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## Gay Liberation Organization Manifesto.

[Milwaukee, Wis.: GPU], 1970/1981

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Gay  
liberation

Organization



the  
Gay Liberation Organization

Vade Mecum

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gay is good

Preamble:

A Vade Mecum is a booklet, a guide to a topic area. The words in Latin mean "come with me." Through this Vade Mecum we summon you to come with us through a consideration of a Movement that espouses the cause of the most utterly oppressed and hated minority in American society - the Gay Community.

Our Vade Mecum is addressed to straight people - to tell of the huge lie that psychiatrists, social workers, ministers, and old gossips have used against Gay People, saying that we are sick and perverted; to tell them of more recent scientific evidence and of a less fear inspired philosophy that now must admit that Gay People are as common and healthy as anyone else; to tell them of the truly diverse nature of sexuality in human beings to which we bear witness by our way of life; to offer to them a challenge to "come with us" to be free in their own relationships with others - perhaps more free than they ever dared to think of being.

It is addressed to all Gay Brothers and Sisters - to let them in on a Movement that has within it the power to set us free from needless fear and guilt and oppression, the Movement that for the first time sets before us a meaningful alternative to the old stereo-typed styles of being Gay, that presents community and affection as alternatives to loneliness and exploitation and gives solidarity with other minorities struggling for their proper place in the sun.

It is especially addressed to what are termed "closet cases"- people who feel the throbbing of love in themselves for people of their own sex, but who through not knowing the truth about homosexuality, through fear and the need to flee the persecution that seems to beset Gay People on all sides have avoided confronting the affectionate truth that dwells in them. To you, Brothers and Sisters of the future, our Vade Mecum is an invitation to "come out with us"; to emerge from the darkness of denial and repression into the clear light of a life lived without fear and in the bonds of the supportive friendship of a band of other Gay men and women.

It is terrificly hard for all of us to give up the security of ignorance and hostility and of the prejudices that prevail in our society, but it is supremely necessary to swing free and allow ourselves to be born anew, to keep growing and to keep opening ourselves to the wild diversity of human life.

Our Vade Mecum is a compilation of articles by young people in the Gay Movement in the Milwaukee area. Read it, think it, feel it, and change.

"The person says "I am", the slave says  
"I am such and such".

## On Gay Liberation

the views of a male college student:

Of all the struggles by oppressed minorities in America, few read more heroically than the struggle of the homosexual to win his basic human rights. His struggle is heroic because it is fought almost without the support of the press, public opinion, or legislative action. Tall indeed are the Gay heroes who break the silence of oppression to take their cases into the light of day and fight for the rights of all Gay People. Yet, even in a court victory, our heroes seem still to be losers. Once they step into the light of self-respect, they stand to lose their jobs, their friends, and the love of their families and relatives who are still cowering in the darkness of ignorance, fear, and self-righteousness.

No struggle could be more unique in character or universal in scope. Even the Movement at large has failed to encompass the Gay drive for Liberation. Although the Movement has championed the Mexican-American, the Puerto-Rican, the Black, and Women's Lib, these united struggles have until most recently failed to support members of their groups who are also Gay. The persecuted Blacks rally together to fight for freedom; yet, what if a member is both Black and Gay? This issue is fast becoming a major one with Gays in the Movement. If continued, this double standard will make the government's credibility gap look like a hair line crack by comparison.

The Gay Movement is truly universal for it knows no color, race, creed or sole political doctrine. This does not mean the Movement is unreliable, but rather that it provides a basis for uninhibited identification with the universal struggle of all men against oppression of every form. Imagine the hellish life of a homosexual, Chicano female who is a disciple of Che and rejects religion as well as a tool of the establishment. Though she may win all other freedoms, the last will be her freedom of sexual preference; one of the basic drives of the human person.

Thanks to our brave Gay Sisters and Brothers who have taken their battles to the courts, many Gays now have a little more courage to fight their battles, both public and private. We are tired of being beaten, robbed, and killed while the police are busy elsewhere using entrapment techniques to pad their arrest quotas. ( entrapment is police enticing people into illegal sexual overtures and then arresting them - ed.) We're through with police harassing our bars, looking for pay-offs. We've had enough of social stigmas which cast us as child molesters, degenerates, and destroyers of Human dignity. An end must come to sociology and psychology courses which class Gays with addicts, prostitutes and the mentally ill while the Movement is trying to educate the unaware public. No more will we be barred from equal rights, jobs, political office, or our own social activities. The Gay Movement is on the move and we're freedom bound!

