



Ellen Brody

In any specific action there are people with varying needs of political belief. They are held together for the moment by whatever urgency each feels (as an individual) that the action warrants. Hence, what is coking in most actions is a sense of community or of commitment beyond the immediate instance. While it is not that the primary reason for entering an action (or I use the rhetoric, "putting your body on the line") is increasingly becoming a personal one (whether it be Women's Lib, Gay Lib, etc.) the base upon which any action rests must be revolution — a commitment to a total revolutionary ideal, a new way. This kind of commitment would bring about this such needed sense of community — knowing that whatever the action, those with you are of the same ideal, that the enemy is common to all, whether in the use of imperialism, racism, or sexism.

Gay Student Liberation of NYU, along with members NYU Liberation Front and people from the Gay community, attempted an action at Weinstein Subcellar, not against this particular concrete steel and glass structure, but against the entire oppressive structure of NYU. Part of the reason we succeeded and part of the reason we failed is closely tied into ideas of revolution and community. The gay person in this society, thanks to law, religion, medical morality, etc. has been isolated and set apart from other people. To one so alienated, community can be a frightening thing. No Gay is shy proclaimed to trust. On the other hand, the slight student, radical and revolutionary as she or he might be, still has a way to go in dealing with the

with segments of the population rather could understand (and here I'm speaking not only of the street transvestites, but of the attitudes of certain Black students who insisted that the University remove these moral decadents). Our isolation from each other and our fear of each other worked against us. The inability to convince the great majority of the students at Weinstein to support us (let alone help us) was demoralizing and while standing against the form, with the pigs in a row on University Place, I realized the full extent of our defeat. We had failed to make those students overcome conditioning, fear, and superstition. We had failed to make them see that our struggle is their struggle. And

twofold issue of oppression. "How am I oppressed?" "How do I oppress others?" These is, of course, the element of uncertainty here — it's not too likely that a middle class white will wake up one morning and discover her/himself Black or Puerto Rican or in a Jordanian refugee camp. The same assurances are not possible with regard to homosexuality. And in as much as we are all products, to a certain extent, of our conditioning, this can be menacing as hell. So in an effort to build community we are faced with these two hard facts. Gays fear people (and rightly so), and non Gays fear Gays. I've never heard of a working unit constructed of parts fearing each other.

As individuals we seem to have identified the enemy. We have yet to locate our allies. We set in the subcellar of Weinstein in closed little pockets. Gays were told not to over-react when they confronted a straight with his sexist remark. Straights and Gays alike were confronted

the reason is simple enough. We were Gay and Gay is alien, strange and sick — just ask your parents.

But victory or defeat in this situation deserves a different interpretation. Homosexuals are not supposed to be out in the street demanding anything. We are supposed to fear visibility and content ourselves with the benign neglect of the authorities. And whether it's twenty or two hundred Gays in the street, openly proclaiming their homosexuality, openly defying stereotypes, this is victory. This is homosexuals banding together, recognizing a community, being seen and heard and proud.

The occupation, which lasted for seven days, and was abruptly ended by NYU's new policy of TPF first, nothing later, was only a beginning. The entire issue of NYU and community has far-reaching possibilities. Gays need not stand alone on this. The System, represented so beautifully by Hester and his crew, oppresses without regard to race, creed or sex. Our problem is not in defining and seeing the enemy — it's in building a revolutionary community — where no part of that community need ever be questioned on the efficacy of their struggle. We must raise our consciousness to the point where white middle class straight revolutionaries refrain from building hierarchies of oppression — sitting in judgment about who is more oppressed than who. Sexism is a vicious condition and unlike the other "isms" of oppression, the oppressed too often becomes the oppressor. All revolutionaries stand outside the System — an affront to the State. The sooner we learn that we are all Gay, the sooner the battle can really begin.

4

NEWS: Tallahassee GLF Hiram Ruiz

What is Gay Liberation? It is me telling the truth; it is telling you the truth NOW: homosexuality is the SPACITY to love someone of the same sex. Forget all that crap about "causes" (no one knows and we don't re), "cures" (there aren't any, thank god), and "problems." The only problem is society's anti-homosexual propaganda and the oppression it has added. The aim of the Gay Liberation Movement is fight oppression of homosexuals and all the other minority groups. We will do so by whatever productive means which exist or can be devised.

These are rambling sounding words to most of you but they parallel comments which your communities have expressed for some time now. But there are those in whom these words would be a great shock. They can even strike at the very foundation of an entire upright community.

The above statement marks a breakthrough in the Gay Liberation Movement because it was read not in New York, or Los Angeles or Chicago, but in Tallahassee, Florida on the campus of Florida State University. Gay Liberation Fronts have been spawning across the Northeast, West and Midwest. Now the movement has made an inroad in the Deep South...and which we hope will lead the way for expansion into our neighboring universities: the Universities of Florida, Georgia, Miami, Alabama, Emory University, Jacksonville University, etc.

The reactions to GLF's appearance in Tallahassee have been quick and sharp. On May 6, the Front was seized by the Student Senate, yet was still banned from using campus facilities by the administration. And in an appeal in the FSU paper "The Flambeau," denouncing the formation of GLF and activities it was sponsor.

"The undersigned employees of Florida State University are alarmed and dismayed by the appearance in the current issue of the FSU student newspaper an advertisement entitled 'Gay Liberation is Here.' This advertisement boldly proclaims homosexuality as a way of life that should receive total acceptance and asserts that homosexuals are wonderful people who are a part of a great movement serving the best interests of mankind." (RIGHT ON!)

The above text appeared in a letter to the Flambeau editor soon afterwards. It went on to say that GLF was "dangerous to the welfare of all citizens...The strongest authorized action should be taken against all persons who played a part in the publication of the ad."

We had now laid a taste of the university's reaction. It was expected, of course, but still a burner. Even the GLF was surprised, though, when circulars appeared on campus which stated "Realizing that any denial of sexual self-determination is an infringement of basic human rights, Tallahassee Women's Liberation and the Malcolm X United Liberation Front extend their full support to Tallahassee Gay Liberation Front."

Here was no stopping or now. The campus was covered with GLF posters stating our philosophy and purpose. Meetings grew from 7 people two months ago to 50 people two weeks ago. We were offered spots on the campus radio as well as the underground newspaper "Amazing Grace." News about us filtered down through the state...until, on June 4, it hit the front page of every major newspaper in the state. "END 'GAY FRONT' FSU CHIEF URGED"... "State Representative John W. Jordan Wednesday urged Florida State University President Stanley Marshall to take action against a new campus group called the Gay Liberation Front. The West Palm Beach Republican commended Marshall for denying the group use of university facilities but said he should take quick administrative action against it."

Jordan's statements were lauded by many of the local rednecks — but there were those who saw the move for what it was, irresponsible politicking at the expense of the university.

"After reading the articles carried by most of the state newspapers quoting representative Jordan, urging you to take a stand against recognition of the Gay Liberation Front, I felt compelled...to express my views on student government. We in Student Government feel very strongly about academic freedom, and about the right of members of the university community to express their views...This has been essential to our American form of democracy, and those rights cannot, and should not, be infringed upon."

These statements were included in communications directed at President Marshall and presented to both him and Hep. Jordan. An offer was also made to both men by the Student Government to arrange meetings with GLF members. Neither man accepted the gracious invitation.

Tallahassee is a freaky scene. "The Killing of Sister George" never played here. It's next to impossible to get a copy of even the L.A. Free Press. There are no Gay bars (some of us have never even seen one). Yet, a lot of very together kids have managed to pull off something which has drawn the attention of the whole state. From this uptight little Southern town, 20 miles from the Georgia border, has come the impact which we hope will soon see the spread of the Gay Lib Movement into the larger areas, most notably Atlanta and Miami.

We have awoken to the truth. We have ended that quest for a false security which has prevented us from facing the real issues. NOW is a new thing. Where once there was frustration, cynicism and oppression-seeking, NOW there is the power of being what we are with joy, with optimism, and with respect.

GY GAY YOUTH

Gay Youth is a new group consisting of both male and female gays under the age of twenty-one. Our aim is both political and social (with an accent on social). We wish to bring together young Gay people who have so far been out of touch with the gay community and gay life in general, as well as all young gays.

Our recruiting policy will be executed within the gay community, in the press, in the high schools and wherever young people congregate. In conjunction with this policy, for purposes of education, we will speak at any gathering to which we are invited.

Our meetings are held every Sunday night at 7:00 P.M. at Alternate University, 530 6th Avenue, New York City. Phone: 982-9874.

An important part of our general meetings is a consciousness-raising session, in which we discuss our life styles and views on gay life. (Our first session, for example, dealt with our problems in handling our parents, and the question of how frank we ought to be with them.)

Most important of all, our group gives a chance for young gay people to make gay friends their own age, and to meet people in similar situations.

Our first achievements were our dances, held for the entire gay community. We now plan a national Gay Youth newspaper to keep the different chapters of Gay Youth in touch with one another. Chapters of Gay Youth are being formed in:

Detroit — contact Tony Russomanno thru GLF Detroit

Philadelphia — contact Basil O'Brien thru GLF Philadelphia

Tampa — contact Danny Wise thru GLF Tampa

Ann Arbor — contact Tony Russomanno thru GLF Detroit

If your city is not on this list and you would like more information on GY or would like to start a GY at your city, call (212) 982-9574, or write:

GAY YOUTH
c/o Alternate U.
530 Sixth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017



RED BUTTERFLY

The Red Butterfly recognizes that the United States is fit for many purposes, but it is not fit to live in.

The Red Butterfly is part of the Gay Liberation movement. We are an organization of men and women working towards an end to oppression of homosexuals.

We stand opposed to imperialism, capitalism, racism, sexism. We advocate a free and democratic socialist society striving for communism.

The Red Butterfly supports the peoples of Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America — all oppressed people everywhere in their battles against imperialism and for socialism.

We support the Black Panthers, Women's Liberation, the liberation movements of Chicanos, Latinos, and native Americans, and all oppressed peoples.

We stand prepared to work for and with everyone fighting oppression — everyone engaged in the struggle.

We insist upon an end to the oppression of homosexuals. We demand to be treated as equals, as indeed we ARE equal.

The Red Butterfly is also engaged in research and writing projects. We welcome your interest and participation. For further information, pamphlets, etc. write:

The Red Butterfly
Box 3445
Grand Central Station
New York, N.Y. 10017

We are setting up chapters across the country. If you would like to join or start a chapter in your area, write to us for further information.



photo B. Bodon



S.T.A.R.

STREET TRANSVESTITE ACTION REVOLUTIONARIES



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEN'S CAUCUS IN NYGLF

After much discussion and debate, thirty-nine male members of GLF New York formed a new men's caucus. Each man in the caucus belongs to one of five men's consciousness-raising groups, and each group will be represented at general Sunday night meetings by one of its members, who will speak for the other men of his group.

At the November 22 Sunday night meeting, one of the five representatives read the following statement:

There will be no more Wednesday night men's meetings. It has been the consensus of the last three men's meetings that the basis of men's politics in GLF should evolve from the men getting together in consciousness-raising groups to understand our common oppression as Gay men and to determine how best to deal with it.

Therefore, we have established a men's caucus made up of representatives from consciousness-raising groups, with each group sending one representative to express the consensus of his group. We suggest that any men not now in a consciousness-raising group attend the orientation meeting on Wednesday at 8:00 P.M. at 336 W. 45th Street, Apt. 23.

