

gpu news

GAY PEOPLES UNION / MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN / APRIL 1973



AFTER FIRE : BUFFALO SEEKS NEW CENTER

Buffalo, N.Y.--Fire swept through the new Gay Services Center, 267 W. Utica Street in Buffalo, N.Y. at about 6:30 P.M. on Friday, March 23. The building, which housed several businesses including a branch of the Marine Midland Bank on the first floor, was totally destroyed. Sharing the second floor with a ballet studio, The Gay Services Center had been opened

only about six weeks before by Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier. (M.S.N.F.)

In an interview with G.P.U. NEWS, Ms. Madeline Davis, past president of M.S.N.F., said that Mattachine had spent several months in the search for space to rent for the center. It had been furnished with great effort and

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NORTH DAKOTA LAW CHANGED

Bismark, N.D.--In a sweeping revision of the state's entire criminal code, the North Dakota legislature has voted to repeal the laws forbidding sex between consenting adults over 18. The revisions came after an eighteen month study and represented North Dakota's first overhaul of the criminal code since becoming a state in 1889.

According to John Graham, assistant director of the Legislative Council, the new legal code will not be effective until July 1, 1975 "to provide plenty of time for the 1975 legislature to reconsider anything, if it wishes."

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DENVER GROUPS FIGHT POLICE

Denver, Colo.--The Denver vice squad has evidently started a witch hunt in the gay community of this city. In the peak of the summer cruising season gay related arrests usually number no more than 60-70 per month, but in a recent two week period more than 100 arrests were made in Denver bars, parks, and on the streets.

The police evidently made use of a former New York police officer and his entrapment methods which included the use of a private bus--dubbed "The Johnny Cash Special"--with vice officers in the back. After parking the bus in a known gay cruising area, the driver invited gays aboard suggesting sex in a "more secluded place." Arrests by the hidden officers quickly followed.

In 1971 Colorado's legislature, in revising its criminal code, removed all sanctions from consenting adult homosexual acts in private, but included a new law

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editorial

BACKLASH OR CONTINUING OPPRESSION?

In the news this month is the appearance of anti-gay lib people who have burned down the gay center in Buffalo and of police who have entrapped people in Denver. The March issue of G.P.U. NEWS reported a fire at Metropolitan Community Church in Los Angeles. About a year ago the community center belonging to Society for Individual Rights burned in San Francisco. All around the country police continually harass gay people with trumped up charges, usually minor misdemeanor charges, but sometimes more serious ones are manufactured.

Here in Milwaukee the police are not as blatantly bad as in other cities (Denver, Chicago, Los Angeles and New Orleans come to mind at once), but they do their share to make things uncomfortable for us. G.P.U. has one faithful crank correspondent who writes us several unsigned hate letters each week and our phone service averages one crank call a day. Our sickie letter writer even managed to get one of his letters published in the un-

suspecting Milwaukee Journal on March 23.

Is all this really anti-gay backlash? Does the law of physics that says that for every force there is an equal and opposite reaction apply to social situations too? Or, are we just seeing more of the continuing oppression? It would seem to us that backlash would tend to be actions prompted by established groups directed toward lib groups rather than individuals acting for their own self motives whatever they may be. What we are seeing is the same sort of generalized anti-gay feeling that has existed for a long time. Call it backlash, call it oppression; whatever you call it, it is nothing new to us as individuals. Gay groups, because they are visible and outspoken offer good targets to those who give vent to the old, oppressive, hateful attitudes.

The letter to the Journal is a good example of reaction to our efforts for progress. The writer replied to Pastor Cain's article supporting equal employment opportunities for gays. Pastor Cain feels that one is not really into effective social change until you can generate strong feelings in people when they fear your ideas strongly enough to write hate letters, then you know that you are getting your ideas across. Fortunately the illogical haters are few in number and never have stopped real social change for almost everyone can see their hate for the self-destructive thing that it is.

Lest too much attention be focused on anti-gay backlash, let's put what we are experiencing in the general context of society. Our phone committee recently met with thirty other hot line groups (all straight, but many anti-establishment) and found that all the hot lines get nearly the same percentage of harassment calls that we do. Fire does hit straight institutions too, but doesn't it seem to hit gays more often? We really don't know without insurance statistics. Since many gay groups are forced to locate in rather old buildings which are more fire prone we may be merely observing the consequences of lack of fire

resistance.

When viewed from a general perspective, we here in Milwaukee are not experiencing any significant backlash aside from a few crank calls and letters. If backlash begins to get out of hand we are prepared to take whatever action necessary to stop it. We know that the entire gay community will support us.

feedback

Dear Editor:

We have been thinking about the article reporting the birth of a boy to a gay male couple in northern Wisconsin in the January issue of G.P.U. News. It has subsequently been rumored that all is not square in that household. Dr. Outhouse is quoted as saying, "If Harold Pigwhistle had been a liberated mother, he would have given little Gaylord his own name and not mine. It was a really shitty thing that he did."

We are concerned that such a bitchy penal home life might lead little Gaylord to become addicted to perversion. That innocent child, who may not be so innocent having come from such a mating, will need all the maternal care he can get.

Yet how could Harold make a proper 'Mother' for him when he is working all day? What with jacking all those big timers, handling their limbs and finally making all those studs in the mill, wouldn't Harold just be too fagged out to be able to take care of his baby's dirty little rear end, to say nothing of his husband's?

Gaylord will probably suffer from a lack of proper breast feeding and, needing something to suckle, will turn to other ends, such as reciting those nursery rhymes his parents teach him:

Hickory Dickery Dock,
Two gays ran up the clock.
The clock struck one,
But the liberated one hit
back with his shoulder bag.

Now I ask you, "Is that a way to raise a gay or not?"

Yours in maryment,
Ima Palled and Morty Fide

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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,

