



inside:

tv's in p'town, p. 3

lesbian images, p. 8

diana ross, p. 11

social security, p. 12

the gay weekly for the northeast

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Two of the people with principal interest in the new Flicks, Frank Cashman (left) and Leland Brown (center), plot strategy with their attorney at the Licensing Board hearing.

New Cashman Bar Under Fire

By Joe Beckmann

BOSTON — The Boston Licensing Board has begun a series of hearings on the large Back Bay bar, Flicks, to determine whether it will be owned and managed by some of the same principals now managing The Other Side and Jacques, in Bay Village. Opposition from the community, groups, legislators, and city officials has delayed the board's decision for at least ten days.

At the first hearing, Frank Cashman, long associated with The Other Side, petitioned for a transfer of the Flicks license to his company, Viceroy Productions, Inc. Supporting the transfer were the current owners of Flicks, and of the Somerset buildings in which the bar is located. Opposing the transfer were Reps. Elaine Noble and Barney Frank, City Councillors Louise Day Hicks and Larry DiCara, representatives of the Parks Commission, the Back Bay-Fenway Little City Hall, the Mayor, Kenmore Community Action, the Back Bay Association, The Back Bay Neighborhood Association, tenants in the building, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and the director of the Fenway Community Center, Virginia Hurley. A representative of the Police Commissioner asked that the decision be delayed, pending a thorough investigation of the future plans of the new owners.

Mr. Cashman and the owners' attorney, Mr. Shaevel, argued that the new owners would significantly change the character of the three facilities in the building operating under the Flicks license. The bar itself would become a discotheque, with live music "on a monthly basis," if at all. The adjoining restaurant, The Bull, would have lower prices and longer hours, and the

Louis XIV Ballroom, currently used for weddings and other special events, would become what Mr. Cashman described as a "cocktail theater." To implement these plans, Viceroy Productions, with only three principal owners, Mr. Cashman, Mr. Leland Brown, and Ms. DiIacomo, require the approval of the licensing board for a \$55,000 lease. This must be approved within 30 days of their initial petition, or in the next few weeks.

Opposing the petition, representatives argued that the neighborhood was already too congested, the new company underfinanced and with a bad reputation from their Other Side experience, and represented a new intrusion of Other Side activity into a different

(Continued on page 7)



Elaine Noble talks with some of her constituents at the Licensing Board hearing.

Court OK's Dances, Meetings

U.N.H. Students Score Victory

CONCORD, N.H. — Gay dances and meetings may soon be taking place once again in the previously hostile terrain of the University of New Hampshire after a two year lapse. The New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled last week that the university had absolutely no legal right to limit the activities of the campus Gay Student Organization (GSO).

The court's decision ended almost two years of legal maneuvering in which the university attempted to block the student group from functioning. Both the U.S. District Court and the First Court of the U.S. Court of Appeals had ruled that the gay group had a right to hold meetings. But UNH then asked a state court to block the students on the grounds that the university might be within its rights if homosexuality were found to be a mental disorder.

On April 8, 1974, New Hampshire Superior Court Judge Charles J. Flynn ruled that the mental disorder question was a valid one and could be considered. However, last week's decision overruled Flynn. "The declaration," stated the Supreme Court, "that GSO social functions do indeed constitute protected free speech precludes further action on the limited issue presented to the Superior Court. An adjudication of whether homosexuality is a mental disorder is thus precluded . . ."

Terry La Valle of the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union said that UNH's only recourse now was to go to the U.S. Supreme Court, a step that LaValle does not expect the university to take.

Although Bruce Pulton, chancellor of the University System of New

Hampshire, withheld comment temporarily on the court decision, Gov. Meldrim Thomson was predictably distressed at the ruling. He called the ruling "unfortunate but not unexpected" and indicated that he would investigate the possibility of "whether we should do anything legislatively on the matter." He indicated that the taxpayers who "foot the bills" for the university should have some say about how the university is "conducted."

Similarly, *Manchester Union Leader* publisher William Loeb stated editorially that "The Supreme Court gives another assist to the obscene homosexuals at the University of New Hampshire who represent a moral cancer on the campus." "It is tragic," the editorial continued, "that the Supreme Court of the Granite State has slipped so badly that it cannot come down with decisions strongly on the side of morality, decency, and idealism . . ."

In the meantime, it is not clear when any gay student life will return to the campus of the University of New Hampshire. All the students who had been associated with the Gay Students Organization have already graduated, and no one has of yet come forward to take their place on campus.

Revere Man Slain

REVERE, Mass. — The body of a 33-year-old gay man was discovered lying shoeless and coatless behind 677 Revere Beach Blvd. here last Sunday afternoon. David J. Sutherland had been shot once in the head, according to police reports.

Sutherland, who lived at 673 Revere Beach Blvd., had only moved to Revere a few months ago, after living for several years at 1167 Boylston St. in Boston's Fenway section. His former lover, David Andrews, 22, was killed last February at his Hancock Street apartment on Beacon Hill, in a case still unsolved by Boston police.

Revere Police Chief George Corbett declined to comment on the Sutherland murder, and would only state that the case "is under investigation." Persons with information regarding Sutherland's whereabouts that weekend have been asked to contact either Corbett or Sgt. Ryan, who is handling the investigation of the case, at the Revere Police Department, telephone 284-1212.

Sutherland's is the ninth gay murder in the Greater Boston area this year.



news notes

SHAPP VETOES BILL

PHILADELPHIA — Gov. Milton Shapp last week vetoed a bill that would bar gay people from being employed as teachers, policemen, prison guards, and mental health workers. The bill came to his desk after passing both houses of the Pennsylvania legislature by wide margins.

Both houses of the legislature are in recess until Nov. 17 when an attempt will be made by anti-gay forces to override the governor's veto. According to Mark Segal of the Philadelphia-based "Gay Raiders," the Senate is expected to vote to override. However, the gay lobbyist expects that the Pennsylvania House will sustain the governor's opposition to the bill.

The anti-gay legislation was due in part to annoyance on the part of certain conservative legislators to the governor's affirmative action plan for gay people.



GAY MEN BABYSIT

PHILADELPHIA — Karen DeCrow, president of the National Organization for Women, hailed the men of the National Gay Task Force during her opening presidential address during the N.O.W. convention here. Some 50 men from the Task Force took care of infants and children ranging from 2 months old to 14 years, during the four day convention Oct. 24-27. DeCrow looked forward to the day when parents and others would seek out gay men and women for work with children and end the familiar abusive stereotypes.

Each day about 70 to 80 children were left at the NGTF Day Care Center at the Bellvue-Stratford Hotel. Child care went on from 8 a.m. until as late as 4:30 the following morning. One mother left her child over night and the next morning announced, "I felt my child was in such obviously good hands that I left my child and I am writing to the president of N.O.W. urging her to try and persuade the Gay Task Force to do this again at our next convention in Detroit."

Gay men from Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and New York were seen throughout the city and everywhere in the hotel with children surrounding them. Peter Dunning, the Philadelphia co-ordinator for the Task Force project, mobilized toys, food and sleeping and nap facilities for about 150 children. He labeled the project "a wonderful opportunity for large numbers of people to see gays as they really are . . . caring, warm people."

OUT OF BUSINESS

BOSTON — Linen Closet of 103 Charles St. is now having a going out of business sale. There will be a 50% reduction on all articles. This business has been a strong supporter of this newspaper for the past year.

CATHOLICS LOBBY

BOSTON — On Nov. 16, in Washington, D.C., Catholics for gay rights (with the support of Dignity and the Salvatorian Gay Task Force) will meet with the National Council of Catholic Bishops to seek their support for the gay rights legislation now in Congress.

The Exodus community will have a special mass in conjunction with this meeting at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, at St. Clement's Church, 1105 Boylston St., Boston.

Dignity and all of its local chapters have called for a 24-hour water-only fast for Nov. 16 and requests your support.

For more information please feel free to contact the Dignity National Offices here in Boston.

NOBLE BACKS DEMO

BOSTON — Rep. Elaine Noble denounced President Ford's racial policies and urged support of NSCAR's picketing against Ford during his Boston visit last Friday night.

"At a time when black students are receiving anonymous and hateful letters; when some of their teachers taunt, mock, and insult them openly in the classroom; when they are thrown off of their school football teams and refused help by some racist police officers; it is imperative that the President be made to deal with the real issues of racism and violence," Noble said in a statement released to the press last Thursday, the day before Ford's visit.

OTHER VOICES

BOSTON — The Other Voices Bookstore is in desperate need of people and funds to keep it solvent and ongoing with new ideas. The lack of volunteers has been a serious handicap to keeping the bookstore open to serve the gay community in Boston and surrounding areas.

The Other Voices is the only bookstore devoted exclusively to the gay community. However, Claire Shanahan, manager of the bookstore, said, "The community should know that if they do not support us, we will no longer be here. That support needs to be time and ideas, not just financially."

The bookstore offers other services besides books and information. It is open for use to groups for a small fee and artistic work from the community can be displayed and sold.

The bookstore needs volunteers to keep it open to the gay community. It is located at 30 Bromfield St. in Boston, and is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

ACTIVIST DIES

PROVINCETOWN — The Provincetown community is in deep sorrow over the sudden death early Wednesday morning of Richard (Richie) Stewart, 26, of Provincetown and West Hyannisport.

Richie, a two year resident of Provincetown, was one of the founders of the Provincetown Gay Activists Alliance and recently had been working to help form the Provincetown Gay Community Center. He is also known for the endless hours of work he put in helping to coordinate the New England Gay Conference in March of 1975.

GAY OLD AGE

LONDON — A group of London gays have gotten together to deal with one of the most neglected problems of gay people — growing old. An organization called August Trust has been formed to raise money and attempt to find a property that would be a "haven for elderly homosexuals." Twelve trustees have been appointed thus far and the Trust's main objective at this point is to certify the Trust as a registered charity.

