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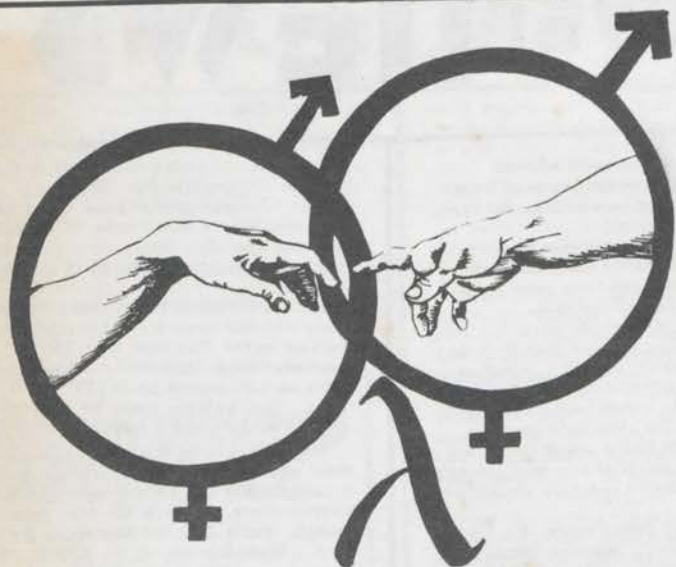
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GAY ERA



INSIDE

**SHRINKS
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**WHEATLAND
ZAPPED**

*plus our
regular features*

TINSEL GARLAND

in THE NEWS

T.V. Rape

LANCASTER - City detectives are shaking their heads at what they think may have been the first attempted rape of a man in the city early Monday morning.

Detectives said the 23-year-old man told them he was walking down the 400 block of E. King Street wearing a blue print mini-skirt, brown pumps with three-inch spike heels and a shoulder bag at about 2 a.m.

Suddenly, he said, a young bearded white man came up to him and grabbed him, saying, "this will only take a minute."

The female-attired male managed to fight off his would-be rapist. And after he kicked his attacker with his spike heel, he said the man ran off and is probably still trying to figure out what he tangled with.

The above is the account given by the Lancaster Intelligencer Journal. Due to the recently numerous rape/murders in the city of Lancaster, the news media and the police department should not take the incident so lightly. Humorous as it may seem, rape is a devastating problem that faces the women of our community.

N.J. Ruling

In a precedent-setting decision the New Jersey Supreme Court has ruled that two consenting adults engaging in sex - alone and unseen - could not be found guilty of private lewdness.

"Clearly a private act of exposure between consenting adults... is not offensive to the participants," the court affirmed in its appeals court reversal of a 1972 conviction of two men who were arrested while parked at a highway rest stop. The two men in the case were described by the court only as J.O. and P.C.

The court decision also found that such conduct is not indecent exposure within the meaning of the law.

The New Jersey American Civil Liberties Union supported the decision saying that it gave force to the concept that "private sexual conduct is not a proper matter for investigation by the state".

BIZARRE BUST

LOS ANGELES - Forty persons were arrested in a Los Angeles Health Club April 10, under a rarely applied slavery statute. The arrests occurred during a slave auction conducted by the Los Angeles Gay Community Center as a fund raising event. Part of the money raised was to be used for the Center's

venereal disease treatment clinic.

The master of ceremonies was a heterosexual mother of two young children. She was also arrested.

Sixty-five police department undercover agents infiltrated the Saturday night event. Police officers said they purchased one "slave" for \$16.

Robert Sirico, executive director for the Gay Community Center claimed that the raid was a direct act by the police department to discredit the image of gay people in the L.A. community for legislative gains. Sirico also said that the police department knew about the event for 3 weeks and that if there was interest in preventing it they certainly could have stopped it.

Aides to County Supervisor Ed Edelman and City Council-woman Peggy Stevenson came to the defense of the gay community at a news conference in that city. They termed the auction harmless.

Sirico compared the event as just like high school slave auctions. And as gay community members should ask as did Sirico, "Do they arrest high school and college students" who hold slave auctions?

Bail was set at \$5,000 for each of those arrested. At the time of this writing the gay community in Los Angeles is planning another fund-raiser in order to raise the bail for each of the 40 persons arrested. And of course, being appropriate for the occasion, plans are to hold another "slave auction" Friday April 22.

Ceases Publication

CHICAGO - The "Chicago Gay Crusader" a monthly newspaper in the Midwest which began publishing in 1973 will print its next issue, No. 27 for the last time.

The paper has recently come under stiff competition from the bi-monthly "Chicago Gay Life". The reason for the cease in publication according to the founder and editor Michael A. Bergenon was that their people power was not sufficient and that they were a little burnt-out.

Subscribers will be offered a choice of a pro-rate refund or of using the remainder of their subscriptions as a donation for the future work of the collective with which the newspaper is associated, Oscar Wilde's Children.

Nat'l Lobby Formed

The Temporary Board of the national lobbying organization for gay rights legislation in Congress (organized at the Advocate Conference in Chicago) has applied for a corporate charter in Wash-

ington, D.C. under the name of Gay Rights National Lobby, Inc.

The Chicago conference charged the National Gay Task Force with handling the election of a thirty member Board of Directors, comprising 15 women and 15 men.

GRNL directed that names of nominees for the Board of Directors be received by the National Gay Task Force not later than May 30th. Ballots will then be circulated by NGTF to all members. The ballots must be returned to NGTF by July 15th, 1976.

Membership in the new corporation may be obtained by sending a check or money order for \$15 or more to the incorporators, in care of: Mr. Adam De Baugh, Suite 210, 110 Maryland Ave. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Checks should be made out to GRNL, or to Gay Rights National Lobby, Inc.

You must be a paid-up member of the new corporation in order to nominate people for the Board, or to be nominated for the Board, i.e., both nominators and nominees must be GRNL members in good standing.

Homophobic Psychiatrists Zapped

NEW YORK - A militant demonstration by over 100 lesbians and gay men disrupted and brought to an abrupt halt a panel discussion on the "Psychodynamics of Male Homosexuality." The panel was sponsored by the Association for Psychoanalytic Medicine and was held at the New York Academy of Medicine in New York City. Featured speakers were Doctors Irving Bieber, Charles Socarides and Lionel Ovesey, three of the most visible proponents of the theory that homosexual behavior is pathological.

As gay people picketed and chanted outside the building, several members of the Gay Socialist Action Project were quietly sitting inside the lecture hall. Although the panel was closed to the public, G.S.A.P. members gained entrance to the building when the group found a service entrance and a back staircase leading to the lecture hall. After five minutes of Doctor Ovesey's opening speech, one member of the Gay Socialist Action Project blew a whistle, and another member loudly announced that "the actual topic of tonight's discussion will be 'The Social Dynamics of Anti-Homosexuality among Male Psychiatrists and Psychologists.'" Other members of G.S.A.P. then began reading a statement to the startled audience.

The statement began: "Attention, attention please. Tonight's meeting was mistakenly billed as a panel discussion on the 'Psychodynamics of Male Homosexuality.' The actual topic will be 'The Social Dynamics of Anti-Homosexuality

IN THE NEWS

Among Male Psychiatrists and Psychologists.' The discussants will be all those who have suffered at the hands of psychiatric-psychological professionals. Open discussion from the audience will be preceded by a few prepared comments.

"Did German Jews have the moral obligation to debate the Nazi theorists' ideas of Jewish inferiority? Do Gay men

and women in 1976 have the obligation to meet with apologists for slavery and argue whether Blacks were really inferior? Do Gay men and women in 1976 have the moral duty to discuss with the psychological ideologues of homosexual inferiority whether homosexuals are 'diseased,' 'pathological,' 'immature,' or only 'neurotic'?

"The victims' alleged 'responsibility' to answer bigotry with counter-argument is a requirement imposed by the oppressor to defuse the victims' legitimate outrage and rebellion. The oppressed have no obligation to present their persecutors with a critical analysis of their oppression. Only traditional academics could conceive that the rebellion of the oppressed need be justified.

