

October 11 thru 17



11 mon

Cambridge, MA — Harvard-Radcliff GSA meeting 8-10, 2nd fl., Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard.

12 tues

N.Y.C. — Fr. McNeill discusses "The Church and the Homosexual" at the West Side Discussion Group, 37 Ninth Ave., at 8pm.

Boston — Integrity meeting, 7:30, "Religious Themes in Opera," wine, coffe and talk to follow, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St.

NYC — Gay Teachers Assoc., St. John's Church, 224 Waverly Pl., 8pm, this is the first meeting, refreshments available, donation requested.

Boston — D.O.B. Singles rap, 7:30 pm at 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323.

Boston — Gay Men's Center Gay Forum at 36 Bromfield St. at 7:30.

N.Y.C. — First meeting-forum of the academic year of the Gay Teachers Association at 8 pm, St. John's Church, 224 Waverly Place. Topic: "Coming Out."

13 wed

N.Y.C. — West Side Discussion Group's topic: "Dealing With Crushes in a Monogamous Relationship" at 8pm. \$2 donation requested. 37 Ninth Ave.

Boston — Gay Men's Center double bill: Gays in Fiction, and Meditation & Psychic Healing, both at 7:30, 36 Bromfield St.

14 thurs

Cambridge, MA — Evangelicals Concerned, a new fellowship/outreach group for gay Christians, meets at 872 Mass. Ave. (Apt. 702) Meditation and discussion. Call 894-3970 evenings after 9pm for more info.

Boston — Gay Men's Center, Gay Topics Rap at 7:30, 36 Bromfield St.

Cambridge, MA — Ongoing discussions for Lesbians on life, love, and selected literature. Meets at 7:30 at the Radcliffe-Harvard Women's Center Agassiz House, Radcliff Yard.

15 fri

Cambridge, MA — Videotape, "Susan Saxe: One of Us" by the RPM Collective with Susan Saxe Defense Committee, at Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., 8pm, 354-8807.

Cambridge, MA — Gays at MIT dance from 9-1 at the MIT Student Center, 84 Mass Ave., \$1.50, free w/ MIT ID.

16 sat

Boston — Gay Men's Center Disco Dance. Lights, music, toe-tapping, everything. Mixers for your favorite beverage. 9pm at 36 Bromfield St.

Orono, ME — Kay Gardner in Concert at the Damn Yankee Room, Memorial Union of the University of Maine. Arrive early to this limited seating engagement starting at 8pm, free.

Boston — Fenway Area Tenants Union Benefit Dance, 7:30-11:30, Boston State College, Kennedy Building Cafeteria (Corner Huntingdon & Longwood), Tickets: Red Bookstore or call 247-8581.

17 sun

Boston — Gay Men's Center Pot Luck Italian dinner. Bring your favorite casserole or pasta, with wine at 5pm, 36 Bromfield St.

Cambridge, MA — Gay Academic Union meeting; Joe Martin and Pat Hanratty will discuss "Gay Legislation in Massachusetts" from 2-4pm in the Leighton Room, second floor of Phillips Brooks House, Harvard University.

Provincetown, MA — Cape Cod Women's Liberation holds weekly feminist discussions at the Drop-In Center, 6 Gosnold St., 8-10pm. This week: "Relating to Adults as to our Parents."

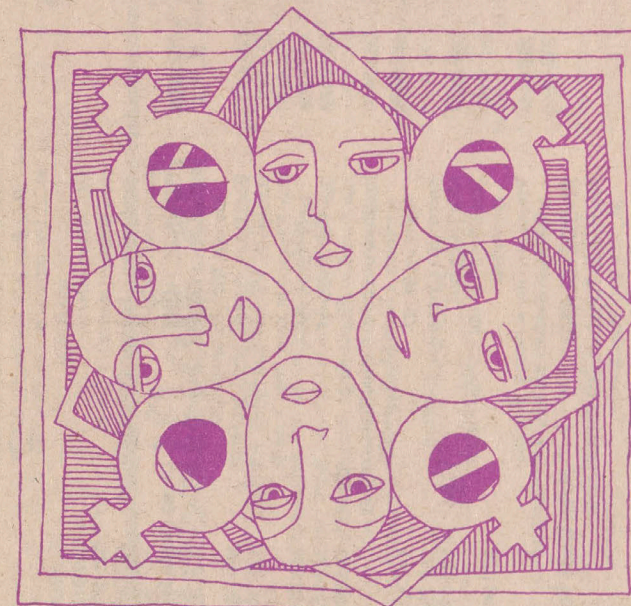


the gay weekly

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gay community news

Vol. 4, No. 16

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October 16, 1976

Open Lesbian Runs for D.A. in Syracuse

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Bonnie Strunk, a 29-year-old openly lesbian Syracuse attorney, has been nominated by the Liberal Party to run for the position of District Attorney in Onondaga County. A special election is being held on Nov. 2 to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of District Attorney Jon K. Holcombe. Holcombe, a Republican well-known for his anti-gay positions, was forced to resign after being convicted of driving while intoxicated. Two other charges against Holcombe — including a charge of sexual abuse of a female secretary — were dropped when the former District Attorney pled guilty to the drunken driving charge.

Strunk will be opposed by Republican Richard Hennessey and Democrat Edward Kearse, Corporation Counsel of the City of Syracuse. Kearse was named last week by Gov. Hugh Carey to the post of interim D.A. until the election takes place.

Strunk is the second openly gay



Bonnie Strunk

candidate to be named by the Liberal Party as a candidate in Syracuse. The Liberals recently nominated Syracuse gay activist Earl Colvin to run for Congress in the 32nd Congressional District. The Liberal Party — which generally gets about 500,000 in statewide elections — is often a swing vote in New York State and Democratic

candidates traditionally depend upon Liberal endorsements for their margin of victory. However, in the Syracuse area, the Liberals have been running their own candidates in recent elections.

Because the Republicans have been hurt by the Holcombe scandal and because his Democratic opponent "has never handled a criminal case," Strunk sees this election as "wide-open." "I plan to run a fairly active campaign," Strunk told GCN. "There is also a real possibility of a debate between the three candidates."

Strunk told GCN that she decided to run "because the Liberal Party asked me to." "The republican candidate is very conservative," she said. "His big issue is welfare fraud. And the Democrat has never handled a criminal case. I felt that the needs of the people in Onondaga County were not being addressed by any of the other candidates."

Strunk is not de-emphasizing the fact that she is a lesbian. "I'm not

playing it any way. It's just not a factor. I have the professional qualifications to do the job. I can enforce the law." Strunk also feels that her candidacy is a chance to do some consciousness-raising around the gay issue.

So far, Strunk's gayness has not played a large role in the campaign. Syracuse radio stations have announced her candidacy and mentioned the fact that she is a lesbian, but the two major newspapers in the city — both owned by a conservative Republican — have ignored both Strunk and her sexual orientation.

Strunk is a graduate of Syracuse University Law School, and has worked in both the gay and the civil rights movement. She serves on the board of the New York Civil Liberties Union and is cooperating attorney with its Central New York chapter. A partner in the law firm of Seidenberg and Strunk, Strunk recently defended a lesbian mother in the publicized "Syracuse Lesbian Mother Case."

Susan Saxe's Case Goes to the Jury

By Nancy Wechsler

BOSTON — The trial of Susan Saxe for two counts of armed robbery and one count of felony-murder is over. As GCN went to press, the jury of six men and six women had just begun its deliberations. It is now entirely up to the jury to determine whether Saxe will be acquitted of all charges, convicted of all charges or convicted only for the robbery.

The trial ended abruptly on Wednesday, Oct. 6 as Saxe's attorney Nancy Gertner announced the defense would rest its case without presenting any new witnesses. In her closing statement that afternoon, Gertner said to the jury, "Many of you may wonder why this case ended seemingly as abruptly as it did. Well, after listening for two weeks we felt the prosecution had proved our case The prosecution has paraded witness after witness before you They have proved there was a bank robbery on Sept. 23 and that unfortunately a policeman was killed. But any connection between that bank robbery and Susan Saxe has not been proved." In her closing statement Gertner said the prosecution's case was nothing more than the testimony of Robert J. Valeri (defendant who pled guilty to manslaughter) and Martin Fleisher (indicted for accessory after the fact but never brought to trial). Gertner implied that both had reasons to be lying on the stand to get better deals with the D.A. for themselves and to protect their "girl friends" who could conceivably also be suspects in the robbery.

Why would Valeri specifically give Susan Saxe's name to the government? The Defense asserts that such a decision would be somewhat believable because of political and social associations. "The defense has never denied that Susan Saxe knew Stanly Bond, Left Gilday, Kathy Power of Martin Fleisher. They were all active in the national strike information center at Brandeis Robert Valeri has named Susan Saxe [in the robbery] because of these associations. Martin Fleisher has confirmed Susan Saxe because of these associations. But you can not convict Susan Saxe because of these associations."

Gertner reminded the jury of its

important role as protection for innocent people from the present government. "In an American democracy it is assumed that the government has no right to take away someone's liberty. The government has to justify why it is taking away Susan Saxe's liberty. If you [the jury] don't take that seriously — who of us will be next? Who of us will be safe?"

Reminding people of the time and context in which the robbery took place, Gertner changed her tone of voice and began, "It was 1970 and there was a war going on. It was 1970 and there were lots of people speaking out against the war. There were people organizing all around the country protesting the war. People who were none too popular at the time. People who the government was none too happy with." Was the government unhappy enough with these people to frame one of them for armed robbery and murder? The defense seems to be suggesting it is a possibility.

John Gaffney, the prosecutor in the case, argued in his closing statement that "Each of these five people [Saxe, Power, Valeri, Gilday, and Bond] joined together to commit this act and

each is equally responsible." Gaffney appeared on the defensive during his closing statement, trying to answer Gertner's charge that he had no case. In what seemed at times an overly dramatic speech, he referred to Susan Saxe as cool, cold blooded and a terrorist.

No one knows how long the jury will deliberate. Supporters of Susan Saxe are holding a vigil in front of the Suffolk County Courthouse from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. until the jury comes in with a verdict. The Susan Saxe Defense Committee has called a demonstration of support for Susan the day

after the verdict — regardless of the verdict. A member of the defense committee said, "If Saxe is acquitted, then we will celebrate. If she is convicted we will express our outrage at the mockery of American justice."

The demonstration in support of Saxe will begin at the Suffolk County Courthouse and end with a rally on the Commons. The Defense Committee says that if the day after the verdict is a weekday the demonstration will begin at 5 p.m. If it is a weekend or a holiday people are asked to gather at the courthouse at noon. More information can be obtained by calling 547-6358.

3 Arrested On South Shore

QUINCY, MA — Three men have been arrested in a South Shore rest area and charged with "lewd and lascivious conduct" and "assault and battery on a police officer." The arrests, which took place at separate times on Sept. 24, at a rest area on Route 3 near the 99 Restaurant, are the latest in a series of rest area arrests on Route 3 on both the North and South Shores.

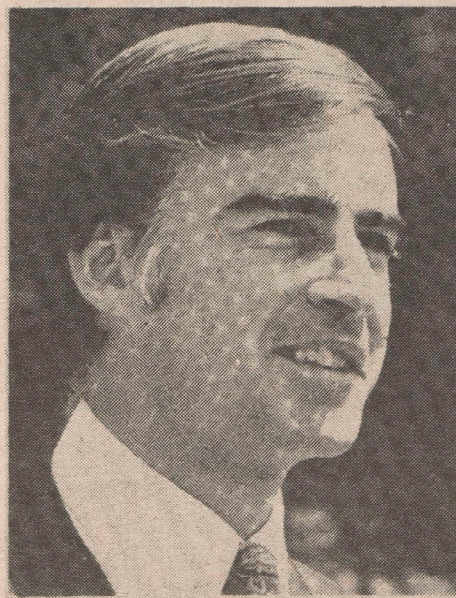
Chester Weinerman, a Boston attorney who represents one of the men, told GCN that an Oct. 20 date has been set for his client. Weinerman reports that the state troopers involved in the arrest told him that the double charges of "lewd and lascivious" as well as "assault and battery" are now becoming standard procedure in such cases.

Gov. Brown to Screen Appointees for Homophobia

SACRAMENTO, CA — Gov. Jerry Brown has agreed to screen all potential appointees to state boards, commissions, and regulatory agencies for latent homophobia, *NewsWest* reports. The Brown decision, which comes after requests for such action from the Gay Rights Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union in Los Angeles, will extend to cabinet level assistants as well.

A team of sociologists, psychologists, and psychiatrists led by Dr. Wayne Placek of California State University — Northridge has reportedly already begun work on a questionnaire for use by the Governor that is designed to measure attitudes towards gay people.

Anthropologist Margaret Mead and research psychologist Evelyn Hooker have agreed to lend their assistance to the effort as well, writes *NewsWest*.

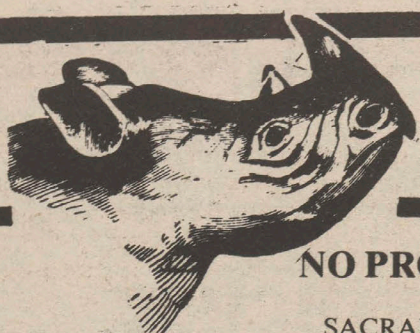


Gov. Jerry Brown

Input is also coming in from the Kinsey Institute on Sex Research. Members of the study team are equally divided between gays and "straights."

The agreement with Gov. Brown came as a result of an August meeting between ACLU representatives and Carlotta Mellon, supervisor of the Governor's appointment procedures. Brown had received communications from Pennsylvania Gov. Milton Shapp urging Brown to imitate Shapp's efforts in bringing gay people openly into the governmental process. However, Brown — who is known for his keen political acumen — reportedly does not want the kind of publicity for pro-gay actions which Shapp has received.

