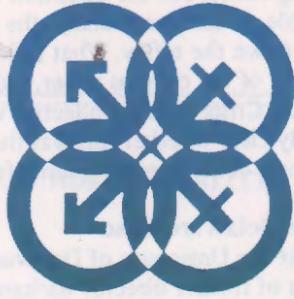


inter CHANGE



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from the director's desk:

Homophobia on Campus

—J. Lee Lehman

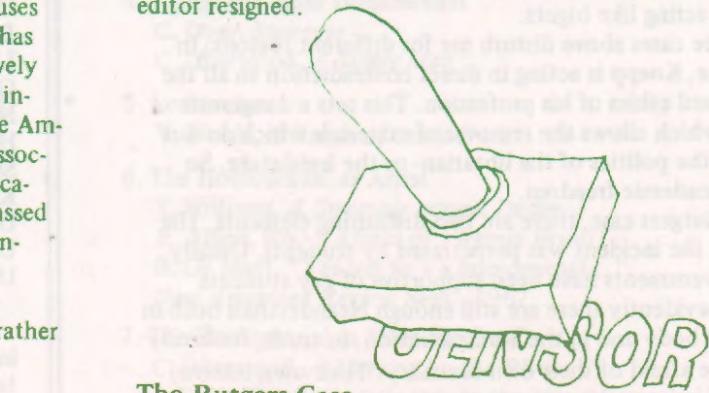
There have been conflicting trends on campus with regard to gay issues over the past year. As in the past, the number of gay groups and gay studies courses has continued to grow. Membership in gay student groups is up, and on some campuses the student governments have recognized the political clout which gays have. This growth has been particularly evident in the South and the Southwest. Increasing numbers of faculty members are inviting gay speakers for their courses. There are some campuses which have gay civil rights resolutions. Increasing pressure has been put on professors to view homosexuality more positively as the number of gay caucuses in professional societies has increased. Many professional societies- including ones like the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science which have little "academic" interest in the "subject" of homosexuality- have passed anti-discrimination resolutions at their board meetings or annual meetings.

The events of the year have not been all positive. Some signs of homophobia on campus have increased. Some are rather chilling shades of 1984. Some examples:

The Arizona Case

In February Founders: the Committee to Form a Gay Students' Organization at Arizona State University staged a vigorous recruitment campaign and discovered three weeks later that they had the largest student organization on campus. In March the First Council of the Associated Students supported the committee in its efforts. On March 23rd the head librarian of ASU's Hayden Library, D. W. Koepp, ordered the cancellation of the library's subscription to the *Advocate* and the removal of back issues. Koepp, through his assistant Helen Gater alleged that the removal was for "purely fiscal" reasons and explained that "...a close examination of the publication indicated that it had little relevance to the curriculum of the University." However, Koepp had not consulted any faculty members in this decision. When professors who taught courses relevant to homosexuality were contacted, many were outraged that the action had been taken and wondered why they had not been contacted. Koepp had previously stated that research materials would be

acquired if only one faculty member requested it- except, apparently in this case. Nine professors requested reinstatement, but as of the end of the semester no action had been taken. In the meantime, the Committee fought a successful battle against the homophobic editor of the *Tempe Daily News* after a particularly outrageous editorial. Following pressure on advertisers, printing contract-holders, etc., applied by the Committee, the editor resigned.



The Rutgers Case

At the age of six years, the Homophile League is one of the older gay campus groups in the country. This year the League sponsored its second "National Gay Day," an event designed to make students confront their feelings about homosexuality. The League in an extensive ad campaign announced that Friday, April 23rd was Gay Day: "if you're gay wear blue jeans." The last time around there was a run on corduroys at the local clothing stores. This year there was an additional twist: an effigy hung in front of the DKE fraternity house with a stick thrust through it with the sign "The only good gay is a dead gay/ back in your closets, homos." The only protest to the action came from the Women's Crisis Center, located in Fraternity Row. The Crisis Center Collective is composed of about half lesbians. The women protesting (and not all of them were lesbians) were subjected to verbal and physical harassment by the "brothers." The members of the Homophile League who were on campus that day did not want to get involved because they didn't think it was important. The Lesbian-Feminist Coalition didn't do any-

