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the gay weekly for the northeast

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November 22, 1975



National Gay Task Force members join in demonstration in support of the New York State Equal Rights Amendment in New York City. The referendum suffered an overwhelming defeat at the polls.

L.A. Deputy Mayor Entrapped

LOS ANGELES — Reports are circulating in Los Angeles that Deputy Mayor Maury Weiner's entrapment and arrest on October 17 for "lewd conduct" may have been a frame-up. The Deputy mayor was apprehended at Pepino's Adult Theatre in Hollywood by an undercover vice squad officer.

According to the West Coast gay bi-weekly "NewsWest," rumors continue to fly that the 45 year old bachelor either fell prey to a set-up or that he was framed. "The latter theory," the newspaper reports, "rests partly on the supposition that Chief Ed Davis wanted to embarrass (Mayor) Bradley for supporting an amendment to the new police hiring guidelines permitting the employment of gay cops. Weiner was busted only eight hours after the amendment was okayed by the Police Commission."

Sources told NewsWest that the

police report "alleges that Weiner twice groped Officer Jackson near the back row of the theatre and that Officer Long 'observed' the second groping."

Weiner has denied all the allegations and told the press that "I am totally innocent of the accusations made against me, and I am deeply distressed by them." Weiner has taken a temporary leave of absence from his job until his guilt or innocence is established. His trial is scheduled to begin December 8 in L.A. Municipal Court.

In light of the Weiner entrapment, a liaison meeting between the Mayor's office and the Gay Community was cancelled by Mayor Bradley's aides. The Mayor is presently on a trip to the Soviet Union. "It's obvious that the mayor's office is ashamed to be associated with us," one gay leader was heard to complain.

Matlovich Decision Delayed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Federal Judge Gerhard Gesell has granted the U.S. Air Force a 60 day extension in the Matlovich case. The U.S. District Court Judge had set November 3 as the date to rule on Matlovich's lawyers' request for a permanent injunction to prevent the Air Force from discharging the gay former Air Force Sergeant. However, at an informal meeting in his chambers on October 30, the Judge changed his mind and granted the Air Force's request for the delay. The Judge is expected to reconsider the case

on or around January 3.

While Gesell had earlier refused to issue a temporary restraining order barring Matlovich's dismissal, he had demanded that the Military "show cause" why he should not issue a permanent injunction that would prevent the Air Force from dismissing gay people. He had enumerated a "massive listing" of elements for the Air Force to present him with on November 3rd. These documents included positions on the constitutionality of the law, statis-

(Continued on page 3)

Murder Suspect Hangs in Jail

BOSTON — A 22-year-old man believed to be one of a large gang of South Boston men that have been assaulting gay men in Boston for three years, hanged himself last Tuesday afternoon in a jail cell at the Charles Street Jail. Robert M. Shaughnessy, who was awaiting trial for the murder of 20-year-old John Asinari of Arlington, an MIT student who was hitchhiking to Cambridge from Boston on March 22, was found hanging by a bedsheet from the door of his cell in the jail's maximum security section.

Asinari was hitchhiking with a friend, 20-year-old Robert Moses, that night when Shaughnessy and three other young men allegedly picked them up in a car. Asinari died after being stabbed more than fifty times and beaten with a crowbar, according to police reports. Moses feigned death, allowing the gang to escape, but later identified Shaughnessy from police mug shots while in a hospital bed.

Shaughnessy was the only one of the South Boston gang, believed to number about ten or twelve, that Boston police have succeeded in locating and arresting. Another suspect in the March hitchhikers' murder, John Blodgett also from South Boston, is still being sought by police on an arrest warrant, but has not been found. There has been insufficient evidence to obtain arrest warrants for the other

two men, according to homicide detectives, but two men are being "actively considered."

The South Boston men are implicated in the 1973 "Arboretum murder" and are also suspected by police to be involved in a number of brutal, though non-fatal, assaults of gay men



Robert M. Shaughnessy

in the Back Bay-Beacon Hill area over the last three years.

Sgt. John Daley of the Boston Police Department's Homicide Bureau said he was "very disappointed" with Shaughnessy's suicide. He said that the case will continue, however, against Blodgett, if and when he is located. Blodgett has not been sighted in Boston for more than seven months, Daley said.

Oregon Man Beats Immigration Laws

PORTLAND, Ore. — A gay New Zealander has completed a successful four-year challenge to the archaic and anti-homosexual immigration and naturalization laws of the United States. The man, 29 year old Paul Brodie, won his fight recently when U.S. District Court Judge James Burns ruled in Portland that Brodie's gayness should not stand in the way of his being naturalized as an American citizen.

The decision was only the second legal precedent involving little-known immigration laws that state that no "sexual deviant" can be allowed in the U.S. Naturalization laws, on the other hand, say that no one with a "psychotic personality" can be naturalized and that applicants must be of "good moral character." These phrases have traditionally been used against openly gay people who have wanted to become naturalized.

In his decision, Judge Burns ruled that definition of "good moral character" must meet the test of "ethical

standards current at the time." Burns ruled that the gay man's morals were consonant with today's moral standards and cited the 1971 Oregon repeal of the sodomy laws, a Portland gay rights ordinance, and the gay liberation movement to prove his point.

Officials of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) had indicated during the legal maneuvering that no gay person could have "good moral character" and that homosexuality was indicative of a "psychopathic personality."

However, the INS dropped their plans to appeal to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Ron Schiffman, lawyer for Brodie, told *The Advocate* that the Immigration and Naturalization Service did not appeal because they feared that an even broader pro-gay decision might be decided in a higher court. The present decision only applies to Oregon although it may be cited as precedent in other cases throughout the country.



news notes

LOST "INNOCENCE"

NEW YORK — The gay offensive against NBC-TV and its controversial portrait of women in prison, "Born Innocent," continues. In New York City, several groups are demanding air time under the FCC's Fairness Doctrine to respond to the TV film. Groups filing complaints with the FCC include the National Gay Task Force, Lesbian Feminist Liberation, GAA, GARM, the National Black Feminist Organization, the Rape Committee of the New York NOW, and others.

As a result of pressure by gay media watchers, it has now been revealed that eight NBC affiliates across the country dropped the replay of "Born Innocent." The affiliates included NBC stations in Detroit, Kansas City, and Minneapolis.

In a press release, New York's Lesbian Feminist Liberation charged that some results of "Born Innocent's" airing were that "Lesbians have been asked by children in the streets if they are rapists, students in schools have been terrorized by fear and unsubstantiated rumor of lesbian rape. Lesbians on speaking engagements are queried about it, and Lesbians trying to come out to their families find this slander accepted by their families who have seen 'Born Innocent' as fact."



\$5000 FOR "MATT"

WASHINGTON — A fund-raising reception for former T/Sgt. Leonard Matlovich netted \$5000 for the sergeant's defense fund for his battle with the military. The reception itself, which was held at a Washington disco on Oct. 23, netted \$3500. In addition, the Scorpions Motorcycle Club contributed \$1000 and mail contributions added up to \$750. Matlovich is currently involved with working on his court case and a nationwide speaking tour.



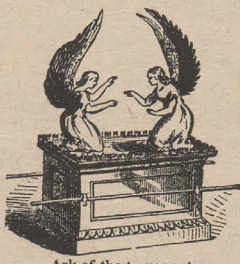
Breton Sabot, with straw inserted for warmth and to serve as a cushion.

WINDY CITY WAFFLE

CHICAGO — An amendment that would ban discrimination against city workers for a variety of reasons, including sexual preference, was defeated in Chicago's City Council. This attempt to end bias against gays in public employment won the support of some black aldermen but failed to make a dent in the Council. The amendment was presented to a bill that would have outlawed the Civil Service System and replaced it with a merit system. The bill passed without the amendment.

'INTERESTING' GCN

BOSTON — In a recent college calendar supplement, *The Boston Globe* gave special praise to GCN as one of the "most interesting" local publications. In their Sept. 14 issue *The Globe* noted that among local publications, "Ploughshares, a literary quarterly, the *Gay Community News*, and *Harvard Magazine* (if you can bear the imperious tone) are the most interesting."



Ark of the Covenant.

CANDIDATE SPEAKS

BOSTON — The following correspondence between Rep. Elaine Noble and Billy Joe Clegg, Independent candidate for President, is reprinted for the interest of our readers:

Mr. Billy Joe Clegg
Box 344
Springfield, Missouri
Dear Mr. Clegg:

I have read with interest the flyer you sent me concerning your candidacy for President. I am now aware of your stand on many of the major issues facing our country — but am puzzled that you left out an issue important to twenty million Americans. I would like to know what your stand is on gay rights.

For an equal America—

Elaine Noble
State Representative

Ms. Noble:

It is not how I stand on gay rights, it is how God stands on the issue. If you would take out the time to study the WORD of God you will find that Homosexuality was so prevalent in SODOM AND GOMMORAH just before GOD destroyed the city that the male citizens were trying to rape the Male Angels that were warning Lot to leave the city.

My answer is very simply: I am against what God is Against. I am for what God is for.

I cannot force Christianity upon anyone just as God does not force himself on anyone, however, I can as President Set the Example. For example: My inaugural address would be the Lord's Prayer. Study the words and you will find everything the world needs is mentioned in the Lord's prayer.

Billy Joe Clegg
Presidential

Candidate

P.S. I will not tell you what you want to hear just to get your vote, & I do not want your support.

SODOMY TEST

RICHMOND, Va. — An attempt to challenge the state of Virginia's sodomy laws was defeated in a Federal Court here by 2-1. The American Civil Liberties Union, which is sponsoring the case, John Doe vs. Virginia, plans to appeal the decision to the United States Supreme Court.

CHILEAN SOLIDARITY

SAN FRANCISCO — An enthusiastic crowd of nearly 350 lesbians and gay men filled San Francisco's Neighborhood Arts Theatre Sept. 19 for a political and cultural event sponsored by Gay Solidarity with the Chilean Resistance. Large numbers of gay people in the Bay Area took part in demonstrations and other events in solidarity with the Chilean people and their struggle, throughout the month of September.

The history of gay solidarity with the resistance in Chile goes back to the September 1973 coup. The Homosexual Liberation Front of Argentina, motivated by the bloody rape and execution of gay men in Chile by the military, issued a call to Chilean gays to join the resistance, and to gay people around the world to build support for Chilean gays and the Chilean resistance.

The program for the Gay Solidarity events was a blend of gay people's culture and the culture of Latin American struggle against imperialism. It included revolutionary songs of Latin America, and lesbian music. Pat Parker and other women and men read poems about their own experiences and their responses to events like the Chilean coup. Also on the program were two speakers (a lesbian and a gay man) and the film *Campamento*, made in Chile before the coup.

TELEPHONE SUIT

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco gay rights activists are plotting a suit against the Pacific Telephone Company to prevent the company from discrimination against gay people in hiring. The suit will also be filed against the Fair Employment Practices Commission of California. According to the suit, the Commission refuses to assist gays who come to the Commission with complaints about discrimination.



Vishnu.

NEW YORK CENTER

NEW YORK CITY — Efforts to establish a Gay Liberation Community Center in New York have suffered a temporary setback. Efforts to raise \$9000 in order to rent a space by Nov. 1 have failed, with only \$7000 in the group's coffers. However, efforts will continue to turn the idea of a Center into a reality.

There will be an open meeting at the West Side Discussion Club (400 W. 14th St. at 9th Ave.) to discuss the further progress of the project.



MAINE LINE

By Susan W. Henderson

PORTLAND — It's a bit difficult to write Maine Gay news these days. Plenty of things are happening, but few of them are finite enough to condense into news items. The Gay group at the University of Maine at Portland-Gorham is getting off to a fine start. They were given office space, which probably includes the use of a mimeograph, and WATS-line privileges last week, and we understand that their budget will soon be passed. This means that planning for Symposium III, which will probably be held in Portland in Spring 1976, can get under way. The group now has a name — Gay People's Alliance.

The Wilde-Stein Club held its first dance since December 1973 last week. The event was advertised on WBLM, the progressive rock station in Lewiston. Amazing when you remember what controversial copy we were in early '74. . . .

The rap group at Maine Gay Task Force has started up again, Friday nights at 8:00 at the MGTF office, 193 Middle St., Portland. Meetings of the MGTF Newsletter committee are held every first and third Friday at 7:30 at the same locale. Call first (773-5530), as sometimes a different meeting date is scheduled. Anyone interested in working on the hottest little radical rag north of the Piscataqua is welcome. If

the door is locked, call the above number to get in. We're sometimes a little late, so please be patient.

Many thanks to Beth and Lee for the use of their typewriter and mimeograph for the Newsletter.

Steve Bull, A Wilde-Stein alumnus presently at People's College of Law in California, reports that PCL has funding for Third World Gays interested in studying law. Anyone interested should write to PCL, 2228 W. 7th St., Los Angeles, CA. 90057, or contact MGTF (Box 4542DS, Portland 04112). Peoples College of Law is a radical institution, interested in training lawyers to serve the needs of oppressed peoples. It is sponsored by the National Lawyer's Guild.