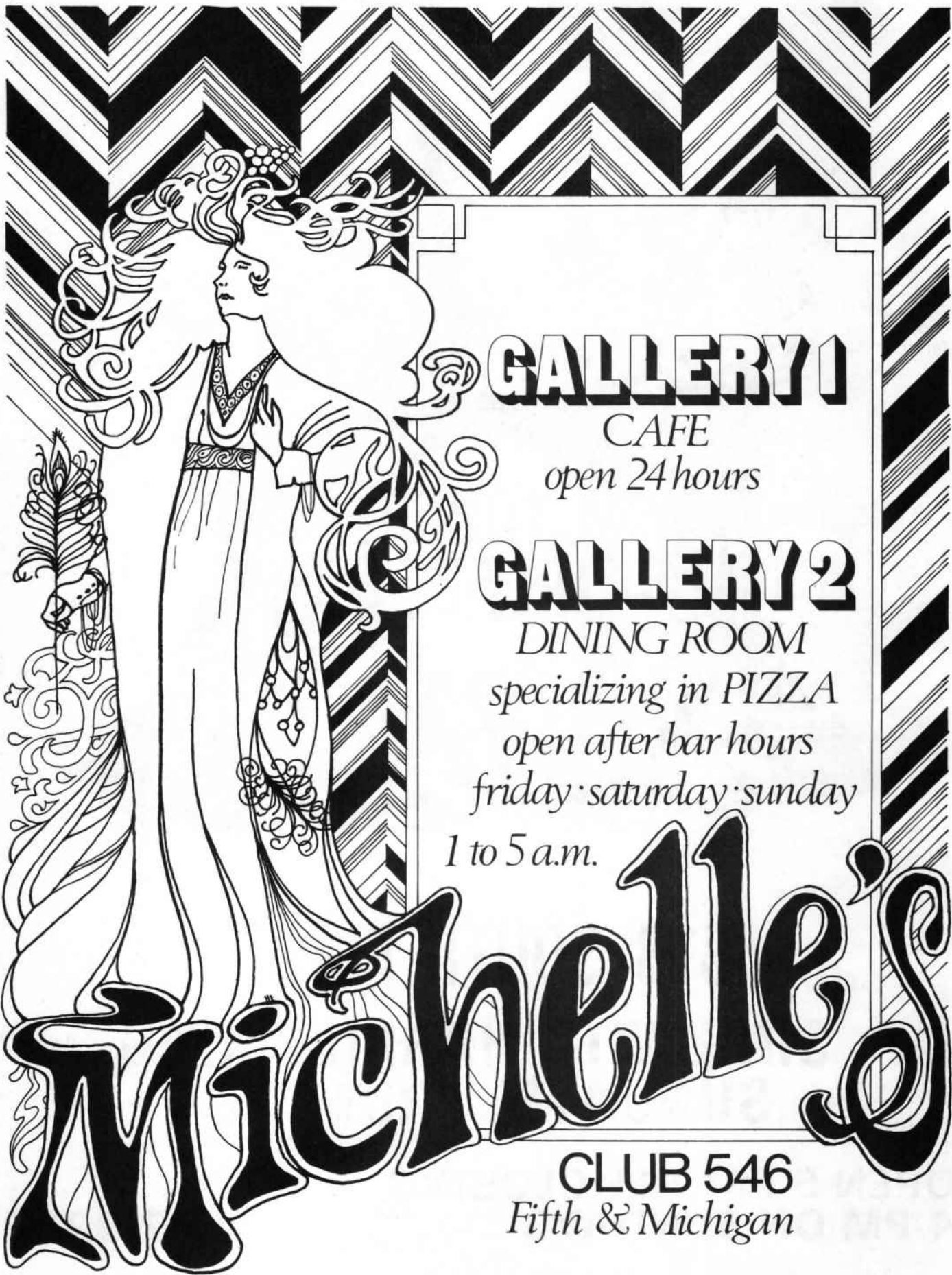
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Female Homosexuality and Feminism: A Reevaluation Part 2

BY DONNA MARTIN

Let us now move on to the other important claim made in lesbian apologetics for serious feminist attention -- namely, lesbianism as an alternative to suffocating straight relationships. Here are some pertinent remarks of Ms. Bunch and Ms. Brown from their article "What every lesbian should know" in the lesbian/feminist issue of *Motive* magazine (v. 32, no.1, 1972).

We say that a lesbian is a woman whose sense of self and energies, including sexual energies, center around women -- she is woman identified. . . The lesbian, woman-identified-woman, commits herself to women not only as an alternative to oppressive male/female relationships but primarily because she loves women. Whether consciously or not, by her action, the lesbian has recognized that giving support and love to men over women perpetuates the system that oppresses her. . . When women give primary energies to other women, it is possible to concentrate fully on building a movement for our liberation.

Now there are some really insightful and provocative ideas presented in this representative passage. But it is also a prime example of the use of faulty premises and unwarranted conclusions in the service of an unrealistic bias. Let us try to disentangle this complex argument, pointing out its truths as well as its serious flaws.

As this selection suggests, and as the whole article overwhelmingly confirms, the major interest of these co-authors is to enlist undifuted energy for the campaign against sexist privilege. As they succinctly put it elsewhere, "Lesbianism is the key to liberation and only women who cut their ties to male privilege can be trusted to remain serious in the struggle against male dominance."

With out a doubt this is a serious problem for many straight feminists. Clearly, combatants with divided allegiances will experience threats to the single-mindedness

of their devotion. But it is simpleminded to suggest that there is a single solution -- which is that they become lesbians, because it just ain't going to happen!

What Ms. Bunch and Ms. Brown ignore are some basic sexual facts of life. Freud may very well not be the last word on the subject, but so far no one has come up with a better theory of the pattern of sexual preference. He posited a spectrum at either end of which are the purely heterosexual and homosexual individuals, while the large area in between is occupied by the majority who evidence varying combinations of both. That means that a minority of people is either entirely gay or straight, but that most of us are bisexual, though generally with a tendency toward one or the other extreme. Kinsey's data moves toward confirmation of Freud's scheme in his revelations, shocking to many at the time, of the surprisingly high incidence of homosexual activity in the American population.

The implications of all this for the argument of our radical lesbian authors is clear. Simply because enlistment of large numbers of unsullied allegiances to the feminist cause would be a tremendous boon does not mean that it is a realistic expectation. Nor, as others also advocate, because lesbianism is an option for relationships of equality in place of oppressive male/female ones, will straight women come out in droves. It may be somewhat helpful to use as an analogy people who know that exercise would be really good for them, but who simply can't struggle out of that comfortable chair in front of the TV set, or of shy people who are miserable in their friendlessness, but can't force themselves to expose their fragile egos to the trauma of social contact. Action against such ingrained biases, whether genetic or conditioned, is just not likely,

however desirable it might be.

Nonetheless, though it is patently clear that no mass migration to the lesbian camp is in sight, these authors and others do suggest a way in which lesbians within the movement can serve to raise female consciousness. They offer an option to some women which can be both liberating and painful.

Working from the hypotheses that most of us reside in that large territory between the poles of exclusive hetero- and homosexuality, it would seem to follow that for some women lesbianism could be the answer to the search, constantly frustrated for them, for a truly fulfilling life. This is because there is good reason to believe that since overt lesbians appear to be significantly outnumbered by their gay brothers, there are many women in every class and condition who would be far happier relating intimately to a woman than to a man. Gene Damon, former editor of the now defunct lesbian magazine, *The Ladder*, alludes to this group who have been frightened from full acceptance of themselves when she refers to

the women who make up the sea of lifelong spinsters, whose outward mannerisms and behavior quite rightly lead to erroneous assumptions that they are sexless beings.

The root cause of this flight from authenticity lies in a particular feature of homosexuality, unique among the various social stigma -- namely, that unlike skin color, or sex, or infirmity, it is not immediately obvious, either to homosexuals themselves or others. And as Dennis Altman says in *Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation*, this has important consequences.

We have to discover our homosexuality, and having discovered it, we have a wide range of options, hardly available to others who are stigmatized, as to how far we should reveal our stigma.

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Dakota

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It is expected that Governor John Link will sign the bills, making North Dakota the eighth state in which homosexual acts in private are no longer illegal.

Consenting adult laws are now in effect in Illinois, Connecticut, Colorado, Oregon and Hawaii. Delaware's new law took effect on April 1, 1973 and Ohio's newly passed law will not become effective until January 1, 1974. Idaho passed similar laws in 1971, but later returned the old laws regarding sexual activity.

Under the new code, anyone having sex in a public place or any adult having sex with a minor (under 18) still breaks the law and can be punished with up to one year's imprisonment or \$1,000 fine. "Loitering for the purpose of soliciting acts and soliciting same" is also illegal with a penalty of 30 days or \$500 fine. A similar provision in Colorado's law has recently been ruled unconstitutional. Consenting sodomy between minors is also outlawed with the same penalty as that for loitering.

What is most interesting to those deeply involved in the movement for legal reform is the fact that the bill was quietly passed with not adverse testimony and apparently no opposition in what is considered to be a very conservative state. (North Dakota just defeated the proposed women's rights amendment to the U.S. Constitution and turned down a liberal abortion bill. In addition, the same legislative package that reforms the sex laws makes it illegal for anyone under 18 to smoke cigarettes.) Another interesting sidelight is that the bill did not receive the support of any gay group or for that matter any gay person. G.P.U. NEWS would like to point out, however, that our records indicate that North Dakota does not have a single gay liberation group. As a matter of fact, our gay bar directories indicate only a couple of bars in the entire state and they are marked "mixed crowd."