The group hopes that in due course many such homes could be set up all over England. The group quotes a document produced by the Campaign for Homosexual Equality to emphasize the plight of the elderly gay:

"Very many people are lonely in old age; but the homosexual has no children who might have cared for him, at least visit him from time to time. Old, ill, housebound homosexuals do need the caring hand and presence of others of their own kind...." (Male homosexual, aged 60)

Anyone interested in the work of August Trust is urged to write, Judith Gollings, secretary, August Trust, 33 Crescent Lane, Clapham, London, SW 4 9PT. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

UNION SUPPORT

SAN FRANCISCO — Officials of eight of San Francisco's key unions have endorsed gay rights by insisting that "an injury to one is an injury to all." Leaders of the United Farm Workers, the Teamsters, the American Federation of Teachers, and the Retail Clerks Union were among the groups denouncing "archaic prejudices and reactionary laws."



PASOLINI MURDERED

ROME, Italy — The well-known gay Italian filmmaker Pier Paolo Pasolini was murdered last week in Rome by a young man who claimed that the director had made homosexual advances to him. Pasolini was bludgeoned to death and run over by a car in a brutal slaying. "In a sense he was a victim of his own character," said filmmaker Michelangelo Antonioni.

Pasolini gained international fame with his bleak, austere "The Gospel According to St. Matthew." He was highly respected for other works which ranged from the neo-realist "Accattone," which described life in the slums of Rome, to the more flamboyant "Decameron." His latest work, "120 Days of Sodom," based on the Marquis de Sade work, is scheduled to open in Italy this month.

HESS SUIT FAILS

SAN DIEGO — Navy Reserve Commander Gary Hess's attempt to enjoin the Navy from dismissing him because he is gay was dismissed by U.S. Judge Gordon Thompson. Thompson ruled the suit was "premature" because Hess is still in the Reserve. An administrative board had recommended Hess's discharge, however. Hess still has the right to refile the suit once he is officially discharged.

GAY COPS IN DOUBT

LOS ANGELES — Confusion continues to reign in Los Angeles as a result of the "compromise" between the police department, the gay community, and the Civil Service Commission over the hiring of gay police. The "compromise" removes the clause that "homosexuality in itself is not a disqualifying factor" and replaces it with the phrase "sex conduct in private" as not disqualifying. This change in itself does not appear anti-gay.

In addition, according to the *Advocate*, the Civil Service Commission accepted another clause that enables gay people to be discriminated against under the department's medical standards. The inclusion of this clause appears to make it possible that the notoriously anti-gay police department will continue to remain "lily-white" as far as gays are concerned.

The policy reversal comes from pressure from the homophobic L.A. Police Chief Ed Davis and from the supposedly pro-gay mayor, Tom Bradley.



IONESCO WALKS OUT

COPENHAGEN — Romanian-born playwright of the absurd Eugene Ionesco, whose play "Rhinoceros" made him internationally famous, has walked out of a panel examining penal conditions in the Soviet Union. Ionesco made his exit when one of the witnesses referred to homosexuals as criminals. The author had asked a question about persecution of gays in the Soviet Union to a Russian exile.

GAY MEN'S CENTER NEWS

By John Ayer and Darius Daplettree

BOSTON — A faggot centre is emerging in the Hub. Meetings have been energetic and productive. (Yah-weh! do we need something happening!) It's hard to believe it's taken until 1975 to get around to it but on to the future!

One issue on its agenda is whether the Centre will be in Cambridge or Boston. Rental cost will be the deciding factor. A final decision will be made this month.

November will also see the first issue of the Gay Men's Centre monthly (honey, you can't call it that!). Any suggestions for a title would be appreciated. Call Rob or Harry at 232-7527 after noon. Obviously the title should reflect Faggot "cultcha."

Meetings are being held 3 p.m. Sundays at the Charles Street Meeting-house until the Centre has its own space. All are welcome to get this thing on. A benefit film showing is being planned.

Speaking of money, monthly pledges of a year's duration are being sought. This would insure a steady monthly income. We also would like to encourage outright donations of any amount, \$1 to \$1000 or whatever. If all the gays in New England gave the price of a drink, the Centre would have \$1 1/2 million (enough to bring back Carmen Miranda alive!). Those who made pledges will receive the monthly newsletter. Send donations and pledges (with address) to: Gay Men's Centre, c/o GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass. 02108. It will not only get there, it will get back to you.

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EDITORIAL

There has been a lot of criticism directed at the newspaper for the amount of advertising on our pages. The truth of the matter is that even with the additional advertising, the paper has not yet met operating costs. However, we are losing money at a slower rate (last month we lost only \$136.00). Things are looking up!

In last week's editorial we spoke about a series of benefits planned that

will help us pay off our back debts. Support us by attending, please. With your support and the continuing support of our advertisers, we soon will be on a solid financial footing. Hopefully by January, we will be meeting our operating costs for the first time in the newspaper's history.

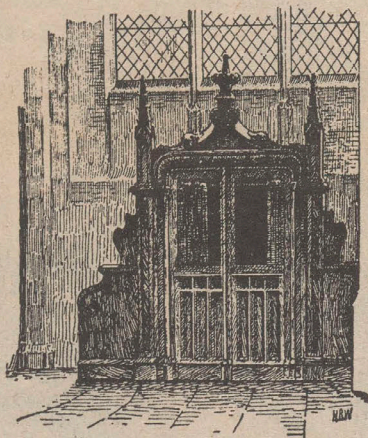
Hang in there, friends. As soon as we see our way clear we will be giving you a bigger, better, debt-free GCN.

guts versus balls

Dear GCN,

Charles A. Sevier's plea for funds on behalf of T/Sgt. Matlovich in the Nov. 1, 1975 issue is weakened by his use of sexist language to describe the tactics of the Naval Intelligence Service. He says, "NIS has the balls to interrogate a married man's wife . . ." He seems to equate possession of testicles with boldness, effrontery, and courage. The widespread use of this phrase does not excuse Sevier's using it. After all, male gays are held in low esteem largely because they are seen as "womanlike" and "not having real balls." Being in sympathy with Matlovich's cause, I hate to see those associated with his defense efforts exhibit such low consciousness. Many non-sexist expressions for courage exist. For example, John Kyper's letter in the same issue says, "... only Kathleen Sullivan has had the guts to oppose the racist majority . . ." If one finds "guts" insufficiently elegant, one can say "intestinal fortitude," etc., etc. Got it?

Sincerely,
Xenia S. Williams
for S.E.E.L.W.
(Society of Eagle-Eyed
Language Watchers)



Confessional. — Church of St. Étienne du Mont, Paris.

inside prison walls

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am writing you this letter because I feel there are some things that happen inside prison walls and I would like to be just one of the thousands to tell you. I am speaking about rape in prison, as well as being gay and in prison. The hassles and institutional pressures are great but we must all deal with them.

I read the GCN news whenever I can find a copy of it through one of my friends here. But I

have never read anything about rape in prison. I am a rape victim; I was 19 when it happened and in a prison. Some guy and his friends thought I was cute because I had blond hair and blue eyes and a nice butt. I was forced into a back room and raped by all five of them and then one of them stuck me with a knife, and said that would only be a sample of what would happen if I told on them. I have had to work on my own sexuality as well as my head, because I could not understand why that had to happen to me.

I want people to know that *rape in prison* happens every day, no matter what the prisons and administrations say. I know because I have had to live in this world for over six years now. In prison they sell Playboy, Penthouse, Male, Stag, Players, Jet and other sexual materials; please don't take me wrong — I think the female body as well as the male body is beautiful but what does one do for release that he builds up. He finds some good looking boy who is scared to hell and forces him into sexual acts. I am Gay and I am happy; what I am unhappy about is that young men in prison are raped and the prison officials do nothing about it but lock him up for protection. They blame Gay people for the rapes and in some cases believe we do it. I would only hope for the day that the prison officials would open their eyes as well as their minds and see we are just as beautiful as they are.

I will be leaving here soon some time next year and I will be coming to Boston. I hope that maybe I could one day meet the really neat and beautiful people who help put out this paper. It really helps people come closer to their lives as well as the lives of others around them. We really need you, GCN.

Sincerely yours,
Peace and Much Gay Love,
Daniel G. Savickus

sparse scandinavian decor

Dear GCN,

Many gay people, including myself, often find it difficult to take GCN seriously. We try. But its pertinence to our lifestyle is usually minimal; it could easily be mistaken as a somewhat silly supplement hastily put together by slightly liberal staffers at the *Boston Globe* and tossed our way as a token, the simplest way to say "We care" when actually there is as little care as there is intelligence and relevance.

The most recent — and boldest — example of GCN's ineptitude is Skip Rosenthal's "15 Lansdowne Opening Set." Given two columns and several inches on what is presumably part of your news section, the "article" is nothing more than copy for an advertisement. If Rosenthal thinks readers need to know there will be "a six-foot

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be 200 words or less. All letters submitted for publication must be signed; names will be withheld upon request. GCN retains the right to edit all letters.

crystal ball which Greg says is the largest one ever made," ultraviolet light, white balloons, go-go boys, and machines that produce bubbles, sprinkle confetti, and send a mist of fog amongst the dancers," the fog has already permeated his more than likely furnished-in-the-sparse-Scandinavian-way mind. The fact that he includes "go-go boys" as "special effects" is his own problem, but I am sure, and I hope, that you would not have allowed him to use the term "go-go girls" whether they were mentioned as special effects or as people.

Hopefully you will be swamped with requests/demands for equal space from every bar in town from Styx to Herbie's Ramrod Room, for even though they are no longer new, their decor is as newsworthy as that of 15 Lansdowne Street — no news at all, but it does sell ads, and the owners of 15 Lansdowne Street DID buy a whole page, with the skimpy consciousness of one of your staffers thrown in.

