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JULY 1977

vol. 3 no. 5

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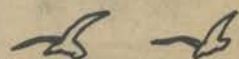
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IN THE NEWS



SODOMY REPEAL LACKS SUPPORT IN PENNSYLVANIA

BY DAVE LEAS
GAY ERA STAFF

HARRISBURG, PA — Approximately 20 people arrived here Tuesday, March 24th for Human Rights Day, a day designated by the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus as a lobbying effort aimed at gaining support for repeal of the sodomy laws in the state of Pennsylvania.

The lobbying effort centered on gaining support from members of the Senate for Senate Bill 531 which would repeal Pennsylvania's sodomy laws. The bill was introduced March 21, 1977 by Sens. Lewis, McKinney, Howard, Gurzenda, Hankins, Arlene, Cianfrani and Reibman. It has been referred to the senate's Judiciary Committee.

In addition to repealing the statute on "Voluntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse," it also would extend the statute of limitations for rape from its present 2 years to 5 years.

The Human Rights Day Committee hoped that every senatorial district would be represented by lobbyists from those districts. Seven workshops were held the preceding Saturday, March 21st in various locations across the state. The workshops were moderately attended in some areas while certain workshops were cancelled due to the lack of interest. The workshop for the Lancaster/York area held in Marietta produced not one attendant.

There was a proposal to cancel Human Rights Day due to the lack of support obvious surrounding the effort. Joe Burns, co-chairperson of the Rural Caucus contacted those who had given support and promised to be present for the event. It was the consensus of the group that Human Rights Day be carried through as planned.

To gain support for the lobbying effort, the Human Rights Day Committee printed and distributed 5,000 pamphlets entitled "We Are Not The Criminals." The pamphlet included a copy of SB 531, an explanation of the bill, information about Human Rights Day, and an appeal for financial support. The pamphlet asked people concerned with the repeal of the sodomy laws as well as extending the statute of limitations for rape to return the blank on the back page to the Committee.

While working on passage of the bill in the state's senate, the Committee anticipates strong opposition in the House of Representatives when it passes the senate and arrives there.

The group is appealing for help in its effort for passage of SB 531 as well as financial support. All inquiries and donations should be sent to: Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus, Box 1505, Harrisburg, Pa. 17105. Donations should be earmarked for the Legislative Committee.

COUNCIL FILES REPORT ON FIRST YEAR PROGRESS

HARRISBURG — After a year of progress better than it had expected, the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities is looking ahead to challenging new goals in 1977.



Gerin A. Linn

The council was established by executive order of Governor Milton J. Shapp following the recommendation from the Task Force on Gay Rights.

In filing the council's annual report for 1976 with Governor Shapp, Tony Silvestre, chairperson, said:

"We've seen tremendous progress in just this past year all across the state. Government agencies are leading the way and both private and public institutions at the local level are following.

"We believed that changing the attitude of people about sexual minorities would be a long and arduous process, but we've been happy about some of the action taken at the state level. Some achievements have come much faster than we anticipated.

"Goals of the council in 1977 include the establishment of employee training and counseling in the state, encouraging repeal of the sodomy laws as it affects both gays and non-gays and the recruitment of open gays into state government jobs."

Silvestre said the council met during 1976 with cabinet level and other state officials to set up programs for education, training and affirmative action in identifying the needs and solving the problems of Pennsylvania's 1.2 million gays and members of other sexual minorities.

Governor Shapp issued a proclamation urging nondiscrimination on the basis of affectional or sexual preference. That proclamation has since become part of the state's personnel rules governing the hiring, firing, and promotion of state employees.

The council encouraged a statement of non-discrimination in the activities of the Department of Public Welfare. Secretary Frank S. Beal then issued a statement of policy prohibiting discrimination against sexual minorities in welfare administration for the entire Commonwealth.

"Actions such as this are filtering down to the local level," Silvestre asserted. "We've seen organizations ranging from rural hospitals to summer camps issuing similar statements of non-discrimination. We feel that this is especially significant because it is being done without pressure from gay or other sexual minority groups."

The council has established a complaint office. The Governor's Hotline (1-800-932-0784) also receives complaints of discrimination and refers them to the council's office, as well as to the appropriate other state agency for handling.

State employees are receiving additional protection through union contracts,

Silvestre continued, with several unions now having contract clauses prohibiting discrimination.

Training and sensitizing sessions have been set up for State Police and corrections officers.

The agency also has been working with members of sexual minorities to try to learn more about the needs of black gays, disabled gays, transvestites, transsexuals and "others who are frequently forgotten by other governmental bodies," Silvestre said.

"There is a stereotype of sexual minority members all being white male gays when, in fact, women and men of all races, political beliefs, ages and economic conditions are included."

The council also has been working with religious organizations to help them become more familiar with the problems of sexual minorities.

During 1977, all this work will continue, the chairperson said. Committees staffed by council members, community representatives and area experts deal with issues of community relations, criminal and juvenile justice, education, employment, finance, health legislation, state police and welfare.

COUNCIL TO INVESTIGATE DISABLED GAYS

PHILADELPHIA — At the May meeting of the Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities, the Rev. Borbe, pastor of the Metropolitan Church of Philadelphia, described the problems and needs of disabled, alcoholic and older gays.

Borbe discussed employment problems arising from discrimination and from indifference. He also noted that Gay groups often use space or rent facilities without considering the needs of handicapped Gays.

Describing the efforts of MCC, Philadelphia, Borbe stated that disabled people are organizing; groups such as Disabled in Action have begun to draw attention to the needs of handicapped persons.

Many individuals are fighting to have alcoholism programs recognize the needs of Gays. Borbe suggested that Gay organizations recognize the needs of alcoholic Gays and support such efforts.

Borbe made five suggestions for the Council on the problems of disabled Gays:

- * a Task Force on Disabled Gays be appointed by the Council;
- * the Council request that agencies for the handicapped deal with the needs of disabled Gays;

*the Council work with organized disabled people to deal with gay issues;

* the Council sponsor workshops and meetings; and

* publish reports in Braille, send Gay bibliographies to institutions and consider the needs of the disabled in securing facilities.

In discussion, the Council members agreed that serious problems existed which were being ignored by the gay movement and state government. It was decided that Tony Silvestre would schedule a meeting between himself and disabled gays in Philadelphia to decide how Council could begin to deal with the problems of handicapped persons.

In other business, the issue of staffing committees led to a discussion of low attendance and a drop off of interest among some council members. Members expressed serious concern about the future functioning of the Council without increased participation and over the tying-up of travel funds by those who do not attend.

Janathan Smith-Cousins announced his resignation from the Council expressing frustration over the racism towards black males from Gay organizations.

Barbara Ruth spoke of the need for a program on S&M because of widespread ignorance and embarrassment over the issue within the gay community. She also read a letter from Dennis Rubini arguing that S&M is not simply a sexual technique but a lifestyle, deserving of attention.

GAY ACTIVISTS BEATEN

LANCASTER, PA — At 2:30 am, June 17, Harry H Long and David Leas, two Lancaster area Gay activists, were assaulted by two men who jumped out of a pickup truck. Long had to be taken to St. Joseph Hospital to be treated for injuries.

Long and Leas were leaving the Tally-Ho (a local Gay bar) at the time the incident occurred. Their assailants had also been in the bar and were reportedly drinking heavily there since they had gotten off work at 6:00 pm the previous evening. The two men were identified as construction workers who are involved in the Tally-Ho's renovations.

The two men were described by several patrons as behaving in a rowdy manner in the bar. One of the men threw beer bottles at Leas' head after an exchange of words between Leas and the man. The man called Leas a faggot and Leas responded by returning the epithet and asking, "How does it feel to be called a faggot?" The man picked up two beer bottles and threw them, missing Leas' head by inches. The two construction workers then left. Long and Leas, thinking the incident was over, finished their drinks and left a few minutes later with a friend.

Outside the bar, Leas went to his car, parked in a lot across the street. As he reached the car, the two construction workers drove around the corner. Spotting Leas, the man who had earlier thrown the bottles, jumped from the passenger side of the truck and went after Leas. Long, his friend and another bar patron ran across the street, reaching the parking lot at the same time as the truck's driver. Both men punched Leas and then the first man turned



on Long, punching him and knocking him unconscious.

While Long was unconscious, the man repeatedly punched and kicked him in the head, while Leas struggled to pull him off. By this time several of the bar's employees had also arrived on the scene and the two men got into their truck and drove off.

Leas had minor bruises and scratches on his jaw and some cuts inside his mouth from being punched. Long sustained scratches around and on his left ear from being kicked, cuts inside his mouth and a gash on the outside of his upper lip which required six stitches to close.

Long and Leas, editors of the GAY ERA had not yet decided at this writing whether they will press charges. They both claim there a lot of political factors, both pro and con, which they must weigh carefully before reaching that decision. Both however are adamant in thier belief that queerbashing, now that it's come to Lancaster, must be stopped.

MCC COMMUNITY CENTER

HARRISBURG, PA — The Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Harrisburg is attempting to establish a Gay Center for the use of MCC as well as other Gay organ-

4
izations. MCC has located property in Harrisburg which they feel is "ideally located," and the group has established a building fund to secure the property. \$5,000 has been set as the fund's goal.

The MCC has stated they must have the money by June 30 to secure financing for the property. Funding institutions will lend only 70% of the purchase price, and the conditions of the sale stipulates 90% must be paid upon MCC's signing of the papers. An unnamed individual has guaranteed an additional contribution of \$3,000 if MCC can raise the \$5,000.

In a fund-raising letter for the project, Arnold M. Hutchings, Exhorter, stated, "The outcome... will be an indication... of your desire to finally unite the gay organizations together, as well as to have a facility that will be open for all Gay Activities and a pride to the community. It also will be our indication of your responsibility to the Gay Community."

The fund-raising drive is an endeavor to secure the down payment, closing cost, moving and refurbishing expenses. The downpayment alone is \$6500. Additionally, since MCC is not chartered in Pennsylvania, it cannot own property outright, so a private owner must sign on behalf of MCC.

The property, formerly owned by the Diocese of Greater Harrisburg, is located in a commercially-zoned section of center city. MCC plans to use the space for their Religious Services and Prayer meetings as well as for CR sessions and counseling services in addition to being available for other gay activities in the Harrisburg area.

Communications should be sent to: Building Fund - MCC, 1001 North Spring Street, 1-2, Middletown, Pa. 17057

STEINMAN'S SURRENDER

After several weeks of negotiations, WGAL Television, Inc. and Feminists for Media Rights have reached an agreement which, if approved by the Federal Communications Commission, will end the FCC's hearing concerning license renewal for WGAL-TV.

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Feminists for Media Rights is a coalition of the Lancaster Women's Center and the Harrisburg and Lebanon Valley Pennsylvania chapters of the National Organization of Women. WGAL Television, Inc. is the licensee of WGAL-TV, channel 8 in Lancaster, PA. On July 1, 1975, FMR petitioned the FCC to terminate the existing common ownership of WGAL-TV and Lancaster Newspapers, Inc., which publishes the Lancaster New Era, Intelligencer-Journal and Sunday News. On December 29, 1976, in partial response to that petition, the FCC designated WGAL-TV's renewal application for a hearing which was scheduled to begin on June 6, 1977, in Lancaster.

Under the terms of their agreement with FMR, the owners of WGAL-TV have agreed to trade or sell the station to a new owner (not yet selected) by December 31, 1981. During the period of time prior to such divestiture, WGAL-TV has agreed to certain commitments to serve the needs and interests of women in its service area, and has agreed to use its best efforts to find a

buyer who will continue the commitments. These include equal employment opportunities for women and minorities; a half-hour prime time public affairs program addressed to the needs and interests of women; increased coverage of women's sports; regular news coverage of stories concerning the interests and problems of women; and the initiation of free speech messages, which are 30-second or 60-second appearances by persons wishing to express a point of view on matters of legitimate concern to the community. In addition, WGAL-TV will establish a women's advisory council, to advise the station on ways in which it can better serve the needs of women; will endow a \$100,000 scholarship fund for women from central Pennsylvania for study or training in technical and other positions in the broadcast industry; and will provide a \$150,000 seed grant to assist the establishment of a non-profit news service to disseminate news and information about the needs and concerns of women.

The agreement is contingent upon approval by the FCC. Both WGAL Television, Inc. and Feminists for Media Rights believe that the agreement will benefit the City of Lancaster and the entire central Pennsylvania area which is served by channel 8.

- Lancaster Women's Center Newsletter

TORONTO GAYS FACE 'BIG BROTHER'

TORONTO — A group of about 20 gay activists showed up at Toronto's Clark Institute of Psychology on June 3 to attend a conference held by the Big Brothers of Metropolitan Toronto called "Screening Sexual Orientation." The conference was called "to provide training for Big Brothers staff members and other social agencies to assist them in identifying people with homosexual and pedophilic tendencies in interviewing." The group of activists entered the session car-



Post Amerikan/cpf

rying a banner that read "Proud to be Gay" and they were there, according to Michael Lynch, to protest the Big Brothers policy of "no gays, no alcoholics, no drug addicts."

Upon entering the Institute in Toronto, the group of gays were confronted by security guards. Lynch told Gay Community News (Boston) there was some struggling between the two sides but in the end the activists were allowed to stay and become involved in the all-day conference. Lynch said the group read a statement that proposed that the real issues for the Institute were not presented in the title of the conference. The statement listed four issues for the conference: that it makes a distinction between child molesters and homosexuals and pedophiles; that it support gay men and women who want to work with children but are prevented from doing so by anti-gay policies; that it help gay children grow up without negative influence on the development of sexual orientation; that it acknowledge the essential role of gay-positive gays as experts on these and similar issues.

According to Lynch, who is with the Canadian national newspaper The Body Politic, the gay activists spent the day refuting the myths surrounding homosexuality and question statements that they felt were wrong. Lynch contended that the social workers and the Big Brothers at the conference "could agree with us but felt they could not convince their funders or could not convince the mothers of boys brought to the agencies."

"When we questioned them about the morality of having funding determine their policy," Lynch said, "one Big Brother told us, 'when my board says no gays, there's no moral problem whatsoever.'"

— Gay Community News



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LESBIAN MOTHER
WINS COURT VICOTRY

DENVER, CO — A Denver lesbian mother has won custody of her seven-year-old daughter after three days of court hearings held last month. An Illinois judge awarded Ginny Yaseen custody of her daughter Rachele, despite "lesbian-baiting" by the child's father. However, the father did not directly allege in court that his ex-wife was an unfit mother because of her lesbianism.

The case began last July when Yaseen's ex-husband David filed for custody of Rachele, who had been in the legal custody of her mother for the previous four years. After the child's summer visit to her father's Illinois home, David Yaseen an-

nounced that he was not returning Rachele to her mother. The mother immediately flew to Illinois in an effort to reclaim her daughter and a series of legal battles ensued.

David Yaseen based his petition for change of custody on allegations such as lack of Jewish religious training in the home, the "decline" of Rachele's educational abilities after attending an alternative school in Denver, and vague allusions to the "home environment."

