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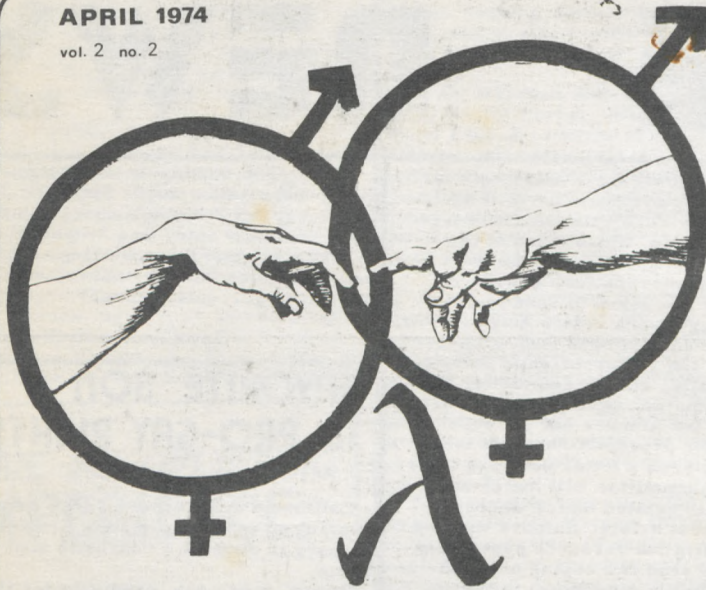
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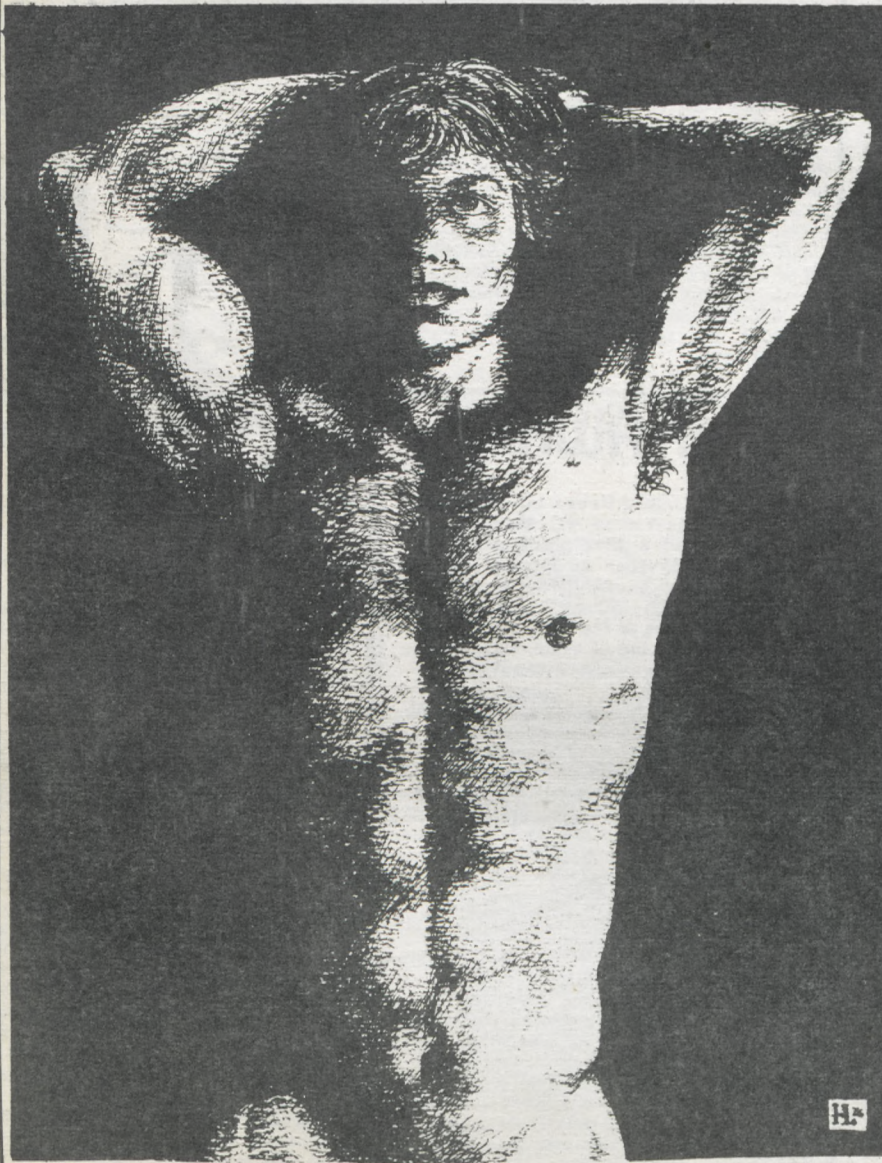
APRIL 1974

vol. 2 no. 2



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GAY ERA



SUPREME COURT SAYS "NAY" ON GAY

(reprinted from Philadelphia Gayzette)

The New York Times reported that the Supreme Court in a 6 to 3 decision, ruled "that states may prosecute and imprison people for committing homosexual acts even when both parties to an act are consenting adults and the act occurs in private."

"The ruling sharply departs from a ten year trend in which the high court had increasingly expanded the concept of the constitutional right to privacy.

"In effect, the Court found that the right to privacy does not include the right of willing adult homosexuals to engage privately in their chosen sexual conduct."

The Supreme Court made its decision without holding hearings or issuing any opinion. It simply upheld the ruling of a lower federal court which had rejected a challenge to a Virginia law prohibiting consensual sodomy. The lower court, in its written opinion, found that the Virginia law did not violate the right to privacy, the ban against cruel and unusual punishment, or the rights to due process of freedom of expression.

Only three justices dissented from the decision: Brennan, Marshall, and Stevens. They expressed a desire to have hearings on the case before rendering a decision.

The New York Times reports that the ruling came about "as a result of an attempt by two male homosexuals in their 20's, one from Richmond and one from New York, to get a court ruling forbidding prosecution of consenting adults for private homosexual conduct."

"They relied on a series of Supreme Court rulings on the right to privacy, beginning in 1965, in which the Court, among

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IN THE NEWS



ENSIGN BERG IS STILL FIGHTING

NEW YORK - Ensign Vernan Berg III is still fighting to remain in the Navy. Berg is presently in active duty at Norfolk Navy Base, and has 3-5 months before he is finally discharged.

During a hearing held from Jan. 19-28, Berg was recommended for discharge, "under conditions less than honorable". At the hearing, Berg was accused of homosexual acts with another officer; he denied the charges.

Berg lives with his lover, Lawrence Gibson. He did not come forth to reveal his gayness as did Leonard Matlovich. Both he and his lover were confronted with "evidence" last July 22 after Navy agents had removed correspondence between the two lovers from their apartment.

E. Carrigan Bogan, the lawyer handling the case in Berg's defense is relying on the 1974 *Champagne v Schlesinger* interpretation of the Navy's position on homosexuality.

The original instruction stated that "homosexuals cannot be tolerated in a military organization... are security and reliability risks... whose prompt separation is essential."

In the *Champagne v Schlesinger* case, Defense Department brief stated that "while the wandering of policy concededly is strange," it is "not binding on members of an administrative board and thus does not establish a per se rule requiring the discharge from the Navy of all homosexuals."

GAU CONFERENCE

The Conference Planning Committee of the Gay Academic Union is soliciting input from all segments of the gay and lesbian community for its next annual conference. The Committee welcomes both feedback on last year's conference and proposals for the new workshops, panels, and papers.

The GAU Conference-- America's largest annual gay symposium-- will again be held in New York City, on Thanksgiving weekend, 1976. Since much of the planning and scheduling must be done before the summer vacation, interested contributors are asked to send in preliminary suggestions before May 15, 1976.

The conference is open to activities dealing with the gay experience personally, politically, and academically. Persons or groups who have particular areas of concern, but who are not yet sure of the form their presentation might take, are urged to send a letter outlining their ideas. The Committee will match up individuals with related topics wherever enough interest exists. Authors wishing to present original research papers are requested to send two copies of an abstract (300 words maximum) to the address below.

Last year's workshops and panels covered some 50 areas of gay studies, from literary criticism to political activism. Many of the sessions were controversial either in subject or structure. As part of the continuing effort to represent all aspects of gay culture, the Committee welcomes constructive comments about past sessions.

The Conference Committee is still in the process of formulating new guidelines for panels and workshops. These guidelines are being kept as flexible as possible pending suggestions and comments.

All suggestions, comments, and topic ideas should be sent to: Conference Planning Committee, Gay Academic Union, Box 480, Lenox Hill Station, New York, NY 10021. For further information, call 212-753-1377.

U.P.I. AWARD

BOSTON - United Press International (UPI), the largest news wire service in the world, has given a third place award for "Community Service" to Boston's WBCN-FM for its radio show, "What Ever Happened to Gay Legislation?" The designation was made as part of the UPI's annual Tom Phillips Awards and is believed to be the first time that a gay radio show was so honored.

The show, which was aired the Sunday before Gay Pride Week in June of 1975, was produced by WBCN News Director John Scagliotti, WBCN Women's News Director Susan Sprecher and GCN News Editor Neil Miller. The show, which lasted a half hour, featured interviews with Reps. Elaine Noble and Barney Frank, Connecticut Gay Lobbyist Chris Pattee, and anti-gay Massachusetts Rep. William Hogan. GCN political columnist David Brill, Fag Rag collective member Charlie Shively, and Real Paper columnist Andrew Kopkind also participated in the program.

John Scagliotti, WBCN news and public affairs director, was extremely pleased with the award. "I've been entering gay shows in every contest there is for the last few years. The award in this case really shows that gay concerns are becoming a legitimate thing with the national media." Scagliotti was one of the founders of WBCN's *Lavender Hour*, one of the first gay radio shows in the country.

The judges, members of the Radio-Television Department at the Syracuse University School of Communications, commented that the WBCN entry was "a well produced program effectively combining elements multiple-voice, music, narration, and interviews.... outstanding!"

- Gay Community News Boston

FAVORITE SON IS PRO-GAY RIGHTS

California's Governor, Jerry Brown, is planning to enter that state's presidential primary in June as a "favorite son" candidate.

Brown, a pro-gay candidate for the presidency, recently signed into law a bill legalizing sex between consenting adults in that state.

With 280 votes, California will be very influential in the Democratic Convention to be held in NYC in July.

It is predicted that Brown will win as many as 200 of those votes.



Mary Jo Risher (right), lesbian mother, and her lover Anne Foreman (left).

LESBIAN MOTHER LOSES CUSTODY

DALLAS, TEXAS - Beginning October 1974 Mary Jo Risher was served with a citation by her ex-husband to appear in court answering a petition in which she was openly charged with being a homosexual, living with another woman, Ann, in a homosexual relationship. In a temporary hearing, a Motion of Limine was introduced by Mary Jo's lawyers barring homosexuality as a basis for immediate removal of the children from the home. The judge upheld this motion and the children were to remain with Mary Jo who has had custody of the children since her separation and divorce in 1970. Then after a postponement, the court date was set for September of 1975. At this hearing the judge ruled that any act, event, or situation dealing with the environment of the children or any life-style (ie, homosexuality) that may effect the children may be brought before the jury. Trial date was

permanently set for Dec. 15, 1975.

Mary Jo lost custody of her youngest son to her ex-husband solely on the grounds of homosexuality. The jury decided that Richard Risher, age 9, leave the home of his mother and her lover and live with his father.

Mary Jo Risher, age 38, is a nurse by profession. She received her B. B. A. in Business Administration from Abilene Christian College, Dallas, Texas (Jan. 1975). She is past chaplain of the Order of Eastern Star, past president of Dallas County Council of Parent Teacher Assoc., and a new member of N. O. W. She also has a son aged 17.

Ann Foreman, age 29, is an assistant auditor in a Dallas bank and has a minor daughter aged 10, who also lives in the home with the full knowledge and support

of her ex-husband and his present wife. Ann is working towards her college degree, and is also a member of N. O. W. They are both members of Daughters of Bilitis.

In an interview with Gay Community News, (GCN) Boston, Mary Jo said, "They made a lot of remarks in court about the role situation in the child's life, saying that there had to be a male role. Ann (her lover) was attacked for working 16 hours a day for a couple of months to pay for the court costs, whereas a man would be praised for the same thing.

"This ideology," she said, "puts a lot of women in danger of losing their children whether living as Ann and I do, or simply women sharing expenses. If their ex-husbands wanted to make trouble, he could simply complain about the role situation. Ann's husband has a 24 hour wife, but Ann and I have to work. This means that only women who do not work and have the time to be in a 'wife role' will be entitled to children."

The case won support of the National Organization for Women (NOW) when it issued a statement of support saying, "We declare that the abridgement of the basic rights of Ms. Risher and every other lesbian mother fighting such a judgement, diminishes the freedom of all women; moreover it constitutes a flagrant denial of equal justice under law."

Lawyers on both sides agreed that the central and perhaps the only major issue is sexual preference. Local lawyers believe the case will reach the Supreme Court given adequate financial support. Expenditures have already exceeded \$3500. Any monetary donations (or others of time, witnesses, or accounts of past, present, and pending custody cases involving homosexuals) will be greatly appreciated. Tax deductible donations can be made which will pay only for the expenses of expert witnesses. These are to be sent to:

Legal Defense Educational Fund
N. O. W. -- Mary Jo Risher
9 W. 57th Street, N. Y., N. Y., 10019
Free donations which can pay for lawyer's

fees, phone calls, correspondence, travel, court costs, depositions, etc., send to:

Mary Jo Risher Fund-Dallas Co. NOW
PO Box 12431
Dallas, Texas, 75225

Thanks



SAXE POWER

BOSTON - Lawyers for Susan Saxe made small gains in an effort to suppress evidence seized from the alleged apartment of Kathy Power, also wanted for the 1970 Brighton State Street Bank & Trust robbery involving Saxe.

