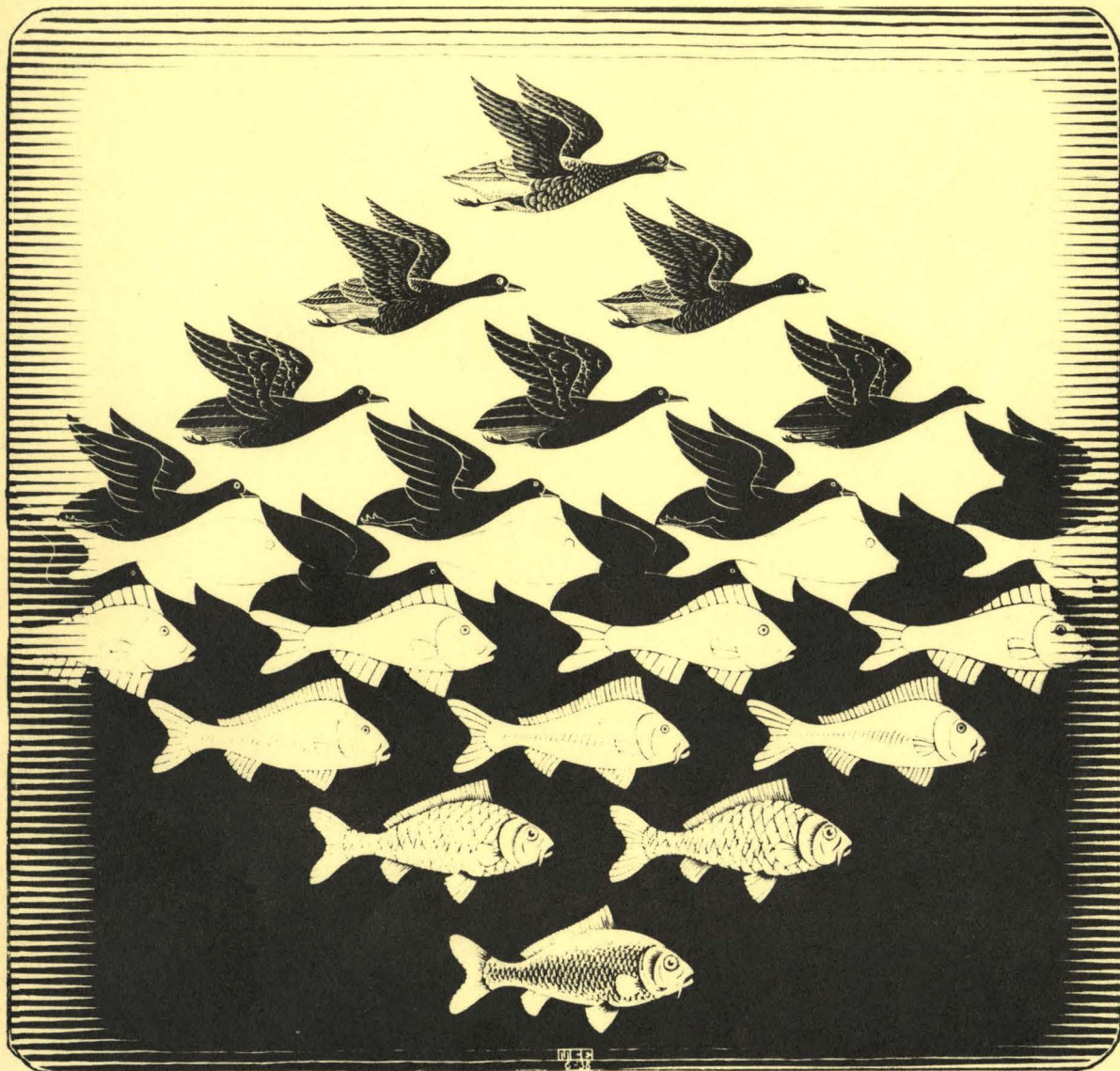


Mainely Gay

Vol 4

April '77

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Who We Are

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Joe Derbyshire
Miriam Dyak
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Note To Readers

■ WE THOUGHT IT ENDED RATHER STRANGE, TOO... The person who typed John Frank's article ("Symposium Flashback") in last month's mag forgot to include the final paragraph. We will not mention names. Instead, we'll (shamefully) pass on the phantom paragraph, which is now being read for the first time, unfortunately:

"I always anticipate a Gay Symposium in the same way I used to anticipate Christmas as a child. In a sense it is our holiday. It is one of the few times many feel safe and strong enough to emerge from the coat hangers and mothballs for a breath of fresh air. It's a time to create and to renew friendships. It's a time to discuss ideas with sisters and brothers, and to confront one's contradictions in a never-ending quest to become a more whole human being, a more effective catalyst, more the agent of one's own fate. And from all these things we can endure to further our personal and political liberation."

* * * *

■ THE STAFF OF MG is in the process of reorganizing. Basically, one of the main-

stays of the publication, Stan Fortuna, has departed for Points West and, as a result, the remaining staff has reevaluated the structure and individual contributions that make MG possible each month.

We would like to operate a publication where there are no mainstays; where more people contribute less and where no one personally feels the weight of the mag as the deadline nears.

With this issue, we're working towards this goal. Needless to say, we hope that we're successful.

Incidentally, we'll miss Stan and his large contributions and wish him well in the west.

* * * *

■ FOR THE RECORD, the circular advertising the Phoenix Restaurant/Disco, enclosed in this issue, was a paid announcement.



EDITORIAL

ANITA BRYANT & L.D. 1419

By now, all of us should be aware of Anita Bryant and the Campaign of Hate she and similar-minded people are waging in the state of Florida.

As a vocal symbol of rampant homophobia, Bryant has received almost daily coverage in the Gay and non-Gay press alike. In her wake is the lynch mob mentality, with the predictable firebombings, hate ads, bomb threats--even a suicide. Events in Miami have turned mean, with the Gay people of that area locked in an increasingly bitter battle with a bigoted and hate-filled mentality so accurately personified by Bryant and her ilk.

Meanwhile to the north, a bill has been introduced into this session of the Maine legislature that would ban discrimination against Gay people in the areas of housing, employment, credit and public accomoda-

tion. In its intent, it is fairly similar to the ordinance recently enacted in Miami--the ordinance Bryant is fighting so actively and seriously.

We can't predict what atmosphere will develop in Maine concerning L.D. 1419, but previous experience indicates that the state contains quite a few people with an Anita Bryant mentality.

If and when these local bigots take their cue from Anita, it will be directed against L.D. 1419 and for the benefit of the state legislature.

It is crucial that we take the initiative in the fight for basic civil rights in Maine.

Now is the time for concerned people to contact their representatives in Augusta and demonstrate support for L.D. 1419.

Let's be involved and allow a fighting chance for 1419. Now!

FEEDBACK

Dear MG,

As you are all aware, here in Dade County the battle lines have been drawn between our community and the religious fanatics who would deprive us of our civil rights. On June 7, 1977, the citizens of Dade County will go to the polls to determine the outcome. We need all the help we can get, and we need it urgently! At this moment there is one specific area in which the various Gay organizations nationwide can be of tremendous help in giving us the support we so badly need.

Money. The Dade County Coalition for the Humanistic Rights of Gays has voluntarily offered to underwrite the cost to the taxpayers of this election, over \$400,000. As a point of political strategy, we had no alternative but to do this in order to eliminate voter backlash by removing the cost factor as an issue, and also in order to main-

tain the support of the County Commissioners who are presently on our side. This money must now be raised by the Gay community.

In addition, by the time it is over the campaign itself will probably have cost us well over \$100,000 to defeat the efforts of our extremely well-funded opposition. You are all aware of the heavy cost of mailings, publicity, newspaper ads, TV spots, legal fees and office expenses, to mention just a few. You can help by holding local fund-raising events in your community. Auctions, garage sales, raffles, movie nights, bar nights, personal solicitation, and appeals in your local Gay-oriented media are all excellent sources of funds.

Please note that checks for campaign purposes should be made payable to the Dade County Coalition and sent to us at address below. However, checks to cover the cost of the election are tax-deductible and should be made payable directly to the Board of County Commissioners, Dade

County, Florida, but also mailed to us.

While we realize that your own battle for your own rights in your community must continue, we cannot overestimate the importance to all of us of what is taking place here in Miami. For the first time in American history, a referendum pertaining to an openly Gay political issue--a civil rights issue--will be voted upon by the community at large. The result will be an extremely influential factor in determining the course of Gay civil rights legislation throughout the country for many years to come.

Sisters and brothers, the magnitude of this issue transcends all factions, all creeds, and all geographic boundaries. Wherever you are, and whatever the immediate goals of your organization, our need is most urgent. Please, for your own sakes, give us your fullest support!

Sincerely,
Neil Rogers, Chairperson
Dade County Coalition
5390 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, Florida 33137
(305) 751-GAYS

Dear MG,

I'm writing this letter to ask a small favor that will be of much help to me in many ways, so I'm hoping that you'll assist me in every way possible.

At the present time I am confined in prison and do not have any family or friends on the outside who care enough to write me a few lines from time to time. Mail in a place like this really does mean a lot to a person because it lets one know that someone out there still cares no matter what he or she has done. But each day the mail passes by my cell with nothing for me and that alone makes my time kind of hard to serve and bear. So I'm asking that you please put my name and address in your Bits column of Mainely Gay where it can be seen by anyone who may wish to write a lonely guy like me. I'll write to anyone who wishes to correspond.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. R. Martell Harris
(144-405)
P.O.Box 787
Lucasville, Ohio 45648

[more FEEDBACK on next page]

Dear MG,

During this emotionally precarious time of Spring, I find it necessary to express my growing concern over the content of your publication--reasons which kept me as non-subscriber until recent times, when a bit of activist conscience overran previous common sense.

The issue at hand, along with my concurrent, informal studies on "Why do/don't Gay relationships work?," "Why/how did you (or won't you) come out?," and "Why did a recent study of Gays indicate that some 37% of them are alcoholic?," there's a Gordonesque survey on "Why don't you subscribe or even read 'Mainely Gay'?"

Aside from closet apathy, the many reasons I garnered eventually led to my major point of dissatisfaction with the publication: "Mainely Gay" is 90% political, and 10% personal.

In the real world of Gay society, 90% of where peoples' concerns are involved with personal issues: how to build a relationship,

coping with homophobia without and within, how about the Gay man's suicide in the county jail last fall which all but you talked about, that is--people as people with problems, loves, concerns cares of a personal nature. Surely it has a place in this state's only Gay publication.

"Esplanade," a Boston-based publication for Gays, was created largely by dissatisfied members of GCN who tired of that paper's over-interest in the endless bullshit arena of politics. Must the same happen here in Maine?

Sincerely,

Bill Gordon
Gorham, Maine

Dear MG,

Who are you fooling?

The time is past when the Gay Liberation Movement can benefit from the sort of thinking found in Susan W. Henderson's column in the March 1977 issue of *Mainely Gay*. It is destructive to our long range purposes to be lulled by such complacency. We have no use for generalizations about an ill-defined group of Gay nonconformists;

they only make those of us who can identify with them satisfied to be who we are. They don't challenge us. They don't speak to the many needs we have as oppressed people in an oppressive society.

Henderson points out that there have been Gays for 2,000 years who stood outside of society. Therefore, there have been nonconformists being creative and tolerant; there have been outsiders criticising society all that time, according to Henderson's thesis. But we are still firmly entrenched in patriarchy.

We will continue to be entrenched in patriarchy until those of us who have been *being* decide to begin *doing*. Being Gay hasn't changed anything. Only as we continue to act will change take place.

