

A CURE AT LAST!!!

TORONTO (G.P.) - An unconfirmed report out of Toronto this week says a team of certified evangelists have come close to perfecting a cure for homosexuality.

A serum, the ingredients of which are being kept secret, is presently being tested on pink mice, rabbits and elephants.

Although there are reported to be several side effects - an urge to vote conservatively, watching television on Sunday mornings and wearing tacky sport shirts buttoned to the top for example, it is expected that these can be easily overcome. However, by simply seeing what happens to government when voting conservatively, *actually paying attention* to the television on Sunday mornings and *looking in the mirror* when wearing a tacky sport shirt is reported

to eliminate such drawbacks.

Funding for the research apparently came from leftover 1981 campaign money.

It is hoped an official announcement can be timed to coincide with the first anniversary of the February 5, 1981 raids on four Toronto steam baths.

The serum will be administered by the city's 'orality Squad or members of Renaissance International - though who will actually win the contract remains to be seen.

Volunteers for the initial inoculation will be appointed from the over 300 "found-ins" resulting from the raids on the private clubs.

Results of the testing are expected shortly before the next provincial election. No further details are available.

- P. W.

DIALOGUE UNITES

THUNDER BAY (Staff) - GTB officials will be meeting in early June with a group of United Church clergy to discuss ways of opening up a dialogue between this city's gay community and the church.

The welcome move came about as a result of that church's efforts to come to terms with our society's attitudes towards sexuality. The United Church is on record as supporting the proposed amendment to the Ontario Human Rights Code outlawing discrimination on the basis of "sexual orientation".

DAVID HONOURED

THUNDER BAY (Staff) - At the very successful and well-attended fund-raising social held to coincide with the first anniversary of GTB, a special certificate of appreciation was made to the organization's first president, Dave Belrose. The certificate honoured him for efforts he made in original founding and organizational work.

In his thanks, Dave stressed that it is the membership that keeps the group going and urged those attending to make the effort to keep GTB strong.

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 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!

GTB



SPRING TIME IS OUR TIME...

Thunder
GAY

GAYS OF THUNDER BAY

Newsletter
JUNE, 1981

Thunder GAY

NDP MOVES THE ELUSIVE

"SEXUAL ORIENTATION" CLAUSE

On Tuesday, May 19, the Ontario New Democrats proposed that the Human Rights Code be amended to prohibit discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. During the recent election campaign the party was criticized for abandoning a policy of human rights for gays. Michael Cassidy the leader of the Ontario NDP said at the time that rights were "not a priority at this time". The move to turn on established party policy was made by the caucus following criticism by a vocal radical right that wished to scapegoat gays for society's ills...

QUEEN'S PARK - "At this point in our history it would be a major mistake for us not to recognize something which is a fact in our society..." In 1976 the New Democrats included human rights for homosexuals in its party platform but abandoned gays during the recent provincial election. Seeking to regain credibility and act on its established policy New Democrat MPP Richard Johnston moved that the Human Rights Code be amended to include a "sexual orientation" clause with the phrase above.

However, he went on to say that the party is not "endorsing or wanting people to follow a homosexual lifestyle" (whatever that is).

The bill will now go to a standing committee on resources development (people resources - get it?) where it will be subjected to intense debate.

The Government has made it clear that it has no intention of supporting this human right but MPP Susan Fish

crossed party lines and supported the amendment. Rookie Liberal Sheila Copps (still smarting from local MPP Mickey Hennessey's remarks that she "go back to the kitchen") was the first member to propose such an amendment. Her party leader Robert Nixon surprised observers by stating that he may support it. Mr. Nixon said prejudices have increased over the years and blamed the education system and the Human Rights Commission - something the gay movement and other minority groups have been saying all along.

Does it stand a chance? Cynics say no. There are those that say if pressure can be maintained there might be a chance.

In urging local MPP's to support the move, GTB sent letters urging them to continue to support the amendment. "...we can honestly tell you," the letter reads, "that as we observe the goings-on at Queen's Park, we pray for the day when full rights as citizens will be accorded us... this plea for decency; for respect and protection

comes to you not only from your home of Thunder Bay but from the thousands of gays across the province."

