

# **LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA**

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**Title:** *Lancaster Gay Era*

**Date:** February 1975

**Location:** LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection Periodicals Collection

**Contact:**

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Lancaster

25¢

Gay Era

ISSUE #10

Feb. '75

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HOW ABOUT A PLANT PARTY ?

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"GAY GRASS ROOTS"  
by JANET COOPER

W.O.W.

MITZEL ON SAND M

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GAY HEALTH

SADIE SAYS





# The Loft dining room

*Dining at its Distinctive Best!*

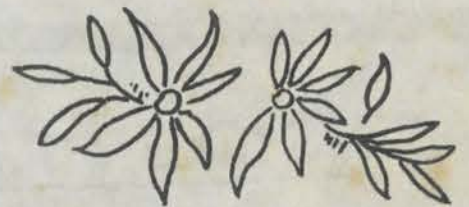
Tues. - Thurs. 5:30-10:30  
Fri. - Sat. 5:30-11:00  
Sunday 2PM-8PM

# Tally-Ho Tavern

201 WEST ORANGE ST.  
LANCASTER, PA.

Open daily 299-0661 and Sunday  
Disco Sound System and Light  
Show for Weekend Dancing

# GLITTER



Sunday

Feb. 15

# PARTY

1st and 2nd place prizes will  
be awarded

# CHEAP-

Monday

March 1

# SKATE

"Roller Skating Party"

10¢ off all drinks  
with skates





SADIE SAYS.....

Dear Sadie,

I never thought I'd be writing to you for advice but, here I am. My lover and I are splitting up and he wants the diamond ring back he gave me for our 1st anniversary (it was our first week together). I really like the ring and had it appraised - it is worth \$450.

Now for the problem: I loaned my lover over \$500. so he could get his false teeth, both uppers and lowers. He says he doesn't have the money to pay me back. I told him I would keep the ring for the money. He said he'll give me the teeth and I must give him the ring. Sadie, I think he is being unreasonable. I'm so upset and don't know which way to turn. I know you will be able to help.

Seeking Help In Trouble

Dear S. H. I. T.,

I don't think it is as serious as you think. If this would happen to Sadie, I would run to Tiffany's, purchase a "Fabulous Fake" (it should cost about \$25 a carat), next morning grab the fake ring and the false teeth, awaken my friend with a scream, as he enters the bathroom, I'd drop them both in the toilet and flush. He has no teeth and you have a diamond ring. And you know what Sadie always said, "A kiss on the hand may be quite continental, but DIAMONDS ARE A BOYS BEST FRIEND."

Dear Sadie,

I don't know if you will remember me or not, but I wrote you about 4 months ago. You personally wrote back and I followed your advice by putting an ad in the Lancaster Gay Era. I was flooded with calls. You were right, my wife did get suspicious but I told her the story you told me to say. She believed it. I would like to thank you for that, but it has created another problem.

I found someone I really like alot. We see each other about three nights a week. My wife is getting suspicious and my friend is upset because I can't spend more time with him. I would like to leave my wife but because of my position, I can't right now. In fact, I must be quite careful because of my situation-you know? My friend said if I can't spend more time with him, he won't see me at all. I like him very much and would like to keep this relationship. I am in a quandary: What can I do? Please help me, Sadie.

Your Friend,  
Big Dick

Dear B. D.,

Sadie knows she can help you. After much thought, I have concluded with many stories.

I will meet you at the office on Friday, February 13 at 1 pm. and we will discuss this over lunch. Hope you are not of a suspicious nature. See you there .

P.S. You could have gotten a lot of people in trouble by denying putting that ad in this paper.

CLASSIFIED  
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PERSON TO SHARE HOUSE \$85 per month  
2 private rooms, share bath, use of kitchen  
must like pets. Apply 542 W. King St. After  
6pm

\*\*\*\*\*

Interested in meeting friend in the Lebanon-  
Millsbury or Sunbury areas, write:  
"THE GOURMET CHEF", PO Box 73,  
Hegins, Pa. Likes music, cycling, hiking,  
and cooking.

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To my devoted readers, dear staff members  
and most importantly, "Anonymously Yours"  
It has never been my intent to offend anyone  
nor ever be "unfunny". I have answered  
many serious questions with serious an-  
swers, while answering those "humorous"  
letters to the best of my ability with  
humorous replies. I never intentionally  
try to be lugubrious. In the immortal  
poetry of the late (but great) Latin Poet  
Horace in his Epistles 212:

Cuid te exempta iuvat spinis de pluribus  
una?  
Vivere si recte nescis, decede, peritis.  
Lusisti satis, edisti satis atque bibisti:  
Tempus abire tibi est!  
Translation (for the latinless):  
How does it relieve you to pluck one  
thorn out of many?  
If you do not know how to live, make way  
for those who do.  
You have played enough, have eaten and  
drunk enough:  
It is time for you to leave the scene!

SADIE

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SWITCHBOARDS, etc.  
LANCASTER: 717 898 2876 (most times)  
Harrisburg : Mon Fri 6-10pm 1-234 0328  
Philadelphia: 215 978 5700 Gay Switchboard  
215 SA9 2001 Lesbian Hotline  
CONTACT 24 hrs 299 4855  
VD Clinic - St Joseph Hospital, Lancaster  
24 hours FREE 397 2821

A. C. L. U. 393 3971 or 626 2243  
Counseling: 898 2876 Lancaster  
or  
Eromin Center 215-732 3212  
1735 Naudain Street  
Philadelphia, PA



# GAY HEALTH COLUMN

Q: Is there a blood test for gonorrhea?

A: No. At the present time there is no reliable blood test for gonorrhea although much current scientific research is being done to perfect such a test.

Q: Does mouthwash really reduce the risk of getting oral gonorrhea?

A: No one knows for sure if any mouthwash or even plain water has any beneficial effect on reducing the incidence of oral gonorrhea. Theoretically, just the dilutional effect of rinsing one's mouth should reduce the number of bacteria present, but whether this actually lessens the risk remains to be proven. Good question!

Q: Several of my friends have been talking about "the crabs". What are they? Also, who or what are scabies?

A: Count yourself fortunate that you have not yet gotten first hand knowledge about these creatures! It's probably easier to deal with each of them separately, although they have been known to travel around together! "Crabs" is the term commonly used in reference to infestation by the "crab" or pubic louse, Phthirus pubis. This louse is no larger than a pinhead, and looks very much like a miniature crab with pairs of claws and four tiny pairs of legs. It holds on to a pubic hair with its claws, inserts its mouth into the skin, and sucks away at the tiny blood vessels in the area.

Symptoms of the crabs vary with the individual. Some people experience no symptoms at all, while most others experience a definitely annoying itch in the groin. It's thought that the itching is an allergic reaction to the bites of the louse and not all people develop this allergy. In some people, the bites cause a mild rash composed of small sky blue spots.

Treatment is quite simple and usually effective. The best remedy is to visit your physician, who can confirm that you have the "crabs". He or she will then prescribe a drug called gamma benzene hexachloride (KWELL) which is available as a cream, lotion, or shampoo. You should take a hot, soapy shower or bath and then apply the lotion or cream to your body and leave it on for 24 hours. The shampoo is left on for about 5 minutes only, and then rinsed off. This treatment is followed by changing into clean clothing. All other clothing that has been worn in the recent past should then be washed or drycleaned in order to dispose of any hiding adult crabs and/or their eggs. This step is most important to follow since your "friends" may reappear if you are careless. All bed linens and blankets should be similarly treated. Other non prescription remedies are available (A-200, Cuprex, etc.) but none is as effective as the prescription drug, Kwell. It's a good drug to have around just in case!

Scabies is an intensely itchy infestation by

a small microscopic mite called Sarcoptes Scabiei. This little bug has spread to epidemic proportions around the country in the last few years.

Transmission is usually by close physical contact, not necessarily sexual, between friends or family. The initial infestation with scabies may produce no symptoms. After about a month the initial itching begins to appear and becomes more and more intense, especially at night. The mite loves warm body areas and usually infests the inner thighs, wrists, skin folds, areas between the fingers, and the genitals. The mites actually live within the skin and burrow in just below the surface. The intense itching usually causes scratching in the human host, and small sores begin to appear at the sites of the scratching. Treatment is the same, basically, as for "crabs". Again, KWELL is the drug of choice. All clothing and bed linens must be washed or cleaned. Reinfestation is also quite common, but with patience, a good physician, KWELL, some time and a few tranquilizers, most people get over the scabies.

Q: Is there any harm in taking a couple of penicillin or tetracycline tablets before or after sex to decrease the likelihood of getting VD?

