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25¢

GAY Sunshine



John
Perry

The Cuban revolution must not be a revolution for men first, women second, and homosexuals who stay in the closet. It is precisely the contradiction between the promise of that revolution and its practice towards homosexuals that convinced us of the need for GLF in this country to confront both capitalist society and the movement which hopes to change it.

Homosexuality is not illegal in Cuba, but the line that a homosexual cannot be a good communist oppresses all homosexuals and builds a society of sexual repression. A communist society cannot exist in a land of sexual repression.

Only in a society where human beings can be organized around their own needs and where the rigid authoritarian heterosexual family structure is not a necessity for the society can we homosexuals gain our freedom. That society is called communism and the Cubans are building that society. They are building that society for our benefit as homosexuals whether they know it or not.

I do not work as a homosexual in the revolutionary movement to prove myself to anyone. I work in the movement because it is our only chance of survival against the forces of death. If the Cubans have always regarded homosexuals as less-than-human freaks, we are going to show some homosexual revolutionaries whose humanity is manifest in the struggle. We have no alternative.

A Fourth Venceremos Brigade will be organized sometime this fall. Gay people who want to go to Cuba for six weeks should write to Venceremos Brigade, 933 Channing Way, Berkeley 94710 or call 845-6326. The Brigade is committed to accept Gay people and we are to be screened by other Gay people.



SAN JOSE CESSPOOL

When San Jose Gay Liberation applied for recognition last fall as a student organization at San Jose State Max Rafferty got wind of it, and wrote S. J. State's President a letter:

"What are you running down there, a cesspool?" Max wanted to know. Needless to say, recognition was denied. The denial got a lot of people in motion, however, and S.J.GLF now has about 50 active members. Zelima Williams reports:

Beautiful things are happening in San Jose. We have meetings every Wednesday,

and Thursday we have sensitivity sessions. We have one group of singles and one of couples. The purpose of the sessions is to get ourselves really together and to develop our own true self image, not the stereotype society has so thoughtfully cut out for us. The couples group is a first of its kind.

We work with the Suicide Prevention Hot Line and Teen Crisis. We have spoken in several classrooms. The results have been great.

Right now we have more male members, but that is because

many of the females have moved. However more and more females are joining and I believe it will level out soon. It is very important to keep San Jose GLF a mixed group. We realize how much we need each other. We have gained a lot through sensitivity sessions: touching one another, talking to each other with our eyes and hands. Loving a gay member of the opposite sex is quite a beautiful experience. If a brother and sister happen to meet on the street they have no

qualms about running to each other and hugging one another.

We will open a coffee house in the next two weeks. It will be in the San Jose Cafeteria, between 2nd and 3rd Streets in East San Fernando and will open at 4:30 p.m. We will serve all sorts of unheard of but very good food—also hamburgers, cokes, etc. We will also have poetry readings and other entertainment.

Contact San Jose Gay Liberation at 1771 Ocala Ave., San Jose 95122 or call 415-251-5666.

letter to the playboy forum, may 1970

Excerpts from a symposium on homosexuality arranged for and published by TIME Magazine last fall occasioned comment in your February Playboy forum. In order to clarify my position which was misunderstood by your correspondent, I would like to point out that:

1) Overt obligatory (as different from episodic utilitarian homosexual acts of a volitional nature) is a medical problem and is neither due to cultural or social considerations, nor ameliorated by them.

2) Obligatory homosexuality, as the term makes clear, is a disorder in which the individual has no choice. It is caused by intrapsychic conflicts engendered in early childhood when the boy or girl is first attempting individuation, a process in which sexual identification is fundamental.

3) When deep-seated fears, rage and guilt, unconscious for the most part, impel a person to avoid all meaningful intimate relationships with the opposite sex, a psychoanalyst is scientifically justified in observing (as I did in the TIME panel) that function is, indeed, impaired. Five hundred million years of evolution have established the male-female standard as the functionally healthy pattern of human sexual fulfillment—a pattern promoted and documented by Playboy since its inception. Only the gravest anxiety can pervert the emotional and biological mating congruities between man and women.

