

# Grand River Rainbow Historical Project

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*celebrating the lives and times of rainbow folk in Grand River country*

## *Gaily Planet*

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# THE GAILY PLANET

OCT/74

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NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH HOMOPHILE ASSOCIATION - VOL.1.No.1.  
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This is the first issue of a new monthly publication from U.G.H.A. The editors of the paper hope that THE GAILY PLANET will provide a mouthpiece for Guelph's gay community. For this reason we require your contributions, whether artistic, literary, poetic or journalistic. We also require some people to put in a few hours each month to type, print, and distribute this paper. Please don't hesitate to volunteer!!!

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## IN THIS ISSUE

- \*Article - Year #1 a Success
- \*Meeting Happenings
- \*The National Conference
- \*News Items - Local and National
- \*Women's News
- \*Announcements
- \*Invitation to a Party

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## YEAR No.1 A SUCCESS!

The University of Guelph Homophile Association was formed in the fall of 1973 to meet some of the social, educational and political needs of the local gay community.

In September, 1973, a small handful of gay people established contact through the campus newspaper, The Ontarion, and then decided that the formation of a group for gay people was warrant-

ed. Once the student government and the university administration were approached, the UGHA was granted recognition and became an officially-accredited student organization, later receiving funds from the student government.

An unexpectedly large turnout at the first meeting added to our initiative and confidence, and made us all more aware that our fellow gays needed help and support. Numerous ideas, ranging from a counselling service to a gay dance were proposed and discussed. It was decided that weekly meetings would be necessary to coordinate these activities.

The first meeting broke down much unfamiliarity, anxiety and fear, and within months the UGHA blossomed into the most active, productive and widely-publicized group on the campus.

The first public confrontation came ironically on Hallowe'en when we invaded the university pub. Such zap-ins became quite common at the pubs, especially after our meetings.

In an effort to help the group on its way, a public speaking engagement was held in November with guests from the liberation groups at London and Waterloo. Several people from the Body Politic Collective, G.A.T.E. (Toronto) and George Hislop from CHAT spoke and gave their own impressions of what gay liberation was  
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doing and should be doing.

Our first dance, held on campus in November, was a success largely due to the support from neighbouring gay groups. Dances have since moved off campus where people seem to be less inhibited, and dances are presently being held weekly with continuing success. These dances have done much to improve our contact with the local gay community and with people in general.

The media have been put to use as much as possible. Weekly articles in The Ontarion, regular campus radio broadcasts, appearances on two television stations, some coverage in the local Guelph newspaper, and regular poster distribution have done much to increase local awareness of our group and its activities.

In the educational vein the UGHA has begun its own lending library of publications dealing with homosexuality, feminism, and gay liberation. Many books, journals and periodicals have been ordered for the University Library.

Members of our group have conducted discussion groups in psychology and sociology classes, and with students in residences. The UGHA has had a table during student registration week, and we contact academic departments and administrative representatives in the residences every semester with information on our activities and speaking groups. We have also had some (though minimal) cooperation with the Psychological Services department in aiding people to adjust to their sexuality.

Last March the UGHA had a centrally-located information/drop-in-center booth during the fiftieth annual U. of Guelph College Royal (open house).

In an effort to counsel people with problems relating to their sexuality, the UGHA has established an office/drop-in center with a phone line (currently moving to the new University Center from Massey Hall). At an early meeting in the fall of 1973, people from the Guelph Crisis Center explained counselling procedures for various situations. At the present time some of our members act as referrals for the Crisis Center.

To increase awareness of group members for one another, an attempt was made to establish a consciousness-raising group. This was relatively unsuccessful largely because of the preoccupied lives of university students. With a similar purpose, an encounter weekend was spent with a counsellor at a student-owned farm during the summer. We hope to continue such activities in order to increase group awareness and coherence.

The UGHA sent delegates to the gay women's conference held in Montreal last February, to the regional gay conference in Waterloo last May, and to the National Conference in Winnipeg at the end of August.

Donations from our group were sent for the defence of 'The Brunswick Four' in Toronto, and to the Zodiac Friendship Society in Saskatoon for the defence of the lesbian mother fighting for the custody of her two children.

On the political scene, the UGHA participated actively in the National Gay Election Coalition, sending NGEC booklets to all candidates in our ridings and confronting the local candidates publicly on gay rights issues. We demonstrated before Prime Minister Trudeau when he visited Guelph during the campaign, and were able to get a statement of sorts from him.

Several members of the UGHA also marched during the GATE Toronto Gay Pride March early in August.

