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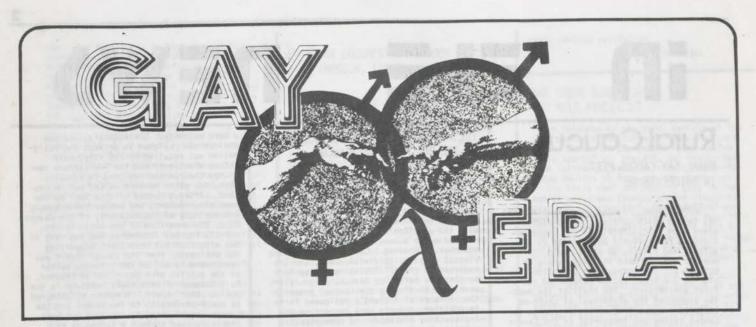
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NOVEMBER



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Rural Caucus

RURAL GAY CAUCUS MEETS IN SHIPPENSBURG

SHIPPENSBURG, PA—The Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus which consists of representa-tives from approximately 15 gay organizations in Pennsylvania outside the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas, held its monthly meeting here in Shippensburg on October 2. The turnout was exceptionally high as the organization celebrated its first anniversary. The chair of the meeting announced the withdrawal of Le-Hi-Ho (Allentown area) from participation in the Caucus citing the immaturity of the Caucus and claiming that the Caucus had done nothing of importance since Gay Lobby Day

six months ago.

A motion was made suggesting a tighter structure be formed within the Caucus to assure its stability and capacity to fulfill the goals set by the group. that this structure be formed before any new matters could be dealt with, the meeting was adjourned so that a "committee of the whole" could resolve and re-define its

purposes and structure.
When one resolution which re-defined and limited the powers of the co-chairpeople was passed, it was suggested that a "vote of confidence" be taken in order to re-assure the participants' faith in its leadership. The members agreed that this vote would be taken immediately after a recess for coffee.

The general meeting of the Caucus was reconvened after the recess by Co-chair-people Ruth Steck and Raymond Stickles. The motion calling for a vote of confidence was implemented at once. After the vote, a "vote of no-confidence" was recorded by the

majority present.

Immediately following the vote, the res-ignations of Raymond Stickles and Ruth Steck (both Co-chairpeople), Sam Edmiston (Recording Secretary), and Barry Lace (Leg-islative Committee chairperson) were submitted.

Upon resigning Stickles and Lace both left the meeting room. There was an air of disappointment and confusion brought by the resignations while the future of the Caucus was left to the remaining 19 persons in attendance. Ruth Steck withdrew her resignation as Co-Chairperson and Sam Edmiston reassured the members that he would remain as Recording Secretary until the adjournment of the meeting.

The ad-hoc structural committee reconvened and was chaired by Janet Cooper from Lancaster. The committee proceeded to revise the 14 resolutions previously adopted by the Caucus followed by a request for nominations to fill the positions that were vacated by the resignations.

Nominations were accepted and will continue to be accepted until the elections are held at the next meeting of the Rural Caucus in Reading, November 6.

Further structural questions and additional revision and amendments to the 14 adopted resolutions were slated to be discussed at an ad-hoc structural commit-

tee meeting in Lancaster, October 16. Chris Poorman from the Gay League of Lebanon reported the suicide of a gay high school student in the Lebanon area. The Caucus discussed ways to deal with the situation and will communicate with the principal of the high school where the boy attended.

The meeting was adjourned on a positive note at 5:45 p.m.

THE SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER MEETINGS OF THE PA. RURAL GAY CAUCUS

HARRISBURG-The Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus has surmounted a nearly disasterous two months. It has regained a true sense of cohesion and will cement that cohesion with the adoption of organizational by-laws at next month's meeting on the sixth of at next month's meeting on the sixth of November in Reading. Last month's meeting (Sept.) despite its divisiveness, saw the endorsement of Bill/Christina Louise Horn as Miss Pa. Rural Gay Caucus. Also, plans were made to display the Caucus' organizational wares at Altland's Halloween Party. In addition, reports were given from the In addition, reports were given from the legislation, education and communication committees. One proposal from the communicommittees. One proposal from the commun-cation committee was the publication of a semiannual or annual magazine in which an exclusively rural gay perspective would be explored.

This month's meeting was almost entirely concerned with restructuring the Caucus. In the beginning of the meeting the Caucus was informed of the formal withdrawal of Le-Hi-Ho and the formal resignation of the Caucus' treasurer because of the divisive-ness of the last meeting. Spurred by this ness of the last meeting. Spurred by this dissent, the Caucus moved to form a committee of the whole in order to formulate organization by-laws. In the middle of the meeting of the whole, a resolution was passed to call for an immediate vote of confidence/no confidence in the present co-chairperons by the Caucus. The Caucus co-chairperons by the Caucus. was reconvened and voted no-confidence by



a bare majority. Consequently, one co-chairperson resigned in protest (no resignation was required by the vote, only future elections) and the legislation committee chairperson resigned in sympathy. Also, two other members walked out in pro-test. After a numbed silence fell on the remaining members, one member spoke humbly and movingly of the necessity of the Caucus. Soon, the committee of the whole for restructuring had reconvened and the rest of the afternoon had been spent expediting its business. Then the Caucus itself was reconvened to act on the grievous matter of the suicide of a gay youth in Lebanon, Pa., because of harassment received in the public school there. A member volunteered to speak personally to the school and the Caucus itself voted to speak to the principal involved through a letter to be written by the remaining co-chairperson. The Gay League of Lebanon's representative said that their organization had considered the possibility of an assembly on the matter at the school and a review of the school's sex education. With this demon-stration of the value of the Caucus as a forum and as a gay activist organization, the Caucus resolutely adjourned its meet-

This excerpt from the letter written by the co-chairperson to the principal is a positive reflection on the act of a gay: "...who, being persuaded of his depravity by the taunts and jeers of his classmates, blew his brains out so as not to have to live with himself any longer. It will be suggested by some that it was, afterall, his problem, that if one is going to be homosexual, one had also better be prepared nomosexual, one had also better be prepared to deal with the repercussions. The fact is, however, that for most of us, sexuality is not the result of a rational choice, made only after careful consideration of all possible consequences, but is, rather, a simple, and for the most part, inalterable truth, of which we slowly become aware, and which we must acknowledge and accept if we are to live in harmony with accept if we are to live in harmony with ourselves, or indeed, as in this instance, if we are to live at all. The prime function of education is, or at least, should be, to foster a reverence of truth, as manifested in oneself and others, and it is precisely this function which the school system has failed to serve, and in so failing, has contributed to a young man's death by overlooking, and thus perpetuating the ignorance and inhumanity from which he

The following nominations were submitted to the Rural Caucus for the following positions:

Co-Chairpeople Ken Burke Joe Burns Janet Cooper Bill Hollabaugh Mary Nancarrow Ruth Steck Secretary Sam Edmiston Chris Poorman Treasurer Helmuth Baerwald Drew Larsen

Jan Sweat Nominations will remain open until the next general meeting to be held in Read-ing, PA, November 6. Names for nomina-tion can be submitted to the Gay Era which will forward those names at the next meeting.

NGTF URGES LESBIAN MOTHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH PROJECT

The National Gay Task Force has announced that it will cooperate with a research project funded by the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH) which concerns lesbian mothers and their children. Researchers with the Long Island Institute and the Department of Psychiatry, SUNY at Stony Brook, hope to gather data which will be relevant to lesbian mothers in child custody hearings. The study will compare lesbian and non-gay mothers and their children's adjustments to living in a family where no adult male is present. The sample will include families from rural as well as urban areas, in the North and South, so that the participants' adjustment under a variety of community standards can be seen. Data from this study will later be compared with studies in which

men were present in the home setting.

The reason for NGTF cooperation, according to Jean O'Leary and Bruce Voeller, co-

woman an unfit mother.' Jane Mandel, research scientist for the Long Island Institute, and Dr. Mary Hotvedt, post-doctoral fellow with the Department of Psychiatry at SUNY at Stony Brook, will be conducting the interviews with mothers and children. Both women have been involved in sex research and teaching as well as in femsex research and Creen, M.D., Profes-sor of Psychiatry and Psychology at SUNY at Stony Brook is co-investigator. He has Stony Brook is co-investigator. He has testified on behalf of lesbian mothers in numerous custody cases.

The researchers are seeking women who describe themselves as lesbians and have at least one child living with them who is ten years old or younger. The mother and chil-dren should have lived as a family unit for

are and locations. The interviews, about two hours in length for the mother and each child, will be arranged by appointment for convenient times. and locations. All information will be kept confidential. Women interested in participating or finding out more about the study should write to Jane Mandel or Mary Hotvedt, Island Research Institute, Central Islip, NY 11722; or call collect to Mary Hotvedt at (516)-444-2429.

- NGTF



CONSENSUAL SODOMY LEGAL IN MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF NATION

In the wake of virtually unanimous crit-icism 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. havior between consenting adults in private. This brings to 18 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, Maine, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon,

The airing of a documentary on homosex-uality by KUID-TV in mid-April sparked a heated debate and an attempt by the Moscow, Idaho Chamber of Commerce to have all programs produced by the station reviewed prior to broadcast. The Chamber later rescinded the resolution calling for review.

