

Volume 3, Issue 1  
Fall 1975

# interCHANGE



Published by the National Gay Student Center, a project of the United States National Student Association, 2115 'S' St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

## gay archives planned

The following is the text of a recent press release from the National Gay Archives and Libraries Committee.

A national gay archives, as projected by the late Dr. Howard Brown, is being established by the committee of gay activists formed by Dr. Brown to carry out the project.

According to committee coordinator Barbara Gittings, the archives is intended to bring together gay-related personal papers of prominent homosexual women and men, as well as books with homosexual themes and every kind of gay movement material.

The committee is having preliminary discussions with representatives from the New York Public Library about housing the gay collection at the library's famous Fifth Avenue location.

Establishment of a national gay archives was one of Howard Brown's last major projects in his endeavor to leave a legacy of works benefitting future generations of gay people. He is best known in the gay community as a crusading gay professional and as a co-founder of the National Gay Task Force. In October 1973 he disclosed via the *New York Times* that he was homosexual. As a former cabinet official in New York City Mayor Lindsay's administration, Dr. Brown hoped that his announcement would spur other gays in positions in the public eye to declare themselves, thus offering role models for younger gay people and helping to free them from the need to hide. His decision to come out publicly was made while recovering from a heart attack which made him realize "that my opportunities for helping gay liberation were not limitless."

In the weeks before his death on February 1, 1975, Dr. Brown had expressed to the archives committee and to friends his intention to will his Greenwich Village home to the national gay archives so that the proceeds from sale of the house would provide some endowment capital to help finance the collection. In addition, he had urged other gay persons with valuable assets to consider making funds available to the archives by similar legacies which he forthrightly called "death monies."

Gay authors such as Martin Duberman and Merle Miller had been contacted by Dr. Brown and had responded enthusiastically to the idea of offering their gay-related personal papers to a central collection of gay materials and memorabilia.

"I am excited by the possibilities," says Dr. Duberman. "As a professional historian, I'm keenly aware how little is known of our history as a gay people. An archives such as Howard Brown envisioned would be the single most important step in recovering our own past."



Committee members are going ahead with negotiations for space for the collection and with plans for basic operation of the archives. They are also arranging to receive contributions or pledges both of materials and of financial aid from individuals and organizations. Those interested in helping the committee to launch the national gay archives can contact coordinator Barbara Gittings at P. O. Box 2383, Philadelphia, PA 19103, phone (215) 382-3222.

"There have been other proposals in the movement for an archives," says Ms. Gittings, "but I feel we can build on Howard Brown's work and within the coming months set up a gay archives second to none."



# resources

We welcome our new exchanges and list them below.

Integrity- Gay Episcopal Forum  
701 Orange Street, No. 6  
Fort Valley, CA 31030

Gay People's Union of Kansas City  
3825 Virginia  
Kansas City, MO 64109

Northwest Faggotry Newsletter  
% Denys Howard  
2401 SE Salmon  
Portland, OR 97214

Homosexual Counseling Journal  
45 East 74th Street  
New York, NY 10021

Tomorrow  
Mankato Gay Group  
Mankato State College  
Box 58  
Mankato, MN 56001

Men's Center News  
New York Men's Center  
257 Seventh Avenue  
New York, NY 10001

Zap!  
Homophiles of Penn State  
P. O. Box 218  
State College, PA 16801

Signal  
Gay Nurses' Alliance  
P. O. Box 5687  
Philadelphia, PA 19129

Gay Community News  
22 Bromfield Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Brother:  
A Forum for Men Against Sexism  
P. O. Box 4387  
Berkeley, CA 94704

Rhinoceros  
Gay Coalition of Denver  
1450 Pennsylvania, No. 29  
Denver, CO 80203

The CGE Mouthpiece  
Kelly Walton, ed.  
P.O. Box 2521  
Ga. University Station  
Athens, GA 30602

