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

GLOW News

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GLOW NEWS

Gay Liberation of Waterloo

August 1983

Volume 1 No. 9

WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE DESTROYED BY ARSONIST



Patti Kirk, co-manager of the Toronto Women's Bookstore, inspects damage to stock.

TORONTO — An important resource for the women's and lesbian communities of Southwestern Ontario was destroyed on the morning of July 29. The Toronto Women's Bookstore at 85 Harbord Street was gutted in an attempt to set fire to Dr. Henry Morgentaler's abortion clinic.

The bookstore has been a focal point for the feminist movement in Toronto and surrounding area since it opened eight years ago. It carried a wide selection of books and resource materials for the women's community, much of it of interest to lesbians.

Cont. on page 3

GLOW TO APPROACH WATERLOO COUNCIL

GLOW and other concerned groups will be approaching Waterloo city council on August 29 to ask for a policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation as regards city services, facilities and employment practices.

Similar policies at the municipal level prohibiting discrimination in employment have been passed by Toronto, Windsor, Ottawa and Kitchener. The present policy, passed by Kitchener on July 19, 1982 reads "that it is the policy of the City of Kitchener in matters of employment to hire and promote on a basis of merit which shall include a determination of suitability based on education, training, experience and pre-determined physical and personal characteristics, and there shall be no discrimination against any person who is employed, or seeks employment with the City because of race, creed, colour, ancestry, age, sex, marital status, political and religious affiliation, place or residence, sexual orientation or physical handicap." GLOW will ask that the proposed policy in Waterloo also cover city services and facilities. Kitchener's policy was adopted as a result of lobbying by GLOW and other groups to ensure that all citizens have equal access to city services and facilities. In April, 1982, the Kitchener-Waterloo Gay Media Collective was prevented from renting Victoria Park pavilion for a dance by then Mayor Morley Rosenberg.

Members of the Collective were furious about Rosenberg's decision and brought the matter to a city council meeting on April 5. At that meeting, Greg Meadows of the Collective called either for a reversal of the decision or the resignation of those responsible. Rosenberg admitted he had personally intervened to

Waterloo Council cont.

stop the dance because of alleged problems with gay dances organized several years before by the Riverside Social Club at the Bridgeport Community Centre.

However, when council was told by Meadows that there was no connection between the Riverside Social Club and the Gay Media Collective, Rosenberg was overruled and the dance was allowed to proceed.

At that meeting, another Collective member, Joe Szalai, called on council to pass an anti-discrimination policy regarding city jobs, services and facilities. Council refused to pass any such policy but referred the matter to the city solicitor Jim Wallace for further study.

Wallace recommended that council not pass any policy on discrimination because he felt that it was a federal and provincial matter.

The Collective then wrote an open letter, addressed to Wallace, the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record* and members of council calling for passage of the policy so that "all persons — whether homosexual or heterosexual — can be dealt with in a just and fair manner." Roger Freeborn, commissioner of administrative services, said that the city already had a general policy of non-discrimination in hiring practices, but the Collective believed that an unwritten policy is not binding and that discrimination can legally occur.

At a city council meeting on June 14, six delegations — CKMS-FM, the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group, the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario, the Kitchener-Waterloo Gay Media Collective, the Lesbian Organization of Kitchener and Gay Liberation of Waterloo — called on council to pass a written policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation for city jobs, services and facilities. Council then deferred the matter to the Civic Administration Committee for further study.

With little debate, the Civic Administration Committee recommended that a policy similar to that of Windsor, Toronto and Ottawa be adopted. However, no reference was made to city services or facilities.

When the Civic Admin. recommendation came before council on July 19, Greg Meadows of the Gay Media Collective called for the inclusion of services and facilities since it was access to a city facility, Victoria Park pavilion, which prompted the demand for an anti-discrimination policy.

Alderman A. D. Barron said that council was not

aware of any cases of discrimination but that he saw no harm in passing it. However, he felt that adding services and facilities was not necessary.

Alderman Richard Christy was opposed to the policy unless "sexual orientation" was taken out of the list of areas in which discrimination was prohibited, adding that council "should be mindful of the area's Judeo-Christian heritage."