During the first hearing on the case, David Yaseen's lawyer questioned the mother about her lover and asked whether they shared a bedroom and double bed. A psychologist testified that the child had "sexual identity problems." Other references were made to Ginny Yaseen's lifestyle and "unusual family constellations."

After several continuances the hearing resumed in April at which time the father's lawyer again raised the lesbian issue. He questioned Ginny Yaseen about using her daughter as a "shell" to raise money and gave the judge copies of *Big Mama Rag*, *Lesbian Tide* and *Lesbian Connection*, which contained stories about the case as well as pleas for donations. The lawyer asserted that the father's side was being "discreet" but that the mother had raised the issue by making her lesbianism "national news."

— Gay Community News



NEW DOCUMENTS SHOW FREUD BACKED GAY RIGHTS

TORONTO, CANADA—The Canadian gay liberation newspaper *The Body Politic* has published four previously uncirculated documents which show that Dr. Sigmund Freud, founder of psychoanalysis, took public stances in support of the early German gay liberation movement. He is also shown to have taken a professional position in favor of homosexuals becoming practicing psychoanalysts.

The most striking of the documents is a petition Freud signed in 1930 for the repeal of an anti-sodomy law which had been the object of an extended gay rights campaign. "Homosexuals have the same civil duty as everyone else," the petition reads. "In the name of justice, we demand that legislators give them the same civil rights by repealing the law in question. If homosexuals are guaranteed a life of human dignity, they will reciprocate by leading responsible and dignified lives."

In an earlier statement, Freud told a Vienna newspaper that "homosexual persons are not sick, but they also do not belong in a court of law."

The documents were discovered by author James Steakley last year while doing research on the gay liberation movement that was developing in Germany and Austria during the nineteen-thirties. That movement was destroyed when the Nazis came to power in the early thirties.

Accompanying the documents is an article by Herbert Spiers, a doctoral candidate, and Dr. Michael Lynch, both at the University of Toronto. "These documents show

that throughout his career Sigmund Freud was consistently opposed to the oppression of homosexuals," they wrote. "They demonstrate beyond any doubt that Freud's interest in understanding the origins of homosexuality provided, for him, absolutely no basis for anti-gay attitudes or legislation."

In 1928, Freud is shown to have written a tribute for the homosexual emancipationist Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, in which he said he had always "championed the view that Dr. Hirschfeld's lifelong struggle against the cruel and unjustified interference of legislation in human sexual life deserves universal recognition and support."

The Body Politic published the documents to coincide with the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, which is taking place this year in Toronto. The Association made news three years ago when it removed "homosexuality" as a category of mental illness from its diagnostic manual.

"These are historically important documents," Dr. Judd Marmor, past president of the APA, said upon learning of their existence. "They will make another contribution to the elimination of anti-homosexual prejudices."

One of the documents is an exchange of letters between Freud and some of his followers in 1921-22 over the question of whether a homosexual could become a practicing psychoanalyst. Freud stated that "we cannot exclude such persons without other sufficient reasons, as we cannot agree with their legal prosecution."

— Gay Community News

ACTIVIST LOSES JOB AS PERSONNEL DIRECTOR

MILWAUKEE, WI — Patrick Batt, Chairperson of Gay Peoples Union, has been fired as personnel director for a Catholic nursing home because he is gay.

"They couldn't deal with the word homosexual, so they used the word 'lifestyle,'" Batt said.

On May 6, 1977, Roger Hamilton, the Administrator for Marion Heights Nursing Home, told Batt that he had been instructed by the facility's Board of Directors to ask for his resignation in view of his "private life." When Batt pressed Hamilton for an explanation, he was told the board felt that the common knowledge of his lifestyle had compromised his ability to function as the Personnel Director. Batt refused to re-



Patrick Batt

sign, even with a promise of a good recommendation and a month's severance pay. Hamilton then fired him due to his "lifestyle."

Batt does not hide the fact that he is gay and many members of the staff have known about it since he began work in the home nine months ago. Batt said, "There's been no single flagrant action that the Board could point to and say, 'That's how you compromise Marion Heights.' I find it unbelievable that they can say I can no longer be a personnel director because I am gay. I have been in personnel work for ten years and neither my lifestyle nor my homosexuality has ever come up before."

The president of the home's board of directors, Franciscan Sister Lillian Van Domlen, said Batt was fired after Hamilton complained to her that Batt was "disruptive." "It has nothing to do with his being gay," Van Domlen said. As for his job evaluation, she said, "I did hear that he does know personnel work and that he was doing a good job of it. It seems to be more of a personality thing."

The 10-member board of directors for the home include 5 nuns and 5 laypersons. They gave Batt a ten minute "hearing" to explain his side of the matter during which he was asked no questions or given any reason to believe he would be able to return to his job.

After putting religious and political pressure on the home with little success, he has started legal action against the home.

After studying all the facts his attorney, David Walther, said: "I feel this is the job discrimination case the gay community nationwide has been looking for." Other members of his staff who consulted with attorneys a-

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round the country who have handled other job discrimination cases said this was the "cleanest case anyone has come up with anywhere."

— Gay Community News



**GAY PRISON ACTIVIST
CHARGES MORE BEATINGS**
BY JIM MARKO

FORT WORTH, TX — John Gibbs, who founded the National Gay Prisoners' Coalition at Leavenworth Prison in Kansas in 1972, is once again charging a series of beatings by prison officials. Gibbs is currently being held at the Federal Correctional Institute in Fort Worth, TX, after a stint at the FCI in Lexington, KY. It was at the Institute at Lexington that the latest series of beatings took place.

For the past five years and through three different correction facilities, it has been Gibbs' contention that he is beaten and assaulted by officials for his work as a gay activist. Gibbs charges that throughout his prison life, guards have been at least "guilty of negligence" toward his well-being. He has suits pending against the US Bureau of Prisons and claims that those

actions are the reason for the alleged continuing mistreatment. Gibbs further claims that the "past five years of court actions and losses by officials have stirred up a conspiracy" to end his life. Gibbs says he was being kept in solitary confinement at the federal lock-up in Lexington, to prevent him from "being in court at Seattle where I expect to be heard shortly."

Although officials at the FCI in Texas will not talk about the Gibbs case, Ken Neagly, the acting warden at Lexington, told Gay Community News that Gibbs was transferred from Kentucky because the Fort Worth jail "is a more secure facility." As to Gibbs' claim of being beaten at Lexington, Neagly characterized them as "false." Lexington is not a penitentiary but, according to Neagly, "a minimum security facility that does not even have a fence around it." To John Gibbs' charge that he had been held in solitary at Lexington, Neagly says he has no knowledge of that having happened.

Ever since his open involvement in gay rights for inmates in 1972, Gibbs has called for support in his fight against prison officials. His battle is being handled by a national prisoners' legal defense group. It is managed by Sister Evelyn Ancilla, Convent of Transfiguration, 495 Albion Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45426. Gibbs is calling for support in the form of letters and telegrams to the US Bureau of Prisons in Washington, DC, and to US Attorney General Griffin Bell.

Brutality to prisoners being held in facilities in this country is prohibited by federal law as well as by the Eighth Amendment. Prison officials deny brutality charges by inmates. The Bureau of Prisons refers to the Freedom of Information Act and to the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552A) when questioned about prisoner complaints. Because of these statutes, information concerning the issues at hand cannot be released without the written consent of the prisoner involved.

— Gay Community News

**AT LEAST 9 DEAD
AS NEW YORK BATHHOUSE BURNS**

NEW YORK, NY — June 4 — At least 9 men were killed and 10 others were injured when a four-alarm fire destroyed the century-old Everard Baths on New York's West Side. The

tragedy occurred early on the morning of May 25 and came just one week before a sprinkler system was to be connected. Police told Gay Community News (Boston) that they feared more bodies would be discovered in the charred ruins of the building at 28 W. 28th Street.

Scores of men, some clad only in towels or robes, fled the three-story building while others clung to window sills awaiting rescue by the more than 200 firefighters battling the blaze. New York Mayor Abram Beame termed the disaster a "terrible tragedy" and ordered fire marshalls to determine whether any charges should be lodged against the bath house owner.

Fire authorities in New York say the sprinkler system, which had been ordered installed in the ancient building 13 years ago, would probably have prevented the fire. Irving Fine, the owner of the baths, had been ordered again early last year to install such a system and said that the system would have been operative by June 1.

Even before the fire was finally brought under control, gays from across New York City rallied to give blood, raise funds, and attempt to identify the victims. Others expressed concern with the publicity, and the possible legal action mentioned by Mayor Beame, would force a crackdown on gay-oriented establishments in general. Some spokespersons for gay groups in New York said that the fire could be "used as a political excuse" to harass other gay baths and bars.

The Everard Baths, which had been gay for about 20 years, was one of the leading Turkish and Russian bath houses in Manhattan for decades before then. It attracted a widespread and well-to-do clientele. According to Bruce Voeller of the National Gay Task Force, the Everard was now a "shabby, dreadful place—rundown and grubby beyond words." Voeller said after a fire there five years ago there was nothing more than a "cosmetic renovation" of the Everard. The baths continued in popularity, he said, only because of its long tradition and the safety of the area.

The MCC in New York City has created a fund for the burial of the unclaimed dead in the tragic fire at the Everard. The Rev. Gil Lincoln of the church says the money collected will also be used to "help the living." Donations can be sent to: MCC-Fire Fund, 201 W. 13th St., New York City, N. Y. 10011.

— Gay Community News

"CLOSE DOWN THE BATHS": In the aftermath of the Everard Baths fire, New York gays gathered on the steps of City Hall to urge Mayor Beame to close down gay bars and baths whose owners have avoided compliance with city building and safety codes. Nine people were killed in the May 25 fire. Photo by Bettye Lane

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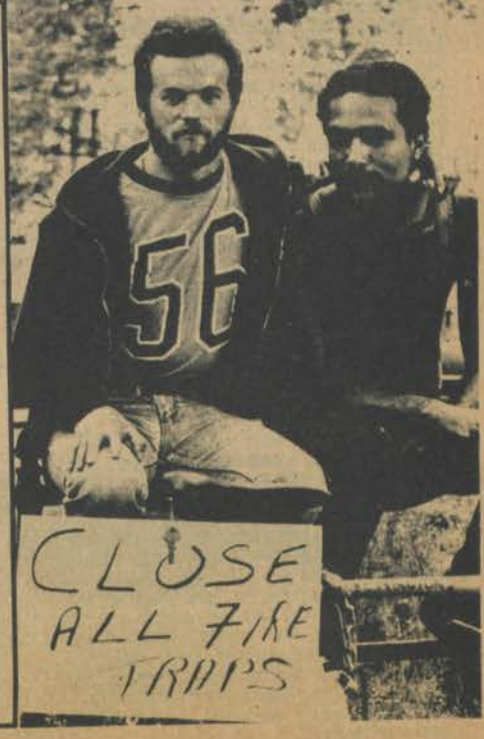
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the BIRTH of GAY LIBERATION in the U. S.

BY DAN BUTLER AND JAZMYN McDONALD

(Editor's Note: Henry Hay has been an activist for over 40 years. His decades of work on the left, as teacher and organizer, got him called before the House UnAmerican Activities Committee in the 1950's. But Hay was involved in more than the organized left — in recent years he has been recognized as having been one of the pioneers of the gay liberation movement. Hay founded the original Mattachine Society (the first enduring gay rights organization) during those McCarthy years. In this article based on interviews with SEERS Rio Grande Weekly, Henry Hay, now 65, talks about his life and work and sheds new light on the origins of recent gay activism. This article has been slightly edited by Liberation News Service (LNS.)

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO — It was the great depression of the 30's that made him an activist, Henry Hays recalls. Large numbers of people were unemployed or only partly employed, and many couldn't pay their bills. Mothers sometimes had no food or milk for children. Tenants were thrown out on the streets.

Hay recollects one incident during a milk strike. It was in Los Angeles, in May, 1933. "I was standing at the edge of the crowd, there were thousands of people. This was the beginning of the Depression. Women and children were asking for free milk. And this was the first time I ever saw cops on horseback strike women and children, and do a flying wedge through the crowd with their nightsticks like this and just knocking people rights and left. It was something I couldn't take."

Henry picked up a brick and heaved it at a mounted cop, knocking him off his horse. Immediately the crowd closed around him. "And all of a sudden I felt myself pulled up and taken out of the crowd, back into this store, and got dragged up through these catwalks, they said, 'you've got to get this kid out of here,' and they rushed me away from the cops. That disturbance and that reaction was the thing that signed me up."

Hay joined the Communist Party. In the following years he worked in street theater and Agit-Prop, adapting songs to topical themes, and performing skits in support of rent strikes, labor demonstrations and related actions.

The forties found Henry in California, teaching political economy classes that met in people's homes, for the Party. Also during these years he collected and published folk music. With musicians like Boots Casetta, Pete Seeger and Earl Robinson, he formed a group called People's Songs to circulate their music.

Although he'd been gay for years (and several lovers had been Party members), Henry didn't think organizing homosexuals as such until 1948. He was then working on the third-party Presidential campaign of Henry Wallace, a progressive former Democrat. One night at a beer bust attended entirely by gays, Henry got the idea of trying to sign them up in a group to be called "Bachelors for Wallace."

"It sounded great to everyone that night," he remembers, but by the next morning no one wanted any part of it.

Henry kept on working with the idea. He had finally recognized that gays, like workers, minorities, others, were oppressed and needed to unite and to fight around their own distinctive issues, and relying on their own strengths. We have to organize, we have to know who we are, know what gay people are, we have to know who we've been, we have to know what we're for. And the only way we're going to find it out is from each other... So I started putting all this down on paper, and the 'Bachelors for Wallace' got lost in the middle of that, and I started putting all this other stuff down and I laid out the basis of a call."

"This was in 1948, remember; the Hollywood Ten had been on trial; in Congress there was Joe McCarthy, Mundt of North Dakota, and this new guy Richard Nixon... and the State Department is kicking out gays. We're talking about the beginning of the police state in the U.S."

In this atmosphere of red-baiting and suspicion, people were intimidated and it was hard to organize. For two disappointing years Henry searched for people who could share his values. Finally in 1950 he got his first recruit, and working together they started making progress.

Gays were their constituency, but it wasn't gay issues alone that concerned them. In fact, their first big project, at the outset of the Korean War, was to get 500 signatures from a gay beach to the Stockholm Peace Petition (a proposal aimed at ending fighting in Korea.) And

Communist International or "Comintern," and possibly related to it. Stories suggesting this were published by syndicated columnist named Paul Coates, resulting in a scandal that alarmed the conservative 'Republican contingent' who had joined Mattachine. They demanded a constitutional convention, which duly gathered in Los Angeles in April 1953, with 500 delegates.

