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GAY ERA

vol. 3 no. 1

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MARCH 1977



ARIES

IN THE NEWS



Cartoon by Ensign Vernon ("Copy") Berg III

MIAMI GAY BILL PASSES AS CELEBRITIES LEAD FOES

MIAMI—The presence of hundreds of Bible-thumping Fundamentalists, and emotional speeches by singer Anita Bryant and baseball star Alvin Dark proved to be of no avail as Miami's Metro Commission passed a gayrights ordinance. The ordinance—which bans discrimination against Dade County homosexuals in housing, employment, and public accommodations—passed by a 5-3 vote. Enactment of the ordinance makes Miami the first city south of Washington, DC, and east of Austin, Texas, to protect the civil rights of gay people. The anti-discrimination safeguards go into effect ten days after the Jan. 18 vote and will apply throughout Dade County, including Miami, Miami Beach, Coconut Grove, and Coral Gables.

Opponents of the bill immediately announced that they planned a campaign to gather the necessary 10,000 signatures to force a referendum on the ordinance. Anita Bryant, former Miss Oklahoma, '60s pop singer, and Florida Citrus publicist will lead the recall move. Bryant had told the crowded commission chambers that "I have a right to be jealous of the moral atmosphere in which my children grow up."

Gay activists in South Florida welcomed the possibility of the referendum as "offering an opportunity for consciousness raising." At the same time, they urged an immediate boycott of Florida citrus products to protest Bryant's opposition to gay rights. Although the Citrus Commission members are appointed by the Governor, the citrus growers pay Bryant's salary to do their advertising. Many gay bars in the Miami area have already posted signs that read, "No Florida Orange Juice Served Here."

In a further protest against Bryant's activities, Club Baths Chain President Jack Campbell, who lives in the Miami area, reportedly removed \$80,000 from a Miami bank. Bryant and her children do a television commercial for the bank, the First Federal Savings and Loan.

- Gay Community News

NGTF

National Gay Task Force

80 Fifth Avenue - New York, New York 10011 - (212) 741-1010

Board Officers
 Betty J. Powell
 Larry J. Van Cotteghem
 Mary C. Friedman
 Ross Pitt Norton, Ph.D.
 Executive Directors
 Joan O'Leary
 Bruce Vowler, Ph.D.

February 8, 1977

GAY MEDIA ALERT!

The Federal Communications Commission has changed its rules for the ascertainment of community leaders, so that the interview requirements are now met if the stations ascertain leaders of 19 specific groups contained in the Community Ascertainment Primer. This list does not include gays and the Commission has interpreted the "Minority ethnic group" category so that it too does not include gays. THIS MEANS THAT AT PRESENT NO LOCAL STATION IN AMERICA IS REQUIRED TO INTERVIEW GAY LEADERS IN ITS COMMUNITY.

The National Gay Task Force, assisted by the Media Access Project in Washington, is petitioning the FCC for a change in the rules so that gays are included on the checklist. It is important that groups from all over the country be included as petitioners, particularly since the Commission's interpretation of its regulations is based on the idea that gays are not present in most U.S. communities.

PLEASE RETURN THE FORM BELOW IMMEDIATELY IF YOUR GROUP WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US IN PETITIONING THE FCC. SPEED IS ESSENTIAL IF WE WANT TO MAKE SURE OUR RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED DURING THE CURRENT ASCERTAINMENT PERIOD. THE ASCERTAINMENT PROCESS IS THE KEY TO INSURING THE RIGHTS OF ALL GROUPS TO REPRESENTATION ON THE BROADCAST MEDIA.

 This is to certify that the National Gay Task Force has permission to include the group named below in a petition to the Federal Communications Commission asking for a change in rulemaking so that leaders of the gay community will be added to the Community Ascertainment Checklist for radio and television stations in the U.S.

Name of Group
 Address
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 Signature of Group Officer.

SEND IMMEDIATELY to NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE, 80 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10011

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in the NEWS

GAY RUNS FOR FT. LAUDERDALE MAYOR

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL—Fort Lauderdale gays have announced the candidacy of Roger Luckett a 45-year-old real estate broker, to run for mayor in this resort city's upcoming elections. The election is a "free-for-all" with 19 candidates running for five seats as city commissioners. The candidate who gets the highest amount of votes becomes the mayor. Because of the fragmented nature of the voting, a high gay turnout could assure Luckett's election as one of the commissioners. "I'm pretty sure he'll be elected city commissioner, if not mayor," local activist Allan Rockway told Gay Community News.

Luckett's decision to run for public office comes in the wake of an anti-gay campaign being waged by the city's current mayor E. Clay Shaw. Shaw had asked for an investigation of gay hotel interests in Lauderdale and also denounced the rise of male prostitution. "If a family from the midwest comes to Fort Lauderdale and sees men making love on the beach, what will they think?" the mayor asked. "They'll never come back. We are a family community, not just a tourist town. I don't intend to allow that image to be tarnished for the expediency of a few dollars."

The mayor's remarks stirred an immediate storm and brought about the speedy politicization of the city's large (and wealthy) gay community. Although Shaw was backed in his anti-gay campaign by the Fort Lauderdale Resort and Hotel Association, some members of the Chamber of Commerce and others, he has also been strongly criticized. State Rep. John Adams (D-Hollywood) called Shaw's comments "dirty politics" and a Fort Lauderdale News editorial assailed the Mayor's "hip shooting remarks."

- Gay Community News



SURVEY BACKS GAYS

IRVINE, CA—In the seven states that have repealed their laws prohibiting private homosexual conduct between consenting adults, there has been no increase in the number of crimes of child molestation, involvement of gays in non-sex crimes, or use of force by gays. That was the conclusion of a study recently completed by Dr. Gilbert Geis, a University of California-Irvine sociologist who is best known for his study, "Not the Law's Business?" a monograph commissioned by the Justice Department on "victimless crimes."

Geis surveyed police departments in cities with populations of 50,000 or more in Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Ohio, and Oregon. Fifty percent of police officers reported that the changes in the law allow them to spend more time on crimes of greater significance. Also surveyed were 47 gay groups, and 13 district attorney offices.

All three groups reported an increase in public displays of homosexual behavior and of gay bars, however. In addition, respondents to the survey claimed that the change in laws had made police less willing to condone legalization of prostitution, gambling, and other victimless crimes.

A majority of all three categories reported no increase in homosexual rape, and no greater involvement of homosexual-juvenile

offenses. Two prosecutors and four police officials reported a decrease in blackmail of gays.

Only 33% of the prosecutors saw an increase in public displays of gay activity, while 65% of the police and 58% of the gay people noted an increase.

- Gay Community News



Staight-Creek Journal/ops

WENDY YOSHIMURA FOUND GUILTY

A jury in Oakland, California, found activist Wendy Yoshimura guilty on three counts of possessing explosives after deliberating for six days.

The jury of eight men and four women found the former fugitive guilty on three of the four charges, adding they were unable to reach a decision on the most serious charge of possessing explosives with the purpose of injuring people or property.

Yoshimura received massive media attention 16 months ago when she was arrested, along with Patricia Hearst, in a San Francisco residence.

The judge in her trial ordered jurors to disregard all of Yoshimura's testimony in her defense after she refused to answer questions about her experiences underground with Hearst and others.

Judge Martin Pulich admitted in court that he may have committed "reversible error" by instructing jurors on the meaning of the phrase "reasonable doubt." The judge's explanation came after the jurors reported they were hopelessly deadlocked.

The judge then departed from legal tradition by explaining in terms of "morality" what reasonable doubt meant to him.

Legal observers stated that under California law, Yoshimura could be sentenced to one to two years in prison on the three convictions.

Her attorneys immediately announced plans to appeal the decision, and she remained free on bail pending sentencing.

One 61-year-old black juror who held out for acquittal until the final day, complained she was insulted and called "stupid" by other jurors and was finally pressured into changing her verdict.

- Zodiac

ANOTHER TENNIS TRANSEXUAL

MIAMI, FL—Michelle Nordberg, a 28-year-old transsexual, has announced her intention to try out for the women's tennis team at the University of Utah this week, reports the New York Times. Nordberg's decision comes several months after Renee Richards created a major stir in sports circles by competing in a women's tennis tournament shortly after a sex change. "When Renee came forward, that made her a heroine in my eyes," said Nordberg. "It gave me the courage of my convictions and made me realize that I could do it!"

Nordberg, who began playing tennis at the age of 12, believes that she can win a spot on the conservative university's tennis team. "Renee's a world-class player; I'm not," she asserted. "But I will be in a few years."

Fern Gardner, director of women's athletics at the University of Utah, is taking a "wait and see" attitude on the matter. "I think she was waiting for us to say no," Gardner told the Times. "But the tennis coach told her she could try out any time, and he invited her. So we'll just have to wait and see if she comes out for the new season."

- Gay Community News



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Ellen Marie Barrett



Ellen Marie Barrett, the first lesbian ever ordained as an Episcopal priest, takes her vows at a ceremony in New York's Church of the Holy Apostles (see GCN Vol. 4, No. 30). Seated is the right Reverend Bishop Paul Moore of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. During the ceremony Bishop Moore praised Rev. Barrett as "highly qualified intellectually and spiritually to be a priest." Photo by Betty Lane

EPISCOPALS ORDAIN LESBIAN

The Episcopal Church has ordained its first open lesbian into the church's priesthood. Though the Episcopalians have ordained approximately 20 women since the church's general convention authorized the ordination of women in December, the occasion marked the first time an open lesbian has been admitted to the church's ranks as a priest.

The 30-year-old Ellen Marie Barrett was ordained by Bishop Paul Moore, Jr. of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. The ceremony took place at the Church of the Holy Apostles in Manhattan. The ordination caused further controversy over the ordination of women in the church than what had already existed with the ordination of other women.

One of Rev. Barrett's detractors called the ordination a "travesty and a scandal." Bishop Moore who first ordained her as a deacon in December 1975 supported Barrett's

ordination complimenting her as a "highly qualified" person for the priesthood.

"Attention has been drawn to this ordination because she has not made a secret of her homosexual orientation," Bishop Moore said in a statement that was also signed by the Rev. Arthur Hargate, president of the diocesan standing committee, according to *The New York Times*.

"However, her personal life has never been under criticism," Bishop Moore continued. "Many persons with homosexual tendencies are presently in the ordained ministry. Ellen Barrett's candor in this regard is not considered a barrier to ordination. She is highly qualified intellectually, morally and spiritually to be a priest."

Barrett commented after the ceremony, "I will not force people to lie about themselves in what ought to be a house of truth. When the church forces people to do that, the church is sinning."

"SUSPICIOUS" FIRE DESTROYS YALE GAY STUDENT OFFICE

NEW HAVEN, CT—A fire at Yale University's Hendrie Hall destroyed the offices of GAY (Gay Alliance at Yale and Lesbians) on Sunday evening, Jan. 2. No one was in the office at the time, but furniture, books, and the organization's counseling service records were totally lost. GAY spokespeople believe that the origins of the blaze may have been "suspicious" and also fear that Yale officials will use the fire as a pretext to force the organization off-campus.

Yale University Fire Marshall Edward Sterniak told *Gay Community News* that "it appears to be true that the fire began in the Alpha Psi Omega room and not in the GAY office." The fraternity headquarters, located next to the basement storage room that housed GAY, was the only other space in the building that was totally destroyed. Fire Marshall Sterniak indicated that he believed that the fire began in the fraternity office because it was "the most blackened" in the blaze. However, Sterniak refused to make a final evaluation of the source of the fire until students return to school their winter vacation this week. Other offices in the building which were undamaged include the Yale University radio station, YWBC, the *Yale Banner*, Whitehall Press, and several music organizations.

GAY spokespeople are concerned about the fire's origins because the office had been broken into three days before the blaze and because there had been a previous fire there. "The office was unlocked when the fire happened because of the break-in, and the Buildings and Grounds Department was on vacation," said GAY spokesperson Dai Thompson. "The Connecticut Gay Task Force had met there the day of the fire and the initials CGTF were found scrawled in the snow outside. These may not add up to anything but they are disturbing."

Yale gays are fearful that the university will now decide to move the organization off-campus, as a result of the fire. "They did that to the Women's Center last year," said Dai Thompson. "If they do that to us, it will have very serious consequences. If that happened, we would be undefined as a Yale activity. Right now we can use university space for programs, we get university money for special events. We've already had two offices this year. At this point we're tense."

GAY members are negotiating with the *Yale Banner* in an attempt to share office space with that organization. The *Banner* also has office space in Hendrie Hall.

Associate Dean Marnesba (Bobbie) Hill could not be reached for comment on the subject. However, a secretary in the dean's office indicated that, to her knowledge, the issue of alternative space for GAY had yet to be discussed.

— Gay Community News

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GAYS, FEMINISTS FIGHT IRS ANTI-GAY TAX RULING

DENVER, CO—The Denver feminist newspaper *Big Mama Rag* has been denied "tax deductibility" status by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) because the monthly publication "advocates the quality of homosexual lifestyles to heterosexual lifestyles." Although the IRS has no written policy barring qualification for tax deductibility on the basis of views on homosexuality, the agency recently took similar action against the Lambda Services Bureau, a Colorado Springs referral and counseling service. The Lambda denial was made on the same grounds and the organization's appeal with the IRS is currently pending.

Big Mama Rag and Lambda Services had both applied for tax privileges under the IRS statute 501 C3. That statute permits tax-deductible contributions to be made to certain recognized non-profit organizations. Such tax-deductibility status is extremely helpful to organizations which depend on

donations, because the federal government credits a portion of each contribution to the individual according to tax bracket.

Section 501 C3 differs from section 501 C4 of the tax law, as the second simply exempts non-profit organizations from paying corporate income taxes. Tax exemption under 501 C4 is generally easy to get but only two gay organizations—the Lambda Legal Defense Fund in New York and the Whitman-Radcliffe Foundation in San Francisco—have been accepted for tax deductibility status. The National Gay Task Force's Fund for Human Dignity has also applied for such recognition.

"The government is generally much more sticky when it comes to tax-deductible contributions than they are on the issue of recognition of non-profit status," Bob Herick of the National Gay Task Force told *Gay Community News*. "They tend to be feisty with both gay and 'straight' organizations on the matter of tax deductibility."

Big Mama Rag asserts that the newspaper was rejected repeatedly at all levels of the IRS over the last four years in attempts to qualify for tax-deductibility. Its latest appeal was rejected in September of 1976. The newspaper's lawyer, Nan Hunter, was informed by the IRS that the denial of this status was due to the newspaper's alleged lobbying activities and its advocacy of the equivalence of gay and "straight" lifestyles. In another appeal, the newspaper is contesting both these points.

In the new brief, lawyer Hunter told the IRS that *Big Mama Rag* does not put a substantial amount of energy into lobbying. She claims that the newspaper's lobbying activity is less than the 5% allowed under IRS regulations. She also asserts in the brief that the newspaper as a feminist newspaper simply

reports relevant news in the feminist community and is not necessarily advocating any position.

If the IRS rejects the further appeal, the newspaper plans to go to court. Lambda Services Bureau was also informed by the IRS that the sole reason for the revocation of its previously-held "tax-deductible" status was due to the organization's position on gay lifestyles. The group had been granted tax exempt status on August 1975. However, in December of that year the organization was asked to sign an agreement stating that "they did not see a homosexual lifestyle as on a par with a heterosexual lifestyle." Lambda Services refused and its tax status was changed.

Despite the situations of *Big Mama Rag* and Lambda Services, the IRS position on gay organizations is not believed to be inflexible. Sources at the National Gay Task Force are hopeful that under the new tax law and through the incoming Carter Administration, there may be a reversal of policy. However, these sources emphasized that, due to the abuses of the Nixon period, the IRS has a good deal of autonomy at this point and that possibility of action by Carter should be viewed cautiously.

- Gay Community News



NATIONAL TEA DANCE ADDS FOUR LOCATIONS

The National Gay Task Force has announced that disco bars in four cities have joined the network of Sunday National Tea Dances sponsored by NGTF. The new locations are: Floral Park, New York (the Silver Lining Disco); Oklahoma City (The Sans Souci); Durham, N. Carolina (The Blueberry Hill); and Charlotte, N. Carolina (Nicky's). The weekly disco events are currently in operation in New York City at Chaps. Disco bars in New Orleans, Denver, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, and San Francisco have also participated, and negotiations are under way for participation in several cities, including Tulsa, Tucson, and Guatemala City, Guatemala.

In Oklahoma City, the dances are sponsored locally by the Gay Activists of the University of Oklahoma, and in Raleigh/Durham by the Carolina Gay Association. The dances are drawing large and enthusiastic crowds in the six cities where they are now in operation. Music is provided on tapes produced by Roy Thode, a New York City D.J. at La Mouche.

Money raised through admission to the tea dances goes to support the National Gay Task Force, the nation's largest civil rights organization for homosexuals; the Gay Rights National Lobby, a Washington, DC-based gay rights lobbying office; and local co-sponsoring gay organizations. The highly successful dances are a unique attempt to tap the spirit and finances of an estimated twenty million American gay people.

The National Tea Dance is produced for NGTF Benefits by H. Wayne Barty, Entertainment, Inc., 200 Central Park South, New York, NY 10019; phone: (212)-582-5240.

- National Gay Task Force

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MASTERMINDING THE SUFFRAGE STRUGGLE

Susan B. Anthony

Dubbed "the Napoleon of the woman's rights movement," Susan B. Anthony was the daughter of a Massachusetts Quaker who passed along to her the tenet that men and women are equal before God. For more than 50 years, along with her friend and colleague Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Anthony devoted her life to making men and women equal before the law. During the 1872 presidential election, Anthony was arrested for illegally casting a ballot and fined \$100, which she refused to pay. At her death in 1906, only four states had granted women the franchise. Even so, her parting words to her fellow suffragists were: "Failure is impossible!"

(LIFE Magazine Special Report: Remarkable American Women 1976-1976)

The following are excerpts from *Gay American History, Lesbian and Gay Men in the U.S.A.*, A Documentary by Jonathan Katz. Crowell, 1976, \$9.95.

Susan B. Anthony in 1868 perceived her feelings for her "friend" Anna Dickinson as "mother yearnings," in 1895 as "motherly love," and "elderly sister's love,"—familial feelings supposedly free of sensuality; at the same time, Anthony invited Dickinson to share her double bed, urged her "not to marry a man," and recalled a previous visit when she had "snuggled the wee child in my long arms."

(Love: 1779-1932, p. 449)

The intense, loving, erotically suffused relationship that might develop between females in the early women's rights movement is suggested in four letters of Anthony to Dickinson. Anthony had first been drawn into the women's rights movement in 1850. Dickinson's career as a popular lecturer in support of women's rights, against slavery, and for other social reforms, began in 1860.

In January 1868, Susan B. Anthony became the publisher of the weekly women's suffrage newspaper *The Revolution*. When these letters to Anna Dickinson began a month later, Anthony was forty-eight and Dickinson was twenty-six. Anthony's letters were written on stationery boldly headed *The Revolution*.



New York, Feb. 19th, 1868

My Dear Chicky Dicky Darling

...I wish this tired hand could grasp you this very minute—Well my dear child, doesn't the world move—and don't we all move with it—

I have a world of things to say—but not a minute to begin—only this to tell you I still love you and believe in you—and at this early day went to engage you not to marry a man—but to speak at our Equal Rights Anniversary next May the 12th or 13th—You will surely be ready this year—But if you are not—say no—and still I shall wait—and still I shall believe in your heart true as steel to its own convictions—and that's all that any of us can ask of mortal man or woman.

Lovingly, lastingly yours—S.B. Anthony

A second letter reads:

New York, March 18, 1868

Dear Dicky Darling

...Now when are you coming to New York—Do let it be soon—then do let me see the child—I have plain quarters—at 44 Bond St—double bed—and big enough & good enough to take you in—So come & see me—or let me know & I'll meet you...any place you shall say—and let me see you—I do so long for the scolding & pinched ears & everything I know awaits me—

I have a budget full to say to you—what worlds of experience since I last snuggled the wee child in my long arms—Well let me know when & where I am to see you—in an awful hurry—Your loving friend

Susan

A third letter dated New York, Jan. 15, 1869, says:

Too bad the Darling Anna and sublime (George F.) Train have such a drizzly night for their meetings but the Storm God will not stay his hand for stars nor comets—Female or Male—....

Lovey—I had a sad feeling to leave you alone at that dark ferry—don't never stay so late again—it is to dreary & desolate for my chicken

Anna my soul goes out to you in real mother yearnings—I don't believe you have believed the depths thereof—Good Bye

S B A

And twenty-six years later Anthony writes:

(Rochester, N.Y.) Nov. 5, 1895

My Darling Anna

It is lovely to see your hen-tracks once more—as I opened the envelope—I said—... this looks like Anna Dickinson's writing—and turns to the last page sure enough—there it was Anna E. Dickinson—the same dear old name—It don't matter if its contents do seem a wee bit scolding—I'm awfully glad to know you still live—and that I have a chance to tell you that my motherly love—my elderly sister's love—has never abated for my first Anna—I have had several lovely Anna girls—"nieces"—they call themselves now-a-days—since my first Anna—but none of them ever has or ever can fill the niche in my heart that you did—my dear—Now, I must see you when I get to New York....

