

GAEZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GAY ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY

OCT/84
Nov

NEWS AND VIEWS OF AND ABOUT THE GAY AND LESBIAN
COMMUNITY IN GENERAL AND IN HALIFAX IN PARTICULAR.

The last day of October. Outside the House, the trees are nearly leafless. In the backyard there is one tree, is it ash or rowan?, whose leaves are still quite green.

But there is no doubt at all about the fact. Autumn, or Fall is here. The month has passed at such high speed, the pages of the calendar blown away as the falling leaves by the gale.

Last week, in talking with friends on this subject, which originated in October's Gaezette, I made the observation of being in the autumn of my age. We think of this season as the time of plenty, the good harvest, a plenitude of fruit and vegetables, rich colours and so much more. I am feeling so well equipped, both physically and spiritually, I have a richness in the quality of life unrivalled in my lifetime.

But as I got out of the car, the thought came to me ... 'Yes, I may be in the autumn of my years, but the sap is still rising!

All of which is, perhaps, a non-sequitur as far as the topic for this month of November is concerned. And then, again, perhaps it is not so.

Tomorrow, 1st November, is All Saints Day. And, incidentally, publication day for the Gaezette.

And the question that I have asked myself and others who are knowledgable on the subject. And now I put the question to you, the readers. And the friends of readers.

Where are all the Lesbians and Gays who have passed the 65 - 60 - 55 marks?

Are you all so well ensconced in your relationships, that you have no time to spare for social contact with the remainder of the community? Is it not time for us to be enlightened as to the secrets of your success? Or, are you too lethargic to alter the existing status quo?

Are there those of you out there who are still cribbed, cabined and confined in the closet? Do you know that there are a number of us who care who are completely discrete and are ready and willing to give time to share with you in your difficulties and distress. Are you willing to take the first step?

Have some of you given up the struggle and are vegetating in these latter years? To you the same offer holds good. Or, have you all joined the Saintly Band?

(PM)



WOMAN'S WORLD '84

*A Showcase for Women
Salon de la femme*

"A Showcase For Women"

November 9, 10, 11, 1984 at The World Trade Centre

Friday, November 9	12 noon - 9 p.m.
Saturday, November 10	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday, November 11	12 noon - 7 p.m.

Featuring:

• Financial & Legal Affairs • Careers & Education • Beauty, Health & Fitness • Home Decor • Automotive
Clinic • Travel • Food Fair •

Over 200 Displays, Lectures, Demonstrations and Films

Admission: \$2.00 Adults

Net gate proceeds are being donated to: Bryony House

READ ANY GAY BOOKS LATELY? NOT FROM YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY!

Most Nova Scotia libraries have made little effort to acquire the lesbian and gay books recommended by the Gay Interest Group of Canadian Library Association, claimed a panelist at the Nova Scotia Library Association's October conference.

The panel addressed the question: should libraries be answerable to changing social values, or do they have the responsibility to represent all viewpoints?

Using the regional library union catalog at Nova Scotia's provincial library, freelance librarian Lynn Murphy checked the more than two hundred titles listed in the Gay Interest Group's booklists A Brief Guide to Recommended Reading Matter on Homosexuality (2nd ed) and Out on the Shelves: Gay and Lesbian fiction.

Among her findings: 40% of the fiction titles and 64% of the non-fiction were not available in any public library in the province, according to the catalog. One library had only one of the ninety non-fiction titles.

-Only one of twenty French-language titles listed is available - in one library.

-Much less of the recommended non-fiction is bought than of the fiction: nine of eleven regional libraries had bought less than ten percent of the non-fiction, while only one had bought less than ten per cent of the fiction.

Good news for metro residents is that Halifax City Regional Library, Dartmouth Regional Library, and Halifax County Regional Library were the highest in percentage of fiction collected, and the first two highest in non-fiction as well./LM

GAE MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL

You don't have to be a GAE member, or even a Rumours Social member, to come to general meetings of Gay Alliance for Equality.

November meetings will be held Wednesday November 7 and 21 at Rumours at 7:30 pm.

