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GPU REPRESENTATIVE ON TRIAL

CHARGES

THE TRADITIONAL AMERICAN FAMILY STRUCTURE DOES NOT MEET THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY IN THAT IT DOES NOT:

- (1) *PERMIT OPTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY MEMBERS (EMOTIONAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, POLITICAL INTELLECTUAL, VOCATIONAL)*
 - (a) *Wife*
 - (b) *Husband*
 - (c) *Children*
- (2) *PROVIDE FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD*
 - (a) *Juvenile delinquency*
 - (b) *Generation gap, adolescent rebellion*
 - (c) *Teenage emotional problems, drugs, runaways, sex*
- (3) *PERMIT FULL SEXUAL FUNCTIONING*
 - (a) *Pre-marital*
 - (b) *Extra-marital*
 - (c) *Homosexual*
- (4) *CREATE A FAVORABLE LIVING SITUATION FOR NON-NUCLEAR FAMILY MEMBERS*
 - (a) *Aged*
 - (b) *Unmarried young adults*
 - (c) *Divorced and/or widowed*
- (5) *PROVIDE ADEQUATE FLEXIBILITY TO FULLY ACCEPT OTHER FORMS OF FAMILY ORGANIZATION*
 - (a) *Single parent family*
 - (b) *Communes*
 - (c) *Homosexual families*
 - (d) *Consensual cohabitation*

Have you ever been on trial as an avowed homosexual? Have you ever spoken out, as such, against the oppression from within a society which labels homosexuals as "fairies", "faggots", "queers", "child molesters", or "perverted sex-maniacs"? Well, if you haven't, you've missed a gratifying experience!

This was the opinion of Tim Hancock, speaking about his experience when he allowed himself to be placed on the witness stand as a homosexual spokesman in a mock trial held at Carroll College on January 12th. The January Group made up of law and sociology students at the college placed the American family on trial with over 1,000 students and faculty members in the audience.

The individual charges against the American family are listed elsewhere in this article, but they were simply stated in the words of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

GPU On Racine Radio

Once again Gay People's Union took to the air as radio station WRJN in Racine, Wisconsin carried the voices of "Tim", "Rick", and "Pat". Monday evening, January 17, on Dick Fields' "Talk of the Town" show from 10:30 until 12:00 midnight, the three spoke out on "Homosexuality". The broadcast was given one week's prior promotion in this city of some 100,000 people. Interested listeners were able to call in and speak to the panelists and Dick Fields on this controversial subject in relation to priorities in today's society. As in the past radio interviews by G.P.U., the panelists had a wide range of both intellectual and personal questions put to them, testing their ability to speak for homo-

sexuals, both male and female.

There were no obscene callers during the broadcast. However, one woman, a frequent caller to "Talk of the Town", fired off several loaded and uneducated questions, which were well answered, none-the-less. What callers like this need is to get their heads together before they open their mouths and expose their profound ignorance, as this particular woman did. Dick Fields cut her off short but thanked her for her call and went to other callers.

Religion is a subject on which you can make or break a show. It was discussed several times, especially by an elderly woman who quoted two passages from the Bible

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

POLITICAL FORUM PLANNED

The recently formed East Side Coalition plans to sponsor a forum to present to the public the candidates for alderman in Milwaukee's 3rd ward. The coalition is made up of individuals who are also members of other east side groups whose interests center around alternative institutions and life styles.

As this paper goes to press, the date and location have not been set, but the plans call for considerable publicity prior to the event.

The candidates and their wives will be dinner guests of the coalition prior to the forum. Each candidate will be given an equal amount of time to present his views on what he considers to be the issues.

An open question period will follow ■

EDITORIAL

The political action committee of Gay People's Union is launching an extensive program to direct the attention of local, state, and federal candidates to the struggle for gay civil rights and the end of legalized oppression. Aldermanic candidates will receive a copy of Intro 475, a basic civil rights bill now before the New York City Council, along with a questionnaire and a cover letter. Personal interviews will also be arranged with candidates and their aides to discuss the subject further. Some G.P.U. members have promised to canvass on the part of candidates who endorse gay rights. Several members hope to testify at state hearings concerning sex law reform and equal protection under the constitution. A copy of this issue, with its first serial installment of "Sex Laws: The Need for Reform", is being sent to all state legislators with a questionnaire. Plans call for close co-operation with the East Side Coalition on its dinner and forum for all third ward candidates and their wives. These undertakings are only the beginnings of a drive which will reach maturity in the Wisconsin Primary Election and completion in the November balloting. GPU NEWS will devote a great deal of coverage to the issues, candidates, and platforms involved with elections at all levels of government. In this way, GPU NEWS hopes to bring the issues before the candidates and the candidates before the gay community.

But what will you — a member of the homosexual community — do to end the injustice, bigotry, and oppression under which you suffer? What will you, who complain about apathy, carelessness, and selfishness among the gay populace, do to prove yourself above these base emotions? GPU NEWS recommends:

- (1) Stay informed of candidates and their positions by reading GPU NEWS coverage.
- (2) Try to find some way to

contribute time or money to candidates who support legislation for your liberation.

- (3) **VOTE** in the Wisconsin primary and presidential elections.

See you at the ballot box!!!

