

surprise next week ?!?!?

A WEEKLY FORUM FOR NEW ENGLAND

# Gay Community News

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OCTOBER 6, 1973

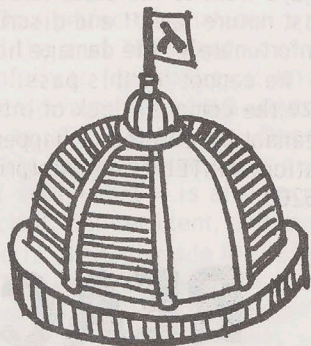
## STATE HOUSE WINCES as gold dome turns lavender

Wednesday's Gay American's Day was generally evaluated as a huge success both by its organizers and by most of the approximately 150 gay people who attended.

Highlighting the day's activities were visits to legislators' offices by groups of their constituents, tours of the building with an emphasis on how to use it, and a press conference/panel discussion following the day's activities.

Beginning by 9:30AM, the crowd was organized with a minimum of confusion to break up into small groups which alternated between visiting their legislators, touring the building, and sharing their experiences with others.

Many early visits to the legislators were frustrated by the fact that most were not in their offices, despite the fact that they had all been previously notified. Later attempts proved more fruitful, and the realization that the legislators were even more uptight and self-conscious than the gays helped the gays to overcome their own insecurities. Many became very effective at putting their representative or senator on



the defensive and avoiding getting sidetracked by generalities and cordialities. Due to the fact that only 16 representatives supported the last effort to change the existing discriminatory law, few were openly supportive. But the majority were somewhat open-minded, listened to arguments and even suggested ways to lobby more effectively. Suggestions on the wording of future bills and requests for gay literature were also common.

Notable exceptions to the general tone of interest were the following: Reps. Phelan (D-Lynn) and Flynn (D-So. Boston), who both refused any comment; Rep. Scalli (D-Charlestown) and Sen.

McCann (D-Cambridge), who were both very hostile, Scali declaring "If I were a landlord, I wouldn't rent to homosexuals for fear of my children," and McCann ending with "I voted against it in the past and also will in the future - get lost." A GAD organizer reported that a press secretary for Sen. Zarod (D-Springfield) had made a series of harassing calls to the sponsoring groups before the event, asking "who had given permission" for the groups to "use the State House".

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Boston), who aided tremendously in the success of the day, told GCN that his feedback from other legislators was very positive, with many pleased to meet the gays. "Some of them now have a better outlook on gay people," he declared.

The gays represented many parts of the state, including almost all sections of Boston as well as such areas as Cape Cod, Worcester, Fitchburg, Amherst, Reading, Mendon, Brunswick, Auburn, Hadley, Randolph and Walpole. The Springfield area was an important area which lacked representation, along with much of the North Shore, the mid-South Shore, and the New Bedford area.

The afternoon press conference was well attended. The resulting news coverage was extensive, with excellent coverage on TV channels 5 & 7. Channel 4 carried nothing, to our knowledge. The Boston Globe carried a well located but brief article the following day, and the Herald-American carried a brief and terribly located one. On radio, WBCN carried a late but extensive report.

The press conference was followed by a panel on gay lobbying and using the system. HUB President Bob Dow and Elaine Noble introduced the panel, consisting of Rep. Frank and representatives from the League of Women Voters, National Organization of Women, Americans

for Democratic Action, C.P. Pax, American Civil Liberties Union, Co-op Metropolitan Group (an association of churches and temples), and the Senate President's and House Speaker's offices. Among the topics discussed, along with general effectiveness and techniques of lobbying, were the support of these groups and generating straight support. All groups expressed a desire to work with the gay community in support of such legislation. Rev.

(cont. next page)

## R.I. prisons may progress

On Thursday, Sept. 27, Robert Dow, President of HUB, met with two men connected with the Rhode Island Dept. of Corrections in the HUB office at 419 Boylston St., Boston. Don McGaw and John Lawrence were also there, representing HCHS. Among the topics discussed were: 1) the problem of homosexuals in the institutional setting; 2) what the corrections counselors could do on the homosexuals' behalf; 3) methods to help change the attitudes of staff and of the inmates.

