

MOVIES-MASS REACTION-MARRIAGE

A WEEKLY FORUM FOR THE BOSTON AREA

Gay Community News

VOL. 1, NO. 10

AUGUST 25, 1973

25¢

LOPRESTI WINS: AN ANALYSIS

The August 14th special election for State Senator was easily won by Michael LoPresti Jr. of East Boston. With a total of 7,069 votes, he topped his nearest rival, Emanuel "Gus" Serra, by almost 1,555 votes. Mike Amato, who secured the support of several gay organizations including HUB, received only 743 votes, placing fourth in a field of seven candidates.

LoPresti won by heavily carrying East Cambridge, Winthrop, and the North End, and by running a close second in Boston's Back Bay-Beacon Hill (carried by Amato), and East Boston (won by Serra).

Amato's gay support was decidedly beneficial in the Back Bay-Beacon Hill area where much of the Gay population is centered. The fact that this was the only ward he carried emphasizes this, as well as pointing out his decided weakness in other areas, even his home ward of East Cambridge. His gay platform may have cost him some votes in these areas, but his great lack of recognition seems

to have been more important.

A key factor in the election was the turnout by areas. While only 830 votes were cast in the Back Bay-Beacon Hill area, 12,539 were cast in East Boston. The power of East Boston was out of proportion because the people there are more politically organized and turn out to vote.

The significance of LoPresti's win is somewhat mixed in terms of importance to the gay community. Lo Presti stated to GCN that he would support gay issues, but would not introduce them or campaign on a gay platform because "it would be a potential disaster for me to do so. It (gay rights) is not a popular issue." The results seem to have proven LoPresti right, at least until gays are as politically effective as East Boston. If LoPresti honors his word (there is not much reason to believe otherwise; he was candid and was not looking for support), gays may be able to count on one more vote on key gay rights legislation in the next session. A Barney Frank he's not, but not Louise Day either.

CHARGES DROPPED

As reported in an earlier issue of GCN, Allison Mitchell, the woman who was physically thrown out of Fathers Three, a straight bar, for "obscene" dancing with a woman, has decided to drop the assault and battery charges.

Allison's big day in court turned out to be her introduction to the bureaucracy that is the judicial system. After waiting one hour for acknowledgement of her presence, she approached a court officer and inquired as to what was going on. Explaining the situation to the officer, she discovered that the defendants had not even been subpoenaed. Giving several minutes thought to her dilemma, she decided that she did not want to spend the rest of her life in the halls of justice.

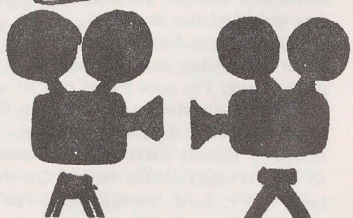
Allison, a cast member of COMING OUT, stated that her current involvement in the gay community is much more meaningful than the time that would have been wasted in court.

RUMMAGE

Last Saturday another rummage sale was held on the front steps of the Meetinghouse. The fine weather drew a good crowd and netted \$192 for CSMH. Items on sale ranged from old books and records to watercolors and a rocking chair.

The Meetinghouse rummage sales will be held every two weeks for an indefinite period.

If you have any saleable items to donate for future rummage sales, please drop them off at the Meetinghouse.



FILM FEST

Following the recent Supreme Court decision on pornography, the Art Cinema Theatre was coerced to change the schedule of films from gay oriented porn to soft-core straight porn. John Fowler, spokesman for the Cinemas, stated that shortly before the ruling they were planning to get more involved in the gay community. What they hoped to do was to offer gay organizations the use of one of their large lounges for meetings and to show films of educational value.

Mr. Fowler last week proposed an all-night, midnight to dawn movie festival Sept. 14 and 15 with all proceeds going to the Gay Community Center. Currently it is not known which four films and shorts will be shown, but the plan is to show all of the movies at different times and order in the two separate theatres in the Art Cinema.

