

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 March 1992

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

Some parting words

Well, it had to happen eventually. This will be the last newsletter that I will be editing in my official capacity as Publicity Director. That does not mean, however, that my involvement with the GGLE or this newsletter will end. As I have indicated to the rest of the executive members, I will continue to make myself available to do the typesetting for this publication. Of course, if someone decides that as the new Publicity Director, they wish to take over these duties, I will be more than willing to show them how I go about doing it. The past year especially has been very busy for me, both at work and with my volunteer commitments. This in part contributed to my decision not to continue volunteering my time on the GGLE Executive.

Putting this newsletter together has given me great insight into the inner-workings of

a volunteer based organization such as the GGLE. The past year, but more so the summer, were particularly stressful for all of the executive members. We were not only struggling to balance our rather precarious financial situation, but also trying to overcome what seemed to be a general malaise within the group. We still have further to go but I think that the worst is behind us. I urge people to reflect on what it is that brought them to this group in the first place and then see what it is they can do for it in return.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind GGLE members of the importance of coming out to vote at the executive elections on 10 March 1992. This organization depends on the direct input of volunteers and cannot survive without them. It is our collective energy that has contributed to the survival of this group for the past 18 years. Let's make the following 18 years equally successful.

Peter



See you at Thirty-three MAC

for the next GGLE dance . . .

Friday, March 27
33 MacDonnell Street, Guelph
9 pm 'til 1 am
Light snacks will be served

The Campus Closet

Life in the closet is for some a brief and innocuous experience. For many others, however, it can be the most brutalizing experience imaginable. But just what are the implications of life in the closet for those who pursue the avenues of higher learning? The paper, *The Campus Closet*, which was published by the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) in June of 1991, looks in detail at this very issue as well as what it means to be out on campus. What follows is an overview of the general themes of the paper. If you wish to read the paper in its entirety, contact one of the GGLE executive members to either borrow it or to find out how you can acquire your personal copy. It is a document that all of us should consider having in our possession.

Homophobia on campus is something which we face daily. Posters that the GGLE has placed on designated boards have either been defaced or removed. At McMaster University, their main bookstore was forced to remove *The Joy of Gay Sex* and *The Joy of Lesbian Sex* from its shelves as a result of complaints from an anthropology professor who found them to be "two of the most disgusting books I've ever seen on sale anywhere." In Montreal a 23-year-old McGill University student and gay activist Joe Rose was attacked and killed on a bus in March of 1989 by a gang of 10 to 15 youths. While only a small sampling of homophobia on campus, the message is quite clear: It's not safe to be out on campus.

Lesbophobia is different from homophobia insofar that it is not a reaction by society that is simply based on sex. There often are few or no safe havens for lesbian students to go. And what is often worse, they are usually *represented* by gay males at speaking engagements on homophobia.

This has a tendency to reinforce the invisibility of lesbians. Lesbophobia also differs from homophobia in its manifestation of violence. Gay men are "bashed" while lesbians are bashed and raped.

The paper continues to discuss examples of homophobia and heterosexism at the college, the undergraduate, and the graduate levels. Specific references are also made to homophobia and residence life. Something that members of the GGLE should be pleased to hear is that the University of Guelph is the only university with a formal written policy that includes same-sex couples in married student residence. Some of the strategies that are suggested in the paper to help raise awareness about the issues that concern us include: **Nights Out or Kiss-ins**; a large number of lesbians and gay males attend a straight event (i.e. a campus pub) and stage couples dancing together or kissing one another. Both events force the straight individual to confront their own homophobia. Other events include; 1. **Awareness Week** (i.e. BGLAD); 2. **Gay Jeans Day**; 3. **Shock Posters**; 4. **House meetings** (for student residents); and 5. **Residence Surveys**.

The paper concludes with five recommendations from the OFS: 1. Colleges and universities lacking a comprehensive policy on human rights should develop one; 2. New or updated human rights policies should be prominently publicized as part of job recruitment and any official publications; 3. Anti-discrimination workshops should be developed for all managers at the administrative and academic levels; 4. Orientation programs for new students should be developed to include issues surrounding homophobia and other forms of bigotry and prejudice; and 5. Establish **safe places**, for all individuals, that are non-racist, non-sexist, and non-homophobic.

