

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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GEMINI II

Waterloo Universities' Gay Liberation Movement Volume 1 issue 6



August - September '73

Gay Pride and liberation are the main themes presented in this issue of GEMINI II. Because Gay Pride Week means different things to different people we have presented a history of Gay Pride Week, some of this year's planned activities and most important what significance Gay Pride has for a number of individuals. Gay Pride is not just a group of people marching in the street. Gay Pride means more in a personal sense of everyday life.

We have also included a section on the gay liberation movement at Waterloo. The original concepts and goals of the founders have a broader significance now since groups from the university and community have met to extend the efforts of an effective gay movement into the public sector of the Kitchener - Waterloo region.

The price however, is a large amount of work by a few individuals who are willing to make it work in spite of the problems faced.

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

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WHAT'S UP

Aug. 17-26: Gay Pride Week Activities.
See special section for Toronto activities.

Sept. 1 : 8:30 pm, UWOHA Dance,
second floor, University Community
Centre, London. Admission \$1.00.

Sept. 7 : 8.30 pm. G.L.M. Dance,
Campus Centre pub area, University of
Waterloo. Admission \$1.50; \$1.00 with
any Gay Lib Membership Card.

Sept. 15 : 8.30 pm. UWOHA Dance,
second floor, University Community
Centre, London.

Every Monday 8.00 pm, regular GLM
meeting Rm 113 Campus Centre,
University of Waterloo.

letters

Dear Sir:

This note is addressed particularly to those people who are working on the OFY grant OPERATION: SOCRATES. From what I can gather, they are at present working on a handbook for distribution to the high school guidance departments and counsellors answering many fundamental questions about homosexuality. There seems to me to be a great need for this type of material in the right hands at our schools, so that valid information is available for those students who want it.

However, I am told that there is to be a section explaining (in graphic, though not lurid, detail) what exactly it is that gay people do in bed. While I understand that the 'sex manual' scare that previously arose has subsided, I would like to voice a concerned warning right here and now. In discussing the details of sex, the authors of the handbook are treading on territory very sensitive to school board members, parents, and high school officials. Academic discussion is fine for them, but the nitty gritty may be too much.

What I am trying to get across is the idea that it would be a damn shame for all of that work and effort to be wasted, and to have the handbook lying in some dusty corner of the Gay Lib office, doing no one any good, simply because of a small section which probably doesn't belong there in the first place.

A Friend of OPERATION: SOCRATES

We of OPERATION: SOCRATES feel that no mystery is needed to cover up any aspect of homosexuality. The basic act of heterosexual intercourse is mentioned in high schools; surely the act of homosexual intercourse should be treated no differently.

Not only are high schools going to be using this information but also counselling services, sex educators and other liberation movements. We have seriously thought about the content of our handbook; our resource committee has had no objections. People need to understand before they can be accepting.

OPERATION: SOCRATES

Those who are
or have been
deeply hurt
have the RIGHT
to be sure
that they are
Loved

- Jo Anne Bates

GAY PRIDE WEEK

The Omnibus Bill of August 1969, revised the Criminal Code statutes relating to homosexuals so that homosexual acts between consenting adults in private were no longer considered illegal.

In August of 1971 there was a Gay Pride March in Ottawa petitioning the Federal Government to bring about further changes in the Canadian laws.

In August of 1972 the Gay Liberation groups in Canada chose a week to be Gay Pride Week. This year the week of August 20 - 25 has been picked as Gay Pride Week by the Canadian Groups.

The purposes of Gay Pride Week were: to commemorate the change in legislation, to express pride in gay sexuality and to bring to the attention of the public and other homosexuals the existence of homosexuals in our society. The week is designed to further Canadian gay people's demands for acceptance as people and to bring

an end to the discrimination that often occurs against homosexually oriented individuals.

Each city organizes their own activities which can consist of such events as dances, picnics, art shows, film festivals, poetry readings, marches, rallies and petitioning of legislature. This year Gay Lib groups are petitioning their local Human Rights Commission so that the words 'sexual orientation' will be included in the Human Rights Code along with the terms 'race', 'creed', 'colour', 'sex', 'marital status', 'nationality', 'ancestry' or 'place of origin'. By such inclusion discrimination against homosexual orientation would be discouraged.