Free refreshments will be served throughout the night.

Stay tuned for complete listing of movies and times!



FILM SEIZED

On August 15, at 5:15PM, two carloads of policemen including two detectives and two agents of the city licensing board seized the film TRAP OR TRICK at the South Station Cinema.

The film was seized on the grounds that it was offensive and obscene to the morals of the community. Staff members of the South Station Cinema reported that the members of the police department, all plain clothesmen, were brusque, rude and offensive to staff and patrons using such derogative terms as "faggot" and "queer."

As the South Station Cinema had not violated any licensing regulations, the theatre was able to remain open. The film TRAP OR TRICK had ceased playing when it was confiscated. The film will serve as evidence when the management is brought to trial.

Several weeks before, the vice squad attempted to seize the film BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR, a pornographic straight film, at the Art Cinema. The film had already been sent back to the distributor when policemen made their abortive raid.

"AS LONG AS YOU BOTH SHALL LOVE."

On Sunday morning, August 19th, approximately 25 people, straight as well as gay, assembled in a sunny spot under the arbor in the Arnold Arboretum to witness a spiritual union between Frank DiRusso and Andy Georgoulis. The service, performed by the Rev. Randall Gibson, did not have any legal sanctioning but was considered two people making a commitment to each other. When interviewed, Frank and Andy stated that they wanted to do something extra special to show people the depth of their love.

The two men were united by Rev. Gibson, a Unitarian Universalist minister, in a short ceremony by the following quote: "I declare you are a couple, living to-

gether as one but still separate and unique, and that you shall live together as long as you both shall love."

Rev. Gibson stated that marrying two people is a very personal thing for him; he will not marry just anyone -- gay or straight. Knowing the individuals well enough to be sure that they are serious, and that they do love each other, are important considerations to him. He also counsels gay people on why they want to marry at all now, when even straight society is starting to reconsider this institution.

It is encouraging that the Arboretum is still a place where love can bloom in spite of its recent sordid history.



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 "RE-ACT!," 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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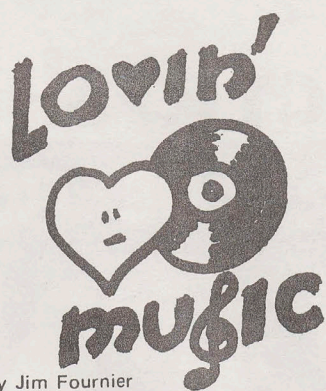
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NOTICE

There will be a special meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 8PM at the Charles St. Meetinghouse, 70 Charles Street, Boston, to organize a gay switchboard task force. There is a need in the gay community for a phone to cover the area left uncovered by the defunct Gay Phone. The phone, to be operated by volunteers to cover crisis situations, give community information, and rap and referrals, is desperately needed. All interested people are urged to attend.



by Jim Fournier

THE POINTER SISTERS Blue Thumb BTS 48

You all remember the Supremes before Diana Ross left to extend her talents on her own? Well, the emergence of the Pointer Sisters (Anita, Ruth, June and Bonnie) have started to be recognized as a counter culture, future superstar group of the seventies.

The Pointer Sisters on the front cover sit in their outrageous 1940's drag (which I'm sure every one of us thinks is the ultimate in camp) in front of a table, with a bouquet of real flowers. Bonnie's hat amazes me as to how it stays on her head. On the back cover, June (the youngest Pointer 18 yrs. old), is faced right and even though her mouth is shut, you can tell by the jowls alone she'd give Aretha a good run for her money.

Now open the album cover! How fabulous! The four of them in platitudes of death, tacky gowns, and "reflections of."

But now let's hear about their music. Known mostly for their back-up music with Taj Mahal and Sylvester, these four girls do succeed in their first album. "Yes, We Can Can" introduces them. Written by Allen Toussaint, this song has a muscular wah-wah treatment and droning vocals. "Can Can" seem to have the most air play and is a definite must at all the discos and dances. The impressive thing about the Pointers is they all sing well. Like "Cloudburst," they sing/talk so fast you can hardly understand what they're saying.

