

## GETTING - G.A.M.E.S. TOGETHER

On the final day of November the inaugural get-together of G.A.M.E.S. (Gay Artists, Musicians, and Entertainers Society) was attended by eighteen enthusiastic persons. Since a great many other interested people in our community who may not have heard about the meeting or were unable to attend this seemed to be a good time and place to enlighten everybody as to just what G.A.M.E.S. is and how did it evolve?

In the Mid-October Cabaret (Autumn Leaves) a small ray of light was being shed on the fact that a lot of potential talent was going undeveloped in our midst. After examining a few of the ways in which that Cabaret could have been improved, two members -- Reg Giles and John Pallas -- independently conceived an idea for an entirely new branch of the G.A.E.

A proposal was presented to the G.A.E. Membership in early November by John Pallas, with the enthusiastic support of Reg Giles and others. Since this proposal required further explicit research and study, it was tabled until an Executive decision could be reached. Newly elected Chairman Ed Thibodeau met separately with Messrs Giles and Pallas to determine just how this newly proposed entertainment venture would interlock with the long range plans of the GAE.

Basically the initial proposal was designed as a special committee of the GAE, under the name and style of the GAE Entertainment Development Committee, which would be a long range project. This committee was to consist of three overseers - 1) a musically knowledgeable person; 2) an histrionically knowledgeable one; and 3) a representative from the GAE, who would maintain a careful assessment of the progress of the committee, so that the aims and purposes of the GAE might not be overlooked or misinterpreted.

The chief objectives of this committee would be:

- 1) The assembling of as much theatrical and related talent as may be available within the Metropolitan Area Homosexual Community into a united body;
- 2) The precise and confidential cataloguing of all available talent, of whatever description, irregardless of their participation in the committee;

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3) The training and/or development of these several talents in the various aspects of stage, television and screen presentations, through lectures, workshops, and impromptu sessions;

4) The acquisition (as monies permit) and maintainance of [a] a Make-up Kit, [b] Technical Equipment, [c] a Props Box, [d] a Costume Closet, and [e] Set Pieces, with constant expansion through donations and bargain hunts; and finally,

5) The development of a library of [a] original and published scripts with a homosexual theme, and [b] suitable tapes, records and sheet music for possible use in future productions.

The proposal, although not rebuffed by the G.A.E. Executive, was not taken under the sponsoring wing of the Alliance. The overall result of the various discussions and study sessions was that an entirely independent team should be formed to carry out the same objectives as set out in the proposal. Such a team would receive the moral support of the G.A.E., and at the appropriate time (when a show is ready) the financial support or sponsorship, in return for a negotiated share of the receipts. The moral support would, for the time being, consist of Executive interest, as much publicity as deemed necessary at the Turret, and if feasible, storage and rehearsal space at that location.

Messers Giles and Pallas studied this new angle and altered their concepts accordingly. The result is the name of the team which fairly accurately expresses the aims, but has the added impetus of a condensed title (G.A.M.E.S.). It was also determined that the team should be loosely structured under the leadership of an Artistic Director, and a Technical Director, and if the practice of bouffet offerings as a part of the Cabaret Events is to be continued, then a third — Concession Director — would be added. Logically speaking the Society must be a good team effort, but leadership is required, with various duties being designated by the appropriate director to the most suitable persons in the team, hopefully without prejudicial preference.

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HAVE YOU HEARD?

## GETTING G.A.M.E.S. TOGETHER - Conclusion

It should also be stressed that G.A.M.E.S. will be operating free of controls by the G.A.E., although the long-range goals will not differ to drastically from those of the Association, if moral, and in due course, financial support is to be expected.

The enthusiasm displayed at the inaugural luncheon proved there is a need for an alternate direction in the activities of everybody in the Homosexual Community. It was therefore decided that the first official meeting of G.A.M.E.S. would be held on the first Sunday of December.

Concern was openly and genuinely expressed at the obvious absence of female members of our community. The directors proposed to approach the Lesbian groups with the hope of interesting them in becoming part of the team. Without female help and support G.A.M.E.S. will be hard pressed to change the image of the entertainment scene in the Gay Community.

The foregoing has been excerpted from the historical notes of G.A.M.E.S. by J.Pallas

*POSTSCRIPT from John Pallas - Having rather effectively thrown the cat among the pigeons, it is unfortunate that I must now leave the Halifax area, due to unforeseen circumstances. I only wish that I could be a part of G.A.M.E.S., but leave, confident that a new direction will be achieved within the months and years ahead.*

*In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have worked hard (and will do so again in the future) to make Gay Halifax a better place to live. Also a sincere thank you to the many friends who have tendered their expressions of regret at my departure, and who have wished me well. Keep in touch, and if you're in Queen City, drop by or give me a call. In the meantime, all the best to all of you, and get involved in the new G.A.M.E.S.*

*Oh, and a special word of praise to Patrick for his good effort in getting the H.Y.H. TOGETHER in a new format. Here's hoping you have lots of contributors.*

JP