Mainely Gay (May/June 1980)

Susan Henderson

Peter Prizer

Stan Fortuna

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Gay people are victims of this form of oppression every day in many noticeable or subtle ways.

Ya wanna know how I can tell you're afraid of me?
MAILING CAN

May June 1980

Ya wanna know how I can tell you straight of me?

Gay people are victims of this form of oppression. Gay men in society must be able to talk about their experiences. -saute

[Cartoon of two figures conversing]
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Note To Readers

THIS MONTH'S COVER is taken from a panel of a Tim Bouffard poster entitled, "IS YOUR HOMOPHOBIA HURTING A FRIEND?" Intended for people who have a difficult time dealing with Lesbianism and homosexuality, the poster was drawn by Tim several years ago.

Our thanks to Tim (a former volunteer for this rag) for use of a section of his work (blatantly taken out of context, of course) which, we're sure Tim would like us to point out, is copyrighted.

ADIEU, ANITA: In this issue you'll find no less than five (count 'em!) articles on the erstwhile anti-gay crusader/fundamentalist. Since she may choose to spend the next several months adapting to the new realities that her divorce from Bob Green may have presented, Anita Fans may wish to use the foregoing articles to carry them through the expected lull.

Anita Bryant, incidentally, has requested that her name be removed from the title, "Anita Bryant Ministries, Inc.,” the outfit that supposedly was intended to enlighten homosexuals (and Lesbians?) to the folly of their evil ways.

HOW NICE DEPT.: 1) Two Maine beaches have received rave "reviews" from Playboy Magazine. The July issue of the poronpolitical mag rates Old Orchard and Ogunquit Beaches as among the 16 best in the entire country. The article did note, however, that the ocean water "can get pretty cold" (especially around January) and based the favorable impressions on such factors as surf and sand conditions and an absence of swimming dangers.

2) SINGAPORE (AP)--The English-language Straits Times called today for more nations to boycott the Moscow Olympic Games...
Dear Mainely Gay,

Your comment in the January/March issue that "Maine is not New York City. Yet." was almost as offensive as the Bangor Daily News editorial about the Gay Symposium that a friend sent me. Clearly, you do not have a correct political attitude. Please review the enclosed letter--not for publication--and try to improve your outlook.

Big city crime and senseless street violence affect everyone--straights as well as gays. The important thing is that most of us only read about it in the papers.

For my side, I like your magazine very much. I buy copies at the Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookstore and smuggle them back to my closeted friends in Maine. They don't seem to know how to deal with it. Most never knew that it existed until I sent them a copy. As usual, the younger generation, (you guys) are shaking up the older folks (us guys).

You probably have been told that what you are doing is very important. By God, believe it!

In the meantime, it is true that you are not New York City yet. You do not have a chapter of the Hikin' Dykes or a Gay Community Marching Band. Keep it up, though. As the politicians like to observe, you've got the momentum.

Sincerely,

Joe Thomas

New York, NY

Co-editor replies: Thanks for your kind comments about the publication. As for your resentments about the mention of street violence in New York City (in the April issue of Mainely Gay) and how similar violence towards gay people may be on the in-
crease in Maine, I suppose we will have to agree to disagree. As for not possessing a "correct" political attitude, I assume that this observation was intended as facetiousness. The day when I have a "correct" anything is the day when I'll hang up my roller skates.

--Peter Prizer

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for reprinting our story about violence against the right to choose. And thanks also for sending a copy of your newsletter--it's a good publication!

Good luck to all of us concerned with Choice.

Karen Mulhauser
National Abortion Rights Action League
Washington, D.C.
CARIBOU, ME-- Plans are being made to organize a conference of rural lesbians and gay men to be held Labor Day weekend, 1980. Involved in planning are several gay organizations in Maine and the Maritimes. The idea for such a symposium is the result of a workshop of rural gays which was part of the 7th Maine Lesbian-Gay Symposium this past March in Bangor. Gay women and men who live in rural areas are faced with problems and concerns which are different from those of their gay sisters and brothers in urban regions. The purpose of this conference will be to address these issues. Persons wishing to contribute suggestions and ideas are invited to write: Northern Lambda Nord, PO Box 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA.

NEW YORK, NY -- The National Gay Task Force, with the cooperation of the leadership of the San Francisco gay community, Supervisor Harry Britt and Mayor Diane Feinstein, is preparing a National News Council complaint regarding the recent CBS News Special "Gay Power, Gay Politics."

NGTF Co-Directors Charles F. Brydon and Lucia L. Valleska said: "We believe that CBS News in its program 'Gay Power, Gay Politics,' failed to meet reasonable standards of accuracy or fairness for broadcast journalism. CBS went beyond the bounds of legitimate robust journalism into the realm of misrepresentation, distortion and sensationalism. The program reflects inadequate and shoddy research and was edited in such a fashion as to negatively manipulate the viewing public's attitude toward the gay rights movement."

CHICAGO, IL -- U.S. Justice Dept. officials announced late in March that the city of Chicago will pay $69,500 in damages to 191 women who were subjected to abuse by Chicago police officers.

The case brought by the women charged that they had been stripped and searched by police officers after being arrested for minor offenses such as traffic violations and smoking in the subways.
NEWS SHORTS

LOS ANGELES, CA -- Frances and Norman Lear in April donated half a million dollars to the National Organization of Women and the National Women's Political Caucus, to promote passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. The Lears made the donation "in memory" of Edith Bunker, the well-known character on the Lear-produced television program "All in the Family," known more recently as "Archie (Bunker)'s Place."

