

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

Newsletter of Gay Liberation of Waterloo

December 1982
No. 1

CHARLIE MURPHY AND JAMI SIEBER IN CONCERT

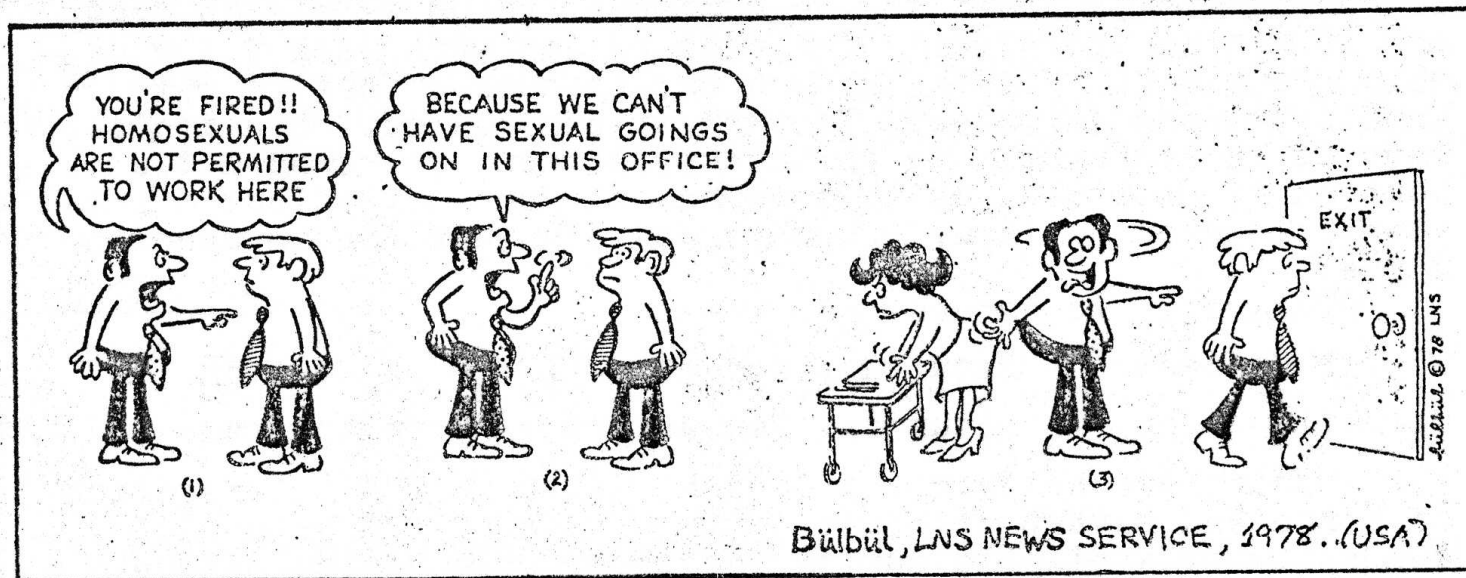
On November 3rd we were very pleased to host a concert at Hagey Hall by gay singer-songwriter Charlie Murphy and accompanist Jami Sieber. Charlie's style could be best described as folk with a strong social conscience.

Charlie's repertoire is quite varied, ranging from gay erotic numbers like Double Love to environmentalist songs like Mother Ocean Love. His lyrics call for a world in which people live in harmony with the natural environment and with their own bodies — particularly their sexuality.

Jami Sieber is an excellent cellist. She accompanied Charlie throughout and contributed some material of her own. In a sad voice she sang of what it would be like to be a witch during the Inquisition, or to be a native rights leader fighting oppression.

At the end of the evening almost everyone felt both enriched and challenged by their music. Charlie tells me that after finishing their 40-city tour of North America this fall, they will be back on the road again this spring. I hope we have them back.

By the way, a film crew from Global News was there to interview Paul, Lisa and Greg on gay life on campus and to film the opening number of the concert. Thousands of



viewers watched Charlie sing: "I'm the latent homosexual/
I'm the closeted queen/I'm the sensitive little boy/That
the bullies treat so mean/I'm the faggot, I'm the fairy/
I wear skirts instead of jeans/And in my left ear, I wear/
An earring." (2)

GLOW Wednesday Coffeehouses

University of Waterloo Campus Centre Room 110 8:30 pm

Office: Campus Centre 217C 884-██████

Phoneline Counselling hours 7-10 pm weeknights

Annual memberships - 3.00 U of W students and unemployed
5.00 other

Memberships entitle one to use of our humble library,
discounts at dances and other events, voting privileges, and
having things like newsletters discreetly mailed to you, if
you wish. The more support we get from you, the more the
University will support us.

UPCOMING GCDC DANCES

Many of you may have heard of the big gay dances in
Toronto, the ones occurring about every six weeks. These
dances, undoubtedly the most popular regularly scheduled
event in the gay community, are organized by the Gay
Community Dance Committee (GCDC).

GCDC is registered as a fund-raising organization
composed of many member groups from the gay community.
Two local groups, Gay Liberation of Waterloo and the
Kitchener-Waterloo Gay Media Collective, are active in GCDC.
Until recently, the GCDC dances were one of the major sources
of funding for GLOW, although the monies earned now are not
insignificant.

