

01-09-80 Genérico

REMITIDO

**Estimados delegados al VI
Congreso de las
Naciones Unidas
Sobre la prevención del delito
y el tratamiento del delincuente:**

Nosotros, Grupo Entendido y Grupo Unido de Entendidos Integracionistas (GUEI), en nombre de la comunidad homosexual de Venezuela, nos dirigimos a ustedes para llamar la atención sobre la reiterada e indiscriminada violación de los derechos humanos de los homosexuales en nuestro país.

A pesar de que la homosexualidad no está tipificada como delito en nuestras leyes penales, la represión policial es constante e injustificada:

a) El mero hecho de ser homosexual puede ser, por sí solo, motivación de detención y arresto

b) Los cuerpos policiales atropellan arbitrariamente irrumpiendo violentamente en lugares de reunión de nuestra comunidad (bares, restaurantes, discotecas, etc.)

c) Esta represión es constantemente utilizada por los medios de comunicación social para desprestigiar, ridiculizar y denigrar al homosexual.

Anticipándonos a un documento que formalmente entregaremos a ustedes, exigimos sean respetados los principios básicos constitucionales de libertad individual de reunión, libre tránsito y de expresión y la no discriminación fundamentada en la orientación sexual, solamente.

Respetuosamente,

Grupo Entendido
Grupo Unido de Entendidos Integracionistas
(GUEI)

**To the delegates of the VI
United Nations Congress
on the prevention of crime
and the treatment of offenders:**

We, the Grupo Entendido and the Grupo Unido de Entendidos Integracionistas (GUEI), on behalf of Venezuela's homosexual community, appeal to you in order to call attention to the reiterative and indiscriminate violation of homosexual human rights in our country.

Even though homosexuality is not a crime under our penal laws, police repression is constant and unjustified:

a) The mere fact of being a homosexual can, by itself, be motivation for detention and arrest.

b) Police groups persecute arbitrarily by irrupting violently in our community's gathering places (bars, restaurants, discotheques).

c) This form of repression is constantly used by the communications media in order to demoralize, ridicule and denigrate the homosexual.

In anticipation to a document which will be formally presented to you, we demand that the basic constitutional principles of freedom of reunion, free transit and freedom of expression, as well as the freedom from persecution based solely on sexual orientation, be respected.

Respectfully,

Grupo Entendido
Grupo Unido de Entendidos Integracionistas
(GUEI)

Caracas, Septiembre 1º 1980

Entendido

Miércoles 16 de diciembre de 1981

Genérico

COMUNICADO DEL GRUPO ENTENDIDO A LA COMUNIDAD DESPIDO INJUSTIFICADO

El día 7-12-81 fue despedido sin causa justificada de los Institutos Educativos Asociados, el ciudadano Adán Lira, C. de I. N° 4.552.884, estudiante del octavo semestre de Idiomas Modernos en la U.C.V, miembro activista del Grupo Entendido y quien desempeñaba el cargo de profesor de inglés de los primeros años A, B y C en la Institución arriba mencionada.

Una vez más en la historia de nuestra sociedad, se comete una acción injusta en contra de una persona homosexual.

Una vez más un hecho tan humano como es el deseo homoerótico es rechazado por el grupo social dominante "Normal".

Una vez más la norma sexual burguesa niega la interacción posible entre la homosexualidad y la heterosexualidad conscientes y desprejuiciadas.

Una vez más los juicios axiomáticos de esta sociedad, su carga homofóbica, pretenden destruir a un ser humano por su opción sexual tan válida como la otra u otras.

Este despido cuya causa real no fue expuesta legalmente (la causa real de este despido llamado injustificado fue la participación del ciudadano Adán Lira en una conferencia "La Homosexualidad y la Homofobia" dictada en la Sala Ocre 24-11-81) sólo demuestra el estado de atraso, de inmadurez en que se encuentra nuestro medio social. El desprecio, el temor, el odio implícitos en esta acción, muestran al verdadero problema a la verdadera enfermedad: La Homofobia existente en cada uno de nosotros.

¿Hasta cuándo seguiremos viviendo en la mentira, en la hipocresía que pretenden mantener oculta una realidad tan humana como cualquier otra? ¿Cuándo seremos capaces de reconocernos como lo que somos? Seres humanos con gustos, deseos, preferencias y actitudes distintas. ¿Cuándo podrá verse el hombre, tal cual es sin avergonzarse de sí mismo? ¿Cuándo dejaremos de negarnos los unos a los otros?

Ante la impotencia que siente el Grupo Entendido frente a situaciones como éstas, hemos decidido hacer del conocimiento público esta realidad cotidiana del ser homosexual, quien a menudo es atacado injustamente y si se quiere, inhumanamente por la colectividad.

