

**Documented Examples
of Homophobia at UVA:
1957 to 1990**

compiled by the Lesbian & Gay Student Union

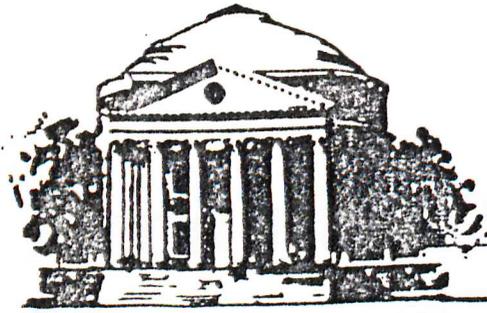
Discriminatory harassment exists and has existed for a long time at the University of Virginia. The materials in this packet are documented examples of discriminatory harassment dating back to 1957. However, this is not a complete compilation. The vast majority of incidents goes unreported and undocumented.

As a result, many people still believe that lesbians and gays are not discriminated against at this university. The lack of documentation should not be construed as a sign that few acts of discriminatory harassment actually occur. Until April 1989, there was no way for a lesbian or gay student to initiate a complaint of discriminatory harassment on the basis of sexual orientation. Today, this university still does not have a university-wide policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, unlike many of our peer institutions.

The materials in this packet include the following:

- 1) recent newspaper articles documenting past discriminatory harassment at UVA.
- 2) examples of discriminatory harassment at UVA.
- 3) a cassette tape containing examples of prank telephone messages received at the Lesbian and Gay Student Union Helpline.

Again, these are just a few examples. They were chosen to show the wide range of attitudinal homophobia that occurs at this university.



The Cavalier Daily

Vol. 100, No. 117

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Thursday, April 5, 1990

Circulation 14,000

Homosexuals attempt to gain acceptance

By AMANDA GORDON
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

(This is the first in a two-part series.)

Last week's Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Awareness Days did not mark the first time gay members of the University community have attempted to gain acceptance from the community.

The derogatory graffiti that followed last week's events also was not the first time the University has denied them that acceptance.

In the fall of 1956, History Prof. William Stokes was among the University's most popular professors, according to Tom Genovese, a 1957 graduate of the College and former teaching assistant of Stokes.

"He looked as though he were on top of the world,"



Genovese said. "He was targeted as the University's next rising star, and had a beautiful wife and a beautiful home."

Stokes career was cut short, however, when he was arrested in Richmond, Va. on charges of indecent conduct related to solicitation.

"Students were shocked," Genovese said, "but when he returned, they acted nicely. There was no

hate campaign, and he enjoyed a presumption of innocence. It was like business as usual."

Business as usual lasted only until the end of that school year for Stokes. When his contract ran out that summer, the University chose not to renew it.

"It was totally out of line with where he should have been headed," Genovese said. "But the University simply didn't want to draw any more attention to the situation. After all, he had been arrested."

Since that time, the University gay community has taken some steps toward promoting awareness of homosexuality, but it has been a lengthy process of change.

In April 1979, the Gay Student Union first organized a Gay Awareness Week, complete with speakers, social events and Jeans Day. Four years

later, the gay community won another victory when Student Council endorsed the week of events.

Unfortunately, each step forward was accompanied by a step back. Much of the discrimination homosexuals have faced at the University has targeted those very attempts on the part of the gay community to unify and socialize.

In 1975, homosexuals were denied entry to or asked to leave restaurants on the Corner. The discrimination occurred after release of a Alcoholic Beverage Control Board ruling prohibiting homosexuals from alcohol-serving restaurants.

The same ruling was used to prohibit gays from socializing at Pavilion XI. University Union did not

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prohibit persons of the same sex from dancing with each other, but if a homosexual asked a heterosexual to dance, Union construed that as solicitation.

Later that year, Union Tri-Chairman Bert Ellis overruled an earlier Union decision to sponsor a gay speaker.

University administrations also resisted public recognition of the GSU and other gay student groups by denying funding or other administrative requests.

During the fall of 1975, the GSU "requested representation in the newly reorganized University Minority Student Affairs Advisory Council," created by then University President Frank Hereford, but Council President Paul Freeman denied the request. He said Council should be "primarily concerned with black affairs."

The Council Appropriations Committee only partially fulfilled the GSU request for funding in 1975, and the GSU appealed the decision to the Student Activities

Committee. The Student Activities Committee upheld the original decision.

The GSU then appealed the rulings directly to the Board, saying they had changed the GSU constitution in order to become a "educational and advisory" student group, rather than a political one.

The Board, however, denied the GSU funds. Consequently, on March 30, 1976, the GSU announced its intention to file a discrimination suit against the

Board. Later that year, the Gay Alliance of Students at Virginia Commonwealth University filed a suit against its administration for denying the group status as a student organization. The VCU administration was found to have violated the First and 14th Amendments.

That decision provided the GSU with the extra leverage they needed to move closer to acceptance within the community, but that fight, as evidenced last week, still continues.

Recognition and harassment of homosexuals increases

By AMANDA GORDON
Cavalier Daily Associate Editor

(This is the second in a two-part series.)
The University's gay population's fight for acceptance has gone on for several decades and has been difficult for all involved. Through the 1960s and the early 1970s, the University's Gay Student Union struggled against the administration for recognition and acceptance. They finally claimed an administrative victory in the fall of 1977 when the courts began to recognize the legal rights of gays and lesbians, and the University was forced to do the same. In 1977, the GSU successfully applied for office



space through the Student Council Appropriations Committee. The administrative barriers, however, created new obstacles. When Student Council allocated Peabody Hall office space to the GSU, three members of Young Americans for Freedom appealed the decision, asking that the space be taken away from the GSU on the

grounds that it was a political organization. Council upheld its previous ruling to house the GSU. YAF members proceeded to take their case to Vice President Ernest Ern, but Ern supported Council's decision, saying the GSU constitution proved it was not a political organization. That year, the GSU found itself with space, but without funds. In spite of the administrative support, the GSU abruptly withdrew its application for Student Activity Fee funding in March 1978. Group leaders said the application was rescinded because an examination revealed it "requested too much money," but other GSU members said they supported its withdrawal because they had feared

ridicule by Council members. It was not until December 1983 that the group reapproached the Appropriations Committee for funding. GSU members realized that discrimination against the gay community has not always been through administrative channels. Personal harassment or fear of such harassment also has been a serious issue for members of the gay community. In the fall of 1976, GSU member Bob Elkins was threatened with removal from his Resident Staff position. Resident Staff officials said Elkins' membership in
See GSU, page 4

GSU

Continued from page 1
both organizations presented a conflict of aims.

Later that year, College student Rob James included in his campaign platform for Student Council representative a statement which said gays were an "emotional cancer" on society.

Once elected, James continued to openly state his personal views and repeatedly declined requests to meet with GSU representatives. As a result, Council voted to censure James. He promptly resigned.

James' actions fell short of the extremes that many of the personal assaults upon gays have reached. During the fall of 1976, gay students suffered a dangerous period of physical threats and violence.

A GSU dance was interrupted when an unidentified person scattered the floor with lighted firecrackers. A gay student was attacked as he left a GSU meeting at the Wesley Foundation. A smoke bomb was hurled through a window in Halsey Hall while the GSU held its Halloween masquerade ball inside.

Once the violence tapered, the University's gay community began to make great strides toward social acceptance and the elimination of harassment.

By September 1982, GSU officers for the first time were allowed to participate in student leadership workshops.

Later that fall, the GSU made a civil rights stand when the Charlottesville Gay and Lesbian Community Center refused to permit heterosexuals to at-

tend its functions. The GSU members decided the ruling was discriminatory and stopped co-sponsoring activities with the Center.

That act by the GSU, since renamed the LGSU — Lesbian and Gay Student Union — exposed the sensitivities of the group to discrimination of any type. Last week's Bisexual Gay and Lesbian Awareness Days were further attempts by the gay community to overcome such discrimination.

While LGSU members considered their efforts a success, the racial and homophobic graffiti painted around Grounds last week displayed just how difficult their task is — a task which the group has been working on for the last three decades.

Recently, The Virginia Advocate printed an article during Bisexual Gay and Lesbian Awareness Days entitled "Great to be Straight." The piece, intended to mock the week, was clearly offensive and counter-productive to the efforts of the lesbian and gay community.

Devil's Advocate

Great to be Straight

WE ARE PROUD and excited to announce that the last week in March has been designated "Great to be Straight Week." We anticipate an intellectually stimulating and personally challenging week addressing the multi-faceted problems facing the heterosexual community. We will also celebrate our unique, heterosexual heritage, acknowledging the plethora of contributions that have been made by both male and female heterosexuals. Indeed, civilization was started by heterosexuals. The following is a brief summary of some of the exciting events we have in store:

MONDAY 12:00 — To kick off the "Great to be Straight Week," a second-year student will speak in the amphitheater, sharing her experiences in the first-year dorms in a speech entitled, "My Roommate was a Heterosexual." There will also be an opportunity for individuals to take the courageous step of coming out and proclaiming their heterosexuality to the world.

MONDAY 6:00 — There will be a 24-hour candlelight vigil on the steps of the Rotunda commemorating the famous heterosexuals who have died.

TUESDAY — Tuesday will be designated "Book Bag Day" and everyone is encouraged to carry a book bag if they support freedom, dignity and acceptance for heterosexuals.

TUESDAY 6:30 — There will be a sit-in at the Student Council meeting in Peabody Hall demanding that a Heterosexual Concerns Committee be formed to study prejudices against heterosexuals, especially in the hiring and tenure practices of the University.

WEDNESDAY — To heighten awareness of the positive benefits of living a heterosexual lifestyle, there will be a University-wide "Sodom and Gomorah Simulation Day." All are encouraged to participate, and we are happy to announce that ARA Dining Services has agreed to add extra pillars of salt to all their meals today.

THURSDAY — Thursday will be Abstinence Awareness Day to create and promote awareness and acceptance of prevention through abstinence. Joe Brown will give a lecture entitled, "Confessions: My Life of Abstinence."

THURSDAY 12:00 — A human chain will be formed around the Rotunda protesting the plight of heterosexuals in foreign countries, including Cuba, China, and Angola.

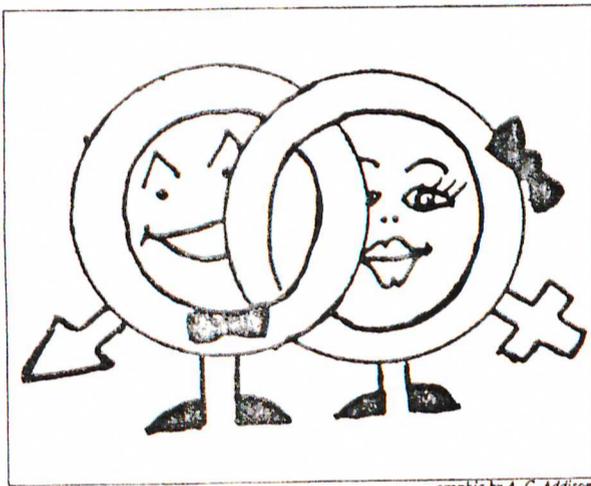
THURSDAY 8:00 — Cinemateque will have a screening of *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Following the film, there will be a panel discussion entitled: "Patriarchal Heterosexuality: Perceptions and Misconceptions."

FRIDAY 4:00 — There will be a public display of affection on the south end of the Lawn. All heterosexuals are encouraged to join in and skip, jump-rope, and generally frolic in a demonstration of our sisterly and brotherly love for one another.

FRIDAY 9:00 — A dance will be held in the Cavalier Room in joyous celebration of our heterosexuality. We hope the community will be supportive, showing liberal understanding of and open-mindedness to the strides heterosexuals have made in past years, and also anticipate in our bright future. While all are welcome, we discourage the "vacuous and vapid" hetero-bashing we have seen in years past.