It was pointed out by Don McGaw that a person striving for reform in the treatment of gay prisoners would be closely examined on his own sexual identity. During the meeting, the two Rhode Island men asked what, exactly, an homosexual was. The reply was that he/she was an individual capable of emotionally loving a member of the same gender.

Held at the request of the two men from Rhode Island, the meeting was for the purpose of their learning about gays from a more direct source than from text books. Robert Dow was quite encouraged by the tenor of their approach to homosexuality. Afterwards, Mr. Dow commented that they had a "tall order ahead of them," and that it (the meeting) was a "hell of a good start."

## The Brockton "11"

Eleven men were arrested on morals charges Tuesday, Sept. 25 on Rte. 24 at the rest area near Brockton, Mass. State Police from Middleboro and Dartmouth were on a stake-out in plain clothes at the rest stop. Apparently, the State Police presence at the rest area was for a "crack-down on alleged homosexuality along roadside rest areas on Rte. 24". According to one state trooper, there were four or five plainclothesmen who made the arrests between 6 and 11PM.

The Brockton newspaper "The Enterprise" printed the names and professions of the eleven arrested. Among them were two high

school teachers, a librarian, and an accountant. Along with their names, ages, and jobs, "The Enterprise" published the charges against each individual, which included: lewd and lascivious behavior; assault and battery; performance of an unnatural act; and one operating after suspension of license. Judge Charles Black, at Brockton District Court, continued the case for hearing on November 20.

When informed of this incident, Rep. Barney Frank (D-Back Bay) sent a letter protesting the use of any entrapment methods to State Police authorities.





## 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 New England 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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## NOTICES

Gay Activist's Alliance (NYC) is embarking on a program to organize action against "Ma Bell" with regard to her discrimination against gays. A number of groups on both coasts and in the Mid-west are committed to a nation-wide project of exposing, publicizing and reversing AT&T's discriminatory practices. Gay lib groups have already demonstrated against two of AT&T's regional affiliates, Pacific Bell in California and New York Bell. Sometime late this Fall groups will stage simultaneous demonstrations against the Bell system in a struggle for our civil rights and to develop public support to end these ridiculous practices.

The official and publicly stated employment policies of each of the local Bell affiliates regarding gay men and women is being requested by GCN and will appear in later issues.

Anyone with information involving "Ma Bell's" discrimination against gays in the Boston area or wishing to become involved in the GAA programs should get in contact with Ian Johnson of the GCN.

The WCAS (Cambridge) radio feature "The Cambridge Black Experience" is broadcasting a two-part interview with a black gay brother and sister. The first part

(cont. from preceeding page)  
John Elder, from the office of the Speaker of the House, expressed the view that comparable effort should be put into the judicial area, since a court ruling invalidating the present laws might have more success than any new legislation. An example given was the abortion fight, which was finally won in the courts.

\*\*\*\*\*

HUB will be compiling a report on the reactions of the various legislators to the day's activities and their responses to their constituents. This will be valuable in the coming legislative session in lobbying and also in work in upcoming re-election campaigns. Gays who signed the registration cards should receive a questionnaire soon, but if you were one of the many who did not register, please send a brief description to HUB, Room 509, 419 Boylston St., Boston 02116.

Do you do macrame? Want to learn weaving, pottery, sewing? Looking to sell what you make, to compare ideas, to share craft techniques? The recently formed Guild of Gay Craftsmen has announced its second meeting for Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 8:00 in the CSMH. The Guild is planning a program of crafts teaching, practice, and sales, with an emphasis on group display and distribution of a wide range of craft products.

All gay people interested in doing (or learning about) pottery, macrame, weaving, sewing, or any other saleable handicraft (bottle gardening, bookbinding, basketweaving, origami, whatever) should call Jerry at 738-0428 and come to the Meetinghouse Wednesday.

The Institute for Homophile Studies announces the availability of a qualified instructor to teach a ten week course in "Homophile Influences in Art History" beginning in early November. At least ten students are needed for the course to be offered. Most of the \$25 fee will benefit the Homophile Community Health Service. Interested persons are asked to contact John Lawrence at the Health Service (419 Boylston St., Room 403, Boston 02116; phone 266-1950) so that enrollment can be estimated in advance. The Institute also will sponsor an introductory, interdisciplinary course on homosexuality and lesbianism, similar to the one taught at Boston University. This course will definitely be offered on Wednesdays from 7-10PM, beginning in early November; the fee for this course is also \$25.

was broadcast last Sunday morning (Sept. 30), and the second part will be broadcast Sunday, Oct 7. For further information call WCAS at 492-6450.

