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DR. HOOKER RECEIVES FIRST JANE ADDAMS-HOWARD BROWN AWARD OF THE N.G.H.C.

At the closing session of the first National Gay Health Conference on May 21, 1978 in Washington, D.C., Walter J. Lear, Convenor of the National Gay Health Coalition, presented the Jane Addams-Howard Brown Award to Dr. Evelyn Hooker, with the following remarks:

It is a very special joy, a four-fold joy, to present to Evelyn Hooker the first annual Jane Addams-Howard Brown Award of the National Gay Health Coalition for outstanding contributions to the health and welfare of gay people.

It is a special joy to be the voice for the words that come from the hearts of all of us here and of the thousands of gay health and welfare workers not here in body whom we represent.

Evelyn Hooker was born in 1907, received her undergraduate education at the University of Colorado and her doctorate from Johns Hopkins University in 1932. She is now retired after twenty years as a professor at UCLA, preceded by teaching appointments at the California Institute of Technology, Bryn Mawr College and the Medical College for Women. A highlight of her research was the pioneering and monumental study done with the assistance of the Mattachine Society. It evaluated the adjustment of gay men in the community in marked contrast to the contemporary literature devoted only to analysis of those gay men seeking psychiatric help. The conclusions of her study presented at the 1956 American Psychological Association convention were that psychological tests of adjustment given to gay men and matched controls showed almost the identical findings and that when matched pairs of tests were examined by several psychiatrists, they were unable to differentiate between gay and straight men. Evelyn Hooker served as Chairman of the National Institute of Mental Health Task Force on Homosexuality which published its final report in 1972. This report contained many detailed recommendations for social policy stressing the need for elimination of discrimination in employment and the need to remove legal penalties for acts in private among consenting adults.

I am particularly pleased to note in this assembly several of us who have lived the gay experience in pre-Evelyn Hooker days, that is before the publication of her 1956 report--the first scientific rebuttal of the sickness theory of homosexuality. What kind of person would have dared then to challenge the medical establishment? What kind of person would have had the sensitivity to the oppression of gay persons to have wanted to do this? What kind of person would have had the talent and courage to have carried through such a challenge? On Friday evening I found the answers to these questions when meeting Evelyn Hooker for the first time. Only a brief encounter with her is needed to understand how she was able to break the first link of the chain that binds gay people. The answer radiates: it is her deep and pervasive love of human beings--this is the source of her clarity, her professional quality, her indomitable strength.

Evelyn Hooker, on behalf of the legitimate daughters and sons of Jane Addams and Howard Brown, I joyfully present you with the National Gay Health Coalition's first annual award for outstanding contributions to the health and welfare of gay people.

JANE ADDAMS-HOWARD BROWN

by Frances Hanckel and Walter Lear

The lives of Jane Addams and Howard Brown were dedicated to humanitarian services and marked by courageous and effective political struggles for the rights of all people, but particularly the poor and the other oppressed and disenfranchised people in our society.

Jane Addams, 1860-1935, is internationally famous as the founder of Hull House in Chicago. She was the foremost of the settlement house crusaders, the first modern social workers. She was the first president of the Women's Peace Party, still active today as the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Jane Addams was dedicated to a future society that would guarantee economic security and the full development of individual potential for all women and men on the basis of absolute equality. She campaigned for the creation of the United States Children's Bureau to care for battered wives and children; it worked to eliminate child labor and promote humane child care.

This public legacy of Jane Addams is well known. But not generally known is the fact that Jane Addams shared her life for forty years with Mary Rozet Smith with whom she lived, worked and traveled. It is a special joy to add this new dimension to her legacy, to expose the lie that she was childless, to break the secrecy society has imposed on her children--we the lesbians and gay men in the health and welfare fields. We proudly claim our rights as her direct heirs and eagerly accept the responsibilities attendant to these rights.

It is a special joy to say a few words about Howard J. Brown, a close friend from 1954 when he moved from Detroit to New York City to work for the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York in the office next to mine. Howard's professional career as an internist and health services administrator climaxed in his appointment in 1966 as New York City's first super health commissioner, one of the most influential and controversial positions that ever existed in the health affairs of New York City. Subsequently, he taught at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and New York University Schools of Public Administration and Medicine.

