

# Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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

## *Gemini II*

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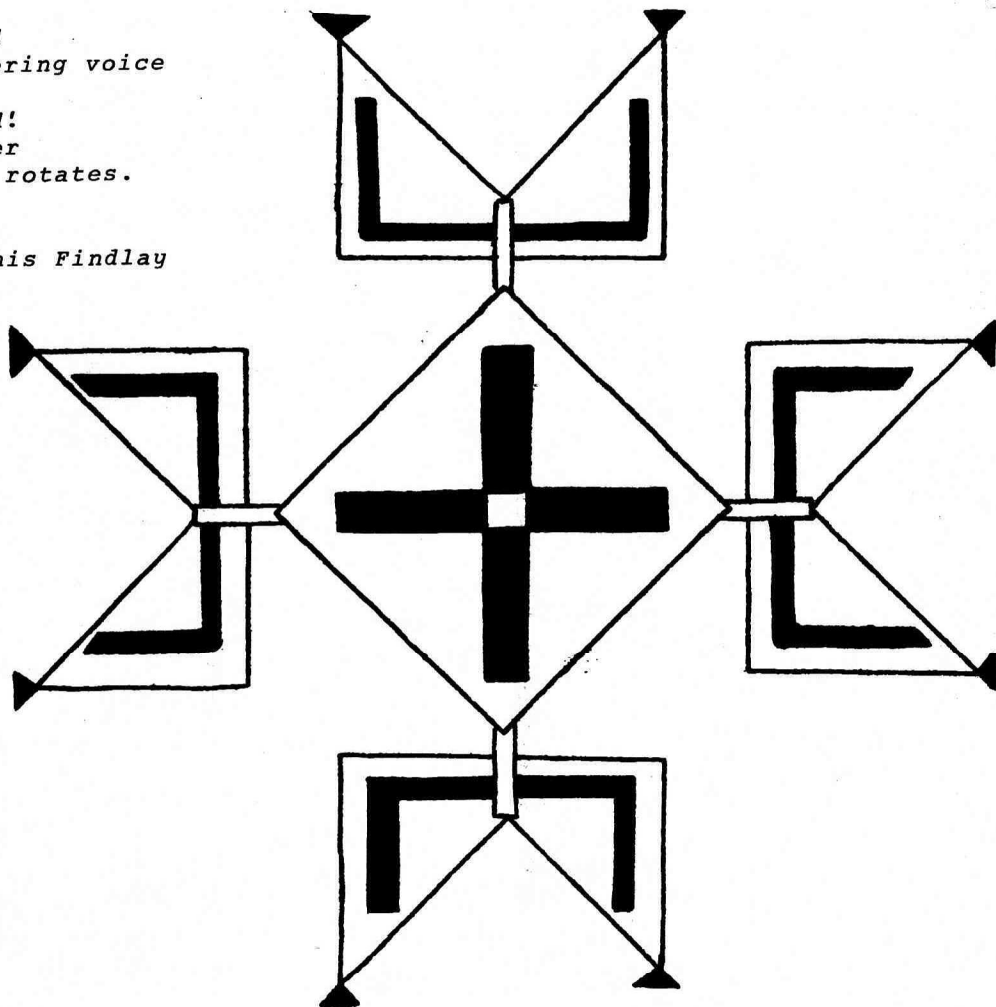
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# GEMINI II

Waterloo Universities' Gay Liberation Movement : volume 1, issue 2

And the sun said  
in a slow sauntering voice  
"My dear sir,  
my pace is fixed!  
I can't go faster  
than your earth rotates.

- Dennis Findlay



M  
A  
R  
C  
H  
7  
3

three times the sun has passed away  
filling the air in its death agonies.  
and three times i have called out to you  
(the smallest things talk of you -  
your candle,  
one lonely sock  
a card from an anniversary rose ...).  
but three times i held silence  
as the sun melted into moons.  
your absence is heavy in this house.

