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serving "rural" Pennsylvania

GAY ERA

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LEISURELY LIVING





GAY PRISONERS: SHOULD WE CARE JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE GAY?

by Dave Leas

In the next issue of the GAY ERA, we will start the first part of a series in which our staff will examine the question noted above. After numerous, strenuous discussions on the subject of Gay Prisoners, we are still not sure if there is an answer to the question; we only hope that there will be discussion.

Through interviews and reports on different aspects of involvement by the gay community in the Prisoners Rights Movement, we hope to disseminate the truths and myths that revolve around the issue of gay prisoners.

In the past our readers have read about the plight of several gays who are in prison and the way they are being treated by the prison system. We have read that there are numerous publications which have been denied access to the prisons and prisoners who have been denied receiving those publications. They have all joined together and filed suit against the Federal Bureau of Prisons. We have also read that Carlson, head of the Prison Bureau, has met with representatives of the gay community and has issued a statement reclassifying the terms by which the prisons operate. One example is the removal of the term "homosexual rape" and replacing it with just plain "rape." This is supposed to alleviate the misconceptions of the public about prison rapes. Needless to say, it certainly is not going to stop them from happening by changing the words.

In the past our readers have been solicited for funds by gay prisoners' organizations. We hope to determine how these funds are being used and which issues are being addressed by these groups.

We hope to present interviews

with gay people who have been in prison, prison guards both gay and straight, and keeping our fingers crossed, interviews with various prison wardens.

The question that comes to mind most frequently is "Why should we care?" Should we care just because these prisoners are gay and could possibly be perceived as our gay brothers and sisters to most people? Should we regard them as deserving more support than any other prisoner? Should a gay person who commits murder be rescued by others because of sexuality?

We hope to be able to draw a distinction between various gay prisoners. Namely, the difference between gay people who are imprisoned because of their sexuality (we're sure there are such people) and gay people who happen to be imprisoned. This difference is easily recognized but becomes quite shaded when dealing with individual prisoners.

For instance, in one of the series on this subject, we will have an interview with a 20-year-old gay man who was arrested when 18 for a \$12,000 burglary. He was accompanied by two juveniles. Dennis (not his real name) was convicted of robbery and spent 8 months in County Prison. While in prison, Dennis was raped by two other inmates. Should he have been supported solely on the basis of being raped or should there been support because of his mixed emotions about his homosexuality which was one of the reasons for the crime?

If there are any people who have information concerning the issues involved or anyone who knows a gay person who was in jail, please contact us. It will be greatly appreciated. Call us at (717) 426-9811. Ask for Dave.

In the News

RURAL CAUCUS DISSOLVED

By Harry H Long

The Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus was officially dissolved at its last meeting when members voted to dissolve the 3 year old organization. The group recently sponsored the Pride '78 convention, held at the Delaware Water Gap and was in the process of setting up a statewide support network. The move to dissolve was made in an effort to throw full energies and support into the network.

The PRGC was founded at the first PA Gay Conference in September, 1975 by Bari Weaver and Jerry Brennan of Harrisburg. The original goal was for the organization to work in an outreach capacity, serving as a coalition of various gay groups outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh (the only two cities in PA large enough not to be designated as "rural").

The PRGC instituted and co-ordinated the first Gay Lobby Day in March, 1976 and helped run it the following year. It was also the primary sponsor of the Pride '78 Convention held last April at the Delaware Water Gap.

The group's history has been frequently stormy leaving a number of disillusioned ex-members complaining about its lack of organization. The claim was made that despite its achievements, there was much the group failed to accomplish and much it never attempted. The Caucus' sup-

porters countered with citing the problems inherent in a group whose members are so widely scattered and claiming that the same failures can be attributed to any group.

When asked to comment on the group's demise, its first chairperson, Raymond Stickles stated, "I think the Rural Caucus dissolved primarily due to a lack of group cohesiveness, geological and ideological differences between members, agent provocateuse and a recurrent lack of leadership. Lack of leadership, by no means, is a problem limited to the PRGC, but is a general problem in gay organizations throughout the Commonwealth, most notably in the Governor's Council on Sexual Minorities' failure to achieve any significant changes in the bureaucracy since Gov. Shapp's Executive Order of May, 1975. The 'Gay Movement in the Keystone State' has far to go to achieve any real improvements in the lives of gay people in Pennsylvania. Frantic activity, without political savvy, money and professional community organization gets no results."

GCN OFFICES ENTERED AND VANDALIZED

BOSTON — The offices of Gay Community News were forcibly entered and ransacked for the fifth time in the past year. Boston police are investigating this latest and most extensive act of vandalism, which occurred sometime during the afternoon of Sunday, September 3.

Entry was gained through a rear window of the offices. The windows had only recently been covered with a \$1000 security system of iron grates. All but two of the desks in the office were emptied of their contents. Two locked file cabinets, which contained business records, were forced open and their contents dumped on the floor.

Staff members who came to work on Sunday discovered the vandalism and called the police. The apparently senseless act did not cause the paper to cease operation and did not affect the confidential subscription list which is not kept in the office. The ransacking followed a week of telephone threats of violence in the wake of the visit to Boston by Anita Bryant. Telephoned threats and harassments are now being monitored by the telephone company. Boston police continue their investigation of the break-in.

(The following statement by GCN about the break-in appeared as an editorial — Ed.)

A HOUSE DIVIDED

We are tired.

Not from overwork. Not from overexpenditure of our energies.

We are tired of fear and of senseless acts. We are tired of finding our offices once again forcibly entered and vandalized. We are tired of the lack of police interest in the break-ins. We are tired of listening to telephoned harassments and



death threats.

On Sunday, September 3, the much discussed "violence" struck at a center of our community. A group of vandals battered through barred windows and ransacked the GCN office. Howard Phillips' "militant homosexuals" were being punished for their stand against the forces of oppression.

That our offices were vandalized is nothing new. It has happened before and it will happen again. Dissidents have never been safe from cowardly attacks.

That we receive anonymous death threats constantly goes without saying; it has become a matter of course. The fight for that in which one believes has never been without risks.

That our windows have, in the past year, been shattered by bullets may surprise you. It shouldn't. Human dignity has never been attained without sacrifice. There are those who would rather we cower than hold our heads high. We are prepared to confront the homophobia which threatens us daily.

But, as we get back to the business of running the paper, we are stunned: the long-standing fact that there is a lack of support from the gay community has finally hit home for all of us.

When the 200 lesbians and gay men who formed the September 1 Coalition called upon all people committed to the struggle for human rights to demonstrate against Bryant's campaign, we saw it as our duty to publicize that call to action, and so produced an extra edition to fulfill this obligation to our community. Yet during Bryant's visit and resultant rally in Copley Square, we suffered through more negative feelings from sectors of the gay community than at any time in our history.

Instead of a much needed coming together and a necessary supportive effort, many politicians and gay businesses retreated to a stance of fear and non-activism masquerading as "respectability."

"Some of us feel strongly that the planned activities will unnecessarily jeopardize the safety of a large number of lesbians, gay men and their supporters. Others hold that the strategizing meeting was hastily called, chaired and dominated by a

particular philosophy and, despite rhetoric supporting 'unity' within the gay community, was in itself the most divisive and insensitive gathering of gay people in Boston to date."

The above declaration was endorsed by a number of bars and other businesses in the Boston area. Many members of the Gay Business Association saw fit to lend their support to this statement rather than to those people working to battle our enemies: fear and ignorance.

One prominent business person brought a new meaning to our telephoned threats. He angrily labelled us "radicals" and began a campaign in the business community to boycott GCN.

Also distressing to GCN was the confusing decision by politicians to denounce the demonstration. Both State Reps. Barney Frank and Elaine Noble cited the divisive argument of "fear" of violence as they withdrew support at this vital time.

In the face of economic blackmail from within the gay community, lack of commitment from political allies, and violent homophobic terrorism, we must reiterate our mandate and the principles by which we abide. Gay Community News is committed to providing a forum for all of the diverse and opposed elements and perspectives within the gay community, and to maintain open lines of communication between us all.

Elaine Noble and the Boston/Boise Committee, Fag Rag and Dignity, they belong to us, we to them. And we will fight always, when faced with prejudice and hatred.

We challenge our elected officials Frank and Noble and others to answer for their fears.

We challenge the gay business community to support those who support them and stop their attempts to intimidate an open and free gay press.

We challenge the straight community to have the courage to respect and defend the basic rights of all people.

We ask all those who stepped back in fear and ignorance to raise their heads and join hands with us to battle injustice and hate.

We are tired.

We will not stop.

BRETHREN/MENNONITE STUDY PUBLISHED QUESTIONNAIRES

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ELKHART, IN — A descriptive study of attitudes and experiences of homosexually-oriented persons, and of selected pastors and mental health professionals from the Mennonite community has been approved by the Goshen Biblical Seminary Board of Overseers here. The study is in response to a request for counsel from Mennonite Student Services and the Council of Faith, Life and Strategy.

The questionnaire contains 16 questions asking how people feel about various aspects of homosexuality and 8 situational questions indicating probable responses from congregations in response to homosexually-oriented persons. There are also 6 questions asking gay people about their personal views of their homosexuality.

In a letter written to those who are filling out the questionnaire and attached to it, people are asked to take time to work through the research instrument on the attitudes and experiences of Mennonites with a homosexual inclination.

David W. Augsburger, Associate Professor of Pastoral Care at the Goshen Biblical Seminary says, "Little formal interest has been shown in the experiences and viewpoints of Mennonites with a gay directedness. So this is a pilot study seeking as many persons of homosexual orientation as possible to share their views and values."

The questionnaire is written to insure privacy for gay people who do not have to sign their name unless they wish to be quoted. When the study is completed, data will be gathered from a hundred selected pastors and therapists from ten major Mennonite communities. Augsburger points out that the size of the field of participating gays is not yet known.

The questionnaire has been long awaited for by the Brethren/Mennonite Council for Gay Concerns, an organization of gay Brethren and Mennonites started by Martin Rock formerly from Lancaster County.

Rock, who has been devoting much of his time trying to get these conservative churches to deal with the issue of homosexuality, has been meet-



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ing with church leaders through the past year.

Gay Brethren and Mennonites are urged to fill out the questionnaire. The questionnaire's can be obtained from the Brethren/Mennonite Council for Gay Concerns, PO Box 24060, Washington, DC 20024.



T. Milton Street



Francis Rafferty

RAFFERTY ON THE OFFENSIVE

PHILADELPHIA — Francis Rafferty, who was never known not to be offensive, when recently asked by the Philadelphia Gay News why he uses the word "faggot" when referring to political enemies said, "Why would it be offensive to anyone? Things you gays say may offend people. Everyone goes around talking like a broad. Why don't you dress like a man instead of a woman?"

Rafferty, a member of Philadelphia City Council and strong supporter of Mayor Rizzo, most recently attacked Milton Street verbally at a city council in July. Street, a long time foe of Rizzo and housing activist, had testified at the meeting to protest the city charter change which would allow Rizzo to run for a third term as mayor.

At that meeting, Rafferty, with his fists clenched, called Street a

"faggot." Street replied by calling Rafferty a "racist." Plain-clothes police officers had to separate the two. A few days later Rafferty challenged Street to a boxing match at the Philadelphia Spectrum. Street was once hospitalized for multiple sclerosis which is now under control. He accepted the match but the match was dropped soon after the incident.

When Rafferty was told by the Gay News that it was disgusting for a public official to use the term "faggot," Rafferty retorted: "What's more disgusting than you walking around acting like a gal?"

U.S. HOUSE VOTES FOR EXTENSION OF ERA DEADLINE

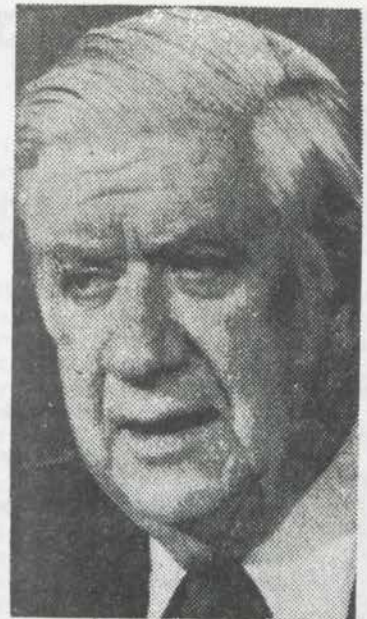
WASHINGTON, DC — There is new life for the embattled Equal Rights Amendment after the House of Representatives voted to allow three more years for the measure to reach ratification. The House approved an extension until June 30, 1982.

The ERA extension was approved by the House August 15 by a vote of 233 to 189. The vote followed a day-long debate watched by hundreds of supporters and opponents in a crowded House gallery.

The House also defeated an attempt to allow the state legislatures to reverse votes of approval of the amendment. Four of the 35 states that have approved the ERA also voted this year to rescind those earlier actions.

Under the Constitution, three-fourths of the states must approve the ERA after two-thirds of the Senate and House approves it.

The debate in the House was not



Rep. Thomas P. (Tip) O'Neill

marked by much emotion or filibustering. The vote on the ERA extension was called by House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, who was praised by pro-ERA factions in and out of the House.

Rep. Margaret Heckler (R.-Mass.) said the House vote in favor of the extension was due to the "incredibly cooperative attitude" of O'Neill.

Heckler said O'Neill scheduled the measure "before the August recess even though there was a tremendous pressure against him from younger members who wanted to duck a vote of the ERA. He stayed with the women all the way."

Before the vote on the extension, the House defeated a move by Rep. Thomas Railsback (R.-Ill.) that would have allowed the states to rescind their previous approvals of the ERA. The Railsback amendment was defeated 227 to 196.

The extension measure will now move to the Senate where a filibuster is planned by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R.-Utah). If that filibuster works, and the extension is defeated in the upper chamber, ERA forces will have until March 22, 1979 to have the measure approved by the required number of states.

Because of opposition in the Senate, Rep. Trent Lott (R.-Miss.) called the House vote "an exercise in futility."

Lott said, "Why should we go through this agony, ecstasy and agony again? The Senate is not likely to act on it."

Rep. Barbara Jordan (D.-Tex.), who is not seeking re-election this year, answered Lott when speaking to news people after the House vote. "Women have been going through agony and ecstasy all their lives and will continue to go through that until rights cannot be denied because of sex." Jordan said.

Meanwhile, a poll shows that nearly half of the American people oppose

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a seven year extension for ratifying the ERA. According to the Associated Press/NBC poll, 54% of those interviewed said they back the ERA, 29% oppose it, 7% are not sure and 10% said they have not heard of it or read it.

More men than women favor the amendment. The poll shows that men favor it by 58 to 25 percent, women by 50 to 33 percent.

— Gay Community News

PRISONERS WIN ROUND

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. District Court of Appeals has reversed a 1974 decision which threw out a class action suit filed by four gay prisoners who were segregated in special areas at the District of Columbia Jail.

Judge Joseph C. Waddy ruled in the initial suit that the alleged treatment of prisoners placed in "second-class" facilities was a controversy involving less than \$10,000 and was not, therefore, properly a federal case.

The new decision to reverse the first decision found that "it is far from a legal certainty that the plaintiffs' rights are worth less than \$10,000." That ruling came from Chief Judge David L. Bazelon and will now be assigned to another U.S. District Court judge for a hearing on the merits of the complaint.

The Washington Star reported that the District jail policy of segregating gay prisoners was based on a desire to protect the gay men from attack by other inmates. A city official "familiar with prison procedure" was quoted by the paper as saying that the old jail, replaced two years ago by a new facility, did have some second-class cells which were sometimes used to house gays.

Associate Judge George MacKinnon, concurring with the decision of appeals court Chief Judge Bazelon, wrote, "It would hardly seem doubtful that there is a need for segregating 'confessed homosexuals' from other prisoners. In fact, if the cases that have reached the court are any criterion, more provable damage might result if the homosexuals were not segregated.

"But there is room for complaining by the 'accused...homosexuals' that they were not proven homosexuals and should not have been segregated absent reasonable proof thereof," MacKinnon added. "Also, once segregated they are entitled to satisfactory conditions of confinement."

The suit claimed "several consequences follow the decision to place an alleged homosexual in administrative segregation: Placement in an over-crowded and vermin-infested cell ... ineligibility for work detail (precluding both the accumulation of 'good time' which would shorten the period of confinement and the opportunity to earn wages while incarcer-



Anita Bryant and Howard Phillips talk to the press.

Tim Grant

BRYANT CANCELS FUNDER IN BOSTON

According to Gay Community News (Boston), Anita Bryant failed to perform in Boston Friday, September 1, when Democratic United States Senatorial candidate Howard Phillips called off his fundraiser starring the anti-gay crusader. Phillips claimed to have cancelled the concert due to threats of violence from "militant homosexuals," but failed to mention low ticket sales. A reliable source indicated that only 78 tickets were sold through commercial outlets.

ated); denial of access to the library and law library; restricted visiting rights; inferior medical treatment; and the denial of a variety of other privileges available to the general inmate population."

TROY PERRY TO MEET WITH BRYANT

DALLAS — Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Church, visited briefly with Anita Bryant, after accidentally meeting her in the dining room at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel in Dallas' Union Square. At the meeting, which was unplanned, Perry and Bryant informally talked about the possibility of an official con-



Michael Thompson

Rev. Troy Perry

ference with media coverage where their conflicting views could be expressed.

Perry was in Texas raising funds to help fight the anti-gay teacher Briggs Initiative, Proposition 6. He made reservations for dinner one day before the meeting, and received an anonymous phone call two hours before he was to leave for the hotel informing him that Bryant would be having dinner at the same time. Bryant came to receive an award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

A hotel guest informed Perry that Bryant and her party had arrived. Perry, who was with Reverend Don Eastman, the pastor of the local M.C.C., walked to the Bryant table.

Perry said, "When Reverend Eastman and I arrived, the guests at the Bryant table were busy talking. After about 30 seconds, a gentleman, who turned out to be the Commander for the Texas V.F.W., told Ms. Bryant someone was standing behind her who wanted to say 'hello.'"

He added, "I'm sure she didn't know who I was, but probably thought I was an admirer of hers. She turned around smiling. I introduced myself and the smile froze into place."

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Perry described the conversation which followed as cordial, but cautious on both sides. The meeting lasted for about five minutes.

— Gay Community News

COURT REFUSES TO BAN BRIGGS INITIATIVE FROM NOV. BALLOT

LOS ANGELES — A Superior Court here has apparently refused to uphold a court injunction filed by groups opposed to the anti-gay school workers Briggs Initiative, Proposition 6.

According to San Francisco's *Sentinel*, Judge Charles Phillips determined that state registrars had complied with the law in accepting signatures on the petitions filed by State Senator John Briggs last May. The judge also ruled that even if the 4,000 contested names were invalid, Briggs still had presented more than the necessary 312,404 signatures on his petitions.

A temporary restraining order had been issued by another Superior Court judge disallowing the Secretary of State from printing the November ballots until after the present ruling.

The anti-initiative forces contended in a lawsuit that there was massive fraud, forgery, perjury and misrepresentation in the circulation of the petition. The suit also alleged that the method of counting signatures was defective, and that

new and untrained persons did part of the counting.

Peter Scott, a spokesperson for the No On Proposition 6 Committee, reported that Judge Phillips ruled that the "initiative is unclear and that it is not the fault of the Attorney General or the Secretary of State's office." According to Scott, "The court felt that the unconstitutionality or ambiguity of the Briggs Initiative will have to be decided after the people have voted it into law in November."

According to the report in the *Sentinel*, Judge Phillips was aware that there is an ongoing investigation into the charge of forgery in the gathering of the signatures in San Diego county. Scott concluded, "Phillips indicated that if that is the case and there is a forgery conviction, then the Supreme Court will deal with that and the constitutionality of the ballot measure if it is voted after November."

Meanwhile, California Attorney General Evelle Younger, who has said he would remain neutral on Proposition 6, indicated that sections of the initiative may have constitutional problems. Younger believes that the measure would merely write into the state Constitution "case law" or court decisions. He added that if the measure goes beyond case law and permits the firing of teachers solely for being gay, then that section might be declared unconstitutional.

— Gay Community News

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CHANGES POLICY

WASHINGTON, DC — Gay men and lesbians who were discharged from the Armed Forces for their homosexuality can no longer be automatically denied an Honorable Discharge according to a new U.S. Defense Department policy.

The policy change dates from Jan. 20, 1978 but has only recently received publicity. Navy Secretary Graham Claytor issued a memorandum at that time explaining the new policy. Claytor stated that "Homosexuals normally will not be treated as a distinct category for purposes of discharge characterization. The character of the discharge should reflect the nature of the service. No special consideration should be given to an individual's status as a homosexual, except to the extent that it affects the performance of his duties."

Claytor explained what would affect one's duties by when one's homosexuality is expressed in acts which either involve assault or coercion or involve people under the age of 16.

The new policy bans discrimination against homosexuals in determining discharge status but still requires that a homosexual be discharged since military officials feel that the presence of such a member (a gay person) in a military environment seriously impairs combat readiness.

For a temporary period ending Jan. 1, 1980, homosexual veterans may apply to military review boards to upgrade their discharge status, and gays currently in the service will normally receive honorable discharges assuming their service record warrants one.

Veterans seeking to apply for discharge review under the new policy may obtain information from the veteran counseling centers or the Veteran Education Project, Dupont Circle Bldg., Suite 610, 1346 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

GAY ACADEMIC UNION TO GIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Gay Academic Union (GAU) plans to present five \$2,000 scholarships to self-identified gay graduate and undergraduate students at its national conference, Nov. 24-26, in Los Angeles.

Betty Berzon, national GAU president, announced that GAU chapters across the country are seeking contributions to reach the scholarship fund goal of \$10,000 by that date.

"We have a responsibility to support our future leaders," Berzon stated, "especially now that bigots are striving to intimidate gays in the professions."

Applicants must be enrolled in an institution of higher learning. They



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will be judged on their potential to make a significant contribution to the gay community in such areas as research, teaching, community service, scientific or artistic endeavor. Academic record, merit, and promise will also be considered by the judges.

Final selection of scholarship winners will be made by a national board comprised of prominent people in the academic world. The committee includes Dr. Evelyn Hooker, clinical professor, UCLA School of Medicine, a pioneer in scientifically objective study of the gay community, and Martin Duberman, distinguished professor of history, Lehman College, City University of New York.

The Los Angeles GAU, host for the 1978 conference, has already pledged \$1,500 for the fund, Berzon stated. Efforts to solicit funds are also being made by chapters in Boston, Chicago, New York, Ann Arbor, and San Francisco, as well as affiliates in Canada and Mexico.

Applications for scholarships, which will be accepted until October 15 (so hurry) are available by writing the GAU Scholarship Fund, PO Box 972, Los Angeles, CA 90028. Contributions may be sent to the same address.

The Gay Academic Union is an association of academics, professionals, and graduate students organized at major university centers nationwide to foster a better understanding of homosexuality and gay culture.

MASTERS AND JOHNSON DISCUSS HOMOSEXUALITY

by Peter Martin
(Gay Community News)

WASHINGTON, DC — Two prominent authorities on human sexual response and adult sexual activity addressed the National Town Meeting held at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts here Aug. 10. The topic of the meeting was simply stated as "Sex."

Dr. William Masters and Virginia Johnson-Masters, whose work on homosexuality (based on 15 years of research) will be published this fall, said, "Sex has its fads, fashions and realities. Humans are sexual beings and sex permeates our life from birth. Sex is a natural function. Our culture has attempted to deny it."

The noted sex researchers answered a number of questions from the large audience in Washington and the topic of homosexuality was one of the major issues addressed.

Asked about the contention by some people that homosexuality is a "sickness" or "aberration," Dr. Masters said, "Homosexuality is a natural form of sex experience."

"Based on our research," he continued, "it is a valid sex expression. In sex research, we do not make moral judgements."

Another questioner, referring to arguments stated by Anita Bryant, asked if the "domino theory" of sexuality was true. Does masturbation lead to homosexuality?

According to both Masters and Johnson, there is "not a shred of evidence" to support the domino theory on sex. "About 35 to 40% of all men from 16 to 50 years of age have had one or more homosexual experiences," Masters stated. "The same ratio applies to women. There is no pre-ordained matrix. A domino theory presumes no choice. It is an untrue and unfortunate theory."

Asked if homosexuality is a natural sex response, the researchers responded, "it is a natural response." Johnson-Masters stated, "We are not born homosexual or heterosexual. We learn to be either heterosexual or homosexual. No genetic determinant has been established. We learn ambisexual orientation. What we become is based on the learning process."

OKLAHOMA STUDENTS LOSE SUIT AGAINST UNIVERSITY

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Gay Activists Alliance organization at the University of Oklahoma has lost its 18 month court battle to be officially recognized as a student organization.

A District Court judge ruled that the group's constitutional guarantees were not violated when the University's Board of Regents voted in February, 1977 to deny the group official status.

Judge Alma Wilson ruled that "the only issue is whether plaintiff's recognition as a university organization is mandatory and a right guaranteed by the Constitution; i.e. whether constitutional guarantees of the First and Fourteenth Amendments have been invaded in the action taken by the Student congress and the Board of Regents."

The GAA filed suit in February of last year against the University Regents seeking a court injunction preventing the Board from denying them recognition. The organization also sought \$10,000 in punitive damages against the six members of the Board of Regents who had voted against recognition.

The University of Oklahoma Student Association's Student Congress had voted six months before to deny recognition to the gay group.

In its reply to the GAA suit, the Board of Regents claimed the "behavior" of the organization's members was a violation of state law. The Board stated that as a ruling body of a state institution, it lawfully used its discretionary powers and voted against recognition.

The Gay Activists Alliance at the University of Oklahoma has been the only campus organization denied recognition.

In her ruling, Judge Wilson con-

cluded, "There is no constitutional guarantee against discrimination with reference to sexual orientation or sex preference."

— Gay Community News

OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR: NOT GAY

OKLAHOMA CITY — The governor of this state has heatedly denied an allegation that he is a homosexual. Gov. David Boren, who recently opened a Democratic runoff primary campaign for the U.S. Senate, swore on a Bible that he is neither a homosexual nor bisexual.

In a recent primary campaign, which led to the runoff between Boren and Rep. Ed Edmondson, Boren was accused of being gay by another candidate.

Boren, who called the allegation "utterly ridiculous," went before a news conference in early September to deny the charge. Placing his hand on the Bible, Boren said, "I, David Boren, being of lawful age and upon my oath, do swear and state that I know what homosexuals and bisexuals are."

"I further swear that I am not homosexual or a bisexual. I further swear that I have never been a homosexual or a bisexual. And I further swear that I have never engaged in any homosexual or bisexual activities nor do I approve of or condone them."

— Gay Community News

SUPPORT FCC PROPOSAL

NEW YORK — The National Gay Task Force (NGTF) has issued a request to individuals and groups throughout the gay and non-gay communities to write to the Federal Communications Commission in support of a "Notice of Proposal for Rulemaking" issued on August 8. The FCC proposal came in response to a petition submitted by NGTF and 143 lesbian and gay organizations.

The FCC is proposing that leaders of all significant community groups in a broadcast area, including leaders of the lesbian and gay community, must be interviewed by local broadcasters to meet their community ascertainment requirements.

The proposed FCC policy would require that "broadcasters have a responsibility to insure that all significant elements or institutions which are readily accessible within their community of license, whether or not they are one of the nineteen categories on the Checklist, are ascertained."

NGTF urges everyone to write in support of the proposal, referring to BC Docket No. 78-237. Address comments to Secretary, FCC, 1919 "M" St. NW, Washington, DC 20554. The deadline for receipt of comments is Oct. 16.

Rural Resources

PHILADELPHIA AREA CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

Gay Students at Temple, room 205,
Student Activities Center, 13th
& Montgomery Sts.

Castaways Inn, 629 Front St., 16630.
86609931. 24 hotel rooms. 9pm -
closing. Mon-Sat. Food, dancing,
90% GM, 10% GF. Large out of
town crowds on weekends: reserve
rooms. "Very friendly bar."

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

EASTON (area 215)
Al's Beehouse (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, Dancing. Most-
ly GM.
Washington Grill, Washington & W.
10th.

GREENSBURG (area 412) Zip 15601
Golden Arrow (bar), 108 W. Pitts-
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* For local information call Gay
Switchboard 234-0328.
C-1, 6th & Hoffman (disco).
D-Gem, 4415 N. Front St. 17100 GF.
Neptune Lounge, 268 North St. 17101
La Rose Rouge (bar) 400 N. 2nd St.
17101.
Dignity/Central PA, Box 297, Fed-
eral Square Station, 17108.
Gay Switchboard, Box 297, Federal
Square Station, 17108.
Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Mi-
norities, c/o Governor's Office,
328 Main Capitol Building, 17102.

LANCASTER (area 717)
Brethren/Mennonite Council for Gay
Concerns, Box 582, 17604. Nation-
al office, Box 24060, Washington,
DC 20024.
Contact (counseling), 24hrs. call
collect 299-4855.
Erotic Den (porno) 53 N. Prince St.
Erotic Forum (porno) 227 N. Prince.
GAY ERA, Editorial Office: 332 N.
Mulberry St. 17603. Business Of-
fice: Front & Perry Sts., Mari-

Gays at Drexel, c/o Educational Activities Center, 33rd & Chest- nut Sts., 19104

Gays at Penn. Christian Association,
Room 4, 3601 Locust Walk. 19174

etta, PA. 17547 426-9811.
La Fleur (plants and gifts) 701 Co-
lumbia Ave. 17603. 25 N. Prince
St., 17603.

Lancaster Independent Press, 227 N.
Prince St., 17603. (WKly alterna-
tive).

Loft (restaurant, 2nd Fl.) 201 W.
Orange St. 17603.
N.O.W., YWCA, 110 N. Line St., 17602
Tally-Ho (bar), 201 W. Orange St.
(downstairs)
Townhouse Greenery (plants) 49 N.
Prince St., 17603.
V.D. Clinic, St. Joseph Hospital,
250 College Ave. 291-8111, free,
24 hrs.

Women's Center, 230 W. Orange St.,
299-5381. 17603.
The Fiddler, 10 S. Prince St. 17603.
Ye Olde Bookstore, 227 N. Prince St.

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

MARCUS HOOK (area 215) Zip 19601
Captain Jack's (bar) Market St.
George's (bar), Market St.
Paradise (bar), Market St.

MARIETTA (area 717) Zip 17547
GAY ERA, Front & Perry Sts, 426-
9811.
Railroad House Hotel, (restaurant,
bar, hotel accomodations), Front
& Perry Sts., 426-9811.

MILLERSVILLE (area 717) Zip 17551
Gay Awareness of Millersville
State College, Box 3333, Gordin-
ier Hall, M.S.C.,

NEW HOPE (area 215) Zip 18938
Cartwheel (bar), Rt. 202 West
Chez Odette (restaurant, mixed),
Hwy. 32 at River Rd.
New Prelude, 1 mile W. on US 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 (bar), 143 N. 10th
This Is It (bar, restaurant), 8th
& Walnut Sts.

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

SCRANTON (area 412) Zip 18539
DeMitrí Cafe, 237 Wyoming Ave.

SHAVERSTOWN (area 814) Zip 18708
North East Pennsylvania Gay Alli-
ance (NEPGA) Box 1710.

STATE COLLEGE (area 814) Zip 16801
*For local information call GAYLINE,
863-0588, Mon-Sun, 7-9 pm.

Gayline (switchboard), 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
Mr. C's (mixed bar), 112 W. Col-
lege Ave. 234-1031.
Metropolitan Community Church,
106 Eisenhower Chapel, 238-0261.
Nittany News Bookstore, 108 W.
College Ave.
ZAP, Newsletter for HOPS, c/o HOPS

STROUDSBURG (area 717) Zip 18360
The Blue Bugle (bar), 724 Main St.
Noon-2am, Dmcg, 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., Mill-
bourne, 19082, 352-9762, 8pm-2am.

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

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

WILLIAMSPORT (area 717)
Homophiles of Williamsport (HOW),
Box 1072, 17701.

YORK (area 717)
Aitland's Ranch (bar, accomodations),
10 miles W. off Rt. 30. 255-4479.
Town Tavern (bar), 41 N. George St.
Mon-Sat, 8:30-2am. 843-8591.
Cupid's Connexion (porno), 244 N.
George St., 854-4169.

PITTSBURGH AREA CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

Gay Students at Pitt, Room 318,
Pitt Student Union.

Opinion

Everyone should exercise the option of coming out while still alive. No one can wield any influence after death.

John Knight, the newspaper heir, feared coming out because of losing his friends and inheritance. His need for secrecy led to his buying sex from hustlers, one of whom murdered him. Knight's secret, so carefully hidden from his own friends became public knowledge when the newspapers discovered the police had found photos of nude men, ex-tricks, in his residence.

No one expected Dick Button, former Olympic skating champ, until the night he was jumped by a group of young people in a section of Central Park that is notorious for gay cruising. Button is alive, but has made no statement on his sexuality. But everyone is making guesses.

No one suspected State Representative William O. Shuman until the popular democratic politician from Greencastle had the misfortune to die from a heart attack while emerging from the Club Miami, a gay "health-spa." Since then the press has found occasion to use lurid headlines on the story, much as they did when John Knight was murdered.

Why don't people, especially important people, come out?

Knight was afraid of losing his friends and his inheritance. When Arthur Bell interviewed Knight's friends and grandfather, all said the man's sexuality would have changed nothing.

Button, if actually gay, may be afraid of losing income. Must we point out to him that David Kopay has written a book? He found some way to do it. Or point out another Olympic skater, John Curry, who came out at a press conference before his event last year? When Curry appeared he was given a standing ovation and is now touring in an ice show.

Does a politician have to fear even more? Currently the governor of Oklahoma is fighting a losing battle for re-election. After two successful terms, this highly popular man was almost guaranteed election to the U.S. Senate until an opponent branded him a homosexual. On the other hand, the case of Massachusetts legislator Elaine Noble is so well-known it needs no synopsis.

The Gay Era has not had time to delve into Rep. Shuman's voting record, so we cannot say how he stood on some of the homophobic legislation which has been put on the floor of the Assembly since the Governor's Executive Order went into effect. We do know he never spoke out against it by coming out. (And we do know of several state legislators who have actually supported these bills to preserve their cover.)

There is, in truth, nothing to fear but fear itself. Do they not realize that it is their silence on these matters which helps create the atmosphere which justifies their fear? Without that silence the Bryants and Briggs' of this world could not survive.

But no, they'll keep on guarding their little secret (and it is a little secret), praying against discovery until death or scandal bring them out against their will in a fashion unfavorable to their reputation and the furtherance of gay liberation. We should feel sorry for them and the life they're living, but we're too damned angry. They've done more than just brought it on themselves — they've brought it on us, too.



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PLEASE NOTE: We are moving our editorial offices at this time. All mail sent to the Mulberry St. address will be forwarded to our new address until we secure a Post Office Box number. We will announce that number once we get it.



Viewpoints



BOOKS

Partly due to the timing and partly due to the audacity of its theme, the appearance of "The Front Runner" made Patricia Nell Warren a gay cause celebre. Despite the mediocre quality of her output since then, she remains, as recent ad copy put it: "America's most beloved author" of gay fiction. Unfortunately, our most beloved author has turned out her biggest disappointment to date, a muddled little roman à clef entitled "The Beauty Queen."

The focal point (and title character) of the "The Beauty Queen" is Jeannie Laird Colter, ex-Miss America runner-up, ex-actress, current politician and religious fanatic who is using a violent anti-gay smear campaign as a steppingstone to the New York gubernatorial mansion.

If none of that sounds vaguely familiar, you have evidently not been spending the last year on this planet. It also gives a clue to the primary fault with this novel: so much of it seems so damned calculated (read: lifeless), the book has all the intrinsic fascination of watching a clockworks for several hours.

For instance, we start with a character who seems remarkably like someone who has been in the news lately with the same line: God hates homos. Well, the gays are sure to love that idea, but let's really stack the deck against her to insure she comes off as a real wreck to any reader. Let's give her a history of nervous breakdowns and alcoholism (because she's not as saintly as her dear departed mother, who incidentally died before Colter was saved) and put her on the verge of going bananas and hitting the bottle again. Let's also give her a bunch of "unruly" children and an unsaved husband who won't sex her when she craves it (he's too tired).

Is that enough? No, now let's see. Of course! Let's make her father a fag! And give him a long time lover whom he has to hide from his daugh-

ter. Perfect!

If all this sounds like the beginnings of delicious, if slightly heavy-handed satire (a sure-fire commercial success) you begin to detect the other major fault with the novel. Warren hasn't made up her mind what kind of book she wants to write. Colter is handled so unsympathetically, she's practically an editorial cartoon, while the rest of the book is deadly serious. "The Beauty Queen" seems to be Warren's most hastily-written book (despite its carefully calculated plot-line) a feeling which is borne out by this schizophrenic approach.

It also contains some of her clumsiest writing to date. Warren introduces Colter's father's lover as Marion (how androgynous) and then proceeds to do everything but stand on her head to avoid using a tell-tale pronoun, which only gives the game away even earlier. And considering Warren's history as an editor, it becomes difficult to believe she actually came up with some of the banal and even downright awkward turns of phrase which abound throughout the book.

"The Beauty Queen" is unworthy of the author of "The Front Runner" and even (to a lesser extent) "The Fancy Dancer." It seems to have been written with one eye on a sales chart and the other on a gay political manifesto (yes, its politics are all very correct, which only adds to its lifelessness). Perhaps it will end up as a Movie of the Week.

BOOKS, BRIEFLY NOTED —

Avon Books should be thrice blest for their Christopher Isherwood re-issue series. Isherwood is undoubtedly one of our finest writers and this project brings back such out-of-print selections as "Prater Violet" along with newer works such as "Christopher and His Kind" (see review, GAY ERA, Nov. '77). The series is very nicely designed too, with Don Bacchardy's pencil and wash portraits of Isherwood used for the cover illustrations.

Following in the wake of the recent media success with supernatural topics comes a first novel from Robert R. McCammon entitled "Baal" (Avon, 293 pp, pb \$2.25). Patterned closely after "The Omen" and "Rosemary's Baby," McCammon has the ancient prince of demons reincarnated in human form to take back the world. It's getting to sound a bit familiar, which is a great pity because McCammon's talent and vision far outstrip others currently working in the genre. The sweep of the plotline is espec-

ially gothic and McCammon's style rivals Stephen King ("Carrie," "Salem's Lot" and "The Shining"). If the macabre is your bag, you'll especially appreciate "Baal."

Satire that is as lovingly and gently phrased as it is right on target is one of the most difficult forms of writing. One almost has to leave Dorothy Parker with Anita Loos to find a companion for Laura Cunningham whose "Sweet Nothings" (Avon, 236 pp, pb \$1.95) can best be described as a parody of "Fear of Flying." But even that sells it short, for in the course of her heroine's wanderings, Cunningham turns a lovingly satirical eye on everything in sight with wildly funny results. There is only one problem, there is such an embarrassment of riches here, one wonders if Cunningham will turn out to have blown her wad on her first novel. If not, she'll definitely be a writer to watch.

— HL

SAVE OUR CHILDREN . . . FOR WHAT?

Several years of agitation for "gay rights" have predictably generated a counter-movement. Homosexuality is now being denounced in press and pulpit and communities that only a year or two ago outlawed anti-gay discrimination are now repealing these ordinances by top-heavy votes.

This new, virtually nationwide attack on homosexuals rests on two main arguments: God disapproves of them, and "they are after our children" — that the gays are plotting to seduce our innocent kids and turn them into monsters.

The first argument is hard for me to deal with. Since I am not all that sure what God thinks, I find it almost impossible to reason with people who know what He thinks. When it comes to the second argument — that homosexuality is somehow contagious, spread by personal contact — I am on much firmer ground. I know this is a lot of malarkey — and I know it from personal experience.

If contact with homosexuals and/or seduction by them can turn a heterosexual boy into a homosexual man, I ought to be as "queer" as the proverbial \$3 bill. In fact, I have been happily married for many years, and if my eye ever wanders it invariably wanders toward women, not men.

As a kid I was what some people would consider a candidate for "gaydom." While not quite a 97-pound weak-

ling, I was skinny, wore glasses, and was perhaps the only American boy of my generation who never learned to catch a baseball. For these reasons, among others, I preferred reading and music to more traditional masculine pursuits such as sports and fighting with my peers.

When I was 11, I was "seduced" at boarding school by an older boy. The details aren't particularly important, and in any case are not all that clear in my mind some 40 years later. Suffice it to say that for something like a year thereafter I enjoyed — and that is the word — homosexual relationships with nearly half a dozen boys. I also, if it counts for anything, had nonsexual contact with one or two homosexual teachers.

As a result of all this, by the time I was 15 or so my sexual interest had become completely focused on girls. They have stayed that way every since, though the girls have long become women, of course.

My wife and I have a few homosexual friends and they are pleasant enough fellows. But as potential sexual partners they just aren't there so far as I'm concerned. My reaction to the thought of sex with them (or with any other men) is about the same as to the thought of being served a sawdust-on-toasted-cardboard sandwich for lunch: total lack of appetite.

According to all the sex surveys, my boyhood excursion into homosexuality was (and is) pretty common. Well over half the American male population has had similar experiences. So how come they're not gay — and how come I'm not?

Some gays, along with some of their well meaning apologists, assert that sexual preference is innately ambiguous and unformed, determined entirely by the environment that a child grows up in. Some of the most ferocious anti-gays evidently agree, judging by their evident terror that their children will be "converted" to the gay way.

To me this is nonsense, no matter who says it. Heterosexuality is built into the human genes, as it is into those of every other higher animal. Men are attracted to women and vice-versa, for the same powerful evolutionary reasons that they are attracted to water when they are thirsty and food when they are hungry. Without these powerful attractions, the human race would long ago have perished from thirst, hunger or failure to reproduce.

Why this normal and almost inevitable attraction is transferred in a minority of men and women, to members of their own sex is a question I can't answer with any certainty — nor, I think, can anyone else. My own suspicion (for reasons too complicated to set forth here) is that a hormone disturbance during prenatal life may have something to do with it. But whatever the reason

or reasons, contact — even sexual contact — with homosexuals isn't one of them. I don't believe for a minute that most homosexuals are "after our children" — any more than most heterosexuals are. But even if they were, it wouldn't make any difference. Most kids would still grow up straight, and those who didn't would almost certainly have gone gay — in or out of the closet — in any case. Human heterosexuality has been going on far too long — several million years — to be threatened by gay rights.

— Robert Claiborne
New York Times

MACHO MEN AND THE "STIGMA" OF GAY INDENTIFICATION

(ED. NOTE: The following review of the Village People appeared in the Sept 2 issue of Gay Community News. The first part of the article was written for the San Francisco Sentinel.)

by Michael Mascioli

Recently, I was invited to interview David Hodo and Randy Jones of the Village People, popular male disco-makers with a large share of gay fans. I can think of many performers I'd like to interview, and the Village People are not among them. I have heard their albums and found them to be undistinguished records, unable to rise above the sterile monotony of much disco, not to mention quite a rip-off at no more than 15 minutes per side. But I felt it important that they be covered in a gay newspaper, for they present — and are marketed with — a distinct gay image. The song titles on their first album, for instance, read like a travel brochure of gay hot spots, including Fire Island and San Francisco, the latter replete with references to Polk, Castro and Folsom Streets.

So I met with the men one after-

noon, and, at one point during the interview, I asked if the entire group were gay. You can imagine my astonishment when I encountered a silence as resounding as that after a nuclear holocaust, and then Jones, Hodo and Barry McGoffin, their press representatives, all began speaking at once: "That's not important." "This shouldn't enter the picture." "That has nothing to do with the story." "Get around if you can, Mike, by saying it's a very strong gay market."

Sorry, fellas, but no dice.

Though it's true that their "sex lives have nothing to do with the show," being gay involves more than one's sex life — it determines and suffuses one's thinking, actions, opinions, and so on, in all sorts of matters, monumental and mundane. Besides, being gay may not affect their show, but it can affect how marketable a record company considers them and how the public responds to them. These issues I intended to explore.

If the group were not gay, their marketing would reek of exploitation. And if they are — all or some of them — they cannot capitalize on it, refuse to "own up" to it, and still expect the gay press to herald their efforts.

With a great show of dimestore psychology and thinking-man's platitudes, they expressed a disdain for "labeling" people: "We won't label the group because there should not be labels...It only gets in the way of improving yourself, 'cause you're just separating yourself from other people when you label others and label yourself." A naive, tissue-thin argument, at best. They not only give the word labels, ipso facto, a vile connotation, but conveniently ignore the fact that all language is a labeling system. If I had yellow hair, I use the adjective/noun blond to describe myself. And if I sleep with only members of the same sex and develop a lifestyle and set of values around that preference, the adjective



The Village People

Noelle Gray

/noun that describes me is gay. You can, if you like, call that labeling with a sour look on your face, but I, for one, decline to fight in a battle against what is actually the structure of verbal communication as we know it.

And what they seemed to me to be saying by "seperating yourself" is alienating yourself. If calling myself gay alienates someone, then that alienation, not the "labeling," is the problem to deal with.

For me, their evasiveness reached a comic high point when they conceded, "In this group we don't all share the same labels... if we were labeling."

In any case, their attitude, disguised as good intention, shows the same kind of logic we fight against in Anita Bryant, who, at best, would have us refrain from identifying — labeling, if you will — ourselves, thereby slinking meekly back into the closet. I suspect that the Village People have adopted this "line" at the behest of their record company, but in this case it seems not only ludicrous and unnecessary, but dangerous.

The above piece, which appeared originally in the San Francisco Sentinel, has an interesting postscript. Barry McGoffin, the press representative, phoned me after receiving a copy of the article. He was angry, for it is his job to keep his clients basking in the heat of favorable publicity and public appreciation. The thrust of his complaint seemed to be that my "failure to say one nice thing" about the Village People constituted a flagrant violation of some unwritten law of journalism.

My approach to the interview was not a dishonest one. I did not say that the men were not nice to me (they were) or that they didn't sell a lot of records (they do), nor did I deny that the special Merv Griffin disco show on which they appeared won the show's largest audience ever. I am happy for Merv and his staff, but what good does that do as gay people continue to suffer setbacks at the hands of the likes of John Briggs, Anita Bryant and Ed Davis? What gay people need now, from the Village People as much as from any of us, is an affirmation of pride, a show of numbers, a show of — if you'll pardon my militancy — solidarity.

Now, there are performers said to be gay, performers who, while actively seeking a gay audience, do not project overtly gay performing personae, and their desire to remain silent about their sexuality may be accorded some respect, even though it would be preferable for them to come out publicly. After all, if every gay person in America were to come out to friends and family, if our numbers swelled to

their true proportions, we would see a drastic change in the attitudes toward gays, and many of the things happening to us today would not be happening.

But the Village People are not such performers. And since gays do encounter oppression and discrimination, just being openly gay — or even hinting at one's gayness, as the group does — is an important political statement in itself and carries all sorts of implications. It is hardly a gimmick to be toyed with when it is to one's advantage and dismissed when it is not.

For that reason I chose to focus on this aspect of the Village People which is of paramount importance to gay people — that these men will not speak frankly, even to a gay newspaper (as if, no sooner would the interview have been printed than their picture and an expose' of their sexuality would appear on Newsweek's People page, scandalizing the nation and ruining their careers).

Immediately after my conversation with Barry McGoffin ended, I received a call from one of his superiors at Casablanca Records (for whom the Village People record), who said that he had just been shown the article. How, he wondered, had the interview with the group gone? Sensing the true intent behind his polite inquiry, I explained that I had been treated courteously by them and, no, I had not written the article with a grudge for having been treated

otherwise. And I reiterated the points made in the published interview.

Most importantly, he confirmed my suspicion that Casablanca Records had suggested the group downplay their gayness (even in the gay publications which they besieged with full-page ads for their latest album concert tour) for fear of losing their straight audience.

Toward the end of the conversation I said once again that these men are fooling no one, working as they do with an identifiable gay image, and suggested that it would be more commendable of Casablanca, and healthier for the group and every member of society, to boast, "These men are gay, and just look at the attention they've received and the records they've sold and the different people they've reached with their music." Just such an approach has well served Tom Robinson Band who, refusing to be accepted on any terms other than their own, have generated excitement among straights and gays alike.

I know, from their reaction to the interview, that the people at Casablanca Records heard me. The question is whether they will heed me; whether, in other words, the Village People will be allowed, even encouraged, to realize the significance of their venture — a significance which blanches any other — and adopt a less frightened, less harmful attitude in their dealings with their public.

GAY RIGHTS SYMPOSIUM 1978

August 1978

On Saturday, October 14, gay men and lesbians from the greater Delaware Valley will gather at the Philadelphia Gay Community Center (326 Kater St.) to consider the problems of civil rights for sexual minorities.

The 1978 Gay Rights Symposium will provide an intense forum for assessing the current state of affairs and discussing new directions in the areas of politics, religion, culture, and the strength of our community. Attendance is open to all; but because the seating capacity of the center is limited to about one hundred persons, it is best if those who are actively involved and are concerned with gay and lesbian rights reserve their place by registering in advance.

Tickets are \$4.00 before August 31. Thereafter the cost will be \$5.00 up to the day of the conference, and \$6.00 at the door. The ticket price includes lunch, refreshments, and a full day of heavy talk.

The Symposium is organized by an Ad Hoc Committee, including Peter Dunning, Allen Kratz, Nancy Krody, Philip Laird, Don Martin, and Alex Olson. Persons charged with reviewing papers are as follows: Barbara Gittings, Ed Hermance, Barry Kohn, and Ursula Sieben-eich. For more information, write the Symposium at the address below.

1978 Gay Rights Symposium
pre-registration

Name..... Phone.....
Address..... City.....
State..... Zip..... Number of Tickets.....

Make Checks Payable to: 1978 Symposium

BOX 2381 PHILA., PA. 19103

GAY BOB

GAY DOLL IN SEARCH OF GAY DOLLARS

by Harold Pickett
(Gay Community News)



"Come out of the closet with Gay Bob, the world's first gay doll for everyone," says the printing around the yellow-bordered, cellophane and cardboard, removable sleeve on the box. Also, on the front of the package: "This doll is rated PG. Parental Guidance suggested."

Gay Bob comes packaged in a closet. Inside, he stands about 12 inches tall. Gay Bob has short, fuzzy blond hair, blue eyes, and looks to be about 40 years old. He wears a plaid shirt, blue jeans, brown boots, and has a large earring in his left ear. The doll, manufactured in Hong Kong, is complete with male genitalia, although his posterior has no cleavage.

There are various costumes pictured hanging in Bob's closet: a business suit, football uniform, army fatigues. No women's dresses are shown. However, in one part of the closet, a pair of women's spiked, high heel shoes stand next to a pair of black leather boots with a skull and a cross-bone insignia.

A first impression of Gay Bob is that it's purely frivolous and almost borders on offensiveness with its stereotyped emphasis on clothing and fashion. However, the fashions shown in the catalogue and the doll's actual clothing are not as offensive as one might have feared. Fortunately the doll doesn't come with a bouffant wig and pink satin gown.

More offensive is the fact that dolls are for children. In this instance, it is doubtful that Gay Bob was intended as a children's gift. The idea that gays are less "mature" than non-gays is a truly offensive connotation which the doll brings to mind.

Gay Bob is overpriced, selling for many dollars (\$15-\$19) more than Barbie and Ken dolls. There is a tendency to view the price as an exploitative "ripoff," though higher prices are often justified for

items geared to smaller, specialty markets. In any case, the buyer determines an item's worth, so let "the buyer beware."

One positive quality of Gay Bob is that he is out of the closet and on national TV, on store shelves, and in magazines. Though he might not be approved of entirely, he is helping to create a gay visibility and an economic recognition which surpasses the gay activism of most of his purchasers.

(ED. NOTE: The following article appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on August 4. One reliable source, informed us that the creator of the Gay Bob doll was interviewed on a national TV talk show. He was noted as commenting that he didn't care about the doll — only making money from his new enterprise.)

DOLLS: BE THE FIRST ON YOUR BLOCK

All right, it's time now for the age of "permissive dolls." There's a company in New York called Gizmo Development that has designed a whole family of them.

Each doll in the family is packaged in its own appropriate environment. There is, for example, Liberated Libby, who is sitting in the bedroom. Straight Steve is packaged in a living room sitting in front of the TV set and is dressed in a powder-blue leisure suit. Gay Bob is packaged in a closet.

Gay Bob is the one causing most of the comments. He has a blond crewcut and looks like "a cross between Paul Newman and Robert Redford," says his creator, Harvey Rosenberg.

The Gay Bob doll is wearing one earring, a custom-made flannel cowboy shirt, denim jeans and cowboy boots. His package includes a wardrobe, a clothes catalogue, a songbook and a book about his life.

The narrative begins, "Hello,

boys and girls."

(ED. NOTE: We have also found a very interesting article in the Philadelphia Gay News which tells us a bit more about Gay Bob and his creator Harvey Rosenberg and his attitude toward his line of new dolls. The article was written by Steven Warren and is not printed in its entirety — only the parts that are not informationally repetitive with the above articles.)

... After 15 years of designing bland products for large corporations, Rosenberg came out of his professional closet (Steve Warren never says whether Rosenberg is gay or not) and started his own business with Balls, "candy to give you courage." Ordinary sourballs with a humorous brochure inside, they sell for \$3.95 a can. ... Rosenberg sees the candy business as ripe for revolution: "It's all run by little old men who came over from Germany during World War II. They don't realize that the people who eat candy today are kids on dope who have a craving for sweets when they get high."

Dolls are the other part of Rosenberg's two-pronged attack on the markets of the world, with Gay Bob the scout for a platoon of ten he hopes to have in the store by next June. He gets his ideas, he says, from reading magazine articles and imagining the kind of people who are reading the same articles but taking them seriously:

"Pick up a magazine today and it's full of fad diets and self-help bullshit: How to Get Ahead, How to Achieve Orgasm... Fat Pat and Heavy Harry, the overweight dolls, may be Gay Bob's parents. They look grotesque, but they're always trying new diets. Marty Macho works out with weights all the time." Each doll's package is designed to represent its milieu, and each comes with an amusing brochure lampooning its interests. Nervous Ned and Neurotic Nellie are in a medicine chest. Liberated Libby in her bedroom, Fashionable Fran in a purse filled with charge cards.

Rosenberg continues: "Executive Eddie wears three-piece suits and boxer shorts. He comes packed in his office, complete with secretary, attache cases, squash rackets and memos. He wants to get ahead. Straight Steve belongs to the Elks and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He sits in his living room, drinking beer and watching TV. He's got a big pot belly but a tiny little dick."

All of Rosenberg's dolls are "anatomically correct," a phrase coined for the first children's dolls that include genitals. "Those dolls were all out or proportion," Rosenberg

(Continued on page 21)

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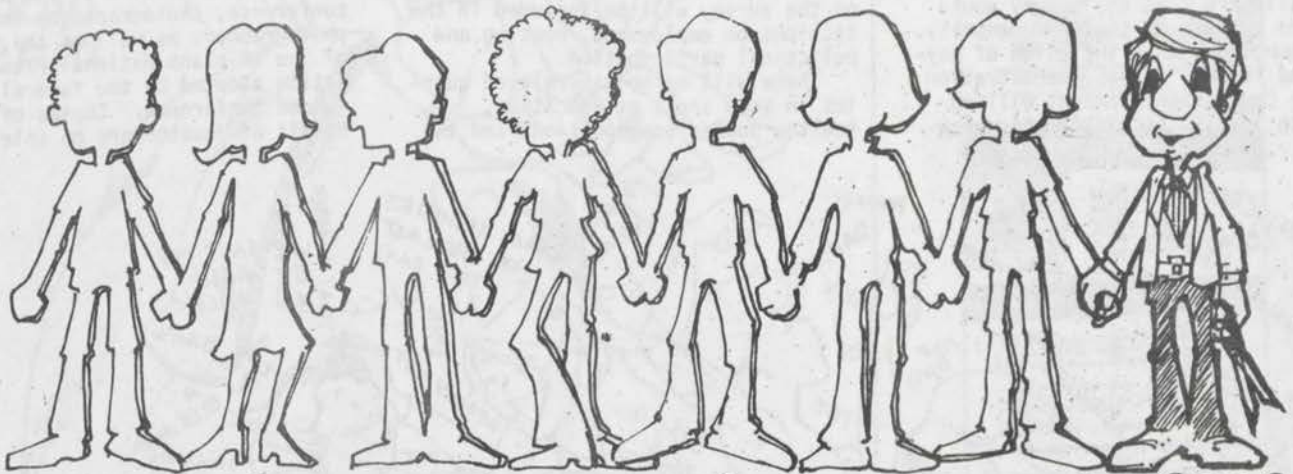
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ARIES



The campaign to BEAT BRIGGS is underway...



be a part of it!

The threat to freedom and dignity created by the Briggs Initiative is bringing together gay people and non-gay people to form a broad-based—both professional and grassroots—campaign to defeat Proposition Six.

Campaign offices have opened in Los Angeles and San Francisco under the direction of the No on 6 Committee. Grassroots organizing and fundraising have started around the state and some of the most experienced media specialists in California are already planning our television, radio, newspaper and direct mail strategies.

Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, educators, union, religious and business leaders are uniting in opposition to the initiative. In an historic vote, the Los Angeles City Council recently stated its opposition to Proposition 6 and urged "every voter to vote NO on Proposition 6 and to reaffirm their deep commitment to human liberty and the right to privacy."

Polls show that the campaign that must be won can be won. A recent statewide survey by the Los Angeles Times showed 55% of the voters are against the Briggs initiative while only 35% support it.

But between now and November 7 Briggs will have almost unlimited funds to use to deceive and frighten Californians. The Briggs' campaign will hide its promises of repression and discrimination behind rhetoric based on contrived problems and phony issues.

The Briggs initiative says, in effect, that any gay teacher, counselor, teacher's aide or administrator who publicly acknowledges his or her sexual preference can be fired. Any of these same educators, gay or straight, who acknowledges positively any aspect of the gay life style can be fired.

We must be able to show the public the facts: the initiative is a threat to the civil rights of all teachers and educational employees as well as all gay people; it is unnecessary and a tragic waste of needed tax dollars; and, it requires that the government use its massive resources to invade the privacy of its citizens, gay and non-gay.

*It won't be easy to battle millions of dollars and hundreds of lies.
And, it won't be cheap.*

We need every bit of energy, time and money you can give us. Your dollars will provide the professional skills that can best mobilize our large-scale volunteer program and produce and pay for a media presentation that will inform the people of California of the great danger to privacy and free speech for all citizens that this initiative creates.

This is not just an attack on teachers or just on gay people. It is an attack on freedom and dignity. If the attack succeeds here, it will threaten citizens all over the country. **GIVE WHAT YOU CAN. DO WHAT YOU CAN.**

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Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ \$10 \$25 \$100 More _____

(signature)

Mail to:

No on 6 Committee

54 Mint Street, San Francisco 94103

or

5106 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles 90036

BitsCOLLAGE eces

GAY ISSUES IN NEW CIVIL RIGHTS SURVEY

WASHINGTON, DC — For the first time in its history, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is conducting a survey of the national civil rights community. The survey is an attempt to identify the issues expected to be critically important during the next ten years.

Also, for the first time, the Commission has decided to include the issues involving discrimination against gay people in the survey material and has included leaders of the national gay community among those to be questioned.

Last year, the National Gay Task Force received a pledge from the five Commissioners that the survey would include leaders in the gay community. NGTF announced that inclusion of gay-related issues "offers demonstration of the Commission's recent willingness to involve itself in this area



— a willingness previously demonstrated by its decision to include anti-gay discrimination in its investigation of civil rights in the administration of justice area."

Survey questions will not be limited to that single area of administration, and gay-related questions on the survey will be included in the sections on employment, housing and political participation.

There will be no gay-related queries in such areas as education, health, public accommodations and the

media, but, according to NGTF, space was provided for mention of additional topics under each category.

— Gay Community News

SPIRIT OF HOUSTON

WASHINGTON D.C. — The National Advisory Committee for Women has recently published a 308 page, official report of "how far behind American Women are in their goal of equality." The report, entitled The Spirit of Houston, was submitted to President Carter and Congress with a plea for "prompt and positive action." The document includes a chronology of American women's history, narrative descriptions by Author Caroline Bird of the Houston conference, photographs by women photographers as well as the text of the 26-plank National Plan of Action adopted by the federally-funded conference. Copies of The Spirit of Houston are on sale by



— Gay Community News

NO SUPER-MACHO COPS

BALTIMORE — Police cadets and police officers in Howard County are being instructed to be wary of what a Police Dept. administrator calls the super-macho "Wyatt Earp-John Wayne syndrome." The syndrome is typified, says county police administrator Sheldon F. Greenberg, by the "person who comes into the police force and makes a show about toting a gun and throwing his weight around. He acts super-macho."

The Wyatt Earp-John Wayne syndrome "poses an image problem for the de-

partment. It throws fear into the public and causes community relations problems," Greenberg said.

— Gay Community News

BERKELEY PASSES ORDINANCE

BERKELEY, CA — An ordinance forbidding discrimination against homosexuals — believed to be the strongest measure of its kind — has been passed by the council in this university city.

The ordinance, passed Tuesday, September 19, forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in employment, credit, schools, education, city services and facilities, and housing, except for two-unit, owner-occupied dwellings. Matt Coles, 27, the author of a similar ordinance passed by San Francisco, called the Berkeley ordinance, which still re-

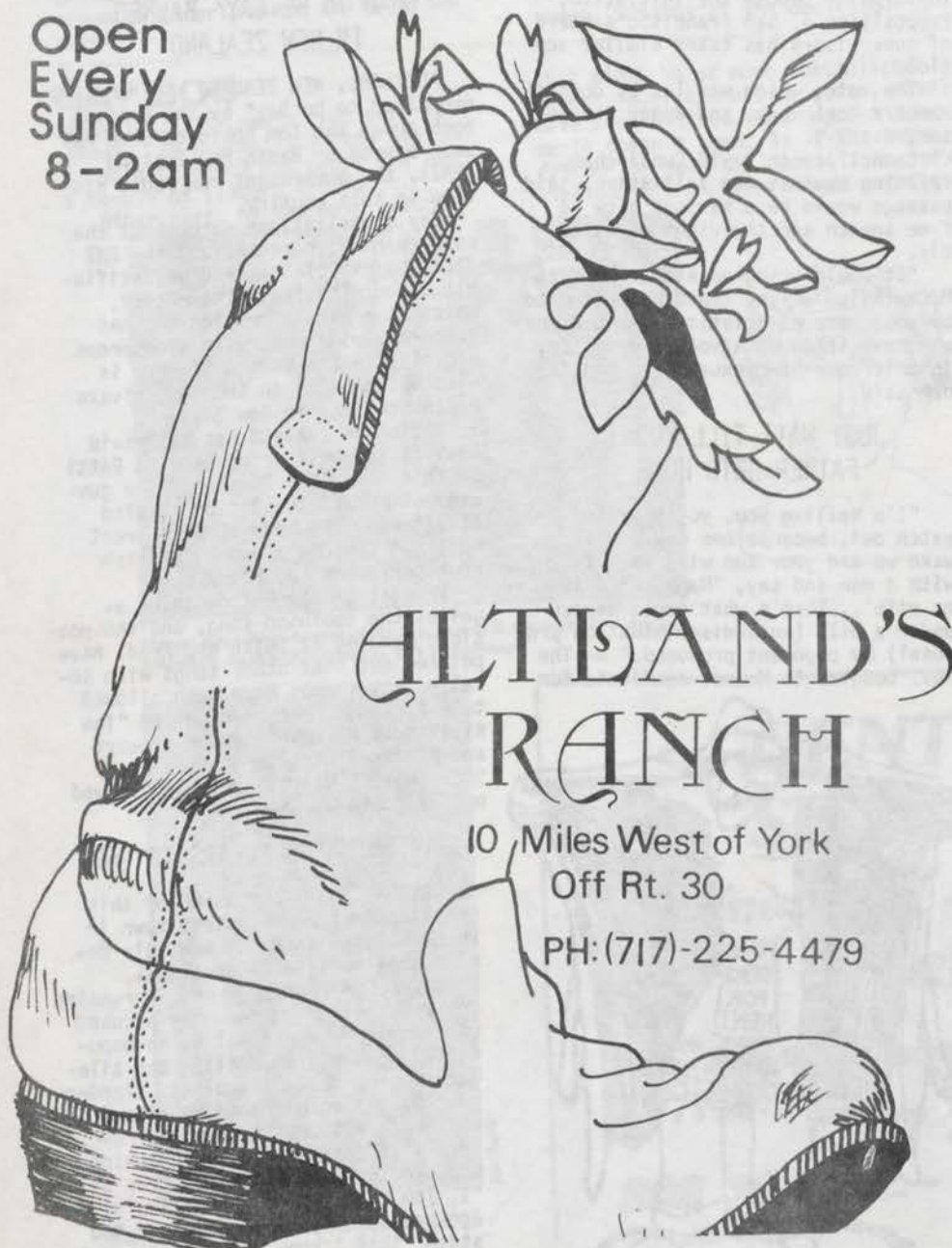
quires a second reading, "the strongest in the country."

GAY GROUP MARCHES FOR FIRST TIME IN MEXICO

MEXICO CITY — For the first time in Mexican history, a gay organization marched as a contingent in a mass demonstration.

According to Gay Community News (Boston), The Frente Homosexual de Accion Revolucionaria (FHAR), the Homosexual Front for Revolutionary Action, marched recently in Mexico City. The demonstration was called by the Committee to Defend Political Prisoners, and university workers union, the Communist Party and the Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores (PRT, Revolutionary Workers Party). The reason for the march ac-

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City Council in the District of Columbia, quoted in the Washington Post.



'GLAD TO BE GAY' BANNED IN NEW ZEALAND

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND — The record "Glad to be Gay" by the British rock group the Tom Robinson Band has been banned by Radio New Zealand (RNZ), the government-run radio station in this country.

Gay organizations throughout the country have characterized the RNZ decision as "blatant and unjustifiable discrimination." The record, which is a hit in Britain and has been receiving generally widespread air-play in the United States, is also being heard on the few private radio stations in New Zealand.

Radio New Zealand has also said that it is considering banning Patti Smith's new album "Easter." The government-run radio station is also considering the banning of "Street Hassle," the new album by British rock performer Lou Reed.

Critics of the RNZ decision against the Robinson song, and the possible banning of Smith and Reed, have pointed out that other songs with so-called gay themes have been allowed to air on RNZ. A record called "The Killing of Georgie" by Rod Stewart and Morris Albert song, "You're My Sweet Loving Man," have been allowed on the radio station.

GAYTON MAYOR SWEARS TO GOD!

GAYTON, PA — The mayor of this small, almost non-existent town in rural Pennsylvania has heatedly denied that he is a heterosexual.

Mayor Tom Fagotree, who is running for re-election was recently accused of being a heterosexual by an opponent. Fagotree, who called the allegation "the most ridiculous, slanderous thing I've heard in my life," went before a news conference recently to deny the charge. Placing his hand on the Bible, Fagotree said, "I, Tom Fagotree, being of lawful age and upon my oath, do swear and state that I know what a heterosexual is."

theology, and sexual preference. Commonwoman is also an exploration and celebration of our similarities."

The collective will consider for publication all articles submitted by women. They wish to provide space for dialogue and especially encourage letters and articles in response to published articles.

— Gay Community News

L.A. CITY COUNCIL OPPOSES BRIGGS

LOS ANGELES, CA — The Los Angeles City Council voted to oppose the Briggs Initiative, which asks voters on the November ballot to ban "avowed homosexuals" and their open supporters from teaching in public schools.

The council is the first government agency in Southern California to formally oppose the initiative, Proposition 6. San Francisco's board of supervisors has taken similar action.

The vote, which was led by council members Joel Wachs and Peggy Stevenson, was 9-3.

Councilperson David Cunningham, speaking against the initiative, said passage would be a serious blow to free speech and the right of assembly.

"It would bring us almost back to McCarthyism — you could be condemned by your mere association with persons who have taken an advocacy position, in this case homosexuality," Cunningham said.

JUST WAIT TILL YOUR FATHER GETS HOME

"I'm telling you, you'd better watch out, because one day you'll wake up and your son will walk in with a man and say, "Mama, this is my wife"...That's what could happen under a bill (anti-discrimination proposal) my opponent proposed." — The Rev. Douglas E. Moore, candidate for



ording to the organization was "against police repression" and for a general amnesty.

Even though the demonstration involved 30,000 people, media coverage of the event was light and the FHAR contingent was only briefly mentioned in one daily newspaper.

Cristina Rivas, a member of PRT, said the public response "was impressive. People would clap — they couldn't believe it."

Rivas said that a lesbian group has formed within the last few months and it is involved with the National Coalition of Feminist Women.



In 1915, Alice Duer Miller, an American author, wrote the following entitled "Why We Oppose Votes for Men".

1. Because man's place is in the army.
2. Because no really manly man wants to settle any question other than by fighting about it.
3. Because if men should adopt peaceable methods, women will no longer look up to them.
4. Because men will lose their charm if they step out of their natural sphere and interest themselves in other matters than feats of arms, uniforms and drums.
5. Because men are too emotional to vote. Their conduct at baseball games and political conventions show this, while their innate tendency to appeal to force renders them particularly unfit for the task of government.

COMMONWOMAN PUBLISHING

BURLINGTON, VT — Commonwoman, "a Vermont publication of news, culture and dialogue from a woman's perspective," has just recently begun publication. Subscriptions are \$3.00/6 issues, for individuals; \$10.00/6 issues, for institutions; free to women prisoners. Write, Commonwoman, Inc., Box 242, Winooski, VT. 05404 or call (802) 655-1657.

The Commonwoman Collective "grew out of a shared vision and a need to have a publication by and for women in Vermont. We are a collective of 12 feminists with diverse lifestyles and backgrounds. We envision Commonwoman as a forum for feminists separated by class, politics, economics,

"I further swear that I am not a heterosexual and that I have never been a heterosexual. And I further swear that I have never engaged in any heterosexual activities nor do I condone such conduct."

The 200 members in the audience broke into applause after Fagotree's statement. Fagotree is expected to win the election by a landslide vote.

— Gayton Daily Times

WOMEN MARCH IN BOSTON

BOSTON — More than 2,000 women marched through the streets of Boston recently to protest violence against women and to "reclaim the night." Women came from all over New England including Western Massachusetts, the Merrimack Valley, Rhode Island and the Boston Metropolitan area. Three small buses of elderly women followed the march.



Betty Smith

Some two thousand women marched through Boston to "take back the night."

The march and rally was organized by the Coalition to Take Back the Night, made up of groups working around the issue of violence against women. Demands of the coalition in-

cluded women-run community shelters for women, community action against violence, medicaid funding for abortions, access to self-defense classes, decriminalization of prostitution,

GAY BOB

grumbles. "The men's arms were too short." He demonstrates how Gay Bob is able to reach his penis and loop a couple of fingers around it. Other parts of the male anatomy

that might be of more specialized interest (e.g. asshole, nipples, navel) have been omitted, and Gay Bob's mouth doesn't open; so if you buy a friend for your doll they'll be very limited in what they can do together.



Harvey Rosenberg, creator of the Gay Bob doll, sits in front of another brainchild, Balls—"The candy to give you courage."



BOB VS. GAY BOB

TORONTO — A local politician is outraged at the product called Gay Bob. Robert Yuill, of the borough of North York, said he will file a suit against the manufacturers of the doll. Protesting the sale of the product for personal reasons, Yuill appealed to all Canadians with the same first name to give him support.