A motion by Alderman Judy Balmer to include services and facilities in the policy was voted on and lost, but the main proposal dealing with employment was passed.

The policy in Kitchener caused little noticeable reaction from the straight community, although anti-gay literature was handed out in downtown Kitchener by Positive Parents of Canada the week prior to council's decision. Stew Newton, spokesman for the group, denied any attempt to influence city policy, but said that if he knew of the proposal he would oppose it. Roger Freeborn, responsible for hiring in the city, said the policy would probably make no difference to day-to-day operations but added that "it's probably a good idea to have it in writing because it formalizes the policy."

However, even if the city of Waterloo and Waterloo Region pass the policy, it would still be legal for anyone not connected to the city or the region to discriminate against gays and lesbians in hiring, services, accomodation or in any way they want. Only the federal or provincial governments have the power to prohibit discrimination in all public and private affairs in society.

Readers who are concerned about the right of all people to equal access to employment, services and facilities of the city of Waterloo are urged to either be at the council meeting on August 29 at 7:00 pm or to make their views known to councillors by phoning or writing.

Waterloo city hall is located in the Marsland Centre at the corner of Erb and Albert streets in Waterloo.

GLOW Office: Campus Centre 217C

884 [REDACTED]

Phoneline hours: 7-10 pm weeknights

Coffeehouses every Wednesday

Campus Centre Room 110

8:30 pm

Women's Bookstore cont.

According to Ron Clifford, senior fire investigator with the Ontario Fire Marshall's Office, the fire was definitely the work of an arsonist. Clearly the person or persons setting the fire had intended to destroy Morgentaler's clinic upstairs but were not able to break in. Scrawls on the front door of the clinic threatened to kill Morgentaler unless he got out of Toronto. One said that "if your mother had taken your life, you would not be living it up, Morgentaler."

Morgentaler and two colleagues were charged with conspiracy to procure a miscarriage following a July 5 raid on the clinic. Volunteers and staff are keeping the clinic open for referrals and information and raising money to replace medical equipment seized in the raid.

Abortions are illegal under the Criminal Code unless approved by a therapeutic abortion committee at a hospital. However, Morgentaler has opened a clinic in Montreal which has operated for several years, and earlier this year opened a clinic in Winnipeg.

Norma Scarborough of the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics said that "the fanatical fringe of the anti-choice movement has shown that for all their talk of protecting life, they're showing no concern for life. . . . This tactic is not going to stop us."

Laura McArthur of the Toronto branch of the Right-To-Life Society said Scarborough should offer proof of wrongdoing by the anti-abortionist side or "shut up and shut up fast."

The fire caused about \$75,000 in damage to the bookstore and about \$500 in smoke damage to the clinic. Women's Bookstore co-owner Marie Prins said that the fire came as no surprise and that the business is fully insured.

A rally supporting both the Women's Bookstore and the Toronto Morgentaler clinic will take place on Wednesday, August 3rd at Queen's Park. All those who support the Women's Bookstore and the right of women to have control over their own bodies are urged to attend.

GLOW STAYS PUT

It seems that the GLOW office will not be moved out of Room 217C of the Campus Centre after all.

After four months of wrangling and controversy over tight office space in the Campus Centre, the Ombudsman will be moved out of Federation offices to another office to be constructed near the Women's Centre and the Legal Resources office. Tom Allison, President of the Federation of Students, felt that the Ombudsman required a sound-proofed office separate from the Federation.

An earlier plan to reallocate space would have moved the Ombudsman's office to the Birth Control Centre, the Birth Control Centre to the GLOW office, and the GLOW office to what is now the Legal Resources office. That proposal would have cut GLOW office space by about one-third.

The current plan simply moves the Ombudsman to a new office to be taken out of what is now the Imprint (the student newspaper at the University of Waterloo). Allison apparently decided to abandon the ear-

lier proposal because of its complexity and his desire to complete the move before the influx of students in September.

Integrated Studies student Carolyn Abrams is planning to organize an ad-hoc committee to recall Allison, citing his handling of both the office space problem and Federation Hall, a new pub facility to be constructed, pending student approval, at a cost of \$1.7 million to the student body. In a recall procedure, ten percent of the student population must sign a petition calling for a referendum that asks the voters if the president should retain office.



