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Who We Are

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JULY/AUGUST

PRODUCTION

You know who you are! We can't recall everyone's name, and rather than slight a wonderful volunteer...

The opinions of Mainely Gay are expressed only in its editorials.

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Note To Readers

In the last issue, a "broad history" of Mainely Gay was threatened to appear in this month's issue, but the bizarre tale will apparently go untold, at least for now, as no one close to the operation volunteered to chronicle the past 5 years.

However (!), word reaches us that a subscriber in Cape Elizabeth has dutifully donated past copies of the rag to the Maine Historical Society...so Truth, Justice and the American Way wins out after all.

* * *

The following letter-to-the-editor recently appeared in the Maine Sunday Telegram. Attacking MG columnist Miriam Dyak, it must be read in full to be appreciated...

"Regarding the Telegram's big writeup on Miriam Dyak, titled "Maine's Best Living Poet?" I am thoroughly shocked and disgusted with her ramblings. This so-called poet should be ashamed to let anyone know the morbid, repugnant, macabre and nauseating thoughts she so glibly puts in print.

If I cannot write poetry that shows love of life, people and nature, beautiful thoughts that make the reader feel this is a wonderful world, then I will stop expressing them.

The words "vomit" and "sweat turning black" have no place in poetry.

One of the best compliments I ever received came from a dear friend when she said, "Lynne, anyone who can write poetry as you do must have a beautiful soul."

That's the way poetry should be.

LYNNE FOGG

Peaks Island

* * *

If you change your mailing address and don't tell us, this is what happens:

A post office functionary opens the envelope and discards the publication. The wrong address on the envelope is cut out and returned, along with your new address. All for the bargain basement price of 25¢!
WASHINGTON, D.C. (Gay Rights National Lobby press release)

Ten Members of Congress have joined the battle to reverse the Immigration and Naturalization Service's discriminatory policy toward gay people. In response to a letter from the Gay Rights National Lobby and the National Gay Task Force and with the urging of Congressperson Ted Weiss (D-NY), who is a chief sponsor of the gay civil rights legislation, the Congresspeople wrote to the Commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to urge administrative remedy to INS's exclusionary policy.

Those members of Congress joining in signing the letter are: Ted Weiss, John Burton, Fred Richmond, James Weaver, S. William Green, Fortney Pete Stark, Parren Mitchell, Ronald Dellums, Paul McCloskey, and Mickey Leland. Congressperson Julian Dixon sent a separate letter also urging reversal of the anti-gay policy. It is hoped that other members of Congress might also take action and the Lobby urged gay people to contact their Congressperson to take such action. In Maine, Sens. Muskie and Cohen should be contacted, along with Reps. Emery and Snowe (of the First and Second Districts, respectively).

NEW YORK, N.Y.--Margot Karle, of Lambda Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., and co-counsel Bonnie Strunk of Syracuse, N.Y., have appealed the decision of the Onondaga County Court denying Ronald Onofre's challenge to the constitutionality of New York State's consensual sodomy statute. Onofre was arrested for engaging in sexual activity in the privacy of his own home with a consenting adult male.

The attorneys will be arguing in the Fourth Department of the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court that the statute violates Onofre's rights to privacy, due process, and equal protection; and that it violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment because of its religious bases. Briefs were submitted on July 17th, and were argued under the New York and federal Constitutions.

(This case is becoming very expensive, and its success will rely on contributions. Anyone wishing to contribute to the costs of
overturning this obstacle to the attainment of Lesbian and gay rights can send donations to Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., 22 East 40th St., New York, N.Y. 10016

NEW MILFORD, CONN. (press release from Timely Books) -- A local printer has acted as a self-appointed censor of a Paula Christian Lesbian novel. *Love Is Where You Find It*, by Paula Christian, was recently denied its anticipated publication date due to refusal by LithoCrafters to print it. Said LithoCrafters, to Timely Books, "Re: Love Is Where You Find It. Due to the subject matter of your novel, LithoCrafters declines to bid on its production."

"Ironically, (says the press release), 1) the above-quoted memo was signed by a woman! and 2) Edge of Twilight, and its sequel, *This Side of Love...* both Lesbian novels by the same author...were printed by LithoCrafters in 1978! "Shock, anger, disbelief were very real emotions to us all throughout this painful episode. Valuable production time... lost. Great financial problems, too, arose from this anti-feminist attitude of patriarchal censorship rooted in Puritanical views.

Sisters have been wonderful and supportive and we thank all for their letters of reassurance and compassion; especially those sisters disappointed by not receiving their expected books months ago. Another printer has been found, happily. *(Love Is Where You Find It) became available in August. Retail is $5.95  Shipping is $1 for one copy; $1.50 for two copies; and $1.75 for three-- assorted titles available."

SAVE MONEY: With an order for two or more Paula Christian novels, send us a Susan B. Anthony dollar to cover shipping and we will absorb handling costs. We're Timely Books, PO Box 267, New Milford, CT 06776. Our sincere thanks to all for their patience during this most difficult period).

SAN FRANCISCO (New York Times) -- The Immigration and Naturalization Service issued (14 Aug.) a temporary directive ordering its agents to cease preventing foreign visitors who are suspected of being homosexuals from entering the country (see first News Short). According to the directive, suspected individuals will not
be given completely legal entry but will be technically "paroled" until they can be examined.

"When the legal issues are resolved, the deferred examinations will be scheduled," said the directive. The immigration authorities concede, however, that it may be weeks or months before the legal problems can be worked out.

The legal problems began in June when a San Francisco immigration inspector detained Carl Hill, a London antique dealer suspected of being a homosexual (editor's note: he went through customs wearing a "gay rights' button on his lapel. And rather than have an open homosexual roaming the streets of San Francisco, he was detained by the authorities). A legal suit was brought by a public interest law firm here called Gay Rights Advocates, which prompted the change in policy by Surgeon General Julius B. Richmond.

According to the immigration authorities, the immigration act that applies to homosexuals bans aliens "afflicted with psychopathic personalities or sexual deviation or a mental defect." However, the Surgeon General declared in his Aug. 2 memorandum that homosexuality would "no longer be considered a mental disease or defect." The following day the U.S. Department of Justice dropped its case against Hill. But later on the same day, the immigration authorities in San Francisco detained two Mexican citizens who were suspected of being homosexual because they carried cosmetics in their luggage.

"We view the directive as a victory," said Don Knutson, an attorney for the Gay Rights Advocates. He said the issue would have to be settled by Congress. "It is more appropriate now for the Congress to decide this than to have the courts interpret a law which was written during the McCarthy era," he observed.

NEW YORK, N.Y. (Gay Community News) -- Peter Putnam, a physicist and philanthropist from Houma, Louisiana has commissioned sculptor George Segal to create a gay liberation monument to be placed in Sheridan Square. The planned monument must receive the approval of the New York Department of Parks, which has jurisdiction over Sheridan Square, the local community planning board, and the city's Art Commission, which decides which works of art will be placed on city-owned property.

Segal has envisioned a work that would depict two homosexual couples, female and male, sitting on a bench. Credit for the idea of a monument was attributed by the New York Times to Bruce Voeller, former co-director of the National Gay Task Force. The Times said that Voeller proposed the idea to Putnam.
RENTERIA, SPAIN (Body Politic) -- The shooting of a transvestite by an off-duty cop in this small Basque community touched off a major riot between demonstrators and police. As the Renteria Town Council held an emergency meeting after the death of transvestite Vicente Badillo Santamaria, protesters battled national police, who fired smoke bombs and rubber bullets into the town hall.

