

GAY WOMEN PLAN MARRIAGE FIGHT

After watching much of the national publicity from the side lines, Milwaukee's gay community was recently singled out for a goodly share of national attention in its own right. The occasion was the announced marriage plans of two of the community's gay women. Not only are they women, but black as well, particulars which give their announcement great significance for the gay, black and straight communities.

On October 8th, Donna Burkett and Manonia Evans appeared before Milwaukee county clerk Thomas Zablocki to apply for a state marriage license. As expected, they were both refused permission to file an application after Zablocki obtained a written legal opinion from assistant county corporation counsel, John R. Devitt. Fully confident in their purpose and in their desire to have their ties of love recognized as a legal contract, Donna and Manonia countered by filing suit in Federal Court in Milwaukee on October 13th. The suit, seeking a court order to have Zablocki issue the license, charged that the denial deprived the two women of due process and equal protection of the law under the constitution. Regretfully, their suit was denied but an appeal was promptly filed by their attorney James C. Wood, the results of which are now pending.

The marriage is planned for Christmas Day in the ancient rite of the Holy Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church, in the witness of Father Joe Feldhausen of St. Nicholas' Orthodox Parish. Unfortu-

nately, Donna and Manonia are still seeking facilities in which to hold a ceremony of suitable size to accommodate the number of people they would like to invite.

Asked what obstacles they had to overcome, Manonia regretfully admitted that her father, a sectarian minister, is violently opposed to their union. This has presented Manonia with complications as it has forced her to quit her job with a city agency for fear of pressure from colleagues and her father, who also works in the same office. The refusal of a marriage license was the first major public obstacle, but not the first hurdle requiring determination and a complete commitment to their love.

Such determination comes as something of a surprise to people who know these women as two very

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Onge Speaks at G.P.U.

On Monday, October 18th, GPU was honored to have as its guest speaker, Jack Onge, well known author of **The Gay Liberation Movement**.

Speaking to an audience of some 75 persons, Onge quickly established his expertise on the subject of gay liberation with a thumbnail history of the movement since Ancient Greece. This background was then intergrated into an in-depth narration of gay liberation in the United States starting with the end of World War II. The extent of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

G.P.U. Speaks Out

The past month has been a profitable one for the gay community in terms of reaching and educating the public about our life styles and some of the problems facing us.

On September 30 eight representatives of G.P.U. traveled to Beloit, Wisconsin to present a seminar on homosexuality to the student body at Beloit College. Two women and two men from G.P.U. made a one hour formal presentation after which the audience split into groups and held an informal rap with our people until the college finally closed the union building for the night. The campus Women's lib group expressed an interest in having us back for a rap session with their organization in the near future.

Friday, October 8 found us at the ALPAC conference on homosexuality held at Concordia College. ALPAC (Association of Lutheran Physicians, Attorneys and Clergymen), a Missouri Synod Lutheran Organization, had refused Gay People's Union a place on their program. They presented a psychiatrist, Dr. Basil Jackson, Head of the Department of Psychiatry at Lutheran Hospital, Rev. Martin

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

N.O.W. CONVENTION ACCEPTS LESBIANS

Among the resolutions up for consideration at the fifth national convention of the National Organization For Women (NOW) was a crucial one dealing with lesbianism. The members of the convention, held over the Labor Day weekend in Los Angeles, had decided to come to terms with this volatile issue—long a thorn in the side of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

EDITORIAL

Recently, several people have been critical of Gay People's Union for emphasizing public speaking engagements, while the radio program has been criticized as too educational and seldom entertaining. Even this newspaper has been attacked with the same "stuffed shirt" ammunition. Every effort to date has met with criticism from one quarter or another and yet there are still people within the organization who refuse to strike their colors, but instead work even harder to improve their contributions in each of these areas.

If these few critics are a true indication of popular opinion, then something is definitely off course. We don't think they are.

Unfortunately, what G.P.U. has received has been back-biting and not constructive criticism. Many of the criticisms were raised by the staff itself, but for one reason or another, it was unable to act on them. Too few have done too much for too long, resulting in the literal "burning out" of a number of workers. It's nothing short of cowardice to watch others carry the burden and then throw stones from the sidelines.

