

# Times, They ARE A'changing

by mike mcculley

## No more shame

# What is gay lib?

by charlie peek  
first of a series

"Homosexuals are an oppressed minority in American society. America has forced up into urban ghettos, almost the only place where we can find one another, and into the few jobs and professions where we can get by." Guy Nassberg, professing homosexual and national leader of the Gay Liberation Front, summed up the plight of himself and those like him in those words.

This article is the first of a series which will attempt to explore this newest of social movements. What is Gay Liberation? Why is Gay Liberation? What's happening to it in Charlotte? Are homosexuals really oppressed? These are some of the questions which seem to be finally rising to the surface even in this, the Bible belt.

### Isn't there a law?

Gay Liberation, having been patterned after both the Third World and Women's Liberation Movements, is an effort by homosexuals and for homosexuals to shed the stereotypes and prejudices which they feel have been forced onto them by a chauvinist society. It is NOT a bootstrap attempt to reform. In their own words, "Beyond all the Freudian rot about our mothers and fathers, and the phony masculine myths of our inadequacies, lies something that bullshit theories can't explain away: we LIKE making love with people of the same sex. We feel good and whole making love. We want to remain homosexual."

However, to understand a movement, and more particularly the members of the movement, one must first understand the environment in which the movement lives. Isn't homosexuality against the law or something like that? Have you ever wondered just what the laws say about two members of the same sex engaging in any sexual activity? And if there's a law how is it enforced, particularly around Charlotte?

### 'Crime against nature'

While wading through the North Carolina law books, only one thing becomes crystal clear. The statutes concerning homosexuality in this state are notorious both for their foggy mountain ambiguity and their underlying and even overlying moral phrases. Listed under the subtitle OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC MORALITY AND DECENCY is the only statute which is in any way, shape, or form relevant to the offense of homosexuality. State Statute 4336 titled CRIME AGAINST NATURE reads "If any person shall commit the abominable and detestable crime against nature, with mankind or beast, he shall be imprisoned in the state's prison not less than five nor more than sixty years". Now any term such as this in a law book must be qualified by a definition usually arrived at when the first case concerning such a law is brought before the court.

The language used in the precedent-setting cases was just as

slippery. The nearest thing to a definition your reporter could find was made by the presiding judge in case of State vs. Fenner. He referred to "it" as "the abominable crime not fit to be named among Christians".

The question then is can the public know what is meant? It is assumed by the courts that the public can, evidently, since the North Carolina Supreme Court has ruled repeatedly that the law is not ambiguous. It has been observed that, even today, people are not quite ready to talk absolutely freely about homosexuality. This is another handicap that the Gay Liberationists face.

### Vice squad has more to do...

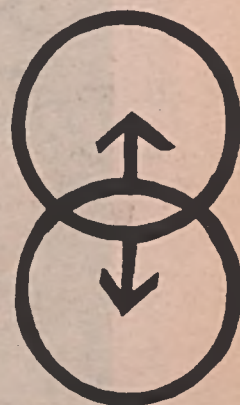
A talk with lieutenant Vernon Shuler of the Charlotte Vice Squad revealed an interesting new angle. Despite popular notion that police round up homosexuals much the same as they herd drunks downtown, Lieutenant Shuler stated that the main concern of the Vice Squad is to protect the gay bar patrons against those of the criminal element who might victimize them. A popular procedure is for a male to dress as a female (not masquerade, just imitation), go into a gay bar, and wait for a pick-up. Once the pick-up is made the victim is persuaded to accompany the imposter to another part of town where several of the latter's friends are waiting. There they promptly "roll" the victim for money and jewelry and perhaps even assault or murder him.

Plainclothes vice squad members regularly patrol known homosexual bars, but are primarily interested in apprehending a thief rather than a homosexual. Most trouble at gay bars is caused by outsiders usually just looking for a brawl. Police may be called by the bar owner when a "straight" troublemaker starts making noise.

A plainclothes policeman can, however, make an arrest if he is solicited or witnesses solicitation for homosexuality. There have been recent convictions for solicitation but this is only a misdemeanor and does not carry with it a stiff prison sentence. There have been no local convictions for homosexuality itself in recent years; thus, no person is serving time now for committing acts of homosexuality.

Few of the fights in the gay bars are between homosexuals. Most of the patrons seem to keep to themselves. The police department, in fact stresses them to get out of the dark areas for their own protection. The vice squad feels that it has more important things to attend to than to arrest someone just for being a homosexual.

This is the official position of a law enforcement agency of a society but what about the unofficial and often uncomfortable feelings about homosexuals held by the members of that society? What makes a homosexual and what produces all the prejudices and abhorractions which are thrown at them? Maybe next week.



# BLACK IMAGE

## Saga wants them out

by james cuthbertson

Early in the summer, when it became apparent that Saga Foods was preparing to initiate action to keep the commuters out of the dorm cafeteria, the Student Legislature passed a resolution condemning the action because we felt that it was unjust to 75% of our student body and would lend to further dorm-commuter polarization. After discussions with Dr. Cone and Mr. Vaughn, I understood that no policy had been established at that time and that no action had been taken to keep commuters out of the cafeteria.

When school opened, I was surprised that Saga's doorchecker would not admit commuters. To my dismay, after another discussion with Mr. Vaughn, I learned that he had never told me that commuters could come in the cafeteria to sit down and talk to dorm students. Saga wants them out because they feel that commuters will steal food. In other words, they are punishing the whole student body for their ineptness at catching pilferers. Evidently, Saga does not know that the residence hall courts have jurisdiction over these offenses. Will the student body of UNCC stand by and let Saga and the Administration do this. NO SAGA, We've just begun to fight.

## Legislature

Legislature meets:

Monday, 11:45 A.M.  
Oct. 19, U-209-210

Students are invited to attend.

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