Surveyer Placek has targeted a Dec. 1 date for completion of a preliminary questionnaire for use by the Governor.



news notes

GAYZETTE EXPLODES

PHILADELPHIA — A mysterious explosion has destroyed the offices of the *Gayzette*, the Philadelphia weekly gay newspaper. The explosion occurred in the early hours of Monday, Sept. 27, and destroyed not only the offices of the newspaper — located in the basement of the Christian Association — but also many of the supplies and equipment in the offices. The *Gayzette* is now in urgent need of funds to relocate and to return to full working capacity. Anyone interested in donating to the newspaper should write the *Weekly Gayzette*, P.O. Box 13420, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

BAY VILLAGE, AGAIN

BOSTON — Profile Lounges, Inc., owner of The Other Side, PB Pub, and The Nineties restaurant in Boston's Bay Village, has petitioned the Boston Licensing Board to restore the 2:00 a.m. closing time for The Nineties restaurant only. The establishments have been closing at midnight following an order of the Board earlier this year. Licensing Board member Jon Straight told GCN that city attorneys have been negotiating with lawyers for the bar owners.

MEMORIAL

BOSTON — A memorial service for Thomas de Valcourt, long-time member of the Boston and Cambridge gay community, will be held at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. The service will be held at Bigelow Chapel on Oct. 16 at 2 p.m.

IWO JIMA CRACKDOWN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A campaign of police harassment of gay males cruising at the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial in Arlington, Virginia — a popular meeting spot for Washington men — has resulted in 60 arrests since the beginning of the summer, the *Washington Star* reports. The *Star* also writes that Ronald J. Pettine, who had been an advance man for Rep. Morris Udall in his unsuccessful Presidential bid, and served in the cabinet of Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp, was murdered in the woods near the memorial last Saturday night. One detective called it "the most sadistic beating" that he had seen in years. Gay leaders are reportedly cooperating with the police on the murder.

One police officer, Sgt. Thomas Harmon, said that the campaign of arrests had produced a slight decline in cruising in the area. But, he added, "it's almost like bailing water out of the ocean." Noting that the spot was "internationally famous," Harmon stated that "those arrested come from all walks of life — lawyers, colonels, a congressional aide and even some policemen."

Gay community activists were sharply critical of the police crackdown at Iwo Jima. "They're trying to eliminate crimes of victimization not by going after assailants, but by going after the victims. It's like trying to stop bank robberies by closing the banks," Frank Kameny told the *Star*.

NO PROTECTION

SACRAMENTO, CA — The California Fair Employment Practices Commission has rejected broadening its jurisdiction to include anti-gay bias in hiring and firing. The panel's decision was taken by a 5-0 vote, with 2 members abstaining. California gay activists noted, however, that the Commission took the application seriously in view of the fact that it issued a 20-page opinion in support of its decision. The presence of two holdovers on the Commission from Gov. Ronald Reagan's term of office also reportedly hurt the effort.

WORK COUNSELING

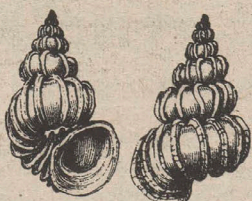
CAMBRIDGE, MA — Vocations for Social Change in Cambridge is now offering one-to-one work counseling for women and men. The purpose of the counseling is to help people identify their life and work goals and to help them choose work that brings these goals together. Counseling is available to anyone and VSC asks for donations based on an exchange — what you earn per hour in exchange for an hour of their time. Anyone interested should call them at 661-1570.

LAVENDER PULITZER

WASHINGTON — Reporter Lynn Rosellini of the *Washington Star* has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, Journalism's most prestigious award. Rosellini was nominated for her four-part series on homosexuality in professional athletics, which appeared in the *Star* last December. The series was based on interviews with athletes, coaches, sports officials, psychologists, and members of the gay community.

CARSWELL FINED

TALLAHASSEE, FL — G. Harrold Carswell, whom Richard Nixon nominated to the US Supreme Court only to have that nomination rejected by the Senate, has been fined \$100 after allegedly making homosexual advances to a plain-clothes policeman. Carswell, who was arrested on June 24 in an incident growing out of an entrapment in a restroom in a Tallahassee shopping mall, pleaded no contest. Maximum penalty for the offense in the state of Florida is a year in prison and a \$500 fine.



Wentletrap (*Scapharia pretiosa*).

UFW ALLIANCE

LOS ANGELES — Leaders of the United Farm Workers Union have reportedly agreed to form a pre-election alliance with members of the gay community here. The UFW has agreed to lend its support for protecting gay people under the Fair Employment Practices Act in exchange for gay support of Proposition 14, the Farm Workers initiative, which will appear on the November ballot. Jarro Rogovin, social action chairperson at gay Temple Beth Chayim Chadashim, is spearheading efforts to publicize Proposition 14 among gay organizations. Proposition 14 calls for continued funding of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, recently established by Gov. Jerry Brown.

NEW YORK REVELATIONS

By Tony Russo

NEW YORK — The cast of "Boy Meets Boy" celebrated its first off-Broadway anniversary at the Yellow Brick Road Restaurant and Bar. The production is the second longest running musical off-Broadway, second only to "The Fantastiks" which is now in its 18th year.

Although "Boy Meets Boy" has been playing in New York for more than a year, last September they moved from their off-off-Broadway theatre on Thirteenth Street to their new location at the Actor's Playhouse near Sheridan Square. The move marked a turning point for gay theatre. Never has a positive gay oriented play been so successful.

The party was festive and drew personalities from off-off Broadway to Broadway. The cast sang a medley of songs from the play, and other performers sang their own melodies.

Recently the cast of "Boy Meets Boy" was asked by Leonard Bloom, co-chairperson for "Gays for Bella" to give a benefit production for Bella Abzug's U.S. Senate campaign. After the performance, the cast would have assembled for a reception at the Club Baths. According to John Gravett, press agent for the production, "The cast turned the offer down. They did not want to meet afterwards for a reception in the Club Baths. It's not that kind of a play! The cast didn't mind giving a benefit on their free

night, but they did not like the idea of the reception." When asked if Bloom would have changed the reception, Gravett said: "No. If he had, they would have performed the benefit."

The Gay Academic Union has chosen its keynote speakers for their Thanksgiving Weekend conference at Columbia University. Those speaking are Douglas Ireland, manager of the Bella Abzug U.S. Senate campaign; Jean O'Leary, co-executive director of the National Gay Task Force, and Stephen Morin, psychologist and researcher from San Bernardino State University in California. A final speaker is still to be chosen.

Arthur Bell, columnist and writer for the *Village Voice*, has been asked to be on the official staff of the paper. "It is probably the first time an openly gay writer has been chosen to be on the staff of a national paper," said Bell.

Bell began writing for the paper several years ago, after the publication of his book: "Dancing the Gay Lib Blues: A Year in the Homosexual Liberation Movement." Approximately a year and a half ago, he began writing a weekly column entitled "Bell Tells" in which he mainly writes about show business personalities. His gay sensibility is usually smartly integrated in most of his columns. With his new contract with the *Voice*, he will be writing between 40 to 46 columns a year and between four to six feature pieces.

LESBIAN MOTHERS

NEW YORK — The National Gay Task Force has announced that it will cooperate with a research project funded by the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH) which concerns lesbian mothers and their children. Researchers with the Long Island Institute and the Department of Psychiatry, SUNY at Stony Brook, hope to gather data which will be relevant to lesbian mothers' in child custody hearings. The study will compare lesbian and non-gay mothers and their children's adjustments to living in a family where no adult male is present. The sample will include families from rural as well as urban areas, in the North and South, so that the participants' adjustment under a variety of community standards can be seen. Data from this study will later be compared with studies in which men were present in the home setting.

The reason for NGTF cooperation, according to Jean O'Leary and Bruce Voeller, co-executive directors, is that the project could be politically valuable in child custody cases. No such comparative studies exist, and women involved in legal action must rely on the testimony of "expert witnesses" in the field of sex research. Although this has sometimes been helpful, it has also been disregarded by judges. "This research study," O'Leary stated, "might provide data which would put to rest the concern of some courts that lesbianism makes a woman an unfit mother."

Jane Mandel, research scientist for the Long Island Institute, and Dr. Mary Hotvedt, post-doctoral fellow with the Department of Psychiatry at SUNY at Stony Brook, will be conducting the interviews with mothers and children.

The interviews, about two hours in length for the mother and each child, will be arranged by appointment for convenient times and locations. All information will be kept confidential. Women interested in participating or finding out more about the study should write to Jane Mandel or Mary Hotvedt c/o Long Island Research Institute, Central Islip, N.Y. 11722, or call collect to Mary Hotvedt at (516) 444-2429. Women in the midwest can call Jane Mandel at (312) 475-4773.

DRINKING, ANYONE?

BOSTON — The *New England Journal of Medicine* last week reported that "when non-alcoholic males drink alcohol, they produce less of the sex hormone that makes them men." The conclusion was based on a study of men ages 21 to 40 at various New York institutions.

After four weeks of heavy alcohol intake (one ounce every three hours for 24 hours), the testosterone levels in the men dropped by 29 to 55 percent. The researchers noted that the question of whether alcohol diminishes sexual function in women was not answered, but predicted the answer "would be forthcoming in a few years."

SELF-HELP

CAMBRIDGE, MA — Cambridge's Women's Community Health Center is offering a series of self-help groups beginning this fall. Self-Help, Level 1, meets on Sunday nights from 7 to 10 p.m. and starts on the first Sunday of each month. Herbal Self-Help begins on Oct. 7 and meets from 7 to 10 on Thursdays. A series of workshops on Para-Medic skills will take place on Monday evenings from 7 to 10, starting Nov. 8. The Self Help and Herbal Self-Help workshops go for 4 sessions and cost \$25, while the Paramedic workshops last six sessions and cost \$35. Any women who are interested should call 547-2302.

Boston Police — After diGrazia, What?



Police Commissioner-to-be Joe Jordan and his wife at Elaine Noble's Inaugural Ball last year.

By David Brill

BOSTON — Mayor Kevin White's unique ability to offset his bad decisions with good ones was clearly in evidence last week, as Police Commissioner Robert J. diGrazia turned in his resignation six months before his appointment was to expire, and Superintendent-in-Chief Joseph M. Jordan was named to succeed him less than 48 hours later. The high degree of unanimity in reactions to diGrazia's resignation and Jordan's appointment, and not the personnel changes themselves, was the single most surprising element of the week.

White was uncooperative with the commissioner in discussing whether he would re-appoint him to the top cop's job in May, pointing to an underrated tension that was certainly not helped by press-spared (and untrue) rumors that diGrazia was planning to run for mayor himself. In addition, it was no

secret that diGrazia was looking for a raise in his \$35,000 salary. (The chief of police in adjacent Winthrop, for example, received \$23,000 and oversees a force of less than 35 men, compared to 2300 on the Boston force.) White, whose own salary has remained \$40,000 for over ten years, did not appear interested in arguing for a salary raise for diGrazia.

For gay people, diGrazia's departure could have signaled the end of a strong, progressive police command that, while still imperfect, was exemplary in the fields of community relations and accessibility. DiGrazia and his staff met frequently with members of Boston's gay community, and while there were differences of opinion from time to time, the fact that the lines of communication were open was a welcome relief from the pre-diGrazia days when police officials would call gay people names and slam the telephone down on them. To a large degree, diGrazia's appointment of Gary Hayes to handle relations with the gay community was responsible for this.

The mayor could have bumbled in appointment a replacement. City Councillor Albert "Dapper" O'Neill, who chaired Boston's Wallace campaign this year, was the first person to apply for the job, and had White appointed him, it would have decimated the mayor's national image. Another prominent police official mentioned was Supt. John Doyle, former head of the vice squad and the department's Senior Homophobe-in-

Residence. The nature and extent of Doyle's enemies, combined with his shade-to-the-right-of-Nero politics, apparently turned the mayor off to Doyle — thankfully so.

In selecting Joe Jordan, White, was giving in to various pressures: first and foremost, the intense provincialism that permeates Boston, the type that Jordan — a 30-year veteran of the force — would satisfy. In addition, his status as the only senior officer with college background, loosely liberal politics, and (I know that this may sound odd to some people), an Irish surname, made him the ideal candidate. While most of the Boston press reported that Jordan had worked his way up from a cop on the beat to the commissioner's office, it is not widely known that he had asked to be named to Gary Hayes' position as a liaison with the gay community just a few days before.

Rep. Elaine Noble said she was "thrilled" by the Jordan appointment. "I'm delighted. He's one of the best administrators in city or state government. Thank God," she said. Jordan, who contributed to Noble's first campaign in 1974 and attended the representative's inaugural ball (with his wife) last year, was described by Noble as being a "very decent and supportive person."

Chester Broderick, head of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association — which made a policy of suing diGrazia for every little thing imaginable — offered similar words.

"He is a man who has always had an open door and who will sit down and listen to the problems of the policeman," said Broderick. "He makes an effort to correct those problems if he can be shown the grievances are legitimate."

For Jordan to continue the good work begun by diGrazia in reforming the Boston police — the nation's first, oldest (and, according to a recent survey, most overweight) police department — it will be necessary for him to acquire competent staff assistants, similar to diGrazia's. Longevity within a police force tends to make its members blindly and overly protective of other officers. And because they were not entrenched departmental veterans, diGrazia's civilian aides were quite effective. A conspicuous exception to this rule, Jordan appears set to commence his new position with a paucity of enemies, and an abundance of admirers. If he can remain as tough under pressure and as sensitive to the entire community's needs as diGrazia was, then Mayor White's judgment will have been vindicated again.