## REACT!!

The implications of the arrest of eleven men in the apparent police entrapment incident in West Bridgewater last week cannot be missed by the gay community. It serves as a glaring example of our oppression and the lack of any sense of human rights or compassion by powerful elements of society.

The nature of the arrest, which strongly implies entrapment, as well as the motivation for police action in the first place, could not be ignored by the community. Even more alarming is the way in which the local Brockton newspaper "The Enterprise" handled the story.

On a first page news story the following day, the newspaper covered the story and included not only the names of the people arrested but also age, home address, occupation, and place of employment. There is little doubt about the effects of this on the teachers and professional people involved. Even if they should be found innocent or charges dropped, these individuals will find employment extremely difficult and possibly be harrassed at their homes.

It is ironic that these men were being arrested the night before 150 gays went to the State House to push for changes in the "crimes against nature laws" and discrimination in employment and housing.

Unfortunately, the damage has already been done concerning these men. We cannot let this pass. "The Enterprise" must be made to realize the complete lack of integrity involved and this type of damage cannot be allowed to happen again. To inform them of your indignation, WRITE! "The Enterprise" 60 Main St., Brockton, Ma., Tel. 586-6200.

## REACTIONS:

To the Editor:

Congratulations on your new column "The Fag in the Fifth Row." The beautifully written review of "Butley" in the Sept. 22 issue is superb. Quality and sensitivity such as this are what we need and there's plenty of it in the gay community.

Very truly yours,  
Lois H. Johnson

To the Editor:

After reading the article on the survey of Human Behavior Magazine, I was very tempted to push out the clothes and move back into the closet. However, an article I read during the summer changed my mind.

While waiting for my floor to dry, I picked up a copy of Mademoiselle (June or July). In the article the authors stated, in effect, that if such response was the feelings of "America's Women" then Gay Liberation may as well hang its hat. The majority opinion was a "do your own thing."

Supposedly, Mademoiselle is pretty much an aid for woman to communicate with the Playboy man. Strange how both "sexist" magazines should convey a positive view of gay people whereas the & H.B. magazine simply by its name denotes a totally intellectual readership. I wonder.

Anyways stay out a little longer.

Michael Phelan

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A commentary on area entertainments of gay interest.

by Jonathan Cross

## The Tag in the fifth row

### THE HARD CORPS

Last New Year's, prowling through Old San Juan, I found myself on Calle Luna at the notorious Lion's Den: two fuck movies, no-holes-barred slide shows, nude go-go duos, the works. For a few minutes, eyes glaze and the glass slips from the trembling hand; I even blushed prettily. But after half an hour boredom descends. One fleshy close-up blurs into the next, for all the decadent hype. The Lion's Den is about as sexy as Gilchrist's Marble Spa on a slow afternoon.

Last week I sampled Boston's gay porno scene and plus ça change, as the French say. I was still bored, but I was also amused, aroused, repelled, and entertained, or at least diverted. Not necessarily in that order.

North Station Cinema and South Station Cinemas I & II both - by the way, clean, safe, and eminently respectable - offer a porn smorgasboard. One film is a total rip-off called "I Gayly Dream" as bad print of an ancient stag silent in which nothing happens, nobody does anything to anybody. Avoid this film. Complain about it.

Slightly less stupefying, this week coming to South Station, is "Fire Island & Hotel." This room-to-room epic stars a nameless assemblage of bronza curls, bronzed muscles, and a familiar, naive sexual Olympian who winds up with a sailor, a pink eldorado, and happiness ever after. In the

process, certain instructive amorous positions are demonstrated, invariably accompanied by harp arpeggios. The whole film has the fuzzy, harshly-shadowed, fumbling look of a bad home movie, peopled by numb, humorless, self-parodied men.

