

come out!

25c

a liberation forum for the gay community



the Door is open! come out! now *photos by Diana Davies*
We are here & Love is in the air - GAYS Out NOW! *SPRING-Summer '71*
Vol. 2 No. 7b

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I finally dug your issue no. 7 - best one I've seen! Could you send 15 copies to this store and bill us. No one in this dopey community sells *Come Out!* or anything really radical except *Act 1: A Woman (for women)*. So this little minicute head shop is trying to get *CO* with political papers. Couldn't find out if you have bulk rates, but send us the 10 copies at whatever price - we'll sell them for I'll give them away and pay you!

He-lo to any of the sisters who I met when I was in NY in September - Judy, Ann Sanchez, Lois, Ellen, Pat Maxwell, and at least 10 others whose names I don't remember - love and power to you all. I hope to be in NY sometime in the next 3 months. Does *Come Out!* address change with every issue? Hope I can find you then.

More on coming out in Iowa City. Gay Liberation got started here in September; it's not real together, extremely male dominated, like there are 2 or 3 women in it. Most gay sisters relate to Women's

Liberation and not to local GLF though we dig what GLF is up to in other places. The only thing GLF here has done is fund out free lunches at a church (and wrote Gay Power slogans on construction site fences). Mostly they are a raucous beer party. There is no gay bar in Iowa City and most of the GLF gays are middle class-student-white-and-unwifed. So GLF is like a substitute for a bar - Yuck-o. But, I hope distributing *Come Out!* will bring out some more good people.

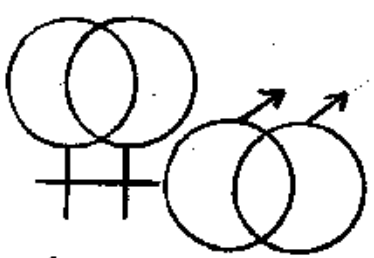
I guess I'm pretty critical because the scene in NY impressed me a lot and I wish it could get together here being around you people really was an "up" and important to me when I was just starting to come out and be glad I was gay and be glad I was alive.

Love to the people &
Power to the Sisters
In struggle,
Jeannie ("Jd") Taylor

Dear sisters and brothers,
We're sending you a couple of issues of our paper *Come Together*. You've probably read lots of the material as we filched it from a few of you GLF journals, but as we are getting ourselves together into a much tighter organization we should be getting more original stuff dealing with our own specifics, and as consciousness rises, with our own sexism. We're growing in numbers continuously, groups are appearing in places as far away as Scotland which gives gay people a particularly rough time. Sisters are joining us from Women's Liberation, brothers are finding out about us in prisons and we are going to attempt to get a foothold in the Merchant Navy.
Anyways we would like an exchange with your paper.

with love to you in struggle,
Aubrey Walk
London Gay Liberation Front
5 Caledonian Road
London N.1. England

our letters



Dear brothers and sisters at *Come Out!*,
Thank you very much for sending down the copies of *Come Out!*, we really appreciate them. Things down here are really a hassle but a little live between our brothers and sisters helps smooth the way. There is a lot of interest in starting a gay group here so that we can provide a place for people to rap and maybe a legal support too. I've contacted GLF in Washington to see if a few people could come down from there to rap to a bunch of us but have received no answer yet. A lot of the gay people down here are in the service so there is a lot of paranoia running around and not without good reason.
Now for a problem that has come up. I am an active duty G.I. here at Ft. Bragg, and I'm tired of the shit. I have been active in an anti-war G.I. group since I got here a year and a half ago and am known as a trouble maker. Now I'm trying to force the army to release me or exempt me from prosecution for being gay. I think there's going to be a lot of trouble as the Army will probably really try to hang me. I might need a lawyer but I have very little bread so if you can suggest anyone who might like to handle the case either for free or for a very low charge, I would appreciate it. Oh, one more thing, I'm insisting that I be given an Honorable Discharge. If they either give me the Honorable Discharge or the guarantee of freedom from prosecution it might go a long way in helping gay brothers and sisters now in the service. Keep up the good work that you are doing to try and free all of us.
Thank you,
Arnold P. Charles

Dear Friends:
At present there is a small group of gay people here in Boston who are working on activities for Gay Pride Week and Christopher Street Liberation Day. One of our projects is a multi-media presentation on the gay mind - who we are, our relationships to each other and to the straight world. It is also possible that we could utilize this presentation, hopefully during Gay Pride Week, on one of the television stations here in Boston.
We are searching for as many source materials as possible including newspaper articles, tapes, pictures, film, etc. Could you suggest materials that are easily and quickly accessible for us to review and possibly include in our workshops and our multi-media presentation.

Our work load is seemingly tremendous and we would appreciate any suggestions you might offer.
Thanks,
Sincerely,
Maitha Akey

The following women AND MEN helped to make this issue A REALITY. LOVE AND POWER TO US ALL:
Ellen Bedoz
Suzanne BeVeir
Nancy B.
Perry Brass
Arthur Brady
Steve Brooks
Eben Clark
Diana Dujes
Jessie F.
Steve Gavin
Debra Moldovan
Radicalesbians
Martha Shelley
Lin Shepard
Al Tucker
The Women At Bright Patch.
Gay Liberation.
Gay Prisoners
AND Gay People
All over the world.

Dear sisters and brothers,
Come Out! is finally out! We're back again and we've really missed you. Thank you very much for your interest, your letters, your faith, and your patience. We're sorry if we've missed anything that you should have known about; we've had some very untoward times and things like letters, even poetry and articles have gotten lost in the scrambles since the Gay Community Center closed. We would like to get *Come Out!* more often. There is still so much that we have to understand and express about ourselves and the process we call *Gay Liberation*. However, it is very hard putting out a paper without your help. So please don't ask us when the paper will come out again. Ask us what you can do to help *Come Out!* grow and be relevant to you. If you would like to contribute to *Come Out!* or be a part of the paper in any of the ways that make papers - writing, layout, distribution, (and let's do just plain work that only a few people have been groaning ever now for a long time), please write to us at our box number of call 212-581-2639.
love
Come Out!

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What's Happening?

So much is happening. So much that sometimes people cannot see forest for the trees. All those trees are so much mileage and movement within the gay movement. And sometimes they cannot see the trees for the forest. The forest is right now the whole Gay movement which now has become big enough that we can take it for granted and fight among ourselves just like good old left movements have been doing all along.

What's happening:

There is now an active Gay Liberation Front in New Orleans which has been the scene of some of the most brutal police oppression of Gay people in the country. Gay people are getting together in New Orleans to demand that the shit stop. They put out a monthly newsletter called the *SUNFLOWER* which tells about living in New Orleans from another viewpoint than the once-a-year-look at Mardi-Gras. *SUNFLOWER's* address is Box 19001, New Orleans, La. 70119.

Gay people in London are getting themselves together under the banner of the London Gay Liberation Front. They have a newspaper called *COME TOGETHER* from which we have an article in this issue of *Come Out!* It's really wonderful to have Gay sisters and brothers all over the world now. There is a Gay Liberation movement growing in Paris. There has been a Gay Liberation section in the French underground paper *TOUTE*. Gay people marched openly in the May Day demonstrations in Paris. Gay Liberation in Paris can be reached by writing F.H.A.R. - Front Homosexuel d'Action Revolutionnaire, c/o Tout at 73 rue Buffon, Paris 5. Telephone 707.4937.

Gay Activists Alliance of New York now have a new center at 99 Wooster Street. It is a four story firehouse that is really incredibly beautiful and is already overflowing at the Sat. night dances that GAA has been having to pay for it. Since the dances have been huge successes (at least financially), there is little doubt that GAA does have much of the male Gay community behind its firehouse. The most important thing for GAA to do though is to keep some political consciousness behind the dances or else the dances will become another bar scene. However it is important for all of the brothers in the Movement to realize the importance of the thing that GAA has pulled off. They have established a very successful means of getting Gay men together in the face of threats from the pigs and from the Mafia, so our brothers in GAA deserve a great deal of our respect and admiration for this. Unfortunately, GAA will have to deal with seasons of their dances, the crazy bar scene atmosphere that becomes inevitable when you get several hundred (at a very conservative estimate) Gay men whose past life styles have centered to great degree around relating to bars and other oppressive homosexual institutions. Also there is a real obvious lack of women at the dances, although people from GAA have said that women are very welcome and wanted at them. But in the meanwhile, much luck to GAA.