Midwest Gays To Fly

On May 26th, a large group of gay men and women from the Milwaukee-Chicago area will fly to Toronto for 3 days of fun, relaxation and entertainment as part of GPU's Canadian Adventure Tour. The cost of the 3-day 2-night tour will be a flat \$115.00 and will include a gay guide to Toronto, in-flight cocktail, 2 nights accommodations, baggage I.D. tags, sightseeing guides plus round-trip air transportation via North Central Airlines with airport/hotel transfers. Tour participants will stay at the brand new 750-room Holiday Inn with heated pool and revolving rooftop restaurant in the beautiful heart of downtown Toronto.

Organizers of the trip point out that this tour, if taken on an individual basis, would cost nearly twice as much. The ac-



commodations at the Holiday Inn were selected to place most of Toronto's gay fun spots within easy walking distance. It is known that during the Memorial Day weekend, gay groups from other cities will also be in Toronto.

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It was also noted that travel to Canada captures all the excitement and glamour of a foreign excursion without all the bother and inconvenience of language barriers, long customs lines, currency exchanges, or medical certification. A unique blend of two great cultures, the French and English, has produced a hearty hybrid flowering in the New World with its roots in the Old World.

The tour will depart from Milwaukee on the morning of May

26 and return in the early evening of May 28. Experienced leaders will guide the group to Toronto and back again to Milwaukee, leaving each individual free to discover this colorful town at a personal pace. A deposit of \$25.00 per person is requested with full payment due by May 1st. The size of the group is limited and it is requested that reservations be made as early as possible. Excitement is running high among the tour organizers as it is hoped that the success of this Canadian Adventure Tour will generate new tours to other cities and events both near and far.

Further information may be obtained by writing:
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May 26/28

Feminism

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

But while this kind of self-discovery and the accomodation to it is often a traumatic process, for women there are additional handicaps. To be born female in our society means being the focus of many powerful forces directing one to a very limited number of paths in life. Seen essentially in the role of nurturer, both of her spouse and of her children, a young woman's impulses to exploration of the options for self-fulfillment are generally dampened. The consequences in terms of vocational choice and energy in pursuing that choice is something we hear much about these days. Less recognized, however, is the fact that sexual exploration, while tolerated, even encouraged among boys is, even today, far less condoned among girls. Thus it seems reasonable to conclude that with wifehood continually proclaimed as the female's chief excuse for existence, many homosexually inclined women trudge through life unable and/or unwilling to come to terms with this basic fact about themselves.

Lesbians in the feminist movement then can perform an invaluable service in opening up to such women the possibility of lesbianism within themselves. Since this process of self-revelation and transition is often fraught with much agony (especially for the woman in her twenties, or older), they can also help both with the example as fulfilled human beings (rather than, as society sees them - wierd, intersex creatures), and through their counsel and sympathy.

Moreover, they might have a mission to some straight women. While I've devoted some effort to debunking the notion that women should embrace lesbianism because it is politically expedient as wishful thinking, I have recently been brought around to considering it as a real possibility for some women not primarily homosexual.

The occasion for this was my reading of Ingrid Bengis' recent book **Combat in the Erogeous Zone**. The author, a 29 year old New Yorker, recounts her many attempts to relate to men as an equal -- and their invariable failure. She also confesses to a longstanding aversion to lesbianism, but in addition, its disappearance, finally when she and an old friend haltingly attempted relating physically as well. The reason was the full spectrum of humanness characteristic then and in a later relationship, evident in her statement, "The real pleasure came from intimacy in all its forms. . . There was none of the frantic concern with "doing it" that was such a crucial part of relations with men".

The men in her life, as Ms. Bengis now fully realized, were so caught up in the power and performance principle that they came off inadequately as people. Basically, they were obtuse to some of the basic facts of life, namely, that tenderness and understanding and affection are as basic to love as sex is. Thus she concludes with the logical but startling statement, "But unless they can be brought together, I suspect that women are going to start turning in increasing numbers to their own kind for comfort as well as sustenance", adding that this might happen "even among women who have no particularly strong erotic drives toward other women." She concludes,

Shouldn't it be natural that women, if they value themselves at all, would also value those characteristics, also have those needs, would seek to satisfy them in their relationships with men, and when they failed, would turn, just as men do, to other women for fulfillment?

Not all women are as unlucky with men, or as sensitive to male privilege as Ms. Bengis is. Nor are they as committed to the total relationship. But her book is important as a study in authenticity, and as the first really honest probing of the possibility of lesbianism for women who, though attracted to men, have been quite disenchanted by them.

Each woman in such a situation must decide for herself, must try to sort out what things in life are most worth living for. Happy, fulfilled feminist lesbians may help her opt for a relationship with another woman. But of course lesbians should not try pressuring such women, nor, hopefully, will such women see pressure where there is none. The decision, in any case, is never an easy one. For to choose to be lesbian means not only, frequently, a total overhaul of one's life, but the assumption of yet another stigma -- being a homosexual as well as a woman.

Yet even though most dissatisfied feminists will probably not opt for lesbianism (for whatever good or bad reasons), they have already and hopefully will continue to demonstrate their pronounced superiority to men in at least one noteworthy way. Their association with lesbians as fellow workers has opened them to the startling fact, in our society, that homosexuals are real people, not aberrant freaks obsessed with sex. Sadly, male homosexuals have no such avenue for rapport with other men, much to the impoverishment of both groups. Indeed, I feel that the time is coming soon when feminists will begin to make their voices heard against repressive homosexual legislation, as they have against other sexually oppressive legislation, the abortion and birth control laws. Such a bold step would be both a wonderful culmination of the long association between straight and gay women in the feminist movement, and yet another outstanding witness to its basically humanitarian impulse.

Donna Martin

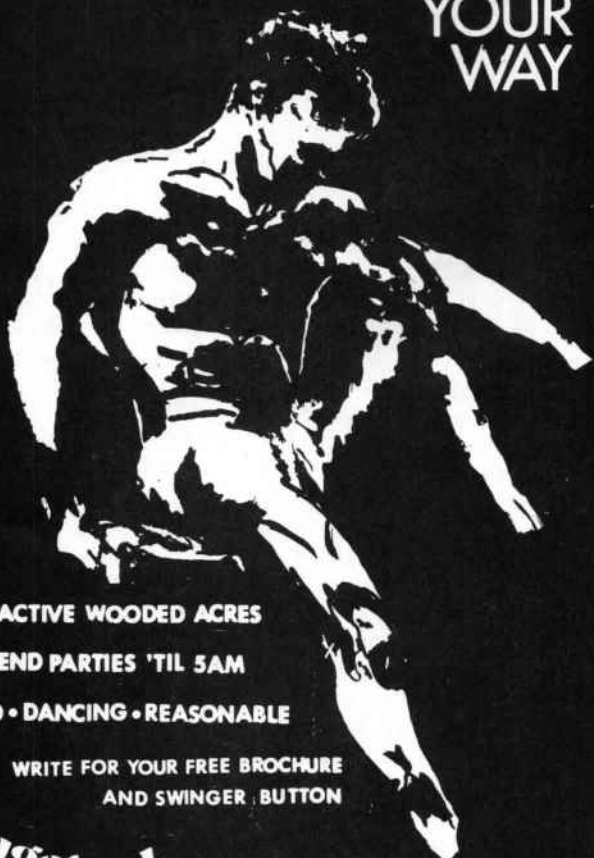
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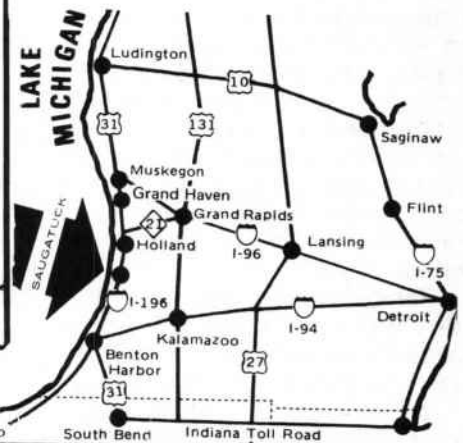
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Denver

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

making it a misdemeanor to loiter "for the purpose of engaging or soliciting another person to engage in prostitution or deviate sexual intercourse." The vague wording of the law was challenged and last December Judge Irving Ettenberg ruled that the loitering section of the statute was unconstitutional. District Attorney Dale Tooley promptly dismissed 32 cases and advised the Denver police department not to make any more arrests using the statute.