In order to act, we must plan strategy. We need concrete suggestions about what to do. We can use information about what has already been tried and how it worked. We should be thinking about how we fit in with other groups who are working to undermine our patriarchal

social system. We may even be at a point where we need to discuss whether the patriarchy should be the focal point of our struggle. These are some of the things a column in a newspaper for Gays should be discussing.

I am not homophobic. And I do think that Gays can and will help bring about the downfall of our present system. But I think we must be clearer about how this will work. Just what is the connection between homosexuality and the institutions which comprise our system? How does our lifestyle threaten the power structure? If we continue thinking that we are Gay and therefore creative, we will stand waiting for the miracle of our creativity to bring about perfection.

Being Gay does make us outsiders. But that is not nearly enough. We must take not one, but many positions outside society until such time as the society that we know has ceased.

Being Gay is the first step that makes many more possible. We find strength in our commitment to our Gay sisters and brothers. We may then

begin to clarify how and why we reject the nuclear family. Or we might offer new ideas for childcare and rearing. We may choose to define our personal relationships after a model different from the monogamy which leaves half the participants to be the property for the other half. We could begin restructuring businesses to be something besides the owner/worker hierarchy of capitalism. Whatever we choose to do, we should realize that only conscious efforts on all of our parts will change society enough.

I believe we can work to create a society in which we can take a conformist position and be comfortable. I think we should be working toward that goal. Our society is bankrupt and I don't think gentle prodding from nonconformist critics is going to save it. We must take our chosen position as outsiders and use it to our advantage. Until we do so, we are fooling ourselves to think we are changing much.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kellison
Albion, Maine

The Curmudgeon replies:

I am afraid Ms. Kellison has completely misunderstood my article of March, 1977. As I believe I made clear in the first paragraph, the thesis of the piece is a warning against the siren-song of respectability. The fact that nonconformity brings suffering should be obvious--again, in the third paragraph, I noted that "The sufferings attendant upon this fact have been many...." My whole point was that our outside position has given us a certain freedom to create a different, more humanistic lifestyle than the prevailing in "respectable" society. I am really surprised that this was so utterly missed by Ms. Kellison, because I thought I had made it clear. Ms. Kellison seems to think that nonconformity and creativity imply some sort of passive, euphoric state. They do not--they imply hard thinking and hard work, as any artist or scholar (or Gay person) can testify. We probably think about our social condition and its implications more than any other group in society. My article was a call to keep on doing it.

Dear MG,

First, I wish to thank you very much for granting me a free prisoner's subscription to *Mainely Gay*. I have received three issues so far and have read each with great interest. You have a truly fine publication which I enjoy very much.

And now I have still another request. I am to be released from prison in mid-September of this year, after serving three years on an auto theft charge. I would like to relocate somewhere in the Eastern coastal region and rebuild my life. I am an avid boating enthusiast, able to do professional boat painting and light maintenance (but no mechanics), possibly in exchange for live-aboard privileges. I am bondable (up to \$10,000.00). Also, I have approximately two years retail sales experience (mobile homes) and some accounting experience. I am 37 years old.

If possible, I would appreciate it if you would include an ad for me in the "Unclassified" section of *Mainely Gay*. I am not much of an ad writer, but wish to suggest the following for

your consideration:

GAY MALE, 37, Californian seeking to relocate Eastern sea coast. Experience in food service administration, retail sales, and boat painting and light maintenance. Enthusiastic boater, experience in power, interested in sail. Need job and/or live-aboard situation, your boat, in exchange for light maintenance and watchman duties. Bondable. Reliable, hard worker, sober. May I work for you? Please write: Duane L. Dittus, Box A, Room 1375, San Luis Obispo, CA 93409.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I am looking forward to the next issue of *Mainely Gay* and hope to be a local, paying subscriber in the near future.

Sincerely,

Very truly,

Duane L. Dittus

Dear MG,

Perhaps I have a twisted (perverted?) sense of humor, but this recent trio of tittilations turned me on.

On the radio, umpteen times a day during the Christmas

and post-Christmas season just past, a Mr. Rademacher, president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, proudly proclaimed, "Letter carriers regularly make deliveries to more than 22 million male receptacles a day." (Or at least that's how my amused mind spelt the operative adjective.) That surely means most of them are Gay--and no wonder they look so tired around mid-afternoon!

And just last month in Portland supermarkets you could buy a ten ounce jar of a very good brand of instant coffee for only \$2.99, a full half dollar less than the other nationally advertised brands. But the best part came when you used up the jar, for at the bottom was this small folded coupon that promised you a twenty cents off voucher on your next jar, plus a valuable, worth \$1.99, item of clothing if you sent the coupon to the coffee manufacturer. My fey head wondered often if famed impressionist Jim Bailey took advantage of this offer, and at this moment might be proudly wearing his **CHOCK FULL O' NUTS PANTY HOSE.**

Finally, even such a conservative magazine as *The American Legion Magazine* seems to be trying to tell us something on the cover of its current, March, 1977 issue. Pictured there, in radiant full color, is a grim visaged tight-lipped blond young woman, wearing a pilot's flight suit, buckling up her parachute straps, while wearing a crash helmet decorated with multi-colored daisies painted thereupon. The woman on the cover is designed to illustrate the theme of the lead article in the magazine, "IN ARMS THE 'MS' GAINS EQUALITY/WHY WOMEN ARE IMPORTANT TO THE U.S. MILITARY." Inside the front cover the photo credits identify the young woman as a "second pilot of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Three stationed at the U.S. Naval Air Station in North Island, California," and goes on to give her not inappropriate rank and name: Lieutenant JG Joellen Drag (!).

Yet, these three made me chuckle. That sure is one helluva weird tempo in the drumbeat that I march to. How about you?

Sincerely,
Philip Jenkins
Portland, Maine

SYMPOSIUM: A POST MORTEM

By Staff

Maine Gay Symposium IV was held on the weekend of March 25-27 at Bangor Community College. Approximately 250 people attended, coming from all New England states, New York, New Brunswick and Quebec.

The weekend began on Friday night with a coffeehouse, with poetry readings and live music provided by Pleiades, an all-woman band from Boston. Video tapes of past Gay-related television shows were shown at various times throughout the weekend.

Keynote speakers on Saturday morning were Karla Jay and John Paul Hudson. Jay has co-edited two Gay anthologies with Allen Young, OUT OF THE CLOSETS and AFTER YOU'RE OUT. She is currently working on a third anthology. Hudson is the author of THE GAY INSIDER, USA, a guide, and the recent Gay mystery novel, SUPERSTAR MURDER?. He presently writes for *NewsWest*, a west coast Gay publication, and is in the process of establishing the Insider Press--to publish Gay authors.

Karla Jay led off the keynote speeches with her witty and cogent remarks on 'coming out.' "Coming out is a life-long process...we should all be midwives to ourselves, giving birth to the beautiful dykes and faggots within ourselves." Jay, a delightful *raconteuse*, told several relevant stories about her own coming to terms with "it," as non-Gays of her acquaintance persisted in calling her Lesbianism, and of the incredible talent of many heterosexuals for not seeing the Gayness under their noses.

John Paul Hudson followed with a timely account of "...how a funny thing happened on the way to the revolution." Hudson warned against sacrificing Gay radicalism and Gay uniqueness to please the non-Gay people who hold power in our society. He condemned David Goodstein, owner of the *Advocate*, and others for fostering "the myth of Gay back-

lash." What we are dealing with, said Hudson, is a "front-lash"--namely the same kind of oppression we have always known. He had misgivings about the meeting between officials of the National Gay Task Force and their guests with members of President Carter's staff, believing that too many of the Gay delegation were likely to avoid, "for the sake of respectability," the hard questions that must be asked if we are to see meaningful social change for Gay people and other oppressed groups. We cannot make any real gains, he warned, by playing by the rules of a system that is inherently homophobic and unjust.

The workshops held during the rest of the day included such topics as: "Consciousness Parenting," "Aging and Ageism," "Issues in Lesbian Relationships," "Eradicating Crotch Consciousness," "Rural Male Gay Life," "Lesbians in the Country," "The Social and Economic Problems of Coming Out," and many others. John Paul Hudson led a workshop entitled "A Gay Author in a Straight Publishing World." Karla Jay conducted a workshop on "Lesbian Sexuality: How Much of the Heterosexual Model Have We Bought?"

After the workshops, a general assembly was held to discuss the Gay Rights legislation [L.D. 1419] presently being considered by the Maine legislature. The legislation is being supported by the Maine Coalition for Human Rights, the Maine Civil Liberties Union, the Maine Gay Task Force, the Maine Lesbian-Feminists, and the Maine Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

Saturday night was celebrated with a vegetarian dinner, prepared by the Fig O' My Heart restaurant of Old Town and a dance with music by Pleiades. The Symposium closed Sunday, following a brunch.



REFLECTIONS ON SYMPOSIUM IV

By Douglas E. Soucie

This is my third Symposium so far, the big event of the year--a place to meet Gay people from all areas of the state and some from out of state. This is the one weekend when I can lock the "Straight" world out and feel among friends.

Symposium is a political happening with workshops and speeches, but the main impact seems to be social and personal. It's a place to see old friends, some whom I haven't seen since last year, and exchange news and memories. A place to make new friends and talk to people from different backgrounds and lifestyles. There are groups of people talking, children playing, people exchanging addresses, browsing at the literature tables, people selling Gay and Feminist buttons, records, and books, music played by a women's band, and other volunteers, but mostly just people--together.

There were speakers and workshops exploring various aspects of Gay life, people sharing their experiences and trying to work out their problems, and drawing strength from each other.

Saturday night, after the workshops and supper, came the dance. The dance is the yearly event I most look forward to, to be able to let loose and not feel on display. This dance featured a women's band, Pleiades, and records, about half and half--the music was good, offering a little for everyone.

This dance began with a small incident: a man removed his shirt to be more comfortable and a woman asked him to wear it, as his right to remove it was not shared by women and was therefore oppressive. Others joined the discussion and it became heavy, a compromise was worked out and the dance continued--so did the discussion, at a dozen tables. The incident seems small to me but does point out a division

This Symposium, like the last two, left me feeling high and made it easier to deal with life in this "Great Society." It left my politics muddled with too many new ideas to sort out and evaluate and other views to try to understand. I left with new acquaintances to develop into friendships and closer feelings toward old friends. Though it may be a long year ahead, I have the next Symposium to look forward to and this last one to look back upon.

Cumberland County Curmudgeon

By Susan W. Henderson

THE TRUE POOP ABOUT WILLIAM OF ORANGE

Those of you who remember your European history will recall that William of Orange dethroned King James II of England in 1688 and became half of William and Mary. The wimmers called this little caper The Glorious Revolution. James II probably called it something he wouldn't repeat in front of his confessor. However, it is a safe bet that your history teachers never told you that William of Orange was one of the Great Closet Cases of the Seventeenth Century. Historians have recently begun to come out about William as they have about Frederick the Great. So here followeth, insofar as Yours Truly can ascertain it, the True Poop about Our Protestant Deliverer, or William the Bastard, depending on what side you're on.

William's dearest friend and best buddy was Hans Willem Bentinck. They grew up together. Bentinck started out as William's page, and when he did The Big Heist in 1688, William made Bentinck Earl of Portland and gave him all sorts of other honors. William had been orphaned at an early age, and Bentinck gave him most of the love he ever got in his youth and loved him all their lives. However, there was one fly in the ointment. Hans Willem Bentinck was not only straight, but homophobic and rather a prude. William was never specific about his feelings, but his love for his friend seems to have been a lot more sexual than Bentinck's was for him. This is illustrated by a quarrel they had in 1699.

