

Happy Holidays
And Every Happiness
In The New Year



Thunder
GAY

GAYS OF THUNDER BAY
NEWSLETTER

December '81 - January '82

Thunder GAY



Guys Of Thunder Bay

345-8011

P.O. Box 2155
Thunder Bay

May the New Year bring you and your family joy & happiness.

...A Dollar A Month. Not Bad, Eh?

GTB's Annual Membership Drive is on! At a recent general meeting, a proposal from the new executive was put forth and discussed. Then a resolution was voted upon and approved. Beginning with 1982, GTB will have an annual membership fee and all memberships will expire simultaneously at the end of each calendar year, December 31st.

The GTB membership fee for 1982 is \$12.00. The fee is pro-rated at \$1.00 per month. The new arrangement will greatly simplify our paper work and allow the executive to organize one big membership drive rather than many repetitive appeals. We all get tired of those.

And no one really loses with the new structure: if you purchased a membership sometime during 1981 for \$10, simply count ahead a year from your purchase month, then count the months left after that in 1982. Multiply those left-over months by \$1.00 and that is your 1982 fee! New memberships or renewals, available right now, are \$12.00. Other members that join GTB later in the year will pay only for the remaining months in the calendar year.

Lest you feel this is an ideal way to avoid purchasing a paid-up membership for awhile and "save" money, let me quickly urge you to take out a full new or renewal membership now. The fee is not overly expensive and

your immediate support of GTB is genuinely needed

As well, your benefits begin immediately: membership gives you a discount on tickets to GTB socials (now planned for one a month - your savings on this alone warrants a paid-up membership!). You receive our attractive bi-monthly newsletter, a membership card (which you must carry for your discount tickets) and are entitled to vote at all meetings.

Lastly, your membership is respected and treated seriously, with complete discretion. No mailings are sent to you if you so request and our membership list is kept separately and secretly from other GTB materials.

So, support a strong gay presence in Thunder Bay and the northern region. Purchase a paid-up GTB membership now!

"Fairies everywhere must begin to stand tall and beautiful in the sun. Fairies must begin to throw off the filthy green frog-skin of Hetero-imitation and discover the lovely Gay-conscious notMAN shining underneath. Fairies must begin creating their new world..."

Harry Hay
quoted in VISIONARY LOVE:
A Spirit Book of Gay
Mythology by Mitch Walker
and Friends

EDITORIAL

Harrasment strikes us at the most unexpected times. And when it does, the smack of its ugly swipe sends shudders through the comfy layers of complacency we so often create around ourselves.

It was that way for me and for someone very dear. On three occasions within *one week* direct blows have landed and somewhat dazed, I editorialize.

Briefly, the first incident occurred when morality officers visited and said that an anonymous caller had informed them that we were having relationships with minors - particularly with a fourteen year old. Satisfied by our denunciations, they left. They didn't tell us who called or when or anything. Which left us squirming with the thought of *who would do such a thing*. We aren't even convinced it might be a result of a complaint.

Second and third times concerned someone being slapped by a punk for being gay and then having said punk return with accusations of all sorts of sexual derring-do. Nothing this little worm said was true and much consternation was raised and support gained from the victim's employers. The police have been called in - this time to investigate a complaint made by a gay person.

Now that the bill to make changes to the Human Rights Code of Ontario-o has received third reading

without a clause to protect gays from discrimination we must remember the other laws which are there to protect us. We will watch closely to see how the police handle this one. People making complaints of the kind in the first instance - if they are not based on truth - are breaking the law. We asked to have the matter looked into to see if perhaps a charge of mischief could be laid.

The result was that it would be unlikely - unless it continues to happen. C'est la guerre.

The punk? We'll see. If he continues the police will continue to be called in. Just because we're gay and they know it will not make a shred of difference. We have rights under the Criminal Code and expect them to be enforced.