Letters, notes, telegrams and so on sent to the government by all concerned individuals should be a great help.

INCHING CLOSER EVERY DAY

THUNDER BAY (Staff) - GTB is getting closer to the day when it will be able to open a community centre in this city. The Club Feasibility committee reports that final preparations are being made on a proposed list of prerequisites and criteria to be presented to a meeting of the membership in the near future. All those interested in making input into the formulation of the operating of a community centre are welcome to the committee's meetings. Details are available at the regular Tuesday night meets.

FLAUNTING IT

"I hate effeminate men. There's just nothing I like about those kind of people."

The above remark, overheard recently, did not come from a straight male. Nor from a woman. It came from one of my gay male peers and I was surprised when I heard it. To the best of my understanding at the time, the person was being sincere, not joking or camping around. I know the person and basically think he's a good man. I'm not sure he was aware of the ramifications of his casual remark.

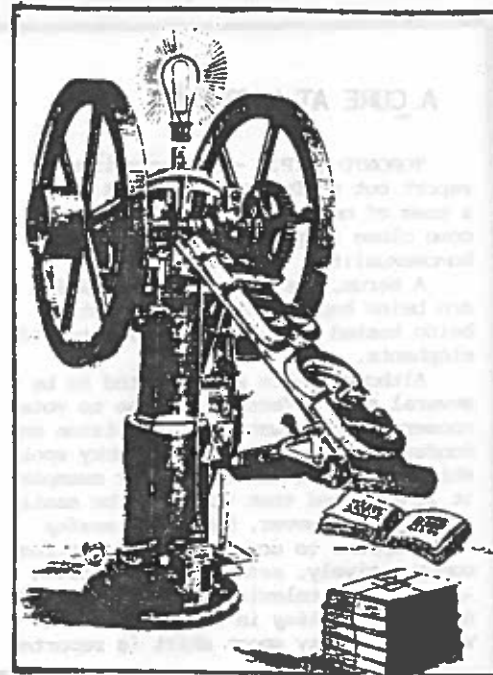
I'd like to use it here as a small but clear example of subtle oppression. Of how we go about defending "our" image (...I'm not like that!) while helping support the definitions of just what that image is, imposed on us by other parts of society. Of how we hurt ourselves.

Simply put: there's enough oppression around not of our making. Let's not contribute more to the burden. This ties in with referring to other gay men as "Miss" or "Mrs" (usually when they're not around). Women themselves have been

struggling to dump these unnecessary labels; to turn them against ourselves is a kind of double slander.

There are two points I'm trying to make here. I suspect the fellow originally quoted above was probably signaling that he didn't want to be seen as effeminate. That effeminacy gives us, or specifically him, a bad image. It is one of the classic stereotypes used to describe us. It is always used negatively. So my first point is: who are we, and then just who do we let define that for us? (Readers are invited to submit brief descriptions of what being a "man" or a "woman" is in these interesting 1980's...perhaps we could devote the next twenty columns of "Flaunting It" to this description...). My second point bears more directly on the internalized oppression: don't say anything about someone you wouldn't be willing to say to their face. Even more specifically, apply a little test. If you're camping about someone, insert yourself as the object of what you're scorning and see how it fits.

There are so many of us. And we are all



Thanks to Michael and Doug for their contributions.

shapes, sizes, colours, smells, curves, angles. Maybe the best thing we could do is love each other. Failing that, at least we don't need to hate and hurt each other. Let's settle for caring, on a real and direct level. Campy, effeminate, limp-wristed, swishy men are not my enemy. They may be my brothers. People who box me in to definitions that are shallow and easy for them to handle, who deny me basic human rights, who would make my love-making a crime, are my enemies. Let's keep our priorities in focus.

I've been asked about the title of this column. It is not new or even original to me. It was the title for a regular contribution that appeared in The Body Politic, written by Michael Riordan. I consider him the best writer in gay media in Canada. I borrowed the title because I'm not comfortable with it. Each time I sit down to put something under it I'm challenged and uneasy. That's what this column is all about.

Michael Sobota