

## Annual report for 1978.

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**Gay Peoples Union, inc.**

c/o The Farwell Center, 1568 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. 53202

**Annual Report for  
1978**

P.O. Box 92203 • Milwaukee, Wis. • 53202 • Phone: 414-271-5273

## **GAY PEOPLES UNION, INC.**

### **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1978**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT**

by the Officers and Board of GPU

After years of joint effort by Board members, officers, and the general membership, GPU finally procured Federal 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status in 1978. In related developments, the Board obtained an exemption from Wisconsin state sales tax and a special non-profit organization mailing permit for GPU.

A grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health for expanded VD Clinic operations was processed by the Board. The Board also finalized a contract with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to employ student participants in the federally funded work-study program.

Utilizing GPU's first computerized mailing list, the Board initiated a successful mail campaign to solicit funds during the past year. The Board recommended to the general membership that dues be increased from \$3.00 to \$5.00. A 1978 change in organizational bylaws permitted GPU officers to vote at Board meetings for the first time.

The Board organized a Legal Defense Fund Committee last year and subsequently retained Walther and Hallings as attorneys for GPU. Corporate membership in the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Greater Milwaukee was approved by the Board in 1978, as well as member status in the Information and Referral Providers of Wisconsin, Inc. The Board coordinated GPU's participation in Chicago's Gay Pride Parade and the Brady Street festivals of June and August. The Jay Garland Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Forrest Bright in spring and to Miriam ben Shalom and Leon Rouse in fall by Board vote.

Many longtime Board goals were realized in 1978, but each of these goals is not an end in itself but a beginning. The federal tax exemption, the grant for the VD Clinic, the work-study contract—all can be used to strengthen not only GPU's financial position, but its reputation in the community as well. Making the most of 1978's accomplishments, however, requires more than Board efforts alone. The energy expended by Board, officers, and the general membership in working together to achieve common goals will determine how effective GPU can be in 1979.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

by Miriam ben Shalom, President

1978 was a year of challenge for Gay Peoples Union. The first challenge we, as an organization, had to meet was the series of "busts"/harrassing actions by the Milwaukee Police Department against our community.

In May, the police initiated a raid at several of Milwaukee's gay health clubs. Many arrests followed, including 8 felony counts of sexual perversion. Gay Peoples Union was there. One of our members rushed to the scene and began obtaining information: within a short period of time, GPU members arrived at the police station in order to gather names and arrange bail for those who could be bailed out. We also arranged for legal services to be provided for those who did not have an attorney, provided counselling for those who requested it, and set up a special legal defense fund.

We began a city-wide effort to raise funds for individuals who chose to fight any charges brought against them. This proved to unify the community at least temporarily, and proved to be a wise action, because another raid occurred at the end of June. While no felony counts came down this time, as laws had been changed, still, the community seemed to exist under a pall of fear.

During the whole period of charging, GPU was there with the men. In the police station and on into the court rooms, members of GPU generously donated their time so that the individuals charged were protected from the press and were given the support they needed to deal with the pressures of their individual cases. GPU interceded with the press when necessary, and later held a press conference to explain the issues and course of action. We gained the respect of the media, and they proved to be very responsive to our request that the men involved not be sensationalized.

Because of our judicial application of PR — and I believe, because of the strength in our resolve to assist those who chose to fight charges, we and the men won victories. Most charges were dropped. Several men were put on diversionary probation,

which left them with no record. It seemed that even the D.A.'s office became at least a little liberated, in that it dealt with the men in a humane manner and with the charges in the most lenient of ways. The harrassing actions at the clubs ceased, but still continued at individual bars. Several GPU fund-raisers were busted—and it became apparent that we were becoming marked targets. But despite individuals who wanted in the worst way to return GPU to the closet, this organization stood strongly. We continued raising funds, continued our open course of action. We raised approximately \$10,000 (see Treasurer's report for exact figure) for defense and counselled many individuals involved not only with the busts, but who decided that they needed to talk to a gay person. And slowly, the incidents of police harassment stopped.

In addition to facing a crisis of such impact, we found that the building we occupy was up for possible sale. While we still have several months of tenancy, it seems that we will have to begin that long hard search for a new home.

Through all, we maintained a high calibre of functioning. We maintained the services we offer—the VD clinic, counselling, educational meetings and programs, and outreach to the non-gay community of Milwaukee.