In the meantime, it leaves the mind to wonder in a frigid sort of way, who to suspect, who to blame and who to turn to. This sort of paranoid fantasy is unnecessary and cruel. We know who our friends are. And that is enough.

Doug Broman

THE GATHERING by Jackie Major

*Standing alone
Allas one
They gather their thoughts
One by one*

*Some will stand strong
Others will fall
It will all be different
As we can recall*

*Each has his own way
His own things to do
We are all one
But one of a few*

*As we are all seperate
We sometimes collide
Our greatest treasure
Is when we concede*

*The places we gather
The sights that we see
We are all imprisoned
Yet we stand free*

*Let's get it together
Build ourselves harmony
Make our own gathering
Thee place to be*

Raunch per Movement

"This Reagan thing scares the hell out of me," says Carole Pope of Toronto's Rough Trade.

Peter Goddard of the Globe states, "Now she is going to be misunderstood right across the country."

Well, Pope was not scared, nor was she misunderstood while performing at LU Nov. 13-14.

Pope, sporting the same kind of white suit and feathered hairdo that graces the cover of the Avoid Freud album, hung on those tumescent lyrics like a lover, crooning them with her insinuating Mae West inflections and punctuating the action with none-to-subtle gestures, including the famed crotch grab that once shocked the Juno Awards show and our Prime Minister.

Obviously enjoying herself as much as the prominently middle-class crowd, Pope's RPM level (Raunch per Movement) seemed to rise with the frenzy level she put her audience into with such hits as High School Confidential and Physical Violence.

Although most of the bands' recent 'For Those Who Think Young' album (True North/CBS) are more polished and danceable than the previous release, Pope says, "I enjoy what our

Paul Village

listeners enjoy." When asked exactly what that enjoyment was, Pope just came across with that patented sneer and a throaty chuckle without going any further.

Kevan Staples, on keyboards and guitar, says the group is moving away from making state-

Enjoy? Hardly!
'Let go' is more like it!

ments in their music, "Furor about the Fuhrer was rather pointed. Politically, I mean. With the new album we are just trying to say 'enjoy'."

Enjoy? Hardly! 'Let go' is more like it!

That's just what Rough Trade did, too. The searing music sets you up and finally takes you down for the ten count.

With a pastel background that seemed to radiate light over all the cafeteria put Fort William

Gardens, CLE Coliseum, and LU Fieldhouse in a slot marked 'inferior'.

Rough Trades' crew transformed the place into a land of fantasy. Those who paid the \$8-\$9 price tag received in return one of the most polished, professional and entertaining acts Thunder Bay has had the chance to view.

Consider the title of one

of the better cuts on the Freud album. 'All Touch and No Contact.' All touched, no doubt! The contact part was not made physically, perhaps, but the mental contact Pope plugged into her admirers left them drained. Of strength. Of the will to hold back. And best of all, drained of the idea that you have to hear it played 50 times a day on the radio to be hot.

The Community Centre - Again

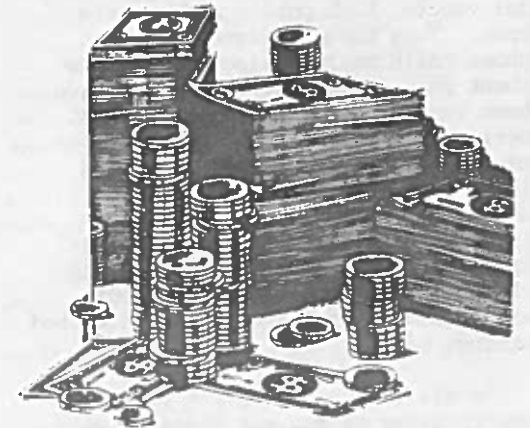
One of the major disappointments of our first year and a half of GTB was our inability to open or find our planned gay community centre. There were many reasons for this: the small number of suitable buildings, extremely high rents, buildings for sale only and even anti-gay discrimination. In spite of all the work that was done, there were no visible results.

