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Special Anniversary Issue!

LESBIAN WINS CHILDREN

After a two-year battle, Camille Mitchell, a San Jose, California woman, won custody of her three children over the challenges of her husband of 15 years. The decision, handed down by Judge Gerald S. Chargin in June, is believed to be the first one in the country in which an acknowledged lesbian has been legally accorded her maternal rights. As such, although it would not carry the weight of law, it would probably be cited in all future hearings of this type.

Yet the victory, which at first blush would seem to promise much for the increasingly large group of lesbian mothers, turns out in fact to be a somewhat hollow one. Child support and alimony awards were low, but more significant are the conditions limiting Ms. Mitchell's contacts with her lover of two years, a school teacher who is also a mother. Not only do they forbid their moving in together (of economic benefit to both), but they permit any kind of association together only in the absence of Ms. Mitchell's children, i.e., when they are in school or visiting the ex-husband Doyle Mitchell. The law's response in this matter doesn't seem to indicate much improvement over that of Mr. Mitchell as reflected in his statement, "I would rather give the children to their grandfather rather than have them raised with a bunch of queers."

The larger significance of all this is what it tells us about society's continued irrational revulsion

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

GAY O.K. FOR NORMAN

Norman, Oklahoma — When the University of Oklahoma refused to recognize the Norman Gay Alliance for Sexual Freedom as a valid campus organization the group took the matter to court. Even though the student government had voted recognition, the university, in defense, took the position that the organization could be considered unlawful under the laws of Oklahoma and therefore declined to permit the use of its facilities or funds by NGASF.

Just in time for the fall semester, District Court Judge Elvin Brown ruled that the university must grant the same privileges to an organization of homosexuals that are enjoyed by other campus groups. He said, in his ruling, "Until such time as it is permissible to discriminate against women who have had hysterectomy, men who have had vasectomies, or children who suffered the misfortune of being born asexual or bisexual, it will also be unconstitutionally discriminatory to deny equal rights and privileges to homosexuals."

University recognition of gay groups has been no problem in Wisconsin, but due to the curious wording regarding constitutional discrimination, Gay Peoples Union queried our attorneys concerning the significance of the ruling. Without access to the entire ruling, our attorneys could make no definite statement, but they said that the judge's ruling could have been based on the constitution of the State of Oklahoma or it could have been based on the United States Constitution. In any event, the ruling from a state court would only

be binding in that particular state—However, you may be sure that the ruling will be cited in future cases of similar nature regardless of their origin.

Below is a schedule of activities which Gay Peoples Union has planned for the month of October:

OCTOBER 2nd Gay Travelogue at regular meeting at Eastside Community Center, 911 E. Ogden, 8 P.M.

See the world as you have never seen it before.

OCTOBER 4th Gay Dance, Student Union Building, Fireside Lounge, Kenwood & Maryland, 8-12 P.M. Co-Sponsor — Student Outreach — Free

OCTOBER 9th Discussion Group — "What is Gay Liberation?" Discussion leaders will lead regular meeting in an examination of different gay lib philosophies.

OCTOBER 12th Strategy meeting. Eastside Community Center 7:30 P.M.

OCTOBER 13, 14, 15 Three day retreat. \$2.50 per person. Inquire at regular meeting for details.

OCTOBER 16th Pot Luck Dinner 7 P.M. Regular meeting 8 P.M.

OCTOBER 23rd Discussion Group — "Sub-cultures in the Gay Community" What's your bag? Leather? Drag? S & M? Come and talk it over.

OCTOBER 26th Speakers Committee meeting — If you are interested in speaking inquire at regular meeting for details.

OCTOBER 30th Guest Speaker: Mr. Kenneth Bowen, Public Relations Director for Milwaukee Police and Fire Commission.

EDITORIAL

"As you travel on through life, brother, Whatever be your goal; Keep your eye upon the donut And not upon the hole."

With this issue G.P.U. NEWS begins its second year of publication. We know that we have our deficiencies, but instead of dwelling on the hole, let's look at the donut.

There are a growing number of gay oriented publications, many of the newer ones being bar and entertainment oriented. These publications are professionally done and in many cases are slick and beautiful. We have absolutely no quarrel with this type of publication, being able to see the need for them as well as their profit potential to their publishers.

We hope that our readers will understand that we feel that it is a compliment that people are beginning to compare us to these professional publications that have a full time staff and are sold for a profit. It is a bit like comparing apples and oranges, however, since our purpose is not just to entertain, but to inform gays as well about the gay liberation movement that is helping to lift the burden of oppression. As long as oppression exists there must be a serious side to being gay as well as a fun side. This is our donut.

Publishing G.P.U. NEWS is just one of our many activities and while we think it is an important one, we will never devote our entire energies to it. There are simply too many other important things to do. People in trouble need help, people with problems need counsel, the public needs education, laws need to be changed and both the gay community and the general public needs the fresh air of human liberation. Our donut.

From the above editorial you might get the idea that we do not know how to have fun. Do you like to dance? If so, grab your pencil and mark your calendar for the following G.P.U. sponsored free dance dates. All dances will be

- held at the Fireside Lounge, Student Union Building, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, Kenwood and Maryland from 8 P.M. to midnight.
- Wednesday October 4
- Saturday November 18
- Friday December 8
- Friday February 2
- Friday March 2
- Friday April 6
- Friday May 4

One of the stated goals of Gay Peoples Union is to provide social functions where gays can meet publicly in a liberated atmosphere. Union Outreach at U W M has agreed to be our sponsors.

How do you get into a gaily liberated state of mind? Well, one good way is with a little help from your friends. Each small and easily stored package contains long-lasting, condensed, mind-changing thoughts in easily digestible doses. They can set your mind free and blow your myths each time you open your eyes to their black and white.

Black ink on white paper bound into books has done a great deal of liberating by letting anyone who is interested rub minds with the sexiest brains being published. Why not make it with Arthur Bell, a founder of G.A.A.; or Dennis Alt-

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

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If you wish to place an ad in future issues, write to us at the above address for rates and information.

If you want counseling about a homosexual problem or would like to have a speaker on the subject for your group, contact us at the above address.

Yours in Liberation,
THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

man, author of **Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation**; or Kay Tobin in the **Gay Crusaders**? Why not let James Baldwin or Del Martin enter your head through your eyes? Discover the voices of liberation coming to you out of the past through Sappho and Whitman's books.

Why not seek gay liberation with a little help from some of the best minds in the gay world. Read! It liberates!

FEEDBACK

Dear G.P.U. NEWS:

Congratulations on your first anniversary. We hope that our support has helped you because you have certainly benefited us. Good Luck!

Ramie's Book Store

Dear G.P.U. NEWS:

Congratulations on the start of your second year of publication. We at YOUR PLACE look forward to each issue. We're with you 100%. Keep up the good work.

Jim and Jerry and Staff

YOUR PLACE

Dear G.P.U. NEWS:

As a happy advertiser in your newspaper I'd like to give you this feedback. I have done more business in response to my G.P.U. NEWS advertising than I did from \$150 per month ads in the Milwaukee Journal. It is a pleasure to continue to do business with people who appreciate quality.