John Frank of Wilde-Stein will conduct a workshop on rural Gays at the Gay Academic Union conference in New York on the Thanksgiving Weekend. Several parents of Maine Gays will also be involved in the conference.

Any Gay person with Maine Gay news is invited to contact the author via MGTF. No personals, please.

There is now a Women's Center and a woman artists' group at 193 Middle St. on the third floor. NOW and the *Maine Freewoman's Herald* both have their headquarters there. The Women's Center provides counselling for all women. Lesbians are welcome.

Transsexuals Sue Miami Cops

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Several members of the Transsexual Action Organization (TAO), an international transsexual rights movement headquartered here, have asked the Florida American Civil Liberties Union to file a class action lawsuit against the City of Miami Beach, seeking one million dollars in punitive damages for each transsexual involved. The transsexuals say that they and dozens of other transsexuals have been forced to have sex relations with Miami Beach police officers numerous times, often under threat of arrest or beatings.

TAO founder Anita Douglas, 32, a veteran of the Air Force, said she was coerced into having sex relations with an MBPD officer in mid-October at her apartment and that TAO had received about 50 reports of such incidents since 1973.

Kimberly Elliott, 22, a post-operative transsexual who is legally married to a man, said she has been forced to have sex relations with five MBPD officers since she underwent sex change surgery in 1974. Ms. Elliott said she was threatened with arrest under various charges if she did not comply with the policemen's demands. Elliott has been active in TAO since 1973.

Douglas said that a minimum of two

and up to 20 transsexuals will be involved in the lawsuit if the ACLU takes the case. Most transsexuals fear police retaliation and are afraid to enter it at present, Douglas said.

However, another transsexual, whose identity is being kept confidential at present, told TAO that she would be willing to enter the lawsuit, also. She reported that two MBPD officers forced her to have sex with them under threat of arrest several months ago.

Another TAO member reported she was threatened with death by MBPD officers if she complained about police sexual abuse and is too fearful to testify.

In 1974, TAO member Brenda Gottlieb told TAO, she was brutally beaten by two MBPD officers when she refused to have sex relations with them, and was jailed for 60 days.

All of the transsexuals taking part in the legal action must agree to be willing to take lie detector tests, Douglas said, and willing to use their legal names, risk adverse publicity and possibly police retaliation.

"We are fortunate that many TAO members are willing to risk these things and confront such abuse," Douglas said, elated that Elliott and other transsexuals have decided to take action.



Photo by Jane Picard

Ellen Grusse and Terri Turgeon, prisoners in Niantic Women's Prison for refusal to cooperate with the Grand Jury.

Moves To Free Ellen and Terri On

NEW HAVEN — Pressure is building up in Connecticut in a new attempt to free Ellen Grusse and Terri Turgeon from prison. The two women, jailed for refusing to cooperate with a Grand Jury investigating the whereabouts of political fugitives Susan Saxe and Kathy Power, have been incarcerated in Niantic Women's Prison since last winter.

Six women and three men participated in a protest against the presiding justice in the case, John O. Newman, in U.S. District Court in New Haven. The protesters, all wearing T-shirts with pictures of two women behind prison bars and inscribed with the words "Framed Again — Stop Grand Juries," entered Newman's courtroom on Friday, Nov. 7, shortly after 10:00 a.m. The group sat down in the courtroom for five minutes while court was in session and then left together.

The action caused a stir in the courtroom.

According to Roberta Ann, spokesperson for the group, the purpose of the walk-in was "to draw attention to the judge and the prosecutor who are responsible for Ellen and Terri's remaining behind bars." The group plans other actions and urges supporters of the imprisoned women to write letters of protest to the judge.

Meanwhile on the legal front, the lawyer for Ellen and Terri has filed a motion with Judge Newman in U.S. District Court asking the judge to revoke their commitment to custody. In the motion, filed Sept. 20, Michael Avery, lawyer for the women, claimed that their remaining in prison is at this point "just punitive" in view of Ellen and Terri's irrevocable decision not to cooperate. Judge Newman's decision is still being awaited.

College Gays Confer

By Joe Beckman

BOSTON — The Gay University Conference, held at Northeastern University last weekend, resulted in a call for a Gay Students Coalition in the Boston area, a telephone and mail contact, and a meeting set for December 7. The conference was hosted by the Northeastern Gay Students' Organization and the Gay Academic Union of New England. Attended by 45 men and women, representing student groups from more than ten colleges and universities from the Northeast and Canada, the program included workshops and general discussions on planning and program development.

In keynoting the conference, Ken Withers, President of the Northeastern group, asked participants to suggest specific ways by which different college groups could cooperate. Noting that

the conference was "not so much for a reason as for a purpose," Withers called on the representatives to define that purpose.

Workshops carried that discussion into various activities and functions served by college gay groups. A workshop on the media dealt with the preparation of press releases and other forms of publicity available to college groups, while other workshops concerned organizing tactics, working conditions, student activities, and gay studies programs emerging at local institutions.

Two workshops typified the whole conference. The first was a forum to highlight what alliances were possible between gays, women, and Third World minorities on each campus. Several representatives noted that women's problems are divided between feminist and gay groups, while third world problems are usually ignored by campus gay associations. The second workshop discussed ways for different gay groups to cooperate among colleges. In comparing the results of different workshops, at a joint session with the Gay Academic Union, all groups identified two needs: to schedule events cooperatively and to identify campus resources available for off-campus projects. Projects ranging from a coffeehouse to legal and counseling services to high school or elderly gays were suggested.

These needs appeared to be strong enough to require further meetings, coordination, and sharing. The M.I.T. Student Homophile League offered to host the next meeting, and provide a telephone and mail box to the emerging coalition. That meeting was scheduled for Sunday, December 7, at 7:30 in M.I.T.'s meeting space, Room 306, 142 Memorial Drive, Cambridge. All college groups are invited to attend or individuals may call the coalition's line at 253-5440.

Matlovich

(Continued from page 1)

tics, case histories, and others. The Air Force had originally protested Gesell's request by claiming that it did not have sufficient time to make the information available.

By granting the delay, Gesell apparently changed his mind on the validity of the Air Force's need for more time. Franklin Kameny, Washington gay activist, told GCN that it was his "educated guess" that legal maneuverings by the Air Force could delay a ruling by Gesell until "late winter or early spring." "The Government always works right up to the last minute," said Kameny. "The extensions could go on and on," he indicated.

Matlovich, meanwhile, continues on a grueling travelling and speaking tour in the United States and Canada.

Lesbians Fight to Wed

By Wayne Trudelle

CHICAGO — "The Jeff and Nancy Thing," as it was soon labeled by the Chicago Gay Community, began when two gay women, Toby E. Schneider, 20, and Nancy S. Davis, 22, were arrested in Cook County (Chicago) for staging a sit-in at the county building to protest the refusal of officials to issue them a marriage license.

The first of the arrests occurred on Monday, Oct. 20, for illegal trespassing after refusing to leave the license bureau. The pair was released on personal recognizance Monday night and were ordered to appear in court at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday. Instead, they showed up at the marriage license bureau and were rearrested two hours later.

A bond of \$1000 was established at a second hearing and arrangements were made to transfer the couple to a Cook County corrections complex with a trial date set for Nov. 7. During their incarceration the two women began a hunger strike causing Ms. Schneider to become ill. Court officials responded by setting a new trial date of Oct. 27.

There was controversy concerning the motives of these two gay women within the gay community for several reasons. Ms. Schneider was already married to a man (a marriage of convenience). This created a polygamous

situation and therefore not a valid test case of Illinois marriage laws. This fact was brought out by the Chicago Gay Coalition, a strictly ad hoc committee who were anti-Toby and Nancy.

The issue changed from that of procuring a marriage license to a demand for an affidavit from the license bureau stating that if this polygamous situation did not exist that the State of Illinois would issue a marriage license. Officials refused to comply with this demand.

Further suspicion was cast on the couple because Jeff Graubart, a friend and roommate of Nancy and Toby, who had allegedly engineered the series of events as a "publicity stunt" for a book Ms. Davis had written.

The Chicago Gay Task Force accused Ms. Davis and Ms. Schneider of counter productive activities in the cause for gay rights legislation for which this organization has been working for the past two years.

The result of this episode is that both women were released with the sentence being "time served while awaiting trial." They did not win their "civil right to marriage." Ms. Davis and Ms. Schneider have returned to the workaday world. Jeff Graubart left Chicago the day after the trial, and is now living in California.



Gay Community News (G.C.N.) is dedicated to providing coverage of events and news of interest to the northeastern gay community, as well as stimulation of event-oriented opinion within the community.

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EDITORIAL

In their efforts to raise money for the establishment of a Gay Men's Center, Boston gay men have focused on a very significant void in the lives of gay people in this area. While GCN strongly supports their efforts to start a Gay Men's Center and urges people to contribute their time and money, we feel that this idea points the way to an even larger endeavor. We believe that it's time that gay women and men in the Boston area give some serious thought to the establishment of a Gay Community Center in Boston.

We believe that a Gay Community Center, as has been established in different cities like Los Angeles and is presently planned in New York, could play a decisive role in filling the social and organizational needs of the community in a way that the present state of affairs does not do. A Community Center could be first of all, a social center. It could serve the needs of people first coming out, of older gays, of people wishing an alternative to the bars, of teenagers. It could house a

woman's coffeehouse, could provide movies, dances, rap groups, lectures, and other kinds of social events.

We see the Center as housing the offices of community organizations like GCN, Fag Rag, DOB, HCHS, and the like. If all these organizations would channel their present rent money into one building, the community center could be almost immediately self-supporting and would not require a large fund-raising campaign to get the Center underway. Such cooperative office space could greatly facilitate unity and communication between groups and individuals and strengthen all of us in our struggles.

The possibilities of such a Center are endless. We believe that a Gay Community Center is not a pipedream, that given the will and the effort, this idea can become a reality within a short time and with minimum expense. We strongly urge all gay people who are interested in sharing ideas about the establishment of such a Center to come to GCN's Open Community Meeting next Tuesday, November 25, at 7:30.

The shooting death of an East Boston police sergeant last week was quickly solved, in less than twelve hours, when a veritable army of police detectives and investigators — numbering, according to the *Boston Globe*, over 350 — descended upon "Eastie" to identify and find the culprit. To their credit, he was found and arrested, following one of the most exhaustive and dramatic murder investigations in Boston's history.

On October 4th, GCN editorialized in favor of additional training for police officers involved in the investigation of gay-related murders. There have been six such murders since the first of this year alone, and not a single conviction has been obtained in any of them, despite the fact that some of these cases possess considerably more evidence and clues than the case involving the late Sgt. Halloran. Obviously, one element lacking in the gay murders is witnesses.

Conspicuously more lacking, however, is the energetic diligence of the

Boston Police so vividly displayed last week when one of their fellow officers fell to a sniper's bullet. If ever an example of discrimination in city services existed, it can clearly be shown in the differences in which the Boston Police arrive at the resolution of murder cases. If you plan to get killed, you would unquestionably be better off as a police officer.

Boston City Councillor Larry DiCara is to be highly commended for calling for a report on this matter from Commissioner Robert J. DiGrazia. Only with the support of high-placed public officials — and this includes Mayor Kevin White, who was re-elected by the heavily gay areas of the city by a 2 to 1 margin two weeks ago — can the plight of gay citizens be brought to the attention of the proper authorities.

We anxiously await Mr. DiGrazia's report to Councillor DiCara regarding our October 4th editorial. The problem has not changed; it may, in fact, be worse.

but-for-the-grace-of

Dear GCN,

In my article, "Otherfund Tells All" (GCN, Nov. 8), I outlined several areas in which Otherfund board members had felt mistakes had been made; alienating middle-class gays; too rigid an organizational structure; too limited a campaign period (not open-ended); a reliance on benefits; and too early an announcement of grants.

Subsequently, in conversation with a board

member, another problem became apparent: One reason the United Fund is so successful is because it supports only service-oriented agencies. (Pick a favorite disease or handicap.) And its campaign is designed to appeal to the three-but-for-the-grace-of-whatever-go-I in all of us. By analogy, Otherfund might have similarly limited itself to supporting service providers for gays. By defining its interests more broadly to include support of grantees and projects aimed at discovering and enriching a gay consciousness and heritage, Otherfund may have made a hard job even harder; i.e., it is more difficult in general to conceive of a newspaper as a charity than a mental health clinic. (Sorry, GCN people.)

J. D. Sitrler

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.

leftist leanings

Dear GCN:

In your Oct. 25 edition I saw a presentation by John Kyper of what has been a tacit assumption: the identification of "gay" with "radical" and "left." Mr. Brudnoy has admonished you and me against such synthesis. I resent such identification with the "left" and I am certain that I am not alone. I find the prospect of this paper (damned fine one it is) turning into another "conter-culture" rag with a subordinate gay theme depressing. (Note the increase in leftist, non-gay-related news stories.)

