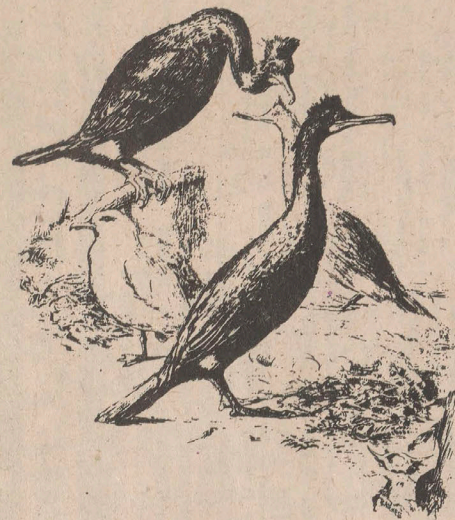
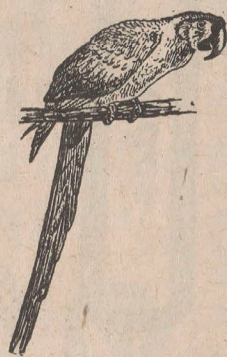


December 6 thru 28



6 sat

Boston, Ben Her, N.Y.C.'s 5 piece women's disco band, will make their first Boston appearance tonight and tomorrow night at The Citadel, 22 Avery St.



7 sun

Boston, Gloria Gaynor will make two additional performances today at 5 and 8 pm, at Oz, 969 Commonwealth Ave. Tickets \$5.00, available at the door.



8 mon

Cambridge, Bread & Roses presents Crescent Star Cloth Design by Cherrie Cox today thru Dec. 21 at 134 Hampshire St. Info call 354-8371.

Philadelphia, Pa., Wine and cheese benefit for Eromin Center will be hosted from 6-9 pm by Camp Williamsburg Inn, 251 Camac St. Tickets are \$10, available at Eromin Center, 1735 Nandain St. or at door. For info call (215) 732-3212.

Morristown, N.J., Barbara Love, author of *Sappho Was A Right-On Woman*, will speak for Gay Activist Alliance in Morris County, at Morristown Unitarian Fellowship on Normandy Heights Road off of County Route 510. Info call 675-0835.



9 tues

Boston, Integrity regular meeting, 7:30 pm, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St.

Boston, DOB Birthday Party and Open House, 8 pm, 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323. All women invited to help celebrate our 6th birthday and renovate quarters. Cake and cookies.

Boston, Gay Community Board Meeting, Charles Street Meetinghouse, 70 Charles St., at 7:30.

10 wed

Boston, Gay Recreational handball, 7 pm, Paris St. Gym, East Boston. Info 268-7240.

11 thurs

Boston, "Libera," a women's radio program on WBUR-FM from 8-9 pm will host a discussion among gay and straight women.

Andover, Dignity/Merrimack Valley open board meeting at 7:30 pm, held at Christian Formation Center, River Rd. All welcome.



12 fri

Portsmouth, N.H., SAGA will hold its first meeting at 75 Court St. at 7 pm. This will be a social evening, BYOB.

Worcester, Nostalgia Films at Another Way Drop-In Center, 64 Chandler St., 9 pm.



13 sat

Boston, Firesticks — A Journey into Self-Respect, theatrical work by a women's ensemble, 8 pm at Boston Center for the Arts, 551 Tremont St., \$2.50 donation benefits Susan Saxe Defense Fund. Info call 876-2975.

Burlington, Vt., UVermont Gay Dance at Southwick Hall, Redstone Campus, 9 pm; \$1 donation covers dj and refreshments.

Worcester, Pot Luck Supper at Another Way Drop-In Center, 64 Chandler St., 7:30.

14 sun

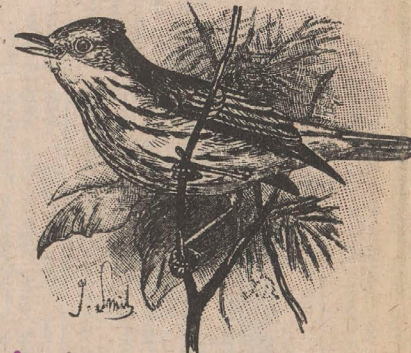
Boston, Gay Men's Center meeting, 3 pm at 36 Bromfield St. Please come, your input is important.

Boston, Dignity celebrates its 3rd anniversary with a special mass at 1:30 pm, St. Clements Church, 1105 Boylston St. Pot luck buffet follows.

Cambridge, Bread & Roses presents Crescent Star Cloth Design by Cherrie Cox. Reception 2:30-5 pm, 134 Hampshire St. Info call 354-8371.

Boston, Gay Recreational soccer, noon, Hatch Shell, Esplanade. Info 268-7240.

Cambridge, GAU-NE meeting, 2-4 pm, first floor parlor, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard. Charles Shively will speak on "The Gay Teacher as Subject and Object."



16 tues Yellow Warbler, male.

Boston, DOB monthly social evening, devoted to singing carols and other songs. Songbooks and instruments welcome. All women and their children (12 or under) invited. 7:30 pm at DOB offices, 419 Boylston St., rm. 323.

28 sun

New Haven, Ct., "Come Out Tonight" radio from Yale, WYBC-FM, 93.4, 7 pm.



everyone's favorite mother.

lesbian murder trial, p. 1

state house wedding, p. 1

gay teens, p. 17

p. 10



By Regina Kennedy

gay community news

Vol. 3, No. 24

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(617) 426-4469

December 13, 1975

Matlovich Attacked, Millett Reads at GAU

'Largest Conference Ever'

By John Kyper

NEW YORK — The Gay Academic Union (GAU) held its third annual conference in New York City, at Columbia University, over the Thanksgiving weekend. The three-day conference was attended by a thousand people from throughout the United States and Canada.

The opening session on Friday morning featured Dolores Klaich, author of *Woman Plus Woman*, and Tony Russo. T/Sgt. Leonard Matlovich had been scheduled to address the opening session and a workshop on gays and the military, but he did not appear.

Nevertheless, two broadsides critical of Matlovich's support for the military were circulated. One was entitled "Gay Liberation or Civil Rights?" and was signed by a group of New York gays, including dramatist Jonathan Katz. Another was circulated by *Maverick* editor Mikhail Francis Itkin and read in part: "It is my firm and unequivocal contention that no person, Gay or non-Gay, has the right to be a murderer. The Armed Forces and Armed Constabulary of the world is nothing but the organization of murderers, given the blessings and sanction of the

state."

The conference featured over fifty workshops, including: lesbian music, religion, economic oppression of gays, lesbian mind and body, civil liberties,

media, gay psychological counseling, prison, publishing gay books, patchwork majority, gay history, student struggles, S&M, gay archives, gays as parents, pioneers and prophets, gay

aesthetic. Also, the gay caucuses of several professional organizations met during the conference.

Cultural presentations were held during both evenings of the conference. Performers included Jade and Sarsaparilla, Miles Fusco, Paul Wagner, Kay Gardner, and Women Like Me.

A second general session during Saturday afternoon featured John Money, professor of medical psychology and pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University. Money discussed transsexualism and the differentiation of gender in developing human beings.

The program also included a workshop on Black and Puerto Rican Gays, the first such workshop at a GAU conference. But members of the audience were angered at its exclusively sexual direction that avoided the thornier issues of gay racism and politics. A consequence was the formation of a Black and Puerto Rican Caucus.

Another source of criticism was the organization of the conference. Advance registrants received no advance program, or even acknowledgement of their registration or notices of what hall at Columbia where the conference

(Continued on page 7)



Coordinators of the Gay Academic Union conference talk with the press in New York City during the Thanksgiving conference. They are (l-r): Louise Crawford, James Saslow, Lucie Arbuthnot, Betty Powell, and Tony Russo.

Photo by Betty Lane

Marriage Attempt May Go to Court

"State House" Couple Fail To Get License

METHUEN, Mass. — Gerrie Leary and Jimmy Sheridan, two gay men who were married across from the State House in Boston last week, applied for and were denied a marriage license at the town hall in Methuen on Thursday. James T. Maloney, town clerk, refused to issue a license to the couple claiming that the legal definition of marriage presupposes a woman and a man. Leary and Sheridan were accompanied by a photographer from the *Lawrence Eagle Tribune* as they attempted to get the license. They are now considering taking the case to court in order to "test" the marriage

laws.

BOSTON — In the glare of TV lights and cameras, two gay men were married at noon last Monday in front of the State House in Boston. Gerrie Leary, 34, a house-painter by profession, and Jimmy Sheridan, 24, a waiter at Boston's Other Side, were joined in marriage by Rev. Norman A. Hudon, Jr., a minister associated with the Church of Christ Community Church. Besides a large contingent of reporters and photographers in evidence, about two dozen people attended the ceremony.

The couple had hoped to be married

on the actual steps of the State House but State House police made it impossible. Leary claimed that police had told him that he would be "arrested" if he crossed the street. "They had no right to say that," he said. "The stairway there is a public stairway." The wedding then took place across the street with "our backs to the State House."

Leary attributed the small number of people attending the wedding to the bad weather and to fear of public exposure on television. He also claimed that the police had told people that the wedding was called off.

Leary told GCN that he and his lover of seven months had married "to prove that we as gay people should have rights and do as we please." "And we love each other," he added. His spouse, Jimmy Sheridan, said, "I'm happier than I've ever been. It's about time that people realized that homosexuals are people too."

The couple now possess a marriage certificate issued by Rev. Norman Hudon on behalf of the Church of Christ Community Church. Hudon, the founder of the church which he claims has 4500 members, gay and

(Continued on page 7)



Gay couple celebrates at Boston's Other Side after their marriage across from the State House. At right are the couple, Jimmy Sheridan and Gerrie Leary. At left is the friend who married them, Norman Hudon.

Photo by Martha Adams

Woman Guilty Of Killing Lover

By Sir Edward Clarke

BOSTON — A jury in Suffolk Superior Court has found Shirley Roberts guilty of manslaughter in the third degree in the stabbing death of her lover, Sandra Burton, on Oct. 31, 1974. After the jury returned their guilty verdict on Nov. 25, Judge Ruth Abrams sentenced Roberts to seven years in prison of which she will only have to serve four months.

The woman judge decided to suspend 6 years and 8 months of the sentence because Roberts is pregnant and her baby can therefore be born outside of prison. The judge also made Roberts promise to continue high school or receive some job training as a condition for the probation. Roberts' first trial had ended in a mistrial on

Aug. 19 of this year.

During the course of the trial, the detective who answered the call testified that he had arrived on the scene on the night of Oct. 31 to find the victim lying in a pool of blood. He reported that before he even had a chance to ask what had happened, Shirley told him, "I'm sorry I did it." A criminologist testified at the trial that a steak knife was the weapon used and that it had blood on it as well as a slightly bent edge.

A friend of Roberts testified to her relationship with the victim, and in the course of testimony their lesbian relationship was brought out. Roberts testified in her own defense during the course of the trial.

Roberts will serve her sentence at MCI Framingham.



news notes

WORCESTER HOTLINE

WORCESTER — Six gay volunteers are currently staffing a hotline at the Crisis Center in Worcester. The staff will be on duty on Saturday nights from 10 a.m. to 3 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Gay people in the Worcester area are invited to drop in during these times at the Crisis Center, 162 Chandler St., or to phone at 791-6562.



Whirligig. (Line shows natural size.)

TIMES COMES OUT

NEW YORK — Charlotte Curtis and Roger Wilkins, members of the editorial board of *The New York Times*, participated as questioners at a Dec. 6 public forum sponsored by the National Gay Task Force. This marks the first time in history that members of the "establishment" media have lent their names to a gay-sponsored event.

