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Gay Peoples Union, inc.



Annual Report for

77

- 1 BOARD
- 1 PRESIDENT
- 2 PRESIDENT
- 4 TRESURER
- 5 BY LAWS
- 5 LIBRARY
- 5 COUNSELING
- 6 FARWELL CENTER
- 7 V.D. CLINIC

GAY PEOPLES UNION, INC. ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1977

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

This past year's Board of GPU was marked by members who encompassed different viewpoints and this led to some lively discussion and certainly gave way to some thoughtful ideas as we struggled to deal with problems.

Chief among these were expansion of the VD program, payment of rent on the Farwell Center as well as general fund-raising programs and ideas. The filing of our 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Status papers with the Internal Revenue Service was certainly one of the Board's biggest concerns during 1977.

One of the most interesting developments of the year was the Board's casting of votes on various gay and gay related issues as discussed at the national convention in Denver. The Board was forced to send a response in before the next regular business meeting, and when the members were consulted, the Board found that our votes did not necessarily meet the needs of the membership at large. The lesson learned here was that the Board, while giving direction to the group as a whole, still cannot speak for the group and because of our democratic process the membership retains the right and obligation to have their voices heard.

I see the past year as a definite plus for GPU as well as the Board of Directors, and hopefully we all saw the workings of GPU put into perspective; not only through the eyes of the membership, but the Board as well!

Patrick Batt
Board Chairperson, 1977

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: October-December, 1977
by Miriam Ben-Shalom

I was elected to office in a special election held in October. The Board of Directors asked me to deal with three areas of importance to GPU: 1) Fund Raising; 2) Membership; and 3) the IRS tax exemption. Because I am not a professional fund raiser, I decided to first deal with membership and the income tax exemption.

After several weeks of gathering information, Attorney Betty Adelman completed the necessary forms. These were sent to the IRS in December; we received word on January 18, 1978, that the forms are being duly processed.

In order to stimulate interest in GPU, I decided to initiate a series of lectures aimed at informing the Milwaukee Gay Community on a variety of subjects—ranging from psychiatry to blood banking. A series of twelve informational and educational lectures entitled "The Gay Roots Lecture Series," was held during the last months of 1977 and January, 1978.

I did explore means of fund raising. One of the problems encountered was the fact that many individuals wanted to donate or give us financial assistance, but wanted to wait until we obtained our income tax exemption. Nevertheless, I asked Mr. Si Smits and Mr. Chuck Balisteri to investigate fund raising enterprises. Mr. Smits wrote a "begging" letter to the membership. One of the nicest results of this letter was a \$500 donation. It must also be noted that donations at meetings when speakers were featured increased, as did the number of individuals seeking membership. The Milwaukee Entertainers' Club raised money for the VD Clinic; there was a bike hike, and several home gatherings raised funds for us.

Looking forward, I hope to augment the lecture series with persons from the media, perhaps from

the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, and other areas of interest. Perhaps the most difficult situation GPU must still deal with is the income tax exemption, and by projection, raising funds to pay rent, telephone bills, and the like.

1978 will be a telling year for GPU. But I have faith in this organization. We have endured much and have emerged strong as ever. We have the experience of years of labor behind us. Our programs—the VD Clinic, the hot-line, counseling services, the speaker's committee, the library, Special Interest Groups—all are growing and expanding. 1978 will be a year of challenge—but hopefully also a year of growth and enrichment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: January--July, 1977
by Alyn Hess

I accepted the renomination for President in December, 1976 with reluctance. My proposed program for how to put GPU on a full-time professional basis had been rejected by the Board and members. Further, I was also physically and mentally tired from years of working for Gay Liberation.

But I thought that I might be able to get the new Board to finally see the real problems facing the corporation and the Gay Liberation movement. I outlined the situation to them again and asked them what direction they wanted to go. They could not bring themselves to set goals or priorities.

So I set my own, in the absence of any others, and tried to proceed as best I could. I told the Counseling, VD, and Speaker's committees to ask for donations for the services rendered. I prepared the IRS 501(c)(3) re-application. The Board said not to submit it without having a lawyer type it up. For some unknown reason, the lawyer just would not type it up and send it in.

