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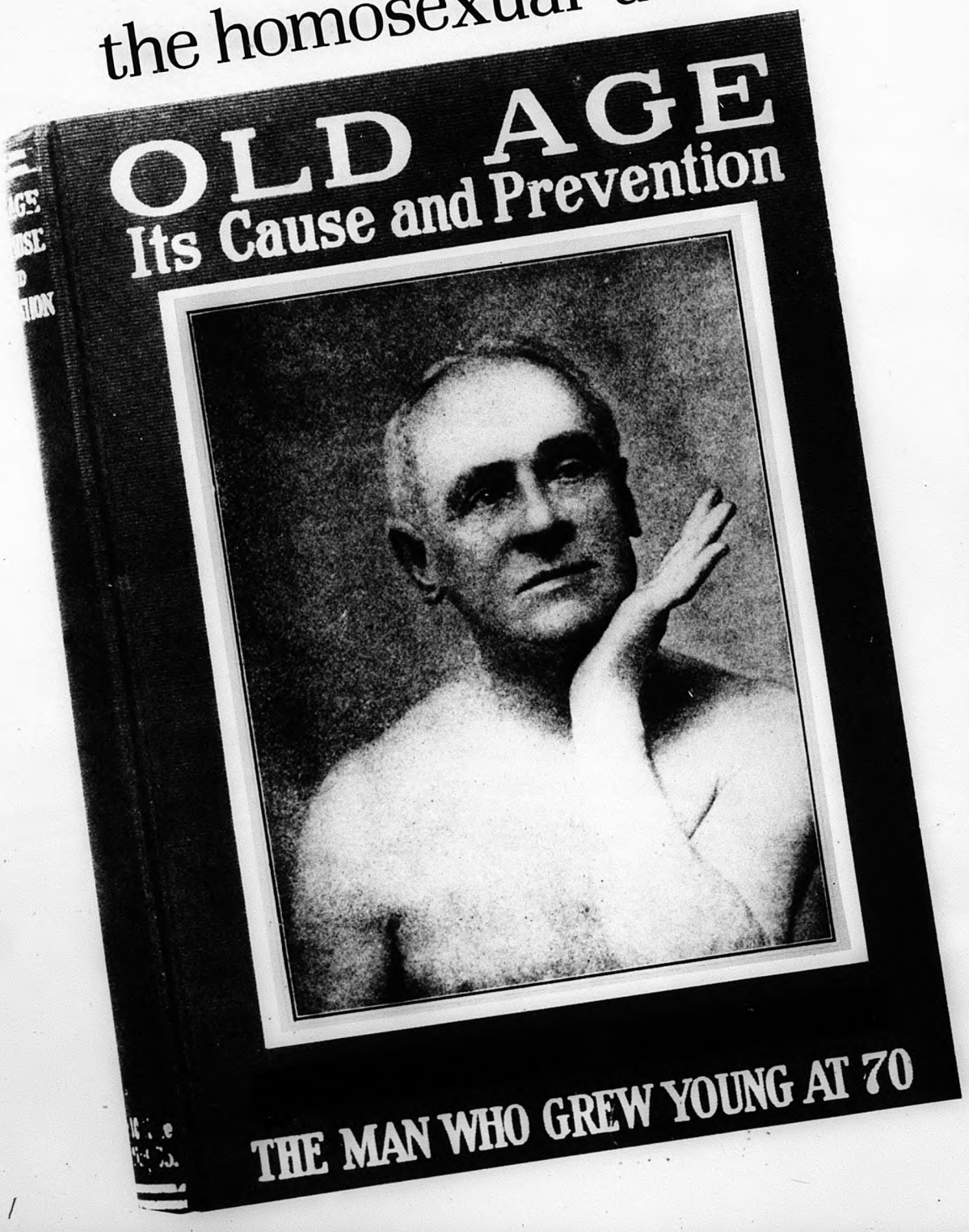

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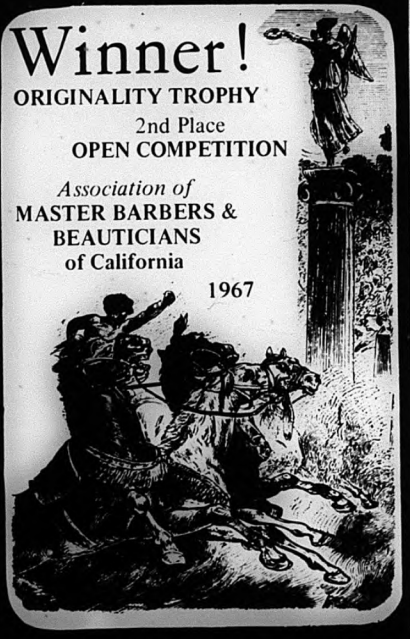

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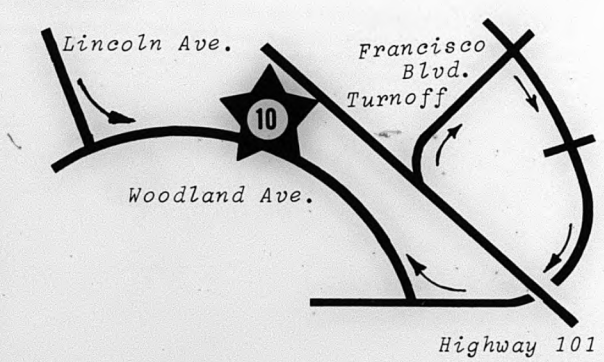

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VOLUME 4 NUMBER 8 AUGUST 1968

A VOICE FOR THE HOMOPHILE COMMUNITY

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Published Monthly by:
SOCIETY
FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS
83 Sixth Street
San Francisco, California 94103

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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. Consititution

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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homosexuals call for completion of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION

by W.E.B.

July 3, 1968 at noon, on the steps of the Federal Building in San Francisco, S.I.R., C.R.H., D.O.B., and N.L.D.F. staged a demonstration to remind Americans that homosexuals do not have the rights granted to all other citizens of this country. The adjoining pictures testify to the effective display that was put on in a responsible manner. Leaflets were passed out to the many persons in that area on their lunch hour. Picket signs were carried and speeches outlining the positions of homosexuals were given by Reverend Robert Cromey, Miss Shirley Waller, Rick Stokes, Jim Bradford, Larry Littlejohn, Jim Skaggs and yours truly W.E. Beardemphl.

A press release was sent to all news media in the area who responded with one of the finest coverages of a homophile happening that we have ever seen. In fact the press outnumbered the homosexual community during the hour long show proving something. All T.V., papers and radio stations in the area were represented along with the A.P. and U.P. news services.

The press release follows:

On the 192nd anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, American homosexuals call for the completion of the American Revolution. The inalienable rights of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"—consistently abridged by the federal government—have now become empty rhetoric for these millions of America's "Invisible Minority". Denied equal federal employment opportunities; considered "guilty" without proof as "security risks"; branded as sex deviants and destroyed for life when called to serve in their country's armed forces; legally outlawed by the nation's Supreme Court as "sexual psychopaths"—we 8 million homosexual citizens demand fulfillment of the principles we celebrate this July 4th. Like our Founding Fathers, we reaffirm the "equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle us.

Other minorities have been at least officially recognized—attempts have been made to bring them within the scope of the Declaration of Independence. The only recognition of the homosexual minority in this country has been one of oppression—homosexuals have been the "scapegoat" for our country's sexual sickness. The time for the completion of the American Revolution is long overdue. As loyal Americans we ask that the principles of the Declaration of Independence now be extended to all Americans.

Therefore, we demand for homosexual citizens:

1. Equal federal employment opportunities;
2. Security clearance individually considered without reference to sexual orientation;
3. An end to discriminatory practices against homosexuals in the armed services;
4. That the federal government recognize that private consentual acts between adults are not the legitimate purview of law or of law enforcement procedures.

The ensuing coverage of this event was worth immeasurable funds to all homosexuals. As long as the active homosexual organizations in this area continue such effective work we can be assured that a better day for all of the homophile community is possible and will come about.

Parries & Thrusts

BY W. E. BEARDEMPHL

NEW YORK: Our first item has to do with my glorious mistake of not mentioning that the WBAI-FM series on homosexuality is from New York, so if you dialed and dialed and came up with nothing, its because you weren't tuned in to the right city. This program has members of West Side Discussion Group on one section that was taped on the June 15 Hudson River Cruise that was sponsored by the Corduroy Club.

The river cruise was a smash hit with 350 persons aboard. There was dancing to a live band; most couples brought their own bottles and were served setups; beer and refreshments were sold on the lower deck. The evening was a benefit for the Building Fund of the Corduroy Club, the only legitimate private gay club in New York. This first for the New York homosexual community was a financial success and was a real breakthrough in the Mafia control over the public social life of homosexuals there.

Praise and boquets go to the Corduroy Club and the West Side Discussion Group, 240 West 38th, for their efforts to bring about a better climate in Manhattan.

Now let's take the ugly tube all the way to downtown Manhattan to also hand a boquet of American Beauty Roses to Dow Jones for their article appearing in the WALL STREET JOURNAL Wednesday, July 17. On the front page of that paper and continued inside was a long article on the homosexuals in America and their organizations. While the article was loaded with misinformation, it was positive and they spelled Society for Individual Rights correctly. We quote the following:

By Charles Alverson, Staff reporter . . . In Washington, they have picketed the White House, Pentagon, State Department and Civil Service Commission. Last fall in San Francisco, candidates for city office actively sought their vote as a bloc. They have recently protested successfully against job discrimination and police harassment in New York. More than 40 regional and national organizations, including a newly formed National Legal Defense Fund, fight for their cause.

This sounds like a militant minority, and so it is. But the members of this movement cut across traditional areas of prejudice like race, nationality or religion. They are a tiny but vocal minority of this nation's estimated 10 million homosexuals.

Long the target of whispered comments or off-color jokes, homosexuality is fast coming out in the open. Homosexuals in many instances are boldly challenging the right of others to make them second-class citizens. With growing support from heterosexuals, they are fighting discrimination on legal, economic and social fronts.

"Against the Morals of the Public"

It's a formidible task. Under present laws, homosexual acts–even between consenting adults in private–are illegal in every state except Illinois. A number of occupations–notably teaching–are closed to homosexuals. A military man discovered to be a homosexual is abruptly discharged–often with few legal formalities–and is likely to lost his veteran's benefits. Known homosexuals are barred from any post requiring a security clearance and from almost all Federal jobs.

In several other big cities, police are taking a softer line toward homosexuals. Three years ago San Francisco police regularly raided the social functions of the Society for Individual Rights, a 1,000 member homosexual group. Today, the raids have ceased. Instead, police officers address the group on such topics as the legal rights of homosexuals.

SAN MATEO: This staunch community south of San Francisco which boasts such liberal luminaries of the far right as Shirley Temple Black has a new thing going to protect itself from the evil influences of the modern version of Sodom (San Francisco). A letter to the San Mateo City Council from S.I.R. president, Jim Skaggs was misinterpreted by THE ADVANCE STAR, Sunday, July 7, on its front page. The headline reads "A FIGHT TO PROTECT IMPERSONATIONS", by Bob Carr. But the letter was on the proposed regulation which reads: "Employment of entertainers or employees whose activities or conduct encourages, promotes or condones the congregation of homosexuals, lesbians or persons pretending to be such, shall be prohibited". We quote from the article following:

"A proposed regulation which would bar naked women, lewd gestures or acts, impersonation, dirty movies–sex–as live entertainment in San Mateo has raised the hackles of one organization dedicated to one of the more lurid aspects of that tender topic.

The 850-member Society for Individual Rights (SIR), Inc. of San Francisco has written a letter to the San Mateo City Council stating, among other things:

"We mean to oppose this regulation in any way that we can–notably through the efforts of members of our organization who live in San Mateo.'

