



vector

VOL. I NO. 1

DECEMBER 1964

S. I. R.'S STATEMENT OF POLICY

Party

S.I.R.'s Party coming up Friday, November 27, will be bigger and better than the last one in every way. The hall will be larger, there will be more band members, the food will be piled higher on the buffet table, more door prizes have been donated by the better places in town, and the advance ticket sale is even larger than that of the S.I.R. Party last September.

The location is to be announced th day of the party, and those who have tickets can learn where the good time can be had by showing them to bartenders at the bars that sold them. Tickets can be purchased from S.I.R. members and from the better bars around town at \$3 per person. If you are looking for fun, be sure and arrange to attend, for this will be a fun party like the last one given by S.I.R.

vector

from the Latin, Vectus; "Carrier" (past part. of Vehere - to carry). Radius vector or vector quantity. A quantity which requires for its complete specification a magnitude, direction, and sense, and that is commonly represented by a line segment the length of which designates the magnitude of the vector, the orientation of which designates the direction of the vector, and the sense of which is designated by an arrowhead at one end of the segment. A quantity having both magnitude and direction.

A course or compass direction, esp. of an aircraft.

A behavioral field of force toward or away from the performance of various acts; broadly: Drive.

To vector: to transmit (esp. from the ground to an aircraft in flight) a vector to any desired point.

SIR is an organization formed from within the Community working for the Community. By trying to give the individual a sense of dignity before himself and within his Society, it answers the question of how we can maintain our self-respect. SIR is dedicated to belief in the worth of the homosexual and adheres to the principle that the individual has the right to his own sexual orientation so long as the practice of the belief does not interfere with the rights of others.

We must not forget that there are certain rights connected with being a man which are, despite peculiarities of color, of creed or of sexual orientation, guaranteed to all men. These inalienable rights must be constantly defended against the erosion of public power and ruin by personal apathy. There should be an end to dismissals from our jobs; an end to police harassment, and the interference of the state with the sanctity of the individual within his home. To assure that these reprisals cease, we believe in the necessity of a political mantle guaranteeing to the homosexual the rights so easily granted to others.

We find ourselves scorned by the very society which may in fact be largely responsible for our creation, our rights as persons and citizens before the law imperiled, our individuality suppressed by a hostile social order, and our spirit forced to accept a guilt unwarranted by the circumstances of our existence. Believing as we do that there is no strength but through organization, SIR is determined that through its actions and through cooperation from within the Community, these conditions will be changed. In those areas where we need to change, let us change ourselves.

Other organizations have done good and necessary work, but there are still many areas which desperately call for attention. There is the need for political action, the need to provide adequate and responsible legal counsel, the need to establish cooperation with the churches, the need to educate all men in their rights as citizens, and the need to provide our people with an honorable social fabric. These are but a few of many worthwhile projects which will occupy the efforts of SIR in the months to come.

But also, we must learn from the experiences of other organizations, their successes and failures, adding to their efforts SIR's specific dedication to the democratic process. Rejecting inwardness, the strife of personality and politics, and the languishing under a forever unchanging dictatorial control, we intend to give service where service is due. Through action we shall demonstrate a serious comprehensive program of financial stability and resourcefulness, a provision for active and responsible participation of individuals in our efforts, a willingness to get necessary jobs done, and in particular to provide an attractive, meaningful and healthy social fabric for the well-being of our Members.

While we are still dedicated to a spirit of free competition, eventually we hope to achieve the coordination of all organizations working on behalf of the homosexual. Recognizing that we live with an urgency of need, in a time when change is constant and often dramatic, we respond to the call to action, certain that a feeling of Community has been established. Working toward that goal, and an accord to that belief by all people, SIR is pledged to act.

Mr. President

I have attempted as President, to follow the principle that man as an individual should fulfill his nature. I believe man to be a primarily gregarious creature, but one historically frustrated by his own creation of a social structure that forces those whose nature is alien to the ideology of the conformist to become outcasts, saddled with a self-vision oriented to unreasonable sin, which must of its nature develop a tendency to the acceptance of unjust punishment. This, then, is the basic problem that we wish to control through correct analysis of specifics and development towards real personal satisfaction. In these areas, we are individually ineffectual. Experience tells us that only organized action of a group is greater than either the separate acts of individuals or the additive of acts of individuals. Through SIR we can attempt achievement but past experience makes it very apparent that certain types of organizational structures bring only illusory change.