The bone of contention was Arnoud van Keppel, a young street person whom William had taken under his wing and who had become, to use that wonderful euphemism, "the King's favorite." William started giving Keppel all sorts of honors and letting him be familiar with him in front of

people. Bentinck resigned from all his offices and wrote to William from Holland (they were all Dutch, remember) that he had thought only William's enemies were making remarks about his relationship with Keppel (they were), but that it turned out even the Dutch Army, who thought William was the greatest invention since Heineken, were talking about it too. (Remember, almost every soldier dreams of fucking his commander-in-chief.) Bentinck pleaded with William to deny it. Instead, he wrote very emotional letters to Bentinck (and William was usually notorious for not showing his feelings), begging him to come back and asking how he could be so cold and heartless after all these years. It was very sad, really, that homophobia should have made Bentinck so insensitive to William's love. The story had a happy ending, in a way. When William lay dying, Bentinck finally came to see him (gossips said Keppel had kept him away until the last moment). William was too weak to talk, but he took Bentinck's hand and held it to his heart, just before he died. Eat your heart out, Eric Segal!

For further reading, I recommend Henri and Barbara Van der Zee's *William and Mary* (New York, 1973). It is one of the most positive treatments I've seen of William's love life, both with his male friends and with his wife Mary, whom he also loved dearly. It has a charming vignette of William's secretary, who was always snooping around to find out what William did in his ultra-private rooms in The Hague. He caught tantalizing glimpses of William disappearing into the inner sanctum with a captain of the guard, but little else. William was even better than most of us at keeping nosy hets out of his love life.

So here you have it, a cursory look at another Great Gay from our Glorious Past. I will admit, I always preferred James II and wish it had been he who was one of Ours, but William of Orange had a lot of good points. He was a patriotic Dutchman who spent most of his life keeping Holland from being swallowed up by Louis XIV of France. The reason he took over Great Britain was to use its resources to fight France. The Orange people in Northern Ireland were named for

him but don't deserve to be mentioned in the same breath. They are bigots and he never was any such thing--he was one of the more enlightened people of his time. (So was James, though he seldom gets the credit.) It's a pity he and James couldn't have had a roll in the hay together--but that's one of my wilder fantasies.

The State Street Straw

By Peter Prizer

PIN-BALL ETIQUETTE

A Brief (?) Discourse Delineating the Socially Acceptable Realms of Sporting Behavior...

[NOTE: If you're not a C.P.B.F. (Certified Pin-Ball Freak), kindly disregard this article.]

THE APPROACH...As one nears the vicinity of a prospective pin-ball machine (hereafter known also as "device"), it should be immediately determined if the machine has, indeed, been vacated by the previous player(s). If the "Game Register" on the scoring panel is at "0," it may be logically assumed that the device is not in use. At this point, one may insert one or two quarters. (Inserting three or more quarters may indicate to observers that you intend an unseemly monopolization of the machine, or, even worse, that your self-confidence and expertise are such that you reasonably expect to win no games on your own. The general rule of thumb is one quarter at a time.)

IT'S ONLY HUMAN...If, upon inserting your quarter, you have reason to believe that the machine is inoperative, you may seek redress via the coin return button. It may be pushed several times. When this avenue of relief is exhausted and your quarter remains unretrieved, you may deliver a sound thrust to the front of the device with your right foot (never the left). This may be repeated several times: until the quarter is returned; until your irritation is sated; or until you are restrained by management.

It is considered good form in many circles to punctuate your physical aggression with clearly enunciated oaths; i.e., "Goddamn fucker..." or "I'll kill this fucking machine!"

MONEY TALKS (WHEN A QUARTER'S WORTH MORE THAN TWO DIMES AND A NICKEL)...Unlike other sports or games of skill, there is no formal method for selecting the "first player." When two or more are engaged, the person who inserts the quarter is usually the "first," by virtue of standing in front of the device. In necessary, the self-appointed "beginner" may resolve disputes of playing order by either initiating an oversight (see following category) or by physically removing hostile participants from the vicinity of the machine.

WHOOPS! () ERRORS OF OMISSION...The dilemma may arise where the First Player (also called "Quarter Insert-er") has neglected to register (or "punch off") the appropriate number of scoring panels for additional players. (After the ball is in play, the machine will not accept added score panels). On this occasion, the slighted participants may properly address the First Player, upon whom the burden of responsibility is normally assumed, with verbal disparagement. Accepted forms of description are: "You *stupid* asshole," and "Hey, asshole here didn't punch off enough games!" The transgressor usually completes the solo play undeterred and may sometimes reimburse the slightees for lost playing time.

AT PLAY...When a player is negotiating a "live" ball, it is considered polite to refrain from off-the-wall remarks and other quasi-intentional distractions. An occasional "Nice shot" or "Nice save" may be appropriate, if softly spoken. Observers should not lean against the machine or obstruct the view of the player with bottles, coats, etc. This courtesy is seldom violated.

POLITICS OF TILTING...Tilting the machine, or causing the device to erase all accumulated bonus points due to unusual physical contact, is an important ritual of The Play, but is often misunderstood by casual observers. Ideally, the machine should be tilted on purpose, as a display of

disgust and dismay after losing the ball after an unrepresentatively low point score is totaled, but before the bonus points are added. The more bonus points one purpose-

fully erases by tilting, the better, *to a point*. Intentional tilting with 5,000 or less bonus points is socially desirable; tilting with more than 5,000 accumulated bonus points may generate negative debate among observers. Intentional tilting, after the third ball has been lost, is often desirable, especially if the final point total is:

- low;
- average, but could have been better
- rather high, but could have been higher
- high, but just short of game-winning, or
- very high and game-winning, but just short of a record.

Tilting during play is very poor form, as are unintentional tilts.

ACCESSORIES...Social decorum is observed by placing a lit cigarette on the glass in front of the machine, with the filter facing the player. Noxious smoke is not considered a legitimate obstacle to pin-ball expertise. (The relative popularity and degree of management maintainance can often be determined by the relative accumulations of ash and nicotine stain on the front portion of the glass.)

A SELLER'S MARKET (MARX WOULD FROWN)...Accumulated games may be sold at competitive market price. Slight discounts are offered for blocks of three or more games. Games are rarely given away and done so under highly unusual circumstances. Management does not extend credit!

A C.P.B.F. writes...

Dear Peter: Recently I was presented with what amounts to a bribe by the local District Attorney's office. Basically, I would be granted three hours of pin-ball a day until my 21st birthday (I'm 15)

in exchange for perjurious grand jury testimony that would convict my parents--both political dissenters--of a certain crime against nature. (Somehow the authorities found out I'm a pin-ball freak.) Here's the catch: the machines they want me to play on are located in the Evidence Room at the police station (recently the "Hired Hand" pin-ball machine was named a correspondent in a hushed-up, local divorce case involving two heterosexual lawyers) and secondly, the minimum sentence for my parent's "crime" is 10 years at hard labor. What should I do?

--TORN IN TUCSON

Dear TORN,

Your dilemma is not as complicated as it would appear. Basically, the State is offering you six years in exchange for your parent's ten. In your case, I'd go with the D.A., which would still leave you four years to patch things up with your folks. Incidentally, get it in writing before you talk!

* * *

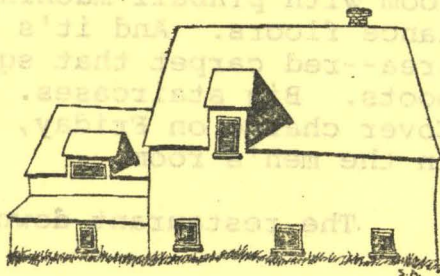
CONFIDENTIAL to Gov. Shortley: Try kicking it with both feet at the same time.

WOMEN'S COUNSELING SERVICE

The Women's Counseling Service provides low-cost feminist counseling and referrals for women throughout Maine. Some counselors are Lesbians, all are non-homophobic. Their hours are: Mondays, 11-2; Wednesdays, 11-2; Thursdays, 4-7 and Saturdays, 10-1. To contact them call 443-9531 (or write) or drop by their office at Room 23, 72 Front Street, Bath 04530.

~ Maine ~ FREEWOMAN'S HERALD

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Review

By Joe Derbyshire

RISEN FROM THE ASHES: THE PHOENIX OPENS IN PORTLAND

There was a time when the bars were important to me, when the whimsical attention of the bar crowd seemed to me to constitute an important recognition of my own existence, and I took comfort in the dinginess and friendliness of Roland's Tavern. I am sure that my face is a familiar one in Portland bars even though I don't go to bars in Portland very frequently any more. But recently a few good friends persuaded me that it was about time to check out the Phoenix--Roland's new bar, risen from the ashes of fire and old church, on Oak Street, just off Congress.

The Phoenix is a most pleasant surprise. This is not your sleazy clandestine Gay bar tucked away among the warehouses and the docks. Remember those? Some of you? This is not your sleazy defensive bar, either--announcing with a chip-on-the-Gay-shoulder, "Look we exist, too." Times have changed. Gay is good. Gay is upfront. Gay women and men want a place to go to that doesn't offend the aesthetic sense at every jog in the walls. With the coming of the Phoenix, Portland's Gay people have a classy, tastefully decorated place to meet and party in. There's a restaurant downstairs. There's a disco for dancing. There's a room with a real bar separated by a real wall from the room where the music blasts, a room where conversation at a few decibels below a bellow can take place. There's an upstairs room with pinball machines and pool tables overlooking the dance floors. And it's all carpeted except for the dancing area--red carpet that squishes under your sneakers or hip boots. Big staircases. Nice plants. Coat check room. Cover charge on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Even urinals in the men's room.

The restaurant downstairs, with its beads and potted

plants, its dark wall panelling, looks somehow incomplete, unfinished. The walls cry for pictures, maybe--paintings, photographs, wall-hangings, Medieval tapestries--something. This restaurant hasn't the charm of the Gaslight or the Hollow Reed nor the Queen Victoria elegance of Auburn's No. 1 Tomatoes. It is characterless--in spite of beads and potted plants--but it is certainly not sterile or hideous or offensive.

What the Phoenix restaurant needs is "cheek," as the English would say--a little more daring and riskiness in decor to give a kind of individuality that would really distinguish it from say, Wiscasset's Port of Call. The same might be said of the food, even though it is difficult to make a judgment about a restaurant's food after only one visit. I enjoyed my meal of broiled haddock--the fish was neither overdone nor rendered unidentifiable by sauce or too much wine used in cooking. The salad was crisp and fresh, excellent Italian dressing. Nicely baked potatoes. Really good coffee. In fact, only the clam chowder seemed poor to me. My friends seemed to enjoy an assortment of entrees from scallops to steaks as well. No one was offended by the food's quality or quantity. Phoenix food is good but unspecial--has little pizzazz or true individuality. The waiters are pleasant and accommodating, if somewhat unprofessional as yet. There are definite possibilities for this restaurant.

The disco section of the bar makes a whole lot of Gay bars in a whole lot of places around the country look tacky, sterile, or shabby in comparison. This bar has real character--individuality, a little poshness, low-burning, pleasant lighting which makes the bar neither too dark nor too glaring. The disco bar seems to have been renovated from the principal part of the old church and retains some of the very nice features of its first incarnation: wonderful beamed ceilings and a "church-window" screen for a light show. The light show itself--repeated much too frequently in the same pattern--looks indeed like fragments of stained glass which somehow manage to blink on and off at the far end of the room. The dance floors--on different levels, with plenty of room to

move--are clustered in an attractive arrangement around the "window," while the dj perches up in the rafters of one corner, spinning his tunes. The space for drinking is ample--crowded on a Saturday night--but not mobbed, at least not on the night I was there. This is a very attractive dance bar to be in. One exception. One notable exception. One strident, tedious exception. The music.