RELIGION: THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY, an ecumenical weekly out of Chicago, published June 5, the best article I have ever read in an uptight square religious magazine. We reprint it in full:

Religious Group Urges Recognition of Homosexuals' Rights . . . An amusing typographical error (Freudian slip?) in a May appeal issued by the Council on Religion and the Homosexual (with headquarters in San Francisco) will no doubt be gleefully seized upon by antihomosexual crusaders like Fred Cherry of Brooklyn, who seems to think that homosexuals want to take over this country. (Mr. Cherry keeps sending out oversize postcards that say things like: "Are you aware that when leaders of the homosexual movement speak of "Sexual Freedom,' they mean absolute freedom for faggots, combined with rigid suppression for everyone else? Are you aware that . . . the organized homosexual movement of America is driving relentlessly toward the establishment of a PERVERT WORLD?) Says the council's release: " . . . Movement [sic], homosexuals are themselves becoming socially acceptable and are now recognized as a minority group whose status and grievances merit serious consideration." The offending error aside, surely reasonable heterosexuals (Mr. Cherry does not quality–as reasonable, that is) are entitled to wonder if homosexuals are in fact "now recognized as a monority group." Recognized by whom? By how many? Are homosexuals indeed a minority group in the usual sense of that term? Would many of them even want to be recognized as such? But if one can discount the council's wishful thinking, special pleading and question begging–perhaps inevitable with any lobbying organization–one can discern merit in most of its proposals. In conjunction with other San Francisco area groups the Council on Religion and the Homosexual is calling for reform of present laws which prohibit private sexual acts between consenting adults and regulate sexual solicitation; employment on the basis of job qualification and performance without reference to sexual orientation; modification of present policies which not only exclude homosexuals from the draft but also provide for undesirable discharge from the armed forces followed by denial of veterans' benefits; and ending such police and liquor authority practices as harassment, enticement and entrapment of homosexuals. The council has also embarked on an educational program "to encourage the discussion which will lead to understanding and improvement," and to this end urges

(a) that the communications media treat the subject of homosexuality in a nonsensational and educational manner; (b) that public officials not only become aware of the homosexual minority and its grievances but also work to change outmoded laws and policies; (c) that religious leaders and groups become involved with the problems of the homosexual in both a spiritual and practical manner; (d) that doctors and social scientists intensify their study of the well adjusted homosexual who materially contributes to society; and (e) that law schools and law enforcement authorities critically examine such issues as the violation of the civil rights of homosexuals, the specific practices resorted to by police and liquor agents, the nature and quality of "trials" given to homosexuals arrested by decoy officers, and the validity of and justification for the registration of consensual adult sex offenders.

(Continued on Page 24)

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LAFAYETTE SQUARE

BY PIAFF

John Q's reaction to homosexuality is often of two sorts: revulsion or embarrassment. These are clearly the product of acculturation, which are all the more damaging if they lie in the mind of a homosexual. The syndrome here is not undifferent from that encountered in the attitude of some toward Negroes. Occasionally these attitudes are accompanied by guilt. Could their next line be: "Some of my best friends are . . . . . "?

Vituperation can reach such a level that one would presume homosexuality a vice unparalleled; that homosexual persons certainly had neither mothers nor fathers; and that they scarcely qualify as human. This process, of course, is abstraction: a formidable foe to confront and to overcome. Just as negroes become Negro, queers become Queer.

To catalogue every contributor to this distorted image would tax me, and the reader. To my thinking, the worst offenders are dishonest, or cowardly, psychoanalysts or psychiatrists. One is willing to excuse stupidity and fear in the uneducated, but the tolerance level is surpassed rapidly when the person spreading bilge is a "learned" one.

For too long the "psycho" profession has indulged quacks and queer mongers with abominable permissiveness. Clearly the homophile movement must pressure the "psychos" into admitting the truth (some have; all due apologies to the purveyors of truth). If the profession refuses to police itself, then its victims must do so. The homophile movement has gained momentum and power because hundreds, and then thousands, dared to say: "Hell no, we aren't sick!" When our voice is raised to the millionth decible, you may rest assured that "psycho" ignorance will be less abundent.

In our time, alas, we shall contribute but to the secondary skirmishes. But, if our sons or daughters are to enjoy loving their own sexes without the preachments of sin and sickness, then we must fight.

If I am not suffering from myopic self-delusion, there is in our country a breathtaking rebirth of the humanistic impulse. Youth is sick of that in our system which condemns the human and spiritually beautiful. Their vernacular for it is: Find Your Thing and Do It. Perhaps not the best choice of words, but the message is clear and compelling.

Not wishing to sound too optimistic, I think a corner is being turned. There may be periods of retrenchment until the young assert their numerical majority (see my pessimism politically, in the July 1968 VECTOR), but the prognosis remains good. It will remain good as long as homosexuals continue to fight against repression wherever it is found: in business, in government, in the military, in the courts and police stations, in society.

Persons who express or have expressed homosexual love perhaps number between 1/5th to 1/10th of the nation's population. Though of all sorts, they are judged by a stereotype. As Sartre has correctly noted, those stereotyped often attempt to abide by the image held of them. Hence, we all know homosexuals who are simpering souls. (I hold them little to blame; weakness of this sort is entirely human).

Many who are homosexual, and many who love homosexuals, recognize how distorted is this stereotype. I personally know homosexuals who are very masculine and very feminine, in accordance with their genders (and let's fact it, there is abundant confusion over the implications and expectations attached to these adjectives). I have and do know homosexuals who are college professors, businessmen, truck drivers, government workers, servicemen, dancers, hairdressers, writers, doctors, lawyers, grocery clerks, interior decorators, priests and bums. Quite an array. Which proves only that homosexuality bears little relation to a person's talents. So much for the myth about homosexuality and occupation!

In truth, homosexuality is but an aspect of a person's being. Surely, too, it is an irresistible and integral part of a person's being. Were it otherwise, the enormous pressures of culture against its expression would prevent that expression. One suspects, indeed, that these pressures, rather than homosexuality itself, are the source of anguish among "sick" homosexuals. Some would have us believe otherwise.

And it must be noted that a more permissive attitude by society toward homosexuality would not denude the nation of children. The impulse toward procreation is sufficient to prevent that; and studies indicate that all but four percent of men and woman ultimately marry. Fears of a decline in heterosexual love because of permissiveness toward homosexual love are greatly exaggerated.

What permissiveness would accomplish is a good deal more happiness for a great many people. It would alleviate anxiety and blunt bitterness; and, most important, it would be consumately compassionate.

Does it not follow that if God is love, then God must approve of love in all its

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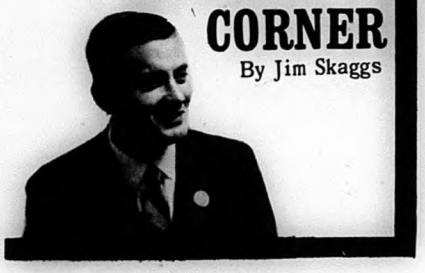
THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Jim Skaggs



The Committee on Unity, established by the 1967 NAHC in Washington D.C., has been considering various suggestions and proposals during its first year of existence. One of the most specific, strongly in favor of a National Federation of Homophile Organizations, has come from the Student Homophile League of Columbia University. Please consider carefully the philosophical direction of these first five proposed articles:

ARTICLE I

1. The North American Homosphile Conference is a federation of sovereign homophile organizations in North America. The purpose of the Conference is:

For organizations and selected individuals dedicated primarily to the improvement of the status of the homosexual, to formulate, plan, discuss, co-ordinate, and impliment strategy, tactics, ideologies, philosophies, and methodologies for the improvement of the status of the homosexual as a homosexual.

The Conference will provide for the expression of contributions that may be made by individuals and organizations whose activities are, though not primarily involved with the problems of the homosexual, relevant to the crucial problems that face the homosexual community.

Understanding that only a free exchange of worthwhile ideas can eliminate inter-group strife, the Conference will allow for open communication in the homosexual community. Inter-group projects and cooperation will be encouraged on all possible levels. The Conference will consistently work to expose the "sexual sickness" that pervades our society and offer meaningful answers to the wide range of problems forced on homosexuals. To be effective this Conference must articulate and respond to the needs of Americas' homosexual community. The Conference, while presently consultative in nature and function, shall consider itself to be a duly constituted continuing body, having the power, with the concurrance of the delegates to make rules and establish criteria necessary for the orderly transaction of business and the furtherance of it's goals.

ARTICLE II

1. The NAHC shall hold its annual convention in the summer of each year, in a city designated by the previous convention. The exact date of the convention shall be determined by the Executive Committee upon nomination by the Chairman no later than December 15 of each year. Dates and locations may be changed by the Council. No coastal region, however, shall host the convention twice in succession.

2. The convention is the supreme organ of the NAHC and may overrule or instruct the Executive Committee, the Council, or any committee or other subsidiary organ, except as provided in these by-laws.

3. The Committee on Credentials and the National Legal Defense Fund shall not be liable to Section Four except as may be provided by their respective rules.

ARTICLE III

1. The regional conferences shall be constituent but autonomous bodies of the NAHC.

2. The regions shall be: East, Midwest and West.

3. The NAHC shall have final authority over regional boundaries and the recognition of new regions, but shall whenever possible abide by agreements among the regions to fix their own boundaries.

(Continued on Page 18)

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S.I.R.'s New Park

An impressive example of S.I.R.'s broad community involvement–SIR's projected development of a new park in San Francisco–is now under way. Four small plots of land at the western end of the Sunset (N car) Tunnel, now forbidden to the public by the Public Utilities Commission, are to be developed into a mini park that will provide a new oasis for the people of San Francisco.

One of the four plots is scheduled to become a playground for children who are old enough to play without supervision. An adjacent plot will be for tiny tots and their mothers. The two upper plots will be developed for adults who want a peaceful place where they can relax in a pleasant outdoor setting.

This new park project has the blessing and support of Mayor Joseph Alioto and the enthusiastic endorsement of Supervisor Jack Morrison, Bill Plath of the Opera Club, Tom Stuart of Bradley's Corner, neighborhood merchants, and, of course, SIR's Community Services Committee.

The originators of the new park project are SIR members Greg (Ahmed) Gallipeau and Ward Hall. It is they who first decided to do something about making these four plots of land available to the public. The development of the mini park at 20th and Capp Streets by The Latin Youth Association and Youth for Service inspired them to present their plans for another mini park to Mayor Alioto, who was delighted with the idea.

Since then Greg, as co-ordinator of the Citizens Committee for Park Improvement, has done a remarkable job of selling the idea of a new park. Yards of red tape have already been slashed, architectural plans have been drawn, and the time when members of SIR can literally do some spade work is not far off.

The Saturday upon which SIR's physical construction work can start has not yet been determined, but all members with muscles (and, hopefully, a shovel or other useful work tool) are urged to get in touch with Greg Gallipeau now. During the day, he may be reached at GR 4-4232. Evenings and weekends, you may get him at UN 3-3338, or call BA 1-3660.

Bradley's Corner has promised to furnish free beer to the guys who work on this project the first Saturday. And there may be other beer donors on subsequent Saturdays. The important thing, of course, is not the beer, but SIR's opportunity to make a lasting contribution to the people of San Francisco, no matter what their sexual orientation may be.

Call Greg NOW.

Small Activities

by PERRY GEORGE

Before I get into this column I have an announcement to make. Neither I, nor my good friend Mme. Aida Soto-Voce is the "Perry" running for the Tavern Guild's title of Empress of San Francisco. I am sure he is also having as confusing a time as we are.

I am sorry to report the Oakland Discussion Group (818 Eric) died in childbirth. I was sorry to have the chairman of that group have to return to Kansas City. He was so full of fire and enthusiasm for SIR and the Homophile movement. Whenever we lose people of this type we always particularly feel it. We do still have one East Bay Discussion Group at 2329A San Pablo Ave. in Berkeley (upstairs) with a good loyal core of regulars, but we encourage new faces and ideas always.

Speaking of Discussion Groups, our San Francisco group at 1256 Page was recently the victim of a VERY impractical joke when one of the guests left the room and phoned the host telling him he was calling for the police department and the morals squad was on their way to make a raid! Many of the guests were visioning SS Troups raiding a synagogue in Nazi Germany and fled the meeting. To these people I say, gentlemen, this isn't Nazi Germany or Los Angeles; although I must admit if the current trend toward extreme conservatism grips our state and national governments, our "Ship of Fools" will arrive in port sooner than we think.

Paul Mariah, chairman of the Poetry Workshop Group, and I had discussed some time ago about S.I.R. publishing an attractive booklet of poems of the group and now that we have a new publications chairman, I went to his committee meeting and got their enthusiastic endorsement of cooperation on their part so in a few months this should be made available.

The Opera Workshop has retrenched and decided the name was misleading. After discussion the group has been retitled the Ensemble Workshop. We feel this more truly portrays the function and purpose of the group. We encourage participation in the group from people interested in working on improving ensemble singing. The group meets on Thursdays. To find locations phone the SIR office or myself at 346-4693.

Tony, one of the costume designers and makers for "Little Mary Sunshine," will begin a Sewing Group on August 13 in the SIR Center at 8:00 p.m. This group will cover everything from pattern making to drapes and slipcovers.

In closing, don't forget to check the calendar for the new Ballroom Dancing Group, the Opera Meeting Dinner and other activities.

