



Maine Gay Task Force NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, no. 2 [3]
March 1975

(Symposium)

Symposium I is a time for remembering. Last year we were a tiny, struggling movement, scarcely known to each other. The Wilde-Stein Club, it seemed, was every fundamentalist's favorite target, and we who lived through that baptism of fire wondered if we'd ever survive. However, faith, it seemed, moved mountains, and Symposium I was a three-day expansion of consciousness, a trip on the joy and love of Gay brothers and sisters, being ourselves together. It is a measure of our oppression that our feelings upon arriving at a Gay conference are like those of a traveller in the desert coming upon an oasis. Simply to be with our own is such a pleasure. Hopefully we can make it last and build upon it a Gay community, a "city set upon a hill," as our Puritan ancestors said, built upon human love.

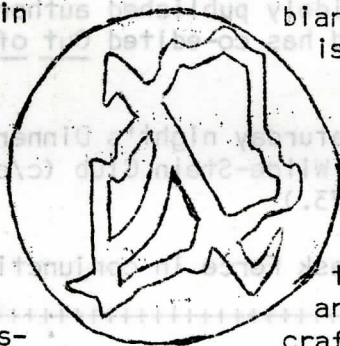
Good things grew out of that time. Several people came out, to themselves or to others. Lambda, the group that so often challenges assumptions and makes the rest of us think, was born on that week-end. Maine Gay Indians was founded a few months later, and then came Seacoast Area Gay Alliance. In May, 1974, the groups in Maine formed a coalition, the Maine Gay Task Force, which in turn masterminded that infamous rag, the MGTF Newsletter. The rag has attained a circulation of over 300, and flourisheth like the green bay tree. MGTF lobbied successfully for a Gay Rights plank in the state Democratic Party platform, monitored hearings on the new Criminal Code, and is currently urging passage of HR-166 in the U.S. House of Representatives.

We have learned from each other in the past year. Among ourselves, sexism and the rooting out of the same have been major issues. The sight of men from Lambda and GRQ (Portland) picketing the Stowe House was visible evidence of belief by an increasing number of us that women and Gays are victimized alike by a set of misconceived stereotypes. We have seen a growth of understanding between moderates and radicals. The moderates have come to realize that the radicals generate the ideas that the rest of us pick up and use some time hence, and respect them accordingly. The radicals have come to see that liberalism proceeds from principle, not timidity or self-interest.

So now the year has come 'round again, and it is time for Symposium II. The atmosphere of this year's Symposium will be Maine-oriented and rural - our only out-of-state speaker, Allen Young, is living in the country in Massachusetts. The other keynote speaker, Susan Breeding, and the moderator for the morning session, Sandra Swain, are both active Maine Lesbian feminists. In addition, Sandy is a co-ordinator of the MGTF Newsletter. Workshops will be co-ordinated by Maine people.

New at this year's Symposium will be an arts and crafts show and a food sale. Dale Talbot will co-ordinate the food sale, and Tim Bouffard and Susan Henderson, the arts and crafts show. We urge you to show your work and sample that of others. Donations of food for the food sale are requested. The proceeds will help pay for the Symposium.

Friday night's entertainment will also be by local talent. Miriam Dyak, Deanna Francis, and Sipsis Sebayik will read their poetry. Those of you who have seen their work in previous issues of MGTFN will know that they are well worth hearing. Richard Jude will give one of his incomparable performances on the piano. The Lesbian Thespians, under the direction of Anne Garland, will perform a scene from Eugene Ionesco's Rhinoceros. The rhinoceros, as you know, has become our Gay mascot, so be prepared for symbolism. Seby, known and loved by many of us up North, will donate and co-ordinate the punch and munchies. (cont. p.2)



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All activities will be held on the campus of the Bangor Community College, Bangor, Maine, April 4-6, 1975.

FRIDAY, April 4

6 PM - Midnight

Registration, Reception, with Gay entertainment, Refreshments

Student Union

SATURDAY, April 5

9 AM - 10 AM

Registration

10 AM - 11:30 AM

Speakers:

Welcome: Sandra Swain

Keynote: Susan Breeding

Allen Young

Student Union

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM Lunch

Brewer Hall cafe.

1 PM - 2 PM

Workshop Period #1

Eastport Hall

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Workshop Period #2

Eastport Hall

3:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Coffee Break

Eastport Hall

4 PM - 5 PM

Male Identity/Female Identity 'Shop

Student Union

5 PM - 6 PM

Feedback Session

Student Union

6:30 PM - Midnight

Dinner/Dance (\$1.00 Additional Fee)

Student Union

SUNDAY, April 6

An outing to the coast will be planned. Details to be announced during the week-end. (Good weather permitting.)

WORKSHOP TOPICS

Gay-Straight Relations

Coming Out

Sexism

Political Action

Rural Gays

Monogamy (Women only)

Lesbian Separatism: Our Own Culture

Monogamy (Men only) (NOTE: Monogamy

(for women only)

workshops will be held in the Student Union.)

These eight workshops will run twice, simultaneously, during the Workshop Periods #1 and #2. If anyone wishes to run a workshop on another subject, notify co-ordinators via Wilde-Stein Club prior to April 5, and room will be provided.

Art/Craft/Food and Literature tables will be set up during Friday night and most of Saturday.

Speakers: Sandra Swain is a co-ordinator of the Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter.