Coordinator's Newsletter  
Gay Renaissance of Madison, Inc.  
P.O. Box 687  
Madison, WI 53701

H.E.L.P.! Newsletter  
Homophile Effort for Legal Protection  
P.O. Box 3416  
Hollywood, CA 90028

Lesbian Front  
P. P. Box 8342  
Jackson, MS 39204

Rising Sun  
P. O. Box 21064  
Phoenix, AZ 85036

Gay People&Mental Health  
Suite 3B  
490 West End Avenue  
New York, NY 10024

Lavender Wing  
P. O. Box 4606  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

GPU News  
P. O. Box 90502  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Central MI Gayzette  
Central MI Gay Liberation, Inc.  
Box 34- Warriner Hall  
Central MI University  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859

Gay Studies Newsletter  
c/o Frederick L. Morey  
4508 38th St.  
Brentwood, MD 20722

Community News  
P.O. Box 7367  
Fort Worth, TX 76111

Gay People's Union  
Rm 810 Loeb Center  
New York University  
566 LaGuardia Pl.  
New York, NY

Come Out Fighting  
Lavender&Red Union  
6844 Sunset Blvd.  
Hollywood, CA 90028

Mauve Messages  
Women with Women  
P.O. Box 27  
Bradley Beach, NJ 07720

(old exchanges, replacements)

Stonewall Report  
Human Growth Center  
1808 18th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98122

Gay Sunshine  
P.O. Box 40397  
San Francisco, CA 94140



Lavender Opinion  
Suite 221, Sheldon Court  
410 College Avenue  
Ithaca, NY 14850

GPU News  
Gay People's Union at Stanford  
Box 8265  
Stanford, CA 94305

Gay People's Union Newsletter  
Box 13  
Loeb Student Center  
566 LaGuardia Place  
New York, NY

We are exchanging newsletters with the above newsletters. If you run a newsletter and wish to exchange with us, please write us. Otherwise, Interchange is available at the incredibly low subscription rate of \$3/year. Although this issue is being sent out to a lot of groups and people, in the future we intend to limit distribution to subscribers only.



from the director's desk:

## gay studies

There has been a remarkable increase in gay studies courses over the past few years which has paralleled the spread of gay liberation organizations and activities. As a discipline gay studies is quite new; even the inclusion of gay issues in a setting which is not judgemental or negative is new. Gay studies would be impossible without the recognition of the importance of gay people and the gay experience in our culture. However, its establishment as an academic discipline has not been easy.

The establishment of gay studies curricula involves the same paradox as that of other special studies curricula: its academic merits must be argued on the basis of criteria, which, if adequate, would require no special studies. Special studies, by their very existence, indicate that there are other valid academic approaches and disciplines than the traditional ones. To argue the merits of special studies using traditional standards is to commit a *non sequitur*.

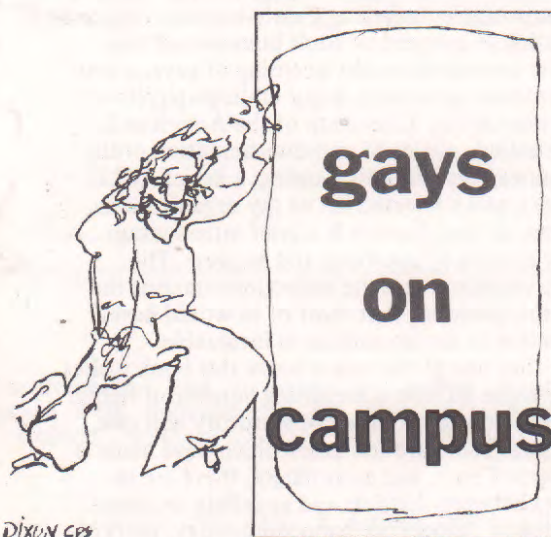
Even though there may be inconsistencies in justification by traditional means, there is seldom any choice in the approach. It is far easier to establish a new course in an existing department than it is to establish a new department. But to establish a new course within an existing department, one must argue the merits within the framework of that department. If that department happens to be English, for example, one can expect that relevance to this discipline will be required.