I love to dance, and I'm sure most Gay people go to dancing bars at least partially because they, too, love to dance. But I am weary to my bones of the endless thump-thump/thump-thump of disco music. The Gay bars in New York invented this stuff--or were instrumental in popularizing it--about five years ago--and it seems to me one of the least exciting contributions that Gay people have made to popular culture. The more songs that are spun from the endless assembly-line packages of the record companies, the stupider and more dreary the "new" material seems to be. Let's have some live bands at the Phoenix! Let's have a variety of music on disco nights! It might be fun to dance once again to "Ticket to Ride" for a change. Some reggae, Good ole rock 'n' roll. Hold-and-cuddle songs. Even good soul music like Aretha Franklin's "Respect." But endless thump-and-pant disco is boring. It's boring as music, repetitious as dance, and the song lyrics are either sexist or vacuous. The Phoenix music ought to be as fresh and interesting as its decor. Please.... Especially let's have live bands where the interaction between the musicians and the dancers can create a kind of joy and excitement which no dj can match.

It was a Saturday night and the moon was in Capricorn. I liked the Phoenix and I guess I'll go back again sometime. But as I looked around, I wondered if the man from Greenwich Village whom I met at Roland's Tavern a couple of years ago would ever say of the Phoenix as he had of Roland's: "I always stop at Roland's whenever I'm in Portland. I meet really nice people here. Really nice people." The Gay people of Portland have a nice bar to go to, a restaurant where presumably they can hold hands across the table if they want to, a place with class, appeal, and lots of

Seventies Gay spirit--distance, indifference, "If-you-ask-me-to-dance-you're-asking-me-to-go-to-bed" suspicions, and cliquishness. Yeah, well, I know that times have changed and the Gay scene in Portland has "grown up." I kept wondering, though, if my friend from the village would find the kind of friendliness at the Phoenix he used to find at Roland's. But go for yourselves and find out. It's worth it just to see the place. And you might have a very good time.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND WORKSHOP IN THE WOODS

May 20 through the 22nd. Objectives of the weekend are exploring roles as women, experiencing relaxed living in a natural environment, and developing an understanding and acceptance of ourselves and our bodies. The deadline is May 1, and there is limited enrollment.

For information, call Julie Bobrow, 873-2171, Ext. 258, or write to Sarah Cloudy, 11 Libby Court, Waterville, ME 04901. Fee: \$50 for weekend, meals and transportation from Waterville included.

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New Hampshire

By Wayne April

Not since the days of the Gay Students Organization at the University of New Hampshire has there been so much noise about homosexuals in this state. On Friday, Feb. 25, three state senators submitted Senate Bill #87: "An Act--prohibiting adult persons of the same sex from consorting in a lewd or licentious manner in a public place."

The sponsors' precise definition of the words "lewd or licentious" gives some indication of the brain power behind the bill.. "Lewd" means indecent and against the accepted social mores. "Licentious" means disregarding accepted rules and standards and morally unrestrained." Clear as mud.

Actually, D. Alan Rock (R-Nashua), one of the bill's co-sponsors, is not a stupid man. As a trustee of the University it was he who led the fight against the recognition of the Gay Students Organization in 1973-74. When the trustees lost their fight in three courts, he vowed not to give up.

The advantage of the vague wording of the bill became clear at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing Wednesday, March 10. When Committeemember Senator Eileen Foley (D-Portsmouth) asked Sen. Rock what effect the bill would have on dances sponsored by the GSO at the University, he answered that it would "make them illegal."

No decision--pro or con--concerning the bill was made at the hearing, but Sen. Foley said in private conversation that it will probably never get out of committee. "It's a stupid bill," she said, "and if we do let it out, we will bring it out very badly."

Meetings of Nashua Area Gays (NAG) are held Monday evenings at 7:30. Lesbians and Gay men are both welcome. Call (603) 673-5315 for more information on this new organization.

Vermont

By The Lesbian Defense Fund

LESBIAN MOTHER THREATENED WITH LOSING CHILD IN CUSTODY CASE

I am a Lesbian mother being sued for custody of my five year old daughter by my ex-husband. My daughter has lived with me ever since we left her father four years ago and wants to be able to continue living with me.

Her father has a great deal of money to hire lawyers and psychiatric experts. He has a respectable middle-class lifestyle. I have virtually no money to defend myself and have been putting practically all my time, energy and resources into women's and Gay struggles for the past four years. The legal fees will total four or five thousand dollars and the case will probably come up within the next month.

Because of my Lesbianism and political activity, all aspects of my life are coming under scrutiny. I must defend in court my past and present living and working situations, the sanity of myself, my child, and of her friends.

Gay people should not be considered unfit parents. Custody cases should not be decided on grounds of sexual preference. This case, the first Lesbian custody case to go to court in the State of Vermont, involves the right of Gay parents to live with their children. It also involves the rights of children. The state should not be allowed to so totally disrupt a child's life against her or his will.

So please help me in my fight to keep my child from being taken away from me. Several hundred dollar's worth of legal bills are outstanding now. Each passing week brings more and more bills. The Lesbian Defense Fund is accepting donations for my case. Every contribution helps, large or small, but please dig deeply. The struggle is all of ours'. Send contributions to: The Lesbian Defense Fund, PO Box 4, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452.

NEWS SHORTS

SAN FRANCISCO (GPU News) -- The United States District Court of Northern California has ruled the Navy's policy of mandatory discharging of all Gay service people is unconstitutional. The court said that the services' treatment of homosexuals is not keeping with the services' "traditional position in the vanguard of providing equal opportunities. In fact, the Navy's policy of discharging homosexuals without considering all relevant factors pertaining to their fitness to serve violates the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment." The court also noted that "processing for discharge is mandatory if Navy personnel are found to be engaging in homosexual acts." The only types of misconduct which are subject to mandatory discharge are homosexual acts and drug trafficking. "For every other class of misconduct, the discharge decision is based on the merits of the particular case. The court finds no basis for a policy of singling out homosexuals for mandatory exclusion, re-

gardless of the fitness of the particular individual."

WINDSOR, ONTARIO (*The Body Politic*) -- Following the examples of Toronto and Ottawa, Windsor city council passed a resolution on March 14 prohibiting discrimination against city employees on the basis of sexual orientation. The amended resolution was carried by a narrow margin of four to three after an absurd but entertaining display of homophobia by members of the council and spectators. After regular business had been disposed of, the resolution was explained in detail to the council and a public gallery consisting of members of Windsor Gay Unity (WGU), a troop of Girl Guides, and one Mr. James Wiggins. Following the presentation, Wiggins rose to speak against the proposal, reminding the council of the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah. He closed his remarks with the statement that homosexuality was a lifestyle

freely and sinfully chosen "... just like biting one's nails." During the ensuing discussion period alderman Wagenburg qualified his support by introducing what became known as the "shower" issue. It was his concern that certain city employees, specifically lifeguards and recreation supervisors, be prohibited from showering with children of their own sex lest there be some sexual attraction. An attempt to table (and effectively kill) the resolution was thwarted. Alderman Wagenburg refused to support the resolution without the "showers' amendment, and it appeared that all WGU efforts would be to no avail. However, a compromise was arranged with the suggestion that the word "assignments" be deleted from the resolution ("...employees...are to be in no way discriminated against with regards to hiring, assignments..."). This was reluctantly approved by WGU members and the resolution passed.

MIAMI (*Gay Community News*) -- The Miami Metro Commission has set June 7 as the date for the long-awaited county-wide referendum on the Dade County Gay civil rights ordinance--which protects Gay

people from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. The electoral test of the ordinance is expected to have wide national ramifications on the Gay civil rights movement. Opponents of the ordinance--led by entertainer Anita Bryant and her organization called "Save Our Children"--garnered 59,000 signatures which they presented to the county clerk for certification. The county clerk approved 10,000 of the signatures in March--the number needed to force the vote--and the Metro Commission then approved the holding of the referendum. The referendum, believed to be the first of its kind in the country, will cost Dade County about \$400 thousand dollars. The Dade County Coalition for the Humanistic Rights of Gays hopes to raise a war chest of \$500,000 to fight against repeal of the ordinance. (The Coalition has opened a headquarters at 5390 Biscayne Boulevard which is open from 9AM to 9PM. The Coalition can be reached by telephone at [305] 751-GAYS, and the organization's mailing address is PO Box 414, Miami FL 33133.)

EAST ST. LOUIS, IL (*NewsWest*) -- Despite winning a preliminary

Dear Mainly Gay,

How Geez. Here I sit
at Franco College in another one
of those moods in which I
wonder with amazement: "What
in the unsuck
am I doing here!"



Eberhard Weber, on my phono,
makes mystic music of mad-
aloneness: piano - jello - o;
slowed-down light created by
pot until sharp
reality of next day
questions my emotional
reserve to supply me
with the energy
to deal.



Read Mainly Gay; connect!
Fine issue. You are the place
that says I exist!! —
— and celebrates it! The
difference
between
madness and
contemporary
existence!



I mean: if Anita Bryant
can survive the Squeeze,
then why can't I!!!

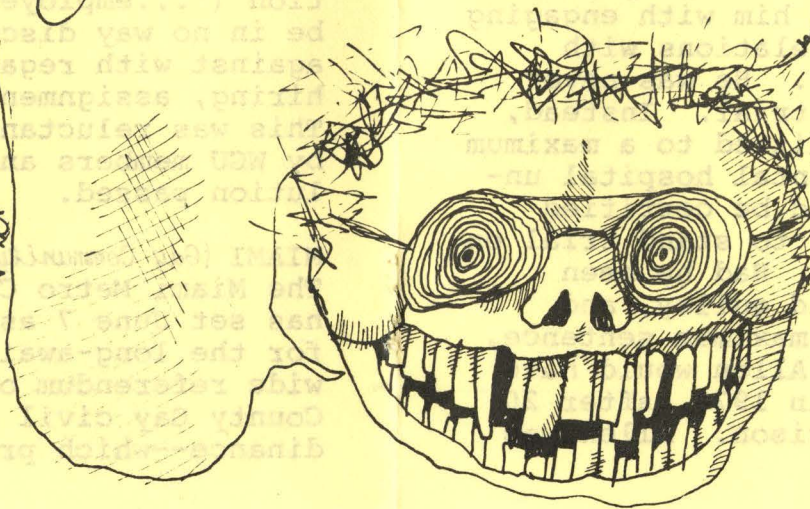
Instant C-R!

Instant Nirvana!

Discover that
when you are
praying to Godless,
you are actually
praying to

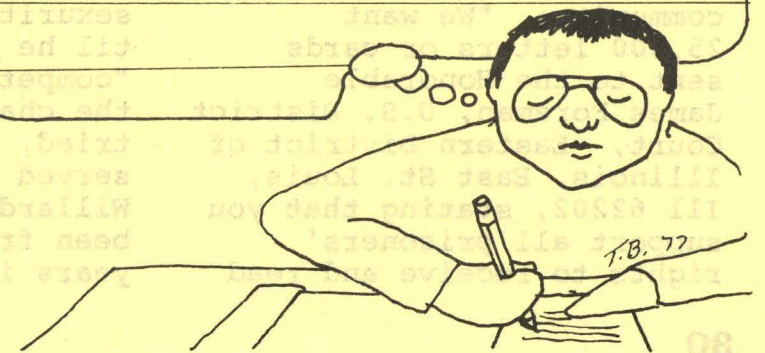


yourself!!!



And all because of Mainly
Gay.