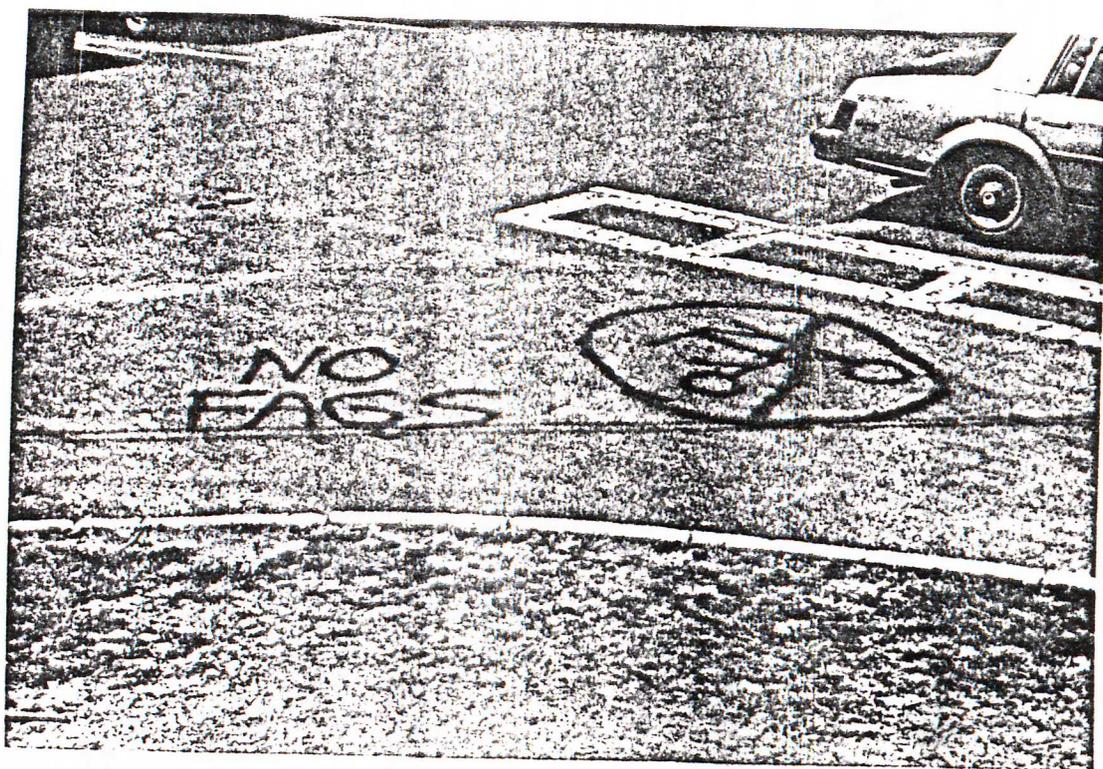
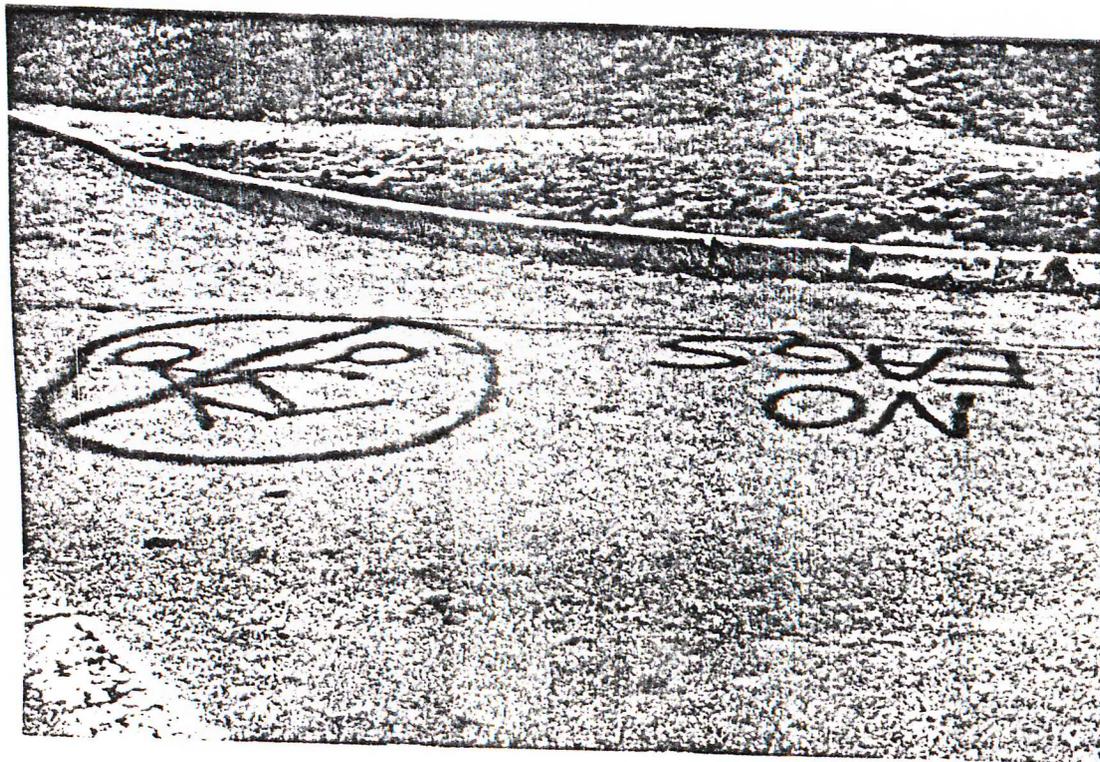
SATURDAY 4:00 — A large, "Great to be Straight" rally on the Downtown Mall will culminate a robust week of festivities and events. World-renowned speakers will address the expected crowds; the national press will cover the rally.

SATURDAY 6:00 — Immediately following the rally, we will march down West Main Street to the Lawn area and then make our way through Cabell Hall in our First Annual "Take Back the Bathrooms" March, in an attempt to restore decency to our public restrooms. □



graphic by A. C. Addison

During the 1990 BGLAD (Bisexual Gay and Lesbian Awareness Days), graffiti is found in several places on grounds. Below are pictures taken at the Ampitheatre parking lot.



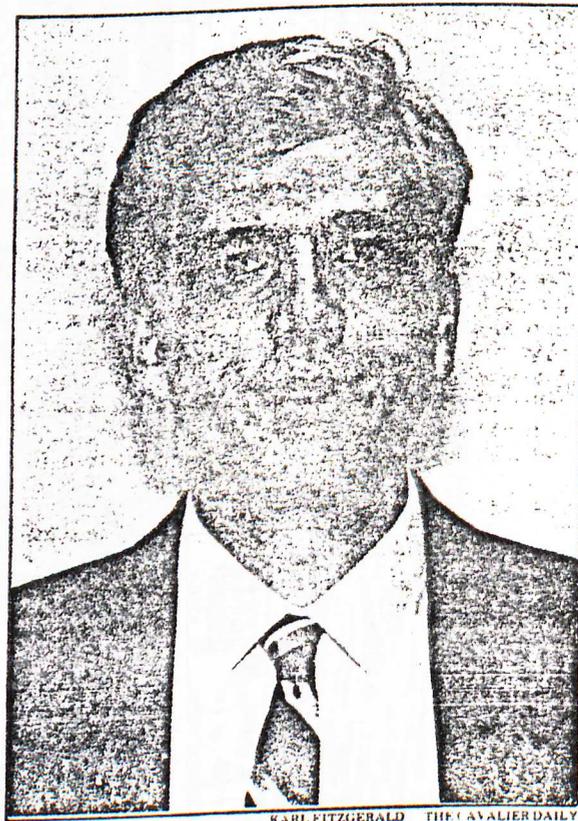
The Cavalier Daily

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Thursday, November 17, 1988

Circulation 14,000

On the night of January 23, 1988, nine "gay bashing" fliers were posted in Newcomb Hall before an LGSU dance. Later, it was revealed that second-year Student Council candidate Hans Bader had perpetrated the act.

He was unsuccessful in being elected to Student Council.



Student Council candidate Hans Frank Bader
He posted "gay-bashing" fliers last January

KARL FITZGERALD THE CAVALIER DAILY

Candidate posted fliers

Bader admits to having distributed anti-gay posters

By **KEN HYDE**
Cavalier Daily Staff Writer

Second-year College student Hans Frank Bader, a candidate in Monday's upcoming run-off election for Student Council representative, admitted to posting nine "gay bashing" fliers in Newcomb Hall last Jan. 23.

According to Lesbian and Gay Concerns Committee Co-Chairman Doug Chambers, Bader placed the fliers next to posters advertising a dance sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Student Union.

The fliers announced a "gay bashing party" scheduled at the same time and place as the LGSU dance.

Chambers said members of the LGSU saw Bader place the fliers and threatened him with Judiciary Committee charges. Instead, Chambers said leaders of the LGSU agreed not to press charges if Bader would write an anonymous letter to the student newspapers apologizing for his actions.

"My posting of the fliers was a thoughtless prank I deeply regret," the letter said. "I did not intend people to take the fliers seriously or to cause physical harm to the party-goers, and I am sorry if anyone felt a threat to his or her safety."

"My posting of the fliers was just a tasteless joke, and I regret that I offended people," Bader said yesterday. "The allegations against me were timed in order to wreck my candidacy for Student Council," he said, adding that he intends to remain in the race.

LGSU President John Hackney refused to confirm or deny the allegations that Bader had posted the fliers in January. He said the LGSU agreed to keep the student's identity a secret in exchange for the student's apology.

"I chose to confirm his name because of his decision to run for Student Council," Chambers said. "Student leaders should be held to a somewhat higher standard than others because of who they represent."

Chambers stressed that he is not a member of the LGSU executive board.

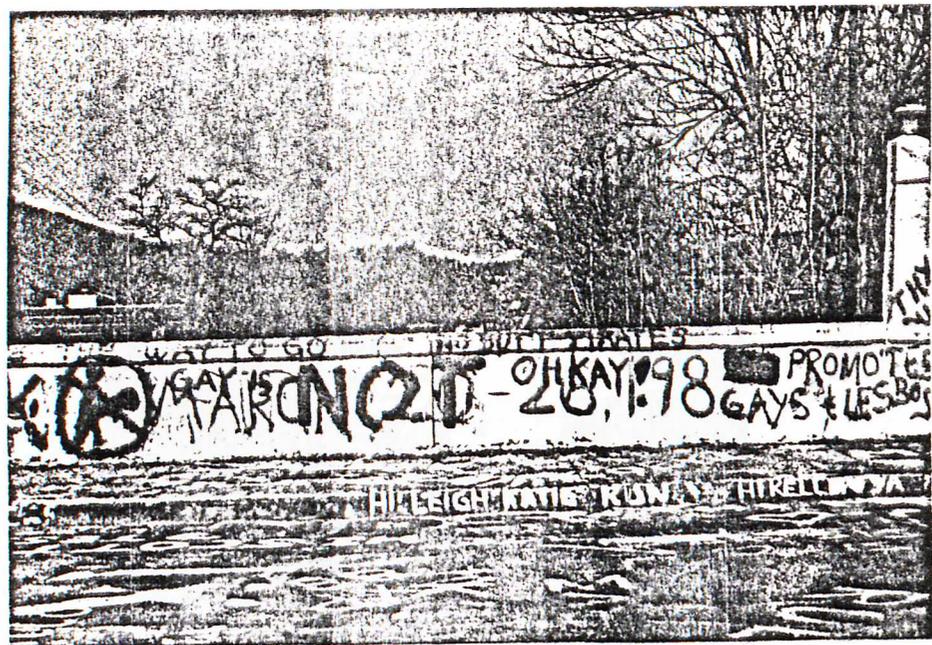
"My only concern is that he not be elected," Chambers said. He added, however, that he does not think Bader should be forced to withdraw from the election. "Any acts of hatred [student leaders] performed in the past should become a matter of public record," Chambers said.

Chambers said the LGSU did not make public the allegations during the regular Student Council elections because of the confidentiality agreement.

