

# InSide thE TOMaTo iSSUe...

Possible syphilis outbreak WARNING

Meet Gordon de Frane

*Are you gay?*

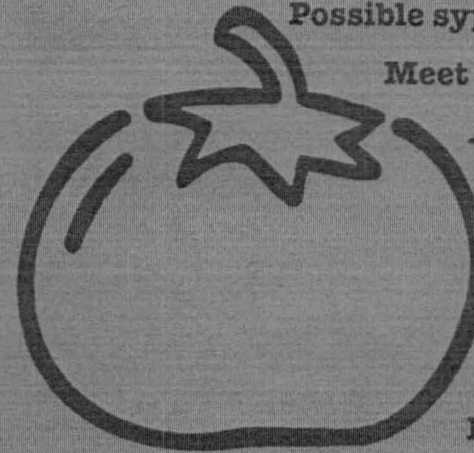
Hung like a...

A place at the table

Humour [ha ha]

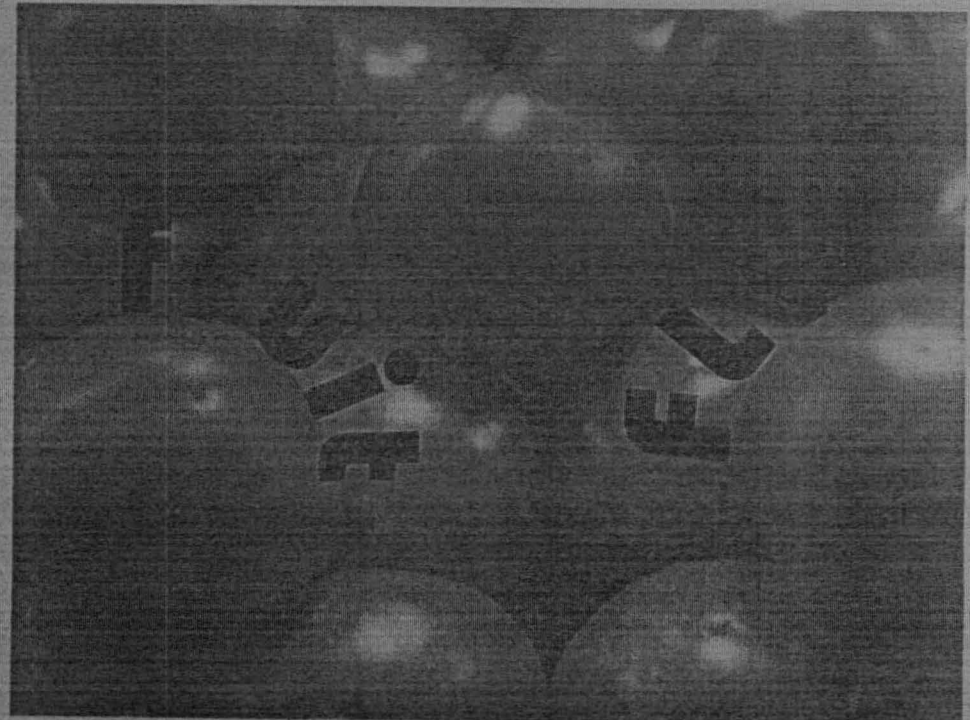
Really cool websites

Program & Event Listings



## Issue 2

Volume 3 - February 2000



## 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*

### **The Men's Wellness Program**

*(formerly the Men's Outreach Project)*

304-733 Johnson Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 3C7  
250.384.2366  
1.800.665.2437

email: [men@avi.org](mailto:men@avi.org)  
[www.avi.org/men](http://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.

HEY!

## EDITORIAL



*Storyteller from  
page 14*

in a more traditional meandering of thoughts, ideas and experiences that come forth as a narrative that one really must listen to in order to glean family history or hear the story or gain the wisdom shared.

My Aunt Irene, on the other hand, employs a more selective style of storytelling that is more to the point; she is very good with ghost stories and tales that would keep the hair on the back of your head standing upright for at least a week. Similarly there are certain Gulf Islands that I will not ever visit because of these stories and the unearthly tales they carry.