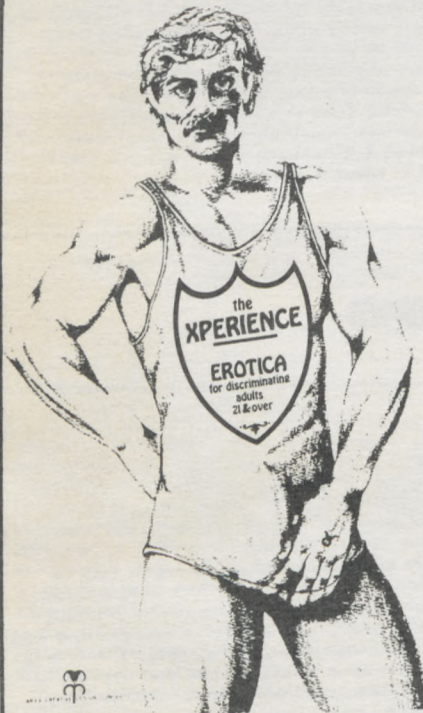
Judge Walter H. McLaughlin agreed to take under advisement a defense challenge concerning the Grand Jury's members when Saxe was originally indicted.

A defense motion on Suppression of Evidence comes as a result of defense allegations stating Power's apt. was entered and evidence gathered before the search warrant was written. FBI conversations with Richard Valeri are to have led to search of the apartment, evidence useful to the defense. Defense Attorney Tom Shapiro is now getting recordings of the FBI conversations.

Defense Attorney Nancy Gertner asked for dismissal of the case based on Grand

Continued on Page 7

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OPINION!

We bewailed the injustices of our situation, and were told to keep the noise down; we gnashed our teeth, and were recommended to a good dentist; we ruined our garments, and were shown to a tailor's shop; we prayed, and God put us on hold... We were left with only one alternative — we lobbied.

Lobbying is an ancient art. The term probably comes from the days when the representatives of special interest groups stood in the lobbies of congress and legislator's offices waiting for the opportunity to catch the ear of a passing congressman. Little, except the outward trappings, have changed since the beginning of this craft. The hardwood and the stuffy lobbies have been replaced by swinging glass and aluminum doors, plush shag carpets, and climate control. Page boys have been replaced by Bell Telephone voiced receptionists. But still, groups of congressmen cluster in corners, eager, hoping to catch the ear of a passing oil company executive. Others, glossy eyed, simply stare, contemplating the glow-in-the-dark paintings of schooners and wild horses drawn on velvet and get stoned on dreams of Lockheed pay-offs.

Hopeful, that congress men and women could still be influenced by those who are neither rich nor powerful, a group of Pennsylvania gays decided to try their hand at lobbying. The idea seemed simple enough. Get members of

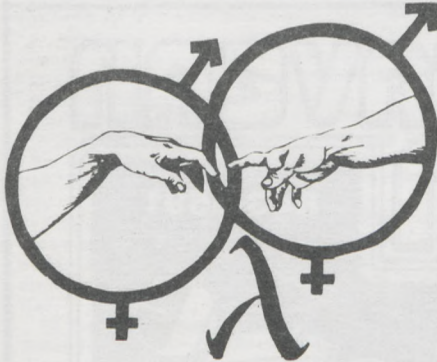
the Pennsylvania gay community together, go to Harrisburg, and demand equal protection under the law. So on March 23 several hundred gays from every part of the state met in Harrisburg bent on changing the attitudes of the legislature toward the state's homosexual community.

Those lobbyists who had rolled in the political mud long enough, and were used to speaking to their local politicians, knew the ropes. No drags, no jeans, no lisps ("for Christ's sake don't look gay"). Not everyone listened to those political sages but everyone lobbied just the same. Responses from the legislators ranged from insulting to encouraging — some just weren't in (including our great women's liberationist _____). Nevertheless, the effort was made and the time spent.

A complete evaluation of the effects of Lobby Day cannot as yet be made. Only the future behavior of the legislators can determine the answer to that question among others. Will they discontinue their attempts to ban homosexuals from state employment? Will they legalize sexual behavior between persons of the same sex? Will they pass civil rights legislation for gays?

Experience has shown that many of the honeyed words heard from legislators on Lobby Day will prove to be so many lies poured out for the sake of political expediency. It is doubtful that one afternoon of lobbying will seriously alter a lifetime of bigotry, but perhaps this confrontation with a united force will at least make them less ardent in their persecution.

GAY ERA



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LETTERS

HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH A DEAF GAY PERSON

To the editor:

The reason I ask gays, "How to communicate with a deaf gay person", is that I find that a lot of people are afraid to try talking to such a person. It's not hard or easy to communicate with a deaf person, but if you don't understand, ask for a piece of paper and write to them. Possibly, you will both understand each other and you will both be happy. It makes me feel good to make others happy. I can talk, but not very well. I'm hard of hearing, but don't have many problems communicating. I also know sign-language and finger-spelling. I went to the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf in Philadelphia.

I have a good friend who is also deaf. He has the same problem as me. I wish I could show sign-language to everyone if they wanted to learn. Speaking with your hands is beautiful. It's just like hearing people talk.

Please don't be afraid of deaf people. My friend and I would like understanding, friendship, happiness, kindness and love. We're like all of us to be like brothers and sisters. I'm working hard to talk with people who can hear. I don't like being alone and in silence everywhere. If I saw a person alone, not talking and unhappy, I wouldn't like being that person. I'd walk up to them, start talking, be friendly, and hope to make them more happy. I've seen

a lot of happy people who won't talk to someone, besides talk to a deaf person. I wish we could all be happy and friendly.

I'm proud of the Gay Movement and want to be equal to straight people. I'm trying to help people understand and explain to them how to communicate with deaf gay people.

God Bless Everyone
Love and Peace
Thank You

Andy

From the staff:

We are aware that larger cities offer services to deaf people, providing an opportunity to express yourself openly with other deaf gays. We're sorry there is no such service in the Lancaster area.

Hopefully your letter will reach others like yourself and others who have a willingness to understand. Many of us have the same feelings you do Andy!

NEXT ISSUE DATED: MAY 7

DEADLINE: APRIL 30

RURAL CAUCUS REPORT

The March meeting of the Rural Caucus was held in Lebanon, Pa. March 6 at 2pm. The meeting was hosted by the Gay League of Lebanon at the Rescue Fire Hall. Raymond Stickles chaired the meeting.

David Leas reported on the finances of the caucus. The only expense of the caucus is the monthly publication of its newsletter, the Rural Caucus Report. It was reported that GUL is selling its copier which would leave the caucus without a means to print the newsletter. A request was made to other groups that might be interested in volunteering their facilities for the Report. After discussion of other possibilities, it was unanimously decided that the Report be incorporated into the Gay Era. It was also decided that the section carrying the Rural Caucus Report be the official voice of the Rural Caucus. Persons wishing to receive the Gay Era are requested to subscribe to that paper. Those who have already donated to the caucus newsletter will be added to the Gay Era's subscription list.