Sincerely yours,
and added
a Satisfied Reader



T.B. 77

skirmish in federal district court here, the National Prisoner's Association is disappointed with community support of its battle against censorship of Gay-oriented prison reading material. Judge James Foreman, acting on the suit filed here on behalf of Russel Smith and all other Gay prisoners seeking the freedom to receive Gay magazine and newspaper subscriptions in federal prisons, has ordered the U.S. Bureau of Prisons to show cause for support of its censorship policy. A full hearing on the matter is expected soon, at which time the Bureau will presumably outline the position that Gay publications are disruptive influences which tend to mark recipients as potential targets for rape, physical violence and emotional abuse. The National Prisoner's Association has appealed for two forms of help from the outside community: "We want 25,000 letters or cards sent to the Honorable James Foreman, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Illinois, East St. Louis, Ill 62202, stating that you support all prisoners' rights to receive and read

publications of their choice--including Gay ones." In addition, financial help can be sent to support the legal battle. Checks can be made payable to the National Prisoner's Association, account number 44030705, at the Mercantile National Bank, 70 Broad St., Atlanta, GA 30303.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (*Northwest Gay Review*) -- A national Gay Civil Rights bill has been introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Edward I. Koch (D-NY). The bill (H.R. 2998) amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by adding the words "affectional or sexual preference" to each list of human conditions for which people cannot be discriminated against.

TAMPA, FL (*NewsWest*) -- He was taken into custody by police who charged him with engaging in sexual relations with another man. He was never brought to trial. Instead, he was committed to a maximum security mental hospital until he could be certified "competent" to stand trial on the charge. Had he been tried, found guilty, and served the maximum sentence, Willard E. Allen would have been free in 1970, after 20 years in prison. Allen was

28 at the time of the alleged incident. The act he was accused of was stricken from the state's criminal code in 1971 by the Florida Supreme Court, which found it unconstitutional. But Allen remained incarcerated--apparently forgotten--until December of 1976, when his record was discovered by a state hearing examiner on an inquiry from an investigative reporter. A Tampa judge subsequently declared Allen innocent of the 1950 charge "by reason of insanity." Allen is now out of maximum security confinement, though still technically "committed" to the residential program for the retarded. He is 55.

SALINAS, CA (*Gay Community News*) -- Inez Garcia, whose case had become a rallying point for feminists throughout the country, was acquitted at a retrial last month (March) on charges of murdering a man she said helped rape her. Spectators in the packed court room here burst into cheers as the ten man, two woman jury announced its verdict. Garcia, 32, was convicted over a year and one half ago on charges of killing a man in Soledad, California back in 1974. Although Garcia claimed she had been raped,

the police ordered no examination of her for sexual assault at the time. Although the jury did find her guilty in the first trial and she has served 15 months in prison, an appeals court judge had ordered a second trial for her. Feminists took up Garcia's cause, viewing her as a woman who had courageously defended herself against attack.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (*Gay Community News*) -- The Gay Rights Movement in Northern Ireland appears to have won its victory to repeal the province's sodomy laws and to put the province in line with the 1967 English Act. The English Act decriminalized private sex between consenting adults. Belfast's Gays expect Ulster Secretary Roy Mason to make an Order in Council within the next month to that effect. The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has accepted in principle the recommendations of their sub-committee on homosexuality and the Commission is preparing a report which Mason should receive in early April.

Jerry's Banter

MAY SARTON Is 65!

On May 3rd, May Sarton will be 65. 1977 also marks the 40th anniversary of her first book of poetry. Though she abhors being placed in a sexual context for fear it will diminish her as an artist, Ms. Sarton is the doyenne of American Lesbian writers. Her 65th birthday is a good time to recognize this author's literary strengths.

Born in Belgium, Ms. Sarton spent much of her early life in Cambridge, Mass., where her distinguished parents settled in 1917. After schooling, she acted in Eva La Gallienne's repertory theater company before devoting herself to writing. In the 1950's and '60's Ms. Sarton owned a handsome old cape in the Monadnock region of New Hampshire described in *Plant Dreaming Deep* (1968) and *Journal of a Solitude* (1973). She now lives in York, Maine.

In addition to poetry and novels, May Sarton has done children's books, film scripts, a play and three volumes of autobiography. Twenty-one of her books are currently in print. In spite of her varied talents and large output, she has received comparatively little serious critical attention. The reasons are not too hard to discover. Ms. Sarton is outrageously unfashionable in her exploration of the complex emotional life of the creative, educated, middle-class. Her literary heroes are Trollope, Chekov and Forster. Her writing is sure, controlled, seems effortless--of course it isn't--and is intense in its subdued beauty. Her art can only have been acquired by dedication and though she has broken no stylistic ground she is a mistress of our language.

Ms. Sarton believes she came out in her novel *Mrs. Stevens Hears the Mermaids Singing* (1965). Like all of her novels written since the mid-'50's, the locale is New England, in this case

Cape Ann. The plot seems simple. Hilary Stevens, a formidable 70-year-old poet of renown is interviewed by two reporters from a national magazine who want to uncover the sources of her artistic inspiration. During the day of the interview and in the course of her conversation with the reporters, Mrs. Stevens comes to terms with her past. Mrs. Stevens, though once married, is a Lesbian and it took courage even in 1965 for May Sarton to present a female homosexual who is a lady, a *grande dame* if you will, neither pitiable nor disgusting. A secondary character in Mrs. Stevens is a college dropout--the grandson of a local fisherman--whom Hilary Stevens is helping recover from a calamitous homosexual love affair.

On this level Mrs. Stevens has special meaning for me. I too knew a 70-year-old Lesbian much like her--an engraver and painter, though, not a poet--who helped me regain a semblance of sanity after a college love affair.

Mrs. Stevens also expresses the author's own occasional diffidence about being a writer. She is never sure if she can continue to pay the emotional price in intensity of feeling and still maintain an equilibrium.

This intensity comes through undisguised in *Journal of a Solitude*, written in part to disabuse her readers of a myth she may have fostered of a happy, serene solitary. "I live alone," she wrote in *Journal*, "perhaps for no good reason, for the reason that I am an impossible creature set apart by a temperament that I have never learned to use as it could be used, thrown off by a glance, a rainy day or one drink too many."

Journal also expresses the author's deep love for the natural world surrounding her New England home and her fondness for some of her neighbors in Nelson, New Hampshire. *Plant Dreaming Deep* and *Journal of a Solitude* should be read together. Both books deal with the same period in the author's life, but each presents a different side of Ms. Sarton's personality.

The house in Nelson was purchased in part because it provided a perfect setting for the writing of poetry. In 1974, *Collected Poems, 1930-1973*, was published. Here is the quintessence of her art and life principles drawn from twelve volumes of previously published poetry. The novels and poetry are all of a piece. She believes that she has written every poem, every novel, for the same purpose, to find out what she thinks, to know where she stands; but she has written novels to find out what she *thought* about something and poems to find out what she *felt* about something.

My favorite poems deal with Japan, which she visited in the early 60's. One celebrates the garden of Ryoan-ji (The Stone Garden), the other the palace of Katsura (Wood, Paper, Stone). She has captured for me the reasons these supreme examples of Japanese culture are so important to the Western esthetic imagination.

Ms. Sarton's latest book, *A World of Light: Portraits and Celebrations* (Norton, \$8.95) was published this past fall. In a dozen vignettes she commemorates those she loved who have gone ahead. Included are vivid descriptions of her parents, friends, and lovers, including the great Anglo-Irish writer Elizabeth Bowen. They are joyous and generous portraits written by a woman grateful for their friendship.

Somewhere May Sarton has written that "We can bear any Hell if we can 'break through' to each other and come to understand ourselves." I returned to Maine from Christmas holidays in California reluctant to face a bitter New England winter. On a whim I started to read Ms. Sarton. She has reminded me how much I love this bleak northern land, some of its people, and made me aware again of the compensations of being a solitary.

Thank you Ms. Sarton and HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

* * * * *

[more BANTER on next page]

BOOK BRIEFS...NEW AND FORTHCOMING

The following notes are the results of going through Spring publishers' announcements, flyers, brochures and *Publishers' Weekly*. Comments are lifted from the aforesaid. I have seen none of these books.

The three following published by Gay Sunshine Press, who also issue an excellent literary magazine, are being distributed by Bookpeople, 2940 Seventh St., Berkeley, CA 94710.

Orgasms of Light: The Gay Sunshine Anthology. The best of the poetry, short fiction and graphics from Gay Sunshine Journal. \$5.95 May publication.

Carnivorous Saint: Gay Poems 1941-1977 by Harold Norse. A collection of Gay poetry by a fine writer. \$5.95. May publication.

Men Loving Men: A Gay Sex Guide and Consciousness Book by Mitchell Walker. Our version of Joy of Sex. \$5.95. February publication.

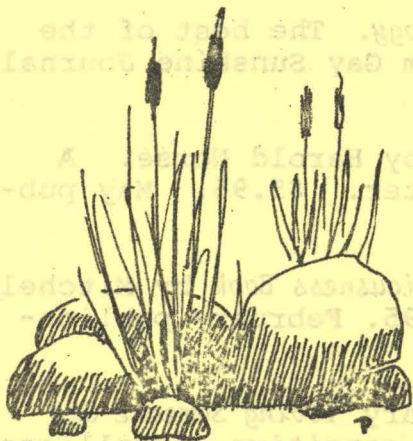
Celestial Arts published in February *Loving Someone Gay* by Don Clark. "A Gay therapist offers sensitive, intelligent guidance to Gays and those who care about them." \$4.95

In April Les Femmes will publish *Block Busters* by Terry Wetherby-- "Conversations with women at work in a 'Man's World'." Women doing jobs heretofore ascribed to men. \$4.95.

Macmillan in May will publish *The Homosexuals* by Alan Ebert, \$9.95. Seventeen interviews with Gay men who have made it financially and socially. Describes their backgrounds, personal feelings, sex practices in graphic detail and how they have adjusted to their homosexuality. Sounds awful. Even worse, Macmillan is publishing A.L.Rowse's *Homosexuals in History*, \$12.95. The foremost homophobic English historian has combined warmed over, badly edited, not always

accurate information from secondary sources. "Rowse is bitchy, cantankerous and always superficial." Forewarned is forearmed.

Possibly the most important book to be published this Spring for me will be *The Sexual Outlaw: A Documentary* by John Rechy, Grove Press, \$8.95, April 25th is the publication date. Rechy in his first work of non-fiction sets down his impressions of three days and nights cruising the Los Angeles homosexual underworld, interweaving commentaries, interviews and extracts from newspaper stories. This book promises to be powerful and important. I hope to review it for this Mag.



Marjorie Meyer R.S.W.
and
Denise Lavigne
are pleased to announce
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of

THE GAY COMMUNITY COUNSELING
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sexuals and their families.

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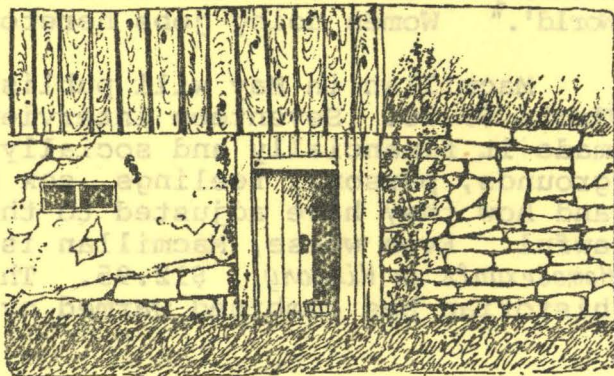
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Lobsters ($\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.), Salad,
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Perceptions

By Miriam Dyak



Being a poet whose first book is about to come off the presses I am very aware of how many small presses produce volume after volume of good poetry and how rarely they are reviewed. In turn, you, the public, don't buy these books because you have never heard of them. Women's/Lesbian's books of poems are faring slightly better these days--there is a strong feeling of support in the Women's Movement for women who are freeing themselves and others through the power of their creative expression. The support is expressed in many ways. People who "have never understood/liked poetry" attend a poetry reading to support a sister and may come away with a new appreciation of poetry as well as of the poet. Much more work by women is published because of the plethora of new publications produced by the Movement. Books are another thing though. Even the cheapest of them costs a couple of dollars. How do you know you will like them enough to invest in a whole book? Is this a poet you want to live with in your library? Plus the enthusiasm from the Movement often backfires. We tend to praise any woman who puts any feelings down on paper, rejecting the old standards of criticism but failing to create our own.

