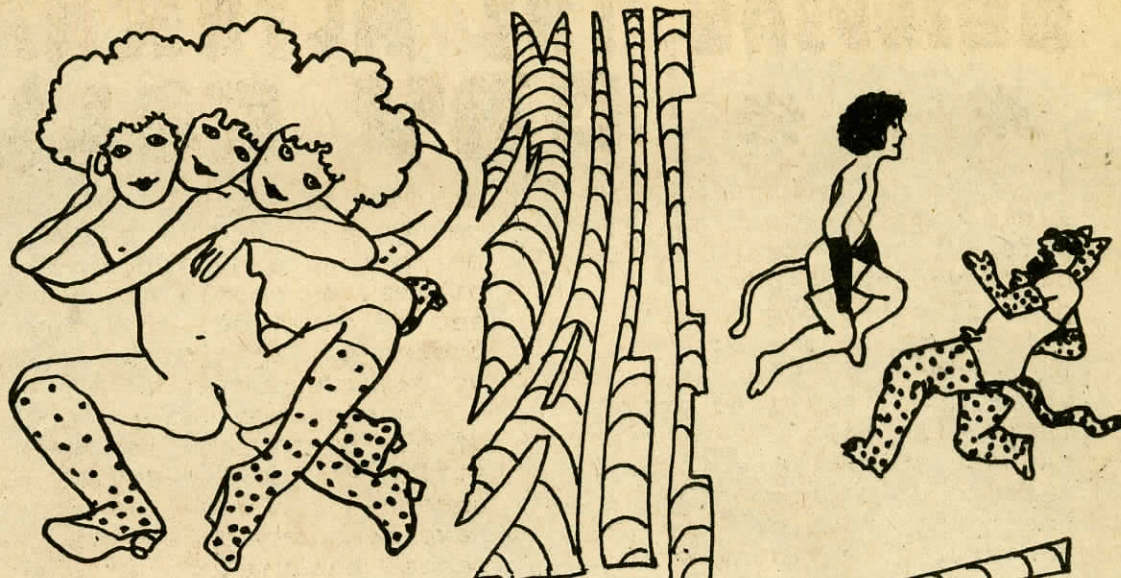


As a gay sister of GLF I intended to write an article on gay sexuality but in writing I found no way of avoiding the extent to which female sexuality has been influenced by social role concepts. We are all channelled from the moment of birth into roles determined by the genitals we happen to possess. From that moment onwards we are thrust into specific roles divided from each other - divided from ourselves - we are either male or female - $1\frac{1}{2}$ or the other $\frac{1}{2}$.

As human-beings we instinctively possess the same qualities but have learnt to regard aggression, assertion, dominance as male qualities and passivity, emotionality, and sensitivity as female qualities. We have exploited these factors of ourselves according to our gender and have repressed those which are assumed to be appropriate to the opposite sex. Men are conditioned to stifle emotions and are not allowed the energy release of crying. Women are not expected to voice opinions or assert themselves in the presence of men. In actuality we are only exploring 50% of our being the other 50% is buried somewhere. The female is the most violated in the role enactment largely because society is based on the family nucleus - the male, the female and their produce. Physiologically women are at a disadvantage as we are the ones that have the babies. Women in a family unit eventually become childbearing, house-bound, placators of the male ego. Sexuality becomes a playground for the enactment of our male/female games. The straight male's concept of sexuality is clearly embodied in his sexual terminology of fucking, laying and screwing in which the woman is to be fucked, layed and screwed and to dig it. It is unfortunate that the 'submissive and receptive' female rarely fucks, lays or screws 'her man'. Women have largely accepted this passive role, and have been made to fear their own sexuality. It is not expected of woman to take an active role in the sexual act - her body is used to being prone - her body is used to being fucked. If she is stricken with fear and anguish at the act of violence perpetrated against her body then she is frigid and of no consequence. If she has an awareness of her sexual needs and desires she is termed as a 'loose woman' or a 'good lay' or



a whore. In fact women are so sexually oppressed by men that it is not acknowledged that her sexual energies are equal to those of the men. In actual fact her sexual energies are quite often more resilient as the beautiful Martha Shelley (Radical Lesbians, New York) said, 'we can keep it going longer'.

Consider the motivation in male/female sexuality. By total life-styles engendered upon us the male is the dominant, the female the submissive. I believe we have not successfully rid ourselves of our instincts - the act of sexuality for men is one of guilt. Guilt breeds through his endeavours to repress the fear and contempt he feels to his own femininity. It is a threat to his identity as a male, a challenge to his masculine ego to acknowledge a duality.

The woman is the epitome of those things he cannot allow himself to be. Sexuality for him is thus an act of alienation. He is in himself loathing fucking that part of himself that he cannot accept. Sexual action between an oppressor and his oppressed is an act of violence not of love. Since becoming gay I have gone through a process of relearning and discovery as I know have many other of the sisters. It has meant becoming aware of oppression, of role playing, of head fucking. Of becoming aware of sensuality as opposed to sexuality, of the body as opposed to the genitals. Of becoming aware of a being instead of a half being.

ALL POWER TO OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS
Barbara.

GLF still meets every Wednesday, 7.30 at 43 King Street, Covent Garden. So gay sisters and brothers please come along and join in our activity.

There are several action groups you can join, or you can even start up a new one. So far we have, sisters group, youth group, media workshop, action group, counter-psychiatry group, manifesto group, book group, legal group etc.
COME OUT, BE GAY.

Dear Come Together,
It was interesting to see that the youth group membership has been changed to include those under 25 -- one wonders why not 30 or 35? This sort of arbitrary nonsense about age has come about because the (dare I say it) older members of the youth group are afraid firstly to leave their friends and make new ones through action in the other GLF groups, and secondly to realize that they are not indispensable in the youth group or any other. Self perpetuation of "leadership" is not the sort of precedent we're interested in.
R.T.LAY.



do you think they know
or do they not see
through my pretence
of making like
I'm just out walking

Becoming tense
See likely body
approaching

Relax
You're just out walking
Taking in the midnight
smog soaked air
round holland park
or hampstead heath
or anywhere

There is me
in the reflections of his eyes
but that is all that passes
between us
For some other people pass
and guilt and shame
prevent us looking back
seeing what we know

It was forced upon me
BEFORE
and now I find it hard
Even now free.

"Come Together" is produced by GLF media workshop. Our address is GLF (London), 5 Caledonian Road, London N.1. GLF's office phone number is 01:837:7174. Please, if you've got articles, poems, pictures, photos etc for us send them in. We hope we're improving with each issue, we'd welcome constructive criticism.

BUILDING THE ALTERNATIVE * * *

* * * GAY COLLECTIVES

As a gay person i have lived within myself all my life - i have torn myself apart, destroyed and hidden myself, even from myself. i tried to become Butcher than Butch, fucking as many women as possible to prove that i was a MAN. But my gayness still broke through, i avoided 'male sports' preferring rounders and netball, if anything at all. i grew my hair in direct reponse to my mother's complaints about effeminacy, stole my sisters panties to wear and cruised at every available opportunity. Even so I put down 'queers' whenever the subject arose - i was the uptightest straightest closet queen you had ever seen.

So where does this 'confession' lead? It leads to the rationale behind this article, a rationale, which, i feel, that if GLF people follow will lead to a higher level of consciousness and a general tightening up of political direction to replace the low level floundering that presently characterises GLF.

The rationale is that of collective living, that of a group of people living and working together consciously trying to attack the perverted ways in which we were brought up and struggling together to find a new way of living and relating to people. It is this rationale which brought me out, which stopped me regarding women

and men as hunks of meat or sex objects and is teaching me to regard myself, and others, as people and not a set of attitudes or various fucked up definitions imposed by outside society.

One of the major purposes of GLF is to redefine our attitudes and lifestyles to understand how we, as people, have been exploited and oppressed because of our love for each other, and to fight back against that exploitation and oppression. Thus we must work out the most positive way in which we can begin to fight back. Most of us attend the weekly GLF meeting and perhaps one other group meeting and then go back to the bedsit in Earls Court or to the flat we share with one or two friends.

"For an oppressed group to successfully challenge those who control them they have to be able to create, construct a total alternative kind of being. Such an alternative does not drop neatly from the skies. it has to be hewn out through suffering, in struggle, over time, and with thought." *

It is only through consciously struggling with a group of people that this alternative being can develop, and that cannot be done in the context of a bedsit or that of a few friends casually sharing a flat together. The most effective way to transform our lives in toto (a very frightening prospect at first), I feel is to live collectively (in groups of between 5 and 8) where criticism and self criticism become positive tools in the struggle, where the love and support from the

rest of the collective help each individual in their struggle to clear out the shit inside their heads, planted by more than 2,000 years of Judeo-Christianity Heterosexual male supremacist ethic. It is a struggle we can only begin, but it is an immensely rewarding struggle where the results of the changes inside our heads and in our lifestyles prove that the pain of being honest and accepting criticism and changing because of it are worthwhile.

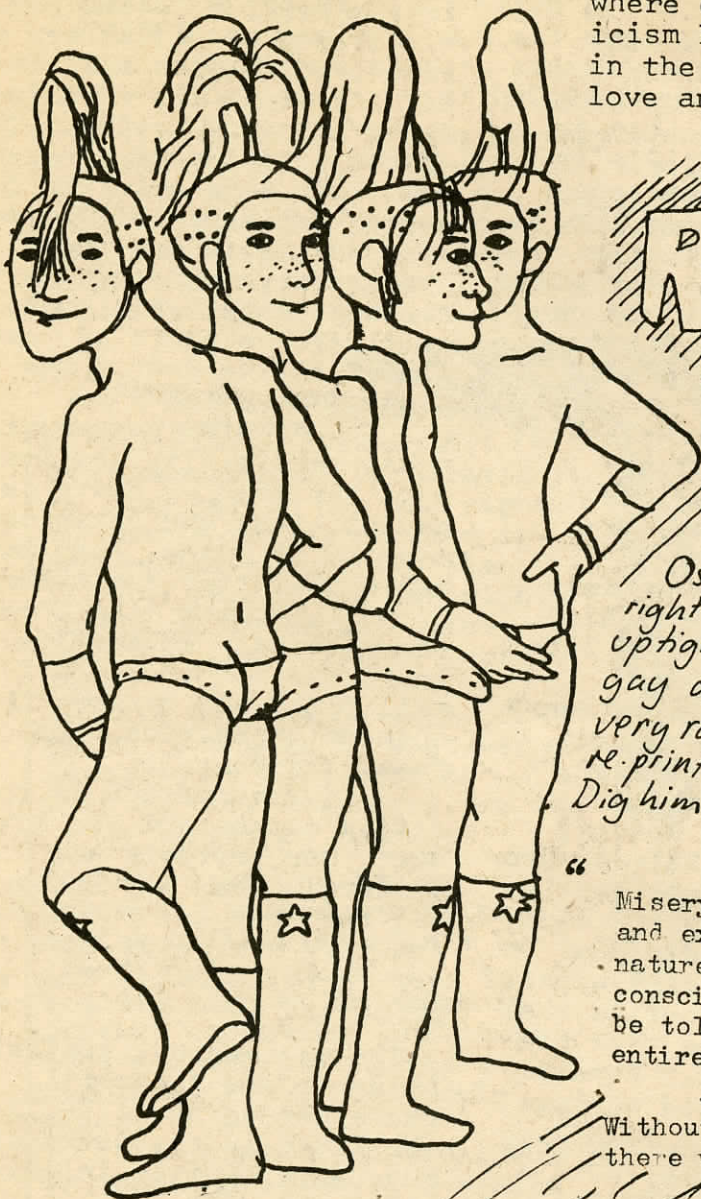
We must remember that one of the greatest weapons we have against those who control our lives is that 'our strength grows out of the rightness of our causes and the trust we have of each other. By moving and working in small groups before the repressive forces we learn to trust each other more and threaten more effectively the powers over our lives." **

Lets use that weapon, lets use it to smash the system which has oppressed us and distorted us into mimicing the MAN's society. We've talked about the alternative society for long enough, its about time we started to create it.

* Womens Liberation and The New Politics - Shiela Rowbotham.

** The Bust Book, Agitprop Collective

GAY is much better than straight and not just as good as. It's better, because all heterosexual relationships are based on the oppression and exploitation of women. Exploitation and oppression of one partner by another is not a necessary part of gay relationships. Gay relationships are, at the present moment in social development, the only relationships capable of developing full & pure egalitarianism between individuals. *Alfred*

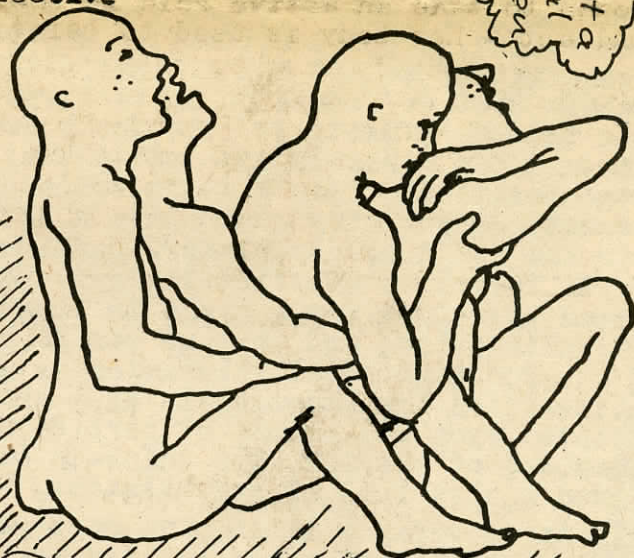


RIGHT ON OSCAR

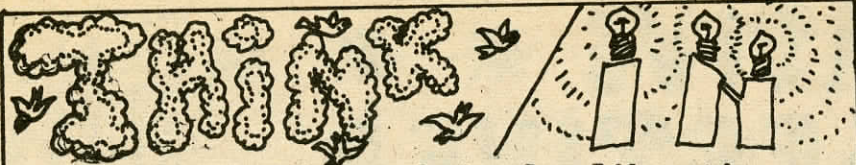
Oscar Wilde was a right on gay person, who was hounded and persecuted by the straight, uptight, fascist male-chauvinist state. Of course we all know that he was gay and proud of being gay, but it is often forgotten that he also held very radical views, for his time, on the nature of man and society. We're re-printing excerpts from his work, "The Soul of Man under Socialism." Dig him, 'cause he was a real gay brother.

"Misery and poverty are so absolutely degrading and exercise such a paralysing effect over the nature of men, that no class is ever really conscious of its own suffering. they have to be told of it by other people, and they often entirely disbelieve them

Without agitators in our incomplete state there would be no advance towards civilisation.



JOIN US IN GAY LIBERATION: HELP US TO FIGHT THE SEXISM OF THE SYSTEM AND OUR OWN LIVES. FORM A LOVING SISTERHOOD + BROTHERHOOD FOR GAY SISTERS + BROTHERS



The second Think-in of the Gay Liberation Front was held a couple of weeks ago. The object was to work out a system of tighter organisation for the GLF and to try to get some priorities in our campaign. previously it had been felt that there was not enough co-ordination between the various interest groups, a case of the left hand not being aware of the actions of the right and vice versa. This led to all sorts of unnecessary misunderstandings between groups. To combat this it was decided at the Think-in to set up a co-ordinating committee that would have on it a representative from each interest group. By doing this there should be a much better dissemination of knowledge of the various activities of the groups.

It was also felt that there was a need to have some form of recognisable membership and it is for this reason that we have made membership of the GLF dependent upon membership of an interest group. It was

decided that the convenors of the group should keep the names and addresses of the group members, this way we don't have one central file with names, addresses etc. As we now have an office we need people to man it. These people need to be known by all of us, and trusted by all of us - not only for their honesty, but for their knowledge of GLF and what it stands for. These people will deal with the press, the running of the office, sending out of speakers to various meetings and so on. They will be GLF's formal contact with the world out there. They are to be nominated by the co-ordinating committee and the nominations are to be approved of by the members as a whole.

As for the Wednesday meetings, we have decided that one meeting per month shall be for members only. The rest shall be divided between general meetings and social meetings. The order has been left to the co-ordinating committee.

It was also decided that the priorities in our campaign should be in the field of sex-education, job discrimination and counter-psychiatry. We did not go into details about what we should do in each case, but left it to future meetings. The Youth group have been doing research into sex-education and the position of gay kids in schools, and the counter-psychiatry group have a lot of info in the field of psychiatry, particularly with regard to aversion therapy. We have a need therefore for a group to study job discrimination and what we can do about it.

Our individual liberation as well as liberation for homosexuals as a group will depend upon the amount of participation by members of the GLF. The think-in has provided a structure of organisation, which if it is to work, will involve more people in the organisation of activities etc. It will only work if we all participate. Participation leads to LIBERATION.

Hugh Gaw.



Dear Come Together

Bristol Gay Lib have been terribly busy. Tell everyone Gay Lib here is going like a bomb (news very good, we have put posters in all the cottages, found a pub with a large back room for weekly meetings, about 30 or more people came to a very poorly advertised meeting in the University, so heaven knows how many more will turn up at this pub when we get the publicity out, there is a nucleus of about 10 people who are very keen (unfortunately almost no women yet)

Love Lee

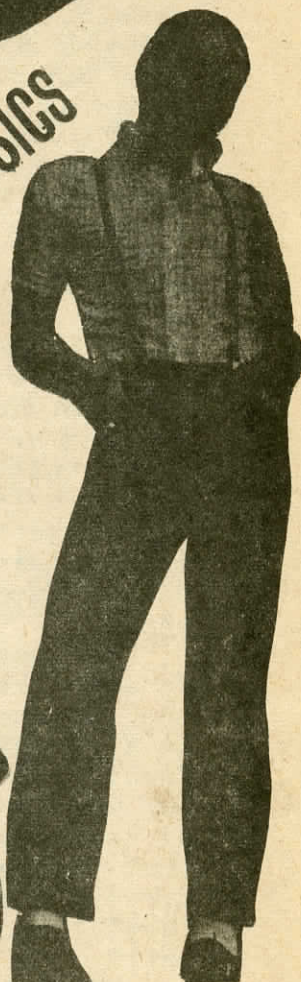
PHYSIQUE



MALE CLASSICS

SIR

BOY



MALE GAY ROLES

Leather queens; skinhead queens; muscle queens; chicken queens; race queens; dress queens; head queens; cottage queens.....

Searching for fulfillment of their adolescent sex fantasy (their type). Engaging in the 'hunt'. Cruising each other. Playing 'games' with each other. Games of destruction. Prick teasing.

Looking, obsessively and furtively, not for love or friendship or brotherhood, but for the other actor to assert his gay 'role' with. To stage the same one-act play with, they disappear, tossing the phone number into the gutter, in his guilt and shame. Guilt at being homosexual, shame at being unable to be proud of his sexuality.

Hiding and role-playing; acting and pretending - leading the double-life and denying his homosexuality. Playing the straight-male role society has imposed on him in his daily life, it extends into his 'gay' night-life.

I-am-not-me! I am Danny La Rue, Barbra Streisand, Marlene Dietrich, Bardor, Moreau, Marlon Brando, James Dean, Steve Reeves, Mick Jagger, Joe Dalessandro.

Playing the same continuous role, trapped for life, drained of any individual personality, he loses himself in the part. He buries what he knows to be the real him - lonely and afraid. Lonely because he's afraid of love and friendship. He has lost his self confidence.

Afraid to examine himself he does not even know or understand himself. And afraid of being discovered

by straight society, he becomes afraid of being 'discovered' by his gay brothers, and afraid to discover themselves the erotic fantasy turns out to be a man, fallible, erratic, often happy, sometimes sad, but needing love and understanding.

Playing roles in a society which demands gender definitions, sexual role playing, masculine versus feminine - what can we do, those whom society dismisses and condemns as half-men? Too often we react by over-playing. The absurd parodies of straight sexuality we see in the bars - ultra-butch-camp - bitch are cold and brittle. Their eyes betray fear and loathing as they compete viciously, to allay the panic of loneliness at the end of the night.

As time passes, tenderness, sensitivity are frozen out, replaced by hysteria and neuroticism, and utter conformity of mind. They become aware that they are outcasts.

For men like these - men like us - liberation is around the corner. G.L.F. will fight and destroy this obscene oppression. Be free. Be yourself.

The cottage is the coffin - come out and live! Meet our brothers and sisters. They are homosexual and they are beautiful! And they are happy, and they are angry; because they are proud and love one another.

The meat-market smells! Drink up and leave the racketeering bars! Pull the flush in the cottage! Have a revolution in your life!

MAN..



SPAIN

The criminal sentences on the basque comrades shows us once and for all what happens when one man has power, power to kill and do whatever he pleases, instead of murdering them (which they wanted) Franco has decided to give them a slow death of 30 years jail terms. According to a letter smuggled out from the prisoners gay people are being tortured there: the other 600 in the prison are degraded homosexuals, alcoholics, drug addicts etc. They (the 5 basques) were told they were at Cadiz because as members of the e.t.a. convicted of anti state activities, they had been classed as 'inadaptados' one of the prison staff told them that they were 'lahez de la hez della sociedad' - the worst types that society produces for whom a severely disciplined regime is necessary. THE HOMOSEXUALS WHO HAVE NO HOPE of returning to society go through a form of marriage and set themselves up as married couples. This leads to physical attacks by jealous rivals. For example, very recently in one of our work parties there was a couple of common criminals who declared themselves married. Another prisoner came upon them when they were in the same bed and gave them a warning, and was mortally wounded. When he had died, his body was desecrated. His genital organs were cut off, stitched with thread into a ball, and kept for some time in the refrigerator. This was arranged for the morbid pleasure of the others, to see and handle them! The cause of death was given as something else. So this is not proof enough that we also have a reason for demonstrating against Spain, even if some of us disagree with the Basque aims we must at least do something about the treatment of our brothers and sisters. The same thing applies to the Soviet Union who also had similar criminal trials. The Soviet Union also dismisses homosexuality as bourgeois decadence and so all gay people are treated as criminals/mentally disturbed, this I think is enough proof that the U.S.S.R. & U.S. And so we must condemn Russia as often and when possible, Spain arrests workers who strike because it is illegal to strike, Russia mows down workers and students who question her might it is illegal to question her power, Britain's Tory Government under Ted (Hi Sailor) Heath, are now rushing in laws to make strikes illegal and help scabs and other lick arses. The army will be brought in to take over the docks etc. The police will arrest people and beat up strikers who dare question Heath's policies, we are heading for a dictatorship here in 'liberal' Britain, the Tories have thrown off their gentleman masks and declares out and out war against blacks, gays, hippys, workers and students, they have supplied the army with C.S. Gas (what is used freely on the people in Northern Ireland, but when the gas was thrown into the pigs in the House of Commons the guy was given a 3 year sentence) the police have also got new riot control gear so it looks as if 1971 is going to be a very heavy year for everyone so are we all prepared to fight????????????

BEWARE POLICE ENTRAPMENT!

Gay Human Rights Declaration:-

1. Any person has the right to seek a sexual partner in any public or private place.
2. Any person has the right to engage in sexual behaviour with any willing partner.
3. All persons have the right to engage in whatever sexual acts they want as soon as they are ready for it.

We therefore demand:-

1. All laws and law enforcement procedures interfering with these rights be immediately abolished.
2. All persons interned in prisons and mental institutions for exercising these rights be immediately released.
3. All forms of physical or mental treatment, aversion therapy and surgery to alter sexual behaviour be halted immediately.

Sex is natural and healthy part of human life. It is utterly unimportant whether a person be attracted to the opposite sex, the same sex or both!

GAY POWER TO GAY PEOPLE!

Dearest Gay Liberation Front,

I love you. I think you are wonderful. I am one of your kind but, sorry to say, my position at work, the fact that I have a wife and two kids, prevents me from joining your meetings. In other words I can't declare my homosexuality. My parents, friends and family would probably cut me off completely. However this is what you are trying to change and I am glad.

Long life to you.

You may ask if I am married how can I be gay. But I am. I rarely make love to my wife now. We have talked about this and I know that she goes with other men; some of them I know. She thinks that I go out with other girls but actually I do not. For some time, about two months, I was meeting a youth every Friday and we would go out in my car. Sometimes I chance upon a gay person in toilet, or swimming pools. I once met a gay boy when I went pony-trekking and we had sex even though it was risky.

I really see nothing wrong with homosexuals and do not think it is disgusting or morally wicked. I wish everyone thought as I do. Please do not mind me not signing this letter. I am only twenty-six and if people found out my whole life would be ruined. Wishing you all power and freedom to love as we choose,

Yours, XXXX

Dear Brother,

Thanks for your letter. We are sorry that you feel unable to come out into the open about being gay. There are many gay people in similar positions to you who find it very difficult to be themselves in the situations that they have gotten into. And of course because so many keep their true feelings hidden, the nature and extent of homosexuality remains unrealised by the rest of society.

It is only by coming out, and coming out proud, that we can ever be truly liberated. Not only does it confront straight people with our existence, but it also liberates ourselves from the tensions, guilt and hypocrisy of pretence.

You say you are married. That doesn't surprise us - there are a number of married gay people in GLF who have managed to declare their homosexuality and have gained a great sense of relief from at last being open and having nothing to hide. What is more important - yourself or your family and friends. If they can't accept the real you, and you'll probably find that they can, then are they worth worrying about? GLF provides an opportunity for you to meet other people who will accept you as you are and enable you to build up new, more rewarding friendships.

We fully realise the pressures on you, but while you succumb to these pressures you will never be able to attain full happiness. The choice is yours. Either remain in your present unhappy state or else build a new life style. If you choose the latter, GLF can help you. Why not come along to one of our meetings and find out what Gay Liberation means?

Wishing you love, Peace and Happiness

Media Workshop

The personality of man will not worry itself about the past, nor care whether things happened or did not happen. Nor will it admit any laws but its own laws; nor any authority but its own authority.

Private property has crushed true individualism and set up an individualism that is false. It has debarred one part of the community from being individual by starving them. It has debarred the other part from being individual by putting them on the wrong road and encumbering them with possessions.

