

calendar

10 mon

Boston — WBCN repeats its "Community Report" on the Gay Men's Center, the Gay Health Collective, and GCN at 1:30 am, Tuesday morning, 104.1 FM.

11 tues

Boston — Gay Men's Center Forum with Charles Norcross of Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30pm, 36 Bromfield St.

NYC — West Side Discussion Group meeting, "Financial Planning for Gays," 37 Ninth Ave., 8pm.

Boston — DOB singles rap for women, 7:30 pm, 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323.

12 wed

NYC — West Side Discussion Group for women only, "Therapy — Part II," 37 Ninth Ave., 8pm.

Boston — Channel 2 TV News will film a special 5-6 minute segment on MCC's struggle with the Mass. Council of Churches, 7:30 pm, Old West Church.

Boston — Gay Men's Center new rap group, 7:30 pm, 36 Bromfield St.

Boston — GRAC is back in action at the Lindemann Ctr., Hurley Bldg., with women's basketball from 8-9 pm, corner Cambridge and Staniford Sts.

13 thurs

Boston — GRAC will be having sporting events at the Lindemann Ctr. again starting this week, today swimming from 7-8 pm, corner Cambridge and Staniford Sts.



14 fri

Boston — Gay Men's Center feature film *Rebel Without A Cause*, 8 pm, 36 Bromfield St.

Boston — GRAC has regained the Lindemann Ctr., Hurley Bldg., for recreational activities, today men's basketball from 8-9 pm, corner Cambridge and Staniford Sts.

15 sat

Boston — Gay Men's Center Scrabble Tournament, 9 pm, 36 Bromfield St.

16 sun

Cambridge, MA — Gay Academic Union monthly meeting, discussion of problems of and achievements of gay student groups, 2-4, Shepard Room, Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Univ.

Boston — GRAC will again have swimming for women at the Lindemann Ctr., Hurley Bldg., 12-1, Staniford St.

Boston — GRAC swimming instruction for women and men, 1-2, Lindemann Ctr., Hurley Bldg., Staniford St.

Boston — GRAC swimming for men, 2-3, Lindemann Ctr., Hurley Bldg., Staniford St.

Boston — GRAC basketball for women, 7-8, Lindemann Ctr., Hurley Bldg., Staniford St.

Boston — GRAC basketball for men, 8-9 pm, Lindemann Ctr., Hurley Bldg., Staniford St.

18 tues

Boston — Gay Men's Center Forum with Joe Martin of the Cambridge Gay Political Caucus, 7:30, 36 Bromfield St.

NYC — West Side Discussion group, 37 Ninth Ave., 8:30 pm, "Alternatives to Gay Romantic Love."

Boston — Daughters of Bilitis get acquainted rap, 7:30, 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323.

19 wed

NYC — West Side Discussion Group for women only, 37 Ninth Ave., 8:30 pm, "Dependency in a Relationship."

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gay community news

Vol. 4, No. 29

January 15, 1977

The Gay Weekly

35¢



photo by Angela Russo

Men in Couples p.8

Briel — An Original Voice p.12

Hustler Purge p.1

gay community news

Vol. 4, No. 29

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January 15, 1977

'Suspicious' Fire Destroys Yale Gay Student Office

NEW HAVEN, CT — A fire at Yale University's Hendrie Hall destroyed the offices of GAY (Gay Alliance at Yale and Yalesbians) on Sunday evening, Jan. 2. No one was in the office at the time, but furniture, books, and the organization's counseling service records were totally lost. GAY spokespeople believe that the origins of the blaze may have been "suspicious" and also fear that Yale officials will use the fire as a pretext to force the organization off-campus.

Yale University Fire Marshall Edward Sterniak told GCN that "it appears to be true that the fire began in the Alpha Psi Omega room and not in the GAY office." The fraternity headquarters, located next to the basement

storage room that housed GAY, was the only other space in the building that was totally destroyed. Fire Marshall Sterniak indicated that he believed that the fire began in the fraternity office because it was "the most blackened" in the blaze. However, Sterniak refused to make a final evaluation of the source of the fire until students return to school from their winter vacation this week. Other offices in the building which were undamaged include the Yale University radio station, YWBC, the *Yale Banner*, Whitehall Press, and several music organizations.

