

MGTFF OPENS PORTLAND OFFICE

On May 26th the Maine Gay Task Force opened an office at 193 Middle St. in Portland. This event marks the first anniversary of the Task Force which was organized as an outgrowth of Symposium I sponsored by the Wilde-Stein Club at UMO in April, 1974.

The office is being staffed by volunteers. At present the office is open from 10 to 4 Monday through Friday. We hope to have the office open evenings as soon as we have worked out a schedule. Rap sessions are being held in the office on some evenings.

The office is being financed through individual contributions. MGTFF's friends are being asked to pledge between one and twenty dollars a month to help pay for the rent and office expenses. Many people whom we have talked with have indicated their willingness to help out. With a lot of people, getting together to help, we can pay for the office with little hardship to anyone. Very few people who are involved in the Movement have much money, so it's important to realize small contributions add up. We all need each others help, so please get in touch if you're willing to help support the new office.



MAINE GAY TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER

MAIL: BOX 4542, PORTLAND, ME. 04112 - OFFICE: 193 MIDDLE ST. PORTLAND

Vol. 2, No. 6
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GAYS PICKET WELLS-OGUNQUIT

On 31 May 1975, 25 Gay persons and one German Shepherd picketed the Town Hall in Wells and Valerie's in Ogunquit. Readers of the Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter will remember the role of the Wells Board of Selectpersons in denying a liquor license to the Stage Door. The picketing of Valerie's was the result of their discriminatory policy toward Gays, who compose 80 to 90% of their clientele (see story elsewhere in MGTFFN).

Signs carried by the picketers read, "A lesbian is the rage of all women," "Gay and Proud," "Homophobia, sexism, racism all come from 'the man'," among other sentiments. A recent letter in the Portland Press Herald, referring to "debauchery societies with fancy names" (not an exact quote) was riposted to with a sign that announced "The All-College Southern Maine Debauchery and Chowder Society." Obli, the German Shepherd, wore a sign that said, "Me too"; his human, Steve Irving of Seacoast Area Gay Alliance, carried a companion piece reading, "Not all of us walk poodles."

The picket was organized by SAGA, with co-operation by MGTFF; also participating were persons from Worcester, Mass., and Quebec. The Wells Town Hall was picketed from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There were a few spectators, mostly young people; some heckling, but also some show of support. Police confiscated an anti-Gay sign because those who held it did not

have a permit to demonstrate. The Wells police kept good order among the spectators.

Picketing at Valerie's began at 5:00 PM and ran until 8:00. Here the situation was much more tense. The crowd, again mostly young people, was bigger and more vocal, and the police more indulgent with them. The police again confiscated signs, but made little or no effort to find the source of eggs, pebbles, and pennies thrown at demonstrators. Constantine Ganalles, owner of Valerie's, attempted to run down S.W. Henderson of MGTFF as she walked behind his car, but his intended victim was too quick for him. Fortunately, no further violence occurred.

It is not known at this time whether further demonstrations or other actions against Wells-Ogunquit will take place. Readers of MGTFFN are reminded that the towns are being boycotted by SAGA and MGTFF. All Gays and well-wishers are urged to support the boycott. Don't oppress yourselves.

Teach Your Children Well

One of the heaviest aspects of the Wells-Ogunquit picket was the hostility expressed by young people - 16 years old and under. Society poisons the minds of its young at an early age, it seems. This particular crop had probably never been exposed to anything except homophobia. They also had a lot of pent-up hostility, which their elders allowed them to vent against "queers."

There is no excuse for poisoning young people's minds like this! There is no excuse for teaching them that it is good to throw eggs at demonstrators, shout at motorists to run "the queers" down, etc. There is no excuse for teaching them that it is permissible to oppress anyone! I hold four parties chiefly responsible:

1. Their parents. These are perhaps the least responsible, for they have had the same pernicious upbringing as their offspring. Most of them are poor people - the few we saw were pale, undernourished and shabbily dressed, and so were their children. They would be just as unwelcome in "nice" places like Valerie's as we and couldn't afford them either. Most of them will never have the opportunity of achieving "the American Dream" of middle-class money and status that they have been taught to desire. The only status they have comes from their heterosexuality, and the only power they have is to make their children as much like themselves as they can. Opportunity is promised to all of them but given only to a few; the rest are given Homosexuals, Native Americans, Blacks, and others as scapegoats, to divert their attention from those who are getting rich at their expense.

2. The prosperous business people of Wells-Ogunquit. They are the powers that be in these towns; they have the greatest influence in the town governments. They are the ones responsible for the denial of the Stage Door's liquor license. They are people like Antigone and Constantine Ganalles, owners of Valerie's, who thrive on Gay money but deny Gay people. They welcome the S.A.G.A. and M.G.T.F. members when we entered Valerie's as customers who spent money there, but as soon as we showed our Gayness by dancing female-female and male-male, we became "scum" (their words). "Captain" Ganalles actually tried to run over Yours Truly with his car when she was in the picket line. This is the sort of example that this prominent citizen of Ogunquit sets for the young people!

