

GA $\frac{E}{Y}$ INFORMATION SERVICES

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Gay Alliance For Equality but reflect the views of the individual authors.

INTRO

As an opening to this newsletter I think it fitting to make the Gay Community at large aware of exactly their organization - the GAE is doing on their behalf.

In trying to put into practice the aims of the group many concrete steps have been taken.

A phoneline information and counselling service has been set up to help the gay community cope with the problems they may encounter. Liasons with other service organizations (ie. Helpline) have been set up and our phoneline volunteers have attended a meeting of all area phone crisis lines.

The GAE is presently trying to be incorporated as a non-profit or anization under the Societies Act of N.S. .

A brief has been presented to the N.S. Legislature with reference to the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Human Rights Act to deal with discrimination of gays.

As well as these GAE holds bi-monthly business meetings and low-key 'rap' sessions on a monthly basis.

We have moved faster and further than many similar groups in the country and will continue to do so with your support.

-----JLM/KEI-----

THE BAR SCENE(?) IN METRO

St. John, N.B., a city with much less than half the population of Metro Halifax has a tavern as well as a ladies beverage room which are about 90% gay. What have we got? We have a smattering of bars where you can find anywhere from 0 to 10 gay people most times.

Since our 'move' from the CANDLELIGHT to DA'S crowds have gone from small to almost nil. Everyone seems to have gone home to their closets and who can blame them? Service & attitudes at DA'S are rather poor as is the quality of their mixed drinks. We seem to have only a few choices left: push for better conditions at DA'S; move to yet another bar (perhaps the lounge in the soon to open Chateau Halifax); or quit drinking. Its up to you!

NEXT MONTH: CRUISING- DOES IT EXIST IN HALIFAX? -----CLR/TP-----

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THE BRIEF AND ITS PROGRESS

One of the main projects undertaken during the past several months by the GAE has been the preparation of a brief for submission to the N.S. Legislature regarding hoped for changes in the Human Rights Act. The recommendation is that the act be amended to prohibit discrimination because of sexual orientation.

The 5 page brief was drawn up by the Legal Reform Committee of GAE under the chairmanship of Nils Claussan, and was presented to Province House on March 5. A letter was also sent to Dr. Gillis, cabinet minister in charge of the Human Rights Act, informing him that the brief was being presented.

An informal meeting was also held with Dr. McCurdy, the Director of the Human Rights Commission who was very interested in the brief and indicated that the GAE would probably be asked to appear before the Commission.

On March 7 the GAE Legal Reform Committee met with the Health and Human Welfare Committee (H&HWC) at the request of its chairman Mr. Frank Bezanon. The H&HWC asked if there were any precedents in this area of legislation and were told that several U.S. Cities had already incorporated sexual orientation in to their discrimination laws.

The committee then asked about discrimination in the Halifax area and general replies (ie. employment) as well as specific incidents were given.

A letter was received March 8 from Dr. Gillis, stating that the brief would be brought "to the prompt attention of the Human Rights Commission".

GAE was informed that the legislature's agenda was already prepared for this session thus no actual changes could take place before the Fall Sitting. Mr. Claussan was not discouraged by this news as the interval will provide time necessary for lobbying MLA's and other organizations for their support.

The Community Homophile Assoc. of Toronto (CHAT) expressed surprise that the brief had gone before the Human Rights Committee and that response was so immediate.

Similar briefs in Ontario and British Columbia have not as yet yielded as good results as ours.

You can help-by bringing in concrete examples of gay discrimination to GAE through the phoneline or by contacting Mr. Claussan or Mr. David Gray-anonymoty is respected. -----GF/BB-----

SISTER SARAH'S COOKOUT(OR IN)

This month's cullinary delight from SS is Peppermint Ice Cream.

You'll Need:

- 3 eggs; 1/4 cup sugar;
- 1/2 cup milk; 1/4 tsp. salt;
- 1/4 cup crushed peppermint;
- 1 envelope prepared DREAM WHIP

Beat eggs and sugar together until thick and lemon coloured. Add milk and peppermint, blend well. Blend mixture into prepared DREAM WHIP. Pour into 2 freezer trays. Freeze until partially frozen, about 3 hours. Spoon into chilled bowl, and beat until light and fluffy, but not melted (about 4 minutes). Return to one freezer tray and freeze overnight or until firm. Makes six servings.

-----TM/SS-----

Gossip????????????????

We have recently been informed of pending renovations of THEE KLUB and can only hope that the dungeon appearance and flying floor tiles disappear very soon. GOD be praised for such things as renovations!

-Twilight Pansy-

- * G.A.E. MEETINGS *
- * U.U. CHURCH-5500 INGLIS ST. *
- * 8:00P.M. *
- * Coming Dates: MARCH 28 *
- * April 13 *

INFO & COUNSELLING SERVICES
THURS. THRU SUNDAYS
7 to 10P.M.
*****423-7657*****
-ALL calls CONFIDENTIAL-

FOR FUTURE ISSUES we would like to hear what you have to say. Any and all contributions, letters are welcome. SEND TO: Suite 207 1585 Barrington St., Halifax, N.S. c/o GAE/Y, INFORMATION SERVICES

OUT OF THE CLOSETS

We in the GAY COMMUNITY cannot afford to cringe quietly in our Closets any longer. We must show an essential spirit of unity in order to achieve our social goals.

If we are striving for gay unity we can't just talk about it -we must act, and act together. There is no need to tell you that a movement such as ours cannot survive unless people take an active interest in it and each other.

We must be proud of our life-style, because if we aren't than we can expect no one else to. We must take an interest in others. How? Think about this: how many times have you made a sincere effort to be sociable and friendly to a new-comer to make him feel at ease and welcome?? It is all too easy to let the other party say the first word or make the first move-I am not talking about a bedmate! I am talking of that little known word in the gay vocabulary-friendly.

Tolerance and acceptance is the key; if you expect it GIVE IT.

The GAE in its own way is trying to do its part and we wish you would do the same.

The days of the 'closet society' are passing quickly and we must stand up for our way of life and not bow down to the dictates any longer. Unless of course you want to consider yourself a freak of nature.

There is no better way to educate our fellow beings than to put forth 'our best foot' and show a worthy representation of ourselves, our thoughts, and our accomplishments.

The whole is equal to the sum of its individual parts. The GAY ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY is one part -YOU are obviously the other.

-----JIM/KEI-----

Thus ends our first issue but remember to put more out we need more from you.-The Collective Editorial Board (GAE/Y Information Services) See You Next Month!