Women's Day will be held May 2 at the Railroad House in Marietta, Pa. For more information contact the Women's Center in Lancaster at 299-5381.

All participants of the caucus were reminded that the deadline for registering for the April 27 Pennsylvania Primary is March 31.

A report on the present standing of the Human Relations Ordinance in Reading was given by Lou Augustine. GCS of Reading feels that it has the support of 3 out of 5 council people in amending the ordinance to include gays in its anti-discrimination clause. The mayor, who is the fourth member of council, opposes gay rights. The fifth seat was recently vacated by the death of one of its members. GCS is awaiting the appointment. Lou stated that the District Attorney in that city refused to meet with her and he was reported to have said that he would not support gays or endorse the amendment. Lou will take this information to the Council for Sexual Minorities. The issue has received good coverage from the media according to the Reading delegation.

A letter was read by the chair which was printed in the Gay Community News from Boston. The letter which was intended as a statement of Shapp's record on Gay Rights also contained a line of endorsement. The letter was signed by various local gay organizations including the Rural Caucus. The legality of political endorsement by groups in the event of achieving non-profit status came to question. It was suggested that each group protect itself by writing a letter to GCN. A letter will also be sent by the Rural Caucus. It was emphasized that letters not retract the original statement but the line of endorsement.

A copy of the recent survey forms sent by the Advocate to local gay organizations nationwide was read by the chair. The surveys are to be used by the Advocate in its directory in order to make the paper more meaningful to the gay community. Referring to the recent criticism of "gay-spokespeople" by the Advocate's publisher David Goodstein, his soon to be held private meeting in Chicago, the recent resignations by

some of the paper's best writers, and some of the questions on the survey such as, "How much does your organization still owe on its mortgage"?; the caucus questioned the sincerity of the survey. GUL announced that it had returned its survey with a letter addressing repugnance and mistrust to Mr. Goodstein.

Janet Cooper and Pat Donahue presented a reading of poetry written by Susan Saxe.

Sam Deetz, chairperson of the Gay Lobby Day Committee, gave an update of the committee's progress. With most of the preparation for Lobby Day completed, Sam noted that with the Statewide Convention held last October, Lobby Day will be the second attempt of Pennsylvania gays working together.

A report on the Campus Committee was given by its chairperson, Mary Nancaroon from Shippensburg. A meeting had been scheduled for Friday, March 12 with Jean Boydston and Bernie Edwards of the Department of Education in Harrisburg. Sam Edminston is working on documentation of harassment of gays at Bloomsburg State College. All documentation of campus abuse will be appreciated. Identification is not necessary; but if action is expected on a certain case, identification will be necessary but will be kept confidential. All information should be sent to Mary Nancaroon, Shippensburg Students for Gay Rights, c/o CUB, Shippensburg, Pa. 17257.

The chair introduced the members of the newly appointed Council for Sexual Minorities who are presently involved with the Rural Caucus. They are: Tony Sylvestre, HOPS State College; Lou Augustine, GCS Reading; Janet Cooper, Philadelphia; and Sam Deetz, SVGU Northumberland. Tony, chairperson of the Council, announced the first meeting to be held March 11 in Harrisburg. Persons interested in serving on committees are asked to write to him c/o the Governor's Office, State Capitol, Harrisburg, or contact one of the other Council mem-

bers. There are plans to operate a toll free number at State College for use as a Statewide Switchboard.

Chris Poorman revealed that GLL took a phone poll concerning the anti-gay bill, SB 743, in Lebanon. After explaining the contents of the bill, 75% of the persons contacted conveyed that state employees should not be discriminated against because of sexual orientation if they are qualified for the job.

Rural Caucus participants were also urged to make contacts with their local candidates in the upcoming election to ask them how they stood on the gay rights issue.

Lou Augustine remarked that a radio marathon for Easter Seals was held a week after a radio program on gays over a local station. During the week between the two programs, the station received numerous calls protesting the program on gays. On the night of the marathon, a gentleman called and stated that the reason people weren't donating money was because of the type of program that the station had broadcasted on homosexuals. A call was made to the station shortly after citing that they could not believe that people could deny crippled children because of the program. A total of \$68.50 was donated to the marathon in the name of GCS and the Reading gay community as a result of a collection at a local gay bar and from GCS council members.

It was suggested that at each Rural Caucus meeting, time be allotted for an informal discussion on a subject to be chosen. The subject chosen for the next meeting was sexism.

The next meeting of the Rural Caucus will be held at the Tiffany Lounge in Wilkes-Barre on April 10 at 1pm. The meeting will be hosted by the North East Pennsylvania Gay Alliance (NEPGA). For directions contact Tom Schmittle, Tel: 717-696-2326. Caucus members will receive copies of the map enclosed with the Gay Era.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

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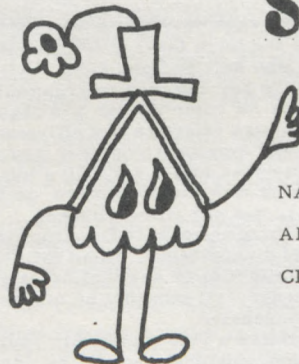
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TWENTY WAYS TO DESTROY THE GAY MOVEMENT

1. Describe gay rights as the most radical form of social change to the point where nothing else will do. In actuality, most of the chances take no more than a few strokes of the pen. Assert that this movement will destroy the very foundations of society, and make the majority so frightened of you, they'll defeat all your proposals.
2. Maintain that gay is always better than straight. Then the public will fear that gays are not content merely with their own sexuality, but want to change everybody's preferences.
3. On the media, make such statements that child molestation is part of gay life style.
4. Choose the worst anti-gay stereotypes as speakers for the movements. Then the public will think that all homosexuals are perverted weirdos.
5. Tell people that anyone helping the movement must have some sort of psychological hang-up.
6. If a celebrity comes out in favor of gay rights, spread the rumor that he himself is also gay.
7. Never ask a straight person for help or for money. Describe fund-raising as part of the capitalistic conspiracy to keep innocent people oppressed.
8. Maintain that to charge people for the use of facilities, or for goods and services, is somehow oppressive. Let everyone rip things off as they please, even millionaires.
9. Underpay professionals who have been retained to help the gay cause. Then keep on delaying payment to them, or conveniently forget about paying them at all. If the person in question is gay, tell him that he should be working for the cause for free, and that it is somehow immoral to make any money out of the movement. In that way, there will be no professional help.
10. Have gay rights speakers talk about inflation, the state of the union, and the rate of taxation. Assert that if gay rights were granted, these problems would disappear.
11. Put gay women and men against one another by arguing that they are so different, true understanding can never be brought about. If you are a man, favor men all the time. Likewise if a woman.
12. On radio, TV, and in the media, identify the gay movement with radical politics to the point where one cannot be both gay and Republican. Make it seem that only those with similar radical views can be gay, thereby identifying the movement with extremists.
13. Advocate illegal drugs in connection with homosexuality, thereby confusing the movement for drug law reform with the sex law reform. Then people will think of gays as pothead criminals.
14. Keep on asserting that militancy is pointless and disqualifying, disparaging anyone who tries to accomplish something courageous and constructive. Say that society is improving naturally if we'd only have the patience to wait. This will delay gay rights until we are all dead and buried.
15. Take up a lot of time at meetings discussing the rights of women, Blacks, Italians, Jews and all other oppressed minorities. Leave the matter of gay rights to such groups as the Italian-American Civil Rights League.

