

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

Publishing History: Issued by **Guelph Gay Equality (GGE)** from 1977, May - 1990, August. Issued by **Guelph Gay & Lesbian Equality (GGLE)** from 1990, September - 1993, April. Issued by **Guelph Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Equality (GGLBE)** from 1993, May - 1995, September.

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Guelph Gay Quality

AUGUST 1983

HOMOSEXUAL POLITICIAN IS SEEN AS BREAKING NEW GROUND

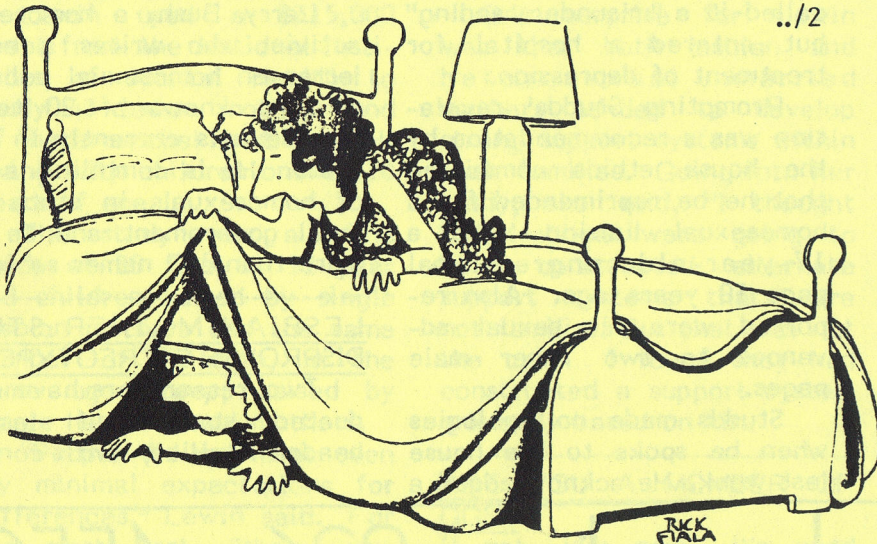
Washington (UPI) - Closet homosexuals have worked in government for decades, but seldom has a federal official proclaimed his homosexuality publicly, as did Democratic Representative Gerry Studds recently, for fear of political ruin.

As the highest ranking U.S. official ever to declare his homosexuality, Studds has called new attention to the nation's attitude on sexual preference.

Homosexual activists have hailed the 46-year-old bachelor's admission on the house floor as breaking new ground, even though Studds' sexual orientation was not news to many of his constituents and colleagues.

In the past, there have been homosexual episodes that reached as high as the White House but often participants have denied anything more than fleeting indiscretion. Consider these cases:

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"Look, I'm just as nervous about this as you are."

* Johnson White House aide Walter Jenkins resigned in 1964 after an arrest for indecent acts in a Washington YMCA bathroom with another man. He said he was "befuddled by fatigue, alcohol, physical illness and the lack of food."

* Three congressmen have been arrested for homosexual acts in the last five years: Representatives Frederick Richmond, D-N.Y., Jon Hinson, R-Miss., and Robert Bauman, R-Md. Bauman said: "I do not consider myself to be a homosexual. I will not discuss the clinical details."

* Judge G. Harold Carswell, whose nomination to the Supreme Court was made and then withdrawn by former president Richard Nixon in 1970, was charged in 1976 with making homosexual advances to an undercover policeman in Florida. Carswell called it a "misunderstanding" but entered a hospital for treatment of depression.

Prompting Studds' revelation was a recommendation by the house ethics committee that he be reprimanded for a homosexual liaison with a 17-year-old congressional page 10 years ago. Also reported were his sexual advances to two other male pages.

Studds made no apologies when he spoke to the house last week. He acknowledged a

"very serious error in judgment," and talked calmly about the pressures of public office on private life.

"These challenges are made substantially more complex when one is, as am I, both an elected public official and gay," Studds said.

The only other top U.S. federal official to make that kind of disclosure is Dan Bradley, who revealed his homosexuality upon his departure as head of the Legal Services Corp. last March.

Studds "has broken new ground. Politically, it's never happened before," said Victor Basile, head of the U.S. Human Rights Campaign fund, which dispenses political funds on behalf of homosexuals. "There really is a distinction between everybody knowing about it and people having to confront it on the pages of the newspaper."

Larry Bush, a homosexual activist who writes a newsletter on homosexual politics, said he knows of 20 to 30 homosexuals currently in congress. He is compiling a list of homosexuals in state and local government and he has more than 100 names so far.

LESBIAN-MOTHER STUDY DISPROVES STEREOTYPES

Two researchers have conducted studies of lesbian headed families, with conclu-

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DOCTOR SAYS AIDS CAUSING GAYS TO OPT FOR CAUTION

Denver (UPI) - A public health official here reports a sharp decrease in gonorrhea cases involving gay men - apparently because homosexuals are limiting sexual partners and practices for fear of contracting the fatal disease AIDS.

Reporting in the British medical journal The Lancet, Dr. Franklyn Juason said that from January to March the number of homosexual men treated at the Denver Metro Health Clinic for gonorrhea in the first three months of this year declined 39% - from 514 cases to 314 - compared to the same period in 1982. The centre reported a similar decline in syphilis cases.

"In the face of an incurable, ultimately fatal disease that is transmitted predominantly by close, physical sexual contact, the fear of this was sufficient to cause many gay men to opt for a more conservative lifestyle (and they) seem to be responding with appropriate caution."

Homosexuals are among the prime targets of AIDS - which kills by destroying the body's ability to fight infections. Aids is considered epidemic in some parts of the U.S., but relatively few Canadian cases have been reported.