The next day, all factories, offices and shops closed in a general strike called to support the town government's long-standing demand that all Spanish national police forces be withdrawn. The Council supports the Basque separatist movement which is seeking independence from Spain.

Several days after Santamaria's death, the Euzaid (Basque) Gay Liberation Front organized a protest in the nearby city of San Sebastina. The 1,000 demonstrators, half of whom were non-gay, demanded an end to Spanish anti-gay laws in addition to the withdrawal of state police from the area. The protest ended with the singing of the Basque national anthem.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (The Advocate) -- Looking for a way to Washington for the national march on Oct. 14? You can now call a toll-free number for information on carpools and travel agencies cooperating in making arrangements. Already, block reservations for thousands of train, plane and bus seats, as well as hotel rooms have been made, according to organizers. The 24-hour toll-free number is:

(800) 528-7382

Three salaried supervisors and 40 volunteers file the information in computers for retrieval.

Callers can get information on carpools to Washington from their area, air/train/bus schedules (editor's note: unless you like travelling as cargo, the "train" info can be disregarded by Maine people) and hotel rates. A limited amount of free housing will also be available in Washington.


Notes The Advocate, "For West Coasters who have the time, 'Freedom Trains' will leave Los Angeles, Portland, San Francisco and Seattle. They will converge in Chicago, where cars will be added. MCC's Troy Perry and Lesbian comic will be aboard, making whistle stops in 10 cities."
A 24-year-old South Portland man was an early August murder victim, confirm the Boston police, who investigated the homicide. The victim's body was found by an off-duty police officer who had gone to the Columbia Point seawall to fish during the early morning of August 8th. It was wedged among the rocks with a bullet wound in the head.

The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. Authorities said they did not know how long the man had been dead.

Boston police said they had no suspects, "absolutely none." "We don't know how he got into this area," said a spokesperson, "and it's a bad area near the Columbia Point housing project."

The tentative identification was made on the basis of identification cards found in a wallet on the victim's body, police said.

One of the roommates with whom the victim lived in South Portland said that his friend had driven a rented car while visiting Boston, which apparently was never recovered when its loss was discovered. And, continued the roommate, neither the Boston police nor the car rental company appeared to make a satisfactory search for the insured vehicle, which would seem to provide a major clue to the murder.

A friend of the victim said that he often picked up hitchhikers, and that this may have been the beginning of the tragic event.

MAINELY GAY URGES ALL READERS TO BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL WHEN VISITING LARGER CITIES--ESPECIALLY CONCERNING HITCHHIKERS.
Dear Mainely Gay,

I wanted to let you and the good folks who read Mainely Gay know about a new clinic which has opened up in Old Orchard Beach. It is a VD clinic for all members of the York County community. Because approximately 56% of all men reporting to have VD are gay, the opening of this clinic has particular significance for gays in the area.

The clinic is sponsored by the York County Health Services, which is, in part, supported by our own tax dollars. Representatives of the Health Services guarantee as much privacy in the examination, any calls needed to be made, record-keeping, and follow-up tests as necessary. The results of all tests should be known to you in 3 days time and follow-up, if necessary, will be arranged. The cost for the exam and appropriate tests is arranged for all people on a sliding scale. No person will be turned away because they cannot afford the cost involved.

The clinic is temporarily located at the Old Orchard Beach Town Hall, through the rear door. More information about the clinic can be obtained by contacting 1-800-482-0971. The clinic hopes to move in the fall to new quarters in the Wells area. In the meantime, the clinic is operating on a very small budget. It still hopes to reach as many people in need as possible.

At the present time, I am operating as a liaison person for the Gay Community with members of the Health Services staff. For people like myself, who must remain "in the closet" and cannot turn to my personal doctor for the proper examinations this VD clinic offers the best care I can receive.

I hope you include this information in the next issue of MG and I hope that all readers will pass on this information to friends in need. Regular VD examinations should be included in the life of sexually active gays and, unfortunately, is often forgotten or ignored.
Hope you're well and had an enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,
Richard
York County, Me.

* * *

Dear friends,

We think your publication is really fine! Keep up the good work. We Midwesterners love you!

Love,
Dyke Conspiracy
Cincinnati, Ohio

* * *

Here's a poem:

SPARKS

Finding you again
Was like finding a lit sparkler
You will shine just as brightly
But burnout
The Same as always
Without warning.

--J. Alfred Altoona

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CRUISING IN DANGEROUS WATERS

New York City's gay community, or certain segments of it, has spent the last month or so protesting against the filming of the movie *Cruising*. The movie, currently being filmed in the Greenwich Village area of the city, is said to be both vehemently anti-gay and a possible incitement to increased violence against gay people. Apparently the most damning portion of *Cruising* is that it shows what goes on in two New York gay male leather bars, the Anvil and the Mineshaft, between more-or-less consenting adults. In one scene, so we understand, a man sits in an empty bathtub while several other men urinate on him. Other scenes filmed in these two waterfront bars are said to be even more extraordinary.

Aside from the shock value of such scenes--always a hit at the ol' B.O.--the entire movie is probably intended to capitalize (e.g. make money) from society's homophobia and eagerness for a (glimpsed) thrill and/or repulsion. Judging from past experience, *Mainely Gay* assumes that the protesters are no doubt right in saying that the film is negative, anti-gay, inflammatory and outrageous. After all, William Friedkin, the director, does specialize in horror stories.

Where we disagree is the important issue of censorship and the Constitutional right of anyone to print or publish whatever they wish--be it Truth or plain bullshit. If sitting in a bathtub while several men urinate on you happens to be your trip, we have no problem. If we don't want to see the movie, we won't buy tickets, that's all.

The New York demonstrations, while publicizing the movie coast to coast, have supposedly alerted the gay community and others that the script is sensationalistic garbage. However, even without the protests, a good many people might possibly be able to reach the same conclusion after viewing it. In a democracy the people have the right to make both their own decisions and their own mistakes. Even if one has spent $3 on what turns out to be a grade D horror flick, one can at least have the emotional satisfaction...
of making a scene and demanding one's money back. If the gay community wishes to edit anti-gay scripts (why stop at the movies?), then these same people, ethically, support the "right" of morons like Phyllis Schafley to edit "pro-gay" scripts that she doesn't like.

We don't wish to submit to any dictatorship, not even one of our friends.

A hallmark of the New Right in this country is renewed censorship and social control over all of us. The anti-abortionists seek to control others' bodies; so-called "morality in media" groups seek to control others' minds. Fortunately, the Bill of Rights has thwarted their well-financed efforts thus far, but the Bill of Rights will not last long if we ourselves undermine in the name of our own causes, however good.

"No one can be free unless all are free"--this is not just wishful liberalism, this is historical fact. The producers of Cruising, like Hustler's sleazy Larry Flynt, are protected by the First Amendment, as well they should be, as well they must be, to establish a precedent that protects us more than them. We are the last people who should set a precedent for censorship, for if censorship is countenanced in this country, the first victims will not be Friedkin and Flynt, they will be us.

Those who would undermine the First Amendment in the name of wiping out homophobia, or in any other good cause, are fools and worse than fools; they are laying their necks and ours on the block.

--Susan Henderson
--Peter Prizer
GAY SYMPOSIUM VI DONATES EXCESS FUNDS

When the volunteer coordinators recently balanced the books for Symposium VI, they were confronted with a "pleasant" problem: what to do with the excess funds raised by Symposium participants?