En nombre de todos aquellos homosexuales y lesbianas quienes son víctimas de tales situaciones, hacemos esta denuncia pública para que se tome conciencia de esas actitudes segregacionistas que están destruyendo valores humanos tan maravillosos como lo son: EL AMOR, LA AFECTIVIDAD y LA SEXUALIDAD.

GRUPO ENTENDIDO
Edgar Carrasco
C. de I. N° 3.888.337

Erasmó Colón
C. de I. N° 5.965.182

Wilmer Guédez
C. de I. N° 4.352.967

Adán Lira
C. de I. N° 4.552.884

14-01-82 - Entendido



LOS SEXOS

14.1

LOS GAYS

se lanzan con una revista en Caracas

EN FORMA NADA SUBREPTICIA ha estado circulando —especialmente durante los eventos del Festival Internacional de Teatro— lo que se anuncia como N° 5 de la Revista "Entendido", autodefinida como "una publicación para gente guéi (sic), al precio de venta de cinco bolívares, y que reconoce como editores a Edgar Carrasco, Julio Vengoechea y Miguel Lorenzo. Tiene algunas ilustraciones tipo "Pent-House" o "Playboy", pero con modelos de anatomía masculina, desplegadas a página y doble página, amén de secciones que abogan por lemas como "por un nuevo espacio para la liberación de nuestras costumbres".

"Entendido" ofrece igualmente espacios publicitarios a 600 bolívares la página e inserta, acaso como muestra definitoria, anuncios del Bar Tolo, en Sabana Grande, que "te invita a pasar una noche diferente", y de la boutique Bello coton, en el CCC Tamanaco, de Margarita Zingg y Hernán Suárez, que luce una sugerente foto de mujer con corbata. También ofrece "Clasificados" a módico precio para buscar apartamento y compañero de apartamento, con la advertencia de que serán rechazadas las redacciones estimadas "denigrantes". La perspectiva de los editores parece ser la formación de una copiosa fuente de financiamiento. "Entendido" está impresa en off-set, con mucho mayor nitidez que "Sép Día".

Las 30 páginas de la diferente revista presentan un amplio abanico de informaciones y posibilidades, desde el llamado de las organizaciones lesbianas norteamericanas a boicotear la película "Windows" y la calificación de "desinformación y ligereza" atribuidas a una crónica de "Séptimo Día" ("Cruising en Caracas", 8.2.81), hasta el comentario sobre un baño turco muy concurrido y la reseña de una autobiografía de Jean Gente, "donde nos invita a un laberíntico recorrido por sus cárceles, entre sus amantes, con el anhelo del amor y el orgasmo de la muerte".

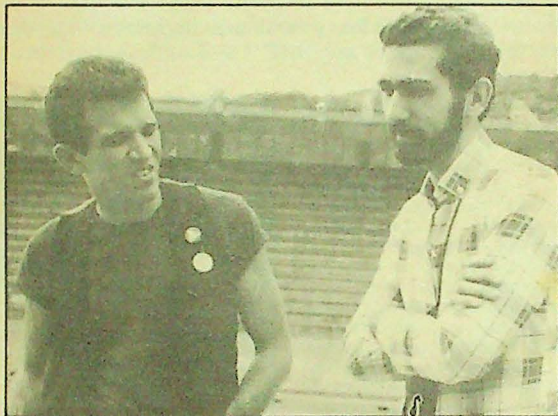


PORTADA: Número 5 de la revista bimensual de los "Gays" venezolanos. Anteriormente editada en multigrato, hoy en off-set.

También ofrece en su última página "asesoría legal" a cargo del abogado Edgar Carrasco y los servicios de una llamada "Sociedad Venezolana de Protección e Información Ciudadana". Entre los colaboradores en la redacción de "Entendido" se menciona a Javier Vidal, a cargo de las informaciones culturales del Canal 2, y a Marco Antonio Ettetgui, de "El Universal".

Viernes 26 de febrero de 1982

Futuros periodistas hacen cine
"Entendido": un polémico
filme en la Cinemateca



Edgard Carrasco y Rodolfo Graziano en una escena de Entendido.

Entendido: un acercamiento a la homosexualidad. El primer filme no comercial que se realiza en Venezuela sobre esa conducta sexual, será estrenado el lunes 8 de marzo, a las ocho de la noche, en la Cinemateca Nacional.

La película, que es a color y tiene una duración de 22 minutos, fue producida por Emma Toro, María A. Hernández, Marta Yadira, Genney Carrasquel y Rodolfo Graziano como un trabajo final para la cátedra de Cine IV en la Escuela de Comunicación Social de la Universidad Central de Venezuela.

Explica Marta Yadira que el cortometraje está compuesto de una serie de entrevistas a personas que integran el colectivo caraqueño "Entendido", el cual propugna por la reivindicación social y jurídica de las minorías sexuales. "Nuestra película es, hasta ahora, la primera que se hace en el país sobre tan comentado tópico de la conducta sexual. Nuestra intención es presentar a la comunidad las opiniones, sin ninguna manipulación, de un puñado de personas que defienden sus derechos, sin pretender violentar los derechos de los demás".

Cámara Lenta

Rodolfo Izaguirre

Entendido Un acercamiento a la homosexualidad

Los prejuicios y ofuscamientos que, en torno a la homosexualidad, agobiaban a los venezolanos parecen estar cediendo ante el paso decisivo y amplio de las libertades individuales. El venezolano comienza a entender que todo lo que se ha dicho en relación a la homosexualidad: vicio, degeneración, enfermedad y muchas otras absurdidades no dejan de ser más que ridículas patrañas; constreñimientos morales; limitación a la libertad personal y una ofensa. Se entiende hoy que la homosexualidad es una opción sexual y se entiende también que la conducta sexual nada tiene que ver con la dignidad de las personas. Para nuestra sociedad, todavía a lomo entre un agreste ruralismo y nuevas formas de moderna civilización, el asunto de la homosexualidad continúa siendo, no obstante, para muchos un problema que avergüenza y sobre el cual no se habla mucho ni se discute públicamente. Se calla. Se prefiere ocultar.

Para el cine venezolano el tema de la homosexualidad jamás había sido tratado y en los raros momentos en que, dentro de la trama de un determinado film, ha surgido un homosexual generalmente es para hacer de él motivo de burla y escarnio: en *El Pez que Fuma* o en *Canción Mansa*... Pero no existe una película de ficción sobre el homosexual. Tampoco existía un documental hasta que Rodolfo Graziano y un grupo de alumnos de la cátedra de cine en la Escuela de Comunicación Social de la UCV (Emma Toro, Marta Yadira, Genney Carrasquel y María Hernández) decidieron emprender la realización de un cortometraje de 22 minutos titulados *Entendido: un acercamiento a la homosexualidad*; una serie de entrevistas a algunos de los integrantes del grupo *Entendido* que en el país propugna el derecho a la homosexualidad.

El mérito de este film es el de ser el primero en abordar el tema. Pero más que un film resuelto el puede servir como apunte o punto de partida para un desarrollo mucho más trascendente. Las entrevistas (sobre preguntas a veces pueriles y respuestas a veces confusas) se suceden una a otra sin ningún trabajo o elaboración cinematográficos que aireen el discurso o que permitan al espectador las referencias externas: lugares, sitios de reunión, bares o lo que fuese, a fin de ubicar o insertar el problema planteado dentro de un contexto determinado. Por ejemplo, la primera entrevista con Edgar Carrasco uno de los dirigentes del Grupo *Entendido* tiene lugar en el Stadium, pero esta locación nada significa dentro del film. ¿Se elige el campo deportivo porque es terreno propicio al homosexualismo o por mero azar o capricho de los cineastas? De ser así, habrían podido colocar la cámara frente al Congreso Nacional o cerca de una parada de autobús o en no importa cual lugar concurrido y solitario. La película no está suficientemente resuelta y le falta más audacia pero permite una serie de reflexiones que incitan a la polémica. Es lo que va a ocurrir seguramente cuando sea proyectada el lunes 8 de marzo en la Cinemateca Nacional.

Genérico.

le 1983

Espectáculos

El Ministerio de Justicia manifestó sorpresa **Extrañada la animadora por el "corte" a su programa**

Aparentemente la disposición partió de un subalterno del canal 5, que decidió sacar del aire el programa cuando sólo faltaban veinte minutos para que concluyera. Actualmente se adelanta una investigación para determinar las responsabilidades del caso. La conductora del espacio envió un comunicado a la directiva solicitando una explicación.

Numerosas llamadas recibió ayer Aurora Martínez con motivo del sorpresivo "corte" de que fuera objeto su programa el martes pasado. Consultada al respecto señaló encontrarse "muy extrañada", por lo que calificó de una disposición que "va en detrimento de la imagen del canal y de la audiencia en general".

El ministro de Justicia, Reinaldo Chalabaud Zepa, a través de su secretario privado, fue una de las personas que en horas del mediodía de ayer se puso en contacto con la conocida periodista, para manifestarle su sorpresa por la medida. En tal sentido Aurora Martínez dirigió una comunicación a la directiva del canal 5, donde protesta



De nuevo un programa de Aurora Martínez sufre un corte.

la disposición, aparentemente emanada de una persona subalterna.

"Tengo entendido", señaló Aurora, "que todo se debió a que ese programa, que trataba el problema de la droga en Venezuela, estaba pautado para ocho días más tarde, e inexplicablemente fue llevado a master y sacado al aire anteayer". Quedaría por explicar por qué se tomó la medida, cuando sólo faltaban veinte minutos para las doce la noche.

Ann Virginia Robles, jefe de producción encargada, expresó disculpas por la contrariedad ocurrida en el especial de Aurora y señaló que el programa irá en horario especial el día 12 de octubre como estaba pautado inicialmente.

EMS.

Oquenco.

ARACAS 7 de mayo de 1983 "EL MUNDO"

EXTRA

Desde París:

Guerra a Policías de Caracas Declaran los Grupos "Gays"

Denuncian a la "Metro" Por los atropellos y exigen respeto a sus derechos.

POR OMAR ZAVARCE P.

Los homosexuales organizados, de todo el mundo, se han declarado en guerra contra la Policía Metropolitana de Venezuela por "la violación de los derechos constitucionales del ciudadano homosexual", según la Comisión Latinoamericana del Consejo Interamericano de Derechos Humanos, con sede en Panamá.

Gustavo A. Plottier y Jan Paul Poulliquen (desde París) y el Dr. Luis R.B. Mott (desde Da Bahía (Brasil)) se dirigen al Presidente Luis Herrera, al Fiscal Pedro J. Mantellini, al Ministro de Justicia y a los respectivos Embajadores venezolanos, para presentar las protestas de los "Grupos Gay" contra la Policía Metropolitana de Venezuela por las constantes "redadas" en la Avenida Casanova, Avenida Solano y otras arterias de Caracas, donde se persigue inclementemente a los ciudadanos homosexuales.

Los grupos se adhieren a la Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos y al Pacto Internacional de Derechos Civiles y Políticos para exigir al Gobierno de Venezuela que cese la represión contra los grupos "Gay". Citan, como ejemplo, los casos de Edgar Carrasco, Carlos Álvarez y Adán Lira, detenidos en "redadas" y "vejados" por la Policía Metropolitana en Cotiza. Los grupos reclaman "la libertad sexual y el derecho a tener "vidas privadas".

Los grupos se adhieren a una revista, editada en Caracas (que ya va por el No. 7) de homosexuales de Venezuela, denuncian que hay una persecución declarada contra ellos, mientras que "los verdaderos homosexuales andan libres", pese a que se gastan poderosos recursos en simulaciones de batidos contra ellos. Acusan a la PM de violar los artículos 60, 61, 64 y 71 de la Constitución y de usar a los homosexuales como "chivos expiatorios".

El Comité Venezolano de Defensa del Ciudadano Homosexual a Oficina Latinoamericana Coordinadora de París, están apelando la solidaridad de movimientos similares de todos los países de Europa y América en contra del atropello constante de la Policía Metropolitana contra los grupos "gays" y en tal sentido van a ejercer presión mundial para que se condene los abusos de represión que se emplean en Caracas.

Los grupos sintetizan los "gays" organizados en Europa y América Latina, le declaran la guerra a la PM y exigen "respeto a sus actividades y a sus vidas privadas".

La carta al Presidente Luis Herrera, en la siguiente:

París, 28 de enero de 1983

Presidente de la República
Luis HERRERA CAMPINS
PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA
CARACAS, VENEZUELA

Atención:
Con horror hemos recibido noticia de operaciones efectuadas por la Policía Metropolitana de Caracas el pasado 26 de noviembre de 1982, en un conocido bar de la Av. Solano en Sabana Grande, contra la comunidad homosexual, violando de esta manera los artículos 60, 61, 64 y 71 de la Constitución Nacional, que garantizan la libertad y la seguridad social; la NO discriminación por raza, credo o condición social; el libre tránsito y el derecho de reunión pública o privada respectivamente. Recibimos también la información de que la prensa ha distorsionado la información al declarar que se había efectuado la incautación de sustancias estupefacientes y la captura de delincuentes, cosas am-



Los muchachos de Taormina

Revista de los homosexuales

bas totalmente falsas.

En esta carta protestamos energicamente contra la violación de los Derechos Humanos de los homosexuales en Venezuela. Esta represión significa no sólo la violación de la Declaración Universal de los Derechos Humanos, sino también del Pacto Internacional de Derechos Civiles y políticos y de la Convención Americana de Derechos Humanos o Pacto de San José, los tres aprobados con la participación de Venezuela. En ellos se comprometa el Estado Venezolano a respetar los Derechos Humanos y reconocía que estos Derechos se extienden a "toda persona sin distinción de raza, credo, sexo, condición social, etc." y que nadie será objeto de ingerencias en su vida privada.

Esperando del Gobierno venezolano del cual esperamos tanto se comprometa de una manera más real por el respeto de los Derechos Humanos nos despedimos y que su Excelencia se encuentre de nuestro lado en la lucha por un mundo más humano.

Atte,

Gustavo A. Plottier
Coordinador

Jan Paul Poulliquen
Responsable C.U.A.R.H.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1983

Metropolitan Report

New York, New Jersey, Connecticut

Copyright © 1983 The New York Times

Victimas del sida se apoyan la solidaria. For Victims of AIDS, Support in a Lonely Siege



Volunteers who work with AIDS victims on behalf of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, from left: Chuck Jones; Rodger McFarlane, the group's director; Kenny Weinberg, and David Richardson.



The New York Times/Marilyn K. Yee

By MAUREEN DOWD

Cold in a warm hospital room, Stephen Lamb pulled his yellow blanket tighter around his emaciated body. "My friends have abandoned me," Mr. Lamb said, his voice a tired whisper. "They're afraid of AIDS. But instead of just saying that, they would promise and promise to come and see me and then not show up. That really hurt."

Fighting a triple assault of cryptococcal meningitis, tuberculosis of the bone marrow and an intestinal infection, Mr. Lamb withered from 180 pounds to under 100. One of his few visitors at the New York University Medical Center was William Carroll, a man he barely knew.

Mr. Carroll is a volunteer with the Gay Men's Health Crisis, a nonprofit New York group that is currently helping 250 people with AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The story of the organization reflects the dramatic changes that have recast life in the city's homosexual community in the two years since AIDS emerged as a mysterious and frightening national epidemic. Fighting a siege of death and prejudice, the community that was once characterized by a carefree and free-wheeling spirit has evolved into a more mature and politically savvy population.

Mr. Carroll, who works in a law library, joined the Gay Men's Health Crisis after seeing its newspaper advertisement soliciting "buddies" for debilitated AIDS victims.

"I felt compassion for these guys' loneliness and despair," he said. "I heard that they had been neglected by their family and friends, even other guys, and that they had been treated badly by some hospital personnel."

He overrode the objections of his own friends and family, who worried that he might be exposing himself to the disease, which sabotages the body's immune system.

"I deeply identified with these men," he said. "I wanted to offer the support I hope that I would get if I were to come down with it. There is a sense of taking care of one's own."

He was assigned to Mr. Lamb in early September. The two men were both 40 years old, and shared a love of literature.

While Mr. Lamb was still in his East Side apartment, Mr. Carroll shopped for his groceries and ran other errands. Two months ago, Mr. Lamb entered the hospital.

Mr. Carroll continued to visit three times a week. He cut his charge's food, fixed him snacks of corn flakes and sherbet, and read him poetry by John Keats and Andrew Marvell. Mostly, though, he listened as Mr. Lamb reminisced about his job as a travel consultant and his personal life. "Stephen regarded his previous life in the fast lane as sort of a waste," Mr. Carroll said.

One recent night, as rain pelted the windows of his hospital room, Mr. Lamb talked about how much having a "buddy" had meant. "It's been tremendous," he said, reaching out a skeletal hand to clasp one of Mr. Carroll's. "Bill and I have grown to like each other. I just needed some companionship."

Four days later, on Nov. 14, Mr. Lamb died, one of 514 AIDS fatalities in the city since the epidemic began. "I tried not to become emotionally involved," said Mr. Carroll, shaken after hearing the news. "But you necessarily become involved with something like this."

Different Life Style, Different Expectations

Housed in a ramshackle Chelsea brownstone, the Gay Men's Health Crisis is a clutter of people, desks, file

cabinets, ringing telephones and an always-busy computer.

The group was started two years ago by six men who had lost friends to the disease and who were worried about the lack of services for AIDS victims. It has become a sophisticated social-service organization with growing political power, 12 paid staff members, an 8-member board of directors, 500 male and female volunteers, and a 1984 budget of \$900,000.

Their Lives are Shattered

"AIDS pointed up the inequitable status of gays," said Rodger McFarlane, the group's 28-year-old director. "We were forced to take care of ourselves because we learned that if you have certain diseases, certain life styles, you can't expect the same services as other parts of society."

Members of the organization represent a broad spectrum, from judges and bankers and playwrights to students and carpenters and bartenders. Most have never been active in volunteer work before. They are drawn by a matter of life and death.

"It's ugly work," Mr. McFarlane said. "When persons with AIDS come to us, their lives are shattered and their heads are twisted. They've just been given the devastating news that they have a disease that's probably fatal with a stigma the size of Manhattan attached to it."

"They've usually been fired from their jobs and kicked out of their apartments," he added. "Often, their lovers have abandoned them. They feel like lepers. They don't know the ropes through the traditional social-service agencies and they're much too sick to pursue that route anyway. They're just a mess."

