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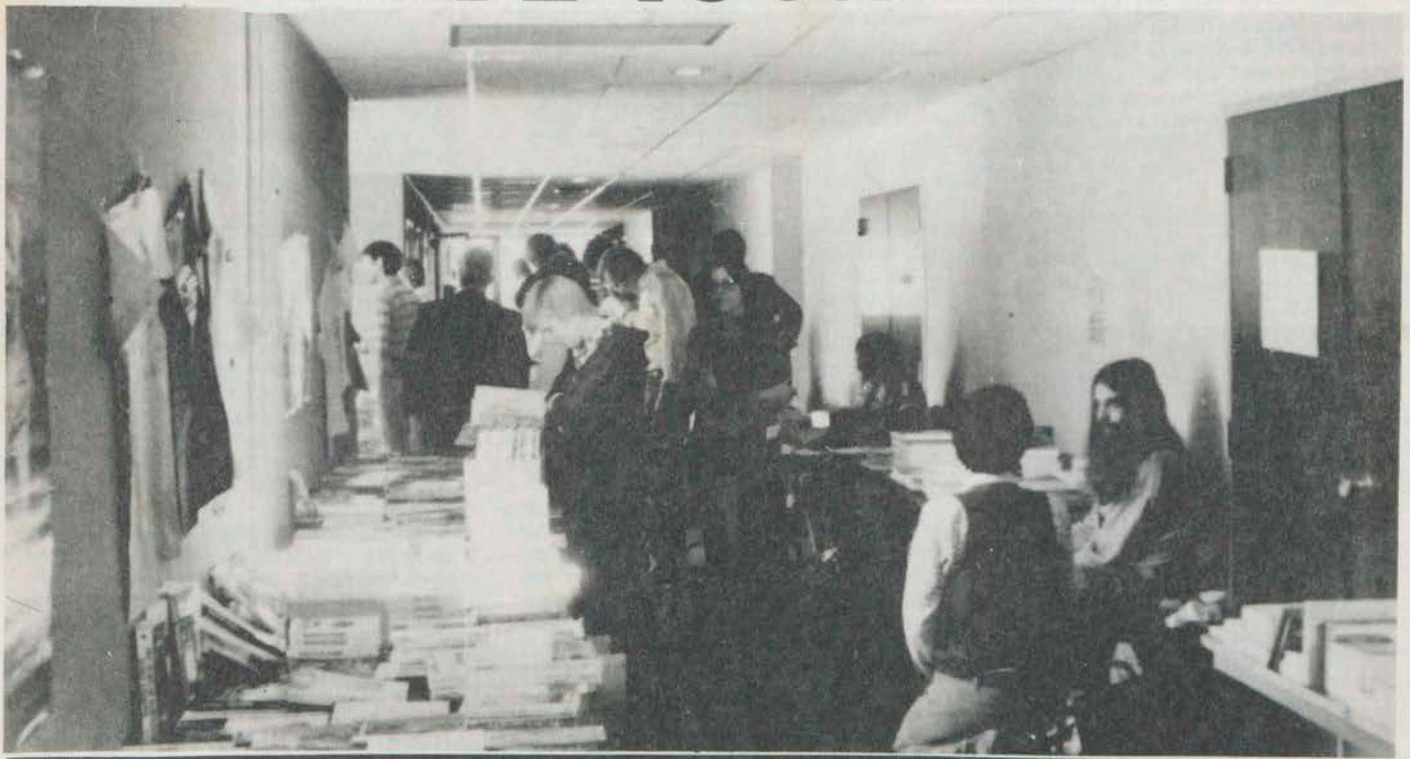
# GAY ERA

vol. 4 no. 3

50¢

MAY 1978

## HOMOS AT HOJO'S the PRIDE '78 conference



**"ADVOCATE" SUED ..... COORS BOYCOTT CONTINUES  
NAVY CHANGES TUNE**

**TOM WILSON-- TONY SILVESTRE**



BRUCE VOELLER, CO-DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL GAY TASK FORCE,  
SPEAKS ON THE ORANGE JUICE BOYCOTT, GAY RIGHTS REFERENDUMS, THE  
ADVOCATE AND THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.



# In the News

## FIRED EMPLOYEE SUING 'ADVOCATE'

SAN MATEO, CA — The publisher of the *Advocate*, David Goodstein has no comment on the firing of an employee who has charged that he was let go because he refused to participate in an EST program. James Smith, an advertising assistant at the paper, claimed that he was fired as the paper's national advertising director because he refused to join the regular EST program or to take a special EST program for *Advocate* employees.

The EST program is described as a "60-hour experience to realize the potential of our lives and an educational experience to enhance aliveness and well-being." Critics of the program have called it nothing more than a brainwashing technique and a thinly disguised religion.

James Smith told the San Francisco daily *Sentinel* that *Advocate* publisher David Goodstein said that unless Smith took EST he would lose his chance for promotion and lose salary increases. The *Sentinel* reported that several *Advocate* employees have confirmed Smith's story that he was fired because of his opposition to EST. The *Sentinel* also quoted Smith as saying that the "high echelon at the *Advocate* are disciples of EST and they are intimidating other people here to take it."



*Advocate* publisher David Goodstein

It was learned that Goodstein has a definite purpose in mind concerning the EST program. According to a highly placed source within the paper, the *Advocate* publisher plans to use the EST graduates in two political organizations, the *Advocate* Political Action Fund (APAF) and the *Advocate* Research and Education Fund (AREF). The source also said that Goodstein is refusing advertising for fund-raising efforts

in Eugene, Oregon and Wichita, Kansas where the gay communities face Dade County-like referenda. Goodstein is refusing that paid advertising because, the source said, it would interfere with his own fund-raising efforts for the new political organizations.

Randy Shilts, a veteran journalist at the *Advocate* has also resigned. Shilts said that he "objects to Goodstein forcing people to take EST." "But I am really offended," he added, "by the political fundraising of APAF and AREF — it undermines my professional standing as a reporter to be part of a political group."

Fired employee James Smith has contacted the American Civil Liberties Union about filing suit against the *Advocate* for attempting to deny his constitutional rights. The *Advocate* is currently involved in a SUIT charging it with discrimination against women in employment.

— Gay Community News

## COORS BEER BOYCOTT TO CONTINUE

by Timothy Price

GOLDEN, CO — In an effort to end a 5-month boycott against Coors Beer, the Adolph Coors Brewing Company announced that questions concerning the sexual orientation of prospective employees will no longer be considered in its hiring policy. The announcement by the company states in part that "the company does not discriminate on hiring in the areas of race, color, creed, sex, sexual preference, age, handicap or national origin."

Previously, applicants were administered a polygraph examination during the course of which questions will no longer be asked, use of the polygraph will continue. The company indicated the test's main purpose will be to question applicants about "drug use, political activity, and truth in filling out job applications."

However, the boycott is to continue, at least in the San Francisco area, due to the company's efforts to prevent its employees from unionizing. Howard Wallace, a Coors Gay Boycott organizer stated "the adding of 'sexual preference' to its personnel statement will have no teeth unless there is unionization...Without bargaining rights, the employees have no recourse but to follow the day to day dictates of management."

The Coors Beer boycott originated in San Francisco and spread to other

areas around the country. The boycott is expected to continue in those areas as well.



Former Ensign Vernon Berg

## NAVY CHANGES GAY STANCE

NEW YORK — The U.S. Navy has issued a new regulation which for the first time permits retention of sailors who have engaged in homosexual activity.

The new regulation states that separation from the service of those who engage in homosexual acts is customary rather than essential. It does not carry the language of earlier regulations which describe homosexuals as persons "who cannot be tolerated in a military organization."

Under the new regulation, enlisted persons accused of committing homosexual acts may now have their cases reviewed by the Secretary of the Navy before being discharged. Previously this privilege was accorded only to officers.

Former Navy Ensign Vernon Berg, who is suing the Navy after his discharge, said the new regulation is "a significant change and a substantial victory. It takes away the Pentagon's ability to hand out dishonorable discharges arbitrarily."

Berg, who has had his discharge upgraded to honorable by Secretary of the Navy W. Graham Claytor, said that there is still room for abuse under new regulation. "It does not," Berg said, "state causes for discharge. Nothing says that gays can serve in the Navy and there is enough latitude that a commanding officer can do what he wants to do." Berg was discharged in 1975 after admitting being gay to his commanding officer.

Under the new regulation a member of the Navy who has committed a homosexual act, "and who does not profess or demonstrate proclivity to repeat

such an act may be considered for retention in the light of all relevant circumstances."

Former Ensign Berg said that the previous processing out of gay people "can still be carried over under the new regulation." Berg said, "Some commanding officers just won't see the difference."

Berg's case was to be heard sometime in mid-April before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The government was expected to argue that the military, "as a separate society," can do what it wants (concerning retention of employees) until it is proven that the action is harmful to the nation.

Berg's case, which will be argued concurrently with that of former Air Force Sgt. Leonard Matlovich's, follows a recent decision handed down by a Federal Court judge Cecil Poole ordering the Navy to stop processing service people for discharge on the grounds of homosexuality. Poole said that the Navy used "arbitrary, capricious, and thus unconstitutional" mandatory processings for discharge.

## LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

VOTES AGAINST

ANTI-PORN LAW

by Timothy Price

Frustrated in his attempts to pressure Lancaster City Council into passing an ordinance that would ban the sale of alleged pornographic material in the city, Rev. William Drury vowed to seek legal avenues "to push this thing...just as far as (we can)." Rev. Drury's comments came after council, upon recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, voted not to pass such an ordinance.

The controversy began in February when Rev. Drury who operates "Teen Haven," and Rev. Dan Harley, pastor of a fundamentalist Christian church, demanded that City Council "do something about the smut" in Lancaster, citing Philadelphia's new anti-porn law as incentive. Julia Brazill, chairperson of the Public Safety Committee promised to take the mat-

ter under consideration and report to Council the committee's recommendations.

The report stated that "the city should not embark on a test case of doubtful outcome, but should await termination of cases in Philadelphia." It also declared that "censorship of adult literature...would be an act of futility."

Rev. Drury was allowed five minutes to respond to the action, and was timed by Council President Rhinier. "Why...we have to wait...to see what the liberals are going to do in Philadelphia, I don't know," Drury said, then added, "I thought this was a conservative county and a conservative council." Rev. Harley, also allowed five minutes, recited passages from the Bible.

## BRYANT FORMS LEGAL GROUP

Anita Bryant, who after the Dade County Defeat insisted that she was not going to make a spectacle of herself by taking her anti-gay campaign nationwide, has been wayfaring about the country lately, presumably not just selling orange juice. During an interview on radio station KCFM-FM in Tulsa, Bryant announced plans to form a "legal task force" to challenge the American Civil Liberties Union. According to Bryant, the ACLU is contributing to the moral decay of the country by its legal representations of gays and "other immoral groups."

Bryant took advantage of another opportunity to make her remarks heard when a Los Angeles television station, KABC-TV, featured nightly interviews with her several weeks ago. Members of the local gay community protested the station's actions claiming the "adequate presentation of opposing viewpoints had not been provided." However, after negotiations were held with several gay community spokespersons, and a demonstration occurred outside the station, KABC allotted time for spokespersons to refute some of Bryant's more outrageous claims.

Bryant also stirred up controversy in San Antonio recently when the Master of Ceremonies at one of her Christian revivals was presented with the alcalade (keys to the city). Bryant

was also named honorary mayor of San Antonio by Mayor Lila Cockrell. Gay activists were outraged by the incident, and the American Civil Liberties Union joined the Texas Gay Task Force in criticizing the Mayor's action. Mayor Cockrell, who in the past refused to present Mass. State Rep. Elaine Noble with the alcalade because of her "sexual preference," has agreed to meet with members of the gay community.

Among her upcoming appearances, the Acetic Acid Queen is scheduled to sing at a Christian youth rally called "Youth Quest '78." Bryant's performance is to climax a week of festivities which are to end Memorial Day. The rally is being held at the Schroon Lake Word of Life Camp, 90 miles north of Albany, NY.

## CENTRE COUNTY MINORITIES FORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB

STATE COLLEGE, PA — Members of various minority groups, including racial, sexual, and other minorities have met to organize a Centre County Minority Rights Democratic Club.

The purposes of the group are to educate both the public and candidates on minority issues and to help elect candidates who support minority rights.

The group plans to poll candidates for national, state and local offices on their stands on issues and organize voter registration drives.

The exact name of the group is not certain yet but will be decided upon at their next meeting in State College.

According to the group, "the transient nature of the student population in State College and our isolation are among the reasons that we did not finally decide to limit ourselves to a gay rights democratic club." The group cited the reasons as also consisting of the fact that many people who are involved in human rights issues are also involved with many aspects of human rights.