3. The clergy. Among the hecklers at Ogunquit was a street preacher, bellowing passages from the Bible. Christianity is supposed to be a religion of love, but this person certainly wasn't

showing it. I have never heard of any local cleric advising that one love one's homosexual neighbors. When people are being persecuted, silence is as much a crime as overt hate, and neither is a fit example for the proponents of brotherly/sisterly love to set before the young people of Wells and Ogunquit.

4. The educational system. The public teaches those values that society, or at least its rulers, wish the young to follow. Chief among these values appears to be the notion that the "unwashed masses" - such as the lower-income people, their children, and us Gays - should obey those in authority and ask no questions. Sexism and sex stereotyping run rampant in school texts, and homosexuality is almost unmentionable, especially in its positive aspects. "America" is sacrosanct, but the young are not taught the most basic American document, the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution. The schools, like the society they represent, make a great parade of the freedom supposedly found in this country, but fail to teach respect for the rights of those who differ from one's self, a quality essential to democracy. Further, the authoritarianism practiced by most school administrations is detrimental to the young people's chances of learning democracy.

One of the most important things the Gay Movement can do at this time is to maintain a visible, questioning presence, to act as a continual challenge to old prejudices and received opinions. The more the status quo is challenged, the more the young will begin to think and question. It is up to us also to present an alternate lifestyle, to practice love, respect, and true democracy instead of authoritarianism and scapegoating. If we do this we will be teaching the children well.

* Yours truly has moved from the wilds of Penobscot County to Portland, seeking the will-o-the-wisp of Employment, hence the change of by-line. Readers are promised the same mix of Gay philosophy, idiosyncratic opinion, and general ragged individualism as has been the case heretofore.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION:

"Homosexuals are entitled to the same rights, liberties, lack of harassment, and protections as are other citizens.

The right of individual privacy, free from government regulation, extends to sexual conduct, heterosexual or homosexual, of consenting adults. Thus the ACLU opposes criminal restraint on any homosexual behavior, between or among consenting adults in private, or in public unless the same restraint applies to heterosexual behavior. Criminalization of these acts is a violation of the right of individual privacy. Such conduct is a matter for individual judgment, but is not a concern of the penal statute of the state. The ACLU opposes involuntary institutionalization and/or treatment of such behavior, and opposes the enforcement of sex-offender registration statutes against individuals convicted of private consensual sex acts. The use and dissemination of arrest records, which the ACLU generally opposes, is an offensive denial of due process and a continuous invasion of individual privacy, when the arrest is for crimes involving private sexual behavior. Similarly, dissemination of records of conviction under unconstitutional criminal statutes is objectionable. The release of such private information often leads to loss of employment and employment opportunities.

The state has an interest in protecting children from sexual abuse, an interest underlying some laws concerned with sexual conduct between adults and minors. Such laws may not properly discriminate on the basis of the sexual preference involved in the conduct.

Criminal statutes proscribing adult homosexual behavior create an environment of oppression arising from the fear of prosecution and provide the means of blackmail. Criminal statutes of this kind are most reprehensible when linked to enforcement by entrapment by special police squads or the use of peepholes and other devices for secret surveillance of public rest rooms. Such laws serve only to perpetuate discrimination against homosexuals. When criminal laws are not enforced either uniformly or substantially, or when they invite arbitrary enforcement and facilitate blackmail, the law generally is weakened by evasion and disrespect. Thus, the Union maintains that discrimination on the basis of homosexuality violates an individual's right of privacy and denies the person equal protection of the law.

The ACLU opposes criminal restraints on public solicitation for private sexual behavior between or among adults of the same sex. Such restraints provide the stimulus for government harassment of homosexuals even in the absence of any criminal charges. In addition, a variety of official pressures are brought to bear in parks, bars, night clubs and other public meeting places solely on the grounds that they are frequented by homosexuals. Such practices violate freedom of assembly and association. Similarly, solicitation in social situations involving private parties, private clubs, etc. should not be subject to criminal restraints.

Just as governmental discrimination by race, alienage, religion or sex is a denial of equal protection, so too is governmental discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference. Homosexuality per se implies no disability that would justify such discrimination. The ACLU opposes the exclusion, deportation, and refusal to naturalize homosexual aliens. Similarly, the ACLU opposes discrimination in public and private housing and accommodations, government benefits, occupational licensing, and government and private employment - including teaching of children and jobs requiring security clearance - simply because the person is a homosexual. The government practice of enquiring into the sexual practices and preferences of its employees or prospective employees and of disseminating such information to other government and non-government agencies is an unconstitutional invasion of privacy.

