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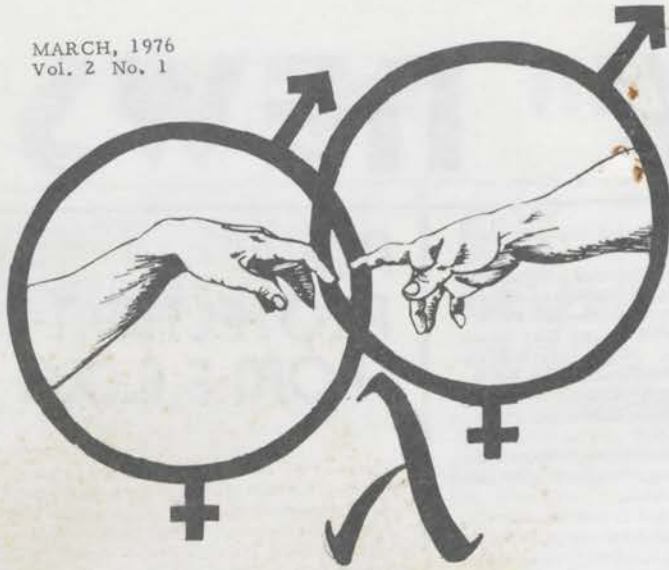
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MARCH, 1976
Vol. 2 No. 1



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GAY ERA

INSIDE

Shapp & the shrinks
Lesbian Kidnapped
Gay Lobby Day

"SNUFF" SNUFFED

Philadelphia feminists, coordinated by DYKETACTICS! - a radical feminist lesbian collective - shortened the run of the movie "Snuff" from a scheduled three-week engagement to one and a half days.

"Snuff" is a commercialization of a type of underground pornographic film in which the actual murder and dismemberment of women takes place. According to straight press accounts which appeared in the New York Times last summer, the underground films were being made in Argentina and distributed in the U.S. for private showings at \$200.00 each.

The commercial venture was protested here because the film's advertising made it unclear whether actresses in the film are actually murdered. The ads are also racist, saying: "Filmed in South America where life is cheap!"

When concerned women from the community in which the film was to be shown attempted to negotiate with the theatre's management they were refused a meeting. DYKETACTICS! called their own meeting and twenty women attended.

It was pointed out that when men attempt to act out the violent fantasies this type of film inspires, lesbians become victims as do other women who are not escorted by men.

Since demonstrations can function for capitalists as free advertising, DYKETACTICS! determined from the outset that no profits would be made from the showing of this film in our community. Eight women were willing to be arrested if necessary to guarantee this goal.

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Cont'd on Page 4

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

in THE NEWS

DYKETACTICIAN ABDUCTED

PHILADELPHIA - A member of DYKETACTICS!, the lesbian-feminist zap group, was abducted in broad daylight late Monday afternoon, January 12 in Philadelphia, by two men who asked her for directions.

The kidnapers put a gun to the woman's back and forced her into a car. Inside the car they placed a drug-soaked cloth over her face, causing her to lose consciousness. As she periodically regained consciousness, they reapplied the cloth to make her pass out again.

The abductors drove the woman to Camden where they pushed her through the window of an abandoned house. For about two hours she was held prisoner in the house and interrogated about her sexual identity, her activities and about the people whose names they found on papers and letters in her pockets.

The men drove the woman to a park in Camden, where they pushed her out of the car. It was dark and the temperature was below freezing. When she woke up, her shirt and hat were gone and her shoes were some distance away. Her jacket was slashed up the back.

The kidnap is not an isolated incident. According to DYKETACTICS!, further harassment has been directed towards other active lesbian-feminists. Another politically active woman was questioned for directions in the same location by a man who fit the description of one of the kidnapers. Both a white tow truck and a white van were reportedly following women around the time of the incident. Since then, repeated telephone harassment has occurred and obstacles including a firecracker have been hurled at specific women.

DYKETACTICS! is asking women to report such harassment to local lesbian groups in Philadelphia in order to log such reports for documentation.

NEWSPAPER CONFERENCE

BOSTON - At the first meeting of the gay press ever held, representatives of nine gay newspapers met in the Boston office of the Gay Community News (GCN) and agreed to form a gay press association. The newspapers also decided to set up a news service and to explore cooperation in advertising. The conference, which was called by GCN and chaired by its acting managing editor, Lyn Rosen, took place during the weekend of Feb. 14-16.

About 25 people attended the conference, comprising most of the major gay newspapers of the East Coast of the United States and Canada. Newspapers represented at the conference included Philadelphia Gay News, Pittsburgh Gay News, Ohio East Gay News, High Gear (Cleveland), Maverick (New York), The Barb (Cleveland), The Empty Closet (Rochester), The Body Politic (Toronto), and GCN.

At a news and features workshop which opened the conference, the first gay news service was established.

The other significant decision taken at the conference was to explore possibilities of getting national advertising for the gay press. The nine newspapers represented have a circulation of more than 100,000. It is hoped that a combined front could be presented to advertising agencies which would allow an advertiser to advertise in all nine newspapers.

Promotion, distribution, public relations, and staffing were among subjects also discussed at the conference workshops. Several newspapers discussed their problems with having male and female staff working together. GCN appeared to be the only newspapers represented that had a significant lesbian presence both on their staff and in their newspaper. Except for GCN representatives, all the conference participants were male.

For many, an equally vital part of the conference took place in the informal sessions outside the official format. It was the first time that members of the gay press could meet each other, share experiences and common problems, and make valuable contacts.

The newspapers represented at the Boston conference agreed to meet again in Philadelphia on May 8 to continue discussions.

-GAY COMMUNITY NEWS, BOSTON

N.B.C. NEWS

On a more positive note, NBC has acknowledged gay rights to be a national issue in its 1975 year-end report on "What America Thinks" (not bad - it's only been 334 years since Thomas Granger was executed for sodomy in Plymouth).