My concerns go beyond this; what I have found is an all-too-willing receptivity on the part of the paper to print leftist proclamations. Out of this emerges something that is manifestly dangerous; the using of gays by radical organizations for their own smelly rhetoric and questionable political aspirations.

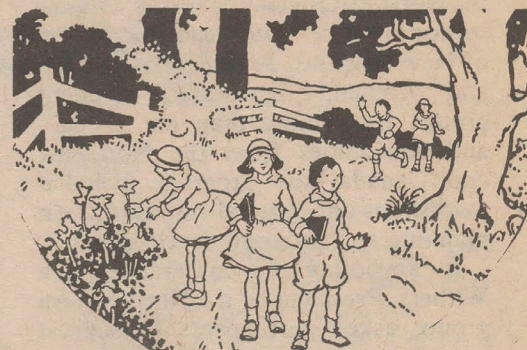
Gays can be used by "radical" idiots in any social-reformist clatch that makes noise. When I read Laurie Morton's (Radical Women in Seattle) statement, "... homosexuality challenges the most basic social institution in this system of private property and profit: the unit upon which capitalism is built — the heterosexual, monogamous family," I did not feel that this was garbage — I felt the gay community was being used. Add to this the imperious cry of the non-gay Socialist Caucus in their resolution that calls upon "all gay people to recognize and make the multi-faceted nature of the gay struggle their responsibility"; and you have a mandate that gives the naive the notion that "radicalization" is the first step to liberation. When political "activists" wish to shout "fuck-you" to any undefined "oppressor"; I'll be damned if I'm going to sit idly by while I and others with minority sexual orientation are being incorporated in that blathering.

Apprehensively,

George O'Connor, Jr.

John Kyper replies:

Mr. O'Connor errs when he states that the Socialist Caucus of the National Gay Conference was non-gay. I did not give the socialists disproportionate coverage in my article, and nowhere did I equate "gay" with "radical." As one who considers himself a gay radical, I resent Mr. O'Connor's insinuation that I have no place in the gay movement.



average and everyday

Dear GCN:

Three cheers for Brian Przevalski: His feature was the best thing I've read in GCN in a long time.

I find myself in disagreement with a point in Brian's feature — I think he is anything but average and everyday.

Keep on truckin' Brian: We're on your side!!

Love, Rupert

P.S. I love the Shangri-la's too.

gay liberator

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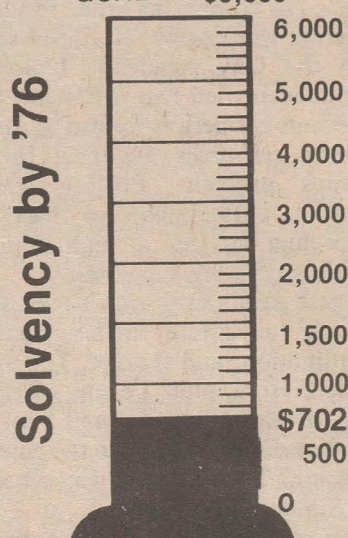
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que pasa?

GCN:

Llega desde Cali, un saludo fraternal para mis compañeros Americanos y la ocasión de dormir a conocer a ustedes. Mi hombre, Luigi Enrico Moreno Arcce, tengo 17 años, 5-10 pies de estatura y peso 63 kilos, tes friguena clara y ojos cafes y cabello.

Bueno, la verdad es que deseo comunicacion con gay masculinos para estable cer aristas sincera estudio el tercer semestre de Biología en la Universidad Santiago de Cali.

QSi es posible, ruego a uds. el favor de darme la direccion de personas con las que pueda tener una comunicacion y tambien de diarios que se publiquen en otros paises. con el proposito de defender la comunidad gay.

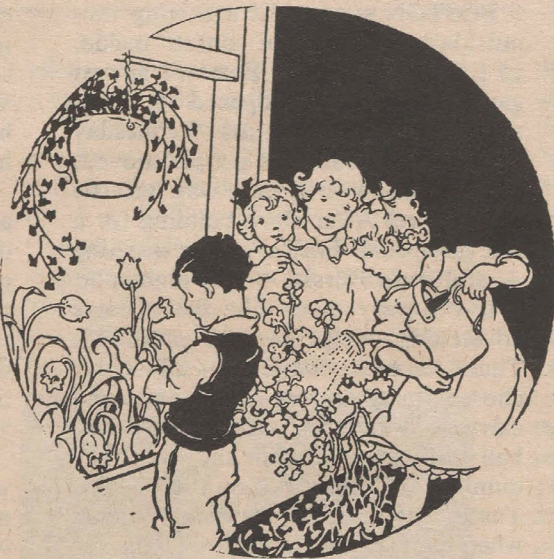
e un poco de Ingles asi que me pueden escribir en Ingles-Espanol o Italiano. Mi direccion es la siguiente

Apartado Tereo, 9735 de Cali, Colombia Sud/America.

Sin mas por el momento me despido de ustedes y espero oir pronto de vds. Hasta entonces un abrazo fraternal y sincero de

Luiggo

me what I want to read or I might just have to read you out of the Movement. So *Watch It!*
Yours in Gay Love,
I remain, Proud, Foolish, and Opinionated,
Vee I. Person



vitriolic letters

Dear GCN,

What's got into you? I mean, *shit!* You keep printing all those vitriolic letters that think different than I do. Where's your sense of responsibility?

Maybe it's been the weather, but I'm more and more *put out*. In your last issue, I counted 25 important things where you disagreed with me. One of them even involved a question of fact. Then there was that "review" of some *opera* on your *features* page where you refer to a scene with "ballet dancers." I'm for treating people as *people*. "Ballet dancers," indeed! Then your very confused reviewer went on to find one of them "sexy." I didn't. If that's where your head's at. And anyhow, what the *shit* does a review of an *opera* have to do with passing legislation? Shape up!

You're becoming entirely irresponsible to the Gay Community. I know I don't go to the *opera*. Or the bars.

Another thing: Gerald Ford's last speech wasn't deserving of mention in GCN. Of course, you *didn't* mention it. I just thought I'd throw that in.

So get some upfront consciousness, an irritable temper, and stop selling those ads! The strength of the Boston Movement has always been in its capacity to go broke and even more important, to agree with everything I say. If other people don't think like I do, tough. Give

four day tuna casserole

Dear GCN:

In response to Skip's article on the accoutrements of 15 Lansdowne St.

Is Mr. Rosenthal for real? His piece is sheer PR; it is like unto an ad, not an attempt at objectivity.

I need a job, "not ultra-violet light, white balloons, go-go boys (to use human beings as go-go boys is demeaning), and machines that produce bubbles, sprinkle confetti, and send a mist of fog among the dancers."

Jesus X, when I work, a large portion of my income goes to support a venial pentagon. When I don't work, I eat less, pay no taxes, and don't qualify for welfare, or unemployment; all this country seems to be saying is "shut up and take your aspirin." I'm arthritic.

It is with deep regret that I will not be able to enjoy "omelettes or crepes with a roll and salad for \$1.75." For that kind of money I can make two tuna noodle casseroles and feed myself for four days.

If you need filler: print more letters, not a piece of fluff. Mr. Rosenthal wrote a biting and substantive article about this year's New England Gay Conference. He should end up hustling "Adidas sneakers," "art deco styled chairs" and "a \$50,000 sound system"? For shame, for shame.

Ronnie Allen

seldomly trusted

Dear People,

It grieves me to see Elaine Noble join the "Bayh Bandwagon" as reported in the Nov. 1 issue. When are the gay people going to realize that liberal straight politicians should seldom be trusted? Is anyone really that foolhardy to actually believe Bayh? (or Harris or Udall?) Bella in '76!

Sincerely,
Paul M. Camic
Treasurer Clark Gay Alliance

gay youth truth

Dear GCN,

Brian's statement in GCN was a true revelation of gay youth truth. No longer do gays feel we must fit into the "straight world" and marry the opposite sex. I see many gays who married and always seek what nature meant them to have, that being the same sex. They seem happy but are upset, their life is a lie to themselves. Need I mention the tragedy of it all.

Brian is the "now" gay, who knows what he wants and will get it. God love him.

However, let me tell Brian that he did not mention the sick gay. Yes, he will soon meet that person. These are the people who are gay but reject every person who would bring reform to the world. They will not stand with their people. Yes, they love being gay, but are more SNOBS to true liberation that might reveal that gays have no closet on earth. I hope that many Brians find these "sick" gays and get them liberated. God love the "now" new gays who are the real thing!!

Love,

Stuart Kingsley

interest

Dear Friends:

I read with interest today the latest copy of GCN and the fine reporting done by J. D. Sitler on Otherfund. Sitler has presented a complex situation in a way which can only help to educate gay women and men of the need for our communities to take seriously our needs for helping each other.

The staff of GCN well deserves the good energy thanks of the gay community for its coverage of potentially destructive situations — the hassling of Project Lambda and Otherfund's initial efforts to develop funding for as many services as possible. Such reporting can only help but draw the interest of concerned gay people.

Much love and continuing energy in the fine work GCN is doing.

Ed Cox
for GCSC/DC Collective
Washington, D.C.

common to be straight

Dear GCN,

This is in response to Sarah V. Montgomery's comment in GCN (Nov. 1, 1975) about being uncomfortable with the word "straight." I agree with her and suspect that a number of gay brothers and sisters are becoming dissatisfied with a word that by definition implies one is crooked or distorted. The adoption of a new word would be an advancement in consciousness and a step in the direction of liberation.

Recently, a brother wrote to Detroit's *Gay Liberator* suggesting the word straight be replaced by the term "common." This embraces the idea that gay people are special and one who is not gay is "common" (one of the earliest homosexual groups in the movement's history adopted the name "Community of the Special"). Hets then as a group would be common, and an individual het would be a "commoner."

What think ye is this the term that can free us of the oppression contained in the word "straight."

If not, I suggest that GCN sponsor a contest of some sort to find a new term to replace "straight." Current vocabulary may be widespread but the greatest flood begins with a single drop of rain, and there is a need to take the first step away from the oppressiveness of the word "straight."

Peace and joy,
Walter J. Phillips
West New York N.J.

As suggested in Mr. Phillips' letter, GCN is sponsoring a contest to find a new term to replace "straight." First (and only) prize will be a one year subscription to GCN. All entries must be in the GCN office no later than Dec. 1. You may use the form below or anything that's handy.

Name _____

Address _____

My word to replace "straight" is _____

games people play

Dear Brother Brian,

Thanks for the beautiful article in GCN. Your courage amidst an ignorant culture is truly noble. I don't know how you keep your sanity. I'm 30 now and remember all the games I played to pretend I was straight. *Shit!*
Take Care and Be Strong.

Peacefully,

Satya

Forum

By Maureen

It's difficult finding fault with the statement that gays have trouble with lasting relationships. We all know couples who've been together for years (and don't we like to bring them up every time someone says its not true), but it does indeed seem that these are in the minority.

Perhaps at least half the blame can be placed on the broad shoulders of the ominous, though diversified, group known as society, and the whole concept of non-acceptance. Discrimination of gays makes it somewhat

difficult to "come out." Most of us then hide beneath our security blankets, and nothing short of turning lavender will make us admit we're "one of those." One always hopes there'll be a look that will help you along, but the truth is — it's damn hard work finding someone. Sometimes it is just "sexual attraction or personal fantasies" that make us take that first step, but then what else does one know of a bar stool companion or even those our trusted friends say will be perfect for us? And if you've been searching a while — sexual attraction is

at least a start. The being alone's so difficult, and chances are the attraction wasn't totally sexual — you hope. So you date, and you work at the relationship — often times more than what it's worth, and you stay probably longer than you should, because you never want to be alone again. Often times you'll struggle along thinking, "all relationships are difficult and must be worked at" — all the time figuring it shouldn't be this hard but scared to think anything else. Eventually, it gets to the point where the struggling just isn't worth it (though I've known many that say that nothing is worse than being a single gay), and you break up. Sometimes you're even glad to be rid of the pain. So now you're ready. You want someone to take away the hurt — to bind you and share with you. And for that you're willing to search. But where? You make the rounds of the bars, and your friends' friends. You get scared that what you're looking for is just not around, and at least the girl you met last night is attractive, and likes to play tennis. And so it begins again.

We cannot always meet other gays at work, or clubs, or school, or on trips. Until gayness is fully accepted, it's just too risky to expose oneself in the hopes

that another "is." So we jump into often times poor relationships in the name of "love" when security might be more correct. Real love is something unselfish that grows slowly into a continuous peace of mutual caring. It does not preclude anger or hurt or sorrow or feelings that at times it's just not worth it. Neither is it a flame that burns the earth beneath you feet (that same flame can often cause smoke that will later stifle you). It is constant, enduring and good. As gay life becomes more accepted, and individuals feel freer to acknowledge their sexuality, the search will be easier, and the steady peace of real and lasting love will hopefully replace the fear of being alone.

