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GAY ERA

vol. 4 no. 1

50¢

MARCH 1978

3RD ANNIVERSARY

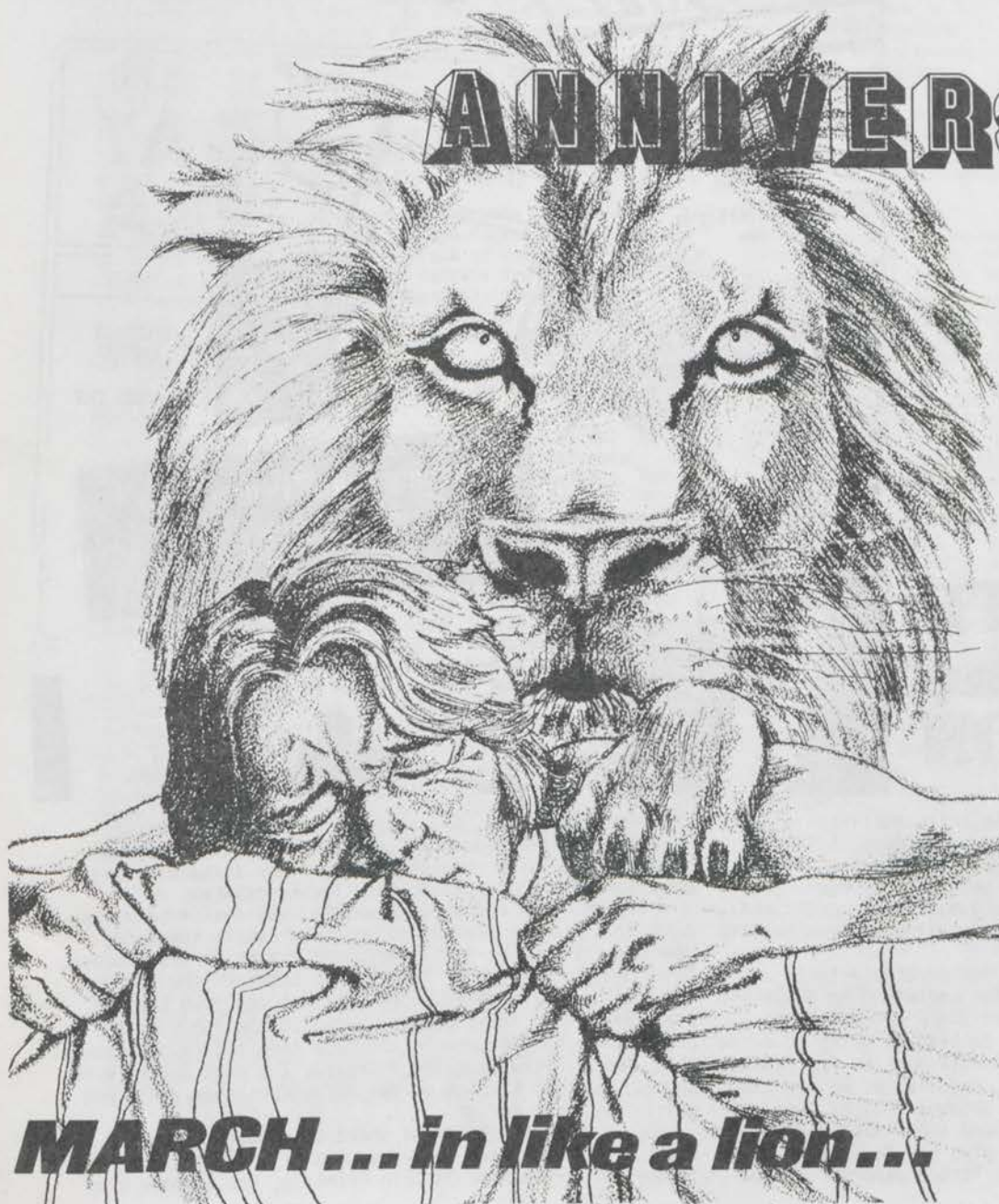
INSIDE
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BODY POLITIC
BUSTED

GAY WAFFLES

SELF
OPPRESSION

HOWARD
THE DUCK?



MARCH... in like a lion...

Aries©1978

NEWSLETTER 25¢
 GAYS-UNITED
 LANCASTER 25¢

PALM SUNDAY IN NEW YORK
 (What Happened??)
 -Job Herr
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ISSUE #7
 OCT '75

LANGASTER
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25¢

ISSUE #8

INSIDE:

News Commentary

A Talk with
 Penny Matlovich

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TALLY-HO GOES DISCO!
 The Tally Ho, Lancaster's oldest
 bar, is undergoing a remarkable
 transformation. The interior has been
 redesigned and now features two bars,
 wood shingled walls, exposed beamed
 ceiling, and new lighting. There are
 lovely old mirrors and prints,
 all of which serve as a nice back-up
 for the new sound system, dance floors,
 and DJ.
 The DISCO, featuring the talents of Ron-
 the new DJ, will be in operation Fri-
 Sat-Sun, while Monday will feature an
 ly efficient service - night. The

\$3.50

GAY
 ERA

INSIDE

SHRINKS
 ZAPPED

COMING OUT
 a new series

vol. 3 no. 9

50: JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1978

GAY
 ERA

vol. 2 no. 5 / JULY

STATE of the UNION

Greetings and welcome to the third anniversary of the GAY ERA. Despite all the hassles, we've made it this far, from a purple ditto newsletter (for Gays United of Lancaster) to an offset monthly serving the "rural" areas of the whole state (and also sold outside Pennsylvania). And we intend to keep on going and making it even better, proud of it as we are.

Speaking of hassles, perhaps our erratic printing schedule since September should be explained to those who are in the dark about it. We had twice scheduled an explanation, but the hassles of getting to print squeezed it out. First, our move from Columbia News to Fry Communications turned out to be not as congenial as we expected. Our planned September issue was printed smaller than usual (7x10 instead of 8½x11). We refused the finished product and demanded they print it properly. Fry Communications told us they were closing out the larger papers rolls we

had been printed on, and also any printing runs under 10,000 (which included us), and told us to find another printer. They also refused to return our in-advance payment for the job, until we took legal measures.

Finding a new printer, meanwhile, was easier said than done. Our searches led us to many who simply turned us down, and a lot who simply wasted our time in the process. Notable here was Boyter Printing in Lebanon (the editor's home town). Their sales representative accepted the job over the phone. Their manager accepted the job over the phone. We drove to Lebanon and gave them the layout sheets, which were looked over and accepted. The next day we were phoned and told to pick up our layouts as they would not print the issue for us.

Way past our deadline and short of cash, we tore the paper apart, redid the news sections, and trucked the thing over to our old friends at Barlain Printing, who printed the

wrap-around cover and had the plates made for the interior pages for the October-November issue. The interior pages we ran off ourselves on Metropolitan Community Church's offset machine in Middletown. We got the issue out, but it was hellish expensive.

Staring a nearly defunct bank account in the eye, we sought ways to cut our expenses. This included buying our own paper from a manufacturer and going directly to the plate maker rather than channeling through the printer. Parke Dewing had done the plates for nearly every issue we had printed by Barlain (those from the time we went offset until we switched to newsprint). We trundled our layout sheets for the December issue to them. They told us to come back in two days for the plates. Two days later, lo and behold, we walk in and are handed back out layout sheets...no plates.

There are countless others in this little quest, who refused our money or wasted our time in similar fashion. To list them all would be to needlessly belabor the point. The whole list, with details, is being turned over to the Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities as documented cases of discrimination. Suffice it to say that with this issue we are finally back on schedule for the first time since we broke for vacation last August!

As is only natural, through it all we frequently stopped to wonder if it was really worth it. On my part, sporadic vows to forget the whole thing were a release valve; a method whereby I could hit bottom (if only vicariously) and start clawing back up.

Eventually, after weighing all the pros and cons, we decided we had to keep going. We considered everything: our relevance to the community; the lack of community input; the increased sales; the occasional letters from other media people commending our excellence; what this rag was doing to our personal lives. In the end, we decided to continue publishing, if only because to cease would be admitting defeat to those who have tried to stop us.

Luckily we found a good printer/plate maker with decent rates before our determination wore out. We're now happily ensconced ^{we have our cover} printed and the plates made for our interior pages. The MCC offset has been moved into our office on a lease basis, which should not only improve our scheduling difficulties, but means we can now handle other printing jobs (we did the Pride '78 flyer). And with the services of Aries Creative Design Concepts on hand, we can also boast a complete art department.

Unfortunately, even though our printing situation seems stable for the first time in over a year, not every other aspect of production has become equally stable. For one thing, the GAY ERA is still produced by a ridiculously small handful of people (3). We are very much in need of contributors; our staff simply cannot do everything. If you can write or draw, let us know about it. We get rather tired of raiding other publications for articles to reprint, when we know how damned well there are people within the areas we serve who can produce material equally as good. It also gets very thankless producing the GAY ERA to a general lack of community response other than our steadily increasing sales. We exist not only for you, but because of you; your plunking down half a buck once a month is not what keeps us going, gratifying though the sales are.

(The truth of the matter is that if we relied simply on sales for our income, we'd be defunct in the blink of an eye. The advertising revenue is our primary source of income, and this is another way your readers can help us. If you know of people in business who might be interested in advertising, talk to them about it. Or at least when you do business with our advertisers, tell them that you saw their ads here.)

We already have the offer from a very qualified person to do a serious advice column (unlike our old "Sadie Says"), but again this also means your participation. If you don't send questions, he'll have nothing to write about. Anyone

else out there interested in writing a column? On health, pop music (other than disco), classical music...anything? Anyone out there interested in submitting graphics of any kind? We definitely need you; how much do you need us?

We threatened to cease publication in the past if we don't start getting more help with this paper; these threats have brought in a few people, but not enough. We shall keep threatening until either does some good, or we're so exhausted that we simply carry our the threat. This may amount to a very bitter tirade, and rest assured it is meant as one. We can't really say how we've managed to hold out for three years (and also improve the quality of the paper) with so little consistent, active input. And we certainly cannot continue indefinitely without it.

Reading the accounts of Canada's The Body Politic (see this month's news pages) has helped focus a lot of the anger about our situation. Canada's laws on Gaysex are a lot more open than our own country's, and on top of that there are Pennsylvania's new porno laws to consider. It is not difficult to imagine ourselves in TBP's shoes (getting busted for obscenity). And if our evaluation of our reader support is accurate (we hope we're being overly pessimistic), we dread to think where we'd be if a similar ax descended on us.

But enough. This grows tiresome. The purpose of this statement was not to berate our readers.

Let's instead put forth a theory for consideration. Is it possible there is such a thing as Rural Oppression? Naturally it would have many similarities with any other form of oppression, primarily that the majority (or the power-holders — not always interchangeable) create their "superiority" out of their position, and because of that position, we believe them. Consider the con-jobs perpetuated by whites on Blacks, men on women and straights on Gays. Haven't the urbans and sub-urbans pulled a similar trick on the rural populace? Large cities are considered better because of the advantages. What advantages? Baths, bars that never seem to close, classier discos, tons of street cruising, also lots of impersonal sex, alcoholics, ear-splitting noise, and vice cops looking real hot in tight jeans. One might have to make what amounts to a pilgrimage to see a tree, but otherwise cities have much more of everything. There is so much to see and do that one never has to get in touch with oneself if one doesn't want to.

