



**March  
22  
thru  
28**

## 22 mon

Cambridge — Benefit for Rosie's Place at Bread & Roses, 134 Hampshire St., 7:30 pm. Women's music and theatre, donation \$2.

Providence, RI — Rhode Island College hosts a week-long conference for gay people. Ticket for the week is \$5, or \$1 for each day. Today's topic is "Gay People and the Law." 8 pm, Student Union Ballroom.

## 23 tues

NYC — GAU Socialist Caucus meeting, 7:30 pm at CUNY Grad Center, Rm. 207, on 42nd St. (tween 5th, 6th Aves.). For info call John D'Emilio, (212) 663-0556.

Providence, RI — RI College Conference (see Mon. 22), "Social Services for Gay People," 8 pm, Student Union Ballroom.

Boston — Integrity meeting, "Ethics and/or Gay Relationships," Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St., 8:15 pm (Eucharist at 7:30).

## 24 wed

Providence, RI — RI College Conference (see Mon. 22), "Religion and Gay People" with Rev. Troy Perry, 8 pm, Student Union Ballroom.

## 25 thur

Providence, RI — RI College Conference (see Mon. 22), "Gay Lifestyles," by Elaine Noble, 8 pm, Clark Science Bldg., rm. 125.

## 26 fri

Hartford, CT — "Somewhere Coffeehouse" will hold a St. Patrick's Day Dance at MCC Center, 11 Amity St.; admission \$1.

Providence, RI — RI College Conference (see Mon. 22), "Gay Drive for Acceptance" with Sgt. Matlovich, 8 pm, Clark Science Bldg., rm. 125.

Worcester, MA — Today starts the New England Gay Conference 1976, held at Clark University this weekend. Activities include lectures, forums, workshops, sporting (participatory) events and social gatherings. Fri. at 8:15, Boston Ballet, \$3; Sat. workshops, sports, Jade & Sarsaparilla concert; Sun. discussions. For more info write Box A-70, Clark U., Worcester, Ma. 01610.

## 27 sat

Hartford, CT — MCC conference on "Roles and Relationships" begins at 9:30 am at MCC Center, 11 Amity St.

Providence, RI — RI College Conference Gay Dance, 8 pm, Student Union, \$2 or free with conference pass (see Mon. 22).

Hartford, CT — MCC presents dinner-theatre production of "The Voice of the Turtle" at the YWCA, corner of Broad and Farmington Ave. Admission \$4.

NY — Dance for women and men at W.S.D.G. Center, 37 Ninth Ave. (at 14th St.), from 9 pm, admission \$2. Sponsored by the West Side Discussion Group and GAA.

Providence, RI — Women's Health Conference at Univ. of RI, extension division, today and tomorrow 9 am-6 pm. Keynote speaker Norman Swenson. At corner of Promenade and Gaspee St. Call 421-2111 for info and registration forms.



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

Northampton, MA — Lesbian Gardens Coffeehouse hosts a forum on Lesbian Community Self-Defense. Open at 8 pm. 200 Main St.; all lesbians welcome.

Boston — Gay Men's Center is planning a crafts sale. All are invited to participate; contact either Lee Ellenberg, 734-7998 or Darius Dapple-tree, 723-6268 for more info.



## 28 sun

Providence — Dignity rap session on the last Sunday of each month. Info write Box 2231, Pawtucket, RI 02861 or call (617) 754-6029.

Providence, RI — MCC hosts Rev. Troy Perry at 7 pm, in the meeting-house, corner of Benefit and Benevolent Sts. All are invited.

Boston — "Musick for the General Peace," baroque music, 4:30 pm, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St. Tickets \$3 and \$2.

New Haven, CT — A Gay radio show "Come Out Tonight" is aired once a month on Yale college station, WYBC-FM 93.4 on the last Sunday of each month at 7 pm.





# the gay weekly

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# gay community news

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March 27, 1976

## Judge Levies \$500 Penalty, CLUM To Appeal

# Jury's Verdict 'Guilty' in Harassment Test Case



Jolar Cinema in Boston's Combat Zone. Photo by John Scagliotti

By Neil Miller

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Civil Liberties Union's "test case" to force the Boston Police Department to halt its harassment of gay men suffered a setback last Tuesday in Boston Superior Court. A jury of ten men and two women rejected the appeal of John Doe, convicted last Jan. 16 for "soliciting to commit an unnatural act" and refused to overturn the guilty verdict. The Civil Liberties Union plans to appeal the case to the Massachusetts Court of Appeals.

The most stunning development of the trial was not the verdict, which had

been expected, but the decision of the presiding justice, Judge Joseph DiGuglielmo, to compel the defendant to pay \$500 in court costs. The judge denounced the defendant in court for "slandering" the police, and refused to stay payment of the money pending the result of the appeal. Doe had been fined \$25 in Boston Municipal Court, and the prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney Andrew Hier, had asked that the same penalty be imposed in Superior Court.

DiGuglielmo's decision to impose such a heavy penalty drew immediate fire from Rep. Barney Frank of Boston who called the judge's action "outrageous and stupid." DiGuglielmo is "perverting the justice system," Frank told GCN. "He is punishing people to scare them away from using the judicial system."

Evan Lawson, lawyer for the defense, called the judge's decision "punitive." "But it's the price you have to pay for making a test case," he added.

After the judge's decision to levy the heavy court costs, Prosecutor Andrew Hier told the defendant that he didn't "agree with what was going on." He told Doe that "he was just doing his job" and indicated that he didn't feel "guilty" because he proposed to the defense before the trial to continue the case without a finding. The defense had rejected the prosecutor's proposal.

The Doe case grows out of an incident that took place on Nov. 25 of last year when Doe was arrested by an undercover policeman, Vice Squad Det. Edward Miller, at the Jolar Theatre in Boston's Combat Zone. The

Doe arrest was the second in the Jolar in two weeks, and after a Civil Liberties class action suit failed, the CLUM asked the Superior Court for a trial *de novo* [new trial].

The selection of the jury appeared to weaken Doe's chances before the trial even began. Although the judge agreed to ask each defendant if they were prejudiced against homosexuals and told women that they had the right to be excused from the case, very few of the prospective jurors availed themselves of the right to disqualify themselves from the case. At this point, Asst. Dist. Atty. Hier immediately challenged three prospective young jurors and demanded that they be removed from the jury. As both the prosecution and the defense have the right to dismiss four potential jury members without cause, Hier's move left a jury that was primarily middle-aged and working class. The composition of the jury was seen to court observers to be singularly unsympathetic to a homosexual defendant.

Prosecution witnesses Det. Edward Miller and Det. John F. McCormick both described the layout of the Jolar Cinema and described advances which they said that the defendant made to Det. Miller. Miller claimed that he had gone to the Jolar because of "complaints of homosexual activity" there. The Jolar is composed of a series of small rooms which feature couches and "X-rated" movies.

In his questioning of the two prosecution witnesses, Defense lawyer Evan Lawson attempted to prove that the Jolar Cinema was a "private place" and that Det. Miller did not in fact

oppose the advances of Doe. The defense based its case on an application of the well-known case of the Commonwealth vs. Balthazar. In that case, it was ruled that solicitation to commit an "unnatural act" between consenting adults in private does not constitute a crime in Massachusetts.

Doe took the stand and in his testimony stated that it was Miller who was making advances to him. "I remember him smiling and staring," Doe told the court. He admitted that when Miller asked him "What do you want to do," he [Doe] answered "whatever." But he stated that after Miller had asked him, "Do you charge money?" he became extremely suspicious and nervous. "I pushed him away and went to leave," Doe said. "I thought he was a maniac. When he said I was under arrest, I thought he was joking. I couldn't see his badge. I didn't know where he was taking me; I thought I was being kidnapped."

Doe himself addressed himself to the two overriding issues in the case — consent and privacy. "I have too much pride to do something in public," he told the jury. "I wouldn't do anything without anyone's consent."

In a grueling cross-examination, Doe stood his ground, although he admitted to meeting people before at the Jolar. He stated that at the time he was arrested he was "investigating the situation" and that sex was "only one of many possibilities."

In his summing up, Defense Attorney Lawson told the jury that "homosexuality is not on trial here. We are not questioning the propriety of police

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## Jacques, Other Side File Bankruptcy

# Varas Call On Creditors to Help Pressure ABCC

By Dean McLaughlin

BOSTON — At a meeting called by Harry Vara and the counsel for his Bay Village enterprises last Wednesday, assistant counsel Frank Kirby outlined to the bars' creditors their strategy for fighting the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission's postponement of a hearing on the early closing hours ordered on Jan. 29 by the Boston Licensing Board. Joseph Leo, GCN staffperson, was present at the meeting and reported that Kirby urged the assembled businesspeople to join the bars' management in protesting to the ABCC the "hardships" imposed upon both by the commission's inaction. The creditors agreed to form a committee to support the Vara's request.

The action is seen by observers to be a last ditch attempt by the Varas to put pressure on the ABCC to forestall the threatened demise of their Bay Village enterprises. Sources close to the Dukakis administration see little chance for a hearing before the commission prior to the expiration of Commissioner A. Ernest Zangrilli's term of office on April 7. Dukakis is then expected to appoint as his replacement an individual who would reflect his own view that the commission lacks

jurisdiction in the matter of hours.

The decision of the Varas to call together their creditors came as their two embattled bars, Jacques and The Other Side, filed for bankruptcy last week.

Citing well-informed sources in the liquor industry, the *Boston Globe's* David Farrell charged that the bankruptcy petition was a "frivolous prelude to a more serious plan to file a large conspiracy suit against city and state officials." The bankruptcy petition, filed on March 15 by Colonial Tavern, Inc., and Profile Lounges, Inc., which do business as Jacques and The Other Side, followed hearings before the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission in which Secretary of Consumer Affairs Lola Dickerman intervened. Dickerman became involved in the dispute after the commission reversed its previous stand that it had no jurisdiction in questions of this nature. It was widely felt that Dickerman was acting on behalf of Governor Michael Dukakis.

The ABCC had previously denied a motion to dismiss entered by Michael DeMarco, counsel to Police Commissioner Robert DiGrazia, at a commission meeting on March 10. As reported

in last week's GCN, DeMarco had demanded that the commission disqualify itself from hearing an appeal on the closing times of the two controversial gay bars in the South End's Bay Village neighborhood. He charged that the change of vote by Commissioner A. Ernest Zangrilli was the result of undue influence on the part of the appellants. Zangrilli denied the charges, admitting that he had briefly encountered DiMento, lawyer for the Varas, when the latter had been attempting to call on the chairman.

However, at its March 12 meeting, the ABCC unanimously denied DeMarco's motion, based on Zangrilli's "refreshed recollections" of the events. They recalled that after the March 2 hearing in which they denied the bars' appeal of the Boston Licensing Board's decision of Jan. 29, which rolled back the closing hours of the two bars from 2 a.m. to midnight, DiMento had contacted them seeking a new hearing. However, they denied that the merits of the case were discussed. According to the *Globe*, Zangrilli said of the call he received at his home, "He [DiMento] wanted to know if he could have a five-minute hearing. I told him I would not deny any citizen a hearing."

After hearing arguments from lawyers of both the bars and the police, the commission then reaffirmed its decision of March 4. Commissioners Zangrilli and Vernon R. Farnsworth, Jr., voting for hearing the appeal, while Chairman Harrington opposed the motion. Harrington stated that he felt "this was a gross interference by a state appellate board into the legitimate concerns of the local administrative body. I feel that when any administrative body abruptly changes its prior decisions it tends to lose the respect and confidence of the people it is supposed to serve."

Zangrilli and Farnsworth then voted to hear the appellant's arguments, but granted the defense five minutes in which to contact its clients to see if they would authorize action against the continuance of the hearings. After the recess, DiMarco moved for a stay pending an appeal to the courts. Zangrilli and Farnsworth voted against the motion, at which point DiMarco stormed out of the hearings saying, "I've seen conspiracies in the past but this is really something else. Not to give an attorney a chance to draft a complaint and to seek other relief that

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## news notes

### "SNUFF" LEAVING

BOSTON — "Snuff," the controversial film featuring the dismemberment of a woman, which has gained the ire of women and gay activists in three cities, will soon be leaving Boston's Gary Theatre. The film will depart on Friday of this week, but at this point it is not known if Sack Theatres plans to book "Snuff" at one of their suburban theatres or not. The Sack chain, which originally booked "Snuff," is the largest theatre chain in New England.

Ellen Davis, former head of Gay Media Action, who is chairperson for a coalition of groups opposing the film, told GCN, "We're absolutely delighted that this movie is leaving town at last. But we're not out of the woods yet. Sack may well book 'Snuff' into one of their suburban locales, in Lawrence for example. So the Coalition urges people to sit tight until we're sure that 'Snuff' is definitely out of this area for good."

### NGTF SUPPORT

NEW YORK — Six prominent non-gay people have signed an appeal for the National Gay Task Force. Karen De Crow, president of the National Organization for Women (NOW); Richard D. Hongisto, sheriff of San Francisco; Elia Kazan, film director and novelist; Percy Sutton, borough president of Manhattan; Gloria Steinem, editor of Ms. Magazine; and Eleanor Holmes Norton, chairperson of the New York Commission on Human Rights, lent their names to a letter sent out to "civil libertarians" throughout the country.

The letter states, "We believe that we should all join in an important new civil rights battle. We would like you to help us help the nation's first and only full-time professional organization created for this purpose — The National Gay Task Force." The letter concludes, with the signatures of the six people, and the statement that, "we hope that you will respond to our appeal, the first one ever made for this cause. We believe that it provides you with a unique opportunity of responding to a human need never before adequately dealt with on a national level."

### HISS DENIES

BOSTON — A recent spate of newspaper reports that double-agent Whitaker Chambers testified against Alger Hiss because Hiss spurned his homosexual advances are untrue, Hiss told a GCN reporter during a speech at Boston University last week. The Hiss trial was one of the most publicized espionage trials of the McCarthy era, and launched Richard Nixon's political career.

Hiss stated that Chambers was a "neurotic kind of homosexual who would have a series of one-night stands and feel guilty in the morning." But as far as the gay angle having any connection with Chambers' decision to testify against Hiss, the former State Department official stated that idea was "absolutely incorrect."

### SHAPP OUT, BROWN IN ANTI-JACKSON DEMO

PHILADELPHIA — Gov. Milton Shapp of Pennsylvania, who actively solicited the gay vote in the recent Massachusetts and Florida primaries, has withdrawn as a presidential candidate. Shapp's decision to quit the Democratic race comes as no surprise after his dismal showings in the two primaries. In Massachusetts Shapp received only 3% of the vote and in hotly-contested Florida, he received only 2% of the vote. Shapp, in addition to his strong pro-gay positions, was the first Jewish candidate for President.

Even as one candidate sensitive to the problems of gays was dropping out of the Democratic race, another pro-gay candidate was entering the race as a "favorite son" candidate. California Gov. Jerry Brown, who recently signed a bill legalizing sex between consenting adults in that state, announced that he would be a candidate in the California presidential preference primary in June. With 280 votes, California is one of the most formidable blocs at the July New York convention, and the *New York Times* predicts that the popular governor may win as many as 200 of them.



### RUSO SPEAKS

SALEM, Mass. — The Salem State College Gay Task Force will sponsor a showing of Vito Russo's "The Celluloid Closet: The Portrayal of Homosexuality in Films" in the Function Room of the Library on Tuesday evening, March 30 at 7:30. The nation's recognized authority on the treatment of homosexuality by Hollywood, Russo has collected and edited a series of film clips which shows how the movie industry has stereotyped Lesbians and Gay men for almost a hundred years. The presentation will include a commentary by Russo, and question and answer period along with the showing of the film.

