

# NEWS

## LOS ANGELES (by A. Douglas)

The Southern California establishment newsmedia is giving tremendous coverage to Gay Liberation. One of the L.A. dailies gave front-page banner coverage to the CHLR hunger strike and assigned a reporter full-time to the Gay scene. L.A. radio and tv hyped the June 28 parade considerably with hourly blurbs and interviews with Gay Lib people. The *LA Times* and LAPD chief Davis are bitter enemies and the *Times* gave excellent coverage to the court hassle between LAPD and Gay Lib over parade permits for the June 28 march. An important aspect of the superior court decision granting the permits was that it was granted on the grounds that the LAPD was trying to discriminate against a minority group.

No action has yet been taken concerning investigation into the deaths of Larry Laverne Turner and Virginia Gallegos, Gays killed by LAPD recently. Both were shot to death. Police claim Turner resisted arrest and was dressed in feminine attire. Gallegos allegedly attacked three LAPD with a knife in a Gay bar. In California no inquest is required unless the LAPD thinks it is necessary.

The *LA Free Press* may put out a Gay supplement in August and it may become a regular feature. Send items of interest to Ralph Shaeffer, 1822 W. 4th St., L.A., Calif. 90057

## NEW YORK HOMOSEXUAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NYHCC has no officers nor informal leaders. Each group in the confederation will share equal status with all other groups with the "host organization" for a particular meeting acting as chairman of that meeting. Decisions are made by consensus. If a question requires a vote, a decision is made by a simple majority of those organizations present (except in the case of the acceptance, rejection, or expulsion of an organization) with each group having one vote. These decisions will not be binding upon any group in opposition. Where there is conflicting opinion within a single group's representation, that group will caucus to achieve an agreed-upon position. If that group cannot reach such an agreed-upon decision, it shall lose its vote on the question before the Council.

Meetings will be held on a rotating basis at the locations designated by the host organization and accepted by a simple majority of the remaining organizations.

Now relating to the council—already are GLF, GAA, Mattachine, DOB, HI.

## GLF WALKOUT

Two Gay Liberation Front representatives walked out of a planning meeting of the New York Strategy Action Conference after the defeat of a motion to add "gay liberation" to the list of interest groups participating.

Tony Diaman and Brenda Howard left the meeting after a six to five vote let stand the original wording of the call to the 29 regional conference.

The sentence in question read, "That local Black, White, Brown and Red\* militants, rank and file labor organizations, peace groups, civil rights movements, students, poverty groups, women's liberation and everyone else must get together on a local basis and seek out the common issues that confront them all and begin the pragmatic steps to deal together with these issues."

Those at the meeting earlier discussed the lack of Black support which was evident at this planning meeting. With forces trying to make the planned conference acceptable to middle class white liberals, the minority groups have not been able to resolve the problems of racism and sexism in the planning stage alone, much less bring about the kind of broad coalition hopefully desired.

Commenting about the unconditional inclusion of the gay liberation movement, Brenda Howard said, "The question here is whether this body will fight against or support the oppression of gay people."

Those who spoke against the motion claimed that homosexuals are not an oppressed minority, that the conference should limit itself to the issues of war and racism, and that the inclusion of gay liberation would alienate other perspective participants in the conference.

Tony Diaman stated that, "If we were invited to participate in this conference of movement groups, then we will participate as equals. Both racism and sexism are important issues. To include us while refusing to mention our participation is mere tokenism."

Following the walkout, the entire sentence was struck from the letter and since that time two attempts have been made by conference leaders to get GLF back into the conference but there is little enthusiasm about entering through the back door.

(by Tony Diaman)

## OFFING THE SHRINKS

Dear Sisters and Brothers —

On Tuesday, June 23, eighteen women and men of Chicago Gay Liberation invaded the American Medical Association National Convention here in Chicago. The occasion was a workshop on Family Medicine at which Dr. Charles Socarides was to speak. A psychiatrist practicing in New York City, Socarides is an "authority" on homosexuals and is foremost spokesman for the school of psychiatry that proclaims that homosexuality is a disease, and must therefore be treated as a medical problem which requires a cure. The members of Gay Liberation decided that we could not allow our arch-enemy to go unchallenged. We scattered ourselves throughout the hall and waited for him to begin his address. As soon as he said the word "homosexual" one invader shouted "homosexuals are beautiful" and ten others jumped up to distribute the prepared leaflet. We then settled back with our arms around each other to hear all about ourselves. At appropriate points throughout his speech, invaders would shout such challenges as "that's a moral judgment" and "you're making things up" and "do you cure your straight patients of heterosexuality?" When Socarides repeated

this point about the male and female being physiologically adapted to each other, one audience participant yelled, "a woman's breasts don't fit into a man's chest." After Socarides finished, one furious doctor demanded to know by what authority we were attending the session. Another doctor suggested that the issue that the Gay Liberation people were raising should be given legitimacy, and that one homosexual should join Socarides and the other authorities on the panel. A gay guerrilla raised the objection that there were women homosexuals and men homosexuals and that both groups would have to be represented. A gay woman and a gay man then took their places on the panel and explained that homosexuals are not inherently sick, but that society and psychiatrists force them to think of themselves as sick. Socarides reiterated his position about gender identity being confused by childhood trauma, which by now must have sounded pretty lame to just about everyone present. That evening a man called the number on the leaflet and said that he approved of the action we'd done. "I'm a doctor," he explained. "I'm gay."

