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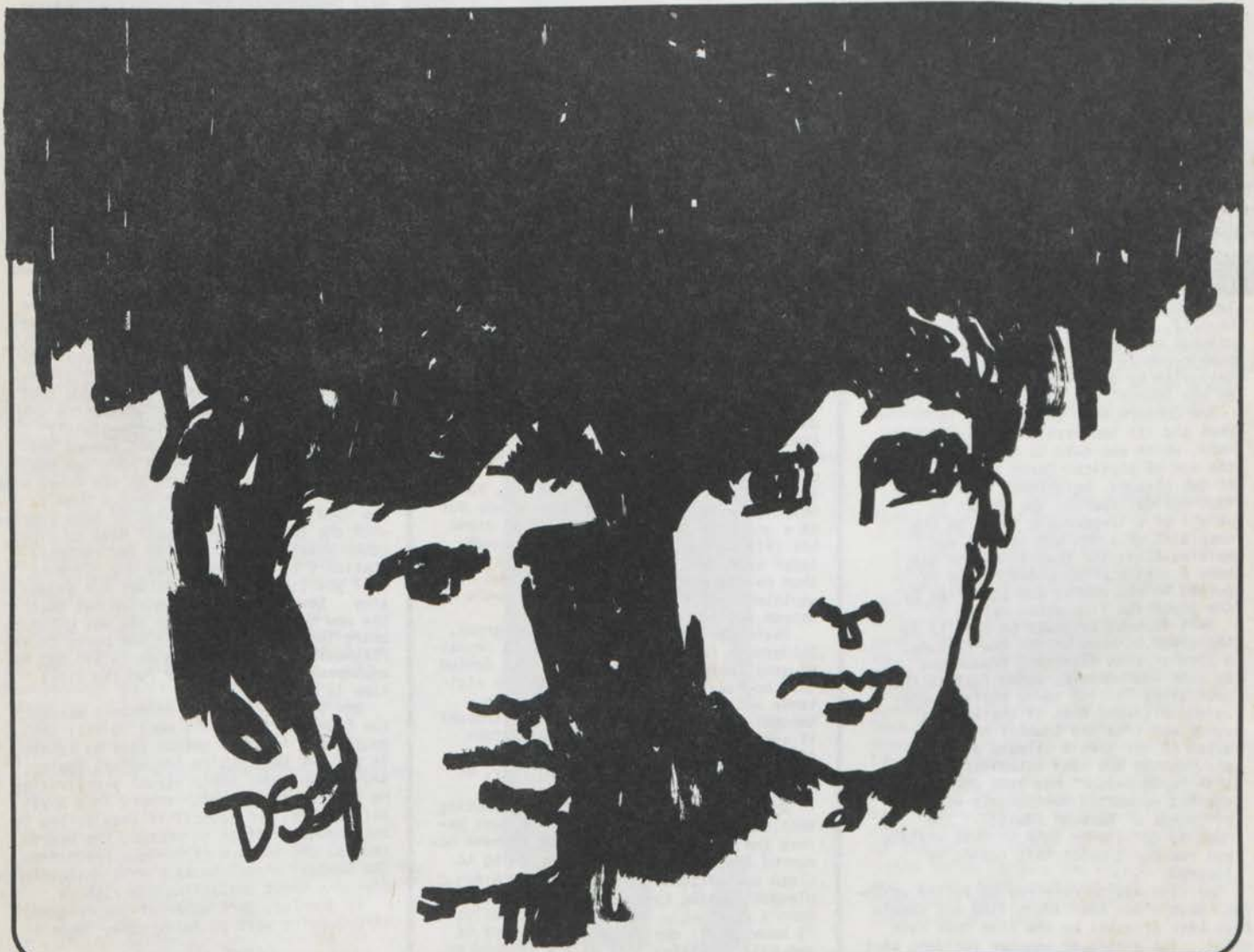
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GAY ERA

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50¢

OCTOBER



TROUBLE IN NEW HOPE

COUNCIL PRESIDENT ACCUSED OF GAY HARASSMENT

NEW HOPE, PA - On July 22 the New Hope Gazette printed the following front-page editorial:

Rumors are normally easy to dispel and rarely survive initial investigation, but a report that circulated through the area last month of a so-called "vigilante" action on the towpath of the Delaware Canal in New Hope, purportedly directed against alleged homosexuals and supposedly conducted by a group of five or six men includ-

The issues raised by the Gazette editorial were aired at an extraordinary meeting of the Borough Council on July 26. The crowd of people who showed up was backed down the stairs into the first floor hall of the Borough's government building. The Council accepted an offer to move the meeting to the Playhouse Inn for discussion of "new business" after they had dealt with the regular agenda.

About an hour later, when the Council members arrived at the Playhouse Inn, 250 to 300 people were waiting for them. For a town of 1100 people such a turnout is incredible and the feeling in the crowd was electric. Gays and "straights" seemed to be equally represented--and solidly united. One non-gay resident told the Gay News: "This can't happen. There's always been a philosophy of live and let live here. That's

I was probably emotionally upset." Again he was asked if he had said it, and he replied, "If I said it I didn't mean it." Rouse later tried to put the "clean up the towpath" remark in perspective. "The subject we were discussing was 'faggots' being a nuisance on the towpath, not trash."

Two speakers defended Balderston. One woman thought his words were being misconstrued, and reminded the meeting that Balderston risked his life repeatedly for the community as a fire fighter. She noted that those present couldn't say the same for themselves, and that the other fire-fighters of the town were not there to criticize Balderston.

This seeming irrelevance may signify a split between the original residents and the "arts and crafts" people who now form the economic backbone of the community. A man whose shop entrance is on the canal said many of his customers would tell him how they used to love the towpath: "Good decent people were harassed. People would tail people with just disgraceful remarks. They would jump out and pinch people." He said he could sympathize with Balderston if this was what was bothering him. This was as close as the meeting came to discussing the underlying issue of homophobia. Balderston was later asked pointedly about his attitude toward the people of the town, all the people, but it wasn't pointed enough. "My past record shows that my attitude toward the community has been good," he again evasively replied.

The clear but unexpressed consensus of the meeting was that if there was disorderly conduct on the towpath on the part of gays, it was to be discouraged but not discussed. Public safety, and not the hatreds that underlie harassment, was the issue to be addressed. A young child was also mugged recently, and the town is concerned about the arrival of problems and tensions they had hoped were confined to the big cities.

Accordingly, the meeting demanded that the towpath be lighted for its entire length within the Borough. The twice-nightly patrol by park police was not deemed adequate. (However, one woman remarked that they could always be found in the diner with the town police if anyone needed them.) New Hope's mayor warned that if they started with the towpath, they would have to light other areas, such as behind the railroad station ("If you don't know why, I could tell you..."), and that it was too expensive. Several speakers pointed out that the new business privilege tax was going to bring in \$27,000, and that the Bucks County Playhouse would be paying up to \$10,000 in amusement tax this summer for the first time in years.

One of the Playhouse producers warned the Council: "You don't want to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs by letting it get out that you're prejudiced against anyone, whatever their sexual proclivities." He offered to join with others in a civil suit against the Council if they failed to take adequate steps to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Borough residents. The Council agreed to talk with Philadelphia Electric about installing the lights.

Ed Sherise, part owner of the Prelude, at one point said to Balderston: "None of



ing a member of the New Hope Borough Council, has gained credence with the passage of time and has produced a public outcry which can now only be satisfied by denial or confirmation by the Council.

The concern over the rumored incident and its implications of lawlessness, which was said to have included the use of physical force against one or two persons, heightened when New Hope police reported the arrest on July 7 of a 17-year-old youth on the complaint of a man who said he was walking along the towpath on his way home a little after midnight and reported he was robbed and assaulted by the youth and five other males.

This report, followed on July 12 by the arson attempt at the New Prelude, a popular area nightspot frequented by many homosexuals, added fuel to the smoldering feeling among socially-conscious citizens that if the initial rumor was true and Council had not acted on it, then a climate of permissiveness had been established and that "open season" had been declared against suspected homosexuals with the blessings of Borough Council. The need to confirm or deny at this writing has reached a point that cannot be ignored.

The five adults referred to in the editorial have since been identified and should have been arrested by the time this sees print. The victim of another incident that same night refused to press charges.

why we came to live in New Hope."

Lester Balderston, president of the Council, who throughout the evening was called upon to immediately resign, began the meeting by offering his own explanation of recent events. It was too short to achieve coherence and satisfied no one. It seems that on July 6 he was bitten by a dog, and on the next day went with a group of five or six friends to the towpath to look for the dog. Since he did not, he said, see the alleged muggings, he was not in a position to press charges. He asked his friends about them, he said (though later he denied putting direct question to them on the subject), and they denied doing anything--and also assured him it would not happen again.

There was no "formed" vigilante group, Balderston felt, and in response to repeated questioning from the audience he denied that he had led or taken part in any vigilante action or done anything that he thought was illegal. He evidently thought it unnecessary to report his suspicions concerning his friends to the chief of police, who was out of town that day, or to any other police officer.

Resident Barbara Rouse told the meeting that she had heard Balderston say just before the incidents were alleged to have occurred that "me and my boys are going to clean up the towpath." The audience applauded, hoping this would crack Balderston's evasions. He replied nervously, "I know in all our lives every one of us has said something that we are ashamed of. Certain things had been happening to me and

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GAYS AT DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

NEW YORK CITY - Amidst shouts of "homos," "turn normal," and "you're sick," over 1,000 people took part in demonstrations demanding the repeal of sodomy statutes and passage of gay rights legislation. The march sponsored by the New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations (NYSCGO), coincided with the Democratic National Convention in New York City, July 11. Demonstrations continued for the remainder of the four-day period. The group assembled at Washington Square and marched up to Madison Square Garden some 25-30 blocks. The demonstrators were heckled at one point by a group of four fundamentalists who carried signs with biblical passages written on them. One insulted marcher threw a can at one of the evangelists, telling him to "go get fucked!" The can missed the sign carrier but still caused a stir.

The kick-off march and rally were billed by its organizers as the "largest strict-



Marchers in pre-convention demonstration *Photo by Jim Davis*



Jo Daly, California gay delegate

National Gay Task Force petition of support for gay rights issues. These, according to the Task Force, which maintained a Communications Center at Convention headquarters, were the major concrete accomplishments of the Convention, relative to gay-rights issues.