In addition to being on the board of the National Women's Political Caucus, both of the Lears are also active in the ACLU.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- A call for more information on Nazi persecution of homosexuals during the Third Reich has been issued by the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Responding to a request from the Gay Activist Alliance of Washington, D.C. and the Ireland-based International Gay Association, the Council's staff director recently wrote that he would be "extremely grateful" to gay men and lesbians "for any documents, memoirs, and historical research and analysis...relating to the Holocaust.

Editor's Note: For more information on the project, please write to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, 425 13th Street, N.W., Suite 832, Washington, D.C. 20004.

LOS ANGELES, CA -- A second openly gay man was in March appointed as a judge by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., marking the second time in less than a year that an openly gay person has been appointed to the judiciary.

Sworn in on March 14 as a new municipal court judge of the Los Angeles Judicial District was Rand S. Schrader, 34, president of the Gay Community Services Center. Until his appointment, Schrader was a deputy city attorney (criminal section) for the city of Los Angeles and also a board member of the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles; he resigned both positions upon being appointed a judge. Judge Schrader will handle misdemeanor cases such as: bookmaking, petty theft and assaults.
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MAINE
NEW YORK, NY -- In a unanimous vote, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has ordered that broadcasters include gay men and lesbians in surveys of local communities. The surveys, known in the broadcast industry as "ascertainment surveys," are used by broadcasters to help determine programming interests, needs, and problems of significant groups within local communities.

Prior to the March 12 decision, the FCC had required broadcasters to consult with groups in 19 different community categories, none of which specifically included groups of openly gay men and lesbians.

The new policy is attributed to the filing in 1977 of a petition by the National Gay Task Force. The petition asked that the categories list be expanded to include "organizations of and for the Gay community."

SEATTLE, WA -- Police Officer David Estes' anti-gay initiative has been filed with the Secretary of State's office and will go before the 1981 legislature for a vote if enough signatures get on the petition. The Attorney General will write the statement, posed as a question, expressing the purpose of the measure, which will then be circulated on petitions. Estes will need at least 66,000 signatures before the end of this year to qualify for legislative consideration.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Independent presidential candidate John Anderson, a member of Congress from Illinois, has added his name to the list of co-sponsors of the federal lesbian and gay rights bill, HR 2074. The announcement of Anderson's co-sponsorship came during the first Congressional briefings on the bill, held on Monday, April 21.

"If freedom under our Constitution is to have a real meaning, this legislation is a natural extension of one's individuals rights," Anderson, who did not attend the briefings, said in a prepared statement.
INDIANAPOLIS, IN -- The General Conference of the United Methodist Church voted three to one, 728-225, to maintain that church's stand against homosexual practices as "incompatible with Christian teaching" on Saturday, April 19. The governing conference of the 9.6 million member denomination also forbade the distribution of church funds to pro-gay or gay-related groups.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA -- In his last few days in office, former police chief Charles Gain overruled the findings of his department's Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) and sustained numerous police brutality charges in connection with the May 1979 riots following Dan White's conviction. White, a former city supervisor, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in connection with the November 1978 shootings of openly gay Supervisor Harvey Milk and pro-gay Mayor George Moscone.

ST LOUIS, MO -- For the past month Rabbi Bruce Diamond, spiritual leader of Congregation Kol Am and an outspoken defender of gay rights, has been receiving nightly death threats from a group of men. According to writer Barry Mehler, the men said they were planning to kill the rabbi for his support of the newly formed St. Louis Gay Havurah unless he left town. Diamond's name appeared as advisor of the group in an article in the St. Louis Jewish Light, which was picked up by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The death threats began shortly after the article appeared. Police were able to trace the calls and apprehend those responsible.

Diamond refused to reveal the names of those involved but "reliable sources" indicated to Mehler that the threats came from ultra-right elements within the Jewish Community. St. Louis Jewish religious leaders of all denominations joined together in condemning the incident.
Cross-Generational Sex: The Radioactive, Red-Hot Potato

The New Yorkers are having at one another mightily over the issue of man-boy love, which, since they're too busy fighting with one another to organize a local Gay paper, is being reported round by agonizing round in Gay Community News. Man-boy love, or to use the more inclusive term, cross-generational sex, promises to be the hot potato to the Gay movement that Lesbianism was to feminism in the early '70's. The Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights (GLGR) in New York has split over the issue; The Body Politic was broken into by the police and two of its staff members arrested for printing an article about it. An advocacy group, the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) has been formed, and some other Movement groups won't share a platform with them, the issue has become so emotional.

Those who wish to keep the issue out of the Gay movement say that it is divisive, that it reinforces the straights' view of us as child-molesters. The same sort of thing was said in the women's movement about Lesbianism in the early '70's. Feminists found that they couldn't dodge the issue; that in fact the only way to keep the antifeminists from using Lesbianism as a weapon was to stop being afraid of the label. Similarly, the way to deal with the "child-molester" label is not to cloture the debate about cross-generational sex, but to discuss it freely and to come to some understanding, as a community, as to what our ethical standards in such matters should be.

The question cannot be dismissed as "a men's issue" either, as one school of Lesbian feminists - and some men - seem to think. This is why I prefer the term "cross-generational sex" to "man-boy love" - the latter expression deals with only half the issue. After all, young girls have gotten crushes on older women since time immemorial, as witness that classic song, "Ode to a Gym Teacher." The men do seem to be more concerned about the issue, since some of them have formed an association to deal with it, but love between generations knows no boundaries of gender.
The topic of love between generations raises many questions and no easy answers; and when one gets down to the nitty-gritty of actual sex between young people and adults, the questions are more, the answers harder, and not just highly charged, but downright radioactive. (The papers up here in the North Country have been full of the long, hot weekend at the Seabrook nuke site, and I've got radioactivity on the brain.) All human beings are born totally ignorant and sexually immature. This is why we find the idea of having sex with kids repulsive— they aren't physically or emotionally ready for it; they can be harmed by it. But at what age does one become physically or emotionally mature enough to handle sex? Twenty-one? Eighteen? Sixteen? Fifteen? Fourteen? Do we need age-of-consent laws to protect the immature from sexual advances, or are the laws against rape and assault sufficient? If we need to set an age of consent by law, what should it be? Given the disparity of power between adults and young people, do we legal adults have the right to make these decisions at all? Should the initiative not be left to those most concerned, the young people themselves?