I am so glad you wrote to me—because it gives me a chance to send you the invitation to Mrs. Stanton's 80th birth day reception—and I want you to sit on the stage as the pioneer woman speaker to save the nation in its times of perils—You will come won't you?...I do want to take you on my arm & introduce you to the young women who have come among us these later years—You will come to me, or let me come to you—at the earliest moment—after my arrival in New York—Yes! Wouldn't I like to go to Del Monicos as of old!—Well my dear—we'll talk when we meet—till then—Lovingly your old & best friend—Susan B. Anthony

(Love—Notes and Bibliographies, pp. 643-644)

OPINION!

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE PAST AND FUTURE

It has been a year since I became actively involved in the production of the *Gay Era*, first as a member of the Editorial Board. It has been a year of substantial improvement in format and content, and a great deal of experimentation. It has been a year of sorely missed deadlines and production hassles which frequently caused those missed deadlines. It has been a year of many changes, and certainly no less can be said for either the movement or my life in the same time period. The future, I believe, holds more of the same.

I believe our content improves with every issue, and, the fates willing, it will continue to do so as we go on. We have added, and hopefully will continue to add, better and better artists and writers to our list of contributors. As editor, I will strive to continually improve our quality. I also intend to continue to experiment, as no issue so far has fully satisfied me once it came back from the printer (and more about printers later).

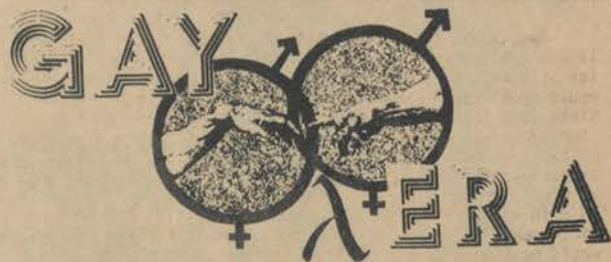
I wish I could guarantee that missed deadlines would cease to exist. If deadlines were ignorable, I'd ignore them just to see if they'd go away. At the moment there seems to be no miraculous cure for missed deadlines in sight, and no other logical alternative than to quietly accept their existence and continue hoping for the best. The facts of the matter are these. The *Gay Era* is put out by a small number of people; only a fraction of the persons listed on the masthead are actively involved in the month-to-month production of the paper, and each of us is additionally attempting to cope with full-time (or more) employment elsewhere, as the paper cannot afford to pay even a fraction of subsistence living wage. This condition is not unknown in alternative news publishing, and I'm not trying to make it sound unique; but most gay papers are produced in larger cities and thus have larger staffs of volunteers to cope with the myriad chores involved. As it stands now, small mess-ups in our private lives (such as recent homophobic employer actions against several of our staff members recently) throw major monkey-wrenches into our operation. Lack of sufficient time is another large factor.

Another problem with our location in a comparatively small community is the repressive and occasionally hostile atmosphere. Since we've switched to newsprint for budgetary reasons, there have been numerous hassles with our new printer. Oddly enough there do seem to be some things which capitalists feel enough moral righteous indignation about that they won't do them for \$\$\$\$. They will support immoral, corrupt, fascist leaders, but get squeamish about supporting the civil rights of their fellow taxpayers (I don't explain it; I just tell about it). Two issues ago, our attempt to print our artsy-fartsy supplement was squelched in a deadline-breathing-down-our-necks run-in with the printing firm's owner over a graphic by Ken Burke. He considered it "pornographic." We weren't even aroused. Since we had nothing to substitute for it and only two hours remained before our copy had to be in, we dropped the supplement entirely. His refusal to take our money and print the graphic was more forcefully expanded a month ago into "Find another printer!" which we are now in the process of doing. Last issue we did print a portion of the supplement, which I feel contained some far more "explicit" graphic material than Burke's "porno" graphic. Hopefully Burke's pencil drawing will grace our pages very soon, and readers can decide for themselves.

(The thought also comes to mind that if we were a religious publication, our puritan friend would offer no resistance if we prepared a layout of reproductions of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling frescoes. And the work of that homosexual artist has more tit and cock hanging out than you can shake a stick at—if that's your idea of a good time.)

In any case, the screw up over page sizes two issues ago, and bad mounting of the last issue, in addition to their behavior, leave us with no remorse (except, perhaps, financial) over parting company with them. But the search for a new printer could also cut drastically into the time we need to prepare the paper. It seems missed deadlines are simply going to be a matter of course for the time being. C'est le guerre.

As to the future. We hope that we can permanently offer a 24-page issue, as we did last time; more pages pleases us, except that it consumes more time. We are definitely going to need help to carry this out. As I noted earlier, the paper is put out by only a small portion of the individuals listed on the staff page. The others contribute, but even the most regular contributors are sporadic in their output. We need more (regular) contributors, and on a variety of subjects. Right here in Lancaster, we are in need of news writers, layout help, and are urgently in need of at least



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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one advertising representative (more from other communities would also be a help). Regular columnists on specific subjects (i.e.: health, religion, music, etc.) would be nice. Remember, the Gay Era is your newspaper; help us make it even better for you.

HL

Once again the Neanderthals of the Pennsylvania Legislature are trying to cast the state's gay population into the tar pits with the introduction of Senate Bill 83. This bill would prohibit homosexuals from working in a broad range of state jobs related to social services. Deemed necessary "for the public health, welfare and safety of the citizens of the Commonwealth" the bill goes so far as to call for imprisonment of anyone who hires a person who is homosexual or even inclined towards homosexuality.

In light of Pennsylvania's pressing social and financial problems one would think that these back-state bigots would have long since abandoned this perverse pastime, in order to apply their limited talents to more productive goals. But let's face it, no one expects moral or intellectual giants to be hanging around the State House. That is the place where petty tyrants become the currency of local business interests. An occasional few good people become folk heroes in contrast. Most are the garbage which is produced by our culture's faulty educational and family structure; one which has failed to create individuals with an ethical system based on rationality, human values, and responsibility. We may have to tolerate their presence for the time being, until treatment or replacement is possible, but we need not tolerate the injustices which their boring lives require of them.

In 1975 Senate Bill 196, which provided for similar measures, passed both Houses of the Legislature and was vetoed by Governor Shapp. The Senators and Representatives came very close to overriding the Governor's veto. This time they may succeed, and such success might prove to be the spring board for even more repressive anti-gay legislation.

Only the belief that they enjoy the approval of their constituency permits these men to continue their efforts; of course the Bible-thumpers and those obsessed with this endeavor will be there to cheer them on, but the threat that a sizable portion of the voters disapprove may cause them to hesitate and dampen their eagerness to be visible supporters of such legislation.

Only you can cause these men to hesitate by making them aware of our presence as a political force. The Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus is urging all gays and other citizens interested in upholding civil liberties to call and write their legislators to make their opposition to the bill known. We of the Gay Era staff urge you to follow the steps this group has outlined.

J.W.

Printer's No. 83

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 83

Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY NOLAN, MURRAY, ROSS, SMITH AND STAPLETON, JANUARY 4, 1977

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 4, 1977

MEMORANDUM

To: Persons interested in opposing anti-homosexual legislation.
From: Joseph Burns, Mary NanCarrow, Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus.
Date: January 18, 1977.
Subject: Senate Bill No. 83.

On January 4, 1977, five state Senators introduced Senate Bill 83 which prohibits homosexuals from being hired for specific state employment. These jobs include:

- 1) State policemen,
- 2) State correctional guards or staff,
- 3) Correctional counselors,
- 4) State probation officers,
- 5) Officers, nurses, and staff for any state institution dealing with mental illness and mental retardation, and
- 6) Officers and staff for any state in-

stitution which treats or rehabilitates individuals suffering from physical handicaps.

We can only conclude that these jobs were chosen because of the unfounded stereotypes about homosexuals, common in our society. It is important that we respond to this bill now because many legislators will assume that this bill represents the general sentiment of most Pennsylvanians. This is the only organized effort opposing the bill.

I urge you to take the following steps to oppose this bill:

- 1) Write to the following Senators who sponsored the bill voicing your opposition:
Senator Joseph Smith, Chairperson, State Government Committee.
Senator Thomas Nolan.
Senator Martin Murray.
Senator James Ross.
Senator Patrick Stapleton.
Address: Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg,

AN ACT

1 Prohibiting the employment of certain individuals in positions designated by the General Assembly and providing a penalty.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Definitions.

5 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall

6 have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the

7 meanings given to them in this section:

8 "Homosexual." One who is inclined to or who practices or
9 engages in sexual or erotic activity with a member of one's own
10 sex.

11 "Individuals convicted of sex crimes." Any individual
12 convicted of violations of Chapter 31 of Title 18 of the
13 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes (relating to sexual offenses)
14 or violations of the prior act of June 24, 1939 (P.L. 872,
15 No. 375), known as "The Penal Code" insofar as they related to
16 sex connected offenses.

17 Section 2. Certain hiring prohibited.

18 (a) Notwithstanding any law or executive order or directive
19 to the contrary, no individual or governmental agency having the
20 power to hire individuals to fill vacant positions shall hire
21 any homosexual or individual convicted of a sex crime to fill
22 any of the following positions:

23 (1) State policeman.

24 (2) State correctional guards or staff.

25 (3) Correction counselors.

26 (4) State probation officers.

27 (5) Officers, nurses and staff for any State institution
28 dealing with mental illness and mental retardation.

29 (6) Officers and staff for any State institution which
30 treats or rehabilitates individuals suffering from physical
31 handicaps.

32 (b) Any individual who violates the provisions of subsection

33 (a) shall be dismissed from their position and be guilty of a
34 summary offense and subject to a fine of \$300 and imprisonment
35 of 90 days.

36 Section 3. Construction.

37 This act is deemed to be and shall be construed to be a sound
38 exercise of those residual police powers inherent within this
39 Commonwealth and necessary for the public health, welfare and
40 safety of the citizens of this Commonwealth.

41 Section 4. Effective date.

42 This act shall take effect immediately.

L7155JLW/1977D03350

- 2 -

Pennsylvania 17120.

2) Call the Governor's Hot Line—toll free number 800-932-0784 and tell them you want these five Senators to be told of your opposition to the bill.

3) Call ten friends and ask them to do the same.

4) Print this information in your local organizational newsletter.

5) Write to your own Senator and representative telling them to vote against the bill.

For more information about this legislation call Barry Kohn, (215)-238-7351.

Please make your opposition known today since we understand that some legislators want to move this bill through the legislature quickly.

If you have an extra stamp we would appreciate receiving copies of your letters for future use. Send them to Joe Burns, 1136 Walnut Street, Allentown, PA 18102.

PA RURAL

GAY RESOURCE LIST

ALLENTOWN

Rube's (bar), 844 Hamilton Street.
Stonewall (bar), 28 N. 10th Street.