The subject of the forum, held at N.Y.U. School of Medicine, was "The Relationship of the Feminist, Lesbian and Gay Movements," and the panelists included distinguished representatives of all three groups. They were: Charlotte Bunch, lesbian-feminist theoretician and editor of *Quest*; Betty Powell, Professor of Languages at Brooklyn College and Chairwoman, Gay Academic Union Conference; Martin Duberman, Distinguished Professor of History, Lehman College; Bert Hansen, Professor of history, SUNY, Binghamton; Kathy Samuels, Project Director, Women's Action Alliance; and Ronni Smith, Director of Management Services, N.Y. State Division of Human Rights. Jean O'Leary, NGTF Legislative Director, was moderator.

Wilkins, civil rights specialist at the *Times*, stated, "I am participating in this event because I support both the gay movement and the feminist movement, and I want to know more about them and help them."



Coffee Percolator.
Ground coffee is placed in the filter, (a) and water in the lower part of pot. When the water becomes sufficiently heated it rises through the tube (b), strikes the glass top and falls back onto a spreader-plate from which it percolates through the filter-cup (c) into the lower chamber. The process continues as long as sufficient heat is supplied.

SWEET COMING

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — A lesbian coffeehouse called Sweet Coming has opened here. The coffeehouse, located at 200 Main St., will be open every Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m. in order to provide lesbians with a space to meet with each other, and share music, poetry, and other creative expressions. Food and drink will be available.

"VIOLENT" GAYS?

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — District Attorney Jon K. Holcombe of Canandaigua County has told the Lions Club of Syracuse that homosexuals are responsible for a majority of violent crimes, especially homicides. According to a story in the Nov. 22 issue of the *Syracuse Post-Standard*, Holcombe told the Hotel Syracuse gathering that it was time to recognize the "clear and present danger of homosexuality."

Once you eliminate murders of persons by members of their family and murders resulting from drinking, the D.A. claimed, violent crimes committed by gays constitute a major portion of the remaining offenses. Holcombe had specialized in the prosecution of homicide cases when he was assistant D.A.

He added that he had always wanted to do a study of the relationships of homosexuals and violent crime but had "never had the opportunity."



Sloth-bear.

CAMPBELL CANNED

MIAMI — Gay voter apathy was considered a major factor in the overwhelming defeat of Jack Campbell, president of the Club Bath Chain (CBC), in his race to unseat Miami City Commissioner J. L. Plummer. Campbell, who ran as a reform candidate and an open gay, received only 4,703 votes (19%) to Plummer's 14,310 (58%) with other candidates receiving 5,516 votes.

The election results came as a shock to gay forces in Miami. "The gay vote just didn't come out. I've never seen people as petrified as in Miami," said Fran Arango, founder of GAY Miami. "I'm so surprised that I'm in shock," said Sandy Reewood of NOW's Lesbian Task Force.

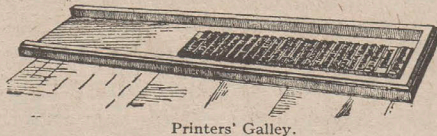
Campbell himself was a bit more optimistic. "We have not lost," he said. "There will be other elections." When asked as to what Miami's gay community could now expect, Campbell said, "If the election figures reflect a true vote there will be a cracking down; however, if not, then the status quo will continue."



Sing-sing.

MERGING PRESSES

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Fort Worth *Community News* and the Dallas-based newspaper *The Channel* announced their merger recently. Under the merger agreement of the two Texas gay newspapers, the *Community News* will maintain its own office and staff but will now be responsible only for the content of the combined publication. *Channel* staffers will supervise production, advertising and subscriptions.



Printers' Galley.

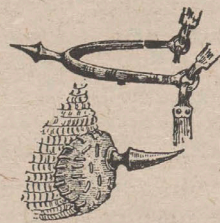
GAY TELEVISION

PHILADELPHIA — The first television show, produced, created, and moderated by gay people, will make its debut on Philadelphia's Channel 6 on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 7:30. The show, called "Out Front," will appear for a half-hour on the local ABC affiliate, WPVI-TV. The program is being co-sponsored by WPVI and the Gay Media Project of Philadelphia.

The topic of the Dec. 13 show will be "Homophobia: Society's Prejudice Against Homosexuality," and will feature Dolores Klaich and Dr. Charles Silverstein as special guests. Moderators of the show will be prominent Philadelphia gay liberationists Barbara Gittings and David Waldron.

The Gay Media Project envisions a series of shows dealing with gay problems and are tentatively hoping to put ten to twelve shows together in the next several months. However, no dates have been set for any future shows, although the Saturday night time slot is expected to be kept.

The executive producer for "Out Front" is Jon Miller, director of public affairs for WPVI. Production coordinators are Jan Welch and John Wiles of the Gay Media Project. For more information about "Out Front," write GMP, Box 2186, Philadelphia 19103.



Prick-spurs of the 13th century.

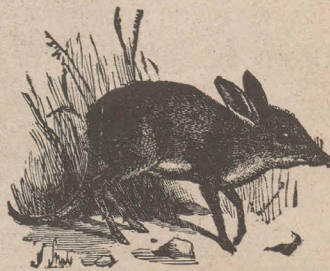
MEN'S CENTER

BOSTON — The name of the Gay Men's Center newsletter, *The Limp Fist*, caused controversy at the group's most recent meeting. A man who had not been at the earlier meetings when the name was decided upon stated that he was mainly involved with the leather faction of the gay male community, and felt that the name *The Limp Fist* was alienating to his set. He stated that the word "Limp" would make him and his friends uncomfortable. The majority of men present felt the title of the monthly newsletter should be considered further, and so the name *The Limp Fist* was tabled for the present. The newsletter committee stated that the newsletter would still come out some time in the first week in December under the provisional title, *The Gay Men's Center Monthly Newsletter*.

Also discussed at the steering committee meeting was plans for renovating the new headquarters, located at 36 Bromfield St. Meetings will be held every Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

SAXE IN COURT

BOSTON — Susan Saxe, revolutionary feminist, will appear in Suffolk Superior Criminal Court this Tuesday at a pre-trial hearing requested by her lawyers. The hearing, to be held before Judge McLaughlin, will consider Saxe's request to be transferred to a prison nearer Boston, possibly Framingham.



Australian Bandicoot (*Cheropus castanotis*).

POLICE PROTEST

SEATTLE — Fifty members of the Union of Sexual Minorities picketed police headquarters last month in Seattle to protest lack of police protection of gays, police harassment of gays, and the refusal of the city's chief of police, Robert Hanson, to meet with them.

The action emphasized a radical/conservative split within Seattle's gay community as the Dorian Group, an organization of about 300 gay businessmen, condemned the activist tactics of the protesters. The Dorian Club president, an insurance executive, claimed that all the picketers were accomplishing was "embarrassing" the police chief. The Dorian Group has been praised in a recent article in the *Advocate* as the "wave of the future" in terms of middle-class gay organizing. However, more radical sectors of the Seattle gay community have seen the group as "ultra-conservative" and "anti-gay liberation" in spirit.

Taking his cue from the community split, the police chief based his rationale on refusing to meet with the protesters on the statement that they were "unrepresentative" of Seattle's gay community.

RHODE ISLAND REPORT

By Ken

PROVIDENCE — The big news this week for Providence's gay community is the very important gathering called "Meet GCS" (Gay Community Services) to be held at the Gallery Bar upstairs on Thursday, Dec. 11.

This gathering will be more or less a "Gay Fair" to introduce members of the gay community of Rhode Island to the various organizations and their available services. It is hoped that each of the member organizations will have an area set up to provide flyers, addresses, and phone numbers for information, etc.

Organizations associated with Gay Community Services include Alcoholics Together, the Caban Club, Dignity of Providence, Fife and Drum, Gay Women of Providence, Health Community Services, Metropolitan Community Church of Providence, and the Rhode Island College Gay Alliance.

It is very important that all interested persons make every effort to attend this introductory meeting. Please set aside a small portion of your evening Thursday to come by, rap with friends, and "Meet GCS." You may find that you, too, will be infected by the virus that has compelled the Providence groups to work hard for the hope and promise of a better gay future!



Sen. Fred Harris

Harrington Nod To Fred Harris

BOSTON — Former Oklahoma Sen. Fred Harris, contender for the Democratic presidential nomination, has garnered the support of Congressman Michael Harrington of Massachusetts as well as five state legislators. Harrington, who endorsed Harris at a news conference last Thursday, has been a sponsor of the National Gay Rights Bill (HR 5452).

The five legislators, who pledged to "do everything in our power to help Fred Harris win the 1976 Massachusetts presidential primary," are Sen. Jack Backman (D-Brookline), Sen. George Rogers (D-New Bedford), Rep. Timothy Bassett (D-Lynn), Rep. Garry Jones (D-Middleborough), and Rep. Francis LaPointe (D-Chicopee). Backman, Jones and LaPointe have all been consistent supporters of gay rights legislation at the State House while Rogers and Bassett have opposed the bills.

Harris himself has indicated his strong support of the Abzug bill and for gay civil rights protection.

Hysteria Hits Bloomington

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — The gay rights issue continues to polarize this university town in the conservative Indiana heartland. The reversal under pressure of the City Building Inspector's refusal to sign a permit for a gay center has resulted in a massive anti-gay campaign of newspaper and radio advertisements, letters to the editor, and church petitions. In the midst of all this controversy, the Bloomington City Council will vote on a gay rights ordinance this week.

A recent full-page advertisement in the *Daily Herald Telephone* signed by "names of some of the more than 2,500 persons who signed concurrences to the above letter" gives an example of the kinds of tactics used by the anti-gay campaign. The ad features a letter that says, "This letter is being written in order to express the strongest possible support of City Inspector Donald Christy, who has refused to sign the necessary permits for the use by homosexuals in downtown Bloomington . . . Mr. Christy's position is backed by the full weight of American law and tradition . . . I urge the Bloomington community to deeply consider the clear-cut choice which we are facing with this question, and to prayerfully make it a matter of immediate personal decision: to shun the sodomites and their supporters, to use every lawful device to eliminate homosexual activity in this area, and to reeducate our community to the standards set forth by God."

Brian de St. Croix, pro-gay member

Sen. Kelly Surprise Sponsor

Three Mass. Bills Filed

BOSTON — Three gay rights bills for consideration during the 1976 session of the Massachusetts legislature were filed last week. The list of sponsors of the legislation was the largest and most influential one since the Bay State gay rights effort was begun in 1973.

The legislation is almost identical to bills filed for the 1975 session. One measure would repeal four sections of the state's criminal code dealing with private sexual behavior between consenting adults. Another bill adds "sexual preference" to the charter of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination to ban such discrimination against gays in housing, employment, public accommodations, credit, and the sale of insurance. The final bill, filed by Rep. Richard E. Landry (D-Waltham), head of the House Public Service Committee, would ban discrimination against gay people in state civil service employment.

State representatives sponsoring one or more of the bills are Reps. Elaine Noble (D-Back Bay), Barney Frank (D-Back Bay), Barbara E. Gray (R-Framingham), John A. Businger (D-Brookline), James Segel (D-Brookline), Melvin H. King (D-South End), Royal L. Bolling, Jr. (D-Mattapan), Anne C. Ganinett (R-Wayland), Richard E. Kendall (D-Falmouth), James E. Smith (D-



Sen. James Kelly

Lynn), Doris Bunte (D-Roxbury), Lois G. Pines (D-Newton), James G. Collins (D-Amherst), Francis W. Hatch (R-Beverly), Geneva R. Counihan (D-Concord), Paul E. Means (D-Stoneham), Laurence R. Buxbaum (D-Sharon), Raymond A. Jordan (D-Springfield), Philip W. Johnston (D-Marshfield), David J. Mofenson (D-Newton), Richard E. Landry (D-Waltham), and Max Volterra (D-Attleboro).

Senators sponsoring one or more of

the gay rights bills include Sens. Jack H. Backman (D-Brookline), Robert A. Hall (R-Lunenburg), Edward L. Burke (D-Framingham), Bill Owens (D-Boston) and Allan R. McKinnon (D-Weymouth).

A new senate sponsor of the legislation was Sen. James A. Kelly (D-Oxford), who chairs the legislature's Ways and Means Committee, and is considered one of the most powerful persons in the State House today. Several senators contacted by GCN expressed surprise upon hearing that Kelly had co-sponsored the gay discrimination bill, and indicated that his support could well be enough to move the legislation through the senate, where it was defeated by only two votes this May.

Organizations which joined in sponsoring the measures were Gay Legislation 1976, Americans for Democratic Action, the National Organization for Women, The Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, Citizens for Participation in Political Action (CPPAX), and the Boston chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis.

In addition, the Greater Boston chapter of the American Jewish Committee, acting on a near-unanimous vote of its board of directors on Dec. 3, also co-sponsored each bill, for the first time.

Left, Labor Protest Anti-Gay Bill

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Chanting "Gay and Straight, Gay and Straight, Organize Against the State," some 125 angry demonstrators marched, in a freezing rain, to protest against anti-gay legislation being introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature. The demon-

stration, in protest against the recent passage of Senate Bill 196, was held in front of the Pennsylvania state office building at noon on Nov. 12.

The demonstration, initiated by the Pittsburgh chapter of the New American Movement (NAM), was supported by a wide variety of non-gay organizations and demonstrated an unusual degree of support for gay rights by straight organizations. Among the co-sponsors, along with NAM, were the Pennsylvania Social Services Union, Local 668; the Pennsylvania National Organization for Woman (NOW), and the Pittsburgh Gay Political Caucus. Seventeen other organizations, including civil liberties, religious, feminist, socialist, and labor groups endorsed the demonstration.

The bill itself, which barred gay people from holding jobs in the public services, has already died in the Pennsylvania legislature after only one house was able to override Governor Milton Shapp's veto. However, another bill, similar in content, overwhelmingly passed the state Senate two weeks ago.

In a press release, the New American Movement stated, this bill "represents an escalation of the recent wave of government repression against the Gay community nationally . . . As the contradictions and crises of capitalism increase, we can expect more and more of this kind of sexist legislation, aimed at bolstering the nuclear family, one of the basic institutions of capitalist society. The recent defeat of the ERA in New York and New Jersey is clearly part of that reactionary backlash against the progressive aspects of the women's and gay liberation's movements. However, we can also expect more and more people, representing a variety of organizations and interests, to band together in protest against such moves, and to demand the right to control their lives — sexually, economically, and politically — as they did in Pittsburgh this month.

The New American Movement, whose aim is to build a Socialist party in the U.S., has chapters throughout the country and has a strong, active gay caucus.

Murder Suspect Held Without Bail

By Rick Paquette

CAMBRIDGE — Ronald C. Hutchinson, 32, of Irving Street, Cambridge, and Bridge Street, Beverly, is being held without bail for the Middlesex County grand jury on a murder charge in the beating death of a man at a well-known Cambridge cruising area. Hutchinson was charged Dec. 3 in the Cambridge District Court with the death of Walter H. Flanagan, 48, of Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridge.

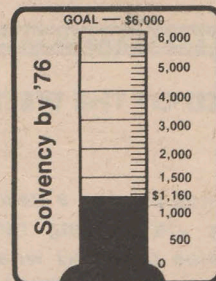
Flanagan had been found critically injured in the cruising area near the Larz Anderson Bridge. He was discovered at 2:35 a.m. on July 17 lying on a blanket near the river, severely beaten, and taken to Mt. Auburn Hospital where he died July 19 at 9 a.m. from "serious head injuries" (see

GCN Vol. 3, No. 6). This was corroborated at the hearing by Metropolitan District Commission Detective Richard Nagle.

Donald Clark, 31, a 1965 graduate of the University of Washington, testified that he and Hutchinson had gone to the cruising area "to roll some gay people" to get more money for drinking. They had been drinking all day and had run out of money. Clark further stated that he had fallen asleep near the bridge and later Hutchinson told him that he had "whacked" someone, attempted to apply first aid to the victim, and then called the police.

GCN will continue to follow the case, scheduled for the December sitting of the Middlesex County grand jury.

CONTRIBUTE TO GCN



The above thermometer will weekly show GCN's progress towards solvency in 1976. The main source of additional income will be generated by a series of benefits which began last month and will continue until January. You can contribute simply by attending. If you are unable to attend or wish to make a larger donation we are also encouraging people to send contributions to:

SOLVENCY '76
GCN
22 BROMFIELD ST.
BOSTON, MASS. 02108

Help us make our dream a reality!



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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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.



lifeline in zoo

Dear Editor,

The purpose of this letter is twofold, first, I've read a copy of your publication with great interest. Is there a fund that could pay for a regular subscription to your paper? I would enjoy receiving same.

I'm an inmate at the Nevada State prison; our wages here leave much to be desired.

The second request is to write to liberal lesbians. Since my confinement and going over my past life a number of facts have come to view in my being. This is the reason for this request.

A brag, but fact, I've not the average concept of a convict. This is my first and last time behind bars. Before here I owned and operated a gaming casino. I was a business man for 17 years.

As you may be well aware, mail is a lifeline in a zoo like this. I'm hoping to find new and sincere friends through this request.

Thanking you in advance for your time and consideration in this request.

I'm hoping this letter finds you and yours in the best.

Would you take time to answer this letter, or send along any suggestions you may have?

A point of interest, our mail is not read in or out of here.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Bob Sheridan
P.O. Box 2247
Carson City, Nev. 89701

'paragraph 175'

Dear Editor,

Thank you for publishing the fine article by Allen Young on "Magnus Hirschfeld." I first learned about Dr. Hirschfeld from an article published during the past year in the German monthly magazine *him*. (I recently returned from 15 months in Germany where, in my opinion, *him* is an eloquent voice of the homosexual emancipation movement in Germany.) I believe it is a great encouragement for us to learn more about the pioneers of gay liberation and to know of the accomplishments, whether in gay lib or elsewhere, of contemporary gay people. They should be encouraged to speak out. As the film director Rosa van Praunheim ("It's not the

homosexual who is perverse, but the situation in which he lives") said in a recent interview (*him*, November 1975): "The anxiety of the homosexual is of course understandable, but that doesn't help the emancipation of homosexuals in general or of the individual. Let those who can most afford it begin by admitting their homosexuality, those in the liberal professions. They can, so to speak, break the ice for the others."

But the real reason I am writing is to correct an impression that may, unintentionally I'm sure, have been given in the article in GCN. In describing Hirschfeld's political activity, Young mentions "a petition campaign designed to repeal the German laws against homosexuality (Paragraph 175, still a part of German law today)." I would like to point out that, while there still is a "Paragraph 175" (and I regret that I am unable to quote it), it has been greatly revised in recent years, so that sex between consenting adults is now legal. This change has been brought about in large part by the activities of the various so-called Homosexual Action Groups throughout (West) Germany.

Yours in gay solidarity,

H. C. Kennedy

mad over poor coverage

Dear GCN,

Your poor coverage of Robert Shaughnessy's death makes me angry! The Nov. 22 issue states that he committed suicide. The source of this information is not given, nor is sufficient evidence given to support such a conclusion. Being "found hanging by a bedsheet from the door of his cell" does not rule out murder. GCN has supported a "critical" look at our "criminal justice" procedures. Doesn't Shaughnessy's interaction with this system require the same scrutiny as that of Joanne Little or Susan Saxe? I'm afraid that his "enemy status" as the possible murderer of gays caused the subjectivity.

Controversy over gay bars and their policies continue to appear in GCN. As we debate over who is most discriminating and who is most encouraging of "straight tourism." I think there are things we should keep in mind. Whether we choose to visit a "watering hole" every night, on weekends, or hardly ever let's remember that bars are businesses. The varying policies the bars establish are more likely to be efforts at making the greatest profit, rather than love or hate of gay people. We are becoming the "in" minority group which means many more "straight" establishments will be inviting our patronage. As gay people, how we choose to respond to this new "acceptance" I don't care to judge. Let's just be aware of the situation. I'm sure the bar issues are not limited or unique to Boston.

The term "homophobia" is becoming so over used and misapplied. Dr. George Wineberg first defined it as "the dread of being in close quarters with homosexuals." In my opinion Meldrin Thomson and William Loeb are homophobic, the Massachusetts Legislature is not.

In Community,

Bob Palermino

tell it like it is

Dear GCN,

I've heard few good reports about the new "gay" bar at 15 Lansdowne. It's hard to tell at first if it's truly a gay spirited establishment, or just another two-faced rip-off. The GRAC group asked to tack up their new rhino poster to announce the many activities in the community and were refused. All the other Boston bars were happy to post them. Guess that tells it like it is!

Don Meuse, GRAC

human writes commission

Editor, GCN,

During his successful bid for re-election Mayor White was quoted in GCN as saying that he would likely appoint a gay to the cities' Human Rights Commission. At a reception for Beacon Hill residents given by the Mayor I asked him for a confirmation of his statement. He said that it was true.

Wishing to be considered as a possible candidate for the appointment, I telephoned Representative Barney Frank in whose district I live. Mr. Frank, a former aide to the Mayor, referred my call to Representative Noble, suggesting that the Mayor might be more inclined to listen to her in matters of this type. Despite my admiration of Mr. Frank I wondered if he referred his black constituents to black legislators.

Several days later I telephoned Elaine Noble, Speaking frankly to me, she said that she intended to forward to the mayor the names of one or two women for his consideration to the appointment. She said she would not send along the name of a man since the mayor had previously appointed more men than women to jobs.

As a firm supporter of affirmative action policies, I was nonetheless disturbed by our conversation. By its own admission the Human Rights Office is presently staffed equally by men and women. Virtually all statistics I have seen on the relative numbers of gay men and gay women indicate variously that the former outnumber the latter from two to four times in number. It might be safe to assume that a substantial number of complaints to the Commission would be from men.

To totally remove men from any consideration for this important position by Representative Noble is, in my judgment, unfair and insensitive. There are, I am certain, departments within this city's bureaucracy where women have been systematically denied employment. Noble's efforts to achieve a healthier balance between the sexes should be directed to those areas.

The Boston gay community is fortunate to have two Representatives of such fine calibre. Both will continue to have my full support.

In gay love,

name withheld

GREETINGS from GCN

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NEED OF THE WEEK

GCN has created a new division! We are starting our own distribution company which will handle Gay Community News, A Gay Person's Guide, and other publications.

We need a dynamic person with energy and ideas to spare, to head this division. Access to a vehicle is a necessity.

If you have these qualifications, call Lester at 617-426-4469 immediately.

natural beauty

Dear GCN,

I would like to extend a prayerful Thanksgiving greeting to the GCN staff and your many faithful readers, asking that I be included in someone's special prayers.

I often wonder how many comments you received regarding the affectionate beauty of the Jade and Sarsaparilla portrait. To me it shows the natural beauty of love.