It is possible, in theory, to incorporate all of gay studies into existing fields and courses without establishing new ones. If one studies Whitman, who is to say that that is not "gay studies?" The difference lies, not so much in the subject matter as the approach to the subject matter and to the integration of the material. In American literature, Whitman's homosexuality or alleged homosexuality may be ignored, or if discussed, it is likely to be discussed only in relation to certain passages in *Leaves of Grass*. And then his writing will be compared with that of other authors of the nineteenth century. How different the approach is in a gay studies course: his gayness becomes a theme which is discussed in relation to other gay authors: the questions asked are different in each case. This is the heart of the justification for special studies: to be able to look at the subject from a different perspective. And who is to say which is more "valid?" When the questions are different and therefore the answers are different, the approaches are not strictly comparable, but rather, complementary.

Justification of the approach to a particular course involves more than just academic argumentation. It is also helpful to show in advance that there are students willing and eager to take the course. The support of the local student gay group (if there is one) can be a decisive factor. However, it would be a mistake to assume that only gay people sign up for gay studies courses. And some gay people are particularly reluctant, fearing the consequences of having a title like "homosexuality in literature" on their transcripts. This problem has been avoided with courses that have been titled "sex roles in literature." Even with this subterfuge, however, there still may be reluctance to be identified as taking the course. Once again, it would appear that some

of the people who need the information most are the ones least likely to get it.

What, then, are the benefits of gay studies? They provide the opportunity to view things from a different perspective. Indirectly we may acquire the ability to come to grips with the deeper meanings of the gay experience.



The National Gay Student Center is proud to announce the publication of a book edited by its director, Ms. J. Lee Lehman, entitled *Gays on Campus*. This book, available from the NGSC for \$3 prepaid (bulk rates available) has six sections: coming out, gay student organizations, gay services, gay studies, et cetera, and bibliography. The nineteen articles should be useful to both movement people and those not associated with the movement.

NGSC has also released two new listings: its latest revision of "Gay Student Groups" (with an Oct. 24th update) and a new list called "Gay Bookstores and Mail-Order Services: USA and Canada." The Gay Students Group list contains 175 addresses of gay student organizations in the US and Canada and is available from NGSC for \$0.50. The list of bookstores and mail-order services is intended to provide the reader with places to purchase or to order gay liberation materials. It is available from NGSC for \$0.25.

The Gay Men's Issue and the Lesbian Feminist Issue of *Motive* are still available from NGSC for \$1 each. NGSC still has a few copies of "Lesbian Oppression Is" for \$0.25 and copies of Martin Roger's article "Critical incidents in the evolution of a gay liberation group," available for \$0.35. And of course, *Interchange* is available for \$3 for five issues.



# reviews

E. Carrington Boggan, Marilyn G. Haft, Charles Lister, and John P. Rupp. 1975. *The Rights of Gay People*. Discus Books (published by Avon), New York. \$1.75. 268 p.

This book is one of a series of American Civil Liberties Union Handbooks. It is the most comprehensive layperson's book on this subject to date. Chapters include the right to organize and to speak out, the right to equal employment opportunities, occupational licenses, the armed services, security clearances, problems of immigration and naturalization, housing and public accommodations, the gay family, criminal law, and the rights of transvestites and transsexuals. The text is followed by a series of appendices, including a state-by-state rundown on laws relating to consensual adult homosexual acts and statutory provisions on the licensing of gays, a sample joint domicile agreement, a gay bibliography (from the Task Force on Gay Liberation of the American Library Association), copies of anti-discrimination ordinances of Minneapolis and East Lansing, a list of ACLU state affiliates, and a selected list of gay organizations.