Alyn Hess

Gay Liberation Organization:

Milwaukee Brothers and Sisters for Liberated sexual expression.

What is GLO?

GLO is a student organization of the University of Wis.-Milw. which welcomes all Gay People to attend its activities and to work to liberate themselves from oppression by the Straight society.

What is Liberation?

To liberate is to free the healthy potentials in people that are currently repressed, to let them love honestly and openly. It is to "off the pig" of false ideas that make us think we're something we're not and to give us a chance to build our sense of self worth in community and to serve the people.

What is oppression?

Everything that keeps us from being the beautiful, free, creative people we by nature are. Stereotypes, laws, words, teachers, etc. all serve as oppressors of sorts. Oppression is enslavement, the opposite of being free.

Who can and should join?

If you are a Gay man or woman or if you are interested in breaking down the culturally defined sex-based roles, you should get into GLO. If you have had some experiences with others of your own sex and don't know quite what to make of it all, come and feel free to talk about them with someone who may also have had the same feelings and experiences. This is not a sex club! You will not be turned Gay by attending meetings. We are not out to make homosexuals we are out to serve the people.

What are GLO's purposes and goals?

We are asking that everyone be encouraged to express his or her sexual feeling the way he or she finds most satisfying and fulfilling. We don't say that Gay life is best for everybody. But, it helps many to be most human. It is these people we are most trying to help. We seek to help them to live full and integrated lives marked with pride in being Gay. The present shame, guilt, and double life routine that many Gays have had is not only unhuman but utterly destructive to them and to their oppressors. The slave master is never a free man. We want to confront the straight society with our pride and to force them to recognize our right to live and love as we choose and as we must.

Is GLO a revolutionary organization?

Yes!!! and we feel that if our goals should be achieved it will obviously mean a revolution, a complete turning about of past attitudes and practices. We are part of the overall change of culture that is being waged by youth around the world. Women's Lib especially has our support because they

too are fighting against sex-defined roles for people. ACLU has helped Gay People get more fair treatment in many cases. The Black Panther Party has recently taken a daring vanguard stance for Gay Liberation and we are in the process of confronting the sexism of White Movement groups and people in general.

What is sexism?

The closest parallel is racism. Sexism is the assumption, conscious or unconscious, that leads heterosexuals to falsely assume that their sex habits are healthy, normal, and good and that Gays and other sexual minorities are dirty, sick, and bad and that leads them to oppress Gays and other sexual minorities in exactly the same ways as Whites oppress Blacks. If you don't know about racism, you're really dumb and better get your shit together! Give up your sexism too!

Is it worth all the effort just to suck a cock?

Bull shit! That shows how much you know about people.

Straights assume that only they love and that all Gays are sex crazed rapers. How dull. A man or woman can love a person of the same sex as fully and as meaningfully as any straight can love a member of the opposite sex. Maybe even better. It's lots of fun. I know.

What is the twisted penis syndrome?

That's the shitty way straight men relate to everyone: Gays, women and other men. So worried about being big and butch and what they feel is masculine - a narrow concept indeed - they have little capacity for real honest affection and creativity and diversity. Many psychiatrists now see sexual frustration and the dehumanization of the straight male as a chief cause for war. Gun+cock. Boom. Besides straights end up miserable or divorced or both just as much or more than Gays.

Poem

To Bill, Michael and friends:

I Hey, you post-adolescent, paunch-bellied strapping men  
Playing football on the lawn.

II Tin type echoes of extravagant showering, your  
Bathroom frolicking, taunt me in the chapel  
Reading about Christology.

III Wet haired, clean clothed, berma-fresh young men  
Gulping lunch,  
Gently fondle oneanother's balls;  
Submit to the affection that bounds  
Sprightly in your eyes.

IV I can handle and celebrate and deal with you  
If you can handle, celebrate and deal with oneanother.

jf+

straight men? - "There is no affection in them, and no joy.  
Its like puting an electric plug in a dead socket. Touch,  
but no contact. All touch, but no contact and no light."