- Margaret Murray

## GEMINI II

In this issue of Gemini II you will find a special feature. Because of the content we found it impossible to edit nor did we feel that it could be continued in a second issue. Therefore, to present it in its entirety we were forced to set aside some other material until next month. We offer this information not as an apology but as a tribute to the beauty of the letter.

In conclusion, the editors wish to thank Patrick for allowing us to publish this material.

## DANCES

No doubt many of you are aware the anticipated dance scheduled for Feb. 23rd did not happen. The main reason was again the lack of facilities. Although Jason's provided good facilities, all prime nights had been taken by a larger group so a different location had to be found, unfortunately, not in time to have the planned dance.

At present we are trying to secure a place for March 10. Application has been made to the co-op residences regarding use of Hammar House (just like in the summer) but a decision was not available at the time of printing.

Word will go out when we know but if you do not hear anything via the local grapevine, then call the office (885-1211 ext [redacted]) or [redacted] and get the word for sure.

If Hammar House becomes available to us, we hope to establish a regular series of dances every second Saturday. So keep your party shoes handy, you may still get a chance to use them.

COVER DESIGN Dave Poole  
Sun symbol taken from the Sunshine Indian Tribe.

GEMINI II is published by the Waterloo Universities' Gay Liberation Movement, c/o Federation of Students, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario.

Deadline for contributions or letters is the 19th of the month preceeding publication and should be sent to the above address.

## Office Now Open

The new office located in Room 217 C of the Campus Centre is now open from 9:30 am to 10:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Someone will be there to talk to people about homosexuality, the Gay Lib Movement and any other information that we may have at our disposal.

Weekends, if there is no answer at the office contact [redacted] or [redacted].

## MEMBERSHIP

Got your membership yet? Membership cards are now here and are available at the meetings or through the membership secretary.

If you are still without a membership then don't worry, the price increase has been delayed until after the next dance. But that is the last chance to get the year membership for only 50¢. After that it increases to \$2.00 and door admission to the dances (without a membership card) will increase to \$1.00.

## "DEAR DAD AND MOTHER"

One of the most difficult stages of liberation a gay person goes through is telling parents and family of one's homosexuality. Printed below is a letter from a gay person to his parents explaining his sexual life style.

It is with no hesitation but still with difficulty that I set down these words to you. There is no hesitation because these paragraphs bring to you information about a particular decision of mine that has been kept from you for far too long a time; but there is difficulty because the information about this decision will perhaps be difficult for you to accept and will require an adjustment on your part that you could consider impossible. This particular decision about myself and my life has not been arrived at without the greatest amount of thought and soul-searching. It is a decision that has given me much happiness, however, so I ask you to accept it as a very real one, and one that is truly a part of me. In many ways it would have been so easy to keep this information from you, but in the long run it will be best for you to know and best for me that you do know.

Each of us is a many-faceted individual who is in part a great deal like other people and yet in total unlike any one of them. Each of us finds that some parts of us fit well within what the majority considers to be the "norm". Other parts of us, however, don't quite fit these "norms". It is with these parts that the greatest struggle towards personal maturity occurs -- for either we will deny these parts of our self in order to blend with the majority, or we will accept them and work for the majority's acceptance, or do without it if necessary.

Differences in people, when they are slight ones -- such as choice in clothes or hair style -- meet with little resistance from the majority. When they seem to be diametrically opposed to the very basic "norms" of the majority, however, they create a situation that is at best trying for all concerned; it is then that each of us is required to have an open, mature mind that will accept these differences in others that we cannot accept for ourselves. At the worst, these differences -- compounded by ignorance and its companion fear -- bring forth ill feelings, dislike, ostracism, and even hatred.