GAY spokespeople are concerned about the fire's origins because the office had been broken into three days

before the blaze and because there had been a previous fire there. "The office was unlocked when the fire happened because of the break-in, and the Buildings and Grounds Department was on vacation," said GAY spokesperson Dai Thompson. "The Connecticut Gay Task Force had met there the day of the fire and the initials CGTF were found scrawled in the snow outside. These may not add up to anything but they are disturbing."

Off-Campus Move?

Yale gays are fearful that the university will now decide to move the organization off campus, as a result of the fire. "They did that to the Women's Center last year," said Dai

Thompson. "If they do that to us, it will have very serious consequences. If that happened, we would be undefined as a Yale activity. Right now we can use university space for programs, we get university money for special events. We've already had two offices this year. At this point we're tense."

GAY members are negotiating with the *Yale Banner* in an attempt to share office space with that organization. The *Banner* also has office space in Hendrie Hall.

Associate Dean Marnesba (Bobbie) Hill could not be reached for comment on the subject. However, a secretary in the dean's office indicated that, to her knowledge, the issue of alternative space for GAY had yet to be discussed.

Gays, Feminists Fight IRS Anti-Gay Tax Ruling

DENVER, CO — The Denver feminist newspaper *Big Mama Rag* has been denied "tax deductibility" status by the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) because the monthly publication "advocates the equality of homosexual lifestyles to heterosexual lifestyles." Although the IRS has no written policy barring qualification for tax deductibility on the basis of views on homosexuality, the agency recently took similar action against the Lambda Services Bureau, a Colorado Springs referral and counseling service. The Lambda denial was made on the same grounds and the organization's appeal with the IRS is currently pending.

Big Mama Rag and Lambda Services

had both applied for tax privileges under the Internal Revenue statute 501 C3. That statute permits tax-deductible contributions to be made to certain recognized non-profit organizations. Such tax-deductibility status is extremely helpful to organizations which depend on donations, because the federal government credits a portion of each contribution to the individual according to tax bracket.

Section 501 C 3 differs from section 501 C 4 of the tax law, as the second simply exempts non-profit organizations from paying corporate income taxes. Tax exemption under 501 C 4 is generally easy to get but only two gay organizations — the Lambda Legal

Defense Fund in New York and the Whitman-Radcliffe Foundation in San Francisco — have been accepted for tax deductibility status. The National Gay Task Force's Fund for Human Dignity has also applied for such recognition.

"The government is generally much more sticky when it comes to tax-deductible contributions than they are on the issue of recognition of non-profit status," Bob Herrick of the National Gay Task Force told GCN. "They tend to be feisty with both gay and 'straight' organizations on the matter of tax deductibility."

Big Mama Contests

Big Mama Rag asserts that the newspaper was rejected repeatedly at all levels of the Internal Revenue Service over the last four years in attempts to qualify for tax-deductibility. Its latest appeal was rejected in September of 1976. The newspaper's lawyer, Nan Hunter, was informed by the IRS that the denial of this status was due to the newspaper's alleged lobbying activities and its advocacy of the equivalence of gay and "straight" lifestyles. In another appeal, the newspaper is contesting both these points.

In the new brief, lawyer Hunter told the IRS that *Big Mama Rag* does not put a substantial amount of energy into lobbying. She claims that the newspaper's lobbying activity is less than the 5% allowed under IRS regulations.

She also asserts in the brief that the newspaper as a feminist newspaper simply reports relevant news in the feminist community and is not necessarily advocating any position.

If the IRS rejects the further appeal, the newspaper plans to go to court.

Lambda's Case

Lambda Services Bureau was also informed by the IRS that the sole reason for the revocation of its previously-held "tax-deductible" status was due to the organization's position on gay lifestyles. The group had been granted tax exempt status on August, 1975. However, in December of that year the organization was asked to sign an agreement stating that "they did not see a homosexual lifestyle as on a par with a heterosexual lifestyle." Lambda Services refused and its tax status was changed.

Winds of Change?

Despite the situations of *Big Mama Rag* and Lambda Services, the IRS position on gay organizations is not believed to be inflexible. Sources at the National Gay Task Force are hopeful that under the new tax law and through the incoming Carter Administration, there may be a reversal of policy. However these sources emphasized that, due to the abuses of the Nixon period, the IRS has a good deal of autonomy at this point and that possibility of action by Carter should be viewed cautiously.