BUBER

## Come On Out

mike mitchell

( a groovey guy - ed.)

Hi! Thanks too, for taking a few minutes to consider a subject dear to us all: People. That's right, real, honest-to-goodness people: Male and Female, the objects of most all our thoughts and actions.

No doubt you thought you knew all about people after a few days in school and surely after these many years there's nothing new left to learn. Well, we'd like you to consider an aspect of human relations which, though not as publicized as the hetero-sexual variety, has brought great rewards for the people involved. We're talking about homosexual relations - Gay, as we prefer it. We use the word Gay because it more closely describes and defines the feeling that we have found in this ancient, but oppressed, form of personal encounter.

We'll make no bones about it, our form of relating hasn't been socially approved for quite some time now. We are hardly dismayed, however, more revolutionary concepts than ours have had to wait for an enlightened age in order to bloom. It is difficult, however, to sit quietly without presenting our case for a well informed and accurate examination. An examination by those of you who have never taken the time to investigate what a complete relationship with someone of your own sex could mean.

If you're worried that an involvement in this kind of relationship could harm your heterosexual feelings, forget it! Talk to any to any Gay person and he or she'll tell you of the breakthrough in understanding people and the rewards of this understanding that come from learning to relate to both sexes. That's what life's all about, learning to live and understand people.

An imbalance exists, however, and we'd like to promote our preference since it really hasn't been given a chance to prove itself.

Remember in your childhood when you and that special friend couldn't function with out each other in everything from games to gossip? Surely you haven't forgotten your early teens and the friends you clung to as you all wound your way through the new and unknown towards adulthood. Have you had as rewarding a relationship? If not, what has held you back? Could it be that you've wanted something deeper, but felt that it was wrong, that people wouldn't understand? If so, you're not entirely off target, but, consider this: who's wrong, you or popular myth?

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"Character shapes sex, sex does not shape character"



We know it's not easy to chuck the opinions and teachings of others out the window, but we've all had to do some of that and found ourselves to be happier, freer, and more content and at ease than we had ever imagined. We have built for ourselves, full and productive lives as part of the Gay community; a community that knows no race, creed, occupation, religion or ethnic barrier. We are happy not only in the new understanding that we have found, but also in the new control we have been able to exert over our own lives.

When you were in puberty's early stages you probably experimented with your closest friends or relatives in your new found sexual expression. Why not return now, mature and knowledgeable, and satisfy the passion which you baited, allowing it to grow in all its sincerity. Permit yourself to find out what it was you missed with that special friend in high school, the service, or else where, but never fully recognized. Who knows, perhaps once you've done this you may not only understand people better, but you may very well uncover a beautiful person within yourself that no one ever knew was there.

SO, COME ON OUT IN THE SUNSHINE!!!

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By a Straight Woman

diane emmerich

In my several months involvement with Gay and Women's Lib I've found that women and Gays are being shat on by the same group: White heterosexual males! The average WHM thinks of women as sex objects and slaves for the home. Sometimes with subtlety and sometimes obviously the "little woman" is put down and ridiculed. The WHM also scorns Gay Women: they are independent of them for love and satisfaction. Gay women are a slap in the face to the WHMs. He despises the Gay male because he can achieve an intimacy with others that the WHM could achieve if he overcame his fear and tight-assedness.

Gay and Women's Lib have to work together. One cannot be free when the other is oppressed. The oppression is from the same source. To accept an oppression free existence and to leave the Gay People oppressed would be to accept a condescending gesture to a People developing a culture of fun, sensitivity, and freedom.

I think Gay Lib is essential to help Women overcome their rivalry, suspicion of other Women and to build loving, free relationships with their sisters. It is futile to fight Capitalism and Imperialism and Racism without striking out at the real root of these: the huge ego trip of Sexism! No one is free until we are all of us free. The first step is to liberate yourself.

I mean; if Randy Agnew could do it... !

BY A NEW GAY BROTHER

JOHN CONLEY

One of the hardest things that I have ever done was to admit to myself that I am a homosexual. To do so meant to consciously recognize myself as a member of a group that our society terms deviant and perverse. Having finally done it, I have never regretted it.