The ACLU opposes limitations on the custody and visitation rights of parents when such limitations are based solely on the parent's sexual preference.

The ACLU opposes governmental or private attempts to prevent homosexuals from speaking out about homosexuality and from forming and sustaining political and social groups on and off school campuses.

The ACLU supports passage of legislation to eliminate government and private discrimination against homosexuals."

The ACLU has established a National Sexual Privacy Project to litigate, educate and lobby toward full equality for homosexuals. An ACLU handbook on The Rights of Gay People will be released by Avon Books in July.

PEOPLE IN LESBIAN AND FEMINIST COMMUNITIES PRESSURED
AND JAILED BY FBI IN SEARCH FOR UNDERGROUNDERS

In a stepped-up search for underground fugitives, FBI agents, local police and at least three grand juries are aggressively questioning and jailing members of Lesbian communities and the feminist movement. This burst of harassment comes as three long-sought radicals have been captured within the last month and two others have turned themselves in. The three captured are Patricia Swinton, wanted in connection with a 1969 series of anti-war bombings in New York City; Cameron Bishop, charged with blowing up power connections to Pentagon installations in Colorado; and Susan Saxe, accused of participation in a 1970 Boston bank robbery during which a police officer was killed.

In recent years radical undergrounders have baffled and embarrassed the FBI and other police agencies by disappearing. But now the sudden arrests have caused rumors and fear among counter-culture persons that the FBI may have planted informers in the underground, or discerned a pattern of how these individuals are living. The major change in the pursuit is the knowledge, gained by the FBI late last year, that some of the women are Lesbians and had found refuge with other Gay people and the feminist community. And the FBI is systematically pressuring "above-ground" persons who they believe have aided the elusive radicals.

There seems to be no coherent pattern of police work. Swinton was identified by the FBI at the time of her arrest, while Bishop was picked up by suspicious police in East Greenwich, R.I., after weapons had been sighted in his car. Saxe's capture on a Philadelphia street corner has aroused much suspicion as to whether it resulted from a tip or set-up by an informer, or a "lucky break" as the Philadelphia police allege. Two radicals turned themselves in last fall. One was Barry Stein, wanted in Chicago after the Weathermen's "Days of Rage" demonstrations there in 1969, and who had been working in a public health program in Brattleboro, Vt. The second was Jane Alpert, who jumped bail and disappeared in May, 1970, after pleading guilty to a series of bombings in New York City against military induction centers and the Manhattan Criminal Courts building.

On May 12, 1975, FBI agents, accompanied by Brattleboro's only detective, walked into the back room of the Good Life health food store and arrested Swinton, the only member of the bombing group to elude capture. Since then, there has been much speculation and debate over the role of the two undergrounders who turned themselves in. Alpert, in particular, is the center of heated debate among New York feminists over whether she gave information leading to Swinton's arrest.

Three petitions are now circulating: one supporting and two denouncing her. Some persons sym-

pathetic to Alpert suggest that she gave information to the police limited to her own underground experience, but that before her surrender (since they knew virtually nothing), this provided some valuable leads. Alpert lived with Swinton for a period of time and knew that she calls herself Suzanne Davis, or Shoshana, the name she was using when arrested. Other persons supportive of Alpert (including the mother of Kathy Boudin, a Weather underground member still at large) contend that "her conduct under enormous pressure was and continues to be that of a woman with great integrity and strong feminist commitment."

One of the anti-Alpert petitions reads in part, "It is not war that destroys us, but betrayal... Jane Alpert is not important, what is important is that women stop playing games, dangerous games... There are two kinds of justice in this country, the system of justice for people like Jane Alpert, and the system of justice for people like Assata Shakur. Is this what we want the women's movement to represent? The kind of movement Jane Alpert represents is based on class privilege, on white privilege."

On the day Swinton was captured, police arrested Bishop, who in April of 1969 became the first radical on the FBI's 'ten most wanted' list.

The sequence of events that led to the arrest of Saxe began late last year when a man in Lexington, Ky., noticed one of the 'most wanted' posters in the post office. The pictures of Saxe and Katherine Ann Power strongly resembled those of two women he knew, respectively, as Lena and May, who had lived during the summer and part of the fall among the Lesbian community on the fringes of the University of Kentucky. He then called the Cincinnati office of the FBI and later the Boston Globe.

Last January 12 the Globe ran an article that told of a four-month stay by the women in Lexington. They had arrived on bicycles in June, the story said, were all inseparable, and did not talk much about their past or give much in the way of identification, some- continued on next page..

