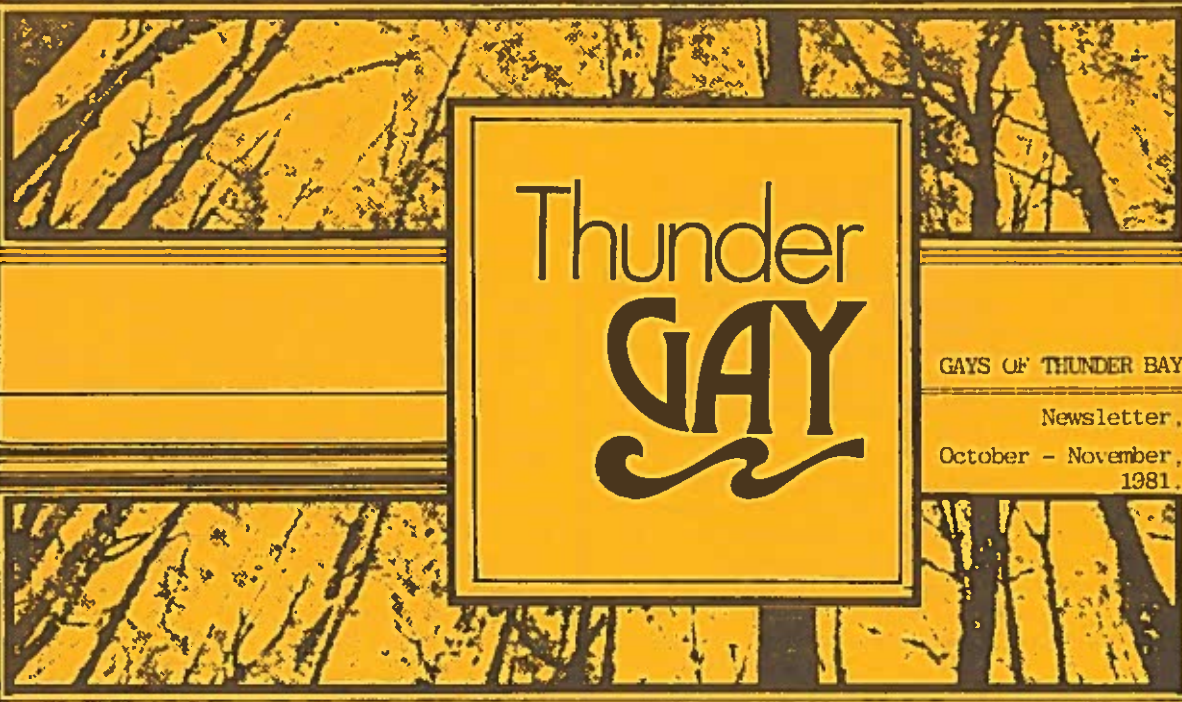




November 17:
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEET

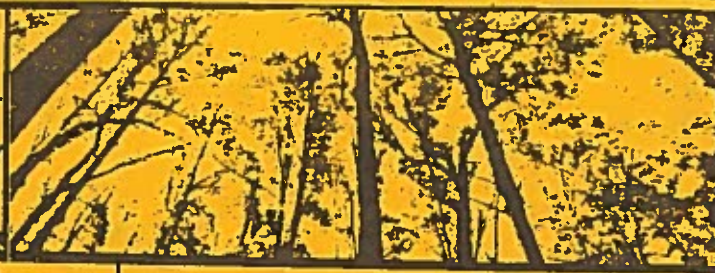
AUTUMN CLASSIC



Thunder GAY

GAYS OF THUNDER BAY

Newsletter,
October - November,
1981.



Everybody's doin' it... AUTUMN CLASSIC

(Staff)- It hardly seems a year has gone by!! It's time again for that autumn classic - GTB's Hallowe'en Social. This is probably the one night a year that every gay group everywhere is having a party at the same time. As usual, the very fine hall - The Ukrainian Labor Temple at 203 Ogden Street has been booked and refreshments ordered and music arranged and decorations strewn elegantly about.

Costumes, though they aren't necessarily required (but what kind of fuddy-duddy doesn't dress on Hallowe'en?) will add to the gaiety, the frivolousness, the madness of this great night.