If you apply for membership, you become a voting member after four meetings, but anyone is welcome to come and participate in discussions even if they aren't a member.

GAE's social and political activities affect every member of the lesbian and gay community. If you want to be heard, come to general meetings.

The Rumours Management Board also holds monthly open meetings to discuss Rumours business specifically. Watch for announcements.

Well, not quite all. Due to Liquor Board regulations, you must be nineteen or over to attend.

PAINTING OF THE TURRET IS LOTTERY PRIZE

Tickets are now available for the lottery of the oil painting The Old City Club by Beverley Hubley.

This framed 20" by 22" streetscape also shows the Turret.

The lottery, sponsored by the Civil Rights Committee, will be used to finance the third annual GAE New Years Day Levee.

Tickets selling for \$2 each are available from members of the Committee and others.

GAY POET WINS WRITERS FEDERATION AWARD

Robin Metcalfe is this year's winner of the Writers Federation of Nova Scotia Literary Competition, Adult Poetry Category, for a suite of poems called "Power Failure". Although the poems are not yet published, the author will receive a cash prize, and becomes eligible for the Canada Council's poetry reading program.

Metcalfe's current work can be seen in the December Mandate, where he has a short story, and in Torso, where he has a travel article on Nova Scotia.

POLITICIANS NOT RESPONDING TO CRC INVITATION

Ken B, new chair of the Civil Rights Committee, has so far received no replies to an invitation to provincial party leaders to address a public meeting of the gay/lesbian community.

Watch Rumours bulletin board for further announcements, as this event may yet take place.

GAE LOOKING FOR A NIP

Members of the GAE executive have begun a series of walking tours of selected target areas, looking for a suitable house for GAE offices and meetings.

The need for a non-club centre was identified at a September meeting of GAE, which also recommended the hiring of a community outreach worker (probably two half-time people).

As Neighbourhood Improvement Program grants are now available to non-profit organizations, the search has begun with NIP areas, but will not be limited to them.

Anyone interested in becoming a part of the community centre search committee should contact L Murphy or any other member of the executive.

Buying our own club premises remains a long-term goal of the organization.

SPARROW.

THE GROUP OF SEVEN SPARROWS' HIKE TO CAPE SPLIT.

Seven people arrived almost simultaneously at the Unitarian Church shortly after 9.00 am on Sunday 14 October. The fog had already begun to clear and soon we were graced with a warm, sunny for our venture in the great outdoors.

Having arrived at the startpoint of the trail we formed up smartly for the "before" picture. At the end of the hike we were not "smart" enough to remember the "after" picture.

All the four women and three men made the 16 Km trip in less than the five hours specified in the Trail Book. In the first kilometer or so we encountered a lot of water and mud; but even those of us who were wearing sneakers completed the walk without wet feet.

The trail included several changes of flora, from brush to spruce to mixed to hardwood, plenty of squirrels and a lot of climbing.

we were stunned, more than somewhat, when we encountered the first of the Triathlon participants jogging up the steepest slope. Instead of being inspired to join them, we took our first rest. The lookouts from the cliffside, facing Parrsborough, were breathtaking when one looked down the crevasse inches from your feet. Of course, ther's a daredevil in every crowd ... but we didn't lose ours!

On this, my second trip I was especially taken by the dramatic movement of the Fundy tides at the Cape. The rugged height of the cliff also brings on a slight vertigo. (Accidents have occurred on this peninsula.) We had our second lunch break lazing about on the grass at the Cape. The fellows treated the women to cookies and cakes.

We chattered and carried on on the way out to the Cape; on the way back (at least some) motors seemed to have run down. Although "I was 'nt tired" I slept on the drive home and was infinitely grateful to be dropped at my doorstep.

We have yet to learn if any new masterpieces have emerged from our photographic efforts..... (HB)

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GAY ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY.

The Annual General Meeting took place in the back lounge at Rumours on Wednesday 17 October 1984. There was an election of officers and chairpeople of committees.

Meetings for November: 7th and 21st (Wednesdays) On 21st there will be further discussion of the community centre project LM/PM

A.I.D.S.