SADIE SAYS ! advice to the shopworn

Dear Sadie,

My lover and I have been fighting for weeks over this problem. Finally out of desperation, my lover said that I should write to Sadie and her answer would be the decision. O.K. Sadie, here goes:

My lover's best friend and my best friend met at our home two years ago and have been together ever since that beautiful evening. They make a wonderful couple. I am so happy that they are happy. Next month they are getting married in NYC. Now here is where the problem comes in.

We are going by train and leaving only in time to go directly to the ceremony because my lover must work in the morning. I want to go to the wedding in drag and that means on the train. My lover said that he will be uncomfortable in this situation and doesn't want me to do this. What can I do? There doesn't seem to be any compromising. Remember Sadie, your decision will be law!

Wedding Bell Blues in
Blue Ball

Dear B.B.

I am flattered, but a bit disappointed that my decision is so influential. I always take my mate's feelings into consideration before I do anything that affects both of us. I do not get enjoyment out of making my partner feel uncomfortable. Mutual Respect of one another's feelings is important to me in any relationship.

P.S. If you do decide to go in drag you could always change in the powder room on the train.

Dear Sadie,

I have just come out three months ago and have met alot of people. I can really enjoy sex but I am afraid to go to anyone's home. I can't take anyone home because I live with my parents. The only sex I do have is in a car or motel. To tell the truth, I am afraid they will try to hurt me. Can you shed some light on my "problem"?

Thank You,
J. W.

16. Use the term fag-hag to describe all women who befriend gay men. That will isolate the gay community even more.
17. Force all committees and organizations that are effective and efficient to take in and seriously consider anything a new member might say. Give him equal status with the old timers, so that a lot less can get accomplished.
18. Encourage people to interrupt and be rude and discourteous. When the chairperson tells him or her that he or she is out of order, tell him that he or she is being oppressive.
19. Establish a rule that within your organization, one ought not act on one's own initiative, but consult the general meeting on all matters, no matter how trivial.
20. Argue that in a true democracy, the most inept and least interested passers-by have equal rights with the most dedicated and hardworking.

Dear J. W.,

I think that your situation is not unique and many of us have felt this on occasion. If anything is going to happen, it could happen in a car or motel-hotel as well as anyone's home. A good precaution is to get to know your prospective partner as well as possible under your circumstances. Speaking from personal experience, I have never gotten in any situation I couldn't handle. Self-confidence in any life situation is of great importance in life. Get in control of yourself and go have a ball.

Dear Sadie,

I am 78 years-old, living in a nursing home two miles south of Paradise. I have fallen in love with a wonderful, kind, considerate, younger man. Jack, (which is not his real name) is 72 years-young. We met in the TV room watching our favorite afternoon 'soaps'. We have a great time together and I am happier than I've been in years. The problem is we want very much to make love together but we have no place to go. We each have our own rooms and both have roommates. We tried to make it in the laundry room two weeks ago but my wheel chair unlocked, slid backward, hit the control for the washer, starting the machine. What a commotion it caused. Three nurses came running. Jack thought fast, picked up his pajamas, my night shirt, and threw them in the washer. Seeing us both naked as 'J' birds, I told the nurses we were doing our laundry. Now they think we're both senile. Do you have any ideas on how we could get together? I am getting very frustrated.

Name With-held

P.S. I read the Gay Era every month and think this last issue was the best ever. For some reason it seemed different. Keep up the good work Sadie.

Dear Frustrated,

Your problem isn't HARD to solve at all. Since you and your lover spend so much time together anyway, just exchange roommates and then you can be together at night as well as day.

Thank you so much for the compliments on the newspaper. I too happen to like it, but, I must tell you, I am just a small contributor in this journalistic endeavor. There are many hands responsible for its publication. I would like to express my thanks at this time (in print) to each contributor on a job well done. A newspaper of this quality in a conservative town such as Lancaster is quite an achievement indeed. Special thoughts of you special people in helping a dream of mine come true.

Confidential to Big Dick,

If I were you I would get a new telephone number - unlisted. No, I never used them! But my sources say they are safe if used with caution, otherwise you can do much physical harm to your partner. Is there anything you aren't into Big Dick??

Love Ya,
Sadie

IN THE NEWS

Jury makeup when Saxe was indicted in 1970. Claiming the 3 to 1 ratio of men to women is and was unconstitutional as well as excluding nurses, women ministers, and all female guardians of children. That Grand Jury was made up of only 17% women.

Defense Attorneys are also requesting the judge reconsider his recent decision refusing to let Susan co-counsel in the trial. The original objection by McLaughlin stated he didn't want Saxe "walking around his courtroom". Referring to reports that Stanley Bond, involved in the same robbery, killed by a bomb in prison, was preparing to blow up the Plymouth County Courthouse. Fear of this recurrence made him adamant preventing Saxe from serving as her own co-counsel.

McLaughlin will hold hearings on the suppression of evidence, April 9 at 10:30.

BOY PROSTITUTES

Veteran journalist Robin Lloyd has pulled the covers off of the thriving boy flesh trade in the U.S. in his shocking book, *For Money or Love; Boy Prostitution in America.*

Lloyd reveals many of the youths (aged 8 to 17) sell their bodies for money, while others take the plunge out of a deep search for love. And their relationships always involve a much older man.

He pointed out that the boys who placed themselves on the flesh market were not necessarily homosexuals.

JOBS CORPS

A Federal Jobs Corps manual, entitled "Sexual Deviation", will be cancelled according to a promise made by Corps Director John Stetson.

Stetson expressed complete agreement with criticisms of the manual during a meeting with Dr. Bruce Voeller, director of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF) held Feb. 20.

Stetson promised to cancel use of the manual in all Job Corps centers and order Job Corps administrators and staff to treat gay enrollees no differently than anyone else.

The manual called for a medical discharge for "chronic overt homosexuals" as well as for those found engaging in "experimental" or "stress-induced" homosexual behavior.

Reps. Edward I. Kock (D-NY), Bella S. Abzug (D-NY), and Michael J. Harrington (D-Mass.); Senator Alan J. Cranston (D-Calif.); and President Judd Marmor of the American Psychiatric Association - joined NGTF in protests to the Job Corps over the manual.

MORE ON "SNUFF"

Snuff, a film which depicts the murder and dismemberment of a woman, is now under fire from feminist and gay groups in other parts of the country. A halt to the showing of the film was accomplished in Philadelphia by members of DYKE-TACTICS!, a lesbian activist group in that city.