There is also hope that a student group will also be formed at Penn State University.

The issue of a human rights ordinance is again being considered by the Centre County Human Relations Advisory Board. The ordinance, which



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includes the words "sexual or affectional preference" has been stalled by the Board for the last few years. Most minorities in the county are frustrated by their helplessness in the face of machine politics.

For more information about this group please contact Jean Guertler c/o H.O.P.S., Box 218, State College, PA 16801.

### BILL GRAY FOR CONGRESS

PHILADELPHIA, PA — The Walt Whitman Democratic Club here has endorsed Rev. Bill Gray, a Baptist minister as a candidate for a congressional seat from the heavily gay populated areas in Center City West, Powelton and Germantown.

Gray has promised to become a chief sponsor of the Federal Gay Rights Bill in Washington. Previously Bella Abzug and Edward Koch were the chief sponsors of the bill. Koch is now mayor of New York City and Abzug has been defeated in her bid for a Senate seat.

Gray, a candidate for the Democratic nomination, has been called by the Club as "refreshing proof that not all Baptists believe in Anita Bryant's philosophy" and notes his commitment to human rights as part of his involvement in the Balck community.

Gray has pledged to enlist more co-sponsors for the bill from the Black Congressional Caucus which could increase the number of sponsors to at least fifty Representatives.

The Club points out that "Bill's youth and vitality make him a very attractive candidate. Mayor Rizzo has endorsed his opponent... Gray cannot be controlled by the (Rizzo) machine." They continue, "All the more

reason for us to support him for the gay vote could very well be the deciding factor here."

In his last race against the machine's candidate, Gray lost by a mere 339 votes. Gray was the featured speaker at a fund-raising dinner for the Walt Whitman Club on April 3 at the Equua restaurant.

— DL

### MAN HELD FOR "HOMOSEXUALITY"

A Japanese man vacationing in Hawaii was detained in his hotel room under guard for four days after answering Immigration Official's questioning regarding his sexuality. Upon his arrival at Honolulu International Airport, Misao Tagawa told officials he was a costume designer in response to questions concerning his employment. The officer then asked Mr. Tagawa if he preferred sex with men or women. When Mr. Tagawa answered "men," the officials searched his luggage and confiscated a letter from a friend residing in San Francisco. The officials submitted the letter to the U.S. Customs Service as "evidence of homosexuality." Mr. Tagawa was then taken to a Ramada Inn where he remained from Friday to Monday with guards stationed in his room. In addition, all of Mr. Tagawa's phone calls were monitored.

When notified of the incident, Robert Mohr, head of the American Civil Liberties Union in Hawaii, contacted the media, and interviews with Mr. Tagawa were arranged for local papers and television stations. In response to the publicity, the

Immigration Office freed Mr. Tagawa, but warned they would deny him passage to the mainland if he chose to challenge in Court the Office's actions. Mr. Tagawa indicated that he would not take legal action and continued his vacation.

### LESBIAN MOTHERS RALLY IN NYC

by Timothy Price

New York City has been the center of various gay rights-oriented demonstrations recently, and yet another is in the wings. Dykes and Tykes, and the Lesbian Mother National Defense Fund are organizing a demonstration to be held Monday, May 15 from noon to 2pm in front of Family Court in Manhattan. Family Court is the site of most of the city's child custody battles. Demands of the demonstrators include an end to discrimination on the basis of income, race, or sexual preference in foster care and adoption, an end to gay firings and anti-gay discrimination in hiring, elimination of sexuality discussion in custody cases, removal of anti-gay judges, and full medicaid coverage including abortions on demand.

A separate rally will be held the evening before the demonstration. In attendance will be various speakers with topics ranging from sterilization abuse and abortion to the removal of children from Native American and Third World families. Susan O'Brien, an organizer of the demonstration, states that "while our demonstrations

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and rallies will relate specifically to Lesbian mothers, we wish to put it into the context of who the (government) allows to bear and keep children, and why attacks are being made on Lesbian, Third World, and poor women."

Futher information can be obtained by contacting Dykes and Tykes, 110 E. 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, (212) 777-8358.

### ADVOCATE REFUSES ADS

by Dave Leas

Calling it a "national scandal" Bruce Voeller, co-director of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF), has

accused the Advocate of refusing to publish paid advertisements from his organization.

"The Advocate will not accept paid advertisements from NGTF since the beginning of December" Voeller told the participants at the Pride '78 Gay Conference held April 7,8 & 9 in the Delaware Water Gap resor. area. Voeller added that the Advocate also "will not accept paid ads from the Eugene, Seattle, Wichita or St. Paul referendum committes among others."

The Advocate which is the largest gay newspaper in the United States, has in the past been hostile to who the publisher, David Goodstein, calls "gay spoilers." The most memorable was the formation of

the Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL) which was formed by Goodstein to raise funds and organize the lobbying effort for the federal gay rights bill. The conference, at which the organization was to be formed, was by invitation only. Those invitations came from the Advocate office.

Voeller said that one of the reasons that the ads have been refused is "Probably because we are competition with the Advocate's Political Action Fund." The fund was intended to help the cities that are facing referendums on gay rights laws.

"We have all asked for explanations and received none," Voeller told the audience .

While speaking to the participants at Pride '78, Voeller preceded his announcement with suggestions on dealing with the conservative lawmakers in government. "Let's get the conservative gays to talk to the conservative legislators about privacy...that people have a right to privacy." Voeller pointed out that in the past, if approached

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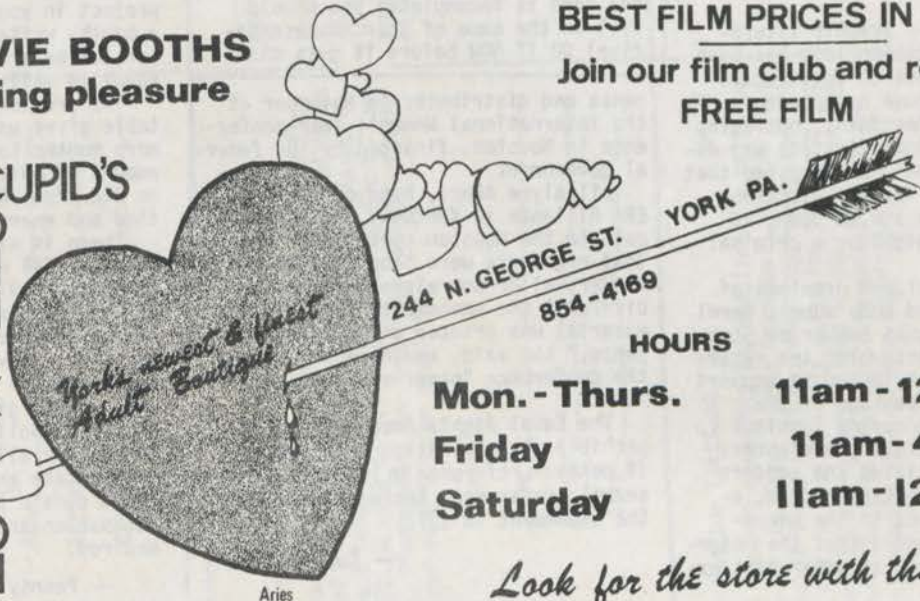
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on the gay rights issue, legislators would turn their heads at the words "civil rights." He added that if approached about the right to privacy, they immediately knew what was being said.

"Let's get our conservative gay people talking to legislators. Let's get David Goodstein stop putting down and undermining gay people and all the people he doesn't agree with and doesn't like. We can criticize each other without undermining others. Our diversity is our biggest asset."

## ANGELA DAVIS TO TEACH FEMINISM

SAN FRANCISCO — Angela Davis, the Communist Party member who gained national attention on September 19, 1969, when she was dismissed for her political beliefs from a teaching post at the University of California in Los Angeles, began teaching a required course in feminism in January at San Francisco State University.

Only students were permitted to speak with her or attend the first class because the faculty of the women's studies program at the university is seeking to minimize the sensational aspects of the one-semester course that Ms. Davis is teaching.

"She was hired through normal channels and we are trying to avoid her appearance becoming a media event," Dr. Helene Wenzel, director of the women's program, said.

Ms. Davis, a magna cum laude graduate of Brandeis, was tried and acquitted in 1972 of charges of aiding a bloody jailbreak by black militants just north of here in Marin County in August 1970.

— Gaysweek

## KENTUCKY ERA FOE DISTRIBUTES LESBIAN BOOKLET

FRANKFORT, KY — Graphic literature describing lesbian love has been distributed to about 30 legislators in the Kentucky House by opponents of the Equal Rights Amendment, outraging some of them. An investigation was demanded by some, and one suggested that using House pages for the distribution, some of whom are as young as eight years old, might be a criminal offense.

The booklet included drawings of female genitals and nude women. Carol Maddox, a Fort Thomas member of Stop ERA said she has assembled the material and had it distributed to support her argument that passage of the amendment would encourage lesbians to advertise their sexual preferences.

Envelopes identified the senders as Stop ERA and the Eagle Forum, another group opposed to the amendment. Maddox contended that the material had been printed at government ex-

## ERA EXTENSION DRIVE

Members and chapters of Pennsylvania NOW are actively involved in a public education and lobbying effort to extend the seven-year time for ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.

The effort, which began in October when the resolution for extension (H.J. Res. 638) was introduced into Congress, has already generated thousands of letter and postcards across the state. NOW has set a goal of 500 pieces of mail from each Congressional district per month.

Success for the extension drive will depend heavily on individual effort. Some Congresspeople have reported that mail against the bill has been outnumbering "pro" mail by margins ranging from 2 to 1 to 10 to 1. We cannot afford to let the anti-ERA letters dominate.

National NOW and Pennsylvania NOW have been in contact with chapter leaders and have made recommendations on how to increase mail supporting the extension. Some chapters have adopted a "pyramid plan" in which unit leaders recruit five letter writers and they, in turn, recruit three more people willing to join the effort.

Other chapters have gone public, setting up tables of pre-printed postcards at malls and college campuses. Some are working with other local pro-ERA organizations, offering to speak at meetings and supply other groups with sample letters and cards.

No matter how able and dedicated a chapter leader is, she or he cannot do the job alone. NOW members and supporters must make a personal pledge to insure that our voices will be heard.

## PERSONAL STRATEGIES TO CONSIDER

Sign, detach, and mail the slips on the following two pages immediately. (Please note that the address on one card is incomplete; you should fill in the name of your Representative) DO IT NOW before it gets mis-

pense and distributed in November at the International Women's Year conference in Houston, financed by the federal government.

Lilialyce Akers, head of the Pro-ERA Alliance in Kentucky and a delegate to the Houston conference, said that opponents were "looking for controversial or nonrelevant issues" to discredit the amendment. "None of this material was printed at government expense," she said, and delegates to the conference "never saw these materials."

The Equal Rights Amendment would prohibit discrimination based on sex. It makes no reference to lesbians or sexual preference. Kentucky ratified the amendment in 1972.

— Gaysweek

laid or forgotten.

Make yourself a pledge that you will write a certain number of cards every day or every week. With one card per day you can reach every member of the House Judiciary Committee every month; ten cards per week would mean that both the House and Senate Judiciary Committees would hear from you monthly.

Respond to replies, even if they are obviously form letters. For a letter supporting the extension, thank that person and ask him or her to speak on behalf of the bill during discussion or debate. If the reply is negative, thank the Congressperson for his/her response, but urge him or her to reconsider. Point out that the public and many state legislators have been misled by anti-ERA propaganda, and we must have time for the ERA to be debated on its own merits.

If you receive a non-committal reply ("Thank you for your letter... I will keep your views in mind...") it is most important to follow through with another letter. Some are side-stepping, of course, but many of these Congresspeople have not made up their minds. It is up to us to let them know that a vote for extension is the wiser move.

Make things easy for yourself. Keep your list of Congressional committee members handy along with a good supply of postcards or stationery. Try to set a specific time each day or week to do some writing.

Check with your chapter leaders to see if there are arrangements for card collection and bulk mail in your area.

Think up your own special incentives. One NOW member put postage stamps on 100 postcards; now she is certain that each one will be signed and mailed because she has already invested her money.

Volunteer to help with or take charge of one special ERA Extension project in your area. Offer to staff a booth, write a letter to the editor, or be a collection point for ready to mail postcards.

The present Congressional timetable gives us approximately three more months to generate the maximum amount of mail. Until the final vote on H.J. Res. 638, we need all the time and energy you can spare.

There is always a possibility that the ERA will be ratified before March 1979. However, we firmly believe that an extension will enhance the drive for immediate ratification. It will have a positive effect on the ERA Economic Boycotts and it will give us more clout in electoral politics where necessary. But, above all, we must not be willing to take any risk that women might remain second-class citizens because an arbitrary deadline has expired.