Cont...times worked in a health food restaurant, and were members of the Socialist Feminist Lesbian Movement. In October, according to the Globe article, the woman thought to be Saxe received a phone call from Power, who had been out of town for several days. She became visibly upset and quickly left town. The two were not seen in Lexington again. The Lexington tip, according to a Boston FBI agent, was the first indication that the women were Lesbians. It has changed the direction of the search and can only mean rough times ahead for the Gay and feminist communities.

In January, 1975, the FBI began forced interviews with persons in the Lexington Gay community. Some talked, some did not. A grand jury was quickly impaneled and subpoenaed those who had refused to talk with the FBI. As a result, four women have been in jail since March 8 for refusing to testify. At the same time FBI agents began questioning persons active in the feminist movement in Hartford where, it developed, the two women had lived before going to Lexington. As in Kentucky, a grand jury was quickly formed and subpoenas are expected to be sent out shortly.

Next, an unidentified woman talked extensively with the FBI. She later put out a leaflet which said that although the authorities were correct in every reasonable measure they took to apprehend the fugitives, their real aim was "the uprooting and destruction of the women's movement." At the same time, male lawyers of the movement advised women to refuse to answer questions. By thus putting them in danger of being jailed, the men "demonstrated their sole interest to be that of the male-dominated Left. Once again, as since time immemorial, women have become the shuttlecocks between two male forces bent on each other's destruction," the leaflet said. Some people believe that this information enabled the FBI to build a picture of the women's activities in Connecticut and to go through yards of film from a bank camera in Torrington, Ct., where Saxe had an account. Copies of the new picture were soon distributed in Philadelphia. Two hours later, Saxe was arrested by a city police officer who spotted her walking arm in arm with Byrna Aronson, a Philadelphia Lesbian activist. The FBI routinely denied that they had any information concerning Saxe's whereabouts, but one FBI source admitted that they knew she was in the area. At her bail hearing she wrote a statement on a yellow legal pad, passing it back to friends, vowing "to fight on in every way as a Lesbian, a feminist, and an Amazon."

Meanwhile, a third grand jury has been formed in New York to hear

testimony on Swinton's case. back in Philadelphia, FBI agents have been questioning women, and the possibility of a fourth grand jury for those who refused to talk is looming dangerously closer.

So Lesbians, feminists, and Gay persons are being pressured and jailed around the country in the FBI's stepped-up search for underground radicals. However, events suggest that the real target is the Women's Movement, with Lesbians now facing the greatest danger. As for the government's tactics, Aronson comments: "Grand juries are cheaper than paying informants and they eliminate the problems of worrying about double agents, getting caught, or getting bad publicity in the media."

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National Coalition of Gay Activists
P.O.Box 3452
GRAND CENTRAL STATION
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 691-3625

SPECIAL ALERT

Please note: Not even the FBI has claimed these sisters and brother are themselves guilty of any crime. Their "crime" is working for political movements with which the FBI does not feel comfortable. They are now in jail--and they may remain there until April, 1976--because they stood on their First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Ninth Amendment rights in refusing to talk to the Grand Jury!

The FBI seems to believe it has the right to harass persons identified with the Women's and Gay Movements. Presently their investigation brings them to Cincinnati; they are expected to visit a number of other cities, as well. The FBI must not be allowed to manipulate the Grand Jury system to harass political activists and they must be made to know their aggressions against the Women's and Gay Movements will be met with public outrage!

WHAT TO DO:

- Keep informed of news regarding these sorts of FBI activities.
- Speak out against the injustices committed against those now in jail, e.g. letters, resolutions, media programs, demonstrations...
- Demand the release of those now in jail in Ct. and Ky.
- If the FBI comes to your door, the Constitution says you do not have to talk. Whatever you say can be used against you and your friends. Don't lie. Don't say "I don't know." It can be used against you.
- If you are threatened with a subpoena by FBI agents, or if you are served with a subpoena, immediately contact an attorney.

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AN EVENING AT VALERIE'S
Part I: How to Disrupt a Policeperson's Evening Off

I arrived at Valerie's in Ogunquit Saturday evening, May 17th. This was the first time I had ever been there, and I was impressed with the decor and the service. After a very enjoyable dinner, my check came; I made certain to get a receipt. At nine, after having had several drinks at the bar, some members of the Maine Gay Task Force arrived. Soon four other members of S.A.G.A. came in, followed by more Gay friends from upstate Maine. In all we totaled sixteen, with couples and individuals meeting us there unexpectedly.

Several of us got up to dance, male and female, to be cut in on by two women. They asked our female partners to dance; I asked the other man on the floor. Before the song had ended, Tiggy (the owner) asked us to stop because "it is our policy. We don't allow this. I hope you understand." We did not "understand," but stopped dancing to that particular number. Shortly thereafter, we again got up and danced. Once more we were told to stop.