March 1992

Saturday

1 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.	2	3 GGLE Discussion Night PFLAG 8 pm UC 536 University of Guelph	4 GLOW Night Modern Languages Bldg. 10 pm, Room 104 University of Waterloo	5 Gaywire CIUT 89.5 FM 7 'til 8 pm GEM Coffee House Unitarian Hall 84 S. Service Road Mississauga. 8 pm	6	7
8 GRFS as above International Women's Day	9	10 GGLE ELECTIONS 8 pm UC 536 University of Guelph	11 GLOW Night as above	12 Gaywire as above GEM as above	13 PFLAG – Guest Speaker Marie Cumming-Steel (former partner of gay man) Christ Church, 4 Elizabeth Street North, Brampton 8 pm	14
15 GRFS as above	16	17 GGLE Win, Lose, or Draw 8 pm UC 536 University of Guelph Deadline for March '92 newsletter St. Patrick's Day	18 GLOW Night as above	19 Gaywire as above GEM as above	20	21
22 GRFS as above	23	24 GGLE Movie Night 8 pm UC 536 University of Guelph	25 GLOW Night as above	26 Gaywire as above GEM as above	27 GGLE Dance Thirty-Three MAC 33 MacDonnell Street Guelph 9 pm 'til 1 am	28 ACGWC & ACKWA Cabaret / Dance The Loft, Guelph Show starts 8:00 pm Dance follows at 10:00 pm
29 GRFS as above	30	31 GGLE T.B.A. 8 pm UC 536 University of Guelph		Phone Numbers of Interest GGLE-GAYLINE (519) 836-4550 ACKWA (519) 748-5556 GGLE-Office (519) 824-4120 ext. 8575 ACGWC (519) 763-2255 GLOW (519) 884-GLOW [4569] GRFS (519) 570- GEM (416) 278- PFLAG (Mary Jones) (416) 457-		
Remember to call the GGLE Gayline for updates on any calendar events!						

Wellington County Men's Survey

The ACGWC and the Guelph Gay & Lesbian Equality will be conducting an anonymous survey of gay/bisexual men and men who have sex with men in Guelph and Wellington County. This survey will be similar to other community-specific surveys conducted across the country, including one conducted by Hamilton AIDS Network for Dialogue and Support.

The proposed objectives of this survey are to: assess awareness of HIV/AIDS infection; assess awareness and perceived credibility of the ACGWC; assess availability and use of wellness resources/services; assess self-image and values of men who have sex with men; evaluate means of reaching out to this high-risk group in the county; provide useful data to assist the ACGWC plan its programmes for this group.

The Gay/Bisexual Men's Issues Committee is formulating the questionnaire for possible summer/fall distribution. The success of this survey will depend on word-of-mouth awareness and hand-to-hand distribution. Anonymity is guaranteed by a mail-back system. Please inform your friends/contacts, especially anyone you know in the county who engages in sex

with other men. We will require a large number of volunteers to help administer this survey. Please contact either the ACGWC or the GGLE for more information.

from *Between the Lines*,
(The newsletter of the ACGWC)
Winter 1992, 2 (1)

Cabaret/Dance

ACCKWA and ACGWC are presenting their second annual **CABARET/DANCE** on Saturday, March 28 at The Loft. This year's event will be considerably different from last year. The Cabaret will be much shorter and all performers auditioned to be part of the show. The calibre of talent at this year's presentation is outstanding. The show will run from 8:00 pm until 9:45 pm. The dance will follow at 10:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 each and are available at the Bookshelf, the ACGWC office (763-2255), and at the ACCKWA office (748-5556). So come to the Cabaret my friends, come to the Cabaret!

Thanks to the anonymous person who paid for the long-distance call from our office. The honesty you showed in rectifying your mistake is greatly appreciated.