The wide ideological disparity between the police command and the average officer on the street is a serious issue in many other cities besides Boston — like San Francisco (diGrazia's home town, incidentally), and Atlanta. It's worth working hard to keep friends of the community on top, because, without them, life could certainly be miserable.

DYKETACTICS! Loses Suit Against Police

By Tommi Avicoli

PHILADELPHIA — After two hours of deliberation, the six women and two men on the jury unanimously decided that the officers accused of using unnecessary force against DYKETACTICS during a December, 1975 demonstration, were innocent. The six women were asking for \$200,000 in damages as a result of beatings they allege they received during and after a demonstration by some 75 gay activists attempting to save Bill 1275, a gay rights amendment to the Philadelphia City Charter.

It had been a grueling two weeks in Judge Weiner's court room. The six women — Barbara Ruth, Paula Lunasanguine, Kathy Velnosky, Sharon Owens, Linda Norwood, and Sherrie Cohen — recounted how police officers attacked them as they were

preparing to leave City Hall after the demonstration. The officers and Inspector Fencil (head of the Civil Affairs Unit) denied using force against the women, and instead claimed that they merely removed the women from the building.

In one of the more abusive moments of the trial, one of the witnesses for the women (who prefers to remain anonymous) was asked by City Solicitor Stephen Saltz if she had had sex with members of DYKETACTICS. She said no. Then he asked her if she was a lesbian, a question she refused to answer. The judge insisted she answer, and when she still refused, she was charged in contempt of court. However, fortunately, charges were dropped after Holly Mayuigan (DYKETACTICS' lawyer) and Saltz conferred with Judge Weiner in a

private session.

During her closing address, lawyer Holly Mayuigan told the jury that their vote in favor of the six women would be a vote against what she termed "a system of rough justice." She continued: "The plaintiffs have grievances because they were punished for being lesbians and we expect you will address that grievance."

Saltz, on the other hand, accused the women of having "used this court room for the gay rights movement. Half of their testimony," he said, "was their personal philosophy on why Council should have given them [their] rights."

The jury found that the women's

civil rights were not violated by the officers, and no damages were awarded. Following the reading of the decision, the thirty women in the court room stood and silently raised their fists. They wore pink triangles as symbols of gay oppression. Judge Weiner ordered the women to leave quietly, which they did, filing out with their fists still raised.

Despite the decision, DYKETACTICS plans "to continue in our struggle to secure our basic human rights as women and as lesbians."

"It was our lesbianism, not police brutality, that was on trial," the women said in a press release issued immediately after the trial.

D.C. Sodomy Law Upheld

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia upheld the constitutionality of the District's 28-year-old sodomy law. In a unanimous opinion issued by Appeals Court Judges Austin L. Ficklin, Stanley S. Harris, and Julia Cooper Mack, the court stated that "The government may legitimately legislate to further the interests of public decency."

The court rejected arguments that the sodomy law, passed by the United States Congress in 1948, was unconstitutional because it discriminates against gay people and because the law is religious in its origin. The court did however refuse to address the argument that the law was of dubious constitutionality because it could be applied to the sexual acts of consenting adults in private.

The court was ruling in the case of a 29-year-old man, arrested on the bank of the C and O Canal in Georgetown section of Washington, and given a

sentence of three years probation for having sex with another man. The judge at the time — Superior Court Judge Theodore R. Newman — stated at the time that the man was arrested in an area in which had "no reasonable expectation of privacy."

The Appeals Court ruled that the issue of whether the sodomy law invades "the zone of personal privacy" or not was relevant since he was not in a private area when the sex act was committed.

Washington gay activist Frank Kameny emphasized that the decision was "not at all that meaningful." "Given the Supreme Court decision, it just doesn't make that much difference anyway," Kameny said. Kameny asserted that it "was not a good case. The court decided on a series of technicalities. The fact that it was a question of public sex made it legally difficult to make the case apply to private sex. This is what the lawyers were trying to do and it didn't work."



The latest in New York "murder and dismemberment" chic arrived in Cambridge recently and departed just as suddenly after protests by feminist groups. The above window display, which appeared at the fashionable Harvard Square boutique, the Camel's Hump, featured the corpse of a woman, half-stuffed into a can of rubbish. The blood on the woman's face matched the shoes in the window, sold for \$75 to \$100. The caption on the window was "We'd kill for these." The display was supposed to be the first in a series of "bizarre" window displays, but, after protests and a critical article by Flora Haas in the *Boston Phoenix*, the display disappeared four days ahead of schedule. Reports are that the other slated window displays have been cancelled.

Photo by Ken Rabb



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A Gay Person's Guide To New England



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EDITORIAL

TV or not TV, that is the question.

TV has come a long way from its total blackout of gay topics. Only this past June we were screaming that it ignored us. Well, everyone knows we're alive by now. But how are we presented?

On Tuesday, Sept. 28, at 10 p.m. ABC aired its season-opening episode of "Family." The program centered around how the family dealt with the startling revelation that Willie's (the family's college-age son) oldest and best friend was gay. It was humanely handled, but if the word "humane" is the first one to pop into one's head, what does that conjure up? The way we treat or *should* treat injured animals, and people unlike ourselves in some inferior, either sick or sinful, way. You dig?

The show was kind. It was gentle. It dealt in a real way with a real situation. But in the final analysis, it certainly didn't put any points on the gay-is-good scoreboard. It was a plea for tolerance and acceptance, but not equality.

Wednesday, Sept. 29, at 9:30 p.m. CBS brought us the debut of its new series, "Alice," based on the film, *Alice Doesn't Live Here Any More*. Alice dates an ex-football player who turns out to be — you guessed it. She has a twelve-year-old son whom she asks her date to take on a fishing trip with him *before* the big announcement comes. Then she has the predictable misgivings, and changes her mind. Our hero comes to the diner where Alice works, discusses the matter, again predictably ("If I were straight, and you had a twelve-year-old daughter, would you trust me with her?" "Yes."), and Alice decides to let her son go fishing.

Something *does* happen on the trip — he lets the boy drink half a can of beer! This is built up so that when Alice learns that the boy's hemming and hawing is only about beer, she offers him a six-pack out of relief that her boy is still "pure." The handling of the issue of gays and children is mostly positive. Alice's concern, after the fact, is emotional, not logical, while her decision to let the boy go fishing is both reasoned and brave, from a straight point of view. After all, she hardly knew the man. On balance "Alice" didn't do us any harm.

We are led to believe, by a phone call at the end of the show, that the gay character *may* return to the program in future episodes. That leaves CBS plenty of time to find out how this kind of gay content affects its ratings.

ABC's "Barney Miller" (8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30) ran the first half of an episode to be concluded after press time on Thursday, Oct. 7, dealing with, according to *TV Guide*, "cops and *miscreants*." Nice??? We could have done without that.

"Nancy Walker," an ABC newee (9:30 p.m. Thursdays) has a resident faggot — Nancy's friend and secretary — balding, middle-aged and somewhat stereotypically "cute." Score "zero" on the gay meter for this too.

"The Merv Griffin Show" (CBS, Monday, Oct. 4, 4 p.m.) devoted its entire 90 minutes to a discussion with psychologist William Rader, Christine Jorgensen and three other transsexuals. The show took great pains to explain that transsexuals are not homosexuals, with the unmistakable suggestion that "We [transsexuals] are OK, but they [homosexuals] are not." So what else is new?

The "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman" show, apparently too hot for the major networks to handle, ran on local independent stations last season and gave us two really attractive gay men, Howard and Ed. They seriously discussed the issue of gay marriages, coped with a somewhat hysterical mother, projected force of personality, and generally made a positive impression. What happened?? They've been dropped from the cast of characters for the current season. Why???

"Snip," a widely-publicized series about, among other things, a gay hairdresser, was to have premiered on NBC on Sept. 30, but the network very suddenly killed the show. Why??? NBC is the only major network sans visible gays. Why???

What is television up to? Is it out to "get" us, or vindicate us, or ridicule us, or educate the public? No doubt, we are confused because the networks are confused. From the point of view of the media, sexuality is both intriguing and frightening, so they don't know what to do about it.

The one thing that is certain is that TV wants to make money, and if gay content makes money, there will be gay content. Ratings seem to be the life-blood of television, and viewer response is one indication to the networks of how their ratings will go.

Let's straighten (no pun intended) out some of the confusion. Write to the networks and tell them that we're glad they have finally acknowledged the existence of gay men, but that *there are gay women* too. Tell them that the time has come for them to portray us, not as monsters, freaks, sinners or potential child molesters; not as people with an illness or a liability; not as comic figures of fun; not as individuals to be deplored, pitied, condemned, condoned or tolerated for any reason or in any way. The time has come to show us as whole, healthy, ordinary and extraordinary men and women, to be accepted as a matter of course and a matter of fact.

Television got around to presenting a fair image of blacks. Now it's our turn. Watch the shows, tell the networks what you think. The addresses follow.

NETWORK ADDRESSES:

ABC, 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019

CBS, 51 West 52nd Street, New York, NY, 10019

NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020.

— Nancy Walker

COMMUNITY VOICE



GCN welcomes letters expressing the views of its readers. All letters submitted for publication must contain the name and address of the writer. A phone number will speed verification. While names will be withheld upon request, no anonymous letters will be considered.

gays and the cp

Dear Folks:

I was quite pleased to read that the British Communist Party and Gus Hall of the American CP have finally recognized that gay people do exist and we have been unjustly discriminated against.

Those recent statements could open up discussion between the CPs in various countries and the gay movement. I welcome that, because I have a few questions to put to supporters and members of the CPs.

For instance, why do the CPs still support the policies of the Soviet leadership, when today in the Soviet Union there are repressive laws against gays, an atmosphere of general sexual repression, the legal and social subjugation of women and the glorification of the family as some sort of socialist model? These have nothing in common with the revolutionary policies of the time of Lenin and Trotsky. Who altered those policies? And why?

Unfortunately, to answer those questions honestly would be to bring the whole philosophy of the Soviet leadership into question. We would have to discuss the Stalin-Hitler pact, the invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the "peaceful co-existence with capitalism" theory and the American CPs lack of support for the ERA.

Those of us who are Trotskyists, who oppose the Stalinist leadership and their misuse of the ideas and writings of Marx and Lenin, believe we have something to say to socialist-minded people who recognize the gains made by the Russian Revolution but disagree with the current policies of the Soviet leadership.

Will the supporters of the Communist Party care to reply in the pages of the GCN? Would they care to explain the statements made by their Vice-Presidential candidate, Jarvis Tyner, a few months ago in the GCN? I, for one, would be very interested in their comments.

Quite sincerely,

Ken Withers



in depth reporting

Dear Editor:

I want to express our appreciation to you and your staff for the excellent article and interview which you ran on Father McNeill. The interview is the in-depth, no nonsense reporting which any newspaper can and should be proud of. Keep up the good work; thank you on behalf of DIGNITY and Father McNeill.

Yours in Dignity,

Paul Diederich,
International President

tequila sunset

Dear GCN:

Just read that Tequila Sunrise is to play in Boston at a women's gay bar, the Citadel.

Well! We, of the Everywoman's Center in Provincetown, encourage every woman to stay away from the performances of Tequila Sunrise. Tequila Sunrise was *supposed* to perform a benefit concert for the Everywoman's Center earlier this summer, at the Provincetown Inn. They never showed, called or wrote a letter explaining what happened. We consider that rude, unbecoming of a women's band and unsisterly completely. We lost a good part of our income for the summer season as that performance was our annual Women's Dance and an initial source of our supportive income for the center. We suffered greatly because of their indifference and unprofessional attitude.

Sincerely,

The Everywoman's Center Committee
Ann Weld-Harrington
Laura Theodor
R. J. Dudley
Barbara Bassett

NEED OF THE WEEK

GCN is in need of scissors for our Thursday night layout. Anyone who has any to spare can call Lester at 426-4469.

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CPPAX Survey of Massachusetts Legislative Candidates

By Laura McMurry and David Brill

BOSTON — The following guide to the 40 Senate and 240 House races in Massachusetts was prepared with the assistance of Citizens for Participation in Political Action (CPPAX) and Gay Legislation 1976. It is not to be considered an endorsement, but simply a method of reporting answers to the CPPAX questionnaire and past voting records.

KEY: After the candidate's name appears his or her answer to the CPPAX questionnaire regarding legislation "prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in employment, housing, public accommodations, and credit." If the candidate did not reply to the questionnaire, the notation NR appears; if the candidate left this question blank or provided comments, they are reprinted without editing. If the candidate is an incumbent legislator or former legislator seeking return to office, the notation "voted yes" or "voted no" appears. If the candidate has sponsored gay rights legislation in the past and/or is expected to do so if/when elected, an asterisk (*) appears next to his/her name.