Susan Breeding has been active in the Maine Gay and Women's Movements since their inception.

Allen Young is a widely published author, has written for many Gay publications, and has co-edited Out of the Closets: Voices of Gay Liberation.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$5.00 (Saturday night's Dinner/Dance is \$1.00 extra.)

Make checks payable to: The Wilde-Stein Club (c/o Memorial Union, UMO, Orono, Me., 04473.)

Sponsored by the Maine Gay Task Force in conjunction with the Wilde-Stein Club.

SYMPOSIUM II (cont.)

On this and the next page, you will find the Symposium schedule and pre-registration forms. Please register early - we need the money, we need to know how many to expect, and WE NEED HOUSING!! Hope to see you!

S.W. Henderson

By JF +>

Bangor
Comm.
College

Ohio St.

Di-rek-shunz

Union St.

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SYMPOSIUM III REGISTRATION FORM

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Please complete the following if you plan to attend the Symposium, and return before 2 April 1975 to: Symposium Planning Committee, c/o Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono, Maine, 04473.

ATTENDANCE AND TICKETS

Registration is \$5.00 per person. The dinner-dance is \$1.00 extra per person. Reserved tickets should be paid for in advance. Make checks payable to The Wilde-Stein Club. We will hold reserved tickets for you at the Registration desk.

Number of persons attending: _____ No. of tickets reserved: _____ No. attending dinner-dance: _____

HOUSING

For those who wish housing:

How many people: _____ Women: _____ Men: _____

Friday only: _____ Saturday only: _____ Both: _____

Name, address, and phone no. of contact person: _____

For those who can provide housing:

How many people: _____ Women, men, or both: _____

Name, address, and phone no. of contact person: _____

CHILD CARE

For those who wish child care services:

Number of children: _____

Friday (evening) only: _____ Saturday only: _____ Both: _____

ARTS, CRAFTS, & FOOD SHOW/SALE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Do you want your name to be used: _____

Type of art or craft work: _____

Food to be donated: _____

Will you show/sell your own work: _____ Or do you want us to do it: _____

Do you need someone to transport your work: _____

STAGE DOOR BURNED: FIRST DEGREE ARSON

It seems that troubles never end for Robert and Susan Boisvert, owner and manager, respectively, of the Stage Door. Readers of MGTFN will remember that the Selectpeople of the town of Wells, where the Stage Door is located, revoked the Boisverts' license on the patently specious complaints of the owners of two neighboring businesses, Albeo LaPierre and Calvin Haskell. This, apparently, was not enough persecution to satisfy the blood-lust of some homophobes. On the morning of 17 March, fire swept the building, causing \$40,000-60,000 damage, according to Ronald Carter, Wells Chief of Police. Carter also said that the fire was "definitely set" and that the police have a suspect. Robert Boisvert told MGTFN that bottles of inflammable substances were found in the building.

Mr. Boisvert told MGTFN, "We've had more enemies than we've had friends." He said he had appealed the refusal of Stage Door's license to the State authorities, and was sure it would have been granted by Tuesday. "People in Wells surely knew it," he concluded. Boisvert, undaunted and full of fight, intends to rebuild the Stage Door. "They [the homophobes of Wells] don't mind when we Gays have some filthy hole, but when we have a nice place to go, they resent it. They've tried to ruin us, but we'll come back as strong as ever." He said that the only two complainants against the Stage Door in the recent hearings were Albeo LaPierre and Calvin Haskell.

LaPierre's and Haskell's complaints were a tissue of fabrications and nonsense. However, they sowed the seeds of bigotry in at least one mind. Whoever the arsonist is, LaPierre Haskell, and the Selectpeople of Wells are equally to blame. They persecuted and harassed two honest people trying to make an honest living, merely because they were Gay and wished to provide entertainment in pleasant surroundings for other Gays. The Stage Door was not only a place of business: Seacoast Area Gay Alliance

(S.A.G.A.) met there and held fund-raising events there. The Boisverts are not outsiders making money from the Gay community - they are members of our community.

Robert Boisvert is right - some people can't bear to see Gays living happy, productive lives and enjoying life's pleasures. Their warped minds shrivel at the thought of anyone who dares to be different from them living any life except one of degradation and misery. Poverty, suffering, and suicide, they decree, are to be our lot, and if we dare to be happy and prosper, they will misuse the law to harass us, defame our good names, and destroy the results of our labors. But they shall not prevail! Love is stronger than hate. If we Gays stick together and defend our own, we can beat the bigots.

We have an opportunity now to show our solidarity. S.A.G.A. has organized a boycott of the towns of Wells and Ogunquit during the Memorial Day weekend, July, and August. This tactic has worked in the past to stop discrimination; it will work again if we co-operate. Wells and Ogunquit are tourist towns, ca. 90% of whose patrons are Gay. A huge percentage of the income of those towns is Gay money. The townspeople are willing enough to take our money; let them respect our humanity, or they may whistle for our business. We have the power to ruin them; if they treat us like dirt, let them pay the consequences. **SUPPORT THE BOYCOTT!** There may also be picketing: watch for details in MGTFN, and turn out for the demonstrations. When the Stage Door opens again, patronize it. It will be well worth it. The Boisverts have done a lot for the Gay community. They are our brother and sister. Let's show our appreciation and send the bigots to Hell and the bankruptcy courts!