This is not a defense of obvious shortcomings. It's an explanation of conditions and facts which too many people are unaware of. We know that all the projects of G.P.U. could be improved, but this is what makes the tasks challenging. Yes, we can see where more social activities could be scheduled; where more humor could be used on the radio show; and where the newspaper could carry lighter material. However, it's a bit much to ask for just one or two people to do the work of five or ten. The fewer that step forward to offer their talents and time, the heavier the load for the really committed individuals. We suspect that the people who are throwing stones are also the ones who gleefully volunteer for projects at meetings, and then make them-

selves mysteriously unavailable when everyone sits down to do the actual work necessary to make our idea a reality.

Leadership can't be forced on people who are unwilling to accept its responsibilities. There are too many people who want to enjoy the rewards without making the sacrifices which are mandatory in bringing a particular event off. Therefore, a few individuals have emerged as somewhat dominant in the organization. It's not that these people have forced themselves into these positions; it's just an absence of determination on the part of the membership at large. How long do we have to beg for help — for someone to share the burdens of leadership? We need your ideas, time, talents, and determination. But this takes patience, self-control, objectivity, and in short, maturity. So let's see if we can have a little more maturity and a lot less stone throwing.



G.P.U. NEWS is published by the GAY PEOPLES UNION of Milwaukee, P.O. Box 90530, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202.

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If you wish to place an ad in future issues, write to us at the above address for rates and information.

If you want counseling about a homosexual problem or would like to have a speaker on the subject for your group, contact us at the above address.

Yours in Liberation,
THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

COMING SOON:
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G.P.U. OCTOBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Gay Peoples Union accomplished the following during October:

- *Spoke to student forum at Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin.
- *Spoke to Lutheran Professionals at ALPAC Conference
- *Spoke to Carroll College, Waukesha, Wisconsin, Sociology Club
- *Were guests on 3 hour open telephone line program, radio station WRIT
- *Presented author Jack Onge as meeting speaker with films
- *Continued Gay Perspective Radio Program Weekly
- *Representative of G.P.U. talked with Senators Nelson and Proxmire regarding gay rights
- *Continued correspondence with other gay lib groups
- *Counseled people with problems
- *Corresponded with Representative Lloyd Barbee concerning Wisconsin legislation
- *Continued monthly newsletter
- *Continued two conscience/raising —encounter groups

BREAKING INTO PRINT

It has recently been discovered that Prentice-Hall Publishing Co. has put into print a soft cover edition of Wainwright Churchill's excellent book **Homosexual Behavior Among Males**. Probably no other work goes into such depth or answers as many questions directly as does this book. Yet, while written in a scholarly fashion, the average high school student would not only find it informative, but entertaining and thought provoking. For any gay wishing to get a better understanding of himself and the gay community, Churchill's **Homosexual Behavior Among Males** is a must.



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MARRIAGE cont. from pg. 1

retiring individuals who have suddenly found their love a subject of public controversy. An informal dignity is the only indication of the deep maturity which has stood as the solid foundation of their love for each other.

"The law should protect us and help us the way it does any two straight people who love each other and want to live together," Donna explained. "That's our civil rights; that's what this is all about."

Although it was not their original goal, Manonia and Donna now feel that their fight is also the battle of the gay community; the right of all gay people to express their love in full dignified freedom and to build on that love in their years ahead. A current assembly bill, No. 1410, before the Committee on Judiciary, introduced by Rep. Lloyd Barbee, seeks to aid their plight by amending section 245.01 of the state marriage law to permit marriage between members of the same sex. Hopefully, this bill will pass in time to meet Donna and Manonia at the altar.



MILWAUKEE JOURNAL PHOTO

Manonia Evans, 21, (left) and Donna Burkett, 25

These two lovers are definitely set on a Christmas Day marriage. Says Manonia, "You can't stop love."



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AUCTION DATE SET

Where are you going on the afternoon of Sunday, November 21? Why not drop in at the basement of the Church for all People at 21st and Highland around 2 P.M. when G.P.U. will be holding its benefit auction? You just might be able to pick up (hmm!) that item you have always wanted but never could find.

Speaking of items — many of the items that will be up for auction consist of high camp articles donated by friends of G.P.U., including a campy poster of Queen Victoria with the caption "Even A Queen Can Get the Clap." More serious articles are included also, but if you're looking for a rare Rembrandt, forget it! By the way, G.P.U. could still use more donations of things to auction. Look around in your closet and bring the items you wish to donate to our regular weekly meeting. Who knows — a rare Rembrandt?

