

portable

# THE GAY & LESBIAN READER

## We're GLAD

by Alex Stone

Gays and Lesbians at Dalhousie (GLAD) are once again having a successful year. We have become known by other gay and lesbian organizations in the city as a hard-working, dedicated group devoted to promoting a social and a political atmosphere.

On the social level, our parties have been a good occasion to become better acquainted with people. On the political front, members have been assisting Lesbian and Gay Rights Nova Scotia with their lobbying efforts and helping to organize a fund-raiser with the N.S. Persons with AIDS Coalition. In addition, GLAD is now networking with students at Acadia University.

But GLAD is also a place for people who are coming out to meet people in a non-threatening environment who do not necessarily want to become politically involved. A bar can be a very difficult place to meet people and make friends. This is why alternative groups such as GLAD are important, for there is always a welcoming atmosphere and conversation.

GLAD is the only university-based organization in the metro area. In the unfortunate absence of organized groups on other metro campuses, GLAD welcomes non-Dalhousie students as well as any other interested members of the community.

So while the walk down the long corridor may seem to be filled with the unknown, Room 314 at the SUB is indeed a friendly place where you will soon be put at ease.

Upcoming GLAD meetings at 6:30 p.m. in room 314 of the SUB are on February 15th, March 1st, 15th, and 29th, and April 12th and 26th.

## Word Is Out

Every Tuesday night, with a clap of thunder and blinding light, CKDU 97.5 FM stops in its tracks. Why? Good question. Because it's time for *The Word is Out*, a half-hour tribute to radio excellence. Unique in the Atlantic region, *The Word is Out* broadcasts opinion, music, diatribe and cheesecake recipes from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. A bulletin board of current concerns, as well as a stone tablet of thoughtfulness, *The Word is Out* appraises the world from a privileged position, the Directors' chairs, reserved for lesbians and gay men, at the right hand of God (who is really much less judgemental than you've been led to believe).

Tuesdays at 5:30 pm. on CKDU 97.5 FM.  
*The Word Is Out*: transubstantial.

The following statement was read at the December 8th press conference at Henson College. The gathering was organized by the Women's Action Coalition of Nova Scotia in response to the shootings in Montreal on December 6th, 1989.

Lesbian and Gay Rights Nova Scotia want to express our grief and anger over the December 6th shooting of women engineering students at the Universite de Montreal.

We are all too familiar with violence directed against us, not because of anything we have done, but simply because of who

we are. Men go deliberately prowling for gay men to "bash", and lesbians are subject to battering and rape because we are perceived as a double threat to men — we are woman-identified women, and we do not "need" men. All anti-gay violence comes from the deep persistent hatred of women which permeates every corner of the culture we live in. Gay men become victims along with women because they are perceived to be questioning their "proper" role as men, scorning their higher male status, and therefore threatening those men whose sense of superiority comes from being male.

We grieve for the young women who died. We understand their killing as terrorism directed at all women and gay or effeminate men. It takes only one action of this sort, and the threat can be used thousands of times over to keep the rest of us "in our place".

We refuse to stay "in our place". We will do everything in our power to fight hatred, violence and discrimination in this society. We will not stop until we reach a time when all human beings are valued, along with all other life forms on the planet, for our intrinsic worth and unique place on earth.

by Julie Lewis

What is homophobia? Most of us don't have to be told; we've seen it, heard it, or felt it. It can be simply defined as an irrational fear and hatred of homosexuality in ourselves and in others. However, the root cause of homophobia is not so simple. While some may say people are afraid of anything "different", I believe it goes far beyond that. Homosexuality is perceived as a threat to the very basis of our North American society, the patriarchy. The patriarchal norm is male dominance/female submission. This phenomenon originates in sexual interactions between women and men and is the basis for a similar model in society at large. Thus the patriarchy is perpetuated by heterosexuality.

Homosexuality completely undermines this power foundation. Gay men are despised and ridiculed because they fail to do their "manly" duty and assert their "sexual superiority" over women. Further, they subject themselves and other men to a perceived position of submission which is a traditional women's role. Gay men have forfeited their patriarchal right to sexual domination over women and thus resist the social norm.

Lesbians are the ultimate threat to the patriarchy because our rejection of men at a sexual level frees us to reject male dominance at all levels of society. To

be woman-oriented is to withhold from men the reverence and power necessary to maintain the patriarchy. Society deals with the "threat" of lesbianism by denying our very existence. Lesbians are seen as rejects of the male world, rather than as individuals rejecting the male world. Our sexual existence is denied because sex is defined by the patriarchy in a phallic, penetrative sense. The same argument can't be used to deny the sexuality of gay men, but recognition falls short of acceptance. The patriarchy deals with the threat of homosexuality by despising it, invalidating it, and ridiculing it — and this constitutes homophobia.

Tongue in Chic  
BY CYNTHIA HEIMEL