"But the most important thing from my perspective," said Communications Center director Virginia Apuzzo, "was the personal impact we made. There was not a delegate to the Convention who did not encounter gay people on the street, in the hotel lobbies, or on the floor of the Convention. There was no way one could be a delegate and not know that there were gay women and men who were lobbying for their rights. And as a result, the gay issues were being discussed."

According to Jean O'Leary, NGTF Co-Executive Director and a delegate to the Convention, there was initial resistance from the Party officials to the formation of the Gay Rights Caucus, and there was the ever-present fear that support for gay rights could lose the Democrats votes. "But we worked hard behind the scenes," O'Leary said, "and I believe that we've mustered enough support from Democratic Committeepeople to ensure that the Gay Rights Support Caucus will be a continuing element within the Party."

Four members of the Democratic National Committee, as well as California Senator John Tunney, seven other members of Congress, and state and city officials from around the country were among the signers of the gay-rights declaration.

"With the help of these people, the members of the women's and youth caucuses, and supporters of gay rights around the country," NGTF Co-Executive Director Bruce Voeller said, "the National Gay Task Force is now tooling up for activity during the campaign. Our principal task will be to hold candidate Jimmy Carter to his commitment to 'oppose all forms of discrimination on the basis of sexual preference.'"

(David Thorstad is an organizer of the July 11th demonstration, a former president of the Gay Activists Alliance, plaintiff in a Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund suit challenging the constitutionality of the New York State sodomy law, and co-author of the book *The Early Homosexual Rights Movement (1864-1935)*.)

The following is the text of his speech at the demonstration on the National Democratic Convention.)

Sisters and Brothers,
 Let me share with you a few things that I know about gay.
 I know that gay is good.
 I know that gay is proud.
 I know that gay is beautiful.
 The gay liberation movement taught me that.
 But I also know — and feel it in my guts — that gay is angry! I did not know this at first. At first, I — like so many of us here — turned my anger inward on myself. But the gay liberation movement opened my eyes and taught me how to look around and see where it was. It taught me how to recognize injustice. Now, I hate injustice. Now, I turn my anger outward, at the injustice of this society toward my millions of sisters and brothers. I have learned that the only way to correct injustice is to fight back against it. That's what we're doing today.
 And we're fighting not only for ourselves, but also for those millions of homosexuals who have not yet opened their dark closets of fear.

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ly political demonstration in gay liberation history."

The rally featuring quite a few speakers representing many different points of view followed the march at Madison Square Garden. Flo Kennedy, a feminist/activist, talked of joining together with other oppressed people. She told the crowd that it "was time to bring socialism and communism out of the closet."

The only state official present was Werner Kamarsky, Commissioner of the New York State Division of Human Rights. He told the demonstrators that "I am ashamed and appalled by my colleagues and their stand on gay issues."

Both David McReynolds, gay staff member of the War Resisters League and GAA President David Thorstad, compared the Democratic Convention with the early homosexual rights movement that was wiped out by Hitler's Nazis. "We must liberate ourselves," said McReynolds. "Other people can do it with us but they cannot do it for us."



Jean O'Leary, New York gay delegate

Gay rights resolutions brought to the Democratic National Convention by the National Gay Task Force were passed by the Women's Caucus and the Youth Caucus. Task Force officers were elated that the Women's Caucus adopted the resolution unanimously.

A Gay Rights Support Caucus was formed within the party for the first time in its history. Signatures of close to 600 Convention delegates were obtained on a

IN THE NEWS

your answers is good enough for me. When one puts dynamite under someone's window (referring to the dynamite found at the Prelude after its fire, now under investigation by the FBI and other agencies) that's attempted murder. If (the Council) waits for a next time before doing anything, Jack will be dead (referring to Jack Rosen, editor of the Gazette and author of the editorial quoted above)."

Asked again if he had done anything wrong, Balderston said that he didn't think his speaking to several people on the tow-path that night constituted harassment. The mayor then said, "If you want to crucify someone, say so, and we'll get a hammer and nails." He said he had heard, from a source he would not identify, that six men might have been involved in the harassment incidents. A woman then declared: "Mayor, you made a mistake, because you admitted to me that you knew what Balderston did, but that you didn't want to hang him. Some of the rumors were started by people right on the stage (i.e., members of the Council)."

The Methodist minister now tried to cool things off, saying: "This meeting has served its purpose. The Council and the police committee know what's happening, and I'm uncomfortable with the feeling that we do not trust them to do their jobs. We've crossed the line between concerned citizens and investigators."

The suggestion was made that the Bucks County district attorney be called in, and that the tape being made of the meeting be impounded as evidence. Balderston bowed to the public will and voluntarily agreed to turn it over. An American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) observer remarked that if there had been harassment of private individuals by public officials, it was indeed a civil liberties matter that would be of interest to the ACLU.

- Gay News

Bar Brawls

NORTHUMBERLAND, PA. — A gay bar owner shot and seriously wounded a local 'straight' youth who, along with some of his friends, were harassing the bar in this small, rural Pennsylvania community last Saturday night. The incident took place at Phil's, a gay bar located in the Palmer House, an old hotel in this community of 4,102.

The shooting took place shortly after 11 p. m. on Aug. 7 when a group of eight 'straight' youths entered the bar which was occupied at the time by the bar's owner, Phillip Southard, 58 years old, and six gay customers. According to one man who was present, the "straights" were "rowdy as hell" and demanded drinks. After being carded, they were served drinks and began to harass the customers and cause problems. Although the sequence of events gets somewhat blurred at this point, the bar-owner apparently used tear gas against the straight persons. In the melee that followed, one gay man was tripped while getting up to go to the bathroom, while another was hit on the head with a beer bottle, requiring sixteen stitches. At this point, Southard, the owner, began shooting and shot two of the 'straight' harassers, grazing one, and seriously injuring 21 year old William Klinger of Middleberg, Pa.

CONT. ON P. 9

The Erotic Forum

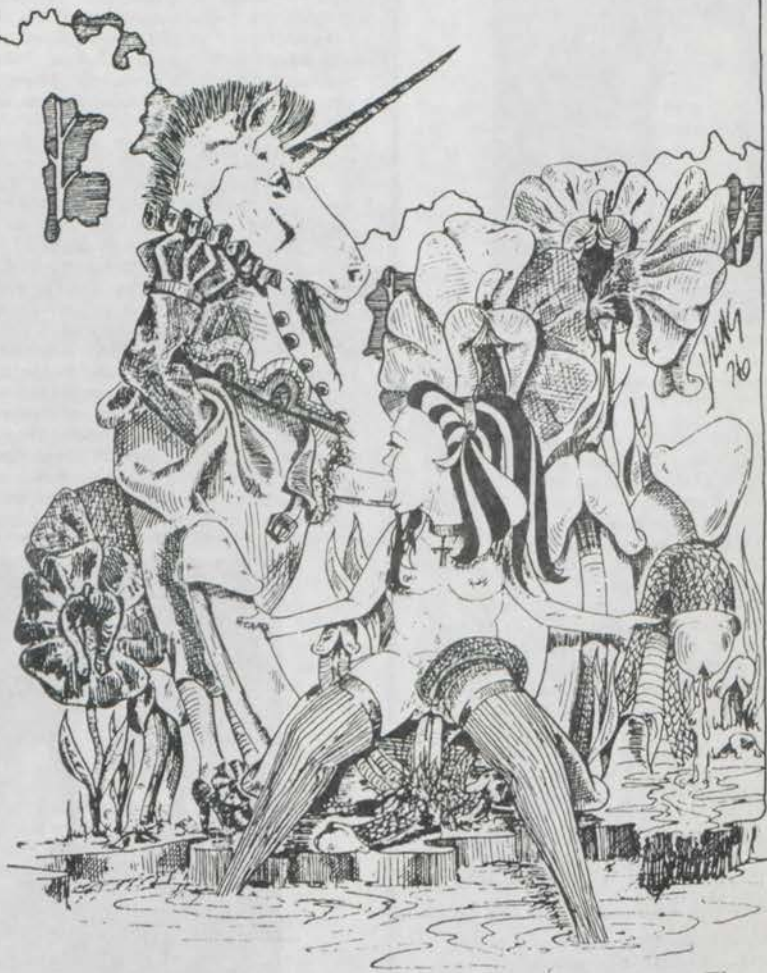
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Take a trip through our erotic wonderland and enjoy items appealing not only to the gay male but also the gay female.

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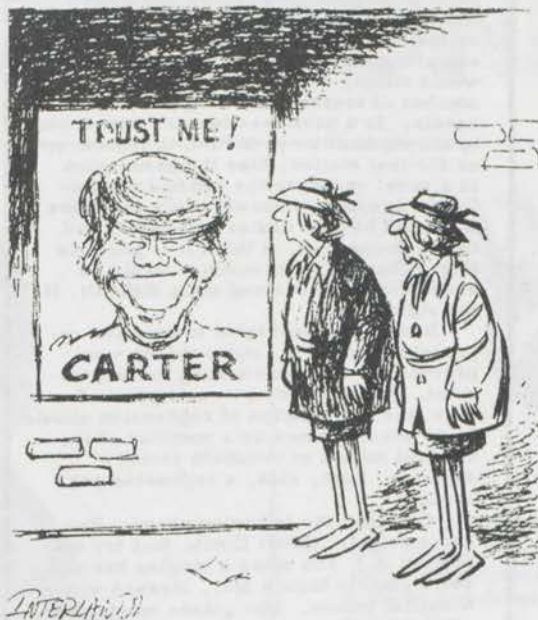
- Peter Nazar

A year ago you could ask one hundred Americans "Who is Jimmy Carter?" and 99 would have said "Who?". Today Jimmy Carter holds the nomination for President from the Democratic Party (the largest in America), and, if the polls are correct, he is the candidate most likely to succeed in the race to the White House. Why? One could say that he told people what they wanted to hear; that he had a well staffed and financed political machine; that he pushed himself ahead with his own incredible self-assurance. Although on many issues he is a mass of contradictions, one thing is clear, he will not endorse equal rights for Gay People; and, he has gone so far as forcing a Gay Rights plank off the Democratic Party platform.

