SPHEWS 30\$ GAY PEOPLES UNION/MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN/ JANUARY 1974

PSYCHIATRISTS SAY GAY NOT SICK

Washington D. C.-On December 15, the Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), meeting here, passed two historic resolutions representing major policy changes regarding the APA'S official views of homosexuality.

The first resolution removed homosexuality from the APA list of psychiatric disorders. Thus, the diagnosis of homosexuality no longer represents an illness.

The second resolution urged the repeal of all laws regarding sexual behavior between consenting adults and calls for civil rights laws to protect gay people from discrimination in employment and all other areas of public and private endeavor.

Both resolutions were authored by Dr. Robert L. Spitzer of New York, a member of the APA Task Force on Nomenclature and Statistics. Both had been previously given favorable votes over the past two months by the APA Assembly of District Branches, The Council on (CONTINUED ON PG. 7)

BENEFIT HELD

Over 400 persons attended the Paul R. Safransky Benefit held at the River Queen on December 8. A spokesman from Gay Peoples Union, who sponsored the benefit together with the River Queen, told G. P. U. NEWS that about \$585 was raised to help cover legal expenses for Safransky's employment discrimination case, now before the State Supreme Court. (See G. P. U. NEWS, November-December 1973)

LIBERATED TOGETHER, an all girl band, donated their services for the evening and the River Queen donated \$100 in addition to the funds collected at the door. (CONTINUED ON PG. 5)

TEXT OF RESOLUTIONS REGARDING HOMOSEXUALITY PASSED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

I. Removal of homosexuality per se from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Psychiatric Disorders and substitution of the following new category and definition:

302.0 Sexual orientation disturbance:

This category is for individuals whose sexual interests are directed primarily toward people of the same sex and who are either bothered by, in conflict with, or wish to change their sexual orientations. This diagnostic category is distinguished from homosexuality, which by itself does not constitute a psychiatric disorder. Homosexuality per se is a form of sexual behavior and like other forms of sexual behavior which are not by themselves psychiatric dosorders, is not listed in this nomenclature of mental disorders.

II. Civil rights and sodomy repeal statement:

Whereas homosexuality per se implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability or general social or vocational capabilities, therefore, be it resolved, that the American Psychiatric Assn. deplores all public and private discrimination against homosexuals in such areas as employment, housing, public accommodations and licensing, and declares that no burden of proof of such judgment, capacity or reliability shall be placed upon homosexuals greater than that imposed on any other person. Further, the American Psychiatric Assn. supports and urges the repeal of all legislation making criminal offenses of sexual acts performed by consenting adults in private. (CONTINUED ON PG. 7)

MICHAEL GREER STARS AT BALL

The last issue of G. P. U. NEWS carried an article announcing a lavish masquerade ball, following a Mardi Gras theme, in the planning stages by Gay Peoples Union. A spokesman for the committee says that all details have now been worked out and that tickets are now on sale. He said, "This event promises to be the most lavish gay social event Milwaukee has ever seen."

The Harry Lynde Bradley Pavilion at Milwaukee's Performing Arts Center has been engaged for the evening of February 9. Doors to the Pavilion's special entrance will open at 7:30 P.M. with several costume contests beginning shortly after 8 P.M.

Categories for the costume contests are: Best Male Costume,

Best Female Costume, Best Comedy Costume, and Best Group-Costumes. The winner in each category will receive \$100, as will the winner of the special award for Most Lavish Costume.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

KEPNER TALKS

On November 26 and 27, Gay Peoples Union presented Jim Kepner, president of One of Los Angeles, in a series of four lectures from One Institute's extension classes.

Mr. Kepner lectured, informally, on America's Gay Movement and Gay Love and Christian Love the first evening; on Gays Answer Their Critics and Homosexuality In World History the second evening.

(CONTINUED ON PG. 5)

editorial

Reaction to the American Psychiatric Association's vote to change its nomenclature regarding homosexuality was well publicized and was for the most part positive. The New York Times covered it in a front page article and in a summary of ideas and trends in the widely read "Week in Review" section. Even conservative radio commentator, Paul Harvey, broadcast favorable comment two times.

However, there were rumblings of a backlash from within the APA the following week. These surfaced in the December 23rd Sunday New York Times. Nearly a full page of the "Week in Review" section was devoted to a debate between Dr. Robert L. Spitzer, associate professor of clinical psychiatry at Columbia University and author of the resolutions and Irving Bieber, M. of clinical professor psychiatry at the New York Medical College.

Bieber thinks that only

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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

heterosexuality is naturally normal and says that mammals are not born with an undefined, polymorphous perverse sexuality. Thus, he views the homosexual through his own heterosexual bias and sees homosexuals as crippled heterosexuals. However, even he advocates equal civil rights and says, "If a homosexual's function can't be restored heterosexuality), I don't want him function guiltily about homosexuality. I want him to be happy."

Dr. Spitzer said that many homosexuals avoided seeing a psychiatrist because they assumed that the doctor would automatically try to change the homosexuality instead of trying to treat the persons depression or other problems. Still he "does not regard homosexuality as optimal as heterosexual development." He is "loath to apply the word disorder because of its many

implications."
So--even to

So-even the shrinks who are for us are not really for us all the way. Many still want to be able to get money out of gay people by trying to turn us into straight people. Many still will not recognize that homosexuality is simply a part of normal human sexual potential. We must not now let down our guard, thinking that the victory has been won! A backlash movement within the APA could very well attempt to reverse the resolutions before the new edition of the APA book of nomenclature is printed.

We suggest that letters supporting the action of the APA and the resolutions be sent to: A merican Psychiatric Association Headquarters, 1700 18th ST., N. W., Washington D.C. ALYN W. HESS

Acceptance?

"I don't know what you people think you're going to achieve, marching around, chanting and banner waving. You're not going to accomplish a thing because society will never accept homosexuality. You're just drawing attention and making things worse for everyone."

Sound familiar? We may not hear it as often as we once did, but every now and then, at a party or in a bar, a nearly hysterical voice can be heard wailing out this sad lament. This kind of defeatism isn't limited to the over 40 members of the gay community. Women and men, young and old, even present activists, may have at some time had similar thoughts, if not actually voiced them aloud. The sad fact of the matter is that there is a certain amount of truth in their cries and like a little bit of knowledge, half the truth is a very dangerous thing.

Granted, homosexuality may never be accepted by American society at large; gays may always be a minority and yes, a temporary hardship might be imposed on the gay community during this period of transtition from rejection to tolerance. True, gays are not accepted. Period. But then who the hell is?

No sooner did the guns fall silent at Yorktown than Americans put the bite on the Royalists, who finally fled to Nova Scotia, denied permission to express their royalist sympathies and still live in the new

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

feedback

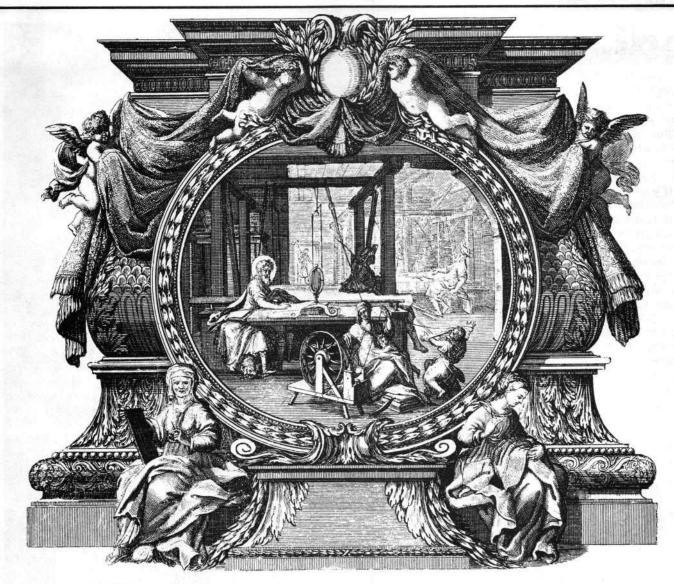
Mr. Alyn W. Hess, president Gay Peoples Union:

Thank you for your recent letter and the enclosures.