thing either, but the Coalition was not exactly noted for being visible on campus. Finally, the dean of fraternities reluctantly cut down the effigy. What followed was a flurry of letters to the editor of the campus paper, mostly condemning DKE. Members of the Crisis Center Collective were harassed, but it is not entirely clear whether this was the only reason since they had previously demonstrated against fraternity showings of porn.

The Delaware Case

At the University of Delaware it was announced that the contract of theater director Richard Aumiller would not be renewed. Aumiller is a graduate student who became advisor to the Gay Community there. He has filed a grievance through the American Association of University Professors. When asked about the case university president E. A. Trebant said, "When young students come to the university they may be unacquainted with various modes of sexual behavior... If they become misled, thinking the university condones this, they are in error."

The Case Against Homophobia

Several years ago many of us believed that homophobia would go away when people became educated about homosexuality. We welcomed the decisions of the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association because they represented the professions which had most directly oppressed us. Finally the social scientists accepted us, so homophobes no longer had an academic crutch to stand on.

Prejudices run deeper than that. The administrators and students in the above cases were not acting like educated people. They were acting like bigots.

The three cases above disturb me for different reasons. In the first one, Koepp is acting in direct contradiction to all the principles and ethics of his profession. This sets a dangerous precedent which allows the removal of materials which do not agree with the politics of the librarian- or the legislature. So much for academic freedom.

In the Rutgers case, there are two disturbing elements. The first is that the incident was perpetrated by students. Usually student governments have been supportive of gay students rights. But evidently there are still enough Neanderthals both in the student body and in the administration. In truth, fraternity brothers are afraid of their own sexuality. Their own internal homosocial/misogynist atmosphere is guarded by their unending quest for the ultimate jock stance. The problem is, their little "prank" reminded too many gay people of the past when we, not effigies, were being hung. Welcome to the cross-burning, 1976 style.

Equally worrisome is the nonreaction of the Homophile League and the Lesbian-Feminist Coalition. Admittedly, the two most politically active League members were out of town that day. But those present decided that the issue was not important! Complacency has set in. These are the same people who will not allow their names to be used because they are afraid their parents or dorm mates will find out, yet seem to believe that the struggle for gay rights has been won. They are afraid to confront their oppression head on, and continue to try to side-step it. The issue here is that there was *no* visible gay presence! The Crisis Center lesbians were demonstrating as feminists, not as lesbians. Once again the cloak- how many times has the term "women's" been used for a lesbian event? This is yet another instance of lesbian invisibility, only this time we've done it to ourselves.

At Delaware it is clear that sexual preference is still a factor in faculty firing and hiring.

These instances of homophobia give us a lot to stop and think about. We still have a lot of work to do between Gay Pride marches.

gay studies

*Means that a syllabus is on file with the National Gay Student Center

SOCIOLOGY/PSYCHOLOGY

Cal. St. Univ.- Sacramento*
University of Nebraska*
Swarthmore College*
Cal. St. Univ.- Long Beach*
University of Montana*

ENGLISH/LITERATURE

Rutgers University*
Cal. St. Univ.-Sacramento*
University of Nebraska*
Concordia University*
Champlain College
Univ. of Massachusetts- Boston*
Queens College*

GAY STUDIES

Cal. St. Univ.- Sacramento*

MISCELLANEOUS OR DEPT. UNKNOWN

Cal. St. Univ.- San Francisco*
Barnard College
Long Island University
Queens College*
New York University
Haverford College
Staten Island Community College
Kent State University*
University of Pittsburgh*
University of Toronto*
Univ. of Cal.- Los Angeles*

In case you've noticed, not all of the syllabi listed as in the possession of the National Gay Student Center have been printed. More next time! If you know of a course being taught somewhere that isn't listed, please tell us. And if you can get a syllabus, so much the better!