Obviously cities have it hands down over rural areas, or at least so they tell us. Is it possible even we believe it? Is it then further possible that we have no real respect for anything coming out of rural areas, even our own publications? Till now the GAY ERA's problem has been discussed as if it were some isolated phenomenon; it is not. Most alternative newspapers in small communities are struggling to stay alive, despite their excellence (and many of them are excellent). It seems the only ones who really have respect for small towns are the Right Wing elite who automatically dislike cities for being breeding grounds for sin, corruption and (worst of all) liberals.

Naturally, large cities have no per capita monopoly on sin (whatever that is), corruption or liberals. There just seems to be more because there are more people (which also equals more anonymity which equals more chance of getting away with it). Smaller cities make bigger to-do about what they find, but they counter this with trying to ignore it as much as possible ("It can't happen here.").

We can't see that large cities have any solid advantage over small cities, although that really depends on a person's point of view. Similarly we can't see any solid advantage of heterosexuality or homosexuality; again it depends on one's view (or taste). Those of us who enjoy being rural ought to stop being apologetic and guilty about it. It's simply another lifestyle, and good things come out of any lifestyle.

Rural Pride, anyone?

— Harry H Long
Managing Editor

CONFERENCE SNOWED OUT

Anita Bryant undoubtedly would make more out of it, but we'll just state that Pride '78, after surviving numerous hassles in locating facilities was finally cancelled by the biggest snowstorm to hit Pennsylvania in several years. (We're sure it had nothing to do with the conference because another snowstorm, equally devastating, hit two weeks later.)

The Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus and the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities, co-sponsors of the event, notified pre-registrees by phone and had radio stations

across the state air the cancellation. As a result, the only people who showed up for the conference were some pickets from the Mount Bethel Baptist Church.

The only real expense the Caucus entailed as a result of the cancellation were the travelling expenses of Massachusetts State Rep. Elaine Noble, who arrived well ahead of schedule. However, since the conference has been rescheduled for April 7-8-9 (at the same location), the Caucus is asking for further contributions to cover the printing and distribution of new flyers and posters. The Caucus is promising an even better event as a result of the change. Almost all of

the original speakers, entertainers, and workshop leaders have been re-committed, and the extra time will allow for other projects to be carried out that could not be part of the conference originally. Donations, etc., should be sent to Pride '78, PO Box 552, Lancaster, Pa, 17604.

The Caucus also recently elected their new slate of officers, after a few false starts entailing meetings without a quorum. Gary Norton, is the new male co-chairperson, serving with the re-elected Mary Nancarrow. The new Secretary is Bob Woods and Al Kester is now Treasurer.

In the News

THREE CHARGED AFTER BODY POLITIC RAID

by Jim Marko
Gay Community News

TORONTO, ONTARIO — Late on Thursday, Jan. 5, charges were filed against the Pink Triangle Press and the Canadian gay newspaper The Body Politic for printing, publishing, distributing and circulating obscene material and for "transmitting or delivering anything that is obscene, indecent, immoral or scurrilous."

The charges filed under Sections 159 and 164 of the Criminal Code of Canada, were brought against three members of the Body Politic Collective after a December 30 raid on the office of the newspaper.

Corporation President Kenneth Po-pert, Secretary Edward Jackson and Treasurer Gerald Hannon had a court hearing on January 20 at which a trial date had been set.

HANNON SPEAKS OUT

Hannon, the author of the article which is at the center of the dispute ("Men Loving Boys Loving Men"), issued a statement that dealt with what he referred to as the "taboo topic" of pedophilia. "I suppose," said Hannon, "that one can be expected to be pilloried for open discussion on the topic. But I insist without reservation on my right to discuss the topic."

Hannon charged that since his investigation of the lives of three men involved in affectional and sexual relationships with boys had been "the occasion for criminal charges against myself and others, (it) is testimony to the fact that such a discussion is worth further investigation."

It is Hannon's conclusion that

if the charges and subsequent trial do nothing more than "demystify the topic of pedophilia, the article in question will have served the purpose for which it was designed."

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

Sources close to the police investigation in Toronto have told Gay Community News (GCN) that, although the seized information (subscription files, business records, classified ad books, personal records, etc.) had been sealed by the York County Courthouse (not Pa.), investigators spent New Year's weekend sifting through the material and making photocopies. Further arrests on the already filed charges are reportedly expected. Metropolitan Toronto police had no comment on the report.

U.S. SUPPORT

Support both in Canada and the U.S. has been "overwhelming," according to the Body Politic Collective.

In a letter to the Crown Attorney for York in Toronto, the New York based Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights condemned the police raid. "The raid represents an outrageous violation of freedom of the press, and an insidious attempt to muzzle a widely read and respected gay liberation paper."

The Coalition gave its unconditional support to the newspaper and its right to publish material on any subject of interest and relevance to lesbians and gay men. The New York group demanded the immediate release of all files confiscated by the Toronto police.

Other U.S. support came from the National Gay Task Force which expressed shock and dismay at "police

harassment and criminal charges brought against...Canada's most-respected gay publication." In a news release, NGTF called the action a "violation of all internationally accepted principles" of freedom of the press and expression. "We believe that confiscation of subscription and advertising lists which have effectively prevented publication of future... issues, is violative of all accepted principles of search and seizure in a democratic society."

While not endorsing the article "Men Loving Boys Loving Men." NGTF added that it was written "in the best traditions of responsible journalism — offering important insights into a little-known and little-understood aspect of human sexuality in a completely unsensational way."

CANADIAN SUPPORT

Support for The Body Politic came from across Canada with the National Gay Rights Coalition, which represents 43 gay organizations, charging that the seizure was a "serious harassment of the Canadian gay community."

"The seizure of lists of subscribers and advertisers is clearly aimed at intimidating all gay people and preventing them from coming out even to the extent of reading their own publications," the Coalition said.

Don Hann of the Gay Alliance Toward Equality of Vancouver called the raid a denial of free speech and freedom of the press. Hann accused the Vancouver Sun of a week of attacks pushing authority to censor and prohibit The Body Politic. "The Vancouver Sun is as guilty as the Toronto press (Toronto Star) in arbitrarily seeking to determine what the public may or may not read. The Alliance will do whatever is

necessary to help The Body Politic and gay groups in Ontario fight back against the blow directed at the very existence of our press."

Hann viewed "the totalitarian manner in which the press and police officials combine to limit the public's right to decide for themselves what is fit to read" as the real "obscenity."

The Canadian Periodical Publisher's Association, which represents some 200 magazines, and the Periodical Writers' Association of Canada both issued strong statements against the closing of the Toronto based paper.

A statement of concern over the nature of the seizure has been endorsed by a number of media figures in Canada including Douglas Marshall, editor of Books in Canada, Barrie Zwicker, editor of the media journal Content, and Prof. Frederick H. Zemans of York University's Osgoode Hall Law School.

Defense fund contributions should be sent to: Lynn King, in trust for the Body Politic Free the Press Fund, 111 Richmond St. W., Suite 320, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5H 3N6.

— Gay Community News

UPDATE

TORONTO — A trial date has been set in The Body Politic case, in which the Canadian newspaper is charged with printing and circulating obscene material.

On June 26, 1978 the Canadian courts will decide whether the gay liberation journal violated Section 159 of the Criminal Code for "possession of obscene material for distribution" and Section 164 for "using the mails to distribute obscene, immoral, indecent and scurrilous material."

BRYANT TELLS MORE LIES IN D.C.

by Dave Leas

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Anita Bryant spoke Sunday, January 22, at the annual convention of the National

Religious Broadcasters. The anti-gay crusader was greeted by some 2,000 demonstrators who stood outside the Washington Hilton convention site chanting "Gay Rights Now." The demonstration which originated at Dupont Circle, tied up traffic for a half mile on Connecticut Avenue on the way to the hotel.

Bryant and her husband, who was constantly at her side, said that there had been death threats made against her since they were in Washington, a claim that they have made continuously with no proof.

According to the Washington Post, convention security man Clarence A. McGillen said, "I was informed by the police in both Arlington and Washington that...there would be a threat on her life in 1978." He also said that homosexuals were "trying to get to her" and that, "the hotel is full of them."

The Washington Post contacted both the Arlington and District police who said they had received no reports of any threats on Bryant's life.

Bryant caught the attention of the reporters and cameras as she arrived at the convention as a "featured participant." Before the start of the convention she held a press conference where she stated, "I think America today, with a million divorces, a million (youthful) runaways, it's no wonder children are going into... drugs, and homosexuality."

Bryant's Washington appearance was part of her national campaign to clean up America and save the country from immorality. When asked about her personal feelings towards homosexuals by a reporter, she replied diplomatically, "God loves them, I love them. I love them enough to tell them the truth — that homosexuality is wrong, not by my standards but by God's standards... I have never had any hate in my heart for any of them as individuals."

That afternoon, gays and sympathetic straights gathered at the Metropolitan Community Church in Washington for a service of prayers and hymns.

"We proclaim God's love for all people, the Rev. Larry J. Uhrig of MCC declared in his sermon. "We

proclaim liberty in the land... (There are) people in the land whose ways are somewhat different. There are those who would like to see them destroyed."

In the service Sunday afternoon, Uhrig argued in his sermon that homosexuals themselves, by their fears, have "accommodated the oppression" brought by the non-homosexual majority.

Bryant again tried to convince her audience of Religious Broadcasters that her anti-gay stance has cut into her convention revenues.

A spokesperson for the Religious Broadcasters, Bill Bray, said that Bryant was paid between \$3,000 and \$7,500 for her appearance. He would not disclose the exact amount.

One highlight of her appearance was her attack on TV and its portrayal of homosexuals as an "alternative lifestyle." She told reporters that television should have more wholesome family entertainment "to replace the gross perverted sex and violence which is subtly undermining the family unit its presentation of alternative lifestyles as natural and normal."

She announced her plans for her organization "Protect the Children" to form a legal task force with a watchdog committee to monitor the media. She said the committee would seek, "especially to insure that our Judeo-Christian heritage and its leaders are portrayed in a positive way."

"For too long," she said, "the family-loving grass roots American public has sat back and watched ultra-liberal and militant radical groups cast fear into the hearts of our communications industries."

OUSTER OF GAY INVOLVES GOV. BROWN IN DISPUTE

SAN FRANCISCO — The dismissal of openly lesbian Dr. Josette Escamilla Mondanaro, the \$43,000 a year director of the California Health Dept.'s Division of Substance Abuse, has embroiled Gov. Edmund Brown in a controversy.

Dr. Mondanaro was dismissed on October 25, 1977 by Gov. Brown because of the language in a letter she wrote to a friend. The letter was



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on state stationery with Mondanaro's name and title typed at the bottom; it was signed "Josette".