Hustler Busting: 2 Days, 13 Arrests

BOSTON — Seven alleged male prostitutes went on trial last week before Judge Francis X. Morrissey in Boston Municipal Court, all charged with "soliciting an unlawful sex act." The seven, who were all arrested on "The Block" between Dec. 2 and 3, had their cases continued without a

arrests is for the officer to sit in his car (one of the cars is reportedly a white Corvette) with the hustler, parked behind another unmarked vehicle with two plainclothes officers in it. When the arrest is about to happen, the officer with the hustler flicks his inside lights on and off once and the two other officers join in making the arrest. The technique to avoid getting arrested, according to legal sources, is not to mention a sexual act, or even acknowledge the other man's suggestion. The officer cannot legally make a "physical pass" at a hustler.



finding for one year. All the arrests were made by Detective John Mulligan, who is assigned to District 4 of the Boston Police Department.

Six other men, ranging in age from 17 to 27, were also arrested that evening by Det. Mulligan, some of them on "The Block," between Arlington and Berkeley Streets, some of them in front of the Park Square Building near the Greyhound bus terminal. Their cases have been continued to later this month.

This resurgence in police activity was described by a police source as a response to complaints of residents on Commonwealth Avenue and Marlborough Street.

GCN has learned that the standard operating procedure for making these

Licensing Board OK's Nude Dancing in Combat Zone

By David Brill

BOSTON — The Boston Licensing Board recently voted to permit nude dancing in Boston's Combat Zone bars on a six-month trial basis. The new regulation will go into effect on Jan. 15 and its success will be evaluated at the end of the six-month period. At a public hearing at City Hall, the Board heard numerous persons address themselves in opposition to Regulation 8a, which would exempt the two-block area of Boston officially called the "Adult Entertainment District" from the prohibition now in effect against nude entertainers.

Rep. Barney Frank sent a letter to the Board endorsing the "containment" proposal for nude dancing, according to Licensing Board member Jon Straight. The only other person in support of the idea was Morris Goldings, a well-known Boston attorney who often represents Combat Zone

bars, bookstores, and theaters. Goldings said that to end the outright prohibition against nude dancing would be "to guarantee personal liberty and recognize the inevitable market for such activity. Authorities can't change the Constitution or the nature of the human animal."

Asst. District Attorney Timothy O'Neill spearheaded opposition to the proposal, calling it a "quasi-blessing on illegal activities in the area." O'Neill, who represented District Attorney Garrett Byrne, was joined by City Councillors Louise Day Hicks, Christopher Ianella, Joseph Tierney, and Albert ("Dapper") O'Neil, as well as Suffolk County Sheriff Thomas Eisenstadt, in opposing the measure.

Supt. John Doyle, who represented Police Commissioner Joseph M. Jordan, neither endorsed nor opposed the nude dancing regulation, an

indication to most observers of some dissension at the police command relative to the proposal. However, the fact that Doyle did not oppose the measure outright was seen as very significant, as he has been the traditional spokesperson for the police force in areas of "morality legislation."

One of the other new regulations adopted requires all licensed premises to maintain a list of their current employees, a rule which Doyle endorsed but suggested be amended to include the employees' salaries as well. According to Commissioner Straight, such lists would be for the Board's use alone, and would not be for public inspection.

The nude dancing regulation will go into effect on Jan. 15, according to Straight, and will undergo a six-month

(Continued on page 3)

news notes

NO PROTECTION, SAYS COURT

SACRAMENTO, CA — The California Court of Appeals ruled that until the legislature approves such legislation, gay people have no legal protection from job discrimination. "There is simply no constitutional right (for homosexuals) to work for an unwilling employer," said the court last Tuesday.

"The legislature has not determined that employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is contrary to the public policy of the state of California," said the Court of Appeals. "We see no reason to establish such a rule by judicial decision."

The Court of Appeals decision upheld a San Francisco Superior Court decision in the case of four men who claimed they were discriminated against by Pacific Telephone Company.

KOPAY'S BOOK COMING OUT

NEW YORK — Gay football player Dave Kopay's father, in a moment of anger, threatened to kill him if he ever showed his face at home again, Kopay writes in his autobiography, *The David Kopay Story*. The book, co-authored with gay writer Perry Deane Young, will be published by Arbor House late next month. Young is the author of *Two of the Missing*, a reminiscence of Young's friendship during the Vietnam war with two photographers who were captured by the Khmer Rouge and never released.