I feel that this organization has cause to be proud. If I must speak to future issues and plans of action, here is what I would suggest:

1. Because of our Income Tax exemption, we must begin to pursue funding—not only within the gay community, but outside as well. We are entitled to government funds, the same as any other minority. We are entitled to the same sort of assistance that other minority organizations often obtain.
- 2) We must not allow the voices of fear to return us to the closet. So much depends now, on our being there. We must maintain the services we offer at any cost. If we allow intimidation tactics to work, we will have failed not only those who have come to us, and oddly, the non-gay community. We are the speakers in classes, we are the organization to which the media comes when it wants credible information. We are an educational organization, a charitable organization, and a scientific one via the work we do with our clinic. Where will gays go if we falter? I believe we are our brother/sister's keeper.
3. We must obtain our own property. I am aware that this involves a great deal of money. So I suggest that we investigate the services of a pro-

fessional fundraiser. While we are not the wealthiest of organizations, still, sometimes, you have to spend some to make some.

4. We must strengthen our outreach to the non-gay community. We are but 10% of the population. We must educate that other 90%. . . I would like to see GPU form a professional speaker's bureau. So much depends on education. . .
5. And last, but most important of all—this organization must remain strong in and of itself. We are the one voice which calls for the end to discrimination against gays in this area—and we do it for men and women. We must not allow inter-group squabbles to tear us apart. If we are not here—who, then, will speak? It is almost a sacred trust we bear. . .

The coming year will be a year, again, of challenge. I don't believe for a moment that the police have forgotten us or the gay community. But with strength and purpose in mind, in the words of the great Dr. Martin Luther King:

"We Shall Overcome."

## PROPOSAL WRITING COMMITTEE

by Donna Coleman

The members of the proposal writing committee enrolled in a six-week grantpersonship class at the YWCA in the autumn of 1978. Utilizing the knowledge gained in this course, the committee engaged in extensive research at Marquette University's Foundation Library to confirm potential public and private sources of funding for GPU. A formal list of these funding sources is presently being compiled by the committee. It was ascertained that the VD Health Group is one of the most "fundable" of the programs and activities GPU sponsors.

A system was initiated to provide a record of organizational expenses that can be used as matching contributions when applying for certain types of federal grants. Such expenses include the value of the time spent by Board and Officers at organizational meetings, their transportation costs to and from these meetings, and the value of the time donated by doctors and examiners working at GPU's VD Center. The committee also developed a form letter to solicit information and proposal guidelines from selected potential funding sources.



## LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

by Eldon E. Murray

1978 was another year of substantial growth for GPU Library. Over \$1,500 worth of books, periodicals, and records were added to the collection. However, total funds expended by GPU for the library amounted to \$43.65 (of which \$13.65 was donated with an earmark for the library).

This growth, for the most part, was made possible by donations from GPU NEWS (Liberation Publications of Wisconsin, Inc.). In addition to several boxes of books donated by GPU NEWS readers in other parts of the country, the publication donated all of the publisher review copies of books and records received during the year. (One volume [L'Amour Bleu] alone carried a \$75 publisher's price. In addition, GPU NEWS donated all periodicals received from more than 50 exchange subscriptions with other periodicals.

Unfortunately, GPU Library remains in considerable disarray because of the lack of volunteers to sort and index the books which come in faster than they can be handled by one or two persons. The work is **not** difficult and requires **no** special skills (except for the ability to type for index cards). **Volunteers are urgently needed** even for such simple tasks as pasting news clippings on sheets of paper. If you wish to donate materials, use the library, or volunteer time to help preserve this very valuable asset to your organization, simply call 276-0612.

## HOTLINE REPORT

by Miki Doxtater

The phone line operated Monday—Saturday evenings 7—10:30 p.m. during the past year. At other times a recorded message provided ongoing messages of news, events, and counseling, GPU and VD Clinic hours.

Will Orris acted as chairperson of the Counseling Committee over the past year. He also conducted in-service training sessions for other volunteers and served as our representative to the Milwaukee Hotline Council.

We are grateful to those who have served on our counseling team this past year and hope for their assistance in the future. Unfortunately, Hotline statistics for the past year are unavailable at the time this report is published.

