

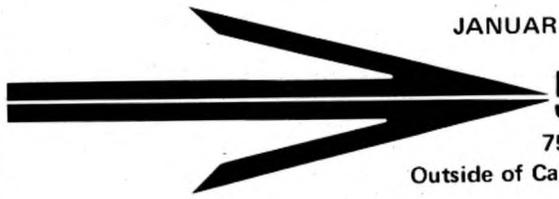
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VOL. 5 NO. 1
JANUARY 1969

VECTOR is the official publication of the SOCIETY FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, an organization dedicated to the education of all people who may be interested in better understanding the homosexual community.

Articles represent the viewpoint of the writers and are not necessarily the opinion of the SOCIETY FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.

WHAT IS S.I.R.?

"Believing in our democratic heritage and that ethical values are self-determined and limited only by every person's right to decide his own, we organize for: the reaffirming of individual pride and dignity regardless of orientation; the elimination of the public stigma attached to human self-expression; the accomplishing of effective changes in unjust laws concerning private relationships among consenting adults; the giving of real and substantial aid to members in difficulties; the promoting of better physical, mental and emotional health; the creating of a sense of community; and the establishing of an attractive social atmosphere and constructive outlets for members and their friends."

Preamble, S.I.R. Constitution

IS S.I.R. A SUCCESS?

In three years S.I.R. has become the largest active homophile organization in the United States. S.I.R. continues to expand and is favorably recognized by the broader community for its mature and intelligent approach.

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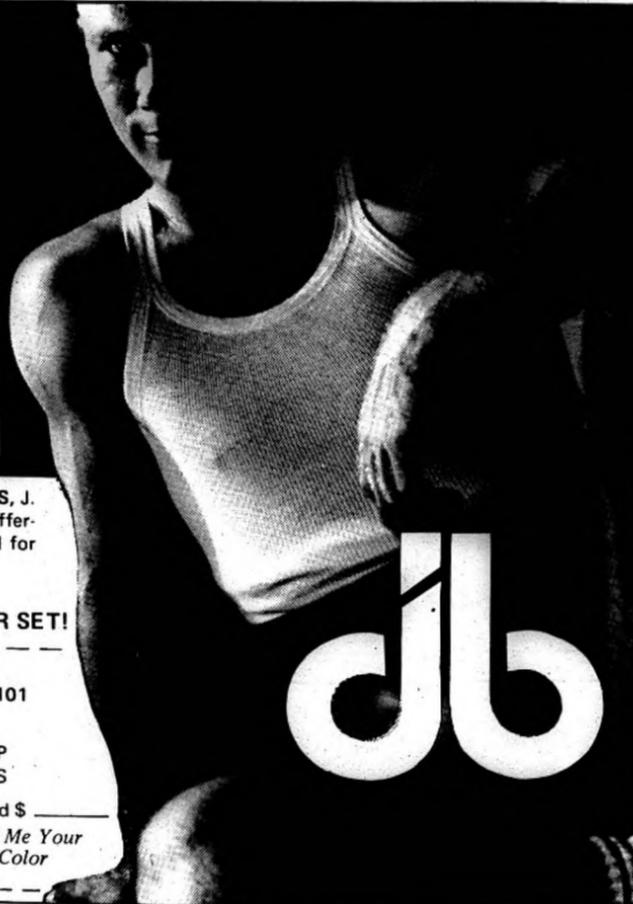
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Well, what do you think about State College? Perhaps, while hiding behind a middle class "straight" facade, we might be moved to supporting the "no nonsense" policy which deals with "those troublemakers". But, perhaps, on closer analysis, we would see that such a policy is actually brutal police state suppression and that "those troublemakers" are actually a determined, intelligent minority (not unlike the homosexual minority), crying for an education and a nation which is relevant to them.

Of course, much of the problem lies with the distorted information given by the media. Being on the campus every day and close to the facts, it is disturbing to read actual lies in the paper. And the shortness and superficiality of the commercial television reports is appalling. In fact, without watching Channel 9's Newsroom (7PM weekdays) or being on the campus one really has no knowledge of what is happening! The media has chosen only to cover the most sensational developments. No attempt is made to put things into perspective. And everything is written from the white establishment's point of view (after all, who owns the TV stations and the papers?) How about attempting to see things as one of society's minority members?

Let's review the facts. Three years ago minority students began to ask the authorities to redirect the campus somewhat in the direction of providing a more relevant education—and provide it to more minority students. By a relevant education, they mean that minority teachers—not middle class whites—should be "rapping" with minority students about what it means to be, in effect, colonized within this country. They are disturbed that Africa is pictured as a land of ignorant savages rather than the place where paper was invented. History has omitted that fact that the first man to die in the revolution was black, so was the man who discovered the system of typing blood (he died on a street because they wouldn't give him a transfusion of a white mans blood). The Chinese dialect taught at State is not even spoken by the majority of Chinese descendents in San Francisco. Chinatown is a wretched ghetto, not a curio shop; and the financial district is anxious to gobble it up under the self-righteous banner of "urban renewal."

Many promises were made to these students; black studies courses were begun in various departments; a PhD was hired to head a "paper" Black Studies Department, but he has no real power. This fall, the Black Students Union and the Third World Liberation Front decided that the time had come for action. They

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

State College From A Homosexual Perspective

By Morgan Pinney

drew up a list of 15 demands. They could have easily have listed 50 demands and negotiated down to 15, but they only listed 15 and said they were "non-negotiable."

Essentially, the demands involve a School of Ethnic Studies with 20 faculty positions, run autonomously by black and third world people who would decide curriculum, faculty, etc. Admission of black and third world students was to be unlimited, regardless of qualifications. And they were to run the office of student aid.

At first glance the demands and their non-negotiable presentation may seem impertinent. If so, perhaps we're viewing it from our perspective rather than trying to see it through the eyes of others. These people are products of a ghetto and a minority status where harassment, degradation, and non-respect (not to mention non-negotiation) has been a way of life. In a larger context, all they're asking for is a chance to control their own destinies; to "tell it like it is" among black and third-world peoples, not the way white administrators say it is. If all the minority applicants are admitted, the school won't be overrun; there just aren't that many. How about qualifications? Dwell on this: many minority youth, like Huey Newton, are graduated from California high schools illiterate. Maybe they deserve another chance.

A general campus strike was called November 6. The student government and many white groups supported the strike. Some classes were disrupted forcefully with attendant property damage, while others were merely visited and the strike explained. The school was closed, reopened, meetings held, etc.

On November 26th, President Robert Smith resigned. Smith was a man with great support from the faculty who patiently tried to listen to all parties, strikers and faculty, while at the same time operating within the narrow constraints directed by the Board of Trustees. He was a man who believed it was better to close classes and talk rather than use force to restore order.

Then began the saddest turn of events. Dr. S. I. Hiakawa of the schools English Department, was appointed acting president. He cancelled the final day of the convocation, then in session, thereby ending the only dialogue on the campus. Declaring a state of emergency, banning campus rallies, he tried to open the campus after Thanksgiving with 600 police.

These police are armed and extremely dangerous. They wear heavy protective helmets and carry 3 foot clubs. Day after day, we saw them not merely protect property or make arrests. They formed up, turned on the students nearest them, attacked, persuaded, and severely beat those they caught. Then they poked their victims all the way to the wagon and squirted mace in their faces, even while choking them with clubs. If anyone wondered what the word "pig" meant, they learned on the San Francisco State campus.

But these "get tough" policies have been a failure. Rallies were held every day, despite the state of emergency. Thousands of people assemble each day in sympathy at the center of campus, while Reagan and Rafferty talk about a "handful" of troublemakers. But they don't dare tell the public the extent of campus support for the strikers. Classes are anything but normal. Even those classes being held end up discussing the "issues" many times. Some departments are virtually closed; many classes are being held off campus. Many students are attending class only because right-wing teachers are taking strict attendance and flunking absentees. Violence on campus has escalated many fold since the arrival of the police. There were no bloodied heads before then. Two windows were broken before the police arrived; now broken windows number in the hundreds.

It was at this point that men like Willie Brown, Cecil Williams, Carlton Goodlet made public their support of the black strikers at SFSC. These men were not present when the crisis began, when it was still a campus affair. But then with the power of the state at work brutalizing these voices of dissent, they wanted to make certain that everyone knew of their opposition to "Reganism."

(Continued on next page)

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With the strike in its sixth week, the acting president closed the campus one week early for Christmas. Thousands of sympathizing students were expected on campus from other area schools already on vacation. And the AFT, teachers union, was about to go on strike, probably with the support of all other unions in the city.

But those are merely the details—the symptoms. To understand what is really happening, one needs to look into the reality of California politics. It is nothing less than Governor Reagan and reactionary right-wing political forces which are present on the State campus, suppressing a vocal minority who have had the gaul to say that the America which has been great for General Motors and Texas oilmen has been cruel and inhuman to many human beings.

While the president of the college has the power to unleash police against students, he has little power to really manage the college. For example, he has control over fewer funds than the student body president. Real power lies with the Board of Trustees appointed by the governor for four year terms. They sit in Los Angeles and dictate amazingly detailed policy to the 18 state colleges. They allocate funds so stringently that they hve virtually pauperized San Francisco State College. In fact, the San Francisco campus is running a \$300,000 deficit while the trustees have a \$3½ million surplus in other funds, according to the AFT. Implementation of the student demands will take money, naturally, and only the trustees have it.

But their power goes beyond that. Recently they turned down the design of a new student union, even though the entire cost was to be born by student fees. The trustees alone can negotiate with the AFT. They are about to vote themselves the power to veto the existence of any student organization; dissident organizations like BSU could simply be snuffed out. Another proposal is to place one trustee on each campus to practice minute-by-minute control.

Governor Reagan sits as one of the trustees. Of course, it's significant that he has political power to do things to the other trustees, and the power to reappoint them. But such power is not really necessary. The trustees are of the same frame of mind as Reagan and others in the power stucture. They are rich, propertied people who have a great stake in preserving the status quo.

Their position is that a college should perpetuate the system as it exists. And the present system is one which is run by

whites, where de facto segregation make lucrative slums (rents are high, maintenance nil, mobility impossible), where "money talks" and property rights precede human rights. They see control of the state's higher education as "the first priority" because California's extensive university system has turned out to be just that—a university where new ideas are explored and the environment questioned—a very serious threat to the establishment.

Just this fall, Reagan made a major issue of Eldridge Cleaver's UC Berkeley lectures on racism (and who is more an authority), then used the resulting furor to introduce a resolution before the UC Regents that would have removed all the power granted to the UC faculty since 1920. Public opinion is not so much a fixed quantity as it is something which Reagan seeks to manipulate. His TV reports to the people and masterpieces of propaganda.

The AFT union's role on the campus has been significant. They have stepped into the police-student stalemate and become a third force. The San Francisco labor council has voted them strike sanctions. Thus, if a strike is called and the sanctions are released by the council leadership, no other unions will cross the picket line; nor will the police. The campus would be effectively closed. The union is not merely using the crisis to gain selfish ends. They are putting the burden on the trustees where it belongs. They are not speaking for the students but rather demanding that the college be given the autonomy and the money to solve its crises. They are demanding that the trustees provide a solution and not ask the school to make sacrifices (such as an increased teaching load) which they can ill afford.