As the first anniversary of the founding of the UGHA approaches, we can see all too clearly how much more must be done for gay liberation and the freeing of our gay brothers and sisters everywhere.

MEETING HAPPENINGS

-the first official meeting of the fall semester was held on Sept. 11, 1974. The filmstrip, The Invisible Minority, was shown.

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-the second meeting was held on Sept. 18, 1974. It was announced that nominations for the executive positions would be accepted.

-it was moved and passed to send \$25.00 to Gays for Equality in Winnipeg to help cover their expenses for the National Conference.

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-elections were held on Sept. 25, 1974. Elected to the executive for the fall semester were:

President: Paul Shepherd  
 Vice-President: Cynthia Brown  
 Vice-President: Heather Ramsay  
 Secretary: Bruce Harwood  
 Treasurer: Peter Leslie  
 Public Relations: Jim Dougan

-a motion to buy stereo sound equipment costing \$1385.00 was passed.

-it was proposed that the UGHA pay for the rental of a car to take members to the taping of the Under Attack program featuring Dr. Charles Socraides, at McMaster University in Hamilton.

-it was moved and passed that all gay and women's group membership cards be honoured at the dances, and that the dance admission prices be \$1.50 for those with memberships and \$2.00 for those without.

-plans for a Lesbian Drop-in once a week in the group office were announced. The drop-in was scheduled to begin on Oct. 3, 1974, and to be held every Thursday at 8:00pm in the office at 105 Massey Hall.

-a biweekly women's hour was announced by Heather Ramsay, to be held every other Monday at noon in Room 116 Arts.

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-at the Oct. 2 meeting, it was moved and passed that 50% of the dance profits be put into a high-interest savings account, to be used in the event that a new location is found for the dances, or for emergency purposes at the discretion of the general membership.

-it was announced that an Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship meeting to be held on Oct. 3 would be looking at Homosexuality and Christianity, with guest speaker Dr. Olthius from the Christian Studies Institute in Toronto.

-Plans for the Nov. 1 Anniversary/Hallowe'en Dance were announced. A committee volunteered to make the special arrangements for this dance.

-Ray Bruce gave a first-hand account of the atrocities in Ottawa during the Ojibway Indian Protest on Sept. 30.

-Tom Ryan of the Metropolitan Community Church in Toronto announced that a new parish had formed in Hamilton, holding services every Sunday at 2:30pm in the YWCA.

The second Canadian Gay Conference was held in Winnipeg over the Labour Day Weekend. Five members of the UGHA attended, forming the largest single delegation from Ontario. A total of twenty Canadian groups were represented, from as far east as Quebec City, to Victoria on the west coast. Two groups from Britain were also represented.

The activities began with a Gay Pride parade down Portage Ave., with a police escort, to a rally in front of the legislature buildings. Public response to the parade was fairly hostile, ranging from heckling to open harassment, especially from one drunken woman who was eventually led away by police. At the rally on the steps of the legislature gay leaders from across Canada spoke on the objectives in changing laws and a political system which supports the discrimination against gay people.

The first evening was devoted to workshops. One important one concerned the so-called "hostile" closet. The reasons for some homosexuals being antiliberation were looked into and some possible solutions were proposed. Fear, jealousy of gays who are open about their orientation, reactions to self-appointed leaders, and put-downs for not being involved were some of the reasons it was felt that this phenomenon existed. As a solution it was generally felt that gay liberation must be made into a "marketable" item, to convince gays that it is worthwhile for them to become involved. Also discussed during the evening were gays and religion, and women's liberation vs gay liberation.

On Sunday morning an open discussion was held to floor some ideas on setting a national direction for gay liberation. It was proposed by GATE (Toronto) that the time has come for a national body to concern itself with changes in federal legislation, and to deal with gay issues of a national scope. This organization would be called the National Gay Rights Coalition (NGRC) and would have an office in Ottawa. The issue of dealing with politicians was discussed. For financing this and other operations, a proposal was made by Saskatoon Gay Action to set up a national gay foundation. This body would collect contributions from individuals and organizations throughout the country and allocate them, upon consultation with the contributors, to such things as the NGRC, political lobbying, a central national information and printing center, defence funds to support gay people in legal battles for their rights, to pay for such projects as the National Gay Archives, and to provide travel expenses to send delegates to national and international conferences.

