

# Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

[www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/](http://www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/)

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

## *Guelph Gay Equality Newsletter → Guelph Gay & Lesbian Equality Newsletter → Guelph Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Equality Newsletter*

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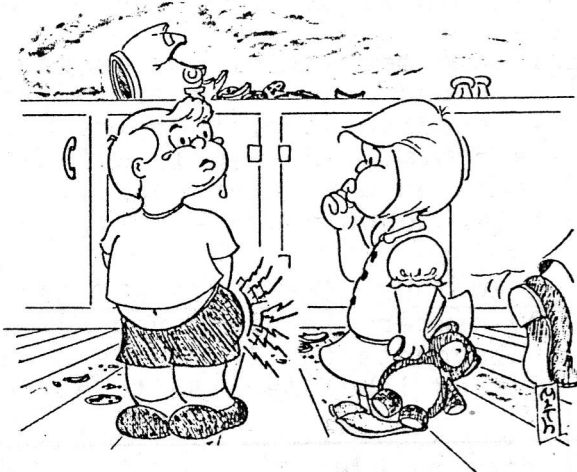
# guelph gay equality

## newsletter

NOVEMBER 1981

### COMMUNITY SERVICE STATUS FOR GGE!

On Wed. Oct. 21, Guelph Gay Equality was given the approval from the University of Guelph Central Students' Association for the change from club status to community service organization. This change of status recognizes the outstanding contributions to our group by members of the city of Guelph and surrounding area. However the community service status also necessitates a higher community profile and a more structured executive, possibly even a Board of Directors composed of students and members of the community. In the very near future we will begin to restructure to adapt to this new status. If you have any questions or better yet, answers, talk to me at the meeting! (Won't someone talk to me, I'm feeling ignored?) Roy



"Daddy just joined the Man/Boy Hate Association."

COMING EVENTS:

- Sat. Oct. 31 - Women's Halloween Dance - UEW Hall,  
611 Silvercreek, sponsored by  
Lesbian Organization of Kitchener.
- Sat. Oct. 31 - Halloween Party - Call 836-4550  
for details.
- Tues. Nov. 3 - Film Night - "La Cage Aux Folles"-  
9th Floor Lounge, Arts Building,  
University of Guelph, 8 p.m..
- Sat. Nov. 7 - DANCE - 5 Empire St. in Guelph  
(off Stephenson St. south of  
Elizabeth St.).
- Tues. Nov. 10 - Speaker from Right to Privacy  
Committee, Toronto - 9th Floor Arts  
Building, 8 p.m..
- Tues. Nov. 17 - Show and Tell - bring an object of  
interest and tell us about it. The  
more unusual, the more fun.  
9th Floor Lounge, Arts Bldg., 8 p.m.
- Tues. Nov. 24 - Find out for yourself - Are You  
Gay Positive? - 9th Floor Arts, 8pm.
- Fri. Nov. 27 - DANCE AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE -  
611 Silvercreek, Guelph.
- HAMILTON DANCE - Call 416-523-7055  
for time and location.
- Tues. Dec. 1 - Film Night - "The Elephant Man" -  
9th Floor Arts Bldg., 8 p.m..

MORE DANCES: Some members of our dance committee are  
organizing a second dance this month, to be held at  
the Polish - Canadian Club, 5 Empire St. in Guelph  
Sat. Nov. 7 - 8 p.m.. Hopefully we'll soon have 2  
dances per month on a regular basis. Don't forget  
the dance at the Schoolhouse - Fri., Nov. 27th!

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SAVE

Your \$10.00 membership gives you newsletters  
and dance discounts for 12 months. Check expiry  
date on address label. Send \$\$ to address below.

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**guelph gay equality** Box 773 Guelph, Ont, N1H 6L8

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DOES SOMEONE REALLY CARE? by Pat

I asked myself these questions  
Not so many days ago.  
About the life I am leading now,  
And someone that I know.

- Why? Because I love someone  
That they don't think I should.
- Where? In every place, and any place  
For feelings we have to share.
- What? Is something only he knows of  
And that is something I won't declare.
- When? Is time, which is mine alone  
And mine, to give to him.
- Who? Is someone special, a lover and friend  
He's someone I put my trust in  
He's not just a phase or a trend.

So think about these questions  
And try not to despair.  
The answers that were given  
Shows that someone really cares.

CALLING ALL AUTHORS

Well, here I go soliciting again! But this time it's  
for short literary contributions to our newsletter.  
(You know the type, the "Meaning of Gay Life" in 50  
words or less). Our newsletter is for sharing  
thoughts and feelings as well as information. So  
all of you closet authors "come out" and contribute  
and be published!

Roy

GLOBE AND MAIL AD BY RTPC

The Right to Privacy Committee in Toronto is plan-  
ning to place a full-page advertisement in the  
Globe and Mail, Canada's national newspaper, to ask  
for the appeal of Canada's Bawdy House Laws. RTPC  
is organizing to have 2,000 names printed in the ad,  
including the names of non-gay public figures and  
organizations who support our right to privacy. To  
be included you would contribute \$10.00. If you are  
interested in helping out in this mammoth job and/  
or know of individuals or groups who support us,  
please call 822-[REDACTED].