NO NAME DANCE

A LESBIAN AND GAY DANCE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1983

**CONCERT HALL • 888 YONGE ST • TORONTO
• 9 PM - 5 AM**

**PROCEEDS TO:
Gay Community Dance Committee**

Participating Groups:
Branching Out, Canadian Gay Archives, Chutzpah, Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario, Dignity, Footscap (Oral History Project), Gay Asians Toronto, Gay Counselling Centre of Toronto, Gay Fathers of Toronto, Gay Liberation Against the Right Everywhere, Gay Liberation of Waterloo, Glad Day Defence Fund, Integrity, International Gay Association (Toronto), Kitchener-Waterloo Gay Media Collective, Lesbian and Gay Pride Day Committee, Lesbian and Gay Youth Toronto, The Lesbian Archives, Lesbian Mothers' Defence Fund, The Lesbian Organization of Kitchener, Metropolitan Community Church - Toronto, Gay Community Choir (The New Voice), 923-GAY'S (Gay Community Calendar), Right To Privacy Committee, The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Spirit, The Body Politic, TAG, Toronto Gay Community Council, Toronto Gay Patrol, Tri-Aid Charitable Foundation, The Web. Associate member: Gay Community Appeal.

**TWO DANCE FLOORS:
ONE DISCO ONE ROCK/NEW WAVE/WOMEN'S MUSIC**

**DJ'S: BARRY HARRIS, DAVE NASH, KRYS SHEPHERD, AL YOUNG,
ILONA LANEY.**

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AVAILABLE AT GLAD DAY BOOKSTORE**



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Full Page	\$75.00
Half page	\$40.00
Quarter Page	\$25.00

Per column inch	\$15.00
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1/2 price for community and non-profit groups!

GLOW NEWS is a monthly publication of Gay Liberation of Waterloo. GLOW NEWS is available free of charge to GLOW members or at GLOW events or by subscription. Rates: Canada — \$10.00 for 12 issues; U.S. and foreign — \$12 for 12 issues.

GLOW acts as an educational resource on homosexuality as well as a support and social group for the gay community. GLOW has an information/counseling phone line (884-████) open weeknights from 7 to 10 pm, a library and resource materials for members.

GLOW is a member of the Gay Community Dance Committee, a Toronto-based coalition of groups that organizes fund-raising dances, and is also part of the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario, a province-wide organization fighting for full human rights for lesbians and gay men.

Any ideas or suggestions for this newsletter are welcome. Send material to GLOW News, c/o Federation of Students, University of Waterloo, Waterloo Ontario N2L 3G1. Deadline for the September issue is Wednesday, August 24.

Personal ads will be accepted at the rate of five cents a word; see notice above for information on display ads. 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.

The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of GLOW or the Federation of Students of the University of Waterloo unless otherwise indicated.

This newsletter was designed and typeset by volunteer labour at Dumont Press Graphix, 97 Victoria Street North, Kitchener.

Contributing to this issue were Paul Barton, Wayne Bell, Joe Berbec, Greg Meadows, Todd Schneider, Joe Szalai and Lesley Turner.



ADVERTISE IN

GLOW NEWS

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SEPTEMBER ONLY!



OTHER LESBIAN AND GAY GROUPS IN THE AREA

Lesbian Organization of Kitchener, Box 2422, Stn B, Kitchener, N2H 6M3. 578-████ or 745-████. Womyn's coffeeshouse first Thursday of every month; general meeting third Friday of every month. Since times and locations for LOOK events have changed, call the above numbers for information. Listen to **Leaping Lesbians**, every Thursday from 6-8 pm on CKMS-FM, 94.5 FM 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 6-8 pm on CKMS-FM.

Gays of Wilfrid Laurier University will be active again in the fall. Contact Jeff through GLOW for further information.

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

Gay? Got a drinking problem? Call 578-████ or 745-████.

Recently Greg Meadows and Joe Berbec had a talk about gay life and politics in Kitchener-Waterloo. Joe has been active in the gay community locally for several months; he came out earlier this year at nineteen.

What is Gay Liberation trying to do?

Well, . . . to liberate people. To liberate people . . . and liberate themselves without having to kiss anyone's goddamn ass. . . .that of any social organization or any straight organization, to get status.