I had feared often that I might be homosexual. I can recall instances from the age of six or seven that should have told me something, had I known what the word homosexual meant. When I did learn what it meant to my friends, teachers, and parents, I was terrified. All I had ever heard about homosexuality were stories of sixty-five year old men crouched in park bushes ready to spring or comments about artists and hairdressers, the "funny, harmless kind". I came off with the impression that all homosexuals were either mad with lecherous desires or extremely (and tragically) affected. It was enough to scare me back into my closet until just last February. It was then that I first recognized my homosexuality as such. I was still afraid of it though, so I labeled myself as a "bisexual". That way I could be at least half myself. After a month of so-called bisexuality, I was tired of being only half a person and realized that I was not a bisexual, but a homosexual. With that realization came a fantastic feeling of relief. I also felt gratitude toward three friends who had helped pull me through periods of indecision, frustration and fear. Without them, I don't think that I could have come out as soon as I did. I might have waited another three or four years and then be driven in desperation to a park bush or a bathroom stall. A lot of people do just that, and one of the most important purposes of Gay Liberation is to offer a human alternative. It is still far from easy to be Gay in this society, but things are changing. Much work still needs to be done, and we need your help. If you are interested in helping, or if you have questions or problems concerning homosexuality, then call Gay Liberation at 342-1722. We'll be glad to talk to you any time. If you are afraid that you might be homosexual, then talk to one of us or come to a meeting. Keeping it all inside can only intensify the fear and frustration. One of the things that terrified me the most was the thought that I was all alone and that no-one could understand what I was going through. If you think that you might be Gay, just remember that you're not alone and that there are people around that understand because we've been through it all before. Gay Liberation is here to change the old stereotypes and remove the fear of a love that society refuses to accept. And after all, love is what it's all about.

John Conley  
Sept. 6, 1970

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"The task is not for you to finish, but neither are you free to desist from it." talmud

ON BEING A GAY TEENAGER

BOB WEGER

(printed as written by the author-ed.)

When I was 15 I had my first Gay experience, with another 15 year old boy. We had moved our beds together so we would be closer together. Someone came in and asked us why we had our beds together. I replied we're having sex and we all laughed.

The next day I refused to believe anything had happened. Our that I was gay. I fooled myself for three months.

Then I finally realized that I was gay. There was no two ways about it. I began to remember all the Sexist Hetrosexual propaganda that had been handed to me. Such as all Gay people are perverted deviets who are extremly sick and must be locked away. Or its better to have a son who's a murderer than one thats a Fagote.

I began to hate myself bitterly, and decided that it's better to be dead than be Gay. So I attempted Suicide. T Through Gay Lib I found out sexist propaganda. Yet still I wonder if I can live with the oprcsion of me by the Sexist Pigs.

Several months ago I lost my Lover when he was arested. I didn't knew any other Gay people. I didn't know about Juneau park and there was no Gay resturant.

Finaly in desperation I contacted Gay Lib. Through Gay Lib I developed pride in my being Gay. I met other Gay people. It is my true feeling that if it wasn't for Gay Lib I would have committed suicide by now. I really feel sorry for Gay people who don't know about Gay Lib or aren't out of their closets yet!

I say stop the propaganda of the hetrosexuall sexist pigs, before they screw up more lives

by Robert Weger

XX

\* fuck with a friend \*

XX

By a Black Gay Sister

debbi

There are certain aspects that straights don't understand in Gay life. I interviewed a Gay Woman who is engaged to a Woman. It's hard for me to answer some of these questions myself because I am bisexual - and more straight than Gay - at the moment.

Do you think you're sick or perverted?

No!

Why?

What's normal for you may be abnormal for me.

Do your parents know?

No.

Why don't you tell them?

Because they'd feel they had failed me in some way.  
They'd feel I wasn't living a normal life.

Do you feel different from others. Superior or inferior?

I feel superior because I think I've achieved the real meaning of love.

Why?

There's nothing binding like marriage, house, kids, etc.

Doesn't this make you feel insecure?

To a certain degree, because there is nothing binding. Yet, this insecurity can make you put more into the relationship. From this insecurity can come happiness because we each try a little harder to make things work.

Do you think it will last?

As long as there are mutual feelings of happiness and love.