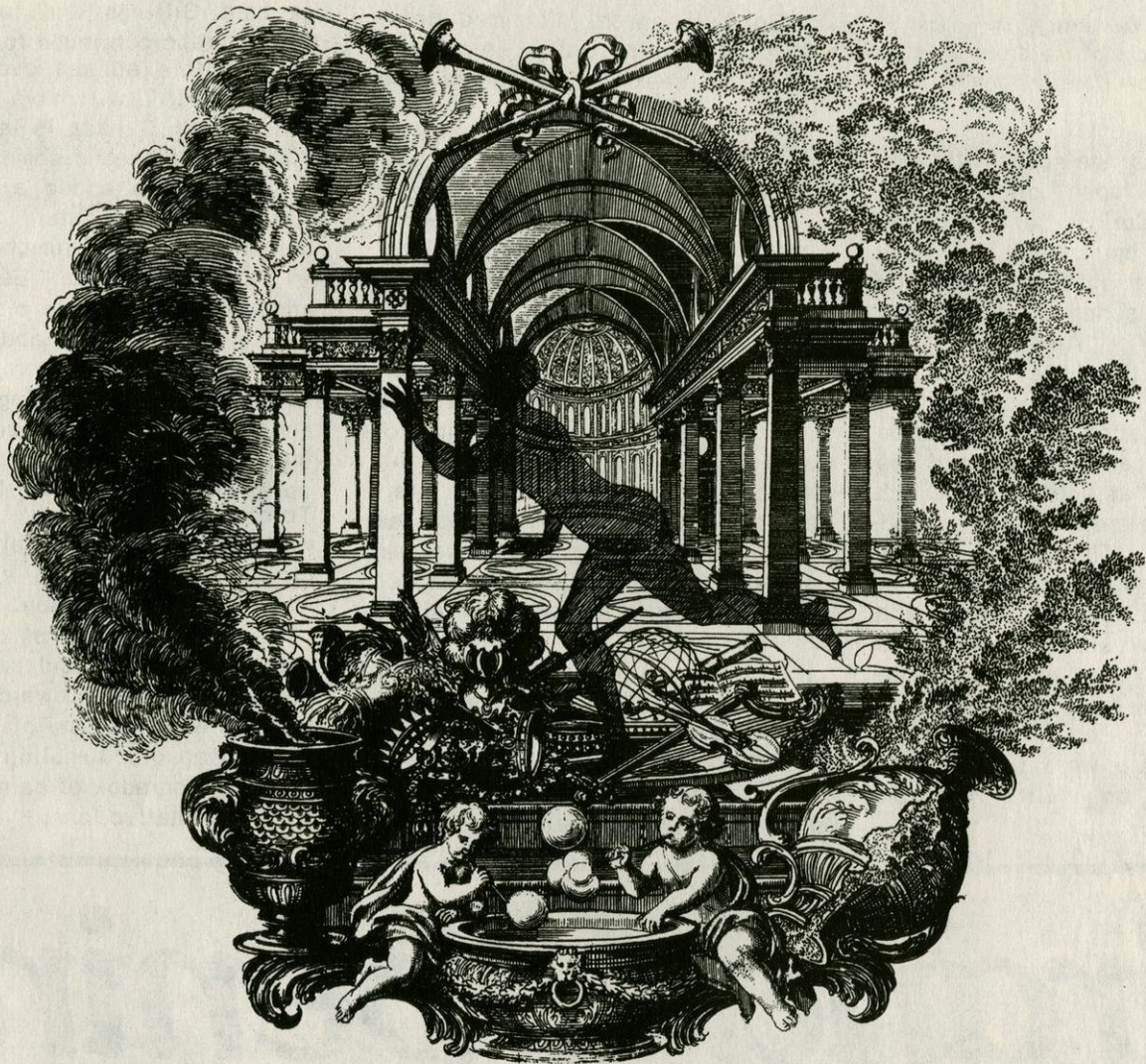
Tom of KEEP IT TOGETHER

UPHOLSTERY

Editor G.P.U. NEWS:

In the Feedback column of your September issue is a letter from a TV who needs a friend. I hold regular monthly meetings for TVs and TSs and publish a regular news-
Continued on Page 15

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The Lambda And The Maple Leaf

The writer of this article, a member of GPU, attended four of the seven days of Canadian Gay Pride Week in Toronto in the month of August.

It wasn't just the scene, although Toronto is an "open" city, that impressed me during Canadian Gay Pride Week, but rather the good vibrations, the spirit of liberation and the new sense of community.

SATURDAY — An arts festival was held at the huge old church which is the premises of CHAT. (Community Homophile Association Toronto) TV cameras recorded the ribbon cutting at noon and the ebb and flow of the crowd on the decked-out staircase. The real show was not the art or music but the people; liberated men, women, couples, and at least a few *simpatico* straights. A handful of Yanks were in attendance, hailing from Manhattan to Minneapolis. People from still-troubled Buffalo were there, but to my knowledge, only "little me" from Wisconsin.

Good vibes were felt immediately. CHAT's greeting policy is to take pains to seek out strangers and talk in depth at once. I got the feeling that the sheer fact of being legal there helps peoples heads

SUNDAY — A picnic on Wards Island in Toronto harbor had perfect weather. The heavy air of cruising was almost entirely absent as were the other games gay people play — hostility, uptightness, putdowns, and mistrust. We were person to person, a step towards human liberation. Age and appearance didn't seem to matter much either. I felt surprised and uneasy until I realized that I was revealing my own sexism and ageism. Amazing! Another step for me towards my own liberation.

MONDAY — I went pub crawling in Toronto with friends. The bar scene is still about the same everywhere-plastic. What a comedown! CHAT itself is not totally "together" as it admits, but their good vibes remain.

TUESDAY — Special panel program "The Open Society" with Ms Barbara Gittings and four others. TV coverage continued for a special program this autumn over which I learned CHAT will have full editorial rights. Canada is less radical than the States and some questions by GLF types added a jarring as well as boring note! Still, gay solidarity clearly triumphed.

SHORT TAKES: Easy kisses and embraces. . . Two black women busily insuring an abundance of BBQ'ed chicken and corn. . . Neighborhood children dashing freely in and out of the scene ("unmolested" too). . . T-shirts with the lamda sign upon Canada's maple leaf. . . Toronto's police-gay relations, while not actually cordial, are quite civil. Communication exists with liaison and co-operation.

I missed Friday's dance and Saturday's parade and rally. As I headed westward towards home I had the weird feeling of being in a space capsule tumbling back towards the paradox of being an exile in my own native land. ■

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GAY MOTHER—from pg 1

to homosexuality. Ms. Mitchell's children have gone on record in their wish to remain with their mother. Her husband, though employing some decidedly dirty tactics, has failed to show her unfitness as a mother. Yet the law, as so often is the case, chose to act merely as reflector of society's majority prejudices and ignorance, rather than as champion of enlightened and humane opinion about homosexuals as human beings — not monsters.



The prevailing climate — a harshly negative proscription against homosexuality — is likewise seen as operative in having created Ms. Mitchell's painful situation. Like many other lesbians, she married and had children before becoming aware of her preference for women. Clearly, in large measure, these women were steered into matrimony and motherhood because society offered them no other legitimate options. Relating sexually and emotionally to other women was

simply not presented to them as a "live option" (to use William James' term); indeed, if present at all, it appeared in the guise of the most heinous of choices. Thus was created a harsh double bind for a growing number of women; accompanying their realization that they can find emotional fulfillment only with another woman is the stark recognition that acting on it endangers their ties to their children. For a mother, becoming a lesbian usually means a pattern of even more furtive secrecy than is demanded of her unencumbered gay sisters, for there is always the distinct danger that either the husband or the state will step in and separate her from her offspring. Yet there is also another important factor, namely that without legal acknowledgement of the separation of the spouses, the burden of support of the children usually becomes hers alone.

Many homosexuals, both male and female, love children. Among their inalienable human rights

should be the principle that their sexual preference not function as an automatic disqualification for parenthood. One of the spinoffs of gay liberation, hopefully, will be the education of society to the right of mature, stable homosexuals to raise children — whether their own, or adopted.