What status?

To become middle-class or respectable. . . .that yes, . . .we are respectable human beings and we're going to try to buy our way there, . . .we are going to try being little goodies and kissing everyone's sweet little tusch to get there. . . .to get accepted at a certain level of society.

So Gay Liberation is against that?

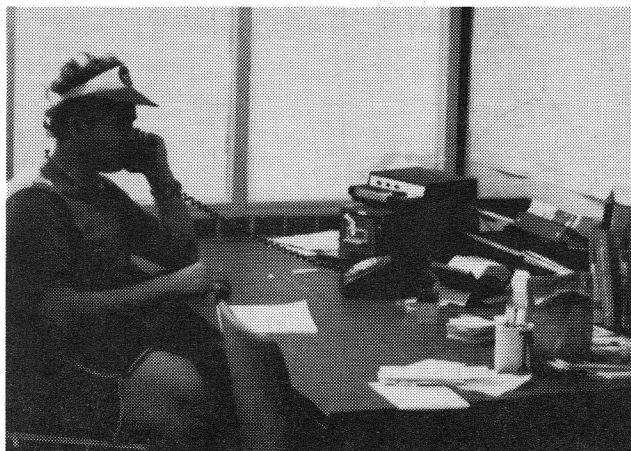
Yes! If you have to kiss ass for it.

In other words, you take it.

Yes, you take it. That's what liberation means . . . you fight for it — you take it. You don't just wait for someone to come and lay out the silver platter for you. You know . . . take what you want. You gotta fight for it or you're never going to get it.

Do you see the gay movement as doing this right now? Or is it falling down on the job?

According to the different groups I have seen in the area I think . . . HALO (Homophile Association of London, Ontario) in my opinion is not doing a damn thing as far as gay liberation goes. Once, when I was in London, one of the people involved with Gay Youth said, "We cannot do much in this town because a certain large group, a certain wealthy group of people who don't like homosexuality . . . they're homophobic, . . . so because of that we can't fight them. We can't put our ad in the newspaper because these same people control the paper and they're wealthy and my god . . . we can't take them on . . ." Well that's a lot of crap! And I think . . . well, what do you hear of HALO? Do you ever hear of them taking on a fight



like that? There's a fight there. You never hear them do it.

What about Guelph?

Guelph seems very conservative to me . . . very much a social club. A place where gays can go to, to have their little once-a-month thing . . . or their little coffeeshop and that's all their world is.

How is GLOW different? Or is it?

Well, I think GLOW is different. It's taken on the *K-W Record*. It's going to Waterloo city council. It is going out to the streets and spreading it. It is taking on gay liberation. It's fighting for your rights and taking them. Going after them. Speaking out and not kissing anyone for it. Being active in the whole movement . . . in everything. Not running it as a social club for someone.

One of the criticisms of GLOW is that the people there are snobby, that they're too radical, too militant, and that they're not really doing anything for gay people like good social events and good coffeeshops or things like that.

If GLOW's critics don't like the job we're doing then why don't they get involved? Why are they willing to put the blame on someone else and not take responsibility? If you don't like it why don't you change it?

There's also the argument that generally, gay people are a disempowered group and they're not going to get involved unless they're led into it very gently.

Joe Berbec

on

gay liberation

You're only as disempowered as you make yourself. You empower yourself by the rights you take, by what you do.

Action?

Action speaks louder than words. This whole bit about giving people time . . . Years and years to come out. That's for the birds. *Now* is the time to make your move. Now is the time to push for your rights. Get them. Don't wait for ten years thinking that if we work slowly we'll get accepted. We're not looking for acceptance. We do not need acceptance from straights.

What do we need?

We need our rights! As gays, as men and women. Those rights are out there. We have to take them.

So what kind of rights do you see us getting?

I would like not to be discriminated against when you've got a job. All this shit that I won't come out because of my position . . . that I won't come out because the straights will get rid of me. That's not radical. That's the truth. I spoke to someone a while ago who's very high on the social bit . . . but who won't come out because he's afraid that he'll lose his job and won't get accepted by straights. Now that's for the birds. Not everyone thinks like that. A lot of gays think that you have to get accepted by straights, . . . that you have to kiss butt for it.

