

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/

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

GLOW News

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GLOW NEWS

Gay Liberation of Waterloo

May 1983 Volume 1 No. 6

BATH RAIDS AGAIN



Demonstrators gather at the corner of Yonge & Wellesly to protest the raid on the Back Door Gym & Sauna.

On Thursday, April 20 at 11 pm officers from the Toronto Morality Squad conducted a raid on the Back Door Gym & Sauna at 12 1/2 Elm Street. Six men were charged with being found-ins at a common bawdy house, four were charged as keepers and two as inmates. Eleven were released without being charged. A Kitchener-Waterloo man has been among those charged.

According to Dennis Findlay of the Right to Privacy Committee (RTPC), the raids are part of a fairly recent tactic by the Morality Squad to harrass the gay community. Realizing that the large raids in February, 1981 only fuelled an unprecedented level of political

activity, the police are charging only a few at a time so that a large-scale resistance does not take place, Findlay says. Thursday's raids, however, have again antagonized a broad cross-section of the gay community.

About 450 men have been charged with indecency-related offenses since July of last year in Toronto. Since the bath raids of February, 1981, about 87% of those tried have been found not guilty.

We know of no gay men charged locally with either indecency-related or bawdy-house offences. While there are no steam baths in the Kitchener-Waterloo area, persons may also be charged in outdoor places which may be designated as "bawdy houses".

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PHONE LINE MEETINGS UPDATE

So far there have been two meetings to establish by group consensus policies and guidelines for the GLOW phone line, staffed by volunteers from 7-10 pm Monday to Friday.

The phone line has been operating for about 12 years. In an average night, about 25-30 calls are received, most of them prank calls or of a harassing nature. The remainder are "come-on" calls or requests for information about the local gay community. There are usually one or two calls in an evening in which volunteers counsel callers about coming out or trying to come to terms with their sexuality.

So far we have been using the 1977 phone line manual produced by Guelph Gay Equality and the phone line section of the CGRO (Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario) Organizing Manual as guidelines. We have found for the most part that they have been very useful but that there are some local differences that we wanted to see reflected.

Most of the discussion so far has revolved around the harassment problem and keeping control of calls. It should be emphasized, however, that most volunteers find the phone line to be a positive experience — we have all learned a great deal about ourselves and others and made a contribution to bring people out in a very closeted city.

There will be further meetings April 27 and May 11 to clear up any remaining questions. From that point on the material generated from the meetings will be expanded and integrated with the other manuals to have a working copy for the late summer.

CGRO STEERING COMMITTEE IN NIAGRA FALLS

The last CGRO Steering Committee meeting was hosted by Gay Unity Niagra in Niagra Falls. At Steering Committee meetings business of the group is discussed and issues are debated and voted upon.

CGRO, the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario, has approximately 30 member organizations from across the province. GLOW was a founding member in 1975, and GOWLU became a member in 1982.

CGRO has been very active over the last 8 years in political organizing and advocacy for the gay and lesbian minority in Ontario.

Recently the group has been having financial difficulties, but conditions appear to be improving through its various fund raising drives and events.

The most recent concerns of CGRO have been a) an information tabloid entitled "Who are these people and what do they want?", b) an "Ontario Update" insert for organization newsletters, and c) a renewed CGRO Lottery. CGRO will also be sponsoring a concession booth at the upcoming Lesbian and Gay Pride Day events.