For those interested in taking part in this year's Gay Pride Activities, see the Whats Up column or contact CHAT, Toronto, (862-1544) or Waterloo G.L.M. (885-1211 ext. 2372).

WHAT IT MEANS

To me Gay Pride Week celebrates the changes in the criminal code. The march, so that both gays and straights are or become aware that gay people do exist, are happy and demand their basic rights as human beings. The only gay 'holiday', a time to come out or shut up.

It symbolizes my desire to emancipate homosexuality from the condescending attitudes of an insecure society. The march is a reminder that gay lib is not a dormant concept. It is extending its touch to the populace. Marching side by side waving banners and signs are the convictions that I haven't yet the courage to exhibit but it makes me proud to be gay

What is Gay Pride Week to me? Well, my most immediate response would be to say that it's a special time for me to show the world that as a gay person I'm glad I'm me. It really can't be left at that, though, because what I have to decide is just how I'm going to do that showing.

One way is for me to join with other gay people so that we can collectively use our strength to make the public more aware of how we are oppressed. By marching. By sending a letter to our area human rights officer, pressing for protection of our sexual preferences in the human rights code. By publicly showing that we are ready to work for our rights. All these things are necessary and need to be done.

But there is another way of showing, a more personal way -- and a way that may really be the more important way. During Gay Pride Week each one of us, in some way, should step out of the closet a bit more in our OWN IMMEDIATE LIFE. How each one of us would do it would be a personal thing, and what each of us would do would be up to each of us alone. Perhaps it would be no more than reading just one good book on Gay Liberation to get the head space a little clearer. Or it could be just being more honest with the person across the hall or down the street, even if it's something as simple as changing "some friends of mine" to "Don, Marcia, and Bill" when talking about the week end past. It could be taking some bigger steps; for instance, clearing up some confusions "I don't date women, because I'm homosexual; but Bob and I would love to come to the party". Or perhaps for some, Gay Pride Week would be just the time to have that talk with some close friend, or the family.

What I'm trying to say is that each of us runs into hundreds of situations every day where we have the choice either to go on covering up, or begin uncovering. So I think I would be happiest about Gay Pride Week if, in addition to the marches and the letters and all the collective things, each of us would personally open up a bit more. If gay people throughout the provinces would do this, this would be the real step toward gay liberation, and I think that in the long run it would have more of an effect on the future of gay people than all the anonymous meetings, marches, and letter-writings put together.

ACTIVITIES

Community Homophile Association of Toronto
(CHAT) Sponsored Activities (862-1544)

Friday, Aug. 17:

9:00 pm : Licenced dance, CHAT Centre 201 Church St. Admission: \$1.50 members, \$1.75 guests. Door prizes will be awarded at all CHAT dances during Gay Pride celebrations.

Saturday, Aug. 18: Opening Day Activities

10:00 am: Baseball game at Riverdale Park.
1:00 pm: Bake Sale and Lunch at the CHAT Centre, 201 Church St.
2:00 pm: Talks by the president and vice-president of CHAT on the aims and objectives of CHAT and Gay Pride Week.
3:00 pm: Skit presentation
9:00 pm: Dance at CHAT Centre.

Sunday, Aug. 19:

4:00 pm: Body and Soul - a reading by CHAT members.
6:00 pm: Pot Luck Supper
8:00 pm: Dance - NOT LICENCED
All Sunday's activities are at the CHAT Centre. Admission charge \$1.75 for all three or .75¢ each.

Monday, Aug. 20:

7:30 pm: Free gay films.

Tuesday, Aug. 21:

8:00 pm: Guest speakers Jack Nichols and Lige Clarke former editors of Gay and authors of the book I have more fun with you than anyone else, will also be attending the activities planned for Gay Pride Week.

Wednesday, Aug. 22:

8:00 pm: Sex and Sexuality: "Boys in the Band" reconsidered. A reading of a section of the play followed by an interpretation and discussion.

Thursday, Aug. 23:

8:00 pm: Sex and Sexuality: a movie "Growing up Female", followed by a panel discussion.

Friday, Aug. 24:

Time: to be announced.
Presentation of brief to Parliament concerning gay rights.
9:00 pm: Dance, licenced, CHAT Centre.