Russo's appearance at the college is part of the Gay Task Force's response to the presentation of the stage play, "The Boys in the Band," by the college's Speech and Theater Department. When the play was announced last fall, members of the Task Force felt that some effort should be made to explain to the general public how and why the play was felt to be offensive to gay people. In addition to arranging Russo's appearance, members of the Task Force have written program notes for the show's playbill and are arranging for an after-the-show rap session with gay men and Lesbians from the Salem community and interested members of the audience following the Wednesday, March 31 performance of the show.

The general public is invited to Russo's presentation on Tuesday, for which there is no admission charge. Gay men and women who would like to attend the Wednesday performance are also strongly urged to attend.

NEW YORK — With the emergence of Senator Henry Jackson of Washington as a leading candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, New York gay organizations are increasing their anti-Jackson campaign. Jackson, who is the front-runner in the New York presidential primary to be held April 6, has called homosexuality "the first beginning of a breakdown of society." Both the Gay People's Union of New York University and the Gay Human Rights League of Queens County will be picketing Jackson headquarters at 555 Madison Ave., Manhattan, from 12 to 2 p.m. on April 3, the third in a series of demonstrations.

According to the Gay People's Union and Queens Human Rights League position, "Jackson's statement [on homosexuality] reflects Mr. Jackson's ignorance and bigotry. And in the opinion of millions of Gay Americans this statement rules him out as an acceptable candidate for President. Mr. Jackson's position on Soviet Jewry is admirable. But it is hypocritical for Mr. Jackson to speak out against oppression in the Soviet Union while millions of Gay Americans continue to be persecuted."

### THORPE'S TROUBLES

LONDON, England — British Liberal Party leader Jeremy Thorpe, who has been the target of accusations that he once had a homosexual relationship with a male model, has found a defender in Prime Minister Harold Wilson. In a speech in the House of Commons last Tuesday, Wilson stated that "very strong and heavily financed South African interests" were behind the Thorpe accusations. Liberal party members, according to *The New York Times*, have taken the Wilson statement as proof that Thorpe is being "hounded" because of his long opposition to South African racial policies.

Attention has focused on a South African journalist, Gordon Winter, who has known Thorpe's accuser, Norman Scott, since 1971. Winter has written articles for the *Johannesburg Express* detailing the Thorpe gay allegations. However, both the writer and the avowed ex-lover have hotly denied that they were part of any "plot" to discredit Thorpe or other Liberal leaders.

One reason for the Wilson defense, it is speculated here, is that the Liberals often provide the Prime Minister's ruling Labor Party with their margin of victory in close parliamentary votes. The Liberals held 13 votes in Parliament, which does not reflect their larger influence in the country.

However, the *Times* article noted that the Wilson statement may have done Thorpe more "harm than good" at this point. According to the *Times*, "it reminded people of the earlier allegations against the Liberal Party leader, while raising the larger issue of whether a politician's life can or should remain confidential . . . The betting is that Mr. Thorpe's tenure as party chairman will not last the summer."

### CLEVELAND MARCHES

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Gays in this city organized and were involved in two demonstrations recently — one protesting the *Cleveland Press*' suppression of the gay "Doonesbury" column and another celebrating International Women's Day. The "Doonesbury" demonstration took place on Feb. 16 as 30 gay women and men from the Kent Gay Liberation Front, the Cleveland Gay Political Union, and the Gay Caucus of Youth Against War and Fascism picketed the *Press* offices. The *Press* had refused to print a series of the comic strip, drawn by Gary Trudeau, which featured a gay character and his relationships.

Leon Stevens, co-editor of *High Gear*, local Cleveland gay monthly, was interviewed on Cleveland television about the demonstration and told WEWS-TV, "We're out there to show the public that we will no longer tolerate being ignored . . . We have a press, our own entertainment centers, and a culture as valid as any other. It's time this area recognized us."

The International Women's Day march took place on March 6 at the Old Federal Court Building in Cleveland. *High Gear* reported that some 12 to 15 gays joined with 100 women sporting signs like "Women and Gay: None are Free 'Til All Are Free" and "Gays Against Sexism and Racism — Cleveland Gay Political Union." The demonstration was unusual as all participants chanted, "The sexist system is anti-gay. We won't take it another day."



## MAINE LINE

By S. W. Henderson

PORTLAND — The Maine Gay Task Force held a successful benefit at the Oasis Ballroom Sunday night. More than \$200 was raised, which will help support the MGTF office and Newsletter. MGTF thanks all its friends who made the success possible.

The Maine Gay Symposium III will take place on the Portland campus of the University of Maine on April 23-25. Keynote speakers will be Delores Klaich, author of *Woman Plus Woman*, and Dr. Richard Steinman (PHS) of the Department of Human Services of the University of Maine. The Symposium is sponsored this year by the Gay People's Alliance, in conjunction with the Task Force and the Wilde-Stein Club.

AUGUSTA — There is a thriving gay group newly formed in this area. Those interested may contact MGTF for times and meeting places. Both sexes are cordially invited. (The MGTF address is Box 4542, Portland 04112; street address 193 Middle St., Portland; phone (207) 773-5530.



# Massachusetts Bill Survives First Senate Test

BOSTON — Lackadaisical liberals and diligent opponents were the major protagonists last week in the Massachusetts Senate, as House bill 2541, "An Act Prohibiting Discrimination in Public Employment," was given a parliamentary shuffle. The scenario began on Monday, March 15, as the bill appeared on the Senate calendar.

The measure had received a favorable report from the Committee on Public Service; Rep. Richard E. Landry (D-Waltham), House chairman of the committee, is the sponsor of the bill. The only committee member to dissent from the favorable recommendation was Rep. Thomas Lopes (D-New Bedford), who is also the only Black legislator that has refused to join the Black Caucus.

On Monday, Gay Legislation '76 requested a two-week delay in voting on the bill, to allow time for additional lobbying efforts. (Last year's gay discrimination legislation missed passage in the Senate by only two votes.) Sen. Chester G. Atkins (D-Harvard), the senator charged with "carrying" the bill on the floor, made the motion to delay, one which is ordinarily accepted without debate.

However, Sen. David H. Locke (R-Wellesley), the Assistant Minority Leader in the upper chamber, called for an unusual roll-call vote on Atkins's motion. To the surprise of

some, the Senate upheld the motion to delay, by a fairly strong vote of 22-17 (see roll call).

Normally, had the issue been perceived as a question of gay rights, the vote would have been considerably closer. Seven senators who have consistently opposed gay rights legislation (Sens. DiCarlo, Fonseca, Buckley, Tobin, Tully, Wall, and Walsh) voted to postpone debate on the measure, while three members who have backed such legislation in the past (Sens. Burke, Fitzpatrick and MacKenzie) voted to call for an immediate vote.

Sen. Burke — who appears as a co-sponsor of another gay rights bill this year, H.2422, the general anti-discrimination bill — told GCN later, "The Senate hasn't done anything all year. I support this legislation, but I just don't see what two weeks will do to help you."

Unflapped, Sen. Locke made a motion to *reconsider* the delaying tactic. (Locke is widely regarded as a crafty master of parliamentary procedure.)

During the evening, Rep. Elaine Noble worked with gay lobbyists to analyze the day's vote and plan for Tuesday. Nearly a dozen senators reported being contacted by either constituents or gay lobbyists during the twelve-hour span between the votes. Their efforts apparently paid off.

On Tuesday, the Senate chamber was stone silent as the Locke motion to reconsider was read by Senate President Kevin B. Harrington (D-Salem). Locke himself sat still. And in a manner that typifies the way the Massachusetts Senate operates, some quiet whispering around Harrington's podium by Sen. James A. Kelly (D-Oxford), a co-sponsor of H.2422, Atkins, and Sen. Anna Buckley (D-Brockton) provided the backdrop when Harrington announced that Locke's motion to reconsideration had failed "on a voice vote." Simplified, the Senate action indicates a major victory for gay lobbyists at the State House, and the first one ever in the Senate.

Ironically, the matter was never supposed to have reached the Senate floor so soon, according to one gay lobbyist. Had Atkins, the Senate chairman of the Public Service Committee, kept a more watchful eye over the bill which he supports, the measure could have been kept in committee while H.2422, the more important general anti-discrimination bill, was brought before the House, where its chances of passage this year are seen as good. It was only through the efforts of Sen. Robert A. Hall (R-Lunenburg) that Rep. Noble or Gay Legislation '76 received word that the measure was on the calendar.

## ROLL CALL

Vote to Delay: Sens. Robert A. Hall

(R-Lunenburg), Allan R. McKinnon (D-Weymouth), John W. Olver (D-Amherst), Bill Owens (D-Boston), William L. Saltonstall (R-Manchester), Joseph C. DiCarlo (D-Revere), Walter J. Boverini (D-Lynn), James A. Kelly (D-Oxford), Mary L. Fonseca (D-Fall River), Chester G. Atkins (D-Harvard), John F. Aylmer (R-Barnstable), Jack H. Backman (D-Brookline), Anna P. Buckley (D-Brockton), Michael LoPresti (D-Boston), Robert McCarthy (D-Bridgewater), Stephen J. McGrail (D-Malden), Alan D. Sisitsky (D-Springfield), Joseph F. Timilty (D-Boston), Arthur H. Tobin (D-Quincy), Joseph B. Tully (D-Dracut), William X. Wall (D-Lawrence), and Joseph B. Walsh (D-Boston).

**Vote Against Delaying:** Sens. Edward L. Burke (D-Framingham), John J. Conte (D-Worcester), John F. Fitzpatrick (R-Stockbridge), Ronald C. MacKenzie (R-Burlington), David H. Locke (R-Wellesley), Francis X. McCann (D-Cambridge), John F. Parker (R-Taunton), George Rogers (D-New Bedford), James P. Rurak (D-Haverhill), Frederic W. Schlosstein (D-Warren), Stanley J. Zarod (D-Springfield), Denis L. McKenna (D-Somerville), John W. Bullock (D-Arlington), Daniel J. Foley (D-Worcester), Arthur J. Lewis (D-Boston), Roger L. Bernashe (D-Holyoke), and William M. Bulger (D-Boston).

# O'Leary, Voeller to Address Job Corps Meeting

WASHINGTON — At a meeting held Friday, March 12, in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Job Corps formally invited the National Gay Task Force to participate in two large, three-day meetings on sexuality, which the Job Corps will sponsor this spring. The invited participants, Jean O'Leary and Bruce Voeller, staff members of NGTF, will be flown by the Job Corps to conferences in New Orleans (April 28-30) and San Diego (May 26-28).

The announcement came following the most recent in a series of meetings between NGTF Executive Director Bruce Voeller, Washington gay activist Dr. Franklin Kameny, and Job Corps Director John T. Stetson. During earlier meetings Stetson agreed with NGTF criticisms of the Job Corps' discriminatory policies and issued orders forbidding discrimination. The Job Corps' manual called "Sexual De-



Jobs Corps Director John Stetson (center) with Washington gay activist Frank Kameny (left) and the National Gay Task Force's Bruce Voeller (right)

viation" recently came under heavy attack and was withdrawn after protests by Congresspersons and gay leaders. The regional meetings will be attended by Job Corps staff and counselling personnel from around the nation.

Dr. Voeller said, "Mr. Stetson and his staff have been splendid to work with. If all people in government were as responsive to legitimate claims for reform and improvement as Mr. Stetson and his agency have been, the government would be held in very high regard by Americans."

"The initiative to have lesbian and gay male input at the sexuality conferences came from the Job Corps, not from us. We take this to be a very serious showing of their commitment to reform and to reeducate the staff of the Job Corps towards full equality in the treatment of heterosexuality and homosexual women and men."

Photo by Bill Bland, Man's Image

# San Francisco Names Openly Gay Deputy Sheriff

SAN FRANCISCO — The first openly gay deputy sheriff has been appointed in San Francisco. Rudi Cox, who is now working as a jailer in the men's section at the Hall of Justice county jail, was appointed as deputy sheriff after the personal intervention of San Francisco Sheriff Richard Hongisto. Hongisto, in addition to making sure that Cox was hired, recently signed a National Gay Task Force appeal for funds (see News Notes).

Cox told the *San Francisco Examiner* that after first applying for the job, he was asked questions as part of a background check by an investigator.

At this point, Cox told the investigator that he was gay, and the background people "then told Civil Service I probably would be unsatisfactory for the sheriff's department."

At this point, Cox decided to protest. "I discussed the matter with Sheriff Hongisto," Cox said. "He personally went to Civil Service in my behalf. He said if I was white (Cox is black) and I was straight I'd have no problem getting the job. The sheriff said sex orientation had nothing to do with opening or locking doors in the jails. So Civil Service accepted me."

Cox worked as a senior clerk-stenographer in the police employee relations division and then as a legal stenographer in the Public Defender's office in San Francisco before applying to become deputy sheriff.

"I'm just trying to be a productive citizen," Cox told the *Examiner*. "I hope society will stop viewing gay people as sub-humans or freaks, and instead regard them as fellow citizens and taxpayers interested in the common welfare of society."

Cox claims that his sexual orientation has elicited little response from his co-workers at the jail. "I thought there

might be some smirks from them, but instead they treat me like I was not gay — they treat me like a fellow deputy."

San Francisco Police Chief Charles Gain shares Sheriff Hongisto's desire to hire more gays as police officers. "Some people don't like gays in the police department — I strongly disagree," Gain told the *Examiner*. "If gays are qualified to do police work, they should be hired. They're intelligent and understanding of people. We should have a percentage of gays in our police department, just as we should have a representative percentage of other members of minority groups."





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Avid readers may have noticed that names keep switching jobs on our masthead. This week, you will notice that "features editor" and "news editor" have disappeared altogether, and that Lyn Rosen is listed as "Managing Editor" and Neil Miller as "Editor." GCN has undergone a major in-house reconstruction. When Marion Tholander, our previous managing editor, left the newspaper to take over GCN's new distribution company, we offered the managing editor's job to members of the community. Many fine people applied, some with impressive backgrounds in journalism and/or

## FORUM

### CHILDCARE AS A GAY MALE ISSUE

By Tommi Avicelli

Childcare is an important gay male issue. Not only in the sense that gay men should be fighting for daycare facilities for women, but, most importantly, in the sense that gay men should be doing the childcare.

Gay men often have all the right rhetoric about all the right issues, but seldom do we put our bodies where our mouths are. Consider, when childcare was organized for the NOW convention in Philadelphia, the gay male movement "heavies" — or our so-called and often self-proclaimed "leaders" — did not show up, or if they did, it was for an hour or so just to "put in an appearance." Those of us who did the childcare for four days (and nights!) went without the esteem a lot of these men like to be bathed in. If there's not a camera around, how

management, but somehow it just didn't seem right to those of us who had been here for many months to start training a "boss."

At a recent meeting, we decided that we should fit jobs to people, not people to jobs. But the big problem remained. Who would be the "boss" to the public who need a figurehead to talk to. Since we are all department heads, anyway, we just decided that all of us should have a managerial-sounding name. Then any one of us could be "boss" when necessary. Therefore, features editor Lyn Rosen has now become managing editor in charge of features,

local public relations, and inner-office relations. News editor Neil Miller is editor in charge of news and outreach public relations. Business manager Joseph Leo retains the title but is now given the additional duties of running the advertising department and supervising circulation. Office manager Lester Stockman retains his title, but was given the additional duties of learning all operations and filling in when someone is sick or leaves a job.

And we would like to take this space to thank all volunteers; we need you now more than ever.

many gay male leaders can you count on anyway?!

Childcare is a vital issue for gay men for several reasons:

One: it helps to break down the old myth about child molestation and homosexuality.

