

AFFIRMATION/G.M.U.
NATIONAL OFFICES - DENVER
P.O. BOX 9638
DENVER, COLORADO 80209

December 11, 1977

GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL!!

There have been a few changes in structure and status with AFFIRMATION and it's time that things began to roll again, now that the fantastic onslaught of letters from the article in the ADVOCATE has somewhat subsided. What a more fantastic time to re-open the newsletter then with the season when we celebrate the birth on earth of Him who made salvation for us possible!

So here's the "Pre-Newsletter" News.....

First, due to the increase of our membership and the need for a central locale, we have set up headquarters in a city more centrally located for the United States -- DALLAS!! Here's our address:

AFFIRMATION/G.M.U.
INTERNATIONAL OFFICES
P. O. BOX 210895
DALLAS, TEXAS 75211
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Make a note of that change,...many things will be happening in the new year for us -- you'll want to keep up-to-date with us for sure!

Secondly -- you'll note that in the address, there has been a slight alteration of the title -- we no longer are strictly a national organization. Thanks to the article which the ADVOCATE put out on us, we have tripled within the last three months, and that article has gone to other countries outside of the US -- and we are proud to announce that we now have members in eight different countries. That's amazing. A letter of thanks to the Advocate is in order from each of us.

Thirdly -- all you sisters out there, take a good listen. You may not be aware of the fact that there is a sisterhood wing of AFFIRMATION. There are two sisters on the international official board who are heading up the "SISTERHOOD", and Mary and Kathy can be contacted through the office here in DALLAS. They are truly two GREAT people. You know, it's hard to meet our own needs if we don't have people who are in the know of what things are all about. Sisters, to my knowledge, we are the first gay organization with a wing specifically designed to meet the needs of the lesbian community within any church. Let's keep it number one!!

On we go....fourthly -- Put this one under your hats and think about it... Keep your schedules open for an event for AFFIRMATION in the near future.. MINI-CONFERENCE '78. It'll be a combined spiritual retreat plus a training seminar to work with our brothers and sisters, an uplifter on both sides. It will be a fantastic experience for all. Details will be announced at a later date.

Number five If you haven't gotten around to it yet, why not send AFFIRMATION your dues for Christmas. (How's that for a plug??) We're growing, and with growth, expence seems to tag right along with us. If you want to recieve a copy of the newsletter when it comes out and have a vote in the MINI-CONFERENCE '78 next summer, you'll need to have your dues paid. Our baby has been born -- let's keep it alive and healthy. Send your dues to our adress, "ATTN: DAVID W." (treasurer).

And then there were six...

If YOU have an artistic flair with the written word, or even if you don't if you have some bit of news that you feel you would like to see in print (within reason!!), or if you have some word of inspiration or experience you'd like to share with YOUR brothers and sisters in AFFIRMATION, now is the time to submit your works of literate and creative and, as well educational expression... don't be selfish and keep it to yourself. Anonymity, if requested, will be provided and upheld. BY THE WAY -- anyone have a catchy name for the newsletter???

For now, seventh... -- With the new year approaching, who knows what lies around the corner for each of us? The same is true for AFFIRMATION. With chapters forming in New York, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Texas, and Seattle (hopefully), and the existing chapters of Salt Lake City and Denver, if we band together and keep united, together we will reach our goals. We need each other, our fellowship, our support. That is what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about -- love. It has touched each of our lives very specially and very profoundly. The blessings have not left us, nor has Heavenly Father shut us out. We are still His children, and he wants to hear from us in prayer. It's not impossible, you know, to talk with Him. His love for us has never stopped, not even when we recognized who we were, or who we loved!

Remember us in your prayers. Rick (international assistant), Mary and Kathy (international assistants with sisterhood), Gary (international secretary); and Dave (international treasurer) wish all of you (including myself) a very happy holiday season. WE LOVE YOU!!!

Matt

AFFIRMATION/G.M.U. ---

--WHAT IS IT?

--WHO ARE WE?

--WHY ARE WE HERE?

--HOW ARE WE ORGANIZED?

--WHERE DO WE GO FROM
HERE??

getting ourselves together and support one another in a positive and acceptive atmosphere. Mormon gays have been the most oppressed and guilt-laden group, as well as the most misunderstood, within the Church. Yet, at the same instance, we oft-times are the most contributory, stalwart, creative, service-oriented, and industrious members in our wards and stakes of the Church.

To sum it up, AFFIRMATION/GMU is here:

- 1) To provide a positive and supportive atmosphere where LDS gays and Lesbians can meet each other, discuss issues of importance;
- 2) To help lessen the paranoia and guilt, fear and self-oppression that LDS homosexuals experience via programs; activities, projects, mutual edification socially, emotionally, as well as religiously;
- 3) To educate and strenghten each other through conversation, dialogue, and correspondence among ourselves and between AFFIRMATION, other gay organizations, and the Church itself.

HOW IS AFFIRMATION/GMU organized?

From New York to Los Angeles, from Houston to Calgary, each chapter runs itself, but it's tied in with the International Coordinating Office. The "ICO" suggests and encourages

progams in the various chapters to enhance what we've already told you in "WHY ARE WE HERE?!" Each chapter, in turn, is also encouraged to submit ideas and suggestions to the ICO. Our set-up of the International Coordinating Officers are:

- International Director
- Assistant Internt'l Director (male)
- Assistant Internt'l Director (female)
- Assistant Internt'l Director (female)
- International Secretary
- International Treasurer

These people are in liaison with the several chapter directors and secretaries.

We do, as you will notice, have two sisters on the ICO, who are responsible for the "SISTERHOOD" of AFFIRMATION/GMU, and all things related to our lesbian sisters.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Some future ideas?...
- ...MINI-CONFERENCE '78
- ...Spiritual Retreats
- ...A governing congress over AFFIRMATION/GMU international
- ...Gay Family Home Evening
- ...Gay Pursuit of Excellence

THE REST IS UP TO YOU!!

AFFIRMATION/GAY MORMONS UNITED is made up of people who are active, inactive, and excommunicated members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and friends who are gay or pro-gay, from every walk of life and various countries of our world.

WHY ARE WE HERE?

It takes a Latter-day Saint to fully understand another Mormons brother or sister. AFFIRMATION/GAY MORMONS UNITED was designed to meet the needs of gay and lesbian Latter-day Saints where we are. Up until just recently, we had no way of