Step May  
Chicago Gay Liberation  
1212 E. 59th St.  
Chicago, 60637

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# The Emperor's New Clothes

by Pat Maxwell  
(A TRANSEXUAL)



Woodcut Perry Brass

Men write the script, design the costumes, and direct the play. A female role is just as clearly a male creation as is a male role. Unmask Marilyn Monroe and you will find Arthur Miller *in drag*. It's as cliché as two sides of a coin. Charles Atlas was created out of the aggressive feelings and the bathing beauty was created out of the receptive feelings of the same male chauvinist.

Most men project their desires to be receptive on women. Due to the oppressive nature of the female role in this society, a straight man can freely pretend to be Charley Hardon when he feels assertive, but when he feels receptive, he must project his own desires to have big boobs and a friendly cunt on his female companion. I believe that men live out these desires by using women as their "dolls." Aphrodite sprang out of Zeus' head, Eve was born from Adam's rib, the frog magically became a beautiful princess — man's transexual fantasies are endless. Only the transexual man takes the responsibility for his own fantasy and becomes a "woman."

Under stress, some males' desire to be receptive becomes too great to be denied or projected, and they flip. Heads I win, tails you lose, the king becomes a queen. *Only a man can be a woman!* The queen comes from man's affirmation of his "woman" role, and not, as popularly stated, from his scorn for a real woman. When a man becomes a woman, he feels the total weight of oppression that the male chauvinist dumps on us as women. If you don't believe me, ask a queen out to lunch.

At this time roles are not clearly understood and we need to fully explore the way that we use roles, and the ways that roles use us. Much is said about oppressive roles. But is a role freely chosen the same as a role which is imposed upon us from above? The game of role playing seems to be popular among children. Ask Peanuts. We express our inner personality thru our outer appearance. Look in the mirror. Ain't that so Mr. Revolutionary? Does a hip Venceremos Brigadeer look like Che or does he not? The female role is a man's expression or affirmation of another side of his nature. Let the sunshine thru.

Men are more reluctant to discuss roles than women. Perhaps the fact that little girls were not able to dress in the costumes of the opposite sex and little boys were not indicates the extent of the pressures which have caused this male uptightness. I believe all children have a desire to try out every conceivable role around. Anyway I did. Since I wished to try out both sex roles, I'm assuming that so did my brother. My sister sometimes was a sailor, sometimes I was a cowboy, but never did I see my brother in a dress! What's it all about Alfie?

How many males could tell you, but won't — or would tell you but can't — that one and only time they put on mother's high heels? Ask Alfie's father. The straight father's scorn and ridicule for women is clearly expressed when a boy tries to be a girl. Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman, hippie and yippie, why did you dress in all those costumes, Indian drag, police drag, Uncle Sam drag, and never once cross the sex role boundary? You came so close to the point, and then you petered out. Just couldn't keep it up, hippie brother.

When a man in our society grows his hair long, puts on a dress, and walks among us, she is in effect giving up his male privilege. She is not oppressing women, she is threatening men! The queen is the lavender menace to the male chauvinist. When every man is able to cross the sex role boundary, then and only then will women cease to be sex objects. The Gay Liberation movement should affirm and not deny the transexual in us all. Queens are in the vanguard of the sexual revolution. Come out now and avoid the rush!

## CLEARING MY HEAD by Christine Diachishin

Although I have been in Women's Liberation for over a year now, my first reaction to Gay Liberation was not very liberated at all. I'm embarrassed to admit that my first response to learning that a good friend of mine had come out was a very "proper", culturally conditioned one. "Oh well, I know she's slept with men, so she's really only bisexual... maybe this is just a passing phase...."

My first panicky thoughts were cut off abruptly once and for all by the second response. This was the firm conviction, strengthened by many years of liberalism and most recently by radicalism, that every person has

the right to conduct his or her sexual life the way he or she wants to.

Having decided what I thought of my friend's gayness, I could have generalized this attitude to cover all other gay people and neatly dismissed Gay Lib from my thoughts. Gay Lib could have become something touching other people, but never involving me. But the more I read and thought about it, the more I realized that Gay Lib speaks to all women who work closely together, have affection for each other and enjoy each other's company. Which means, of course, that Gay Lib speaks directly to Women's Lib.

Gay Lib is reassuring because it tells me not to be up-tight about feelings of love I have for my sisters. It's a relief to admit, without shame or fear, that I am physically attracted to women I know and love in other ways. Even if I never actually enter a sexual relationship with another woman, Gay Lib has helped clear my mind of old worries and doubts. Those feelings of love are a natural and beautiful outcome of working, planning, sharing, and struggling together for our liberation.

Women's Lib already has a radical analysis of our political situation. Let us be equally fearless and radical when examining our own personal feelings and lives. 10