Because of this, the new executive has had to re-examine the situation and begin to develop a new approach to this very necessary aspect of our long term growth. Based on our experience, the most available possibility is to purchase a building (there are several available for less than \$100,000), and other than that it may be possible to rent a building that can be upgraded to become a licensed premise. In any case, a significant amount of money will have to be raised in order to achieve the goal of the community centre.

To this end, GTB has established a separate BUILDING FUND to be used exclusively for the establishment of a community centre. Except for operating expenses, revenues from our socials will go into the fund. All revenues generated from new fund-raising projects will go into the fund. Individuals may make donations that can be directed solely to the BUILDING FUND.

In order to provide a focus to our

fund-raising, GTB has set a goal for the coming year of 1982 of \$10,000. This is a lot of money, but we feel it is an attainable goal, and necessary if we are to have a realistic chance of getting a building. Raising this money will show that the community is serious about a community centre and will help to generate other



financing that may be needed.

The ultimate success of this project will depend on all of us in the gay community for new fund-raising ideas, for energy, for money and for commitment to the vision of a gay community centre.

Dave Belrose



"Knock Knock"!

"Who's there"?

"Police".

"Police who"?

"No, you don't understand.' This is the police. We'd like to have a few words with you."

...Slight variations of the above dialogue have been occurring more frequently of late. Various members of Thunder Bay's Police Department have been visiting, questioning, investigating gay people in the city. The conversations that go on are not merely a replay of that classic "knock knock" joke. This is serious business.

And well it should be. In past months, police have visited our social events, both public and private ones. They have received anonymous phone calls making false accusations about gays in Thunder Bay. They have been investigating at least one most serious criminal act: the destruction of one of our members apartment and loss of all his possessions, by an arsonist. And as mentioned in this issue's Editorial, at least one local gay individual has initiated calling the police to look into harrasment and possible criminal mischief directed against him.

In all cases so far, the police are treating us and our concerns with fairness, politeness and civility. This gives me great hope. If we are entering a period of some increased attention, either negative(harrasment, attacks, even criminal acts) or positive(a higher profile for our gay community and for individual gay people, greater awareness and, dare I say it: *understanding* of us by the public at large), I want to know that the police will treat us fairly. I

want to know that any potential allies, any sources of power that may be used for or against us, will treat us fairly. That is a minimum I expect.

And they are. So far. This is so important. It would be too easy for us as gay concerns and individuals become more outfront in Thunder Bay to retreat into paronia, to stay at home, keep our doors locked, see and engage less gay friends, become more isolated and scared. It is important to know that the police are not our enemy and, in fact, can be employed against our enemies. This may be a rare and suprisingly positive rapport we have here, given the situation in many of Canada's larger centres.

I say this is a time for boldness, not paronia. For being strong and proud, not hesitant and retreating. For documenting every instance of gay oriented harassment and discrimination and bringing it to public attention. For flaunting it, rather than saying, oh well, it doesn't really matter. What have we got to fear?

I'd like to end this column with a few year-end remarks about the GTB newsletter. Those of us who work on it are encouraged by the feed-back we receive from you, both in person or the growing number of letters we receive. I want to put special credit where it is due: the newsletter has become what it is, has grown in quality and gay awareness because of the energy and commitment of Doug. He organizes the copy, prods writers to get their contributions in, he does most of the lay-out by himself. He sees it gets printed, and into your hands reasonably within deadlines. You will never hear him say anything about his efforts or direct attention toward himself. It is both an honour and a pleasure to continue working with him.

Michael Sobota

I would like to take a few lines to thank those that put together what in my opinion was the most enjoyable social I have had the pleasure to attend since I have come out.

It takes a lot of time and work to put together what went on Halloween night at the Labour Temple. Chris, David and Jamie all deserve something. Something that goes on behind closed doors for the nothing short of superb job they did in organizing and executing a great evening of entertainment.

The decorations, which by the way were very professionally done, gave the place just the right atmosphere. Good stuff!