The format of the chapters is a brief introduction followed by a series of questions and answers. The citations are excellent, and the collection contains the answers to the questions that most of us would have. The information in the appendices is invaluable.

I believe that one of the major issues this book makes is that gay people do have a surprising number of rights. This book also points out how fast statutory and case law is changing. There are few cases which have made it to the Supreme Court, and accordingly, there are inconsistencies between districts and appellate decisions. Because so many changes are happening today, parts of this book will be out of date in the near future. For instance, since the time of publishing the U.S. Civil Service Commission has issued new guidelines on the hiring of homosexuals. Of course, this is no fault of the authors, but simply an indication of the magnitude of the changes taking place. They attribute these changes to increased activity as a result of gay liberation activities. In fact, they suggest that in many situations, the best thing an individual can do when she/he encounters a problem is to contact the local gay group. This may be overestimating the legal expertise of most groups, but many groups do keep referral files.

I recommend this book as a valuable reference to both individuals and organizations. It is crucial that we all know what our rights are.

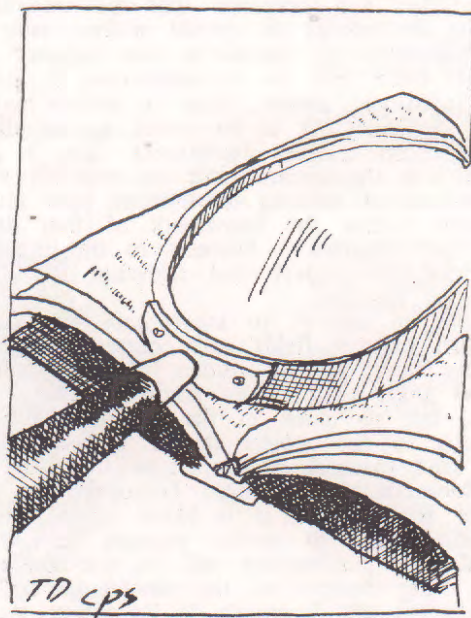
B. Yates, S. Werner and D. Rosen, ed. 1974. *We'll do it Ourselves: Combatting Sexism in Education*. Nebraska Curriculum Development Center, Andrews Hall, Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln. \$1.00.

This unique book attempts to tackle the problem of sexism in education and the results are excellent. The subject matter includes discrimination against women and against gays. Other than to comment that the articles about women are good, this review will be restricted

to considering the gay parts.

Warren Blumenfeld's article, "The Oppression of Gay People," outlines the many special problems that gay people have, with special reference to the educational setting. He cites the lack of vocational guidance, the fears of coming out and the hostility directed toward those who are out, the torment of growing up gay (but not knowing it), the problems encountered by gay groups in organizing and in getting recognized, and the oppression of gay faculty and staff. Court cases and individual cases histories are included.

Louis Crompton's article, "Literature and our Gay Minority," is a discussion of homosexuality in literature. He discusses both the question of the homosexuality of the author and the interpretation of homosexual passages from works of noted writers.



Steve Werner's article, "The Gay Student Group," again examines campus issues, notably the organizational ones. He examines the need for groups, experiences of different groups in starting up, gay speakers' bureaus, gay services, peer counseling, political activities, affirmative action, internal disagreements, and consciousness-raising by gay students.

Del Martin and Sally Gearhart's article, "Afterthought: Lesbians as Gays and as Women," is partly a reaction to the other articles in the book and partly a statement on the problems encountered in attempting to straddle two movements. Lesbians encounter discrimination both as women and as gays, and sometimes the distinction is not readily apparent. They note that campus gay groups are frequently dominated by men and present an interesting theory about why this is so. They outline both the advantages and disadvantages of being a lesbian in the women's movement. They also discuss the need for lesbian services and call for serious academic research about human sexuality.



In addition to the four articles, there are other gay resources, including the Gay Bibliography of the Task Force on Gay Liberation of the American Library Association, a list of gay resource groups, and a summary of the Acanfora case (on the rights of gay teachers).

