

# 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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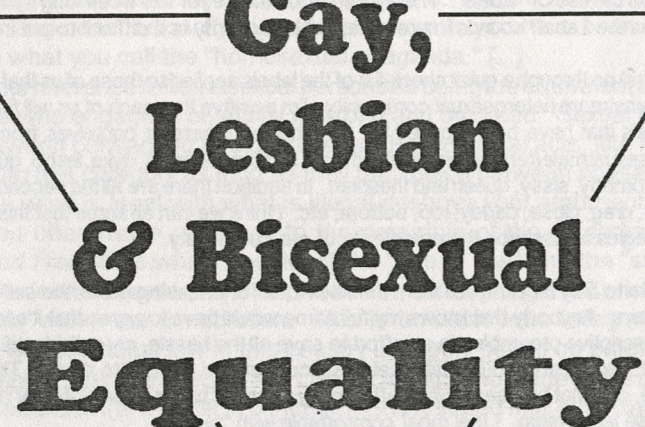
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*Guelph*



**Gay,  
Lesbian  
& Bisexual  
Equality**

Room 537, University Centre

Phone: 836-4550

November - December 1994

## Editorial

I'm hoping that this article begins a new chapter in the monthly newsletter of GLBE. It will hopefully be the first of many written opinions in a forum open to discussion, opinion and general ranting and raving. My purpose in writing this is to get our community thinking about how we perceive ourselves and through that process begin to understand ourselves and each other more clearly.

In the spirit of the **Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian Awareness Days (BGLAD)** on campus, I wish to address the use of "labels". The agreed-upon theme for this week-long symposium is "Seeing Beyond the Label" sounds impressive, but lordy, lordy is it difficult to put into practice.

Let's first go through a quick check-list of the labels applied to those of us that do not identify with the mainstream heterosexual community. I'm positive that each of us will find at least a couple of labels that have been applied to us either by others or ourselves from the following list: homosexual male/female, bisexual m/f, gay, lesbian, fag(got), dyke, lesbo, queer, butch, femme, fairy, tomboy, sissy, queen and thespian. In addition there are all the secondary adjectives, eg: bather, drag, close, daddy, top, bottom, etc. I think we can all agree that this is a partial list that only begins to describe the complexity of our community.

If I were to *fully* label myself from the above list for enquiring minds the self-introduction would take days. Anybody that knows my *full* name would have to agree that it's long enough without the descriptive preamble. In an effort to save all the hassle, my self-identification is either fag or THE fag. Many would state that it is incorrect and harmful to do so. This, however, is my choice, one that has been made after many years of trying to emulate my perceptions of what all these labels mean. I feel most comfortable with "fag".

I guess one of my main purposes with this article is to try to get more people to become aware of the labels they identify themselves and each other with. There's been so much discussion lately on how we as a community perceive ourselves and how we wish to be perceived by those less-informed. Pick a label that you're comfortable with - or make one up - and if someone describes you incorrectly, educate that person as to how and *why* you self-identify differently from them. One of our biggest social ills is lack of (or incorrect) education.

A word of wisdom to those that are prone to take offense to incorrect labelling: before responding in a negative fashion, consider the source of the "offensive" remark. Is it from a friend (meant to be humorous), an uneducated (socially) person or group, or is it meant to harm? It requires far too much energy to lash out at each mention of an uncomfortable label. Your purpose may be better served by attempting to correct the individual(s) or by simply ignoring the ignoramus.

In closing, I don't expect everyone to agree with me - in fact I expect most people don't. The whole purpose of this was to begin an intelligent discussion on perception. We really can't expect to be understood and accepted until we begin with ourselves and impart our understanding to the outside. Rome may not have been built in a day, but it only took a moment in a day to perceive the concept of Rome.

I welcome any and all opinions (supportive and opposing). Let the community of Guelph know what's on your mind.

Be kind to yourselves,

The Fag, C-Cose.

## Copy to GLBE:

October 5, 1994

Dear Mrs. Skoke,

We are writing this letter as Human Rights Coordinators for the student government at the University of Guelph in Ontario. We are writing in response to the unfair and constitutionally-incorrect statements you have been making with regard to what you call the "homosexualist agenda." [...]