Some members of the Chamber had expressed disapproval of the showing of "Sweet Land of Liberty...the Moscow/Pullman Gay Community," a one-half hour film documen-tary examining the growing attempts of gays to secure civil and legal rights. After the initial broadcast of the program, the Chamber's Board of Directors voted 6 to 4 to ask the University of Idaho Board of Regents to prevent further dissemination of the program, and to review all programs produced by the station prior to broadcast.

Larry Grupp, manager of the Moscow Chamber, charged that the program was "onesided," but then admitted to a newspaper reporter he had not seen the show. Other Chamber members said they objected to the portraval of Moscow as a haven for homosexuals.

Newspapers and wire services picked up the controversy, which led to editorials of support from several area newspapers and a statement of support for the station and the documentary from at least one member of the University's Board of Regents. U of I President Earnest Hartung viewed the program and called it "fair and well-done.

The program and the ensuing controversy prompted KUID to rebroadcast the documentary with a live follow-up discussion program. Guests on the follow-up included members of the gay community who had appear-ed on the original documentary, and representatives of the area business, political and religious communities.

A few days prior to the follow-up program, the Moscow Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors again met and voted to rescind

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 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



- Gaytimes

ARE THERE REALLY ANY GAY MALE ATHLETES?

In response to the quick denials of the U.S. sports establishment heavies to admit that a number of gay people in so-called "male sports" was present, two researchers from California State University at North-ridge decided to find out for themselves.

The first real evidence of gays in the sports world was founded on the claims of Washington Post writer Lynn Rosellini and gay football player David Kopay. Rosellini wrote a series of articles in the Post a few months back on the subject, while Kopay, the subject of one of his interviews, has since been the invited guest of numerous talk shows

The researchers, Richard W. Smith and Bryan Garner, surveyed team members of the National College Athletic Association which comprises five western universities. men were asked to participate in the survey of which only 82 agreed to do so. Of the 82 who did respond, 40% admitted to having participated in what the researchers origi nally defined as gay acts, including mutual masturbation. Assuming that the 29 men who did not respond would have given exclusive-ly heterosexual responses, they reduced the percentage to 30% of the original 111.

In an attempt to reduce these "alarmingly" high figures, the researchers eliminated sex between two males as well as mutual masturbation from their list of gay sex This reduced the figure to 24% of acts. This reduced the figure to 24% of the 111 total. Allowing for statistical reliability, their figures showed an esti-mate of from 14-35% as the number of gay athletes that could be expected to turn up

in similar samples of other universities.

No matter how you look at it, 27 of the 82 men who actually participated in the survey admitted to performing either anal or oral sex to orgasm with another male at least two times during the past two years. This is one-third of the men who participated in the survey. It was suggested that the next group of men to participate in the survey should be chosen from five Catholic universities. Those statistics? Who knows?

- Advocate

SECURITY CLEARANCES BECOME MUCH EASIER

WASHINGTON-Back in mid-summer 1975, the Department of Defense withdrew its opposi tion to granting a security clearance to Otis Francis Tabler, Jr. At that time, Department officials told Dr. Frank Kameny, a long-time activist for reform on the issue, that they would no longer deny security clearances solely on the basis of sexual preference. Since then, Dr. Kameny reports that there definitely have been positive changes in dealing with gay people

being considered for such clearances.
Recently, the U.S. Department of Defense issued a security clearance to Guy Van Alstyne of Los Angeles. He works with a private, non-government firm which holds contracts involving secret information. Having been originally denied clearance in 1964, his case was re-opened in autumn 1975. During an investigative interview on April 23, 1976, he was asked to confirm the fact that he was gay and that his employer, family, and friends knew that he was gay. He was not asked the usual intimate sexual questions that were asked of gay people in the past.

In another case, Lyda Hersloff, when called in for her clearance interview was asked more sexually explicit questions than Van Alstyne. She was asked about her se ual habits, her work in the Fort Collins

(Colorado) Gay Alliance, any possible con-cealment of her homosexuality, and ques-tions of possible blackmail. She was given her ERDA industrial security clearance in

mid-July

Even though Hersloff was asked these questions, Frank Kameny noted that "while the Hersloff interrogation did involve eliciting of some explicit sexual information, it was otherwise far more reasonable

than such interrogations in the past."

According to Gay Community News (Boston),
Kameny was especially pleased with the line
of questioning that the government investigators pursued in both these investigations. He emphasized that questions about disclosure of gayness to family, friends and employers, and how the applicant would re-spond to a blackmail attempt were never asked of applicants in the past. obvious as such questions may seem, they were never asked in the past, when, despite governmental insistence to the contrary, homosexuality, in and of itself, was, actually, sufficient basis for denial of a clearance," said Kameny. In the past he noted that "all questioning was directed, simply and solely, at eliciting a detailed confirmation and factual picture of the applicant's homosexuality, to be used as a basis for a pre-ordained clearance-denial."

- GCN

DYKFTACTICS LOSES CASE AGAINST POLICE

PHILADELPHIA-In a unanimous decision of the eight person jury, George Fencl and several officers of the Civil Disobedience Squad, were found innocent of violating the rights of six members of Dyketactics. Members of this lesbian/feminist group have stressed their intention to "continue in our struggle to secure our basic human

rights, as women and as lesbians."

The suit brought by the women was the result of a clash in City Council last December between the officers and 75 gay activists who were protesting the defeat of that city's gay rights ordinances. women brought suit against the officers claiming that they used unnecessary force in ejecting them first from City Council chambers and later from City Hall.



Despite testimony by the six women claiming that they were kicked, pushed, and physically injured by the officers, the police claim that they were only trying to get the women to leave City Hall. The of-ficers claim they used no force at all.

In a rather brutal examination, a witness for Dyketactics, who preferred to remain anonymous in print, was asked if she had sex with members of Dyketactics. She answered no. Questioned by defense attorney Saltz if she was a lesbian, she refused to answer. After being warned by the judge that her refusal to answer would find her in contempt of court, she still would not answer the question. Following a conference with the two attorneys, the judge dropped the charges against her, and her testimony was stricken from the record the next morning.

In addition to finding the officers innocent, the jury did not reward any damages to Dyketactics for physical injury.

NYC PUBLICATIONS REFUSE PRO-GAY ADS

NEW YORK-Advertising "Gay Is Good" as a public service message was turned down recently by several New York publications. Craig Rodwell, owner of the Oscar Wilde Memorial Book Shop, reported that he attempted to place ads with the message "Gay Is Good" in several periodicals, noting at the bottom of the proposed ad that "This is a Public Service Message from the Oscar Wilde Memorial Book Shop.

The ad was refused by two neighborhood newspapers, the Chelsea-Clinton News and the Westsider, and by a borough-wide ref-erence listing known as the "Manhattan Blue Book." According to Rodwell, the publications refused the ads because they were not simply advertising the bookstore but were expressing the point of view that

Rodwell also reported difficulties in placing an ad in <u>After Dark</u>, the entertainment magazine, which frequently publishes male nudes and has a large gay male read-ership, though it does not call itself a gay magazine. The ad rejected by After Dark was for the gay novel The Front Run-ner. At the bottom of the ad Rodwell wanted to include the name and address of his store and the phrase "serving the gay community since 1967." The publication wanted Rodwell to omit the word "gay"; After Dark has a well-established policy of declining ads openly referring to homosex-Rodwell refused to alter the advertising copy, and the ad was not run.
The publisher of The Front Runner, which
was co-sponsoring the ad with Rodwell, was
"incredulous" at the refusal of the ad, Rodwell reported.

- GCN

FPISCOPAL CHURCH SUPPORTS GAYS

The 65th General Convention of the Episcopal Church which met in Minneapolis Sept. 11-23 passed several resolutions relating to the rights of homosexuals in the church

and society.

The Convention declared that "Homosexual persons are children of God who have full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, pastoral concern and care of the church." In addition, a resolution was passed declaring that "homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection of the laws with all other citizens" and calling upon society to see that "such protec-tion is provided in actuality."

Concerning the ordination of homosexuals, the delegates voted that the church examine the question in detail over the next three

cont. on p. 12



CMING OUT



MY EXPERIENCE AS A GAY YOUTH

Coming out always has its problems. if one is gay and is below the age of 18,

there are some special problems. I will use my own experience to illustrate this.

At the age of 11, I first began realizing that I was erotically attracted to women, but I didn't know the term for it. I found out what the term was by reading Dear Abby. A woman had written about her daughter, and went into detailed description of her daughter's experiences and emotions. It fit what I was feeling perfectly. Then I read what I was feeling perfectly. Then I read Abby's reply. She suggested that the girl be placed in a mental institution for observation. From that moment on, I resolved that no one would know I was a lesbian. was a good thing that I found out what the term for it was when I did, because the next day in Sunday School a girl came up to me and asked me if I was a lesbian. She ha heard from a friend of hers that I was. She had immediately recoiled and denied vehemently I felt at the time that disthat I was. covery of that fact by anyone would certainly cause me to be rejected, and could possibly result in institutionalization for me.