Editor's Note: In an attempt to get our readership more involved with the paper, GCN is offering this space for opinions, views or feelings on gay issues. Articles submitted to us for this space should be addressed to Forum, c/o GCN. The articles should be 500 words or less and whenever possible they should be typewritten and double spaced. Although, GCN reserves the right to edit all copy we will honestly strive to edit for length not for content. This is your column, say what you want!



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NEW YORK REVELATIONS

By Tony Russo

With their conference only two weeks away, the Gay Academic Union already has its schedule available. Along with the schedule, many surprise guests are planning to attend and speak at the conference. The conference, to be held at Columbia University the weekend of Nov. 28-30, is expected to draw an anticipated 12,000 people, making it the largest gay conference ever held.

The Gay Activist Alliance (G.A.A.) has begun distributing its newsletter, "The Gay Activist." The four page newsletter will be financed solely on contributions and subscriptions with no advertising planned as of yet.

G.A.A. will start its monthly forums. The first forum planned is on Sunday, Dec. 7 at G.A.A.'s new headquarters, 229 E. 11th St. The topic will

be: "The 75th Anniversary of Oscar Wilde." Eric Bentley will serve as discussant.

Lesbian Feminist Liberation will be having their regular Sunday programs at the Women's Center, 243 W. 20th St. For more information concerning the programs contact the Women's Center at 255-9802.

Caroline Pope has resigned as co-coordinator of Gay Media Coalition. Newly elected to fill her position was Tayloe Ross. Brian Hurley is GMC's male coordinator.

Ginny Vita is temporarily filling in the position of Media Director of the National Gay Task Force. If she feels comfortable in the position, it seems likely that she will be elected by the board of directors to continue as NGTF's permanent Media Director.

GAY MEN'S CENTER NEWS

By Stephen Skuce

The Gay Men's Center, Boston's new forum for the gay male community, continues to make progress in several areas. The group's monthly newsletter now has a name, *The Limp Fist*, slated for distribution within a couple of weeks, will be mailed free to all those who have made pledges to the Center. (You, too, can receive this exciting tabloid; see details below.)

Other developments: after the last meeting some of the men with musical ability got together and decided to play chamber music for fun. The first session was so successful that the players decided to meet regularly and form a gay musicians' cooperative.

GMC's benefit film program, scheduled for early December, will feature "Tricia's Wedding," a hysterical tragedy, and "A Special Friendship," a more serious film.

The Center is still in a transitional period, in the process of securing permanent headquarters, and during this interim period we've been meeting informally, assembling on Sundays at 3 p.m. at the Meetinghouse and then

moving to another location. In the course of deciding upon a permanent home for the Center several locations have been considered. Although a prospective site on Bromfield Street in Boston was received favorably by most members of the group at last Sunday's meeting, at least one other location is being considered before we finalize a decision.

Feel free to attend our Sunday meetings. Whether you call yourself a homophile, a faggot, or an unspeakable of the Oscar Wilde sort, what we are trying to create is an open environment which will embrace all political attitudes and be receptive to different ideas and ideologies. Once again, to get ourselves started, we are seeking monthly pledges in any amount you can afford, which entitle the donor to monthly editions of *The Limp Fist*. (Flat donations are also cheerfully accepted.) Make your check payable to Gay Men's Center, or GMC, and mail it to Box 5200, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108. For further information call Lee at 491-6968 or Darius at 723-6268.

News Commentary

Pleasure Palace

By Neil Miller

BOSTON — Amidst a driving rain outside and showers of confetti inside, 15 Lansdowne Street, Boston's newest gay pleasure palace, opened its doors to public inspection last Wednesday evening. Thousands of people shoved, smiled, and sweated their way into the old Cabaret After Dark building for a free glimpse of Boston's most dazzling — and controversial — gay nightspot.

It was very much like the massive advertising campaign had promised. There were the waiters — obviously chosen for their good looks and solid calves — wandering around in basketball uniforms and tennis shoes with the number "15" inscribed on their backs. There were the white wicker chairs where one expected to see Katherine Hepburn enthroned. There were the go-go boys, the \$1.75 drinks in brandy snifters, the vast dance floor, the eye-popping light show.

And there were the people as well — all decked out in their mid-week finest. They were mostly men, nearly all white, overwhelmingly middle-class. For some it was the only time they would grace the halls of Fifteen Lansdowne — the \$5 and \$7 cover charges were definitely designed to "purify" the clientele. For others, it was obvious, that they would work and slave all week for a chance to move freely inside this city of dreams.

If the first night was any indication, Fifteen Lansdowne was on its way. It had unquestionably created a mys-

tique, whether it could get the crowds every night was another matter. Rumors flew across the dance floor that rock stars David Bowie and Edgar Winter were in the audience. Another had it that the Weather Underground had threatened to blow up the place.

But there were other rumors too — and less romantic. Did Fifteen Lansdowne have the correct license to operate an exclusive club? Were they really going to make it impossible for women to come in? Was it true that they had established a membership card policy to limit its clientele to young, attractive gay men?

No one had the answers yet, but it was evident that people in the community were going to ask some hard questions. And a lot of people were equally distressed at what the opulent 15 Lansdowne Street represented. "Six years of struggle and this is what it's all come to!" one dismayed gay liberationist was heard to say.

The opening of Fifteen Lansdowne was clearly the social event of the year for the gay male community and the Fifteen Lansdowne people knew it. "This is the greatest bar on the East Coast, in America, and the World," the manager trumpeted in a speech to the crowd. The applause which greeted his remarks indicated that there were many who doubtlessly agree. But for others, Fifteen Lansdowne was persuasive proof that the '70s were rapidly turning into a silver lame fantasy of the '50s.

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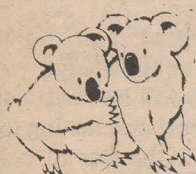
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Talking Politics

By DAVID P. BRILL

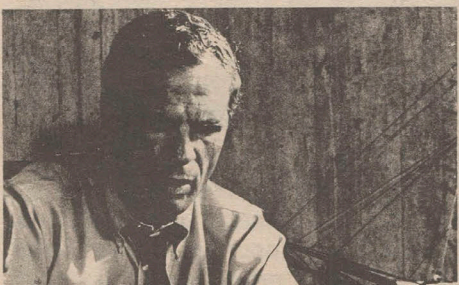
How gay input influenced the results of the November 4 municipal election in Boston can be measured best by comparing the 1975 elections with the 1971 elections, where only John E. Powers (a blonde East Boston boy, not the former state senator and present Clerk of Court), the Socialist Workers Party candidate, made an effort (sincere or contrived) to gain gay support. This year, as this newspaper's readers are well aware, both Mayor Kevin White and Senator Joseph Timilty made conspicuous overtures toward the gay voting bloc by replying favorably to GCN's questionnaire.

While this is slightly less than in San Francisco, where mayoral candidates actually ventured into the gay bars for electioneering (and that may be more of a difference in the two cities' populations than the progress of the individual gay communities), it does show that some important advances have been made in the last four years.

The City's Wards Four and Five (South End, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Bay Village, and the Fenway), which have been unofficially termed Boston's Gay Wards, turned out in support of Mayor White last Tuesday by margins of two and three to one. Despite the fact that the *Boston Phoenix* and the *Real Paper*, which have been quite critical of the mayor in recent months, have their highest concentration of readers in these areas, the vote tallies in those precincts could have convinced an ignorant observer that it was Bella Abzug running against Louise Day

Hicks, and not two purportedly "moderate" pro-gay candidates.

Obviously, some of White's support can be traced to Reps. Barney Frank and Elaine Noble, whose legislative districts include all of Ward Five. (Paradoxically, Rep. Mel King, whose district includes most of Ward Four, apparently was unable to influence very many of his own constituents to back Sen. Timilty). Earlier this year,



when it looked like Timilty's efforts to cut into White's power in the city's liberal voting areas might be successful, the Noble-Frank endorsements might have meant less. (Noble, incidentally, campaigned with two gay mayoral aides into Sporters and 1270 on White's behalf.)

But as the campaign drew on, after the preliminary election on Sept. 23, the differences between the mayor and his opponent became clearer and clearer. Timilty, admitting failure in his bid for "liberal" (this includes gay and Black) votes, took a subtle but noticeable turn to the right, with pointed attacks against the mayor and his fellow "liberals from Beacon Hill." While White emerged with an endorse-

but will white remember us now?

ment from prominent civil libertarian/attorney Bill Homans, Timilty got a nod from the Massachusetts Citizens Against Forced Busing, a godchild of Rep. Raymond Flynn of South Boston. (ROAR made no endorsement.)

No more serious blunder in the Timilty strategy was made than in the distribution of thousands of flyers in the Ward Five area focusing on two key Timilty issues: the elderly and crime. It was on this second point that the senator erred. You do not campaign in gay neighborhoods by proudly pointing out how many police officers are supporting your candidacy and position on the issue of city crime, any more than you look for wealthy Republican contributors by advertising an AFL-CIO endorsement. The endorsement of Timilty by state Reps. King, Doris Bunte, and Bob Fortes (Roxbury and Mattapan) was more than offset by his acceptance of \$1,000 contributions from the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, and former West Roxbury legislator Charles Doyle, a flag-waving homophobe if there ever was one.

At times, the campaign was confusing. While John Doyle, deputy superintendent of the Boston Police Department and head of their gay-watching Vice Control Unit, showed up at Mayor White's victory party at the Sheraton-Boston on election night (he ran for cover when he saw me), NAACP president Tom Atkins was observed by some people in the Timilty camp, and a prominent Timilty sign

was hanging outside the NAACP's Columbus Avenue headquarters until the day after election day. It is no wonder that 10,000 voters chose to "blank" the mayor's race, and vote for no one.

But White won, and he definitely owes the city's gay voters something. In addition to his promised executive order adding gay people to the city Affirmative Action Plan, there are other areas of interest to gay people that he could act upon.

First, he could pressure the police department into acting on the subject of gay-related violence, especially the wave of murders in Boston lately. In addition, he could testify next year in favor of state-wide gay rights legislation. Finally, there is no reason why an openly gay person could not be appointed as a member of the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights.

As for Timilty, whether he would do it all over again the same way remains to be determined. If he knew that ROAR would not be putting up its own candidate, he probably would have made an even sharper rightward shift, and not have voted for a gay rights bill in May in the state senate.

But White is now entering his third term, and, in four years, many of the Ward Fivers who voted for him will be saying, "It's time for a change," and will be looking for another candidate. By that time, Boston's gay voters may be so well-organized that they may put up their own candidate. Elaine Noble, maybe? . . . ?

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JILL RAYMOND

"one of the most crucial
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Jill Raymond, presently jailed in Kentucky for refusing to answer grand jury questions.

By Jill Raymond

On March 27 Susan Saxe was arrested in Philadelphia after being pursued by the FBI for five years under indictments for bank robberies, theft of government property, the murder of a bank guard, and interstate flight to avoid arrest. Five people were allegedly involved in the Boston holdup in which the guard was shot: three men, apprehended soon afterwards, Susan, and Kathy Power who is still free. At that time, these people were anti-war activists, and Susan and Kathy were involved in Women's Liberation, although to what degree is not clear. The robberies were evidently committed for the purpose of funding revolutionary activities. When Saxe was apprehended, she issued a public statement expressing her solidarity with women underground, and her commitment to continue to fight the powers that arrested her "as a lesbian, a feminist, and an Amazon." Since that time feminists and the rest of the radical community have been reacting to her statement, her politics, and her alleged "crimes" and trying to figure out what are the politics of support for a revolutionary dyke bank robber.

It seems to me that Saxe was making two statements within that initial one — one to the government, and one to the Women's Movement. To the state, she was perhaps giving notice that some of the terms of its old law and order games are changing: that it can no longer neutralize political fugitives by hunting them down, or by putting their faces on enough posters and magazine pages that they must bury themselves too deeply to do political work. In a sense, people involved in revolutionary change in this country may be "upping the ante" as it were, on the state, pointing out to it that even the threat of its courts and its prisons does not always shut us up anymore. To the Women's Movement, I think she was "upping the ante" in a different way, saying that, taken to their logical conclusion, its politics are this serious, and that they might, in fact sometimes get connected up with bank robbery and with death. She did not say that she thought bank robbery is an especially good strategy for feminist revolution. She did say: this is what I am, this is what I'm charged with, and this is what you have to deal with.