Mondanaro appealed the dismissal order and an administrative hearing officer took testimony last week from some state officials including Brown. The Governor testified in his office before a limited audience.

According to Dr. Mondanaro, the letter in question was stolen from her files and was never intended for public consumption. She added that it was on state letterhead by mistake and that she was dismissed because she is a lesbian and because she refused to go along with what she considered to be cronyism by the top appointees of the Governor.

Saying that his administration might be discredited by the letter if he did not dismiss the author, Governor Brown said that Dr. Mondanaro's homosexuality was not a consideration in his decision. "What people do in the privacy of their own homes or what they do in their own minds, that's not a subject matter for government," he said.

According to the State Health Director, Dr. Jerome Lackner, there was fear that opponents of Brown would get the letter and "use it against him in his re-election campaign." Dr. Lackner said that he dismissed Dr. Mondanaro under "extreme pressure."

The letter written by Dr. Mondanaro was in response to one from Dr. Judianne Densen-Gerber, president of Odyssey Institute of New York, an organization concerned with stopping child abuse. Dr. Densen-Gerber had written an article in support of legislation to curb child pornography, and she wrote Dr. Mondanaro about her distress over criticism of some of her assertions in a letter to the editor. That letter was written by Larry Constantine, an instructor at Tufts University.

In her response to Dr. Densen-Gerber, Dr. Mondanaro said "I would not grace his (letter) with a rebuttal. Why do these intellectual midgets attempt to cloud the issue by going to the gray zone when we are clearly talking about the extremes of sexuality? Have they come too close to these feelings toward their own children..."

The sentence that most upset Gov. Brown referred to sodomy and fellatio. Reportedly Brown decided to dismiss Mondanaro the moment he saw her letter.

The Governor himself had approved the hiring of Dr. Mondanaro in October 1976 and was told that she had pointedly declared at her employment interview that she was a lesbian.

— Gay Community News

CORDOVA GUILTY IN HILLSBOROUGH CASE

SAN FRANCISCO — John Cordova has been found guilty of second degree murder in the fatal stabbing death of Robert Hillsborough, a 33-year-old gay gardener. The 20-year-old Cordova could receive a sentence of life.

Assistant District Attorney Eugene Sweeters stated after the trial that he was able to bring a substantial argument for conviction based on the evidence offered by one of the other men accused in the case. Michael Chavez was granted immunity for testifying against Cordova,

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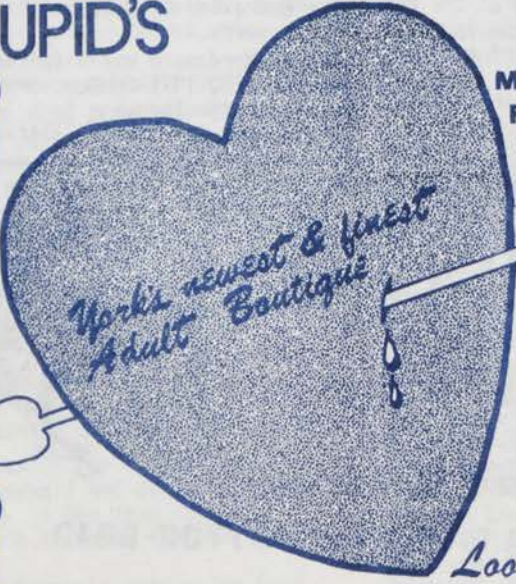
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who is the second person convicted in the Hillsborough murder. Earlier, a 16-year-old juvenile was placed with the California Youth Authority where he could remain for up to four years. A fourth defendant, Thomas Spooner, will be tried later this month.

It took the jury of four women and eight men about four hours to return with a verdict of guilty against John Cordova. The defendant remained emotionless during the trial and showed no reaction at the decision. Court-appointed defense attorney George Walker had contended that it was co-defendant Spooner who actually stabbed Hillsborough.

The beating death of Hillsborough on June 22 came shortly after the defeat of the gay rights ordinance in Dade County, Florida. It was alleged that one of the four attackers had shouted out, "Here is one for Anita (Bryant)," while all four yelled "Faggot, Faggot." The

murder outraged the gay community in San Francisco and across the nation. The city's mayor George Moscone and former Sheriff Richard Hongisto led the sentiments of outrage expressed at the time.

During the course of the trial, Cordova's attorney underplayed the apparent anti-homosexual motive of the murder, all but ignoring it in his final presentation. Asst. D.A. Sweeters, however, concluded in his argument to the jury that the anti-gay motive was a viable and probable one.

Defense attorney Walker said that he will appeal the Cordova conviction because, he maintained, it was unclear during the trial whether it was his client or Spooner who fatally stabbed Hillsborough.

— Gay Community News

GAY ARSON TASK FORCE FORMED

SAN FRANCISCO — One man was killed and several others were injured in

a fire at the Castro Baths here on Dec. 11. This is the third such fire in San Francisco in the past 14 months. Fire Chief Andrew Casper said that the three-alarm fire in the three-story wood frame Victorian structure caused about \$85,000 damage.

Firefighters were hampered by toxic fumes from polyurethane mattresses and overstuffed furniture in the early morning blaze. Reportedly some 20 to 30 men were in the building at the time the fire broke out.

The Gay Arson Task Force, set up recently here, has met with fire officials. A member of that group told GCN that the police arson squad is still investigating the chance that arson was the cause of the Castro Baths fire.

On Feb. 10 of this year, the Ritch Street Health Club was damaged by fire in what officials believe was a case of arson. Arson was also blamed for a four alarm blaze causing nearly \$18,000 damage at the Folsom Street Barracks in October, 1976.

Harvey Milk, the newly elected and openly gay San Francisco city supervisor, told GCN that officials have said that the Castro Baths fire was caused by faulty insulation on a steam pipe. "Nevertheless, we are contemplating ordinances to require sprinkler systems and other fire preventive devices to be placed in bath houses," said Milk.

Milk has set up a series of meetings with fire and police officials as well as with bath house owners. Some of these owners have already begun installing their own sprinkler systems and taking other precautionary measures. "There is a lot of concern in the gay community about fire hazards in the baths," Milk told GCN. "This is a serious problem which we must meet."

The fire at the Castro Baths in San Francisco is the third major blaze in a gay-oriented establishment in recent months in the country. Eight men died in a fire that swept a Washington D.C., movie house in November. That fire, which destroyed the Cinema Follies, trapped 15 men as they were watching gay films in the theatre.

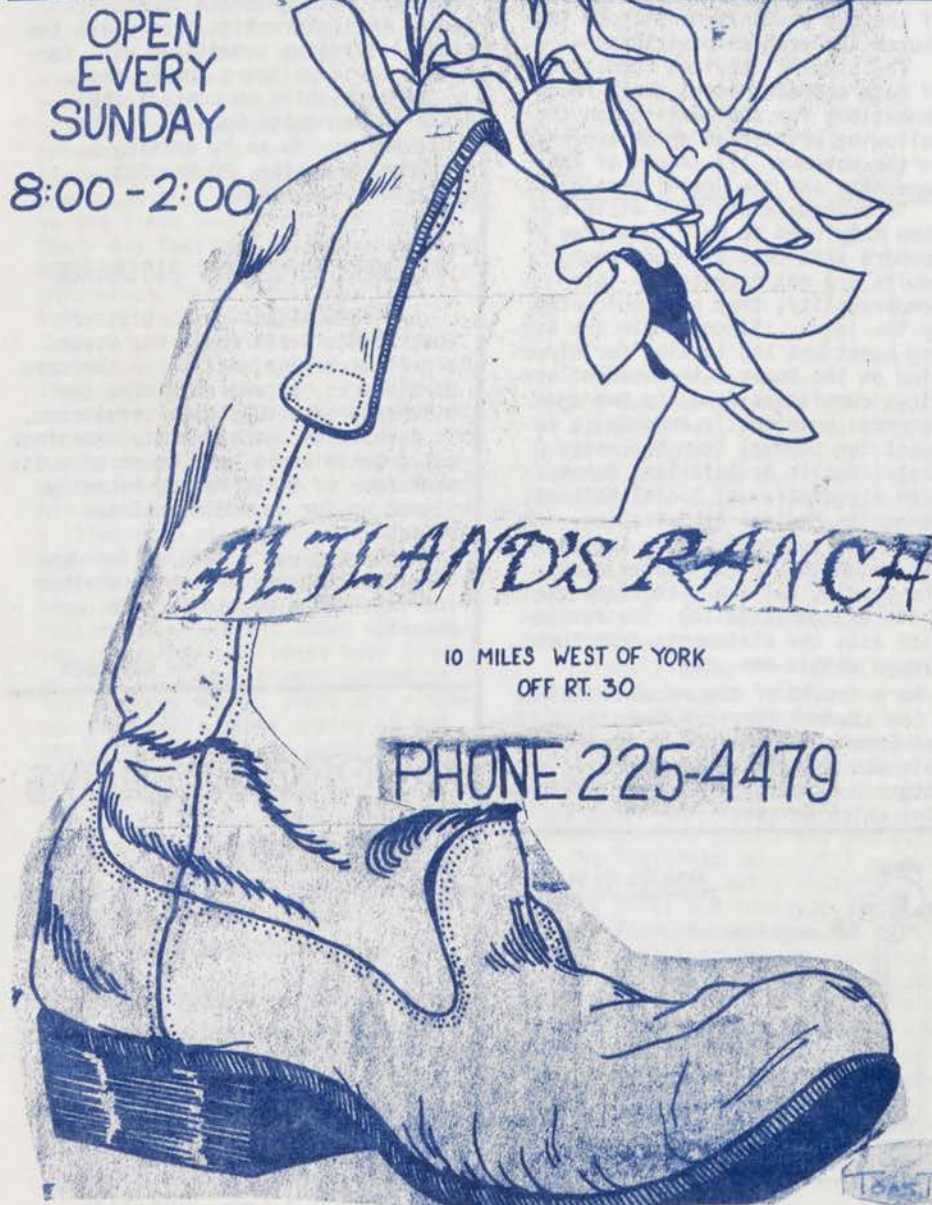
The fire in Washington came four months after a blaze destroyed the Everard Baths in New York City. In that tragedy, which occurred last May 25, nine men lost their lives while 10 others were injured.

— Gay Community News

L.A. POLICE WARN OF GAY THREAT

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Times has published excerpts from a special Los Angeles Police Department internal "briefing paper" that asserts that "homosexuals, as an organized group, pose a serious threat to the welfare and safety of the citizens of Los Angeles." The document,

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prepared for a community relations program attended by the department's highest-ranking officers, portrayed the LAPD as the target of special interest groups attempting to adversely influence the department's operations.

The "briefing paper" begins with a discussion of "chicken hawks," and child pornography and charges that gay activists support such activities. Quotes are included from anti-gay psychiatrist Charles Socarides and Dr. Martin Reiser, the LAPD staff psychologist, who writes, "Any person who willingly engages in homosexual activity is an emotionally sick person and definitely constitutes an unacceptable risk when qualifying as a police officer."