Over 2,800 people, more than twice the usual sample size, were interviewed across the country. Among the questions asked was one deliberately chosen for its "sensitive nature": Should homosexuals be allowed to become teachers? Although a plurality (48%) responded negatively, 40% did respond "yes" - a much higher figure than many legislators would like to believe.

NBC is also seeking storylines and themes with gay concerns and gay characters. If you have any ideas for consideration, please send brief, one-paragraph summaries to: Ginny Vida, NGTF Storyline Project, Room 506, 80 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10011. -NGTF

NO PROTECTION FROM E.E.O.C.

Thomas F. Coleman, a Los Angeles attorney, has alerted the National Gay Task Force that in a yet to be published ruling, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has decided that "sexual preference" is not a protected classification for purposes of EEOC jurisdiction.

The decision was embodied in decision numbers 7667 and 7675 reached last November 10th by the EEOC. One was a case of discriminatory hiring, the other a discharge case.

The EEOC is stalling on sending out copies of the decision, but the NGTF is in the process of obtaining copies from the proverbial well-placed government source. More news of this development will come in the near future.

There was a similar situation which was confronted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), a Cabinet-level department, late in 1975. A case of discrimination in housing was brought to them by a gay couple, Louie Crew and Ernest Clay. Although HUD does not yet have a specific clause in their regulations that would state that they have jurisdiction in the area of "sexual preference", HUD resolved the case favorably for the gay couple anyway. The rest of our governmental agencies, including the EEOC, could profit by this example. - NGTF

LESBIAN MOTHER FILM PROJECT

Iris Films is presently doing research and fundraising for a film about Lesbian Mothers and child custody which will be produced in the summer of 1976.

Their commitment is to produce and distribute women's films which will contribute to social change.

They would like to hear from women who have been or are now involved in Lesbian Mother's child custody cases.

Since they cannot make the film without funds, and with a budget of \$25,000, they need at least \$5,000 to start the film. All contributions will be appreciated for this vitally important and necessary film.

Please mail contributions to: Iris Films, P.O. Box 26463, Los Angeles, Ca. 90026.

IN THE NEWS

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STATE HIRING REGULATIONS

Pennsylvania became the first state to set a new precedent at the state level in its revised Personnel Rules and Regulations which were distributed to its employees in January.

With over 100,000 employees working for the state, the new handbook states that employees will not be discriminated against because of affectional or sexual orientation, or lifestyle. The new regulations formally went into effect September 1, 1975.

At first, state officials insisted that the word "lifestyles" would cover all forms of discrimination. Jerry Brennan, a member of the employment committee in the Governor's Gay Rights Task Force, insisted upon more explicit language in the regulations.

It is important to note that the new rules are not without loopholes. The state may still discriminate against persons convicted of criminal offenses (sodomy or solicitation) or against a person making a false statement on an employment application. The regulations also permit the state to discipline its employees who engage in "scandalous" behavior. The revised Rules states that "No employee of the Commonwealth shall engage in scandalous or disgraceful behavior on or off duty which may bring the service of the Commonwealth into disgrace."

GAY GEOGRAPHERS

NEW YORK - The National Meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) will be held in New York City, April 11-14 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

In one of the workshops under Special Interest Groups, there is time allotted for "Gay Geographers".

Persons interested in attending the annual meeting should contact: Allan Rogers, Program Chairman, Department of Geography, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. 16822.

'SUN' SPOTS

VANCOUVER, CANADA - The issue? A two-line classified ad. It started when the Vancouver chapter of the Gay Alliance Toward Equality tried to have an advertisement offering Gay Tide placed in the business personals column of the Vancouver Sun.

The Sun returned the ad with a letter stating that it was "not acceptable for publication in this newspaper". Attempts to meet with the advertising director were refused.

The refusal to print the ad was based on the belief that it would offend some of its readers. It also stated that the newspaper's code of advertising ethics pro-

hibits the publishing of ads "offensive to public decency".

A British Columbia human rights board of enquiry ordered Canada's third largest newspaper on Jan. 12 to make advertising columns available to GATE and to refrain from discrimination towards such groups in the future. Under the powers of the province's Human Rights Code, the Sun was ordered to pay \$500 in damages.

The Sun has filed an appeal in the B.C. Supreme Court and it is possible the issue could go as far as the Supreme Court of Canada, where it would be a major test of gay rights.

COMMUNITY CENTER OPENS

The Gay Community Center in Philadelphia opened its doors to approximately 800 gay women and men Sunday, Jan. 19, for a glimpse of the facility before renovations are made. It was an effort to recruit persons and contributions to help put the facility into full-time operation. The Center is located at 326 Kater Street.

Ron Hueftle's models and Steve Mirman's drawings were on display, as well as browsing tables of plants, jewelry and crafts.

There was live entertainment provided by folk singer Jack McGarn. Playwright/actor Miguel Pinero and poet Barbara Lipshutz were guests of John Zeh on "Sunshine Gaydreams", broadcasted live over WXPN.

The auction, raffle and sale of food raised \$500 to be used in renovating the two-story building.

The Center will be used for meetings, dances, the Gay Coffeehouse, and special events in a full-scale program for the Philadelphia Gay Community.

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JULIA ADULT

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SNUFF

cont.

About 35 protesters assembled at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 4, 1976, an hour before the film's first showing. Among organizations represented were: Wages for Housework, SHUN, Alexandria Book's Collective, Metropolitan Community Church, HERA feminist newspaper collective, and the Free Women's School.

While demonstrator's chanted, "The murder of women is not entertainment," leaflets were distributed announcing DYKETACTICS! intention to stop the showing of "Snuff" and, "...to inhibit the yielding of profits to moneymakers who would sell us the real or implied murder of women on film."

