

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/

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

Gemini II

Publishing History: Issued by **Waterloo Universities' Gay Liberation Movement (WUGLM)** from 1973, February - 1974, February.

Copyright Permission: Copies of individual issues of *Gemini II* have been reproduced with the kind permission of its copyright holder, **GLOW - The Queer and Questioning Community Centre**. This permission is part of a broad agreement to grant the **Grand River Rainbow Historical Society** copyright permission to reproduce publications of **GLOW - The Queer and Questioning Community Centre** under the current and prior names of **GLOW** back to its inception in March of 1971. *Gemini II* was a publication of **Waterloo Universities' Gay Liberation Movement (WUGLM)**, which in later years became **GLOW - The Queer and Questioning Community Centre**. No further reproduction is permitted.

Digitized Files: After the PDF file has displayed, we suggest that you **set your viewing window to a fairly large size** and then **adjust the PDF magnification** so that the text can be read comfortably.

Telephone Numbers & Email Addresses: These documents were published many years ago. Please do **NOT** use them as a source for telephone numbers or email addresses for local businesses or agencies. Reliable sources for that kind of information include <http://www.canada411.ca/> and other search engines on the Internet.

Redaction: Certain parts of the digitized text have been **blacked out** in accordance with our [Redaction Policy](#). The **Grand River Rainbow Historical Society** maintains a separate collection of unmarked (unredacted) copies of the issues of this magazine for consultation as necessary.

GEMINI III

Waterloo Universities' Gay Liberation Movement Volume 1 issue 5



the others are relieved i am not an artist

others tell me
i am a happy clown dancing
their sadness into some laugh-lined coffin;
but if i were to paint myself
on a sky canvas stretched across my life
it would be in the colors
of night
with sorrow tinted eyes,
and empty lips
the harsh supression of thoughts
the border,
not really a harlequin character
but a child surrounded by cat voices
and cigarette smoke.

margaret murray

July '73

During the last month and a half, no doubt many have noticed the increased number of articles and letters in the KITCHENER - WATERLOO RECORD concerning an Opportunities For Youth funded project on homosexuality. From these articles and letters, a certain amount of criticism has been generated regarding the intent of this project.

Sensationalized journalism has distorted the real purpose of informing people about homosexuality into a plot to use taxpayers money (homosexuals also pay taxes) to convert "thousands" into homosexuals. It is incredibly difficult to believe that people could think that the mere discussion of homosexuality will have such a catastrophic effect. That in itself points to an overwhelming ignorance of not only homosexuality but of human sexuality. It is about time that people realized (heterosexuals as well as homosexuals) that sexual orientation cannot be changed at will. You are what you are; you might be able to pretend otherwise but it will always be just pretending.

To think that adults could be "won over" so easily is obviously ridiculous but who are people trying to protect from this knowledge? The children? Those poor innocents with no minds of their own who will be swayed so easily. Imagine all those 'adolescent infants' armed with the sound knowledge that homosexuality does exist sneaking off to who knows where, to do who knows what!

What ridiculous garbage! Young people today are constantly exposed to crime, violence, sex, drugs and many more things. To try to hide homosexuality from them not only places undue importance on it but also naively assumes their unawareness of it. Knowledge never harmed anyone, but the lack of it can certainly do more damage. This lack of knowledge has been aptly demonstrated by some in our own community; let us not force it upon our children as well.

Cover Design Bob Williams

Gemini II is published by the Waterloo Universities' Gay Liberation Movement, c/o Federation of Students, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Rm 217C Campus Centre, phone 885-1211 ext.2372.

Copyright: Federation of Students, University of Waterloo, 1973.

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

Staff: Bryan, Ed, Margaret, Sheila, Bob, Dennis.

July 14 : 8:30pm G.L.M. Dance, Campus Centre pub area, University of Waterloo. Admission \$1.50; \$1.00 with any Gay Lib membership card. Licensed.