I note your strong opposition to H. R. 6046, the administration's proposal for reform of the criminal code. I certainly agree with you that this measure would have a repressive effect on Constitutional rights and liberties. My conversations with members of the House Judiciary Committee, to which the bill has been referred, indicate that it is unlikely that the Committee will approve the measure as drafted. i shall certainly keep your views before me when the Committee makes its recommendations.

Again, I appreciate your taking the time to share your views with me.

Sincerely, Henry S. Reuss Member of Congress, 5th District, Wisconsin.



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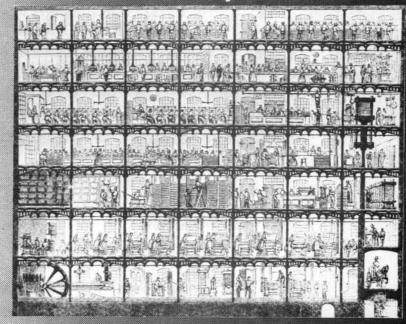
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GPU ELECTION

At its first Monday meeting in December, Gay Peoples Union of Milwaukee, Inc. elected three new directors. Alyn W. Hess and Paul R. Safransky were elected to two year terms and Shari Essoch was elected to a one year term. Hess and Safransky promptly resigned their positions as president and vice president, respectively, because G. P. U.'s by-laws do not permit overlapping positions.

Tom Katke, secretary, assumed the office of acting president until the first meeting in January when new officers are to be elected from a slate selected at

the December meeting.

Donna Coleman and Eldon E. Murray complete the five member board who direct the the business affairs of organization, each still having one more year to serve from the previous election.

Benefit (FROM PAGE 1)



Safransky personally thanked the women of Liberated Together, the River Queen, and the gay community. He said, "For a long time, I felt that I was alone in my fight for human rights. Now I know that my gay brothers and sisters support me and no one, not in my situation, can know just how much this support means to me."

Donna Coleman, chairperson of the defense fund announced that about \$225 has also been received by the fund in individual donations. Therefore, nearly half of the needed funds are now in and she asks those who have not contributed to send their donations to: Gay Peoples Union, The Paul R. Safransky Defense Fund, P.O. Box 90530, Milwaukee, Wis., 53202.

Kepner (FROM PAGE 1)

He gave the same series of lectures in Detroit on November 25 and in Chicago on November 28 and 29, in both cases being sponsored by local chapters of One, Inc.

Almost 50 years ago, at the age of 8 months, Jim was found wrapped in newspapers outside of a hospital in Galveston, Texas. He was adopted and spent his childhood in that city.

Sexually naive until after the age of 19, he finally heard about homosexuality and realized that he had "these feelings since the age of 5 or 6." He promptly set about finding out about the gay world.

By 20 he had moved to San Francisco, still searching, when a friendly fellow worker, a woman, told him about the notorious gay bar The Black Cat. He promptly headed for the bar, only to arrive just as the police were raiding the place. Being saved from the raid by only a few minutes time did not deter him in his search. He continued to haunt the neighborhood until he finally met a few other gay people and slowly entered the gay world.

From the very beginning, he could not understand why gays did not band together and secure their rights. He wanted to found an organization, but could find no gay who was willing to help him. As soon as the early groups such as The Mattachine Society formed, Kepner found his way to them and has remained active in the homophile movement. He said, "Every so often I hear someone say that our movement is four years old and I wonder what the hell I've been doing for the last 21 years."

Mr. Kepner was one of the founders of One, Inc. and devoted much time to the group's early publication, One Magazine. He has written for almost every gay publication in the world and has done literally thousands of speaking engagements.

When questioned about his views concerning the American Psychiatric Association's recent resolutions Mr. Kepner said, "Essentially the "homosexual", however we try to



deal with it, remains the property of the profession of sexual pathologists. It is a great victory for us that the profession (the APA) has decided to miraculously cure us all, but is that really their decision to make in the long run?" Mr. Kepner has many times said that "each man's freedom to develop his own life as he sees fit depends on recognizing every other man's right to do likewise."

Mr. Kepner has recently published a selection of his better under the title "A writings, Selection of Gay Liberation Essays 1953 1973". Copies are available by writing him at 3716 Del Amo Blvd., No. 4, Torrance Ca 90503 and enclosing \$1 plus postage.



editorial (FROM PG. 2)

democracy. Mormons, harrassed across the width of this continent, finally found refuge in the barren salt flats of Utah. The rape of the American Indian has left as black a mark on U. S. history as the enslavement and oppression of black people. Even today, half of the U. S. population, the female half, can't claim full privilege to some of the most basic of human rights. The fad of ethnic jokes about Italian-Americans and Polish-Americans has revealed a bigotry capable of inflicting a heavy oppression.

Gays are oppressed and their oppression has been of long duration. This oppression is uniquely cruel and while it has much in common with American societies record of crimes against minorities, there are evil manifestations which are unknown to any but gays.

However, when it comes right down to it, just who is accepted? Who isn't oppressed? Even the WASP (white-Anglo-SaxonProtestant) male faces some oppression. Single ones have to pay higher taxes than married ones, for example. Minorities oppress other minorities and the majority is usually composed of an accidental alliance of the largest minorities. Trying to find an oppressor on which to launch an attack and put and end to gay oppression is like looking for a needle in a hay stack.

No, gay activities are not fighting the new crusade. We're not fighting to create a gay society, build a gay culture, find a mate for every gay, or endow the gay community with strong political clout. Most of all, we are not fighting for acceptance!

We are simply working to create opportunity; a chance for gay people to develop human potential to the fullest extent of individual capabilities. All we seek is to establish the gay community on an even footing with the other minorities in American society, according to the laws which govern all citizens. If all these other developments

occur, which some activists hope they will, they will do so as a natural outgrowth and not as a direct result of liberation activities.

Acceptance? Perhaps it is time to just drop the word from our vocabularies, since few can define it and even fewer know from where it is supposed to come. Since, in the final evaluation, everyone will be judged according to their particular individual merits, the only "acceptance" which will ever have any lasting meaning is--self acceptance. MIKE MITCHELL

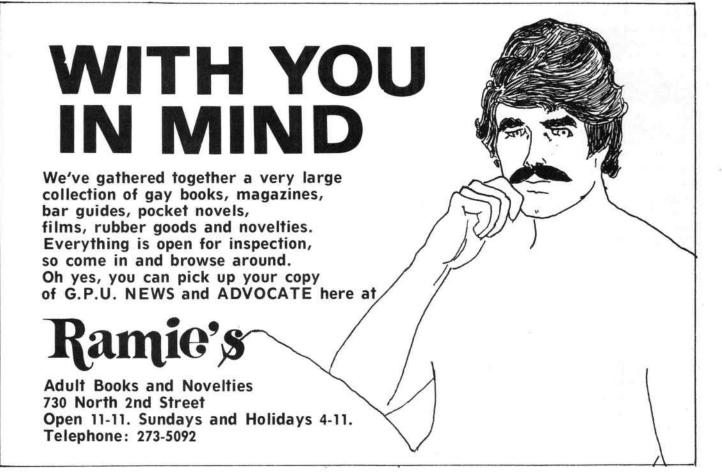
feedback (FROM PAGE 2)

Dear G. P. U. NEWS:

Anyone that is gay and is not contributing to the Paul R. Safransky Defense Fund is very short sighted, foolish and only kidding himself because tomorrow he may be in Safransky's place, looking for employment without a just reason.

