

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 October 1991

Recycle or pass along to a friend when you're finished reading this newsletter.

AIDS Awareness Week '91: The Quilt

As a fore-runner to AIDS Awareness Week '91 (7-13 October 1991), the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County will be hosting the only regional exhibit this fall of the Names Project Quilt, a memorial to those who have died of AIDS.

The Quilt presently covers over 10 000 square feet of individual quilts and will be shown at the Armories on Wyndham Street in Guelph on October 4th, 5th, and 6th. Opening ceremonies for the Quilt will be held on October 4th at 7 pm.

The Quilt has travelled across Canada and represents Canadians who have died of AIDS. It was started in 1988 in Canada as a companion to the American quilt which has grown to a size that cannot be accommodated in most cities.

The Guelph showing of the Quilt will be one of the few occasions the entire Canadian exhibit will be on display since the Armories main hall floor is large enough to fit the panels without any obstructions.

The community is being approached to help raise funds to offset the costs of bringing the Quilt to Guelph. The City of Guelph, the United Way and the Ministry of Health already have contributed nearly \$5 000 to help the project. More organizations will be approached throughout the next few months. At least \$8 000 is needed

by the AIDS Committee to defray costs of the Quilt memorial. Donations are encouraged from the public between now and October when the Quilt arrives. During the exhibit donations will also be accepted.

Many volunteers from the Community have been working diligently to organize the Quilt's showing in Guelph. At the time of this printing, it is not certain whether more volunteers will still be needed. Anyone who would like to volunteer with the project or make a contribution can contact Gloria Laird at the ACGWC office at (519) 763-2255.

Gay rights at Lotus

Lotus Development Corp. is offering employee benefits to partners of its homosexual employees in a move the computer software company said was the first of its kind for a major U.S. company. The plan calls for homosexual employees and their live-in partners to sign contracts saying they have a long-term commitment. That qualifies them for the same benefits offered to married employee's spouses, including medical and dental care, vision and hearing coverage, and bereavement leave.

from The Financial Post, 09/09/91

Thanks to all the recent donations by GGLE members . . . for:

- Covering the mailing costs of the pamphlet *Coming out to your parents*
- Office Supplies
- An anonymous cash donation of \$88.00; and
- The regular donation of food and beverages at our weekly meetings

Your contributions have been greatly welcomed and have not gone unnoticed.

Out in the Classroom: Lesbians and Gays in Education

A two-day conference on lesbo/homophobia in the education system

This conference, which will be held the weekend of the **9th and 10th of November 1991 at the University of Guelph**. The conference will address issues pertinent to lesbians and gays who are in some way affected by lesbo/homophobia and heterosexism within the education system. The format will involve Panel Discussions and Workshops conducted by individuals drawn from the educational system. These discussions will be concluded by Plenary Discussions designed to formulate a working plan or proposal to help address our concerns.

Panel discussions will address a broad overview of homophobia, heterosexism, and lesbophobia, the experiences of lesbians and gays within the educational system and with homophobia, and lobbying the Ministry and Boards of Education.

The proposed workshop topics are as follows:

- Changes in curricula
- Coming Out and Positive Role Models
- Counselling and crisis intervention
- Discrimination/harassment of openly gay/lesbian teachers/students
 - Grassroots organizing and lesbian/gay support networks
- Sex education and Health Issues
- Homophobia in legal education

The number of workshops offered will depend on the availability of facilitators and/or participants. Some workshops may be offered for one day only.

Who should attend?

Any staff, faculty, students, members of school boards, administrators, or policy-makers who have been or are currently affected by lesbo/homophobia.

A final schedule of events will be published in next month's newsletter.
There will be a dance on the Saturday evening in UC 103.

*Sponsored by the Coalition for Lesbian & Gay Rights in Ontario (CLGRO)
and co-hosted by Guelph Gay and Lesbian Equality (GGLE)*

*For further information, call Tom Warner at the CLGRO office: (416) 533-6824
or call the Gayline for updates on scheduling of events: (519) 836-4550*

