

come out!

25c

a liberation forum for the gay community



GAY LIBERATION FRONT

VOL 1 NO 5 NEW YORK SEPT OCT 1970

35c OUTSIDE NYC

Vol 1, #5, front page

OUR LETTERS

July 4, 1970

Dear brothers and sisters,

Each arena of movement struggle provides a special knowledge of freedom for each individual.

I read *Come Out*. To understand your freedom is to enrich my freedom.

Thank you for your revolution

Sydney Cash

New York, June 10, 1970

Dear Bob and Ellen,

Please accept my deepest appreciation for your enlightening presentation to my classes. I assure you their response was enthusiastic for both your work and presence of mind. While some of my students are still gripped by fears associated with the confrontation process, others are prepared for the first time to examine the problems of sexualism critically.

I'm sure my experience this year has forced these students to explore themselves more than that experience you provided them with last week. They have been discussing your visit among themselves, with friends and members of their families. It was truly a "right on" session, more meaningful than we can probably judge. Again, many thanks,

Continued good health, happiness and the best to you both.

Sincerely,
Dr. Karl R. Rasmussen
Asst. Prof. Sociology
Graduate Division

Cubaanse Ambassade
Prinsenvinkelpark 5
DEN HAAG

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

According to the reality that true friendship also has to imply criticism (correctio fraternal), I am sending you separately a newspaper "COME OUT" of the so called "Gay Liberation Front" in New York.

On page 13 of mentioned paper you will find a "Dialogue" about Cuba.

I want you to read both published letters very carefully in order to become aware of the contradictions in that many young friends find themselves by defaming the Cuban Revolution.

Because I also am willing to speak about that with you personally, I may inform you about my future address in Holland after August 21, 1970:
c/o Theologisch Instituut
Canisiussingel 38
Nijmegen
Phone (08800) 58711

Cordially Yours,
Frans M. Richters
Mastings Mall
600 West 122nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10027

1 August 1970

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Enclosed are several copies of *Gay Liberation* pages in the current *Willamette Bridge*. We're probably going to have 4 pages regularly from now on, which we can also distribute separately from the *Bridge*.

We're particularly happy that women who are not "student-radicals" are not only joining *Gay Liberation*, but taking on organizing responsibilities and writing articles, as in this issue. As a matter of fact, right now we are wondering how to pry more "hip" people out of their corners.

At our first Tuesday Night at the Coffee House we found that everyone who usually went to a bingo game at a bar came to our thing. Only 2 women showed at the bar and they wanted to leave to come where we were, but they were afraid of pissing off the bar owner! So the bars are beginning to hurt... and we feel great!

We received the 250 *Come-Outs*. Greyhound was a good idea - we usually wait a month for it from the East Coast.

Anyway, we are really going strong here. When we start doing a regular 4 pages, we'd like to send it out to other NW people (Ore., Wash., Idaho, Utah). Could we have names & addresses of any subscribers to *Come Out* in these states? Also, could you put a notice in the next *Come Out* about us and the Gay Lib people in Seattle? Do you have much of a circulation outside of NYC?

Towards Our Liberation,
Holly Hart
3783 SE Brooklyn
Portland, Or 97202

July 7, 1970



Photo by Ellen Beck

HERE I COME:

Name

Address

City

State and Zip

..... \$6 for the next 12 issues

..... \$10 for the next 25 issues

Send to: COME OUT

626 E. 9th St. apt. 19
NEW YORK 10009

SAMPLE COPIES

.25¢

COME OUT is published by a collection of Radical Gay women and men which holds open contributors' meetings on Monday nights. Everyone is encouraged to attend, and to submit articles, lectures, artwork, ideas and criticism. As we go to press, the time and location of open meetings are unknown. For up-to-the-minute information call 212-664-6487 and ask for info on COME OUT open meetings.

Gay Liberation is committed to replacing The American Empire with the sexually liberated community we know is the only one in which all people can be free. Radical Gay women and men are joining other oppressed peoples whenever possible in the struggle to destroy The Empire; we try to understand the unique abuses of their oppressions, their unique dreams of the liberated future, at the same time we try to explain to them why there will be no universal liberation unless we eliminate the ideas of sex which are the basis for psychosexual slavery in every major social system now feeding on the life of the planet.

GLF
OPEN MEETINGS
SUNDAYS - 8:00 P.M.
CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES
300 9TH AVENUE AT 28TH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

Vol 1, #5, page 2



Photo by Steve Ross

GAYS RIOT AGAIN!

Drive again, the police stepped up their pre-election harassment of Village homosexuals. And once again, we struck back.