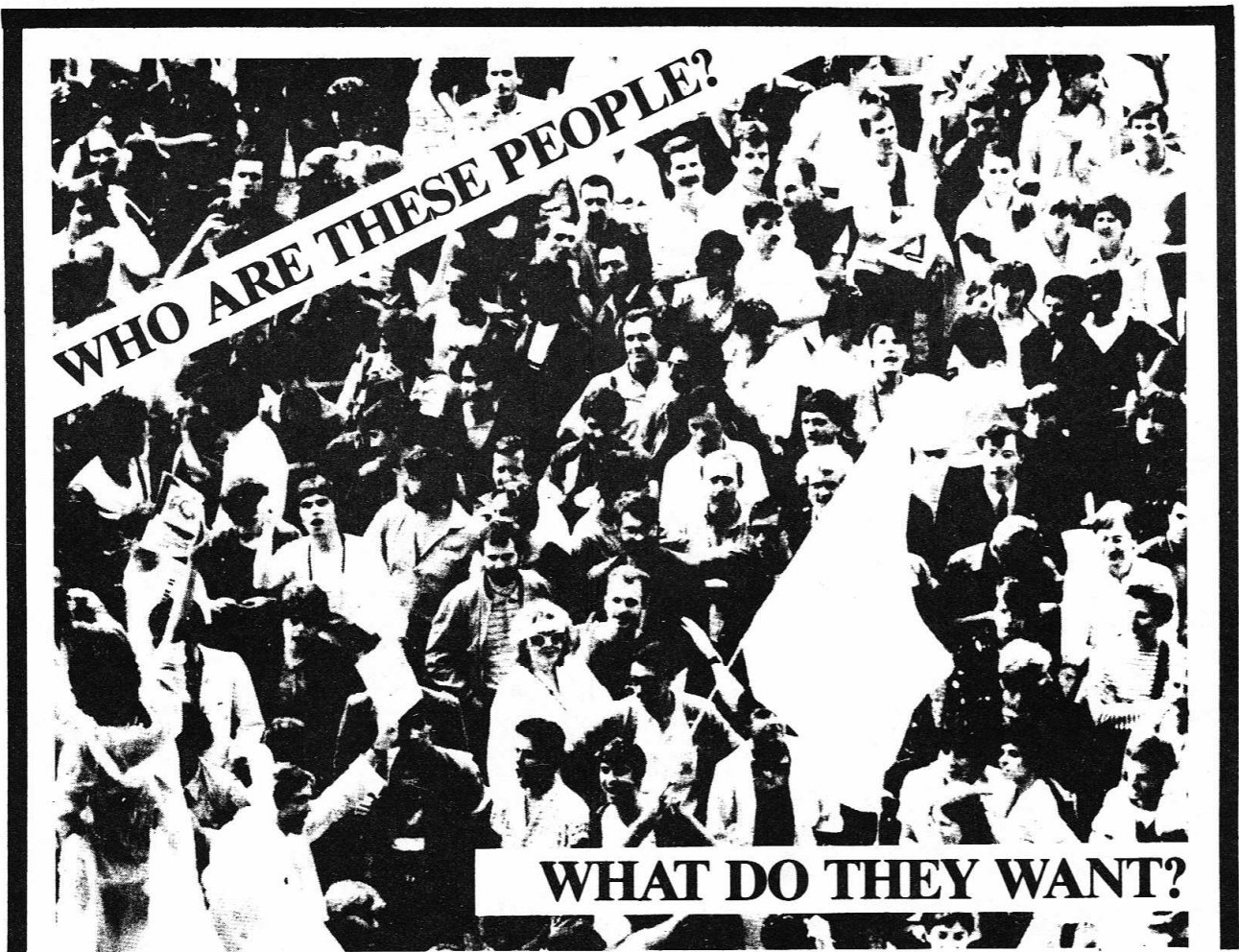
GLOW will be hosting the CGRO Steering Committee in November. There are tentative plans to hold an "Oktoberfest"-type dance in conjunction with this meeting in support of CGRO.

Individuals as well as organizations can become members of CGRO. For their membership dues (\$15.00 a year) members receive a membership card, a newsletter subscription, and the opportunity to attend CGRO conferences in locations all over the province. Participation in these conferences involves a certain amount of effort, but are also a lot of fun and provide a chance to meet other gay men and lesbians. GLOW is prepared to pay the transportation costs of approved representatives to CGRO committees and conferences.

We encourage anyone interested in learning more about CGRO to contact Paul or Greg at GLOW or Jeff at GOWLU.

Paul Barton

GLOW NEWS is a monthly publication of Gay Liberation of Waterloo, a student club at the University of Waterloo since 1971. GLOW acts as an educational resource on homosexuality as well as a support and social group for the gay community. Any suggestions or ideas for this newsletter are welcome. Send material to GLOW News, c/o Federation of Students, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1. Personal ads will be accepted at the rate of 5 cents per word; acceptance of ads is at the discretion of the GLOW Executive. GLOW cannot convey messages to those taking out ads — use your own address or post office box. For further advertising information contact Greg Meadows through the GLOW office. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of GLOW or the Federation of Students as a whole unless otherwise indicated. This newsletter was designed, typeset and printed by volunteer labour at Dumont Press Graphix, 97 Victoria St. N., Kitchener.



“WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? WHAT DO THEY WANT?”

A New Revised Edition of the Educational Tabloid from the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario

Aimed at a general readership, the tabloid is an excellent summary of the ideas and political position of the current gay movement in Ontario. Copies available from the GLOW office or from CGRO at Box 822, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1G3. Pick up a dozen and pass them around!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

May 4 — General Meeting of GLOW to discuss club business and our plans for the summer. All GLOW members are welcome, 8:30 to 9:30 at the Coffeehouse.

May 7 — “MAD HATTER MASQUERADE”, A Lesbian and Gay Dance sponsored by the Gay Community Dance Community (see notice opposite). Tickets available in advance at the GLOW Coffeehouse or from Joe Szalai for \$7. (Refundable for volunteers). 888 Yonge St., Toronto at the Concert Hall (Yonge and Davenport), 9 pm to 5 am.

