Nomination and Election Procedure

Officer positions to be filled: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Committee chairmen positions to be filled: VECTOR Committee, Social Committee, Small Activities Committee, Political Committee, Public Relations Committee, and Legal Committee.

Wednesday, January 4, 1967: Closed Membership Meeting for nominations from the floor. There will also be nominations for four vacancies on the Ways and Means Committee. At the end of this meeting, nominations will be closed.

Wednesday, January 18, 1967: Open Meeting with platforms presented by the nominees. Your chance to question the candidates.

Wednesday, February 1, 1967: Annual Closed Membership Meeting for election of officers and committee chairmen. Election procedures will be announced. All meetings will be in the Community Center at 8:00 p.m.

Nightingale of Montgomery Street Brings Opera to SIR

On January 8th the Nightingale of Montgomery Street will perform "Aida" at the Community Center. This benefit performance for SIR will begin at 3:00 p.m. and will end when Aida dies once, twice, three times - or more - depending on the demand from the audience.

Tickets can be obtained at the SIR Center, 83 Sixth Street. Call 781-1570 for information.
Within a few weeks, the members of the Society for Individual Rights will make some crucial decisions in the election for officers and board members. (see Election Procedures, this issue, for a complete list of the positions to be filled.) Your awareness regarding these decisions will have a definite influence on SIR’s direction and potential worth.

These past few years have been a remarkable experience for the homophile community. We have brought about changes of great importance to every homosexual in San Francisco. Law enforcement practices and our relations with the Police Department have drastically changed; a San Franciscan absent during this time would call these developments nothing short of miraculous.

We have made significant progress in changing our social setting from the city streets and “tea rooms” to a responsible environment. The increase in the number, quality, and diversity of our social activities is encouraging, and the existence of our Community Center has been necessary to many of them. We all remember the limited alternatives available to us before the Center’s existence. Can you imagine how radically it would affect our social lives if there were no Community Center now?

The San Francisco homophile movement has also begun to develop organized economic and political power. Equally important, we have shown that we can exercise this power in a responsible way.

I vividly remember my first mentioning the idea of a national homosexual convention in San Francisco and the opposition it received. Yet, after a year and a half of hard work, extensive travel, and a difficult selling job, the convention was held. Session after session, speaker after speaker reflected the development of needed changes in scientific, social, legal, and religious concepts as they relate to the homosexual. The conference provided an excellent forum for the exchange of organizational experience and generally stimulated the national homophile movement. The favorable news media coverage and other related good reactions within the homosexual community and the overall San Francisco community amazed even the most critical. Mr. Lloyd Morain, President of the International Society of General Semantics, summed up the importance of what was accomplished by stating: “I don’t think there ever has in European civilization been a better and more forward-looking, carefully worked out approach than what you people are doing.”

These are only a few of the many worthwhile activities instituted by the concerned members of our community who have dedicated themselves to an organizational commitment.

SIR has been the forerunner in getting homosexuals into organized action that causes constructive changes and in bringing dignity to members. You is the time when we will determine, large part, whether we can continue in this positive role. Your vote in this election will form SIR’s new leadership.

Members who feel a concern about the future of SIR should commit themselves to seeking the available positions. If you do not feel able to assume a leadership role, your duty as a member requires that you be aware of the various candidates’ qualifications. It is with this in mind that I urge all members to gather and discuss the issues and the candidates and to attend the various nominating and election meetings, and to vote intelligently on February 1st.

Fulfilling the demands of this responsibility is essential to maintaining a dynamic organization.

The community spirit that has developed from these past years of struggle will remain strong only as we continue to progress, and this takes an aware, involved, expanding, active membership.
The annual SIR Christmas party on Sunday afternoon and evening, December 18, 1966, was made possible this year by an anonymous "Christmas present" of $150 generously donated by a SIR member. The Social Committee and other volunteers festively decorated the Community Center with many Christmas ornaments and lights, mistletoe, and strands of fir branches looped across the ceiling. In the center of the Center a huge Christmas tree was gaily decorated with all the seasonal trimmings. Vodka punch was served, and an area was set aside for dancing.

On Christmas afternoon, a volunteer committee also held an open house "Potluck" Christmas dinner, including turkey, for members and their guests.

"BOY FRIEND" TICKETS AVAILABLE

Tickets are now available for "The Boy Friend." Performances will be held Friday and Saturday, February 24th & 25th, at 8:30 p.m. at the Community Center. There will also be a Sunday performance on February 26th at 2:30 p.m. Tickets may be obtained at the SIR office. Seating is limited, so those planning to attend are advised to obtain their tickets early. Seating will be cabaret style and the tables will be for groups of four and six.