By July of this year, 5134 cases of AIDS (Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome) had been reported in the United States, with the figure in Canada being 96 cases. As many are aware, the Canadian statistics include AIDS cases within our local community. In the past few weeks, gay men and women in Halifax have been discussing ways and means of confronting this growing health problem. The result is the formation of the Gay Health Association.

The immediate concern has been getting basic information (via posters and brochures) out to the gay population. In addition the group has been in contact with similiar, longer established groups in Toronto and San Francisco. Much support has been thus received, including the loan of two vidotapes shown at Rumours on the evening of 22 October. Contact with the larger gay community in Atlantic Canada will also be important for the Halifax group.

As the organisation evolves, information dissemination will continue to be a primary objective. Beyond the current brochure and videotape projects, the group will welcome suggestions for other such projects and events. To finance future projects, the group will be holding fund raising events of various sorts.... more about this when plans are finalised.

In addition, the group will be building up an accessible resource library of information related to AIDS... not only the health aspects, but also the social implications for gay/gay and gay/straight interaction.

In short, awareness combined with discussion is the first step in an effective response to this health problem. To ensure that this challenge is met at the local level, all concerned and with time or suggestions to offer, are urged to contact the Gay Health Association. For the present time, they can be reached either c/o Rumours (phone 423 6814) or c/o P.O.Box 3611, South Postal Station, Halifax, B3J 3K6. (WB)

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RUMOURS..... ENTERTAINMENTS.

Gloria Borden asks if there are any men or women 'out there' who may have talents to share with us. If you have got your act together then tell Gloria Borden and give her your phone number or place your information in the suggestion box. (GB)

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APOLOGIA.

X To Andrea (C) for overzealousness in editing. X
To Robin Metcalfe for the omission of an 'e'. (Ed)

"Gay material is particularly vulnerable to censorship under the Customs Tariff Act and the Criminal Code", said Robin Metcalfe, former chair of GAE and organizer of a public reading of banned and censored literature. The public reading was organized by Metcalfe on behalf of the Periodical Writers Association of Canada, as an observance of the Book and Periodical Development Council's Freedom to Read Week.

Metcalfe read an excerpt from his short story "T-Bird", first published in Torso, a gay male magazine whose Canadian edition has had considerable trouble with Customs.

Other readers also referred to censorship of gay and lesbian materials. Lynn Murphy, appearing for Red Herring Cooperative Books, read an excerpt from Joy of Lesbian Sex. Chilean exile Elias Letelier-Ruz referred to arrests of homosexuals following the military coup in his homeland. John Barnstead of the Dalhousie Russian Department, who read works by Russian dissident writers, displayed a copy of a book by gay poet Mikhail Kuzman, in which censored passages were indicated by dotted lines.

Other speakers read from works of South African writers and from Ernest Buckler's Mountain and the Valley.

More than fifty people attended the readings, which were held September 21 at the Canadian Book Information Centre, Dalhousie. GAE made a donation of \$25 toward the event.

RM/LM

GAYS AND LESBIANS IN THE PEACE MOVEMENT: SHOULD WE BE INVOLVED?

Links between heterosexism and militarism were examined at a discussion on gay participation in the peace movement sponsored by the Civil Rights Committee of GAE on Wednesday September 26.

Speakers Andrea Currie and David Hope-Simpson spoke of their own involvement in the peace movement, and then were group facilitators for discussions of the roots of heterosexism and militarism, systems which participants felt had in common emotional factors, strong support for traditional male roles, and backing from most churches and schools.

Further questions raised were: if we are against militarism, what are we for? (peace in our lifetime, conflict negotiation, non-violent direct action rather than terrorism were among the answers proposed); how do we reconcile goals, strategies, and differences?; and how should a gay/lesbian organization deal with the contradictions between anti-militarism and calling for gay /lesbian access to military employment?

HB/LM

G.A.E. 1984 Annual Meeting. . . Treasurer's Report. .

GAE Inc. has been very successful financially during this past year. A number of factors have contributed to this situation.