Net profits from each dance are divided among the part-
icipating groups based on the number of volunteers each group
provides, and the number of tickets which were marked for
each group. This is the reason why so much effort is put
into obtaining volunteers to work at each dance. You don't
have to be altruistic to volunteer, either. Working a two
hour shift entitles you to a refund of your admission: a sub-
stantial seven dollars. So why not volunteer for an upcoming
dance?

The next two dances are:

Winter Fantasies - Saturday, December 11 - 9 pm to 5 am

Operation Soap - Saturday, February 5 - 9 pm to 5 am

Dances are held in the Concert Hall, at the intersection
of Yonge and Davenport, just north of Bloor. Tickets will
generally be available during the three week period before

each dance from either Carl Boone or Joe Szalai at the Wednesday Wednesday night coffeehouses, and cost \$7.00 each.

③

Carl Boone

BOOK REVIEWS

The Mayor of Castro Street by Randy Shilts (Available at the GLOW Library or Glad Day Bookshop, 648A Yonge St. Toronto.)

The Mayor of Castro Street is probably the most important book on gay (male) politics to be published this year. Randy Shilts, a gay journalist living in the Castro Street area of San Francisco, gives us a complete account of the personal life and political career of the late Harvey Milk. Milk was the first openly gay elected official in the United States when he served as city Supervisor in San Francisco from 1977-78.

The book stands on its own as a biography of a controversial character who came to symbolize gay power politics. In the 1950's Milk was a typically closeted, conservative man who figured that success lay in acquiring material goods and keeping his relationship with his lover as quiet as possible. By the early 1970's Milk was the gay radical who ran a camera shop on Castro Street and dreamed of a new age. Strangely enough, his dream came true when hordes of young gay men from all over the U.S. descended on Castro Street to live, work and cruise. Using his camera shop to register voters, Milk garnered support from the new residents and cleverly built political alliances with other minority groups to gain power.

Milk finally did get elected on the fourth try, but his term was brief. On the morning of November 27, 1978, he and mayor George Moscone were shot dead by fellow city Supervisor Dan White. When White got off on both counts with the wrist-slap sentence of manslaughter (seven years total), the gay community exploded in violence: police cars were overturned,

and set ablaze, city hall was vandalized, shops and restaurants smashed and streets torn up.

While San Francisco has been much quieter since, the gay community continues to grow in numbers and power. I think the message of the book is quite clear. Gay people do not have to cower in the closet, waiting for sunnier days to improve their lot. As gays, we do not have to rely on the tolerance and good-will of liberals to secure our basic right to live openly and without fear. The day we decide to come out in large numbers will be the day we start to get control over our own lives.

I can only think such a day seems far off in Kitchener. But if anything, Harvey Milk's story shows that a lot can change in a very few years.

Greg Meadows

Stranger on Lesbos by Valerie Taylor (GLOW library)

④

A fairly serious fiction book. Much outdated (1960) and somewhat sensationalist, but not a lesbian book written for men. It paints a grim picture of the lesbian psyche. The main character is a housewife (stereotypical) who has lesbian feelings. She (Frances) gets 'mixed up' with a group of lesbians who are fairly respectable by day, but are quite the heavy drinkers, and Frances becomes alcoholic herself. The ending is a happy one, for that era, but definitely not liberating.

Legal Sex by Rozovsky (GLOW library)

An overview of all the Canadian Laws that have to do with sex. Written for the layman - it explains the law in understandable terms and mentions precedent setting cases. It is interesting and sometimes funny because of some ridiculous or amazing cases. It is very educational. One sees a big difference in how we personally interpret the laws and how they are actually used.

Lisa Simkins

BODY POLITIC TRIAL

On Nov. 1st TBP was in court to defend yet another charge, this time one of an obscenity charge against the collective members. Charges were laid and the collective arrested May 12, 1982 because of an article on fist-fucking; (Lust with a Very Proper Stranger).

The charge was dismissed, after only a couple of hours in what was supposed to be a 3 day trial. Several witnesses of high calibre were called on behalf of BP. The prosecution ended up basing their argument on only one sentence in the article. And the article was not sexually exploitive, it was basically health oriented.

The judge was rather impatient with the prosecution (Crown) judge, Peter Julio, as he had very little to base his case on. Our case was won on 'freedom of the press'. This was definitely due, as the June issue of Penthouse had very explicit articles dealing with the same theme.

More evidence in the case showed that the BP had a reading level above Grade 12, whereas pornographic mags had a much poorer quality.

On January 6, BP will return to court for a third trial for the article 'Men Loving Boys Loving Men'. Twice before they were acquitted for 'transmitting immoral and indecent material through the mails'. Let's hope for another victory.

This trial was attended by the author.