"We're there primarily to hand-hold and troubleshoot," Mr. McFarlane said, "and help these people get some control over their lives."

According to the latest statistics released by the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, the AIDS crisis continues at a steady rate. Nationwide, about eight people a day are diagnosed as having AIDS. A total of 2,803 cases have been reported, and of those, 1,146, or 41 percent, have died. The death rate is close to 100 percent for those who have the disease two years or more.

Of the sufferers, 71.5 percent are homosexual or bisexual; 17.3 percent use drugs intravenously; 4.6 percent are Haitians; sixth-tenths of 1 percent are hemophiliacs, and 6 percent appear to fit into none of these high-risk categories. Most victims are men.

New York City has been hardest hit, with 1,261 cases, 38 percent of the country's total. Of those, 41 percent have died.

A Crushing Caseload

Although there are no census or other official accounts, conservative estimates based on the work of Alfred C. Kinsey put New York's homosexual population at 350,000. City officials say they believe the number is much higher, and homosexual leaders put the figure between 1 million and 1.5 million.

Dr. Rand Stoneburner, an epidemiologist with the city's AIDS program, said that, although the rate of increase has slowed somewhat since last year, the number of AIDS cases rose 48 percent in the first six months of 1983 compared with the same time period last year.

At the Gay Men's Health Crisis, the caseload has spiraled at a crushing pace. There are ordinarily about 50 new cases every month. But in the last two weeks alone there have been 45 new admissions.

The organization helps all AIDS patients. Thirty-five percent of its caseload is made up of people who take

drugs intravenously, most of them heterosexual, and three are Haitian. Out of a total of 420 patients the group has helped, 63 have died.

The organization runs 20 therapy groups for AIDS patients and their partners and families. To try to correct misconceptions about the disease and about homosexuals, the group sends experts to speak to hospital employees, church groups and schools.

While some homosexual activists have criticized the organization's tactic of focusing all homosexual issues around AIDS, the group has become an effective lobby for winning financing. With benefits and parties in homosexual bars, the Gay Men's Health Crisis has raised more than \$800,000 in contributions.

It has also received a \$200,000 grant from New York State and \$24,500 from the city, and the Board of Estimate recently approved a \$1.2 million contract with the American Red Cross to recruit and train home attendants for about 200 AIDS victims. Thanks in part to Health Crisis lobbying, Federal funds for AIDS research have jumped from \$22 million to \$40 million.

City Has Done Little

But officials of the group have been strongly critical of what they consider inadequate support from Mayor Koch and the city. "Considering the fact that G.M.H.C. has given \$16 million worth of volunteer services this year," Mr. McFarlane said, "the city has done very little."

The speed with which the group has grown is reflected in its offices at 318 West 22d Street, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues.

One day not long ago, a man walked in, identified himself as a psychic from Madrid and announced he had learned the cure for AIDS in a dream: shrimp and bananas. "Everybody's got an idea," Mr. McFarlane said. "Everything from zither playing to Kundalini yoga to Jesuit priests."

In a ground-floor office, Barry Davidson was manning the 24-hour hot line, which receives about 1,200 calls a week. "The lesions are the size of a dime, raised or flat, red or purple," he explained to a woman who had called the number, 807-6655. "They will show up on different parts of the body and spread. There will be noticeable loss of weight in a short time and a hacking cough."

Another caller wanted to know about contagion. "It's not spread by casual contact," Mr. Davidson said. "You can't get it by walking down the street or being in the same room or touching someone who has it. It seems that there has to be intimate contact with bodily fluids or shared needles."

In an upstairs office, Chuck Jones, an intake officer, pored over paper work. On a bulletin board next to him was a cartoon of a middle-aged woman airing her views on AIDS: "Good Christian people have nothing to fear as long as we stay a million miles away from the slimy creatures who may have it."

"A lot of people feel that gays have gotten what they deserve," said Mr. Jones, who is 28. "There's a lot of hostility."

Mr. Jones assesses the needs of new cases to see what sort of services he can offer — money to help pay the rent; a buddy to shop for food; a counselor to help them fill out forms

to get welfare, Medicaid or Social Security disability funds; a lawyer to help them make a will, transfer an insurance policy to a lover or fight an eviction notice.

"My gut turns over when I talk to somebody on the phone and they die before I can even send a counselor over there," Mr. Jones said. "One week I had three people die within 10 days. I was just sitting in the chair kind of vibrating. I used to cry. Now there are no more tears."

Doing Errands While Preparing for Worst

The buddies and crisis counselors, most of them young professionals, are, as one put it, the "Mother Theresas of the organization." When they sign on, they are told not to expect a Junior League sort of volunteerism.

"It's a heavy trip to stand there and watch a 30-year-old person waste away over a period of a few months," Mr. McFarlane said. "I've seen some of these guys age 10 years, all of their illusions about good intentions destroyed."

