

'DON'T HIDE IT'

The largest gay organization in the United States has been challenged to join the revolution, "today not tomorrow."

The challenge appears in the April issue of Vector, the official publication of the SF-based Society of Individual Rights (SIR). The magazine goes out today (Friday) to 3000 SIR members.

Editor Leo E. Laurence told BARB in an exclusive interview this week that he knows he has put his job on the line by what he writes in the current Vector. However, he is willing to take the risk.

"I've dedicated my life to this revolution," he said determinedly. "Someone has to make the first step."

"Society has made us perverts for too goddamn long," he said. "It's time for a change -- right now."

He calls for an end to the status quo in an editorial -- not only in society at large, but within gay organizations themselves. "Timid, uptight, conservative, and afraid to act for the good of the whole homosexual community," that's what the gay establishment is like, says the editorial.

"I fully expect up-tight members and officers of SIR to try and stop me as editor," Laurence writes. "But I promise Vector is going to be honest in its reporting, even if it make our middle class homosexuals mad."

"I'm not afraid" Laurence told BARB. "Many young homosexuals believe as I do."

Gays have to love themselves first, Laurence stresses in his editorial. They have to get rid of their double life and proclaim to the world they are homosexuals, and proud of it.

"Tell your boss, family--everybody, that you're gay," he advises.

This isn't easy for the old style leaders of the gay organizations to admit, he confesses. "But even they have to be forced to look at themselves and learn to love themselves."

"We have to get over this bullshit of guilt, the feeling we are degenerates," Laurence said. "After we can admit to ourselves 'gay is good' the revolution will come."

It's the young militant gays who

are going to be the leaders, according Laurence. He used much of the terminology of the Black Revolution as he rapped. "If the uptightness of the present leaders breaks the revolution," he said, "then they must go." Any means necessary must be used to gain gays their personal rights, he said.

"All our lives we've been made butts of jokes, laughed at, made to feel guilty," he said. "Human beings shouldn't have to live like that."

Four years ago Laurence was so guilt ridden and miserable because he was gay, he actually thought of suicide. "Countless young men go through this same misery," he said.

But Laurence went to Glide Memorial Church where he met Reverend Cecil Williams, a black priest.

"By understanding the black revolution, I saw the parallel and what could be done," he says. He believes gays are now where young blacks were just before their revolution -- willing to confront the establishment and demand their rights.

"I'm a homosexual and want to be accepted as such," should be the gay slogan of liberation. It's the same as "Black is Beautiful", says Laurence. Only if we believe that deep down inside can the revolution proceed, he said.

Willie Brown Jr, a black, is leading the battle for sexual freedom in the State Legislature, Laurence pointed out. Brown has introduced a bill making sexual acts between consenting adults legal in California.

"He says self-determination has no timetable. That's also what I believe is right," the editor said. "Others are asking for the 'right political climate.' That's bullshit. We should demand our personal liberty and freedom right NOW."

Instead of isolating themselves from politics in their own little groups Laurence wants gays to participate in other militant social causes. Alliances with the Black Panthers, the Resistance, and other anti-war groups will help when common causes arise, he said.

But it's clear the present gay establishment won't dig this, Laurence said. They've been con-