Maine, by the way, has a somewhat complex age-of-consent law. Sexual contact with any person under the age of 14 is a class A crime if any form of coercion is used, and a class C crime if it isn't. It is also illegal for a person 18 or over to have sexual contact with a person between ages 14 and 17 if the older person is 3 or more years older than the younger person— this is also a class C crime. It is a defense if the accused "reasonably believed" the younger person to be 18.

Feminists rightly point out that, given the power that legal adults have over minors, a young person may be afraid to say "no," and there is danger that the young people will be exploited. The man-boy-love advocates reply, also rightly, that such relationships don't have to be exploitive, and that in fact they often aren't. Many times the relationship is initiated by the younger person, who has fallen in love or wants to know what sex is all about, and turn to an older and more experienced person. The Greeks, after all, built an entire educational system on this sort of relationship, and Sappho, Plato, and Socrates were some of its more famous exponents. Between the haloed images of the ancients, on the one hand, and the specter of the man with the trench coat and candy bag in the school yard on the other, there are a host of unclear-cut everyday situations. Let us take, for example, a teenage boy, thrown out of his
straight family for being Gay. To survive, he hustles on the street. It is easy to condemn the man who takes advantage of his need. But what about the man, and there are apparently a fair number, who in exchange for sex, and sometimes without it, give him a home and care until he can get a steadier job. On some occasions these Good Samaritans have been ripped off or even murdered by the young men they tried to help. Who is exploiting whom?

This essay is all questions and no answers, because that is how the issue stands in my mind right now, and I think that is how it stands with the community as a whole. The questions need to be asked, and discussed; and hopefully some answers can be found. They won't go away, and the last thing we should do at this point is to cloture the debate. To continue the nuclear analogy, let us hope that the discussion will be conducted with less fission and more fusion.
OGUNQUIT, ME -- Twenty-five gay business people have formed an organization to counter what they see as a rise in the number of incidences of harassment against gays in this seacoast resort town.

According to Victor Caffese, owner and manager of the Yellow Monkey Guest House and member of the new organization, "Each year the harassment is getting worse."

Caffese told GCN of an incident which occurred a few weeks ago where two of his guests were jumped by seven youths on the beach. One guest reportedly suffered a broken tooth and the other had his face stuffed in the sand. There have also been accounts of firecrackers going off in the parking lot of The Club Disco, a local gay disco; and an increase in the incidents of cat calls being directed toward gays on the streets.

Caffese stated that the newly formed group hoped to counter this harassment by establishing a unified front within the gay community and also by establishing a strong link with local police officials.

In attendance at their third organizing meeting on Monday, June 9 were twenty-two gay business people and Officer Johnson of the Ogunquit police department. At this meeting Johnson gave the participants a pledge that his department would do all it could to end harassment against gay residents and tourists in the area.

Also in attendance at the meeting was a woman claiming to be the mother of one of the young men who has allegedly been calling out abusive language against gays. In an emotion filled statement, she apologized to the group for her son's behavior and explained how she feels
helpless to stop him. She offered an explanation for his behavior by citing an instance where he was "attacked by a gay when he was young." The woman then broke down and asked the group to forgive her son and told how, at the moment, he was undergoing an eight hour operation for cancer.

Earlier this spring, representatives of the gay business community met with Ogunquit Police Chief Hancock to state some of their concerns in the area of security and police protection. According to Bob Hedricks, manager of The Club Disco and one of the participants at that meeting, "Police Chief Hancock was very cooperative. We feel that he is genuinely trying to help us."

Hedricks is concerned that the stories of harassment are out of proportion to their actual occurrence. An annoyed Hedricks stated, "Earlier today (June 6) another Boston gay paper called me inquiring about a fire bombing at my club. These stories are really getting ridiculous. There has been no fire bombing. I want these rumours to end. There is no more harassment here than there is in any typical summer season in Provincetown and I should know because I lived in Provincetown for thirty years."

GCN contacted Chief Hancock, who maintained, "The harassment is not a gay problem, it is a community problem. The local kids sometimes gays, but gays aren't the only ones they bother. The kids also harass Canadians and older people too."

Hancock said that one problem his department faces is that during most of the year, there are only five officers on the force with only one on duty at a time. However, with the influx of summer tourists, he is adding 20 temporary officers to his staff.

People who are witness to harassment in the area are requested to take down the person's license plate number and other pertinent information and report this immediately to Police Chief Hancock's office. Hancock has
assured local gay leaders that the first offense will carry a warning while the second offense will insure a fine.

The gay business group plans to meet once a week during the summer months to continue its efforts towards a unified community.

Mainely Gay*
p.o. box 4542
portland, maine 04112

▼news ▼opinion ▼humor

Six issues $8.00
Sample copy $1.00

name________________________
address______________________
__________________________ zip_____

*a non-sexist grass roots journal by and for gay women and men.
THINGS GOING ON...

Community Messages

"DEAREST ALL--
Please announce: 'Massage Workshop with Diane Whitacker in Ellsworth. Free introductory evening July 1st. All day workshop ($15-20) on July 20th. Send questions and (refundable) fee to:

Whitacker Workshop
PO Box 594
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Above sponsored by Down East Gay Alliance, for all gay people.'"