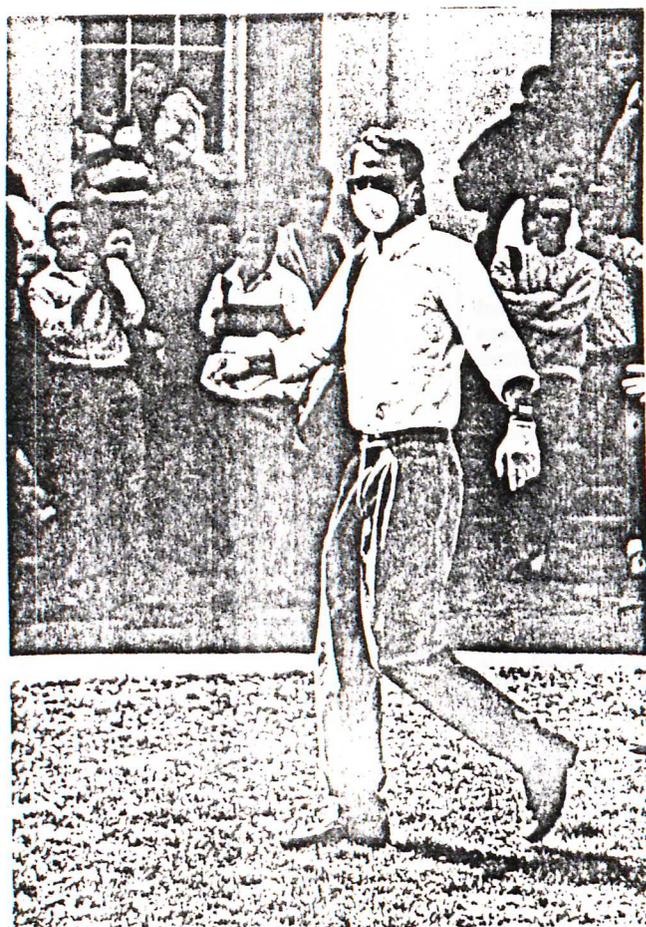
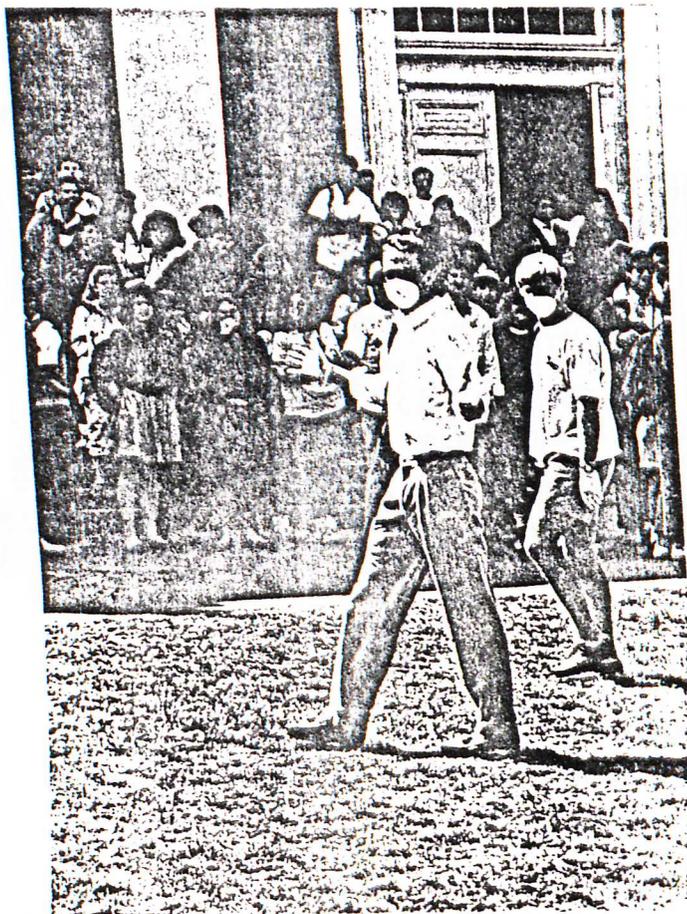
vers on the horizon

Many problems exist with

During Gay Awareness Week in 1989, Beta Bridge was defaced with offensive, discriminatory graffiti.

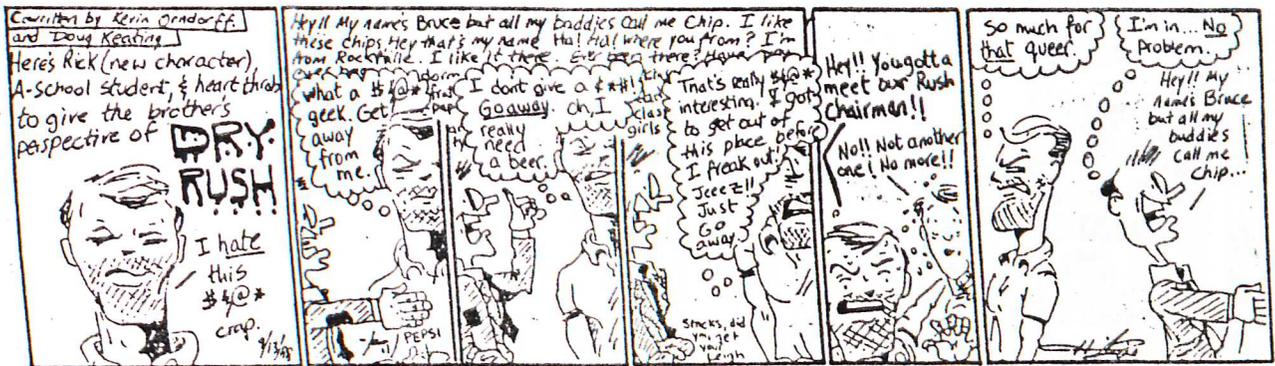


During the 1988 Public Display of Affection, an antagonistic crowd of approximately 2000 people looked on as two students wearing surgical gloves and masks walked around participants.



On September 14, 1988, the offensive term "queer" appears in a University Journal comic strip. Many letters were written expressing anger. Below is one of several that was printed.

THE JUNGLE by T. Khoja



U.Va. U.J. Wednes. Sept. 14 1988

"Jungle" requires apology

I am writing in reference to the cartoon "The Jungle" by T. Khoja which appeared in the Sept. 14 issue of The University Journal. In the last panel of the cartoon a fraternity man says, "So much for that queer."



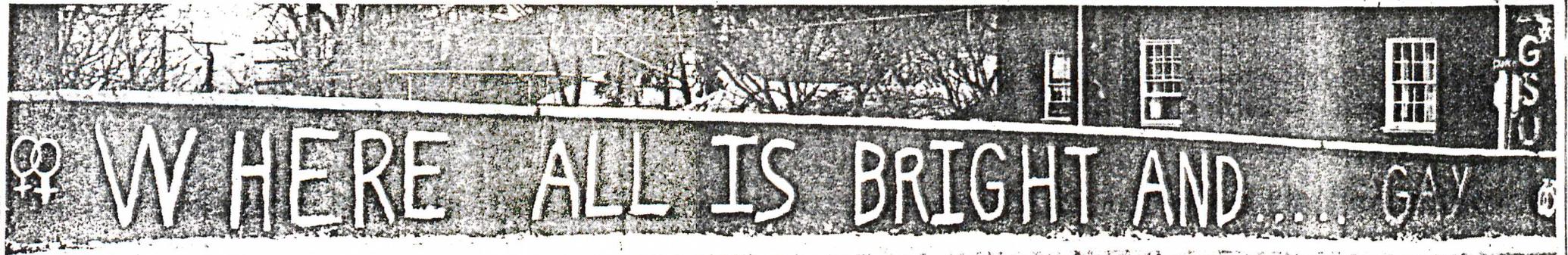
I find this reference offensive and feel The University Journal owes an apology to all gay and lesbian members of the University community. It is obvious enough that there is both open and subverted hostility toward gay and lesbian students here at U.Va., especially by the fraternities. The hostilities need not be institutionalized by this paper or any other organization at the university.