I want to talk about three books of poems by women in this month's column. First is *HOUSEWORK* by Joan Larkin with paintings by Mimi Weisbord, \$1.50, available from Out and Out Books, 44 Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11217. (Larkin is also one of the editors of *AMAZON POETRY: AN ANTHOLOGY OF LESBIAN POETRY* available from the same press.) *Housework* here is the work of determinedly cleaning out the soul and laying feelings bare with unrelenting accuracy. The images are both from women's fantasies and the most mundane parts of women's lives as in "Self Pity":

It clings like a sheath-dress,
this synthetic softness
all of us wear in the office.

Am I ready to tear it off?

I was taught that power was not
to be mine without it:
the silk of manipulation.

And I have taken such pleasure in it.

It is my intimate--

necessary and daily as the taste of salt.

where the poem goes beyond its own cleverness if you remember to carry the title in your mind as you read it through.

In Larkin's title poem, the poet is in the kitchen killing flies, stating "I live by insisting on my hatreds." In the end she finds that she--her self and her dreams--is the "fly in this house that will not die." She never spares anyone, least of all herself or relationships with women. In "The Women's School" she is drunk and clumsy, repeats herself, spills "everything I was, or wanted/...I'm dancing my awkward body among women./One screams, Please! Why can't you leave me alone." Her awkwardness becomes all our awkwardnesses in trying to break through conditioning and touch each other as women. The games she/we plays come through clearly in poems for women lovers--"Trying To Be Casual" has the kind of ironic humor that comes with self-knowledge, two things the Movement can use a lot of:

advancing

on my belly

through the mined field

of your body

I saw we were surrounded

citizens children your mother

watching we were roped off

they were commenting

I give it a month

I thought she'd never

settle down
is this one Jewish
etc. eating popcorn...

And the message is clearly for all of us when in "Direct Address," a poem to a male transvestite friend, Larkin says:

I think if only fair to warn you
the heart is sexless,
It lies undressed in the dark,
and under the silk
or the single earring of gold,
the many-sexed apparel,
the heart, naked is beating
need need need

HOUSEWORK moves away from childhood, then marriage and motherhood into loving women and feminist awareness, without sinking into rhetoric or the "silk" of self-pity. No two women ever have the same experience in that journey, but I think all of us can find bits and parts of ourselves to laugh and cry at here. I have only touched on a few poems in an excellent collection. Mimi Weisbord's soft doll-house fantasy paintings complement the sharper-edged poems as well.

PIG AND OTHER PORTIONS is written and printed by Lee Sharkey at South Solon Press, RFD 4, Box 168, Skowhegan, Maine. Lee's press is a one-woman operation, producing quality letterpress work including three books of her own, and a collection of broadsides and one of poem postcards, both by Maine poets. The book costs \$1.50 and is available in various bookstores, Good Day Market in Portland, and directly from Lee.

PIG AND OTHER PORTIONS interweaves two simple stories, a woman having an abortion, a pig being slaughtered. But not so simple really, the poems set in the back country, reflective, start as slow as thunder on a hot summer afternoon, filled with lists of things that have to be done to keep living, dreams and groceries, attention paid to

every tiny detail, the mice and birds, an effort to find peace. They begin to break open on "24 september" (the poems are half titled, half dated, journal-like, a sense of measured time, building urgency and slackening in cycles)

*I have killed it's like
anything else*

*I have kept this notebook for a year
and come to terms with violence....*

but more slow, careful, poems follow measuring, identifying all the elements in the poet's life and where she is among them, until the book bursts open in the center with the long poem, "pregnant,"--here are parts 2 and 4:

2
your child is in me
you make love to it
i am about
to kill it
....
i am its limits
i bear it
alone
go ahead
murder the baby
you say angrily
hurt that i want your offspring
but want myself more

4
gut aching
aborted uterus shrinking
to size i
wait and wonder when it'll stop
....

so here we are
the men are hunting
maybe they'll catch a deer by dinner
probably

after i cook the pot roast there'll be
blood on the table

Sharkey makes a lot of subtle connections we can none of us afford to overlook. In "chores" the violence of simple daily work erupts as the pig uproots his trough and she has to beat him back, ending after a few moments' frantic struggle with the calm of dishing out corn and oats. They take the pig to slaughter and she "casually strung a layer of leaf fat/ over some branches/ and since have watched in awe/ almost in horror/ as the birds attack the suet and its pink folds blend into images of richie's/ rump and pink legged beauty/ and a pale arm writing/ and of a pork chop of a tender/ child climbing naked up a hill...." No resolutions, just the cycles of living, as the poems move on to the impersonal "IUD" insertion around to another day of little objects and happenings, ending with richie's cow being slaughtered just like her pig--"arrangements for payment/ goodbyes all round/ bones for the canines."

Susan Saxe has a book of poems out called TALK AMONG THE WOMENFOLK. You can order it for \$2 from the Susan Saxe Defense Committee, P.O. Box 39, West Somerville, Mass. 02144 or buy it at New Words Bookstore on Hampshire St. in Cambridge. This "handful of poems" written underground between 1970 and 1973 begins with a "letter to my mother," a joyous proclamation of womanstrength, womanlove and sisterhood. The poems are filled with anger, filled with atrocities of war, fear and defeat, but they never lose the love and joy and hope they begin with and therefore never become deadened or deadening to their readers. "VIET NAM POEMS" begins in "Country I" with a list of cruelties and tortures committed by Americans in Viet Nam, goes on in "Country II" to express loving unity with "small men and women" of Viet Nam, and ends in "Country III" with Saxe's own bitterness against and hope for her own country--

Loving you, (and it can only be called love)
I wait for the day when the sun rises,
and I find that you no longer wish to crush me.
Amerika, I wish you were a better lover.

This is the least "poetic" of the three books--that is to say a woman on the run in the middle of a revolution might not have the peace needed to focus in on the "perfect word." Still Saxe's images run truer than most and the courage and hope of her actions comes through in her words. The book ends with a poem titled "Hystery":

There is so much we have to know;
A whole hystery to be recreated,
from the negative imprint of lies,
from the dinosaur bones of truth.
A whole hystery to be created,
from the footnote that leads us
to suspect the lie,
to a tale passed down
from someone's maiden aunt,
confirmed by a fragment of an ancient
woman's grave,
a myth, a hinge, an intuition,
So little time in which to learn so much,
but the proof is growing!

GROWING...SOBER and GAY

A new group has formed in the Greater Waterville (Maine) area. We welcome all Gays and bisexuals who are interested in living a chemically-free life. We are recovering alcoholics and addicts who are enjoying life without booze and drugs. If you are interested in growing with us, drop a line to GSG, PO Box 893, Waterville, Maine 04901. We meet on Thursday nights, 8-9:30PM.

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B3J 1Z8

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to the above address.

BE AWARE OF YOUR SEXIST LANGUAGE

By Catherine Thomas

Do you think that trying to avoid sexism in language is trite? "He" as the standard pronoun rather than "she," "chick," "Lady," "mankind"--all these words are examples of sexism in American speech.

Sexism in language? A common response is "It's hair-splitting to change all words like 'policeman' to 'police-person.'" But it is true that the language we use shapes our very reality, and sexism in language runs deep, in a myriad of subtle forms.

Take the fact that as soon as women learn the language, they find themselves outside it. Where does a woman fit in "man"kind? A female child finds that all pioneers and Indians are men when she learns to read in school. Men do all the action, while women fade into the background, baking pies or scrubbing floors. In a study of children's storybooks, it was found that men were referred to by what they did--their occupation as doctor, etc., while women were referred to by their relationship to men--wife, mother, daughter. The children who are learning to read with these books are taught that these roles are a permanent part of reality.

Female children are taught to be "ladies." They are trained for the submissive, docile, inferior role they are supposed to fill. As adults, women tend to use more words like "please" and phrases like "would you." Women are rewarded for polite and demure behavior/speech as children are punished for assertive (i.e. "masculine") behavior. In effect, women are taught to be hesitant and ineffective, and are then criticized for that same politeness when it takes the form of vague, nondirect speech and action.

The "tag" question, used almost exclusively by women,

is described by Robin Lakoff in her book *LANGUAGE AND WOMAN'S PLACE*. The tag question is an extreme example of polite speech. An example is the statement "Dinner will be ready at six o'clock...?" The speaker is fully aware of what time dinner will be ready, but feels the need to add the question mark. The tag question evidences an extreme wish to avoid direct statement, and is a good example of the overly polite, subservient behavior ingrained in women.

Watch how many women constantly smile while talking. Or the women, even feminist women, who defer to males in conversation and, like a reflex action, give them the floor. It fits with woman's role as pleaser, appeaser, slave, inferior.

It is white males, as the power group, who determine the roles in this society. Likewise, white males do the naming. Men name women in a variety of ways. Some of the more familiar are "bitch," "cunt," "chick," "baby," and "lady." These words are all euphemisms for "woman."

In our society, euphemisms are instituted for subjects that are somehow embarrassing or threatening. Like "doing it" or "toilet," "Lady" is an avoidance. It would seem that men are embarrassed or afraid of what Woman is. "Lady" can be seen as a cover-up for the true male feelings towards women, which slip out in such names as "cunt" and "whore."

These terms relate to the role of women in the male's eye as sexual object. Women are acknowledged as the object of male sexual desires, which are considered base and disgusting in this society. The sexual nature of women is pointedly ignored. "Baby" and "chick" give women the status of a child, an inferior, less responsible person.

Obscenity is an interesting phenomenon centered largely around women. This makes sense since it is the power group which decides which ethnic group will be the butt of jokes this year, who will be relegated to what status. There are virtually no masculine obscenities. "Bitch," "bastard," "motherfucker," etc. ad nauseum relate to women. Women are sexual creatures much more than men in our culture. Images

of nude female bodies abound. Such degrading terms of referral to women show just where we stand in the male's eye-- and he is the one who gives us that role.

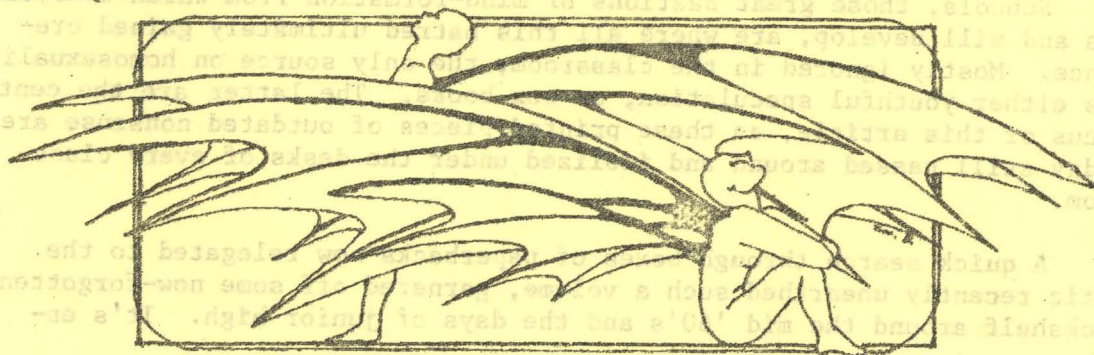
A woman who grows up in a world where she is supposed to be a "lady" and is referred to otherwise as "cunt" is bound to be deeply affected by that labeling, as is a man who grows up learning that women are ladies or cunts or bitches.

Changing the words themselves is important, yet realistically, language is an extremely slowly changing medium of communication. Language is a reflection of the thoughts and feelings of a people, but it is also a perpetrator and a pre-determinant of those thoughts and feelings.

