

news

B-GLAD week: an unprecedented success

by Anthony Roberts

Dalhousie experienced its first ever B-GLAD! week, held October 5th to 11th. Filled with many events such as an art exhibition, lesbian and gay film nights, a talk on gay history, and a "Come Out" in the Grawood evening of music and dance, the event's success was a prelude to many other events B-GLAD! has planned for this upcoming year.

The art exhibition kicked off the week, featuring pieces that clearly

reflected the diversity of the lesbian, bisexual and gay community as well as the contribution this group has made to the world of art. Pieces included a hair box, made of textile woven of yarn and human hair, books, poetry readings and photography.

Gary Kinsman, of Acadia University, presented a lecture on "Towards a Queer History of Canada" on Tuesday. He pointed out the benefits of reflection and of realizing the importance of the past efforts of others in furthering the rights and goals of

queer people.

Wednesday was the lesbian film night and Thursday, the gay film night. The lesbian film, entitled *Leanna*, explored a woman's realization of her sexuality and the woman who helped her realize this aspect of herself.

Gay film night presented, among others, the movies, *Stop the Church* and *Boy's Life*. *Stop the Church* looked at an attempt to expose christianity as an oppressive force in our society. *Boy's Life*, a local film, explored the

intolerance and limited acceptability of the same sex relationships. The simple expression of affection, especially in public, which heterosexuals take for granted has quite a different impact on same sex relationships. To express affection between people of the same sex has attached to it many stigmas in our society.

The other movie viewed, based on a true story, showed that many are unconcerned with justice when a man with the same sex orientation is concerned. Flashing between real-

ism and the sublime, the movie points out the ridiculous view that justice is only for a limited few.

On Friday, the safe sex demonstration, directed at people of all sexual orientations, provided information and a live demo by Paul Ricciardi who works with the Aids Action Committee of Massachusetts. This information is vital to all people. Thus it was amazing the number of people who were reluctant to take pamphlets distributed at the demo.

AIDS is fast growing in the heterosexual community and worldwide AIDS infects this group more than any other. In North America women are becoming infected at an alarming rate, largely through heterosexual contact, while AIDS in men with the same sex orientation is on the decline. In 1992 the number of HIV positive heterosexuals in North America rose 5% while the number of HIV positive men with the same sex orientation fell 1% (stats from the Centre of Disease Control).

Saturday brought "Come Out" to the Grawood. Although attendance was limited, all those who took part (including my mother), enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Music kept people dancing and sweating until after midnight.

The week ended with a "Spiritual Soiree" to provide an alternative to organized religious events. The spiritual is not necessary for the maintenance of organized religion and a lot of people who call themselves christians do not allow for sexual orientation which is not predetermined and prescribed by the church.

The week's events were enthusiastically received by many. Future projects in the works include a "Homo Hop" and perhaps an outdoor activity. B-GLAD! meets every Thursday at 7:00 pm in room 307 of the SUB to provide support, friendship and political action.

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from eating there. Roberts says she is annoyed that Beaver is not doing its share.

"We would like them to compost," she says. Composting leftover food can reduce waste by as much as 30%, or more in a cafeteria.

David Woodford, one of the Union Market's two managers, attended a composting workshop two weeks ago. However, Beaver composts very little. Again, the problem is that adequate facilities for such an activity do not already exist. "You're looking at a tremendous amount of waste," says Cuvelier. At present it is dumped with the rest of Halifax's garbage in Sackville.

Neither Beaver nor the DSU would disclose the cost of the sign. However, when I called Anicom, the company who produced it, and asked for a cost estimate of a sign with the same qualities and dimensions, I was told that, "We just did a sign like that for Dalhousie, and it cost \$1592."

Sat. Oct. 24th, the

Grawood

presents:

Stevie Starr

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