Donna Martin

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COMING DRAG EVENTS

Every year various gay bars and businesses enter a contestant in the Miss Milwaukee contest. Several bars select their entry in a preliminary contest. The schedule for this year's contests follows: October 21 - 10 P.M. The Neptune Club, trophy to winner, October 24 - 10 P.M. Michelles Club 546 (Formerly the Stud), \$200 in prizes; October 25 - 10 P.M. The River Queen, \$300 in prizes.

Winners of these contests together with appointed representatives of other establishments will compete in the final Miss Milwaukee contest to be held in two segments at the Neptune Club on October 28 at 10 P.M. with prizes totaling \$300 and trophies.

In Chicago, the Second Annual Masquerade Benefit Ball sponsored by Mattachine Midwest will be held at the Aragon Ballroom, Broadway at Lawrence, at 8 P.M. on October 28. Advance tickets at \$6 are available from Mattachine Midwest, P.O. Box 924, Chicago 60690. Tickets at the door are \$7.

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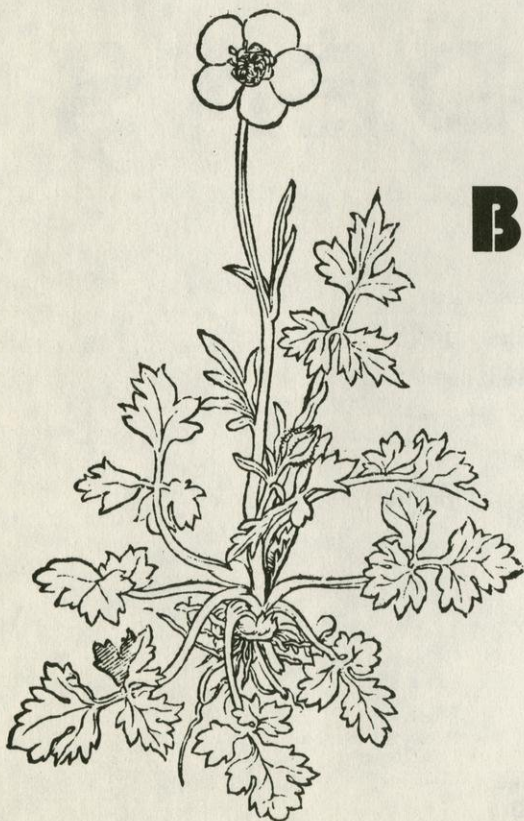
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POLICE vs GAYS: CRISIS IN UNDERSTANDING (Part 2)

In part one of this series, Captain John W. Davis of the Milwaukee Vice Squad made statements on police policies toward gays in Milwaukee. That interview of this past August 9th followed a 90 minute session with Mr. Kenneth A. Bowen, Community Relations Specialist for the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission.

The interview with Mr. Bowen was witnessed by two representatives of G.P.U. and was taped to insure accuracy.

Mr. Bowen's responses were at first diplomatic, at times caustic and quite defensive. Those present at the interview were both surprised and disturbed to have many of the fears about police opinion of gays confirmed by Mr. Bowen. This, despite his efforts to convince us that we were "reaching" and had no case.

The first topic of discussion was the formal complaint procedure in a case of police misconduct. Mr. Bowen explained that a complaint form is the first step. This form requires many detailed facts from the complainant such as: specific circumstances of the incident, the identity of the offending officer(s), names of witnesses to the incident, and more. Once that is completed, the offending officers' superior and Mr. Bowen's office investigate the case. If, after that investigation the Fire and Police Commission sees any viability in the case there is a PUBLIC hearing. This procedure can be a very effective deterrent to gay complainants. Mr. Bowen did not state what percentage of complaints involving gays ever get as far as a public hearing. However, it was made quite clear that even in the case of a serious incident the gay making the complaint might become discouraged or frightened and drop the matter. Mr. Bowen cited this case as an example of his contact with the gay community; "This fellow charged that a policeman forced him to handle his privates . . . but I talked to the officer about it; he denied it stoutly. He said he'd have to be some kind of a fool to do that with a witness around. When I began to dig into it,

the fellow suddenly decided he did not want to talk about it any more."

The subject of undercover Vice Squad officers in gay bars and their reason for being there sparked a rather unpleasant analogy which Mr. Bowen used throughout the remainder of the interview. Mr. Bowen made this comparison; "Well, it's like the prostitute — you know? She's got a pretty good business until she solicits the wrong guy. And if a homo winks at me, and I happen to be a police officer, and I arrest him — he's in trouble. And if he winks at me and I'm not a police officer, he's got a bed partner, maybe. But that's a chance he's got to take." When it was pointed out that he was getting off the subject by using the example of prostitutes, Mr. Bowen replied; "They're parallel."

The subject of prejudice was touched upon in the next portion of the interview. When asked about the need to educate police on the subject of homosexuality, Mr. Bowen responded somewhat favorably; "I wouldn't single out the homosexual; police deal with all kinds of people . . . prejudices diminish as our knowledge is increased." When asked about the existence of official guidelines to regulate the treatment of gays by police, Mr. Bowen confirmed the fear that it is a matter of personal whim, not of standards of law and justice; "That would be up to the officer's judgment . . . now if he was really prejudiced he might be able to establish a case."

Mr. Bowen became quite uneasy and evasive when asked if there was any reason beneficial to gays for the presence of undercover Vice Squad officers in gay bars. He said, "I can't really answer that question. I don't want to. I'll say this; there's a lot of activity that goes on in these types of places that needs surveillance." When asked what type of activity he might be referring to, Mr. Bowen continued, "I answered all I could at that point. You guys have a very negative attitude about the police. When people live on the fringes of the law, for one reason or another, no

matter how they justify it, there are still laws. If you're not breaking the law, you don't worry about a Vice Squad officer standing up there. If you're up there with the idea 'I'm going to get that guy', yeah, you better be careful about the Vice Squad officer! You ought to be in the bar drinking and enjoying yourself. The only people who are afraid of these guys are the guys who live on the fringes of the law." The statement was made that all homosexuals live on the fringes of the law. When this statement was challenged by Mr. Bowen he was asked what legal way there was for two homosexuals to "get together". He replied, "I don't have the slightest idea, but I'm sure it happens all the time and I don't think it happens illegally." It is a fact that almost all "sexual" acts performed by homosexuals acting upon what their sexual orientation dictates are illegal and can lead to arrest under one charge or another.

Mr. Bowen was asked if undercover Vice Squad officers make an effort to "pass as homosexuals" in order to effect arrests. He responded, "I think it's almost a useless task trying to do that . . . most of the homosexuals I've known have been pretty high I.Q. guys." To clarify what Mr. Bowen meant by that statement he was asked, do you mean intelligent enough to evade entrapment efforts? His reply was, "Yes, they don't operate that way in my experience." What if a Vice Squad officer assumes he has just witnessed an act of solicitation as two people depart a gay bar together? Can an arrest be made on the basis of such an assumption? Mr. Bowen stated that one of the parties involved would have to make a complaint against

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the other, objecting to the solicitation. If no complaint is made, the Vice Squad officer has nothing to say in the matter. Mr. Bowen was presented a case of entrapment as related by an article in the Milwaukee Journal. When questioned about the justice of leading someone into an illegal act, of encouraging someone to break a law in order to tally up one more arrest, Mr. Bowen's reply was a rather vague justification of the practice; "There's no other way for the officer to establish his case if he doesn't talk to him." It seems to me that I've heard of officers doing far more than "talking" in their pursuit of the arrest of a gay. Getting back to the subject of a complaint being necessary for an arrest to be made: what if the Vice Squad officer makes the first moves? What if he does do more than "talk", or as Captain Davis had put it, is more active than simply "being there"? Can the gay arrested in such a situation also make a complaint against the officer that made the "first moves"? Mr. Bowen would not answer this question, rather he emphasized that Captain Davis was waiting and that he could answer any further questions. So ended the interview with Mr. Bowen.