S.W. Henderson

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PAST TENSE/PRESENT PROGRESSIVE:
FUTURE PERFECT

It happened again. Everyone on the streets was Gay. Exchanging smiles with people I'd never seen before. Talking with people I knew from last year. Measuring growth. Comparing war stories. This year, the New England Gay Conference (March 14-16) happened in Provincetown, Massachusetts -- time-warped Provincetown; where 90% are Gay and the straights are in their closets. Not Utopia, but Gay.

Friday evening, fighting my way through a wind/sleet/snowstorm, looking for a bar named Piggie's where the welcoming reception was held. Sitting with Dick and Richard, waiting for the rest of the Maine people to show. (Some never did.)

Saturday morning -- a street queen from NYC bad-mouthing Bruce Voeller -- Loretta Lotman, "the Lesbian Jewish-American Princess" -- Raider Mark Segal who wanted a Maine button and got two -- Brian McNaught of Dignity in Detroit lending his beauty

and compassion to the panel -- late arrival of WonderWoman Elaine Noble. But not all the beauty was on the stage; five hundred+ just-as-beautiful brothers and sisters were in the seats. Many workshops to choose from, and, typically, I chose the most boring ones. (Wish I'd gone to Age and Ageism...) Seeing ever-present David for the first time in a year. Talking/exploring possibilities with him.

Insane P'town Saturday night.

Sunday morning sun and a ham-and-cheese
(cont. p.5)

Your work with men like Cohen is exactly what is needed!

Warm regards,
Bruce Voeller
Executive Director

The list of 24 sponsors includes: Bella Abzug (D-NY), John Burton (D-Cal), Ron Dellums (D-Cal), Fauntroy (D-Wash. D.C.), Donald Frazer (D-Minn), Michael Harrington (D-Mass), Edward Koch (D-NY), Pete McCloskey (R-Cal), George Brown (D-Cal), Norman Mineta (D-Cal), Robert Nix (D-Pa), Pete Stark (D-Cal), H.A. Waxman (D-Cal), Steve Solarz (D-NY), Fred Richmond (D-NY), Charles Rangel (D-NY), Herman Badillo (D-NY), Jonathan Bingham (D-NY), Benjamin Rosenthal (D-NY), Parren Mitchell (D-Md), Shirley Chisholm (D-NY), Elisabeth Holtzman (D-NY), George Miller, and Pat Schroeder.

CRIMINAL: CODE

Several members of MCTF attended hearings on Chapter 11 (Sex Offenses) in Augusta on 13 March. Also present was a lobbyist from the Maine Christian Civic League, the chief fundamentalist organization in the state. The lobbyist was unaware that Chapter 11 effectively legalized Gay sex between consenting adults until a legislator asked about homosexual rape and its status under the new code. The lobbyist thereupon declared, obviously taken by surprise, that "of course, we will have to oppose this section." Thereupon a prominent Episcopal clergyman, who was far more erudite than the MCCL representative, spoke in favor of Section 11. Experienced political observers give the proposed new code a 50-50 chance of passage. Letters are now needed. Write to Co-chairmen Sen. Samuel W. Collins and Rep. Roland A. Gauthier of the Legislative Judiciary Committee, as private persons, and urge them to vote favorably on the new code, especially on Chapter 11. Letters from private persons are much more effective than letters from groups. In fact, support from Gay groups for the code could do more harm than good. Chapter 11 covers all sexual matters, so a letter supporting it will not label you as Gay.

Yours truly,
Susan W. Henderson
Secretary, The
Wilde-Stein Club

Dear Susan, and everyone at Wilde-Stein:
Thanks for writing Congressman Cohen.
We really need people like him on the
bill. Nathalie Rockhill and I have been
working intensively on lining up support
in Congress. We have spent several days
in Washington during the last few weeks.
At present, 24 Congresspeople will be on
the bill when it's reintroduced at the
end of the month. A list is attached.
We're particularly pleased that members
of other "minority" groups have been so
supportive, including four Congresswomen,
five blacks, one Puerto Rican and a
Republican(!)

Now we're trying to line up Senate sponsorship and have good leads on Bayh, Kennedy, Brooke, Percy, Cranston, Hart, Tunney and a few others.

THE SECOND MGTF QUILT PARTY, a pleasant and productive affair, was held on 1 March at the home of Kerry Black of GSA in Bangor. Special thanks are due to Mrs. Ethel Black, Kerry's mother, for her contributions of work and hospitality.

It was the best birthday party I've ever had. if

GAY BOOKS

The MAINE GAY TASK FORCE has created a book distribution program for the purpose of dispensing Gay literature to our sisters and brothers who would otherwise have no access to positive Gay material. Here is a list of some of the good Gay books which MGTF has acquired along with their respective prices. If you are interested in purchasing any of these books, please enclose the appropriate amount (including 25¢ postage for each book) specifying which book you desire, to the following address:

MGTF Book Service

Box 4542

Portland, Me. 04112

Sappho Was a Right-On Woman 1.95

-Sidney Abbott & Barbara Love
(Excellent non-fiction on Lesbianism by two lovers)

Trying Hard to Hear You 5.95

-Sandra Scoppettone
(Brand new novel about oppression of Gay male high school students -written for adolescents, but worthwhile for everyone)