"Jada" is another song written by the Pointers themselves. There is a line in "Jada" about a fella driving up in a Volvo, that is quite clever, but the "ooohs" that follow this line are flawless.

Other good songs on the album include: "Old Songs," "That's How I Feel," "Sugar," "Pains and Tears" and "Naked Foot."

"Wang Dang Doodle" really isn't them and this song is saved by the Hoodoo Rhythm Devils whose music is nothing short of fabulous.

This being the Pointer's first album, they seem to have created a lush sound. Initially hearing them, they sound somewhat like the Andrews Sisters (there were three of them; the Pointers are four) and Bette Midler. But after playing them three or four times, you'll realize their style is their own.

The whole album is a relief from what's being drummed into us these days and in a year or so, the Pointer Sisters will be well on their way.

REACT!!

Gay Community News was born out of optimism of seeing a unified, happy, active, glorious gay community. We were nourished by the enthusiasm of groups and people to the idea of our own newspaper. We continued with the support of our readers and the advice of many elements of the community. Now we have reached a critical point.

The newspaper direly needs to expand to eight pages for adequate coverage, but unless more people become involved in its production, even the present size and quality are threatened. The small group who have produced the first ten issues is almost burnt out. Many of us have been putting 40 or more hours a week, unpaid, into this effort. If you have a few hours a week, you have the time. Few of us knew anything about a newspaper ten weeks ago, so experience is no excuse. It comes down to priorities. If you really want to do something, you find the time.

The question is, do you WANT to do something—are you optimistic enough to see a community—are you willing to give of yourself for it? Maybe WE are just too optimistic. You can't imagine the down it would be to find out.

REACTIONS:

To the Editor,

Camp-drag-eonism, for all the pretensions of being a dramatization of envy and flattery of women projects woman hatred and also pressures women to conform to life styles that meet the approval of the masculinist mentality.

The rape scene in "Rita's Digest" is a reinforcement of the roles women and men are supposed to play. The man as rapist, sadist, aggressor, enjoying inflicting pain, and the woman, as victim, masochist, servant and enjoying her subservient position.

The assumption that camp is humorous is a dangerous assumption. At who's expense is something funny? Hopefully, not at the expense of our gay and straight sisters who have been the victims of the same masculinism that gay men have.

If by chance the straight press were to publicize a column written by a heterosexual stereotyping and aping gay men in the traditional fashion that society has (child molester, unreliable, limp wristed, etc.) the male dominated movement would be up in arms over the misrepresentation.

Just as a straight man has no right to speak for, as, or against gay people, then no man, gay or straight has the right to define women. Camp/the degradation of women/sadistic humor, is a remnant of our male supremacy. It is our way of keeping women and each other in the places society has assigned to us.

As a gay male, I am personally offended by the appearance of Rita's Digest because camp is also a way of presenting gay men to our straight oppressors who enjoy believing that we are scatter-brained, soft, masochistic, non-revolutionary, and thus pose no threat to him.

And I'm offended because our sisters who are fighting the patriarchy (as we should be also) have been stepped on again by naturally a man.

To be unaware of the fact that we as gay males are hurting our allies is worse than doing so out of awareness. Awareness is much more controllable.

The printing of Rita's Digest is just one more example of the movement's failure to be a liberation movement that would encourage the changing of elements of our own mentality that are harmful to ourselves and to other oppressed groups. It is also an assertion that the gay cause has become a civil rights issue encouraging anyone to do whatever he or she wishes to do no matter who is hurt, all in the name of "gay unity" and "open-mindedness."

The glorification of someone else's slavery is not freedom. We offend women, we offend each other, and the man goes on uncondemned.

We campaign and vote for him, we socialize with, and dehumanize each other in his exploitative bars, baths, etc. and we want him to accept and love us.

