

Oct 9 , 1972.

Doug Austrom,
Treasurer,
Federation of Students,
Campus Centre,
University of Waterloo.

Dear Mr. Austrom:

This letter is in response to your call for information from clubs and organizations under the Federation of Students.

The Gay Liberation Movement submitted some of the information you now request towards the end of last spring. We here submit a revision of that information as well as further information you request.

The budget stands as submitted last spring. Due to a shift in our priorities there is a new item that can be absorbed under "Miscellaneous": when we secure a room on campus , we will be renting a telephone - principally for the purpose of telephone counselling.

The executive has been changed to the following:

President : Dennis Findlay

Secretary : Laura Lee

Treasurer : Pat Young

Concerning the membership lists, I believe we submitted the membership lists for the past year. Although these lists are now somewhat out-of-date, we believe those lists are more representative of numbers of members throughout the whole year, than the membership lists we are starting out with at the beginning of this school term. I am not familiar with the pattern of membership fluctuations in other organizations, but in our organization the membership rises phenomenally from September to April. The reason for this may have something to do with an initial reluctance on the part of many potential members to join a controversial organization like ours. Some people overcome this initial reluctance as time goes on, and as they weigh the possible consequences of joining.

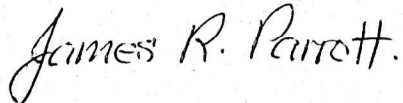
The mailing address remains:

c/o Federation of Students
Campus Centre
University of Waterloo.

This is the safest way to contact us, as one of us generally checks the mail once a day. Furthermore the Federation secretaries have telephone numbers at which various of us may be reached.

My report to the organization on activities for 1972-73 is attached, I hope you do not find it unnecessarily long.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James R. Parrott".

James R. Parrott
General Coordinator

THE GAY LIBERATION MOVEMENT

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES FOR 1972-73

- 1.) Publications - educational pamphlets - Our copies of last year's pamphlet are almost depleted and we will soon have to revise and up-date it and have a new printing.
 - newsletters - For communication purposes with our membership we will have to continue with a regular newsletter. The newsletter had to be discontinued due to a lack of funds, but many members believe this should be a high priority item.
 - Gemini - This was our newspaper. It was an expensive item to produce. If we can find cheaper means of production and sufficient funds we will continue with this.
 - posters - We have found it advantageous to use cheaply produced posters for advertising meetings with a speaker or speakers. For special occasions we will be doing silk-screen posters.

- 2.) Office - We are in the process of finding an office on campus. This is a project of major importance to us. We need an office for the usual reasons that other organizations do - to have a place to keep files, to have a focal point on campus for the organization, etc. These are not really crucial reasons for finding an office, and in fact, for some time we were making do with an office on campus to which we had very limited access, and in the last several months we have been doing without an office at all. However, we have become increasingly aware of the need for a telephone counselling service for gay people - people in the local counselling services have been stressing this to us. Therefore, securing an office, renting a telephone and setting up a telephone counselling service will be a major project of ours this year. We may be able to run the service only for a few hours a day - but something is better than nothing.

- 3.) Liaison work with people in the helping services
 - Counselling Services, U. of W. - We are establishing a comprehensive program of contact with Counselling Services. Various of our members will be meeting weekly with a small group of counsellors over a period of several months until we have made contact with each counsellor. Also, Counselling Services and we have jointly set up sensitivity groups involving gay and non-gay people and facilitated by counsellors. As of this date, we have two going and will set up as many more as are required.
 - Rap Room - We are establishing regular contact with Rap Room. Like Rap Room, our counselling will be peer-group counselling. For this reason, those members of ours who will be manning the telephone or doing face-to-face counselling in the office will be attending the training sessions of Rap Room. At some point in the year, a number of our members will come to speak at a training session to help sensitize the Rap Roomers to gay people and gay problems.

