PUBLIC FORUM MAKES ITS DEBUT

Welcome to the ARC March Forum on Homosexuality. You are witnessing the first major event of ARC's Community Education Program... an attempt to openly and accurately confront you with the subject of homosexuality.

Many of you have already received written information on the subject in a special 4-part series of mailings to a cross-section of the community. More forums are planned; more mailings are due.

Rick Stokes, chairman of the Association for Responsible Citizenship, began the special educational program to, as he says, "create a dialogue between the homosexual and heterosexual." It is our hope that you will respond. We're ready!

The ARC NEWS 25¢
APRIL, 1967 VOL. II NO. 3

THE FIGURE BEHIND THE FORUM

ARC's March Forum didn't just happen. The splendid list of speakers were selected after many weeks of hard work, by ARC Chairman Rick Stokes. Back when the forum was only a suggestion for the ARC Community Education Program, it was Rick who picked up on it and gave it the impetus it needed. Where to hold it... what local authorities can comprise the panel... meetings and more meetings... a few setbacks... how to finance it... draw up a program... mail invitations... spread the word, and visit opinion leaders personally. Rick did all of this. And like the go-getter he is, once more his enthusiasm and energy brought to ARC members a reminder that he is the success story behind their organization.

Rick could easily devote his life to the growing homophile movement. His devotion pushes him to campaign almost every moment he is able, whether it be on a person-to-person basis or to a gathering. When an answer is needed, Rick responds like a champ. When a personal problem needs attention, Rick approaches it with genuine interest and concern. No

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Journal Views Glide Methodist

The March 13th issue of the Wall Street Journal carried a lengthly article describing the ministry of San Francisco's Glide Memorial Methodist Church.

What makes the church a subject for controversy is its extreme leaning to a secular profile in ministry. This movement away from strict religious codes has brought Glide into the role of 'big brother' in its dealings with social 'mis-fits'. As the Journal's staff reporter Howard Merry points out:

> Finally, its pink Spanish-style building is strategically situated at the edge of San Francisco's Tenderloin district, a neighborhood notorious for prostitution, drunkenness, drug addiction, and violent misbehavior. The Tenderloin's 20-odd blocks, glutted with dowdy hotels and apartments, musty stores, "gay" bars, sailors' hangouts and cheap diners, offer an ample supply of human misery for Glide to deal with.

The Council on Reli-

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Journal Views Glide Methodist

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gion and the Homosexual is a product of Glide Methodist Church, and has proved its ability to bring the church into the spectrum of the homosexuals' needs and wants.

Glide's ministers are especially concerned about homosexuality. It is widespread in San Francisco. Police estimate that 80,000 to 90,000 San Franciscans, or more than 10% of the city's 790,000 people, are homosexuals.

Glide permitted the Vanguards, a group of young male prostitutes, to have a dance in the church. Glide also has made office space available to the Vanguards, helped them secure a clubroom, and bought them furniture.

"We were the only ones who would respond to the needs of these people," says Mr. Williams. "If you make yourself available to people, there's got to be a complete commitment. A commitment just to help those it's easy to help is hypocritical."

Most any Sunday service at Glide is held before a full house. Although many family members have long ceased to support the church for its 'unorthodox principles', it remains the 'people's church' and caters mainly to esoteric individuals and outsiders visiting San Francisco.

Not everyone connected with Glide has been happy with the direction the church has taken. Mr. Williams figures that between 20% and 40% of the members it had three years ago, when it started its programs, have departed. A former parishioner complains, "It has gotten into things the church has no business being involved with; it negates the religious experience you expect from your church."

On the other hand, a need for further emphasis on the Church's present direction is expressed...

"We have to come to grips with the world the way it is," says the Rev. Cecil Williams, one of the church's ministers. Another, the Rev. Lewis Durham, adds: "If we hide, deny, or refuse to engage and be reborn into this new kind of world, then in fact we refuse to participate in God's work."

If Glide's activities appear unorthodox, its ministers say, it is largely because of a strong "anti-urban" strain in American Protestant thinking. While most denominations have willingly, even eagerly, dispatched missionaries to primitive and sometimes savage foreign lands, many religious leaders have shied away from work in the domestic "jungles."

