

Thunder GAY



— Ken, Darrel, George, Micheal, Kirk, Doug
— and a couple of hundred
— other men & women are
— PROUD to be
Celebrating 3 years!

GAYS OF THUNDER BAY Magazine

April-May 1983

TWO SOCIALS A MONTH — MEMBERSHIPS MORE VALUABLE

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 5 General Meeting
- April 9 HEATHER BISHOP/LAURI CONGER
Concert: 9:00 pm in the Hall-
Mark Rm of the Norahor Inn
- April 16 GRAND BIRTHDAY SOCIAL!
GIB's 3rd Anniversary (...
a little early) at the Ukm.
Labor Temple. Come celebrate
our success, our strength, our
survival, our future!
- April 19 General Meeting
- April 29 NOTE: THIS IS A FRIDAY SOCIAL.
GIB goes bi-weekly. This social
only on Friday at the Ukm.
Labor Temple
- May 3 General Meeting
- May 14 Social at Ukm Labor Temple
- May 17 General Meeting
- May 28 Social at Ukm Labor Temple

Watch for: *Special Announcement of a GTB
Benefit Film night. We are
hoping to bring "TRACK II".*

Getting VD Facts Straight

Gay people across the continent have been besieged with information (and misinformation) regarding the various sexually transmitted diseases we are prone to given our "promiscuous" lifestyle.

To clear some of the myths up, garner important tips on symptoms, control and cures, we invited a local doctor to visit our meeting on April 19. He enthusiastically agreed to make a presentation and answer questions.

The local physician is amply gay positive and adds that he is willing to do private confidential treatments for those too shy of the public clinics. Information re-grading treatments can be received by enquiring through the phoneline.

Beginning this month, GIB will be providing two scheduled socials every month on a three-month trial basis. The plan calls for a lot of help from the membership in the form of volunteers, co-ordinators, helping to clean up and so on. George Clarke with the assistance of André will gladly furnish advice and a Nothing To It! book.

As well, the twice-monthly events will doubly enhance the value of a GIB membership. At ten dollars for the rest of 1983 members will save substantially at the door. The entrance fee of \$5 for non-members and only \$2.50 for members will stay the same throughout the year. (At two socials a month that's \$10 for non-members and \$5 for those who have paid up.) As well, members get this little magazine sent to them in a brown envelope six times a year! For an application, please see the inside of the back cover.

AIDS:

GAYS, DRUG ABUSERS AND HAITIANS -
HIGH RISK GROUPS ASKED NOT TO DONATE BLOOD

Following pressure from the Canadian Hemophilia Society and others, the Canadian Red Cross is asking gays, drug abusers and Haitians not to give blood for fear of spreading a deadly communicable disease called acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or AIDS.

The disease, known to doctors for only two years is often fatal. Scientists have no proof that AIDS can be transmitted through blood transfusions. Canada has had only 26 cases of the disease, 16 of them homosexuals. The disease has not been conclusively linked to blood or blood products.

People who go to give blood will not be asked about their sexual preferences or racial origin, but will be asked about their general health.

April-May Issue

Thunder GAY magazine

GAYS OF THUNDER BAY Magazine

3

GTB IS
LIGHT THE CANDLES,
CELEBRATE WITH GLEE.
BLOW OUT THE CANDLES
AND GET SOMETHING
ELSE GOING...

It was spring, 1980, that saw the birth of a new gay organization in Thunder Bay. Few present during those early days could see what lay ahead. As each anniversary approaches, we take pride in another year of serving the gay and lesbian community.

Some of the accomplishments during our third year include: establishing liaison with the Thunder Bay Police Community Relations Office following a harassment incident in our own office and adopting security guidelines for the office and staff as a result of the incident; keeping our press hot through-out the year (our editor estimates we have run about \$3,000 worth of commercial printing since purchasing our press), publishing "Nothing To It" - a guidebook for how to organize socials, publishing THUNDER GAY with an increase in pages, contributions and "our stories"; maintaining socials on a monthly basis and now, on the verge of our anniversary, going bi-weekly; hosting Chris Collins, our first professional entertainment act; receiving invitations from two different groups of students to appear in their high schools to discuss homosexuality (but nixed by the powers that be); going into the college and university for lectures and discussions with ease and frequency; logging literally thousands of

calls on our all important phone-line; maintaining a stable financial situation through-out the year due to the support of our socials, of many personal contributions, and the growing subscriptions to THUNDER GAY; continuing links with other groups, specifically CGRO; purchasing our own spiffy sound system.

THUNDER GAY Magazine welcomes your contributions. We hope this is a personal magazine, with the sort of varied content you want to see. Poetry, drawings, your personal stories, news items you feel are important, cartoons, your views are all welcomed at THUNDER GAY. Share yourself in print—your stories are valuable to us all.

