

GAY

STUDENTS' ALLIANCE λ

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Our first meeting will be held on Wed. Feb. 12, 1975, in room 267 Illini Union, 7-9 PM. PLEASE ATTEND. A few of the proposed or active functions are:

- A newsletter, for a mailing list and for the bars.
- Speakers for classes.
- Referrals for Hotlines and Crisis Line.
- Social activities (i.e. dances, movies, pot-luck dinners).
- Group participation in community services (i.e. Dance Marathon and Walk for Mankind).
- Consciousness-raising groups.
- A cooperative/commune.
- Letter writing, petitioning, leaflet distribution on the quad, a booth in the south foyer.
- Religious related events.
- To develop a sense of pride in the gay community!!!
- More ideas are welcome! Bring them to the meeting WED. FEB. 12,

7-9 PM, 267 ILLINI UNION. Or write to us at 264 Illini Union.

GAY STUDENTS' ALLIANCE

There's a new group on campus for gay students. All men and women, gay or straight, faculty and students and other interested members of the Champaign area are welcome to join. A few of our planned events are listed below, but more suggestions are always welcome. They are:

Referrals for Hotline and Crisis Line

Speakers for classes

Bible reading groups

consciousness-raising groups

Social activities (i.e. dances, movies, pot-luck dinners)

Letter writing campaigns and petitioning

Group participation in community services (i.e. Dance Marathon and Walk for Mankind)

On Thursday, Feb. 6, 1975, the university is having an activity day in the union at which many student organizations will be trying to recruit new members. WE'LL BE THERE from 12-4, so drop by our table. We will also be having our first

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

on Wed., Feb. ~~11~~ 12, 1975, in room 267 Illini Union, from 7 to 9 pm. If we can't get together either of these times, write to us:

Gay Students' Alliance

Illini Union Rm. 284

Urbana, IL 61801

(A special word of thanks to the Balloon Saloon and Giovonnies Place for helping distribute this.)

GAY CONSCIOUSNESS * RAISING GROUP

"Gays must organize because it is the only way a class of people that has been out adrift by society can deal with that fact. Everywhere we find hostility, prejudice and condescension, even amongst ourselves. Most gays accept, in self-defense, the straight man's mythology that says we're sick, immature, perverse, deviant, and thus should hide our love away in tearooms, park bushes, on cruising streets, and ... (cruising bars). Those who reject the mythology, developing positive attitudes toward their homosexuality, are even more offensive to straights. We all risk brutalization and imprisonment and have little alternative but to use the traditional oppressive cruising institutions. These myths and institutions keep us isolated and distrustful of each other. And don't expect any help from our straight oppressors in creating alternatives. We're on our own.

In our consciousness-raising group, we have been trying to step outside the straight man's myths and institutions, to suspend the limited ways we deal with each other, and experiment with new ways of relating. Everyone's feelings are considered in consciousness-raising, and instead of ~~blatantly~~ shouting each other down, consensus, a solution that is to each person's interest, can be reached. If people are silent, they are asked to contribute. This is part of the collective process. We as (people) are struggling with our eagerness to dominate and ego-trip by being aware of the needs of others in the group, and are struggling with our tendency to intellectualize by speaking from our experience.

We are learning what has been forbidden us--to relate to

one another with respect and love." (from Out of the Closets,
Into the Streets, by Allen Young)

Although the above quote is a bit strong, it does express
some of the objectives of a consciousness-raising group, of
being able to openly share our inner selves with other gay
people and to grow (mentally) in the process, to explore
and develop ourselves. Groups will meet about once a week,
fairly regularly, with about seven members to a group. To join
a group or find out more information, come to our table on
Activity Day (in the Union 12-4, Feb.6), or come to our first
meeting (in room 267 Illini Union, on Wed, Feb.12, 1975, from
7 to 9 PM), or write to us (Gay Students' Alliance, 284 Illini
Union, Urbana, IL 61801),

YOU'VE EVERY RIGHT TO BE A HOMOSEXUAL
Society says homosexuals are sick.

And you agree.

Even though you don't feel you're sick, you agree.
And you forget that you are a (person). And that you have
every right to enjoy life.

Once a week, a group of your peers meets
to explore our common problems.

We work at the level of gut feelings. And we work hard. ...

HOMOSEXUAL ENCOUNTER GROUP ...

(taken from an ad in Gay Power in late sixties, expressing a
slightly different view. Groups will become what the members
make them. Try it, I think you'll like it.)