A: There sure is! The development of penicillin resistant gonorrhea can be traced to the indiscriminate use of antibiotics. If you self-medicate yourself for gonorrhea and use inadequate or inappropriate antibiotics, you may partially eradicate the infection only to develop a chronic infection of gonorrhea which is resistant to the usual dosage of the appropriate antibiotics.

Q: I'm not neurotic, but I have definite problems about being gay. Is there anyone I can talk to, other than my friends or straight doctors, who would listen and answer some questions I have.

A: Yes. There is a Peer Counseling Group of concerned gays in the area. The purpose of Peer Counseling is not to psychoanalyze or treat, but only to answer questions and give first hand practical advice on a one to one basis, by gays for gays. You can set up a private appointment by calling the local Gay Switchboard at 898-2876. There is no fee, but donations are accepted. Referrals can be made to professionals in the area who are either gay or sympathetic if needed. A fuller description of this service appears in another section of the paper.

---Address inquiries to MEDICAL ADVISOR  
---OR, Lancaster Gay Era, 3002 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601.  
More next issue....

DON'T FORGET LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY!!  
CELEBRATE AT "PLANT-NITE"  
FEBRUARY 12th, THURSDAY NITE 7:30PM  
3002 MARIETTA AVENUE, LANCASTER, PA  
For details see article elsewhere in this issue or call: 898-2876!



## After a Year of Activism

October 22nd was Gays United Lancaster's first birthday. In January it will be a year since my own first T.V. appearance as an open gay activist. Although it was often rough it has been, perhaps, the best year of my life.

I came out in the spring of '72. By coming out I mean I told the people I cared about at home and work. Being involved in a one-sided relationship both financially and sexually, didn't help. (The sex wasn't trade either, I just didn't get any.) I was not doing bars, and had no real gay friends with whom I felt confident enough to turn to, or relate to. The closet door ripped off its hinges meant nothing. As bad vibes came from my friends, they were telling me they didn't care. For a while I smoked dope, paid bills and walked around in pure frustration, watching my life and myself slowly fall to pieces.

Amid the frustration and naivety, I wanted to know more and started to read. In an effort to escape whatever followed me, imagined or otherwise, I decided to fight for my inherent freedom, never realizing that fight with not end before me. Eventually an awareness of myself and others formed into what I think is right and how I want to live, and made me realize needs will be there long after my generation passes. The more I communicated, it became clear I was far from alone, both in needs and insight.

What does that fight involve? First a constant growing awareness that we are the oppressed minority within the American System. The CLOSET'S safety deteriorated our conscious, stifles our sensitivity and creativity; therefore, our very existence.

It means demanding the rights guaranteed us in a supposed free country celebrating 200 years of freedom. And when those laws guarantee us freedom to live as it has in several cities throughout the nation, then we must have the freedom of spirit to walk down the street hand in hand as straight people do or give each other a kiss when the urge hits. Overexposed straights do it all the time and if they deny themselves the affection, it's their problem.

An end to sexual oppression. If early history demoted us to "jobs of women", are we not jointly put down? Perhaps God is a woman. A black lesbian woman. Won't the straight white male be shocked when Heaven's door opens! I wonder if then he will realize how his male dictation, destroying so many, was wrong. Will he still stand with his one hand extended, a wallet in the other, greed's sneer disguised in playing, as he bathes in demand of worship. We gay men and women, are not only raised in this background, but implored to conduct ourselves the same way. We are taught to be tacky, spiteful, deceitful and vicious with each other to the point where gentle kindness, built into each person is lost when needed in our own community.

When we call each other queer, faggot, matty, butch or queen, we put our own value on ourselves, a value established by the oppressive society we live in day to day... Shedding some of our own guilt or burden, we pass it on to each other. It never makes me feel good hearing it from myself or someone else, and less when directed at men and

women who are a part of me. Comparing "butch" and "femme" numbers emphasizes the straight attitude, and forgets the total person. When gay men have perhaps more sexual freedom than anyone else, why do they lower each other, deflate their own egos and deprive the community of identity. Because we're forced to.

And what about our money and our time? When you don't march in a parade, write letters, or protest with so much as a comment, you're endorsing people who sit around tables and make an ass of you while you pay their salaries. When your friend loses his job and you don't protest, our community is bowing down to dictatorial command. He can't buy our souls unless you let him. We're tired of wanting and living amid the mess he's created in a path of greed. Sure, a lot of us are scared, but the system needs re-evaluating and its time to do it! But what about us? What about people in Lancaster's Gay Community. Someone said to me, "What gay community in Lancaster?", which really hurt but was true. The cooperation and encouragement we've received is pretty small compared to the effort made hiding.

In one year we've made a lot of mistakes. Evaluating the whole thing, I guess we could have done things differently, perhaps we should have started out more socially. However, things we offered weren't supported well anyway; would it have helped? Our output fortunately surpassed input and a few have done a big job. Can you imagine the progress we'd make if everyone tried just a little. Ever so slowly things are getting better. Those of you who have contributed, THANKS. The smiles, positive feedback, and sincere honest comments were appreciated. Those who have worked by my side and on their own, I think you know how I feel.

Though my personal commitment is just beginning, my term as GUL President is over, and it's time for a needed rest. My awareness of myself grew with the awareness of my community's needs and I'm grateful. As far as you, the people of Lancaster Gay Community or any Gay Community anywhere, every little contribution is needed and appreciated. When you start to liberate yourself and your friends, I guarantee you'll feel good all over. Those of you who don't want it, stay where you are, if you will, but do not begrudge us our inherent freedom. In the Gay Spirit of Love, Pride and Freedom.

Bari

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QUESTION

If I were to ask how many times in one week we kiss while you fantasize of someone who exists only in sexdreams, you would probably just sigh, smile turn your face toward me and sleep peacefully, while I watched your chest rise and fall rhythmically, knowing well that in the real world I am your dream.

Kevin Boyer

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A-8



# "IN THE NEWS"

## PHILADELPHIA BILL DEFEATED

A six year battle by the Philadelphia Gay Community to have City Council enact a Gay Rights Bill once again met defeat. Despite several days of hearings supporting the bill, fasts by Philadelphians, guerilla theatre by lesbians and endorsements by 46 local organizations, the legislation never got out of committee. The Council seemed more impressed by the ravings of lunatic fundamentalists who claimed gays were possessed by the devil and gay-baiting Council member Isadore Bellis, a convicted felon. Fortunately the Philadelphia community, not easily discouraged, has found a sponsor to introduce a new gay rights bill.

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## RURAL CAUCUS MEETING

READING, PA.-The Gay Coordinating Society was host to the Rural Caucus for its January meeting here. Joe Burns, of GCS, was chairperson.

Topics discussed were: Planning for the Philadelphia and New York Gay Pride Celebrations this summer, Legislation Day to be held at the State Capitol in late March, the insertion of "Shapp for President" space in local newspapers and the possibility of a Caucus picnic when the weather becomes a little warmer.

The purpose of the Caucus is to give Gays who live in such "rural" areas an opportunity to discuss problems gay people have living in non-metropolitan regions. It is also to act as a helping hand in assisting newly formed gay groups organize and get off the ground.

The February meeting will be held in Lancaster at 3002 Marietta Avenue Tel: 898-2876. All interested persons are asked to attend. It will be hosted by GUL on February 7th(Sat.)@ 2pm.

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## ATTENTION GAY TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

Papers are sought for a panel, "Towards a Healthy Presence in Text-books and Classrooms," for the next convention of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) scheduled for Chicago the 25-27th of November 1976.

The panel will focus on the secondary school as well as the college setting. Non-gays as well as gays are encouraged to participate.

Deadline for the program details is March 15th. For more information contact: Prof. Louie Crew, Dept. of English, Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

## ENGLISH TEACHERS, cont'd.

Also, Gay Caucus forming...NCTE members who are interested in forming a Gay Caucus and petitioning for meeting space at the Convention are urged to contact Prof. Crew. Urgently needed are Gay women to coordinate women's issues and assure a fair balance in planning.

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## "FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO"

VATICAN CITY- The Vatican reasserted January 15 the Roman Catholic Church's condemnation of sex outside of marriage, but said that homosexuals that are "incurable" should be treated with understanding and judged with prudence.

Without discounting what the Church considers the gravity of all homosexual acts, it drew a distinction between homosexuals, "whose tendency comes from a false education, from a lack of normal sexual development, from habit, from bad example or other similar causes," and a second group "who are definitely such because of some kind of innate instinct or a pathological constitution judged to be incurable."

Dignity, the Roman Catholic Gay Organization, condemned the Vatican paper, saying it was based "on the presupposition that human sexuality is God-given and moral only in heterosexual marriage for the purpose of procreation. Such a narrow view of human sexuality has been severely challenged by a large number of Catholic theologians, who have asked the Church to recognize the broader purpose of sexuality as an expression of unselfish love between two people as a responsible communication of the love and shared life."