May 11 — Phone line volunteer meeting to discuss ideas and policies for the planned phone line manual, 7:30 to 8:30 pm at the Coffeehouse. Meeting of the **Lesbian and Gay Dance Committee** immediately following.

May 13 — DANCE at the Studio, Centre in the Square, Kitchener, 9:30 pm to 2 am. Enter off Ellen Street. Out-of-towners — just follow the signs. Admission at the door, \$1.50 for members and \$2.50 for non members, \$1 for everyone from 1:00 to 1:30 am.

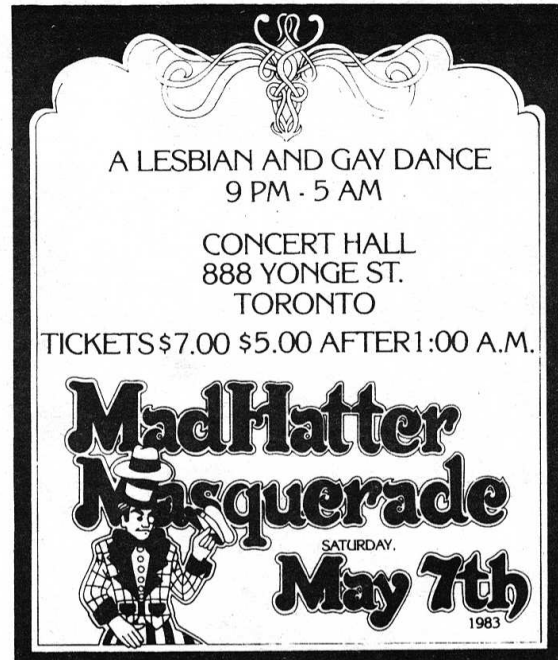
May 27 — DANCE sponsored by Guelph Gay Equality in the United Electrical Workers' Hall, 611 Silvercreek Pkwy., Guelph, 9 pm to 1 am.

BOOK REVIEW

Flaunting It! A Decade of Gay Journalism from the Body Politic. New Star Books, 1982.

Since this a review of a book on gay liberation, I've gotta come out right at the start. I have a confession: I reviewed this book because nobody else at the *Imprint* [the student newspaper at University of Waterloo] would touch it with a very long pole. For that reason, and the conviction that straight people do have a part to play in the Gay Liberation movement — despite the monograph on every issue of the *Body Politic* by gay activist Kurt Hiller: "The liberation of homosexuals can only be the work of homosexuals themselves." This book is a great place for both gays and non-gays to see the progress made over the last ten years.

cont.



A LESBIAN AND GAY DANCE
9 PM - 5 AM

CONCERT HALL
888 YONGE ST.
TORONTO

TICKETS \$7.00 \$5.00 AFTER 1:00 A.M.

**Mad Hatter
Masquerade**
SATURDAY
May 7th
1983

GLOW MEMBERSHIP Student / Community (circle one)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

UW Student I.D. (if applicable) _____

I want/I do not want to receive mail.

I am willing to help with Phone line
 Newsletter
 Dances
 Coffeehouses
 Library
 Office

Date _____

Other _____

I have read the GLOW Constitution and I agree with the social philosophy expressed.

Signature _____

Executive Signature _____

All membership information is confidential, and entitles you to discounts at dances and other events, our monthly newsletter, use of the GLOW library and voting privileges. Membership dues are \$3 a year for students and unemployed and \$5 for others. Send certified cheque or money order to GLOW, c/o Federation of Students, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1.

If you do not wish to receive mail, call GLOW (884-4569) from 7-10 pm weeknights and arrange a time with a Collective (Executive) member to give you a membership card at the office.

FLAUNTING IT! cont.

The title is taken from a musing of lesbian humourist Robin Tyler: "When a heterosexual shows a picture of his family, it's called sharing. When we show a picture of our lover, it's called flaunting. Isn't it time we shared?"

Flaunting It! is divided into five sections, all of which look at the position of gay men and women from a slightly different perspective: from the relations of gays to straights, the interactions between gay men and lesbians, to contentious issues to which gays should address themselves and developments in the so-called "political arena."

Flaunting It!

Each section contains a number of selections by various writers which explore the options and angles. Most of these are either outlines of theory, historical studies, or personal recollections. While the latter are more dismissable as unrepresentative of the community as a whole, the reduction from the intellectual to the gut level gives the book a compelling edge. And this is what the editors had in mind. We are not hearing some intangible *them* speaking, but a part of all of us.

In reading the anthology, I'm tempted to recall an appropriate comment by science fiction author Theodore Sturgeon on his genre; the best writing in s-f is really science FICTION, not SCIENCE fiction. So, although *Flaunting It* represents a decade of gay journalism, the emphasis rests on the journalism, not the gayness.

