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# Police harass homosexuals

By MIKE SAVAGE

Charlie Hill is a member of a minority group in Canada. Charlie and other members of his group are frequently hassled by police. A jail sentence or fine invariably follows if a police tactic known as entrapment is successful.

Charlie doesn't like this special treatment. The group to which he belongs cuts across religious, racial, and social lines. Charlie Hill is a homosexual.

Hill is chairman of the University of Toronto Homophile Association. The association, formed in October, 1969, has about fifty active members. This is a ridiculously low figure, according to Hill, if one accepts the percentage of homosexuals in our society as ten and the number of students at U of T as thirty thousand.

What does homophile mean? Translated literally it means same-loving, from the Greek homos (same) and philos (loving). It does not mean, Hill said, an organization for men only. The group has been battling against the all-male image. Homophile by definition includes both sexes. You don't have to be homosexual, either, to join the group. Anyone interested in, or sympathetic to what the group is trying to achieve is welcome at the weekly meetings.

### Sexual liberation

At a general meeting last Wednesday evening at Hart House association members discussed the purposes of the group. Hill describes the group as "a sort of sexual-liberation organization with the emphasis on homosexuality." The main topic of discussion at meetings will be "sexuality in general, homosexuality in particular."

The group has not been successful in its contacts with the Women's Liberation movement. Hill said Women's Lib. are "afraid of the appellation of gay themselves," even though both groups are fighting for sexual liberation. "I think we have a lot in common with Women's Lib." he said.

The group had previously been against what the Black Panthers had been doing in the U.S. due to the Panther's anti-homosexual position. Then a member of the audience pointed out that Huey Newton had recently endorsed homosexuals as a sup-

pressed minority. If Newton is accepted as a Panther spokesman, then the Homophile position has changed.

Just what are the purposes of the association? Its primary function is to inform and enlighten the general public and the university community about homosexuality by initiating public and private discussions, combatting the concept of the stereotypes, distributing literature, and inviting various authorities on homosexuality to address the membership and the general public.

The group also assists individuals who are having personal, psychological, religious, legal, social or academic difficulties because of their homosexuality by maintaining an informal counselling service, informing individuals of the available literature, and maintaining liaison with the homophile movement in North America.

Further, the group provides such social activities as the membership may from time to time approve.

### Open membership

Membership is open to anyone in the university community, for a fee of three dollars a year. The group has office space at U of T and gets some of its money from the Students Administrative Council. Hill said SAC is unhappy in giving funds to an organization with a large non-student attendance.

Hill said he would like to set up an organization outside the university to include the whole homosexual community in Toronto, but is skeptical about the success of such a venture. Too many homosexuals outside the university are afraid of rocking the boat, he said.

### Entrapment

Members are particularly angered by the technique of entrapment. It is often used by the Metro morality squad if an officer has a quota to fill. For example, two plainclothes officers may patrol a park after dark hoping to make a few arrests. They may simulate some form of physical contact hoping that others will see them and feel the park is a safe place for homosexual activities. The police make a lot of busts that way, explained one member. "They don't want to

stop it (homosexuality)," he said, "they want to make arrests."

Philosopher's Walk has been a happy hunting ground for Metro police for the past twelve years, explained Hill.

A member of the audience told what had happened to a friend of his on the 'Walk'. A morality officer spent a half hour trying to entice his friend into a trap. When this failed and his friend got up to leave, he touched the officer on the arm, and said goodbye. The friend was busted for indecent assault.

Looking through peepholes in washrooms is another police tactic that results in arrest for the homosexual. If a toilet door is locked is it a public or private place? Is the peeping an infringement on individual rights?

Association members would like to get the management of gay clubs and the TTC to put up warning signs in washrooms that are under police surveillance. The association believes in preventative police work, but not the kind of entrapment that has gone on for so long.

Hill wrote to the Public Service Commission in Ottawa this summer to protest the recent Report of the Royal Commission on Security. In that Report, paragraph 100 states "homosexuals should not normally be granted clearance to higher levels, should not be recruited if there is a possibility that they may require such clearance in the course of their careers and should certainly not be posted to sensitive positions overseas."

Hill feels "that the simple magnitude of the number of individuals involved makes any blanket enforcement of this section impractical. To do so even for the practicing ten percent of the population would be highly discriminatory on the part of a government purporting to offer its citizens equality of opportunity."

Hill received replies to his letter from the Public Service of Canada and the Ontario Department of Civil Service. Both departments stated they had no policy regarding hiring and firing of homosexuals.

Anyone interested in attending Homophile meetings may write to the U of T Homophile Association, 12 Hart House Circle, SAC Office, University of Toronto, Toronto 5, or attend any of the weekly meetings held Wednesdays, at 8:30 pm at Hart House.

# radicalism

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