Henry says, "this is something I'll never forget," that enormous gathering of openly gay people in the early 50's. Unfortunately, that large convention split the group irrevocably. There could be no agreement between radicals and conservatives. So the original steering committee disbanded, leaving the name "Mattachine" to be used by "respectable" homosexuals who wanted an open, legal, constitutional organization with progressional support



they got them easily.

In talking about the gay and anti-communist hysteria, their conversations with petition signers went on to security clearances, homosexuals purged from the State Department, how gay people were victimized by McCarthyism along with others. And slowly they rallied people.

When Henry saw gay organizing start to catch on, he went to his associates in the Party and told them he wanted to devote himself fulltime to organizing gay people. He says he recommended his expulsion from the Party so as not to embarrass others not involved in his specific work.

In 1950 Henry created Mattachine. It was to be the first successful gay organization in this country, and later had chapters in many cities (some still exist today). He adopted the name from music history (Mattachine were jesters who got away with telling the truth because they seemed to be merely jesting.) The organization functioned on two levels, as a public and open Foundation, and as a secret society selecting recruits from public meetings and discussion groups.

For two years membership grew slowly. Then in 1952 it snowballed and hundreds of new members came in. The original activists lost control of recruitment. Henry recalls: "we got all kinds of people and the first thing you know we had a Republican contingent!"

The group began to get publicity in the fall of 1952. The lawyer Henry got for Mattachine had been associated with the left; and in the hysterical climate of McCarthyism there was talk of an international homosexual conspiracy or "Homintern" as subversive and dangerous as the

and only "decent" people in the membership.

As Henry notes, that marked a decline for the organization. "Their sphere of influence dropped from five thousand to about 600 in three months... The dream was gone, and the bond that had united us... It was now like the Friday morning Kiwanis..."

The gay movement never retained its original size and strength (or militance) until the late 60's. Henry and other original activists withdrew from politics for a while. In 1955 the House UnAmerican Activities Committee finally caught up with him. This was several years after he had resigned from the Party, a fact the Committee was not aware of.

In response to the Committee's questions, Hay replied that he was "not in the habit of collaborating with stool pigeons and their buddies." A general uproar ensued and Hay was quickly dismissed by the committee.

The next momentous event in Hay's life was his 1963 meeting with John Burnside, who has been his companion and co-worker ever since. In the 60's they worked with Native Americans organizing resistance and return to traditional values. In 1970 they moved to their present home near San Pueblo, New Mexico. They have actively supported various gay organizing efforts in New Mexico.

Hay's vision of life is a joyous one, a vision of unity in difference, and of non-competitive and non-acquisitive love. That vision has sustained him through the years of struggle, and it continues to sustain liberation movements today.

OPINION!

June is Gay Pride Month and recent events almost give cause to consider the old school essay chestnut, "What Do We Have to Be Thankful For on Thanksgiving?"

Human Rights Day on May 24th, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus, was for the purpose of "lobbying" legislators for the sodomy repeal bill and against Sen. Nolan's latest attack on the Governor's Executive Order. From the entire state a total of twenty persons arrived for the event.

One June 7, Dade County held their referendum on that county's Gay Rights ordinance. Voters turned out in such masses that they set a new attendance record for a special election. They also repealed the law by more than a 2 to 1 margin.

So. What do we have to be proud of in Gay Pride Month? Not ourselves and our individual actions, that's for certain. Not to further the myth that there is something particularly ignominious about defeat, such as the Gays suffered in Miami, for it was a "good fight" in every sense of the word: the Miami Gay community became mobilized; there was nationwide coverage and debate. BUT...

But the opinion polls indicated we would win by a 2 to 1 ratio. Obviously "we" did not turn out the vote.

Why?

In Pennsylvania, there is a statute on the books which proscribes a prison sentence for same-sex intercourse, an activity which most of us indulge in at least once a week. At least once a week most of us face an 8-year prison sentence, if we are caught, and that "if" is not so great as we might like to think. Only weeks before Human Rights Day a large number of Gays were rounded up on the streets of Harrisburg. One, a school teacher, lost his job as a result of the incident. But on the day designated for lobbying for the repeal of the Voluntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse statute, only a handful of people arrived.

Why?

Cartoonist Walt Kelly once had one of his "Pogo" characters exclaim, "We have met the enemy and he is us!" Nowhere is this more applicable than in the Gay Movement. Most meetings of political groups tend to break down into endless bickering of individual concerns. "There aren't enough Lesbians on this committee." "The group isn't giving enough attention to the concerns of (check one) blacks, chicanos, transvestites, transsexuals, etc., etc., ad infinitum, ad nauseum." Splinter groups form and, as inevitable as leaves falling from trees, leave the parent group. There is divisiveness at every turn in the Gay community.

Some community.

Meanwhile the vast majority of Gays remain uncommitted to any form of Gay activity other than bars and glory holes. Perhaps they feel as long as they have that much they're content; they're not going to rock the boat. Perhaps again they've either been to or heard about a typical Gay Lib meeting and have no interest in becoming part of such a group.

Is it any wonder?

As long as many activists persist in exhibiting a behaviorial pattern similar to children in a sand box, the struggle for our civil rights is going to go nowhere. Individual concerns certainly should be attended to, but they should not be placed above the concerns of all of us. First we fight for our community's recognition, then we attack the problems that keep our community from being as tightly knit as it could be.

In case you're wondering if this editorial is proposing a cancellation of any Gay Pride celebrations, no it is not. What it is proposing is that this time, for a change, let's hold onto all that pride, unity and dedication and put it into practice throughout the coming year.

— HL



NB: Just a reminder that there is no August issue of the GAY ERA, and God knows we need the vacation. See you in September with a lot of surprises. Love from all of us to all of you!

GAY ERA

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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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 St. 18603, 717-752-2282.

BETHLEHEM

Le-Hi-Ho, Box 1003, Noravian 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

Castaways 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 & W. 10th.

GREENSBURG

Golden Arrow Bar, 108 W. Pittsburgh St.

HARRISBURG

Ark (bar), 329 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, 297, 17108.
Gay Switchboard, 717-234-0328, Mon-Fri.,
6:00-10:00 pm.
Golden Coach (bar), 4309 Lingiestown Rd.
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.
Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus, Box 1505,
17105.

INDIANA

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

LANCASTER

Church of the Brethren/Mennonite Church
Gay Caucus, Box 582, 17604.
Contact (counseling), 24 hours, call
collect, 717-299-4855.
Erotic Den (porno), 53 North Prince.
Erotic Forum (porno), 227 N. Prince.
Gays United of Lancaster, 3002 Marietta
Ave, 17601, 717-898-2876.
Gay Era, 332 N. Mulberry Street, 17603.
Lancaster Gay Switchboard, 717-898-2876,
Wed-Sun. 7-10:30 pm.
Loft (restaurant), 201 W. Orange Street,
(second floor).
Tally-Ho (bar), 201 W. Orange Street.
V.D. Clinic, St. Joseph Hospital, 250
College Ave, 717-291-8111; free,
24 hours.
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.

MILLERSVILLE

Gay Awareness of Millersville State Col-
lege, Box 3333, Gordinier Hall, M.S.C.,
Millersville, PA 17551.

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.
Glass Door (bar), 300 block N. 5th Street.
Red Star Saloon, 143 N. 10th Street.
This Is It (bar), 8th & Walnut Streets.

SCRANTON

DeMitri Cafe, 237 Wyoming Avenue.

SHAVERSTOWN

Northeast Pennsylvania Gay Alliance,
Box 1710, 18708.

SHIPPENSBURG

Shippensburg Students for Gay Rights,
Shippensburg State College, 17257.

STATE COLLEGE

Gayline, 814-863-0588, Mon-Sun, 7-9:00 pm
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, 718 Tyson Hall,
West Chester State College, 19380.
Gay Hotline, 215-436-2879,
Wed., 8-11:00 pm.

WILKES BARRE

Tiffany (bar), Park & Lehigh Streets.

WILLIAMSPORT

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

YORK

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

11 THE FLORIDA FOLLIES FINALE -

"BRYANT'S VICTORY COULD POSE TROUBLE FOR AMERICA'S 20 MILLION HOMOSEXUALS. THERE WERE REPORTS LAST WEEK THAT SOME HOMOSEXUALS IN MIAMI WERE FIRED OR SUSPENDED THE MORNING AFTER THE VOTE — ONE OF THEM A LESBIAN WHO HAD WORKED AS AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IN THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT FOR FIFTEEN YEARS."

— NEWSWEEK, JUNE 20, 1977



compiled by the GAY ERA staff

BY HARRY H LONG

Depressing as it is to be forced to put it in so many words: Gay civil rights suffered a defeating setback in Florida, as Dade County voters turned out in record numbers to deny homosexuals the legal right to jobs, food and clothing.

Kill a queen for Christ, indeed. After the votes were counted revealing that 45% of Dade County's eligible voters had repealed the ordinance in a vote of 202,319 to 89,562 (or 69.3% - 30.6%), Anita Bryant (beauty pageant contestant, singer, citrus spokesperson and now Savior of Our Children) danced a jig, left the Holiday Inn where she awaited the election results with her campaign workers, climbed into her monogrammed Rolls Royce and drove to her \$300,000 Biscayne Bay mansion where she was welcomed by a crowd of 50 singing the hymn, "Victory in Jesus."

And Anita spoke unto the crowd, saying, "The people of Dade County have said enough, enough, enough. Tonight the laws of God and the cultural values of man have been vindicated. The people of Dade County have voted to repeal and obnoxious assault on our moral values. They have voted this way despite our community's reputation as one of the most liberal areas in the nation."

It was perhaps a fitting end to a battle so feverishly impassioned. It resembled the Spanish Inquisition more than a civil rights issue. While the gay forces made some unflattering comparisons between Bryant-follower and Nazis, the Save Our Children ads called homosexuals "human garbage" and slyly noted that once upon a time faggots were put to death. (My aren't we modern? Maybe a little too modern. Hmm?)

And now that Anita has won in Miami, she plans to take her campaign nationwide; she appeared only one day later in Virginia to kick it off and has since made other appearances. Save Our Children has already opened an office in Washington, D.C., and California State Sen. John Briggs expressed hope that a chapter would open in his state (anything to end that drought). Bryant is working on a "how to" pamphlet. But she is still waiting to learn "the mind of God" before making any definite plans for future activities.

Should Anita interpret God's word as "Go forth," she may not have an easy time of it, however. Gay leaders across the country have vowed to fight her every step of the way, and hecklers have already put in appearances at her functions since the referendum. Their disruption and walkout at one such event, Anita claimed, made her weep because "they would not listen to how they could be saved."

In addition, more and more celebrities — the real media grabbers — are condemning Bryant. Rod McKuen and Kaye Ballard were among the ones who criticized her during the Miami campaign. Since then Paul Williams (lyricist composer "A Star Is Born," "Bugsy Malone," Phantom of the Paradise" and tons of Top-40 hits) took out a full-page ad in the *Daily Variety* to announce that he and his wife were giving up their favorite cocktail, screwdrivers, in response to the Bryant crusade and because of their concern for human rights. Even Florence Henderson (a singer with a reputation every bit as wholesome as Anita's) criticized Bryant. During a Las Vegas engagement with Shecky Greene, she was asked onstage by Greene what she thought about

Bryant's campaign. Miss Henderson replied she felt that Bryant was not practicing what the Bible teaches, that she had always been taught that Jesus was forgiving, loving, caring and full of compassion. "I don't see much of that in Anita," she stated.

So, the battle in Miami is over. The nationwide repercussions and shock waves are only beginning. Hang on folks, this could be the ride of your lives.

And be prepared, if Anita wins nationwide, then, as obvious lawbreakers, we'll just all have to turn ourselves over to the authorities.

All 20 million of us.

OVER THE BACK FENCE

BY DAVE LEAS

OK gay folk, now that the referendum in Dade County is over and we can accept the fact that a gay rights ordinance has been defeated by a group of loud fundamentalists, we can start taking this whole issue a little more seriously. Frankly, it is our lives we are considering.

Let's forget about Miami for awhile and look around our own back yards. Here we are in Pennsylvania. Anita Bryant has given us something to talk about — something with a little more depth than who is wearing what to the bar, who is sleeping with whom, and how many tricks we've had in our lifetime.

Now everyone knows who good old A.B. is. Three months ago gay people in Altoona, Pa. didn't even know who Anita was. You can bet they do now. Everyone is still talking about it. And that is exactly what we've been doing — talk, talk, talk!

And what are we going to do about it? I don't think that inventing another orange juice joke is going to do anything. I don't think that not drinking O.J. is going to do anything. I don't think killing the bastard is going to do anything.

So here we are in Pennsylvania. The effort to repeal the sodomy laws in this state has practically come to a grinding halt. Gay organizations, especially those

in rural areas, are in desperate need of members and money to function. And we have only one sponsor in Pennsylvania for the National Gay Rights Amendment in Congress. So here we are in Pennsylvania "talking" about Anita Bryant.

The woman isn't even coming to Pennsylvania with her "back to morality" crusade. The front page of the *Lebanon Daily News* tells us that when she takes her crusade nationwide, she won't be stopping in Pennsylvania. Not that she's not welcome here, just that she won't be needed here.

After all the pleas for money for Dade County, how many of us took the time to write a check and put it in the mail. Instead, we just "talk" about it.

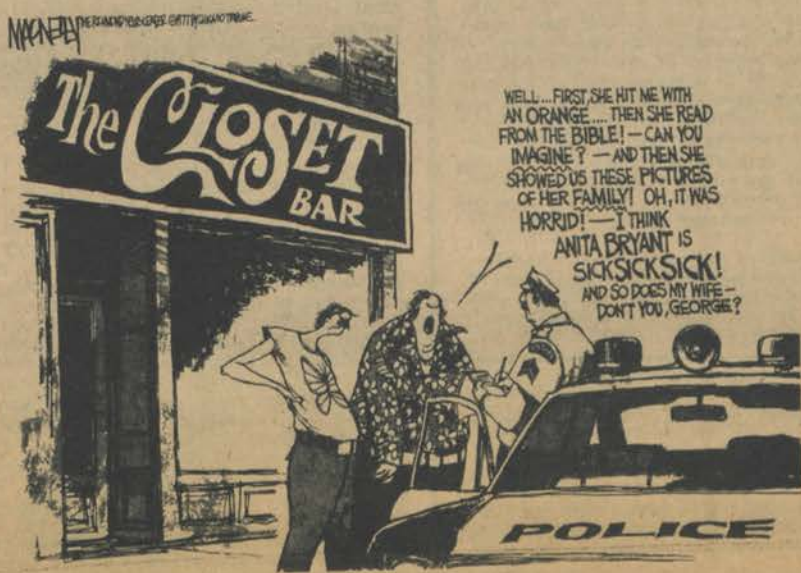
The point to be made is that we should not be ashamed for sitting on our rumps since that is what we've done most of our lives. The point is that we better start doing something for ourselves. We better start doing it now. Repeat these words: We're mad as hell and we ain't going to take it anymore!"

STATEMENT ON THE DADE COUNTY REFERENDUM

FROM TONY SILVESTRE, CHAIRPERSON, PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES

The real tragedy of the referendum in Dade County is that the issue of human rights was at all based on success at electioneering rather than the basic principles upon which this country was founded. Never before have we allowed the civil rights of any other minority group depend upon their resources and organization for getting out the vote. Historians, generally speaking, agree that if the Declaration of Independence were put to a popular vote in 1776, it would probably have been defeated at the polls.

The results of the Dade County referendum is not representative of the beliefs





VICTORY AND DEFEAT — Anita Bryant (top) gets a handclasp and a hug from her husband, Bob Green, Tuesday in Miami Beach after voters repealed the Dade County gay rights law by more than a 2-1 margin. Anita headed the "Save Our Children" campaign, the major force for repeal of the law in the referendum.



Below, the agony of defeat. Rick Ely, a leader in the Miami Victory Campaign, is consoled in the face of defeat rather than victory Tuesday as returns came in showing that the voters had decided to repeal the gay rights law. Ely headed one of two pro-gay groups which had tried to prevent the law's repeal. (UPI Telephoto)

and values of either the Dade County residents or of the American people. A poll of Dade County voters by a Louis Harris Associate showed that 62% of the voters favor the law which would protect the rights of homosexuals. That this is not reflected in the vote says more about the resources of the opposing groups and their ability to bring out the vote than it does about voter sentiment.

In other scientific studies around the country, the same support of gay rights is evident. A recent study by Professors Huff and Scott, published in *Sociology and Social Research*, found that a clear majority of the citizens of Columbus, Ohio believed that homosexuals should be allowed to teach in public schools. Studies in San Francisco and Portland, Oregon found the same thing. A poll conducted by a newspaper in State College, Pennsylvania found that a majority of those polled opposed discrimination against gays.

In any case, whether basic human and civil rights are popular or not is not the issue. The issue confronting us today is whether the private moral views of some people should be used to deny these rights to some Americans. The Dade County referendum has left this issue unresolved.

The message to those who support the rights of sexual minorities is clear. Change will only come about when those who support human rights put aside their fears, embarrassment and indifference and work actively for gay rights. The Gay Movement has a proud history. Women and men have worked for its success in the face of great opposition and with little reward. The efforts on behalf of sexual minorities must be expanded. The directions of these efforts will follow the politics of each individual but there can be no question that an increase in all efforts will be necessary. Work with the unions, religious groups, other minorities and their supporters to commit themselves to actively work for our rights. The defeat of gay rights in Dade County will become a victory when it sparks a strengthened and recommitted movement for civil rights.

Information on organizations in your area is available from the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities, Governor's Office, 238 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

WHEN ANITA SINGS THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC...

BY BRIAN McNAUGHT

The next time an Anita Bryant stands up and sings "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" during a debate on gay civil rights, stand up and sing with her. And don't sing empty

handed. Vigorously wave a small American flag in one hand and a Bible in the other.

While rational arguments and scientific studies are fine fodder for a rational debate, Born Again Christians, the John Birch Society and the Klu Klux Klan are not rational people. They are drugged on the opiates of super-emotional religion, super-emotional patriotism and super hate. When was the last time you won rational argument with someone "spaced out" on opiates?

We've been on the defensive and we shouldn't be. They quote the Bible as if we hate the Bible. They call on God as if we were on the side of the devil. They sing patriotic songs as if we were anti-American. They say we want to molest children and we laugh at their foolishness, but no one is laughing in Dade County, Florida.

Some gay people have argued that gay religious caucus leaders have been wasting time on an oppressive institution which is not worth saving. And yet, every national report on Dade County has characterized it as a religious battle for those who defeated the ordinance. For them, civil rights has come to mean lenient courts which release criminals, violence on television, drugs, pornography, busing. They see no controls and see us as one more crazy group which threatens their Walton's Mountain.

Born Again Christians are the fastest growing phenomena in the country because they feed followers a daily diet of a mushy God in a cold world and definite principles at a time when there seems to be no limit to personal freedom. They are joined by the John Birch Society and the Klan in a highly-sophisticated coalition of fanatics who will stop at nothing to defeat any law which threatens them. Add to their ranks the Right to Life people and the American Nazi Party and you have enough nuts to put Planter's out of business. But the vote of a nut counts the same as the vote of a mentally balanced person.

History proves it. A perfect example is the rise of Hitler. Everyone called him a fool; said no one would listen to his ramblings. His emotional hysteria and purist principles, however, mesmerized a country which was threatened by high crime, unemployment, homosexual advances in legal rights and an upper-class jet-setting crowd.

Having researched and written an indepth series of articles on the "Born Again Christian" I understand the Anita Bryants of this country. I know what reaches them and what doesn't, what defuses them and what energizes them.

Quote the Griffin Report, D.S. Bailey, John McNeill, the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan Study and the recent Human Sexuality findings of the Catholic Theological Society of America all you want with rational people, but not with Anita Bryant. With-

out letting up at all on our fine efforts to educate people, form coalitions with other oppressed groups, raise money and pressure religious and secular leaders for "official" statements, we have to defuse the outrageously ignorant emotionalism of our principal foes by 1.) learning to laugh, 2.) refraining at all costs from making Anita Bryant a martyr 3.) reclaiming the flag, country, Bible and God as our own 4.) going on the offensive.

Our strength in the long line of future battles lies in our ability to adapt and playact, two gifts the straight community has forced us to develop. Power is not handed over freely. It is taken. As a non-violent civil rights movement, we have to learn creative, media-oriented, educative ways to take that power. How?

1.) LEARN TO LAUGH. Humor defuses tension. We all know that this is a critically-serious battle but we also know that people listening to us are frequently afraid. We're not human. Laughter is a common-human-denominator. When tastefully done and appropriately timed, it not only conveys a message but also allows people to laugh at themselves. Example: Anita Bryant announces "Homosexuals molest children." Rather than soberly responding "Scientific studies show that over 90% of child molesters are heterosexuals" take the opportunity to put heterosexuality on trial. Add right away, "And heterosexuals have abortions (how many gay people do you think have abortions, Anita?); heterosexuals beat their children; beat their wives; peddle child porno; practice birth control. And look at Richard Speck. He was heterosexual and he murdered nine nurses in Chicago. Look at the Boston Strangler and Jack the Ripper. Anita, you have got to keep your people under control. It's not safe to walk the streets. I got through 16 years of school without once being attacked by a heterosexual teacher but I was lucky. I am concerned though about other decent homosexual children being proselytized and raped."

While all these comments may seem absurd and while we personally may have no problem with abortion and birth control, Born-Again Christians do (at least they are supposed to, especially if they are Catholic). If we discard their allegations about being child molesters immediately as being absurd and then go on a humorous attack, Anita will have no defense.

2.) DON'T MAKE THEM MARTYRS. Born-Again Christians and super-patriots desperately want to be martyrs. To suffer indignation (or worse) for the sake of God is a one-way ticket to sainthood and the annals of history. However, gay martyrdom should be emphasized at nauseam. Christians follow a strong mandate to be the Good Samaritan. The Sermon on the Mount and all of the epistles demand concern for the suffering. This is

the primary motivation behind President Carter's insistence on human rights. As a committed Christian with 16 years of parochial education I can attest to the fact that we are walking, talking guilty consciences.

One way to avoid making martyrs out of irrational spokespersons is to rid ourselves of all hostility prior to engaging them in debate on television, radio or before a live audience. Befriend them. Call them by their first name. Let the audience know we have nothing against them personally; it's their ignorance we are attempting to eradicate.

3.) RECLAIM COUNTRY, FLAG, BIBLE, GOD. Anita Bryant's victory speech Tuesday night insisted that it was a victory of "One nation under God". People believe that. Why? Because she and others have convinced them we hate God and country. They sing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and announce that Rome fell because of homosexuality. Despite what might be our own political attitudes towards capitalism, patriotism, God and the intermingling of the three, the middle American voter has to be convinced that gays know and love the Bible and gays support the American Dream. (Please remember here that I am talking about our dealings with a coalition of nuts).

The next time Anita sings a patriotic song, stand and sing it with her. If she interrupted a debate with "It's a Grand Old Flag", we interrupt debate with "This Land Is Your Land, This Land Is My Land." Buy small flags at the Dime Store and borrow a Bible to lay on your lap.

The Bible should be the friend of the gay person, not the enemy. Use it as it is being used against you. If you are being condemned with a Scripture passage, cite a passage which condemns the attacker, and never ask, insist. Don't begin with "Doesn't the Bible also ...". Rather, "The Bible also condemns ...". Don't be afraid. Few people could tell you whether or not the quote was legitimate. If it is legitimate, all the better.

For example, Anita says "Leviticus condemns men laying with men". In addition to stating "That's absurd. Scripture Scholars insist that had nothing to do with homosexuality," continue without a breath, "But Anita, I have never seen a study which disputes St. Paul when he advises women to stay on the side of the room from men. You are filling my head with impure thoughts. Please cover your head. However, I must say that I am glad that you are married for as we both know, St. Paul says that if you can't be single, as I am, and you can't control your lust, you should get married as the lesser of two evils. And speaking of evils, what's this I hear about your eating lobster and shrimp. You know what Leviticus II says about that, Anita. Quite candidly, I am concerned about the scandal that you are giving your children. I don't eat shell fish. Leviticus says that you have to wash your clothes after eating shell fish...unless it's a red dress. Then you have to destroy it. You don't have any red dresses do you?"

If one of those "healed homosexuals" comes through town testifying to the power of the Lord, go to the meeting and testify yourself to the power of the Lord. Audience participation is allowed. When it's your turn, solemnly approach the microphone with the head bowed. Slowly raising it high, speak convincingly about your victory. "Brothers and Sisters, I too was saved by Jesus. Until recently I was subject to an evil. I went to gay bars and hated myself. Then I met Jesus and He liberated me. The evil is gone. Now I go to gay bars and I like myself. Praise the Lord!"

4.) GO ON THE OFFENSIVE. Without exception, every talk I have given to a straight audience has been attended by people carrying their Bible in anticipation of the question and answer period. (They presume no one but themselves knows Scripture. I love to play Scripture games, however.) While I have no problem with their antics, I am getting a bit tired of having them come in an attempt to trash my talks. I think it's about time "the Spirit led" us into their meetings.

Meetings of the Born-Again Christians are called Prayer Meetings and come under the sponsorship of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal or Protestant Pentecostalism. The principal behind these meetings is that when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles at the First Pentecost, He bestowed many gifts which the world ignored until the birth of the "Born-Again Christian". They have been here all along; we have just ignored them. Some of the gifts include "speaking in tongues, prophesying, interpreting prophecy, healing, etc." Gay People have these gifts too.

Speaking in tongues, also called "glossolalia," is emotionally-based, peer-pressured gibberish which has been witnessed in a variety of cultures, Christian and non-Christian, for centuries. With prophecy, someone stands up as if in a trance and speaks as if God is speaking through him or her. With healing, others in the group lay their hands on a person to heal him of some disorder... generally homosexuality. (The men in the prayer groups seem to have no problems laying their hands on the homosexual to "cure him". Odd, isn't it?)

How about an outing to a local prayer group meeting. (Caution: Not all prayer groups are anti-gay. Some have gay members and the community is supportive. But the national policy is that homosexuals are sick and sinful and in need of healing.)

When it comes time for the "speaking in tongues" don't be left out in the cold. Lift your hands up high and say quickly "Mares eat oats and does eat oats and little lambs eat ivy; a kid'll eat ivy too wouldn't you." When the group quiets down, stand slowly though deliberately. With eyes staring into space, speak as if handing the 10 Commandments to Charlton Heston: "My children, I love you. I am your God. You are my people. But I am angered. You do not love all my people. You persecute them and when you persecute them you persecute Me. Some of my best friends are homosexual." (N.B. Never use contractions. God does not speak with contractions.)

While there is not substitute for the truth in educating the educable, small truths are no defense against the Big Lie: with people who have willingly surrendered their minds to their emotions. Only irrational statements make sense to the irrational.

— Gay Community News

MIAMI AND THE SIEGE OF THE 14TH AMENDMENT

BY JOHN MITZEL

A friend was the first to ask me my reaction to the vote in Dade County. "Well," I said, "remember that over 60% of the e-



lectorate voted for Nixon in 1972 and his show folded less than 2 1/2 years later. So will Anita's." But the heavy margin of the vote in Anita's favor gave her act a great boost. She's got it all together now, and she's taking her show on the road. We've seen the curtain-raiser in Miami. Whether it ends as a farce, social-message drama, or a Jacobean revenge play will depend in great measure on the appropriateness of the response of the gay community across this country.

Looking back at the debacle in Dade County, we can analyze the mistakes in the tactics used by the supporters of gay rights there and, I hope, not repeat them in our upcoming encounters with the forces of reaction.

That the reactionaries would use the ballot box to assault a minority's rights is so peculiarly American. The ballot box: visible symbol of American Democracy (!), through which all issues and candidates can be validated and legitimized, no matter how unconstitutional or morally noxious. Using the forms and the slogans of our corrupt participatory democracy makes the threat of their political reaction no less threatening to us and to the rule of law. And it is ample evidence that the rights of citizens in a polyglot and secular nation are too important to be left up to the fanciful and changing prejudices of a majority (the Normal Majority) as Anita, in her unctuous and self-serving way, call them, a phrase obviously reminiscent of Nixon's "great silent majority".

To begin with, I think it was incorrect for the referendum battle to be joined at all. It was a false and diversionary step to even acknowledge the legitimacy of this particular vote. It debased us to submit our rights to the ballyhoo and whirligig irresponsibility of a popular election. Our rights are not like candidacies who can be voted in and out of office each term. Rights are inalienable; the only party we need negotiate with are the representatives of the State. We demand that the State must acknowledge and guarantee to protect our rights. We need not submit to the regard of the popular will in this matter. As I think the Dade County Coalition — and advocates of civil rights anywhere — have come to realize, the proper place for opinion on the limits of civil rights is in the Federal Court System.

One reason the Dade County Coalition and its supporters were eager to join the battle in Florida was because there was a fair chance of scoring a "victory at the polls" which would be of enormous symbolic value. I never for a minute believed that there was any truth to these polls. The polls were, in fact, wildly in error, as the final vote demonstrated. The gay coalition was misled by a lie.

How did it happen? It's difficult to establish whether it was a deliberate conspiracy or not. I think much blame must be placed on the mass media who have for years participated in their own kind of conspiracy of silence about the conditions of life for faggots and lesbians. I think John Rechy hit the right note in his recent commentary in the Los Angeles Times: "A new kind of gentleman's agreement — a frightened gentlemen's agreement — exists in the 'liberal' heterosexual establishment. It is an agreement to ignore the daily violation of homosexuals' civil rights; to systematically shun gay subject matter; to never mention marauders inevitably unleashed and legitimized by public campaigns against homosexuals. With the help of the news media, the Anita Bryants of this world repeat a whole litany of ugly myths..." So in the absence of truth about our condition in this Christian-riddled country, it's no wonder that Anita's Big Lie that we are child-molesters seeking "special privileges" goes down so well. As one of Anita's flunkies said himself after the referendum vote: "The molestation was the thing that particularly got the headlines. We now know how effectively it can be used."