At about 12:30 p.m., five members of DYKETACTICS! stormed the theatre. Two guards assaulted them with nightsticks. The women quickly broke into two groups and proceeded towards the screen and projection room.

It was then that the threat of property damage became real to the theatre management who invited one Dyketactician to stay inside and begin negotiations.

In the meantime, one of the women who had been clubbed was accused of kicking her attacker in the balls. Police attempted to arrest her, but women locked arms with and encircled her. When they all sat down on the sidewalk, police communicated that if orderly demonstrations would resume immediately, no arrests would be made. There upon, orderly demonstrations were resumed and negotiations commenced.

Using a bullhorn, demonstrators explained the issues to pedestrians in Philadelphia's business district, saying "Women, the issue is violence against you -- old, young, black and white."

Negotiations consisted of communications with lawyers and the film's distributor, Allen Shackleton of Monarch Releasing Corporation in New York. (His home phone # is 1-201-833-2186) Additionally, more rent-a-cops were hired.

When no answer was forthcoming by 6:00 p.m., about 40 enraged women threatened, "Close the movie or lose your theatre!" Management responded by closing the movie, thus cancelling two evening shows.

Shackleton, who had previously told the press that his own two daughters would not be permitted to see "Snuff", now indicated his astonishment to them.

"When protestors start dictating what a movie house can show...this country is in bad shape. These dykes are vicious. They're militant... You know the one who shot Warhol is on the loose again..."

When demonstrators returned the next morning, the marquee read, "Final Showing Today". The film was being moved to a drive-in theatre in another area and the Philadelphia newspapers refused to advertise it further.

Thousands of passersby signed petitions of outrage. Many others called police, the district attorney, press, and other media.

Despite inclement weather, DYKETACTICS! demonstration did not end until the box office closed. At that time 15 women formed an affinity circle in front of the theatre to bless each other and all supporters. Those who had crossed the picket line or profited in any way from "Snuff" were hexed with bad dreams.

DYKETACTICS! press summary concludes: "This action constitutes a victory for Philadelphia women who succeeded in dismembering corporate profits by persuading people not to cross the picket line and convincing the

management that ten extra guards were needed to protect the theatre. WE ARE STRONG. WE ARE UNITED. WE WILL WIN!"



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DAKE COOPER

By JANET COOPER



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As a lesbian activist member of Pennsylvania's Governor Milton J. Shapp's Governor's Gay Rights Task Force, I met with a few State Human Relations officials the other day to examine ways that this Department may better monitor discrimination against gays. The Human Relations representatives pointed out that as with most minorities, there are two different types of people who experience discrimination: those who do perceive themselves discriminated against and those who do not. All too often minority people tend to blame themselves for other people's discomfort toward, dislike of, and prejudice against them instead of more realistically identifying with the minority with whom other people associate them and whose association is the cause of the covert and overt prejudice.

As a lesbian activist, I have been applying my scholarly energies to researching our lesbian ancestors in international writings about women physicians. Using traditional methods of scholarship, I have found no evidence that any woman physician ever fantasized about, no less had sexual relations with another woman. The way our librarians, archivists, writers, and publishers preserve and make accessible information about the past and present does not include the subject of lesbianism.

Women physicians themselves are not identifying themselves as lesbians. From the difficulty I have in finding dyke M. D.'s to patronize, I assume that for too many women, even now, being a lesbian is more a term of slander than one of identity.

In medicine there have always been a great many implications and assumptions about masculine and feminine roles. Since the suppression of the woman-healer and the persecution of the witch, most of us tend to think of the medicine-men in our culture to be male doctors. From the evidence in the literature about women physicians, male physicians, guidance counselors, and families tend to identify the field of medicine as being a masculine profession requiring masculine character traits. When women consider entering it, male doctors perceive their rules, their livelihood, and their identity as threatened.

Elizabeth Blackwell, who was awarded her degree in 1847 from Geneva (New York) Medical College, is considered the first woman doctor in modern times. Her well meaning mentor and supporter, Dr. Joseph Warrington, advised her that, "There was no obstacles, either in the brains or in the physique of women, to prevent them from studying medicine, but only in social customs." He advised her to dress as a man, "since he imagined a woman would be more inconspicuous and therefore safer in trousers." Elizabeth Blackwell refused to wear male clothing and continued to search for a school which would admit her as she was in her lavender costume, bonnet, and cape.

A contemporary of Elizabeth Blackwell's, Mary Edward Walker, received her medical degree in 1855. When she did wear male attire in order to be more comfortable practicing medicine and advocating women's rights, she ended her life earning her living on a side show as a freak talking about her experiences as a woman doctor, women's rights, and "the beneficial aspects of trouser wearing".

Men have manifested their anger and rage when women have decided that they want to be physicians in more dramatic ways than by excluding women or telling us how to dress. When the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania made an agreement with the managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital in 1869 for its female students to attend clinical lectures at that institution, the male students protested.

Ranging themselves in line, these gallant gentlemen assailed the young ladies, as they passed out, with insolent and offensive language, and then followed them into the street, where the whole gang, with the fluency of long practice, joined in insulting them. . . . During the last hour missiles of paper, tinfoil, tobacco-quids, etc., were thrown upon the ladies, while some of these men defiled the dresses of the ladies near them with tobacco juice.

But such an example is not the only way words have been used to jeer at and to insult women physicians.

"Not a feminine profession," many women said in answer to various surveys about why they never considered entering medicine and dropped out of pre-medical and science courses. "One mother, when she heard that her daughter intended to take up medicine, retired to her room and wept, bemoaning the fact that she had given birth to an 'unnatural daughter.' The terms 'not a feminine profession' and 'unnatural' have been used before to imply considering oneself or associating with lesbians. When a renologist (kidney specialist) at the college where I work first expressed interest in becoming a doctor, she was told that there are three sins for a woman to fear about becoming a doctor: "You might never get married. You might never have children. You might become a lesbian."