July 16 : 8:00pm Regular Waterloo G.L.M. meeting Campus Centre Rm 113. Guest speaker George Hislop, CHAT Toronto, talking on " The LAW and homosexuals, your rights and what to do when hassled."

July 21 : 1:30pm Waterloo G.L.M. PICNIC, at Elora Gorge Conservation Area, south of Elora. Swimming, baseball and barbecue facilities available. Bring your own food and eating utensiles. Gate fee of \$1.75 per car. Meet at the Pavilion for directions to site. Everyone COME.

July 21 : 8:30pm UWOWA Dance, second floor University Community Centre, London. Admission \$1.00.

July 23 : 8:00pm , regular G.L.M. meeting rm 113 Campus Centre, U of Waterloo.

July 24 : 8:00pm MacMaster Gay Liberation meeting, second floor lounge, Senior Science Bldg, MacMaster University, Hamilton.

July 27 PLEASE NOTE: the Waterloo Dances which have been held on Saturdays may as of this date be held on Friday... so PLEASE, contact us to check.

Aug 2 : 7:30pm. Grand River Cable Channel 12. Panel to answer listeners questions on the O.F.Y. project Operations Socrates.

Aug 3 : 8:30pm. Regular monthly dance sponsored by MacMaster Gay Lib. Textile Workers Hall near Sherman and Main, Hamilton. Admission \$1.50; \$1.00 with any Gay Lib membership card.

Aug 4 : 8:30pm Regular UWOWA biweekly dance.

Aug 10 : 8:30 pm Waterloo G.L.M. Dance, Contact office to make sure.

Aug 20 - 25 GAY PRIDE WEEK. more details in the next issue.

OPINION is a new feature of GEMINI. Any article that expresses ideas or beefs that we don't cover or that talks about things of interest to you will be printed if at least one person on the staff knows who wrote it. this is to protect US from legal hassles and a pen name can be printed if you wish. We cannot hope to find things of interest to all but you could help. Get involved.

Dear Friends,

I am a seventeen year old student who attends a Catholic secondary school. I've read a great deal about your program, Operation: Socrates and I just wanted to tell you how very appreciated your work is. I am not sure of my sexual orientation (if we have to classify ourselves). Having been involved in a few homosexual experiences, I have often felt confused, alienated and frightened. Library books have been my one source of unbiased information, but even in a library the size of the City Public Library, I have only been able to find approximately five good books on the topic. School libraries scarcely mention homosexuality, and if they do, it's in passing reference in a "sexual deviants" chapter in a psychology book. On the whole, available books deal primarily with male homosexuality, and as I am a girl, I find the lack of information on lesbianism rather pitiful.

Living in a medium sized community and going to an all girl school, run by nuns, I guess you can see that I have a lot of difficulties dealing with my questions. I can't discuss it with my teachers: I don't feel they're too well equipped and besides, I don't think I can really trust them. My priest is out too (have you read some of the stuff that's in the pamphlets on homosexuality in the back of Catholic Churches?!). Though my parents are loving and understanding, I know that talking to them would cause more pain than good. A few of my friends know, but they really don't want to discuss homosexuality with me, even objectively. It seems they can accept me as long as my sexual tastes are a taboo subject. As far as getting in touch with any homosexual group, like the one at the university, I don't think I can. Quite frankly, I'm scared. I'm not sure that I'm a lesbian but I do know that I'm very shy and insecure in a group, and I don't know if I could handle such a big step right now.

And so I was hoping that in your study, you could include some advice to young people like myself who are at a crossroads but don't know which direction to take. Suggestions on how to deal with parents, and who to contact for advice would be helpful.

One of the greatest problems is the schools. In our Grade 12 Family Life Course we barely mentioned homosexuality. Any suggestion of it was quietly filed away, due to either the teacher's inability to handle the topic, or his discomfort. And the students! Some of the nicest kids,



who wouldn't think of laughing at a racist story, think nothing of telling a joke about "queers". The bigotry is really sad. If you could mention this in your study, I think that it might open their eyes to their cruelty.

