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## Job discrimination hurts homosexuals

By ROSEMARY McCRACKEN

The conference of the Gay Alliance toward Equality (GATE), November 3, passed a motion to do whatever is possible to improve media coverage.

Three weeks ago the city of Toronto passed a resolution barring discrimination against homosexuals in job hiring.

Few people in Toronto know of this resolution because of a policy of The Toronto Star to print the least amount of gay news possible, the Gay Alliance says.

According to Don Brant, of GATE, a Star editor has claimed the Star represses coverage of gay affairs. Three stories on the three-week-old resolution were submitted, and all were blocked, Brant said.

According to The Body Politic, a gay liberation newspaper, both The Star and The Globe and Mail refused to carry a subscription advertisement last February for it.

The Star claimed, in a reply dated February 26 from Lionel Mahr, the director of marketing, it was not their policy "to carry advertisements relating to homosexuality." The Globe declined to give a reason for its refusal.

GATE members also said it is difficult to get evidence that an employer is discriminating against a homosexual, because they never give that as their reason.

GATE demands the extension to homosexuals of the same rights enjoyed by the "straight" world.

The Canadian Bill of Rights declares that human rights and fundamental freedoms have existed and shall continue to exist "without discrimination by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion, or sex." GATE demands that the term "or sexual orientation" be included in this list.

GATE also wants repeal of all antihomosexual laws. Under the Criminal Code, the terms "gross indecency" (sections 147 and 149) and "dangerous sexual offender" (sections 155 and 157) are used to indict homosexuals.

The Immigration Act bars immigration of homosexuals to Canada.

A current project of GATE, discussed at the conference, is its attempt to organize on a national level by means of the National Gay Election Coalition (NGEC) to raise the consciousness of people running in the next election. The possibility of openly running a gay candidate in the next federal election was mentioned.

Although homosexuals have only been organizing in the last 4 years, there are nine different gay liberation organizations in Toronto. But there is little co-operation among Toronto groups.

There is especially little communication between men and women in the gay liberation movement.

At Saturday's conference open to all Toronto gay organizations, out of a total of 25 participants only one was a woman. Rowena Hunnisett, of the Toronto Lesbian Collective, commented that "the structure of GATE is very sexist, very chauvinist."

"If we ask the public to repeal homosexual laws in general, they will think they apply to men and not to women. The repeal of gay laws doesn't include women having custody over their children, when they separate from a husband and live with a lover."

The York University Homophile Association (YUHA) stresses counselling university students about their sexuality, rather than the political goals of an organization like GATE.

The York group stresses the word "homophile" in its title, rather than "homosexual", in order to deemphasize the sexual nature of the counselling and to stress that the word "homophile" entails a larger sphere of involvement than just the sexual act.

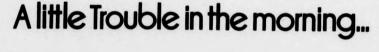
According to Jon Kaplan, one of the group's ten counselling volunteers, individual counselling is given to interested persons at Harbinger. A "consciousness raising group in which participants learn their situations are not unique is also available. The Homophile Association's office is also equipped with a thirty volume library on homosexuality.

Kaplan stresses the importance of counselling for students in the early years of university, when many people have fears about their sexual orientation.

The motto of YUHA is "people are human sexuals": counselling tries to dispell the fear an individual may have concerning his or her own sexuality.

Kaplan states "the purpose of any homophile organization is to put itself out of existence, by giving individuals a sense of their own worth."

YUHA's hours are from 11-2 and 7-10 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, room 214, Vanier Residence, 667-3632.





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