## GPU LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

by Alyn Hess

Gay Peoples Union Legal Defense Fund collected a total of \$7,095 during 1978. The fund, which was formed after the May 6 police raid on the Broadway Health Club, paid \$2,500 to have attorneys represent those men who did not have their own attorney. This fee was a special bargain rate considering the number of men involved and the legal hours spent. The fee saw most of the men through plea bargaining of guilty on a misdemeanor instead of facing felony charges.

Four men chose to plead not guilty to the felony charge of sexual perversion and asked GPU Legal Defense Fund for help with their attorney fees. So far, \$3,975 has been divided among them. About that much more is still needed to fully pay off their legal fees.

A lesbian asked for aid in filing her case concerning lesbian rights in Federal Court. She received \$75 toward her filing fee. Thousands of dollars more are still needed in this case also.

Because all of the directors of GPU Legal Defense Fund served without pay and since only \$396 was spent to print posters, send mailings, and print up return envelopes, only 5% of all money raised was needed to operate the fund.

If you have not yet given a tax-deductible contribution to the Gay Peoples Union Legal Defense Fund or if you wish to give again, simply send your donation check payable to GPU Legal Defense Fund to P.O. Box 92203, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Chairperson Alyn Hess wishes to thank the fund directors Si Smits, Miriam ben Shalom, and Tom Katke for their efforts. The entire committee wishes to thank all those who contributed to the fund in 1978.

# GPU INC. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL 1978

by Si Smits, Treasurer

## Cash Received

	1977	1978
Collections at meetings	1211.34	1023.57
General Donations	1144.59	2186.90
Membership dues	321.00	377.00
V.D. Examination Center	4037.57	5032.85
Speaker's Honorariums	30.00	N/A
Library	0.00	13.65
Donations for Public Relations	1720.35	1379.12
Fund Raising	573.24	907.60
Phone Committee, Hot Line	17.00	0.00
Counseling	10.00	0.00
Defense Fund Donations	N/A	7105.03
Interest from Savings Accounts	174.92	211.95

<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>	<b>9240.01</b>	<b>18237.67</b>
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## Cash Expenses

Library Committee	145.12	43.65
Speaker's Committee	16.91	N/A
Membership Committee	90.42	25.32
General Corporation Operations	457.14	423.51
Phone Committee, Hot Line	734.55	938.66
Legal Services	325.00	885.10
V.D. Examination Center & Farwell		
Center Operations	897.33	2432.51
V.D. Center Salaries	2527.82	1621.95
Public Relations	1588.07	1005.49
Fund Raising	80.55	186.35
Savings Account	0.00	0.00
Federal Govt, FICA, State Tax	700.54	381.88
Corporation Assets	1875.00	0.00
Rent	N/A	4080.00
Electric Power	N/A	300.97
Defense Fund	N/A	6957.21
Bank Service Charge	37.60	60.87
Miscellaneous	371.75	0.00

<b>Total Cash Expenses</b>	<b>9847.80</b>	<b>19343.47</b>
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(N/A = not applicable)

## TOTAL RETAINED EARNINGS FOR 1978

Balance in Savings Account	2921.83
Balance in checking account	69.55
Total in G.P.U. Accounts	2991.38

Scholarship Fund 1977 balance	250.79
Income	93.00
Interest	9.24
Awards	175.00
Scholarship Fund 1978 balance	178.00

## FARWELL CENTER

by Mark Behar

Gay Peoples Union, Inc. moved into the Farwell Center (FC), 1568 N. Farwell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202 in June, 1975, with the generous help of the Gerald E. Meyers Foundation. Since then, the FC has attempted to serve the needs of the gay community of Greater Milwaukee by lending its facility and mailing address to any group so requesting. Although GPU continues to operate the FC, several groups have used the FC in 1978: Bisexual Men's Group; Bisexual Wive's Group; Coalition of Greater Milwaukee Community Health Centers; a consciousness raising group; Gay Alcoholics Anonymous and Gay Alanon; The Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Greater Milwaukee; Gay Overeaters Anonymous; GPU NEWS; Lesbian Health Services Committee; Metropolitan Community Church (and an MCC "Blessing of Union"); and a teen group. GPU's general meetings and other related activities also played a large part in FC activities: meetings with guest speakers, open raps, etc. occurred Monday evenings (except holidays); VD Clinic services were available Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings and Saturdays; Hotline & Counseling services were available nightly except Sundays, until December (see Hotline Report); part of the GPU Library occupies one room at the FC; other meetings and activities were interspersed throughout the year. Although there seemed to be a rather conspicuous absence of specifically women's activities, it should be noted that women were well integrated in many FC and GPU activities.