The quality of the four articles is excellent. They present considerable amounts of information which are not readily available. Martin and Gearhart detect some sexism in some of the articles, notably Crompton's dismissal of lesbian literature in a single paragraph. In spite of this, it is the best compilation so far on gay issues on campus. We highly recommend this book to all campus gay liberationists!

Fran Winant. 1971. *Looking at Women*. Violet Press, P. O. Box 398, New York, NY 10009. \$1.00.

Fran's poetry is very honest. She describes the emotionality behind being a lesbian. Her subjects include societal rejection, the reasons for loving women, gay bars, world youth and gay liberation. But most of all she speaks of love and sensuality, the intermingling of

oneself with one's loved ones. She expresses those feelings we all wish we could describe. If you like lesbian poetry, check this one out.

*Margins: A Review of Little Magazines and Small Press Books. Issue 20: May 1975: "Special Focus: Gay Male Writing and Publishing. Margins, c/o Tom Montag, 2912 N. Hackett, Milwaukee, WI 53211"*

In this issue editor Louie Crew has put together an excellent review of contemporary gay male writing. The issue includes critical essays, reviews of current periodicals, reviews of poetry, an interview with Paul Mariah, a review of short stories, and reviews of biographies and gay liberation books. The information is invaluable, particularly for anyone contemplating teaching (or seriously studying) gay literature. The issue shows brilliantly that gay literature is by no means stagnant: it doesn't end with Walt Whitman, or Radclyffe Hall, or E. M. Forster. Hopefully this issue will go a long way toward familiarizing people with the vital work which is being done today.

## conferences

Last summer the *Gay Liberation Task Force of the American Library Association* again sponsored a series of programs at the annual meetings of the ALA. The Gay Book Award was presented to the collection of gay writings entitled *Homosexuality: Lesbians and Gay Men in Society, History, and Literature*, edited by Jonathan Katz and published by Arno Press. A forum called "The Children's Hour: Must Gay be Grim for Jane and Jim?" was held to illustrate the poor coverage of gay lifestyles in children's literature. Gay guidelines for publishers of children's and young adults' books have since been published by the Task Force.

On September 27th, the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights sponsored a membership meeting and conference called "Sharing Gayness with Family and Friends." Betty Fairchild of Washington, D.C. Parents of Gays was the featured speaker.

lesbian/feminism, and strategies for action. Keynote speeches were delivered by Dr. Martin Duberman and Dr. Dolores Noll.

On October 30- Nov. 1 Kansas State University sponsored an "Educator's Conference on Lesbianism and Male Homosexuality." This conference was a regional conference for elementary and secondary administrators, counselors and teachers to acquaint these people with the sociological, psychological, religious and legal aspects of homosexuality. The conference could be taken for graduate credit in the KSU psychology or Family & Child Development departments.

Also that weekend the *Bloomington Gay Alliance* sponsored its "Indiana Gay Awareness Conference."

The *Gay Academic Union* is holding its Third Annual Conference Nov 28-30 at Columbia University in New York City. Panels and workshops will include subjects of interest to both students and faculty. For information and registration materials, contact GAU, Box 480, Lenox Hill Station, New York, NY 10021.

From October 10th-14th, *GAA-Washington D.C.* sponsored their "Bicentennial Conference on Gays and the Federal Government." Among the topics covered were civil service and military laws and guidelines, rights to privacy, the prisons, taxes, media and the FCC, immigration, libraries, education, gay rights bills,

The *Rutgers University Homophile League* will hold its sixth annual conference April 23-25, 1976. For information contact RUHL, RPO 2901, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.







# BULLETIN BOARD



The following are announcements and information which have come to our attention. If you have any information or announcement which you would like us to print, please send it to us. We reserve the right to determine which ones to print.