Some groups in the name of accomplishment only give speeches and publish magazines extolling themselves. Other groups are used by individuals for personal gain only. I am convinced that a strong dictatorial control will destroy growth and confine us to a policy of inwardness and the shutting out of the very people we need. With an open democratic organization we are available for constant growth and development on all levels, and we shall produce the most potent weapon possible in our fight for the elimination of sexual puritanism, social-political apathy, and personal irresponsibility. This weapon is fraternity; the doing of a job by all people which has its reward in the doing.

The success of these ventures will prove that man constructs his own social order and has the right to change it. We can, indeed, I might say we have, brought together a force that will change our social status and that of all people to follow us.

Cooperation

Infancy is a state forced on us all; as an individual or as a group; as a single man owning a business or as a partnership or corporation; as a single handball player or as a team out to win the first (infant) game or the series - subsequently to be recognized as the best.

We want to give you a quality publication that will be immediately recognized as a voice that cannot go unheard, and at an early date, as an important and reliable source from which others can obtain strength to grow. We want to win the first game, and then the series; and move on to the top. We have no purpose but to grow, without compromise, both in stature and understanding; and can ask no more than we be given the chance to do so. That chance can come only from you - the membership.

"Vector" is an infant, and your Editor and its staff are infants again as we reach out to the Society for help in growing.

Granted, the Society is an infant too; but it is made up of mature people, else it would not exist, nor would have grown as it has in so short a time. Without life-giving food, nothing can grow properly; and we ask that of you - the Members of SIR.

Responsibility

"Responsible action by responsible people in responsible ways." This motto that SIR has adopted will become more evident with each new venture that SIR undertakes.

The general impression and enthusiasm that SIR has created in its short history is without comparison. More important, these early accomplishments are but a drop in the ocean compared to that which will and must be done before we can achieve the Liberty, Justice and Dignity so long denied the homosexual.

As denoted by this motto, the goals of SIR will be no more important than the ways undertaken to reach them.

Democratic action and decisions will always be the cornerstones on which SIR will operate, enabling it to serve not only the homosexual but also the Community where he resides.

Wisdom does not necessarily come with maturity; but we hope that we will be given a slight edge toward obtaining wisdom, and that we will have beacon lights by which to chart our course. The collective finger of the Executive Board has pushed the button for the first light. Can we count on small, and then larger lights along the way?

for information on
SIR!

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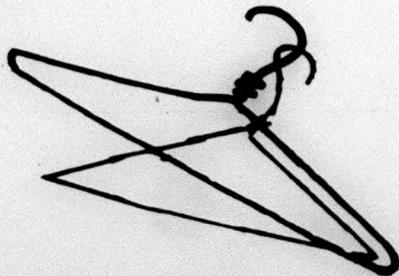
San Francisco 1, California

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

I have recently heard of your program of dialogue between our Community and religious leaders and am very happy to learn such a program exists. For all my adult life I have been an active church member but have always felt estranged from the church because of its teaching on sexual behavior. The teaching of the church in this matter has kept many of us out of the church. This is bad for us and is bad for the church. It denies many of us that religious experience which is one of the most meaningful things in life and we are poorer for it. It denies the church the services of people who would bear credit to it and God knows the church needs such people. A dialogue such as yours will show that there are responsible people of good will on each side and I think this will be a revelation to each side. This is a beginning and I applaud you for it.

Best wishes in your continuing work in this program.



STELLA'S COURTESY CLEANERS

1418 Franklin

7 AM 'til 7 PM including Saturday

Committee Reports**Legal**

At the Legal Committee meeting, attended by many attorneys, such issues as safety of individuals attending parties given by various organizations in the Community were discussed.

To further S.I.R.'s information program, Vector will publish a column in which questions of a legal nature will be answered. All such questions are welcome and full consideration will be given.

Not only do members of the Bar serve on the Legal Committee, but are available for counsel in matters concerning rights of the individual.

Review**WILD STRAWBERRY PATCH**

by James Ramp

Pangraphic Press,
November 1964

A collection of twelve interwoven, short stories with a homosexual theme, related with tenderness and humor. The locale is a farming community in Southeastern Kansas where the author was raised, and many of the episodes in the book are from his youth.

