

Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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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 Quality

JULY 1983

METRO TRIES TO STEM FEAR

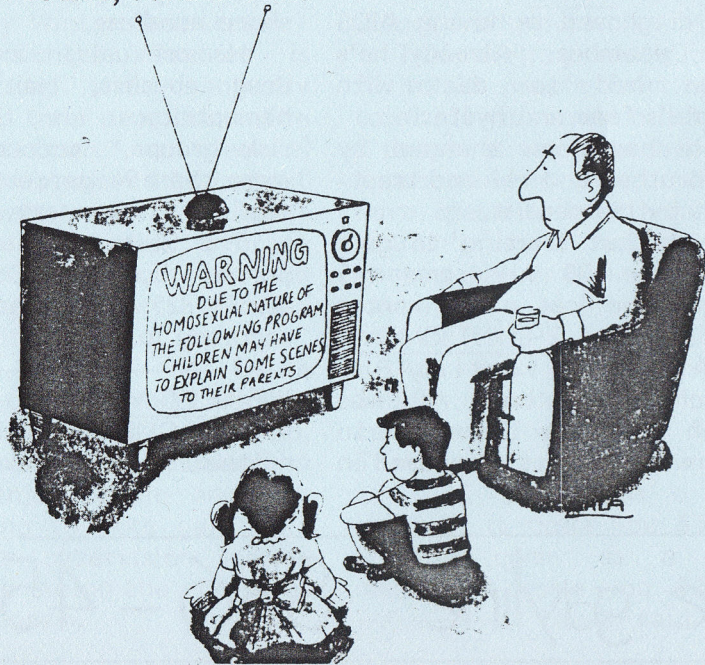
Toronto Star - July 1/83 - A campaign is underway in Metro to assure people there's no need for panic over the deadly disease AIDS and to head off prejudice and fear that's now sweeping the United States.

"People with AIDS have shared subways, served food, shared taxis, shared offices and shared phones and not one person has come down with AIDS from this casual contact," said William Mindell, co-ordinator of health information for the Toronto Public Health Department.

Mindell said he's frightened that without better public education, Canadians could develop the same hysteria that's swept the U.S.

About 29 cases of AIDS have been reported in Canada, 17 resulting in death, the federal health department says. There have been about eight cases in Toronto and four known deaths, Mindell said.

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"We would like to reassure the public and the risk groups of the small chance of getting AIDS," Mindell said.

AIDS affects mainly homosexuals, bisexuals, hard-drug addicts, Haitians and hemophiliacs who have had blood transfusions. While its exact cause isn't known, Mindell said it appears to be transmitted through body fluids such as semen and blood.

Dr. Colin Soskolne, a researcher with the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation and an associate professor of medicine at the University of Toronto said he's trying to get a provincial grant to do a four year study of AIDS among homosexuals and hemophiliacs.

One of the speakers, who identified himself as Peter, is a 28 year-old homosexual who was diagnosed as having AIDS last December. Already he's often had to deal with people's fear and hysteria.

He has been shunned by his brother and refused treatment by his dentist.

He's just starting to gain back the 20 kilograms (45 pounds) he lost after months of sickness.

Another victim, Bob Cecchi, told how he was given just 6 to 18 months to live when he was diagnosed in

April 1982. But he is confident he'll be one of the 30 percent who survive AIDS.

WHAT IS AIDS AND THE DAMAGE IT CAUSES

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome strips the body of its ability to fight infection. More than a third of its victims in the United States have died.

Normally, the immune system works hard to protect the body from infection, foreign particles and cancer. But in AIDS victims, some of the immune system's white blood cells aren't doing their job of killing foreign cells.

Medical authorities believe AIDS spreads only through intimate sexual contact and exchange of bodily fluids (for example, in blood transfusions). In addition, it can be spread by drug addicts who share needles.

Homosexuals, intravenous drug abusers, Haitians and hemophiliacs are the "high risk groups," accounting for more than 94 percent of AIDS victims, doctors say.

The United States has reported 1,641 AIDS cases. About 25 cases have been reported in Canada.

WE NEED YOU

The GGE Executive Committee at the end of July

1983 will have three vacancies open.

If you feel that you can offer ideas, support and time to facilitate carrying out OUR organizations activities, please express your interests to one of the existing executive members.

Your interest will be discussed amongst the existing executive and hopefully, three new executive members will be added to the roster before late summer.

VOLUNTEER LEADER TRAINEE WANTED FOR SELF-POSITIVE PROGRAM

The Counselling and Student Resource Centre of the University of Guelph and Guelph Gay Equality are again jointly offering the Self-Positive Sexuality Program during the Fall and hopefully Winter Semesters.

A volunteer Trainee is sought who will eventually conduct the program. The Trainee (male or female) should be prepared to commit themselves to 3 to 4 hours (an evening) a week, over an eight week period, at the beginning of the Fall and Winter Semesters.

The Trainee can be a student or community person. S/he should be gay identified, have some communication skills, enjoy people and also be willing to take part in a one hour supervision session per week during the course of each program.

Potential candidates will be interviewed for the position by the Group Leader (Norm DeMers - Counsellor with the CSRC).

CAN YOU HELP?

At our last Schoolhouse Dance our DJ Marc, informed us that he would no longer be able to fill the position he has occupied for some time. That means that we are in need of a DJ for upcoming GGE Schoolhouse Dances.

If you are interested or know of someone who may be let one of the Executive Members know right away.

CGRO MEETING IN GUELPH

On July 23 and 24, there will be a CGRO Steering Committee meeting held here in Guelph.

This meeting is open to all members of CGRO, both individual and groups.

This meeting usually brings 15 to 20 people from out of town. If you could billet 1 or 2 people it would probably be appreciated by them. If you have space in your home and wouldn't mind helping out, contact Lin or Bill.

MEMBERSHIPS

Are you aware that a \$10.00 membership in GGE can save you up to \$8.00. That's right! If you come to 12 GGE Dances as a non-member, it costs you \$36.00. If you come as a GGE member it costs you \$28.00.
-----> 'Nough said.

COMING EVENTS

- Tue. July 5: VIDEO MOVIE NIGHT
Critically acclaimed film "Missing" starring Jack Lemmon and Sissy Spacik.
- Tue. July 12: COFFEEHOUSE
An informal gathering for informal conversation and meeting new and old friends. Refreshments available.
- Fri. July 15: DANCE
A Dance at the Studio in Kitchener (Centre in the Square) sponsored by GLOW. Begins at 8PM. Don't forget your membership cards for admission discount.
- Tue. July 19: WOMENS' NIGHT
An evening of special interest to women. Tentatively scheduled is a discussion led by Dot Mercer of the Addicted Womens' Self-help Network. Gentlemen welcome.
- Sat. July 23: CGRO STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
CGRO will hold there Steering Committee here in Guelph on Sat. and Sun. July 23-24/83. This meeting is open to all individual and group members. For more info check the Gayline 836-4550.
- Tue. July 26: COFFEEHOUSE
Informal gathering. Refreshments available.
- Fri. July 29: DANCE AT SCHOOLHOUSE
Our monthly Dance at the Schoolhouse, 611 Silvercreek Parkway, Guelph, beginning at 9PM. Don't forget your membership cards for admission discount.

PLEASE NOTE

ALL EVENTS AS LISTED ABOVE ARE HELD IN ROOM
536, U.C. BUILDING, U. OF G., AT 8PM
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED