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Homosexual Group To 'Educate' Campus Gay Liberation Front Begins Organizing at SJS

By Ray Giles
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"The struggle for homosexual liberation," the Rt. Rev. Michael Itkin wrote in the San Francisco Free Press this month, "is truly revolutionary and must be seen as being not merely in the interests of this one oppressed minority hut, rather, as an intrinsic and organic part of the Movement for peace and human liberation in all of its aspects." It is with this thought uppermost in their minds and in their philosophy of basic civil rights for all Americans that it small group of homosexuals, both male and female, have begun organizing here at San Jose State. At last Sunday's meeting, their second in a week they will meet again next Sunday at 2 p.m. in the College Union browsing library), the group formed a constitution-writing committee one step in becoming a recognized campus organization 4, discussed future projects and programs, and decided on a name: the San Jose Gay Liberation Front. One program of Gay Liberation is to educate the "straight" community. A 22-year-old freshman, majoring in German, explained the need of the general public to become more "aware" of just what homosexuality is. "Homosexuality isn't for example, just the physical act," he said. "It's a whole attitude you may have toward the person with whom you have sex." Another goal of the group is to "educate" their fellow gay peers. A 22-year-old sociology major, a junior, said that many homosexuals develop psychological problems because society has branded homosexuality

as "deviant." They begin, therefore, to get down on themselves and thus, problems arise.

"This is one of the biggest projects of the movement, to make our gay brothers and sisters realize they aren't freaks," he said.

He also accredited the notion that all homosexual persons are lonely and want to change as an idea perpetuated only by heterosexuals."

To the surprise of many practicing heterosexuals, homosexuals, and particularly the younger gay crowd, are each day finding new pride in being what they are and doing what they do with no thought at all of trying "to straighten out."

One possible problem they foresee Gay Liberation encountering is that of being "accepted" (a word they dislike using since it connotes that something is wrong with them) by other "liberation" groups such as SDS, Student Mobilization and the various racial minority organizations.

"We're involved with our aspect of liberation," one said, "but that doesn't mean we can be shut off from the entire revolutionary movement."

The word "acceptance" is used also only in light of a better word when a gay student said, "It's most important to us to be accepted by all our fellow students at San Jose. These are the people we will be living with and dealing with for the rest of our lives."

The San Jose Gay Liberation Front will be the first student homosexual group to organize on a California State college or university.

The only other American university to have a recognized gay group on campus is the University of Minnesota where FREE (Fight Repression of Erotic Expression) has organized.

Dean of Students Robert Martin indicated that if Gay Liberation followed the proper and correct procedures, and in their constitution had nothing unlawful or contrary to college rules and regulations, they would be

welcomed into the campus organizational community as would any other group).

-Whether a guy goes to bed with boys or not is not a valid way of judging a person."

one spokesman emphasized in discussing the prejudices most "straights" have of homosexuals.

"We eat the same food, watch the same movies," he pointed out. "Society must overcome the prejudgment of a person for no other reason than his sexual habits,"

Both homosexuals are hesitant to predict, one way or the other, any kind of "backlash" once SJS students, faculty and administration get wind of what the Gay Liberation group plans to do. However, both are optimistic that the sophistication of the campus population is above any type of repressive acts.

Whether San Jose will become "up tight" or not once Gay Liberation begins implementing its proposed goals, such as having a gaystraight dance in the College Union ballroom, is yet to be seen. But in such trying days ahead, students and administrators might keep in mind the words of one anonymous homosexual: "Lying and adultery break the Ten Commandments, which homosexual acts do not."