Charles W. Socarides

camp-in

The Gay Camp-in—originally scheduled for the Fourth of July but cancelled when the Forestry Service revoked the permit—has been rescheduled for August 29-September 10. Site is Yokut Group Camp on the Kern River in Kern County California. A \$4.00 registration fee to offset cost of re-

servation should be paid by writing to Ted Taylor III, 604 East 8th St., Oakland, Ca. 94606. Bring your own camping gear, stay for all or part of the camp-in. The site accommodates about 70 people at a time—survival training, hiking, swimming, symposium and all the usual activities.

seattle: 'OUR TIME IS NOW'

"We love our Gay brothers and sisters and we are not in the least ashamed we are Gay. We proclaim it on the street, we have argued in favor of it on two radio stations, KUOW and KRAB, and we have marched under a GLF banner. We leafleted the Unitarian Church when they held their recent convention in Seattle and voted favorably on a proposal to legalize homosexual--bisexual

behavior." (from Seattle GLF Newsletter).

Gay Liberation in Seattle is only two months old, but it attracts about sixty people to its weekly meetings and each week a new small discussion group forms.

Most of GLF energy the first month was directed outward--turning on straights. "But I think most of our energies are already turning inward," says

Graig Smith, GLF member.

"We put out a newsletter every week. We picketed a private picnic which the guys here pay \$7 to get into so that they can meet without hassle from the pigs. We'll probably have a contingent at the Sky River Rock Festival. A gay commune is already being formed by some of the GLF activists..."

Craig writes: "At one of the last consciousness-raising

gay students

A weekend of "developing mind weapons to go back to school and fight with" is the goal of a Gay Students Liberation Conference planned by Charles P. Thorp. Charles, founder of San Francisco State GLF plans a three day meeting, August 21,22,23 at SIR Center, 83 6th St., San Francisco.

Charles says he is going to give a pro-violence "key-note" speech. "Gay leaders are behind where the people are...Frank Bartley (murdered by Berkeley police last year) is not a martyr, just another senseless victim."

The opening day will include a State of the Gay Nation, reports from participants evaluating their tactics and programs.

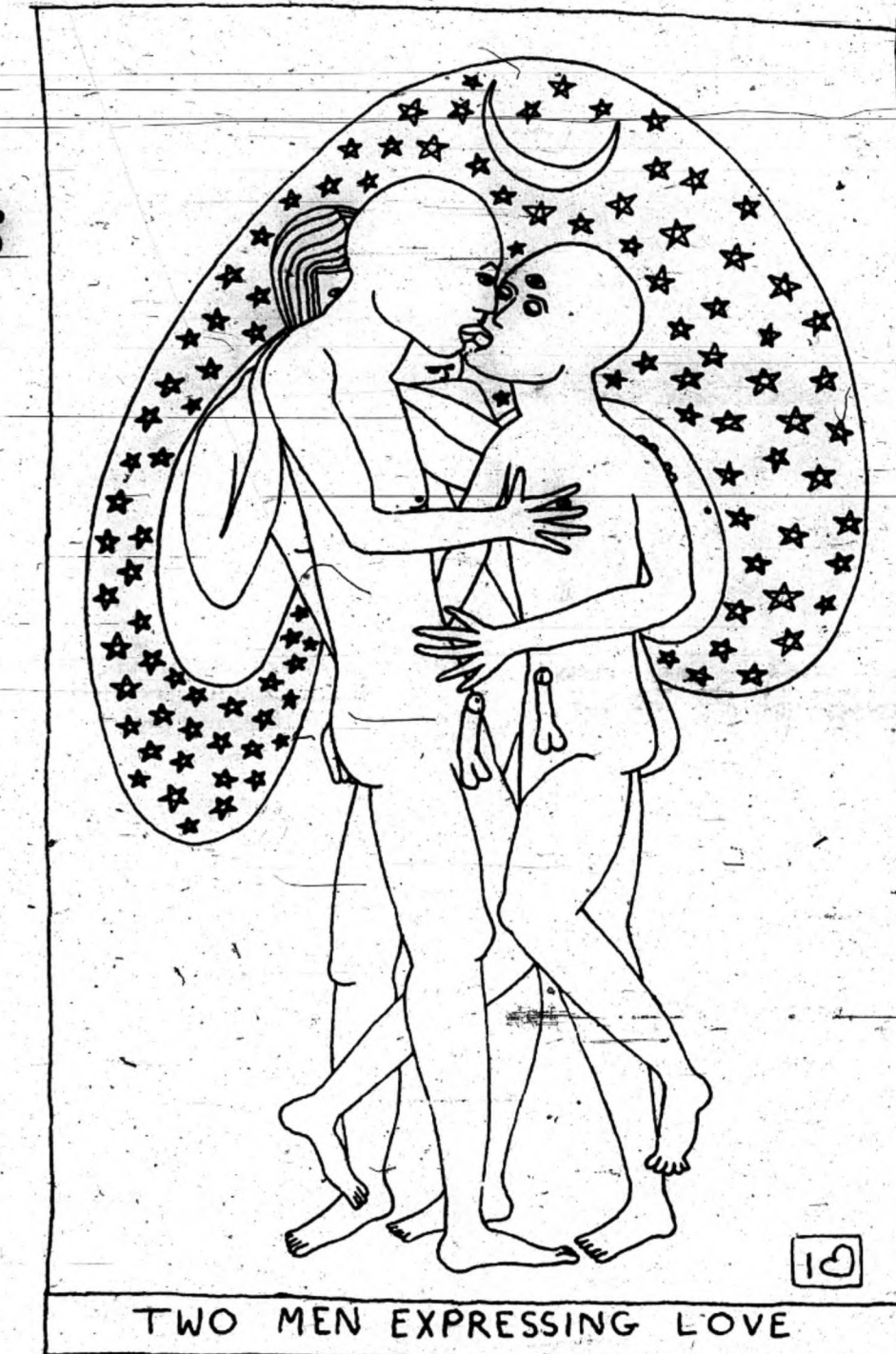
The second day will be workshop day on Gay studies, food conspiracy, communes and other economic programs; on social experiments such as coffeehouses, gay newspapers; on cultural things such as Gay guerilla theatre, camp as an art form and the need for Gay people to handle art created by Gay people; and on political things like "an army of lovers," pickets, sit-ins and firebombs, says Charles.

