

## Gay Men Read Books Selection

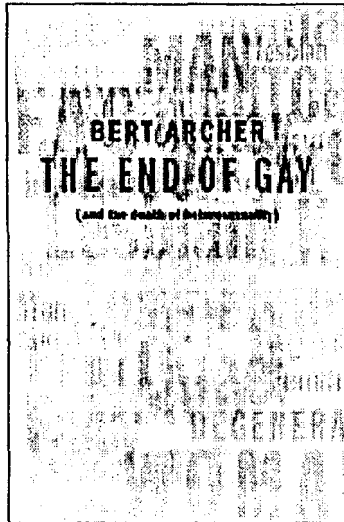
"*The End of Gay* is a tool to be used to redefine the role sex plays in our lives and in our sense of ourselves. ... It provides no conclusive evidence to breed absolute assurance. It demands introspection rather than providing definitive exposition. And it asks you to accept sex as one of the parts of life, along with love, leisure time, family, and friendship, that, if indulged expansively and intensively without boundaries set by anyone other than yourself, leads most directly to life's ultimate end, which is happiness."

— from *The End of Gay*

Gay is a phase. Not something people go through in adolescence, but like feminism, a cultural, historical movement, on the way to something bigger.

In this insightful and provocative book on sex at the end of an era, Bert Archer contends that the categories of human sexuality are more fluid than ever before. There has been plenty of discussion about the mainstreaming of gay — from The Kinks' "Lola" to Calvin Klein to Ellen — but little has been said about the effect it has had on how we all see ourselves. Archer suggests the declining relevance of gay identity spells the inevitable

death of heterosexuality as well. Through the prism of his own sexual past and present, with a wide array of references to pop culture, literature, and history, Archer traces the rise and imminent fall of gay. Along the way, he cites historical examples of greater sexual liberation, embracing the lessons of those precedents as models for our own less inhibited times. Celebrating art that expresses love and passion unfettered by gender, Archer claims Shakespeare and Prince, Goethe and Madonna, as icons for a new more open age of sex.



Stimulating, intelligent, engaging and entertaining, *The End of Gay* is a bold work that looks forward to the vast possibilities of love without labels.

"*The End of Gay* is a wonderful debut, infuriatingly smart and funny."

— *Toronto Life*

Reprinted from the book jacket. Copies of this book are available through your local bookstore, at *Chapters* on Douglas Street, or visit their website at [www.chapters.ca](http://www.chapters.ca)

If you'd like to join Gay Men Read Books, call us at 384-2366, ext.110.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

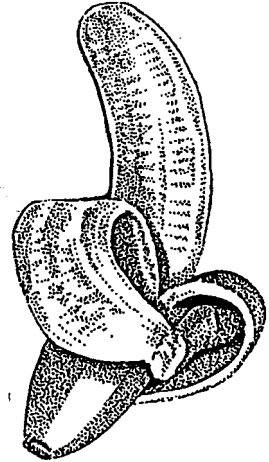
★ **Inspecting the family jewels: our health focus is Testicular Self-Examination**

★ **Friends & Lovers: Bryan Teixeira, Ph.D. gives us a little taste of what's to come at our next forum**

★ **Program & Event Listings**

★ **Volunteer Opportunities**

☆☆☆ and more inside!!



Winter 2000  
Volume Three: Issue 1



## fruitFly

The Newsletter of the  
Men's Wellness Program

fruitFly is published as often as possible by the Men's Wellness Program at AIDS Vancouver Island. We'd love to get your writing, prose, artwork, sketches, and feedback. We'd prefer to get these by email ('cause it's easier to work with and we're lazy), but your stuff can also be mailed, faxed or dropped off at our office. Oh, we gotta have your name and phone or other way to reach you, too. We won't print your name if you don't want us to.

fruitFly won't print sexist, racist or homophobic copy (duh!). We will cover issues and events important to the lives of gay & bisexual dudes in Victoria and on Vancouver Island, including those living with HIV/AIDS. The opinions expressed are those of us, the writers, and not necessarily of AIDS Vancouver Island or Health Canada.

Written & designed by  
Matt Larmour & Marc Mertens

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(formerly the Men's Outreach Project)  
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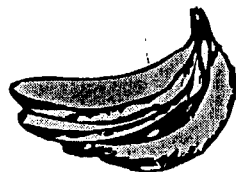
email: men@avi.org  
www.avi.org/men

The Men's Wellness Program is AIDS Vancouver Island's health promotion initiative aimed at reducing the rate of HIV infection among gay & bisexual guys. The Program involves outreach and prevention education to gay & bisexual men focusing on reducing the risk of contracting HIV.

MWP is funded in part by Health Canada.

