

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/

celebrating the lives and times of rainbow folk in Grand River country

Guelph Gay Equality Newsletter → Guelph Gay & Lesbian Equality Newsletter → Guelph Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Equality Newsletter

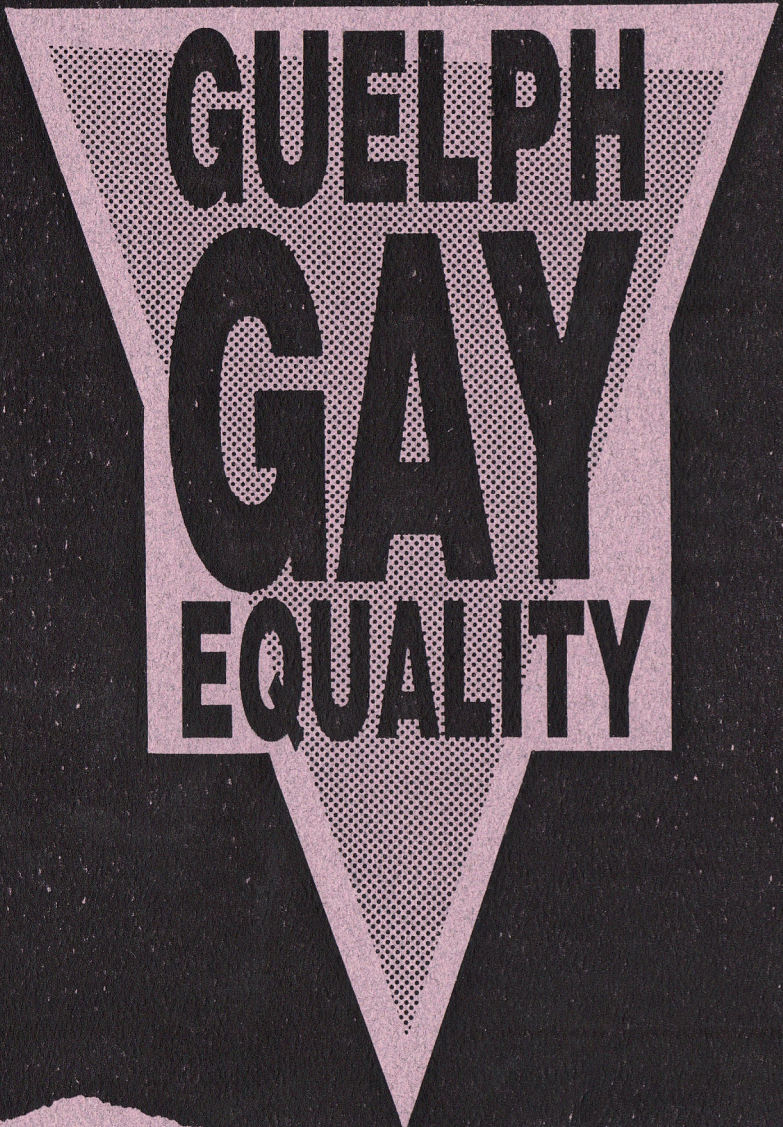
Publishing History: Issued by **Guelph Gay Equality (GGE)** from 1977, May - 1990, August. Issued by **Guelph Gay & Lesbian Equality (GGLE)** from 1990, September - 1993, April. Issued by **Guelph Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Equality (GGLBE)** from 1993, May - 1995, September.

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**GUELPH
GAY
EQUALITY**

NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 1990

Gay rips toilet busts

'DEEPENING CRISIS'

Judge scolded for slap at gays

A DEATH IN THE HUMAN FAMILY I feel compelled to write this because I am angry and deeply saddened by the events of December 6, 1989. A man walked into the engineering building of the University of Montreal and murdered 14 women before killing himself. This tragic event is unlike any other in Canadian history and has coloured our nation forever. This event has also brought home the violent sex-dichotomy that exists in many countries but not in Canada — until now. It also demonstrates, in an extreme way, the violence that women have felt for years and in many forms.