G.P.U. JANUARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- * Appeared on "Talk of the Town" radio program, station WRJN, Racine, Wisconsin.
- * Gave testimony in mock trial — "The American Family on Trial" presented by law and sociology students of Carroll College, Waukesha, Wisconsin.
- * Presented complimentary copies of GPU NEWS to all Assemblymen and State Senators in Wisconsin.
- * Presented an evening of original poetry read by its author at regular meeting.
- * Opened checking accounts and set up C.P.A. approved bookkeeping systems for both Gay People's Union and GPU NEWS.
- * Set up committee to work on GPU's planned Midwest Regional Conference of Homophile Organizations.

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

All material in the paper is original and is not copyrighted. If you wish to reproduce any part of this paper, please note G.P.U. NEWS as the source.

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

* Filed for tax exempt status for G.P.U. and GPU NEWS.

* Worked with East Side Coalition on proposed forum for local east side aldermanic candidates.

* Mailed copies of New York's proposed fair employment bill together with questionnaire to all local aldermanic candidates.

* Formed committee to train speakers for G.P.U.

Homosexuality in the Media

- * **Saturday Review** (Dec. 4, 1971) Article "Crimes Without Victims"
- * **Milwaukee Journal** (Dec. 23, 1971) pg. 4 Accent Section, Article "Florida Court Revises Law on Homosexuality"
- * **Life**, (Dec. 31, 1971) pgs. 62-72, Picture Article "Homosexuals in Revolt"
- * **Wall Street Journal** (Dec. 16, 1971) Article "Student Homosexual Movement Gains, But Groups Fragmented by Dissension"
- * **The Racine Journal-Times** (Dec. 27, 1971) Ann Landers Column, letter from "Family Man Who Made the Switch"
- * **Milwaukee Journal** (Jan. 7, 1972) pg. 18, part 2, Article "Gay Edition Refused by Printer"
- * **Milwaukee Journal** (Jan. 11, 1972) pg. 8, part 2, Article, "Women Lose Bid to Marry"
- * **Mental Health Digest** (Dec. 1971) pg. 47, Article "Modes of Adjustment of Married Homosexuals" by H. Laurence Ross
- * **Milwaukee Journal** (Jan. 19, 1972) pg. 20, part 2, Article Lucey Given Plan to Drop Morality Laws"
- * **Milwaukee Sentinel** (Jan. 13, 1972) pg. 5, part 1, Article "Jury Rules All is Not Well in the American Family" by Stuart Wilk
- * **Waukesha Freeman** (Jan. 13, 1972) Article with photo, "Family Structure Not Viable, or Is It?" by Nancy Boehlke
- * **The Village Voice** (Jan. 6, 1972) pg. 26, Article, "The Second Sucks and the Feminine Mystique" by Jill Johnson



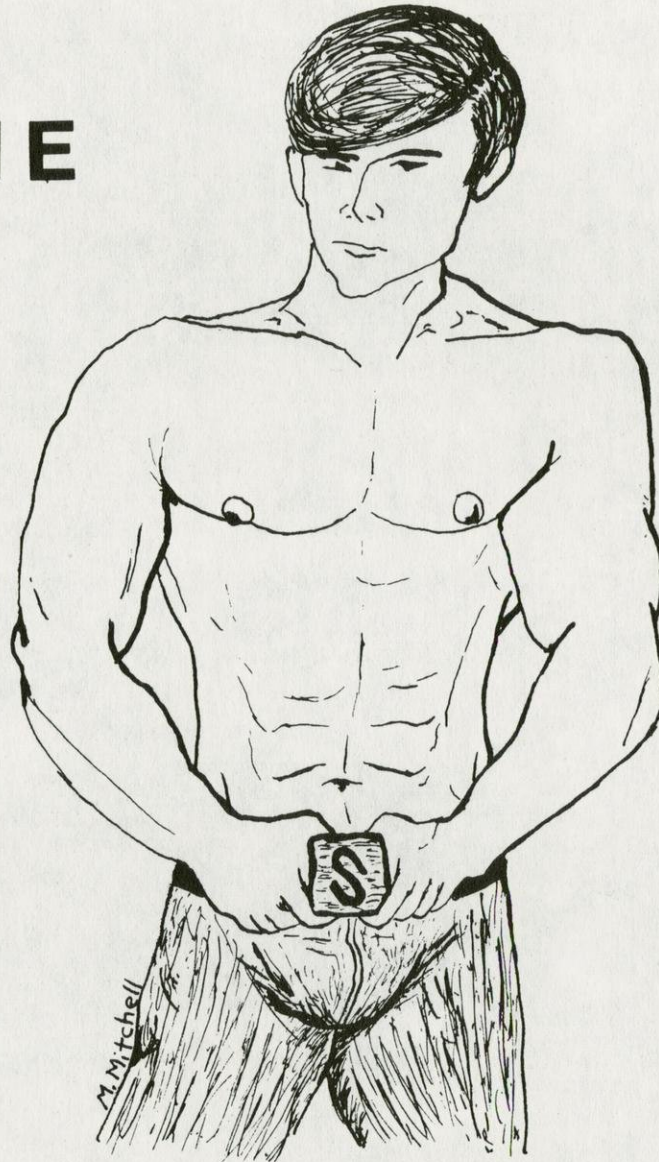
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RADIO cont. from pg. 1

to express her feelings. "Rick" replied that almost any opinion can be backed by a chapter or verse from the Bible, but the entire context of these passages is conveniently omitted destroying a their true meanings.

A question directed to "Pat" by one caller was, "Is it true that all lesbians have dogs?" With this the engineer, behind his glass cage, cracked-up with laughter, as did the panelists and Dick Fields. "Pat" responded, "Don't a lot of people, or a great percentage of them, have pets such as dogs, cats, canaries and even fish?" The answer implied, "What the hell does it mean to have a dog or a cat? Beastiality?"