Most thought does not exist without words. It is paramount that we become aware of the ways in which our language limits and shapes our thoughts. From there, transcendence of these patterns is made possible. Without being aware of them, we are unknowing players in a structured reality.

There are many more ways than the ones I have pointed out in which sexism exists in language. Once you become aware of it, it is frighteningly widespread and seemingly an overwhelming task to change it. Becoming aware of the words and patterns of speech is what is important. Only then can you see the root of the lie and consciously change your own patterns.

[Catherine Thomas is a member of Ball and Chain, a feminist collective. Her article is from the March 9, 1977 issue of THE COLORADO DAILY.]



A LOOK INTO THE PAST'S UGLY VISIONS

By Bill Gordon

At a recent Gay social event, I made the remark that in my youth I had learned, or rather--was taught, that homosexuality was abnormal and an "undesirable deviation." The comment was intended as the beginning of a discussion on how today's healthy Gay people had to somehow pull their minds out of the muck of warped information and attitudes that most faced while being spawned from nuclear families and "straight" society. Even though the statement was intended to be somewhat witty to signify my disbelief in such ideas, the thought was dropped like a cat with fleas when my listener expressed a highly puzzled look.

Yet the reaction was understandable, in that this person had been a bit more fortunate by realizing his sexual preference and "coming out" in relatively more liberated and aware times. Growing up as a homosexual in Maine suburbia, before the Movement, was often a harrowing and lonesome existence and a story seldom told. (Even though the Gay Liberation Movement, still in its infancy, is slowly branching out, non-city Gay people continue to have little contact with similar people.)

When one thinks back on all the schoolyard "queer" jokes, that inner fear that you are somehow different from all the rest (but your ignorance of the fact that some of "all the rest" were just like you), plus all the other elements of the conformists' mythology--well, it's most apparent why the journey from there (confused homosexuality) to here (Gay) was such a struggle.

Schools, those great bastions of mind-formation from which everyone has and will develop, are where all this hatred ultimately gained credence. Mostly ignored in the classroom, the only source on homosexuality was either youthful speculation, or sex books. The latter are the central focus of this article, as these printed pieces of outdated nonsense are today still passed around and idolized under the desks of every classroom.

A quick search through boxes of paperbacks now relegated to the attic recently unearthed such a volume, garnered off some now-forgotten bookshelf around the mid '60's and the days of junior high. It's en-

titled *THE SEXUALLY ADEQUATE MALE, WITH CASE HISTORIES* by Frank S. Caprio, M.D. The cover proclaims it to be "A Fawcett Gold Medal Book," in the 19th printing! Under Chapter 8, "Sexual Aberrations," homosexuality is covered in nearly 20 pages. Sure enough, Chapter 8 follows sections entitled "Maladjusted Personalities" and "The Problem of Impotence," and Chapter 9 is "The Male Menopause." Lesbians are fortunate in the fact that Caprio's sexism rendered him unaware of their existence.

C.A. Tripp's *THE HOMOSEXUAL MATRIX* (c. 1975), a brilliant landmark of a book, conclusively destroys all the misconceptions which its prestigious-looking predecessors advocated. As it confirmed all that I had felt to be true, it also stirred recollections of those bastardized Freudianisms preached by the Caprios of days past.

While Caprio made statements without fact, a definition of *opinion*, Tripp spent ten years studying the subject. Drawing upon psychological and scientific research, and little-known anthropology taught hardly in any school, it's a wondrous experience to see crumble all those false gods many still hold dear.

In the *MATRIX* chapter "The Question of Psychotherapy," Tripp explains why the beliefs of the good doctor Caprio now seem so silly. Back then, and still now of course, a therapist's exposure to homosexuality had always been in a context where it was relegated to some form of mental illness. Since even the shrinks are susceptible to society's misguided morality, they might easily arrive at the conclusion that a patient's complaint of anything from insomnia to a state of manic-depressiveness was automatically a result of his or her abnormal sexuality. Thus the easy-way-out "cure" rested solely with turning the person into a heterosexual. It's a happy fact that not a single case exists where homosexuality has ever been successfully "cured."

For the most part, the Caprio excerpts prove their own insipidness. Caprio wrote:

"My experience with homosexual patients over the past seventeen years has convinced me that many of them entered into a homosexual existence because of anxiety regarding their ability to function as an adequate sexual partner in a heterosexual relationship. Whether or not a child develops homosexual tendencies is dependent upon a number of

contributory factors--the influence of his (sic) parents, experiences of a sexual nature during childhood and early adolescence, feelings of inferiority associated with specific handicaps, and exposure to situations which threaten his sense of security, such as the death of his mother or father, parental incompatibility, poverty of parents."

Onward:

"Homosexuality in men often develops as a result of a son's strong attachment to his mother--what Freud called the 'Oedipus Complex.' Boys rebel against mothers who try to make husband-substitutes out of them."

This somehow, illogically, causes:

"...this basic feeling of inferiority in the male child which accounts for the development of a homosexual pattern."

The causes of homosexuality are as complex and varied as any form of human behavior, sexual or non. Tripp requires over 30 pages on the topic and every page has a different possibility. He does firmly resolve that any form of non-destructive human behavior can be viewed only as a positive force for the individual and society.

"...no single element in homosexuality, no one original influence, is by itself likely to be definitive. The final existence of any sexual orientation depends upon the extent to which its various parts have reinforced each other in producing a structure, a system of values, a pattern of responses.

"...Even when viewed from a distance there is an astonishing diversity in homosexuality, beginning with how it first presents itself. It may arise at such an early age as to appear to have been inborn or, as a conscious urge, it may occur for the first time well into adulthood. At almost any age it may take shape only gradually, often as a result of increasingly effective try-outs. As an ongoing pattern, it may seem to start suddenly with a single impressive experience. Much more often, a homosexual response turns out on close examination to have been well established long before becoming overt. Not that these and a host of other sexual starts are the only beginnings of homosexuality; it can often begin from sources far away from sex. In fact, ..

eroticism often arrives as a late guest at its own banquet: a high degree of affection or rapport between two people can easily generate sexual feelings. (Tripp, pgs. 74-75 and 85-86).

In summation, a person's sexual preference is the result of a series of *positive* sexual experience(s) at a crucial phase of his/her life; one is born basically non-sexual and becomes hetero-, homo-, bi- or even ambi-sexual through their life's events. This is in direct contradiction to the assumption that all persons are created equally heterosexual.

Caprio claims: "Many of them (homosexuals) have no scruples about seducing adolescents whose lives may be seriously influenced by a single homosexual experience." Note: A recent study was published concerning child molestation. 75% of the cases studied in the non-selective survey were of heterosexual men seducing/attacking young girls; not one of the remaining cases of man-boy seductions reported the older male as inherently homosexual. No cases exist in documentation of an adult woman seducing a young boy or girl; it's society's sexism that an older woman seducing a boy is viewed as a respectable way for a young male to enter "manhood." Later on, "Many homosexuals admit to their women friends that they are homosexuals. In this way they have a convenient excuse for not having to be sexually aggressive." (Note how Caprio designates any male-female relationship as requiring the male to be sexually aggressive). Some facts: the vast majority of Gays have at some time in their lives experienced satisfactory heterosexual relations. Any casual observer quickly recognizes the difficulty "heterosexual" men have in relating to women (researched well in Lionel Tiger's "Men In Groups") and this lack of sexual interest between Gay women and men for opposite gender results in a much healthier mingling of people as more than mere sexual objects.

Note: Believing that homosexuality causes mental illness, as Caprio would have us believe, has resulted in a multi-million dollar business for the world's homophobic shrinks.

One's first reaction to Caprio is uproarious laughter. Then disgust, for me, remembering what it was like to read this gospel as a naive 14-year-old. Even though these destructive ideas may be crudely stated, they continue to hold enormous pull in the thoughts and actions of the majority of non-Gay people, and Gay's as well. By confronting these demons, however, we can all exorcise them.

The Kitchen Sink

FRANCO COLLEGE IN THE NEWS!!

Item #1: Franconia College's Kitchen Collective is the first and only college to boycott Florida orange juice and oranges. It has sent a letter of protest to the Florida Citrus Commission explaining its action as a response to the anti-Gay campaign Anita Bryant, spokesperson for the Commission, is waging in Dade County, Florida.

-Tim Bouffard

Item #2: "Small, isolated among the White Mountains of New Hampshire, Franconia College has begun placing advertisements which actively seek Gay applicants. 'We are seeking active, politically-aware Gay students; who are interested in involving themselves with the dynamics of a changing college community.'"

-Philadelphia GAY NEWS

The Homophile Community Health Service, a non-profit licensed mental health facility attentive to the needs of Boston's Gay community, is presently accepting

applications for the position of Executive Director. This individual is responsible for a paid staff of 7 and a volunteer staff of about 40 professional and paraprofessionals who function in a variety of capacities. She/he will direct a multi-faceted service organization for Gay persons and their families that includes a large clinical program of counseling, an outreach program, staff development, a family service project, a program for Gay alcoholics, and a hotline. Personal qualities desirable in the person of the Executive Director would be an ability to be creative, to speak and write well, assertiveness, initiative and having highly developed interpersonal skills. An ability to relate to a large volunteer staff is essential. Most essential is a deep concern for, and sensitivity to the Gay community, and a vision of the need and place for a counseling agency that serves Gay persons, with the appropriate commitment that is necessary for success in this position. Qualified persons should send resumes to:

HCHS

80 Boylston St., Rm 855
Boston, Mass. 02116

HALIFAX...The Haligonian contingent of APPLE (Atlantic Provinces Political Lesbians for Equality) has organized a drop-in on Monday nights at the Unitarian Universalist Church, which has been semi-successful. We also held a Lesbian dance recently in Dartmouth that was attended by 40-50 women. We have also made contacts in New Brunswick and Cape Breton. Most activity has been of a social nature. There is only a very small core of actual Lesbian feminist support in the community.

-THE OTHER WOMAN

UPCOMING TUBE FARE TO CATCH...

Thursday, April 21, "CBS NEWS MAGAZINE (10AM NY time) - "How Parents Deal With Homosexuality In Children." Address your correspondence to Robert Wussler, President, CBS-TV Network, 51 W. 52nd St., NY, NY 10019.

Friday, April 22, (10PM, NY) ABC NEWS CLOSE-UP "Commercial Sex: the Urban Battleground." "In-depth study of the effect on established businesses and residential neighborhoods when massage parlors and porno shows move into the neighborhood." Respond to William Sheehn, ABC-TV News, 7 W. 66th St., NY, NY 10023.

Saturday, April 23, 9PM (NY time) "All in the Family" CBS TV. "Archie sees a way of getting even with a practical-joker pal by arranging a date with the "perfect girl," a professional female impersonator." Respond to Robert Wussler.

"Young and Restless"--CBS-TV (Program airs 12 noon in NY) Monitor every day if you can to check development, over the next few weeks, of Lesbian theme between Kay Chancellor and Joanne.

-National Gay Task Force

An interview with the late actor, Sal Mineo, was recently played on a San Francisco radio station--about a year after Mineo's death. Among the dialogue: "The Lone Ranger used to bother me. Tonto was so loyal and got nothing for it. If only the Lone Ranger had said to Tonto, 'I never told you before, baby, but I love you!'"

-San Francisco Chronicle

The Gay Academic Union of New England is sponsoring the Second ("in what appears to become an annual series of conferences.") At: Harvard University; Phillips Brooks House...April 16-17. Registration begins at noon on Saturday. There is a \$1 fee for people not members of G.A.U./N.E. They're at P.O. Box 212, Boston, MA 02101 for info.

Wise Women Enterprises, Inc. and Urana Records proudly announce the release of 3 GYPSIES, Casse Culver's first L.P.