MP TABLES GAY BILL

NDP MP Svend Robinson tabled a bill in the Commons on March 9 that would outlaw discrimination against homosexuals.

Mr. Robinson's bill would amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation as one of the prohibited grounds of discrimination. Ottawa insiders don't give the bill too much hope - most such bills die quietly on the order paper without passing second reading.

Mr. Robinson, MP for Burnaby was featured in the March issue of the Body Politic. He said the bill he is proposing is long overdue.

His bill would prevent discrimination only within the federal domain against homosexuals in such areas as employment and the provision of services. Quebec is the only province with legislation offering protection for gays.

IF THIS IS SPRING, CAN SUMMER AND MOSQUITOES AND CANOEING BE FAR BEHIND...?

Last August, an international contingent of nine gay men spent a glorious sun-drenched weekend on Northern Light Lake. Yes, sure, it's only April, but you can't make plans too soon. GTB recently received this letter from our intrepid guide and guru of the canoe, Harry:

Greetings!

At the February social I had two people remind me of the canoe trip, so perhaps it's time to run that idea by and see how people respond.

Those who wanted to do something WILD fell into two groups. Those were the WEEKEND and 1 WEEK groups. We could do either or both, depending on interest and scheduling. I propose something about as follows:

Weekend (2 wild nights) approx \$50 per person
1 Week (5 wild nights) approx \$115 per person

The where and when can be arranged around what interests those who show an interest, so the route, etc. can be group planned and go anywhere within reason that's appealing. (We don't have to go back to Northern Light Lake, for example).

Dear Readers:

We are the editors-publishers of VOICES: A Survival Manual for Wimmin, a 24-page mimeo'd journal which was birthed in Kenora in December, 1980. We are writing to appeal for subs and donations to help her continue.

Since she originated, her two main features have been lesbian writing and natural healing from a lesbian/wimmin's perspective. Our current issue, #9, features alternative cancer therapies. We publish three or four times a year. Subs are \$6 for four issues; sample issues are \$1.50 (US funds in US).

We are the only lesbian publication between BC and Toronto, the only rural lesbian publication in Canada and one of the

So, those interested are invited to provide input suggestions and all else for planning.

Some of those interested may have a cash flow problem. If so, I'd be quite willing to trade or barter (no smirking now, I'm being on the level) for labor or building materials or whatever. My ranch always has more chores to do than I've gotten done, so anything from bucking up windfalls to painting could be useful to me...

Hope this is enough to get started. The actual trip can be with the 25 foot canoe (used last year) or a bunch of smaller ones - makes little difference to me, but it's easier with the big canoe. At least in most respects. I'll go with what those interested want.

Regards,

Harry D.

So, if you're interested, contact us thru GTB: P.O. Box 2155, THUNDER BAY, Ontario P7B 5E8. Michael Sobota will act as organizer from the Thunder Bay end, at least until the degree of interest becomes known.

very few on the continent regularly featuring natural healing from our perspective (that we know of).

We are no longer able to help finance VOICES from our own funds. Our costs are not high. Fifty new subs or donations would go a long way. Please consider subscribing/donating. Be well.

Isabel Andrews
Doreen Worden
RR #2, Kenora, Ontario, Canada P9N 3W8

Dear GTB:

Thankyou for sending me the latest issue of Thunder Gay magazine. In the future, if you have any publication to send please do so at the above address, not to my business one, as I can get it sooner in the privacy of my home. I don't mind other people's opinions though. I never felt ashamed about my sexual orientation.

At this point in time I do not wish to become a member of your organization and I believe it is worth my while to explain the reason for this:

(1) Some of the members behave in a way that is appalling, to say the least. At gatherings they tend to congregate in little cliques or groups whose main purpose seems to be to snub others, particularly those who in their eyes are not handsome, sexually attractive or young enough to warrant their attention. In the language of the gay activists a person of the same sexual persuasion is supposed to be your brother and companion in cause. Does this kind of behaviour correspond to that philosophical stance?

(2) Some individuals seem to be embarrassed and reluctant to even acknowledge you in public. This shows that they are not sure of themselves and project their insecurities on their perceptions of other gay people. Furthermore, some of us do not take this kind of flak in our ordinary lives in dealing with all kinds of people. Why should we take this from so-called "liberated" gays?

If you wish to have a brotherhood type of

union embracing all gays I suggest you embark on a massive programme of re-educating so that some of those who are members of the organization may act in a manner that is more compatible with civilization, good manners and the fact that members of minorities can better survive if they are united in a cause and feel that fellow members are genuinely concerned for their happiness and welfare.

I am prepared to discuss this matter at length with any of you if you feel it is important enough.

Meanwhile, I remain,
Yours Respectfully,

Marco.