Sincerely,
Walter G. Borawski

so much chicken soup

Dear People:

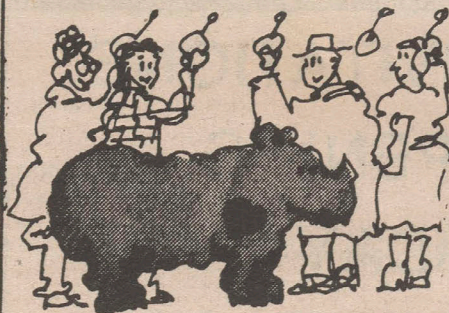
It's that time of year, isn't it? You're not feeling well. Maybe you could use some chicken soup, a glass tea, a healthy shot of the consciousness upon which this newspaper was founded.

What the hell is the matter with you??? In the past month or so, the quality of this formerly wonderful paper has slipped and I'm beginning to feel quite upset. News space has been excruciatingly small and your choice of articles to fill that space has been dubious. Yes, Edward II is nice — but two complete pages? What is this shit about the opening of a new bar? "15 Lansdowne Opening Set" sounds like a running plug for the place (paid off by the full page ad opposite?) and never once is it stated the bar is gay — go-go boys notwithstanding. And Skip, dahling, where the hell is your consciousness about those movies you're so avidly plugging? Just because there's a gay stereotype is no reason to push their existence. Get the stardust out of your eyes and realize that most of those movies cash in on aged stereotypes, the shit, and don't deserve the plug. You're a listing service for our oppressors and I don't care if Al Pacino is bronzed — "Dog Day Afternoon" will not help pass HR 5452. And OK, Elaine Noble has endorsed Birch Bayh — but I wish she'd stop defending his inaction on a Senate bill and I wish she and other pols would have the courage to stand up for their first choice, Fred Harris, and not co-opt for more palatable people. (Udall "too gentlemanly" — too kind? too male? too gentle? too little a power monger? Eh???)

And I wish GCN would become a bit more conscious of what's been happening and indulge in some self-criticism and less back patting because the bars are buying full page ads. The strength of the Boston movement has always been its capacity to challenge itself, learn from mistakes and grow. The center of that growth has been GCN. Come on, people, don't wreck a good, good thing. Think. Please?

Gay, Proud and Perturbed,
Loretta Lotman

Our thanks to the wonderful people at the *Wonderful Land of Oz* for the successful benefit afforded GCN. Special thanks to Red White, Glenn Elliott, and Ron Robin.
With much appreciation, The Staff of GCN



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Transvestites at the Fantasia Fair in Provincetown.

Photo courtesy of Dan Boynton, Provincetown Advocate

News Commentary

TV Watching in P'town

By Bill Damon

PROVINCETOWN — An ex-Luftwaffe pilot, an army colonel, a middle-aged bank executive with his wife; a young married couple, and a truck-driver got together last week in the presidential suite of Provincetown's Crown and Anchor Hotel for a dress auction. It wasn't a Bonwit's showing of the latest fashions for the wives, however, or their girlfriends. The men were there to add a few new frocks to their own wardrobe. The auction was part of the ten-day-long Fantasia Fair, a first national transvestite convention, held in Provincetown Oct. 25-Nov. 1.

The Fair brought some 50 T.V.s and some of their wives to Provincetown for "ten glorious days of dressing 'en femme'," and, according to convention coordinator Ariadne Kane, the Fair was a glorious success.

Featuring classes on dress, makeup, hair-styling, elocution, and a film festival, the Fair allowed many TVs the hitherto unknown luxury of the freedom of being themselves, or their spiritual "sister," in the unique environment of a small town without the ever-present fear of exposure/discovery they live with at home.

It also afforded Provincetown's gay population the opportunity of learning how the other half lives. To some, it became apparent that America's TV subculture today seems to be where a large part of its gay culture was five or ten years ago as far as self-acceptance or social acceptance. Today's TV lives with the fear of being found out

about and although the vast majority of the conferees hold a heterosexual sexual preference, their social acceptance problems are most similar to their gay counterparts.

Unlike the stylish drag queens Provincetown is used to, as one resident remarked, "It looked like a group of middle-aged housewives." Indeed, many of the TVs had not before had the opportunity to share in cross-dressing techniques, and the courses offered in good old American charm turned many of the dowdy, dotting ladies into pleasant fashion plates.

In total, the Fantasia Fair was a learning experience for all who wished to learn, be they in attendance or spectators. The basic lesson seemed to be that if the little lady next door happened to be, in reality, her husband, there wasn't really anything to fear — unless it was a personal fear on the part of the viewer as to how they'd feel in a dress.

CORRECTION

In GCN's article on Otherfund last week, it was incorrectly stated that the organization had "never" notified grantees that their projects would not be funded. In fact, Otherfund sent out letters to the grantees on October 3.

Women Talk Health

By Diane Bellavance

BOSTON — At least two workshops at last weekend's Women's Health Conference, held at the Women's Y in Boston, dealt directly with issues of concern to lesbians in areas of public health. More than 50 women attended the conference which featured a variety of workshops, including one on Alcoholism and one on Lesbian Health Issues.

At the Women and Alcoholism workshop, Michaelyn "Mikki" Burkett, an alcoholism counselor from Cape Cod, emphasized that in the State of Massachusetts there are no detoxification centers for women. Of the centers that exist, only one of every ten beds is allocated to women. In the entire state of Massachusetts, there are only two half-way houses for women and they are both in extremely poor areas. This tends to encourage feelings of inferiority in the patient, she said. She added that nurses at such places are often the biggest obstacles to a female's rehabilitation.

"Because of the way that society has conditioned us," Burkett said, "a persistent misconception about women has continued — that women with serious drinking problems are losers at either end of the social scale. Such a woman is seen as a bad person, a slut, a bad mother. On the other hand, a male alcoholic is pitied and his wife is considered to blame for his condition." Burkett emphasized that "this way of thinking must be changed in order to bring about proper rehabilitation for all our patients."

According to Burkett, women problem-drinkers develop alcoholism earlier than men and are more likely to drink alone. The bulk of female alcoholics are unattached middle-aged women of whom more than half are lesbians. "Society considers the unmarried middle-aged straight woman a failure and cause she doesn't have a husband and children and has a low job status," Burkett continued. "The lesbian also has these pressures plus the fact that the only place that she may be able to

meet other women is at the local bar," she added.

Burkett also noted that many people are hostile to female alcoholics because they are often on welfare. She quoted one of her nurses as having said, "God-Damned Welfare Patients."

Despite the many interesting observations which Burkett made about women and alcoholism, her "liberalism" and sincerity were somewhat suspect. For example, at one point she used the phrase "queer women" instead of "lesbians."

At the Lesbian Health Workshop, many points were raised about how the white-heterosexual-male-oriented medical profession treats single women. Women at the workshop described how women with menstrual cramps are told by doctors to wait, that pregnancy will clear it up, as indicating that lesbians and women who choose not to have children are left out in the cold by the medical profession. One-fifth of all cancer in women is breast cancer, for example. Conference participants asked why the male medical profession has spent so little time in researching the disease. Why does early pregnancy and breast-feeding lower a woman's chances of getting this disease? The medical profession apparently could care less.

One of the most important things that came out of the Lesbian Health Issues workshop was a strong feeling that lesbians must develop alternatives to both male-medicine and to women's clinics. Lesbians have many medical problems that straight women do not and vice-versa. (How many women know that gonorrhea is almost non-existent in the lesbian community, for example?) And at some of the women's clinics, the fact of lesbianism is often more upsetting than abortions. It's a problem and issues like these that have led a number of lesbians to work on specifically lesbian health problems. To many this may sound like separatism, but to these lesbians it is simply a matter of survival.

Gays Organize for Harris

CAMBRIDGE — A group of gay people met last Monday to organize in support of Senator Fred Harris' candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination. The group plans to mobilize gay people throughout the Boston area on Harris' behalf in the upcoming March 2 Massachusetts primary. At the same time, the group hopes to influence the Harris campaign itself, getting gay people elected as delegates and influencing policy.

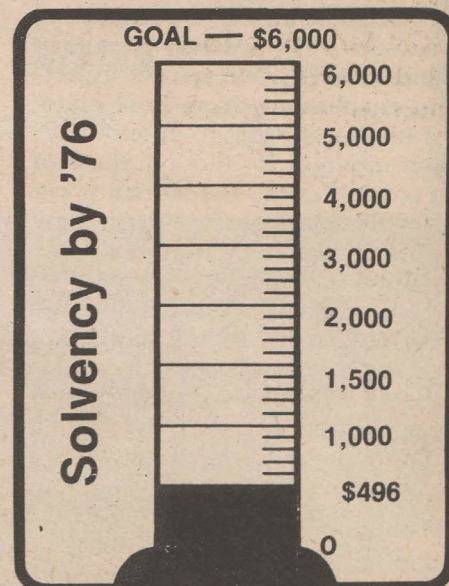
In a statement to the press, made public by Everett Jaros, spokesperson for "Gay People for Harris," the group states, "We support Harris because of his articulate and unequivocal stands on gay and feminist issues. His strong support for the Abzug bill, his positions on abortion, daycare, the ERA, women in cabinet posts, seems to us to be far more substantive than those of any of the other candidates."

"Equally important," the statement continues, "Harris is the only candidate who is putting his finger on the real problem of the country — the unequal concentration of wealth and power, the maldistribution of income — and offering specific solutions. It is this economic oppression that is destructive to all Americans — gay and straight."

The Harris supporters dispute Rep. Elaine Noble's contention that the

Oklahoma Senator is not "electable." "Because he has the ability to win the votes of white working class voters due to his strong populist positions, he is, in fact, the only liberal who is 'electable,'" the statement continues.

"Gay People for Harris" welcomes all gay women and men who would like information about Harris or would like to work for him. Anyone interested is urged to get in touch with "Gay People for Harris," Box 498, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass. 02108.



Excerpts from Saxe Defense Fund Statement

Excerpts from Grand Jury Defense Rally Speech, New Haven, September 27, 1975

I. The Work of the Philadelphia Defense Committee After Susan's Arrest

We are not a Grand Jury Defense Committee, but rather a group of people who organized to support Susan Saxe and to protect our community from harassment and intimidation by the F.B.I. But through this work which is closely related to many grand juries, we have learned some things about organizing around these issues that we would like to share with you.

One of our first jobs was to meet the objections of people both on the left and in the gay community to the effect that Susan's politics did not quite match theirs. Those of us on the committee had to figure out how and why we supported her as we did...

Clearly, there were a lot of heavy political discussions, decisions, feelings. Clearly, we were not unanimous within the community or even within the Defense Fund. But we could agree on one basic thing. It was a question of defending and maintaining the integrity of our community. And that was, in this and all other grand jury/FBI investigations, what the feds are after. They are outraged and bewildered at the fact that there are communities, or one amorphous chain of communities, in which almost all the rules (not to mention roles) they know are reversed.

During the time our community was invaded by the FBI, as we leafletted bars and talked at city-wide women's meetings, we kept emphasizing two things: (1) The repression was coming down on us not because Susan had made a bold announcement that she intended "to keep fighting as a feminist, a lesbian and an amazon," but rather because the government saw Susan and all of our community as a threat to their masculinist values. Susan's statement was merely a strong and proud affirmation of facts the

government had known for a long time and intended to try to use against her. (2) The "political" issue among us was not whether we were in unanimous agreement over the tactics Susan was accused of using, but rather, whether as between Susan and the government, we could choose not to recognize Susan as part of our community.

Ultimately, we did not have a grand jury in Philadelphia because we chose to recognize Susan and people like Jill Raymond, Terry Turgeon and Ellen Grusse as part of a community in which there was no room for cooperation with the FBI in its pursuit of "radicals" and fugitives." And because Susan insisted, in her negotiations with the government, that she would not plead guilty to any of the federal charges unless they would include a written guarantee of no grand jury in Philadelphia in the formal agreement. Susan explained:

...My feminism does not permit me to collaborate with the Man in order to reduce the amount of time I will have to spend in his prisons. The agreement I am entering into today is made on the condition that I will never testify against Kathy Power or give any information concerning anyone I have known or known about in the past five years. And the ten and two year sentences are based on the government's understanding that I will give them nothing, ever, not in ten years, not in a hundred years.

My feminism does not drive me into the arms of the state, but even further from it.

II. The Defense Fund's Support of All who refuse to Collaborate

In her "guilty plea" statement and elsewhere, Susan has emphasized that feminism is non-collaboration. That statement is essentially and profoundly true for us, but in making it we recognize that feminism is just one of the ideologies and lesbian and feminist communities are just some of many

communities whose survival and basic premises require non-collaboration. Any commitment to an oppressed group in this country, any loyalty to values or to a culture which dissents from the government mandated norms of obedience to the laws of property demands non-collaboration.

American Indians, the BLA, PSP, SLA, Attica Now, and members of other groups are all being subpoenaed today, not because of their particular oppression or ideology, but because we all have loyalties which are stronger than and in opposition to the one loyalty (my country right or wrong) we are supposed to have. If we all realize this, we look and feel a lot less like tiny isolated persecuted minorities, fanatics, crazies...and a lot more like a wide-based attack on the foundations of our common oppression....

For the moment at least, it is enough for us all to say to the government:

I will not collaborate. I will not work with you, assist you in any way, give you my name, or the time of day. Go away. Not because I want to shut my door, bar the windows and stare at my toes, but because we have work to do that can't be done with you staring over our shoulder.

And we must foster and develop the sense that when one of us is called before the Grand Jury, we are all under attack, and when one of us goes off to jail, there are three more who come to continue her work.

III. Message of Solidarity

Finally, we would like to share with you the text of a message of support and solidarity sent to our sisters and brothers jailed in Los Angeles in connection with the arrest of three members of the SLA. By reading it here, we would like to extend this message to all those represented here today:

"I met a man in jail once, and I asked him how he got there. He told me he had stolen a pair of shoes and I told him if he had stolen a railroad, he'd be a United States Senator."
— Mother (Mary Harris) Jones, 1830-1930.

We are with you.

A new phase has begun — the struggle deepens.

Our work continues.

In love and struggle,
Susan Saxe Defense Fund

NEW HAMPSHIRE NOTES

By Wayne April

PORTSMOUTH — The big news this week in New Hampshire was the New Hampshire Supreme Court's ruling that the University has no right to limit the social activities of the Gay Students Organization (GSO). Unfortunately, however, there was no one to officially celebrate the tardy ruling because GSO is currently defunct. The core group of students who "were" the GSO have all since graduated from the university and no undergraduates have dared to pick up the banner.

A couple of hangers-on from the GSO, including myself, are attempting to rejuvenate the Seacoast Area Gay Alliance (SAGA). We are not expecting to establish any more legal precedents but we do want to at least have regular meetings for those in the area who are interested. The current president of SAGA, Lila Couture, is busy plowing through mid-terms, but hopefully by the second or third week of November there will be a definite date set for the first fall get-together. Look here for the when and where.

Over in Northwood, Ginger and Miriam are planning their last meeting before winter sets in. These two women have been holding informal, non-structured get-togethers for lesbians for several years now. They are not an up-front gay lib group because of the very oppressive moral atmosphere that prevails up here, but they do have a

loyal circle of friends and they serve a very essential role. Here a gay woman can meet other gay women and be exposed to some modicum of gay pride without jeopardizing her job and family relations.

The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 22 at Jan and Judy's home near the junction of Route 3 and Route 28 in Suncook. Write if you need more specific directions and try to attend because it is the last such meeting until April. Because of trouble that they have had with the local post office they have to insist that people writing to them address the envelope to "Occupant" and not to "Gay Women" or "Women's Group" otherwise they may lose their postoffice box.

A former member of the Northwood group, Christa Herrick, is now a exhorter (student minister) of the Metropolitan Community Church of Boston. She is available for both religious and personal counseling and anyone wishing to contact her may write to Box 116, Danville, N.H. 03819, or the MCC, 131 Cambridge St., Boston, Mass. 02114.

Any New Hampshire natives who might have little tidbits of information that they would like to share here may write to me, Wayne April, 74 Congress St., Portsmouth, N.H. 03801. If you don't want your name used here just say so. I write with impeccable discretion.

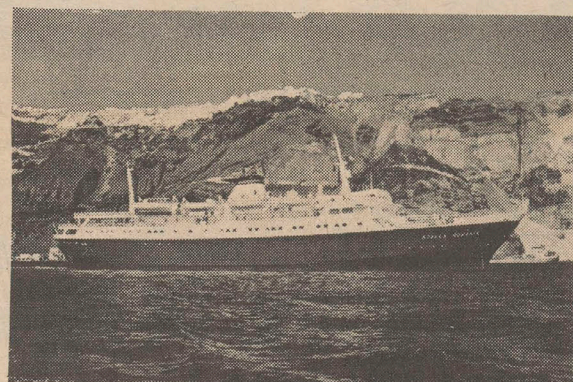
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Gay Nurses Lobby

WORCESTER — A panel of members of the Gay Nurses Alliance addressed an audience of 150 members of the Massachusetts Nurses Association at their state-wide convention held in Worcester on Wednesday, October 22. The seminar was presented to the MNA membership by its Human Rights Committee. This committee has considered the necessity for support of gay nurses throughout the Commonwealth in the areas of job discrimination and unjust registration policies based on sexual preference.

At present, there is no support for gay members of the MNA: no recourse is offered to a nurse fired on the basis of sexual preference or to a graduate of a nursing school who is denied registration on the basis of sexual preference.

The panel consisted of four gay nurses: David Waldron, co-founder of the national Gay Nurses Alliance, who spoke to the issues of sexuality in health care; Marilyn Richard, a practicing psychiatric nurse and member of the MNA Human Rights Committee, who discussed homophobic paranoia in the health care system; Laura Rood, a practicing psychiatric nurse and also a member of the MNA Committee, who spoke on Lesbianism in health care and the fallacies inherent in myths about gay people; and Paul Creeden, a student nurse, who discussed the male homosexual in health care and the need for including positive information about gays in nursing education and nursing seminars in the future.

This appearance was an important step in liberating the health care system in this state. Gay people are often the objects of inferior health care at the hands of homophobic doctors, nurses, and other health care workers. Lovers of gay patients are not allowed the

involvement in the care of these patients which is offered to straight spouses and family. Gay patients are often isolated in hospitals and considered a curiosity by staff members. Gay nurses are pushed into closet behavior because of the threat of losing their rights to practice their profession. So, since the members of the MNA present were largely administrative and education-oriented personnel, some changes may eventually be made.

The Gay Nurses Alliance is an organization of and for gay nurses and student nurses who are interested in giving and receiving support from other members of their profession. The organization would also like to hear of any cases of anti-gay discrimination experienced by gay patients or gay health workers. If you would like to know more about the GNA or have a case to relate, the address is GCN Box 251, 22 Bromfield Street, Boston, MA 02108.

Cashman Bar

(Continued from page 1)

neighborhood of the city. There appears to be some confusion, for the proposed change was widely rumored as a switch in the bar from straight to gay. While the rumors were not denied, they were questioned by the new management. Rep. Noble expressed reservations about "the caliber of gay bar that will open," and Mr. Cashman expressed surprise that a gay bar was proposed at all. There was no expressed opposition to a gay bar at that site.

In postponing their decision, the Licensing Board is restricted to a thirty-day limit, with a seven-day waiting period required before the next hearing. The Viceroy Productions, Inc., petition will be heard again, with hearing dates available through the Licensing Board, and individuals may express their opinion at the hearing or in writing to Mr. Charles L. Burne, Boston Licensing Board, City Hall, Boston 02201.