This scene was repeated a third time. Tiggy's husband arrived and spoke to us, stating that this was not allowed. Several of us asked if it was against the law, to which he replied it was against his law. When asked if we wanted him to call the police, Stan Fortuna of MGTFF replied that if he felt we were breaking a law, by all means, call the police. We continued dancing. Nothing further was said, until the arrival of an Ogunquit police officer. He informed us that although there was no law against dancing, if that was the policy of the establishment, we should respect their feelings. We then brought up the point of Tiggy's willingness to take our money but refusing us the freedoms which she allows her straight patrons.

This discussion took place in the center of the restaurant. Finally I grabbed Tiggy by the hand and we followed the officer into the front room, to be able to talk. Peter Prizer engaged the officer in an interesting debate as to the legality of a public official enforcing private policy. When we had assembled in the front room, Tiggy stated that she "loved all the boys" and had always been "good" to us. We told her what we wanted, which she said she could not allow as it was offensive to some of her other patrons. She also stated, in front of about ten of us, that she would allow a male and a female to dance, and even two females, but never two males. We asked if she wanted us to leave; she said no. We then asked if she would allow us to dance, and again she said she "couldn't." She said we should "have a nice place of your own," and "if I had a million dollars, I would build you one." We said we did not want a place of

our own; we were human beings with every right to the same freedoms as everyone else.

So the discussion came to a halt. The officer informed us that we would not be arrested for dancing, as that was not illegal; but if we were asked to go and did not, we would be arrested for disorderly conduct. We returned to the lounge, and the officer left. Within ten minutes, we were dancing again. Tiggy's husband stopped the music and ordered us to leave, both women and men.

Susan Breeding, Deborah Johnson, Peter Prizer, Dale Talbot, Stephen Leo and Steve Bull decided to remain and continued dancing. The rest of us, who for personal reasons were not prepared to be arrested, waited outside.

Within five minutes an Ogunquit police cruiser arrived. The lone officer called for reinforcements. The State Police, Wells, York, Old Orchard Beach and several other departments arrived at Valerie's shortly after eleven. Sirens were wailing and blue lights flashing while we stood together on the sidewalk. We counted our money for bail. At one point there were eleven police cars in front of Valerie's and a medium-sized crowd gathered on the opposite side of Route One. They were dispersed by a Maine State trooper. The police entered the building, and within fifteen minutes our courageous friends from MGTFF emerged with everything settled without arrest. I spoke with Wells Police Chief Carter, who helped to create a liaison between the police and our group.

We said our goodbys, and made plans to stay in touch with regard to what we might do as a result of this most eventful of evenings in Ogunquit, Maine. It was indeed a warm feeling to see Gay people who cared enough about their future to fight for their rights. To those who were there, a simple heartfelt "thank-you."

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"Part II: How to Disrupt a Policeperson's Saturday Off" is reported elsewhere in this issue (see page 1).

LETTERS

THE FOLLOWING LETTER was actually sent to Gov. James B. Longley, proving, we suppose, that the Gay movement actually does have a sense of humor...

Dear Gov. Longley,

According to the Sunday Telegram of 25 May, 1975, you included and then eliminated from a speech at Edgecliff College the suggestion that the women's liberation movement has led to "a greatly increased incidence of homosexuality in our society."

While the proposition that the women's movement has created - almost overnight - thousands of Mainers newly partial to homosexuality may appear novel (or risky), you should know that four years of careful research by myself and others at the Maine Center for Sexual Attitudes has led us to conclude that there is, indeed, a definite parallel between these two social manifestations.

Perhaps the most solid evidential material in our possession is a remarkable poll conducted in December/January of 1973/4. Exactly 1851 Maine persons were asked to answer the following Test Question:

To the best of your recollection abilities, would you say that the women's movement has turned you or a member of your immediate family into a, uh, you know, ... a homosexual?

To insure a candid response, the Test Question was planted in a roster of 374 questions involving areas of personal debt, dinner favorites, employer/employee relations, etc. The results are as follows:

- 1643 persons answered in the affirmative (they had turned Gay in response to the women's movement)
- 196 persons answered in the negative (85 persons added that they would like to see their money returned)
- 3 persons were not sure
- 18 persons remarked that they had been turned into practicing heterosexuals, which really threw a wrench into our thesis, until we decided to ignore their responses. (as it was, sloppy interviewing and misplaced questionnaires constantly plagued our research efforts to the very end, and a malprogrammed Univac 5000 destroyed over 800 punch cards before it was stilled by a well-hurled half-gallon bottle of Old Duke.)

However, we continue to stand by our research and conclude that the incidence of homosexuality is directly proportional to the incidence of the women's movement. You have our permission to quote our findings in any subsequent speech dealing in an area where your personal information may appear somewhat tenuous.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery,
Peter Prizer

N.B. Our next project concerns the effect of macho piggery on the earth's gravitational loosening due to tidal friction; now put at 6.3 psi per decade.

* * * * *

Dear MGTF:

Re the letter from Walter M. Frank Jr. about Patricia Nell Warren's The Front Runner, printed in May's MGTFN. I find it surprising and somewhat sad that numerable Gays are taken in by the commercial flurry of crap passing as worthwhile art, e.g. The Front Runner, The Lord Won't Mind series, A Very Natural Thing, which is beginning to be excreted in our direction in order to make a fast buck. These sniveling, gutless, over-emotional "works" are scarcely of more value, artiscally, than The Boys in the Band, A Children's Hour and others that purport to "reveal the sordid, shady life of the homosexual." Granted, the content of the newer vehicles is positive, but they are as oblivious to reality as the older ones; "positive" does not necessarily equal "honest." The Front Runner portrays two flawless Gay men who have a flawless love and marriage (het ritual), and, after ups and downs of

continued on next page

LETTERS continued...

the relationship, one of them dies ...but flawlessly! Sound familiar? Not in my life nor anyone's that I know - but try taking Love Story with a male Ali McGraw and...voila!

Why are our sisters and brothers eating up this schmaltz served up by Madison Ave.? Why are we not demanding that intelligent, mature, creative works of art and entertainment be produced instead of embracing and devouring these pulp novels and B movies? Does the answer lie in the long denial of any positive statement about our life-styles? Perhaps we lose perspective...

The irony of the situation is that there have been a number of very good works of Gay creativity published within the last fifteen years: Maurice, by E.M. Forster, Rubyfruit Jungle, by Rita Mae Brown, Something You Do in the Dark, by Daniel Curzon. Why aren't these works candidates for the Great Gay Film? They're not even widely publicized.

Until we do gain perspective on what is worthwhile Gay art and what is merely aimed to exploit our newfound consciousness, the Great Gay Film nor the Gay Best-Seller will not be produced, and a unified, joyous, strong culture of which our people can be proud will continue to be stifled.

In struggle,
John Frank

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PEOPLES COLLEGE OF LAW OPENS THE DOOR TO GAYS:

A new law school has opened in Los Angeles, California which is like no other. It stresses social change, collective decision-making, and an affirmative admissions policy toward members of oppressed groups, including Gays.

Founded last fall, the Peoples College of Law already boasts an active Gay Caucus which has helped formalize a policy of actively seeking socially conscious Gay women and men. In addition, the school is over half women, and hopes to include 2/3 Third World students, Gay and non-Gay, in its fall entering class.

Requirements for admission include two years of college (60 semester units toward a bachelor's degree) or a passing grade on the California College Equivalency Test. As the admissions bulletin states, "The school's admissions policies will be strongly directed to the recruitment of socio-politically conscious students. The

admissions policies will give preference to those applicants who demonstrate a commitment to use the law as an instrument for social change, to protect the rights of oppressed and disenfranchised groups and classes in this society, and to serve as people's lawyer's."

The school, located near L.A.'s MacArthur Park, was founded by a coalition of groups, including the Asian Law Collective, the National Conference of Black Lawyers, National La Raza Law Students Association, and the National Lawyers Guild.

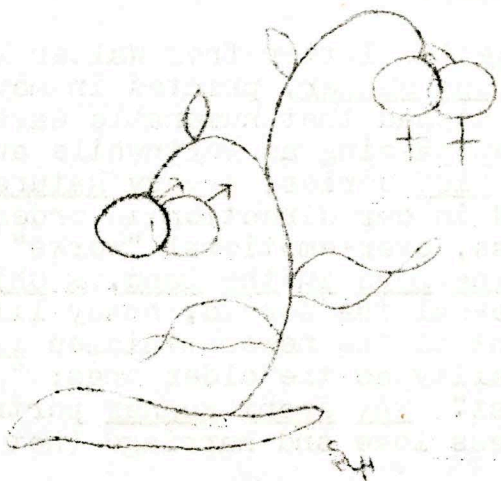
It offers a four year part-time curriculum leading to a Juris Doctor degree and eligibility to take the California State Bar Exam. Because the school is as yet un-accredited, students will be required to take a "baby bar" exam upon completion of the first year of classes. Classes enter in September and January; applications are now being accepted for the September class.

The Gay Caucus of the People's College of Law, in conjunction with the National Lawyers Guild, Lavender & Red Union, and the Gay Community Mobilization Committee, is sponsoring a Gay Rights Project in Los Angeles this summer. Legal workers, law students, and lawyers who will come to Los Angeles from all over the country, will do legal work and community organizing aimed at places of public accommodation that discriminate against Gay people, and Gay places that discriminate against women and Third World people. Participants may also become involved in child custody and employment bias cases as they come up.