BRYANT RETURNS FROM SELF-EXILE

Four years of self-imposed absence from the limelight are about to end for entertainer and gay rights opponent Anita Bryant when she introduces a line of sunglasses.

Known as "Silent Witness" glasses, they will sell for \$29.95 a pair. Each will bear a 14-carat-gold religious symbol on the earpiece near the temple, said Bettye Coates, assistant to the president of Golden Eagle Enterprises, the firm marketing the eyewear.

Bryant, 43, who will receive an undisclosed percentage of the sales, said she did not feel her role with Golden Eagle exploited her faith. "You could say the same thing about people who sell Bibles," she said from her home in Selma, Alabama.

Coates said some of the proceeds from the sales would be funneled into Christian ministries.

Darksome nite and shining moon
Harken to the witches ruin
East and South and West and North
Here! Come! I call thee forth

By all the powers of land and sea
Do as you say So Mote it be
By all the might of moon and sun

As do will, It shall be done
All pagans, witches, dykes, faggots, fairies, everyone is welcome at the.....

"MIDSUMMERS NITE CELEBRATION"

an evening of dance and entertainment - Friday August 5, 1983 at sunset - Peter Clark Hall - University of Guelph. Tickets \$3.50 advance, \$4.00 at the door. Tickets and information is available at the Womens' Resource Centre, Room 228, University Centre. Phone 824-4120, ext. 8559.

HOW TO KILL AN ASSOCIATION (OR - ANYONE YOU KNOW?)

- * Do not go to meetings
- * If you go, arrive late
- * Critize the work of the organizers and members
- * Get mad if you are not a member of the committee, but if you are, make no suggestions
- * If the chair asks your opinion on a subject, say you have none. After the meeting say you have learned nothing, or tell everyone what should have happened
- * Pay your dues as reluctantly as possible
- * Don't do what has to be done yourself, but when the members roll up their sleeves and do their very best, complain that the group is run by a bunch of ego-trippers
- * Never think of introducing new members

* Complain that nothing is ever published which interests you but never offer to write an article, make a suggestion, or find a writer
* And if the enterprise dies, say you saw it coming ages before

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).

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED? RENEW NOW - IT PAYS!

sions that may shatter many stereotypes about lesbian life. Children of lesbian mothers, Los Angeles psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Dr. Martha Kirkpatrick discovered, appeared to show no increase in gender-related problems, sex-role confusion or general development.

University of California medical anthropologist Dr. Ellen Lewin found that lesbian mothers cling firmly to highly traditional notions of child-rearing as any other group of single mothers.

Statistics places the United States' lesbian mother population at anywhere from around 270,000 to 3 million.

Lewin's look at lesbian mothers had clear implication about child development. "We are finding out," Lewin said, "that there really is nothing particularly wrong with these children."

Lewin used a \$315,000 grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health to study 43 lesbian mothers and 37 heterosexual mothers, all living with children one to 18 years of age.

The study was a blind study of 20 five to 12 year old children raised by single lesbian mothers and the same number of children, in the same age group, raised by single heterosexual mothers.

"People did not meet even my minimal expectations for differences," Lewin said. For the most part, "they were just very ordinary people."

Lewin's subjects, homosexual as well as heterosexual, reflected what she called "fairly traditional notions about family." Lewin's lesbian mothers were as eager, she said, "as heterosexual mothers that the children's fathers retain their parental involvement, even when relations between the mother and her ex-husband are particularly strained."

Kirkpatrick said that the lesbian mothers "were not as bitter...as angry at men as most of the straight mothers were."

For lesbian mothers, Lewin said, "their belief that children need some amount of contact with an adult male and especially with their own father if they are to develop successfully, militates against their individual need to reduce contact that may be personally stressful."

One surprise for Lewin was that both lesbian and heterosexual unmarried mothers tended to develop strong support systems within their families. Going into her study, she said, "I thought the lesbians were going to have constructed alternate support systems that were not familial. But that was not the case. I found they had constructed a support system primarily based on kin."

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF GGE?

If not, join now. We need your support!

COMING EVENTS

- Tue. Aug. 2: VIDEO MOVIE NIGHT
An oldie but goodie. "Witness For The Prosecution" starring Charles Laughton, Tyrone Power & Marlene Dietrich.
- Thu. Aug. 4: GENERAL MEETING
A General Meeting for all GGE members and those interested in the organization. Policy setting and general discussions. Check Gayline for Room #, at 8 PM.
- Fri. Aug. 5: DANCE
"Midsummers Nite Celebration, Peter Clark Hall, U. of G. More info inside newsletter.
- Tue. Aug. 9: COFFEEHOUSE
An informal gathering for conversation and meeting new and old friends.
- Tue. Aug. 16: WOMENS' NIGHT
Postponed from last month, Dot Mercer from the Addicted Womens' Self-help Network will be our guest speaker. Gentlemen are welcome.
- Fri. Aug. 19: DANCE AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE
Our monthly dance at the Schoolhouse, 611 Silvercreek Parkway, Guelph, beginning at 9 PM. Don't forget your membership cards for admission discount.
- Tue. Aug. 23: COFFEEHOUSE
Informal gathering. Refreshments.
- Tue. Aug. 30: COFFEEHOUSE
Informal gathering. Refreshments.
- Tue. Sept 6: VIDEO MOVIE NIGHT
"A DIFFERENT STORY" Starring Perry King and Meg Foster.

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE OF THE SCHOOLHOUSE DANCE. DUE TO BOOKING PROBLEMS WE WERE NOT ABLE TO GET THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH AS IS USUALLY THE CASE!!

All events as listed above are held in Room 536, U.C. building, U. of G., at 8 PM, unless otherwise noted.