"The reason I am irritated by this disgusting toy is that my son read about it in the paper and fell off his chair laughing before he showed it to me."

"Since that time I, and I expect other Bobs, have been the butt of many homosexual jibes," he said. Yuill failed to comment on how he felt toward those with the name "Barbie" or "Ken" and also failed to say whether his son's name is also Bob. Maybe that is why his son was laughing?



Ken Rabb

Gay Bob waves "bye-bye"!

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— Gay Community News

A.D.A. FOR GAY RIGHTS

WASHINGTON, DC — Americans for Democratic Action, the liberal lobbying and watchdog organization announced that it has adopted a favorable position on the issue of gay rights.

ADA stated that sexual orientation and "voluntary" sexual activity between consenting adults "are not the proper subjects for government intervention." The organization also stated that all anti-discrimination laws should "explicitly include prohibition of discrimination against gay people who should have an unobstructed opportunity to achieve their full potential as human beings and to have total equality under the law."

The ADA said that sexual orientation must cease to be a criterion for employment and that it must cease to be a criterion for exclusion from immigration or the granting of visas to the United States.

The ADA has pledged to "support in as many ways possible on the national, state or chapter level, the fight against the repeal of gay oriented civil rights laws."



With fifteen Unusual Decorations
by CYRIL SAXON

'SEXUAL OUTLAW' SEIZED

LONDON — Police here have raided a bookshop of Q International Ltd., publishers of Q International magazine, and seized a number of books



and publications including The Sexual Outlaw by John Rechy. The raid was conducted under the Obscene Publications Act.

It was the third raid on the bookstore this year. No charges have been brought as a result of previous raids.

WOMEN IN MASS. JAYCEES

NEWTON, MA — The Massachusetts Jaycees has voted to take its national organization's officials to court in a dispute over women members according to Gay Community News. GNC said that Jaycees groups in Massachusetts have allowed women in as members of local chapters for the past three years.

In June the Jaycess national convention voted to terminate the pilot program which allowed the women members. In response to the national convention vote, nearly all of the 260 delegates to the Massachusetts meeting supported the court action against that decision.

The suit against the national officers would allow the state organization to work within national bylaws. Delegates from chapters with women members made plans to form an alliance to wage the fight to retain open membership in Massachusetts. The new alliance planned a meeting for late September at the Jaycee headquarters in Marlboro.

The word "jock" was originally a vulgar slang term for penis. From this came the equally vulgar "jock strap" for athletic supporter. About the time that "jock strap" came to mean the athlete who wore one, the term was becoming more respectable. Usage shortened the term back to jock for both supporter and wearer—and its original meaning is fast becoming unknown.

L.A. N.O.W. FOR HEARST PARDON

LOS ANGELES — The local chapter of the National Organization for Women will ask President Carter to pardon Patricia Hearst, who is serving a 7 year term at the Pleasanton, California federal correction facility, for bank robbery.

Gloria Allred, spokesperson for the N.O.W. Los Angeles chapter, said, "Justice would be better served if Patricia Hearst's sentence could be reconsidered and shortened in light of the fact that she was a kidnap victim with no previous record and has been punished enough."

William and Emily Harris have recently plead guilty to the abduction of Hearst, the heir to the Hearst newspaper empire.



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TUESDAY

8:00 pm, Gays at Westchester weekly meeting, Sykes College Union Bldg., Westchester State College, Westchester.

WEDNESDAY

7:30 pm, Midweek communion celebration. Metropolitan Community Church/State College. Eisenhower Chapel, University Park. Membership class follows service on the last Wednesday of each month.

THURSDAY

8 pm, Gay and Bisexual Men's Support group meeting. 219 Willard, University Park. As term goes on, will meet at men's homes. Call Gayline (814) 863-0588 for more information.

SUNDAY

7:30 pm, worship service followed

by socail hour. MCC/StateCollege, Eisenhower Chapel. (814) 238-0261.

OCTOBER**4 Wednesday**

7:30 pm, Homophiles of Williamsport (HOW) monthly business meeting. 659 Beeber St., Williamsport.

5 Thursday

7:00 pm, NOW, Williamsport Chapter meeting. Court & Willow Cafe.

12 Thursday

9-12 pm, Coffeehouse sponsored by Homophiles of Penn State (HOPS) & MCC/State College. 445 Foster Ave., State College.

26 Thursday

9-12 pm, Coffeehouse. (Same as above.)

28 Saturday

Homophiles of Williamsport (HOW) Anniversary Evening. Halloween theme

for party. Further information unavailable. For more info write HOW, PO Box 1072, Williamsport, PA 17701.

4:00-5:30 pm, Dignity/Central PA sponsored Workshop. Topic to be announced. Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Sts., Harrisburg.

5:30 pm, Potluck Supper by Dignity.

7:00 pm, Mass for the Gay Community. (For further information on the above events held by Dignity/Central PA write Dignity, PO Box 297, Federal Square Station, HSBG., PA. 17101

CLASSIFIEDS

33-year-old married, WM, 6'1", 165 lbs., br eyes, br curly hair, wishes to meet, for pos. relationship, someone (25-38) who is also married or who is not, who can handle my situation. Discretion assured; live in York area; pictures reciprocated; interested in the arts, plants, and antiques, long walks, and people. Write Gay Era, Dept. K.

Top NYC model/masseur/escort/24, travels. photosets - \$12. sample - \$5. Also gay mags, books, male order. catalogue - \$1 SASE. Marc Samberg, 247 E. 81st St., #4-C, New York, NY 10028 or call (212) 288-4970.

49-year-old WM, 160 lbs., 5'10", wh. hair, blue eyes, inter in music, politics, movies, plays, books, chess, and physical fitness. Would like to meet men who enjoy the arts and are articulate, politically liberal, and in good physical shape but not muscle bound. Write Wesley Thomas, 1115 River House, Harrisburg, PA 17110 or call (717) 232-5487.

Can use young men for 1-2 days per week for indoor cleaning and some outdoor work such as painting, etc. Box A, Leola, PA 17540 or (717) 656-7220.

Would like to meet honest gay/bi male for poss. relationship. Am very affectionate and fem, but can act or be butch for right person. Write Gay Era, Dept. G.

WANTED! Level headed, responsible people to help re-establish gay switchboard in Lancaster County. Call 717-426-9811 or 426-2460.

41-year-old, 5'9", 155#, into outdoors, biking, music, organic gardening-farming, art, nature. Would like to meet other gay men in North Central PA. Write Jack Walters, Box 75, RD#1, New Albany, PA 18833 or (717) 363-2585 or (212) 865-7263.

WANTED! We are in desperate need of a News Editor. Seems our present one is heading West. Help shape the future. Journalistic experience most helpful. Call Dave (717) 426-9811 for interview.

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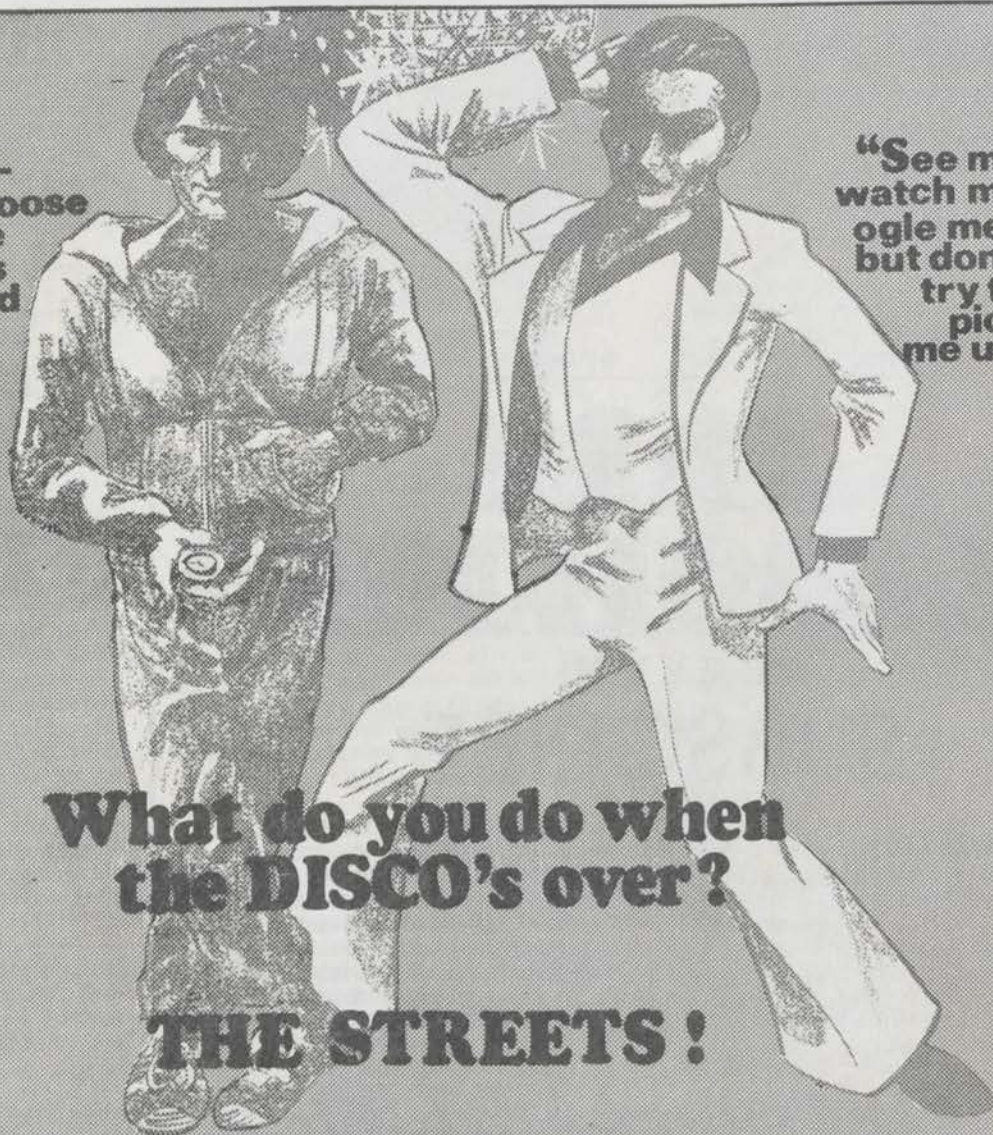
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