

"Gay Center" Shafts Gays!

1322 North Van Ness Avenue:::::::::::::::::::::Los Angeles CA 90028

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"The Gay Community Services Center" is attempting to evict a collective of Gay sisters and brothers from the house where they have been living since January. The ostensible reason given for the eviction is in order to turn the house into a Drug and Alcoholic Rehabilitation residence for Gay alcoholics and drug-addicts, ostensibly with the assistance of Alcoholics Together and with funding from a U.S. Government grant. We believe that this is a mere cover to gain the sympathy of the larger Gay Community in this eviction move against Gay sisters and brothers by a Center which claims to be our brothers and sisters but, in actuality, are acting as slumlords.

There are, it is true, areas of disagreement between the Collective and the Center both in regard to the way the house at 1322 North Van Ness Ave. is to be run, in regard to rental agreements and amounts, and in regard to basic repairs (such as getting the plumbing and electricity up to legal housing-code requirements, which the Center guaranteed would be done before rents were due and which has still not been done). The members of the Collective have, however, invited the Executive Director and Administrative Director of the Center to their weekly house-meetings to discuss the areas of disagreement, and not only did they refuse to come after numerous such invitations, both personal and in writing, but when they did set up meetings with delegations from the Collective to discuss the disagreements, they first cancelled such meetings (the Center cancelled) and then refused to discuss the issues.

This being the case, we have no choice but to bring this matter to the attention of the Gay and general public: the first, because the Center claims to serve the entire Gay Community; the second, because the Center is seeking public funding.

We accuse the Gay Community Services Center of:

INSTITUTIONAL BUREAUCRACY: insofar as they have continuously refused to meet with the members of the Collective to discuss the differences between the two sides to this controversy;

SEXISM, MALE SUPREMACY & MALE CHAUVINISM: When the Executive Director of Gay Community Services Center, Don Kilhefner, sent the 30-day supposed eviction notice to the Collective, all of the male members of the Collective

were listed by name. Of the three Women who are core-members of the Collective, the only one who was listed by name is the one who is still, technically, a **staff-member** of G.C.S.C. (and who, therefore, Mr. Kilhefner and the Center could not overlook). The other two women were not listed by name. Further, one of the other women, Ms. Pichulina Hampi, had been a staff-memb_er of G.C.S.C. until she quit in protest against having been required, in her position as night-time Hot Line operator, to put a 16-year old Black Sister out into a cold, rainy night: young male Gay Brothers often were permitted to wait at the Cent_er until much later at night for one of the male Staff or Directors to take them home to "crash;"

RACISM: The white American Board of Directors of the Center, in evicting t_he Collective, are evicting (among its individual members) one Cuban Gay Sister and one Gay Brother who is $\frac{1}{4}$ American Indian. Further, in addition to evicting individuals, there are several organizations which have their office at the Collective. Among these is the Ad-Hoc Committee for Gay Solidarity with the Independent Oglala Nation, the group which has collected in excess of 150 Gay People's signatures and solidarity statements with the Indian Liberation Struggle and forwarded those on to the Independent Oglala Nation at Wounded Knee through the offices of the American Indian Movement in Denver. There are also other instances of Racism similar to the one regarding the 16-year old Black Sister cited above.

POLITICAL PERSECUTION: The move to evict the Collective from 1322 North Van Ness did not take place until after the Advocate's coverage of the attempted take-over of the Whitman-Radclyffe Foundation and the California Committee for Sexual Law Reform by one of the Directors of G.C.S.C., Mr. Morris Kight, along with a Trot_skyite sabal and also after an analysis of that attempted take-over in the Advocate. Marty St. John, Advocate reporter & staff-writ_er, and the Rev. Mikhail Itkin who wrote the Analysis of the attempt_e_d take-over, are both core-members of the Collective.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION: A great many of the Directors of the Center are milit_ant athiests. Among the organizations with offices at the Collective are the Radical Gay Christian Fellowship, the group which last Spring and Summer suffered three attacks from "Jesus-freaks", including an Altar twice overturned, human excrement being hurled about, and a murder attempt being made on a 16 year old runaway who was being cared for in the Chapel while being returned to his home in the midwest; as well as the office of the California Diocese of the Evangelical Catholic Communion: Community of the Love of Christ;

MANIPULATION: The use of the Alcoholic and Drug-Abuse Rehabilitation Program as an excuse to take over the house on Van Ness Avenue is a deliberately calculated move to gain the support of the larger Gay Community and is manipulative of the lives and feelings of the alcoholic & drug-addict brothers and sisters involved, who should not be subjected to this type of political pressure;

CORRUPTION: While claiming to serve the entire Gay Community, G.C.S.C. is apparently willing to sacrifice the home of Gay brothers and sisters who are not in a position, by virtue of their life-style, to gain the Center heavy Federal and Foundation funding and to use such an Alcohol & Drug-Abuse Rehabilitation Program to get such funding even at the expense of the home and collective life of other Gay People.

Having made these charges, some members of the Collective, with the Rev. Mikhail Itkin and Ms. Pichulina Hampi, ^{as delegates} have called for a Picket-Line in front of the Gay Community Services Center, 1614 Wilshire Avenue (at Union) on Good Friday, 20 April, at 12:00 Noon to 3:00 P.M. If negotiations with the Center can go ahead before then, in a mutually agreeable way (as they have not prior to this), the Picket Line will be cancelled: and if an amicable agreement is arrived at, a joyous time will be had instead.

However, as things stand at present, the picket-line is on. Ms. Hampi, an actress formerly with La Mama Theatre in New York and a core-member of the collective, said: "I'd like to quote the latest issue of Double-F: a magazine of effeminism, from New York. John Knoebel writes, in his article, 'The first task which lies before faggots,' and I must add, and dykes, 'who are willing to commit themselves to anti-sexism is the task of destroying the movement which betrayed them.'"

We do not want to destroy G.C.S.C. We merely want to humanize it and make it truly responsive to the needs of the people: make it confront its oppressive behavior and deal with the issues. We ask you to join us in solidarity on April 20th at Noon.

For the Life, Power, Peace, Joy and Freedom of all the people.