MOVIES AND BINGO
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Magda at THE MOVIES

by Magdalena Montezuma

A GAY ROMP WITH HITLER
AND
"THE PRODUCERS"

Hilarious and campy are the two words that best describe the hilarious and campy "PRODUCERS" now playing at the Alexandria Theatre. Although this Mel Brooks film may not be everyone's cup of borscht, I for one was falling in the aisle watching the antics of Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder as they cavorted across the screen in a series of laugh filled sequences. The film, in color, may offend some of the thin-skinned and possibly those who may still bear bitter memories of W.W. II, but I don't think anyone can take this picture and the "Hitler" show at all seriously. The writer-director Brooks certainly didn't.

The premise of the plot is that a producer can actually make more money on a flop than a hit Broadway show, especially if he can pocket 25,000% of the investments he has sold in the production. Mostel cons Wilder, an accountant, into his plot to make a million and the two go in search of the perfect flop. This they find in a script titled "Springtime For Hitler" (a gay romp with Adolph and Eva in Berchtesgarten). To fortify the fact that the show will lay an egg, they hire Broadway's worst director (his shows close after the first rehearsal), a drag queen named Roger De Bris, who meets Mostel and Wilder as he is preparing himself for the Annual Choreographers Ball. This sequence is one of the campiest in the film, from the moment that his secretary, the aptly named Carmen Giya opens the door of Roger's elaborate town house to the parting farewell when Roger agrees to do the show—"I can see it all now, a multitude of girls dressed as storm troopers all in patent leather—so S&M". The selection of the star of this vechicle turns out to be Dick Shawn as a beatnick-hippie character named Lorenzo San Dubois ("But my friends call me L.S.D.".) The highlight of the film is the "Springtime For Hitler" production number which is pure Busby Berkeley-on-the-Rhine. The finale comes a little surprise as the show turns out to be a big, fat, smash hit. But that doesn't stop Mostel for long, he decides to blow up the theatre and as the film ends he and Wilder are setting up a show in prison entitled "Prisoners of Love".

Along the way of the film are many scenes with contributions from a very fine cast of characters which include Estelle Winwood as "Miss Hold Me-Touch Me", one of Mostels L.O.L.'s (tres Herb Caen), Renee Taylor as a Bronx Eva Braun, and Kenneth Mars as the shell shocked Nazi author of the tribute to Hitler. The performances of Christopher Hewett and Andres Voutsinas as De Bris and Giya are mucho fun. The standout performance is that of Gene Wilder, who had the great bit as the undertaker Romeo kidnaped in "Bonnie and Clyde". He is nothing short of superb and gives Mostel stiff competition in the comedy honors. Mostel is a ton of fun as usual, he mugs outrageously which fits his part of the down-and-out producer to a tee.

I know it's so cliche to say "Don't Miss It", but unless laughter is not your bag—Don't Miss It! . . . Until next . . . Bye-e-e-e-e . . . Luv, Magda

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FLUFF buff & (BUTCH)

by Michelle Duloc and Rene' Autil

We would like to wax medical just for a bit . . . and we would like to talk about breast cancer and a few other "female problems" we have heard worried whispers about.

Breast cancer, that ominous villain that lurks in the shadows of fear and ignorance until it is too late to do anything in the way of a cure. This year 28,000 women will die of it, and some 65,000 new cases will be discovered. One out of every sixteen women will, at some time in her life, discover she has breast cancer.

Research has not made any significant breakthrough in the causes, nor is there any miraculous treatment past the point of its metastasizing, BUT there have been great steps in the DETENTION of this disease. At the top of this detention list is YOU . . . if you learn the steps in self-examination. We are not asking you to play with yourself, and if examining yourself means this to you, then we suggest you reevaluate the value you place on your life. We might also add that no matter how butch you think you are (motorcycle jackets cannot hide what is really there, Virginia!) you are still a woman and as such you do have a couple of bodies . . . somewhere. We will not list the steps here; such a list is easily obtained from the American Cancer Society or your physician . . . or if you are so inclined send a request to us in care of VECTOR, and we will be more than happy to send one to you. Forget the fear of really finding something (better now than later), drop the pride and embarrassment and get with it.

All breast cancer starts as a small lump; undetected it grows and will metastasize (spread out) to the lymph nodes in the armpit—then to the lungs, liver, brain and death. Not all lumps are milignant; most are benign, and in some cases breasts are filled with many of these benign lumps giving rise to a condition known as cystic breasts. Such a condition is not usually malignant . . . at best it is only slightly painful during the ovulation period when the breasts tend to swell.

Some of the lumps that are malignant cannot be felt and new methods of detection such as thermography and mammography are used to find them.

So you find a lump; or mammography (special x-ray) does: what next? Before any definite diagnosis is made a biopsy is performed. This is simply a surgical procedure whereby an incision is made into the breast where the lump in question is located. A very small piece of it is sliced off and a microscopic examination is made. If this examination shows it to be malignant a radical mastectomy will be performed. This is an involved surgical procedure wherein the entire breast and part of the muscle that surrounds the arm-shoulder joint are removed. If the lump is nothing more than a lump it will most probably be removed (so as not to bug you in the future) and a few stitches are taken. The resulting scar is so small you can pass it off as a boob wrinkle.

So you only have one menstrual period once every three months and when it does arrive you are found in bed for the next two days in a fetal position of writhing pain . . . and you say everything is just fine? Well . . . we do know a few people who play this game; seemingly in conjunction with their pretending not to be women, and the pain is senseless unless that is really your bag. The once every three months is bad news, too . . . even if it is convenient in some ways and saves money that the Tampax people take. One of the reactions we got to suggesting this to a friend was: "You're crazy if you think I'm going to some /*††"!!/ man and get up on some table with my legs spread apart to and gone!" Now, George get hold of your butch mystique and make it to the ol' doc, who is more interested in his golf game and roses than in looking at your family Jewel!

A common nasty that often breaks into the scene is a severe (fantastic) itching accompanied by a thick, white discharge. This is caused by a bug known as a member of the yeast family. (not the kind that makes things rise!) Though this bug is non-dangerous it is nevertheless bothersome and persistant, and requires your doctor's immediate attention. It is not caused because you never bathe more than twice a day, simply because the acid-base balance of your vaginal tract has been altered . . . and it is easily re-altered with creams and/or douches specifically made for yeasties. Another bug somewhat more serious is the Trichomonas; unfortunately it exhibits the same symptoms as a yeast and only your doctor will be able to tell the difference. Neither are akin to the venereal diseases, so ease your minds.

Oh . . . there are just all sorts of pains and itching places we could delve into (on paper), but the whole point of all of this is to get your reluctant bodies to your doctor if any of these fit your complaint. In this age of medical knowledge and know-how only YOU can detect or help detect . . . then medicine will do the rest.

Finally! Finally! A committee for Women in S.I.R. has been formed. A special article has been written covering their first meeting. Please READ, and rush right over to the Center for their meetings. (Dates of meetings will be posted separately if not in this issue of VECTOR)

WOMEN IN S.I.R.

by Sandy Johnson, Chairwoman

Ladies a new committee has been formed just for you.

You have said you would like to take a more active part in S.I.R., if there were more things for you to do. So this committee was formed for us to decide on some activities that we would be interesting in doing. To make this group work we are going to have to work together.

I feel strongly that we girls need an organization like S.I.R. as bad as the boys do. Some come on girls, let's get out there and make this a big success. Join the girls on Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. at the S.I.R. Center. For further information, write or call the S.I.R. office.

BOX LUNCH—DANCE

Ten women (and a few guys who came to cheer) launched "Women in S.I.R." at their first meeting in July. Sandy Johnson was elected chairman, and Wanda, secretary. The lively session was exploding with enthusiasm and ideas . . . including the first box-lunch dance set for Sunday, August 18, 2 to 8 pm, at the Center.

The first fes WIS social events will be for WOMEN ONLY. It was agreed tha the number of men attending would overwhelm the gals at first, but integrated events are planned for later, so be patient, guys!

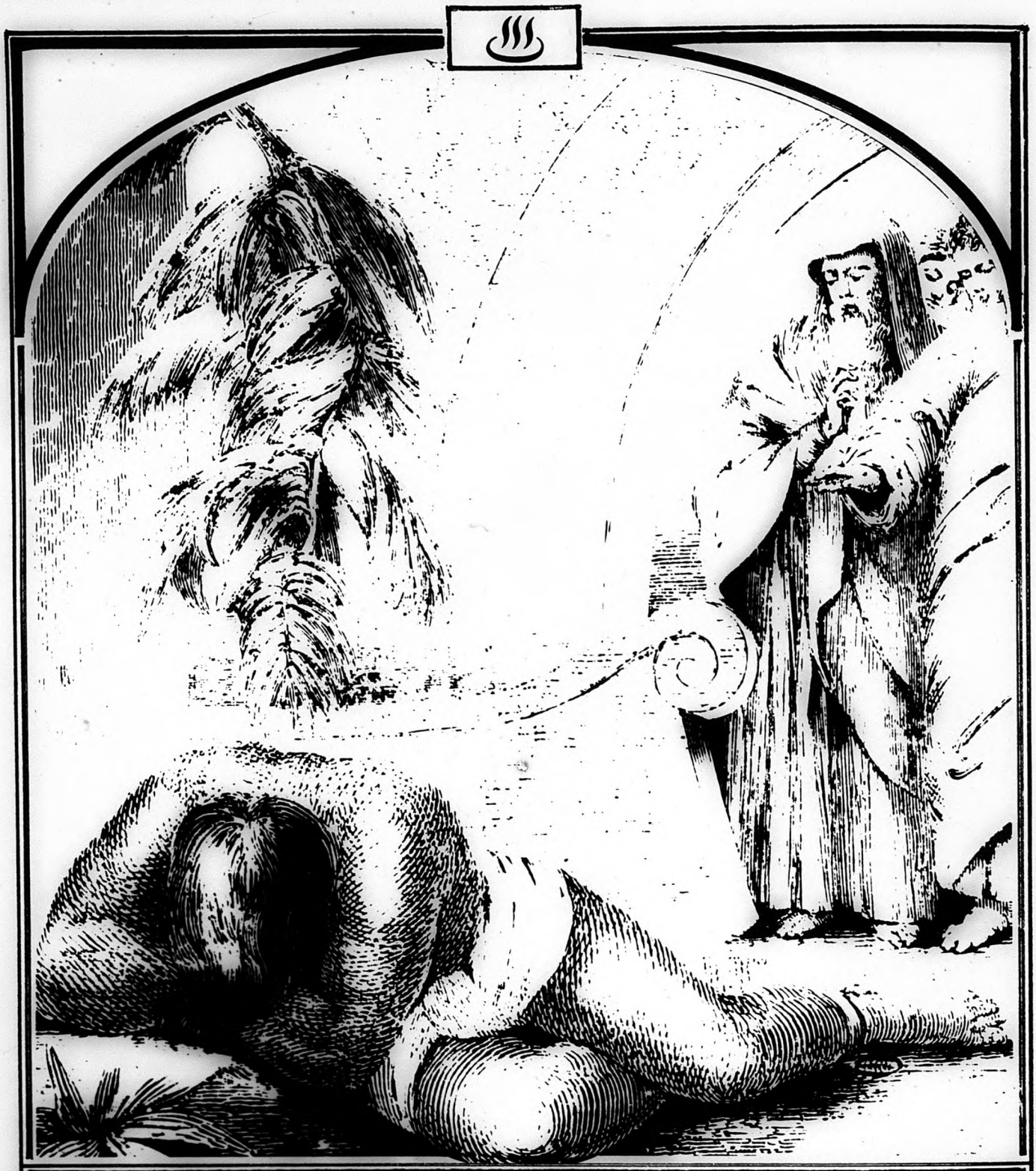
The major goal of the new group is to encourage women to participate in ALL SIR committees and to attend its calendar events. (Women are now on five committees and one is on the SIR Board).

"We want to be part of SIR . . . that's why we are here", said two ladies who drove over from Oakland. Others were pleased with VECTOR'S new column by Michelle and Rene.

GALS: Look for additional publicity about the August 18 event and leave your name and phone number for Sandy at 781-1570 if you want to be in on the WIS group.

Membership is NOT required in order to take part in SIR activities.

G.M.