— Pennsylvania NOW newsletter

Dear President Carter:

I support extending the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA is as relevant today as it was when Congress passed it in 1972. A vote for this extension is a vote for women. Please use the power of your office to secure passage of this extension by Congress.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Senator Bayh:

I support extending the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA is as relevant today as it was when Congress passed it in 1972. A vote for this extension is a vote for women. Please do everything in your power as Subcommittee Chair to see that this extension passes expeditiously and favorably through your subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Representative Edwards:

I support extending the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA is as relevant today as it was when Congress passed it in 1972. A vote for this extension is a vote for women. Please do everything in your power as Subcommittee Chair to see that this extension passes, expeditiously and favorably through your subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Senator Heinz:

I support extending the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA is as relevant today as it was when Congress passed it in 1972. A vote for this extension is a vote for women. Please work for immediate passage of this bill and vote YES for equality.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Senator Schweiker:

I support extending the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA is as relevant today as it was when Congress passed it in 1972. A vote for this extension is a vote for women. Please work for immediate passage of this bill and vote YES for equality.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Representative Rodino:

I support extending the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA is as relevant today as it was when Congress passed it in 1972. A vote for this extension is a vote for women. Please do everything in your power as Committee Chair to see that this extension passes expeditiously and favorably through your committee.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Senator Eastland:

I support extending the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA is as relevant today as it was when Congress passed it in 1972. A vote for this extension is a vote for women. Please do everything in your power as Committee Chair to see that this extension passes expeditiously through your committee.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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**Support H.J. Res. 638**

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_

I strongly urge your support of H.J. RES. 638, a resolution extending the time to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. Equal Right for over one-half the population remains a politically, economically, and socially vital issue which must not be foreclosed by an arbitrary time limitation.

An Equal Rights Amendment is critically important to all women and men, and is clearly supported by the majority of Americans. I hope you will vote and work for an extension on the ERA. A vote for the extension is a vote for women.

Sincerely,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



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# Gubernatorial Candidates on Gay Issues

Tuesday, May 16, is an important day for gay people and their friends in Pennsylvania. On that day, registered Democrats and Republicans will chose their party's gubernatorial candidates for the Nov. 7 election. The winner on Nov. 7 will have either a positive or negative impact on gay rights for the next four years.

Recognizing that the Shapp Administration has taken many courageous actions to further the cause of civil rights for gay people, the Walt Whitman Democratic Club last Fall began briefing candidates of both parties in the hope that Gov. Shapp's affirmative policies will be continued by whomever succeeds him.

Representatives of four of the candidates met with the Walt Whitman Democratic Club in December and March for an exchange of views. After these briefing sessions, identical questionnaires were sent to each candidate. Late in March, members of the club caucused and ranked the candidates on the basis of both their questionnaire responses and their receptiveness to discussing the issue.

As the Summer and Fall campaigns progress, the Walt Whitman Democratic Club will continue to raise the issue of gay rights with the two gubernatorial nominees. An updated ranking will be issued in October.

\*Information provided by the Walt Whitman Democratic Club, 1719 Rodman St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19146.

## The Questionnaire

As Governor of Pennsylvania, will you

- (1) reissue the 1975 executive order barring discrimination against state employees on the basis of sexual orientation,
- (2) retain the Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities,
- (3) work for legislation barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in areas including, but not limited to, employment, housing, public accommodations, credit, public facilities, insurance and government funding,
- (4) work to expand the mandate of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission to protect citizens against discrimination based on sexual orientation,
- (5) work for the revision of the penal code to eliminate laws regulating private sexual acts between consenting adults,
- (6) direct state agencies to fund community organizations, mental health and mental retardation facilities, alcohol and drug control programs and other organizations which serve a gay clientele,
- (7) direct state agencies to not discriminate against their clients on the basis of sexual orientation, and
- (8) work for legislation to prohibit consideration of sexual or affectional preference as a factor in any judicial determination of child custody or visiting rights?

## REPUBLICANS

Robert Butera acceptable

"I support equal rights for everyone, regardless of their sexual preference. I do not believe that someone's sexual preference, while it may be different from mine, automatically means that a person's goals and aspirations are different from mine. I do not feel that one's sexual preference should be an automatic bar to any kind of employment. I will not make any commitment as to whether I will follow a Milton Shapp directive when I am Governor." As minority leader in the state House of Representatives, Butera voted against measures furthering gay rights.

Henry Hager acceptable

"As governor, I will stand against, in general, discrimination against state employees on the basis of sex or sexual orientation as a test for employment... do and will continue to support the efforts of the Governor's Council... to have a forum for dissemination of the position and problems confronting sexual minorities... would sign legislation... that bars discrimination strictly on the basis of affectional preference in the areas you mentioned in your question... Finally, I feel that sexual acts between consenting adults is no business of the state and should be left to the private concern and discretion of each person." However, "it seems to me that altogether too much attention is paid to affectional preference and not enough to the aggressive nature of the individual regardless of sex or affectional preference." As senate minority leader, Hager initially co-sponsored a sodomy reform bill in 1976 but suddenly withdrew his support.

David Marston unacceptable

Did not respond to questionnaire.

Arlen Specter unacceptable

Did not respond to questionnaire. Specter was not friend of gay people when he was Philadelphia district attorney.

Richard Thornburgh acceptable

"I am firmly committed to human dignity and opportunity for all people. I would continue the policy issue via Executive Order to prevent the state from discriminating against persons based solely on (their) affectional and sexual preference." I believe that a person's affectional or sexual activity is a private matter."

## DEMOCRATS

Robert Casey unacceptable

Casey answered the questionnaire on gay rights with a five-paragraph letter which made no reference to the specific questions. He stated only that "when civil rights are abridged through discriminatory practices, the Governor has a constitutional responsibility to take whatever actions are appropriate and necessary to end these practices. This duty applies to employment opportunities and access to government sponsored or support services." Casey's reluctance to speak to the issue directly makes him an unacceptable candidate.

Pete Flaherty acceptable

"My answer to questions one through seven is yes. As for question eight... a serious constitutional question as to possible violation of the separation of powers doctrine exists if the governor and legislature were to encroach upon the province of the judiciary. That question requires further study." As mayor and deputy U.S.

attorney general, "I have always striven to judge people by their ability and not by their sexual orientation... My administration in Pittsburgh never discriminated in appointments or promotions against gay persons or any other minority."

Ernest Kline preferred

"On questions 1, 2 and 7, the answer is yes. The other five... require legislative actions or cooperation. In the area of minority rights... it's frequently the fact that the only effective way to accomplish legislative changes is to move step by step... It was by taking matters step by step that this administration achieved many significant advances in the field of minority rights." As lieutenant governor, Kline helped to insert provisions protecting gay people into union contracts covering state employees. As a gubernatorial candidate, Kline sought out gay people for advice on unmet agenda items even before receiving the questionnaire.

# Opinion

## NOT QUITE THE CENTERFOLD

Anita Bryant and Protect America's Children are back in the news again. Her latest inanities are trumpeted on the network news programs, given paragraphs in the local newspapers, and printed in the most prestigious national magazines. The source of this latest interest is her recent interview in *Playboy Magazine*, which seems like an unlikely place for America's foremost guardian of sexual puritanism. There Bryant winds through scotch advertisements, leaps over the centerfold's vagina and breasts and ends lovingly among the back page ads for Trojan and vibrators.

Despite the fact that Bryant's interview is riddled with contradictions, she is still able to provide us with a new wealth of information about homosexuality. She has found that homosexuality leads to alcoholism, drug addiction, sado-masochism, bestiality and suicide. How heterosexuals acquite these behaviors is left unanswered by her. Bryant claims that homosexuals are called fruits because they eat the Forbidden Fruit of the Tree of Life which is male sperm. She snidely remarks that gays are aware of this and points to the existence of a jockey short called Forbidden Fruit as evidence. The crusader of morality goes on to say that if homosexuals are a minority then so are nail-biters, dieters, fat people and short people. (We would agree that these groups are indeed legitimate minorities and should not be denied housing, employment or receive jail sentences for their conditions). More baffling is her assertion that the solution to the homosexual problem is to imprison anyone who commits a homosexual act for 20 years. Despite the routine gang rapes of imprisoned homosexuals and the totally male environment of the prisons, she believes many might change their way because it would give them "plenty of time to think."

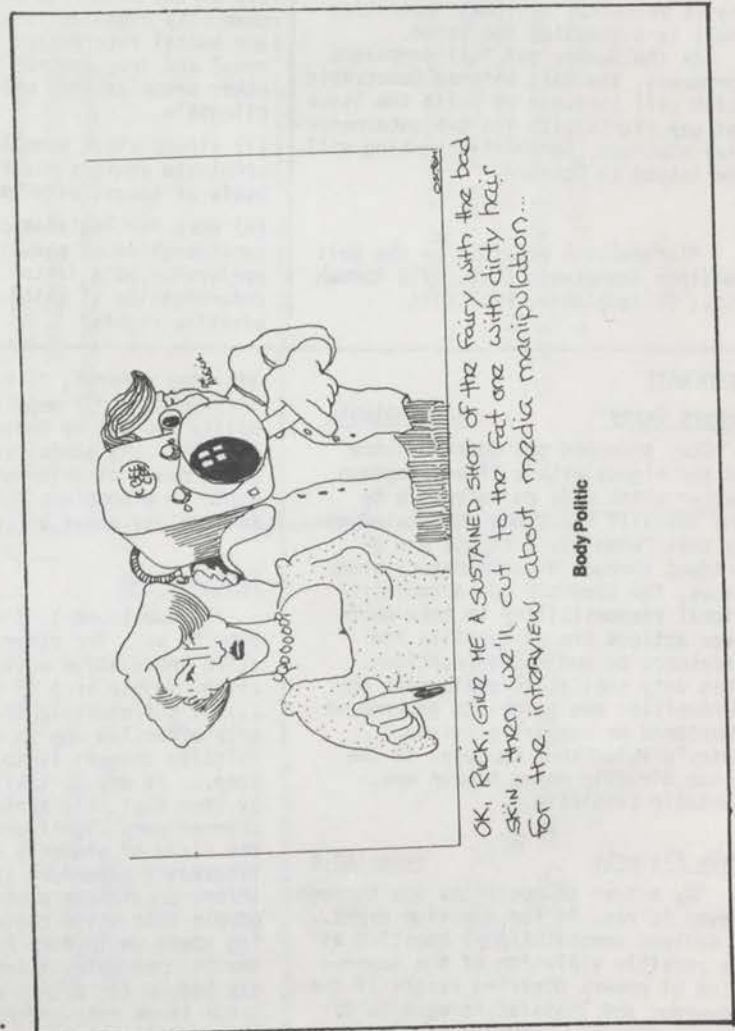
Before turning away from Anita Bryant's rantings with a liberal sneer and passing her off as a crack pot, remember that she has a considerable following. She was voted America's most admired woman by the readers of *Good Housekeeping Magazine*, has impressive financial backing and commands incredible national media attention.

Whenever gay people try to oppose Anita Bryant and her organization's tactics, we are accused, by even such liberals as Nat Hentoff (*Village Voice*), of trying to deny her freedom of speech. The mere suggestion of a boycott of orange juice roused the cry that we are undemocratic — even fascist. We can only counter these arguments by reminding these writers of the tea boycott that led to the Boston Tea Party and the American Revolution or asking how much orange juice the Florida Citrus Commission would sell to the Zionists if Yassar Arafat were singing under the Sunshine Tree.

Freedom of speech is not the issue. Anita Bryant has the right to say anything, anytime she wishes. Freedom of the press is also not the issue. Newspapers and magazines should be allowed to print what they want and sell it where they want. The issue is responsible journalism. By giving such unwarranted media time and coverage to someone who is so little qualified to speak on the subject of homosexuality, without reporting responsible opinions from her opposition, they lend credibility to her bigotry. Such attention supports her political positions if not in intent at least in results.

Recently Gerald C. Davidson and others have taken the position that not only should discrimination against gays be ended but that, "therapists should discontinue their efforts at altering the sexual preference of adult homosexuals even when an individual comes to a therapist" 'voluntarily' and announces a desire to change, because "the very existence of such therapeutic programs tends, in the larger political context, to confirm the bias that such patterns of behavior are maladaptive and even sick." You will not read about them in the *Lancaster New Era*, or see them in the pages of *Newsweek*. After all who is Gerald C. Davidson? He is only a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and former president of the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy. In the eyes of the media, his qualifications do not match those of Anita Bryant.

— J.W.



# PRIDE '78

## IMPRESSIONS of PRIDE '78

by Harry H Long

Ah, spring must be here, for conferences in general, and Gay conferences specifically, are being scheduled right and left.