Heretofore, says Mr. Durham, "The role of the church in the city was somehow to save people from the evils of the city and to remind them of the sanctity of their rural heritage." But no matter how "atheistic, Godless, immoral, demonic" modern city life may seem to be, Mr. Durham says, God created it and loves it.

THE FIGURE BEHIND THE FORUM

- From Page One -

one beams with more personality and more heart than Rick. No monotony in him!

Being in the position of ARC Chairman, Rick is aptly suited to the job of homophile spokesman. He knows and understands the homosexual fully. It takes courage, patience, and an open mind to perform the task. And... whether it be a forum or a forethought, Rick is there to guide ARC all the way.

L. A. Brutality Case Appealed

The case of police brutality in Los Angeles and the court session which followed brought attention to Penal Code 647-a.

Most of the defendants were charged under Penal Code 647 (a) prohibiting lewd conduct. Some defendants were allegedly observed kissing one another at the stroke of midnight on New Years Eve.

Those arrested were naturally panicky and anxious to obtain an attorney. Rather than calling the National League for Social Understanding (a Los Angeles homophile organization) or one of the other reliable organizations in the area, an obscure tavern owner was consulted, resulting in the hiring of one Ray Smith, who proved to be very inadequate. The strong recommendations made by the NLSU to the victims resulted in the hiring of Herbert Selwyn, who is well known in California for his excellent legal work.

Mr. Smith unfortunately lost six of the cases, which Mr. Selwyn is now appealing to the higher courts. It may well be that two males kissing on the side of the cheek in public will be declared NOT a lewd act. If the appeal is successful, it may force the California Legislature to rewrite section 647-a over again to make it more exact and concise as to what a lewd act in contemporary society might be.

-NLSU Newsletter

Will Community Center in Yolo be the Only Answer for ARC ?

Several months ago ARC'ers became very enthused over the idea of having a Community Center in which all their activities could be held. The idea of such a center is not new. SIR, our nearby 'sister' organization of some 600 members, holds nightly events in their downtown San Francisco community center. And, much of SIR's success is due to the fact that the center is their 'home'.

It was decided to call off plans for an ARC community center when Police Chief Rooney, unfamiliar with the homophile cause, said emphatically, "We'll take all of you to jail should we find the slightest violation." An ARC center within the city limits would only attract harrassment from police, thereby insuring the failure of such a venture. Rooney, who feels that trouble ensues whenever homosexuals congregate, will not give an official sanction to the center as he feels "homosexuality is against the law."

ARC has since come to the conclusion that it may be necessary for us to accept defeat and join the ranks of an open vice situation existing in nearby Yolo County. It is not in our interest to succumb to the pressures that be and reluctantly locate in an area where we could be classified and looked upon as "just one of those evils."

Should we wait for better police relations and locate in our own city? Could we brave the risk of going ahead without police approval? Or should we take the easy way out and settle in an out-of-town vice center? The question remains unanswered, and ARC remains impatiently taught in a decision.

BY MINISTERS

ROONEY REVISITED

Three prominent Sacramento ministers paid a visit to Police Chief Joseph Rooney in behalf of ARC. Their visit was primarily to extend a personal invitation to the ARC March Forum on Homosexuality.

The cordial reception met with partial success when Rooney, unable to accept due to a previous commitment, assigned one of his staff to stand in his behalf.

a special thanks to all who donated towards the forum

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The TID BIT

One of Sacramento's former beer guzzlers is now Guy Strait's little pet copy boy. He tells us that Straits upcoming "Maverick" won't be out for awhile yet.

Seen, or rather heard at the Topper.... Racheal practicing bird calls from an instruction manual left behind by a sailor. Anyone for lessons?

Well it's an open secret- this area will have its second liquor spot if all goes well.

The biggest social event in some time was down in Berkeley on the 25th with Mel hosting.

Jacquette's to enlarge its facilities in another month to an adjoining building.

Special to Carolyn: Forget the mail-run and take an express to San Francisco. We gave up looking for the action ages ago, mainly 'cause their ain't none.

How cum department- The most obvious queen in town (of which there are dozens) always pulls the same tired routine of, "Oh dear, I simply couldn't jeopardize my life to join ARC!!!" It never fails.

RELIGION: An Unused Efficacy

At a recent meeting of some concerned Sacramento ministers, the following questions arose:
1- What does the homosexual community expect the clergy to do?
2- If a minister goes out on a limb with his congregation to support the homophile movement, WHO will be behind him?... the same few who have been behind the entire program... or is the homosexual community ready to back people who are standing up for them?