The volunteers do whatever is necessary, from taking orange juice in the morning to serving as intermediaries with the city's social-service agencies. They clean apartments, do laundry, make dinner, pick up prescriptions, mail rent checks, walk dogs, take their patients to doctor's appointments and simply keep them company.

"You come to a total stranger and suddenly announce, 'I'm yours,'" said David Richardson, a magazine news editor. "My client watches Spanish TV. I don't speak Spanish, but if he wants to watch Spanish TV, that's what we do."

This feature article and the editorial preceding it are reprinted with the kind permission of the New York Times Co.

Victims Ask, 'Why Me?'

Sometimes, there are suicides. Always, the work is emotionally exhausting. "Your client may be hostile," said Joanne Tamm, 33, a psychiatric nurse at Cabrini Hospital who works for the group in her spare time. "They want to know, 'Why me?' If someone says thank you, you're lucky. And, after all your work, they may die."

Miss Tamm is one of the 50 or so volunteers who are heterosexual. "I'm not gay but I have good friends who are gay men," she said. "These people are sick and dying. You have to be concerned."

The volunteers have a litany of horror stories about the treatment of AIDS sufferers. They tell of government clerks who neglect AIDS cases because they are afraid to be in the same room to fill out forms. They tell of nurses and orderlies in hospitals who are so loath to enter the rooms of AIDS patients that they let the food trays pile up outside the door, leave trash baskets overflowing, or neglect patients lying in their own urine or excrement.

Diego Lopez, 35, a soft-spoken admissions counselor at Hunter College who trains Gay Men's Health Crisis volunteers, recalled that he went to visit a dying patient in the hospital and discovered him with blood seeping from his nose and mouth. He quickly found a doctor and asked her to look at the patient.

"She gave me the gauze and told me to clean it up," Mr. Lopez said. "I was shocked but I did it. Afterward, I looked at my hands and there was blood all over them. I realized I had to start being more careful. But when you see a person dying, you don't think about finding some gloves to wear."

'Creeping Feeling of Fatality'

Like other volunteers, Mr. Lopez said he signed on because he knew people who had died and because the work helps him cope with his own feelings of vulnerability.

"I'm a gay man and, all around me, gay men are dying," he said. "I never expected to be dealing with questions of mortality with my people my own age and younger. I was a marine in Vietnam and I dealt with fear. But then we were fighting a known enemy. With AIDS, it's so out of control. Just by the nature of my sexuality I'm at risk."

Volunteers said it is especially difficult because their patients are spectators of their own worst fears. "It's strange to think that at any minute we could become one of them," Mr. Richardson said. "There's a creeping feeling of fatality. There's something out there. I may get it or I may not. Every morning when I shave I check to see if my lymph nodes are swollen."

"You eat, drink, sleep and breathe AIDS," he continued. "Once in a while I go to the opera or the movies just so that I don't think about it for a couple of hours."

'No Success Stories'

Allan Kendrick, 46, a landscape architect from Queens, used to worry that he had little to say to his patient, a 30-year-old horticulturist from Brooklyn. "My life is so full," Mr. Kendrick said. "His whole experience is sitting in his bed in his lonely hospital room."

On one recent visit, as the two sat silently, the young man asked Mr. Kendrick softly: "Can you hold me for a minute? Nobody ever holds me anymore."

"That just made me cry," Mr. Kendrick recalled, his voice breaking. "This person has the same needs you and I do. It was so pathetic."

On Nov. 10, the young man died. "There are no success stories," said Mitchell Cutler, 32, a dealer in rare books who runs the buddy program. "Sometimes I think if I hear about one more sick person I'll go crazy."

A New Maturity Among Homosexuals

Paved with AIDS fatalities, the fast lane became unfashionable for a time. There was a trend toward conservatism in the city's once-libertarian homosexual community.

But with the crisis going into its third year and no cure in sight, homosexual leaders have detected a backlash of apathy. "The numbers of people going to gay bars and baths is increasing again and that's depressing," Mr. Lopez said. "Those guys are insane. How many more people will get sick before there are not enough of us to help them? How many more will have to die before they stop functioning with their libido and start functioning with their intellect?"

Mr. Lopez and many others, however, have remained conservative and have developed more serious relationships.

"I'm not as active anymore out of a sense of self-preservation," Mr. Richardson said. "But it took AIDS to make some of us realize, the health issue apart, that that life style was pretty empty anyway."

Professionals Drawn Out

Kenny Weinberg, a 33-year-old sportswear merchandiser, agreed. "Gay men in New York have realized there's more than superficial sex, Bloomingdale's and upward mobility."