For a couple of weeks, police brutality against homosexuals rose to a new high, with beatings and "molestation" on the streets of the Village, and a "clean-up" campaign in the Times Square area which meant over 300 arrests during one week. A young man who was looking at a window display on Times Square was asked by one of New York's Fascists, "Were you ever arrested?" "No," replied the young man. "There's always a first time," said the pig, and without being told of any charges, the young man was carted away.

For the first time, women have been harassed by pigs on the streets for being gay—possibly due to the increasing militancy of the Women's Liberation Movement. And so a coalition was formed—Gay Liberator on Front, Gay Activists Alliance, Radical Lesbians and various Women's Liberation groups.

Assembling on 42nd Street and Eighth Avenue on Saturday night, August 29th, the groups unfurled their banners and marched several times around 42nd Street, to the amusement of the tourist crowd. We women grouped together in the middle, and to the chants of "Out of the closets, into the streets!" and "Gay, gay power to the gay, gay people!", we added, "Male chauvinist, you better start shakin'—today's pig is tomorrow's bacon!"

After a few turns around the block, the march headed down past the 14th precinct, where it was scheduled to disperse. Since the street was dark and nearly deserted—except for us and some angry pigs—we decided to continue to the Village in order to avoid a battle.

Luck was not with us. On the way down, some straight hoods hurled a couple of bottles at our march, and two of our brothers had to be taken to the hospital with profusely-bleeding scalp wounds. The pig car refused to stop for us, and we had to get there in taxis.

We passed the Women's House of Detention, which inspired the slogan, "Free our sisters - free

ourselves!" The sisters yelled back at us from behind prison bars, "Power!" When we reached Sheridan Square, the march began to disperse, and we split to go to a party; but suddenly the word filtered back to us: the pigs were raiding the Haven, a gay bar on Sheridan Square. Messes of people, marchers and cruisers, crowded up in front of the Haven. A sister whispered to me, "There's going to be trouble!" Sure enough, the cops started swinging their nightsticks, and people began to run. Those who had kept their heads began to chant in rhythm, "Walk... walk... walk... walk..."

Word came from behind us that the Women in the House of Detention had begun to riot and to burn their mattresses. We took the crowd back to the House of D. Sure enough, flaming objects were descending from the windows. Some say it was weeds or newspapers, some say the sisters had caught rats in their cells and set them afire. We chanted, and they chanted back at us.

The pigs brought on more reinforcements, and our crowd was swelled by Village residents and cruising gay people and local radicals. The pigs moved us off one corner, we took another corner, keeping up the chants. A huge police bus arrived, and a shower of bottles exploded into fragments in front of its headlights—diamonds scattered before us. Heads were busted. The cops picked up one elderly black man—who knows why—and dragged him into a patrol car. His wife, crying, pleaded for his release. They took her along with him.

The cops pushed us off one corner, and we took another. We took Eighth Street, which had been closed off as a pedestrian mall. I saw some men jumping up on police sawhorses and making speeches, but the words were lost in the roar of the crowd. The battle continued for two or three hours. About a dozen people were arrested.

Some of us stood under the barred windows of the House of D., shouting slogans in English and Spanish. "Power to the sisters," we yelled, and they yelled back, "Power to the gay people!" One lone voice came down, "I want to be free!"

by martha shelley

After midnight, the pigs closed off the pedestrian mall, sweeping the area of people. The rest of us dispersed.

Later, one sister complained to me that as she stood in front of the Haven, some of the people to her rear began to throw bottles at the police, thus provoking a club-swinging melee. Several of the people on the march are of the opinion that agents provocateurs were among us throwing bottles from the rear while the people up front got clubbed, encouraging acts of violence and vandalism for which others got blamed. In particular, a Volkswagen was overturned. Several GLF'ers have Volkswagens. A record store was looted. Some of our members are self-employed or work in small shops, like record shops and bead shops.

There are lessons to be learned from this action. On demonstrations or otherwise, one should never take any action which injures the people, nor should one steal from the people. Agents provocateurs should be surrounded and expelled from the demonstration, just like any germ that enters the bloodstream of a healthy organism. They should be pointed out to other people. Hot hoods should be dissuaded from using a demonstration as an excuse to believe in a manner which injures our cause.

Obviously, pig provocation—us in the increasing number of arrests and beatings of gays, and in the raid on the Haven—must be met with resistance. But our enemies are not anonymous owners of Volkswagens, nor small record shops.

On the whole, the demonstration was a success, both in terms of the increasing pride among members of the gay community and in the increasing support we are getting from Women's Liberation, its sisters in the House of D., and other members of the radical community. We're getting it together, and the pigs can't stop us now!

REMEMBER THE STONEWALL!