Why such a jaded attitude to it all? Truth is, I don't know; I was attempting to figure it out the entire duration of the Gay Pride '78 Conference. I continually thought back to nearly two years ago when, on assignment for the Lancaster Independent Press, I covered the first Gay conference in the Commonwealth. I was so constantly scribbling in one or another notebook for those two days that most observers probably assumed they were permanent appendages of some sort.

This time, so much of it seemed like the same tired rhetoric I've been hearing at conferences, meetings, parades, etc., etc., that I took very few notes, and even wondered in the process why I was bothering to take down fifty percent of them. I early gave up the idea of doing a job of reportage, simply because I could not bring myself to take notes on, and write up all that same (or similar) rhetoric I've heard, and even used, on far too many occasions.

As conferences go, this one went. In its execution there was little to differentiate it from any other conference. Events uniformly started at least fifteen minutes late. Only a few very special things really stood out, so I'll devote myself to them.

A plethora of new young faces, a joy to behold for many reasons. Primarily because it's nice to think that at the point we're confined to wheelchairs, there will be some young'uns willing to do legwork for the GAY ERA. As fond as I am of many of the (ahem) "older" politicians (some of whom have become dear friends), it's refreshing to see we're not just burning ourselves out, but that we're also attracting (recruiting?) new people. Then again, maybe at heart I'm really a paedophile.



The Giovanni's Room display. What was a confirmed book freak like myself to do? And on a limited budget, yet, Ed Hermance had trucked so many delights from Philadelphia that I found my mind and wallet in a severe struggle every time I (frequently) walked past. Given a spare C-note, I would've run amuck. As it was, my wallet grudgingly coughed up only enough for a T-shirt with the legend "Closets are for clothes."

Of the scheduled speakers, Tony Silvestre, of the Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities, and Bruce Voeller, of the National Gay Task Force, showed up. Elaine Noble did not, eliciting boos and hisses from the crowd. Since Voeller is the subject of an extensive interview, I'll bypass him and concentrate on Silvestre, who spoke eloquently on the last ten years of Gay Liberation in Pennsylvania. Silvestre noted that most Gay organizations have

been forced to be political groups because they were given no alternative; their mere existence came as a political statement and was reacted to as such. He was speaking specifically of Homophiles of Penn State, which had to sue the university to sanction its existence, but parallels could easily be drawn to other groups.

Silvestre had originally thought to address himself to the things that need to be accomplished, but then considered the Conference itself would take care of that. However, he did manage to note in passing that "Political sophistication leads to radicalism. We must become more



PHOTOS BY MARLIN McCONNELL

SKETCHES BY ARIES



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HARRISBURG

MILTON J. SHAPP  
GOVERNOR

April 28, 1978

radical or we'll never achieve political change. If we don't change the system, it will change us." A statement so logically made that even arch-conservative David Goldstein might have to exert a conscious effort to keep from agreeing.

Silvestre also came up with one of the more notable quotables of the conference when he stated, "When I am asked, 'Why are you Gay?' I reply, 'Because I'm lucky.'"

Chief among my memories of the conference, however, was my visit to the local bar, The Blue Bugle, located in Stroudsburg.

The crowd in The Blue Bugle is decidedly mixed, and when I first walked in I began wondering if our Resources list were not in need of revision. The front area of the bar was occupied by rough-looking greaser types of both genders. Had my friends not pressed on, I might have retraced my steps. While standing at the bar, waiting for my drink, I noticed quite a number of bumper stickers and poster variations of the "Hate Anita" message. I knew then that I was in the right place.

I also realized that, unlikely as it seemed, there was a more acute sense of political consciousness in this "backwoods" bar than at the conference. At Ho Jo's I had seen activists quaffing screwdrivers (the very next morning I sat near one who drank IT Straight for breakfast). Here, O.J. could not even be obtained! So much for the theory that rural communities have less political savvy than metropolitan areas.

As to the bar itself, well, one of my friends described it as "colorful." Colorful it was. The decor was in middle eclectic. Behind the front bar, a reproduction of Michelangelo's David stood on a shelf before a marbled mirror. Sombremos, Mae West and Laurel and Hardy posters, and Navy brochures adorned the walls. The back bar was topped with textured plexiglass, lit from below by red lights. Ceramic figures of every persuasion crowded each other on shelves and nearly every other flat surface.

The dance floor, more of a clear space on the floor, really, had its inescapable mirror ball, lit from below, through a glass tile in the floor! Ingenious. And on the dance floor, when I first walked back, was a bizarre figure, evidently well-known to the locals. A squat, unat-

Pride '78 Conference  
Howard Johnson Motor Lodge  
I 80 Exit 53  
Delaware Water Gap, Pennsylvania 18327

Attention: Mr. Anthony Silvestre

Dear Friends:

As you know, I am deeply committed to the cause of minority rights. The work you and other minority activists in the Commonwealth are doing is sorely needed and I am happy to see that you all remain dedicated in the face of strong opposition. Courage for this generation can be defined by your actions.

I want to extend my sincerest wishes to all of you for a most successful conference.

Sincerely,

*Milton J. Shapp*  
MILTON J. SHAPP  
Governor

tractive woman of indecipherable age with short stringy hair, sort of bowl cut, wearing a blue chiffon and sateen dress (which had seen far better days) decorated with paste diamonds, was, for lack of a better word, dancing. Her feet, encased in klunky black tie oxford wedgies, traced slow, heretofore unseen configurations. Who is she? Where does she come from? Was she drunk, high, mentally deficient? Have I unknowingly stumbled onto the set of an Italian movie, say "Fellini Gaybar"? At some point, perhaps an hour after I arrived, I realized she was no longer in the bar, that she had somehow vanished. Strangely, I felt a bit saddened by the loss.

I must also mention that the locals at The Blue Bugle are very outgoing and friendly, something rare given the usual repressive

atmosphere of a small town. But then, perhaps, the proximity of the Pocono resort areas lends a bit more freedom to the atmosphere. Things might really get jumping at the bar during the summer.

As we left, a woman in an upstairs apartment leaned out her window and hooted at us.



## COMPLETELY OPINIONATED ADDENDUM:

The final segment of the conference, entitled "Priorities for '78, Onward with Gay Pride," was meant to deal with several resolutions which grew out of the conference.

Before going on, let me list the resolutions that were adopted by the body.

It was resolved that the conference would be repeated on an annual basis.

It was resolved that the conference would endorse the Rural Gay Caucus' formation of a state-wide support group.

It was resolved that the conference urge extension of the E.R.A. deadline.

It was resolved that the conference encourage and endorse the formation of a state-wide association of existing Gay switchboards.

It was resolved that the conference acknowledge and encourage participation of racial and sexual minorities within the Gay Community.

It was resolved that the conference request emphasis to the special needs of Gay alcoholics in existing Commonwealth programs.

It was resolved that the conference recognize the special problems of Gay youth and support the establishment of support and self-help groups for same.

It was resolved that the conference endorse and urge participation in the E.R.A. Processional March in D.C. on July 9 of this year.

Naturally all this was not done as easily as it is listed. There was some argument as to wording, especially in these resolutions which originally read as though the Conference itself was to undertake some kind of action. Then too, there was a good deal of niggling over whether words like "oppression" were politically damaging.

(According to that argument, evidently even we are not to recognize ourselves as oppressed, only as having problems. Aside from how society at large can view us when we stop saying we're oppressed - namely they no longer have to think of us in such terms - I should tactfully like to suggest that



glect on sexual minorities. I am very concerned that people do realize this and put an end to it. Government is very complex and hard to understand. Most people, when they look at the bureaucracy, put their hands up and try to ignore it. But it's there. Gays are being ignored by these services. We're not going to get those services until we recognize that they are not being delivered.

As an immediate example, we can look at the millions of dollars that are being put into alcoholism programs. Gays are not being served by these programs. There is money going into services for older Americans and yet gays have yet to be served. Look at gays in prisons, look at disabled gays, third world gays. Look at us. We have all been served by public education and we haven't had that education serve our needs. The more I realize this in the work that I'm doing, the more outraged I get everyday. I think that it's important that we realize this.

There is one woman I know who is an alcoholic and she cannot go to an alcoholic program because she would have to divulge her sexual orientation. She is afraid that she cannot talk about her alcoholism without talking about her sexuality. If she talks about her sexuality, she exposes the risk of losing her job. Here is a woman who doesn't have the appropriate programs to help her. This is the rule and not the exception.

We don't have to put up with the bureaucratic hassles that are going on. You go into a VD clinic and the assumption is that you are straight. Why do you have to ask for a rectal examination? What if you didn't know

there is a vast difference between "being oppressed" and "having problems." One who is oppressed does not inherently have problems; one is given problems. One who has problems is not so much oppressed as maladjusted.)

In reflection, it is not at all surprising that the same people who were willing to nit-pick endlessly on such minor points were equally unwilling to even consider re-opening discussion on the religious freedom resolution.

Resolution #4 originally read: "Resolved, in order to promote freedom of religion within the Gay Community, there be action taken to promote non-Jewish and non-Christian religious organizations; i.e. a-Islamic, b-Atheist (the religion of non-belief), c-Hindu, d-Buddhist, e-Tauist and f-others (unknown to myself)."

The resolutions first came under attack for "implementation" wording problems; whereas on other bills this had merely resulted in a watering

## SILVESTRE

to ask in the first place? They should ask you if there is a possibility that you will need the examination. Everyone of these things is affecting sexual minorities.

Once we recognize the need for these services and get ourselves into solving these problems, we have to admit that these services are generally ignored.

I would like to see more attention being made toward these programs in state government. It is difficult. It is not easy but we have to start somewhere.

Look at mental health clinics. The staff cannot deal with sexual minorities. Our tax money is paying for these services. Once I was speaking and a person asked how much money I made. She didn't approve of how her tax money was being spent for actions she didn't approve of. I told her that I was doing it on my own time, that I didn't get paid anything. My response was that I was a taxpayer too and that I resented the fact that I had to devote my time and energy just to make sure that I get the same services that everyone assumes. You expect to get the proper treatment when you walk into a mental health clinic. I make a fuss about this because I don't see people recognizing this. There are those who do recognize it but don't know how to change it. They don't feel that they have the strength.

ME: It is easier for us to be outraged about the state police arresting people at the truck stops than about the things that affect us everyday of our lives.

TONY: We have been told all our lives that we don't have a right to expect these services.

down of intentions, the rearrangement of verbiage on the religion bill was inept. Time ran out while the bill was still being discussed.

A motion was quickly made to change the rules so that instead of simply being defeated by lack of time, the body could vote at the end of the session to re-open discussion. But when all the other resolutions had gone through (and passed) those who had wasted the most time were among the ones who decided not to spend more time. This is perhaps the most annoying point: not that this controversial resolution failed because it was voted down (or because it ended up being ineptly phrased), but because half the conferees simply did not want to bother to spend time discussing it and pushed for adjournment.

Among those who simply opposed the measure, the biggest concern seemed to be that the conference not promote any religion. And yet,

(Continued on page 22)

# BRUCE VOELLER

by Dave Leas

**GAY ERA:** What is the position of the National Gay Task Force concerning the Florida orange juice boycott?

**VOELLER:** Because of the change in position by the Florida Citrus Commission, we are against the boycott aimed at Florida Citrus, not against Anita Bryant. The distinction being perhaps subtle, but I think important. It was our view and continues to be our view that the attack on someone through their job, for their off-the-job statements, is a violation of academic freedom and freedom of speech. This is what the unions, government employees and others have fought for so long in our history to eliminate. For example, a woman in Houston who was employed by the city government, was fired for participating in a women's movement march and rally in Raleigh. She was fired by an all-male city council who didn't support her actions. That was a good example of how that kind of logic and argument can be turned against us.

**GAY ERA:** Then the Citrus Commission did make a statement that they did not endorse Anita Bryant's stand on the gay rights issue?

**VOELLER:** They endorsed her right to speak out in a statement of support for her. So the National Gay Task Force wrote and said 'See here, we heartedly concur with you in your defense of Anita Bryant's First Amendment rights because we believe we're very vulnerable to a removal of our rights. However, we will now ask that you use the same zeal in defending the rights of gay people and gays at the Florida Citrus Commission to speak out in favor of gay rights. Now will you issue a statement against discrimination for gays in the Commission.' They refused to do that. In that sense they are being bigoted and not exercising the same commitments to our rights and people on our side as they are for Anita Bryant.

**GAY ERA:** I saw your letter to the editor in the ACLU newsletter as director of the Task Force supporting Bryant's right of free speech. I then picked up the Task Force Action Report edited by David Stein and read about The Anita Bryant Story. The article listed the name of the religious publishing house in New Jersey in case people would not want to buy any of their other books. At that point there seemed to be a great amount of hypocrisy on the part of the Task Force.