By the way, the November-December issue of G. P. U. NEWS is the best one I have read.

Eugene A. Anderson



Not Sick (FROM PAGE 1)

Research and Development, and the Reference Committee.

Although the Group for Advancement of Psychiatry (in 1966), the National Association for Mental Health (in 1970) and the American Psychological Association (in 1972) had all stated that homosexuality is not an illness, the APA still listed it as such in its official Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. The manual lists the official nomenclature followed by all medical groups in North America, including the American Medical Assoication (AMA). The APA view will be noted in the world nomenclature (ICDA), but a worldwide change is not expected due to opposition from Soviet-bloc psychiatrists.

"The substitute category (Sexual Orientation Distrubance) has been designed to prevent a few psychiatrists, who make "changing" careers of homosexuals, from being drummed out of their profession" said Ron Gold, Communications Director of the National Gay Task Force. Gold was one of the persons instrumental in persuading the Nomenclature Task Force to consider the changes. Leaders of the gay movement have been working toward these changes since 1964 when the Mattachine Society of Washington, D. C., under the leadership of Dr. Franklin Kameny, issued a strong statement of gay mental health. Kameny, and others, particularly

Text (FROM PAGE 1)

(The American Psychiatric Assn. is, of course, aware that many other persons in addition to homosexuals are irrationally denied their civil rights on the basis of pejorative connotations derived from diagnostic or descriptive terminology used in psychiatry. such as schizophrenia, and deplores all This such discrimination. singles resolution out discrimination against homosexuals only because of the pervasive discriminatory acts directed against homosexual behavior.)

Barbara Gittings of Philadelphia, began the dialogue with

psychiatry.

The 1970 APA Convention, held in San Francisco, was disrupted by Larry Littlejohn and others from San Francisco's Gay Liberation Front and Society for Individual Rights (SIR). topic convention's homosexuality and the gays protested because they had not been allowed to speak. They threatened not to allow the convention to proceed unless they were allowed to speak and they demanded that aversion therapy equipment be removed from sale on the convention floor.

The 1972 APA Convention was held in Washington, D. C. Here, Dr. Kameny seized the microphone at the Convocation and Barbara Gittings led a "zap" against the aversion therapists.

The 1973 convention was held in Dallas and through the efforts of Dr. Judd Marmor, Gittings and Kameny were featured guest speakers on a panel chaired by Dr. Kent Robinson, featuring a masked gay psychiatrist. A "Gay, Proud, and Healthy" exhibit drew large numbers of delegates to the conference. Dr. Richard Pillard and Dr. Lawrence Hartmann, for the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society, drafted a nomenclature change resolution, and the Nomenclature Task Force, under Dr. Henry Brill, began deliberations.

The final phase began in New York in the winter of 1972, when Ron Gold led a Gay Activists Alliance zap on a behaviorist convention. Dr. Spitzer, a member of the Nomenclature Task Force was impressed and changed his personal opinions about the sickness label. He arranged for a meeting between the Task Force and a group of gay professionals led by Charles Silverstein.

In February of this year, the New England Psychiatric Association, a regional group of the APA, passed strongly worded resolutions similar to the ones now passed by the parent organization.

Gold was a featured speaker at the 1973 APA Convention held in Honolulu on a panel entitled

NEW RIGHTS LAWS PASS

Recently Seattle, Washington, Washington, D. C., and Columbus, Ohio have all passed ordinances which ban both public and private discrimination in hiring homosexuals. These cities join Ann Arbor, Michigan and San Francisco, California which have passed laws banning discrimination in hiring homosexuals in public sector.

For the fourth time in three years, the General Welfare Committee of the New York City Council voted 9 to 4 against an Omnibus Human Rights Act. The bill provided equal employment and other rights for homosexuals.

Mayor Lindsay, who had urged passage of the bill, called the committee's action "a sharp disappointment for all who believe in equal opportunity for all New Yorkers."

"Should Homosexuality be in the APA Nomenclature." Dr. Kameny and other gay leaders also attended the convention.

Spitzer's two proposals were the outcome of that panel and ground their way through the machinery of the APA. They were passed by a majority vote at the Assembly of District Branches and the Council on Research and Development, then passed by an unanimous vote of the Reference Committee and then, at last, by the Board of Trustees, making them official policy.

In an interview with G. P. U. NEWS, Dr. Richard J. Thurrell, president of the Wisconsin Psychiatric Association, the state branch of APA, said, "We had already set up a Task Force in Wisconsin, headed by Dr. Donald Fullerton of the Marshfield Clinic to work out such a resolution. Now, our resolution will move more quickly and will probably be presented to our directors in February. A favorable vote seems likely."

Through Dr. Thurrell, Gay Peoples Union has been invited to present its views to the Task Force prior to the wording of the resolution.

Michael Greer: Fastest Funnyman Alive!

Michael Greer, the multitalented film star and nightclub entertainer, has been engaged by Gay Peoples Union to perform at their Mardi-Gras Costume Ball to be held at the Bradley Pavilion, Performing Arts Center on

February 9.

Greer first caught the public eye when he co-starred in the play "Fortune and Men's Eyes" under the direction of Sal Mineo. After a year's tour with the play, he accepted his first film role, starring in "The Gay Deceivers." Other films quickly followed, including parts in "What Am I Bid?", "The Curious Female", and "The Loves of Diamond Jim." He received rave reviews for his dramatic role in MGM's "The Magic Garden of Stanley Sweetheart." Another film, "The Night of the Bloodmoon" is soon to be released.

When "Fortune and Men's Eyes" was made into a movie, Mr. Greer recreated the role of "Queenie" to critical acclaim

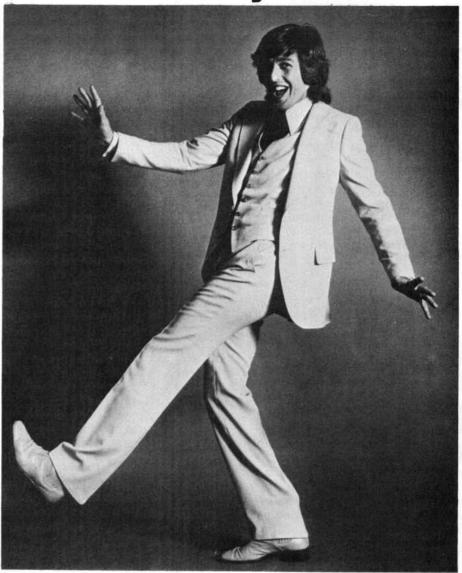
throughout the country.

His television credits include roles on "Ironside", "Mannix" and a co-starring role on "The Streets of San Francisco." He has, of course, appeared frequently on major "talk" shows such as "The Tonight Show" and television's famous "Laugh In."