"Bieber, Ovesey, and Socarides are among the major theorists of homosexual oppression. Each of these doctors is personally responsible for untold years of guilt and inferiority feelings suffered by Gay women and men. These doctors stand indicted as generals in the war of the heterosexual dictatorship against Gay people; a genocidal war of annihilation. . .

"For too long we have been Bieberized, Berglerized, Capponized, Freudianized, Caprioid, Hattered, and Hended.

"We have been psychoanalyzed, tranquilized, hypnotized, psychodramaed, group therapied, hormone treated, shock treated, aversion treated, lobotomized, hysterectomized, clitoridectomized, castrated.

"Some of us have died.

"Despite the mad and evil scientists, some of us survived.

"Some of us have decided to revolt."

Within minutes panel moderator Herbert Hendid announced that the meeting was adjourned. The demonstrators had

succeeded in preventing the psychoanalysts from holding their meeting.

The demonstration was a result of cooperative action by several gay organizations in New York City. Gay people at Columbia, the Gay Academic Union and the Gay Activists Alliance publicized the panel and called for a massive turnout of gay people to protest the appearance of the anti-gay doctors. GAA organized militant picketing outside the building, and dozens of gay people filled the lobby and sat down in front of the elevators to protest the last minute closing of the panel to the public. Chants of "closed panels, closed minds," filled the hall as well-dressed analysts stepped over the sprawling bodies of angry gays. Over twenty New York City Policemen were on hand, but no one was arrested.

Dr. Arnold Cooper, president of the Association for Psychoanalytic Medicine, tried to calm the crowd in the lobby by deploring the recent Supreme Court decision which upheld the sodomy statutes, and denying that psychoanalysts were in any way responsible for it. He claimed that the Association was a scientific organization, not a political one, but was interrupted by shouts of "you are political, you are responsible," and "your theories and propaganda support the political oppression of gay people." But the analysts refused to accept their complicity in the oppression of gays. Several analysts leaving the building were heard to mutter, "It's your problem if you thing that just because we call homosexuality pathological, that means you are inferior."

- Gay Community News (Boston)



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WHEATLAND ZAPPED !

by D. D. Delaney

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Bicycling up the long drive in the darkness beneath the old, tall trees—my bicycle light a dim and swaying beam in the silence—the great stone front of Buchanan's mansion bathed in spotlights: I felt as if I were riding directly into a movie, like "Gone with the Wind," or into the pages of a novel, like "Middlemarch." It was an air of unreality that would linger on throughout the evening.

What I didn't know at the time was that another alternative group besides LIP was also attending the "gala reception" last Thursday night at Wheatland to dramatize themselves in a society setting at the world premier of John Updike's "Buchanan Dying." It was Gays United of Lancaster, in the persons of Barry Weaver and Bill Horn, and Bill, in a green chiffon party dress, was in drag.

They were handing out leaflets; between acts at the performance, later, discreetly—letting them lay in conspicuous places—at the reception. They put one on the windshield of each car in Wheatland's parking lot. The leaflets posed the teasing question: "Was James Buchanan Really Gay?"

Nearly no one but the confederates knew about the plot, or caught on to it, until the party was winding down—after 1 am. Then people began gathering in small groups, glancing and pointing at the two, who decided to leave.

"Are you going to wear a tux?" my co-editor asked me that afternoon when I told her I had just gotten myself an invitation to the reception. That's the first it dawned on me what kind of an affair this was going to be.

"No," I said after a moment's thought, "I'm going as I am." Which I did, except that I took a shower, traded my sneakers

for my fancy boots—to sort of offset my jeans—and put in my best gold earring.

A car with high beams assulting the night followed my bicycle route around the carriage house. As it approached the trees where I was tying my bike I saw the row of red lights on top. The cops. Inevitably, they stopped. Guardians of the day, ever watchful that no wanderer from outer darkness slips into Eden.

"Would you come here a minute, please, sir," said the driver, a little wearily.

I walked over. "I'm on the guest list," I said, attempting to cut red tape.

"You're on the guest list?" said the officer skeptically.



I showed him my LIP press card, which he exposed to the beam of his hundred-watt flash-light. "Do you have anything with your address on it?" I showed him my voter registration card. He began to write it all down.

"Your date of birth?" I told him! "Well," he said with some resignation, "If you're on the guest list..."

"What are you going to do with this information?" I wondered.

"We'll hold it for awhile."

"Is that in case I turn up later?" "Well," he said, "let's just say there're going to be alot of people in high places here tonight."

"Could be an interesting evening," I said. "That's why I'm here."

"That's why I'm here, too," said the officer, and we both laughed, a moment shared in the humanity of common classism.

Inside, a cellist and a violinist in the sitting room adjoining the main hall wound their way, mutually entwining, through an intricate classical duet, and the guests from "Buchanan Dying" began to flow through the doorway and fill the hall and spill out into the rooms to the flighty accompaniment of the chamber music—and yes, there were a few men in tuxedos and quite a few ladies in gowns and it was all a little time - warped, as if Buchanan himself might have arranged the party.

I struck a pose above it all, looking down cynically from the vast distance at this social folly. Unbelievable masquerade. Silly socialites.

cont. on page 13

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RURAL CAUCUS REPORT

The April meeting of the Rural Caucus was held in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. April 10 at 1pm. The meeting was hosted by NEPGA at the Tiffany Lounge. Raymond Stickles chaired the meeting. 27 persons attended and nine groups and areas were represented: NEPGA, SVGU, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Le-Hi-Ho, Shippensburg, GCS of Reading, GUL, and GLL.

Ray Stickles announced that he had resigned from Gays United Lancaster to devote full time to the Rural Gay Caucus. He can be contacted at: R. 205 East King St., Lancaster, Pa. 17602. Tel: 717-394-4482.

The May meeting will be held at the Hetzel Union Bldg., Penn State Campus, State College, Pa. on Sat., May 8th as the capping of Gay Awareness Week at the College.

Mary Nancarrow gave the Campus Committee Report. Mary reported meeting with the Department of Education in March concerning the alleged discrimination on the Bloomsburg State College Campus. She also reported meeting with the Gay Rights Advisory Committee of the P. D. E. to discuss recommendations which will be made to the Commissioners of Education in the areas of gay rights and gay education in the public schools. The recommendations were to be submitted on April 15 to the Secretary of Education and the Commissioners. The Advisory Committee would like documentation of discrimination in the area of Education.

Janet Cooper reported on the Statewide Educational Conference of College Student Personnel Administrators to be held at Westchester State College over the weekend of the April meeting of the Caucus. Janet will be delivering the opening address and conducting a workshop later on in the program. She feels that the administrators would benefit from meeting with members of the Caucus in an open setting where we can feel free to express ourselves on an equal basis with them.

Rural areas are to be utilized during the warmer months of the year while the city areas can be used when icy and inclement winter weather strikes.

Help is needed in all areas to preserve the present format of the Gay Era and keep it on a regular publication schedule.

Structural needs of the Caucus were discussed. Some of the needs discussed were: the Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities needs more input from the rural area; a co-chairperson is needed to divide the huge responsibility for leadership of the Gay Caucus; questionable financial accountability of the Rural Caucus to justify a tax-exempt status; a better division and delegation of responsibility among our current officers to prevent duplication of effort and overlap of responsibility.

Discussion of the later topic ensued. Joe Burns stated that present collective format of the Caucus allowed us sufficient power to act in crisis. After discussion, pro and con, it was suggested that we appoint a steering committee to share responsibility of decision-making in the final analysis. Bill advanced a previous motion that Liaison Officers act as the Steering Committee, not limited to that group, however. This will be reported on at the next meeting. The con-

cept and tentative steering committee will be active for one month until the reports from various groups represented are received.

The nominations and acceptances for a co-chairperson are as follows; Ruth Steck, Janet Cooper, Jan Sweat, Mona Bowman, and Lou Augustine. The final vote and confirmation will be at the next Rural Caucus.

