

VIOLENCE CONTINUES....

A WEEKLY FORUM FOR THE BOSTON AREA

Gay Community News

VOL. 1, No. 6

JULY 26, 1973

25¢

BEWARE THE VAN

A twenty year old B.U. student, was recently robbed and beaten by two young men who had picked him up while he was hitch hiking on Comm. Ave. late at night. The same vehicle has reportedly been involved in similar incidents recently, and particularly preys on gays because it often frequents "the block". The following account of the attack was given GCN by the victim, Harry Higgins, and took place on the 7th of July.

Thumbing on his way home from a party, Harry was picked up by two hip-looking guys driving a flower and graffiti painted truck. He had to climb in the front door over the driver and passenger because he was told that the side door was stuck.

After driving several blocks on Comm. Ave., the driver turned off into the South End and onto deserted side streets. Harry's objections to the route were met with the response that they were "taking a short cut."

After the driver, called Jack, began sideswiping cars and went into a high speed screeching spin, Harry asked to be let out. This was responded to with "You'll get out when we feel like it". Harry, an acting student, told them that he was an epileptic and might have a seizure. After commenting that they "had a gun and could put him in the river" as they had "done with two guys", more threats were given until they stopped at a streetlight somewhere in the South End. At this point they began beating Harry and took his money and wrist watch. Harry stated "they attempted to put me out of commission but failed." Feigning an epileptic seizure, an occasion where his acting ability was of great use,

the attackers became frightened, and he escaped the truck as they drove away.

Bleeding and torn, Harry made it to Station Four, where he was given "a run-around." The only thing offered was an opportunity to wash up. No description was taken, and no effort made to apprehend the assailants. The police could not even give him a ride home.

Harry gives this description of his assailants: Driver: mid

20's, blue eyes, short brown hair, cleft chin, strong, muscular build. Wearing white t-shirt and jeans. Passenger: mid 20's, shoulder length brown hair and moustache. Wearing a plaid shirt.

GCN asks anyone who knows of this van or individuals to contact GCN at 742-0450. We also advise persons offered a ride by, or seeing this vehicle, to please notify us immediately.

SISTER ASSAULTED

Last Wednesday evening (18th) the driver of a blue pick-up truck with white block lettering on the side picked up and attempted to sexually assault Ms. Nina Kohn who was at the time hitch-hiking from the Commonwealth Avenue area to the CSMH Coffeehouse.

After being picked up, the driver, described as in his 20's, about 5 feet 9 inches tall, with shoulder length curly brown hair, informed Ms. Kohn that he had to make a delivery at Atamian Ford. After "discovering" that it was closed, he returned to the truck, pulled out a black-handled

knife and held it to her throat. When she refused to remove her pants for him, he began feeling her up. Continuing to resist his advances, the "mad dog" coerced her to commit what the police later termed "unnatural acts."

Ms. Kohn then leapt from the parked vehicle and quickly left the scene, crying. She explained her tears as resulting from her exploitation as a woman, rather than from the physical harm.

The incident was reported to the police, but no further developments are known as of this writing.

GAYS RESPOND

Due to the obvious increase in violence directed against gay people, a group of brothers and sisters have formed a Gay Defense Committee to explore ways in which the gay community can defend itself.

Suggestions of a self defense course, legal advice, and an information pamphlet on the ac-

tivities of the Committee were discussed at the initial meeting on Monday, July 23rd.

More interested people, especially women, are asked to attend the next meeting on Monday, July 30th, at 7:30PM, upstairs at the Charles Street Meeting House.

July 28 from 11AM to 3PM at the Charles St. Meetinghouse, 70 Charles Street, there will be a blood donation drive to assist gay sisters and brothers injured in the New Orleans fire.

There have been sixty sisters and brothers who have already volunteered blood but many, many more are needed. If possible, please call the Metropolitan Community Church at 266-7491, sometime before the 28th in order to make an appointment.

To be able to donate, you must weigh over 110 pounds, be of moderately good health, get a good night's sleep before coming in and be sure to eat something before donating. The need for this blood is urgent and remember "you may not be dying to give blood, but some day you may be dying to get it."

AMATO'S STAND.

State Senate candidate Mike Amato, who has won the endorsement of the Homophile Union of Boston and State Representative Barney Frank, supports the repeal of all sodomy laws and believes that "gay rights" falls within the domain of "human rights."

