A CONCISE HISTORY OF GAY LIBERATION
AT NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

In the beginning there were four...Dennis, Carl, Guy, and Stephen...Observers at meetings in Chicago.

We knew in our hearts we were right on (!), but did we have the guts to do it in big "D"?

Long hours were spent in our lavender living rooms, hoping, talking, and, yes, praying for strength. It came.

An ad was placed in our fair community's daily paper, the infamous Northern Star. It was rejected on dubious grounds. But were we crushed? Were we dismayed? Were we daunted? You bet!

But we had faith in the System! Yessir, we did! We visited the Assistant Dean of Men, Boy Collier, and it went something like this....

Hello.
Hello!
Have a seat, men!
Thank you.
Now, what can I do for you, fellas?
Ah, well, we're the Gay Liberation Front.
The 'What'?
Gay Liberation Front, you know, militant homosexuals.
Oh, well, what can I do?
Well, you're the Dean of Men, and we're male students, so....

On to the Student Association Standards Committee and its chairman, Jeanne Homer...

A long and involved Constitution was drawn up and...

We were recognized on April 12, 1970, by the NIU-Student Association as an Official Student Organization.

We were on our way!

First meeting. Much Uptightness. Will we get beaten up? Busted? Insulted? Hurt? No! All the dragons were in our own heads.

We were Out! Free! Up-Front! We were Liberated!

And we grew—Strong, Powerful, Influential.

We attracted more members. We learned how to run an organization. We learned how to utilized the local media: we appeared on the university and city radio stations; we were the subject of several articles in the university and local underground papers; we talked to many classes about the
realities, not the myths, of being gay; we leafletted and stuck up innumerable posters and meeting announcements; we talked at public forums ranging from anti-war rallies to the Tune Room Come-Together to the Women's Liberation Week workshops. We elected a new group of officers—Gary, Ann, Cindy, and Peter. We worked (and are working) together as Gay Brothers and Sisters who like and respect each other and who share a common goal, and we worked with our sisters in Women's Liberation to fight our common oppressor—the sexist society in which we all live.

And we planned a Midwest Gay Liberation Convention for our Sisters and Brothers in universities, colleges, and smaller cities—a Convention which we hope will be a huge success and which will be the first of many.

And here we are today....