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Rubino Gives

Legal Hints

By J. D. Sitrer

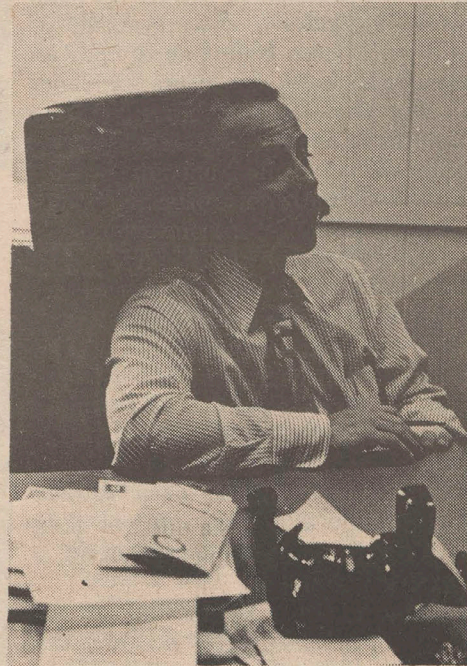
BOSTON — Attorney Richard Rubino spoke to an estimated 200 lawyers and law students, Gays and straights at Suffolk University Law School last week. His subject was "Defending the Unpopular Minority," a subject about which he has extensive first-hand knowledge as Boston's foremost lawyer for Gay defendants.

Rubino first contrasted the Rastellini and Balthazar cases to indicate the courts' changing attitude on the interpretation of the State's sodomy law. Several years ago Edward Rastellini, age 18, was convicted of having "unnatural" sexual relations with a 16-year-old male. He was sentenced to a long term at Bridgewater State Prison, where he was subsequently murdered. The Balthazar case involved heterosexual rape. The Commonwealth Supreme Judicial Court earlier this year decided Balthazar's original conviction should stand on the evidence of "use of force," not on the oral sex act involved. In effect, the Court determined that private consensual sex between adults is no longer grounds for prosecution, though the law remains on the books.

Rastellini's willing "victim" was a minor, and Rubino said homosexual or heterosexual relations with minors is still a serious offense. He has attempted to have cases of this kind tried at the district court level, where he feels his clients will receive more compassionate treatment than in superior court. The emphasis should be on psychiatric help rather than criminal punishment. Though he was speaking about Gay people throughout his speech and frequently used the terms "Gay women" and "Gay men," here he made the distinction between Gays and "child molesters," who are people with confused and unfocused sexual orientations, regardless of the sex of their "victims." It was important to emphasize this difference for the benefit of the straights in the audience, and Rubino was sensitive to this need.

Rubino also made this distinction when speaking about those arrested for soliciting or performing sex acts in public places. Many of these men are married and fathers who only feel comfortable satisfying their homosexual urges anonymously, and this is the only outlet they have. Rest area arrests are made by plainclothes state police, and those arrested are usually charged with soliciting to perform unnatural acts, a common law crime, and assault and battery, a statutory crime. The

local courts usually allow a defendant with no previous record to plead guilty to one charge while the other is dropped. The case is continued without a finding, and the defendant is assessed court costs. After a set period of continuance, the record is sealed and remains confidential.



Rubino spoke about the Matlovich challenge to the military, representing Lesbian mothers in child-custody cases and the special legal problems of transvestites and transsexuals. He said the Commonwealth's rape statute was recently changed by striking any reference to the sex of the victim, thus making male rape illegal under this law. In the area of discrimination, the Massachusetts Council on Discrimination will not take on sexual preference cases. Therefore these people must seek out and pay private attorneys.

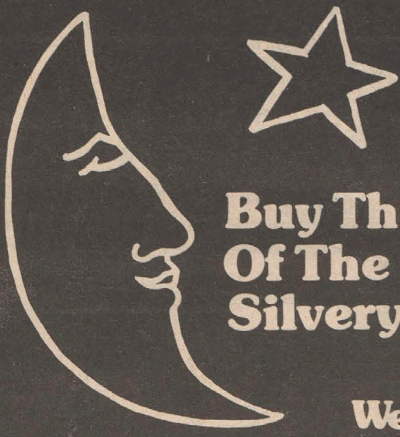
A court challenge to the use of FIO reports by the Boston police has not materialized, Rubino said, because of the reluctance of people to come forward as test cases. He closed with comments on legislation over the last four years to repeal the commonwealth's sodomy statute and to enact an antidiscrimination bill. He feels these efforts will be successful within three years.

When asked for his opinions on open Gays in the professions, he said Gays should not feel threatened, particularly after their credentials have been established and licensing secured. To illustrate, he cited the recent case of a New York lawyer whose "good moral character" was upheld by the state Bar despite his being Gay.

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The Silence Is Broken

LESBIAN IMAGES by Jane Rule
Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1975

By Regina Kahney

For those of us who thought that lesbian literature began with Colette and ended with Rita Mae Brown, Jane Rule's *Lesbian Images* is a revelation. But for those of us who prefer to read the books themselves, beware. In most cases Rule gives a short synopsis of each work from beginning to end, an aggravating habit that leaves the reader wishing she had known enough to place her hand over the last four or five sentences of each paragraph. These thumbnail sketches make it unnecessary to read the books themselves. In most cases one gets the impression that Rule thought she might have been doing us a favor, that most of the literature she explored was not worthy of a first-hand reading. She may be inferring that the content and style of each was not so important as the fact that they existed, that most were published at a time when lesbian literature was anathema and had to be clouded in subtlety or buried under a mountain of guilt.

This, however, appears to be the book's only flaw. In her introductory chapters Rule examines the scanty supply of documented material on lesbians, which she blames on the fact that women "have lived not outside the law so much as beneath it." She moves from an exploration of her own attitudes to a brief historical survey of homosexual practices in foreign countries, the stances of various religious groups through the years, and the psychological theories put forth by people such as Havelock Ellis, Sigmund Freud (who would, no doubt, chalk up the contemporary lesbian

attack on his theories as the proof of the penis-envy pudding) and, more recently, Charlotte Wolff. Rule's introduction is a valuable and concise study of the new awareness of, and changing attitudes toward, homosexuality, an evolution epitomized by the American Psychiatric Association's dropping it from their list of mental disorders.

Another major value of the book lies in the fact that it is a compendium of lesbian literature citing over thirty authors and nearly one hundred volumes of fiction and non-fiction. As a bibliography it is priceless, mentioning not only the well-known writers like Colette, Gertrud Stein and Willa Cather, but also a host of lesser-read lesbians such as Ivy Compton-Burnett, May Sarton, Maureen Duffy and Gale Wilhelm.

But the book is to be praised mainly because it analyzes the changing attitudes of lesbian writers toward themselves and their subject matter. Since the turn of the century lesbian authors have moved from the self-hatred of Radclyffe Hall to the quiet celebration of Isabel Miller and, as the last chapter indicates, the political outpourings of Kate Millett, Jill Johnston, Barbara Love and Sidney Abbott.

Each author is treated with compassion and an understanding of the time in which she was writing. Breathes there a lesbian who fails to flinch when she sees the cover blurb on *The Well of Loneliness* which touts it as "the classic story of Lesbian love"? Lesbians of today blanch at such blatant role identification as that put forth in Radclyffe Hall's book, but Rule reminds us to take into account the time (1928) and the fact that the author



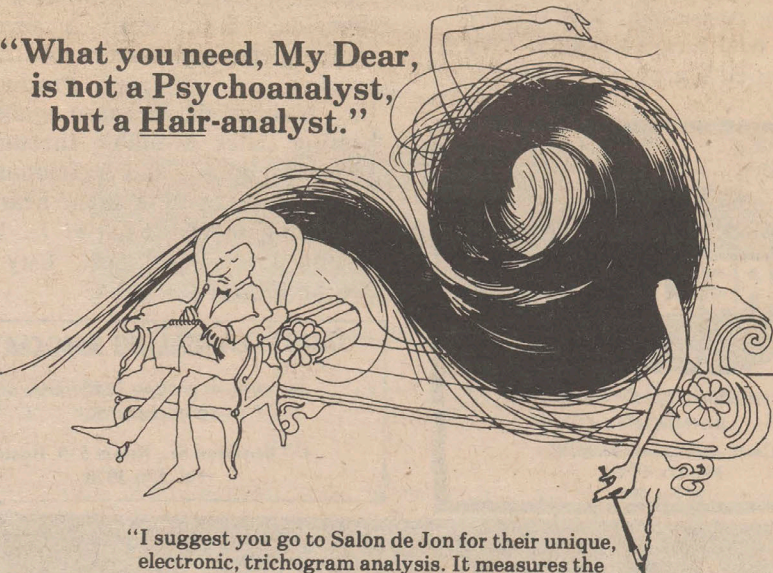
Colette

Portrait of Colette is on post cards available at Other Voices Bookstore, Boston.

did consider herself a freak. She characterizes Radclyffe Hall as a courageous woman who wanted only to write "a sympathetic and accurate book about inversion."

As Rule states, Gertrud Stein was famous for obscurity, although she herself flouted convention by living openly in France with Alice B. Toklas. Her work as a whole earns a gold star

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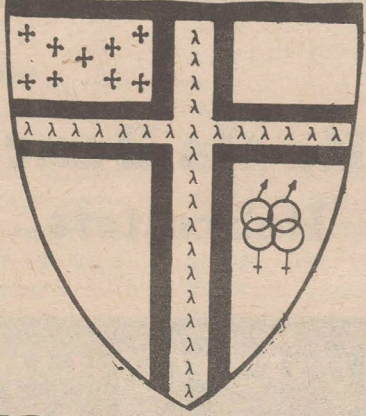
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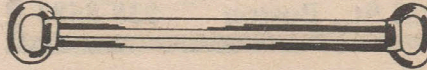
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in Rule's book because she never gave up "the temptation to be 'selfishly honest'." From Stein we move to Willa Cather, both of them sharing a bent toward masculinity and a desire to keep the details of their private lives out of the public eye. Vita Sackville-West was most blatant in her desire to be a man, but Rule in her chapter on this most colorful character does not fall into the trap of blaming this desire on a sexual problem, but rather on a rebellion against the oppressive restrictions placed on young women in Sackville-West's day. Rule supplies the reader with a detailed account of Sackville-West's relationship with her husband and Virginia Wolff and its effect on her novels.