Men in the caucus feel that a tighter structure based on consciousness-raising groups will alter the balance of power in GLF so that it will become more difficult for the men of GLF to dominate the women and transsexuals. From its early beginnings, GLF has been plagued by the mere presence of so many males, especially at Sunday meetings. The caucus, by reducing the number of men who may actively participate in general meetings, should serve to equalize the different constituencies in GLF.

Another chronic GLF problem is ego-tripping by individuals who have a tendency to monopolize general meetings, often in a very disruptive manner. Most of our NYGLF superstars are men. The caucus, by confronting these men and by allowing the group representatives only a short term of office, should be helpful in eliminating this counter-revolutionary form of individualism.

In its attempts at the solution of some of these more obvious practical difficulties of GLF, the new men's caucus can also bring about something much more important and much more beautiful, namely, brotherhood.

Many GLF men believe that we can, through consciousness-raising, grow closer to one another in a new shared understanding of our common oppression as Gay people. By opening ourselves up, letting it all hang out, bleeding inside each other's wounds, by laughing and crying and talking and fucking, we of the men's caucus will GROW into a united front actively working toward the liberation of all oppressed peoples.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT NYU

For those interested in furthering the struggle for the NYU Gay Community demands presented during the height of the Weinstein battle last September, the issue is dormant but far from dead. Gay Lib has been subverting the NYU Liberation Front (the major campus activist organization) ever since their consciousness deficiency proved them incapable of effectively backing us at Weinstein. So far we've assisted in bringing out a few members, incited the women into operating autonomously from the men until they get it together about their male chauvinism, and started men's meetings to help the men find an identity that is more than "straight, white, male oppression." NYULF meetings are every Tuesday night at 8:00 P.M.

CSL has been getting together in political consciousness-raising groups in order to study the Gay students' special situation, and they have been following that up with bi-weekly meetings to decide how best to deal with the conclusions reached in the different groups. If interested, you can ask for Tom Mahan at the "Brittany," 55 E. 10th Street, Apt. 1108. (473-2583).

Also, two short announcements:

1. On Sunday, December 6, at 1:00 P.M. there will be a meeting at the above address to decide on the curriculum for Gay Studies which Hester has shown some interest in co-opting for the grand name of "academic impartiality." Following this at 3:00 P.M., we will hold our regular NYC Gay Community meeting.

2. Some Gay people may be interested in a Monday, December 7, action against Union Carbide at the Washington Square campus. This demonstration will offer positive alternatives to imperialist corporate recruiters. If interested, attend the regular NYULF meetings or stop by Bob and Ken's at 190 Avenue B, Apt. 4R.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COME OUT

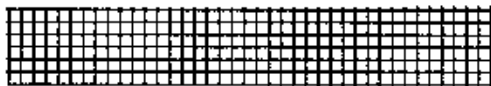
Gay Night at Alternate University marches on!! Alternate University is at 89 W. 14th Street on the northeast corner of 14th and Sixth Ave. Gay Night is our night to sit and structure as we want, to relate ourselves to the whole thing of being gay. We will have every Friday night from 6 o'clock until about 11:30 until the present Fall term ends. The last official Gay Night will be Friday Dec. 13, but it may be possible to have between-term Gay Nights for three weeks after that and then it will be up to us and AU to continue. Monetarily speaking, Gay Night is totally free!!

COME OUT! finally has a new post office box. If your service from us has been difficult, please bear with us and remember we are living in hard times. We've had

almost three changes of address in the last few months but finally the U.S. Males have allowed us to have a box of our own. It's Box 223, Times Square Station, 340 West 42nd Street, New York N.Y. 10036. Please send all contributions, letters, subscription info, keychains and gifts to COME OUT! at that address.