Guelph Inter-Agency Fair

Once again social service agencies will come together to participate in an information sharing day. This year the Fair will also be open to the public from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Admission is free so take time to attend this valuable service.

Date and Time: Thursday, 2 April 1992 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Place: COLLEGE INN (NEW LOCATION)
Gordon Street and Stone Road, Guelph



Gay/Bisexual Men's Issues Committee (GBMIC)

The GBMIC is a sub-committee that deals with HIV/AIDS-related issues of particular concern to gay/bisexual men, and has permanent representation on the AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County (ACGWC) Board of Directors. Member of this committee, with the assistance of the Guelph Gay and Lesbian Equality, administered 20 questionnaires for the national Men's Survey '91, and also assisted the Education Committee in formulating a value statement on homophobia for use by the ACGWC.

The GBMIC is currently working on an awareness/needs survey of gay/bisexual men and men who have sex with men in Guelph and Wellington County (see *Wellington County Men's Survey*). The GBMIC will continue to be involved in the development and implementation of programmes relevant to the gay/bisexual community.

The core group consists of ten individuals, but many more volunteers will be needed for specific projects. Please contact the ACGWC office at (519) 763-2255 if you would like to be involved in a project, or if you have ideas that you feel would benefit both the gay/bisexual community and the ACGWC.

from *Between the Lines*,
(The newsletter of the ACGWC)
Winter 1992, 2 (1)

International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is held world-wide on March 8th each year. Traditionally, Guelph's IWD Coalition has coordinated a week-long series of events which include workshops, lectures, and displays that are conducted by Guelph International Resource Centre and a diverse assortment of organizations. This year, the IWD Coalition has decided to schedule events beginning Monday March 2nd and continuing until Sunday, March 8th. They would like to see active participation from all members of the community including people from the GGLE. If you are interested in IWD or would just like to find out more about it, Sherri Helwig, the coordinator of IWD Coalition, would be happy to meet with you. A booklet, containing articles and information about the many services that organizations such as ours provide for the Guelph community, will also be available during this year's IWD. For more information, contact Sherri at (519) 822-████.

This information was made available to us by the IWD Coordinator, c/o Guelph International Resource Centre. The Centre is located at 155 Suffolk Street W., Unit 21 in Guelph.



XTRA!

Your key to Toronto's
lesbian and gay community

In last month's newsletter we erroneously reported that the meeting dates for PFLAG had been changed from the second Friday of the month to the first Monday of the month. We have since been informed that this information is incorrect. It seems that our lines of communication must have been particularly cluttered when it was told to us in the first place and we must have misunderstood the message. Oops . . . we goofed. Anyway, we hope that this error has not unduly inconvenienced anyone. Our apologies if it has. Just to serve as a reminder, the correct meeting date for Mary Jones' PFLAG group is the second Friday of the month from September to June.

When we were informed of the correct meeting date, we were also told that there

For the month of March, GGLE annual memberships will be on sale for only \$10. A membership gives you voting privileges, access to our library, reduced dance admission, and this newsletter mailed to your home. So get your GGLE membership today or have it renewed if you have not already done so for this reduced price.

is a new Toronto PFLAG group starting. They meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in Glenview Presbyterian Church, 1 Glenview, Toronto. The contact person for this group is Carroll Jewitt. If you require more information, she can be reached at (416) 322-██████.

■ The GGLE Newsletter is published monthly by
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■ Box 773, Guelph, ON, N1H 6L8; (519) 824-
■ 4120 ext 8575. All submissions to the newslet-
■ ter are welcomed and will be considered for
■ publication. Opinions expressed in any arti-
■ cles or letters are those of the authors and do
■ not necessarily reflect the opinions of the GGLE
■ Executive or its Membership. Please direct all
■ submissions and any inquiries c/o **The GGLE**
■ **Executive** to the above address. Names of
■ contributors should be included but will not be
■ used without their express consent.

- Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by **17 March 1992.**

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

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

Call our office phone at (519) 824-4120 [ext. 8575] if you wish to leave a message at any other times.