

**Thunder
GAY**

JUNE · JULY '83

GAYS OF THUNDER BAY Magazine

S · U · M · M · E · R

Social
ditties

IN^{the} CITY



You can
HELP!

COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 7 General Meeting
 June 11 Social at Polish Hall - 102
 South Court Street
 June 21 General Meeting
 June 25 Social at Ukrainian Labor
 Temple
 July 5 General Meeting
 July 16 Social - Location to be selected.
 Contact our phoneline for info.
 July 19 General Meeting
 July 30 Social - Location to be selected.
 July 30, 31, August 1 - Camping and Canoe
 Trip. See article this issue.

Opinions expressed in articles in THUNDER GAY MAGAZINE are those of the author and not necessarily the views of Gays of Thunder Bay.

Gays of Thunder Bay

GAYS OF THUNDER BAY is an organization of lesbians and gay men from the Thunder Bay region.

OUR MAILING ADDRESS is: G.T.B.
 P.O. Box 2155
 Thunder Bay P, Ontario

OUR PHONELINE is open every Wednesday and Friday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. At other times a recording advises callers of activities. Reach the phoneline by dialing:

(807) 345.8011

All persons interested in the gay movement in this area are welcome to contact us with offers of help and donations!

GTB

Twice Monthly Socials A Success!

We are happy to report that the decision to host socials twice monthly is proving to be a good one. Socials remain very popular with attendance staying fairly even.

We would like to thank the general community for their support. It is your attendance that indicates we should keep doing this. You also help GTB in a very direct way with our operating costs. And remember, there is a terrific savings for you if you decide to take out a membership in GTB. Members get in to all socials at $\frac{1}{2}$ price!

Further on in this issue there is a feature article discussing our socials, policies and ways you can continue to help us out. For now, thank you and keep on having a good time.

We would like to commend George Clarke, our Social Convenor for these past many months, for the excellent job he has done. George worked tirelessly in seeing our socials run smoothly and always maintained a sense of humour when things became frustrating or difficult. As well, our thanks go to recent social co-ordinators Andre (who toiled bravely for a number of consecutive events and who probably puts out the best looking food tray in the city - tasty too!), Terry and Michael. And a special note of gratitude to various individuals who have worked constantly as volunteers at many socials: Darryl, Victor, Crystal, Karen, Art, plus our hard-working D-J's Ken and Bruce. Thank you all.

FOR SALE: Vivitar 200mm telephoto lens, professional tripod, power-winder for Olympus OM 10; also, counter height, "near-new" fridge—call, George 345-2315.

Thunder GAY magazine

GAYS OF THUNDER BAY Magazine

JUNE - JULY '83

Thanks to: Doug, David, Zack, Michael, Lawrence, Joe, and George.

KATIMAVIK

Katimavik is an Inuit word meaning "the meeting place". It is also an organization that might be loosely described as a domestic version of "CUSO". It is a federally sponsored programme for youths between 17 and 21, with participants making one year commitments to the programme.

During that year, participants will be located in three different regions of Canada, one being a francophone community. Katimavik is based on four philosophical aims: service to society, knowledge and understanding of Canada, environmental awareness and personal development.

KATIMAVIK: April 20, 1983

On the evening of April 20th two members of GTB's informal "speaker's bureau" attended a dinner and discussion at one of Thunder Bay's Katimavik houses. Michael Sobota and myself were following through with an original request by leader Maureen and a more current request by Katimavik participant Marie-Claude. We agreed to share a meal with the Katimavik participants at their house on Simpson Street as both Michael and I thought this would give us a chance to break the ice a bit and make our prospective audience a little more comfortable.

After a delicious, healthy meal prepared by Lise and Marie-Claude, we moved toward the presentation by showing around copies of our two most recent issues of THUNDER GAY and speaking in very general terms about Gays of Thunder Bay. Michael began the evening by outlining some of the main endeavors and objectives of the gay movement and gave a brief chronology of contemporary gay activism. After outlining the Stonewall riot, gays and the law and gays in the workplace, we threw the floor open to questions.

The audience seemed very receptive

with questions ranging from the very simple to more complicated matters of "What makes someone gay?" and "When do you know you are gay?" Although the bulk of the questions were positive and unchallenging of gay rights, some questions did challenge the right to freedom of expression and the inclusion of gay education in schools as well as the lowering of the legal age for gay interaction.