So what's the other approach then?

Fight. Straight head-on confrontation. When someone tells you no, you go and do it anyways. It's your right no matter what someone else tells you.

What would it be like if you win?

There's no such thing as actually winning. It's not a battle. We just want to take what is ours. We just want our rights.

But would society be different?

Yes. We would judge someone as an individual and not on what society has taught us . . . one's looks, one's influence.

But in the gay community people are judged on how much they make or how they look. We haven't got our shit together yet.

That's true. A lot of those damn bar-queens have to get off their asses and stop feeling sorry for themselves, saying that "I'm just a small person being oppressed by this large institution — what the hell am I? — I can't do anything." They have to get off that idea and off their butts, and get out there screaming for their rights. They have to get out of scrummy little bars where they go once or twice a week and think how great it is to have this little shit-hole, that someone has allowed me to have. They should get out of those stinking holes and realize that there's no reason to sneak through back doors and alleyways and hide in the closet. Things are only going to change when people come out and be proud of it . . . when they're not going to take shit anymore . . . or bow down to others . . . when you realize you're as good as anyone else.

Do you think the gay groups are moving to the right as a lot of society is?

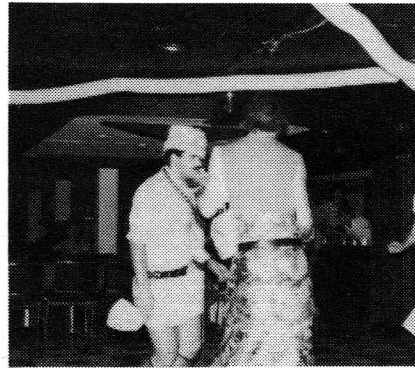
The gay groups in this area are becoming less active in gay liberation. They're getting into this idea of being socially accepted. Yes. I think the conservatism is starting to affect even gay groups.

What about gay people in general?

A lot of people are still oppressed. Still heavily involved in the gay weekend business only. . . .at least for K-W that is the way it is. A lot of people go to the Half and Half on Friday and Saturday night and that's their whole world. The rest of the time they're playing it straight. The bar is a little sanctuary, a little bubble where they can go and be themselves. The rest of the time they're trying to fight their gayness.

Do you think the present male competitive social system would be different if gay liberation were to succeed?

I don't think the competition would go away. I think it would be easier. Men would be able to hug or kiss or whatever *without* meaning to be sexual . . . and to have that accepted as a friendly gesture. I think men would be far more closer to each other. Friendlier terms . . .



Our whole society is very looksist. Is there any way we can address that evil?

Society is looksist and I must admit I'm guilty of it. It's a closet. We never socialize as a community, outside the bars. Right now our worlds revolve around some basement or some closety, shitty, dumpy bar. A lot of bars in the K-W area seem to be set up to preserve the closet.

What do you say to people who don't want to be liberated, who want to stay in the closet?

I think that's a cop-out.

Then they'll say, well it is a cop-out . . . I am copping out . . . and I don't care.

Then I think the person will need more time to understand that they're getting a free ride off gay liberation. I think they should be clearly told that, and they should understand that. They wouldn't have a bar to go to . . . they wouldn't have anything. Period. They wouldn't dare admit that they're gay to another person. They wouldn't have a cruisy park or anything if it wasn't for some form of gay liberation.

What if they don't give a shit?

Then they don't give a shit about their own lives! You always have people who don't give a shit about themselves. You can't force people to do things they don't want to. Being involved in gay liberation does have its price in the gay community. At times you are an outcast, looked down upon, told that you give a bad name to the community . . . because you're forcing people to admit that they're gay. You're forcing an issue which is hard for them. And they don't like it. They *like* the little closet. They know that world. They're secure in it.

What made you leave the closet?

I think it had to do with a lot of pressure to get married, to be straight. When I realized I was attracted to men I knew there was no way I was going to get married. I will not get married . . . to satisfy my parents!

What has changed?

My understanding of myself. My understanding of the gay community. Where I want to see the gay community go. Also seeing where it's at. Also because now is the time to get involved and change things for the future . . . I want to enjoy the changes that I make.