Following through further on my own priorities, I left the preparation of the programs for weekly Monday meetings to those who protested my proposed discontinuance of them. Their interest in preparing them soon waned, and meetings again deteriorated.

Anita Bryant's anti-gay campaign offered many opportunities for this group to advance Gay Liberation. But little was done. My own energies having been put in law reform and corporation work, I did not have energies left to be an effective leader. After having organized our marching contingent in Chicago's Gay Pride parade, my feelings at the closing rally were mostly exhaustion, not elation and pride. I had to realize that I was burned out.

What finally broke my last bit of will to try and lead the group came in July when an obviously intoxicated officer came to a Board and business meeting and was given a vote of confidence. When the group and its leaders are so far out of touch with reality that they can't tell the condition of a person who is standing before them barely capable of speaking, no one can lead them. So I resigned in July.

Allow me once more to outline the situation as I saw it. GPU has been standing still, or even going downhill for several years. We have not had the Board, officers, or members who can make up their minds what they think GPU and Gay Liberation ought to be doing. I think the choice is between being a service center, or being an activist group pushing for changes in society. *I prefer activism.*

Now the group is doing neither one well. And we are thus losing people and money because we can't set our goals. Further, we are wasting people's time and burning out volunteers by giving away our services for free. Is it any wonder then that there is precious little time, energy, or people left to do the work of countering Anita Bryant and to make this a better world for Gay people?

In due course everyone else is likely to burn out just as I have. What can be done to avoid that, and make Gay Liberation a continuing movement for change here in Milwaukee? The answer still is *going professional*. Now we are operating as amateurs.

Three years ago I started the VD program as a way of getting money to pay some of our volunteers and also as a way of getting us office space. When the money ran out, as we knew it would, the program should have ended. Instead, we now run it with volunteer staff, and GPU must pay the rent. Thus, we are wasting time and money to provide a convenient closet for people who will not use the public clinics they support with their taxes. We are now working *against* Gay Liberation. We are hiding our closet Gays away from the straight world so that our problems will never be seen. That is not only wrong, but counter-productive.

Every person who wants to use the clinic should pay the price of this convenience and closet protection service. Why should supposedly liberated people waste their efforts and not get paid for them, especially when the effort is counter to changing the society we live in?

The counseling service is in a similar situation. We are wasting valuable counseling skills making referrals sending people to Gay bars. And the bars don't even pay us for the service. The counselors are putting band-aids on the hurting people instead of going out and stopping the source of the pain.

We must stop being free Florence Nightingales and become soldiers fighting for the rights of all Gay people.

Our very well informed speakers should get paid for their time and knowledge. Why shouldn't GPU conduct classes for fees just as Planned Parenthood and the University of Wisconsin—Extension does? Let our message of Gay Liberation pay its own way as much as possible.

Our terrific library has been collected over the years and is without a doubt the most valuable asset this corporation has. Yet do we really promote its use? We should charge a fee for each book borrowed. Other private libraries operate that way. How else can we pay for the work of putting it together and providing our service? Let the user pay, not us.

In addition, officers and Board members should be paid a fee for their work. Perhaps with some monetary reward provided, we will get past this situation where no one wants to run for an office. This corporation will not last much longer without officers.

Either we make the transition to professionalism or we will just gruesomely wear out every one of our wonderful volunteers. The organization will cease to function. Much of what has been Gay Liberation will cease also. Gay Liberation will have ended here without ever achieving its goals.

That does *not* have to happen. All it takes is a *change in our attitude* about our own worth. Don't you think that your work for Gay Liberation is worth something? I think it is. Either we go professional with Gay Liberation or it will die.

