

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

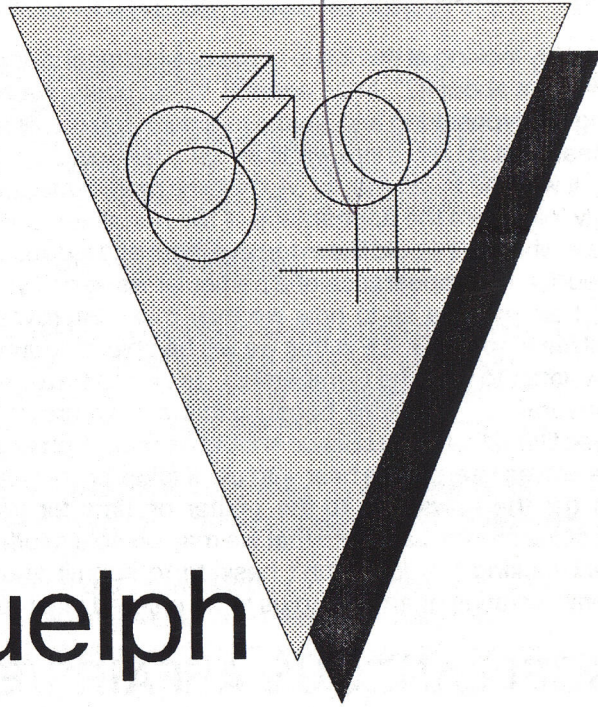
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Guelph Gay and Lesbian Equality

Newsletter for January 1991

NEWS

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

You're probably looking at this issue of the newsletter and thinking to yourself, "What's different about it?" In an attempt to cut costs, we are in the process of changing our typesetting and layout to a desk-top publishing environment. This will mean that initially there will likely be a few 'glitches' that we will have to iron out. It will also mean that as we become more familiar with the software, we will likely 'play' with the appearance of the newsletter until we are satisfied with it. This is where we would like extensive input and feedback from members. Tell us if you like the appearance of a particular issue or if you dislike it; and if so, suggest alternatives as to how we may make improvements. What this change will mean to the GGLE is that we will be able to continue to offer a high quality newsletter to you, the membership, as well as have some more control over its appearance. Therefore, because this is a venture into new territory for us, it seemed fitting that the first issue should be printed on virginal white paper! If this issue arrives late, please bear with us. It takes time to learn a new system as well as get the newsletter to the printer on time for mailing before the beginning of the month. Lastly, so that we may be able to offer content as well as a decent looking product, don't hesitate to submit your stories, letters, essays, commentaries or artwork to us to be entered into the next newsletter.

MISCELLANEOUS AFFAIRS/EVENTS

INTRODUCTIONS

It's Christmas Eve and you're going to your parents for a tree-trimming party or whatever it is you do on that evening and you bring along your "spouse". You get to the door, you realize that this may not be the best time to do this (even though your parents know you're gay), but you've spoken often of your "spouse" and up until now there just wasn't enough time to make formal introductions. You enter the house. Your parents saw you coming up the drive so they anticipated your arrival. You greet your mother and father with a bear-

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

HOURS: MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
DEBORAH AZIM, SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

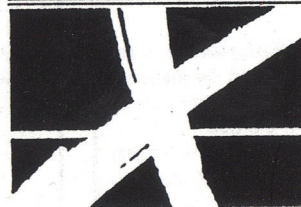


hug and a brief peck on the cheek. Then comes the moment you've put off for weeks. "Mom, Dad, I'd like you to meet Doug, my mmmffnphh." The rest is lost in an uncontrollable fit of coughing as you attempt to think of a title for your "spouse."

In straight society, you could easily have used the term 'girlfriend' or, if there's more commitment, 'fiancee'. But for a gay male or a lesbian, the language geared to straight relationships offers you few choices. You could use the classic term 'lover'. Some people have said that 'lover' is a term that you can use to describe someone with whom you're having an intimate relationship but the connotation to others is that this title refers to someone you're seeing in addition to your "spouse"--more often on the sly. But this is more a dictionary definition that, of course, doesn't yet recognize lesbian or gay relationships. 'Partner' is also a recent term that some people have adopted. Personally, I think this sounds too much like a business arrangement and unless that's the type of relationship I'm involved in, I prefer not to refer to someone whom I know intimately in that manner.

Ann Landers once presented a poem, written by a reader, that described the writer's POSSLQ (Persons of Opposite Sex Sharing Living Quarters). A gay version could read POSSSLQ where the acronym would be Persons of Same Sex Sharing Living Quarters. Just picture it, "Hi Mom, meet my POSSSLQ." I think not. Other titles that have been suggested are: 'My ball and chain'; 'My soul mate' (it's non-threatening and sounds respectable); or 'My fuck-buddy' (I suppose if that's the type of relationship you're in then it's probably highly appropriate. It's not a term I'd feel comfortable using for someone I've been living with for many years however. Besides, mum would probably have a coronary if I spoke of Doug that way.) I've heard of people talking of 'My husband/wife' (used in whatever context for their same sex "spouses") but to me it just seems odd to call your "spouse" "my husband" when she's female! Or better yet, I was once asked in reference to Doug, "how's the wife?". "Wife? That's odd, the last time I checked he still appeared male to me," was my response.