It was at about this time that I went into hiding. I went through most of sixth grade and all of seventh grade in fear, not knowing that such a thing as Gay Liberation existed. I might not know about it today, except for my eighth grade health class, which we had a discussion about homosexuality. At the end of the discussion, the teacher brought out the December 1970 issue of Life, which told of the Gay Liberation Movement. I sat up and really took notice. From then on, I read everything about the new movement that I could lay my hands on.
I went through school just waiting to

graduate and move to New York City. I had some messed-up notion that this was the only place where Gay Liberation existed, and I was bound and determined that I was going to I plotted and planned as to how I was I waited and waited going to get to NYC. for school to end.

Then came the fall of 1973, and with it sophomore year of high school. I enjoyed it because my best friend was a senior, and we got to run around together. She and I had a study hall together once a week. is how I met Joe. My best friend had him in all her classes. We'd sit there and talk and play cards. One day we got into a discussion about any people. cussion about gay people. Joe told us of how he used to walk down State Street and watch "faggots" cruise. I kept my mouth tight shut.

Well, it was about this time that I fell madly in love with someone who didn't want anything to do with me. When she would no longer talk to me, I was heartbroken, and began to search for someone to whom I could talk honestly and openly about it.

I walked into study hall and sat down

with Joe and Sandy, but I couldn't relax. So, with a feeling of utter hopelessness, I turned to Joe. He motioned me away from the table, and as we sat down across the room, he asked what it was that I wanted to talk with him about. I told him that I couldn't with him about. discuss it right then and there, so he invited me to the park after school to talk about it.

As we sat in the park, I told him that I had fallen in love with someone who didn't reciprocate my feelings. I told him of my loneliness and despair, ending with "I just want someone to love—I don't care if it's male or female!" Joe just looked at me. He got up and motioned for me to follow him, We walked to a more secluded area of the We sat down, and Joe, with an expresnark. sion I'd never seen before on his face, told me he wanted to ask me a personal question which I didn't have to answer if I didn't I told him to go ahead, and he want to. looked at me, and as tactfully as possible "Are you gay?" I was taken aback. I asked, "Are you gay?" I was take, so just couldn't think up a handy answer, so just said yes. Then he told me he had something said yes. Then he told me he had something to tell me, and I knew what it was before He told me he was gay, and that he spoke. he was going to tell me at the end of the summer, but since I was, he'd thought he'd It turned out that his lover tell me now. was in the Harrisburg Movement, and Joe wanted me to meet him. To make a long story short, through Joe's lover and a woman he knew, I found out about the Harrisburg Movement and the Gay Switchboard of Harrisburg.

After I'd found out about the Switchboard, took to calling every night, just to be able to talk to someone who was gay. would ask constantly about the young people who called, and was told that there was quite a few that had called that summer This went on until my junior year had ended, at which time I was told something more: a coffeehouse was possibly starting in Harrisburg as an alternative to the bars. I waitfor months, but it appeared that the coffeehouse was just a rumor. One night I decided not to wait any longer, and I called the Switchboard to inquire about it, and to find out if anything else was going on. As it turned out, I'd talked to the person on the line before, and she knew me quite well. She paged down over the events, then came to one I could attend: The Governor's Gay Rights Task Force Conference, which was being held October 18, 1975. I was euphoric. I plotted and planned and schemed to get

Registration was the 17th, which was a Friday. So after school, I disguised myself in aviator shades, an old cap, and a denim jacket, hopped in a cab, and took off for the William Penn Museum. At the Museum, I registered, picked up a free copy of the Gayzette, and talked to the people there. I'd never seen so many gay people in my life! The taxi ride home was the happiest I'd ever taken.

That night, I wanted to go walking around to celebrate my new-found friends. I felt that everyone I met must know of my happiness and its cause, but I didn't care, I was I ended up at the local pizza so happy! parlor, where my boyfriend was working. had a good arrangement-he knew I was gay, and he didn't care. He just wanted to be my friend. We went together for convenience and for companionship. He sat down beside me and asked me what I was doing the next $% \left(1\right) =\left\{ 1\right\} =\left\{ 1\right\}$ day. I told him where I was going, and he offered to take me. "Just to see what it's like," he said.

We arrived there the next day. ly seated myself, and sat quietly for a few minutes. My friend nudged me, and suggested that I go over and talk to some of the people. I was shy, and I told him so. He got up, went over to two women, and started a conversation. As he talked, he mentioned he was here with me. He motioned for me to come over, which I did. Then he walked away, leaving me to talk on my own. gradually eased up and became more comfortable. We talked until the separate workshops started.

My friend and I attended the legislation workshop. I sat and listened to the dis-



Norum: A Journal of Liberacion/cpf

Then a man stood up and began cussion. Then a man stood up and began talking about gay youth. My friend whispered to me, "Why don't you say something?" I looked at him, raised my hand, was recognized, and stood up. I told of my experiences in high school, and how it felt to grow up gay. After the workshop, a woman came up to me and introduced herself. We cussion. began talking, and she told me that my ideas We spent the rest of the conwere good. ference together, at her suggestion, and she introduced me to most of the people I now know.

I have been out ever since then, and have taken note of the problems. The biggest problem is isolation. Gay youth have literally no one to talk to or be with. have a local Switchboard, they might call, but as for people their own age, they have

no idea where to look.
A second problem is parents. Most gay youth dread the thought of discovery of their gayness. If by chance their parents find out, or if they tell their parents, the reactions they get may range from total acceptance to total rejection. If the reaction is in the latter range, life may become a living hell, for gay youth, unlike gay adults, cannot just leave home if their parents are unaccepting. My grandmother knows I'm gay, and though she's good about it most of the time, sometimes she takes to calling me "filth" and "lowest of the low."

A third problem is peer reaction and the reaction of the school administration. My high school has a population of 1100 students, 110 of whom are probably gay, and our administration refuses to even consider the idea of giving gay youth publicity. They're afraid of student ridicule, they say, and a backlash from the parents.

The students themselves are harsh on gays. So much has been said about the "acceptance of youth toward gays." It just isn't so. A gay student's life can be hell if they don't go out of their way to hide their gayness. And even if they do hide it, the hiding hurts too, maybe even more than the rejection.

A gay youth organization is desperately needed to both bolster the morale of gay youth, and to help the movement itself. gay youth are accepted into the movement at time when they most desperately need the movement. Then when they are grown, they will strengthen the movement. If problems are resolved at an early age, the movement will not have to help these people resolve their problems later. An added plus is that these young gays can help older gays who have just come out with some of these prob-A strong gay youth is a strong gay movement. If we choose to help our youth, we doubly help ourselves. If we ignore lems. them, we strangle ourselves.

Gay youth --- there IS someone out there! If you are young and gay and have a problem, or just want someone to write to, write to me. My address is: Dale Masters, 3002 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, Pa. 17102. youth is for those people 21 and under. Complete confidentiality is assured.

- Dale Masters



WE ARE ALL ONE!!

DAKE COOPER



SUSAN SAXE TRIAL

Susan Saxe is currently on trial in Boston for allegedly participating in a bank robbery there on September 23, 1970. De-pending on whether or not the jury decides that the bank robbery was over at the time a policeman was shot and killed, the court may also convict Susan Saxe of murder although not even the prosecution contends that she pulled the trigger of the gun that killed the policeman. If the jury finds her guilty of these charges, Susan faces possible sentences of life imprisonment for the armed robbery charges (parole eligibility in 15 years) and a mandatory natural life sentence on the first degree murder charge (no parole eligibility ever). At the time of this writing, the jury has been deliberating for three days.

The five people whom the Government has indicted for this robbery and the death of a policeman: Robert Valeri, William "Lefty" Gilday, Stanley Bond, Susan Saxe, Kathy Power, and a sixth, Michael Fleisher who was indicted later as an accessory after the fact, were associated together at the National Strike Information Center. The National Strike Information Center was an anti-war movement group at Brandeis University that had been founded in response to the Cambodian invasion. The Center sent speakers out to Boston area high schools and colleges, encouraged students to go on strikes, and kept track of student strikes all over the country.

Only the unconfirmed and uncollaborated testimonies of Robert Valeri and Michael Fleisher comprise the prosecutor's case that Susan Saxe took part in a bank rob-bery. Both Valeri and Fleisher have turned state's evidence. The Government has depended upon their testimony to convict The Government has co-defendents William Gilday, Stanley Bond (who died in an explosion in prison—which many suspect was not of his own doing—before coming to trial), and Susan Saxe. In exchange for their testimony, the Government has given each of them considerably different treatment than (already convicted for life without parole) William Gilday or, if convicted, Susan Saxe can expect. Nei-ther William Gilday nor Susan Saxe have or will testify against anyone else about this case.