A case in point: This book provides a viewpoint not very often seen in the pages of the *Toronto Sun* or the *Globe and Mail*, (to say nothing of *Rolling Stone*.) I

remember the ambivalence I felt when reading that the BP article containing the article "Men Loving Boys Loving Men" had been suppressed by the Metro Toronto Police; on the one hand, revulsion at the tactics of the cops; on the other, revulsion at the idea of pedophilia.

Then, having read the article for myself from the anthology, I saw it as perhaps offensive, definitely a risky undertaking . . . but the only obscenity was perpetrated by the ham-fisted men in blue, and their backing chorus of homophobes. The piece is serious, thought-provoking, and reflective, and treating it as salacious and illegal only obscured the issue. Conveniently.

The *Body Politic* has been found not guilty of obscenity. In a very real sense, the triumph of the magazine over the machinations of the state is the triumph of the gay community, and vice versa. But the story is far from complete.

Now that the province has had its fun dragging BP through the courts, where will they next strike fear into the hearts of women and men?

"Hey guys, how about hitting the cults next? We can even get out the old axes and fire extinguishers for another run," as in the clampdown on the Church of Scientology.

Read it and weep.

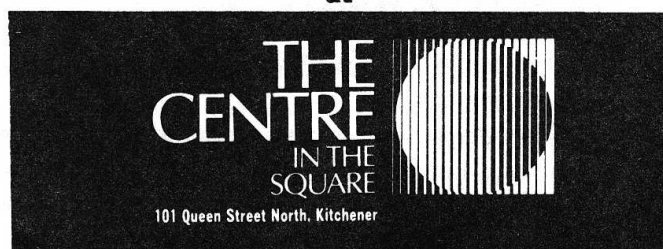
Todd Schneider

The author is a "queer-kissing heterosexual" living and perhaps working in Kitchener, Ontario.

YOU'RE INVITED

**TO THE LARGEST
LESBIAN & GAY DANCE
IN KITCHENER-WATERLOO**

**IN
THE STUDIO
at**



FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1983

BATH RAIDS cont.

About 1000 demonstrators appeared at Yonge and Wellesly in Toronto at 10:00 pm on Saturday to protest the police action. Three were arrested and a major confrontation was averted when police decided to let protesters proceed along Yonge Street.

RTPC will be paying for the legal costs of those charged who wish to apply and providing moral support.

CENTRE DANCE

About 200 lesbians and gay men showed up for a dance on Saturday, April 23 sponsored by the K-W Lesbian & Gay Dance Committee.

The Committee is made up of the Lesbian Organization of Kitchener, Gay Liberation of Waterloo, the K-W Gay Media Collective and Gays of Wilfrid Laurier University. Responsibility for the dances and proceeds from them are divided equally among the groups.

Most of those who attended enjoyed both the space and the music provided. We hope to see you at the next one on May 13!

GAY STORIES OF OUR LIVES

Last summer the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record* decided it was time again to do a story on the gay community. They sent out Nina Aprile to talk to some people about coming out and their day-to-day lives as gays.

Aprile interviewed me as a person who had just come out, visited the gay bar here in town and came down to one of the GLOW coffeehouses. She wrote five articles based on her observations.

The stories were never printed, and some time ago I called her to ask why. She said that the *Record* wanted information which was impossible to provide — such as how many

gays there are in Kitchener-Waterloo — and added there were contractual difficulties which prevented completion of the stories in a finished form. She agreed to send me what she had written. The original copy is posted in the GLOW office.

The articles were written in a quite dramatic style, and in my opinion make us seem like rather marginal, pathetic people. Read them and judge for yourself.

Greg Meadows

Office: Campus Centre 217C 884-████

Phoneline hours: 7-10 pm weeknights

Annual memberships

\$3.00 U of W students and unemployed

\$5.00 other

GLOW Wednesday Coffeehouses

University of Waterloo

Campus Centre Room 110

8:30 pm

OTHER LESBIAN AND GAY GROUPS IN THE AREA

Lesbian Organization of Kitchener, Box 2422, Stn B, Kitchener, N2H 6M3. 744-████ or 578-████. Womyn's coffeehouse first Thursday of every month at █████ Highland Road West, Kitchener. Listen to **Leaping Lesbians**, every Thursday from 6 to 8 pm on CKMS-FM, 94.5 or 105.7 cable.

Kitchener-Waterloo Gay Media Collective, Box 2741, Stn B, Kitchener, N2H 6N3. 579-████. A working group interested in broadcast and print media. Listen to **Gay News & Views**, every Tuesday from 6 to 8 pm, on CKMS-FM.

Gays of Wilfrid Laurier University will be active again in the fall. Direct any questions to Jeff at GLOW.

Guelph Gay Equality, Box 773, Guelph N1H 6L8. 836-████. A variety of events, including a dance at 611 Silvercreek Rd., Guelph, last Friday of every month.