Now the critics are once again raving about his talents as he appears at one famous nightclub after another, wowing his audiences with a brilliant act entirely created by himself. As a song and dance man and a comedian, Mr. Greer is without peer and his act has been described by one critic as "a campy, nostalgic romp" and "an inspired bit of insanity" by another.

Mr. Greer sings several songs from the thirties, dances, camps, and does a few impressions of Bette Davis, et al. The feature of his show is a routine done with large portraits of the Blue Boy, Whistler's Mother, and the Mona Lisa. In a red fright-wig, he sticks his head through a large picture frame and does an impression of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17)



BALL (FROM PAGE 1)

Persons of either sex may enter any competition, provided the costume is consistent with the

Mardi Gras Theme.

The highlight of the evening will be a special performance by famous film and nightclub star, Michael Greer. This appearance marks Mr. Greer's live debut in Milwaukee and it also is the first time a star of such magnitude has come to Milwaukee to entertain at a gay function.

Following Mr. Greer's performance, a seven piece orchestra under the direction of Eddie Martinez will provide music for dancing.

Cameras will be barred from the ballroom, but Roob Studios

will have a specially set up booth in the promenade for those who wish to buy photos. Printed souvenir programs will be given to each ticket holder and a cash bar will be available.

Milwaukee's gay community is anxiously awaiting the event and as this issue of G. P. U. NEWS goes to press almost all of the 240 table seats at \$12 each have been sold. Chair seats at \$7 each are still available, but they are selling fast. Early purchase of tickets is suggested in order to insure a seat.

Various G. P. U. members have tickets for sale and they can be purchased by sending a check to: G. P. U., P.O. Box 90530, Milwaukee, Wi. 53202 or through the G. P. U. telephone line--271-5273.

GPU MARDI GRAS BALL



MASQUERAID

Bradley Pavilion, Performing Arts Center, Saturday February 9, 1974...7:30 pm

Cash Prizes for Male, Female, Comedy and Group Costumes... Special Award for most lavish costume.

Top Name Entertainment Dancing Eddie Martinez & his Orchestra

Bar available Roob Studios-official photographer

Benefit Donation...\$12 table seating, \$7 chairs

books



Portrait of a Marriage by Nigel Nicolson, Antheneum, N. Y., 1973.

Forty-nine years of happy, bliss---that's news anytime, or would be if our society hadn't become so sated with catastrophe, scandal and vice. But clearly, such a union jumps into another orbit when it becomes known that the partners both practicing homosexuals and that both were open with each other about their extra-marital involvements. Portrait of a Marriage is the amazing story of two remarkable people, Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson, written, even more surprisingly, by one of their sons.

The focus of this book is Vita the heart of it autobiographical fragment of eighty pages discovered by her son, Nigel, after her death in 1962. It is at once a confession and an attempt at purgation of her overwhelming love for another woman. Written when she was 28 and in the eighth year of her marriage to Harold, a promising diplomat in the British foreign service, it describes with painful honesty a passion of such supreme power that Vita nearly sacrificed to it all else that was dear to her, including Harold.

A ctually, Vita's predominately lesbian nature was evident even before her marriage. There was a woman, Rosamund Grosvenor, with whom she was involved before she met Harold and whom she continued to "worship" during the courtship period. In her own words: "I have implied, I think, that men didn't attract me, that I didn't think of them in what is called "that way." Women did. Rosamund did.

. It never struck me as wrong

that I should be more or less engaged to Harold, and at the

same time very much in love with

Rosamund."

Portrait of a Marriage ...

So how did Harold come to fit in her life at all? What was it about him that first attracted her and proved eventually to hold her for nearly half a century? Vita's comparison of the two at this time provides the basic clues.

Even my liaison with Rosamund was, in a sense, superficial. I mean that it was almost exclusively physical, as, to be frank, she always bored me as a companion. I was very fond of her, however; she had a sweet nature. But she was quite stupid.

Harold wasn't. He was as gay and clever as ever, and I loved his brains and his youth. I wasn't in love with him then--there was Rosamund--but I did like him better than anyone, as a companion and playfellow, and for his brain and delicious disposition.



VITA SACKVILLE-WEST NOVELIST, POET

The upshot was that she ceased to care for Rosamund, treated her quite cruelly in fact, thought only of Harold, and married him in 1913. Those first years of marriage were by Vita's testimony unblemished.

For sheer joy of companionship I should think the years that followed were unparalled or at least unsurpassed. ... It was all open, frank, certain; and although I never knew the physical passion I had felt for Rosamund, I didn't really miss it.

Then in April 1918 Violet Keppel, a girlhood friend, reappeared in Vita's life as a guest at her home. She was a species apart from Rosamund-attractive, fascinating, highly intelligent, and daring--more daring indeed than Vita, for she undertook to revive the old undercurrent between them and fan it to a white heat. Subtle psychologist that she was, Violet

gently seduced Vita with words, artful touch, and her own lovely appearance until Vita responded as one reborn. She speaks of "the drunkenness of liberation--the liberation of half of my personality", or her great feeling of exhuberance, and of the following months as being an "irresponsible summer moonlight nights, and infinite escapades, and passionate letters, and music and poetry."

At the end of November they went away together to Paris and Monte Carlo, intending to be away for only a month, but in fact, not getting back until the end of March (1919). Utterly fascinating is the fact that while away, Vita's new self assumed the ultimate transformation -- in effect, she tried on the male role and discovered she liked it. She put a khaki bandage around her head and browned her hands and face, the result being the image of a rather untidy young man who was never 'discovered' and whom Violet called "Julian." Speaking of this new role and this time in her life, Vita says, "The extraordinary thing was, how natural it all was for me, and I, personally had never felt so free in my life."

They came to the point of agreeing to run away permanently and live for only each other. But various obstacles presented themselves. Most troublesome was a young man, Denys Trefusis, as violently drawn to Violet as Vita and agitating for engagement. Somehow Vita and Violet thought they'd have more liberty if she married, and besides, Denys was prepared to marry on Violet's terms--that is, of merely "brotherly" relations. The engagement happened. But Violet decided she couldn't go through with this marriage after all and the two made plans to go off together the day before. However Harold's pleading kept Vita from following through. So marriage happened. (June 1919). Then in August Vita and Violet were off on a repeat performance of their earlier trip, and again

Vita and Harold in Love

BY DONNA MARTIN

were supremely happy. After returning to England they made plans for a final elopement.

They left England on succeeding days in January 1920, planning to meet in Amiens, France. But the final outcome was that the husbands, along with some parents, also converged on Amiens and after an agonizing and often absurd period for all parties, the runaways ended up back in England with their legal mates. Oddly, largely contributing to this return to "normalcy" was the suggestion (never resolved) that Violet might have been "unfaithful" and slept with her own husband just before the planned flight. Vita was mortally wounded, interpreting this as indicative of a fatal flaw in Violet's love for her. They continued to see each other occasionally, even going off for another long trip in 1921. But though Violet's love remained unabated, Vita's was cooling off and by the Spring of 1921, as the paragraph in autobiography indicates, she was desperately trying to make the final break.

Incredibly, Violet and Denys eventually came back to each other, and having many interests in common, had a good, though short marriage: he died in 1929. Vita and Harold, having survived the only crisis of their marriage, settled down to a very agreeable life together. In a sense pioneers of the "open marriage" advocated by some today, they lived independent professional lives (he with politics and historical writing; she with the writing of poetry and novels), and allowed

each other complete freedom with respect to other people. What they shared was continual interest in each other as interesting and different people, common interests, gardening for example, and a common sense of values. The later appear especially relevant today since, along with the "human liberationists", (not the "women's libbers, as they are too often derisively referred to) they believed in the development of the natural talents of both of them to the full, as well as the idea that progress toward real union means that the husband must develop the feminine side of his



HAROLD NICHOLSON DIPLOMAT, AUTHOR

nature and the wife her masculine side.