ALTOONA

LaPiere (bar), Corner 6th & Union Ave.

BERWICK

The Steppes (private club), Hotel Berwick,
300 Market Street 18603, (717)-752-2282.

BETHLEHEM

Le-Hi-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,
(814)-886-9931.

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 St.

HARRISBURG

Ark (bar), 32 S. Front St, Steelton.
Dandelion Tree (bar), 400 N. 2nd St.
D-Gem (bar), Front Street.
Dignity, Box 297, Federal Square Station,
17108.
Gay Community Services, Box 297, 17108.
Golden Coach (bar), 4309 Linglestown Rd.
Harrisburg Gay Switchboard, (717)-234-0328.
Integrity/Greater Harrisburg, Box 3809,
17108.
Metropolitan Community Church/Central
Pennsylvania, 1001 N. Spring Street,
Apt. I-2, Middletown.
Neptune's Lounge (bar), 268 North Street.

INDIANA

Homophiles of Indiana University of Pa.,
Box 1588, Indiana University, 15701.

LANCASTER

Church of the Brethren/Mennonite Church
Gay Caucus, Box 582, 17604.
Erotic Forum (porno), 227 N. Prince St.
Fiddler (bar), King & Prince Streets.
Gays United Lancaster, 3002 Marietta Ave.
17601, (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

MARCUS HOOK

Captain Jack's (bar), Market Street.

George's (bar), Market Street.
Paradise (bar), Market Street.

MARIETTA

Railroad House Hotel Ltd. (restaurant, bar)
Front & Perry Streets, 17547,
(717)-426-9811.

NEW HOPE

Cartwheel (bar), Rt. 202 West.
January's Inn, 218 Aquetony Road, Solebury.
New Hope Diner, 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), 8th & Walnut Streets.

SCRANTON

DeMitrì 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, Monday thru Sunday,
7-9:00 p.m.
Homophiles of Penn State, Box 218, 16801.
Metropolitan Community Church, all mail
c/o Homophiles of Penn State.
My-Oh-My Bar, 128 E. College Avenue.
Scorpion Lounge (downstairs), 119 South
Burrows, (814)-238-7914.

STROUDSBURG

The Blue Bugle (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, Millbourne.

WEST CHESTER

Gays of West Chester, Box 2302, West
Chester State College, 19380.

WILKES BARRE

Tiffany (bar), Park and Lehigh Streets.

WILLIAMSPORT

Homophiles of Williamsport (HOW),
Box 1072, 17001, (717)-322-7987.

YORK

Altland's Ranch (Sunday bar), 10 miles
west off Rt. 30.
14 Karat (bar), West Market Street.
Town Tavern (bar), 41 N. George Street.

apf



THE GODDESS OF DEATH

Standing on top, she soon looked down.
To the billions of people spinning
round and round.
From her royal parlor in her royal chair
her evil eyes glittered through her
auburn hair,
and settled to a stare.

Something clutched me by the arm
a hard, cold touch resembling harm,
I turned, holding my breath, and stared
to the eyes, that so frightfully glared,
of her royal highness, the goddess of death.

She asked me a question in a blood curdling
tone
that parted her lips, and shook the throne.

"Does it matter when people die?
and the living, do they laugh and
others cry -
all asking the question why.
Does it matter when people die?"

I replied,

"One less flower grew this spring
nobody laughed and nobody cried
can't you see that summer will bring,
many more,
to replace those flowers that died?"

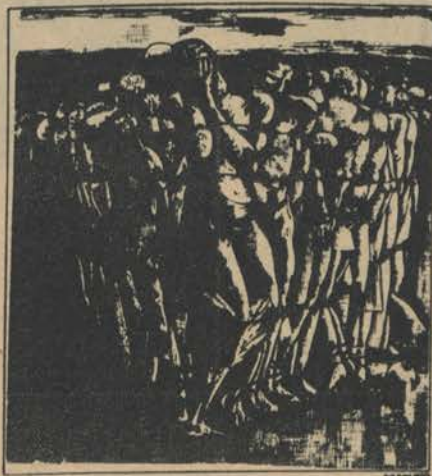
This answer, I gave her, quickly enraged her
she started to curse, then cried, relaxed
and fell aside.
A moment passed, she drank from a flask
as her evil eyes glittered through auburn
hair
and settled to a stare in the direction of
her royal highness the goddess of birth.

And as the phenomenon faded away
she sat cursing the earth and the goddess
of birth,
as she shifted her crown ashamed to look
down.

Randall Sauder

Let's just say that I
was brought
by the delicacy of your
thought
to reach out to things
that you know,
to in my own way - grow.

Randall Sauder



THE LOOK OF LOVE

You must take your mind and look into mine
without shame,
To mold our minds together as one,
And to know they're combined infinitely.

If you find yourself unable to talk
with a loved one,
Look into his eyes,
and the sudden revelation will fill
the heavy silence.

Randall Sauder

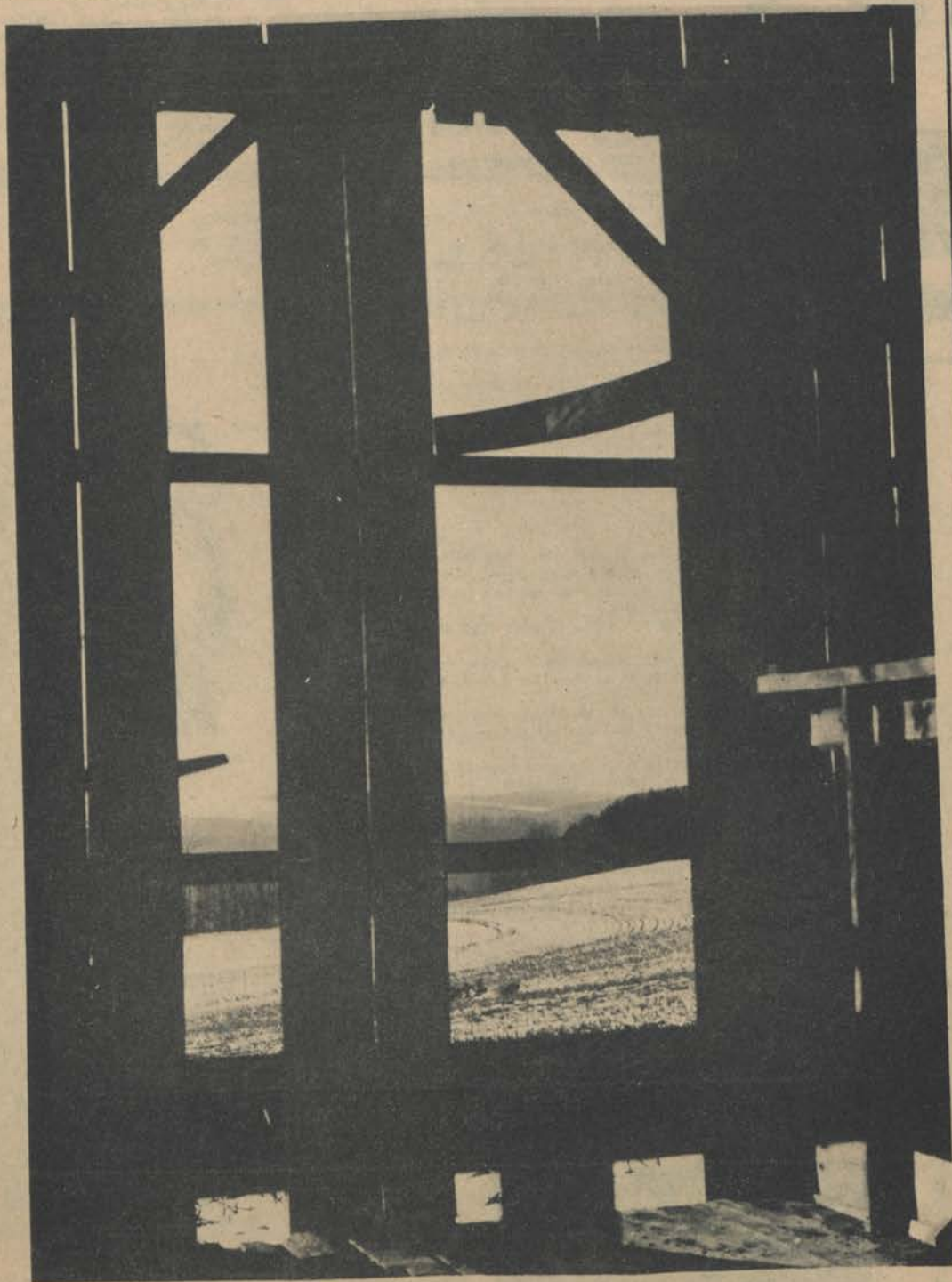


cpf

IN SEARCH OF MYSELF

In search of myself
I found a friend
Through the ravines of my darkness
I heard his soul
He has taught me
That free is sharing the day with
a butterfly
Is sharing the night with its own blackness
He has taught me
That friendship is the sole constant in life
To accept unquestioned
That in that constant lies
total sharing
pure understanding
He has taught me
To seek my God-being
And he
of my learning
and wanderings
and tears
and smiles
Has built a glistening cathedral in the mist
He has sung to me the songs of his silence
And with him I can pierce the smoky depths
of my mind
Or mask a mood
He has led me
Beyond the mirages for the moment
To behold true beauty
He is beauty
In my darkness
He came to me
Bringing the light-birth-explosion
That is dawn
And in the rays of a fuller day
We see in the sun
That we are one.

Randall Sauder



Winter Lines

*Photographs by
Bari*

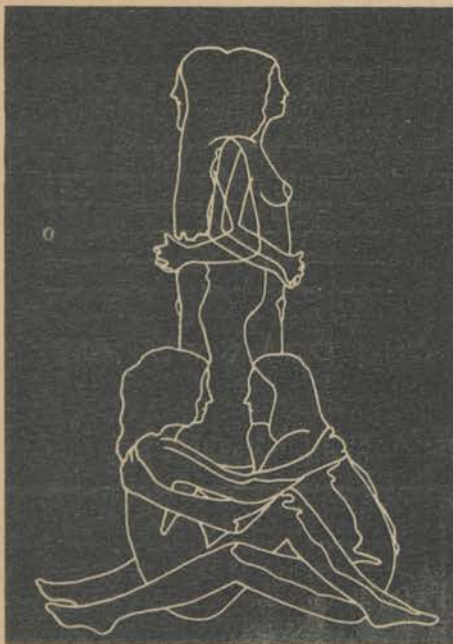


October's Imp



Lashay





I stopped at the bar again today for a couple of beers. I'd just gotten off from work, and I felt lousy.

"Hey Dutch, give me another one."