A meeting of coordinators was held in June, and it was agreed to make the following disbursements:

LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES of New York City...... $25

RFD FIRE RELIEF FUND.. $25
(RFD Magazine is of primary interest to gay men; much of their equipment was lost in a recent fire)

MAINE LESBIAN FEMINISTS ...
(Po Box 125, Belfast 04915) $30

MAINELEY GAY........ $30

Additionally, $300 was allocated to the Gay People's Alliance of USM, which should meet their budget needs through December, 1979.

And several hundred dollars that remained were placed in a savings account for use by the planners of next year's Maine Gay Symposium VII.

To all who came and participated in this year's Symposium, the coordinators thank for your support! See you in the spring!

GOOD HOME NEEDED: for an altered male chocolate-point Siamese cat. Loving, friendly, never misses the cat box. For a really great cat, call 772-7540 after 5:30.
HOLLY NEAR CONCERT

Holly Near, feminist, anti-war and anti-nuclear activist, will perform at the Portland gymnasium at the University of Southern Maine at 7PM, September 16.

Her combination of art and politics is "incredible," and is guaranteed to leave you inspired.

In the 1960's she performed with Jane Fonda in the celebrated "Free the Army" shows around the country. Recently, she has participated in gay pride marches in Seattle and San Francisco, to name a few towns.

The Maine Gay Symposium Fund has loaned the concert planners $200 to help support concert workers. Free child care is available and may be obtained by calling the following numbers:

780-4044
780-4086

Along with regular Maine outlets, tickets for the Holly Near Concert are available at:

Grasshopper
Belfast, Me.

New Victoria Publishers
Lebanon, N.H.

Diversions (MacBean's)
Brunswick, Me.

New Words
Cambridge, Mass.

No one will be denied admittance for inability to pay.
ENTRAPMENT BY COPS
ON OGUNQUIT BEACHES

ARRESTS CONTINUE IN OGUNQUIT

Gay men "cruising" the Ogunquit beaches at night do so at their own risk: not only do bands of local punks roam the area looking for "queers" to beat, but the attractive young men "hanging out" may well be employed by the town's police force.

As of early August, some 30 arrests have been made by Chief Hancock's police force. Some men are arrested after they proposition "casually dressed" young male decoys; others are busted when they agree to engage in "public sex" with a police department inquirer. One Canadian gay man was asked by a police decoy "Hey, would you like to go down on me?" When the man expressed interest, he was arrested and led in handcuffs to the Main Street police station.

Police entrapment is illegal, yet the cops know that few--if any--arrested men will fight for their Constitutional rights. Said the Canadian man, "Look, I'll just quietly pay the fine and be more careful in the future."

A year ago, two representatives of Mainely Gay talked with Police Chief Hancock in his office, in an effort to stop illegal entrapment of gay men on the Ogunquit beaches. This proved futile. Chief Hancock is a former state trooper who displays an intense dislike for homosexuals.

Ogunquit is the Maine version of Massachusetts' Provincetown--two communities that welcome gay people and gay dollars. In both towns police harrassment is on the increase, yet gay businesses--which probably could exercise some clout in town affairs--seem to be as intimidated as the gay men on the beaches.

--Peter Flanders
DISCRIMINATION OK’D BY 109TH LEGISLATURE

L.D. 860, "An Act to Include Sexual or Affectional Preference in the Maine Human Rights Act," was resoundingly defeated in the last session of the Maine legislature.

The following State Representatives voted for the bill:

Bachrach, Baker (sponsor), Beaulieu, Brannigan, Brenerman, Brodeur, F. Carter, Connolly (co-sponsor), Cox, Curtis, Davies (co-sponsor), Dellert, Doukas, Dow, Gowen, Hall, Hickey, Hobbins, Howe, Huber, Hughes, Kany, Kelleher, Lewis, Lund, A. Martin, Masterton, Michael, Nadeau, M. Nelson, P. Reeves, Rolde, Sewall, Vincent, Violette.

The following State Senators voted for the bill:

Clark, Collins, Conley, Huber, Katz, Najarian, Trafton, Usher.

Mainely Gay suggests that Maine residents determine whether or not your elected representative supported L.D. (legislative document) 860. If his or her name is not among the above, a "no" vote was probably registered, or they managed to be "absent" during the roll-call. Then, you may wish to contact your representative, by letter or phone, to either thank them for their support or to inquire why they couldn't support the bill.

Remember, to delay may mean to forget.

--the editors
"Maine Fair Credit Reporting Act"—Enacted in 1977 with an amended version in 1978, this law prohibits the collection and dissemination of information on people's sexual preference in credit and investigative reports routinely conducted by the state's credit agencies.

You may legally get copies of your report from your local credit agency, and you have the right to require the company to reinvestigate information you allege to be inaccurate. And, after the reinvestigation, you have the option to include, up to 200 words, your version of the information if the company refuses to alter their findings.

Also, the company can't charge you more than the actual cost of the transcript you request, with a maximum charge of $3. Equifax, Inc. of the Falmouth Shopping Center, Falmouth, Me. 04105 (781-5296) has contested the statute in court. Give them a call and see what they've got on you!

The Fair Credit Reporting Act was sponsored in the Maine Legislature by Robert S. Howe, Democrat of South Portland.

"An Act to Prohibit the Use of Polygraphs [lie detectors] in Employment Applications" becomes effective on September 14, 1979. No one can recommend, suggest or ask that a prospective employee or current employee take a polygraph test as part of the company's "procedure." At present, police departments are the one exception allowed under law. Although polygraph tests are still permitted in some non-employment situations, questions regarding "sexual activity" must be related to an alleged offense being investigated. Rep. Howe co-sponsored this bill.
The Women's Forum of the University of Southern Maine has produced a guide to women's services in the Greater Portland area. It's called "The Women's Pages."

The initial printing lists 29 services plus 15 counselors, healers, facilitators, therapists, and life teachers.

A spokesperson for the University Women's Forum and Growth Center notes that it has "generally included those services that are available to women in the Greater Portland area. Groups outside that area are included only if they provide a service not available here which represents a valuable state or national contact."

The 40-page booklet includes a form which organizations inadvertently omitted can complete for inclusion in a later update.

Among the listings are 12 daycare centers, the League of Women Voters, the Maine Civil Liberties Union, the Gay People's Alliance, the Women's Exchange, Rape Crisis, Inc., Portland Business and Professional Women, Maine Media Women, Maine Lesbian Feminists, Divorce Perspectives and many others.

Copies are available at $1 each through the Women's Forum at 94 Bedford, St., Portland, Me. 04103 (mail) or by dropping by in person, weekdays.
INCIDENTS OF POLICE HARASSMENT SOUGHT

If you are the victim of oral or physical abuse by members of the Portland Police, the Maine Civil Liberties Union wants to hear about it.

If you are approached on the streets or elsewhere and treated in a derogatory manner by officers of the Department, do not respond. Instead, attempt to determine the license plate of the police vehicle or badge number of the officer.

Note the approximate time and date and location and a description of the harassment. This information should be given to MCLU, 97A Exchange St., Portland, ME 04111. Their number is 774-5444. Or, your account can be sent to Mainely Gay, at PO Box 4542, Portland 04112. Please include your name and how you can be contacted, although this will be considered confidential, if you wish.

Increased police hostility has been reported recently by Portland's gay community. Often, gay people in the vicinity of well-known gay establishments are accosted by on-duty police officers and, at best, jeered or illuminated by the squad car's spotlight.
PHILADELPHIA (UPI)--
Toy commercials for little girls are sugar and spice, but the message for little boys is designed to nurture macho men, according to a research study.