The music was top of the line, as usual. My thanks to Patrick. I know what a hassle he goes through each social plugging

in and unplugging; lifting and loading; packing and unpacking. But the way people were dancing seems to sum up the worth of his time.

There aren't many places in Thunder Bay that can match his program. No. Let me change that. There is no place.

The crew of volunteers were excellent, also. Line and Barb handled the lighting with great flare, something Line does really well.

As for the behavior of the people in attendance! Well, why don't we just let those that didn't come listen to all the great gossip?

To anyone I missed, thanks to you, too.

To Barb; Why don't you leave the cuffs at home next time?

PBW

Dear friends,

Just got some new letterhead and you are the first that we are trying it out on!

I'm writing on behalf of participants in VOICES to thank you for the announcement in your last issue. We have reciprocated with an ad for *Thunder Gay* and GTB in this issue (out in about a week).

We want to send you good wishes in your efforts to find a community centre and in your efforts to help smaller centres get organized. We know how much stamina and courage this all takes, so we applaud your efforts.

I like your newsletter - it is informative and artistic, and you are courageous enough to talk about your own feelings. Of course I also applaud your efforts to involve gay women on an equal basis.

I thought the article "Looking Out" was good and I hope you can manage to print more from women. I understand the difficulties for women in getting involved. Doreen and I are such heretics around everything that being out publicly strengthens, rather than weakens us. But as a result we know very few other "out of

the closet" gays in Kenora although we have met several gay women who were on their way out of town. Our "publicly out" stance is, understandably, too much of a threat to the security of the others. Sometimes the pressures against coming out are so great that it is much too scary to even write down one's feelings, because that tells us our feelings are legit., so the straights who put us down must be wrong.

We are going to keep trying to encourage gay women to write, and hope you do the same.

If anyone around GTB is ever in Kenora, look us up and we will do the same.

Towards pride in ourselves,
Isabel Andrews

VOICES - a survival manual for wimmin is out of Kenora and copies are available in the GTB library. In this issue is a contribution by a local woman and as stated in the above letter, women are encouraged to provide material.

Letters

Hi,

Have you ever been in the position of standing at your door late at night and you come to the realization that you don't have the key to get inside?

You're left standing there thinking 'what the hell do I do now?'

It's an interesting reaction when you first come to the conclusion that you're locked out.

For some reason, there's an immediate burst of adreneline through your system. Probably angry adreneline. It only lasts for a split-second though.

Whether this feeling is panic or shock is debatable. There is definitely a rush of something, though.

Well, I was in a position not long ago of having the key and no door to put it in. The rush I got was much the same as the afore-mentioned but prolonged.

The rest of the story is not worth dwelling on.

Except one part.

When I didn't have that door, friends opened their doors to me. Not only a place to stay but alot of other things as well. Friendship, valuable advice, guidance, passage from panic.

For awhile things were really clicking for me. Then they went thud. I didn't realize it at first, but things started to click again with the wrds and deeds of friends.

Paul

ANNUAL MEET

At the Annual Meeting and election of officers for GTB on Tuesday, November 17, a new executive was elected and future goals for GTB discussed.

In his remarks as outgoing president, David Belrose outlined some of the accomplishments of GTB over the past year including the phoneline, newsletter and the frequent socials.

The new executive is composed of the following: Don (secretary), Ken (treasurer), with members at large being David, Doug, Terry, Jaimie, Rick, George and Darryl. Rob was chosen by the new executive as president at its first meeting the following Monday and approved by the membership the following Tuesday night at a GTB meeting of the general membership.

*You bet I want to become a GTB member!
Enclosed find \$_____ for my 1992
membership.*

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No: _____

____ Yes, you can mail me GTB correspondence.

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

Give this membership form to any member of GTB's Executive or mail it with the appropriate amount to: GTB

P.O. Box 2155
THUNDER BAY P, Ontario

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ry Christmas Merry Christmas