Patience and Sarah .95

-Isabel Miller
(Fictional yet based on fact-Lesbian couple make it up as they go along in pioneer days)

Out of the Closets: Voices of Gay Liberation 1.95

-Ed. by Karla Jay and Allen Young
(Anthology covering the whole spectrum of homosexuality and Gay Liberation)

The Male Muse: A Gay Anthology 3.95

-Ed. by Ian Young
(Current poetry for Gay men)

The Cook and the Carpenter 3.00

-A Novel by the Carpenter
(Great Lesbian novel-neuter pronouns)

Is Gay Good?: Ethics, Theology, and Homosexuality 3.50

-Ed. by W. Dwight Oberholzer
(Scholarly Christian anthology with a positive answer)

Great Gay in the Morning 1.75

(All about life in a Gay commune)

The Gay Crusaders 1.25

-Kay Tobin and Randy Wicker
(Anthology of pieces about early Gay Liberation)

Society and the Healthy Homosexual 1.95

-Dr. George Weinberg
(This book is highly recommended for everyone. It is extremely well written, simple and to the point. It has a great chapter for parents of Gays. We cannot say enough good things about this book.)

Please keep this list for future reference. Allow a few weeks for delivery. Several of these books we have in short supply and may need to reorder them. New books will be added to this list in the future.

Monster 1.95

-Robin Morgan
(Mind-blowing poetry by an amazing Radical Lesbian Feminist)

The Lord Is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay 1.50

-The Rev. Troy Perry
(Founder of the Gay Metropolitan Community Church relates his experiences)

Rubyfruit Jungle 2.95

-Rita Mae Brown
(Hilarious and moving novel about a Lesbian growing up in America)

Homosexual Oppression and Liberation 1.65

-Dennis Altman
(Examines the Gay experience in our time from his experiences)

The Gay Mystique 1.95

-Peter Fisher
(Superb book about male homosexuality)

Riverfinger Woman 3.50

-Elana Nachman
(Interesting new Lesbian novel)

The Gay Insider 3.95

-John Francis Hunter
(Guide to bars, baths, restaurants, et al., in Gay America with many good articles - esp. "finishing David Reuben" - male oriented)

THE MOST BORING ARTICLE, or AND NOW, FOLKS, THE MINUTES!!!

March's meeting was held in Bangor at the Community Center on the afternoon of the second. John Croxford--Chairing; John Frank--Recording what went on.

MONEY: Although Stan Fortuna, illustrious treasurer, couldn't make it, he called from Portland to say, "80.42 in the Task Force account; \$62.00 in the Newsletter account." Karen and Anne Bye/Garland want \$5.83 for Task Force phone calls from their phone. Stan, take note...

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: As far as I could figure out, we still don't have a viable one. We tried to get a meeting together but no one could get down to brass tacks. I guess it was agreed that the editorial policy for the Newsletter should come first. Lambda will set up a meeting for the drafting of that.

TV TIME: Will be discussed at Stephen Leo's in Yarmouth on March 7.

CRIMINAL CODE: Statewide hearings will be held in Augusta on Thursday, March 13. John Noble encouraged everyone who could, to go. He considered it more effective that homophobic comments from the floor be debated in well-documented writing forwarded to the Judiciary Committee, rather than being vocal at the actual hearing. Chances for the passage of the Code are considered good. The section dealing with "Sex Offenses" has not been questioned at the local hearings; people seem more concerned with the decriminalization of marijuana and the general wording of the Code. Consensus of opinion at the meeting was that anyone wishing to speak at the hearing would do so as an individual only, not as a representative of any organization.

OH YEAH, I almost forgot. Next meeting will be chaired by none-other-than John "99 and 44/100% pure" Frank, and the minutes will be taken by his partner in crime (until after the Criminal Code is passed), Peter Prizer.

SYMPOSIUM II-LOOSE THREADS:

1) Susan Henderson, who will co-ordinate the next (this) issue of the Newsletter in time for sale at the Symposium asked/demanded that all articles be submitted by March 10th.

2) Leslie Chatterton announced that she will run a workshop on Monogamy (for Women only). The phrase "for Women only" bristled more than a few hairs on the back of Susan's neck. She stated that there seemed to be a double standard floating about--if men had wanted a workshop for Men only it would be considered sexist. JF said that he felt there is probably some difference between the way women look at monogamy and the way men look at it, which would seem to warrant a workshop closed to men if anything constructive were to be achieved. Besides, he ran on, the Symposium pamphlet offered rooms to people who had ideas for workshops, so there shouldn't be any hassle over what those people wanted to do with them. Jesse

Spates said that those people being infuriated by issues should get together their own workshops--that's the only way to bring people closer together. Steven Bull expressed the fact that he would like to lead a workshop on Monogamy for Men only, but he's just too busy. He said workshops for men are particularly needed because so many Gay men are out of touch with themselves. Finally, it was agreed that the Monogamy (for Women only) workshop was a good idea. (Some of us knew it all along...) NOTE: Steve has just gotten out of doing the Gay/Straight Relations workshop--replaced by Dale--and he is organizing the men's Monogamy workshop.

3) Housing will be worked on by Karen and Joe Kopitz. Joe said the Center can be used for lots and lots of warm Gay people. Priscilla Poe wants to help on Child Care. Other persons are still needed. (HELP!)