The apparent alternative to Jimmy Carter is Gerald Ford...some choice! An inexperienced peanut farmer, or the bumbling oil company puppet! But there are other candidates. You mean you didn't know about Eugene McCarthy running independently; or the team of Margaret Wright (civil rights and feminist movements leader) and Benjamin Spock on the People's Party ticket; or Frank Zeidler and Quinn Brisben of the Socialist Party U.S.A.? All of them have endorsed Gay Rights. "Ugh" you say, "I'd never vote for one of those radical socialist types, they only want to destroy America and take away our rights." Such is the image of Socialism in these United States. Evil here while the rest of the world sees it as, at worst, another political party; and, as at best, the only means by which humanity can save itself. The reason for the twisted image, and (coincidentally but with a correlation) Jimmy Carter's win, is the same. But it is, on the surface, difficult to see. Our depth of insight, thus far, has been too shallow. We must look deeper for the more significant meaning behind the facts.

First, why do Gay People have a tendency to lean more toward the left side of the political spectrum? Not because we want change in the form of equal rights, but because by being Gay we have learned to recognize when there is a need for change. Thus, we can see the need for change in other social inequities. I am convinced, that, when one continues to evolve in the educational process which is the result of an awareness of such inequities, one cannot help but gravitate toward the opinion that the status quo of capitalism must be altered. The opened mind of a progressive liberal reasons with logic once he or she has the facts, while the rigid conservative reacts with blind emotion. These are generalizations; even Gay People are often duped into thinking that the current state of affairs is the end of all social progress. Witness the Bicentennial madness currently gripping this nation. It is a clear demonstration of the military-industrial complex partnership at work. One hand is washing the other; government (which in this country is primarily the military) promotes the "Bicentennial Celebration" which is taken up by Madison Avenue to increase sales on bicentennial products to bring greater profits to the wallets (and more joy to the hearts) of the capitalists. Business doing its part in the "Bicen Promo Campaign" (mad-ave shop talk) helps make nationalism even more virtuous thereby entrenching our current reactionary government.

Many of our own people have blindly picked up on this pseudo-patriotic gobbledy-gook of American nationalism running rampant when they should be ignoring it, as should all women, and black people, and poor whites. And while battering us with the bicentennial, industry keeps America numbed with plenty; overpriced, overproduced and shoddy, but it



"Never eat in a cafe called Mom's, never play cards with a man called Shick, and never vote for a politician who says, 'Trust me!'"

is what we are willing to buy. When the quality of material goods declines gradually year after year (make it cheaper and sell it for a higher price; profits up!) the change is not as noticeable. And, government says "it is good", so the people of America go on buying more and increasing production just so the whole thing does not collapse at our feet as it almost did in 1932. But whenever someone complains about the condition of our cities, or our landscape, or our lives, the capitalists retort "We're doing all we can to make things better; after all, we're all in the same boat, aren't we?" Yes, BUT WHO IS DOING THE ROWING?...a hundred of us hard working peons to every one of them, coming along for the ride and sucking up all the profits.

Oscar Wilde is seldom associated with politics, yet he wrote one of the most brilliant documents in the tradition of socialist thought. "The Soul of Man Under Socialism", written in 1891, contains trenchant criticisms of the conventional utilitarian argument in behalf of socialism; it anticipates many ideas concerning the relation of the individual to the powerful state that later socialist revisionists would develop. In his essay he explains how capitalism places material gain at the pinnacle of man's pursuits. He states "In a community where property confers immense distinction, social position, and respect, man, being naturally ambitious, makes it his aim to accumulate this property.... Man will kill himself by overwork in order to secure property." He demonstrates that society is constructed on such a basis that humanity is forced into a groove in which the individual cannot freely develop what is best in him or herself. Gay People are significantly set apart as individuals; we are perceived as not running with the pack, even when we try to adopt the heterosexual patterns, such as marriage. "The true perfection of man (humanity) lies, not in what man has, but in what man is. Private property (capitalism) has crushed true individualism and set up an individualism that is false," said Wilde. This can only mean that no society in which eccentricity is justification for condemnation can be in a healthy condition. America is ill, could it be terminal?

Jimmy Carter represents a step backwards for the Democratic Party. And, the increas-

ing conservatism this points to in the political thinking of the American masses indicates that Gay activism is going to have much rougher going in coming years, as will individuality in general. The pressure will be on to conform. We may again have to fight in the streets, and be beaten with clubs, and be murdered in alleys, and spill our blood on the Christopher Streets of America. But, the next time we fight back, we may not be alone. Gay People, women, transsexuals, transvestites, blacks and poor whites, all the minorities may be in there together. In fact, they are the numerical majority.

It appears we are faced with a political democracy unequal and oppressive because of three facts: one, we live under an authoritarian economy; we have increasingly reactionary public officials; and three, we are dominated by a generally uneducated, uninformed, and apathetic heterosexual electorate. We have already reviewed the creator and greatest failing of our modern societyour "keep most of their bellies full most of the time (with junk) and they'll be happy" competitive capitalist economic system. Our reactionary, and for the most part corrupt, politicians are put and kept in office by capitalism. In this country a poor politician is an invisible one, and American big business will back (if need be, under the table) those parties and candidates giving it the freest rein. The American electorate does not want to make the necessary changes; they want their six-pack (no-cal for the "old-lady") and boob tube, with as little news as possible. Our less than 50% voter turnouts have made our system a source of mockery throughout the world. This condition warrants the government to institute a proper and adequate public education program, but the "system" might then be better understood, and then curbed; so much remains as it is. Most Gay Activists have at least learned that where our unenlightened American majority rules, minority opinion is either reproached, or snuffed out.

Jimmy Carter has proven the political naivete of the American public; perhaps an informed and activist minority (or coalition of minorities) is justified in revolutionizing, through non-violent means, the lives of a majority. It seems to me, we are now in need of a new revolution, a humanist revolution, to institute a new state capable of focusing on public services, environmental concerns, civil rights, consumer rights, Gay rights, women's rights, long-term planning, and an increased social consciousness. It is becoming ever more clear, as America evolves toward that so significant date, 1984, that....We cannot be totally free to be whatever we want to be until we live in a socialist democracy.

SAN FRANCISCO - After testifying at his lover's robbery trial, Jimmy Carter's nephew, William Carter Spann, claimed that his family has disowned him. Spann who is the son of Gloria Spann, Carter's sister, also claimed that as his uncle closed in on the Democratic Presidential nomination, his family deserted him and would have nothing to do with him.

Spann admitted in San Francisco Superior Court that he met and began a gay relationship with an inmate at San Quentin Prison while they were both serving sentences there between 1972 and 1975. When asked at a news conference about his gay nephew, Carter described him as "someone who has been in trouble all his adult life." Newspapers accounts have described the difficulties with his family as a result of his prison record and not because of his gayness.

COMING OUT



The great majority of my neighbors would disagree violently with what I have to say. If it was possible to 'finger' me, violent disagreement would be the least of my difficulties. They would write dirty words on my door, throw stones at my windows, see to it that I lose my job, and label me a sick deviant. I guess I feel the greatest sorrow over this malediction because of the paranoia it causes to fester within.

Basically, my neighbors are good people. They, as am I, are caught in a culture which though it appears to be one of the brightest gems on the crown of civilization, is in reality a subtly glawed beauty.

I have thought a great deal on this subject and have an established position. My position follows. The location of others in this matter is of small importance to me, as long as that location does not infringe upon my rights as a human being.

To be gay and to be a teacher is of no special significance. It is of no significance whatsoever. When we speak of significance, we speak of aberration to a degree sufficient to cause concern. For instance, it might be significant to the growers of navel oranges if the yield of a specific orchard dropped by 20% in one season, or if, of this mythical yield, 20% of the oranges lacked navels.

There is no opportunity to sample the teacher population in order to discover the proportion of gay teachers to the general teacher population. Society's repressive tendencies prevent such a sampling. And if, by some miraculous agency, these repressive tendencies were removed tomorrow morning at sunrise, enabling the sampling to take place, what would

the figures thus obtained prove? Such figures could only show that a significant number of gay teachers exist or do not exist among the general teacher population. To test for the presence of navels or the lack of navels among a teacher sample would give a similar result. We would simply discover that a significant number of teachers did or did not have navels. Is a navelless teacher dangerous to his students or to his fellow teachers, or for that matter, does the possession of a navel endanger the general population? In order to answer such questions we would have to devise new tests, one for each question. I think it is possible to say that such a procedure would be exceedingly tedious and quite difficult, if not ridiculous.

It might be profitable to examine repression, however, since that is what prevents us from conducting our experiment. From a very personal point of view, the examination of repression should be of interest since as a member of the cultural milieu of twentieth century America, I am, alas, a repressed personality.

Consider the following scene. You are straight. (Don't flinch, just try to picture it.) You enter a singles bar and see a comely blonde Ms., blessed with a bountiful bosom. Her glance meets yours and she smiles ever so slightly. Such a happening would, of course, mark the beginning of a long and perilous game of 'cat and mouse' that might conceivably last all evening. At said point in time you would probably go home with nothing more than a phone number to keep you company in bed.

Let us assume, however, that in your straight, macho, masculinity you decide to short circuit this circuitous route and so, side up to our buxom female type person and propose that instead of playing 'cat and mouse', the two of you might engage in a game of 'bedtime pastimes.' Now, though the pretty, young thing might be in total agreement with your desires, and wish nothing more than to sample the delights of your flesh, she drops her chin, gasps for air, dilates her pupils, lifts her eyelids, and whacks you a good one on the face. She then turns on her heel and stomps away, hips swinging her posterior back and forth. (Did you know that when a female cat does that she is saying: come get me, I'm yours?) Be that as it may, you have just lost the game. You know the old feeling I'm sure; damned if you do, damned if you don't.

This involved story serves to clarify my position that we live in a repressed society. Though, as almost anyone knows, gays are much more promiscuous than the general run of the mill, common, straight type person, it applies to us nonetheless.

Hey, wait a minute, you bigot! What is this about gays being so promiscuous? Whoever promoted that lie had to be straight, or at the least, so schizoid that his fantasies completely obliterated reality. Did you ever spend much time in a gay bar? Games! Gay games are simply more inventive and complicated than straight games, but serve the same purpose, to keep their participants out of bed.