Let's stop hitting each other and get at the cause of our hostility toward each other/ourselves.

I am not striking out at the man who wrote the article (who is a gay brother) but I am asking him to stop striking out at others.

Danniel T. Greco.

To the Editor,

The "Mzzz. Rita Digest" column in No. 8 was an insult to women and gay men, and has undercut all efforts to unite gay men and women.

Right now, a self-defense class for gay men and, theoretically, all women, has started at CSMH. Very few women have come to meetings and classes, because at first women's groups weren't called and, later, because of the huge majority of men there. This article just about kills any chance of more women coming.

Already, the Women's Center has thrown the paper out, justifiably so. There is no room in a gay paper for sexism disguised as camp or satire, and there is no room in the gay liberation movement for oppressive attitudes that chain us to a dead and rotting past. None of us have the right to mess over other people in the name of freedom. That the Man's game.

The job of a gay community paper should be to unify gay people, not divide us. GCN must immediately print a retraction and an apology to all women and the gay community.

Dave Carver
 Gay Caucus of Youth
 Against War & Fascism

ED. NOTE: First, GCN has decided to continue the Rita Column. To date, one woman and several men have voiced their objections. We feel that the questions raised are healthy to the community and should be discussed - this was one of Rita's goals, as discussed last week. Secondly, it is hardly objective to blame Rita for any problems in the self-defense classes. Thirdly, to our knowledge, the Women's Center's decision was based on sales and had nothing to do with Rita. No women's group has made any protests.

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Mail to GCN, Charles Street Meetinghouse, 70 Charles Street, Boston, Mass. 02114.

To the Editor,
The following letter was sent to Dr. Jerry Brown of Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas.

Dear Dr. Brown:

Recently one of the Boston dailies quoted you, in a UPI dispatch, about the recent mass murder in Texas: "The actual murder was part of the syndrome of homosexuality, sexual abuse and eventual homicide, which essentially must be carried out. They all add up -- you don't have one without the other." These remarks I find personally offensive as a homosexual.

As a human being I deplore these killings. They were the product of a man so repressed and twisted that he could not express his natural sexual and emotional feelings toward others. Dean Allen Corll was a pathetic man driven to wreak his guilt and self-hatred upon the objects of his affection.

Your comments on the killings have been the most irresponsible I have read so far, though the media is not noticeably more enlightened. You play upon the anti-homosexual bigotry that infects this society, and may help stir hysteria for another witchhunt to "get the queers." If you think my fears are exaggerated, please remember Joseph McCarthy's campaign against the "Communist homosexuals" in the State Department, which led to the dismissal of several hundred employees. Or read THE BOYS OF BOISE, recounting a small town's hysteria.

Using Corll to discredit homosexuality is as logical as using Jack the Ripper to discredit heterosexuality. Several years ago it was Charles Manson that the mass media used to condemn the hippies. And now us. This is commonly called guilt by association.

Sincerely,

John Kyper

To the Editor,

"We sat and talked of revolution
just like two liberals in the sun
we talked of women's liberation
and how the hell we could get things done
well well well, oh well. . ."

John Lennon

A SMALL PLEA: A LITTLE REMINDER

While sipping one of those cooling drinks at the Meetinghouse Cafe, gazing at the incessant flow of faces and cars and fire engines on Charles Street, I complained to my friend Jan that so few gay people were performing any work for what is popularly termed "the movement (gay)." Be it volunteering at the cafe of the Meetinghouse, working on the campaign of a pro-gay candidate for whichever political office, court-watching or in some other way helping a law firm with gay-related cases; aiding in the drafting of gay rights legislation, lending a hand to Elaine Noble's "Gay Way" radio program, channeling energy into the Daughters of Bilitis or the Homophile Union of Boston or this periodical or whatever, the work of a lot of gay people for the benefit of other gay people remains desperately needed. Jan responded to my complaint by saying that it perhaps never occurs to people that their aid is desired, needed and truly essential to any kind of gay liberation movement. As for that I can only add that work of any amount most certainly can be used. Should one feel the urge, the names and telephone numbers of the various gay organizations in the Boston area are listed on the last page of the Gay Community News. Your help will be appreciated.