Ivy Compton-Burnett represents the "asexual extreme of lesbian sensibility," the woman who reject hetero-

sexuality and yet is personally adverse to deep sexual or emotional relationships with other women, and this feeling of being "neuter" appears in many of her characters. Elizabeth Bowen shares Ivy Compton-Burnett's love of satire, but Bowen places her lesbian characters within the framework of heterosexual experience, preferring to treat lesbian relationships with much hesitation and reticence because of the hostile world in which they must survive.

At last we arrive at Colette, an extensive reading of whom can be, according to Rule, "like having an orgy of rancid maple sugar." Rule borrows heavily from Margaret Crosland's fine biography, *Colette: The Difficulty of Loving*, to relate the details of Colette's entertaining, often tragic, but never dull life story. But even Colette fails, because much of her



Portrait of Gertrude Stein is also available on postcards.

work is characterized by her cynicism and unbending opinion that women cannot survive without men, a viewpoint that would be challenged today.

Readers may recall a rather tasteless movie that appeared several years ago entitled "Therese and Isabelle," probably the first overtly erotic treatment of lesbianism for public consumption. The movie was based on Violette LeDuc's autobiographical novel of the same name and deals with two young school girls caught in the intense throes of sexual awakening. LeDuc's characters use and abuse each other at every opportunity.

Rule goes on to examine lesser-known lesbian writers and gives an informative account of Margaret Anderson's arrogance and self-confidence, Dorothy Baker's defensiveness, May Sarton's celebration of the gifted woman, Maureen Duffy's pathetic and lonely stories of the bar scene and a synopsis of the last forty years of lesbian fiction, all of which emphasize the evolution of this genre into a force to be reckoned with.

What strikes the reader most clearly is that the lesbian novel with a happy ending is a fairly recent phenomenon, perfected by Rita Mae Brown's *Rubyfruit Jungle* and Isabel Miller's *Patience and Sarah*. This is surely a reflection on the changing attitudes of lesbian writers and the diminishing reluctance of the world at large to deal with a forbidden subject.

But the real treat of this book comes at last in the final chapter, wherein Rule explores recent non-fiction and the political turn that lesbian writing has taken since the advent of the Women's Movement. Here lies one of the most honest and most informative accounts of the back-stabbing, personal torments and rampant infighting that have split the Women's Movement and the Lesbian Movement into a multitude of political camps that serve only to delay the liberation of all women. It is in this final chapter that Rule makes it clear how much influence the written word has on social attitudes.

My advice to potential readers of *Lesbian Images* is this: Read the foreword. It provides excellent background material and insight into the author's own attitudes. Skip to page 232 for a precise bibliography of lesbian literature and related non-fiction. Then go immediately to the last chapter. It is this that makes all the thumbnail sketches and thinly disguised book reports worthwhile.

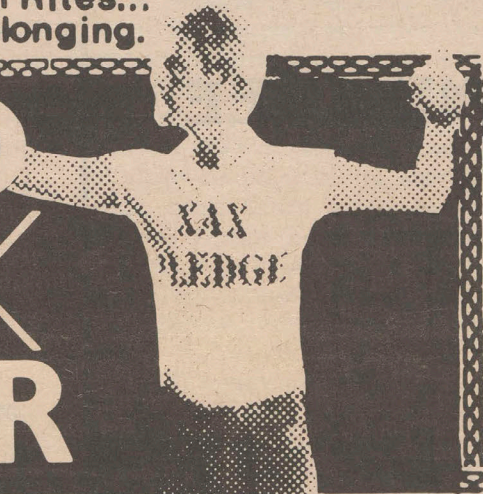
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Gay Person's Guide To Social Security

By Susan W. Henderson

Retirement Benefits

There comes a time in every Gay person's life when, hopefully, one lives long enough to collect Social Security. That being so, Yours Truly thinks it appropriate to share her recently-acquired knowledge of the subject in the hopes that her Gay brothers and sisters may benefit therefrom. What makes Gay people a special case when dealing with Social Security is the fact that, for all intents and purposes, same-sex marriages are not legally recognized. This means that, in the eyes of the Social Security Administration, a Gay couple is two individuals. This is bad news in some cases and good news in others.

The part where we lose is survivors' benefits. Your lover can't collect on your Social Security after you shuffle off this mortal coil. This is a consummate bummer if your lover didn't have enough of her/his own Social Security credits to collect, or if the survivor's benefit would have been more than the lover's own benefit. However, in most Gay couples, both the members work for pay. Hence, at age 65, they collect two individual's benefits.

On retirement benefits, which is what most people mean when they say "Social Security," we come out about even with heterosexuals, or sometimes even better off. This is because, in the vast majority of cases, both members of a Gay couple work for pay all their adult lives. When a heterosexually-married person is eligible for Social Security both in his/her own right and on his/her spouse's account, they give you whichever benefit is larger, but not both. A person's own benefit is generally bigger than a spouse's benefit, so a Gay couple, where both members worked, comes out better than a straight couple where one member stayed at home. NOTE: It used to be that a woman could collect on her husband's account, but a man could not collect on his wife's unless he was her dependent. A recent court decision has changed this. Now a man can collect on his wife's account if it will give him more money than his own, just as a woman can with her husband's account, without having to prove dependency. Feminism marches on.

Supplemental Security Income

In January, 1974, Social Security took over the state aid to the aged, blind, and disabled. This program is known as Supplemental Security In-

come, or SSI. This program provides a guaranteed minimum income to people certifiably blind or disabled, or over 65. It is a small income, but it keeps people from starving. This is the program where Gay people can actually make out better than non-Gays.

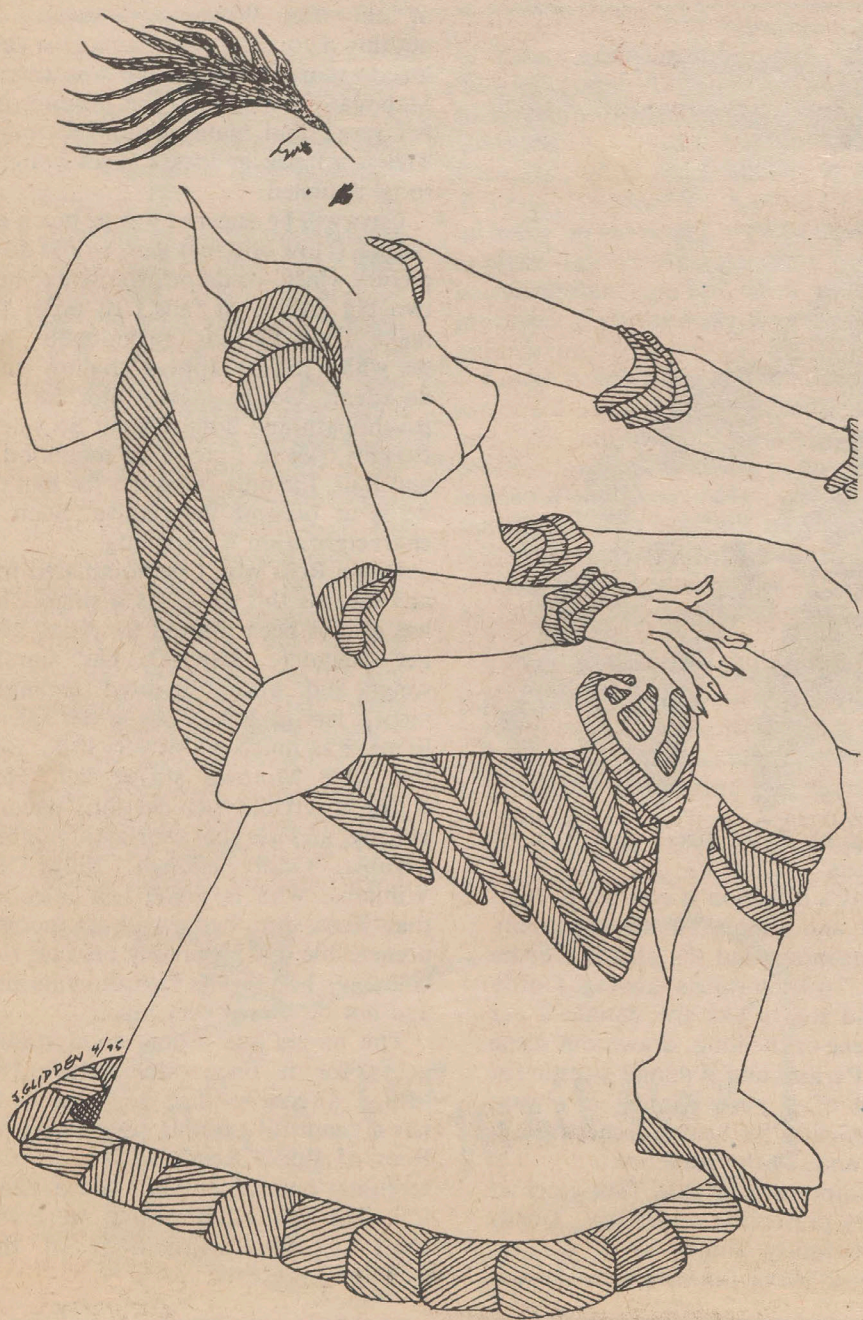
As we noted before, one relevant point here is that same-sex marriages are not recognized by law. Another is that both members of a Gay couple usually work and share household expenses. This works to the advantage of the Gay couple in two ways.