Once the union made its move, two nationally known negotiators came into the picture. A citizen's committee was formed, and the trustees sent representatives to "talk". At Vector presstime, this was the only hopeful sign on the State College campus.

So, what do you think about State College? Seen from another perspective:

1. An articulate minority asked, then demanded, certain changes at SFSC which would allow them to determine their own destiny.

2. A strike was called and some extemporaneous violence ocured, although it was not an organized part of the strike.

3. Patient, intelligent attention to the deep social problems raised ended with the resignation of President Smith.

(Continued on Page 29)

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THE REALITY OF BEING



John Lawrence Gigl

A world of literature exists regarding the phenomenon of homosexuality — most of it sick. It also strikes one that no one seems the least bit concerned about the phenomenon of heterosexuality. This can perhaps best be explained by the Judeo-Christian culture in which we live.

It is not my intention to go into the history of our sexual culture and the ramifications extant in our society. Churchill, Marmor, Bailey and others have preceded me in this with outstanding results. Let it suffice to say that it does exist and that its existence didn't develop in a vacuum. We are also well aware of the majority of societies attitudes toward the homosexual. To dissect this for causative factors is not within the scope of this paper.

But what is encouraging is that some thinking and concerned people are doing some meaningful research in the area of homosexuality with positive results. Here again the sick theory gets the predominant publicity. Bieber's study can't be representative research by any knowledgeable person in the field of social science. To take 106 homosexual subjects, undergoing psychoanalytic treatment and then to extend this to the total homosexual population is doing a gross disservice to the cause of scientific inquiry. On the other hand we have the painstaking studies of Dr. Evelyn Hooker. One of her studies carefully analyzed psychological profiles of 30 homosexuals and 30 heterosexuals. Results: a homosexual can be as normally adjusted to his life's situation as any heterosexual.

Where I'd like to put my emphasis, and which it is felt totally overlooked, it is in the personhood of the human being. To say that a homosexual can't be sick is begging the question and as gross a distortion as saying that the heterosexual

can't be sick. There may be societal pressures with which the homosexual has to cope with which doesn't exist for the heterosexual. But his is society's problem and not that of the individual. Certainly society-at-large is a factor in an individual's adjustment to it, but it is still large and nebulous enough that any person can make a satisfactory adjustment within it. Profound moral theologians will readily admit that the first court of law is a persons own conscience. Here we have another problem.

Conscience (super-ego) is developed within a very small unit of society which exerts a profound influence on the growing organism. These cultural determinants are formed within the microcosm of the family unit. It is here where the person begins and is formed.

I would like to swiftly dispose of genetic or organic causations of homosexuality because there isn't a study extant which validate any hypothesis along these lines. Certainly genetics have their influences upon how others look at or treat us. A genetic combination of blue eyes and black hair will have an effect upon those who view this. But this is at best superficial because the reality of being goes to the core of a personality and this has ultimately nothing to do with genetics.

The new born comes into an environment as unique as each parent makes it. It is in this environment that a person begins to function. It is in this environment that a personality begins to form. It is this personality that a person has to deal with for the rest of his life. We are not born with a personality — it is formed. We are not born with a built in ability for love or a reaching out for

(Continued on Page 22)



by Larry Littlejohn

The beginning of a New Year is an appropriate time to sit down and take a look into the future. What will 1969 be like for the homosexual? What will 1969 be like for S.I.R.

It is safe to predict that in 1969 there will be more public awareness and discussion of homosexuality than at anytime in the past. There will be more and more movies, plays, and books with a frank homosexual theme. There will be an increase in commercial business efforts appealing to the homosexual as a consumer of goods and services. In San Francisco we see a continuation of our wonderful variety and abundance of outstanding gay bars and gay business establishments.

In 1969 the homosexual will, like most citizens, probably be materially better off than ever before. But he will share the frustration and dangers of a society that is failing to adequately respond to many large problems—an unpopular war that divides the country; fair treatment of minority groups; decent and realistic assistance to the poor and the aged; conservation of natural resources and preservation of a healthy living environment.

What will 1969 bring for the success of important goals of the homophile movement: criminal law reform; equal employment opportunity; education of the general public toward acceptance of sexual difference? It is difficult to be optimistic that there will be much meaningful change for the better in the next year. There are very few hopeful signs. Homosexual law reform succeeded in Illinois some 8 years ago. Since then reform of the criminal law along the lines recommended by the American Law Institute has failed in at least half a dozen states. The recent Scott vs. Macy decision says nothing that would point to substantial changes in Federal employment policy coming out of the Federal courts. Even in liberal San Francisco our Board of Education has been uptight over taking an honest

approach to sex education in the public schools.

What will 1969 bring for S.I.R. as an organization? At this point I would have to say that it is impossible to make a good prediction. We have the POTENTIAL to do many things this year. We COULD: double the membership or better; have a social activities program that is going 7 days a week with an appeal to a large number of persons; have a larger and better Community Center building and possibly one we owned; become an organization with muscle that is well known and well respected by the local power structure; influence legislation affecting the homosexual both at City Hall and at Sacramento.

I would like to predict that we will realize our potential and become the vital, strong, meaningful organization so many of us dreamed of in the years past. But in complete honesty I have to say that none of this will come about until many more homosexuals who have yet to become committed join with S.I.R. or other organizations to work through organized effort for the betterment of the homosexual's place in society.

If 1969 is to be a successful year for S.I.R. we will need far more PEOPLE POWER and MONEY POWER than we had in 1968. Will those of us who are now involved in S.I.R. and those who have not yet become involved meet the challenges and the opportunities of this New Year?

S.I.R. Committee and Membership meeting dates are announced in Gold Sheet, Vector and are listed at the office. Committee meetings are open to both members and non-members.

S.I.R. membership costs \$10.00. A membership application form is on the title page of this Vector.

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A. S.I.R. Way of Meeting The Challenge of Gay Life

The S.I.R. Small Activities have been around as long as S.I.R. When S.I.R. was still in the minds of its founders they realized that S.I.R. would have to be a very different and unique Organization in order to succeed. At the time S.I.R. was founded, the existing Organizations were offering nothing to the community and were having a very difficult time communicating with the Gay and the square Communities. In order for S.I.R. to relate to the Community, something offering entertainment and social activities was needed. Part of this program was the founding of the Small Activities.

These Activities could vary and change, grow or shrink, as they would adapt themselves to the community and its needs. This is exactly what has happened over the last four years.

As S.I.R. has grown so have our Small Activities; As S.I.R. has shrunk, so have Small Activities. The Small Activities are open to members as well as non-members and has introduced many members into our Organization. These activities varied from sewing, cooking, poetry, to ice skating, skiing, dancing. Whatever is in demand by a group, the Small Activities committee organizes it so that individuals wanting to do their thing within a group can get together and do it.

The S.I.R. conversation groups have been one of the oldest Small Activities in S.I.R. They have gone from once a week to three times a week and back to once a week. The home of Mr. James Fooks has always been offered very generously for these Conversation groups for the past four years.

My first introduction to S.I.R. was at the home of Mr. Vince Algood as a Small Activity group was being formed to celebrate Christmas. My next S.I.R. function was the Conversation group the following Friday at Mr. Fooks house. It was because of these two pleasant and worthwhile meetings of other gay persons on a people level that led to my taking

out a membership in S.I.R. And so it has gone for many a member of S.I.R.

The S.I.R. bowlers first started with three persons liking to bowl. It has grown strongly guided by Mr. Geller, Mike Gary, Kevin Macree and others. Now over 90 bowlers meet weekly. Various business's got on this band wagon and sponsored many of the teams. Presently the Community League is one of the most popular bowling groups at the Haight Street Bowl. The reasons for the success of the Small Activity is because of the cooperation of the members and other groups, as the Coits, T.G.S.F., etc. The good will and public relations that has been accomplished by our Community league every Monday and Wednesday evening is among the best being accomplished by the Gay Community in San Francisco. Our best wishes go to this fabulous group of S.I.R. members and non-members. Keep up the good work and have a ball.

The Ski group was inspired by Mr. John Borset. Most of the S.I.R. members have referred to this group as our very own jet set for where there is snow, there these men go. They have chartered planes, buses, cars, etc. to do their thing in the snow. This group has handled themselves in such a way that S.I.R. has received many letters commending S.I.R. and welcoming the S.I.R. skiers back anytime.

The S.I.R. poets are a small group but I am sure all of you realize the poems and the work that has come out of this group which appears monthly in the Vector. The poets of S.I.R. communicate with poets all over the country, and some of their work has appeared in other magazines across the country.

During the summer months we had our swimming groups going to the beach every weekend. As many as 30 people would meet at S.I.R. Center, pile in the cars and gaily fly down to a beach, for a day of fun in the surf.

These are but some of the many activities that are bringing together members of the gay community on a person to person basis. These kind of activities make better persons out of all who engage in them. No longer do you look on other gay persons as just a sex object or reject them as just not a sex object.

I guess one of the ways to judge the success of S.I.R. would be to look at the Small Activities program. We have had as many as 20 groups functioning and as few as 6. Membership participation is important to the success of S.I.R. When

(Continued on Page 22)

SAN FRANCISCO: Now that the 1968 holidays are past, we can concentrate on the coming events for 69.

My most memorable card this year was an invitation to the inauguration of Bob Gonzales as Supervisor. Events like this make me feel that all the work and time devoted to S.I.R. have been worthwhile.

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK: I wasn't quite ready for the article from "The Boys in the Band" playing for a Sunday worship in Brooklyn. We quote in part:

"A Presbyterian church in Brooklyn Heights was the setting yesterday for a two-hour worship service and symposium on the subject of homosexuality.

The Rev. William Glenesk, Minister of Spencer Memorial Church at Clinton and Remsen Streets, answered the obvious question in his sermon yesterday. Why air the subject at Sunday worship?

"As Christians," he said, "we must think, we must reason and we must look at one another with love and compassion. The Bible is more concerned with distortions of the spirit than the flesh. And variations of sex are not sin."

Mr. Glenesk described the play as a "brilliant insight into the loneliness, the

London, which is, frankly, no substitute for SF in my view.

Sincerely,
louis crompton

P.S. I might mention that we have a Lincoln-Omaha CRH going here and held a meeting in Omaha on pastoral counseling. I am president and the Rev. "Van" Vanstrom of the First Unitarian Church, Omaha, is the vice-president.

On November 11, 1968, *Inside ACLU*, the weekly bulletin of the American Civil Liberties Union, carried the following report:

Nebraska Pushes National on Homosexuals in Army

Should homosexuals be treated by the armed forces exactly as their heterosexual brothers? The Nebraska Civil Liberties Union thinks so, and urges that ACLU's national policy on homosexuals should say so specifically.