In consultation with the Vatican, GUL is issuing a questionnaire to ascertain which of the two categories the majority of Lancaster's gays belong. To receive a questionnaire contact GUL at 898-2876.

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## PHILA. GAY NEWS BEGINS PUBLISHING

PHILADELPHIA-The Philadelphia Gay News began publishing its first issue in the City of Brotherly Love. The January 1976 issue is the first addition to the publishing firm of PGN, Inc. headquartered in Pittsburgh. PGN also publishes the Ohio East Gay News. With the new edition total Gay News circulation is 23,000 copies.

Published monthly it will have a newsstand sale price of 50¢. Plans are to eventually publish every 2 weeks.



PHILA. PUBLISHING, cont'd.

The Philadelphia paper will cover Southeastern Pennsylvania, South Jersey, and Maryland and Delaware areas.

Keith Clark, founder and former administrator of the Eromin Center, Inc. and a longtime journalist with the Denver Post, Philadelphia Inquirer, The Advocate, and other publications, will be the paper's Editor.

Nationally known gay activist, Mark Segal, will be the Business Manager of the newspaper

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"GAYS FOR SHAPP" FORMS IN MASS.

PROVINCETOWN, MA.-(PGN) Activist Bill Damon has been named to head the "Gays for Shapp" organization in Massachusetts, which is being formed to help Gov. Shapp's efforts on the March 2 Presidential Primary Election here.

Referring to the Executive Order barring job discrimination against Gays in state government, Damon noted that "while other politicians are giving lip service to the gay community, Milton Shapp is the only one who has done anything for us."

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RIP TORN AS WHITMAN IN "SONG OF MYSELF"

"Song of Myself," based on the life of Walt Whitman is to be broadcast Tuesday March 9, at 10:00pm. It is part of the CBS "American Parade" specials.

The script deals with Whitman's homosexuality. The special is well worth viewing by Gay people around the country. The National Gay Task Force is suggesting comments about the program be sent to: American Parade c/o CBS-TV, 51 W. 52nd St., NY, NY 10019, with copies to Tom Swafford, VP, Broadcast standards, at the same address. It would also be a good idea to send copies to your local CBS station manager.

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GUL HOLDS ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the January 13th meeting of Gays United of Lancaster, election of new officers for 1976 took place.

Elected to the Executive Board were: Robert Feiler, Robert Herr, William Horn, David Leas, and Raymond Stickles. Terms of office are for one year.

In reorganization, the positions of President, Vice-Pres., etc. were eliminated. Board members will take on specific duties pertaining to the needs of the gay community (publications, fund-raising, media, public relations, social activities, legislation, etc.).

GUL, cont'd.

The new officers and members of GUL are very enthused about the upcoming year with goals to be accomplished for the gay community of Lancaster. New members are especially welcome! Meetings are held every Tuesday at 8pm at GUL Headquarters, 3002 Marietta Ave. (corner Centerville Rd) Lancaster.

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DATE SET FOR GAY LOBBY DAY

The date for Gay Lobby Day has been set for Tuesday, March 23rd in Harrisburg. The day was first proposed by a rural member of the Governor's Gay Task Force in November of 1975. It was officially proposed at the Rural Caucus meeting of December 1975. Two members of the Caucus were appointed to study the idea and present an outline at the January Meeting. On January 10, the decision was reached to have a committee go ahead with plans, working with the Task Force members and gay groups across the state. The aim is to educate our legislators wherever possible and to protest discrimination. Anti-gay legislation is the main issue. At stake are the jobs of gay women and men across the state.

Plans are to have at least 125 gay lobbyists available for the day. Working in pairs, they will be able to meet with the approximately 250 legislators in the Capitol.

Workshops will be held at three locations in the state to acquaint lobbyists with techniques for dealing with Representatives and Senators. They will be held in Philadelphia, State College, and Pittsburgh on Saturday March 20th at 1 pm. Any person wishing to volunteer his/her services for this greatly needed endeavor is to contact the local representative for Lancaster: Ray Stickles of GUL at 898-2876 -or- either of the Committee Chair persons, Lynn Hughes of Wilkes-Barre at 717-829-4005 -- Sam Deetz of Northumberland at 717-473-9923.

An educational packet is being prepared by Harry Langhorne, noted gay lobbyist from Philadelphia, for distribution to legislators. At last report it is near completion.

Letter writing to YOUR legislators to protest YOUR tax dollars being used to write anti-gay legislation is still being urged.

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GUL CO-SPONSORS PHILA. CONFERENCE

Gays United of Lancaster is one of the co-sponsors with the Friends Peace Committee of Philadelphia of the Delaware Valley Conference on Military Spending and Human Priorities. The Conference is to be held Feb 6-8th at The Friend's Meeting House, 4th and Arch Streets in Philadelphia. For details & Registration forms call: 898-2876.



## LYKE COOPER COMES TO TOWN

Janet Cooper, gay activist from the Philadelphia area, will be speaking at the Unitarian Church, 538 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster, Pa. on Sunday February 1 at 2pm. Janet is a member of the Susan Saxe Defense Fund, The Pennsylvania Commission for Women, The Governor's Gay Task Force, and a writer for Gay Community News (GCN) of Boston. She will be speaking on her involvement in these groups and other activities as a Lesbian Feminist.

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## GAY GRASS ROOTS OF PENNSYLVANIA by JANET COOPER

Louie Crew reminds us in an Integrity Episcopal Gay Caucus newsletter, December 1975, P. 4) that finally provided impetus for the Black Civil Rights Movement was not the words and works of the urban intellectuals like W.E. B. Dubois, Booker T. Washington or George Washington Carver but the actions of people like Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks was tired, and sat down at the front of the bus because she perceived it as her birthright to do so.

For me, the Rosa Parks of the gay Movement are the people who come out of their closets because they perceive it as their birthright to live in the communities of their choice. They don't escape to the havens of anonymity found in the larger cities. They come out where they have the most to lose: their families, their jobs, their traditions.

For some there is much to gain, others simply cannot afford to ever consider uprooting themselves from a source of income, family obligations, or a lifetime of experiences.

In a small town one's family, friends and neighbors don't listen to as much as they overhear, they don't see as much as they take notice of. To be an openly gay person or a stereotyped closet homosexual in a small Pennsylvania town, even now, reminds me of Carl Sandburg's description of what it feels like to have people stare at you.

"Except at home and among playmates, it didn't come easy for me to be looked at. I would pass people on the street and when they had gone by, I would wonder if they had turned their heads to take another look at me. Walking down a church aisle between hundreds of people, I had a feeling of eyes on me. This was silly, but when your bashful you have the feeling of eyes following you and boring through you."

(Prairie Town Boy)

Gays from dozens of towns and communities outside the major cities and including Allentown, Altoona, Bethlehem, Bloomsburg, Chambersburg, Edinboro, Greencastle, Harrisburg, Johnstown, Lancaster, Mechanicsburg, Northumberland, Reading, State College, and Shippensburg have arranged a grass roots caucus. Members of the caucus have begun to hold meetings in their own communities and regionally in order to keep each other informed and provide support for common concerns.

As difficult as it is to be the object of other people's scrutiny, there are gay sisters and brothers subjecting themselves every

day to this kind of critical and often judgmental inspection, but who are finding it easier to remain in the communities they call home.

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## OF INTEREST TO GAY WOMEN

Women Oriented Women (W.O.W.), which was formerly the Lesbian Discussion Group is continuing to meet at the Women's Center, 230 W. Chestnut Street, Lancaster, Pa.

The group which meets every second and fourth Sunday of the month from 2-4 pm, is open to all gay women and hopes to provide a place where women may come to talk freely in order to get support for their lifestyle that is lacking in the community.

W.O.W. is open to all suggestions and ideas you may have to offer. So come and be a part of this group.

We are planning a Women's Day at the Railroad House in Marietta. There will be volleyball, dancing, free beer and food, and many other activities. The cost will be \$5.00 in advance, \$6.00 at the door. It will be held on a Sunday sometime in May. There will be more information in the next Gay Era, so keep watching.

-TERRI

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## WANTED

Gay Women (men too) are greatly needed on the staff of the Gay Era.

To expect gay men to be sufficiently conscious of women's views and opinions is comparable to expecting a good Jew to write a brief on last Sunday's Mass at Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Give us a call at 898-2876.

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Dear G.R.