*Boulder Gay Liberation, Inc.*, announces that it will be trying to persuade the University of Colorado to hire a gay counselor. They are looking for information from any campuses which have had this experience. Contact Boulder Gay Liberation, Inc., P. O. Box 1402, Boulder, CO 80302.

A new quarterly called *Gay Literature* has been started. We haven't seen it yet, but it was supposed to start with a Winter, 1975 issue. Contact Dr. Daniel Curzon, English Dept., State Univ. of Cal. at Fresno, Fresno, CA 93740.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana is handling the case of *The Associated Student Body of Tulane University and the Tulane Univ. Gay Students' Union vs. Herbert Longenecker, Edmund McIlhenny, the administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund, John Stibbs, and Lee Frazier*. The cases involves the refusal of the University to grant recognition to TUGSU.

The *People's College of Law of the National Lawyers' Guild* offers new opportunities for gay law students or prospective law students. Contact: Step May, Gay Law Students, 4678 La Miranda Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90029.

There is a new lesbian bibliography called *Women Loving Women: A Select and Annotated Bibliography of Women Loving Women in Literature*. Copies are available for \$1.50 each or \$1.00 each for five or more from Marie Jayne Kuda, P. O. Box 59330, Chicago, IL 60645.

The *Pacific Center*, formerly East Bay Gay, is a non-profit charitable organization for northern California's sexual minorities. Services include a switchboard, counseling and rap groups, women's programs, a speaker's bureau, and outreach. Contact at P. O. Box 908, Berkeley, CA 94701; (415) 841-6224.

*Lambda Rising*, which bills itself as the largest lesbian and gay liberation bookstore in the country, has a mailorder catalogue which is available for \$0.25. It lists over 500 titles. Contact at 1724 20th St. N.W., Washington, D. C. 20009.

There is a *Bicentennial Conference on Gays and the Federal Government* to be held Friday, Oct. 10- Tuesday, Oct. 14, 1975. It will include such issues federal employment, U.S. health policies, the FCC, federal civil rights, taxes, U.S. education policies, and federal funding for gay community services and research. Contact: Bicentennial Conference, GAA/DC, Box 2554, Washington, D.C. 20013.

The Fourth Revision of *A Gay Bibliography*, published by the Task Force on Gay Liberation of the American Library Association, is available for \$0.25. Contact Barbara Gittings, P. O. Box 2383, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

The *Virginia Commonwealth University Gay Alliance* is suing the Board of Visitors for recognition and funds. Good luck to them!

A *Resources Packet* of materials for educational outreach concerning homosexuality and homophobia as social issues is available for \$2 from: Info Data-Bank, c/o Gay People's Union, Inc., Dept. C, P. O. Box 90530, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

A *Gay Caucus of the American Public Health Association* is organizing for the APHA convention in Chicago to be held Nov. 16-20. Contact: Walter J. Lear, 206 N. 35th St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

*Bay Area Gay Liberation* has prepared a "Bill of Rights for Patrons and Employees of Gay Establishments." The intent is to initiate discussion within the gay community of the roles and responsibilities of gay commercial establishments. Contact: BAGL, Box 171, 1800 Market, San Francisco, CA 94102.

*Lesbian Feminist Liberation, Inc.* is campaigning to get *Ms. Magazine* to devote more space to lesbian issues. For further information contact: LFL, Inc., P.O. Box 243, Village Station, New York, NY 10014.

Ian Young has edited a gay poetry anthology entitled *The Male Muse* and he is now compiling an anthology on gay s/m and leather themes. He has completed a bibliography on gale male literature to be published by Scarecrow Press. Contact him at: Catalyst Press, 315 Blantyre Ave., Scarborough, Ont. M1N 2S6 CANADA.

---

*INTERCHANGE* is published by the National Gay Student Center, a project of the United States National Student Association (USNSA). The opinions expressed in this publication reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily represent positions of the U. S. National Student Association.