On the last day, Charles hopes several well-known Gay people will come, no commitments as yet though.

Contact Charles at 2729B California St., San Francisco 94115.

NACHO

The North American Conference of Homophile Organizations (NACHO) meets in San Francisco, August 28, 29, 30, at SIR Center, 83 6th St. Gay Liberationists from New York and Chicago as well as many other groups will attend.



ARE YOU INFECTED WITH MALE CHAUVINIST IDEAS? You may be if you can't solve the following riddle from the Old Mole:

A father and his son were riding in a car. They got into an accident and the father was killed. The son was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance and taken to the operating room. The doctor walked in, looked at the patient, and said, "I can't operate—that's my son."

All facts are true—the father and son in the car are real, not spiritual father and son. The doctor is telling the truth. How can this be?

(Answer: The doctor was a woman.)

WORTH WATCHING

"The Gay Liberation Front is a radical and revolutionary organization, based on anarchist guidelines, similar to the Black Panthers and Weathermen. The organization is worth watching, although there seem to be only one or two radical individuals present at any given time. There is no immediate threat. They represent themselves as a homophile organization, but are unlike such respectable and dedicated organizations as Daughters of Bilitis and Mattachine."

Paraphrase of a police report on New York Gay Liberation Front.

groups someone asked a guy why he got into GLF and he said, 'It's hard to say. There's so much repression now that we could probably be smashed by the state in one afternoon. But I just have the feeling that this is right, that's all, that our time is now. The only thing that matters is that we get together...' Those group meetings are such highs that we all just float out of them, love overflowing and rolling down the streets." GLF meets every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., at Helix House, 1242-15th Ave. E., Seattle. Call 206-MA-3-5671.

COME OUT!

COME OUT! is a newspaper published about every two months by the Come Out collective of New York Gay Liberation Front. It's a good looking 20 to 25 page tabloid. Order 12 issues for \$6 from P.O. Box 92, Village Station, 150 Christopher Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

PARADE

Henry LeLieu has organized a Gay Parade on Folsom St., for 6 p.m., August 16th. It is nonpolitical, that was one condition in getting the permit. Various bars are expected to participate.

OLDER GAYS

While it is commonly understood that "Gay" life is a lonely one, it is difficult to realize the extreme loneliness of the old Gays. I know quite a few (my contemporaries) and this is certainly true as in many cases they are without family or friends and frequently are hard pressed for funds, often living in less than pleasant surroundings and suppressed in their lack of places to contact others of their way of life.

In some respects I am fortunate in that I have a comfortable home of my own and sufficient funds to "get by" without too many worries on that score but being confined to it because of physical disability I know quite well that feeling of loneliness and lack of affection which comes from spending the long days and often sleepless nights alone and wishing for companionship and understanding.