Photo by Marlin McConnell

**VOELLER:** Oh. Frankly, I didn't see that. I'm glad you brought that to my attention. I'm not pleased with that. I didn't know that happened.

**GAY ERA:** There are quite a few referendums taking place around the country on gay rights legislation. What is the Task Force doing to prevent these referendums from taking place since some authorities say that the referendums could be unconstitutional?

**VOELLER:** We called a big conference of all the major civil rights attorneys in the U.S. who came and spent most of the day with us trying to develop legal tactics that could be used. They all concurred that there are no federal constitutional issues on which we could develop a good legal theory that could get anywhere in court. They told us that we'll have to work through local ordinances and state referendum laws. The ACLU has pledged to work with us and do a legislative analysis of the laws and requirements. We could have the referendum thrown out where a referendum is called if there are any violations in the petition drive or on any other technicality that might exist. In terms of wider support, Jean O'Leary and I have been to all the places where there are referendums being fought. We have worked and taken great length in those communities for the kind of resources that we could provide. We have contact with the ACLU and NOW and so forth; all of whom have offered to help where we see a use for their leaders going to such places and mobilize support.

**GAY ERA:** You're saying that there is no legal precedent set by which referendums on gay rights legislation could be declared unconstitutional?

**VOELLER:** Unfortunately correct. For a long time I thought that would be the route to take. Even the ACLU

feels that is not a route we can get anywhere on. There is no use spending money to go to court when we won't win.

**GAY ERA:** We're back to the opposition's claim of it being a moral issue and not a civil rights issue.

**VOELLER:** That's right. We have to have a major change in the opinion and attitude of the courts before we could even hope to succeed where we don't have a solid legal theory.

Other minority groups have either congressional or constitutional law which gives a foot to get into court. That is exactly what we are fighting for.

**GAY ERA:** You said earlier during your presentation to the conference audience that few gay people take advantage of gay rights legislation after it is passed. Do you think it eventually will help people to come out as a result of the legislation being passed?

**VOELLER:** I think the legislation has limited impact. It is important in attitudinal change. To me the main value of these laws is to address the educational issues, to get an opportunity for reform and discussion which is otherwise hard to come by and gain the media's attention which helps educate the public.

Wherever you have a gay rights ordinance, it is widely discussed and effectively brought forth as a media campaign. You get all kinds of lesbians and gay men being interviewed. With the media and press coverage the public has to then begin to expand its stereotypes of gay people. That stereotype then loses all shape and meaning if you expand that stereotype with a diversity of people.

Somehow I feel that I'm coming across as making the laws sound less useful than I really mean to be saying. I think the laws can be used. We need to get people more actively

into using them. In cities like San Francisco, where the overall climate has changed for other reasons, people are now beginning to make use of the law there. I think that is true of many other places that have similar laws. They really can't come to have the use they were designed for. The initial impact, from my perspective, is largely to provide an end to the media block-out about gay people.

GAY ERA: You also mentioned that the Advocate has been refusing to publish paid advertising from the Task Force. What kind of advertising is being refused?

VOELLER: We have for many years used NGTF Profile ads, which consist of a photograph of a person who is a member of the organization with information about them and why they are involved in the organization. They are the only advertising we have had as a campaign with the Advocate. For the past 4 months, they have refused to take those ads with no explanation and no answer to our letters inquiring why.

GAY ERA: It is also true that they have refused to accept paid advertising from gay organizations in Eugene, OR, and St. Paul where gay rights referendums are taking place?

VOELLER: Yes. I don't know why and I think it's shocking. I think it's a national scandal. The people in those cities don't know why they aren't being accepted other than that the Advocate has now introduced stringent detailed informational requirements about the corporational status and handling of funds of anyone that they allow to advertise. The NGTF, immediately upon receipt of that letter, filled in the details of its finances which has always been done in the most scrupulous way. The Advocate has always been provided every year with a copy of that.

GAY ERA: Doesn't the Advocate also have it's own fund for political campaigns?

VOELLER: Yes, the Political Action Fund in which the leading statement in all their ads bear reference to the defeat in Dade County. There are now referendums taking place in numerous cities which makes it particularly shocking.

The Advocate, and its publisher, David Goodstein, have been raising money on that scare tactic involving those cities. Not only are they using those cities' names to raise the money for them and give to them for their use, but now won't even accept paid advertising from them. I guess it's competition with other fund-raising efforts and therefore they won't run the ads.

GAY ERA: There have been questions raised about the range of conservatism and radicalism in the gay movement and the fact that the Advocate

seems to be on the conservative end of that spectrum. We would like to know where the NGTF sits on that spectrum?

VOELLER: We try not to be anywhere on that spectrum. We feel very strongly that the movement has to be wide based and have support from all parts of the community. It's those elitisms that make people either on the Right or the Left, that say one has the true answer and if others don't work with them and subscribe to their viewpoint they are enemies. That is the only real thing we have to be afraid of in our movement. That kind of annihilation of each other and that special kind of allegiance, that blue jeans are the requirement or a suit is a requirement of being a worthy representative of our movement, is a very dangerous point of view. We are a broad based movement. I want the Task Force to represent that with people from all walks of life. Everybody from staunch conservatives involved in the right to privacy, to the very left wing radicals, should be involved in the NGTF and feel they have some part in it and that we all have a common cause. Our diversity is our greatest virtue as gay people. That is what we should be exploring and exploiting.

GAY ERA: The words Human Rights seem to have become a recent cliché. President Carter being the finest example when he speaks of human rights abroad and was completely silent during the Dade County referendum. How do you feel about his silence?

VOELLER: I don't agree that he has always been silent. Like you, I would like to see him taking a vigorous role in leadership which he has not very often done. There are a couple of important points. One of them being that I will continue to be outspoken and demanding for outspokenness on his part. At the same time, you have to give the man credit. Of all the Presidents in history, and certainly in the past 25 years, he's the only one to do anything. He has given full reign with full knowledge in regard to the work that Midge Contanza has been doing at the White House. That is a very real expression of commitment to us. I think that has never happened before in any way, shape or form in the Presidency. I think that we should be enormously in behold for that. That it's not quite enough, I agree with you.

The second point I will make is that he spoke out very strongly at a critical point in Dade County. Somehow people in the gay community didn't perceive that as strongly as I think it should have been. At the height of Anita Bryant's invective with her vicious Mother's Day statement in the Florida press, for the President of the United States on Father's Day to make a special point at his press conference to discuss gay teachers and

gays in the family, was instructive and very, very helpful. It was in that statement on Father's Day that he said that he felt gays were in no way a threat to the family and that gays were no threat as teachers.

When I asked if he would pursue his logic with his own daughter's teachers, he said he didn't find that a problem or threatening and that many people had been taught by gays.

GAY ERA: I never read that. It was not in any of the dailies that I read.

VOELLER: It wasn't in any of the weeklies like Time or Newsweek but it was in the Los Angeles Times and the New York Times and was in several gay publications. I think that it was an enormously important statement.

GAY ERA: Then the other papers definitely chose to ignore it.

VOELLER: I agree with you. It should have been the leading story on the national news that night.

GAY ERA: How much support has the NGTF been giving to the women's movement for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment?

VOELLER: I don't think people realize how extensive we've been involved. We've made a profound commitment to the ERA. As a small but real contribution from our board and other group's boards, we have adopted a policy of boycotting non-ERA states for meetings.

Jean O'Leary was named by President Carter as a commissioner for International Women's Year and the NGTF has spent an enormous amount of money and energy of last year's budget working at IWY getting passage of the lesbian and gay resolutions. The overall purpose of that involvement was toward the ERA. Our contacts with the women's movement are very strong indeed.

GAY ERA: It's obvious and apparent that the ERA will benefit gay women. How will the ERA benefit gay men as well?

VOELLER: It will benefit all men in several ways. First, I think the ERA is a statement of the support of changing views of people based on gender. Sexual orientation is a direct consequence and benefit of that in regard to whether you're male or female. As people move along in that quarter there will be more legislators and more of the general public that will be educated in understanding role stereotyping in our society.

It is the identical root that produces discrimination against women and gays, whether female or male. When you believe that people have to behave in certain ways, that women cannot do certain things and must do certain things, one of the parts of the list is that you cannot love another person of the same gender. We



# TOM WILSON

THEY LAUGH WHEN HE  
SITS DOWN AT THE PIANO

by Harry H Long

It's difficult to come away from a meeting with Tom Wilson without feeling that one has just re-experienced that first mad case of puppy love (or "delayed puberty" as George S. Kaufman would have had it). For one thing the affable personality he projects while singing his witty, urbane songs is no act. Having been completely charmed by his songs and demeanor after dinner, I was pleased to find, the next day, that he's every bit as warm and affable in person. I didn't feel as though I were meeting him for the first time, but rather as if we'd been close friends for years. Part of it may have been that I found we both have a lot in common, starting with our Zodiac sign. We're also both involved in "theatre" (a loosely used term) from the writing and performing ends. Whatever the case, I felt like chucking the interview and just having a long talk about projects. Nonetheless and interview was conducted, and I found myself out of pertinent questions and having to leave far sooner than I really wished.

Wilson could be, and indeed has been, compared to Tom Lehrer, the satirical songwriter who got his start on David Frost's "That Was The Week That Was," and proceeded to turn out a number of albums that are still selling. But there is really very little in common between the two writers, aside from the fact that their songs comment humorously on political subjects. But whereas Lehrer was bitingly vicious, Wilson is warm, affable and compassionate, wry rather than vitriolic. But not all Wilson's songs are a laugh a minute; during his set at the Pride '78 Conference he played several in a more serious vein including a gentle song about himself and his lover, John, and the stirring "You'll Never Have the Comfort of Our Silence Again" which has been used at several Gay rallies in the state.

A native of Syracuse, New York, Tom moved to Philadelphia to study literature at the University of Pennsylvania. Remaining in the City of Brotherly Love, Tom became quite active in several Gay political groups and founded the *Gayzette* and Giovanni's Room. A typical Arles, he moved on from these projects when he found that keeping them going was not as exciting as getting them started. In



Photo by Marlin McConnell

fact, as a whole, Tom finds himself less politically active currently.

"I find I don't go to meetings, and I'm no longer a member of all the different organizations. Some of them are gone. But political activity in my life is at a low point for the first time in several years."

I asked him if there was any specific reason for this and he took a long thoughtful pause. He frequently pauses to carefully consider his words, but this one ran even longer than most. Finally: "I think that I need, and maybe this is true for other people also, some fairly concrete things to work on. There's so much to be done, but a lot of it is so vague." One political activity "of a sort" that Tom still pursues is doing speaking engagements with people from the Eromin Center. "I think that's important, and I enjoy doing that. It's on a very personal level. People can ask questions, and in most cases it's the first time they've talked knowingly to a Gay person. I think that's a really wonderful thing. I think it really helps people change their attitudes."

And of course his songs are a political activity. Tom and I didn't discuss this aspect because, frankly, since they are not overtly political, I didn't consider them as such. It only occurred to me much later that, because of their subject matter, they are. It seems a pretty sad commentary on our society.

Instead we discussed other aspects of his music. Although I brought up Tom Lehrer, Wilson discounted him somewhat.

"I like his work a lot. I can't say that it was a big influence, maybe a subconscious one. People have told me they think that's what I

sound like, and that's fine. I think that's a nice compliment. Probably the main influence on me was Broadway musicals. As a kid I was a great Broadway musical fan; had all the albums, listened to them; memorized a lot of the songs, played them on the piano. So that's definitely a major influence on the things I do now. In recent years I've been particularly admiring the Stephen Sondheim projects, but there are a lot of composers that I like."

Tom's musical education, besides listening to Cast Albums, consists of some piano lessons and playing piano and clarinet as a little kid. He has "never taken any instruction in composing." Equally surprising was the revelation that he's only been writing songs for a year and a half. He's an excellent teacher and pupil, sort of an entire education system all in one person.

"I usually get ideas for songs when I'm least expecting it. If I sit down and try to think up the subject for my next song, it usually doesn't come that way. But it can happen at any time; it might be a news story. When I started, I had the idea that I wanted them all to have some kind of a Gay theme, be in some way related to Gay issues, and I wanted a lot of people to laugh, because I think that's a good way to get a message across. People can laugh but they can still really hear what's being said."

"Recently I've gotten into writing more serious songs, and I even realize now some of the songs don't necessarily have to be Gay. If they were not in the context of all the other songs that I play them with, they might not be thought of as Gay. When someone like Anita comes along, it provides me with a lot of

stuff. And I don't think she's funny, but I think it's a good idea to laugh about her and what she stands for. But I really don't think she's funny; I think she's scary."

Tom, who played amid the overbearing clatter of dishes being cleared from the conference supper, has also played at a number of other spots, including the Philadelphia Coffeehouse and The Glines, New York City's Gay arts center. He compared some of the performing spaces he's worked in.

"I've played The Glines twice; nice place. Really more my kind of setting because it's a very small room. I think there were about forty people there and that was capacity. It's smaller than the Gay Coffeehouse in Philadelphia, which is where I usually play. I think they can seat a hundred or so. That's a nice size, too, because everyone is close to the piano and the room is usually very quiet. I've also played at a couple of bars in Philadelphia.

"At the Second Story, it was an Anita Bryant Roast. That was great because it was a real performance type of setting with a whole series of performers. People listened and it was marvelous. It was a thrill for me because it was a large crowd; the sound system was terrific; the piano was good; everything worked. At the DCA it was not too good because I was just sitting there in the midst of a very busy bar, and

there was a lot of noise and a lot of confusion, and the piano wasn't amplified. A few people heard me, but it was a little bit like last night; although last night I feel that after a few songs I drew people into listening to me. But I had a little trouble getting their attention because of all the things going on around me."

I asked what sort of music he liked to listen to at home, and, hoping for an "expletive deleted" kind of comment, also asked his opinion of disco.

"John and I have sort of different tastes; if I put something on, I'm likely to put on a show album. Although now I think we've listened more to albums like Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel we both like a lot, Jane Oliver. I'm not really a record album freak. A lot of my friends listen to music all the time; you walk into their homes and there's always music on the stereo. We don't have music playing all the time; I get tired of always having background music. Disco music I think of as background. I love to dance to it, and I think it's exciting, but I don't think that it stands alone very well. To go out and be in the midst of it for an hour or so and dance is great fun."

Since political activism and/or being a beginning artist are not usually sources of great income, I wondered what it was Tom did in the "real" world. It turns out his business is real estate, which seems

like quite a turnaround; Tom however finds his job advantageous to his lifestyle, although "I think I would like the music to continue to absorb more of my time. But it doesn't provide me with any income at this point, so I work with a little real estate company in Philadelphia; my part is mostly residential sales. It's nice because I can do it on a part-time basis; I have my own hours; I can come and go whenever I want. I don't have to tell anybody I'm going away for a few days, and I can stop at home and play the piano for an hour in the middle of the day if I want to. It works out very well."

Tom's plans for the future include recording an album (no contracts have been signed, but he's exploring the possibility) and tinkering with the idea of a Gay musical comedy revue. There's also an unpublished manuscript, a Gay question and answer book, which he and a friend wrote some years back. Perhaps with the current boom in Gay books, it will soon be finding a publisher. And of course, more songs.

"I really think that it will be hard for me to find anything that's more thrilling than playing for audiences. I think it would be great to have a record, and it might be nice to do some travelling and play elsewhere. But just sitting down in the coffeehouse, or like last night, is so wonderful to me that it's a real high. I don't know that being in Carnegie Hall could be more thrilling."

## VOELLER

are a special case on the general principle of role stereotyping and how to behave.

GAY ERA: Would it not also be beneficial in housing since it would be illegal to not rent a one-bedroom dwelling to two men when it would be rented to a man and a woman?

VOELLER: Right. The specific case will be the legal ones that gays will be able to go in under the law and

also the most important ones. They will be the attitudinal changes and awareness that are being developed by the feminist movement.

GAY ERA: Do you think there is a chance for ratification of the ERA by March '79?

VOELLER: It's very scary and frightening. I don't know. I sure hope so. Everyone is very disheartened at this point.

GAY ERA: How about the extension of the deadline?

VOELLER: There is a lot of debate in the women's community as to whether this is the wise way to go.

GAY ERA: Meaning rather than extend the deadline, it would be better to start all over again?

VOELLER: Those who consider the main advantage as the educational value surrounding the issue are anxious to see the whole thing start over again. An extension at this point would almost seem defeatist. A lot of people are debating which way to go.

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## SILVESTRE

haven't had the opportunity. There are those who have not been receptive to gays in the past, but I have seen a lot of politicians grow partly because it is politically necessary. Politicians are very sensitive to their constituents.

ME: What are the most important steps that gays must take to see an improvement in the way the state treats its gay people?

TONY: I'm very much concerned with the fact that gays and other sexual minorities don't realize the neglect of the state, local and federal governments and the effect of that ne-

(Continued on page 11)

# TONY SILVESTRE

WHY ARE YOU GAY?  
BECAUSE I'M LUCKY

by Dave Leas

Tony Silvestre is on the faculty at Penn State University in State College. He is also the chairperson of the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities by the appointment of Governor Shapp.

Interviewing Tony was not exactly an easy feat to accomplish. It was not as though I could sit and pop question after question and record his response.

I first met Tony 5 years ago on the porch of the Accomac Inn overlooking the Susquehanna River. There I was working as a waiter at the sweet innocent age of 17. I was still very much in my closet and had no vision of ever coming out of that closet.

It was around ten o'clock in the evening and Tony arrived with Janet Cooper, who I had also met for the first time that night. There was some mention that Tony was president of Homophiles of Penn State (whatever that was) and discussion between Janet and another waiter who worked there and attended Penn State. All I remember was that this waiter would never be seen with Tony on campus because he didn't want others to think that he might also be gay.

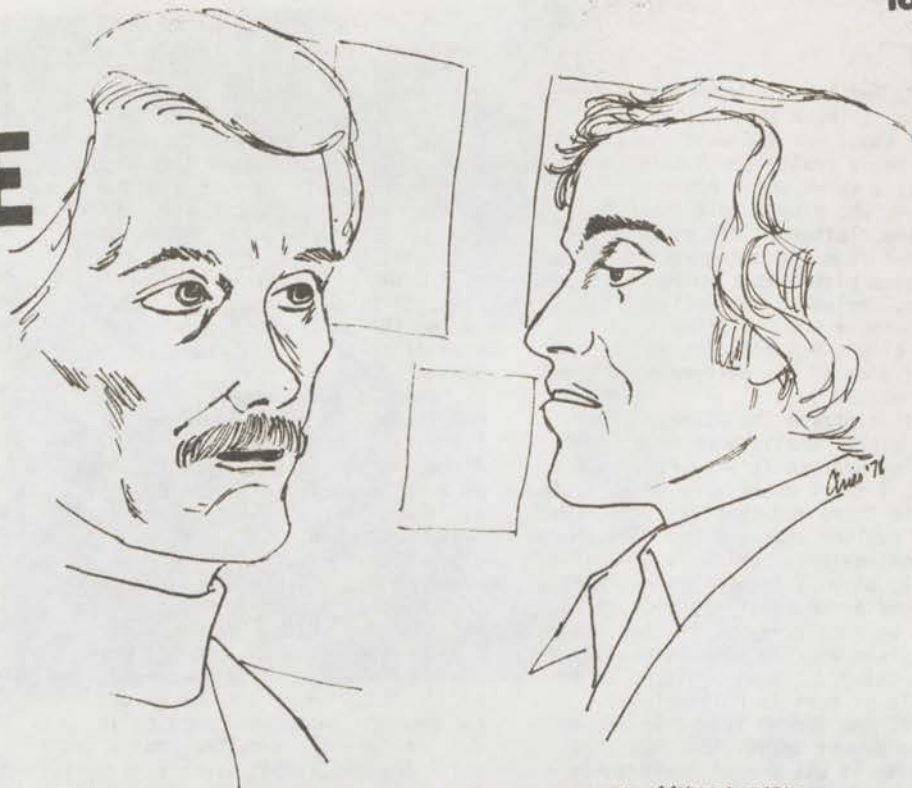
Since then I have grown-up and have known Tony through many channels both politically and socially. Our interview consisted of the usual question and answer and then would run off into chit-chat for a few minutes. The opportunity to have a conversation was too tempting. I very carefully omitted those ramblings since they would serve no purpose other than to prove that I like to talk on the phone.

ME: What first inspired you to join the movement?

TONY: It was probably the firing of Joe Acanfora who was suing the university for official recognition of HOPS. He was fired three days later for immoral behavior from his student teaching position. All the University officials knew was that he was treasurer of HOPS. That is what sparked my anger. I then joined HOPS. That was my first political act.

ME: What do you think are the greatest needs of the Pennsylvania gay community?

TONY: I would say to build a community. I think that everything we do both politically and socially is im-



BRUCE VOELLER AND TONY SILVESTRE STOP TO CHAT BY THE GAY ERA TABLE

portant in increasing communication.

What is happening now is that more gay people are starting to know each other. Communication and coordination are growing.

ME: How is the Council trying to meet those needs in regards to state government?

TONY: One way is that we meet at different locations across the state and help increase the communication among gay people. Formerly our greatest work was identifying oppression in state government and the denial of services by state government. I am excited about that because it has happened in Pennsylvania and I think it will start to happen in other states.

ME: What accomplishments have been made by the Council to date?

TONY: There is a list of things that we have done. I could go on and on. No longer will there be discrimination in insurance and all state workers are protected by the Governor's Executive Order. There are now non-discrimination clauses in the state employees' contracts and we've got the Departments to issues policies guaranteeing services to all people without regard to sexual preference. The most important thing that we have ever done is identifying that state services are being withheld from sexual minority members.

ME: The Department of Education has revised its personnel rulebook to include non-discrimination against gays. Does that include gays who are teachers in the state?

TONY: No, it doesn't. Teachers are under contract with the local school districts. The Department of Education has no jurisdiction over local matters. If teachers want to be protected they will have to do it through the unions.

ME: How have you seen Pennsylvania improve in regards to acceptance of the gay community?

TONY: That's really hard to determine. We have increased the publicity over the issues. I see newspapers from all parts of the state having articles and editorials on the subject. The Butler, PA, newspaper recently did an article on gay people. Now it is at least being discussed. I see that the number of speaking engagements are taking place more than ever before.

ME: I wouldn't ask you to endorse a candidate for governor but which candidate would you think will be most receptive to gay rights?

TONY: That is probably impossible to determine. You just don't know until it happens. There is a difference between commitment and actually following through. The Walt Whitman Democratic Club did a survey and found that almost all the candidates were somewhat open to the questions. One reason why they have listed Kline as preferred is that he is the only candidate that has actually taken action in the past in support of gays. Like Thornburgh, others certainly

(Continued on page 15)

# Bits 'n' Pieces

## WANTED: VOLUNTEERS FOR RESEARCH PROJECT

HAVERFORD, PA — There are two gay students at Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges who are presently working on their senior research projects in psychology. As part of their project they are interviewing gay male and female couples to learn about their experiences in couple relationships.

They firmly believe that "it is important for unbiased studies about gay people to be conducted, in order to dispel misconceptions that have been built up by heterosexually biased researchers." Unfortunately, their research project is in serious danger of not being completed because of poor response by gay subjects.

They are looking for gay couples who are between the ages of 20 and 35 and have considered themselves a couple for at least 6 months but no longer than 2 years. Both members must not be living with either one's children.

If you'd like more information or would like to make an appointment, please call either Mona Cardell at 215-525-5420 or Stephen Finn at 215-649-1654. If they are not there

please leave a message and they will get in touch with you as soon as possible.

There are many people who have contacted them in the Lancaster area and have given favorable responses to the project. Please give them your cooperation if you fit the requirements.

## GAY VICTORY IN TEXAS

FORT WORTH — The Fort Worth Police Department has agreed to a judicial decree following police harassment at the Texas Gay Conference in 1974. The police department was enjoined from conducting any surveillance of non-criminal activity of gay people from maintaining files dealing with non-criminal activity, and from harassing the plaintiffs or other gay people in the absence of any actual criminal activity.

U.S. District Court Judge Edward B. Mahon further ordered the police department to destroy all records of any non-criminal activity by the plaintiffs, and pay all costs incurred by them in the prosecution of the suit.

Gay Community News

## POLICE SEX-CHANGE

WASHINGTON, DC — A police officer here who is seeking a sex change operation has been placed on sick leave by the department after refusing to stop treatments and refusing to undergo psychotherapy. The officer was placed on Jan. 27 and as of Feb. 27 has been on leave without pay. The department will now decide whether it wants to fire the officer, retire him, or allow him to return to active duty.

The unnamed officer has been living full-time as a woman but had been going to work in a suit and tie. He said that he would return to work "dressed only as a woman."

In his seven years with the DC police, the officer, who is 34, has received 18 commendations and worked as an undercover officer. A spokesperson for Chief Butrell Jefferson said the chief could not comment on the case until a decision is made on what action the department will take.

— Gay Community News

## ANTI-ERA STAND COSTS GEORGIA CONFERENCE

ATLANTA — Officials of ACTION, the federal agency that included VISTA and the Peace Corps, have decided to move a scheduled three-day conference from Atlanta to Baltimore because of Georgia's failure to ratify the proposed Equal Rights Amendment.

The agency's associate director, John Lewis, said the decision to move the conference was made because "the resources of the federal government should be used in such a way that will not discriminate against anyone because of sex or race or color."