Sam Edmiston was appointed to the position of Recording Secretary. He will submit copies of the Caucus minutes to Dave Leas for publication. Copies of all Caucus committees and subcommittees are to be sent to both Sam Edmiston and Dave Leas.

A brief biography of Gay Education Day was given. Costs of Education Day exceeded the amount collected by mail. Contributions will still be accepted and appreciated.

Legislation is still pending, both anti-gay and pro-gay. SB 743 is still in the Labor Committee and needs a mortal wound to prevent its later re-submission. HB 2220, sponsored by Rep. Berenson of Phila. needs all the help it can get. It is an amendment to the Human Relations Act. Senators Hill, Howard, and Messinger have introduced legislation amending and repealing the Sodomy statutes. Gays are reminded that these laws apply to ALL unmarried couples not living under the same roof. 14 states have repealed their statutes against sodomy but the Supreme Court has cut off judicial redress in such cases by declaring state right to control bedroom conduct.

Janet Cooper moved that we form a Legislative Action Committee or other such appropriated name as chosen to implement the action necessary to institute repeal of voluntary deviate sexual intercourse statutes. The motion was seconded by Ken Burke. It was decided that it would be the logical extension of the Gay Education Committee.

The forms are available from the Gay Education Committee containing the results of Gay Education Day. The forms can be utilized to gauge legislative response to civil and human rights questions.



A meeting was called after the Caucus meeting to discuss which direction to head on the repeal of the Sodomy Statutes.

Concern was expressed as to the visible profile of the gay community in the straight community and the possible discrimination that we face at the hands of the police and the FBI. Janet Cooper answered the question using the ethical stand of Jill Raymond. Jill is in jail by choice. Janet stated that she has done nothing wrong and that she knows nothing inimical to the free government of our nation. The FBI interrogated her because she knew someone who is on the current 'questionable person' list. She refused to co-operate. She has properly maintained that the FBI must establish her

guilt before she can establish her own innocence. A true case of Fifth Amendment rights violation by the FBI if an example is needed.

The discussion on the topic of sexism was tabled until a future meeting because of the length of the regular meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by mutual assent of those present at 5:10pm.

- Sam Edmiston

STATE COLLEGE

STATE COLLEGE - According to ZAP!, the State College gay newsletter, Homophiles of Penn State has expressed disillusionment with their Mayor Hays' study of discrimination against individuals on the basis of marital status and sexual orientation. In a letter to Borough Council members, HOPS President Pam Erdely stated that there has been absolutely no publicity of the study and no attempt to encourage individuals to present testimony.

The Mayor was not directed to mediate problems that were brought before him. In her letter, Ms. Erdely stated, "We believe that it is unrealistic to believe that individuals who have already been penalized because of rumor or discovery of facts relating to their private lives would come forth and further jepordize themselves for no other purpose than supplying statistics".

Jerry Weller, a writer for ZAP! noted that if an individual reports a case of discrimination to the State Human Relations Commission, due to a heavy work load and that there are only thirty-two investigators, there can be a wait of up to ninety days before action is taken. If action cannot be taken within ninety days the case is automatically dropped. He pointed out that this had already occurred with at least one individual case from State College.

HOPS urged the Borough Council to work toward ending discrimination in the borough and urged that this "commitment be implemented by empowering a voluntary committee to actively seek all information related to discrimination and to the enactment of an ordinance, and to present its findings and recommendations to Council members and to the public." A referendum on the issue was also urged for the November ballot.

READING

READING - District Attorney J. Michael Morrissey's recent decision to refuse to meet with representatives of the Gay Co-Ordinating Society has prompted action from the State's Attorney General's Office.

In a letter dated March 23, Deputy Attorney General Earl Greenburg stated, "I strongly urge you to meet with the G. C. S. of Reading and Berks County so

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TINSEL GARLAND INTERVIEW

David Watts knows that it is important for people to learn to laugh at themselves, their friends, and their subculture. For the past several months, prior to his recent departure for Atlantic City, David—in the guise of a female TINSEL GARLAND, has been doing just that. "Tinsel's Reviews" were packing the bar on show nights at the Fiddler in Lancaster. Those, fortunate enough to have seen one of the shows, know just how brilliant an entertainer Tinsel is. But, few have had any real opportunity to get to know the man underneath all the stage-makeup. What follows is a transcribed interview that David taped with several reporters from the Gay Era, a few weeks ago. Editing has been kept to a minimum in order to let the personalities show through.

GE: How old were you when you started in show business?

T: You mean doing Tinsel? Probably 5 or 6. I've always been associated with show business in one way or another... school plays and the like. I was a comedian all the way back in grade school, always cutting up. The first role I can remember was the mother in "Peter Rabbit". Then I was the Inca King in sixth grade—we sacrificed a baby.

GE: How did you first get into female impersonation?

T: When I was in art-school in Pittsburgh... you know how everybody dresses up for Halloween... and for fun at certain times. Professionally, I started in Ashbury Park, N.J. I was a DJ at one of the hotels. I dressed up in sort of a "Mammy-Yocum" outfit one night—running around and fooling around—and they said, "Hey, that's funny!" "You oughta be in show biz!" And that's how it started. Tinsel originally started as an outrageous thing. All of my wigs were in bright colors, lemon-yellow, purples, pinks... the make-up was very severe, almost clownish. Later it sort of softened into a mush!

GE: Where did you get your ideas?

T: Out of my head. You pick up different things working with other people...

GE: Do you use your craft as a vehicle for social commentary as well as comedy?

T: Yeah—Because it reaches the people. It's sort of a joke when you're in costume. People are more receptive to you, whereas they're not if you're out of costume. Coming out as Tinsel, I have a disguise... can get away with a lot more. People say, "The clown's here." They don't care, so there's a greater field there to talk about. You're a man in disguise so you can pull satire on women as well as satire on men. You're aware of what men are doing, while giving the illusion of being a woman. You have a lot



to play with—two ways to torture people!

GE: What are the differences between Tinsel and David?

T: Tinsel wears make-up, dresses, and panty-hose, David doesn't. There's a little more to Tinsel, she's a little crazier. When a local clothing store did the costumes for one of the shows, Tinsel went up to the "straight-boys" who worked there and hugged, fondled and kissed them. If David did this out of costume they probably would have punched him in the nose! Tinsel got away with it, Tinsel speaks to more people; people who wouldn't talk to me as David will quickly strike up a conversation with Tinsel.

GE: What about your audience?

T: They're the whole thing. Otherwise what would be the sense of putting on make-up? You have to be dedicated to the audience. You may enjoy acting, but if you have no response, you have no product.

I've had many people come up and say to me, "Well, I don't really enjoy drag shows, but I enjoyed this one." There's no mystique left in drag do to the increasing numbers of sex-changes, etc. I believe the art of female impersonation is dying. The unisex look has taken it away, rock performers, David Bowie and the

like. That's why I do comedy—it's something different. It's more enjoyable, the audience doesn't get bored so easily.

GE: Will you answer some 'personal' questions? For example, when you wear those tight gowns, where do you put your...?

T: Between your legs... you tuck very well, put on a couple of girdles. It hurts. If you've noticed, after a show I wear loose things because I have to let it all out. It hurts!

GE: What about your sex life. Does being a female impersonator affect your private life?

T: It's so strange! One time in Ashbury Park, I was riding in a car with a man who was unaware that I was the man underneath Tinsel. He was talking about things, and mentioned how terrific he thought Tinsel's act was. I thought, "why not?" and made the confession that I was Tinsel. He stopped the car and said, "I can't go to bed with you!", he was very upset. People are used to seeing transvestites and associate female impersonators with being feminine, they think you'll go home, have panty-hose on and wait! It's kind of like saying because I work selling men's clothing, that I'd go home with him and try to sell him a shirt. "Before we go to bed, you want to buy this shirt? It'll look good on you. How about these P.J.'s?"

GE: What are some of your most "Bizarre" experiences?