Which leads to here is GLF at this moment. The Gay Liberation Front of New York is at this moment very fragmented but not dead. As long as there will be radical Gay people there will be a GLF, but the

question is how to find it when so many people who have identified themselves with GLF have gone into their own little radical closets finding it easier to stay in there with old friends and radical acquaintances than to come out and deal with the world whose consciousness always needs raising. There has been a move of several people who had been very close to NYGLF to Brooklyn to set up a Brooklyn GLF. A few brothers and sisters have moved to the country or back into other closets in the movement (peace closets, SWP closets, etc.). Although all of these people still maintain a Gay identity, they are still not struggling around issues that are Gay issues. Going back into left straight organizations as an open Gay person is like naming your own oppression. It is really bad though that so many people in GLF believed that Gay Liberation was at hand with the next Revolution - which might be quite a way off. Gay Liberation is a lifetime thing, and whether we want to recognize it or not, we had better take a look at the "old timers" of the Gay Movement who have been struggling against incredible odds for a long time (some for as long as 15 years). Although it is bad that some of these "old timers" are still in the old times, are still opting for "respectability" and can't quite make it out of the closet all the way (using false names or false fronts, for instance), they are still in there fighting. It is also pretty shitty that often they still can't shake off all that old cosmic sexist oppression, and they are still fighting us. But the thing is that they are still fighting and it isn't something that you can give up doing after just two years of a movement. The Gay Liberation movement is now two years old (going back to the Stonewall). We cannot go back to being where we were two years ago. We cannot go back to the old hiding and the old fears. Just as it was not always easy for us to come out (and it still isn't easy, no matter how liberated we thing we are), we must make it easier for our sisters and brothers who want to come out to do it. We can't just wait from one Christopher Street Liberation Day to the next. There are just too many days in between.

Don Teal's book "The Gay Militants" has been out for about a month, it is published by Steiner and Day, 7 East 48th Street, NY 10017. Don's book is a very comprehensive account of the first year and a half of the new Gay Liberation Movement with very little left out. It is also a very good account of the little known past of Gay Liberation, people who met in a Los Angeles apartment in 1953 and came out the Mattachine Foundation, the early Councils on Religion and Homosexual which were the first organizations to even use the "forbidden word". The book goes through the early moments of GLF when it was an umbrella for all of the Gay people in New York who were tired of getting shit on and tired of

running and hiding, too; and also the late splits first between GLF and GAA and then various splits in both organizations. It also deals with various groups in other cities, so that it is not at all limited to New York Gay Liberation. However since Don Teal is a member of the New York Gay Activists Alliance so the emphasis is upon New York GAA and its members. The *Gay Militants* is currently available at Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookstore, 291 Mercer Street or through the publisher Steiner and Day. It retails for 7.95 and is the first book of our history, although it better be far from the last!

"Beyond" lately to be the most notable split-off from GAA has formed. It is basically a group of consciousness-raising cells that meet on Monday nights. For more information contact Eben Clark, 628-2480 or write to Eben care of *Come Out!* at our address.

Spectre is out! A radical Lesbian newspaper put out by Revolutionary lesbians in Ann Arbor. For a sample copy send 25cents to Spectre, Box 305, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107. This is probably the first revolutionary newspaper written by Lesbians. Right on, Sisters!

DOB has undergone some radical changes lately, beginning with the resignation of the hierarchy! One of the many changes is that the DOB center has become a Lesbian Center and has opened her door to sister lesbian groups. For information concerning new workshops, dances and special events etc., check the Bull Board in the Village Voice or, better yet, get a copy of the monthly *Lesbian Letter* NYC or at the Oscar Wilde Bookshop on Mercer St, off 8th Street, for 25cents.

Another Woman Songbook is out! It has Sisterhood songs and graphics. Send \$1.00 to CWLF at 141 Prince Street, NYC, care of DOB.

Gay Liberation Front Women have changed their name to Gay Women's Liberation Front (GWL.F). Another step in the right (I mean left) direction.

Radicalesbians are now holding their regular Weds. nite meeting at the Lesbian Center at 141 Prince St. Women in the NYC area who would like to join a lesbian consciousness raising group or women who have been gay or gay identified a year or less and would like to be in a *Come Out!* group write to Radicalesbians at the Lesbian Center. The RADICAL LESBIANS HEALTH COLLECTIVE have just put out a paper about how gay women are fucked over by the medical profession. It is available for 25 cents. Also a copy of the *Blowen - Identified Women* by Radicalesbians is also available for free. If you can, please send us a stamp, so we can mail it back to you. WIM is now a big part of lesbian and women's herstory. Both papers are available by writing to Radicalesbians care of the Lesbian Center



Come Out! has an international list of gay liberation organizations available upon request. There is a handling charge of 15 cents. We would like to gather a complete set of addresses of gay groups to publish in the near future. Any assistance from our readers will be appreciated. - the *Come Out!* collective.