Running for the seat left vacant by the resignation of Senator Mario Umana, the Cambridge resident plans to introduce legislation to help alleviate the oppression of gays. He supports applying the same standards to public accommodations, the repeal of the "crimes against nature" and "unnatural and lascivious acts" sections, and establishing a uniform age of consent for sexual acts.

Security clearances, Amato believes, should be granted to gays on the same basis as straights.

On topics of general voter interest, Amato stands for the abolishment of prisons in lieu of half-way houses, abortion on demand and expanded mass transportation. He is opposed to the Park Plaza project.

Mike Amato stated in an interview with us that "The seventies are the most important years for human rights."



Gay Community News is published weekly through the sponsorship of the Charles Street Meetinghouse. GCN is dedicated to providing coverage of events and news of interest to the greater Boston gay community, as well as stimulation of event oriented opinion within the community.

News and opinions reflected in "REACT!", the editorial column, represent the majority view of the editorial board. Signed letters and columns reflect the view of the author only. The material in this paper does not necessarily represent the views of the Charles Street Meetinghouse. Comments, criticisms and information are always welcome from our readers.

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Address for subscriptions, address changes, letters to editor, contributions, comments, etc., send to GCN, c/o Charles St. Meetinghouse, 70 Charles St., Boston, Ma. 02114. Phone 742-0450.

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N.E. GAYS

GCN has been both pleased and surprised by the response we are getting from gays outside the greater Boston area. We encourage gay people from all over New England, especially those who have no gay media coverage, to submit news articles and events from your area to: GCN, 70 Charles St., Boston, Ma. 02114.

If you feel you are not represented, remember GCN is here to serve all gay people.

HCHS NEEDS \$ REACT! ←

The Homophile Community Health Service is still in serious financial difficulties.

Although the non-profit, professionally-staffed center has raised enough money to cover expenses through the month, they expect to be back in the same boat by the first of August. To date, they have raised approximately \$1,000, out of which more than \$700 has come either from the staff's own pockets or through their personal contacts.

Money is desperately needed to continue the work of the nationally-known counselling service. A finance committee has been formed with a view toward long term fund-raising. In the meanwhile, donations are being sought from the community. Contributions are tax-deductable, and may be mailed to:

HCHS, Room 403, 419 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass. 02116.

**COFFEE, TEA OR
~ YOU? ~**

The Meetinghouse Coffee-house still needs volunteers to wait on customers. A few individuals are carrying all the load, and desperately need help.

If you are free evenings, people are urgently needed Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays, from 7 to midnight. If you have free time during the day, people are needed every day except Fridays, but particularly Sundays and Mondays, noon to 7PM.

Call Steffi at 742-0450, or stop by the coffeehouse and see her.

DID YOU SEE?

In the Sunday, July 22, issue of GLOBE magazine, there appeared an article entitled "The Homosexual, the Catholic Church and Dignity." Taking the form of an interview, the article featured Fr. Thomas Oddo, Fr. Paul Shanley and Brother Bill Modlin, all of whom are working to bring alienated gays back into the church which their sexuality forced them to abandon. The group, Dignity/Boston, also actively works for liberalization of the church's view of homosexuality.

In another branch of the media, members of the GCN staff appeared on WBUR's GAY WAY radio program last Thursday (19th). The discussion dealt specifically with the paper, as well as certain other aspects of the gay situation in Boston, such as the increased violence and anti-gay sentiment on the part of the straight community.

(Please read Focus On: for background before reading this editorial)

The fallacy and ultimate danger of allowing the use of the Charles Street Meetinghouse as a temporary Gay Community Center to deter us from creating our very own center is that CSMH will not forever be able to fulfill this function.

CSMH sees its role as supporting humanistic causes. Its support of the Gay Movement in Boston has come at a time when the community direly needed it, and this support has allowed us to progress as a community at an incredibly rapid rate. We all owe CSMH and Randy Gibson in particular, infinite gratitude and admiration.

But the fact still remains that CSMH is not a Gay Community Center, and in fact, not even a gay church. Our usage of the church is part of an historical progression, with another group filling our place as soon as we depart and further fulfilling the Meetinghouse's historical role.

We must not allow this fortune to deter our struggle for a place of our own. Now is the time to plan for this center, because raising the necessary funds will not be easy. The planning and time involved will be great. A target of less than a year would be unrealistic. The time to start is now, not when we find ourselves out on the street again. Remember, even the most grateful guest will eventually wear out the hospitality of the most grateful host.

The August 12th meeting of GCC deserves the commitment of all members of the community who care about our liberation and ever upward struggle.

(Note: Randy Gibson was given this to read prior to insertion, and he would like to make it clear that he has not initiated this move, and is in no way foisting this on the community, but at the same time strongly agrees with this philosophy and feels that it will benefit the community in the long run.)

REACTIONS: ←

TO THE EDITOR:

One of the reasons I didn't go to New York for the Gay Pride March was the apparent ambivalence with which the gay organizations here viewed the march, as expressed via the bus accommodations. It seemed to me that anyone who went to New York had already made a tremendous contribution just in terms of the time and discomfort involved in getting there and back, never mind the time spent while there (which one could argue was well balanced by the good times had by all). If the groups here had really wanted to support that march, they could have subsidized the cost of the buses somewhat, or at least assumed the risk of any unsold seats for a second bus (the profits from the dances alone could have underwritten two bus loads at \$5 a head). Instead, the marchers were charged well above cost (\$548 collected versus \$411 spent) turning a profit equal to well over half of all the rest of the expenses incurred during Gay Pride Week. I think that is perfectly outrageous. Further, it was clear to me that had I offered to give any Boston group a donation of \$12, they would have used it for their projects here, rather than for a "bus scholarship", indicating that they preferred to see all that money stay in the Boston area, rather than go to support the New York Demonstration. Maybe the profit margin on the tickets was an unconscious effort to discourage participation (imagine how many more tickets could have been sold at \$5, or even cost of \$9.50).

If GCC makes its \$500 contribution, I would hope that the \$2.50 overcharge would be refunded to all who went on the bus to New York, and that an equal amount be set aside to subsidize next year's bus. With the possibility of a \$750 profit for the week, we don't need to squeeze anything more out of those who donate their time and energy to the movement.

Stan Tillotson

To the Editor:

As a coffee shop habitue, this writer wonders about and is concerned with the small percentage of older gays who help make up the daily total of visitors.

Does fear of being found out still haunt many of the individuals born in the early twenties and thirties? Do most of them have lovers and are so blissfully involved in that life that they have no time left to pay their respects? Or could it be that most of those remaining footloose prefer the more conservative bar where the stock quotations are the equivalent to a bible reading, and coupon clipping of bonds is the prescribed daily exercise routine?

To you who have read this far and know of any individuals who shun bars, pass the word that they are welcome at the coffee shop. There are a few of us here, but we would welcome all who care to... Whether they eat at home or out why not plan to have your dessert and coffee at the shop? For most it is only a short walk or drive and the rewards will be worth the effort!

Once having been introduced to the place, maybe they'll stay around and join in the work or activities. Our ultimate goal is equal rights and it could be these older gays have some ideas that merit discussion. ...Keep knocking on those closet doors, especially those covered with cobwebs from ages past!

Jack Ligruck

To the Editor,

Yeah Syracuse, Yeah Birthdays,
Yeah Gay Community News!

Dave K.
Syracuse, N.Y.

THE HOSENPFEPFER ~COLUMN~

by J. Ralf Green

It's back to the movies this week, for an update on the porn situation here in beautiful Boston. The initial hysteria following the Supreme Court ruling seems to be dying down a bit.

The North Station Cinema, when I visited, was featuring GAY WEDDING NIGHT, VW MAKEOUT, SUNDAY MORNING, and HARTON HIGH, with cores ranging from pure soft to semi-hard. SUNDAY MORNING was the best of the lot, being a well handled and rather touching just-lost-my-lover masturbation fantasy. Unfortunately, all the films were silent, with some unbelievably bad tape being played as accompaniment. While one week's shows are not really sufficient basis for a judgement, I tentatively class the North Station as a poor risk; your money could be better spent elsewhere.

Meanwhile, at the South Station Cinema, they're running GET THAT SAILOR and UN CHANT D'AMOUR. The former is a 1971 effort from Jaguar Productions, one of the foremost producers of hardcore gay films. It represents one of the early commercial efforts at hardcore, with only two scenes which required editing for the new "guidelines." The cutting itself was minimal and not really objectionable, although I'm sure we'd all prefer that it not be done. The plot deals simply

with a weekend in a "Service-men's Hotel," which leaves plenty of room for sex; all technical aspects fall within acceptable limits but there is nothing spectacular. GET THAT SAILOR is a reasonably well-done, competent picture, but nothing to write home about.