Because of the laws in Milwaukee governing public auctions, we cannot hold the event at the G.P. Lounge as we previously planned. M.C.C. Church arranged with the Church For All People for us to use the church basement immediately following their regular Sunday 1 P.M. service in the sanctuary. Many people are planning to attend both the service and the auction. Tell your friends and come one and all to G.P.U.'s first benefit auction. For more information call 271-2998.

Panhellenic



*They, with their lacy collars
And their demure little smiles
Dare to damn me!*

*Nonentities! Paramecians!
They wiggle through life,
Never fostering a single original idea.
They sit at long banquet tables
feasting on the carcasses of humanity,
Burping behind damask table napkins,
Nodding their heads in affirmant.
Ostracized I stand --
But I do stand.*

Jackie

SPECIAL EVENTS SPARK BAR SCENE

Milwaukee's night life has improved recently with our bars going out of their way to explore new ideas to make night life more attractive. Interestingly enough several establishments are co-operating with each other by putting up posters advertising the special events of their competitors.

Of course, during the month of October everyone looks forward to the Halloween drag competition. This year's events included a competition at each of several bars to select a "Miss Milwaukee" contestant to represent the bar in a "Miss Milwaukee" contest. The River Queen had its contest on Wednesday the 27th offering \$150 in prizes. The Castaways had their contest on Thursday, and on Saturday the 30th the "Miss Milwaukee" contest, which included hold over winners from last year at other bars, was held at the Castaways. "Miss Milwaukee" won an expense paid trip to Chicago to enter the large October 31 contest there. Unfortunately this paper goes to press too early for us to inform our readers of the winners of these events.

The Stud bar held a large birthday party featuring free beer on Tuesday October 26 in honor of their manager Chuck. The Stud also plans to have a live band one weekend in November. Watch for their posters.

The Castaways in co-operation with the Knight Owl restaurant had

a Monday evening special called "Food and Flicks". An elegant buffet dinner was served at 6:30 and the film "East of Eden" was shown at 8 P.M. for a very reasonable price. On Monday November 8 they will repeat "Food and Flicks", this time showing "Bye, Bye, Birdie" and GPU News has been told that the buffet will be as sumptuous as the last one which was indeed a fine repast.

G.P.U. News is pleased with these developments and we ask our readers to support these special events. We also hope that other establishments will follow suit and sponsor events of their own. G.P.U. News will be glad to announce special events free of charge in our calendar when we have been notified and when firm dates have been established before our news deadline.

*The laws of God, The laws of man,
He may keep that will and can;
Not I: Let God and man decree
Laws for themselves and not for me;
And if my ways are not as theirs
Let them mind their own affairs.
Their deeds I judge and much condemn,
Yet when did I make laws for them?
Please yourselves, say I, and they
Need only look the other way.
But no, they will not; they must still
Wrest their neighbors to their will
And make me dance as they desire
With jail and gallows and hell-fire.
And how am I to face the odds
Of mans bedevilment and God's?*

*I, a stranger and afraid
In a world I never made.
They will be master, right or wrong;
Though both are foolish, both are strong
And since my soul, we cannot fly
To Saturn nor to Mercury,
Keep we must if keep we can,
These foreign laws of God and man.*

A. E. Housman

N.O.W. - from pg. 1

feminism.

Although NOW is the oldest of the new feminist groups, the resolution acknowledging "oppression of lesbians as a legitimate concern of feminism" had been given little chance of endorsement by the general membership. It was submitted by the Los Angeles chapter where it had been passed as a chapter resolution in April by only three votes. A chapter committee then worked out an excellent position paper which was submitted in conjunction with the resolution at the convention workshop on Lesbianism, Human Sexuality and Feminism.

Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, charter members of Daughters of Bilitis, pioneering lesbian organization, presented the resolution and position paper to the convention.