My greatest problem is the loneliness. I am tremendously attracted to another girl, but I'm not sure it's physical attraction. I love her and everything about her. The problem: how can I express my love if she's not gay? I think she has homosexual tendencies, but how do you know for sure? And if she has accepted herself as a lesbian, can I? If you could possibly answer the question "How do you know if she (or he) is homosexual", I know you'd be helping a lot of others besides myself. Or is that question impossible to answer?

A Student

IN TORONTO

SATURDAY: June 30th 1:00 pm. CHAT Centre
201 Church Street, Toronto.

Topic: Gay Pride Week (August 20-25)

Proposed Policy:

1. Each city with a Movement or Association would be responsible for their own Gay Pride Week activities.

2. Each region or city with an Ontario Human Rights Commission office will be responsible for submitting a brief to that office on August 24 (Friday) with respect to including sexual orientation in the Human Rights Code. (With Toronto submitting to the Provincial office).

3. On August 25 (Saturday) there will be a Gay Pride March, starting at the Chat Centre, crossing Yonge, going to City Hall and from there to Queen's Park for a rally with two or three speakers and a picnic. Everyone in Ontario and surrounding areas is asked to come and participate in this march. Dances will follow in the evening and accommodations will be available for people from out of town.

SUNDAY: July 1st 1:00 pm. CHAT Centre.

Topic: National Gay Election Coalition
(N.G.E.C.)

At the Ottawa conference the N.G.E.C. was reaffirmed. It was suggested that a booklet be put together containing the laws affecting homosexuals and the types of action that we as homosexuals would like to see our government take with respect to these laws. This booklet would then be sent to all election candidates in every riding in Canada to ask them what their stand would be on each of these points. Gay Action Towards Equality (G.A.T.E.) of Toronto offered to draw up a draft of this booklet to be discussed by the representatives to the July 1st weekend conference. The Sunday gathering discussed the draft rather critically and suggestions were made as to the format, contents and the phrasing used.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

June 30th 1973...the ywca on mcgill street in toronto...10 am, an ungodly hour for anyone let alone this woman... suddenly the banner is in place and in purple splendour it shouts: welcome lesbian sisters.

well, finally the ladies have got it together enough to have a conference of their own (watch it buddy, there are no ladies here, just women). and get it together we did. without financial support from any gay lib group or women's movement, a small group of lesbians hosted a day-long event which included group discussions, home-made soup, more rap sessions, self-defense, and a dance. and it happened fairly successfully.

never in my life have i seen so many lesbians, (about 50 altogether, coming from anywhere between Vancouver and Montreal, plus one baby who hasn't decided yet but is sympathetic to the cause). and the first thing they did was to step all over operation: socrates for being male oriented and intolerably sexist. enough said. next i ran into the ultra-radical group who kept telling me that any woman who related to a man (excuse the colloquialism, the term which should be used is prick) in any fashion was a masochist. then i learned that we should take all our male children and shoot them or barring that, castrate them. a new amazon nation is forming!!

needless to say that did my head in fairly well and the only thing that saved me from jumping out the window or screaming for a rescue party was the bezumba theatre (or guerilla theatre if you're up on literary terms) oriented towards liberating both men and women from sexist thinking. they were fantastic and though-provoking.

after that i learned how to defend myself. if you're interested, i can show you how to kill a guy by putting his nose through his brain or how to kick a guy in the balls so he'll stop irritating you (if you're good enough this would probably accomplish the castrating necessary for the amazon society). i was told what to do with a lit cigarette and got to practice punching several of the other women. i was quite impressed with the simplicity and efficiency of the few things i accomplished. i also learned why every woman should be able to defend herself. any woman over the age of 14 will find it difficult to obtain a 'guilty' verdict against any attacker. it has something to do with chaste character and should you not be a virgin or if you are seen talking to your assailant, then forget it. you have no rights. also any woman who is separated can be raped by her husband and cannot bring action against him (man's right as husband). plans are emerging around the foundation of a rape crisis centre but something should be done about such discriminatory legal jargon. women have a right to their own bodies and since the law doesn't agree, learn how to defend yourself.