## EDITORIAL

HEY! Glad you could check out this very special first BANANA issue of *fruitFly*, the new newsletter of the Men's Wellness Program. We spent some time thinking about what kind of 'zine we wanted, and here's what we came up with. *fruitFly* is a work in progress, so let us know what you think. If there's an article you like, drop us a line. If something sucks, we wanna know that, too. **We've included a teaser from Bryan Teixeira on the upcoming Friends & Lovers forum. Originally scheduled for November, this event will now take place January 26 & 27.** There's been a huge amount of interest in this forum so ensure your participation by ordering your tickets now. **OUR HEALTH FOCUS THIS ISSUE IS TEST YOUR TESTICLES. KEEP THOSE FAMILY JEWELS HAPPY AND HEALTHY.** There's also a programs update, so let's get to it...



### How do you do a testicular self-examination?

It's best to check yourself after you have taken a warm shower or bath. This is because the skin around your scrotum (sac) will be relaxed.

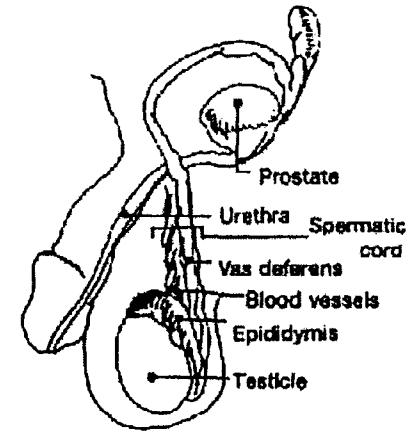
1] Take a look at your scrotum and notice the size and shape.

2] Feel the weight of your scrotum.

Roll each testicle gently between the thumb and fingers of both hands. The testicles should be firm and smooth.

3] Next you want to locate the epididymis. This is a rope-like,

comma-shaped cord at the top and back of each testicle. It is important to know what this feels like because it is a normal part of your body.



4] Check each testicle for any lumps. Lumps may be large or pea size and

may be under the skin, in front or along side each of the testicles.

CALL YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU NOTICE ANYTHING UNUSUAL FOR YOU!!

# friends & lovers

a forum for all gay & bisexual men on creating relationships



### WHEN

Wednesday, January 26 &  
Thursday, January 27, 2000  
7:30pm

(Same program each evening)

### WHERE

Royal Canadian Legion  
1417 Broad Street, Victoria  
(between Pandora & Johnson Streets)

### WHAT

A forum for all gay & bisexual men on creating relationships

### WHO

Hosted by  
Bryan Teixeira, Ph.D.  
& Rob Osborne

### INFO

Tickets \$0-\$5 sliding scale.  
Space is limited.

Tickets are on sale now at  
#304-733 Johnson Street.

This event will be signed for the deaf and hard of hearing on Thursday, January 27 only

# TEST YOUR TESTICLES

## Testicular Self Examination

### What is testicular self-examination?

Testicular self-examination (TSE) is checking your own testicles for any signs of cancer.

### Why is testicular self-examination so important to learn how to do?

It is very important for all men to learn how to perform TSE. Cancer of the testicles is one of the most common types of cancer found in young men ages 15-34. If this type of cancer is found early enough (as a small lump, rather than spread around the body), there is a better chance of curing the cancer (and keeping your testicle!!!).

### How often are you supposed to do a self-testicular examination?

It's important to do a TSE once a month. If you are seeing your doctor once a year for a physical he or she will most likely do an examination of your testicles, but this may not be frequent

enough. It's important for you to perform a TSE monthly. You can become familiar with what your testicles normally feel like so if there are any unusual findings you will recognize them soon and be able to call your doctor right away.

### What else do I need to know about TSE?

Even if you're not sexually active it's important to do TSE.

**\*\*Not all lumps are cancer\*\***

Let your doctor tell you if you need to have a further work-up. Don't let fear keep you away from the doctor, if you detect something. That's the point of the TSE...to detect something while small enough that

it's you can treat it and have a normal healthy life.



## Which would you rather:

talking with a close friend, or hot sex with a stranger? When you're stressed, which works best to center you again: talking with a close friend, or hot sex with a stranger?

As gay men, we have a complicated relationship with friendship. A primal drive to sow our seeds as widely and as wildly as possible is highly prized as part of our gay cultural stereotype. And the attractiveness of opposites - like Quentin Crisp's Great Dark Man - is seen as the spice of life. How friendship fits into that scenario can get very murky.

Yet, when sexual partnerships endure, it is often as a result of the friendship that has been created. When such partnerships end, the best guarantee that the individuals will remain as friends is that they were friends before, especially even before they became lovers.