A two-page statement analyzing the choice between self-incrimination and perjury forced on a homosexual faced with military induction, and questioning the legitimacy of military interest in a man's sexual orientation at all, was

unrealistic. Though estimates vary, it seems likely that between five and ten per cent of men in the United States are predominantly homosexual in orientation. The overwhelming majority of these men enter the services and serve without difficulties, sometimes with distinction. Even with the present policy of ferreting out homosexuals, it has been estimated that less than two per cent of homosexuals are identified and discharged. The argument that homosexuals are destructive of morale does not seem especially cogent. Some few military men are undoubtedly hostile to homosexuals, but others are equally hostile to Negroes or Jews. It is not the function of the government to act on the basis of such prejudices. Nor does the possibility that homosexuals may form cliques distinguish them from other groups, large or small.

Especially repugnant from the point of view of civil liberties are the "witch hunt" techniques used to incriminate homosexuals. Men and women are often investigated on the basis of anonymous or malicious accusations, confessions are obtained by questionable methods of intimidation with scant attention to

beautiful letter to Ron Warren that was passed along to me. Part of the letter was a four part article that appeared in the CINCINNATI ENQUIRER that discussed homosexuality. Obviously Mr. Dickman had much to do with the article. It is a well written, responsible piece that puts homosexuality into a very good and constructive light. We quote a part that refers to S.I.R. and hope that some persons who are making S.I.R. an ingrown clique take note of the harm they are doing.

"In Cincinnati—as in 39 other cities—homosexuals have organized societies to provide social, legal, spiritual and health services for members and to push for legal change. The 100-member Cincinnati Mattachine Society, founded last year, has started similar groups in Dayton, Columbus, Toledo and Cleveland, and spearheaded in October formation of a state federation, Ohio Mattachine Society, Inc. (Mattachine is French for the medieval court jester who, behind a mask, exposed injustices.)

These are part of a nationwide "homophile movement" touched off in the early '50's partly by the Kinsey

We are going to have to be ready to give some good strong arguments for our side. The deluge has already begun on the talk-type TV shows because of the frank sex scenes in "The Killing of Sister George". Here is an excellent quoteable article written by Rex Reed in a New York paper called, WOMENS WEAR DAILY. We quote in part:

"It is also the first film about homosexuality I've ever seen which blows away the moldy cobwebs surrounding the subject and lets in some light. Lesbianism here is not a curse or a stigmata (although a lot of unhappiness results from the insecurity caused by such a relationship) — it is simply part of the natural order of things presented with humor, dignity, sincerity, sobriety, honesty and candor. Until now, homosexuals have never been allowed any sanity. Movies have treated them like Val Lewton zombies, roaming the earth in twisted, soulless torment. They never survive.

Rex Reed sums up this long article with: "Did I say "The Killing of Sister George" blows away cobwebs? Hell, it's a victorious spring cleaning in the middle of winter."

Let us Make 1969 as much. W.E.B.

Thrusts

BY W.E. BEARDEMPHL

search for love and a reaching out to others that all men have in common."

NEW YORK: The following is a complete report in *The New York Times*. WHERE IS S.I.R.?

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA: I received this very welcome letter from one of our very good friends and supporters, Lou Crompton.

Dear Bill:

I am sending you two items which might be of interest to readers of *Vector*. The Nebraska Civil Liberties Union has accepted a statement on homosexuals and the services which I prepared for them and are pressing to have it adopted as part of ACLU's national policy statement on homosexuals which so far has been silent on the draft and army.

Perhaps you might suggest that homophile groups try to get their local CLUs to support this or some parallel stand.

I am also including excerpts from a brochure on sex by the American Lutheran Church. The homosexuality section is quoted entire. I leave you to comment.

I am looking forward to visiting SIR again this summer. This year I did not get to San Francisco as business took me to

adopted by the affiliate Board of Directors Oct. 17, and, at the affiliate's request, will be put on the agenda of the national Due Process Committee. ACLU's current statement on homosexuals, while placing the burden of proof on the employer, allows that there may be certain types of government employment in which sexual conduct is relevant. The text of the Nebraska statement is as follows:

NEBRASKA ACLU STATEMENT ON HOMOSEXUALS AND THE ARMED SERVICES

The official government policy of excluding homosexuals from the services presents a significant minority of young American citizens with a cruel dilemma. If a homosexual, as presently required by law, declares his orientation during his pre-induction medical examination, this declaration becomes part of a permanent record which can seriously jeopardize his future employment. If he does not declare himself and enters the services he is then liable to an undesirable discharge if his homosexuality is later discovered. Such a policy is patently unfair in offering a man a choice between self-incrimination and perjury. It is also

constitutional rights, and the names of other homosexuals extracted from the accused. In 1967 over 1200 men were given less-than-honorable discharges from the army alone. Indeed, such purges seem to be at present the most flagrant instances in our society of government-condoned discrimination against a minority. As for the threat of blackmail, we may note, that unlike the civil service, the armed services have never pretended to maintain a standard of sexual morality higher than that of the rest of society, or made it an official policy to exclude fornicators or adulterers from service or promotion. In the light of this it appears that if official policy were changed unmarried homosexuals might well be no more vulnerable than, say, married servicemen.

LOS ANGELES: I have received from Chuck Thompson, chairman of the New Organizations Committee of NA/CHO, the first draft of a new "Guidelines for New Homophile Organizations" brochure. This will be a must reading for some of the present uninformed S.I.R. Board. Congratulations to Chuck for a good and needed job.

CINCINNATI, OHIO: Don Dickman, fireball Ohio organizer, sent a long a

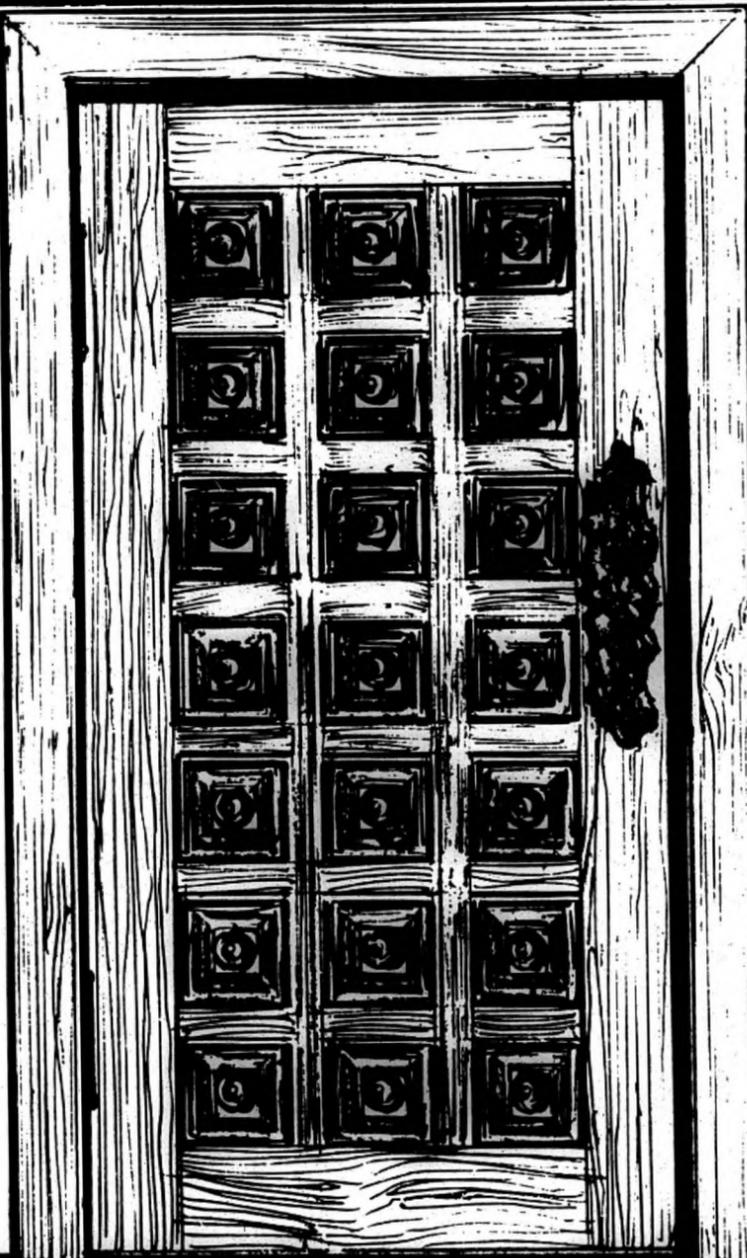
Report, which emphasized that homosexuality and heterosexuality exist on a continuum and that homosexuality is far more widespread than was previously believed. (Kinsey said 37% of the total male population had had some homosexual experience between adolescence and old age.)

Homosexual societies organized in the last 18 years represent an outspoken and activist minority attempting to speak for the total homosexual population, which is estimated to include anywhere from eight to 17 million Americans.

The larger groups, such as San Francisco's 1000-member Society for Individual Rights (SIR) sponsor public forums and speaker services, publish magazines, organize voting blocs for favored candidates, stage public demonstrations.

The target of all this effort, by committees as well as militant homosexuals, is a lack of public knowledge and the consequences in laws, policies and practices.

FILMS: In 1969 I think we are going to have an open reaction against homosexuality because of the extensive number of first rate films that are depicting homosexuality in a frank way.



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Reno

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V.I.P CLUB
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Westside Motel)
786-0525

DAVE'S
STEAM BATH
2402 First Avenue
at Battery
Open 24 Hours
MA 3-9338

Seattle

DAVE'S
COAST SECURITY
CLUB
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4969 Santa Monica Blvd.
Ocean Beach
224-9011

San Diego

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FOX & HOUNDS
Gateway to
New TV's
Heated Pool
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273-9114

MY BOSS KNOWS

GAY-IS-GOOD
AT WORK, TOO!

by Leo E. Laurence

At work, they now know that I'm a homosexual, and frankly, I feel more like a man than ever before because of it. The Company Christmas party set the stage for the change.

In the past, I had always played the familiar "double-life" routine, taking girls to company functions and avoiding any gay phone calls or contacts at work. But it was really a farce since most everybody "knew I traveled in gay circles," as one fellow put it.

This year, I decided to stop playing "games" with people. Really believing that GAY IS GOOD, I faced myself, my family, and closest straight friends honestly as a homosexual.

To my surprise, I got unprecedented love and respect in return, not scorn nor condemnation. (See Nov. Vector, "Gay is Good", written under my now unused pseudonym, Gary Patterson; also "Nine Days With Mother", Dec. Vector.)

For years, I have been intentionally excluded from regular social activities of the sizeable "in-group" at work. One host once said: "I don't want that faggot in my house."

Then a new man was hired. Married and with a kid, he quickly became part of the "in-crowd" activities. His house was chosen for the Company Christmas party, and he boldly invited me. "If people didn't like it," he said, "they could stay away." Incidentally, this man is 24, 6-feet tall, blond, and loves to "camp." Although I find him attractive, he unfortunately has never shown any homosexual interest in me other than camping around the office. No serious advances.

The host said I could bring anyone I wanted to his party. B-Y-O-B was printed on the invitation. Since I wasn't sure if this meant the usual Bring-Your-Own-Bottle, or Bring-Your-Own-Boy, I decided to bring both.