I Love You GCN,

Larry

brudnoy's complaint

Dear GCN;

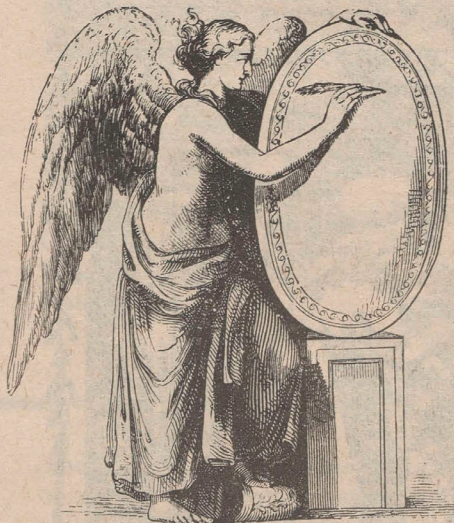
"Mr. Owen Beall ("Forum: Gay Liberation And/Or David," Nov. 29) reveals the aptness of the old maxim: a little learning is a dangerous thing. Mr. Beall has done some research, but not quite enough. Accordingly, he errs on fact as well as on interpretation; although, to his credit, he quotes me accurately (if, sometimes, out of context) and grants that my intention, at least, is to be of use to the cause of gay rights.

As a longtime summer resident of Provincetown, where (contrary to Mr. Beall) I do not review restaurants in the *Advocate* — I do that in *Boston Magazine* — I undertook at the *Advocate* editor's suggestion to write a tongue-in-cheek piece on P'town After Dark. In which I joked broadly about the post-bar cruising scene, gaining for my pains an enthusiastic endorsement from literally dozens of gay persons who thought I captured that scene accurately, if satirically. Mr. Beall missed the point, which was neither patronizing nor insulting to gay persons.

At some peril to my own career in conservative journals and politics, I have for years consistently supported gay rights, writing not only in *National Review* but also in *The New York Times Book Review*, the Op-Ed page of *The New York Times*, *New Guard*, *Free Campus News*, *The Alternative*, and my nationally syndicated political column, articles which would win the endorsement of GCN and the Los Angeles *Advocate* (where, incidentally, some of my stuff in

rightwing magazines has been quoted favorably). For Mr. Beall to know about all this other stuff would be an unreasonable expectation, unless, as I doubt is the case, he has elected to make a career of following mine. I mention it, however, lest GCN readers assume that Mr. Beall has exhausted my writings on the subject dear to GCN's friends, among whom I count myself.

Nor do I "uncritical[ly] lump together homosexuals, blacks, and women." I am (I believe) the only nationally known conservative writer to endorse the ERA, and at Yale in the '50s I recruited for the NAACP and participated in the first student march (in Washington) on behalf of civil rights — 1959. I interrupted my graduate work at Harvard in the mid-60s to teach at a



ROMAN VICTORY.

Negro college in Houston (Texas Southern University) and have published extensively on Negro history. I am not, in short, ignorant of the different natures of the black, women's, and gay plights, nor am I some sort of Johnny-come-lately to these concerns. Possibly Mr. Beall was still playing with tinkertoys while I was on the front lines on behalf of causes he champions.

Mr. Beall notes my "bemused complacency," which he finds "shocking but hardly surprising." I've not the foggiest idea what he's talking about. I do know that I'm not bemused, or even amused, by Mr. Beall's unfortunate yanking from context a line about homosexuals suffering the torments of the damned. That is from a piece in which I condemn conservatives for wanting homosexuals to feel themselves sick. Clearly, I

believe homosexuality is neither an illness nor a vice, and I think it is one of the most tragic facts of American life that millions — dozens of millions — of Americans want to inflict their misunderstandings and lack of empathy on the homosexual minority.

Which brings us to libertarianism, a subject Mr. Beall fails to comprehend. Libertarians (and libertarian-conservatives like me) believe first and foremost in individual rights, in minimal government, in freedom for everyone to "do his own thing" non-coercively. How much more straightforward need I be, before Mr. Beall will get the point? Says Beall: "[Brudnoy] is the perfect example of a man who will tolerate people so long as it is provided that those people want to be like him." Understand this, Mr. Beall: Brudnoy is an example of a man who detests the very concept of "toleration," and who urges that all of us be legally free to do whatever we want to do so long as we do not aggress against others. Period. Transsexuals do not want to be like me, I presume; but I support their desire to be treated fairly by the law and considerably by the rest of us. That's one example; others are legion.

Mr. Beall's final couple of paragraphs are virtually incomprehensible, at least to me. He labels me "paternalist" but proves nothing of the sort, and then he ramples off into a pop-sociology rap which, frankly, I must call meaningless. When on rare occasion in those concluding paragraphs he gets specific, he errs: e.g., he mumbles something about "gays, who you will remember, Mr. Brudnoy has condemned because they always talk to each other and never to straights." Where on earth does he gather that little gem from? Oh yes, I remember: from a misreading of my summer *Provincetown Advocate* piece. Too bad Mr. Beall hasn't done a better job of research, else he would have struck that bit, and many others, from his piece.

Well, I am a "thinkagogue," in Mr. Beall's grotesque neologism, which means to Beall that libertarianism is a "patronizing, self-serving and empty philosophy." If it is empty, so is the Declaration of Independence, the classic libertarian statement. If it is self-serving, how come the Libertarian party support — unique among serious political movements in this country — for total rights for gay persons? (See "Libertarians Meet," page 9, GCN, Nov. 29.) If it is patronizing, whence arises the libertarian insistence upon total equality under law for all?

I see no contradiction between my libertarian-conservatism and my wholehearted support for equal rights for all persons under the law, and I shall leave it to GCN readers to judge for themselves.

Sincerely,

David Brudnoy

humorous nightlife portrayal

To the Editor:

Good God, how could Owen D. Beall (Forum, Nov. 29 GCN) possibly have thought David Brudnoy was being serious in his humorous portrayal of Provincetown nightlife which was printed in my newspaper last summer? Beall quotes from this story, and from other humorous articles as if these were a statement of Brudnoy's personal philosophy. Then he goes on to criticize this material with a deadly seriousness, attempting to prove that Brudnoy is "idle and self-serving."

Brudnoy is doing his best, through humor, to relieve some of the tension between gay and straight people. And that, Mr. Beall, is far more constructive than bitter attacks by gay people on each other.

Dan Boynton
Publisher

Provincetown Advocate

o'l queen's yarn

Dear GCN,

Can you do a big favor for me and ask a round and see if anyone would care to send this Queen some knitting yarn. It's my hobby and I am out and can't get anymore here, thus I must go outside for it. If you can find anyone who will, please tell them that I'll make them a beautiful poncho if they send me the yarn. Please note my address.

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December 14, 1975

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NEW YORK REVELATIONS

By Tony Russo

NEW YORK — The Gay Academic Union (G.A.U.) held its third annual conference last week in New York. With more than a thousand people in attendance, the conference became the largest gay conference ever to be held.

At the opening session, Delores Klaich (author of "Women Plus Woman") and I spoke. Klaich spoke of the importance of politics in one's personal life. Parenthetically, I talked of the importance of community within the gay movement. The speeches were a good start of the 70 panels and workshops which followed.

As planner and speaker at the conference it is difficult to give an accurate appraisal of the rest of the conference. People tell me it was well organized. From my end, it seemed chaos. However, the panels I attended seemed well organized. All panels, with the exception of one, were opened to both men and women. The one exception drew sufficient controversy at the con-



Ex-WAC Debbie Watson and Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Task Force chat during the Gay Academic Union conference

Photo by Betty Lane

ference because of the panelists' last minute decision not to allow men.

Of noteworthy interest was a play by Loretta Lotman entitled "Trans-Lesbianic Follies." The play was a comment on the seriousness of the straight-lined Lesbian Movement. Skits such as a Lesbian Emily Post talking about the do's and don't's of Lesbian politics and an invisible Lesbian talking to the press were used to show the absurdity of our political realities. Needless to say, the skits caused tremendous controversy among some Lesbians and as a result several women walked out in protest. Even one of the performers stopped in the middle of her act, claiming that she agreed with the women who walked out and thus could not continue. Then the lights went on and Lotman came out and gave the audience hell. She told the audience that she would go back stage to try to convince the performers to continue. She did convince

them and the show continued. After it was over, Lotman received a standing ovation.

On Sunday the conference toned down quite a bit. There was a business meeting and 15 people were elected to the board of directors of the G.A.U. These were: Art Addington, Billy Blendsve, Alana Collos, Louise Crawford, James Dawley, Wayne Dynes, Michael Fischer, Walter Forey, Pat Flynn, Ann Gregory, Jim Levin, David Roggensack, Kate Salen, Stuart Strenger and myself. The officers were: Pat Flynn, president; Ann Gregory, vice president; Jim Levin, Michael Fischer, treasurer and David Roggensack, secretary.

Several proposals were passed by the membership including an amendment that every other year starting in 1977, the G.A.U. hold its conference outside of New York. For those involved in this year's conference that made their day.

NEW HAMPSHIRE NOTES

By Wayne April

DURHAM — A little over four weeks have passed since the New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled that the University of New Hampshire Gay Students Organization has as much right to hold social functions as any

GAU Conf.

(Continued from page 1)

would be held. New Englanders, particularly, were irked by the New York orientation of both the conference and the GAU organization. The Saturday night dance ended suddenly at 1 a.m., without explanation or apology. In addition, the GAU's business meeting was held at 9:30 on Sunday morning, hardly a time to insure maximum participation.

Possibly the high point of the conference was Kate Millett's reading from an unpublished manuscript. Several hundred people crowded into the lounge to witness an intense reading, during Saturday evening.

other campus organization. Indications are, however, that little or nothing will be done by the GSO to test the latest court decision.

After the N.H. Court ruling was handed down, Bonnie Newman, Dean of Students at UNH, inquired into the status of the organization to find out whether it still existed. Newman was given the name of Cheryl Muzio, the present coordinator of GSO. For about an hour they discussed what the group was doing and what it planned to do in the future.

Newman learned that the GSO still existed, although more on paper than anything, and that the group was very small and consisted almost entirely of women. Cheryl related how the GSO had done many speaking engagements last year but hardly any this year because of poor attendance and lack of enthusiasm. She hoped that the GSO could sponsor an event in the near future in order to exercise their newly affirmed rights.

Newman stated that neither before nor since her talk with Muzio has she been aware of any activity emanating

from the GSO.

PORTSMOUTH — The Seacoast Area Gay Alliance (SAGA) plans to hold their first meeting of the season on Friday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. Lila Couture, present coordinator, will host the get-together at her apartment at 75 Court St. All area gays are invited to attend and to BYOB if you wish.

MANCHESTER — On Sunday, Dec. 7, the last of a three part series on New Hampshire homosexuals will appear in the *New Hampshire Sunday News*.

The first part (Sunday, Nov. 23) dealt mainly with the reporter's reactions to the activity inside of the Seaport Club in Portsmouth. He summed it up in a companion's words as a "stomach-turning spectacle."

The second part (Sunday, Nov. 30) was entitled "N.H. Deviates Show a New Militancy" and went on to describe how the "popular chant in the ranks of N.H. homosexuals" is "Blatant is Beautiful." The story added how "one of the most disturbing ele-

ments uncovered . . . was the fact that homosexuals are not content to limit their deviant sexual activities to their own kind." The author supposedly quotes a gay person, with the fictitious name of "Jesse," as saying that "under the proper persuasion any single or married person of either sex can be made to switch to homosexuality."

