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Title: *Gay Coordinating Society of Berks County, Reading (GCS Berks) Newsletter*

Date: December [1975]

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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GAY COORDINATING SOCIETY
of Berks County in Reading
NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 3131
Reading, Pa. 19604

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES

Harrisburg--Tony Silvestre, chairperson of the Pa. Council for Sexual Minorities, announced that resumes will be accepted from interested persons willing to serve on the council. After the first of the year, a number of council seats will be vacant because the terms of a number of members expire. Interested persons are requested to include the usual background data as well as information on their involvement in the area of sexual minority rights.

Prospective members must be willing to be identified as a member of a sexual minority and spend at least one full working day a month on council business. Travel expenses for members are paid by the Governor's Office.

Resumes or requests for further information should be sent to: Tony Silvestre, chairperson; Pa. Council for Sexual Minorities; 238 Main Capitol Bldg.; Harrisburg, Pa., 17120

Family Is 'Redefined'

Eligibility for a family membership used to mean that a couple had to be married. Not anymore, says the New York State Division of Human Rights.

Under the state's new Human Rights Law, gay couples, unmarried couples, and people living alone can now have family membership available to them.

The New York State Human Rights Law prohibits discrimination on the basis of marital status in public accommodations, employment, housing and credit.

SEXUALITY & LESBIANISM

Ginny Yaseen and Pam Keeley, Denver feminists, have been fighting a custody dispute. They face losing Rachele, six years old, Ginny's daughter who has been living with Pam and Ginny since 1972. Ginny's ex-husband is currently attempting to win permanent custody of Rachele.

At the time of the divorce, David, Ginny's ex-husband, was fully aware that Ginny and Pam were lovers. Ginny was awarded custody of Rachele in an uncontested divorce settlement. Ginny, Pam and Rachele then lived as a family in the same town in Illinois as David. In February of this year, Ginny, Pam and Rachele moved to Denver.

Following a visit by Rachele to her father this summer, during which time David announced his intent to keep Rachele, and during which time Ginny had to fly to Illinois to reclaim her daughter, Ginny received a certified letter informing her that David had won temporary custody and that the formal hearing for final custody was scheduled one week hence. Without money, a lawyer, or time to prepare a case, Ginny flew to Illinois to protect her right to keep Rachele. She was held in contempt of court and jailed until it was proven that she had no knowledge of the temporary custody ruling at the time she had taken Rachele back home. She retained an Illinois attorney and succeeded in having the temporary custody ruling voided. But the struggle continues.

BUTCH OR FEM?

"Are you butch or fem?" A woman asked me that question four years ago and I still don't know the answer.

Four years ago I decided that it was time to meet some gay women. Before that time I always had the misfortune of falling in love with straight women. They would tell me that they loved me, but they had no intentions of going to bed with me. This was very frustrating and turned my nights into nights of solitary masturbation.

Meeting gay women was easy, but being accepted was a little harder. I didn't "come out" in Reading, so I will relate the difference between the two cities.

I came out in a college town. There the women weren't concerned about whether I was butch or fem. They did have a strange hang up about purses, though. That was my first lesson. Gay women don't carry purses. If I saw a woman that I wanted to be with; the proper thing to do was to buy her drinks, ask her to dance and then take her home to bed. Also preparing for a night out on the town, required wearing nice clothes and having finely combed hair.

Then I came to Reading. This is the town where I was asked if I was butch or fem. If "coming out" wasn't hard enough. Now I am told that I have to decide what I am. I went with a woman for four months and she never asked. Preparing for a night out on the town required less time. A pair of jeans and a sweat shirt or T-shirt was enough. It also helped if I could shoot pool or be awlitz at shuffle board. I was neither.

Meeting someone in this town was no easy task. There were so many cliques, that I just didn't seem to be accepted into any of them. I don't care about that now, because I have found a wonderful woman. The only thing that bothers me is that I am considered a fem. I AM WOMAN. Gay, but I'm still a total, one-hundred percent woman. I have no need to stereotype myself after heterosexual relationships. I am a woman who loves a woman-not a butch or a fem.

The publishing house of Doubleday has announced that it will publish in the spring a book entitled By Her Own Admission, written by Guy Gibson of Dallas, Texas. The subject is the Mary Jo Risher child custody case, and Gibson's book deals honestly and sympathetically with the story of Mary Jo Rishers and Ann Foreman's fight to regain custody of Mary Jo's son Richard. Gibson is a close personal friend of Ann and Mary Jo's and has devoted months to assisting them in their legal struggle.

RED STAR
SALOON

143 N. 10th St.
Reading

GCS Elections

GCS elected seven council members including a secretary and treasurer on November 21. They are as follows:

- Treasurer - Mary Clewell
- Secretary - Bill Logan
- Council - Joseph Burns, Jerry Yoder, Jan Sweat, Rick Hoffman, and Jo Jones

Term of office runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

SKATING

GCS is sponsoring a roller skating party to be held Monday, Jan. the 3rd, 6:30 to 9:30. The location is Skaterena in Sinking Springs. We are encouraging all our gay friends to attend this party - all proceeds will go into a building fund for a Gay Community Center. So come out for a night of relaxation and gay fun.

Admission is \$1.50 per person. (Skates 50¢ extra)
Tickets on sale at the Red Star Saloon.

XMAS PARTY

December 18 Saturday LE-HI-HO CHRISTMAS PARTY DANCE at the Unitarian Church of the Lehigh Valley, 701 Lechauwecki St. (Fountain Hill Section) of Bethlehem, Pa. Time: 8:00 p.m. to midnight. (B.Y.O.B. - Admission of \$1.00 covers Mixers, soda, punch & snacks)

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 19 GCS Meeting- 5 PM - 147 N. 10th St.
- December 19 Christmas Caroling- 7 PM - 147 N. 10th St. Refreshments served afterward.
- January 3 GCS Skating Party Sinking Spring Skaterena

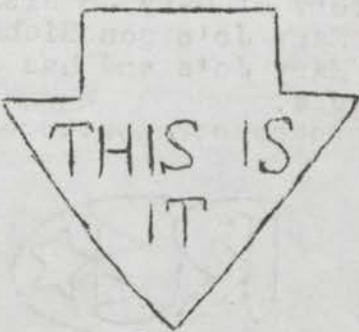
GAY RIGHTS

The California health department has ruled that homosexuals cannot be denied licences to operate homes for children solely because of their sexual preference. In a letter to district administrators who process license applications, a health official wrote, "What two consenting adults do in the privacy of their bedroom is a separate issue from how they relate to children."

According to a study done by Philip Shaver and Jonathan Freedman, "homosexuals are as happy as heterosexuals. The article found in the August issue of PSYCHOLOGY TODAY, goes on to say, "that it is not homosexuality itself that causes worry, but uncertainty about one's sexual preference."

GLASS DOOR

221 N. 5th St.
READING, PA.



801 WALNUT ST.
READING, PA.