Yes, Mommy says I can still play with Ray and Dave from Marietta Ave., even though their names appeared in that "tasteless and vulgar" newspaper article in the New Era. At first she said no, but after a few Bombays on the rocks and my assurances that no one from the Country Club would read (or at least admit to reading) such a trashy journal, she relented. The incident was not without sacrifice however, Daddy overheard the conversation and dismissed the stable-boy later that day. Incidentally, Mommy is still worried that some of the hoi polloi that snuck into the Junior League this year may have read the article.

Love,

Jeffy

P.S. You're the BEST bartender in town! Hugs and kisses from your other little fans: RGS & DL



# eat n drink

with Julia Adult

Well, the response concerning my first offerings to you has been simply overwhelming. I am so happy! The holidays found me busily hopping round the globe seeking new and delicious palate-ticklings with which to satisfy your needs. If you only knew what I had to go through to put this page together. WHEW!!!!!! Keep your letters coming. Next issue I hope to respond to a few of them. Bon Appetit!!!

## BEVERAGE

BULLSHOT--(The spelling is correct) Majorca is a divine place to be a few days before Christmas. The matadors gather after a hard day in the ring to sing, dance and to give thanks for having again been spared the sharp horns of the toro. If you have ever been the center of attention, as I was, of 45 matadors giving thanks you would understand why this drink is so very necessary.

10 ounces beef bouillon  
6 ounces of vodka  
3 tblsp. lemon juice  
1-1/2 tblsp. worcestershire sauce  
Tobasco to taste

Heat beef bouillon to near boiling point. Pour into two mugs and mix in vodka, lemon juice, worcestershire sauce and tobasco, if desired. This drink can also be served cold over ice cubes.

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## FOOD

### DRIED FRUIT SOUP

My travels next took me to Iran, where I met a rather interesting geographer from California who was involved in archaeological digs. His workers were quite surprised to see me. They immediately took me to the ruins and showed me their tools which were of various sizes and shapes.... Later all of us sang, danced and ate this favorite dish of a truly mysterious land. Don't be afraid to try it, I wasn't.

1/2 pound ground beef  
1 small onion (grated)  
1/4 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
1/2 tsp. salt

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8 cups water  
3 tsp. salt  
1/2 cup rice  
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1 small onion (chopped fine)  
2 tblsp. butter  
1 cup dried prunes  
1 cup dried apricots  
1/4 cup walnuts (chopped)  
1 cup parsley (chopped)  
1/4 cup chick peas (canned)  
1/2 cup vinegar  
1/3 cup sugar

### SPICING OF SOUP

1 tblsp. dried mint  
1/4 tsp. cinnamon  
1/4 tsp. pepper

Put meat in a bowl. Add grated onions and seasoning, mix well. Make small meatballs the size of walnuts. Put water in a 3 qt. pot. Add salt and rice and cook for 15 min. Meanwhile, sauté chopped onions in butter and put them aside. Add prunes to the water and rice and let cook for another 15 mins. Add meatballs, apricots, walnuts, parsley and sauteed onions and let cook for 20 mins. on a medium heat. Add vinegar and let cook for 15 mins. more. Rub the dried mint in palms of hands to make it powdery. Add cinnamon and pepper to the mint. Add this to the soup just before removing it from the fire. If more seasoning is necessary, add to taste. 5-6 servings.

### ORIENTAL FLANK STEAK

China is a mere joy during this festive time of the year. While touring the Great Wall with the Fords, I secretly left the group and by chance discovered a work camp. A rather handsome young chap asked my business. I told him I was looking for one of the ladies of the camp who does the cooking. There were none---the camp was inhabited by men only (55 of them). He directed me to the kitchen and after hours of friendly persuasion, from which I was extremely exhausted, I finally talked the cook into letting me taste his delicious meat dish. Here it is!!!

1-2 flank steaks  
3 cloves of garlic (finely chopped)  
1/2 cup soy sauce  
1/2 cup sherry, vermouth or any dry wine  
1 tsp. freshly ground pepper  
1/2 tsp. tobasco sauce

Rub the steaks with garlic and pepper. Place the meat in shallow dish. Mix the remaining ingredients and pour over the meat. Allow the meat to marinate an hour or longer, turning it several times. Broil the steaks on both sides until done. Slice thinly on a diagonal.



# EDITORIAL

Indiscriminate tolerance is justified in harmful debates, in conversation, in academic discussion; it is indispensable in the scientific enterprise, in private religion. But society cannot be indiscriminate where the pacification of existence, where freedom and happiness are at stake; here certain things cannot be expressed, certain policies cannot be proposed, certain behavior cannot be permitted without making tolerance an instrument of servitude."

-Herbert Marcuse

Over the past year gay activists have tried to pressure television networks and their affiliates locally into removing blatantly anti-gay material from broadcast. These attempts with such shows as "The Outrage", "Born Innocent", and recently, an episode of "Bronk" have not only been met with limited success but have also drawn criticism of the gay movement. Broadcasters claim that such attempts to influence broadcasting are equivalent to prior censorship and are therefore akin to abridging free speech. Attempts to control broadcasting by special interest groups are the legitimate concern of everyone and deserve public scrutiny. The claim that such attempts are in themselves undemocratic is, however, unfounded.

Absolute tolerance of all points of view, no

matter how destructive, is permissible only in an absolutely democratic media. American Television is not such a media. It is as free as your networks allow, as liberal as your expense account, and as democratic as a Chicago election. More and more it looks like a continuous editorial for Exxon corporation.

It is claimed that television is democratic because the viewer can change channels if she/he finds a program offensive. This argument does not separate the apparent from the real function of this media. It is primarily a "flickering billboard" for the consumer society and a reinforcement of values for the status-quo; and secondarily a source of entertainment and education.

True, the viewer does not have to view anything as blatantly sexist as a lesbian rape scene. A flick of the knob and the more subtle Policewoman will show you the lesson of 'Women's Liberation' is that Angie Dickinson can shoot and oppress with the same equanimity as any macho-male.

It is not a violation of free speech for the gay movement to try to remove the most offensive anti-gay broadcasts. American television is in itself an offense to free speech. It is the duty of all thinking people to make sure that this counterfeit world of caring doctors, lawyers who work for free, and clean cops is not passed as true cultural currency.

-J.W.

The Lancaster Gay Era is dedicated to providing coverage of events and news of interest to the south-central area of Pennsylvania, as well as the stimulation of event-oriented opinion within the community.

The Lancaster Gay Era is published monthly and distributed on the first weekend of the month. News and opinion reflected in "Editorial" represents the majority view of the editorial staff. Signed letters and columns reflect the views and opinions of the authors only. Comments, criticisms, and information are always welcome from our readers: remember, it's your paper.

\*Single copy price: 25¢

\*Annual subscription rate \$3.00

Address for subscriptions, address changes, letters to the editor, contributions, comments, advertising rates, etc.: The Lancaster Gay Era, 3002 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, Pa. 17601 Telephone (717)-898-2876

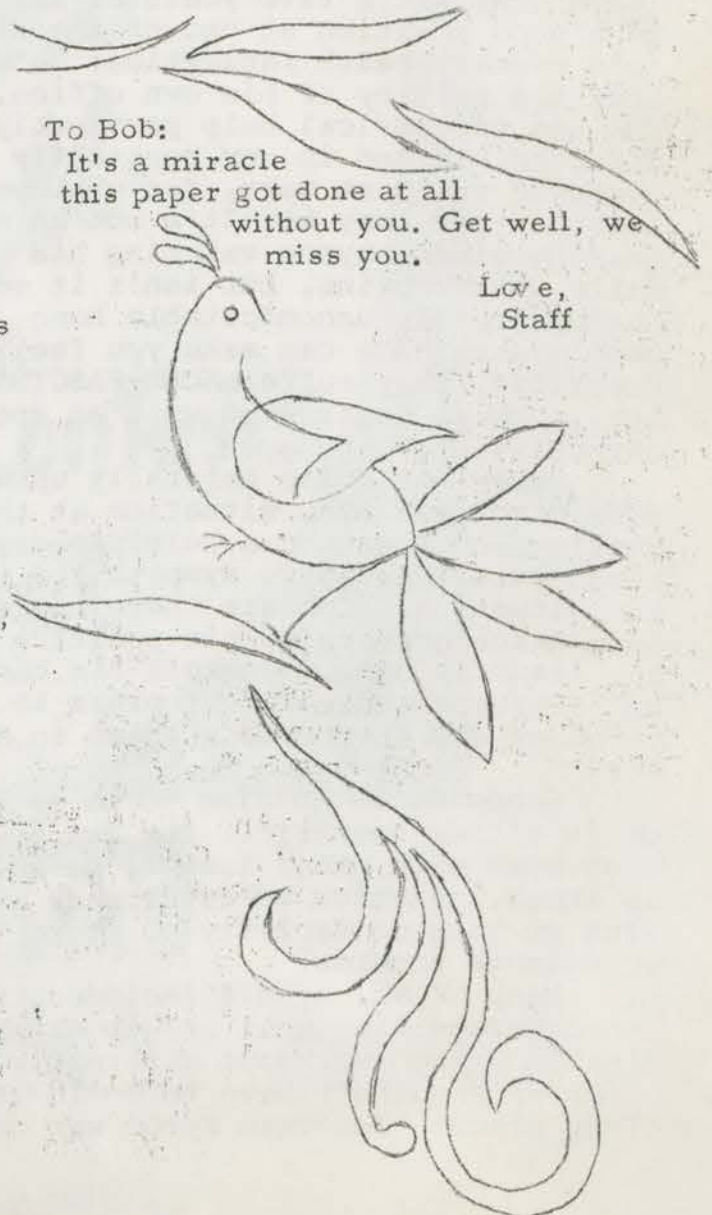
## STAFF:

Martin  
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Bob Feiler  
Bob Herr  
Bill Horn  
Dave Leas  
Harry Long  
Sadie  
Ray Stickles  
Terrie  
J.W.  
Bari Weaver  
Sam Wilson  
Janet Cooper

To Bob:

It's a miracle  
this paper got done at all  
without you. Get well, we  
miss you.

