



WORD THOUGHTS

by Jim Fouratt

HOMOSEXUAL:

I find the word hard to relate to because it puts me in a category which limits my potential. It also prescribes a whole system of behavior to which I'm supposed to conform, which has nothing to do with the reality of my day to day living. I feel the same way about the word heterosexual. Our culture has created these artificial categories defining human sexuality, to protect and perpetuate the institutions and systems in power whose end result is only to dehumanize life. I reject the word homosexual. I reject a category that defines my central life thrust in limiting terms. I am a human being. I look, see, touch, feel and love just like any other human being. What I do with my cock should not determine who or what I am. Judge me by all my actions as only they make the complete person. I refuse to carry a burden of guilt which will castrate me and render me incomplete as a person. I am a human being vitally interested in bringing about fundamental changes in this society, changes that will allow all people to experience to the fullest their human, sexual, spiritual, and economic potential. So, off the word homosexual!

MATTACHINE:

Mattachine today is about as relevant to me as are the Democratic and Republican parties. All three are concerned with preserving a system which is threatened by everything I stand for. Mattachine wants all homosexuals to somehow nicely fade into the mainstream. I want all people to stand outside and create a new society. Yet, I would just ignore Mattachine and go about my task, if it weren't for the insidious and vicious smears Mattachine has been giving to GLF and to its active participants. Dick Leitch, a Professional Homosexual, and Mrs. Madolyn Cervantes, have been conducting a slander campaign among homosexuals, homophile groups and the national media. They seek both to entrench themselves as official spokesmen and to so distort GLF as to render it dead. Through Mattachine's alliance with Screw's GAY newspaper, it has now been spreading its innuendos and distortions in print. All I can say to them is: You are of a dying order, your rage betrays your facade, the community will ultimately decide who we are by our actions, and so will they judge you.

GAY PAPERS:

There has been a lot of mud slinging and bickering behind the pages of the "gay papers". It's about time a few things were made clear up front. GAY and GAY POWER both do a disservice to the so-called homosexual community (which, if one judged by the contents of those papers, is exclusively male), because their overall content serves only to strengthen the stereotypes society metes out to homosexuals. They do this by appealing to fantasies and guilts manufactured by a repressive society. It is through the manipulation of both these guilt-filled fantasies and those assigned roles that society makes the homosexual both neurotic and impotent.

Further, both papers have as their publishers male heterosexual chauvinists who function as exploiters of our community for their own profit. I do not challenge their right to publish, but do question how our brothers and sisters can allow themselves to be so exploited. Buckley and Goldstein's male chauvinism as well as Fabricant's, combined with his articulated anti-homosexual feelings are well known and documented; yet because "queer sells" (meaning we are a market), they jump on the gravy train proclaiming themselves sexual revolutionaries. Bullshit! The more papers, the merrier, but let them be put out for and by our community.

GAY FILMS:

The same holds true for the so-called male skin flicks and the girly films. People are exploiting our bodies for profit. I am beautiful; my body is beautiful; all our bodies are beautiful; making love is beautiful. If these films do not visualize this, then they are anti-life and must be exposed as such. Why pay 3, 4, or 5 dollars to greedy straights and greedy misguided homosexuals. We must support only those films and film makers who are creating the honest vision. Don't allow them to make you or me ugly by their false projection of what we are.

CHICAGO:

About two weeks ago, at a League of Women Voters Conference on Youth and the Democratic Process, I blew a few liberal minds by suggesting that one of the biggest problems in our society was sexual oppression; and that homosexuals were not disturbed individuals but citizens being denied basic human rights — which are above legislation. I stopped in Chicago and went to the Conspiracy place in Chicago during the convention. One must be outraged at the way the Chicago 8 defendants and their lawyers are being denied what we so loftily refer to as a fair trial. Never have I seen such a vicious and vindictive action as is being taken against these defendants. With this trial, Spiro's speeches, and the systematic repression of the Black Panther Party in this country, it is becoming quite clear that dissent and unbecoming behavior will not be allowed regardless of constitutional rights. And where does that leave the apolitical homosexual who, in the eyes of the power structure, acts both criminally and immorally each time he or she makes love?

FAGGOT:

Most of my brothers and sisters see red every time Eldridge Cleaver, Abbie Hoffman, the Panthers, or the Yippies are mentioned and are consequently blinded to the more essential issues. It is claimed that these groups are all outspokenly anti-homosexual. And most of it revolves around the word faggot. Cleaver used the word repeatedly in the most pejorative manner in SOUL ON ICE, and it has become a standard part of white and black Panther rhetoric. The problem is that my brothers and sisters don't understand the word faggot as Cleaver and many blacks use it. The word faggot is used to describe any castrated male made impotent by the society. The black man has traditionally been castrated by white society by its refusal to allow him the dignity of meaningful work. It has been the black woman who has had to play the black male role in white society; she who can get the jobs; she who can collect welfare; she who holds the family together; rendering the male useless — hence, castrated; hence faggot. In a similar way, the system renders the homosexual neurotic, hence castrated, hence faggot. The Panthers must be confronted by our community just as all other radical groups must be confronted by the sexual liberation issue, but underlining this confrontation must be an understanding of how our oppressions make us all brothers and sisters. Hoffman, too, must be confronted as a male heterosexual chauvinist and must not be allowed to continue in a rhetoric which only seeks to emulate Cleaver's. But it must also be remembered that Hoffman is quite actively working for an alternative to this society and one would think only needs his awareness heightened.

GRAPES:

Simply, I love grapes. Green grapes, blue grapes, black grapes, red grapes, any kind of grape that is good.

I know I haven't had a grape in the last three years. Why? Because the grape workers union of California has been on strike against the grape growers of California. For three years the growers have refused to negotiate over a minimum wage and adequate working conditions with the pickers. Cesar Chavez has led his union in a boycott of these growers and called upon all people to support this boycott. He received endorsement from people as far apart as Jerry Rubin and Robert Kennedy. But the public has short memories. The growers with the help of Ronald Reagan and George Murphy have managed to "get by" by selling their grapes to the federal government for shipment to Viet Nam and have bargained with the large fruit brokers to coerce fruit dealers to carry grapes. Tell your dealer you will not buy them and you are insulted to see them in his market. Beware of the ruse many dealers are using to sell California grapes: they place the grapes in boxes marked with South American names and charge more for them, saying because of the strike they have to import them. Don't eat grapes until a starving chicano baby can eat too.

COMMUNITY:

Somehow we have to stop relating to ourselves as if we are alone. Some of us are hoping not to be noticed, being nice, silent, being out of sight, wishing They would give us permission to live and to love. It is absolutely masochistic of us to ask permission for a basic human right. No man has the right to tell another what to do with his or her own body. This goes for sex, for drugs, for birth control, for abortion, etc. Communication and education will enlighten us to what are positive, loving acts, and what are negative, killing acts. We must be free, we must stand up and look at each other as equals. We must rid ourselves of all societally reinforced guilt. We must be proud, we must like ourselves, we must love ourselves. We must show our beauty to all, and be prepared to defend our beauty by all means possible from all those who try to take it from us.

Remember January 24 is FREE JOHN SINCLAIR DAY.
RELEASE ■ ST MARKS CHURCH



You are cordially invited
to three days or so of
FREE THEATER
to be held in Boston
on or about January 16,
courtesy of the
United States of Amerika

R.S.V.P
Jim Hayes Defense Committee
339 Lafayette Street
New York, New York 10012

U.S. District Court
Judge Caffrey
Federal Building
Post Office Square
Boston, Massachusetts

GLF NEWS

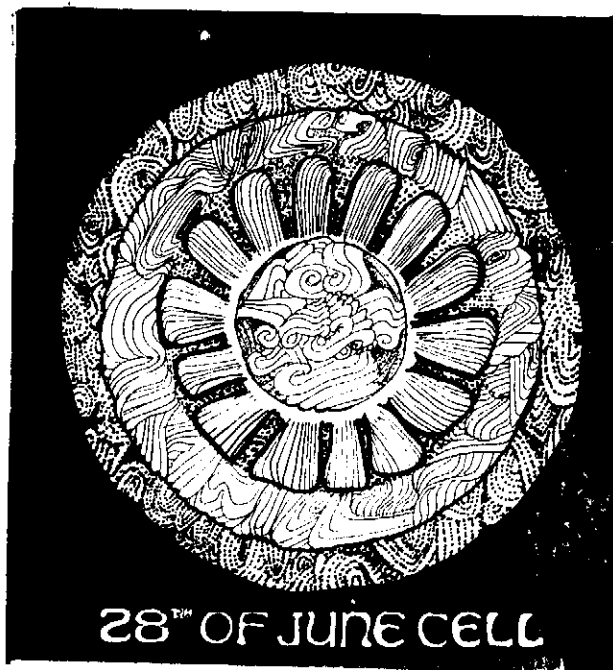
by Lois Hart

The big news with GLF is that its radical approach to structure (some of us call it organic, others call it structure-less structure) is not only happening, which is probably its greatest validity but that it gives good indication that it works. The many mentalities, dispositions, and persuasions of GLF activists and dissenters are finding expression in small groups structured after the needs, goals and philosophies of the participants. The 28th of June cell, committed to providing a public forum for the community in the newspaper *Come Out*, separated itself out of the unbelievable stew that was the Sunday Night meeting. The cataclysm precipitated by this move generated the Aquarius cell dedicated to the Community Center project, fundraising dances and maybe a newsletter? Two women's encounter groups have been meeting regularly. Their primary aim is breaking through personal alienation. Communal living is being discussed. There are Red Butterflies afloat in the city and the Radical Study Group has been meeting weekly. Some of GLF critics have started witch-hunts, others are forming their own groups. **Power to the people!**

The Sunday Night Meeting from the beginning was GLF's substitute Community Center. A place where activists could meet and conduct business, discuss issues, actions, problems; and where new interested people could begin their own involvement and participation. In the knowledge that growth and change occur within individuals and that individuals develop only through active involvement in projects and goals of their own choosing, GLFers chose the rocky road of fluid cellular organization rather than perpetuate older, oppressive structures of Follow the Leader and passive participation by voting. Old habits are hard to break and many misunderstandings have occurred. But one would not expect to try something new without a great deal of difficulty. At first things went not smoothly, but well. Issues were discussed and everyone knew that they were free to take action according to their own convictions.

Disagreement did not mean division. GLF was to be a multifaceted movement. Weeks went by, and GLF became "successful". We began attracting large numbers of interested people: some staunch conservatives who came to criticize and disrupt; leftists with preconceptions about change and revolution who came to scorn and repudiate rather than work for the development of GLF; well-meaning establishment types who could not conceive of something democratic that did not involve everyone being controlled by the consensus of a voting membership. For them GLF was the Sunday Night Meeting, not groups of activists for homosexual liberation. They did not realize that we are a movement, not a static organization. The Sunday Night Meeting moved into a new low. Meaningless hassles developed over what was GLF's official policy, what was an official GLF action, whether or not GLF would support the Black Panthers, for God's sake! Some nights it sounded like Kill-a-Commie-for-Christers inveighing against the More-Radical-than-Thous. Bedlam! The question of not voting and the reasons behind it were again raised. Our experience spoke for itself and again the voting habit was kicked. Once more discussion is possible now that there is nothing to win. Questions like what does sexual liberation really mean and how do we feel and what are the effects of labels like "homosexual" and "heterosexual" can be examined. Current ongoing projects got attention and support, like Nixon's welcome at the Waldorf, the Mayoral Inaugural zaps, the December 13th dance at A.U. Groups of men and women are meeting to discuss chauvinism and the problems that exist between the sexes, encountering each other and movement 'straights,' forming workshops on awakening the gay community to their oppression.

There are still many things to work out and lots to do -- but it sure looks like we've got a good thing going.



Drawings by Suzanne BeVi

After the first issue of *COME OUT* rolled off the presses, the elated staff took the paper to the people. For three weeks, we hawked it along the gay route, from Greenwich and Christopher down to the docks, and the people dug it! We raised enough for the second issue well almost, and as you are reading this we are probably hustling for the third.