Lisa Simkins

5
JOE SZALAI - PROTEST
CANDIDATE IN WARD ONE

In Ward One, Kitchener, Joe Szalai had his name on the municipal ballot as a "protest candidate". Not expecting to win (he didn't), he ran to deny incumbent Richard Christie acclamation — forcing him to spend time and money to launch a campaign. Christie had opposed the new employment policy passed by the City of Kitchener prohibiting discrimination in eleven specified areas, amongst them sexual orientation. Szalai was part of a group of delegations that pressured city council to adopt the measure.

Except for aldermanic candidate Mona Forest in Montreal, Szalai is the only openly gay person to run for public office in Canada this year. However, gay rights were not an issue during the elections.

COMING EVENTS AT GLOW

December 1st - A videotape of the city of Kitchener council proceedings regarding their new employment policy protecting gays will be shown at the GLOW coffeehouse.

December 3rd - DANCE at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 50, 48 Ontario St. N., Kitchener, sponsored by the Kitchener-Waterloo Gay Media Collective. Tickets will be sold at the door, \$2 for members of the Gay Media Collective, GLOW, LOOK, GGE and Gays of Wilfrid Laurier University, and \$3 for others.

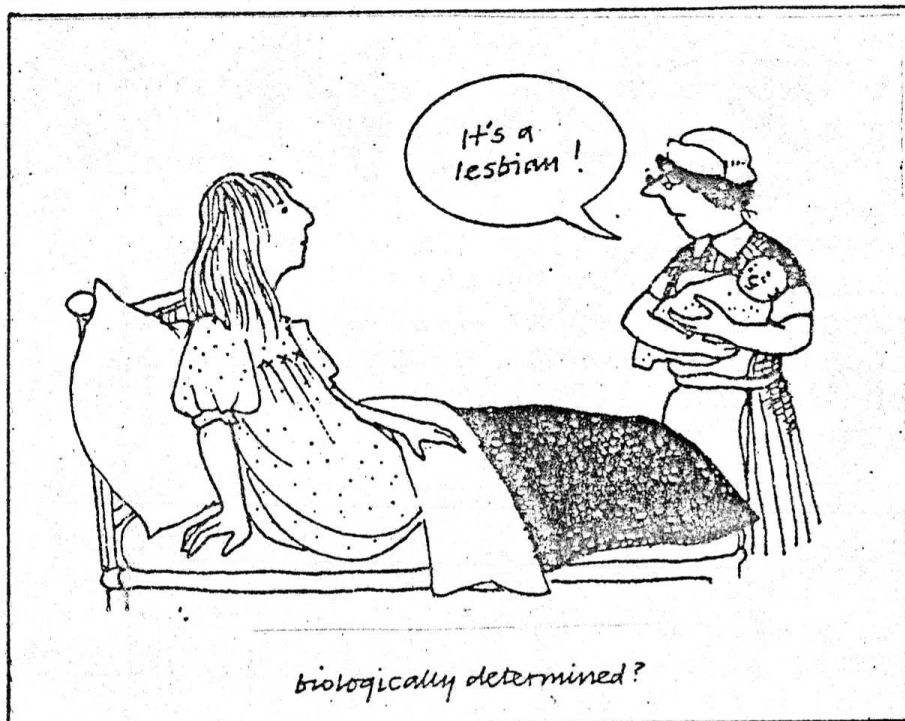
December 11 - GCDC Dance in Toronto. See article.

In January we are planning to host a visit by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (Toronto Order), and in February to show the film Track II with a panel discussion. We will know exact times and places by early December. Keep posted!

CONSTITUTION REVISION

Our old constitution has been kicking around for at least ten years. Its bylaws have been lost or never written and it has very little in it about executive duties, voting, membership, etc. So we're re-vamping and redecorating! That is, extensive and detailed revisions. The original body will remain with some corrections, but this 99-pound weakling will be Charles Atlas when we're done!

cont. p. 6



(Constitution - cont'd)

The executive will be a collective instead of a hierarchy. We also wish to change our name to Gay and Lesbian Liberation of Waterloo (GLLOW) — still pronounced the same. It should come into effect in the New Year. We did have a general meeting November 10, which was advertised, and there was general consensus about the name. If there are objections or suggestions please speak up at a coffeehouse or to an executive member soon! We will have a well-advertised general meeting and vote on the Constitution when it is ready. Remember you must be a member to vote.

OTHER LESBIAN AND GAY GROUPS IN THE AREA

Lesbian Organization of Kitchener, Box 2422, Station B, Kitchener, N2H 6M3. 744-██████ or 576-██████. Coffeehouse for womyn 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, Station B, Kitchener, N2H 6N3. 579-██████. A working group planning to produce a quarterly gay magazine early next year. Listen to Gay News & Views, every Tuesday from 6 to 8 pm, on CKMS-FM, 94.5 or 105.7 cable.

Gays of Wilfrid Laurier University, WLU Student Union Bldg., 75 University Avenue West, Waterloo N2L 3C5. 884-1970 ext. ██████. An informal support group for gay men and lesbians. Coffeehouses every Thursday from 8 to 11 pm, History Lounge (room 4-301) in Central Teaching Building, WLU.

Guelph Gay Equality, Box 773, Guelph, N1H 6L8. 836-██████. A variety of social events and educational discussions. Call for details.