By September 1970 Robert Valeri had on his record a variety of convictions for burglary, larceny, driving without a license, and stripping an automobile for which he had either served time on parole or in jail. The U.S. criminal justice system uses an accumulation of such convictions as threats and penalties to give longer sen-tences to people with such records—unless such ex-offenders tell the Government's representatives such as the FBI, the police, and/or the prosecution what they want to

When the police arrested Robert Valeri the night after the morning bank robbery, they had several threats to use against

him to find out who the women who participated in the robbery might have been. In the first place, there was Valeri's own record. In the second place, the police had foreknowledge that a bank robbery was going to take place because Allen McGrory, a fellow inmate of Valeri's, Bond's, and Gilday's at Walpole (Massachusetts) State Prison from 1968-70 had called the FBI to tell them that these men had approached him to participate in a bank robbery. also knew that two women would be participating but he did not know who they were In the third place, the police had picked up the woman Valeri had been dating who had bank money on her and they had threat-ened to indict her. In the fourth place, the next day, September 24, 1970, the policeman who had been shot after the bank robbers had escaped, died. For that death, at that time in Massachusetts, Valeri was facing the death penalty in the electric chair

Valeri admitted on the witness stand that he had made a deal with the District Attorney's Office to take his cooperation into consideration when he named Susan Saxe and Kathy Power as the women co-defendents and his willingness to testify against all the other co-defendents. Afterall, he knew the authorities did not have bank pictures and that the Government was going through an hysterial period of see-ing conspiracies of every kind originating with anti-war groups. Newspapers from coast-to-coast published his story and the FBI put Susan and Kathy on their ten most

wanted list.

The authorities have indeed given Valeri preferential treatment since his capture. The District Attorney's Office never charged his woman friend with anything. Unlike the charge of first degree murder under which his co-defendents Stanley Bond, William Gilday, Susan Saxe, and Kathy Power would have had, and might have to go to trial, Valeri, facing the same charge and indictments, never went to trial. H co-defendents have faced life without parole if and when convicted. Valeri pled quilty and received two counts for armed robbery and one count for manslaughter. All his sentences, ten to fifteen years on each count, run concurrently. In another trial for bank robbery in which Valeri was a co-defendent with Stanley Bond in Northern Illinois, the court did not sentence Valeri until his testimony convicted his co-defendent and he received ten years (In this while Bond received twenty-five. case, Valeri tried not to testify and therefore this sentence runs consecutively. Whenever Valeri contacted Bond's or Gilday's lawyers, the authorities transferred him.

Other kinds of preferential treatment the Government gives Valeri include his living conditions while serving his sen-He gets to serve his State time in Federal institutions which means that he does not have to serve any time in Massa-chusetts. Such a deal is favorable to him because Federal institutions are better

than State institutions-whatever that means-and because he would get killed in Massachusetts prisons. There are also parts of his deal that are not in writing. He lives under aliases and protective custody because, as he himself defined himself on the witness stand, he is a stool pigeon. Furthermore, he gets preferred jobs at the institutions in which he Since he has been in jail, serves time. he has escaped once and tried to escape several other times but there is no record that he received any kind of punish-

The courts have obviously treated Valeri more favorably in sentencing him and he has had more eligibility for parole and escapes than his co-defendents have had. As curious as the Government's different treatment of Valeri in comparison to his co-defendents for the same crime(s) is the story of Robert Valeri's private enterprise while in Boston's Charles Street Jail after his testimony

in the Gilday trial. In August 1971 Robert Valeri received money from the Boston's District Attorney's Office to purchase a leather busi-Valeri testified that he had never had to pay this loan back to the District Attorney's Office and never has.

Because a loan from the District Attorney's Office is so highly illegal and is such a blatant example of tampering with a witness, the Board of Overseers of the Massachusetts Bar should investigate this incident. At this time the Boston's Dis-trict Attorney's Office will not make a statement about Valeri's leather business. The prosecutor, John Gaffney, said he knew nothing about the loan, which is a lie because he prosecuted in the Gilday trial and the information about the loan came out during those proceedings.

As the citizens of Boston and the rest of the U.S. have the right to know about the Government's document, Operation O, Plan G, euphemized as Operation Geronimo Bravo which described the military's plans for the takeover of the civilian population of Boston which Susan and some other people took and made public, so do we have the right to know if making loans to witnesses were common practice for District Attorney's Offices-especially to help witnesses to set up businesses

By the time the FBI captured Michael Fleisher, Robert Valeri had already named two women, Susan Saxe and Kathy Power, he had worked with at the National Strike Information Center, as his accomplices. Michael Fleisher had fled because of his association with this group. Because Susan Saxe and Kathy Power had already been named, Fleisher could do the same thing and did.

When Michael Fleisher took the witness stand against William Gilday and Susan Saxe, he waived all rights to the Fifth Amendment which is to say he testified

cont. on p. 12



Supporters of Susan Saxe demonstrate in front of Government Center, after being ejected from the front of the Suffolk County Courthouse. At right is Terri Turgeon, grand jury resister.



Gov. Jerry Brown

SACRAMENTO, CA-After requests from the Gay Rights Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union in Los Angeles, Gov. Jerry Brown has agreed to screen all potential appointees to state boards, commissions, and regulatory agencies for latent homo-The screening process will also be used for cabinet level assistants as

well.

The guestionnaire that will be used by the Governor will measure prospective appointee's attitude towards gay people. It is still in the process of being completed by a team of sociologists, psychologists, and psychiatrists led by Dr. Wayne Placek of California State University.

The Kinsey Institute on Sex Research is also putting input into the questionnaire.

In addition, anthropologist Margaret Mead and research psychologist Evelyn Hooker have agreed to lend their assistance to the efforts as well.

Although Brown has received communications from Pennsylvania Gov. Milton Shapp requesting efforts to bring gay people openly into the governmental process, the California governor reportedly does not want the kind of publicity for pro-gay actions which Shapp has received in the past.

The preliminary questionnaire that Brown will use has a target date of December 1 for completion.

A mysterious explosion, which occurred in the early hours of Monday, Sept. 27, ripped through the offices of the <u>Gayzette</u>, located in the basement of the Christian Association, 36th and Locust Walk. The explosion and subsequent fire destroyed the

offices of the <u>Gayzette</u> and much of the supplies and equipment in the offices.

The force of the explosion completely

demolished a desk, and two walls, in addition to blowing out all the windows and lighting fixtures. A metal filing cabinet was totally melted by the intensity of the fire which followed the explosion. of the furnishings in the lounge outside the office were completely destroyed while the

office were composed to the composed of the co touched by the flames. One other desk belonging to the <u>Gayzette</u> as well as the Gay Media Project desk and file were waterlogged as was the display of back issues of the <u>Gayzette</u> in the lounge.

Virtually nothing was unaffected by some element of the explosion and fire. What

was not demolished was burned. Things that were not burned were waterlogged. And what-

ever was dry was damaged by smoke.

The <u>Gayzette</u> is now in urgent need of funds to relocate and return to full working capacity. Donations should be sent to the Weekly Gayzette, P.O. Box 13420, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

> - Joseph R. DeMarco Gayzette

(WORKERS' POWER) New employees at the Roadway Express freight terminal in Stroudsburg, Pa., are being forced to take lie detector tests. Roadway says the tests are "voluntary," but they must mean it in the same sense that working is "voluntary."

Among the questions Roadway wants answers Among the questions known wants answers
to are: Do you have mirrors on your bedroom ceiling? Do you enjoy wearing your
wife's bra and panties? Do you take pornographic movies of your wife? Do you engage
in homosexual acts?

— LIP - LIP

(In response to actions taken by certain individuals in New Hope concerning the vigilante group which vowed to "clean-up" the tow path in this town, the Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities issued this

"The Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities deplores the vigilante action against gays in New Hope on the part of various in-dividuals. While we are concerned with the issues of public safety and official moral-ity raised by recent events, we do not believe that these can be resolved without attention to the underlying issue of antigay prejudice. We hope that the people of

New Hope, and all the people of Pennsylvan-ia, will address themselves to this issue, and achieve social harmony on a deeper



NEW YORK—The recent weekly gay televis-ion show, called "Emerald City", was first showed on Sept. 19 in New York City. The show, which was shown on cable TV, was able to be seen only in the borough of Manhat-

The show is the product of Eugene B. Stavis and Frank O'Dowd. Stavis stated that he believes that cable TV is perfect for what he calls "narrowcasting" (instead of broadcasting). He also believes that of broadcasting). He also believes that the growing cable TV medium is the perfect medium of expression and communication for minorities who have little access to network television.

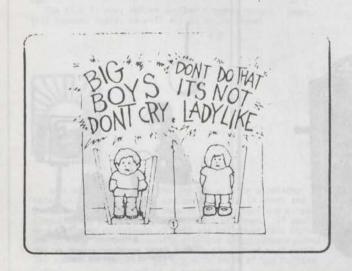
The show consists of news, interviews, editorials, gay entertainment, and coverage of gay-related cultural events. Stavis and O'Dowd admit that getting gay news on time will be a problem. At the present moment almost all gay news travels by printed mat-ter. They are hoping that in the future. ter. They are noping that in the future, as other cities begin to use the benefits of cable TV, a gay news network will be established. The benefits of such a network would be the basis for the establishment of a truly national gay movement.

