

EDITORIAL

You, Me & Others

At our regular meeting on August 2 GTB made the regrettable and difficult decision to cancel the August 13 social. Regrettable because with an active community of a few hundred people no one had stepped forward to co-ordinate the event. Difficult because those present that evening knowing how important such events really are could not muster the energy to take on yet another social - put on another party - dealt with the crisis simply by cancelling.

As in most organizations, a handful at the top do the bulk of the work - but unlike these same organizations there is a recirculating flow either through the yearly elections or by revolving responsibility. But within this group the same folks at "the top" have been here since the beginning three and a half years ago. And we're a little tired.

Commitment within all of us to our fellow homosexuals is still as strong - and in many cases much stronger - than

ever. You know it, I know it and so do most of the others.

We are fully aware of the many significant events that have taken place at this group's urging. You have shared our victories and you have mulled over our defeats. You know you are needed and wish you could help.

Gays of Thunder Bay is a masterpiece in the making here in the northwestern corner of Ontario. You, I and others must now be prepared to take a part in its continuing creation - take another step, take something on, define the sense of commitment to ourselves through a direct action. You have thought about it, felt it, probably talked about it, wished to act - there is so much to do and we should do it. We deserve the support we can create within ourselves as GTB merely represents everything that gayness here means - namely, you, me and others.

Doug Broman

LETTERS

Hello Everybody,

How's the summer in Thunder Bay? And how is Thunder Bay?

Here the weather is wonderful and Sudbury All Gay Alliance is forming or getting together and soon to be a structured organization. As you all know G.A.S. has folded. So this is a new beginning. I'm writing to you for a few reasons.

One, I've packed my files away for the summer so I can't check back on old newsletters the details for a membership in GTB so I would like to know how much an individual and a group membership is so we can all stay in touch. Thanks.

And now two - we have a phoneline that has started again and that has not been well set up in the past either so being on the phoneline committee here I see a lot of things that could use some improvements

and that perhaps you could help me out with. I would like very much if you could send me a copy of your phone log sheet so we could keep better records of our callers.

We do have your phoneline guide and it is very useful. We also have one from CGRO.

The group here sounds really thrilling so far in some ways. People are getting together for gay plays, newsletter, setting up a library as well as other things like a lot of parties.

But I seem to detect a lot more sexism than in Thunder Bay between the gay men and lesbians and I have a hard time with that one.

Anyway, hope you all are having a gorgeous time and to the pleasure of reading you soon,