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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

Dear Mme. Soto-Voce,

I can't understand what I do wrong. I've just lost another lover inspite of the fact that I had made every effort to please him. I believe that sexual attraction alone is not sufficient to hold someone and so I have spent a small fortune on items to be a part of their lives. I now have a motorcycle and gear to fit into my last lovers life, 2 season tickets to the opera from the one before, and complete tennis gear from the one before that. Now all I have left are a lot of expensive momentos...please aid,

Always Adaptable

Dear Always,

Your problem seems to be that you are just trying too hard to please. Always remember just because something is remodeled doesn't mean its improved. Ah yes, your problems is so similar to one that arose not too long ago with a student of mine names Faye Egbert whom I had groomed to debut as Galatea in Von Supe's opera *Die Schone Galatea* in Wenatchee, Washington to open the Wenatchee Applesause Festival. She opened and was hailed a great success. She was then contracted to do her Galatea on a tour of Washington state playing such towns as Marbelmount, Concrete, Sappho, La Push and Humptalips after which she was asked to sing the National Anthem at a special ceremony celebrating the 10 millionth roll of toiletpaper to pass through the Northern Pacific railyard in Bellingham, Washington. As anyone could plainly see she was well on her way to stardom. However, after her appearance in Marbelmount she met and fell madly in love with a garage mechanic and cancelled all her engagements, got rid of all her lovely gowns, bought a pair of purple coveralls and launched into learning how to rewind generators. No amount of persuasion could sway her in persuit of her heart.

The opera company was fortunate to have an understudy, a Nancy Seighmeaux, basically a buffa and soubrette soprano, step in and fulfill all of Faye's engagements. Several of my friends and I had gone to Bellingham to hear Nancy sing at the toilet paper celebration. It was a grey drizzely day and as I looked across the vast Northern Pacific freight yard I saw several trucks away a tall thin figure in purple coveralls with long stringy wet blond hair standing away from the crowd and very alone when I noticed it was Faye Egbert! I scrambled across cinders and rails and noticed, when I got to her, that she had been crying. I asked her what she was doing in the rail yard and what had happened to her lover.

Well, Mr. Adaptable, as you can well imagine she told me how SHE had expended every effort to make her lover happy, how she had read up on auto repairs, given up something as foreign to him and his life as opera singing, gave up dressing elegantly and other things to really be a part of his life. She said the better she

(Continued on Page 26)

S.I.R. TO ASSIST KINSEY INSTITUTE

Dr. Paul Gebhard, famed director of the Institute for Sex Research, conducted a seminar at the recent Council on Religion and the Homosexual Picnic. Many S.I.R. members were among the friendly mob that gathered at the spacious White Retreat in Mill Valley.

The warm and cordial doctor, widely recognized as one of the top men in sex research, observed that we are making progress because homosexuality is now less a "sin" and a crime and is now a "sickness" and "mental illness". Attitudes, he said, are changing for the better but actual practice and law reform is slow in coming.

Our Judeo-Christian tradition, Dr. Gebhard stressed, is anti-sexual but some liberal Protestant Churches are beginning to accept the homosexual as a human being. These churches and the homosexual groups must realize, he added, that sexual law reform will come about when a general sexual liberation is stressed and not just the homosexual hang-up.

San Francisco ("a breath of fresh air" said the doctor) will be the headquarters for the new Institute study. S.I.R. and other homophile and church groups will be seeking women, Negroes, "closet queens" and non-bar people for interviews in the near future.

Dr. Gebhard visited S.I.R. Center and indicated that he was well aware of S.I.R. and VECTOR Magazine. He was offered the S.I.R. facilities for his coming research.

DR. MARSH SPEAKS AT S.I.R.

by George Mendenhall

She had confided to Dr. Earl Marsh that her sex life consisted of taking enemas. The doctor told her, "There is little enough fun in life. If you derive satisfaction from taking enemas for goodness sake go home and take an enema."

Dr. Marsh, noted gynecologist, spoke on "Self-Acceptance and Sex" in a S.I.R.-Center lecture-discussion on July 24. An enthusiastic crowd of over 250 gave a standing ovation to the famed doctor, whose recent U.C. Medical Center lectures had gained wide newspaper coverage. The liberal doctor "tells it as it is" and serves as a consultant to the Johnson-Master Sexual Response Studies and the "Kinsey" Sex Research Institute.

He asked the audience, "Is this woman with her enemas normal?, is what she does natural or appropriate or unusual?, should everyone do it?" He answered that he hoped that we did not have to be like everyone else. This person, he said, has a right to say, "This is ME. This is the way that I function." He added that "normal" or "abnormal" are Judeo-Christian moral judgements and are not biological concerns.

Intra-vaginal penetration by the penis is necessary in order for a person to be mature, according to Freudian theory. Dr. Marsh said that Freud was merely passing on a popular theological concept.

Biologically, it is natural, he said, for a person to practice homosexuality, heterosexuality, mouth-genital contact, or "you-name-it". However, such practices might be culturally unacceptable. "In some tribes homosexuals are put to death but in others the leaders must be homosexual."

Masturbation he called "the saviour of the human race" but even that has only recently become legal in all states. Our sex laws are "fraudulent and fake" Dr. Marsh pointed out, because they are actually religious laws. If we obeyed all of the sex laws most of us wouldn't have much sex activity while if our private sex lives were made public "most of us would be in San Quentin."

The gynecologist explained some popular sex terms although he said that we are in reality "just sexual." Homosexuals have relations with their own sex but do not wish to change their sex organs; transvestites are stimulated by wearing women's clothes; transexuals desire to change their sex because they believe that they are "women trapped in men's bodies."

In answering questions, Dr. Marsh made several observations: That a person should accept himself at this precise moment in life rather than be hung-up on what he is not . . . There are an awful lot of healthy sadists and masochists . . . Taking advantage of others sexually is common in lower animals but restricted by humans . . . If you practice beastiality on a young animal, it will follow you around . . . The causes of transexuality are not known but it is thought to be in-born or the result of the non-development of "maleness" at a very early fetal age . . . Most people actually are what they are, not what they wish they were. "If you want to masturbate while swinging from your toes, then try it." About 5% of the males have homosexual experiences only; 12% practice acts with both sexes, 40% have some homosexual experiences but are basically heterosexual . . . "Do what ever comes natural on the spot . . . unless you have some moral hang-up or might get yourself jailed." . . . Change is pondered a very long time before it suddenly becomes a reality, and then only when the conditions are right.

Among the guests was Dr. Harry Benjamin, authority on transexuality and author of the book, "The Transexual Phonomenon"; Officer Elliott Blackstone of the Police-Community Relations unit; and Judy Seemon, representing C.O.G. (Conversion Our Goal) that co-sponsored the evening's talk. Larry Littlejohn, S.I.R. President, explained the many activities of the organization to the audience. The program was arranged by the S.I.R. Public Relations Committee with refreshments provided by the Social Committee.

The evening concluded with a celebration of S.I.R.'s fourth anniversary. Champagne and two huge birthday cakes were served to all.

"THAT'S SHOW BIZ" will be the Wednesday, August 21, "Open House" theme. The Productions Committee has scheduled on-stage entertainment and there will be a colored slide-and tape presentation of the musical numbers from S.I.R.'s recent "Little Mary" production.

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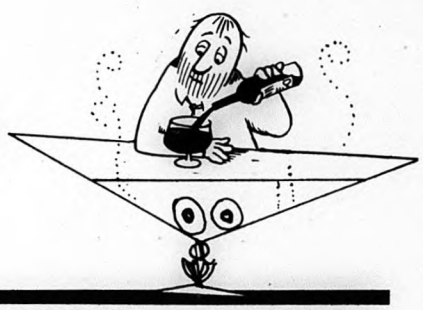
the BAR TOUR

by TEQUILA MOCKINGBIRD



Tequila Mockingbird is still recovering from hepatitis. Tho not quite back to abnormal, T.M. WILL be able to turn out a column. Many thanks for the cards, flowers and candy while in the hospital.

Not all of this months column will be fresh news, but at least it will be definitive news, and, hopefully, will stop some rumors and mistaken impressions about some bar closings. With so many new bars opening, it stands to reason that some of the existing places would fold. As soon as a bar does close many uninformed people start clicking their tongues about the police and the A.B.C. This may be a leftover assumption from "The bad old days". but isn't always true these days. The very popular 524 Club is a good case in point. Noted for excellent food and top entertainment, this landmark had no police or A.B.C. problems. Their overhead just climbed to a point where they had to file bankruptsy. Many people take top quality entertainers and big special shows for granted, but they aren't cheap. Most of the 524's Staff were snapped up on the spot by other bars. 524 Alumni are now to be found at the Mint, Maple Leaf, Jackson's, Frolic, Leonarda's, On the Levee, Fantasy and Opera Club. Another bar now closed and rumored to have had all sorts of problems is the Waterhole. In reality the Waterhole had only one problem—not enough business. One of the more popular downtown bars, the Dalt Club, WAS closed by the A.B.C. but ironically has a rumor going that there were financial problems. Top talent from the Dalt can now be found at the Maple Leaf.

The Tavern Guild's first picnic of the season was a great success with nearly four hundred people putting away barrels full of Pabst beer and competing for thirty prizes donated by many Tavern Guild bars. The T.G. picnic was followed a month later by a picnic for members of the Council on Religion and the Homosexual at a beautiful estate in Mill Valley. Again, plenty of beer, a lavish buffet table and plenty of cocktails and an outstanding speaker, Dr. Paul Gebhard of the famous Kinsey Institute. The Tavern Guild is already working on plans for its next picnic.

The fabulous "Nightingale of Montgomery Street", Jose, has returned from his tour of worlds fairs and has settled down at an appropriate spot, The Opera Club. Tho opera lovers find Jose's shows particularly entertaining, everybody enjoys his basic humor. Jose's repertoire contains over 60 operas and musicals. Thus far, overflow crowds have greeted performances of "Aida", "Faust" (with an unexpected sextette finale), "South Pacific', "Traviata" and "Merry Widow'. On August 11th he will give a special performance of "Carmen", with the unveiling of his well known "Carmen" portrait.

Special guest pianist, Jim McGinnis, will accompany Jose for this production. Many of the future productions will run parallel to the larger and equally famous opera group performing a block away.

Years ago the Tool Box created quite a stir by being featured in Life magazine. Last month, with a three-day celebration, the Tool Box celebrated its sixth anniversary. Highlight of the special events was a performance by Michael Greer, who, as usual, brought down the house. We look forward to the Tool Box's seventh anniversary.

The Maple Leaf, a new bar on Polk Street at Sacramento, is off to a great start with soft fairy lights on the ceiling and the longest cocktail hour possible, 6 a.m. to 2 a.m.!!! Campy sign in the window draws in many a curious customer.

Much activity in the race for Empress of San Francisco. Prominent candidates so far are Reba, the Voodoo Mother, Perry Lee, Ma Frickert and Justin. The voting will take place at the Annual Tavern Guild Halloween Ball at California Hall on Sunday, October 27th.

You've either attended or missed first anniversaries at Fe-Be's and I-Do-No. The I-Do-No- now has J.J. VanDyke tending bar. Dick Petroff, back from Denver, is now at the Fickle Fox. Happy to see Johnny Sant attending Billy's birthday party at the Libra, between performances at Linda's Tower on Pine Street and the Sunday Brunch Scene at Jackson's. Sascha now plays piano at the House of Harmony on Polk Street. The Volume One's hypnotist Kalin enthusiastic crowds over in Oakland. Also in Oakland, watch for the opening of "Grandmother's House". Sunday brunch in the patio of the Canterbury Hotel can be quite a surprise. All sorts of familiar faces, including host Duke, formerly at Jackson's. The Two-'Til Two has a special guest-waiter ready to serve dinner; Darryl Glied (remember the Jumpin' Frog?) will take over while Tony is on vacation. Uncle Billy is back from Paradise, California, and is tending bar at the new scoreboard, next door to the Frolic on Mason Street.

Hope to see all of you at the Empress Shirley's big Red, White and Blue Ball at the Village on Columbus Avenue on the last day of this month!

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the homosexual and AGE

OPEN FORUM

by LARRY CARLSON

When does old age begin? This important question was well answered some years ago by an anonymous writer who said: "Youth is not so much a time of life as it is a state of mind. It is not a matter of ripe cheeks, red lips and supple knees, it is a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions; it is a freshness of the deep spring of life."

Youth means a temperamental predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite of adventure over the love of ease. This often exists more in a man of fifty than in a boy of twenty.

Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years; people grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair—these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to the dust.

Whether seventy or sixteen, there is in every being's heart the love of wonder, the sweet amazement at the stars and the starlike things and thoughts, the undaunted challenge of events, the unfailing child-like appetite for what next, and the joy and the game of life. You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope, as old as your despair. When the wires are all down and the central palace of your heart is covered with the snows of pessimism and the ice of cynicism, then you are grown old indeed.