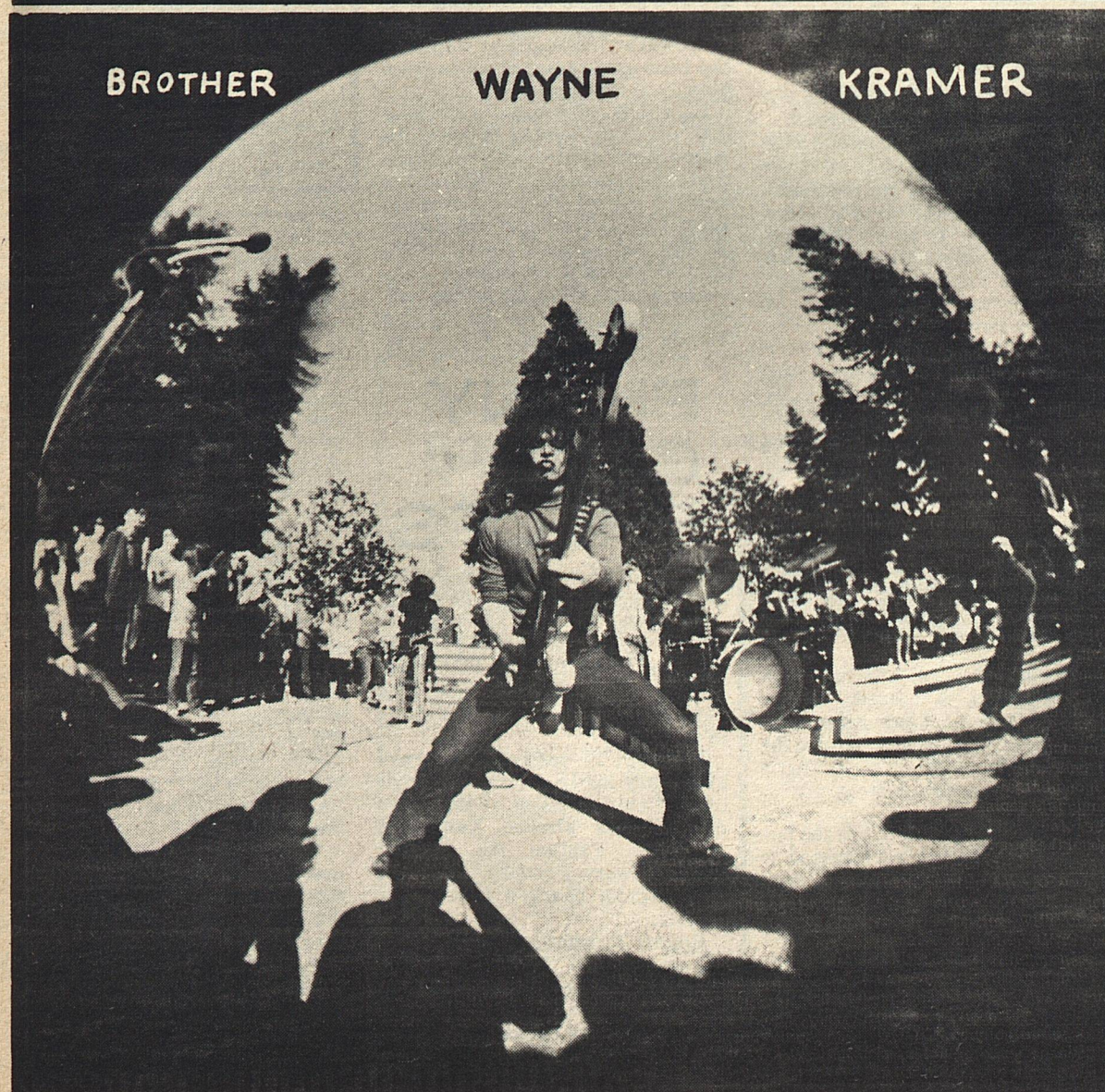


GAY EDITOR SHOWS WHAT HE MEANS

photo by Hoffman

see p. 23

MC-5 PERMIT RIPPED OFF



A benefit was supposed to be held last Friday and Saturday night at the Finnish-American Hall in Berkeley for Black Panther City Council candidate Charles Bursey, and for White Panther candidate, proprietor of The Store. But here's what happened instead, and why.

When we arrived at the Hall Friday night, we were confronted by a sign on the door of the dark, deserted building: "Permit ripped off by Pigs". Brothers and sisters were filling up the street to the door--and away again, disappointed.

We had to wade through some bullshit to get the story. At first the Finnish-American people, who are running scared, wouldn't say anything. The second time we talked to them, they had to take several measures to guarantee that we weren't from some "law enforcement agency".

Finally, after hours of consultation, they issued a statement: "On Wednesday, March 19, Liberation News Service and the MC 5 held a rock dance here. Because of the age and construction of the building, it could not contain the sound of the band. The police ordered the Hall closed to rock dances after 9:30pm. The Hall welcomes other events."

Questioned further, they admitted that the few people that called on Wednesday night "were cool about it", and nobody was concerned enough to file a complaint, or leave their name.

"Maybe because it was a week night a few neighbors were concerned about going to work the next day." (But Friday and Sat-

urday aren't week nights, right?)

No property was damaged; this was confirmed by the hall and the police. Nobody was busted.

Was there any political motivation behind the closing of the hall?

"You can't tell", was the opinion of the Hall's representative. "That may have been their main motivation. I told them there was no damage, so they couldn't close the hall for that reason."

We talked to Inspector Cliff L. O'Jala of the Berkeley Police Special Investigation Bureau.