Love,  
Staff





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Note: The last issue of the Pittsburgh Gay News carried an editorial about the PA Rural Caucus. That prompted a reply from myself and the following letter which concerns all of us.

To the Editor:

G.P., I distinctly remember your visit at the Rural Caucus, and would gladly do your hair,---anytime. Thanks very much on behalf of all of us for the truly beautiful and honest letter. May I take this opportunity to express a few feelings and clear some points? Jerry Brennan is also to be commended, not only for his work with the State Police, a job similar to breaking down walls with a pin, but also deserves most credit for getting our Rural Caucus on its feet. It was his basic idea and urging that got me started.

Another interesting thing concerning Jerry, though he is instrumental in the Governor's Gay Rights Task Force and Gay Community Services of Harrisburg, he has been highly discriminated against in his own state job. In the same city where he's active on a community basis as well as state level, he is now facing demotion and personal humiliation. Stating his plight at a recent Task Force Meeting, he received somewhat sympathetic reaction while being told he must work within the system to rectify the situation. What else is new?

If my details are correct, I believe that after five years of service in a good position at one of the state's mental health facilities; he's lost the privacy of his own office, the use of clerical help previously afforded him and is now constantly observed while at work, for whatever reasons there may be. It's not so much that he minds anyone watching his daily work routine, but isn't it odd how discretely uncomfortable homophobic straights can make you feel? Doubtless, they suffer HOMO-FASCINATION, i.e., "being confronted with an open gay activist!"

Gerry was quite naturally upset even discussing the situation at that meeting and I sensed a helplessness among ourselves as we sympathized with the situation. To date there has been no mention concerning his position or the issue at hand. Where's his back-up? Perhaps the straight press is tired of all the cases we have to offer?

Genocide is nothing to be proud of in a 'free country'. Our own press must work with other issues, as well as these, of which we're already aware. Plus we have no facility to store the voluminous records.

Many of us, myself included, have faced personal as well as job discrimination, then work out alternatives which we shouldn't have to do in the first place! The Task Force was cre-

ated for our protection and help-- and here we are helpless!! Isn't it time we started removing the same apathy filling the Governor's Conference Room that day??

It is time we learn, as gay people--working toward each other and our human rights-- our efforts must be directed toward helping one another end oppression. Here is the test of our effectiveness lying on our doorstep!! You, who claim you can't help or are afraid, write letters! A signature does not mean you are gay. Encourage activists in your area to take action and if you have suggestions or any type of help, offer it. By helping one another and unifying ourselves, we'll relieve the oppressive bigotry around us. If you've got straight friends, get their help. Ending discrimination for us will end it for them. All it takes is a little time and energy from each individual.

Jerry, you have my support. Come on readers, let people know we want action. Today! In the Spirit of Gay Love, Pride, and Freedom.

Bari Weaver

\*\*\*\*\*  
To the Editor:

Enclosed find a check for a subscription to the Gay Era as well as a contribution for various expenses.

I think GUL should conduct a survey of how we have been persecuted in various ways (I have received clippings about blackmail episodes). I was taken for about \$1800. ten years ago. I believe others have paid out and kept quiet, others have left town, others have suffered nervous breakdowns, and I would not be surprised to hear that suicides have been due to threats of revealment, inability to pay blackmail, etc.

If sexual acts between consenting adults were legal and if such acts were not performed in public places, many "Gay Folk" would be free to inform immediately of any threats, harrassment, etc.

Why not solicit information concerning the above without revealing the identity of the persons supplying information.

I do think some money could be saved by cutting out some items from the newspaper. "Sadie" is mostly unfunny and often of questionable taste.

Anonymously Yours.  
EDS. NOTE: SURVEY FORMS APPEAR ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE. WE ARE CONDUCTING A SURVEY OF OUR READERS' LIKES AND DISLIKES IN ORDER TO MAKE THE GAY ERA MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS AND WANTS OF OUR COMMUNITY. SADIE'S COMMENTS APPEAR IN HER COLUMN AS USUAL.

\*\*\*\*\*



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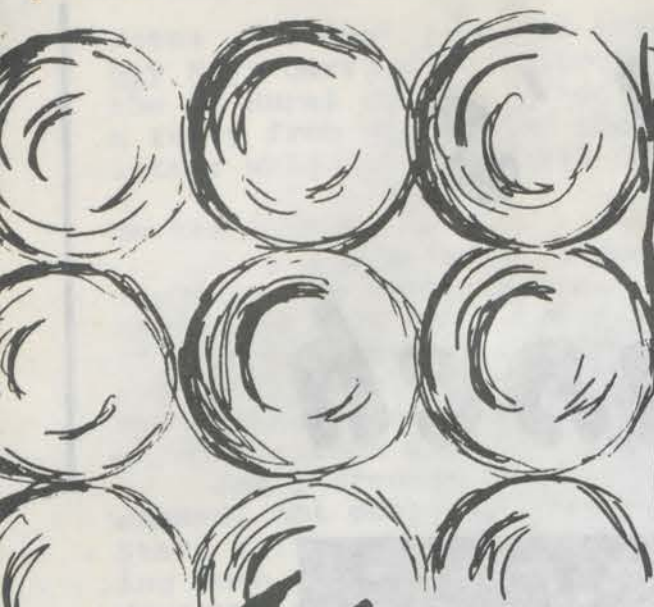
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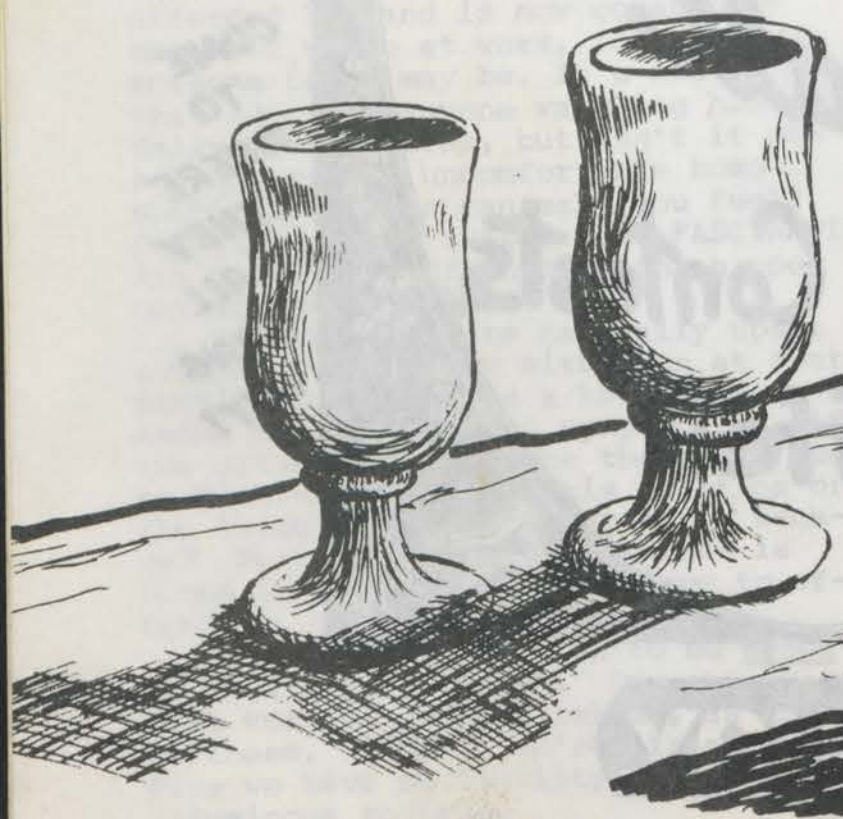