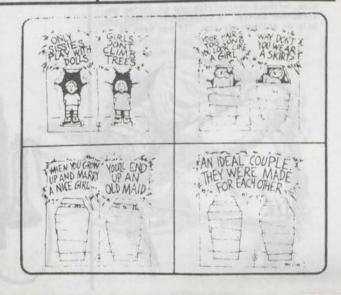
"Emerald City" will be shown Sundays from 8 to 9 p.m., with repeats on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m. on cable television's Channel 1.

ion's Channel J.

- GCN

more on p. 13





BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

This is a subject which has been the attention of some of the greatest. It's never easy getting yourself together after a relationship has fallen apart. There has been a lot of cheap advice to heterosexuals and very little to gay people. We have been ignored because it is believed that our relationships are not fulfilling and therefore quaranteed to fall apart. But as we fore guaranteed to fall apart. But as we all know, heterosexual relationships, with all the blessings of society, are falling apart left and right. Since very little has been written and directed towards gays, I have the urge to give a little cheap advice of my own based on my own personal experi-ences. Here I offer a few suggestions for speeding up emotional recovery after you and your lover have split:

HAVE A BAD TIME

HAVE A BAD TIME
"Nobody else will want me. I'll always be
alone. All I want to do is cry." If that'
the way you feel, then cry—you'll feel
better afterward. Maybe you just want to
watch TV and sleep. That's fine too—you
can probably use the extra rest right now. If that's You're experiencing a period of mourning. To feel pain after a loss is normal, proof that you're alive and that you're able to respond to life. Give yourself permission to go through it, and it will be shorter.

LET GO OF GUILT, ANGER "What if I were different? If only I had tried." Blaming yourself won't change any-thing. Instead of dwelling on how the relationship might have been saved, use that energy to plan ahead. It takes two

People to begin—and end—a relationship.
You may also feel angry—that's not uncommon. So go ahead, smash a tennis ball, punch a pillow, play the piano as loudly as You might want to start a diary: when you're about to explode, pen and paper can be your best outlet. And if your ex-lover's photographs, letters or gifts make you see red, get rid of them.

BE GOOD TO YOURSELF "Love yourself, love your craziness, even love your ability to feel down sometimes. Now is the time to do nice things for yourself. Buy something nice, something you always wanted. Take a bubble bath, have a sundae—even if you're on a diet. Breaking up with your lover, even if he/she left you, isn't necessarily a reflection on your

character. You are st good qualities intact. You are still you, with all your

TELL A FRIEND If you're remembering all the times your lover broke plans, all the rotten things that he/she did to you, all the bad times, find a friend who will listen and take YOUR side, without criticizing you or giving un-asked-for advice. A sympathetic friend can help in another way too. If you have an





irresistible urge to call your ex-lover or drop by the neighborhood or send a letter, always call your friend before making any hasty move.

GET GOING

Alone at home on a Saturday night? This may be hard to take at first. On the other hand, you may not be interested in seeing anyone new so soon. Still, it's important to keep busy. Set small social goals for to keep busy. Set small social goals for yourself: calling your best friend once a day, meeting a friend to see a movie, find-ing someone who likes to ice-skate. Par-ticipate in activities that are honestly interesting to you, not merely temporary distractions. Chances are you'll meet people-possibly even a new lover-whose basic interests are similar to yours and with whom you can develop a more durable relationship.

Although twinges of pain may persist for awhile, be grateful you've had the experience. Think of what you were before you met your lover and of the way your sensitivity and emotions have expanded. As you learn to cope with your grief, you'll become more compassionate and sympathetic to the pain of

It is the nature of the healing process to have a beginning, a middle and an end. The first part is shock and denial: can't believe it! This can't be happening to me." This gives way to anger and depres to me." This gives way to anger and depression and, finally, acceptance and understanding: "My ex-lover wasn't ready for a relationship. Neither was I. I can use this time alone now to think about who I am and what I really want." It's important to realize that you WILL survive.



GAY PLACED WITH GAY FOSTER PARENTS

PITTSBURGH-For the first time, a gay adolescent in custody of a Pennsylvania court has been officially placed with a gay foster parent. At the beginning of September, a 15-year-old lesbian girl took up residence with a gay woman in Pittsburgh The placement was effected through the mediation of the committee on criminal and juvenile justice of the Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities.

Debbie Boyle of Pittsburgh, convenor of

the committee, told the <u>Gay News</u> that aside from the usual "parenting hassles," the girl and her new mother were "doing fine." Although proud of the "coup," Boyle and others involved felt it was necessary to withhold the girl's and mother's names, as well as most other details of the case, to prevent homophobic public officials from

trying to undo the good work.

Boyle said that the committee would work with the foster home placement agency of Whales Tale, Inc., a Pittsburgh community service organization, to try to effect additional such placements in the future. "The problem, though," she pointed out, "is that we don't know of enough adult gays able and willing to be foster parents." Whales Tale, at 4527 Winthrop in Oakland— phone (412)-621-8484—is actively recruiting gay foster parents, and anyone inter-

Gays who wish to be foster parents, here or elsewhere in the state, may also get in touch with Boyle, 742 N. Beatty, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

- Gay News Chain

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OPINION!

It was announced in the October issue of the <u>Gay Era</u> that the Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities has formed a Gay Youth Committee in order to deal with the problems facing gay youth in this state. Even though this greatly needed group has been formed, for one young man it has been too late.

On Sunday evening, September 5, the night before the be-ginning of this school year, a 16 year old from Lebanon put a gun to his head and shot himself in the attic of his home. a gun to his head and shot himself in the attic of his home. Friday night before the incident, he spoke with one of the organizers of the Gay League of Lebanon telling her that he could not face going back to school and being tormented by being called "faggot."

could not face going back to school and being tormented by being called "faggot."

This could have been prevented except that school administrators and guidance counselors turn a deaf ear to the word "homosexual." And though we have our gay bars, whether we choose to patronize them or not, there's absolutely no where a young gay person can turn for support.

There are many other young gays who are pleading privately to those few adults they can trust that something be done about the situation. Our laws prohibit youth from having the same civil rights as human beings that we adults have taken for granted. They can be thrown out of their parents' homes, and there is nothing that they can do.

Two youth (aged 14 and 16) have written to the Lebanon group asking for help. Both letters named the injustices they must endure and both, with the naivety that develops in civics class, stated that the government should do something about the way we are treated.

The environment in which a young person learns of gay identity is atrocious. One letter states: "I also wish the government would put a number of gay comfort stations throughout each town and city so the younger generation of gay people could meet other gay people and have a good time. Oh, I forgot to mention that there shouldn't be any doors on the stalls in the comfort stations."

If you find it hard to believe, remember when you first thought that you were gay? Remember the only way you could

the stalls in the comfort stations."

If you find it hard to believe, remember when you first thought that you were gay? Remember the only way you could meet other people who "were just like me"? I do! There were no gay switchboards that I knew existed. There was no one to call and talk to about my feelings. The only outlets that existed were the streets and the public restrooms.

What we do need is weekly gay coffeehouses. Most social functions outside of the bar activities are closed to undergage gays due to our insistence on alrohol.

age gays due to our insistence on alcohol.

Publicizing these functions are another matter. Do our newsletters reach the group of people who are in need of these services? How should such services be operated in order to ensure they continue? And last but not least, how could such projects be funded?

We could make a concerted effort to contact those gays who would like to help provide these programs without attracting the publicity of gay activism. Individuals could support these services financially while still remaining anonymous. And most of all these services should operate independent from any organization or authority. The problem still remains—Who will do it?

We need to work with the Youth Committee to help it meet its goals. We need to work with the Pennsylvania Department of Education in order to have guidance programs and sex edu-cation classes include homosexuality as part of the curricu-

The time is now, before another tragedy occurs. When this happens again, we will all be responsible!

- D



Next month's issue of the Gay Era will be a holiday celebration of who we are and where we are in words and pictures. Several of our regular contributors are already preparing portfolios of their artwork or poems. If you would like to contribute as well and help make this Christmas gift to the Gay Community a bright happy package, send off your contributions to us before the 5th of next month. See you in the December Gay Era with loads of Gay Holiday



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.

Managing Editor HARRY H LONG

News Editor DAVID LEAS

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It has been widely observed that minute a group of gay people get together for any purpose other than cruising that they will be unable to agree on anything. There are several reasons put forth as to why this happens, one of the most frequent-ly cited being intra-minority interests. Such may well be the case, but when time and time again minority causes are most vehemently espoused by persons outside that minority, another, more ugly, possible rea-son begins to suggest itself: Power.