"They didn't lose their dance permit," the inspector insisted. "The Police Department advised them of the problem that came up Wednesday night at the MC 5 concert, and it was apparently their decision that they didn't want that sort of thing going on."

What sort of thing, Inspector? "Well, they were showing dirty movies Wednesday night, and marijuana was being smoked."

Inspector O'Jala didn't mention anything about noise. His story completely contradicted the story from the Hall.

Was there any property damage, Inspector?

"No, but there was a dance there some time ago--oh, I can't remember when it was--and there were some things broken".

The Inspector "advised" the Board of Directors of the Hall that if they held the dance, the hall would be shut down permanently. The Hall was on the heavy spot: the cover story about noise and some vague city ordinance was devised to keep the heat from coming down.

John Sinclair, Minister of In-

See p. 9

photo by Grant

GAY REVOLUTION

from p. 5
 conditioned so long to be afraid he thinks they're actually a stumbling block in the revolution.

None of the established groups like SIR, Tavern Guild, and the gay bars are eager for change, Laurence noted. "Once the revolution comes there'll be no need for such groups," he said. "Gays will be able to go everywhere heterosexuals go."

Laurence envisioned a day when gay lovers will be walking down the street, holding hands, kissing when the impulse comes, like any other couples.

And these aren't only his views but the visions of many young gay's he's talked to.

"I want this picture to become a reality," he said handing me a photo (see this page). "We are just as human as everyone else."

Laurence spoke of a possible test case to push out restrictions

on males showing affection in public. One possibility he mentioned was for two gay lovers to kiss in a bar, just as heterosexuals do. Presently that's described as "degenerate conduct" by existing laws. Laurence wants those laws changed.

If someone loses his job for admitting to be gay all homosexuals should back up that person. The gay editor spoke of the way blacks rallied behind George Murray at SF State. "We have to be just as militant, just as together," he said.

If the SIR establishment jumps on their editor for telling it like it is Laurence expects young militants to support his stand. "I certainly hope they would act, not only talk," he told BARB. He does concede, however, he could be misjudging the mood of

the gay community. Maybe it isn't ready for revolution and he may come a cropper.

But he doesn't think that likely. "Every human being wants to have freedom and dignity -- eventually."

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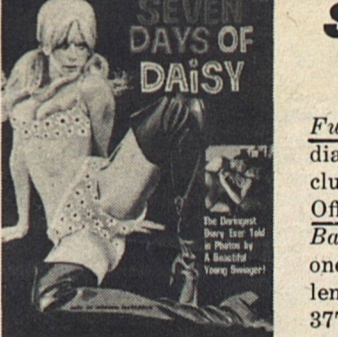
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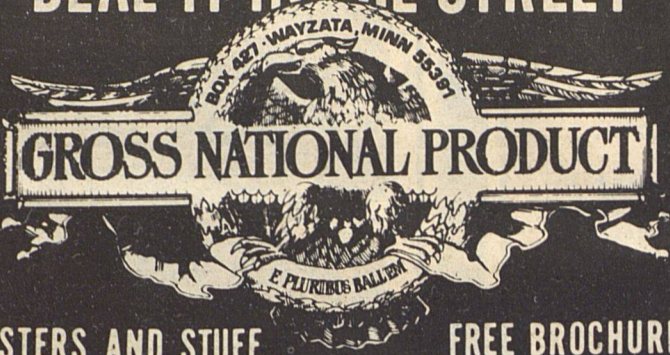
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out of the bars into the

john james

San Francisco's police, courts, and jails have piled one injustice after another onto the area's new movement of young homosexual militants, and the main result is that the Committee for Homosexual Freedom is growing faster than ever.

Trouble began last Friday at a legal picket line in front of the San Francisco Examiner. After an hour without incident someone threw ink on the demonstrators from the Examiner building. Police made no effort to catch the ink-thrower. But when the sixty picketers continued marching, causing the ink to track on the sidewalk, and when some of them made hand-prints with the ink on the walls and doors of the Examiner building, police moved into the line to make an arrest. A tug of war developed and then the Tactical Squad rushed in, kicking and clubbing demonstrators and singling out photographers and apparent leaders and spokesmen. Twelve were arrested, six with felony charges of battery on an officer. The rest of the picketers went to City Hall and a delegation of three went to the Mayor's office, where Alioto's chief assistant told them to take their complaint to the police. The three sat in, and were arrested five minutes after closing time on three misdemeanor charges each. The final arrest so far occurred Monday when Pat Brown of CHF was sentenced to two days for contempt when he shouted

"power to the people" in court.