The document urges police officers to continue to refuse to recognize gay people as an "official minority" and to oppose the hiring of homosexuals as police officers. The document supports anti-gay lobbying of both legislative bodies and judges as well as efforts to "keep the public informed about the the relationship between vice conditions and major crimes to puncture the myth of so-called victimless crime."

The paper proposes using officers assigned to divisional vice units to "provide intelligence on homosexual activists" and recommends that community relations officers in each police division "maintian liaison with community support groups and service clubs to counter homosexual propaganda."

Los Angeles Police Chief Ed Davis has long been an opponent of gay rights and is expected to seek the Republican nomination for Governor this year to oppose incumbent Gov. Jerry Brown.

— Gay Community News

GAY MENNONITES AND BRETHERN MEET WITH CHURCH

by Dave Leas

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The first meeting between the Mennonite churches and gay members took place here January 21, 1978. The meeting was the result of the October '77 recommendations of the General Conference Mennonite Church and the Mennonite

Church student services committees. Both student services committees called for a study on homosexuality.

Attending the meeting were approximately 23 people. Those representing the Mennonite churches were: Hubert Brown, Executive Secretary of the Mennonite Services Committee; Arden Sahnk, staff member of the same committee; and Dr. Victor Stolfus, also a member of the committee.

The Brethren/Mennonite Council for Gay Concerns has been working closely with the churches since the organization was founded in October '76. Martin Rock, Director of the Council, is a former staff member of the GAY ERA. He is presently living in Washington. (See GAY ERA, Dec. '77 for interview with Martin.)

According to Martin, the meeting was well attended. Because the meeting took place on the weekend of the big snowfall, many people were unable to attend. Martin noted that "this was just a discussion or beginning of dialogue for the benefit of the gay community and those in church leadership positions."

The Student Services Committees of both churches based their recommendations for the meetings on the following principles which appeared in the November '77 issues of The Mennonite and the Gospel Herald:

"Homosexuals are more visible than they used to be...Committee members said that although young adults are not necessarily into homosexuality, they are confronted by the issue...Since people are asking questions and looking for direction on the topic...the student services committees from the two conferences unanimously endorsed a request for counsel from Mennonite Mental Health Association, Mennonite Association of Social Workers, Mennonite Medical Association, and Mennonite seminaries. The seminaries are requested to especially study the theological and historical aspects of homosexuality. The resolution asks the statements from these groups within one year."

As a result of the recommendations of the student services committees, Hubert Brown wrote Martin on November 8: "This was a decision of the joint committees due to the number of relationships which we have established as

Student Services personnel with persons who have wondered what basically is available in the church in terms of meeting their desire to be a part of the church. What we have attempted to do in this particular action is to request from the various organizations of the church their best understanding and thoughts, as well as any written material they presently have, to be synthesized into a concise and readable document which our respective committees will use as a spingboard for dicision making in terms of relationships, as well as providing a means for devising a way of ministering and meeting needs of this self-conscious community."

The meeting with gay members of the church was meant to help formulate the feelings and ideas of the gay community towards the church. It is hoped that these meetings will help the churches understand the feelings of its gay members. According to Martin Rock, more meetings are presently being planned to further add to the information from which the student services committees will formulate their policies toward gays.

Anyone wishing to contact the Brethren/Mennonite Council for Gay Concerns, may do so by writing: Brethren/Mennonite, PO Box 583, Lancaster, Pa. 17604.

JUDGE STOPS NAVY DISCHARGE

SAN FRANCISCO — U.S. District Court Judge Cecil Poole has issued a preliminary injunction in the case Martinez vs. Brown, enjoining the discharge of a U.S. Navy serviceman.

Accused of homosexuality, Martinez was a month and a half short of a six year tour of duty. He had recently signed up for an additional two years.

A hearing was scheduled for January 20, 1978, to determine whether the injunction should be made permanent.

— Gaysweek

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SELF-OPPRESSION

PART III

by Andrew Hodges
& David Hutter

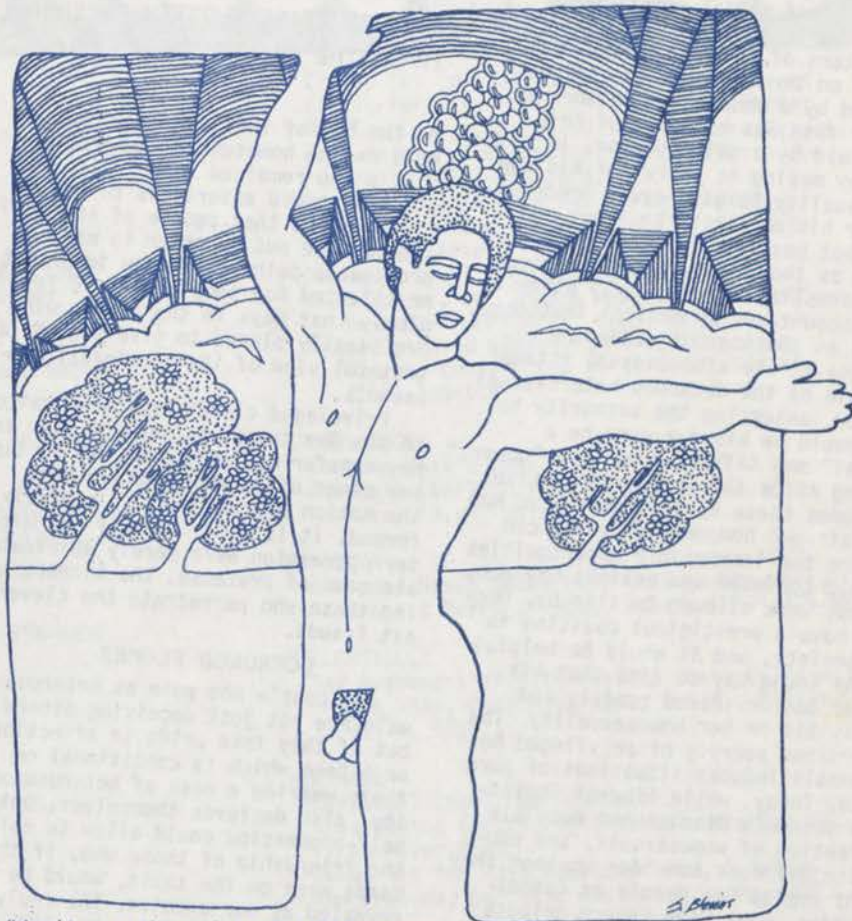
FLAUNTING OURSELVES

The phrase "coming out", as used by Gay people, has three meanings: to acknowledge one's homosexuality to oneself; to reveal oneself as homosexual to other Gay people; and lastly, to declare one's homosexuality to everyone and anyone.

Homosexuals are unlike other oppressed groups in that their identity is almost always invisible to others. They can even conceal their homosexuality from themselves, for such is the disgust attached to the word "homosexual" that many people who have need of homosexual experience never acknowledge it, and sometimes even those who quite frequently seek out such experience manage to convince themselves that they are not really "one of them." Behind so much that has been expressed in the Gay movement lies the awareness that there exist these people who are so oppressed that they have not come out in the first sense of "admitting" their Gay feelings even to themselves. Many are married with children and throughout their lives have been totally denied any sexual pleasure. They raise no protest at their deprivation, for they cannot admit that it exists, and they can never be reached by openly Gay people, for it is openness that they fear. There are happy exceptions, for the establishment of Gay counseling organizations has enabled many such people to break a lifetime's silence — men of middle age who say that they have never knowingly talked to a homosexual but that they always think of other men while fucking their wives; women who realize after their children have grown up that they have always wanted to love another woman. There are a number of organizations trying to end the isolation of such people, but self-oppression so profound is unlikely to be ended by a few telephone conversations or by the arguments of this booklet. This essay is only about those who identify themselves as Gay among Gay people, but do not come out in the outside world.

UNDER PLAIN COVER

If asked, closet Gays often say that, although they "don't shout about it on every street corner," their friends know and their parents "must have realized by now," but "they've never asked me about it, so I haven't brought the subject up." Pressed further, they add that they



"don't see the point of telling people at work," as "what I do in bed is my own business, and anyway I might lose my job." Some Gay people go to considerable lengths to fake a heterosexual image, devising tales of suitably remote fiancé(s), passing appreciative or disparaging remarks on women (or men), and laughing heartily at the usual stream of jokes about homosexuals.

Actually these stratagems are unnecessary, because unless there is reason to believe otherwise, it is always taken for granted that people are heterosexual. Deception need not be a positive act; one can deceive by default. At work, camp jokes will be accepted as jokes, and one kiss at the Christmas party will be sufficient to wipe out a whole year's subtle hints and innuendos.

The fear of putting a job at risk is often deliberately exaggerated by those who need a convincing excuse for secrecy. If they really wanted to come out and were prevented only by the threat of economic deprivation, they would be bitterly angry about discrimination rather than, as is usual, passively accepting it as inevitable. Most homosexuals would

suffer little loss in purely material terms by coming out. It is the loss of a protective shell that is the real barrier.

Gays expose the fact that they are merely looking for excuses for remaining in the closet when they plead their purely voluntary activities as reasons for secrecy. Apparently we are expected to see their hobbies as some inescapable, unchangeable aspect of their lives. When they say that if they come out they could not continue with their church or youth work, one can only question the value of commitments which involve supporting organizations apparently so homophobic. It would be truer to say that their self-hatred lies so deep that they leap at any chance to hide their real nature.

PRIVILEGED GAYS

Many ordinary Gays respond to their oppression by gravitating to jobs where they can be fairly open with the people they work with. Women may become ambulance drivers or join the service; men tend to work as nurses, telephone operators, in travel agencies or department stores. The accep-

tance of a restricted range of employment may be self-oppressive, but how straightforward and honest it is compared with the web of deception woven by those Gays whose work give them a position of social prestige.

By a curious coincidence one of the writers of this essay has found himself on two separate occasions attended by a homosexual doctor. In neither case was he aware of this until told by a third person. In each case, by making no secret of his own homosexuality he gave every opportunity for his doctor to be frank and open, but both doctors continued to behave as though homosexuality were an abnormality they had only otherwise encountered in medical textbooks. It was an amusing but saddening experience to see a homosexual attempt the role of the detached heterosexual advisor, asserting the authority he felt would be his due were he a "normal" man talking down to a "queer." Leaving aside the wretched negative attitudes these doctors must have had to their own homosexuality, we can imagine the innumerable opportunities to help confused and anxious Gay people that were allowed to slip by. Doctors have a prestigious position in our society, and it would be helpful to any young Gay to find that his or her doctor shared readily and openly his or her homosexuality. The determined secrecy of privileged homosexuals induces situations of pure farce. Today, while liberal Christians solemnly discuss the possible ordination of homosexuals, and education officers consider whether they might employ Gay people as school-teachers, many High Church priests run their churches and theological colleges as virtual Gay clubs,* and the State school system would collapse with the loss of its Gay teachers.

SELF-OPPRESSION OR SELF-INTEREST?