Before Michael and I knew it 2½ hours of discussion had taken place and we had spent a total of 4 hours with the Katimavik participants. We were grateful for the opportunity to provide information and pleased at how receptive our audience was. A few of those present wished to know more about upcoming events at GTB and were encouraged to attend upcoming socials or meetings.

For both Michael and myself the Katimavik talk was a fulfilling high and an encounter we will not soon forget. We thank Marie-Claude and Maureen for inviting us, Lise for preparing the delicious meal and all the others for their attention and concerned questions.

**** George Clarke ****

PHONELINE



GTB's phoneline co-ordinator Ken Plante smiles for our photographer as George Clarke handles one of our many callers.

GTB's phone-line continues to be one of our essential services to the gay community. Staffed two evenings per week, Wednesday and Fridays, 7:30-9:30 pm, the phone-line handles hundreds of calls monthly.

Our phone-line guide, produced by our own staff and printed by our "in house" master pressman, is gaining widespread acclaim. A recent notice came to our attention in the Northern Lambda Nord Communique:

"Our request for help from other gay phonelines has not gone unheeded. Gays of Thunder Bay (Ontario) sent us a copy of their guidebook which their phoneline uses. It is required reading for anyone staffing our phoneline."

Northern Lambda Nord functions in Maine, New Brunswick and North Eastern Quebec. We thank them for the kind words and wish them many useful, fruitful, happy and healthy hours on the phone.

RFD

RFD recently wrote us asking for an "ad exchange", or a line or two about them.

Ads seldom appear in THUNDER GAY, and then usually only local notices. So we are happy to tell you a bit about RFD.

RFD is a magazine. It is published co-operatively by a collective of rural gays in the U.S. The collective varies, as does the actual location of where the magazine gets assembled. It is a reader written journal, that is articles, poetry, graphics, letters are freely and eagerly solicited from the general public and, at least from the issues I've seen, just about everything gets put in. This is an eclectic and interesting magazine. One of it's chief focuses is on rural life and/or functioning as a healthy

gay person in the country. It also features a heavy slant toward what can be called the "fairy movement" inside of gay culture. It speaks strongly and positively about "sissydsm", fairy power, feminism, spirituality. Most of this is done in a general, broad way. It is helping define what these "new" areas are and what they mean inside of gay culture.

RFD is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Subscriptions are \$14/year in Canada. Copies are mailed as they say "in a discreet, plain sealed envelope." Write to:

RFD
Route 1, Box 127-E
BAKERSVILLE, North Carolina
USA 28705

RAID!

They've done it again - and Toronto hit the streets again. On April 23 an estimated thousand angry individuals clashed with police following a raid the previous Wednesday on another bath house. Police wielding billy clubs and barricades attempted to halt a march up Yonge Street and almost succeeded but the furious crowd forced them to regroup and attempt another halt four blocks north. Five gays were jailed and several injured in the clashes. The gays eventually finished their march to Old City Hall.

What surprised onlookers was the fact that earlier that same day, 20,000 peace marchers were forced onto another route after they attempted a walk up Yonge Street. The Toronto Sun -not noted for its liberalism - ran the headline "Cops Lose Gay Fight".

In a letter to Thunder Gay, Right to Privacy Foundation's secretary David Rayside wrote that "the raid came just as I was about to send you a letter different from the one you see before you". That letter announced that the Foundation had passed the \$100,000 mark in legal defence funds. Now however, more money will be needed.

As a result of the raid on the Back Door Sauna, nine persons were charged. Rayside easily anticipates that the Foundation will need an additional \$25,000 to assist this latest round of court battles.

With an astonishing 85% success rate, the Right to Privacy Foundation has proven since its formation following the 1981 bath raids that it is extremely valuable. And it is working!

In his letter, Rayside concludes: "We need all of you... send \$25 or more if you can; at least send something!" We heartily agree.

Doug Broman



TRACK TWO

A Preview

by Michael Sobota

Since "Track II" has only been seen by a few people in Thunder Bay, I will talk about it in general terms, high-lights, a preview if you will, rather than a review. So when you see it you can form your own critical opinions.

"Track II" is a film by KLS Productions (Keith-Lemmon-Sutherland) - the Lemmon being Jack Lemmon, a former resident of Thunder Bay. The name of the film is taken from an area of the city designated by Metro Toronto Police as the gay section of downtown.