The straights are engaged in a repressive game of denying the basic simian instincts of sex where and when it can be found, as are many of us, coupled with a game of "Ignore it and it will go away." The prime rule of this second game demands that anyone who ignores the rest of the rules be crucified and stoned simultaneously. This prime delineator of behavior, is aptly names the scapegoat clause. It applies to anyone caught breaking the rules, not just gays; witness Watergate, the Hays scandal ad infinitum, ad nauseam.

To make what is shaping up to be a long diatribe, a slightly shorter diatribe, I find that I am a gay person living in a straight society. So what! Neither of these facts has anything to do with the reality of my profession. I am simply a teacher. Being gay has nothing to do with it.

- by Hieronymous Anonymous

The following statistics were figured by Rich Marquart of Pittsburgh and used by him in an address to Gay Rights Marchers in Pittsburgh on June 19, 1976. Rich very kindly granted permission to reproduce his graphic and quotable figures for wider dissemination and use.

ESTIMATED POPULATION OF PENNSYLVANIA — 11,900,000
" GAY " " — 1,190,000

1. If Pennsylvania gays moved to Philadelphia, 2 out of 3 of the entire population of that city would be gay.
2. If Pennsylvania gays moved to the next five largest cities, all of Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Erie, Allentown, and Scranton would be gay.
3. If only 1 out of 5 Pennsylvania gays moved to Pittsburgh, that entire city would be gay.
4. The gays of Pennsylvania could easily populate all of the state of Maine, or several of fourteen other states.
5. We could all move to Houston, Texas and that city would be 97% gay.
6. We could populate all of Baltimore, Maryland.
7. We could take over both Boston and Washington, D.C. (85%).
8. As of 5/8/76, there were 108,259 full time employees of the state. It could be estimated that 10,830 gay state employees were personally concerned over Pennsylvania anti-gay legislation as typified by Senate Bill 743.

The approved state budget for the state of Pennsylvania for fiscal year '76-'76 was \$6,719,487,000. If gay citizens as 10% of the population contributed 10% of the monies budgeted, 10% of the budget is \$617,948,700. If just 25% of every dollar we gays contribute through taxes, fees, etc., to the state were used, we pay yearly:

1. All Pennsylvania legislators (salaries, staff, and operational expenses) who keep us criminals and deny our civil rights.
2. All the Pennsylvania courts which prosecute, fine, jail, and deny us our civil rights.
3. The entire State Police system which hassles, harasses, entraps, and arrests us.

From the State Budget:	
1. Salaries of Senators (50)	\$ 1,300,000.00
Salaries of Representatives (205)	4,215,000.00
Total Operational costs of the Legislature	36,944,000.00
2. Total Court Operational costs	80,722,000.00
3. Total State Police Operational costs	100,326,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 177,992,000.00

This represents only 1/4 of the total income to the state provided by gays.

PREPARED FOR DISTRIBUTION BY THE PENNSYLVANIA RURAL GAY CAUCUS

- ALLENTOWN**
Rube's (bar), 844 Hamilton Street.
Stonewall (bar), 28 N. 10th Street.
- BERWICK**
The Steppes (private club), Hotel Berwick, 300 Market Street 18603, (717)-752-2282.
- BETHLEHEM**
Le-Ni-Ho, Box 1003, Moravian Station 18018.
- BRIDGEPORT**
The Lark (bar), 302 DeKalb Street (Rt. 202 North).
- BRYN MAWR**
Bryn Mawr/Haverford Gay People's Alliance, Room 24, College Inn, Bryn Mawr College, 19090.
- CRESSON**
Castaway's Inn, 629 Front Street, (614)-886-9931.
- DUNCANSVILLE**
Danny's Hideaway, Rt. 220, R.D. 1, Greensburg.
- ELIZABETH**
The Waterfall (bar), 116 Market Street, (412)-384-9807.
- ERIE**
Midtown Lounge, 723 French Street.
Washington Grill, Washington and W. 10th.
- GREENSBURG**
Golden Arrow Bar, 108 W. Pittsburgh Street.
- INDIANA**
Homophiles of Indiana University of Pa., Box 1588, Indiana University 15701.

RURAL GAY RESOURCE LIST

- HARRISBURG**
Ark (bar), 32 S. Front Street, Steelton.
Dandelion Tree (bar), 400 N. 2nd Street.
Dignity, Box 297, Federal Square Station 17108.
Gay Community Services, Box 297 17108.
Golden Coach (bar), 4309 Lingelston Road.
Harrisburg Gay Switchboard, (717)-234-0328.
Integrity/Greater Harrisburg, Box 3809 17108.
MCC/Central Pennsylvania, 100 N. Spring Street, Middletown.
Neptune's Lounge (bar), 268 North Street.
- LANCASTER**
Erotic Forum (porno), 227 N. Prince Street.
Fiddler (bar), King and Prince Streets.
Gays United Lancaster, 3002 Marietta Ave. (717)-898-2876.
Gay Era, 332 N. Mulberry Street 17603.
Loft (food), 201 W. Orange Street (second floor).
Tally-Ho (bar), 201 W. Orange Street.
Women Oriented Women (WOW), c/o Lancaster Women's Center, 230 W. Chestnut Street (717)-299-5381.
Xperience (porno), 18 E. Walnut Street.
- MARCUS HOOK**
Captain Jack's (bar), Market Street.

- George's (bar), Market Street.
Paradise (bar), Market Street.
- NEW HOPE**
Cartwheel (bar), Rt. 202 West.
January's Inn, 218 Aquetong Road, Solebury.
New Hope Diner, Rt. 202 West.
Prelude (bar), Rt. 202 West.
- NORTHUMBERLAND**
Susquehanna Valley Gays United, Box 182 17857.
(717)-473-9923.
- READING**
Alternative Booksellers, 10 N. 4th Street 19601.
(215)-373-0442.
Gay Co-ordinating Society of Berks County, Box 3131
19603, (215)-372-5123.
Glass Door (bar), 300 Block N. 5th Street.
Red Star Saloon, 143 N. 10th Street.
This is It (bar), BER and Walnut Streets.
- SCRANTON**
DEMItri Cafe, 237 Wyoming Avenue.

- SHAVERSTOWN**
Northeast Pennsylvania Gay Alliance, Box 1710 18708.
- SHIPPENSBURG**
Shippensburg Students for Gay Rights, Shippensburg State College 17257.
- STATE COLLEGE**
Gayline (814)-863-0588, Tuesday and Thursday 7-11 p.m.;
Friday 7-10 p.m.
Homophiles of Penn State, Box 216 16801.
MCC, a11 mail c/o Homophiles of Penn State.
My-Dn-My Bar, 128 E. College Avenue.
Scorpion Lounge (downstairs), 119 S. Burrows
(814)-238-7914.
- STROUSBURG**
The Blue Bayle (bar), Main Street.
- SWARTHMORE**
Swarthmore College Gay Liberation c/o Swarthmore College
19081, (215)-544-7900, Ext. 296; or 566-9467.
- UPPER DARBY**
C & R Club, 6405 Market Street, Hillbourne.
- WEST CHESTER**
Gays of West Chester, Box 2302, West Chester State College
19380.
- WILKES BARRE**
Tiffany (bar), Park and Lehigh Streets.
- YORK**
Atlant's Ranch (bar and rooms), 10 miles west of Rt. 30,
14 Karat (bar), West Market Street.
Town Tavern (bar), 41 N. George Street.

OPINION!



The death of psychologist Mark Freedman hit me like a ton of bricks when I read of it. The full loss to the Gay Community may never be assessed except in terms of the curious void left by his death.

I first became aware of Freedman about two years ago when he published an article in *Psychology Today*. He was the first openly gay psychologist to write for that magazine and the article was produced only after a year of negotiations between Freedman and the publishers. When published, "Far From Illness: Homosexuals May Be Healthier than Straights," generated vast criticism in its then shocking thesis that Gays are more emotionally sound than straights. I immediately began handing out Xeroxes of that article and still do (one of the most recent having gone to Bill Varney when he asked my aid in preparing a tv show for WITF-TV).

I also regularly hand out copies of another Freedman article which appeared less than a year ago in *Blueboy*. Entitled "Homophobia," the piece suggested that psychiatrists abandon trying to cure Gays and use the time to treat straights for homophobia. Freedman was nothing if not revolutionary in his suggestions.

Other works include the books, *Homosexuality and Psychological Functioning* (Wadsworth Press) and the recently published *Loving Man* (co-authored with Harvey Myers), which the *Gay Era* will review in an upcoming issue. Freedman had also attempted to create the first Gay research center in this country; the project lamentably fell through when promised Federal funding did not materialize. This, however, may become a reality through the Freedman Foundation which will use the posthumous sales from his books (two more have yet to be published) toward just such a project.

The Gay Community has many leaders. In the political area it just might have too many; they are so frequently fighting among themselves we sometimes wonder if they have time to fight for us. Freedman, however, was one of a kind. Working quietly, diligently, but openly (and on the level of personal freedom), he may have accomplished more for Gays simply by removing the "illness" stigma than any number of Gay politicians. Now, at 33, Mark Freedman is dead after a severe case of hepatitis. As I said, there are many politicians. Who will (or can) take his place?

- H.L.



The official positions and policies of the GAY ERA are contained only in its editorials. Opinions put forth in individual articles and letters are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the outlook of the publication.

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BITS 'N' PIECES

HARRISBURG - On June 4 the Pennsylvania Joint Council on the Criminal Justice System presented its final report on reforming the state's criminal justice system to Governor Shapp.

Among the recommendations was the immediate repeal of all "vice" laws, including those concerning "unnatural" sexual acts to those banning prostitution, gambling, pornography, and marijuana.

The section of the final report dealing with sexual acts reads: "Pennsylvania should repeal its laws prohibiting sexual acts between consenting adults in private. An evaluation should determine if new regulatory laws would better serve the purpose of the state and the needs of the public. As a minimum, the state should remove incarceration as a penalty for this offense, except in the case of persistent, and repeated offenses by an individual, and then only for a limited period."

According to the report, the rationale for the vice law repeal recommendations were made on two grounds: protection of individual rights and concentration of law enforcement efforts against violent crimes. The report stated, "The time has come to take vigorous steps to reduce the overextension of the criminal laws into the areas mentioned. Under the leadership of the governor, we are convinced that the general welfare will be advanced by our proposals and that the criminal justice system will be more effectively able to do the task we all desire of it--to reduce the advance of serious and violent crimes in our Commonwealth."