Two: it enables us, as men, to experience the nurturing and caring role, a role we seldom experience in our everyday "masculine"-oriented lives. It frees us from the often tyrannical trap of being "father figures" and lets us enjoy being maternal.

Three: our doing daycare frees women who might not have had the opportunity to organize and demonstrate. It aids women in their rightful job of subverting the patriarchy and taking over. We, as gay men, should be aiding the feminist revolution in this way, by cooperating with our sisters and not by ignoring the basic needs such as childcare so we can continue licking the oppressor's ass for more crumbs off his table. We don't want crumbs anyway!

Four: it demonstrates our willingness as faggots to do some of the shitwork. We should be doing childcare, we should be helping with housework, and with cooking, etc. This is not the sixties, we are not living in communes where the women do the housework and the men get to be the revolutionaries! It's time for us to take on some of the shitwork because for too long we have been doing the revolutionizing and getting nowhere quick. In the sixties it was the deadend street politics of so-called revolutionary "leaders" of the youth & peace movement like Abbie Hoffman (an effemophobe & misogynist, too!). In the seventies it's

gay men with "leaders" who are often guided by egos rather than true struggle with their own sexism.

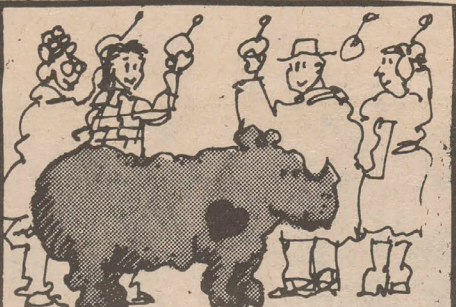
Five: it forces us out of power positions. Men have enjoyed power and power positions for too long. We need to experience the joy of giving and sharing in a situation where there is no power being tossed about. Even gay males play their power games at "liberation" meetings. How many times have we backstabbed and name-called just so we could get the first headline or become president of the group?

Six: it puts us in positions of being loving and caring towards each other. Childcare workers cooperate and grow close to one another in ways men don't usually grow close to each other.

Seven: childcare lets us be role models for young boys who, though their mothers may be feminists, are still being pressured by male peer groups to be macho. We, as faggots, in our striking "unmasculine" behavior (as caring & loving men) can demonstrate to the male child an alternative to macho behavior and the emotionless world boys develop in.

And eight: it takes us out of the theoretical realm and into the practical sphere of living our "rhetoric."

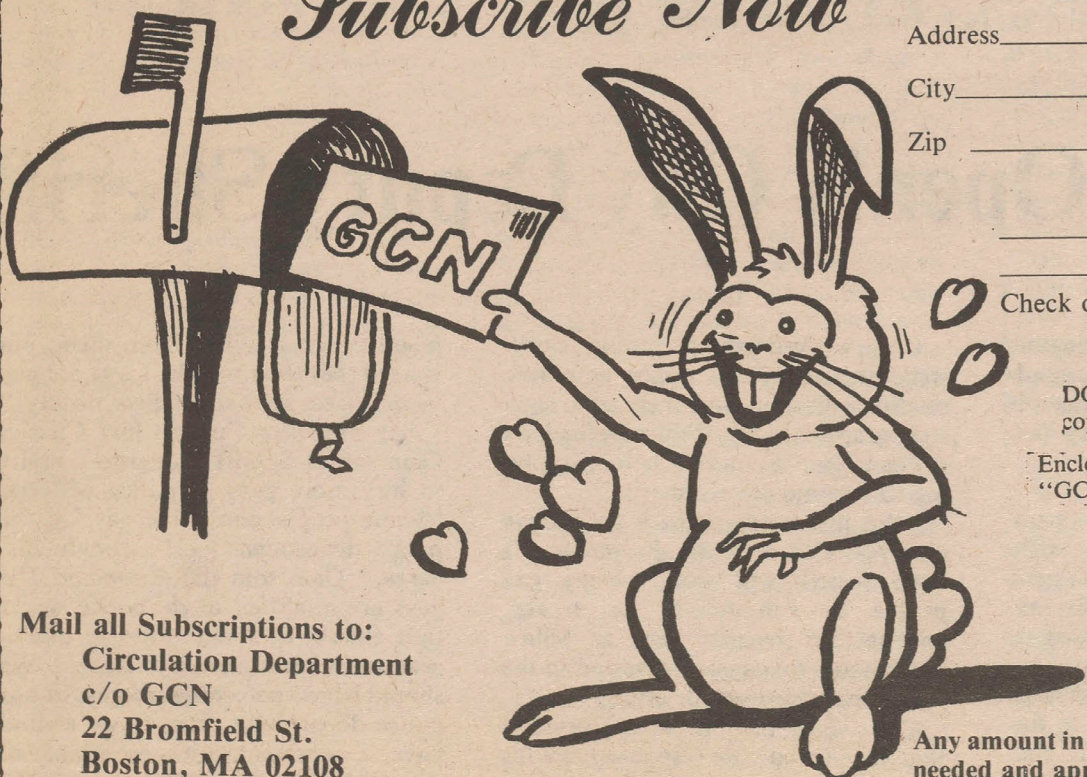
We need to put our theories into practice — if we boast of being free from those "masculine" power games, then let's prove it! Childcare exhibits our ability to relate to children in ways men have never related to them before — AS CARING, LOVING HUMAN BEINGS. And that aids and abets the revolution as much as — if not more than — lobbying city councilpeople for often inconsequential gay civil rights bills.



#### NEED OF THE WEEK

The Gay Men's Center, 36 Bromfield St., Boston, needs an electrician for some volunteer work. Call GMC at 338-7967 or call John, 523-0525.

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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.

## where's western mass?

Dear Editor:

As one of your biggest outlets in Western Massachusetts, we were very disappointed in your failure to print anything of substantial size about our Feb. 1 dinner/dance with Elaine Noble as guest speaker, in spite of our press release and information sent well in advance.

Being a gay group, we are sure you are aware of how difficult it is to get any media to accept our press releases. We were counting on your cooperation to help get a substantial turn-out.

We are aware of your printing our information in the Calendar, but doesn't Elaine Noble's interest in the Western Massachusetts area deserve a few lines in the bulletin? It looks like Western Massachusetts gets shoved back in the closet again for state publicity. When we import someone to add to our own political awareness, we get no credit for our energy.

Perhaps you are succumbing to the bureaucratic attitude that all gays are in the Boston area. I hope this is not the case. If politicians are constantly made aware of the state-wide proliferation of gays, perhaps the gay bills would have an easier time. The state senators and representatives in Western Massachusetts have had little or no exposure to gays. The more favorable publicity we have, perhaps the less hostile they might become.

We are looking forward to your greater cooperation in the future.

In gay struggle,  
The Members of the  
Springfield Gay Alliance

## tricky politics

To Whom It May Concern:

I have some reservations I would like to express about your Feb. 28, 1976 issue of GCN.

First, why do you continue to permit yourselves to be used to further the political

ambitions of Elaine Noble? Aside from the "little feminine tricks" Ms. Noble assiduously cultivates and employs to enhance her profile, I don't think her insight into herself or the complexity of gay related problems is very high. I say this from witnessing an incident at which Ms. Noble was present involving mens' drag at a Gay Conference in Ann Arbor. Ms. Noble showed very little leadership or problem solving ability. Her discomfiture and inadequacy was especially apparent to myself and other gay persons when she was confronted by an especially vocal aggressive Black Lesbian. Ms. Noble's insight consisted in dropping crumbs of blandness, little girl smiles and reinforcement for all, which left all involved polarized.

Secondly, I hope you do not permit your publication to be used by candidates for political office. Birch Bayh in over 10 years as Senator has not uttered a peep in Congress in support of Gay related issues (i.e. access to meaningful work and freedom to live and love persons of our own sex). Politicians as a group are categorical as opposed to individual thinkers. The media and quest for election pretty much determines their mores. Please, if you must discuss Candidate X, do it meaningfully through a focus on his/her creativity; warmth and insight into people and their struggle to achieve personal growth. If a candidate must be discussed socially, no hype, a calm analysis of his/her voting record over the years will suffice and a printing of the candidate's verbal diarrhea in pursuit of election in 1976 avoided.

Your work and energy in making GCN possible is remembered.

Yours truly,

Corey Qua

## reflections of love

Dear GCN,

We have enjoyed your paper very much. For some reason we have been receiving two copies so gave one to a girl friend.

My husband and I have been in the coming out process for about two years. We have been married for 25 years and have nine children. We still have a fantastic relationship because we know each other's needs and understand each other. Thanks to the many people we have met in Provincetown.

When anyone asks why we like gay people and

etc. my answer is their lifestyle. I love being able to be myself and do my own thing. You can be kind to a gay male, you can smile, be happy and they don't ask you to go to bed. In the straight society if you smile at a male they think you're making out. Females are the same if a male smiles and is a little nice it's oh he's make out. In the gay society people are kinder to each other and they show affection for one another. It's wonderful. Try an experiment, walk up to a straight person you know (the same sex) and give them a kiss, they will almost faint especially if anyone's around. I know because I was there myself one time. We haven't been around too long but have enjoyed the kindness shown. We go to the Fife and Drum in Providence quite frequently and have met some very nice people.

We're looking forward to Provincetown this summer. At the Pied Piper there's a bartender named Betty and I sure miss her. She's really a beautiful person. In the straight society if people could only understand loving each other we would have a beautiful world. I have a gay brother and a cousin or two and my husband has a gay brother and a couple of cousins. After being straight for years and then finding yourself it is a wonderful feeling to be gay and loved. If our grown and half grown children only learn one thing in life, Love, we will feel that we have done our best. May our paper have many years of publishing and may more people know the wonderful love of the gay people.

Yours truly,

Shirley and Matt

## no gay church

Dear Friends:

While Matthew Perry's "A Tale of Two Churches — Episcopalians in Boston" is good reportage, there are several facts which should be made clear.

First, the joint letter signed by David Frusti, Richard York and the writer was prepared before either sermon had been preached. It was intended as a contrast to the article "Gay Pagan Manifesto" which had appeared in GCN — a contrast and not a response. The Papal statement appeared on the day we met to draft the letter.

Second, INTEGRITY does not hold "weekly services" at Emmanuel Church. We hold our meetings at Emmanuel on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. As a part of these meetings there is usually a celebration of the Eucharist or Compline. Our membership is urged to take an active part in the life of their

parish churches. We are a group of concerned Episcopalians trying to work in and through our Church.

The writer feels that it is necessary to bring these facts to your attention out of respect for the right of Fr. Collingwood and the Church of the Advent to conduct their parish affairs as they best determine and to reassure the Rector and Vestry of Emmanuel Church that we are not, contrary to our statements to them, attempting to set up a "gay" Episcopal Church.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Joe McCauley  
Convenor, INTEGRITY/Boston

## hospitality plus

Dear GCN,

My lover and I celebrated the three-day weekend in Provincetown. At least Saturday night and then only by luck. Our thinking was (based on experience) that even though it was a long weekend P'town certainly wouldn't be crowded due to the weather, the cold, and the distance. Wrong. It was packed from the Holiday Inn to the P'town Motor Inn and everything in between. We were stunned and decided to drive back that evening after dinner. During dinner two women got involved in our conversation about us not having accommodations and offered to ask at the bar they were going to and see if anyone knew of a place. Within a few minutes one returned and told us about a place that was being renovated.

Two gay men own what was formerly the London House but is now the Watership Inn on Winthrop Street. They were kind enough to rent us a room for the night. They plan to open by April and we highly recommend the place due to their hospitality, concern to rent to gays, and reasonable prices.

The local consensus is that Provincetown is going to be mobbed this summer and the facts are that rates are going sky high. This is the year of the Bicentennial and P'town is where it all began. We got some looks at summer prices and can certainly confirm this. The tourists are already out in force. So, gays, get your reservations early, go in off season, rent your places on the Cape to each other for minimal fees, learn karate (lots of straights), and keep the Watership Inn in mind.

Cateldo Tracey

# GAY LEGISLATION '76

## NEEDS SUPPORT IN MASSACHUSETTS

**H.2541 will be voted on in the Senate on Monday, March 29, 1976**

**H.2422 and H.2501 will be voted on later this spring.**

These are the gay rights bills which have been introduced into the 1976 session of the Massachusetts legislature.

### H.2422 General Discrimination.

This bill would make discrimination in employment, housing, mortgages, bonding, credit, public accommodations, and union membership on the basis of sexual orientation illegal. Presently the laws cover race, ancestry, religion, sex, etc. (See Mass. General Laws Chapter 151B; Chapter 272 section 98).

### H.2541 Discrimination in civil service.

This bill, more limited than H.2422, would make discrimination in state civil service employment on the basis of sexual orientation illegal.

### H.2501 Repeal of Sex Laws.

This bill would repeal four sections of the state criminal code which presently regulate the private sexual behavior of consenting adults (these sections prohibit crime against nature, fornication, "unnatural acts," and lascivious cohabitation; see Chapter 272 sections 16, 18, 34, 35).

## 1. WRITE YOUR LEGISLATORS.

The most realistic way for most people to affect the vote of their legislators is to write them a personal letter. As many as six letters on any one issue is considered a landslide by most state legislators, so your letter does count.

Of critical importance is that people from all parts of the state write to their legislators and that the writers are informed on the issue.

**To find out who your state legislators are.** Each voter has one State Representative and one State Senator. To find out their names, first call your city or town clerk or elections commission and ask for the ward and precinct number for the address at which you are registered to vote (or if not yet registered in Massachusetts, at which you live). They may be able to also tell you who your legislators are. If not, call the Voter Information Phone (1-800-882-1649 toll free; in the Boston area call 357-5880) from 10am - 2pm, or the House Clerk (617-727-2356) from 9am-5pm.

**What to say.** Refer to the bills by number plus a short title and ask for a vote in favor and a reply to your letter. Your letter will have more impact if you show that you are familiar with the legislator's vote or stand on the issue. Check the list on the right side of this ad for this information and write your letter accordingly. Thank those who have voted favorably in the past and ask for their vote again. For new legislators, for those uncommitted or who have voted unfavorably on the bills, state your feelings honestly but don't get defensive or offensive. Be brief and concise. **Many non-gay people are supporting this legislation,** so your letter of support will not identify your sexual orientation. Letters needn't be "professional"; in fact, plain, honest letters are the best.

**Send to:** Address your letters to: The Hon. \_\_\_\_\_, State House, Boston, Ma. 02133. Begin the letter "Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_," or "Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_."

**Get others to write.** Most people will find this a simple yet effective way to show their support, whether they are gay or straight. Contact us if you would like some of these brochures.

**Send us replies.** It is vitally important as we collect votes for the passage of the bills that we know what legislators are telling their constituents. We would greatly appreciate receiving copies of letters they send you, or your calling us and reading them to us.

**Write to the Legislative Leaders.** The speaker of the House and the President of the Senate have enormous influence over what happens to a bill in the complex legislative process:

The Hon. Thomas W. McGee, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
State House, Boston, Ma. 02133

The Hon. Kevin B. Harrington, President of the Senate  
State House, Boston, Ma. 02133

## 2. CALLS AND VISITS.

A visit in person to your legislator is the ultimate in effectiveness. It is best to make an appointment. Those from outside the Boston area usually have an office in their districts. To reach your State Senator call 617-727-2455; State Representative call 617-727-2424.

If you want to visit your legislator with someone, contact us and we will try to find someone to go with you.

**MONEY: ENERGY**

1—Voted for the original gay discrimination bill last year on the last vote of 3 in the House [last vote of 2 in the Senate]  
2—Voted for the original gay bill at least once and against the original bill at least once.  
3—Voted constantly against the bill.  
4—Did not vote.  
NE—Newly elected.

## HOW THEY STAND

STATE SENATORS	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1 ATKINS	2 BALTHAZAR	3 CREEDON	4 HARRIS	5 MCCARTHY, T.P.	6 MCGRATH, R.J.	7 MCGRATH, R.M.	8 MCDOWELL	9 MCGEE	10 MCKENNA	11 MCLAUGHLIN	12 MCNEIL	13 MEANS	14 METAYER	15 MOFENSON	16 MORIARTY	17 MULLIN	18 SCACCIA	19 SCELISI	20 SCIBELLI	21 SEGEL	22 SEMENSI	23 SERRA	24 SHAUGHNESSY	25 SHEA, C.	26 SHEA, P.	27 NE SHEETS	28 SHORTELL, E.	29 SILVA	30 SIMONS	31 SMITH	32 SPRAGUE	33 PERRAULT	34 STARZEC	35 SULLIVAN	36 SWANSON	37 PICKETT	38 SWARTZ	39 TEAHAN	40 TOOMEY	41 TRODEAU	42 VELIS	43 VIGNEAU	44 VIVEIROS	45 VOLTERRA	46 WALKER	47 WEINBERG	48 WETHERBEE	49 WETMORE	50 WHITE, T.	51 WHITE, W.P.	52 WILBER	53 WOODS	54 YOUNG	55 ZEISER	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

**REPRESENTATIVE NOBLE'S AIDES (Mon.-Fri. 9-5) 617-727-2584**

We need money mainly for printing and postage and are relying on small individual donors. If many people each sent us \$1 it would be put to good use. Checks can be payable to either Gay Legislation '76 or Legislation '76. P. O. Box 8841, J.F.K. Station Boston, Massachusetts 02114

GCN, March 27, 1976 • Page 5



# NEW YORK REVELATIONS

By Tony Russo

NEW YORK — As this column goes to press, one or two New York gay civil rights bills are expected to be released from the State Assembly's Government Operations Committee. The bills, sponsored by Assemblyman William Passannante (D); A-3211, and Assemblyman Mark Siegel (D); A-3559A, are directed against discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference in employment, housing and public accommodations. The New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations (NYSCGO), the main lobbyist for the bill, feels that passage in committee seems certain. Once released from Queens Assemblyman Joseph Lisa's (D) committee, the bill will go directly to a vote in the Assembly. The vote could occur within five days of passage.

NYSCGO representative Jerry Martin said: "We are cautiously optimistic

about passage in the Assembly. What will be important is the time factor from passage in committee to a vote on the floor. If it moves quickly, opposition will have little time to organize. The bill stands a much better chance than our Sodomy Bill did last spring. As for passage in the Senate, we are uncertain."

The bill, once passed by the Assembly, then goes to the Finance Committee chaired by Sen. John Marchi (R). Once in the Finance Committee a vote is uncertain. The committee, unlike the Assembly committee, need not vote for or against the bill. It can stay in committee indefinitely. If passed by the committee and then approved by the Senate, it will still be unknown whether or not Governor Carey will sign the bill.

The Gay Human Rights League of Queens County and the Gay Students Union at New York University has been working on a letter writing cam-

paign to members of the Assembly. More than 100 letters have been sent to key members of the Assembly. The groups are urging everyone to call or write their local Assemblyperson.

Lesbian Feminist Liberation has had its elections for spokeswoman. Josephine Kelley was elected to fill the position. She ran unopposed and will replace Elenor Cooper who was twice elected to that position.

Gay Activist Alliance (GAA) has been holding its monthly "Open Houses" around the New York City area. The purpose is to enable people to learn more about GAA while enjoying homemade cake, coffee, poetry readings, singing and music. The site for the third open house in a series of five has not been announced. For more information contact GAA at 212-677-6090.

The Gay Academic Union (GAU) will be holding its "How the Authors Met the Public" night on Friday,

March 26. Those who will speak include Karla Jay, editor of "Out of the Closets: A Journal of Gay Liberation" and "After You're Out: Experiences of Lesbians and Gay Men," John Lauritsen and David Thorstad, authors of "The Early Homosexual Rights Movement: 1864-1935," and Ruth Simpson, author of "From the Closets to the Courts: The Lesbian Transition." The panel will be chaired by Delores Klaich, author of "Woman Plus Woman." The event is designed to question the authors on the public's reaction to their books and any after thoughts they might have on their books. After the panel, time will be allowed for people to personally meet the authors. The program will be held at the City University of New York Graduate Center at 33 W. 42nd St. at 8 p.m. The cost for admission will be \$1 for non GAU members and it will be free for GAU members. The authors' books will be on sale at the event.

## Michael Sherwood, 1938-1976

BOSTON — Dr. Michael Sherwood, 37, a prominent member of Boston's gay community, died suddenly last Tuesday, March 16, of an apparent heart attack. He suffered the attack in a court room of the Suffolk County

Superior Courthouse in Boston, where he was a defendant in a medical malpractice suit.

Sherwood graduated from Princeton College in 1960, first in his class with a major in philosophy. He was Phi Beta

Kappa and a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University. He received an M.D. degree from Harvard Medical School with high honors in 1967 and won the Borden Research Prize for most original research by a medical student.

After taining in psychiatry at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center, he chose to devote his major professional effort to private practice. In 1971 he developed a group practice, Boston Psychiatric Associates, with clinics in Quincy and in Kenmore Square.

His interests included psychopharmacology, psychotherapy with schizophrenic and borderline patients, treatment of sexual dysfunctions and evaluation and treatment of transsexuals. He was on the Board of Directors of Gender Identity Service from 1972 until his death and the Board of the Homophile Community Health Service from 1972-1974. He wrote a number of scientific papers and a book, *The Logic of Explanation in Psychoanalysis*.

At the time of his death, Sherwood was Acting Chief of Psychiatry at the Boston Hospital for Women, Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Clinical Instructor in Psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine.

Michael Sherwood was an open and strong supporter of the gay community. He and his partner, Jeff Davies, bought, renovated and reopened the 9 Knox Street Restaurant which they established as one of Boston's finest eating places. Both the restaurant and his home were constantly used for entertainments and benefits in support of various gay activities. He also treated a number of gay patients in his practice.

Survivors include his mother, Mrs. Lillian Franklin, a sister, a brother David, and his lover Jim Moore.

Contributions in his memory may be sent to Massachusetts Mental Health Center, Harvard Medical School, 74 Fenwood Road, Boston, Mass. 02115.

## Bay Village Bar Story

(Continued from page 1)

he thinks may serve his client best, certainly flies in the face of any jurisdictional or legal question I've ever learned." Harrington then rose and announced that he would not participate any further in the proceedings, and walked from the room. The commission shortly thereafter recessed for the weekend.

When the ABCC reconvened on March 15, Dickerman was present with a motion for leave to intervene. As Secretary of Consumer Affairs, she felt that the commission's reversal was destructive of public confidence in the agency. Citing the commission's earlier vote against jurisdiction in two cases involving the Old Salt Corporation and the Limelight Corporation, both of Southborough, and the pending appeal by those corporations to the courts, she suggested that it would be appropriate for the commission to be guided by the outcome in those two cases. "There is an arguable issue here on the question of jurisdiction . . ." she stated. "The Commission would now be well advised to wait for the decision of the courts." The commission then voted to postpone the hearings until March 24 to give the courts time to act.

The bars went to court with their petition of bankruptcy that same afternoon. The case was assigned to Bankruptcy Judge Paul W. Glennon, who appointed Gerald Rosen as receiver. Jacques listed \$90,500 in liabilities and \$20,000 in assets. The Other Side claimed liabilities of \$240,000 and \$61,000 in assets. Among the liabilities claimed was \$80,000 in state taxes, which David Farrell states is a "transfer liability," for which the Commonwealth would hold Vara personally responsible regardless of the outcome of the bankruptcy petitions.

According to Farrell's sources, Vara will charge Mayor White, the BLB, the ABCC, the Boston Police Department, and Rep. Barney Frank of Boston with involvement "in an insidious plot to strip him of his lawful right to conduct business in Bay Village."

Asked to comment on the possibility of the suit, Rep. Barney Frank replied

that his only hope was that Vara would list him as a named defendant. "I hope it isn't Kevin White *et al.* I don't want to be a fucking *et al.*"

The bankruptcy action is viewed as an incentive to the courts to speed a decision on the matter of jurisdiction. Business at the two bars has dropped off sharply since the midnight closings began March 1. Employees report having the number of their shifts cut as well. Business is now approximately one-third its previous volume. Employees also report that the management has not kept them informed of developments in the case, nor the prospects the future holds for their jobs.

David Farrell states that "if the early closing of Jacques and The Other Side sticks as expected because of the certainty that Gov. Dukakis will name a new ABCC commissioner on April 7 in place of A. Ernest Zangrilli, the long-suffering residents of Bay Village will have demonstrated once again the power of the people."



Co-producers of the WBCN radio show, "What Ever Happened to Gay Legislation," receive United Press International 3rd place award for "Best Community Service" at awards ceremony at the Marriott Inn in Newton. They are (left to right) WBCN News Director John Scagliotti, WBCN Women's News Director Susan Sprecher, and GCN Editor Neil Miller.

## Cambridge Gay Men Meet

CAMBRIDGE — About 30 men met on Monday evening, March 15, to form the North Cambridge Gay Men's Group. The informal meeting, held in the apartment of Joe Martin, was inspired by the presently-hibernating Cambridgeport gay men's group. "A

neighbor and I wondered who else lived in the area and wondered if others felt like organizing a basically social, neighborhood group," Joe suggested. "We sensed a need for gay men to relate to each other as neighbors, as brothers perhaps. Everyone here shares a similar feeling," he added.

Joe Abreu of Gay Media Action spoke of its work and gathered support for the Gay Media Alert network. A discussion of gay rights legislation followed with one member suggesting that Cambridge gays unite to coerce Sen. McCann (D-Cambridge) to alter his stance on gay rights legislation to a positive one. Another topic that emerged was one evolving around the designation of a local cafe or bar as a meeting place for gay men. "I'm here to be away from bars," one man protested. Before the meeting broke up, a decision was made to hold a similar affair in early April. Interested men are urged to watch the "Calendar" section of GCN or call 661-9362.

As those attending parted following the meeting, many expressed their delight and encouragement that the turn-out was great. "Most people had never met before tonight yet the atmosphere is very warm and relaxed," one man maintained. "I think the fact that we're meeting in a home makes the difference. I hope the positive energy here can be sustained."



# Behavior Therapists 'Modify' Position on Gays

By Matthew Perry

BOSTON — Behavioral therapists, once considered the most powerful adversaries of gay people within the mental health establishment, are now beginning to show a change in attitude towards using aversive therapy to change sexual orientation. At a recent meeting of the American Association of Behavioral Therapists, a resolution was passed putting the organization on record as opposing the use of behavioral techniques to alter sexual orientation when it is against the will of the patient.

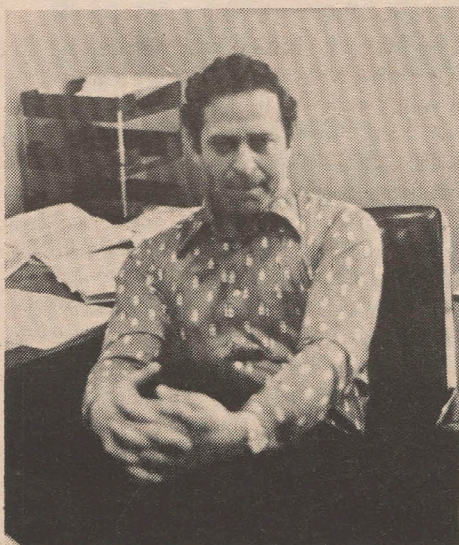
One of the primary exponents of a change in attitude towards gays was Gerold C. Davidson, past president of the National Association for the Advancement of Behavioral Therapy. In his parting address to the association on Nov. 2, 1974, Davidson told his fellow behavior therapists that "any therapist never makes ethically or politically neutral decisions." "Nearly all the literature on therapy with homosexuals is change literature," Davidson said. "Furthermore, I suggest, it probably contributes to the embarrassment and self-hate that is felt by some people who feel this way (about members of the same sex). And I suggest further that we no longer offer this kind of treatment, because we don't consider it a problem, and we are acting on our belief."

Davidson originally began his career as a supporter of behavior modification for gays and helped develop "Playboy Therapy." "Playboy Therapy" is a form of behavior modification which shows pictures of people of the opposite sex to a gay person who is experiencing orgasm. In an interview with GCN, he claimed that "I began to wonder, very seriously, about what I and my colleagues were doing to homosexuals after about five or six years of clinical work. And I began to question the goals we were setting up for homosexuals around 1970 perhaps."

When asked about aversion therapy, Davidson replied, "I am very unenthusiastic about aversion therapy. My lack of enthusiasm is only partly on the personal grounds that I don't like to see people in pain, or in psychological pain . . . When you try to move to the human domain, people have found generally, unless you use extraordinarily adverse events, which clearly would be unethical to do to humans, that this kind of therapy is basically ineffective."

It's difficult at this point to assess how much effect Davidson's change in attitude has been reflected in the field as a whole. "After I gave that speech (November 1974)," Davidson told GCN, "I got many, many requests for copies, some of which took the form of, 'I work at a mental health clinic and I heard about your talk, could you send me six copies so we could discuss it at our case conference.' This of course is very much what I wanted to happen."

Dr. Charles Silverstein of the Institute for Human Health in New York, whom Davidson credits with influenc-



Gerold C. Davidson, American Association Past President.

Photo by Jane Picard

ing his views on gays, feels that orientation change as a goal of behavioral therapy is quickly passing with moral and ethical reasons carrying more weight than the "cure-rate." "Even though behavioral therapy has had a very bad press," Silverstein told GCN,

"the fact of the matter is that the most liberal, the most understanding people that we have come from behavioral therapy . . . In point of fact, I think the greatest aid that gays are going to get is going to be from two quarters; one is the behavioral therapist, the other the sex therapist."

Silverstein did admit, however, that as far as progress in small towns and rural areas are concerned, "I don't think much."

When questioned, therapists who treat gay people in Boston had mixed reactions to Davidson and the behavioral therapists' positions on gays and their approach to psychology in general. Marion Trudeau, who has worked full time with clients at the Homophile Community Health Service in Boston for the last six years, sees behavioral therapy as having some value. "I do think it [behavioral therapy] has its place, only when there's something that has outlived its usefulness, like a phobia, a bad habit, these are things that were perhaps defenses when a person was in their very vulnerable developmental years. I think behavioralism is very useful for that." She also expressed admiration for Dr. David-

son's "honesty" in changing his position.

Paul Tellalian, a gay mental health worker in Boston, takes a more cynical approach both to Davidson and the behavioralists. "He's got a lot of work to do [Davidson] to make up for his years of darkness," Tellalian said. "I wouldn't give him any awards for that," he said. Tellalian was critical of behavioralists who would be willing to help a client who wanted to change his or her sexual orientation. "I've always had a sheltering attitude towards people's sexuality . . . Clients have said 'I want you to help me with my relationships with men,' or 'I want you to help me with my relationships with women.' But I interview people, I work with them, and I would never work with anyone who wanted to alter their orientation."

And Jeff Pine of Project Place perhaps best sums up the attitude of alternative therapists towards orientation change, even if the patient is in favor of it. "That stuff to me is nowhere. By nowhere I guess what I mean is counseling to me is setting people free to be the masters/mistresses of their own fate."

## Harassment Test Case Appeal

(Continued from page 1)

acting undercover. The question is who created the situation where the alleged crime took place. Was Miller [the detective] an active participant," Lawson asked. "Did he give the defendant encouragement?"

Addressing himself to the consent issue, Lawson told the jurors that "nothing was done against Miller's will and there was no indication that an act would have been done that Miller didn't agree to." Lawson also said that the Jolar Cinema afforded a "reasonable expectation of privacy."

In his summing up, Prosecutor Hier said that "Detectives have no reason to waste their time arresting people by causing them to respond to their [the detectives'] solicitation." "The detectives 'had had complaints,'" Hier stated. Doe, according to the prosecutor, had the "intention of having sex at that location." "Is this the kind of place that you want to determine as being private?" he asked. He warned of the implications of an "innocent" verdict and said that such a verdict could encourage sex acts in places like "washrooms." "Where do you draw the line?", asked the prosecutor.

However, the controversy about whether the Jolar Cinema is in fact a "private place," exempted by the Balthazar decision, or a "public place," vulnerable to police investigation, was temporarily resolved in Judge DiGuglielmo's charge to the jury. The judge stated that "in this court," the Jolar Cinema was considered to be a "public place."

Evan Lawson, defense lawyer, told GCN that he wasn't surprised at the

decision. "This is a real effort to change the law," he said. "The main issue here is simple — is 'cruising' a violation? The Appeals Court and the Supreme Judicial Court will be better

arrested on sex-related charges in rest rooms, highway rest stops, and similar areas.

The defendant, John Doe, was defiant in the face of legal defeat. "I'm



The Jolar Cinema, scene of Boston police undercover agent's arrest of the gay man that precipitated the Civil Liberties Union's "test case."

Photo by John Scagliotti

qualified to rule on the issues involved than this jury trial," he stated.

Boston lawyer Richard Rubino, a nationally-recognized expert in the field of gay criminal law, said that it was most regrettable that DiGuglielmo was the judge assigned to the case. "He had seen dozens of similar cases like this one," Rubino told GCN, "and he probably had his mind made up on this one before the trial began." Rubino himself has defended scores of gay men

disappointed of course, but with a jury like that I never had a chance. The Judge practically said that I was guilty in his charge to the jury. The money thing was unbelievable. The Judge was obviously trying to punish me for exercising my constitutional rights, for fighting the system. They're not going to make me give up. This kind of police harassment can't be permitted to go on and I intend to do everything that I possibly can to stop it."

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# Ellen Grusse Talks About Saxe, Power, Herself

[Continued from last week]

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By Nancy Wechsler

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Ellen Grusse was released from Niantic Women's Prison on Dec. 19, 1975 after spending seven months in jail because she had refused to testify before a federal grand jury looking into the whereabouts of Susan Saxe and Kathy Power. I interviewed her in February of 1976.

Nancy: Can we talk about Susan Saxe for a little while?

Ellen: I haven't really rapped this out much with anyone. [The trial] is very painful for me. I just can't deal with her being in jail and facing what she is facing.

Nancy: Have you heard her poetry?

Ellen: Oh yes. It's incredible.

Nancy: I'm really impressed by Susan.

Ellen: Same goes for me. I may disagree with some things, but I support her 100%.

Nancy: That's something people should know — you don't have to agree with all of Susan's politics, and anyway it is hard to really understand what all of her politics are because she is in jail and doesn't really have the time and space to get her politics across in a natural way. But even if you do have some sense of her politics, and you don't agree with them completely, you can still support her. It's a

question of knowing who your friends are and who your enemies are and who's on what side.

Ellen: Exactly. And it's clear that Susan is on the right side, there's no doubt in my mind about that. And the people who are trying to do what they are trying to do to her are totally on the wrong side. And I think the whole thing about her bringing down the FBI and government on the lesbian and feminist movements is a crock of shit.

Nancy: One thing I felt in court was the incredible facade of justice that is going on — that somehow it is getting portrayed as the State of Massachusetts versus Susan Saxe. It is a lot of rigamarole to get her locked up in jail when all these other people should be in jail.

Ellen: It's like she has offended the state, when it is the state that has offended her, and has offended me, and has offended all of us a million times over. It's crazy for her to be on trial. She is not the person to be on trial. They are. They are the offenders, not Susan.

Nancy: That's right. That's one of the main points that can be made around this trial. Who are the real criminals in this society? My fantasy of a poster is "Indict Rockefeller, not Saxe."

Ellen: I want to talk some about the whole decision not to testify. The people who supported us in New Haven took it pretty much on a political level. I'm sure they felt there had to be personal implications — but the image they had of us was one of strong political people and that was

why we were taking the stand we took. Certainly the political issues had something to do with it, but it was the personal stuff too, that had a lot to do with not testifying. Specifically not testifying about friends of ours and about Kathy and Susan who I knew as May and Lena. Terri didn't know Lena but she had met and knew May [Kathy]. I still think of them as Lena and Ray . . . it's really weird. That's a whole trip in itself. So that kind of tied into my feeling that it was important for people to know who Lena and May were personally and politically. I feel very strongly that they are very committed and wonderful people, and No, they are Not agents of the male left — how absurd of anybody to think that . . . which is one line people have pushed around a real lot. Also I think it was important for Terri [Turgeon], Jill [Raymond], Marla, Gail [two of the Lexington Six], myself — as some of the most visible victims of Susan and Saxe supposedly 'bringing down the repression on the community' to stand up and say that it just wasn't so.

Nancy: Why do you think people should support Susan?

Ellen: For different levels of reasons. Because Susan is our struggle. Susan is not only struggling for herself but for all of us. And also, if she did what she is accused of doing in 1970, although I may or may not agree with that action, I do believe that where it was coming from, the consciousness from where it was coming was very valid.

Nancy: Are you tying it all up with the Vietnam war and what was going

on at that time?

Ellen: Yes. Susan is really in touch with how oppressive this society is, and will do whatever she sees fit to fight that oppression no matter how difficult it is for her personally. I see her as a very highly principled person. I see Kathy as a very highly principled person. And on another level, which I can relate to very personally, under no circumstances does Susan deserve to be in jail and go through what jail does to someone. It's just not right.

Nancy: Anything else you want to say?

Ellen: Yes. This whole thing — it says that none of us is safe from the government. Some people in New Haven have been saying that this is what you get for doing illegal stuff. They see themselves as feminists and believe that if we keep our noses clean and stay within pretty legal bounds and build our movement, then that will not give the government any reason to come down on us. But that's ridiculous, Terri's and my experience proved this. You don't have to run out into the streets to have the repression come down on you in a very personal way. You don't have to be, in the government's perceptions, a raging-radical-revolutionary-dyke, to have them come crashing down on you. And women who separate themselves off from Susan don't understand that, and don't really thoroughly understand the nature of the government and how it is really repressive and fascist and how it is out to destroy them. And it really is out to destroy them.

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# DID YOU SEE?

## The Boston Globe

"It is a terrible shock, of course. You have undoubtedly been taught that homosexuals are evil, immoral and criminal. The Judeo-Christian ethic considered homosexuality a cardinal sin, so we adopted this idea into our social values and laws. But it is not true in other places, nor has it been in earlier times. It is an opinion, not a fact, and we are slowly changing it."

"We don't understand human sexuality very well. It isn't a case of 'either/or' but of a sliding scale. We all have the capacity for homosexuality as well as heterosexuality."

"Your brother is the same person he always was — kind, generous, loving. It's not up to you to tell your parents. It is to be hoped that he will himself one day. What you should do is learn all you can about homosexuality so you can accept him as he is. The chapter on homosexuality in Wardell Pomeroy's 'Boys and Sex' is a good place to start. This book is in most libraries." — Beth Winship in her 'Ask Beth/Sense About Sex' reply to a letter from the sibling of a gay teenager in the *Boston Globe*, Jan. 29.

## VOICE

"As expected, the gay press underplayed the Knight (John S. Knight III) murder. An angry article in *Gay Community News* quoted a media spokesperson as saying, 'Knight's interests were not the normal average interests of a gay male at all.' I wish someone would tell me what those normal average interests are. Another quote by a tambourine thumper in the same story was, 'No one knows the number of gay people who will be negatively affected by the murder.' Could that mean turn heterosexual? Give up fucking? Let the dishes pile? . . ."

"If the killing was an act of passion precipitated by jealousy and the victim's gayness or a get-rich-quick scheme to rob a closet homosexual, what else do you call it? Parcheesi? No matter how you slice it, the Knight murder comes out gay . . ."

"The sorrow and the pity with Knight was not that he used hustlers. It's that he was unable to sever himself from the umbilical cord that bound him to a patriarchal society. Cut it, and there was the possibility of losing his patrimony. To go against it, would be to go against everything he was ever taught in those fancy schools. For Knight to accept what he was, meant that he might not be accepted by the hierarchy that expected greatness of him. Greatness meant strength. Strength meant masculinity. Masculinity meant heterosexuality . . ." — Arthur Bell in his article, 'The Fatal Consequences of the Secret Life' in the Jan. 26 issue of the *Village Voice*.

## PAX CENTURION Boston Police Patrolmen's Assn.

"Self-styled revolutionary, lesbian, and radical Susan Saxe — facing murder and armed robbery charges — is the recipient of 'special' court-ordered treatment at the Worcester County jail . . ."

"Among Saxe's frequent private companions in prolonged sojourns in the chaplain's office is Byrna Aronson, whom Saxe boasted she had an on-going lesbian relationship with when arrested in Philadelphia on March 27, 1975."

"When visiting Saxe, Aronson simply identifies herself on the official Visitor's Book as 'Lover' — and then quickly hustles into the chaplain's office to await her 'friend's' arrival! The incongruity of the setting — priest's vestments, religious books, holy articles — seemingly is ignored."

Aronson is one of seven 'para-legal' females specifically named by Judge McLaughlin as authorized to meet privately with Saxe in the chaplain's office — a fact which outrages devout Roman Catholics on the jail staff.

"These meetings are totally private, unmonitored, and uncensored . . ." — from a front-page "exclusive" article entitled "Special Treatment for Accused Cop-Slayer Susan Saxe Ires Officials, Inmates at Worcester County Jail" that appeared in the March issue of *Pax Centurion*, the official publication of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association.

## psychology today

When psychologist Stephen F. Morin announced publicly that he was homosexual, he noted that people began to treat him more cautiously. Verbally, they supported him; nonverbally, they told him they were self-conscious. At a urinal one afternoon, a colleague moved progressively farther away from Morin, eventually barricading himself behind a stall.

This experience led Morin, in collaboration with Kathleen E. Taylor and Stanley J. Kielman, to design a simple study of social distance between gays and straights. They told 80 college students, 40 male and 40 female, that they would each be interviewed briefly about their attitudes toward homosexuality. Half of the time the experimenter wore a "gay and proud" button and was introduced as working for the Association of Gay Psychologists; half of the time the same experimenter wore no button and was introduced as a graduate student working on a thesis.

The researchers were interested in how close each undergraduate placed his or her chair to the experimenter. This little measure of social distance, they reasoned, would tap unconscious attitudes about homosexuality.

When the experimenter and the student were of the opposite sex, it didn't matter that one was presumably homosexual. Students sat an average of 28 inches away from interviewers wearing the "gay and proud" button, and 25 inches away from the interviewers without the button.

But the students got worried when they had to sit next to an experimenter of the same sex who they thought was gay. Now the difference markedly increased, as if they feared, as did Morin's colleague at the urinal, that a known homosexual would attack them at any moment. The males were especially nervous about being interviewed by a homosexual man. When they thought the experimenter was straight, they sat an average of 22 inches from him. When they thought he was gay, they moved their chairs 32 inches away. Most of these students expressed tolerant attitudes toward homosexuals, but their unconscious apprehensions gave them away." — Carol Travis in the January issue of *Psychology Today*.

### Law School Seeks Gays

The People's College of Law is a new 4-year law school oriented toward those usually excluded from the legal educational process.

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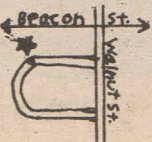
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# Robert McAlmon — lost and

By John Mitzel

Homosexual artists fall largely into 3 categories: the o-so-sensitive talent who is extremely shy publicly, hides away from the clamor of critics and cultists and is satisfied with attention directed to his work (Wm. Inge, F. Prokosch, Mary Renault, Djuna Barnes); more familiar is the second type — usually men — the flashy talent who's as interested in establishing a Reputation As A Celebrity as much as producing art (Vidal, Gertrude Stein, Allen Ginsberg, Capote, and a million local poets); and thirdly, there are the hard-working, quiet-mover types, busy not only with their own work but selflessly helping bring to the public's attention other fresh new voices and imaginations. One such was Margaret Anderson (GCN, 17 Jan 76), and another was Robert McAlmon, American writer, ex-patriate publisher and one of the focal persons in Paris literary life in the 1920s.

John Glassco, a Canadian poet, wrote about his first meeting with McAlmon in his wonderful *Memoirs of Montparnasse*. "I had heard of him only as a minor legend, as a man saddled with the nickname of 'Robber McAlimony,' which he had gained by marrying a wealthy woman and then living alone and magnificently on an allowance from her multimillionaire father. I was at once impressed by his charm, loneliness and bitterness, touched by his vanity and refreshed by his rudeness; even at first meeting he was impressive through a total absence of attitude and artifice. His conversation, consisting of disjointed expletives and explosions of scorn, was fascinating in its anarchy. I had already noticed his small thin mouth and piercing stare, but it was clear he was far from being the kind of invert whose predilection shapes his whole personality."

Born a minister's son in 1896, McAlmon grew up in the aridity of South Dakota. He joined the Canadian Army during The Great War but later deserted. After the Armistice, he went to Greenwich Village, earned his keep modelling for art classes, working on barges, etc. With his friend William Carlos Williams, McAlmon established *Contact* magazine, and though only 4 issues were printed, it was one of the early and important post-war publications which gave direction, and circulation, to the many innovative talents surfacing in American letters. (Ten years later, W.C. Williams was to revive *Contact* with Nathanael West as his co-editor.)

McAlmon met and quickly married (she is rumored to have proposed) a young English writer, Winifred Bryher who was the daughter of Sir John Ellerman, a very wealthy British shipping magnate. After their marriage McAlmon and Bryher lived in London briefly, and then moved on to the Continent where McAlmon, though basing himself in Paris, was always on the move (his "permanent" address was c/o Sylvia Beach, Shakespeare & Co.) and Bryher set up residence in Switzerland. Theirs was commonly understood to be a marriage of convenience: Bryher needed a "husband" to get out from under the oppressive regimen of her dominating father, and as son-in-law, McAlmon was well provided for financially by Sir John. The marriage lasted until 1927; upon divorce, McAlmon was given a generous settlement, hence his rep as "Robber McAlimony."

Bryher's still alive and active today at 82. Residing in Switzerland, she's

one of the richest women in the world. She was for decades the lover of the great, reclusive imagist poet H.D. — Hilda Doolittle — and Bryher herself established quite a career as a novelist and memoirist in the 1950s and '60s.

In Paris, McAlmon set out to discover and publish under his own imprint, Contact Editions, the best new literary talent. With Sir John's largesse, he hadn't to worry over "cost accounting," and he was eager to take the risks that large conventional publishing houses couldn't dare justify. Since most of the commercial houses wouldn't touch the new talent of the '20s (until, of course, some of them had become successes through Contact Editions), McAlmon's press was a great break for many writers in Paris at that time. He helped forge the voice of his generation. In this capacity, McAlmon's career as publisher stands as a significant figure in the history of small press publications, and it is as part of the small press movement that all of the contemporary gay press exists



Courtesy of Victoria McAlmon

today. Sylvia Beach, McAlmon's friend, said of his efforts that "the books McAlmon published in Contact Editions were quite out of the ordinary. For instance, there was a small blue book called *Three Stories and Ten Poems* by a new writer named Ernest Hemingway. It sold out immediately and made both Hemingway and Contact Editions famous."

