



Gay  
Liberator

# GAY FREEDOM

newsletter of the  
Omaha Gay Freedom League

Issue # 1

August 19, 1972

## WHY A GAY WOMEN'S CAUCUS? by b.j.

Gay women have many different problems than do gay men, and considerably different interests (frequently). Hopefully, a women's caucus will provide us a chance to get together with our interests, problems, and projects.

We can deal with things as a group that are not the province of men. Saturday, Aug. 26th, we will have a table at the Nebraska Women's Equality Conference. While there we will distribute literature, talk with people generally participate in the conference (for after all, we are women), and caucus. We might even get a few of the latents out of their closets. (cont. page 2, col. 2)

## OGFL ARTICLE IN OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

On Saturday, August 12, The World-Herald published an editorial in its "Another Point of View" column on gay liberation. The article was written by myself and John and other OGFL members.

We were pleasantly surprised at how cooperative the Herald's editorial man was. He considered it time at last to react to the slurs on gay people that fill the newspapers and media generally. The letter in the Public Pulse to which we responded classified rapists, thieves, murderers, and homosexuals together. To quote from our response:

"if gay people, as Mr. P suggests, are criminals, it is because cruel and archaic laws define non-straight sexuality as perverted and criminal... We have realized that it is not enough for gay people to sit back and hope for better treatment. Rather, we must form some kind of gay community, using our mutual strength to work actively in our own behalf."

(cont. page 2, col. 2)

## \*\*\*COFFEEHOUSE\*GAY\*COFFEEHOUSE\*GAY\*COFFEE\*\*\*

We have some leads on coffeehouse locations! We are presently negotiating with several churches on room for dances and office space. But we still need ideas. Anyone with suggestions on this project contact the OGFL, P.O. Box 3284, Downtown Station, 68108.

Once we have a location, our coffeehouse committees can go to work and we'll finally have our own gay coffeehouse!

—FREE: Wildebeast and pin — beautiful cats and kittens to good home only. Please call 346-8752.

## FIGHTING POLICE HARASSMENT IN OMAHA

We are going to be talking to police officials about gay rights. Anyone who



feels he has been harassed by police, is being harassed, or is harassed in the future, please contact the OGFL — we want to know. We want to collect reports & affidavits of harassment by either police or "sissy beaters" to substantiate our case.

—We can rent city pools for a swim party if we want. If you're interested in a gay swim party followed by a poolside dance contact an OGFL chairperson or committee. SOON!

IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT GAYNESS OR PROBLEMS ABOUT BEING GAY, OR JUST HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, CONTACT THE OMAHA GAY FREEDOM LEAGUE.

WE DON'T HAVE A PHONE YET, BUT YOU CAN WRITE US AT THIS ADDRESS:

Omaha Gay Freedom League  
P.O. Box #3284  
Downtown Station  
Omaha, NB 68108

WE'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU.

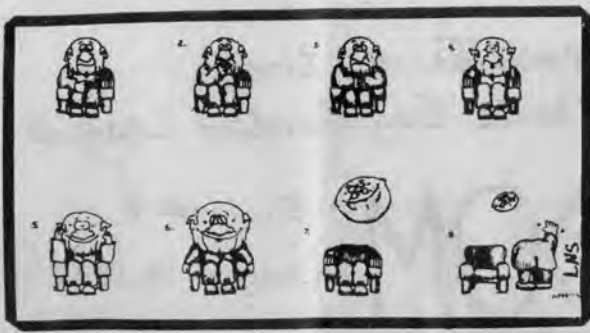


graffiti: "The army gave me a medal for killing a man and a dishonorable discharge for loving one."

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WOMEN'S CAUCUS

(cont. from p.1)



EDITORIAL

(articles represent personal views)

This is the first issue of GAY FREEDOM, our unofficial (so far) newsletter. We are happy to report that our young organization has been actively checking out opportunities for its membership. A regular coffeehouse may be going by early fall; a weekend encounter session with UNO facilitators is in the works; two recent World-Herald articles are just the start of our publicity and education campaign; a gay women's caucus is forming.

Considering these many projects it would appear time for our group to solidify and organize itself more. But it is most important for gay people in Omaha to get together. As we mentioned in our recent Herald article, Omaha was, until recently, the only city of its size without an active gay organization. Unless we respect and love the persons in our own gay community, we will fall apart as a group. And without local gay action, gay people will continue to be oppressed.

A note in the Wednesday (Aug. 16) Herald said the Ohio Secy. of State refused to incorporate a gay organization because, he said, "homosexuality as a valid life style has been and is currently defined as a criminal act." Gays between the more liberated coasts obviously cannot depend on the national movement to raise local consciousness.

We have a lot of work to do — changing laws, opening minds, providing services, growing, having fun, and fighting sexism in every form. But, as our treasurer said at an early OGFL meeting, we'll have a lot working for us with the gay community on our side. Gay is free! Gay is good! Join us! — John

—Anyone interested in forming a weekly informal consciousness-raising session to rap privately and freely about gayness contact chairpeople or write: "Rap Sessions" c/o OGFL.

Here are some quotes from one of the leaflets we intend to distribute at this meeting. Feminists have not always been kind to gay women: "Lesbians are the only women of whom the question is asked, 'Should they be in the movement?' Though minority women have questioned their own role in women's liberation, only lesbians find themselves excluded by other women."

"...Though straight women may not want to recognize the fact, we are very much women. We are not surrogate men, or psychological castrates. We are female and want female. We live with all the same problems straight women do and more. ...As women we are all subjected to the same discrimination our straight sisters are."

After all folks, gay women are women. And those of us at the conference want to remind our friends in the feminist movement of that fact. Anyone interested in attending the conference on any level can contact Lois Rood at 455-2818.



More about the World-Herald story (cont. from page 1 column 1)

As for working in our own behalf, anyone who wishes should respond to the anti-gay letters which have begun to follow our article by writing the Public Pulse. The Herald will respect requests for anonymity. We intend to continue our response to such slander in the media — anyone wanting to help should let us know. — B. J.

—We may be needing a legal counsel who could advise and, on occasion represent us (or our members). Please contact OGFL. —The MAGIC THEATER needs funds to continue. If you liked Choose a Spot on the Floor, please write the Nebraska Arts Council, 1112 1/2 Farnam, Omaha NB, and tell them so. They are not scheduling a grant for us this year, but might do so if they heard from our friends.