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN DYKE NEWS is a new paper being published in Bennington, VT. They're distributing the initial issue free in an effort to reach as many Lesbians and feminists as possible. They'd like to receive articles, graphics, etc. and are also in need of money donations, large or small. Send all correspondence to:

Green Mountain Dykes
PO Box 426
Bennington, VT 05201

--Full Circle

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
Kindly have other gay people correspond with me. I'm living near Augusta and there's not a whole lot going on. I work in nearby Togus Veterans Hospital where gays are cautious due to discriminatory government regulations. Peace & Warm Regards,

Dick Stinnett
Togus Gate Lodge
835 Eastern Ave.
Augusta, ME 04330

LESBIAN CORRESPONDENCE CLUB. Directory of sisters arranged by state codes. Join fastest growing club of its kind with members all over the U.S. Inexpensive but effective. Send S.A.S.E. for free details to:

The New Dawn
PO Box 907
Phoenix, AZ 85001

WHEN A HETEROSEXUAL PERSON shows a picture of his family, it's called sharing. When we gay people show a picture of our lover, it's called flaunting. We want to share."

--Robin Tyler
COUNSELING/THERAPY:
Help with your feelings,
Help relating to those
closest to you, and
guidance in finding that
still loving center
which is you. I am
clinically trained in
gestalt, bioenergetics,
transactional analysis,
and transpersonal psycho-
logies, and have been in
practice nine years.

Adityo McLaughlin, M.A.,
Drs.

Also: ONGOING GROUP COUN-
SELING: Sharabo Dennison,
M.Ed. in Counseling, and I,
would like to form an on-
going counseling group. We
have been gay-identified.
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place in Portland to do
this for those from that
area. For those from mid-
coast Maine we can give the
group in our own home.

Our fee scale is based on
income, individual counsel-
ing ranging from $20-40 per
session, group work from
$15-25 per 2 1/2 hour group.
We are open to barter in
certain areas, particularly
auto mechanics skills, help
developing an awareness
; game for production, and
carpentry skills. Please.

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Robinhood, ME 04530

JULY 25-27
HANCOCK, NH
"FIELD AND FOREST, MOON AND
STARS," a weekend for women
wanting to take part in a
community camping experience.
There will be an outdoor
Saturday evening concert
featuring KAY GARDNER, an open
stage all weekend, workshops,
softball, volleyball, hiking,
fishing, etc. Campfires are
allowed; bring your camping
gear, food and supplies for
the weekend and join us for a
good time!

Women interested in facilitat-
ing workshops or selling mer-
chandise should contact us to
make arrangements. Included
in the ticket price is a com-
community meal Saturday evening:
$10, $12 at gate; children at
one-half price (boys under six
only). For tickets and vital
info, write:

L/FC
PO Box 47
Penacook, NH 03303

(continued next page)
WANT TO VACATION IN WESTERN MAINE MOUNTAIN AREA? We are looking for a responsible woman or women to housesit for our two spoiled cats and a friendly dog from June 29 to about July 12. We (two gay women) have a one-story, four-bedroom home on three acres in a rural area of Oxford County. Within three miles north or south of us are lakes with swimming, boating, miniature golf, a water slide and other recreational facilities. Nearby is the Mt. Abram Monorail ride and other scenic mountain attractions.

Our home is free in exchange for feeding our pets who are generally outdoors. Please call:

(207) 597-3811

or write to Anne Kinney, Box 42 RFD #1, Canton, Maine 04221. We'd like to meet you or correspond as soon as possible.

(Editor's note: Dear Anne, hope this gets the word out in time!)

ALIX DOBKIN CONCERT:

June 28 at the Susan B. Anthony Club in Belfast, Maine. The women at the Club are putting on the concert, and they should be contacted as soon as possible for more info. Write to:

MLF
PO Box 125
Belfast, ME 04915
Ellie

AND THEN SHE MOVED OUT ALL HER STUFF THE VERY NEXT DAY. I CRIED WITHOUT STOPPING FOR 3 DAYS. SHE HURT ME SO BAD.

OH NO! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! LAURA'S COMING THIS WAY RIGHT NOW!

A FEW SECONDS LATER...

WHY AVOID HER, PAM? JUST SAY "HELLO, LAURA," AND BE ON YOUR WAY. SHE DOES LIVE DOWN THE STREET, AFTER ALL. NEXT TIME IT WILL BE EASIER, BELIEVE ME.

HI, PAM! I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU! I HEARD YOU PUT ON A FINE CONCERT LAST WEEK. I WISH I'D BEEN THERE!

ELLIE, LET'S DROP INTO THIS ALLEY?
Me too. I'd like to play in front of an audience more often. It's a real high.

O.K. You really should! You have a lot to offer. Sorry I can't talk longer, but I've got to catch a bus. Take care of yourself, okay? So long.

So, how did it feel to see her again?

I feel great! I'm so glad you pushed me into that! She really was glad to see me.

Sure she was. She's a fine woman and still very interested in you.

You're right. She didn't even give me a chance to ask her how her lecture went at the university last night. She started preparing that while we were still together... sigh.

I should. You know despite all our nasty arguments and hard times, I still love her.

Call her up and find out. Keep in touch.

I'm sure you do.
For years--almost a whole decade--we patiently waited for the blessed moment to occur. And now, finally, it has: the national (heterosexual oriented) media have discovered San Francisco. But wait! What they've stumbled onto is not anything with real cultural significance (e.g., the first large-scale gay [male?] "ghetto" in a medium-sized American city) but, perhaps more significantly, the not-so-latent backlash among straights in the fabled town who have, we're informed, also just recently made the same horrible discovery.