The problem does not seem to be identifying whom we are dating or living with nor having to introduce them while still giving them the respect they deserve as well as calling them by name. Instead the problem seems to focus on having to



XTRA!

Your key to Toronto's
lesbian and gay community

Available at the Bookshelf Cafe, Quebec St.,
Guelph and the GGLE office.

fit a lesbian or gay relationship into a language designed for a straight society. Shouldn't we therefore strive to find an alternative solution? But where do we start? Perhaps as our relationships become more formally recognized, vocabulary will be developed that we can use comfortably in any social setting. In the meantime we're put into a quandary. To our friends and family, we may simply refer to our "spouse" by first name and depending how comfortable we are with making the distinction refer to them as our boyfriend or girlfriend as the case dictates. Our personal comfort level should dictate how we make the introduction (nothing too earth shattering in that thought!). As an attempt to educate others, however, we should strive to make efforts to use the wording our straight language provides us with, however poor it may be. Who knows, the term 'lover' may then come into vogue amongst the straight community to include lesbian and gay relationships.

What is your opinion on this topic? Is it important to you or your "spouse" how you introduce one another beyond using your first names? And if you have a particular name you use for your "spouse", what is it? We're interested in your opinion on these questions so call us at the office line, write us, or leave a note for myself (Peter) and we'll publish your responses in next month's newsletter.

WE ARE EVERYWHERE

This radio talkshow is featured every Thursday on CFRU 93.3 FM at 5:45 pm. The focus of past shows has been to interview people on their experience of coming out, dealing with discrimination, and other topical issues. Please contact Shawn at (519) 824-4120 ext 6919 if you wish to contribute to the show.

ELECTIONS

Yes it's that time of year again to think of nominations for your very own GGLE executive. Several members will not be running so now's the time to think of nominating someone--yourself perhaps!



PHONE NUMBERS OF INTEREST

GGLE--GAYLINE	(519) 836-4550	GLLOW	(519) 884-GLOW [4569]
GGLE--OFFICE	(519) 824-4120 (ext.8575)	GRFS	(519) 570-
GEM (Gary)	(416) 332-	PFLAG (Mary Jones)	(416) 457-
WGLA--GAYLINE	(519) 438-4329		

HOT RAP

SEXUALLY ACTIVE OR THINKING ABOUT IT?

What about SAFER SEX?

*What exactly is it?

*How do I talk to a sexual partner about it?

*How can it improve my sexual encounters?

*How do I make sure I always practice it?

HOT RAP may be the key!

HOT RAP is an education/discussion series which runs one evening a week for eight weeks or as a weekend workshop. The goal of the series is to tackle the above questions, and many more, in a fun and informative manner.

The series is available in various forms with groups for: gay men, heterosexual men, heterosexual women, or lesbians.

For more information or to sign up, contact Marnie Neve, Education Co-ordinator, at the AIDS Committee of Guelph & Wellington County (519) 763-2255

ACCKWA proudly presents
AN EVENING OF OPERA

featuring

Glyn Evans, Esther Farrel
Marcos Pujol, Elizabeth Stofko
Stephanie Kramer, Kirk Lackenbauer
and the
Knox Presbyterian Choir

Saturday, 12 January 1991 at 7:30 pm
at Knox Presbyterian Church
50 Erb Street West, Waterloo

Tickets are available at the following locations:

Words Worth Books (Waterloo)

The Bookshelf Cafe (Guelph)

Knox Presbyterian Church (Waterloo)

ACCKWA (Kitchener)

A reception will follow the performance.
Tickets are \$10.00 (GST exempt).

Call (519) 741-8300 for further information and ticket reservation.

GENERAL POLICY

The GGLE Newsletter is published monthly by the Guelph Gay and Lesbian Equality, P.O. Box 773, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6L8. 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 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.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All camera ready advertisement will be considered for inclusion in the newsletter. The appearance of any ad in the newsletter should not be construed as official approval of it by the GGLE. If you have responded to an advertisement and feel that it was in any way fraudulent, please notify the GGLE executive as soon as possible. The GGLE reserves the right to limit the amount of advertising sold in the newsletter.

DEADLINE

Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by 21 January 1991.

1991 MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES

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

GGLE MEMBERSHIP

A GGLE membership entitles you to *reduced* (\$2.00) dance admission, voting privileges, discounts at GEM, GLOW, and CLGRO affiliated activities as well as a copy of this newsletter sent to you in the mail (in a plain brown envelope). Get your membership today; still available for only \$12.00. Help support the GGLE!

THE GAYLINE (519) 836-4550
STAFFED MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY
FROM 7:30 TO 9:30 PM
OFFICE PHONE (519) 824-4120 (ext. 8575)