Writing in the summer edition of the University of Pennsylvania Journal of Communications, researcher Renate C. Welch of the University of Kansas reported that advertisers used "blatant, obvious and exaggerated" sexually stereotyped messages to sell toys to children.

More subtle, but still pervasive and perhaps more dangerous, said Welch, were the techniques toy commercials used to get the message across.

Welch's team distinguished three types of commercials among the 60 studied: Male, using solely male child actors; female, solely females, and neutral, using both sexes.

Among the techniques:
--Male and neutral commercials had a higher rate of scene changes than female commercials, which contained more fades, dissolves and soft background music.
--Female child actors did very little talking in neutral commercials, whereas they did a great deal of talking in female commercials.
--Aggression was almost entirely limited to male commercials.

"The pattern of high energy, quick changes and aggression that might be summarized as 'hype' shown here may be as mal-adaptive as the portrayal of femininity as quiet, retiring and limited in scope," Welch said.

In children's programs and commercials, males outnumbered females and spokespersons on or off-camera are usually male.

"Girls play with dolls and boys play with vehicles and war games."
INFO YOU SHOULD KNOW

Interested in forming carpools for the Oct. 14 March on Washington? Write to Judy Hopfer, at PO Box 4315, Portland, ME 04101, who's trying to get something going.

* * *

Oct. 14 March has yet another address to contact for info: PO Box 3624, Houston, Texas and 1-800-528-7382.

* * *

The Belfast Women's Center has been renamed The Susan B. Anthony Club. It's in downtown Belfast, above the Grasshopper Shop. Enter the door to the right of the shop, up to the 3rd floor, take a left

and you're there. We're looking for donations of feminist books and periodicals to start a library. They may be sent to Susan B. c/o MLF, PO Box 125, Belfast, ME 04915.

MLF needs your support in order to continue the Newsletter. $5 for a year's sub (monthly). All contributions are more than welcome and needed. Thanks!

---MLF Newsletter

* * *

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GAY AND LESBIAN ISSUES—Oct. 26-28 at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago. MG has order forms and more info if requested.

Also, all verifiable and signed letters received by MG are considered for publication unless we're told otherwise. Names and addresses can be withheld if desired.

* * *
...Announcing

THE NATIONAL THIRD WORLD LESBIAN/GAY CONFERENCE
October 12-15, 1979

The focuses of the Conference are:
• to establish a national network for Third World lesbians and gays
• to establish an education and communication network for and among Third World lesbian and gay organizations
• to confront the issues of racism, sexism, homophobia and heterophobia among, by and against Third World lesbians and gays

It will be a working conference in the format of caucuses and workshops.

Co-sponsored by the National Coalitions of Black Gays and the National Gay Task Force

Co-hosted by the D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians & Gay Men and the Baltimore Coalition of Black Gay Women & Men

Special outreach to:
• Native Americans
• Latin Americans
• Asian Americans
• Afro Americans

Workshops and caucuses will be provided for non-Third World and non-gay persons

Location: Harambee House, 2225 Georgia Ave NW
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Registration fee of $15. Students $5.
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301-596-5865

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KITTENS AVAILABLE-KITTENS AVAILABLE
NEWS OF THE POLITICALLY INCORRECT

SAN DIEGO (Los Angeles Times) -- An airline pilot, spurned by a stewardess, was recently ordered to pay her $36,000 in slander damages for allegedly spreading rumors that the woman was a lesbian.

The San Diego Superior Court deliberated for nearly a day before awarding Cathleen Schomer the money from Captain Douglas Smidt. Both are employees of the San Diego-based Pacific Southwest Airlines.

The suit stemmed from a series of incidents in 1976. Schomer and another stewardess said they had stayed in a Long Beach hotel with other PSA personnel when Smidt entered the room and demanded they go to the hotel bar with him.

They refused, even after Smidt threatened to spread rumors they were homosexuals. Testimony showed that several days after the incident, Smidt told others the two were lesbians and were "getting it on" when he entered the room.

DECATUR, ILL. (Portland Press Herald) -- The circus played its final show in town recently--minus the act by three pigmy elephants that crashed through the arena and onto city streets in a rampage that injured eight people.

Among those hurt was a 6-year-old girl whose collar bone was broken when she was picked up and thrown to the ground by one of the charging packyderns.

A 17-year-old youth, who police said spooked the beasts by taunting them with a broomstick and throwing objects at them as they were brought into the arena, was arrested and charged with reckless and disorderly conduct.

The elephants were confined to their pens for subsequent performances.

The elephants roamed the city's west side for 2½ hours, trampling over a wire and iron-railed fence, and kicking in the sides of cars. Earlier, some 4,000 circus patrons had fled in terror, police said.

"I understand the kid was behind them (taunting the animals) and that's when they get upset," said an officer.

(CONT.)
During interrogation at police headquarters, the unidentified youth said, "I was upset because my girlfriend was seeing another guy, and I guess I took out my frustration on the elephants."

JEANS NEWS--I

MEXICO CITY (Portland Evening Express) -- Habitually wearing tight-fitting jeans causes pelvic congestion and can even result in sterility for women and men, a Mexican gynecologist says.

Dr. Oscar Bravo Cerradelo of the Mexican Social Security Institute said constant rubbing of tight jeans against the pelvic area produces irritation and infections that, left untreated, result in sterility.

JEANS NEWS--II

SAN FRANCISCO (S.F. Chronicle) -- A man who sprained his ankle while disco dancing was recently admitted at Mills Hospital in San Mateo. He was wearing gold jeans that were so tight that they had to be cut up the sides, revealing, among other things, a large salami Scotch-taped to his thigh.
Gay People's Alliance

92 BEDFORD ST.
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103

PHONE (207) 780-4085

Students and community people are welcome to drop by the office and see what we've got in store for the Fall Semester. Some activities are already planned; for others we'll need some ideas and/or encouragement!

Hours will generally be weekdays, Monday thru Friday (the exact staffing hours will be listed on the GPA office door, when they become known.) Or, you can phone us at the number to the left.

University of Southern Maine
BOSTON'S NEWEST ALL-WOMAN DANCE BAND!!

SUNDAY... Oct 7th... 9 PM

INAY

IT'S ONE WAY WITH INA WAY -- ADMISSION $3

THE ONE WAY PUB WILL SPONSOR AN ALL-WOMEN BOAT CRUISE ON BEAUTIFUL CASCO BAY ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28,
FROM 12NOON TO 3PM
FOR THREE HOURS JUST WOMEN, MUSIC, DANCING AND GOOD TIMES!!

THE COST PER PERSON IS $5 WITH FREE SET UPS AVAILABLE (BYOB).
LIMITED TO THE FIRST 300 APPLICANTS
RAIN OR SHINE!