Their ideal of marriage, as aired on a BBC program in 1929, is as "a lifetime association between intimate friends." Unquestionably, their marriage was a living example of that, though I suspect that the sum of its ingredients doesn't quite add up to the very special relationship they had. Their letters and diaries exude a most compelling and

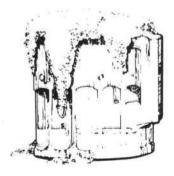
finally mysterious depth of feeling for one another. Even at the height of her passion for Violet, Vita could write to her husband:

I love you unalterably, you don't know how I respond to any letter of yours. . No one on earth has the power to touch me as you have. . . You don't know your power over me; you don't know it.

Clearly it was this strong mutual feeling and regard which generated the trust from which arose their gift of freedom to each other. Each was involved with many others, told each other of them, and in fact often spent weekends together with their respective friends. Harold would refer to Vita's affairs as "your muddles"; she to his as "your fun." He had a series of affairs with men his intellectual equals, but as he was by nature not a passionate lover, the physical element in them was secondary. Of Vita on the other hand, considerably more intense, her son says, "Vita was always in love. I don't know of any moment in her life when she was not longing to see or hear from the only person who could satisfy that longing."

It would be gross oversight to neglect mention of her most famous amour, namely, the great novelist, Virginia Woolf. They met in 1922 when Vita was 30 and Virginia 40. Vita was much drawn to this physically delicate but intellectually challenging woman, a genius who was surprisingly unassuming. Their relationship was basically that of a close friendship with some affectionate physical expression, though according to Vita they did sleep

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

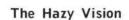


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his long hair falls on his cheek;

he leans across the railing

into shadow,

his arm naked from the shoulder

catching the sun;

the stranger watches him

(nothing to say)

late afternoon divides from evening

and falls away

: so often like this

the hazy vision of well-married men

living with wives they hardly know,

the spreading cities,

cities of young men living alone.

Martial

His name is a poet's name
and also means war.
To the world
his body is the mystery.
My puzzle is behind his pointed
eyes
that brighten as he looks at me,
a blaze of brown.

He flashes his nakedness, crushes me in his soft-muscled arms.
Boyish, he laughs and pulls me into bed.
His tough face is happy.
On his brows,
little scars, spreading rumours.

Poetry Copyright by Ian Young. Do not reproduce without permission.



The Canadian poet, lan Young, has published several books of poetry, including "Green Moths." He recently edited "The Male Muse", published by The Crossing Press, R.D. 3, Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886, which has been billed as "the first contemporary gay poetry anthology." His work has appeared in Gay Sunshine, Gay Liberator, The Body Politic, Quorum, Gay, Sebastian Quill, One Magazine, and other gay liberation publications. Mr. Young lives in Scarborough, Ontario.

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Portrait (FROM PAGE 11)

together twice. An obvious witness to Vita's presence in Virginia's life is the delightful fantasy, **Orlando**, written for and inspired by her. It traces the life of a young man born in the 16th century and surviving to the 19th, and who undergoes two sex reversals. Particularly interesting are the accounts of the subjective differences between life as a man and as a woman. It's great fun and also has some wonderful photographs of Vita in costume.

The impact of this book on the public would I think make a most interesting subject for a poll. That it is being read is indicated by its being on the best-seller list for several weeks now. The reviewers have generally shown a humane appreciation of this honest document and a recognition that homosexual love and emotion is not bizarre pathology, but just as varied, painful, joyous--and finally, inexplicable, as their heterosexual counterparts. It would be hoped that the average reader doesn't react as he often does to the lives of the great and near-great, i.e., simply suspend his normal standards for these exceptional people.

What Vita Sackville-West disliked about her liason with Rosamund was its superficiality and the cruelty with which she ended it. What she deplored about her grand passion for Violet was the way it so cruelly hurt Harold and also disrupted the rest of her orderly, productive life. Neither Vita or Harold ever seem to have felt guilt over their homosexual involvements. Neither does their son, who says with approval of his

mother: "She fought for the right to love, men and women, rejecconventions the marriage demands exclusive love, and that women should only love men, and men only women." Could the public be brought to an awareness, along with the Nicolsons, that what counts between people is not a rigid formula of male female pairing but rather, operating values of compassion, openness and homosexuals would be well on the way out of their invisible ghetto.

For homosexuals also I think the book suggests some things of significance. For one thing, it tends to corroborate many today, including avowed homosexuals like Peter Fisher and Dennis Altman, who argue for the bisexual nature of most people. But, on a more practical level, it implies that a life of sexual segregation is potentially impoverishing. Had Vita been young today, her early affair with Rosamund would probably have so defined her that thereafter she focused would have

meaningful experiences pretty exclusively on women. And what a loss for both her and Harold that would have been! Far too many of us in gay life, I fear, become so entrenched in our single-sex circles, that we missout on much of life's richness-the variety offered by the viewpoint of the opposite sex and perhaps some truly rich and rewarding relationships. It's pretty ironic, wouldn't you agree, to condemn straight society's standards, while perpetuating similarly dehumanizing ones of our own.

by DONNA MARTIN

MADISON GAY CENTER

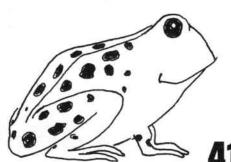
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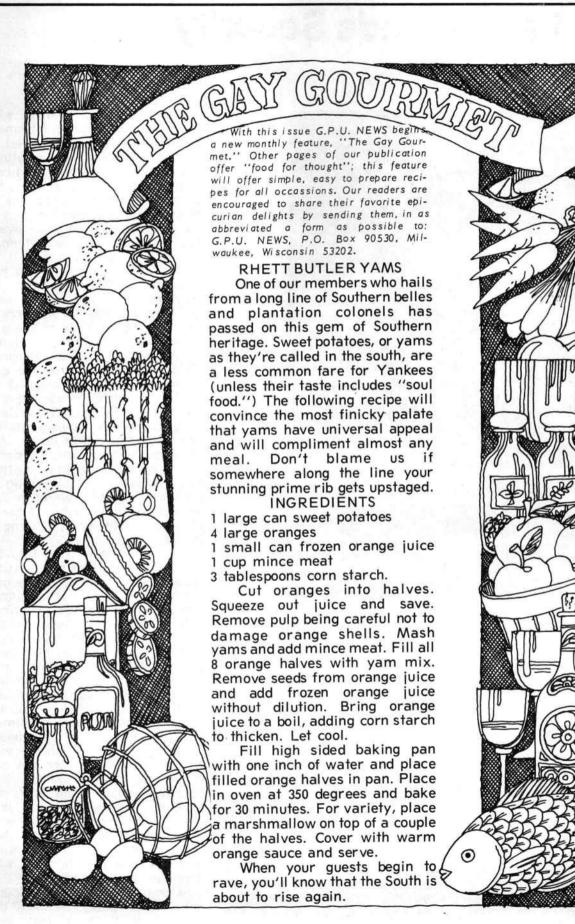
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Ah,ha! Ah, ha! (And Froggy made out like crazy!)