During the program, a Mrs. X called to direct a question to "Tim", since she recognized his voice. Along with a "right-on" and a "do-your-thing", she added, "I'm proud of you for speaking out." While this woman is a sympathizer to our cause, Mrs. X is not a member of the gay community, but a human being who wants to keep her mind open to all life styles. She is also the mother of four. After the program, Mrs. X called again and invited "Tim" and members to visit and talk with her.

One gay person, a "sickie", called in to put down gay life because of the unkind things many gays do to each other. The caller felt that when gays meet a young person whom they know has gay tendencies, the youngster would be destroyed if the gay brought him out. "It's a rotten, dirty shame for gays to do this," the caller stated. "Tim" replied, "Sir, if in fact we we know of anyone who wants help in coming out, isn't it better to help and guide him properly, in a respectful, dignified manner, than have this young boy or girl live in fear most of their lives, unable to relate to another gay person?" "Tim" added, "I think your question is completely unfair and unsubstantiated." The caller, startled by such a direct answer, was forced to agree and confessed to having made a fool of himself.

The three panelists felt that the show was an important accomplishment and a "liberating experience". Although the panelists felt a bit unhappy about not having been able to cover more ground on the organization's accomplishments, especially in the area of religion and counseling, they considered the show a success. For the citizens of Racine, who stayed up to listen, seeking guidance and information regarding the organization and its services, "Tim" announced the G.P.U. phone and post-office box numbers.

The one gay bar in Racine tuned in the program after turning off their juke-box so that their customers could listen. A question was asked concerning the location of this gay bar, but the panelists were not allowed to plug a particular business establishment. If you're wondering where the bar is located in Racine, then glance through this issue, as the bar now advertises in GPU NEWS. The panelists visited the bar after the program to sip a bit of comfort for their dry, tired voices. It was agreed that speaking on the radio is both physically and mentally exhausting, but well worth the effort.*

New Advertisers

This issue of GPU NEWS welcomes four new advertisers, several of whom are located outside of Milwaukee. We draw your attention to the following advertisements: Mickey's Cove, Bob Damron's Address Book, and Jodee's Club.

In addition, **California Scene** magazine began advertising on a regular basis last month. We have read their special anniversary issue and recommend it to our readers.

We are indeed grateful to these business people who have made it possible for us to increase our monthly print from 1,000 copies to 1,500. Of course, our regular advertisers who have continued their support also share in our thanks.

In order to show proper appreciation for this support, we ask that when patronizing our advertisers you mention the fact that you have seen their ad in GPU NEWS.

UNSIGNED LETTERS

The G.P.U. NEWS staff reserves the right to select and edit all letters. Please keep letters brief and to the point. Names will not be used unless requested. Address all letters to: G.P.U. NEWS, c/o GPU, P.O. Box 90530, Milwaukee, Wis. 53202.

Dear G.P.U. NEWS:

I have just about had it with those self-appointed gods who condemn me for my homosexuality.

Without knowing me, or any real facts on homosexuality, they judge me and cast me aside as being a misfit, a sexual deviate and a threat to their precious straight society.

I don't ask for pity, **not** even approval; only the right to love whom I choose. In a world so filled with hatred it would seem that the greatest sin is not loving, not whom you love. Just once I would ask to be judged individually and for my worth as a human being and not solely for my homosexuality.

Hey you out there, you "straights", hear me! I'm more than just a faceless person you condemn without knowing, judge without evidence, cast aside without compassion. I share a common humanity with you. It's laughter and tears; virtues and vices; weaknesses and strengths. I'm not more, nor less, than you; just different. I'm tired of being considered a criminal. My crime is that of loving. In my heart I know that "It is not whom you love, or how you love, but that you love."

I do love:

Dear Friends:

My lover and I are recent subscribers to your paper and live in Appleton.

There are only a few outward gays here in Appleton. Of course there are more in the surrounding areas of Green Bay, Oshkosh, etc., and only one bar of note - "Gail's" in Green Bay.

Here is the problem. The Gay people in this area are very clique minded and most small groups are hardly on speaking terms with the others, except for the usual outside tricking

(Continued on Page 13)

Venereal Diseases and You Part III

When a person realizes that he has V.D. he most likely will give some thought to how he became infected. All the people with whom he has had recent physical contact must be considered. He will know that he became infected from one of these people. He will also know that he may have infected all of the others. All of these contacts should be notified that they have been exposed to V.D. It is particularly important to inform a female (who, unlike a male, will not have early symptoms), and a homosexual (especially if anal intercourse was involved) since these people may not know that they need treatment.

When a person suspects that he has V.D., he may become anxious and afraid. He may have two conflicting reactions. One is a feeling of concern about his physical well-being. This is the feeling that should motivate him to see a doctor. The other feeling is one of shame or embarrassment. This feeling tends to make him resist telling anyone, even a doctor, that he has reason to suspect that he has V.D. (This is especially true of the homosexual who fears discovery of his homosexuality.) Obviously a decision must be made.

Many people who find themselves in conflict are apt to postpone making a decision, or at least they think they are postponing the decision. The postponement can amount to doing nothing, which is in fact a decision — a dangerous one!