First of all, we have improved financial controls in place. Approximately a year and a half ago we engaged the services of a competent professional accounting firm to administer our accounts and to advise us on matters pertaining to decision making. Computer printouts shewing revenue and expenditure are provided monthly, payrolls are prepared weekly and 'our' accountant meets with the Executive and Management Board at the joint meetings to advise and discuss money matters of the moment. The budgets for both GAE and Rumours were prepared with their assistance.

Secondly, we have had improved management over the past year. For instance, our present manager has implemented a number of controls at the door and at the bar to tighten up the Club's operations.

Thirdly but not least importantly, a lot of long, tedious and often unrewarded volunteer hours have been put in by all the Executive and Management Board to ensure that GAE and Rumours may operate as smoothly as possible, for the greatest efficiency.

Our improved financial situation has not come about easily. It is the result of severe and often unpopular but necessary cutbacks and restraints. Careful management has to be continued to ensure that we maintain and improve our present financial situation.

(Treasurer)

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RUMOURS ENTERTAINMENT REPORT.

By Gloria Borden.

To this date all the planned events have taken place as scheduled. With a few extra thrown in for good measure.

The Club Birthday Party took place on 10th October and the occasion was well attended and found to be enjoyable. Everyone seemed to have had a good time with the drinks going at \$1.50 all night. (May have had something to do with the jollity!) These same prices may have contributed to the few rowdies' behaviour. Always a bad apple or two in the barrel.

At the cutting of the cake staff and customers joined in the singing of "Happy Birthday to Rumours" whilst the manager served champagne at the door.

The entertainment provided by Tony, Randy, Stephen, Cindy was very tasteful, eye-catching and appreciated by one and all.

And what's next at Rumours? Be there and find out! (GB)

LESBIAN FOLKSONG DISCOVERED: "The Virgin of York". Rating: PG

(Although a Loyalist origin cannot be discounted, our researcher deduces from internal evidence that this previously unknown Nova Scotia folksong was composed by a person of Irish descent. The tune, unfortunately, remains unknown.)

The virgin of the town of York
Her heart was light as any cork.
She still had kept her maidenhead
For she never slept in anyone's bed
But Jennifer-down-by the -park, she said,
For all the summer long, 0!

The virgin she was young and gay,
She polished her hiking boots every day,
She never thought of men at all
She read the works of Radclyffe Hall
With Jennifer-down-by-the-park, that's all,
For all the summer long, 0!

The virgin didn't wash or scrub,
She owned a motorcycle club,
And when they went upon a spree
They roared around till half-past three,
Jennifer-down-by-the-park and she
For all the summer long, 0!

The virgin, she got grey and old
And wore long janes against the cold:
At last when death came down the pike
They buried her beneath a dyke -
Jennifer-down-by-the-park, belike-
For all eternity long, 0!

(The song is not believed to refer to any Jennifers, or virgins, known to this community. The reference to dykes might indicate a Tantramar marsh locale.)

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THE GAZETTE. Dalhousie University, Halifax.

On behalf of the G.A.E. may I, as Editor of GAEZETTE, offer our thanks to the Editor and Staff of THE GAZETTE for the support given and the encouragement engendered by the coverage in the Supplement to the October 25th Edition. = (PM)

LIFE AND TIMES OF THE AMAZON MOLLY

"The Amazon molly is an interesting species of fish in which there are no males. The female has intercourse with fish of another species, and the sperm are not able to fertilize her egg in the normal fashion, but merely stimulate her eggs to develop on their own into more adult female Amazon mollies. Because there is never a male contribution, there can be only female Amazon mollies, and they all develop by this sort of natural 'cloning' method." - Silber, Sherman J, How to Get Pregnant (New York: Scribner, 1980, p. 202.

Motherlines, by Suzy McKee Charnas, is a science fiction novel in which a lesbian society propagates itself by using this scientific principle. However, the details of interspecies intercourse presented therein would give many women pause.

GAY MEN'S ART SHOW

Men interested in having their work included in the Gay Men's Art Show, tentatively scheduled for February, are invited to get in touch with Robin Metcalfe.

HOLLY NEAR CONCERT RESULTS IN PROFIT FOR CO-SPONSORS

It won't pay the rent, but the Holly Near Concert Committee, which sponsored the successful spring appearance in Halifax of lesbian singer/songwriter Holly Near, was able to send a small cheque to all cosponsors of the concert, including GAE.