4) The Quilt, which will be raffled off at the Symposium, is nearly finished. 147 of the 195 squares are done. Good excuse for another party.

5) Reception, Friday night. Steve Bull emphasized that the entertainment will be very unstructured and not showbiz-like. Poetry reading by Sipsis, Deanna Francis and Miriam Dyak. Background (?) piano by Ricahrd Jude. One scene from Rhinoceros by the Lesbian Thespians. John Frank, totally in character, brought up his idea for kissing booths for women and men, and was the first to volunteer his services (for the men's one). Jesse Spates will selflessly serve in the women's. (Will MGTF provide the Chap Stick?)

WILDE STEIN has decided to write to Rep. William Cohen in support of the Abzug Bill, HR-166. John Noble thought MGTF might send one. This suggestion was met with approval, so Susan and John will take care of it.

STAN FORTUNA, in his call prior to the meeting, suggested that MGTF join the Conference on Human Services. Stan supported the expenditure of \$50 since the Task Force received a donation in that amount last month. John Noble used to belong to the CHS and said he didn't think we should do it. Peter Prizer said we should hold off until we find out more about the organization. JF said we should wait until after the Symposium anyway, since we need the money now. It was generally agreed that we delay until the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING will be held at the Unitarian Church in Brunswick on April 13 at 1:00 PM. ALL GAY PEOPLE WELCOMED!

Respectfully retouched,
jf

Separatism: Pros and Cons

We've been talking a lot lately about separatism up here in the Frozen North. There are many kinds of separatism: Gays separating from straights, women from men, Lesbians from straight women and/or Gay man and/or all men and/or everybody but themselves. One chooses one's brand to fit one's tastes.

Separatism, as I see it, expresses the need for a vacation. People who belong to minority groups spend a great deal of time explaining and justifying themselves and their goals to others. This becomes exhausting after a while, as any Feminist or Gay activist knows. One feels the need, sooner or later, for a vacation, a chance to be with one's own, who understand and accept one's world-view. I know from personal experience how much one's soul is revived by this sort of acceptance.

As a long-term solution to minority status, however, separatism has some drawbacks. The first is that separating people of different outlooks, races, genders, etc., ultimately increases bigotry rather than decreasing it. One component of prejudice is ignorance about people who are different from oneself, from which proceeds fear of that which is unknown. If we Lesbians/Gays/Women/etc. are to make society safe for ourselves to live in, we are going to have to explain ourselves, unjust though that is. People have to raise their own consciousnesses, but to do so they need to be informed that something is happening that they are not aware of.

The second drawback is that separation leads one to see others in terms of external characteristics rather than of individual personhood. It is argued by some that separatism is a positive outreach to one's own rather than a rejection of others. Nevertheless, the concept of separatism still encourages

one to categorize others on the basis of race/sex/sexual preference/ideology/etc. rather than perceiving individual qualities. At worst, it can lead to a "you put me down, so I'll put you down" mentality, which is hardly conducive to accepting one another's differences as part of the richness of life.

The third drawback to separatism is that, in the long run, it inhibits one's power to effect change. One cannot create a more open society, bring about the revolution, or whatever words one chooses to describe the humanizing changes we all seek, by withdrawing into a little clique (or a big one) and ignoring "The Establishment". The Establishment is too big to be ignored, and it won't go away if we pretend it isn't there. Like it as little as we may, we have to deal with it somehow. That means, again, explaining ourselves, lobbying, propagandizing if you will, making people think about us, using whatever power or advantage comes to hand to effect humane measures. If we separate and withdraw for too long a time, we will find we don't know what is going on in the rest of the world and that we in turn have been lost sight of. In order to create changes, one must know what the world is about, and one must make one's presence known. Vacations are necessary and healthful at regular intervals, but not if they turn into a disappearing act.

MALE CRUISING:
LOOK 'IM IN THE EYE

I'm so tired of playing games. Sex, especially among Gay people, should not be a matter of conquest (Who can stare the other one down first?), but should be a casual commodity that two (or more...or less) people do with their bodies for the purest enjoyment available to us as humans. I should be able to go up to a man that I am

attracted to and ask him to bed. What is so shocking/horrible about that? On the very few occasions that I have done just that, my prospective partner has looked at me as if I had broken every etiquette rule of Amy Vanderbilt (God rest her soul). So then I back off. And play their games. Maybe I just don't know how to play them; I certainly don't seem to be very good at it. They're so ridiculous anyway. Catch his eye. Keep looking. Smile. Should I go on staring? No, he wasn't really cruising me. Well, maybe. Think I'll go over. But that guy he's with is probably his lover. But I'll kick myself in the ass if I don't at least try. Shit, I just can't bring myself to do it.

And he never comes over to me...
Fuckin' games anyway.

But I still get caught up in them--the mentality that goes along with them. When I see a beautiful male going home with another from a dance or a bar, I involuntarily get into a hostility trip. "Shit, he was 'just my type.' How'd he get HIM?!" All the way home, I keep thinking, "Damn, if only I'd have gone earlier, I could have made a play for that guy." When all the time I realize I wouldn't/couldn't have. Caught up in the competition of it all. Ridiculous.