Gayly yours,

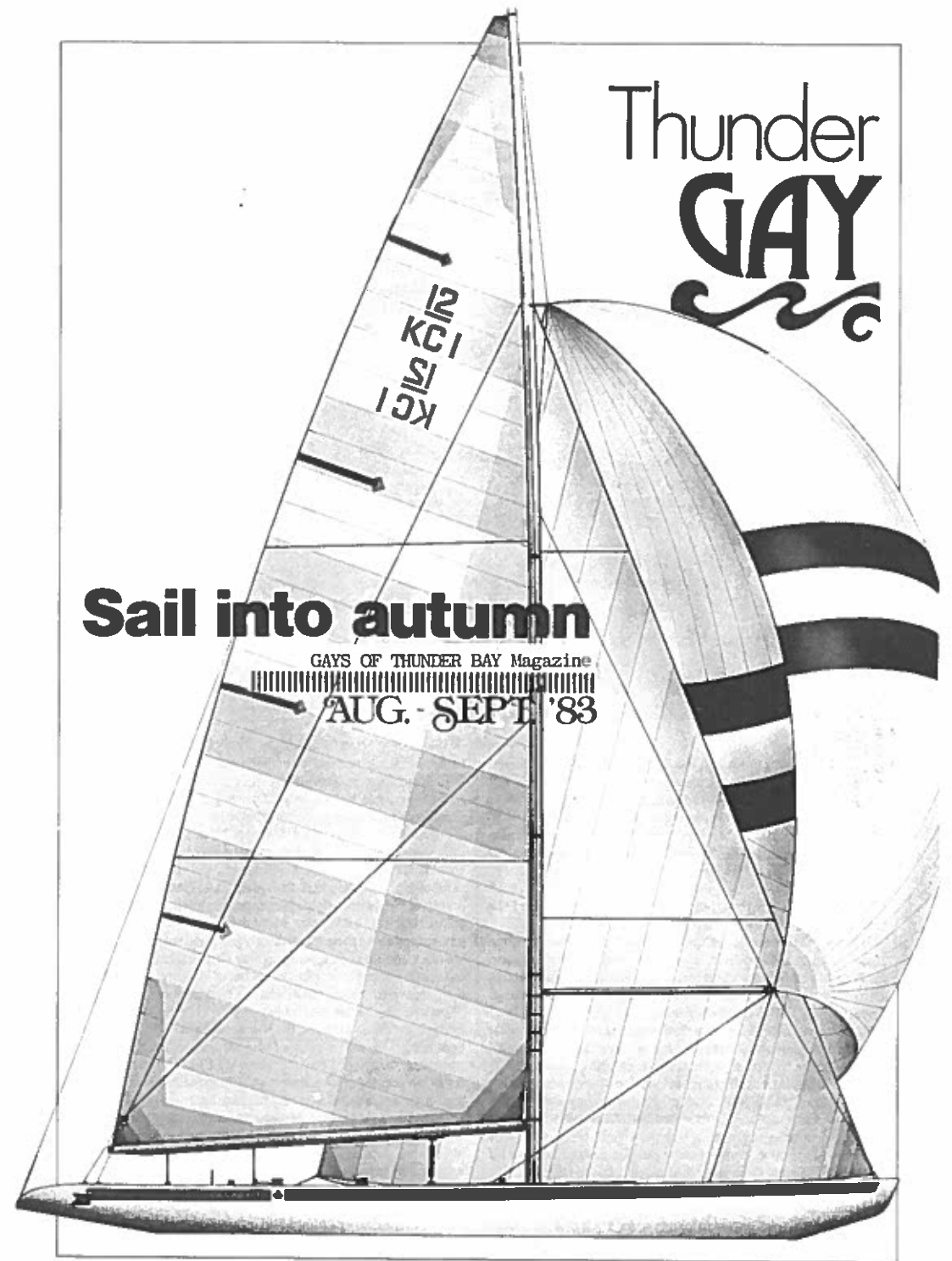
Line

Thunder GAY

Sail into autumn

GAYS OF THUNDER BAY Magazine

AUG. - SEPT '83



COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August	2	General Meeting
August	13	Social/CANCELLED
August	16	General Meeting
August	27	Social at Ukrainian Labor Temple
September	6	General Meeting
September	10	Social= call our phoneline for confirmation.
September	20	General Meeting
September	24	Social= call our phoneline for confirmation

There is some question as to the necessary support for our bi-weekly socials to continue. See the editorial in this issue and attend one of our regular meetings to give your views. Up to date information will be available by calling our phoneline on Wednesday or Friday evenings, 7:30-9:30. 345-8011.

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 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

ROOM AT THE TOP

While you are reading this, we are still basking in one of the hottest summers this city has experienced (...it's been warm, too!). So while you're browning at the beach or sitting in the cooler shade of your own dwelling, with the liquid refreshment of your choice, give some thought to the upcoming months with GTB.

GTB's annual elections will be coming around in a short while. Scheduled for early October, it's time to look around you and consider who you'd like to lead our organization for the next twelve months. Our present Executive, many of whom have worked steadily for three or more years, have accomplished much for our organization, with the support of our community. Some of them are tired and readily and happily admit it is time for "new blood" to take over. There is real need for a rallying of energies, new ideas and directions to build on what has already been accomplished.

Positions open will be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, with other places for Directors-at-large. We will need a Phoneline Co-ordinator, an Education Committee, and a Social Convenor.

GTB as an organization is in strong financial shape, with many services in place, ready to move ahead if the leadership will come forth and if the community will reinvest its support.

So look around. Talk to your gay neighbor(s). Check out the mirror. And think about what you want GTB to become.

SHARED ACCOMMODATION: Non-smoker, quiet person, suitable for student, kitchen privileges, washer etc. in private home in quiet residential north ward area, close to bus or parking available. Phone 344-5900 after 5 pm.

FLAUNTING IT

As we approach the half-way mark of our fourth year as an organization, GTB is going through some clear changes.

Official membership in GTB is as strong as ever (probably due to the generous discount available to members who attend our socials), but actual participation in the organization and its services is low, maybe as low as it has ever been. At the same time, GTB has dramatically increased the number of socials it hosts and attendance stays high at these events.

So one of the changes is a general move by both "official" members and others in the gay community at large toward socializing as a priority. We've always been good party goers; our history is full of house parties, personal get-togethers, increasing larger scale socials. We will drink and dance in the dark readily; with hardly the need for an official excuse. In a city as isolated as ours, this is necessary. We keep confirming this. And we've relied on GTB also as an "official" organizer, to assist in this confirmation by providing the resources (financial and organizational) to do it.

Another change is in the nature and energy of our leadership. To be frank, it was not all that difficult to birth GTB. We began years ago with packed meetings, lots of ideas, goals and support. People were eager to participate. The timing was ripe: there was a real need for gay men and lesbians in the city to get together, talk, raise money, establish services, dance, organize ourselves socially. It was fairly easy to achieve: we rallied around something because there was nothing. And there were many in those early days who helped build GTB and begin the foundations for a more visible gay community in Thunder Bay. The really difficult work is sustaining what has been started, and this is being reflected in our leadership. We've lost many valuable members who came in and carried important jobs during their time with GTB. Only a few of the original people have given consistently and without a break over the past 3½ years.

So, putting those two points together: we have become a primarily social-hosting organization, with the workload being carried by fewer dedicated members of the executive (and a few committed volunteers) who willingly say they are tired.

And because of our "social" focus, so many other things remain undone, things that were an original part of why we began GTB, or developed during the early energetic stage: educational outreach both to the general community and to our own brothers and sisters, getting gay spokespeople into local club and organization meetings, more media exposure, dialogue with the school boards with the intent of getting gay spokespeople into the classrooms (the kids want us; maybe we should be fighting along with them to have gay issues discussed or even raised positively in local classrooms), lobbying city council on gay related issues as well as pushing for a non-discrimination by-law in municipal hiring, housing and services.

I've always believed GTB had to accommodate a broad range of interests, given the mandate of being the only gay organization for miles around. Socializing has its important place, as do our other services. I've even been adamant about this when others faltered, got personally burned out, took a walk for awhile.

I still think GTB can do this. What we need is an influx of people who are willing to support the "social" focus with their time and energy so others can pick up the "educational" areas (that they've expressed a preference for). A new balance has to be struck...and can be, given the high interest in keeping a gay social atmosphere alive. It comes down to a request for your energy. Practical. Committed. Solid.

Don't think about it anymore. Act on it.

Michael Sobota