STOP AND THINK--some day you may be old too! Does the younger person realize that one's desires and dreams do not lessen with age, they just become less attainable, so do not forget the "old Gays" in your plans as it is a form of self-insurance for the day that you are old too.

--Just One of Many

HETERO CHAUV SKUMBAG INTERPRETS SCRIPTURES

EDITOR, BERKELEY BARB,

You will have a recurrence of heart trouble in six months—by Feb. 23rd. With your filthy mind that caters to homosexuals, you are a disgrace to your Jewish race. Your Torah condemns you. When have you last read it?

THERE IS STILL TIME TO CHANGE YOUR MIND

THINK...

GAY PIG NATION LIBERATED

By Leo E. Laurence

Gay Pig Nation crumbled before a series of Gay-Lib assaults last week in San Francisco.

The Gay Liberation Front invaded NACHO, forced the national conference to rip off its racism with an endorsement of the Black Panther Party, and set up machinery for "National Gay Strike Day."

NACHO, the "North American Conference of Homophile Organizations," was organized nearly five years ago in Kansas City to pull gay groups together into a "national movement." But it has been controlled by a predominance of political reformists of the Gay Establishment, and has all but ignored the mushrooming political revolutionaries of the Gay Liberation Front.

INVASION

About 30 members of NACHO's "Radical Caucus" invaded the four-day conference last Friday, just two hours before adjournment. The invasion broke an impasse between the Gay Establishment and Gay-Lib by forcing NACHO to open its proceedings to all gay groups.

It was a complete turn-about from actions throughout the week when NACHO had barred "unauthorized" Gay-Lib delegations who couldn't afford to pay the NACHO \$45 "accreditation" fee.

NACHO was meeting at the hub

of the Bay Area Gay Establishment, the SIR Center (Society for Individual Rights), 33 Sixth street, in San Francisco. It was Gay Pig Nation. White, racist, rich, and male chauvenist.

"It looks like an American Legion convention," a black KQED-TV photographer told me last Wednesday.

NACHO's first shake-up occurred when militant GLF lesbians blasted NACHO as "polite liberals," using the words of Cherie Matisse of GLF-Los Angeles.

"You cannot ASK for your rights, you have to TAKE them" Cherie told the "accredited" NACHO delegates on Women's Lib Day last Wednesday.

RACISM

NACHO politely adopted a resolution supporting Women's Lib, and the "struggle for freedom of all oppressed people," but specifically deleted any mention of the Black Panther Party.

That racist vote, passed by a 2 to 1 margin, infuriated the non-accredited "GLF Radical Caucus." On Thursday, radicals served notice that NACHO MUST OPEN ITS PROCEEDINGS TO ALL HOMOSEXUALS ON ONE-PERSON, ONE-VOTE BASIS, OR THE GLF WOULD TAKE ITS RIGHTS... BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY!

Brother Huey P. Newton of the Black Panther Party, with a recent statement endorsing and supporting

Gay-Lib and Women's Lib, had inspired the ultimatum. (Full text of Brother Huey's letter to all revolutionaries is published in the Black Panther newspaper, Aug. 21; and in the BARB, Aug., 28, '70.)

NACHO dragged its heels on Friday through hours and hours of parliamentary bullshit. A guard on the door kept GLF "unaccredited" homosexuals out. With help from KMPX-FM broadcasts, the GLF Radical Caucus mobilized.

ASSAULT

At precisely three pm, after NACHO had defeated by 47 to 41 a vote to open its meeting to all homosexuals, the GLF broke through the NACHO security, and behind flags of revolution, took over the rostrum.

NACHO's Chairman hastily called a recess as the GLF chanted "POWER TO THE PEOPLE!" (NACHO's Press Agent said: "I wish I were a police-man, I'd toss all of them (GLF) into the Klink and leave them there!")

After NACHO officials got their heads together, they did what could be expected of Gay Pig Nation. Speaking for SIR, who "rented" its SIR Center for the conference, Larry Littlejohn told the invaders: "You must leave the building, or we will call the police!"

Rev. Troy Perry backed up these orders. He is the handsome pastor of the (gay) Metropolitan Community Church in Los Angeles. He's

super-popular in the Gay Establishment and was recently featured in Time magazine. Some consider him a cultural radical, but political reformist.

Eyes flashing with Pentecostal fire, "Brother" Perry shouted: "Yes, I want the police called!" Then he turned to attack me.

"In one year, Leo Laurence," he shouted, "you will be nothing! You will be nothing in one year," he reiterated. "You will be shit!"