After all, championing another's cause, as did the New York Radical Chic Jet Set a few years back when they dabbled in Black civil rights, can be merely another form of bigotry, cloaked in the gossamer of patronization. Underneath the veneer of cocktail parties and fund-raising, "Let us help you fight, because you're too simple to know how" was (and is) merely a more polite and educated way of saying, "Stay in your place and shine my shoes, boy." The Blacks soon realized this and grew to distrust any White who was not actually fighting cheek white who with them, as opposed to those who would continue to oppress them by acting as "leaders/liberators." The Women's movement seems to have realized this all along and so remains, in some cases violently, sep-

This same trap awaits the Gay movement in a world of bisexual/pansexual rock-stars and increasing treatment in the popular arts: the danger of becoming a "fashionable" cause. (And let's face the fact that once any cause becomes "fashionable" it also becomes moribund. The Black movement might well have around to a complete ball might well have ground to a complete halt but for the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. A revolution once accepted and integrated into the mainstream—and especially the bourgeois—of society is no longer a revolution; it is a commercial enterprise. Accepted revolutionaries grow fat and comfortable on the profits from their book sales.) This trap exists with anyone who would be an acknowledged leader, whether "fashionable" or not. Idealogically we all fight the same oppressor: Them. But realistically we all too frequently forget that the vague, amorphous,

distant Them can include any one of Us.
Politics frequently resembles a children's game blown to a grand scale, played with even grimmer determination, and em bodying just as much fuzzy, immature logic. We can find ourselves in a 1984-like situation of fighting an enemy that has not been defined (Them) and so can include anyone at whom the finger of suspicion is pointed And the rules of the game require that to win, one must point as much as possible while avoiding being pointed at (the Paranoia is winner then becomes Leader). one of the most common American neuroses and thus is a frequently used political tool. Focus on an enemy; if one does not exist, invent one (remember the Red Scare of the Fifties). Some may accuse me of further fostering paranoia, but I am trying to dispell it by distrusting it. Beware the accuser as well as the accused. The new revolution in this country, begun in the Sixties, has already matured, and the situation I've described is really only a logical outgrowth of both traditional American politics and an earlier period of liberation politics when we chanted "Power

to the People" and never defined either Power or People. Like so much rhetoric, it rolled nicely off the tongue yet didn't mean a damn thing.

Now, nearly ten years later, we can see the meeting and marriage of traditional and liberation politics as almost fated and certainly inevitable. Moreover, we are able to analyze what it was our "Leaders" certainly inevitable. Moreover able to analyze what it was our meant by "Power to the People" by examining it in the light of their actions since that time. They didn't mean remove the power from the hands of the politicians and power-brokers and give it to the people; they meant "Make me a power-broker." At least, some of them did.



People being the sheep that they are they have always looked for leaders, and nearly all societies have thus been set up. Anarchy may be an excellent idea, but it will probably never work with humans. Ar the existence of some people who would serve as leaders has only encouraged the rest to further become sheep, dutifully following, never minding that their leader could as easily be a wolf as a collie. If there is a moral here, it might be: Distrust anyone who would set him/herself up as a leader, no matter whose wide s/he seems to be on. The question must be asked of all who would be leaders: Are they really acting in our benefit, or are they hungry for power? A revolution (or cause, if you prefer) does not need, and should not have, leaders per se. Rallying voices, yes; leaders, no. A riot is actually the truest form of revolution in that each person involved commits his/her own personal act of revolution within the framework

created by the rallying voice(s).
These pessimistic thoughts on politics come to mind after recent meetings of the Penna. Rural Gay Caucus, and hearing cer-tain bits of "gossip" about some of the people associated with the Caucus. tainly the spectacle of members of one minority attempting to act as representatives of another and pounding away about their rights gives one pause to wonder if the feelings are sincere or that peculiar form of bigotry through patronization. Then again these people could be trying to become cult heroes, and thus leaders. I might be cynical, but I tend to trust self-ishness and question the motivation behind selflessness.

Even the most naive newcomers to Rural Caucus meetings cannot help but notice that there is an inordinate amount of pow-er-jockeying going on. Meetings of late are so thick with interpersonal politics and name-calling that very little Gay Liberation politics gets accomplished; meetings more closely resemble an encounter session grown large and gone berserk after exposure to gamma rays, like some 1950's science fiction movie along the lines of "The Toupee that Terrorized Pittsburgh." Although in this case, the title might well be, "The Rural Caucus that Devoured Itself." Obviously the Caucus is in possession of

Obviously the Caucus is in possession or some power, although how much is real and how much is imaginary has yet to be adequately determined. And at the present rate, it never will be determined, for it seems there are people all too willing to impede the progress of a group (or destroy the group altogether) for the sake of their own personal glory. Then again we are all well aware (especially since the exposure own personal glory. Then again we are al well aware (especially since the exposure of Tommy the Traveller) that the government places provocateurs into revolutionary groups to either goad them into illegal actions for which they can be jailed, or merely to disrupt proceedings so nothing is accomplished. As to whether the Caucus has indeed attained enough power to make them

such a target, I will let my readers decide.
As a result of last March's Gay Lobby Day, the Caucus has shown it has some clout. Its influence is shown by the cooperation recently extended by the departments of Education and Health. The cooperation in the Department of Education alone has shown a willingness to open up job qualifications to include homosexuals, sensitize current

cont. on p. 12



letters.

To the Editors:

The time has come to lay your cards on the table. Will they call for more de-grading of a particular lifestyle or will they show you to be a decent and respectable person?

How long will we subject ourselves to talk of pride when the next sentence re-fers to us with a name which most of us would not call ourselves even in the most

depressing moment?

If one is truly to be himself in all honesty, he should be called by his Christian name. Words such as mary, queen, and any other such misnomer might be considered in place within your own circle, but are definitely out of place in public. In no other segment of society is there a group of people who can be so widely oppressed by a few inconsiderate and immature members of their own set. Your comments invited.

To the Editor,
First may I make it clear that I am
speaking personally and not as a staff
member of the Gay Era. Since the last
meeting of the Rural Caucus I have had a

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alternativ

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lot of time to think about what has been happening within this group in the past few months.

I would like to address the Board Members of Le-Hi-Ho, who out of their brazenness, had the nerve to withdraw from the Caucus. May I ask exactly what you expected to accomplish by this behavior? Did you expect to strengthen the Caucus by turning your back on it when it needed you most? Or were you being trend-setters by turning the Caucus into nothing more than the "whipping boy" of the State? Centainly Le-Hi-Ho had the right to withdraw from the Caucus, but somehow I feel that your reasons were invalid.

As to those Caucus members who boldly walked out of the room after resigning, you have done nothing more than strengthen a bewildered and very confused group of people who wanted nothing more than a public display of confidence. Not one of you have a soul pure enough to call some-

one else a "gay spoiler.'

The largest dose of strength came from a 17-year-old woman who, after the tem-pers were flared and you walked out of the room, cried as she told everyone who remained that we had to continue, that "you people are the only ones I have—if I don't have you, I have nobody." That

took guts—more guts than any resignation.

I and everyone else in that room knew
we would continue. Why? "Because we're we would continue. Why? "Because of the only ones we have." For a better and stronger

Rural Caucus,

Sincerely, Dave Leas

Please print the following To the Editor: letter.

September 16, 1976

Representative Norman Berson Pennsylvania House of Representatives State Capitol Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

Dear Norman Berson:

The Rural Gay Caucus is a loosely knit democratic coalition of gay groups from Central Pennsylvania. I understand that one of our members, Barry Lace, without any group consensus, understanding, or permission used the Rural Gay Caucus' name to call your office and to complain about Jonathan Smith-Cousins. I understand that Mr. Lace said that Jonathan Smith-Cousins is disruptive and divisive and that the Rural Gay Caucus does not want his presence or any contribution from him again.

Mr. Lace's galling act of maligning Mr. Smith-Cousins to you, his employer, outrages me as someone who has been a gay activist for six years. His action vio-lates the politics and ethics of the gay

movement.

Without group discussion and consensus on any topic, no individual can represent the Rural Gay Caucus or use its name.

In Sisterhood,

Janet Cooper Member, Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities

P.S. I only use the name of the Rural Gay Caucus to identify myself as a member of it. This letter represents neither group consensus, understanding, nor permission.

cc: Barry Lace Jonathan Smith-Cousins Other members of the Rural Gay Caucus



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Contestants for Miss Tally Ho must register by Saturday, October 23 in one of three categories:

- * Swim suit
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- * Casual wear

Contestants must also list theme of their act when registering.

IN THE NEWS

years and make recommendations for action at the next General Convention. Resolutions restricting ordination of homosexuals were defeated.

The Bishops and Deputies called for a study of human sexuality (including homosexuality) as it pertains to living styles, employment, housing and education. A new Standing Commission on Human Affairs and Health was established and funded to undertake this study over the next three years and to make recommendations for action for the next General Convention to be held in Denver in 1979.

The resolutions passed were developed in dialogue with the gay community through Integrity, the Episcopal Church gay caucus, meeting with the Joint Commission on Human Affairs in Atlanta in January 1976. The Bishops of the Episcopal Church had studied this issue through extensive meetings held under the leadership of the Rt. Rev. David Richards over the past several years.