Emerson once wrote, "We do not count a man's years until he has nothing else to count." What happens to a homosexual after he has reached the age of forty? Does this mean that he has nothing to look forward to but the gloom and emptiness of lonliness? Certainly not! Mental health after forty is determined largely by heredity and by what has transpired in the years before forty. The foundation has been laid and the structure built, but much can be done to keep it in repair and to prevent unnecessary strain and wear and tear upon it.

This is the time of life for intellectual interests, friendships, travel, recreation. Maturity and experience open new vistas of interests and pleasures which become richer as the years go by. An active physical and mental life may be continued, but now as never before it is essential to live intelligently. In the central palace of your heart there is a wireless station; so long as it receives messages of beauty, hope, cheer, courage, grandeur and power from the earth, from men and from the infinite, so long are you young.

Here is what some of VECTOR's readers have to say about the homosexual after forty:

"I AIN'T DOWN YET!"

Having searched the bright side of 50 and the excitement and pressures of youth are slowly beginning to succomb to the more placid aspects of maturity, may I offer a few thoughts and observations on the subject at hand in the Forum this month. An important item were I to make a list would be some gainful occupation and a reasonable amount of good health, both mental and physical. One of the more pleasant aspects of the aging process is that our sexual desires are not really so insistantly bubbly and boiling and stridently calling for expression and fulfillment as they are at a radiant 18 to 30 or so, thereby giving a person more freedom to be more genuinely warm and affectionate—really to care about people.

To be able in your quieter moments to reflect upon past deeds and present or future hopes and desires—and with it all be able to thankfully count your blessings.

As you know Larry, I have been host and founder of S.I.R. Friday night discussion group for almost four years now and I can truthfully say that I still look forward to each session as I feel they are a source of real help, understanding and comraderie to those of us who participate and it is a part of the real committment I feel towards my own people. For those of us who, for whatever reason are not fortunate enough to have formed a long-term relationship sometimes loneliness rears its ugly head. A good idea is to try to keep busy. Develop a hobby or new interest—(no, not in somebody else's lover, silly) i.e., music, art, sports, etc.; take a new interest in your job a local community project, get on a working committee at S.I.R. and there's nothing that clears the doldrums more than a good belly laugh at yourself, or with other people.

Needless to say a bit of financial security for emergencies and a pleasant place in which to live, be it a 69 room penthouse or a cheery room in a gentlemen's club is a basic need I think.

S.I.R. is a place where some of these requirements may be accomplished with some degree of effort on a persons part. If you like being young, there is youth therein (and some dolls, too!) If you are heading towards the "Golden Years" and need the companionship of your peers, look about you and extend a friendly hand.

True, most of us live in our own particular ghetto but, while we do lets try to make it the bestest for the mostest concerned and thereby grow old constructively, gracefully and cheerfully, with a measure of dignity.

Sincerely and affectionately,
Jim Frooks

****

"I'VE COME TO WIVE IT WEALTHILY IN PADUA"

I firmly believe that a homosexual man can grow old gracefully and enjoy a rewarding life if he keeps his wits about him and faces up to certain facts. First of all, he had better concentrate the majority of his attention upon prospective sexual partners near his own age. True, there are certain young men who are looking for a father substitute and would accomodate

him for the night, but they are rare and getting increasingly hard to find.

There are old men who don girdles and wigs and haunt the bars nightly in search of an adolescence they seem to be possessed by. Their presence in young people's bars are often embarassing or annoying, for they make it all too clear that they are after one thing only—a boy twenty or thirty years their junior who will grant them any kind of sexual release. These old characters announce their immaturity and carry it like a flag, saying "I'll never give up." No one is asking them to give up, but several people would be relieved if they grew up and started cruising older men.

Are old homosexuals rejected? Certainly; but any homosexual who lives long enough to grow old should be well acquainted with rejection in its many forms, and by old age should be at least partially resigned to it. Too, if he is in any way industrious and persevering he should have enough money to afford young hustlers—if young men he must have.

What the whole thing boils down to is that even old homosexuals are still dreaming that some day they'll find the right boy who will settle down with them and love them desparately for the rest of their lives. In the meantime, however, (if age brings the wisdom it's reputed to) they should be able to take a practical view and associate with men of their own age. Those who can't do this are the ones who have a problem. But I'm sure they're in the minority.

Bob Waltrip

****

A THING OF BEAUTY AND A BOY FOREVER

It has been my experience that the aging are more concerned about this matter than are the aged. I know two extremely handsome people, who one at 21, the other at 34, were convinced that they had had it (they'd had plenty!). No, Virginia, 24 year old studs will not come panting after you through the thule bushes quite so often, but you did get over the Santa Claus thing once, didn't you?

Eagle Dome

****

THERE IS NO FOOL LIKE AN OLD FOOL

The aging homosexual (whatever did happen to the term "homophile"?) faces the same problems at 40, 50 or 60 that he faced at 10, 20, and 30—growing up. If his sense of values have undergone no development over the years, he is surely an object for pity, and woe unto he who is concerned about "social acceptance", let alone "sexual acceptance", after 40. My dears, if he has neither found acceptance, nor learned to live without it, of course it is too late; the problem is not one of aging, but of mental retardation.

Pierre

****

SUFFICIENT UNTO THE DAY IS THE EVIL THEREOF

I received at the age of 35 one of my proudest (if somewhat backhanded) compliments: a youth of 28, though he did not find me sexually attractive, took great pains to try to express his admiration of me. I couldn't fingure what it was all about, until it dawned to me that he was trying to say that he thought I was growing old gracefully, and, with the realization that it could be done, came hope for his own declining years.

Well, some of us have got it and some never will. I bow to no one in the matter of admiration and appreciation of that eternal mystery, the perfection and beauty found only in youth. I didn't want an old man when I was young, and I see no justification for imposing myself now on them. It is true that in our society, and particularly in our own sub-culture, sex and physical beauty are overly emphasized, at the expense of intellectual and spiritual values and of the aged. I regret that this is so, and I resent the loss of opportunity for interaction with the young, who can never see me other than as a "dirty old man". I regret even more that these same young, at 50 are destined to be precisely what they think I am now: living only for the futile hope of getting once more into 20-year-old pants.

Anyone for Plato?

Your Mother

****

A WORD FROM MAME

Tho no one will ever admit it (until it tumbles down on them like a brick tea room) YOUTH is the power and glory of this GAY world.

When we lose our youth, beauty (if we ever had any) same with money, we congregate in wrinkle bars and discuss former conquests . . . how wonderful we thought we were or our most recent purchase from the meat rack . . . maybe we stay at home feeding our ego with memories or just being plain lonely . . . Here permit me to digress a moment and quote from Jim Skaggs latest corner (July VECTOR) "PERHAPS loneliness is only a superficial manifestation of selfishness". . . why not help S.I.R. by helping someone else to better understand himself and his orientation to life"? . . much thought here . . however how do we get to the point of overcoming the Generation Gap? Many the time I've attended various SIR functions only to be fluffed off by a youngster with a remark "nobody wants you when your old and gay" . . the person never realizing he was talking of his own future. True by their actions at the different bars, tubs, etc., many old aunties do not understand the word NO and have created an image that most of us are dirty old men . . . somewhere there must be a young person (over 21) who would chat, spend an evening being sponsored to dinner, ballet, opera, or even a rock concert—without sexual obligation. How or where do you meet them? I know you are thinking stay with my own age group, I want to stay young mentally, know what it is all about, what the future folks are doing even if I don't agree . . . do not feel age gives me the right to preach. Perhaps recalling incidents of my past may give someone a better insight on life. They have to make their own decission, sincerely hope another letter to the Forum will have the answer or an idea to a solution.

Those of us who are cutting down on the bar circuit now know SEX, LOVE are OUT, but is companionship with a younger person impossible? Having been brought out at seven (without a debut) I'll sign the name I'm known by and have been years before the book came out.

Auntie Mame (cs)

****

GOLDDIGGER GORGEOUS

Why ask me? I don't know nothing about growing old! However, I love the comfort of an older man. It gives me financial security.

Gorgeous

****

ON GETTING OLDER

It is natural that those who fear "getting old" are going to lose their physical youth. There is no doubt that this transition period is frustrating. However, those who somehow are able to stay young mentally will carry much of their youth into their "older" years.

I am fully in sympathy with today's rebellious youth. Even with their mistakes, their anarchy, their immature decisions . . . they are still more perceptive and more vocal about the basic ills of our society than my generation. I have faith that out of the chaos of this youthful rebellion insitiutions will change for the better, laws will change for the better, and a more humane populace will result. The "do your own thing" philosophy is more profound than 90% of our religious dogma . . . and it comes from today's youth, not out of old scrolls.

I do not fear "getting old" because I find it a daily thrill to wake up in a world where attitudes on education, war, sex and prejudice are changing . . . in a very apparent international revolution. Those who deny this are just not aware of what is happening.

I may not be as fast physically as I was at 21, but my mind is with the youth of today, and they give me hope. I am glad to be part of their "thing", a changing of the world for the better!

Bob Seymour

****

Thus, are some of the opinions of our readers. Certainly the middle years bring their definite and distinctive stress. The life impulse gradually wanes and the forces of disintegration begin their predetermined task.

The middle years are also a testing time of personality. The restraints of the childhood home, the influence of parents long since dead, brothers and sisters scattered, constitute a waning force. Old age is the final epoch in the life cycle. It is inevitable; one can honor and dignify it, but cannot escape it. Many are born old; some old are young; one has said, "At forty, old age is in its infancy; the fifties

(Continued on Following Page)

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Rick Stokes, Graduate Law Student

I recently attended a trial in Davis Court of an individual charged with and subsequently convicted of loitering about a public toilet to engage in or solicit any lewd or lascivious or any unlawful act. During the course of the trial professor Orville E. Thompson of Applied Behavioural Sciences testified for the prosecution.

Dr. Thompson's office window overlooks TB-5 Men's Room where the alleged offense occurred. Dr. Thompson had on prior occasions seen the suspect in the area for what Dr. Thompson considered extended periods of time and had through personal enquiry obtained the suspect's name. Dr. Thompson on the day when the alleged offense occurred called the campus police who 'fearing a possible narcotics drop' sent a plainclothesman, Officer Raymond L. Brady, into the area and as a result an arrest subsequently occurred.

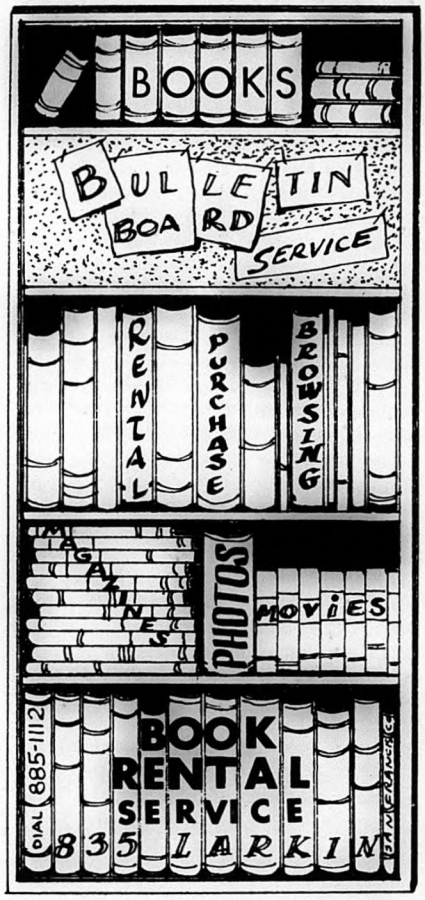
It is not often with the current demands upon a professor's time to 'publish or perish' and with the current gubernatorial demands for university economy, i.e., greater productive use of professorial manhours, that one finds an 'old school' teacher who still views his job as one encompassing the protection of the morals of the students and the prevention of student exposure to the harmful effects of marijuana, etc. It gives me great pleasure and a real sense of security to attend an institution wherein the faculty is so protective of its students. It is even less frequent that one encounters a professor whose selfless dedication to his duties consistently bring him to his office on weekends where by chance he happens to keep a restroom under some surveilance. Certainly it is fitting that one schooled in 'applying behavioural sciences' chooses to apply his knowledge in such a fashion.

I salute you, Dr. Thompson, for service beyond the call of duty.

As to the individual, now*ex*-university employee with years of prior meritorious service, he was summarily fired prior to any trial and we students may now feel reassured that at least one possible corruptor of our innocence has been banished from the campus green (and from almost all other gainful employment as a convicted 'sex offender').