Regardless of those covert and overt forms of dissuasion and discrimination, some women did become doctors and regardless of what other people might think, did live together and support each other throughout their lifetimes.

Dr. Baumann makes her home at West Chester, Pennsylvania. She and Dr. Jean Crump, who is professor of pediatrics at the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, have chosen, as their residence, an old farm house, situated on the rolling hills of Pennsylvania, near

Downingtown. They have recon-verted this old farm house, which dates back to 1742, into a most attractive dwelling. They have many acres of beautiful rolling hillside surrounded by evergreen studded woods. Their family consists of Persian cats and Chow dogs. On many occasions, the women physicians of Philadelphia have been entertained delightfully by Dr. Baumann and Dr. Crump. The flower garden in the spring and summer is one of the endless delight to the visitor and the photographer.

This friendship, like others between women must be glossed over because there is no evidence whatsoever that these two women physicians were lesbians. I imagine that if they were alive they would be suing me for slander for even mentioning them in juxtaposition with the word 'lesbian.'

Because women physicians are socialized and educated as they are, they have been alienated from their own needs and feelings. They have overlooked their own lives and identify instead what a male-dominated profession thinks they should be yet fears they will be. They have applied other people's prejudices not only to themselves but also to their patients. Women physicians should have formed their own community within which their honesty would have written their own history, would have established their own identity, and could have served as a model for all their colleagues and all of us.

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GAY ERA EDITORIAL

1976 — a very significant year. It's the bicentennial year. Sagging markets for pewter eagles and fireworks will be boistered by unprecedented orgies of patriotism and Madison Avenue marketing. It's an Olympic year; we will be bored or thrilled, depending on our interests, by the world's most spectacular sports event. It's also leap year and, according to tradition, women are granted the dubious privilege of proposing marriage to men (Who needs the E.R.A.?) But these thrills of 1976 will pale to the significance of a tea party with the Lennon sisters, compared to the greatest spectacle of the year — the 1976 presidential campaign.

Already we have witnessed fortunes spent, lies told, and incredible hedging on all the issues by the candidates. We have seen that our President would wear elephant ears and a trunk if it would please the right-wing of the Republican Party. We have heard Ronald Reagan say things so dumb that Gerald Ford even spots them. Meanwhile we watch the Democrats line up candidates like answers to trivia questions. The real question: Who will seize the American presidency — the world's most embarrassing position?

What has happened to make democracy look like a Norman Lear comedy recently? In theory, candidates should have a set of beliefs from which they develop programs and take positions on controversial issues. These clearly defined positions are presented in an attempt to convince the electorate that these are the best policies. Candidates don't seem to find this direct approach very profitable. The rules of the politics game seem to be: find out what the electorate already believes, mimic as many people as possible, and then (God forbid!) never take a position until the public opinion polls are in. Such a method certainly gives us a "palatable" candidates; while giving us candidates who hedge on any controversial issue with a singular lack of integrity. Abortion law reform is an excellent example of how most candidates handle an issue — few are against and none are for.

The issue of gay rights has not been an exception to the general difficulty in finding a candidate's stand on an issue, but in order to give some idea of their sentiments and credit to those who have seemed genuinely interested in gay rights, we attempt to present their positions below.

Gerald Ford — Though his life was saved by a gay man and his son dances with the jet-set in our bars, he has shown little concern in removing federal discrimination against gays. We can only guess that four more years would be just that.

George Wallace — He ain't saying, but we don't think we have to ask.

Fred Harris — "I am against discrimination on the basis of sex and lifestyle. And I believe the government should not discriminate on the basis of sexual preference".

Birch Bayh — Reports of the Senator's position are mixed. Although he is being supported by some big-name gay activists, he doesn't like to talk of homosexuality.

Jimmy Carter — Poor. He doesn't know if gays should hold high federal jobs because of blackmail.

Milton Shapp — He has actually done some things. Shapp issued the first and only Executive Order banning discrimination against gays in state hiring, while establishing the first and only Governor's committee on gay rights. He has vetoed anti-gay legislation and promises to do the same on the federal level.

Henry Jackson — Well, Jackson doesn't hedge. "Homosexuality is the first begging of the breakdown of society. It strikes at the heart of family life and I'm not about to encourage that sort of thing. This is the way civilizations crumble. The logical end of homosexuality is the gradual end of the human race". Oh! come on senator, we can do it if we have to.

R. Sargent Shriver — Rose Kennedy's favorite in-law is a classical hedger. In 1972 "To hell with gay people" was his tune. The melody has changed and we are being lured to the voting booth with a different song. "I oppose legal discrimination on sexual or affectional preferences."

Morris Udall — Udall believes that there is no justification for discrimination against gays.

If the twin parties of corporate ideology no longer interest you, the Socialist Worker's Party offers, perhaps, an excellent alternative in their candidate, Peter Comejo. Comejo, an outspoken advocate of gay civil rights, is the only candidate who has called for legislation permitting gays to marry and adopt children.

"He who pays the piper gets to name the tune," and in the 1976 election year, payments in votes are acceptable. Offer enough votes to Frank Rizzo and he would dance for Janet Cooper in a lavender tu-tu!

It is essential that gays force candidates to state their positions on gay civil liberties during the election campaign and support only those who are willing to actively fight for our full equality.



"So far, so good—he hasn't mentioned gays."

STAFF

Julia Adult, Janet Cooper, Bob Feiler, L.R. Greiner, Bob Herr, Dave Leas, Harry H. Long, Crystal René, Sadie, Kevin Smith, Ray Stickles, Bari Weaver, Jeff Willard, Sam Wilson

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DOCTOR LAMBDA

Q: I developed a sore throat the day after some rather, uh, heavy oral sex. Could this be oral gonorrhea?