At this point there is some difference as to who and what is GLF and who and what is COME OUT! COME OUT! is, as our cover has said for the past several issues, a liberation forum for the gay community. The radical gay community. It is published by a growing, open collective of gay women and men, and we hope it represents the growth of the gay liberation movement which is no longer exclusively represented by the name GLF. COME OUT! originated as an autonomous cell of GLF and some members of the collective will continue to relate to the Gay Liberation Front, so that we are not completely breaking our ties with GLF, but we are opening ourselves to the whole gay liberation movement in New York and, we hope, throughout the country. COME OUT! desperately needs people to work on the work collective, to submit art pieces, to relate to the whole job of putting out a paper with the highest consciousness we can possibly have. We also DESPERATELY need a PLACE OF OUR OWN in which to meet regularly. If you have a post-sized empty room, a basement, a part of a store or any meeting place, please call 587-2536 and let us know. Any information about COME OUT! can be gotten by calling the 95th Street Men's Collective at 864-6467 or Perry Brass at 681-2839. So please come and help us get a paper out.

Our most sincere apology to Steve Ruse, a very fine photographer, who was kind enough to allow us the use of pictures in the last issue of COME OUT! (pp. 3,4,5) and whom we editorialized without giving him a chance to be confrontant. The collective felt his pictures were male chauvinistic because of an exclusion of women in them. Women did significantly take part in both the 42nd Street March on August 29th and the action in the Village that took place afterwards. For several reasons (some of them purely design and graphic) Steve did not submit photos with women to us, and we were simply not confrontant enough to confront him on this. Then we put an editorial comment in the paper without giving him a chance to speak. We apologize deeply for doing this and hope that we have raised consciousness on many levels (our own certainly) about this. The first level being that COME OUT! is a forum and we must not exclude a male photographer from this forum; the second is that women must not be excluded from the experience of our politics any more than we will allow any homosexual of either sex to be. We hope that this was another incident of our growing as a collective and in growing there will always be some mistakes made.



COMMUNITY CENTER



DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS,

For over a year gay women and men have been working towards getting a gay community center, free space where gay people could come together in a human atmosphere. Having previously been forced to meet each other only on the streets, or in exploitative Mafia bars has rotted all our relationships. We need a place where we can meet each other as people, not as sex objects. A place to dance in! A place to hold clothes in things we'll need to survive and grow: karate, theatre, crafts, discussion groups, history of gay oppression. We need a place to provide services for the gay community: legal, medical, housing, jobs, a gay switchboard, a free food program, day care for children. We need to have space in which to start to understand the things which keep us apart: sexism, racism, loneliness, fear. We need to discover what we can become as fully actualized gay people. We've never had a place to try it before.

BUT THE POSSIBILITY IS HERE! We've found a large loft in the heart of the Gay ghetto, the West Village. We need money now to help make our dreams come true. Your help will be fantastically appreciated! The future begins in the present.

Please make checks and money orders payable to:
Gay Community Center,
P.O. Box 40
Village Station
New York, N.Y. 10014

(Also in the next few weeks we'll be needing donations of paint, furniture, tools and WORKERS!!)



130 W. 3rd Street

"Paranoia is a state of heightened awareness. Most people are persecuted beyond their wildest delusions. Those who feel at ease are blind. Depression is the result of intolerable alienation and deprivation. Violent anger is a healthy reaction to oppression. Drug abuse is taught to children by their alcoholic, nicotine, aspirin, caffeine elders. Schizophrenia is an experience rarer than normality - in this mad world. . . . Power to the people!"

from RADICAL PSYCHIATRY MANIFESTO
by elzabde steiner
as quoted in The Radical Therapist
Vol. 1 & 2



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44 St. Mark's Place
Mon. - Fri., 6 P.M. - 10 P.M. Evenings call: 333-9500
Blood tests, treatment of facial and other diseases, also emergency care after gay demonstrations.
Anonymous / guaranteed.

FREE DENTAL CLINIC

70 St. Mark's Place
(The Green Door at Street Level)
Mon., Weds., Thurs., 6 P.M. - 10 P.M.