I rejoice in sex. It's probably the only true beauty in my life at this point. My only complaint is that to get any, I

(cont. p.12)

As I begin this article, there is immense temptation to say "the hell with it" and divert my rather finite energies to more important topics; two of them easily being cosines and Longley's ticket partner in '76. But relevant or pressing as these areas may be for certain individuals, I doubt that trigonometry or Mr. Zip Code is an appropriate subject for the Newsletter... so we're stuck for the moment with "Top 40" and all the bullshit images that that conjures up.

First of all, at least 28% of this month's playlist is half-decent, and a .280 Satisfaction Quotient in this era of the seasonally adjusted ripoff is not to be lightly dismissed. And while the various lyrics may be sexist, anti-Gay, agist, racist, BLATANTLY heterosexual (what's this great compulsion to flaunt it?), classist, trivial, stupid, cryptic, or combinations thereof, is not the point; we'll discuss that in a subsequent Newsletter. Our concern here is the (excuse the expression) "On-air Personality" and the interesting program "formats" they choose to adopt -- with a little help from the sponsors.

"Hey, man, whadaya wanna hear?" shouts an evening DJ to a woman in South Portland. Taking a record "dedication" later on the evening program, the same radio voice asks the male "dedicator" in Portland if the dedicatee in Westbrook is a "girl." Better be, man, "this is a family program!" And all evening long, the largely young audience listens to these and other gems as the Great American Bulls**t Machine grinds on. And on. And on. And ...

Some listener/callers, the ones who can really get into 1,065 busy-beep signals, are quite impressed; i.e., show biz. Many others, while not exactly infatuated, tune in the gig anyway. But the True Believers, Osmond Proselytizers, Persons Into Decibels, or Bored Third Parties have one common ground: none can be unaffected by the steady dribble of sexist, anti-Gay dialogue.

One announcer suggests that "fags" be shot. Another DJ, at a competing outlet, follows a Bowie record with a spontaneous dedication "to all the fruits at Old Orchard." (When confronted with this statement, he expresses great dismay that his innocent pun has been so sadly misinterpreted; he has obviously been referring to the fruit trees at Old Orchard.)

Not content with merely an anti-Gay image, the rock personalities waste an even greater amount of air time making incredibly sexist comments with not-so-subtle allusions (illusions) to their own heterosexual prowess. They all speak in a throaty, hip, get-it-on! style. To male caller, they are locker-room buddies before the Big Game (and the Big Date). To a young woman (excuse me, "girl"), they are just melt-in-your-mouth, Oh, soooo happy you called. Hey, whadaya doin tonight, huh? Haha... A little obvious condescension here, a little feigned innocence there -- and all tailored-to-taste behind an electronic facade guaranteed to bring tears of admiration across the eyeballs of the Wizard of you-know-where.

Why do these men go to such lengths to be certifiable pigs? Is it something they ate? Are the headsets too tight? Do they actually believe the crap they dish out? Who knows? But the one fact we can be sure of: the rock radio stations are inextricably at the economic dictate of both the great corporations and local pizza emporiums that purchase commercial time. The ad people whose clients' money keeps the whole show going see the highly competitive Youth Market (what a grim term!) as one big long-playing version of the movie "American Graffiti." You know, the "girl/boy" high school prom, drive-in movie, go team go malt shoppe syndrome. The Groovy Guys, fully aware of the sponsors' wishes and money, play us this stereotypical scene by stressing heterosexuality while at the same time denigrating homosexuality. It is the rare evening hour when one does not hear at least one disparaging remark towards Gay people.

In-person protests are as weird as any planet visited by the Good Ship Enterprise. If you're beamed aboard during business hours, you can expect an offer of "public affairs" space by a station VIP. An obvious sop as 1) the evening audience will not be listening at 7 AM, Sunday, and those people who forgot to turn back their radio alarm clocks will care less, and 2) the station will probably not broadcast this article, or similar sentiments. Late-night personal appearances -- depending on the paranoia level of the DJ -- results in a nervous denial and dismissal, or a soul-searching "Hey man, I'm really glad you stopped by... Like man, I'm really sorry that I didn't realize that..."

Finally, sensitivity to dollars and cents is not the only incentive for anti-Gay banter/monologues. As it happens, the inherent 'creativity' required by commercial radio plus the crazy working hours attracts a decent percentage of men who may feel that an anti-Gay, sexist image is their best insurance against unseemly whispers and rumors. One DJ even considered legal action when he discovered that a competing "personality" was hinting to callers that "well, I don't want to say anything behind his back, but he is a little faggy, y'know."

All of which brings us full-circle to the obvious, but hitherto unanswered Question: Why would Mr. Zip Code be Longley's logical choice for Vice Prez? First, as the U.S. Government holds no copyrights, Mr. Zip Code would require no salary. Second, while his choice may appear sexist, I am confident that Longley's natural instinct for decision rationalization will... prizor

(Number 3 in a series)

Three hundred women sat in the auditorium of Manhattan's Intermediate School 70 waiting for the second annual Congress to Unite Women to come to order. The weekend conference, convening on Friday, May 1, 1970, had brought together from various cities representatives of a broad spectrum of the women's liberation movement for planning and for workshops. Suddenly, the auditorium lights went out. There were shouts and

sounds of scuffling. In moments the lights went up to reveal walls blossoming with posters: TAKE A LESBIAN TO LUNCH; SUPERDYKE LOVES YOU; THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IS A LESBIAN PLOT... Surrounding the astonished audience were seventeen smiling women in lavender T-shirts emblazoned in red with "LAVENDER MENACE." At that moment found itself confronted with the fear that had haunted it since its inception.