Joe Martin

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF MZZZ. RITA DIGEST

August 20th

Journal,

Tonight after carefully plaiting my hair, and putting on the cute tweed suit (the one I got at Born-With-It and Tell-Her for the rash of court appearances that I have been making of late) I grabbed my horn-rims and rushed down to a staff meeting of the GCN. After inquiring about everyone's health we proceeded to discuss what a difference in the Editor's features since shaving off what I had thought was facial dirt, but in reality was a beard. That cute assistant editor was present and kept undressing me with those wolf's eyes of his. I got so flushed that I had to remove my suit coat and blouse (luckily I had on a clean undergarment). That cute Ellen was also there and made me feel quite at ease with being in the same room with two of Boston's most notorious bachelors and all. Another negative piece of mail had been received concerning my column and we discussed

this at length. I don't mind criticism if it is properly phrased and typed. I told all present that if they felt my column was that degrading I would gladly stop writing for the paper and we decided that it was alright for the present time. I thanked them for such a pleasant evening and left for home. On the way home I ran into an old classmate from the Brenda Lee Academy of Beauty Culture and invited him home for a little Dottie, Chris and Phyllis (McQuire) and a raspberry facial. After much heavy petting I stood up to rearrange myself and as you might have guessed it, (ready?) the adhesive holding my plate in melted and my teeth fell out onto his lap. Some people are so rude he left before I had a chance to reset my plate and explain!

Affectionately,

Rita

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eves 289-8363

CLASSIFIED

\$50 REWARD for information leading to arrest and conviction of guy who ripped off my son's bike in Cambridge: yellow Kahlkoff, serial 128063. Had Madison, Conn., license. Phone 723-8861.

MEDIA MESSAGE

by Loretta Lotman

SCARBOROUGH UN-FAIR

"We've given the faggots their fair share of air time." A quote from the inimitable, amiable Chuck Scarborough, pretty-boy anchorman of Channel 7's news and moderator of MASS. REACTION. This statement was made over a month ago to some gay men who appeared on MASS. REACTION, an "open forum" question and answer show between an audience and station newsmen. Last week, I watched the attitude in action from the studio, and it was the slickest, sickest put-down of the gay community I've seen in local media.

I was trying to make a point about media coverage of the Houston horrors that we are not child molesters, perverts and murderers; that the gay community is concerned about these inferences in media coverage of the story.

First, Scarborough put down my statements with something about "lessons to be learned" from the mass murder. He then effectively put down further statements by me, other members of the group (all of us were asked to identify ourselves as members of Gay Media Action before the program), and even a co-member of the panel, David Brudnoy. Brudnoy, a conservative civil libertarian, wanted to make some pro-gay comments, a fact well known to the other panel members. They all shouted him down.

During the commercial, safe from the prying eyes of home viewers,

Scarborough screened audience questions, specifically stating that "too much time" had been given to homosexuals. Back on the air, one Gay Media Action member tried to counter Scarborough's earlier remarks. The "blond Bombshell" of Ch. 7 would brook no controversy. "Take the microphone away from that man, take it away!" he shouted. We had no way of knowing whether our sound was cut or not. It made no difference; Scarborough made his point clearly in front of a hell of a lot of people.

This is an open forum? Come off it! There is nothing open about it. We were pre-screened, censored and intimidated, even though the audience was given carte blanche to ask questions and challenge anything said on the show. Chuck Scarborough is a slick media megalomaniac who has the skill and desire to manipulate MASS. REACTION to suit his standards. He is openly biased against homosexuals -- and in a newsman, that is inexcusable. He is visible every night to hundreds of thousands of people; we have no comparable access. We must rely on telephone calls and angry letters to bring our case before the station. And the hope that somewhere, someone BIG at Channel 7 is listening.