Saturday, Aug. 25:

10:00 am: Craft and Bake Sale, CHAT Centre. ADMISSION .50¢.
Judging of Photo and Greeting Card Contest.
1:00 pm: Gay groups from all centres assemble at CHAT Centre to organize parade. The parade will proceed from Church St. across town to the Parliament Buildings at Queen's Park. An impromptu picnic will follow after several speakers.
9:00 pm: Licenced dance, CHAT Centre.

Sunday, Aug. 26:

10:00 pm: Early risers: a group will leave CHAT Centre for ferry to Hanlan's Point (Pit Area 12). If you plan to attend during the day, bring swim suits and food.
8:30 pm: Wind-up Dance, CHAT Centre. Admission .75¢.

National Gay Election Coalition (NGEC)
Sponsored Activities (961-6496):

Thursday, Aug. 23:

Dance at Club Manatee, St. Joseph St. (near Yonge).

Gay Alliance Towards Equality (GATE)
and Body Politic Sponsored Activities:

Saturday, Aug. 25:

Dance, Drill Hall, University of Toronto Campus St. George St.

In order to expand services and projects in the Kitchener - Waterloo area the Gay Liberation Movement needs persons who are willing to donate some of their free time to a variety of activities. If you feel that you can be of assistance in any of the positions listed below, please check the appropriate area(s) and return to

GEMINI II
GAY LIBERATION MOVEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO
WATERLOO, ONTARIO

If possible I would like to help in the following area(s). I realize that this is not a promise to help but only an indication of interest:

___ helping at dance (in return
for free admission)
___ typing
___ setting up newsletter
___ answering phone

___ agenda for meetings
___ sneaking engagements
___ advertising
___ calling members
___ political action committee

Name : _____ Phone : _____

GAY LIBERATION

THE NEED

In response to the implicit need within society at large and within the University community of the Twin Cities 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 behaviours 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.

THE RESULT

Late in the winter of 1970, a group of gay friends decided that there existed a desperate need to form an organization that would deal collectively with the problems presented to homosexuals living in an apparently hostile heterosexually-dominated society. So a group of eight students undertook the task of forming Gay Liberation.

Early in 1971, a constitution was published in the campus newspaper, The Chevron; the Federation of Students was approached and a first general meeting was announced. Despite some fears and apprehensions by the founders, the first meeting was a success beyond all expectations. Over one hundred men and women attended. Many joined Gay Lib the first night.

Subsequent meetings saw somewhat fewer attending, but many new faces appeared indicating that some gay students were overcoming their own fears as it became obvious that the organization was for real.

Many counsellors of Counselling Services on the Campus were grateful at the organization's formation as they were now in a position to refer those individuals who so desired. Professors, student organizations and community help organizations approached Gay Liberation requesting information on homosexuality and lectures on the subject.

Gay Liberation has both personal and social aspects; personal liberation from the fears, uncertainties and misconceptions imposed upon individuals by a hostile society and social liberation from the discriminatory laws and social practices of this western culture.

Gay Liberation attracts many people of various sexual persuasions. The major emphasis is still that of achieving liberation for those people whose emotional and sexual preference is for members of the same sex.

Presently the Movement is considering moving its facilities from the university environment to the community of K-W. to better serve the general gay community of the area. It is hoped to have a community centre with a telephone, coffee house events, possible week-end dances and educational programs for the gay and straight community.

THE ACTION

Some of the most important things we're doing in Gay Lib involve showing people that we're here and that we're human too. We've been doing this by having meetings and rap sessions with people who are interested in learning more about gay people. The groups of people who have asked us to come and talk with them include classes of students, people involved in counselling (eg. HELP, Hi-Line, Rap Room, university counsellors, psychiatrists), groups of ministers, church congregations. We've also participated in radio shows and TV shows. One of the most interesting of these was a TV show we did where people phoned in and discussed with, argued with, insulted, agreed with, and even congratulated us, for several hours. It was quite an experience. I think we changed some people's thinking for the better.

Another thing we had fun with was putting together a little green pamphlet called "I am a Human Sexual". The previous pamphlet (purple) was full of ideas but we wanted something a little more personal - something that would really show that gay people are individuals. So this time we included in the pamphlet personal stories and opinions by about a half dozen different gay people.