Passing as heterosexual is by no means a private matter, for one self-oppressive deceit generates a thousand others. Friends and lovers are all included by being told what they may say on the telephone and how to behave in the street. The selfishness of those with privileged positions to defend seeps through the whole Gay community, and the demoralizing message is absorbed by the great number of ordinary Gays who have no privileges whatever to protect.

Homosexuals who have access to the media and refuse to come out allow those who condemn or pity us to dominate the stage. When the reactionary Cyril Osborne was attempting to defeat England's 1967 homosexual law reform bill, he rested much argument

*With jaw-dropping innocence, the *Church Times* once carried in its "For Young Readers" column an article about the cats of the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, with the quaint names of Faggot and Dyke.

IT IS ALMOST AS IF OUR BITTER OPPRESSION WERE MERELY AN ELABORATE GAME OF PRETENSE, THE WINNERS BEING THOSE WHO PERPETRATE THE CLEVEREST FRAUDS.

on the belief that the House of Commons had no homosexual members. Gay M.P.'s who remained silent allowed all his stupid assertions to stand.

It is not that people of status should come out in order to make a propaganda point about how important or talented Gay people are. It is simply that Gays in the public view are ideally placed to give society a truthful view of its homosexual components.

Privileged closet Gays are traitors to the Gay cause, but as yet they are never referred to as such. We so lack any sense of common identity that the notion of treachery is scarcely formed. It is almost as if our bitter oppression were merely an elaborate game of pretense, the winners being those who perpetrate the cleverest frauds.

BORROWED PLUMES

Gay people who pose as heterosexuals are not just deceiving others, but if they take pride in affection or esteem which is conditional on their wearing a mask of heterosexuality, also deceives themselves. Only self-oppression could allow to value the friendship of those who, if the cards were on the table, would be revealed as our enemies. The reply to all this is likely to be, "Oh, but my sex life is so unimportant; why make an issue of it?" If it's that



unimportant, why make a secret of it! "Better to be hated for what one is," said Andre Gide, "than loved for what one is not."

If, furthermore, our homosexuality is never discussed with those heterosexual friends who know us to be Gay, more harm is done than if we deceive them into accepting us as heterosexuals. To share the knowledge of one's homosexuality with non-Gay people but never to speak of it is to tacitly agree that, like bad breath, homosexuality is something embarrassing best left unmentioned. Why should we discuss heterosexual relationships with non-Gay friends while allowing our own loves and fantasies to be passed over as unsuitable for general conversation?

AGAINST THE GRAIN

To state explicitly that one is homosexual goes against a lifetime's conditioning. The shame we have been taught to feel is deep and real. The words "I am homosexual" stick in the throat. But coming out is essential. While the majority of Gay people continue to hide their "shameful" secret, the achievements of the Gay movement are bound to remain insubstantial. Lobbying the political, medical or educational world will ultimately serve to reinforce their view of homosexuality as something remote from everyday reality, and Gays as being other people somewhere else, if homosexuals within those worlds do not play their part. Nor would it be possible to give a distorted picture of Gays if people could simply see us in all our variety. While most Gays hide their identity, the greater will be the problems of those who have come out, were forced out, or by virtue of their evident homosexual traits were always out. How often do discreet homosexuals stand by while their more obvious sisters and brothers are made the butt of heterosexual mockery.

All that we have said reflects the idea of a formation of a sense of community. Coming out is even more meaningful now that the existence of the Gay movement allows us to think in terms of coming out together. Ripples of self-disclosure reinforce each other within a wave of social change. A community can only exist if we identify with each other's needs. So often identification is purely negative; Gays cannot ally with those who reflect what they hate in themselves; fearing to come out they are unwilling to unite with those who have the power to expose them. Once one does regard other Gay people as part of a genuine community demanding support, coming out becomes a meaningful way of giving that support.

By coming out with people they already know, Gay people can demon-

(Continued on page 12)

Rural Resources

ALLENTOWN

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

ALTOONA

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

BERWICK

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

BETHLEHEM

Le-Hi-Ho, Box 1003, Moravian Station, 18018.

BRIDGEPORT

The Lark (bar), 302 DeKalb St. (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 St. (814)-886-9931.

EASTON

Al's Beef House (restaurant, mixed),
14 North 3rd Street.

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

Class One, 6th & Hoffman (bar)
D-Gem (bar), Front Street.
Dignity, Box 297, Federal Square Station, 17108.
Gay Community Services, Box 297, Federal
Square Station, 17108.
Gay Switchboard, (717)-234-0328, Mon-Fri.,
6:00-10:00 pm.
Golden Coach (bar), 4309 Linglestown Road.
Integrity/Greater Harrisburg, Box 3809, 17108.
Le Rose Rouge (bar), 400 N. 2nd Street.
Metropolitan Community Church/Central Penna.,
1001 N. Spring St. Apt. 1-2, Middletown.
Neptune's Lounge (bar), 268 North Street.
Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities,
c/o Office of the Governor, 238 Main Capitol
Building, 17102.
Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus, Box 1505, 17105.
The Rose Garden (club), 1522 Derry Street.

INDIANA

Homophiles of Indiana University of Penna.,
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 Street.
Erotic Forum (porno), 227 N. Prince Street.
Fiddler Lounge (bar), 10 South Prince Street.
Gays United of Lancaster, 3002 Marietta Ave.,
17601; (717)-898-2876.
Gay Era, 332 N. Mulberry Street, 17603.
Loft (restaurant, second floor), 201 West
Orange Street.
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 College,
Box 3333, Gordinier Hall, M.S.C., Millers-
ville, 17551.

NEW HOPE

Cartwheel (bar), Rt. 202 West.
Chez Odette (restaurant, mixed), Highway 32
at River Road.
January's Inn, 218 Aquetony Road, Solebury.
New Prelude, one mile west on U.S. Rt. 202.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Susquehanna Valley Gays United, Box 182,
17857, (717)-473-9923.

READING

Alternative Booksellers, 10 N. 4th Street,
19601, (215)-373-0442.
Gay Coordinating 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

DeMitre Cafe, 237 Wyoming Avenue.

SHAVERSTOWN

North East 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 (HOPS), Box 218, 16801.
Lesbian Collective, c/o Women's Resource
Center, 108 E. Beaver Ave, 16801.
Metropolitan Community Church, all mail c/o
Homophiles of Penn State.
Mr. C's (mixed bar), 112 W. College Avenue,
(814)-234-1031.

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 Swarth-
more College, 19081,
(215)-544-7900 ext. 296, or (215)-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.

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

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

SELF OPPRESSION

strate that homosexuals are real people whose lives cannot be trampled on. "We are the people you warned us against" captures the effect. If they can discuss their feelings and lovers when heterosexuals discuss theirs, this will have far more effect than any amount of propaganda about the "validity" of homosexual relationships. By coming out indiscriminately (by wearing a button, for instance), Gays oblige everyone to see that there are people who feel no shame in being known as homosexual. "Gay Pride" is the concept formed in opposition to the shame that all Gay people are conditioned to feel, a shame that society demands as the condition for its limited tolerance; to deny this shame is to demand unconditional acceptance. It is pointless to limit coming out to "those who will understand;" only by public, indiscriminate, indiscreet self-disclosure can this shame be denied.

A CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

Even within the Gay movement change is slow and reluctant. The many lecturers and teachers within it are invariably conceded a need for secrecy, and no one questions the value of an educational career dependent on dishonesty. It is probably widely assumed that dismissal will follow swiftly and surely upon the disclosure of any schoolteacher, and certainly teachers have been dismissed or lost chances of promotion after having been "discovered." But we know of a number of teachers whose careers so far remain unprejudiced by the fact that they have disclosed their homosexuality, and one — Robert Sterry, at the Somerset School, Tottenham — was particularly open in that he explained to his class how he met other homosexuals, and invited his own friends to attend the school play. The heavens did not fall!

It might be imagined that good news such as this would pass through the Gay community with the speed of fire; we can only explain its actual sluggish progress by the supposition that such examples of honesty cast too

strong a light upon the grubby lies and deceptions of those who might be instrumental in passing on the news. To speak of openness is to deny the need for secrecy.

The kind of news that does spread rapidly is that such-and-such a celebrity — bishop, singer, M.P., tennis star — is homosexual. That this knowledge should be kept safely within the confines of the Gay world points to the fact that such secrecy is not only the choice of the individual, but also that of the Gay world. No homosexual can be secret without being celibate; the fact that the real nature of such people is not known to the population at large is because Gay people keep each other's "guilty" secrets lest in telling them they reveal their own. Helping to shore up each other's deceit is almost the only recognition most homosexuals give to the idea of a Gay community. But ironically this false support prevents the community from operating as such and enjoying any sense of genuine support. So often any victimization suffered by those who come out in difficult circumstances is simply dismissed by other Gays as being the inevitable reward for "exhibitionism." "What can they expect," they say, "if they insist on flaunting themselves?"

THE POINT OF IT ALL

This booklet concentrates on how we see ourselves. We have not attempted to measure the extent to which Gay people are promiscuous, but we have discussed the "ideal" of sexual exclusiveness. We have not written about the fact of bisexuality, but we have dealt with ways in which it too is distorted into an oppressive "ideal." It is the attitude of Gay people to coming out, to gender roles, to the media, that concerned us. We have not tried to formulate a political theory, but only described one without betraying their Gay experience.

There is good reason for our choice. We do not really know the facts about homosexuality; no one does. No random sample of homosexuals has ever been made. What we have written springs from the limited experience of two urban men who write about the only kind of Gay people they really know. No homosexual is an island. When

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Gays say they have to be "discreet," they support the idea that homosexuality — our homosexuality — is offensive; when they describe themselves as a "typical case," they label us as "cases." Oppression is as much the creature of self-oppression as the converse. External oppression we can only fight against; self-oppression we can tear out and destroy.

(Editor's note: The above article is the third and last excerpt reprinted from the pamphlet "WITH DOWNCAST GAYS," published by Pomegranate Press in London. The Pink Triangle Press in Toronto, Ontario, has prepared the first North American edition of the pamphlet. It was published this past Fall.)

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ARIES

Viewpoints

GAY WAFFLES, ANYONE?

by David Brill
Gay Community News

It all started with a telephone call from a reporter from another Boston weekly. Is there anything, he asked, to this television commercial for Aunt Jemima showing two men having breakfast together? The implication is that the men are gay.

This friendly reporter not only watches television more than I do but also apparently watches it a lot more closely. I must have seen that commercial, but it didn't ring a bell.

Two weeks ago I saw it: Aunt Jemima's Big Waffles and Little Waffles are indeed peddled on the tube by two men at the breakfast table. A few pertinent observations:

* The men are both men, around age 30 or so — not the fourth-graders on the Duncan Hines commercials or the father-and-son teams selling Aim or Crest or the college students in the Scope ads.

* These men are having breakfast (as opposed to lunch or dinner) together, which suggests that they just woke up around the same time in the same household.

* Their morning conversation proceeds like a 60-second, frick-and-frack routine concerning the difference between Big Waffles and Little Waffles. Ignoring the implications of waffle size, the two of them certainly sound like television's "typical" married couple.