No hint is given on what the third and final installment on N.H. gays might contain.

The *N.H. Sunday News* is owned by the Union Leader Corporation which is owned by William Loeb.

marriage

(Continued from page 1)

straight, is a friend of the couple.

Gary Dotterman, manager of The Other Side where Sheridan works and who was married himself in a publicized gay wedding last year, told GCN that "Gerrie and Jimmy's wedding was not political in the left-wing sense that my marriage was. But both Gerrie and Jimmy are proud that they're gay and want the world to know about it." A reception was held for the couple at The Other Side on Monday evening. Gerrie and Jimmy plan to live in Baltimore.

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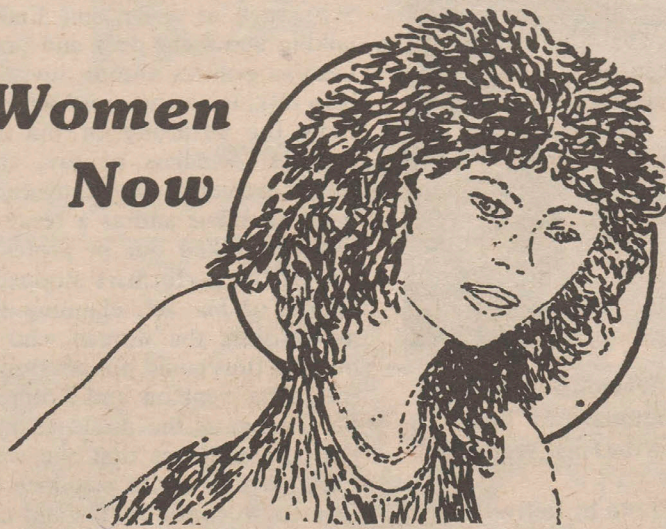
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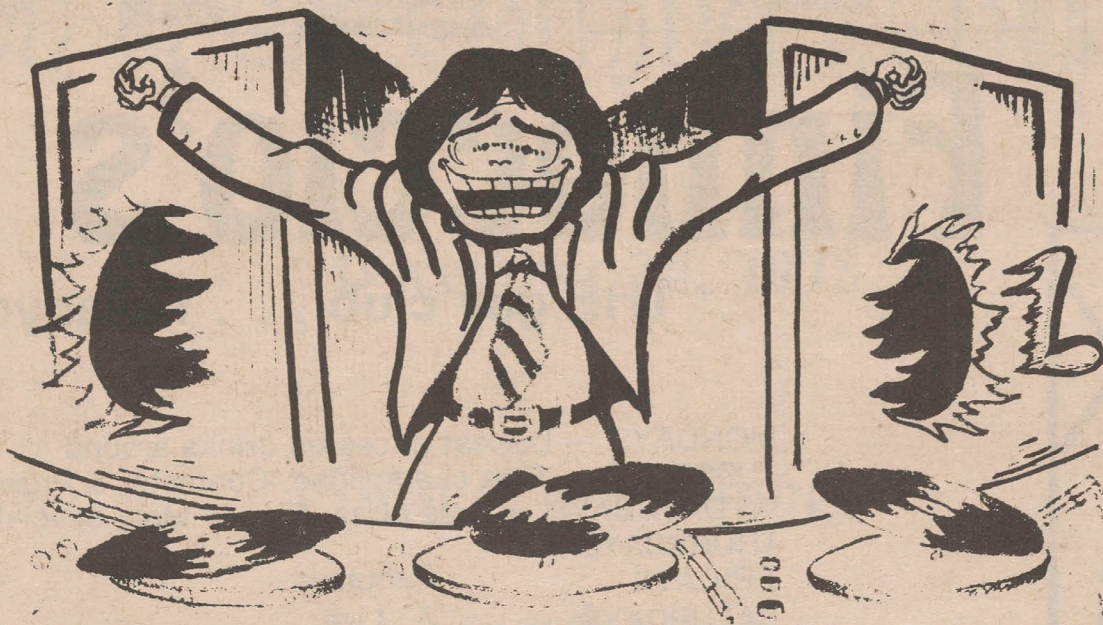
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Other Gift Ideas

Have you done your Christmas shopping yet? If not here's a tip. The Other Voices bookstore, our very own gay bookstore, is worth checking, especially the week of December 15 through the 20 when there will be a 20



percent off Christmas sale. An assortment of Gayline Christmas cards are in stock — just right for coming out or remembering (reminding?) gay friends. Napkins, coasters, and match books with your own design (order early), posters, banners, plant hangers, needlepoint patches, post cards, bookmarks, buttons, nick nacks, and jewelry are all available with a gay theme. The music department includes Chris Williamson's "The Changer and

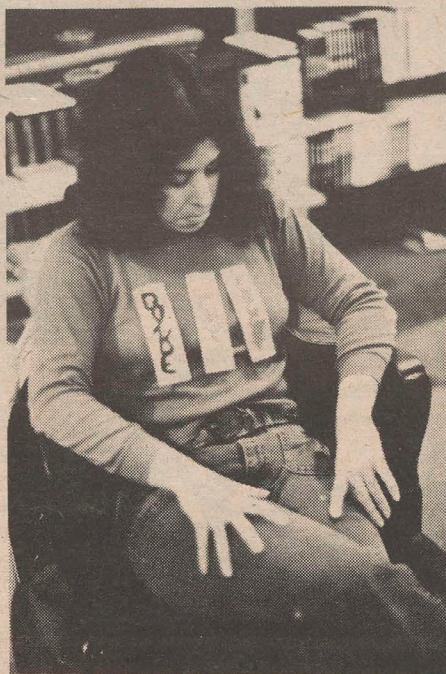
the Changed," and an Olivia distribution 45 by High Risk. On the way are Kay Gardener's "Moon Circles," and Meg Christian's "I Know, You Know" album and song book.

In the book department, if it's gay related and not there ask Claire about it and chances are she can get it for you. For those of us who despise Christmas gift lists and making decisions, five dollar Christmas gift certificates (home made but authentic) can insure that the gift will be right. They will be redeemable until February 1st after which regular five dollar gift certificates will be available.

Now for a little background. Other Voices (30 Bromfield Street, Boston, 02108; 617 426-0412) opened its doors January 6, 1975. At that time it consisted of a few book shelves and \$2,000 worth of stock in a small corner of a third floor studio. It has now filled out into the entire studio space with \$6,000 worth of stock. Financially it may sound like the store is enjoying success; however, it is in difficulty mainly due to lack of support from the community. The store is often overlooked as it is not a flamboyant place. Benefits of shopping at Other Voices are that any profits the bookstore makes go back to the gay community through HCHS. Also you don't have to hunt around in the corner of a bookstore to find the gay section: just ask Claire and she can point out whatever you are looking for. It is a gay store in need of gay support in the way of workers, ideas, and patrons.

The store has been successful in filling needs at conferences, schools, and prisons. U. Mass. Boston orders

their gay-related literature from Other Voices, as do the Gay Nurses Assoc., Dignity Providence, and Project Lambda. The Good Gay Poets hold readings at the bookstore in exchange for their publications. Several artists' shows have also been held there. Since January, prisoners have been able to receive free copies of books Other Voices carries. The Massachusetts Department of Education Library Extension has been buying books from Other Voices for the prison libraries. To help promote and ease purchasing



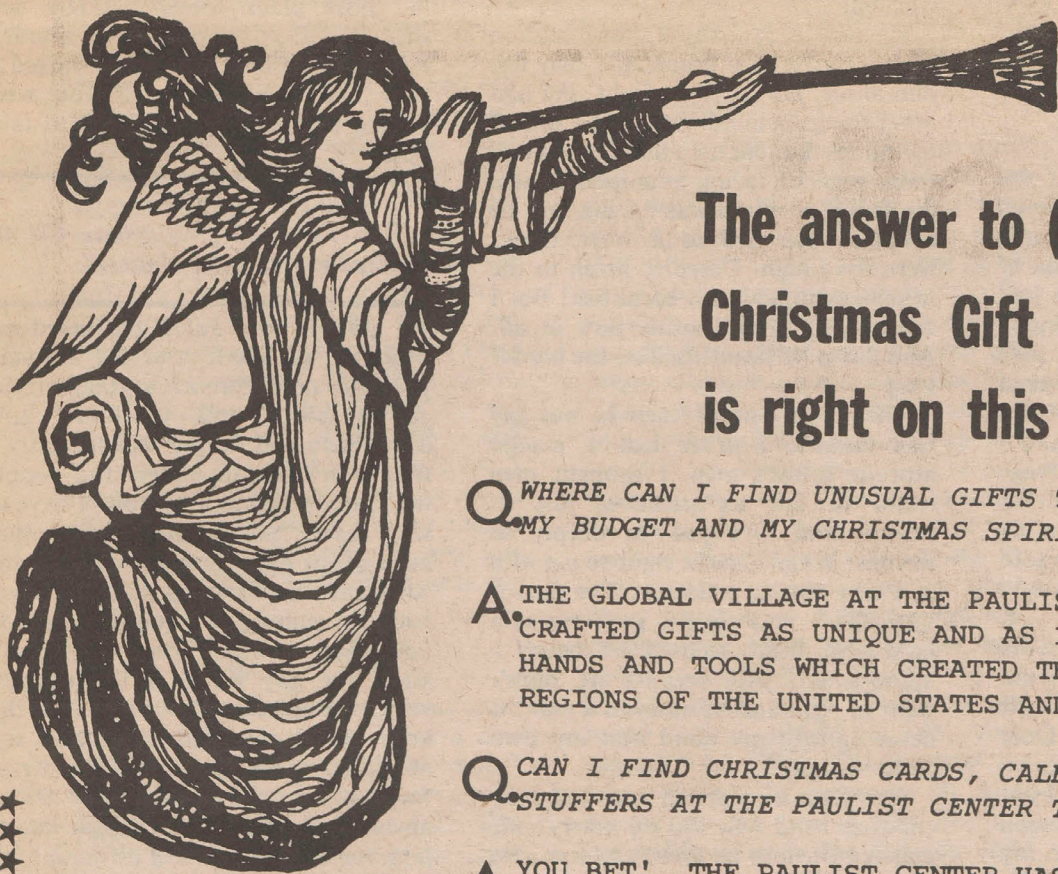
the book store is now in progress of making a mail order catalogue which will be updated regularly with supplements.

There is and never has been any salary for any of the staff at the bookstore (which is non-profit), but if



you are interested in volunteering 4 hours a week, about fifteen more people are desperately needed in areas such as graphics, advertising, and fund-raising, prison correspondence, cataloging, stocking, and ordering, and a volunteer coordinator to put it all together.

Next time you are visiting GCN, the Gay Men's Center, or especially when you are on a shopping spree between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. drop up to Other Voices at 30 Bromfield Street or even better, make a special trip. It's a long climb to the third floor but well worth the trip.



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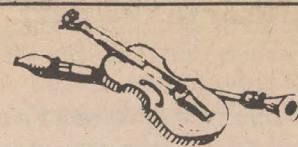
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A. AT #5 PARK STREET IN DOWNTOWN BOSTON (ON THE COMMON). THE GIFT SHOP FOR CARDS, CALENDARS AND STOCKING STUFFERS IS ON THE FIRST FLOOR....HANDCRAFTED GIFTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD IN THE GLOBAL VILLAGE IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR.

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SARAH MONTGOMERY

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Three years ago this fall Sarah Montgomery lost her son Charlie and his lover John in a tragic double suicide. Her loss is well-known, but instead of withdrawing from the world that destroyed her son, Sarah Montgomery helped to organize "Parents of Gays" and came out fighting for gay rights, just as she had fought against racism and anti-Semitism in the past.