So completely has man's personality been absorbed by his possessions that English Law always treats offences man's property with far more severity than offences against his person.

OSCAR POWER TO OSCAR PEOPLE!

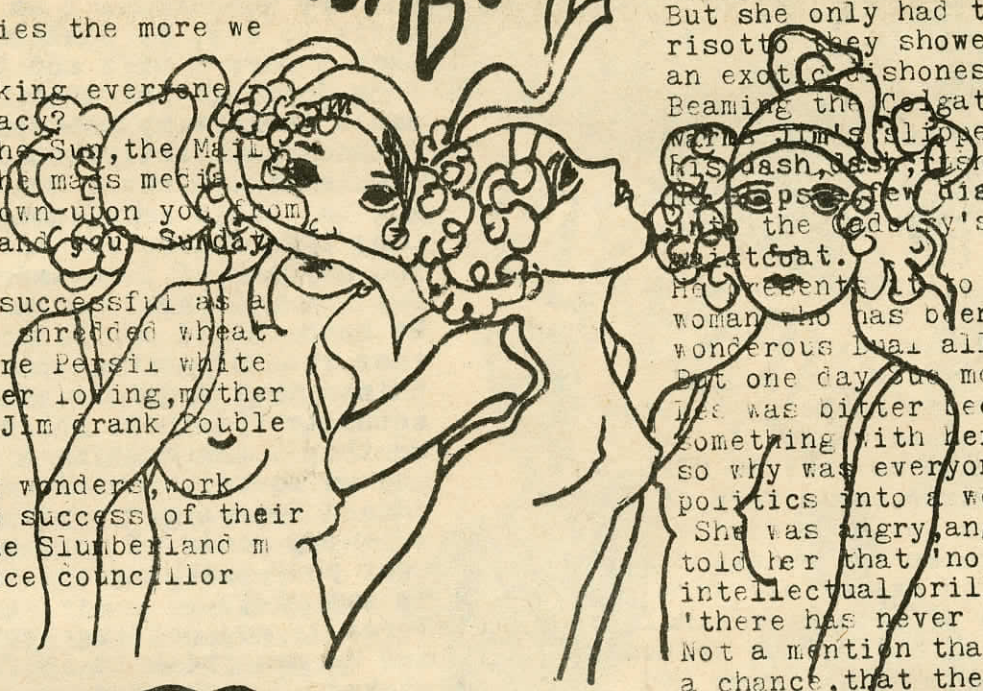
While to the claims of charity a man may yield and yet be free, to the claims of conformity no man may yield and remain free at all.

The recognition of private property has really obscured it, by confusing it with what is really a social relation.



Who lies to 52 million people everyday and gets away with it?
 Who retaliates with bigger lies the more we fight it?
 And who oppresses by hoodwinking everyone with the myth of male supremacy?
 Your friend and my friend...the Sun, the Mail, the Mirror and the rest of the mass media...
 The media, smiling sunshine down upon you from everywhere. Tube ads, TV ads and your Sunday friendly feature.
 Mrs Sue Smith, 19, feels very successful as a woman today. She gave 'them' shredded wheat for breakfast. Little boy wore Persil white shirt to school because of her loving mother care and last night husband Jim drank Double Diamond.
 And did it work wonders, work wonders, work wonders. Wow! Or perhaps the success of their sexlife was really due to the Slumberland mattress the marriage guidance councillor advised?

HUMBUG



She will never forget that visit. How she thought he didn't fancy her no more. But she only had to serve up the tinned risotto they showed on the ads, and made it an exotic dishonest woman of her! Beaming the Colgate ring of confidence, she warns Jim's employers when he sits down after his dash, dash, fishing star reporter's day. She wears a few diamond broaches and bracelets like the teddy's Milk Tray hidden under his waistcoat. He presents it to his mink-coated, slinking woman who has been scrubbing floors with wonderous lard all day. But one day she met old school friend Les Gay. Les was bitter because she wanted to do something with her life. She had a mind too, so why was everyone pushing her out of politics into a world of House and Garden? She was angry, angry, angry. Her daily paper told her that 'no woman could attain intellectual brilliance' simply because 'there has never been a woman Beethoven'. Not a mention that women were never given a chance, that their education was limited to needlework and prayers in the past. It is said only that 'a woman's secret fulfillment came with giving birth.' In pain, of course. Les and Sue Came Together, learned together, marched together to Trafalgar Square, wept together, then slept together after Jim's paper printed a stupendous lie about the whole affair. Now, with thousands of brothers and sisters they are plotting together, to smash the 'sacred' sexist lie forever.

Liz and Nancy

CALL IT FEAR

Sunshine, trees and flowers in Holland Park. Peaceful contentment. People sitting on the grass, laughing, talking, enjoying the scene. A beautiful gardener stripped to the waist shows off his muscles in the sunlight.

Kids, away from school, bored with learning the enemy's thing, yearning for the freedom their young bodies and minds are heir to, gasping for air, light, SUN, have fled their grey bunged-up classrooms. Left at last to themselves, a street theatre (the real thing) is created out of a hosepipe. Using it as a skipping rope they shout and giggle as each of them go down on the grass like skittles. It is the sureness of the hose catching their ankles in turn which is so funny. Any success, pure accident. The onlookers, lolling around are enjoying every moment of the show. The comedy stronger than anything that could be thought up and it never misses. The delicate bubble of laughter drifts easily about us.

BANG

The Oh-so-Hip gardener returns. Afraid of the applause the kids are enjoying, afraid of this very joy, afraid of their audience afraid they're sharing his limelight (forgetting there's enough sunshine for us all) the big "all-powerful" bronze bepricked Adonis.

"Fuck off you kids!" not "enjoy yourselves", nor "glad to see you're having fun", but good and strong "Fuck OFF kids" and don't come back." Fearfully they shrink away.

Gardener fumbles with hosepipe, alone now. Plays with this phallic symbol, reasserting his prick-power licking his wounded insanity.

Sensing the reaction around him fear returns to his eyes, after all, the deal of joy is a heavy scene. Nervously he attempts to recoil the plaything, his concentration geared to the contempt of the cheated audience.

Even the peacocks are sickened with fear... they instantly catch the vibes, fold their plumage and retire amazed....pointedly refusing to display their finery here. At a safe distance the boys bemoan their lot, they tell us easily of other games which were not disturbed....invented by themselves not ordered from above, nor stipulated, moderated, tolerated, lacerated, dissipated. Games from "those who know." These kids know that joy is an arrestable offence. Their joy has, and still does bring them arbitrary canings meted out by the management. They're educated alright...into fear. As the man says.....