Captain Davis stated that any further interviews with police department personnel would have to be cleared with Chief Brier's office and that an official written request would have to be submitted. Assuming that the Chief's office does not fear further penetration into the Police Department's gay related activities, further interviews will probe the feelings of Vice Squad officers and regular "beat cops". If the necessary permission is obtained, these interviews could reveal how individual officers use the vast amount of freedom and power granted to them by the lack of official guidelines.

Others to be contacted in connection with this series include bartenders and patrons of straight bars, to see if they are aware of the police presence to the degree that bartenders and patrons of gay bars are, a judge, an Assistant District Attorney and others.

TO BE CONTINUED! By T.P.Q.

IS THE LESBIAN REALLY PROGRAMMED FOR MONOGAMY?

by Donna Martin

Sexual exploration and promiscuity is still everywhere condemned far more harshly in women than in men, regardless of marital status. The double standard is very much alive and well in spite of the rebirth of the women's movement, the escalation in sexual freedom, and the efflorescence of pornography and sex in the media. Even with the demise of much formal religion there remains a Puritan hangover regarding sex. Of greater significance, but less generally realized, is the continuance of the traditional power plays between the sexes. As they have for millenia, men continue to assume command over women, considering it their natural right. Indeed, this idea is so subtly enmeshed in the total fabric of our lives that many of the most oppressed women remain unconscious of their oppression.

Let us now focus on the effects of these cultural facts and describe the current formula for the lesbian "love ethic". Brought up like all girls to consider sex "nice", though only when hedged with certain conditions, the fledgling lesbian tries her new wings with an exhilarating expectation of freedom — the freedom to be herself! She no longer has to engage in a kind of basic barter — winning popularity among boys in exchange for sexual privileges. Nor is she locked into the expectation of marriage as the only situation legitimizing intercourse. Even today, for most girls, pre- or extra-marital sex is tinged with guilt and justified, even when enjoyed, as necessary in pursuit of the ultimate prize, marriage. The young lesbian now feels that she can respond to another emotionally, sexually, and in every way as an equal since society has made no rules for the relationship between two women as it has for the male/female couple.

The new lesbian is now a liberated woman who can dress to her own standards of comfort rather than the standards of the male which emphasize the seductive parts of the anatomy. She can now

function as an active human being, rather than a helpless mannequin required to remain in passive attendance while doors are opened for her, cigarettes lighted for her and meals ordered for her. She can also refuse a lesbian sexual overture more easily, being able to honestly state her reasons, whether due to mood, emotional disinclination, or physical indisposition. Mind you, everyone likes attention and likes to be waited on. In addition there is an implied feeling of worth that comes from being the object of sexual pursuit. However, human nature being as plastic as it is, no one welcomes a rigid mold of any kind — least of all one of passivity which in our culture is equated with powerlessness. If she chooses, the lesbian can assume an active role. She can open doors, order drinks, ask someone to dance. She can even have the wildly wonderful feeling of making sexual overtures to someone else.

It is in just this area of sex where the new lesbian runs into the the highly idealistic lesbian "love ethic". While jettisoning some of the distorting preliminaries to mature mating, the lesbian "love ethic" has held on to one which threatens the liberated woman. This is the equation of sex and monogamy. Because society has programmed the female so intensively in the direction of marriage and limited her options, even as a lesbian she is less likely than her male counterpart to explore other alternatives, whether vocational or sexual. She has been so well indoctrinated by the heterosexual "love ethic" that she continues to believe that the only possible sanction for sex other than marriage is a strong emotional attraction. Charlotte Wolff in her recent book, **Love Between Women**, attests to this typical response on the part of lesbians by making a strong case for seeing "homoemotionality" rather than "homosexuality" at the core of women's love for one another.

The sex act is, however, always secondary with them. It is only a

manifestation of their emotional love, but for this very reason they attach so much importance to it. Sexual embraces symbolise for lesbians a kind of oath, a commitment to one another.

The fact of the matter is that sex is a far more casual matter for male/female couples than for female/female couples in the courting situation, especially for those over thirty. It is of course the male's more casual attitude toward sex which makes for the difference. For the heterosexual couple, his greater readiness for sex divorced from emotional involvement and commitment typically results in a steady undertow of sexual aggressiveness on his part and concessions on the female's part. So pervasive is this pattern that most girls indulge in a fair amount of sexual activity in their dating years, often simultaneously with a number of different boyfriends, and frequently with considerable pleasure as well. In spite of some reluctance and guilt, the practical necessity of granting some favors to the male partially excuses an evasion of societal

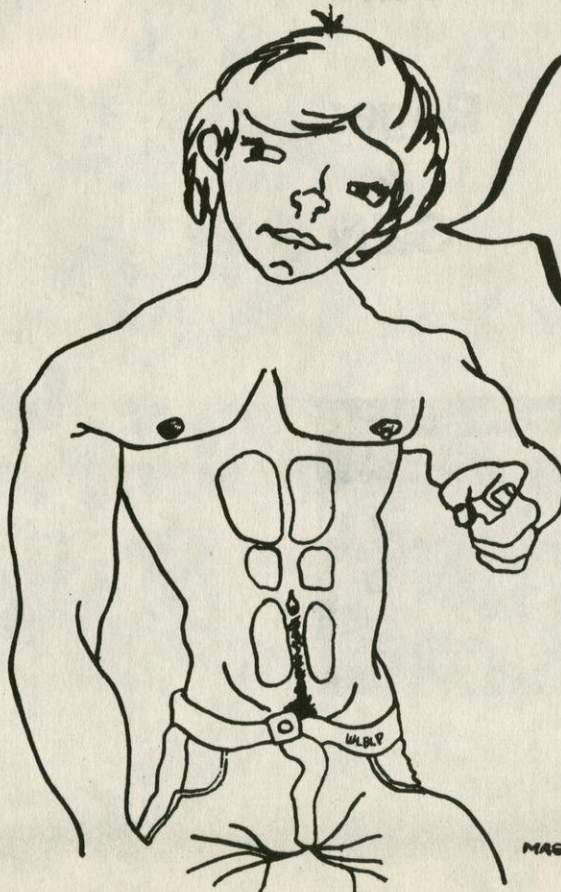
norms about female sexual behavior. In short, they get off the moral hook so that in part they can feel free to satisfy their sexual needs.

Now the lesbian has sexual needs, just as do all women. However, partly in reaction to the tawdriness of male/female sex as she sees it, and partly in compliance with a strongly inculcated code of female sexual behavior she finds herself embracing a tripartate equation: sex is permissible, sanctified so to speak, only as a flowering of love, which in turn naturally entails commitment. Not for her the easy indulgence in sex of the straight world. For the lesbian it's Romeo and Juliet, or rather Sappho and Atthis, or nothing! An inspiring paradigm, however, should like some perfumes, be applied but sparingly, and this one especially so, as observation of the actual facts of lesbian mating will make abundantly clear.