For years, people whose differences widely disagreed with the basic norms of the majority suffered quiet,

desperate lives; but recently they have tired of this practiced unfairness. They are now demanding that the majority -- without necessarily adapting the differences to itself -- accept their differences as equally valid ones. They have demanded this by talking and arguing -- and if necessary by pushing and shoving. The result is that the majority has become more and more aware that its standards are not the only standards, that blind as it would wish to be it must recognize that for some people alternate standards are equally good.

One area of human experience that is struggling for more latitude and individual preference is the area of sexuality. The established, sexual norms of the past are giving way to new ones that are much broader and that encompass a much broader range for individual choice. The full range of human sexuality is coming more and more to the surface; sex between a man and a woman for procreative reasons only is no longer regarded as the sole accepted sexual experience. For some, the joy and beauty of sex is good and valid even when it is separated from its procreative aspect; today contraception for both sexes is common practice. Other people feel that sexual expression does not need to be restricted to one other person only; today, for instance, people live in sexual communes; others create spouse-swapping clubs; and still others create their own means for this freer sexual expression.

For still other people, today's freedom of choice in sexuality does not restrict them to sexual expression only with members of the opposite sex. For these people, homosexual expression and heterosexual expression are equally valid. It is true that homosexual expression takes a person to the point on the sexual spectrum that is most far removed from the choice of the majority; nonetheless it is a possible choice on this sexual spectrum, and one that can be satisfactory and fulfilling for the person who chooses it.

I am a person who chooses this form of sexual expression. I am a homosexual -- or, more correctly, I am a person who has chosen homosexual expression for my sexual activity. Since I prefer sexual activity with members of my own



sex, I do not choose to have sexual activity with members of the opposite sex. According to the slang expression, then, I am "gay".

I have been aware of my homosexual nature since the age of thirteen, when I was just entering high school. For many years before that, I knew that my feelings were not the same as they were for other boys; but since I was not fully a sexual being, and since I did not know that there was such a thing as homosexuality, I could not categorize these feelings. But even after I was able to label the feelings as homosexual ones, I knew that they were feelings I had always felt, and that I had never felt differently.

During the fourteen years between the ages of 13 and 27 I went through a very difficult period of my life; this was the period of adjustment to my homosexual feelings. First was a period of fear; I was afraid, because my feelings were different from the ones that people naturally assumed I was feeling. Next came a period of self-learning; I discovered through much reading that I was not alone in my feelings, that indeed feelings such as mine were not uncommon. Then came a period of denial. I knew that I had homosexual feelings, but tried to deny them. Why? It seemed that it would be much easier to live a life that the majority expected; in addition I knew that a happy homosexual life would be most difficult to achieve and maintain -- in fact, I had learned that many people with homosexual inclinations led lives of utter ruin and despair.

Finally, though, there came the realization that I was what I was, and could not be happy trying to be anything else. I decided at last that the only way I could construct an honest life was to be honest to myself. If I were not true to myself, I reasoned, nothing in my life would be true. When I had at last decided this, I kept before myself one standard: that my homosexual life would be a decent, respectable one, that it would be one based on love, kindness, respect and goodness.

During those years of adjustment never once did I feel bad about my homosexuality; I always felt good about myself, and didn't feel that I was missing out on what others had. However, I knew that if the world knew of my feelings, it would condemn them and ask me to change, and at that point I doubt that I'd been able to defend myself against the "authorities".

It was a little over a year ago that I started to reconstruct my life to make it what it should be. I began attending meetings of the Gay Liberation Movement.

This movement, like many other groups throughout the country, is operated by homosexuals who gather to help each other. The weekly meetings were very good for me. The discussions helped me to move forward; and just meeting other persons who were going through the same stages was in itself a tremendous help. Eventually I became quite active in the group working in the office, taking a shift on the telephone answering service, and doing art work for the newsletters and information fliers. I find now that I need the meetings less, but I do try to help those who are going through what I have gone through.