I am surprised that The University Journal has published such a blatant, homophobic reference. I'm sure this paper would not consider publishing any work with derogatory references to blacks, Jews, Hispanics, Asians, women or any other minority group.

I hope The Journal will use better judgement in the future.

Durward Potter
GARC

Editor's Note—Mr. Khoja's use of the word "queer" was intended to mean "strange" or "different" and overlooked other meanings that could be attached to it.



CD/Keith Lundien

Gays, fraternity battle over Beta Bridge

By SHERYL STOLBERG

A dispute between Gay Student Union (GSU) members and fraternity brothers over a paint job on Beta Bridge Tuesday night resulted in a new set of lyrics for "The Good Old Song."

According to GSU member Bob Schwartz, he and a group of other GSU members began painting the bridge at about midnight to read, "We come from old Virginia where all is bright and gay." The word "gay" was painted in bright orange.

But three hours later, the bridge had been changed to read, "We come on old virgins, we're all tight and hetero."

Schwartz said Delta Upsilon members yelled insults and threw firecrackers from the DU house while the GSU members painted the bridge.

GSU members responded verbally, Schwartz

said. "We were tossing insults [at the brothers], but no firecrackers."

The GSU members left after they had finished painting, but decided to return to "check" on the bridge, Schwartz said. "I don't think we had been gone a minute when eight or 10 fraternity boys were already out with buckets of paint," he added.

Schwartz then drove his cohorts home and returned 45 minutes later to find the bridge fully repainted.

By that time, Chi Psi members Joe Bailey and John Reed had joined the DU brothers, though according to Bailey the two groups had not planned to work together.

Bailey said he and Reed had planned to repaint the bridge earlier, after they saw what the GSU members had painted.

"I didn't like the way the song had been taken out of context," Bailey said. He added he didn't

think the fraternity men had taken it out of context because "it wasn't the song anymore."

Schwartz said he served with Reed on Student Council last semester. Reed is no longer a Council member.

DU brother Andy Osterbrock, who helped repaint the bridge, said because of DU's close proximity to the bridge it is not uncommon for the brothers to repaint it.

"We always go out there and paint the bridge. It's no war on them," he said.

Osterbrock said he could not confirm whether firecrackers had been thrown because he had joined the brothers later in the night.

DU President Andy Reed, who was not involved in the incident, said it "was not a fraternity-sanctioned event." He added there are "no hard feelings toward the GSU."

But Schwartz said his group was "outraged" by the brothers' actions.

"You always take a chance when you paint the bridge," he said, "but when people come a minute and a half later especially to deface it, that's improper. We just want a chance to express ourselves."

But Bailey said anyone has a right to paint the bridge, "it's just who paints it last."

Schwartz said the GSU members painted the bridge again at 6:30 a.m. yesterday.

"They [fraternity members] objected to our defiling of their song. But we only painted the lyrics word for word, and it's our song as well," he added.

Schwartz charged that the fraternity men "turned it [the song] from something fairly innocuous to something pretty gross."

He said the brothers also painted the words "Get back in the closet" on one of the bridge's railings and "Not on our bridge, you don't" on the other.

Cavalier Daily, April 4, 1980

In 1977, a proposal to deny official recognition to student groups that discriminate against gays and lesbians was defeated in Student Council.



The Cava

Thursday, December 1
1977

88th Year

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Thur:

Proposal on gays rejected

By LINDA DeWITT

Student Council defeated a proposal by one vote Tuesday to hold a University-wide referendum this spring on whether Council should deny official recognition to student groups that discriminate against homosexuals.

Council decided, however, by a 15 to eight vote to direct its Appropriations Committee to rewrite the pledge which student groups must sign to be officially recognized by Council to state that the group does not discriminate on the basis of "sexual preferences."

Graduate Arts and Sciences Rep. Myles Hurd proposed an amendment to the Council bylaws Nov. 10 stating that Council would not recognize groups who discriminate on the basis of race, creed, national origin, gender, or sexual preferences. Hurd also requested that Council hold a non-binding advisory referendum during the spring elections before voting on the bylaw change.

Debate on the proposal had been postponed until Council Vice President Mary Pat Morrissey discussed the amendment with University Legal Advisor George C. Grattan.

Grattan said yesterday he told Morrissey that since "the law is not clear on this issue" any rule that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual preference "might breed litigation."

He added that he didn't know who would be held responsible in the event of a lawsuit.

Council voted down the amendment but accepted Hurd's alternative proposal to include the statement on the official recognition forms.

In October of 1977, the Young Americans for Freedom launched an attack against the Gay Student Union and two other organizations on grounds.



Karol Lamos



Mark Ward

CD/ Pat Coyne

YAF officers distribute circulars attacking University groups

By BENNETT MINTON

Officers of the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) have launched flyer campaigns against three of their favorite targets: the Gay Student Union, Student Council and The Cavalier Daily.

YAF President and second-year College student Karol Lamos and YAF Secretary Mark Ward distributed 300 fliers to parents last weekend attacking the Student Council decision to grant office

space to the Gay Student Union (GSU).

Lamos and Ward also plan to post other fliers today criticizing The Cavalier Daily's editorial policy, Ward said.

Ward said the fliers were printed at the expense of Lamos and Ward and were not sponsored by UAF.

The GSU sheet exclaims "Your Child is funding a gay group," and also reprints a UPI story which says that five dollars collected from each student as a part of their mandatory fees pays for the

GSU's organization's office space.

Ward, in an earlier press release, said, "Each University student is required to pay a Comprehensive Fee, five dollars of which is used to renovate and maintain the student office complex."