Though the resolution's backers were optimistic, opposition was

anticipated. The Los Angeles Times played up to this by quoting Betty Friedan (founder of NOW): "It's a divisive, irrelevant issue and the red herring of the women's movement." But Aileen Hernandez, outgoing president, in her opening speech countered by asserting that NOW would not tolerate diversion from its main goals by this issue as defined by the press. In addition, the position paper argued forcefully and eloquently that lesbianism is very much a concern of feminism. Lesbians, because both female and homosexual, have been doubly oppressed—by a sexist society and by all those male and female, who consider homosexuality a sick and loathsome deviation from the norm. Moreover, lesbian-baiting, calling women the worst thing conceivable—lesbian, has proved very costly, whether the intended put-down came from within the movement (as it frequently did), or without. The ultimate endorsement of the resolution by the entire membership constitutes a great step forward toward

full acceptance of the lesbian by society at large. Surely the courageous passage of this resolution and the position paper which came to be incorporated in it will long stand to the credit of NOW, that strange hybrid among feminist groups—a "middle class/radical" organization.

QQ

QQ Magazine (formerly Queens Quarterly) has announced the publication of a new magazine to alternate every other month with the current publication. Entitled **Body**, the new magazine will be more pictorial and less literary than its counterpart, which has gone to exclusively subscription distribution at an unusually reasonable rate of \$1.33 per issue. Following in a respectable tradition, **Body** promises to make an important contribution to gay literature. Both magazines are written for the gay male.

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G.P.U. Speaks Out

Bengert of Peace Church, New Berlin, and Judge Herbert Steffes.

The psychiatrist's report was factual and well presented, but although the pastor cited 13 Bible passages trying to prove homosexu-

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ality a sin several theologians in the audience were in disagreement. Perhaps the worst presentation of the evening was that of Judge Steffes, who after sleeping quietly in a corner during the previous

speeches, awoke to expound on everything from sex with animals to child molestation but said almost nothing about homosexuality except that he was against it. The judge has a long record of anti-homosexual decisions from the bench.

During the discussion period which followed, the approximately 14 gay people scattered throughout the audience proceeded point by point to refute almost everything said in the program. Our first point was to take the conference to task for excluding gays from the platform. The audience, for the most part, was eager to hear from us and receptive to our remarks. Indeed, one pastor said that he would have preferred hearing from us instead of the speakers.

On Tuesday, October 12 three G.P.U. people presented a panel discussion at Carroll College in Waukesha before about 150 members of the Sociology Club. Open rap continued until the doors of the building were closed at 9:30. A kindly professor opened the doors of a fraternity house and about half of the students continued to rap until about 11 PM when G.P.U. people had to bring the discussion to a close so that they could get back to Milwaukee. It was remarked that this event was the first one of its kind to have both the Dean of Men and the Dean of Women in the audience.

On Sunday, October 24 four G.P.U. members participated in a three hour open telephone radio program on station WRIT. A full report on this program and another planned for November 12 on station WEMP from 10 PM to 1 AM will appear in our next issue.

Obviously the public is finally being exposed to the gay people but what is more important is the fact that our gay Brothers and Sisters are coming out of their closets and standing before the public to tell it like it is. We welcome anyone who has found this freedom within themselves to join us in presenting our public speaking engagements.



Homosexuality in the Media

- *"Milwaukee Journal" (Oct. 12, 1971) Article: As I See it-Women's Lib
- *"Milwaukee Sentinel" (Oct. 13, 1971) Part 1, pg. 8 Article with photo: Women Ask To Wed
- *"Time Magazine" (Oct 24, 1971)
- *Book Reviews: **Albergo Empedocle And Other Writings by E.M. For-ester**
- *"Badger Luthern" (Oct. 14, 1971) Article: Gay People Criticize **ALPAC** Forum
- *"Saturday Review" (Oct. 16, 1971) pg. 39 Book Review: From Snobbery To Love - Review of For-ester's Books
- *"Redbook" (Nov. 1971) pg. 84 Article: When Women Love Other Women
- *"Ramparts" (Oct. 1971) pg. 60 Article: Culture, Counter Culture, Charles Peirce Female Impersonator As Culture Hero(ine)
- *"Atlantic Monthly" (Nov. 1971) Book Review: A Queer Business - Review of **Maurice**
- *"Milwaukee Journal" (Oct. 13, 1971) Part 2, pg. 8 Article: N.O. W. Criticizes Tavern Advertisement As Sexist
- *"Milwaukee Journal" (Oct. 13, 1971) Part 2, pg. 5 Photo: Two Women Want To Wed
- *"Milwaukee Journal" (Oct. 13, 1971) Part 1, pg. 11 Article: Magazines On Lesbians Ruled Ob-scene

ONGE cont. from pg. 1

his knowledge of early organiza-tions like Sir, One, and Mattachine, was truly impressive as he related their struggles in the courts to establish the legal foundation which many now take for granted.