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A Gay Father Finds Security



My name is Russ. I've been married seven years, have two children, and I am 35 years old. I came out of my closet two years ago through a series of personal events, and a great deal of soulsearching that led to the conclusion that I am bi-sexual. In coming out, I did so on my own; no one took me by the hand or enlightened me as to the gay reality that exists throughout society. Fitting into the gay scene was a matter of trial, tribulation, frustration and anxiety. After a full year of discreetly experimenting with the bar scene I came to realize that I still had not found all the answers; that I still didn't know for sure what was

going on.

At about this point I bought a copy of G. P. U NEWS. Reading about the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, I decided to give them a call. A receptive pastor on the phone gave me the feeling of being not an unjust person, but, rather, a person in need of counseling and direction in order to cope with the dilemma of swinging sexually on both sides of the fence. It was suggested that I go to the next G. P. U. meeting. The following Monday at the meeting I met the pastor and a

number of other people who fulfilled my need for an informal, communicative, social outlet. I started attending the meetings regularly and became a member. Thus began my education concerning the many things that G. P. U. is doing to open the eyes of the public and make them aware that homosexuals are human beings, just as they are.

My one year with them has given me insight as to the many services they perform for their brothers and sisters. I am sorry to say that the majority of the gay community doesn't give a damn about supporting Gay Peoples' Union. Sooner or later the gay community must realize that G. P. U. is an active force working to correct the injustice society harbors toward homosexuals by bringing about changes in the laws governing employment, housing and discrimination against individuals having a particular sexual preference. My brief story does not end here; following are the events leading to my total exposure.

Television Station WTMJ-TV came to a G. P. U. meeting asking if they could do a series on the gay After community. discussion and a few meetings later, Gay Peoples Union decided to lend a hand with the production. On the evening they were filming a G. P. U. meeting I was approached about the possibility of telling of the married man who is gay. I consented to an interview, which was to be filmed showing only the back of my head. Unfortunately, the lighting was not dim enough to prevent my being recognized. When that interview appeared on T. V. my wife and I were watching, and there I was - big as day. My wife was shocked beyond belief; but then, so was the rest of my family, and some close friends who happened to be watching.

After the crisis of being found out came to reality my world did (CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

Greer (FROM PAGE 8)

Mona Lisa (Lisa with an S) as a sharp-tongued shrew from the Bronx that leaves his audiences in stitches. The Mona Lisa routine is fast becoming a legend in

nightclub circles.

Born in Galesburg, Illinois, Mr. Greer from childhood was determined to become an actor. "I knew at the age of three that I wanted to be in the movies. Danny Kaye was and is an idol and I figured there had to be room for an actor who also wanted to be a mixture of "Roz" Russell and Gary Cooper."

From high school, Michael spent four years in the Air Force, serving ten months in Korea. Then came New York City and a few years of civilian struggle, drama classes, and talent courses. Then, in 1965, he moved

to California.

Offerred a club engagement in Garden Grove, providing he

had a group, he joined forces with Roy Gaynor and Jim Bailey. They named themselves Jack and the Giants and soon enjoyed a 16 month run at Hollywood's famous



MICHAEL GREER: A MAN OF MANY, MOODS

Redwood Room, Here a long list of celebrities jammed into the club night after night including the late Judy Garland. Says Greer, "She truly brought half of Hollywood to the club to catch our insane satire. She put us on the map!"

When the show finally closed Michael accepted a bid as a "solo" at San Francisco's Purple Onion which started two years of

club dates.

Sal Mineo caught one of the performances, signed him for "Fortune and Men's Eyes" and the rest is history. Michael Greer's star is firmly planted because Michael Greer IS entertainment--multi-entertainment at its best!







Needed: A Gay Publishing House

by DON JACKSON

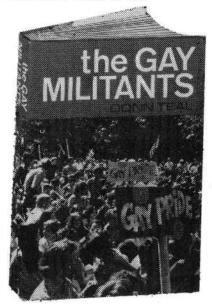
GPU NEWS readers propably know Don Jackson best as creator of the Alpine County conspiracy and as a feature writer for the Milwaukee Kaleidoscope and the Advocate. He has written prolifically for many publications, gay and straight, and is a veteran activist in the gay and prison movements. In California, his native state, he has gained a small degree of fame for his articles in the Los Angeles Free Press exposing the abuses of homosexuals in prisons and mental institutions and for investigative reporting on illicit police practices.

Mr. Jackson has been many things in the past--a hippy, a tramp, a convict, and a real estate broker. He lives in San Francisco, and will be writing articles for GPU NEWS from time to time.

+++

"Readers are always asking for books on Gay Liberation, but there are hardly any in print. Why doesn't anyone publish some?", asks a librarian from San Francisco Public Library. Not one of the 128 small book publishers attending the San Francisco International Book Fair could give an immediate answer. Finally, a lesbian

publisher said, "I don't know. Our house was formed especially to meet the demand for lesbian-feminist books. It's a free country. If the Gay Men's movement wants to publish books, they can do the same thing we and all the minorities have done."



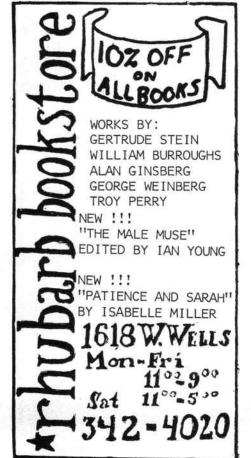
Other minorities went into publishing because it was the only way that they could get their books published. Gay writers, perhaps, have less incentive because they usually get their works into print only if they permit heterosexual adult book publishers to indirectly dictate what these authors write. Most adult bookstore publishers require that the material be about

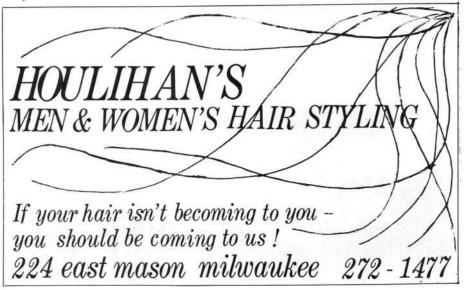
little more than sex and without a trace of redeeming social value. The giant New York publishers have become increasingly selective. Usually they will publish only "inoffensive" books of a broad interest. Unless they are practically assured of a large profit, they can't and won't be bothered!

Yet, there is a limited but substantial number of readers who wish to read unpopular views and minority group special interest books. Librarians, mindful of the value of these small edition books to future researchers, clamor for them.

As a result, the small book industry grew up to fill this demand for limited interest books. Almost all of the small book publishers are within 50 miles of San Francisco, because it's the only city in America, other than New York, that has an abundance of book printers, typesetters, paper mills and bookbinders. The exhorbitant costs of rent, labor, and materials in New York, make that city undesireable to small publishers.

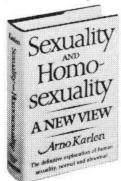
The small book industry sells to an entirely different market than adult book publishers. Over 70 per cent of small book sales are to libraries and institutions. Some publishers find it profitable to sell an entire edition to libraries, without even one copy having been offered for sale to the public. Because librarians expect only a



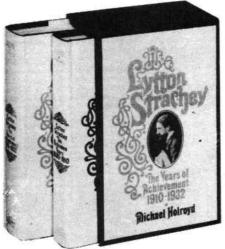


20 per cent discount, issues of as few as a thousand copies can be profitably marketed. distributors demand a 50 per cent discount. At this rate, 5,000 copies must usually be sold to reach the break-even point. Of vital importance to the small book industry, is SYNERGY; a federally funded book review magazine-more like a mail order catalogue of small books. SYNERGY is published by the San Francisco Public Library and is sent to 30,000 librarians. Around half of the small book industry's sales are through SYNERGY.