Women are not always subjected to violence involving death, more often to physical and emotional violence of spouses, fathers, brothers, sons, and friends of the family.

This is a deep-seated problem which is rooted far beneath the surface of modern Canadian society.

Sex-biased violence is part of a deep structure in society and is centuries old. Science, for example, began a sex-dichotomy back in the seventeenth century when nature was rejected as having purposes like humans and became an object that could be controlled. Nature was seen as having feminine characteristics while at the same time being mysterious, unpredictable and therefore dangerous. Following logically from this was not only "man's" need to control nature but women as well.

Feminist theory in sociology strives to level the unequal empowerment of groups — particularly between men and women. Feminist theory tries to ensure that all unequal groups have equal input. Elizabeth Fee remarks that, "feminist science should not create artificial distinctions between thought and feeling, between subject and object, or between expert and non-expert. [And we should] seek to integrate all aspects of human experience into our understanding of the natural world".

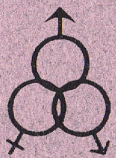
Science is only an example of how the sex dichotomy exists. I don't know the solution and I'm sure it is not simple. I do know that the solution must begin in our hearts. We must strive toward an integrated and equally empowered humanity. For now, we are all quiet and angry people who grieve for the 14 lives lost. My hope for the 1990s is a deeper and more compassionate understanding between all humans.

MISCELLANEOUS AFFAIRS/EVENTS

OMMITTED FROM DECEMBER'S NEWSLETTER Nicole would like to thank the following people in a special way, for their part played in last October's dance, above and beyond the call of duty.

Rob - Cowboy
Marc - Hairdresser
Maureen E.

GGE COMMUNITY OUTREACH Last year we framed the Elora Three Centuries Festival print for the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County. As well, we donated \$50 to Gay and Lesbian Community Appeal.



AIDS COMMITTEE OF GUELPH AND WELLINGTON COUNTY
SUITE 202, 73 DELHI STREET, GUELPH, ONTARIO N1E 6L9
TELEPHONE (519) 763-2255

HOURS: MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

DEBORAH AZIM, SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

AIDS PLAY

NIK TURK'S ALTERNATIVE TOP FIVE

1. BABY DON'T SAY GOOD-BYE - Dead or Alive (-)
2. PUMP UP THE JAM - Technotronic (1)
3. DRAMA! - Erasure (2)
4. LOVE SHACK - B-52s (-)
5. PERSONAL JESUS - Depeche Mode (3)

(-): indicates chart position last month

DO YOU NEED TREATMENT? Gay people get asked some pretty strange questions. Often this is because their interrogators have a narrow, strictly heterosexual view of what is 'normal'. New Internationalist (November 1989) turns the tables and asks heterosexual people some strange questions too...

1. What do you think is the cause of your heterosexuality?
2. When did you first realize that you might be heterosexual?
3. Have you told your parents? What do they think of it?
4. Are there others like you in your family?
5. Would you say that you had an inadequate mother or father figure?
6. Don't you think your heterosexuality might be a phase you are going through?
7. Are you afraid of members of your own sex?
8. Isn't it possible that what you need is a good gay lover?
9. What do you actually do in bed?
10. You put *what where?*
11. But how can people of the opposite sex really please each other when there are such vast emotional and biological differences between them?
12. Although society gives considerable support to the institution of marriage the divorce rate is spirally. Why are there so few stable relationships among heterosexuals?
13. Is it because heterosexuals are so promiscuous?
14. There seem to be very few happy heterosexuals. Have you considered aversion therapy?
15. Why do you feel compelled to seduce others into your sexual activities?
16. Why do you insist on making such a public spectacle of your heterosexuality? Can't you just keep quiet about it?
17. More than 90 per cent of child molesters are thought to be heterosexuals. Would you feel comfortable about entrusting your children's education to heterosexual teachers?
18. Why do people like you emphasize the heterosexual qualities of famous people such as film stars? Is it because you need to validate your own condition?
19. Penetrative sex is most common among heterosexual couples. Aren't you worried about the risk of getting AIDS?
20. If everybody were heterosexual like you what would happen to the world's population? Don't you think it is rather unreasonable and irresponsible to insist on sleeping with people of the opposite sex?