I salute you, also, plainclothesman, Officer Raymond L. Brady. I can only surmise how heavily your duties must weigh upon you. In a time of such increase in forcible crime and especially after the recent report of the President's Commission on Crime with its recommendation regarding laws pertaining to sex offenses, it is truly gratifying to find officers who selflessly can ignore their own obvious distaste for their duties and who can return to TB-5 on the afternoon of the above mentioned trial to catch yet another 'loiterer'. It must indeed be with great difficulty that you put out of your mind, robbery, rape, murder and other assorted criminal activities to concentrate on narcotics and sex offenders. My compliments.

Remember, fellow students, as you go to the John, rest assured that some one up there in TB-10 is watching over you, at least if the John is TB-5 or TB-6. Dr. Thompson is at his post so look up and wave to him. That man over there may be Officer Brady; wave to him too.



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OPEN FORUM

(Continued from Preceeding Page)

are its boyhood and girlhood; the sixties its youth; and at seventy it attains its majority."

Age is life's crown of glory; the past has made possible this culmination of nature's fore-ordained purpose. It is man's last opportunity–so have the great souls regarded it. History speaks for itself.

Said Clara Barton to a gathering of friends in her ninetieth year, "My working hours are fourteen out of twenty-four. It is my duty to work for the good of my kind; while the strength is given me I have no right to lay it down."

Conrad wrote his first novel when he was fifty years of age. Gladstone took up Greek in his sixtieth year and was made Premier of England in his eighty-third year. Charles the Fifth summoned Titian to Augsburg court to paint portraits when he was seventy years old and he was still painting them when over ninety, dying in his ninety-ninth year. Michalangelo was made architect of St. Peter's in his seventy-second year; he then planned the great dome immortalizing himself and his art.

Age has its desires, its aims, its ambitions; it is selfless, sagacious, disillusioned. I can think of no finer lines to close with than with the magnificent courage of Browning:

"Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life, for which
the first was made."

****

The topic of the OPEN FORUM for the September VECTOR will be on "Gay Communities Outside of San Francisco." What is gay life like in other cities in the country or in the world? Do they compare with San Francisco? What have been your experiences in other parts of the country that you have lived in or visited? Deadline for copy is August 20th. Mail all letters to Larry Carlson: VECTOR, 83 Sixth Street, San Francisco, California. See ya next month.

ART SALE

SUNDAY

august 18

BEGINNING AT 3:00 P.M.

CREDENTIALS:
B.F.A. Degree–Minneapolis School of Art

Shows:
Festival of Fine Arts–Rochester, N.Y.
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Walker Art Center–Minneapolis, Minn.
Two One-Man Shows–Bottega Gallery
Minneapolis, Minn.
Minneapolis Institute of Arts
Minneapolis, Minn.
Three Minnesota Invitationals
Minneapolis, Minn.
University of Tehran–Tehran, Iran
Contemporary Printmakers Society
(Traveling Show–Yale Univ.)
Ten New Printmakers
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WHERE IT'S happening

BY GROOVY GRANNY

You don't have to show a big basket, but you do have to show a bona fide membership card for admission to San Francisco's biggest, newest, swingingest club, at the old location of the Contemporary Players, (O'Farrel and Polk Streets), which is still called the new bigger, BIG BASKET.

There is so much going on just about all the time at this young people's club that it could well be called a constant happening. It's a three ring circus of fun and games and dancing. As a long time resident of San Francisco we are pleased to say "it's about time".

For the first time in our bejeweled city, persons of like temperments can get together, without fear of police harassment or civilian intimidation, and dance up a storm, wear what they like, and get involved with other people who think and feel as they do. Three cheers for Mayor Alioto and Chief of Police Cahill.

The BIG BASKET–San Francisco's only private club boasts a membership of more than 1700 members and the only way you can become a member is by sponsorship of another member. So, if you want to join and participate in the round-the-month fun nightly from 9:00 p.m., start looking around for a member sponsor.

With a dance floor as big as the California Hall, as many as 500 couples have danced the weekends away to live music from the BIG BASKET stage. Others sink themselves into the comfortable couches and chairs in the TV lounge which, with its tent-like canopy ceiling, resembles the group room at the CLUB BATHS.

At the moment, only soft drinks, coffee and a wide variety of sandwiches are being served, cabaret fashion, so you can watch the dancing. And, if there is a new dance step you've wanted to learn, you may avail yourself of the BIG BASKET DANCING ACADEMY, under the supervision of outstanding instructors–free.

One of the finese music installations in the city brings rock and roll and other groovey music, with perfect fidelity, to every corner of the BIG BASKET. Watching the young groovey guys dance is a most entertaining floor show.

A full and complete kitchen compliments the magnificent and truly comfortable facilities in a location easily accessible from any part of the Bay Area. The director of the BIG BASKET deserves a standing ovation and a round of applause for filling a void in our otherwise exciting city by the Bay.

A specialty of the club is the Sunday Evening buffet and tea dancette. Each week a totally new and different menu is prepared and magnificiently spread out amid flowers and candles for attending members. This exquisite buffet is free of charge, and attracts one of the largest crowds we've seen indoors in a long time.

Currently, quality too often is sacrificed for fads, fetishes and freaks. (Remember when Tiny Tim was merely a Dickens character?) But when the director of the BIG BASKET contracted for these fine new quarters, he brought to the gay community an unadulterated kind of wholesomeness, coupled with a well defined path of direction for new, bigger and better ideas for the club's future.

Presently, the Big Basket offers a place for meaningful togetherness in an atmosphere of carefree abandon geared to a youthful gay community, whose purpose is friendships and lasting relationships. From our observations we must admit that the BIG BASKET is filling this goal. Uniformed security guards on duty at the door, insure privacy for members inside the building.

All of San Francisco, both the straight and gay communities should be pleased to see realized a private club which has been sorely needed for many years. It's been a long time coming, but now here is a club, where its members can meet socially, and discuss their specific interests, indulge in clean, meaningful relationships, dance together and satisfy their appetites with delightful food and soft drinks–all inexpensively. All with the legal approval of the San Francisco Police Department.

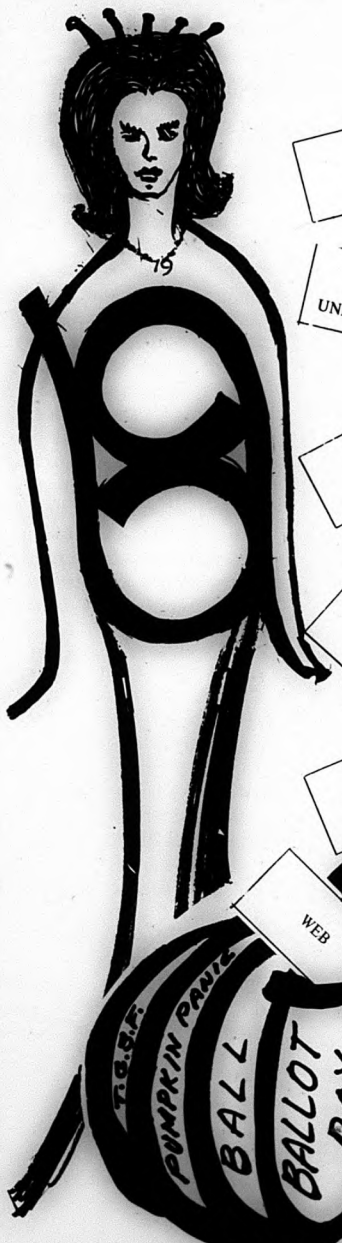
The Club's management assures us that this operation will be maintained on the highest level of decorum, thus proving that the young gay community is responsible and warrants the trust and approval extended by the city and county fathers.

Find a member and under his sponsorship become a member for the time of your life.

A newsletter is programmed for the near future, which will outline the events of interest to be held at the BIG BASKET. A copy will be mailed to each member.

Isn't it grand and wonderful?

THE EMPRESS



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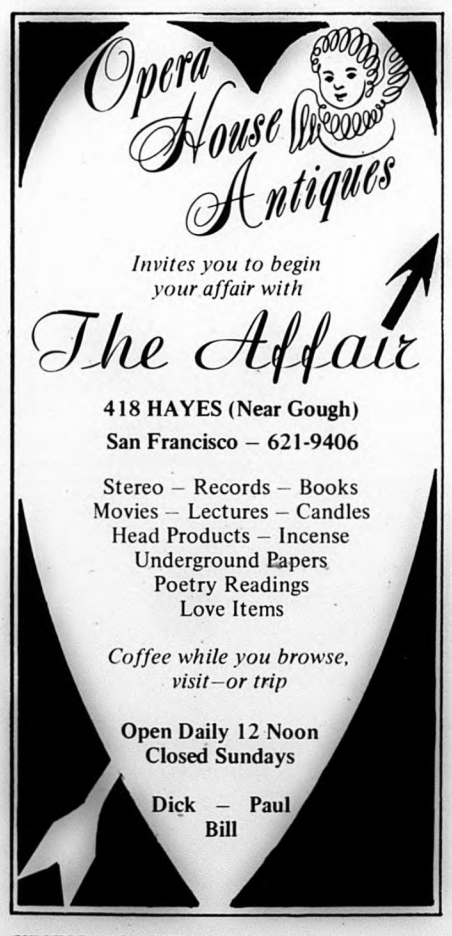

advice from the WHEEL CHAIR

by Larry Carlson

HEALTH PROBLEMS OF ADVANCING YEARS

Youth, with its successes and its failures, its joys and its heartaches, is a thrilling, glorious adventure. But stores of exuberant energy, of hope and enthusiasm are not inexhaustible. It is important that this be understood and appreciated, because the years slip by quickly and health in later years depends to a large extent upon practices and habits begun in youth.

Beginning at birth and continuing throughout life the cells of the various tissues and organs of the body are reproducing, maturing, aging, dying and being discarded. The individual cells of the body live from a few days (9 days for white blood cells, about 20 days for the cells of the skin, and 120 days for red blood cells) to many years; in fact, muscle cells and nerve cells live throughout most if not all of one's life span. The aging of the organs of the body likewise proceeds at different rates; for example, visual acuity is greatest at about ten years of age and declines gradually thereafter; hearing usually begins to decline during the twenties; and ovulation in woman ceases with the menopause, usually in the forties or early fifties.

Recent studies of aging suggest that many of the changes characteristic of the aging process are the results of habits of living and of the accumulation of injuries to tissues from disease and from the stresses, strains, and toxins to which we subject ourselves throughout life.

The rate of the aging process is influenced greatly also by the genes which are inherited from parents and grandparents. Life insurance companies recognize this, and an application for insurance requests information as to the age or ages at death of one's brothers, sisters, parents, and grandparents. Concerning this hereditary factor, nothing can be done. A great deal, however, can be done to conserve and develop the physical and mental assets with which we are endowed. In fact, what we do in youth and early adult years may well contribute more to good health in advancing years than similar efforts in later life.

As the diseases and conditions which cause death in the earlier years of life are brought under control, an increasing number of persons are reaching advanced years. An aging population tends to be sickness-prone and financially poor. Yet, many older persons can contribute substantially to society, to their own support, and by so doing to their own physical and mental health. In 1963 more than half the people in the world had as national leaders men who could be eligible for social security in the United States: Russia's Khrushchev was 68; England's Macmillan, 69; China's Mao Tse-tung, 70; France's De Gaulle, 72; India's Nehru, 73; Israel's Ben-Gurion, 76; and Germany's Adenauer, about 87.

The increase in the proportion of older person means an increase in the importance of health problems of advancing years. Less than fifty years ago the term "geriatrics" was coined. Literally, from its Greek origin, it means "medical treatment of the old man," but it can be defined as "the medical care of aging persons." Closely allied to it is the term "gerontology," which refers to the scientific study of all the phonomena of aging.

In general, the factors that contribute to good health or to disease and disability in older persons differ only in degree and in emphasis from those that affect younger persons. Some of the health problems that confront the aging person are those of nutrition and weight control, vision and hearing, accidents, and diseases such as arthritis, heart disease, cancer, hypertension (high blood pressure), respiratory ailments, diabetes, and cerebral vascular disease.

A point of interest here is that of sexual adjustment. . Most of the reproduction of the race takes place during the first twenty or thirty years of adult life. During this period the sex glands are active and the sex emotion prominent. Then between forty fifty there is a cessation of reproductive life by women and a diminution of sexual activity on the part of men. The reproductive life of men does not cease so abruptly as does that of women. There is instead a gradual diminution of sexual urge and activity. Failure to recognize and adjust to this may give rise to serious emotional conflicts and psychological difficulties.