McAlmon did far more for Hemingway than just be his first publisher and promoter; he introduced him to the annual running of the bulls at Pamplona, which HJ. expropriated as his own and made his Macho trademark. As he did to many other people who had assisted him along the way in his career, Hemingway fell out with McAlmon soon after others had taken him up, and in turn McAlmon had few kind words for him. When Hemingway encountered McAlmon at a bar with the cute, 18 year old John Glassco and his youthful buddy, Hemingway chuckled and said loudly: "Well, Bob, up to your old tricks again?" To quote Glassco: "McAlmon's sallow face turned pink. 'If it isn't Ernest, the fabulous phony. How are the bulls?'"

"And how is North America McAlmon, the unfinished poem?" He leaned over and pummelled McAlmon in the

ribs, grinning and blowing beery breath over the table. 'Room for me here, boys?'

"It's only Hemingway," said Bob loudly to both of us. "Pay no attention and he may go away."

An indication of McAlmon's personal generosity towards friends and fellow artists was his providing James and Nora Joyce with \$150 a month for support until *Ulysses* was completed.

The biggest undertaking for Contact Editions was the first publication of Gertrude Stein's *Making of Americans* (originally a third again as long as *Ulysses*!). It was nothing but trouble from the start, and Stein interfered once the books were in print by calling the printer directly and telling him to ship them off to England for distribution without informing McAlmon. McAlmon was furious when he found out, and though he continued to speak favorably about G.S.'s work, he was considerably soured on Gertrude Stein, Person and Legend. Reflecting on his first meeting with her, McAlmon wrote: "I left thinking that one could become fond of Gertrude Stein if she would quit being the oracle, descend from the throne-chair, and not grow panicky every time someone doubted her statements, or even bluntly disagreed . . . Miss Stein apparently is interested in people who sit and listen before her."

Among other authors published by McAlmon in Paris were the Italian-American poet Emanuel Carnevali; Mary Butts, the short story writer; and Robert Coates, the novelist. McAlmon:

"The mere fact that the books were printed in English on the continent made them suspect both by the English and the American customs officers. It was not a cheering affair. It was not only the customs; reviewers in America were ruthless against them."

McAlmon was not solely a literary impresario. He himself had been writing for years. He wrote in an unadorned and direct manner which he regarded as the contribution in voice of the new American writers of his time. His first published volume was of poetry. It was followed by *A Hasty Bunch*, short stories, and in 1925 by *Distinguished Air* [*Grim Fairy Tales*]. Only 115 of this book were printed, and it's the rarest of collector's items today. *Distinguished Air* is a collection of "Berlin stories," gleaned from McAlmon's experiences on his trips to Weimar's Republic's capital, and detailing the "degenerate life" there, the worthless money, the dispirited lust, the wide open night life. Perhaps the book's most famous story in "Miss Knight," a portrait of a notorious American ex-patriate screaming queen who's a grand camp. Miss Knight carries on in the story in gay lingo that -for being 50 years old - seems remarkably candid and contemporary; Miss Knight sounds like Sylvia Sidney! Other stories dealt with drug-users and lifeless, meaningless heterosexuality. What McAlmon did in his book was tap the same source of material in these "Berlin stories" as did Isherwood who became internationally celebrated for his effort a decade later.

William Carlos Williams said of *Distinguished Air* that it "heads the list of (McAlmon's) writing. It is a brilliant piece of work." Alas, he added, it was "all but unpublishable because of the nature of the material." The poet Ernest Walsh reviewed the book and said that McAlmon "doesn't exclude anything from his world and is like

Erte: *Things I Remember*, by Erte. New York 1975. 280 pp. \$13.50.

A Review by Bunny LaRue

A lot of you people out there don't even know who Erte is. I know I didn't for most of my life until I saw a big spread in Andy Warhol's *Interview* a few years back, next to the ad where Bianca Jagger's pushing a line of shoes, and so, of course, when I saw the book I just had to read it. Erte, coincidentally, has nice things to say about Ms. Jagger (unlike yours truly): "The American press has often referred to me as Bianca's fashion adviser. Although I like her very much and have often praised her beauty in interviews, I have never designed dresses for her." He has for just about everybody else in the world, with a few prominent exceptions — see below.

A Russian emigre before WWI, Erte worked as a seamstress for a courturier in gay Páree and did outrageous things like go to the Opera in fabulous gowns and was even written up the next day as "the mysterious lady" in the papers. Erte's 83 years old now and still at it, and I'd suspect there's still folks who don't know which sex he is.

Lest you think Erte was just some skirt cutter for the rich set, he was more, much more. He moved on and up in fashion and was designing on his own soon, knocking out stage sets and costumes as well as dresses. He also turned his hand to designing household goods and ladies' accessories. The part of his autobiography where he goes on about fashion just went in one eye and out the other on my face. Frankly, I've

Walt Whitman in his completeness but different from Whitman in that he doesn't argue with his readers. He doesn't explain either. He doesn't apologize."

More modestly, McAlmon said of the book: "At any rate the stories did deal with variant types with complete objectivity, not intent on their 'souls' and not distressed by their 'morals.'"

Probably the most available of McAlmon's books is his *Being Geniuses Together*. Written in the early '30's, after the Depression had swept away much of the Literary Crowd of the Left Bank and dampened the gaiety of the night life, it's McAlmon's fold-eye assessment of the men and women in the life and letters in Paris in the '20's.

In the 1960's, Kay Boyle, a friend of McAlmon's, in a wonderful gesture of literary resurrection and complementation, got *Being Geniuses Together* reissued, counterpointing chapters of McAlmon's memoirs with her own, thus making the book the most solid and encompassing of the mass of "Paris-in-the-'20's" autobiographies.

When the war came, McAlmon was still in France as the Nazis overran it. He got out, made his way to Lisbon, and returned to the U.S. He went to El Paso, and there worked for his brothers in a surgical supply house. He remained a heavy drinker. Tuberculosis, from which he had suffered in his youth, recurred. He turned bitter and argumentative with his old friends. He died in 1956 in Desert Hot Springs, California, just before his 60th birthday. His death came as the revival of the 1920's was getting into gear, destined to bring back to the public's attention many of the ex-patriate writers of "The Lost Generation," but not McAlmon who remains, to this day, lost.

Just before Margaret Anderson's *Little Review* folded, she sent out a



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# Erte

by Erte.  
\$13.50.

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never been able to understand the importance of "fashion" and "style." Confidentially, I'm lucky enough as it is to drag-ass out of bed by noon and schlepp around all day in some tatty old patterned housecoat.

Nevertheless, the impact of Art Deco couldn't have been the same without Erte's efforts. He was working out in Hollywood at Mr. Mayer's studio and so forewent attending the famous International Exhibition of Decorative Arts in Paris, 1925. "Missing the apotheosis of the style that is now known as Art Deco has been the regret of my life, especially since I made a considerable contribution to its development." When I was in Herbie's Ramrod Room the other night (where soft, squeezable fluff like me is usually given a very icy once-over), I was kind of drunk and staring at the clackety pinball machines, thinking: "These probably wouldn't be as they are today without Erte!"

One thing we all can agree on: thanks to Art Deco, I know that when I buy something for my personal use, it's gonna be *functional* as well as *frilly* like my lacy, colorful yet totally waterproof and compactible Annette Funicello showercap. Just for your information, I was introduced to wonderful Art Deco by way of the mural in the commodious lobby in the New England Telephone Building downtown on Franklin Street, which, in its own struggling way, can bring the 1930s *back to life again!*

Even though he missed the Art Deco Expo in Paris, Erte had a time for himself out in Hollywood. "There

questionnaire asking "What things do you really like?" McAlmon responded: "Music, mainly jazz, and dancing, mainly my own, and gregarious life and lots of it. Low, or high, but always salted with a little disreputability. The world is reasonable enough, and so am I, frequently, but something's wrong. Why do I go on living? Because living interests me, and I prefer something to nothing."

"All of us who were interested in Robert McAlmon were looking forward to his contribution to the writing of the '20's," Sylvia Beach recalled. "Unfortunately, the more he thought of it, the more he was convinced of the uselessness of the effort. 'To hell with grammar,' he once wrote to me, 'have thrown mine out the window.'" Beach continues: "McAlmon was much liked by his friends, but he was too intolerant of restraint, personal or literary. As he himself said to me, 'I'm only a drinker.'"

Kay Boyle leaves us with this image of McAlmon:

"One summer night we sat at the bar of a Montmartre night-club, the two of us saddened and embittered and outraged by the ugliness and the opulence of the middle-aged people, French and American alike, who danced, and ate, and drank, and threw their money away in handfuls instead of giving it to the poets and beggars of the world. God knows what we were doing there at all. And the, in the piece of night that showed between the silken draperies hanging before a window that stood open on the lonely street, a black-nailed, dirty, defeated hand, with a foul bit of coat sleeve showing at the wrist. Without hesitation, and without a word, (McAlmon) placed his fine, full glass of whiskey and soda into the empty fingers of the stranger's hand, and the fingers closed on it and drew it into the dark."



In costume, Monte Carlo, 1919.

were always many parties at the Ambassador Hotel . . . I later discovered that many of the big stars, including Greta Garbo, never went to parties. Not only were there many parties, there were also a fair number of orgies. I went only to one but I left sickened — and I'm no prude! There was a total lack of spontaneous, orgasmic beauty. Everything seemed to be done out of a sense of duty rather than in pursuit of sensual pleasure." My policy, a la Myra Breckenridge, is to avoid large orgies altogether because, like Erte, not knowing what sex I am makes it difficult and frustrating in such situations to enjoy oneself. In case you've also noticed, Erte spills the beans: "Rarely did one see a star with beautiful hands, yet, on the screen, their hands were always beautiful. I later discovered that there was a woman in Hollywood with wonderful hands who stood in for the stars during

the close-ups."

A *sui generis*-type like Erte goes down better in Europe where in most all those Romance languages the word "sophistication" has a feminine gender, much like the author who, except for queans like me, makes Erte sort of too wispy and delicate for the rough & vulgar American palate. Anyone who's ever been diagnosed as having a Gender Identity Problem will know what Erte went through when he reveals: "My long hair has since triggered a number of amusing incidents. I once went to a party in a small, exotic country. When I was introduced to an important local personality, the first thing he asked was, 'Shall I call you Madame or Mademoiselle?' He was totally confused when I answered, 'Just call me Monsieur.'"

Curiously, in this 200-page rambling of name-dropping, party-going, show-stopping and slap-dash of press noti-

ces, Erte, by omission, reveals that he never once designed a dress for either the Duchess of Windsor or Jackie B. Kennedy, both of whom have been on The Stage Of History and whose careers have been at least *tinged* with the glow of Art Deco.

There's one thing I still can't figure out:

Erte was published by Quadrangle Books which is just another front for the many-tentacled New York Times conglomerate, for which Iphigene Sulzberger (one of the original daughters of the famous Rabbi Wise and heiress to the potato chip fortune) remains the mother of it all, and *she* just *hates* queans and dykes and makes this known throughout her empire. I wonder if she knew about this book's publication and tried to stop it since Erte, much like me, you, and practically everybody, is surely one or the other.



Monte Carlo, 1919



At opening of *Zizi je t'aime*, 1972.



The 4th Annual

# NEW ENGLAND GAY CONFERENCE

Clark University, Worcester, Mass.

MARCH 26-28, 1976

## March 26

8:15 p.m. The Boston Ballet performing one piece by Tchaikovsky and one piece by Scott Joplin ("Rags"). Tickets are \$3.00

## March 27

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Conference Registration, Academic Center. \$1.00 registration fee.

10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Opening speech

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. First set of workshops.

1. Gay Civil Rights.
2. Gender Identity.
3. Gays and the Media.
4. Small City and Town Gays.
5. Workshop on Sado-Masochism.
6. Community Health.

12:00-1:30 Lunch

1:30-3:00 Second set of workshops.

1. Gays and Mental Health.
2. Women Loving Women.
3. Bar Politics.
4. Rural Recreation.
5. Third World Workshop.
6. Panel on Religion.

3:15-4:45 Third set of workshops.

1. Gays in Academia.
2. Men's Assertiveness.
3. Women's Consciousness.
4. Urban Recreation.
5. Gay Youth.
6. Workshop on Sado-Masochism.

4:45-5:00 Housing Registration.

5:00-6:30 Poetry Workshop.

5:00-6:30 John-Michael Williams speaks on male masturbation.

7:00 "Our Invisible Selves." A poetry/writing workshop led by Loretta Lottman. [Only those people who bring some personal writing are allowed to come to this workshop.]

9:00 p.m. Concert: Jade & Sarsaparilla. \$1.00

## March 28

10:30 a.m. Future Goals?

12:30 Brunch, compliments of the Mail Box, 282 Main St., Worcester.

1:30 Gay Legislation — Lobbying for the Mass. Gay Civil Rights Bill

1:30 The rest of the day is devoted to additional workshops proposed by people/groups attending the conference.

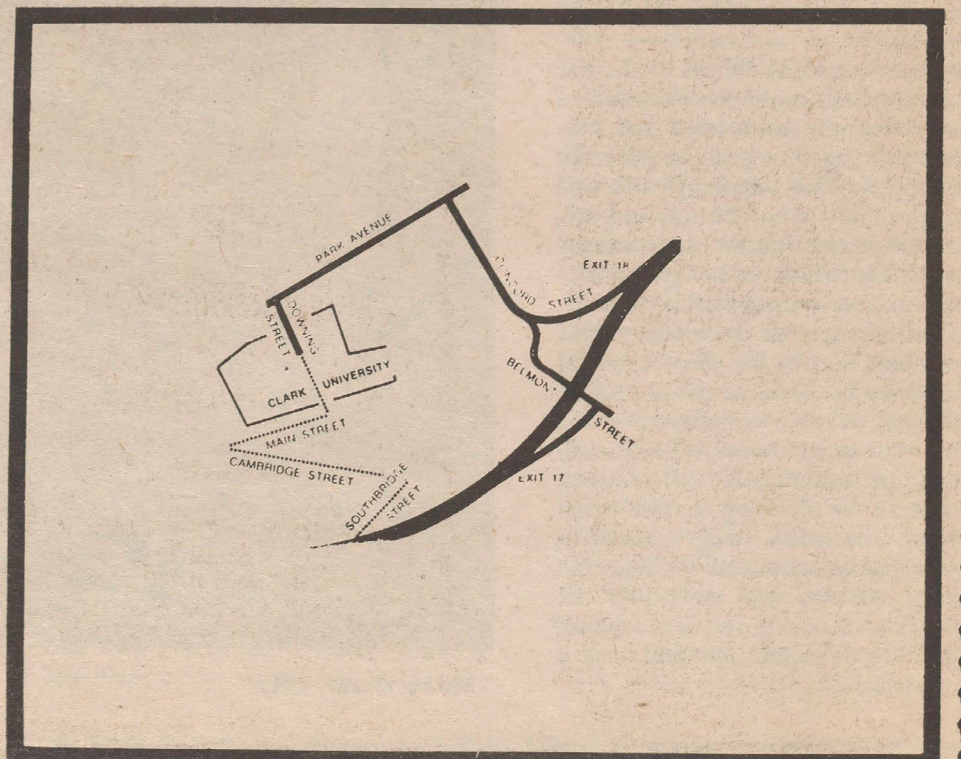
A final schedule with room numbers will be issued at registration.