Many victims shelter V.D. with wishful thinking. This is particularly true of syphilis. Even when they notice lesions and rash, they do nothing about it. It disappears without treatment. Following this natural disappearance, the victim heaves a sigh of relief — "Thank Goodness, it wasn't syphilis!" — while the germs proceed to spread throughout his body.

There is an even more important decision for you personally, and for the control of venereal diseases.

Ultimately, each person makes his own decision concerning sexual conduct. Such a decision will be based on a combination of knowledge, attitudes, and feelings.

Some experts have attributed irresponsibility of sexual behavior to either ignorance, indifference, or thoughtlessness. To put it another way: the "don't knows," the "don't cares," or the "don't thinks."

You **do** know, and you have the opportunity to think. Your decision now depends most on **what** you care about and **how** much you care.

Syphilis and gonorrhea can be cured, but only by competent physicians. Self treatment is dangerous. If a person suspects he is infected, he may be advised to use various pills, salves, or ointments. These treatments are useless, and can cause greater damage by postponing effective treatment.

Anyone may get a venereal disease, regardless of whether he is gay or straight, and V.D. may infect the tissues of the reproductive organs, mouth and/or rectum.

Syphilis and gonorrhea, the two most common types of venereal disease, are curable. Syphilis can be cured at almost any stage of the disease. However, if the victim is not treated before body tissue and vital organs have been damaged, these tissues and organs will not recover and function again in a healthy way. If a victim's brain has been seriously damaged, he may have to spend the rest of his life in a mental hospital, even though he no longer has syphilis.

Treating syphilis that has already damaged body organs is rather like putting out the flame on a burning candle. You can stop the candle from burning but there is nothing you can do about the part that has already burned away.

Gonorrhea remains infectious until treated. If treated early, few, if any, complications will arise. Penicillin (or other antibiotics for those people who are allergic to penicillin) is still the treatment used today. However, the idea that it is a quick "one shot" cure has proved untrue.

Today we have two great advantages over the victims of the

past. We are now able to diagnose syphilis and gonorrhea and cure them. But these two advantages have not curbed the spread of the venereal diseases. What **can** we do to prevent and control these diseases?

I have already emphasized that venereal diseases are spread through a skin-to-skin contact. This almost always means direct sexual contact. It would be not only unrealistic, but also somewhat ludicrous, to suggest "saving sexual relations for marriage" as a means of preventing the spread of V.D. The attitudes of sexual freedom during the '70's may not allow prevention of V.D. However, in order to control and eventually eradicate syphilis and gonorrhea, several efforts must be made. One of the most important of these is locating all contacts as quickly as possible.

Once a person has contracted a venereal disease, there is no quick way out. There are no secret miracle cures. There is no one pill or ointment, no personal friend, who can cure an infected person. To be cured, he has to be diagnosed and treated by a physician.

In most cities the health department has established clinics where anyone can get free treatment for V.D. These clinics are listed in the telephone book, usually under the Board of Health, which is listed under the city's name. For instance, in Milwaukee the listing would be:

MILWAUKEE — CITY OF:
HEALTH DEPT.

Venereal Disease Clinic
278-3631

(In Milwaukee, treatment may also be received at the Underground Switchboard 271-3123.)

If you even think you have V.D. and feel that you cannot talk to some adult that you know about it, you can go to one of these clinics.

Your responsibility is to get treatment for your disease as quickly as possible, and avoid further sexual contacts until at least 1 or 2 weeks **after treatment has stopped**. If you assume your responsibility, the shadow of V.D. may be lifted from the land. ■

TRIAL — *cont. from*
pg. 1

prosecuting attorney Brian Frame II, "All is not well in the American nuclear family."

The trial started at 1:40 p.m. with E.E. Le Masters, professor of Sociology and Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as the first witness. He testified that, "Man is basically not monogamous and marriage hampers his natural urges." Le Masters injected a bit of humor when he noted that the reading of his degrees took almost as much time to read as they did to achieve.

After a series of prosecution witnesses, the G.P.U. representative was sworn in "to tell the truth, the whole truth . . ."

Frame: "For the record, will you state your full name?"

Tim: "Timothy Hancock."

Frame: "Your occupation?"

Tim: "Gay florist — self employed."

Frame: "Your marital status?"

Tim: "Divorced."

Frame: "I understand you belong to a special Milwaukee organization. Is this true?"

Tim: "Yes, I do, Gay People's Union of Milwaukee, and, yes, I am an avowed homosexual."

The audience gasped. At this point, Tim later confessed, he was

scared and, yet, proud. His "honor", attorney Joseph Wimmer, showed embarrassment and the jury of seven women and five men stared in disbelief.

Being the only witness society might look at prejudicially and the only witness without a degree to establish his expertise, Tim later admitted that he felt especially challenged to defend himself and the gay community. For over thirty minutes defense attorney, Willis Zwick, tried unsuccessfully to discredit him as a representative homosexual in today's society, a fact not lost on the audience or the jury.

Zwick: "Do you and your kind feel that if more young people came out as homosexuals, your people would ultimately create a slow down or void in the population explosion?"

Tim: "Hell no!"
(GENERAL LAUGHTER!)

One of his most effective statements was the flat remark that "The family unit helps perpetuate the oppression of homosexuals." Before stepping down from the "hot seat", Tim's term for the witness stand, a question for the record was directed to him by "judge" Wimmer.

Wimmer: "what is the percentage of homosexuals in America today?" Tim produced extensive figures and facts showing that homosexuals are America's second largest minority.