The major portion of Onge's talk dealt with the movement since the Stonewall Riot of 1969, a period contemporary with the young au-dience. Tracing this phase, called "radical-political", in major Amer-ican cities, Onge made contrasts and comparisons in the activities of the different metropolitan groups and gave a brief outline of their respective histories. The talk was then concluded with a current summary of plans and projects with-in gay liberation, after which the floor was opened to a stimulating question and answer period.

Asked if he could project or predict a new phase in the develop-ment of the gay liberation move-ment, Onge replied that no consist-ent pattern had been established throughout the nation to support any one trend. However, Onge pointed out that in many cities, groups have

formed, split, splintered, died out and later reorganized, usually around a particular event or individ-ual. If anything could be called a trend, he added, it would be that these new organizations are taking a "middle-of-the-road" political approach, rejecting both the conser-vative and radical elements within the gay community.

While Onge was very informative, it was felt by many that his presen-tation would have been more enter-taining had he modified his lecture style, a carryover undoubtedly from his years of teaching, to one more suited to general public speaking. However, this did not obscure the fact that he gave everyone present a deeper understanding of his herit-age as a gay American. Onge's talk was preceded by two films, "Gay and Proud" dealing with the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riot, and "The Second Largest Minority." Both movies provided important background information for Onge's presentation.

Mr. Onge is a Ph. D. candidate at Notre Dame and has taught for five years at the Central Y.M.C.A. College in Chicago. He has also traveled widely throughout the world. His book **The Gay Libera-tion Movement**, published by Alli-ance Press, is available in paper-back through GPU for \$1.50.

*"Advocate Newspaper" (Oct. 12, 1971) pg. 1 Article: Connecticut Law Takes Effect Oct. 1

*"Book"; **Masochism** by Gilles Deleuze with Sacher-Masoch's complete "Venus In Furs", George Braziller Inc. publisher 1971

*"Book"; **The Days Of Death**, Novel by John Rechy 1970. Now in paperback edition.