The Women's Movement has had a diverse reaction. Many of us have no complaints about the challenges that Saxe has presented to us (or rather, has forced us to confront — she did not

invent them, they've been there all along). Others, whose conceptions of feminism are permanently limited to the larger-chunk-of-the-pie pursuits, entertain no questions of support at all — Saxe has firmly placed herself among those forces that are working to destroy the pie, but among other women, there are questions. Jill Johnston, in an April *Village Voice* column denounces Saxe for damaging the "credibility" (?) of lesbians, by connecting their lifestyle with violent crime. She further condemns her for being so irresponsible as to be charged with committing bank robbery with three straight men! Still other feminists are, I think, merely ambivalent about where their feminism stands in relation to the "crimes" themselves. Some of these women fully realize that the things they've been struggling against in their own lives are the very same factors which declared Saxe a criminal and put her in jail. They know this but they also retain hopes for a pacifist feminism: in fact, many people assume that feminism implies violence. Whether we agree that it does or not, we have probably taken that assumption for granted for too long. But non-violent vs armed struggle is not at all the central issue here. It may be one issue. In fact I suspect that it is important to Susan that as part of our responses to her we take it up. But there is something more immediate here. It is the question of whether or not we can all remain in our various respectable positions, hold up our "principled political differences," and watch Saxe and every other political fugitive from the sixties go off to prison, convicted for what they were, for what they are, and for what they might become. We are not being asked to adopt armed robbery as our own strategy. We are not even faced with the task of evaluating robbery for its merits or its failings, although we might want to make that evaluation, and probably will. What we may be being asked to do is to stare right down into the seriousness of all our political goals, and hopes, and struggles and attempts, and understand that we are inevitably bound up to the fate of other people who share this seriousness.

During the last decade some radicals advanced through various stages of anti-imperialist militancy and concluded that revolutionary politics had to be taken into the streets of America in the form of guerrilla warfare. They acted on those beliefs by doing what made sense to them at the time, and this included a mixture of styles and strategies, from "street-fighting" a la

weathermen-initiated "Days of Rage" in 1969 to (evidently) bank robbery. The debate over the choice of methods and the timing of these activities has continued ever since, intensified by the emergence of such groups as the SLA, who have brought the issue back home for us again. No matter how one feels about the issue, I believe that one need not have totally amorphous politics to see that the rejection by the organized left of past or present advocates of armed struggle has been as full of self-righteousness and chauvinism as it has of political content.

And why is that? Partly, I feel, because we became embarrassed with ourselves. It's a phenomenon that is one of the state's most effective weapons, and it operates very much the way an authoritarian parent operates with a child. A child may have basically sound, healthy inclinations towards its own freedom and well-being. The parent, however, not only has direct power over the child, but controls the environment, the very reality, of the child. There are few outside sources of security or reinforcement for a kid who wants to grow away from or challenge her parents. But suppose the challenge gets made anyway. The most effective way for parents to squash that challenge is not by direct force (which would clarify the power imbalance) but by ridicule. Rather than saying "you are wrong," the parent says "you are being silly, ridiculous, incompetent, etc." and that is far more threatening. Those of us who were ever actively involved against the war knew that we were not wrong. But we certainly did have a sense of our mistakes, and of our own underdevelopment as a movement. The government and the media helped promote our insecurity, and cashed in on it, making us react to ourselves and to each other with a degree of embarrassment and self-degradation — "weren't we stupid back then!" We hurried to become terribly sophisticated, and terribly "refined." Do anything, but for god's sake don't be unsophisticated or "romantic."

Now, romanticism and the sense of living in the apocalypse that pervaded much of the thinking of the anti-war movement in the late sixties were genuine errors, for which everyone wound up paying. But they were only errors, not mysterious ideological diseases of some sort, and they were our errors, whether we were smashing car windows in Chicago in '69 or not.

Therefore, perhaps one of the most crucial questions raised by Saxe's arrest is not to arm or not to arm, but rather: what do we do about our past? It seems like we can, if we want to, pretend that it never happened, or that it wasn't us — it was really somebody else.

Jill Johnston has tried to do this. Her one argument, that Saxe implicated every lesbian in the country with that first public statement is really dispensed with by merely pointing up the fact (of which Johnston surely must be aware) that lesbianism does, by its existence in a patriarchal culture, do violence to the status quo — and vice versa. But her other question, which asks what was a good dyke doing "out robbing banks with three straight dudes in 1970" is a serious challenge to our interpretations of our past. It raises the general suggestion of many separatists that any activity in which any of us were involved politically with men is suspect, and that none of our feminist roots could be grounded there. As another way of disclaiming our past, I oppose that suggestion, but I also do not think it is historically accurate.

It seems to be a generally accepted thesis that the second U.S. Women's Movement originated with the publication of *The Feminine Mystique* and with the founding of NOW in 1966. The story goes that from that beginning there were two basic thrusts within NOW — radical feminist, and liberal/libertarian, and that from these two positions came the splits, developments, and theories of current feminism. What this story neglects is what was going on within the student left during those years, among women who, I imagine, had little contact with NOW. At an SDS conference in Campaign Urbana in 1965, SDS women met together in a workshop entitled "Women in the Movement." SDS, of course, is now infamous for the sexism of its politics and its practices. To have written off SDS, organizationally, for its hopelessly masculine modes of operation may have been justified. But for us to write off what women in SDS began thinking, writing, and developing in the way of feminist consciousness is to ignore what I think might have been the most important contribution to post-1970 radical feminism. This is why: The women in SDS raised feminism as an internal issue within an organization. Sexism was observably messing up the SDS program; people in

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Formerly Noddle Island Credit Union

ANNUAL REPORT 1975

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- auto loans
- home improvement loans
- Saturday banking hours

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**16 Central Sq., East Boston, 569-1394
40 Charles St., Beacon Hill, 227-5085**

notice of annual meeting

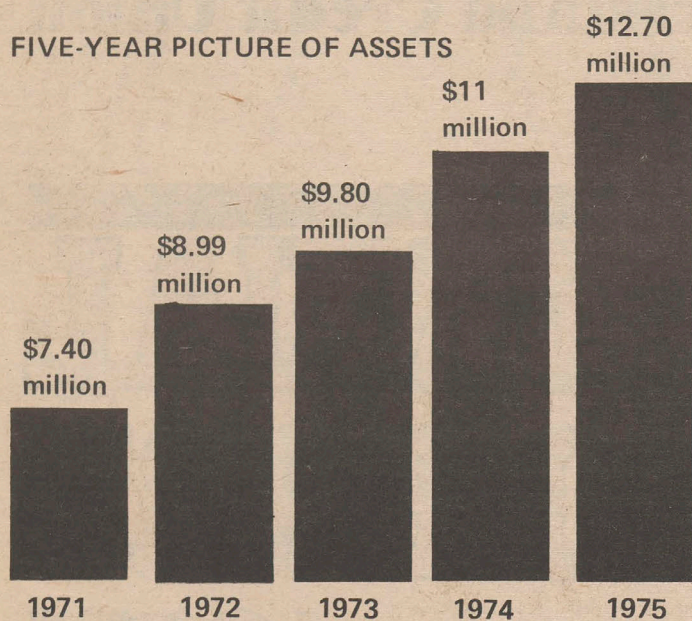
The annual meeting of the members of the CONSUMERS CREDIT UNION will be held at the OFFICE, 16 CENTRAL SQUARE, EAST BOSTON, on MONDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 24, 1975 at 7:30 P.M.

The following recommendations of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS will be voted on:

- (1) To establish the maximum amount of credit to be extended to any one member as the maximum amount permitted by law.
- (2) To ratify and approve the actions of the Board of Directors for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1975.
- (3) To elect to the Board of Directors five members for three year terms.
- (4) To ratify expenses paid to Committee members during the past year.
- (5) To transact such other business as may legally come before this meeting.

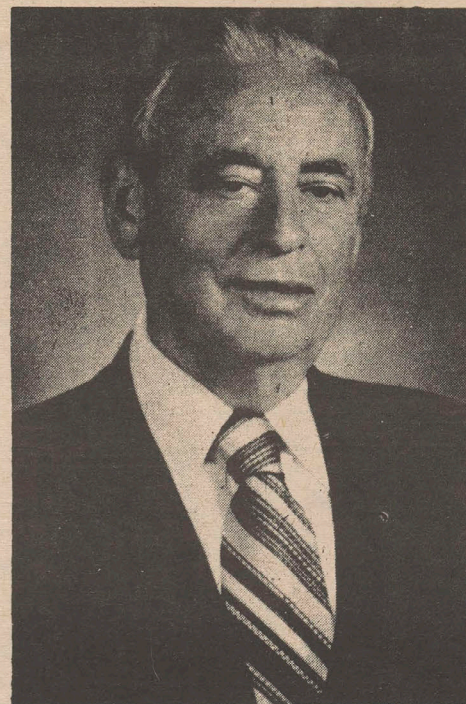
Julius Stone, President
Sally F. Diamond, Clerk

FIVE-YEAR PICTURE OF ASSETS



assets continue to grow

ASSETS	1975	1974
Cash in Banks.....	144,517.51	121,741.45
Cash on Hand	42,807.59	21,320.63
U.S. Government Obligations.....	281,505.96	169,890.05
Central Credit Union Fund, Inc.	20,332.79	19,157.24
Personal Loans	2,567,727.61	2,435,849.94
F.H.A. Loans	26,128.55	49,873.34
Real Estate Loans	8,158,415.68	6,725,027.32
Home Improvement Loans	1,045,588.53	1,037,207.54
Real Estate in Possession	30,969.58	2,764.87
Bonds	197,000.00	197,000.00
Bank Stocks	701.81	701.81
Shares in Co-operative Banks	25,200.00	45,200.00
Shares in Federal Savings and Loan	—	19,746.00
Deposits in Savings Banks	34,936.66	44,607.72
Mass. Credit Union Share Insurance	110,501.80	93,685.95
Furniture and Office Equipment, etc.	17,821.99	19,757.69
Bank Building	54,633.63	58,831.11
Prepaid Items	16,747.12	11,310.24
Other	1,095.26	—
Total	\$12,776,632.07	\$11,073,672.90
LIABILITIES		
Shares	9,368,615.11	3,155,079.13
Deposits	2,324,022.94	6,739,891.39
Club Accounts	22,617.00	27,837.00
Guarantee Fund	456,496.78	378,641.19
Undivided Earning	248,151.93	240,359.21
Reserve for Dividend	124,710.61	200,000.00
Notes Payable	—	150,000.00
Suspense	354.71	354.71
Due Mortgages and Home Improvements	57,474.04	37,743.01
Borrowers Real Estate Taxes	166,631.11	139,881.07
Payroll Deductions	5,907.84	3,616.19
Other	1,650.00	270.00
Total	\$12,776,632.07	\$11,073,672.90



PRESIDENT JULIUS STONE

financial report

Q & A

Questions and answers about the Credit Union

1. Q. What is a Credit Union?

A. A credit union is an organization of persons for the two-fold purpose of promoting thrift among its members and creating a source of credit for them at fair rates of interest for provident purposes.

2. Q. What has been the record of the Consumers Credit Union?

A. The Consumers Credit Union started business April 25, 1927. Since that time, it has made over 35,000 loans totaling over thirty million dollars. It has paid dividends every year since it was organized. We have assets of over \$12 million and we have over 10,000 members.

3. Q. How can I join the Credit Union and what does it cost?

A. To become a member, an application is made to the secretary, an entrance fee of one dollar (\$1.00) paid, and as many shares purchased as you wish, the minimum being one share at \$5.00.

4. Q. Is the \$1.00 entrance fee paid when each share is purchased?

A. No. This fee is paid out only once, no matter how many shares you buy.

5. Q. Who can join the Consumers Credit Union?

A. Men or women over the age of 18.

6. Q. How much or how little can a person invest in the Credit Union?

A. Every member of the credit union must hold one share, and may hold shares or make deposits to an amount not exceeding \$25,000 in the aggregate. However, a person may have \$50,000 in a joint account. A corporation trust or club may open an account up to \$50,000.

7. Q. Can I withdraw my money if I do not care to remain a member?

A. Yes. Share and deposit accounts are absolutely under your control at all times. We do not require any prior notice for withdrawals.

8. Q. What rates are paid on Credit Union accounts?

A. The Credit Union is currently paying 6 per cent per annum on share accounts. The Credit Union also has available 90 day special notice accounts that pay 6 1/4 per cent per annum. The effective annual rate on a 90 day notice account is 6.43 per cent.

A member must have a minimum balance of \$15.00 on shares to earn a dividend. Dividends on share accounts and interest on deposit accounts are paid and compounded four times each year — January 31, April 30, July 31, and October 31. All accounts earn interest from the first of the month on deposits made up to the tenth day of the month. Dividends up to \$100 are exempt from Massachusetts income tax (\$200 on joint accounts).

9. Q. Custodian accounts?

A. Our members may open up an account in the name of an adult as custodian for a minor under the Massachusetts Uniform Gifts to Minors Act. This account will list the social security account number of the minor as the taxpayer's identification number. In most cases, this will lead to substantial federal income tax savings for the adult. Further information on these accounts may be obtained from our staff.

10. Q. Trustee accounts?

A. Accounts may be opened in the name of one or two persons in trust for another. Withdrawals may be made by the trustees, and if there are two trustees, withdrawals may be made by both or either, or by the survivor, and upon the death of the trustees or trustees, withdrawal may be made by the person for whom the deposit was made. Our staff would be happy to discuss in greater detail with you all the advantages of these simple trust accounts.