"Track II" is about consciousness raising and the building of community. Its style is documentary, mixing interviews with prominent and not-so-well-known Torontonians with dramatized footage of the infamous Toronto Bath raids and live footage of the demonstrations in their aftermath. The filmmakers have managed to get their cameras into an astonishing variety of places: at demonstrations, rallies, election headquarters, city councillors' offices, hearings, alleys, the street. It is incredibly moving when it simply shows us crowds and situations without editorializing, it is most eloquent when it focuses on what I'll call "plain folk" and lets them speak.

"Track II" should be seen by all of us concerned with building community. GTB hopes to bring the film to Thunder Bay later this summer. We will get the word out as soon as we can confirm a date and location for screening. With luck, we might convince Jack to come along with the film and lead a discussion after it.



Produced by KLS PRODUCTIONS

LETTERS

To The Editor:

I want to take this opportunity to express my disappointment with GTB regarding the Third Anniversary Social.

Although the third anniversary of the organization fell at the end of April, the Anniversary Social was held in the middle of the month.

I feel that this was a small but significant betrayal of our history. Historical distortion creeps in very easily in any case, so it seems to me important to try to pay attention to details such as this.

As one of the founding members of GTB, I am pleased with what has been accomplished in three years, and I hope that we can successfully continue into the future while remaining true to our past.

Yours in liberation
David Belrose

Dear GTB:

I'm writing to wish you a happy third birthday. It doesn't seem so long ago since OGRO got the PLURA grant and sent Robin Hardy, as Grassroots Organizer, touring the province. It was in April 1980 that he first met with David Belrose and they began the talks and meetings that resulted in the founding of GTB.

We've been happy to have you as members of the Coalition for these years - and look forward to working with you for many years to come. We've been impressed with the way GTB has grown, consolidated and organized and we enjoy our regular reading of the newsletter.

It will be great to meet your rep at the Annual Meeting this year and be able to talk in person.

A happy birthday to you all - and many happy returns!

Christine Donald
Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario
CP/PO Box 822
Succursale/Station A
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5W 1G3

Dear GTB:

I read your notice in the last Thunder Gay about your booklet "Nothing To It". It sounds like it could be quite useful and I'd appreciate it if you would send me a copy. I enclose a small donation to cover expenses.

I read each issue of Thunder Gay when it comes out. It's nice to see a consistent readable magazine with a good local focus. I hope you can keep it all together.

Yours,

Richard B.
Vancouver, B.C.

Greetings:

I've written this letter before. It's the one which says the socials are nice and much needed while being far too 'loud'. I can, again, ask the cute rhetorical question — what's social about having your ears assaulted whilst having to screech at others to be heard?

Actually, the loudness issue seems to vary from time to time. At some socials the loudness doesn't reach terminal levels until the last hour or two. At the last one it got there very quickly, and there was really no way to escape it.

That's the complaint and I'm fairly sure you're familiar with it. But in this case I want to follow the complaint with a few suggestions for consideration. I do this especially because you're now increasing the number of socials per month, so there's room for a few suggestions. In brief, I'm going to suggest that you use more socials to foster more variety rather than more of the same.

At some halls, for example, it would seem that a dual level social could be conducted with a lively dance in one area and a quieter spot nearby. Another suggestion is to (once or twice a year) sponsor a low key social using a 'theme' of some sort or possibly even a different function entirely such as a wine and cheese social. I mean, what's wrong with showing a 'gay' film and following that with a quiet or low key party?

FEATURE

Social Ditties: Policies and Promises

by Lawrence

I'd like to say a few words on behalf of the Executive of Gays of Thunder Bay regarding our socials.

Since January/82, GTB has been able to provide a once a month social event to allow lesbians and gays a public place to socialize, dance, meet new people and generally be a bit out.

Since April/83, GTB increased this to two socials a month and hopes to continue to do so. Socials are what keeps GTB and its related activities alive. And as long as GTB can continue to sponsor socials, Thunder Bay moves closer to having a gay community centre for gays in the Thunder Bay area. GTB wants that for all gays here in the northwest. It's one of GTB's goals. The road to it is the \$ profit from our socials.