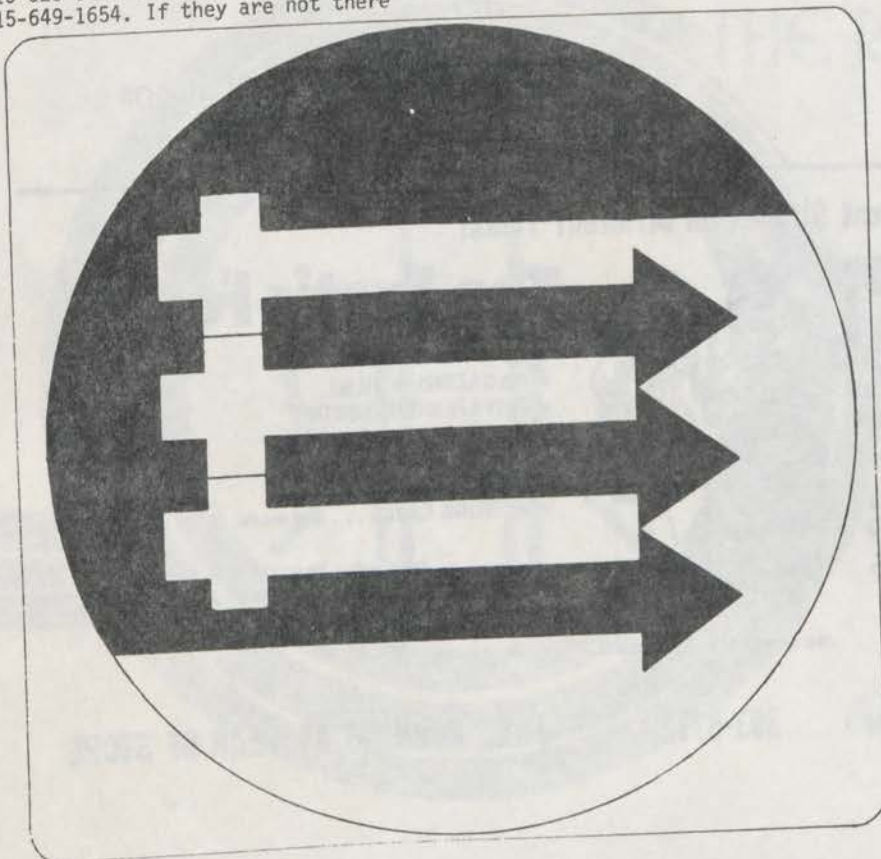
From 10 to 20 private organizations, including the Girl Scouts of America, have indicated they may not meet in Georgia because of the state's position on the amendment, state officials have said. Rick Meyers of the Atlanta Visitors Bureau has estimated that the city might lose about \$10 million in the next four years because of the boycott.

— Gaysweek

## REPORT FROM MILLERSVILLE

by Jeff Ressler

MILLERSVILLE, PA — Gay Awareness of Millersville State College (GAMSC) is a highly active organization. For those who have never heard of the group or don't know much about it,



it is a permanently recognized MSC organization for and about the gay experience. It provides opportunities for meaningful social and educational interaction among Gays in the college community, and provides the campus and community with an opportunity to learn about the gay experience. Members are encouraged to get involved with political activities for the purpose of reforming human sexual rights statutes. The aim is to achieve greater harmony and understanding between gays and non-gays.

During March, members of GAMSC spoke before a health class and a Human Relations class and contacts were made to speak before at least two other classes before the end of the Spring semester. Topics have covered gay history, culture, civil rights and relationships, with a question and answer period after presentations. Additionally, a small skit, developed by Lyda Baker, reverses sexual attitudes from the norm of heterosexuality to homosexuality, allowing host groups to imagine themselves in a different environment.

Efforts are being made to establish a gay studies course at Millersville State College. The college administration and various curriculum department heads have been contacted as to the possibilities of such a studies course and the course structure.

A pamphlet is in the works for the Fall '78 semester to introduce the gay experience to the campus and community.

Participation is invited by all. Meetings are held every other Thursday at 8 PM in Byerly Hall, Room 201 on the campus. The mailing address is: Gay Awareness Millersville State College, Student Memorial Center, Millersville State College, Millersville, PA 17551

## GREECE SLIPS

ATHENS, Greece — The Greek Ministry of Public Order and Social Services is preparing a bill to propose the deportation of the country's gay population. The bill provides a one year's imprisonment for first offenders and deportation for a second offense.

— Gay Community News

## ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE

BANGOR, PA — "Gay and Christian" is the title of an ecumenical conference to be held from June 8-11 at Kirkridge, a mountain retreat and

study center on the Appalachian Trail. Rev. Malcolm Boyd, Barbara Gittings, Nancy Krody, Robert Raines, and Rev. John McNeil are listed as leaders of the conference. The cost for the event is \$110, for which a limited number of partial scholarships are available. For further information, contact Kirkridge, Bangor, PA 18013 (215)588-1793.

## "BODY POLITIC" TO APPEAL COURT DECISION

TORONTO — A Toronto judge dismissed an application by The Body Politic to quash the search warrant

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used in the police raid on the paper's offices. The publisher, Pink Triangle Press, has announced that it will appeal the decision. Justice Hugh Garrett, a recently appointed member of the Supreme Court on Ontario, ruled the police were authorized to seize the material in the raid.

The Body Politic's attorney, Clay Ruby, had argued that the warrant was illegal because it was broad enough to allow police to go on a "fishing expedition." In his argument before Justice Garrett, Ruby charged that the warrant did not properly specify the offenses for which it was issued and did not list with "sufficient precision" the materials which could be seized. He added that the justice of the peace who signed the warrant was not acting "judicially as required by law." Ruby said that the warrant which allowed the police to confiscate the material show that there was "something desperately wrong with the warrant and with the treatment of a reputable journal."

Gerald Hannon stated that the decision by Justice Garrett will be appealed to the Ontario Court of Appeals. "If we lose there," he said, "we'll go to the Supreme Court of Canada. Hannon, who authored the article "men Loving Boys Loving Men," expressed disappointment with the decision by Justice Garrett. "I was angry because it seemed clearly to be a case of abuse of police power."

## LUCKETT ARRESTED

FORT LAUDERDALE — Roger Lockett, a leader in Florida's gay community, has been arrested on charges of selling \$1,000 worth of cocaine to undercover police officers. He was held at the Broward County Jail on \$45,000 bond. A friend of his, 33-year-old Edward Bray, was arrested at the same time for conspiring to sell marijuana.

The 46-year-old gay businessman was a candidate for the Fort Lauderdale City Commission last year.

— Gay Community News

## N.O.W. IN LANCASTER

Lancaster Women's Liberation will have a sister feminist organization in Lancaster. At a meeting on February 27 over 30 women showed up demonstrating interest in forming a NOW chapter. There was some discussion of which feminists concerns were important to those attending. After a vote to form a chapter, a process of asking, nudging, and volunteering produced a temporary board of officers: Nancy Dooley and Winona Fetherolf Lloyd are to be co-covenors; Linda Drescher, Secretary; Gisela Thureskog, Treasurer, and Linda Jones was chosen State Board Delegate (in abstentia). The chapter will be called Lancaster Area NOW and will meet every 4th Monday of the month at 7:30 pm at the YWCA.

— Lancaster Women's Center newsletter

## CONGRESSMAN ADMITS BUYING SEX

WASHINGTON, DC — In a letter to his Brooklyn constituents, Rep. Frederick Richmond, D-NY, confessed to having solicited sex from two young men in his home last February. According to government sources, the first incident involved a 16-year-old boy whose parents, upon learning of the encounter, notified authorities triggering a police investigation. The letter states that "I made further solicitations with payment of money, in my own home to a man who, unbeknownst to me, was an undercover police officer" resulting in the arrest of the Congressman.

Although publicly admitting guilt, Richmond entered an innocent plea in Superior Court - a legal technicality necessary to be enrolled in a first offender program. The decision to enter Richmond in the program was arranged by attorneys for both prosecution and defense. According to his attorney, Richmond is currently undergoing "professional treatment" and will continue to do so.

In the letter, Rep. Richmond stated that "during various periods of personal stress, I made bad judgments involving my personal life," and that "I ask for your compassion and understanding."



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### LAW SCHOOL BANS ANTI-GAYS

NEW YORK — The faculty of the New York University School of Law voted 28 to 4 to ban employers who actively discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation from using the school's placement office. Law School Dean Norman Redlich said, "These people (gay students) pay tuition which goes toward operating placement services, so this is the only fair thing to do."

Robert Rygor, who organized Gays for Carter in 1976, and who actively campaigned for the University-wide policy said, "The Law School vote is a loud and clear message to the U.S. military and to anti-gay America: Stay off our campus until you recognize and respect the rights of all citizens."

— Gay Community News

### COALITIONS MOUNTS HEALTH PARLEY

PHILADELPHIA, PA — The National Gay Health Coalition has announced plans for a national gay health conference to be held in Washington, D.C., Friday through Sunday, May 19-21, 1978.

According to a release issued by the organization, there will be speakers from member organizations and from the federal health establishment as well as a full day of workshops addressing the concerns of lesbians and gay men as providers and recipients of health care.

Announced topics to be covered at the conference are a national overview of gay counseling and health services, the situation of gay workers in straight health care systems, the relationships of gay health groups to larger organizations, to each other and to the community, needs of adolescent and geriatric gay men and lesbians, sexually transmitted diseases,

and treatment settings as they affect gay people, and the federal impact on gay health needs and services.

### A CALL FOR STORIES

SCARBOROUGH, ONT. — Ian Young, editor of the gay poetry anthology The Male Muse (Crossing Press, 1973) is editing an anthology of short stories about gay men.

If you are interested, you can send inquiries and submissions (with

self-addressed envelope and postage in Canadian stamps or International Reply Coupons) to Ian Young, Catalyst Press, 315 Blantyre Ave., Scarborough, Ont., Canada M1N 2S6.

— Gay Community News

NEW JERSEY — A Louis Harris Poll reports that while most Americans still favor passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, which would guarantee equal rights for women, sup-

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port for the measure has declined from 56 percent to 51 percent since last March.

### THREE MEN SHOT AT DISCOTHEQUE

NEW YORK, NY — Three men were wounded several weeks ago when an unidentified gunman fired shots in the Bon Soir discotheque, 40 W. 8th St., scene of a similar shooting about a month ago. Victor Nieves of 221 E. 10th St. and Gregory Valaquez, both shot in the head were listed in serious condition at St. Vincent's Hospital. The third victim Joseph Rodriguez, declined medical treatment. The gunman escaped.

— Gaysweek

# letters

To the Editor,

I have lived in Lancaster for seven years now and have gotten to know many of the people. The letter in your last issue from Bari Weaver is typical of a spoiled child.

Bari, in his running of Gays United of Lancaster, the GAY ERA, and other such organizations has done more harm to the gay community than good; his stereotyping of different groups of professional people has caused friction between the gays and the open-minded people in this town.

Bari has to remember this is not Philly or New York; it is a small city in the heart of a strongly religious area, and most of our gay brothers and sisters from this area tend to stay in their so-

called closets and not come to the aid of one of our kind.

I don't believe at this time Lancaster could handle an open gay community; better still I don't believe the gays of Lancaster could handle an open Lancaster.

Why not expand the local paper? There is not enough to write about in this town, and many of us would like to know what is going on and where.

My thanks to Harry Long and his staff for making this paper what it is today.

I would also like to go on record and thank the MEN who have the changes to the gay bar scene in Lancaster.

I can remember a few years back sitting in the Tally-Ho bar listening to some of the younger crowd plead with George to make the same changes in his bar that the new gay bar was doing — basically change the bar into a disco.

George would soon find out that if he wanted to keep the business that he had left, that he would have to install (and did) a disco.

Sure Joe Cardin started changes on the bar scene in this area by having the first gay disco; but he also soon learned the old saying you have to spend money to make money. George tries to change the atmosphere of his bar often, and I for one must say that he usually does a first class job of it.

Joe Cardin on the other hand has lots of good ideas in his head, how he would like to change his bar; but has always been influenced by a couple of half-asses who as Bari Weaver says are out for the almighty dollar. So the changes that take place at The Fiddler are usually half-ass also.

Please don't get me wrong. Most people in Lancaster know me and most know that I used to work for Joe. I am not condemning him because he can and has been a good friend to many of us in this town, but there again, so has George. I know because both have helped me when I have been down.

This area is large enough in population to have at least 2 good gay bars. Money can be made in both, but not half assed.

Charles Dodds

This letter appeared in the April 1 edition of Gay Community News. We feel it is worthy of reprint.

GAY CLOUT?