A Congress leader objected, GLF'er Pat Maxwell detailed for Gay Power: "I realize that the women's movement has problems relating to the lesbian, but I object to your coming in taking over this meeting. You're acting like men."

"Lesbians have been brushed aside and ignored by the women's movement," retorted a Menace. "We have tried to work through the planning sessions.... When we said lesbianism is an important issue for women's liberation, we were ignored or told it was a dangerous issue which would divide women. We think that people who believe that are looking for male approval."

"We have come to tell you that we lesbians are being oppressed outside the movement and inside the movement by a sexist attitude. We want to discuss the lesbian issue with you," said another.

Seeing the panel discussion originally planned for the evening was not to take place, a few women walked out, but, as one GLF woman told Come Out!, "There was little oppression due to the lighthearted style of the action." The gay women "went with a smile and rapped from their hearts," said Menace Sidney Abbot. At least for the weekend, reported Maxwell, "the barrier had finally broken down between lesbians and movement women. Heterosexuals and homosexuals of the Women's Congress were discussing lesbianism and its

relationship to their lives."

On Sunday, when it appeared that, because the gay workshop had been formed ad-hoc, the lesbians would not be asked for their resolutions at the plenary session, the Menaces struck again, and presented the following:

- 1) Be it resolved that Women's Liberation is a lesbian plot.
- 2) Resolved that whenever the label lesbian is used against the movement collectively or against women individually, it is to be affirmed, not denied.
- 3) In all discussions of birth control, homosexuality must be included as a legitimate method of contraception.
- 4) All sex education curricula must include lesbianism as a valid, legitimate form of sexual expression and love.

Women's desire to work toward a new sense of self was revealed by a turnout of more than fifty women for consciousness-raising groups announced by the Lavender Menace following the Congress to Unite Women. Many of these, reported Come Out!, were "straight women who wanted to confront the issue of lesbianism and perhaps the lesbian in themselves. But a very large majority turned out to be active lesbians, latent lesbians, closet lesbians, one-beautiful-experience lesbians, freaked-out lesbians, spaced-out lesbians..." The report continued, "After having related for months and years to broader women's issues at the sacrifice of their own identity, these women were ready now to come out, to use their energies to meet the needs of a lesbian community and to see ... the concepts of primary value and commitment between women..."

Reprinted from The Gay Militants, edited by Donn Teal, Stein & Day, NYC, 1971, pp. 179-180, 184.

THE MAINE CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION is holding its annual Bill of Rights Conference on Saturday, 19 April 1975, in the Dean Auditorium of Thayer Memorial Hospital in Waterville, Me. The theme, which should be of great interest to Maine Gays, is "Privacy vs. the Right to Know: What are the Limits of Each?" Key-note speaker will be Francis W. Sargent, former Governor of Massachusetts, who refused to plug his state into the FBI's computer system. Of particular interest will be a workshop on "Sex and the Law," which will cover both homosexuality and heterosexuality and will be conducted by Marilyn Haft, Esq., Director of ACLU's

Sexual Privacy Project. NOTE: Ms. Haft will speak at the University of Maine, Orono, on Friday, 18 April, probably in the afternoon, and at the Wilde-Stein Club meeting on that evening at 7:00 in the Coe Lounge of the Memorial Union. On top of all these good things, the Conference is free and open to the public. What more could you ask?

NEW BRIDGE? From the Colby College Echo: "All those interested in re-forming a Gay organization at Colby should write Box 901 Roberts Union." Good luck, friends!



OTHERFUND, INC.

KEEP THE BUSES ROLLING!

As Gay people, we have become increasingly aware of our oppression, and have realized the need for alternative institutions which are Gay-organized and Gay-identified. This has involved creating and sustaining projects which meet definable needs. One of the obvious problems has been fund-raising. A legal defense committee, a Gay hotline, and a Gay community center are but three of the many projects which have been scrapped because the task of fund-raising exceeded the resources of those trying to organize. In spite of the social progress which Gay people have made, the boundaries of conventional philanthropy - the United Fund, foundations, corporations, etc. - generally excluded Gay-related projects. It is in response to these conditions that Otherfund, Inc., a full-time fund-raising organization, has come into existence.

First proposed during Gay Pride Week in June, 1974, Otherfund filed for non-profit corporation status with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in August, 1974, and for Federal tax-exempt status in January, 1975. During the Fall of 1974, proposals were solicited from Boston area Gay groups and individuals, a board for evaluating these proposals was selected, proposals were received, and staff recruiting began. During January, 1975, the Community Board has evaluated the proposals, an Executive Director has been hired, bylaws have been drafted, applications for other staff positions have been solicited, and attempts to raise seed money have begun.

At this time we encourage your donations. Please make check or money order payable to: Otherfund, Inc., P.O. Box 1997, Boston, Ma. 02105. If you wish to contact us, our office number is (617) 426-0412. (Issued by Otherfund, Inc.)

BOYCOTT WELLS-OGUNQUIT

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LAMBDA has decided not to rent the former Women's Center in Brunswick, as the property did not suit their needs. Alive as ever, the group now meets in Dale's apartment. For information, write to Lambda (7 Nancy Road, Brunswick, 04011) or call 729-4398.