October 1991

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

| Phone Numbers of Interest | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| GGLE--GAYLINE (519) 836-4550 GGLE--Office (519) 824-4120 ext.8575 GEM (416) 278- WGLA--GAYLINE (519) 438-4329 ACCKWA (519) 748-5556 | | GGLE Volunteer Night 8 pm UC 536 | GLLOW Night Modern Languages Bldg. Room 104, University of Waterloo 9 'til 11pm | Gaywire CIUT 89.5 FM 7 'til 8 pm GEM Coffee House Unitarian Hall 84 S. Service Road Mississauga. 8 pm | ACGWC The Quilt Part of AAW '91 The Armouries Wyndham Road Guelph | ACGWC The Quilt Part of AAW '91 The Armouries Wyndham Road Guelph |
| ACGWC The Quilt Part of AAW '91 The Armouries Wyndham Road Guelph GRFS as below | AIDS Awareness Week '91 7 - 13 October | GGLE Movie Night PBS: "In the Shadow of Love" Documentary of a teen with AIDS 8 pm UC 536 | GLLOW Night as above | Gaywire as above GEM as above | | |
| Grand River Free Spirit Community Church Service held at Unitarian Fellowship House 7:00pm 136 Allen St. E., Waterloo Call GRFS office for any changes | | GGLE Discussion Night Internalized Homophobia 8 pm UC 536 | GLLOW Night as above | Gaywire as above GEM as above | | |
| GRFS as above | | GGLE Social Night 8 pm UC 536 Deadline for November newsletter | GLLOW Night as above | Gaywire as above GEM as above | GGLE Hallowe'en Dance Anniversary Party for the GGLE The School House 611 Silvercreek Parkway Guelph 9 pm 'til 1 am | |
| GRFS as above | BGLAD 28 - 30 October | BGLAD Keynote Speaker's address 8 pm Peter Clark Hall GGLE Social Night 8 pm UC 536 | | | More Phone Numbers GLLOW (519) 884-GLOW [4569] GRFS (519) 570- PFLAG (Mary Jones) (416) 457- ACGWC (519) 763-2255 Remember to call the GGLE Gayline for updates on any calendar events! | |

Homosexuals campaign for rights in Soviet Union

Soviet gay and lesbian activists opened their first public conference in Moscow in late July with the message that sexual minorities in the Soviet Union still suffer from discrimination and human rights abuses despite more than half a decade of reform.

The conference, jointly organized by several U.S. and Soviet gay rights groups, began the last week of July in Leningrad [now St. Petersburg] and moved to the Soviet capital on the eve of the U.S.-Soviet summit.

Among the delegates, Canadian MP Svend Robinson, was scheduled to address the conference. Homosexuality is still taboo in Soviet society, and sodomy is outlawed in the Russian republic's criminal code (in Canada, sodomy is not a crime if conducted between consenting adults). Apart from criminal sanctions, there is a high degree of intolerance toward homosexuality in Soviet society at large, and attacks on gay men occur regularly.

Gay culture has spawned its own Russian euphemisms: a gay man is a *goluboy* (meaning, literally, light blue) and to beat up gays is to perform *remont* (literally, repairs).

"To be gay [in the Soviet Union] is absolutely the lowest form of degradation," said one Soviet conference organizer, who asked not to be named. "It's better to be alcoholic, or a drug user, or a criminal or murderer."

He said that although *perestroika* has brought some improvement in respect for human rights in the Soviet Union, reform has not changed attitudes toward sexuality and sexual orientation. "If one speaks of human rights, the one remaining question

is the issue of homosexuality in the Soviet Union," he said.

"A person living in a totalitarian society has no right to sexual self-determination," Roman Kalinin, president of the Moscow Union of Lesbians and Gay Men and editor-in-chief of the newspaper *Tema*, told several hundred delegates at the conference. "But we're proud of what we are, and we're not going to let any government take away our rights."

Mr. Kalinin came to national prominence this year when he was nominated for the Russian presidency as the candidate of the Soviet Libertarian Party. Running under the irreverent campaign slogan "An appropriate government for a country of fools," he was beaten up by unidentified assailants during the election campaign and spent several days in hospital in May.

Activists say the threat of violence continues. Conference organizers, fearing random attacks from antigay groups, hired karate experts from a private security firm to guard the event. They also kept secret the location of the hotel where delegates would be staying until the eve of the conference's opening.

Still, problems did crop up. The day before, the restaurant that organizers had booked for the farewell gala mysteriously cancelled their reservations.

Despite the obstacles, the conferences appeared to be well attended. A film festival accompanying the event, featuring such movies as *My Beautiful Laundrette* and *Maurice*, had already sold 16 000 tickets in Moscow by the end of the first day.