Radical members asked us to come to the Eastern Regional Conference of Homophile Organizations on Nov. 1 & 2, which we did -- not too hopefully, but wanting to see if something useful could be accomplished there. The mentality was largely conservative, parliamentary, "please oh please straight world accept me", generally out of touch with the morality and consciousness of the evolutionary changes that are so loudly demanding realization these days. Surprisingly to me there was interest and dialogue with a number of people there, and because of it the GLFers stayed two days to work with the conference. A coalition was formed among the radicals to pass the following resolution:

- 1) That June 28th be a national holiday for the celebration of the Liberation of Homosexuals. It will be called Christopher Street Liberation Day.
- 2) That the newspaper *Gay Power* be censured for exploiting and parodying to the oppressive homosexual stereotypes and for slander.
- 3) That these inalienable rights are above and beyond legislation:

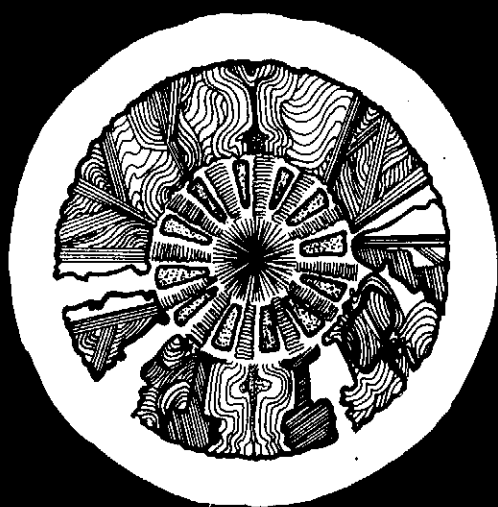
Dominion over one's own body, through sexual freedom without regard to orientation, through freedom to use birth control and abortion, through freedom to ingest the drugs of one's choice.

Freedom from society's attempts to define a limit human sexuality, which are inherently manifested in economic, educational, religious, social personal and legal discrimination.

Freedom from political and social persecution of all minority groups; freedom from the institutionalized inequities of the tax structure and the judicial system, freedom and the right to self-determination of all oppressed minority groups in our society. We specifically condemn the systematic and widespread persecution of certain elements of these minorities, including all political prisoners and those accused of crimes without victims.

Because the convention was primarily establishment-oriented, a lot of effort went into passing the last resolution. Even so, words are only words and do not constitute real change. It was questionable whether someone who voted 'aye' understood the implications of the statements.

GLF went with the Co-Conspiracy to March on Washington, November 15. Prior to that date, various Movement groups held a press conference in N.Y.C. The 28th of June Cell went to affirm our solidarity but also to confront the Movement. "You announce your opposition to oppression but still have not addressed yourself to your own oppressive attitudes, your male, heterosexual chauvinism." Another demonstration participated in with the Aquarius Cell and other radical groups was the picketing of Time Inc. for their offensive and insidious destructive article on the "new homosexual." Also GLF men watched children so women could go to New Haven in support of our Panther Sisters imprisoned there.



AQUARIUS CELL

For release to "Come Out"

The Aquarius cell is hanging in but is really hurting due to a lack of dedication, militancy, and active participation. We punk-assed on Thanksgiving but have definite plans for a combination Christmas dinner and party. Our *post-Moratorium dance* is definite: Saturday, December 13th, at Alternate U., 530 6th Avenue, 9:00 p.m. We got good feed-back on our March on Washington leaflet and we also put out the second leaflet for the Time demonstration. Most of us made it to Washington and back with no problems and we managed to survive the Time zap in spite of the rain and some well-aimed eggs. A few of us showed up at 100 Centre Street on Nov. 17th for the demonstration to free the Panther 21 and the Aquarian women joined the Women's Lib action to free the Panther women in New Haven on the 22nd while the guys set up a day care center to watch over the kids for the day (whatever happened to male chauvinism?). We still have plans for a weekly newsletter and hope to have it on the streets before too long. We owe a fat "Thank you" to Craig and Fred at the Oscar Wilde Bookstore for all of their help and cooperation.

The Aquarius cell is committed to raising funds for a community service center to service the needs of the gay community but is also dedicated to the fact that no man is free until every man is free (looking for male chauvinism, Bob?) and, to this, end, will support all oppressed people in their struggles for freedom. For information on any of our activities call: 243-2437 or write: GLF-Aquarius, 35 Charles Street, New York, New York, 10014.

Bob Kohler

We acknowledge that our children are born free... Each generation has a right to choose for itself the form of government it believes the most promotive of its own happiness... We may consider each generation as a distinct nation, with a right, by the will of its majority, to bind themselves, but none to bind the succeeding generation, more than the inhabitants of another country (!) And what country can preserve its liberties, if its rulers are not warned from time to time that this people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take up arms! The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.

Thomas Jefferson

Law is bondage Truth is freedom.
MEHER BABA