Socials are a good time party event, yes. At least GTB hopes so, and will try to do what you ask to make them that way. But unfortunately there are things that must be done to ensure the ability to keep having them. Because socials are a licenced event, GTB insists that either an Ontario Photo Card (Age of Majority) or two pieces of identification that states you are of age, be presented. If you cannot show us this, we have no choice but to turn you away. So please don't "forget it" at home or you'll have to go back and get it. This is GTB policy based on Provincial liquor laws.

It has been noted that liquor/beer on occasion has been smuggled into these events. Not because you must buy our booze, but again because Provincial liquor laws prohibit this activity and if it's observed at GTB socials, members of GTB's Executive will approach you and kindly ask you to remove it and not do it again. Smuggling in liquor or beer puts the socials, future socials and the only public event gays have in Thunder Bay, in serious jeopardy and cannot and will not be taken lightly! If you do not wish to purchase liquor or beer from our bar, we provide

coffee, pop and juice and only a donation toward those expenses are asked for. And then only if you want to.

Liquor tickets, beer tickets...seems every time I buy too many and before you know it, the bar is closed. Do you ever do that? Well, if you do you can get your money back at the end of the social. Simply present your unused tickets to the social co-ordinator(s) or the social convenor and they'll gladly refund your money. (Remember, GTB kindly thanks those who consider their unused tickets as donations... like me!)

How do you get to a social? Well, I don't know. But what GTB does know is that they are held in various locations within the city. The Ukrainian Labor Temple, Strathcona, Oliver Road Rec. Centre have all been used. Halls are generally booked well in advance and announced through THUNDER GAY. Usually they are held Saturdays, sometimes Fridays. The best way to check is through the phone line, which will have up-to-date information. Wednesday & Friday - 7:30-9:30 pm. 345-8011.

GTB endeavours to keep prices as reasonably low as possible. And memberships help reduce the cost at the door for you. Current prices are: Door-\$5.00 non-members \$2.50 members

Beer-\$1.50

Liquor-\$1.75

Coffee, pop, juice and food: donations. And don't just throw your door ticket away when you walk in. They're valuable too. There are now door prizes given away at each social. They can vary from records, to dinner for two or a hot sauna for two.

Remember, GTB memberships are pro-rated for the year at \$1/month. In June memberships are only \$7.00, good for the rest of this year. If you go to socials regularly, boy/girl it's a saving at the door! Three socials would more than recover your cost

of membership now and there are going to be many more than three socials between now and December. Do however note: on the occasion there is entertainment hired out, door prices (only) may change. GTB will try to let you know before hand.

We all know that there is nothing more annoying than having had the bar shut down and the last dance played and the lights go up without notice before hand. It can feel like walking into a brick wall. Thud! Ever walk into a brick wall? You have? Well, you better get some glasses maybe. And keep your eyes on your honey 'cause you won't have to watch the clock. The DJ will make sure you hear announced "Last call at the bar". That'll be around 12:45. And when the bar is closed or shortly thereafter you can expect to hear announced "Last dance of the night". Then you know you better ask that hot number one. Now or never.

And we ask you to please make your pick up or find your party ASAP after last dance. Time is allowed naturally to finish your drink, but we start cleaning up right away. Your cup may get accidentally thrown away in the rush of cleaning so watch your drink if you really want to finish it. And please don't "hang out" long. GTB does have a responsibility to the host organization's hall and we need to be out as speedily as possible. Keeping a respectable profile with hall owners ensures us we may be able to use the hall again. Comprendo?

There is one more point GTB's Executive would like you all to know. Socials are nice to have. They're even fun to work at. You'll meet more people in a ½ hour at the bar or ticket sales than you would in an entire night. It adds something to the night. Just ½ hour. There's a list at the front door. Take a look at it and sign a spot. The help is appreciated and really makes socials run better.

You got some music you like? And you'd like to hear it? If you have, then albums

and tapes (preferably) will be accepted and requests fitted into the schedule, if the DJ has the song. Just ask and the best will be done to accommodate. Or if you're really ambitious and can sacrifice a night of socializing, you could do the DJ'ing. Transport of equipment is basically cared for. Set up, shut down and what you want to play is basically up to you (barring, of course, requests). For more info, the social convenor will assist you. If you don't know who that is call the phone line.