SENATE

Berkshire: John H. Fitzpatrick (R), NR, voted yes; Robert Jakubowicz (D), "no"
Bristol: Mary L. Fonseca (D), NR, voted no
Bristol/Norfolk: John F. Parker (R), NR, voted no
Bristol/Plymouth: George Rogers (D), left blank, voted no
Bristol/Plymouth/Norfolk: Robert McCarthy*, NR, voted yes (D); Douglas Titus (R), NR
Cape/Islands: John F. Aylmer (R), "Yes", voted yes
1st Essex: Walter Boverini (D), NR, voted no
2nd Essex: Kevin Harrington (D), NR, never voted.
3rd Essex: Sharon Pollard (D), "yes."
Essex/Middlesex: Joseph Gracy (D), left blank; William Saltonstall (R), voted yes: "I believe gay rights is, at least to a degree, a matter of choice, unlike race, color, sex, or parents' religion. In that sense, I have opposed the use of the MCAD, already overburdened with its regular work, in the gay rights areas. On the other hand, I have voted to give equal opportunity in state employment."
2nd Essex/Middlesex: William X. Wall (D), NR, voted no.
Franklin/Hampshire: John W. Oliver (D), "Yes," voted yes
Hampden: Stanley J. Zarod (D), NR, voted no
Hampden/Berkshire: Alan D. Sisitsky (D), "yes", voted yes
Hampden/Hampshire: Roger L. Bernashe (D), NR, voted no

1st Middlesex: B. Joseph Tully (D), left blank, voted no; Eleanor Foster (R), NR; Wayne Peters (Ind.), NR
2nd Middlesex: Denis McKenna (D), NR, voted no
3rd Middlesex: John A. Brennan (D), NR, voted yes; John Cinella (R), NR
4th Middlesex: Samuel Rotundi* (D), "yes."
5th Middlesex: Ronald C. MacKenzie (R), "yes," voted yes; John J. Leary (D), NR
1st Middlesex/Norfolk: Edward L. Burke* (D), "yes," voted yes; William Webb (R), "yes"
2nd Middlesex/Norfolk: David H. Locke (R), "no," voted no
3rd Middlesex/Norfolk: Jack H. Backman* (D), "yes," voted yes; David E. Long (Lib.), "no"; Aaron Spencer (R), "yes"
Middlesex/Suffolk: Francis X. McCann (D), NR, voted no; Richard A. Page (R), "yes."
Middlesex/Worcester: Chester Atkins (D), "yes," voted yes; Louis LeBlanc (R), "yes."
Norfolk: Arthur H. Tobin (D), NR, voted no.
Norfolk/Plymouth: Allan McKinnon* (D), NR, voted yes.
Norfolk/Suffolk: Joseph F. Timilty (D), NR, voted yes.
Plymouth/Norfolk: Anna Buckley (D), NR, voted no.
1st Suffolk: William M. Bulger (D), NR, voted no; Judith LeBlanc (Com.), "yes"; R. Duff Ramsey (Ind.), NR.
2nd Suffolk: Bill Owens* (D), NR, voted yes.
Suffolk/Essex: Joseph DiCarlo (D), NR, voted no.
Suffolk/Middlesex: Michael LoPresti (D), NR, voted yes.

Legislative Candidates

1st Suffolk/Norfolk: Arthur J. Lewis (D), NR, voted no.
2nd Suffolk/Norfolk: Joseph B. Walsh (D), NR, voted no.
1st Worcester: Gerald D'Amico* (D), NR; Gordon Graham (r), "yes."
2nd Worcester: "Robert A. Hall" (r), "yes."
Worcester/Middlesex: Daniel J. Foley (D), NR, voted no.
Worcester/Norfolk: James A. Kelly* (D), "yes," voted yes.
Worcester/Franklin: Robert Wetmore (D), NR, voted yes; Albert Cook (R), "yes."

HOUSE

1st Barnstable: Thomas Lynch (D), "would prefer not to answer"; Bernard Wilber (R), "your left-wing socialist organization has done nothing but to try and tear this Nation apart." Voted No, needless to say.
2nd Barnstable: Howard Cahoon (R), NR, voted no; Ann Weld-Harrington (Ind.), "yes."
3rd Barnstable: Richard Kendall* (D), NR, voted yes.
4th Barnstable: Peter McDowell (D), NR, voted yes.
1st Berkshire: Frank Matrango (D), NR, voted yes.
2nd Berkshire: Anthony McBride (D), NR, voted no; Vincent Zajac (R), "yes"; Ralph Lambert (Ind.), NR.
3rd Berkshire: Thomas Lussier (D), NR; Henry Marchisio (R), NR.
4th Berkshire: Dennis Duffin (D), NR, voted yes.
5th Berkshire: Joseph Scelsi (D), NR, voted yes; Raymon Webster (R), "No — An employer must have some say as to employee hired."
6th Berkshire: Sidney Curtiss (R), NR, voted yes.
1st Bristol: Roger Goyette (D), NR; Paul Hamel (Ind.), "yes"; Daniel Hayes (Ind.), NR.
2nd Bristol: Edward Coury (R), NR, voted no.
3rd Bristol: Thomas Lopes (D), "no," voted no; Jorge Madeiros (Ind.), "yes"; Mark Treadup (Ind.), NR; Thomas Morsey (Ind.), NR.
4th Bristol: Ronald Pina (D), NR, voted yes.
5th Bristol: Raymond Peck (D), NR, voted no.
6th Bristol: William MacLean (D), NR, voted no.
7th Bristol: Gino DiNucci (D), NR; Robert Dolan (Ind.), "yes."
8th Bristol: John Long (D), NR, voted no.
9th Bristol: Thomas Norton (D), NR, voted no.
10th Bristol: Manuel Raposa (D), NR, voted no; William Markson (R), "yes."

11th Bristol: Carlton Viveiros (D), NR, voted no.
12th Bristol: Matthew Kuss (D), NR, voted no.
13th Bristol: Antone Aguiar (D), NR, voted no.
14th Bristol: Theodore Aleixo (D), "no," voted no; Robert Studley (R), "no."
15th Bristol: Raymond Boffetti (D), NR, voted no.
16th Bristol: Kevin Poirer (R), "yes."
17th Bristol: Max Volterra* (D), "yes," voted yes.
18th Bristol: Robert J. Kane (D), NR; Leon Lombardi (R), "yes."
1st Dukes: Edmond Coogan (D), NR; Terrence McCarthy (Ind.), NR, voted yes.
1st Essex: Richard Silva (R), "yes," voted yes.
2nd Essex: Paul Dunn (D), NR; David Lane (R), NR, voted yes.
3rd Essex: Francis Hatch* (R), "yes," voted yes.
4th Essex: Kevin Burke (D), "yes," voted yes.
5th Essex: Peter McCarthy (D), left blank: "How does one ascertain the sexual orientation of another? Are these proposals valid?"
6th Essex: John Murphy (D), NR, voted yes; Harold Lloyd (Ind.), "yes."
7th Essex: John King (D), "yes," voted yes.
8th Essex: Bruce McLaughlin (D), NR.
9th Essex: J. Michael Ruane (D), NR.
10th Essex: Donald Gardner (D), NR; Norris Harris (R), NR, voted no.
11th Essex: Virginia DeRosa (D), NR; Belden G. Bly (R), "yes," voted no; Pasquale Pignate (Ind.), NR.
12th Essex: Robert Buell (R), NR, voted no; Thomas Sinkiewicz (Ind.), NR; Peter Hadley (Lib.), "no."
13th Essex: Charles Stevens (D), NR; Henry Walker (R), NR, voted yes.
14th Essex: Bernard Flynn (D), NR, voted yes; Albert Elwell (R), "no," voted no; Nicholas Costello (Ind.), NR.
15th Essex: Francis Bevilacqua (D), NR, voted no; Peter Caza (R), NR.
16th Essex: David Swartz (D), NR, voted yes; J. Bradford Brooks (R), NR.
17th Essex: John McGivney (D), "yes"; A. David Rodham (R), "no," voted no.
18th Essex: Nicholas Buglione (D), "yes," voted yes.
19th Essex: Timothy Bassett (D), "no," voted no.
20th Essex: Thomas McGee (D), NR, voted yes.
21st Essex: Robert G. Phelan (D), NR, voted no.
22nd Essex: James E. Smith* (D), NR, voted yes; John Sordillo (R), left blank.

(To be continued next week)

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Thanks Folks!



DO YOU SEE?

MANCHESTER UNION LEADER

"Gov. Meldrim Thomson of New Hampshire, a conservative Republican, recently suggested that it would be a good idea to repeal or seriously modify the Fourteenth Amendment."

"The laughter has not yet died away. This suggestion was widely taken to be one further indication of Thomson's Neanderthal conservatism — in the unlikely event that further indications were required at all."

"Gov. Thomson was making an excellent constitutional point, however, as those liberals and feminists now objecting to the movie 'Snuff' in New York City may come to

understand.

"The flood of pornography now inundating American culture pours through the opening provided by the current interpretation of the First Amendment: 'Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press' . . .

"And therefore we get the movie 'Snuff' — only the most recent assault upon the sensibilities and perhaps indeed the physical safety of communities now rendered defenseless against it . . .

"It is not absurd therefore to suggest that 'Snuff' could provoke female murder."

"Not at all surprisingly, many feminists, intellectuals, and indeed political liberals are outraged. A group of 82 such people have written to Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau asking him to close the show. The signers include Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman of Brooklyn, drama professor Eric Bentley, Susan Brownmiller (who wrote the book on rape), writer Sol Yurick, Shelley Winters, Ellen Burstyn (of 'The Exorcist'), and Gloria Steinem."

"These are not, be it noted, names ordinarily associated with the idea of censorship. But 'Snuff,' a technicolor

advertisement for sadistic violence against women, has propelled them to a position indistinguishable from that of wool-hats in West Virginia."

"District Attorney Morgenthau says that he doubts that he can do much about 'Snuff.'"

"Yoo hoo, Ellen, Elizabeth, Floria, Eric, Sol and the rest — over here, it's me, Jeffrey Hart. I can arrange a meeting with Mel Thomson for you, if you like." — from an article by Jeffrey Hart called "'Snuff,' the 14th, and Governor Thomson" in the *Manchester Union Leader*, Sept. 13, 1976.

Marion Tholander Leaves GCN

BOSTON — Marion Elizabeth Tholander, whose tireless energy and good humor have been a mainstay of GCN, will be leaving the newspaper after three years of service. Tholander is presently the head of Intergaylactic Distributors — a GCN, Inc., division that distributes GCN, *The Gay Person's Guide to New England*, feminist publications *Sojourner*, *Majority Report* and *Sister Courage*; gay publications *Focus*, *Christopher Street* and *Gay Sunshine*, and the Weather Underground's above-ground publication, *Osawatimie*. Intergaylactic will also soon be distributing *Fag Rag* and *RFD*.

During her three years on the newspaper, Tholander has served as Distribution and Circulation head as well as Managing Editor. "I am simply moving on to another place of my life," Tholander said, in explaining her decision to resign. "I've given all to the paper. I hope to open up new interests for myself at this point. I'll still be around," she emphasized. "I'll subscribe, write angry letters, and



perhaps do some layout on Thursday nights."

The position of Intergaylactic head remains open at this point, and anyone wishing to apply for the job should contact Lester at 426-4469.

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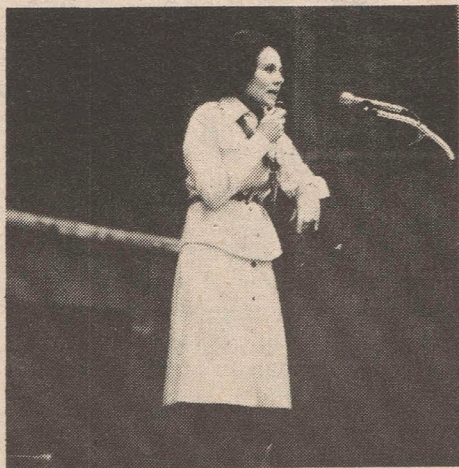
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ERA Backers Urge a 'Yes' Vote at B.U. Rally

By Bill Callahan

BOSTON — Several hundred people attended a rally to support passage of the Massachusetts Equal Rights Amendment last Friday. Sponsored by the Action Coalition for the ERA and the Boston University Student Union, the rally started off a weekend of workshops on the ERA. The rally took place at B.U.'s Hayden Hall.

Three of the amendment's sponsors were among the featured speakers. Rep. Lois Pines reminded the audience that "the entire country is looking to Massachusetts. The loss of the Massachusetts ERA will diminish the chances of passage of the federal ERA, which only has four states to go." Rep. John Bussinger took a more militant view: "To get power, you have to take it. Through the system, we are going to acquire power. We're going to win and take that power and we're going to use it." Rep. Elaine Noble talked about the failure last year of ERA referenda in New York and New Jersey: "What we found was that they (pro-ERA organizations) spent a lot of time talking to people who were already in favor of it and to them-



Rep. Lois Pines

selves. Anti-ERA people were more organized and had more substantive literature. To feminists (liberation) is a lifetime struggle. But there is an immediate need . . . for commitment from all of us for ratification."

Attorney Ted Landsmark, who was severely beaten by a group of whites outside City Hall recently, addressed himself to the fact that the ERA "provides rights for ALL minority groups, not just women. Failure to



Robin Taylor (President of NOW)

ratify the amendment will connote a lack of support for . . . affirmative action programs." Maceo Dixon, national coordinator of the National Student Coalition Against Racism, and Brenda Eichelberger, President of the National Alliance of Black Feminists, agreed. Eichelberger delivered a biting critique of the so-called liberation of black women, concluding "the black woman needs the ERA. Just as she

needed a constitutional amendment to guarantee her rights as a black, she needs a constitutional amendment to guarantee her rights as a woman. This is truly a human rights amendment."

Carol Henderson Evans, Socialist Workers candidate for the U.S. Senate, blamed Democratic and Republican Parties for the delay in ratifying the federal ERA. "All the polls show a majority of the people are in favor of the ERA, and that the politicians almost all support the ERA. If we have so much support, then why don't we have the ERA? The trouble is that too many Democratic and Republican politicians support the ERA, unenthusiastically." Attacking the recent Congressional vote to exempt most abortions from federal aid, including Medicaid, Evans stated the legislation victimizes poor women. She continued, "We are all part of the same movement. We cannot stop with ratification of the ERA in Massachusetts. It's an outrage that it will take a constitutional amendment to guarantee equality to half the population. Ratify the ERA!"