The so-called "liberal" media in this land must bear much of the responsibility for the reactionary results of the vote in

Dade County. This was a response to their legacy of years of ignoring and abusing us. Some future energy must be expended correcting the attitudes of the press. As obtuse as journalists and editors can be, they are educable.

As to our position vis-a-vis the general public, we should establish right away that we seek rational discussion with those who are open to it. There is no point talking to people who are already thumping their bibles to Anita's beat. We must emphasize that we are not like Anita's people; we must not assume for ourselves any tactics or characteristics of her fanatics. Nothing could hurt us more than adopting the strategy recommended by Brian McNaught. McNaught suggests that gay people reclaim religion and patriotism as their own. He advocates that we sing patriotic songs along with Anita, and while doing so we should "vigorously wave a small American flag in one hand and a Bible in the other." This is a prescription for self-destruction. Half the enemy's fight is to get us to acknowledge the legitimacy of their terms for the battle. They use lies, superstitions, appeals to ignorance and emotions and prejudices backed up by the "authority" of the Bible. To combat them, we should not become like that. Our terms are: civil rights, appeals to laws based on the Constitution, and the rights of minorities in a diverse and secular society. The bible is not our friend; it is the most vicious instrument of the enemy. We must avoid appeals to unreason and religious prophets.

McNaught is not alone in his fallacious strategy. Bruce Voeller and Jean O'Leary made the same error in a piece that appeared on the Op-Ed page of the New York Times the day of the vote. Voeller and O'Leary actually quoted St. Paul against Anita. St. Paul! We must not base our arguments on whatever St. Paul is alleged to have said. We must base our arguments on American history of civil rights guarantees based on the 14th Amendment (as well as others). Citing religious figures is Anita's gambit; it is a fit tactic for those who wish to live in a theocratic society. And Anita and her people want a theocracy; she said, "The laws of God have been vindicated." (The "laws of God" dictates that all homosexuals should be murdered — remember that the next time a gay person quotes testament to you.) It is to our advantage to quote someone like James Madison, who wrote: "Religion is not within the cognizance of Civil Government."

Another error in public action was the use of the "Thank You Anita For Bringing Us Together" line. We heard this over and over again. If one result of her campaign of bigotry and hatred has been to bring us closer and focus our energies, well, is it reasonable to assume we would have done anything else? Would you not fight back against an attack on your civil rights and personal safety? Yes, we can acknowledge that Anita has brought us together, but this truth is strictly for intra-gay consumption. The straights to whom we are addressing ourselves in this battle must never see any of us saying "Thank You Anita." They will not understand. They will only wonder what all the fuss is about — they see Anita saying she loves homosexuals and prays for us, and we're saying thank you Anita. It makes no sense!

One member of the Boston Advocates for Human Rights, upon hearing that Anita might be making a personal appearance in Boston, suggested to me that we paint a big THANK YOU ANITA banner, meet her at the airport, then present her with a dozen roses. I explained that we must depict Anita as an American fascist — not as a symbol of unity. We must not kiss the boot that's aiming to smash us in the face.

Speaking of identifying Anita as a fascist, I think the Dade County Coalition was insensitive in allowing, permitting or encouraging comparison of Anita to Hitler. For many Jews in Dade County, no one is on the level with Hitler. Putting Anita on that level only debases the point we are making, and reveals our lack of understanding of the history of oppression of other minorities — with whom we should otherwise form a

natural alliance. I recommend that we identify Anita as a fascist, but a fascist of a distinctly — and in some capacities sublime — American stripe. She stand in the company of Father Coughlin (the best analogy), Joe McCarthy, and Richard Nixon. It is up to us to get across the image of Anita not as a sweet, gentle, crying, tender mother and sunshine 'n orange-juice lover; we must reveal her as a yahoo, know-nothing, bible-thumping subverter of civil law and due process. Unfortunately, to get this rather obvious point across, we will probably have to yell and kick up a fuss — so sold are the media on Anita's image as a softspoken and well-meaning crusader (viz. that lamentable — and really quite campy — Newsweek cover several weeks ago). We must not be divided and sidetracked by false issues like Anita's "civil rights are being violated." Let the liberals worry about that. It is better for us to shout her down every time she or one of her lackies starts with their lies about us. We must not be well-mannered and polite as the reactionaries come to try to crush us.

All in all, I'm recommending a strategy of aggressiveness and not one of an apologetic defensiveness. We set the terms of discussion; we make demands on the State. And to date we've met with great success in utilizing this strategy. To have the Pope admit in public (as he did last year) that he is not a homosexual is an enormous step. Homosexuality is more widely discussed now than in any time in western culture since the days of Justinian (who made sodomy a capital crime because, as we all know, it caused earthquakes; and I dread the day when San Francisco gets leveled by a 'quake — think how the fundamentalist press will rant and rave over that, though they are oddly silent at the devastating earthquake that killed over a half a million people in the Peoples Republic of China last year, in a country whose leaders maintain there is no homosexuality in China). We must remain ourselves; we must stand on our own ground; we must continue to demand protection of our rights as we are today, and we must not become like those of the opposition who, religious and patriotic though they say they are, seek only to rid the world of us.

— Gay Community News



ANITA SHOWS US HOW IT'S DONE.

ORANGE JUICE PEOPLE COOL TO BRYANT'S GAY CAMPAIGN

LAKELAND, FL (AP) — Anita Bryant's success as a spokesman against homosexual rights may cost her the \$100,000 a year job of pitching Florida orange juice in television ads, state officials say.

"The whole Anita thing is a mess," says Arthur Darling, director of publicity for the Florida Department of Citrus. "No matter what we decide, we're only going to lose. I wish she would just resign."

Department officials say the filming of this fall's television campaign has been suspended until they receive the results of

a survey studying her "market effectiveness."

They say part of the problem is that the singer has become more recognized for her outspoken religious opposition to homosexual rights than as a spokeswoman for the citrus industry.

"You can't be a commercial star and an evangelist at the same time," says Douglas Hoffer, the department's marketing director.

Hoffer said the survey will measure whether consumers have come to identify Bryant with the homosexual issue more than with oranges.

Miss Bryant was appearing Saturday in New Orleans. Her husband, Bob Green, said backstage that he would not show her a copy of the comments by Florida officials, and refused to let reporters talk to her.

"It would break her heart if she saw it," he said. "She will be in church in the morning, and she'll be able to take it a lot better in church."

"It's sad, but if it's true, then a person doesn't have the right to stand up for free speech. I personally don't believe it. I would really have to hear this from the citrus growers. We've had Florida citrus growers say their sales are up, and that means she's a good salesperson."

"If it's true, it's a big victory for homosexuals in the United States, and the homosexuals can be proud of their boycott against Anita Bryant."

When Miss Bryant helped form Save Our Children, Inc., the group that led the successful campaign for the repeal of Dade County's homosexual rights campaign, Darling said he hoped the furor over Miss Bryant's stand would die down after the election.

But in the week following the county referendum which repealed the law, personal appearances by the former beauty queen in Dallas, New Orleans and Chicago have touched off demonstrations for and against her position.

Darling says the department has received a stack of "Anita hate mail" mostly from California homosexuals vowing to boycott Florida Citrus products.

"We're concerned that she is making herself such a national figure on this issue," says Dan Richardson, chairman of the state citrus commission.

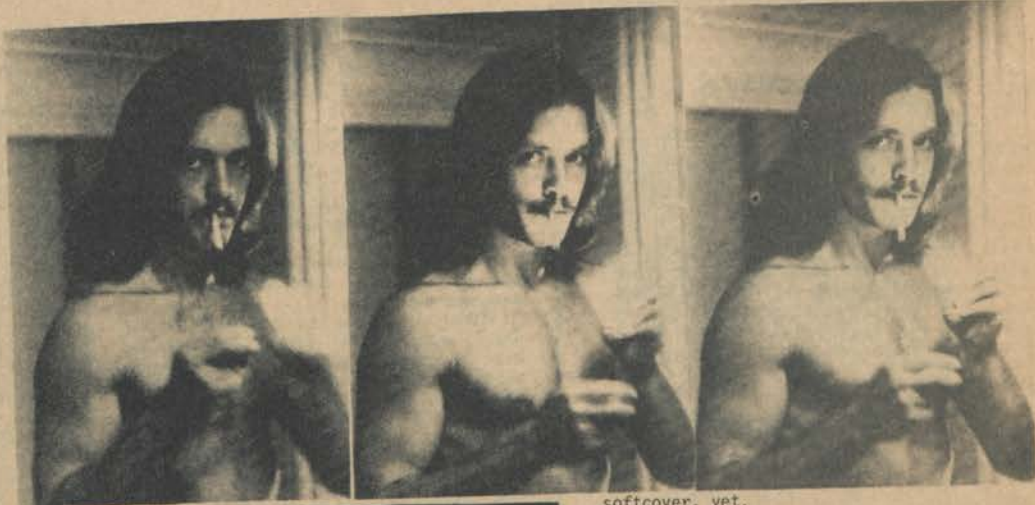
The commission will have the final say on whether Miss Bryant's contract will be renewed.

Officials say if the survey show Miss Bryant, who has been selling orange juice for 10 years, is no longer an effective saleswoman, the DOC already has filmed back-up commercials using Olympic skating star Dorothy Hamill and Boston Pops Conductor Arthur Fiedler.



Anita and Bob at home: Heaven shows the way

Gleaned from the Boulder (Col.) Gay Record: "Dear Anita Bryant: If you can't stand the fruits, get out of the orchard."



Photography by Crawford Barton. Edited and designed by Dennis Forbes. (Liberation Publications, Inc., One Peninsula Place, Bldg. 1730, Suite 225, San Mateo, CA 94402. 96 pp., \$15, softcover, 9 x 12" format.)

photo review

"Beautiful Men" is one of those rare photo books that slowly grows on you. Unimpressive at first glance, its photos become more stunning on repeated viewings with their telling detail and, above all, Barton's technique is seldom flashy and frequently seems undynamic, for he subordinates to the creation of portraits.

And portraits does seem the best description of the bulk of photographs in "Beautiful Men." A note on that title too. Some will find it odd that a collection of "Beautiful Men" includes random photos of long-haired hippies, S/M geared macho types, men who are balding and overweight, as well as some young men who seem to be not yet out of high school. (Oddly enough, however, none of the subjects seem to be older than mid-30's, at the most. Whether this is the result of Barton's or Forbes's biases is unknown, but the suggestion of ageism is out of keeping with the rest of the collection's contents.) But as Barton is interested in portraying not only their physical appearance, but their personalities as well, they do indeed become "Beautiful Men."

If fact, those looking for the standard humpy number-naked body-book are going to be severely disappointed. Many of the nudes are unimpressive and seem to have been thrown in by editor Forbes simply to help sell the book. To be honest, some of the nudes are stunning, and it is in many of these that Barton relies wholly on his techniques, which is considerable; but as a



whole, they are decidedly secondary to the portraits. The selection of a photo of Jan Michael Vincent (or an incredible look-alike) seems like another one of the sales ploys. Neither Vincent nor anyone else in the "famous" category is to be found anywhere on the inside of the book. And it is doubtful that these ploys would be necessary without a price-tag that is frankly outrageous for such a slim book — and in

softcover, yet.

But these minor objections aside, "Beautiful Men" is a beautiful book and we are happy to take the opportunity to share some of our favorite photos from it on these pages.

"Beautiful Men" is available directly from the publisher. Include 75c for postage and handling.



"Now that's Camp!"

VIEWPOINTS...



IF THE TABLES WERE TURNED....

by Theodore Wells

Mainly Gay

There is much concern today about the future of man, which means, of course, both women and men-generic man. For a woman to take exception to this use of the term "man" is often seen as defensive hair-splitting by an emotional female.

The following experience is an invitation to awareness, in which you are asked to feel into and stay with your feelings through each step. Do not intellectualize for the experience will lose its impact.

Think of reversing the generic term "man." Think of the future of woman, which includes, of course, both women and men. Sense its meaning for you as a man... as a woman.

Think of it as always being that way, every day of your life. Feel the ever-presence of woman, and feel the non-presence of man. Absorb what it tells you about the importance of being woman... of being man.

Recall that everything you have ever read used only female pronouns: she, her, meaning both girls and boys, women and men. Recall that most of the voices on radio and most of the faces on TV are women, when important events are covered, on commercials, on talk shows.

Recall that you have no male Senators in Washington to represent you.

Feel the fact that women are the natural leaders, the power-centers, the prime movers. Man, whose natural role is husband and father, fulfills himself through nurturing children and making the home a refuge for women.

This is only natural to balance the biological role of woman, who devotes her whole body to the race during pregnancy, the most revered power known to woman... or to man, of course.

Consider the obvious biological explanation for woman as the ideal: her genital construction. By design, the female genitals are compact and internal, protected by her body. Male genitals are so exposed and vulnerable that he must be protected from outside attack to assure the perpetuation of the race. He obviously needs sheltering.

Thus, by nature males are more passive than females and have a desire in sexual relations to be symbolically engulfed by the protective body of the female.

Males psychologically yearn for the protection, fully realizing their masculinity only at this time, and feeling exposed and vulnerable at other times. A man experiences himself as a "whole man" when thus engulfed.

If the man denies these feelings, he is unconsciously rejecting his masculinity. Therapy is thus indicated to facilitate openness leading to the man's growth and self-actualization.

To help him feel into his defensive emotionality, he is invited to get in touch with the child within him. He remembers his sifter jeering at his primitive geni-



tals that "flop around foolishly," while she can run, jump, climb and ride horseback unencumbered.

Obviously, since she is free to move, she is encouraged to develop her body and mind in preparation for her active responsibility of adult womanhood. The male vulnerability needs female protection, so he is taught the less active, caring virtues of homemaking.

Because of his vagina-envy, he learns to bind up his genitals and feel unclean and ashamed because of his nocturnal emissions. He is encouraged to dream of getting married, and waits for the time of his fulfillment, when his woman gives him a girl-child to care for.

He knows that if it is a boychild, he has somehow failed. But they can always try again.

In therapy those early experiences are reawakened. He attends an encounter group entitled "On Being a Man," which is led by a woman. In a group of 19 men and four women, he begins to work through some of his deepest feelings.

What feelings do you think he will express?

- Newswest



FOR MONEY OR LOVE—boy prostitution in America, by Robin Lloyd (Vanguard, 236 pp., \$8.95). Review by Ursula Enters Copely.

SEXUAL EXPERIENCES BETWEEN MEN AND BOYS—exploring the pederast underground, by Parker Rossman (Association, 247 pp., \$10.95). Review by Ursula Enters Copely.