We've Changed Our Press

We have just shifted our operations to New York and we are now doing all of the lay-out and printing at Come! Unity Press. Come! Unity Press is kept running by a collective of gay anarchists. They believe in teaching movement people to do their own printing. They also believe that printed materials should be available to all people regardless of ability to pay. We agree. *Interchange* has always been sent to prisoners for free. Now we're changing our subscription policy. Henceforth, a subscription for an individual will be \$3/5 issues, more if you can, less if you can't. If you earn more than enough money for your rent, food, and tuition, we would appreciate a contribution, and \$3 covers our costs. If you're unemployed or up to your armpits in loans, we're not going to hassle you. As for institutions, our flat rate is \$5/5 issues.

syllabi

Since the last newsletter in which we listed a number of course syllabi there has been a great demand for more information. As people have found out about our service more syllabi have come in. In this issue we will present some more which we have on file.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY(MONTREAL) THE OTHER FACE OF LOVE: STUDIES IN GAY MALE LITERATURE

Instructors: Robert Martin & Will Aitken

Readings:

1. Renaissance poetry: Barnfield, Shakespeare, Marlowe
2. Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*
3. Melville, *Billy Budd*
4. Wilde, *Picture of Dorian Gray*
5. Mann, *Death in Venice*
6. Gide, *L'Immoraliste*
7. Forster, *Maurice, The Life to Come*

8. Lawrence, *Women in Love*

9. Isherwood, *A Single Man*

10. Firbank, and of the novels; supplemented by Brophy's *Prancing Novelist*

11. selected poetry of Gunn, Field, Ginsberg, O'Hara, Duncan

12. Proust, *Sodome et Gomorinne*

13. Baldwin, *Giovanni's Room*

14. Purdy, *Eustace Chisholm and The Works*

15. Vidal, *Myra Breckenridge* and Myron

16. Williams, *Hard Candy*

17. Genet, *Funeral Rites and The Maids*

18. Canadian literature:

poetry by F. O. Call, E. A. Lacey

novels by Marie-Claire Blais, Scott Symons, Leonard Cohen

plays by John Herbert, Michel Tremblay

UCLA EXPERIMENTAL COLLEGE E 017510. HISTORY OF THE GAY MOVEMENT

Instructor: Jim Kepner

Topics: before the movement started, European movement 1865-1935, first national homophile organization and magazine, witch-hunting gays in the 1950's, re-organizations in the early sixties, mid-sixties militancy, rise of the Gay Church, Stonewall Riot empties some closets, new goals for gay liberation.

UCLA EXPERIMENTAL COLLEGE E 017536. GAY NOVELS: CREATING GAY CONSCIOUSNESS

Instructor: Jim Kepner

Readings: *The Well of Lonliness*, Maurice, *Quatrefoil*, *Another Country*, *City of Night*, *Thieves Journal*, *The Persian Boy*, *The Stoned Apocalypse*, *The Front Runner*.

QUEENS COLLEGE CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION: HOMOSEXUALITY

Instructor: Gregory Kane

1. Homophobia

J. Epstein, "Homo/Hetero: the struggle for sexual identity," *Harpers* Sept., 1970
S. Hadden, "A way out for homosexuals," *Harpers* Mar. 1967
J. O'Hara, "The sharks." From *Assembly*
J. D. Salinger, "Just before the war with the Eskimos." From *Nine Stories*
S. Anderson, "Hands." From *Winesburg, Ohio*
S. Kaufmann, "Fulvous yellow." From *Different: an Anthology of Homosexual Short Stories*

2. Black Homophobia

E. Cleaver, *Soul on Ice*

3. The Black Homosexual

J. Baldwin, *Another Country*
J. Osmundsen, "Doctor discusses 'mixed marriages.'" *New York Times* Nov. 7, 1965, p. 73

4. Aging: the older Homosexual

C. Dyer, *Staircase*
C. Isherwood, *A Single Man*

5. Lesbianism

V. Woolf, *A Room of one's Own*

6. The Homosexual as Artist

T. Williams, *A Streetcar named Desire*
E. Albee, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*
B. De Mott, "Yes but he's a homosexual...." *New American Review* Sept., 1967