In the afternoon specific motions were put forward for setting a national direction for gay liberation. It was moved and passed that a major part of the gay rights struggle be devoted to the fight to get sexual orientation included in provincial human rights legislation. It was also moved and passed that a major priority of the national movement be to end sexism within all gay organizations, specifically in the all-male organizations. It was proposed that this be done through the distribution and reading of feminist literature by gay men, and through consciousness-raising groups. It was also moved that a committee be organized by Saskatoon Gay Action to look into the establishment of a National Gay Foundation. It was moved finally that in all national projects that the existence of the French language and of the French fact throughout Canada be taken into consideration.

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During Sunday afternoon, workshops were held on gays and the media, sexism in the gay movement, youth sexuality, and on counselling procedures.

At the final plenary session on Monday, more motions were put forward. Maurice Flood of GATE(Vancouver) moved that the movement accept as a principle that gay women, who face a double oppression, should be able to set up their own organizations limited to women if they so choose, without such actions being construed as sexist. Gay liberation rejects per se the notion that sexism is a 'two-way' street, because this suggests that women have possessed power equal to men and that women have the ability to oppress men in a social, economic, or political sense. It was also moved that a committee, consisting of GATE(Toronto) arrange the choice of the next conference site.

While this very brief roundup of what happened at the conference does not reveal any earth-shaking products, it should give some idea of the sort of things gay people and especially gay liberationists in Canada are currently interested in. Perhaps the more valuable repercussions of the Winnipeg meeting are not to be found in my resume. These would have to include the meeting of minds of gay leaders from across the country, a new level of communication on the national level, and an increased awareness of the diversity of problems that are faced by gay people in a country as large as Canada.

Jim Dougan

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#### NEWS ITEMS-LOCAL AND NATIONAL

##### Members Attend UNDER ATTACK Taping

On Thursday Sept. 26, I went to watch the program 'Under Attack' at McMaster University in Hamilton. Under attack was a New York psychiatrist, Dr. Charles Socraides, who has worked for some fifteen years now "rehabilitating" homosexuals. His belief was that most homosexuals were not so by their own wanting and that they should be given the opportunity to be cured of what he believed was a psychiatric disorder, if they so desired.

Upon the disclosure by Dr. Socraides that he felt homosexuality was a disease in that it had characteristics of all other diseases i.e. symptoms displeasurable to the person affected, many gays in the audience displayed appropriate signs of militancy for the surroundings (television tapings) in which they were situated.

Continuing, Dr. Socraides discussed his work during the early 1960's in trying to get homosexual practices taken off the criminal codes

in the U.S.A. He expressed dismay that before he could accomplish this the American Psychiatric Association had removed homosexuality off its list of diseases.

It was brought up during the question session which followed that Dr. Socraides possibly had a financial stake in labelling gays as mentally ill. Had he not spent most of his career devising means with which to convert gay men and women to heterosexuality? Dr. Socraides was also questioned on his power to distinguish between the right and wrong way of behaving in our society. Any other issues raised which conflicted with the doctor's point of view were easily shot down, but I believe, unfortunately, that the list of possible questions handed out by the program crew before the show rigged the whole thing.

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In closing, however, I would like to commend Dr. Socraides for at least offering a means by which a homosexual who truly desires to become heterosexual, may do so. However, it is still my opinion, as I consider myself bisexual, that Dr. Socraides has made a mistake, one which hurt me rather than make me feel militant. In expressing to the millions of people in Canada that in his educated opinion homosexuality is a psychological disorder, I feel that Dr. Socraides was not acting for the general good of the young people of this nation of which I am a member.. Obviously homosexuality is a deviation from the social norm, but in our democratic society for one man to profess that one way of life is so disoriented as to be classed as a disease is beyond his legal or moral right. Paul C.

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UGHA MEMBERS ZAP IVCF MEETING

On October third, representatives of the UGHA attended an Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship meeting to hear a lecture given by Dr. Olthius on the Christian view of sexuality and homosexuality. His comments amounted to the popular Christian view, that homosexuality per se is not sinful, but an obsession with homosexuality and homosexual acts is not to be condoned by good Christians. The only real accomplishment of the evening was the presense of gays to ask and answer questions and generally show the flag.

Bruce Harwood

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GAY MAN DEFIES IMMIGRATION ACT

John Kyper, an American gay activist from Boston, was refused entry into Canada at the Niagara Falls border station on the grounds that he was a homosexual. Kyper was carrying copies of the gay papers, FAG RAG and GAY COMMUNITY NEWS at the time. He was told that he was permanently banned from entering Canada since he was included as

a prohibited person under the dictates of the Immigration Act.