GAY PEOPLES UNION, INC. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT for FISCAL 1977
 by Si Smits, Treasurer

CASH RECEIVED	1976	1977
Collection at Monday Meetings.	\$ 795.05	\$1211.34
General Donations	1293.68	1144.59
Membership Dues	272.00	321.00
VD Clinic	3231.44	4037.57
Speaker's Honorariums	45.00	30.00
Library	19.00	0.00
Donations for Public Relations	327.40	1720.35
Fund Raising	1159.01	573.24
General Corporation Operations	50.04	0.00
Phone Committee & Hot Line	105.28	17.00
Building Fund Donations	35.00	0.00
Counseling	25.00	10.00
Interest from Savings Accounts	159.98	174.92
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	\$7517.88	\$9240.01

CASH EXPENSES	1976	1977
Library Committee	\$ 105.07	\$ 145.12
Speaker's Committee	55.00	16.91
Membership Committee	88.33	90.42
General Corporation Operations	1080.44	457.14
Phone Committee & Hot Line	426.78	734.55
Legal Services	31.60	325.00
VD Clinic & Farwell Center Operations	162.10	897.33
VD Clinic Salaries	2090.06	2527.82
Public Relations	283.67	1588.07
Fund Raising	19.41	80.55
Savings Account	905.00	0.00
Federal, FICA, & State Taxes	583.80	700.54
Corporation Assets	1841.60	1875.00
Bank Service Charges	17.38	37.60
Counseling Service	15.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	371.75
TOTAL CASH EXPENSES	\$7705.24	\$9847.80

Total Retained Earnings for 1977	
Balance in Savings Accounts	\$2604.21
Balance in Checking Accounts	1291.08
TOTAL in GPU Accounts	\$3895.29
Total in Scholarship Fund	\$ 250.79
Total Retained Earnings for 1976	
Balance in Savings Accounts	\$3729.29
Balance in Checking Accounts	773.79
TOTAL in GPU Accounts	\$4503.08

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

by Bill W.

The GPU By-Laws needed to be updated, so this committee received suggestions for changes from the members of GPU. The committee met seven times from July-October to incorporate these suggested changes to a final document for presentation. It was presented at the December business meeting and copies were mailed to all members. Action on the By-Laws revision is still pending.

LIBRARY

by Eldon Murray

In 1977, the GPU Library acquired over 400 volumes, bringing the collection to a total of 1386 volumes as of January 1, 1978.

The majority of new volumes in the collection were donated by *GPU News* from its review copies, and a total of \$145.12 was allocated from the GPU budget toward the purchase of books from Marlboro publishers. We also received over 200 volumes, including a number of periodicals, which were donated by individuals. Several GPU members have also helped to expand our clipping file this year.

As of the first of the year, the fiction collection was completely cataloged and ready for use by the community. However, only 2/3 of the nonfiction collection is classified, and remains to be cataloged. There is a large volume of clerical work still to be done before this part of the Library is ready for public use. We have had several offers of volunteer work, but so far no help has actually materialized. If we are to have a functional collection by the end of 1978, we *MUST* have additional help.

Anyone willing to do typing, please call Kathi at 444-2474.

COUNSELING COMMITTEE

by Bill Straub

The phone line operated Monday-Saturday evenings, 7-10:30 pm, during the past year. At other times, a recorded message, on a machine rented from the Wisconsin Telephone Company, provided outgoing messages of news, events, and counseling, GPU, and VD Clinic hours.

Face-to-face counseling was extended to six nights a week and the Bisexual Men's group met on the second and fourth Fridays each month with an average attendance of ten.

During the year we were fortunate to have Diane Mandler assisting us on Wednesdays. However, when she relocated in Appleton for a job, we were temporarily without a woman as a team member. Kathy Gardner did assist us as her work schedule permitted.

Will Orris conducted in-service training sessions for other volunteers and he also served as our representative on the Milwaukee Hot-Line Council as well as GPU's representative on the Information and Referral Providers of Wisconsin.

We are grateful to those who have continued to serve on this team. Hopefully, service to the women of the Community can be expanded this year.