Before the arrests CHF had no lawyers, defense funds, or bail information system because it had never had trouble with the police and planned no civil disobedience, and on Friday night many of its leaders were in jail. But the organization's unusual decentralized structure had given it outstanding depth of leadership, and by Monday morning friendly contacts had been established with three candidates for Supervisor, top defense lawyers including Terence Hallinan who appeared in court Monday morning, several well-known clergymen, a friendly bondsman, and most of the straight and underground media in the Bay Area. Also over the weekend hundreds of dollars were raised and thousands of leaflets produced and distributed in gay bars in San Francisco and Oakland. All but three of the fifteen were out of jail by Monday morning and efforts were underway to get medical treatment for the two most seriously injured who were still confined and had been refused medical treatment in jail despite their repeated requests. One of them had been given four APC tablets by the jail doctor for two broken ribs, and told he would not be treated but must wait till he got out and then see his own doctor.

During its several months of existence CHF has been a participant, member-centered organization, requiring for voting membership five hours of public work in its activities (jail time

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FILM FIX



max goldcrab

We are getting away with murder.
-Anonymous

The film festival is over now and I want to thank the press office for all the free admissions. Largely the festival is a bunch of shit, a mechanical glorification of boring or poorly made fantasies. Fantasy is truths created for dead people. If enough people indulge the same fantasy they can get away with murder wholesale. Using imagination to express what you believe binds you to what you create. Either way, you use your intellect, but with fantasy you pretend something you will never become.

Easy Rider fails because it's mostly fantasy, alive only in a safe compartment in its creators' minds. *Sympathy for the Devil* (the last show at the film festival and made by Godard) succeeds. He doesn't get away with murder because he lets you know (very clearly) that he recognizes who put the gun in the killer's hands. This is not to say that Godard doesn't use technique or artifice to lead to indelible conclusions. Oh yeah. Especially for you who never go to films, see a master work out.

The main theme of the film, within which counterpoint statements are made, is a record of a recording session

by the Rolling Stones. This focus works on many levels: it will draw hundreds of thousands to movie theatres because it's the closest thing to being with the Stones-in-person that will ever be shot; the development they go through, in perfecting the cut, matches the progression of the film; the Stones are not used in this film, we recognize them because of their music and their style; Godard just shows us a different aspect. Godard attacks intellectuals and murderers, but he is these things himself. So, a film is not life. He is not afraid to be wrong, but he'll fool you if he can.

Other films of the festival. A film made in Dakar whose title I can't locate may be released around here. It's about a guy trying to cash a money order and is worth seeing just for the views of the scene. *Adalen '31* is about the repression of a labor strike in Sweden in 1931. It's well made though a little sweet. *Popcorn* is ka-ka. The people responsible for creating it and also those who showed it at the festival should be severely punished. *Nest of Gentry* (a Russian production of the Turgenyev novel) is tasty, good for a pleasant evening.

What would you like to see/do at the real San Francisco film festival which we are planning for early next year? Come on, don't just eat movies. Cook.

and streets

counted), and electing a new chairman every three weeks; the ideal is that everyone should have leadership experience. CHF with at least 60 voting members is the largest of several new-trend homosexual organizations in the Bay Area, others being Gay Liberation, to explore cultural and life styles with special attention to communications media; Institute of Homosexual Liberation, for political activities; Gay Community, which is starting a scientific and literary journal, Gay Liberation Front, the Berkeley equivalent of CHF and of Gay Liberation, the San Francisco Free Press, a gay underground newspaper giving special attention and support to women's liberation, and Gay Liberation Theatre, perhaps the most militant and active group, which has created and performed gay guerilla theatre and gay comedy before audiences totaling thousands. These organizations have developed in the last several months and represent a new style in the younger homosexual community. Their members are openly and publicly homosexual and identify with revolutionary liberation movements. Within the organizations are strong factions supporting Marxian socialism, armed self-defense, and non-violence. The issue of nonviolence vs. self-defense is an emotional one which could split CHF.

