladder supposedly incurs the wrath of the supernatural because it severs a side of the Triangle.

If you happen to ever walk under a ladder, remember two things: I warned you, and there's still hope. To reverse your bad luck, just retrace your steps under the ladder (backwards), or keep your fingers crossed until you see a dog. If the dog should happen to be an unchained pitbull, however, you have my permission to override these instructions; just run. One last note, though- it would be in your best interests not to race into a furniture store. They contain too many breakable mirrors.

Hopefully, you're no longer frightened by Halloween or the dark mystique of superstitions, and have found the courage to uncross your fingers. If you don't uncross your fingers, you won't be able to turn to the rest of the articles in the paper, and that would be a sin.

That's it for this week, kiddies. Take care this Halloween, and see me speak again in two weeks.

### WORK IN JAPAN FOR ONE YEAR

Over 300 Canadians will have the chance to experience Japan as Assistant English Teachers beginning Aug. 1/93.

#### THE 1993 JAPAN EXCHANGE AND TEACHING (JET) PROGRAMME

The JET Programme is an international youth exchange sponsored by the government of Japan. To qualify, candidates must have a university degree by the end of July 20, 1993, hold Canadian citizenship and preferably be under 35 years of age. Applicants must use the official application forms. Please do not send resumes. For more information and an application form, please contact:

The JET Office  
Consulate-General of Japan  
600, rue de la Gauchetiere Ouest, Suite 1785  
Montreal, QC H3B 4L8  
The Application Deadline is December 4, 1992.