"She blissed us out..." -Megan Terry, Obie Award-winning playwright.

3 GYPSIES is a collection of women-identified songs written by Casse during her years of experience as street singer and early proponent of Women's Music. Recorded at Noel Paul Stookey's Eight-Track Studio, South Blue Hill, Maine, this album is the first country-western recording entirely produced by women. Casse's toe-tappin' style on the guitar and autoharp gives 3 GYPSIES the down-home flavor every good country-western fan loves. Using the finest women musicians from all parts of the U.S., 3 GYPSIES continues the WWE/Urana tradition of producing quality recordings for and about women. 3 GYPSIES is distributed in the USA and Canada by Olivia Records, Box 70237, Dept. AT, Los Angeles, CA 90070.

"It's been a hard, cold winter, and not only because of the

weather, although I'm sure that it didn't help matters any. The dark and cold of this winter seem to have rubbed off on many of the people I care about, their hearts have lost hope and the chill has darkened their spirit. I have felt the same kind of despair myself, and during those times all the love in the world may not help. In fact, feeling pain even when others are supporting you can make the pain seem that much worse--despair in the face of love, emptiness despite the hope in others. We love people who can't love us the way we want, others want love from us we can't give. We threaten and feel threatened by situations. Answers don't come or are too painful to cope with. There seems to be no end to the pain we have to bear.

Perhaps we can learn a lesson from the cycle of the seasons. Even the hardest, coldest winter MUST be followed by the spring. The flowers will bloom again, the warmth will return, and the birds will once more sing their songs. The light of hope can strive through even the darkest gloom, and we often discover love in times of deepest despair. We should cultivate the hope we feel in our hearts and let it grow, accept and return the love and concern we receive, and rejoice in it. Rejoice that we do feel and can love, even if it hurts; for without feelings we lose our humanity and we are dead. Remember--even if pain and

loneliness come, can joy and love be far behind?"

-Letter to the Editor, from the March ZAP Newsletter

LESBIAN ARTISTS

We are a collective of Lesbian artists working on a Lesbian issue of Heresies: A Feminist Publication on Art & Politics. We are soliciting material of all kinds, but in particular we'd like to know: --What does being a Lesbian artist mean to you? (Your work, your medium, your relationships to other artists, to the Art World, to the Lesbian community, etc.) You can approach the question verbally and/or visually, in any way that seems applicable to you. In the issue we will print the question along with the replies. Our copy deadline is April 15. Please note that we pay for all published contributions. They can be sent to Su Friedrich, 159 Second Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10003.

The Gay Student Union at the University of Vermont is in the process of organizing their second Gay weekend at U.V.M. It's entitled "GREEN MOUNTAIN GAY WEEKEND" and will be held April 22-24. The guest speakers will be Rita Mae Brown and Bruce Voeller from NGTF.

In addition, there will be a number of workshops and social activities. For more info, write to G.S.U., c/o Billings Student Center, UVM, Burlington, Vermont 05401.

"The New York Times is not all that comfortable with Gay rights as a legitimate civil rights issue. Gay people on the times staff have told me that coming out for them would probably mean dismissal. And sadly, the influential Times book-review section has trouble finding space to comment on such books as Jonathan Katz's Gay American History, the first scholarly work of its kind with a Gay perspective.

-David Rothenberg in the March 14, 1977 "Village Voice"

ROWE, Mass. -- Lesbians and Gay men will have a unique opportunity for dialogue and socializing in a beautiful country setting on Memorial Day Weekend (May 27-30) at the Rowe Conference Center. The Gay weekend, entitled "Gay Dialogue: The Question of Community," is the first Gay event that has taken place at the center. Attending will be Karl Jay and Allen Young, who note that there will be "mixed" sessions as well as "for women only" and "for men only." The weekend will cost \$60-\$91 per person, depending on income. For info, write the Rowe Conference Center, Kings Hwy, Rowe, MA 01367.

Calendar

■ ■ The Wilde-Stein Club meets every FRIDAY at 7PM in the International Lounge of Memorial Union for a business and general meeting. All are welcome--students and non-students.

■ ■ The Gay People's Alliance meets every MONDAY at 7PM for a general business rap at 92 Bedford Street, Portland. Additionally, there is a more informal rap group every THURSDAY. Contact GPA at 773-2981, Ext. 535 for time and spot. All are welcome on Mondays; the Thursday rap may be limited. Check for details.

■ ■ Growing...Sober and Gay welcomes all Gays and bisexuals who are interested in living a chemically-free life. They may be contacted at GSG, PO Box 893, Waterville, ME 04901. This friendly group meets SUNDAY nights, from 8-9:30.

■ ■ The Confidential Gay Drug and Alcohol Rap Group meets every MONDAY at 6PM at Day One, 158 Danforth Street, Portland. All are welcome. For more information, call either Marjorie Meyer at York County Counseling, 282-4151, or MGTF, 773-5530.

■ ■ Maine Lesbian Feminists will hold a statewide meeting on SATURDAY, April 16, in the Augusta area.

■ ■ "Lavender Visions," Long Island's first Lesbian conference (a benefit for the Women's Building of L.I., Inc.) will be held from April 23-24 at the State University of New York at Old Westbury, L.I., N.Y. The \$6 registration fee may be sent to: American Studies Dept.,--Conference, SUNY College at Old Westbury, Old Westbury, N.Y. 11568.

■ ■ "To demonstrate our Gay humanity, the May 21 Gay Action Coalition has committed itself to a day of mass picketing of the Supreme Court, to protest the homophobic decision upholding Virginia's archaic sodomy laws." SATURDAY, the 21st of May, at the Supreme Court building in D.C.

AREA GAY GROUPS

(See CALENDAR for Events)

MAINE

CONFIDENTIAL GAY DRUG & ALCOHOL
RAP GROUP

PO Box 4542

Portland, Maine 04112

(207) 773-5530

GAY COMMUNITY COUNSELING SERVICE
(Serving Gays, Bisexuals and
their Families)

Marjorie Meyer at York County
Counseling Service...282-4151

Maine Gay Task Force...773-5530

GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE

92 Bedford Street

Portland, Maine 04103

773-2981, Ext. 535

GROWING...SOBER AND GAY

PO Box 893

Waterville, Maine 04901

MAINE GAY TASK FORCE/MAINLY GAY

PO Box 4542

Portland, Maine 04112

773-5530

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS/MLF

NEWSLETTER

PO Box 125

Belfast, Maine 04915

SOUTHERN MAINE GAYS

Richard...967-4064

Alan...698-5535

(York County & Vicinity)

SOUTHERN MAINE LESBIAN CAUCUS

c/o Johnsen

289 State Street

Portland, Maine 04101

WILDE-STEIN CLUB

Memorial Union

University of Maine

Orono, Maine 04473

581-2571

NEW HAMPSHIRE

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

UNH Women's Center

University of New Hampshire

Durham, New Hampshire 03824

MCC-EXTENSION

292 State Street

Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

(617) 523-7664

NH LAMBDA/LESBIAN GROUP

PO Box 1043

Concord, New Hampshire 03301

(603) 228-8542

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Northwood, New Hampshire 03261

[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]

NEW HAMPSHIRE (Continued)

SEACOAST AREA GAY ALLIANCE
75 Court Street
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801
(603) 431-4350/436-7196/742-2947

VERMONT

COUNSELING FOR GAY WOMEN AND
MEN
c/o Vermont Women's Health
Center
158 Bank Street
Burlington, Vermont 05401
(802) 863-1386

GAY PEOPLE AT MIDDLEBURY
Middlebury College
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

GAY STUDENT UNION
University of Vermont
Burlington, Vermont 05401
656-4173 (M-F, 7-9PM)

WOMEN'S CENTER
182 Main Street
Burlington, Vermont 04501
863-1236 (M-TH, 12-9PM)

EASTERN CANADA

GAY ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY
Box 161, Armdale Station
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4G9

LESBIAN DROP-IN
Halifax Women's Centre
5673 Breton Place
(902) 423-0643 (W, 6:30-10:30PM)

GAY ALLIANCE FOR EQUALITY
Hotline: 420-6969 (Halifax)

COMMUNITY HOMOPHILE ASSOCIATION
OF NEWFOUNDLAND (CHAN)
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GAY?

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GAY MALE, 42, in education, would like to meet other Gay and bisexual men and women, 35-50. No married persons, please. Contact Ted, c/o MGTF, Box 4542, Portland, Maine 04112.

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GAY MALE, 24, is looking for a Gay male (roughly between the ages of 18 and 30) to share a home in the country. Contact Donald Cash, New Vineyard, Maine 04956.

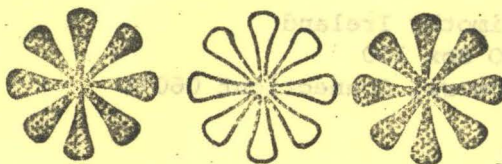
GAY ECOLOGIST, 27, seeks college-age or older field helper for research in Frenchman's Bay. Familiarity with birds required, experience with boat-handling desired. Approx. dates May 23 to Aug. 1; room and board provided, minimal salary. Send summary of background, etc. to Box 203, Orono, ME 04473.

GAY MAN, 44, in Pittsfield, Maine, is interested in meeting others. Prefer ages 35-45, but not imperative. Non-

smoker, non-drinker, prefer quiet home life, walking, camping. Operate Florist business. Reply to Earl Thaler, 27 Hartland Ave., Pittsfield, ME 04967.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN HAVING a pen-pal in London (England) through the Wimbledon Area Gay Society (WAGS) please write to: WAGS, c/o Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112. Please let us know if you have any special interests that you'd like us to keep in mind while matching you with someone across the big water.

I AM COLLECTING pictures of Barbara Striesand, and would like for anyone to help me out by sending in their old pictures of her, or any pictures that they might have and don't want. I am an inmate here in prison, and this is one of my hobbies. Thank you in Gay love. William F. Smith, Box 2, #8691, Lansing, KS 66043.



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Box AE Rm 1212
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Roger Hall #034941
PO Box 221
Railford, Florida 32083

Don Smith #140-872
PO Box 787
Lucasville, Ohio 45648

Timothy Ireland
PO Box 100
Somers, Connecticut 06071

John Hedlund
PO Box 100
Somers, Connecticut 06071

Buddy McWatters
PO Box 221
Railford, Florida 32083

Levon N. Burgess #051216
PO Box 221
Railford, Florida 32083

Jimmy Hall #006827
PO Box 747
East Unit Prison
Starke, Florida 32091

Alan Darrah #055183
PO Box 747
Starke, Florida

William F. Smith
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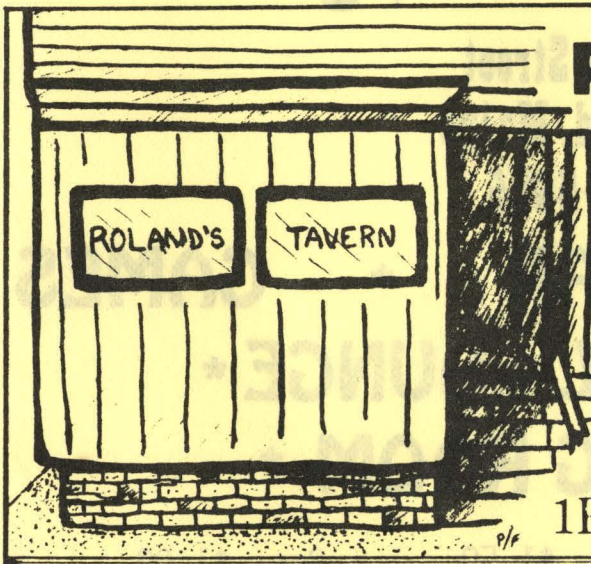
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