11. Q. What assurance have I that my money will be safe and handled honestly?

A. All employees of the Credit Union are fully bonded. The books of the Credit Union are audited by the Auditing Committee of our Board

of Directors and by examiners from the Massachusetts Bank Commissioner's office. ALL SAVINGS IN THE CREDIT UNION ARE INSURED IN FULL BY THE MASSACHUSETTS CREDIT UNION SHARE INSURANCE CORPORATION.

12. Q. How is a loan made, and how long does it take?

A. Loan application blanks may be secured and filled out at the Credit Union office. All loans are handled promptly. At all times during office hours, several loan officers are available for information and assistance.

13. Q. Does the Credit Union make loans on real estate mortgages?

A. Yes, we make loans on real estate in Massachusetts up to \$40,000 repayable monthly to suit your convenience. (\$80,000 on more than one piece of property).



14. Q. Automobile loans?

A. The Credit Union makes loans on the security of both new and used automobiles up to 80 per cent of their value. These loans may save you considerable money in financing when compared to other lenders.

15. Q. Home improvement loans?

A. The Credit Union always stands ready to assist its members in borrowing money for home repairs and remodeling. No down payment is required. No legal fees are charged. The borrower may hire a contractor or do the work himself.

16. Q. How can I obtain more information and literature about the Consumers Credit Union?

A. Information concerning shares, deposits, loans and other matters may be secured at either of its two offices: 16 Central Square, East Boston, 569-1394, or 40 Charles Street, Beacon Hill, 227-5085.

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* A rehabilitation specialist will explain what improvements qualify for the refund.

* Your refund will be in the form of a direct cash payment, once the repairs are completed and approved.

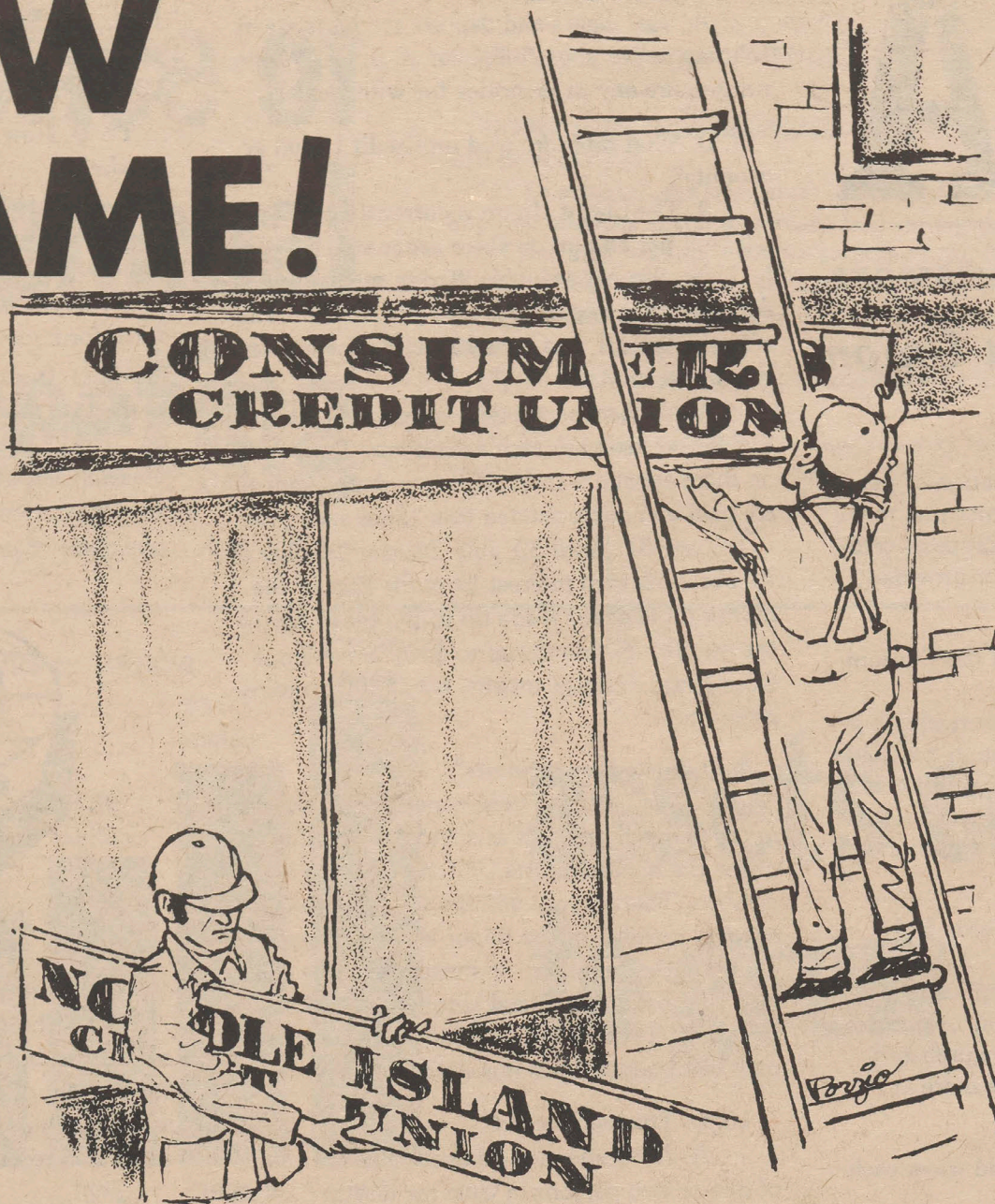
* In any case, call the Consumers Credit Union at 569-1394 and ask for Dick DeMarco, home improvement loan officer. Remember, you don't need to have a mortgage with the Credit Union in order to get a home improvement loan.



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**2 1/2 YEAR
TERM DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**
\$1,000 MINIMUM BALANCE

7.08%

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\$15 MINIMUM BALANCE

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6 %

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questions raised by Saxe's arrest is not to arm or not what can we do about our past?"

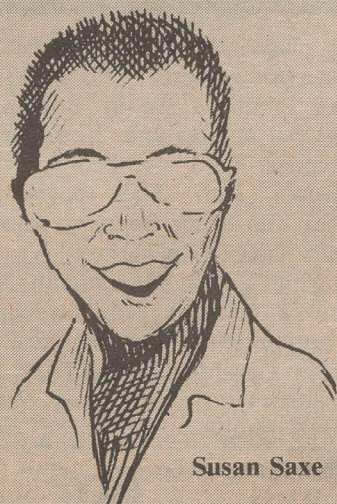
struggle together against a commonly recognized enemy were finding the enemy within and among themselves. Rather than a response to the individualized oppression of the home and the family, the feminism SDS women tried to advance was, at least in part, a direct response to the dysfunctioning of their own revolutionary apparatus, and the oppression that evolves within a collective grouping of male-identified radicals. The reaction of the men, predictably, was "You're selfish to dwell on these interpersonal hassles, you're an individualist, a subjectivist, etc." But it was EXACTLY AT THAT POINT — when leftist men exposed their one-dimensional comprehension of the meaning of struggle — that women could hardly avoid making the connection between personal and political. SDS women were offered the choice of being personally subjugated to the Revolution, or formulating new conceptions of how and why revolutions needed to be fought in the first place.

These conceptions did evolve, although not soon enough, maybe, to save SDS from itself. Indeed, they had the result of driving many women out of SDS and out of the mixed left altogether in commendable disgust. Other women did not follow them at that time, believing the accusations of "subjectivism" that the men were making, and feeling that they needed to defend the absolute primacy of anti-imperialist struggle. Later they came to appreciate what their sisters had been trying to say. But it was all part, anyhow, of the same process, and the point to be derived is this: that many of our most profound radical feminist roots ARE here, in the obnoxious machismo of the New Left. I'm hardly proposing that we thank the men for being so oppressive and abrasive that they helped us see the light. I'm only building a case for how wrong it is to disown our political past — horrendous as some of it was, it is the route which brought us directly to HERE.

Alright, if these acts of which Susan is accused are an inextricable part of our own past, we should look at each one of them, each charge as it has been defined by the state, and decide who the act has threatened and what is its political and/or "criminal" meaning.

Think about bank robbery. Do we see the banks in this country as neutral, innocuous providers of a service, or as part of the forces of reaction and oppression? It seems to me that the

money flow, and those who control it, represent the most conservative regions of power in our capitalist fatherland. Attacking a bank might be one of the most comprehensively symbolic acts we could engage in. A bank is not like any other enterprise. It is quite an anonymous institution in that it doesn't represent anyone's interest, but rather a *system* of interests. American banks supply the funds that allow our domestic culture's commercial sexism to thrive and surround us wherever we go. They are connected to every repressive stroke of masculine power inflicted on the populations of all countries in which U.S. capitalism has an "interest." I realize I'm not revealing anything we didn't already know, but we need to keep reminding ourselves of these things, or our well-engendered reflexes of respect for institutions will keep creeping back into our judgement. In the case of five radicals vs the State Street Bank of



Susan Saxe

Brighton, Mass., who is going to take up for the bank? Nobody, I would hope. There are volumes to be written against banks and what they represent. The most that can be said for them is that they're beginning to be open on Saturday.

Think about theft of government property. In part, this charge relates to the ripping off of some weapons from a National Guard armory prior to the Boston hold-up. The point at issue is, of course, not theft but the politics of armed struggle. However one feels about those politics, when a woman is being prosecuted for such a crime as this we should not forget that we were still safer — all of us — with those firearms in the hands of revolutionaries, even male ones, than with it stockpiled for the National Guard. The Guard is more confused than we ever were, it is certainly male, and it is also

not even slightly interested in any of our welfare. We should not forget, while weapons are in the hands of the government what their ultimate purposes are.

Think about interstate flight to avoid arrest. There is nothing politically complicated about flight, but the fact that it is a crime is something we should contemplate. While people are constitutionally protected (in theory at least) from having to testify against themselves in court, to *save* oneself from being "brought to justice," as they like to call it, is an additional criminal act. It serves the government's purposes by insuring that no matter how its original case against a fugitive crumbles (or was weak to begin with) there is always flight. It acts as an extra padlock on the prosecution of an individual.

How does one think about murder? Well, also: how does one get *charged* with murder? American justice, therefore, has in its infinite wisdom invented categories to deal with specific circumstances: "manslaughter," "self-defense," and various "degrees" of murder. In the first place, the meaning of the word murder involves an indicated intention to kill (like the U.S. Phoenix Program in S.E. Asia, for example). Armed robbery indicated a (very serious) intention to rob. Even when the latter results in death, they are not the same thing. But we should notice that these arbitrary definitions are applied by the state for its own purposes, like everything else. When a policeman kills someone he is pursuing it is called a "fatal shooting." Few cops are prosecuted for murder after such events. So in this way, by controlling and manipulating its terms, the state has it both ways. Individuals only have it one way.

I think we have two understandings about violence which play hell with our feminist and/or democratic socialist commitments to overturning society without becoming executioners in the process. The first is the obvious one: that the owners of this country (white, male, capitalists) have no scruples about applying the violence that is at their disposal against us unhesitatingly, when we become genuine threats to their positions of power. And they will apply it before they allow "that glacial process of unknown cell structures that will evolve out of shared bits of profoundly internalized consciousness which is how Jill Johnston describes her vision of "the true revolution."

The other understanding of violence is a more subtle, complex thing, that has to do with how removed many of us have been all our lives from physical violence, and the ways in which we've drawn an imaginary line between that form of violence and all the others. I would suggest that the line exists as much because of our general unfamiliarity with physical violence as it does because of our superior feminist morality. I'm not exactly sure what this means for us, ultimately, but I do suspect that the unfamiliarity, based on past or present class privileges, works very much against us, and only makes us less able to cope with people whose lives are bound up in violence. I raise the point, not because I think a rejection of violence is an unhealthy thing, anymore than I think our self-criticisms of the anti-war movement are all necessarily incorrect. It is rather a matter of realizing what limitations and influences there are on our judgement.

I have serious questions about the politics and the applicability of what I have referred to here as "armed struggle," as a strategy in this country at this time. For one thing, I have doubts about our abilities — saturated by media violence, but removed from much of the reality of it as we are — to understand and to employ that strategy responsibly and effectively at this point. But, I am not in any sense politically offended by someone who commits armed robbery for revolutionary purposes. The government will try to make me offended, however. It will try to make me offended because I am ambivalent and bank robbery is decisive; it will try to make separatists offended because there were men involved; it will try to make libertarians offended because bank robbery is, after all, a crime; it will try to make pacifists offended by the violence of the bank robbers, though the violence represented by the bank is too great to even measure; it tries to make straight people offended by the implications of lesbianism, and tries to make lesbians offended by those same implications; it will try to make radical feminists offended by the connections of the acts to the Left, and communists offended by Saxe's identification as an "Amazon"; and it will try to make content, intellectual socialists offended by the intensity and immediacy of it all.