Several projects and activities in 1978 regrettably did not succeed. Although there was a need for a Gay Women's/Lesbian Health Service at the FC, there were not enough volunteers who had time to work on it. The concept of summertime Special Interest Groups (an attempt to bring people together in bicycling, volleyball, camping, sailing, and other activities) didn't attract enough interest due to inadequate publicity; and furthermore, did not have adequate direction and leadership to succeed.

The FC has displayed and offered for donation current issues of GPU NEWS and Amazon, along with buttons, posters, t-shirts, etc. Hot drinks (Coffee, tea, cocoa) and bottled soda also available to all FC users.

Several problems have plagued the FC in 1978—most notably a poorly functioning furnace, and a severely leaky roof which has caused some physical damage. There was a serious disruption of GPU Hotline & Counseling services at the end of the year which resulted in the FC being closed and thereby inaccessible to telephone callers and walk in visitors. These problems, along with our month-by-month lease with First Bank Midland, severely

strained the energies of the volunteers working at the FC and also dampened any plans for expansion of services and programs.

Therefore, 1979 promises to be a year of change. A new facility must be acquired that can accommodate all of the diverse groups and activities that now use the FC. This must include sufficient room for large and small meetings, VD Clinic, Hotline & Counseling, and Library operations. Hopefully, it will be versatile enough to accommodate a billiard and/or ping pong table, lounge chairs and a TV room. Secondly, my position as Director of the FC will be available to an energetic and highly motivated individual this summer. This will offer opportunity for change in direction and policy.

As money must be available for the rental (or purchase) of the new facility and salary of the new director, a request for funds will be formally made to representatives of the gay community soon. It will request a limited financial commitment to help provide funds until private or public agencies are solicited. However, we should not be prematurely optimistic because funding will be very competitive and not as available as is expected. Since all donations to the FC's operating agency (Gay Peoples Union) are tax deductible, this should encourage large donations. However this requires motivated and energetic people to solicit these funds. These problems are of utmost importance and require the financial support of every gay woman and man in Milwaukee. When we are no longer overshadowed by the impermanence of our present building situation, and by how finances will be acquired, then we can devote full energies to development of services that would interest, involve and benefit the entire community.

Expenses and Income specifically related to the FC follows:

(N/A = data not available)

	1977	1978
<b>INCOME</b>		
Soda Sales	\$449.75	564.50
Coffee Donations	36.50	44.97
Misc. & Donations		
from groups using FC	130.00 *	501.70 *
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Rent	\$4080.00	4080.00
Director's Salary	300.00	300.00
Soda Machine Rentals	100.45	108.00
Soda	260.86	466.90
Coffee, creamer,		
cocoa, cups etc.	50.00	52.51
Maintenance & Supplies	161.00	107.54
Miscellaneous	N/A	97.84
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$616.25	\$1111.17
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	4952.31	5212.79

\*Many donations to the FC were turned in directly to the Treasurer and are therefore not indicated here.



**GAY PEOPLES UNION  
VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC**

**1978 REPORT 1979**

by Mark Behar, Director

The GPU VD Clinic (VDC) began operating on October 11, 1974 as the GPU Examination Center for Venereal Disease, and was funded from three primary sources: the City of Milwaukee Health Department's Phizer Pharmaceutical Co. grant, which was channeled through the 16th Street Community Health Center (H.O.P.E.—Health Organization for Public Ethics); the Gerald E. Meyers (GEM) Foundation's provision of furniture and office equipment, and matching funds; and Gay Peoples Union's own financial resources. Please consult the 1977 Annual Report for details on the VDC's history, affiliations, and growth.

In addition to these funding sources, the City of Milwaukee Bureau of Laboratories regularly delivers culture plates and provides testing of all cultures and bloods, and the Wisconsin Division of Health provides discrete followup contact for all clients with positive tests. In addition, both the City and the State provide important medicines and supplies at no charge (City: Kwell lotion and shampoo for parasitic infestations; serology tubes and needles; Doxycyel, a synthetic tetracycline, for several venereal diseases; and the State: Penicillin and Benemid for gonorrhea and syphilis, and much equipment. Thus, the VDC is a good example of how GPU works cooperatively with government and private resources to help reduce a community-wide health problem. It is interesting to note that the GPU VDC is the second largest free, public VD clinic in Milwaukee.