Dear GCN:

Much has been written lately about the economic power of Gays. Survey

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after survey has reported that Gay people tend to make a lot of money, which they eagerly use on travel, cars, clothes, etc. (unlike straights who would use the same amount of cash on diapers and detergent). Boycotts of Florida citrus and Coors Beer were started with that in mind, and predictions were made of the panic a Gay boycott would create in these companies' Board of Directors. Gays were

urged to buy from Gay-owned businesses and to support Gay-run services. What destroyed this glorious picture is that it rested on two fallacies. One is the fact that not all Gays earn a lot of money or, if they do, do not necessarily spend it on leisure items or activities. One suspects that the reason slick magazines publish surveys on Gay economic power is not so much to state a fact but

rather to attract advertisers to their magazines. If Gays do have more money for leisure it is because they do not have a family to support — a fact that would apply to single Straights as well.

The other fallacy is that all Gays would unite under a cause and follow it to its end. The citrus boycott is a good example. Had all Lesbian and Gays supported such a program, maybe the Florida Citrus Commission would have fallen apart. Instead we have Gays drinking OJ in their homes, Gay bars serving it, and Gay organizations serving it at their functions. Think of all the anti-Gay concerns, from Coors Beer to the Roman Catholic Church, which receive vital support, in terms of consumption, labor and support, from Gay people. Anita Bryant and John Briggs have more Gay economic support than either they or the Gays realize or admit.

The first fallacy is venial, and can be safely ignored except in that it gives a distorted view of the Gay Community. The second one is more serious. I believe that before any serious effort at economic politics is launched we must first get our Community to cooperate. We must not use our money unwisely. We must stop giving our money to our enemies, and instead give it to Gay or pro-Gay outfits. We do have great economic power if we learn how to use it. But until we do, all the talk about "Gay clout" will be just talk.

Jesse Monteagudo  
Miami, FL

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## CONFERENCE

don't our organizations already promote Metropolitan Community Church, Dignity and all the other apologists for the Christian-Judeo religions which in centuries past killed, tortured and persecuted us, and whose teachings are the basis for the very laws we are finding so difficult to change? Did the head of MCC/Philadelphia not offer a workshop on Gays and religion? Did the conference not offer a (Christian-Judeo) Multi-Denominational Worship Service? Is that not promoting? Why not promote the non-homophobic religions such as Islam, Hindu, Buddhist, Tasoist or even Atheism?

The final session dealt with recognition of women, sexual minorities, racial minorities and handicapped minorities (at least I hope I can place alcoholics in this category without causing too much grief): all of which are either non-controversial or fashionably controversial issues. As such the conference's failure to even deal with the question of religious minorities is a major one. That this failure grew out of sheer lack of concern is unpardonable.

# Rural Resources

**ALLENTOWN** (area 215)  
Sube's (bar), 844 Hamilton St. 18101  
Stonewall (bar), 28 N. 10th St. 18101

**ALTOONA** (area 814)  
La Piere (bar), Cor. 6th & Union Ave.

**BERWICK** (area 717) Zip 18603  
Universal Church of Jesus Christ, 300 Market St., 759-8737. Sun. Serv. 11 am. "We welcome you no matter who you are, no matter what your life-style."

**BETHLEHEM** (area 215)  
Lehigh Valley Homophile Organization (Le-Hi-Ho) Box 1003 Moravian Sta., 18018. Meeting 4th Sun. of the month, Unitarian Church, 701 Lechaweki Ave. (Fountain Hill). "An educational organization maintaining a library, Speakers & filmstrips available."

**BRIDGEPORT** (area 717) Zip 19405  
The Lark (bar), 302 DeKalb St., (Rt. 202 North).

**BRYN MAWR** (area 215)  
Bryn Mawr/Haverford Gay People's Alliance, Haverford College, Haverford College, Haverford, 19041. Meetings: Room 24, College Inn, Bryn Mawr College, 19010.  
For Eyes Optical Co., 1004 W. Lancaster Ave.

**CARLISLE** (area 717)  
Country Store, RD#5, Box 339, Pine Rd., 17013. Near Huntsdale at the entrance to King's Gap.

**CHESTER** (area 215)  
Andy's (bar), 2336 W. 3rd, 19013

**CRESSON** (area 814) Zip 16630  
Castaways Inn, 629 Front St. 16630. 886-9931, 24 hotel rooms. 9 pm-closing Mon-Sat. Food, dancing 90¢ GM, 10¢ GF. Large out of town crowds on week-ends; reserve rooms. "Very friendly bar."

**DOYLESTOWN** (area 215) Zip 18901  
For Eyes Optical Co., 17 N. Main St.

**EASTON** (area 215)  
A's Beef House (restaurant, mixed), 14 N. 3rd St.

**ELIZABETH** (area 412) Zip 15037  
The Waterfall (restaurant & Lounge), 116 Market St., 384-9807 (upstairs, side entrance).

**ERIE** (area 814)  
Midtown Lounge (mail Box 6372, 16512)  
723 French St., Food Dncg. Mostly GM.  
Washington Grill, Washington & W., 10th.

**GREENSBURG** (area 412) Zip 15601  
Golden Arrow (bar), 108 W. Pittsburg St.

**HARRISBURG** (area 717)  
\*For local information call Gay Switchboard 234-0328.  
Class-One, 6th & Hoffman (disco)  
D-Gem, 4415 N. Front St. 17110, GF.  
Golden Coach (bar), 4309 Lingiestown Rd.  
Neptune Lounge, 268 North St. 17101.  
Rose Garden, 1522 Derry St., 17104 225-9408 (club membership)  
Rose Rouge (bar) 400 N. 2nd St. 17101.  
Dignity/Central PA, Box 297, Federal Square Station, 17108. Call Gay Switchboard for details.

Gay Community Services, Box 297 Federal Square Station, 17108.  
Gay Switchboard, Box 297, Federal Square Station, 17108.  
Metropolitan Community Church/Harrisburg, 1001 1-2 N. Spring St., Middletown, 17057.  
Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities, c/o Governor's Office, 328 Main Capitol Building, 17102  
Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus, Box 1505, 17105

**INDIANA** (area 412)  
Homophiles of Indiana University, Box 1588, Indiana University, 15701.  
Gay Hotline, 357-2732, Mon-Thurs. 7-10 pm.

**LANCASTER** (area 717)  
Brethren/Mennonite Council for Gay Concerns, Box 582, 17604  
Contact (counseling), 24 hours, call collect 299-4855.  
Donna & Jim's Turquoise, 124 E. King St., 17602  
Erotic Den (porno) 53 N. Prince St.  
Erotic Forum (porno) 227 N. Prince St.  
Fiddler (bar) 10 S. Prince St.  
Gay Era, 332 N. Mulberry St., 17603.  
La Fleur (plants & gifts) 701 Columbia Ave. 17603  
Lancaster Independent Press, 227 N. Prince St. (weekly alternative)  
Loft (restaurant, 2nd fl.), 201 W. Orange St.  
Tally-Ho (bar), 201 W. Orange St. (downstairs)  
V.D. Clinic, St. Joseph Hospital, 250 College Ave. 291-8111, free, 24 hrs.  
Women Oriented Women (WOW), c/o Women's Center, 230 W. Chestnut St. 299-5381.  
Ye Olde Bookstore, 227 N. Prince St.

**JENKINTOWN** (area 215) Zip 15701  
My Jewel Shop, 744 Yorkway Place.

**MARCUS HOOK** (area 215) Zip 19061  
Captain Jack's (bar) Market St.  
George's (bar), Market St.  
Paradise (bar), Market St.

**MARIETTA** (area 717) Zip 17547  
Railroad House Hotel, (restaurant, bar, hotel accommodations), Front & Perry Sts. 426-9811 Wed-Sun.

**MILLERSVILLE** (area 717) Zip 17551  
Gay Awareness of Millersville State College, Box 3333, Gordinier Hall, M.S.C. Millersville, Pa.

**NEW HOPE** (area 215) Zip 18938  
Cartwheel (bar), Rt. 202 W.  
Chez Odette (restaurant, mixed), Hwy. 32 at River Road.  
New Prelude, one mile w. on U.S. 202.

**READING** (area 215)  
Alternative Booksellers, 10 N. 4th St. 19601, 373-0442.  
Gay Coordinating Society of Berks County, Box 3131, 19603.  
Glass Door (bar), 300 bl. of N. 5th St.  
Red Star Saloon, 143 N. 10th St.  
This Is It (bar), 8th & Walnut Sts.

**SCHENLEY** (area 412) Zip 15682  
Paradise Cove Hotel, Box 115, 295-2070

**SCRANTON** (area 412)  
DeMitrì Cafe, 237 Wyoming Ave. 18539

**SHAVERSTOWN** (area 814) Zip 18708  
North East Pennsylvania Gay Alliance (N.E.P.G.A.), Box 1710.

**SHIPPENSBURG** (area 717) Zip 17257  
Shippensburg Students for Gay Rights, c/o CUB, Shippensburg State Collegee.

**STATE COLLEGE** (area 814) Zip 16801  
\*For local information call Gayline, 863-0588, Mon-Sun, 7-9 pm, or Metropolitan Community Church, 863-0588, 7-9 pm.  
Gayline, 863-0588, Mon-Sun, 7-9 pm.  
Homophiles of Penn State (HOPS), Box 218, Lesbian Collective, c/o Women's Resource Center, 108 E. Beaver Ave.  
Metropolitan Community Church, c/o HOPS Mr. C's (mixed bar), 112 W. College Ave. 234-1031.  
My-Oh-My (bar), 128 E. College Ave.  
Nittany News Bookstore, 108 W. College  
Scorpion Lounge (downstairs), 119 S. Burrows, 238-7914.  
ZAP, Newsletter for HOPS, c/o HOPS.

**STROUNSBURG** (area 717) Zip 18360  
The Blue Bugle (bar), 724 Main St. Noon-2am, Dncg, ent., G&S.

**SWARTHMORE** (area 215) Zip 19081  
Swarthmore Gay Liberation, c/o Swarthmore State College. 544-7900 ext. 296, or 556-9467.

**UPPER DARBY** (area 215)  
C&R Club, 6405 Market St., Millbourne, 19082, 352-9762, 8pm-2am, GFM

**WEST CHESTER** (area 215) Zip 19380  
Gays at Westchester, 718 Tyson Hall, Westchester State College.  
Gay Hotline, 436-2879, Wed 8-11 pm.

**WILKES BARRE** (area 717)  
Brian's Den, Butler House, Butler St. 18704.

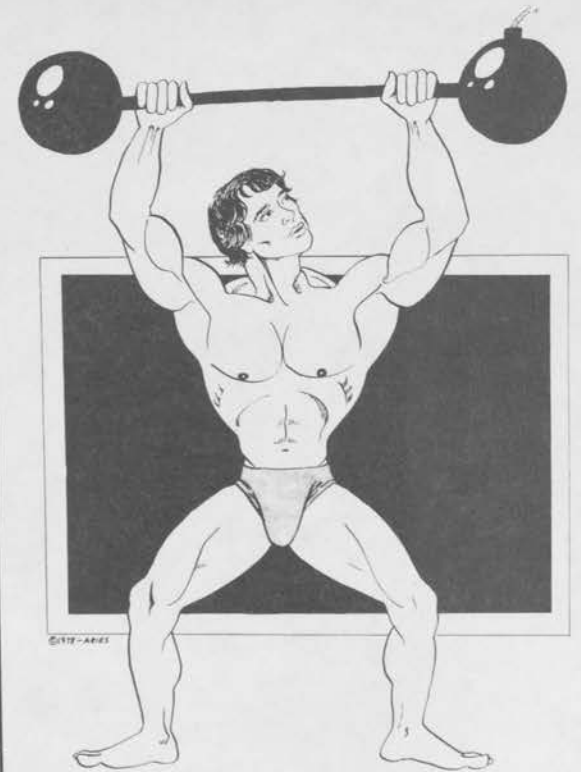
**WILLIAMSPORT** (area 717)  
Homophiles of Williamsport (HOW), Box 1072, 17701, 322-7987.

**YORK** (area 717)  
Aitland's Ranch (bar, accommodations) 10 Miles W. off Rt. 30. 225-4479.  
14 Karat (bar), W. Market St.  
Town Tavern (bar); 41 N. George St. Mon-Sat, 8:30-2am, 8438591.  
Cupid's Connection (porno) 244 N. George St., 854-4169.

## PHILADELPHIA AREA CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

Gay Students at Temple, room 205, Student Activities Center, 13th & Montgomery Sts.  
Gays at Drexel, c/o Educational Activities Center, 33rd & Chestnut 9104  
Gays at Penn, Christian Association, Room 4, 3601 Locust Walk, 19174

**PITTSBURGH AREA CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS**  
Gay Students at Pitt, Room 318, Pitt Student Union.



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