In fact, the secret of friendship is not so much in opposition as it is in similarity. Friendship requires openness rather than secrecy. It can require caring for the other even more than for one's own gratification and self-expression. It is less about being spicy and more about being solid.

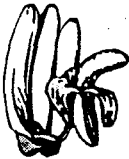
FRIENDS & LOVERS by bryan teixeira

Friends don't have to be lovers. The complications of sex can be too much of a strain for some friendships. And the honesty of friendship can undermine the spontaneity of sex. Nevertheless, if you want your lover to stick around after the honeymoon is over, you better start cultivating a genuine friendship soon after the first date.

One of the mixed blessings of this post-HIV era we live in is a new appreciation for friends. We have been challenged to discover a need that may be deeper than sex: a need for safe space, for a feeling of goodwill from those close to us, for skills to engage and pass beyond conflicts with each other. As safety decreases, as good feelings are less frequent, as conflict becomes more damaging, sex can seem like our best bet. But even better, I believe, is learning to balance friends and lovers in our lives, and from time to time discovering the special joy of a friend who becomes a lover, or a lover who becomes a friend.

FOR EXPLORATION OF THESE AND OTHER TOPICS RELATED TO FRIENDS AND LOVERS, COME TO OUR FORUM ON JANUARY 26 & 27, 2000 WITH ROB OSBORNE AND BRYAN TEIXEIRA.

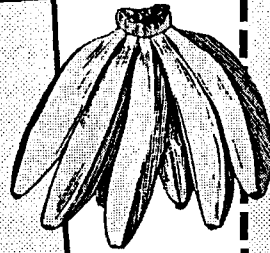




# What's goin' down?

## FRIENDS & LOVERS

*a forum for all gay & bisexual men on creating relationships*  
Wednesday, January 26 & Thursday, January 27 at the Royal Canadian Legion (1417 Broad Street). The forum will be hosted by Bryan Teixeira Ph.D. and Rob Osborne. Tickets are \$0-\$5 sliding scale, and are available now by calling 384-2366 (ext. 110) or in person at #304-733 Johnson Street, Victoria (M-F 9am-5pm).



## GMDG

*Gay Men's Discussion Group*  
Join Alan & the guys for discussion & lots of fun. No need to register, just show up. Monthly meetings with a topic.

## GMRB

*Gay Men Read Books*  
Join Gordon and the boys for six-week book discussion groups. Discuss interesting ideas with stimulating guys. Subsidies available for those who need them.  
The current book selection is *The End of Gay* by Burt Archer.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

### FRIENDS & LOVERS

*a forum for all gay & bisexual men on creating relationships*  
Wednesday, January 26 & Thursday, January 27  
Volunteers needed to greet, assist and support our upcoming forum. Call Audrey at 384-2366 to sign-up.

### fruitFly

*the Men's Wellness Program Newsletter*  
Join Matt and the gang as we create our new 'zine. Artists, writers, designers, cartoonists, those with degrees in the Photocopying and Stapling Arts and everyone else welcome. Contributions encouraged.

## ACCESS TO CARE: *Exploring the Health & Well-Being of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Two-Spirited People in Canada*

### Request for Participants:

The McGill Centre for Applied Family Studies (McGill School of Social Work, Montreal) with the support of Égale (Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere, Ottawa) and in partnership with Health Canada is undertaking a study to gather information from gay, lesbian, bisexual and two-spirited people (the term used by Aboriginal gbt people to identify themselves) across Canada. The focus of the study is on accessing a broad range of health and social services in the community. The study will also examine the role of health care and social service organizations in shaping access and service delivery (more details in the Information Letter available from contact people).

### If you are:

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Two-Spirited (GLBT-S); or  
A Community or Health Care Professional Working With GLBT-S People  
**AND**

If you would like to share your thoughts/experiences about access to health care and social services in your community. Please join our discussion!

### We will be hosting 2 focus group meetings in Victoria:

Gay, Bisexual and Two-Spirited Men: Monday, February 7 (7-9 pm)  
Lesbian, Bisexual and Two-Spirited Women: Tuesday, February 8 (7-9pm)  
Both events will take place at AIDS Vancouver Island (#304-733 Johnson Street)

To get additional information or to confirm your participation (by February 1):

Gay, Bisexual and Two-Spirited Men's Focus Group  
Marc Mertens: 384-2366; marc@avi.org

Lesbian, Bisexual & Two-Spirited Women's Focus Group  
Cynthia Callahan: 388-9189, cynthia@egale.ca

Or get in touch with the Project Coordinators - Shari Brotman or Bill Ryan:  
sbrotman@leacock.lan.mcgill.ca; (614) 398-7054

**FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EVENT AND PROGRAM INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
WWW.AVI.ORG/MEN**