Recovering from a very serious heart attack in 1973, he resolved to champion the rights of gay people and helped found the National Gay Task Force. He quickly became the most publicized "self-confessed" homosexual in the U.S. as well as a comfort and inspiration to thousands of gay people across the country. The exhilarating but exhausting schedule of public appearances, organizing and writing lasted only a little over a year--he died of a second heart attack in February 1975, beloved and respected by the gay community everywhere for his courageous, effective and selfless efforts on behalf of human rights. This heroic story, personifying mainstream gay liberation, is told in his own moving words in Familiar Faces, Hidden Lives, now in paperback.

It seems proper to note here the special connection of Howard Brown to this first National Gay Health Conference and first National Gay Health Coalition Award. A few days after Howard's death I received a call from the chairperson of Gays at Penn--they were holding a memorial service for Howard and would I speak about his life before he came out publicly. I answered yes immediately and without reservation. I came out publicly with a pledge to work for gay liberation, and the most valuable way to fulfill my pledge was to organize the gay caucus of my professional association. The debut of the Gay Public Health Works at the APHA in Chicago ensured publicity about my coming out.

AMERICAN NURSES' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS GAY CIVIL RIGHTS

Retiring President John C. Lawrence of the Gay Nurses' Alliance announced the passage of several resolutions supportive of gay civil rights at the recent June convention of the 200,000-member American Nurses' Association which met in Honolulu.

Resolution #51, which endorses the establishment of federal, state and local laws to insure civil rights protections regardless of sexual or affectional preference, was passed by a substantial margin in the 814-member House of Delegates, representing all 50 states, which is the official governing body of the organization. The resolution was passed by a show of hands and was clear enough so as not to require a roll call vote. The resolu-

tion itself was sponsored by the ANA Commission on Human Rights, and was passed successfully and fairly easily following a lot of hard work and lobbying on the part of a number of gay nurses who were delegates, and a core of about a dozen nurses, mostly GNA members, who came to the convention to assist. A key role was played in the passage of this resolution by David Waldron, the openly gay member of the ANA Comm. on Human Rights, which drafted and advocated the resolution. David is co-founder of Gay Nurses' Alliance and has been active in many GPHW projects.

The other two resolutions were passed only by the Council of Advanced Practitioners in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing at their annual business meeting which was held at the convention. The Council is composed of nurses who hold master's degrees or higher in psychiatric nursing. About 150 persons attended the business meeting and the resolutions were introduced by John C. Lawrence, a member of the Council and then-President of GNA. The resolutions were passed almost unanimously, with only about a half dozen negative votes on each resolution. One resolution is also an endorsement of civil rights and is somewhat more specific than the one presented to the House of Delegates. The second resolution affirms that homosexuality is not a mental illness. It does, however, go one step further than similar resolutions passed by the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association, by also declaring that homosexuality is indeed a viable and potentially healthy lifestyle, and by also committing the Council to foster educational programs for its members about gay persons, relationships and culture.

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
and the BRIGGS INITIATIVE...

The following is a letter from the APHA to the Bay Area Committee Against the Briggs Initiative:

"In November, 1975 the American Public Health Association (APHA) delegate assembly passed a resolution on "Homosexuality and Public Health", from which I quote: "Resolved, that the APHA deploras all public and private discrimination against persons with homosexual orientation in such areas as employment, education, licensing, housing, credit, public accommodations, worship, social welfare and health services, and declares that no burden of proof of judgment, reliability, ethnicity, capability or entitlement shall be placed upon such persons which is greater or different than that placed upon other persons;"

Our review of the Briggs Initiative to amend the California Education Code indicates that it would violate the principles held by the Association and outlined in our resolution. We believe the Briggs Initiative would violate the rights of school employees and would open the way for similar attacks on all public service employees, depriving them of their right to gainful em-

GPHW ANNUAL MEETING TO BE ACTIVE

The fourth annual meeting of GPHW and the 106th of APHA will be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center on October 15-19. GPHW will be very active again this year. Highlights of this year's meeting are (see schedule, p.5);

- A site visit to the Gay Community Service Center of L.A.
- Three GPHW Scientific Sessions
- GPHW Booth on convention floor
- Fundraising Dinner at a major gay-oriented establishment
- GPHW Hospitality Suite in the Holiday Inn-Convention Center
- "Official" Social Hour.