UN CHANT D'AMOUR, on the other hand, is a fine emotional - intellectual study of two prison lovers by French writer Jean Genet. Despite that date on it, 1950, it appears as a very primitive (technically) black and white silent. This film is definitely not porn; it stands as a great addition to homosexual literature, to which Genet has already added so many excellent books (OUR LADY OF THE FLOWERS, THE THIEF'S JOURNAL, etc.). I thank the South Station for brining us this film, although it seems rather out of place on the same bill with GET THAT SAILOR. People expecting porn tend to be somewhat put off if something else shows up, no matter how good it may be.

Which reminds me, the South Station is also showing a real, honest-to-john U.S. Navy recruiting commercial, complete with the address and phone number for the Boston recruiter. It must make for some interesting scenes down at the office but I can't help feeling that a mistake has been made somewhere.

~MEDIA~

GAY WAY PRESENTS:

1. Gays with children

Tonight, Thursday July 26, Gay Way Radio (WBUR 90.9FM) will feature two lesbian mothers, Penny and Claire. These two gay women will explain their situation as gays, as mothers and as a unique family structure. Tune in and hear how they deal with the difficulties of being gay and blending their respective children into their relationship. This should prove to be a very enlightening hour, especially for gay people who have children in their lives.

2. Our health service

On next Thursday's show (August 2) Gay Way will highlight the Homophile Community Health Service. This program will explain the goals and services of HCHS and the gay community. HCHS' financial crisis will also be discussed. Information for people interested in helping them through this crisis and how and where to help will be announced.

REMEMBER. . . July 26th - two lesbian mothers and on August 2nd - the Homophile Community Health Service. Both are on Thursday nights at 9:00PM.

FOCUS ON:

Each week in this column, we will explore, in depth, an organization, person or group of people who are doing something in the Gay Community.

This week we focus on the Gay Community Center Committee, a group founded well over a year ago. Most of us are familiar with the weekly dances, Friday nights at CSMH, and perhaps less familiar with their role in the establishment of the Meetinghouse Coffeehouse and the Gay Community News.

Aside from this, very little is generally known about the organization - the name itself implies a group working to establish a Community Center in Boston. Is it? Where, when, how, what? With this in mind, GCN talked with Rick Hamilton, officially Acting Secretary - Treasurer, but effectively the head of GCC.

According to Hamilton, GCC was formed with the purpose of establishing a Gay Center. It was felt that there was a need for a central facility for organizations to meet and interact. Another purpose was to use this facility for social events which would provide an alternative to the bars, and also to encourage new organizations to work on the many problems facing the Gay Community.

In an effort to raise money to achieve these purposes, and also fill the social need, GCC

began last year sponsoring dances at the Odd Fellows Hall in Cambridge, which were soon moved to the CSMH. Besides the ideas, labor, and financial support given to the Coffeehouse and GCN, the group is also working on promoting development of a new gay phone, and a full time secretary to service all gay organizations. It also will consider giving financial seed money to any new groups forming in the gay activism area.

But back to the Community Center itself, again - What happened to it? According to Hamilton, the evolution of the CSMH into a virtual Gay Community Center, plus the location of several gay groups together on Boylston Street has had the effect of lessening the obvious need for an actual Gay Center. This has led to a loss of members in GCC and a gradual halt to efforts to establish a center.

In an attempt to continue the process of establishing the center, an open meeting of GCC has been called for Sunday, August 12th, at 8PM at CSMH. At this time the process of answering what, where, who, when and how will begin again. All those with ideas and/or energy are asked to attend. (SEE REACT! COLUMN FOR AN EDITORIAL COMMENT)