I laid my dollar on the bar, and was given a mug of cold draft beer. That's when I saw her.

"Who's the new kid?"

"Her? She's down here from New York. Cute, ain't she?" Dutch wiped off the bar and grinned at me.

"She'll do." I got off the bar stool and walked over to her. "Hi, honey. Anything you like? Dutch!" I motioned for the bartender.

"I'll have a sloe gin and soda." Her voice was surprisingly smooth and cool.

I paused to take a look at this stranger. She had long blonde hair, crisp blue eyes, and was dressed in a black velvet gown. Not bad, I thought. Not bad at all.

I was startled out of my reverie by two straight men hassling a woman. Not being one to just stand by and watch, I thought I'd put a stop to it.

"Hey, what do you think you're doing? You don't belong in here anyway. Get the hell out!"

"And who're you to tell me what to do, butchie?"

"Fuck you, Mister! I'm telling you, get the hell out!" By this time I was boiling mad. I picked the one guy up and not so gently escorted him to the door. By this time, the whole bar had heard the commotion, and the place was as quiet as a tomb. I could see Barney, the owner, and Rocky, the bouncer, making their way over. This bar was not known for catering to women anyway, and the woman they liked the least was me.

"Just what's going on here?"

"These men are bothering her; I just thought I'd put a stop to it."

"Yeah, well, if you've got anything to discuss, discuss it outside." Barney walked away. The other straight guy sneered at me. I shot him a look that spit icicles. His smile faded, as he rapidly backed toward the door and left.

I turned to find the black velvet woman at my side. She smiled.

"Thank you very much for helping my sister." Then, softly, "Thank you very much!"

"Ah, listen, where are you and your sister staying? I mean, do you know the city?"

"My sister has a place to stay. I thought I'd rent a hotel room somewhere in town."

"Don't bother. We'll go out to eat tonight, and I'll let you stay at my place. Good enough?" She smiled and nodded. I leaned over to kiss her cheek.

"Okay, none of that. If you want to do that, leave!" I had forgotten Rocky was

standing there.

"Okay, alright already!" I said goodbye to her sister, and we left.

As we drove toward the restaurant we were silent. Then I remembered I'd forgotten something. "Hey, what's your name?"

"Anthony. Rita Anthony."

"Toby Beardsley."

"Glad to meet you, Toby." She smiled and placed a soft hand on my neck. Suddenly I found myself sweating profusely. Watch it, woman, I told myself. Steady now.

"Ah, ahem! Why don't we, ah, eat at this, ah, place up ahead?" I stammered.

"Fine." She stroked my neck and the back of my head. Please God, I prayed, do not let me do anything. Not here!

She must have sensed my thoughts, for she removed her hand and sank back slowly in the seat. "I sure am hungry!"

"So am I!" Not for food, though, honey, I thought.

I parked the car and helped her out.

All through the meal she talked, about herself, her sister, New York, the people she knew. I heard it all through a dim haze, and ate as though I was in a dream.

"What do you think?" I started. I had not heard what she was talking about.

"Huh?"

"What do you think?"

"About what?"

"You mean I sat here and talked to you for half an hour and you didn't hear me?"

"Sorry, honey, I'm just tired."

"Maybe we'd better go home and go to bed. I'm tired too." She yawned and stretched. I thought I'd die.

"If you're through eating."

"I am." She yawned again.

"Okay." I paid the bill and we left. As we got to the car she stopped and put her arms around me.

"Thank you so much for the meal. And I don't know where I would have stayed had you not come along." She kissed me on the lips, and I held her close, feeling as though I might faint.

"Ah, sure, think nothing of it." I leaned over and opened the car door for her. "Let's go," I whispered.

We spent the night together. I'd never met a woman like that in my life! She knew exactly what to do and when to do it. Finally, I fell asleep the next morning, exhausted. It's women like that that make me glad I'm a woman.

I woke up to a huge breakfast and to Rita, standing there leaning over me. "Your employer called. I told him you weren't feeling well and would he please allow you the day off. He said he would."

"Shit, honey, I gotta work." I muttered as I woke. "I can't afford to stay home. I need the money."

"Come on. One day won't hurt. Eat your breakfast." She smiled.

I got out of bed and staggered to the table.

"What are we doing today?"

"Since I'm home sick from work, nothing."

"Aw, come on. Let's go see a movie."



women on the subway



"I told you, I'm almost broke. I should have gone to work today." She looked hurt. At once I regretted my harsh words. "Okay. What movie do you want to see?"

"It doesn't matter to me."

She left for New York the day before yesterday, staying at my place for the two weeks she was here. I'll soon be going up to see her.

I've never met a woman like her. Most of the women at the bar play games with my head. She was perfectly honest, and didn't try to use me for anything. When I go to see her, I hope to ask her to live with me.

I arrived at the airport at 5:20 a.m. She was there waiting.

"Hi love, how was your flight?"

"It was alright. I'm tired, honey, let's go home." She smiled and took me out to her car.

"What's there to do here?"

"Everything and anything you want."

She took me on a guided tour of the more prominent sights of Manhattan. We arrived home late. I thought I'd take the opportunity to ask her about us.

"Rita, how would you like to have someone to live with?"

"Sure, who do you have in mind?"

"Just me."

"That's enough. Incidentally, I've done some research. You can transfer your job to here. New York is so much larger. Wouldn't you enjoy living in New York? A woman like you should be fond of the city."

I was taken by surprise. "But where would we live?"

"That's up to you. This place is too small. We should be able to find a good place at a decent price. My cousin's a real estate agent."

"Alright, but I'm not too sure about this."

"Don't worry, honey, it'll be fine. I know New York. You'll have your job. And you'll have me."

I smiled. "If you say so."

I've lived in New York over ten years now. My days with Rita become happier and happier as each one passes. I've been promoted to assistant supervisor at my job and I'm finally fulfilled. No more barhopping, no more lonely nights. I've waited years for this. All my life, in fact. Having a home is important to me. Having a job is important to me. But most of all, being able to be with a woman who loves me is important to me. I'm happy.

- by Dale Masters

THE WEEK THERE WERE NO QUEERS

by Andrew McCord

Once upon a time something happened that no one understood. It was very strange and mysterious and upset people so much that they refuse to talk about it to this very day. But it happened all the same and this is the true story.

One day, on a day not unlike today, the world woke up as usual. The sun was shining, the birds were chirping, and all was well in the world. Or was it? As the people left their houses and went about their chores, it became clear something was wrong.

As people went to work, they noticed the subways were slower than usual. And for some reason there were only half as many trucks on the streets than there usually were.

But that wasn't all that was strange. The libraries were in chaos. The police were short staffed. The telephone service was worse than ever. And advertising agencies had to meet deadlines with only a partial staff.

But stranger things than that had happened. Bloomingdale's was closed. Times Square was suddenly dull. The Vatican was deserted. And the Pope had disappeared. (The papers politely reported he had gone to the waters for his health, but there were no pictures.)

And when people noticed there wasn't a beauty parlor open anywhere to be seen, people began to wonder.

Then suddenly on a crowded street a small boy whispered what was on everyone's mind. "The queers have gone," he whispered.

"Johnny, be quiet," his mother fumed. "But the queers have gone," he stated even more emphatically. A man overheard the little boy and said to a total stranger next to him, "Did you hear the news? The queers have gone."

And as the news began to spread the street grew more and more crowded and the people started to laugh uneasily. "Good riddance to bad rubbish," an old businessman said haughtily, to which his wife replied, "I'm more than a little surprised to see you still here."

At work everyone took notice of who was there and who wasn't. At night everyone rushed home to see television and to find out what had happened. Unfortunately, some of their favorite newscasters were not there to report the story.

One channel carried street corner interviews of passersby.

"Well, it's one way to solve the population problem," said an old man in a shiny silk suit.

"I disagree," said a serious young college student. "They don't cause the problem, so of all people they should be the last to go. In fact, the best way to solve the population problem now appears to be gone."

"Where could that many people go?" wondered a young mother. "I just don't understand it."

"I don't notice any difference," said an old lady in sunglasses.

"It certainly isn't responsible for a large group of society to desert their various functions at such a crucial point in our nation's history," said a local politician planning to run for higher office.

"Well," said an attractive young girl, "I kind of miss them. They were fun to have around. And I don't know what I'm going to do about my hair," she laughed.

"Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of my son Arthur," quietly said a distraught woman while holding back her tears, "please call his mother. It's not like Arthur to stay away without calling."

"I wonder where they are," a twenty-seven year old man said. "And," he smiled, "I wonder what they're doing."

The reporters on television reported that since nearly thirty percent of all government employees had disappeared, some Senators were calling for a full investigation. And it was more than a little embarrassing that the governor of one of the largest states had vanished.

The President had no comment. But he said it in person.

And the queers did not come back the next day. Or the next. As the days wore on, people began to feel that the world was duller than it was before. What plays there were were not exciting. Athletic competitions suffered because of the absence of some of the most important players. Clothes became less imaginative and more drab. It seemed as though the colors were taken out of the world.

There were fewer entertaining people around. Life became monotonous. Business suffered and even IBM ran less efficiently because there were fewer employees. And strangely, crime rates did not decrease with the decrease in population.

One day turned into two days and two days turned into three days. Then on the morning of the eighth day, just one week after the disappearance, a miracle happened. The sun shone brighter, the birds chirped happier, and as the people left their homes to do their chores, they found that every beauty parlor in the world had reopened. And every missing queer was back just where he had been a week before. And they all acted as if they had never been away.

Nobody said a word about the past week. Nobody asked them where they were. They were just glad to have them back. But of course they wouldn't say anything of the sort. About queers of all things. But everyone was happy to have them back because, well, that was the way the world was supposed to be.

And that's the true story of the Week When There Were No Queers.

The moral of the story is that the world really has a latent affection for its queers. But don't tell anyone that, or he'll bash your head in.

VIEWPOINTS...



NARROWNESS LIMITS GAYS

"I don't believe you're gay, you can't be," a young interviewer said to me after having spent almost two hours asking me personal questions dating back as far as the day I was born. My second interviewer looked me straight in the eye (no pun intended) and said, "I'm not going to ask you such personal questions or take the approach of the first woman. I want to prove you're normal, as normal as me." These were the first two interviews I had agreed to do which concerned my gayness. To say the least I was shocked. Perhaps I had never really thought of myself as "normal." After all, we are constantly bombarded by a society that claims we are anything but normal. Of course, we sit around and mock such claims as heterosexual naïve. We all know that we do eat and drink and bleed as the rest of the human race. But something rather strange occurred to me recently. Do we really think of ourselves as being normal?