A massive city-wide boycott of Sack Theatres, Boston's largest movie chain is now under way. The Boston effort to force the Sack Theatres to stop showing the film is being coordinated by Ellen B. Davis, head of Gay Media Action in that city.

Meanwhile in New York City, a demonstration took place in front of the Office of the District Attorney of Manhattan, Robert Morgenthau, to demand the closing of Snuff in that city. Protestors of the film are being told by the city authorities that there are "no legal grounds" to prosecute or order the closing of the film.

Leafletting and picketing will continue in the country to bring to attention the violence against women in our society.

The last word we have gotten was that the film was leaving the Boston area. It was not known whether it would be shown at one of Sack's suburban theatres or not.

AUTHOR OUSTED FROM CHURCH

PITTSBURGH - Rev. Richard Ginder, the 62 year-old author of the book, *Binding with Briars; Sex and Sin in the Catholic Church* has been stripped of his "priestly faculties" by Bishop Vincent M. Leonard of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Ginder, who openly admits being gay, appeared on the Phil Donahue Show in January. His book calls for the extreme liberalization of church teaching on birth control, homosexuality, and premarital sex.

Leonard's action will prohibit Ginder from performing mass, hearing confessions, or preach sermons in the Pittsburgh Diocese.

CONN. GAY RIGHTS AXED

HARTFORD, CONN. - In what appeared to be a good chance for the passage of a gay rights bill in Connecticut was squashed by a vote of 84-62.

The bill gathered optimism among supporters of the bill at a hearing before the Joint Human Rights and Opportunities Committee of the Connecticut state legislature. Committee members voted it out of committee for consideration first by the House and then the Senate after an overwhelming majority of the speakers at the hearing spoke in favor of the bill.

With virtually no debate, the Connecticut House of Representatives voted the state's annual gay rights legislation

With virtually no debate, the Connecticut House of Representatives voted down the state's annual gay rights legislation March 3.

According to *Gay Community News* in Boston, Chris Pattee, head of the Sexual Orientation Lobby, expressed shock at the lack of debate. "I was flabbergasted", she remarked, "I personally know of several legislators with rebuttal speeches planned." Pattee added that she felt last year's 2 1/2 hour debate on the same bill probably deterred some would-be opponents from speaking out, for fear of a well planned opposition.

This was the single piece of gay rights legislation in the state of Connecticut this year. Its defeat means that the Sexual

Orientation Lobby, in Pattee's words, "will start working all over again for next year."

WASHINGTON HWY. PATROL

SEATTLE - 'Gays will not be discriminated against in hiring'. That was the word from the Washington State Highway Patrol.

The decision came after a year and a half battle between Douglas Wyman and the Patrol. Wyman was hired by the Patrol in September 1974 and fired a month later when he volunteered the fact that he was gay to a department investigator.

Wyman, a communications technician, previously employed by the National Security Agency (NSA) was given a general discharge (under honorable conditions) after reporting to his commanding officer that he was gay in order to avoid any possibility of blackmail.

The King County Superior Court issued a precedent-setting decision ordering the reinstatement of Wyman in the State Patrol. It was the first such case in the country relating to a law enforcement agency.

Judge E. Henry issued a statement saying that Wyman had been a "victim of his own honesty" and ruled that the state failed to show any connection between sexual preference and job performance. He awarded Wyman \$915 per month in back pay.

Since then, the state Highway Patrol issued a statement saying that gays will not be discriminated against in its hiring policies.



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Governor's Council on Sexual minorities

The first meeting of the Council for Sexual Minorities was held March 11 in Harrisburg, Pa.

The days of the abandonment of gays by the state government in Pennsylvania may very well be numbered. With the formation of the Council established by Governor Shapp earlier this year, gay Pennsylvanians can at least look toward a few concerned people to work towards the end of discrimination against them.

By no means are gays to not fear their right to equal job and housing opportunities in this state, but at least the mechanisms for assuring their rights are in the process of being formed.

The Council, which has no budget, consists of 32 members including representatives of the gay community throughout the state. It also consists of eight state department and community leaders.

Terry Dellmuth representing Governor Shapp at the meeting, told Council members that it would have the full support of the Governor. Dellmuth expressed hope that the Council will make recommendations to the Governor so that action could be taken to end discrimination against gays in the state of Pennsylvania. He also stated that his office was open anytime to people with problems and that they should feel free to give him a call.

Barry Kohn from the Governor's Office, who had worked closely with the preceding ad hoc Task Force, noted the expediency in which the Task Force moved in its 17 month existence. He remarked that much work needs to be done in order to break down the myths and stereotypes about homosexuality in the legislature which has been introducing anti-homosexual legislation in the past few years.

Jean Boydston from the Department of Education conveyed that the in-house Task Force in the department was now ready to move ahead. Two people from each of the six administrative areas in the depart-

ment and two gay people were meeting as the Task Force and has given the Department Secretary a list of recommendations that have been approved for the first year. These recommendations, according to Boydston, will clearly set a direction for the department and will be reviewed in the second year to see what additional steps need to be taken.

Joe Acanfora was introduced by Tony Sylvestre, chairperson of the Council. He asked the group to work closely with the Department of Education and not wait for complaints to be made. Acanfora has been a plaintiff in several law suits to obtain a teaching position after it was found out that he was gay. He believed that the main difference between the gay minority and other minorities was that they were generally invisible. He compared this invisibility to "our seductive prison" and also silence as our "comfortable cell".

There was discussion on whether the structure of the committees should consist of in-house Task Forces in the departments of government or Council committees. A committee on structure was appointed to review suggestions and present a proposal at the next meeting. The committee was also asked to look into the question of public relations for the Council, a committee on transexuality, finances and an executive committee.

Debbie Boyle, a gay representative from the Pittsburgh area, suggested that a Women's Caucus be formed to address the special needs of women. Debbie convened a meeting of that caucus after the Council meeting.

The Legislative Committee announced that it would meet in Harrisburg, March 23, during the Gay Lobby Day effort.

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13 at 1:30 at the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, 100 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg. All interested persons are invited to at-

tend.

The question of meeting sites was raised during the meeting. A suggestion was made that the Council hold its meetings in various locations throughout the state. It was also suggested that committee meetings could also be held in the same manner in order to reach gay people in the state who might be experiencing a difficult time in certain areas of the government. It was also noted that it would provide the Council with more explicit problem areas in which to work.

GAY DEPUTY SHERIFF

SAN FRANCISCO - Rudi Cox, a gay black man, has recently been appointed as deputy sheriff in San Francisco. This is the first such appointment in the nation.

Cox is presently working as a jailer in the men's section of the county jail. After applying for the job, he told an investigator who was doing a background check of applicants that he was gay. The investigator told the Civil Service that he probably would not be satisfactory for the position.

San Francisco Sheriff Richard Hongisto personally went to the Civil Service in Cox's behalf stating that sexual orientation had nothing to do with the qualifications of the job.

San Francisco Police Chief Charles Gain shares Hongisto's desire to hire more open gays as police officers, just as the police department should have a representative percentage of other minority groups.