Police are now using a section of the city code (823.5-1-3) which makes it illegal to "commit or offer or agree to commit a lewd act or an act of prostitution." Judge Ettenberg has ruled that part of this law is unconstitutional also, but his ruling is only binding in county courts.

A Gay Coalition made up of leaders and members of Metropolitan Community Church, The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Colorado Gay Alliance, Denver Gay Liberation Front, and others, has been formed to take up the battle against this harassment. The Coalition, in co-operation with the American Civil Liberties Union, held a meeting with Denver's police chief, Art Dill,

and his vice-squad captain, but accomplished little. The chief denied that any entrapment had been used even though Dorothy Davidson, executive director of A.C.L.U., reported that arresting officers had admitted to her that they couldn't arrest homosexuals without some form of entrapment. Dill suggested that the Coalition take their complaints to the city council, which they did promptly. Dill did, however, stop using the "Johnny Cash Special."

The Coalition met with the City Council, and then briefly with the Police, Fire, and Excise Committee, explaining what had been happening. They demanded that the council amend the ordinance to exclude all but public acts. The five councilmen present were polite, but non-committal, suggesting that the group present them with a proposed draft of the legislation that they wished.

Meantime A.C.L.U. has announced that it will station some thirty people with tape recorders in various Denver gay bars to gather evidence to protect the rights of homosexuals. The Coalition is working on the proposed legislation and is taking statements from every person who was arrested and will cooperate. IF YOU ARE ARRESTED IN DENVER CONTACT THE COALITION BY CALLING 321-6983.

BUFFALO

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

the group was particularly proud of the center's library and reading room.

Ms. Davis said that she happened to be driving past the center at about 6:30 and looked up to the large second floor windows to see who was taking care of the center. From her car she saw that the entire library section was a "mass of orange flame." She ran across the street to a phone and called the fire department at about the same time other neighbors also reported it.

M.S.N.F. member, Richard Witkowski, 25, was watching the center at the time of the fire. He saw flames in the library and ran to warn several persons in the ballet studio. While he was using the studio's phone to notify the fire department a wall collapsed and flames burst through. He ran to the hall, but fell and a dance student helped him escape the buildings. He is hospitalized with first and second degree burns and a badly burned throat caused from severe smoke inhalation.

Fire department officials are still speculating as to whether or not arson was involved. Bad electrical wiring is also a possibility. Apparently the fire started in the hallway outside of the center or in the walls or ceiling of the library itself. Mattachine estimates their loss at several thousand dollars. They did not have insurance.

Don Michaels, newly elected president of M.S.N.F. said that although the membership is still in a state of shock, general meetings will continue to be held as always at the Unitarian Church and the center's activities will move into private homes for the time being. Said Michaels, "When Monday morning comes, I will be out looking for a new location for the center."

Cash donations or donations of gay books and periodicals for the library can be sent to M.S.N.F. at P.O. Box 975, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205.

books



Escape From The Shadows, an Autobiography, by Robin Maugham, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1973.

Robert Cecil Romer Maugham, 2nd Viscount Maugham of Hartfield, better known more simply as Robin Maugham, tells us in his new autobiography of three shadows from which he has spent his whole life trying to escape. The first shadow was cast by his father, Frederic Maugham, the first Viscount Maugham and Lord Chancellor of England. The second, a particularly large shadow for someone who had chosen to be a writer, was cast by his Uncle Willie, W. Somerset Maugham, one of the most well



Robin Maugham and W. Somerset Maugham on Willie's ninetieth birthday.

known writers of modern times. The third shadow was the most painful and dangerous. It was cast by his own anxiety and sense of guilt because of his predominately homosexual nature.

In his preface to **Escape From The Shadows** Lord Maugham says:

Overshadowed, queer, and alcoholic, I should have been a complete failure. To this day, I am still surprised when the critical or financial success of one of my novels, plays, or films--in various countries--would seem to suggest that I am a success.

However, having published some sixteen books and novels as well as an equal number of plays and film scripts, Robin has more than lived up to the prediction of his illustrious uncle that he would wind up "an ageing, impoverished viscount on the fringes of literary society."

Maugham, at 55, has chosen to publish his life story in an effort to purge himself of the aforementioned shadows and to explain his true homosexual nature and how it was formed. Even with the confessions of Stephen Spender, Emily Williams and more recently Merle Miller, Paul Bowles and Christopher Isherwood as examples, it must have taken

great courage for him to step completely out of his closet. As an out-front homosexual, I can only disagree completely with one reviewer who harbors "the disturbing suspicion that he may have enjoyed his travails." (Ms. Jean Dorheim, **Milwaukee Journal**, March 11, 1973.)

As a child Robin had an imaginary playmate whom he called Tommy. Tommy was a naughty boy who dared do all the bad things a good little boy (Robin) couldn't do. It is interesting to note that Tommy was invented sometime after Robin overheard his mother tell his sisters that she did not like little boys.

Using seemingly unrelated scenes, Maugham leads us through his lonely childhood to his adolescent homosexual experiences at boarding school. English boarding schools are notorious as hotbeds of homosexuality. Before sending him away, his mother warned him in vague terms about the sin of "fornication" with other boys, but he did not understand her.

By the time he got to Eaton he began to understand and to capitulate to his homosexual desires. His homosexual education was completed at Cambridge and during the

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*Poems
for
Women...*

NEW HOPE

Were you surprised when life
 And love laughed in your face?
 I wasn't. Just relieved from
 Waiting for our love to leave.
 I know that love will once again
 Hold up its head, and you'll
 Never know how much I an-
 ticipate it.

IN LOVE

She laughed and threw me
 through the air,
 Then caught me with warm arms
 and
 Carried me swiftly to the stars.

Softly she woke me
 And danced me through another
 day.

Still smiling, then, that night
 We again sought to find that
 sparkling milky way.

MIRROR

Shy, sly little woman of double
 glass.
 Throw back the image I wish to
 see.
 I'm available. . .
 At least partially. . .
 My heart was lost long ago
 On a frenzied night to arms that
 Didn't hold me long enough.

AD INFINITUM

I intrude upon dark's domain
 and watch you sleeping.
 Your hands hold gentleness, your
 arms strength, and in the curve
 of your neck, love and patience.

Courage and endurance is part of
 your
 womanliness, not alien to your
 slim jaw and brow.

My love pours forth. . .
 I promise to keep always in my
 mind
 the being you so freely gave to
 me.

Perhaps, some day you will love a
 woman too.

PERENNIAL

I watched you walk away and as
 you go
 I live again in the thought you will
 return.
 Love invades me to the core,
 restoring hope
 And I linger in its security,
 clinging to its
 Existence like an innocent child
 who simply
 Accepts and keeps, often without
 understanding.