By contrast, the older homosexual organizations, such as Society for Individual Rights (SIR), Mattachine Society,

Tavern Guild, and Daughters of Bilitis, are non-political associations including conservatives, liberals, and many non-political as well as radicals. They seldom if ever take part as organizations in demonstrations and they maintain a style of middle-class respectability, often calling themselves "homophile" instead of "homosexual" organizations ("homophile," meaning working for equal rights for homosexuals, is avoided by CHF as not direct and open enough). A conflict developed between SIR and the new organizations over SIR's tactical refusal to give organizational support to CHF's drive to place on next June's ballot a proposition which if passed would officially commit the city of San Francisco to oppose discrimination against homosexuals. CHF also sent colorful picketers to oppose the annual Halloween Beau Arts drag ball sponsored by the Tavern Guild. In the festive spirit of that occasion everyone was friendly, even the police. And there is little doubt that the old and new organizations can cooperate concerning what happened in the last week, despite all previous disagreements.

Although members of CHF have called gay bars "walk-in closets," referring to "closet queens" or homosexuals who hide their homosexuality, the picketing of the Examiner was protesting an article attacking gay bars and breakfast clubs in such language as "types who undulate and wiggle," "sick, sad revels," "queer street," and "semimales with flexible wrists and hips." It was not the first CHF picket line. Last May there were smaller lines daily at noon against States Steamship Company, and a boycott and Saturday picketing of Tower Records, both of which had fired an employee after learning that he was homosexual. CHF demands dignity for homosexuals as for other minority groups and is seeing to it that homosexuals cannot be attacked without penalty.

"The possibilities are fantastic," an early leaflet said. "The force of all homosexuals acting together means power which no institution can ignore. Only then will we gain our true freedom, not just closet privileges. In other words, the homosexual fight for freedom needs you. Come, join us."

BAD

San Francisco anti-pollutionists will conduct a picketing campaign against the use of DDT on Friday, Nov. 13. One picket will be stationed at every block in downtown San Francisco and some on the Golden Gate Bridge from 4 to 6 p.m. Leaflets are available. Interested persons contact Tish Epperson, 526-7781.

BETTER

The Great Chromosome Scare may have finally been put to rest. Over the last two years there have been many studies failing to find chromosome changes resulting from LSD. But a major new study financed by the National Institute of Mental Health and reported in Chicago this Monday not only found no chromosome changes but pinpointed where the studies which did find changes went wrong.

The new study examined chromosomes in 32 subjects who had volunteered for an LSD treatment experiment at Spring Grove State Hospital in Catonsville, Md., and who had never taken LSD before. Unlike the other studies this one looked at the chromosomes both before and after the LSD and found no significant changes from either a low or a high dose of good-quality pure acid.

Four previous studies had reported more chromosome breaks in LSD users than in non-user controls. But because chromosome breaks are caused by many things, including minor virus infections, certain tranquilizers, measles shots, artificial sweeteners, and probably aspirin and coffee, the conclusion that LSD caused the breaks was not well founded.

BEST

Chet Helms was sick earlier this week. He spent the day at home. Maybe it was the flu, or more likely, simply exhaustion. The Family Dog is going through another financial crisis.

They need more money. There have not been enough customers on week-nights to pay operating expenses. Right now they owe the tax man. If the Family Dog doesn't come up with \$6,000 to pay taxes they expect to be closed down on Monday.

The Dog has faced this kind of crisis before and Chet knows that if they don't figure out how to get more paying customers the cycle of problems will continue to repeat itself. Their concept has been entertainment, not box office. Their shows have been entertaining and with enough money for promotion they could get the people out there to make the Dog a success.

Danny out at the Dog told us that they want to create a party atmosphere so they have built low stages and provided an intimate environment. People feel together with the performers who don't necessarily have to be "known groups." Danny feels they've had "great moments, good parties, and few bad shows" at the Dog.

But he also added that it's inconvenient to get out to the Dog without wheels and you may have to stand in line in the cold when you arrive.

Paradoxes of the concert hall game. The cycle continues from entertaining nights to the man knocking at the door. Enough to make you elated or exhausted.

Danny commented, "Many miracles have hit this place, no reason why another can't hit."

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—ROLAND GELATT, SATURDAY REVIEW

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SEX PAPER

from p. 13
kee Indian poetry, the short story "Skinny Dynamite" by the beat poet Jack Micheline.

So the ladies destroyed the Dirty Magazine and are now boasting about their action. Why did they do it? Why were they so outraged about a new sex paper. Are they against ALL sex literature? "They want clean hands and pure minds," said Rosenberg . . . "They want to pop the pimples on Andy Warhol's back and then shoot him through the ("They want clean hands and pure minds," said Rosenberg . . . "They

want to pop the pimples on Andy Warhol's back and then shoot him through the neck," said Bishop.)