9:30AM to 12 MIDNITE DAILY
SUNDAY 12-6PM

18 BOYLSTON STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138

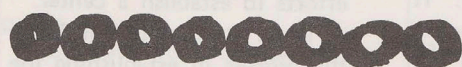
d **Discount Records**

CALENDAR: JUL 26-AUG 8

NOTE * INDICATES THAT MORE INFO ON THIS EVENT IS ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE

THU	7:30PM Effeminst Men's Rap @ Place *9:00PM Gay Way Radio, WBUR (90.9FM) Nite Project Place Gay Crisis Line 267-9150	26	THU	7:30PM Effeminst Men's Rap @ Place *9:00PM Gay Way Radio, WBUR (90.9FM) Nite Project Place Gay Crisis Line 267-9150	2
FRI	9:00PM GCC Gay Dance, CSMH, \$1.50 don.	27	FRI	9:00PM GCC Gay Dance, CSMH, \$1.50 don.	3
SAT	11:00AM-3:00PM MCC Blood Drive CSMH 8:00PM Good Gay Poets, Darius Dappletree, CSMH	28	SAT	8:00PM Good Gay Poets, CSMH	4
SUN	1:00PM DOB Softball, Magazine Beach, Camb. 5:30PM Interfaith Mass, Beacon St. & Mass Ave. 6:00, 7:00, 8:15PM MCC Meeting, Service, and Fellowship Hour - Old West Church 7:00PM Gay Media Watch, CSMH	29	SUN	1:00PM DOB Softball, Magazine Beach, Camb. 5:30PM Interfaith Mass, Beacon St. & Mass Ave. 6:00, 7:00, 8:15PM MCC Meeting, Service, and Fellowship Hour 7:00PM Gay Media Watch, CSMH	5
MON	7:30PM Gay Men's Rap, CSMH 7:30PM DOB Business Meeting, 419 Boylston Rm. 323 7:30PM Gay Defense Committee, CSMH	30	MON	7:30PM Gay Men's Rap, Upstairs CSMH 7:30PM Gay Defense Committee, CSMH	6
TUE	7:30PM HUB Rap, 419 Boylston, Rm. 509 7:30PM DOB Open Rap & Mtg., 419 Boyl. Rm. 323 8:00PM Gay Rollerskating, Ballarou, Medford	31	TUE	7:30PM HUB Rap, 419 Boyl., Rm. 509 7:30PM DOB Open Rap & Mtg., 419 Boyl. Rm. 323 8:00PM Gay Rollerskating, Ballarou, Medford	7
WED	7:00PM GCN Staff Meeting, CSMH	1	WED	7:00PM GCN Staff Meeting, CSMH	8

QUICK GAY GUIDE



NOTICE

This issue of GCN is being sent to all local radio, T.V. stations and newspapers. It is our hope that straight media, given access to information about our activities, will be more open to covering gay interests in the future. Here's hoping!

DEDICATION

MAILER'S MARILYN /S/ Susan Phillips

"The Lord said to Peter, 'when you were young you girded yourself and walked where you would. But when you are old you will stretch forth your hands, and another will gird you, and lead you where you would not.' Now this he said to signify by what manner of death he should glorify God."

American Civil Liberties Union	227-9469	Gay Way Radio (WBUR-FM)	353-2790
Boston Gay Youth	536-6197	(Contact Elaine Noble or John Lawrence)	
Charles Street Meetinghouse	742-0450	Good Gay Poets	536-9826
Daughters of Bilitis	262-1592	Homophile Community Health Service	266-5477
Dignity/Boston, c/o 1105 Boylston St., Boston, Ma. 02215		Homophile Union of Boston	536-6197
Fag Rag	536-9826	Lavender Hour (WBCN-FM)	261-8526
Gay Community Center	491-5669	(Contact Andy Kopkind or Littlejohn)	
	or 288-8765	Lesbian Liberation .. (c/o the Women's Center)	354-8807
Gay Community News (c/o Charles St. Meetinghouse)		Metropolitan Community Church	266-7491
	742-0450	Project Place	267-9150
Gay Media Watch	868-5729	Red River Dyke Collective	
Gay Speakers Bureau	547-1451	c/o 43 Willow St., Somerville, Ma. 02143	
		Fr. Paul Shanley	267-0764

The Gay Community News is sold at the following locations:

Downtown Boston
Art Cinema, 204 Tremont St.
Regency Health Center, 11 Otis
The Saints, 112 Broad St.
South Station Cinema, 23 So. St.

Back-Bay Boston
Daughters of Bilitis, 419 Boyl.
Homophile Community Health
Service, 419 Boyl. St. Rm. 509
Legal In-Service Project, 355 Boyl.
Homophile Union of Boston, 419
Boyl. St., Rm. 509
Metropolitan Community Church,
419 Boyl. St., Rm. 408

Beacon Hill - Boston
Esplanade Paperback, 107 Charles
Meetinghouse Coffeehouse, 70
Charles St.

Kenmore Square/Fenway - Boston
Paperback Booksmith, 516 Comm.
Ave.
Bob White's, 1270, 1270 Boyl.
Cambridge
Reading International, 47 Brattle
The RedBook, 91 River St.
Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St.

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GAY PEOPLE, LET'S DEFEND OURSELVES!

Due to the obvious increase in violence directed
against gay people a group of brothers and sisters have
formed a gay defense committee to explore ways in which
the gay community can defend itself.

One suggestion is a course in self defense.

More people and ideas are needed.

Meeting - Upstairs
CSMH, Mon. July 30, 7:30