The statistics for the year's calls and visits are as follows:

GPU	VD	Information	Walk-Ins	Counseling Adult	Teen
186	244	856	175	963	547

Total Calls-----2796

Walk-Ins-----175

FARWELL CENTER

by Mark Behar, Director

Gay Peoples Union, Inc. moved into the Farwell Center (FC), 1568 N. Farwell, Milwaukee 53202 in June, 1975, with the generous help of the Gerald E. Meyers Foundation (GEM provided over \$10,000 to renovate the building in preparation for its occupancy.) 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 other groups have used the FC in 1977: Bisexual/Married Men's group; Silver Star Motor Cyclists; Metropolitan Community Church; Interracial Men's group; Gay Overeater's Anonymous; Coalition of Greater Milwaukee Community Health Centers; Hotline's Council of Greater Milwaukee; Gay Alcoholics Anonymous. GPU's general meetings & committee meetings also played a large part in overall FC activities: meetings with guest speakers, open raps, etc. occurred Monday evenings (except holidays); VD Clinic operated Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday evenings; Hotline & Counseling Services were available nightly except Sundays; other meetings and activities were interspersed throughout the year. Although there seemed to be a rather conspicuous absence of specifically women's oriented activities, it should be noted that women were well integrated in many FC (and GPU) activities. (For example, half of the VD Clinic examiners are women; attempts are underway to establish gay women's/lesbian health services at the FC.) The diversity of these groups suggest that the FC is well underway to becoming a recognized Gay Community Services Center in Milwaukee. An estimated 500 people visit the FC every month!

During the summer, a new concept involving people in nonbar social activities was attempted through "Special Interest Groups" (SIGs). This included regularly meeting volleyball, bicycling, sailing, and canoeing activities. Unfortunately, publicity provided by GPU News and announcements at GPU meetings didn't create as much interest in SIGs as was anticipated. Better advertising might encourage participation in SIGs, however donations are needed to finance such publicity.

In order to attract more people to FC functions, GPU rented and maintained a soda machine from Graf's Beverages. The machine holds 130-10 oz. returnable

bottles. A "Class 'E' Licence for the Sale of Soda Water Beverages at Retail" had to be obtained from the City of Milwaukee for \$5, in order to legally operate the machine. The FC has also regularly displayed and provided GPU News, buttons, t-shirts, posters, etc. to inquirers for donation.

Expenses and Income specifically related to the FC follow:

INCOME	
Soda Sales (@.25)	\$ 449.75
Coffee Donations	36.50
Misc. Donations	130.00
EXPENSES	
Rent (@\$350/month)	\$4200.00
Director's Salary (@\$25/mo.)	300.00
Soda Machine Rental (@\$9/mo.)	100.45
Soda (@\$3.48/case, excl. dep.)	260.86*
Coffee, creamer, cocoa, etc.	50.00
Maintainance & Office Supplies (light bulbs, keys, toweling, etc.)	161.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5072.31
TOTAL INCOME	616.25
DEFICIT	\$4456.06

*almost 75-24 bottle cases

The GPU Library occupies one room in the FC, however its full operation has been delayed pending the cataloging & indexing of all the newspapers, periodicals, soft & hard bound volumes. Hard bound volumes have not yet been brought to the FC due to the tenacious nature of the building's lease, which runs out in March, 1978. At that time the lease will be renewed month-by-month until the building is sold.

A permanent building must be acquired in 1978 in order to insure stability and security for expansion of FC and GPU services to the community. This is of utmost importance and requires the cooperation and financial support of every gay woman and man in Milwaukee. When we are no longer overshadowed by the impermanence of our present building situation, then we can devote full energies to development of services that would interest and involve all Gay people in Milwaukee.

GAY PEOPLES UNION VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC—1977

Compiled by Mark Behar, Director

The GPU VD Clinic (VDC) began operations 10/11/74 as the GPU Examination Center for Venereal Disease, and was funded from three primary sources: the City of Milwaukee Health Dept.'s Pfizer Pharmaceutical Co. grant, which was channeled through the 16th Street Community Health Center (HOPE—Health Organization for Public Ethics); the Gerald E. Meyers (GEM) Foundation's provision of furniture & office equipment, and matching funds; and Gay Peoples Union's own financial resources. The City's grant primarily funded staff salaries and telephone expenses (for the VD line) and lasted long after our expectations—until 8/31/77. Beginning in September, all medical examiners expressed votes of confidence to the VDC and our clients by volunteering to continue in their positions, without salaries.