A post-Convention retreat in Palm Springs has been proposed by some members of the Steering Committee. Please contact Walter Lear if you are interested.

Briggs Init. (cont.)

employment in the field of their professional or vocational competence. While we are cognizant of the need for educators to serve as role models for children, we are confident that existing provisions for disciplinary measures are adequate to deal with inappropriate conduct on the part of any teacher.

We join with you and support you in your opposition to the Briggs Initiative.

EXCERPT FROM DRAFT OF GAY HEALTH GUIDELINES

One of the reasons why gay clients/consumers do not receive equitable health care is lack of knowledge and understanding on the part of the providers about homosexuality. It is the intent of this paper to define and make recommendations concerning the rectification of this problem.

Human sexuality has long been ignored in professional training. Health professionals had no greater ease in discussing sexual issues with their clients than any other group of people. When a client presents a sexual lifestyle which is at variance with personal experiences and/or values, additional complications arise. Not infrequently, for example, heterosexual people have an irrational fear of homosexual persons. This fear has been labeled homophobia. We believe that sexuality education of all health professionals can clearly ameliorate this reaction. Such an educational experience should encourage students to not only learn facts about sexuality, but also to undertake their own personal values clarification. In this way all clients could be approached in a non-judgmental atmosphere which recognizes and allows for all sexual experiences to be openly discussed.

In encounters with clients, health professionals should not assume the heterosexuality of any client. The Kinsey reports on human sexual behavior clearly demonstrate that sexual behavior covers a broad spectrum of experiences, from exclusive heterosexuality to exclusive homosexuality, with the majority of persons exhibiting sexual activity with members of both the same and opposite gender.

Appearances are deceptive. Studies have consistently demonstrated the lack of correlation between physical appearance and mannerisms with sexual preference. The inaccurate assumption of a person's sexual orientation establishes a barrier between the client and provider, restricting free and honest communication. This ultimately leads to incorrect formulations, examinations, diagnoses and treatment.

Promoting an atmosphere in offices of mental health practitioners and agencies which gay persons would feel as hospitable and supportive:

- 1 - promotional literature about the agency should specifically state that its services are provided without discrimination based on sexual orientation or life-style
- 2 - waiting room reading material, bulletin boards and library should include positive items about homosexuality, gay persons, and the gay community.
- 3 - promotion and outreach of the agency should include the gay community; this can be done in customary ways such as placing advertisements in gay periodicals, sending speakers to meetings of gay organizations and inviting gay people to agency open houses. Openly gay staff members should play a major role in such efforts.
- 4 - boards of community mental health centers and other mental health agencies should have one or more openly gay persons among their leadership.
- 5 - the agency should design, enforce and publicize a system for maintaining the strictest confidentiality of client records. As serious as is improper release of clinical information about non-gay persons, this does not compare to the catastrophic consequences that might result from improper circulation of such information about gay persons such as total rejection by parents, forced separation from children and job loss.

GPU VDC (cont. from p. 6)

The GPU VDC continues to operate a VD information and hotline during regular hours of operation (the city has discontinued its line). We experienced incredible growth and ma-

turation during 1977. The most significant accomplishment was expansion of services to include treatment (and diagnosis of urethral discharges only) with a municipally salaried physician of our own choosing.

(To be continued next issue)

IMPORTANT!!IMPORTANT!!IMPORTANT!!IMPORTANT

Please send material for publication in the next issue (January 1979) to Dan Leonard, P.O. Box 671, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 by Jan. 1!!!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS—APHA Caucus of Gay Public Health Workers

Sunday, October 15, 1978

- 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Open Steering Committee Meeting
- 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. * Reception and Sherry Hour—special invitations are being sent to Dr. McBeath, Alana Davidson, the Executive Board and other APHA executives.