"APPLE Knockers" and Christmas Carols set the mood of the December Open Meeting. The members were called to order by President Beardemphl who made a few announcements and then turned the meeting over to Kevin Harper. Kevin called on several committee chairmen to tell about their committees and what they are doing.

Mrs. Clay Colwell was asked to draw the winning stubs in the Christmas Drawing. Excitement mounted as she drew the stubs first for the case of liquor, then for the stereo set, and finally for the color TV set. None of the winners were present, so their prizes were delivered to them.

The program concluded with the premier showing of the movie, "SIR Shows The Empress San Francisco." The meeting was then adjourned with an invitation to all to visit the Boutique, and to have another "Apple Knocker".

Rotating homes and meeting every Tuesday evening at 8:00 the SIR Art Group is beginning its second year. A model is provided, and interested persons, members and non-members alike, are invited to attend. Drawing pad, pencil or charcoal and eraser are all the equipment necessary for an evening of relaxed enjoyment. Spectators are not permitted. For further information, call Mike at KL 2-3472.
The case "In re Psychopathic Personality of Benno Dittrich. County of Brown and State, Respondents, 9 N.W.2d 510," is an unbelievable as any to be found to illustrate the fact that sex is a subject which can inflame people's minds and cause them to lay aside all reason. The concerned Minnesota statute defines a psychopathic personality as "the existence in any person of such condition of emotional instability, or impulsiveness of behavior, or lack of customary standards of good judgment, or failure to appreciate the consequences of his acts, or a combination of any such conditions, as to render such person irresponsible for his conduct with respect to sexual matters and thereby dangerous to other persons."

The "defendant" when tried was 42 years of age, married, and the father of six children. He was a farmer, lie was mentally bright, capable, and a good worker. He had an "uncontrollable craving for sexual intercourse and self-abuse by mas­trich."

The "defendant's" sexual excesses committed on his wife (purported to be four or more) made any advances to other women. As a result of his sex­ual activity in this manner, the authorities determined that he had the psychopathic condition was that of two physicians called by the State. One physician said because he was separated from his wife, his sex drive "would be like steam under pressure." The other physician testified it was an "uncontrollable craving for sexual intercourse and self-abuse by mastur­bation." He had a good reputation and had never attacked or made any advances to other women. As a result of his sexual excesses committed on his wife (purported to be four times a week), her health was supposedly impaired.

The only expert testimony relative to the "defendant's" psychopathic condition was that of two physicians called by the State. One physician said because he was separated from his wife, his sex drive "would be like steam under pressure" and there was danger of his molesting other women. (This was in the audience, I'm sure he heard the deploring appeal which followed that number.)

The "defendant" was never accused of any impropriety toward anyone; (2) his only "crime" was the enjoyment of sex with his wife or mastur­bation; (3) the State machinery railroaded an innocent man off to prison because he may in the future attack someone although there was no evidence whatsoever that this thought ever crossed his mind. Based on the rationale of this case, all mankind is subject to imprisonment. Witchhunting, any­one?

The Minnesota Supreme Court found nothing wrong with this case and affirmed the lower court's commitment to a state prison-hospital.

The things to note about the case are: (1) The defendant was never accused of any impropriety toward anyone; (2) his only "crime" was the enjoyment of sex with his wife or mastur­bation; (3) the State machinery railroaded an innocent man off to prison because he may in the future attack someone although there was no evidence whatsoever that this thought ever crossed his mind. Based on the rationale of this case, all mankind is subject to imprisonment. Witchhunting, any­one?

The foregoing case was brought to our attention by a reader. Should any reader know of a case he would like to see discussed here, he should send us its name and citation.
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Constitution Revision Committee Formed

A committee to revise and modernize the SIR Constitution and Bylaws has been organized under authorization of the Board of Directors. The committee will bring the Constitution up to date by deleting repealed and obso­lete sections and by incorporating into the basic docu­ment the many amendments that have been adopted in the past two years. The Committee will make a similar codification of all new bylaws and resolutions.

The first meeting was held on December 16, 1966. A com­mittee member was selected to submit a draft proposal of the new Constitution to the committee at its next meeting on January 9, 1967. The re­vised Constitution and Bylaws will later be submitted to the full membership for ratification.

The committee is presently concerned only with reorganiza­tion and modernization of the Constitution and Bylaws. At a later date, however, if the revisions are accepted by the membership, the committee will consider submitting changes of a substantive nature.

