

From Chancellor's Office

JAN 24 1974

December 24, 1973

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

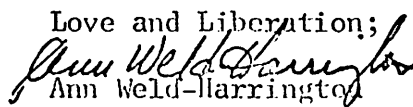
In answer to your letter of November 18, 1973--a little late--YES, we are a duly recognized group on our campus. We have been in effect since January, 1971 and our first meetings were held adjacent to the campus mainly because we felt we had no right to use their facilities because of the non-student factor in our membership. Most of our members then and now are business, professional, non-professional level with just a very small percentage of valid students within the group's makeup. In March of that year, however, things changed. I was duly elected co-chairperson and although had no involvement with the university, I began to see the feasibility of using campus facilities. Therefore, I obtained a job on campus (directly under the President's jurisdiction--as one of his few speech writers) and I enrolled part-time as a student....neither of those factors meet the absolute terms or definition of full-time undergraduate student which is actually needed to be recognized as a student group. I also put forth a mandate to my group that if we would use the campus facilities, then we would adopt a policy to try to conform to the campus rules and regulations as often as possible. I encouraged other members of the executive committee to take courses at the university and whenever there was a vacancy on the committee, I tried to replace that member with a student. In May of that year, we quietly applied for recognition. At that time we had received the backing of all of the Deans and of course my boss. Our trouble instead came from the student body--much unlike other organizations who had trouble with administration. We were recognized after a verbal battle behind closed doors with the student senate, (at which time myself and my staff tried using legal threats and all other types of loop-holes and finally out of desperation settled for physical threats)--the physical threats

for some reason enlightened them! We were recognized but not given any money for budgeting. My answer to their not funding us was simple and to the point-- we as gay people have the facilities for funding ourselves, as a minority we have become innovative and as a people who have the means and determination to make decisions destining our lives, as a people who stand by their convictions, then we are a people who control our own lives and wealth!

This year, we were funded. We were funded an amount equal to other groups on campus and we commended by the faculty and administration as being not only the most productive, competitive group on campus but perhaps the easiest group to work with. This year, we are hosting the all Ohio Gay Pride Conference here in Cleveland on our campus and as a futher delight to our already secure position with the administration, we have been given full backing for the conference.

Yes, there are several recognized groups around Ohio: Kent State, Columbus-at Ohio State Univ., Wright State University, University of Cincinnati and so forth. I have no knowledge of lawsuits on recognition but see no reason why one should not be easily won. Try enlisting your legal advocates/law school people for some earnest help. They are usually most willing to help.

We wish you luck and sincerely hope for your recognition. Also, I am putting you on our mailing list for information about our conference and hope some of your people will plan on attending.

Love and Liberation;

Ann Weld-Harrington
Co-ordinator All Ohio Gay
Pride Conference.