



members on the town, at events and in the community

## Painting the town pink 2011

# OUT & about



## Pride and prejudice

When we think of "pride", the first things that often come to mind are local Pride Parades and events held in our communities.



STUART MCCREEDY editor

Parades are a celebration for all to enjoy. Pride, however, has a different meaning to me. Pride is an expression of self-worth, dignity, belonging, mattering, and cannot be measured on any scale.

Prejudice is the flip-side of pride. Prejudice is rooted in fear, hate, exclusion, misunderstanding and shame. Prejudice manifests itself in far too many ways.

There have been recent examples where pride has trumped prejudice, such as the Burnaby School Board's decision to implement an anti-homophobia policy despite opposition from religious groups, who were hiding behind their own agenda.

Also, the recent decision in New York to become the sixth state in the U.S. (plus D.C.) to legalize gay marriage was a long, hard-fought battle. We must remember that it wasn't that long ago that we, as Canadians, didn't have the right to legally wed.

Proposed anti-gay legislation in Uganda has only been deferred, not yet defeated. International pressure played a big role in this, but the issue has only been pushed to the sidelines until their parliament reconvenes.

Our battles can be won, but we must be vigilant. A Conservative majority government must be monitored and held accountable to ensure that they do not try to water down or strike laws from the books – or jeopardize the rights that our queer community has achieved.

Always remember that you matter!

In solidarity,

Stuart



## Summer in the city

Even though it hasn't felt like much of a summer temperature-wise, summertime fun in Vancouver has already begun!

The Outgames were held in Vancouver from July 25 to July 31 with sporting events taking place at various venues across the city. The Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics torch was even lit to kickoff the week-long, international competition, bringing hundreds of athletes to town.

The Vancouver 2011 Outgames Human Rights Conference also took place July 26 to July 28 at the Sheraton Wall Centre. Panels included: sport and sexual/gender diversity; addressing aging, homophobia, intersex and transgender athletes in sport; plus educational opportunities. Blake Skjellerup, the short-track speed skater from New Zealand who came out after Vancouver's 2010 Winter Games, delivered the opening keynote speech.

Of course, I can't forget to mention Vancouver's Pride Parade, which took place on July 31. Our sisters and brothers in the Living Wage Campaign marched with us in the MultiUnion Pride contingent of the parade.

There are so many activities happening throughout the city that I can't mention them all. Be sure to check out *Xtra West!* for the most up-to-date event listings.

### Educate, Liberate and Celebrate!



\*For the sake of brevity, LGBT is used throughout the Pride Pages as short-hand for the wider Pink Triangle community (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-Spirited, Intersex, Queer, Questioning).



## Co-chair Report: Summer pride and film festival highlight PTSC activities



KAREN MCVEIGH  
committee co-chair

The Pink Triangle Standing Committee (PTSC) met in May for two days and outlined our plans for the next six months. We walked with MultiUnion Pride in Vancouver's Pride Parade on July 31. This year, members from HEU's Living Wage Campaign joined us, drawing attention to diversity and fair wages.

We decided to support New Westminster Pride for their second-year celebration, and the committee is hoping to attend Nelson Pride. Five committee members attended the Outgames Human Rights Conference, where HEU's equity officer Sharryn Modder presented a workshop on seniors in long-term care.

HEU is once again proudly sponsoring the Vancouver Queer Film Festival (August 11-21). We're sponsoring a movie called *Gen Silent*. It screens on August 20 at 4:00 p.m. at the Empire Granville theatre. We're also supporting the Queer History Project and placed an ad in the Pride guide.

The Equal Opportunities Committee (EOC) has agreed to support an HEU anti-bullying campaign. We have printed T-shirts and we'll be working on the project more in the coming year. I attended subcommittee co-chair training – with PTSC member Ewen McCormick – along with other equity co-chairs, HEU staff advisors, and Provincial Executive subcommittee co-chairs in April.

We will be doing an event for the AIDS Walk on September 18. Watch the HEU website for more details later this summer.