Let's hear it for the censor.
MEDIA NOTES: Catch 44 on homosexuality, Friday, August 24, 8:30PM, Channel 44. State Senator Chet Atkins on Gay Way, Thursday, August 23 at 9, WBUR-FM.

DID YOU SEE?

by David DeNeef

The August 30 edition of "Rolling Stone" reviews what this year's gay pride rally and, in retrospect, what four years of the movement has accomplished in New York. Writer Tom Burke is condescending and is eager to pin the tragedy in the New Orleans bar on a "patron's jealous lover who surreptitiously distributed gasoline about the stairway and then tossed a match."

Burke feels that Gay Liberation has spawned little more than pointless speaking engagements by members of the Gay Speaker's Bureau; a lot of useless and hopeless demands; and a lot of petty bitchery.

The fairly disastrous rally at Washington Square is accurately described but Mr. Burke seems to find it more necessary to give Gay Liberation a funeral, since he seems to feel that it has done all that it can. He does not seem to be aware that gays may be capable of learning from their mistakes and that the movement may be able to grow and expand into new

areas rather than collapse under its own weight.

WBCN's COMMUNITY REPORT, aired on Aug. 12 and 14, dealt with violence against gay persons. A plea was made for blood and money donations during a report on the fire in a New Orleans gay bar.

Police were interviewed. They felt that no new surge of violence was being directed against gays. Reports to the police of attacks on gays, however, were seen to be coming in more frequently.

Several individuals gave personal accounts of violence directed against them.

The September issue of PLAYBOY features a rather enlightened Playboy Panel on "the New Sexual Lifestyles." Members of the panel include lesbian activist, Madeline Davis and gay minister, Troy Perry, both of whom talk extensively about their views of sexual liberation.

FOCUS ON:

Boston DOB is a women's organization formed in October 1969 as a chapter of the oldest lesbian organization in the country (Daughters of Bilitis was founded in 1955 in San Francisco. Bilitis was a lesbian poet in Pierre Louys' The Songs of Bilitis.) The Boston chapter is now, as are all the chapters, autonomous. It has by-laws, officers, an office and a monthly publication. Women of all ages and political persuasions participate in DOB.

Homosexual groups across the country have formed to give gay people a chance to talk to one

another, support one another, and help create a better life for all gay people. Boston DOB is one of these groups.

DOB offers many activities for members and non-members. The most regular happenings are the Tuesday night 7:30 raps where all women are invited to share feelings about being gay and of course, the Sunday afternoon rain or shine softball games at Magazine Park in Cambridge.

For more information check the calender, all or visit DOB at 419 Boylston Street, Rm. 323, 262-1592.

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

QUICK GAY

Guide

American Civil Liberties Union	227-9469
Boston Gay Youth	536-6197
Charles St. Meetinghouse	742-0450
Daughters of Bilitis	262-1592
Dignity/Boston c/o 1105 Boyl. St., Boston, Ma.	02215
Fag Rag	536-9826
Gay Community Center	491-5669 or
Gay Community News	288-8765
Gay in Vermont	523-8729
Gay Media Action	1-802-453-2678
Gay Peoples' Group of U.Mass/Boston	868-5729
Gay Speaker's Bureau	542-6500 x607
Gay Way Radio (WBUR 90.9FM)	547-1451
(Contact Elaine Noble or John Lawrence)	353-2790
Good Gay Poets	
Homophile Community Health Serive	536-9826
Homophile Union of Boston	266-9826
Lavender Hour (WBCN 104.1FM)	536-6197
(Contact Andrew Kopkind or Littlejohn)	261-8526
Lesbian Liberation (c/o Women's Ctr.)	
Metropolitan Community Church/Boston	354-8807
Metropolitan Community Church/Providence	266-7491
Project Place	I-401-831-3773
Fr. Paul Shanley	267-9150
	267-0764

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