The Gay Caucus is also working to develop curriculum relevant to Gay students. One possibility is a course on "Sex Roles and the Law," which would be of special interest to women and Gays.

For more information, write: Gay Caucus, Peoples College of Law, 2228 W. Seventh St., L.A., Ca 90057.

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INSPIRATIONS FROM SYMPOSIUM II

You bought me a drink.
And I thought you wanted to
Take me home.
I asked you to join me..
And you thought I had agreed to
Go to bed with you.
You said you liked my shirt,
but I knew you'd like me better
With no shirt at all.
I told you it wasn't very expensive,
And you thought I cared for
Only money.
You asked me to go for a walk,
But I knew you didn't feel like
Walking
I said no,
And you assumed I didn't like you.
You asked me what was wrong,
And I thought you accused
me of being scared
I said I'd like to get to know you as a person,
And you thought I said you
Were ugly...
You got up and said goodnight,
But I knew you meant goodbye
I said take care,
And you thought I didn't mean it.

Steve Irving

Untitled II

A hush has fallen over me, To hear ideas and dreams discussed,
my lights are out, To see the joy of people
The music has stopped, Who thought they were alone-
No more people scurrying around, Finding they really weren't,
No more small groups talking To feel the excitement of
and laughing, strangers meeting
No more hugging and kissing, And exchanging addresses,
I'm quiet. To watch friendships develop.
And tomorrow back to the normal Yes, even though I couldn't tell
routine, them so,
Straights going to and fro, I'm thankful to have been a part
of them.
Caring only about their problems! Oh, if only the world could show
But wasn't it grand for two days, The love and goodwill that was
To be a part of a group of people shown here,
Who care about each other, What a beautiful world it could be.

SEBY

You won't laugh at me anymore.
Because I no longer am that funny barroom joke.
...Someone else's problem to be
stepped

down
on
like spittal on your
Concrete city sidewalks.

I will be remembered.....
In your roach infested kitchens
In your sweat-soaked lightless stairwells
In your faded Ford Fairlane with sweet Jesus
On the dashboard and your Trojans in the glovebox.

I will haunt you at your office where you try to
Politely type away my existence.
I will be waiting for you in every cold, deserted
Moonlit park across Amerika.
I will stare at you from a million restroom walls.

...And when you cut yourself shaving tomorrow
Morning, I won't stop bleeding.

For you can't laugh me away.
Or spit me out of your life,
Or fuck me into oblivion with some woman you never
Met before.
And you can't write me off in some obscure report.
Or blind me with street lights
Or leave me forever in some brown tiled bathroom
Or pass me off as some kind of inconvenient accident.

For I won't heal....and I won't disappear, and I refuse
To leave you alone because I am here, and will be here
To laugh at you and turn my back when your hate and
Ignorance pins you up against some piss stained alley
Wall and blows your brains out for being Mr. John Doe
Amerika.

....And you won't look up from the garbage in which you
Have fallen to see me crying...because your deaf ears
Filling with the blood of my sisters and brothers
Would never hear me if I did...

Steve Irving

MGTF MINUTES 8 June 1975

Doug Soucie, Chairperson
Karen Bye, Scribe

The meeting was called to order in the MGTF office at 1:15 PM, with 27 persons present. The next meeting will be on Sunday, 6 July, in the MGTF office, at 1:00 PM, with Deborah Johnson as Chairperson and Peter Prizer taking notes.

Stan Fortuna gave the treasurer's report: we have \$30.00 in the Newsletter account, and \$91.00 in the MGTF account.

Karen Bye reported on non-profit third-class postal permits. Wilde-Stein's application for one has already been rejected on the grounds that W-SC is an "action organization." MGTF would be refused on the same grounds. The Newsletter might just possibly get one. Karen suggested that if all else fails, we use someone else's permit.

Stan gave a brief recap of the Valerie's zap. He has contacted Joseph Bornstein, co-operating attorney for the Maine Civil Liberties Union, as to a possible legal case against Valerie's. Bornstein considers it a weak case and advises against taking action. He has also volunteered to serve as MGTF's attorney gratis.

The pros and cons of incorporation were discussed. Once incorporated, we would be able to get non-profit status; then we would be able to get grants, and contributions to us would be tax-deductible. Fees would be \$5 to the Secretary of State and \$5 to the county records keeper to file incorporation papers. Consensus was to think it over, look into it further, and discuss the matter again at the next meeting.

The Boston Gay Pride March, so far as we know, will begin at Copley Square at noon on 21 June and end at the Boston Common, where there will be speeches and entertainment. MGTF will organize car pools; a sign-up list for drivers was circulated.

The new office will cost \$70/month rent, with \$11.60+/month for the phone. If we get enough pledges, we would like to hire an answering service. A sign-up sheet for pledges was circulated.

Those interested in organizing an MGTF dinner or picnic were to get together after the meeting. Refer to "Bits" for details.

Stan asked whether we should take any more action against Valerie's at this time. Steve Irving of Seacoast Area Gay Alliance said that they will discuss the same topic at their next

meeting. MGTF consensus was to wait. Deborah Johnson suggested that we zap other Ogunquit restaurants/bars.

Stan reported that media coverage of the picket was abysmal. He may contact the TV station managers to set up consciousness-raising meetings. It was also agreed that a letter-writing campaign to protest the lack of coverage would be a good thing.

The People's Bicentennial Commission is trying to organize a coalition of community groups to set up an alternate Fourth of July event. Stan and Susan Henderson will attend the next meeting, which is on 9 June, and check it out.

MGTF has been offered a half-hour on the show "On the Line," on Channel 6 in Portland (channel 2 in Bangor), on 28 June (Sat.), 6-6:30 PM. Stan will arrange details. It was agreed that we should insist that 2 women and 2 men be on the show, not the 1 or 2 persons suggested by the station. Susan Breeding will line up the people to appear. A list for volunteers was circulated.

Stephen Leo raised the matter of staffing the office; he thought we should have at least 1 woman and 1 man at all times, preferably 2-4 for days. Susan B. warned that we should not "drift into" counseling without being sure of where we are going and what we want to do with it. It was suggested that we have more training sessions for counselors and compile a list of non-homophobic agencies for referrals. We will be informing the social service agencies in the state that we have an office and possibly arrange reciprocal referral services with them. There will be a meeting at the MGTF office on Thurs., 12 June at 7 PM for those interested in counseling.

Susan Breeding suggested forming a Gay rap group in Portland. It was agreed that the group will meet on Fridays at the MGTF office at 7 PM. The door will be open from 7 to 7:30; after that, call the MGTF number to get in. 773-5530. The organization meeting will be held on 13 June.

Meeting adjourned.

BLTS

HOP BROOK COMMUNE advertises products of the Calamus flower, used as a Gay symbol by Walt Whitman in his poems. \$6.00 for any one of the following: 1 pair bulbs, 1 doz. incense, 4 oz. tea, 1/3 lb. candy, 1 oz. scent. Address: Walt Whitman Way, New Salem, Mass. 01355.

PRISONERS: The following prisoners would like to correspond with other Gays:

Edward Jackson #009602
P.O. Box 747 P-2/N-1
Starke, Fla. 32091

Henry Cooper #002017
P.O. Box 747 P-1/N-1
Starke, Fla. 32091

David World #026679
P.O. Box 747 P-1/N-8
Starke, Fla. 32091

Theodore Ziegler #011164
P.O. Box 747 M-3/N-9
Starke, Fla. 32091

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MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF NEW YORK announces that its monthly newsletter, Mattachine Times, will resume publication, beginning during Gay Pride Week. Address all correspondence to MSNY, 59 Christopher St., New York, NY, 10014.

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OTHERFUND, INC., the Boston area gay united fund, announced the kickoff of its first annual fund-raising drive, OTHERWAY '75. The group, believed to be the first of its kind in the United States, has a goal of \$40,000 which will benefit seven different projects in the greater Boston area.

The drive, which began April 15th, will continue throughout the summer. Otherfund, Inc. is the first step toward meeting the challenge of financial support for gay oriented projects. We need your help to make OTHERWAY '75 a success. All donations are tax-deductible and may be sent to Otherfund, Inc., PO Box 1997, Boston, Ma. 02105. Contributions may be made anonymously. Give the Gayway.

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RIDE TO GAY PRIDE MARCH: Anyone wanting a ride to the Gay Pride March in Boston on 21 June should contact MGTf. Phone: 773-5530.

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BOYCOTT WELLS-OGUNQUIT!!!

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Portland, Me. 04112

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One year - 12 copies(+) \$4.00
Sent 1st-class in plain envelopes.

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CALENDAR *

21 June: Gay Pride March, Boston.

28 June: Gay Pride March, NY.

5 July: Gay dance, Unitarian Church, Pleasant St., Brunswick, 9 PM to 1 AM.

6 July: MGTf meeting, 193 Middle St., Portland, 1:00 PM.

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MAINE CRIMINAL CODE was passed by the Legislature on 16 June; among other measures, it decriminalizes sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex. The new code now goes to the Governor's office where it must be signed in order to become law. Signature is expected within a week. The code will take effect 1 March 1976. Details in July issue.

* 28 June: "On the Line" call-in show will feature members of MGTf. Channel 6 in Portland, channel 2 in Bangor.

22 June: Gay Pride march in Worcester, Mass. People interested in participating in the city's first Gay Pride march are asked to stay over a day after the Boston march. Rides will be arranged.