The following indicates the degree of involvement of the homosexual community to date:

ARC used the Oak Park Methodist Church facilities for a year. The minister in that congregation took a grave risk by extending the use of his building to ARC. In that year, not one additional homosexual came to a church service or any other church function. Is the homosexual so totally devoid of responsibility, and is he so self-centered that he sees no world but his own with himself and sex in the center.

As some of you know, the minister of the Oak Park Methodist Church received a political appointment, and as a result, pressure was put on him to close the doors of the church to the homosexual community. His decision must have been affected by the seeming apathy on the part of the homosexual. Some of the members of the church have attended ARC meetings (when invited) and otherwise expressed real human concern. These people, too have been influenced by lack of interest of the homosexual. Four or five homosexuals attending the church even infrequently might have been enough to bring some of the congregation out in our behalf.

A continued dialogue between clergy and homosexual is sorely needed if the clergy is to know enough about homosexuals and their differences to be willing and able to take a decisive role in changing community attitudes.

The excuses for not getting involved flow readily: "I have a sensitive job." (Do you really think that there is anyone whose job is not sensitive at this point, at least in his own eyes?). "I wouldn't dare go to an ARC meeting; it's not safe." (After a year and a half, we still have not experienced trouble, and don't expect any). If your job is such that you can take no active role, that is easily understood... but your unwillingness to contribute from your beer fund or clothes fund can only be attributed to selfishness and an unwillingness to extend a helping hand even to those who labor in your behalf.

"THE HOMOSEXUALS"

CBS Reports Did a Fair Job

CBS Reports, in its March 7th study on homosexuality, gave to the American television audience a well-rounded reel of realism which may have left some homophile organizations to scratching their sacroilliacks.

One important factor was brought to the surface: Opinion Research concluded that the general public carries a highly critical view of homosexuality, at a level slightly higher than one held by an individual from W. Virginia interviewed during a protest demonstration by the Mattachine Society of Washington DC. He felt that homosexuals "should be locked up."

Should this be an accurate sampling of the public's opinion, it may well be that the program could have been somewhat sympathetic to the homosexual cause. As such, it may be fair to surmise that had it been any more out of line with public attitudes, it may never have been given clearance for airing.

The program served its purpose by getting the issue on the table for examination. It did not provide the viewer with sufficient means for strengthening his existing attitudes on homosexuality.

Area Police Learn Facts in Dealing with Prejudice

"Performance on one level makes it easier to justify action on a lower level:"

The only way to minimize prejudice, Sanderson asserts, is to learn how to deal with our own frustrations, "to face our human relations openly and honestly," or the accumulated frustrations likely will be "projected irrationally toward someone else."

Accumulated frustrations, he says, finally give way to aggression. The aggression, in turn, is "displaced by hostility."

"Groups of people can become the scapegoats for this hostility," the church official believes.

A feature article in the Sunday, March 19 Sacramento Bee described how Sacramento's police force is being instructed on the subject of prejudice. Heading the instruction course is M.J. Sanderson, a Presbyterian Church official from San Francisco. The series of talks is aimed at improving communications between police officers and minority groups.

It is truly enlightening to see the subject of human relations entering into the area of police science. Homosexuality is as much a topic for consideration as any. Although there is no indication it will be discussed, the 14-week program may well bring about some form of understanding in future dealings with the homosexual minority, as well as other minorities.

Whether or not the general public, or for that matter the homosexual can swallow such a large and concentrated dose of film, remains as a challenge and goal.

This may be the month your ARC membership expires. Why not renew it now while you're thinking about it!

Jacquette's ALL ARE WELCOME
Tower Ct. at W. Capitol Avenue in West Sacramento

EPITAPH FOR A QUEEN

Here lies Mary Beth Grace:
May she roast in that hot place;
Her contributions to life were few;
In the local bar, she found her pew.

As, yes, we knew her very well,
With her cutting tongue and shallow mind.
Each day to some poor listener she would tell
In great detail of last night's find.

Poor Mary, she's gone and no one mourned,
She might as well have not been borned;
For all the effect she made on the world
Was that of flag meeting moth still unfurled.

But Mary had a sensitive job,
Not one of the rank and file mob
Was she; No, Mary was a real queen or so she said,
And it's true she was well fed.