Lobbying efforts for the gay community at the convention were directed by the Rev. Ron Wessner of Philadelphia, president of Integrity; Richard York of Cambridge, Mass., the floor manager; and John Lenhardt of Integrity Philadelphia. Also present were the Rev. Robert Herrick, program director for religion, National Gay Task Force, New York; and members of the Minneapolis chapters of Integrity, and of Dignity, the Roman Catholic gay caucus.

Wessner, commenting on the successful resolutions at the convention, said: "We are obviously pleased with our church in taking these actions at the same convention which approved the ordination of women priests and the adoption of a new book of common prayer. The efforts of Integrity over the next three years will be directed toward meeting with the new Standing Commission to educate the church on issues relating to homosexuality. The Episcopal Church must come to understand that it has a pastoral responsibility to those gay persons who are already ordained as well as to openly gay persons presenting themselves for ordination. Gays are not a threat to the church but rather a resource for its ministry to gay persons. I would hope that by the next General Convention we would have an openly gay person as a member of the House of Deputies."

Bishop Paul Moore, Jr., Bishop of New York, who had received some criticism for ordaining an openly gay person, the Rev. Ellen Barrett, as a Deacon, commented on the action of the convention: "The gay community acted with great dignity at the convention and I am proud of the way in which they sought to educate and persuade the church to a deeper understanding of our pastoral responsibility to gay churchpersons and our responsibility to fight for equal justice before the law for all gay persons."

- NGTF

DYKE COOPER

against himself and attested to his participation in the bank robbery. He admitted to loading the car and putting in the guns in preparation for the bank robbery; to receiving an equal share of the money along with everyone else; to cleaning out one of the rendezvous apartments; to buying shirts for the other men with the bank money; to disposing of bank robbery money; to fleeing from Boston. Michael Fleisher had been a cooperative accessory to work that contributed to making preparations and departures easier for everyone before and after the bank robbery.

For his participation in a bank robbery in which all of his other co-defendents

are either serving time or whom the authorities have threatened with life imprisonment without parole, Michael Fleisher has no criminal record. Furthermore, he has nine indictments against him but for the six years since the robbery took place, the Government has never set a trial nor has his lawyer filed any motions. Michael Fleisher also had a woman friend, Helen Zelitch, who is now his wife. While she had stayed at the rendez-vous apartment several times, the Government never indicted her. Fleisher testified that he thought his cooperation would come to the attention of the authorities and the judge. Clearly his helpfulness to the authorities gave him preferential treatment.

The prosecution also presented bank witnesses, ballistics experts, finger print experts, bank camera films, pictures of bullet holes and cars, guns and shells. None of this massive evidence identified Susan as a person in the bank at the time of the robbery, or involved with the robbery at all. No other evidence the prosecution presented except the word of the two men, Robert Valeri and Michael Fleisher, places Susan in the bank at the time of the robbery.

During its deliberation, the jury has asked the judge three questions: a comparison of the testimony of Valeri and Fleisher about Fleisher's role in the robbery; what does credibility of a witness mean; and what does "beyond reasonable doubt" mean. One can only speculate that the jury is concerned with some conflict of information that the prosecution has presented during this trial. Fleisher had testified that Bond had given him the bank money bags and a dress to dispose of. In his summation before the jury, the prosecutor, John Gaffney, lied when he said that Susan Saxe had given Fleisher the bank money bags and the dress to dispose of. One can speculate that the jury does not believe the prosecution has presented a credible case that Susan was in the bank at the time of the robbery beyond a reasonable doubt.

Criminal defense trials such as this one bring to our attention the values and ethics of the United States' criminal justice and punishment system. Is it possible, after the Government has bought all its experts, all its agents and their petty and major harassments, all its informers, all its electronic surveillance equipment, all the publicity originating from FBI press releases and the 10 Most

Wanted List, that a jury can still remain a democratic stronghold and vote an acquittal for Susan Saxe?

CURMUDGEON

personnel, and actually educate students about homosexuality, as well as ending discrimination against gay students,

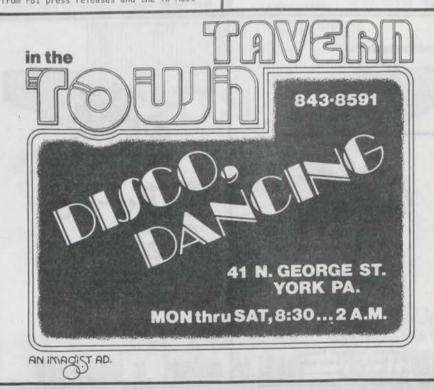
faculty and staff.

These projects are important; too important to be thwarted, in my opinion. And they will be thwarted if the Caucus continues in its present confusion (which will sooner or later be sensed by the departments in question), or if it dissolves, for whatever reasons. These projects must be continued and carried through by the Caucus, as they are mostly the kind of work that can only be accomplished by an individual backed by a group, not by an individual alone.

My great fear is that the Rural Caucus will have to reorganize or might disintegrate entirely before certain work can be completed, the effect being to stymie (perhaps permanently) those projects. Unless there is a dramatic reversal very shortly, all the power-politics, paranoia, in-fighting, and downright childishness in the Caucus is going to reach a certain level and the group will implode.

- Harry H Long





BITS 'N' DIECES



(CPF) In a precedent-setting case, a Michigan woman was acquitted recently in the fatal stabbing of her husband, who tried to rape her.

The jury of eight women and four men, apparently convinced that Judy Hartwell's act was one of self-defense, returned their verdict after only 10 minutes of deliberation

The verdict is particularly significant because Michigan's Criminal Sexual Conduct laws do not protect a wife against sexual assault by her husband unless they are separated or divorced and is also important for what it could mean for other women who act in self-defense against rape.

- LIP

PHILADELPHIA—Gays here will soon have a civil rights bill to work for once again. City Councilor Lucien Blackwell agreed in a meeting with gay activists to reintroduce the ill-fated bill 275 this month. All members of the Council will be requested to join in co-sponsoring before the bill is

The new bill differs from the old one in only one important respect, the addition of "marital status" to "sexual or affectional orientation." The bill would forbid discrimination on these grounds in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodations. Except in state employment, where gays are protected by state civil service regulations, there is now no clearcut legal remedy for discrimination against gays.

- Gaytimes

CHICAGO—Chicago gay activists, Nancy Davis and Toby Schneiter, were recently sentenced to a year in prison after a jury convicted them of criminal trespass. Their arrests were the result of a sit-in at the County Clerk's office in Chicago after being refused a marriage license. Their sit-in prevented the closing of the office.

The trial of the two women took place on Aug. 26. Many gay activists in the Chicago area considered Judge Rudolf L. Janega's

sentence "unnecessarily harsh." Schneiter and Davis have already spent 150 days in jail and were to serve out their time at the Women's House of Corrections in Chicago, but have since been transferred to the women's nonitentiary at Dwight Illians.

but have since been transferred to the women's penitentiary at Dwight, Illinois.

It is believed that the severity of the sentence was the result of political pressure put on the judge. Such pressure probably came from the office of County Clerk Stanley Cusper. Because of their being "too radical", there has been a reluctance in the Chicago gay community to support Davis and Schneiter. Defining themselves as "comuno socialists" the two women are the authors of the book Heterosexual. They have the support of the Gay Rights Action Coalition (GRAC), an organization in which Davis and Schneiter played an active role. GRAC has been trying to get the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Chicago to support the two women in addition to working on another gay marriage attempt involving two men, Jeff Graubart and Reid Smith. Anyone interested in writing in support of the two women can contact them at Box Z, Dwight, Illinois 60420. Davis' prison number is C67548 and Schneiter's number is C67547.



LONDON—The British Home Office has received a report urging sweeping changes in laws governing sexual conduct.

laws governing sexual conduct.

The report was filed by the National Council for Civil Liberties and calls for, among other things, equality under the law for both homosexuals and heterosexuals, lowering the age of consent to 14, repeal of laws against obscene publications and repealing the law against incest.

According to NCCL, the main objective behind the report is "...to give each individual the right to conduct his or her own sex life as is chosen.

"Such freedom of choice is resisted be-

"Such freedom of choice is resisted because it is assumed, almost without discussion, that a person is happier if his or her sex activities are limited to a monogamous pair bond relationship with someone of the opposite sex."

one of the opposite sex."

The report discounts that theory. It states: "In reality, this is the solution



that most people will choose. But this does not give them the right to demand legal restraints for those who make a different choice."

While commenting public opinion probably wouldn't allow it, the report states the age of consent law should be abolished to be "consistent with modern knowledge about child development."

- Gaytimes

WASHINGTON, DC—Upholding the constitutionality of the District's 28-year-old sodomy law, Appeals Court Judges Austin L. Flickin, Stanley S. Harris, and Julia Cooper Mack stated unanimously that "The government may legitimately legislate to further the interests of public decency."

Ruling in the case of a 29-year-old man

Ruling in the case of a 29-year-old man who was arrested on the bank of the C and O Canal in the Georgetown section of Washington, the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia rejected arguments that the sodomy law, passed by the U.S. Congress in 1948, was unconstitutional because it discriminates against gay people.

At the time he was arrested, Superior Court Judge Theodore R. Newman stated that the man was arrested in an area which had "no reasonable expectation of privacy."