A cash-in-advance loan to the Committee was also paid off in full.

The Committee, now operating under the name of Unity Productions, has begun planning next spring's performance: the name of the artist or group is not yet known.

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YOUTH GROUP.

A Youth Group for Gays and Lesbians aged from 16 to 21 exclusively will meet at Rumours on Sundays from 1.00 pm to 4.00 commencing 11th November 1984. Refreshments will be served and there will be music. For further information call 477 8807 (HB)

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CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th November 1984 at 6046 Williams Street, Halifax. For discussion of the attempts to be made to have a Sexual Orientation Clause added to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. All welcome. For further information call 425 6967. (KB)

OVER 30s. ANNUAL REPORT.

After a lapse of about a year the group was reformed in January with A.S. and P.M. as co-ordinators.

The first event was held at J.M.'s in February. This occasion set the tone and tempo for the six social events which have now been held.

The co-ordinators wish to take this opportunity to record their thanks, on behalf of the group, to the various hosts who kindly made available their homes for the social events.

We would also take this opportunity to ask those amongst us, who do have the necessary facilities, to consider offering them to the group for future events.

The numbers attending have been smaller than might have been anticipated. In part, this has been due to decisions made at a late date and there has been, perhaps, insufficient time for people to incorporate the event on their social calendar. But the smallness of the attendances has not affected the enjoyment of the evenings.

The social events organised by the Over 30s group offer, to the Over30s and their partners, in an in-home atmosphere, the opportunity of meeting new faces, of having enjoyable conversation, of enjoying good food and drink (on the BYOB and Pot-Luck systems).

The next event will be held on 3 November... for those who have not received notification ... please call 425 5595 or 423 3072.

Keep in mind these dates for future events..... 8 December 1984 and 27 January 1985.

We will be sitting at the receipt of custom ... your contributions for 1985, of \$5.00 will be accepted from this time forward. (PM)

GAEZETTE. The Newsletter of the GAY ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY.

ANNUAL REPORT Publication of the GAE Newsletter was resumed with the edition published on 1 August 1984, with the caption of "GAEZETTE".

PM offered her services in July as Editor, which offer was accepted by the Executive without much discussion.

This is, therefore, the fourth issue of the new series., and is for publication on the 1st of November.

Whilst there is some material coming forward now there is a need for much more. Anything can be published at this time, there is not enough material for a degree of selectivity. Particularly desirable as your contributions are articles on personal experiences and on all topics of special interest to this community as well as short stories and poetry.

The closing dates for contributions are approximately one week before the first of the month. For the December issue the closing date will be

GAEZETTE continued.

28th November, but copy will be accepted prior to that date if left with the Manager of Rumours, clearly marked for the attention of the Editor of Gaezette.

The first issue in August went to 150 copies, that for September to 165, that for October to 175 and the same number is planned for November.

Three copies of each issue have been sent to the parallel organisations in the Maritimes... GAIN... FLAG... IAGO SJ .and this practice will be continued. Three copies are also sent to Robin Metcalfe for archives.

(PM)

LIVE AND LET LIVE GROUP

Those gay men and lesbians who have a problem with alcohol may find help at a weekly meeting held in the Universalist Unitarian Church, 5500 Inglis St. at 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Hair styling at ASPIRATIONS where Gary is awaiting to serve you.
Phone 422-9436.

(GW)

GAYLINE FOR COUNSELLING, INFORMATION REFERRAL. Phone 423-1380
or 423-1389 between 7 and 10:00 p.m. Friday to Sunday.

GAY ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY, P.O. Box 3611, South Stn. Halifax, N.S.
Telephone 429-4294 The Turret Club 423-6814 B3J 3K6

Policies proposed or discussed, arguments advanced or supported are those of the writers. Policies or statements for GAE will be clearly so marked.

Closing date for contribution for December issue will be November 28th. Manuscripts may be left with the Manager of Rumours or mailed to GAE address, as above, with the annotation for Editor Gaezette.