If you are looking for conflict and tragedy, this is not for you. The theme is happy acceptance of love between men.

"As spring burgeoned and summer ripened, Lorry and Joey rode the spotted pony of the world until the inevitability of September prisoned them in school for the crime of being young... "Eden is not forever, though the heart would have it so. It is the wild strawberry time of life, and the fruit is wine upon the tongue, a glory in the blood."

Secretary's Corner

The open meeting October 19th was rewarding for all members and those who have an interest in S.I.R. As the Editor of a Community paper said, "I must say I was pleasantly surprised to see such a large turnout." Chairs were impossible to find and standing room at a premium. Representatives from four county Health Departments were present in connection with our VD Drive. Mr. Ash of the San Francisco Health Department gave a shocking talk on the damaging mental and physical effects of venereal disease. A responsive question and answer period followed.

Mr. Straight, Editor of the Citizens News, answered questions concerning a party at the Palace Hotel.

The Legal Committee reported the acceptance of two new members on their committee—both attorneys.

The Political Committee reports that the Political Brochure will be out within two weeks.

The Community Services Committee reported fantastic response to the VD Drive.

The Publications Committee will meet to make plans for the forthcoming publication of a monthly paper.

Community Service

The Community Services Committee has just completed a most successful program. According to Mr. Ash, Epidemiologist at the S. F. Health Clinic, stated that the clinic was overcrowded more than once during October.

Posters, brochures and pins were favorably received due to cooperation of most of the businesses within the Community. The Tavern Guild, Club Baths and 21st St. Baths are to be especially commended.

Future plans call for a follow up in February and June. Remember, however, that venereal disease is a 365 day job -- CHECK 33 regularly to control this problem.

E. S. P. A W A R E N E S S

"While all melts under our feet, we may well grasp at any exquisite passion or any contribution to knowledge that seems by a lifted horizon to set the spirit free for a moment; or any stirring of the senses - strange colors and curious odors, the work of the artist's hands or the face of one's friend. Not to discriminate every moment some passionate attitude in those about us, and in the brilliancy of their gifts some tragic dividing of forces on their ways, is, on this short day of frost and sun, to sleep before evening."

Walter Pater
"Studies in the
Renaissance"

When all melts under your feet, you are probably gassed, and the exquisite passion you may grasp at may be entrapment, a knock on the noggin or the prelude to blackmail. These may indeed contribute to your sorry knowledge, but they are a nuisance to the operator of one night stands. You may feel a 'stirring of the senses' at the sight of the face of a new 'friend'. Just be sure it is your good senses that are stirred. Do not confuse your brains with other muscles. Beware of the work of the 'artist's hands' especially when they stray.

Be sure to discriminate every moment between passionate attitudes and phony enticement. Although the object of your artless admiration may appear to be 'brilliantly gifted', there may be some tragic dividing of intentions on your way home. Remember that your best intentions are not always good enough for the police blotter, and if the days is frosty, you may not be able to sleep before morning in the tank.

It is the present fashion to shy away from sentiment. Nowhere in literature can be found a more cogent, tender appeal for understanding of the homosexual. The lifted horizon of acceptance will never be achieved if the heterosexual world continues to sleep before evening, and we will not awaken them by foolish and indiscriminate behavior. Meanwhile, we should not scorn the wisdom of a gentler, more philosophical past. We all need a credo by which to live, and if we are seeking love and spiritual fulfillment, we must have integrity. It is a large concept, for it means unflinching loyalty to our own---among other things.

Millay once wrote:

"Love is not all, it is not meat nor drink,
Nor slumber nor a roof against the rain...
"Yet many a man is making friends with death
Even as I speak, for lack of love alone."



"Say It With Flowers"

SAN FRANCISCO FLORIST

2225 Market MA 6-0399

Consider: How many men do you know in the Community who lack love because they cannot compete in the scoring competition. Do you love them, try to help them, or do you leave them to rot in loneliness and despair? It is not necessary to go to bed with them occasionally (even though this would help), but, as the old song suggested: "Try a little tenderness."

There, but for the Grace of God, will go you - someday!

The "Colts" have been very busy packing Thanksgiving baskets for needy and they will be engrossed in their Christmas Toy Drive in December. They have a very active social season scheduled for 1965.