The GPU VDC continues to operate a VD information and hotline (347-1222) during our regular hours of operation, 7-10 pm on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, and 11am-2pm on Saturdays, at the Farwell Center, 1568 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53202. ~~The VDC has also attempted to operate an Outreach VD examination program at the Club Milwaukee Baths during the last full week of every month. This will be discussed below.~~

~~We were very fortunate to have Drs. Roger Gremminger and Robert Bolan as our Clinic physicians. They have both worked hard to insure smooth operations of the clinic and have both generously agreed to donate their municipal salaries to the VDC.~~

**FINANCES**

The VDC's operating agency, Gay Peoples Union, finally had their federal tax exempt status [501(c)(3)] application approved (retroactive to March 1976) and this enabled the Clinic to enter into an agreement with the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee Work Study Department (contract #99-4783) to hire a stu-

dent for part time employment. The federal government pays 80% of the work study student's salary and the VDC pays the remaining 20%. Two student employees, Achontyrausi B. and Vicki S. have worked with the VDC as examiners, interviewers and medical record transcribers. A similar attempt to establish a work study agreement with Marquette University failed. Unfortunately there was not adequate time to investigate the reasons for the rejected application, or to pursue an appeal.

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue awarded GPU a sales tax exemption (#ES 18421) on 9/26/78 and this eliminated the 4% sales tax on purchases of expensive medical supplies. The Wisconsin Division of Health established a contract with the VDC for improved and expanded diagnostic and treatment services for VD and vaginitis. Specifically, \$1500 was awarded for the acquisition of specialized medications and equipment (grant fiscal year 7/78—6/79). An attempt to register eligibility with the Wisconsin Federal Surplus Property Program to allow us to acquire Federal Surplus Property (e.g., tables, chairs, file cabinets, medical supplies, etc.) at low cost was unjustly (in my opinion) rejected, and this matter will be pursued in 1979. It should be noted that the 1978 GPU Board of Directors had authorized me to seek legal counsel if necessary, concerning this issue.

Although our relationships with the State, the University, and the City have assisted us financially, by far our most unrealized potential lies with our federal tax exempt status that allows tax deductible donations from clients. Donations have averaged \$253 a month by clients and \$181 a month by physicians (\$434 month total) in 1978, considerably higher than in 1977, but far below the potential.

*Work Study Jan-July, Vicki S.*

**DEMOGRAPHICS AND DISEASE**

The following describes the type of people using VDC services in 1978. A total of 1,939 client-visits were registered, compared with 1,123 client-visits in 1977, 687 client-visits in 1976, 509 client-visits in 1975, and 143 client-visits in the 2½ months of VD Center operations in 1974. There were 924 new patients in 1978 (i.e., patients never having used the VDC's services before), compared with 392 from 8/10/77 (when we began our medical records system) to 12/31/77. Table 2 gives additional information about our clients.

**Gonorrhea (GC)**

In 1978, the GPU VDC took 3,016 cultures with an overall 9.35% positivity (282 cases), compared with 2,368 cultures with an overall 5.4% positivity (129 cases) in 1977, 1,696 cultures with an overall 4.54%



positivity (77 cases) in 1976, and 788 cultures with an overall 3.9% positivity (31 cases) in 1975. More specifically, the City of Milwaukee Bureau of Laboratories in conjunction with the Wisconsin Division of Health provided us with the following data given in Table 3.

In 1978, 21.48% more overall GC cultures were performed than in 1977; 27.9% more urethral cultures; 39.5% more rectal cultures; and 13.4% more oral cultures were performed in 1978 than in 1977.

Since the Clinic was established in September, 1977, we have been routinely performing gram-negative staining procedures ("smears") on all urethral discharges to better diagnose urethral gonorrhea. Since this is considered a provisional diagnosis, urethral cultures are always indicated for a definite diagnosis of urethral gonorrhea. Our "rate of error," defined as when the smear is negative and the culture is positive (the reverse situation, when the smear is positive and the culture is negative is not necessarily considered error due to the fastidiousness of the organism on the culture media) was initially high due to improperly operating equipment (out-of-adjustment microscope) and great variability in specimen collection and staining by examiners. However, in most cases of error, patients were given the benefit of the doubt and treated. Therefore a high percentage of patients with negative urethral gonorrhea smears were treated as positives. The error rate for agreement between smears and cultures is given in table 4.