GATE(Toronto) arranged with Kyper to have him enter the country anonymously to appear on the national CBC 'As It Happens' program and on CITY-TV in Toronto. Other gay groups in Edmonton, Saskatoon and Ottawa issued press releases and started letter-writing campaigns to the Minister of Immigration, Robert Andras. A demonstration is planned in Ottawa for Tuesday Oct. 15, in front of the Immigration Building.

The policies of the Immigration Department are currently under review.

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FAMILY INSTITUTE RECOGNIZES GAY COUPLES

Homosexual couples who live together for long periods should be viewed as a family, the Vanier Institute of the Family has recently announced.

'We now respect any form of human relations that is good and loving,' stated Ms. Mozah Zemans, president of the prestigious Ottawa-based institute.

Executive members of the Institute said that unmarried couples, single parent units, and cooperative groups should also be viewed as families.

People have become servants of social institutions geared to serve and perpetuate the traditional family, and as a result human relations are being eroded, they said.

The Institute, formed to direct research into problems of modern family life, will expand its position from one which 'implicitly favoured the status quo nuclear family' to a more radical group concept.

(from Body Politic)

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IF YOU HAVE A NEWS ITEM THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PUBLISHED, PLEASE SUBMIT IT AT THE UGHA OFFICE.

WOMEN'S NEWS

Recently two women from UGHA have begun a 'Lesbian Drop-in' held every Thursday evening at 8:00PM in the UGHA office, Rm. 218 in the University Center (105 Massey Hall for Oct. 17). Although any and all interested women are welcome, the response thus far has been poor. The drop-in originated from concern that perhaps many women had not been coming out due to negative feelings about being involved in a predominantly male group. Presently we are trying to stress a 'coffee and conversation' atmosphere in which women can get together, relax and feel comfortable in being themselves. Even though the majority of gay women in this area do not seem to be interested in organizational activities, the number of women attending dances has been steadily increasing.

The fall semester here at Guelph has begun with renewed interest in Women's Studies with two courses on women being offered and a group organized to obtain permanent Women's Studies courses in various departments.

Also, a 'Federation of Women Students' has been formed primarily to combat sexism in the University community. Although the Federation is relatively new, it has already been involved in many issues, the least of which resulted in a Women's Editor for the Ontarion, the campus newspaper.

The University Library is slowly but steadily being infiltrated with books and journals pertinent to gay liberation and the feminist movement. So far the UGHA library is not doing too badly either. Perhaps a list of available books can be prepared for a future newsletter. We would both really appreciate any ideas, articles, whatever, having to do with women. We need your help and even if you are not

into writing, drop in as it is nice to know that you are not alone.

UGHA Weekly Meetings - held every Wednesday evening in the ninth floor lounge of the Arts Building, U of G. Meetings start at 8:00pm and usually continue to as late as 11pm.

Lesbian Drop-in - every Thursday night. We hope that any interested women will attend for coffee and friendly conversation. 8:00pm in the UGHA office, Room 218, University Centre.

UGHA Dances - dances are held every Friday night starting at 8pm in the Club Room of the Royal Hotel. Dress is whatever you want to wear, admission is \$1.50 for persons holding a membership with any gay or women's organization (please bring your cards) and \$2.00 for those without.

UGHA OFFICE AND LIBRARY - we have just moved out of 105 Massey Hall and into Rm. 218 of the new University Centre. We try to keep the office staffed full time during the day, so please drop in or call at 824-4120 ext. 8575.

If you are into reading books by and about gay people, women, or on the subject of human sexuality, we have a growing library in the office.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Canadian Gay Archives**

ACC. NO.      FORMAT      DATE OF ORIGIN

FILE AT:

The GAILY PLANET/8

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATE DANCE - to be held in Toronto on Saturday night, Oct. 19 in the gymnasium of the Graduate Student Building, on Bancroft St. between Spadina and Huron. For more information call 961-9389 or 364-6731

HAMILTON DANCES - start Oct. 18 and will be held every three weeks thereafter. (Nov. 8, 29, Dec. 15) Dances are held at the Textile Worker's Hall on King St.

LONDON DANCES - Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 8, 22 in the Party Room, 517 York St., in London.

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ADVERTISEMENTS

Man and woman looking for one-bedroom apartment in home or older building in Guelph. Apply Box 10, UGHA, University Center.

Gay students looking for large house to rent yearround. Neat quiet people, would take excellent care of house and property. In Guelph, would prefer close to campus. Please call 822- [REDACTED] in evenings.

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OR WANT TO ADVERTISE, DROP BY THE UGHA OFFICE IN THE U. CENTER, OR CALL 824-4120 ext. 8575.