the seminars continued until 8pm but the one i found most effective was concerned with relationships and the lesbian. gay women do not have the heterosexual crutches of housing, marriage, social acceptance etc. they can be exploited far more often than married women and gay men because 1. they do not have a family to attend to 2. the single man (it is assumed he is straight, whether he is or not) probably has several girl friends to enter-

cont'd

tain and everyone knows there's no such thing as a female sex drive. we got into such things as monogamous marriage vs. group coupling, jealousy, sexual and sensual reactions, and the politics of touch. i learned that most of these women did not want to be "married" as a lot of gay men presume, that they would prefer to be able to develop their interests in as many directions and levels possible, and that lesbian relationships are no more stable than gay male ones. to make a relationship work it takes two(or more) individuals who are secure enough in themselves and considerate enough of the other (or others) to allow freedom for growth. no matter what type of relationship you have, you are a person in your own right and as a woman you should not put yourself down for not living up to the male society's image of womanhood, (chaste, innocent, stable, and all that other garbage).

the day was completed by a dance which had a lot freer atmosphere than our own gay lib ones and the next day there was a picnic on ward island. unfortunately, i attended the 2nd day of the gay lib conference (once again the only woman) and found it terribly sexist.

no one seemed particularly interested in the discriminatory laws against women and they all seemed imbued with the idea that gay men have a worse lot than gay women. gentlemen- how many women have actually raped a full grown man; have you ever thought that straight men usually recognize the fact that homosexuality exists among males but cannot fathom the idea that lesbians actually prefer women; finally, if you must spend so much time discussing the law which enables you to be picked up for gross indecency in washrooms, why don't you propose not making out in washrooms and then go on to more important things like the civil rights code, just so.

all in all, it was an amazing weekend. i met a lot of really together women, a few obnoxious ones, and a whole group of women who are concerned enough to do things to help bring about the end of male-sexist dominance. the conclusion of this should be obvious:

Eve was framed- Adam did it.

come to think of it
no one ever decreed that i as woman
had to shave my legs and arm pits
in search of pubescent innocence.
and there is no law that says that i
must sacrifice my mind for the sake of my femininity.
all these years i have been conditioned
to believe in the covergirl skinny eyebrowed image
of starvation thin models that man puts forth
as beautiful.
well hey world i'm a lesbian i'm beautiful
i'm a woman and i have a brain which functions
as well as any man's;
and if you think that god would not approve of such revolt,
just remember
SHE understands.

OPERATION: socrates

As you may have read in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record on May 12th, 1973, seven people were funded by Opportunities For Youth to do a project on homosexuality. The aims of this group are to do a survey on community attitudes and on gay peoples attitudes towards homosexuality; to prepare a recommended reading list for counsellors and other interested parties, and finally to put together a handbook for high school students and counsellors. The main emphasis of the project is the handbook which is not a sex manual as was implied in the Record and the Star on June 18th

1973. In the handbook the people plan to answer a lot of common questions asked about homosexuality, to print a few interviews with people of varying degrees on Kinsey's scale of sexuality, to provide some information on Venereal Disease of particular interest to gay people, and to list a short annotated reading list.

Lately the project has been receiving an amazing amount of interest in the news media. People appear to be threatened and angered at the topic of the project, thus many have contacted their local M.P. and complained at the waste of government money. One M.P., who was in

the area came to visit the project participants and left them with the pleasant news that he was going to try and have the grant stopped. People who approve of the project have hardly been vociferous.