A: Lots of different things can cause a sore throat, only one of which is oral gonorrhea. Probably the most common cause of a sore throat soon after oral-penile sex is simply the physical irritation of the throat from the penis. Many viruses and non-gonococcal bacteria can also cause sore throats. The only positive "proof" of oral (pharyngeal) gonorrhea is a positive throat culture taken with a cotton swab. If your sore throat continues to trouble you, I suggest that you visit your family physician for a check. If you're shy, try the local VD clinic -- they're always open and it's free.



Q: Is there any danger in using electric vibrators or other similar objects for increased rectal stimulation? What do you have to say about "fist fucking"?

A: There are many real and theoretical dangers about using electric vibrators or other foreign objects for rectal stimulation. Dr. David Reuben goes on at length about all the things we gays get into our asses, however, he knows not of what he speaks. A vibrator can be fun-providing it doesn't fall apart inside the rectum, electrocute you, or get "lost". Other objects, if sharp, can perforate the rectum or colon and cause serious bleeding or infection. Very large objects, such as fists, can damage the sphincter muscles of the anus, and since these muscles are necessary to control defecation, injury to them may result in

incontinence, an inability to control defecation. Dr. "L" suggests that you use lots of lubricant, preferably a water-soluble type such as "K-Y", relax, and enjoy whatever turns you on. Remember though, if it really hurts, your body may be trying to tell you to stop. Always listen to your body!



Q: I've developed a small blister-like sore on my penis. How can I find out if this is syphilis?

A: ALL sores on or near the genitals, rectum or mouth may potentially be syphilis. There is no fool proof way of differentiating a syphilis chancre from other less serious skin disorders simply by examining it. In general, however, the chancre of syphilis is painless and has a clean appearance. The local lymph node system becomes enlarged concurrently with the development of a chancre, but other local infections can also cause this to happen. That is why every suspicious lesion needs to be checked, if at all possible, by a darkfield examination. In this test a scraping from the sore is examined under a special darkfield microscope in search of the bacterial organisms that cause syphilis. If these organisms are seen, then the diagnosis of syphilis is confirmed. A blood test (VDRL) taken when the chancre of primary syphilis first appears may be falsely negative since the blood test only becomes positive during and after the development of primary syphilis. That is why it is so important to get a repeat blood test several weeks after an initial blood test was negative if you had any suspicious skin lesion. The VDRL blood test for syphilis is always positive in untreated syphilis after the disappearance of the primary chancre. Always be safe, than sorry.



Q: Would regular "gamma-globulin" inoculations prevent one from getting hepatitis?

A: The entire problem of hepatitis is not well understood by medical research. This topic is well worth a thorough discussion. Watch next month's column.



please address all questions to: DR. LAMBDA c/o: GAY ERA 3002 Marietta Avenue Lancaster, PA 17601

RURAL CAUCUS REPORT

LANCASTER - The February meeting of the Pennsylvania Rural Caucus was held in Lancaster on the 7th at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was chaired by Raymond Stickles.

The necessity of a permanent chairperson was discussed. By a slim margin it was decided that such a person was necessary. Raymond Stickles was elected for that purpose.

A report was given by Sam Deetz on Gay Lobby Day to be held March 23 in Harrisburg.

Workshops are to be held on Saturdays: March 13 in Pittsburgh, and March 20 in Philadelphia and State College. The Harrisburg chapter of the ACLU will be assisting coordination of Lobby Day.

An outline was given explaining the purpose of "Dyketactics" in Philadelphia, their recent demonstration at City Hall concerning Intro 1275 and the most recent X-rated "Snuff" film being shown at a local city theater.

Kevin Smith from Reading reported on the progress being made in attempting to have an amendment made to the City's Human Relations Act. The amendment would guarantee the rights of gays in employment, housing and accommodations. The Reading group is very optimistic about the bill after meeting with their Council members. Plans are to have the bill introduced sometime in March. If they should succeed, Reading would be the first city in the State of Pennsylvania to have such an amendment.

Lebanon gay representatives announced that they would be guests on the Channel 15 "Good Morning" show at 8:00 a.m., February 16.

Sam Deetz of Northumberland reported meeting with Col. Barger of the Pennsylvania State Police. After much persuasion, Barger promised to form a task force within the force to deal with the problems that gays face. Barger admitted that the State Force had not changed its policy for dealing with gays in the past 50 years.

MCC Harrisburg announced its first Holy Union. They have applied for a marriage license in Dauphin County and have the support of the main MCC office in California.

Gays United of Lancaster had announced that it was co-sponsoring the "Seminar on Military Spending" being held in Philadelphia that weekend.

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art design

EAT AND DRINK WITH JULIA ADULT

I hope you all enjoyed Washington's Birthday Holiday. I recently spent time in the Pocono Mountains, which is where I got the pleasures presented to you in this issue. Bon Appetit !!!!

BEVERAGES

The tricky weather we have been experiencing lately certainly has taken its toll, what with all the colds, viruses, etc. Here are a couple drinks to serve before going to bed with a cold...

HOT BRANDIED MILK

A few weeks ago found me in the Pocos sporting my new snow bunny outfit and certainly sipping this beverage de la maison of the bartender. In case you don't know it, skiing is not the only sport in the Pocos.

- 1 1/4 cups milk
- 1 oz. French Brandy
- cinnamon

Bring milk to almost boiling point. Add French Brandy and whisk briskly until brandied milk is frothy. Dust with cinnamon and serve in mugs.

BEER NIGHTCAP

My second day in the mountains found me a bit exhausted from my introduction to this winter wonderland. So I continued my sipping and casual conversing with my instructor over this delicious and robust brew. WOW! The weekend was almost over and I hadn't done any skiing as of this time.