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BOOK OF THE WEEK-  
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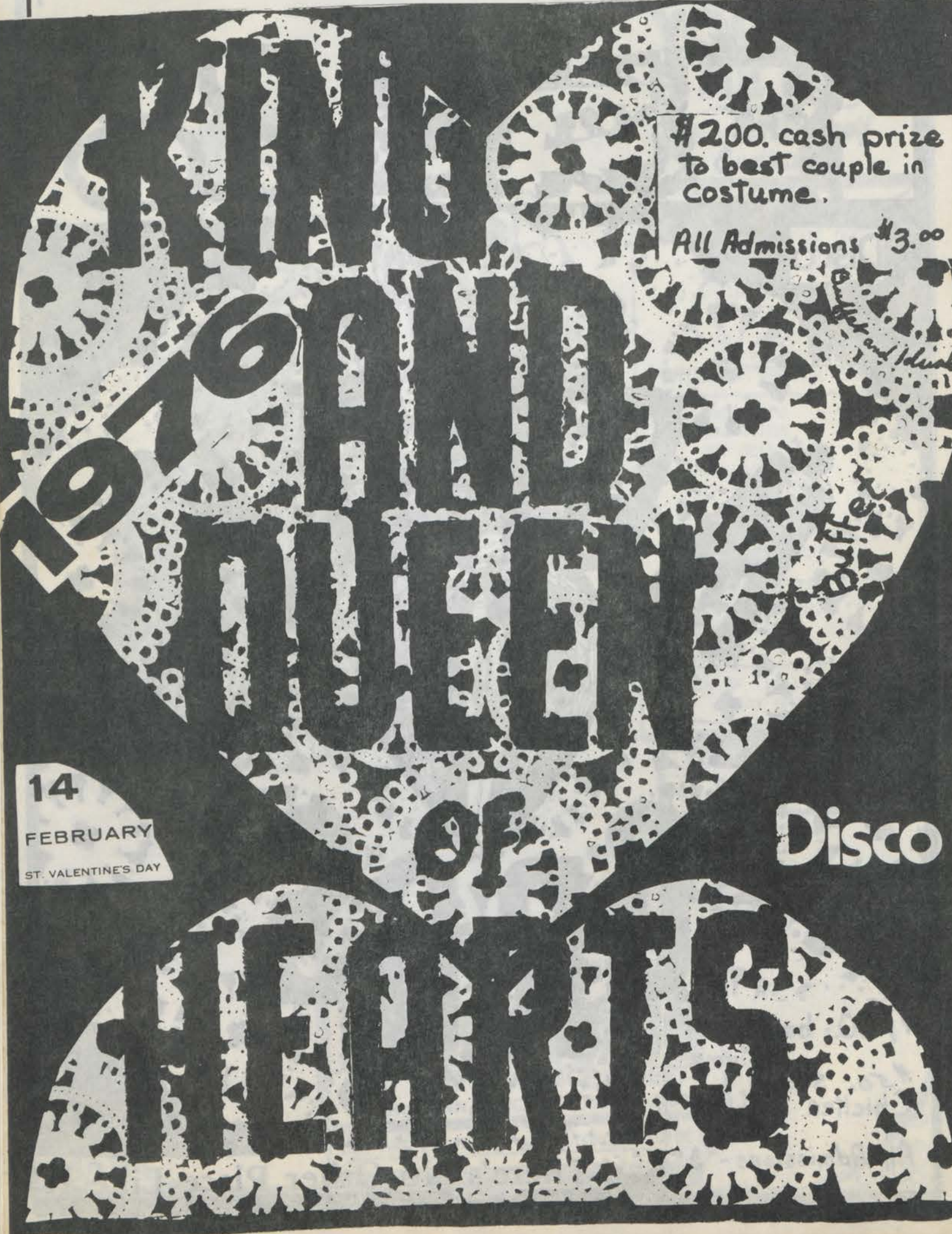
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\$200. cash prize  
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costume.

All Admissions \$3.00

and drinks  
Buffet

14

FEBRUARY

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

Disco



PLANT-NITE AT 3002 MARIETTA AVENUE !

On Thursday night February 12th at 7:30 P.M. there will be a plant party for the benefit of the Gay Era at its headquarters, 3002 Marietta Avenue.

A private firm will be showing over 100 different plants, explaining their care and nurture, and offering them for sale at prices ranging from \$2.50-\$8.50. What you see IS what you get. All plants displayed will be available for purchase, cash & carry. No orders will be taken.

In addition, bring your own house-plants for a free plant clinic. Expert advice on how to deal with your "problem child plant" will be provided at no cost! If you have a nice healthy plant, but don't know what its "real" name is, bring it along, too. The experts will tell all.

If you would be interested in hearing about specific botanical areas, i.e. herb culture and preparation, orchids, etc. let us know in advance by calling 898-2876. Reservations are not required, but we would appreciate having some idea of how many plan to attend--so that we can tell the plant people how many plants to have available. ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND! Refreshments will follow the presentation.

\*\*\*\*\*  
HELP-HELP-HELP.....(again?!)

Well it's that time again folks!

We need help from OUR community. The work that has been done has been done well by relatively few--and they're tired.

GUL, The Gay Era, The Peer Counseling Program, The Sunday Coffeehouse, etc. all need YOU. If you can't volunteer (or won't) your time, perhaps you can send a contribution. That doesn't necessarily mean cash. We need coffee, tea, sugar, milk, etc. for the FREE Coffeehouse. Office supplies for the newspaper and GUL staffs. Books that reflect favorably on our lifestyle could be donated to the library. Furniture, desks, tables, etc. could "warm-up" the atmosphere around here.

Even if you can't donate ANYTHING, what about yourself??? Why not come to a meeting of GUL and let us hear some new ideas, either pro or con. Why not drop in for a cup of coffee some Sunday afternoon or evening and get to know some new gay sisters and brothers? Come to plant nite. Subscribe to The Gay Era. Anything! Just stop sitting there and complaining how bad things are here in Lancaster, without doing a damn thing to change things for the better. please?

ONE POEM BY GAVIN DILLARD

(reprinted from FAG RAG 11/75)

i plunge naked into bed  
crawling nude into the sheets  
between the soft cotton  
i plunge  
naked  
over naked-bottom-white sheets  
my testicles drag  
across the sea my rudders glide  
flaccidly  
swaying into bed  
i mount my turgid mat,  
naked, legs erect  
crawling nude upon my bed  
plunging bare into  
sprawling naked across the edge  
flattened limp against the floor  
pressing smooth into the quilts  
plunging naked  
into my bed  
laying store my wearied flesh  
folding neat, naked into sheets  
lying nude  
across the bed  
floating naked on the waves  
riding naked on the waves  
riding naked in the shade  
pressing, soft, on pubic down  
plunging  
soft into the muslin  
holding tight my body's warmth  
holding firm my turgid length  
plunging naked into beddings  
crawling  
nude  
penis scraping  
folding tight into the quilt  
folding nude into the darkness  
shining  
naked in the moon glow  
sweating warmth into the blackness  
pushing wet into the pillow  
breathing hard into the stillness  
pushing hard into the pillow  
breathing hard into the stillness  
pushing wet into the pillow  
sliding naked into darkness  
wrapping legs around the quiet  
erecting hard  
into the darkness  
i plunge naked into sleep

\*\*\*\*\*  
GAY THESPIANS!!! ATTENTION!!!

Any gay person interested in forming a gay theatre group should contact Harry Long at the Market District Theatre at 394-3761.

It's time for us gay people to perform material written by and for ourselves! This proposal of Harry's deserves your interest and support. All talents are needed.  
\*\*\*\*\*

the poet -  
an unpaid civil servant  
photographing life  
with  
positioned words

tom kennedy



## STATE POLICE INVESTIGATING BLACK-MAIL RACKET

LANCASTER, PA. - It seems that the blackmail of persons concerning alleged homosexual assaults is finally coming to the attention of City and State Police here in Lancaster.

After three victims of the apparent same gang of 'con artists' told their stories to the police this past month about incidents that happened in 1975, another has stepped forward citing an incident in 1973. The grand total paid to the 'phony cop-morals racket' is now set at \$39,000.

The latest incident took place at Park City Shopping Center. As the 64 year-old man was leaving the restroom at the bus depot, he was approached by a 'plain-clothes policeman' investigating the homosexual rape of a 14 year-old boy. He was then handcuffed and taken to his car where they were joined by a second 'cop'. After a discussion of the matter, the victim was then released.

