

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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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

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**GUELPH
GAY &
LESBIAN
EQUALITY**

NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER 1990



RAISING AWARENESS Picture the inevitable annual employee picnic. You are invited to attend this function and are asked to bring your spouse or a date. No problem--right? Wrong! What are you to do? Should you go alone or graciously decline? You've only missed all of the past five picnics. And just how many more "deaths" can conveniently coincide with the dreaded event. So you decide this year to bring your POSSSLQ (Person of the same sex sharing same living quarters). You imagine the coronary your boss will likely suffer when you introduce your "friend". In another scenario, you imagine introducing him as your gay lover. It will likely go over about as well as saying you are an Iraqi terrorist. Homophobia. It's too bad Hollywood hasn't considered making a movie of this. It would have a catchy slogan-- a person with an attitude. I'll show them attitude. Just go to any gay bar. . .but I digress.

What is it that makes "them" so fearful of "us"? Why is there a "them" and an "us"? In a series of public and classroom forums the issue of being gay, lesbian, or bisexual and what that means in terms of daily living will be discussed early this month. October 9 to 11 has been designated as BGLAD (Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Awareness Days) at the University of Guelph. On another equally positive note, I expect that it was no accident that BGLAD should coincide so closely with AIDS Awareness Week (October 15 to 21) officially proclaimed by the Ontario government. It may seem like 'overkill' to some but perhaps that is what "they" need to hear to notice "us". Together, these two events are designed to help raise awareness. On the one hand, a series of discussions are planned which hopefully will dispell some of the myths of homosexuality and bisexuality. Yet on the other hand, some highly entertaining and some very sombre events have been organized to demonstrate that AIDS knows no boundaries. It is a disease that has and will continue to affect us all whether directly or indirectly. Although it is slowly becoming less of a death sentence that it originally was, it still is greatly misunderstood but it is hoped that AAW will help clarify some of these misconceptions.

Of course none of these events will be successful without proper advertising. So if this issue of the newsletter seems especially heavy with listings of scheduled events please bear with us. Raising awareness about our sexuality and that AIDS is a reflection of poorly understood attitudes towards sex, both are issues that are so important they deserve star billing. Besides, some very interesting events are planned so let's show some support and attend them. Perhaps you may even see me during BGLAD in front of a classroom (wondering just what it is I'm doing there). In closing, while it would be too much to hope for that as a result of these events **everyone** will suddenly become more tolerant to people's differences and less cavalier about acting out their sexual desires, educating even one individual will demonstrate that we made a difference.

Peter

GAYCARE In an earlier newsletter (see the July issue), we discussed a program geared to individuals who wished to become more involved in some in-depth discussions concerning homosexuality. We have recently learned that due to some unexpected delays, we will have to postpone this program until January. As news of this program's ability to operate becomes known the information will be made available to you. We hope this has not inconvenienced anyone unduly.

THE SEXUALITY OF SPORTS Do you remember the fuss that was raised over the issue of the Italian soccer coach telling his players that sexual abstinence would make them the victors in this year's World Cup? Or perhaps some of us remember the 1964 Japanese women's volleyball team that somehow managed to pass the year without any intimate contact with men. Following that same logic, it is often assumed in team sports that the absence of members of the opposite sex will miraculously result in no sexual activity occurring. Wake up people--this is the 1990's not the 1890's. In his book, *The Arena of Masculinity: Sport, Homosexuality and the Meaning of Sex*, author Brian Pronger discusses these and other issues as seen in the following quotation:

"One man bends over, while another from behind puts his hands between the inclined man's legs, grasps a ball that's shaped like a large testicle and attempts to throw it to another man.

Everybody wants the ball. Men along the line of scrimmage press themselves against each other enthusiastically. Then, as a man on the field runs with the ball, many others run after him, trying to grab him. The play climaxes with men lying on top of each other, the testicle-shaped ball forming the nucleus of this masculine clutch. When the time is up, the boys go back to the locker room, take their clothes off again and shower together."

The author states that he doesn't think that men who like sports are necessarily gay but that the "homoeotericism of sport is a structural manifestation of our culture, a culture that has made men and women unequal, thereby making truly egalitarian relations between them virtually impossible." The author furthermore questions: whethr people think sport is truly a heterosexual world or whether by remaining silent, as in other areas, that they are confirming what we already secretly know to be true. This book, scheduled to be released in September, will be co-published by St. Martin's Press and Summerhill Press.

(Excerpted from *The Globe and Mail*, July 7, 1990)

BISEXUAL, GAY, AND LESBIAN AWARENESS DAYS (BGLAD)

If you require further information pertaining to BGLAD, call Shawn Lucas at the University of Guelph (519) 824-4120 ext. 6919.

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October 9-11

Classroom Forums Several people will be speaking to introductory psychology, sociology, and other relevant courses on topical issues.

October 9

Homophobia and Heterosexism in the university and college setting Speaker: Kathy Jones, U.C. 103 (2:00 p.m.)

Svend Robinson, MP Svend will speak in Peter Clark Hall (8:00 p.m.). Join him at the Bullring after his speech.

Books for sale from Glad Day Bookstore and video display U.C. Courtyard all day.

October 10

Faith Nolan Upstairs at the Albion (10:00 p.m.). Tickets are \$8 in advance.

Books for sale from Glad Day Bookstore and video display U.C. Courtyard all day.

October 11

Blue Jeans Day Wear yours in support of Gays and Lesbians.



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

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WE ARE EVERYWHERE This radio talkshow is featured on CFRU 93.3 FM at 5:45 p.m. Please contact Shawn at ext. 6919 if you wish to contribute to the show.

GENERAL POLICY The GGLE Newsletter is published monthly by the Guelph Gay and Lesbian Equality, P.O. Box 773, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6L8. Typesetting and layout are completed by CSA Graphics. The newsletter's purpose is to keep members informed about GGLE activities, to present issues of particular interest to the lesbian and gay community in the Guelph area, and to provide a forum for discussion. All submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and will be considered for publication. Opinions expressed in submissions are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the GGLE executive or its membership. Submissions may be edited for printability, readability, and length while attempting not to change their content. Names of the contributors should be included but will not be published without their express consent. Where a decision to exclude a submission must be made due to insufficient space, members' submissions will receive preference over non-members.

GGLE MEMBERSHIP A GGLE membership entitles you to *REDUCED* (\$2.00) dance admission, voting privileges, discounts at GEM, GLOW and CLGRO affiliated activities and GGLE newsletter free in the mail. Get yours today, only \$12.00. Help support the GGLE!

DEADLINE

Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by: October 23, 1990

MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES FOR 1990

Full page	\$25.00
Half page	\$15.00
Quarter page	\$10.00
Eighth page	\$5.00

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