

Gay lib comes to Halifax

G.A.E. gives "liberation through pride"

by Marci Landry-Milton

The Gay Alliance for Equality (G.A.E.) formed last June has finally brought a "Gay Liberation Movement" to the "largest city east of Montreal," (Halifax).

Judging by the concrete work being done by this group, G.A.E. intends to achieve its aims of helping Gays with their own liberation problems as well as improving relations between the gay and straight communities.

G.A.E. is comprised of an executive of five, elected for a one-year term and a public relations officer. Half of the executive as well as the director of the Gay telephone line are female.

The major source of funding for G.A.E. is donations from both members of the group and others.

G.A.E. holds formal meetings every second Wednesday. They are open to the public and take

place in the Inglis Street Universalist Unitarian Church, which has donated its space for their purpose.

According to Nils Clauson, a Grad student at Dal and a member of G.A.E., "assistance of G.A.E. is largely a liberation through pride." He points out that members of the group "can feel pride in their homosexuality by taking part in meetings which increase the confidence of members through participation in activities with serious social and political aims."

G.A.E. has succeeded in establishing a referral, information and counselling service called Gay Line. Open Thursdays through to Sundays, it receives calls from 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Those answering the phones are volunteers, who have received the same training as Help Line counsellors. There is also a two-way exchange of

counselling advice between the Help and Gay Lines.

Although G.A.E. follows no political dogma as do some gay, militant groups in the U.S., it does have political goals by which the organization hopes to strengthen its position to deal with the community. For example discrimination against homosexual individuals, and communities is often felt in the loss of unemployment, housing accommodations and the refusal of rights of publication (advertising).

G.A.E. does not believe that homosexuality is a sickness nor a basis for the denial of basic rights. Their official stance is that "homosexuality is a natural and healthy expression of human sexuality."

A committee of three is presently drafting a 10-15 page brief to be brought to this session of the N.S. Legislature. It is aimed at the Human

Rights Act which currently allows discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

With the assistance of Dal Legal Aid G.A.E. intends to apply to the Provincial Government in September for its registration as a non-profit organization.

G.A.E., along with CHAT, a homophile association in Toronto, participated in the last federal election with some lobbying. A questionnaire designed to obtain candidate's stands on matters of interest to

homosexuals with circulated to all candidates. Response was extremely low. Stanfield made no reply. His stand may be summed up as: let the laws remain as they are.

G.A.E. is only eight months old. Its members often risk physical and personal loss by openly declaring their sexual orientation; although this has not yet happened in Halifax. Judging from its size and accomplishments in this "small town" G.A.E. is successfully fulfilling a need.

Soc. investigation begins

Procedure outlined

by Glenn Wanamaker

The Ombudsman's Office has outlined a procedure for its investigation of the disputes in the Sociology Anthropology Department. Assistant Ombudsman Terry Burke says the procedure simply calls for meetings with students and faculty.

A letter was sent early last week to the Department's Graduate Education Committee and to the Course Union. The Course Union has agreed to the procedure but the Committee has not yet indicated its approval.

The investigation was initiated by the Course Union in a January 19 resolution asking the Ombudsman to investigate

the legality and functioning of the Graduate Program, and charges of intimidation against Professor Dr. J.J. Mangalam.

The origins of the dispute lie in the apparent arbitrary imposition of a new "core program" for graduates. Dr. Mangalam recently resigned as Chairman of the Graduate Education Committee. It was under the direction of Mangalam and former Department Chairman Don Clairmont that the new program was instituted without any consultation with other faculty or students.

Burke says the investigation will report no later than the end of February.

Maritimes to form one education body

by Glenn Wanamaker

The three Maritime provincial governments have given their approval to the Council of Maritime Premiers to organize a single Higher Education Commission to build up a sound system of education.

The approval followed recommendations by two commissions studying high education in the Maritimes.

The concept of the single Commission is to make one group of interested citizens responsible for listening to the views of the professional educators, students, parents and the public-at-large concerning what would be "desirable" future developments in higher education.

The recommendation for a single commission was contained in a study by the Association of Atlantic Universities. A further study group was formed to review the needs for a region-wide policy. It reported:

"If there is a need for co-operation among educational institutions, there is just as important a need for the governments of the Maritime provinces to approach their policies toward higher education on a region-wide basis.

"It will make no sense at all for each province to try to be self-sufficient in every aspect of higher education. For a number of advanced, specialized and professional programs, the most likely result of such an

approach will be to create second- or third-rate schools which have very high costs in relation to the standards achieved."

The Commission will have the responsibility of advising the Council of Maritime Premiers, and though the Council, the provinces, of plans for the development of a comprehensive program. The Commission will consult closely with the provincial education ministers and with the institutions under its jurisdiction in all matters that affect them.

Because its emphasis will be on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the education system, the Commission will focus particularly on developing comprehensive plans. It will also concern itself with providing increased institutional specializations within the region.

Opportunities in higher education will be available to the French-speaking residents of the region. In addition, both the Commission and its staff will have capability to offer services in the French language.

Maritime universities and certain other institutions of high education will be brought within the jurisdiction of the new Commission at the outset.

The spheres in which the Commission will be asked to advise are: the future structure and development of higher education in the Maritime region; the support for new

programs or institutions; the desirability of terminating support for some existing programs; co-operation among the various institutions; the encouragement of regional centres of specialization; provision of access to educational services not available within the region; systems of student aid; and the definition of the institutions to be included within the new system.

It will be the responsibility of the Commission to make recommendations to the Council of Maritime Premiers, and through the Council, to the three provinces concerning the estimated expenditures called for by the approved programs of studies.

The membership of the Commission will represent various aspects of the public interest within the region. About one-third will come from the institutions (executive and faculty); the remainder will be drawn from among senior public officials and the public at large.

The three separate higher education agencies, including the University Grants Committee of Nova Scotia, will continue for about one more year. During the transition period, while the new Commission members prepare themselves for assuming their full responsibilities, it is expected that all these agencies will function in close co-operation with each other.

Jean Vanier

will speak on Peace & Poverty and man's approach to these

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Dalhousie Sunday Concert Series — Alfredo Campoli/violinist, Valerie Tryon/pianist. 3 p.m. Rebecca Cohn Auditorium Admission free.

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