In an interview with GPU NEWS, Mr. Hancock said that he stepped down from the witness stand with a sense of pride and accomplishment. "I strutted as boldly across the auditorium as a bantam rooster. Some of the students applauded and many persons wanted to shake hands and offer me good wishes."

After a short recess, the defense attorney, Willis Zwick, presented six witnesses to prove his theory supporting the American family as "the only and healthiest way of transition from childhood to adulthood in conforming to today's socially normal way of life."

Under cross-examination by Frame, one witness, Pastor David C. Hinshaw, had to admit that he felt that, "those who wish, should do their own thing."

The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on the first three charges, but found the American family guilty on charges 4 and 5. A poll of the jury showed the following votes:

Charge 1: 7 guilty, 5 not guilty

Charge 2: 8 guilty, 4 not guilty

Charge 3: 9 guilty, 3 not guilty

Charges 4 & 5: unanimous guilty.

It was an apparent victory for both the prosecution and Mr. Hancock, who described the trial as "one of the most thrilling and exciting experiences of my life". If you have never spoken out as a liberated homosexual, he believes that you have missed a great experience.

MARIE'S

GET INVOLVED LOUNGE

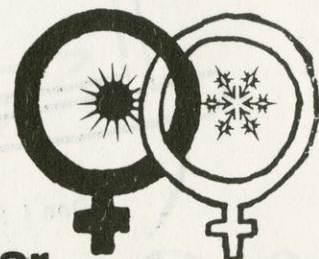
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RECIPES WITH LOVE

This month's recipe is especially for those of you who are in the habit of buying goodies at the store such as milk and bananas and then ignoring them until they are inedible. There is nothing more repulsive looking than a rotten banana but, fortunately, it can be put to good use in this excellent banana cake, the recipe for which comes from the ethnic enclaves of Cleveland, Ohio.

INGREDIENTS

- 1½ c. sugar
- ½ c. shortening
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 c. cake flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 c. mashed banana
- ¾ c. sour milk or buttermilk
- 1 tsp. vanilla

In a large bowl cream the shortening with an electric mixer. If you want the best, use butter. Besides, it is easy to measure; one stick of butter equals one half cup of shortening. Add the sugar, egg, and egg yolk and mix this well.

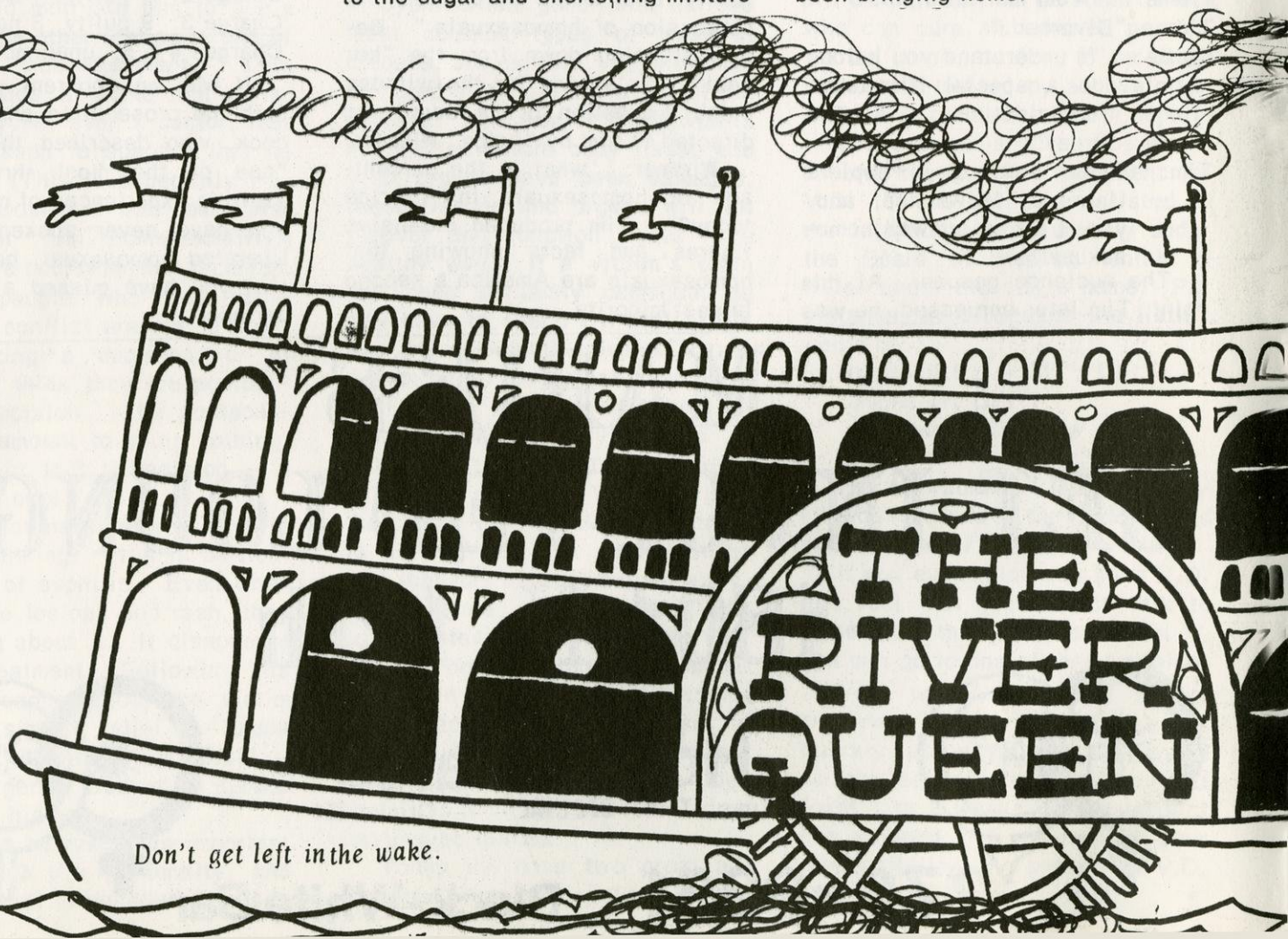
There is a trick to mashing the bananas, but you'll have to have a blender to perform it. Fill a measuring cup with pieces of ripe banana — the riper the better — and try to account for the space in the cup by adding enough banana to equal one cup when mashed. Then throw the banana into the blender with the sour milk or buttermilk and process the whole mess until it is smooth. If you aren't lucky enough to own a blender you'll have to mash the bananas by hand. Put them into a bowl and do your best to mash them with a spoon. Then measure out a cup of this pulp for use in the cake.