A state senator is arrested for molesting a page boy. A Catholic priest is caught with an acolyte. The son of a movie actress is jailed as leader of a male prostitution ring. Several boys are murdered who belong to a nationwide call boy service. The newspapers make the stories hideous. The public is outraged. Here are two books about a *sub rosa* world that has the double taboo of homosexuality linked with children.

Robin Lloyd's book suffers from an over-popularization and from a seemingly endless catalog of social ills that by extension could cause boy prostitution, but he never proves the connection. However, from his considerable knowledge of the facts surrounding the history of boy prostitution and the recent scandals that have occurred in many cities he presents specific details in an absorbing fashion. He argues impressively that the majority of young hustlers come from unhappy or broken families, and the "chickenhawk" acts as surrogate father and often treats a boy well. He concludes optimistically that most boy prostitutes develop heterosexually, marry, and have children of their own.

The details in Parker Rossman's book are based on interviews and written statements of 1,000 adult pederasts and 300 adolescent boys. He describes pederast and pederastic situations such as the accidental kind that begins as horseplay and leads to mutual masturbation, the exploitive

type that involves alcohol, drugs, pimps, and pornography, and the classic form prevalent in Greco-Roman and Moslem civilizations. He claims the boy love pattern is learned early, and he shares Kinsey's belief that society by denying boys approved sexual access to girls forces them into homosexual outlets. Rossman points out that most encounters between men and boys are entered into voluntarily: there is such a thing as a consenting minor. If a lad is seduced at all, it is usually by an older boy or teenager. Although he is critical of society and blames it for the problem, as a solution he would impose rigid controls on situations that encourage pederasty instead of calling for an easing of restrictive attitudes and laws.

- Homosexual Information Center Newsletter

THE SORCERER OF BOLINAS REEF

BY CHARLES REICH

RANDOM HOUSE, 1976, \$9.95

reviewed by Paul F. Pearce
Body Politic staff

When Charles Reich's, *The Greening of America* was published in 1970 it was an instant best-seller. If one was able to suspend one's critical faculties, it was a book that spoke to the times, echoing in its articulateness of many of our own half-formed ideas about the 1960's. Reich's new book is a continuation of *Greening* without its timeliness.

It is an autobiography of sorts, tracing Reich's personal odyssey from the conformist dead society of the 1950's, through the regeneration brought by the hippies in the 60's, into the FREEDOM (Reich's capital letters) of the 70's. Reich is not concerned with subtlety or possibly conflicting interpretations — everything is black and white. His account of the 50's as a young lawyer in Washington, DC repeats all the stereotypes now fashionably applied to that abused decade. The hippies are the knights in gaudy armour banishing darkness with love and bringing rebirth through truth and self-knowledge.

Reich comes out as a gay person in this book, and as laudible and positive as it may be, it does little to save the book. Of recent gay autobiographies, Tennessee Williams' description of his sex life is positively titillating, and Kate Millet's is both loving and erotic. Reich is merely pompous. "He put his mouth around my penis and I accepted that, it made the sunlight flooding into me still brighter, the dark mysterious spaces opening up still more magical." This is Reich's first sexual experience, with a prostitute, and while giving the young man an extra ten bucks he gives him a lecture as well. "I want you to know you've changed someone's life today" I said. "I guess you have good times and bad times in your work, but today you did the rarest of all things and made a difference in another person's life." It is this lack of an ironical touch or even a sense of humor that makes Reich so frustrating to read.

At the close of the book, Reich invites us all to enter the new world "calmly and quietly and reverently." His arrogant assertion of this new world to me is to mean shameless dismissal of the countless people who live in the old world (yes, even in the 50's) long ago before the hippies even appeared on the scene. And, damn it all, if there is to be a new world, we would all be a lot better off to enter it shouting, swearing, and laughing.

HOMOSEXUALS IN HISTORY

By A.L. Rowse

(Macmillan, 346 pp., \$12.95 hardcover)

GAY AMERICAN HISTORY

By Jonathan Katz

(Crowell, 690 pp., \$9.95 softcover, \$12.95 hardcover)

Within six months of each other, two books have appeared to fill the gap in our roots. Katz's phenomenal book is the biggest step in that direction, covering North America from the time of early explorations (with explorer's accounts of homosexuality among the Indians) to the present. I would rather Katz had managed to arrange his history chronologically, rather than in an easy-reference style (what, after all, is an index for?), but that is a small enough quibble, and in the face of Katz's monumental work shouldn't even be mentioned.

A more important quibble, and perhaps one which reveals me to be a child of the McLuhan era than I might wish to admit, is a lack of illustrations. When reading either histories or biographies, I like to see photos or some sort of illustrations of the people involved. Katz's book has some illustrations, but I feel there aren't enough. And even a rudimentary browsing reveals that this is not due to a lack of availability of some illustrations. This is a grave oversight.

But the lack of illustrations aside, "Gay American History" is without doubt one of the single most important reference collections for the Gay community to be ever be put between two covers. I wish my words were adequate to cover my enthusiasm for the book. Buy it; you won't regret it.

A.L. Rowse has turned out quite a different kind of history whose subtitle, "Ambivalence in Society, Literature and the Arts," tells it all, or almost all. The book also devotes itself exclusively to males. Although in his preface, Rowse pleads his limitations and suggests that a "companion" volume on women is another project for another writer (as is any discussion of ho-

mosexuality much prior to the Renaissance). Actually he is revealing (among other things) his innate snobbishness which disconcertingly crops up again and again throughout the book.

For instance, in his account of Erasmus, he notes a historical nonentity with whom Erasmus fell in love. As this man was a "normal heterosexual" (Rowse's phrasing), he did not reciprocate and, "We hear no more of him — and indeed who ever would have heard of this obscure person, if he had not happened to cross the path, and attract the affection, of a man of genius." Statements like that, coupled with repeated references to historians as "mostly philistines where arts or any taste are concerned" are the apogee of pomposity.

Rowse's work is subversively heterosexual in nature. One is tempted to think he tolerates the homosexuality of his subjects (and only barely as I shall shortly point out) only because he has a sneaking suspicion it enhanced their artistic vision. Rowse's contention, and certainly not a new enough one to justify a book, is that art is connected with the sexual urge, thus homosexual artists have a very special "input" because they see things differently. Q.E.D. "All cats die. Socrates is dead. Socrates was a cat."

Rowse never suggests that perhaps homosexuals are better artists, or perhaps more inclined to be artists, than heterosexuals, yet considering his line-up of geniuses who were "ambivalent" (!) would certainly give one cause to consider it. But that would be going to far for a man who repeatedly manages to find ways to couple the words "normal" and "heterosexual." He suggests that homosexuals being "mother's boys" is "a psychological pattern we shall see occurring again and again" and makes statements

such as "The male is the aggressive animal" and "Henri III was keen on having everything exquisite, neat and clean about him — in contrast to Henry of Navarre, like the masculine type he was."

Rowse's seeming contention that heterosexual men are slobs seems more a snob reaction than elevation of homosexuality (not that I'm suggesting such a thing should be done). After all, how compassionate can a man be who pens the following sentence when describing an unrequited love affair between a homosexual and a heterosexual: "We shall see this pattern recur, and watch with amusement the ironical turns that such relationships are apt to take" (emphasis mine). As I said, subversive.

In Rowse's favor, it must be stated that his style is easy to read, gossipy and almost chatty in tone. He collects, and even unearths, many facts which make the book useful as reference. By all means, read it for the facts put on display, but take the author's opinions with a grain of salt.

THE HOMOSEXUALS

Alan Ebert (Macmillan, 332 pp., \$9.95, hardcover)

As a documentary on Gay lifestyles, Alan Ebert's "The Homosexuals" is practically unique. I say "practically" primarily because Karla Jay and Allan Young's books of collected essays have already explored the idea of a variety of homosexuals voicing their own experiences and concerns. As such, the book does not quite live up to its cover blurb: "The first book in which homosexuals speak for and about themselves." But Ebert's book differs from the Jay/Young compilations in two important ways: a) it is conducted as a series of interviews, and b) nearly all the interviews are closed.

THE STREET BEAT BY JOHN PETALE

Gay Atlantic City is creeping out from under its winter wraps on cautious tiptoe. When the temperature rises to the 70's New York Avenue blossoms like a lily. All is forgotten but the cruel fuel bills hanging over from a harsh off-season. One of the first signs of the approaching good times is the sprouting of the umbrellaed tables, trees and fountain on the patio which is the summer beergarden of Ceil's Saratoga. Watching Norman and Betty wrestle with the hoses and motors and hearing the lusty belch of the fountain waters, can be mistaken for the first splashes of spring, in this monkeyshine madcap resort.

The Rendezvous Club has acquired a new stage and dance floor, all lovingly bathed in an extraordinarily intricate and exciting light show. The show was designed for a rock band and serves to create a total environment for the room by integrating bar, tables, stage and dance floor in a dreamlike world suggestible of reality and super-reality but in effect whimsy. The Club will have "an occasional show" policy throughout the summer.

Fabulous, glamorous and Sweet Fanny of the boutique by the same name has reopened for the season. She returned from a winter cruise on the Oceanic to the Caribbean and remained only long enough to chuck money and keys to her buyer and flew back to the princess hotel in Bermuda to await the return of the "swallows" to the Boardwalk.

Right next door to Fanny's a brief, brief swimwear emporium has opened and called itself Brief Encounter, naturally. Harry, Bob, and Phyllis will take turns fitting and outfitting. As we stroll on towards the boardwalk we find Carl's Sub shop still in place but manned by Lee and company whose charm and enthusiasm has already made the landlord wish he had asked for more rent. Further up on the walk opposite the Chez/DCA we find that Dee Shute has turned her Truckstop over to Rich and Ralph while Dee herself has taken more active part in the Shute night clubs.

John Marino of the Grand Central on New York Avenue has announced the opening of two shops on the main level of the Grand.

Henri David has taken the larger of the two shops for The Queen of Hearts, a boutique of Henri David type fun items: costumes, clothing, "things you forgot to bring," and other sundry articles. Henri operated a similar shop last season called Kisses, located across the street.

Adjoining "The Queen of Hearts," Marino will bring back Strawberry Fields, an old fashioned ice cream parlor. It has been named Strawberry Fields again recalling the first of that name which Marino ran a few seasons ago. Decor will be centered around old time nickelodean and fountain bar from out of another almost forgotten era.

Reley's liquor store which we are used to seeing nestled between professor Coleman's boutique of the future and King Kone ice cream, has given up the ghost in the face of menacing high rents and the busi-

ness has been bought by the "amazon" A. Mazin whom we visit on Pacific Avenue. We note that in what way may be an effort to attract Canadian business he has painted a new name on his roomin' house: Hotel Latapette.

Lyle's coffee shop has survived the long hard winter with estimable grace, and her cheerful smile gives way to troubled gloom only when Leon Levin the grim landlord of Elbow Corner, that interesting rooming house in Snake Alley, casts a shadow upon her door. Speaking of new rooming houses, Dan Lourdan has got his new property together at 153 Westminister (Snake Alley) and is open for business.

For those who did not realize that Snake Alley continued beyond "elbow corner" we encourage you to explore its lower reaches. You may use Dave and Bob's Deckhouse as a landmark.



Now while I am highly suspicious of a book which does not live up to its advance publicity (and Ebert's book does not — in fact he should be objecting to the publicity for the book even more than to the rather clinical title it has been saddled with), I must admit I found Ebert's book excellent. But to fully appreciate what the book is, we should first determine what it is not, in spite of its claims. As noted, it is not the first, etc. It is also not exactly representative of a cross-section of Gay male life (only males are interviewed). There are a few young males included, and not one of the interviewees could exactly be termed either an activist or even very much involved in the Gay movement.



Some may protest this lack of someone identified with the movement, or a famous uncloseted Gay. I do not, except that I feel Ebert goes too far in calling his cross-section representative. If a cross-section of closeted types (who to straight people might be that "nice bachelor who never found the right girl") is what Ebert meant, he'd be correct. And this is how I feel the book is most valuable.

The title has a nice, safe, clinical-sounding ring to it, first off, which might encourage straight people to pick it up. As they read it, despite a few outrageous interviews, they're going to encounter all those "nice bachelor who" — types that they know in everyday life.

And this is the book's second important function. It's interview-cum-dialogue format allows homosexuals to come through in print as people more than any previous book I can think of. That the interviews also do not (as a group) fall into stereotyped personalities or occupations is a very nice aspect, but important as that is from our viewpoint— I find it more important that they come across as people. Despite any deficiencies the book may have (and it does have a few), I think that one aspect makes it one of the most important tools to education and understanding that the movement has yet to be given. Recommend this book to all your straight friends.

— H L

letters

May 1, 1977

Brothers/Sisters:

I am requesting your protest letters and support in that I was again beaten and assaulted by officials at Lexington F.C.I. following an earlier such attack on March 8, 1977. Lt. Kurnot beat me while I was being questioned by him in the hole and earlier that day by 12 other officers with force as a set-up was arranged by Warden W. H. Rauch.

Various federal officials face seven writs in federal court at Lexington, Kentucky, and Seattle, Washington, and I had just released information over to NBC News in Chicago (WMAG-TV with Wendy Sigel) on the control unit at Marion, Illinois, attempting to shut it down! This plus being a gay activist and plaintiff in a class action suit against the officials of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons pursuant to their ban on gay publications, as filed by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc of New York.

The past five years of court actions and losses by officials have stirred up a conspiracy to end my life and prevent my being in court at Seattle where I expect to be heard shortly. The warden of Lexington F.C.I., W. H. Rauch, has placed me in solitary at Fayette County Jail under 24-hour lock-up with no legal materials or medical treatment as a hope of stopping any additional contacts through kidnapping me in this manner. I suffered severe back and kidney injuries and have received nothing to date in the way of medical treatment.

Working in the legal library, I have been able to help many male and female prisoners at the Lexington F.C.I. They hope to put a stop to the extreme uncovering of their ruthless and inhuman treatment. I have been unable to organize any type of unity towards gay or a help for women's struggles as we had been still working towards these at Lexington, but we have accomplished a "national prisoners legal defense" broad-based for helping all prisoners which you can contact: Sister Evelyn Ancilla, Convent of Transfiguration, 495 Albion Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45246, either for help or to send funds which are tax deductible.



Your letters of protest are urgently required to halt the excessive harassment, assault and possible death by officials. Please send telegrams and letters to: (a) Norman A. Carlson, Director of U.S. Bureau

of Prisons, Dept. of Justice, Washington, DC 20530, (b) Griffin Bell, U.S. Attorney General, Dept. of Justice, Washington, DC 20530, and (c) Bernard T. Monahay, Jr., Judge, Eastern District of Kentucky, U.S. District Court, Lexington, KY.

I ask this not only to stop the severe oppression of my being a gay activist but for all other brothers/sisters in need who will be or who are suffering as well.

Thank you.

In struggle with you,
John Gibbs, #86976-132
200 Clark Street
Fayette County Jail
Lexington, KY 40501

From ZAP!, Newsletter of the
State College Gay Community

The following letter was sent to all the senators in PA who did not vote against Senate Bill 83:

To the Members of the Pennsylvania Senate:
Congratulations! By passing SB 83, you are following in the footsteps of one of the greatest heroes of all time, Adolph Hitler. Fascism is a most delightful goal for the Commonwealth.