In solidarity, Karen

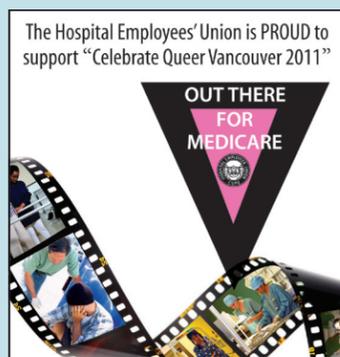
## Vancouver Queer Film Festival 2011

HEU is proud once again to support the Vancouver Queer Film Festival, under the moniker "Celebrate Queer Vancouver 2011".

Each year, thought-provoking documentaries are among the favourite films at the Vancouver Queer Film Festival. That's why HEU is particularly excited to sponsor the documentary film *Gen Silent*, by award-winning director Stu Maddux.

The film asks six LGBT seniors if they would hide their sexual orientation or gender identity in order to survive in the health care system. It chronicles the lives and struggles of one couple searching for a gay-friendly nursing home; another couple as they recall their life-long commitment to fighting for queer rights, and a transgender woman who comes out in her late-50s.

From capturing human rights issues to sharing heartfelt memories, *Gen Silent* shows us how critical it is to acknowledge and care for our senior citizens.



Check out <[http://stumaddux.com/gen\\_silent\\_about.html](http://stumaddux.com/gen_silent_about.html)> for more details.

**VANCOUVER SCREENING:**  
4:00 p.m. | August 20 |  
Empire Granville Theatre

(director Stu Maddux is scheduled to be in attendance)

## Bullying is not just a 'gay thing'

By Karen McVeigh, co-chair

As a child, I was bullied by the kids in my school. Today, bullying is everywhere – on the internet, at work, school, even at home. There's an International Anti-Bullying Day in April, a Pink Shirt Day in February, and in B.C., February 25 is Anti-Bullying Day (or "wear pink" day). An International STAND UP to Bullying Day is scheduled for November 18, and the next Anti-Bullying Day in Canada is February 29, 2012. But it's important to draw attention to this growing issue on more than just a few days a year.

Some people have asked why pink has become associated with bullying. Mostly, it's because a lot of kids who are bullied are gay, or thought to be gay. Young teens have killed themselves for being bullied – and it's becoming a growing problem in North America. Fear, shame, low self-esteem, feeling alone are all associated with being gay and being bullied.

The Pink Triangle Standing Committee linked up with the other equity groups to start an HEU anti-bullying campaign, and we produced a pink anti-bullying T-shirt. HEU's Equal Opportunities Committee will be working on a campaign to acknowledge that bullying occurs every day. And the HEU Clerical Subcommittee will be launching an anti-bullying campaign later this year as part of their action plan.

### Isolation and suicide

Bullying affects people in many ways. We all know someone who has been touched by it or have, at least, heard about it on the news. We hear about teens taking their lives because they were bullied at school. Maybe someone posted something about them on Facebook. Maybe they are beaten up at school, or called names. Some targets of bullying are so scared and ashamed that they stop going to school, call in sick at work, stop eating, and become less social with friends and family. They isolate themselves.

Our society is so focused on weight, race, religion, sexual orientation, and being "normal". If you deviate from the "norm", then you don't fit in and run the risk of being bullied. In the gay community, our trans sisters and brothers are particularly a target.

And as health care workers, we also experience bullying in our workplaces – sometimes from patients, residents, family, co-workers or bosses.

We need to stand up against bullies and bullying, now!

Instead, we need to respect one another and our differences.

For more information, check out <<http://www.standupday.com>> or contact our committee at <[pinktriangle@heu.org](mailto:pinktriangle@heu.org)>.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- performing same-sex acts is punishable by the death penalty in five countries and in regions of two other countries?
- persecution (including imprisonment and corporal punishment) based on sexual orientation is legal in 76 countries and in five entities (entities are part of a federation, state, province, federal district or any other territorial district/administrative unit)?
- anti-discrimination laws exist in 58 countries and 60 entities?
- recognition of same-sex unions is enshrined by law in 32 countries and 30 entities?
- gay marriage exists in 10 countries, including Canada, the Coquille Indian Tribe in Oregon, Mexico City, plus Connecticut, District of Columbia, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont?

Check out <<http://ilga.org/>> for more information on gay rights around the world.