- Hi-Line and Help - We will be doing something similar to the above with Hi-Line and Help. The lines of contact have been set up but the format needs to be worked out.
- Residence dons - We expect also to have a program built around the problems of gay students in residence. This would involve meeting with the Village dons as we did last year and perhaps meeting some of the people on their floors throughout the year. This may be rather more difficult to carry out than some of the above-mentioned things.
- Interfaith Pastoral Counselling Centre - We will be continuing our program of contact with the Interfaith Pastoral Counselling Centre, which has been one of the more sympathetic organizations we have encountered outside the University.
- Social Planning Council - We will be exploring our relationships with other helping services listed with the Kitchener-Waterloo Social Planning Council, as well as continuing to send representatives to the meetings of the Social Planning Council itself.

4.) Speakers for our meetings - For one third to one half of the regular Monday evening meetings we are going to arrange speakers and panels of speakers. We have found that attendance at meetings is better when we advertise something specific rather than using the nebulous term "general meeting".

Most of the speakers we arrange will be local, but if funds become available, we will be able to consider paying transportation costs and honoraria to outside speakers as we did last year.

5.) Speakers for other organizations - We are trying to continue to provide speakers from our membership to speak at various classes on campus, meetings of other organizations on and off campus, and for high schools in the area. The main problem here is having enough speakers available on the date for which the request is made.

6.) Provincial and federal gay rallies - There will undoubtedly be at least one provincial or federal gay rally organized by Toronto Gay Action in the next twelve months. Our participation in it will depend upon the city in which it is held, the costs of transportation and of leaflets, placards, etc. At present, although our political priorities are not high, we will support these in some way, and if the consciousness of the group is more political by the time of the next rally, we will support them more heavily than we did the one this past August.

7.) Provincial conference of Ontario gay groups - We expect within the next eight months to arrange one provincial conference at the University of Waterloo. These conferences are important as they encourage communication and the sharing of useful organizational experiences among nearby gay groups.

- 8.) The Library - The library has so far had a very low priority. Again it is a question of funds - if there are sufficient funds for high priority items mentioned in this report, then money may be spent on the library. Even if not too much money is available, we should purchase a copy of major items in the CHAT bibliographies, so that we can easily check books before recommending them to people.
- 9.) Discussion evenings on non-gay topics - A number of us have been working on the idea of sponsoring discussion evenings on interesting topics that are not being presented by any other group or organization. The idea is that someone should be doing these things and it is also a way for some of us to concentrate a little more on "people-oriented" rather than "gay-people-oriented" activity. Most of the topics we are considering are counter-culture oriented. This is a fairly important project because it is anti-ghetto.
- 10.) Social activities - We are starting to realize that in some ways this is one of the most important and most neglected of our activities. We know that some people have not been coming to our meetings because they find the discussions too abstract. So we have been trying to infuse these discussions with more immediacy, but it seems that we need also to provide more tangible people-oriented activities. To this end we will be attempting to arrange pubs and coffee-houses on a fairly regular basis. (There is a men's drinking room in Kitchener where some gay men go, but many people find this place rather depressing and gay women find it inaccessible.) The problem is compounded by the very real fear that many gay students have of attending any gay activity on campus - because they are not ready for their classmates to discover this part of themselves. This has created quite a dilemma for us. As an organization under the Federation of Students, it is to our advantage to arrange our social activities on campus since we do not have to rent rooms. We have been investigating the possibility of renting facilities off campus at reasonable rates, so that more students might feel able to come to our pubs and coffee-houses. So far the results of our search have not been encouraging. Initially we may have to compromise in this area, but it seems evident that we must make this one of our major undertakings because no suitable alternative is available in the community.

11.) Orientation - Past experience has taught us that plans for Orientation must be begun at the end of the Spring term if not sooner. One important part of orientation plans will be the revision of the pamphlet and deciding how many copies to print and what to do with it. We will as before have an information centre in the Campus Centre. Plans must also be made for special speakers, forums, social activities, etc. These are best co-ordinated through the Federation Orientation Committee right from the start.

October 10th, 1972.

James R. Parrott.

James R. Parrott,
General coordinator
for the Movement.