First we prevent Them from holding certain jobs, then we keep Them from all jobs. The next logical step is to make it illegal for Them to hold private property, after which these idle riffraff have to be relieved of their citizenship, for it's obvious that They are doing nothing to make this the greatest country in the world. Then They'll have to register each year as non-persons, so we can keep an eye on their subversive activities.

Because it's obvious that They have to be committing some kind of crime to live, we'll have to lock Them up in special camps for sub-humans. This too, will prevent the recruitment of young people into their ranks, which is obviously the way They keep their kind around since They hate the opposite sex and thus can't reproduce. But just the same, we should sterilize Them to make sure.

Of course, the camps will have to make some sort of contribution to this great society, so perhaps we can have them do some type of menial labor, but I'm sure that won't be possible because we all know how weak and ineffectual They are, so we'll be forced to start an extermination program to keep the number of Them down to a manageable size.

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ARIES

BITS 'N' PIECES

TYPIST'S NOTE: FIRST OF ALL, I AM NOT THE TYPIST, AFTER STRUGGLING AND PECKING THE KEYS OF THIS TYPEWRITER WITH TWO FINGER (SOMETIMES THREE), MANAGING TO USE TWO CORRECTION RIBBONS, AND NOT HAVING THE COURAGE TO LOOK UP EVERY FIFTH WORD TO SEE WHERE IT IS HYPHENATED, I BEG YOU TO TAKE PITY ON ME WHEN YOU COME ACROSS ERRORS. — DAVE LEAS

WE WISH TO APOLOGIZE FOR FORGETTING THE PHOTO CREDIT UNDER THE PHOTO OF THE COLUMBIA NEWS IN THE LAST ISSUE. BARI HAD TO DRIVE FIFTEEN MILES TO GET THAT PICTURE, THANK YOU BARI.

HOUSE VOTES TO NULLIFY RENT SUBSIDIES TO GAYS

WASHINGTON, DC — By a simple voice vote on Monday, June 13, the House of Representatives voted to nullify a federal regulation that would grant rent or mortgage subsidies to gay couples that met low income criteria.

The regulation was issued May 9 by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The issue brought little debate as Rep. Edward Boland (D-Mass.), manager of the bill proposed killing the regulation.

The House voted Wednesday, June 15 to nullify President Carter's program of reviewing and upgrading less than honorable discharges given to Vietnam combat veterans.

The votes on rent and mortgage subsidies for gays and Carter's discharge upgrade program were amendments to a \$70.2 billion money bill for HUD and several independent agencies including the VA.

The overall bill passed on a 374-32 vote and went to the Senate.

GAYS PETITION FCC ON "FAIRNESS DOCTRINE"

SAN FRANCISCO (June 15) — Gays in San Francisco have petitioned the Federal Communications Committee to extend the broadcast fairness doctrine in order to counter Anita Bryant's anti-gay campaign.

The Council on Religion and the Homosexual, Inc., charged that station KVOF aired six hours of programming featuring the Orange Juice Lady, Anita Bryant, and her husband, Bob Greene, talking about their recent Save Our Children organization. The petition says that the station refused to allow homosexuals to go before the cameras to present their view.

The gay activist group asked the FCC to order the Glendale, Calif., television station to air programming in response to Bryant's views.

An FCC spokesperson said that the petition was the first of its kind asking that the fairness doctrine be applied to questions of homosexuality.

GOOSE-STEPPING TO GAY PRIDE

LOS ANGELES, CA — A boycott and veiled threats of physical violence are marring the planning of this month's gay pride parade here. The promised appearance of a "gay Nazi" group in the event has split the planners and the community in general. Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Universal Fellowship of MCC, announced that he will sponsor an alternative march if the Christopher Street West Association does not change its partic-



"Of course I'm crazy about the idea, Roger, but I'm afraid it might misdirect our message..."

ipation policy. CSW has twice refused to exclude any but those breaking the law from entering the parade. Gay Jewish leaders in the city have voted to boycott the parade if the Nazi group marches. Irv Ruben, West Coast director of the Jewish Defense League, said his organization is "concerned" with the possibility of Nazis in the parade. "If we go down there and see Nazis goose-stepping and if we're given the opportunity, we'll take care of them," Ruben said. The symbol of this year's gay pride parade in Los Angeles is the pink triangle used to identify gay prisoners in Nazi concentration camps.

— Gay Community News

SODOMY REPEAL COALITION FORMED

PHILADELPHIA — The Coalition of Human Rights in Pennsylvania has been formed by Barry Kohn, who acts as the coalition's coordinator. The coalition claims as its sole purpose the passage of Pa. Senate Bill 531, which would repeal the sodomy statute, raise the statute of limitations on Rape from 2 to 5 years, and make significant changes in the Corruption of Minors section.

The coalition is looking for the endorsement of 500 organizations in support of SB 531 and will issue a booklet in support of the bill to senators. Individual sponsors of the group already include Spencer Coxe, Terry Delmuth, Barbara Gittings, Marie Keeney, Walter Lear, M.D., Kay Whitlock and Thomas Wilson.

Sen. Craig Lewis, the chief sponsor of SB 531 (and a vocal opponent to Nolan's SB 83 on hiring discrimination) is receiving much mail in opposition to his position. Individuals are urged to write Sen. Lewis in support of SB 531.

Sen. Lewis' mail should be sent to the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, Main Capital Building, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120. The Coalition can be reached c/o Barry Kohn, 1740 Eddison Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19146 or at (215) 732-0164

LESBIAN SATISFACTION

SAN JOSE, CA — Two studies on female sexuality conducted at the University of California and San Jose State University have found that 87% of the lesbians surveyed almost always experienced orgasm during love-making. However, of all the 262 women surveyed, only 18% reported similar satisfaction in love-making. 162 lesbians and 100 heterosexual women participated in the poll.

— Gay Community News

WASHINGTON, DC — The US Jobs Corps has recently distributed to all training centers a radically revised manual on "Sexuality" which eliminates all the anti-homosexual elements contained in the previous manual, entitled *Sexual Deviation*; urges respect for differing sexual lifestyles; and instructs Job Corps directors that "Rules concerning sexual behavior must be the same as for heterosexual and homosexual activities."

The new manual states clearly that "A man or a woman may not be excluded from participating in the Job Corps solely on the basis of their choice of a sexual partner of the same gender. Therefore, homosexuality will be considered as one part of the total spectrum of sexuality."

PIE IN THE FACE

ST. PAUL, MN — The Roman Catholic Archbishop of St. Paul was hit in the face with a chocolate cream pie thrown by a gay rights advocate recently. Patrick Schwartz threw the pie at Archbishop John R. Roach at a dinner of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Schwartz said he took his action because he believed Roach was being hypocritical in accepting the conference's National Brotherhood Award. Schwartz contended that the archbishop had worked to defeat a gay rights bill in the Minnesota state legislature. After the incident, Roach said he bore no hostility toward the pie thrower.

— Gay Community News

FANCY DANCER AUTHOR STEPPING OUT

BY MICHAEL LYNCH
BODY POLITIC STAFF

Patricia Nell Warren is a Lesbian, and her next book will be about Lesbians, she said recently in answer to a question from *The Body Politic* (Ontario).

When Warren published her first novel, *The Last Centennial*, in 1971, it was under her married name, Patricia Kilina. Though still married while writing *The Front Runner*, she said, writing it and handing it over to her agent constituted "almost my first act of coming out."

Asked why Lesbian writers such as herself, Marie Clair Blais, Mary Renault, and Margarite Yourcenar wrote about male rather than female homosexuals, Warren replied that she could only speak for herself. As an athlete, she knew a lot about running; she chose males for her focus because the male athlete raised more difficult problems of social stereotyping than female athletes did.

Warren was active in a movement that forced the Amateur Athletic Union to alter its policies that discriminated against female track and field athletes.

How did she learn about male homosexuals in order to write *The Front Runner*? "Research," she laughed. But for her book about Lesbians, Warren added, "the research will be done in a less devious and roundabout way!"

She wrote *The Fancy Dancer*, she says, because she was interested in what she calls "the fundamental problem of Gays," the attitudes towards them of Christian traditions. She was also concerned about the isolation of Gays in small towns.

Warren answered questions after speaking to a Detroit Gay group on May 14.

ESSEX, CT — G. Legman reports the most interesting etymological word in the English language is *dike*, referring to a lesbian, with all its variations such as

Diesel-dike. What is so interesting and unusual about dike is that all the intermediate forms of this term from its etymological origin, which is hermaphrodite, to its most evolved derivative, bulldagger, are all in simultaneous existence at the present time and have been since the 1930's.

— Verbatim

PHILADELPHIA GAY COFFEEHOUSE BEGINS ART EXHIBITS

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Gay Coffeehouse, 326 Kater Street, begins a series of month-long art exhibits. Each show will feature an individual gay artist. The art works will be available for viewing during the regularly scheduled Coffeehouse hours: Friday, 9pm to 1am; Saturday, 9pm to 1 am; and Sunday, 8pm to 12 mid-night.

The next exhibit, from June 15 to July 15, includes the works of Ron Hueftle, featured in a recent article of the *Advocate*. Hueftle lives in the Powelton Village section of West Philadelphia.

The third exhibit will run from July 15 to August 15, featuring the works of Barbara Bjanés. Besides painting and drawing, Bjanés has an avid interest in women's films. More exhibits will be scheduled in the future; if interested in exhibiting please contact Betti Watts, 215-922-1623.

The Philadelphia Gay Coffeehouse is located on the second floor of the Gay Community Center of Philadelphia, 326 Kater Street, directly behind the TLA Cinema and half a block below Fourth and South Streets.



NOLAN ON WAY OUT?

Homophobic State Senator Thomas Nolan (D-Wilkins) is being edged out of his position as Senate majority leader, according to some sources. Nolan, the center of controversy since the lid was blown off a secret funds stash used for personal luxuries by Nolan and his cronies, may not even have enough support in his home district to be re-elected, according to the story.

Other recent Nolan controversies have included repeated attempts to push through bills designed to outlaw the hiring of gays for certain types of "sensitive" employment, and the taxing of advertising in retaliation for the news media's probe into the secret funds. One unidentified Democratic leader commented, "We've had it

up to our eyeballs with queer bills and advertising taxes." Nolan has been an outspoken critic of Gov. Shapp for his efforts to aid the gay civil rights struggle.

— Gay Life

NEW YORK, NY — The casts of 25 Broadway shows, including *Oh! Calcutta!*, lead their matinee audiences down Broadway to an anti-pornography rally at Times Square.

It was the last event (and best attended) in a three-day campaign against pornography and prostitution, call Stamp Out Smut, sponsored by the Mayor's Midtown Citizens Committee.

— New York Times

BRAZILIAN SERGEANT GETS 6 MONTHS FOR 'HOMOSEXUALISM'

BRASILIA, BRAZIL — The Brazilian Army's Permanent of Council of Justice has condemned a Brazilian sergeant to six months in prison for "homosexuality," the respected Rio de Janeiro newspaper *Jornal do Brasil* reports. The sergeant, Rui Barbosa Correa, was given the minimum penalty of six months in jail, under article 235 of the Military Penal Code. The Army Council, located in Brasilia, also ordered an inquiry into the participation of other soldiers in the case.

In court, the defense attorney, Alexander Burne, claimed that the sergeant had been charged without any proof and noted that the lawsuit did not mention any possible accomplices.

Although the position of gay people under the Brazilian military dictatorship, is believed to be better than in neighboring Chile and Argentina, one opponent of the Brazilian military told *Gay Community News* (Boson), "A dictatorship enters in all pores of the tissue of a nation. This is only a little example," she said, "and such things aren't widely reported because our press doesn't defend the rights of the individual to choose how to live in his or her own manner. The general violence and disrespect of the governmental system against its own laws is a day to day reality."

— Gay Community News

ANN ARBOR, MI — Gay students, staff and faculty won a victory at the University of Michigan when students voted, 1,041 to 314 in favor of gay rights on campus.

The students approved an amendment to the Michigan Student Assembly's all-campus constitution guaranteeing that "all benefits (shall be) extended to students without regard to sexual preference."

— Michigan Free Press

COLLEGE STATION, TX — Officials at Texas A&M University say homosexual activities are "diabolically counter" to the school's traditions and that they would fight any attempt to organize homosexual organizations on campus.

The comments came in response to a suit filed by three students seeking gay recognition.

— The Milwaukee Journal

NO

WHY NOT?



WASHINGTON, DC — A \$6,250 judgement has been granted to eight people who had charged a DC gay bar with sexual and racial discrimination.

They claimed the *Grand Central Bar and Restaurant* excluded women, blacks, and whites accompanying blacks. The eight were represented by the *National Lawyers Guild*. The action is the culmination of 5 years of legal and political work by various groups and individuals against discriminatory practices in a number of DC gay bars.

— Lesbian Connection

NEW YORK — Former Rep. Bella S. Abzug announced her candidacy for the Democratic nomination for mayor of New York. Abzug's decision came as a surprise to virtually no one and she is expected to share gay support in the race with Rep. Edward Koch, who is also a mayoral contender. Koch is this year's prime co-sponsor of the national gay rights bill, while Abzug attempted to guide the bill towards passage during her tenure in the House.

The flamboyant Abzug, who was narrowly defeated in her bid for the Democratic nomination for the US Senate last year, is now believed to provide the major primary opposition to Mayor Abraham Beame. Beame is seeking a second term and also opposed by New York Secretary of State Mario Cuomo, Rep. Herman Badillo, Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, and Rep. Koch.

— Gay Community News

AUGUSTA, ME — By a vote of 21 to 10, the Maine Senate killed the gay rights measure that would have expanded Maine's Human Rights Act. The Senate action followed the House vote of 88 to 54 to indefinitely postpone the rights bill. The Maine bill would have permitted legal action by state officials in cases in which a person has been denied employment, housing, credit, or use of public accommodations on the basis of sexual and affectional preference.

— Gay Community News

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ENGLISH TEACHERS

NEW YORK, NY — The Executive Committee of the National Council of Teachers of English has authorized the formation of a Committee on Concerns of Lesbians and Gay Males in the English Profession. The committee has been called upon to study the problems facing gay teachers, prepare a monograph to develop among the general membership awareness of problems and solutions, and draft recommendations to the Executive Committee on means of helping end discrimination against gay teachers and students.

Julia Stanley and Louie Crew, the co-chairs of the newly formed committee, say they are interested in having input from teachers as to how they can best respond to the interests and concerns of the members of the Gay Caucus on the National Council of Teachers of English. The Committee on Concerns of Lesbians and Gay Males in the English Profession will hold an open meeting on Thanksgiving afternoon at the NCTE 1977 Convention in New York City. Interested people should write Louie Crew, English Dept., Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030.

— Gay Community News

IS RAPE NORMAL?