You have said that you've fallen in love with the people here, the gay community of Kitchener. Can you describe what caused that?

Well, when I was coming out through GLOW, not having any friends, at the time, making a move from the farm to the city. I've made very dear friends. They took me all over without really expecting anything from me. And I think that helped me a lot. I think love is a strong bond. Every time I meet someone and talk to them it seems my life improves a bit more. My understanding of my gay brothers and sisters grows more . . . and I think the community needs much more understanding between gays, lesbians and feminists. There is quite a large gap right now. We have to learn to overcome differences and start uniting and understanding each other's oppression. Instead of fighting each other we have to put our energy in fighting the common enemy — straight, heterosexual, WASP society.

gay

got a drinking problem?

578-██████ or 745-██████

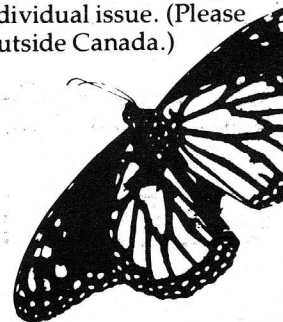
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SOUND OFF

Soundoff is a space reserved for the free expression of ideas. Send yours today to: GLOW NEWS, c/o Federation of Students, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1.

Single Oppression

I am tired of the stigma of being a single woman in a couple oriented community. In particular I resent the assumption that I am "looking for a relationship." In retrospect it has led me to regret the degree of energy I expended dealing with the dynamics of caring for women in traditional couplistic bonds. Things happen like the expectation that since I am a friend to one woman in a pair, I should relate to her as part of a package. It means dealing with the resentment of her lover, which often manifests itself in superficial niceness toward me, or territorial fondling of her beloved in order to demonstrate who belongs to whom.

I am certain that I do not want to hear any more how good I am for a woman

outside of her (primary) relationship. I have come to the realization that the reason my stomach drops a few notches at this expression of affection is because it is really an indirect method of putting me in my place.

For one, I am not sure what a "relationship" is. My contact with certain women has been as intimate and spiritual as having an exclusive tie to them. My observations indicate that such exclusive unions tend to be limiting and insular. It is a matter of moving in a linear fashion from one woman to the next and to deny this sequential aspect is to be oblivious to the reality of lesbian culture.

The power and privilege of coupledness which lesbians often operate within are linked with the same sanctions which heterosexual marriages enjoy in "straight" society.

I am not a second class individual who will allow myself to continue to be disempowered by insensitivity such as being shuffled around at a concert until the couples are arranged together. It causes me to feel like the third person at a drive-in movie. I do not believe that there is something undesirable or threatening about me in my choice to operate as a single woman, a situation which changes and evolves with my growth and love.

Lesley Turner

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GLOW NEWS

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August 26 — “A HARD TIMES DANCE” for gay-positive people, 7:00 pm to 3:00 am at Victoria Park pavilion, Kitchener. Tickets available in advance for \$3.00 or at the door for \$4.00. For tickets call 742-████ or 578-████. D.J., buffet and cash bar. Help support a struggling new band to buy equipment!

August 29 — **PRESENTATION** to Waterloo city council by GLOW and other concerned groups on a proposal to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Plan to be there if you are concerned about the right of all citizens to equal access to city employment, services and facilities. Call 884-████ from 7-10 pm weekdays for more information.

August 30 — **Gay News & Views**, 6-8 pm on CKMS-FM.

August 31 — **GLOW coffeehouse**, 8:30 to 11:00 pm in Room 110 of the Campus Centre.

September 1 — **LOOK coffeehouse** for womyn. Call 578-████ or 745-████ for information on time and location.

— **Leaping Lesbians** radio programme, 6-8 pm on CKMS-FM.

September 10 — “**NO NAME DANCE**”, A Lesbian and Gay Dance sponsored by the Gay Community Dance Committee (see notice). 888 Yonge Street, Toronto — the Concert Hall at the corner of Yonge and Davenport, 9:00 pm to 5:00 am. Tickets available in advance from the GLOW coffeehouse or from Joe Szalai until September 7. Tickets also sold at the door. Volunteers — have your name in before August 10.



GAY NEWS & VIEWS

CELEBRATES

5 YEARS

ON AUGUST 9

LISTEN IN!