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LETTERS

To the editor:

It may come as a surprise to most people that the Gay Era celebrated its first birthday in March '76. Certainly those persons lucky enough to have saved the first few issues will be able to behold them as collector's items.

The Gay Era, originally the newsletter for Gays United of Lancaster, has grown to a point where it can serve other such 'rural' areas of the state.

In the years to come, the Gay Era will be able to report news of interest as well as provide a forum for ideas to gay communities that might otherwise feel isolated by the miles that separate them.

Gay people in the Lancaster community, as well as other small gay communities in this state, can be proud that they now have a paper of their own - a paper for and by gay people.

There is much to be done in our communities to fulfill our needs. No longer will we have to depend on "Steinmen-like enterprises" to fulfill those needs.

The Gay Era is just one step in a program of self-help that for too long has been controlled by the heterosexual majority. But the change cannot come about by the hard work put forth by a few. First there must

be a willingness for change. This will be the first question that will test the outlook we take as gay people. The Uncle Toms (Aunt Marys) abound in numbers. Without an effort, other than that by a few and those who shell out a quarter a month, our gay communities will remain much the same as they have for the past 200 years.

Quoting the 'Newly Revised Edition of the Modern American Language': "Get off your asses!"

A staff member,
Dave L.

To the editor:

Thank You! Now I don't have three tons of paper to hide under my bed from my parents. It's almost impossible to read the paper in the bars. Keep up the good work.

A Bar Fly

To the editor:

I have read with interest your last issue of the Gay Era. I also took note of the improved format of the paper.

I have found that many of the national gay newspapers are totally lacking in the news and commentary that can effect my life here in Reading.

There are many first class gay newspapers and now I can add the Gay Era to the list. For national news of importance, it is the best. I shall continue to read it.

The Gay Era is providing a definately needed service to the "rural" areas of the state. I wish you luck and success in your endeavor to provide news to those often unreachable gay communities throughout the state.

Jeff Bolonski

HOMOSEXUALITY
AND CHURCH

At it's meeting this month, the Bishop's Conference of the Church of Finland is to deal with a report on "Homosexuality and the Church" prepared by Dr. Martti Lindqvist and Dr. Jouko Sihvo. According to the researchers' paper, the causes of homosexuality are to be found in the very early stages of a person's development. This means that a person's later attempts to influence homosexual tendencies are not particularly effective.

With respect to holding ecclesiastical office, the report recommends the same criteria be used for homosexuals and heterosexuals. "All church employees must begin by being responsible, respecting the spiritual and physical inviolability of others and committing themselves to their faith both in their thoughts and lives", say the authors. The report takes a negative attitude towards forming separate congregations for homosexuals, instead expressing the hope that ordinary congregations will open their doors to all those wishing to participate in church activities.

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SUPREME COURT

other things has struck down restrictions on the availability of contraceptives, ruled that a citizen may have pornographic literature in his or her own home, and invalidated laws restricting the right to get an abortion.

"The two judge majority of the lower court flatly rejected the challengers' reliance on the high court's right to privacy decisions. It said those rulings involved marriage, the sanctity of the home and family life--none of which, they said, was applicable here."

The New York Times quotes one of the anonymous defendants as saying, "I am deeply disturbed and depressed by the Supreme Court's insensitivity to the right of privacy of all Americans."

Bruce Voeller, executive director of the National Gay Task Force, was also quoted in the Times: "This was plain, simple example of homophobia--the irrational fear and loathing of homosexuals. The court has abandoned the logic of the law and even its own former rulings involving privacy."

Aryeh Neier, executive director of the ACLU, said in the Times: "The fact that there is a 'crime' of homosexuality allows them to say homosexuals are not of good moral character and to deny them their civil rights."

The following editorial appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer, Wed., March 31st.

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision upholding the right of a state to prosecute and imprison citizens for homosexual acts, committed in private and between consenting adults, is dismaying on several grounds.

It is dismaying, first, on procedural grounds. On this issue involving the right of privacy, the right to be left alone by the government--"the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men," as the late Justice D. Brandeis once put it--the court did not even trouble itself to listen to arguments.

Nor did it issue an opinion. It simply reaffirmed, by a 6-3 ruling, a 2-1 decision of a three-judge court in Richmond, Va., upholding a Virginia statute making certain unconventional sexual acts a crime, punishable by up to five years imprisonment.

The ruling is particularly dismaying on substantive grounds. One need not approve, for moral or religious reasons, certain forms of sexual or other behavior. The point is that this is no concern of the state. The state has no business prying into people's bedrooms.

The Supreme Court majority has displayed not only a shocking insensitivity to the rights of individuals but to the impact of its ruling. For if a state can make deviate sexual acts a crime, it can, in other ways, punish those who commit them. It can discriminate against them in employment, as in S. B. 196, quite properly vetoed last Oct. by Governor Shapp, aimed at denying equal job opportunity to those who engage in "deviate sexual intercourse" as ill-defined in the bill.

The ruling is dismaying because it represents a reversal of a recent trend in this country toward repealing moralistic statutes of one kind or another. And it is further dismaying because it comes on the heels of other recent Supreme Court decisions enhancing the powers of government officials and diluting constitutional protections of individuals.

The ruling did find the court's newest member, Justice John Paul Stevens, on the minority side, with Justices William J. Brennan Jr. and Thurgood Marshall. Unhappily, that is the only optimistic sign we can find in it.

Gays United issued the following press re-immediately to Lancaster County's Media. Did YOU SEE or HEAR it in our area ???

The Supreme Court in a 6 to 3 vote refused hearings on two cases concerning sodomy in male to male relationships.

Similar cases, those of Griswold vs. Connecticut, involving married couples, and Eisenstatt vs. Baird, involving single couples were won on the right to privacy.

The United States is the only country in the Americas or Eastern Europe having such oppressive laws on its books. Sodomy statutes have been repealed in fourteen states, dealing with homosexuality as well as heterosexuality, sodomy being practiced by some 80% of the population.

The American Bar Association as well as the American Medical Association endorse this type of discrimination by holding the same bigoted attitudes as the Supreme Court.

Similar to abortion, this becomes an example of the infringement of personal right to control our own bodies, as well as the right to privacy, guaranteed by the constitution. This is an obstruction of heterosexual as well as homosexual individuals.

"Song of Myself", the American Parade presentation on March 9, was a morsel of gay life-styles in the media. Characterization, photography, sets, and costumes were superb to say the least. Unfortunately all emphasis was placed there rather than on actual portrayal of the man. For a male straight actor, Rip Torn did a good job. His slight affections, walking hand and arm through the wood with his lover Peter, was tender. Is it so important to protect our children that at 10:00pm we may not see a little more affection? I remember Ozzie and Harriet, not to mention some of the unmarrieds being in bed together, at quite an early age in my life. Thankfully my

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sexuality has not been at all disturbed by such presentations.

Whitman's strength and determination did overpower the oppression surrounding him, not only in his life, but in his works. His sensitivity and love for men did come through on the screen, regardless of the production's suffocation.