The next day he was telephoned by one of the phony cops and told that the 'chief' was upset with them for leaving him go. After meeting with the 'chief' and discussing the man's financial affairs, they told him they would need \$8,000 (\$1,500 for court costs and the rest he would get back). He then went to the bank, withdrew the money and gave it to the policemen. After that he never saw or heard of them again.

Trooper Harnish is investigating the incidents. Any person knowing of such incidents are urged to contact him at the Lancaster barracks.

As a result of these incidents, the police are warning all citizens that when approached by plainclothes policemen, to study their credentials closely. They are also never to give a policeman money for any reason.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SURVEY #1- Blackmail Rackets

All information received will be kept confidential, You need not sign your name nor give any identity.

Have you ever been (or have any of your close friends) approached by any individuals posing as "cops" who demanded hush-money or bribes ?

If so, please give details, dates, amounts of money paid, locations, etc.

Please place your answers in an envelope and mail them to:  
Gay Era Survey  
3002 Marietta Avenue  
Lancaster, PA 17601

or if you prefer call us at 898-2876.

We need everyone's cooperation in order to put an end to this 'racket' which has cost our brothers and friends untold grief, both monetarily and psychologically.

## NEW PEER COUNSELING PROGRAM BEGINS

Recently, due to an increasing demand from within the gay community, Gays United Lancaster has implemented a Peer Counseling Program. The purpose of the program is NOT to be a substitute for psychotherapy or a therapeutic program of any kind. Rather it is an open-ended dialog situation between two gay people which attempts to deliver information about resources available within the community. If a person has a problem dealing with his/her gayness, needs a sympathetic active listener, or just wants to "rap" this is the program for her/him.

We currently have a staff of four counselors available for appointments. Each counselor is well acquainted with the Lancaster gay community and the positive and negative aspects of gay life here. Ideally each potential "client" will talk to each of the counselors in four separate private sessions. It is felt that in this way, the client will not be subject to any one individual counselors particular approach to the exclusion of any other.

Referrals, if warranted, can be made to professionals in the areas of mental health, social work, employment, sex therapy, etc. All information is kept strictly confidential and a client's anonymity is always preserved. Names need not even be given. There is no fee charged for these services, however donations to the group are appreciated, whenever possible, to enable us to carry on the work.

For further information and/or an appointment, call: 898-2876.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SURVEY #2

#### Newsletter

With the next issue of the Gay Era, the newsletter will switch its physical format into a photo-offset style. The size of the paper will be slightly smaller, but the content will be of approximately the same amount. In order to determine how we might improve our paper we're asking our readers to give us some input as to what features they most enjoy, which they dislike, etc. Please give us a hand by filling in the following questionnaire and mailing it back to us. Thank You.

1-I purchase the Gay Era at:

2-My favorite column or feature is:

3-Please eliminate:

4-Please add:

mail to: Gay Era 3002 Marietta Ave  
Lancaster, PA 17601



(Reprinted from FAG RAG NO 14, NOV/DEC 1975 )

1--"I never switch!" sez the cold-eyed dominating TOP MAN who's usually as full of blarney as Nixon. Yet this type is eagerly absorbed by the L&L/western/S&M scene, even though his attitude and inflexibility is inexcusable in gay liberation terms. It's an ironic thought that the worst of "poseur macho intractability" would surface to be celebrated in a gay milieu. As Fred Halstead told an interviewer: he went queer when he found out it was easier to boss the fags around than it was the women.

2--Charley Shively once told me: "When you go home with one of those swaggering leather numbers from the bar, he has this fabulously decorated apartment loaded with consumer goods." And he's right. In other words, this leather/levi/faggot/chic boom is just a new twist to push goods. Sprung as largely a middle-class phenomenon--exploiting repressed sexual imaginations of prosperous 9-5 engineers, educators, businessmen, etc.--this series of fads is now spreading to all parts of the gay subculture, appealing to a stylized libido in order to ring cash registers. For gay males, the appeal is to be part of the American MAN's fantasy of omnipotence, control, domination. Its symbology is not of cooperation, but one of conflict, ordering and serving.

3--Things These boys are into things. Gear is OK by me in limited quantities as long as it's used for the purpose of sexual gratification. But as Americans repeatedly demonstrate, once you get the dress, you've got to get the shoes and matching handbag and the tasteful string of pearls... The gear becomes a badge of social position and indicates affluence. Boston's Tantalus catalogue offers the S&M guy the following: ball stretcher/chastity harness; nip-nips (for tits), sensitizer (spans partner while you're in him), bottleneck dildo, spreader restraints, studded gloves, crotch se-curer, chain hobble, etc. It's a regular inventory and can't begin to compare with the catalogues out of Cal. I know some drag queen friends who travel lighter than some middle class faggot "club" members who haul all their gear when they go out on "runs." John Laporta remarked in one of our meetings that he'd entertained a harness fantasy until he saw in a catalogue that harnesses start at \$70.00! And there's some who say that the reason the leather guys don't like the fluff crowd is because fluff costs less than leather! Allen Ginsberg wasn't the first to say it, but it needs re-telling: "Our skin should be enough!"

4--"Spokesmen" of the practise tend to be politically unsophisticated, naive, insensitive or out-and-out reactionary (like Rex the NYC illustrator). Take Mr. Larry Townsend, a "conservative" columnist often favored by the old Advocate, and a spokesman for the leather/levi/western/S&M scene. By his writings, he reveals himself as a totally middle-class, short-sighted, unvisionary consumer-oriented man only able to think of people as Subjects and Objects (he being The Subject and others being Objects). He lacks any trace of real political awareness. He appears to accept exploitation as an unchangeable way of American life. (By the way I must say I'm a little unnerved by the high percentage of Dominating S&M guys I've met recently who turn out to be landlords!) Townsend's volume, The Leatherman's Handbook, a popular introduction to the gay leather/S&M scene, does not only radiate a California roughness in its approach to gay life and sex, it lacks finesse and an appreciation for the quality of sensitivity in a dominance/submission scene, and, if not taken primarily for its prurient interest, could have consequences far more damaging than its obviously short-sighted author could conceive. Intentional or not, its result is to capture and discipline energy that would otherwise be channeled into revolutionary awareness.

5--It's faggots playing at being MEN: levis and leather, drinking beer with their buddies, a system of "friendships" based on exclusion. It's almost as though they're normal, that haven for the violent and mediocre. It's just another expression of sexuality still caught up in the shackles of Puritanism. Just look at the recent and rapid proliferation of the leather/levi/bikie/fraternity-type/social clubs for gay males. Compare and contrast with the number of radical faggot groups, organizations, publications, etc. What's happened to Gay Liberation? Well, its wrists are handcuffed in a tearoom in some NYC leather-ghetto bar and its head is being dunked into a brimming pisspot by two laughing Top Men with fat investment portfolios safely secured away at their banks. The point is: without gay liberation politics, these men and their group activities wind up mimicking Rotarians! They are characterized by the same personality patterns, power plays, consumerism and status quoism of Butchie Straight Life. There seems to be no awareness or desire for change, no acknowledgement of the need to struggle for an unexploitive society. In an interview in the Washington, D.C. Blade, three propogandists for the L&L/S&M scene share these comments:



"As part of this, we now have 79 bars nationwide identifying themselves as Lev/Western and 110 motorcycle and associated clubs..." "There may be 65 or 500 guys on a run. You'll find the run crowd, on the whole, on the conservative side politically, more so than most gay groups. There are very few runs where you'll not hear, 'God Bless America' if not the national anthem.

6--Costumes, gimmickry, toys are all a step away from subtlety and understanding to obviousness and fantasy. No one wants to talk to a person in such situations; people become objects, and like in everything else in America there's constant consumer complaints. And the astonishing thing is the superficiality of it all, the school-marmishness of one guy telling another his fantasy's really not up to my par. For example, I've worn my handcuffs on my left side and a dog collar around my right shoulder, and it threw the bar into confusion. Several guys came up to me and lectured me on How To Dress For The Bar, and each one told me something different; each wanted me more in line with his particular fantasy.

But what's really shocking is the casual acceptance of those homosexual males who idealize fascist insignia and fascist social attitudes. They're tolerated and actually encouraged because their struttin' and tough talkin' is very masculine and that's a turn on! The leather boys moan and groan lately about the fluff invading their scene; what have they to say of fascist sympathizers? I've seen it with my own eyes: Nazi-gear as OK in the bar. It's Hello-Pathology Time.

7--Sex role-playing is fine because it's usually over with ejaculation. What concerns me is the social role-playing that carries over from the leather/levi/S&M sexual fantasizing. Read a little California publication The Care and Feeding of the Male Sex Slave. Or how about Larry Townsend's recommendation of Mandingo (a trashy southern-slavery violence-and-romancer book and film.) because the whipping of the slaves is a real turn-on. Know any gay S&M couples where the top man is just that, the hubby and the slave turns out to be just that, too; homemaker, dishwasher, cleaner, cook?