Ex-Inmates Talk at NY Forum

Prison Rape — Question of Power, Not Gayness

By Robert Chesley

NEW YORK — "Sexual Assaults in Prisons" was the subject of a public forum held in New York on Sept. 27 by the Fortune Society. The forum was one of a regular series of public meetings on our prisons presented by the Fortune Society on the last Monday of each month.

The title for the forum was carefully chosen. A great deal is heard about homosexuality in prison. But, as was made clear during the forum, the real issue appears to be rape and not homosexuality — rape in relation to various power structures, both between the administration and the prisoners, and amongst the prisoners themselves.

David Rothenberg, founder and executive director of the Fortune Society, chaired the forum. The panelists were two ex-prisoners, Bob Martin and Sergio Lantz.

Martin told of his experiences in the District of Columbia jail, where he was thrown in 1973 for protesting the Vietnam war. Martin believes that he was "set up" by the prison administration to be raped. He was placed in an unlocked cell, as far as possible from the guard's post, in one of the two toughest cell blocks in the prison.

With no interference from the guards, Martin was beaten, threatened with death, and raped sixty times within a two-day period. When he finally escaped to the guard post, he was sent to the infirmary. However, he received no treatment at the infirmary, but was eventually sent to the District of Columbia General Hospital, where it was discovered that he needed surgery. It took one and a half years for Martin to recover from the physical damage.

Asked from the floor about the psychological effects of the assault, Martin made several points. He is still in therapy, dealing with the effects. He is subject to irrational fits of rage and shaking. The experience has changed his sexual orientation, which Martin claims was originally bisexual, but now is exclusively heterosexual; Martin claims that he is now uncomfortable around men.

Martin also claims that the experience has affected his attitude toward women: he states openly that he is now a male chauvinist. This statement drew an angry reaction from some members of the audience, as did several other of Martin's subsequent statements. It also opened up the issue of the relation of *machismo* to the

prison experience for men, which was developed by the other panelist.

Lantz gave the other side of the picture — that of the aggressor. Lantz has been in several New York State prisons. He stated that every newcomer to prison is threatened with rape, although it later came out that at least some men — the "streetwise" or "jailwise" ones — can avoid being raped.

When first in prison, Lantz abstained from what he termed "abnormal practices," but after a while he changed. Lantz does not claim that what he did was right by out-of-prison standards — it was just what is done in prison. Lantz gave two reasons for his sexual assaults on weaker men: sexual release and the need for power. Lantz feels that conjugal visits would definitely alleviate the situation.

Martin elaborated on this point. In his view, the need to dominate is a male characteristic. A man in prison is denied power in every conceivable way. He has no control over even the most ordinary details of his life, and needs to dominate over someone. Hence conjugal visits — or even visits by prostitutes — would not only supply a chance for sexual release, but would allow an imprisoned man a presumably legitimate opportunity to dominate over someone — a woman.

This statement caused a storm of protests among some members of the audience. The protestors were countered from the floor by the argument that "while we may dislike such thinking, we have to deal with the reality that such attitudes are a major part of the picture in our prisons."

Rothenberg stated that a major part of the stigma of prison was demasculinization of the victim — "loss of manhood." Because of the great value

placed upon "manhood" by our society, the prisoner who is victimized in this way has an overwhelming need to seek vengeance upon the society which has emasculated him. Thus the prisons create violent and irrational enemies of society.

Rothenberg also stated that the prisons have never dealt with the fact that they are dealing with problems of human sexuality in an oppressive environment. Prison officials tend to apply their own rather narrow notions of morality to the situation rather than facing the true nature of the situation, he said. Thus they are as upset by consenting sexual relations as by sexual assaults.

Throughout the forum it was emphasized that the prison experience is completely different from outside experience. The outsider cannot easily understand prison life, and must not judge what occurs in prison by outside standards. One woman, speaking from the floor, told of her experiences in women's prisons, where she claims there is the same type of power play — all that matters is survival in the power system — "your life is at stake." She, along with Martin, Lantz and Rothenberg, affirmed that in prison the terms "homosexual," "heterosexual," and "bisexual" have no meaning. It is merely a question of who is in power, and sexual assaults are used to establish power.

There was general agreement that the situation in our prisons has not become a political issue because prisoners do not form a constituency. Rothenberg stated that the free citizens must come to realize that they themselves are affected by the prisons, and then exert pressure on the government for change.

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My Confession Or When He's Straight, He's Straight

"There is no moral principle without its drawbacks."
—Rameau's Nephew, Diderot

By g. j. hoisington

1: Five-finger exercise

I TOOK A JOB. I did not need money or a job or meaningful work. I took the job because I was falling apart. I told myself I needed structure. It sounded good — suggestive of some chemical formula of correctly balanced proteins in a saline solution. I had been having too many four hour luncheons and drinking too much and attending abortive meetings with publishers and re-cycling manuscripts and adoring, masochistically, a man who cared nothing for me, who used me cruelly in front of other people to say nothing of what he did in private. That part goes almost without saying, but saying it seems to help, to establish the fact as it is and not as my vestigial streak of good feeling towards him would normally want it. I took a job because I had been having my own way.

I was introduced to him the first day. He was wearing tennis shorts and a blue work shirt, sneakers and those funny athletic socks the dumb kids from places like Boise, Idaho, used to

wear to Lit I. It took me two or three days to appreciate his pleasant freckles and to realize he was the most attractive man I had ever seen. He was not gay. His sensibility was alien to me. He mentioned smoking grass with an enthusiasm I have felt for nothing since 1968.

One afternoon he asked me if I had seen page three of the newspaper.

"Is it about me?" I asked, reflecting that I have never really got beyond page one of any newspaper.

"It probably concerns you," he said, sliding under my nose an article about the great marijuana drought.

I folded the paper up after pretending to read about the great marijuana drought.

"I don't use any controlled substance," I said, "thank you very much."

He laughed. It was the oddest thing to laugh at.

When I got home that evening I masturbated. Not frantically, not just to get it over with. I seldom masturbate any more because someone older and wiser told me not to.

"It just makes matters worse," Deana had asseverated cheerfully. "Don't look at people on the train, sleep with your clothes on, keep your place a mess so you won't invite people over, and whatever you do—" she had

counted the don'ts off on her fingers, "don't beat off."

It didn't feel like beating off, because I was making love to him in my imagination, and his eyes seemed to be looking at me. I recalled, as I seldom do now, how good it can be with certain men; men, especially, who want nothing more than an orgasm, but who want that in the peculiarly innocent way you sometimes want a beer or ice cream when you wake at 4 in the morning; not a whim, exactly, but a confluence of lonely need and the cold, sweating knowledge that we are all moving fast or slow towards death, that we will never be twenty-six, a good twenty-six, again; that one day the clock runs down and you are thirty looking at success in the mirror or fifty on the verge of failure; that one day you are old enough not to care why you are here and old enough not to want what you want; that every passion unrequited and unexpressed leaves tiny lesions in the mind that blunt the ability to feel.

2: And a two-finger ceremony

I am in a motel room in Reno with a pretty boy under contract at United Artists. He has persuaded me out to LA and finally to Reno and we have been up all night, not talking to each other, listening to the souging noise

of the highway outside. I am supposed to be reading for a part in a film starring Ray Davies, a film Patrick, the pretty boy, is supposed to be directing. The film will never be shot and Patrick will chase a rolling break for two years before bowing none too graciously out of the film business. But that's all ahead. Now there is just the scraping of matches and gin being poured and the traffic pouring like surf just beyond the chintz draperies.

"You want to go to Sparks?" Patrick has had too much gin and it is a bad mistake to drink too much hard liquor on the desert. He is not dressed for Reno. I have called UA twice to assure myself that Patrick really is under contract, is not a psychopath who is going to kill me (not that the two things are at all incompatible).

"No, I don't want to go to Sparks."

"Fucking catatonic."

"If you don't like it drive me back to LA."

And then — this part happens very fast, with some people it always happens as if the key establishing shots had been clipped out, leaving a burlesque of motion — Patrick slips his belt off, the metal thing goes flying over the bed, and my face is in the way as it whistles over the crumpled motel sheets, five, six, ten times.

3: Sure they're cute

and they're a lot of fun
but would you want your
sister to marry one?

—The Midget's Lament,
Dory Previn

"Hey, cutie," the girl hisses. Her face is a map of cosmetic campaigns against natural oiliness. Her hair, thanks to Clairol, is the same color as Rita Hayworth's in *Bhwni Junction*. The eyes are hard, shrink-wrapped, cold-pressed eyes of blue. "Hey there, cutie." The voice has something in it reminiscent of the business end of a rattlesnake.

In the car with her an aging juvenile delinquent fingers the wheel lightly. Two yellow foam dice dangle from the rear-view mirror. Incredible as it would seem to someone else, this is Brookline Village, 1976, and the bleach job wants me to look her in those damaged eyes.

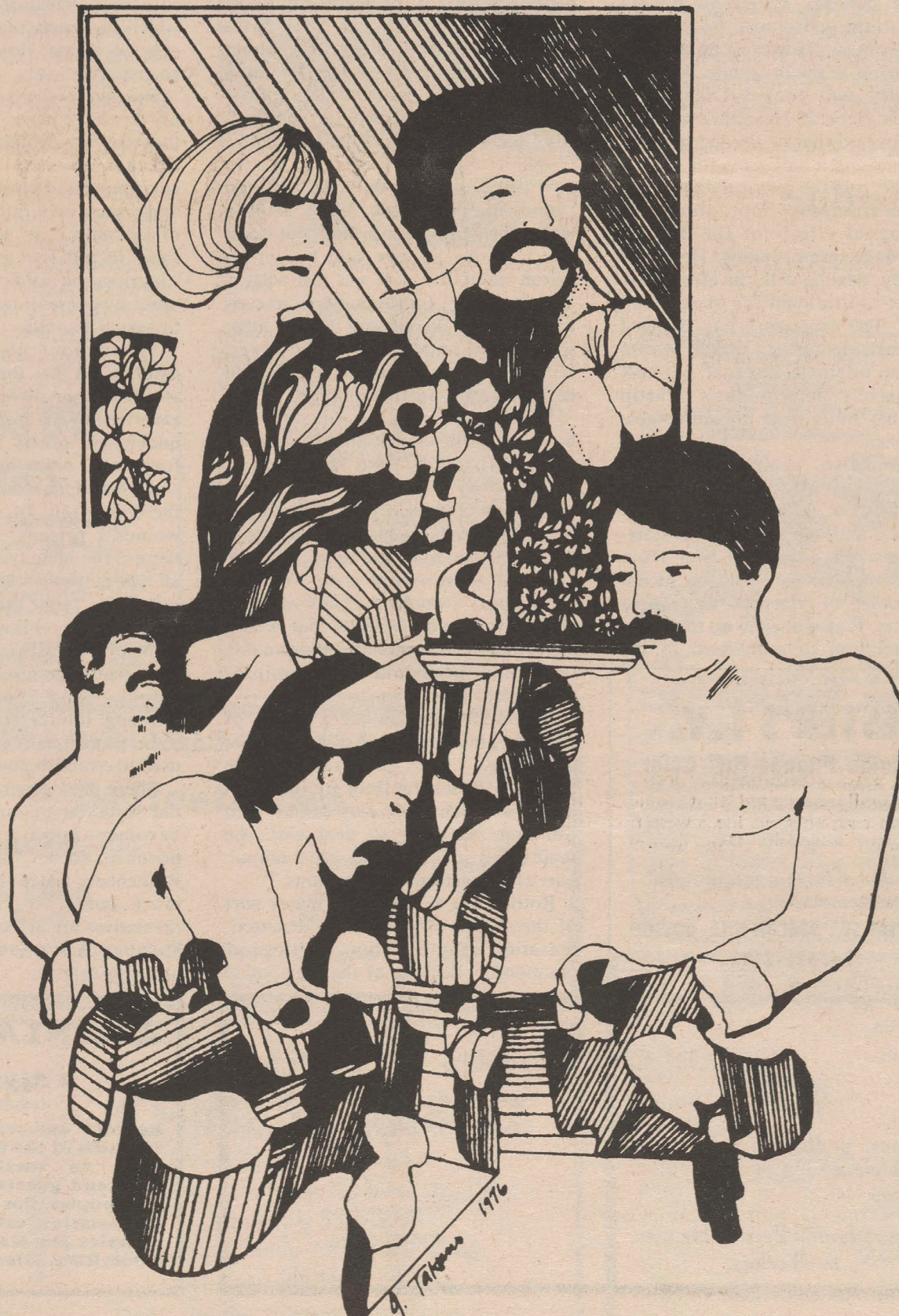
"You suck," the girl screams as I continue walking up the fog misted street. Her voice follows me for some little way. The street tonight is actively beautiful, with moist half-tones of gray shrouding the steeple of a Catholic Church whose grounds contain a vulgar white grotto housing a plaster Virgin. The cement underfoot glimmers under the street lamp. "You fuckin suck you asshole cocksucker."

4

"I'm in love and I take Geritol," the athletic-looking blonde woman is saying. It's after eleven on a Saturday and I have just served an over-rich meal to my parents. I'm absurdly proud to cook for them, but squirm under their compliments and always, whether it's chicken or a cup of coffee, assume that I have made some fatal culinary error which will produce, in a few hours, all the symptoms of botulism.

Only when I am at home, in their overdecorated cottage in the woods, listening with one ear to jokes culled from innumerable cocktail parties or the medical adventures of my second cousin's uterus, do I watch television.