Operation: Socrates had strong backing by various respected agencies and individuals in the community, including a doctor, a school trustee, counsellors, and teachers. It has a resource committee made up of some of these supporters to assist in public relations and the format of the handbook. The people involved are both gay and straight, workers and students. They feel that they are presenting an unbiased, informative booklet which is desperately needed in the

educational system and counselling professions. As things stand now, there is little if any information available to people who are questioning their sexuality or who are interested in learning about other types of sexuality. The handbook does not proselytize; it is simply and factually written.

Operation: Socrates has been using the Gay Liberation office, library, and resources. The people are not trying to represent gay liberation in any way. The handbook is not a 'How-to' manifesto of radical gay action; it is an educational tool, nothing more nothing less. It is a shame to think that something so simple could create such a furor among the general public.

opinion

the following is a dramatic dialogue which is a conversation between two figures representing opposing interests on a common theme. the reader is asked to imagine that the two speakers can neither see nor hear each other. any conclusion will be of your own making.

[and again there weren't any women at
the gay lib conference held at CHAT.]

[the women's centre in toronto which is
in contact with a large number of
lesbians was not informed of the gay
lib conference.]

[the movements in the province have
known of the conference since the
ottawa gathering and still their
female members didn't show.]

[women find it difficult to be active
in a male dominated glm. we feel that
we are not listened to and are tired
of struggling against internal sexist
attitudes.]

[if women want to be heard, and if they
want to be influential, then they've
got to get out and start shouting.]

[we were offended that gay pride week
was planned without consultation of
our opinions; since they were not
welcomed for gay pride, then we feel
that obviously they were not wanted
for the NGEC draft.]

[where are the women in GATE and CHAT?
if they wont come out with their
political ideas, one would assume
that they don't give a damn.]

man's law is based on women's prime commitment to him. men and women have been politically defined as different. women are still too conditioned to face a bloc of men as angry individuals. we would probably not be listened to except as unstarts and innocent fools.

we get rather tired of carrying the whole load of gay liberation and if the radical lesbians don't start participanating, they deserve getting chauvinism.

as yet there is still no real lesbian identity. lesbians are working for their rights as women and as gay ones. the men are not interested in working for women's rights. to be liberated as a woman is to be liberated as a lesbian. we are burdened with having to fight on both sides.

not being women, we hardly know what their struggle is or even if we are helping or hindering it. if gay lib appears to be a male oriented movement it is because there are not enough women actively involved.

men have always needed to prove their masculinity by controlling things. gay men are no different. when women become actively involved in glm, we are directed and watched and never listened to. we are tired of having to battle inward discrimination.

lesbians do not really know what gay men are up against. gay men need to be told to their face what women are thinking and feeling. the lesbians' lack of participation isn't going to solve anything. it can only cause the gap between men and women to widen. if women are really committed to radical feminism, they better push harder to make their point.

liberation lies on all fronts. women need to be secure and confident enough to be able to raise gay men's consciousness about women's issues. gay men on the whole are not interested but they should be made to listen and eventually to understand.

gay men can't be held responsible for women not being able to get it together. avoiding confrontation with men, gay or straight, is not going to change anything. isolation is fear.

in their fight for liberation, men have always moved with relative freedom through a network of bars and clubs. women have always been defined in terms related to men. even now few recognize the existence of lesbians. women have been working in the feminist movement to gain personal liberation. we have been struggling against male straight sexist conditioning and are succeeding. by remaining closeted in men only groups, gay men avoid integration with women and accomplish nothing.

a majority of gay men have for years been aware enough of themselves to at least organize socially. they have always been aware of a lack of liberation and of restrictions. women obviously have not been aware long enough. they have avoided it. we as gay men will participate in women's liberation if they let us know that liberation is what they want. if women are not interested, why should men be.

gay men frequently reject women with no idea of what oppression we face. thus sexist thinking continues. a gay male could probably come closest to understanding by appearing as openly male but in female attire. gay men have always been put down as inefficient and feminine; they still do not recognize that this is a common view of women. gay women are seen as a threat to patriarchal society. we are no longer willing to tolerate a sexist society. we will liberate ourselves with or without gay men's assistance. liberation lies on all fronts.