

# Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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

## *Gemini*

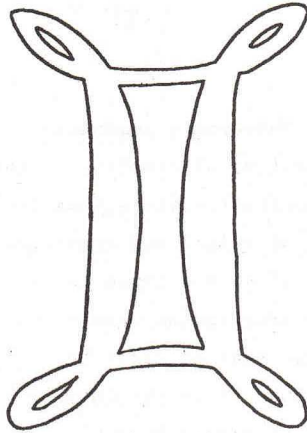
**Publishing History:** Issued by **Waterloo Universities' Gay Liberation Movement (WUGLM)** from 1971, June - 1971, October.

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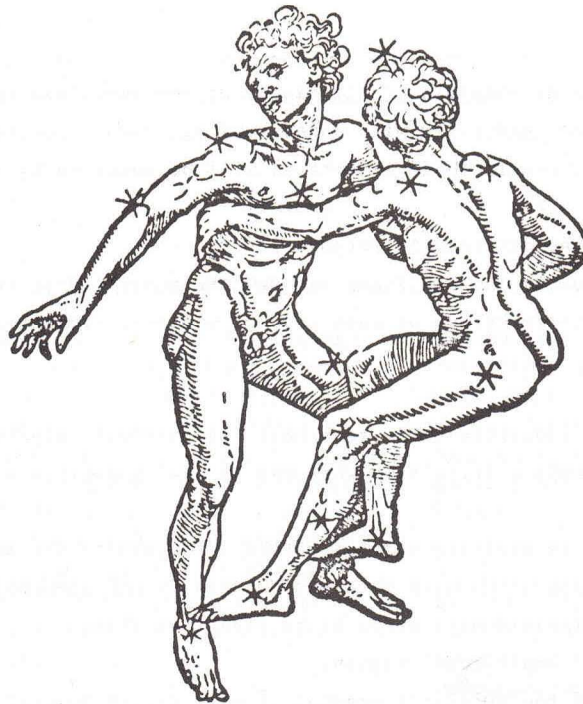
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# GEMINI

Volume I, Number 1, June 1971



WATERLOO UNIVERSITIES' GAY LIBERATION MOVEMENT, WATERLOO, ONTARIO

WATERLOO UNIVERSITIES' GAY LIBERATION MOVEMENT

CONSTITUTION

I. Preamble

IN response to the implicit need within society at large and within the University community of the Twin Cities in particular for an organization that will provide a positive alternative to the oppressive morality, contrived ignorance and conspiracy of silence of the dominant culture towards homosexuality, the WATERLOO UNIVERSITIES' GAY LIBERATION MOVEMENT is hereby organized and constituted. In doing so, we, its founders, assert that it is the democratic right of each citizen to choose what shall be the emotional and sexual orientation of his life and to practice any consequent behaviors of such a choice with consenting individuals in such a manner that he shall be free from fear, persecution or discrimination by others. We further assert that it is the duty of a democratic society to ensure that this right be secured and protected. In recognition of this our duty we set forth our purposes as below.

II. Purposes

1. TO provide an open forum that will consider in public discussion and private dialogue any and all facets of the nature of human sexuality; the moral, social and psychological aspects of the relationship between individual sexual practices and cultural norms, legal and otherwise, with the emphasis being on these matters as they pertain to the issue of homosexuality.
2. TO present as complete a view as possible of all facets of homosexuality thereby striving to replace ignorance, fear and negativism with understanding, human acceptance and positive concern for the individual. These objectives will be achieved by the following means:
  - a. through free discussion as outlined in Purpose 1.
  - b. by combatting stereotypes, myths and fears through the providing of information about homosexuality and the dissemination of same through whatever communications channels are available.
3. TO be of assistance to those individuals who seek help for personal, psychological, religious, legal, social or academic difficulties they may be having because of their sexual orientation by:
  - a. maintaining an informal counselling service within the organization and by working wherever possible in cooperation with whatever University and community organizations may be relevant to the individual's needs as he perceives them.
  - b. informing individuals of their legal rights,
  - c. informing individuals of the available psychological and sociological literature on homosexuality,
  - d. maintaining liaison with homophile movements across North America.
4. TO protest and if necessary combat through legitimate and legal channels any and all instances of discrimination and persecution on the part of individuals and/or organizations against individuals whenever it appears that such discriminatory treatment is on the basis of actual or reputed homosexuality.
5. TO work through legitimate and lawful means for the eventual absolute equality before the

law of those individuals who may be designated as homosexuals by anyone or any organization whatsoever by advocating or promoting the repeal of any law which specifies special treatment for individuals so designated.

6. TO provide such social activities as the membership may from time to time approve.

### III. Organization

#### 1. Membership

Shall be open to all persons of the Waterloo University community who endorse all aspects of the social philosophy and objectives set forth above under Purposes. Voting privileges shall be restricted to those members who have paid annual dues.

#### 2. Executive

Shall consist of a chairman and an executive committee of not less than three members who shall perform such duties as secretary, treasurer and press secretary by mutually agreeing on which of these functions each shall assume. The election of the chairman and the executive committee shall take place during March and shall be on the basis of a simple majority vote of the membership.

#### 3. Dues

Three dollars per annum.

#### 4. Amendments and By-laws

To this constitution shall require the vote of two-thirds of those present at two consecutive general meetings. The By-laws shall have the same force as if they were a part of this constitution

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### EDITORIAL:

### ON THE FOUNDATION OF GAY LIB

by John Dunbar, President

I suspect that when we founded Gay Liberation we had some clear-cut expectations regarding the nature of the task before us. Many of us felt that the enemy was entirely "out there" in the form of adverse public opinion and fag-hating bigots. Our constitution was framed with these external enemies in mind and we were preparing our defenses to withstand their onslaught. It would now appear, from the perspective of our first months of operation, that we may have overemphasized these externals while ignoring the enemy within us.