### Syphilis (S)

It is difficult to determine the extent of S for several reasons. The two laboratory tests on bloods at the City of Milwaukee Laboratory (the VDRL and the FTA-ABS) must be analyzed in context with the patient's medical and sexual contact history in order to verify new cases of S, or to document old cases that have already been treated. Since the VDRL (a general screening test for S) and FTA (the confirmatory test for S) often remain reactive long after a person's successful treatment of the infection, it is not easy to verify new, untreated cases with certainty. Finding new, untreated S cases is a time-consuming task, involving correlation of a person's blood tests (often periodic blood tests are required for comparison) and the person's sexual history.

THE GPU VDC processed 1,422 serologies in 1978 compared with 925 bloods in 1977. Of these 1,422 (many people had repeat bloods during the year), 77 bloods had reactive VDRLs and 30 bloods had reactive FTAs. Further study revealed approximately 25 people with new, untreated infections (any stage of S), compared with approximately 13 people in 1977. Approximately 12 reactive VDRLs were drawn from

our Outreach Program (primarily the baths), and 6 of these were diagnosed as new cases of S. This small number is not a good indication of S among gay people, however, because many gay people use the services of the Milwaukee Social Hygiene Clinic, other clinics, or private physicians. Since the incubation period for S can be anywhere from 10 to 90 days, and a blood test may not become positive until after this period, and since early symptoms are often confusing and may not be noticed, one can appreciate how these factors significantly contribute to the spread of the disease.

### Blood Pressure Testing

12 Routine blood pressure testing for the City of Milwaukee's Hypertension Screening Program was performed every Wednesday evening at the VDC as a public service. Blood pressure testing is especially important for gay men because single males comprise a high risk population that doesn't regularly seek medical care. Elevated blood pressure (defined as over 140/90 for adults, ages 18-49, and over 160/95 for adults over the age of 50), if untreated, can often result in such life threatening problems as heart attack, kidney failure, and stroke. See Table 5 for more detailed data.

### OUTREACH PROGRAM

Our primary outreach program in 1978 was VD screening at the Club Milwaukee Baths. We attempted to provide VD testing services during the last full week of every month to accommodate a greater number and variety of clients. Management has been very helpful in encouraging patrons to get regular tests (e.g., free locker or room passes). Total number of clients tested was 219 in 1978, compared with 261 in 1977. Six new cases of syphilis were uncovered at the Baths, along with 12 rectal, 3 oral, and 2 urethral gonorrhea infections, compared with 1 new case of syphilis, and 2 rectal gonorrhea infections in 1977. Out of 84 possible testing days (the last full week of every month), only 62 days were adequately staffed. The 24.7% decrease in number of clients tested may be attributed to our volunteer VD examiners being intimidated by threats of repeated Milwaukee Police Department raids at the Baths (there were several in 1978) and therefore refusing to offer their testing services for this vital public health program. In an attempt to reassure that examiners will be immune from police harassment, an unprecedented meeting was arranged between prominent City of Milwaukee Health Department Officials and GPU VD Clinic staff. "Observers from the 3 bath establishments and the Milwaukee Police Department were invited to the meeting; only one bath representative (from the Club Milwaukee) was present and contrary to official minutes of the meeting, Police Dept. obser-

vers were in fact **not present**. It can only be inferred that since they officially **were** present, they concurred with the discussions that took place. To wit, that the VDC is performing a vital public health service in testing a high VD risk population and that some sort of official Milwaukee Health Dept. I.D. of examiners, either with photo I.D. cards (suggested by the City), or a letter of authorization (suggested by the VDC) would be necessary to allay the fear of police harassment of examiners testing at the Baths. As of this date (3/79), the above proposals have not been implemented.

A second Outreach program was initiated during a minor outbreak of syphilis early in 1978. Arrangements for blood testing at a popular disco (Kisses) for 4 consecutive Sundays were made, and a final "Kiss Off VD Valentine's Day Benefit" brought in some money for VDC operations. The manager/owner of the bar offered honoraria to the examiners for their services and was most cooperative in helping to promote the activity. Seventy-seven bloods were drawn.