Homosexual leaders talked of another positive result of the crisis. They said it has drawn many young professionals out of the closet. One such case is Dr. Ken Wein, 34, a psychologist who works as the clinical director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis.

"I wouldn't have put myself on the line before," Dr. Wein said. "AIDS finally strengthened my will to confront my boss, who was biased against gays, and quit a job at a hospital where I worked. You get engaged at the feeling that the world thinks you're disposable because you're gay."

On the whole, homosexual leaders agreed, the community has developed a new maturity in coping with the AIDS crisis. "We're more responsible," said Larry Kramer, a writer and one of the organization's founders. "Everyone realizes now that homosexuality is defined by more than what you do sexually. Being gay is a cultural tradition, a heritage to be proud of."

On a sunny afternoon not long ago, Mr. Kramer sat in his spacious Fifth Avenue apartment in Greenwich Village. The apartment was decorated with pictures of the actress Glenda Jackson in "Women in Love," a film Mr. Kramer produced and wrote.

From his bookcase, he pulled a small green notebook in which he has logged 37 names of friends who have died. "I heard about Vinny on Saturday," he said. "Ron is a black actor I know. Paul, a pianist. Gayle went to Yale with me. Ron Doud, the designer of Studio 54. Mark, I was involved with a long time ago. Peter, an architect."

Mr. Kramer stopped his litany, his hands clamped tightly around the notebook.

"Can't something be done?" he asked. "The rest of the city, my straight friends, go on with life as usual and I'm in the middle of an epidemic."

"We're dying," he said. "Why is this happening? Is it because we loved each other too much or not enough? I just don't know."

11-12-83

**Praise from
The Times.
But the fight
is not over.**

*Lo obvio del Times
pero la guerra
no ha terminado.*

The New York Times

Topics

Ayuda para el sida

Aids for AIDS

"When persons with AIDS come to us, their lives are shattered and their heads twisted," says Rodger McFarlane. "They've usually been fired from their jobs and kicked out of their apartments. Often, lovers have abandoned them. They feel like lepers."

Mr. McFarlane is director of Gay Men's Health Crisis, a group that assigns volunteers to help victims of AIDS, the immune system disorder that mostly attacks homosexual men and intravenous drug users. Besides the disease, AIDS victims must endure rejection by people who fear, erroneously, that AIDS is spread by slight contact.

The volunteers help their clients cope — clean the apartment, run errands, walk the dog. At the hospital, the volunteer may have to stand in for nurses and orderlies afraid to enter the victim's room.

Gay Men's Health Crisis helps all AIDS victims, many of whom are heterosexual drug users. It has looked after 420 patients, of whom 63 have died. Its volunteers merit praise for their care and steadfastness.

1983 by The New York Times Company. Reprinted by permission.

“ . . . care and steadfastness.”

Atención

Dear Friend,

I know you have taken an interest in the health crisis brought on by AIDS. I am sending you a reprint of a recent article in *The New York Times* to give you an idea of the tasks facing us in 1984.

Over the past year we have seen the workload at GMHC expand at an almost unbelievable pace. Over the past eighteen months we have served almost 500 patients; over the past few weeks we have been receiving 30 referrals of brand-new patients a week. Last year we talked to doctors individually on the special problems of AIDS patients; over the past year we have run 75 seminars across New York State for doctors and lay people. Today we have more than 500 active volunteers — all of them trained and working in vital areas. To sum up what we're doing: We will administer over \$7 million worth of volunteer time on counseling, lobbying governments, buying groceries, distributing emergency financial aid, chiding the media, visiting hospitals, investigating research and generally providing a shoulder to lean on — and that means doing a hundred other things few others are doing.

Early in 1984, there will be 3,000 people with AIDS, and perhaps as many as 30,000 more who are entering the early stages of the syndrome. Our 1984 budget, which I sent you a few months ago, already is inadequate, obviously, if we are to go on providing services to all those who need them. We want to continue to fund medical research; in 1983 alone we have granted \$150,000 to this effort. And we want to continue our expanding educational efforts to help prevent the rise of new cases. This program involves our 24-hour hotline, the National Gay Task Force's nationwide hotline, the Community Health Project, as well as thousands of GMHC's own publications sent all over the world.

With your generous donation, we will continue all these programs that have won a new recognition, a new pride for us all. We're prepared to keep fighting, to build on that pride. Keep fighting with us. As the year begins, after so many have lost so much, help give strength to the world.

Rodger McFarlane,
Executive Director
Gay Men's Health Crisis

A copy of the latest financial report filed with the Department of State may be obtained by writing to: New York State Department of State, Office of Charities Regulation, Albany, NY 12231, or to GMHC, Inc., Box 274, 132 West 24th Street, New York, NY 10011.

Prepared by the Department of Education of Gay Men's Health Crisis, Federico González, Director.