....."They hurt you at home.
 They hit you at school.
 They hate you if you're clever
 They despise 'a fool'
 Till you're so fucking crazy
 You can't follow their rules....."

.....They've tortured and scared you
 For twenty odd years
 Then they expect you to
 'Pick a career'
 When you can't really function
 You're so full of fear
 etc.etc.etc. you know?

The Little Red ^{School book} tries to say 'we know, kids...we understand 'cos some of us remember this shit.. you are right to object and you must Fight for life, life, LIFEand you will be 'blinded by it's splendour.' One of the guys, about 11, says 'Yeah, it's got sex in it.....' Pause
 Next guy, 12... 'I think that's good'
 GOOD GOOD.....GOOD

In the silence that follows, the word establishes it's unquestioned authority...then they all laugh. Then they all start another game; this time with a penny. Imitating her male-boss-husband a woman comes out of the nearby restaurant and completely, (wilfully?) misunderstanding our good vibes with the kids tells them to clear off. When she realises that we, the adults, are on their side she slides away confounded. Is her slave role the thing that finally daunts her, as the possibility of enjoying the penny game bobs to the surface? Then... During our rap with the kids we talk about the other kids, the 'heads' of the upper part of the same damn school.

First Kid: 'mumble mumble...freaks and queers playing their drum and all that?'

Us: 'What's wrong with sitting in the sun on the grass, singing and playing a drum?'

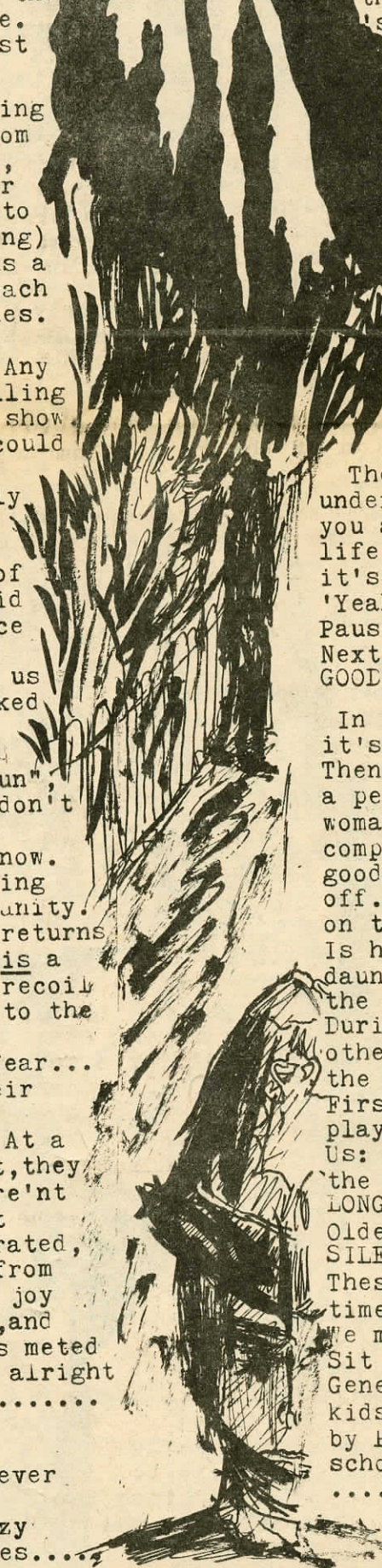
LONG PAUSE

Older Kid: 'Yeah, what's wrong with that?'

SILENCE.

These two guys have been friends for some time...but have never TALKED...never got near. We move off towards the 'head' kids on the grass. Sit down. Peace....sunshine....PIGS! General feeling of deadening thudding fear as kids in the distance are severally approached by Pig B560. They turn trudge back miserably to school. But they'll remember and someday.....
someday.....

Richard and Peter



YOUTH, HOMOSEXUALITY, AND THE LAW.

After the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, a Homosexual Act is only legal if "performed" in private between no more than two consenting adults over the age of 21. It is still an offence to commit a homosexual act, if one partner does not consent, and if one or both of the participants is under 21. (clause 1.I.I.) (The consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions is required before any prosecution can be taken where either parties is under 21. (section 8).)

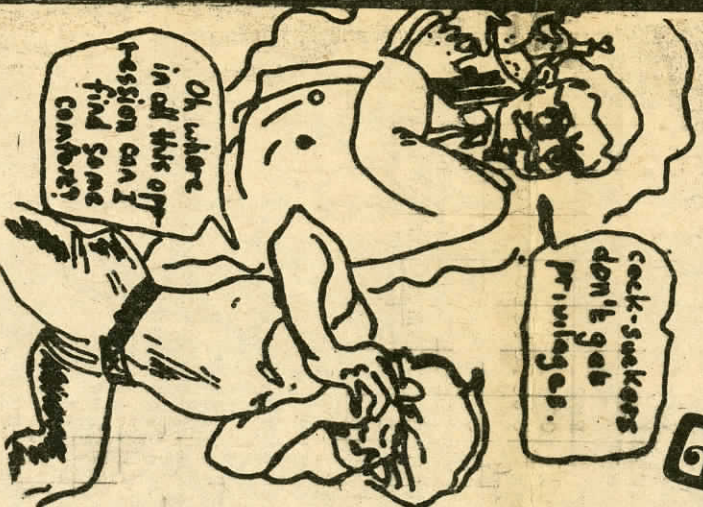
This is the law, the law being of the view that over 21 a man has the right to share his "sickness" with another "sick" man, (women are still regarded by the law as being incapable of lesbianism).

One of the aims of the youth group is to question and change the law, and the attitudes of those who make and control it. With the age of legal heterosexuality at 16, and the age of majority at 18, it is our aim to reduce the homosexual age limits in line with these limits, towards the end view of abolishing age limits for sexuality altogether.

It will be a hard fight, as the view of our present Government is - "there are many arguments that can be advanced against the reduction of the age, since many psychiatrists, among others, would take the view that in late adolescence there are considerable numbers of teenagers who are not irrevocably committed to homosexuality, and are of times able to work through their difficulties to achieve a heterosexual role". (Leo Abse M.P.)

However the law is being changed now in several European countries. Now is the time for us to act to show ourselves as people in our own right. Proud to be homosexual and fighting as young homosexuals for our rights.

Simon.