We asked two members of Women's Liberation whether or not ALL sex literature was objectionable to them.

"Anything that makes a woman a sexual object in the context of this society is objectionable," said a rather tight-lipped young brunette who lives with an active member of the movement.

"The whole question of romance covers the fact of male supremacy, said a really lovely 23-year-old blonde who lives with a well known San Francisco radical

HOMOSEXUAL LIBERATION

The Institute for Homosexual Liberation is preparing a "Gay Manifesto" to provide a political action program for the Gay Revolution.

Authors include Gale Whittington of CHF; Dorr Jones, former SIR prez; Konstantin Berlandt, of GGT, Leo Laurence of IHL, and Tom Maurer of Kinzey Institute,

among others.

Political idea-people from throughout the nation with suggestions for Manifesto's first draft should write: I-H-L, 15 Beaver St., SF 94114.

SF FREE PRESS

The "San Francisco Free Press" is a new underground newspaper with a slant towards the Homosexual Revolution.

"Marcus," the new Editor, started in the movement in Minneapolis.

Next issue features gay folk-singer Don Burton, who is a member of Red Mountain Tribe.

Burton's upcoming performances:

Oct. 15, SIR Center, 83 Sixth St., SF, public meeting, 8 pm.
Oct. 24, SHIRE Coffeehouse, 100 Hacienda, San Lorenzo, 8pm.

Nov. 7, Benefit concert, Council on Religion & Homosexual, Glide Methodist, Taylor-Ellis Sts, SF, 8pm, \$2 donation.

CALLISON WON'T

from p. 11
"blocking the entrance."

When Callison entered the induction center, a uniformed Oakland pig tood the rest of his leaflets.

In the induction center, Callison wrote a brief petition and began to ask the other potential inductees present (about 75 young men) if they would like to sign it.

tionable. She pointed to an old lithograph on the wall. It was an extremely sedate 19th Century reproduction of three from a well. Entirely sexless and quite acceptable in Des Moines and Grand Rapids.

I asked the ladies whether or not they saw the comic overtones to their recent confrontation with the Dirty Young Pornographers.

"Some of us DID think it was a bit funny," said the rather soft-mannered young blonde.

"Not at all," said the stern brunette. "Men have NEVER taken women seriously."

I tried to continue the conversation along this line but the pleasant young blonde got up and headed for the kitchen. She still had to wash the dinner dishes.

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The petition read: "We petition the Army not to draft us so that we will not be forced to fight a brutal and self-destructive war in Southeast Asia." Not surprisingly, an Army captain almost immediately ordered Callison to stop circulating the petition.

"I replied that I was not in the Army yet and that as a civilian I had a Constitutional right to circulate a petition," Callison said. "A Colonel William Charles came up and repeated the order . . . At one point several uniformed members of the Armed Forces grabbed me and attempted to drag me into an adjoining corridor."

"Oakland police officers arrived. I was given 'one more chance' to agree not to circulate my petition. I refused. I was arrested on a charge of 'disturbing the peace.'"

Callison defended himself against this charge in two trials in the Oakland Municipal Court. The first resulted in a hung jury, the second in a conviction which was thrown out by the Superior Court because the judge had given the jury illegal instructions.

In December, 1967, over a year after his arrest, Callison was informed that he had been indicted by a federal grand jury for refusing induction. "I was convicted of this charge not by a jury but by Judge George B. Harris on April 3, 1968," he noted. "I had very foolishly let myself be talked into waiving my right to a jury trial, reasoning that the charge was too ridiculous to worry about. "On May 3, I was sentenced to two years in jail, with eligibility for parole."

UNISEX HELP WANTED

About 30 people picketed the San Francisco Chronicle last Friday to protest the paper's classified advertising policy.

According to a spokesman, who visited the Tribe office with a pretty blonde chick in silent tow, about 5,000 leaflets were distributed and "there was a lot of affirmative response" from the public and from other women's liberation groups.

The sponsor of the protest, the Institute of Human Relations, says the fight against the Chron will continue until the paper stops listing help-wanted ads by sex and refuses to accept "job advertising that includes discrimination against women in the advertising."

Primary object of the picketing, which is scheduled to resume today (Friday), at 4 p.m., is Chron Managing Editor Gordon Pates. According to the spokesman, the MAN (!) sent inside the Chronicle building to confront Pates was unable to meet with him.

Possible future action includes the filing of a discrimination suit and a work slowdown by female employees of the Chron.