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. Thus, the VDC is a good example of how GPU works cooperatively with government and private resources to help deminish a community wide health problem. It is interesting to note that the GPU VDC is one of four free VD clinics in Milwaukee County.

The GPU VDC continues to operate a VD information & hotline (347-1222) during our regular hours of operation (7:30 pm -10:30 pm) Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, at the Farwell Center, 1568 N. Farwell, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202. Since the City discontinued its 24 hour-a-day VD Hotline Sept. 1, 1977, only the GPU VDC, the Underground Switchboard, the Waukesha County VD Hotline, and the City of Milwaukee's Division of Health Education and Social Hygiene Clinic offer accurate VD information to callers.

We experienced incredible growth and maturation during 1977. The most significant accomplishment was expansion of our services to include treatment (& diagnosis of urethral discharges only) with a municipally salaried physician of our choosing, beginning in Sept. This necessitated the acquisition of more equipment and supplies, some of which was purchased (e.g., examination table, anoscope, gram staining kit, speculums,

some medications, medical record forms, etc.), some of which was supplied by the Wisconsin Division of Health (microscope, files, penicillin, etc.). Anticipating our transition from an examination center to a clinic, staff were encouraged to upgrade their knowledge and training with pay incentives for inservice or outside training programs. For example, representatives from the Milwaukee Blood Pressure Screening Program provided us with inservices on hypertension screening. Blood pressure testing is now a regular service provided to clients on Wednesday evening clinic sessions. Staff were also encouraged to enroll in Red Cross first aid and CPR programs.

We were very fortunate to acquire the friendship, guidance, and services of Dr. Robert Bolan. He has worked hard to ensure a smooth transition from examination center to clinic status. It should be noted, that he has generously agreed to donate his municipal salary back to the VD Clinic.

Anticipating a loss of funding from the City, we embarked on an aggressive campaign to solicit donations from clients in May. *Merely asking clients* was enough to increase our donations from a Jan. 1976—April, 1977 average of \$22/month, to a May, 1977—Aug. 1977 average of \$90/month. With the addition of our clinic services, donations soared to an average of over \$200/month (Sept.—Dec., 1977).

Several funding alternatives were also investigated (college work study, CETA, foundation grants, etc.) but all require a federal tax-exempt status [501(c)(3)] from GPU, which is still pending. In preparation for this certification, we began collecting demographic data from our clients, so as to better document the nature of the population that we serve, and therefore be more competitive and well suited for approaching various funding sources. Future expansion requires a financial commitment that donations alone could never supply. In addition, we began a much more comprehensive record keeping system.

The following information describes the type of people using VDC services from May—Dec., 1977. A total of 722 new and old clients (undifferentiated) comprise this data.

Area of Residence (According to Zipcodes)

Local (532XX)	76.2%
Nonlocal*	21.7%
Not Given	2.1%

*Visitors from Illinois, California, Hawaii, Florida, New York, and many points inbetween.

Ages

15 or under	0.4%	41 - 45	6.2%
16 - 20	11.2%	46 - 50	5.4%
21 - 25	23.5%	51 - 55	1.4%
26 - 30	23.5%	56 - 60	1.1%
31 - 35	15.0%	Over 61	0.1%
36 - 40	11.4%	Not Given	0.8%

Sexual Preferences

Gay/Homosexual	62.1%
Bisexual	19.2%
Heterosexual	17.2%
Not Given	1.5%

Marital Status

Single	82.8%
Married	11.5%
Other	5.0%
Not Given	0.7%

Sex

Male	94.3%
Female	5.7%

The VDC has cofounded and is active in the Coalition of Greater Milwaukee Community Health Centers (CGMCHC), a group of several community health centers dedicated to providing low cost, high quality health care and education services to residents of the greater Milwaukee area. Along with the GPU VD Clinic, these groups include the 16th Street Community Health Center, Guadalupe CHC, South Side CHC, West of the River CHC, Milwaukee Indian Health Board, St. Joseph's CHC in Waukesha, and Harambee CHC.