T: My whole life is bizarre...! I met this man once who desired me sexually during a show... sent me flowers and everything. He was very handsome, so I said OK, come on up to my room. He did, and I started taking off my wig and make-up and he said, "No! Wait! He desired me like that, wanted me to be (I'm saying this 'politely') domineering as Tinsel. Then there was the time we rented electric carts and drove in the Atlantic City Easter Parade..."

GE: Any experiences locally, in Pennsylvania?

T: In Zinn's Diner in Ephrata one time, I had this "fight." We came in for breakfast, a group of about a dozen or so gay people. It was very evident, after we sat down, that there were people at other tables talking about us, they started getting louder and throwing annoying comments at us.

So I got up and made a general announcement to the restaurant that the people there were very backward, this was 1976, they had better start reading articles, opening their eyes and become aware that there are a lot of different people. Everybody can get along if we worked together. The manager was aghast. I said, "I cannot sit here in a restaurant with all this animosity and while

people are harrassing me—I have to leave!" Then I walked out of the restaurant.

But, what upset me more than all of those people harrassing us was that the people I had come in with had stayed there. They didn't stick together. Later they all congratulated me, but meanwhile they just sat there.

Gay people still aren't liberated about their jobs, etcetera. Or maybe they were just hungry? I know I was hungry sitting there alone in the car, but I was mad. You can fool people, but you can't fool yourself.

GE: What are your feelings about gay liberation?

T: I think I've always been liberated. I do what I want to do. Sure, I've had problems like everyone else. You have to believe in yourself BEFORE you can believe in anything else. You have to have faith in yourself.

A lot of people seem to be swayed by "gay-lib", but when they're by themselves or not with a group, they become frightened. Of course, power is in the masses; but by believing in yourself you can overcome a lot of things. Gay liberation is good. Especially for the people that are just becoming aware that they're gay. It's given them the leeway, an alternative.

GE: What about the other alternatives? Gay bars, for example.

T: I think a lot of gay bars rip off the



"WHEN YOU WEAR
TIGHT GOWNS WHERE
DO YOU PUT YOUR...?"

gay community. They're businesses. The bar owners, most of them, don't care who's in them most of the time. But, there are a few exceptions, those that are interested in their clientele. The largest percentage of them, though, are businesses. If they could get a heterosexual crowd and get THEIR money, they'd do that.

Bars are fun if you go for the purpose of dancing and having a good time with friends. As far as meeting other people, I think it's very bad. They're bad because the music is usually too loud, they're hot, smoke-filled—the lack of air is irritating. People are together in groups and they stick together, because they're afraid to reach out. It's difficult to meet people under those conditions.

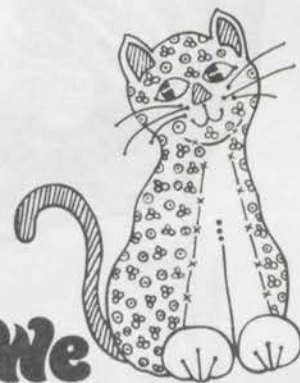
GE: What about the rumor that some bars are run by organized crime?

T: Organized crime—Do you mean Mafia or the stabbings in the coatroom or in the back? Petitions? All the time! What's your definition of organized crime? Some people realized early that certain gay people spend their money like water. They were the first people to sponsor gay bars. They take our money, they are businesses. But, where else are the people going to go?

The tape ended on that plaintive note. David's long range goals center on "legitimate" comedy or theatre. Those of our readers, who respect and enjoy David's gift for making us look at ourselves, are encouraged to look for him in Atlantic City this summer. We'll let you know exactly where in Atlantic City, as soon as we find out.



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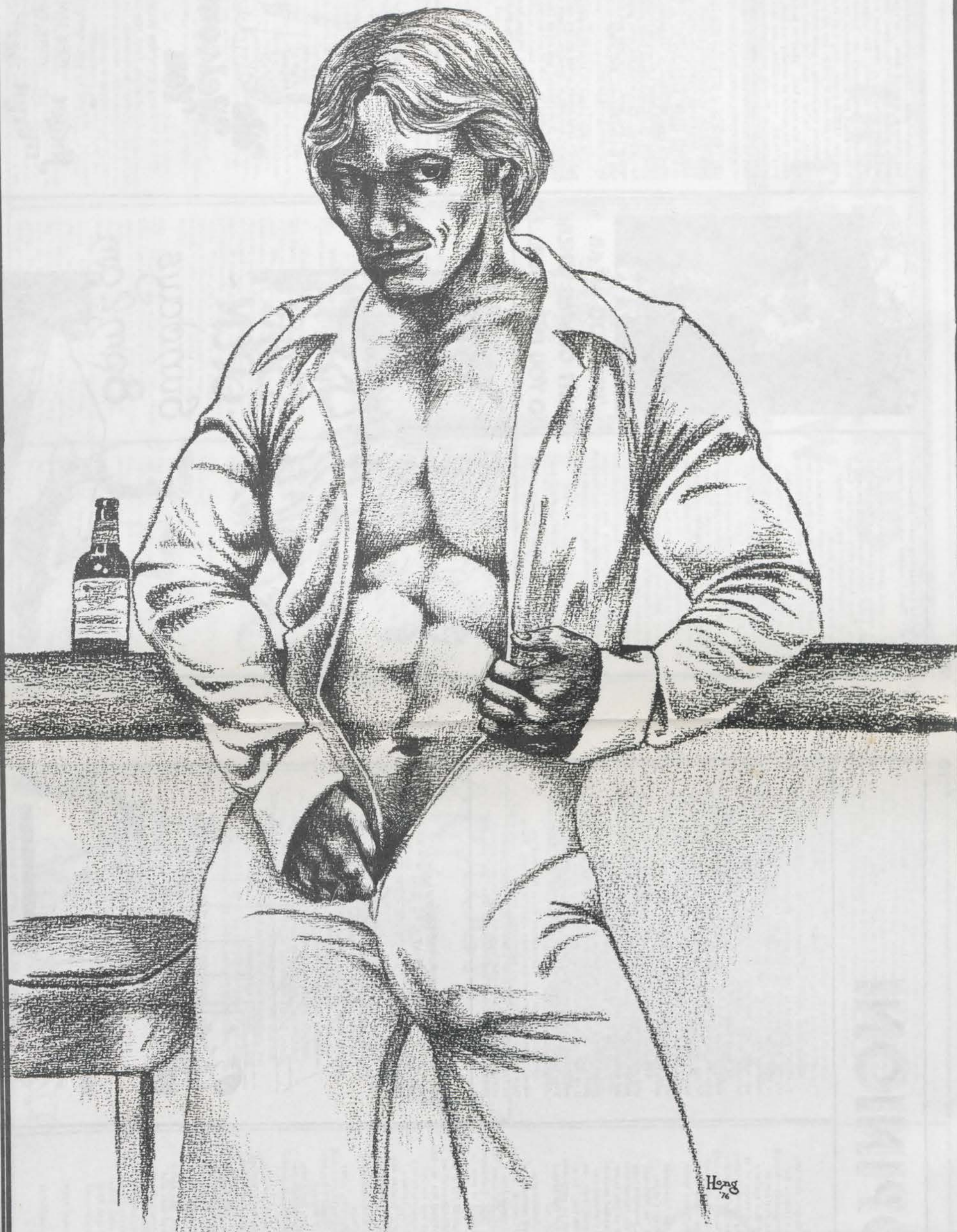


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Much better off, much more

Joseph Anthony

OPINION!

As gay people we are, by definition, deviants. Our behavior falls outside the norms of American society. Religious tracts, court rulings, and societal prejudices brand us contrary and detrimental to the American system of values. We are thrown into the periphery of that society where feelings of seperation and isolation lead many of us to depression, alcoholism, and suicide. The unavailability of full membership in a society whose values are often inhuman and always contradictory can be, at best, a blessing and, at least, a relief to one's integrity. It is an opportunity to escape a worn-out system and to forge a new system of values, relationships, and life-styles which are more satisfying and complete.

