

GLAD, Gays and Lesbians at Dalhousie, was re-established in February of 1987 after a nine-year hiatus. The group is open to students, staff and faculty at Dalhousie, as well as other interested members of the gay and lesbian community. GLAD meets every Thursday in room 314 of the Dal SUB at 6:30 p.m. and occasionally has such special events as coffeehouses, films, and speakers. A weekly listing indicating such events is included in the Calendar page of the Dalhousie Gazette.

The Word is Out! is Halifax's only gay and lesbian radio show. A project of GLAD, The Word is Out! can be heard every Monday evening at 5:45 p.m. on CKDU, 97.5 FM. Anyone is welcome to get involved in the production of the show. If you're interested in writing, announcing, or producing the show, come up

So what else is new?

## Gay cops face opposition from within

by Marion Brown

Homosexuality is not often reviewed in the criminological literature. However, it is an area of considerable interest in many other social spheres. Homosexuality has been a source of continual controversy and heated dispute. Since the term was coined in 1869 by Carolyn Berkert, homosexuality has been judged as a sin, an illness, a way of life, a normal variant of sexual behaviour, a crime; a result of having been "born that way", being oversexed or undersexed, having an excess or a deficiency of hormones; and many other variants (Haas and Haas, 1986). Historical accounts of societal

treatment of homosexual persons are abhorrent. The widespread belief that somehow these people are not human and therefore must not be treated as such has resulted in amazing ostracism, the foundation of which is still prominent today.

Homosexuality has long been regarded as a matter of social deviance. It is an issue which brings into question the standards upon which society bases its norms, and just where those outside this 'norm' stand in terms of social acceptance. In 1986, Attorney-General Ronald Giffin assured the police chiefs of the Atlantic region that police forces in Nova Scotia will not be

### Towards Androgyny

young men  
along St. Catherine's Street  
drive their jeans  
like Cadillacs  
through the horny summer haze

Robin Metcalfe

## Gay response to AIDS crisis positive

by William J. Ryan  
Community Counsellor,  
Metro Area Committee on  
AIDS

In numerous ways, gay responses to the AIDS crisis have been extraordinary, and generally unacknowledged by the public at large. Gays have generally carried out impressive community organization work in many centres across the country. They have established countless AIDS information, education and support groups. AIDS hospices are emerging. Gay institutions have mounted education campaigns and fundraisers. Heartening signs of new cohesiveness among gays themselves and among gays and lesbians are emerging. Symbols are being freshly claimed or reclaimed. New institutions are being erected. In some cases,

these developments have occurred in new and encouraging relationships with public health authorities.

But homophobia also understandably affects gay responses. Concealment of sexual orientation in an oppressive society is still a major phenomenon mitigating against organization and disease prevention. Government policies that mandate, indeed oblige, physicians to report the names of those who test antibody-positive to the Department of Health have been greeted by resistance and skepticism by most gays. Some have been open to public health initiatives, but many gays have grave apprehension at the thought of any governmental agency securing names of those who test positive. It simply sounds like an open incitation to future oppression. Even if health departments

number of other organizations. Anyone can get involved (including heterosexuals); attending four meetings makes you a voting member.

Some of the smaller organizations under the GAE umbrella are:

- \* Sparrow, Dignity, and Affirm, gay and lesbian Christian groups, serving the non-denominational, Catholic, and United Church communities respectively.
- \* The Speaker's Bureau, which

sends speakers out to represent GAE and the gay community at schools and informational sessions.

- \* The Civil Rights Committee, which deals with civil rights and infringements, including modifications to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

- \* Coming Forward, a lesbian support, discussion and social group.

- \* Live and Let Live, a gay Alcoholics Anonymous group.

- \* Gayline, a telephone line pro-

required to hire homosexual persons as police officers. Mr. Giffin added that he would, if necessary, enact legislation to allow the Nova Scotia Police Commission to fire any homosexual persons who might have been hired without revealing their sexual orientation (Halifax Chronicle Herald, July 10, 1986).

I would be completely opposed to any legislation or other enactment to compel the admission of homosexuals to any municipal police force in the province.... I honestly wonder if we aren't being carried away with individual rights. (The Globe and Mail, July 14, 1986)

Mr. Giffin reported that he would consider the sexual orientation of gays as grounds for dismissal under the province's Police Act. Further, if necessary, Nova Scotia would invoke Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to

exempt the province from any legislation that would force the hiring of gays as police officers (Halifax Chronicle Herald, July 16, 1986). By taking this stand, Mr. Giffin was asserting that homosexual persons have no place on Nova Scotia police forces, as they cannot be accepted as competent and effective police men and women. For Mr. Giffin, sexual orientation is at the root of this decision, the result being that only heterosexual orientation is allowed.

Mr. Giffin's comments reflect a pervasive and damaging belief that the rights and opportunities of gays and lesbians must be restricted solely because of the way they are sexually oriented. Mr. Giffin holds male or female sexual preference to be of utmost importance when regarding issues where, in reality, sexual orientation is irrelevant.

Concern for human rights and justice would suggest that discrimination on the basis of sex-

### car cleaner

in the green shade of the railway coach  
the car cleaner wrestles with reckless grace

from his open shirt  
a yellow t-shirt blossoms  
boasting of the sweet moss of his chest

he chases his work down dusty corridors  
the vacuum cleaner tugged along  
like an accomplice

as the silence closes after him I feel  
the cord  
a small bright snake  
against my heel

Robin Metcalfe

taken by the gay community.

It would be wonderful to think that our provincial government might allow anonymous testing for the AIDS antibody, allowing people to be confident that their results will be confidential; that our government might adopt legislation making it illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, recognizing and coming to terms with the impact of homophobia, discrimination and rejection that exist within

viding information, counselling, and referrals for gays and lesbians. Hours of operation are 7-10 pm. Thursday to Saturday. Gayline's number is 453-5773.

You can get information about any of these groups by calling GAE at 454-6551.

Metro Area Committee on AIDS is an organization providing information services on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. For more information, call 425-4882.

Red Herring Books on 1555 Granville Street is the only bookstore in town with a section devoted to lesbian and gay books. They can order books if they don't have what you're looking for. You can call to inquire about books at 422-5087. Red Herring is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday to Wednesday and Saturday, and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

ual orientation is not acceptable. Human rights legislation is a provincial issue and protection for homosexual persons under human rights legislation varies from one province to another. At present, homosexual persons are only protected in the Province of Quebec, Ontario, and Manitoba (N.S. Human Rights Commission). Although a guarantee against discrimination is not specifically included in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, many legal experts believe it is implicit in the charter's wording (Halifax Chronicle Herald, July 18, 1986).

To cite violations of these bills would at this point be both lengthy and redundant. For it does not take a particularly perceptive nor intuitive mind to realize that these measures have provided shallow and inconsistent support for the homosexual person. The set-up of present society is such that sex is

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