First, if one member of the Gay couple is eligible for SSI, and each member pays half the expenses, the SSI benefit will be 1/3 larger than if the recipient were dependent on the other for support. This is because SSI is a needs-based program. A person paying one's own way of course needs more money than a person who is being supported by somebody else. This is not to say that Gay couples don't share their resources with each other — of course they do! However, they usually split expenses for the basic necessities of life, and this is what counts for SSI. The same is true of two non-Gay people of the same sex who live together and share expenses. However, in the case of a heterosexual couple where one member is on SSI, a part of the income of the other member is considered to be available to the eligible one, and the benefit may be reduced accordingly. Also, if a woman and a man live together and act as though they were married, they are considered married by Social Security and lose their two-individuals status. This can't happen to a Gay couple.

If both members of a couple are eligible for SSI, the Gays make out like bandits. A heterosexual couple on SSI get a couple's rate, which is bigger than an individual rate but smaller than two individuals' rates. The Gay couple will have two individuals' rates.

So we see that, when it comes to Social Security, we win some and lose some by not being able to get legally married. Yours Truly is not sure whether it would be to our advantage to legalize Gay marriage or not. The thing to remember is that Social Security regulations follow the mores of society. If we want to legalize same-sex marriages, we must use the legislatures and the courts. On the other hand, it will be interesting to see what Social Security does with its regulations about marriage as more and more people, Gay and non-Gay alike, turn away from that institution in favor of more flexible associations.

Reprinted from MGTF Newsletter.



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Diana Ross as Mahogany Turns Off Blacks and Gays

A Review by Tom Myles

Diana Ross is Mahogany. Ross plays the part of an elegant, black model nicknamed Mahogany by the man who discovered her working in a Chicago store as a secretary. As Ross is in almost every scene, onscreen just about all the time while the song she sings is played over and over, one can fairly say that the movie is a vehicle for her glorification. Her discoverer, record producer, boss, movie producer, agent and director, Berry Gordy, always has it that way for Motown's leading lady. Ross, as Mahogany, turns her back on her man and her people in poor Chicago, leaving them for fashionable Rome and success in a white world, almost the same way that Ross herself, born and brought up in a Detroit ghetto, has gone on to Hollywood to be a superstar.

Mahogany is a bitch. The plot of the film — aside from her ascendancy into the realms of the jet set — concerns the relationships she has with two men, each of whom she meets right around the same time. Each introduction is as improbable as you could imagine.

Picture This. Walking home from Stop and Shop one afternoon, she passes Brian (played by Billy Dee Williams), a young black idealist running for city office. When he puts down the bullhorn he was speaking through to a crowd of voters, Ross fills the horn with milk, a stunt worthy of Lucille Ball. The gag works — Williams is covered with milk when he picks up the horn. But he thinks the whites did it. A fight ensues, he is arrested and jailed. Feeling guilty, Ross bails him out. And because of this he loves her, the movie would have us believe.

Then along comes Tony Perkins, a



white photographer who decides Ross would be a good model. He offers to take her to Rome, and she goes, deserting Williams with no previous warning on an important night in his campaign when he needs her. Somehow the heretofore penniless Williams gets up the bread and goes to Rome, too, where Ross, caught in a world of affluence and decadence, spurns him.

Needless to say, the plot is one big hoax, completely emotionally shallow. The film was directed by Motown's Berry Gordy, president and 95% owner of the Motown Corporation. He also owns the film company, so he

hired himself to direct the film he produced.

Gordy's direction is confused, amateurish, and sloppy. The film lacks any clear meaning, and the plot is preposterous. To keep things moving, Gordy uses old stunts like the daredevil car ride scene or the long, drawn-out scene where Perkins and Williams wrestle for control of a gun. Kissing is always accompanied by heavy orchestration, which amused the audience.

Incomprehensibly, the film glorifies Ross by presenting selfishness. Gordy was obviously aiming at a kind of Scarlett O'Hara, but the picture fails to

bring this off. The message of the director is spoken through the mouth of Billy Dee Williams — success is nothing if you don't have someone you love to share it with — but who cares. Mahogany's success is the product of her greed and manipulation of men. This is a black goddess? Blacks ought to be appalled.

Gays will be angered just as much as blacks. (How odd that Ross would do a picture which would be offensive to her two big groups of fans.) In order to make Tony Perkins' fashionable, jet set white society appear shallow and decadent, Gordy makes him into a psychopath and homosexual. So when Perkins tries to "prove his manhood" and fails, the only thing left for him to do is to become destructive. Such a characterization is appalling.

Diana Ross won't be nominated for any awards this time. As a singer she has always been praised for rising above her mediocre material, her simple songs and unsophisticated arrangements. Her greatness lies in her talent to make so much out of very little. But this time Motown stifled her. Her acting is terrible, her passions unconvincing, and her characterization unbelievable. Oddly enough, Billy Dee Williams, who is much less talented than Ross, does better with an incomprehensible part, probably because the character he plays is two dimensional and not on screen very much.

The movie has a few good things going for it once you exclude the acting, directing, plot, and theme. It has a beautiful opening song, sung by Ross, of course. Ross also designed the costumes herself, and she did a good job. The film's best scenes were the shots of Rome with none of the principals presents.

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DAKE COOPER

By JANET COOPER

This address was given at the Bicentennial Conference: Gays and the Federal Government, on October 11, 1975 at the panel, "Gay Input Into Education: What is the Federal Role?" in Washington, D.C.

The discipline of education raises the issue of what is to be taught and what is to be learned, and who are the educators and who are the students. Less than one per cent of the people at this conference are not gay and generally only lesbians and gays attend our conferences, or read our literature. Other people are less influenced by our movements and as a result, sometimes, it is as if our movements exist for ourselves and not for anyone else.

Perhaps that is not quite true. I am a member of Governor Shapp's Gay Rights Task Force as well as the Pennsylvania Commission on the Status of Women. After Governor Shapp issued an executive order against discrimination because of affectional and sexual preference, some departments and agencies took the initiative to look at discrimination in their own areas. One of these is the Department

of Education. Tony Silvestre and I were appointed as open gay consultants to an internal departmental committee. Certainly that Department had already been exposed to the problems of gays at least twice when Joe Acanfora's case of being an open gay student teacher applying for certification came before it several years ago, and when my own problems of discrimination were widely publicized.

Lower echelon people like Joe and me could come forth year after year and, like lemmings, virtually commit professional suicide. Until people with influence and power take constructive action, our lives may only have limited influence primarily within our closed community: reported in our gay newspapers and discussed at our gay conferences.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education Committee on Gay Rights is an internal departmental committee. Besides two gay consultants, there are two people representing the Secretary of Education's office (departmental administration), two people representing basic education (elementary through

high school), and likewise, two from higher education (fourteen state colleges, private colleges, universities, professional and vocational schools, and the state university system). Some of the members of the Committee who are now in their forties have talked of the shame they feel when they recall having beaten up and rolled faggots when they were younger. Another member of the Committee has come out. Because of the interaction and sensitizing going on within this group, each member is committed to rectifying the ways in which gays are adversely affected by curriculum and instructional materials, extracurricular activities, employment, housing, admissions, and selections, student health care and counseling services. In the area of curriculum, for example, there is no mention of gays, gay history, gay contributions to our culture, nor gay culture. In the area of employment, being gay may still lead to dismissal for "moral turpitude," or more commonly, school boards and boards of trustees might easily contrive standards or shift qualifications and apply them to individuals in order to get people they think might be gay out of their system. In the area of health, gays find difficulty in getting information and treatment for physical ailments and psychological problems at campus health centers. Even though we have been "cured" on the front page of the *New York Times*, gays still have limited access to competent and understanding health personnel.

It is one thing, however, to cite these areas of discrimination, exclusion, and mistreatment, and it is quite another to offer constructive recommendations to the Secretary of Education for implementing positive departmental programs. The recommendations that we will submit to the Secretary of Education, which may eventually be issued as

directives to end discrimination against gays, do not assure that positive images of gays will be presented in textbooks and instructional materials. Nor do they promise that there will be open gay counselors, that there will be affirmative action in hiring gays and that we gay students and teachers will no longer have to hide and to deny who we are.

If one of the functions of education is to ask important questions, then one of the most important questions we can ask here and in the Pennsylvania Department of Education Committee on Gay Rights is how in fact will people outside of our circles be affected by our recommendations and will they be sensitized to end discrimination against gays. If education really means to expand perceptions and to extend people's experience, and therefore to eliminate prejudice, then perhaps the only way such discrimination will end will be through a national education program. We cannot expect the departmental policy of one, or even a few states, to end the widespread discrimination against us.

Health, Education, and Welfare should consider sponsoring programs in every state for teachers and educational administrators in order for them to encounter the gay experience. I once attended a National Defense Education Act program to help librarians consider making accessible film as we have always been accustomed to using books. We were paid seventy-five dollars a week and provided with room and board to introduce us to a new experience. Surely sensitizing people to the gay experience is at least as important as introducing librarians to film. Our taxes support Health, Education, and Welfare. It is time for this influential department to support our health, education, and welfare by funding such a program for us.

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Organizations

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FAG RAG DEADLINE
Monday, Nov. 24 is the deadline for the next issue of Fag Rag. Please submit a copy of your work to: Fag Rag, Box 331, Kenmore Sta., Boston, MA 02215.

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THE GAY GUY'S GUIDE



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11 tues

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Boston's newest bar opens tonight, 15 Lansdowne St. Discotheque will have a special Grand Opening Celebration. For information call (617) 262-2424.

14 fri

Boston, Women's Music Weekend, dance, music by 'Stella by Starlight.' BU Union Ballroom, 775 Comm. Ave., 9-12. Donation \$2.

15 sat

Boston, Women's Music Weekend, workshops and performances from 10 to 7. \$1 donation. Concert at 8 pm, variety of performers, \$2.50 donation. All events at BU College of Basic Studies, 871 Comm. Ave. For info call 661-9841 or 354-3544.

16 sun

Boston, "Dance Your Ass Off Sunday" at Mirage, this place has class, so come dressed accordingly. 590 Comm. Ave., Kenmore Square, Boston.