Any additional information may be obtained by any employee of

ONE WAY PUB
10 UNION ST.
PORTLAND, MAINE 04111
TEL. 207-772-9401
GAY/LESBIAN AREA ORGANIZATIONS

MAINE

Maine Lesbian Feminists/
MLF Newsletter
PO Box 125
Belfast, ME 04915

Midcoast Gay Men
PO Box 57
Belfast, ME 04915
(New group; see Access section for details)

Wilde-Stein Club
Memorial Union
University of Maine
Orono, ME 04473
(581-2571 for info and meeting times)

Gay People's Alliance
Univ. of Southern Maine
92 Bedford St.
Portland, ME 04103
(780-4085 for info and meeting times)

Mainely Gay
PO Box 4542
Portland, ME 04112

G.S.G.
(Growing Sober & Gay)
PO Box 893
Waterville, ME 04901

Parents of Gay People
Evelyn and Floyd Bull
c/o PO Box 4542
Portland, ME 04112

Maine Gay Task Force
(Same address as above; survey, hopefully, to appear in next issue)

New Hampshire

Central New Hampshire Men's Support Group
31 Union St.
Concord, N.H. 03301
(603-224-7027 for details)

Dartmouth Gay Students' Association
Hinman Box 5057
Hanover, N.H. 03755

Nashua Area Gays
PO Box 3472
Nashua, N.H. 03061
(Dave at 603-883-4337)
Lesbian Feminist Collective
PO Box 47
Penacook, N.H. 03061

N.H. Lambda
PO Box 1043, Concord 03301;
Concord 224-3785; East
Rochester 332-4440; Keene
399-4927; Nashua 889-1416

The Open Closet
PO Box 59
Putney, VT 05346
(Articles, poems, stories,
letters of interest to the
southern Vermont gay community)

Gay Hotline, University of Vermont 802-656-4173

Gay Student Union, University of Vermont
Burlington, VT 05401
(Same phone as above; M-F, 7-9PM)

Integrity
PO Box 11
Winooski, VT 05404

Southern Vermont Lesbians/
Gay Men's Coalition
21 Elliot St.
Brattleboro, VT 05301
(802-254-8176 for info)

Washington County Gays
PO Box 1264
Montpelier, VT 05602

ATLANTIC CANADA

Gay Friends of Fredericton
PO Box 442
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5A4
(506-472-5576 for info)

Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE)
PO Box 3611
Halifax, So. Stn.
Nova Scotia
B3J 3K6
(At 1588 Barrington St., Halifax
902-429-6969, Th, Fri, Sat.
from 7-10PM. Publishes The Voice)

Canadian Homophile Association of Newfoundland
PO Box 613, Stn. C
St. John's
Newfoundland
A1C 5K8

(We're still requesting additions or deletions to this list.)
The turn of the century was a great age for homosexual scandals. Oscar Wilde was tried in 1895. Six years before, a male brothel in Cleveland St., London, had been busted. One peer fled the country, another was brought to trial, and rumor had it that a grandson of Queen Victoria was involved. In the next decade, it was Germany's turn. Prince Holstein, bitter at having been dismissed from the Foreign Office, leaked to a radical newspaper that several of the Kaiser's aides and his best friend were homosexuals. The best friend was Count Philip zu Eulenburg-Hertefeld, and he is the current topic of our ongoing gossip-fest about Great Gays of History.

A little background is in order here. The various German states were unified into one country in 1870, under the rulership of the King of Prussia, who became the German Kaiser (German for "emperor"). Prussia, you will remember, was the homeland of Frederick the Great. In the late nineteenth century it was even more militaristic and macho than it had been in Frederick's time, and the role-playing put intense pressure on Prussian men. Social life was still very much sex-segregated, and close friendships between members of the same sex were approved of. The Junkers, the land-owning nobility who dominated the army and the government, still followed medieval notions of honor, for which they fought duels even into the twentieth century. Needless to say, they were staunchly conservative, not to say reactionary, but they were also usually a byword for honesty and devotion to duty. The government was still an autocracy by the Kaiser; there was a parliament, the Reichstag, but it had few powers. German radicals, trying to democratize the government, were always at loggerheads.
Count Philip zu Eulenburg was a most un-stereotypical Prussian Junker. He was a gentle, emotional man who wrote ballads and played piano. He hated having to do his stint in the army, though he won an Iron Cross in the Franco-Prussian War, and disliked politics although he made a career in the diplomatic service and became the closest adviser of Kaiser Wilhelm II. He met Wilhelm at an aristocratic hunting party in 1886, when Wilhelm was 27 and he 39. Wilhelm appears to have been completely heterosexual, but he was a lonely man who often felt inadequate, which he hid behind a belligerent, macho image. It was said of him, by those who didn't recognize the cover-up, that he approached life with an open mouth.

Eulenburg apparently saw through the image, for he loved Wilhelm sincerely and Wilhelm responded enthusiastically, as only a lonely person can. He would listed adoringly while "Phili," as he called him, played and sang his songs. Eulenburg soon became a permanent fixture in the Kaiser's entourage, and his influence was sought by government ministers, including the formidable Chancellor, Prince Bismarck. Eulenburg constantly complained of the work involved in being a political advisor. Wilhelm had a short attention span, and Eulenburg, to keep his influence and make it effective, had to slip in boring or disagreeable business during the course of a game of tennis or some other entertainment. His influence depended on being a restful companion who didn't belabor the Kaiser with work. This meant that Eulenburg had to do all his homework during the few hours when he wasn't with Wilhelm. He managed it, however, and historians generally agree that his influence was good. He did his best to curb Wilhelm's big mouth, provided a moderate, steadying viewpoint in that saber-rattling government, and supplied genuine love and intelligent companionship that Wilhelm sorely needed.

Eulenburg's eventual downfall, in 1907, came at the hands of Baron Friedrich von Holstein, the unofficial Foreign Secretary. Holstein was a J. Edgar Hoover type; he had a file on everybody, even Bismarck and everybody was
afraid to get on his bad side for fear of what he might reveal. The fact that he was paranoid, and could take a dislike to one for no reason at all, didn't help. In 1906, the Kaiser fired him. Holstein blamed Eulenburg, who had had nothing to do with it, and wrote him a letter accusing him of plotting against Holstein and insinuating that he was homosexual. Now, Eulenburg was married to a woman and had children; but he had had affairs with hustlers while ambassador to Munich and Vienna, and, according to William Manchester in The Arms of Krupp, he was currently sleeping with Count Kuno von Moltke, Commandant of the Berlin garrison. Revelation of these affairs would ruin his career. Homosexual acts were illegal under the infamous Paragraph 175 of the Prussian legal code (an indiscretion for which Frederick the Great would never have forgiven them). The example of Oscar Wilde in England was still fresh in everyone's mind, and in 1902 Friedrich Krupp, head of the notorious Krupp weapons manufacturing firm, had committed suicide when his homosexual affairs were publicized.

Eulenburg did the only thing a self-respecting Prussian Junker could do under the circumstances; he challenged Holstein to a duel. The Foreign Office, fearing a scandal, managed to get Holstein to withdraw his remarks, and the duel was called off.

Holstein, however, was not through. He leaked his files on Eulenburg, Moltke, and several of the Kaiser's aides-de-camp, to a radical newspaper, Die Zukunft (The Future). The editor of Die Zukunft was one Witkowski, who wrote under the name of Maximilian Harden. Ironically, Harden had written against Paragraph 175 and in defense of the early German Gay Rights movement, which was rapidly gaining influence at that time. However, he was so opposed to the Kaiser's government that he was willing to use homophobia to attack it. As so often happens among straight radicals, Harden sacrificed Gay rights for political advantage.

Thus Harden printed stories about a (mythical) homosexual ring surrounding the Kaiser, manipulating his poli-
cies and undercutting the Reichstag. Moltke sued Harden for libel, and lost. The trial was the scene of one of the grossest tactical errors by the Gay Rights movement. Magnus Hirschfeld, the movement's best-known leader and a pioneer in sex research, was called in as an expert witness. Hirschfeld testified that he believed Moltke was Gay. He believed that the revelation of Gay people in responsible positions would make homosexuality more acceptable. Instead, it touched off a witch hunt, scared many of the movement's supporters, and ruined Moltke and Eulenburg.