The doors open at eight - then who knows what will happen? See you there!!

November 17: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEET

(Staff)-GTB's first year of official existence will be capped November 17th with a general membership meeting to elect a new executive.

At last year's elections, all posts were filled with the exception of the vice-president post. Policy was that if the president were male, then the vice should be female and vice-versa.

Priorities for the year ahead will be discussed - a good time to air views and so on. The posts of president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary and members-at-large will require filing. This is an excellent time to step forward for persons who want to make a direct contribution to the operation of our necessary and dynamic organization.

OGRO Raises its Fees

(Staff) - On the weekend of September nineteenth, two representatives drove to Ottawa to take part in the 29th meeting of the Steering Committee of the Coalition for Gay Rights in Ontario. The lengthy agenda covered such topics as regionalization and funding.

OGRO has raised its individual members' fee to \$15 and it was agreed to negotiate group membership fees at a later date. The committee urged local groups to provide information about OGRO and its membership drive through the use of short inserts or articles in community and neighbourhood newspapers, trade union papers and the college and university media.

Following an approved motion, Thunder Bay now finds itself in Region 1 - by far the largest geographically - with southern and eastern Ontario being split into three areas.

As OGRO has been the strongest unified voice to have 'sexual orientation' written into the Human Rights Code, it was agreed to have members' families and friends to each send a 'night letter' to the Clerk of the Standing Committee on Resources Development on September 30. GTB fulfilled its requirement following acceptance of this urgent matter at a recent meeting.

GTB, in an effort to support this province-wide association, has agreed to sell the very stimulating and provoking 'Human Rights Omission' on a consignment basis. Copies will be available soon. As well, members are urged to renew their memberships in OGRO or if they do not have one as yet to fill in the coupon elsewhere in Thunder Gay.

"Frustrating"

The search for a community centre goes on...

(Staff) - Outrageous rents, ludicrous mortgage rates, and other factors have contributed to a frustrating slow-down in GTB's bid to establish a community centre. Long a priority of GTB, the search for a space to house regular social events, an office, telephone line, discussion groups and other functions, the group may be forced to re-think its entire strategy.

Some of the halls looked at such as the Blue Hall on Simpson Street which used to house Backstreet - a former club which folded about two years ago - were way out of line with regards to a mon-

thly rental. There have been offers to sell the group licensed halls with adequate space. Purchasing a location would require a massive input of energy from members and supporters - down payments and rates have yet to be discussed.

In the meantime other options are being considered such as renting a hall once a month and keeping the office in the Zeller Block. This option would also require a great deal of energy.

With the decisions still unmade, GTB is welcoming discussion and input. A commitment must come from the bulk of the membership and will probably be dealt with on a week-to-week basis.

GAFF:

Fort Frances organizes

(Staff) - A small group is beginning its growing pains in the town of Fort Frances. On the weekend of October third and fourth, two members of GTB travelled to Fort Frances to assist a small contingent of gay men in their efforts to form an organization there.

In a five hour meeting Saturday night, the group came up with a name - Gays At Fort Frances (although Fort Frances Association of Gays - F FAG was considered but turned down) and an executive comprised of a president, treasurer, secretary and member-at-large was formed.

The group is enthusiastic and searching for ways to advertise its existence. The local paper has refused to run an ad similar to GTB's in its personals column but an advertising weekly will be approached.

It was agreed that for the time being the Fort Frances group will accept referrals through the phoneline in Thunder Bay. Until a P.O. box is rented, contact can be made through GTB.

The group meets Sundays at 7:30 pm in the president's home.

GTB welcomes this new group, wishing them well. The difficulties of running such a group in a smaller town are phenomenal and the new executive is to be commended for their courage.

The Caring Homosexual Association of North Bay printed this code in a recent newsletter. We reprint it as follows:

"Ten Ways to Kill a Society"

1. Don't come to meetings.
2. If you do come, come late.
3. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of coming.
4. If you attend a meeting, find fault with the work of the officers and other members.
5. Never accept responsibility, as it is easier to criticize than to do things.
6. Nevertheless, feel hurt if you are not appointed to the committee; but if you are, do not attend committee meetings.
7. If asked by the chairperson to give your opinion on some matter, tell him or her you have nothing to say. After the meeting tell everyone how things ought to have been done.
8. Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary, but, when members roll up their sleeves and willingly, unselfishly use their ability to help matters along, say that the society is run by a clique.
9. Hold back your dues as long as possible - or don't pay at all.
10. Don't bother about getting new members. Let someone else do it.