Your reference to homosexual persons as being the equivalent to pedophiles and those who engage in bestiality is wrong and outdated. Sexual relations that occur between consenting adults are legal. Homosexual acts, like heterosexual acts, fit into this category as long as they take place between consenting adults. To equate what is legal with what is illegal destroys your argument.

You often make reference to the preamble of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* which speaks of the "rule of law" and the "supremacy of God." You seem to personally interpret this as entrenching the Christian/Catholic natural law within our constitution. This is an inaccurate interpretation of the *Charter*. Constitutional law in this country is largely based on precedent. In the case of *Big M Drug Mart versus The Lord's Day Act*, the judge in the case referred to the preamble of the *Charter* in his judgment and stated that, since the word "God" doesn't specifically refer to a Christian God, it cannot be seen to entrench any form of Christian morality within our constitution. If anyone believes the judge's view to be incorrect then they must also believe that the *Charter* violates its own protection of freedom of religion.

[...] The myth that homosexuals and bisexuals have an agenda to destroy the nation is no more valid than the notion that Jews have an international conspiracy to take over the world as alleged by anti-semites. The inclusion of the words sexual orientation under the list of prohibited forms of discrimination in the *Canadian Human Rights Code* would not equate special status for homosexuals and bisexuals. It would guarantee them freedom from discrimination and inequality under the law [...]. "Equal benefit and equal protection under the law," is already guaranteed in the *Charter*, but not yet present in many laws. We must work to change these unconstitutional inconsistencies.

We close by saying there is nothing illegal about homosexuality or bisexuality. Our ultimate reference for moral judgment and legal interpretation must be our Constitution which includes the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. As Canada is a secular nation, your attempt to impede the evolution of Canadian law based on your religion is illegal. We respect your freedom of expression, but we do wish that, in the future, you would refrain from making incorrect statements about homosexuals and homosexuality. In a secular, free society, we all have the right to lead responsibly our own lives with equality and justice.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Guerin, Nicté Fuller Medina

# November - December 1994

Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31 Halloween BGLAD week	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 GLBE meeting: Four Weddings & A Funeral	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 GLBE meeting: Pool tournament	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 GLBE meeting: Discussion on homophobia	23	24	25 SunshineDance/ Sleeman Party! Call for details	26
27	28	29 GLBE Hanukkah social	30	1	2	3
4	5	6 GLBE meeting: Discussion on Montreal massacre	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 GLBE meeting: Exam stress- reliever social	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Unofficial social in the Bookshelf Greenroom	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

## Events

**BGLAD week** is Oct. 31 to Nov. 4.

Weekly **GLBE** meetings are held on Tuesday evenings in the University Centre, room 536, starting at 8:00 pm. Consult the calendar for meeting topics.

The last dance of the year is being held on November 25. The **Sunshine Dance/Sleeman Party** will feature prizes and a 50/50 draw. Directions on page 7.

## In GLBE history:

November:

1973: UGHA holds their first dance on campus.

1974: UGHA issues "The Gaily Planet" newsletter.

1978: Gay supervisor Harvey Milk and San Francisco mayor George Moscone were assassinated by anti-gay Dan White. A riot ensued after White received a 10-year sentence.

December:

1974: The Lesbian Mother Defence Fund raise \$1800 for the defence of a lesbian mom. The campaign, however, failed.

1974: GGE members are invited to the first International Gay Rights Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland. Two GGE members attended.

## Notices

The Guelph GLBE newsletter has a classified ads section. Contact the office to place an ad for gay positive accomodation, services or friends seeking friends.

**PFLAG** meets every third Friday of the month. This group offers support to family and friends of lesbians and gays. Please call the gayline or visit the GLBE office for more information, or call Grace at (519) 822-████ or Barbara at (519) 853-████.

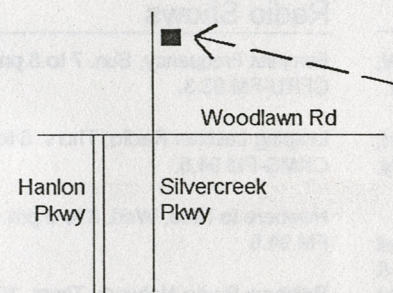
**XTRAI**, the Toronto bi-weekly publication for the lesbigay community, is available at the Bookshelf.