Basically the lesbian "love ethic" functions as an excuse for sexual activity. Those of us who have been able to gain some per-

spective in these matters realize that we are attracted to various people in various ways, as well as differently to the same person at different times. Gut-level sex is one of these kinds of attraction, and let's not kid ourselves, women experience this just as men do. More commonly women are drawn to someone when emotion enters the picture and this implies some familiarity with the total person of the other. Lastly, love, however defined, may miraculously happen to a couple. Love implies commitment; it means a large interpenetration of selves, something that involves empathy, sharing, tolerance — all of which usually results only with a long, close relationship. The lesbian, however, has decreed for herself this never common condition between two people as the condition for sexual involvement. She must convince herself that LOVE exists, or at least an intensity of emotion that verily promises LOVE as its fruition, before allowing herself the delicious delights of

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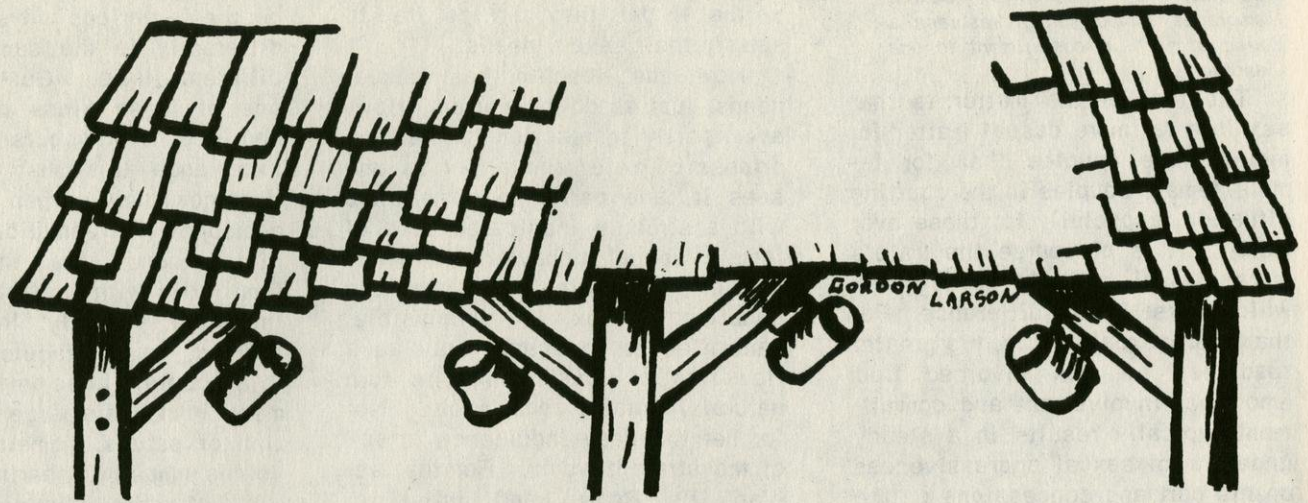


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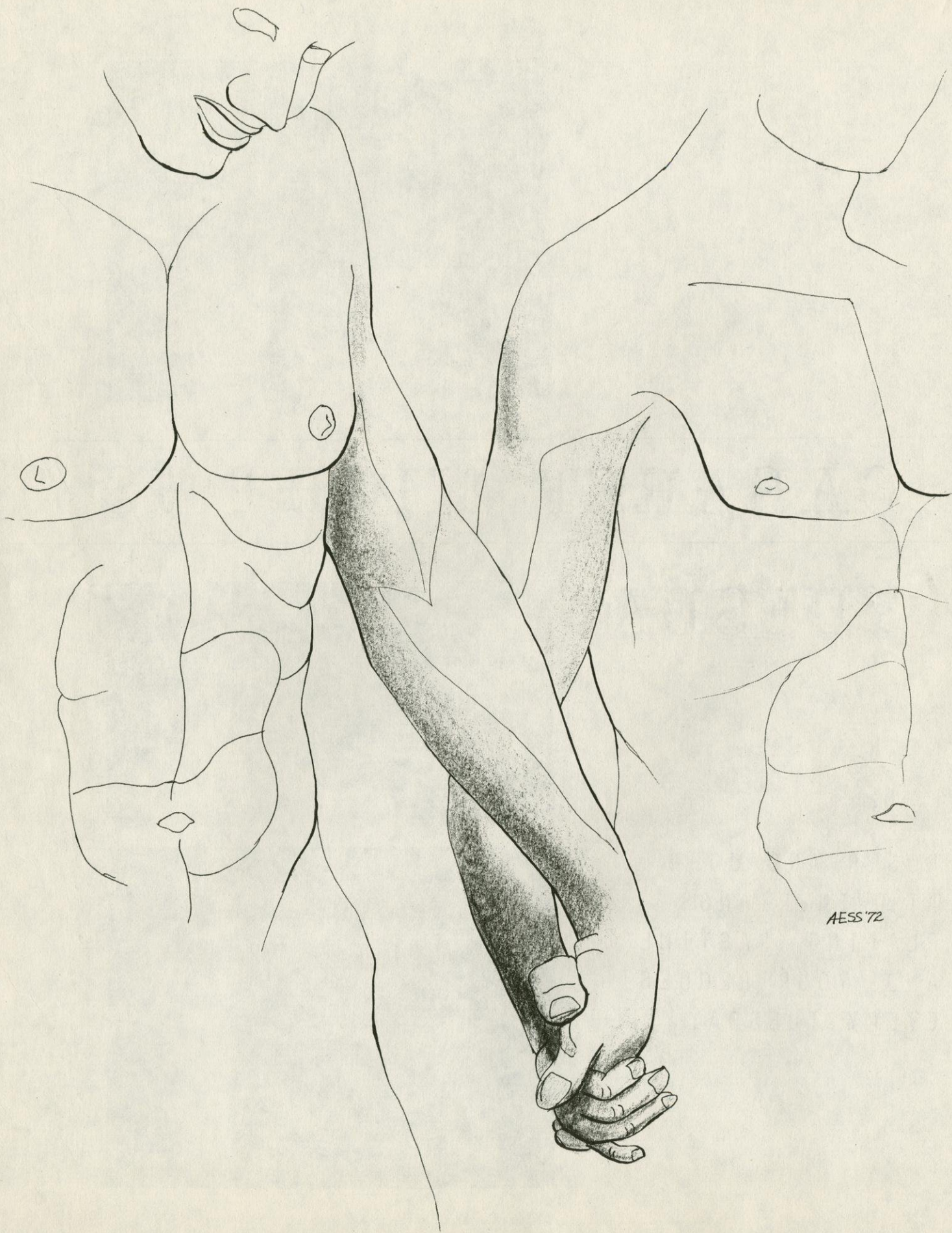
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AESS'72

A Leaf for Hand in

natural persons

old and young!

On the Mississippi and

on all the branches and

bayous of the Mississippi!

Of friendly boatmen and

mechanics! You roughs!

Wain and all processions

moving along the streets!

wish to infuse myself among you

till I see it common for you to

Walk hand in hand

Walt in
by Whitman

Calamus Section of

Leaves of Grass

Gays And Politics

BY DR. FRANKLIN E. KAMENY

Dr. Kameny, a well known gay activist, is founder and President of the Mattachine Society of Washington, D.C., chairman of the Legal Committee, Gay Activists Alliance, Washington, and member of the Executive Board of American Civil Liberties Union, Washington Affiliate. He was the first publicly declared homosexual to run for a national political office when he campaigned as a candidate for Congress from District of Columbia in 1971. Dr. Kameny is very active in the National Coalition of Gay Organizations and attended both the Democratic and Republican Conventions in Miami this year. He is widely published and lectures extensively, being one of the keynote speakers at G.P.U.'s Midwest Homophile Conference held in Milwaukee in April.