### **fruitFly:**

What benefits has storytelling brought to you as a gay/bisexual/two-spirited man?

### **Gordon de Frane:**

The distinction between being two-spirited and being gay is one of spirituality and whether one follows the flesh or the spirit.

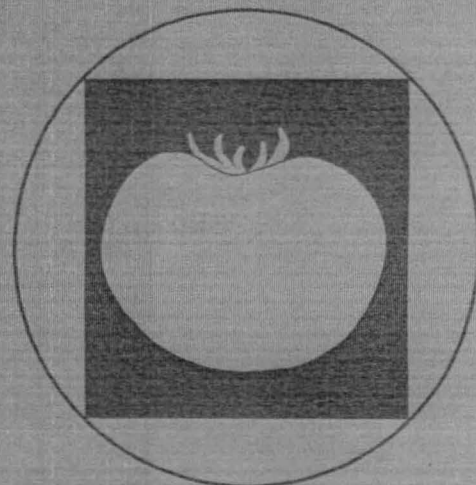
I suppose in one way, being chosen or selected by the ancestors has meant that I have received gifts and a calling to tell stories in one form or an-

other. For example, I receive words and ideas that are meant to be poems or short stories, or novels or even plays.

Other gifts mean that my understanding or place in between the worlds has given me a unique view and awareness that only others who have been chosen understand or comprehend.

Sharing teachings about two-spirited people has meant also that I am able to share myself and these very sacred beings in a way that is not threatening to the audience of listeners.

I am privileged and honoured to be able to share in some small fashion what it means to be chosen. After all, I strive to be a traditionalist and work to walk the path of those who have gone before me and walk with me as well.



*Storyteller from page 03*

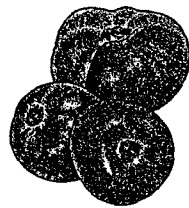
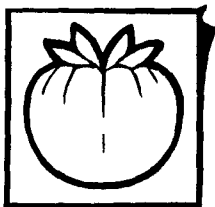
Grandpa Silvey was one of twelve children as well. His mother was Kwahama Kwat-lee-matt of the Sechelt First Nation. She took a husband in marriage name Joseph Silvey; sometimes he was known as "Portuguese Joe".

Great Grandpa Silvey was formerly married to Khaal-tin-aht, a daughter of Chief Joseph Kiapilano. They had two children named Marion Elizabeth Silvey and Josephine Silvey.

I raise my hands to Chiefs Robert Sam of the Lekwungen Nation and Chief Andy Thomas of the Lekwungen and the Esquimalt Nations on whose lands I have been privileged and honoured to work and live while in the employ of the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security.

I pray that I am always mindful that wherever I tread, wherever I journey, I walk in the dust of the ancestors who have lived here since time immemorial.

**fruitFly:**  
You are very good at telling stories. What is this form of storytelling and where are its roots?



**Gordon de Frane:**

Huy ch'ka siem for your kind words.

The telling of stories or of sharing teachings represents one of the ways Salish people have handed down our histories, legends, beliefs, governance, and so forth, from one generation to the next.

There are several categories of storytelling:

- a.) Entertainment
- b.) Historical
- c.) Mythical or grand epic that can take up to a moon to tell. (1 month)
- d.) Moral of the story or the handing down of laws and other social, spiritual, codes. Just to share a few of the categories.

**fruitFly:**

How did you come to be a storyteller?

**Gordon de Frane:**

I suppose it is an inherited gift from my family. I come from a family that shares stories; it is what we have done since I can remember, especially when there is a gathering of us.

My mum for example tells stories

*Storyteller from page 15*

## MEET GORDON DE FRANE

### An Introduction Expressing A Way of Being

In the spring of last year, we had the privilege of welcoming Gordon de Frane to AIDS Vancouver Island's offices for an in-service with staff, clients and volunteers. I recall sitting there, seeing how the room was enthralled, as Gordon spun his tale: teasing us, playing with us, teaching us, and entertaining us.