His awareness, not only of himself but the world around him, made him the dynamic personality he was. The very reality and honesty he stood for was sadly lost in the programming of his own life. He said

"The oration is to the orator, the acting is to the actor and actress not to the audience,

And no man understands any greatness or goodness but his own, or the indication of his own."

Bari



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NAUGHTY NINETIES (1945)
Abbott & Costello

April 11 Musical
LADY IN THE DARK (1944)
Ginger Rogers & Ray Milland

Closed April 18
EASTER SUNDAY

April 25 Drama
MADAME X (1966)
Lana Turner & John Forsythe

May 2 Supernatural
FLESH AND FANTASY (1943)
Edward G. Robinson & Barbara Stanwyk

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PILLARS OF THE SKY (1956)
Jeff Chandler & Dorothy Malone

SPECIALS

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CLASSIFIEDS

The Lancaster Gay Men's Discussion group was formed as a sort of rap session for those of us out and coming out to share our feelings as well as thoughts about our life-style. Not a counseling session it is an exchange of feelings. A time to ask questions, discuss our sexism and relate. Hope you will join us and grow with us.

NOTICE:

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS DEPT. First the bad news: The higher cost of printing the GAY ERA decrees that we raise our cover price to 50cents, as of the next issue. Now the good news. We will be adding at least 4 more pages to the publication, AND, if you subscribe now, you can get the next year's supply of the GAY ERA at the current low subscription rates. Who says we don't love you? Keep it up, and join us in May for the improved, expanded and somewhat more expensive GAY ERA.

GAY ERA ARTIST needs good-looking, well-built male models for all sorts of projects. If you can stand the tedium of posing and fit the above description, write c/o GUL.

COUNTRY HOME wanted to rent. Woman desires reasonably priced home away from harassment & city turmoil. A place to write & re-energize the spirit. Unfurnished--luxurious decor not necessary. Send resume to Janet Cooper, 3002 Marietta Ave., Lanc., Pa. 17601

GAY FOSTER HOMES needed for kittens. No chains, pens, or nasties. Our research shows kittens raised in an openly gay atmosphere have the healthiest personalities, are free of inhibition and fear. They are full of loving character. Call 898-2876 or write: Gay Foster Homes, 3002 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, Pa. 17601 All parents will be interviewed first.

ENGLISH MAJOR or person experienced in writing and editing, needed to help complete gay autobiography and novel. Can't pay but would appreciate the help. Call 898-7162 after 5pm.

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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.

ditioned building has been in the process of renovation for the last four months. It will house meetings, dances, the Gay Coffee House, and a new office for the Gay Switchboard. The switchboard hours are now, 6 - 11pm daily. Call: (215) 928-1919

Friday April 23rd at 8:30pm will be entertainment provided by musicians and poets, as well as a multi-media presentation. Saturday the 24th. 2:00 - 5:30pm, a general open house with an art show, music, slides, and home made food in a cafe atmosphere. That evening a gala

CALENDAR

- Thurs. April 8 Gay Era Staff meeting 8:00 pm.
- Sat. April 10 Rural Caucus meeting 1:00 pm.-Northeast Penna. Gay Alliance
- Sun. April 11 Gay Men's Pot Luck Dinner. 6-10pm. Free 3002 Marietta Ave., Lanc. Bring a dish or beverage.
- Tues. April 13 Jill Johnston speaking at Temple University. Free
- Sun. April 18 Easter-Coffee House will be open. 6-10pm. 3002 Marietta Ave., Lanc.
- Tues. April 20 Gay Men's Discussion Group 7:30pm. 3002 Marietta Ave. Lanc.
- Sat. April 24 Dignity Meeting 7:00pm Harrisburg Friends Meeting House. 6 & Herr Streets.
- Sun. April 25 Gays United Lancaster Re-organizational meeting 6-10pm. All Lanc.'s gay community invited. 3002 Marietta Ave. G. C. S. Reading, regular meeting.
- Fri. April 30 Deadline for Gay Era May issue.
- Sun. May 2 GCS Roller Skating Party Sinking Springs Roller Rink. GUL meeting 7:00pm & Coffee House 6-10pm. Gay Men's Discussion Group. 7:30pm, 3002 Marietta Ave. Lanc.
- Tues. May 4 Gay Era should hit the news stands.
- Fri. May 7 GCS Reading Theater Party at the Genesis Show-1776 tickets \$3.50 Call Jan Sweat 215-373-3643 for reservations. Coffee House, 3002 Marietta Ave., Lanc.



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dance will be held from 9:30 - 1:30 am.- Expecting the dance to be a sell out, you should send for tickets by April 15th. Tickets sold in advance are \$2.00, at the door \$2.50.

Two other dances, lectures, courses, and films are all being planned.

The building having a five year lease with option to buy, has already utilized \$10,000 for its new look, but another \$5,000 is urgently needed to complete renovation for a Gay Community Center to be proud of. Finances are controlled by a 25 member Policy Council elected each year at an open community meeting. To date, most money has come in small amounts. Individual contributions are greatly appreciated and worthwhile.

Since the Gay Community Center has attained non-profit status as an educational institution, contributions are tax deductible.

Ticket orders and contributions may be sent to: GCCP, PO Box 15748, Phila., Pa. 19103

GAY CENTER TO OPEN

PHILADELPHIA, PA. - The Gay Community Center of Philadelphia will have its grand opening on Friday and Saturday, April 23rd & 24th. The two story air-con-

GAY EDUCATION DAY

Another "first" in the history of Pennsylvania took place at the Capitol in Harrisburg on March 23, 1976. On that Tuesday nearly one hundred gay women and men launched an extensive campaign to secure equal protection under the law by changing the course of recent homophobic legislation.

State Senators and Representatives, most for the first time, were visited by their gay constituents. Educational materials of a positive nature were presented to each Solon visited. Support was sought for Rep. Norman Berson's (D-Phila.) House Bill #2220. That bill would amend the current Pennsylvania Human Relations Act so as to preclude discrimination (in housing, employment, public accommodations, etc.) on the basis of "sexual or affectional preference."

The event was planned and coordinated by a committee of the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus under the leadership of Sam Deetz of Northumberland, Pa. The impressive organization of the effort was an illustration of the power of the "gay grass roots". No more can legislators dismiss human rights issues as "problems" only for the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas.

Reaction to gay Lobby Day was predictably "mixed". Neither laws nor minds are changed in the course of one day. As Winston Churchill said not long ago: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Much more needs to be done. It is still not too late to help. Letters of support for the pro-gay House Bill #2220 need to be written by as many people as possible - gay and non-gay, alike. Mail letters to Rep. Norman Berson c/o House of Representatives, Harrisburg, Pa. 17100.

The Gay Lobby Day Committee still needs funds to pay bills. Any amount helps - send your dollars to: GLDC c/o Sam Deetz, PO Box 182, Northumberland, Pa. 17857.

Pennsylvania Gays, It's Time!



State College Workshop



MARK SEGAL WITH BUS



SAM DEETZ



TONY SILVESTRE



BARBARA GITTINGS



Jonathan Smith-Cousins And Cohorts

Photos by Bari Weaver