The article also stated that Ward, Lamos and first-year student John Davies said "students should not have to provide a gay organization with

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office space as a precondition to remaining at the University."

Student Council Appropriations Committee member Teresa Wynn said students pay tuition which helps maintain University buildings. She added that no student had to provide any organization with office space.

"No student activities fees are used to maintain Peabody Hall," where many student organizations have their offices, she said.

"There are no criteria for groups applying for office space except that they be recognized by the Student Council. GSU is recognized, they indicated a need for space, there was space, and they were given it," she said.

The flier attacking The Cavalier Daily attributes quotations to Editor-in-Chief George Rodrigue: "Students who think

they have a say in how the CD is run are not in their right mind," "I don't want to fool around with kooks who disagree with our editorials," and "Their (student) paying a dollar-and-a-half a year doesn't give them the right to interfere with the press."

Rodrigue termed the quotations "either distortions or outright fabrications." He denied ever making the first two remarks and clarified the third, saying, "There is a distinction between legal and ethical responsibilities."

"Students do not have the legal right to interfere with the editorial policy and because there are so many students in the University, there is no way there could be a consensus of opinion," he said.

Rodrigue said the paper as having a "contractual responsibility" to print University Notices and short takes.

"Just because a student pays for a subscription, he doesn't have the legal right to dictate editorial policy," Rodrigue said.

The flier also says a writer was fired for his political views. Cavalier Daily Managing Editor Jim Grossberg said no one had been fired, but that the paper's policy, instituted this year, states that no editor or reporter can be a member of a political organization.

YAF member John Davies was told that he had to choose between the paper and the YAF, but that he has not been fired, Grossberg said.

Davies said yesterday he was fired but would not comment on the quotation on the flier which said "I can't even write for the newspaper I pay mandatory fees to." Lamos claimed the quote was Davies'.

In 1976, when it was discovered that second-year Resident Assistant Bob Elkins was President of the Gay Student Union, University President Frank Hereford demanded that he be removed from Resident Staff. Below is a description of the events that followed.

Although Elkins was ultimately successful in keeping his position as a Resident Assistant, he was cut-off financially from his parents.

Bob Elkins Versus Frank Hereford

The years following its founding in March 1972 were harsh times for the Gay Student Union of the University of Virginia. The group had been fighting for several years to get funding for their group after they were declared to be a political group by the Board of Visitors. In October 1975 the GSU began the Helpline. With this new service the group was reclassified as an service group and thus able to receive funding from the Student Council. In November of 1975 it was reported that the Helpline was an "qualified success." GSU helpline chairman Bob Elkins stated that the helpline had about 11 workers and dealt with about 10 serious calls a night. This small coda in the ongoing saga of the GSU and its fight for funding is the first time that we see Bob Elkins.

1975-76 was Bob Elkins' first year at the University of Virginia; but the first year man apparently leaped feet first into University affairs. In his first year the Maryland native from Silver Spring had come completely out of the closet. In the course of this year Elkins became secretary of the GSU as well as chairman of the GSU Helpline. At the end of the year Elkins was chosen as a Resident Assistant for the first year dorms. During the selection process for the position of RA, Elkins' homosexuality and activities were openly discussed as to how they might limit his effectiveness as a RA. Apparently any questions resident staff had were resolved to the satisfaction of everyone.

At the end of that academic year Elkins was elected president of the GSU; at the same time he was assigned to Hancock dorm for the coming year.

In November of the following school year, without warning, University president Frank Hereford appointed a special committee to advise him on the possible removal of Elkins, a "professed homosexual," from the Resident Staff Program. Resident Staff officers interpreted Hereford's action as an attempt to resolve a potential public relations problem. From conversations with Hereford and dorm counselors evaluations it was clear that Elkins' capabilities were of no concern to Hereford. Since no complaints had been filed with the University about Elkins it was unclear as to how this issue came to Hereford's attention.

Many student groups were outraged at this sudden action by Hereford and a storm of denunciations quickly followed. Members of the Student Council threatened to take action on the issue at their next meeting.* The Black Student Alliance released a position paper stating their support for Elkins. The BSA charged that the Hereford's action was a violation of human rights,

adding that the removing Elkins could "set a precedent for future violations of personal rights." The BSA letter also stated that Hereford had said that "the alumni are the driving force behind his request that Mr. Elkins leave the dormitory." The BSA denounce Hereford's "slighting" of student opinion in favor of the alumni who are only "nominally" affected by the matter. Some of the students on Elkins' hall in Hancock had signed a petition asserting Elkins was performing well as their resident advisor and should not be forced to leave.

At the same time the Cavalier Daily was being harshly berated for ignoring Elkins' privacy in their rush to get the story on the Associated Press wire under their byline. As one letter writer stated, "the CD pushed well beyond the bounds of decency...a human being's sexual preferences are his own affair. To put his name on the A.P. wire was a grave insult."

When the story was published in the national newspapers and Elkins' parents found out about his homosexuality and presidency in the GSU, they threatened to cut off his financial support and disown him.

"The thing which is most dismaying about this," Elkins' lawyer John Lowe said, "is the fact that Bob made a full disclosure to everyone about his position with the GSU. Now President Hereford comes around and subjects this young man and his family to national publicity and then attempts to second guess the people who made the original decision that Bob was competent and qualified." As Lowe sees it, "being a gay RA is no different than being one who is black or Jewish or Republican."

In an effort to resolve the problem, Elkins twice met with president Hereford and offered to step down as GSU president, thus resolving any "conflicts." Both times Hereford responded that resignation would not eliminate the "conflict of interest."

As Hereford's ad hoc committee deliberated, Elkins took action that he hoped would punch through all of Hereford's arguments about a "conflict of interest." In late September Elkins resigned his position as president of the GSU. Elkins said, "At this time I wish to state that the issue of my being associated with the Gay Student Union is of little consequence to the questions at hand, and it is to remove any doubt of this that I resigned from the presidency...There are two possible reasons that objection to my being GSU president could be based on...The first is that the duties of president of the GSU might create an actual conflict of time and duties with the

responsibility of being a resident advisor. By resigning, I am eliminating that argument. The second objection to my participation in the GSU is that it implies a personal attitude of worth and self-esteem towards my own homosexuality. My resignation will not affect this attitude."

Elkins' lawyer, John Lowe, stated that the resignation was a tactical move to force everyone to focus on the real issue.