One of the most exciting and potentially productive developments in the gay liberation movement in recent times is the increasing involvement of gays as gays in politics. The trail was blazed when I ran for Congress in March of 1971. Now gays are running for office in droves, undertaking extensive lobbying efforts, and making a meaningful impact on the political process. Our people seem to be taking to politics like ducks to water.

A large number of gays ran, openly as such, for election as delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Five were elected as delegates or alternates (one each from San Francisco, Minneapolis, and Buffalo, and two from New York City). Gays have their eyes on city councils, state legislatures, and other offices. Many who run will not be elected, of course, but a significant number will be and that number will grow. More and more we will be able to depend on our own people instead of upon favorably disposed straights for the changes we want.

This is the traditional and effective way by which a minority group, long shunted on to the side track and kept in the backwaters, makes its way into the mainstream — by refusing any longer simply to be the recipients of favors and hand outs; crumbs tossed down from the table

of the majority. By joining the governors, we become our own rulers at first hand. In somewhat different ways blacks and women are well advanced in this process. We are the newest group to commence.

The most important political issue before us at present is the forthcoming presidential election. A great deal of misinformation and incomplete information as to the positions of both major parties and their presidential candidates has been circulated in recent weeks. As one of the few gays who was actively involved in the approaches by our community to both Democrats and Republicans, I would like to say a few timely words on this subject.

Earlier in the year we felt, with good reason, that the Democrats were likely to be more responsive to our overtures than the Republicans. Therefore, the major effort of the National Coalition of Gay Organizations (NCGO) was directed toward them.

A number of gays testified at the Democratic Party platform hearings held in various cities around the country in May and June. We then converged on Washington for several days of intensive lobbying during the final Platform Committee proceedings in late June. Ultimately the drafting subcommittee wording that was subsequently adopted as part of the platform was

Americans should be free to make their own choice of life-styles and private habits without being subject to discrimination or prosecution. We believe official policy can encourage diversity while continuing to place full emphasis on equal opportunity and integration.

We were understandably dissatisfied with the lack of specificity of this wording and arranged to have a committee member introduce a stronger substitute gay rights plank (not the Minority Report debated at the convention itself). This failed to be adopted by the not discouraging vote of 54-34, but more important elicited some 45 minutes of spirited and highly public debate. Both the Drafting Committee and members of the Platform Committee itself made it irrefutably clear that the verbiage quoted above did apply

explicitly — and perhaps solely — to gays.

We then introduced a proposed Minority Report. We had carefully elicited signatures of about a third of the Platform Committee though only 10% was needed, so there was no trouble in obtaining adoption of the Minority Report by the Platform Committee. We had no realistic expectation of its adoption by the convention in Miami Beach, but we were aware that under the rules each Minority Report adopted by the Platform Committee had to be debated on the convention floor for twenty minutes. Knowing that some gays had been elected as delegates we used the report as a vehicle for the presentation of our case to the public over national television. Jim Foster and Madeline Davis rose to the occasion magnificently. Although a large crew of us lobbied valiantly at Miami Beach, "political expedience" carried the day and the Minority Plank was not adopted.

While we did not anticipate the virulence of Ms. Wilch's infamous speech in opposition, it should be noted that speaking quasi-officially for the Party, she also reaffirmed that the verbiage quoted above referred to us.

Thus a kind of highly public "legislative record" was created, making it clear that we are in the Democratic Party platform.

Meanwhile, last February, Senator McGovern, on his own, came out with a seven point program for gay rights, which can be obtained from McGovern National Headquarters in Washington and presumably elsewhere.

The Republicans and their candidate are quite another story. Nixon has maintained complete silence on this issue not only during this campaign, but during his entire four years in office, in spite of frequent approaches and overtures by many in our movement.

In late July, at the request of and in consultation with a number of NCGO people, I went to Republican National Headquarters in Washington and was able to arrange for a 15 minute time slot (the standard allotment) to testify before the Subcommittee on Human Rights and Responsibilities of the Republican

Platform Committee. So — after finding several “angels” to finance my way, I went back to Miami Beach to visit the Republicans.

Coming to the Republicans after the Democrats was like plunging into an icy cold pond after basking in a warm bath. To say that they were unresponsive is to be charitable. We are definitely NOT in with the Republicans.

Many people have expressed discontent with the cautious and guarded approach taken by the Democrats. As one who is as impatient as anyone to spend my life enjoying my rights instead of fighting for them, I can appreciate and share their discontent. Nevertheless, I cannot sympathize with some of the expressions of hostility toward the Democrats and McGovern which have emanated from some segments of the gay community. In real life, on major controversial social issues, instant total remedy and satisfaction rarely occur and to expect this is somewhat puerile.

This is the first real venture into national presidential politics by gays. We can be well satisfied with our progress. We have the support of one major party and its candidate. We have become visible and to a growing degree an accepted part of the political scene. We should be a part of that scene.

Our people are beginning to realize, as other minorities have, that for us as homosexuals, quite as much for the heterosexual majority, this is OUR society, and OUR country, and OUR government, and he is OUR president, and they are OUR Democratic and Republican parties. It is time that we started to make them so. Politics is the way to do it.

As we move toward the 1972 elections, I feel that the gay community can be much encouraged by what has been accomplished in a very short time. But there is much more to do. I look forward to 1976 and 1980 on the national scene and during the years in between to a growing number of state and local scenes. We are on our way!

The Milwaukee Common Council, or the Wisconsin State Legislature, or Congress, anyone?

FEEDBACK

- from pg. 2

letter. Since a lot of TVs come to my meetings from the Milwaukee area, maybe I could help.

Very sincerely,

Miss Karen Rigg
P. O. Box 45
Lansing, Illinois 60438

G.P.U. NEWS Editor:

We enclose “A Selected Bibliography of Homosexuality” which we hope you and your members find useful. Additional copies are available for a 35¢ donation to cover only our cost of printing and handling. It is used in over 4,500 public and college libraries.

As the only organization in this area of education that is tax-exempt, we welcome questions, comments, and gifts of books, papers, articles, etc. dealing with all aspects of homosexuality.

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c/o GAY PEOPLES UNION

McManus Attacks Courts

On September 11, Gay Peoples Union kicked off its fall series of guest speakers with an appearance by Ed McManus, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Civil Liberties Union, a branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, one of America's oldest civil rights organizations.

Mr. McManus outlined the scope and purpose of WCLU and corrected some misconceptions commonly held by the average citizen. “Most of our members have never had their civil rights violated. . .the majority are housewives, businessmen, and students. . .only 6% of the membership is made up of lawyers.” WCLU, he explained, has approximately 3,000 members with about half residing in the metropolitan area of Milwaukee.

After stressing the community service purpose of WCLU, he apologized for not having established closer ties with the homosexual population and representative groups such as G.P.U. He also admitted that WCLU's experience with homosexual rights cases has been limited. One case, however, involved a man who was refused insurance by American Family Life for having been accused of a homosexual offense in northern Wisconsin, of which he was acquitted. The case was taken to the State Insurance Commission which refused to review the matter, then to District Federal Court where it was defeated. The court ruled that private firms had the right to set policy and standards and were therefore allowed to refuse to insure anyone they wanted. McManus also referred to a project now being undertaken on behalf of an avowed homosexual who was fired from his job with a state agency. He declined to give any details since the proceedings are underway.

McManus expressed the hope that special interest groups, i.e., women's rights, gay rights etc., could be formed within WCLU to give opportunity to those seeking a more active role as laypersons in the activities of the organization. Para-professional legal aides,

similar to para-medics, are also being considered to help with the work load and research. Some lay-people are already being used to represent defendants at non-court hearings.