8--Fist-fucking has become all the rage in the past year. This fashion would not exist had it not been for the gay male porno films shown in large metropolises, allowing a few filmmakers to set the trends for faggot communities. Lana Turner's sweaters set off a craze; Halstead did the same for fist-fucking. I've

been told that some bars in NYC feature it regularly on stage as part of the show. Common sense is always the first fatality when it comes face-to-face with the mania for products and behavior of consumer fads: Thalidomide, skate boards, speed, fist-fucking. Just remember, friends, peritonitis is not a charming East Side chic malady, as Virginia Rappe and Rudolph Valentino might well testify.

9--The L&L/S&M/scene actively promotes arrogant, exploitive, anti-social, selfish, cocksure, masculine personalities that may be a passing turn-on (though I've ultimately found it to the contrary) but which has other and detrimental social repercussions. If faggots are to be co-opted by idealized bully boys and getting caught in consumerism, if we're going to allow our community to imitate the worst of macho heterosexual patterns of objectification and exploitation of other men, then there appears to be no hope that we're also to be the agents for large-scale change in male behavior. I don't mind the sexual posing for pick-ups, etc; my complaint is that men can now move comfortably from acceptance of the exploitive, heterosexualist culture into an exploitive masculinist homosexualist subculture without passing through the intervening (and intellectually cleansing) phase of gay liberation politics. They no longer have to change their ways of thinking or behaving; all that's involved for them is a small matter of eroticizing a different-sexed object from what they're used to.

10--This rapid spread of the butch L&L/S&M scene with its gear, objects, and club-fraternities is disheartening to a gay liberationist who'd rather see gay energies organized for change, not diddled away on runs, parties and socializing. At its best, I suppose this vogue is just another suburban way of celebrating "american values" which more politically-aware faggots realize must be wiped out. Perhaps, too, it's a measure of how homosexualists of the non-fluff variety feel themselves to have been incorporated into the mainstream of american life. The best hope we can have is to remember that a faggot in any kind of wrapping is still a faggot, my friend, and not wholly lost to the cause. Skip Burns of our staff is always kvetching about faggots organizing around their deviance. Well, better that than organizing around a vision of normalcy or what shreds of it are currently being merchandised this season by the greedy dimwits of consumer-oriented obsessions to the vulnerable and susceptible macho-aspirant gay buyers.

\*  
the editors invite comments from our readers concerning this (or any) article.



## CONSTRUCTING GAY PRIDE or

### "BARI'S FIVE STEPS TO 'SAINTHOOD'"

In order to liberate ourselves we must liberate one another. This is only possible by setting personal goals, changing gay attitudes, and reevaluating our thinking. Removing pride from each other and our Gay community feeds the same oppression closeting us; denying freedom honesty and the self-assurance of individual totality. Treating each other with respect and consideration will let us achieve actualization and better equip us to be contributing members of society-at-large.

At this time it is essential to devote our energies and resources to our community, each other, and our lifestyle. When this is done our deterioration and destruction will cease, turning instead into productivity and growth.

#### Communicate!

Express your feelings about yourself, your gayness and others' to friends within the gay community. And listen to other gay men and women. Hear how they feel. See what they say. Because a man doesn't turn you on in the bar doesn't mean he has nothing of value to contribute. His feeling may be such like yours or perhaps by talking with him you may understand his view point. A few hours of your complete life time may reveal that behind the makeup and limp wrist, is someone like you, who's not interested in what's between your legs. He could be your friend for life.

#### Remove Sexism!

Stop walking up to men with, "You're so butch." Why place them in as oppressive a stereotype as your own? "She", "Butch", "Queen", "Fem", etc., destroy sensitivity and self-images, allowing the homophobic "straights" to set examples pulling us into their bigotry. That attitude placed us in psychiatrists' offices, morgues, jails, and on the streets. Must we continually allow our gentleness, understanding, and individuality be raped from us as people? Aggression and passivity are not necessarily exclusive for any of us. The athlete may speak and touch as tenderly as the artist. Save your aggression for the fight, give your loving to your own!

#### Express Yourself!

Is there something in your home identifying the love of two women or two men? Is a lambda symbol lying openly somewhere? Are there books or other literature on your shelf about your own lifestyle? What about a gift from a friend that when noticed allows you to openly say, "That person and I are one." If you don't, get a friend to do it with you--share your liberation and lighten the load.

#### Be Informed!

Keep up with what others are saying. Read newsletters and articles. Most of us feel the same way at different times and a lot of us change our perspectives. Discover people past and present who have made contributions; relate them with their work and give that gift to others. You might discover our sensitivity has always been more definite and real.

#### Do Little Things!

Return the call you promised. Why make someone lonelier than he/she is within his/her community.

Give your friends room to breathe and grow. Help them.

Submit ideas to newsletters and groups. Support them.

Quit worrying about who is sleeping with who. Think about positive input for a friend and yourself.

Look at the world around you. See what it's doing to you. Decide how you want it changed and help do it. Gay Liberation never made that mess, greedy straight image makers did.

Bari

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EAT AND DRINK with Julia Adult  
(continued)

#### DESSERT

##### CHERRIES JUBILEE

Mt. Vernon is so beautiful at Christmas... Happy Birthday George!

1 can pitted black cherries  
1 tblsp. sugar  
1 tblsp. cornstarch  
1/4 cup kirsch, or cognac  
Vanilla ice cream (optional)

Drain the cherries, reserving the juice. Mix the sugar with the cornstarch and add one cup of the cherry juice, a little at a time. Cook three minutes, stirring constantly. Add the cherries and pour the kirsch over the top. Ignite the kirsch and ladle the sauce over the cherries. Serve over vanilla ice cream if desired.

6 servings

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THANK YOU-THANK YOU

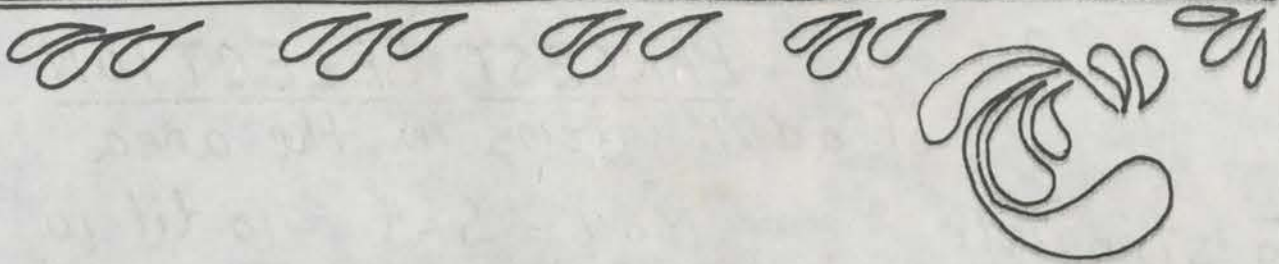
The Gay Era wishes to again thank all of its advertisers, each and every one. Without your support we wouldn't be where ARE Today.

\*\*\*\*\*

Belated Happy Birthday to J.A.N. Aquarians ARE the "best"!

R

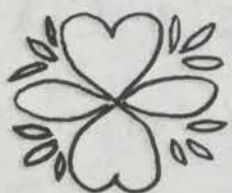




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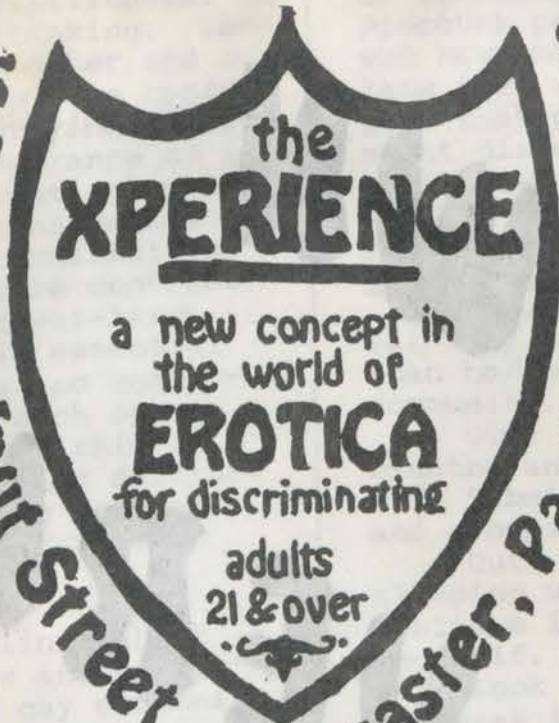
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