The enemy I refer to is, of course, our own fears and the reticence these create to conceal themselves. Homophiles and heterophiles alike may have overestimated the extent of anti-homosexual prejudice in the community at large and almost certainly this is so within the University community. We expected that the sky would fall in upon us if we dared to make ourselves known. Experience has shown that this is not true. We have made important advances in letting those sympathetic elements in the community make themselves known.

Everywhere we have "surfaced" we have in the majority of cases been greeted with genuine acceptance if not enthusiastic support; at various lectures, seminars and general rap-sessions; at the Student Federation; at Counselling Services and even in the President's Office.

Of course we know that the external enemy is there. He has torn down our posters and spread rumors that he will break up our meetings. But he is now losing his most important and effective weapon, i.e. the fear he creates in the hearts of isolated homophiles by pretending to speak for the entire community when he sneers "dirty faggot!". Now he is on the defensive for he has not only to contend with an organized group but also with the moral integrity of all good men and women. When he says "dirty faggot" he will be more circumspect if his utterance is to have the effect he intends. A bigot who mouthed these obscenities at one of our members in Toronto was rewarded for his efforts with a broken jaw!

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Within our organization there appear to be vast differences among members as to how comfortable they feel in asserting their emotional and sexual selves. Some members have been "out" for some time and have worked through the difficulties that characterize this personal liberation process. Newer members are only beginning to feel the urgency associated with this and can now be facilitated by group interaction. I feel that the consensus within our group is that this helping of individuals is the real core function of GAY LIBERATION. We will therefore want more discussion groups, private parties and the formation of meaningful personal relationships that result from such activities. Most of our members seem to feel that it is the frightened, alienated homophile that we need to reach - the 90 per cent of the gay population that we have yet to meet. When we have attended to those needs in a significant way we will then have the substance with which to tackle, more effectively, the difficult issues of social liberation and civil rights.

The homophile thus personally-liberated becomes the model for the liberation of others and ultimately these collectively become the spearhead of social change. This we can and will accomplish for we have the dignity and determination that characterize all repressed minorities who struggle to obtain their rightful positions in society as individuals of fully equal human worth to all other men.



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??WHAT IS GAY LIBERATION??

The founding of the Waterloo Universities' Gay Liberation Movement this year was long overdue. Earlier in the school year, gay kids could only phone places such as Hi-Line in a feeble attempt to be redirected, indeed misdirected, with all the good intentions in the world, to gay persons and places. With regular weekly meetings, information in aid of personal sexual liberation can be communicated more easily and readily.

Personal liberation in a sexually repressed society is one objective of Gay Lib. This is the goal of most of the members: to achieve personal liberation, whatever that means. It cannot be achieved, however, without some serious attention being paid to the removal of the oppressive forces in society which make it impossible for people to be free, whatever their sexual preferences. This has not yet been fully realized by the members of Gay Lib.

At the moment a very necessary function is being serviced, that of exposure to gay life, information, and above all, feeling comfortable with gay, bi-sexual and straight people who participate in the various functions.

The most important social objective is the changing of society via social, legal and political action, so that men and women can be free to live as they determine without fear of persecution from those who do not share their preferences. To put it bluntly, it is a refreshing and welcome move to see homophiles coming out of hiding; it will be more rewarding to work toward a society in which the compulsion to hide because of one's aesthetic, sexual, political or religious preferences becomes unnecessary.

If the goal is a society in which race, colour, creed, sex and sexual preference are not the measure of a person's worth, the type of activity required is to live one's life in accordance with these principles. Gay dances, "gay-ins", homophiles walking arm-in-arm in the streets, kissing in the parks, just as heterophiles are permitted to do, are some of the specific actions that can be taken.

This is not to flaunt one's differences in anyone else's face; it is to demand acceptance as a human being working toward a society in which the value of a person is measured independently of his sexual preferences. To achieve this end takes courage, and Gay Lib's first and immediate goal must be to help individuals acquire the COURAGE to be free. Not many of us have it yet. We need it to face the challenge of mitigating the oppressive forces in society which inhibit our will to be free.

The courage which comes from "personal liberation" may be a prerequisite, but the goal is a free society.

Joel Hartt

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TWO GUELPH GAY-INS SUCCESSFUL

Approximately fifteen members of the Gay Lib Movement converged on the pub in Creelman Hall at the U. of Guelph Wednesday, March 17, with the purpose in mind of joining others for a gay-in, or at least to integrate the pub. Unfortunately it turned out to be the wrong night and aside from the president of the Guelph group we were the only ones that showed.

Fortunately, spirits were high, and inhibitions were loose, and once one couple started dancing many others joined and the evening is to be considered a success.

The following night we returned to join others from York and Guelph and this night, too, with the support of the manager of the pub was greatly successful. About forty people in all joined in a circle and enveloped straight couples as well as gays. Many new friends were made and the evening seemed to be enjoyed by all, as no hassles were encountered.

Since then the Guelph pub has been successfully integrated by only a few couples at a time who can now say they are gay and they are proud.

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GEMINI is published by the Waterloo Universities' Gay Liberation Movement, c/o Federation of Students, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario.  
Comments and contributions to GEMINI and to the Newsletter are welcome to the above address.