Ed. note: GTB does not have Marco's name on our mailing list. Someone unknown to us has sent the issues to you. As well, many of the points you have brought up are discussed at meetings. Our socials get friendly some of the time - why don't you give them a try?

Dear Editor:

I am a gay male currently incarcerated and am originally from the Thunder Bay area. I got into some trouble here in the States and will be released late this year. If possible, I would very much enjoy receiving your paper so I can keep up with what is going on at home.

Thankyou,
C. S.
Indiana State Prison

Women's music for all

The Summer Solstice Festival is hosting a special concert by Heather Bishop and Lauri Conger, Saturday, April 9, at 9 pm. The concert will be in the Hallmark room at the Norshor Inn.

Heather Bishop hails from Manitoba; Lauri Conger is from Thunder Bay. They have been performing together, off and on, for some years now. This is their first major tour together. Heather, who just completed recording her fourth album ("I Love Women Who Laugh") has been described by Canadian

Composer as "an uncannily Canadian artist. In concert, she delivers from a deeply rooted sense of community with her audience; one discerns genuine affection." Her music ranges from blues to folk to ballads to rock to childrens tunes.

The concert is a rare chance to hear superb feminist performers on this cross-Canada tour. Tickets are \$6/advance and \$7/at the door. Available from Thrifty's, the Bookshop Co-op and at the Solstice Office.

Community, health & history

David Belrose

In order to be mentally or psychologically healthy, we need to have a sense of self-identity and a sense of belonging to a community. As gay people we been systematically denied validation by the society we live in. We have been variously labelled as legally, morally or psychologically unfit. Lacking a sense of our history as an oppressed minority, we have tended to acquiesce in this process, thus perpetuating the view of homosexuality as an individual problem rather than a social issue.

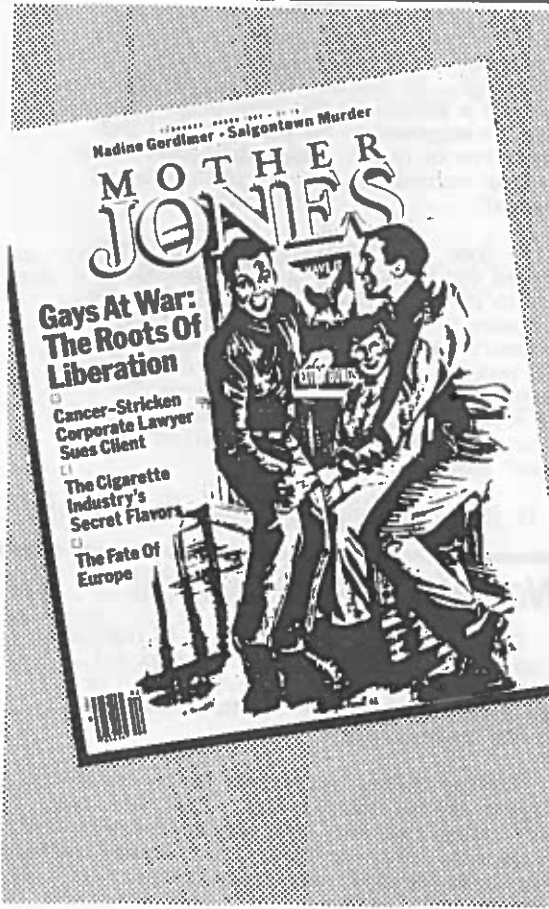
Lesbians and gay men have lived, loved, suffered and mainly survived throughout history. In recent years we have begun to see that we are a community, and that we have a HISTORY.

Most of our history in North America is shrouded in darkness. Many of us see the beginnings of our history in the New York Stonewall riots in 1969, when street people rebelled at a routine police raid on the Stonewall bar and forced the police to barricade themselves inside. Out of this action a sense of community blossomed and gay liberation flourished in the following decade. Canada had a similar development when police launched a massive raid on the baths in Toronto in February 1981, sparking mass protests and a strong sense of community.

However if we look back further we find that earlier organizing efforts took place in the 1950's with the formation of homophile civil rights organizations such as the Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis. These groups appeared in the early 1950's in spite of or perhaps because of what had been a viciously repressive period characterized by anti-homosexual witch hunts led by such politicians as Senator Joseph McCarthy. For most of us this is as far back as we can trace our history.

More light is now being shed on an even

earlier period, as an article in Mother Jones magazine explores the impact of World War II on lesbians and gay men in the United States. *Coming Out Under Fire* shows that as millions of gay men and lesbians were, for the first time, able to make contact with each other. The social contacts and institutions uncovered and developed paved the way for the later



developments of the 50's, 60's and 70's. As the article states:

"The new gay networks and social institutions created during the war persisted, despite pervasive efforts to destroy them in the postwar years. Thus it was no accident that in the 1950's a gay and lesbian political movement surfaced in the United States."