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The Appeals Court refused to address the argument that the law was unconstitutional because it could be applied to sexual acts by adults in private. The court ruled that since he was not in a private area when the act was committed, it was not relevant to the issue of whether the sodomy law invades "the zone of personal privacy."

Dr. Frank Kameny, a gay activist in Washington, emphasized that that decision was not all that meaningful. Asserting that it was not a good case, Kameny felt

that it was not a good case, Kameny felt that since it was a question of public sex, it made it legally difficult to make the case apply to private sex.



Bonnie Strunk

SYRACUSE, NY-An openly lesbian lawyer has been nominated by the Liberal Party to run for the position of District Attorney in Onondaga County in the state of New York. Bonnie Strunk, 29-year-old will be on the ballot in a special election to be held Nov. 2 to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of District Attorney Jon K. Holcombe. The former DA was a well-known Republican who held very strong anti-gay positions. He was forced to resign after being convicted of driving while intoxi-

Bonnie Strunk will be opposed by Republican Richard Hennessey and Democrat Edward Kearse who was named last week by Hugh Carey to fill the post until the election takes place.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—The Minneapolis chapter of Big Brother, Inc., was ordered Aug. 10 by the city's department of civil rights to stop its discrimination against About a year and a half ago, Gary gays. About a year and a half ago, Gary Johnson was told by the organization that he would be allowed to join Big Brother only if the parents of the boys he worked with were told he is gay. Johnson then filed a complaint against the organization with the city.

Although the former Minneapolis mayor, Albert Hofstede, attempted to persuade the civil rights department to dismiss the case, the department ruled that Big Brother "had no right to do what they were doing and that their policies are discriminatory." The department also ordered Big Brother to meet approximately 14 guidelines. One of these guidelines is that it advertise in two widely-distributed gay newspapers, News West and the Advocate.





Woman dragged by millstone.

WASHINGTON-In an effort to eliminate sexism within its congregations, Metropolitan Community Churches has issued a directive instructing its local congregations to eliminate sexist language from its worship services.

The directive, which requires that masculine gender references to God be balanced with feminine references or be entirely eliminated, was voted by the denomination's annual General Conference in Washington, DC. The denomination also voted at its meeting (Aug. 10-15) to include women in visual leadership positions. The Rev. Nancy Wilson, formerly of Worcester, Mass., was elected to its seven-member governing Board

of Elders According to F. Jay Deacon, an MCC pastor in Hartford, the move was important because "the biblical writers, who were all male, projected only masculinity onto God by their projected only masculinity onto God by their use of only masculine language, believing the feminine to be inferior and non God-like. By our language, we are showing our commitment to the equality of women, and the biblical proclamation that 'there is neither male nor female...for you are all one in lesus Christ'" Jesus Christ'."



LOS ANGELES-City Council's approval of a Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) grant of \$305,250 to the city's Gay Community Services Center marked the first time in Los Angeles history that funding time in Los Angeles history that funding had been provided for a gay social agency. The grant is part of a \$27 million total CETA program intended for 64 city agencies. It will provide job funding for 75 gay men and women during the next year.

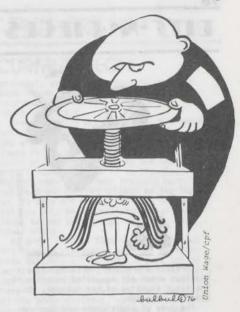
Council President John Gibson, who has

led other anti-gay campaigns, led the fight to delete the funds for the Center. Gibson's amendment was defeated by an 8-5 vote, and the final vote, which would include funding for the Center, was defeated 14-2.

Eight people spoke against the funding

during the hearing. Quoting the Bible, one reportedly claimed that approval would bring about a major earthquake. Thirteen gay a non-gay people testified in favor of the Thirteen gay and funding, and when the vote was taken in favor of the proposal the chamber erupted with applause.

- GCN



(PRIMO TIMES) A girl who has never heard of God or the Bible is incapable of giving sworn testimony and a man charged with indecent exposure went free because of

with indecent exposure went free because that. That was the ruling of a judge in London when presented with the case.
A 57-year-old man was charged with exposing himself to an ll-year-old girl. I judge, upon finding out that the girl was not religiously educated, ruled that she could not swear to her testimony. Because of this ruling, the accused man went free.

We must consider ourselves warriors in a battle waged against those who have sought to control that which belongs to us all --Information.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Education Committee of the Rural Gay Caucus is making an appeal for dona-tions to its Book Fund. For those who tions to its Book Fund. cannot donate time or energy, your dol-lars will be greatly appreciated. One of our many tasks is to see that positive gay literature is placed in libraries throughout the Commonwealth. Checks may be made out to Mary Nancarrow and sent to P.O. Box 182, Northumberland, PA 17857. Please note Book Fund.



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Tues. & Thurs. 8-10 pm LANCASTER: Sun. 6-10 pm 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

STATE COLLEGE: Mon-Sun. 7-9 pm 1-814-863-0588

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

V.D. CLINIC: St. Joseph Hospital, Lancaster, Pa. 24 hours, free, 1-717-397-2821

CALENDAR

EVERY WEEK



Sundays 7:30 pm, Metropolitan Community Church, Fisenhower Chapel State College, Eisenhower Chapel 8:00 pm, Metropolitan Community Church, 1001 N. Spring St, Middletown

Wednesdays
7:30 pm, Lesbian Collective: Women's
Resource Center, Beaver & Allen
Streets, State College
7:30 pm, Metropolitan Community Church,
Prayer Meeting, 1001 N. Spring St.

Middletown

8:00 pm, M.C.C. Conscious Raising, 1001 N. Spring St, Middletown

SPECIAL EVENTS

Oct. 16 - 11:00 am, Hike to Sunfish Pond,
Unitarian Church, Bethlehem,
bring picnic lunch, rain date
is Oct. 23. If in doubt about
postponement call Ken, 215-2647770 on 16th between 9-10:00 am

Oct. 23 & 24 - Inter-Collegiate Gay Alliances Conference, Gay Community Center, Philadelphia. Reg. fee for weekend is \$9.00. For additional info call Bill Roberts, 215-923-3792 Mon, Wed,

Fri between 12:30-6:00 pm.
Oct. 24 - 2:00 pm, Le-Hi-Ho General Meeting, Unitarian Church, Bethle-

Oct. 30 - Performing Arts excursion to see New York City opera performance of "Un Ballo In Maschera" by Verdi. For info & tickets call Rick, 215-866-6320.

Nov. 5 - 1:00 pm, Rural Caucus meeting, Reading, followed by gay hay-ride, tickets \$2.50.

Nov. 13 - All day at Dignity, Friends Meet-ing House, 6th & Herr Streets,

Harrisburg, Pa. 11:30-2:00, Women only, 2 films will be shown "Defining Ourselves as Women" and "Defining Ourselves as Les-bians." Bring a bag lunch. 2:00-4:00, combined Women and

Men's Consciousness Raising Group on "How Gay Men and Women View Each Other."

4:00, Potluck supper, provided by the men.

7:00, Liturgy, planned by the women.

For more info call Barb at

717-533-9346 Nov. 21 - 2:00 pm, Le-Hi-Ho general meeting, Unitarian Church, Bethlehem.

Nov. 26-27-28 - Gay Academic Union Conference, Columbia University, New York City.

Nov. 27 - Performing arts excursion to see New York City Ballet perform-ance of "Union Jack" by Balan-chine. For info call Ken, 215-264-7770.

Dec. 4 - 1:00 pm, Rural Caucus meeting,

Lancaster.
Dec. 19 - 2:00 pm, Le-Hi-Ho general meeting, Unitarian Church, Bethlehem. Christmas Party, tentative. 8:00 pm, "The Gay Muse", free poetry reading with Joseph

Anthony and Harry Long reading from their own works. The Market District Theatre, Lancaster, 394-3761.



An Alcoholics Anonymous GAY ALCOHOLICS: group, strictly for gays of both sexes, is meeting Wednesday nights in the Harrisburg area. For info call Gay Switchboard at (717)-234-0328.

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

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BRIDGEPORT The Lark (bar), 102 Defails Street (Ht. 202 North).

CASteway's Inn. 629 Front Street, (814)-886-9921

DUNCANSVILLE Danny's Hideaway, Rt. 220, R.D. 1, Greensburg.

ELIZABETH The WaterCall (harl, 116 Market Street, [412]-384-9807

ERIE Middown Lounge, 223 Franch Street, Washington Grill, Washington and W. Loth.

GREENSBURG Golden Arrow Bar, Ion W. Fittsburgh Street

INDIANA Homophiles of Indiana University of Pa., Dox 1588, Indiana University 1570)

The Steppes (private study, 1954) Benarics, 200 Market RURAL GAY RESOURCE LIST

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Secree's Charle Market Street. Faradhye (Mar), Market Street.

NEW HOPE Cartebook (bar), 8t. 205 west. January's Inn. 21t Appeting Road, Colebus, New Hope Diner, 8t. 202 West. Frolude (bar), 8t. 705 West.

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