I realized my "date" had to be someone who felt comfortable with "straights," someone comfortable with his own homosexuality, and a person with whom the straights would feel comfortable, too.

John Gooding of San Francisco, a dashing handsome six-footer and a member of the S.I.R. Board of Directors agreed to go. Man, was he sharp that

night. He looked like a football hero in his outfit that included a white turtleneck sweater with a gold medallion. The wives at the party went out of their mind when John flashed his brilliant smile, and spoke in a deep, resonating, masculine voice. His charm absolutely captivated the women, and drove their husbands mad with jealousy.

The party was in a typical upper-middle class home in suburbia about an hour's drive from San Francisco. When John and I arrived, all the "men" were outside trying to move a small upright piano inside for the party. Picture the scene.

About eight adult men pushing, tugging and puffing, everybody giving ideas, but the piano wasn't moving. "It was obvious that our arrival, as homosexuals, was complicating their task," John said later.

Once everybody did get inside, and with the piano, introductions went smoothly. The women really swooned over John. "If I thought you were bringing someone so nice, I'd left my husband home," one confided.

My immediate supervising boss and his wife were among the first to be openly friendly with us. They, together with another couple from exclusive Marin County, even toasted an autobiography I'm about to write for Prentice-Hall Publishers. It was obvious that these individuals were not upset having two homosexuals at the party.

Not all were so warm. Two husbands generally considered liberally minded were so uptight that they avoided both John and me all night. Another "Dirty-Old-Man" type was jittery and among the first to get stoned on booze.

Strange as it may seem, the politically conservative men were the most accepting about the honesty of our homosexuality. The liberals were the most uncomfortable about it.

"Frankly, Leo, I think it's great that you brought John," said one Company executive known for his establishment thinking. "From the moment you two walked in, I knew you were gay, but so what. John has added something great to this party. It's hard to describe, but it partly involves his charm."

The host was equally candid. Once, while I was standing alone by the record-player, he walked over close and whispered: "Is John gay?"

"Of course," I answered, with a casual, confident smile. In a way, I was glad he had asked. Later in the evening, the host found me alone again, this time in the kitchen. "Have you made it with John, yet?" His face flushed and quickly

he retracted the question feeling very embarrassed. Knowing he probably wanted an answer, I said: "No, but I'd sure like to someday."

The host smiled, obviously pleased. John and I played it "cool" all night. We didn't kiss, or dance together. In fact, most of the night we were separated, mixing with others at the party.

As the night progressed, John gambled a bit with the "men". (I seldom indulge) They stopped shortly after he joined the game. I'm not sure if it was because he is gay, or because he was winning every round.

"You two let people see a different side of homosexuality," one of the men said later during a personal interview in his executive offices. "People are scared of homosexuals. They can't help think back to high school days when it was the worse thing in the world to be called a "queer" in school."

"It was the first time many of the people at the party were confronted with two homosexuals in a long-time social situation. They couldn't get away. Leaving would have been rude," the executive said.

"At the party with John, we saw the 'real' Leo and it was a much better 'you'. I don't know what some of the others were expecting, but their phantasies of a wild homosexual orgy are all absurd, and you proved it."

Not everybody was so laudable. One man in his upper 50's, with a teenage son in the Navy said: "I think it was presumptive and sadistic for you to bring John to a straight party." (Incidentally, this fellow often boasts at being a better cook than his wife, enjoys housework, is a good writer, but goes out of his way to condemn "faggots and queers". He said: "I feel homosexuality is completely abnormal, almost to the point of being criminally abnormal." He refused to explain further.

I was surprised when the host compared our Homosexual Revolution and Black Militancy. "I feel the prejudice against race is a much tougher barrier to break than the prejudice against homosexuals," he said.

Since there was no verbal static about John and I being homosexual at the party, I expected it to hit when I returned to work on Monday. But, it never came. Instead, the men at work were much friendlier, and even invited me out for drinks after work.

One humorous incident developed when a phone call was received for me from a girl. The fellow transferring the call to my desk said: "Leo, there's a girl,

(Continued on Page 29)

LOVE IS BUT A SHADOW DANCE

where sparks crash
leaning to inverse flight:
rising fire/evanescent
cochineal of flame
pronouncing

syllables of blood in whispered
pulses.

Blood dance, fire
dance, it begins
at the question of your fingers,
ends
in the beaches
of your mind

minutes wearing there
like surf

(in which
I drown too willing-
ly) in ever

changing angle forms
of light.

Think of tremulous horses
entering upon

a flower garden
on brilliant legs, the shadows
on their satin skins
a dancing synthesis

(and everthing about you
growing green and gold
among those trembling
legs) ---

O you are the terror
that is love,
The bell the bone of it,
the aching ceremony

and in my very world
exploring in the reaches
of your dance

the shadows where a sweetness lies:
an orchard in your eyes.

Victor Borsa

BAYAREAL VIEWS

Acid pollution cutting off the view
Building a lovelier San Francisco

We know the bay is beautiful
ly filled with dead fish

less Bart about to finish

Market Street's love

Home to some new doorway

Delores still split down the middle

And the Hunter's Point bent

With riots for a State not

Now that love has left Haight

Ashes bury the refuses

In beardless anonimity

The named products and the nameless

Spending coffee breaks

Digging deep inside

And dreaming of a few

Somewhere in hill

Ly see the Bay Area

of the fairy
for all

and art

undermining

hustlers

onto Turk or Mission

with palms

and all broken up

black enough

and

at Christmas Time

with/all

people

watching workers

subway tunnels

untroubled acres of ground

and only occasional

ly

Robert Berner

POETRY

FROM THE S.I.R.
POETRY WORKSHOP

THE FILTHY MENDICANT by Grecourt
(Approximated - from *Droleries Poetiques*, Paris 1861)

A passer-by completely tatterdemalion
Panhandled in a far-out way
With his rags falling off him
He blew nearly everyone's mind.
This weirdo did it on purpose, secretly digging
it all the while---

So they hauled him before the bench
The outrage had gone too far.
Witnesses were called &
The males all put the finger on him,
Because of his well-known attributes &
Stood against him with one accord.
But females were his final defense
For all of them, as testimony,
Blurted: "How would I know if it's him?
It wasn't his face I noticed!"

G. Langston Fabian

PORNOGRAPHIC POEM

You are waling
down the corridor. A man
in striped boxer shorts comes
out closing the last door. It is
the bathroom. Not really
the last door: the corridor
turns there. Your room
is beyond the turn. The third
door on the left. A blond
boy with long hair in faded
jeans and no shirt walks out of the
bathroom, turns. The man
passes you as the boy turns; he
has a crew cut, you are sweating,
your feet are damp in old sandals.
There are no windows in the corridor:
it is underground. Below it
is another corridor, and below
that. Above it
is another corridor. You think
of the window in your room. You can
have a window because of the
hill. At night, if you are
alone, you explore
levels you have not yet seen, under
the DC bulbs. Sometimes
you pass a person on the dark stairs, but
usually not. Barefoot
on the faded figured rug, you can
stop in front of a closed door, hear
a saucypan clank on a hotplate, skin
sliding in sheets, somebody
wallowing, coughing. Sometimes
a person stops you in the hall. You always
save the last level for next time. Old men
stay on the upper
levels. A tanned
young man with curly black hair
goes into the bathroom. You
slow down. You go into
the bathroom.

Marilyn Hacker

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE
SUPPORT
SCHOEL BLUM
FOR
SMALL ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

- Jerry Geller
- Bill Plath
- George Coffman
- George Mendenhall
- Jack Simo
- Bert Arthur
- Oscar Villavicencio
- Dale Switzer
- Ruben Collazo
- Bill Tom

EXPERIENCE
ABILITY

ACTIVE S.I.R. MEMBER
FOR TWO YEARS



ASK MME. SOTO-VOCE

Mme. Aida Soto-Voce is now a semi-retired star of the opera and concert stage who, during the apex of her career was the romantic toast of three continents. VECTOR is honored to have her on our staff to answer your questions on "Matters of the Heart." Address all correspondence to Mme. Aida Soto-Voce, 83 Sixth Street, San Francisco, California 94103

attention, our newest member of the cast in the role of Siegfried, the dragon slayer and hero was Johann Dimplekopf. He was a true Siegfried type with long flowing hair, a tall strong tutonic frame. He had a quick and winning smile he was more than willing to flash at the anxious ladies of Climax who all came to see this opera. The problem was that Gwen Von Dykenen, our Erda, was captivated by our new helden tenor, Johann Dimplekopf. She would night after night be seen backstage almost swooning in front of all her friends as our Siegfried would sing an aria or stab the dragon with full force and ardor. It seemed obvious to everyone in the cast that our tenors only current love was the bright lights and the applause. After my having heard her repeated laments of the static position of her blossomless attempted love affair with our tenor I gave her the unsolicited advice that she stop deluding herself. What she really loved was all the attention she was getting from her anxious gossipy friend while she was in the hopeless pursuit of our star tenor. The last thing in the world she truly wanted done was a death of hope by forcing the situation. Johann, our Siegfried, was well aware of her school girl pinnings and didn't feel the need to force such a showdown as her attentions weren't hindering his offstage romancing and, after all, as a rising star the more attention he got the better. When I appraised her of the situation as it truly was she was rather shocked. I told her that if she had had a fling with him on her first try he would have been just another passing fancy and they would have both forgotten each other. I told her the sympathies of friends warms neither a bed nor a heart in love. I told her, for her sake, she must grow up, pursue a healthier relationship with someone more obtainable and worry about making herself and her lover happy.

Waiting to hear
Eternally Pining

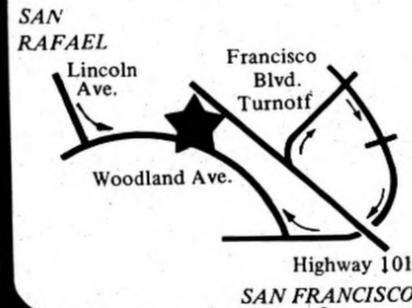
Dear Eternally:

As I read your letter I can't help but feel you enjoy the attentions a pining lover gets from their sympathetic friends more than you are willing to admit to even (particularly) yourself. It wasn't too very long ago I was singing at the bi-annual combination Ethelbert Neven-Richard Wagner Music Festival in Climax, Nevada when a similar set of circumstances arose. I remember it well. We were doing a performance of Wagner's *Seigfried* and leading the all star cast was me (of course) as Brunnhilde, the warrior maid, Wilhelm Bierdelheim as Fafner, the god changed into a frightening dragon, Gwen Von Dykenen as Erda, the earth goddess, and lastly the focus of much

Mme. Aida Soto-Voce

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OPEN FORUM

W.E. Beardemphl

ARE HOMOSEXUALS SICK?

Many readers have complained about this month's Open Forum subject on the "sickness" and "curing" of homosexuality. "Haven't we heard enough of this nonsense?" is the usual question. Most of us haven't the desire or the required intellectual masochism to wade through more of this gobbly-gook.