- 2 1/2 cups beer
- 3 tblsp. honey
- 1 stick cinnamon
- 1 pinch nutmeg
- 1 pinch ginger
- 1 cardomon pod
- 6 cloves
- 4 oz. medium-dry sherry

Bring beer and honey to boil, and simmer gently 2-3 minutes. Wrap spices together in a piece of muslin or other fine cloth and tie tightly so that they will not escape. Drop sac into hot beer and leave to soak overnight. Before serving, add sherry, bring to boiling point and remove spice sac. Serves 4

FOOD

HORS D'OEUVRE

ANCHOVIED CUCUMBERS

By this time I gave up on all outdoor sports. My last day in this Winter Fairyland let me experience a delightful cocktail-buffet at which the following were served. Most of us know certain things we can do with cucumbers. Try this and add it to your list.

- 1 large cucumber
- 1/4 cup sweet butter or unsalted margarine, softened

- 3 cans (2 oz. each) rolled anchovy fillets stuffed with capers, drained
- parsley sprigs

Pare cucumber. Score with a fork and cut into 1/4 in. slices. Spread each slice with butter or margarine. Top with rolled anchovy fillets, garnish with parsley sprigs (under anchovy).

Makes about 2 1/2 doz.

STUFFED CABBAGE ROLLS

While standing inline at the buffet table, a conversation was begun by a rather handsome chap to my rear. He commented that the cabbage rolls reminded him of a story, which was a bit off-color. So he invited me to hear it in the lodge bar. Did I listen! Now when partaking of this dish, fond memories sweep into my thoughts. I just love to stuff cabbage rolls and I am sure you will enjoy doing this also. Try it.

- 1 large head cabbage
- 1 cup rice

- 1 large can Italian tomatoes
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 onion
- 2-3 tblsp. sugar
- salt and pepper

Start with the head of cabbage which should have large leaves. Put the head of cabbage into a kettle of boiling water for five minutes to loosen leaves and make them somewhat limp. Carefully peel off a dozen or so leaves. Remove the core and chop the rest of the cabbage. Put chopped cabbage in the bottom a casserole dish.

Cook 1 cup of rice in juice drained from tomatoes. Add water to make 2 1/2 cups liquid. When rice is cooked, mix with ground meat which has been browned with chopped onion. Season Well. Put 2-3 tblsp. of rice-beef mixture on each cabbage leaf and roll them up tucking in ends as much as possible. Place rolls open-side down on bed of chopped cabbage.

CONT'D ON PAGE 3

ALLIAND'S
RANCH BAR
OPEN
Sundays
8pm-2am.

SHAPP and the SHRINKS

In April of 1975, Governor Milton J. Shapp issued an Executive Order which committed his administration to ending discrimination against gay women and gay men in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Shortly thereafter a bill was passed by the state legislature which would have restricted the duties in state employment of all those, gay or straight, who "admit to acts of deviate sexual intercourse." Governor Shapp vetoed that bill. Since that time, a new bill, specifically naming homosexuals and specifying police, corrections, and hospital jobs, has been introduced and passed by the Senate. If it passes the Assembly, Shapp will no doubt veto this bill as well, even though the votes in favor were overwhelming and the chances of a veto override are excellent.

Judd Marmor, M. D., President of the American Psychiatric Association and President of the University of Southern California School of Medicine, recently

wrote to Governor Shapp in support of his veto of homophobic legislation. The text of his letter, in part, states:

"As President of the American Psychiatric Association, I wish to express my strong support for your recent courageous and appropriate veto of legislation which would have singled out particular categories of employment from which lesbians and gay men would have been excluded. There is no scientific basis for distinguishing between homosexual and heterosexual women and men in employment or licensing, as expressed in the civil rights resolution of this Association in December of 1973."

Shapp has since established The Committee on Sexual Minorities, including gay leaders from around the state. During the course of the gay controversy, Dr. Walter Lear, State Health Commissioner for the Philadelphia area, has openly declared his homosexuality and has been given full support by the Governor, who is a declared candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

The Peoples College of Law is seeking gay applicants. Entrance requirements are two years of college and a commitment to social change. Graduates receive a Juris Doctor degree and qualify for the California Bar Exam. Low tuition. For more information, write: Gay Caucus, Peoples College of Law, 2228 West 7 Street, Los Angeles, California 90057.



READING ITEMS

by Kevin Smith

READING, PA. - The Gay Coordinating Society of Berks County has recently announced plans to amend their Human Relations Ordinance to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual preference.

All four Council members plus the mayor have been contacted. Three council people have expressed support and the mayor is waiting to hear what the Human Relations Commission has to say.

GCS Reading met briefly with the Reading Human Relations Commission on February 11. GCS representatives, Kevin Smith and David Kline, asked the Commission for its endorsement and support of the amendment to the Ordinance.

The Reading H. R. C. and staff has recently been under reorganization in an attempt to make the Commission more responsive and effective to the needs of the community. In the past, the Reading H. R. C. has been known as a worthless extremity of the active Pa. Commission on Human Relations. Some of the apathetic atmosphere known to this Commission was apparent during the meeting.

Most Commission members seemed totally unaware of nationwide efforts directed toward the protection of gay rights. None of the members were accurately familiar with Governor Shapp's Executive Order protecting gays in state employment or his recent veto of anti-gay legislation.

Kevin Smith has been compiling actual cases of discrimination in the area. Cases in the area of housing were massive.

There was a mild challenge to a charge that the Reading Housing Authority practices a policy of discrimination against same sex couples, but discussion was ended when it was clear that no one was really certain of the Housing Authority's policy.

There was no outright opposition to the GCS request, nor any outspoken approval; although it was a little puzzling and discouraging to watch the Commission President shaking his head, staring at the floor. It appears, however, that after further education of the Commission members, making them aware of Shapp's support and endorsements by the State Commission and other state and national civic organizations, the Reading Commission will support the gay rights amendment to the Council ordinance.

Jan Sweat and David Kline are handling the list of local endorsements. B'nai B'rith has been asked for an endorsement as has the NOW chapter here.

The local Human Relations Commission has most recently recommended that the Council "give it full consideration".