Copies of the Special Halloween and Silhchtry Capsades issue of VECTOR are available at the Golden Cask and The Casual Man on Polk Street. Send copies to your friends - they won't believe it.

Send copies to your friends - they won't believe it.

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Santana - by Fritz Peters. Lancer Books, paperback, 006. This is, without doubt, the most powerful, thoughtful and tender novel written in our generation. The fact that it ends in tragedy in no way detracts from the beauty and reality of the story. A fifteen year old American boy in a French school is rescued from drowning and falls in love with his rescuer - the athletic director. His parents are divorced and his mother has married a gigolo. His one friend is a man of thirty who will not acknowledge to himself or to the boy, Matthew, that he loves him. Matthew, in his innocent hunger for love, feels no shame or guilt. At first Michel, his rescuer, is afraid of such an open relationship, but is gradually won over. Matthew's mother and her husband accept Michel and invite him to spend the sum­mer with them in Brittany.

An early reviewer said of this book: "The best novel this reviewer has ever read on the theme of homosexuality and its consequences. I do not agree with the last phrase. The 'consequences' were beyond Matthew's control. He had been conditioned for despair and death. Nor do I agree entirely with Gore Vidal's review in which he states: "...At this moment in our social history it is difficult for most Ameri­can authors to write a novel without making a tract or an apology..." (The Author) has kept resolutely in focus his great theme: the corruption and murder of inno­cence."

While I agree that an auth­or should not write about the 'corruption' of a fifteen year old boy by a man twice his age, I see no reason to 'murder' the boy in order to find a famous publisher for the book. The world we live in demands that we be unhap­py. Why?
FOR SALE. Queen size bed, gd cond w/metal frame. $50. Blue couch. $50. Call VA 4-7642.

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BOWLING

SIR's Bowling League has 17 sponsored teams and five looking for sponsors. Businessmen will find sponsoring a team an effective way to advertise and may do so by calling SIR at SU 1-1570. The cost is the price of the shirts for the team you sponsor.

There are still a few openings for bowlers. The teams meet on Monday evening and everyone is welcome. For further information, call SU 1-1570.

Farewell Performance
by
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PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

On December 9th, SIR's newly organized theatrical group, The SIR Productions Committee, held its first on-stage rehearsal. All of Act I of its present production, Sandy Wilson's "The Boyfriend," was rehearsed, and with great accomplishment. It was well organized and everyone did well. Since that date, Act II has also been blocked.

Of course, there have been a few mishaps such as falling off chairs (watch that first step, Maisie). But with the humorous characters fashioned by Mr. Wilson in this spoof on the 20's, we are already rolling with laughter, especially that sexy (?) maid Hortense. This is a production without "stars" and everyone has some very funny lines, and it's a real pleasure to note that the staff is cooperative all the way from top to bottom.

On December 10th, the group held a meeting to get things underway for future productions - sneak preview, sssh. Three one-act plays will be considered for its next project. So one can see that this group is really going to keep busy while, at the same time, it will entertain members and friends of SIR.

For those interested in joining the group, the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for January 6, 1967. Consult your VECTOR for future meetings.

Tickets for "The Boyfriend" will go on sale in January. The musical will be presented late in February. But for now, WHO IS THE BOYFRIEND?
ERRATA
In our December issue, page 5, Christmas Season, we inadvertently had Christmas fall on a Saturday instead of Sunday. We hope this did not confuse our readers.

On page 3, SIRLEBRITY CAPADES, we stated that the opening design, which depicted SIR’s varied activities, was created by Chuck Thayer. It was created by Rick Rickard. Our apologies to both Chuck and Rick. Chuck did however, design the program cover and the set reproduction of it.

SIRLEBRITY CAPADES RECORDS
You can still reserve a set of these two records, which will be available in February. In order to get a copy, however, you must place your order in advance, along with a cash deposit, prior to February 1st.

SIR SKIERS
Excellent snow conditions inspired four new members to join the SIR Skiers at its December meeting.

Enjoying a festive punch, the group selected Dodge Ridge for its first trip of the season. This was the site of several successful trips last season. The trip is scheduled for the weekend of January 14th. Some of the group will leave on Friday night and the rest will join them at noon on Saturday. A hot buttered rum party has been promised on Saturday evening.

There will be a meeting of the group on Tuesday, January 10th, at 8:00 p.m., to plan transportation and sleeping arrangements. Anyone interested may call 673-6590 or 863-6935 for further information. Ski Hell!!

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MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

CLOSED: January 4
OPEN: January 18

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