Though not very well read. Play?
Oh, like the movies, but just here for a day.
I don't think so, she would say. Books?
Sure, Tomorrow's Man and all those good looks.

Twas always fate that gave her a raw deal.
She stuck to that story till the bell's last peal;
Twas never any failure of her own, no deed
Of hers; not lust, not gluttony, not fault, not greed.

If you don't want to end up like Mary, reach out to the people who tarry there in life as you pass by. Be a person to another on some level other than sex. Don't say your life is full of closed doors... for if it is, you closed them and you can open them. Just for one week, take the "I" out of your talk and replace it with "you". Worry about someone else and see how quickly others will look out for you. No matter what your problem, there is always someone who will find it less than his. "...I wept because I had no shoes, until I met the man who had no feet."
This very minute is YOUR life passing by; don't wait for a rerun; there isn't any, not even an encore.

SIR

The Society for Individual Rights, otherwise known as SIR, is San Francisco's big homophile organization. In fact, by membership alone SIR is the largest club in the country with over 600 members. Less than three years old, SIR possesses all the requirements necessary for a dynamic and positive future, and has demonstrated its abilities time and time again.

But SIR isn't simply an organization.... it's a body. The moment one enters the SIR Community Center, the lifeblood of this body is apparent with all the hustle of people engaged in various duties and responsibilities. The Center, now a year old, covers all of 5,500 sq. ft. It can accomodate up to 500 people.

Within the center are business offices, a library, a lounge-TV area, an auditorium and ballroom with stage, a kitchen, and a conference room. Thousands of persons have witnessed the many plays and events held here which includes the yearly Sirlebrity Capades.

SIR members can take their pick of activities which range from skiing to square dancing. On the serious side, a community services board provides referrals for employment, housing, legal counsel, and other needs. SIR co-operates and encourages participation with Citizens Alert (handles complaints of unjust police actions), the ACLU, Tavern Guild, and CRH.

It publishes a monthly magazine known simply as Vector, which in itself is a journalistic masterpiece. The first issue of Vector appeared in December of 1964 as a 4-page sheet. The most recent issue is 24 pages of interesting news, and tasteful advertising.

vector

SIR is proving its effectiveness with the homophile cause, and has brought into existence a unique relationship with the Police Community Relations Unit of which Officer Elliot Blackstone is their primary laison. Recently elected as SIR President is Dorr Jones, who succeded William Beardemphl, now heading Vector.

And so goes SIR, continuing in a fast-moving course to greater things. Truly a workable and democratic body worthy of recognition and praise.

You're Invited to the "Be-in"

ARC holds its regular open monthly business meetings every second Tuesday of the month. The April get-together falls on the 11th, and will be held at Barry's house.

NEWS CHANGE

This issue of ARC News is not the usual 5 column width. It is also made to exact scale instead of being reduced down to 8½x11 from the standard 11x14 size.

The changes were made to accomodate an unforeseen shortage of publication time. You may therefore, find a larger than usual type-face and wider columns with, unfortunately, less lineage. The next issue is to be produced exactly the same, as the regional conference will cut into prime publication time.

WATER COOLER FOR SALE

A good chance and time to buy that water cooler you need. It's in good condition and was donated to us by one of our members. It's yours for only $85.00

ARC NEWS

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TOGETHER NOW IN DEATH...

ALICE B. TOKLAS
GERTRUDE STEIN

"I Know So Little About it"

The following excerpts from a letter were written by a Sacramento mother of two and addressed to ARC News:

We all know and agree that the subject of homosexuality is a very confusing one. Few of us are willing to openly discuss it, possibly because most people know so little about it and don't want to. It is now considered to be a social problem, and will become more so if people continue to have such closed minds and victorian attitudes regarding homosexuality.

I don't feel pity or contempt towards homosexuals, but it confuses me as much as anyone. It even depresses me to a degree because I, like so many others, know so little about it. We all would like to know the how and why this happens; when the deciding factor occurs between heterosexual and homosexual; and what motivates any of us to be the way we are?

The answers to these questions and many others can only be achieved with one trying to understand the other and help, if help is needed or wanted.

VD

THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY HEALTH CLINIC IS TRAINED TO OFFER PROFESSIONAL AND COMPLETE TREATMENT OF V.D. IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE