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# June 1981

board of hbg gays switch  
GSH

THE  
GAY SWITCHBOARD  
OF HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

P.O. BOX 872  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17108

## THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a creation of Gay Switchboard '81. The cost is only \$3. for current year subscription. If you are not on the mailing list there is one way to get there--send GSH \$3., your name & address and you'll be added to our '81 mailing list.

GSH Box 872 Harrisburg, Pa. 17108

Please enter my name as a subscriber to the GSH Newsletter for the current calendar year @ \$3.00.

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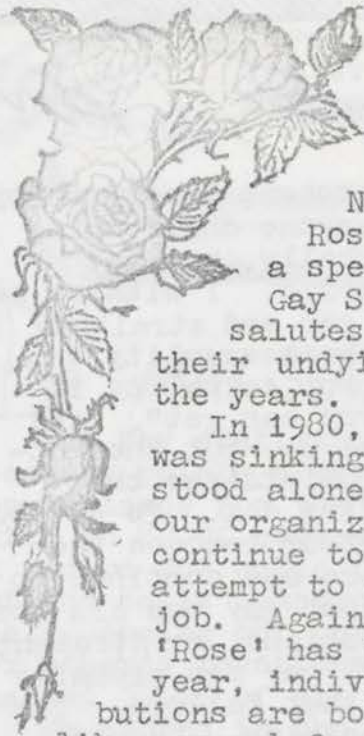
Please make checks/money orders payable to either GSH or Tom Basehore (treasurer) at your disgression.

Newsletter mailed last Sunday of month.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## A ROSE

A Rose by any other name is still a rose?

Not so. The La Rose Rouge is a specialty rose. Gay Switchboard '81 salutes the 'Rose' for their undying support over the years.

In 1980, when our ship was sinking, La Rose Rouge stood alone in support of our organization. Our bills continue to mount as we attempt to do an important job. Again, in 1981, the 'Rose' has been there. This year, individuals' contributions are bolstering support like never before. But without the 'Rose' where would we be?

Thank You, La Rose Rouge --  
400 No. 2nd St. Harrisburg.  
You're the Top!

THIS is NOT a dress-rehearsal.  
This is your real life.

## SWITCHB'D SUMMER PICNIC

August is picnic month for the Switchboard. On Sunday, August 2nd the Switchboard sponsors our Summer Picnic. The place has been narrowed to two-- Pine Grove State Park or Pinchot Park. The decision will be made at the July 12th meeting.

It will be a covered dish affair with more details to be rep'dt in our July newsletter. Mark your calendars for Aug. 2nd now and join the fun!





## Comment - the editor

Thinking is a process that I enjoy. I cannot imagine anyone challenging that statement verbally, and yet challenges are rampant. I witness so many people, both gay and straight, living lies about homosexuality.

One attitude about sexuality is that of "get all you can get". And it sounds wonderful ... but thoughtless. Casual sex maintains the fantasies surrounding sex. To get to know one's sex partner removes the ability to fantasize and continue to be what one "assumes" gay men are (or straight men, or lesbians, or straight women). Basically, gay men probably lead the pack for that failure. The evidence is overwhelming. Due to a buying of social expectations for men, men in general seem to fulfill the creation of the shallowest relationships.

I recognize in myself the difficulties of "getting to know" another man. And I have stopped myself and said, "Get to know him, that's what you've wanted and now you're suddenly too busy, too scared, too anything"! I have witnessed too many people saying, "This is what I want". I watched it appear for them and a hurried excuse produced to put away the possibility of their "dream".

Is it a fear that we will no longer be what "gay" is defined to be? And does "other's" definition of the word matter to us? We are unique individuals. We need to celebrate that uniqueness.

Unfortunately, that celebration very often occurs to maintain a stagnant individual (e.g. An "Oh,-that's-just-the-way-I-am" alibi) Even though the person's problems are bountiful, the problems are minimized and the individual goes on with the way he "is" and the problems multiply.

I know the difficulties of growth. I have become accustomed to being spoon-fed with the world that surrounds us seeking constantly to make it so easy that to think is unnecessary. But growth remains essential to find ourselves and the only escape from the pressures to conform and be made "acceptable" from advertisers and

others is to think.

The greatest acceptance on earth is within ourselves. There are lots of hurdles that we must cross in arriving there and each one demands thought. That thinking that defeats the value of other's prejudices and/or manipulations that strive to offer us a strand of acceptance for conforming or doing whatever to merit that acceptance.

Leonard Matlovich, recently spoke in Philadelphia and emphasized the importance of self-acceptance and of dispelling ignorant myths about homosexuality. One of the most truth-filled quotes I have ever heard in regard to prejudice, he spoke:

"PREJUDICE ISN'T A HATRED OF OTHERS, BUT OF SELF; TO HAVE OTHERS TO LOOK DOWN UPON AND FEEL SOME IMITATION OF PERSONAL RESPECT."

Mr. Matlovich shared his former prejudices against gays as well as any other minority in reach. He now recognizes the masked self-hatred in those prejudice-filled years. He started to think and thinking ... broke light.

There is an advertisement that usually airs during college football games for the Black colleges & universities requesting financial support. Their slogan is incredibly true: "A Mind IS A Terrible Thing To Waste".

I do hope that as gay people, we are not afraid of "WHAT" we might find out. As gay people we know the realities of bucking a culture that tells us how things are for us. We are the living evidence that they are wrong. If we fail to think and act, then they will continue to tell us the realities of our existence; something they don't even think about.

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# JUNE 30 - ERA RALLY

Interested persons supporting passage of the Equal Rights Amendment: note June 30 on your calendar. Harrisburg NOW is sponsoring a rally to launch the one year count-down for the ERA. It will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Harrisburg Civic Club, 612 N. Front St. Participants are urged to wear green and white. For more information call Harrisburg NOW at 233-4004.

## COVERING GSH IN JUNE

In June, our sign up sheet was covered. Beautiful! Except two evenings almost slipped by. One did go without coverage, hurting our service. The other was caught before the evening was out and I kept June in the running to be our #1 month this year.

Please volunteers remember to find a way to remind yourself not to forget your evening. GSH is counting on you and you know we can do it! 100%



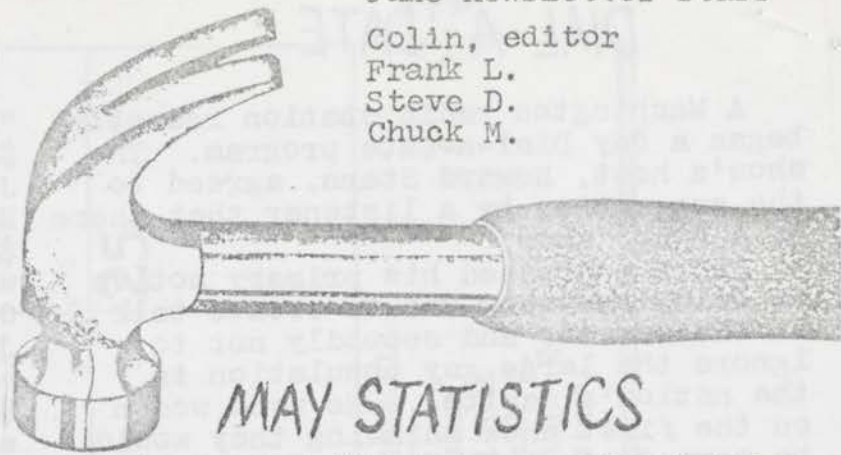
June newsletter staff

Colin, editor

Frank L.

Steve D.

Chuck M.



## MAY STATISTICS

The May statistics are only 7 percentage points above January's poorest performance for the year. However, with an 80.9% coverage record, we hit a record 207 calls in May. The majority of the calls concerned personal sharing (e.g. coming out, problems with gayness or other's reactions, ect.). Such calls marked 39.6% of all calls rec'd.

We goofed in the April issue and rep'td January as 19 of 23 evenings covered. That stands corrected below with this years total statistics:

January	17 of 23	--	73.9%	164 calls
February	18 of 20	--	90.0%	182 "
March	19 of 22	--	86.4%	176 "
April	18 of 22	--	81.8%	158 "
May	17 of 21	--	80.9%	207 "
<hr/>				
Totals	89 of 108	--	82.4%	887

And June, is doing beautifully! We just may see both records broken in June. Keep up the good work, volunteers. Yer tree-mendous!

## DIGNITY/CENT. PA. IS SIX

Dignity/Cent. Pa. celebrates its 6th anniversary this July 17. Again, July 17 is the date for the festive occasion at the Friend's Meeting House. The Friday Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 PM, followed by a social scheduled for 9 PM.

Our local chapter of Dignity, last year, won a statewide award for service to the Gay Community. Anyone witnessing the work of Dignity in Central Pennsylvania knows the group deserved this recognition for their outstanding work.

Dignity/Cent. Pa. ---Happy Anniversary. And many more ....



# DIAL-A<sup>(GA)</sup> DATE

A Washington radio station recently began a Gay Dial-a-Date program. The show's host, Howard Stern, agreed to the suggestion by a listener that there be a "Gay" show.

Stern confessed his primary motive in doing the show was to create talk in the market, and secondly not to ignore the large gay population in the nation's capitol. He used women on the first show thinking they would be more "acceptable" and perhaps reflecting his own bias.

That program was, "...pretty explicit", the emcee noted. "Everything from 'do you like to look at the pictures in Penthouse' to the role-playing of picking up the dial-a-date. It was quite educational."

And the reactions of the audience was positive. There were few negative responses, but even they listened. The station was most encourage to continue such a program from the strong positive response of the gay community. The Blade (of D.C.) in reviewing the show said, "one of the best, most sensitive treatments of gay themes ever to air on the mainstream media."

Next come the men. And hopefully more of both of the sexes.

(from RADIO & RECORDS, 5 June 81)

## STONEWALL ANNIVERSARY

June 28, marks the 12th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion in New York City. It was 1969, and the police were backing up their paddy wagons to the door of another gay bar. The crowd was big and little by little they began the independence march that continues today. The days of passive resistance and shame were being challenged.

People have got to be free! June 28 was only the beginning. A lot of misconceptions about homosexuality remain visible yet today. But at last the air has begun to clear.

## 2 FLEA MKTS. NET \$98.38

Our May 23rd Flea Market with the "Friends" netted only \$37.18 after the \$5.00 participation fee was deducted. June 6th, the Switchboard was at the North St. Sale and this time netted \$59.20 after a \$3.00 participation fee was deducted. We had baked goodies and Christmas wares and good old down-home junk.

We are most pleased with the North St. Sale and appreciate the efforts of all of the members who made it the huge success that it was.

We are planning again to participate in the North St. sale this fall. So, when summer's gone and you're doing that fall house cleaning, remember your Switchboard. And please plan to come aboard and help. You'll have a ball. Just ask Ray or Chuck about the "Astrology book?".....

a question?

GAY SWITCHBOARD ... 234-0328



I like you. You don't have to win any prizes; no elections; and you don't have to impress anyone, 'cause I love you! Don't try to read anyone's mind and don't try to figure everything out. Go 'quietly' in the world and drink in the beauty. Just because you have discovered it this late is no indication that others have not seen it at all. So share it cautiously and quietly with your friends.

You can enjoy all things that appeal to you and not feel guilty because you don't enjoy something that someone else does, or a majority of people do. Smile often. Laugh a lot. And don't worry about anything!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
volleyball: 1- P.A.L. Bldg. (3rd St.) 6:30 PM 2- Salvation Army (Green & Cumb.) 9 PM 3- City Island (So. end football field North Island) 2 PM  GAY SWITCHBOARD (717) 234-0328			<b>1</b> Dignity/ Cent. Pa. City Island Picnic 6 PM			<b>4</b>  INDEPENDENCE DAY
<b>5</b> VB-3 M.C.C. 7 PM worship serv. Friend's Mtg House	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> VB-1	<b>8</b> VB-2 State College Arts Festival thru the 12th	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> DIGNITY SWIM PARTY 944-2230 7:30 M.C.C. Spkr. Friend's 7:30	<b>11</b> Network Meeting Friends 1 PM raindate- Dignity Swim Party
<b>12</b> VB-3 2 PM Switchboard Meeting 7:30  M.C.C. 7 PM worship serv.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> VB-1	<b>15</b> VB-2	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> DIGNITY/ CENT. PA anniversary celebration Friend's Mtg. House 7:30	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> VB-3 Dignity anniversary picnic 12noon Pine Gr. Pk. M.C.C. 7 PM worship serv	<b>20</b> PARENTS & FRIENDS OF GAYS meeting 761-6920 for details	<b>21</b> VB-1	<b>22</b> VB-2	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> VB-3  M.C.C. 7 PM worship serv	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> VB-1	<b>29</b> VB-2	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> PA Guild of Craftsmen Franklin & Marshall U. thru Aug. 2 Lancaster.	

# JULY 1981

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_



# ♥ GOD & GAYS ♥ PT. 1 ♥

Many calls that we receive require 'easy' responses, such as information calls. However, there are those few types of calls that we really dread, those that we hope will happen any other night than when we are answering. These calls cause anxiety because we don't know what to say or we simply feel uncomfortable with the topic. Each switchboard volunteer has a different set of calls he or she considers difficult; one area that is difficult for most of us involves the religious or Biblical view of homosexuality. Whether it is a confused parent who has learned of their child's gayness and is torn between their love for that child and their belief that the Bible condemns all homosexuality, or whether it is a distraught person who cannot accept themselves because they believe in their mind and heart that God condemns them for their homosexuality, no matter what the specific circumstance, we need to be able to deal effectively with this issue. To do this we must first understand what the Bible does say about homosexuality, and second, understand how we can sufficiently explain this to others. The purpose of this article is to help each of us find answers for ourselves and to equip us with the specific information we need to begin to correct much of the erroneous teaching that has caused such needless pain and division among people.

There are six basic passages in the Bible that have been used as proof texts that God condemns all homosexuality: two in the Old Testament (Genesis 19:1-29ff; Leviticus 18:22) and four in the New Testament (Romans 1:27; I Corinthians 6:9; I Timothy 1:10; Jude 7). If these passages are studied in the light of

1. the original Hebrew or Greek words used in the passage
2. the context of the entire chapter or Book,

much can be seen to prove that homosexual orientation is not condemned by God. The most frequently used (or misused) verse, I Corinthians 6:9, seems to be very damaging when viewed on the surface. However, in actuality, it in no way gives a blanket condemnation.

I Corinthians 6:9

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators,

nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,..." King James Version  
"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexual offenders,..." New International Ver.

In the original Greek, there are two words used which are translated by the underlined words above. These words are 'malakos' and 'arsenokoites'. 'Malakos' is used very few times in scripture (Matthew 11:8 [twice]; Luke 7:25; I Corinthians 6:9). In the other passages it refers to 'soft' or 'given over to luxury' as one would experience living as a nobleman in a palace, dressed in luxurious ('soft') clothing. To corroborate this interpretation, the KJV uses the word 'effeminate'. Immediately this connotes to us a feminine male or one who is much like a woman. To many, an immediate connection with homosexuality is made as well. However, The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary on Historic Principles states that at the time the KJV Bible was published (1611), the word 'effeminate' meant 'luxurious living' or 'soft' and expressed no connotation of homosexuality. Therefore, the KJV mirrors very accurately the Greek word 'malakos', but we have added meanings that were never implied.

The second word, 'arsenokoites', is used only twice in scripture (I Corinthians 6:9; I Timothy 1:10). Because of this sparse usage in scripture and concurrent literature, it is very difficult to assign a fixed meaning. It is made up of two morphemes: 'arseno' meaning 'male' and 'koites' meaning 'chambering' or 'bedding' (from which we get the word 'coitus'). It denotes promiscuity and abuse. (A little later in Greek usage it acquired the meaning of abusive male pedophilism.) So this term does specify a facet of homosexual activity, but one of promiscuity and abuse, not a wide-sweeping condemnation of all homosexual orientation.

I Corinthians 6:9 does not segregate all homosexuals as enemies of God or as unable to be part of the Kingdom of God due to their sexual orientation. The other scriptures mentioned at the beginning of the article are equally misused when they are said to support the contention that God hates homosexuals and that all homosexuals are categorically condemned.

Frank L.