Some time ago I went to a party, and there I met Peter. How can I tell you what a fortunate, beautiful thing that was? Here was a person who had that love, kindness, respect and goodness that I was looking for. In the "world" of homosexuality -- a world that can be so twisted, a world in which relationships can be so temporary and meaningless, a world that can be so crazed because of the oppression it suffers from the straight world -- I was blessed with finding him. Did it seem right, I asked myself, to have met him and to be so happy when so many others have searched for years and were still searching? But it was true -- there he was. And now we are together, and it grows better and more beautiful every day. Now I can share with you my greatest happiness -- Peter; and I can tell you that the primary reason for my move to Canada was to be with him.

And now that you know, what are my feelings? Most of all, happiness in sharing with you something that is a source of my happiness. Secondly, relief that I need not hide part of my life from you any longer, or fabricate events to cover it up. And now that you know, what can I expect from you? In truest honesty, I don't know. This one aspect of not ever really knowing what another person's reaction will be keeps so much communication from happening! My fondest hope is that you will accept this part of me as you have always accepted every part of me that I have allowed you to see, and that through this acceptance you will accept Peter into the family fully as much as you would any other new member. My greatest fear is that you will deny this part of me, and blindly refuse to learn that it can be a beautiful thing and that it is a source of my greatest happiness; if this would happen I know that my allegiances would first be with Peter, and that all else would have to fit around that. Perhaps what will happen is that we will meet on a middle ground, accepting as much of each other's differences as we can without sacrificing our own standards completely.

In the beginning of the letter I stated that the information I was going to give you had been kept from you for far too long a time. I am sorry for that: you can certainly see that it wasn't until I had adjusted to myself and until I had a real reason for writing these words to you that I could write at all. I also stated that the information would perhaps be difficult for you to accept and be information to which it could be impossible for you to adjust. I know that an adjustment cannot be made quickly and without difficulty. You will have many questions that will require answers and discussions; please let me know of them so we can discuss them together.

In this letter perhaps I have dealt too deeply with a subject that is very new to you. On the other hand, perhaps I have not dealt deeply enough with something of which you were already aware. Feel free to discuss this new information with anyone who you think could offer support of any kind. And,

most of all, don't sweep this knowledge under the rug; that kind of suppression will be good for none of us.

May I say one more thing, something that is very important to say. In no way are you to feel any guilt in having a son who is homosexual. You cannot and must not blame yourselves. In the research that has been done on homosexuality, there is no one factor that can be pointed to as its cause -- if, indeed, there is a cause. I myself long ago gave up trying to analyse the things that led me to choose a homosexual life. It is really useless and not at all necessary. I love life, I look forward to each day, and above all I am happy. Does that need research?

Also remember that you have been the finest parents that one could have. No parents could love me more or could have provided me with better basic knowledge for a good and happy life.

Your loving son,

Patrick

## WHAT'S UP

CHAT, Toronto. Office: 406 Jarvis St.

- March 6, 7:30: Meeting and program.  
14 Hagerman, Toronto.
- March 8, 8:00: CHAT women meet.  
406 Jarvis St.
- March 9, 8:00: Dance. \$1.50 admission  
14 Hagerman.  
Licensed. Free buffet.
- March 11, 2:00 a.m.: Java Coffee.  
406 Jarvis St.

GLM, Kitchener-Waterloo.

- Monday nights: General meetings.  
8:00 p.m.  
Room 113CC.
- March 22: Gay Lib panel on homosexuality. 9:00-10:00 p.m.  
Tune in; tell others to watch the telly. Ch. 12
- March 10 and 24: Possible dance.  
Hammer House.  
8:30 p.m. (Call 885-1211 ext. [redacted] or [redacted] for confirmation and/or directions).  
Admission 50¢.  
Licensed.

UWOHA, London.

- Monday Nights: General Meetings.  
8:00 p.m.  
Grad Student Lounge,  
Somerville House.
- March 3, 17, 31: Saturday Dance.  
8:00 p.m.  
Admission \$1.00 with membership card.  
Grad Student Lounge,  
Somerville House.  
Licenced.