During a question and answer period which followed, he reviewed landmark cases which the ACLU has undertaken, many supporting civil rights for homosexuals. He did admit that ACLU's victory score has decreased in the past few years. This is attributable, he said, to a new conservative trend in court appointments both locally and nationally. In addition, tougher cases are now being undertaken by ACLU. Previously, federal courts could be counted on to hand down more favorable civil rights rulings. Liberal or conservative, federal courts will not touch state cases once an arrest has been made. "You stand a much better chance in a federal court if you have been threatened with arrest rather than actually arrested."

When asked to comment on President Nixon's new appointments to the Supreme Court, McManus characterized most of Nixon's appointments throughout the nation as "very conservative and generally mediocre." He qualified the Wisconsin State Supreme Court as the worst in the country.

McManus, although not a lawyer, has had considerable administrative experience having been with United Press International for 11 years and head of the UPI New Mexico office. He expressed the hope that WCLU would establish better channels of communication with gay civil rights organizations and urged G.P.U. members to stay committed to "a constant struggle which is never won; but which is the price we pay for living in a free country."

Chicago Gay Alliance has announced the election of a new set of officers and the reduction of terms of office to six months from the previous year tenure. New Officers include: Leslie A. Trotter, president, William B. Kelley, vice-president, Michael A. Bergeron, secretary and The Rev. John Gilun, treasurer.

Lesbian - Monogamy FROM PG. 9

bedding down with someone. For the girl coming out, and also for the many who never learn from experience, love is not a long-term-growing-together, but a holy word which can be appropriated for the frothy ecstasy of sexual/emotional excitement. In reality, more often than not, that term "love" is really only a useful rationalization, usually unconscious, for that burning drive for bodily contact.

(To be Continued)

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BILLY B. SHEARS FILM SOCIETY OCTOBER SCHEDULE

Oct. 6-7

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Oct. 13-14

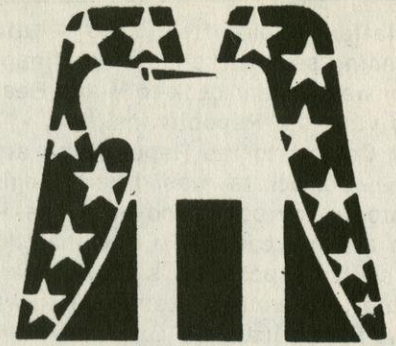
Fellini's "Spirits of the Dead"

Oct. 19, 20, 21

Fellini's "Satyricon"

Oct. 27-28

Fellini's "Juliet of the Spirits"



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!!!

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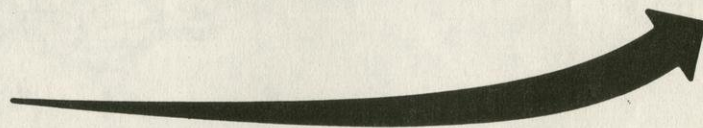


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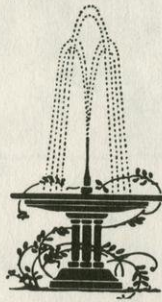
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MR. & MRS. STUD CONTEST

On Sunday, August 27, The Stud Bar, now known as Michelle's Club 546, sponsored a Mr. and Mrs. Stud contest.

After getting off to a late start, thirteen couples paraded in contest. Jamie, our own Miss Milwaukee, was the mistress of ceremonies, introducing the contestants and describing their outfits.

During the intermission and while the judges, who included a member of G.P.U., were deliberating, a stand-up comic routine was presented by Mario.

The \$100 prize for the best couple went to Josie and Ben. Josie wore a form fitting black leather pants outfit and her escort Ben, a well known Milwaukee bartender, wore a robin's egg blue double knit jump suit with a matching knee length vest.

Judging the contest was, indeed, difficult since the entire field of contestants were elegantly and effectively costumed. G.P.U. NEWS understands that similar contests will be held in the future at the newly named Michelle's Club, but whether they will be called Mr. and Mrs. Stud contests remains to be seen.

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Book Review



The Fight To Be Different, Deviance and Enforced Therapy, by Nicholas N. Kittrie, The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore and London, 1971, paperback \$4.95.

Dr. Kittrie is Professor of Criminal and Comparative Law at the American University, Washington, D.C., and Director of the Institute for Studies in Justice and Social Behavior. He has also written "The Mentally Disabled and the Law."

For centuries persons whose social behavior did not conform to the rules of society were punished under criminal law. In recent years, however, we have seen a growing departure from traditional criminal sanctions in favor of enforced therapy and hospitalization for many who were formerly classed as criminals. Under the new system little emphasis is placed on the individual's guilt or crime and much weight is given to his mental or social shortcomings. Thus, society, i.e. the state assumes a parental role (parens patriae) seeking not to punish but to change the nonconformist through treatment and therapy.

The advent of the therapeutic state, which seems to be based on science and medical treatment, has been warmly welcomed by well meaning liberal and progressive spokesmen. Such idealists have overlooked the risks and dangers of a state which controls the deviant for his own good as well as that of the state.

In *The Right To Be Different* Dr. Kittrie considers all types of individuals subject to therapeutic treatment by the state — the mentally ill and juvenile delinquents who are both already outside the code of criminal justice, as well as sexual offenders, drug addicts, and alcoholics who may sometimes be subject to criminal law and sometimes subject to enforced therapy or hospitalization.

Dr. Kittrie raises the question of

just how far society can take its basic right to protect itself before the deprivation of individual liberty becomes objectionable. In many cases noncriminal incarceration for treatment is imposed in opposition to the interests of the individual when society has not really been damaged. Involuntary or even coercive treatment is often imposed without due process of law since the hearings are noncriminal in nature and the individual does not have our traditional protections against the abuses of power by the state.

Even more basic is the question of whether society even has the right to seek to change one's lifestyle or personality over his objections. Dr. Kittrie believes that society should permit deviation unless it poses an actual threat to somebody's life or safety and that we should not sweep our nonconformists off the street and out of sight by putting them in hospitals.

Perhaps the most flagrant abuses of the parens patriae powers of the state occurs in the 29 states that use the so called "psychopath laws" These laws are primarily directed to the control of the sex deviant and the homosexual in particular. The state assumes to the power to subject sex offenders or suspected offenders to controls and experiments for indefinite periods of time for supposed treatment. Significantly the sex deviators are subject to restraint because of their acts and condition and not necessarily because of conviction and

sentence for a criminal offense. Noncriminals and/or minor deviants are therefore subject to indeterminate confinement because their moral values do not coincide with those of the general population.

Another basic condemnation of the various sex deviant laws is the lack of treatment facilities and methods. The courts have abdicated their powers to the medical/psychiatric profession who offer little or no effective treatment in state hospitals. Best psychiatric knowledge indicates that the prognosis for change from homosexual to heterosexual is limited at best and almost impossible when treatment is forced against the individual's will.

In the last part of his book, Dr. Kittrie outlines a proposed Therapeutic Bill of Rights offering ten principles which would operate to protect the fundamental rights and liberties of individuals. Moreover, if followed, these principles would remove present deficiencies and leave sufficient room for the state to achieve its nobler goals.

The Right To Be Different should be required reading for all judges and state hospital psychiatrists or social workers. Sociologists, attorneys, counselors, and homosexuals will also find this heavily annotated book an important source work. Gay liberation may find that this book has ramifications as important to the movement as those found in the Kinsey Report published twenty-four years ago.