In the end Hereford's ad hoc committee recommended that Elkins not be removed from the Resident staff. The committee's meeting were closed but Elkins and Lowe were allowed to sit in on the proceedings. But the two were not allowed to submit either witnesses or evidence in Elkins' behalf. One member of the committee stated that the testimony of some persons would not "particularly illuminate" the proceedings. Lowe contends that other witnesses would have shown that Elkins' homosexuality was known and discussed during the selection process for resident staff.

The report however stated that it had not heard any evidence that the selection committee of Resident Staff had known that Elkins was a homosexual and an officer of the GSU.

Then the report of the committee went on to state that the administration "should explore the feasibility of providing selectional machinery that *more closely evaluates* individuals with conflicts of homosexuality or other concerns which might interfere with their ability to counsel effectively with their peers."

Lowe stated that he found this section of the committee's report offensive because it may imply some special scrutiny of homosexuals in the selection process.

The committee's recommendation was clearly an effort to end what had become a public embarrassment for the University. The Elkins case was being carried in national newspapers and thus garnering unwelcome public attention. Also the response on Grounds was overwhelmingly in Elkins' favor and students were creating a big stink over the matter, so the administration clearly wanted it done with.

At the end of the academic year the new editors of the Cavalier Daily reviewed the Elkins case, showing that Hereford was clearly acting on his own biases, without just cause.

In the spring of 1978 Bob Elkins was named co-chair of the first-year Resident Staff. Hereford declined to speculate on whether the appointment would be controversial, "I was glad to concur in their appointment."

In March of 1975, University Union Tri-Chairman Bert Ellis refused to co-sponsor a speech by gay activist Franklin Kameny because he did not want University Union associated with the Gay Student Union.

Outraged At Union

Dear Editor:

I hope that most others who read the article in last Friday's CD about the University Union's refusal to co-sponsor a speech by gay activist Franklin Kameny were as outraged as I was. This nationally known gentleman is willing without pay to share his knowledge and experience of a subject which is still shrouded in myth and misunderstanding for most Americans. Apparently Union Tri-Chairman Bert Ellis and others would prefer to keep it that way. In deciding to not co-sponsor the speech (on his own initiative in the absence of the other tri-chairman) because he "did not want the University Union associated with the GSU," he has instead achieved the reverse of his intention. It is

true that University Union has suffered adverse publicity about its Pavilion XI rule forbidding gays from using it as a meeting place, but I fail to see how they can redeem their reputation by refusing to co-sponsor Mr. Kameny's speech.

I also fail to see what gives Mr. Ellis the right and wisdom to decide what the views of the students are, or what type of activity University Union should sponsor. He seems much more concerned with the Union's "position and prestige" than its role of serving the University by providing knowledgeable speakers. It is my understanding that the main purpose of the University is still the advancement of knowledge, and I believe that extends to all subjects, no matter how controversial. In fact it is the most controversial subject which requires the most exposition.

I should mention that I am not gay, although it is a characteristic that anyone might possess. I make these remarks out of a sense of social and moral indignation. It is past time American awoke to the fact that homosexuals (or "homophiles," as many prefer) are a significant and vocal segment of our population, which can no longer be ignored. If "straights" but take the trouble to understand them, they will learn as I have, that gays are no different from the rest of us in their feelings and lifestyle, except in the orientation of their sexual love.

Not many years ago, women and blacks were refused admission to the Grounds, either as students or faculty, not to mention as speakers. It seems homophiles have become the current "Nigger". I hope we are growing beyond the desire to feel superior to others. I also hope University Union will reverse its decision and avoid such in the future.

Herb Ettel

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THE CAVALIER DAILY, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, CHARLOTTESVILLE, THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1975

GAY's Hold Dress Ball In Rotunda; Easter's Queen To Be Announced

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., April 14—Gamma Alpha Ypsilon, the University of Virginia's newest fraternity, has announced what President Percival Sweet has termed "the most thrilling, fabulous, exciting Easter weekend ever."

Highlighting plans of GAY, as the fraternity is known by members and intimates will be a fancy dress ball in the Rotunda Saturday evenings, where Gay's Easter Queen will be crowned.

The Queen will be surrounded by a court of five princesses selected from first-year pledges, chosen by GAY's officers who said they will judge the pledges on beauty, poise, personality and dress.

Gay Vice-President Chauncy Swish, who is ball chairman, said this week, "I am absolutely furious about the rumors that drag will not be permitted. How does anyone think we could be so cruel to our members and their friends?"

The ball decorations will center on the musical theme of "The Dance of the Sugarplum Fairies," according to decorations chairman Gay Lay. Music will be provided by the Boys in the Band.

Candidates for Queen include Mr. Lay, GAY member George A. York, former GAY secretary and princess Bell Ball, and well-known activist Georgie Porgie.

An informal poll conducted by GAY Treasurer Precious Lamb indicates that Mr. Porgie seems to be the favorite.



Happy scenes such as this one from last year's Gay Ball can be witnessed Saturday evening.

Mr. Lamb said, "I do hope Georgie makes it because he is one of my closest friends, and I think he would make a beautiful Queen."

Commenting on recent problems involving other

fraternities and Security Department and local police officers, Mr. Sweet said, "Oh, I don't think we will have any problems with those big, brave, strong, guardians of the law, because our relationship has

always been close. It's really sort of a mutual admiration society."

Mr. Closet said his ball costume will be pink with "lots and lots of ruffles." Mr. Lay will be dressed in mint green

with an off-the-shoulder effect, and Mr. Ball described his costume as "a lovely lavender with a flounce and a bow in the back."

Mr. Porgie declined to describe his costume, saying "If I told you, I just know the other Queen candidates would think of something to upstage me." Reliable sources report that he plans an ethereal costume of bridal white satin and lace.

Mr. Porgie denied rumors that he plans to marry Mr. Lamb in a candlelight midnight ceremony on the steps of the Rotunda.

"All I can really say right now is that we are just very good friends," he explained.

Charlottesville couturiers have reported an unusually large demand for ball dresses in the last two weeks.

Designer Albert Baby reports that he has run out of lavender ribbon but is having more stock rushed from Richmond.

"I did use quite a bit of it for my own costume," Mr. Baby admitted, "but I did want to look perfect.

"The New York Times" a.k.a. The Cavalier Daily. Saturday, April 15, 1972