Egads! Madison Avenue has finally called the National Gay Task Force's bluff and is presenting realistically-portrayed gay couples on prime time. Or are they?

A call to the Quaker Oats Company in Chicago, Aunt Jemima's father confessor, disclosed that the commercial, which was produced for A.J. by the J. Walter Thompson agency of New York, was in no way intended to depict a gay couple. According to Quaker spokesperson Kathy Rand, "Sex was not considered. All people eat breakfast."

Rand explained that the two men supposedly do not live together. She said that the original version of the commercial portrayed them in an empty setting but this was later revised to a kitchen setting "to improve the ambience."

Has anyone else asked about the

commercial? Quaker hasn't gotten any calls, she said, but the designer has had "a number of question" about it. There are no plans to modify or discontinue the commercial.

Perhaps this incident has one other significant feature to it. Since there has been no outcry against the ad from Morality in Media or any other such vigilantes of the airwaves, it clearly shows that homophobes could not recognize a "natural" (if unintentional) gay setting even when presented with one. There is very little to distinguish gay breakfasts from other breakfasts and that's the entire point. (Watch for someone to soon launch a campaign to "ban homosexual commercials" from television!)

Quaker's Kathy Rand had an afterthought of her own about the commercial: "Maybe we should have put orange juice on the table just to make sure."

GAY SWITCHBOARD: READY TO LISTEN, HELP

by Marilyn Hewitt

"Good evening, Gay Switchboard." "For the past two years these words have greeted more than 2000 central Pennsylvanians who have dialed 234-0328. It all began in April of 1975 when a concerned group of gay women and men met to form a telephone hot-line which would meet the needs of the area gay community. The group members dug into their pockets for the money to have a telephone installed, and soon the Gay Switchboard of Harrisburg was in operation.

The purpose of the Gay Switchboard is to provide a social service for gay people and others who may want information. We provide peer counseling, information about gay social activities and organizations, referrals for those wanting professional counseling, legal or medical services, and general information on the subject of homosexuality. Presently, 15 volunteers share the responsibility of working the telephone Monday through Friday, from 6 to 10 p.m.

Soon after the Gay Switchboard went into operation, the need for professional training for the volunteers became evident. Several local social service agencies and professional counselors offered their help,



Save 7¢

on any of these Aunt Jemima Jumbo Waffles

Body Politic

and training began. This program has evolved into an in-house training course required for all new volunteers. These volunteers are trained in human dynamics; listening skills and crisis intervention. Successful peer counseling demands that they develop these skills. The training is followed by an internship, working the telephone with experienced volunteers. Upon successfully completing this program, trainees become regular telephone volunteers. Periodically, supplementary training is provided for the regular workers.

Who call the Gay Switchboard? People call: young, old; gay, straight, bisexual; men, women. They call to talk about their feelings, their problems; they call to ask where gay people socialize in the area; they call seeking information. Frequently they call because they are afraid. Afraid of their gay feelings and the pressures that society heaps upon those who are different. They talk, we listen. Over and over we repeat the vital message to hundreds of callers: it's OK to be gay. And all in the strictest confidence—we never ask a name.

In our effort to assist callers, we have developed an extensive file of resources. Information on counselors, doctors, lawyers, social services, gay social activities and gay organizations is at the volunteers' fingertips. We continue to seek professional individuals and agencies who will accept referrals and give gay people the kind of positive support they need.

The Gay Switchboard activities have branched out into public education. We receive requests for assistance from local agencies, organizations and schools. In response, we provide training, speakers, seminars and workshops for interested groups. Since myths and stereotypes about

gay people abound, our education programs have become a vital function. We are delighted to provide information about gay people, their concerns, their lifestyles and their needs. The response to our program has been very encouraging—most people leave with very new ideas about what it means to be gay.

Who volunteers for the Gay Switchboard? Presently our volunteers are all gay women and men. Some are recruited by other members, some call offering their services. Anyone over 18 years of age is eligible to join.

One need not be a telephone volunteer to participate in our programs. Also, no one is expected to be publicly open about his/her membership or sexual orientation. Those who do choose to be telephone volunteers must successfully complete the training program and agree to the policies of the organization: Confidentiality for callers must be maintained; no social contacts may be made with or for any caller. These policies have been set by the organization and other members in order to maintain the credibility of the Gay Switchboard as a vital, dynamic social service.

So here we are, every Monday through Friday, from 6 to 10 p.m., waiting to hear from anyone who wants to hear a friendly voice, to talk things over, or to get information. And, of course, since volunteers are needed and welcome. Just call 234-0328.

- Harrisburg

BOOK REVIEWS

One of the fascinating things about Gay fiction is that so much of it seems to fall into genre or formula writing: love stories, soap opera mysteries, etc. This is also unfortunate because it allows mainstream book-reviewers to ignore them without letting their homophobia show



quite as blatantly. It is easy for the snobs at New York Review of Each Other's Books and similar publications to ignore Gay genre excursions simply on the basis of its being genre. On the other hand, when writers such as Vidal and Isherwood began treating homosexuals as humans (and even centering their works on them) instead of stock figures of villainy or decadence, the book reviewing elite simply couldn't handle it. One doesn't ignore an Isherwood or Vidal, ergo one must attack the work for some reason...any reason, however weak will do.

None of this has any real bearing on Joseph Hansen's "Stranger to Himself" (Major Books, 208 pp., \$1.75pb), except that consideration of the book naturally led to the above thoughts. Though the writing is excellently crafted, the book has too many strikes against it to be touched by the mainliners; not only is it a Gay novel, but it's partially a murder mystery, and it's in paperback, and it's a (revised) reissue of a 10-year-old book. But don't let their idiocy infect you; start scouring the paperback racks everywhere to find a copy. After all, one of the joys of genre writing is the way it is sometimes used to make larger statements, while couched in a safe saleable formula. And "Stranger to Himself" is one such gem.

Much of this stems from Hansen's

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refusal to sensationalize his material in any way, including the message (Gay equality). Hansen takes the married-man-coming-out situation and handles it with considerable more elan (and less absurd histrionics) than Gordon Merrick. In the course of Steve Archer coming to grips with his sexuality, he is certainly a great deal less obsessed with it than any of Patricia Nell Warren's characters. (A criticism once leveled by a Gay reviewer against a Gay writer was that the characters spent more time pondering their sexual problems than real people in the same situation could afford — to Hansen's credit, he does not fall into this trap.)

While not wanting to give the impression that "Stanger to Himself" is the great Gay American novel, I cannot help but be impressed by Hansen's smooth, integrated, organic writing style. The gayness of his characters is simply part and parcel of the novel's whole, nothing more. It is, to be sure, also much of what sets the mechanism of the novel into motion, but the beauty is that the relations could be translated into heterosexual terms without drastically altering most of the set-ups. That is, I think, a real key.

For the general reader, a venture into the realm of academia is usually one best made with a degree of caution. One can usually expect an inordinate amount of niggling on incredibly obscure (if not moot) points, tons of condescension, and (hopefully) some important enlightenment. That Gay academics are not different than their straight counterparts is amply proven by Louis Crew's compilation, "The Gay Academic" (ETC Publications, 444 pp., \$15.00, hb). Seeing as how Crew leads off the collection with a survey of College En-

glish Department heads on attitudes towards homosexuality, it seems only right that the remainder of the book supports the theory that there is no difference, even though the work is not intended for that kind of consciousness-raising, per se.

To be sure, the book is to be recommended for a more consistently intellectual outpouring of Gay consciousness than has heretofore been seen between covers (and hard-covers at that). And the list of contributors reads like a who's who of Gay-Lib literati: Barbara Gittings, Michael Lynch, Karla Jay, the late Mark Freedman, Ellen M. Barrett, Norman Pittinger, John Kyper... one wonders (only briefly) how Eric Bentley got left out.

The compilation could have been bettered by more careful editing which would have weeded out a lot of the shorter, sometimes ridiculously shallow pieces. The book, after all is supposed to be more a sampler than an overview, so it hardly seems necessary to include pieces just because they touch on something not touched on in other pieces. Similarly several essays recover very similar territory, If I refrain from being specific about which contributions I find lacking, it is because the effort is such an important one, that it would be destructive to be negative about it. What else is there, in Gay terms, to compare it to?

Still, there are two major points of contention. One (and the biggest) is the abysmal proofreading. For a book entitled "The Gay Academic," with the aim of proving Gay scholars the equal of straight ones, and selling for fifteen bucks, any typographical errors are unforgivable. It quite simply undermines the entire concept of the book. I hope that these were only in early review copies, and will have been eliminated by the

time the book goes into print at the end of this month.

Second was an example of Academic technique at it's worst, and surprisingly from Karla Jay. After reading her various essays, I was hardly prepared for the piss-elegant approach of her analysis of the work of Proust and Gide, which illustrated its point by using lengthy quotations...in the original French!

Still, "The Gay Academic" is much more worthwhile than worthless, and an excellently conceived project which deserves support. The anthology is available only by mail (for the most part) from ETC Publications, PO Drawer 1627A, Palm Springs, Cal. 92262.

— HL



DISCO SCENE
"DISCO RIPOFF PART 1"
by Jayson Messner

In my travels, I constantly hear people complain that Disco is a rip-off. So I have decided to cover (Continued on page 18)

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ANITA in the COMIX

by Tommi Avicollii

PHILADELPHIA — Educators are constantly questioning the value of comic books. Are they good or bad influences on our youth? Do they form anti-social attitudes, cause schizophrenia, corrode the moral fiber of America's youth?

Comic books come in all sizes and shapes — everything from the classic (Ivanhoe, Around the World in Eighty Days) to the run-of-the-mill superhero adventures (Superman, Wonder Woman, etc.), the latter being the target of attacks by those who contend that this form of entertainment — escapist as it is — has no redeeming social value. Up to a few months ago, I would probably have agreed with this point of view. However, having recently gotten back into reading comic books, I have found quite a few surprising changes from when I was a child.

First of all, a feminist consciousness has crept into both the Marvel and the DC line of comics. Wonder Woman, that amazing Amazon from Paradise Island, now rejects male chauvinist attitudes with feminist retorts. Marvel has issued a new comic with a female super-hero — Ms. Marvel — and generally women seem to be faring better these days than ever before. Remember the doting, sickeningly stereotypical female that was Lois Lane in the Superman comics? No more. Less the schemer and more the independent single career woman, this new Lois no longer lives to catch a superhusband (i.e., Superman). And — this might seem the most trivial of the changes — but most women in the comics are now referred to as "Ms."

How are the male superheroes (those super jocks of the juvenile set!) taking all this? Most seem to be enjoying it, for liberation of the female sex means liberation of the male sex, and perhaps for the first time, men can begin to genuinely feel emotions in the comics.

But by far the most enjoyable addition to the comic market these days has been, for me, a strange cynical cigar-puffing fowl by the name of Howard the Duck. His is the plight of everyperson. Thrown out of his own universe by a shift in cosmic axis, our hero now wanders through good ol' "Terra Firma" dismayed at the false values and the savagery of what he calls the "hairless apes."