Eulenburg testified in Moltke's defense, and was himself arraigned for perjury when Moltke lost. The shock of the whole thing made him ill—he was in his fifties at the time—and he had to be carried to the courthouse on a stretcher. The case was ultimately dropped, after dragging on for over a year, but Eulenburg's career was finished.

The Kaiser, one regrets to say, behaved shamefully. He told his Interior Minister that Eulenburg and the others accused "are perverts [and] I have no further use for them," and that a "moral example" should be made of them. His motive appears to have been fear of public opinion rather than homophobia. He had previously seen Berlin police files on Eulenburg (the police kept files on Gay people in high places, more to protect them from blackmail than to bring charges), and had done nothing. Once Die Zukunft printed the story, however, Wilhelm dropped his friends as though they were a live bomb. When Krupp committed suicide four years before, Wilhelm had shown support for the family by going to the funeral; but that was safe to do because he hadn't been close to Krupp. Eulenburg was a very different matter. Most straight historians think that Wilhelm had to end his association with Eulenburg, public opinion being what it was, but that he should at least have held a farewell interview and given him some moral support. As a Gay person I may be allowing my ethnic solidarity to get the better of my reason; but I can't help thinking that absolute monarchs can make public opinion as well as follow it, and a public showing by the Kaiser of loyalty for his friends might have earned him some respect.
in a society that so valued loyalty and comradship. Wilhelm, after all, had a wife and seven children, so his heterosexual credentials were there for all to see. The Eighteenth Century was more openminded in these matters than the Edwardian age, so comparisons may not be valid; all the same, one can visualize Frederick the Great telling Maximilian Harden to blow it out his ear. (He is supposed to have said, "My people say what they want, and I do what I want.") Kaiser Wilhelm liked to think of himself as another Frederick the Great, but he lacked Frederick's moral courage and his loyalty to his friends.

Philipp zu Eulenburg had the last laugh, although he probably didn't find it a bit entertaining. He lived just long enough to see Kaiser Wilhelm dethroned and exiled after World War I. It isn't true to say that the Kaiser started the war—every nation in Europe was spoiled for a fight, and Germany got blamed because it lost. Nonetheless, Wilhelm's big mouth certainly contributed to starting the mess. If Eulenburg had been at his side, the war would still have started, but Wilhelm might not have made as many blunders as he did. When Wilhelm dropped Eulenburg, he hurt no one so much as himself.

Almost every biography of Kaiser Wilhelm II and history of Wilhelmine Germany covers the Eulenburg affair. The Krupp scandal, with several interesting anecdotes, is discussed in William Manchester, *The Arms of Krupp*. The quote by the Kaiser is from Walter H. Nelson, *The Soldier Kings*. 
IS YOUR LETTER HERE?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR THAT NEVER GOT PRINTED

[Editor's note: the following letters are representative of the many communications we've received over the past 5 years. Unfortunately, space considerations precluded reprint in the "FEEDBACK" section. But now, we have found the additional space to publish some of your views.]

Feb. 2, 1979

Dear MG Staff,
Since you are not handling my problem with my subscription and instead I have to write some postmaster in New York as you instructed me in your letter, I would like the four 15¢ stamps you so politely helped yourselves to. I would also like to be reimbursed for the one 15¢ stamp it cost me to send you this letter. And if I don't get the stamps back, I'm coming up there and it won't be pleasant.

It's bad enough as it is today and you fucking crooks ask for four 15¢ stamps--you don't even say what you'll use them for--and then you don't even send them back to me--and you have the fucking nerve to take them and ask me to spend another 15¢ to send my problem to some New York asshole who will probably just ask for more stamps for himself.

Betsy Cross
278 South St.

4 April 1976

Dear Mainely Gay,
Please consider this poem for publication. This is a carbon copy but no one else is considering the poem at this time. I have had to type the damn thing over six times already because everyone I send it to keeps it forever and I end up sending queries and more queries and never get the damn thing back and I end up withdrawing it and never never never do I get the damn thing back. So you can
type it over yourselves, because I refuse to do it again, or you can take it or you can leave it. You people are quick to talk about contributors presenting a professionally clean copy of a manuscript and then you act like a bunch of inconsiderate fucking assholes yourselves!

Joe Truman
Rumford, Me.

MTGS
Jan. 5, 1978

Dear MG & Staff:
I am in receipt of your final demand for payment for my subscription to "Mainely Gay." I have to inform you that my normal practice concerning the settling of debts is to place all of my bills into a hat once a month, from which I draw out two or three for payment. I have followed this procedure in regard to your bill. However, if I receive another letter from you, "MG," the tone of which I consider to be rude, your bill will not be put in the hat at all.

Rebecca Turner
Mackeral Cove
Bailey Island, Me.

September 27, 1974

Dear MG,
As you well know, I have been unable to pay you because my business has been slow. Why don't you help my business and drop dead?

Mort Warner
Undertaker
Dover, N.H.
God damn your god damned old hellfired god damned publication to hell god damn you and god damn your god damned hellfired staffer's god damned hellfired god damned publication to hell and good damnation god damn them and god damn your god damn subscribers to hell.

Anon.

8 February 1978

Dear Mainely Gay,

I'm writing to advise you that your publication has been received and put in my personal crackpot file. There are quite a few publications from Maine in this file. Evidently, your state is a melting pot for neurotics, cranks, and other individuals with sub-normal mentalities.

Rep. David F. Emery
442 Closetcase Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20003

31 July 1975

Dear Mainely Gay,

I am seated in the smallest room in the house. I have your publication before me. Soon it will be behind me.

Voll T. Aire
672 Lisbon St
Lewiston, Me.

March 27, 1979

You Unhappy People,

This is to notify you that we want our subscription to your magazine CANCELED IMMEDIATELY. What was once a fine magazine is now TRASH. I will not go into details. Just look at some of the words on pages 5, 39, and 64 in the Jan/Feb issue and see for yourselves. My husband and I are both totally discussed with MG.

Anita Bryant
Bob Green
Miami Beach, Fla.

August 30, 1977

Dear PO Box 4542,

I have just received a reply from your Subscription Manager and quite frankly it serves no purpose, offers no solution, gives no concrete commitment, and placates me none at all.
Basically it says nothing but keep on waiting, you poor slob, which only adds to my dissatisfaction. Two and one half years is not very long to wait, if I read the second paragraph correctly.

The letter says that subscriptions are mailed in chronological order. Are you, if this is true, two and one half years behind in your mailings? I think not, or your staffers and advertisers would certainly be bailing out from under a publication that cannot produce an ordered issue within two and one half years.

The letter also says that "gay" subscriptions are given priority of delivery. This means to me that for two and one half years all your issues have been going to homosexuals and lesbians. If this is true, each one must be packing around a lot of Mainely Gay attitudes and positions. I hope I'm on their side when the Revolution starts as I'm the only one without a single copy of MG.

The Straight of Magellán
Tierra del Fuego

August 6th, 1975

Dear MG Staff,
My wife and I visited your offices several weeks ago and found you such preposterous boors that I was moved to discourse one late evening upon the likes of you in the attached interview with the Maine Sunday Telegram. The next time I am in Portland, I intend to spread cream cheese all over your mimeograph machine.