BY CHRIS MEHL

books FROM PAGE 11

summer of 1936 at Villa Mauresque, the Cap Ferrat Villa of his uncle Willie. Here Willie lived in luxury with his lover-secretary-companion Gerald Haxton, upon whom he depended for everything from the typing of his books to the procurement of attractive men as sexual partners. Gerald introduced Robin to sex with both female and male prostitutes that summer and Robin came away with the knowledge that he was by nature predominately homosexual. One part of his nature accepted the situation, but another struggled to abide by the strict rules of British upper class morality.

He did not completely opt for the homosexual life until several years later during the second World War, in which he fought in a tank company in North Africa. He was cited for gallantry under fire before suffering a serious head wound which sent him back to Britain to recover in 1943. His doctor suggested that he write

about his war experiences in the Libyan Desert and his first book **Come to Dust** was the result.

The balance of the book details his literary life and is filled with anecdotes of famous people, including many stories about Uncle Willie. Robin had several lovers, but as time passed he spent more and more time trying to flee from his shadows by jumping into the bottle. Shortly before his death in 1965, Uncle Willie confided his greatest mistake to Robin. Said the world famous author, "I tried to persuade myself that I was three-quarters normal and that only a quarter of me was queer--whereas really it was the other way round."

Alone and growing older, Robin traveled extensively, but found little pleasure in it or his literary successes which followed one after another. A few years ago after an evening of hard drinking, his old imaginary friend Tommy came back to him in his mind for the first time in many years. It may sound unreal to the reader, but Robin swears that the imaginary Tommy helped him find the courage to take an overdose of sleeping pills that almost cost him his life. The autobiography is Robin Cecil Romer Maugham's attempt to chase the shadows from his life.

As a rule, autobiographies--like self portraits--are seldom masterpieces and this one is certainly no exception to the rule. The merits of this portrait lie mainly in the economy of line (the small number of incidents carefully selected to portray the whole person) and the realistic use of color (the unblushing candor used in discussing faults as well as virtues). Maugham has picked his way through a somewhat messy but interesting life, leaving the reader with the certain knowledge that the insight needed to lift a burden of guilt and torment does not come easily. It is crystal clear in the closing pages that, with effort, one can indeed "take up the shield of independence so that contempt and scandal cannot harm you nor desire of success weaken you."

SAM EDWARDS

A Look at

LONDON

"Excelsior" was indeed the word as your nosily-enquiring (oh, also soliciting and importuning) reporter did the wallet-busting super-economy-flight bit to London recently. And indeed, why ski? when, armed with passport, addresses, and banners with strange devices, you can hobnob with the posh-ritz-tony-elite theatre and opera crew one evening, then the next night mix with your Movement comrades in the hip-mod-fab-trendy Underground (and I don't mean subway)? Plus, of course, pub-crawl and club-crash, snark the talent and troll the 'Dilly betimes? (Piccadilly Circus is indeed a circus; it's their 42nd Street, so to speak.) Travel does seem to suit us "Marginal Man," "Stranger," and cosmopolitan types. What the hell; Auntie Lou cooks, I travel.

Surprise: the whole counter-culture scene there is wry and far-out; beneath British reserve, "Alternate London" swings. A natural spinoff of this is the gay scene itself. As for the many private clubs, a gay Englishman's club is indeed his castle. The moods here range from garden-variety wrinkle-room to springboards for after-hours low-jinks. In general in Britain, a class society, it's always "who you know"--but for us **declassé** and **outré** types, also who (and not always just what) you are. There is a fraternity (international



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Liberated London

By "Nosey" Parker & Mrs. Grundy

conspiracy?), visiting firemen are extended privileges, drinks, and so forth.

And then the bar scene. The hi-lo point of this was a Saturday evening visit to what has to be the most delightfully grotty, and infamous pub of them all, "The Boltons." Upstairs and downstairs, all God's plenty was there--genially accompanied by much of the Devil's. It looked like something by Hogarth out of Rechy. The flotsam and jetsam included whole flotillas of knife-blade boys (with those gorgeous hairdos), standard-issue Soiled Old Men keeping up their end of the bargain, a touch of Genuine Leather, a positive haze of mascara, effete slobs and greaser-fags, miscellaneous talent, you name it--and all yours for the snarking at the very least. Plus genial "host country nationals"--yes, Virginia, there is such a thing as British hospitality. Your reporter was invited to penetrate the interior of a very non-typical British household in the suburbs, waking, on a drizzling morning, to tea and crumpet (would you believe hot cross buns?)

Then on to politics. Here, London is vaguely polarized between the revolutionary **Gay Liberation Front (GLF)** and the reformist **Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE)**. A few chaps belong to both. The former is, predictably, a ragtag bevy of motley types heavily informed with neo-Marxism. This scruffy, genial **hoi polloi** holds parades and zaps, also many different types of weekly meetings, maintains a hot-line, and prints some good stuff--and all out of a dingy basement cubicle in New Caledonian Road which is at least premises, its own digs, a liberated micro-zone.

And then there's, if not actually Maude, at least CHE--which got there first but which changed its first word from "Committee" to "Campaign" when the upstart GLF got too hot on its tail. Pokey and reformist in a sense, CHE is indeed the very

epitome of the prim-and-proper suited-up gentlemen types who formally foregather in rented rooms above pubs, ruled by order. CHE is a stolid all-male bastion; the GLF is refreshingly integrated. Patently "social" in purpose (as CHE's founder acknowledged to me in a non-exclusive interview in his flat), old-style crypto-cruisy, they do seem sidelined. And yet they too are activist; they rigorously protest media blackouts, arbitrate for reforms. At the meeting I attended, an affable Yank from New York's GAA spoke on consciousness-raising groups (in this case some consciousness was indeed raised, but alas, your reporter's return flight departed too early the next morning).

Literally dozens of local cells chapters of the two groups (vive the difference) have sprouted up among London's eight million. Interestingly, staid libraries and established churches seem to make no bones about renting space to, and distributing the literature of, us, the quasi-loyal opposition.

For legal eagles: yes, acts-between-consenting-adults-in-private have been legit in Britain since 1967. However, As the **London GLF Manifesto** so well put it:

If you live in Scotland or Ireland; if you are under 21, or over

21 but having sex with someone under 21; if you are in the armed forces or the merchant navy; if you have sex with more than one person at the same time--and you are a gay male, you are breaking the law.

Further, the heat goes on; harassment and entrapment both continue, under the facile guise of other statutes. In other words, they'll bust you for being outrageous, vagrant, loitering, loo & lascivious, soliciting, all the rest. Nice? There does seem to be a moral here somewhere; consider the Illinois situation since 1961. But the GLF does not despair, and dutifully zaps hot localities with stickers reading **POLICE ENTRAPMENT PRACTICED HERE** (a collector's item, one of these now adorns my den, freaking out the Badger populace). GLF also did a little hit-and-run action on the bookstores which carried Dr. Reuben's compendium of myths. They pasted warning stickers inside the covers, while astonished store clerks looked on amazed. (Shades of the GAA zap of Harper's magazine in New York City with a gay sit-in after the 1970 **cause de scandale**, the publication of Joseph Epstein's manifesto of homo-phobia.)