Is anyone interested in having a **spring Arts & Crafts** auction as a GLBE fundraiser? If you can make cool stuff, or if you would just like to express interest in such an event, please leave a message at the GLBE office: 836-4550.

## Classified(s)

For rent, great place: 2 bedroom upper apartment with living room, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. Also sunporch and laundry facilities. Gay positive landlady, gay family downstairs. \$760/month + utilities. Available Nov. 1st. 88 Liverpool St. Call Joanne at 823-2550 x 2206.

**Sunshine Dance/Sleeman Party!**  
**Friday, Nov 25 - 8:00 pm**  
**Prizes & 50/50 draw**



at the "Schoolhouse"  
611 Silvercreek Pkwy N.

The bus stops at  
Woodlawn & Silvercreek

Shine away those long winter nights!

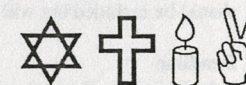


**The Gayline**  
**(519) 836-4550**

**Mondays - Thursday, 7:30 - 9:30 pm**  
Staffed by a female volunteer Mon & Wed,  
a male volunteer Tue & Thurs.

The Gayline provides peer counselling,  
support, and information for the Gay, Lesbian  
and Bisexual community of Guelph and  
area.

*Happy Holidays!*



*Peace*

## Organizations

Gay and Lesbian Liberation of Waterloo. (GLOW); c/o Federation of Students; Univ. of Waterloo; Waterloo, Ont; N2L 3G1. Office: Campus Centre Room 209, (519) 884-4569, weekday evenings, messages other times. GLOW provides peer counselling, a book archive, a housing registry, coffeehouses, dances and general information.

OWLS is a privately organized, non-profit social/cultural group for women over thirty. 884-4569 for more info.

Women Out Of Doors (WOODS), PO Box 29009, Eaton Centre, 55 Wyndham St., Guelph, Ont, N1H 8J4. (519) 746- Social recreational group with various activities, bimonthly newsletter. Membership: \$15/year.

## AIDS Committee of Guelph and Wellington County

265 Woolwich St.  
Guelph, Ont.  
N1H 3Z8  
Tel: (519) 763-2255

Hours:  
Monday to Friday  
8:30 - 4:30 pm

## Bars & Clubs

Club Renaissance. 24 Charles St. W, Kitchener. Wed - Sun; open till 3 Fri & Sat.

The Robin's Nest. 26 Hobson Street, Cambridge. (519) 621-2688. Saturday only. \$2 members, \$3 non-members.

The Other Side Club. 22 Dickson Street, Galt (Cambridge). (519) 622-9417. Open Fri & Sat, 8 pm to 2 am; \$3 non-members, includes buffet.

## Radio Shows

Feminist Frequency, Sun. 7 to 8 pm. CFRU-FM 93.3.

Leaping Lesbian Radio, Thurs. 6 to 8 pm. CKMS-FM 94.5.

Nowhere to Hide, Wed. 8 to 9 pm. CKMS-FM 94.5

Rainbow Radio Network, Thurs. 10:15 pm. CHRW-FM 94.7

Gaywire, Thurs. 7 to 8 pm, CIUT-FM 89.5.

## GLBE Newsletter

The GLBE Newsletter is published bimonthly by Guelph Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Equality, P.O. Box 773, Guelph Ont, N1H 6L8; (519) 836-4550. All submissions to the newsletter are welcomed and will be considered for publication. Opinions expressed in any articles or letters are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the GLBE Executive and Membership. Please direct all submission and any inquiries c/o The GLBE Executive to the above address. Names of contributors should be included but will not be used without express consent.

## Deadline

Submissions for the next newsletter must be received by December 20, 1994.

## Monthly Advertising

All camera ready advertising and advertising requiring typesetting will be considered for inclusion in the newsletter. For inquiries into monthly rates, please send your correspondence c/o The Editor to the above address. The GLBE reserves the right to limit the amount of advertising sold in the newsletter.