Recently I attended a gay party for which I had decided to wear a dress, nylons, and carry a purse. I also spent a few hours in the beauty parlor. Nothing unusual for a woman. Right? My friends were literally

shocked! While I admit it was quite a shock to see me in a dress, I wondered how much of my friends' shock could be attributed to seeing another side of me, a side that did not fit their stereotype or role image of the dyke they see every night of the week.

I was even more shocked a few nights later when speaking at length with a friend I realized, after all these months, I had an image of her that lacked the depth within her. She had feelings she seldom surfaced and dreams of a better day. I recognized then that the world is spinning so fast I am not aware of it. Day after day we meet the same people but seldom do we really communicate with people with whom we spend nearly half of our lives. It seems we have become our own oppressors because we have locked ourselves within a world of images and stereotypes that are limiting to all of us.

"I feel like I'm dancing with a straight woman!" one friend said at the party. A harmless comment? Perhaps it revealed deeper feelings. Am I any less of a lesbian because I wore a dress? Am I any less or more of myself for the same reason? Have we created our own little society with its rules and roles, as harmful, if not more so, as the straight world? What and where, then, is freedom and liberation?

In such a small gay community it is a pity that we waste our lives trying to find the "perfect" mate rather than just getting to know people, what exists within them and within ourselves. There is more than one side to all of us; something precious, colorful, good, bad, and deep; one side that cannot be limited to simply being "gay." Indeed, what does it mean to be gay?

- C. T. S., ZAP

NEW YORK REVELATIONS

by Tony Russo

It has been a year and a half since I began writing *New York Revelations*, and now it must end. When I wrote my anniversary column in September I said then that I had hoped the column would see a second year. It cannot, because I am making a move out of New York.



By the time this column appears, I will be living in Baltimore working at Johns Hopkins Hospital. As a research associate, I will be conducting sex research at John Money's Psychohormonal Research Unit. All my life I have wanted to work in the area of human sexuality. Finally, the opportunity has arisen.

Of course, I will be working mainly in the area of homosexuality, or at least so it appears. But the fact remains, that I will not be doing nearly the amount of writing that I have done in the past.

It is possible that I may want to write a *Baltimore Revelations* column, but not likely. However, more likely will be news articles from Baltimore.

And talking about news, I might as well mention my last piece of news. Karla Jay and Allen Young, editors of *Out of the Closets: Voices of Gay Liberation and After You're Out: Personal Experiences of Gay Men and Lesbian Women*, will be editing a third anthology. They have announced a call for submissions. The book will be organized around the theme of culture. According to Jay and Young they will be using two established definitions of culture: (1) what one might call the "arts" and (2) culture as anthropologists use the term—that is, the behavior of a particular group of people. "We want to deal with the independent culture of lesbians and gay men and with gay people's contribution to and conflict with mainstream American culture. We also hope to examine our "old" (pre-Stonewall) culture with new eyes (for example, the bars or camp) and to explore what has developed after the Stonewall upheaval."

As regular readers of the gay male and lesbian press, Jay and Young already have some articles on hand that they will be using. However, there are a few topics which they are particularly interested in, such as camp, gay humor, gay people in the theatre, sex roles, gay aesthetics, gay teens, utopian visions, erotica, and cross-cultural conflict (for example, being both Black and gay).

"We do not see culture as distinct from politics. We expect many of these essays to be infused with political comment. We also welcome people's input, ideas and suggestions. In addition, we are especially anxious for any ideas on a title (and subtitle) for the collection. If anyone has any articles, or can suggest another writer's article which is already completed, either published or unpublished, send it to us. Some of the essays in this book will already have appeared in the gay press and elsewhere, but much of the book will be original work. All contributions will be paid for."

For further information regarding the book write Karla Jay, 2785 Broadway, Apt. L5, New York, NY 10025, or Allen Young, R.F.D. 2, Orange, MA 01364.

As a final note, I would like to encourage people to become involved in the gay movement. If you are not a writer, but find some news of interest or feel that you would like to say something, write in and submit it to some gay publication. One does not need a B.A. in literature to be able to write. In the movement there is room for every type of person, be it writers, lawyers, doctors, envelope lickers, typists, etc. So, try your talent. The movement can use a new person. If you have not already joined in, join now.

Well, I guess that is it. No sense in long good-byes.





CURMUDGEON

by Harry H. Long

For those of you who have been taken by a certain gay glossy's recent spread on Philadelphia, it might be wise to consider the following news item from the city of brotherly love before deciding on moving there. Two years ago, what began as a simple cigarette run turned into a night of horror when Edward Parke found himself beaten, kicked and hounded by two of Mayor Rizzo's finest in plain clothes, who had decided that evening to emulate certain University of Pennsylvania jocks who add queer-bashing to their extracurricular sports activities.

And Parke found that the evening will not remain only a memory for him. Though both officers were subsequently convicted of assault, they remain on the force, undisciplined, and one has even taken to harassing Parke with eerie tactics. The Philly police authorities refuse to take any actions to stop the harassment.

It started in September of 1974 when Parke, then 27, dropped into a Philadelphia store to buy a pack of cigarettes. Patrolling the area were Officers Daniel Judge and Gerald Salerno, plain clothes vice squad police who admit they were drinking heavily that night (on duty). When Parke emerged from the store, he was approached by Salerno and the two agreed to "mess around." Parke got into Salerno's car and they drove to a secluded spot while Judge followed in another vehicle.

Once parked, Salerno told Parke he was under arrest, but did not identify himself as a police officer, so Parke, fearing he was about to be mugged, bolted from the car. When Salerno dove after him, he hit his head on the curb (which both officers later tried to blame on Parke). Parke escaped, only to be trapped back in his own car by Officer Judge, who not only threatened to kill if he tried to escape, but also neglected to identify himself as a police officer. Judge arrested and handcuffed Parke, while being joined by two other officers who watched while Judge beat Parke up. Salerno soon arrived and joined in on the beating, kicking the handcuffed man when he fell to the pavement.

When a crowd began to develop, Parke was taken to a nearby police station where,

still handcuffed, was beaten again by Officer Salerno, who further neglected to tell him why he had been arrested (perhaps because he was too preoccupied). Only later was he charged with resisting arrest, aggravated assault and prostitution.

Parke's attorney lodged charges of assault against the officers, but the Philadelphia District Attorney's office did not act on these charges for a full year. In that time, Parke came to trial and Salerno testified with a report filled with inconsistencies. Officer Judge then took the stand with a report substantially different from Salerno's. The judge acquitted Parke of all charges. The DA's office continued to sit on its hands until the police had finished their own internal investigation.



When the police investigation decided that no disciplinary action should be taken against the pair, the DA's office then swung into immediate, decisive action, charging the officers with assault, aggravated assault and conspiracy.

The first judge to hear the charges simply decided that Parke must be lying and dropped the charges. One prosecutor found this action legally improper. The two officers were thus charged again, brought to trial last June, and found guilty of assault. One would assume that this action would end the careers of both police officers and Parke's harassment as well. Guess again.

The police department still refused to take any disciplinary actions. Nonetheless, Officer Salerno took it upon himself to carry out a vendetta against Parke. Secretaries at Parke's TV station office looked out their window beginning in July (after the convictions) to see a police van parked in front of the window, with Salerno glaring through the glass at Parke. The officer made repeated visits to the window to simply stand and glare. The secretaries told one reporter that the visits gave them "chills" and that they seemed "unreal."

Police records revealed that Salerno was not assigned to patrol the sector where Parke's office is located, and that the visits had also been made while the officer was off duty. The police department took

no action against Salerno other than transferring his beat to a further distant part of town. The two officers have also gone about appealing their convictions. Parke has stated he may file a civil suit because of the harassment.

Anyone want to join me in a rousing chorus of "Philadelphia Freedom"?



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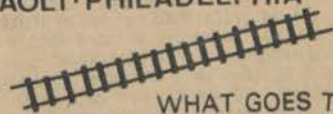
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SUSAN SAXE

(The following statement was written by Susan Saxe on the occasion of her court appearance in Boston on charges brought against her by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.)

January 17, 1977

To My Friends,

In my statements to the straight press about why I pled guilty to the charges in Boston, I said that I did it for one reason only—that it was the course of action that would get me out of jail soonest. This is true, but I feel I owe some further explanation to the people who supported me and who share my struggle.

OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE IS THIS POINT: THIS WAS NOT A "DEAL." I DID NOT GIVE THE STATE ANYTHING FOR THE "REDUCED SENTENCE" EXCEPT MY OWN GUILTY PLEA. I REMAIN ABSOLUTELY FIRM IN MY STAND OF NON-COLLABORATION. I WILL NEVER TESTIFY AGAINST ANYONE FOR ANY REASON OR GIVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENTS OF 1970 OR ABOUT ANYONE I MAY HAVE KNOWN DURING THE TIME I WAS UNDERGROUND. FURTHERMORE, I WILL NEVER ABANDON MY POLITICAL COMMITMENTS IN RETURN FOR FAVORS FROM THE STATE. I DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF THE STATE TO A SINGLE DAY OF MY LIFE, BUT I DO RECOGNIZE ITS POWER TO TAKE THAT AND MORE. THIS GUILTY PLEA WAS A TACTICAL DECISION BASED ON THAT REALITY.

We who define ourselves politically, whether as feminists or radicals (or any of the labels attached to those politics), are responsible not only for the personal consequences of our acts but for the political consequences. We are and should be accountable to one another. Therefore, I'd like to explain step by step to you the process that led me to this difficult choice.

First of all, I should start by explaining that in 1970 I did commit illegal armed actions aimed against property and wealth. These actions came from a sense of outrage against the injustices of sexism, racism, and imperialism, and particularly the immediate and pressing crisis of the Vietnam War. Without getting into a complex discussion of the theoretical and tactical pros and cons of armed struggle, I can still say that the politics that led me to those actions have not faded but ripened into a deeper commitment and understanding.

I do not believe that the same criminals who perpetuate and profit from war, repression, and exploitation have the right to judge and punish those who resist. That is the fundamental principle upon which I hope anyone's support for me is based. I have never attempted to gain support in the movement or elsewhere on any other claim.

Just to briefly put things in chronological order, I was captured in Philadelphia in March, 1975. In June 1975, I pled guilty in

Federal court to charges of armed robbery and destruction of government property on the condition that the government guarantee never to attempt to compel me to testify against or give information about anyone who may have associated with me or knowingly or unknowingly harbored me from 1970 to 1975. In addition, the Federal government agreed to call off an investigation that could have led to a grand jury attack on the women's community in Philadelphia. After that, I was removed to Massachusetts to stand trial for armed robbery and murder.