I never left London this trip, but the pan-European angle was given when several of us squeezed agreeably into GLF's cubicle for



the "International" meeting. Some German writer once said, "America, you have it better." Yeah, well, we don't, but for that matter neither does la belle France. In all that land, only one gay group -- in Paris. Then, such bars as **La Reine Blanche** (The White Queen), a tawdry bistro on the Left Bank--not exactly "The Boltons." And, the Napoleonic Code notwithstanding, there is much Gallic animosity towards the gay. So culture oppresses even when the laws don't. And Portugal: bad, bad, bad. Only a bar or two, and they are very dangerous turf. Police informers, mail surveillance, and more, all conspire to effect a truly fascist-medieval atmosphere far exceeding that of ours (as of yet, anyway)

But as for the quality of British gay life, it's been said

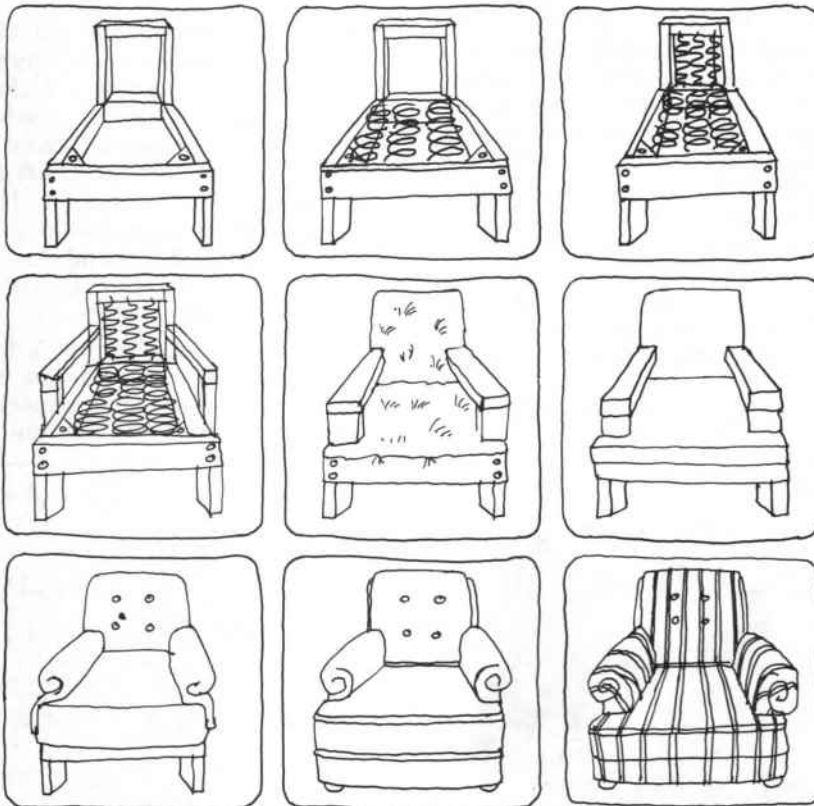
"scientifically" (by Wainwright Churchill) that "queer-fear" among the populaces reaches its European height in Britain, but that it still falls short of new-world, frontier attitudes in America. My own participant-observation would confirm this. It's still Olde England, land of civil reserve; the truism that Americans are "friendly," being a truism, is somewhat true. Still, that British reserve is melted by a sort of rollicking, fraternal jolliness in a way that not always cools Transatlantic **machismo** by comparison.

True, gay life had seemed even more human and humane on the French Riviera, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, and Munich. These are the watering-spots--like Toronto and San Francisco on this continent. Still, London's a great old gal. God save the queens!

LIBERTY

Liberty, the freedom of the individual before the power of the state, is the work of the American Civil Liberties Union, A C L U advocates rights before privileges. There are ten chapters throughout the state, including ones in Madison and Milwaukee; there is much to be done.

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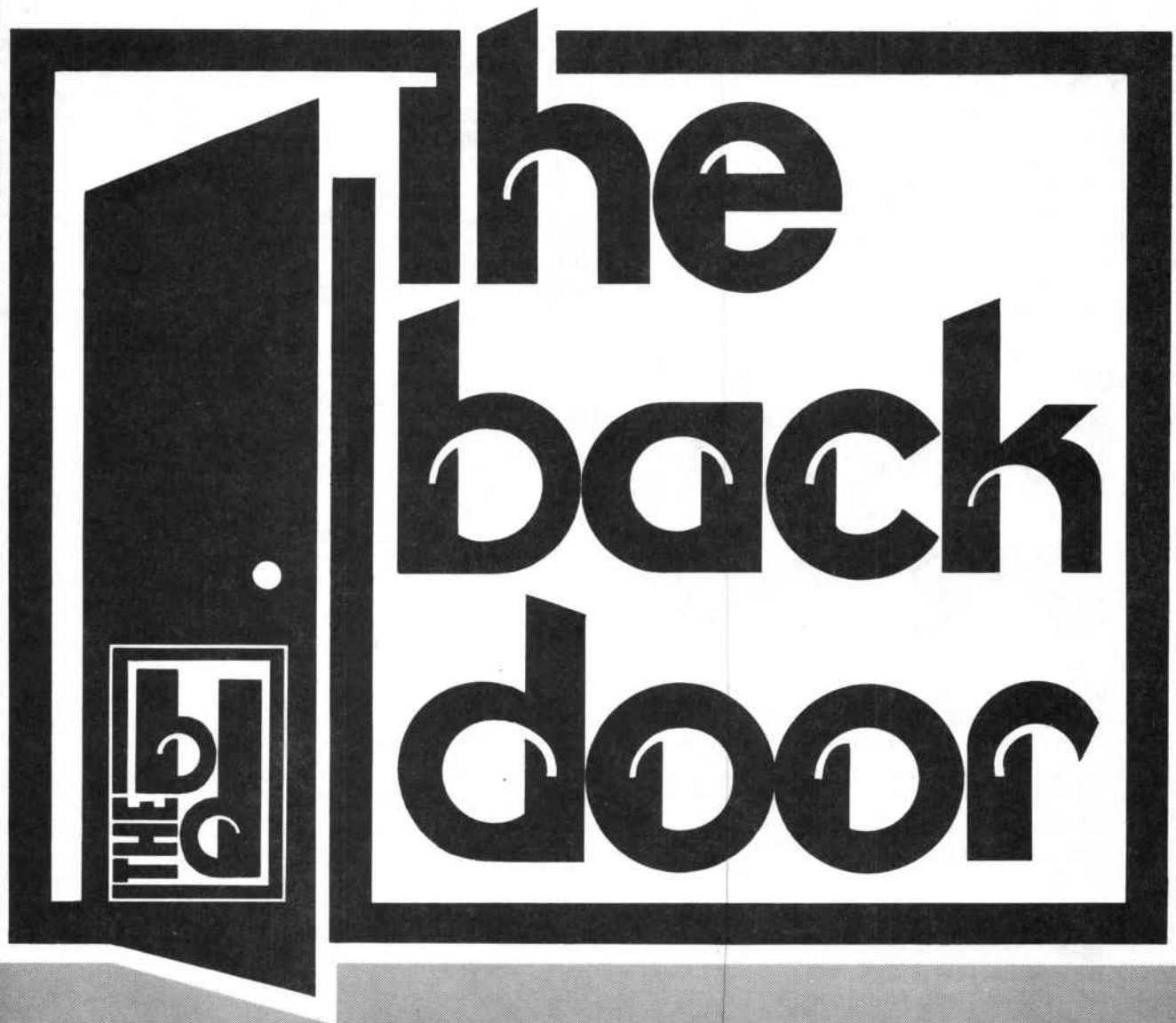


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Glitter Rock: Sachet Meets Macho-chism

BY LYNNE BRONSTEIN
ALTERNATIVE
FEATURES SERVICE

This is the age of glamour rock. Guys are putting on lipstick and eye shadow, adorning themselves with sequins and jewels, even styling their hair. They're painting their fingernails black and green. They're declaring themselves gay and writing songs that more than suggest homosexuality.

"This is the age of decadence," the critics declare. After all, the green nailpolish fad was probably inspired by the movie *Cabaret*, and everyone knows how decadent Germany was in those repressive times. One rock writer recently pointed out that the reason a guy like Lou Reed is finally popular is that his kind of music and lyrics are more at home in a time of chic decadence than in the old days of flower power.

Gee, and I thought flowers



EDGAR WINTER

were also a symbol of "femininity." Femininity, nothing! Don't be fooled by this glamour trend. Underneath the frills and rouge, there exists a hatred of women that really makes me shudder.