Johnston insinuates that Saxe and Power in their flight from apprehension brought down a wave of harassment and overt repression on lesbian and feminist communities around the country, referring, I assume, to the recent FBI/grand jury investigations, begun prior to Saxe's arrest, in pursuit of her and Kathy. Several people have done/are doing jail time for refusing to help them "investigate." The implication in Johnston's article is that it is Susan and Kathy's fault that this is coming down on people. As someone directly involved by that harassment, having pulled some of that jail time myself in Kentucky, I have a great desire to respond to that suggestion.

Repression is never instigated by people themselves, but is the intentional, calculated activity of a threatened Big Brother only. How does one protect oneself and one's community from it? Well, for one thing, don't make any friends. Don't use the telephone for long distance calls. Don't own a car. Don't sign lists. Don't speak to your relatives. By all means, don't love anybody (a sure way to get in trouble if there ever was one! Love is terribly threatening to the state, much more so than we realize). Finally, don't hold any principles, because principles have a way of catching up with you every time. That is how one might keep oneself safe from persecution/prosecution — and it is about 50 percent effective as a method. That some of us have been coerced into jail and into testifying against Saxe and Power is no more their fault than is the fact that we live in a repressive society.

By the late sixties, this country had decided that most of its kids were outlaws. It wasn't really important whether they were even doing anything *consciously* political or not. They were just an abrasive obnoxious group of people. It was very plain to see there was something evil about them if you just held them up in comparison with America's virginal self-image. And that is true whether you were, at that time, a lesbian, a lesbian separatist, a hippie, a black, a Trotskyist, a pacifist, a weatherman, a lost freshman English

(Continued on page 17)

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Gaylivanting in Vermont



By Bob Stark and Rick Paquette

Behind the first canal built in the United States, nestled in the Connecticut River Valley, midst Vermont's Green Mountains, a grand old Inn has been transformed into a gay mecca. Formerly an old stagecoach stop, the Inn is now the only gay spot between Springfield and Montreal. Men and women from all over the Northeast gather there to party, relax, and just enjoy being gay.

We were interested in investigating Andrew's Inn, as we are both avid ski enthusiasts, and would love to find a good ski spot where we could also meet other gay people. From the minute we walked into the lobby of the Inn we were made to feel at home. The prevalent you're-part-of-the-family attitude produced a warm and comfortable atmosphere.

Mildred, the "house mother," showed us to our rooms. "They may not be the fanciest you've ever seen, but they're certainly clean," she told us, "and if you need a shoulder to cry on, I'll be around." Fortunately, we didn't need her shoulder, and the rooms, though simple, were definitely clean.

After freshening up, we ventured into the richly decorated dining room. A buffet including Lobster Newberg, Swedish meatballs, lasagna, Polish sausage, eggplant Parmesan, cold-cut platters, various casseroles and home-made breads was offered. The food was excellent and the prices reasonable. The home-made desserts, especially the apple Moisis, brought back fond memories of Mom's apron strings. The soft lighting from the six French imported lead-crystal chandeliers, the plush comfort of the Queen Ann dining chairs and a full stomach, made us hesitant to leave the dining room.

But the candlelight from the Sunporch Lounge was inviting. The lounge is decorated in warm colors, soft cushions, and an excellent black and white mural of the Inn, circa 1900, by Bob Huntoon, framed by a brick wall. Sunlight transforms this room into a fresh, breezy breakfast nook. It became our favorite spot over the weekend.

But in Vermont's crisp autumn air, more guests began arriving. Disco sounds and "oldies but goodies" rose from the dance bar below to herald the



start of yet another Halloween party. Barn boards, country scenes, and indirect lighting give the bar a cozy rendezvous charm. A sign over the bar proclaims: **ENJOY WHAT YOU ARE.** The advice seemed well taken; the guests were happy, friendly, and fun-loving. There was an inexplicable comradery at the Inn, people were easy to talk to. Whatever affords this unpretentious, non-intimidating atmosphere should be bottled and sold. Nevertheless, it was one of the best evenings either of us has had in a long time. It's our guess that the fastidious host of the Inn, John Moisis, is responsible for its charm.

John arrived at the party as Cleopatra, with Marc Antony in tow. Marc Antony was a Paul Newman type who just happened to be staying at the Inn. But enough digression. When the sound system faltered, the host, undaunted, sent friends to his mother's place, to "borrow" her console for the rest of the evening. In the interim, John organized a drag queen contest.

First place went to Kenny Nason, a Boston home-grown, who works at the Essex Liquor store in Boston, and hangs out at Playland. Kenny won an all-expense paid weekend for two at Andrew's Inn. The second place winner was Bruce Barrow, who owns Jerry's Taxi in Springfield, Vt. Bruce won a half-gallon of Canadian Club. A fifth of Cutty Sark, which we sampled for authenticity, was the third prize, won by Geraldine from Troy, N.H., who goes to the Inn every Saturday night. The music as restored, dancing

resumed and the party continued. Some other interesting costumes included: "Shakespeare" from Castleton College in Vt., a sorcerer from Charlestown, N.H. and a tube of K-Y from somewhere near Nashua, N.H.

And the party continued. And after the bar closed at 1 a.m., as per Vermont State laws, guests were invited to after-hours parties upstairs. And still the party continued. . . into a Bloody Mary brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. But clean air, sunshine and the mountains made it sacrilegious to stay indoors; so we explored the countryside Sunday afternoon. Within a 20-30 mile radius of the Inn, there are eight major ski areas: Magic Mt., Stratton, Big Bromley, Okemo, Ascutney, Timber Ridge, Maple Valley and Mt. Sunapee in N.H. It's not much further either to Killington, Round Top or Mt. Snow. There's also a plethora of hiking and climbing trails immediately accessible to the Inn, as well as numerous historical sites, antique shops, and the renowned 'ol swimmin' hole, where people still go "skinny-dippin'." But even for the more sedately motivated types, the picturesque Vermont countryside is an aesthetic psychic massage.

The Inn is run by the Moisis family. John's parents, his brother Andy and his sister Marie all help run the Inn. John also runs a beauty shop and Antique shop in town. There are antiques all over the Inn. The family bought the Inn two years ago and after

(Continued on page 17)

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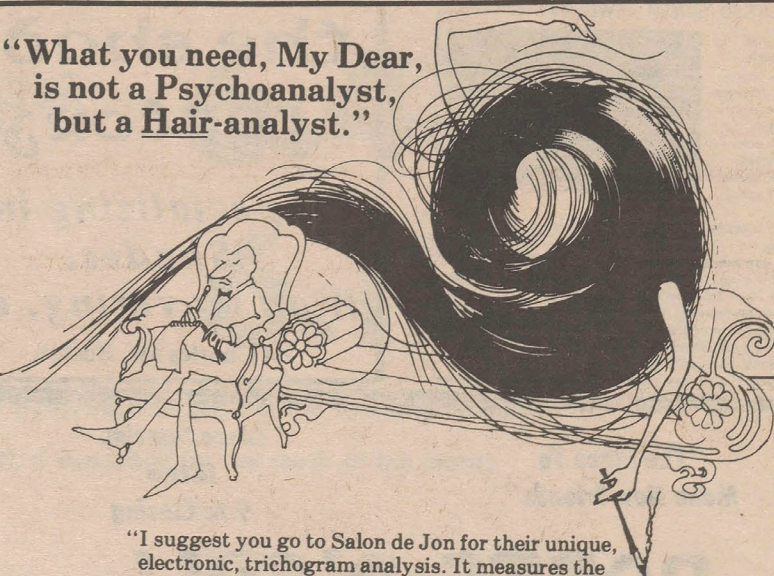
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Jesse James: she/he rides again

By Don Shewey

If the first two months are any indication, the current theatre season may turn out to be the most impressive in years. Following hot on the heels of "Sizwe Banzi Is Dead" and "Kennedy's Children," the openings in Boston at the Charles Playhouse of "Diamond Studs" and in New York at the Martin Beck Theatre of "Habeas Corpus" add two more bright stars to the gay night life.

"Diamond Studs," a "saloon musical" based on the life of Jesse James, has just about everything going for it, from the excellent music and acting right down to the hilarious company bios in the playbill. The cast sings and plays from beginning to end, pausing just long enough to tell the story between songs and exercising the wonderfully clever and well-timed staging designed by director John Haber.

The party atmosphere of "Diamond Studs" makes it a lot of fun to watch and probably even more fun to perform. John Foley is endlessly entertaining and attractive in the role of Jesse James. All of the other actors play multiple roles and contribute uniformly fine performances. Cassandra Morgan, Madelyn Smoak and Ty Stephens deserve special mentions for their particular talents. The music ranges from country and bluegrass to gospel and rock. Many of the tunes are insidiously infectious; "Mama Fantastic," "Steal Away," "Put It Where the Moon Don't Shine" and the title song have been humming through my head since I saw the show.

I usually find it hard to fully approve

of "historical" plays, especially about the Old West, because they tend to be overly sexist; the fact that the time periods portrayed were undeniably sexist provides an easy excuse. But "Diamond Studs" breaks down that barrier by having women play male roles and, more importantly, men play women's roles (which is unnecessary and thus even more admirable). And, anachronistically or not, the feminist spirit of the pioneer women takes its stand on a song called "I Don't Need a Man to Know I'm Good." Whatmore could you ask from the theatre than an entertaining, non-sexist, musical party?

On to New York

Another sample of a suspect dramatic genre — the British comedy — just left Boston to open on Broadway. One expects British comedies to be about as appealing to Americans as the Londoner's warm beer; you know, teddily witty and relying on class differences and sexual innuendoes for cheap laughs. No such yawn-food is "Habeas Corpus." As soon as you take your seat, the Magritte motif on the curtain and the ludicrous pre-show music by the Hove Palm Court Trio (three dignified gentlewomen) warns you that you're in for a tastefully bizarre spectacle. What follows is a genuinely uproarious 2½ hours that may have you frothing with laughter.

Two forces unite to carry "Habeas Corpus" to its comedic heights. One is the ingeniously hilarious script by Alan Bennett, which portrays the adventures of a houseful of healthily zany characters who collectively discover is



the course of events, "This is what they mean by the permissive society." Even when the delightfully eccentric characters and hopelessly complicated situations become predictable, Bennett pulls a plot twist out of nowhere to produce still another unexpected laugh. And although the *deus ex machina* climactic scene seems uncomfortably contrived,

the events leading up to it hold more laughs than two dozen re-runs of *I Love Lucy*.

The other major asset of the show is its heavyweight cast, consisting mostly of old-timers from films and TV who succeed in proving that through all those years of experience they've been getting better, not older: Donald Sinden, Rachel Roberts, Jean Marsh, and Celeste Holm. Among the younger set, Kristoffer Tabori, Constance Forslund, and Stephen D. Newman (as the closeted clergyman Canon Throbbing) hold their own territory winningly. But the star of the show is June Havoc (who must be at least 60) as the cleaning lady Mrs. Swabb, who gives advice and practices her yoga while she dusts the furniture. Her role as combination fortune teller/master of ceremonies/symbol of the working classes demands a lot, but with vast stores of energy and control she comes through like a trooper.

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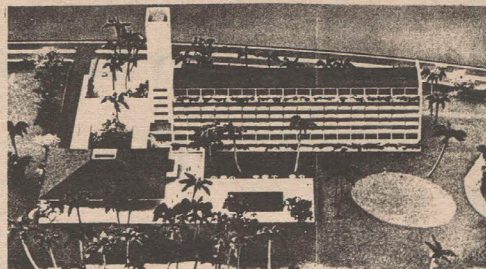
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(Continued from page 14)

six months decided to run it for gay people. It took the townspeople another six months to get over it. But now a gay Inn in the middle of Bellows Falls is just another business in that small town. The police stop by for coffee, the Chamber of Commerce uses the lobby as its center and the local newspaper has its news desk at the Inn. Of course, there had been a few problems with the townsfolk, but things quieted after John Moisis went to the town council and demanded that the police officers do "less coffee drinking and more cruising." We talked with some of the local police officers who showed pride in their

home town and a neighborly friendliness.

The Inn is fairly accessible from all over the Northeast. A bus stops right across the street and the Amtrak station is just "up the road." Some plans are being made for a charter bus from Boston and Springfield, Mass. for winter weekends. Besides the obvious ski attraction, there is also cross-country skiing, skating, and sleigh rides available. Reservations should definitely be made in advance for weekends. And if you require a room with a bath you must specify. The Rates are reasonable: \$10.00 for a single, \$12.00 with a bath, and \$15.00 for a double (\$7.50 each). Meals in the dining room are excellent and the prices are reasonable; or you may grab a quick lunch at the adjoining coffee shop. For more information and reservations, call (802) 463-3966, and remember, when you arrive at the Inn, "Enjoy What You Are."