Boston, Women's Music Weekend, workshops and performances at BU College of Basic Studies, 871 Comm. Ave. \$1 donation.

Randolph Country Club is sponsoring a GCN benefit, music by Ellie Boswell at the piano and lesbian folksinger Donna Price. There will also be disco dancing. \$2 donation. Mazzeo Drive, Randolph, Mass.

17 mon

Boston, HCHS Corporation meeting, 8 pm, 80 Boylston St., Rm. 855.

Cambridge, Harvard-Radcliffe GSA meeting. Topic is "Gays in Political Process." Barney Frank, state rep from Boston, will speak. 8 to 10 pm at Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard.

Salem State College will have a continuous series of gay related films, 12-9 pm in Day Lounge of Student Union.

Providence, Tribute to William Hellmann, Monday night film series. "The Children's Hour," 1962, Audrey Hepburn and Shirley MacLaine. Showings at 7 and 9:15 pm at Downstairs Playhouse. Call 401-521-1100 for info.

18 tues

Boston, DOB monthly social evening. Slide show on "Backpacking in the Grand Canyon" and "People and Places" at 7:30 pm; refreshments follow. At DOB offices, 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323.

23 sun

Boston, DOB Turkey Dinner, 6 pm, St. James Church, 33 Bowdoin St., \$2 in advance, \$2.50 at door. Tickets at DOB or Other Voices Bookstore. All women welcome.

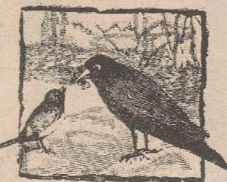


Submit Calendar items to
Calendar Editor, GCN, by
noon on Wednesday prior to
date of publication.

BOSTON AREA [area code 617]
Access (Cambridge Hotline) 661-3900
Adolescent male rap session, 4-6 pm 227-8587
B'nai Haskalah (Gay Jewish group) 265-6409
Black Gay Men's Caucus, GCN, Box 9600 734-0618
Boston Gay Men's Rap Group 426-9371
Boston Lavender Theatre: Women's group 492-5220
Men's group 440-5220
Cambridge North/Brattle Gays (write c/o Gay Legislation) 661-9362
Cambridge Women's Center 354-8807
Charles Street Meetinghouse 523-0368
Cambridgeport Gays, c/o GCN Box 6500 227-9469
Civil Liberties Union of Mass. 492-6450
Closet Space (WCAS), 740m AM 262-1592
Daughters of Bilitis
Dignity of Boston, c/o 1105 Boylston St., Boston 727-2584
Elaine Noble (Rep.) 727-2584
Fag Rag 536-9826
Fenway Community Health Center 267-7573
Fengay, c/o Tom Nylund 267-1066
Focus, Women's Counseling, 186 1/2 Hampshire St., Cambridge 876-4488
Fort Hill Faggots for Freedom 440-8551 or 442-6029
Framingham Unicorn Society, P.O. Box 163, Framingham, MA 01701 426-9371
Gay Hotline (3-12 pm, Mon.-Fri.) 426-9371
Gay Recreational Activities Committee (GRAC), c/o GCN, Box 8000
Gay Academic Union of New England, P.O. Box 212, Boston 02101 266-2069
Gay Alert (for gay community emergency only) 523-0368, 267-0764
Gay Media Action, c/o GCN Box 5000, 22 Bromfield St., Boston 02108 523-1081
Gay Community News 426-4469
Gay Nurses Alliance, c/o GCN Box 251, Boston 02108 287-1900x2396
Gay People of UMass/Boston 547-1451
Gay Speakers Bureau 353-2790
Gay Way Radio (WBUR, &? & FM) 491-2787, 661-9362
Gay Legislation '75, P.O. Box 8841, JFK Sta., Boston 02144 227-8587
Gay Youth Advocates, 70 Charles St. 864-8181
Gender Identity Service 482-8998
Golden Gays 536-9826
Good Gay Poets 495-1927
Harvard-Radcliffe Gays 542-5188
Homophile Community Health Svc. Integrity/Boston, P.O. Box 2582, 02208 354-8807
Lesbian Therapy Research Project

Lesbian Liberation, c/o Women's Center 354-8807
Lesbian Mothers 354-8807
Massachusetts Feminist Federal Credit Union, 186 1/2 Hampshire St., Cambridge 661-0450
Metropolitan Community Church 523-7664
MIT Student Homophile League 253-5440
National Lawyers Guild, 595 Mass. Av. 661-8898
National Organization for Women 267-6160
Northeastern Gay Students Org., c/o Student Federation, Rm. 152, Ell Ctr. 426-0412
Other Fund, Inc. (Gay United Fund), P.O. Box 1997, Boston 02105 267-9150
Other Voices Bookstore, 30 Bromfield St., Boston 843-5731
Project Place 227-8587
Fr. Paul Shanley
Project Lambda
Transvestites/Transgenderists: Frances Craig, P.O. Box 291, MIT Branch, Cambridge 02139 776-0921
Transvestites/Transgenderists: Ariadne Kane, Box 161, Cambridge 02140
Tufts Gay Community, c/o Student Activities Office, Medford, MA 02155 547-0302
Waltham-Watertown Gays, c/o GCN Box 7100
Women's Community Health Center, Cambridge

Quick Gay Guide



EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS [area code 617]
Alcoholics Together/Worcester 756-0730
Dignity/Merrimack Valley, P.O. Box 348, Lowell, 01853
Gay Activists Alliance, c/o Postmaster, General Delivery, Provincetown 487-3393, 487-3234, 487-3344
Haverhill, N.E.C.C. Gay Line, M 8-10 am, T 6-8 pm, W 12-2 pm 327-0929
Homophile Union of Massachusetts, P.O. Box 262, Fitchburg 01420

MCC/Worcester 756-0730
Provincetown 24-Hour Drop-In Center 487-0387
Provincetown Homophile Assistance League, Box 674, Provincetown 02657 999-1070
New Bedford Women's Clinic

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS [area code 413]
Amherst Gay Hotline (men & women) 545-0154
Clark Gay Alliance, Box A-70, Clark Univ., Worcester 01610
Dignity/Springfield, P.O. Box 488 Forest Park Sta., Springfield 01107 545-0883
Everywomen's Center, Amherst 545-2876
Gaybreak Radio (WMUA-FM, 91.9) 545-3438
Gay Women's Caucus, Amherst
Hotline, Westfield, Mass. (M&Tues. 9 pm-11 pm) 568-9759
MCC/Springfield, 64 South Boulevard St., West Springfield 737-7473
People's Gay Alliance, UMass/Amherst 545-0154
Sexual Identity Awareness Org., Westfield State College, Parenzo Box 197, Westfield 01085 545-0626
Southwest Women's Center 583-3904
Springfield Gay Alliance 586-2011
Valley Women's Center, Northampton

RHODE ISLAND [area code 401]
Alcoholics Together, 290 Westminster St., Rm. 510, Providence 274-4737
Dignity/Providence, Box 2231, Pawtucket 02861 831-5184
Gay Women of Providence
Homophile Community Health Service, Providence 274-4737
MCC Coffee House, Providence 274-1693
MCC/Providence, 63 Chapin Ave. 274-1693

VERMONT [area code 802]
Counseling for Gay Women & Men, c/o Vermont Women's Health Center, 158 Bank St., Burlington 05401 863-1386
Gay in Vermont, Box 3216, N. Burlington Sta., Burlington 05401 862-2397
Vermont Gay Women 862-7770, 863-3237
Women's Switchboard 862-5504

CONNECTICUT [area code 203]
East Conn. Gay Alliance, Norwich 889-7530
George W. Henry Foundation, Hartford 522-2646
Gay Alliance at Yale, 2031 Yale St., New Haven 06520 436-8945
Hartford Gay Counseling 522-5575, 523-9837
MCC/Hartford 522-5575, 523-9837

Institute of Social Ethics/National Gay Archives, 1 Gold St., Suite 22B, Hartford 06103 547-1281
Kalos/Gay Liberation, Hartford 568-2656
The Church of the Eternal Flame Universal 527-5612
Wesleyan Gay Alliance, c/o Wesleyan Women's Center, Wesleyan Sta., Middletown 06457

NEW HAMPSHIRE [area code 603]
Seacoast Area Gay Alliance, Box 1424, Portsmouth 03801
Women's Group, PO Box 137, Northwood 03261 (Do not use "gay" on any mail to this group)
MAINE [area code 207]
Brunswick Gay Women's Group, 136 Maine St., Brunswick 04011
Gay Rights Organization (GRO), P.O. Box 4542, Portland 04114
Maine Freewomen's Herald, Box 488, Brunswick 04011
Maine Gay Indians, c/o Deanna Francis, Passamaquoddy Library, Pleasant Point 04667
Maine Gay Task Force/MGTF Newsletter, Box 4542, Portland 04144

NEW YORK CITY [area code 212]
Capital Dist. Gay Comm. Council, P.O. Box 131, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12210 (518) 462-6138
Dignity, P.O. Box 1554, N.Y., N.Y. 10022
Gay Activists Alliance, P.O. Box 2, Village Sta. 10014 966-7870
Gay Media Coalition, Box 128 Ansonia Sta. 10023
Gay Men's Health Project, 247 W. 11th St. 691-6969
Gay Switchboard 924-4036
Gay & Women's Alliance for Responsible Media, 370 Lexington Ave., Suite 416, N.Y.C., N.Y.
Lambda Legal Defense and Educ. Fund Inc. 145 E. 52nd St., NY NY 10022 758-1905
Lesbian Feminists Liberation, c/o Women's Center, 243 W. 20th St. 691-5460
Lesbian Switchboard 741-2610
Mattachine Society, 59 Christopher St., NY, NY 10014 691-1066
MCC/New York 691-7428, 369-8513
National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Ave., Rm. 506 741-1010
Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop, 15 Christopher St. 255-8097