THUNDER BAY(Special) I took a trip to North Bay last month to a Bar-B-Q, as advertised at one of our meetings by the way, and was I ever surprised at the numbers of people for a Bar-B-Q. The number of women was really surprising, also.

Then of course the organization there, Caring Homosexuals of North Bay, was founded by two women, Val and Cate. They have

done a great job, by the way. I didn't think so at first. I showed up for one of their regular meetings and thought to myself, "I'm sure glad I'm in Thunder Bay". But something about the meeting was vaguely familiar. Then it struck me that I had been to this meeting before, sort of.

The feeling there was the same feeling I had when I went to my first GTB

FLAUNTING IT

At one of our recent weekly Tuesday night meetings, someone casually walked into the office, cracked a few jokes with a friend sitting across the room, walked over to the desk and picked up a copy of the minutes from our last meeting. Walking back to his friend he smirked "Anything interesting in this"? "No" said the friend. "Good" said the smirker and sitting, tucked the copy of the minutes under his seat.

I was tired. I had worked late. I had some personal troubles on my mind. I use these all, now, as excuses for not having grabbed the jerk and thrown him out of the room. I know my anger flushed through me; my face turned red and hot. I couldn't speak then and didn't say much during the whole meeting.

I am still upset. I am bloody, fucking angry. What this jerk did will kill us all as surely as if our office was raided, our materials seized, our services stopped, our doors locked.

GTB exists because 1) there is a genuine need to build a community here and 2) because some of us bend our energies toward that end. We have an executive that has served now for almost a year, some of them working longer than that for gay concerns in this area. For the most part, they have worked tirelessly, on a broad range of gay concerns: socially, politically, financially, consciousness raising. We have a relatively stable organization. We are not in debt. We are growing slowly and carefully, making our presence known in the larger community. Looking at almost any weekly minutes, you can see the wide range of things the organization puts

energy into, the time and effort contributed by the executive and supportive members toward keeping things alive.

I am running out of positive approaches to this issue. Simply put, GTB only works if you do. Please. Help. Contribute your energy, time, money, ideas. Simply, contribute. But by god, if you can't contribute don't undercut the efforts of those others who do.

Our organization has an Annual General Meeting coming up in November. Elections will be held for a new executive. My fear is that the individuals who have worked to bring us this far may be burning out, may not see how far we've come. When was the last time you thanked or praised someone for organizing one of our socials? Do you take them for granted? When did you let someone know you appreciated how they chaired one of our meetings, or that they cleaned up our office, or worked extra days on our phone line, or typed and printed our weekly minutes, or gave you a simple place to get together?

We have come through a year of sustained growth. Moderate, careful, focused. We face much unfinished business in the time ahead. And this will require clear, generous leadership. We need a healthy and critical membership, able to play and willing to work. Able to change and willing to stay flexible. There is so much we could be doing.

GTB will only accomplish what is supported by a vigorous, nourishing membership. Let's keep our momentum steady.

Michael Sobota

meeting. When I think about it, it was a longer period of growing before our group was in the same place as CHANB is right now.

The strides they have made in the short time they have been in existence is nothing short of 'fantastic.' They sure showed the Ramada Inn just where to put their dance floor, as you may have read in The Body Politic. It took a lot of determination to get back up and dance after being told not to.

Perhaps we can show CHANB that G.T.B. can throw get-togethers on a large scale. Mind you, 70 people at one Bar-B-Q is hard to beat. Then again, if you ever meet the team that put it together you would understand why it was such a success.

Paul Winegarden

Finally looking out...

Since I've started what everyone calls the coming out process, I've been feeling anxious, scared, excited and sad. My feelings run the entire gamut of whatever is possible, leaving my mind in a frazzled state as I try to sort out each feeling. I feel like I'm being pulled in two directions at once, and sometimes I am just left in a numb state.