Hopefully, from this month's Forum, you will find a surprising chuckle and some information that will save you or a dear friend from some future very real trouble... Let me explain.

In the misguided Christian compassion of some of our ministerial friends, we find statements like the following:

"Dante had a great vision of hell; a horrible pit with a ring for each kind of sin. Clerics pitied the homosexual whose "unnatural" behavior condemned him to one of the Dante fiery tortures. Fewer and fewer clergymen have this kind of attitude today. They realize that Dante's imagination was not God's reality. Many even discount the reality of any kind of life-after-death. Seventy-five years ago, a New England minister warned his congregation, "Heaven is no spiritual roofgarden; it's within you." So a new vision of hell was created: that of Freud. All behavior became the result of childhood handling of sexual drives and fixations. The views of psychiatric theory deeply influenced progressive clergymen. Homosexuality was seen as the result of childhood maladjustments, rather than as a sin. Its cure was therapy, not conversion to a particular religious faith. A growing number of clergymen, sophisticated in the psychiatric theory, knowledgeable about theology, now view homosexuality, along with all sexual behavior and choices about behavior, in this different light."

This wierd turn-about to sell to their flocks their weak-kneed moralities by stigmatizing homosexuality as a mental illness, is going to cost many of us to suffer in undreamed of ways.

Now couple this strange Christian compassion with the pseudoscientific ramblings of a Bieber or a Soccarides who are no longer just laying patients out on their couches for a cure, but are posing as "experts" and "authorities" in courts, state and federal legislatures, liscensing boards, prisons, parole boards, schools and employment agencies. Our future freedom and livelihood may very well depend on the "expert" testimony of some authority like Bieber. We have no choice but to understand the testimony against us and to also have available the answers that are given by other "experts".

We must meet, immediately and with equal authority, any challenge regarding the sickness of homosexuality. We must know that there is as much known about the cause and cure of homosexuality as there is about the cause and cure of heterosexuality. For the layman, the surest test of putting into perspective the validity of any psychiatric standard on homosexuality is to substitute a heterosexuality concept and then reread the text.

TURNIPS AGAIN

We read in the December VECTOR that turnips are a sure cure for homosexuality, and many readers must have taken this perscription seriously, because the produce departments of SAFEWAY, PETRINI PLAZA, LITTLEMAN'S, BELL MARKETS, PURITY AND LUCKY STORES all report that there has been a great fall off in sales of turnips over the holiday

season. Usually, a produce manager told me, they sell a large amount of turnips during the holiday season, but for some strange reason, this year their turnip sales have taken a nose-dive. They are all at a loss to know what has occasioned this sharp decrease.

Should I tell them?

I guess we can conclude that if homosexuality is a "sickness" and curable, there are some 90,000 of us in the Bay Area who are not interested in a cure, and have shunned turnips as a possible anodote.

By the way, have they found a cure yet for hetrosexuality?

Or do you know what causes hetrosexuality?

Bob Reader
San Rafael

BERGLER & BIEBER

For the last century medicine and psychiatry have been arguing that homosexuality is an illness rather than a sin or crime. However, neither Krafft-Ebring's claim that homosexuality is a physical, degenerative disease nor Hirschfeld's assertion that homosexuality is a congenital condition today receives wide acceptance. Though Freud rejected the idea that homosexuality is an illness, and though Clara Thompson, Evelyn Hooker, and others, have demonstrated that homosexuality as a clinical entity does not exist, the sickness theory still persists. Many physcians and psychiatrists argue that homosexuality is in itself a symptom of some basic personality disorder and as such is a pathological condition. This view has been expounded most vigorously in recent years by Edmund Bergler and Irving Bieber.

For many people, "sickness" has become a handy judgmental label to

apply to social non-conformists or persons who engage in a variety of forms of deviant behavior. The wide acceptance of the sickness school of thought is illustrated by the repeated pronouncements of public officials, religious leaders, members of the medical profession, mental health personnel, popular writers, and the man on the street. Specifically, in 1966, a public opinion poll taken for the Columbia Broadcasting System revealed that 71% of the persons interviewed consider homosexuality a sickness.

In *Homosexuality: Disease or Way of Life* (1956), the first of a number of books which have popularized the subject of homosexuality in the last few years, Dr. Bergler defined homosexuality as a sickness and announced that cure (menaing conversion to exclusive heterosexuality) is possible "provided the patient really wants to change."

In 1959 in a second book on the subject (*One Thousand Homosexuals*), Dr. Bergler wrote that within two years after the publication of his earlier work, he had seen another 314 homosexuals in consultation.

Dr. Bergler holds that homosexuality arises out of the child's masochistic relationship with the pre-Oedipal mother, that homosexuals are psychic masochists (or "injustice collectors") whose unconscious desire to suffer is gratified by self-created troubles, that homosexual males are mortally afraid of women, and that all homosexuals suffer from deep inner feelings of guilt and are "without exception" irrational, violently jealous, hypersupercilious, hypersuspicious, fantastically narcissistic, unreliable, malicious, and megalomaniacal individuals.

Bergler's writings have made a tremendous impression on the general public and on those who are predisposed to agree with them, but they are not given much credence by his professional colleagues. Nor is Bergler taken seriously by the careful reader who sees the inadequacies of his theories, methods, and data. Too often Bergler's writings resemble a polemic rather than a scientific treatise. Myths and stereotypes abound; terms are defined in an arbitrary manner; premises remain unexamined; rationalization supersedes reason and logic; matters are seen in terms of black or white, all or none; the accidental is confused with the essential; theories, interpretations, and data which do not agree with his own are omitted or dismissed; the data and methodology of other disciplines are ignored; independent corroboration by outside authorities is

lacking; subjective evaluations triumph over objective assessment; moral judgments are presented in the guise of scientific findings; and a too obvious hostility pervades his words. But Bergler's greatest weakness is his tendency to generalize about all homosexuals on the basis of the unrepresentative sample he has seen in clinical practice. Just as no doctor would generalize about all heterosexuals on the basis of those he has treated, so no doctor should generalize about all homosexuals on the basis of those seen as patients.

Bergler, a brilliant and imaginative man, has confused his theoretical structure with reality. Since very little concrete evidence to support his views is presented, the reader must take Bergler's word for it that things are as he says. Very simply put, the fundamental research to support or disprove his theories has not been done. Until it has, one may exercise a healthy skepticism and must withhold final judgement.

Far more impressive, but suffering from insuperable flaws, is the work of Irving Bieber and his associates. Their book (*Homosexuality: A Psychoanalytic Study*, 1962) contains a large amount of specific data, has the appearance of a thoroughly scientific work, and lacks Bergler's patently unreasonable statements and obvious animosity.

Rejecting homosexuality as a variant form of "normal" sexual behavior and assuming that heterosexuality is "the biologic norm" and that adult homosexuality is "a psychopathologic state," the committee concluded that their homosexual patients differed significantly from their heterosexual patients. Crucial to the development of homosexuality, according to the Bieber group, is the parent-child relationship. Close-binding-intimate mothers and detached-hostile-minimizing fathers were found to be responsible for the creation of homosexual sons and daughters. Cure (meaning conversion to exclusive heterosexuality), they found, was possible through psychoanalytic treatment.

The value of the Bieber study and the credibility of its view and conclusions are severely limited. Despite claims and appearances of being comprehensive, systematic, impartial, and rigorous, the Bieber study simply is not a scientific work. Among other things, it suffers from a poor reasearch design, an inadequate sample, an unsatisfactory statistical technique, and serious methodological weaknesses throughout. Moreover, in the presentation of their data, the analysts are themselves the prosecutor, judge, and

jury. From beginning to end, the Bieber study confuses the part for the whole, assumes an all or none position, resorts to post hoc and circular argumentation, begs the question, and adopts a one truth postion. Among its many specific weaknesses are the following.

First, the assumptions underlying the whole study are at no time empirically tested.

Second, the questionnaire used is unsatisfactory. Composed, filled out, and interpreted by psychoanalysts, it was designed and used to substantiate psychoanalytic assumptions.

Third, the sample is by no means representative of the total homosexual population.

Fourth, the statistical treatment of data is not only simple and unsophisticated, it is irrelevant.

Fifth, no serious consideration is given to theories of homosexuality other than their own.

Sixth, an inadequate and inconsistent treatment of their material has led the Bieber group to paint a distorted picture.

Finally, the Bieber study claims to be more than it is. It claims that it compares homosexual and heterosexual patients, that it is a scientific and interdisciplinary study, that its observations apply to all homosexuals, that its conclusions follow necessarily from its data, and that it has demonstrated the scientific validity of psychoanalytic theory. In reality, the Bieber study is no more than an affirmation of belief and a report on 106 sick homosexuals and 100 sick heterosexuals. By no objective standard can it be considered a scientific study. Rather, the Bieber study supports that concept of mental illness which holds that violations of traditional moral values and deviations from accepted social norms constitute clinical evidence of pathology and which is more concerned with what people "should" be like than with what they are like. In many ways, Bieber and his associates are modern day scholastics and Ptolemaicists seeking by authoritarian pronouncement to silence the disturbing inquiries and discoveries of a contemporary Copernicus or Galileo.

T.P.
(Editors note: The above quotes are excerpts from a larger unpublished paper that we hope to see in print soon as a sickness essay. Your support is needed in making this possible. W.E.B.)

PUT PSYCHIATRISTS AWAY

I had hoped that the C.R.H. Forum of last Fall, would have reached sufficient leading members of the medical profession, to have been effective in

OPEN FORUM (Cont. from Prev. Page)
dismissing any belief that homosexuals are sick.

If homosexuals were examined equally with a like number of heterosexuals, I'll bet my Theodore Roosevelt campaign button that the gay ones would come out proven to be of as good health both physically and mentally, as their heterosexual counterparts.

Because a homosexual knows what he or she is and gives vent to his or her desires, there is no chance of suffering from repression, or mental anguish. I am confident that the life span of a homosexual is as long if not longer than a heterosexual counterpart.

Only those preying psychiatrists who want a quick buck for no effort expended, are the ones who try to sell the public on the idea that homosexuals are sick. Actually, I think the psychiatrists are the sick ones and should be put away for practicing their witchcraft.

U. R. Long, M. D.

ACCEPT YOURSELF

Homosexuality is not a sickness.

Homosexuals who do not accept themselves as being gay, men who like other men but keep these feelings secret, these persons may find themselves in trouble with their own guilt feelings. Some may call it "sickness."

Take myself, for example. For years, I refused to openly admit to my family, my closest straight friends, or to those where I work, that I was a homosexual. I was leading the typical "double-life." I also had heavy guilt about this, and very little respect from people. Then I decided to stop playing games with people. I'm gay and I'm not ashamed of it. I honestly feel now that GAY IS GOOD. My gayness is known at home, at work, at church, etc.

As a result, I no longer have chronic insomnia. I no longer feel depressed most of the time. I am sick neither physically or mentally.

When I began to accept myself (and this included my homosexuality), I found people began to accept me.

Leo E. Laurence
Corte Madera, Calif.