Why then the gay book shortage? Its causes are numerous and complex.



Many gay writers are dissatisfied. Some have been desuaded from working on serious works because of the dim prospects for publication. Others have taken to writing adult books, not out of preference, but out of a brighter hope of seeing their work in print. Still others feel that the \$750-per-book publishers are exploiting them. SONG OF THE LOON, for example, sold over one million copies. The publisher made a fortune, but Richard Amory was paid only \$750. Many budding gay authors feel that they can write meaningful, serious books, but are thwarted by heterosexual publishers who think

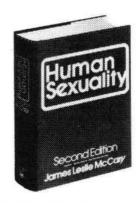


that gay readers are interested only in books that are very explicitly and exclusively sexual. It's little wonder that a great dissatisfaction has been roused by the way editors slash, cut and destroy the true value of gay only lurid leaving descriptive sex acts. A few gay writers, includiing Troy Perry, Larry Townsend, and Douglas become Dean, have exasperated over the situation, that they have published their own books, despite the many disadvantages in this recourse.

Even when driven to the wall, unless a writer is in San Francisco, it's difficult to get quality binding printing and reasonable prices. Librarians and book distributors usually handle only books which have been indexed in the Library of Congress and the Library of Congress will not index self-published, subsidized, or paperback books. Distribution of unindexed books is a serious problem. Usually, the writer has to load the books into the back of a car and call on book stores. Many stores, in turn, won't take self-published books. If they do, the writer often waits a long

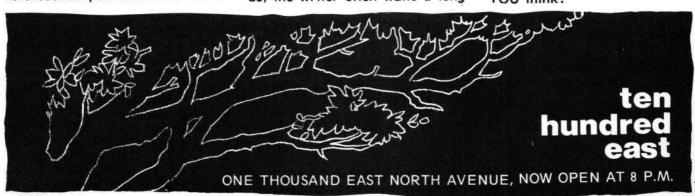
time, if not forever, to receive payment.

A gay co-operative small book publishing house would seem to solve many problems. Writers would be free from publishers who pressure gay writers for only material and sexual emasculating editors. Such a house could meet the Library of Congress' requirements of indexing, thus opening up the library market and making gay books acceptable to book distributors. The gay movement would gain by having many more gay works in the hands of the general public and writers would have the satisfaction of seeing their works on library and



bookstore shelves.

The printed media is important to movements, as well as to our everyday lives. But to be effective, the media must reach not only the particular minority group, but the general public as well. Gay periodicals and books reach only a tiny portion of the community microscopic segment of the general public. The problems are obvious and the solutions are realistically conceivable. Now, gay literature freaks, writers, poets, and authors. . . .what do YOU think?





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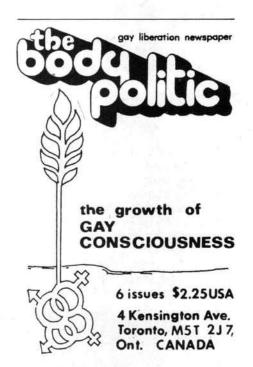
Father (FROM PAGE 16)

not come to an end. I did not have the feeling of being a criminal or a pervert, but rather, a person who has a feeling that is real, a feeling that has brought peace of mind. My wife accepts my particular problem: my family is adjusting to it. My wife and I are both undergoing psychiatric counseling, as an aid to adjustment; my parents have already been counseled by the pastor from Council on Religion and the Homosexual. It could be a long story, but fortunately my wife's mother doesn't know, and we intend to keep it that way.

Had my family not found out about me, the pressure of hiding the fact that I'm gay would certainly have led to a mental breakdown. It was not my intention to be found out through a television interview, but perhaps the interview was a subconscious need to let people know. I don't regret it. Believe it or not, my wife and I are now closer, talk more, and are sexually more active than we have been for the past five years. To whatever degree I function bisexually, my wife and family will always come first.

To any gay father reading this article who is in need of help or counseling, I would suggest contacting the Gay Peoples Union by attending a G. P. U. meeting, or calling the G. P. U. Hot Line (271-5273). Some day, any one of you may need the help or support of G. P. U. Now is the time for you to give them your backing and support.

And now, some of my personal thoughts on what the gay organizations should be doing. Though a start has been made in this direction, the Gay Liberation Movement should put more emphasis on treating society, as opposed to society treating us. The treatment should express a characteristic philosophy that homosexuality is a unique creation of God. Straight society is sick in terms of their laws, morals, double-standards and hypocrisies. Straights suffer anxieties and obsessions from unfounded fear homosexuality. We gay people must lead the way if society is to rid itself of these disorders.



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\square here & there \square

Professional nurses Philadelphia have formed a group called "Gay Nurses Alliance" (G.N.A.). As one of its objectives, the group hopes to educate nurses "who all too often make erroneous and unfair judgements about gay people." The group welcomes letters of enquiry, financial support, as well as suggestions. Write: Gay Nurses Alliance, P. O. Box 5687, Philadelphia, Pa. 19129.

+++ A new play by Philip Magdalany called "Section Nine" has opened at The Palace, Duke's

Road, London. The comedy features a gay scientist with a secret formula tatooed on his penis. The government gives a crash program in homosexuality to three straight secret agents who must find the scientist and recover the formula. The final scenes take place in a turkish bath with agents from several nations running from cubicle to cubicle to examine one another and find the scientist.

Morty Manford has been elected to the presidency of New York's Gay Activists Alliance. GAA celebrated its fourth year of existence on December 21, having held their first meeting on that date in 1969. In 1971 the group into its present headquarters, The Firehouse at 99 Wooster St., New York City.

+++ Once in Detroit, P. O. Box 7926, Kercheval Station, Detroit, Mi. 48215, has announced its fourth annual trip to Toronto, scheduled for May 25, 26, and 27. Write for details and reservations.

Don Scott, newly elected president of Society for Individual Rights (SIR), San Francisco, changes in promises organization. Funds have already been raised to pay off outstanding bills for the financially troubled organization. (See Here and There column, G. P. U. NEWS, September 1973) A new board of trustees has also been elected.

+++

The United States Government Department of Health Education and Welfare has provided funding for seven members of the Gay Peoples' Union of Stanford University to attend a drug abuse training program. The money (\$3,713) will cover tuition, room and board for a two week program in peer counseling at Awareness House in Berkeley ..

After the announcement of this grant, congressional com-

plaints poured in and HEW Secretary Weinberger said that an education official failed to check with "higher ups". Weinberger says he disagrees with the decision, but it's too late for a reversal.

Dr. Leslie G. Norins, a former government researcher, told a recent New York meeting of dermatologists that the incidence of crabs now exceeds that of gonorrhea. He based his studies on the sales figures for a crab remedy, A-200. Said Dr. Norins, "The crab capital of the United States is Providence, Rhode Island, where sales of A-200 have reached 4,100 applications per 100,000 people.

British costoms officials have seized 450 copies of "The Gay Liberation Book" edited by Len Richmond and Gary Noguera. (See Book Review G. P. U. NEWS March 1973) No reason was given, but the editors assume it was because male genitals are visible in one photo and three line drawings.