His contact with humans has been, from the beginning, extremely unpleasant. The "Kidney Lady" — self-proclaimed champion of "wholesome goodness" — declares him a moral degenerate and proceeds to pounce on him at every opportunity. Dr. Bong, a former scandal sheet journalist, wants to turn him into a creature half-duck, half-human. But before you miss the point let me add that Howard the Duck is not merely bizarre. Every episode contains numerous social commentaries. If it's not the religious institutions being knocked, it's the blind conformity of most members of our society. This is certainly not the same stuff comic books used to be made of. Howard battles not only the usual outland-



ish monsters, but also the bigotries and savagery of the human species.

Howard is the first comic hero I know of to have an elaborate mental breakdown (over the course of four comic books, #10 through #14), complete with esoteric soul searching and existential anguish. Howard's departure from the "normal" realm of comic book subject matter is a sign that perhaps the critics will be proven wrong. Howard is the voice of reason amidst the wasteland. He sets an example for today's youth — don't trust institutions, he says, make your own decisions.

Howard's latest foe (Jan. & Feb. '78 issues) is SOOFI (Save Our Offspring From Indecency), an organization whose followers and leader wear head pieces shaped like oranges. Their campaign to restore goodness to America is strikingly familiar — and it is no surprise when the leader is unmasked and Howard discovers that she is none other than Anita Bryant.

Though we never see her face, it is apparent from the beginning that this is the Orange Juice Queen. Not only is the presence of oranges a dead give-away, but the leader's lines are right out of the mouth of the chief prude herself: "We are

death commandos of love," she tells her followers. "We oppose immorality, not immoral people. Kill — with compassion." And when Howard is captured, the leader shows him the Blanditron, designed to cleanse the indecent soul. "The idea of the Blanditron came to me in a vision," the orange-headed leader says, "The Almighty appeared to me on Miami Beach...And instructed me to carry the prevailing community standards of Dade County to the whole world." Howard is disgusted. The leader continues: "Decency isn't just for breakfast anymore, he said...And then handed me the schematics for the Blanditron."

Howard is placed in the Blanditron (which strangely enough, looks like a washing machine), but without success. Being an alien, Howard is of course immune to the machine. When he emerges he punches the infamous leader, the orange-shaped mask cracks and behold — it's Anita! Alarmed at her defeat, she cries: "But I can't have failed...not with HIM on my side."

As Howard struts out the door, she moans, "A day without imposing my morality on someone else is like a day without — well, you know!"

Yes, Anita, we know.



*All quotes from Howard the Duck, #21, Feb. 1978, published by Marvel Comics

VIEWPOINTS

the three most important areas starting with live concerts as compared to recordings.

When I saw the Spinners perform last Fall in New York at the Felt Forum, I left the concert in a really "different daze." I was shocked at what they had the nerve to call Disco music. The tunes were very scratchy and kept speeding up. The dancers needed speed to keep up, they mumbled their lyrics and the instruments lacked the drama and inciveness that the studio pressings present to us.

One might figure that most Disco artists are merely studio marionettes who are helpless when operating onstage, minus the fancy overdubbing and the crisp editing that are released on vinyl. But not all concerts are chalked-up as a rip-off, and some are not fit for human entertainment.

Consider Carol Douglass, and Andrea True, who over the past year performed at Phase II in Philadelphia (where I spin). Andrea True, promoting her new hit "New York, You Got Me Dancing" back in the Spring of '77, was a flop. In her performance she was trying to pass-off exertion as excitement. It was embarrassing, as well as insulting. On vinyl, the X-porno queen has a scratchy sound. Her live show was loud with the band very off. With her tacky outfits, and lousy dance routines, she could hardly keep the

patrons' attention.

Carol Douglas, had a little "class" in presenting her act at Phase II. Upon entering the floor, she stumbled over her gown. In order to get over the embarrassment, she pulled some Bette Midler jokes, which really didn't help. Introducing her new LP at the time, she almost blew out the system. The band played soft and the drummer messed-up the solo climax of "Love Affair." A lot thought that Ms. True and Ms. Douglas should have mouthed to their crisp studio vinyls just to keep from embarrassing the disco field.

Maybe Donna Summer is the smart one, seeing her concert at the Roseland Dance Hall in New York (and meeting her afterwards). I finally found an artist I can enjoy on vinyl as well as in person. Performing with the Fabulous Munich Machine, and her original backup singers, she made everyone reach climax to every Disco tune. Performing and dancing with the patrons and keeping everyone busy, it was easy to miss the crisp editing of a studio. But, overall, the "First Lady of Love", provided a concert that started a new trend. Now many disco artists, while performing, became involved with the Disco patrons; it is much more fun.

And Ms. Summer's recent concert at the Latin, in New Jersey, was really amazing. Lacking her German recording band, and her original backup singers, she still performed a concert that is a true mark of excellence in disco concerts.

Realizing her fate, she came out

and burst open with everything she had, receiving a standing ovation nearly every song. Her lyrics were crisp, and her backup singers, were well trained. The band was the best from the Philadelphia area. Donna, a true superstar, is very happy with the way her concerts have gone.

As one reporter from Philadelphia said, "Donna Summer makes Diana Ross look like a boy." If you saw the concert, you would agree. Besides, There's nothing like the real thing!" Right Donna!

(Next month, Part II of the Disco Rip-off.)

In Lancaster, the Fiddler Disco, 10 S. Prince St., is going through some really "chic" changes. I am spinning nightly with the hot pulsating Disco sounds of Philly and N.Y.C. Watch for the hot, new Fidler, Lancaster's hottest Disco!

HOT LP PROSPECTS

"Claudia Barry" Salsoul. "Dancing Fever/Johnny, Johnny", have been re-mixed with vocals and clearer instrumentals. The whole LP is hot dancing music with "Take It Easy/Love Machine/Open The Door/Dancin' Fever/Johnny, Johnny", getting the biggest response.

"Dr. Buzzard Meets King Pennett" — Dr. Buzzard's Original Savannah Band — RCA. The LP is breaking into the discos very rapidly. If you loved Dr. Buzzard's first LP, you'll love their second record. Very easy to dance to.

Until next month. Support your local disco. They're here for your dancing pleasure.

Bits 'n' Pieces

GAY MORMONS FORM NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

DENVER, CO — Affirmation GMU (Gay Mormons United), a new group for active, inactive and excommunicated members of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints, was officially organized during the Salt Lake City Conference on Human Rights, it was announced recently in the Colorado-based magazine, *Out Front*.

National director of the group, S. Matthew Price, stated, "Before organizing ourselves, we were a small, close-knit group on the campus of Brigham Young University. But after hearing about all the suicides taking place, we decided to come out. Since our formation, membership has seemed to skyrocket.

"We have said 'We've had enough.' Gay people are not second-class citizens. We are children of God. We are important people and we have just as much worth as our heterosexual brothers and sisters in the church."

Local chapters of Affirmation can be contacted through the national headquarters: Affirmation GMU, Box 9638, Denver, CO 80209.

— Gaysweek

BIGOTS EXPOSED

PASADENA, CA — One of the nation's most viciously anti-gay fundamentalist religious organizations has been denounced by six of its former adherents, the *Washington Star* has reported.

The charges involve Garner Ted Armstrong and other leaders of the so-called "Worldwide Church of God," a group that has influence far beyond its 60,000 members through sponsorship of a daily nationwide radio broadcast by Mr. Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong has frequently sneered at homosexuals and their "mince-ins," and has associated gay liberation with child pornography as symptomatic of our nation's "moral degeneracy."

According to the *Star*, six former students of the church's Ambassador College revealed that Armstrong and other officials "lived in mansions and drove expensive cars while many of the 60,000 members had been reduced to poverty level by the church's tithing policies, which made them contribute as much as 40% of their income."

The *Star* story appeared on the same day as one of Garner Ted Arm-



strong's broadcasts assailing "the new Sodom and Gomorrah" erected by gay liberation.

— Gay Life

GAY LIBERTARIAN WALK-OUT

LOS ANGELES, CA — Members of a Gay Libertarian Caucus walked out of the plenary session of the California Conference to Defeat the Briggs Initiative recently to protest what the caucus viewed as "the ramrodding of socialist and liberal resolutions without debate" on the floor.

The libertarian walkout came after the adoption of a package of resolutions from the women's, racial minority, lesbian, and labor caucuses in the last minutes of the conference. More than forty resolutions, including the entire 26-point plan passed at the International Women's Year Conference in Houston, were moved to the floor in a package.

Robert Sirico, president of the California Libertarians for Gay Rights, said that while the group supported some of the resolutions and parts of others, "we object to having them made a package deal and adopted without debate. We believe that this conference was called to bring together gays and straights of every political persuasion to fight against the Briggs Initiative, but it has become clear that the Conference is dominated by socialists and liberals."

A resolution was adopted on the floor requiring another statewide conference within six months to ratify or reject the actions taken at the recent Los Angeles meeting. It is expected that the next conference will be held in San Francisco.

— Gay Community News

APPEAL COURT TO HEAR "GAY NEWS" BLASPHEMY CASE

LONDON, January 12(Gay News)— The *Gay News* blasphemy appeal will be heard by the Court of Criminal Appeal starting February 13, it was announced this week.

The gay London newspaper and its editor Denis Lemon are appealing against both conviction and sentence. The charge of blasphemy was brought against the paper and its editor by anti-gay crusader Mary Whitehouse for the paper's printing of James Kirkup's poem "The Love That Dares to Speak Its Name", which depicted Christ involved in homosexual acts

Gay News was fined 1,000 pounds and ordered to pay four-fifths of Whitehouse's costs; Lemon was fined 500 pounds, given a nine-month suspended sentence, and ordered to pay one-fifth of Whitehouse's costs.

Grounds for appeal run to 14 pages, and claim that Judge King-Hamilton reached wrong legal decisions on several occasions during the trial, that he misdirected the jury in his summing up in 20 different ways, and that his sentencing was excessive.

Britain's National Gay News Defense Committee is planning an extensive leafleting on the issue as well as a mass demonstration on Saturday, February 11.

— Gaysweek

CITY IN OREGON BANS SEX

FLORENCE, OR — An ordinance passed by the Florence City Council banned engaging in sex "while in or in view of a public or private place," according to a report in the *New York Times*, December 8.

Council members thought they were forbidding sex in public and in private places which could be viewed from public places. Only after several days had passed did they realize that they had forbidden all lovemaking.

The ordinance is not being enforced until it is amended, according to city officials.

ENDORSEMENT OF GAY CIVIL RIGHTS URGED

NEW YORK — In an article in the Winter 1978 issue of the American Jewish Congress publication *Judaism*, a Jewish leader has endorsed homosexual civil rights, supported the establishment of gay synagogues and

the ordination of gay rabbis under certain circumstances, and taken an ambiguous position on gay marriage. While asserting that "the Jewish ideal for man and woman is heterosexuality," Princeton University Hillel Foundation acting director Rabbi Hershel J. Matt attempts in the article to reinterpret traditional Jewish prohibitions against homosexuality in light of "changed circumstances and data."