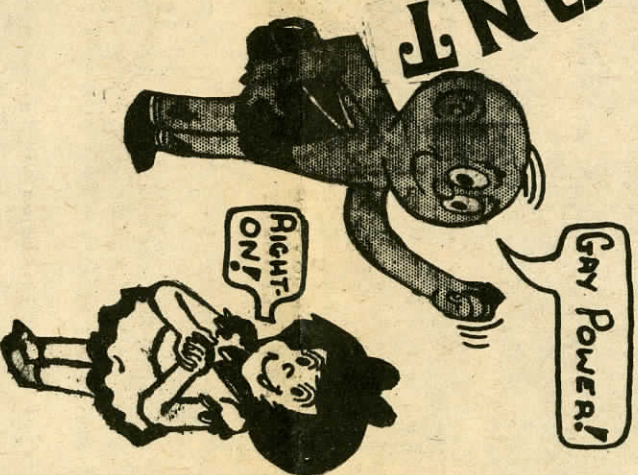


GAY LIBERATION FRONT YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group is one of the groups within G.L.F. It is of special concern to gay people under the age of 21. It exists to bring young gay people together to meet other young homosexuals, to discuss action that can be taken to confront the many legal and social problems facing homosexuals under the age of 21.

The principle problems facing young gays are outlined in the following aims of the Youth Group:-

1. The Youth Group demands the reduction and eventual abolition of the age of homosexual consent.
2. The Youth Group demands complete, unbiased sex education in schools, and in adult education.
3. The Youth Group demands that young homosexuals are not subjected to psychiatric aversion at school or work through their homosexuality.
4. The Youth Group demands an end to discrimination of young homosexuals at work and at school.



THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE.

The first, and perhaps the biggest problem that most homosexuals come across is the Parental Problem; - whether or not to tell your parents that you are gay. If you do, then how do you do it, and how do you cope with the reaction, "what did we do wrong?", which is often the first response. They may well get paranoid about not having any grandchildren, and then you get them pressurising you, and your personal problems start.

"Have I failed my parents?; is society right when it say homosexuals are a nuisance to the state?; should I have aversion therapy?;" is some of the bullshit thrown at us by society. If society accepted homosexuals, and taught homosexual as well as heterosexual sex education in schools and colleges, these problems would not arise. Parents would understand homosexuality and the oppression given to young gays in schools would stop, and gays would be accepted as normal, as heterosexual people are at the moment. This is not done. The G.L.F. Youth Group is to arrange for members to go to schools and colleges to lecture on homosexuality. This could be done during liberal studies periods, through debating societies or in some cases, if the headmaster is free thinking, during sex education lessons. The people who have been to the lectures may then want to form awareness groups, with an open invitation to all young gays to attend.

Jim.

HOW TO REACH US.

The Youth Group has a contact number at: 387-5406 (day) and 883-2485 (night).

We will have a poster up at every meeting at King St stating where our next meeting will be, also we can be contacted at the G.L.F. office: 5, Caledonian Rd, N.I. Tel: 837-7174.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE?

So far in the way of outside activities we have leafleted gay pubs, especially "The Union" in South London, which has a predominantly young gay group. I have spoken at two schools in North London about Gay Liberation and what it is to be a homosexual in this society. At both of the schools, the response was very good from both the pupils and the staff, and they were asking questions all the time as to why education was so one sided and how we would go about getting liberation.

WHAT WE ARE DOING - WILL BE DOING.

At the moment we are working on a small pamphlet to be given out around schools explaining what homosexuality is and also arranging with the Schools Action Union to go and speak at more schools in London. We have been asked to speak at the S.A.U.'s Festival of Youth on June 2nd and on June 5th we are to speak at a conference in Birmingham on Sex Education.

We feel that education is the root of our oppression, as education teaches a child that their is heterosexuality and only heterosexuality so we must attack it at its root, in the schools and to do that we are prepared to speak anywhere and leaflet anywhere.

UNDER 21, GAY - THEN JOIN US.

The Youth Group is open to anyone under the age of 21 who is willing to take an active part in fighting the oppression of young gays everywhere. POWER TO GAY PEOPLE.

Tony.

SUGGESTIONS for helping each other

It has been suggested that we run a Community Services section in Come Together. Seems like something we need, so the space is free and available to anyone who has something positive to offer the gay community, i.e. JOBS, PADS, SOCIAL ALTERNATIVES etc. etc. If you have something to offer and would like to broadcast the fact please write to: MEDIA WORKSHOP, GLF, 5, CALEDONIAN RD. LONDON N.1. or phone 837-7174. Thanks.

EVENTS • Every Sunday GLF plans to hold a "Gay 9a" at Holland Park, Hyde Park, Hampstead Heath, Primrose Hill etc. so watch out for notices.

WANTED • Gay Liberation Media Workshop, which puts out "Come Together", needs the following tools in order to get a more efficient copy out: a good ampl. • a reliable electric typewriter and a portable cassette recorder for live interviews.

The music played
And the love showed
And fused in the soul of many
As we gathered together for liberation

Smiles and painted faces
Fairy tales staged on the stage of the world
On the real stage
Where people play people
And fairies play fairies
Without the masks of hardness

The music played, it played long
Yes it played
And we danced peoples dances
And loved peoples loves
Without the fears of shame

MANOLO.

**WAVE
GAY
GROUP**

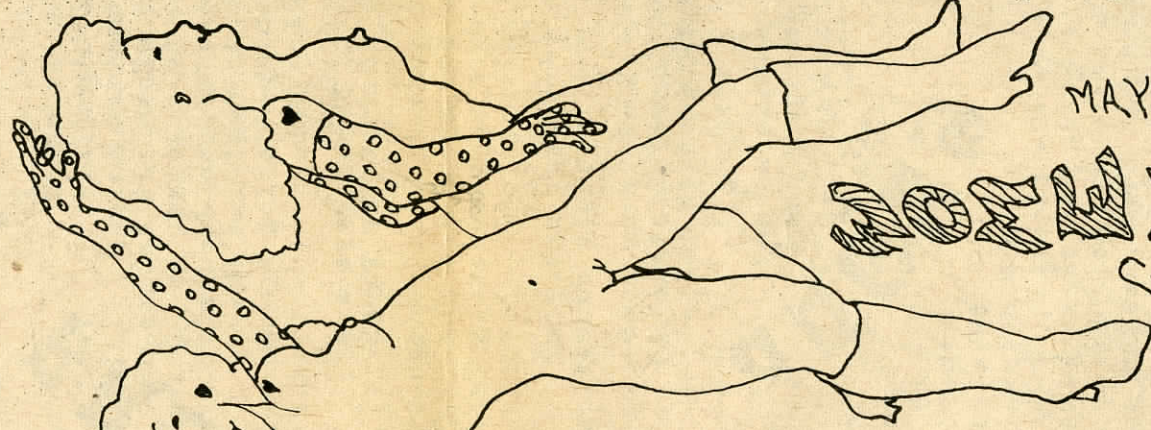
(Doris 'Aversham hits the road-)

A couple of months ago I was stuck in Bristol, thinking that I was the only gay freak in existence. Little did I know. I read that the GLF would be at the CND festival of life and decided that it was time for me to come out. All my previous hang-ups flew away when I met the street-theatre group. At last... gay freaks. Easter day was a gas. Since then I've been up to London every weekend, meeting lots of incredible people. (Thanks for the hospitality folks).