NEVER AGAIN Part III - The final installment by Jason North.

Sam's voice drags me back to the present. "If those men get off free," he says. "I, and some of the others, will help you pay them back."

I wander into the kitchen after Sam hangs up. Brian is in the kitchen chopping onion.

"Sam says to say 'hello. He'll be over later," I tell him.

"Oh, good," Brian replies. "Look. I'm making your favourite. Lasagne."

Both Brian and Mrs. Hudson are worried. In two days I have barely touched anything. I have tried to explain that I have no appetite — but in the end it is easier to let them do as they please. If trying to get me to eat makes them feel better, then who am I to say no?

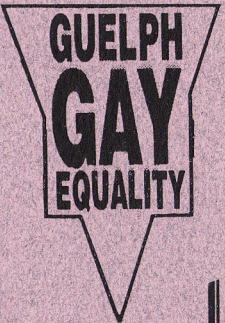
But I don't want food. I want Patrick.

I open the cupboard and start rifling through the herb bottles, medicinals on the left side, poisons on the right. While doing this I come across a small bottle labelled BLOODROOT. Three tablespoons is enough to kill a person. Specifically me.

If Patrick dies, I do not think I can face life without him. I wake in the night, and he is not there and I am left with two hollow spots. One in the bed, the other in my heart. I have rarely slept alone since we met.

"What is that?" Brian asks.

"Bloodroot," I say.



18 October, 1989

Ms. Judith Tresidder
 AIDS Committee of Guelph and
 Wellington County
 73 Delhi Street
 Suite 202
 Guelph, Ontario
 N1E 6L9

Dear Judith:

Please accept the following as a letter of support for the AIDS Committee's application for a fulltime Education Officer.

The fact that the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County exists indicates a need and a desire for such a service group in this area. Since its inception in 1987, the A.C.G.W.C. has provided support and counselling for a number of concerned individuals and groups. Many members of the Guelph Gay Equality have used the AIDS Committee's facilities and services, and many have volunteered their time to help make the A.C.G.W.C. a reality and to help with office work and public displays since its inception. The G.G.E., itself a recognized non-profit organization with Community and Social Service Status for nine of its sixteen year history, recognizes the needs of a similar developing organization. With this in mind, the G.G.E. has made numerous donations to the AIDS Committee, including publishing the newsletter, providing office and support equipment, as well as cash donations.

During the present AIDS Awareness Week emphasis is being placed on educating the public. In light of the present growth of AIDS in certain high-risk groups, education is paramount in our battle against this disease. Only through such education can we hope to clarify the reality of this devastating disease and to dispell damaging myths surrounding AIDS. While the A.C.G.W.C. fulfills a necessary role in the community, it is sadly hampered by the lack of a fulltime Education Officer. Such an individual could increase the impact of the A.C.G.W.C. manifold by devoting all of his or her energy towards supplying factual and hard-hitting evidence to enhance public awareness and to convince people that AIDS is a disease of everyone. Such an individual would provide a community-needs assessment and would plan and implement such forums as sex workshops and drug information seminars. An Education Officer would be a vital link to local education and rehabilitation institutions, such as schools, the Guelph Correctional Centre, and the Stonchenge Therapeutic Community.

On behalf of the executive of the Guelph Gay Equality, I wish you success in your application for a fulltime Education Officer, and look forward to continued co-operation in our battle towards a more enlightened society.