Authored by Allan Berubé, who is working on a book about this period, the article gives us an exciting look at a part of our history that is beginning to come to light. Articles like this show us how important it is for us to we try to understand where we came from and to reclaim our history. As we learn about the past, we can develop for the future.

NOTES:

1) Allan Berubé, would like to hear from anyone with memories of gay/lesbian life on the home front or in the military during World War II. He can be reached through The San Francisco Lesbian and Gay History Project, PO Box 42332, San Francisco, CA 94101

2) I would be interested in trying to develop some of the history of lesbians and gay men in this part of the country. If anyone has memories that would contribute to such a history please contact me through GTB, P.O. Box 2155, Thunder Bay P7B 5E8

3) "Coming out under fire" by Allan Berube, page 23, Mother Jones magazine, Vol VIII, No. 11, Feb/Mar 1983, 1663 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

4) For information about the 1950's see "Dreams Deferred: the early American homophile movement by John d'Emilio, p. 127 in "Flaunting It: A Decade of Gay Journalism" from the Body Politic, edited by Ed Jackson and Stan Persky, Pink Triangle Press, Box 639, Stn A, Toronto M5W 1G2

The Right to Privacy Committee's Report to the Community

February 3, 1983

Since February 5th, 1981, the RTPC has been in court continuously, monitoring trials of those charged as keepers and found-ins. 279 found-in cases are now complete. The courtroom presence and the coordination of the lawyers, witnesses and documentation have helped produce an extraordinary win rate of 87%.

As a community, we have raised over \$100,000 to assist in legal defense and to wage a political campaign for law reform and against police abuse. The Right to Privacy Foundation, created by the RTPC to administer the legal defense fund, has now authorized assistance for 127 found-ins and 3 sets of keepers. While it cannot yet pay out the most recent of its authorizations, ongoing fundraising will ensure that those commitments are met.

If you can help us once again, please make contributions to the defense fund payable to Harriet Sachs in Trust for the RTPC, 730 Bathurst Street, Toronto, M5S 2R4.

COURT UPDATE	
Found-ins:	279 cases completed 242 wins 37 losses 2 cases now before the courts 17 found-ins failed to appear in court and now face bench warrants
Keepers:	Richmond 1 guilty plea; 5 charges withdrawn Romans 1 guilty plea; 5 charges withdrawn Back Door 3 finding of guilt; 1 under appeal International 1 guilty; 1 not guilty; under appeal The Club Trial not yet begun The Barracks Trial not yet begun
FUNDS RAISED AND DEPOSITED	
Individual Donations	\$65,500.38
Dances, other events	15,631.21
Organizations	18,694.34
Others	9,317.48
TOTAL RAISED:	\$109,143.41
Less: Fundraising costs, Administrative expenses, etc	13,364.64
TOTAL LEGAL DEFENSE FUND:	\$95,778.77

THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY FOUNDATION

DISBURSEMENTS AUTHORIZED

Found-ins (127)	\$69,658.06
Keepers (3 sets)	29,896.30
Others (4)	6,278.76
Legal Administration of Fund	489.00
TOTAL AUTHORIZATIONS	\$106,322.12
Payments made	95,391.20
Payment arrears	10,930.92

BILLING IN 111 REGULAR CASES

Average Legal Bill	\$635.00
Average Authorization	500.00

Anthony Vigers C.G.A.
Treasurer
RTPC

David M. Kaye
Secretary of the Board
RTPC

FEAR: nagging paranoia cuts deep

It had been billed as a "fund-raiser" - a special show starring Chris Collins' Odyssey of Stars. As it was, the fund-raiser barely broke even. Plans for the event had gone smoothly enough with special tickets printed, a poster distributed well in advance, lots of play in this magazine; all the groundwork necessary to hopefully swell the coffers of the building fund.

Then along came two innocent mentions in Howard Reid's People column in the Chronicle-Journal. Though GIB was not even hinted at nor any indication given of the sexual persuasion of the sponsors, the address and date *were* printed in bold black ink. The reaction? The shit hit the fan. A queer panic took place, gay paranoia turning the mob sour. I received frantic phone calls - others on the executive were approached: "The straights" will be there... someone will *see* me!"

Too late to do anything about it, and there not being a hell of a lot anyone could do about it, we decided to post a sign at the door proclaiming Gays of Thunder Bay the sponsor. A couple of "straights" did turn up too - one of them an aging woman with two canes for support. The show went on, it was fun, different and though a little long and unpolished it was well worthwhile.