Coming out is a lonely and painful experience. It's not a guilt laden trip that I walk on now; guilt is probably one of the fewest things on my mind at this time. Uncertainty creeps up and wraps its arms around me like a piece of iron is squeezed in a vise. No, I'm not going to feel guilty just because others who have come out felt guilty. I'm not going to conform to that rule just because it is the norm for others. I just want to shake off this uncertainty and walk on ground that is not quaking beneath my feet.

Guilt there is little of; walls and barriers there are plenty of. Coming my way is a wall of rejection, caution and suspicion. Are you here for a good time or a long time? I've been told that minority groups are always protective of their own and don't take kindly to strangers. Ahh. Such is the game of straights and what I feared most is true.

The games are everywhere, whether straight or gay. The circle grows tighter and elbows project outwards as I move around the circle, bouncing off one projection after another. Again, it will take time and patience and perhaps even proving myself. And even that may never come to be.

After 14 years of holding back, I feel a flood of feelings and desires surface. Sometimes they are so strong that they affect my daily life and especially my work habits. Concentrating at work is sometimes impossible, and seeing my fellow staff members who are out only reminds me more of my isolation.

We all come from different backgrounds, lifestyles and sets of circumstances. My fear of people I thought only pertained to straight people, but this demon is also there when I encounter gays. Perhaps the only difference now from a few years back is that I'm pushing myself that much harder into the realm of people, human beings who are more than just sexual beings.

My insecurities, like everyone, surface and surface but I can forge ahead now that I have accepted a part of myself that was rejected and packed away in self-disgust. Encountering the unknown is always a sign of growth, and for that alone, the effort is worth it.

I write this at work, not caring if I am caught or if anyone catches a glimpse of what I write. I don't care if they find out I have feelings that are frowned upon by society at large; I'm tired of hiding a facet of me.

I'm tired of living behind bars and looking in from the out. I'm tired of trying to please everyone and satisfying no one, especially myself. I'm tired of not being me. I just want to leave this place where I am writing this drivel and be alone in my aloneness, oneness and feel the isolation, the fear and the emptiness.

Right now I just want to fall in love.

Ed. Note: The above was submitted to us by a young woman who came to Thunder Bay, found a job and began her personal "coming out" process. She has since moved on to another city. Though there are some obvious contradictions within the piece, we were unable to discuss the article with her prior to her leaving. It is printed as she wrote it.

Being Sleazy (?)

Sleazy is a very interesting term when it's used in the Gay sense.

I was trying to figure out the other day what the difference between 'sleazing around' and 'being sleazy' is.

Well, after going to several socials and innumerable parties here is what I think the difference is. Not that I'm an expert on the subject.

First off, let's look at a party situation. A tall, good looking, quiet stranger is leaning against a wall. One leg is bent at the knee so that his foot is resting flat against the same wall. He's holding a drink in one hand and the other is hidden behind his back (this is flat against the wall, also). With me so far?

Now, this guy is chatting, well maybe not chatting. Chatting is for brunches and hospital visits. But anyway, he's talking to someone else who must be boring as hell because the good looking guy is pretending to listen but the eyes flash from the talker to the dance floor, back to the talker, to the bar and on and on it goes.

But the talker is doing the same thing. Looking here and there as he babbles on. Once in a while the talker realizes he has said something funny and he laughs. The good looking guy, not wanting to offend the talker, also laughs. Completely out of sync with the joke, but close enough to keep the talker from taking offense.

Then the damndest thing happens. The good looking guy says something like, "I need another drink" when the drink he has is still 3/4 full. Why would he do a silly thing like that?

Well, if you had to put up with the drivel he put up with for the last five minutes, you would have walked away, too!

I mean, it was real drivel, man. You know the kind I mean. Stuff like how silly the dots on the pagoda are. Or how big or small a fool the mayor is or what the difference is between "being sleazy" and "sleazing around" is.

Caught ya!

Paul Winegarden

Of Interest to Wimmin

Gays of Thunder Bay is on a number of mailing lists for newsletters and periodicals from across Canada. They are available at the GTB office on request.