PHILADELPHIA - Linda Norwood of DYKETACTICS (a local lesbian/feminist group) has told the GAYZETTE that the trial for the suit they are bringing against the City of Philadelphia (involving George Fencl, and four officers) has been postponed probably until September.

George Fencl, head of the Civil Disobedience Squad, has postponed his deposition several times. Ms. Norwood feels the City hopes to make DYKETACTICS "disillusioned with waiting." All of the members of DYKETACTICS involved with the suit, however, have been deposed by the City.

During an abnormally long three-and-a-half hour deposition, Ms. Norwood--one of four plaintiffs alleging she was a victim of police brutality at City Hall following a demonstration by gay activists (see the GAYZETTE, Vol. III, No. 20)--was asked grueling questions by the City's attorney.

Despite widespread publicity on the lawsuit, support from the gay community has not been overwhelming--at least not financial support.

Ms. Norwood told the GAYZETTE: "A lot of people in the gay community are glad there's a DYKETACTICS and they're more than happy to give us lip service but they won't give \$2.00 toward our court costs."

Donations to DYKETACTICS Legal Defense Fund can be sent to the Free Women's School, 112 Logan Hall, University of Penn, Phila., Pa. 19174.

--The Weekly GAYZETTE

At its annual meeting in Santa Barbara this June, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) voted to op-



LNS/cpf

pose discrimination by colleges and universities on the basis of "sexual or affectional preference." This action commits the Association to defend the rights of gay academics, including censure of offending institutions where necessary.

AAUP is the largest and most influential of the organizations representing university professors. It is also usually considered to be the most conservative, and it is the last of the national organizations to recognize gay rights. The National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers adopted such policies several years ago; The United Federation of Teachers did so this year.

Dr. Walter Sheppe of the University of Akron in Ohio, who originally proposed this action, believed that this may be the most important action yet to secure full rights for gay women and men on campus. "American universities are in a period of transition between the total exclusion and open acceptance of known homosexuals," according to Dr. Sheppe. "I feel that AAUP's new policy statement will provide guidance in this area as AAUP policies have in many other areas of academic life. AAUP has no enforcement powers, but few administrators want to risk its censure. The next major step is to have gay rights included in collective bargaining agreements."

- National Gay Task Force



In order to establish a central agency to exchange information about the problems facing gay youth, the Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities has formed a Gay Youth Committee and has appointed Janet Cooper convener. According to Janet, some of the most active members of the committee have graduated from high school or will be graduating very soon. Some Council members suggested that persons be considered eligible for the Youth Committee until they reach the age of 21. Janet asked that other high school age persons be encouraged to participate.

This is an opportunity for gay youth to participate and alleviate the problems that they face. For further information, please write to: Janet Cooper, c/o Community Advocate Unit, 344 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

WASHINGTON, DC - Wave Petty Officer Patricia Veldon was accused of "homosexual tendencies" by an administrative board which recommended she receive an honorable discharge at the Key West Naval Air Station. The Chicago Gay Life reports that this recommendation has been overturned by the Bureau of Navy Personnel in Washington.

Veldon's Attorney Carol Scott attributed her client's victory to a ruling recently handed down by Secretary of the Navy stating that discharge for gay servicepeople is not mandatory. The ruling states that discharge should be decided on a case-to-case basis.

The Air Force has discharged Airman first class Carmen Banos with whom Veldon supposedly had a relationship.

WASHINGTON, DC - The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches met in Washington, DC, for its seventh General Conference August 10-15. It was the first meeting held in the northeast U.S. The Fellowship consists of over 100 groups in seven nations and nearly 2,000 gay Christians, parents of gays, leaders of gay religious caucuses, secular gay liberation groups, and heterosexual members of MCC attended the conference in the nation's capitol.

Rev. Troy Perry, moderator and founder of the denomination which met for the first time seven years ago in his Los Angeles livingroom, said before the conference meeting, "This is the year for everyone interested in human rights to affirm our right to exist with freedom and dignity in every society around the world."

Highlights included a panel discussion by parents of homosexuals, a candlelight memorial service and wreath-laying on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and an "Affirmation" rally in Lafayette Park across from the White House on Sunday afternoon, August 15. Also present at the '76 General Conference was Dr. John Boswell, assistant professor of medieval history at Yale University, who presented an historical overview of the relationship of gay people and the Christian church.



MORE ON P. 15

IN THE NEWS

BAR BRAWLS

As a result of the incident, Southard, who has a local reputation of being "gun happy," was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and recklessly endangering the life of another person.

What distinguishes this incident from hundreds of similar ones is the presence in Northumberland of Susquehanna Valley Gays United, one of the largest and most successful rural gay organizations in the United States. Susquehanna Gays United boasts a membership of 70, both women and men, and its founder, Sam Deetz, is a member of Gov. Milton Shapp's Council on Sexual Minorities.

According to Deetz, Southard ran a gay bar without any problems for 12 to 15 years until the day that Sam Deetz "came out" in a front page article in the Sunbury Daily Item. Deetz's "coming out" was the result of his being named by Gov. Shapp to the Council for Sexual Minorities. As soon as Sam Deetz became visible, Phil Southard's bar became visible as well.

Deetz feels the blame for the incident lies largely with Southard himself. "There was only one phone in a three story building," he told GCN. "There was no bouncer at the bar; the people who reported the incident to the police had to walk a block away to get to the telephone. If Southard had had some other protection other than his gun, the entire incident could have been avoided."

But Southard's point of view would obviously be different, and the conflict between the old-line gay people and the new activists is unlikely to vanish overnight in rural Pennsylvania.

— Gay Community News



Anonymous Notes/cpf

LANCASTER, PA. — On Saturday night, August 7, what began as a friend trying to keep his friends from fighting, ended in the arrests of three people due to the incident that took place at the Fiddler Bar here in Lancaster.

The incident which took place at the Fiddler, located in the Steven's House complex, began at approximately 12:30 and 1:00 am, as Charles Cooper and a few of his friends were trying to stop a fight between 3 of their friends.

Though they were successful in ending the quarrel when 2 of the 3 left the bar, one of them returned for a wig and a pocketbook and the fight started again. This time Charles Cooper jumped between the two, Bartolo Hernandez and Rodney Brady, as one of them started viciously attacking him thinking he was the party he was fighting.

At this point Officer Steve White, who just happened to be in the bar that evening, grabbed Cooper around the chest and arms and threw him to the floor. Both Hernandez and Brady pleaded with White to let Cooper get off the floor telling him that Cooper was just trying to break-up the fight. Cooper struggled on the floor and told White that he would go peacefully if he let him up when Officer White punched him in the back. To protect himself from the physical abuse, Cooper punched back at the officer.

As he was pulled to his feet, patrons and onlookers in the bar repeatedly told the officer that Cooper was innocent and that he was just doing his good deed for the day. White responded, "I don't give a fuck!" By this time Joe Cardon, manager of the bar made his appearance at the scene. The officer told Cardon, "I'm taking him to jail, he's under arrest." The manager then said to the officer to "Go ahead" and turned to Cooper and told him to "Go ahead down and cool off."

As Cooper was taken outside, another officer spun him around and shoved him up against a wooden wall. The young man was then hand-cuffed and taken with the other two to an awaiting police cruiser.

According to the three arrestees, none of them were ever informed of their rights or allowed to make a phone call.

At the police station, the officers took all their private possessions, wrote them up, and took fingerprints and mug shots. When Cooper complained that the handcuffs were too tight, an officer proceeded to tighten them more. Later as four friends were waiting for the three to be released, they overheard the desk sergeant and several other officers laughing and saying, "Are they all faggots and queers from the Fiddler too?"

Officer White made the kind gesture of visiting Cooper at his cell telling him, "You're lucky you're being charged with disorderly conduct and not with resisting an officer." All three were released and charged with disorderly conduct.

Cooper was released at 8a.m. Sunday morning. While his lover was sitting in the waiting room, unknown to the officers, he overheard one of the officers tell another to keep Cooper's file till last.

The citation read the same for all three offenders:

Actor did cause a public inconvenience, annoyance and alarm, by engaging in a fight, making unreasonable noise, creating a hazardous and physically offensive condition serving no legitimate purpose, involved in a dist. and fight inside the Fiddler Lounge, Stevens House, 10 S. Prince St.

At this time, Cooper is the only one of the three who will plead not guilty to the charges.

NOTE: The above information was taken from a statement presented to Gays United of Lancaster and signed by 19 witnesses.

Gay R.A. Fired

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY PARK, PA - Residential Life Director, M. Lee Upcraft recently upheld the decision of Chris Horn, South Halls Area Coordinator, to terminate the employment of a gay resident

assistant, and not to rehire him for next year.

The RA said in his appeal to Upcraft that he believed Horn's decision was unfair and that he (the RA) was being discriminated against on the basis of his sexual orientation.

The RA said that he and Horn had had some differences of opinion over discipline on floors prior to his dismissal. In a letter to both Horn and Upcraft, the RA said he could not "condone in any way 'water battles' or the throwing of individuals forcibly into the showers based on the grounds that it is dangerous and that from my experiences as a resident assistant I am aware that such activities, although playful most of the time, can and often do become malicious harassment of certain individuals for any number of reasons."

He added that he could not concur with Horn's statement that such activities served a venting function or were "developmental".

In that letter to Horn, the RA informed him of his gayness. Three days later, he said, Horn informed him, that, based on their discussion of the RA's job performance and behavior in other specific situations, and "having taken everything into consideration", he had decided that the RA was not the type of person they wanted on their staff.

The RA said he received neither the 30 days notice, a standard procedure, nor a written reason for his dismissal at that time.

Later, he received a letter, he said, giving reasons which he thought were false. The RA wrote another letter to Upcraft indicating his belief that Horn's decision was to a great extent based on the RA's sexual orientation.

The RA, in considering further legal action as a possible redress, said he would fight the University in this matter.