The GLF ignored the threat of a pig confrontation, and stayed.

CRUSHED

"They (GLF) burst in here because NACHO is the oppressor," delegate Austin Wade (NY) said after the GLF was seated.

"This is a confession of our (Gay Establishment) bankruptcy," Wade charged in an emotional speech after NACHO had reconvened with Perry & Company in-absentia.

Taking the rostrum, Rev. Mikhail Itkin (Gay-Lib SF) pushed through several rapid motions putting NACHO on one-person, one-vote basis. Gay Pig Nation has been crushed! Itkin then maneuvered motions to:

- (1) Affirm NACHO's support of the Black Panther Party and its Ten-Point program.
- (2) Affirm support of Women's Liberation.
- (3) Organize "National Gay Strike Day."

"Our curse," says Jim Kepner,

a veteran of Gay-Lib Los Angeles, "is that we can hide." And he's right. While tens of millions of homosexuals are in every level of the Amerikkkan economy, too many prefer to hide in their closets rather than breathe the fresh air of liberation.

GAY POWER

"National Gay Strike Day" is a beginning. If sufficient numbers of the U.S. homosexuals refuse to work, call in sick, or cut production, "Gay Power" will rise as powerful as the AFL-CIO.

And if it works in the U-S-A, it can work internationally.

The specific date will be set by the people, for it is the people who will make it or break it. National coordination will be provided by the Institute for Homosexual Liberation, (temp. address: % Gay Switchboard, P.O. Box 4089, Berkeley 94704).

Oct. 30th suggestion comes from Konstantin Berlandt of the new Gay-Lib newspaper in Berkeley, "GAY SUNSHINE." "It would make a fantastic Halloween weekend," he says.

Nov. 15th was also suggested to give more time to publicize "National Gay Strike Day," and to hit the heavier pre-holiday business activity. Send your ideas to the I-H-L.

NO, I NEVER HEARD OF ELTON JOHN EITHER...

by Richard Ogar

I imagine you'll see Elton John appearing at the Fillmore one of these days.

John's trio opened at the Troubadour (960 Bush, S.F.) last Tuesday night, and brought a crowd of critics and freaks to its feet. Among those intensely interested

HEARST CASTLE HASSLE

Hearst Castle

Hearst Castle, The Berkeley commune under siege by the University of California, will hold a Work Festival September 4, through 7 in honor of the Cuban can cutters.

The purpose of the festival is to rehabilitate their home following the trashing done by University piggery three weeks ago.

Everyone is invited to join the commune members at 2701 and 2705 Hearst Avenue, sunrise to sunset with siestas, food served by the commune.

Bring any of the following you can: tools, plumbing supplies, sink, water heater, bathtub, lumber (especially 2x4 1x6, " to 3/4" pipe, couplings, elbows, paint thinner, brushes, etc.

There will opportunity to rap with each other on the significance of this socialist endeavor as compared to the university's most capitalistic behavior.

For further information phone 848-9318.

was of Bil Graham himself.

According to John, the group (which includes Nigel Olsson on drums and Dee Murray on bass) has only been together for three months and played some 15 gigs, most of them in England.

But he broke it up at his U.S. debut at the L.A. Troubadour, garnered rave reviews, and did it again in San Francisco.

John has one LP out, which I've never heard, but apparently the music on it is rather quiet and subdued (like that of David Ackles, who shares the bill). Last Tuesday, John decided to "show his other side." Judging from the crowd's reaction, this is the one he should hang on to.

From his own "Country Comforts" (which Rod Stewart re-

corded on his Gasoline Alley LP) to Jagger/Richards' "Honky Tonk Women," John thumps a sophisticated hell out of his piano, and and wails with a voice that sounds a little like Jose Feliciano without the Latin soul shit, a little like Rod Stewart without the rasp but never, as one L.A. reviewer reported, like Joe Cocker.

Dee Murray, who wanted to take the crowd home to show his mum is a subtle and very effective bassist, but it's Nigel Olsson who vies with John for top honors.

Quite simply, Olsson is one of the most beautiful drummers I've ever seen. Just watch. Decked out in a funky (but probably expensive) pair of bib overalls and nearly dwarfed by his man-mouth double drum set, Olsson

is a blend of symphony percussive and jack-hammer.

