

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

GAY STUDENT UNION

To the new students:

Coming out as a heterosexual is a struggle, but we feel that in Charlottesville coming out as a homosexual is too much of a struggle to go through alone. This has been prepared to let all of the incoming students know that we are here, and to acquaint you with our organization, its members, and gay life in Charlottesville. We hope that you will read it, whatever your sexual preference.

Membership in the Gay Student Union is open to "...any interested persons connected with the University of Virginia, without regard to race, sex, creed or sexual preference." (GSU Constitution) Attendance at meetings, programs, and social functions, however, is not limited to members.

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON ALTERNATE THURSDAYS AT 9:00 pm IN THE UNITED MINISTRIES CENTER. The Center is located on the corner of Lewis Mountain Road and Emmet Street, directly across from Memorial Gym. This year's first meeting will be advertised by poster throughout the Grounds. In addition, this and subsequent meetings will be advertised in the "University Notices" section of the Cavalier Daily back page.

Members of the GSU have participated in discussions with the University's Committee on Human Sexuality and the sexx education classes of the local Unitarian Church. In the Spring of 1974 a consciousness-raising group was formed among some members. We have travelled to the gay conference sponsored by the Rutgers University Student Homophile League, and we have sponsored talks by people like gay activist Frank Kameny. The GSU intends to continue programs like these.

The GSU publishes a newsletter called Flourishes. In the coming year we intend to expand this publication to five pages, containing articles and news items. We hope to increase circulation into northern Virginia.

The major social event sponsored by the GSU is our Spring Prom. Numerous dances are given during the year. On Thursdays without meetings, the GSU office is open for coffee and conversation at 9:00 pm. The office of the Gay Student Union is #18A in the basement of Peabody Hall. It is open during the day while school is in session as a place to read, rest, talk, etc.

We are for all the students at this University. A library is maintained in the GSU office. It is comprised of gay oriented books, periodicals, and other printed matter, and it is for the use of the entire University Community. The GSU stands ready to assist persons who feel the need to call on us in any way that we are able. We are made up of people who are aware of the needs of gay people at the University, and our prime function is to try to fulfill these needs.

Particular mention must be made of the Women's Caucus of the GSU. There is a preponderance of men in the GSU, but this is mainly due to the fact that U.Va. has been a predominately male school. We have heard comments like "I heard that it's an all-male organization-- women aren't welcome." This is emphatically WRONG. The Gay Student Union urgently needs the influence and support of gay women at the university.

We repeat our invitation to come and talk with us, share with us, and build understanding and freedom with us now.

*September 1974*