An Interview by Regina Kahney

I sat in her comfortable apartment in the Lower East Side one Sunday, an apartment filled with the stuff of 77 years of living and fighting bigotry in all its forms, and listened and learned while she spoke for many hours. She said things about homosexuality I never thought I'd hear from the mouth of a straight person. I had come to do this interview with my own mother's frightened and condemning words still fresh in my ears, and I left much later close to tears, but determined that she too would someday have a chance to talk with this marvelous woman. So this is for you, Mom. You're never too old to learn.

Sarah on Sarah

"when I discovered that my brother could vote and I couldn't, I marched in all the suffrage parades"

I'm Philadelphia born and raised. My father's business was in the South, though, and we were always in trouble down there because we were Yankees. I knew what it was like to be condemned for being what I was born. Just because I was a woman, I was automatically no good. I was automatically stupid. And I didn't particularly like that at 16 years of age. It burned very deep, so it has not been hard for me to identify with any oppression, no matter what form it takes.

I spent my first year at Agnes Scott College in the south. The only northerner in a southern college. But I couldn't stand it so I lit out for the

University of Pennsylvania. Half the University professors would not teach us women. It's hard for you young people to realize exactly the position of women when I was younger. We had no rights over our children. Nothing. I think freedom for women would give freedom to men. When I discovered that my brother, who was not one wit smarter than I was, could vote and I couldn't, I marched in all the suffrage parades. I went to a college course that discussed whether our brains were big enough even to vote. We were also told that if women got the vote it would break up the family.

And sex? Sex was supposed to be something you didn't mention. Well, how did we all get here? I was taught that no decent woman liked sex. Only loose women and whores. I don't know why I didn't fall for that crap. Lucky, I guess. There are still plenty of women who are taught that. I can hear my mother and my aunts saying, "Well, you have to concede to your husband, but you shouldn't like it." And my mother said to me and my brother once, "If I gave myself to a man, I'd want something nice for it." And I spoke up and said, "Why, you dirty whore!" I gave all the sex education to all my children because my husband wouldn't do it. And I never thought it was something you didn't speak about.

My life has been so enriched by people who are different. Why do people fear differences? Because somehow they feel that if someone has a different opinion, it's going to threaten their opinion. I have never felt that way. I can listen, I can learn, I can still defend my own ideas. I don't have to insult anybody. I can decide whether I

think they're right or wrong, but I am not threatened by difference. Never have been. You have to learn to enjoy differences if you're going to have the benefit of a real, full life. Otherwise, you've narrowed your life and you've shut out a wealth of experiences.

On Charlie and John

"Charlie, since you're out in the open, I'll never be a closet mother"

Charlie was called "gay" when he was young; actually he was called a "fairy" to use the right word for that time. Because he loved music. Boys didn't love music. You can see why I never questioned that he was gay. I had to fight that battle with him day after day. He was basically a musician. He was composing at five years old. But he would never become a musician professionally because of that stigma. It crippled his life. Charlie built an organ himself. He played beautifully. He could go to a concert and come home and play it all by ear. But because of that cruelty when he was young, because he was a musician and not a fighter, he would never make it his profession. He was beat up so often after school, and I was so desperate I finally said to him, "Listen, Charlie, I'll tell you what to do. When they start to fight with you, you tear their shirts. And their mothers will scold them and spank them." And you know, it worked!

He tore a few shirts, the children caught the devil at home, and they left him alone. He hated to fight. He had other things in mind. Of course, one of the things that did help him through all those years of facing homophobia was the fact that music was his life and he could always turn to it when things were too tough. I used to listen to the Mahler symphony for breakfast! But I can't listen to any music now at all. And the more beautiful it is, the harder I cry.

The reason I never knew he was gay was because I never had a macho attitude toward men. I thought men could be just as sensitive, just as tender, and love just as deeply as women. When Charlie came to me with it, I sent him to a doctor. The doctor was also a very decent guy. He said he'd also been accused of being a homosexual, just because he didn't want to fight and be nasty as a man. It never entered my mind that my own child was gay.

And then he married and had four children. And why did he marry? He married because he loved children. He was a wonderful father. When he was first married, I got a phone call all the way from California. "Mom, it's not working. I've got to come home." But then he found his way to make his marriage work. He wanted his marriage to work. His wife is a very fine person. When I went out there I was free to visit back and forth between her and Charlie and John. I was perfectly comfortable with both. Most gay parents lose their children, but she never denied him the right to see his children. He loved his wife and was a good husband in his terms. No wonder it broke her heart when they split up.

I wrote and said, "The children should know," and she wrote back and said, "My children are not going to be guinea pigs." So I said, "Okay, they're

your children. I'm not going to do anything about it." Thank goodness she went to a sane medical doctor who told her, "He's their father. Of course they should know." And my grandchildren took it naturally as any young child will take any truth. No problems at all.

Charlie was 35 when he first told me. He already had children. I could've had kittens because it was going to break up a family. But all I said was, "Charlie, you've been through an awful lot without me beside you, and since you're out in the open now I'll never be a closet mother." I wrote him letters right away, asking him to teach me. I've known people who were gay all my life, but unless an issue comes right into your lap, there are so many issues, you don't go on fighting.

Charlie and John let me live with them twice. Charlie said to me, "Mom, you have no idea how hard it is for me to show you my gayness." But it looked so nice, so good. But what he was speaking of was all those years in the closet and how damaging the closet is. I've lived with my married children. I saw as much mutual concern, the sharing of problems, the sharing of tasks, the sharing of pleasures between them as I did between Charlie and John. I went with them to the restaurant where they celebrated the anniversary when they met. It took a lot more courage for them to take me into the gay world than it did for me to go. And I said to them, "How do you have the courage to take me and face all those black looks?" "You saw them?" "Do you think I'm blind?" And they replied, "Well, we talked it over and decided that if you were willing to go, we were proud to take you."

"John loved my son, so of course I loved John"

I grew to love John. He called me "Mom" just like Charlie did. I assure you I saw no difference. I wonder if the gay people I talk to know how completely and deeply and honestly I find it difficult to understand people who cannot accept it by now. I have to stop saying this because I find that most of the parents won't relate to me when I say how easily I took it. I never had five minutes of questioning. My only question was "Teach me. I don't know the gay world. I don't know what you've been through." They did know that I defended a woman's son about 30 years ago, and she never forgave me, and was not my friend anymore. I said to her, "You know, homosexuals have a very difficult life" and she said, "He is not and if he were I'd never want to speak to him again!" She was never very friendly with me after that. Now Charlie knew all this, but he knew the world better than I did. He knew what he was up against all those years ago. Remember he was 46 when he died and he had been through those years when there was no real movement to back him, when they had to struggle with it all by themselves.

John loved my son, so of course I loved John. I've always been the kind of mother-in-law who, if anyone loves my child, I right away reach out to love them. At first John couldn't make me out, of course, but he learned to trust me. I didn't go to see them often because it costs a lot to go to

California, but as soon as Charlie got his divorce and got his life straightened out, I went right out there. While he was separated from his wife, he wrote me 50-page letters and we caught up on all that had happened in his life that I was very confused about. Charlie had twice tried to kill himself, and always with the words, "My family would be better off without me," and I promise you I never knew what he meant, because he was such a wonderful father, such a considerate husband. Because he was a musician and loved all that was beautiful, he brought into that home most of the interesting activities to his wife and his children. No wonder I couldn't understand. But after he went to live with John, he told me I need never fear that again, and he was more a whole person than I had ever seen him be before.

People used to ask me, "How's your son in California?" and I'd say, "I don't know. Something is bothering him and I don't know what it is." So I recognized something, and when I visited him and John, he seemed relaxed and at ease at last, and that's when he told me I need never fear it again. But then they bought that house to be near Charlie's children and John came out with Charlie's urging. Then John lost his job, and Charlie's job was threatened. They described to me what it means to become an old gay, rejected by their family, and living in a youth-oriented society, not respected by young people. He said to me, and these are his exact words, "Mom, they crawl off in a hole and die alone."

They didn't spare me the years of suffering. I spent a great deal of time in tears from what they told me. But I do have this comfort. I was fighting right beside him before I lost him. Charlie had four children to support, who they both loved, and I heard John's concern about those children. They talked about the well-being of those children exactly as man and wife. I had the privilege of seeing homosexual love, and I consider I'm a very lucky mother. They were 46 and 48 and out of the closet. How could they get jobs? How could they? They knew those children would be eligible for child support. Charlie left quite a bit of life insurance. John left half his life savings to my grandchildren. It was only job loss, nothing else in the world, and no way to fight back. No protection under the law. Two years ago they passed the gay rights bill in San Francisco. Too late for my son and his lover. What could they do? Although I grieved, I can't say I don't understand. It's terribly hard for me to fight this fight, because every time I hear of any hardships that any gay person has gone through, I hear my son's voice.

On The Gay Press

I started reading the gay press after Charlie came out to me. I asked him what to read. I started with "Vector," which was a very conservative, slick magazine. He suggested I take *The Advocate*, which I did for years. Then he suggested *Gay Sunshine* because that was the more left-wing of the gay papers. Then I asked him what paper to take on the East Coast, to keep me up-to-date on New York, and he suggested *Gay*. Well, *Gay* folded up on me and I went back to *The Advocate*. Then when they stopped printing for a while during the change of ownership, I went to the Oscar Wilde bookstore and asked them, and they gave me *GCN* and I've been delighted with it ever since. It explores all the various attitudes in the movement.

The gay press that I read for 12 years was mainly male-oriented and still is. And it does not reach the straight world at all. It is written to and for gay people. I try to persuade all the parents to take *GCN* because it does keep us

informed of the fragmentation that occurs. I need it badly because I knew very little about the lesbian movement. I've tried to get books, but books aren't any way to really learn it. You need to learn it from people speaking as of today.

On Homosexuality

"I don't feel it's necessary for gay people to wonder why they're gay. The important thing is self-respect"

I am living proof that homosexuality is not contagious. You are born a certain way. It's one of the facts of nature, and it remains one of the unknowns. We simply do not know why nature takes different forms. There are different forms of sexual orientation, and it's just as simple as that. Man's best asset is his insatiable curiosity. I do think that scientists should continue to search out why the degrees of sexual orientation do exist. That is a legitimate occupation. Of course, people say that even if they do find out, it shouldn't make any difference. There will always be enough babies born to populate the world, so we shouldn't be scared about that. And even if they do find out the origins of homosexuality, I don't see why people should have to take a pill to change it. I don't feel it's necessary for gay people themselves to bother, to wonder why they're gay. The important thing for any human being is self-respect. They can't respect anybody else if they can't respect themselves. I know many young gay people who do question and question and question. It's very natural because they're facing a tough world. But for anyone who is past being very young, why bother? Why not be proud and be happy to be as they are? I see no reason for that constant inner battle. It's destructive. It destroyed my son.

On Adoption

The next fight I want to enter is the right to adopt. Fortunately women can have artificial insemination, but what are the gay men to do? And it's a myth that men don't ordinarily want children. Charlie lost one lover because he couldn't accept the fact that Charlie had children. That's a myth that gay people themselves have fallen for.

Gay men make wonderful parents because they've had to struggle so hard for their own identities, they're perfectly willing to have their child search for theirs. Same thing is true of gay mothers. So far as I've been able to learn, social service agencies don't know what to do with gay children, children that have run away or been thrown out of their homes at 14 or 15. They're going to be abused in any home they're placed in. No foster parents want them. The agencies are being driven by necessity to look around for gay people who they feel are stable to place the lost gay child with.