Many defects and diseases do not produce recognizable symptoms until they become advanced; but thorough, careful physical examinations performed periodically will uncover many of these conditions at a time when their progress can be arrested. Life insurance companies, which found that such examinations pay big dividends in the prolongation of the lives of their policyholders, provide examinations free of charge. For children periodic examinations are recommended semiannually, and for young adults annually or biannually. But with advancing age, examinations should be more frequent, for this is the period in which degenerative processes make their appearance and become rapidly progressive.

Here's to your long life and continued good health!

AUGUST

SUN.	MON.
MOVIES AND BINGO Cash and Gift Prizes Sunday, August 11, 1968 Sunday, September 1, 1968 7–9 P.M. Donation $1.00 S.I.R. Center	
4 S.I.R. – $10 Membership Brings You Self-Respect	**5** E. Bay Discussion Group, 2329A San Pablo, Berk. 8 p.m. Community Services Dance Class 8 p.m. VECTOR 8 p.m.
11 Bingo and Movies Prizes and Refreshments 7 p.m. – Center, $1.00	**12** E. Bay Dis. Group Dance Class 8 p.m. Legal Comm. 8 p.m. Bowling
18 W.I.S. Dance Just for girls Bring box lunch Dancing, Social, Free 2–8 p.m., Non-members Welcome!	**19** E. Bay Discussion Group Community Services 8 p.m. Bowling
25 SIR Speaks First Unitarian 8 PM	**26** E. Bay Dis. Group Legal Comm. 8 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 1 Movies & Bingo 7 p.m. Center	SEPTEMBER 2 E. Bay Dis. Group ~~Bowling~~ Labor Day

TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
MEMBERS MEETING Wednesday, August 7 OPEN HOUSE Wednesday, August 21 Entertainment–Refreshments		**1** Photo Group 8 p.m. Soc. Comm. 8 p.m. Comm. Bowling Park Bowl, Monday and Thursday nights Ensemble Workshop 8 p.m. 346-4693	**2** Discussion Group 1256 Page Street	**3** S.I.R. Working for you–24 hours Dance 9 p.m.
6 Comm. Center Com. 8 p.m. Women in S.I.R. Meeting Funding Committee 8 p.m. Membership Comm. Workshop 7 p.m.	**7** Members Business Meeting 8 p.m.	**8** Bowling Pol Com 8 p.m. 416 Turk St. Ways and Means 7 plm. Ensemble Workshop 8 p.m., 346-4693	**9** Discussion Group 1256 Page	**10** Dance 9 p.m.
13 Board Meeting Sewing Group 8 p.m. W.I.S. Meeting 8 p.m.	**14** Poetry Workshop 8 p.m.–621-7972 Comm. Center Com. 8 p.m.	**15** Soc. Comm. 8 p.m. Sirlebrity Org. Mtg. Ensemble Workshop 8 p.m.–346-4693 Bowling	**16** Dis. Group 1256 Page	**17** Dance 9 p.m. By Supporting S.I.R. You Protect Your Rights–Membership $10
20 Community Center Comm. 8 p.m. W.I.S. Meeting 8 p.m. Membership Comm. Workshop 7 p.m. Funding Comm. 8 p.m.	**21** OPEN HOUSE–FREE Dinner 7 p.m., $1.50 Entertainment, Refreshments Just Come and Relax!	**22** Free University 8 p.m. Ensemble Workshop 8 p.m.–346-4693 Bowling	**23** Dis. Group 1256 Page	**24** Dance 9 p.m.
27 Board Meeting You are always welcome at S.I.R. Center, 83 6th St.	**28** Poetry Workshop 8 p.m.–621-7972 MUSICAL MOVIES–40's Dick Powell, Ruby Keeler, Alice Faye (See Ad) Pop Corn–Cola, 8 p.m.	**29** Photo Group 8 p.m. Public Rel Com 8 p.m. 7:30 dinner, $1.25 for P.R. Committee Ensemble Workshop 8 p.m. 346-4693	**30** Dis. Group 1256 Page	**31** Dance 9 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 3 Comm. Services 8 p.m. Membership Comm. Workshop 7 p.m.	SEPTEMBER 4	SEPTEMBER 5 Ensemble Workshop 8 p.m.–346-4693		

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Continued from Page 8)

4. No region shall act in direct contradiction to a decision by the NAHC convention.

5. Regions shall establish internal structures as they see fit.

6. The NAHC may require each region to select delegates to NAHC committee or other bodies, and may regulate the manner of their selection.

ARTICLE IV

The decisions of the NAHC convention and Council shall be binding upon all accredited organizations, unless for any particular organization alone, that organization has chosen to dissociate itself from any specific decision and has formally so notified the NAHC through the NAHC Secretary, Chairman and Clearinghouse, within six weeks of the mailing of the minutes or notice of the decision.

ARTICLE V

The NAHC recognizes Associate Status for organizations who cannot accept these by-laws. Associated organizations may not vote, but may send delegations with speaking privileges to the conventions, and may participate in NAHC projects and subordinate groups as the NAHC may provide. (This by-law necessitates a minor amendment to the Credentials by-laws for its implementation.)

The remainder of the proposed by-laws deals with officers, elections, amendments, and the specific personnel involved in such a tightly structured national organization. What do YOU think about this? Let us hear from you so that your thinking can be represented at this month's NAHC conference in Chicago. Address all inquiries to: Committee on Unity, Attn: Stephen Donaldson, P.O. Box 114, Norfolk, Virginia 23501.

****

Interesting correspondence to share with you as you fan yourself with VECTOR in order to escape the August heat (fog or smog . . .) UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, Southern District of Texas, Houston, Texas 77061. July 8, 1968.

Mr. James D. Skaggs, President, Society for Individual Rights, Inc., 83 6th Street, San Francisco, California.

Dear Sir:

Judge Conally has asked that I advise you that he wishes his name removed from your mailing list.

Sincerely, (signed)
(Mrs.) Rosamond Hillebrandt
Secretary to Judge Conally

****

Dear Mr. Skaggs,

We are happy to inform you of our underwriting standards in regard to homosexuals. We consider them as we consider all individuals. We have no special underwriting rules applying to homosexuals per se for either life or health insurance.

A homosexual is, of course, subject to our usual underwriting standards regarding health, economic and employment situation, and habits (primarily use of alcohol or habit forming drugs). As a matter of practice, it would be an unusual situation if we were even aware of the fact that a person was a homosexual. We do not inquire about this in our application, nor do we look for it in any other investigation we might undertake.

Yours very truly,
(singed)
James F. Coonan
President and Chairman of the Board
PACIFIC NATIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE
COMPANY

****

Dr. Max Rafferty 1812 Shelfield Drive, Carmichael, California 95608. June 28, 1968.

Mr. James D. Skaggs, President, Society for Individual Rights, Inc., 83, 6th Street, San Francisco, California 94103.

Dear Mr. Skaggs:

Thank you for your letter of June 24.

I favor letting homosexuals serve in any branch of the government, after they have received proper medical and psychiatric treatment to remedy their sad affliction, and have been pronounced cured by competent medical authorities.

Cordially,
Max Rafferty

****

S.I.R. is YOUR organization. Only by hearing from you can we respond to your interests and supply you with the type of publication that effectively answers your questions and provides the intellectual stimulation you desire. Just another way of saying: we are here to serve you.

The Tavern Guild

T S F G

of San Francisco

has trained bartenders available for private parties

PHONE: SU 1-1571

PARRIES AND THRUSTS

(Continued from Page 6)

One can endorse the humane goals of the Council on Religion and the Homosexual without subscribing to the highly dubious notion so often advanced by defensive deviates that homosexuality is a desirable and/or irreversible state of being.

PLAYBOY MAGAZINE this month in their Playboy Forum printed the following letter:

Playboy Therapy . . . Like Dr. Gerald C. Davison (The Playboy Forum, April 1967), we are presently conducting research at the University of Vermont into the modification of sexual deviation through behavior-therapy techniques. This approach, derived from Pavlov rather than from Freud, seems to have an important application to sexual deviation; but the main advantage of behavior therapy is that it lends itself to experimental analysis. The Pavlovian therapist can measure how effective he has been—something that is very difficult in many psychotherapies but yet is necessary if we are to improve our cure ratio.

We are using pictures of Playboy girls and recording psysiological measures of sexual attraction. We also measure physiological reactions to slides of the particular object of the sexual deviation (males for homosexuals, children for pedophiliacs, etc.). Therapy then consists of eliminating the deviation through counter-conditioning and, what is perhaps more important, reinforcing proper responses to the appropriate heterosexual objects (in this case, the PLAYBOY pictures).

The purpose of our research is to determine what treatment or combination of treatments in behavior therapy is most effective in redirecting sexual deviation; and, with our measures, we can actually watch the subject change his response from deviant directions to normal ones . . . David H. Barlow, Department of Psychology, University of Vermont—Burlington, Vermont.

As we have pointed out time and again, this type of Pavlovian modification of sexual activities can work both ways. Let's start turning on heterosexual men with pictures out of the GOLDEN BOY or some similar publication. Then no one will need any one else, they can all subscribe to magazines and use pictures for sexual gratification.

But the sad part is that persons who go through this therapy come out of the processing acting and looking like zombies similar to the ones found in horror movies of the 1920s and 30s. This concept of curing a person is one of the sickest of the sick psychological deversions of our present intellectual class. Dr. Johnson and friends used to visit insane asylums for Sunday afternoon amusements much as we presently visit the zoo; but our brilliant elite amuse themselves with turning persons into animals to be manipulated. Heaven help David H. Barlow.

POETRY from the S.I.R. poetry workshop

THE EYE

(For Richard)

Some juggling must occur
to see a poppy and the sky
A hummingbird alertness in the eye
red-blue red-blue side to side the wings
the bend and rise of molecules to light

We understand the hand
Not yet the eye mysterious
scale that balances the sky
weighs the poppies' red
yet every thread retains it's petal's
symmetry

Rothke said, "Its rape is gentle, never more
Violent than a metaphor"
At least let me look
though touch is much more
easily conveyed, a glance
perpetnates the mind
The tiny cones, eyes closed,
unwind their colors dance
micrometric tops of red and blue
to music that was points of view.

Marilyn Cadogan

THE MUSIC LESSON

piano forte
pianissimo
fortissimo
hand to key
he weights
with blood with bone
with memory
flesh forte
piano rest

I black winged
(piano) watch
the shoulder bow
the light from the red box
gleams in the eye
forte fortissimo
where he searches
for a star

My daughter's hair
quickgold shivers listening
the question ends
Which was piano?
Which was forte?
I care too much for
Perfect stress

Oh little window
opening suddenly
How many other rooms
like this let in
the butterfly
dark-eyed man
golden haired daughters
and ask the question?

Piano begins at the tip of your shoulder
forte is how I remember your eyes.

by Marilyn Cadogan

SUPPLICATION

"Sisters, since you find yourselves in a worldly place
Eating ice-cream sundaes—"
(Paaashaaoooowwww———Flash Bulb!)
I shall read to you from Jeremy Taylor who lived in
the 17th century, his 'The Rule and Exercises of Holy
Dying'.
*"Let the sick persons do frequent actions of Repentance by
way of Prayer for all those sins which are spiritual, and in which
no restitution or satisfaction material can be made, and whose
contrary acts cannot in kind be exercised."*
Realizes he is tipsy. Must stop talking, causing
scandal.
direct enemies to sin few little habits
state of the man suppletory imperfections
clinic or death-bed penitent
No efficacy whatsover?
"Oh, I wouldn't come to that conclusion."
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
At exactly 5 o'clock in the afternoon on
Easter Wednesday. . . as they say in tauromachy
I was shot to death in a guilt-area of Buena Vista
Park, and walked away from my own corpse.
The crime had sixty-five witnesses who stepped
out of a hundred convertibles, and marched single
File to the corner of Haight street & Baker
where they set fire to a Victorian telegpone booth,
But managed to give an alarm. Hardly noticing that
I was a ghost myself I fled down Beaver street
Past a Swedish delicatessen (famous) and raced up
Market to Civic Center where I intended to prostrate
Myself before the equestrian statue of De Anza.
But just before I reached the scene the intent failed.
Gold corduroy on a lithe young buck parodying the robin's
egg blue of the one who preceded me out of Buena Vista,
Caused me to burst into tears.
The mob I discovered in the Plaza were also weeping
for Me!———My middle-aged, peaceful though by now
"Indian' form had been translated to the square in
advance, and people were standing around in knots
Trying to surmise What Could Have Happened.

G. Langston Fabian

LAFAYETTE SQUARE
(Continued from Page 7)

manifestations? Indeed. One would suppose that everyone not a congenital idiot would have surmised this.