He beats the living shit out of his drums (does this make him con-cussionist?), but every beat is sharp, crisp, and absolutely to the point. It seems as though this would take every bit of energy he has, yet he also finds time (along to Murray) to provide some excellent back-up vocals. (Check their ripping a capella opening

All three of them come together in "Burn Down the Mission," another of John's compositions (along with Bernie Taupin). Brilliant feed-back syncopations from Murray, shattering drum work from Olsson, and ultra-funky, -biting blues piano from John, who plays on his feet, his knees, with a tambourine...it's like Jerry Lee

Lewis with a degree from Juilliard.

HEARST STRIP TRIP

On October 13 the city council, lead by Mayor Wallace "Slick" Johnson will vote to widen Hearst Street adjacent to the BART strip and our beloved People's Park Annex. Such action will wreak havoc to the community by cutting the open land to 2/3 of its present area and fill the neighborhood with useless automobiles.

"Slick" has to get these improvements in before his term of office expires. Following this, his company, the Upright Scaffolding Co. and its subsidiaries will jump to the spotlight with super high density fourplex condominium houses to fill the remaining open space with "The Great Berkeley Wall" of stucco. He failed last year to widen Hearst St. when the community organized together.

As community after community reacts to this repulsive plan, the people's democratic power will emerge triumphant. Your city councilmen depend on mail floods and phone call barrages to know what the people think.

Talk to your friends, lots and lots and lots of them. Let opposition to this dastardly street widening reunite now.

In coming weeks, People's Architecture will announce formation of the People's Development Corporation, a way of finally obtaining community control of our environment.

People's Architects

TWITCHING PANTING BODIES BODIES TWITCHING BODIES!!! (Sez Karen)

Costumed in lavender fringes and mirror mosaics, Little Richard screamed out, prancing and pulsating to accentuate the moment.

"I am the greatest" he reminded us flashing the finger "V/Peace" sign, lightly tripping his manicured nails over the keyboard -- surrounded at a comfortable distance by flanks of bodyguard musicians -- batting his mascaraed eyelashes to his black-penciled mouth smile -- cutting everything short with a "Shut up."

Little Richard popped out of the moment to remind us of his glory and our fortune to be seeing him for the next hour, an experience for which we had been pro-

perly anesthetized by Jo Mama (from L.A., natch) and Aum (off).

Those paying few who were frustrated, anxious, or awake enough to respond to the moment were lured forward in the auditorium by the god himself -- sending his flank of tight musical pied pipers to the pits to attract hearty dancers to the stage.

Take five (heartbeats) and there we are on stage dancing, feeling, reeling, pumping and humping when...crash...pushes, shoves, and snarls as uptight stagehands crowd us in trying to push us off stage. Not too close, not too much action. Minutes more of Little Richard and his "V" signs. Or, if you had captured your moment, dan-

cing and grooving very close... and hot.

The hour was cutting closer. Upright stagehands singled out goodies from not-so-goodies in the audience-on-stage dance marathon. The crest shines over the best in the final moment. In one screaming, hurried moment the god whisked himself away after first reminding us to watch him on Ed Sullivan.

Panting, twitching bodies moved out of the auditorium. For some, a moment of the fifties had been re-created.

Others living in the today were just kind of stoned.

Karen

STRAIT GAYS BADRAP BLACKS

By Leo E. Laurence

Bitchy, frightened "Aunties" of the Gay Establishment this week refused to support the Black Panther Party when the Gay Liberation Front included the BPP in a Womens-Lib support resolution passed by NACHO meeting in San Francisco.

NACHO (North American Conference of Homophile Organizations) is an alleged national homosexual "movement." But voting and speaking privileges were restricted only to those paying a \$45 fee at the door.

"It's a conference only for the rich, racist, male chauvenists of the Gay Establishment," charged one angry Gay-Lib "observer."
"That's right," said Foster Gunnarison, who was policing the front door, in a moment of unexpected candor.

The SIR Center (hub of the Bay Area Gay Establishment) in San Francisco was thoroughly combed by straight newsmen trying to find out what was happening, a tough job since all they heard was blah

out what was happening. A tough job since all they heard was blah blah blah as the conservative "homophile" leaders continually bitched about those "horrible" radicals in Gay-Lib.

"They (Gay-Lib) have no part in this conference," said a greying straight (?) woman, NACHO's Press Agent. "They haven't paid the price."

A black newsman with a natural (from KQED) caught on to what was happening: "This (NACHO) looks like an American Legion convention."

"It's fashionably hip here," the photographer said. "Not many jeans, or skaggy beards, not many women, not many blacks . . . maybe a few negroes."