— Homophiles of Penn State



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Media

NGTF LAUNCHES MAJOR EFFORT TO IMPROVE NATIONAL GAY NEWS COVERAGE

In an effort to convince the television networks and other national news media that they are simply not giving adequate coverage to gay-related news, the National Gay Task Force prepared a Summary of National Gay News, covering the period from January 1975 through June 1976, and sent copies to all executives, producers and assignment editors in network news departments plus key people at the wire services and news weeklies.

Referring to sodomy-law repeal by 17 states, and gay-rights legislation in 36 communities, NGTF Media Director Ginny Vida noted in her letter to the television news departments that "each time the networks' attention has been called to these trends, we've been told that the latest sodomy-repeal or gay-rights law is a 'local story.' It is our view that when local stories on the same subject proliferate across the nation, they represent national stories,

in THE NEWS

Gays in School

WASHINGTON, DC - "Homosexuality Goes to School" a positive documentary on gays in the field of education, was offered by National Public Radio (NPR) to its 181 member stations as part of the Options in Education series. Only a dozen of the stations that normally carry the series declined the program, while four that do not decided to use it.

Most of the program consisted of interviews with gay teachers, students, and gay rights activists. Among those interviewed were Lyn Rosen, managing editor of Gay Community News (Boston), who had been a teacher in Philadelphia; Dr. Frank Kameny, head of Washington's Mattachine Society; Joel Gerwitz, a lawyer for the National Education Association who worked on the landmark Joe Acanfora case in Pennsylvania; and Rev. Randall Gibson from Project Lambda, California's gay "runaway" home.

The program was balanced by an anti-gay interview with New York psychologist Dr. Herbert Hendin who stated that "every society has always had a stake in raising its children in a heterosexual way, and condemned the "institutionalizing" of the "deviation" of homosexuality by the gay liberation movement.

According to the Advocate, producer John Merrow had difficulty in getting any school administrators on record. He told the Advocate, "The school superintendents and principals we questioned wouldn't even discuss it."

Merrow concluded the program with a generally pro-gay summary: "Homosexual teachers... know that coming out of the closet puts their professional careers in jeopardy, even though the law is on their side. But homosexuals stay in the closet at great personal cost. "Our investigation has left us convinced that homosexuality--and sexuality generally--cannot be kept out of school by refusing to talk about it, or by saying, 'leave it to the family and church.' Sexual segregation may be politically popular, but the Kinsey Report told us that at least 4%

and that these stories deserve network coverage."

"Our hope," she said, "is that you will recognize that each step along the road to full political and social equality for gay citizens is a step along the road to a major cultural shift that could have considerably greater impact on the future of this nation and our society than much of what passes for hard news in today's media marketplace."

First to respond to the mailing was NBC's "Today" show, which had been particularly remiss in the coverage of gay news. NGTF Co-Executive Director Jean O'Leary and board member Martin Duberman were invited to appear on the August 5 show. Also quick to respond were the wire services: UPI is setting to work immediately on an article, assessing the progress of the gay movement, slated to appear in the Sunday supplements of 2,000 U.S. newspapers; and AP is starting on a wrap-up of the status of the sodomy laws in the 50 states.

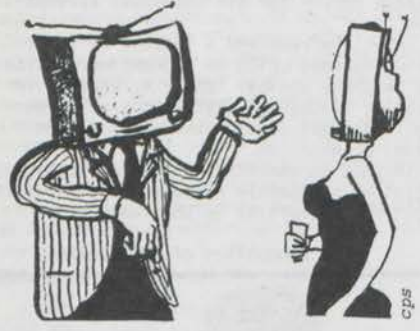
- National Gay Task Force

prejudice and discrimination by pretending to the children of America that there are no real people who are gay... We think it is not only immoral but illegal for the television industry, mandated to serve the needs of all the public, to fail to serve our needs... And I believe that neither I, nor any of my gay brothers and sisters of all ages, should be required to wait a single moment for fairness and visibility from this nation's communications industry."

Deiter, who works directly with producers of television series, stressed the fact that gay themes are taboo on the "family hour" even though the networks have offered gay organizations assurances to the contrary. And, at the hearings, he was supported in his view by testimony from Alan Burns, of Mary Tyler Moore Productions, and Kathy Nolan, president of the Screen Actors Guild, both of whom expressed the view that there is an unwritten exclusionary policy.

Several members of the Subcommittee stated publicly that they were moved and impressed by the testimony of the gay representatives, and Rep. Henry Waxman of California expressed his intention to explore both "legislative remedies" to the problem of network anti-gay policies and the extent to which existing Federal Communications Commission guidelines can be used to ensure fairness and accuracy. Both Vida and Deiter were invited to testify at the Subcommittee's September 14-16 hearings in Washington on the matter of broadcast license renewal.

- National Gay Task Force



VIDA AND DEITER PROTEST GAY "FAMILY VIEWING" EXCLUSION AT HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

The House of Representatives Subcommittee on Communications held hearings in Los Angeles August 17 on the television "family viewing" controversy, and for the first time in the Committee's history, representatives of the gay community were invited to testify. They were Ginny Vida, media director of the National Gay Task Force, and Dr. Newton Deiter, coordinator of the Gay Media Task Force in Hollywood.

"On programs directed to children and in the so-called 'family viewing' hours," Vida told the Committee members, "there are still no gay people. (But) American families; yes, and American children; have the right to know that we exist."

The reason for the exclusion of gays from family viewing, Vida suggested, is that parents equate homosexuality with violence and sex. Part of the reason for the violence notion, she said, are violent portrayals of gays in "adult" viewing hours. "And the truth is," she added, "that pictures of two homosexuals—two women or two men—kissing each other tenderly on the lips are no more and no less about 'sex' than what heterosexuals are seen doing every night in full view of everybody in 'family viewing' time."

Vida also told the Subcommittee that "Just as it was immoral to foster prejudice and discrimination by pretending to the children of America that there were no black people, no real people who were Jews, Mexicans or Poles, it is immoral to foster

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of the population is homosexual. That means that almost all of us had, or now have, gay teachers and gay classmates. Did it matter then? Does it matter now?

"Of course society has a strong stake in heterosexuality, but surely there must be room for counseling and psychological support services for children who are gay or sexually uncertain. Right now, their alternatives include the 'meat market,' sexual excess, disease, dangerous drugs, self-hatred, isolation, and oppression. It doesn't have to be that way."

Sodomy Repeals

In the wake of virtually unanimous criticism of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision denying a challenge to the Virginia "sodomy" statute, two states in heartland America, Iowa and West Virginia, have repealed laws which criminalized sexual behavior between consenting adults in private. This brings to 17 the number of states which have repealed their "sodomy" laws over the past few years. The figure represents one third of the states and one third of the nation's population. (Other states which now have no restrictions on consensual sex acts are Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, New Mexico, Maine, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington.)

Although the West Virginia repeal legislation was signed by the Governor on June 10, and the Iowa legislation was signed June 28, there has thus far been no national attention to this continuation of a major trend.

"The failure of the national media to report the Iowa and West Virginia sodomy-repeal actions at the time they occurred

CONT. ON P. 13



bring a friend to the
MARKET DISTRICT
THEATRE



A "Letter to the Editor" in the Gay Coordinating Society of Berks County's Newsletter:

I have been gay as far back as I can remember, but what does gay mean? In our language a Homosexual; by the dictionary

1. Happy and full of fun; merry.
2. Bright colored; showy.
3. Fond of pleasures.
4. Dissipated; Immoral. In that case, I'm a merry, immoral person, full of fun, and happy with what I'm doing, indulging too much in evil or foolish pleasures, and like to wear bright colored clothes, and show myself off to the world --FAR FROM IT!!!

Our counterparts--straight, according to the dictionary--

1. Without a bend or curve.
2. Leading or going directly to some point; direct.
3. Evenly formed or set.
4. Frank; honest; upright; in proper order or condition; right; correct.
6. Continuous.
7. Unreserved; unmodified; undiluted.
8. Reliable; frank; honest; upright.
9. Without qualification of any kind.
10. Undeviating, unbroken, or in other words--An honest, upright, reliable, frank, unmodified, undiluted person without qualifications of any kind; set in his ways, going directly to some point without a bend or curve, who doesn't want his cherry broken by a deviate!!!

Our lives are much harder than our counterparts because we have yet to be considered normal by society's standards.

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So get out of your closets and support your local GCS, read up on all Equal Rights Amendments, and VOTE. You, yourself can help change the laws, but I don't know whether we can change the dictionary.

Anonymous

GAY ERA-Staff:

Bari Weaver is a fine one to be talking about exploiting us. His endless articles rehashing his (mostly self) oppression are far more exploitative and reflect a darker side of our lives. Harry Long's drawings, by contrast, seem to me a joyous celebration of our sexuality. Yes, most of us are aware of our anatomy, but think how much guilt and messed up heads there are from a lack of self-acceptance of both our anatomy and sexuality. I guess that seems to be the main difference between Weaver and Long; Long seems to enjoy being gay, while Weaver does not.

If I were the kind of person who wrote publications demanding they not print things, I'd request the GAY ERA to drop further articles by Weaver, who among other things, is a terrible writer. For one thing, he congratulates Long for an article which appeared in the Lancaster Independent Press (which must have bewildered any out of town readers). And just how did ecology fit into the subject? I'm afraid I didn't understand the reference tie-in at all. Someone should give Weaver a creative writing text and a dictionary so he can learn style and spelling. "Congraulations" indeed.

Ms. Kenney's point of view is easier to understand, although I suppose if there were Lesbian artists contributing to the paper, their work would be printed. But Kenney indicates she would be opposed to that, too. Maybe she wants endless columns of type with no artwork. Considering the type size currently used, that would lead to blindness even surer and faster than masturbation.

In short, the new, more visual GAY ERA is looking better all the time and is a definite improvement over the old mimeographed legal pages. Keep it coming. And I cast my vote in favor of centerfolds, whether they be artwork by Long, others, or the Gay Pride Parade photos. Don't let the pages look like the Wall Street Journal.

James Kreider

Dear Gay Era Staff,

Just a short note to inform you that we in Maine appreciate receiving Gay Era. Of the 35 or so Gay publications that reach our office regularly on an exchange basis, Gay Era is easily one of the best edited Journals. Also, it is informative.