AN ENORMOUS CARROTT . . .

Over the years, this writer has known hundred of persons, many of them homosexual, who were "in therapy." Some of them had been "in" there for many years. I have rarely met a person who seemed any better in sexual adjustment for the experience. I have never met a person who has been cured of homosexuality by therapy, though I have

met three or four persons still engaged in regular homosexual contacts, who oddly considered themselves to have been cured.

On the other hand, and this I consider to be a critical point, I have met a considerable number of persons who were formerly homosexual, and who no longer seem to be—with no assist from the Biebers and their colleagues. It is a fact often overlooked that homosexuality is not a permanent state with every person who happens at any particular time to be homosexual. It is remarkable that so few writers in this field have paid attention to a major but curious statistic in Kinsey's presentation on the incidence of homosexuality in the male population. Bieber, in one of his most glaring bloopers, writes off the Kinsey statistics as exaggeration, noting that during World War II, only 1% of the military population was identified as homosexual, ignoring the fact that an overwhelming percentage of homosexuals were neither deferred nor discharged, nor were they suspected in most cases. Nonetheless, Bieber takes this figure to indicate the probable true percentage of homosexuals in the population, with a figure of not more than 4% for bisexuals!

While Kinsey found 4% of the male white population to be exclusively homosexual for life, twice that percentage is exclusively homosexual for a least a three year period between ages 16 and 55! And in such a period 18% of males will have had at least as much homosexual as heterosexual experience. Thus, for the one man in 20 in the population who is a lifetime exclusive homosexual, one other will have gone through at least a three year period when he was exclusively homosexual, and two or three others will be distinctly bisexual at least for such a period. This indicates that in any random group of active homosexuals, especially among those who are in their early twenties, at least 20% and perhaps as many as 50% of them will cease to be homosexual, or at least cease to be homosexually active after a few years. Some of these simply give in to social pressures and get married. For others, the direction of their desires alters. Probably for most, their desires were relatively undirected all along. When homosexuality was easier and more fun, they were homosexual, and when marriage became more important, they got married.

At any rate, this throws the claims of "cures" in a remarkably new light. Where Bieber and associates claim to have altered the sexual activity of about a third of their patients, one sees the

possibility of their taking credit for something that is statistically, just about what would have happened without their intervention. The "recovery rate" thus seems not remarkable at all, but in fact rather less than might be expected if nature had been left to take its own course. Bieber notes that Mayerson, Lief and Soccarides report similar results. More pertinent was a study which Eysenck reports of 500 cases from the files of Equitable Life Insurance Company. These were cases of prolonged disability resulting from neurotic conditions. A number of sufferers who received psychotherapy showed a recovery rate of about two out of three, but further checking demonstrated that both those who received simple medication but no therapy, and those who received no treatment at all, recovered at the same rate! He notes that roughly comparable recovery figures were found in a study of patients taken in custody without receiving any sort of treatment in American State Mental Hospitals. This suggests that Bieber needed an extra control group made up of homosexuals desiring "cure" but not receiving any therapy, to see if the gods managed to cure as many as Bieber and associates.

(Editors Note: The above is a very pertinent excerpt from Dr. Bieber's *Enormous Carrot*, by Jim Kepner published in May 1968 TANGENTS.)

Thoreau once wrote, "I know no rule which holds so true that we are always paid for our suspicion by finding what we suspect." Concerning the sickness or sinfulness of others, this seems very very true.

What must be of great concern is that the secrets of the bio-chemical nature of conditioning of man is on the verge of being discovered. In the hands of our present misguided societal leadership, we could find such potent knowledge misused, wherein the very worth of natural man is destroyed. We can not just wish for charity. We must be prepared for a future of potential and change.

This will be the last Open Forum that will be concerned with a specific subject that I will have as your Editor. Next month the subject will be on anything that you have not had a place for expressing. We shall end our two years of work on VECTOR with the same type of takeoff on the Chinese New Year that we began with in February of 1967. After all, a year of '69 comes only once every hundred years. I can not imagine that it ever has corresponded to a Chinese year of the cock before. W.E.B.

TACKY WENCH



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VECTOR—JANURAY 1969

theBAR TOUR

BY TEQUILLA MOCKINGBIRD



This month of December is truly the joyous season. Our bars staged so many Christmas parties and special events that it would take the next four pages to get them all listed.

While Lisa's action at the Lonely Bull on Turk near Larkin raised still more funds for needy children. The tour of Polk St. bars raised money for Christmas dinner for the bigger kids of the Tenderloin. Jose, long known for his concern for the city in general and the gay community in particular organized and lead the group up and down Polk Street which might just be called the "Miracle Mile and a Half". Joining San Francisco's first empress in costume and with tambourines and collection pots were Voo Doo, Czarina of Polk St., the Dowager Empress Shirley, and the two prizewinning clowns of Polk Street. In spite of a driving rain, this determined group raised over \$150.00. This was augmented by Jose's canned goods drive to provide an ample holiday dinner at Glides Churches facilities for the youth of the Tenderloin. These dinners at Glide are not served by a bunch of dogoodly volunteers, by the way. Its a vast do it yourself project in which many of these guys discover for the first time that a kitchen is a bit more than just the place where the liquor is kept in a home.

Remember the bar on Union St. that was called the Paper Doll, and then Cadell Place, and then the 524 Club? Well, its open as the Paper Doll again. The new management consists of Arlene of the Capri and Bobby Randall who dates all the way back to Dolons old bar. Reports on dinner at the Paper Doll have all been excellent. Its good to have the place open again.

Another of our more popular dinner houses has had a change of ownership recently. Dori and George have made such a success of the Club Dori on Presidio that they've been able to acquire the other fancy dinner house in North Beach, Jacksons. The affection shown to Dori by Tavern Guild members at a

recent meeting reflects her popularity at her club on Presidio and guarantees the success of their new venture at Jacksons.

Mention of a wedding dinner ordinarily would belong on a society page but when it involves two grooms and no bride it belongs in this column. The grooms, Paul & Dale, had a wedding cake decorated with the usual lillies of the valley platform but with two groom figures on it instead of the usual bride and groom figures. This was a jolt for the two grooms as well as the lady at the bakery. The twenty guests sat at a long candleabra lit dining table at the Opera Club with a pool table covered with wedding gifts. Jose's advice to the wedding couple was sage indeed. "Remember, be true to each other, and what the other one doesn't know about — well, don't worry about it."

The murder and burglary in the Lion at Sacramento and Divisadero has set off a sad chain reaction. Of the two people shot, one died instantly, the other was still in critical condition two weeks later. The customers as well as the bar were robbed. Since then the Tavern Guild has put up \$1000.00 reward for the arrest and conviction of the Murderers. When informed of the \$1000.00 reward the Lions co-owner Von said that the Lion was withdrawing its membership in the Tavern Guild because his many straight customers would object to continued membership. Straight? Sure, straight out of a closet, says Tequila Mockingbird. We ask Von at this point if his straight customers object to the many homosexual customers that have been patronizing the bar?

Leaders of gay organizations met with Deputy Chief of Police Al Nelder and his staff for an hour and a half discussing the teenage gang in the Castro area as well as the Lion and Casa incidents. Chief Nelder stressed the fact that a rapport exists between the police department and the gay community. Nelder then assigned one captain to investigate the Castro situation and assigned another captain to attend the Spring symposium of The Council on Religion and the Homosexual. Results of this meeting will appear in this column as they happen.

This is the year '69 to us but to the Chinese it will be the year of the Cock. They do plan ahead don't they? Happy New Year everybody.

PAGE 19

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Magda

at
THE MOVIES
by Magdalena Montezuma

*A FUNNY THING HAPPEN
ON THE WAY TO THE "RIOT"*

"The Riot" is the first in what may be a wave of "tell-it-like-it-is-in-prison" films. But all the salty dialogue, homosexual interludes, and knife slashings don't hide the fact that this picture is just not that good. The entire action of the plot is summed up in the title (the prisoners stage a riot) and as the 96 minutes of film unwinds, it seems, at times, like 96 hours. The cast, headed by Jim Brown and Gene Hackman (of "Bonnie and Clyde" fame), are very good and the use of many of the actual inmates of the Arizona State Prison where the film was made, is quite effective. My favorite character (wouldn't you know!) is "Mary" Sheldon, a rather butch looking drag queen, played convincingly by Clifford Davis. He has some of the funniest, campiest, and frankest dialogue ever heard in films. There is one scene where he is endeavoring to seduce ex-football star Brown and he utters a sentence that had the audience saying "He didn't say what I thought he said, did he?". The "Queen's Row" section of the prison is complete with strip-tease

queens, rayon curtains on the cell bars, and little orgies in the cell blocks. I don't want to disclose too much about that part of the film, as it is not that much of the film and to tell you about it would spoil for those of you that plan to trot over to the Warfield when the picture opens in late January. Gone are the days of the Cagney-Robinson type prison flicks!!!

*COWBOYS' COWBOYS... RIDING
INTO THE SUNSET WITH WHAROL*

Well, "Mr." Wharol has done it again! He has managed to put together one of the dumbest, funniest, dullest campiest, lousiest films ever made. Yes, the creator of that stupendous epic of erotic nothingness dubbed "The Chelsea Girls" has now turned his cameras on a study of the old west and it's "Lonesome Cowboys". If nothing else, one should see the film for Taylor Mead's version of the "Lupe Velez Twist". As usual, in this Wharol spectacular, he brings to the screen another in the long line of beautiful men whose acting ability somehow get lost in the shuffle as they doff their clothes. This one's name is Tom Hompertz (remember the name as it is definitely on the way to superstardom, Wharol style) and he is absolutely divine!

On the Production Scene

A Funny Thing will happen in May when S.I.R. presents the San Francisco premiere of the Broadway musical comedy hit, "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum". This rousing, rowdy, comedy of ancient Rome was selected by the Production Committee at the meeting held on Dec. 12th. The spirit of the show combines the zing of burlesque with the zest of old time vaudeville in bringing together an evening of fun theatre. On January 9th a meeting will be held at the S.I.R. Center at 8:00 pm to select the producer and director for this show. Also, any one who would like to serve as Musical Director and/or

pianist for this show are asked to come to this meeting or to contact Joe Vigil, Productions Chairman, c/o S.I.R. Center (781-1570).

Because the show will be presented the second and third weekend in May, auditions for the production will be held on Friday, Jan. 31st (7-9 pm) Saturday, Feb. 1st (2-5 pm) and Sunday, Feb. 2nd (2-5 pm). Besides the many lead roles, the show offers a "female" chorus of Courtesans (Roman Ladies of the Evening) and a male chorus composed of three people to play everything from eunuchs to soldiers (something for everyone!)

THE REALITY OF BEING (Continued from Page 7)

others for self-fulfillment. We are not born with built in social mores. All of these have to be learned and they are learned within the confines of a family.

If a neo-nate is born into a family where both parents are emotionally secure, that is, have learned to care and care deeply for each other (caring also means deep respect for each other), they will not be threatened by some other person entering this union. Just the opposite, they will know how to care, love and respect the child who enters their life. This is the only way a person can learn the lessons of love for self which eventually grows out to others. If any of these ingredients are missing we have an emotionally damaged child. Later in life these missing elements can be re-learned but it is a slow and difficult process.