In order to more completely document our growth, a brief comparison will be made. During the 2½ months of initial operation in 1974, 143 people were examined for VD; in 1975, 509 clients; in 1976, 687 clients; in 1977, 1123 clients. Until August 10, 1977 when we began our medical records system, we were unfortunately unable to determine how many of these clients were new (never visiting us before), or return/repeats. We have seen 392 new clients since August 10, out of 556 clinic visits.

VD CLINIC FINANCES

EXPENSES	1976	1977
Medical supplies, equipment, etc.	\$ 74.00	\$ 715.00
Salaries*	2090.26	2527.82
Telephone	197.88	197.88
INCOME		
Client Donations	\$ 251.00	\$1282.00
Pfizer Funds	2786.88	2283.73
Physician's Donation	—	224.81
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2362.14	\$3440.70
TOTAL INCOME	3037.88	3790.54
NET PROFIT	675.74	349.84
*Gross Salaries	\$2589.00	\$2939.06
Federal Tax Withheld	290.19	182.95
State Tax Withheld	57.60	56.31
FICA	150.95	171.98
Net Salaries	\$2090.26	\$2527.82

[For 1976, there were 11 examiners and 1 director on salary; for 1977, there were 20 examiners and 1 director—4 of these examiners were never salaried because they joined our staff after the city's Pfizer funds became exhausted, 8/31/77; for the last 4 months of 1977, all examiners became volunteer.

GONORRHEA (GC)

In 1975, the GPU VDC took 788 cultures with a 3.9% (31) positivity; in 1976, 1696 cultures had a 4.54% (77) positivity; in 1977, 2368 cultures had a 5.4% (129) positivity. More specifically, the City of Milwaukee Bureau of Laboratories in conjunction with the Wisconsin Division of Health provided us with the following data:

Total Number of Gonorrhea Cultures, & Positivity in %
[N/A = data not available]

	1975	1976	1977
Male			
GC-R	221, 4.5%	471, 4.7%	645, 8.2%
GC-O	296, 2.0%	652, 3.7%	812, 3.9%
GC-U	267, 5.6%	573, 5.4%	870, 4.9%
S	N/A	N/A	114, 16.7%
A	N/A	N/A	400, 2.3%
?	N/A	N/A	177, 5.1%
Female			
GC-R	N/A	N/A	6, 0.0%
GC-O	N/A	N/A	23, 4.3%
GC-C	3, 0.0%	6, 0.0%	12, 0.0%
Overall	788, 3.9%	1696, 4.54%	2368, 5.4%

[GC-R, GC-O, GC-U, GC-C = rectal, oral/pharyngeal, urethral/penile, cervical/vaginal. S, A, ?, refer to whether the urethral culture was claimed to be symptomatic, asymptomatic, or unknown.]

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 420 bloods between 8/10/77 (when our medical records system went into operation) and 12/31/77, out of 925 total bloods for the year. Of these 420 bloods (many people have had repeat bloods), 21 had reactive VDRLs (12 people out of these 21 bloods) and 7 of these bloods were found to have reactive FTAs. Further study revealed only 6 people (1.4%) with new, untreated infections since Aug. 10; one reactive FTA was recognized as an old infection. Extrapolating for the year, the GPU VDC uncovered 13 new, untreated, S cases in 1977. This small number is not a good indication of S among Gay people, however. Many Gay people use the services of the Milwaukee Social Hygiene Clinic, or private physicians. According to representatives of the Wisconsin Division of Health, in 1976 approximately 36% of all new cases of S in Milwaukee were from Gay people; in 1977, this skyrocketed to 46%! *This is alarming!* Since S can take up to 90 days to make a blood test reactive, and since early symptoms are often confusing and may not be noticed, these factors contribute significantly to the spread of the disease.