Gov. James B. Longley
The Blaine House
Augusta, ME 04330

---Edited by Peter Prizer
"When the homosexuals burn the Holy Bible in public... how can I stand by silently"

Dear Friend:

I don't hate the homosexuals!

But as a mother, I must protect my children from their evil influence.

And I am sure you have heard about my fight here in Dade County, Florida -- and nationwide -- for the rights of my children and yours.

But I had no idea my speaking out would lead to such frightening consequences:

...ugly persecution at the hands of militant homosexual groups.

...the attempted blacklisting of my career.

...constant bitter threats to shut me up for good.

...misguided individuals hounding me and
my family -- even when we go to church.

All this, because I stood up for my children -- as a mother -- as an American -- as a Christian.

Then, when the militant homosexuals lost the public vote in Dade County, their friends in New England burned the Holy Bible!

And now there is a group that wants to produce a motion picture that portrays Jesus Christ as a homosexual.

That's why I am writing you today -- because I cannot remain silent while radical, militant homosexuals are raising millions of dollars and waging a campaign for special privileges under the disguise of "civil rights"...

...and they claim they are a legitimate minority group.

Do you realize what they want?

They want to recruit our school children under the protection of the laws of our land!

This is why I have formed a new organization, Anita Bryant Ministries. And I am concerned about more than just one problem.

In fact, I am going to speak out against all the evil forces that threaten our children and the security of our families and all individuals.

But first, I must turn to persons like you for advice.

I must know what problems concern you.

Therefore, I am enclosing one (1) Public Opinion Survey Ballot for you.

Furthermore, I am requesting you to mark your ballot immediately and return it to me.
Your vote will be held in strict confidence and my office will tabulate the opinions, so that when I write my books, give interviews and appear on nationwide television, I will be able to represent your concerns as well as my own.

For example, how do you stand on survey question number one?

(1) Do you approve of legislation allowing known practicing homosexuals to teach in public, private and religious schools?

(Yes) (No) (Undecided)

Please mark your ballot to indicate that you either approve, disapprove, or are undecided.

And remember, militant homosexuals want their sexual behavior and preference to be considered respectable and accepted by society.

They want to recruit your children and teach them the virtues of becoming a homosexual.

One militant homosexual group actually published a newsletter giving techniques to entice and recruit young men to commit unnatural sex acts.

And churches are even ordaining homosexual preachers! Can you imagine? Doesn't the sin of open homosexual behavior rank right along with adultery and incest?

I don't hate the homosexuals. I love them enough to tell them the truth...

...that God hates sin but He loves the sinner and He will not forgive any sin if the sinner flaunts it or asks the law to condone it.

And I want to help them find the love of Jesus in their own hearts and return to God's moral law.

But I insist that they leave my children and your
children alone. We must not give them the legal right to destroy the moral fiber of our families and our nation.

I must -- and I will -- protect my children.

How do you vote on this issue?

That brings me to survey question number two:

(2) Do you favor stricter laws controlling child pornography?

[Editor's note: space considerations do not allow verbatim transcripts of the "child porn" section of Anita's letter. Her connection between homosexuality and child pornography will suffice, alas.]

Will you cast your ballot on these burning issues threatening our daily lives?

I must hear from you immediately, because I cannot carry on this fight by myself.

Some liberal newspapers are saying "Anita Bryant should be shut up (sic)."

But what do you say? Shall I be silent?

And if you want me to speak out, will you consider sending a special love gift to support the work of Anita Bryant Ministries?

I am following the leadership of the Lord -- and already it has cost me a great deal, but it is worth it to protect my children and yours...

...and take a stand for what is moral and right in our nation.

In fact the Bible says, "If God be for you, who can
be against you?"

I believe this with all my heart and so does my husband, Bob Green, who has been with me since this fight first started...

...and now we have a peace with our Lord the surpasses all understanding, and with His guidance in our lives, we are not afraid for our lives, or for our family.

So there you have it. All I can do is turn to you. I must know how you feel on these burning issues.

And I must depend on your $10 tax deductible gift of love -- or perhaps even $15 or $25 or $100, if these issues really shake you as thye do me.

May I hear from you immediately?

As you know, the militant homosexuals are always preparing massive public relations campaigns...

...will you help me stop the militant homosexuals?

Please mark your Opinion Survey Ballot immediately, and return it and your gift of love to me in the reply envelope I am enclosing.

So for now, thanks so much, and God bless you.

Much love from all of us.

Your friend,

Anita Bryant

[The official "ballot" appears on the following page]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Undecided</th>
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<td>(1) Do you approve of legislation allowing known practicing homosexuals to teach in public, private and religious schools?</td>
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<td>(2) Do you favor stricter laws controlling child pornography?</td>
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<td>(3) Do you favor the elimination of &quot;R&quot; rated movies from television and stricter controls governing sex and violence on TV?</td>
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<td>(4) Do you favor prayer back in schools?</td>
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NEW BUSBOY, IN TOWN!!

State Rep. Stanley "Tuffy" Laffin, (R-Westbrook), renowned homophobe and staunch supporter of the 14th Century, is currently driving a Greater Portland Transit District bus on a scheduled route. But apparently he's a competent operator when not polluting the legislative hall-ways with cigar smoke and wild talk...

The Loving Brotherhood
An international support group for men on the spiritual path...who care for each other

For information send a long SASE to:

TLB
Box 556MG
Sussex, NJ 07461
Q&A

1. Q: "What ever happened to the Killer Bees from Brazil? Weren't they headed our way?"
   --F.V. Canton, Me.
   A: A secret Pentagon memo, leaked to my associate by a member of the Joint Chiefs, says the Killer Bees actually reached Boston in April, 1979. They started for Maine but inexplicably refused to enter New Hampshire at the Seabrook town line.

2. Q: "Is it true that John Wayne left his entire estate to a pinto mare he rode in the movie 'Back to Bataan'?"
   --L.P. Jay, Me.
   A: You've got your movies confused. Big Duke rode the famed pinto in the 1964 movie "True Grit." The 1945 classic, "Back to Bataan," was a low-budget sci-fi that featured the animated Volitzens from the planet Bataan. As for the Duke's considerable estate, it was left entirely to his fourth wife, Marion.

3. Q: "Don't many of President Carter's problems stem from the fact that he has an identical twin brother that alternates as president and that the two rarely communicate?"
   --R.G. Van Buren, Me.
   A: Miz Lillian told my associate, Jane Warner, that Jimmy Carter is actually just one of a little-known quintuplet. The other four siblings--three sisters and a brother--take turns in the Oval Office as the need arises. This explains the President's 1979 summer summits--in Tokyo, Altoona and Geneva--which occurred during the week of June 7th to 10th. They are said to get along quite well and look forward to the 1980 re-election campaign.
4. Q: "Is there really an energy crisis?"  
E.D. Lewiston, Me.  
A: Not really...unless you happen to be poor.  

5. Q: "I have a bet with a friend. She says that Jacqueline Onassis, who recently celebrated her 50th birthday, was once married to a president of the U.S. I don't recall a President Onassis and bet her $50 that she's mistaken. Am I right?"  
Y.G. Naples, Me.  
A: Technically, you both are.  

6. Q: "Is it true that homosexuals can't reproduce and thus must recruit the young and impressionable?"  
B.F. Bangor, Me.  
A: Recent surveys indicate that homosexuals can actually reproduce. It is true also that many of them choose not to do so. The only social group that can't reproduce is the U.S. military, which organizes recruitment drives aimed at America's young and impressionable.  