## Directions to Clark:

**From the East . . .** From the Mass. Turnpike or Route 9, take Interstate 495 North to I-290, the Worcester Expressway. Proceed to exit 18 (Leicester/Westboro) Lincoln Square. At the second set of traffic lights, turn right on to Concord Street following signs for Route 9 West. Turn left onto Park Avenue and drive 1.7 miles to Downing Street. The Clark Campus is up Downing Street. Park anywhere.

**From the West . . .** Take the Mass. Turnpike to the Auburn Exit (Exit 10) which connects directly to Interstate 290 (the Worcester Expressway). Follow 290 to Exit 17 (the Lincoln Square, Webster, and Framingham exit) and bear left on Belmont Street. Follow the Route 9 West signs to Park Avenue. Turn left on Park Avenue (Routes 9 & 12 South) and travel 1.7 miles; turn left at the traffic light onto Downing Street to the Clark Campus. Park anywhere.

Ask anyone directions to the Academic Center [on Saturday] or Atwood Hall [on Friday night].



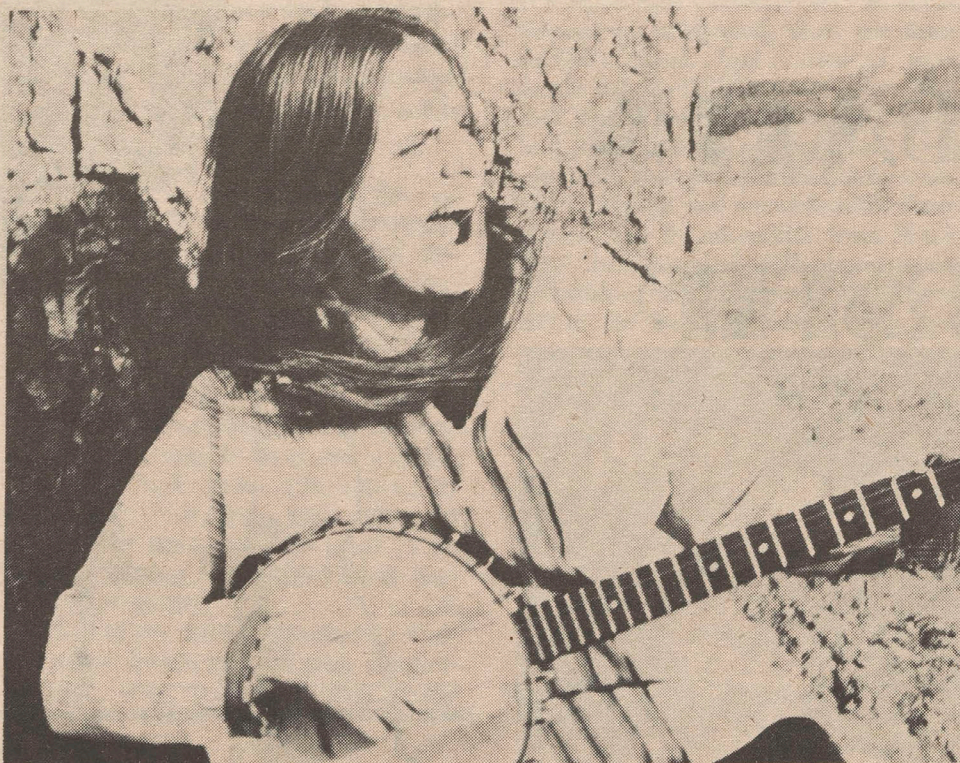


# Ginny Clemens Turns the Blues Around

By Fran Epstein

On a not-so-nice Tuesday night — since when does it snow in the middle of July? — a light comes to fill Passim's Coffeehouse in Harvard Square. There sits Ginny Clemens strumming, plucking, and sliding on her guitar and banjo. And she sings so mellow, and howls ("Hound Dog Bay at the Moon"), and lays down a smooth and easy blues. Her repertoire is an entire meal ranging from traditional tunes like "Buffalo Gals" with which she opens the show singing a cappella, to more contemporary women's music — "Sister Woman Sister" by Holly Near, "Dora" by Casse Culver, "Tapdance On The Moon" and "Tender Lady" by Margie Adam, and "Lady-O" by Judee Sill. Most delightful songs I thought were the "thumb-sucker songs," as Ginny calls them, "sort of makes you want to curl up, stick your thumb in your mouth and phase-out," which is a pretty accurate account of how I was feeling. These are the songs that are on her two albums for children. Her first album is called *Sing a Rainbow Song* (available at New Words), and the second children's album, not yet released, is to be called *Open Door Roads*. Also, for the grownups, a third album called *Ginny Live In Concert* is on its way.

Ginny's show is a nice high. She swings from an echoing Peruvian Mountain Song to a blues by Ada Cox "Wild Women Don't Get The Blues," the first of many audience sing-alongs. The night was beginning to flow with the second set and there were spoon



players and kazoos in the audience, and we made music with our chairs and teapots. Even the cash register got a few bars. Other pieces included an Indian Chant ("We Are All One" — recorded by the Weavers) and her own blues song titled "Solid Ground." "Solid Ground" was in great contrast to the Bessie Smith song she sang, "Young Woman Blues," in that Ginny's own theme is not in the tradition of down and out feelings but more in to an up-swing of spirit and security like saying my lovers and friends may leave me but "I've got my feet on solid ground." It's a nice change. It doesn't deny the sorrow and it doesn't run away with it either. You know there's going to be a tomorrow.

Ginny first picked up the guitar when she was doing childcare work with emotionally-disturbed children. "The guitar was the best tool I had to work with." That was a while ago when she was in her twenties; she is now forty. With the growing popularity of folk music and television shows like Hootenanny, Ginny began to accumulate her material and started performing. She played Gertie's Folk City in N.Y.C. and twangy places like The Crooked Ear in Omaha, Nebraska, but the traveling wasn't to her liking. In the meantime, she continued her work with children teaching guitar and banjo at assemblies within the Inner City Schools of Chicago. Five years ago she stopped performing, got involved in training workshops with

encounnter groups and ran a Joy of Music Workshop.

Casse Culver appeared in Chicago, two years ago, and Ginny became newly inspired to do it again. "By watching Casse," she says, "I realized I could incorporate more of my lesbian-womanself in my music, and I

could play with more confidence because I didn't have to conceal anything." And now, Ginny travels. She has played at Mountain Moving Day, the women's coffeehouse in Chicago, and at the Artemis Productions Music Festival last fall, and this week she's back in Cambridge at Passim's and Bread and Roses.

Technically Ginny's guitar playing isn't anything to look out for, essentially basic folk strums and major chord progressions. It lagged behind her wonderfully full and clear voice and the fancy banjo picking. Unfortunately her banjo playing seemed limited to traditional rifts and I would have liked to have heard more versatility. On the whole, the instruments are cleanly played and her good sense of tonal quality allows her to get a nicely blended sound and a good balance between the instruments and her voice, which is her best instrument.

When asked about the super response she has received from women's audiences Ginny said that perhaps she is getting a little spoiled, and that traveling within women's communities makes it a whole lot nicer to travel, especially into strange towns. Ginny deserves to be spoiled. She provides a fine entertainment with a skill that has to have taken time to develop, 'cause she makes it look so easy.

## A Service for the Seventies — Symmetry

In the 1960s gay activism was limited to rock-throwing, parades, consciousness-raising. The new wave of gay activism seems to be the establishing of community services like hot lines, health services, newspapers. Now there's a service to help these services to stay in business: Symmetry.

Symmetry is a new multi-service agency that is based in New York, but is travelling around the country to help provide adequate social services for gays. Right now Symmetry is made up of three men both gay and straight, who have years of experience in market research and social services. They are putting their own time and money into the agency to get it off the ground. They are high-energy and full of good spirits about the new venture.

Symmetry sends a representative into an area and researches the existing social services, discovers the needed services, and finds out who needs what money to keep on providing good services for gays. Then they set up a local chapter (there is one in Hartford,

Conn., at present). Then, in coordination with the local chapter, Symmetry plans social events to raise money. For example, the Hartford chapter held an opera night this month. Proceeds from the gay-related events go to help an existing social service that needs money. Symmetry receives 50% of the raised money for organizing, publicizing and running the event.

Jim Keels, one of the founders, says that Symmetry is interested in providing social outlets for gays that serve as an alternative to bars, baths, the usual commercial places. Gays gain good entertainment; the social services gain money to keep operating; groups gain Symmetry's collective experience and ability. Anyone or any group that has tried to raise funds knows that it is the most difficult job, draining energy away from the purpose of the group. In the new '70s spirit of providing our own community with our own resources, it is good to see a group that wants to bring a professional attitude to the difficulty of raising money.

Symmetry is looking for local coordinators, persons with managerial experience. The positions offer a small salary. Interested people should write to Symmetry Services (Headquarters Unit), 430 E. 14th St., New York City 10009. The telephone is (212) 475-7971.

## SYMPOSIUM ON HOMOSEXUALITY

MARCH 22-27 at

Rhode Island College  
600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Prov.

Each evening at 8:00

Monday, 22d

Gay People and The Law  
Student Union Ballroom

Tuesday, 23d

Social Service to Gay People  
Student Union Ballroom

Wednesday, 24th

Religion and Gay People  
Rev. Troy D. Perry  
Student Union Ballroom

Thursday, 25th

Gay Life Styles  
Rep. Elaine Noble  
Clark, Room 125

Friday, 26th

Gay Drive for Acceptance  
ex-Sgt. Leonard Matlovich  
Clark, Room 125

\$1.00 each Session

Free with RIC Student ID

Saturday, 27th

Gay Disco Dance  
Student Union Camerom

\$2.00 each,

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Or Reserved Seats \$5.00

All Week, All Events

Sponsored by

RIC Gay Alliance

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For free Childcare call 876-5310

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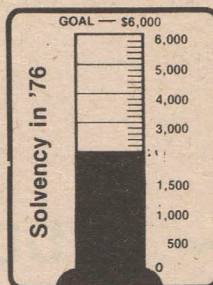
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SANDERS THEATRE  
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TICKETS \$3  
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NEW WORDS &  
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A WOMEN'S EVENT — co-sponsored  
with The Radcliffe Women's Center.

## 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. 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  
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Help us make our dream a reality!



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National Mime Theatre

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74 Warrenton St. Boston

Box Office 426-6912

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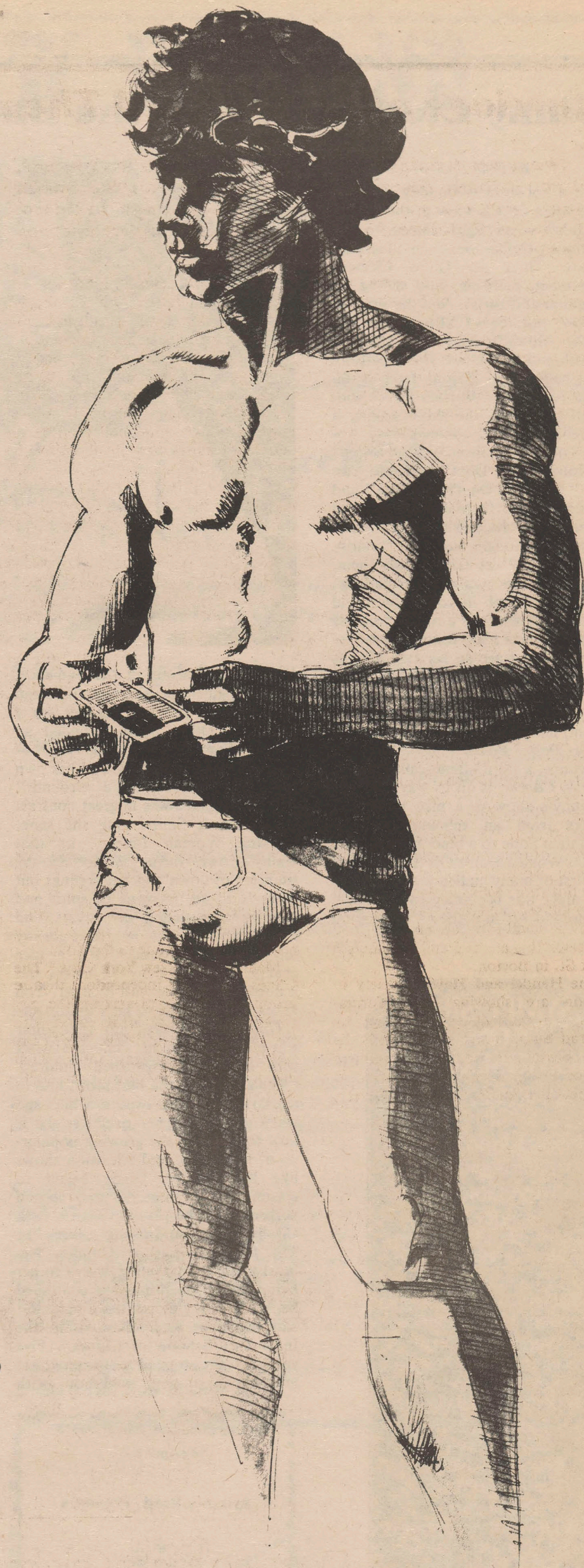
Childrens Matinee

April 17-24



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A CLUB BATHS  
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**WEDNESDAY — BUDDY NIGHT — 2 for 1 [lockers]**

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**Legal ID required for membership.**



## Marriage of Politics and Theatre Ends in Divorce Court

By Don Shewey

**These are troubled times, in case you haven't heard, and accordingly the theatre is picking up on the social turmoil, as evidenced by the recent openings in Boston of plays with political themes — racial conflict and sexual politics.**

Political theatre is a tricky genre; the danger always exists of becoming so wrapped up in the politics that the essential elements of drama go overlooked or, on the other hand, becoming so enthralled with the theatrical concept that the politics fail to ignite. And in one way or another, each of these two plays has ignored the danger signs and suffered the crippling pitfalls that threaten to sabotage any marriage of politics and theatre.

I had high hopes for Viveca Lindfors' "I Am A Woman," currently stationed at the Charles Playhouse. When it was conceived five years ago, this idea of one woman performing an evening of solo theatre, bringing to life

women from several centuries of history and literature, was a courageous undertaking and an unusual opportunity for a woman in the theatre.

But since 1971 the women's movement has expanded and progressed, tossed by time, troubled with conflicts. More women have begun to make important discoveries about themselves and their feelings, to write about themselves, to talk about themselves, to grow. Ms. Lindfors has failed to update her show, and the result is an unchallenging, unenlightening discourse of women.

Most of the material focuses on variations of stereotypical female roles — mother, wife, daughter, lover. Very

few unusual or exceptionally-intelligent women are portrayed; thus, the documentary pieces (e.g., cuttings from works by psychologist Barbara "Free and Female" Seaman, Betty Friedan, and an anonymous revolutionary interviewed in *Ramparts*) consistently make more original and unpredictable statements than the examples from literature (most of which are male-authored). And the lines I felt compelled to jot down as outstanding now

seem pale, almost glib. "There is nothing in your body that lies." "No men are free until all women are free." And so on.

Although the choice of women writers excerpted (Anne Sexton, Anais Nin, Lillian Hellman, Sylvia Plath) is admirable, there are glaring omissions. Where are Doris Lessing and Virginia Woolf? More importantly, Hellman is the only lesbian included. Where are

(Continued on page 16)

## theater notes

So many good gay things are happening in the theatre right now that GCN does not have space to cover them all in detail, or the money to travel to see some of them. But we don't want you to miss anything, so, here are a few theatre notes.

Twain-Wilde Productions is bringing to Boston "A Portrait of Oscar Wilde" for four weeks only (March 18 through April 10). Steve Alexander does this three-act biographical drama all by himself, and he got rave reviews from the small-town newspapers. You can catch this at the Paulist Center, 5 Park St. in Boston.