Add the banana and buttermilk to the sugar and shortening mixture

and mix this well. Finally, add the flour, baking powder, soda, salt, and vanilla. If you haven't got cake flour, regular flour will suit the purpose, but expect a slightly less moist cake than normal.

You'll now need to preheat the oven to 375° F. Then prepare two nine inch round cake pans or a 12" by 18" rectangular pan. Whichever you choose, grease the bottom and sides liberally and then flour them well. Pour the batter into the pan or pans and place them into the oven for 30 minutes at 375° F. When this time has expired, test the cake by inserting a clean knife into its center. If it comes out clean, the cake is done. If not, put it back into the oven for another five minutes, testing it again after that time. When the cake is done, set it aside to cool.

This cake is delicious without icing, but a little extra sweetness does add something to it. Frost it with your favorite icing and surprise your roommate with it: you really can salvage those weird things he's been bringing home!



TWO LYRICS

by
SAPPHO

He seems to be a god, that man
Facing you, who leans to be close,
Smiles, and, alert and glad, listens
To your mellow voice.

And quickens in love at your laughter.
That stings my breasts, jolts my heart
If I dare the shock of a glance.
I cannot speak,

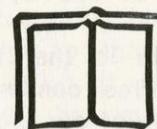
My tongue sticks to my dry mouth,
Thin fire spreads beneath my skin,
My eyes cannot see and my aching ears
Roar in their labyrinths.

Chill sweat slides down my body,
I shake, I turn greener than grass.
I am neither living nor dead and cry
From the narrow between.

But endure, even this grief of love.

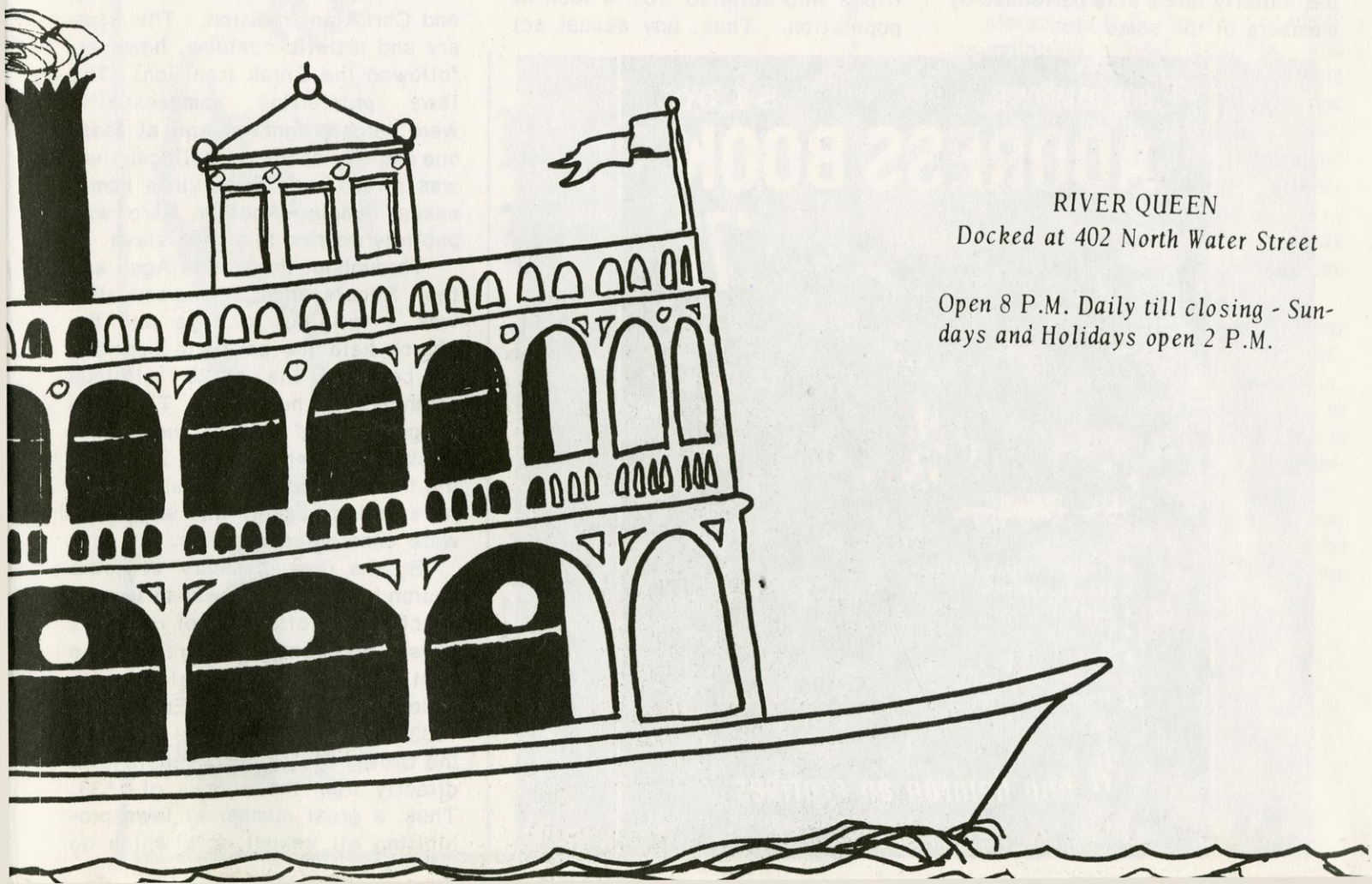
She was like that sweetest apple
That ripened highest on the tree,
That the harvesters couldn't reach,
And pretended they forgot.