JILL RAYMOND

(Continued from page 13)

major at the University of Kentucky, Susan Saxe, or Allison Krause. At a certain point during that decade, some of these diabolical forces began pointing their fingers at a number of things, including what the creators of its self-image were doing on America's very own killing floor in S.E. Asia. At that point, somebody had to play the criminal, and the state had the power to determine who that was going to be. After Kent State and Jackson State, it became clear what our role in the game was, and how serious it was to get. Each of us adapted to that criminal role with different understandings of what was to be done. But, no matter what our decisions — no matter how thoughtful, how off-the-wall, how militant, or how passive, we will had no more control over who they were going to come after or who they might leave alone than we do today. The government operates on its own terms, always. Furthermore, it does not have the respect that we do for our "principled political differences." It is threatened by the one thing we hold in common, which is our complete disgust with its mechanisms and its institutions. Therefore, on that day back in September of 1970 when Saxe, Power, Valeri, Gilday, and Bond allegedly pulled their bank job in the Boston suburbs, perpetrating the "largest manhunt (sic) in New England history" — well, if you think that on that day they were hunting Saxe, Power, Valeri, Gilday, and Bond for a robbery in Boston, you have a dangerous case of tunnel vision. They were hunting for us.

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Providence, Tribute to Lillian Hellman, 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.

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

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.

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.



19 wed

Cambridge, Poet John Wieners will read at 100 Flowers Bookstore, 15 Pearl St., Central Sq., at 8:00.

Cambridge, R. I. Feminist Theatre at Caravan Theatre, 1555 Mass. Ave. tonight at 8:30; Friday, 21 at 8:30; Sat., 22 at 7 and 10; Wed. 26 at 8:30; Fri, 28 at 8:30 and Sat. 29 at 7 and 10. Tickets \$3.50, info call 354-9107.

Boston, Benefit Concert for Project Lambda's recreation fund. Presenting two singers, Petrisse Briel and Donna Price; also poetry readings by Ken Dudley and Stephanie Byrd. Donation requested, \$2 suggested. Tickets at door of Charles Street Meetinghouse, for info call 227-8587.

20 thur

Boston, Jade & Sarsaparilla will be at the Charles Playhouse Cabaret at 10:30 pm.

Boston, Drinking problem? Join us in an open discussion group beginning tonight at 8:15 pm at HCHS, 80 Boylston St., Rm. 855, 542-6075.



21 fri

Boston, Jade & Sarsaparilla will be at the Charles Playhouse Cabaret at 10:30 pm.

Amherst, UMass, Disco Dance, 9 pm-1 am at Farley Lodge. Sponsored by the People's Gay Alliance and Gay Women's Caucus. Cover \$1, refreshments served but BYOB.

Andover, Dance for the New World will perform at Phillips Academy at 8 pm premiering two new pieces. Donation is \$3, for info call 426-2248.

Boston, Dignity will offer its 2nd monthly lecture at 8 pm, St. Clement's Church, 1105 Boylston St. The speaker will be Fr. Tom Fox of the Paulist Center, who will speak on "Eros."

November 10 to 30

22 sat

Cambridge, Dance for the New World will perform at the First Congregational Church, 11 Garden St. at 8 p.m. Donation is \$3, for info call 426-2248.



Boston Men's Center welcomes all men to a Men's Sharing Day from 9-5 at MIT Kresge Auditorium. Workshops on men's and gay issues, men's group formation, showing of film "Men's Lives." Child care provided, \$2 registration requested but not required.

23 sun

Boston, MCC will hold a special black liturgy worship service at Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St. at 7 pm. The service will be led by three black MCC leaders in the Northeast District. All are welcome.

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.

Boston, DOB Turkey Dinner, 6 pm, St. Johns Church, 33 Bowdoin St., \$2 in advance, \$2.50 at door; children under 12, 50c. Tickets at DOB or Other Voices Bookstore. All women welcome.

Boston, Gay Men's Center planning meeting, 3 pm in front of Charles Street Meetinghouse. Don't be late, we'll walk to someone's house for the meeting. All gay men invited.

24 mon

Providence, Tribute to Lillian Hellman, Monday night film series. "The Dark Angel," 1927, Merle Oberon, Fredric March. Showings at 7 and 9:15 at Downstairs Playhouse, call 401-521-1100 for info.

25 tues

Boston, GCN hosts an open meeting the last Tuesday of each month. Everyone is invited, GCN volunteers are especially urged to attend. Topic will be Gay Community Center.

Boston, Coming out rap and other topics for gay men to meet in a relaxed group will be held every Tuesday night at 8 in CSMH, 70 Charles St.

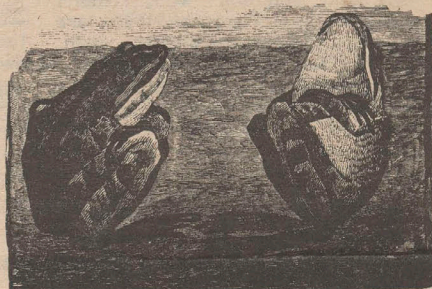
Boston Gay Community Board will have an important business meeting at 7:30 at HCHS, 80 Boylston St.

26 wed

Boston, MCC will have a special joint Thanksgiving worship service with Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., at 8 pm. Let us give thanks to the Lord.

30 sun

Worcester, you are invited to the first training session for the Gay Hotline, 4 pm at MCC Drop-in Center, 64 Chandler St.



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

MONDAYS

10:00 am—Gay News, WCAS, 740 AM.
Noon—MCC campus ministry at RIC, Rm. 310 Student Union. Call 274-1693.
5:30 pm—Women's community Health Center open house, 137 Hampshire St., Cambridge.
7-10 pm—UMass Gay Women's Caucus Hotline, 545-3438.
7 pm—Gay Women's Rap Group, at Another Way, 64 Chandler St., Worcester, Ma. 756-0730.
7 pm—Parents of Gays, HCHS, 80 Boylston St., Boston, (617) 542-6075.
7:30 pm—DOB Lesbian Mothers Rap, 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323.
8:00 pm—Lesbian Rap at Women's Center, 215 Park St., NH.
8 pm—Harvard-Radcliffe GSA, 1st fl. parlor, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard.
8-9 pm—"None of the Above," WWUH-FM (91.3) Hartford, Conn. (203-728-0653).
8:30 pm—Alcoholics Together, 290 Westminster St., Prov. RI (401) 274-4737.
8:00 pm—Lesbian rap and action group; Cambridge Women's Center basement; (617) 354-8807.
8:30 pm—Hartford Gay Alcoholics Group (203) 522-2646.

TUESDAYS

10 am—GRAC handball, Paris St. Gym, E. Boston, info call 268-7240.
10-11 a.m.—Drinking Problem discussion group, HCHS, 80 Boylston St., Boston (617) 542-6075.
6-9—Homophile Community Health Counseling (401) 274-4737.
7:00 pm—Pot-Luck Supper, MCC, 63 Chapin Ave., Providence.
7:30 pm—DOB Women's Rap, 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323.
8:00 pm—Springfield Gay Alliance, (1st and 3rd Tuesdays), First Unitarian Church, 245 Porter Lake Drive, Springfield.
8 pm—Rap for gay men, CSMH, 70 Charles St., Boston.
8:00 pm—Gay Way Radio, WBUR, 90.9 FM.
8:30 pm—Gay Alliance at Yale, rap session, Bingham Hall, Rm. B-8, 436-8945.

WEDNESDAYS

11 am—Gay discussion group at Drop-In Center of Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, MA; open to everyone.
12:30-2:00—Gay People of UMass/Boston general meeting for men and women. College 2 Building, Rm. 620 Harbor Campus. Lounge open every day noon to 2 pm.
12-8 pm—Provincetown Drop-in Center has these hours especially for gay problems. Come in or call. See Quick Gay Guide.
6:30-0 pm—Gay Health Night at Fenway Community Health Center, 267-7573.
7:00—Men's Rap Group, 64 Chandler St., Worcester, Mass. Call 756-0730.
7 pm—Open Rap, 63 Chapin Ave., Providence, R.I. (401) 274-1693.
7:00 pm—Liberation Rap Group (617) 756-0730.
7 pm—Framingham Unicorn Society meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday; Box 163, Framingham, MA 01701.
7 pm—MCC religious dialogue at 63 Chapin St., Providence.
7:30 pm—GRAC basketball; call 268-7240.
8 pm—Alcoholics Together, St. Johns Evangelist Church, 33 Bowdoin St., Boston.
10:15 pm—"Gaybreak Radio," on WMUA-FM, 91.1 mc. (1st and 3rd Wednesdays).

THURSDAYS

12:30-2:00—Gay People of UMass/Boston general meeting for women and men. College 2 Bldg. Rm. 620, Harbor Campus. Lounge open every day noon to 2 pm.
7 pm—Gay drop-in coffeehouse at Scarborough Fair room of the College Union, Salem College, Salem, MA.
7-10 pm—UMass Gay Women's Caucus Hotline, 545-3438.
7 pm—Yale Lesbian Caucus, Bingham Hall, Rm. B-8, 436-8945.
7:00 pm—Gay Support and Action Group, Bangor, Maine.
7:00 pm—Gay Alcoholics, St. Vincents Hospital, Worcester.

7 pm—Alcoholics Together, 64 Chandler St., Worcester, Ma. 756-0730.
7 pm—MCC open rap, 63 Chapin St., Providence.
7:30 pm—Peoples Gay Alliance, UMass Amherst, 8th floor of Campus Center.
8 pm—Capital Dist. Gay Comm. Council, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12210.
8:00 pm—DOB Rap for Older Women, 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323, Boston.
8:00 pm—Lesbian Liberation meeting, Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge.
8:00 pm—KALOS, Hartford, CT, 568-2656.
8:00 pm—Lesbian Mothers group; 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA (617) 354-8807.
8:30 pm—Gay Women's Caucus, UMass Amherst, 8th floor of Campus Center.
8:30 pm—Gay Alliance at Yale, general meeting, Dwight Hall Library, 436-8945.
8:30 pm—New Haven Gay Alliance, Dwight Hall Library, Old Campus at Yale.
9 pm—Emerson Homophile Society, Rm. 24, 96 Beacon St., Boston.
9:30-10:30 pm—Drop-in Center for men, Rm. L-23, Curtis Hall, Tufts, Medford.

FRIDAYS

7:00 pm—Alcoholics Together, Worcester, 756-0730, 754-7817.
7:30 pm—Rap group for men & women, MGTF, 193 Middle St., Portland, Me.
8-11 pm—"Open house at the parsonage," MCC/Providence, 63 Chapin Ave., Providence.
8:00 pm—"Somewhere Coffeehouse," MCC/Hartford, 11 Amity St., Hartford.
8:00 pm—Health Clinic, Burbank Hospital Fitchburg, MA.
8:30 pm—B'nai Haskalah, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston.
9 pm—Coffee House, 64 Chandler St., Worcester.

SATURDAYS

2 pm—GRAC soccer for dykes and fags, Hatch Shell, Esplanade.
3:00 pm—Worcester Gay Union Radio, WCUW, 91.3 FM.
8:00 pm—Gay Support and Action, dance at 23 Franklin St., Bangor, ME.

8:00 pm—East Conn. Gay Alliance, 889-7530.
8-11 pm—"Open house at the parsonage," MCC, 63 Chapin Ave., Providence.
8:00 pm—MCC/Hartford Drop-in Center, 11 Amity, St.

SUNDAYS

10:30 am—"Closet Space," WCAS 740 AM.
1 pm—GRAC volleyball, Hatch Shell, Esplanade, when sunny. Call Don 289-7678.
2 pm—Gay Women of Providence rap, 942-2094.
2:30 pm—"Gay A's" Alcoholics Rap, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston.
4-6 pm—Gay Women's Group of Providence Rap, (401) 831-5184.
4:00 pm—Dignity Rap Group (except 1st Sunday of every month when it will follow Dignity meeting at 3 pm), St. Clements Church, 1101 Boylston St., Boston.
4:00 pm—MIT-SHL (1st and 3rd Sunday), Rm. 50-306.
5:30 pm—Exodus Mass, St. Clements Church, 1105 Boylston St., Boston.
6:30 pm—Gay Church Services, 23 Franklin St., Bangor, ME.
7 pm—MCC/Albany, N.Y., 332 Hudson Ave. (except first Sunday of months at 6 pm).
7:00 pm—Metropolitan Community Church worship service, 63 Chapin Ave., Providence (401) 274-1693.
7:00 pm—MCC/Boston, worship and fellowship, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston.
7:00 pm—MCC/Worcester services at Central Congregational Church, 6 Institute Rd., Worcester.
7:00 pm—Church of the Eternal Flame Universal, 320 Farmington Ave., Apt. A-6, Hartford, CT.
7:30 pm—MCC/Gartford, 11 Amity St., Hartford, CT.
8:00 pm—Worcester Homophile Organization, (formerly W.G.U.), 892-9113 for meeting place.

everyweek