All hell broke loose when Women's Gay-Lib blasted NACHO for being a "do nothing" convention of "polite reformists."

"You cannot ask for your rights, you have to take them," charged Cherie Maise of Los Angeles Gay-Lib, who proudly said she was "left, radical, and gay."

"My family (descendent of the French Artist Henri Matisse) would be willing to pay me off to shut my mouth," Cherie told me later.

"But I'm not going to prostitute myself as a human being."

Frightened by the Women's Gay-Lib confrontation on Wednesday, NACHO met Thursday in "closed" sessions that excluded most Gay Liberation Front participation.

NACHO then became a small tit-tat of "homophile" (word "homosexual" is too blatant for their sensitive souls) leaders from around the country ego-tripping to each other, and ignoring the "real enemy, the fascist police state" on the streets, as Cherie put it.

Student Gay-Lib groups got together at the SIR center the weekend before the NACHO "conference." SF State GLF Chairman Charles Thorpe worked his ass off trying to mobilize a national student GLF program. Lots of rapping, but nothing startling.

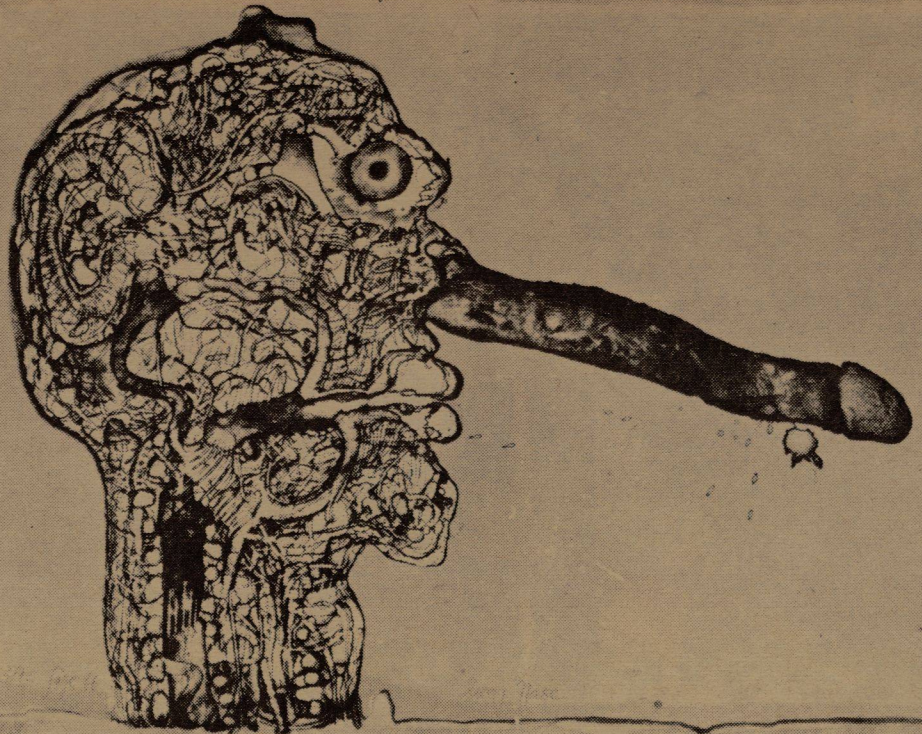
Talk behind the scenes revealed a few incidentals: Supervisor Diane Feinstein wants to meet with the Gay Establishment about certain "strange" statements made by SFPD officials, i.e. Macy's picketing.

Front that Gays are invited to attend the People's Army Jamboree held there August 28 to September 3. GLFers demanded that Gay Liberation be listed as point seven on the P.A.J. program.

Along with the workshops, marches, and demonstrations planned for the P.A.J. a Gay-In is scheduled for Sept. 2.

Reservations are still available for the Gay Freedom Encounter. Write to Teddy Bear, 604 East 8th Street, Oakland, California, 94606, or call the Gay Switchboard 843-6982

PHOENIX OPENING



"ZWERG NASE" - Bernhard Jager's 1966 four-color lithograph is hanging out at the "Five from Brusberg" exhibit at the Phoenix Gallery, 2984 College Avenue, Berkeley. Show runs through September 19.t

200 OPEN GAY COFFEEHOUSE

By Don Burton

Last Tuesday night, Glide 6 Methodist Church's dining room was filled with beautiful human beings sharing love and liberation.