The woman who takes Geritol "for myself . . . and for my husband" is followed by a Swedish film dubbed into English which deals with agnosticism



as it affects a guilt-ridden clergyman in the Faro Islands. Derivative of *Gosta Berling*, this film clocks in every uneventful nuance of anguish it is possible to experience in the Faro Islands.

"You won't last long," someone is telling the clergyman. "And I don't want to shake your hand because I don't want to risk catching your influenza." (Not for nothing are the studio hands who Anglicize foreign movies called dubbers.) I close my eyes and try very hard to identify with the blonde woman in the Geritol ad, but I know, way down where there is nothing else to know, that I have more in common with the characters in the film, whose entire lives revolve around the awful silence of God, around some Swedish national angst, around meaningless and anti-matter. At 11:30 I learn that this bleak vision of the world was made possible by a grant from the Ford Foundation. Think that one over.

Rather than reflect on the message of the film I will chew over my unrequited, office-hours passion and experience the unhelpful insight that it has all happened before, a piece of film loop intercut with more mundane footage.

I was once treated by a psychiatrist who did nothing to help me and whose closing gambit, after I told him so, was to lean across his desk and scream furiously into my surprised face: "If you walk out of here now you are doomed to repeat the same pattern for the rest of your life." The next day I

boarded a flight for Stockholm, mainly to break the pattern. It was the day Picasso died, not a good day for travel, and the months-long trip became, finally, merely another version of a long-running pattern, like a Keith Circuit vaudeville gag lacking a punch line.

The shrink's name was David Bear. Last week I saw him getting out of a bronze Mercedes in front of the Hilton. I could say I am not the only one doomed to repeat a pattern because he was going to the kind of bar mitzvah Peter Finch went to in *Sunday, Bloody Sunday*, all the women dripping diamonds and the men all wearing Cartier cufflinks. The kind of bar mitzvah he would attend for many years as the marriageable young doctor with most of a condominium paid for and a wonderful practice at a major teaching hospital, with perhaps a third interest in a small, controversial institute for reprogramming the alpha waves of bored Wellesley matrons. And I know he wouldn't recognize me; if he had — such was David Bear's rather slick and pornographic imagination — he would have assumed I was free-lancing in the Hilton; what else would I be doing there?

I am in love, and I do not take Geritol. I try calling a number my ex-lover gave me to call, hoping to reach him. Instead I get Diane, who proceeds to do an astonishingly expert imitation of

Loretta Haggars over the phone, and relates her experience of working in a Lum's.

"You can order a Lum Dog or an Ollie Burger. It was absolutely nauseating. I told them I got a teaching job because then I don't have to say what a scummy dump Lum's is."

6

I talk to a woman in Santa Barbara preparing herself for a barbecue. She is one of two people I trust and one of the few I care for anymore.

"Well," DJ sighs, "It could go either way, this love of yours. Either he's really sensitive and beautiful, or God's Little Iguana for all you know, or—"

There is a long pause, the tell-tale click of ice cubes in a tall, beady glass.

"—or it's all shit," she finishes, her conversational resources temporarily exhausted.

7

So what can I tell you? I love someone who could never love me back. A selfish attitude, I have learned, and one boding ill for one's "capacity for reality."

"Hey faggot." Across from the door I enter to go to work is the loading platform of AR's warehouse. Sitting on the dock of the bay are four employees of AR with heavy Dynamint habits, swarthy, pimpled faces and bad up-bringsings. "Hey, stick it up your ass, cocksucker." For days I have been hatching in my brain a boycott of Acoustical Research products, and

oscillate between thinking it would prove futile and thinking it would get me killed. In the meantime it gives me another dumb thing to think about.

8

So I love this man, the man in the tennis shorts, who may know nothing of me beyond the obvious but who certainly knows that the employees of AR harass me on a daily basis.

"I like the desert," I tell him, referring to his native clime. I do, too. I like the smell of ozone the desert gives off and I also like the rattlesnakes — their presence in a geography, let's say — and the mesquite and the abundant cacti, the snake farms on the freeway exits and the slots in the bus terminals and the Hoover Dam. I'm that way and I don't expect anyone is ever going to change that.

"There's a lot of intolerance in those desert towns," he says. "A lot of bigots."

"There's a lot of that here," I reply. "That is true," he says, "That surely is true."

And that may be the end of this story. I'd like to think not, but I am not merely a good twenty-six but a seasoned twenty-six as well. I cannot — such is my moral complexion — seduce a man who doesn't wish to be seduced, and I don't let the passionate need for ice cream at 4 a.m. get the upper hand. Fortunately I live near a motel where the restaurant never closes. And on the other hand, I only go there for cigarettes.

Rita Mae Brown's New Book Presents All Facets of Woman-Self

IN HER DAY by Rita Mae Brown; Daughters, Inc. \$4.50.

A Review by Linda Lachman

If *Rubyfruit Jungle* by Rita Mae Brown was important because it showed the "straight" world what it was like growing up as a lesbian in America, then Rita Mae's latest novel, *In Her Day*, is important because it shows what it's like "growing up" in the woman's movement. So if you're the kind of reader who can't put a good book down, don't pick up *In Her Day* unless you have time and space to finish it.

Rubyfruit Jungle lovers beware, though, because *In Her Day* — not the light, punky, laugh-guaranteed-every-other-line book as Rita Mae's first novel. Certainly there are some hilarious scenes in Rita Mae's own inimitable style and sense of humor, but the new novel has improved that style into a thought-provoking, stimulating and serious form. It is still as entertaining and enticing to read, though, for first and foremost, Rita Mae Brown is nothing if not an exceptional storyteller with a keen ear for dialogue and a good eye for action. All this is simply and plainly told with no frilly or excessive narrative or descriptive passages. It is clean, swift, and moves directly where it's going.

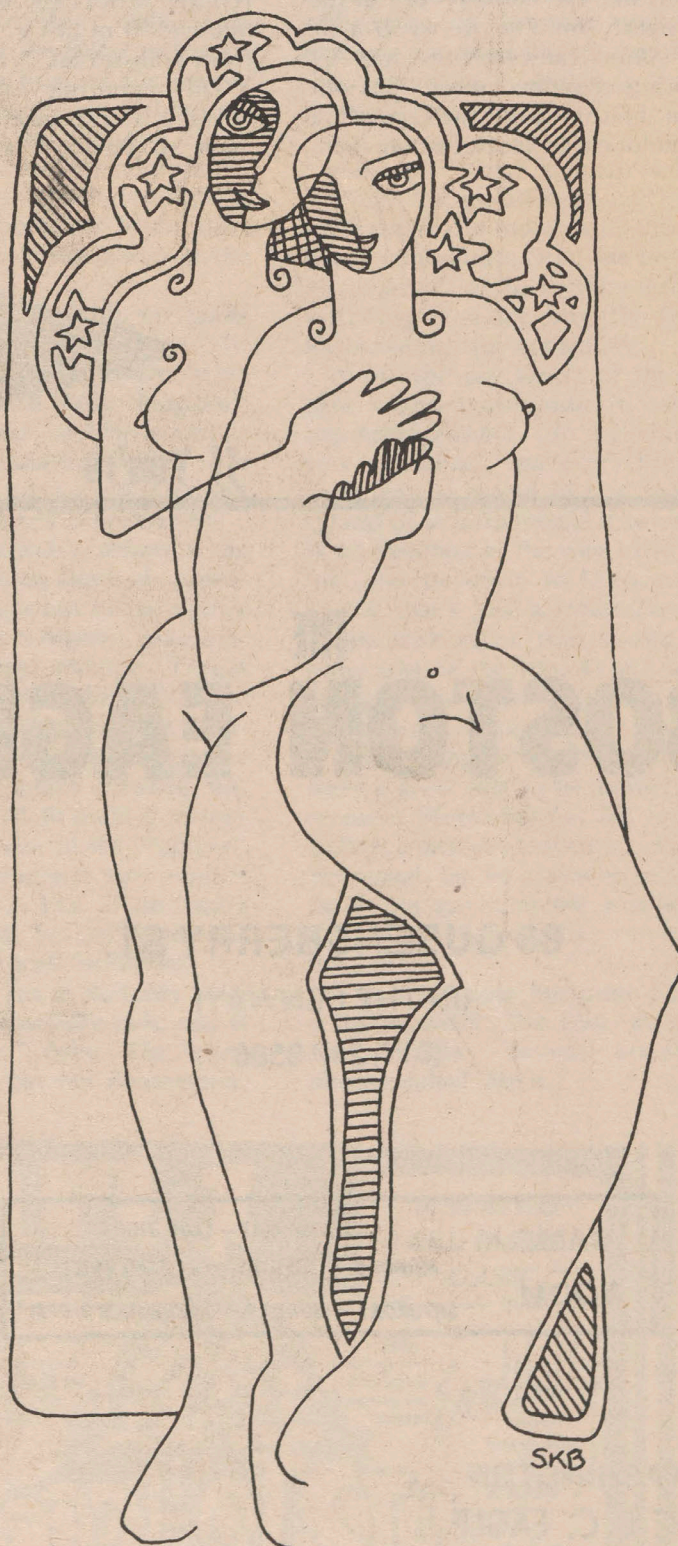
To me, *In Her Day* is far more important to read because the "lessons" of the story affect all women, despite the gay lifestyle of the characters centrally involved in the story. Perhaps, I picked up the book at a time when it was particularly relevant in my life. However, although I admit my bias, I really can't think of a time in the last several years of being

involved in, or observing, the women's movement, when it wouldn't have been relevant. The "lessons" are much needed, learned-from-experience ideas that are shared in the best way possible — a story we can all relate to but don't have to react personally, and, therefore, defensively to, as we might if we were lectured with dry ideas.

There are several particularly thought-provoking segments of the book which may stimulate new directions and actions from some readers. One of these ideas is that of dealing with the male system by using it the way it uses us. This brings up the question of women doing violence, allowing their rage and frustration to escape and be utilized in what I would call a "male" way against men. Also, the question of many-paths-to-the-same-goal is presented, the "action" versus "being" argument which abounds in the movement. All sides are presented.

After finishing the book, I was, initially, annoyed that some of the most provocative ideas were not really resolved in any clear cut way. However, it soon hit me that that's exactly what is called for right now. By not resolving the questions, Brown is, in effect, showing a resolution; that they don't have to be resolved. Brown is not trying to give answers, and that is as it should be. She is only trying to make us see all the possibilities and all the facets of our woman-selves and leaves us to do the resolving.

The book has only serious flaw, and that is the cover. It is truly hideous, difficult to read and may make your search for the book all the harder. But don't let it deter you, or you'll miss out on another Rita Mae Brown instant classic.



Rocky Horror

By Don Shewey

It's about time, space, a visitor, sex, power, and Fay Wray. It's called a transvestite rock musical, but right from the git-go it's more than that. Adapted from the 1974 stage show by Jim Sharman and Richard O'Brien, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* is a seamless parody of half a dozen genres starting with science fiction, flipping through Gothic thrillers and detective stories, all the way up to movie musicals. It's also the most outrageously homosexual non-po, no film I've ever seen.

The story opens with a darling young couple named Brad and Janet becoming engaged and setting out to get the blessing of the man who brought them together, Dr. Scott. On the way, they get stuck with a flat tire on a deserted road . . . at night . . . in the rain. In search of a phone, they approach the nearest house, an enormous, spooky-looking castle. Things start to go wrong as soon as they are greeted at the door by the hunchbacked handyman. "Brad," whispers Janet, "I don't think this is the Chamber of Commerce!" Indeed it's not — it's the conservatory of the mad scientist from outer space, Dr. Frank N. Furter, and before the harrowing night is over, Brad and Janet will have seen enough decadence, violence, and just plain weirdness to melt their little Barbie-and-Ken brains down to two lumps of pallid candle wax.

Sounds like the hokiest story in the book, right? But *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* transcends the corn by introducing countless conventions out of film history and then, with a minimum of cheap shots, turning them

upside down. For instance, the mad doctor, like another famous fictional character, brings to life a perfect monster (Rocky Horror) but for decidedly unscientific reasons: "I've been making a man, with blonde hair and a tan — he's good for relieving my . . . tension!" The thread of the plot gets lost now and then, usually because the songs get in the way, but always at the last minute everything falls into place. The portrayal of homosexuality is astonishingly positive, even romantic (in the master bedroom, Frank and Rocky have monogrammed pillows), although the doctor's pansexual hedonism ultimately leads to his downfall.

The undiluted star of the show is Tim Curry, whose performance as Frank N. Furter is worth the price of admission alone. He has possibly the most sensuous voice in the world, and, looking more androgynous than Mick Jagger and David Bowie combined, he goes through the frantic paces required of him with such style and control that he has the audiences in the palm of his hand from the moment he enters. Speaking of which, Curry makes the most dazzling entrance since Joan Crawford in *Rain*. First, you see his glitter high-heeled foot pumping to a subdued rock beat as he descends in a cage elevator. Then you see him in a full-length cape, hair flying, in ghoulish makeup. Finally, he flings off his wrap to reveal a black corset and fishnet stockings as he identifies himself: "I'm just a sweet transvestite from Transsexual, Transylvania!"

The supporting cast is abundantly talented, and special mentions must be made of Barry Bostwick and Susan

Sarandon as the David-and-Julie Eisenhower prototypes.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show is already becoming a cult item as a result of its midnight showings every weekend at the Back Bay Screening Room. It's not, as they say, for all tastes — well-made but sublimely tasteless. But if you're an old movie buff, a connoisseur of kitsch, or up for a brilliant acting performance, I don't see how you can afford to miss *Rocky Horror*.