Bloomington Gay Alliance has announced the first Indiana Gay Awareness Conference to be held March 29-31. For details write to: Bloomington Gay Alliance, c o Student Association Office, Indiana Memorial Union, Bloomington, Indiana 47401. +++

Rutgers University Homophile League will hold its fourth annual conference on Gay Unity April 19-21. For details write to: David W. Nichols III, Conference Coordinator, Student Homophile League, R. P. O. 2901, New Brunswich, N. J. 08903.

Fox Valley Gav Alliance

P.O. Box 332 **Menasha, Wis**





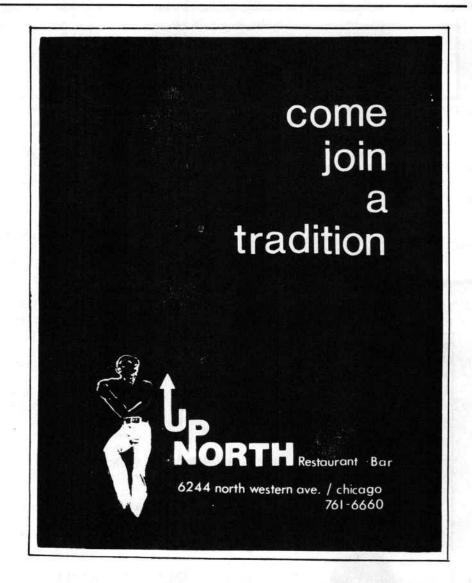
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"OLDER - ELDERLY -YOUNG. Holiday Bulletin is a correspondence club for older & elderly men, also younger guys (over 21) who appreciate old ones. Send \$1.00. Holiday Bulletin W3, Box 1208, Minneapolis, MN. 55440 (since 1971)"

Coming to Detroit? Send for you FREE gay guide to baths and Send self-addressed, stamped envelope to ONE in Detroit, P. O. Box 7926, Kercheval Station, Detroit, Mich, 48215.

I sometimes wonder if people still know the meaning of love. If someone out there does, please contact me through mail. I am 19, white. I am not masculine or feminine; ultra liberal or super conservative--just a person who wants love and security and is willing to give that and much more back. Please, no tricksters. I'm tired of the tricks and stereotyping. Reply only if you're a sincere person who can love and who wants to be loved. Resident (Dave), 944 N. 20th ST., Apt No. 15, Milwaukee 53233.

A drinking problem? Call 272-3081. Mention this ad or G.P.U.

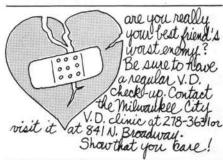
FOR SALE: Tasteful original gay art--male/ female--or work done to order. Write: Wilton David: Gleep!!, 1818 Polk St., apt. F, Alexandria, La. 71301.

Wanted, man to share an apt in Greenfield with 2 other gay guys. Have own furnished bedroom. \$90 per month. Call 282-3757 after 5 p.m.

Back issues of G.P.U. NEWS are available at 50¢ each for every issue since October 1971. Not only are these copies historically important, but a complete volume would be a fine addition to any gay's library. Write: G.P.U. NEWS, P.O. Box 90530, Milwaukee, Wis. 53202

February 9th, Saturday -- Benefit Mardi Gras Costume BAII, Bradley Pavilion, Performing Arts Center. See G.P.U. Members for tickets.

Skiing anyone? Send name, address and phone number if interested in ski companions for short trips or overnight. Replies confidential. Write: Robert Johnson, 2511 N. Farwell, Apt. L, Milwaukee, 53211.





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NEW GROUP IN STEVENS POINT

Several gay women and men from the University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point have started a new gay liberation group. Posters appeared around the city and campus inviting gays to a meeting with the local crisis intervention group called PACISCI. About 20 gays showed up for the first meeting, with the number dropping at second and third meetings.

Then the Stevens Point Journal published an article informing the public that someone had taken official Wisconsin State envelopes and postage meter, writing letters to the paper and others about the gay group. Evidently someone had changed the gay posters also, modifying them to read "Funded by the United Way." The crisis intervention center does receive some of its funds from The United Way, but in no way supported the fledgling gay liberation group financially. They simply allowed the group to meet at their center.

Ms. Kathy Kowalski, a Milwaukeean and one of the student organizers says that she would like to see the gay people of the 7,000 member student body and the 24,000 population city get together so that they would not feel so alone and cut off from each other.

The city has one mixed bar, but most gays feel that it does not adequately serve the gay community.

The efforts of the person or persons who altered the posters and misused official state stationery and postage have evidently backfired. The group now is moving towards official university recognition which will

Gay people throughout the country are sending one another "get well" cards and holding "recovery" parties in celebration.

GPU PHONE

271-5273

enable them to use campus facilities. Meanwhile, any person who wishes to contact the group may do so through the sympathetic PACISCI people at 341-5209 in Stevens Point.

calendar

Gay Peoples Union holds its weekly meetings Monday at 911 E. Ogden starting at 7:30 P.M. with a half-hour social period.

JANUARY

7th, Monday-Regular business meeting-Election of 1974 officers and discussion of goals for the year.

14th, Monday--Pot luck supper at 7:00 followed by activist session of letter writing to psychiatrists, church people and politicians.

21st, Monday--What is G. P. U.'s public image what should we do to promote the group.

28th, Monday--Male and Female Chauvenism and how they operate.

FEBRUARY

4th, Monday--Annual meeting of G. P. U. Incorporated--Yearly reports from various committees etc. Discussion of how to give a truly liberated, gay party.

9th, Saturday -- BENEFIT MARDI-GRAS COSTUME BALL, Bradley Pavilion, Performing Arts Center. See G. P. U. members or write for tickets.

11th, Monday-Special meeting for persons newly discovering their homosexuality. Make a special effort to contact those just coming out.

18th, Monday-- Discrimination against single people and what to do about it.

25th, Monday--A psychiatrist gives his view of homosexuality.

MARCH

4th, Monday--Regular business meeting. .Lovers; How to find them and keep them. The Hazy Vision

across the railing

catching the sun;

naked from the shoulder

his long hair falls on his cheek;

into shadow,

the stranger

watches him

(nothing to say)

divides from evening

late afternoon

and falls away

the hazy vision

living with wives

they hardly know,

the spreading cities,

cities of young men

living alone.

: so often like this

of well-married men

he leans

his arm

Martial

His name is a poet's name and also means war.

To the world his body is the mystery.

My puzzle is behind his pointed eyes that brighten as he looks at me, a blaze of brown.

He flashes his nakedness, crushes me in his soft-muscled arms. Boyish, he laughs and pulls me into bed. His tough face is happy. On his brows, little scars, spreading rumours. Picture for an Anniversary

The photo is a photo of two young men in a forest: the older, curly-haired, sitting, laughing at the camera, the younger stretched on the grass, smiling at his friend: the best gift. I am not in the photograph but here, behind the camera looking through the glass and pressing a finger on the shutter. Later, slipping paper into a plastic tray, into clear fluid in a black room, I wait for trees to slowly reapfor my two friends to join me again. They are coming now; I lean toward them. Their image floats between my hands. Again, I am in the world, a man with a photograph, a man watching,

an invisible man.

The Canadian poet, lan Young, has published several books of poetry, including "Green Moths." He recently edited "The Male Muse", published by The Crossing Press, R.D. 3, Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886, which has been billed as "the first contemporary gay poetry anthology." His work has appeared in Gay Sunshine, Gay Liberator, The Body Politic, Quorum, Gay, Sebastian Quill, One Magazine, and other gay liberation publications. Mr. Young lives in Scarborough, Ontario.

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