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**Title:** *Gay Era* (Lancaster, PA)

**Date:** July 1976

**Location:** LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection Periodicals Collection

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# GAY ERA

vol. 2 no.5 / JULY 1976

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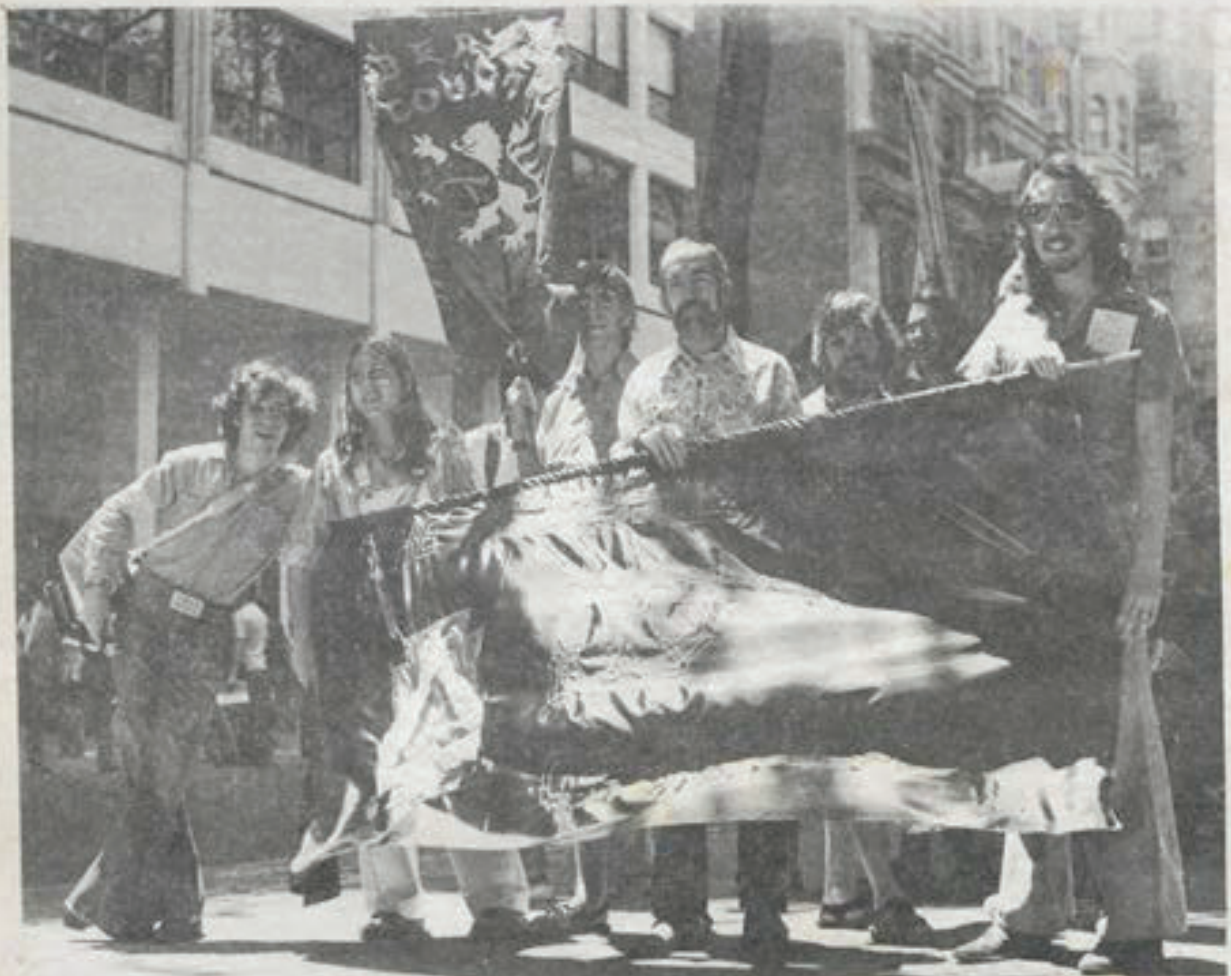
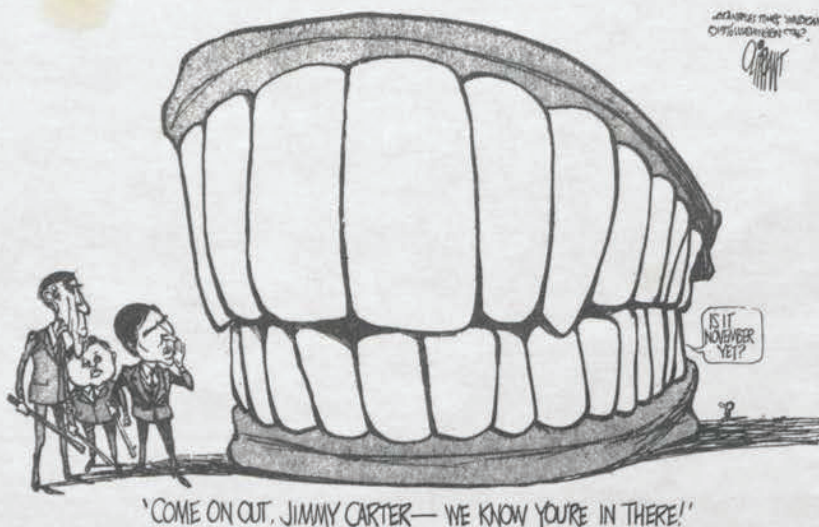


photo BARI WEAVER



# in the NEWS



## POLITICAL GAYMES

### CARTER & DEMOS - I ACTIVISTS - O

SAN FRANCISCO - The following is the unedited, complete statement on gay rights made by Jimmy Carter at a May 21, 1976, press conference at the Hilton Hotel. The first question (Do you believe that homosexuals are immoral or sinners based on biblical teachings; and as President, will you sign Congresswoman Bella Abzug's bill which would add sexual preference to the Civil Rights Act of 1964?) was asked by San Francisco newspaper reporter George Mendenhall. Included are additional comments made by Carter in answer to other questions on the subject:

Jimmy Carter: "Well, I believe in the Bible teachings. The Bible teaches against homosexuality; the Bible teaches against fornication; the Bible teaches against adultery. And I do believe in the teachings of the Bible.

"We have laws, you know, which our state governments very seldom enforce. I think it's general practice in this country to concentrate primarily on the 'victim' crimes, not on the victimless crimes.

"The thing that I have meant and that I still maintain is that I don't think that the government at the local, state or federal level should single out homosexuals for special abuse or special harassment, or special prosecution under existing laws. The laws are reserved to the states, as you know, under the Constitution as has been recently interpreted by the federal courts. So although I do not look upon those as many other things as sinful, including lying, or a lack of showing respect to your own mother and father,

abuse of the Lord's Day; no, I don't think it's right to single out homosexuals for abuse.

"Matters that are criminal are the ones that are determined by law, as passed by Congress, the President, legislatures and Governors to be in violation, and in a state where this is a crime, it is criminal, yes.

"I will certainly sign it (the Bella Abzug bill), because I don't think it's right to single out homosexuals for special abuse or special harassment. I certainly would sign it.

"I don't consider myself one iota better than anyone else because I happen to be a Christian, and I have never done anything other than keep strictly separated my political life from my religious life. I happen to be a Baptist and one of the basic tenets of the Baptist Church is the separation of Church and State. Also we believe in my denomination that one's religious beliefs are something between that person and God, directly. We don't allow our church leaders to which we belong to have any authority over our religious life. Each Baptist church is autonomous. And so is the separation of Church and State is very vivid for me."

- Gay Community News



WASHINGTON, DC - In the name of party unity, the Democratic Party Platform Committee defeated the attempt to include gay rights in its platform for the Presidential election. The attempt was defeated on the floor of the committee by a vote of 57-27.

The meeting was dominated by supporters of Jimmy Carter, the former Georgia governor. In addition to defeating a gay rights stance, the Platform compromised on a wide variety of potentially controversial issues such as busing, abortion, amnesty for Vietnam War deserters, welfare reform and national health insurance.

Jean O'Leary, an open lesbian who is a delegate to the convention and who led the fight for the gay rights plank, told Gay Community News (Boston) that "We have been cut out, disenfranchised from the Democratic Party." She put the blame for the defeat of the plank squarely on the shoulders of the Carter organization. "Everybody was whipped into line. A lot of people wanted to vote for the plank. The Carter people said 'Vote your conscience,' but everybody knew what was going on."

There is some question at this point as to the role that Carter played in the defeat of the gay rights plank. In recent public statements Carter has been supportive of gay rights and has promised to sign the National Gay Rights bill if it reaches his desk, assuming that he is nominated and elected. Jean O'Leary also told Gay Community News that two women, prominent in New York Democratic politics went and talked to Carter to persuade him not to include the gay plank in the general watering-down and compromise that was going on in the Platform Committee. Carter reportedly told the two that he agreed with them and that he would call up and speak to the manager of the Carter forces on the Platform Committee, Stuart Eizenstadt.

At the Carter Issues Headquarters in Atlanta, Chip Cavett, a Carter aide, defended the decision to eliminate any reference to gay civil rights in the Democratic platform. It's my impression that it was felt that a gay rights plank would be a real source of controversy. We wanted to avoid floor fights. We wanted to come out of the platform and the convention as a stronger party. It definitely wasn't a question of slighting gay people," Cavett said.

## LESBIAN WINS CHILD

PORTLAND MAINE - Carol Whitehead was awarded custody of her two children in a court battle with her former husband, Danny F. Black, who had challenged her custody of the children because she is a lesbian.

Maine Superior Court Justice Harry P. Glassman awarded her unconditional custody of the two children and noted that the over-riding concern of his decision was "the best interests and welfare of the children."

Considering that homosexuality is not



# in THE NEWS

a crime in Maine, Justice Glassman wrote in a 13-page decision, dated June 14, "A court charged with the responsibility of acting in the best interests of a minor child must inquire into the psychological, social and moral well-being of that child as well as its physical well-being. To this end the sexual activity of the mother or father becomes a relevant consideration, not for the purpose of censoring or criticizing the manner in which the parent lives, but for the purpose of determining the impact of the parent's lifestyle upon the minor child. Thus the inquiry would be the same whether the parent is living in an adulterous heterosexual relationship or a homosexual relationship: What is the effect on the child exposed to this rela-

tionship?"

Hi's decision placed heavy weight on the testimony of Dr. Adair Heath, director of the Division of Child Psychiatry at the Maine Medical Center. Heath testified that the "home life appears stable and activities are as in any heterosexual home."

Kim Matthews, a partner in Maine's only all-women law firm in Portland, was Whitehead's lawyer for the case. Matthews feels that the decision will probably carry weight with other state judges considering similar cases.

Copies of the decision may be obtained for \$2.00 from the Maine Gay Task Force, Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112.

## Police Harass Women

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ - New Brunswick police stopped more than ten women leaving an educational meeting about Susan Saxe, Grand Juries, Senate Bill #1, and Assata Shakur on June 19 at the Friends Meeting House. By harassing the women and demanding identification the police gave visible evidence of the importance they attach to women becoming informed about subjects whose common theme is Government oppression.

## PENNA. GAY PRIDE WEEK LEGISLATORS FREAK OUT

HARRISBURG, PA - On Wednesday, June 9, Governor Milton Shapp declared June 12-19 "Gay Pride Week". It was the first time in history that a governor of a state declared such a week.

The Governor's statement reads:

"One of the least understood minority groups in this state is that group of men and women who comprise the gay liberation movement.

"Since emerging from anonymity, gay men and women have devoted much time and effort in educating the general public. Gay men and women seek equal rights in employment, in housing, and in the law.

"During the week of June 12-19, 1976, they will be celebrating Gay Pride Week in over 100 American cities.

"Gay men and women are determined to develop community integrity, to stand up for their rights, and to encourage their community to take its rightful place in Society, and joining with others in seeking an end to prejudice, persecution and discrimination.

"As Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I hereby express my support for equal rights for all minority groups and for all those who seek social justice, and dedicate GAY PRIDE WEEK to those worthy goals."

Shapp's declaration was met with the unapprovable voice of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives which passed a resolution on June 21 stating that it "does not condone" the Governor's proclamation.

"The members of the House do not agree that citizens should be proud of committing acts that are in direct conflict with the morals of the community at large and in fact are prohibited by criminal laws... The House of Representatives declares that it has not been a party to the Governor's proclamation declaring June 12-19 as Gay Pride Week, that it was not consulted by the Governor on the matter, that it does not condone the Governor's action, that it condemns the proclamation as being contrary to the morality and laws of the Commonwealth".

Rep. Eshleman of Lancaster County in an interview with the Lancaster New Era called the proclamation "ridiculous" and stated that the Governor's action "took the cake".

The Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus

P. O. Box 182  
Northumberland, Pennsylvania 17857

July 22, 1976

To Members of the House of Representatives:

We, the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus, as the united representatives of nearly one million rural gay people throughout the State, sincerely regret the action of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on June 15 in passing a resolution rejecting Governor Shapp's proclamation of Gay Pride Week. Never, in the annals of Pennsylvania history, has a people in peaceful pursuit of civil rights been so put down.


The Founder of this State began the great and proud tradition of tolerance and respect for differences in others. Pennsylvania has starred in the role of alleviating the oppression of peoples within its borders. From Penn's treaty with the Indians, to the Underground Railway, to the magnificent melding of immigrant workers and farmers whose daughters and sons we are proud to be, to the women, poor, and aged of today, those who felt oppression in this State have found support in its political leaders - until now.

We, as gay people, met with you, our legislators, on March 23rd of this year. Then, you were attentive and friendly. We told you that tens of thousands of gays live in terrible loneliness, afraid to share their secret homosexuality, afraid to reach for love. We told you of the thousands of gays beaten, robbed, publicly abused, and discriminated against for their sexuality. We told you that the stigma of criminality applied to homosexuality threatens to shatter the lives of 1.2 million gay Pennsylvanians. We told you that in learning to accept ourselves, that in learning how to love one another, that in striving to stand tall against a great weight of oppression, we have found pride and happiness.

You were attentive on March 23rd, but, we now know, you did not listen.

We of the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus have vowed to give our message to our legislators again- and again- and again. We have the pride, the strength, and the love to persevere.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph W. Burns  
Secretary of the Legislative  
Committee

By direction of the Caucus, July 11, 1976.

cc: Members of the Senate  
Governor Milton J. Shapp



As the women walked out of the building, some of them saw a middle-aged man with short light hair driving a car with New Jersey plates speak into a walkie-talkie. As soon as he saw that the people he was observing had noticed him, he put his walkie-talkie out of sight on the seat of his car and drove off, turning the corner at an unsafe speed. Simultaneously, at least five New Brunswick police cars were patrolling the otherwise empty street on this hot June Saturday afternoon.

As most women drove away, the police followed and stopped each car demanding identification from car occupants.

When four of the women went into an air-conditioned bar to cool off by drinking beers, two plainclothesmen sat in the next booth. Two hours later when the women returned to pick up a car at the site of the Meeting House, a New Brunswick police car was slowing patrolling the street.

After the two cars drove off in their respective directions, the police stopped each one. One car went three blocks and three turns with two traffic lights, and pulled up into a housing project so that the two women could look for something they needed in the car. After they pulled up in the driveway, the police played their siren and flashed their red lights. The two women in the car realized that the police were signaling them to stop.

Two policemen approached the car, each standing at a door. As one policeman demanded the driver's identification, registration, and insurance, the other officer, hands on knees, leaned over to look into the car. After some delay, the police returned the identification saying that they had stopped them for going through a non-existent stop sign.

"Have you been drinking, Miss?" the policeman asked the driver. The driver said she had had a beer. The other officer asked, "Does your friend have a driver's license? We're going to have to ask her to drive the car." After demanding two forms of identification from her which required more delay, the police allowed the two women to drive off.