OUTREACH PROGRAM

Our primary program in 1977 was VD screening at the Club Milwaukee Baths. We began the year working alternate Tuesdays and last Saturdays of the month but later extended to 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 passes for all testees!). Total number of clients tested: 261. From Aug. 10–Dec. 31, we uncovered only 1 new, untreated case of syphilis, and only 2 rectal gonorrhea cases. We suspect that this low incidence of VD represents skewed data—a good example of gonorrhea and syphilis being uncovered at other testing sites (private physicians, other clinics, etc.) rather than as a part of the GPU VDC Outreach Program. Although we would like to extend our outreach services to other places, depending on the needs of the community, it primarily depends on our *financial and staff resources*.

Plans for the future are already underway. We are now open at the Farwell Center, ½ hour earlier (7:30 – 10:30 pm rather than 8–11:00 pm) than in 1977. This allows examiners to close the Farwell Center along *with* the GPU Hotline counselors. We now have a second backup physician, who will be alter-

nating with Dr. Bolan, when needed. Health services for Gay women/Lesbians are being studied by several of our women examiners. Funding sources are being scrutinized so that volunteer examiners can once again be paid for their work, and to accomodate future expansion of services. We are trying to encourage more client testing in our Outreach Program. We realize that education is an important way to prevent the spread of the sexually transmittable diseases. Hopefully in 1978, we will provide a regularly appearing VD newsletter for our clients, describing current information, dispelling myths, etc., about VD. A pamphlet about VD among Gay people is in preparation to replace the outdated Wisconsin Division of Health brochure, "Homosexuality and Venereal Diseases." Gay medical professionals will be asked to sponsor classes & discussion groups in health areas of concern to Gay people (e.g., self-exams for breast & testicular cancer). A blood collection drive sponsored by the Milw. Blood Center is under consideration. A state- or region-wide seminar on VD in Gay people, along with expanded medical services for specifically Gay related medical problems are a few long range goals.

We are dedicated to providing free, confidential, efficient, and friendly VD medical services to Gay people. Our services are available to anyone, regardless of age, sex, sexual or affectional preferences, racial, ethnic, religious, economic, etc., backgrounds.

We sincerely thank the following people for helping us attain these goals: Fred Martich and Casey Riley (Wisconsin Division of Health), Mike Burns (16th St. CHC), Dr. Constantine Panagis (City of Milwaukee Commissioner of Health), Paul Pace and Dr. Henry Wisniewski (City of Milw. Bureau of Laboratories), Arnie Malmon and Linda Daniels (Milw. Hypertension Screening Prog.), Paul DeMarco (Club Milwaukee Baths), Gerald E. Meyers (GEM Foundation), Eldon Murray and Lee Rice (*GPU News*), and the Officers, Board, and Members of Gay Peoples Union, Inc. Special thanks go to those dedicated people who have directly worked with the Clinic in 1977: Dr. Robert Bolan, Dr. Roger Gremminger, Roger B., Forrest B., Steve C., Sue D., Shauna D., Keith F., Mary Ann F., Tom G., Sandra G., Lois L., Terry N., Ric R., Wayne R., Barry S., Kelly S., Robert T., Jim W., and David W.

Total Number of Gonorrhea Cultures & Positivity in %
[N/A = data not available]

	1977	1976	1975	
Male				
GC-R	645, 8.2%	471, 4.7%	521, 4.2%	
GC-O	812, 3.9%	622, 3.7%	596, 2.0%	
GC-U	870, 4.9%	573, 2.4%	567, 2.6%	
2	114, 16.7%	N/A	N/A	
A	400, 2.3%	N/A	N/A	
?	177, 2.1%	N/A	N/A	
Female				
GC-R	6, 0.0%	N/A	N/A	
GC-O	23, 4.3%	N/A	N/A	
GC-C	12, 0.0%	6, 0.0%	3, 0.0%	
Overall	2368, 2.4%	1696, 4.24%	788, 3.9%	

[GC-R, GC-O, GC-U, GC-C = rectal, oral/pharyngeal, urethral, penile, cervical/vaginal. 2, A, ? refer to whether the urethral culture was claimed to be asymptomatic, asymptomatic, or unknown.]

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.