Included in this list is an interesting issue from Kenora. "VOICES - a survival manual for wimmin". In the fall equinox, 1981 issue, topics such as Natural Aids to Overcome Addictions, a review of CHOICES (a book about lesbian love), a reprint of "My Loving Mom, the Lezzie" and a response to "Audrey Rose" are included. The manual is published four times yearly and can be had by writing to VOICES, c/o I. Andrews, RR 2, Kenora, Ontario, P9N 3W8. The mimeographed manual costs \$5 a year.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"As homosexuals become older, their sexual appetite turns increasingly to young boys."

... Paul Walter, head of the Metro Toronto Police Association says he was joking when he made remarks about the sexual preferences of older homosexuals to the author of a report on police and the gay community. Arthur Bruner, author of the report, paraphrased Walter as saying gay policemen would be "prone to engage in overt sex acts with each other in inappropriate places" and could not be placed on duty together because they "might slip away to have sex".

... some joke.

THE FEATURES PAGE

No matter what happens, George is cheerful

Thanksgiving - Monday was fresh, balmy, the sort of day to cherish. George Hislop was holding court. He had contacted the GTB phoneline Friday night to announce his arrival and could someone put him up?

He stayed at David's where a constant parade of curiosity-seekers and well-wishers greeted him and listened to his stories, laughed at the never-ending stream of jokes, got a quickie history of the gay movement in Toronto and Canada. Even the deadly business of the bath raids (George is a part owner of the Barracks one of the four clubs raided and faces charges as a result) is given a humorous dusting.

"What was important for me" said one listener, "is the man's attitude." Attitude. The man is witty, warm and sincere. His attitude is relaxed - his presence strong.

He's been president of The Community Homophile Association of Toronto, has run and lost two political races - as an alderman for Toronto's Ward Six and for a provincial seat in St. George riding. In the latter two races his results were respectable.

As Toronto gays' "unofficial mayor" he has been articulate and steadfast over gay rights.

Attitude. As a leader in the gay community he has suffered a great deal of personal abuse. As a co-owner of the Barracks, the state has levelled charges on him. In June of this year he and two co-owners were acquitted of keeping a common bawdy house. He still faces charges following the February raids. He looks weary when discussing it. But still he makes a joke or two. He won't let it get him down.

The people who spent part of the day with him felt that sincerity. We experienced an injection of empathy that draws us into the realm of the 'gay movement'. Listening and discussing, we realized that what we



"Our movement is like a glacier. It doesn't seem to be doing much at times, but it's constantly changing. You don't mess around with glaciers."

are doing in Thunder Bay through GTB is as important and necessary as the myriad of projects in Toronto. We are all a part of the network working towards equality.

His attitude rubbed off on us. We're thankful.

Doug Brown

TRAVEL

A TRIP REMEMBERED AND RECOMMENDED

(Special) - Provincetown! This summer a friend and I decided to find out about this fabled place 60 miles out on Cape Cod. We had heard stories. Time to check them out.

Our first smart move was to visit Encore Travel, Toronto, who helpfully booked us in at the Capricorn - an all gay large white clapboard hotel. Only steps away from the centre of activities and the essential night life, boasting lovely large rooms with antique furniture, a large and beautiful appointed lounge, we were well placed.

Don the manager, could be counted on to arrange dinner reservations at exactly the right place and to give all kinds of information about everything in town. At \$28.00 per double including continental breakfast, who could go wrong. The guests were all interesting, friendly, and fun.

Provincetown is very gay - over 60%. In mid-summer there are many thousands of us there. There were lots of places to have fun. The boatslip was the place to go in late afternoons, say 3:30-6:30, for the ever popular tea dance - outdoors by the beach. They also had rooms for guests who prefer a very lively lifestyle. Also the Backstreet - a disco, lounge, diningroom, and hotel. It was very popular from 9pm on and was well stocked with gorgeous guys! The Atlantic House also was a disco, bar and hotel. Besides there were dozens of excellent restaurants.

Then there was the "beach"! It was a couple of miles out of town by road to

the parking lot. Imagine three miles of lovely sand beach and thousands of very desirable guys. One section of the beach was for lesbians, another for a mixed crowd.

Needless to say we had a good time, most everyone did. Can hardly wait for next summer. How about you?

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 evenings from 7 30 to 9 30 pm. At other times a recording advises callers of activities. Reach the phoneline by dialing:

345-8011

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

G.T.B

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