MADISON, WI — Last week, a County Court Judge here ruled that a 15-year-old boy was reacting "normally" when he raped a girl in a stairwell at West High School. Citing prevalent sexual permissiveness and women's provocative clothing as the cause of the rape, Judge Archie Simonson deferred punishment for the boy. Instead, he ordered the boy to stay at home under court supervision rather than being placed in an institution or other rehabilitation center.

"This community is well known to be sexually permissive. Should we punish a 15 or 16 year-old boy who reacts to it normally?" he asked.

Criticism of the court decision came from varied parts of the community, including the office of the District Attorney.

"This is probably the most serious crime in the history of the Madison public schools," Assistant District Attorney Meryl Manhardt said. "We're talking about the personal assault on a 16-year-old girl."

Judge Simonson ordered the youth to continue treatment through a youth program and to study at home with a public school teacher until he was re-admitted to school.

— Gay Community News

ILLINOIS VOTES 'NAY'

SPRINGFIELD, IL — The Illinois State House has defeated a gay rights bill which would have banned discrimination in employment at public colleges and universities. The vote was 114 to 38 in this action on the first gay rights measure to come before the body. Members of the Gay Rights Task Force, who have been working to line up support, said they were generally pleased with the last reception of the proposal. Another

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measure, which concerned ending discrimination in general employment, was referred back to committee for study. That move will keep it alive for the rest of this legislative session.

— Gay Community News

MINNESOTA DEFEAT

MINNEAPOLIS — Optimism has turned to disappointment for supporters of the gay rights bill that is before the Minnesota state legislature. Passage of the measure, once considered likely, was all but halted by an onslaught of callers opposed to the bill. "It's the same thing that's been happening everywhere," said openly gay State Senator Allen Spear. The entire Minnesota State Senate, meeting as a committee of the whole, voted 32 to 27 for a gay rights measure in early May. The next day, Catholics and conservative Lutherans flooded the capitol with anti-gay calls and the support for the measure quickly and significantly eroded. According to Spear, "It frankly doesn't look like the situation is going to improve."

— Gay Community News

NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATE
PASSES ANTI-GAY BILL

CONCORD, NH — The New Hampshire Senate has passed a bill that makes "lewd and licentious" public behavior by homosexuals a crime. The measure (SB 87) specifies those public places as schools, apartment house lobbies, restaurants, and government-owned and recreational facilities. It appeared as though the Senate was going to pass an amended, watered-down version, but some last minute maneuvering killed the chances of that occurring. The amendment sponsored by Sen. David Bradley (R-Hanover) would have prohibited overt public sexual behavior by heterosexuals as well as homosexuals.

The latest action in New Hampshire follows a recent decision by the Pennsylvania Senate that limits the rights of gays to hold certain state jobs. Pennsylvania Gov. Milton Shapp has said that he will veto that measure if it reaches his desk as he has with similar measures in the past. Governor Meldrim Thomson is expected to sign the New Hampshire bill if it is passed by that state's House.



GAINS MADE ON STATE COLLEGE CAMPUSES

HARRISBURG, PA — The State Department of Education has ruled that all 14 of the state's colleges within the state system must include "affectional or sexual preference" in their non-discrimination language. Two Pennsylvania assistant Attorney Generals, Deborah Baker and Sally Lied, have

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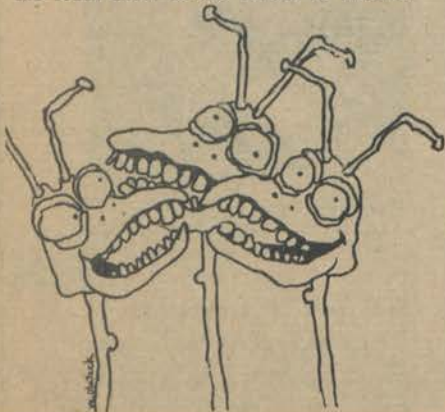
ruled that "sexual preference" must be added to all documents in which a non-discrimination clause appears.

The complicated process of getting the Pennsylvania ruling was given impetus when a group of gay students at West Chester State College succeeded in getting homosexuals protected in that state college's Affirmative Action guidelines. West Chester gays then sent out letters to the presidents of all the campuses requesting that gay rights be adopted there. The other college presidents voted to take no action but they did request one of the assistant Attorney Generals to investigate the situation. The result was the pro-gay ruling.

EX-GAY CRUSADES

SYRACUSE, NY — "Reformed gay" William Pruessing, the coordinator of the King's Ministries, spoke in this city in his continuing effort to "aid churches in ministering to the gay community." The King's Ministries is an organization of "ex-gays," the purpose of which is to bring about what it calls "the true liberation of those who desire and need release from the bondage of homosexuality." In the Syracuse talk, Pruessing recounted what he saw as a sordid 25 years of his life as a gay. During this period, he said, he was engaged in gay activity merely as a means of survival. Pruessing characterized the experience as "at first unpleasant, then tolerable, and finally accepted, but never without misgivings of conscience."

A self-styled conservative fundamentalist, Pruessing continually referred to the Bible to "prove that the practice of homosexuality is sin." He refused, however, to debate the scriptures when his views were challenged. Pruessing was director of a teenage home in the South until he was forced to flee to



HELP !

FOR A YEAR WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF RURAL GAYS IN PENNSYLVANIA. WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE. WE NEED YOUR HELP. WE NEED:

- 1) NEWS CORRESPONDENTS TO REPORT FOR THE GAY COMMUNITY IN YOUR AREA;
- 2) WRITERS FOR FEATURE ARTICLES;
- 3) HELP WITH LOCAL DISTRIBUTION TO INSURE THAT GAYS ARE NOT ISOLATED FROM EACH OTHER;
- 4) ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES SINCE THAT IS HOW WE PAY THE BILLS.

THE PAY IS NOTHING. THE PERSONAL REWARDS ARE IMMENSE. IF YOU CAN SPARE A FEW HOURS A MONTH, WRITE US TODAY.

GAY ERA
352 NORTH MULBERRY STREET
LANCASTER, PA 17603

California after admitting having kept a "harem" of young boys. The audience in Syracuse questioned Pruessing about that incident, and some of those attending suggested that he was not so much an "ex-gay," as he proclaims, but more an "ex-prostitute."

Pruessing is the latest of "former gays" who have been crusading against homosexuality. Guy Charles, a former gay activist, has organized a group called Liberation in Jesus Christ and recently spoke in the Boston area in an effort to "save" gay people from their sexual orientation.

— Gay Community News

ERVIN'S LAST STAND

CLEVELAND, OH — Former Senator Sam Ervin, the chairperson of the Senate Watergate Committee, has voiced his opposition to gay rights. Speaking at Lakeland Community College, Ervin spoke against the Equal Rights Amendment as well. During a question and answer period, the ex-North Carolina lawmaker was asked how he felt about the rights of homosexuals. Said Ervin: "I'm unsympathetic and I don't care whether they have rights or not."

— Gay Community News



FIGHTING THE FIRES

SAN FRANCISCO — "It doesn't make any difference to us whether a firefighter is straight or gay." With these words, San Francisco Fire Dept. Chief Andy Caspar voiced what is now the official policy of his department. Saying that he wanted his Fire Department to reflect the community, Chief Caspar added he would put an end to any harassment of gay firefighters by their co-workers. The chief, who noted that he is not sure whether there are any gay firefighters in San Francisco, says that he was unsure about whether to ask gay applicants on the upcoming Fire Dept. civil service list to identify themselves. Caspar said he definitely knew that gay people were among the current crop of applicants.

— Gay Community News

ALTLAND'S RANGH



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8:00 - 2:00**

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CALENDAR

EVERY WEEK

Sundays

7:30 pm, worship service, Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), State College, Eisenhower Chapel.
8:00 pm, worship service, MCC, 1001 North Spring Street, Apt. 1-2, Middletown, (717)-944-1574.

Tuesdays

8:30 pm, Lesbian Collective. Warm, social and supportive environment for women. Women's Resource Center, 108 East Beaver Ave., State College.

Wednesdays

7:30 pm, Communion service (a time for innovative modes of worship), MCC, Eisenhower Chapel, State College. Social follows.
8:00 pm, prayer meeting, MCC, Middletown.
8:30 pm, consciousness raising, MCC, Middletown.

Thursdays

7:00 pm, Christian Awareness Group (an intellectual approach to our spirituality), Eisenhower Chapel, State College

JULY

8 Friday - 9:00 pm, Phila. Gay Coffeehouse. Country & Western singer Jim Labig.

9 Saturday - 1:00 pm, Homophiles of Williamsport hosts Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus meeting. HOW-sponsored picnic planned. *Directions follow.

14 Thursday - 9-midnight, Homophiles of Penn State Coffeehouse, 415 E. Foster Ave., State College. Live entertainment.

17 Sunday - Second Anniversary Picnic at Pine Grove Furnace State Park from 10 am til ? Mass at 5 pm. For more info: 717-232-2027.

20 Wednesday - 12 noon, City Hall, Allentown Human Relations Commission meeting - continuing discussion of local gay rights issue.

9-midnight, HOPS Coffeehouse 415 E. Foster Ave., State College. Live entertainment.

21 Thursday - 8:00 pm, HOW regular monthly business meeting, 659 Beeber St., Williamsport. Social hour follows.

24 Sunday - Tentative: Swim Party at private pool in beautiful surroundings. Saucon Valley (south of Bethlehem), 1 pm, Bring own food and drinks, Changing and cooking facilities available. Call Joe Burns (215-437-2642) for definite date, details and directions.

31 Sunday - Dignity/Central Pa. Sunday Night Cookout at Jerry B.'s. Bring

some food. For more info call 717-232-2027. 6:30 pm til ?

AUGUST

4 Thursday - HOW regular monthly social meeting. Location open to date. call: 717-322-7987.

14 Sunday - Dignity and MCC joint summer picnic at Pine Grove Furnace State Park from 10 am til ? Bring some food and drink. Religious service at 5 pm.

18 Thursday - HOW regular monthly business meeting 8:00 pm, 659 Beeber St. Williamsport.

28 Sunday - Dignity's Sunday Night Cookout at Barb's and Sandy's. Bring some food. 6:30 pm til ? Call Jerry at 232-2027 or Barb at 234-7364 (both area code 717) for more info.

*DIRECTIONS:

July 9, 1pm. Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus meeting hosted by HOW. 659 Beeber St., Williamsport, Pa. US 15 north to Foy Avenue exit. Take Foy Ave. exit (to left). At stop sign, turn right (a ramp up to the bridge). Cross over bridge. Turn right at first street (Beeber St.). Come down hill, round curve, second house on right. (Stone bungalow.) 717-322-7987 if you happen to get lost. The Gay Era hopes that you don't.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Want gay male with mechanical interests and knowledge to work on three cars that desperately need your help. In exchange the owner will offer you his varied services. Possible live-in situation. Call 717-898-2876

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

Business (if you charge money for a service, you are a business): \$3.00 for 4 lines (35 characters per line) and 25 cents for each additional line. Headlines are 75 cents for 25 characters.

All ads must be paid in advance. No ads accepted by phone. Make check or money order payable to GAY ERA, 332 North Mulberry Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

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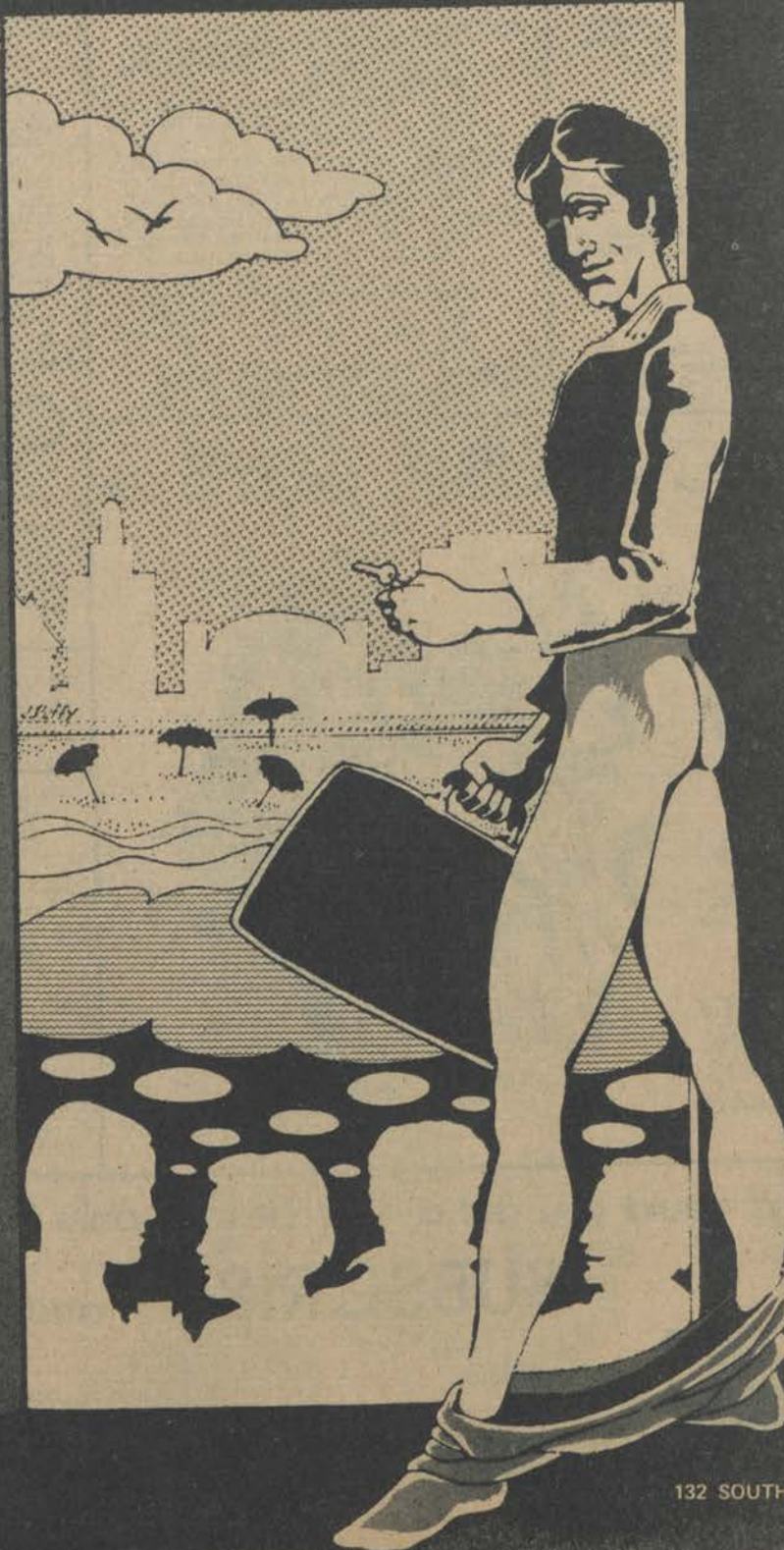
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