But during the week which had preceded the show, I had been besieged by the nagging paranoia of some of our community members. That needless fear cut deep. I kept thinking that if straight people were there, so what? If I saw a person I knew to be straight I would merely ask what the hell are *you* doing here? That reaction in me produced anger. Anger that here we are, three years and a dozen traumas (the first being here in the first place) later, we still get upset so unnecessarily. It doesn't take much to get the panic ball rolling with the cry: "the straights are coming!"

I for one enjoy straight people at our socials, in our meetings, everywhere. It is our responsibility to educate them as much as we educate ourselves and as we individually pick and



'...they will be left behind...'

choose the people, time and places, they grow as we grow. They should feel welcome; damn it, they are thankful for the opportunity.

So I've resigned myself to a couple of truths. We will never satisfy everyone and no matter what we do, we will always offend someone - usually people in our own community. That is the risk we take and I find it acceptable (but grumpily so.)

If we remain gallant, if we continue to grow, the word will eventually reach all those we wish to reach. Reactions of hostility continue but our tormentors never last long. We will realistically have to confront a certain amount of fear but as our skin thickens, our courage grows. There are those among us who have chosen not to take this approach, they will be left behind. In three years we have found that there is peace alongside anger; the soul of this group continues to thrive. Time and growing awareness are on our side.

Doug Broman

Do you believe in FAIRIES?

Britons who do got a nasty shock in March when the Times reported that a famous set of fairy photographs, which created a sensation 66 years ago, are fakes.

Frances Griffiths, who took the pictures showing small dancing figures with butterfly wings in 1917, finally owned up after repeatedly insisting the photos were genuine. Miss Griffiths, 76, who lives in Kent and is writing a book on the subject, said the shots were faked using illustrations cut out of books.

The photographs created a wave of "fairy fever" at the time. Anybody got a camera?



Health: mental, intellectual, political and personal security.

By George Clarke

My first introduction to GTB was a very negative experience. A man I was sharing some time with said of GTB: "oh, don't get involved with them, they're too organized!" I've heard a lot of negative comments since then, some from active members of GTB, others from the "hangers-on" and few of them have ever been founded or justified.

So what does this have to do with health you ask? It has to do with mental health, with a state of mind, of personal confidence and self-determination. These are issues with health overtones.

In a very broad sense, this individual (granted, new to the openly gay scene) sees a large number of Thunder Bay gays as being intellectually troubled. There is a, perhaps unfounded, overemphasis on fear, paranoia and a general uneasiness which overshadows much of the gay community's activities. It is a very sad and strangely magnetic attitude which above all is not healthy and should not be allowed to persist. All this paranoia does is perpetuate the old "red-neck" status-quo and drive many of us into the oppressive, cloisteredness of the "closet."

Certainly for some, the closet is "chosen", safe, secure and healthy and I respect this choice. For those who are forced underground, closed off from total expression, the "un-chosen" closet cases, health and personal fitness can come only through freedom. Freedom is a social and intellectual state, granted to some, yet denied others. Freedom is also something which must be fought for — for those who are denied it (whatever the reason), it will never be given easily for it is too powerful a force.

Freedom can come through alignment and group efforts; it does not come through apathy. Without organizations like GTB, each gay would strike a singular battle or more likely retreat to the wasteland of an imposed closet.

Yes, there is strength in numbers — security and personal well being. Give yourself a chance and make us all safer, happier and freer! GTB as a strong organization will create healthy, safe conditions for gays in Thunder Bay. Support yourself, support GTB!

Two of our most famous gay playwrights have died within the same month.

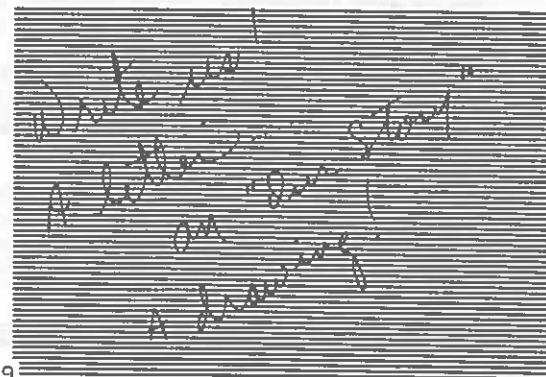
Tennessee Williams has at times been called the greatest American playwright of this century. He was best known for *The Glass Menagerie*, wherein a young man leaves the suffocating home atmosphere of dominating mother and invalid sister. In the 50's and early 60's he wrote a string of successes including *Suddenly Last Summer*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, *Summer and Smoke* and *Night of the Iguana*. He continued writing until his death; his later works are still to be given their due.

Jane Chambers, called by *The Advocate* "A great lesbian and a great writer" was perhaps the foremost lesbian playwright. Her early play, *A Late Snow*, brought her instant success. Her recent successes were *Last Summer At Blue Fish Cove* and *My Blue Heaven*.

Both these playwrights have made invaluable contributions to the gay presence in world literature.