Best wishes for continued success!
In Gay struggle,

Peter Prizer, co-editor
Maine Gay Task Force
Newsletter

In Gay struggle,

Peter Prizer, co-editor
Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter

N.B. In 1972 on Rt. 23 near New Holland, Pa., I gave a ride to a Mennonite man whose affectional preference, it turned out, appeared to be in variance with the "official scripture" of this Evangelical Christian sect....



CURMUDGEON

There is a certain futility to writing a film review of "Ode to Billy Joe" for any gay publication in that everyone has felt the need to publish something on the film. In fact, one publication even printed a piece entitled "Why I Did Not Go to See..." Thus each piece has the tendency to submerge beneath the Tallahatchie muck, much like the title character. Perhaps the main reason for the plethora of writing is that the film is so low-key that no two people can agree just what the film's points are—if indeed there are any. One thing that has upset most gay politicians is that, although containing homosexual characters, "Billy Joe" remains a story not a polemic.

The film makes what points it needs to with a subtlety and deftness that belie its being director Max Baer's film debut. The repressive atmosphere that would drive Billy Joe to suicide are established, but with nostalgia for the place and period, thereby softening the impact. I do not know Baer's background, but his postcard images of his locations suggest either his having grown up in the area (or a similar one), or a very canny regard for who the film's audiences were most likely to be.

Again, the film is so low-key I cannot say for certain, but "Billy Joe" just may be one of the most monstrous practical jokes ever perpetrated on the repressive, right-wing, country-western freaks who probably started waiting with baited breath the moment the film was announced. There are, in fact, some facts lending credence to this theory.

Two of the most prominent names connected with the film, Bobbie Gentry and Max Baer, are not names that would bring in the liberal element. Thus, their choice of scenarist Herman Raucher ("Summer of '42") is a strange one. It could be a compromise but I fail to see how it could get the producers anywhere—and what else would be the sense of a compromise? There is a similar oddity in the casting, which again may have been a compromise to widen the appeal of the film; but again the compromise was not a great enough one to have that effect.

Certainly Baer and Gentry could have gotten the names that would really have gained broader appeal for the film, or (more easily) the names that would have given the film better business in the rural areas. As they did neither, we must assume that they chose to tell a story as honestly and sincerely as possible. Approached on these terms, and not as a polemic either for or against homosexuality, the film is easier to examine and actually comes out favorably pro-gay.

As stated earlier, the film is very low-key and frequently seems to ramble pointlessly, when it is, in fact, establishing its points. There is a church scene in which the minister rails hellfire and brimstone on premarital sex while Bobbie Lee and Billy Joe flirt. The scene seems to go on too long if one views it merely as one of their courtship scenes. There is a



SADIE SAYS !

advice to the shopworn

Dear Sadie,

Recently I've met this wonderful person at one of the local bars. After talking for most of the evening we decided to return to my place for some wine, music candlelight, and etc. The evening was such a delight that neither wanted to part when daylight arrived. However, my new-found friend had to make his way in the world and make his living. Sadie, my problem is this: When we parted that a.m., we both agreed to meet that night and have another enjoyable evening. Upon approaching my friend that night in the bar, I was approached by a total stranger and accused of trying to ruin their "perfect" relationship. When I informed him that the meeting was mutual, my new-found friend insisted that he merely wanted to enjoy the wine, music, candlelight, and no etc., and I had taken unfair advantage of him.

Now I'm really uptight because I have gained a reputation (spread by the stranger) of being a "home-wrecker". I suppose my biggest problem is that I did know he was going steady with someone and did trick with him for kicks. Now I find myself in love. Is there a path through this black forest?

Sign me,
Hard to Love

P.S. If I don't get to be with him soon, I'm afraid I'll never seek love again.

Dear Hard,

Sadie always says "When playing with fire you're apt to get burnt." You knew the situation you were getting into. Your friend seems to have been a lead-on. If you're wise, you'll lead yourself out of this one. The fire would be too hot for Sadie to touch. Get Out! You'll be the one to get burnt. Ignore your friend and your reputation will improve. Good Luck!

Dear Sadie,

Need information quickly! Spent the weekend in Atlantic City and met this wonderful person from Lake Tahoe who wrote his name, address and phone number on a piece of paper bag. To my dismay I forgot it was in my pocket when I took a dip in the ocean. I'm not sure of his last name and it wouldn't be in the phone book because he lives with his parents. He said he does like to go out drinking and dancing. How can I ever reach him in time for an August cruise?

Wet and Soggy

Dear W/S,

might be difficult under the circumstances. Seems your water-sports did you in. Could try spending time in Lake

CONT. ON P. 14

scene where an obnoxious porcine character does a bad imitation of swishing, and we are immediately shown what the good, straight reaction is even to a fake queer. In another otherwise pointless sidetrack in the script (considering where it occurs) we learn that the sheriff is considering arresting the owner of the sawmill for providing beer and hookers at a hoe-down, even though the sheriff himself amply sampled both.

These impressions are merely that; they are not hammered in or grossly overstated. They are made and let go with the supreme confidence of an artist who is sure of his craft. And they do establish why Billy Joe, in the confusion of adolescence and considering the repressive atmosphere of a rural southern community in the middle 50's, would jump to his death on discovering his possible homosexuality.

I say possible because frankly that is just where the film leads us. The man who goes to bed with Billy Joe tells him it may never even happen again. And much adolescent homosexual activity remains just that with no recurrence in later life of even repressed longings.

For further evidence of the pro-gayness of the film, let us look to the portrait of the older man who beds Billy Joe, which is entirely sympathetic right down the line. He is shown in several scenes as a fair employer (he is the owner of the sawmill where Bobbie Lee's brother and Billy

Joe work). One also questions whether the sheriff would consider the same arrest had some married (and therefore presumably heterosexual) person been the supplier of hookers and beer. The end of the film finds him willing to come forth as the reason for the suicide, risking loss of his business, community censure and a possible jail sentence to clear Bobbie Lee's name (the town assumes she is pregnant to Billy Joe and thus the cause for the suicide). This is certainly a more heroic light than is cast on Bobbie Lee's macho brother, who suggests she either abort or run away to save the family from shame.

My reason for viewing the film as a monstrous practical joke (much like an intellectual parlor joke which might go completely over some heads while reducing others to helpless laughter) is contained in the film's final minutes. When Bobbie Lee and the mill owner are talking about his keeping his secret, after pointing out what he risks, she makes one final observation. Billy Joe is becoming a legend as having committed suicide for having gotten his woman pregnant; revelation of the facts would destroy that legend and, "We can't have people believing Billy Joe McAllister jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge over another man, can we?" Punchline. Society has just had an impolite joke played on it culminating in a deftly placed, subtly aimed but nonetheless devastating kick in the pants.

- Harry H. Long

IN THE NEWS

is another example of press and broadcasting indifference to news of major concern to 20,000,000 gay Americans" said Ginny Vida, Media Director of the National Gay Task Force. "When one-third of our states have now recognized the rights of their citizens to sexual privacy, and 38 communities around the country have passed gay-rights laws, we believe these to be matters of more than local interest."

—NGTF

Matlovich in Court

WASHINGTON, DC - The effects of the recent U.S. Supreme Court's ruling upholding the individual state's right to enforce its sodomy laws are starting to be felt in the case of former Air Force Tech. Sgt. Leonard Matlovich. On Friday, July 16, Federal District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell upheld the Air Force's right to discharge homosexuals.

Matlovich, who was discharged from the Air Force because of being an "admitted homosexual," has been fighting a court battle with the military for over a year.

The judge had high praise for Matlovich when referring to his service record.

*'I'll get
back on my feet
and go back
fighting.'*



Both Matlovich and his lawyer, David Addlestone, feel as though the Supreme Court's recent ruling upholding the right of individual states to make laws regulating private, sexual conduct, influenced Gesell's decision. Judge Gesell stated in

his decision, "It is now clear from recent (Supreme Court) cases that there is no constitutional rights to engage in homosexual actions."

David Addlestone, Matlovich's lawyer told Gay Community News (Boston), "There is no doubt that recent Supreme Court decisions have paid deference to government institutions"... "And the sodomy law decision by the court made it clear that gays have no protected interest. That case did damage to our case, unquestionably."

They have 60 days to decide whether to appeal to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Matlovich and his lawyer have not yet reached a decision on whether they will appeal the case or not.

"We will be meeting with the greatest legal minds in his country in the next 60 days," Matlovich told GCN. "But I am afraid that if we go further in this case that the courts, having ruled that we have no right to privacy, will rule that we have no right to work either. This could make things even more openly oppressive. It might be worth it to wait and see if we might get a more liberal Supreme Court in the future. But the problem is that all the oldest judges are the most liberal ones."

VIEWPOINT

Somehow I feel distressed over the question of whether Sgt. Matlovich should take his case all the way to the Supreme Court. The question being raised is certainly valid: Are we going too far in risking being dumped completely by the system?

The Matlovich case has been the center of attention for the "straight" media for quite some time now. The front cover of Time magazine, tv talk shows, and appearances at fund-raising dinners are still nothing more than token recognition.

The first heard from our Nixon-appointed "Puppet-Court" was that individual states had the right to regulate the private sexual acts of its citizens. In making that decision, they stated no individual had the right to privacy. There are those who cringe in fear that if we pressed the Supreme Court further, they might rule that we have no right to work either.

So what does Matlovich say? "It MIGHT be worth it to wait and see if we MIGHT get a more liberal Supreme Court in the future, but the problem is that all the oldest judges are the most liberal ones."

Where does that leave us? With nothing more than two MIGHTS too many and 20 years to "wait and see."

What if? What if—Matlovich went to the Supreme Court with his case? What if—the Supreme Court ruled that we do not have the right to a job? What if—thousands of gay men and women were denied jobs that they were just as capable of doing as any "straight" woman or man?

First of all, the ranks of closet cases would swell to astronomical figures. Gay women and men, who for the first time in their lives were starting to feel a bit comfortable about themselves, would be pushed back into the trap of loneliness, self-hatred, and agony. And what of the gay people who never had the guts to even walk into a gay bar for the first time? Gay bars might not even be able to stay in business.

The challenge remains as Edward Baskett writes in his book, ENTRAPPED:

There is much truth in the charge that "homosexuals receive the treatment they deserve." By such a charge I mean this: If homosexuals before me, down through the decades and centuries, had stood up and fought for their rights, the laws could have been changed long ago. But no,



IN THE NEWS

they hid, they squirreled themselves away in society's nooks and crannies, they disappeared into the woodwork. And this age-old fear of being "found out" has given society carte-blanche to walk all over them.