(circa - 600 B.C.)



The youthful bloom of the twelve year old boy gives me
joy,
but much more desirable is the boy of thirteen.
He whose years are fourteen is a still sweeter flower of
the Loves,
and even more charming is he who is beginning his
fifteenth year.
The sixteenth year is that of the gods,
and to desire the seventeenth does not fall to my lot,
but only to Zeus.
But if one longs for one still older,
he no longer plays, but already demands the Homeric
"but to him replied".

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Sex Laws: The Need For Reform Part I

This article is the first in a three part series concerning the need for reform of our present sex laws, particularly the laws against sodomy and homosexual acts. The first article will trace the history of the laws and give statistics. The second will describe the laws and discuss new laws that have been passed by several states and the third article will discuss the reasons for removing the laws from the books and outline a program for changing Wisconsin's sex laws.

In the United States, laws regarding sexual acts are under the jurisdiction of the individual states except where transportation from one state to another is involved. (The Mann Act) In no state is it a crime to be a homosexual. However, except for five states which have changed their laws, (Illinois, Connecticut, Oregon, Colorado, and Iowa) every state has laws prohibiting so-called "unnatural sex acts", particularly those acts performed by members of the same sex.

Our present laws prohibiting all sexual acts outside of marriage and even some sexual acts performed by married couples have their beginnings in early Jewish and Christian law. Early in their history the Hebrews practiced homosexuality through the use of male prostitutes in their temples; it being believed that intercourse with these men produced a supernatural blessing or power. Anal intercourse was also quite common among the ancient Canaanites and Egyptians, to say nothing about the ancient Greeks who believed homosexuality to be highly desirable and lifted the practice to the status of a state institution. With the possible exception of Persia, no ancient civilization punished the "sin" of homosexuality more fiercely than the Hebrews.

Historians disagree as to the reasons for the harsh Hebrew laws governing sexual acts. Some believe that like the sanitary and dietary laws, they were simply practical laws for the nomadic tribes who suffered from a lack of population. Thus, any sexual act

that did not produce children was prohibited. Therefore, if a husband died, leaving no son, his brother, according to an early Jewish law, had to marry the widow and get her with child even if he was already married. Homosexuality and even masturbation was strictly forbidden, the former being punishable by death.

Other historians root their theories in religion. God had chosen Abraham and had promised that his descendants would be a great and powerful nation. The energies dissipated in sexual debauchery and lust by neighboring tribes were forbidden to the Jew and the entire Old Testament traces the history of a people slowly moving from polygamy to monogamy. Indeed, total sexual abstinence was the ideal because it allowed sexual energies to be channeled in other useful directions, but sex within marriage was permitted if it was reproductive.

The civil codes of the late Roman Empire, after it had become Christian, were based on Jewish and Christian tradition. The literary and artistic customs, however, followed the Greek tradition. The laws prohibiting homosexuality were largely ignored and at least one emperor of Rome, Heliogabalus, was raised as a priest in a homosexual temple. Another, Nero, was publicly married to a male slave.

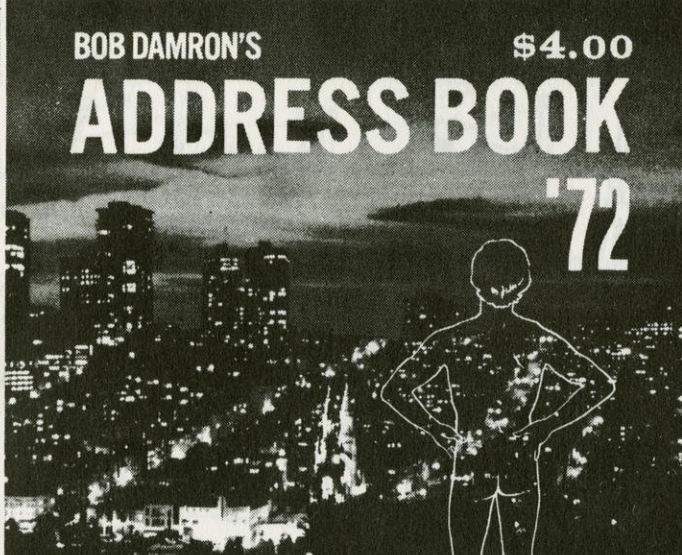
Throughout the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, homosexuality was a religious offense and the church held the power to imprison or burn at the stake religious offenders or heretics. The term "bugger" used in England to describe a sodomist derives its meaning from the fact that heretics were were called buggers and sodomists were considered heretics.