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GROUPS NEEDED! Anyone interested in starting a Gay group is invited to contact MGTF. We will send you information and possible contacts and help in as many ways as we can. Write: MGTF, Box 4542, Portland, 04112.

The National Student Coalition Against Racism has appealed to the New England Gay Conference to join the National March on Boston, planned by them and the NAACP for 17 May 1975. The appeal reads as follows:

"For many years now, the Boston School Committee has planned and carried out a conscious policy of segregating the schools. Redistricting, building and assignments were all executed to achieve segregation. Parents of black school children, aided by the NAACP, successfully sued the School Committee, and the courts ordered that the schools be desegregated. After years of segregated schools and housing patterns in the city, this meant the use of busing to achieve desegregation. Starting last fall, when the first busing was introduced, those who opposed desegregation started an open campaign to halt the buses.

"The racists who oppose desegregation have organized demonstrations to harass Black school children, throw rocks at buses, attack innocent Black bystanders, and engaging in other such actions. While saying they are only against busing, the slogans they use are "Niggers Go Home." The Nazi Party and the KKK have come to Boston with the idea of fomenting more violence against Black and Spanish-speaking people. The news media paint a picture of Boston as a racist-dominated town.

"We know this isn't true. The majority of people in Boston and around the country are opposed to these violent attacks on 20 years of the civil rights movement. We must not allow the racists to roll back desegregation. We must show that the racists don't own the streets of Boston. March with the NAACP and the National Student Coalition Against Racism on May 17 in Boston."

The address of the National Student Coalition is: 720 Beacon St., Boston 02215; tel. (617) 266-9665-6-7.

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BREAKTHROUGH is the new publication of SAGA. Ad rates: for classifieds, 4¢ per word (\$1.00 minimum); for block ads, \$1.00 per inch; three months' advertising for the price of two. Subscriptions, \$3.00 a year for 10 issues. On the stands, 25¢ donation. They pay half the postage for mailing and handling. Write SAGA (Seacoast Area Gay Alliance), P.O. Box 1424, Portsmouth, N.H. 03801.

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The Gay and Bi women's rap group in the Orono-Bangor area is no longer functioning.

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MGTF is seeking any information on instances of discrimination because of affectional and sexual preference. This information may be documented, sworn, asserted, claimed, annotated or whatever. All letters kept in strict confidence, whether or not you sign your name. Send to MGTF Legal Rights, Box 4542, Portland.

[illegible]

SUBSCRIBE to GCN, New England's lively and informative Gay newspaper. Price: \$10.00 for 1 yr. (issued weekly). Address: Gay Community News, 22 Bromfield St., Boston. 02108.

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Farm, Bowdoinham, Maine 04008.

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CALENDAR

April 4-6: SYMPOSIUM II.

April 13: MGTF meeting, Unitarian Church, Pleasant St., Brunswick, 1:00 PM.

April 18: Marilyn Heft to speak at UMO.

April 19: Maine Civil Liberties Union
conference, Waterville, Me.

May 17: NAACP-Nat'l Student Coalition
Against Racism march, Boston.

[illegible]

MALE CRUISING (cont.)
am obliged to go through so may phony,
meaningless, dehumanizing games. Why are
we playing these oppressive games laid on
us by straights? We can be the heralds
of a New Way. Elimination of the roles
of the Pursuer and the Pursued could be
one place to begin.

john frank

Dear Editor,

My name is Chris A. Mitchell. I am a 26 year old inmate. I am writing this letter to you as an agent of appeal for correspondence and friendship with the hopes you will be kind enough to publish it in your paper for me.

I have no living relatives, therefore I receive no mail or visitors, I am in need of a future sponsor in reference to possible parole. In an attempt to escape the internal prison of lost hope, I deparately write to you with hopes to reacquaint myself with the outside world and to become associated in a more meaningful strength in the understanding of others.

I am 6'2" tall and weigh 180 and considered sexually attractive. Before my incarceration I was formerly a model. My interests are music, horse riding, sports, reading and sex. I admire strong, aggressive, intelligent, liberal-minded people. I am oppressively lonely. I seriously hope you will accept my letter with your purest understanding and deepest consideration. Thank you... Will answer all letters promptly.

Chris A. Mitchell
No. 140-271
P.O. Box 69
London, Ohio 43140

[illegible]

A CRAFT FAIR, FOOD SALE, AND ART SHOW are being planned for Symposium II. Artists and craftspeople may sell their wares, 30% of sales to go to meet Symposium expenses, 70% to go to the seller. If you can't be present, we will sell your works for you. Artists, please let us know how much display space you will need. Donations of items to be sold for the benefit of the Symposium will be gratefully appreciated. Those interested, please fill out and send in the pertinent part of the Registration Blank.

NEW PUBLICATION/PUBLICATION NOUVELLE
(From The Body Politic, Toronto): "The first issue of a new French-language magazine called Lambda will appear in Montreal in May. The glossy monthly will sell for two dollars an issue." Ceci doit intéresser les gens homosexuels et francophones dans les Etats-Unis. Lambda will be issued by the Front Homosexuel Québécois de Libération. Write them c/o Gué Lavoie Goyette, 2126 rue Amherst, Montréal.

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We apologize for the lateness of this issue. Symposium work and a "domino effect" from last month's lateness intervened. Beginning with the April issue (hopefully), we will be back to publishing at the beginning of the month.