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

Articles, stories, news or information appearing in THUNDER GAY MAGAZINE may be reprinted without permission, unless copyrighted. Full credit must be given to the authors and THUNDER GAY MAGAZINE.



Orr Convicted

Kevin Orr, assistant manager of Toronto's only gay bookstore, Glad Day Books, was convicted on March 4 of "possession of obscene material for the purpose of sale". Though he received a conditional discharge with two years probation, Orr will appeal the ruling.

The charges arose when police seized two magazines — *The Leathermen* and *Come Watch* in April. The two magazines are on sale in 49 other stores according to the distributor Donald Watterson.

The magazine, according to one witness, Rev. Eilert Frerichs depicted scenes of "simulated sexual activity" with no actual penetration or oral-genital contact and would be tolerated by the community.

In an article in this month's Body Politic Craig Patterson reported that before sentencing Orr, the judge cleared the room of all those under 16. In speaking about the two books, the judge David Vanek called them "...lewd and disgusting... disgusting sexual acts, sodomy in the presence of a third party..." By the judge's standards, that even though only two persons were in the actual photos, the photographer constituted a third person making them illegal under the present Criminal Code.

Orr's lawyer Dianne Martin called the decision a "dangerous precedent... it effectively prohibits representation of sexual activity. If this decision stands, most gay and indeed many heterosexual magazines that are presently allowed in Canada could be judged obscene."

Glad Day Defence Fund's (Brian Mossop) insists "we have to appeal this decision to defend the gay community's right to read what it wants and to oppose the growing anti-pornography campaign."

Orr's legal fees have exceeded \$8000 to date and an additional \$2000 to \$9000 will be needed to support the appeal. Donations can be made to the Glad Day Defence Fund, c/o Hamburg-Trollope, 400 Dundas St. E., Toronto, Ont. M5A 2A5

MOMMY KNOWS BESTEST

Fairy boys like flowers.
Fairy boys like dolls.
Fairy boys are cowards.
Fairies don't have balls.

Fairy boys never fight.
Fairy boys don't swear.
Fairy boys fear the night,
and don't wear underwear.

Fairy boys are dirty.
Fairy boys are mean.
Fairy boys will hurt me,
if they think I'm clean.

Fairy boys steal money.
Fairy boys take drugs.
Fairies call you "Honey,"
Fairy boys are thugs.

-- At least that's what Mommy says.

© W. Prettie 1983



HE SHOOTS! HE SCORES!!!
THEY'RE ALL HUGGING ONE ANOTHER NOW
OBVIOUSLY VERY EXCITED ABOUT THIS GOAL.
THE WHOLE TEAM IS KISSING
AND... UMM. THEY SEEM TO BE
FONDLING ONE ANOTHER...
GOOD LORD, THEY'RE
UNDRESSING AND DOING
IT ON THE ICE!!
WELL FANS, FINALLY, AN
ALL-STAR GAME
WORTH
REMEMBERING

Harry:

To call this a 'story' would be untrue. A story requires a sense of plot and direction, and that's missing from the fragments I can cull out for examination. They begin vividly and pleasantly like clear bell-notes.

My first solid clues came with early orgasms, those wonderfully frightening things. What happened between my legs was good enough (promising enough, too) to make the dull life of a school boy more tolerable. But, such early pleasures soon became tinged with danger.

We learn, in part, by listening to others and calculating the reactions of others against our own. I didn't need to be a genius to recognize I was out of synch with the social vision of a responsible sex life. What adults encouraged and my peers reported was not what was happening to me.

I had an interest in girls — on a par, I'd guess, with my interest in Science Fiction — as another form of life quite alien to my inner drives. I suspected one could make peace with them, but the thought was in no way exciting or inviting to me. It was, if anything, a practical recognition. My primary interest was always, always and always in other boys. I soon learned that being too obvious or too intimate would frighten most boys away, and so began my first sideways expressions of love.

At the time I'd not have called it love. I didn't know what to call the combination of arousal and dreamy happiness I found with a few special friends. This happy state of

moral rift

affairs lasted only so long as one did not act on feelings. Action invariably triggered off a host of guilty frightened reactions (for both parties) and a moral rift would separate me from someone I longed to be closer to.

I'd vow to stay 'clean' and practise only the 'purest' form of friendship. But my 'glands' (a once common pseudonym for

sexual mystery) were stronger than my intentions. Given the slightest opportunity I'd act, or at least try to. Some partners would pretend sleep. Others would react with shock, as if they would never consider anything as gross as sex. Rarely one would find a playful, exploratory person, but social conditioning was pressing enough to abort extended further contact.

Already the 'story' is confused. Part of me's vowing never to act while another part's scheming at every turn. Such duplicity is confusing and my life was becoming messy as a result. I didn't know what to do or how I fit in. But, that was soon to change.