At the same time, a New Jersey State Trooper car and the plainclothesmen had followed their companion's car. When they stopped the women, the two plainclothesmen got out. One of the women recognized one of the men from the bar. "Weren't you just in the bar where we were in?" The man responded, "We're just doing our job." They asked these women for identification. In response to one of the women's question about why they were being stopped, the police said, "There was a robbery fifteen minutes ago and the type of van you're driving was described as the getaway car." The woman said, "Come on, this? A getaway car? We were just in the bar where you were for the last two hours." The police allowed the women to go.

by Marty Kearns and Janet Cooper

## DYKES for Am. Revolution

On July 4th about 19 women from Philadelphia, New York, New Jersey, Boston, Washington, D. C., and Chicago joined with DYKETACTICS in forming a new organization called the "Dykes for an American Revolution" (DAR). They performed three actions against the Church cont. on page 11

# erotic forum

227 N. PRINCE ST  
DOWNTOWN LANCASTER

Take a trip through our erotic wonderland and enjoy many items appealing not only to the Gay male but also the Gay female.

Journey through the magic of our erotic clothing and novelties, essential oils, leather toys, stimulating novels, exciting movies and great magazines.

We are a "Pandora's Box" of erotic playthings and pleasures. Make your journey an intimate trip - bring your lover, bring a friend. You will find our atmosphere truly sexciting.

Also, Ye Olde Bookshop & Headshop will be joining our complex within the next two months ... stay in touch.



MON - FRI, 10 - 10 SAT, 10 - 6

393-9772



# DAKE COOPER

By JANET COOPER

An address to the student personnel people of the Pennsylvania State College System about the problems of gays under their supervision.

At the Homophiles of Pennsylvania State University we received a letter from a 13-year-old boy who lives in a small Pennsylvania town typical of the kind of environment from which a number of state college students come:

I heard about your organization. I would like to join. But as the case is, I don't know where State College is. Could you send me some pamphlets or flyers about the gay movement and there (sic) members? My sexual drives are so great that I am often bored with nobody to love. I'm probably committing a sin in God's eyes, but I'm gay, and that's it. There is nothing I can do. Because I'm a homosexual doesn't mean I'm insane. I don't consider myself that. So that's why I need your help. I don't want my parents to know about this. Thank you. P.S. Write back.

This letter portrays all too vividly the impertinent intrusion and oppression the church, psychiatrists, parents and self hate have had in creating fields of perception by which too many people live out their lives. Most gays who attend our state colleges and who teach on the faculties share these same fears.

Homophobia is the destructive disease of being so afraid of homosexuality in oneself that one responds in a hostile and noisy way ostracizing someone one perceives could be homosexual. When I lived in college dormitories, being under the supervision of student personnel people was my first tangible encounter with homophobia.

Perhaps some people reading this article will remember such actions taken against homosexuals on their campuses as what happened to me. When I lived in a dormitory, housemothers would use their pass keys to enter my room in the middle of the night to make sure there was no one in my woman's dormitory single with me. Security would report with whom I walked around campus frequently and I would be called into the dean's office to account for it. Financial aid officers did not seem to know how to cut red tape for me as readily as they would help the more conventionally attractive women in my class. School counselors would advise my friends not to associate with me because I was different. In library school where I was not even living under student personnel supervision, the dean would not let me graduate until I produced a boyfriend. I used to define the function of student personnel people as that of minding everyone else's business but their own. I myself can attribute my radicalization as a gay activist to those very repressive measures that student personnel people used against me.

Not every gay person who experienced that kind of harassment became a gay activist. Not far from here lives a 60-year-old man whose male lover of 30 years recently died. There is not one picture in his photograph album of his lover by himself nor is there even one picture of them standing together. The pictures in which they both appear are

group pictures. The only special place in his photograph album that his lover has is on the last page where there are pictures of his grave. Hopefully as the result of student rights struggles, gay liberation, and women's liberation, the next generation of homosexuals will not have to grow old as our friends, relatives, and neighbors did or the closeted gays reading this article are doing.

The fact that no student personnel professional in the Pennsylvania State College system who happened to be homosexual would consider displaying photographs of their lovers as their heterosexual colleagues assume the right blatantly to position photographs of their spouses on their desks, is one such example of the cultural ways we who are homosexual deny our own needs and feelings. How ironic that in a profession as oriented to being understanding, sensitive and supportive of peoples' lives as the profession of student personnel assumes it is that we should not know whom our own homosexual friends, relatives, and colleagues are. How tragic that for too long this profession did not understand and the closet homosexuals in it did not support how natural and joyous the experience of loving someone of the same sex is. How pathetic it is that too many homosexual professionals have had such strong desires for cultural acceptance, such needs for



peer approval, and such fear of losing their paychecks and titles that they have not supported their own gay rights no less the basic civil rights of other gays. We will never know how grievously people we have known have lived simply because their straight colleagues, friends, and relatives had not understood that being homosexual is as desirable a lifestyle for people anywhere as heterosexuality is.

Within the past month, people in the hierarchy of student personnel at Pennsylvania State University fired a resident advisor for being gay. For us to reflect on how many closet homosexuals in the student personnel hierarchy participated in this decision is sad indeed. In contrast, it is inspiring to remember the Joe Acanfora court test case that took place on this same campus only a few years ago. Joe Acanfora was a student teacher who had been a plaintiff in the court test case of the right of a student gay group to exist on campus and to enjoy access to university facilities the way religious groups, sororities, fraternities, and the Young Republican Clubs have always assumed such right.

The Dean of Education had tried to remove Joe from his student teaching position and only a court injunction enabled Joe to finish his term. The Deans of Education representing the erotic minority of voyeurs demanded that Joe answer a number of questions about himself to satisfy themselves that Joe had good moral character. The questions meant to establish Joe's good moral character included: "Do you look for other males with which (sic) to have sex?" "What homosexual acts do you prefer to engage in or are you willing to engage in?" "Would you avoid such places as 'gay' bars, 'gay' beaches, etc.?" (I understand that Dean is now working for a college in Alabama.)

Because the Pennsylvania Department of Education did certify Joe Acanfora, we do have legal precedents in this state. We have other examples of state college personnel who have supported gay rights in other ways. I am sure we all look forward to the time when students who are different will not have more of their energies going into hiding, denying what they are, shuddering as they walk across their campuses than applying themselves to their academic work.

As we all know, when we train for a profession and as we fulfill our function in the subsequent jobs we hold in that profession, we cannot help but apply and give context to the values, priorities, and ethics we support from our own personal background and experience. The very nature of student personnel work consisting as it does of taking care of petty details, meeting crises, and planning long-range goals means that in such a rushed and hurried work environment, student personnel have to make decisions about what or who demands their attention. In other words student personnel can choose which constituencies they will protect, to which constituencies they will be attentive, and which constituencies they will ignore or blame in any situation. Before gay liberation, as in the examples I gave from my own life, student personnel would choose to see us as trouble, bad news, undesirable, and throw us out of dormitories with remarks on our records looking so objective, truthful, and helpful that many of us could not even obtain B.A.'s.

In 1976, the year of the Bicentennial, which celebrates our country's freedom from colonialism and oppression, we re-evaluate what our patriotic inheritance means in the phrase, "Let liberty be proclaimed throughout all the land." Each generation has to re-evaluate who oppresses whom, who colonizes whom, which constituencies do not have liberty.

This year some members of student personnel at Westchester State College analyzed a homophobic problem in one of their dormitories differently than I have heard such a problem treated anywhere else. A male student, not unlike others where my gay sisters and brothers and I have been, had boasted about his behavior toward a lesbian couple and a gay male couple in his dormitory. "I always pick on them. I always try to bother them." Living near gays upset him very much. He said he didn't think it was right for two women to sleep together and furthermore he thought that they were sick and needed help. The emotions of distaste and revulsion in this straight male against homosexuals were so passionate that he physically attacked and ripped the shirt off one of the gay male student's backs.

The Dean supported the decision of the six straight students who represented the dormitory advisory board at Westchester State College who sat in judgment

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Bulletin Populaire/opf

## LEGISLATION a survey

HR 5452 Still Alive and Well in D. C.

by Ken Burke

The best word to describe the current situation regarding pro-gay legislation in Washington, D. C. is "limbo". HR 5452, the gay people's "Bill of Rights" is currently in the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights and, because of its volatile nature, will probably remain there until after the election. This liberal, all encompassing bill, were it to become law, would end discrimination against gay people in many fields via amending the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1968 Fair Housing Law, and the 1974 Equality of Education Law. In education it would end discrimination against teachers and students; gay students would qualify, as a discriminated minority, for special educational financial aid. It would prohibit employment agencies, state and local governments, unions, and other special interest groups (including organized religions) from discriminating. When an individual can prove discrimination in housing is based on sexual or affectional preference, a fine may be imposed upon the landlord, with the plaintiff determining the amount of that fine (up to \$500). The law would also require businesses to post notices reading "we do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or affectional preference".

This bill seems almost too good to be possible, and its chances of passing into law are not considered remote. Best of all the law would be totally binding on the states.

There was, last fall, a position change in the various departments of the executive branch of the government which ended hiring discrimination based on sexual

orientation or affectional preference, except for the Departments of State and Defense. The Dept. of Housing and Urban Development recently resolved a test case in favor of gay people, although they do not yet have a specific clause in their regulations for same. In general, things in Washington are looking good.

(Reprinted from Le-Hi-Ho newsletter)

by Jean O'Leary, National Gay Task Force Co-Executive Director, and Virginia Apuzzo, Coordinator of NGTF Communications Room, 1976 Democratic Convention.

The gay rights issue was raised twelve times during the five-day period that the Democratic Platform Committee met in Washington, DC, June 11-15. Originally we had hoped to lobby for a full gay rights plank enumerating specific issues such as gay civil rights, decriminalizing of consensual sex acts, lesbian mothers' rights, etc. Conversations with key Carter representatives, who dominated the leadership of the Platform Committee, however, indicated that the platform would be written in very general terms and that there was no intention to include a gay rights plank in any form. So we first lobbied for a single sentence resolution committing the party to "the elimination of all forms of discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference." When those efforts failed, we worked for the inclusion of the phrase "sexual preference" in the listing of groups to be guaranteed civil rights protection. What follows is an outline of our efforts to lobby for a gay rights plank despite the significant opposition from Carter forces.

Three attempts were made by Horace

Sheffield (Mich.), Yvonne Burke (Cal.) and Nick Carbone (Conn.) to introduce a resolution stating, "...the Democratic Party supports the elimination of all forms of discrimination based on sexual or affectional preference," in the Draft Sub-Committee. Two of the motions died because members felt it was not an "appropriate issue" for the platform. Governor Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts ruled the third motion out of order.

At the meeting of the whole Platform Committee for the purpose of discussion and recommendation, Bella Abzug and "Wally" Albertson both spoke in favor of including "sexual preference" in the civil and political rights section of the platform.

When the committee broke down into task forces on specific portions of the platform, we decided to pursue the strategy of including "sexual preference" in the listing of groups to be protected from discrimination. In the Human Needs Task Force, a motion introduced by Miriam Jackson (NY) was defeated by a vote of 8-7. When the motion was reintroduced by Paul Casky (Minn.) using the phrase "sexual orientation," it was ruled out of order. Midge Constanza of New York moved to overrule the chair and won. She then attempted to introduce a motion using the language of Bella Abzug's federal gay civil rights bill (HR5452) and gave moving statements in support of the motion. Her attempt was ruled out of order.

In the Task Force on Cities, Counties and States, Michael Steed introduced and spoke at length for a motion that would support decriminalization of private consensual sex acts. A Carter representative spoke strongly against the motion, calling it "a lot of claptrap," and urged that it be unanimously defeated. It was defeated 9-3.

Then the entire Platform Committee reconvened and considered each Task Force report in sequence. The private consensual sex acts motion was raised again, by Hans Schiller (Cal.). Stu Eizenstat, the chief Carter representative on issues, spoke against it and it was defeated in a voice vote. The "sexual preference" motion was also raised and seconded by fifteen people. No one spoke against the motion and so it could not be debated. It was defeated by a vote of 57-27.

Throughout this time, lobbying continued behind the scenes. On the evening of June 14, Carter himself was approached by two supporters while he was in New York. Carter promised them he would call Eizenstat and request him to include the "sexual preference" amendment. At a Carter leadership meeting attended by approximately 35 people, Eizenstat admitted that Carter had called him about the gay rights issue but that he, Eizenstat, felt that the amendment ought to remain out of the platform despite Carter's public statements in support of gay rights. As a result of a press conference called by NGTF in Washington, Eizenstat was later quoted in the New York Post as saying that Carter did call him about gay rights, but left the final decision up to him.

The only possibility left for including gay rights in the platform was through a minority report, which would allow the issue to be debated on the floor of the convention. There were two ways of submitting a minority plank. A report could have been filed by four of the fifteen members of the Draft Sub-Committee, approved by a majority in any Task Force, and then be considered as an amendment by the Platform Committee. Or an individual report could have been filed with the Platform Committee, seconded by fifteen

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# OPINION!

As gay Pennsylvanians, we are about to face the hardest up-hill battle to date: the repeal of the sodomy statutes and the introduction of HB2220, the State's gay rights Bill.

It would be easy to assume that a gay rights bill would not be passed until the basis of all anti-gay legislation--the sodomy statutes--be erased from the law books.

Within the past 8 months two extremely repressive bills have been before the Pennsylvania legislature. One was passed and subsequently vetoed by Gov. Shapp, but the other is still under consideration by the House of Representatives. If it weren't for Gov. Shapp's veto, thousands of gay women and men would be in danger of losing their jobs. We must face the fact that we will not have the same trustworthy governor forever.

We are up against decades of prejudice, hatred, and every Bible-toting crazie in the State. Our largest obstacle is the State's legislature's refusal to admit that we even exist. Gay Lobby Day provided the proof. We should by now know that our job of educating an "ignorant" general public is about at its end. Now is the time to get down to the nitty-gritty.

What is necessary now is about ten minutes of your time. A phone call, a letter, a telegram, or a visit to your legislator. The Rural Gay Caucus is preparing thousands of copies of letters to be distributed to members of gay communities across the State. The Caucus is placing its emphasis on letters with the determination to involve not only activist gays, but their closeted friends and families.

When the wheel is set in motion, it will be up to every gay person in the State who can write to pick up a pencil and do so.

We must all remember that we will not be the only ones to be paying visits, making phone calls, and sending telegrams.

The local church groups will undoubtedly be holding a "letter-writing" hour after evening Sunday service. The Gay Era suggests that it would be beneficial for our gay institutions such as bars to encourage letters to be written also.

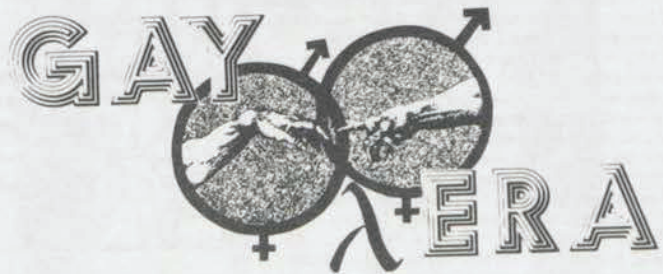
No matter what happens, it could be our last chance for a few years to establish the power of gays in this State. Even if the letters were anonymous, that would be fine. Of course, you would certainly state why!

The Gay Era will be printing the necessary information for the Rural Caucus in the next issue. Till then, think about it---is it worth ten minutes of your time?

— DL

## To the Gay Community:

Much to our dismay, letters condemning Governor Shapp for proclaiming Gay Pride Week in Pennsylvania were about 10 to every letter supporting him. Opposition from the General Assembly and bigoted "straights" could be expected. Considering that only 15 letters were received by the Governor supporting his proclamation, it could be easily said that we as gay people are not doing our fair share. Or is it that we don't give a damn! How can we expect Shapp to take the political backlash when we won't support ourselves? Please write a letter to the Governor, and when you're finished with that, write to your respective legislator.



The official positions and policies of the Gay Era are contained only in its editorials. Opinions put forth in individual articles and letters are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the feelings of the publication.

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### Format Design and Layout

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Single copy price: 50¢

Annual subscription rate: \$5.00

Mail all correspondence or subscriptions to:

GAY ERA  
332 N. Mulberry St.  
Lancaster, Penn. 17603

Deadline next issue: August 5

Next issue published: August 15



# GAY PRIDE SE

It's 2:00 a.m. in the morning and I'm sitting here at the typewriter. After just returning from the Gay Pride March in NYC, the excitement of the day has left me with a bit of insomnia. So here goes:

I have just witnessed my first March and I must say that I drove away from that city with feelings that I have never felt before. At first a little scared, filled with the air of hustle-bustle that the big cities have over small communities that I'm used to, I immediately felt the goosebumps on my arms as we heard the shouts of "gay power" coming from the front of the March as we approached the vicinity.

The solidarity was encompassing. The "gay melting-pot" was a reality. As we held the Gays United Lancaster banner marching up the Avenue of the Americas, I couldn't help but notice the approval of the thousands of spectators on the sidewalks. "Off the sidewalks and into the streets!" Pass the Hilton, pass Rockefeller Center, pass Radio Music Hall. I am not quite sure if they were in that order. We marched with other groups behind the Rural Caucus banner. The cries of "give me a G, give me an A, give me a Y, give me a P, give me an O, give me a W, give me an E, give me an R, what's that spell?, what's that spell?, when do you want it?!", echoed off the walls of the buildings.

Bari was running around snapping pictures for the next issue of the Gay Era. There were shouts of encouragement from ex-Lancastrians as they noticed the banner. I had a feeling of wanting to bring them back from their exile. Back to the county that had forced them to flee to a more tolerant surrounding.

Then we approached Central Park, the end of our sixty-block trek. The park was filled with the sounds of music, filled with voices, filled with thousands of gay people who were all there for the same reason. To be heard!

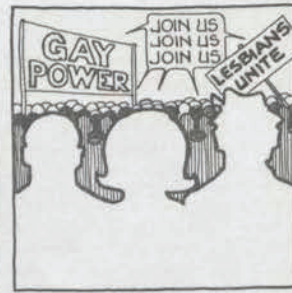
As we stood in front of the amphitheater, listening to the musicians and speakers, an announcement was made that approximately 15,000 marchers had already entered the park.

As I listened to Rita Mae Brown speak, I recognized that she still retained a bit of that southern York County accent and remembered passages from her book, RUBY FRUIT JUNGLE, where she tells of growing up gay in one of the infamous "hollows".

A telegram was read from California. "Remember, it appears the darkest just before the dawn!" Signed - Lily Tomlin.

As we were sitting on the hill in front of the amphitheater, I gazed at two 16 year old boys as they threw a frizz-bee from one to the other. I wondered if they were aware that there were thousands of gay people in the park that day. And then as the one chased the other through the grass, grabbed him and tumbled onto the ground, they embraced and kissed. Then I knew that they knew. I went into a trance. I thought of all the lonely, frightened 16 year olds back home. From that I gained more encouragement than I have from anyone or anything in my life. I thank them.

— Dave Leas



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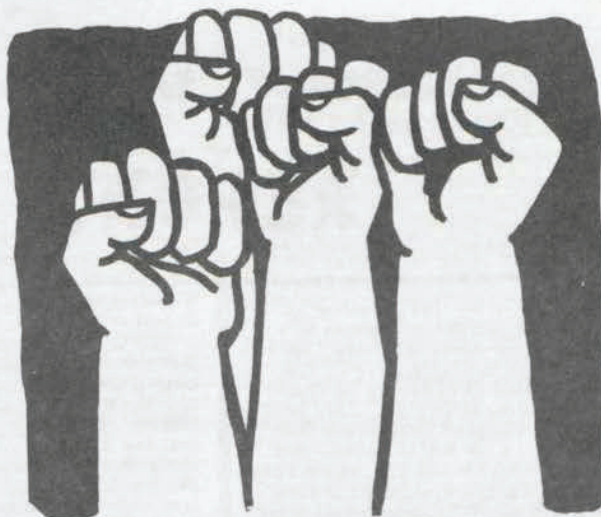




# SEVENTY-SIX

MURPHY - GOTHAM

...VE THIS BACK.  
...BUDDY? BUDDY?  
...OME TO THINK,  
...E NEVER DATED  
...VERY MUCH.



photos  
BARI WEAVER





# RURAL CAUCUS REPORT

HARRISBURG — The July meeting of the Pennsylvania Rural Gay Caucus was held at the Friends Meeting House, 6th and Herr Sts., in Harrisburg, Pa. The meeting was called to order by co-chairperson, Ruth Steck, at 1:45 pm, July 10th.

A discussion followed concerning the direction in which the Rural Caucus will go from here. Suggestions presented were that we have a Caucus-sponsored parade under the aegis of GCS Reading sometime this year; that we raise the consciousness of the general public in the area of Gay Rights; and that we use all available channels of communication including the media to do so. It was also brought out that the political clout of the Caucus and the Governor's Council could be expressed at the polls in the event of the re-election of the governor and state representatives. The Caucus members should also respond positively, by letter to the governor, demonstrating solidarity with his Proclamation of Gay Pride Week in Pennsylvania.

Bari Weaver presented a moving story of gay oppression as evidenced by those thoughtful people who yell obscenities at your home and place of business. A lengthy discussion ensued in which different members told how they personally reacted to open aggression and verbal abuse by 'straight' society.

After a short break for coffee and sandwiches, the meeting was reconvened. Joe Burns had several announcements and statements to read. The substance was that statistics show that the gay people of Pennsylvania (estimated) could create Washington, D. C. 85% gay if we all moved there. If we all moved to Philadelphia, 2 out of 3 people would be gay. The interesting statistic was that only 25¢ of the gay tax dollar would pay for all the salaries and expenses of our legislators, our courts, and the State Police force for the year. This figure was computed using 10% of the '75-76 state budget.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Caucus will be held at Shikellamy State Park in the Sunbury-Northumberland area on August 7th at 1 pm. It will be a social event consisting of an outdoor picnic. Any questions can be referred to Sam Deetz at 717-286-1662 or 286-1745.

Future dates were set for caucus meetings:

September 11th, sponsored by Le-Hi-Ho, at the Unitarian Church, Lechuaweki St., Bethlehem, Pa.

October 2nd, sponsored by Gays of Shippensburg, at the Cumberland Union Bldg., Shippensburg State College.

November 6th, sponsored by GCS Reading, the location to be announced later.

December 4th, sponsored by GUL, 3002 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster.

All meetings will begin at 1 pm unless otherwise announced.

We discussed the drafting of a letter to the Pennsylvania General Assembly expressing our concern of their non-acceptance of the Gay Pride Week Proclamation. An ad-hoc committee was formed to work on that letter, convened by Joe Burns.

(see page 3)

Committee reports followed in quick order.

The Legislative Committee reported that the sodomy repeal bill will be submitted for consideration if the Governor approves it. This should be around September or October. Bill Hollabaugh said that the files on the legislative voting patterns of our representatives are now complete and ready for inspection and insertion of further information.

Gay Legislation booklets are available from Bill at 75¢ each. They are free to legislators.

The need for a Rural Caucus mailing address was resolved by establishing PO Box 182, Northumberland, Pa. 17587. This will be effective until we can get a separate box in the Sunbury-Northumberland area. The present box belongs to Sam Deetz.

The Communications Committee will take the responsibility for letter-writing campaigns, internal communication between the various bodies represented in the caucus, and external communications with media and public relations releases from time to time. They will also be responsible for reporting movement news to the media. They will have a meeting Thursday, July 22nd, at 1124 E. Chestnut Street, Sunbury, at 8 pm.

Mary Nancarrow of the Education Committee stated that Secretary of Education Pittinger is expected to resign in December. We do not know what effect this will have on the close ties that we presently have with the Department of Education. They are still accepting documentation of discrimination in areas of education, according to Mary.

The committee reports were accepted and well discussed. We talked of having another statewide Gay Conference with input from gays of the Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Rural areas. It would be caucus-sponsored and hopefully provide direction and enlightenment to all Pennsylvania Gays.

We wrangled the need for a Financial Committee again and finally settled it by accepting Joe Burns' offer to convene it and work on a budget until the next meeting.

The election of Treasurer was postponed until the next meeting since two of the nominees were absent. Wayne Rowe withdrew his name and Helmuth Baerwald was not present to state his views on the subject.

The meeting was adjourned by the two co-chairpeople (Ray was late) at 5:35 pm.

by Sam Edmiston



## LEGISLATION

people, and then opened for limited debate.

Several factors made it impossible to include a minority report. All minority reports had to be signed by 39 delegates who voted against the majority report. Therefore, those delegates wanting to support gay rights would have to withhold their support from the chapter including such issues as the E. R. A. and abortion. Because voice votes were taken, it was very difficult to identify that many potential supporters. So, in effect, the leadership of the Platform Committee and Carter representatives, through parliamentary maneuvering and close vote monitoring, insured that no minority reports would be debated at the convention this year.

Despite the failure of our efforts to include a gay rights plank in the platform, there was some very real support for us among the delegates. Contacts were also made with women from the National Women's Political Caucus, and the Agenda '76. The hope was expressed that we could work together again in the future.

Alternatives are now being explored for raising the issue in some way at the convention. The National Gay Task Force will have a Communications Center at the Sheraton-Hilton for educating and lobbying delegates and members of the press. Future efforts will also concentrate on obtaining public statements supporting gay rights from the presidential candidates. Demonstrations at the Democratic National Convention are also planned, and the refusal of the Platform Committee to support gay rights is expected to encourage large numbers of gay people to demonstrate.

We feel that this current setback will only serve to encourage more gay people to work on all levels for their rights until the American public and the political parties finally support the civil rights of twenty million gay Americans.

- National Gay Task Force

(see related stories on page 2)



HILL DELAYS SODOMY REPEAL

by Harry Langhorne

(Reprinted from Philadelphia Gay News)

PHILADELPHIA — State Sen. Louis G. Hill (D-Phila.) is considering delaying introduction of his bill to repeal Pennsylvania's "voluntary deviate sexual intercourse" statute until after the November election. Half of the Senate is up for re-election this year, and early results of an informal poll Hill has been making show that many of the incumbents would vote "yes" on the measure if they are returned to office, but feel that it would be too dangerous politically to do

cont. on page 13



# IN THE NEWS

for its role in the oppression of women. The first action took place at the convent of the "Sisters of the Visitation" and at the home of Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Philadelphia. Dressed in various outfits (including one woman in clerical robes and another dressed as Uncle Sam), the women hexed the Catholic Church, and posted their "Lesbian/feminist declaration of Independence" on Krol's gate, and on the door of the convent.

The second action, as told to the GAYZETTE (Philadelphia), was at the First Presbyterian Church in Ardmore where the pastor, Dr. Christian, was giving a bicentennial sermon entitled "Present Threats to Our Freedom." The women chose specific churches to perform street theater where there were to be political sermons that morning.

This street theater consisted of the woman dressed as the priest, and the woman dressed as Uncle Sam encircling two other women cringing on the ground:

The "priest": It is a sin for a woman to love another woman."

The "State (Uncle Sam)": It is a crime for a woman to love another woman."

The two figures representing Church and State would continue listing specific ways in which both cooperated to oppress women and gays. Eventually, the two women freed themselves from their oppressors. DAR women then read their lesbian/feminist declaration.

According to T. Cardea-Tinder, a DAR member, the bystanders were "blown away." Though the police were called by ushers from the Church, there were no arrests.

The third action occurred at St. George's Church in Ardmore where a family bicentennial fair was happening. The women approached the Church grounds from three directions, in a slow walk designed to take them to a meeting

point as the church bells—which were then ringing all over the country—nearly an end. However, someone from the fair grounds spotted the women and alerted the pastor who spoke with some of the protesters.

Despite the pastor's opposition the women performed their theater on the sidewalk, and read their statement.

T. Cardea-Tinder told the GAYZETTE that "a couple of boys and some men were yelling . . . trying to drown us out. . . ." but the combined vocal prowess of all women rose above the opposition. Again, as before, the police merely stood by, and when their theater was finished, the women left.

Neither the Pastor of the First Presbyterian no the Pastor of St. George's could be reached for a statement.

In a statement to the GAYZETTE, DAR listed the purposes of the demonstration as:

On July 4th, we traveled to a wealthy suburb to make our Lesbian/Feminist presence felt. We traveled to confront our enemy where he lives. For it is not the dweller of the inner city who most profits from the continuation of sexual, racial and class inequality. It is the bank president, corporation chairmen—the invisible power elite who benefit by poor people battling each other in the streets of the city while he escapes to his exclusive retreat away from the pain, the poverty, the degradation which bring him wealth.

Although we chose to be elsewhere on July 4th, our love and strength were also with our sisters and brothers marching in Philadelphia with the July 4th Coalition. Our decision to go to the suburbs in no way indicated non-support of the July 4th Coalition."

by Tommi Avicoli,  
the weekly GAYZETTE

## OUT OF THE LOCKERROOM... INTO THE LIMELIGHT

PHILADELPHIA - The "straight" press blackout on stories about gay athletics is starting to lift in this country, but just barely. On the one hand, a lengthy Associated Press (AP) wire story about former pro football player Dave Kopay's May 1 return to his alma mater, the University of Washington, was widely reprinted. On the other, AP dispatches from the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria last February about ice-skating gold medalist John Curry's admission that he is gay were never transmitted, even though the story was splashed all over the front pages of European papers. While Kopay has become something of a media star, the general sports-following public here still knows nothing about Curry--or about Olympic decathlete Tom Waddell, who participated in a panel on recreation and sports at the Gay Academic Union's "Symposium '76" at San Francisco State in April.

Curry, a British citizen but American resident, won his gold medal Feb. 11. At a press conference the next day, reporters questioned him about his "un-masculine" style, and one of them finally said, "Don't you keep getting asked if you're gay?" Curry replied, "I am"--and stuck to that admission, though refusing to disclose any details of his private life, through the furor that followed. He even made the claim to reporters that other male skaters frequently failed because their coaches tried to force them into "masculine"-



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# IN THE NEWS



appearing styles that were unnatural for them. He said that when he was 17 he had been beaten by a coach trying to "root out" his "unmanly" tendencies. (He is now being coached by Carlo Fassi, who also guided women's gold medalist Dorothy Hamill.)

The revelation of Curry's homosexuality quickly made the rounds of the Olympic Village, and when he appeared for an exhibition three days later he was at first greeted with silence. But when he had finished skating, according to Toronto Globe and Mail columnist Christie Blatchford, there were "deafening cheers, demands for two encores, flowers and waves from people who will never meet him." "His had been an act of courage," she commented.

According to NewsWest, the LA-based gay newspaper, Curry has since returned to his New York City residence, and is negotiating for appearances with several American ice arena shows.

Dave Kopay's return to Seattle was a personal triumph. He joined former teammates and friends playing in the annual alumni-varsity football game, and the next night gave a speech at a banquet sponsored by the Dorian Group, the city's middle-class oriented gay liberation organization. He called the reactions from people at the game "warm and wonderful," attributing this to football players' "sense of loyalty." "Sure, I felt

'standoffishness' in the locker room, but that feeling may have been in my mind. Nobody came up to me and said 'You're really crazy,'" he remarked.