### **WISCONSIN CONFERENCE ON VENEREAL DISEASES**

The GPU VDC was very fortunate to be invited to participate in the first Wisconsin Conference on Venereal Diseases, held at the Red Carpet Inn, October 17-18, 1978. The conference was co-sponsored by the City of Milwaukee Health Department, the Wisconsin Division of Health, Blue Cross of Wisconsin, Surgical Care Blue Shield of Wisconsin, American Social Health Association, and the Junior League of Milwaukee.

One seminar titled "Problems of Male to Male Transmission of Venereal Disease" was presented by Jeff Poaster of Madison's Renaissance Gay VD Clinic, along with Dr. Robert Bolan and myself of the GPU VDC. Dr. Bolan also participated in a seminar titled "Other Sexually Transmitted Diseases" along with Dr. Paul Wiesner, head of the Center for Disease Control's Venereal Disease Program. Our participation in the Conference was a valuable experience for communicating ideas and making important contacts with other VD professionals around the state and country.

### **THE FUTURE AND SPECIAL THANKS**

This was a year of stabilization, growth, and maturation for the VDC, and 1979 has promise of exciting new direction. Two major changes will occur: 1) A change in location. The Farwell Center has been for sale by the First Bank Midland for some time now and the building will probably be sold and torn down for redevelopment this summer. The GPU Board of Directors will be wise to seek a facility somewhere on the east side (where most gay people live) that is adaptable to the needs of the VDC—interview, wait-

ing, treatment, diagnosis rooms, etc. GPU's tax exempt status would make an attractive reason for a large donation from several benefactors for down payment on the purchase of a building. 2) My resignation this summer to pursue further academic training will allow a fresh new approach to VDC operations. However, since adequate funding for a full time Director does not seem to be forthcoming, the responsibilities of the Director will have to be divided among several people in order to insure the continued smooth and efficient operation of VD services. A proposal is currently in preparation that will describe and delineate the responsibilities of a multi-Director operation.

Although prospects for renewal of our grant with the Wisconsin Division of Health are promising, we must impress upon our clients the crucial need for their support with tax deductible donations. I believe this can be done by requesting specific dollar amounts as suggested donations for the services that we provide. However, tangible benefit from donations are not readily apparent, therefore a visible and aggressive "public awareness of VD" campaign is needed. A brochure describing Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) in gay people is currently in preparation, and with the financial help of the Division of Health, may very well become a statewide circulated handout. Additional educational projects such as a bi-monthly VD newsletter describing new discoveries and developments in the diagnosis and treatment of VD, factual information to dispel myths written in novel ways (quizzes, crossword puzzles, "Ask the doctor" etc.) and ongoing discussions, speakers, film presentations, etc. to help occupy time while waiting for interviews, testing, or treatment offer exciting possibilities.

We sincerely thank the following people for helping us attain our goals: Fred Martich and Casey Riley (Wisconsin Division of Health), Mike Burns (16th St. Community Health Center), Dr. Constantine Panagis (City of Milwaukee Commissioner of Health), Drs. Ric Biek, Ruth Shuh, and Benjamin Lyne (Milwaukee Health Department), Paul Pace and Dr. Henry Wisniewski (City of Milwaukee Bureau of Laboratories), Arnie Malmom (Milwaukee Blood Pressure Screening Program), Paul DeMarco (Club Milwaukee Baths), Sam Gibson (Kisses Disco), Gerald E. Meyers (GEM Foundation), Eldon E. Murray (GPU NEWS), and the officers, board, and members of Gay Peoples Union, Inc. Special thanks go to those dedicated volunteers who have directly worked with the VDC in 1978: Dr. Robert Bolan, Dr. Roger Gremminger, Achontyrausi B., Roger B., Bruce B., Forrest B., Shauna D., Sue D., Dennis F., Burr F., Maryann F., Johnny J., Lois L., Mike M., Terry N., Marnee P., Chuck P., Mark R., Xavier S., Vicki S., Barry S., Terry T., Connie T., and Jim W.