Examine, for a moment, the epitome of the American macho value system, The United States Marine Corps. Here, in the words of Tom Jude, writer for the National Education Association; a few good men are pounded into "a few blind robots". We're sure it wasn't the intent looking, blond haired, blue eyed boy who stares at you from recruitment posters that recently beat a retarded recruit to death for allegedly not carrying out drill instructions properly. That blond was probably a gay model from the East-Side. However, it was certainly the "be tuff, be a man, and follow orders" set of values, which he supposedly represents, that was really responsible for the brutal murder.

Interest caused by this outrage has led to additional disclosures about the previously undiscussed methods of training used by our boys in green. Harry Hissock, a drill instructor recently attempted to frighten a recruit into obedience by threatening to shoot off his hand. Unknown to the recruit, Harry inserted a blank into his rifle. Unknown to Harry, the blank was not a blank. The recruit is now missing a few knuckles.

This is not an isolated case. Last year a full 150 of the Marines' 600 drill instructors were accused of mental or physical brutality. Recruit Art Hill was told that his mother was a whore and a communist. Another man was forced to masturbate in front of his platoon. Black recruits are regularly called "coons" and marines receiving letters are forced to read the contents aloud. False grenades are often tossed around to test reactions. The training process is a process of dehumanization.

Incidentally, it is now illegal to threaten a recruit with death - unless, of course, it is done as a joke.

Feeling a little better about deviating? Face it, after Vietnam and Watergate, you weren't sure you really wanted to belong. After the C. I. A., My-Lai, ITT, Howard Hughes, F. B. I., oil spills, bomb carrying children in Ireland, Jackie Kennedy Onassis, the Bicentennial sale, hot rods, and plastic food - you knew you were right, you don't belong. So every morning thank God, better yet; thank yourself, you're a deviant and do something with it.

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be abridged." Sound familiar? Yes? The Constitution of the United States? Oh, you deviants! You're supposed to forget!

Well at least the Supreme Court doesn't deviate. They forgot. In a recent decision, they used their sublime reasoning to rule that the states do, indeed, have a right to prohibit private sexual acts between consenting adults. Yet, with a wink of the eye and a pat on the bottom, this same court turned its head to the recently disclosed fact that the F. B. I. committed one illegal burglary every three weeks for six years against the New York office of the Socialist Workers Party. Incidentally, the F. B. I. never found anything vaguely illegal in their search.

- JW



Surely most people can remember the "no blue jeans, T-shirt" incident of last summer. Whatever the reasoning for that absurdity in both of the Lancaster gay bars, it is still to be heard from the horses' mouths. Many half-reasons were given. "We can enforce any dress code that we wish", was one of the most popular. Though this may be true, these rules were not enforced fairly.

So when Janet Cooper, clad in her cut-offs and work shirt, followed a young gentleman dressed in like fashion into the Stevens House bar only to be turned away rudely by the owner, there was reason for complaint. Likewise anyone else whom it might have concerned. In order to clear the air for those who haven't yet heard the word through the grape-vine, complaints were filed with state authorities.

Why was it alright for our gay brothers to wear cut-offs and not our gay sisters? Some people must think that we are stupid to allow such an absurdity to take place without questioning the policies that affect us.

Since gay bars will continue to exist as long as gay people have a need to socialize in an anonymous atmosphere, or continue to drink along with the rest of society, it is our responsibility to insure that our main outlet for socializing is to our liking and a safe place to socialize in. This is not the responsibility of a few but of every gay woman and man in our community.

Absurd! But not so. Those bars exist because we exist. They rely on our business and our money. Since they cannot exist with our patronage, then it is reasonable to assume that we can have control over what comes across those bars and what happens within and without those doors. We should not settle for less than what the

'HERE'S A TIP - THE GOVERNMENT'S
GOING TO PRINT A \$3 BILL'



rest of society enjoys as matter of fact.

Citing an incident from Sunday evening May 9th, the following exchange of words were thrown between a local bar owner and myself: "Why are you charging a \$2 cover on a Sunday evening?" (I had already forked-over my money) ... "For Gay Lib!" ... "Oh, so you're going to donate the money?" ... "I just got a \$780 lawyer bill contesting what you damned people did when you brought those people in with cut-offs. ... I thought that you people were FOR gay people" ... "You know as well as I do what you were doing" ... "What do you mean?" ... "You were trying to keep the women out of this bar" ... "Well, I'm going to go to Philadelphia to see about this" ... Final Words: "Calm down you'll get over it."

If the bars were so right in having such a dress code, then why was it dropped within a week? Maybe if certain people weren't so stubborn and would admit that they were wrong, they wouldn't have to spend such large sums of money to fight a legal battle against the gay community.

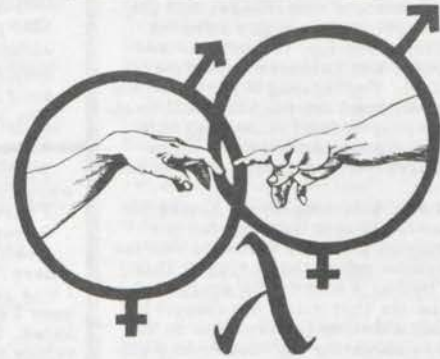
Janet wasn't the only person to file a complaint. The previous weekend, four women were turned away because of blue jeans. One of the women was the president of the Pennsylvania chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Those complaints were filed long before Janet or those "Gay Libbers" ever set foot in the door that night.

Living in a so-called small town like Lancaster, we do not have the luxury of choosing which of the dozens of gay bars that we are going to go to in any one evening. The list of grievances can go on and on... If people must take a side in this battle against ourselves, then we wish to have everyone at least know the sides that they are choosing.

If what I have written is in anyway not true or there are additions to this grey area of gay bar politics, then let them be heard. A letter to the editor would do just fine. After all, that is what the Gay Era is all about. I don't anticipate screaming matches from those that differ on opinion when I walk into a gay bar to relax and be with other gay people.

- DL

GAY ERA



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ARIES CREATIVE DESIGN CONCEPTS

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Deadline: June 5

APOLOGY AND

We wish to apologize

for the lateness of this issue of the Gay Era after what is surely one of the most severely missed deadlines in the history of newsprint. A number of internal production hassles contributed to this episode, including the fact that adding those four extra pages was a lot more difficult than anticipated. In those rare moments when we paused to take a breath, we re-evaluated several things about our production schedule. So, starting with the next issue (in our own office), we will be appearing at the middle of the month (about three weeks from when this issue appears). We will not bother to cite all the reasons for this decision, but we feel it will be an improvement all around. Look for the next issue in the neighborhood of June 15th.

And while we're on the subject of our next issue...

Seeing as June is Gay Pride Month, we are planning the issue around that, and we'd like to solicit articles, graphics, poems, etc. reflecting the celebration of Gay Pride. Try to get them to our office no later than June 5th.

See you next issue with a heap of Gay Love!

ANN- OUNCEMENT



A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF GAY OPPRESSION FROM LANCASTER, PA.

by Bari Weaver

To begin, it would be against my nature and too exhausting time-wise to list all the trite little discriminatory episodes I've had. Also there is the problem determining coincidence and intention. One may be paranoid or neurotic sometimes, but not all the time. Being openly gay affected everything from family, friends, co-workers, business and business associates, police, and on. Expressing myself and my life-style positioned me for the usual problems of everyday living transpiring into subtle intended discrimination or deflation of character that many of us gays face.

In 1972 I was self-employed, having between 10 and 12 people working for me intermittently in a beauty salon I'd run for 8 years. I came out in the spring of that year after buying a home with another man.

Infatuation for that man, my closeted gayness, and a desire for freedom to be myself led to investing my money into the home as well as most of our living expenses. The fact that he claimed he was not gay did not destroy my feeling he could be. We slept in the same bed for 5 months, of which I was never touched, though I of course hoped I would be. Several months after we lived there I became aggressive. He blatantly turned me down. He suggested we ought to get separate rooms. I didn't want to. He never insisted even for his personal satisfaction. I was also smoking dope at the time which probably increased frustration and confusion about myself and the situation.