On May 2 more than 300 listeners--who paid \$10.50 each--heard Kopay describe his life since he publicly announced his homosexuality five months before. "This has really been an exciting time for me," he said. "You know, like a lot of people, I always thought that if everybody knew I was homosexual it would be the end of the world. Well, what I found out is that it's really the beginning of a whole new world for me. And I love it."

At a press conference the next day, Kopay reiterated that there are other gays in pro football, but declined to name them. "I would never reveal that against their wishes," he said. But he also said, "I've been to bed with professional ball players" and "There are people in positions of leadership on ball teams who are gay." Kopay's pro football career span-

ned 10 years, beginning with the San Francisco 49ers in 1964 and including stints with the Detroit, Washington, New Orleans, and Green Bay NFL teams. "It baffles many heads that I could play professional football for 10 years," he remarked.

Besides TV and radio talk shows, and presumably his fee from the Dorian Society, Kopay's only employment since his December announcement has been as a laborer, building log cabins at Sun Valley, Idaho. He said at the press conference that he has been living off his savings, but also that he had recently received an advance from a New York publisher for a book.

Tom Waddell hasn't made any headlines, perhaps because he has been neither a pro footballer nor an Olympic gold medalist. However, he did place sixth (in a field of 45) in the grueling decathlon competition at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, and he is an "open" gay, making his living practicing internal medicine. After the Olympics, he told some of his friends in the sports world that he was gay, with varying reactions. "It has made no difference to those who are comfortable with their own sexual identity," he told the San Francisco Sentinel (a gay bi-weekly). "But some people still feel homosexuality is 'repulsive,' and when they over-react I think they feel threatened by it."

Waddell scores the myth that athletes -- "straight" or gay--must have super-normal sexual prowess. "If I had to judge athletes as sexual people, I would find many of them lacking, many of them are afraid of sexual situations, period." Nonetheless, he recalls that in Mexico City "there was a terrific effort to make it with other beautiful people who were also very somatonic," but overt displays of homosexuality were still completely taboo.

Occasionally these days Waddell

spends some time jogging with the Laverder U. (a gay-oriented "alternative university") jogging club, which is starting to get together sometimes with non-gay joggers. "The straight joggers," Waddell predicts, "will gradually start to think, 'Gee, that guy is queer, but he does not look any different than I do...in fact, he looks better.'" And people will start to get the message: we're not so different after all."

- Gay News Chain

## Block Party Disrupted

On July 3rd, an otherwise pleasant block party at the Gay Community Center was disrupted by a group of 40-50 young people representing an extreme Fundamentalist sect. At about 3pm, the "Jesus Freaks" entered onto Kater Street where gay activists, craftspeople and businesspeople were displaying their wares. Several of the Christian Fundamentalists began loudly exhorting the gay people to "turn away from the sin of your sexual ways and give yourselves to Jesus." Many of the display tables were completely blocked by the religionists and the street became all but impassable.

When asked to leave, the young evangelists refused. Instead, they continued to try to make converts. Apparently the group's members believe that homosexuality is a mortal sin and that it was the cause of the fall of all past civilizations. Several gay people were told that they would "rot in hell" if they continued their ways. Each of the young evangelists carried a bible.

Several heated exchanges and at least one shoving match took place. Although it was not confirmed, the group was thought to be connected with "The Jack Van Impe Crusade," a Fundamentalist Christian group currently holding meet-



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The young evangelists stayed for over an hour until the police informally urged them to move on. Initially, police from the district office were dispatched to the scene. After being informed of the situation, they advised Rick Rosen (a member of the Center's Coordinating Council) and Tim Kent (a chef and caterer who coordinated the food and refreshments for the block party) that they (the police) could not "force" the fundamentalists to vacate the street.

Rosen finally was able, however, to remove the intruders with the aid of a local police officer who has been helpful to the Community Center in the past.

Towards the end of their stay, the religious group positioned a Dodge van so that it would block the entrance to Kater Street. On the van was written "Bicentennial God Wagon". A "religious message of conversion" was blaring forth from the loudspeakers located on the "wagon". The group also sang religious and patriotic songs. In retaliation, the gay people assembled sang "We Shall Overcome."

by Bill Phillips, the Weekly Gayzette



## DYKE COOPER

on this case; they decided to give this seriously homophobic afflicted young man 24 hours to move out of the dormitory.

How differently a similar case was handled at another state college this year. Many of the young men in the dormitory where my gay brother lived taunted him as he went to his room, left the men's room when he entered, took turns banging on his door, and urinated into his room. His resident advisor did not know about this activity and did not want to know about this activity. My friend found that that Dean was reluctant to take action until the Dean had received a call from a member of our Gay Rights Advisory Committee at the Department of Education. My friend was the one who moved out of the dormitory to a town 20 miles away. (Since this incident happened last winter, those same student personnel people have recently asked my friend to be a resident advisor this coming fall semester.)

This latter incident reminds me of my days in dormitory life, 1960-64, when student personnel people considered us sexual minorities to be the source of trouble because our very presence was a temptation for other people to get physically and verbally passionate against us. Therefore what homophobes did to us was

our fault.

Student personnel at some schools who mean to give context to their concern for all their students' happiness and well being are taking steps to inform their staff, student body and administration about the examples of homophobia on their campuses. They are inviting lesbian and gay activists to speak, showing gay films, having open gays employed in the counseling centers, requesting the librarians on their campuses to purchase gay books and materials, encouraging the formation of gay groups, supporting gay faculty and administration when they come out, forming Gay and Women's Studies courses, giving space for gays who are still in heterosexual marriages to lunch together, creating an academic atmosphere so that students who are interested in gay history and culture can do their term papers on the subject of their choice in any course. It is time that gays should be able to assume such rights at every state college campus with the full support of student personnel, the faculty, and administration. It is time for gays who work in student personnel, faculty, and administration positions to redefine their functions and what their contributions are going to be for sexual minorities. It is time that student personnel, the faculty, and administration respond to the needs of gays on their campuses instead of waiting for the inevitable forces of change that are coming.

## LEGISLATION

so before the election, Hill does not want to introduce the bill now if it has no real chance of passage.

According to Hill's staff assistant, Ken Neeley, 6 out of 22 senators responding to a question about their possible support for the bill at this time indicated that they would definitely vote in favor of it. These include the four co-sponsors—Sens. H. Craig Lewis (D-16th), Edward L. Howard (R-10th), Henry C. Messinger (D-16th), and Paul McKinney (D-Phila.)—plus Sens. Jeannette Reibman (D-16th) and Frederick C. Hobbs (R-29th). Gay Education Day workers found at least four other probable "yes" votes: Sens. W. Louis Coppersmith (D-35th), Joseph S. Ammerman (D-34th), Henry J. Cianfrani (D-Phila.), and Henry G. Hager (R-23rd). But 26 votes are needed for passage.

On the Judiciary Committee, to which the bill would probably be assigned if introduced, Neeley says that five are in favor of reporting the bill out with a recommendation to pass it, four are opposed, three are undecided, and three have not yet responded (but of the last, Neeley thinks one would vote for, one against, with the third undecided). These results had led Hill in mid-May to decide definitely to announce his intention of delaying introduction of the repeal measure, but he later changed his mind and will wait until his poll is completed.

Readers are urged to write or call their own state senator and to urge him or her both to support the bill if introduced and to join Hill as a co-sponsor of it (except for those who have already done so.) It is not necessary to identify oneself specifically as gay, since the repeal of the "voluntary deviate sexual intercourse" statute is important to the vast majority of heterosexually-oriented persons also. The statutes criminalizes practices most of them regularly engage in, even if it is mainly gays who pay penalties for such acts.

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# BITS N' PIECES

The following resolution was passed by the Executive Board of the United Federation of Teachers at its June 14 meeting in New York City:

"Whereas, the United Federation of Teachers has traditionally supported the civil and human rights of its members; and

"Whereas, the United Federation of Teachers recognizes the oppression of, and discrimination against, homosexuals in general, and homosexual teachers in particular; and

"Whereas, it is the responsibility of trade unions to provide their members with protections from all forms of discrimination on the job.

"Therefore be it resolved that the United Federation of Teachers continue to support the civil rights of all members including homosexuals, and will continue to represent equally all of its members in all UFT activities, associations, and organizations, without regard to sexual orientation."

This resolution by the UFT follows similar resolutions passed by the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the California Federation of Teachers and the District of Columbia Board of Education.

- NGTF

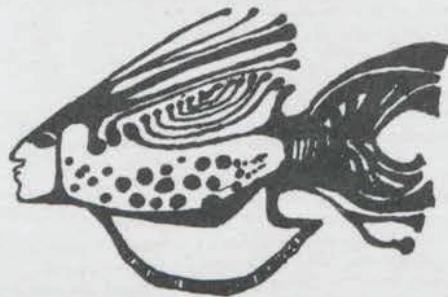
PHILADELPHIA - Approximately 250 gay women and men marched in the Gay Contingent of the July 4th Coalition's

Parade of the Peoples, Sunday, July 4th in North Philadelphia. Gays from the Washington/Baltimore area, New Jersey New York, and Boston joined local gays in solidarity with other oppressed groups marching in the Parade.

Gay People's participation in the July 4th Coalition centered around the Coalition's endorsement of gay rights as part of the struggle of all oppressed people.

The March, estimated 25,000 to 30,000 walked from 29th and Clearfield to 33rd and Oxford for a rally in Fairmount Park. Speeches by Black, Puerto Rican, Indian, Women's, gay and worker groups, as well as entertainment were planned for the rally. A late afternoon rain shower, however, canceled out half of the program.

by Rusel Silkey  
the weekly GAYZETTE



NORTHUMBERLAND, ENGLAND - A woman says she can determine the sex of an unborn infant by dangling a pocketwatch over the expectant mother's abdomen. Should the dangling watch swing in a clockwise circle over the woman's tummy, it's a boy; if it moves diagonally, it's a girl. She boasts that she never makes a mistake and if she did, she could lay the blame on "homosexual tendencies."

- Jet

NEW YORK - In a show of support for the gay pride of their customers, the owners of New York's Club Baths have donated \$350 to cover the cost of personal liability insurance required by the city to protect participants in the June 27th Gay Pride rally in Central Park. Club Baths also lent \$550 to the Christopher Street Liberation Day Committee '76, which is sponsoring the march and rally. The money represents half of a redeemable bond which the city requires to assure that Central Park will be restored to its proper condition after the rally at the bandshell. The other half of the bond was posted by an anonymous donor.

- Gotham Ledger

SACRAMENTO - The "Family Lobby" previously known as the "Coalition of Christian Citizens" has admitted defeat in its attempt to put an initiative referendum on the November election in that state. The "Family Lobby" had wanted to overturn the state's repeal of the consenting sex laws by attempting to get the necessary 320,000 signatures to put the referendum on the ballot. Failure to obtain the necessary signatures was attributed to the lack of both financial and community support. If the Lobby had succeeded, oral and anal intercourse and "adulterous cohabitation" between consenting adults would be illegal and would carry severe criminal penalties.

FLORIDA - Scientists at the Florida Institute of Technology will be able to study dreaded venereal disease--syphilis--better now that they can grow it in test tubes.

Scientists say the procedure would be a giant step to producing a vaccine to combat the disease.

It was the first time that a venereal disease culture was produced outside a live animal.

- Jet

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# BITS IN PIECES

NEW YORK - Jean O'Leary, the former Legislative Director and National Coordinator of the National Gay Task Force for the past seven months, has been named to the post of Task Force Co-Executive Director. Jean O'Leary, who is the first openly gay delegate to the 1976 Democratic National Convention, will share her position with Dr. Bruce Voeller. Voeller has been Executive Director of the NGTF since it was organized in October 1973.

At the first meeting of the newly-appointed Board of Directors, held in New York City June 12-13, some non-gay individuals were elected for the first time. Also for the first time, the NGTF Board contains representatives from all over the United States.

Named Co-chairpeople of the NGTF Board were Betty Powell, an instructor at the Brooklyn College School of Education and an officer of the Gay Academic Union, and Gary van Ooteghem, a new board member from Houston, Texas. Mr. van Ooteghem, former Controller of the Treasury for Harris County, Texas, is president of the Houston Gay Political Caucus. Powell and van Ooteghem replace Frances Doughty, an educator from New York, and David Rothenberg, Director of the Fortune Society, as co-chairpeople.

In addition to Powell and van Ooteghem newly elected members of the NGTF Board's Executive Committee are Charlotte Bunch, Rev. Carter, Prof. Duberman, Ms. Freidman, Dr. Norton, and Ms. Riddle. Dr. Norton will serve as Secretary and Ms. Freidman as Treasurer.



NEW YORK - Several months ago, gay activist Mike Merry was hassled by a guard on the Staten Island Ferry for holding his male friend's hand. Merry took his complaint to the Gay Activists Alliance, which put pressure on the Marine and Aviation Commission for a policy statement on gay rights aboard the ferry. After some deliberation and discussion Commissioner Fossella issued a memo which affirmed that non-discrimination policies included gays.

On Saturday, June 12, two officers-elect of GAA decided to test the statement and armed with a Xerox copy, they took to the river. GAA President-elect Joanne Passaro and Gotham writer Loretta Lotman flaunted their lesbianism while vice-president-elect Jimmy Zepp and friend Kevin Klutchko cuddled conspicuously. They received many stares, several sneers and a few quiet "right ons" but were not hassled by the guards or other ferry employees.

Now if we could only do something about those Staten Island fairy jokes!

- Gotham Ledger



## SWITCHBOARDS & AID

Harrisburg: Mon-Fri. 6-10pm  
1-717-234-0328

Lancaster: Tues & Thurs. 8-10pm  
Sun. 6-10pm  
1-717-898-2876

Philadelphia:  
Gay Switchboard 1-215-928-1919  
Lesbian Hotline 1-215-729-2001  
Lesbian Teenage Rap Group  
1-215-247-5659

COUNSELING -  
Eromin Center  
1735 Naudain Street  
Phila., Pa. 1-215-732-3212

Contact (Lancaster) 24 hours.  
call collect 1-717-299-4855

VD CLINIC -  
St. Joseph Hospital  
Lancaster, Penna.  
24 hrs. Free. 1-717-397-2821



## CALENDAR

EVERY WEEK

Tuesdays: Lesbian Caucus, 8:30 pm,  
Women's Resource Center, corner  
of Beaver & Alan St. State College.  
Wednesdays: MCC Consciousness Raising  
7:30 pm, 1001 North Spring St., Har-  
risburg.  
Sundays: MCC Worship Service, 8:00 pm  
1001 North Spring St. Hsbg.  
MCC Worship Service 7:30 pm  
Eisenhower Chapel, State College  
Campus.

\*\*\*\*\*

July 17 & 18 - Campout and Picnic, Jere's  
Farmhouse. Sponsored by GCS  
Reading.  
July 25 - Le Hi Ho Swim Party. Bring  
own picnic lunch. Grill available  
for hamburgers and hot dogs.  
\*Directions below.  
GCS Reading Softball Games.  
2pm. West Reading Playground.  
Aug. 21&22 - Tentative Campout at Jere's  
Farmhouse. Sponsored by GCS  
Reading.

\*Directions from Allentown. South  
on #309 to Saucon Valley Road, turn left  
on Saucon Valley Rd., past the zinc  
mines, across #378 to the end of Saucon  
Valley Rd. where it becomes Bingen Rd.,  
right on Bingen Rd. to the big curve  
(about 1/2 mile)-big white house on the  
right hand side of the road. J. L. Hum-  
phrey on mailbox. 691-0747. If in doubt  
about postponement, phone Ed Ettinger,  
215-867-8341 between 10:30 & 11:30 am  
Sunday.

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