7. The Homosexual as "Regular Guy"

C. Isherwood, *A Meeting by the River*
J. Reid, *The Best Little Boy in the World*

8. The Homosexual as Hero

Mary Renault, *The Charioteer*

9. Heterosexuality

F. S. Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA SOCIOLOGY 408.2: THE GAY AMERICAN

Instructor: Bob Kus

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Required books:

Abbott&Love, *Sappho was a Right-on Woman*
Perry&Lucus, *The Lord is My Shepherd & He Knows I'm Gay*
Richmond&Noquera, *The Gay Liberation Book*
Tobin&Wicker, *The Gay Crusaders*
Teal, *The Gay Militants*
Weinberg, *Society & the Healthy Homosexual*

campus shorts

The Graduate Employees Organization of the University of Michigan has asked the Administration to establish and fund a **Commission on the Status of Lesbians and Gay Graduate Student Assistants**. The purpose is "to conduct a survey of, and investigation into, the extent of past and present discriminatory attitudes and practices against lesbians and gay GSA's and applicants for GSA positions."

The current contract includes a nondiscrimination clause about "sexual preference," but the GEO questions the Administration's commitment to enforcement of the clause.

The Hastings Gay-Law Students Association is establishing a collection of briefs to assist attorneys and others in researching legal issues affecting gay women and men. It is to be a col-

lection of written arguments filed in court and administrative cases. The collection is to be available at the Hastings Law School Library. Contact: Hastings Gay-Law Students, 198 McAlister St., San Francisco, CA 94102.

The Gay Students Union of San Diego State University adopted a resolution calling for the suspension of all military recruiting and activity on campus. The reason for adoption was the blatant discrimination against gay people by the military. The resolution was acted upon by the Associated Student Council, which voted to kick out military recruiters. Contact: GSU, Room 305C Aztec Center, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92128.

feedback

The Public Interest Media Project has a listing called **Lesbian/Gay Radio Programs**. There is no charge indicated on the listing, but presumably a contribution to cover printing and mailing is appreciated. Contact: PIMP, 3916 Locust Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

The Gay Social Services Alliance has been established "to improve the quality and quantity of social services available to gay men and Lesbians [and] to encourage the use of gay/Lesbian oriented social services. Contact: Ron Ginsberg, 345 W. 21st St. No. 1A, New York, NY 10011.

A listing called **Lesbian and Gay Male Theater Resources** is available from the committee of the same name. It is an annotated listing of plays, performance pieces and theater companies and spaces. Contributions for the listing (financial or informational) are appreciated. (Make checks payable to Mattachine Society.) Contact: Lesbian/Gay Male Theater Resources, c/o Mattachine Society, 59 Christopher St., New York, NY 10014.



conferences

Want to know what you've missed or are missing? The following list includes some of the conferences which have taken place over the past year.

5th Annual Gay Awareness Symposium: Gay People's Alliance, Bellingham, WA, Feb. 8-12

3rd Annual Human Sexuality Conference: A Gay Perspective: University of Pittsburgh, Feb. 23-25.

Lesbian Expression: Lesbians of Syracuse(NY), March 5-7.

Southeastern Gay Conference: University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, April 2-4.

Normal Gay Convention: Gay People's Alliance, Illinois State University at Normal, April 2-4.

Gay Consciousness Symposium: Gay Community of Delaware, April 10th.

Gay Academic Unions of California Symposium: San Francisco State University, April 15-17.

Gay Pride Festival: University of Southern Florida, June 25-27.

2nd National Men's Conference: Pennsylvania State University (the site may have been changed), July 30- Aug. 1.

Faggots and Class Struggle: Eugene, OR, Sept. 4-6.

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