Just because the costumes are more outrageous than ever, and the new rock subculture decrees gayness a virtue, don't think sexism has vanished from rock. On the contrary, it's worse than ever - a perfect example of what happens when a fad out-

distances a true social change. These guys have taken their sequined gowns out of the closet, but they haven't taken their heads out. To compensate for their new androgynous look, they maintain a shakey bi-sexuality by still associating with women but making sure women know their place. Which is; embroidering their dude's jeans and going down on anybody male. Which is **not**; playing in a rock band (particularly lead guitar, a sacred instrument meant to be played only by men), writing about rock, or contributing anything of any value to rock. To put a female in her place, the rock musician need only say to her, "Get down!"

The musicians are supported in their anti-female lifestyle by a new breed of "rock critics," who, although almost illiterate, are a breed who get published wherever they want to, and who have made an ideology out of sexism. They proudly refer to themselves as "punks."

baggies are out.

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ALICE COOPER

One such writer recently declared in a review of America's new album that "records like this make me feel the world is coming to an end." Another was distressed by the fact that Steely Dan didn't live up to their name - a dildo in a William Burrough's novel. These writers condemn any male group not into "heavy metal" music and dismiss female performers, if they're the gentle type, as "not heavy enough" or, if they show too much competence on the sacred cow guitar, as blasphemers. "Balls" are more and more referred to in rock reviews.

Seems confusing, doesn't it? Here is a subculture where loud and uncomfortable music is regarded as great and as a symbol of maleness, where to be "ballsy" is to be good, where women are bitches at best and cunts at worst, where Mick Jagger is God. Yet, this same subculture has gone drag-queen and taken with it the sexual confusion that goes with an

unliberated gay lifestyle.

The obvious answer is that "chic decadence" is just another fad, taken from a lifestyle that will continue to exist as long as sex-role confusion exists. There were drag queens in 1967 and there are "flower children" right now - it's merely a matter of who the mass media chooses to cast a spotlight on. Thus, drag-queenism is an instant "trend" this year. Considering that wearing lipstick and eyeshadow is one step in the direction of sexual neutrality, a corner of the rock culture jumps to get with it-without. With so little left to help distinguish between the sexes, they go overboard in polarizing male and female modes of behavior and disdain true sexual equality. In other words, they are victims of their own "future shock."

In the meantime, what's happened to the female side of the rock subculture? Back in the days when even long hair on boys was considered perverted, we used to worship male performers as sex objects (and maybe still do). Just as the guys all copied Jagger to obtain an identity, so we copied rock heroines: Laura Nyro, Joni Mitchell, and, especially, Janis.



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SYLVESTER AND THE HOT BAND

She may not have lived long enough to prove the full range of her talent, but Janis provided a valuable image for American girls. The first white female singer to depart from the usual white female style of singing, she was aggressive in her lifestyle and established a look that freed women from the artificial while maintaining a personal aesthetic outlook.

Apart from groupies, the girls who used to be the hard rock audience have long since defected to "women's music" for entertainment. As women rethink what popular music is all about, the results of this polarization are beginning to show. In the next few years we're going to see an onslaught of female musicians, some in groups, and finally (I hope) an end to the nonsensical concept of "male" and "female" forms of music, with male musicians jumping on the bandwagon to copy the female musical style rather than female artifices.

Since 1967 some irreversible "trends" have taken place, not
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)

⇩
here & there
⇨

One of Chicago has announced that its ninth annual banquet will honor long time activist Fred Selden and feature Father Henry Fehren as special guest speaker. This year's event will be held April 28 in the Chandelier Room of the Como Inn in Chicago. Tickets at \$6 may be purchased from One of Chicago, 100 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, Ill. 60602 before April 20.

Female impersonator Jim Bailey, appearing in Chicago at the famed Empire Room of the Palmer House, didn't get very good reviews in the windy city press. Jim's twenty minute impersonation of Judy Garland is "very impressive, if you like that sort of thing," admits one reviewer. Apparently Bailey is visually stunning, but vocally less than believable. Oh well, you can't win 'em all. You are past 30 if you remember the old Tea and See (Town and Country) bar in the Palmer House whose management used to periodically weed out the more flamboyant of their almost 100% gay clientele with a little card that informed the patron that he was no longer welcome and would not receive further service.

Jim Owles, past president of Gay Activist's Alliance of New York has announced his candidacy for a seat on New York City's City Council.

The Advocate Groovy Guy Contest held for five years in Los Angeles is being discontinued. The affair has grown larger and more elaborate each year says Dick Michaels, publisher, and the "Advocate, as a newspaper, is not well-equipped to mount such an affair, or to supervise it properly." One also gets the feeling that the various entrants and their sponsors make more money out of the contest than the newspaper. Michaels admits that such contests are "a rather poor way to make money." The newspaper has no plans to sell the name or rights at this time.

Several performances of Peter Pan with an all lesbian cast are planned for Chicago's Gay Pride Week Celebration (June 22-July 1) For further information contact: The Gay Pride Planning Committee, c o United Front of Gay Organizations, Post Office Box 872, Chicago, Ill. 60690.

In an interview in The Daily Californian, student newspaper of the University of California, Berkeley, folk singer Joan Baez said that she considers herself "a bi-sexual." Ms. Baez, 32, remembers a lesbian affair when she was 21 years old, but adds that she is now heterosexually oriented and hasn't had an affair with a woman since that one 11 years ago. Ms. Baez has a new song coming out which she calls "bi-lib." "Its sort of confusing," she said. "It sort of says: Don't live on ethic, just find somebody to love."

The Chicago Gay Alliance has elected a new set of officers (they do this every six months). They are Richard Pfeiffer, President; William Kelley, Vice President; Larry Gehrke, Secretary; Jeff Olbrys, Treasurer; and William Henricks and Frank Rudder, Delegates-at-large. Pfeiffer is working closely with the Illinois Gays for Legislative Action (IGLA), a statewide group attempting to introduce legislation to legally prevent discrimination because of sexual orientation in the areas of jobs, housing and public accommodations.



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Advice columnist Ann Landers recently confronted a "panicky" person who had discovered that a family friend was homosexual and was concerned about his influence on "our two little boys." Said Ann: "Dear Afraid: The percentage of homosexuals who are child molesters is actually smaller than among heterosexuals. Your little boys would probably be safer with this friend than with a "funny" heterosexual uncle." Right on, Ms. Landers!

After a year long dispute, Pennsylvania State University has decided to officially recognize a gay group called **Homophiles of Penn State (HOPS)**. The group had filed suit following revocation of their charter by the university last year. In an out-of-court settlement, the university agreed to recognize the group allowing it to use university facilities and get university funds. In return, the group dropped charges and agreed not to seek damages or funds for last year. The most well known alumni of HOPS is Joseph Acanfora, one of three persons who field the suit. In resulting publicity, he lost his position as a student teacher at Park Forrest Junior High in State College, but the position was later reinstated by court order. More recently he is fighting for a retention of a teaching position in Maryland, having been moved to a clerical position from a teaching position because of his certification problems in Pennsylvania.

Poem??? from Madison, Wisconsin
 Then once there was Lance, a lad Loud,
 Whose life seemed a silverine cloud;
 For this nell Tinkerbelle
 Of the Chelsea Hotel
 In his heyday played fey "gay and proud."

GPU PHONE

271-5273

Rock

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19)

the least of which is the yearning by women to find a different definition of themselves and of all human sexuality. The Feminist and Gay movements are very positive forces, incorporating all the ideals of 1960's hippie-ism and revolution. In the next few years, what we are in for will be more than just glitter and guilty "polymorphous perversity." Sex roles are going to wither away, and with them, many other forms of repression will have to go. People are going to discover the "feminine" and "masculine" within all of us and stop shunning or persecuting the "feminine." To hope for this change is to see the present "time of despair and decadence" as not as bad as it seems. There are flowers amidst the garbage.