Socials are easy to hold. But they do require co-ordinators. And anyone can do it. There's "NOTHING TO IT", a booklet available that clearly outlines all that need be done. And a social convenor to assist you. The social convenor will look after certain administrative duties and guide you through running an event. GTB has the resources and experience to help.

But socials will not continue unless people help make them continue. If socials stop, Thunder Bay's chance for a permanent gay centre end. And then we can all go back into the closet and sit...and wait... and wonder what happened in our city. We are more solid than ever and each social puts us one step closer to an established community centre. Put part of you into it.



MY ROOM MY LIFE

Four walls.
Walls that are wide and tall.
Four bare, dark walls.

One window.
A window that is too heavy to open.
One cold, hard window.

The door has rusted shut,
from lack of use.
The floor is covered with dust,
from lack of movement.
The ceiling you ask?
Well, it is beyond my reach.

It is within this pitiful room,
that I am doomed to spend eternity

---That is my life

© W. Prettie 1983

Toronto Life!!!!

G. W. Clarke

On the weekend of May 21-22 I had the pleasure of attending the Annual Meeting of OGRO in Toronto as GIB's representative. The trip was co-sponsored by GIB and OGRO and took place in conjunction with a little holidaying of my own.

I arrived after lunch on the 21st to a congenial meeting which included: a slide show, group reports, an upcoming calendar of events, general business, lots of discussion, and ultimately, a resolve to increase province-wide vigour for gay rights. During the afternoon of the 22nd a workshop entitled "Pots and Kettles" brought a few new faces to the already well attended meeting. This "encounter-type" session included intense discussion of the many types and venues of discrimination and their connection with gay and human rights activism. As 4:30 too quickly arrived, those present parted with many a word unsaid but perhaps feeling a little freer and less frustrated as we made our way to homes and lovers.

Time away quickly dissolving the galleries, museums and sights of Toronto left many impressions, a few of which I'll now recommend. The recently renovated Royal Ontario Museum is still a must for the visitor to Toronto and the \$ 5.50 admission charge is no deterrent when exhibits such as "In Search of Alexander" and "Treasures from the Tower" are offered. At the Art Gallery of Ontario \$ 2.00 will bring you an opportunity to see a vast collection of the works of yester and modern day masters, included at the AGO are some of my favourites by Picasso and the prolific Henry Moore. If you have the means, the trek north to Kleinburg (60 km) is worth making and the \$ 2.50 worth paying to see the refurbished McMichael Canadian Collection. Nestled on the Humber River this extensive collection of works by the Group of Seven and others is a treat to behold.

If you are ready for an awesome grouping of literary fact, fiction and fantasy then take in a visit to Glad Day Bookshop at 648 Yonge Street. If a more vast collection of gay relative periodicals, magazines and literature exists in Toronto it would indeed be

surprising!

A little off the beaten path, but worth looking for are the offices of The Body Politic. The Body Politic and the Gay Archives are a must for the politically conscious for here you will see gay activism in motion. Gerald Hannon (an expatriate Northerner) gave me the royal tour of TBP including a commentary of his own involvement from "day two" which made the visit even more memorable.

Home again after nine days away and little had seemed to change. What had taken place while I was gone was soon buzzing in my ears and I wondered why I had rushed back? Oh yes, it was that fellow who met me at the airport, it is GOOD to be home!

BUSINESS TELEPHONE (807) 344-2001 Call Evenings

Harry: (II)

That brings me to you and to why I've joined you in a Gay organization. And, now, this 'story' gets more complex and harder for me to put into words. Let me give two examples. When I tell straight people that I'm 'gay' they are often incredulous and sometimes refuse to believe me. On the other hand, the question I'm most often asked by 'gays' is: "Are you straight?" Both examples are illustrative.

I'm not straight, but I'm not gay, either. I'll grant that gay comes closer than straight to describe me, but it's not a perfect fit. I don't want to sound critical, but after rejecting straight expectations I'm not all that eager to accept the gay expectations which replace them. There's some truth in saying that 'gay' is a cant or position that exists as a reaction to straight views. By default, they define us.

'Gay' is not serious and, so, is not to be taken seriously. It is beside-the-point. It is tolerated so long as it remains more or less unimportant, useless, trivial, and contained. As such, gay is segregated from the real heart and life of society.

