

feature

Former glad to B – Glad

By P. Edwards

On Thursday, September 25, 1992, the Dalhousie community got a new Society with no extra charge when the Gay and Lesbian Association of Dalhousie voted to change its name to B-glad!, adding the extra letter for "bisexual".

G.L.A.D. had been in existence since 1972, representing twenty years of organized homosexuality at Dalhousie. Last year, the constitution of the Society was revamped in order to include bisexuals explicitly in the representation and objectives. The name change effectively makes official and up front an established policy within the group.

B-glad! is becoming a much more active Society of the DSU. A major

change occurred in March of 1992 when the students at the Annual General Meeting of the Dalhousie Student Union voted to add a seat on Council for G.L.A.D. Since then, members of B-glad! have been involved developing DSU events with the goal of sending an inclusive message to the community.

In many ways, the name change is symbolic of the re-evaluation of established ideas that is being carried out in various contexts. In the same way that sexist and heterosexist ideologies are re-examined and questioned, gays and lesbians are called upon to question their ideas about human sexuality, to question what kinds of exclusions may be practiced.

It is also indicative of a more general consciousness-raising on the part

of North American bisexuals who have been traditionally and unfairly excluded from both gay/lesbian communities and straight communities as "undecided".

Paul Ricciardi, a new student at Dal and a new member of B-glad! commented on the name change: "I was surprised when I arrived ... to find that the name didn't include 'bisexual'. I think that now more people should feel welcome and included. It can help some people in the evaluation of their own sexuality, too."

The objectives of the Society remain the same, with an emphasis on providing a safe, supportive and lesbian/bisexual/gay positive environment for members, and a determination to oppose all acts of anti-gay/lesbian/bisexual discrimination. B-glad! events to watch out for include B-glad week in October, and Pink Triangle Day in February. B-glad! also participates in the harassment watch-dog project of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia.

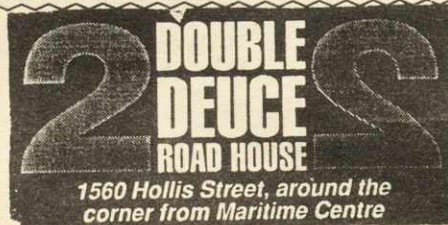
B-glad! can be reached through their mailbox at the Enquiry Desk of the Dal SUB, and the DSU-rep can be reached through Council offices on the second floor of the SUB. B-glad! meetings are at 7:00 p.m. in room 307 of the SUB.

PIRG Environmental Tips Of The Week

* For those of you who brush your teeth, and I'm sure most do at least some of the time, turn off the tap while you are scrubbing those pearly whites. So many people are in the habit of letting the water run for the duration of the event, and this wastes an incredible amount of water. Even if you do not pay for your water, changing this attitude of unlimited supply will help make it easier to acknowledge other wasteful habits that are more harmful.

* If you own a car, get into the habit of turning it off when you are parked. When you go to get the car filled up, turn it off the moment you pull in and don't turn it on again until the moment you have your change and are ready to leave. Attendants are often busy and having the car off while waiting for them can save 2-3 minutes of burning time.

In the winter, cars really don't need more than half a minute of warm - up, so don't start your car 5 - 10 minutes prior to leaving. It's a waste of gas, money, and it stinks up the neighbourhood.



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