My young mind had dealt with one issue. Namely, "what's the point of 'liking' someone if you didn't act on it?" I was cautious, but I wanted (desired) to act. That's how I came to the attention of 'significant others'. One of my conquests talked.

Those significant others had the form of family, school, and church. Together, they worked on me so as to help me. Is pressure and moral judgment help? I think not. But at age fourteen one is no match for the massed pressure trio indicated here.

I can't talk or think about that without becoming angry again. Polite, tactful, sugar-coated help forced me to do only one thing. Lie. I had to lie about what I felt as personal reality. I had to comply with their view. I knuckled under, and I can't find it in me to yet forgive those tactics which denied me the decency of simply being accepted or tolerated.

My actions, such as they were, became more cunning and premeditated. I was scared to death of having to go through future 'help' sessions again. The 'joy' of sex was lost under grave conditions.

With the start of University came my first chance at freedom away from home. I was eager, yet unprepared for what I'd find. In looking back, I suspect I was a confused and therefore vulnerable young fellow. Whatever, my arrival at University brought me into contact with men I found attractive.

These came in two types. The first were decent men who wished to 'help' me. They hoped that exposure to them would in some way alter or cure me. To this day I'm convinced they really wanted sex but were too ingrown to say so. The other kind of man wanted to fuck me. That was more obvious, something I readily understood.

Both types were useful. I used them and they used me, however. The nice ones were good for all sorts of favours and all I had to do was be polite and condescending. The ones who wanted sex made the larger impression, though. They too were useful and provided things I couldn't afford on my own. Perhaps it was because I was reasonably attractive and passingly quick-witted, but I grew to feel they were using me in an unfeeling way. I wanted something else but just what it was I couldn't say. None-the-less, I felt cheated as if I were just another pretty youth to be enjoyed and then discarded.

Saying that is not fair. Both types of men were helpful. I think they tried to show me about love, only I was too doubtful and confused to know it. To be sure, I learned to use what I had to advantage. After a year I began to travel in wider circles with men of greater prominence. In self defense I became cool and reserved. I studied diffidence. My loyalty had a price tag. I was introduced to chemical delights.

With such distractions it took me six years to finish a four year degree,

and why not? I was having a good time, riding high. Frankly, I enjoyed the privileges and treatment. But, I was not really happy. There were rewards in that life, but the demands were enormous.

Oddly, I decided to break with that part of my life because of the following incident. One of my men told me this. "You suck like an angel." His words tore apart my deceit. You see, I'd prided myself on being professional and untouched. I didn't give 'love' because (so I thought) my men didn't give 'love' either. I operated on the level of transactions, all crisp and safe. But, my mouth gave me away. My mouth 'loved' what it did. Once that was exposed I had to face the entire issue of love. I faced it though escape.

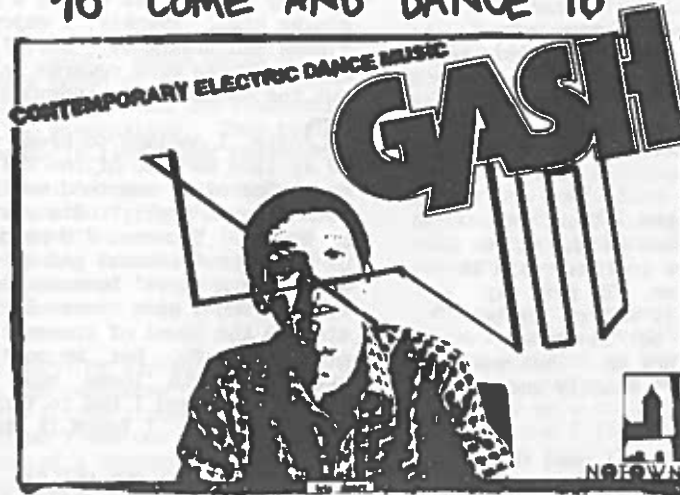
In escaping I cut off all contacts with my past and set off on a course I can only describe as a-sexual. I'd look for love; only after I found it would I then consider sex.

That resolve was not complete. I did renew contact with a few of the men. Perhaps in a way I was following their model without realizing it. I found some pleasure in helping younger men in a selfless way. And, a part of me yearned for conditions similar to those when I first discovered sex. The only real joy I'd had came at age eleven or so, when life was still 'innocent'.

Some years passed that way. In relative isolation I came to rely more and more on chemical friends. The stage was set. I was preparing, without realizing it, to slide into oblivion.