Sincerely,

Lonny D. Coote
 Financial Director

Box 773, Guelph, Ontario N1H 6L8 - Office: 537 University Centre, University Of Guelph
 Gayline: 836-4550 Office: 824-4120 ext. 8575

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 Grand River Free Spirit Community Church 2 p.m. Robin's Nest, Cambridge*	8	9 GGE Social Night 8 p.m. UC 536	10	11 " " as above	12	13
14 GRFS as above	15	16 GGE AIDS Committee Info Day 8 p.m. UC 536	17 We are Everywhere CFRU 93.3FM 12:30 & 5 p.m.	18 " " as above	19 GEM Dance Clarke Hall 161 Lakeshore W. Mississauga	20 GG Network Sleigh Ride \$8/person 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
21 GRFS as above	22	23 GGE Guest Speaker Dr. Gary Gibson 8 p.m. UC 536	24	25 " " as above	26 GGE Dance Polish Hall 5 Empire St.	27 GG Network Toronto Trip to La Cage \$20/person Depart 1 p.m.
28 GRFS as above	29	30 GGE Games Night 8 p.m. UC 536	31 We are Everywhere as above	* Call Brian for Details 741- WOODS call Lisa 579- [redacted]		

"You put that right back into the cupboard." There is a note of commiseration in Brian's voice. We were room-mates for a long time, Brian knows about my collection of poisons. "Don't you go getting ideas about suicide. Losing Patrick is bad enough. I don't think I could stand losing you as well."

I brew a cup of rosehip tea and start to carry it to the living room.

A sudden breeze, carrying the smells of the damp, rainy night, billows the curtains in the open hall window. On that breeze there is another smell. The smell of ozone and — cologne? Patrick's cologne.

The cup slips out of my hand and shatters.

I stand there. I am in shock. I don't feel anything. I can't feel anything. I watch as a perfect stranger leans over a chair, picks up a pale green sweater and crushes it to himself. Trying in that action, to get some last scent of the person who owned it. The person who is dead.

The phone rings again, but I am rooted to the spot. Mrs. Hudson finally answers it. And when she turns to me, her face tells me everything.

"Jason," she says, "I don't know how to tell you this. Patrick is —"

"Dead. I know."

"Oh, Jason, I'm so sorry."

The scream is there. I can feel it building. It will shatter the world and I want it to. Nothing is left, nothing but vengeance. Goddess, how I hate you all! I am beyond hate — there is no word for what I feel. I would cheerfully see every single person in this miserable little mudball burned alive. If I had those men under my hand I would rip their throats out!

But that will not change one essential fact.

Patrick is gone, and there is no way to bring him back.

"Never again!" I howl. "Never again will I sit back and let someone do my fighting for me! Never again will I let someone that close to me! You have not won yet, for there is one more of us who will fight. I am through with pacifism. I will fight so that no one need go through this again! This I swear in the memory of my dead lover! Never again!"

Then the tears come. Through them I can see Brian. There are tears standing in his eyes as well. And between us are the shattered remains of the cup Patrick gave to me for our first anniversary.

The rosehip tea looks like blood on the floor.

A JOKE An English lady, making plans to visit Switzerland, wrote to a small hotel for a room. She requested that she wished her room as close as possible to a "W.C." (water-closet or toilet)... The innkeeper took the letter to the parish priest for the interpretation of "W.C." After some thought the priest said. "I know, she means our Wayside Chapel". Pleased, the innkeeper hastened to write the lady:

"Dear Madam: It is with great pleasure that I am able to inform you that we have a lovely room reserved for your visit and that there is a "W.C." to attend to your daily devotions. It is located only two miles from the Inn in a beautiful grove of pine trees which gives a feeling of serenity to the visitor. We will be most pleased to arrange transportation for you during your stay with us. It may surprise you to know that our "W.C. holds more than 200 people at a sitting and for the convenience of tourists it is open on Thursdays as well as Saturdays. It is a good idea to go as early as possible to the "W.C." in order to get a good seat as sometimes standing room only is available, which is especially hard on some of the older ladies... On Sundays a good number of people take picnic-lunches and make a day of it while others take a bus or a horse carriage and usually arrive only just on time. I would recommend, Madam, to arrange to go on Thursday evening when there are no regular services but there is organ accompaniment... Although the building dates back to the 12th century, the acoustics are excellent and even the most delicate sounds may be heard in the halls. It may also interest you to know that our daughter first met her future husband, a hotel guest, in the "W.C." and they were later married there. We are also very proud of our unusual bell, donated by a wealthy American visitor, which rings every time someone makes an unusually large offering. Unfortunately my wife has a rather delicate condition and so she has not been able to attend regularly. As a matter of fact, it is almost a year now since she last went... Naturally it pains her very much not to be able to go more often, as you can imagine. So please let me know if you wish a special seat reserved for you for the season. There is a small service charge in the "W.C." but it will ensure you an upholstered seat. We also suggest you bring your camera as the evening candle lighting ceremony in the "W.C." is very colorful and it is a memorable sight to see the light playing on the fountains... Some come with cheer, some with charity, but all leave satisfied".

Your obedient servant, The Innkeeper.

Submitted by Daniel B.

GUELPH
GAY
EQUALITY

October 24, 1989.

Mr. Martin Williams,
President,
Central Student Association,
University Centre,
University of Guelph,
Guelph, Ont.

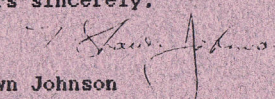
Dear sir:

As we communicated to you recently, a member of our organization was subjected to harrasment by members of the University Bible Studies/Great Commission Church earlier this year.

This event took place on March 28, 1989. Shortly after 10 p.m. as our regular weekly meeting was breaking up, two men (later identified as being David Moore and another member of the Church) entered the OTAS Lounge and requested that a member of our group accompany them out into the hallway. This individual had been involved to a limited extent in the Great Commission Church in the recent past. Mr. Moore and his partner then proceeded to interrogate this individual about why he was at our meeting. Our member became quite agitated, told the pair that it was none of their business, and returned to the Lounge. The pair entered the Lounge again and a loud scene occurred. Other members of our group, who were at first unclear as to what was happening, came to the defence of this person, at which point the Church members left.

We do not wish to publicize the name of the person who was victimized in this way, as our events are normally one of the few places that lesbians and gay men in this community can go for confidential peer support. However, I or another member of the our organization would be willing to discuss this matter further with you.

Yours sincerely,


Shawn Johnson

Box 773, Guelph, Ontario N1H 6L8 — Office: 537 University Centre, University Of Guelph
Gayline: 836-4550 Office: 824-4120 ext. 8575

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BOWLING SCORES

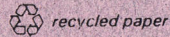
5 Pin		10 Pin	
David	155	Lisa	103
Marty	139	Steve	95
Peter	134	Gerard	95
Daniel	63	Shawn	94
Joe	95	Paul	44
Geoff	113	Nathan	80

GGE MEMBERSHIP A GGE membership entitles you to a free GGE dance admission, voting privileges, discounts at GEM, GLOW and CLGRO affiliated activities and GGE newsletter free in the mail. Get yours today, only \$12.00. Help support the GGE!

GGE T—SHIRTS Would you like your very own GGE T—Shirt? They cost \$10.00. See Marty and get your GGE T—shirt.

PUBLICATIONS The GGE office receives regular issues of Xtra, Rites, RFD, LGYT newsletter, HUGS newsletter, HALO newsletter, GLO Niagara newsletter, GO Info and several others. Check out these and our library — all available in the GGE office.

DANCE LOCATION Polish Hall, 5 Empire St. Guelph, 9 p.m.



DEADLINE

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER MUST BE RECEIVED BY:
January 19, 1990

The GGE Newsletter is published monthly by the GGE. Typesetting and layout -
CSA Graphics. Editing, Marty Russell.

RITES

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