Thanks to the work and organizing done by my friends, the excellent job by my lawyers, and the changing climate of increasing political support, my first trial ended in a hung jury. Stung by a humiliating defeat in what had been billed as "an open and shut case," the state promptly moved to insure that the second trial would not end up the same way. A new judge was assigned, a man with a reputation for harshness in sentencing and a propensity for tilting cases toward conviction through the most heavy-handed methods. In addition, all the ground rules of the first trial, particularly the ones that had enabled us to select some sensitive and unprejudiced jurors with the courage to question the absolute authority of the judge and prosecutor—all these were thrown out, and it became increasingly clear that the new rules would slant even more heavily against us than the rules of the first trial.

Meanwhile, the prosecutor and the judge, who had at first refused even to consider a plea agreement for anything but second-degree murder (which carries a life sentence, meaning parole eligibility after 15 years if the parole board decides to let you go—not likely in the case of a political prisoner), decided to offer a charge of manslaughter and a sentence of 12 to 14 years. The main reason for this change was the public support generated by my friends. Their efforts turned around the lynch-mob atmosphere in Boston which before the first trial made any offer by the prosecutor politically unsupportable in the face of public opinion against me. By stressing the political nature of the trial and breaking down the media image of me created by the state, this organizing made a blatant railroad harder to conceal or defend, and therefore the prosecution was more inclined to seek another solution. In other words, they could probably still get their conviction, but would no longer look like the big heroes that they had wanted to be, but like the vindictive little men that they are.

In deciding to take their final offer, I weighed the 12-14 year state sentence against the substantial risk of coming out of a second trial with multiple life sentences.

Armed robbery alone carries a life sentence (which I would certainly get from the judge selected for my second trial), and felony murder carries a mandatory "natural life" sentence, which means you never become eligible for parole. I decided that even if there were another hung jury, I would still have 10 years to do on my Federal sentence. The risk, in my opinion and in the opinion of almost everyone I consulted, far outweighed the relatively small amount of additional time.

Equally important to me was the political consideration. I do not intend to defend this choice as politically pure or exemplary. It was, I believe, the best of two bad alternatives. If I had gone through with another trial, I would probably have been convicted. If not, then at the third trial or the fourth...all at great cost in time, energy, and money. Once convicted and sentenced, I would have two legal alternatives. Either I could assume I would never get out and plan a life around total resistance inside the walls. This was the course taken by Stanley Bond (one of my codefendants), who was murdered by the government while imprisoned in Walpole in 1972. The other alternative would be to attempt to reduce the sentence through a protracted campaign in the courts, parole and commutation boards, and other legal and political channels—in other words, by appealing to the mercy and decency of the system. I find this as politically distasteful and counterproductive as I find the other alternative personally distressing.

By pleading guilty I have given the state another 18 months of my life (the difference between my Federal and state parole eligibility dates), possibly more. But at least I have put an upper limit on the time they can get from me. Yes, I'm giving them something they have no right to take. In a sense, it's like paying blackmail—giving them part of my life to keep them from taking the rest.

On the other hand, it's a small victory that even this was possible. Without the energy, love and support of so many people, I would have been railroaded into the maximum sentence in the first trial. If the movement were in a more advanced stage, perhaps we would have been able to push even further. Under different circumstances perhaps no compromise would have been possible or necessary. But for now, at this point in our development, we have done what we could. We fought the state to a standstill, which is a partial victory. We have won back from them the greater part of one woman's life. I want to affirm once again that it is and will continue to be a life dedicated to struggle.

For further information, or if you can help us financially with the legal and other costs involved in the first trial, please contact: Susan Saxe Defense Fund, c/o Phila. Natl. Lawyers Guild, 1427 Walnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19102, OR Susan Saxe Defense Committee, Box 39, W. Somerville, MA 02144.

Copies of Susan's first book of poetry, *Talk Among the Womenfolk*, are available from either location, as are supportive t-shirts, posters, and buttons, all proceeds from which go for her legal costs. We are grateful for your support and feedback.



February 11, 1977

It is my understanding that the length of my sentence is a direct result of my refusal to cooperate with the government by providing information about or testifying against other people who may have knowingly or unknowingly associated with me. The terms of the plea agreement are that the government will never prosecute me for this refusal, and that they would not call a Grand Jury in this city that would have led to the imprisonment of other people who refused to testify. I stand by the terms of this agreement.

THE PRINCIPLES AND COMMITMENT THAT LED TO MY POLITICAL ACTION 6 1/2 YEARS AGO ALSO LED TO MY STAND OF NON-COLLABORATION 2 YEARS AGO AND TODAY. WHATEVER ELSE CHANGES, THAT COMMITMENT WILL ONLY INCREASE.

Susan Saxe



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 FEBRUARY 1977

"Miss Saxe lied throughout her first trial, protested her innocence when she knew she was guilty, and fessed up recently, several hundred thousand dol-

lars of taxpayer money spent on trying her down the drain, several hundred thousand supporters excoriating the American system now (one hopes)

somewhat chastened. Susan Saxe bargained herself into a minimal sentence. the Commonwealth of Massachusetts bargained itself out of a fair trial aimed at proving her guilty of murder in the first degree, and American justice got lost somewhere in the shuffle. . .

"Her most fervent supporters are unmoved by the confession of guilt. As she was led from the courtroom, her supporters rose and gave the clenched fist salute of the movement. Susan's their darling, killer or no; her cause is just — smash the state, overthrow racism - sexism - agism - whateverism, death to the pigs. . .

"We should all be very happy. The militant gays — who are by no means the majority of American homosexuals, but who get the press — can sing the praises of their little heroine and

can, if they like, moan that every day she spends in jail confirms their belief in the system's irremediable inequities. Whatever is left of the ultra-radical Left can gloat that with a little bit of maneuvering one of their very own can kill and pay very little for the privilege. Future would-be-cop-killers can carry a little mini-history of Susan Saxe in their holsters with their guns and trust in the workings of justice to get them a similarly light sentence, provided only that they attach themselves to some worthy cause, like overthrowing American fascism and ushering in the Heaven and Earth favored by such as Susan Saxe. It is a proud day for America." — from an article by David Brudnoy called "Justice and Miss Saxe" in the February issue of Pax Centurion.

BITS 'N' PIECES

ARE YOU READY TO JOIN THE "300 CLUB"?

THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS THAT ONE OF THE MOST EXCLUSIVE CLUBS ON EARTH INCLUDES A HANDFULL OF USUALLY SERIOUS AMERICAN SCIENTISTS CURRENTLY STATIONED AT THE SOUTH POLE.

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ANYONE WHO SURVIVES THE ENTIRE STUNT IN THE BUZZ IS WELCOMED INTO THE "300 CLUB."

- ZODIAC



MIZZ LILLIAN ON GAYS

PHILADELPHIA, PA—Lillian Carter, former Peace Corps volunteer and mother of President Jimmy Carter, learned the word gay recently at a Philadelphia campaign appearance. "He's a—what do you call it?" Ms. Carter asked when talking about her son's hairdresser. "We used to call it a fairy, but there's a new word for it. It's a, it's a..." After a reporter suggested the word gay, Ms. Carter said, "That's it, he's a gay, but he's the best around."

As an afterthought, Ms. Carter told the reporter, "Now don't you print any of that or I'll kill you. His mother doesn't even know."

- Gay Community News

IS YOUR NAME ON A LIST?

WASHINGTON, DC—The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has the names of some 300,000 Americans arrested for sexual acts, in its possession, the Advocate reported last week. The Ford administration's official Rockefeller Commission Report on CIA activities suggests that the names were received from state and local police in exchange for assistance.

The lists would be in violation of the CIA's charter, as the organization is prohibited from engaging in domestic intelligence operations. No reasons were given as to why the CIA was keeping the lists or what the organization intended to do with them.

At least two U.S. police departments—the Washington, DC, and the Los Angeles departments—are known to have sent law enforcement officers to CIA schools. The Washington police department has admitted to keeping lists of gay people since the 1930s and recent reports have substantiated that the Los Angeles police department has done the same.

- Gay Community News

GRNL IN FERMENT

NEW YORK—Los Angeles attorney Ray Hartman has been named to succeed Houston gay activist Gary Van Ooteghem as the co-chairperson of the Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL). Van Ooteghem, who was elected to the post only two months ago, resigned in the wake of dissension over his unauthorized letter to the then President-elect Jimmy Carter. In the letter, Van Ooteghem asked for a meeting with the incoming President.

In a recent interview with News West, Van Ooteghem claimed that he had informed both Ginny Apuzzo, his co-chair at GRNL, and Betty Powell of the National Gay Task Force, of his intentions of writing Carter. He further accused NGTF Co-director Bruce Voeller of leading a campaign against him. However, both Apuzzo and Powell denied approving the letter except in principle. "There just isn't room for one person to take on

the responsibility of unilateral decision-making," Apuzzo said.

However, new co-chair Hartman sees the letter as a "non-issue, a thing of the past." "It's important to move on to other things," he said.

- Gay Community News

INDIANA BACKS ERA

INDIANAPOLIS, IN—Indiana became the 35th state last week to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Supporters of the ERA immediately asserted that the action was a major breakthrough as no state has passed the amendment since North Dakota did so in 1975. The Indiana legislature had twice before rejected the ERA and this time it was passed in the state Senate by a narrow 26-24 vote and in the House by a 54-45 margin.

ERA action is expected in the first few months of this year in North and South Carolina, Florida, Nevada, and perhaps Missouri. 38 states are necessary for the ERA to be adopted.

- Gay Community News

THANKS, WE THINK...

SAN MATEO, CA—Long-known for its advertisements featuring "beefcake males" and its classified section, Trader Dick's, The Advocate is now making a marked effort to attract women readers. The newspaper has established a women's news section called "Womensline" which will zero in on a number of issues of interest to lesbians. Priorities of the new section will include legislative articles dealing with abortion, rape, divorce, and equal employment.

"Beginning last July we decided to analyze much more carefully and deeply gay women's concerns in order to publish more cogent material for them..." wrote Advocate publisher David B. Goodstein in the newspaper's Jan. 26 issue. "Contrary to most myths and much rhetoric, our analysis indicates that gay women demographically are similar to gay men—career-minded, success-motivated, well-educated, affluent, inner directed. Of course, not all gay people



fit this image; but more do than the one picturing us poverty-stricken, emotionally disturbed and angry. Gay women care about their appearance just as gay men care about theirs. Contrary to hetero myths, gay men may be the most 'masculine' of men and lesbians the most 'feminine' of women."

- Gay Community News



"If you start granting amnesty to people for following their conscience, pretty soon everyone will be following his conscience."

GAY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON, DC—The Washington, DC, Gay Activists Alliance is planning a "gay awareness campaign" which will feature posters to be placed on Metrobuses, trash cans, and other locations throughout the nation's capital. One poster depicts a group of people dressed in a variety of clothing styles. The headline reads, "Someone in your life is gay" with a caption that continues, "Think about that the next time you hear us called something else."