"This makes it the fifth-largest lesbian and gay film festival in the world," said Thomas DiMaria, who organized the event, noting that it was the first of its kind in the Soviet Union. "Not bad for a first try."

For Venyamin Volnov, a delegate from

the Siberian city of Barnaul, the conference was a revelation. "I was stunned to learn that there was an organization of parents and friends of gays," he said. "It's incredible that there are people who defend gays."

from *The Globe and Mail*, 30/07/91

Texas Group makes area debut

The Texas foursome, Two Nice Girls, will make its first appearance in the Waterloo area when it performs at Maryhill's Commercial Tavern on Friday, 18 October. The show starts at 9 pm.

The folk-rock group is currently on a tour of the eastern United States with selected stops in southern Ontario. Although relatively new to southern Ontario audiences, the group has been gaining a wide following south of the border. Their last US tour in April of this year saw them perform

to sold-out shows in New York, Chicago, Ann Arbor, and Kansas City. Their video of the song *Let's go bonding*, has received airplay on MuchMusic, and earlier this year the Village Voice Jazz and Pop Critics Poll named *Chloe Liked Olivia*, their latest release, Best EP recording.

Two Nice Girls has gained a reputation for songs that pursue a radical view of sexuality. There is nothing hesitant about this band and its instincts. On *Chloe Liked Olivia*, their third release on Rough Trade Records, the styles range from hard-hitting, in-your-face guitar crunch to lush, acoustic-driven melodies. Topically, the songs run the gamut from sex and power to hope and revenge. The album follows last year's *Like A Version*, and their self-titled, 1989 Rough Trade debut.

Producer/percussionist Michael Blair includes in his credits drumming and co-arranging with Tom Waits, Elvis Costello, and Lou Reed. He has worked extensively with Hal Willner and has played on albums

A Special note of thanks . . .

to The Baker Street Bistro

for donating food to our September '91 Dance. It was greatly appreciated!

To all GGLE members. Did you know that 20 cents of every beer or soft-drink purchased at The Baker Street Bistro on Tuesday evenings will be donated to the GGLE? When you show your membership card to the Bistro staff at the time you pay your tab, your patronage will benefit us as well!



XTRA!

Your key to Toronto's
lesbian and gay community

by Leo Kottke, Shawn Colvin, and Suzanne Vega.

Two Nice Girls was formed in 1985 by Gretchen Phillips, Kathy Korniloff, and Laurie Freelove (who departed just after the band's first record was released). The band first came to the attention of Rough Trade founder Geoff Travis in 1987.

Two Nice Girls is booked by Fleming/Tamulevich and Associates of Ann Arbor, Michigan. The band has been touring regularly throughout the United States since December 1990, and has performed at the Winnipeg Folk Festival and at the Purcell Room in London.

For more information, or to arrange an interview, please contact Mary Joy Aitken at (519) 570-1129 (in Kitchener). **Two Nice Girls** will be appearing in concert Friday, 18 October 1991 at 9 pm at The Commercial Tavern, 3 Church Street North, Maryhill. Call (519) 648-3125 for information. Tickets are \$10.00 each and are on sale at The Commercial Tavern, HMV Records in Waterloo, Dr. Disc in Kitchener, and the Women's Bookstop in Hamilton.

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 to 5:00 pm

Deborah Azim, Support Co-ordinator



It's our Birthday !!!

Come out and celebrate the
17th anniversary of the
inception of the GGLE at our
October Dance (which just
happens to be our Hallowe'en
Dance as well!)
Hope to see you there . . .

GGLE Newsletter

The GGLE Newsletter is published monthly by the **Guelph Gay and Lesbian Equality**, P.O. Box 773, Guelph, ON, N1H 6L8; (519) 824-4120 ext 8575. All submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and will be considered for publication. Opinions expressed in any articles or letters are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the GGLE executive or its membership. Direct your submissions or any inquiries c/o **The GGLE Executive** to the above address. Please note that names of contributors should be included but will not be used without their express consent.

Deadline

Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by **22 October 1991**.

Monthly Advertising

All camera ready advertising will be considered for inclusion in the newsletter. For inquiries into monthly advertising rates, please send your correspondence c/o **Peter Fryns** to the above address. The GGLE reserves the right to limit the amount of advertising sold in the newsletter.

The Gayline (519) 836-4550

staffed Mondays through Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm

office phone (519) 824-4120 (ext. 8575)