First came the CBS "news" special about the almost paramilitary takeover of Fagdad-by-the-Bay by grim-faced S&Mers ...supported by whole legions of upper income gay males merrily clinking crystal drinking glasses...with embarrassing displays of phoney deference to same by a humbled Mayor Feinstein...while nuke families by the thousands head north, south and east to safety in precariously loaded Winnebagos...

Next we've got a recent issue of Playboy featuring an article of fear and loathing among the straight population of San Francisco towards their uppity gay neighbors. (Yes, we repeatedly touched our eyes with Kleenex as teenaged Joshua--the article's aggrieved heterosexual--explained in rather plain terms how he can no longer wear Levis because these clothes "remind" him of them!) Let's note, though, that Playboy, tres sophisticated vehicle that it is for selling needless though expensive goodies to upwardly mobile/young/straight/men, isn't too outraged at people apparently not following the so-called "sexual norms."

Of course, we're talking about California, where untold millions cheerfully work and play astride a rather significant geological fault, and all the shouting may be necessary to be heard above the dull rumbles. And, of course, the CBS head narrator Harry Reasoner (who had to leave the
s obey in the footage, leaving the grim recounting of alleged details to an understudy) appeared on national TV back in the early Seventies and chuckled to America how California is a "land of fruits and nuts;" all of which naturally qualifies him to ponder philosophically on what the "example" of San Francisco "means" to Middle America.

In all the media hype, there may, in fact, remain some worthwhile insights coming from the hostile, intense city that is San Francisco in 1980.

First, the straights probably don't like us a whole lot. But this we always suspected, although most of the time those more blatantly vented manifestations of outraged heterosexual bigotry were seemingly reserved for only those more intemperate members of the national patriarchy (e.g., Dan White), while the enlightened observers (observing from a safe distance, of course) sort of shrugged their shoulders and wondered, "Gee, what's to be done?" Now, as the heterosexual majority perceive some sort of organizing on the local level by--yuk!--the Clones and Castroids of San Francisco, it may now be more respectable to be nasty towards queers.

The second lesson, or so it seems, is the truth of the old adage that "Nothing Really Changes". United States society continues to flirt with coerced conformity to the norm (the norm being the value system of the majority) while only the more sinister police state measures are usually thwarted by judicial interpretation of the Bill of Rights. After all, 17,000,000 people don't purchase a copy of Reader's Digest to learn what makes the American right-wing and the Jehovah's Witnesses aren't gaining new recruits by the thousands because their dogma teaches respect for the differences among people (which it doesn't.) Back in San Francisco, so-called liberal newspaper columnists wring their typewriters in public, wondering aloud what's to be done--FINALLY?--with (or to) the raging gay rabble.

Third, we can probably disregard, at least for now, the
pleasant vision of fags, hets and dykes walking hand-in-hand down America's Main Streets. We'll continue to pass cautiously on the sidewalks and uneasily sit with each other on public transportation, but the important idea continues to be that heterosexuals reserve the right to increase the level of anti-gay oppression at whim. This assertion may seem a bit pessimistic or unfair, and perhaps it is. But nowhere is it chisled in lucite that things necessarily always get better (even though they should) and it may well be that life, for the gay community, may get a little tense. We'll wait and see.

***

Incidentally, I put the word ghetto in quotes back in the first paragraph as I think its application to gay residential areas of large cities is misapplied. Ghettoes first appeared in medieval Europe when Jews were forced to reside in designated sections of their towns and cities. More recently, of course, the term has been used to describe sections of US cities, where blacks and Puerto Ricans and others are forced to reside by economic and social restrictions. Not every gay resident of, say, Beacon Hill in Boston or Spruce Street in Philadelphia is up front, out of the closet, and these same people could, conceivably, choose to live in the more "exclusive" neighborhoods by merely continuing to exercise the same degree of deference to straight oppression and discrimination that's necessary, from time to time, in even the "gay ghettos." To me, the term ghetto infers forced residence.
When a man in mid-life with a wife and children suddenly makes the discovery that he is gay, where does he turn for guidance and support? Until very recently, the answer was "nowhere," except to expensive counseling centers. According to Gay Fathers Support Group facilitator Phil Harrington, this is an extremely critical period. "Many feel 'I'm the only one'," he said, referring to the role of a gay man in the husband/father situation.

Gay fathers group helps men adjust to dual roles
by BRUCE STORES

Editor's Note: This article was originally published in Seattle Gay News, March 14, 1980. It is reprinted here with permission.

At a meeting early in February, the GFGS celebrated its first year as a group. Between servings of cake (a gift from a local church) and champagne, Harrington told the 14 fathers in his home that "over 60 have taken advantage of this group. This is our first anniversary and I'm glad we're still doing it." To the first-time men in attendance at the anniversary meeting, Harrington explained the purpose of the GFSC: "We don't care if you're gay, bisexual or don't even know what your sexual orientation is. We don't encourage people to make any decision as to their marriage or lifestyle. What we do is let people see the diversity that exists. We all have neat things and difficult things in our life and we share these together." He told
the new fathers what they might expect from a meeting. "At a typical meeting, each father takes five minutes to introduce himself and tell others what kind of space he is in. From there the meeting just takes off."

Harrington reviewed the genesis of the GFSG. "When I was coming out and going through my divorce, I received lots of help from the counseling center. It was good help, but it wasn't peer help. Moreover, it wasn't cheap. I was aware of real sense of isolation. I had straight values, 32 years old, and didn't know how I would fit. When I thought my head was on straight - I got a rap group going. The idea slid for about a year. Then I went to the San Francisco Gay Pride March in 1978. They had a fathers group on a float with their children. When I came home, I put my ideas together and three months later advertised in The Dorian Group newsletter and started getting calls. I set a meeting date in mid-February '79. I advertised in SGN, TDG Newsletter, and the Sun. Sixteen people showed up. I didn't have anything conceptualized as to what it would be. I thought I would lay that trip on them." If Harrington had any doubts about the need for the group or whether it would grow, they were quickly dispelled. "After a few meetings," he said, "I started getting calls from mental health groups around town and they wanted to know if they could refer people. We started getting referrals from straight as well as gay mental health workers. I got invaluable information from the Lesbian Mother's National Defense Fund. They told me what they do and their methods and resources became open to us."

Harrington explained how the meetings became more sophisticated, as "attorneys, mental health workers, sex researchers, and statisticians all came to talk with us." And before long the GFSG won national and local approval. "We're now listed as a resource with the National Gay Task Force," said Harrington. In Seattle, "the gay community has really pulled together to support the GFSG, especially the professionals - doctors and mental health workers." Research groups, he explained, make contact with the GFSG because it is about the only way to make contact with gay fathers. "Child Development researchers at UW and sex therapists did research with us and asked us to fill out questionnaires. We've tried to play that down because a lot of our people are in a real sensitive space."

Discussing this "sensitive space," Harrington said, "we have some fathers who are not 'out' to anyone except the GFSG." On the other
extreme, the group has gay men "who are out to the world and are happy and well-adjusted. And we have every conceivable life-experience in between. We have some who are denied their visiting rights due to their sexual orientation and people who don't know what their sexual orientation is. But the majority are determined to respond to their sexual orientation."

Men in the GFSG are looking at themselves in a different light, according to Harrington. They are "redefining values after being raised with heterosexual values and trying to find out what values apply to them now." But Harrington puts efforts into keeping value systems open. "One thing we try to do is keep people from being closed in - whether it be from a gay structural system or a straight structural system."

He believes the group has done a great deal of good for most of the fathers involved. "We consider it a success when an individual is confident, self-assured, virtually at peace with himself. For some it is for the first time in their lives. This is the reward that I get out of it." As for taking credit for these successes, Harrington says, "I can't take credit for any successes because the group does it all by themselves."

Sometimes the "reward" for some may be the start of a new relationship, though new friendships aren't always apparent to the group. "I'm only aware of three or four of these," said Harrington. "What happens is people get happy and go away." He readily admits, however, that this doesn't happen to everyone. "We just can't meet everybody's needs. Some come looking for a structured format to find out about legalities, parenting, etcetera, and don't find it."

There was mention of one father in particular who was not helped by GFSG. "He had two children by his first marriage and one child by his second marriage. His visiting rights were terminated by his first wife completely and he felt he had no legal recourse. He has lived with that for years. His second marriage began breaking up over the gay issue. This is when he started attending GFSG. Then he stopped coming very suddenly. His second wife told him, "If you don't take a 'cure' you'll never see your children again." He agreed and is now undergoing medication for being psychotic. There is more mental anguish there than anyone should bear." Harrington also related actual incidents of fathers who have attended GFSG who have undergone electrotherapy, aversion therapy, and have been in mental.
institutions for no other reason than their homosexuality. "I saw
*Word is Out* and thought those experiences must have been very iso-
lated cases, but they're not," said Harrington. After discussing
problems that gay fathers have confronted, he said, "The cruelest
thing is the possibility that they will never see or be a parent to
their children."

On the brighter side of parental rights, he said individuals in
GFSG "have gone to court four times and won four times and with the
court knowing full well about the father's homosexuality, and in all
four cases the wife threw all the mud she could. Another father
tried to get full custody and lost," he said, "while gaining vastly
increased visitation rights. He didn't lose because of his homosex-
uality, but because he is a male. Males just don't win in custody
cases."

Looking back at the first year, Harrington explained that the
format and activities have changed little except for speakers, who
seldom appear any more. "I stopped speakers from coming in because
attendance fell off." He found out "the emotional support wasn't
there. We still occasionally have someone come in but only if the
whole group wants it. And lately we've started going out together
socially and it's been great. Last year we did a weekend at Fort
Worden with the children. There were eight children, four fathers,
and two others. The children did all the things kids do when they
meet. It was summer Bible camp without the Bible. Some fathers
were apprehensive of exposing their children to a gay lifestyle,
but what happened to the children was no [exposure to a] lifestyle
in particular...just a group of men who cared a lot about each other.
Certainly there was nothing sexual about it."

For the future, Harrington wants "to get our experience down on
paper." He explained that he has 100 typewritten pages so far—
"most of it my experiences." He explained how one night was set
aside for the men to interview each other and to take notes. "We
started around 7:30 p.m. and went to midnight, but didn't finish the
first interview." The intensity of the experience was particularly
reflected in one father who "handed me his notes at the end and it
had one word: 'scary'."

Another new project announced at the anniversary meeting is the
start of an emergency fund to help persons "who come out of their
marriages with just the shirt on their backs."
HOLLYWOOD, FL -- According to a by-lined article by Philip Ward for the Knight-Rider Syndicate, the word being spread by Anita Bryant's $250,000 counseling headquarters in Hollywood has changed a little. Larry Coy, one of the seven directors of Anita Bryant Ministries, Inc., says that "curing homosexuals" is no longer the corporation's primary concern. "Our emphasis has always been to do whatever is necessary to reinforce the values America was based on," he added. He went on to suggest that the major problem to which the organization would henceforth direct its energies is "the disintegration of the American family."

Coy explained that Protect America's Children is now dormant, but that the organization could be quickly reactivated in the face of a "threat" from organized homosexuals. "You have to fight the symptoms wherever they arise, on a fundamental level, on a local level, wherever you meet it." He went on to say that the trend now is toward family counseling, adding that "family problems are often at the root of homosexuality."

Gay leaders in the Miami area refused to accept the reasons for the change of priorities given by both Coy and Bryant's spouse, Bob Green. "I think that the reason for the change was because no money was being made with the homosexual counseling service," said Bernie Berkowitz, president of the Broward County Coalition of Human Rights. "Anyway, most of the gay community laughs at Anita Bryant and what she does. She's not taken very seriously."

Green went out of his way to deny the claim that financial support for the homosexual counseling program was declining. Coy would not say how many specific results could even be traced to the programs of Bryant Ministries.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA -- IRS documents made available through a Freedom of Information Request, show according to Larry Bush of San Francisco's gay newspaper The Sentinel that Anita Bryant Ministries, Inc. collected nearly $1 million dollars in 1978 and spent only $150 on counseling. Over $454,000 was spent in "direct fees for raising contributions." Under IRS regulations information on the recipients of fund raising fees are not made public, but IRS officials concede that all of the $454,000 could have gone directly to Bryant herself for promoting the organization.

In total, Bryant reported that her group spent $56,000 on programs with only $150 going to counseling. The bulk of the $56,000 spent on programs was spent on a "documentary" and press and photo expenses. Over a half million dollars of the remaining contributions was banked.

In 1978, the year of the tax filing, Bryant's group also made contributions to the Anti-Gay Initiative seeking to overturn Seattle's gay rights ordinance. The initiative was unsuccessful. The contributions were listed as donations from Protect America's Children at Washington State's Public Disclosure Commission. H. Edward Rowe is Executive Director of that organization and also serves as Executive Director of Anita Bryant Ministries. This fact raises questions about the possible overlap of the two groups in conflict with IRS rules.

The tax filing also reports that no funds were spent for either direct or indirect political activity, although the IRS permits a fifth percentage of funds from tax-exempt organizations to be used for these purposes. However, Bryant's fund raising letters makes political goals a prime target of her organization, in particular the opposition of gay rights laws and the introduction of anti-gay legislation.

As in the case with all first year tax filings by newly formed tax-exempt groups, the IRS will audit and decide whether the tax-exempt status is valid.
NEW YORK, NY -- Citing questions of church-state separation and the spectre of implicit government sanction of Anita Bryant's anti-gay crusade, the National Gay Task Force has protested the cooperation of Defense Department officials in the production of Anita Bryant's television program "Anita Bryant's Spectacular--My Little Corner of the World".

In a letter to President Carter, NGTF Co-Executive Directors Charles F. Brydon and Lucia L. Valeska wrote, "We are deeply disturbed and dismayed by the cooperation and participation of elements of the Department of Defense in the television program produced by and on behalf of Anita Bryant Ministries".

Noting the military's past and present record of antipathy toward gays, and the active participation of government in this religious-sponsored production, Brydon and Valeska questioned the adequacy of official guidelines and the judgement of military officials who elected to extend government assistance.

"Beyond this and of immediate and paramount concern to this nation's 20 million tax-paying lesbian and gay male citizens is the implicit government sanction extended through this cooperation and participation to the virulent anti-human rights crusade directed against gay people by Ms. Bryant and for which she has a national identification and reputation", wrote Brydon and Valeska. Pointing to the anti-gay activity of Anita Bryant Ministries, Inc., and its link with Protect America's Children--both entities have have the same executive director, Edward Rowe--Brydon and Valeska concluded their letter to the President with a challenge.

"The central question in all this is government cooperation in Ms. Bryant's self-promotion--cooperation we see as inconsistent with the human rights policies of your administration. This issue—the willingness of your administration to actively apply the same value to the civil and human rights of gay people that is accorded to racial and ethnic minorities and women—this is the issue we would like you to speak to personally and to see your policy reflected by all departments and agencies of the government. May we hear from you, Mr. President?"
DALLAS, TX -- Entertainer Anita Bryant says the divorce she is seeking is "against everything I believe in," but her 20-year marriage to Bob Green had been in trouble from the beginning.

"We sought counseling, from different approaches," the singer and religious activist told the Dallas Morning News. "I wanted to save my marriage, but because of a set of circumstances, I decided that was not quite the route to go."

The interview, published in today's editions, was arranged by evangelist James Robison, Miss Bryant, who filed for divorce from her husband/manager in Miami last week, has been in seclusion in Selma, Ala., with her four children.

In her divorce petition, Miss Bryant charged Green had cooperated "with certain hired staff members who conspired to control me and to use my name and reputation to build their personal careers instead of my ministry."

She said she believes divorce is a sin and "I have to accept 50 percent of the blame. I am seeking the will of God, living one day at a time. There are hurts and scars that need time to heal.

"I came from a broken home and have been so concerned about my own family that divorce has not even been in my vocabulary. It's against everything I believe in."

"I was thrust into the ministry when I was an entertainer," she said. "I can see now that I am a sinner saved by God's grace. I can't claim I'm perfect."
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MIAMI, FL -- Singer Anita Bryant admits her failed marriage to former disc jockey Bob Green was a mistake but says it was never "that great" to begin with.

The former Miss Oklahoma told the Miami Herald, "I've made a mistake and I admit it. I want to concentrate on my kids and start teaching my kids... so they can see God's principles and apply them to their lives.

"I've never said that I'm anything but a sinner saved by God's grace, and no one believed me. I guess now they'll believe me."

Miss Bryant, who recently filed for divorce, said of her nearly 20-year marriage to Green: "It wasn't that great to begin with. There were some spots smoother than others."

