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"Hello, Gay Switchboard. . ."

OCT. 1981

board of hbgggayswitch
GSH

STRAIGHT ANSWERS TO GAY QUESTIONS

GAY SWITCHBOARD

THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a creation of Gay Switchboard '81. Contributions of only \$3 per year makes it available monthly to your door for current year only. Contributions are always needed and assures you of a life-line in Hsbg.

GSH Box 872 Harrisburg, Pa. 17108

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

check cash

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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City _____ State _____ ZIP _____



\$2/adv
\$3/door

Nov 14

Saturday eve

at FRIEND'S MTG. HOUSE
6th & Herr Sts. Hsbg.

Rabbit

That Rabbit's back. And he's in love. The tales are over a century old, written in the minds of black American slaves in post Civil War days U.S.A.. The tales were still being told in Michigan, Georgia and across the nation by ancestors of the originators of Buh Rabbit and all his hapless friends and enemies.

November 14, for only \$2 in advance, \$3 at the door there's a treat for you. Get ready for love, That Rabbit's in Love, Saturday nite, November 14 -- 8 o'clock PM at the Friends Meeting House, 6th and Herr Sts., Harrisburg.

EULOGY TO ROBT. KENNEDY

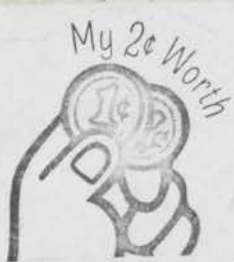
Like it or not, we live in times of danger and uncertainty. That is what he lived. That is what he leaves us.

My brother need not be ideolized or enlarged in death beyond what he was in life. To be remembered simply as a good and decent man, who saw wrong and tried to right it; saw suffering and tried to heal it; saw war and tried to stop it.

Those of us who loved him and who take him to his rest today, pray that what he was to us and what he wished for others will someday come to pass for all the world.

As he said many times and in many parts of this nation, to those he touched and who sought to touch him:

"Some men see things as they are and say, 'Why?'. I dream things that never were and say, 'Why not?'"



Editor's Comment.

One evening while shopping downtown, I waited in line to pay for some purchases. Behind the counter was the saleswoman and a little black boy, about 8-years-old. After the woman finished with her customer, I heard her lean over the boy and say,

"You have to promise me, that you won't take anything again. Say you promise."

He was embarrassed, but with sincere voice, "I promise."

The saleswoman was kind, she said, "All right, now. Cause if you do that again, I'll have to call the cops. Okay? You can go now."

The little boy nodded his head to her last question, then walked around the counter to his three friends.

The three friends were the ones who brought him back to the store when they discovered he had taken something. Four little men walked out of that store and I was touched by the bonds of friendship that could move them to correct a wrong. They loved him--they took him to the right!

There's not a treasure on earth to compare with a real friend.

DECEMBER SW'BD ELECTION

Two new additions to the ballot for the December election are the names of two candidates for Data Compiler. Incumbent Bob E. and former Co-Director Deb L. will vie for that position.

If you cannot attend the December meeting and wish to vote, absentee ballots will be available by contacting the Switchboard office and making that request. Additional nominees are still being rec'd at our office and again immediatly prior to the election in December. The ballot now appears as below:

Co-Director: Chuck M.
Ray M.
Secretary: Steve D.
Treasurer: Tom B.
Publicist: Bill O.
Data Compiler: Bob E.
Deb.L.

MATURITY--

Who is more mature--the child who tries to mimic the way adults act, become more solemn and restrained, and cuts himself off from the "childish" games and fantasies that his more "immature" peers are enjoying, who refuses to accept himself as a child, or is it the child who thinks, "Of course I act in immature ways sometimes! What do you want from me anyway? I'm only 10-years-old! The difference between you and me is that I know I've got a lot of growing up to do, and I intend to take my time and enjoy it. There's no sense trying to rush it. Besides, you seem to think there is such a thing as "growing up, period! You do it once and then you're done. I guess you think you've already done it, and you don't have to think about it anymore. Well you are never going to grow anymore that way. I hope I am still growing when I'm 70-years-old!"

-- Wayne Dyer, from his latest book: The Sky's the Limit.



WMS'PT SUPPORT GROUP

A group of concerned and caring gay people in the greater Williamsport area has formed an organization known as the West Branch Gay Support Group. They wish to foster a better environment for gays by exploring the possibility of having social gatherings and gay-oriented discussions of topics such as mental and physical health, religion, ect. Contact P.O. Box 5104, So. Williamsport, Pa. 17701 for further information.

-- Carl H.

HARRISBURG'S MCC IS 1

Presently the Harrisburg group of MCC is an extension of the Philadelphia church and they work to become independent. October 22, they petitioned the Board of Home Missions of the Mid-Atlantic District of UFMCC for status as a study group.

Study Group, is the first step to establishing Harrisburg's own church. Rev. Bruce Hughes, of Philadelphia, will act as interim worship coordinator for the group if the petition is approved. November 8, will be the dedication service should approval be granted.

The following Sunday, November 15, MCC Harrisburg celebrates their first anniversary at 7 PM, Friend's Meeting House, 6th & Herr Sts. Harrisburg. Congratulations MCC -- many more to follow!

I think I could turn and live with animals. They are so placid and self-contained... Not one is respectable or unhappy over the whole earth.

-- Walt Whitman

NAT'L COVERAGE - GAY RODEO

The national magazine, Rolling Stone, noted the 6th annual National Reno Gay Rodeo on the back page of the September 17 issue.

Two men in cowboy hats share a kiss over the mane of tired white stallion. What a statement! A brief note told of the opposition of a county commissioner and the lt. governor of Nevada. The county commissioner claimed the rodeo would give Nevada a "black eye". The Lt. Governor said, "I'm strongly opposed to queers using public property... They call them queers because they've got a screw loose."

The controversy is believed to have helped the event--more than 10,000 strights & gays attended the rodeo and country fair. Two distinctly original events at the rodeo were the "steer-decorating contest" and the "wild cow milking" event.

Proceeds from the rodeo were expected to be in excess of \$35,000 to be given to local charities.

ah, october



Vito Russo rep'td on the same Rodeo for the Philadelphia Gay News and the only negative comment was that Reno had to be the ugliest city in the whole world.

"Several thousand men and women were dancing a two-step and I was stunned. They were so good at it. And better than that, they weren't just fooling around. This wasn't a Halloween party. These people practise all year and have Western bars where they dance like this all the time. For a New Yorker, it was a genuine revelation. You see, I never thought discos had class. What I thought disco had was 2nd class. I hated it. Now here I was confronted with the almost quaint beauty of people doing the Shodish and the Cotton-Eyed Joe and it was so, well, stylish."

The Wild Cow Milking contest concluded the Rodeo and was the result of a protest from some "macho cowboys" from the previous year's rodeo. They telephoned the rodeo's organizer and "said they'd participate again only if drags and lesbians were eliminated." He told them to "stay home and miss a fun weekend", and then devised the Wild Cow Milking Contest. The lesbian stops and holds the cow still with a rope, the drag queen steadies the head and the gay man milks it, getting at least two drops of milk and running to the judges. The crowd went nuts.

What started for Vito Russo as a to-be-tollerated vacation turned in into a mecca not to be missed no matter where they hold the rodeo next year!

GAY SCOUT SUES SCOUTS

An Eagle Scout of San Francisco, Ca. has filed a \$520,000 discrimination suit charging that the Boy Scouts of America kicked him out because of his open homosexuality.

Timothy Curran, 19, filed the suit with the help of the Amer. Civil Liberties Union and the National Gay Task Force.

"What's ridiculous," Curran says, "is that the Boy Scouts are saying that because I am homosexual, I am immoral. That's absurd. I am not an immoral person."

Curran was kicked out of the Scouts following an article in a local newspaper, accompanied by a photograph of Curran attending the Skyline H.S. prom with a male date. He is quoted in the article for his belief that going to the dance as an open homosexual was a "political statement".

Timothy founded a Scout troop for the deaf in Oakland, and has had an outstanding record as a Scout.

Dave Park, Boy Scout general counsel at the organizations nat'l headquarters in Dallas, says Curran applied for re-registration as a "Scouter", an adult leader, and was refused because, "he is an avowed homosexual".

"We feel homosexuality and membership in Scouting are not compatible," Park says, "We have the right to determine our own criteria for membership".

Curran, a journalism major at UCLA and art director of a gay student newspaper there, says he had no trouble functioning as both a Scout and an open homosexual for 3 years before he was forced out of his troop.

"I have enjoyed being a Boy Scout," he says, "I made a lot of friends, I gained a lot of skills. It was very beneficial for me."

"I tho't that it was ridiculous of these people that I was a good Scout, to say that simply because I was a homosexual--and for no other reason--that I was going to be kicked out."

by Douglas Dowie from Uncle Sam,
September 1981.

McPEAKE REACHES OUT

How aware are gay people of the groups that support and caretake their rights and social activities for gay people? Richard McPeake is concerned that there is such an uncaring attitude in nearby Philadelphia.

"As a person who came out late, I became very emotional over the issue (homosexuality) because we are so conditioned against being queer. It really bothers me because I know deep down inside that it is okay to be gay. Many of my peers who are gay are not comfortable with it, however. I want to do something about that. Therefore, I am pushing for Gay Awareness Day in New Jersey on Sunday, October 18."

McPeake spoke about unity, charging bar owners for battling in Philadelphia rather than working together. And he opened himself up to Philadelphians to talk with him personally. He marked his singleness in realizing progress. Success hinges upon all of us involving ourselves. Together we can turn the world around. McPeake concludes:

"Remember, if you don't help in some way it's very simple: it won't get done and nothing will change."

--Richard McPeake, from the McPeake Rep't, Philadelphia Gay News Oct. 2-15, 1981.

"Blessed are ye who weep; for ye shall laugh." -- Jesus Christ

T-SHIRT RAFFLED

In September, the Switchboard made plans for a t-shirt raffle. The t-shirt was offered by the Gay Rights Nat'l Lobby in Washington. It is green and white picturing a frog wallowing in a stewing pot and captioned "We Won't Go Like Frogs . Gay Rights Nat'l Lobby".

We sold 182 chances for the shirt and the winner was Mike W. of Harrisburg. Congratulations, Mike. Your shirt is on its way from Washington, now. Wear it with pride!

All the animals, except man, know that the principle business of life is to enjoy it.

-- Samuel Butler

FOLLIES

Theatre lovers:
Here's your chance to support the GSH, HCT, and SAVE money when GSH members sell benefit performance tickets for HCT's season opener, "Follies." This is the first area production of this award-winning musical. Performance date will be Sunday, Oct. 18th at 2:30. Tickets will be available to you for only \$6.75 each (regularly \$7.00).

Directed by Tom Hostetter, "Follies" is an intense, imaginative musical. It's NOT a girlie show, but a haunting and emotionally moving treatment of the foolishness and heartache of human pretenses. The theatre being a kind of pretense, the appropriate setting for "Follies" is a bare ruined stage where once the sweet showgirls sang, now littered with rubble of plaster ornamentation, its half-demolished roof open to the sky. There takes place here a reunion of middle-aged former show people who are themselves the living results of the pretenses, the follies, projected by their 20-year old selves when they were young and playing on Broadway. These memory-figures of youth are present on-stage as actual people in black and white to contrast with the grown-up characters, haunting the mature characters with their past selves. Seldom do the "ghosts" make direct contact with their future selves; they remain true to the strange principles of spacetime governing the relationship between memory and reality.

Each character indulges their folly brought to a critical state by this boozy reunion and finally and achingly exposed in the ironic "Loveland" sequence, surrealistically staged in valentines with showgirls and chorus boys. At the heart of the matter is the story of two marriages gone to seed. Their problems are symbols appropriate to our times and circumstances.

At play's end, one witnesses a form of emotional catharsis never before experienced in the musical theatre.

GSH BENEFIT IN NOV.

November 14, another benefit performance will be presented for GSH at the Friend's Meeting House. The performance is a spin-off on THAT RABBIT presented in April. THAT RABBIT'S IN LOVE is a new package of delightful and humorous tales.

Again, all proceeds go to GSH and the cost is again, \$2. in advance; \$3. at the door. The show begins at 8 o'clock, so mark your calendar today--Saturday, November 14 for THAT RABBIT'S IN LOVE!

The book was written by James Goldman ("The Lion in Winter") and the sardonic score by Stephen Sondheim ("Sweeney Todd").

To reserve your tickets, call or write to GSH or contact Chuck.

See you there!

Ray M.