"Four More Than Money", continuing at the South Station, and by far the raunchiest of the group, is the least tricked-up is fake, kitschy, piss-elegant decor and the most directly exciting. Its hustler, and his four memorable customers, are honestly aroused rather than artfully simulating. Yes, Virginia, they do everything, (though orgasmic moments are censored). "Four More" director has perfected what one might call the anal zoom, and he tries manfully to involve us, with repeat dollying down-shots and lubricious super-close-ups. Some of this works; the movie is gutsy and sexy. That it is also racist, cliched, unintelligent, and repulsive is almost beside the point.

Two even more explicit films - "Erotikus" and "Any Boy Can" were promised for this week and next. The former is a "survey" of heated clips from gay "classics of the recent past," the latter a sentimental love story from Jaguar Films, producers of "The Other Side of Joey," a gay "Baby Doll" about a horny teenager, which has just departed Boston after six high-grossing weeks (so to speak). These two organ recitals will be reviewed here as time and space permit.

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## MEDIA MESSAGE

by Loretta Lotman

### UP ON THE HILL AND ON TV TOO

Gay American's Day was one of the best publicized and press released events the Boston gay community has ever held. Press releases were mailed out 2 weeks in advance of the day; updates were handed to State House press people and phoned in to TV stations. As a result, it got more coverage than any gay activity since the march last June. However, there were some major gaps that should be acknowledged along with the bouquets. Media box score is as follows:

Ch. 7 - WNAC-TV carried a 2-minute, positive, well-done feature. Reporter Jackie Adams did an understanding job - leave it to a black woman to comprehend the problems of oppressed people.

Ch. 5 - Well, at least WCVB covered it. Bill Harrington's report was not 100% pro-gay, but it had its moments. A decent feature that could have been better.

Ch. 4 - Yoo hoo! WBZ??? Are you really a TV station with a news department? Your weatherman, Don Kent, got a citation on the floor of the House last Wednesday; your morning anchorman, Jack Chase, was also there. Why did they ignore us? Why didn't you even mention us on the air that night? Are you anti-

gay or just a bad newsroom? Boy, you piss us off! Send letters to Bill Wheatley, News Director, WBZ-TV, 1170 Soldiers Field Rd., Boston 02134.

Boston Globe - Bless George Frazier for writing a whole entire column about us. Of all the columnists notified about GAD, he's the only one who responded. However, that doesn't get the Globe off the hook. Their coverage was small, miserable and a dull exercise in rewriting press releases.

Herald American - Only the most diligent, media conscious gay person could find their "story" buried near the obituaries... and I'm sure including even that much gave half their newsroom asthma attacks. Pitiful.

Phoenix - Good, good story in this week's issue, plus photo. They're the only paper that's been trying to cover us lately - let's hope it continues.

Real Paper - Zilch. They featured GAD on the calendar last week, then forgot to cover us. For a progressive, co-op, underground newspaper, their coverage of gay events closely resembles WBZ and the Herald American. This was the unkindest cut of all. MEDIA NOTES - Gay Media Action meets this Thursday, Oct. 4, at 8, upstairs at the Meetinghouse.

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# d

## Discount Records

### Did you see?

GLOBE

by David A. Deneef  
MS. MAGAZINE

The Oct. 73 issue, page 78 of MS discusses lesbian mothers. This is certainly more exploratory of the situations and criticism facing gay mothers than last week's Newsweek article on the same subject. This one is by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon (co-founders of DOB) and should not be missed. WKBG (56)

Elaine Noble and Rep. Barney Frank appeared Sunday night on WKBG's "Point of View". They discussed legal unfairness to homosexuals with the show's co-hostess Carol Liston. We understand that co-host Dave Wilson refused to appear because homosexuality would be the topic of discussion.

A round of thanks to George Frazier for his whole-hearted endorsement of Gay American's Day in Sept. 26th's Globe. Mr. Frazier is a regular Globe columnist.

BOSTON MAGAZINE

There's a kind of stupid article in Sept. Boston MAGAZINE about a public health nurse after the VD spreaders which deals with homosexuals and how they hardly ever exchange names. They just say "thanks". It's a satire...somebody just told me.

Don't forget the Boston Gay Conference, Friday Oct. 12 through Sunday Oct. 14 at CSMH and Old West Church. See page 1 of last week's GCN for complete schedule.