About two hundred people came together to participate in a benefit held in support of the Free Particle's "Five-Square, Four-Square (Gay) Coffee House," located in Berkeley.

The program consisted of two movies, one from SF, and one from New York; the voice and body of one of the (World Famous) Cockette Wo/men; and two folksingers.

"Out of the Closets," the flick about a part of NY's Gay Lib scene (produced by Pasma Gauntt), was a really trippy film. Perhaps a bit too much so, at times, but I dug the honesty she retained

throughout the piece.

Jim Woldock, a new folksinger, sang a really beautiful set. He has a certain constant, gentle beauty that is fascinating.

"Dawn," produced by John Moore, a film about "two guys being themselves," was a beautiful idea, but seemed a little unfinished. There were some really refreshing, tender scenes, though, and especially dug the fact that the two guys in it weren't overly-handsome. They both looked like really honest human beings, and that turned me on much more than any skin-flick, Atlas/Adonis types could.

I sang some of my songs of oppression and liberation. My newest song, "Ghetto of the Mind," got the best reaction of all I sang. I'm super-proud of that one, because it's the first thing Leo and I ever wrote together.

Krishna, one of the Cockette "girls," performed several cute numbers. Her last song was a "Gypsy Rose Lee" strip. It was really freaky to see a Cleopatra-ish, hairy armpitted, boy-chested, wo/man(?) standing there exposing her/him self to our absolutely BLOWEN minds!

I think, really, the best thing that happened the whole evening was during the intermission in the program. Suddenly, everybody was getting together in little groups, and relating to each other.

I mean, there were some Daughters of Bilitis relating to some Gay Lib freaks, there was a group of straight people rapping with a very feminine homosexual man, and there was even a group of gay couples sitting in a circle, involved in a heavy rap.

That's what the whole "Free Particle" thing is about. People relating, I mean.

The Gay Coffee House (2516 Regent St. 845-9017), the FP Magazine, the symposiums . . . all those things are attempts toward creating a meaningful alternative to our gay ghetto culture.

Last night the attempt worked, and I hope it turned-on some people to going to the gay coffee house, and next symposiums (Oct. 16-18 . . . Dec. 26-31; watch for details).

The Free Particle people are creating some really nice things . . . if you dig people and love.

VENDORS!
PICK-UP BARBS
BERK 2042 UNIVERSITY
S.F. 1778 HAIGHT
OR CALL
BERK: 849-1040
S.F.: 387-2733

CAVEAT FOR GAY LIBBERS

WILLIE BROWN
By Leo E. Laurence

"The Gay Liberation law is not magic," Willie Brown, San Francisco's black legislator and Minority Whip of the State Assembly, told me in his capitol office last week in an exclusive BARB interview.

Gay Liberation law??? Surprized hell out of me, too.

But that's what Willie now calls his consenting adult sex bill, the bill being pushed hard by the Gay Establishment (in a touch of irony), but generally kissed off as ineffective reformism by the Gay Liberation Front.

Willie is realistic enough to know that it's near impossible to get the "Gay-Lib" bill signed into law by a Republican administration. Even if it were passed and signed by Reagan tomorrow, it wouldn't do a damn thing to stop the blatant discrimination against homosexuals by the state, church, and private industry.

"This little law is MEAGER," Willie told me. "It should not be taken as a (Gay) Magna Charter."

"There's going to have to be one hell of an education program along with it, even in church law, on the whole question of homosexuality," he added.

"It's like saying just because 'Fair Housing' is on the books, people are all the sudden gonna live in better housin'."

"Hell, no!" Willie said with emphasis.

"The Fair Housin' law has been on the books since 1963, and the ratio of Blacks, Chicanos, and Yellows in decent quality, safe shelter has reduced since 1963."

While it may surprise some people, I think Willie ought to be returned to the legislature. He's up for re-election in my district (Fillmore). While I don't trust politicians, I dig what one capitol newsman said about Willie: "He's the legislative shit-disturber."

The Gay Establishment, including NACHO conferees, honor Willie at a "political action" dinner Saturday night, Aug. 29, at the California Hall in San Francisco. He'll get a standing ovation from the reformists, but it's a tossup on who will be using who the most that night.

GAYS CAMP ON

The rescheduled Gay people's camp in, GAY FREEDOM ENCOUNTER, at Yokut Group Camp on the Kern River, California, set for August 29 through September 10 has been trimmed down to seven days.

The cut came when word came from the Portland Gay Liberation

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