Through my desire to relieve the frustration, and be honest with myself as well as others, I came out openly to family, friends, customers, and employees. Three years later my father told me he didn't approve.

Most friends became very cool, retaining a distance. I lost the respect of employees, not to mention customers. A business I'd managed alone for 8 years with co-operation from the staff, suddenly ran amuck. Before long appointment scheduling was confused, supplies were more frequently not available or ordered and customers were dropping off or making stronger demands. I was sure I was being watched or observed almost constantly, in fact, to the point of being entertained. The majority of my time was overtly occupied by so-called friends, whose attitudes were patronizing, giving me little time for myself. There were no gay people with whom I felt free to relate and of course no gay groups, counselors, etc., in the Lancaster area. I felt like I was in a zoo.

During the 5 months in this home and working at my job, an almost methodical type of mental torture appeared in front of me. Talking to one person I would go to work and hear the same words repeated over and over back to me from customers or employees. At first and for a long time after that, I was sure I imagined this and it was a result of the dope. I was also having identity problems and noticed an increased emphasis on the part of customers and friends concerning marriage. Not able to handle what was happening where I lived and worked, either physically or mentally, I moved back home.

By the end of the year things seemed worse and I sought professional counseling. The same counselor I'd had when I tried straight life. I explained the following feelings:

Verbal mental torture or abuse from people I came in contact with.

(ED. NOTE - With this issue the Gay Era inaugurates a new feature: COMING OUT. For our first contributor we have made the obvious choice of Barry Lee Weaver, founder of Gays United Lancaster, the organization which sponsored this publication during its formative first year. Since Barry was one of the first upfront gays in the Era's home community, we felt it only fitting that he begin the series. We are also pleased to announce that Barry has accepted our invitation to be the general editor of the series. If you want to tell your story send it to him, c/o the Gay Era.)

Feeling my customers and employees were conspiring against me. Frustration with my homosexual identity. Agony of unrequited love.

Feeling I'd been exploited by friends and others.

I was given medication. The end of the year I quit my job but continued being counseled. I spent a great deal of time alone trying to figure out what was wrong with or happening to me. I was scared, unhappy, and lonely. I was also going to a straight doctor who was either ignorant or very smart. Now I realize he was both.

Business kept falling off and a few months later I went back to work. In an effort toward self-preservation, out of fear and curiosity about my own feelings, I isolated myself and began reading about our minority. People would still not leave me alone. My education revealed I was far from unique in samples of oppression. I may have been a little unstable, but there were thousands of others as deprived as me in what society offered and told our minority. I wrote organizations to find out what was available for us, meet others like me, and help myself. Bar rooms scared me. When replies came I was thankful.

In the fall of 1973 I finally got enough courage to demand my friend sell the home we'd bought and get his friends living there out. To date I was still foolishly paying half the mortgage when not living there over a year. My furniture and car were also used by this/these, person/persons. I'd started taking money out of my savings account to meet debts previously aquired and make up for what I'd lost. It became evident I was being taken advantage of. In an attempt to stop the abuse at work I commuted to fashion design school in New York City hoping to find another career. I also attended Gay Activists Alliance meetings in Philadelphia. Lack of money stopped school, but GAA was free and did more for me than any school ever had. For the present I was comfortable there, though not in my home town. I also went into coun-

seling there. The beginning of 1974 I rented my shop to someone else in an effort to relieve the burden. Trying to work in the same area as the manager and other employees, as I still needed the money to live, I was seperated from them by an open loft above the main floor of the shop. Again I moved into private quarters in another area of the building. That summer I slit my wrists in an attempt to stop again the plague that followed me.

I could go on but feel there is enough here to supply you with proof of raw gay discrimination. You see, now I understand what people have done to us. To date my being honest about myself and my gayness has caused a loss of:

A large beauty business (netting \$50,000 a year, showing considerable increase every year of its existence) employing about 10 persons.

Untold amounts of financial security because of this business loss.

Withdrawal of about \$7,000 from my savings account to meet expenses of daily living as well as previous commitments.

Personal security, mental stability, happiness and self-confidence.

Acceptance of family, friends, and others involved in my life.

Vast amounts of time and energy in life that would not have had to be so if we were a truly free minority.

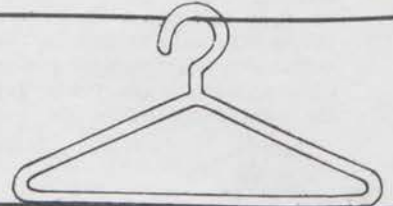
I have also realized Lancaster as well as many other areas are a Gay Hell Hole, filled with discrimination, hypocrisy, and homophobia.

Why have I waited? I long ago became tired of telling my story. If someone locked you in a cage, melted the key before your eyes, you'd manage to survive. The mental abuse may temporarily annihilate thought processes, your bones may weaken, but you'd adapt. But why should you have to? Is that a penalty for being an American citizen, openly gay, deserving the freedom inherent in this country?

I've managed to build myself up. Some good friends, initiative, determination, and gay pride are responsible. Even though I face abuse of straight society as well as some of my own minority who suffocate in the suppression they live in, I realize that I am the liberated individual, and they must deal with whatever problems they have. What concerns me now, is some of my friends go through the same mental cruelty and oppression because of association with me, and they too want their freedom. Isn't it odd any of us should have to suffer beyond the hypocrisy most of us gay and straights were raised in? One thing is sure, nothing removes that pride in ourselves.

If we lived in a society free of sexual and affectional deprivation, none of this would have happened to me, and could not possibly happen to anyone else. 'Our silence will never be heard again.'

COMING OUT



the closet



WHEAT ~ LAND

But after ten minutes I couldn't hold the pose. These people were not different from me—nervous party-goers hoping to have a good time. Time to be real, I thought, so I took off my jacket and melted into the throng, picking my first glass of champagne from the serving tray as it went by. Scott Fitzgerald would understand. John Updike certainly would.

Barry Weaver wore a big button on his lapel which read, "Was James Buchanan Gay?" Mrs. Charles Snyder, hostess of the reception, correctly polite but insistent, asked him at the door to remove it. He complied.

A prominent Lancaster editor (not from LIP) with a gallant gesture and an engaging smile, stepped aside to let Bill Horn pass through a doorway ahead of him.

They left their leaflets on sideboards, endtables, and mantelpieces, and a woman in a pink gown followed closely as she could, without appearing too obvious, and gathered them right up and tore them to pieces.

The leaflets didn't claim Buchanan was gay. They merely pointed to the ambiguous fact that Lancaster's—and Pennsylvania's—only President may have engaged in a more-than-casual friendship with Franklin Pierce's first vice president, William Rufus deVane King, a point already made for LIP readers by Gay columnist Harry Long.

The three-paragraph leaflet concluded: "In this year when Gay Americans are actualizing 200 years of oppression rather than freedom, we are promising that prominent gays of the future will not be forced to hide, but gain the freedom supposedly inherent in America."

I met Updike by a fortuitous accident. I came through a doorway into the dining room—I had been around the mansion, taken a cursory tour—and found myself

right next to him. He was holding court and signing autographs in front of the mantle piece.

You might consider Updike a pretentious writer. His prose is ornate, polished like a baroque chamber pot. The point of view is dark, Calvinistic.

I wish I'd had the presence of mind to ask him if he thought Buchanan was gay. Instead I asked, "What common theme holds your work together, all the way from 'Rabbit, Run' to 'Buchanan Dying'?"

"South-central Pennsylvania," replied John Updike jocularly. Then, more seriously, he added, "Both Rabbit and Buchanan were people trying to do the right thing without quite being able to carry it off."

Was that a dilemma common to South-central Pennsylvanians? Updike seemed to think maybe it was: a breed caught in-between, neither North nor South, neither urban nor rural, neither madmen nor geniuses.

(O, these writers with their crazy ideas! Maybe they all just think too much.)