That didn't happen, but something else did. To describe it would take more space and energy than I presently have. Suffice it to say I ran head-long into a pack of troubles and emerged, at length, on the other side. (CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE)

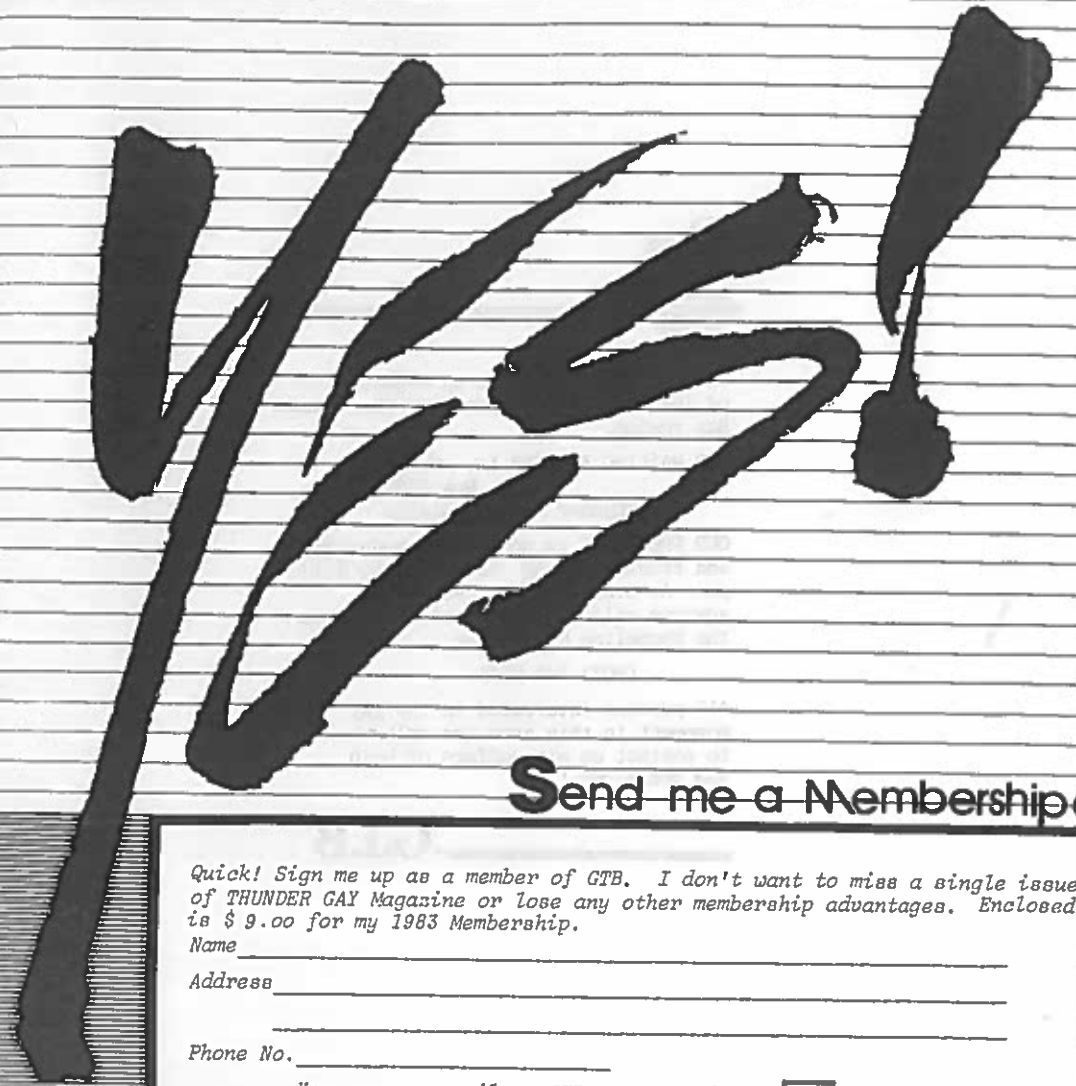
THIS IS YOUR INVITATION/TICKET
TO COME AND DANCE TO



LIVE AND IN COLOUR FROM
WINNIPEG
AT THE UKRAINIAN
LABOUR TEMPLE
ON (corner of Ogden
and McKenzie)

FRIDAY APRIL 8, 1983.
AFTER 8 PM.

\$4. IN ADVANCE
\$5. AT THE DOOR



Send me a Membership.

Quick! Sign me up as a member of GTB. I don't want to miss a single issue of THUNDER GAY Magazine or lose any other membership advantages. Enclosed is \$ 9.00 for my 1983 Membership.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Yes, you can mail me GTB correspondence: ☐

No, I don't wish to receive anything by mail from GTB. ☐

I am aware membership includes a year's subscription to THUNDER GAY Magazine (mailed in a plain envelope) and gives me * price admission at GTB Socials.

GTB: P.O.Box 2155, THUNDER BAY P, Ontario P9A 5E8

Guys 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