When some volunteers with the Gay Men's Discussion Group shared their interest in learning about some of the experiences of gay, bisexual and two-spirited men of the First Nations, I knew exactly whom to invite...Gordon de Frane.

To help you learn more about Gordon, we posed some questions to him in the form of an email interview.

**fruitFly:**

Tell us a bit about yourself. Who you are, what you do, some background.



**Gordon de Frane:**

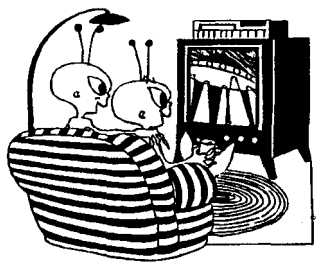
In our way of being, we are taught the importance of acknowledging who we are, where we come from and, if not from our own country, acknowledge the people on whose land we live work, play, love and die. Therefore, the name I was given is Gordon McDonald de Frane; my human name, as identified by Siem Na Sula-lewqw Irene Griffith, will one day be



Qwul'-Mul?-t-hn. I am the first of three children born to Rose Marie Silvey and August Alexander de Frane.

My mum is the twelfth child born to Alice Janet Aleck of the Chemainus First Nation. My maternal grandmother took a man in marriage named Antonio Silvey who was of Portuguese ancestry as well as a member of the Sechelt First Nation. Grandmother Aleck's mother was Catherine Louie of the Chemainus First Nation; she took a man in marriage named Aleck Joe of the Cowichan First Nation.

*see Storyteller on page 10*



video review video review video  
review video review video review

“Get Real” is the story of Steven Carter (Ben Silverstone), a sexually active 16 year old gay student. Living in rural England makes being gay dangerous, and Steven is routinely taunted for not fitting in.

Steven lies to his parents when they ask where he goes after school and he lies to his teachers about his missing assignments. He lives a lie to his schoolmates in hopes they won't pick on him, but they do anyway. The only person who knows his secret is his long time best friend Linda (Charlotte Brittain), who acts as his cover and confidante. She even saves him from a family gathering by pretending to faint in one of the film's funniest scenes.

Steven's life changes when he meets John Dixon (Brad Gorton), a school jock who is deep in the closet, and will do anything to stay there. His longing for Steven becomes more than he can bare, and their love doesn't go unre-

•••  
A beautiful thing

quited for long. Still, John's confusion makes for bad decisions, some of which leave Steven considering his own self-respect.

You'll need to see the movie for yourself to see what happens, and I highly recommend you do. The movie manages to capture Steven's experience with warmth and humour, even when he's feeling isolated and alone. It reminded me of "Beautiful Thing", another British film about teen love. They are both worth renting and make for great date flicks. A word of caution: warn the boyfriend that, while funny, these movies pull at the heart strings as well. I forgot to inform The Man, and I think he got a bit worried watching me blubber like a fool. That's okay. Next time he gets to pick, and I'm pretty sure it'll be all Action...so to speak.

**GET REAL**

Starring Ben Silverstone & Charlotte Brittain.

Directed by Simon Shore.



**WORLD WILD WEB**

Next time you're online, check out some of these great sites:

[www.GAYCANADA.com](http://www.GAYCANADA.com)

A great national LGBT resource site with searchable database

[www.CATIE.ca](http://www.CATIE.ca)

A brilliant source of treatment information for all our poz brothers  
You can also call CATIE at 1-800-263-1638

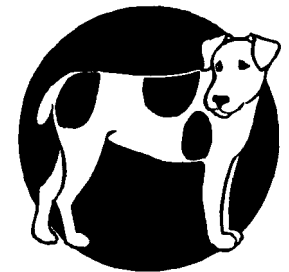
[www.CRUISINGFORSEX.com](http://www.CRUISINGFORSEX.com)

Listings for public sex environments around the world  
Check out the local listings

[www.AVI.org/MEN](http://www.AVI.org/MEN)

Check out our own MWP website for the most up-to-date listing of programs and events for gay & bisexual men in Victoria

*"I like dogs better [than people]. They give you unconditional love. They either lick your face or bite you, but you always know where they're coming from. With people, you never know which ones will bite. The difference between dogs and men is that you know where dogs sleep at night."*



~Gay, HIV-positive

Olympic gold-medal diver

Greg Louganis to the Philadelphia Inquirer.