I do feel that in the next five years, gay people will be allowed to adopt. It's not true that gay people don't want children. Plenty of straight people have very unwanted children. By sheer accident, they have a child. Where do we get all this child abuse from? From parents who haven't the faintest notion of how to be parents and didn't want the child in the first place. The gay world is blamed for this, but the straight world is doing all the abusing.

On "Parents of Gays"

Homosexuality is as natural to me as breathing. This is why I sometimes get parents who can't relate to me. I have to accept the fact that they've been

raised homophobic, and I will give them a certain amount of sympathy always, because they can't change overnight either. And then I slowly tell them that it's just one of the facts of nature, that there's nothing wrong, it's perfectly natural. And slowly they learn to accept their child fully. I see all too often that "I love my child" attitude, and I can hear behind it "But...." You have to accept homosexuality as well as your child. It sounds like semantics, but it's not. It's very real and very deep. One father said to me, "I fight only for my child." I said right away, "As long as one gay person is harmed by homophobia, your child is in danger, too. You better fight for everybody." He's changed quite a lot.

I work with parents who cry their hearts out. "Why should this happen to me?" Most of them are terribly guilt ridden, thanks to the blasted psychiatrists. They say, "What did I do wrong? Why me?" and they cry and cry and cry. Some frankly cannot accept their children. I never quarrel with them on this point. All I say is this: "Your child faces a very hostile world. He needs you more than any of your other children need you." They seem to accept that. They fear for their child's ability to make a living, and they are justified in that.

Almost everybody who has come to the meetings has been helped. Failures are at a minimum, maybe one or two who don't come back after the first meeting; they just can't accept it. But everybody who has come, whether they accept it or not, has always gone away saying they feel differently. It depends on their willingness to open up and learn something. One thing is true, though, seeing a whole group of accepting parents takes that feeling of isolation away from them almost right away. We never know who's coming, but we usually have between 20 and 25 parents. And we're glad to see fathers coming. It has been my experience that the fathers will accept their daughters, and the mothers will accept their sons. The fathers find their masculinity very threatened by gay sons. The daughter, of course, doesn't threaten the father's masculinity.

"I said, 'As long as one gay person is harmed by homophobia, your child is in danger, too. You'd better fight for everyone'"

We are very short of parents of lesbians. Being a feminist, I feel that's a severe loss. But so far the parents of women have not come around in any great numbers. I think that's because the world still lets women live together, meet on the street and kiss each other, and be perfectly normal human beings. But in a way deep down I deeply resent that because it simply means that it doesn't matter what we women do anyway.

The parents we get at our meetings have passed the point where they want to speak to a psychiatrist. We tell them not to go but if you must, be sure to go to the right psychiatrist. They have done so much damage. I would recommend a gay psychiatrist to a parent. I have all those phone numbers and I recommend them either through Mattachine or the Women's Center. I myself don't actually know them. We have taken parents from non-acceptance to full acceptance. But one of the annoying things is that when they get their heads together and they don't need us anymore, they won't come back and work. That's par for the course, I guess. People don't want to do any work. Once they accept fully, they think that's enough, and they won't come back to help with other parents.

I had a call once from a young gay

man who occasionally liked to dress in drag. He was dressed this way one day when his father came home and caught him, and told him that from then on he couldn't go out of the house unless he was in drag. So he called me and said, "What can I do?" I told him to get out of that house and go to his lover immediately, that his lover could do more for him at that point than anyone else could. I told him to get away from that house as quickly as possible. If you allow yourself to be a victim, you cooperate in the crime.

I very often say to the parents, "Ask your child to teach you. How else are you going to learn? What is meaningful to your child must be meaningful to you." A lot of parents don't know how to be parents. They want their children to be replicas of themselves or have the successes they failed to have. They are thinking of themselves first. A real parent does not do that. A real parent thinks of his child first.

But you know we have no training for parenthood. It's assumed we're born knowing what to do and we're not. We have to learn when to enter their lives and when to retreat. Only be there when you're needed. Keep an eye on what's going on, for sure, but don't intrude. One thing I won't do: I won't go and stay too long with any of my married children. I'd much rather be missed. Parents are very arrogant with their children. I once said I'd never be shocked again, but I must admit, dealing with parents from this angle has shocked me at times.

We get one question constantly. "It's all right if they're gay, but why do they have to flaunt it?" And I have my answer all ready for them. "They're not flaunting it. You don't have to justify being heterosexual. It's the homophobic straight world that forces gay people to demand their rights as gays. They have no wish at any time to have to make sex the big issue. It's the homophobia of the straight world that forces them to do this." They shut up right away quick. I'll say this to a parent who asks it belligerently, and I'll answer them belligerently.

I am so adamant that homosexuality is completely normal that I have to stop saying it to parents first thing because I lose them right away. I'm usually pretty careful, but a man called me one night and I was tired and off guard so I just answered normally. He said, "Mrs. Montgomery, I'm afraid my son may be homosexual. I caught him in the bathroom with his friend and they were giving each other a bath." And I said, "What's wrong with that?" and he hung up on me! but it taught me a lesson. No matter how tired you are or how sleepy you are, don't answer naturally.!

On Reaction

The minute Charlie told me he was gay, I told all my family and all my friends. And right away quick they stopped all the anti-gay jokes. They made one in front of me, and all of them apologized. I didn't give them hell or anything. I simply said, "I don't like that and you know it." You only win by being honest and open. And interestingly enough, now when anything comes out in the newspapers about gay rights, one or the other of my friends will send me the clipping. They're quite well aware of my fight. And all my grandchildren know what I'm doing. I have twelve grandchildren, four of them married, and three great grandchildren. They all know what I'm doing, and if they're wondering about anything, we talk about it quite freely. That's another reason Charlie didn't tell me sooner, I think. He knew I'd run around talking about it. He knew the world better than I did. He also knew I'd come out fighting.

(Continued on page 13)

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**"a painful portrait of fighting a losing
battle against ageism, sexism,
midriff bulge and menopause"**

Sister Gin, by June Arnold. Daughters, Inc. 1975 (softbound, \$4.00).

A Review by Regina Kahney

If there were a Guinness Book of Gay World Records, June Arnold's *Sister Gin* would find its place as the first contemporary novel dealing with that two-headed pariah, the Older Lesbian. Not only is the Older Lesbian a dyke, but she is old to boot, and June Arnold's novel is a moving and often painful portrait of women fighting a losing battle against ageism, sexism, midriff bulge and menopause.

There is much talk of shrivelling fallopian tubes and embarrassing hot flashes as Su, a book reviewer for a North Carolina newspaper, and Bettina, an alcoholic hypochondriac, come to the end of their long relationship and realize that the world around them has changed drastically, and they must change with it or hand in their housedresses.

After reading the book twice I still can't get a handle on the exact identity of Sister Gin. She leaves biting book reviews on Su's desk that make one believe she feels Su is selling out to the newspaper, and in the end she even has some dialogue. True, the final dialogue could have been Arnold's artistic representation of Su's innermost thoughts,

but from the weekly appearance of the book reviews in Sue's office I was sure Sister Gin was a living, breathing, third party independent of everyone else. And I couldn't wait to find out who she was. Perhaps Su was a split personality and wrote the reviews herself? Perhaps a third reading . . . ?

Reading it twice did give me the opportunity the second time around to focus on and truly appreciate Arnold's particular use of imagery, a thing I considered a nuisance during the first reading in my haste to uncover a plot and the true identity of Sister Gin. But the author is a poet as well. "Cardboard is the ugliest color in the world!" Bettina says. It is! Cardboard is as depressing as plaid is boring. Later she says "I stink. I . . . reek of sweaty alcohol, rummy b.o. and unwashed nightmares." The perfect picture of an out-of-work, overweight, bronchitic 45-year-old woman who has just spent the whole day in bed coughing. The images intrude on the plot at times, but it's when the plot intrudes on the images that they are most worthy of attention.

The crisis occurs when Su writes a particularly nasty review of *Fear of*

Flying (hurray!) for her newspaper. Her life changes drastically, and Bettina suddenly finds that she must shed the comforts of the parasitic life and stand on her own two (bunioned) feet. But the women who merge in the final pages leave me unsettled and depressed. Their future is grim. There

is no deus ex machina to save them. They will never be young again. But if there is that pallor of hopelessness, it is at least realistic. And I've had enough *Front Runner* bathos and *Consenting Adult* liberalism to last me a lifetime. I am a firm believer in reality, no matter how much I try to avoid it.



mother

(Continued from page 11)

One of the biggest myths is that homosexuality is learned behavior, and as I say, I'm living proof that it's not true. Actually, that there are any homosexuals left in the world, after thousands of years of totally straight parents having gay children, after thousands of years of persecution, that there's a single gay left in the whole wide world is proof.

There are all degrees in between also. Kinsey proved that. To persecute, and to try and find reasons why you can condemn, on the basis of abysmal ignorance, just burns me up. When I was in college, I was very lonely. A senior befriended me. I enjoyed her very much because I was lonely and she was very intelligent and we had many good times together. After I left and came north, she wrote me a letter saying that she had fallen in love with me. I have no memory of being offended.

I wrote back and said that I couldn't respond in the way she meant it, but I did thank her for loving me. It is

homophobia that is taught, taught, taught. It's drummed into everybody's ears, and to me it's just as bad to say it's learned behavior. It's part and parcel of the whole homophobic attitude, and the psychiatrists have absolutely created this, with the help of the religions. How can there be any gays in the world when religion has condemned them, the laws have said it was a crime, and the psychiatrists have said it's a sickness? Yet straight parents continue to have gay children. It just never made sense to me.

I suppose I read *The Well of Loneliness* when I was very young and I don't remember much of it, but I do remember deeply one very wonderful remark. When she told her father that she'd fallen in love with a woman, she said to him, "How can it be wrong when it's the most beautiful thing that's ever happened to me in my life?" I suppose somewhere in my mind that just stuck. Nobody even inquires what kind of sex life straight people have. One of the first things my son told me was, "Mom, you don't know anything about your straight

world." Was he ever right! Thanks to reading the gay press for 12 years, I've learned a great deal!

Another lie that's been promoted is that Hitler was degenerate and gay, quote, unquote. Now the Jews at that time were required to wear the Star of David. And the gay people were required to wear the pink triangle, and a quarter of a million of them died in the death camps of Hitler wearing the pink triangle. It's a fact deliberately buried by history. This homophobic world does not intend to let the straight world know any of the real facts. The wall of silence is deliberate.

We're not allowed to know each other. Now I don't run around asking my straight friends, "What kind of sex life do you have?" I like them, or I don't like them according to whether we have things in common. I don't inquire into their sex lives. That's only one part of gay people, just as with straight people. Across the board they are exactly alike except for their sexual orientation. Big deal. But to the straight world it's been made to be a big deal. They have no right to inquire. Somebody asked me, "How could you live with your son and his lover?" I've lived with my married children. I

don't allow myself to intrude, in my thoughts even, into their private lives. Why should I with my gay son? I saw Charlie and John with a very beautiful, warm love. Love is love and sex is sex no matter how you slice it, sweetie. But I don't know whether even the gay people know how completely natural it is to me. Just because I happen to be straight, they have to mistrust me. I worked long, long years with Black people and was very often the only white face around. I never questioned that they had a right to distrust me. My White face condemned me automatically. I've never felt offended when the gay world rejected my walking into their bars. My straightness condemns me. Now they can't run around saying, "Are you for or against?" How can they trust me? I don't resent that. If you have been part of the group that oppresses, you must always accept that. I would feel very arrogant if I said that I knew what it was like to be Black in a White world. I would be just as arrogant if I said I knew what it was like to be gay in a homophobic world. The best I could do was learn from my child and his lover, and take what I consider a deeply natural position.