What do you think of the masculine, or "butch" type of Lesbian?

There are degrees of masculinity in Lesbians; from the extremely feminine appearing to very tough and mannish. It attracts me, but I've found someone who's less obvious and more traditionally feminine.

What category are you in?

First, I'm a human being. Second, I'm a Woman. Then I'm a Lesbian. I always want to be considered a Woman in both worlds.

Do you consider some of the slang names ( dyke, queer, fem, homo ) a form of name calling?

It all depends on who uses them and how they're used. The ignorant need to be forgiven.

How do you feel about men, Straight and Gay?

I like having casual acquaintances with them. As far as my sexual needs: Women satisfy them.

Why?

A Woman can undersatad another Woman's sexual needs and responses much better.

Does your homosexuality interfere with your job?

No?

What do you think of Gay Lib?

It's time. As in all minorities we should be recognized and the oppression and false beliefs that Straights have placed on us must be lifted.

I hope this brief interview has enlightened at least one Straight person and a few Gay Women.

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\$\$\$....?

On God and Gay People

father joe

"All baptized in Christ, you have all clothed yourselves in Christ, and there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus." the letter of blessed paul, the apostle to the people of galatia

oops...on to next page -)

Religious training and belief have been, in the Western world, the greatest obstacle in the path of people who want to realize their full capacity to love others in harmony with the truest longings of their hearts. Religion has frustrated and repressed natural and true human needs to participate in affection and joy. Religion has been used to smash and bludgeon sex - all sex.

Psychiatrists' offices as well as endless pornography haunts, bars, armies, and living rooms are crammed full of compulsive neurotics wracked by guilt and the threat of sin if they love. There are legions of cold, brash, frigid people who feel safe in their alienation from others; who are lousy in bed; who basically live alone - who have friends and contacts galore, but who always avoid deep and warm encounter with another. Many of these folk were made this way by religion and are assured a heaven of celebrate bliss in reward for their pre-sexual trial on earth. How unimpressive and un-saved!

"I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full," said Jesus. His proclamation in the Gospel and in the Epistles and Tradition of the Church is not one of restraint, repression, and delayed reward. It is a thing about setting people free from all that binds them and keeps them from being loving human persons - loving beyond the limits of old social convention and myth.

While the New Testament definitely does contain condemnations of the mis-use of sex, including the mis-use of homosexual sex, the sum of the impact of the Good News is not a restraining list of laws and condemnations or a preprogramming for the comfort laden repression of middle class acceptability, but a wildly freeing smashing of the death-serving ways of "this world" and the beginning of "the Kingdom" where men and women are liberated to be themselves, open to others on all levels and intimate with God Himself.

While Western Christianity has messed up royally, there is a whole world of authentic Jesus teaching and life in the Eastern Church that, while it has been scorned for its ethnocentrism has preserved unmarred essentially the Good News of Liberation.

Saint John Chrysostom, for one, denounces sex roles and differentiations and lays aside reproduction as a reason for sex. He sees the growth of persons in love as its end. "There are no more distinctions...".

God calls all men and women to lead full lives in the freshness and joy of His Holy Spirit. He could care less as to how the plumbing is arranged!

There is sinful heterosexual sex and sinful homosexual sex. All that is debasing and destructive toward persons is sinful. Gay Liberation, however, strikes a cord that is in harmony with the truest strains of the Gospel Tradition in trying to free

Gay and straight people from the sexism and narrow prejudice that have bound us all and produced categories like Nigger and Kike, Faggot and Pig.

In working to serve the people in our Community and in working for basic radical change in the way we all relate to one another - sexually - Gay Lib and Women's Lib are filled with the Holy Spirit who "breaths where he wills" to set men and women free.

The Western Church martyred nine million Gays over the centuries - burned and beheaded us for the way we love. The Western Church really is a mess, isn't it, for all its efforts to be proper and trim.

But, Jesus is not one to be put down. Death institutions, like graves, have a way of getting offed when he enters the scene and in every generation there has been a re-affirmation of good, clear Gospel. There is every reason to work and pray for Gay Lib's integral participation in Jesus' work of Liberation.