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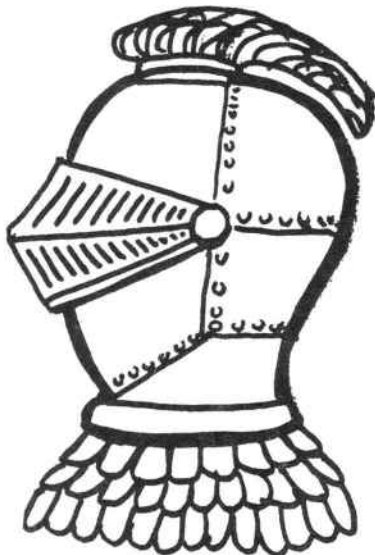
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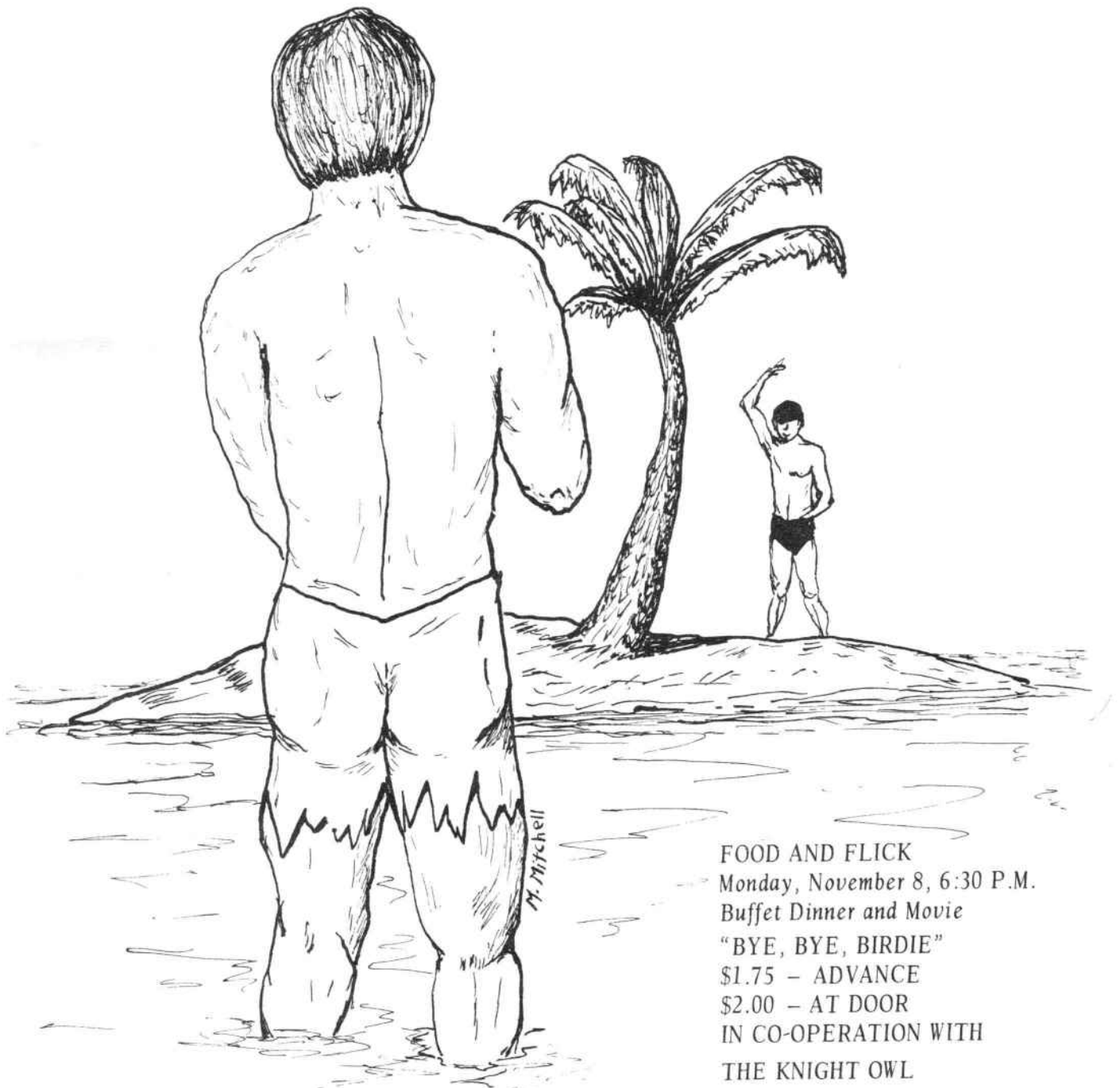
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Castaways

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FOOD AND FLICK
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WANTED - volunteers to help in the publication of this newspaper. Apply to G.P.U. meetings - only salary is sense of accomplishment.



CALENDAR

MONDAYS - 8:00 P.M. Regular Meetings at Eastside Community Center, 915 East Ogden

TUESDAYS - 8:00 P.M. Work-Rap Sessions at 1155 N. 21st Street

THURSDAYS - 8:30 P.M. Gay Perspective Radio Program WUWM 89.7 F.M.

SATURDAYS - Noon Mass at St. Nicholas Parish, 1155 N. 21st St.

SUNDAYS - 1:00 P.M. Worship Service of Metropolitan Community Church, Prince of Peace Parish at corner of 21st and Highland Streets

SUNDAYS - 9:00 P.M. Mass at St.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, November 12 - 3 hour open telephone line radio appearance - station WEMP (1250 AM) 10 PM till 1 AM.

Monday, November 15 - Special speaker at regular Monday meeting.

Friday, Saturday November 19 & 20 FILM "The Queen"; see Billy B. Shears ad.

Sunday, November 21 - G.P.U. Benefit Auction - see article page 6.

VIP

Alyn Hess, a landscape architect, who has spent countless untiring hours to actively foster, plan, lead and carry out various events of G.P.U., recently left for Scranton, Pa. where he has accepted a position with an architectural firm. Most, if not all, of G.P.U.'s recent accomplishments have been carried out with the marvelously wonderful help of this gentleman who has always been very pleasant and witty, no matter what the time or place.

The editorial staff of G.P.U. News and everyone connected with the organization would like to say "Thanks" and "Good Luck" to a wonderful person who has helped us all so very much.

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