If a child only knows disrespect how can he possibly learn respect for himself much less for others? If a child is deprived of concern and care, I ask you where does he learn these fundamental tools in dealing with a fellow human? We have here an emotionally crippled personality.

The real proof of personhood (or the ability to be) is the capacity one has to reach out to the person in another. But in the under-developed personality some crutch is used for the excuse to relate. And usually this crutch is sex. Either it is used as a means to get through to another, or it is put up as a barrier to further contacts with another.

It is this author's contention that there is no difference in the personhood between a male and female. A fully operating, caring person can and is able to reach to and care for another, because he can and is not afraid to use his own emotional resources. He is not afraid of another's emotional impact upon himself. But when and/or if we cannot afford the risk of such involvement then we fall back on secondary processes which are never as satisfying or fulfilling. This secondary resource is usually sex.

For whatever reason, a good many persons are unable to break through the sexual barrier. By a sexual barrier, it is not meant an ability to have or not have orgasmic contact. It simply means the ability to be able to reach out to another regardless of sex. We have so many instances of this barrier operating it is almost pointless to I.E. examples. But our entire culture reeks with sanctions against any kind of affection being displayed male toward male. Regardless how

heterosexually oriented a male may be, any open manifestations of genuine concern and caring for another male is considered as untoward behavior and as such condemned. Here is the real tragedy of our society. If you accept the hypothesis that truly meaningful living is the ability to reach out to another's personhood, regardless of sex, than we are living in an incongruent state that dictates that half of all possible meaningful contacts are forbidden.

But in the case of the homosexual the opposite is true also. The fear of the female is based primarily on sex. The homosexual does not allow himself the luxury of bypassing sex in order to reach the commonality existing in all persons.

It would seem to this author, that man's greatest service to man is to provide that climate in which man can realize the potential within himself for truly fulfilling person to person relationships, regardless of sex. Unless we can develop this ability within ourselves and try to help this fulfillment in others — to the extent we do not, than we are truly living in a sick society.

The author would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to those who took the time to fill out my research questionnaire which came with the September issue of Vector. If you have not done so, please take a minute and do so now if you have the back issue of Vector in your files. If not, I am sure that the staff at S.I.R. can supply you with one. The author would also welcome reactions to this article. Send your comments directly to 1000 Patterson Street, No. 725, Eugene, Oregon 97401.

SMALL ACTIVITIES (Continued from Page 9)

the Small Activities are down, the organization suffers. Filling in as the Small Activities Chairman for this short period has made me realize wherein S.I.R. is cooperating and communicating with the gay community. It seems as if S.I.R. has been losing out. I believe all aspects of S.I.R. must be stimulated and brought back to the point where S.I.R. fulfills the needs of gay persons in San Francisco. I hate to say it, but some of our "leaders" with the best intentions in the world, are destroying S.I.R. They are making it into the kind of organization that L.C.E. and Mattachine was before S.I.R. was around. Either we do something to change this course of events or else S.I.R. and Small Activities will disappear and something that has been worthwhile to many of us will disappear from San Francisco.

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MAY But We Need Your Help!

PRODUCTION COM. MEETING
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JANUARY 9, 1969—8:00 P.M.

For selection of Producer and Director
for the upcoming production of: "A
Funny Thing Happened on The Way to The
Forum" (to be presented May 9-10-11
and May 16-17-18.

CALLING ALL STARS!!
It's Show Time Again...Get on Those Tights...

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Sunday FEBRUARY 2nd 2-5 pm

Bring your own music.



From the Walls of Montezuma

BY MAGDELENA MONTEZUMA

ANOTHER CLOSING, ANOTHER SHOW, DEPT: Before I go any further, I want to extend a sincere and printed thanks to all the people that helped Sirlebrity Capades become a grand success. I was very proud and happy to be associated with the end result. But I cannot tell a lie and say that all was ducky-poo during the rehearsals and that artistic tempers didn't flare (you people out there in audienceland will never know how close we came to losing two principal performers only days before the opening). But all that was put aside and everyone in the company of players pulled together and when those curtains opened all the petty arguments were forgotten. Special thanks must go to John Gooding, Ken Dickman, Larry Canaga, Bob Cramer, Al Jutzi, Jack Perpich, and many more that were involved in making the 1968 edition of Capades a hit. I also would like to publicly thank a great star and Empress, Jose, who keep the cast's spirit up during those last weary rehearsals, including the nearly disastrous dress rehearsal. Now the Production Committee is pulling itself together again with what looks like another winner, "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum". I know that I will do all I can in helping out, if not in body (Although, god knows, I got plenty of that to spare) at least in spirit and, hopefully, guidance. The only thing about the whole Capades experience is that I now have, this uncontrollable "Rainbow" fetish.

BASIC NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS (TO BE BROKEN IN CASE OF EMERGENCY), DEPT.: Now is the time for all good gays to resolve to be better people in the new year. And since it is 1969, this is the year for even better than average resolutions. So here I plunge into mine (hope they last at least

thru Ground Hog's Day): (1) Not to be evil, snide, nasty, bitchy, or in any way upset any member of royalty, no matter how tacky she, he or it may be. (2) To attend more gay functions in the community. (3) To observe National Hump A Hippie Week this year. (4) To make all my Vector deadlines. (5) To lose at least 25 lbs thru careful diet and exercise (gotta hit that steam more often!) (6) To love my fellow man even more than I did in '68. Well, that's them, luvs, I am sure that many of you in readerland can latch on to a few of the above and try to stick to them. We'll compare notes in June.

MAGNA MOVES MADLY THRU THE CITY, DEPT.: While sipping tea with Gloria Goodgrin at the Bonjour Tristesse Tea and Tart Shoppe last week (there goes resolution No. 5), I gathered mucho interesting newsy things regarding the wonderful world of show business. Gloria, or as she is known in Tinsel Town, Glory, whole heartedly recommended the upcoming Capricorn Production of "The Sweetheart of Pitz Berg Chi" starring San Francisco's own fantastic star, Suzy Sweeta von Dippy. That's one film that I'm sure we all will want to see when it comes to the Peerless. Also on the production scene, locally, there are plans in motion for the Serpents to present "Little Me" early this year and for C.A.M.P. Players to bring us their version of "Tenderloin" in the fall. Who will ever forget the amazing production of "Yucatan Girl" that C.A.M.P. brought us last theatrical season. (There goes No. 1). My goodness, things are getting so very show biz in our Broadway-By-The-Bay! Mucho luck to you all in your ventures!

BASIC POTPURRI, DEPT.: Who is it that may set S.F. on it's ear by appearing in the Bay Area version of "Hair"? Who is it that is getting just a bit overprotective with her protegee? Who is it that sent me 23 yards of yellow gingham for Xmas? Who is it that seriously takes this column to heart? Who is it that played Santa Claus to many a gay without a home this Xmas? I'll never tell!!!!!! Adios tel next month, luvs—Magda.

RE-ELECT PERRY GEORGE

VICE PRESIDENT

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	<i>Mon</i>	TUES	WED	<i>Thurs</i>	FRI	<i>Sat</i>
<i>Sun</i>			1	2 Soc. Com.—8 p.m.	3 Convers. Group 1256 Page 8 p.m.	4 Dancing 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
5	6 Mem. Com. Wkshp. 7 p.m. Com. Serv. Com. 8 p.m. Vector 8 p.m.	7 Relig. Com.—8 p.m. 1256 Page St. Apt. 1	8 BUSINESS MEETING 8 p.m. Poetry Workshop 1196 Broadway Apt. 5 8 p.m.	9 Productions Com. To choose Producer & Director for next play. Political Com.—8 p.m.	10 Convers. Group 1256 Page St. 8 p.m.	11 Dancing 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.
12 Record Group 1256 Page St. Apt. 1 3 p.m.	13 Legal Com.—8 p.m.	14 BOARD MEETING 8 p.m.	15 OPEN HOUSE 8 p.m. S.I.R. Cand. Speak	16 Soc. Comm.—8 p.m.	17 Convers. Group 1256 Page St. 8 p.m.	18 Dancing 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.
19	20 Com. Serv. Com.—8 p.m. Mem. Com.—8 p.m.	21	22 Com Center Com. 8 p.m.	23 Pub. Relations—8 p.m. Political Com.—8 p.m.	24 Convers. Group 1256 Page St. 8 p.m.	25 Dancing 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.
26 Record Group 1256 Page St. Apt. 1 3 p.m.	27 Legal Com.—8 p.m.	28 BOARD MEETING 8 p.m.	29	30	31 Convers. Group 1256 Page St. 8 p.m. "Forum" Auditions 7-9 p.m.	FEBRUARY 1 "Forum" Auditions 2-5 p.m.
FEBRUARY 2 "Forum" Auditions 2-5 p.m.	REMEMBER THE S.I.R. ELECTIONS WEDNESDAY—FEBRUARY 5, 1969			JANUARY		

S.F. POLICE HEAR HOMOPHILE PROTEST

George Mendenhall

Top police officials have met with leaders of the homophile community in San Francisco over a protest of an officers handling of a bar incident.

A teenager entered a local bar on a December night and hit a patron on the head with a radio antenna. He then ran and was apprehended outside by some of the patrons and brought into the bar. Police were called and when threatening teens gathered out front the bar doors were locked. When the police officer arrived he broke into the bar, heard the stories, and arrested three of the patrons. One was arrested on a misdemeanor charge and the other two on felonies. The felonies were later reduced to misdemeanors.

The S.I.R. Board met and after hearing the details voted unanimously to protest the officer's conduct. It was its contention that although the eight bar patrons and the bar owner explained what had happened, the officer chose instead to believe a contrary story by the teenager. Although the officer had not seen any of the incident and could have set up a hearing the next day to determine the facts, he chose to make two felony and one misdemeanor arrest immediately. Patrons claim that the officer made a remark "Faggots have no rights". The S.I.R. Board took special note that due to the rash conduct of one officer in a confused situation, two citizens now have serious felony arrest records.

The lengthy police-homophile meeting was "top level" with the following officers participating: Deputy Police Chief Al Nelder; Personnel Director William O'Brien; District Stations Supervisor George Sully; Captain of Inspectors Willison Lingafelter; Complaint Bureau Captain, Francis Harrington; and the officer regularly assigned to work with the homophile community, Elliott Blackstone.

The Presidents of three homophile groups participated: Larry Littlejohn of

S.I.R., Bill Plath of the Tavern Guild of San Francisco, and Rev. Chuck Lewis of the Council on Religion and the Homosexual. Other S.I.R. members taking part were Vice President Perry George; Secretary Andy Bettancourt and Public Relations Chairman George Mendenhall, who also serves as an official in the the city Police-Community Relations program.

Those at the meeting agreed that the relationship between the police and the "gays" has been healthy in recent years. There have been few arrests and a general spirit of cooperation.