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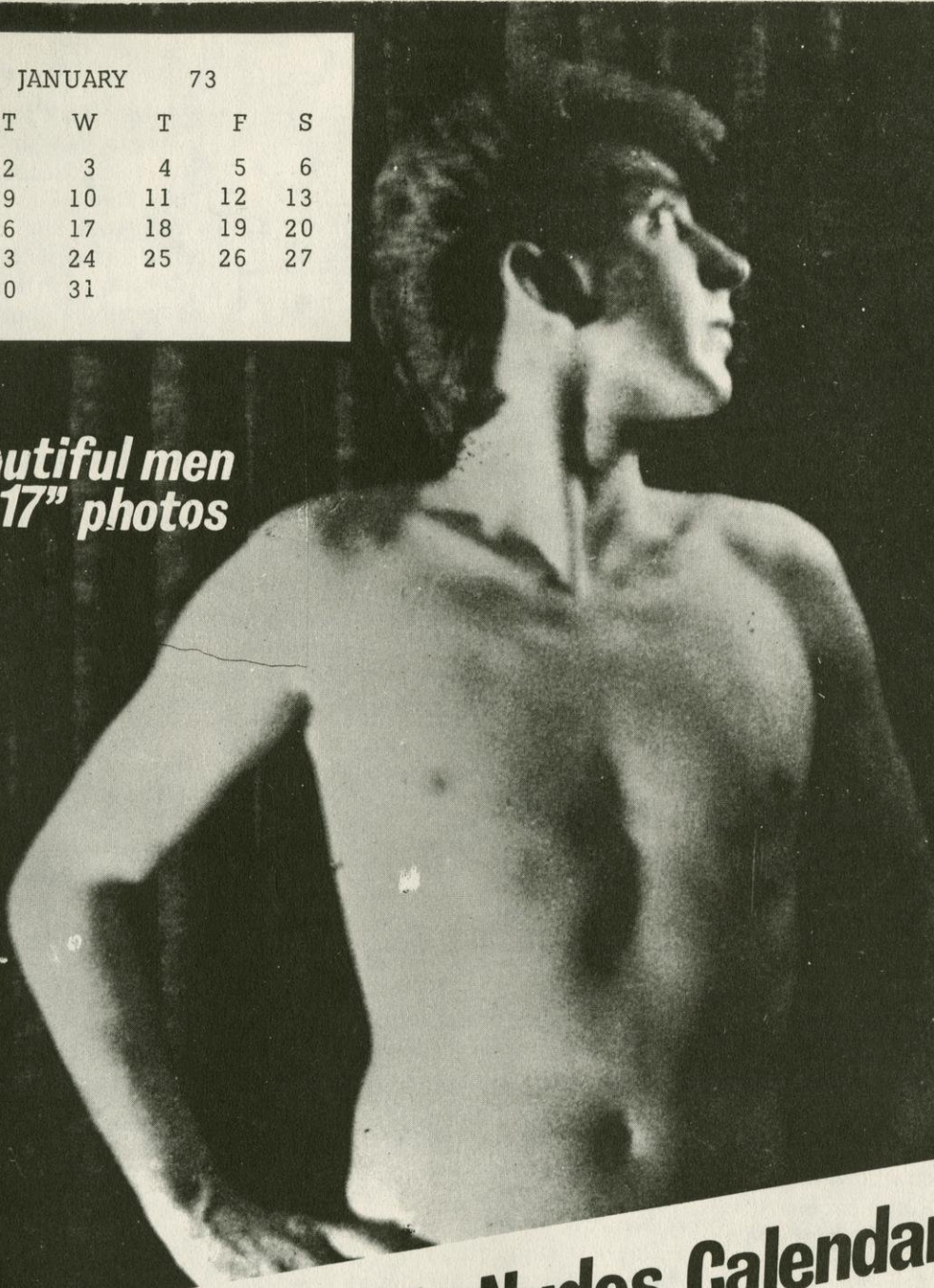
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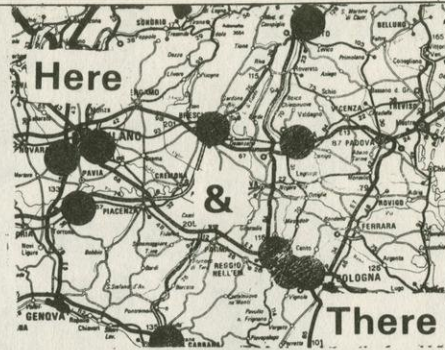
CALENDAR

MONDAYS - 8:00 P.M. Regular Meet-
ings at Eastside Community Center,
911 East Ogden.

SATURDAYS - 5:30 P.M. Vespers at
St. Nicholas Orthodox Parish, 1155
North 21st Street.

SUNDAYS — 7:30 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.



Brasilla—Brazil's Federal Ap-
peals Court ordered the Foreign
Ministry to reinstate a student who
had been dropped from diplomatic
training school because of homo-
sexuality.

Milwaukee's well know female
impersonator, Winnie Storm has
signed a contract with The Mint
Julep, 655 S. 4th St., Louisville,
Ky. Miss Storm will appear nightly
during the last week of each month.

New gay lib group forming for Fond
du Lac, Oshkosh, Appleton Area.
Contact P.O. Box 695, Fond du Lac
for info about first meeting Nov-
ember 14.

Alex Thien, in his column in the
Milwaukee Sentinel has sounded the
call-to-arms for a possible "progrom"
against gays in Milwaukee. Thien,
in the throes of homophobia after
having been reportedly pinched by
some "ravishing creature with hairy
eyebrows" has charged that during
night hours "you'll see homosexuals
everywhere on Wisconsin Avenue."
One can only guess how Thien ac-
quired his great perceptive powers.
Everyone 'cept me and thee, right
Alex?

Gay Peoples Union has part-
icipated in three radio programs
recently. "Sam" and "Katy" from
G.P.U. were guests on the B.J.
Rabb Show on WFWO on September
15 for an hour's worth of audience
questions and answers. Also on
the 15th a half hour show was taped
by a G.P.U. member for WEZW. This
show concerned venereal disease
and homosexuals and was aired at
7 A.M. on Sunday the 17th. On
October 1, from 9 to midnight, three

members appeared on WOKY's
WOKY Talkie call in forum.

New York's **West Side Discussion
Groups**, now in their new quarters,
have announced the formation of a
gay theatre group to be known as
The West Side Gay Theatre Group.
The group will not confine itself to
plays written specifically for
gay people, but will present plays
"written for human beings but done
by gay actors and actresses."

One of **Chicago** has announced
that henceforth all members will
automatically be covered for bail
bond up to \$1,000.00. Dues will not
be increased. Another reason for
joining One of Chicago.

G.P.U. member Eldon E. Murray
spoke to members of Milwaukee's
Counseling Center on September 20.
He explained the work of G.P.U.,
its aims and goals and then fielded
questions concerning homosexuality
and typical counseling situations
where homosexuality is involved.
The Counseling Center is located
at 2390 N. Lake Drive and its ser-
vices are available free to the
public.

The Brady Street Fall Festival
had gay liberation in it. Fifteen
members of Gay Peoples Union sold
enough copies of G.P.U. NEWS to
more than cover the cost of the
booth along side the firehouse.
Their mere presence on the street
selling papers and sitting in front
of G.P.U. posters had a startling
and liberating effect on some young
(and old) passers-by.

When a friend of G.P.U. brought
his pet snake, a large python which
he swears is gay, a huge crowd
gathered and G.P.U. members took
full advantage of the crowd to tell
the message of gay liberation.

The Queen of Brady Street Con-
test about 2 P.M. consisted of most-
ly the men of Gay Activists Youth
in full gender-fuck, drag, and other
theatrical attire which not only
attracted another crowd, but the
news photographers. We were un-
able to learn just who was named
Queen.