"I saw a new Heaven and a new Earth...here God lives among men...He will wipe away all tears from their eyes...the world of the past has gone." - revelation of saint john

This kind of talk blatantly contradicts everything your Church has tried to do to you. But, look deeper, pray over it. For as messed up as the Western Church has been, there still remains the Word of the world's most irrepressibly free man - Jesus, the Son of God. We can be and we must be close to God in His Church and free to love as He has given us the means. As an ancient Ukrainian monk once said, "There are as many ways as there are desires."

There is a fine urgency in the Gospel. We just can not mess around being afraid or careful or comfortable. After all, what are a few crosses more in the light of the Resurrection? Why be restrained when the Creator of the Cosmos invites us to be free?

"Saint John, the Beloved Disciple,  
intercede with Christ God to save our souls!"

+!

### On Serving the People

GLO, COC, and GLF in working to see the Liberation of both Straight and Gay men and Women co-operates with a number of other groups and agencies to "Serve The People". Together members of these organizations form service cadres:

<u>Counselling:</u> group and individual	PERSONAL
any time	BY TELEPHONE
call 3421722	

Open Rap Sessions:

open ended coffee slopping and plaver  
each monday

7pm to ....

1155 North 21st Street

Legal Aid:

referral to competent, reasonably priced  
lawyers for thise in a pinch  
call DI 2 1722

Psychiatric Referral:

not much that's redeemable here, but we have a  
few good guys on our list  
call 3421723

Medical Help:

Free clinic at Saint Mary's Hospital  
no questions asked!!!  
271 3123

2390 North Lake Drive

Consciousness Raising Cells:

A People, here Gay People, have to get it together  
in terms of our own identity, self-pride, community  
awareness, history, place in the cosmic scheme.  
Consciousness Raising Cells strive for the burgeoning  
of the Liberated Gay Spirit through open encounter  
techniques. The secret to Liberation is community and  
that requires awareness and togetherness.

find out more at GLO meetings

Public Meetings:

Public meetings of greater or lesser formality  
are held as the need arises. Read Kaleidescope  
for announcements.

Library: A bibliotequê is maintained to serve the literary  
and research needs of the Gay People at the Gay Lib  
Center.

Religious: see COC

Speakers: GLO and COC together provide speakers on Gay  
Lib and Life to Black, Spanish, Indian, and Women's  
Lib groups as well as to students for free.  
Speakers for other groups are available for  
a proper honorarium.

The Cast of Hundreds, nay Thousands and Millions-  
10 to 20 % of you is us:

Gay Liberation Front

GLF is a revolutionary action affinity group whose members,  
while many function integrally within GLO, have a more precisely  
political awareness of the nature of our oppression and seek  
to act in accord with these insights to Liberate our People.

Contact is maintained on a National level with similar groups  
and a direct effort is made to co-relate GLF's ideology and  
actions with those of other revolutionary groups.

Committee of Concern for Homosexuals

COC is a national organization of clergy and responsible laity. COC originated in Berkeley, California through the efforts of Father Jim Rankin of the Evangelical Catholic Communion and serves Gay People by providing relevant religious counselling and symposia on the religious problematics arising in Gay Life and Liberation and serves the Straight community by providing counselling and pastoral formation seminars for the clergy and by offering a speakers service that focuses on religious-Gay questions.

in Milwaukee: 342 1722

Saint Nicholas' Orthodox Parish

St. Nicholas' Parish is the only Church in the Milwaukee area that welcomes Gay People and that publicly and openly teaches that Homosexuality is a blessing of God and a means of Grace. As a part of the Eastern Orthodox Church, St. Nicholas' maintains a very conservative stance in doctrine and Liturgy and sees its positive evaluation of Homosexuality as consistent with the Church's Biblicly founded Tradition.

The Parish houses the Gay Liberation Center, the Telephone Line, the library, and lends its facilities freely for Gay Lib activities. Religious counsel is provided and the pastor is the local co-Ordinator for the Committee of Concern.

Mass is celebrated Sunday at 9pm. The Parish House is located at 1155 North 21st Street.

10 - 20%

that's maybe 40,000,000 Gays!

there died at Thermopylae  
three hundred gays  
having held off the whole  
imperial army of the persians

the victory of the hot gates  
is the icon of the triumph  
of  
Gay Liberation

you can not defeat  
an army of lovers

+