TABLE 1

Expenses*	1976	1977	1978
Medical supplies, etc.	74.00	715.00	1534.86
Salaries**	2090.26	2527.82	2339.48
Telephone	197.88	197.88	282.93
<b>Income*</b>			
Client Donations	251.00	1282.00	3036.73
MD's Donations	N/A	224.81	2167.57
Grants	2786.88 ****	2283.73 ****	753.84 ***
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3037.88</b>	<b>3790.54</b>	<b>5958.14</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2362.14</b>	<b>3440.70</b>	<b>4157.27</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>675.74</b>	<b>349.84</b>	<b>1800.87</b>
<b>** Salaries</b>			
Gross	2589.00	2939.06	1957.60 *****
Federal Tax	290.19	182.95	3.90
State Tax	57.60	56.31	18.30
FICA	150.95	171.98	105.85
Net	2090.26	2527.82	1621.95
Additional FICA & Unemploy. Comp.	N/A	N/A	381.88

\* These figures will not necessarily agree with the Treasurer's report because of different accounting basis (VDC: accrual; Treasurer: cash) and because finances may bypass the VDC's books and go directly to the Treasurer without adequate accounting.

\*\*\* Part of a \$1,500 Wisconsin Division of Health grant that runs from 7/78—6/79.

\*\*\*\* City of Milwaukee Health Department's Pfizer Pharmaceutical Co. grant as channeled through the 16th Street Community Health Center.

\*\*\*\*\* This includes \$1,750 gross salary for a part time director and part time assistant director, and 274 hours of work study employment (we pay only 20% of a \$3 hourly wage).

TABLE 5

	GPU VD Clinic	Milwaukee County
	1977	1978
<b>Total Tests Performed</b>	172	48119
<b>% having elevated readings</b>	23.25	20.70
<b>% men with elevated readings</b>	24.05	24.59
<b>% black men with elev. readings</b>	11.11	35.15
<b>% women with elevated readings</b>	14.28	17.11



TABLE 2

## Area of Residence (According to Zipcodes)

	1977	1978
Local (532--)	76.2%	74.9%
Nonlocal*	21.7%	22.3%
Not Given	2.1%	2.8%

\* Visitors from all over the country

## Ages

	1977	1978
15 or under	0.4%	0.1%
16—20	11.2%	11.9%
21—25	23.5%	39.2%
26—30	23.5%	20.0%
31—35	15.0%	13.2%
36—40	11.4%	6.8%
41—45	6.2%	2.9%
46—50	5.4%	2.7%
51—55	1.4%	1.9%
56—60	1.1%	1.0%
Over 61	0.1%	0.1%
Not Given	0.2%	0.2%

## Sexual Preferences

	1977	1978
Gay/Homosexual	62.1%	54.9%
Bisexual	19.2%	19.4%
Heterosexual	17.2%	21.4%
Not Given	1.5%	4.3%

## Marital Status

	1977	1978
Single	82.8%	83.2%
Married	11.5%	9.0%
Other	5.0%	6.3%
Not Given	0.7%	1.5%

## Sex

	1977	1978
Male	94.3%	91.1%
Female	5.7%	7.5%
Not Given	0.0%	1.4%

TABLE 3

Total Gonorrhea Cultures by Site & Positivity in %  
(N/A = data not available)

	1975		1976		1977		1978	
<b>Male</b>								
GC—R	221	4.5	471	4.7	645	8.2	900	13.3
GC—O	296	2.0	652	3.7	812	3.9	921	4.9
GC—U	267	5.6	573	5.4	870	4.9	1113	8.6
S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	114	16.7	242	28.9
A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	400	2.3	710	3.0
?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	177	5.1	161	2.5
<b>Female</b>								
GC—R	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	0.0	13	15.4
GC—O	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	23	4.3	18	0.0
GC—C	3	0.0	6	0.0	12	0.0	51	19.6
<b>Overall</b>	788	3.9	1696	4.54	2368	5.4	3016	9.35

[GC—R, GC—O, GC—U, GC—C = gonorrhea cultures of the rectum, oropharynx/throat, urethra/penis, and cervix/vagina. S, A, ?, refer to whether the urethral culture was claimed to be symptomatic, asymptomatic, or unknown.]

TABLE 4

Dates	Errors/ Smears	% Error Rate
Sept. 1977	2/3	66.0%
Oct.—Dec. 1977	1/21	4.76%
Jan.—Mar. 1978	2/22	9.09%
Apr.—Jun. 1978	3/34	8.82%
Jul.—Sep. 1978	3/32	9.38%
Oct.—Dec. 1978	1/39	2.56%