America in the 1970s is an ostrich sticking its head in a hole to chase away the future. But the ostrich doesn't know what it fears and would be amazed to discover that the future will only serve to brighten its feathers.

So you guys out there with your bright new plumage - don't be afraid of yourselves now that you've gone glamorous. Learn to loosen up and regard people as individuals. Learn a little about the sex you've borrowed your new look from and cease to taunt us. Maybe in time you'll also notice what we girls have known for a long time - that it's hard to cry and be real and human when mascara runs in your eyes.



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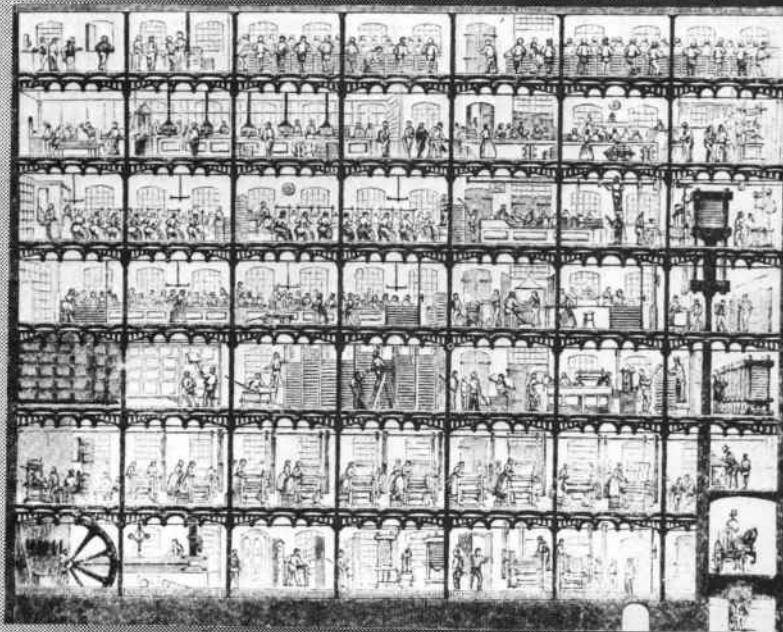
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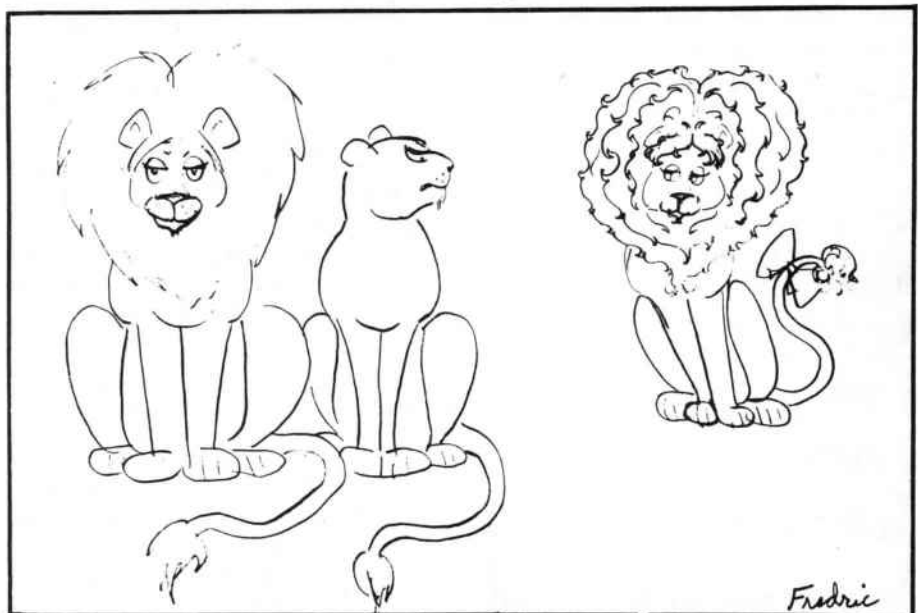
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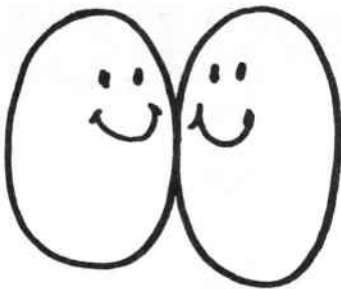
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calendar

NOTE! -- 7:30 is the new starting time for the regular meetings of the G.P.U. This will allow about 1/2 hr. for informal raps, socializing, meeting and greeting. Meeting topics will begin now to develop sequentially the basic ideas and concepts of the gay liberation movement.

MONDAYS - Meetings at Eastside Community Center, 911 East Ogden.

SUNDAY, April 8th -- Newspaper Committee meeting: 7:30 P.M., 1704 E. Kane

MONDAY, April 9th -- "Sexual experimentation: guilt and repression, deciding if you are gay."

TUESDAY, April 10th -- Council on Religion and the Homosexual at Pastor Cain's home, 9:00 P.M.

MONDAY, April 16th -- Pot Luck Supper 7:00 P.M. Coming out: Knowing you're gay and learning what to do about it.

FRIDAY, April 20th -- Dead Line for copy to be in May issue. Good Friday.

MONDAY, April 23rd -- Changed perception of self and society: Developing a gay life style.

WEDNESDAY, April 25th -- Speakers committee meeting at 7:30 P.M., 803 E. Kewaunee.

SUNDAY, April 29th -- Phone Committee, 3:00 P.M., 1623 E. Kane Pl. Set time ahead 1 hour to Daylight Saving Time.

MONDAY, April 30th -- Gay separatism: Ghettoization as a step toward liberation.

FRIDAY, May 4th -- May issue of G.P.U. News out.

MONDAY, May 7th -- Regular business meeting, election of vice president. Meanings of the sex acts: Male and Female.

THURSDAYS -- 9:00 P.M. during Lent instruction group in Orthodox Faith at St. Nicholas Church.

SATURDAYS - 5:00 P.M. Vespers at St. Nicholas Orthodox Parish, 1155 North 21st Street.

SUNDAYS - 8:00 P.M. Mass at St. Nicholas Parish.

LEGALITY OF GAY MARRIAGE

A recent issue of *The Yale Law Journal*, (Vol. 82: 573, 1973, pp. 573-589) contains a lengthy and most interesting article discussing the pros and cons of "The Legality of Homosexual Marriage." The author carefully notes that if the proposed Twenty-seventh Amendment to the Constitution, known as the Equal Rights Amendment, were to be ratified by enough states to become law, a strict interpretation could easily give homosexuals the right to marry persons of the same sex. The Equal Rights Amendment basically is designed to give women equal rights by stating that no ones rights may be abridged on the basis of sex. Clearly any statute which permits opposite sex marriages, would under the new amendment, also permit same sex marriages lest a person's rights be abridged on the basis of sex. Of course, it is uncertain that such a strict interpretation of the new amendment would ever be given, but the mere thought of it gives ammunition to those who oppose the amendment.

BULLETIN

THE V. D. CLINIC OF THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE OF A NEW, BUT SMALL OUTBREAK OF SYPHILLIS IN THE GAY COMMUNITY.

FIVE CASES HAVE TURNED UP RECENTLY, ALL MALES.

SINCE IT IS POSSIBLE TO HAVE SYPHILLIS AND NOT KNOW IT, WE SUGGEST THAT YOU GET A BLOOD TEST IMMEDIATELY!

