

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GAA DEMANDS END TO POLICE ENTRAPMENT

THE GAY ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON DC HAS DEMANDED IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF POLICE UNDERCOVER ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ENTRAP HOMOSEXUALS IN THE WOODED AREA NEAR THE IWO JIMA MONUMENT IN ARLINGTON.

"WE DEMAND THAT ENTICEMENT, BEATINGS AND ALL UNDERCOVER POLICE PRACTICES IN THE IWO JIMA AREA CEASE IMMEDIATELY," THE ORGANIZATION SAID IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY.

"WE DEMAND THAT SUCH LIMITED POLICE SURVEILLANCE AS MAY BE NECESSARY BE CONDUCTED ONLY BY UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS." REPORTS OF POLICE ENTRAPMENT OF HOMOSEXUALS WHO ALLEGEDLY GO TO THE WOODS TO MEET FELLOW HOMOSEXUALS HAVE APPEARED WIDELY IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS THIS WEEK. SPOKESMEN FOR THE GAY ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE SAID THAT ENTICEMENT AND BRUTALITY THERE ON THE PART OF PLAINCLOTHES U.S.PARK POLICE IN RECENT MONTHS WERE COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN THE GAY COMMUNITY.

"IT IS TIME THIS UNNECESSARY AND FUTILE BARBARITY BE STOPPED FOR GOOD," SAID PRESIDENT BOB JONSON.

THE GROUP ALSO DEMANDED AN IMMEDIATE MEETING WITH PARK POLICE CAPT. PAUL BURGUS AND POLICE CHIEF GRANT WRIGHT.

THE GAY ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE IS AN ACTIVIST ORGANIZATION WHICH MILITATES FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF HOMOSEXUAL MEN AND WOMEN. A POSITION PAPER ON THE SITUATION, AS WELL AS A FULL STATEMENT OF THE GROUP'S DEMANDS, WAS ISSUED AS FOLLOWS:

Police Pecalilloes at the Iwo Jima Monument

An Official Statement of the Gay Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C.

Since immemorial times, it has been the preoccupation of police agents to entice, capture and brutalize homosexuals. Today, the lurid desire of police plainclothesmen to infiltrate the private world of the homosexual minority, to provoke individual homosexuals into illegal acts - at times by proposing to join them in performing illegal acts - and then to arrest them, to disgrace them, to jeopardize their jobs, threaten their reputations and subject them to the long, slow torture of public humiliation in an attempt to break their spirit - this cruel and unusual interest on the part of American policemen is still a grisly feature of American urban life.

An ugly case in point erupted yesterday in the Washington, D.C. newspapers. "Undercover U.S. Park Police dressed as dandies have arrested more than 60 men on homosexual-related charges in a small woods near the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial in Arlington," The Washington Post announced. Two robberies sparked the four-month "clean-up," according to Capt. Paul Burgus, park police criminal investigations chief. Most of the men who have been arrested near the Iwo Jima memorial with the help of Capt. Burgus' double-crossing dandies have pleaded guilty before the U.S. magistrate in Alexandria, paid a \$50 fine and promised not to return to the area for six months.

No effort to entice or entrap the men is ever made, Burgus says. If not, GAA asks, why the deceptive "mod, hippy-type clothes" - and why are all the arresting officers young men in their twenties? We also wonder what it is that these carefully disguised infiltrators are doing to protect individuals against robbery that properly uniformed law officers could not do?

A quite different picture of what's happening is reported by a detached third party, a resident of the apartment house opposite the park. Lacey Rich Jr. said that he was standing outside his residence on the night of December 26. Across the street in the woods he saw a tall man in a plaid jacket striking another man in the face. Upon calling the police, he was told an undercover officer fitting this description had just arrested a man in the woods on a morals charge.

Rich has suggested - with extreme logic, we think - that if the police want to "secure" the area, they need simply to clear some of the underbrush and have properly uniformed police officers patrol the section as necessary.

Why the undercover hocus pocus? Why the juvenile infiltration tactics? Knowing how shy and wary the average homosexual has been made by his social oppression, we categorically assert that the bulk of these arrests could not have been made without duplicity, suggestiveness and enticement on the part of police officers.

Those siding with the police may point out that homosexuals who go to the Iwo Jima woods are going there to find sexual partners. We grant this point, and state emphatically that we recommend our brother homosexuals do not seek romantic partners in a public place. But we also assert that this activity is the unharmed activity of consulting adults, that heterosexual men and women have sought privacy to make love in wooded areas since the days of Adam and Eve, and that the police could spend time and money to better advantage protecting us all from rapists, muggers, pushers and thieves than crawling around in the woods in costume pursuing an unhealthy interest in crimes without victims.

Hyperpatriotic citizens who rage to hear that the area of the Iwo Jima memorial is being used for "immoral purposes" might wish to consider the following: according to the statistical probabilities of the Kinsey Report, at least one of the four U.S. marines depicted there raising the American flag at Iwo Jima had important, continuous homosexual experiences in his life. As a matter of statistical probabilities, it is even possible that one such marine was a full-fledged, practicing homosexual. Hundreds of thousands of homosexual American women and men served honorably throughout World War II, as they have served honorably in every war this country has fought - as they have worked side by side with their brother Americans in every American endeavor since the founding of this country. We of Gay Activists Alliance would like to ask, what the hell are

Americans now doing, subjecting their homosexual American brothers to the underhanded, undercover tactics of the police state?

Mr. Rich's formal complaint to U.S. Park Police Chief Grant Wright has so far gone unanswered. We of Gay Activists Alliance now add complaints of our own, which we demand be answered fully and immediately:

1. WE DEMAND THAT ENTICEMENT, BEATINGS AND ALL UNDERCOVER POLICE PRACTICES IN THE IWO JIMA AREA CEASE IMMEDIATELY.

2. WE DEMAND THAT SUCH LIMITED POLICE SURVEILLANCE AS MAY BE NECESSARY BE CONDUCTED ONLY BY UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS.

3. WE DEMAND THAT THE NAMES AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE PLAINCLOTHES YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE ASSISTED THE POLICE IN THESE LURID GAMES BE PUBLISHED IMMEDIATELY AND THAT THEY THEMSELVES BE INVESTIGATED FOR IMMORAL, UNPALATABLE CONDUCT AND CHARACTER.

4. WE DEMAND THAT THE ALLEGED HOMOSEXUALS WHO HAVE BEEN COWED INTO PLEADING GUILTY TO VICTORIAN POLICE CHARGES BE EXONERATED IMMEDIATELY AND THEIR CASES STRIKEN FROM THE BOOKS.

5. WE DEMAND THAT THE U.S. PARK POLICE ISSUE STATEMENTS OF POLICY AS WELL AS DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTIVES TO ENSURE THAT SUCH VICIOUS BARBARITIES DO NOT RECUR.

6. WE DEMAND A MEETING WITH CAPT. BURGUS AND POLICE CHIEF WRIGHT AT CHIEF WRIGHT'S OFFICE ON OR BEFORE 11 JANUARY TO DISCUSS THESE DEMANDS.