Another thing we are working on is getting a gay studies course at the University of Waterloo. Right now, the main classes that gay people and gay life are mentioned in are classes on abnormal psychology, no less. So we're starting out with one strike against us. A gay studies course would be more positive. It wouldn't talk, for example, about why are homosexuals sick, and what's the best way to cure them; instead it would talk about why some people like to think homosexuals are sick and about why some people are so afraid of homosexuals they want to get rid of them all.

Each year during Orientation at the university, we have been setting up an information centre in one of the buildings. We have signs, newsletters, pamphlets, buttons and some for-real (accept no substitutes) gay people to answer questions, engage in conversation and just generally zap people's heads by the simple fact of being there and being human too.

Another area that some of us see as fairly important is counselling. We would like to have a drop-in centre and a telephone line for people who are try-

ing to work out their problems and need to talk with understanding people who have had some experience with gay life. We are still not at the point where we can do very much of this sort of thing. We are doing it for people who phone our office but we aren't publicizing this service widely. Eventually we hope to be able to do more in this area.

We have noticed that a big problem of many people who phone in is they do not know where to meet people socially. These people often feel very uneasy about coming to our meetings, so we are trying to set up a number of other ways for gay people to meet socially, eg. dances and picnics. Eventually we may be able to set up a coffee house too. We hope to have a number of these events off campus.

One area we are interested in is the political aspect of the whole problem. There is still a lot of laws that discriminate against gay people. During Gay Pride Week, we are submitting briefs to the

provincial legislators to try to get them to change these laws. However, just in case this does no good we will be ready when the elections are called and then we will attempt to make an issue of the discrimination against gay people.

Another area we work on is the newsletter which tells members about news and planned activities. It also contains articles expressing the opinions of some members.

Our office is very much the centre of activities of the movement and is where we keep all sorts of things like newsletters, pamphlets, buttons, stationary etc. It is also where we have our library of books and newspapers on homosexuality which people can borrow. People can phone or drop in and talk for a while.

Or they can come to our regular meetings which we are now holding on Monday evenings at 8:00 pm in Rm CC113 of the Campus Centre.

DOWNTOWN

*Bill
Dover*

At present members of the Waterloo Universities' Gay Liberation Movement are doing their best to lessen public fear of and prejudice against homosexuals. They are part of the world embracing sexual freedom movements.

Since the Gay Liberation Movement has been connected to Waterloo University and offices in the movement have been held by students it has not received the backing of the majority of homosexuals in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. It has been considered a student movement for students only. Only a few non-student gay people feel comfortable visiting the university campus.

Gay dances were held regularly on the campus of Waterloo University and attendance was under one hundred, but sometimes when the Gay Lib Movement held their dances in buildings not connected with the university the attendance swelled considerably. Gay Lib meetings held on campus are often sparsely attended.

In my opinion a Gay Liberation Movement not connected with a university will fare well in Kitchener-Waterloo. There are far more gay people in the Kitchener-Waterloo area than most people realize. They will definitely not go to the gay functions on the university campus but they will attend Gay Liberation meetings and dances as long as they are not connected to any university.

For the dances, a Kitchener-Waterloo Gay Lib Movement will have to obtain a centrally located, licenced hall. The rent will have to be reasonable and they will have to be able to run the bar. To find such a place will be an immensely difficult task and thus will require a show of community support. Will there be support for a new community group?

TOWN MEETING

The second meeting of interested gays from the Kitchener-Waterloo area was held August 15 at the old Fat Angel Centre on College Street. About thirty people from both the community and the university discussed action to be taken to organize a community centred gay group.

Several plans and possible places were suggested and discussed by the group. It was felt that there was a need to establish an organization to provide social activities and educational services that would serve the gay community and establish good relations with the public.

The group decided to elect a Steering Committee of five people to prepare a report to present to the community no later than October 10th. At that time a proposal for incorporating the new organization would be considered and the Board of Executives, president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and five directors, would be elected.

In Canada

If you are planning to apply for landed immigrant status in Canada beware of stating anything about your sexuality. Canada, known for its freedom for privately consenting adults, limits this only to Canadians; others watch your step.

Chapter 1 - 2, Section E of the Canadian Immigration Act states

"No person, shall be admitted to Canada if he is a member of any of the following classes of persons (ie) prostitutes homosexuals or persons living on the avails of prostitution or homosexuality or any other immoral purposes."

Know what your rights are and be careful.