K. W. Bernard  
Wed. Sept. 30/81

# Gays should be confined

I have become infuriated over discussion of "Gay Rights."

My first objection is over the abuse of the word "gay." It used to be a pleasant word but now any attempt to use it properly has been made impossible by a group of homosexuals.

Next, the word "rights." Human beings have rights but this group of unfortunate seems to demand special rights. I can commiserate with a person who has something wrong with him or her, whether physical, mental or emotional; I hope for their recovery; I can do what I can to assist in recovery; but I cannot tolerate the arrogance of a misfit who tries to rub my face in the dirt, who flaunts his misfortune and takes pride in it, not realizing (or denying) that it is a "communicable disease."

I believe it was an amendment to our criminal code about "consenting adults" which opened the floodgates. I seem to remember a famous phrase, "the law of the land has no business in the bedrooms of the nation." Many will remember which theorist said that and will have seen the dreadful consequences.

I deny most strenuously "gay rights." They have rights as human beings, but their way of life itself denies them many of those rights available to the normal person. It is their choice. If there is a refusal of certain rights, it is because the abnormal person refuses or cannot conform to the normal. I do not want the in-

sidious persuasion of the distorted person working on my generation or subsequent generations.

To me, they should be restricted and confined to prevent the spread of their pernicious affliction.

When they loudly denounce the rest of us over their "rights," I explode. Instead of being ashamed, they defiantly proclaim that they are entitled to the same or even greater rights than the normal person.

Something is "rotten in the state of Denmark" and the silent majority must take a stand, if not for ourselves, for the sake of our children, grandchildren and others.

Norman A. Shepherd, O.C.  
Kincardine

## Critic of gays isn't enlightened

This letter is in response to a letter by N.A. Shepherd Sept. 30, Gays Should be Confined.

I have lived in Toronto on Church Street near Carlton for the last three years. It is a well-known fact that the area has an above-average number of homosexuals residing in it. Shepherd of Kincardine will probably be alarmed when I tell him that I have not yet caught the dreaded "communicable disease" of which he speaks. An even more unsettling piece of news is that I never will. (All medical evidence suggests that it is a physical impossibility). I have chosen to live a heterosexual lifestyle and, therefore, always will.

Interestingly enough, the Church Street community is the friendliest and most cohesive in which I have ever lived. Homosexuals and heterosexuals are able to successfully and happily co-exist with no one being the worse off for it. One of the reasons for the recent uproar about "gay rights" is that members of the police force have treated homosexuals as if they were abnormal and had no rights. "Gay rights" really mean that homosexuals want to have the same rights that the heterosexual population now enjoys.

It is extremely unfortunate that in this age of information there are still people such as Shepherd who have not been enlightened.

Jim Whaley  
Toronto

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# Gay citizen responds to slurs

Oct. 9/81

I am writing as a gay citizen to respond to the unreasoned statements of Norman Shepherd, O.C. of Kincardine (Letter, Sept. 30) on the topic of gay rights.

The homosexual connotation of the word "gay" has been in use for decades and is based on a 19th-century meaning that Shepherd has not bothered to glean from his dictionary. It is preferable to the labels of "faggot" and "queer" that were not of our own choice.

Whenever prejudice places a particular minority in society at a disadvantage, a price is paid in human lives and welfare costs. The disabled, for example, recognize the negative attitudes of "normal" people as more of a handicap than their own physical infirmities.

Shepherd's promotion of "confinement" as a final solution to the existence of two million homosexual Canadians is not a new one. Many will remember the

Your letter to the editor must be signed and include your full name, address and telephone number. Pen names cannot be used. Be brief; short letters (under 300 words) have more impact. All letters are subject to editing, and the editor reserves the right to reject or condense any letter. Personal attacks or defamatory statements will not be published.

Nazi theorist who proposed and implemented a similar idea just 50 years ago.

Shepherd's "communicable disease by choice" theory of homosexuality is an incoherent cover-up for his own lack of understanding of human sexuality. Most of us realized our sexual preferences long before we became aware that there were others like ourselves. We are the product

of heterosexual families in every race and culture. There are no gay germs

In labeling thousands of people that he has never met as "misfits," Shepherd does a great disservice to the gay women and men that he unwittingly deals with every day in his community. We too are the "children, grandchildren and others" that he refers to, like it or not.

Shepherd is among the "vocal minority," representing 30 per cent of Canadians, who oppose equal rights for homosexuals (Gallup poll, June 1977). He is exhibiting overt symptoms of homophobia, a condition which has been clinically defined as "the irrational fear of homosexuals and homosexuality." His malady, though contagious, can be effectively treated with education.

James Dougan  
Guelph

the gayline 836-4550