While I approve of gay pride, it still reminds me of what happens when a pack of inmates turn on one another in prison. We herald a trite label as if hurling it at ourselves somehow alleviates the sting of what they'd hurl at us. If we trivialize ourselves then they can't demean us further. Reactionary politics, pure and simple.

I'll grant you, though, that what we have to react against gives little opportunity for defining ourselves. Gay is the current desert oasis, and what the movement has done is significant and worthy of continued support.

Still, the gay label gives me trouble, and that's why I'm fessing up and saying I'm not gay. For my purposes I prefer to use a term discarded in favor of the more popular term, gay. I think of myself, then, as a male homosexual. There are reasons (and good ones) for avoiding such a description, but I'd like to suggest that the term points toward some strengths, as well.

A homo-sexual is one who relates well within his or her own sex. That ability represents a form of skill or power. In a practical sense, it allows one to get things done in concert with others. Carried further the same skill leads toward love and sometimes intimacy with some of those others.

Another way to say this is that my 'person' is homosexual or that I'm homosexual in all aspects of my drive. It's a total sort of thing which colors everything I do or attempt. One end of the drive is 'gay sex'. A homosexual can engage in gay sex as one aspect of his or her homosexuality.

I'll try a cute analogy. The body of the dog is called homosexuality. The dog's tail is gay sex, or one aspect of the whole dog. I prefer to have the dog wag the tail, but when I define myself as 'gay' I'm causing the tail to wag (or define) the rest of the dog. Put simply, I'm homosexual first and always whereas I'm gay only sometimes.

I may be dabbling in needless confusion, but at heart is the matter of orientation.

My orientation is clear to me, what matters now is how I'm to express it. The problem I've encountered in being 'gay' when possible is that the gay time is forced to carry the burden of accumulation. It's as if a little good time can make up for a lot of compromised daily living done outside a 'gay' frame of reference. An impractical state of affairs which is out of balance from the start. As I see it, homosexual is a practised, day-to-day reality while gay is an occasional expression.

Trust, please, that I'm not being critical or questioning for facile motives. Rather, not being 'gay' enough while being 100% homosexual has given me considerable grief and torment. As a semi-outsider in your world I've gained a bit of perspective because of that conflict.

From all of that some things have emerged. Two of them are worth further comment.

The first is homosexual relationships. These, I believe, are quite sound when given enough importance. In part that means a relationship needs to share common, external goals. It is product oriented. It produces something as the combined product of lovers working in concert. Attraction, love, affection, and intimacy are important, but a major portion of the 'glue' comes from shared objectives and shared work. Exclusivity in such relationships is not total. Sexual dalliance will not destroy a pragmatic relationship which retains its useful, productive components. Relationships which rely on 'love' or sexuality for exclusive justification are foundation-weak and somewhat lacking in reality based controls.

The second is homosexual love. This, I believe, is absolutely unchanging. I've yet to encounter a lover who's managed to

un-love anyone, no matter how fleeting the love encounter. Practiced indifference does not deny love, nor do hurt/anger combinations. Love is a basic feeling and it never goes un-felt, though it can be given alternative (sometimes negative) expression. Thus, frank and justified criticism is as much an expression of love as are honeyed words.

That sounds old fashioned, but, we are what we are because of the way we love. Love is a fundamental human orientation, and our expression of it is valid. It can be something romantic, but more often it's apt to be expressed as practical co-operation and level-headed honesty to one another. I am best loved when told the truth even if that information dashes to bits my most cherished dreams. It's a cruel lover who will allow a loved one the false happiness of delusion.

Such things, of course, are easy to say but much harder to do or live with. Vacillation is common. Unworkable expectations and delusions take time to be found and cast aside. Failures, too, occur but having done something 'wrong' one gains a better notion of how to do it right, or at least slightly better.

Listen, sweet words and lofty promises are fine and likely as the starting point for many a fine relationship. But the words alone won't do it. Fact is, I'd put more trust in someone who doesn't bandy the word 'love' about too much. A lover's actions are the things to look for, and I don't mean gifts, promises, or sumptuous weekends. I mean picking up his own clothes, being on time, meeting his costs, etc. Little things, well done, come from a person who has manifold ways of expressing his love. With that thought I leave you.

