

Pride, a Deeper Love . . .

by J.

The Grad ZONE

Well, it's the dawn of a new year and the dawn of another set of resolutions and promises on the part of everyone on this slowly turning planet. The holidays were a much needed break (especially if your last exam was on the very last day), but it was also a time of pondering and soul-searching for me. You see, where "home" is, or more precisely my parents' home, the scene is not exactly conducive for gays, lesbians and bisexuals. The city's government has some very anti-homosexual/anti-bisexual leanings, and the general atmosphere is enough to send the most extreme queer into hiding. It

fears, hopes and aspirations with some people, simply because they don't know, or because they don't want to hear, much less think about issues that deal with a sexual orientation other than heterosexuality.

Yet, times are a-changing in the world, and a new year entails new problems, new ideas and new changes in our lives. Back home, several brave young men and women are coming out slowly, but determined; even more, some people are accepting and supporting who they are. In a national outlook, Justice Minister Allan Rock, is trying to put for-

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was a little bit harder for some, since some mem-

bers of the family don't yet know of their child's particular orientation. Aaaaannnd one rule of coming out which has some merit, is that one shouldn't come out during a holiday. Otherwise, whenever said holiday comes up, the people one came out to will always be reminded of that event. Anyway, I digress.

The situation was not really bad, when I was home for the holidays, but as some members of the gay/lesbian/bisexual community can attest to, it ain't easy being wholly yourself in an uncomfortable situation. For one thing, its difficult to try and talk about your life to some extent, to people who don't know your sexual orientation, or are against homosexuals and bisexuals. I tried to explain this to my sisters, who are supportive. But, they couldn't quite grasp what I was getting at. One even went so far as to tell me that I didn't need to be "myself", in terms of my sexual orientation, when I was at home. After all she said, my sexual orientation was not a necessary divulgence to certain social agents, such as my workplace. This, however, was not what I was trying to convey. When I mean trying to be myself, I don't mean being extreme in being queer, or behaving in an extravagant and flamboyant manner like the stereotypical perceptions of queerness. Sure these behaviours can be fun under certain situations, but they're not who I am. Instead, being able to be myself under many circumstances would mean being able to talk about things to my friends, family and so on, that relate in some way to the unique situation that many gays, lesbians and bisexuals find themselves in our society. As things stand right now, I can't really discuss some of my problems,

ward a legal proposition that would protect gays, lesbians and bisexuals from discrimination. Although several snags and obstacles have been encountered, people are beginning to openly talk about the current situation between the queer population and the rest of society. Closer to the employment scene, TD Bank has announced a spousal benefit plan for same-sex couples, joining the growing ranks of several worldwide businesses who are showing some support for the gay/lesbian/bisexual community. And in this day and age of wide media coverage on the television, newspaper, comic strips and theatre, just to name a few, more realistic portayals of homosexual and bisexual men and women are being sought out and encouraged.

Soooo...all in all, it hasn't been too bad. Last year was a major one for our community, this year promises to be similar and possibly even more eventful. This year, this column will be covering issues such as legal matters, human rights, the family and a host of other important issues. I look forward to them, and also to any feedback that people may have. If someone has any questions that they'd like some information on, they can contact the F.L.A.G. (Fredericton Lesbian And Gay) hotline at 457-2156, come to one of the UNB G.A.L.A. (Gays And Lesbians Association) meetings (time and location can also be found through the F.L.A.G. hotline), drop your questions/comments/suggestions in the G.A.L.A. mailbox in the Student Help Centre, or send one to the Brunswickan, Spectrum section under Pride, A Deeper Love... Until next time, have fun and Happy New Year.

Notice to Part-Time Graduate Students University of New Brunswick

It has come to the attention of The Graduate Student Association (GSA), that part-time graduate students are not being represented by any organization on either UNB campuses. The GSA would like to have the opportunity to represent you. We feel that your needs have been neglected for too long. The GSA deals with many issues that concern both full and part-time graduate students. We feel

house and a day care facility. Presently, part-time graduate students do not have representation at all levels of UNB's ad-

ate, and are currently lobbying for a seat on the Board of Governors. The GSA is considering a part-time

Graduate Student Association Response Form

- Yes, I am interested in joining the GSA
- No, I am not interested in joining the GSA

Comments:

that it is important for part-time students to have a collective voice in matters such as lobbying for a graduate

ministration. The GSA has representatives on the Executive Committee of the School of Graduate Studies and on Sen-

graduate student fee of \$20 (1/3 of fee). We are interested in your feedback. President GSA, Campus Mail.

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