Plans had been made to approach City Council with the amendment on Feb. 24, but had to be cancelled, as all city council members would not be present. It has tentatively been rescheduled for March 2.

HAVE A DRINK AND MEET NEW FRIENDS UNDER



the
DANDELION TREE

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Saturday 2pm 2am

DISCO DANCING

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Council on sexual minorities

On February 13, 1976, Milton J. Shapp released the formation of the Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities.

The Council is the outgrowth of the Governor's Gay Rights Task Force, which recommended a full scale review of the problems of sexual minorities. The Council will be chaired by Anthony Silvestre, Penn State Sociologist, who has participated on the Governor's Gay Rights Task Force. He has worked closely with the top officials of the Department of Education on rights of sexual minorities during the past year and was past president of Homophiles of Penn State (HOPS).

In a letter being sent out to members of the Council the Governor said, "The charge... to this Council is to clearly define the problems of sexual minorities throughout the Commonwealth and to recommend ways in which discrimination against sexual minorities can be ended." The Governor said that he also wanted the Council to make recommendations about present legislation effecting sexual minorities.

The Council, which will have no budget, consists of 32 members including representatives of the gay community throughout the state, of eight state departments and community leaders. Members of the Council shall serve for terms of one or two years as the Governor shall designate.

The Council is authorized to receive complaints from persons claiming that they have been discriminated against on the basis of sexual or affectional preference, for the purpose of referring such complaints to an appropriate place for resolution, where possible.

In the executive order from the Governor's Office establishing the Council, agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction are directed to cooperate with the Council and to supply it with information requested.

Representatives of the Gay Community appointed to the Council were nominated last fall by various organizations and groups in the state for consideration by the Governor.

Included on the Council are Frederick Douglas Morris, Corrections Specialist; Bishop Lyman Ogilby, Episcopal Church Diocese of Pennsylvania; Joseph Bongiovoni, Jr., Esq., Past President of the Philadelphia Bar Association; Dr. Barbara K. Shore, President of Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers; Thomas Wiestling, AFSCME (Pennsylvania); Dr. George Smith, psychiatrist (Harrisburg); and Norman Berson of the House Judiciary Committee.

Gay Community members included on the Council are:

From the Philadelphia area: Thomas Wilson, Frances Hanckel, Janet Cooper, Harry Langhorne, Barbara Gittings, Karin Martin and Mark Segal.

From the Allegheny County area: Debbie Boyle, Dianne L. Gigler, Randal Forrester and David March.

FLY, SADIE, FLY



From the 'rural' areas of the state: Marilyn A. Hewitt, Harrisburg; Mable Lou Augustine, Reading; Samuel Deetz, Northumberland; and Janice Irving, State College.

From the state agencies: Walter Lear, Health; Captain Salvador L. Rodriguez, Pa. State Police; Jan Snyder, Welfare; Elizabeth Shuster, Human Relations Commission; Earl D. Greenburg, Esq., Justice; Marie Keeney, Commission for Women; Jeanne Boydston, Education; and Terry Sparr, Office of Administration.

The date, February 12; the day, Thursday evening.

Like out of a science-fiction movie, a horde of plants descended upon Marietta Avenue, ravenously devouring the Gay Era's office until it looked like Longwood Gardens.

There were 'fat ones, skinny ones, tall ones, short ones', waiting to greet the 'folks with different strokes'.

At 7:30 arrive the HOMO-sapiens, gasping in awe at the foliage, snorting the fragrance of new blossoms and blessing Mother Nature for the magnificent plant party they were asked to attend.

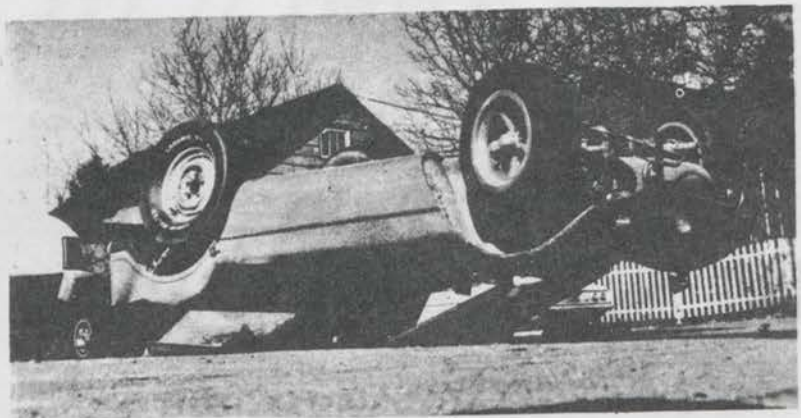
In bounces Sadie at 7:35, fashionably late. For a few moments attention turned to the Special Guest of the evening. The infamous Gay Era staff writer literally fluttered through the crowd like a butterfly. In her glittered 12 inch high platform shoes, black leotards, rainbow-colored wings spanning 8ft. from tip to tip, her antennae brushed a spider plant hanging from the rafters. Throwing daisies from her flower basket, she chanted, "Sadie for President!"

Our local lepidopterist instantly captured our fluttering butterfly with his net. It took three of the guests to wrestle the iron and waxed paper from the soon-to-be star of the Guinness Book of World Records.

Sadie was not amused as she primped her battered wings to exit the back door for fresh air, not to be seen for the rest of the evening. There was great concern as to whether the 'Madame Butterfly' had taken ill.

So on went the plant party. The purple thumbs munching on popcorn, listening attentively to their first instruction on plant care.

All in all, the evening was quite entertaining. Whatever happened to the glossy philodendron, no one ever knew. By the way, what do butterflies eat?



Early in the morning on February 14th, an unexpected "valentine" was received by Gays United Lancaster. An automobile belonging to one of the founders of the local gay liberation organization was turned upside down, its windshield smashed, and doors crushed. Gasoline and oil were spilled over the car's body and a large portion of the parking lot. Damages are estimated to exceed \$1,000.

