

The end of the Circle : a comment from tangents USA

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«Jeff puts a high value on himself,» he remarked.

«I don't understand.»

«I met him this afternoon, gave him some drinks, and brought him back here.»

«Was this arranged?»

«Yes. I decided to teach him a lesson. He said he liked it here, and it would be a pity to smash the place up, but for a hundred pounds he would behave himself.»

«Wow! That's a lot of dough.»

«As it happens, boxing is the only form of sport I've ever been any good at, and the shearers on the property showed me a few tricks that aren't in the book of rules.»

«Jeff is considered quite a fighter, you know.»

«I wasn't impressed. This is your last night in Sydney?»

«Yes, and I'm sorry.»

«What do we do? Stay in, or go out.»

«I think we'll stay in. But Greg, I'm sorry about Jeff, the way he's behaved.»

Greg patted his slightly swollen lower lip and grinned.

«She's apples, mate,» he said.

THE END OF THE CIRCLE a comment from TANGENTS USA

EDITORIAL

«The proper goal of all homophile organizations is to put themselves out of business.» This statement was made at the recently-held third National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations in Washington, D.C. by Hal Call, editor of the once widely read but no longer published *Mattachine Review* and president of the aging *Mattachine Society* of San Francisco. Strictly speaking of course, given a logical consistency of conduct, the successful completion of our efforts would bring about Mr. Call's desired result. However, no homophile organization that we are aware of is anywhere near such a state of accomplishing its purposes as to be now ready «to go out of business.» Many gay organizations have closed their doors, to be sure, since the start of the homophile movement, but none of them to our knowledge has done so on this account.

It is mainly because of the amount of work yet to be done in the field that we learn with distress that *DER KREIS* of Switzerland, the oldest of all existing homophile organizations, will not be able to continue its functions past the end of the year. The editors of *DER KREIS* have said: «For the first time in 35 years of publishing we are facing financial difficulties to such an extent that it seems next to impossible to go on publishing for 1968.»

Such a loss to the homophile movement is alarming, especially when one considers that DER KREIS long existence has represented a singular continuity in a field of otherwise broken-down or strife torn organizations. Its very being has given strength and solidarity to our own existence. It has been a continuing encouragement to all of us who have followed. That DER KREIS should actually stop functioning at this time is to us quite inconceivable.

One of the chief reasons given by DER KREIS' editors for the threatened closing of its doors is that, in a manner, their goals have been realized; «the problem of homosexuality has lost much of its burden by the less restrictive way of living today.» A nice thought, we agree, but we don't think things are that well-off as yet, even in Switzerland. For the younger homosexual it is somewhat true. Certainly to make personal contacts it today far easier than it used to be. The countless gay bars and clubs everywhere catering to our minority of well-paying customers favors all kinds of contacts. To that degree, no one needs DER KREIS, or any other homophile organization for that matter. In other ways restrictions have eased too.

Notwithstanding these considerations, we think the real reasons DER KREIS is threatened with closure is because of its editorial policies—which are based on the specific function of the organization—a function and policy which we admire. DER KREIS is, and always has been, a magazine with a mission. It was the first monthly with the announced platform of defending the human rights of homosexuals. It has always been «cause» oriented rather than «profit» oriented. Today a definite shallowness, created in part by the high prosperity of many countries, particularly our own, has caused a noticeable loss of interest in the aims of DER KREIS magazine and all similar monthlies. The approach is now quite different.

In an age of emphatic frontal nudes and cheap exploitation of all sorts of sensationalism, a good taste, almost «square.» highly cultivated approach to the subject of homosexuality, such as that offered by DER KREIS, is just not «hip».

We like to think there is still a market for DER KREIS. There is definitely still a need—now more than ever. *Tangents* salutes DER KREIS for the old experiment of publishing a gay magazine in 1933. We thank DER KREIS for the countless numbers of homosexuals it has helped over the years with advice, aid, and assistance when urgent need arose. Its editors have our open admiration for the invariable preservation of dignity in the magazine's articles, for including in its pages the incredibly beautiful photographs of Roberto Rolf, and for publishing the smoothly-executed pencil drawings of Mario de Graaf.

As a publication and an organization for homosexuals, few others have served the cause in a better way than DER KREIS. It deserves the highest recognition and gratitude from all concerned. If and when that monthly ceases to appear, our cause will be doubly hit-spiritually as well as effectually.