- Gay Community News

OLYMPIC OPINIONS

LONDON, ENGLAND—Gay ice-skater and Olympic gold medal winner John Curry has been speaking out about his homosexuality. In an interview with the mass circulation Daily Express, Curry said that he was opposed to all forms of prejudice but that he was not a "militant gay." "I don't talk about sex," he said. "There is a lot of rubbish about gays being extra artistic. I don't think sexuality has any-

thing to do with sensitivity. For every great gay actor there is one who isn't." He said that he hoped that people would come to see his new ice show to see him skate "not to find out if I'm what a Montreal reporter called 'not sufficiently virile.' I'll admit it does hurt when the Sunday Times has the poor taste to hope I don't turn up in pink skates."

- Gay Community News

TWO HOMOSEXUALS DENIED VETERANS' BENEFITS

A U.S. appeals court has ruled that no matter how "wedded" two Minneapolis males might be behind closed doors, they would not be able to get any veterans' benefits for a "dependent spouse." James McConnel and Richard Baker filed suit to be entitled to VA benefits for the "dependent spouse" provision, but their request was denied.

The men were "married" in 1971 by a Methodist minister, but the Minnesota Supreme Court later overturned the request for marriage. The court said that marriage could only be a male-female arrangement.

This previous ruling meant that they were not "legally" married, therefore, the "dependent spouse" benefits could not apply to them.

Baker and McConnel said that "most gays realize that trial courts are worthless as defenders of constitutional equality." Both men take their "marriage" seriously, and considered it to be a very personal affair, since they love each other.

- Jet

NEW JERSEY NEXT?

TRENTON, NJ—The Garden State is expected to be the next state to decriminalize private sexual activities between consenting adults. The New Jersey House has already passed a 185-page reform of that state's criminal code which includes sex law repeal. The state Senate will vote on the package soon and Gov. Brendan Byrne has promised to sign the bill into law if the Senate approves.

- Gay Community News

WHAT!?

NEW YORK—Dr. Ivor Mills, professor of medicine at Cambridge University, warns women's liberationists of physiological consequences. In a recent National Inquirer



article headlined "Aggressive Women's Libbers Risk Both Infertility and Early Menopause," Dr. Mills asserts that "the women go through a personality change and become very aggressive like the male, with an increase in testosterone (the male hormone) and a decrease in estrogen... This imbalance attacks the ovaries, stopping the production of female eggs... thus making the women unable to have children."

"The higher up the ladder of Women's Lib that they have reached," the doctor says, "then their potential for reproduction is reduced...very, very many of these women's libbers grown an excess of hair, both on their chest and on their face, and it is not unusual for them to have to shave every day. If they did not get rid of the excess hair, they would have beards."

- Gay Community News

3 NABBED IN SF MURDERS

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco police have arrested three men and charged them in 35 gay murders in San Francisco over the last 3 1/2 years. The three men—all in their twenties—are being held without bail and charged on a number of counts including murder, robbery, and burglary.

Lieutenant Dan Murphy, head of the San Francisco homicide detail, told the Sentinel, "I hope this will convince the gay community that we are actively working on all the gay-related murders and this nonsense that we don't care about gay people being murdered is totally untrue. Totally untrue."

- Gay Community News

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"SNUFF" ON TRIAL

MONTICELLO, NY—A feminist in Monticello, New York, has gone to court against a movie theatre owner who exhibited the pornographic film "Snuff" last March. The film depicts the dismemberment and murder of a woman as sexual entertainment. Judge Burton Ledina scheduled the obscenity trial for Thursday, Dec. 23.

After viewing the film, Complainant Jane Verlaine filed a criminal information against Monticello theatre operator Richard Dames on March 13, 1976. Judge Ledina charged Dames with obscenity in the second degree. The Sullivan County District Attorney's office then declined to prosecute but allowed Verlaine to retain her own counsel and prosecute the obscenity charge herself.

Women Against Violence Against Women, a feminist group which had already picketed the theatre and collected over one thousand signatures trying to prevent the film's being shown, then raised funds to hire attorney Andrea Moran of Kingston, New York, to represent Verlaine in the case.

The defendants, Richard Dames and Cinemont, Inc., are represented by Monticello attorney Stephen Oppenheim and have waived their right to a trial by jury.

- Gay Community News

**GAY COUPLE DENIED
USE OF CAMPUS CHAPEL**

Two gay men have been denied use of the Eisenhower Chapel, Penn State, for their

Holy Union because of their sexual orientation. Harmony, the Metropolitan Community Church newsletter, reported.

Dr. Rhodes, director of Religious Affairs, notified Shelley Hamilton, MCC Campus Chaplain, that the men would not be allowed to use the chapel but if they were students, one of the chapel lounges could be used for their Holy Union services.

Harmony reported that Rhodes referred to the Holy Union as a "mock wedding" during a conversation with Hamilton. A copy of the ceremony was forwarded to Rhodes with the request to use the chapel.

-ZAP

KOPAY'S BOOK COMING OUT

NEW YORK—Gay football player Dave Kopay's father, in a moment of anger, threatened to kill him if he ever showed his face at home again, Kopay writes in his autobiography, *The David Kopay Story*. The book, co-authored with gay writer Perry Deane Young, will be published by Arbor House late next month. Young is the author of *Two of the Missing*, a reminiscence of Young's friendship during the Vietnam war with two photographers who were captured by the Khmer Rouge and never released.

According to an article in *Christopher Street*, paperback rights to the Kopay book have already been sold and the authors have just sold the rights to produce it as a TV movie. Kopay will make a publicity tour for the book next spring.

- Gay Community News

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GAYS CAN'T COMPLAIN LEGALLY IF THEIR BOSSES DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THEM

If your boss won't promote you because you're a homosexual, you can't sue him over job discrimination in California.

The California Court of Appeals has decided not to amend the state's fair employment law to punish employers who refuse either to employ or promote homosexuals.

The appeals case grew out of a lawsuit lodged by the Gay Law Students Association and the Society for Individual Rights against the Pacific Telephone and the state Fair Employment Practices Commission.

- Jet

The last time I was in Atlantic City, it was 4:00 a.m. and I was leaving a gambling establishment and I yawned and a guy put a quarter in my mouth, pulled my arm down, and you'll never guess where this hunk reached for the jackpot!

G. L. E. E.

Gay Legal Encounter and Exchange (GLEE) is a legal exchange recently formed to provide free legal assistance to gay prisoners incarcerated in all federal and state facilities. GLEE is geared to serve the needs and deal with the problems of the gay prisoner. Some of the services available are research, assistance with the preparation of suits and motions, filing of class action suits, and in some cases non-appointed court representation. For more information write to: Jerry Dighera, Box 2, Lansing, Kansas 66043.

-ZAP

SWITCHBOARDS & AID

HARRISBURG: Mon-Fri. 6-10 pm
717-234-0328

LANCASTER: Wed-Sun. 7:30-10:30 pm
717-898-2876

PHILADELPHIA:
Gay Switchboard, 215-928-1919
Lesbian Hotline, 215-729-2001
Lesbian Teenage Rap Group,
215-247-5659

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

COUNSELING:
Eromin Center
1735 Naudain St., Philadelphia
215-732-3212
Contact (Lancaster, 24 hours)
Call collect, 717-299-4855

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



CALENDAR

EVERY WEEK

Sundays

- 7:30 pm, worship service, Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), State College, Eisenhower Chapel.
- 8:00 pm, worship service, MCC, 1001 N. Spring Street, Middletown.

Wednesdays

- 7:30 pm, communion service, MCC, State College, Eisenhower Chapel. Social following.
- 7:30 pm, prayer meeting, MCC, Middletown.
- 8:00 pm, consciousness raising, MCC, Middletown.
- 8:00-10:00 pm, gay alcoholics group for both sexes meets at Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Sts, Harrisburg.
- 8:30 pm, Lesbian Collective: Women's Resource Center, Beaver & Allen Streets, State College.

Thursdays

- 7:00 pm, Christian Awareness Group meets. Eisenhower Chapel, Room 108, State College. More info call Gayline.

Fridays

- 12:00-1:00 pm, Luncheons for Lesbians, State College. More info call Gayline.



SPECIAL EVENTS

- Feb. 17 - Thursday
8:00 pm, regular HOW meeting, 1005 Packer St. (between Brandon Park & Curtin School), Jack & Lee's home, Williamsport.
- Feb. 18 - Friday
8:00 pm, Dignity monthly Mass & meeting, 6th & Herr Sts, Harrisburg.
- Feb. 23 - Wednesday
7:00 pm, Le-Hi-Ho Bd. of Directors meeting, Bethlehem, info call Ken (215)-264-7770.
- Feb. 27 - Sunday
2:00 pm, Le-Hi-Ho general meeting, guest speaker Barry Kohn, Unitarian Church of Lehigh Valley, 701 Lechauweki Avenue, Bethlehem (Fountain Hill Section).
- Feb. 28 - Monday
8:00 pm, WOW meeting, Women's Center, Lancaster. Any feminist lesbians welcome.
- March 3 - Thursday
8:00 pm, regular HOW meeting, Rene Cobb's apartment, 2 W. Third Street (Market Square), Williamsport.
- March 12 - Saturday
Deadline, Le-Hi-Ho News.
2-5:00 pm, Dignity Workshop on Assertiveness Training; Potluck Supper 5-7 pm; Mass at 7 pm. Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Streets, Harrisburg.

- March 14 - Monday
8:00 pm, WOW meets, Women's Center, Lancaster.
- March 15 - Tuesday
Special HOW meeting, speaker Rev. Ron Wesner, National President of Integrity. For time and location call (717)-322-7987.
- March 17 - Thursday
8:00 pm, regular HOW meeting, 659 Beeber St, Dan Maneval's home, Williamsport.
- March 22 - Tuesday
Le-Hi-Ho Bd. of Directors meets (tentative).
- March 25 - Friday
8:00 pm, Dignity monthly Mass/meeting, Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Sts, Harrisburg.
- March 27 - Sunday
2:00 pm, Le-Hi-Ho general meeting, tentative program on tranvestism, transexualism. Unitarian Church, 701 Lechauweki Ave, Bethlehem.
- March 28 - Monday
8:00 pm, WOW meeting, Women's Center, Lancaster.

HOW - Out-of-town guests are always welcome to HOW functions, whether it be parties, regular business meetings, or special speakers. Overnight accommodations are also extended to same, by any of the officers, for these occasions. HOW is also anxious to host other guest speakers on any topic. HOW regular meetings now consist of approximately a one hour business meeting followed by a social hour, which is usually most enjoyable, relaxing, and includes light snacks & beer.

WOW - Meets every other Monday at 8:00 pm at the Women's Center, 230 W. Chestnut St. Lancaster. Anyone wishing additional info about WOW should contact Molly at 393-4149 in the evening.

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