Gays United Lancaster, in a statement issued, described the incident as, "...yet another example of homophobia in action." The group is offering a cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the damages. The identity of informants will be kept strictly confidential. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Criminal Division of the Pennsylvania State Police, Lancaster Barracks at 299-0441 or GUL at 898-2876.

LEBANON ITEMS

by Crystal René

LEBANON, PA.- Members of the Gay League of Lebanon, a newly formed gay organization in this city, were guests of the WLYH-TV, channel 15, "Good Morning" show, February 16 at 8am.

GLL members, Crystal René, Harry Long and Barb Ebright were interviewed by the show's host Bruce Berlinger.

Topics discussed were the purposes and functions of the organization, Senate Bill 743, Lesbian Mothers and Transsexualism.

In a discussion following the taping of the program, Bruce Berlinger inquired whether GLL and Gays United of Lancaster would be interested in appearing on a program devoted entirely to Gay Lobby Day to be held March 23 in Harrisburg. The prospective date for that program will be announced at a future date.

On February 26 at 8pm, the Gay League of Lebanon will hold its last meeting for February at 823 N. 7th St. in Lebanon.

There will be two guest speakers from the Liquor Control Board at the meeting to discuss the eviction of alleged gay persons from a local bar.

There are no gay bars in the city of Lebanon.

All interested persons are asked to attend this meeting.

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED: Women and men interested in forming a small bowling team. Amateurs welcome. Reply: Amateur, c/o Gay Era 3002 Marietta Ave. 17601.

WE WANT YOUR STORY

Write to the Gay Era, your personal story about Coming Out, your relationships, your family's reaction to your gayness, your favorite gay experience, your worst experience. We need you! No names necessary. Send it to us.

SWITCHBOARDS, etc.....

Harrisburg: Mon-Fri. 6-10 pm
1-717-234-0328

Lancaster: Mon-Fri. 6-10pm
(most other times)
1-717-898-2876

Philadelphia:
Gay Switchboard 1-215-978-5700
Lesbian Hotline 1-215-729-2001
Lesbian Teenage Rap Group
1-215-247-5659

COUNSELING-

Eromin Center
1735 Naudain Street
Phila., Pa. 1-215-732-3212

Contact (Lancaster) 24 hours.
call collect 1-717-299-4855

VD CLINIC -

St. Joseph Hospital
Lancaster, Pa.
24 hrs. Free 1-717-397-2821

ROOM-MATE WANTED: Moving to the Willow St.-Lanc. area on May 1. Reply w/name, address, age, and phone #.
Mail replies to: Classified 2, c/o Gay Era 3002 Marietta Ave. 17601.

Classified Ad deadline is the same as the advertising deadline.
All Ads must be paid in advance. No ads accepted by phone. Make check or money order payable to: Gay Era, 3002 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, Pa. 17601.
Since we distribute to all of Central Pennsylvania, please include your area code if your ad includes a phone number.

Non-business: \$2.00 for 4 lines (35 characters per line); each additional line 25 cents. Headlines are 50 cents for 25 characters.

Business (if you charge money for a service, you are a business): \$3.00 for 4 lines (35 characters per line) and 25 cents for each additional line. Headlines are 75 cents for 25 characters.

FREE CLASSIFIED

The Gay Era is offering a free classified ad to new subscribers. 4 lines, 35 characters per line. Enclose classified ad with subscription form found in this issue.

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GAY MAGIC IS A FOOT



PENNSYLVANIA GAYS - IT'S TIME

IT'S TIME to stand up and be counted. Our Governor has worked hard, has extended himself, in support of our interests, our rights. IT'S TIME for us to do our part in Harrisburg.

Now we have an opportunity to be a part of our own destiny. A Gay Lobby Day in Harrisburg is being planned by a Committee which originated in the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus. This Caucus, in turn, is an offshoot of the Governor's Task Force on Gay Rights. YOU ARE NEEDED.

On March 23, 1976, gay people in Pennsylvania, supporters, and friends will lobby their legislators on issues of gay rights. Our objectives are to gain support for laws to protect our rights, and particularly to have Senate Bill #743 rejected in the House of Representatives. This bill would prohibit the employment of gay persons in many State positions, and penalize their employers should they be employed.

Governor Shapp has recognized the blatant discrimination attempts on the part of the legislature in his veto of Senate Bill #196, which he termed the "worst-written piece of legislation" he had received. The Attorney-General has warned that both bills are probably unconstitutional.

With the Executive Branch of our state government supporting our rights, is it not time that we do so too?

The Gay Lobby Day Committee is looking for recruits - people who are willing to be in Harrisburg on Tuesday, March 23 to lobby their legislators on the issues of Gay Rights.

No experience is necessary - Lobbyists will be trained in one-day workshops to be held on Saturdays: March 13 in Pittsburgh, and March 20 in Philadelphia and State College.

We need 125 persons - so that working in pairs contacting four legislators, the 250 senators and representatives may be visited.

We also need - others who will help with communications, the Workshops, publicity, and the like.

YOU ARE NEEDED

Come with us to GLD workshop on March 13 or 20 - come with us to Gay Lobby Day on March 23 - help tell our legislators that we exist, and are important.

Will you help? Fill in the blank below, and send it to the Committee:

Gay Lobby Day Committee
c/o Sam Deetz
P. O. Box 182
Northumberland, Pa. 17857

We will respond with the additional information that you will need to complete your plans.

To: Gay Lobby Day Committee
c/o Sam Deetz
P. O. Box 182
Northumberland, Pa. 17857

I am available to lobby in Harrisburg for Gay Rights on March 23, 1976.

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____

I will attend a GLD Workshop:

- | | Pittsburgh, March 13
- | | Philadelphia, March 20
- | | State College, March 20