The Handel and Haydn Society in Boston are showing "Transformations," a musical entertainment by Conrad Susa, based on the book by Anne Sexton. Its East Coast premiere will be Friday evening, March 26, at the new Berklee Performance Center,

25 Huntington Ave. The box office is at 136 Massachusetts Ave. or call (617) 266-1400.

The Back Alley Theatre, Inc., will present the world premiere of Martin Duberman's latest play "Payments." Many may be familiar with his play "In White America" or his many historical or literary writings. "Payments" is his play dealing with the problems of sexual orientation. It will be showing March 22-April 11 at 617 F. St., N.W., Washington, D.C. Since GCN can't fly, we'd appreciate a review from someone in the area.

Meanwhile, in New York City, "The Glines," the new independent theatre group devoted to presenting the gay experience, will kick off its career with the presentation of "The Soft-Core Kid," an original gay farce. That begins Thursdy, April 1 at 8:30. Reviews welcome.



On Thursday evening, March 11, Lily Tomlin and Elaine Noble arrived at The Charles Playhouse to watch Viveca Lindfors in her one-woman show *I Am A Woman*. After the performance, Ms. Lindfors held an open dialogue with the audience, and local Mass. State Representative Noble joined the actress on stage to contribute to the discussion. A heated debate ensued on woman's position in society with participants including several members of the audience. One woman championed her right to be a housewife and chastised "Women's Lib" organizations for downgrading her profession. Lily Tomlin spoke emotionally for women's rights, asserting that the fight for equality must succeed now or society as we know it is doomed. Ms. Noble brought out that gay women are struggling for their rights and represent an important segment of the women's movement.

Ms. Lindfors enjoys meeting with her audiences after the show, and will continue to do so regularly. *I Am A Woman* continues at The Charles Playhouse through March 28.

## The Elephant Room

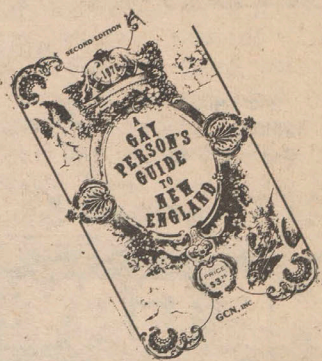
A new intimate discothèque

Opening Night Celebration  
Thursday, April 1  
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590 Commonwealth Avenue  
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Admission \$1

## A Gay Person's Guide To New England



"It's the best."

—Michael's Thing

The 1976 edition, "A Gay Person's Guide to New England." Available at \$3.75 from finer bookstores, gay bars, baths and organizations throughout New England and the World. By mail, \$4.00 postpaid from GPG, Dept. D3, 22 Bromfield Street, Boston, MA 02108. Copies sent in plain brown envelope. Make cheque payable to "GCN."



## Coming Out of Mind Prison

Dear GCN:

Enclosed please find an article that I have written and sent to you in the hope that it will be appropriate enough to be printed in the Gay Community News.

I would appreciate receiving a free subscription to your paper, due to the fact that I am incarcerated in a state hospital. Sincerely yours, Don C. Drake, Drawer A, Atascadero, Calif. 93422.

By Don Drake

Gay Pride means different things to different people. To some it means that they have their own special kind of freedom, this is not just the freedom of the body but also the freedom of the mind, which gives them the right to voice openly what they feel inside. I, for one, know the meaning of this

freedom because I was locked in a "mind prison" for a long time. First of all, I knew that I was gay and yet did not want to let my family or friends know the real feelings that I hid within myself.

I have been incarcerated in a state hospital for the past year, and I have finally brought myself out of my mind

prison. I have started bringing out the feelings that I hid so long, and began to feel a pride within myself that I had never known before.

My second breakthrough came when I started to let the right-on people know my real gut-level feelings. For years I felt that I had to hide the feelings about myself being gay, because no one would understand them or me, but I found that just the opposite is true. In fact, I began to see that they were very understanding and that this understanding was beginning to make me feel good about myself.

My third breakthrough came with the help of a friend. He has been incarcerated here with me for the past seven months. We have a close relationship

and we plan to live together when we return to society.

My fourth break through came when my parents found out about our plans. I had thought at first that they would try to talk me out of this relationship and this was the reason that I had not told them about our plans, but I found that just the opposite was true, in fact when I did tell them, their first words to me were: "If this will make you happy, we will accept you, even though we don't understand you."

So now after all of the trials and tribulations of my life, I finally know the meaning of Gay Pride. Now instead of hiding my homosexual feeling I can say that I am gay and I am proud.

## THEATRE

(Continued from page 15)

Gertrude Stein, Jill Johnston, and Rita Mae Brown?

The most disappointing element of the evening is Ms. Lindfors' performance — she shows a great deal of energy but far less imagination. Granted, performing 41 characters in one show is an enormous task, but by the end of the second act the characters become only mannerisms and poses; they cease to come across as real persons. Ultimately, "I Am A Woman" is less universal than it could be, much less radical than one hopes, and artificially theatrical where a dose of politics might have been more effective. Ending the show with Helen Reddy singing "I Am Woman" demonstrates just how outdated the show is.

Meanwhile, Maxine Klein and her current theatre company the Third Ring brought a chaotic presentation of Garcia Lorca's "Blood Wedding" to the Caravan Theatre in Cambridge, where it will play through April 3. Lorca's highly poetical but dramatically problematic drama is difficult enough to stage as it is, and Klein's directorial tampering succeeds in making a complete mess of it.

"Blood Wedding" relates the simple

story of a feud between two families and its tragic consequences. The sole-surviving son of the "good" family plans to marry the daughter of another "good" family. However, rumors spread that the bride-to-be has been seeing another man, who is not only already married but a member of the "bad" family. On her wedding night, the bride runs away with her lover, the husband tracks them down, and husband and lover stab each other to death, leaving the husband's mother to mourn and to repent the feud.

In this production, Klein chose to interpret the play as a "racial tragedy," presumably in an attempt to dramatically represent and perhaps to quell the racial tension in the Boston community. Such a dubious concept might have worked had not she muddled the production's racial values by choosing a multiracial cast. The bride and groom are both white and the lover is black, but so is the bride's father, so what difference does the racial issue make? The production tries to plead for racial tolerance (even inserting a new scene in which black and white children are told they can't play together anymore), but by some bizarre imbalance of scriptural emphasis, it

seems to end up lobbying for a ban on handknives.

Besides her political attitudes, Klein has also imposed, as usual, her orthodox theatrical tricks, most notably her "character extensions" — ethereal masked figures representing non-verbal aspects of characters. This device has in the past allowed Klein to illuminate ambiguities or underlying motivations, but here — because the figures appear arbitrarily throughout the play, and because none of the characters acknowledge or respond to the spirits — it only serves to obscure an already hard-to-follow text. The elaborate choreography is equally inexplicable, and the use of mime instead of props is the

worst I've ever seen, to the point where one actor mimes opening and closing a cupboard and two minutes later another actor exits through the same space.

Why did Maxine Klein, who gained her directorial reputation through her association with feminist playwright Megan Terry, chose to direct "Blood Wedding," in which the parents put their faith in their male offspring while their only interest in their daughters centers on an ability to sew? At best, "Blood Wedding" is an interesting experiment in political theatre; at worst, a misguided, garish theatrical temper tantrum.

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## Feminist View of "O"

A Review by Dennise Brown

There are many ways to view the "Story of O" — like all good stories, it works on many levels. In one sense, it truly is a love story. In another, it's about the intersections of love (and sex), religion and violence. In yet another, it is (as my friend says) a mental turn-on so complete it goes directly from brain to groin. (Pornography goes the other way, and may not even bother with the brain.) It's one of those movies in which you see yourself — and thus it may be an uncomfortable experience. Both the movie and the book pass the "repeat performance" test — each viewing and reading reveals new levels, new perspectives.

The very juxtaposition of religion and sexuality in the movie enlarges our idea of both. This juxtaposition requires that you hold seeming opposites in your mind simultaneously — this mind-stretching exercise is visual oxymoron, contradiction carried past pun to Zen koan. It is logic stretched so far that it snaps. For instance, the chateau at Roissy has a most deliberate resemblance to a cloister; the young women in their costumes designed for sexual availability walk with the lowered gaze, erect bearing, and straight lines reminiscent of the convent. Thus in one frame we see the entire range of expectation for women — from nun to prostitute. At Roissy, O undergoes transformation much as a postulant does — and in her bondage, "O tried to figure out why there was so much sweetness mingled with the terror in her, or why her terror seemed in itself so sweet." (This juxtaposition is expressed in subtle ways: all the warm candle-lights are photographed using a filter which makes them appear as crosses of light.)

O herself is more clearly portrayed in the movie than in the book — we never get a full description of her in the book. In the movie she is constantly before us — high-spirited, proud, courageous. And the lesbian scenes are

lovely — when I saw O making love to Jacqueline, I thought, "Why, that's what we look like — the skin all soft and smooth, the hair swinging, the care, the attention."

To condemn the "Story of O" as sexist is to take feminism literally and narrowly. I define feminism as allowing each woman the freedom to be all she can be, to attempt to reach all her dreams, to realize her many selves. What those dreams are — what those selves are — I do not attempt to prescribe. Far less would I dare prescribe what fantasies a woman may entertain — or why. Except that I know that fantasies serve many purposes and that what is a turn-on in fantasy may not be so in reality. This does not mean it is not a good fantasy! So I suggest two things: that if this is how O wishes to prove her love, we should respect that wish as one of the main points of the story; and that O is really stronger than the men in the film and that her supposed humiliation at the party is truly her triumph. She stands, stark naked except for a totemic (and beautiful) Owl mask; clad only in her pride and dignity, she makes the well-dressed gawkers of the crowd look like fools. Throughout the movie (and the book) O moves from being an ordinary woman to quite an extraordinary one, strong and pure and centered as we fragmented ones can only dream of.

I do not recommend that everyone see the "Story of O." Read the book — if you enjoy that, you may expect to enjoy the movie. Some may read the book and wonder, "Is it morally wrong to enjoy this? Am I a monster if this turns me on?" It is true that the whips and chains appear in the movie, as they did in the book. (Some critics have even faulted the movie, saying that the whipping scenes are "prettified" — that no one would really look so elegant after having been whipped so hard.) Both views — that to be turned on by this may be monstrous, or

that it is misrepresented by not being cruel enough — miss two fundamental differences: one is the difference between actual experience, experience as told in a book, and experience as represented in a movie; the other is the difference between actual pain and pain portrayed in art ("In the course of memory actual pain gets buffered . . ."). Thus, in pornographic writings, it grows accordingly intense in order to compensate for the sheer physical loss involved. *Story of O* is a case in point . . .")

A book must report such incidents very strongly to create any empathetic response in the reader, while a movie — larger than life, in-color people, happening right now, rather than small black-on-white pages of print — must pull back on such scenes in order to keep the audience interested and excited rather than appalled. I think the movie was delicately done — you actually see very little of the whipping, often only parts of presumably lengthy sessions, or only aural suggestion that this is what's happening. It's a matter of "which truth" — literal, physical truth; the truth of the book; the truth of the movie. You must remember the need for fantasy — this is *not* a documentary (except of the soul). This movie corresponds to deep psychological realities and raises questions . . . and how can you tell a lover's cry in

orgasm from one of pain? These extreme feelings do blend together at the edges. The elegance is a large part of the turn-on of the movie — warm lighting, furs, silky fabrics, beautiful bodies, stirring music — all this gives to the movie that "other world" atmosphere — something better and more luxurious than real life, and greatly to be desired in fantasy.

The added ending in the movie is, I think, simply irrelevant and I can ignore it completely (it doesn't happen until the end, after all). It is completely untrue to the spirit of the book and the rest of the movie, and was probably added in a mistaken attempt to defend the movie from charges of sexism.

I believe that the author was a woman and that O was a woman because as a woman I feel that story corresponds to a woman's psyche on a deep level. But the author is anonymous, and there are rumors that it was written by a man about men, and changed to heterosexuality in order to get it published. It *could* make sense that way. To me this all only shows that the movie speaks to the many men and women we *all* are, inside. We can learn from the movie, just as O learned from her experiences at Roissy. And like O leaving the chateau, we leave the movie changed in ways we did not expect.

## "Hedda"

A Review By Gary Jane Hoisington

"Hedda" is a very likeable movie: it's "theatrical" film, if you like, in which the performances are considerably more important than the camera angles. There is a long cinematic tradition of filmed plays; within that tradition, the production style of the Royal Shakespeare Company is distinct, hard-edged, Artaudian in its cruelty. It was under the auspices of

the RSC that Glenda Jackson began her film career (in "Marat/Sade"), and it is under the same auspices that her brilliance as an actress is most in evidence: among her peers.

"Hedda" contains a number of subtle sight gags and some hilarious contrasts—between Glenda Jackson's acidic expressions and Jennie Linden's air of idiotic optimism and equally histrionic flights of melodrama; between the horny, ridiculous character of Lovborg and the skittishly anemic Tesman. Judge Brack—stolid, hypocritical, playful—rounds out the ensemble nicely, switching in mid-sentences from erotic innuendo to fatuous bonhomie, bouncing himself like a tennis ball against opposite walls of the court.

It might be said that the grandstanding and the blatant lesbianism in this film do not represent "pure" Ibsen as lately desiccated by a number of actresses in the role of "Hedda Gabler." For one thing, there is a thick streak of sadomasochist humor in Ibsen's work which this production exploits to the hilt. (Something, I dare say, which Ibsen would have liked.) Jackson celebrates Hedda Gabler instead of softening her up for easy consumption like a piece of soaked Wonder Bread.

In this "Hedda", the heroine dies of boredom, not for love. She is surrounded by simpering banshees and wash-outs and all the tame cocks in the barnyard. Her closing gesture is beautiful and correct —and a feat of stupendously healthy cruelty. Many critics have somehow sidestepped the obvious genius of Jackson's performance by comparing it to other stage performances. But really, when has Ibsen been done nearly as well? Why does "Hedda" have to lose her malice in order to be admired?

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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 754-6029  
Gay Women at Brown U, Providence 863-2189  
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  
**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 232-5110, 522-5575  
Gay Switchboard 522-5575  
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**  
Seacoast Area Gay Alliance, Box 1424, 431-8209  
Portsmouth 03801 436-7196, 431-4350,  
Women's Group, PO Box 137, Northwood 03261 (Do not use "gay" on any mail to this group)  
**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  
**MAINE [area code 207]**  
Gay Support & Action, P.O. Box 110, Bangor 04401  
Maine Freewoman's Herald, 193 Middle St., 3rd floor, Portland 04111 774-6071  
Maine Gay Task Force, 193 Middle St., Portland 773-5530  
Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter, P.O. Box 4542, Portland 04112 773-5530  
Gay People's Alliance, 92 Bedford St., University of Maine, Portland 04103 773-2981, x535  
The Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono 04473  
**NEW YORK**  
Gay Citizens Alliance of Syracuse, Lambda Center, 503 South Geddes St., Syracuse, N.Y. 472-3917  
Capital Dist. Gay Comm. Council, P.O. Box 131, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12210 (518) 462-6138  
Dignity, P.O. Box 1554, N.Y., N.Y. 10022  
Gay Activists Alliance, P.O. Box 2, Village Sta. 10014 (212) 677-6090  
Gay Community Service Ctr., 1350 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14209  
Gay Media Coalition, c/o The Women's Center, 243 W. 20th St., NYC, NY 10011 924-9434  
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, 201 W. 13th St. (corner of 7th Ave.), Sunday worship 7pm 691-7428  
National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Ave., Rm. 506 741-1010  
Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop, 15 Christopher St. 255-8097