But the South-central Pennsylvania contingent of Gays United (aided and abetted by the alternative media) seemed to belie the Updike theory. They carried off their "right thing" pretty well, exposing greater Lancaster society to a hippie and a couple of out-front gays.



greinergraphics

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lancaester, pa. 17603

art design

READING

they may, at least, present to you their views on various issues."

Continuing, Mr. Greenburg said, "We in state government believe it very important that the sentiments of all the constituents within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be heard by the appropriate decision makers."

The action was prompted by the D.A.'s recent rebuff of three representatives from G.C.S.; Lou Augustine, David Kline, and Jerry Tartaglia had set up a confirmed appointment with Morrissey, only to find him refusing to talk to them. Morrissey even refused to explain why he had refused the meeting.

In a letter of reply, Morrissey accused Greenburg of "interfering" with his office. "I think it's an insult to my intelligence and an insult to this office to even receive a letter like that", Morrissey stated. "I resent your office interfering with my decision not to meet with these people, and further, imploring me to listen to people concerning the legislative process of the City of Reading" (my underlining).

In a letter dated April 1st, Mr. Greenburg assured the D.A. that he has "no intention of interfering with any decisions regarding the proper performance of your (Morrissey's) duties as District Attorney."

However, Mr. Greenburg wrote, "I shall transmit your very strong sentiments to the Governor's office as well as the Council for Sexual Minorities whose members are appointed by the Governor. I believe it important that they know of your position with regard to listening to their views regarding 'any issue'".

A copy of all correspondence was sent to Terry Delmuth in the Governor's Office. A response is expected shortly.

NORTHUM- BERLAND

NORTHUMBERLAND, PA. - Susquehanna Valley Gays United (SVGU) centered 50 miles north of Harrisburg in Northumberland has recently come to the attention of the local residents. After nearly six months of little publicity, SVGU has, in the past two months, received coverage via the area-wide Sunbury Daily Item, and a two-way talk show on radio station WKOK.

Three days after an article in the Daily Item on March 24, which featured the organizational efforts of Sam Deetz in Gay Lobby Day, a "moltov cocktail" was thrown through the window at a local gay bar. Fortunately, it failed to ignite and no one was injured.

On March 29, gay activist Janet Cooper was the guest of radio station WKOK's talk show. Calls were being received for a period of days after the appearance.

WKOK representatives have expressed an interest in co-operating further with SVGU.

Sam Deetz, president of SVGU was quoted as saying, "the numerous calls from 'Bible thumpers' and rednecks only encourage us to work all the harder."

Sam has also been appointed by Governor Shapp to the newly formed Council for Sexual Minorities.



Tally-Ho Tavern

201 WEST ORANGE ST.
LANCASTER, PA.
299-0661

FEATURING

The Loft dining room

SUNDAY NIGHT "FLICKS" 11:00 pm

May 23 - Supernatural
THE UNINVITED (1944)
Ray Milland, Ruth Hussey

May 30 - Western
WALK THE PROUD LAND (1956)
Audie Murphy, Anne Bancroft

June 6 - Away from civilization
LOST FLIGHT (1969)
Lloyd Bridges, Anne Francis

June 13 - Suspense
THE DOOMSDAY FLIGHT (1966)
Jack Lord, Edmond O'Brien

SPECIALS

TUESDAY

12 OZ. MUG OF BEER

30¢

THURSDAY

GLASS OF BEER & PIECE OF PIZZA

50¢



DOCTOR LAMBDA

VIRAL HEPATITIS

In an answer to an earlier inquiry on the advisability of gamma-globulin injections as prophylaxis (prevention) against contracting hepatitis, it seems a good idea to discuss the disease in some detail while answering the question posed.

Viral hepatitis is caused by either of two different viruses which invade the liver and cause both an acute inflammation and a temporary destruction of liver cells. The disease usually produces generalized weakness, loss of appetite, easy-tiring, jaundice (yellowing of the skin and mucous membranes), dark urine and clay-colored stools. In MOST instances viral hepatitis, although incapacitating for weeks or months, leaves minimal permanent liver damage.

Viral hepatitis has classically been divided into two forms, "infectious hepatitis" and "serum hepatitis". The infectious variety (now referred to as Hepatitis "A") is most often associated with fecal-oral transmission. Infection may occur from sewage contaminated foods, from non-sexual contact with a "carrier" or frequently in the gay world by rimming (licking the anus of an infected partner). But relax, somewhat, Hepatitis "A" may be prevented or its effects minimized by an injection of gamma globulin early in its incubation period.

Serum hepatitis (Hepatitis "B" or Australian Antigen Associated Hepatitis) was formerly thought to be spread solely by contaminated blood transfusions or the so-called "dirty needle". Current research has cast much doubt on that concept, since Hepatitis "B" has been found in groups of people far-removed from the needle scene; in tropical countries, family groups, and in groups of sexually active persons of varying sexual preferences. All methods of transmission have not been fully explored, but preliminary studies indicate that Hepatitis "B" may be spread venereally. A vaccine against this hepatitis is being tested, but, unfortunately, will not be marketed for some time. In the absence of this specific vaccine, most medical authorities recommend inoculation with gamma globulin as prevention to intimate sexual contacts of persons infected with the disease.

After exposure to viral hepatitis, there is a variable incubation period before development of the disease. For Hepatitis "A" the period is from 15-60 days, averaging 30 days. Hepatitis "B" takes longer, 60-180 days.

The first symptoms in both serum and infectious hepatitis are non-specific. One may feel tired and vaguely ill, lose their appetite, fatigue easily or be nauseated. Often the initial symptoms are mistaken for the flu. One may also have painful joints, a cough, sore throat and/or low-grade fever. There may also be a sense



SADIE SAYS!

advice to the shopworn

Dear Sadie,

Who are you in real life? I am considering coming out with my friends and family, but I question your own closetness. Why do you have to hide behind a pen name? Are you uptight or just plain afraid that your readers will know who you are?

Confused

Dear Confused,

Sadie is Sadie and obviously confused is what you are. "Coming Out" is one of the biggest steps in gay life. This should be a self-willed act of a voluntary nature, a thing of joy, a release of one's inner-self to permit one to be oneself totally. "Coming Out" is not an easy thing to do. It's not as easy as it sounds because of the elements of risk involved in parental-societal reaction and/or rejection. In most instances it is much easier than all prior anticipation.

Sadie has been out for many years to family and friends with no complications. I am free to be me. Perhaps when you

of fullness or tenderness in the upper right side of the abdomen. Later on, about one to four days before jaundice occurs, the urine darkens to the color of Coca-Cola and the stools become a light clay color. The onset of jaundice begins with a yellowing of the whites of the eyes, and the skin, and usually lasts from six to eight weeks. Patients begin to feel better as the jaundice subsides; however, they tire easily for weeks. Full recovery takes place usually within three to four months after the onset of the symptoms.

There is no specific medical treatment for viral hepatitis. Bed rest and a high caloric diet seem to be restorative. Hospitalization is often required during the early stages of infection as a safety measure against complications. Most drugs and ALL alcohol must be avoided until recovery is completed. Persons with the disease should use their own bathrooms, towels, dishes and utensils while they remain infectious so as not to contaminate others. Persons with a history of hepatitis may not donate blood.

Recently in this area, a case of Hepatitis "A" in a restaurant worker caused thousands of persons to seek gamma globulin injections. Washington, D. C. is experiencing an epidemic of hepatitis among the gay male population in that city. Hepatitis is a cause for concern, but not alarm for most of us. As always, if you should find out that a close friend, relative, or sexual partner has come down with the disease - see your family doctor. They will either give you an injection and/or set your mind at ease. Whatever you do, though, don't ignore the risks, be aware of the symptoms, and don't be afraid to get medical attention.

reach this stage of progression in your life, you too will want to retain a bit of anonymity.

Dear Sadie,

I fell in love with a truly wonderful man about seven months ago. We had a beautiful relationship, an excellent rapport, and a fulfilling sex life. We became very close about 3 months ago. We planned on living together, making a life together.