The reason I'm writing in Come Together is that it would be nice to get some gay musicians together, to have a jam in the near future, and maybe form a very loose band. (GLF dance here we come). I play keyboards with Squidd, a fourpiece Bristol band. The other people in the group aren't gay, but they can dig the fact that I am. I like Zappa, Yes, Floyd, Nice, Cohen, Family, and lots of jazz, folk, rock, and classical, providing it's musically good. Is there anyone who has, or knows of a suitable place (with a piano), where some musicians can meet and have a rap, a jam and a laugh?

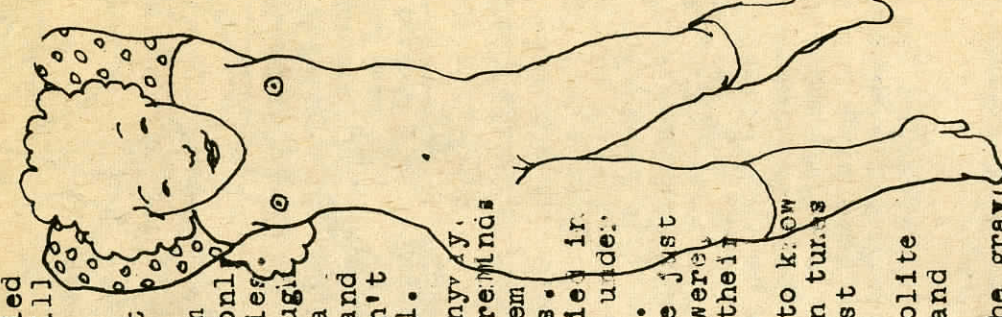
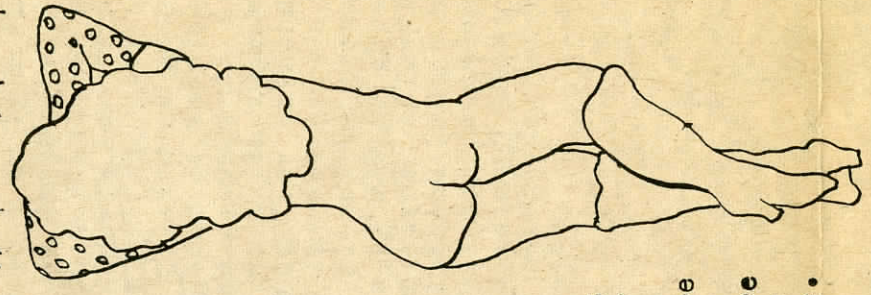
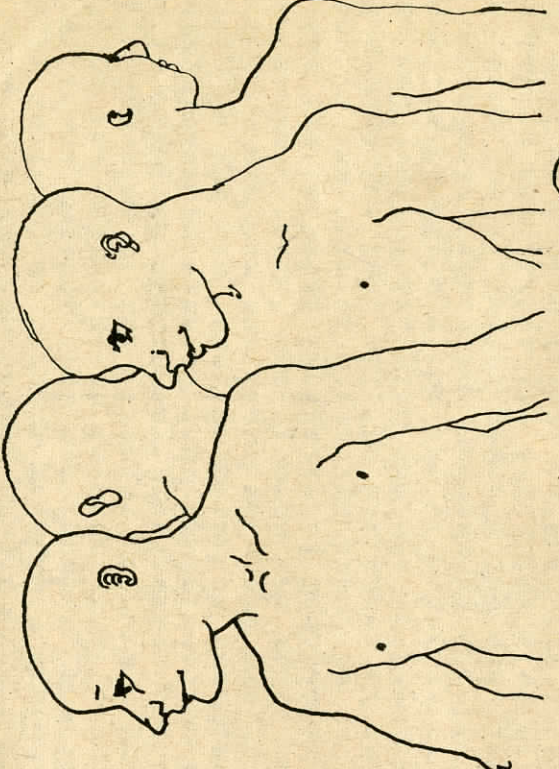
LOVE STEVE.

If anyone can help Steve get this together will they contact him through the GLF office.



MAX 29th

**WOMEN
FOR
GAY
DANCE**
8 p.m. onwards
470 HARROW
ROAD.
PADDINGTON W.9.
nearest tube:
Westbourne Park.
Ring bell of
basement of
Seventies Canteen
Bring your own
drinks
all sisters welcome



He was buried today you know

Who was?

That boy who took all that LSD
and all them other drugs, grew
toadstools in his backyard he
did. Had a big fluorescent
hypodermic in the backyard with
goldfish swimming about in it.
Really?

Yes and he was queer too, a real
pretty boy, a poof as my old man
would say. Never saw him with a
girl, always boys. Though I'll
give him his credit they was
always good looking, and all of
them under twenty-one, they don't
look old enough to know what they
were doing. I suppose he talked
them all into it, I mean they were
all so young. You can't tell me
you know what you want when you're
young like that, and these blokes
know that and they take advantage.
I must say they all looked happy
when they came out though.

The last one he had before he died
was in there all night, right till
seven next morning, no I lie it
must have been quarter past. He
wasn't feminine or anything, but
my George he told me, he cleans
windows you see, and he saw them
in bed. He said that there was only
one head but definitely two bodies.
He saw through the curtains, though
they were closed, but there was a
crack. He thought it was a boy and
a girl, but two boys, well you can't
really tell me that it's natural.

And so young, well one of them anyway.
George saw the whole thing. That reminds
me, I still haven't collected them
trousers of his from the cleaners.
He said he didn't want to be buried in
a churchyard, so they buried him under
that tree in mucky mountain park.
Oh, a lot of people went, and some just
cried. All under twenty-one they were,
so young. Carrying his coffin on their
young shoulders.

I mean, they weren't old enough to know.
They sang Dylan and Leonard Cohen tunes
around the hole and some they just
cried.

A real poof he was, but always polite
to me. Some are still up there, and
it was over five hours ago.

One of them is lying on top of the grave.
He just cries and cries.

I bet he gave them that pot and they
just don't know what's happening to
them. I mean you don't get in a real
state do you. They tell me that some of
them just lay there and laugh, and
they don't care what happens. Do you
think that he did that to them? They
wouldn't let him would they. Some of
them were so pretty, but all so young.

TREVOR.