- D. L.



GAYS IN CHURCH

DYKETACTICS CONFRONTS CHURCH

On Friday, August 10, DYKETACTICS went to the Civic Center for the Eucharistic Congress in order to meet and get a discussion going with women there about the oppressive, misogynistic tendencies of the Church. Later that day they also held a demonstration protesting the non-separation of Church and State. This demonstration was held at the site of a service held by the Church for the military.

On the day of the DYKETACTICS action, Sister Theresa and Dorothy Day were addressing the Eucharistic Congress. The Friday session was to deal with women's issues and so was chosen by DYKETACTICS as a perfect time to try to start a dialogue with women in the Church.

Reactions from observers ranged from indignant to extremely supportive. According to Linda Norwood, several "quasi lesbians" came out of the crowd to talk about feminism with them.

Things went smoothly at both happenings, even though the DYKETACTICS booth was situated next to a Right To Life group. There was minimal harassment from men with the exception of an occasional epithet.

On Sunday, DYKETACTICS protested outside JFK Stadium where President Ford (in person) and Pope Paul (via satellite) were to give special addresses at the closing ceremony. The women cited this as a clear example of non-separation of Church and State.

At both demonstrations, DYKETACTICS was joined by Global Justice (the Committee for Global Equality), a non-sexist group work-

ing for progressive changes in the Church, promoting simplicity and trying to get the Church to use its vast money and influence to end oppression around the world.

- Weekly GAYZETTE

DIGNITY CELEBRATES UNITY WITH CHURCH

Dignity, the organization for gay Catholics, celebrated its desire for unity with the Catholic Church with two actions at the Eucharistic Congress.

On Wednesday, August 4 about 15 members of Dignity/Philadelphia handed out pamphlets outside the Civic Center (a major meeting point of the Eucharistic Congress.) The literature said that Dignity would hold a mass to celebrate the fact that gay Catholics are part of the Church and that Dignity wanted to demonstrate unity with the Church and the Eucharistic Congress by holding the mass.

While handing out leaflets, Fr. Morrissey was approached by a reporter from WPVI who asked why they were protesting the Eucharistic Congress. Fr. Morrissey explained that the action was a display of unity with the Church rather than a demonstration.

On Saturday, August 7, a 24 hour vigil was being held at the Spectrum as part of the Eucharistic Congress. About 25 members of Dignity from Philadelphia and Central Pennsylvania went to the vigil. They carried banners but seeing no other group with banners, left them outside the arena. The group was met inside by a woman who asked their group name and whether they wanted to be seated together. After being seated, the Dignity group took part in the vigil, going down to the center of the Spectrum as a group. As the group was leaving the arena, the woman who originally met them came to speak to them.

She informed them that she had found out what Dignity was all about. She then went on to say that she hoped they had been treated courteously and that they were always very welcome. The woman was trying to be very supportive and told them that she was happy they had attended.

All the Dignity members were buoyed up by the experience of the Eucharistic Congress and feel that they are making some progress in dealing with the Church.

- Weekly GAYZETTE

SADIE

Tahoe... Well, it's an alternative. You do have a problem!

Dear Sadie,

I remember reading in one of your past columns on why you needed to use your pen name--"Sadie". Well I too find it necessary to omit my last name when talking with acquaintances. My reason for this is that my parents are not educated enough nor do they possess the understanding to accept me in my true person. Up until I met this person who knows my parents, I've never had any problems. But he found it necessary to call my home and ask where I was living. He said that he had seen me working as a bartender and then proceeded to name the bar, which happens to be a gay bar.

My parents are coming to visit and insist that we go out Saturday night to the bar where I work. I do not want to lie and yet I fear that the initial shock when the door is opened will be too much. If necessary I will quit my job and get out of the circuit. HELP!

Chris

Dear Chris,

First, I do not need a pen name, I want one. There is a difference.

Now your problem isn't as bad as you think. Just plan a party with your friends on Saturday night. You couldn't possibly go out with a house full of people, could you! You could always get sick if the party doesn't appeal to you. Or if all else fails, take them. We all have to make a living don't we?

Dear Sadie,

First, I should tell you I'm married and have five children. Obviously this is a straight relationship. But I go out with men on an average of four times a week. You see, Sadie, my wife is an only child and her parents own a large bakery worth a great deal of money. Therefore, I do not wish to ruin my relationship with her until some of the "dough" is entrusted to me. But, she insists that I have a vasectomy so there are no more children. I'd prefer that we just stopped having sex. This is not the ingredient that she wants dropped from the recipe. Sadie, will I still be able to have my gay life to its fullest extent, or will I become the "Pillsbury Dough Boy"?

Signed,

Up-Side-Down Cake

Dear Up-Side-Down,

If you want the "dough" and seemingly enough it means a lot to you, get the vasectomy--it won't interfere with your sex life with the boys. You're cooked with the situation through your children. You probably can hang in there a little longer for the bread. You know your alternatives. Good Luck!

SPEECH

It is sad, but true, that we still have few friends among other oppressed peoples willing to join us in this fight. But their numbers are growing. We know that we are the cutting edge of the revolution for a better world. We know something about oppression. And we know something about freedom too. Freedom is something we have never tasted.

We are here today to send a message to the world. That message is this: So long as one homosexual remains in bondage, no one -- whether they be Black, Indian, Puerto Rican, Chicano, women, or workers -- will be free. There can be no revolution without us!

We're here today to demand basic rights that everyone else takes for granted. But we know, deep down, that we're struggling for much more too. We are not satisfied with merely being tolerated -- though we're not even THAT yet. We're not satisfied with token gay planks in party platforms -- though we did not even get THAT from the Democratic circus performers who will be showing off across the street. No. We want a new and better world, in which gay will be unchained and free. We want a world in which not only we, but everyone else too will know that gay is good and gay is beautiful! We want a society that will throw all the oppression and garbage of capitalism into the trashcan of history.

But we will never be free if we rely on others to free us. We must build our own struggle, as we are doing here today, and make no concessions to anyone. Kurt Hiller, a hero of the early homosexual rights movement in Germany, said it well in 1921: "The liberation of homosexuals can only be the work of homosexuals themselves!"

JUSTICE!

-Gay Community News (Boston)

BITS 'N' PIECES

WASHINGTON, DC - A bill protecting gay parents from automatically losing custody or visitation rights to their children during divorce settlements on sole grounds of sexual preference was unanimously approved by the city council. On June 14 the bill which must pass through two readings was passed, if it survives the second reading in tact it will be sent to the Mayor for signing and then on to Congress. Congress has 30 days in which to vote on the bill if it is not rejected it automatically becomes law.

I am a woman
and if I live
I fight and
if I fight
I contribute
the Liberation
of all women
and so victory
is born even in
the darkest hours



opf/women: a journal of liberation

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CALENDAR



EVERY WEEK

Tuesdays: Lesbian Collective, 8:30 pm,
Women's Resource Center, cor-
ner of Beaver and Alan Sts.,
State College.

Wednesdays: MCC Consciousness Rais-
ing, 7:30 pm, 1001 North Spring
St., Harrisburg.

Fridays: Luncheon at State College. For
information call "Gayline" 1-814-
863-0588.

Sundays: MCC Worship Service. 7:30 pm,
Eisenhower Chapel, State College
Campus.

MCC Worship Service. 8:00 pm,
1001 North Spring St., Harrisburg.

September 11 thru 25 - "Out of the Closets.
Into the Streets". A photostudy of
Gay Liberation 1976. Kern Gallery,
Penn State University, State Col-
lege. See below*

*Sisters and Brothers,

You are cordially invited to attend a
photostudy of Gay Liberation 1976, "Out
of the Closets... Into the Streets" at
Kern Gallery, Penn State University,
State College, Pa. from Sept. 11 through
Sept. 25.

This exhibit is a collection of photos of
the 1976 Christopher Street Anniversary
March, the gay picketing of the Demo-
cratic National Convention and the Gay
Faction of the July 4th Coalition demon-
stration in Philadelphia.

We feel that these photos are a unique
and pioneering documentation of the Gay
Rights Movement. We hope you will join
us during our attempt at educating the
public.

Grace Loie Grossman
Dale K. Wagner

Sept. 18 - Dignity monthly meeting . 7pm
Friends Meeting House, 6th &
Herr Sts. Harrisburg.

Sept. 19 - Susquehanna Valley Gays United
monthly meeting. 7:30pm.
723 1/2 Edison Ave. Sunbury
for info. call 717-286-1662.

Sept. 26 - Dr. Franklin Kameny speaks
at Unitarian Church of Lehigh
Valley, Fountain Hill, Bethlehem
2pm. Sponsored by Le-Hi-Ho.

Oct. 2 - Rural Caucus monthly meeting.
1 pm. Cumberland Union Bldg.,
Shippensburg State College cam-
pus.

Oct. 8-10 - MCC District Conference in
Boston. For info. call Arnold
717-944-1574.

Oct. 9 - Dignity workshop "Homosexuals
and the Church". 9am-8pm.
Registration necessary. \$10 non-
members, \$7.50 members.
Friends Meeting House, 6th &
Herr Sts., Hsbg. Coordinators-
Sister Jeanine Gramick & Rev.
Bob Nugent. For registration...
PO Box 297, Federal Square Sta-
tion, Hsbg. 17108

Oct. 16 - Hike to Sunfish Pond. Sponsored
by Le-Hi-Ho. Meet at llam.,
Unitarian Church, Bethlehem.

Oct. 24 - General meeting of Le-Hi-Ho.
2pm. Unitarian Church, Bethle-
hem.

Oct. 30 - Excursion to NY Opera. "Un
Ballo en Maschera" by Verdi.
For infor call Rick 215-866-6320



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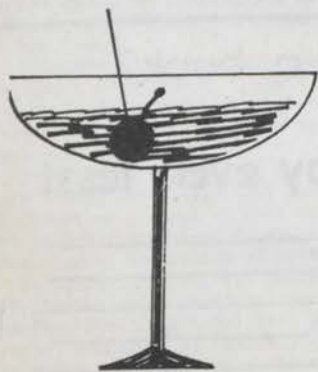
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