Angel

By David Holland

Every filmmaker has his or her own trademark. Altman is characterized by his lush vividness, Warhol, his fluorescent reality, and Berkley, his preponderance of glamour.

Peter de Rome, a modern pornographic filmmaker, can best be recognized by his film's chiaroscuro flesh. In his latest release, *The Destroying Angel*, he clothes naked bodies in blackness. The few white spaces outline bodies emerging erotically from the screen.

De Rome's other trademark involves slipping in the signatures of other filmmakers. His earlier film, *Adam and Yves*, looked like some orgiastic Cocteau. In *Destroying Angel* a Felliniesque style predominates. A body, somewhat contorted, contorts more and reveals a grotesque and leering face. De Rome captures faces that take on a cynical, laughing *Satyricon* quality that is so common to Fellini's films.

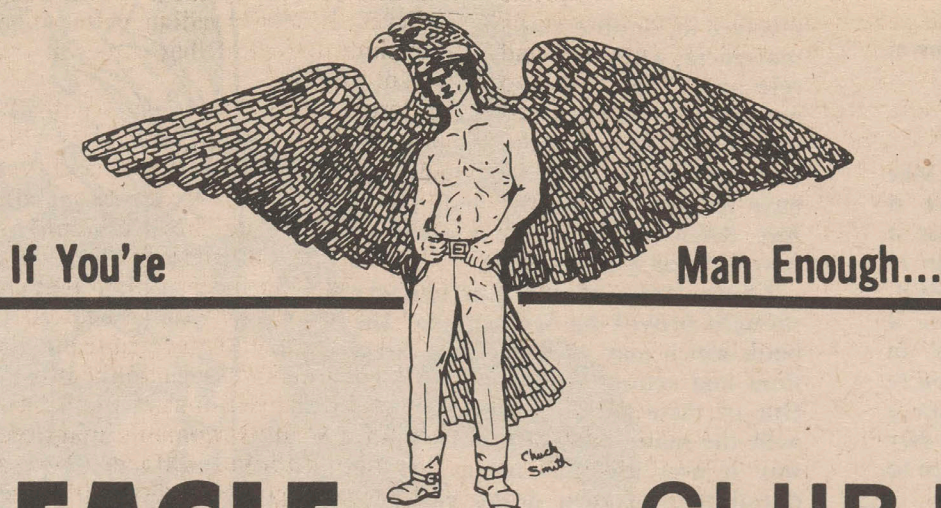
The plot of *The Destroying Angel* is simple. It's pornography: it must remain simple. Caswell Campbell, in taking a sabbatical from the imposed chastity of his religious calling, meets his alter-ego.

Horror.

A word about the Back Bay Screening Room: since it switched over from being the Garden Cinema, the Screening Room has quietly become a veritable museum of quality gay films. Congratulations are in order to the Back Bay Screening Room for continuing to book an exciting variety of films with gay themes, writers, and directors.

His alter-ego is both a spectral twin and hallucinogenic mushroom. One or the other, or both, take Caswell through a carnival of orgies with participants ranging from one to many. Throughout these experiences, his religious ideals, along with his clothes, are quickly stripped from him. His multiple orgasmic encounters, including one in which a well-muscled beachcomber reams Caswell with practically the entire stock of a supermarket's produce counter, become increasingly breathless. But Caswell needs the continuous indulgence of the elusive mushroom, which begins to have questionable side-effects, to bring him out. The film's conclusion is a necrophiliac's dream, but I won't diminish the viewer's surprise by exposing the shocking and pious details.

I can't say that this is a great film or even a critically good one. I would be immediately erased from the annals of "Who's Who" of film review. But in its genre, it's noteworthy. Peter de Rome extends himself beyond the pornographic profit margin and brings his audience a bit of class and a lot of esthetic flesh. The limited film run is at the Art I, Tremont St., Boston.



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The Ritz Is Good Fun By Tom Steele

The Ritz addresses itself to an extremely simple comic premise. It is a farce about Proclo, a fat, straight, fugitive from gangster family vengeance. Proclo (Jack Weston) is hiding out in the Ritz, a gay bathhouse, where 90-plus percent of the film occurs. Naturally, we are in for a comedy of errors and an almost endless array of characters: a "chubby chaser" who wants Proclo in the worst way; a fifth-rate entertainer, Googie Gomez (Rita Moreno), who is a cross between Maria Montez and Speedy Gonzalez; a gorgeous but Minnie-Mouse voiced detective hired to find Proclo; a dozen or so Hip Gay Men and an assortment of bewildered, betoweled gentlemen.

It will be quite interesting to see how *The Ritz* is received in Omaha. One can theorize all wants about how thoroughly the recent "treatments" of homosexuality have interpenetrated American homophobia: a big-time Warner Brothers farce is about to whirl through the Midwest like Dorothy's Rainbow Express, and whether or not it's riding on Norman Lear's coattails may not matter. Why, you can almost envision *The Advocate's* headlines:

APOPLECTIC WICHITA WOMAN
LUNGES THROUGH SCREEN OF
LYRIC THEATER
Blitzed at *The Ritz*

"No One's Going to Sit on My Face for Two Hours," sniffed Mrs. Jim Tinkle.

On the other hand, *The Ritz* may simply vanish somewhere beneath *The Bluebird* and *The Tenant* on *Variety Magazine's* "Too Weird for the Masses" list.

Or people, bored with travesties like *Shampoo*, may gobble gay farce as if were just a dirty T.V. show after all. And maybe they won't lose any sleep over the fact that their Central-Consciousness-Clevelanders Proclo spent nearly two hours in one of those places and came out alive and intact and even happy. After all, when such fond old television types as Jack Weston, Kaye Ballard, and Jerry Stiller populate a film, the effect must be reassuring to some. Too bad Walter Brennan and Ed Sullivan died.

But when critics like Richard Eder of the *New York Times* have the moral imbecility to write: "*The Ritz* shoves up too close — for most of us, I think — too much pale flesh organized around unshared intentions. There are simply too many male homosexual stomachs, arms and faces at too short a range." (*Sic*, July 8, 1976) then it becomes difficult to feel that the good citizens of Springfield, Illinois are going to take *The Ritz* sitting still.

Before proceeding with my reactions

to *The Ritz*, permit me to justify them with a few words from a George Bernard Shaw. (Shaw was best known for his admiration of the works of Oscar Wilde.) "A criticism written without personal feeling is not worth reading. It is the capacity for making good or bad art a personal matter that makes a critic." (1890)

Humor, particularly as go ssamer as it has become in the American cinema, requires of its audience varying degrees of refined or unrefined taste in order to elicit its intended state of hilarity. Some persons (honest to God) giggled through films like *Lovers & Other Strangers* over three times with tears of hysterical glee blurring their vision (to give them the benefit of the doubt). Others (apparently quite a few) prefer *Pink Flamingos* for an evening of drollery.

Richard Lester, whose fitfully inventive direction brought us everything from Beatles movies to *Petulia* to *Robin and Marian*, seems to me to be most skilled with what he is most criticized for: pace. The stops and starts in *The Ritz* function in terms of comic potential, and the timing while erratic by necessity, is good.

Some have whined somewhat nonsensically that Lester has ruined a wonderful play. I did not see that 1975 Adela Holzer Broadway production of *The Ritz*, but I have read Terrence McNally's play, and it runs remarkably

close to the film. In any case, I entertain the conviction that it is foolish to compare any two such different media as theater and film, especially if one takes either or both at all seriously.

The performances in the film range from adequate to splendid. Jerry Stiller and ballet have two things in common: both should be kept off-screen and on stage. Jack Weston has long been the masterful straight man — need I say more about the appropriateness and excellence of his Proclo? Kaye Ballard gets to scream and moan a lot, sometimes even in Italian. She does this well. But Rita Moreno seizes the film and quickly walks away with it from the moment she enters the outer lobby of the Ritz. In rendering an obviously totally familiar characterization, her timing and comic energy are truly marvelous. Rumor has it that this performance is Ms. Moreno's revenge on Hollywood's tendency to type-cast her in 1001 Puerto-Rican-Spittfire roles, and, indeed, her portrayal seems motivated by more than script and direction.

The Ritz is a film which explores the farcial possibilities of collisions between gays and straights. To enjoy it, you must not expect anything more — or less — than good farce. Expect no messages, no new archetypes, no incisive satire, no subtlety, and you will have a good time. At least.

At the Cheri

Sunday Woman: stoned flick

By Nancy Walker

Amble over to either the Back Bay Screening Room in Boston or the Orson Welles Cinema in Cambridge (whichever is nearer) and feast your eyes, ears and sense of fun on "The Sunday Woman", which started at those two theaters on Oct. 6 for an indefinite run.

The film, directed by Luigi Comencini from the novel by Fruttero and Lucentini, is an Italian romp through murder without mayhem (just a couple of smashed skulls, but otherwise nothing at all messy, so you won't need a perfumed hanky to keep your head clear) very much in the manner of the late-lamented Agatha Christie.

A thoroughly unlikeable "dirty old man," one Garrone (Claudio Gora), winds up stoned dead from a blow (no offense) or blows on the head, inflicted by a stone phallus. It develops that an art dealer, Volero (Gigi Gallista), and a professor, Bonetto (Franco Nebbia),

are possible suspects. Several members of the haut monde (that's "high society" in French; I don't know what it is in Italian), Anna Carla Dosio (Jacqueline Bisset) — married, bored and beautiful; and Massimo Campi (Jean-Louis Trintignant) — single, bored and gay, appear to be prime suspects because of a letter Anna Carla has foolishly written to Massimo and left lying around for her servants to find and bring to the police. It seems that Massimo and Carla play little, highly intellectual and frivolous games to ease their mutual boredom, so they study people who come into their atmosphere, and read them in regard to their dress, their poise, their manner of speech, etc. Garrone was one of the most odious examples held up to their ridicule. In the letter (which Carla never mailed), she suggested to Massimo that they "kill off" Garrone for real, instead of just in their "little theater."

Well, Inspector Santamaria (Marcello Mastroianni) has been carefully chose by the police to handle this delicate case because the people suspected are so important and powerful — money, money, money. He is charming, dressed in very appropriate sartorial elegance, and he eventually relieves Carla's boredom better than Massimo does. But that comes at the end of the film.

Before the end of the film, we finally get to the part that really matters — the gay interest. When Massimo goes to his friend, Lello Riviera (Aldo Reggiani), and tells him that he (Massimo) is suspected of murder, Lello, who adores Massimo, takes it upon himself to prove the innocence of his beloved.

There's a delightful sequence on night when the police chase the prostitutes and their tricks out of the bushes behind a wealthy woman's mansion. Virginia Tabusso (Maria Teresa Albani), a neighbor of Massimo's, had complained that she was tired of "harvesting condoms" every morning, and she wanted the place cleaned up. (Maybe she wanted to plant a victory garden???) The scene in the "factory" where the stone phalluses were made is another howler. The little one's weren't selling well, but the bigger ones were very popular with the tourists.

The film pokes fun at the tacky time-wasting of the dreadfully rich, and it sends-up "dumb" cops. The lesser officers bumble, but not Santamaria.

He does seem a little slow, though, while Lello, on the other hand, leaves no stone unturned (except the one that does him in) as he dashes to the solution of the mystery.

As usual with this kind of "whodunit," there are numerous red herrings, but it is all there, and you can solve the puzzle more easily than I did if you concentrate from the beginning on the details of the mystery instead of watching it more intently for the quality of its "gay content."

About the gay aspect of the film I have mixed impressions. It was a bit too heavy-handed, too melodramatic, too hysterical, too everything that some people would like to believe is typical of all homosexual relationships, in its handling of the way Lello shows his utter devotion to Massimo. But maybe that's just a reflection of the Latin exuberance that shows up in other areas of the film. At any rate, the straight characters' reactions to the homosexual relationship are not altogether homophobic, though they do leave a great deal to be desired. Carla respects Massimo for his intellect. Lello is a pleasure to look at. He is very emotional, but he is also heroic. So, as far as the gay content is concerned, the positive and negative values come out a draw.


This is not a gay liberation film. It is a sophisticated, fun film, acted with *elan*, briskly paced, attractively photographed. See it.