Known for her unswerving support of the church, family and flag, Miss Bryant said her marriage was "irretrievably broken" in her divorce petition, but declined to be more specific.

"Any time I say something bad about Bob Green, it hurts my children," said Miss Bryant.

She said Green has moved out of the couple's Villa Verde mansion on Miami Beach at her request. She has asked that she and the couple's four children be allowed to use the house until it is sold.

Meanwhile, Miss Bryant, who used to promote Florida orange juice and has recorded albums of popular and Christian music, said her troubled marriage is accompanied by financial problems.

"I have no career left," she said.
A SISSY LOVER TURNS KILLER

LUENEBURG, West Germany--A 39-year-old carpenter says he went berserk and strangled his wife because she had nagged him for 16 years. The man, whose name was withheld, told the court he killed his wife because she repeatedly called him a "sissy lover," forced him to take his shoes off before entering their living room and never allowed him a mid-day nap because it would wrinkle the bedspread. He said such treatment had made him impotent. The judge sentenced him to three years in prison for manslaughter.

--S.F. Chronicle

JILTED LOVER LOOKING

CASPER, Wyoming--Combining Madison Avenue with Lovers Lane, a jilted Brett Weckwerth is advertising himself. "For Sale. Used Boyfriend. Good Condition. 266-4382." repeats the wooden sign on Weckwerth's front lawn. It's his attempt to recover from a jilting by his ex-girlfriend Pam Crowl. Weckwerth, 21, said he woke up Sunday morning with the idea to advertise himself. A reporter called the number and Ms. Crowl answered as she was leaving. "He needs all the help he can get," she said.

--Portland Evening Express
RURAL MAINE CONFERENCE FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN:

Plans are being made to organize a conference of rural Lesbians and Gay men to be held Labor Day Weekend, 1980. Involved in planning are several gay organizations in Maine and the Maritimes. The idea for such a Symposium is the result of a workshop of rural gays which was part of the 7th Maine Lesbian and Gay Symposium this past March in Bangor. Gay women and men who live in rural areas are faced with problems and concerns and are different from those of their gay sisters and brothers in urban regions. The purpose of this conference will be to address these issues.

Persons wishing to contribute suggestions and ideas are invited to write:

Northern Lambda Nord
PO Box 990
Caribou, Maine 04736
USA
PRESS RELEASE

FRANKLIN COUNTY (MA) LESBIAN ALLIANCE SEEKS SUPPORT FOR MOTHER FIGHTING CUSTODY OF CHILDREN COURT DEGREE:

Bunny King, the lesbian mother in Franklin County, Massachusetts, who recently lost a court case requesting that her two daughters be returned to her, has received notification that the Massachusetts State Supreme Court will hear the case.

On December 6, 1979, the Honorable Judge Sanford Keedy stated, "the environment in which she proposes to raise the children, namely a lesbian household, creates an element of instability that would adversely affect the welfare of the children."

Ms. King's attorneys are asking the State Supreme Court of Massachusetts to rule in support of the fact that homosexuality per se does not make a parent unfit. Briefs have been filed by the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders from Boston, The American Civil Liberties Union, and Custody Action for Lesbian Mothers from Philadelphia.

The Franklin County Lesbian Alliance needs $700.00 to pay back loans for the appeal. Donations can be sent to:

FCLA
P.O. Box 235
Deerfield, MA
01342
GAY/LESBIAN ORGANIZATIONS

MAINE

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

Midcoast Gay Men
PO Box 57
Belfast, ME 04915

Northern Lambda Nord
PO Box 990
Caribou, ME 04736 USA

Wilde-Stein Club
Memorial Union
University of Maine
Orono, ME 04470

Gay People's Alliance
Univ. of Southern Maine
92 Bedford Street
Portland, ME 04103

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

Down East Gay Alliance
PO Box 594
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Maine Gay Task Force
PO Box 4542
Portland, ME 04112

Mainely Gay
PO Box 4542
Portland, ME 04112
GAY/LESBIAN ORGANIZATIONS

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Central NH Men's Support Group
31 Union Street
Concord, NH 03301

Seacoast Gay Men
PO Box 221
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dartmouth Gay Students' Association
Hanover Box 5057
Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH 03755

Nashua Area Gays
PO Box 3472
Nashua, NH 03061

Lesbian Feminist Collective
PO Box 47
Penacook, NH 03061

N.H. Lambda
PO Box 1043
Concord, NH 03301

N.H. Coalition of Lesbians & Gay Men
PO Box 521
Concord, NH 03301

VERMONT

GAY HOTLINE, Univ. of Vermont: 802-656-4173

Gay Student Union
University of Vermont
Burlington, VT 05401

Integrity
PO Box 11
Winooski, VT 05404

Southern Vermont Lesbian's Gay Men's Coalition
21 Eliot Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Central Vermont Gays
PO Box 1264
Montpelier, VT 05602

Gay People at Middlebury
c/o Sandy Levine
Box 3432
Middlebury College
Middlebury, VT 05753
GAY/LESBIAN ORGANIZATIONS

ATLANTIC CANADA

Fredericton Lesbians and Gays (FLAG)
PO Box 1556, Stn. A
Fredericton, N.B.

Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE)
PO Box 3611
Halifax, So. Stn.
Nova Scotia B3J 3K6

The Sister's Lightship
Box 3611
Halifax South Postal Station
Halifax, NS B3J 3K6

Gay Organization of Women of Newfoundland (GOWN)
Box 905
Corner Brook, NFLD A2H 6J2

Sparrow of Atlantic Canada
Gay Christians
PO Box 3611, So. Stn.
Halifax, NS B3J 3K6

Gays
Box 1297
Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0

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

Northern Lambda Nord
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