Emphasis was placed on the special incident issue stated above and the apparent lack of police protection in this area, where robberies and attacks have increased. Littlejohn served as spokesman although there was an active inter-change of ideas by all present.

At the conclusion, Deputy Chief Nelder ordered his Complaint Bureau to investigate the alleged misconduct by the officer. After the homophiles had left, the officers stayed to further discuss the matter. This case will be further explored in future issues of Vector.

It is important to note that only in San Francisco will the top executives of the police department be called in to discuss a complaint from the leaders of the homophile community. In many U.S. cities the police constantly harrass homosexuals and refuse to discuss anything with them.

The relatively relaxed atmosphere in San Francisco is taken for granted. But this is not an accident and the local acceptance of the homophile as a citizen can be tied directly to the influence of S.I.R., the Tavern Guild and C.R.H. Those who sit back and do not support these organizations should give some serious thought to this. Many people in these groups work long hours to make life easier for you.

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Letters to the Editor

Attention: Editor

Dear Sir or Madame, whichever the case may be:

What a lovely lovely issue of Vector you have managed to put out. It is really too bad that it reaches the general public (generally) much too late for any attendance to some of the events. I know the work that this magazine requires and realize you do your best but this isn't good enough, the magazine is due on the 1st of the month, it is generally received by the 10th, (not all the time mind you but a majority of the time).

Regarding your article on a visit by Mother. Wouldn't the small kit you mention in this story be a great idea for Sir to put out for their members, a small kit outlining the gay life, minus the sex one finds in the gay books? I am sure everyone would be happy to have something like this and perhaps a fee could be charged for the kit.

As long as I am on the subject, why do you continue an article to the rear of the magazine, wouldn't it be much easier to finish one story and then go on with the next? Perhaps I am not aware of some of the publishing details of the articles involved but it seems that it would be easier to both the public and to the publishers to finish a complete article and then continue on with the next article.

Well now that I have moaned and bitched for a spell I feel much better and would like to say I think you all do an excellent job with Vector. BUT!

Sincerely,

JOHN DEERE
ALIAS RACHEL STRAUS,
KOSHER PRINCESS TO HER
ROYAL MAJESTY THE
TENDERLOIN EMPRESS REBA

J.D.

Thank you for your concern and appreciation. The struggle of bringing VECTOR out on the 1st and not the 10th is contingent on writers, ads turned in, make-up, printing, etc. When you have a very aged "39 year old cook" who runs a restaurant, for Editor, you can begin to see the hectic pace. Next year, as Vice President of S.I.R., I expect to get a night out for myself now and then.

VECTOR-JANUARY 1969

Hopefully, the next Editor of VECTOR can speed up our extensive and talented staff. Leo Lawrence, as part of his platform for election to the VECTOR chair, has a plan whereby he hopes to correct this time lapse that has developed in VECTOR production. We hope it works and shall do our best to assist them. or whoever is elected, to continue to improve VECTOR.

Our motto for VECTOR these past two years has been: "STRIVE FOR THE BEST FOR THE GAY COMMUNITY." We hope that we have lived up to that in your estimation. Thanks, again. W.E.B.

Unfortunately, you have chosen "sickness" for your January issue which follows the extravagant and beautiful December Christmas issue, which was vibrant, alive and in excellent taste.

Of course there are those psychiatrists who like to think of homosexuals as sick, so they can swell their coffers with illgotten money. If they are worthy of the title of their profession, they know damn well that homosexuals are NOT sick.

I am not excluding all homosexuals. Some may be sick or ill, just as many heterosexuals are sick, nervous or temperamental, but being a homosexual does not imply that homosexuality is a sickness.

Perhaps the only sickness I am conscious of is the sickness which has befallen S.I.R. in the past year. From a membership of about one thousand, it has dwindled to about half that number and from where I sit, S.I.R. as an organization is sick, but not incurable. If we could pump clean, ambitious, well-meaning, capable, honest blood into the organization, S.I.R. would recover from what ails it.

Unless we find interested persons, who are capable of administering to our sick patient, I am afraid its demise is not far off.

H. Babbitt.

We agree. The membership must look closely at this very important Board election. W.E.B.

Dear Sirs:

I read your November issue with great interest, particularly the "Open Forum"

section which contained thoughts on what can be done to help the young homosexual. Fortunately, I faced reality and gained self-respect at an early age. However, I understand and sympathize with those who've been brainwashed by "straight" society and feel unsure of themselves.

To some degree, almost every "gay" person has an inferiority complex. The dominant group has so strongly condemned us that it is the rare individual who doesn't have some feelings, even subconscious, of self doubt. The black man is beginning to overcome the same problem and I'm confident we will also.

Getting back to the matter of young people. I was impressed by Wayne Whitecotton's statement. S.I.R. and other organizations must take a positive attitude toward youth. The McCarthy campaign proved the powerful force of young people, when mobilized under guidance. In my opinion, you or some other group should form a youth organization with older people acting only as advisors. The energy and idealism of the younger homosexual would provide a great boost to the fight for freedom, when moved in the proper direction.

One of the big problems seems to be the lack of personal acceptance and self-respect among youthful gay people. We should hold seminars and study groups about homosexuality and make them familiar with all aspects of the subject, including the lives of great homosexuals throughout history who have made outstanding contributions to civilization.

If our fight for decency and humanity is to continue and grow in this nation, the homosexual civil rights groups must start taking a real interest in our young people. Too often, the attitude toward the young homosexual is either the "dirty old man" sexual interest, or outright hostility.

There is no question that we need to make progress in this area.

Sincerely,
B.A.

(Continued on next page)

Dear Mr. Beardemphl:

This is another unofficial report to you, similar to that I wrote once before to you and your staff. This one however, concerns the benefit party for the Seattle Childrens' Hospital, sponsored by the *Dorian Society for Men*.

Each invited guest was asked to bring a toy, inexpensive, unwrapped, and another friend. The Party was held at the Poodeck Tavern near our Pier 48. Mr. Dick Murray furnished lots of free beer, wines etc. The show was fantastic and the kids as one boy put it afterwards "We wanted to work hard, we gladly worked for nothing. It was worth it, every minute of it." People from the audience in the Christmas mood, gave each performer a small gift or dollar maybe more who knows, anyway the kids in this writers estimation deserved it. It was lovely and a lovely way to inaugurate the Season.

It was an event I looked forward to with much joy and warmth. Surely, not only the children benefitted by this

event, we did too, just by giving to some one in need, especially a child. Personally speaking once again, it is challenging in this day and age for a group of homosexuals, *not* to apologize for themselves. Its good to see people respond, and it is even more heartwarming, when you realize that some of us were children like this at one time probably.

We wish to our good friends and neighbors in the Bay area a joyous and blessed Christmas Season and New Year. May each of you be comforted in knowing that here in the corner of the United States, you have a warm welcome, and a warm sincere wish for every happiness.

With Gods' blessing to all, I remain

Sincerely,
Anthony J. Schmidt
A Fried and Pagron

To the Editor and Staff of the *Vector*:
Gentlemen:

I would like to sincerely congratulate you all for doing such a fantastic job on the December issue of the *Vector*! This is a magazine we can all be proud of. It is a marvelous souvenir of the 1968 Halloween Ball. Thank you also for the kind compliments which I received in the various articles. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
REBA, EMPRESS IV,
de SAN FRANCISCO

(ALL the Dowagers are alive department . . . and have informed us that they intend to go right on living. We do wish to express our apologies for a statement in the December "WALLS" column that was *not* meant literally, but only as a take off on royal succession. If we offended anyone, we are very sorry. W. E. Beardemphl, Editor.)

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MY BOSS KNOWS!

(Continued from Page 13)

a 'real' one, on line two." Chuckling, I said, as I reached for the phone, "Well, that's certainly a change." With that, the whole office laughed.

From all indications, nearly everyone at work was accepting my homosexuality very smoothly, giving it hardly any special attention, especially my supervisor. But to reinforce our confidence, John Gooding and I went to still another Christmas party together.

This one was at an exclusive restaurant in downtown San Francisco. It was packed with "media people": the press, radio, and television. Again, John and I discreetly made it known that we were both homosexuals, and not at all ashamed of it.

It seems that the respect we had for ourselves won for us the respect of others. One TV executive was so impressed by John's charm, poise, and personality, that he suggested John visit the studio to discuss an audition.

There was a major break-through. An executive of a major TV station was inviting John Gooding, a homosexual, to consider a TV news audition. It was obvious his homosexuality was irrelevant.

Names of straight individuals throughout this article have been left out intentionally as being unimportant. Most S.I.R. members know where I work anyway.

What IS important is that my employer, a major national corporation, knows that I'm gay, yet I still have my job. If anything, my effectiveness as an employee has improved.

It's a wild, wonderful experience to discover that people at work respect my honesty. I feel like the song from the musical "Golden Rainbow" called I GOTTA BE ME.

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

(Continued from Page 6)

4. His replacement, S. I. Hiakawa, has been an instrument of the establishment, and has unleashed an awesome force of armed and brutal police against the students.

5. However, the campus support of the strikers position has been so strong that a student-police stalemate existed just before Christmas.

6. Such old SIR friends as Willie Brown and Cecil Williams threw support to the strikers when the conditions polarized to the point where it was a case of right-wing political force brutally suppressing a minority voice for change.

7. The real power (and money) lies with the statewide Board of Trustees who

so strictly control the 18 state college campuses that local response to unique conditions is quite limited. They plan even stricter control.

8. The Board of Trustees represent the monied, propertied, political establishment which sees higher education as a perpetuation of the status quo, not the relevant "telling it like it is" about one's current environment.

9. The AFT teachers union, has brought a third force—organized labor and its political power—to bear on a student-police stalemate. Citizen's committees, nationally known negotiators, and negotiations with trustee representatives have been the result.

So what does this all mean to the homosexual? Just this: we are a minority which knows blatant-discrimination. We may hide behind various straight, respectable, conservative facades. But to the establishment we are "queers". And that establishment is currently in the process of brutally suppressing certain minorities on the San Francisco State campus. Can we expect any different treatment? Are we somehow a special minority?

All this raises deep questions for us. And all the questions parallel the events on the State campus. How long are we going to keep asking society politely for rights and respect long overdue? And if we do decide to make stronger demands and challenge the establishment, can't we expect the same brutal suppression. But isn't it better to stand as a man, speaking up for our rights (even while the police clubs are falling) than live in the shadows as "queers"?

There is the lesson of power to be taken from this struggle. The power of the establishment is awesome. First of all, they can make the laws the way they please, whether it be to outlaw teachers strikes or homosexuality. Then they can scream about "law breakers" and the "will of the people" and unleash brutal police force to thoroughly suppress "dissidents." It's an effective device; our culture approves of violence if it's directed against "bad guys." Dick Tracy does it; so does John Wayne and most all cowboy movies.

To counter the power of the state, the strikers and their supporters offer sheer numbers. Civic leaders brought the power of influence, and finally the union brought economic power to bear. Homosexuals could mass the numbers, they could bring influence, and certainly economic power. But first they must come out of their closets and see that there is indeed a 'cause.'

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