

# 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

FEBRUARY 1984

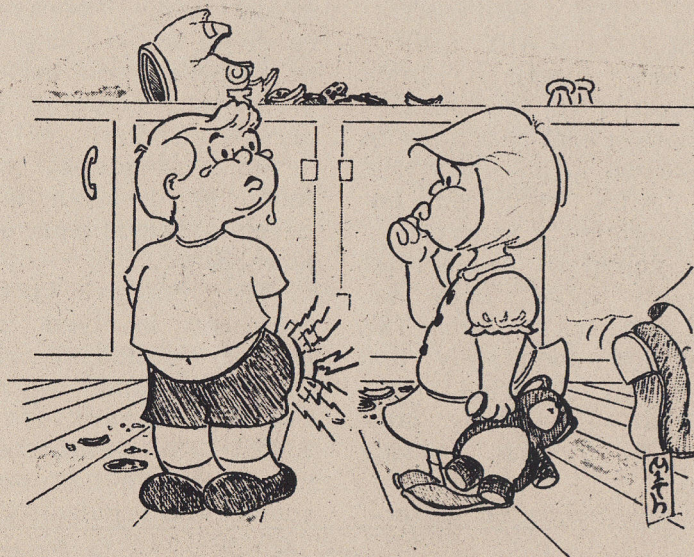
Over the last few months GGE has been engaged in conversation with John Walters, vice-chairman of the Ontario Parole Board for this region.

John contacted us last year and asked us if we would be interested in talking to him and his board with some insight concerning our lifestyle as gay men and women.

John appears to be a very progressive individual and feels that he, and perhaps other members of the board lack sufficient knowledge of 'different lifestyles' to make the very personal and important decisions they must make in granting or denying parole to inmates.

John has asked us, and we have agreed, to talk to members of his board on February 15th. A group of five GGE members and a group of 10 parole board members will meet to exchange views and ideas with regard to our lifestyle, the problems we as gay people encounter in our lives, and the problems that they encounter in dealing with inmates who are either gay, sexually confused or have gay friends or family.

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



We asked John if he would have the time to visit us some Tuesday evening and give us a rundown of the internal workings of his board and also of the correctional facilities he has been dealing with over the years.

He has agreed to speak to us on February 14 at our regular Tuesday night meeting.

If you are interested in the Ontario Parole and Correctional system, you would be well advised to attend this meeting. John is a very knowledgeable person in these areas.

Before he was appointed to his present position of vice-chairman of the Parole Board, he spent some years as the superintendent of the Guelph Correctional Centre on York Road.

#### NEW U.S. STUDY PINPOINTS HOMOSEXUAL - AIDS LINK

A new American study lends support to the theories tying homosexual practices to a breakdown in immunity that causes AIDS, Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome.

The condition means that a person's normal body defences against infection fail to function adequately and patients can die from infections that are easily controlled by normal immune systems.

The study published yester-

day (Jan. 13) in the Journal of the American Medical Association is accompanied by another that says 38 people have developed AIDS after blood transfusions.

Since it was first seen by doctors in 1980, AIDS has been diagnosed mostly in homosexual men, people who use intravenous drugs illegally and, to a lesser extent, Haitians and hemophiliacs. It has been noted that homosexuals with many partners seem to be at greater risk than those with few.

The latest study, conducted at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, found that even in men without symptoms of disease, anal intercourse is associated with abnormalities of the immune system.

The study focussed on 30 monogamously paired homosexual men. Twenty-six had received sperm anally and 19 of those showed evidence of an immune response to their partner's sperm.

No evidence of this was found in the four men who never received sperm during intercourse.

The response in some of the men involved infection fighters called T-cells and was the kind of reaction strongly associated with AIDS. The researchers also studied one heterosexual couple who regularly practise

anal intercourse and found signs of the same immune reaction in the woman.

The findings support the theory that sperm entering the anal canal are readily absorbed into the lymphatic and blood circulation systems, where they may set up an immune response as if they were invading infectious agents.

In a related Journal study, researchers from the federal Centres for Disease Control reported an increase in unexplained lymph-system pathology seen in New York city hospitals from 1978 to 1981 that parallels the increase in AIDS. The lymph disease, like AIDS, was seen primarily in male homosexuals.

The centre also reported that 38 people have developed AIDS following blood transfusions. Thirteen of 31 adults and four of seven infants had died of the disease by the end of 1983.

All the transfusions were before March 1983, when blood-donor guidelines recommended that people at risk for AIDS or with AIDS symptoms refrain from donating blood.

Some people have sought to direct their blood donations to be used only for specific friends or relatives. But this is difficult to administer.

"We who are in transfusion medicine know there are many risks involved in it,

some of which may be fatal," Dr. Jacob Nusbacher of Pittsburgh's Central Blood Bank told the Journal. "We've been trying to make the public aware of this for years, but nobody has wanted to listen.

"Now, because AIDS has caught their attention, people are acting as if transfusion was 100 per cent safe before. It wasn't!"

#### SATURDAY NIGHT 'FEVER'

Ever been sitting home alone on a Saturday night feeling down and lonely? You're probably not the only one. And that's the irony of the situation! I suspect that many of us have done that on more than one occasion, wishing we had a phone number to call, someone to share the evening with.

If we lived in TO we could put on our coats and head down to Yonge and Bloor or visit one of the many bars or get involved in umpteen dozen other activities available to big city people.

But what about us in small towns? No meeting places; no phone numbers; what do we do? Head out to TO? No, we probably turn on the boob tube and cry in our beer. Can't call the Gayline, it's not a dating service! Ho-hum, another Saturday night alone! What can we do about it?

I have some ideas but would like to hear yours. Drop a line to PO Box 773, Guelph, N1H-6L8.

the gayline 836-4550



## WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

### Tue. Feb. 07: VIDEO MOVIE NIGHT

Monty Python is back and this time it's "The Meaning of Life". From all reports this one, as usual, is hilarious!

### Tue. Feb. 14: GUEST SPEAKER

John Walters, vice-chairman of the Ontario Parole Board will be our guest speaker.

### Tue. Feb. 21: COFFEEHOUSE

An informal evening of conversation and a chance to meet new and old friends alike. Refreshments available.

### Fri. Feb. 24: DANCE

Our monthly Dance at the Schoolhouse, 611 Silvercreek Pkwy., Guelph at 8 PM. Please note that starting this month (Feb) and until May, admission to our Schoolhouse Dances is Free to members of GGE. Our regular discount of 50% will apply to all members of CGRO affiliated groups. Membership cards must be shown. Regular non-member price is \$3.00. Naturally we expect to gain some new GGE members. Think about it!!

### Tue. Feb. 28: TRIVIAL PURSUIT

Back by popular demand. An evening of the popular game, Trivial Pursuit. If you haven't attended one of our 'Pursuit' nights, this is your chance.

### Tue. Mar. 06: VIDEO MOVIE NIGHT

Mart Crowley's "The Boys in the Band" broke some taboos when it was first released, and although it is dated, it still offers much insight. A powerful comedy-drama revolving around a birthday party given by a group of gay friends.

ALL EVENTS, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED ARE HELD  
IN ROOM 536, U.C. BLDG., U of G AT 8 PM