At its root homosexuality is but the desire to express sexually one's love for his own sexual kind. This expression bay be either beautiful or ugly; just as it may be between man and woman. The possibility of probable ugliness cannot destroy the worth of the basic impulse. It cannot denigrate it by an iota. Hence, those who claim that homosexuality is perverse, per se, understand love imperfectly; and also God.

Hidden within this discursive essay are moral lessons. For the homosexual himself is the recommendation that he waste a minimum of time feeling ashamed for his desires, and devote his energies instead to the difficult tasks of loving well and leading a good life. Those goals cannot be realized if one begins with the premise that love of his own kind is immoral. Literally, one must come to terms with himself before he can succeed in coming to terms with the world. It is not necessary that one wear his sexual preference on his sleeve. That is unseemly. It is vital to know the inner peace of accepting oneself: virtues, faults and peculiarities alike. This is the beginning point for molding character.

ASK MME. SOTO-VOCE
(Continued from Page 13)

fit into his life, the less he cared for her. She said the final straw was when she entered the house and proudly announced she had just successfully rebuilt the generator of a 1936 Lincoln Zepher and found her lover so spellbound in front of the T.V. set watching and listening to a pretty opera singer that he didn't even hear her. Faye was so crushed she walked out of the house and swore never to return. That was how and why she come back to us soaking wet in a freight yard in Bellingham, Washington. I put my Orchid velvet cape over her wet coveralls and led her to a dry toilet paper warehouse and told her I had hoped she had learned a good lesson from all this. The lesson being that she should not have remade herself to please her lover. I told her to always remember it is the differences as well as the similarities that make people attractive to one another. People are frequently very "turned off" by an excessive effort to please them. Remember you must be loved for what you are or it will not last.

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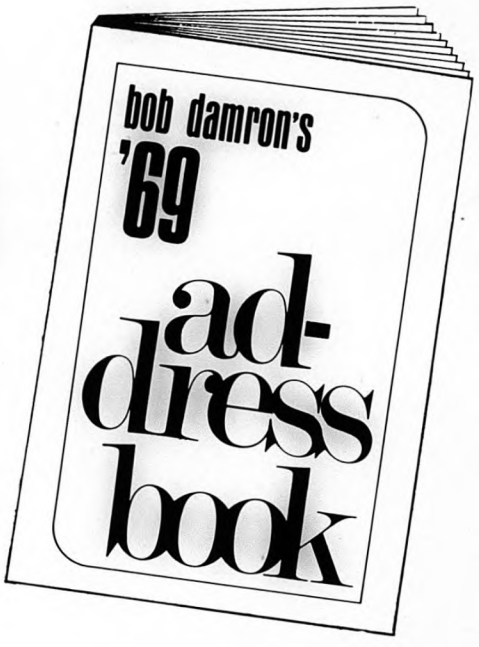

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Letters to the Editor...

Washington, D.C.
July 21, 1968

Dear Bill,

I wish that it were possible for me to attend the convention in Chicago this year. Unfortunately I am weighed down at work with some must jobs from which I can ill-afford to take leave.

I do hope that this year's meeting will be less idiotic than that of last year in Washington. Obviously there are prima donnas who consider these meetings a forum for their benefit. This is a petty indulgence and I think that organizations like S.I.R. which have been doing so much more "community-wise" for homosexuals merit greater attention than they received last year. It will be a better day for the movement when the primas have passed on into history and those with less self-aggrandizing motives assume leadership. Needless to say, personalisma has been a continuing problem here in Washington, D.C. Virtually nothing effective can be accomplished until that has had its day (which I suspect may be sooner than we hope for). A movement must be for the benefit of so it proposes to serve and not the suckling nurse for the few.

I want to compliment you for the splendid job you have been doing as editor of VECTOR. The quality of work has improved with each issue and the encouraging aspect of the magazine is its devotion to homosexuals rather than lurid commercialism. VECTOR is a vital mainspring in S.I.R. Its value cannot be exaggerated. Hence, it must continue to be as it is. To do otherwise would demean it and the organization. Not only is it reaching out to thousands of homosexuals, it is penetrating society at large. It carries the gospel, so to speak.

Larry Carlson deserves praise also for his provocative and interesting "Open Forum." It privides disparate homosexuals the opportunity to express their views and it serves also, I suspect, to give hope to many; a mood of brotherhood. That binding together of will also cannot be exaggerated in its value.

So, let us hope that year five promises gains and enjoyment. I appreciate the opportunity given to me to express my few thoughts. I consider it a privilege with obligations which I hopefully can live up to.

My best to Bill Plath and my hope that he has recovered from pneumonia.

Yours, F.P.

Editor William Beardemphl

Dear Bill:

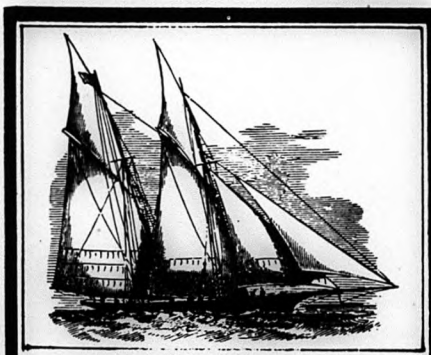
SIR's plunge into public controversy recently is really a groovey thing. It's giving the public the idea that the gay crowd isn't going to let people (even if they are rich A.M.A. doctors) push them around.

I heard a network reporter comment on President Jim Skagg's interviews during the July 3rd demonstration at the Federal Building . . . "those gay guys were really sharp, even better looking than me," said the reporter, about 23 and rather cute himself. "They didn't even look like fags," he added. Undoubtedly straight, his ideas of homosexuals changed right there.

S.I.R. officers should push these controversial public appearance. Jump at every chance to challenge public officials, parade picket lines, hold news conferences, just like the political activists do.

Meanwhile, the BARB grooves on your movement, and with help from you we'll cover your scene.

Sincerely,
Gary Patterson



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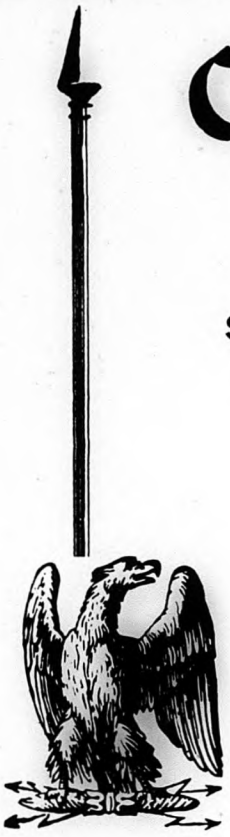

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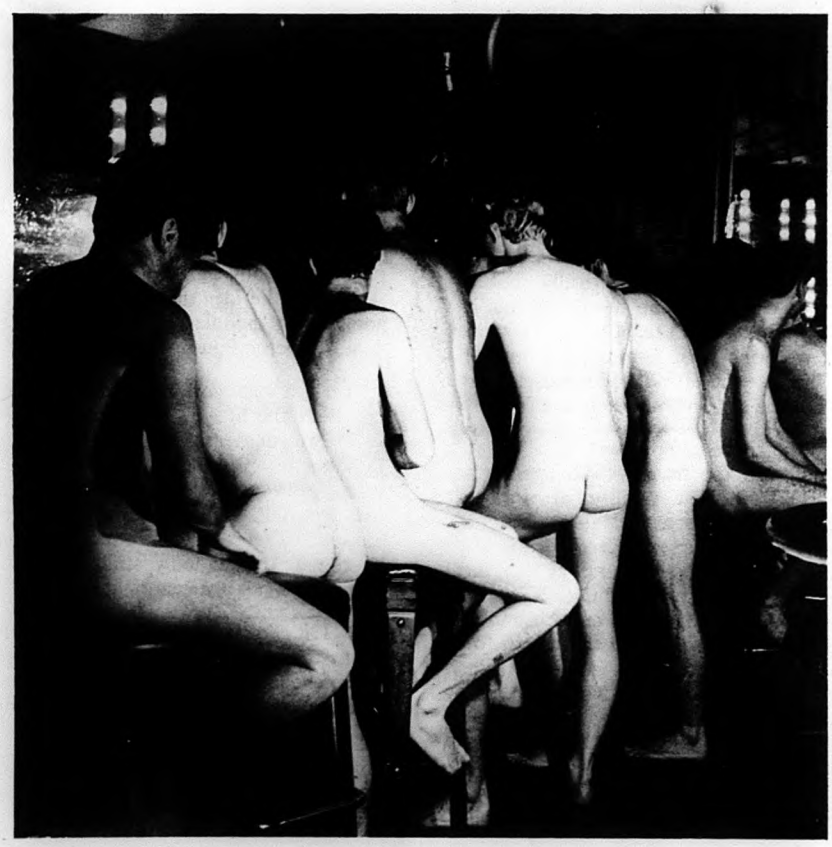

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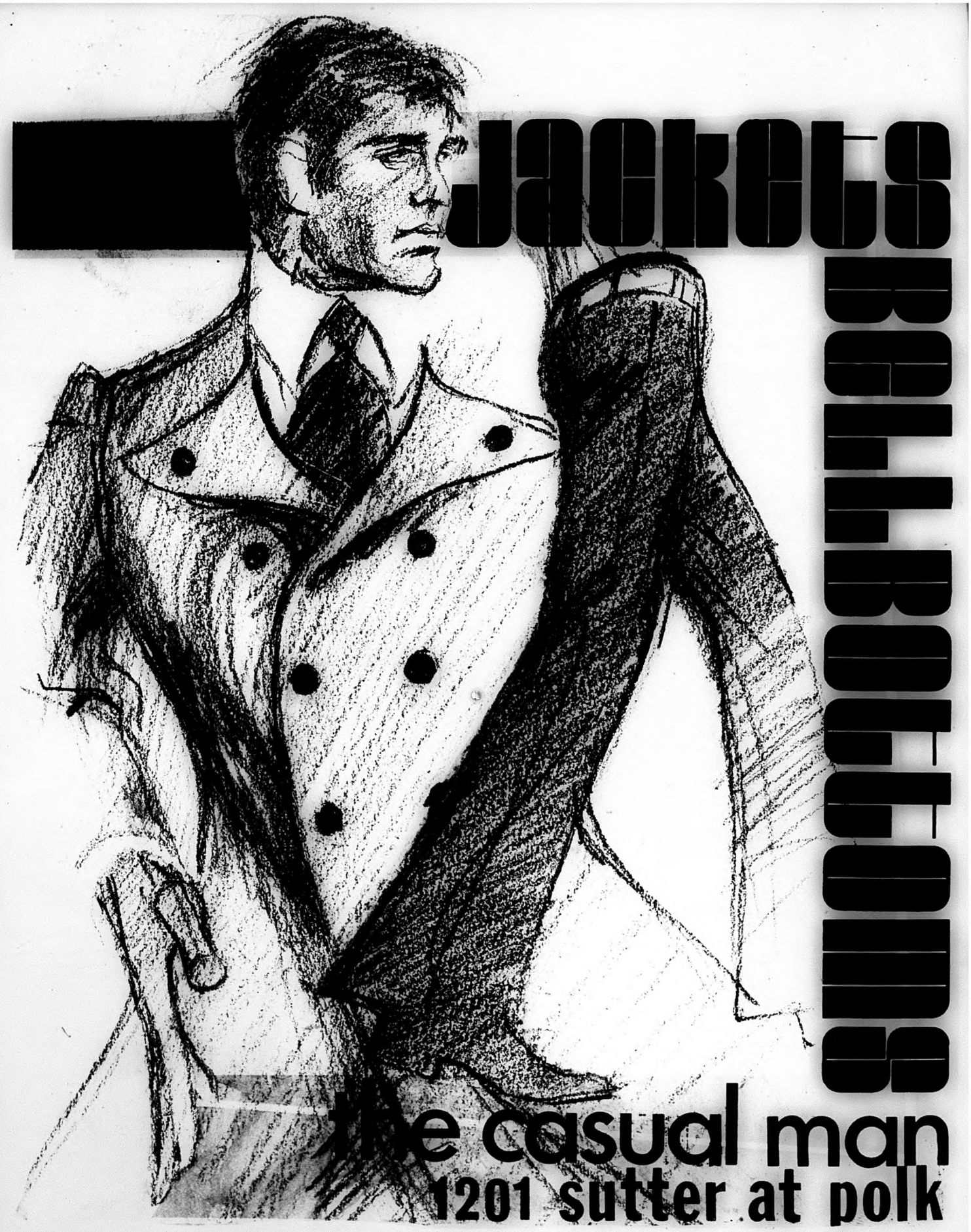

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