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PEOPLE, PLACES & FLINGS

By David Holland

Stevie Wonder is back in town, as you may have guessed, arriving on the fame of the disco-tune, "Another Star," from his new album **Songs in the Key of Life**. The double album package has some minor disappointments but it is mostly pure Wonder. Who will win the camp award by spinning "Isn't She Lovely" from the same Wonderiferous collection? . . . And speaking of loveliness, and a lot of hard work, our **Back Bay Supplement** will come out Oct. 25. Should I say, it will separate the wheat from the chaff. . . . Finding weekend excursions falling into a pit of sameness? Try this one: **Judith Crist** hosts a film weekend previewing "Sister Aimee," the up-coming television special. Among the guests at the Tarrytown House in Tarrytown, N.Y. will be **Faye Dunaway** and **Bette Davis**. Need I name anymore? The weekend includes everything from soup to nuts and with an entree like Ms. Davis, how can you fail? Call N.Y. (212) 933-1232. Need an escort? . . . One of our local boys makes it big in the recent issue of Boston Magazine for Jordan Marsh Co. Tell me, what way do you think . . . After an atrocious jaunt on the "Lucky Lady," **Liza Minnelli** returns to us on celluloid in **A Matter of Time**. Vincente directs his daughter in a story that makes her the most sought-after love symbol in Europe. What is this, dream fulfillment? . . . Who said dream fulfillment? For some it's spelled L&L in the shop of the same name soon to open at **80 Queensberry Street**. It's the "specialty shop," I alluded to last week when I learned of this new location for leather and . . . For a mane of a different color, **T. Mantia** of **Koala Bear** on Newbury

Street will personally supervise an Egyptian henna rinse. Go ahead, do something different for a change . . . The **Gay Men's Center** has packed into their already abounding activity calendar a **disco dance**. The doors will open at 9:00 on Oct. 16 to reveal waves of music and pulsating light and best of all, friendly faces. B.Y.O.B. B is for booze, B IS FOR BOY, B is for blast, B is for Burger King . . . Now walk over to your radio. That's right. Now turn the little knob. Right, until the light comes on. And move the needle to 88.9 to hear **WPXN** air their Oct. 24 serialization of the off-Broadway hit, "Boy Meets Boy." The month of October will highlight the third anniversary of "Sunshine Gaydream," Philadelphia's radio program aired Sundays from 2-3 . . . "Salt of the Earth," a film depicting a Chicano mine workers' strike and parallel women's freedom struggles, is the next production in the **Women and Work** series at the **Harvard Science Center Hall C** on Oct. 17 . . . You might also want to know about the **Nomadic Sisters** release of **Loving Women**. The book, illustrated by Victoria Hammond, now out a year, is becoming the underground bestseller of the year. This sensitive approach to women loving women is available for \$3.75 at Box 6696, San Francisco, CA 94101 . . . The New York Chapter of **DIGNITY** has reconstructed their newsletter, **Insight**, into a "real magazine format." IT will be published monthly and is available by writing Box 1554, FDR Station, New York, 10022 . . . In theater around town, the **Boston Repertory** finishes up the last two weeks of **Player Piano** to

clear the stage for **The Misanthrope** . . . **The Little Flags Theatre Collective** stages **Maxine Klein's Tania**. A musical revolutionary theater about Tamara Bunke, Che Guevara's comrade, beginning Oct. 21 at the BCA. Reservations: 354-6363 . . . Bernard Shaw's **Candida** comes to the **Harvard Loeb** Oct. 21 for eight performances. Times and reservations: 864-2630 . . . The **Next Move Theater** moves to 955 Boylston Street alongside and inside the ICA. Watch for their production of "Emma", based on the early 20th century anarchist activist, Emma Goldman . . . Oh, excuse me, I have to clean up my desk for the Oct. 16 **G.C.N. party**. Hey! Does anyone have a shovel? . . .

Show Time

The Clockmaker

Phillipe Noiret is father to a son who commits a mindless murder. Noiret, as Lyons the watch repairman, brings to the screen a long-awaited performance in Tavernier's film. *Orson Welles: 4, 6, 8, 10.*

Cousin, Cousine

The relationship of two distant cousins, meeting at a family outing, become increasingly involved with each other. A wholesome romp through sexuality. *Exeter St.: 2:20, 4:20, 6:10, 8, 9:50.*

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Face to Face

Bergman's latest in his life-long production of "search for the soul" films. Beginning Oct. 13, at Allston II: 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30.

King of Hearts

No, it's not still there, it's back to the scene of the crime. De Broca's *roi de films* finds Alan Bates in a village of madmen who delight at his arrival. A scorecard will not keep the characters apart. *Central I: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10.*

The Man Who Fell to Earth

Glitter-boy David Bowie in a cinematically flashy tale of an alien's search of the earth. *Academy I: 1:30, 3:40, 7, 9:10.*

Norman . . . Is That You?

Redd Foxx escapes his wife and flees to the solace of his son, who is, by this film's standards, a you-know-what! Once on Broadway, now at the *Sack Savoy: 2:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8, 10.*

Pink Flamingos

Jon Waters perennial Divine inspiration of filthy camp with the "bitchiest woman alive!" *Midnight only at Orson Welles.*

Solaris

Perhaps the best thing about this 2001-ish film about coping through regeneration on the planet Solaris, is Natalya Bondarchuk's portrayal of a woman in an all male regime. *Galleria: 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30.*

Sunday Woman

New England Premiere of an Agatha Christie-style who-killed-who-with-a-stone-phallus? Starring Jacqueline Bisset, Marcello Mastroianni, and Jean-Louis Trintignant. See review this issue. *Orson Welles: 4:10, 6:05, 8:20, 10:10 and Back Bay Screening Room: 4, 6, 8, 10 Sat./Sun. matinee 2.*

The Sorrow and the Pity

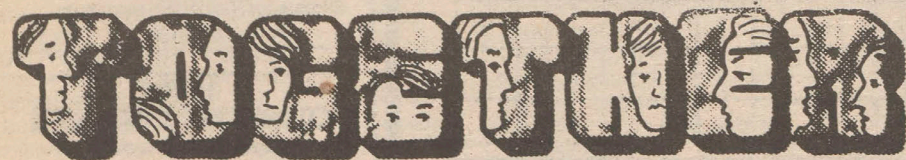
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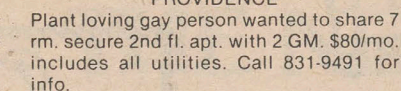
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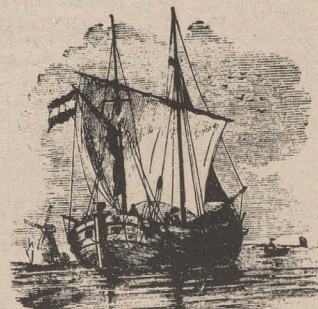
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emergency only) or 267-0764
Gay Community News 426-4469
Gay Hotline (3-12 pm, Mon.-Fri.) 426-9371
Gay Legislation '76, P.O. Box 8841
J.F.K. Station, Boston 02114 661-9362
Rep. Noble's Aides 727-2584
Gay Media Action, c/o GCN, Box
5000, 22 Bromfield St., Boston
02108 354-2079
Gay Men's Center, 36 Bromfield St.
Gay Nurses Alliance, 338-7967
c/o GCN Box 251, Boston 02108
Gay People of UMass/Boston 287-1900
(ext. 2396)
Gay Recreational Activities Commit-
tee (GRAC), c/o GCN Box 8000
Gay Way Radio (WBUR, 90.9 FM) 353-2790
Gay Youth Advocates, 70 Charles St.
Gender Identity Service 227-8587
Good Gay Poets 864-8181
Homophile Community Health Svc. 536-9826
Integrity/Boston, P.O. Box 2582, 02208 542-5188
Lesbian Therapy Research Project 354-8807
Lesbian Liberation, c/o
Women's Center 354-8807

Lesbian Mothers. 354-8807
Massachusetts Feminist Federal Credit
Union, 186 1/2 Hampshire St.,
Cambridge 661-0450
Metropolitan Community Church 523-7664
MIT Student Homophile League 253-5440
National Lawyers Guild, 595 Mass. Ave. 661-8898
National Organization for Women 267-6160
Northeastern Gay Student Org., c/o
Student Activities Office, 255 Ell Ctr. 253-5440
Older Gays 482-8998
Other Fund, Inc. (Gay United Fund),
P.O. Box 1997, Boston 02105
Project Lambda 227-8587
Project Place 267-9150
Sexual Health Centers of N.E., Inc.
739 Boylston St., Boston 02116 266-3444
Fr. Paul Shanley (Exodus Center) 333-0146
Transvestites/Transgenderists:
Frances Craig, P.O. Box 291, MIT
Branch, Cambridge 02139
Transvestites/Transgenderists:
Ariadne Kane, Box 161, Cambridge 02140
Tufts Gay Community, c/o Student
Activities Office, Medford 02155 776-0921
Unitarian Universalist Office of Gay
Concerns, 25 Beacon St., Boston
02108 742-2100
Women's Community Health in Cam-
bridge 547-2302
WESTERN MASS. (Area Code 413)
Amherst Gay Hotline (Men & Women) 545-0154
Dignity/Springfield, P.O. Box 488,
Forest Park St., Springfield 01108
Everywomen's Center, Amherst 545-0883
Gaybreak Radio (WMUA-FM, 91.9) 545-2876
Gay Women's Caucus, Amherst 545-3438
People's Gay Alliance, UMass/Amherst 545-0154
Southwest Women's Center 545-0626
Springfield Gay Alliance 583-3904
Valley Women's Center, Northampton 586-2011
EASTERN MASS (Area Code 617)
Alcoholics Together/Worcester 756-0730
Another Way Drop-In Center, 2 Well-
ington St., Worcester 01610 756-0730
Clark Gay Center, Box A-70, Clark U.,
Worcester, 01610 793-7287
Dignity/Merrimack Valley, P.O. Box
348, Lowell 01853
Everywoman's Center, Box 949, 14
Center St., Provincetown 02657 487-3075
or 487-3344
Gay Activists Alliance, c/o Postmaster,
General Delivery, Provincetown 487-3393
or 487-3234
or 487-3344

Gay Community Services, Box 815,
Provincetown 02657
Gaypeople/Drop-In Center, Campus
Center, 100 Elliot St., Haverhill 01830 374-0929
Haverhill, N.E.C.C. Gay Line, M. 8-10
am, T. 6-8 pm, W. 12-2 pm
Homophile Assistance League of Prov-
incetown, Box 674, P-town 02657,
158 Commercial St. 487-9633
Homophile Union of Montachusett,
P.O. Box 262, Fitchburg, 01420
MCC/Merrimack Valley, Box 750,
Haverhill, MA 01830 523-7664
MCC/Worcester 756-0730
New Bedford Women's Clinic 999-1070
Provincetown 24-Hour Drop-In Center 487-0387
Survival Crisis Line 471-7100
CONNECTICUT (Area Code 203)
"Come Out Tonight," Box WYBC/Yale
Station, New Haven 06520
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
Gay Switchboard 522-5575
Hartford Gay Counseling 522-5575, 523-9837
Institute of Social Ethics/National Gay
Archives, 1 Gold St., Suite 22B,
Hartford 06103 547-1281
Kalos/Gay Liberation, Hartford 568-2656
MCC/Hartford 232-5110, 522-5575
The Church of the Eternal Flame
Universal 527-2656
Wesleyan Gay Alliance, Box 233,
Wesleyan Station, Middletown, 06457
RHODE ISLAND (Area Code 401)
Alcoholics Together, 290 Westminster
St., Rm. 510, Providence 889-7530
Dignity/Providence, Box 2231, Paw-
tucket 02861 527-2656
Gay Help Line 831-9491
Gay Women at Brown U., Providence 863-2189
Gay Women of Providence 831-5184
Integrity, Box 71, Annex Sta., Provi-
dence 02801
MCC/Providence, 63 Chapin Ave.
MCC Innovative Ministry (terminally ill,
aged and handicapped), Rev. Michael
Nordstrum 941-8653
Providence Gay Group of AA 231-5853
MAINE (Area Code 207)
CMGA, Box 2242, Augusta 04330
Gay People's Alliance, 92 Bedford St.,
University of Maine, Portland 04103 773-2981
(ext. 535)
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
The Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union,
University of Maine, Orono 04473
NEW HAMPSHIRE (Area Code 603)
Seacoast Area Gay Alliance 436-7196
Box 1424, Portsmouth, 03801 or 742-2947
or 431-4350
Women's Group, P.O. Box 137, Northwood
03261 (Do not use "gay" on 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
UVM Gay Student Union, Univ. of
Vermont, Burlington, 05401
M,W 7-9pm 656-4173
Gay People at Middlebury, Middlebury
College 862-7770, 863-3237
Vermont Gay Women (Area Code 212)
Dignity, P.O. Box 1554, NYC 10022
Gay Activists Alliance, P.O. Box 2,
Village Sta., 10014 677-6090
Gay Media Coalition, c/o The Women's
Center, 243 W. 20th St., NYC 10011 924-9434
Gay Men's Health Project, 74 Grove St.,
rm 2RW, NYC 10014 691-6969
Gay People at Columbia, Columbia U.,
NYC 10027 280-2574
Gay Switchboard 924-4036
Gay Teachers Assoc., 204 Lincoln Pl.,
Brooklyn, 11217 789-8176, 636-9827
Gay & Women's Alliance for Responsi-
ble Media, 370 Lexington Ave.,
Suite 416, NYC
The Glines, 260 W. Broadway 925-2619
Lambda Legal Defense, P.O. Box 5448,
Grand Central Station, NYC 10017 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.,
NYC 10014 691-1066
MCC/New York, 201 W. 13th St. (corner
of 7th Ave.) Sunday worship 7 pm 691-7428
National Coalition of Gay Activists,
P.O. Box A-711, Grand Central Sta.,
NYC 10017
National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Ave.,
Rm. 506, NYC 741-1010
Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop,
15 Christopher St. 255-8097
West Side Discussion Group,
37 Ninth Ave., NYC 675-0143
NEW YORK (STATE)
Capital District Gay Comm. Council,
P.O. Box 131, 332 Hudson Ave.,
Albany 12210 (518) 462-6138
Dignity/Rochester, P.O. Box 8295,
Rochester
Gay Alliance of The Genesee Valley, Inc.
713 Monroe Ave., Rochester (716) 244-8640
14607 or 244-9030
Gay Brotherhood of Rochester, 713
Monroe Ave., Rochester 14607 (716) 244-8640
Gay Community Service Ctr.,
1350 Main St., Buffalo 14209
Gay Liberation Front/U. of R., Todd
Hall, River Campus, U. of R., Roches-
ter, 14627 (716) 275-6181
Gayphone (Mon-Sat 7-11) 423-3599
Gay Students Assoc., 103 College Pl.,
Syracuse 423-2081
Lesbian Resource Center (formerly
GROW), 713 Monroe Ave.,
Rochester 14607 (716) 244-9030
Stonewall Society, Poughkeepsie (914) 471-8885