

behavior in the past. He is a divisive character in the community."

In 1994, Genereux was disciplined by the College of Physicians and Surgeons after admitting he fondled or masturbated six patients.

But his notoriety is only part of the problem for the city's large gay community, Rae stressed.

Because McGinn had HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS, and not the more serious full blown disease, he might not have been considered terminally ill, he said.

"There are those who are concerned about the undermining of the dying with dignity movement."

Euthanasia activist Marilyn Seguin said she's not concerned about the case tainting right-to-die advocates.

"Within the next three to five years, we're definitely going to see some change in the law," Seguin, executive director of Dying With Dignity, said from Vancouver.

(Robert Benzie, Toronto Sun)

GAY MARRIAGE IN HAWAII?

A landmark case is coming up in Hawaii. The issue is whether gay and lesbian couples can exchange state sanctioned wedding vows.

A huge wedding cake at the annual Gay Pride Parade in Los Angeles last month featured couples who have been together at least 25 years. Whether or not they'll actually get legally married has to do with whether or not a Hawaii couple wins their lawsuit.

Joseph and Patrick have been together 19 years and in court for the past six. They are among the three same-sex

couples who filed for marriage licences in Hawaii and were denied.

The debate began in 1993 when the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that the state violated its own sex discrimination laws by refusing to grant the couples' marriage licences. The Hawaiian high court returned the case to a lower court.

Should same-sex marriages in Hawaii be recognized by other states? Thirty-six states have considered creating laws against this, thirteen states have enacted bans and seventeen have refused to pass legislation to ban same-sex marriages.

"Once a state doesn't have to recognize an act of another state, our whole concept of federalism is over," said the plaintiff's attorney, Dan Foley.

The non-jury trial is scheduled to begin September 10. It's expected to last just two weeks, with the state calling as few as six witnesses.

Says one complainant, "I'm sure like everything else, it will take a couple of years; and people will see there is no harm in this."

LOCAL PRIDE CELEBRATION A GREAT SUCCESS! OVER 200 IN ATTENDANCE

For the 200+ in attendance at the June 27 celebration at Kitchener City Hall a great time was had by all.

The organizers described this years celebration, named Triangle Unity, as a chance for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities in K-W, Cambridge and Guelph to celebrate their diversity.

A number of tables were set up around the Rotunda sharing information on a series of topics, from support and

advocacy to health issues.

Some of those groups in attendance were Women Out Of Doors (WOODS), Brethern Mennonite Council, ACKWA, The Lesbian Avengers, Outlook Magazine, Guelph Queer Equality, Out and About (Our local gay radio show), Gay and Lesbian Liberation of Waterloo (GLLOW), PFLAG, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Group and the Waterloo Region Health Unit. A lot of information was passed out at this years event.

Guests were welcomed by the very talented and entertaining Rainbow Chorus who also ended the ceremonies.

An open microphone session gave everyone in attendance the chance to get up and share their coming out experiences or just to say what was on their mind.

Cambridge physician Dr. Gary Gibson was the keynote speaker for the evening's event. His presence at the celebration was in my eyes very important.

I think it's very important for the younger gays and lesbians to see that you can be both out, proud to be who you are and still be very successful in your professional life. He is a wonderful role model. We need more like him within our community.

He elaborated on his being closeted during the early days of his career and the steps taken to finally come out.

He mentioned how he was outraged when he first heard about the raids on Toronto bathhouses which led him to write a letter to the editor. Unfortunately, it wasn't published because he didn't have the courage to sign the letter.

"That sort of crystalized for me that it was time to get on with my life. That was very much a turning point for me," Dr. Gibson said, which meant coming out publicly.

"It was 15 years ago, and I had saved up a whole year's income just in case I was run out of town," he said.

His partner Doug Saunders said he questioned whether the gay pride celebration is actually counter-productive. Most images by the media show gay men and lesbians in outlandish or skimpy costumes and "give the straight community the perception that we're somehow freakish, abnormal and demanding rights that we don't deserve."

"We need to profile ourselves as ordinary, normal and everyday. If the media reports the news or that which is different, then I think it's time we give them, and the heterosexual community, a different view of who we are."

All in all, the night was bigger and better than last years celebration. The media inaccurately reported attendance of some thirty or so people at last years event, (there were close to 90!), but was successful in the numbers department in both television and newspaper coverage stating in fact that there were over 200 participants in last month's event. Next year I'm sure it will be bigger yet!

Special thanks go out to all the organizers and volunteers of Triangle Unity and the people at Especially Coffee who made the June 27 celebration one we will remember. Thanks also to Cheryl and Fran and their staff at Club Renaissance for hosting the 'After Pride Party.'

(R. Lethbridge, Outlook)