(Continued on page 17)



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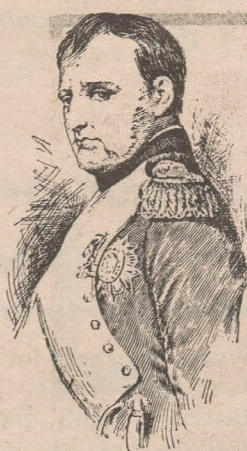
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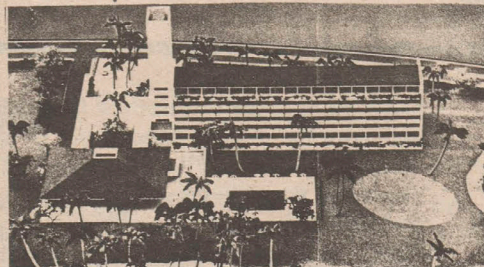
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Skip On

Roy Rodgers returns to the silver screen in his first pic since 1952. "Mackintosh and T.J." (subtitled by Variety, "Trigger Doesn't Live Here Anymore") concerns a relationship between an older man and a younger boy [Clay O'Brien]. Supposedly this "friendship" is so questionable that the producers had to throw in a scene where the young boy expresses his disgust for a homosexual who tries to entice him. The plot has Roy Rodgers accused of being a murderous peeping tom. The flick is rated PG, a good family picture . . . Poland's critically acclaimed short for children, "Dreams," was dismissed from competition at a recent festival in Teheran, Iran. The film, about friendships, was considered to be too homosexually oriented . . . Swedish filmmaker Vilgot Sjöman's new pic will be about transvestites . . . Russian actor-writer, Alexei Korotuykov, says that filmmaker, Sergei Parajanov, was jailed for political reasons and that the Soviets only used his homosexuality as an excuse to get him out of circulation . . . The fictionalized account of the Patty Hearst case, "Abduction," has just been released. Starring Leif Erikson, Dorothy Malone, and Judith-Marie Bergan, the pic features Patty being raped by a lesbian radical. Advance reviews say this R-rated scene looks just plain silly . . . The Italian government has banned "The 120 Days of Sodom," gay film director Pier Paolo Pasolini's last film. They stated that the flick contains "images so outrageous and repugnant of sexual perversion as to offend without doubt, common standards of decency." The Film Directors Guild was quick to organize a demonstration protesting the decision . . . William Belasco and Sal Mineo have purchased the film rights to the Charles Gorham novel, "McCaffre." The book is about an affair between a male hustler and a female prostitute. We can be assured that with Mineo directing the film will portray gays sensitively . . . One of the leads in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" is gay; a little bit nelly, but a person with great strength of character. Action takes place in a mental hospital . . . "Best Friends," a low budget, R-rated flick on bisexuality and homosexual jealousy has been universally panned . . . Truman Capote will be the mysterious host of a bizarre house party in the new Neil Simon pic, "Murder By Death," an Agatha Christie-type who-dun-it comedy. Also featured are Eileen Brennan, James Coco, Peter Falk, Alec Guinness, Elsa Lanchester, David Niven, Peter Sellers, Maggie Smith, Nancy Walker, and Estelle Winwood . . . Gaiety hit Las Vegas when the stage play, "Norman, Is That You?" opened last month at the Union Plaza. Milt Kamen stars as the father who finds out his son is gay when he goes to New York to live with him after a temporary separation between Kamen and his wife. Father tries to "normalize" son and his lover by fixing them up with a prostitute. All ends up happily with son joining the Air Force and lover and newly adopted parents returning to Dayton, Ohio . . . A new play, "Section Nine," opened recently in Princeton, N.J. The plot concerns a frustrated gay scientist who wants to destroy Washington, D.C. with a secret formula which is tattooed on his penis and is readable only when he has an erection. The C.I.A. gets into the action by training three agents in the "Homosexual Arts" in order to discover the formula. The "climax" occurs at a gay bath house and concludes with visuals of world leaders gayly and tenderly embracing one another . . . 'Nuff said.



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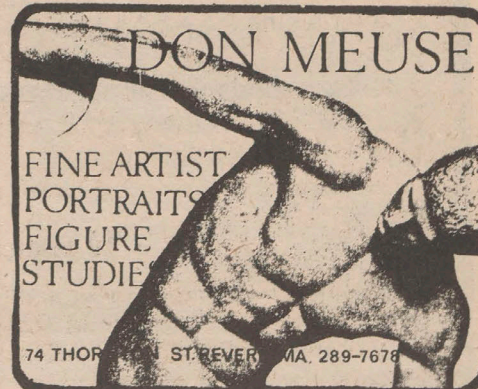
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Curing Homophobia

GAYRAP, an occasional column for gay teenagers.

This space will be open to youth to ask for and receive advice, to express feelings, to tell other youth about activities in your school or town.

By Michael Jay

I had thought of writing this article for a long time but never seemed to have time. Something happened to me, however, and I decided I had to make time.

On Halloween night at about 11:40 p.m. I got on a subway train at Park Street. I had just come from a fantastic costume party/dance at the Charles Street Meetinghouse. I was still wearing my costume: a bowler and a "swash buckler" (I was dressed as an aristocratic English person). I sat on the train and just thought of the party. Then I heard an unfamiliar voice closeby say, "Hey, that kid's a fag." To which one of his henchmen replied, "How do you know? His ass didn't swish on his way in." "The button, man, the button!" It just then occurred to me that I had neglected to take off my How DARE you presume I'm a heterosexual? button.

When the train hit Government Center I felt a clammy hand tap me on the shoulder. Its owner then asked he, "What's with the getup?" I was scared

to death but determined not to show it. I answered very calmly, "I just came from a costume party." He replied, "You're full of shit." I wasn't going to argue, so I just ignored the guy. He and his two henchmen then formed a huddle and I overheard their game plan: "Shall we nail him?" "We'll have to." "Suppose he ain't getting off at Lechmere?" "That's our problem not his. We'll get off wherever he does."

The gruesome trio had shut up just as the train hit my stop. I got off at North Station followed by three pursuers. One said, "Don't lose your hat." I said I wouldn't just as one said, "We'll take your head you goddamn queer." I then removed my button and slipped it into my breast pocket. I started to walk a little faster when I heard, "Got any spare change?" I responded in the negative and proceeded to run.

A quick glance behind me suggested at least two of these characters were chasing me. I said a mental prayer to Love (god) and proceeded to run my ass off, finally ditching them.

When I got on the 12:10 buddliner train that night, I was determined that after my stomach settled, I would write this article. So here it is a peaceful Sunday night and yours truly has a clear head and an itchy typing finger. So here is my program for curing homophobia — slowly but surely.

(a) Come out! No need to be obnoxious or blatant, just be honest.

(b) Get to know all you can about all aspects of homosexuality. Read. Talk to gay brothers and sisters.

(c) Inform! This is probably the most important point. Prejudice stems from ignorance. Homophobia is a

sickness and to eliminate it you must eliminate ignorance. When straights ask you honest questions, give them honest answers. Don't make the gay world sound like the greatest thing since sliced bread. We do have our problems. Be sure to elaborate on the individuality of gay persons. This is instrumental in eliminating stereotyping.

Even though I'm only 17 and a senior at a parochial high school, I practice this program and I've found it does work. Try it! Don't expect miracles. Just be cool and keep Gay Love in your hearts.

Connections

By Avi

I can't believe it.
What?
Look over there.
Where?
Over there stupid.
What am I supposed to see?
Look, they're holding hands.
Wow. I can't believe it.
Everyone's just staring.
Isn't that what we're doing.
You're right. Try not to look.
What should I look at?
Look at me if you have to.
Hey, I don't have to look at you. I want to look at you.
Just don't trip as you walk.
It is kind of hard not to if I'm looking at you.
Well then, look at something else. We're late.
Did I ever tell you how much I like you?
Every now and then.
I never said it before.
You don't have to. I can feel it.
Really?
Can't you feel that I like you?
I do.
Well then that's all settled . . . Look out!
OOoops.
I told you to watch it.
I just want to look at you.
You're crazy. You'll die before we get there. We're late!
But I need you right now. I've got to feel you.
Just keep walking.
Give me your hand.
What! Are you flipped out.
I have to have your hand.
All right. Just walk fast. We're late.

end of part two

mother

On the Movement

I'm neither dismayed nor surprised at the fragmentation of the gay movement. It's par for the course and every group is needed, except of course the fascists. Gay fascists are beyond me. But what happens in any movement is that it fragments because one section will appeal to one person and another to another person. The street people are not so comfortable with the gay academics. The women are not comfortable with the men and vice versa. But unity is absolutely essential, and we don't have that now. I'm completely convinced the movement is going to grow, because only the enemy will profit if it doesn't. One group after another is going to find ways to attain unity around a given issue.

I am very interested in the various attitudes of the lesbian movement. I

(Continued from page 13)

know more about the men because it was my son who taught me. And the lesbian movement is even later coming forward than the men's movement, as you well know. It really didn't matter what women did for all those hundreds of years because we weren't worth anything anyhow. And now that the lesbian movement is emerging they are going to catch just what the men have caught all these years. Terrible abuse, penetration by the FBI, and every other goddamn thing that the men have put up with for years. But you must take this as flattery. Because unless a movement gets big enough and important enough, they don't give a damn. It's hard, I know. It's not the nicest kind of flattery you can get, but it does show that you're important, if they bother with you. I've had tapped telephones off and on all my life. It's a compliment.

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Fr. Paul Shanley 227-8587
Project Lambda
Transvestites/Transgenderists: Frances Craig, P.O. Box 291, MIT Branch, Cambridge 02139
Transvestites/Transgenderists: Ariadne Kane, Box 161, Cambridge 02140
Tufts Gay Community, c/o Student Activities Office, Medford, MA 02155 776-0921
Waltham-Watertown Gays, c/o GCN Box 7100
Women's Comm. Health Ctr., Camb. 547-2302

Quick Gay Guide



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

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

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS [area code 413]

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

RHODE ISLAND [area code 401]

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

VERMONT [area code 802]

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

CONNECTICUT [area code 203]

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

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

NEW HAMPSHIRE [area code 603]

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

NEW YORK

Capital Dist. Gay Comm. Council, P.O. Box 131, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12210 (518) 462-6138
Gay Community Service Ctr., 1350 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14209
Dignity, P.O. Box 1554, N.Y., N. r. 10022
Gay Activists Alliance, P.O. Box 2, Village Sta. 10014 966-7870
Gay Media Coalition, Box 128 Ansonia Sta. 10023
Gay Men's Health Project, 247 W. 11th St. 691-6969
Gay Switchboard 924-4036
Gay & Women's Alliance for Responsible Media, 370 Lexington Ave., Suite 416, N.Y.C., N.Y.
Lambda Legal Defense and Educ. Fund Inc., 145 E. 52nd St., NY NY 10022 758-1905
Lesbian Feminists Liberation, c/o Women's Center, 243 W. 20th St. 691-5460
Lesbian Switchboard 741-2610
Mattachine Society, 59 Christopher St., NY, NY 10014 691-1066
MCC/New York 691-7428, 369-8513
National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Ave., Rm. 506 741-1010
Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop, 15 Christopher St. 255-8097