On April 19, he told me he couldn't handle the relationship any longer and wasn't ready for a relationship.

We have been seeing each other about five times a week and on rare occasion we have sex. We get along famously, but it has come to the point when we don't have sex, that I get upset. He goes out to find sex partners a couple times a week and it really makes me upset when we are at the same bar at the same time. I am really confused and don't know how to cope with it. What can I do, I still love him very much.

Still in Love

Dear Love,

We must all cope with situations in a way that best suits our wants, needs, and desires. Be thankful that he realized the relationship could not continue before you moved in together. If your communication lines are as good as you indicated, there should be no severe problems or complications. Take into consideration that "friends" are almost as hard to find as "lovers". It sounds as though your relationship is a beautiful friendship. If you can't handle the relationship, then I suggest that you forget him, otherwise you have a "friend".

Dear Sadie,

I have been looking all over the place for black leather sheets. Can't find them anywhere. Thought that if anyone would know where to find them, you would. You know my bag!

Love,
Big Dick

Dear Dick,

Try: House of Milan Corp.
PO Box 24080
Los Angeles, California
90024

"Perfect for waterbeds or FF at parties."

P.S. Dickie, you never cease to amaze me - you're one of a kind - Sorry your Washington trip didn't work out. If at first you don't succeed - try - cry - again. Love Ya!

CLASSIFIEDS

4-Sale: 3 Realistic Air Conditioned Professional Hair Dryers with legs. \$ 25.00 each.
 4 Professional Hydraulic Styling & Shampoo Chairs, Black Vinyl. \$ 50.00 each.
 2 Barrel Type Hydraulic Styling Chairs, Black Vinyl. \$ 40.00 each.
 1 Shampoo Bowl with faucet. \$ 25.00 (Brown)
 Sears Kenmore Compactor (Trash masher) good condition. \$ 100.00

Call: 717-898-2876, or 717-898-7162

GAY FOSTER HOMES needed for kittens. No chains, pens, or nasties. Our research shows kittens raised in an openly gay atmosphere have healthy well adjusted personalities; free of inhibition, fear, and full of loving character. Call 898-2876 or 898-7162.

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 Gay Era.

THE GAY ERA IS MOVING DOWNTOWN
 We need a desk, carbon ribbontypewriter, office furniture, and supplies. Would be willing to pay for typewriter. Call Dave: 898-2876 or 684-7261 (area code 717)

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 Ave., 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.

CALENDAR

Sat. May 15 *After The Bars Coffee House. 2-5am. 3002 Marietta Ave. Lanc., Pa.

- Sun. May 16 *G. U. L. Meeting. 241 S. Marshall St. Lanc., Pa. 7-9pm.
 *Reading Picnic. Epler's Grove, Reading, Pa.
 Tues. May 18 *Gay Men's Discussion Group. 3002 Marietta Ave. Lanc. Pa. 7-9pm.
 Fri. May 21 *After The Bars Coffee House. 2-5am. 3002 Marietta Ave. Lanc., Pa.
 Sat. May 22 *Gay Garage Sale. (all proceeds go to Gay Switchboard, & Coffee House.) Join us for a day in the sun. 8am till dusk. 3002 Marietta Ave. Lanc.
 *After The Bars Coffee House. 2-5am 3002 Marietta Ave., Lanc., Pa.
 Sun. May 23 *Le-Hi-Ho "Gayfest" Wine and Cheese Party. 2pm. Unitarian Church of the Lehigh Valley, 701 Lechauwecki Ave., Fountain Hill Section, Bethlehem, Pa.
 *G. C. S. Berks Co. regular meeting. 4pm. 644 N. 6th Street, Reading, Pa.
 Tues. May 25 *Political Action Committee Meeting Reading. 7:30pm. 528N. Pike St. Reading, Pa.
 Fri. May 28 *After The Bars Coffee House. (see above)
 Sat. May 29 *Le-Hi-Ho Bus Trip to New York City. write-- LeHiHo, POBox 1003, Moravian Station, Bethlehem, Pa. 18018
 *After The Bars Coffee House. (see above)
 Sun. May 30 *G. U. L. Meeting. 241 S. Marshall St., Lanc., Pa. 7-9pm.
 Tues. June 1 *Gay Men's Discussion Group. 3002 Marietta Ave., Lanc., Pa. 7-9pm

SWITCHBOARDS & AID

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

Lancaster: Tues & Thurs. 8-10pm
 Sun. 6-10pm
 1-717-898-2876

Philadelphia:
 Gay Switchboard 1-215-928-1919
 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

DEMONSTRATION

PHILADELPHIA - Chief Justice Berger of the United States Supreme Court will be giving the commencement speech at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Friday, May 28th, 10 a.m., at Convention Hall.

The Gay Activists Alliance of Philadelphia is calling a meeting to organize a demonstration to protest the recent Supreme Court ruling on the state sodomy laws.

The meeting will be held at the Christian Association, 36th and Locust Sts., in the upstairs Board Room, Thursday, May 6 at 7:30 pm. All interested groups and individuals are invited to participate.



Executive Order

BOSTON - Dated April 12, an Executive Order was signed by Boston's Mayor Kevin H. White which will add the words "sexual preference" to the city's policies regarding Affirmative Action; according to Gay Community News (GCN) in Boston.

The Order was sent to all department heads in that city as a "supplement to the City's existing Affirmative Action policy regarding women and minorities" and was issued to "insure the application of these policies to persons without regards to sexual preference."

Oregon Task Force

PORTLAND, OREGON - Oregon Gov. Robert Straub has directed the establishment of a state Ad Hoc Task Force on Sexual Preference. The 14 member group was chosen jointly by the State Department of Human Resources and the Portland Town Council (P.T.C.), Oregon's principal gay rights organization.

Only four of the members are gay while the remainder consists mostly of doctors, lawyers, and other professionals.

The Governor's directive to the group is to research the type of legislation and other measures appropriate for securing equal rights for gays in Oregon.

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

VD CLINIC -

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

GAY DOONESBURY!

DOONESBURY

by Garry Trudeau



When *Time* magazine did their recent cover story on Garry Trudeau's "Doonesbury" comic strip, they probably had no idea what the irreverent and iconoclastic cartoonist was about to spring next. It's one thing to lay waste the political landscape with needling satires on the Vietnam War, the New Left, Watergate, détente, the Imperial Presidency, and other such sitting ducks. That's good "clean" fun.

But on February 10, Trudeau stepped over the bounds of "common" decency. He has an intelligent, handsome, healthy, and altogether sympathetic male character (introduced more than a week earlier as an apparent love interest for "Joanie Caucus," one of the earliest of the "Doonesbury" zoo) matter-of-factly announce: "I'm gay." And he wasn't even named "Bruce."

The character, Andy, created a storm last month while he came out to his "girlfriend" and five consecutive strips were devoted to the discussion of Andy's gayness. At that time, five leading newspapers --- *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Houston Post*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Cleveland Press*, and a Columbus (Ohio) newspaper --- dropped the series for the period in which the gay character was present.

However, after a break of a few weeks, the gay character has returned to the series, working as a campaign worker for Ginny, a black woman in the comic strip who is running for Congress. One column so far has discussed the propriety of a gay man working in the campaign, and other strips have simply treated Andy as a campaign worker without referring to his gayness.

At this point, according to Lee Salem, managing editor of Universal Press Syndicate (6700 Squibb Rd., Mission, Kan.) which distributes the series, there have been no reports of any newspapers cancelling the series upon the reappearance of Andy. "I haven't heard a word," Salem told GCN, "As far as I know Andy will continue to be part of the strip as a member of Ginny's campaign." Salem had previously praised Trudeau for "handling a real life situation with taste, candor, and a bit of humor."

(Reprinted courtesy of Gay Community News, Boston.)

Letters of support to Universal Press Syndicate would be appreciated to offset the negative "bible-belt" views always promptly received. In case you missed any of the strips, they are reprinted elsewhere on this page.



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