7. Q: "Why isn't the world a more happy place?"  
J.B. Augusta, Me.  
A: Happiness, my friend, is like a cow that gives forth sweet milk. But the world is sad, alas, for a bull gives no milk.  

8. Q: "I read somewhere that a process has been secretly developed that cheaply and efficiently produces gasoline from sea water. Can this be true?"  
S.E. Addison, Me.  
A: Yes, but only in the vicinity of large oil spills.  

9. Q: "How come Bob Hope doesn't run for public office? He's pro-
bably the most popular person in America." --T.S. Eliot, Me.

A: Few people have managed to keep their popularity after the transition from stand-up comic to public office. Also, many of Hope's fans don't really appreciate the extent of his vast fortune gained by shrewd southern California land dealings. He would have to publicize this information if he decided to run for office.

* * *

10. Q: "My drug dealer recently charged me 5% Maine Sales Tax on fifty grams of watered-down cocaine. Is this legit?"

--H.C. Berlin, N.H.

A: Yes and no. The U.S. Supreme Court, in a historic 1973 ruling (5-4), said that individual states were Constitutionally prohibited from collecting sales taxes on the distribution of illicit drugs because such collection would interfere with citizens' "pursuit of happiness." But a circuit judge in Carbon County, Kentucky, overturned the high court's ruling in 1975 by jailing a small-time marijuana dealer for "intent to sell" and "failure to collect mandated sales taxes."

* * *

11. Q: "Now that the price of gasoline is over $1 a gallon, why do the nation's oil companies bother with the 9/10ths of a cent pricing structure?"

--T.D. Mars Hill, Me.

A: An Exxon official explained: "Exxon would very much like to abolish the 9/10ths fraction and just add on the whole cent, but the Department of Energy has advised our attorneys that this change may be confusing to motorists. Instead, all Exxon stations, west of the St. John River and beginning on January 2nd, 1980, will display the new cent fraction, '10/10,' along with the posted price."

* * *

12. Q: "I notice that many articles with lists, such as the one that I'm reading at this very moment, stop with the number twelve.
Why is this so?

--J.H. Brunswick, Me.

A: A fox and an ermine were trotting casually along a wooded path. After a while, they came to a small glen where apple trees were draped with enormous vines bearing sour grapes. "This must be your destination," joked the ermine. "You must mean my destiny," replied the fox sadly. "If that's your trip," said the ermine to no one in particular. And thus did the number twelve find acceptance in lists and series.
GAYS' TREES FOR ISRAEL: "WICKED!"

A TREE GROWS IN THE NEGEV DESERT?

Members of a Manhattan (New York) homosexual synagogue have gone to Israel to plant 3,000 trees in memory of slain Harvey Milk, reports the San Francisco Examiner.

And their trip has stirred loud protests by clergy in New York and in Israel over a "homosexual forest in the Holy Land."

Thirty members of Manhattan's Synagogue Beth Simchat Torah have flown to Israel as part of the Fourth International Jewish Homosexual Convention, of which the tree planting is a part. The planting was planned to take place in late July in the Negev Desert.

The New York Board of Rabbis has complained to the Jewish National Fund, which accepted a $10,000 donation from the synagogue for the trees and unsuccessfully tried to pressure El Al, the Israeli government airline, to cancel the homosexuals' plane reservations.

A Protestant clergyman, the Rev. Roger Fulton of Greenwich Village, sent a telegram of protest to Begin. Fulton also wrote an editorial in the Jewish Press calling upon "all God-fearing clergy and laity in both Israel and America to raise their voices and insist that the Satanic gathering of sodomites be prevented."

Fulton said, "This is reminiscent of the sodomites in biblical times who wickedly tried to blend their perversion with a true, spiritual faith."

The Israeli government has tacitly supported the convention planting.
WOMAN LOOKING FOR ROOMMATE to share a small apartment on Emery St., Portland. Immediately, if not sooner! $22.50/wk, includes all utilities. No dogs. Temporary arrangements OK. Contact: Lynn, c/o PO Box 4542, Portland, ME 04112.

HOW GAY IS YOUR (LOCAL) LIBRARY? --A pamphlet of tips for the non-librarian on how to get gay materials into libraries is now available from the Gay Task Force of the American Library Assn. It explains library selection policies in a general way and tells how you can get a library to buy more gay books and periodicals. Also, what to do if your requests are refused, on why some gay books are kept where you have to ask for them, and on donating materials to the library. The pamphlet is $1 prepaid, checks payable to "Barbara Gittings--GTF" at PO Box 2383, Phila., PA 19103. (215) 382-3222.

THE NUMBER FOR THE PORTLAND V.D. CLINIC IS: 775-5451.

BARS AND PARKS seem an impersonal way to meet. But how do you get together by ads like these?--someone you don't even know exists, but would like to get to know if you knew they (you, perhaps) existed. Maybe you just start out by writing... Male would like to correspond with same in the Greater Portland area. Please write to: Boxholder, PO Box 1201, North Windham, Maine 04062.

REMEMBER!! AN EVENING OF MUSIC WITH HOLLY NEAR and J. T. Thomas, at the University of Southern Maine. Sept. 16 at 7:00. Tickets are $4.50. This anti-nuclear performance will be interpreted for the hearing impaired by Susan Freundlich. For tickets and other info, call Maine PIRG, 780-4044, or the University Women's Forum, 780-4086.

THE LOVING BROTHERHOOD...International support group for men on the spiritual path...who care for each other. Information: TLB, Box 556MG (note new box no. from last issues!), Sussex, New Jersey 07461.

CONDITIONS: A magazine of writing by women, with an em-
phasis on writing by Lesbians. Poetry, fiction, features, reviews. The fifth issue thus far--THE BLACK WOMEN'S ISSUE--was available in August. $8 for 3 issues yearly ($6 special "hardship" rate) or $3 per single issue. Send checks to: Conditions, PO Box 56, Van Brunt Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11215. "...CONDITIONS contains some of the best writings that this second wave of American feminism is likely to produce...This is a landmark publication."--Andrea Chesman in Big Mamma Rag. "...essential for all collections of Lesbian/feminist writing."--Library Journal.

MIDCOAST GAY MEN, a new support network for gay and bisexual men, is offering rap groups, social outings, peer counseling, and fellowship. For details send us a note: Midcoast Gay Men, PO Box 57, Belfast, Maine 04915. Please save this address and tell your friends!

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE LET REACTIONARY LEGISLATORS KNOW THEY CAN BLOCK THE E.R.A. ONLY AT THEIR POLITICAL PERIL. Right now, anti-woman and anti-gay right-winger Phyllis Schafley is sending thousands upon thousands of letters in an effort to raise money to defeat the ERA in key states. In a mailing to raise money for the Virginia elections she writes, "ERA only needs approval from three more states in order to be ratified...We have to elect candidates in Virginia who will vote against ERA and defeat ERA nationally." Help the National Organization for Women mount effective political campaigns in key states...send any contribution you can spare to:

NOW/ERA PAC
PO Box 317
Washington, DC 20044

ANYONE WHO WANTS the license plate with SAPPHO on it can have it! Just ask at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. --MLF NEWSLETTER

RIDE SOUGHT FROM OCT.14 'MARCH ON WASHINGTON' to Maine. I'll be transporting some household goods back to Maine so a truck or van would be ideal. I will, of course, pay all expenses, and can offer lodging in Washington for that weekend. If no truck or van is available I would still like to make contact with somebody for one-way or round-trip. Thank you. Bo Erik Bergström

RFD #2, Lincolnville 04849.
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