I realize this may not be cost effective or even much of a success at first. But in terms of building a broader based organization I think it's worth repeated effort. The majority of members who come to and enjoy the socials are there to shake-a-leg (so to speak) and they provide considerable income by so doing. Nothing wrong with that. But the organization as a whole will benefit by drawing on the other side of the spectrum and making a real effort to get and hold members who have a more low-key approach to expressing gayness or to enjoying 'social' situations.

In time, perhaps, consistent effort could uncover and cultivate members with skills, dedication, experience, and some degree of clout in achieving goals.

Having made this suggestion I'll shut up. It's, after all, only an idea, though it's one I'd volunteer time and effort towards.

Regards,

Harry D.

Dear Editor:

I am a Gay inmate here in Fishkill, N.Y., in for a Gay crime. I have two more years to go. I got your address from RFD magazine and would like to receive your newspaper Free of Charge. If you can't, please send me your next issue for free only. My address is above.

Wishing your group well, a friend,

Marvin Matthow
Box 307
Beacon, N.Y. 12508



A weekend camping and canoe trip is being organized for the last weekend in July. That is the August Civic Holiday weekend: July 30. 31 and August 1st.

Dear Thunder Gay:

Received your address from a friend and hope you'll be able to help.

I would love to make my correspondence club a world-wide one. Will you be so kind to advertise it for me, use my home address, as it is private. We'll send a list with names and addresses around the world to members. The membership, if they mention that they are joining through your club, is only \$5 per year instead of \$10. Full details, name and address, must be sent with membership fee, to me.

Then also:

- 1) I am looking for pen-friends, any age, anywhere. I am 31 years.
- 2) Anyone wanting postcards, souvenirs or stamps, write to:

Peter Van Dyk
508 Trafalgar Place,
Regent Road
Sea Point. 8001. South
Africa.

If you are unable to help, please give my name and address to any other club or organization, please to advertise.

I really appreciate your help.

Friendly greetings,

Peter

The trip will be similar to last years in terms of planning: all equipment and food will be supplied by our trusty guide Harry. Location can be discussed with participants and is still to be selected. Cost for the entire weekend is \$50. Participation is limited to nine people, so make up your mind as soon as you can to get a space in the canoe. Contact Michael Sobota or phone the GTB phoneline by July 15th.

FLAUNTING IT

Michael Sobota

On the recent Victoria Day weekend an unpublicised film festival took place at Lakehead University. Beginning on Friday evening, films were screened at four different locations simultaneously. The screenings continued through the following Monday. Over sixty films were shown, including KLS Productions "Track II", previewed elsewhere in this issue. I was able to take in sixteen films along with about six hours of video screenings.

There were a number of films with overt 'gay content' and some with interesting points to make, relevant to gays and gay culture. Perhaps the best film I saw that week-end was "Come Back To The Five And Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean".

The film is extraordinary in a number of ways. It is superbly cast with uniformly strong actresses (all the roles but one are for women), it is constantly interesting to watch, the content is mesmerizing.

"...Jimmy Dean" is about coming out. Everybody coming out, letting go of your deeply hidden and firmly guarded secrets, admitting truth, hearing truth from others and accepting it. It tangibly conveys what that release does, the purgative effect, the peace and calm after breaking through emotional storm. All of the characters in the film may be heterosexual (one central figure is a transexual, but that is not what makes the character central or interesting...how the others react to him both before and after his transformation elevates the role into central focus).

The film, in total, gives us glimpses into a handful of lives, all closely connected to each other. Nothing of much importance occurs in the plot. We watch people come to terms with who they are and let go of many pretenses. I was exhilarated all through this film (even in its bleak, dusty poetic credits at the end).

In conversations with gay friends and others who may just be acquaintances there are endless references to our 'coming out' process. "My job would not last two days" ...this from a local laborer who believes it crucial to be 'straight' at work. "Why are you holding the social there...some people know me at that hall"...this from someone who, for all practical purposes is 'out' only when he is in one of the halls where we're having socials, or at his own home.

We will never be done with this. Letting go of the double life, giving away the secret, becoming visible and discarding that protective cloak of invisibility, will always be central to who we are. That is, of course, until everybody has done it...then we've created a new society. For each of us, the discarding happens at different times, and at different rates. Watching the two hour strip-tease of "...Jimmy Dean" is exhilarating and scary at the same time, because it happens to everybody in the space of an afternoon. Go see it and be thrilled.

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