# health focus:



**T**he Men's Wellness Program is warning gay and bisexual men in Victoria and on Vancouver Island of the potential for a syphilis outbreak. Outbreaks have already happened in Seattle and Vancouver over the past 6 months. Considering the large number of Island guys who access Vancouver for sex, events, medical care and to access resources, a local outbreak is quite possible.

We have been in contact with the local health authorities who have not yet seen an increase. They do agree that the potential is there.

Syphilis is an infection spread by having sex with an infected partner. You can have it without knowing and pass it on to others. Symptoms come in stages.

First, a painless sore may appear at the site where the germ first entered the body. This appears 9 to 90 days after infection. This sore may appear around or in the vagina, on the penis, or inside the mouth or anus. These sores often go unnoticed, and may disappear on their own if not treated, but the infection is still active.

In the second stage, a few months later, an infected person

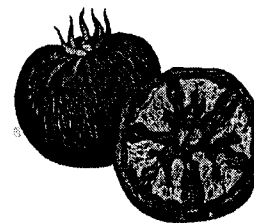
might have flu-like symptoms. Sometimes a rash appears on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet. These symptoms may go away but the infection remains.

In the final stage, an untreated case of syphilis may cause serious health problems a few years later, such as heart disease or brain damage. Severe cases of disease caused by syphilis can lead to death.

Syphilis is diagnosed by examination of the sore and a blood test, and is treated with antibiotics.

Outbreak or not, it is important that are able to speak openly with your health care provider. If you're concerned about a possible sexually transmitted disease (STDs), tell your doctor about your sexual activity, and ensure that they are testing you for the full range of STDs.

For more information, contact your doctor or your local health unit for a test. In Victoria, call the Family Planning Clinic at (250) 388-2220. In other areas, find the phone number for your local Health Unit in the blue pages of your telephone directory. You can also call the Men's Wellness Program at (250) 384-2366 or 1-800-665-2437.



# syphilis

# What's goin' down?

## **EVENTS**

### **Coming Out forums**

*a forum for all gay & bisexual men  
on coming out*

Wednesday, April 19, 2000, at the  
Open Space Gallery (510 Fort Street).

#####

## **GROUPS**

### **GMDG**

*Gay Men's Discussion Group*

Join Alan & the guys for discussion  
& lots of fun. No need to register,  
just show up. Bi-monthly meetings  
with a topic.

**April 6, 2000 - 7pm**

**Special Guest Gordon deFrane**

shares storied of gay, bisexual and  
two-spirited men of the First Na-  
tions

**June 1, 2000 - 7pm**

**Guest Rev. Tim Stevenson, MLA\***

He's a Member of the Legislative  
Assembly, a Reverend of the United  
Church, and an openly gay man. You  
bet he's got some great storied to  
tell.

(\*To be confirmed after Feb. 20, 2000)

## **GROUPS (CONT.)**

### **GMRB**

*Gay Men Read Books*

Join Gordon and the boys for six-  
week book discussion groups.

Discuss interesting ideas with  
stimulating guys. Subsidies avail-  
able for those who need them.

The current book selection is *The  
End of Gay* by Burt Archer.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

**"coming out forum"#####**

*a forum for all gay & bisexual men  
on coming out*

Wednesday, January 26

Volunteers needed to greet, assist  
and support our upcoming forum.  
Call Audrey at 384-2366 to sign-up.

### **fruitFly**

*the Men's Wellness Program News-  
letter*

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.

**FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EVENT AND PROGRAM INFORMATION, VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE AT [WWW.AVI.ORG/MEN](http://WWW.AVI.ORG/MEN)**