By the time of Henry VIII, the church had lost its power to impose sanctions on offenders of religious laws. Apparently as a result, the first secular laws dealing with sodomy were passed in England in 1533. The majority of the states in the United States derive their laws directly from these laws of 1533. Thus, a great number of laws prohibiting all sexual acts which do

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not have the potential of reproduction have been placed on our law books. These include laws prohibiting anal intercourse and oral intercourse regardless of the gender of the parties involved. However, it is homosexual behavior rather than "deviant" heterosexual behavior that incurs the wrath of government and society in general, although there are isolated instances where married couples are prosecuted for these acts.

Just how frequent is the practice of sodomy, both homosexual and heterosexual, in our society? Exact statistics are simply not available, but the Kinsey Report of the early 1950's is the best source available. This report indicated that more than one third of the male population over the age of 16 has had at least one orgasm

as a result of homosexual relations and that approximately one half of the same age group admitted some homosexual instincts or yearnings. About 10 per cent were exclusively homosexual for a period of at least three years in their adult lives, and four per cent remain homosexual throughout their life.

Kinsey and many others have also noted that homosexuality is not limited to the stereotype, that is, the effete or effeminate. Persons in all walks of life including the so-called "masculine" occupations (truck drivers, athletes, military, etc.) engage in homosexual acts. Many are married and have children, but seek homosexual outlets from time to time.

Most "homosexuals" at one time or another, sometimes regularly, engage in heterosexual relations, too. Thus the word

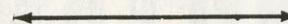
homosexual could have many meanings. It might refer to those who are exclusively homosexual; it might refer to those who prefer homosexuality; it might refer to anyone who has ever engaged in any homosexual act, however infrequent; or it might even refer to anyone who has recognized homosexual traits within himself. In this last instance approximately one half of the male population could be considered homosexual.

How frequent is the practice of sodomy among heterosexuals? The statistics here are even less reliable than those covering homosexual practices. However, Kinsey reported that nearly 60 per cent of the male population has engaged in oral-genital relations, either with another male or with a female, at least once during his adult life. It is also clear from the Kinsey statistics that sodomous activities increase with married couples. It would, therefore, appear that the practice of sodomy is almost as frequent among heterosexuals as homosexuals.

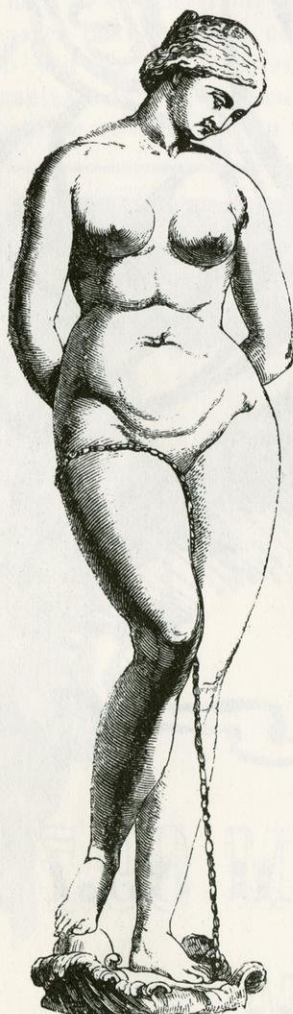
Moreover, it is the view of many psychiatrists, psychologists, and marriage counselors that sodomous acts are frequently desirable and even beneficial for marriage. Some, however, do not openly recommend such practices to their patients because of the law. Surveys also indicate that many heterosexuals refrain from sodomous acts because of guilt feelings.

While it is true that sodomy laws are not strictly enforced, particularly among heterosexuals, there are still people being sent to prison because of these laws. In 1969 in the state of Texas 39 persons were sent to prison for sodomy offenses. According to the Kinsey figures, almost everyone would be in jail for sexual offenses if the laws were enforced.

(to be continued)



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LETTERS from pg. 5

How does one go about bringing these factions together in order to form a resourceful group that can help to overcome even a small part of the horrible fear of exposure I've seen in many of these people since I moved here from Milwaukee?

In Milwaukee it's comparatively easy to be gay since you can easily disappear in the crowds. But here it doesn't work that way and it appears that all the "girls" are only looking out for their own skins and wouldn't help another brother in any way for fear of self exposure.

You must have overcome problems such as these in your beginnings. I need any information you can send to help me get something together up here.

I'm a Milwaukee boy, so I'm very proud of the things you are doing down there. It makes me itch for action in this smaller adoptive city I've chosen, but up here it's like living in the 1800's rather than the 20th century. Where do you start? A network of gay organizations throughout our state would be advantageous to all of

us I'm sure. I'm counting on you, big brother.

This letter was signed and has been answered with several helpful suggestions. The idea of a network of gay organizations throughout the state is an interesting one. We would appreciate hearing from other interested people in Wisconsin who would like to form active gay groups.

Editor

CALIFORNIA



SCENE

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Just where I'm going.
Sometimes I just think,
Wondering, but never knowing.*

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

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

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Sunday, February 13 - Valentine
Party at Mickey's Cove - see ad.

Monday, February 14 - Valentine
Party after regular GPU meeting -
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Monday, February 21 - Special
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