Monday, October 16, 1978

- 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. "Is There a Queer in Your Office: Issues for Personnel and Management"
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Social Hour
- 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. * Relationships between Gay Women and Men

Tuesday, October 17, 1978

- 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. "Sexually Transmitted Diseases—A Roundtable"
- 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. "Homosexuality in Sex Education Programming"
- time tba Cocktail Hour—at location of fundraising dinner
- 8:00 - Dinner—location to be announced

Wednesday, October 18, 1978

- 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. "Gay Parents: Socio-Legal Perspectives"
- 10:30 - 12:30 p.m. * Coming Out at Work
- 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Site Visit—L.A. Gay Community Services Center (pre-registration required)
- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Annual Caucus Business Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 1978

- 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Open Steering Committee Meeting—for both old and new members

* In Caucus Hospitality Suite at Holiday Inn Convention Center

Reservations for GPHW Fund-Raising Banquet, Tuesday, October 17, 1978, Los Angeles, 8 P.M.

Please return to Ron Vachon
12 Cooney St.
Somerville, MA 02143
before October 10. After then, please
see Ron at the Convention.

Name _____
Address _____

would like to make _____ (number) reservations at \$20.00 each for a total of \$ _____. Please make check payable to GPHW or Walter Lear.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS IN P'TOWN

The weekend of July 7-9 the GPHW Steering Committee met at Jeanne Brossart's home in Provincetown; most appropriate choice of location!

Arrangements for the annual meeting were finalized; confirmation of scientific session participants, local arrangements, hospitality suite activities, booth theme, fundraising dinner. The final schedule was completed; see p. 5.

Coordinator, Chris Riddiough will re-work layout and some copy of Heterosexuality, Can It Be Cured? and a new membership brochure.

At the request of a California member, the Steering Committee voted to petition APHA's Action Board to officially condemn California's Briggs initiative. The Steering Committee also agreed to contract with Coordinator-elect, Bopper Deyton and endorse his Gay Health Column and its syndication in the gay press. GPHW will share a by-line and split the profits with the author.

Ron Vachon has been named Acting Director of the STD Task Force and is working actively with the American Social Health Association and participants in the National Gay Health Conference's STD Workshop.

Excerpts from the Statement of Bopper Deyton for the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research; NIH.

Conclusion and Recommendations

There are over 20 million gay men and Lesbians in the United States today. Through its Public Health Service hospitals, the Health Services Administration, the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration and various Public Health Service components, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare delivers or effects the delivery of health care to millions upon millions of citizens. That such a huge (albeit evasive and reticent) segment of the population is neither acknowledged nor its health needs dealt with in an up-front professional manner is disturbing to any health professional--WHEN REALIZED. The National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare must:

- 1 - Take steps to recognize the health needs of the 20 million gay Americans.
- 2 - Provide incentives by which providers of health services may educate themselves to the health needs of the gay population.
- 3 - Provide guidelines and regulations for providers of health care in DHEW-related facilities and as a model for other facilities to adequately recognize and meet the health needs of the gay population.

GAY PEOPLES UNION VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC--1977

Compiled by Mark Behar, Director

The GPU VD Clinic (VDC) began operations 10-11-74 as the GPU Examination Center for Venereal Disease, and was funded from three primary sources: the City of Milwaukee Health Dept.'s Pfizer Pharmaceutical Co. grant, which was channeled thru the 16th St. Community Health Center (HOPE--Health Organization for Public Ethics); the Gerald E. Meyers (GEM) Foundation's provision of furniture and office equipment, and matching funds; and GPU's own financial resources. The City's grant funded primarily salaries and phone expenses until August 1977, long after our expectations. In September, all medical examiners expressed a vote of confidence in the VDC and clients by volunteering to continue in their positions without salaries.

In addition to these funding sources, the City of Milwaukee Bureau of Laboratories delivers culture plates and provides testing of cultures and bloods, and the Wisconsin Div. of Health provides discreet follow-up for all clients with positive tests. Thus, VDC is a good example of how GPU works cooperatively with government and private resources to help diminish a community-wide health problem. It is interesting to note that the GPU VDC is one of four free VD clinics in Milwaukee County. (cont. on p. 4)