

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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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Gay Quality

JANUARY 1983

WHAT'S IN A WORD? GAY VERSUS HOMOSEXUAL

It is becoming more widely known that the word 'gay' predates the word 'homosexual' by centuries. The clinical term 'homosexual' compounded of a Greek prefix meaning same and a Latin root meaning of one sex, was invented by German psychologists in the late nineteenth century. In his book, *Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality*, historian John Boswell discusses the origins of the word 'gay' to refer to persons erotically attracted to the same sex. Boswell's book won the 1981 American Book Award for History.

In France, the Provencal word 'gai' was used in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries to designate an openly homosexual person. Elsewhere in France, the word 'gai' as well as the old English 'gay', the Castilian (Spanish) 'gaya' and the German 'gaye' were all used to identify homosexuals among others who were considered sexually loose. In Europe of the Middle Ages, the Christian Church controlled sexuality and its definitions of morality were rigid.

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"Thank God we didn't wear the tiaras."

In his book, Boswell speculates that the word 'gay' to refer to homosexuals may have much earlier origins and may have derived from the use of the Greek mythological figure, 'Ganymede'. Ganymede was the beautiful son of the King of Troy who was sexually seduced and then carried off by Zeus to be a cupbearer in heaven. Twelfth-century European literature abounds with examples of the use of the Ganymede figure and the name was adopted throughout Europe to refer to a gay person. However, in the thirteenth century, the Christian Church, in an attempt to strengthen its control over people's lives, began its persecutions of gays, Jews and other non-Christians. Literature either by or about gays, was driven underground, as were gay people themselves.

John Duggan, G.O.

HOMOSEXUAL ADOPTS SON IN LANDMARK CASE

Riverside, Calif. (UPI) - A gay man won permanent custody yesterday of his teenage foster son in what his attorney said was the first time a known homosexual had been allowed to adopt a child.

The county agreed to the adoption minutes before a court hearing on a lawsuit filed against it by David Frater, 29. The county, legal protector of the youth, previously denied consent without explanation.

David Frater's attorney, Gloria Allred, who said she believed the

adoption to be the first case in the U.S. in which a government agency allowed adoption by a known homosexual, then agreed to drop the lawsuit.

Kevin Dorman Frater, 17, a professed heterosexual, told authorities he lived in 15 foster homes before meeting the elder Frater. Kevin's mother said she was forced to give up custody of her son because of her addiction to heroin and imprisonment on drug charges.

A CHANCE TO BE HEARD

On Tuesday, January 11, our weekly meeting will be called "New Year Resolutions".

This meeting was planned with the thought in mind that if any GGE members had any suggestions, complaints, ideas, etc. for the Executive, they could do so at this meeting.

This is a perfect opportunity for you as a member of GGE to let your Executive know just how you feel about the runnings of the organization.

If you do have something to say but find you cannot attend the meeting, call the Gayline, 836-4550 and tell one of the volunteers. They will be happy to forward your words to one of the Executive members.

And also don't forget to voice your positive views. If we are doing something you like, let us know and we'll try to do it more often.

Don't forget, that's Tuesday, Jan. 11, Room 536 of the UC Bldg.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Now that we have computerized our mailing and membership list, we can give you a monthly status report quite easily. Here it is.

We have presently on our list, a total of 87 names or organizations.

25 of those names are organizations who receive a pro-gratis copy of our Newsletter for their members or files.

That leaves a total of 62 names.

Of those 62 names appearing on the list, 37 are paid up members. The remainder are persons who have let their membership lapse.

If you check the mailing label on the envelope you received this Newsletter in, you will notice the expiry date printed on the fourth line of the address. If yours has expired, this will probably be the last Newsletter you will receive in the mail.

It is also your cue to renew. GGE cannot survive without your membership. If yours has expired, send your renewal today to P.O. Box 773, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6L8.

Membership in GGE allows you admission discounts at our dances, as well as other organization dances, i.e., GLOW, HUGS, etc., voting privileges at our General Meetings and elections, and also brings you this Newsletter once per month.

GGE NEEDS YOU!----RENEW NOW!

DIALOGUE ON HOMOPHOBIA: a conference challenging the fear that alienates Gays and Non-Gays

A conference is in the planning

stages for both gay and non-gay women and men to confront, discuss and deal with the issue of homophobia. A coalition of gay and non-gay women and men concerned about the oppression arising from homophobic attitudes and behaviour will hold workshops and information sharing Feb. 18, 19 & 20, 1983. We believe we can work together with regard to our differences expanding on awareness of our various cultures and lifestyles.

An open meeting for input and support will be held Monday Jan. 24, in Room 335, U.C. building, University of Guelph. For further information, please submit questions and ideas to P.O. Box 773, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6L8, or contact: Jill 1-833-████; Bill 836-████; or Mary 837-████.

TOP TEN FICTION BOOKS

- 1 Tricks
- 2 A Boy's Own Story
- 3 \$TUD
- 4 Cobalt
- 5 Boy Who Picked Up The Bullets
- 6 Perfect Freedom
- 7 The Young in One Another's Arms
- 8 A Comfortable Corner
- 9 Sundays Child
- 10 Counterplay

TOP TEN NON-FICTION BOOKS

- 1 Sex
- 2 Flaunting It
- 3 Coming Out Right
- 4 Anal Pleasure and Health
- 5 Flesh
- 6 God's Bullets
- 7 Meat
- 8 Gay and Gray
- 9 Lesbian Studies
- 10 The Gay Book of Days.

TBP/Jan. 1983

the gayline 836-4550

COMING EVENTS

Tue. Jan. 4: VIDEO MOVIE NIGHT

"Personal Best". Another one of Hollywoods newest 'Gay Positive' films that has won much critical acclaim. Not to be missed!

Tue. Jan. 11: NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

A general discussion meeting to give YOU! a chance to air your views, negative or positive, with respect to the operation of GGE. If you have any suggestions or complaints this meeting is for you!

Tue. Jan. 18: GUEST SPEAKER

Guest speaker Ian Young will discuss his art as well as read some of his poetry and true tales. (Tentative, check Gayline for confirmation).

Tue. Jan. 25: WOMENS' NIGHT

A meeting of special interest to Women. Check Gayline for more information. Gentlemen welcome.

Fri. Jan. 28: DANCE AT SCHOOLHOUSE

611 Silvercreek Parkway, Guelph, beginning at 9 PM. Don't forget your membership cards for admission discount and door prizes!

Tue. Feb. 1: VIDEO MOVIE NIGHT

An Oldie but Goodie. For title of film, check the Gayline 836-4550.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Tue. Jan. 18: GAYS IN THE MILITARY

A look at the way the Canadian Armed Forces deals with gays. Includes interviews with men and women thrown out of the Forces for being gay. The Fifth Estate - CBC-TV - 8 PM.

Sun. Jan. 23: HOMOSEXUALS AND ORGANIZED RELIGION

Protestant, Jewish and Cathloic gays address the question of church membership, and ministers discuss their pastoral responsibilities to gays. TESTAMENT - CBC-STEREO - 10:05 PM.

**** PLEASE NOTE ****

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ROOM 536, OF UNIVERSITY CENTRE, U. OF. G.
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.