Rabbi Matt begins his theological case for acceptance of homosexuals by noting that, according to Jewish law, "when forbidden acts are performed in the absence of voluntary choice and free decision, or in the absence of other options, the offenders are judged more leniently than otherwise." Since contemporary evidence indicates that most gay people cannot change their sexual orientation, Matt argues they can be seen to fall under this category. However, he emphasizes that this standard of "leniency" does not apply to those who, if they chose, "could lead a heterosexual lifestyle" or those who could — "with professional help or strenuous effort" — manage to change.

— Gay Community News

ACLU: 'DISAPPOINTING' CARTER

WASHINGTON, DC — The American Civil Liberties Union has accused President Carter of a "disappointing" and "erratic" performance on civil liber-

ties issues in his first full year in office.

In a detailed report, the ACLU said that Carter "has not shown the commitment to freedom for American citizens that we are entitled to expect from a President who has put human rights on the world's agenda."

The group applauded some of the Carter Administration's moves on sex discrimination and racial equality issues. But it decried others, such as the Administration's general opposition to Federal financing of abortion for the poor.

The ACLU report also charged that Carter has done little to select women and members of minority groups as Federal judges.

— Gay Community News

GAY RUSSIAN FILM- MAKER FREED FROM PRISON

USSR (Gay News) — Russian film director Sergei Paradzhanov has been freed from labor camp, it was announced recently. Paradzhanov was sentenced in 1973 to five years in a labor camp under charges of homosexuality and "currency speculation".

According to Amnesty International, the strict regime under which Paradzhanov was sentenced requires "heavy manual work, such as laying sewers, road building, lumber work, and work in factories where air pollution is dangerous to health and conditions are noisy and cause nervous and phy-

sical strain." Amnesty International also claims that the food allowance under the strict regime supplies an inadequate number of calories for the work required.

Paradzhanov, who served his sentence in the Ukraine, was released one year before completing his sentence. At a press conference for western journalists one month before the release, Italian Member of Parliament Angel Pezzana condemned the Soviet's laws against homosexuality and specifically criticized Paradzhanov's imprisonment.

— Gaysweek

PSYCHIATRISTS STILL SEE GAYS AS 'SICK'

NEW YORK — A recent survey of psychiatrists indicated that an overwhelming majority of them still believe that homosexuals are "sick," despite the 1974 declaration of the American Psychiatric Association to the contrary.

In a poll published in the Novem-

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COORS SALES SLIP

LOS ANGELES — Joseph Coors, one of the owners of the embattled Adolph Coors Company, told a weekly meeting of Coors plant supervisors that the beer was not selling well in either the college or gay markets. "We are losing the battle on the campuses and in the gay community," he said, according to Gay Activist Morris Kight, who said one of the supervisors had leaked the information to him recently.

The Adolph Coors Company has been the target of a boycott by gays and unionists for several years. Recently it was reported that nearly 95% of the gay bars in San Francisco area no longer serve the beverage.

Coors has indicated its willingness to include "sexual preference" among the list of items the company promises not to discriminate against, according to Joe Russo, Coors' principal union negotiator.

Kight, contacted by the union for a response, said "many of us are laborites and of course that's not good enough. They have to remove the polygraph test, and to sign a total contract with you before we will call off the boycott."

Plans are afoot for Kight to get together with gay teamster Howard Wallace to distribute a leaflet educating the gay community about the current tactics of Coors. "We need to go to gay people and warn them that

ANTI-ERA STAND HURTS

KANSAS CITY, MO — Political leaders in this city say that the Missouri legislature's anti-ERA stand has cost Kansas City an estimated \$1.1 million in convention business and they will now ask the state to help make up the losses.

Three conventions scheduled to take place here were cancelled in 1977 and moved to pro-ERA states because of the nationwide boycott of anti-ERA states sponsored by the National Organization for Women.

Kansas City is planning to send the state legislature an itemized bill for the lost convention dollars and, if necessary, city officials say, they will take the state to court to make it pay for at least part of the city's lost convention revenues.

— Gay Community News



they'll soon be hearing there's no longer an issue, but don't buy the bait."

— Gaysweek

ber 1977 issue of Medical Aspects of Human Sexuality, 69 percent of the psychiatrists polled answered "yes" to the question, "Is homosexuality usually a pathological adaptation (as opposed to a normal variation)?" Eighteen percent said "no," and 13 percent were uncertain.

— Gay Community News

STATE SPEAKER'S BUREAU

In 1975, Governor Milton J. Shapp established the Council for Sexual Minorities. Among other things, the council was given the job of educating "the state personnel and the public in general about problems and issues affecting the sexual minorities."

The council has now established a Speaker's Bureau made up of women and men who can provide timely and thought-provoking presentations to organizations and community groups.

Anthony Silvestre, chairperson for the council, said, "Speakers will be selected for each organization with an eye towards the specific needs of the audience. As much as possible, we will try to have speakers with a personal background which matches the interests of the group. For example, we will have parents speak to parents and physicians speak to physicians."

Organizations interested in having a speaker address their group should write to the: Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities, 238 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120

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A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

MINEO MURDER CHARGE

MARSHALL, MI — A Michigan convict, who allegedly told cellmates he stabbed to death actor Sal Mineo two years ago, agreed to return to California this week for the murder trial.

Lionel Williams of Battle Creek, Michigan waived extradition at a hearing in Calhoun County Circuit Court saying that he had nothing to do with Mineo's death and knew nothing about it.

The declaration filed by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, however, stated that a prison guard overheard Williams tell another inmate that he had killed Mineo.

Williams told reporters that his cell had been bugged and this was confirmed by police officials. Williams was being held at the county jail on a check forging charge.

Mineo, stabbed to death outside his apartment on Feb. 12, 1976, was nominated twice for Academy Awards. He starred in the movies "Exodus" and "Rebel without a Cause."

— Gay Community News

David Gerrold, the sci-fi writer who first shot to prominence as the scripter of STAR TREK's most off-beat episode, "The Trouble with Tribbles," came up with the following aphorisms for his column STARLOG:

"Any person seeking special dispensation under the law is admitting to failure to compete equally in society. When Anita Bryant asks the law to protect her children, she is admitting her failure to do so herself."

And:

"The best example of child molestation I can think of is Saturday morning television."

AUTHOR CLAIMS THAT NIGHTINGALE WAS LESBIAN

LONDON — Florence Nightingale, the heroine of the Crimean War who is looked upon as the founder of modern nursing was a lesbian, according to Dr. Richard Gordon, author of the forthcoming fictionalized love story, The Private Life of Florence Nightingale.

Dr. Gordon, according to the Royal College of Nursing and some remote descendants of the nineteenth-century pioneer, is spouting absolute nonsense. Lady Verney, wife of Ms. Nightingale's great-nephew, led the storm of protest by denying Gordon's claim. The Royal College contented itself with wondering why anyone would, "rake up this sort of material" about a British national heroine.

"I haven't set out to destroy a legend", Gordon insists. "For me she is still one of the greatest women of all time. The question of her being a lesbian is simply historical fact."

Gordon bases his conclusions on a careful reading of Nightingale's letters, which recorded that she slept with countesses and cowgirls, and noted that "no woman could excite passion in another woman" as well as she could." Nightingale biographer Elspeth Huxley concedes that the letters do indicate emotional attachments, but interprets these feelings as "dotage on her part" and "hero-worship" on the part of her nursing companions.

— Gaysweek

MOST DISCRIMINATED

NEW YORK— Gay people are the most discriminated against minority group in the U. S. according to a recent nationwide survey by Louis Harris.

The survey found that 55% of those interviewed believe gay men and women face the greatest amount of discrimination followed by blacks, Puerto Ricans, Mexican-Americans, women and Jews in that order.

The Harris poll agreed with a recent Gallup Poll which found that most Americans (54-28%) favor passage of a law that would outlaw discrimination against homosexuals in employment. The Harris survey also found agreement that a majority still oppose hiring gay people as teachers, camp counselors and clergy.

.....

Temper is what gets most of us into trouble. Pride is what keeps us there.

CALENDAR

MARCH

- 1 Wednesday - 7:30 pm, Homophiles of Williamsport monthly meeting, 659 Beeber St., Willaimsport. Rap session will follow if time allows.
- 3 Friday - 9 pm - 1 am, Jason Blume,

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4 Saturday - 1 pm, Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus meets, Allentown.

5 Sunday - Don Kawash and Karen Saillant of Scott Joplin and Friends, turn of century songs, Gay Coffeehouse, Phila. 8pm-Mid.

10 Friday - 9pm-1am, Jim Labig a

Chelsea House Record artist, Country Western/Folk, Gay Coffeehouse, Phila.

APRIL

1 Saturday - 1pm, Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus meeting, Williamsport. Site to be determined.

5 Wednesday - Homophiles of Williams-

port monthly meeting, 7:30 pm, 659 Beeber St., Williamsport. 7,8,& 9 Weekend - Following listing for Pride '78, Gay Conference.



PRIDE '78

GAY CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

8:00-12Midnight, Hospitality and Registration.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

- 8:30-10:00 am, Registration (to continue throughout day)
- 10:00-10:30 am, Greetings, Mary Nancarrow and Gary Norton, co-chairpersons of the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus.
- 10:30-11:30 am, Keynote Speaker: Tony Silvestre, Chairperson, Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities.
- 12-1:45 pm, Workshop I
- 2:00-3:45 pm, Workshop II
- 4:00-5:45 pm, Workshop III
- 6:30-8:30 pm, Keynote Speaker at Founder's Dinner: Rep. E-Laine Noble, Massachusetts.
- 9:00-? Entertainers and Disco Dance.

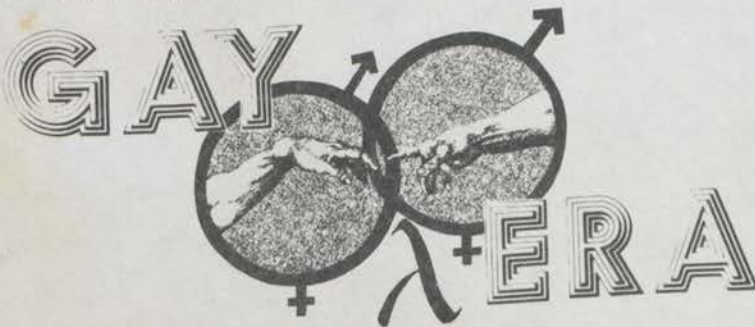
SUNDAY, APRIL 9

- 9:00-10:30 am, Breakfast. Registration to continue.
- 10:15-11:15 am, Keynote Speaker: Bruce Voeller, National Gay Task Force.
- 11:15-12:30 pm, Multi-Denominational Worship Service.
- 11:15-12:30 pm, Workshop III
- 2:00-4:00 pm, All Conference Session: "Priorities for '78, Onward with Gay Pride"

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CLOSED for RENOVATIONS Feb. 27 - Mar. 1

GRAND REOPENING

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