According to an article in *Christopher Street*, paperback rights to the Kopay book have already been sold and the authors have just sold the rights to produce it as a TV movie. Kopay will make a publicity tour for the book next spring.



Adrienne Rich

ADRIENNE RICH ON REVIEWS

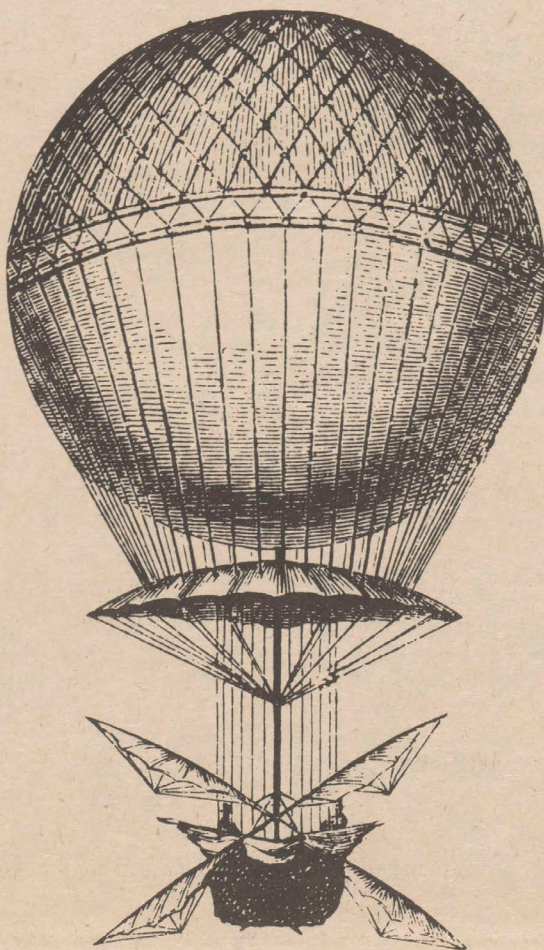
NEW YORK — National Book Award-winning poet Adrienne Rich asserts that "homophobia" played a large part in some of the negative reviews which her pioneering study of motherhood, *Of Woman Born*, has received. "Yes, I was quite surprised, but I think I was naive to be surprised, by the degree of homophobia in those and other reviews," said Rich in an interview with Blanche Boyd in the latest *Christopher Street*. Although *Of Woman Born* has been well-received in the feminist press, the book was criticized in both the *New York Times* and *The New York Review of Books*, and Rich was called "man-hating."

In the interview, Rich emphasizes that "I wrote it [Of Woman Born] as a lesbian, and as a lesbian mother. I don't have a special chapter on lesbian mothers. I simply allude throughout the book to the fact that there are lesbians who are mothers, mothers who are lesbians. And here I think it's a question of having broken a taboo, a polarization of women: mothers vs. dykes. Lesbian mothers breaks a mindset which is crucial to patriarchal thinking."

"If you want to pressure all women to act in the 'nurturing role' toward men then you have to isolate the woman who chooses not to do that," said Rich. "You have to say she's deviant, unfit, abnormal, put her outside the law. She's dangerous. And this of course puts extreme pressure on women to say, 'Oh, no, I'm not deviant, I'm not dangerous, I'm not abnormal, I'll have children . . . or at least focus my energies on men.'"

LATIN BEAT

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala — GCN has received word from one of our far-flung correspondents that the first gay 'Disco-Bar' has opened in this Central American capital city. Offering the latest dancing music, entertainment, and films, "Pandora's Box" is open from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Anyone interested should write Pandora's Box, Ruta 3, 3-08 Zona 4, Guatemala City.



SNUFF CASE DISMISSED

MONTICELLO, N.Y. — A Monticello judge has dismissed obscenity charges against a theatre operator for showing the film *Snuff* here. The film depicts the murder and dismemberment of a woman, and advertising for the film has implied that a woman was killed in the production. Action against the film was brought by a local feminist, Jane Verlaine.

Judge Burton Ledina brought an abrupt halt to the trial when he quashed a subpoena which Verlaine had issued for a print of the movie. The question of obscenity was therefore never addressed since no evidence could be presented.

Verlaine will appeal the case.

Verlaine had decided to prosecute the film herself after the Sullivan County District Attorney's office declined to take action. Women Against Violence Against Women had already picketed the theatre, collected more than a thousand signatures asking that the film not be shown, and raised funds for the case.

Verlaine's lawyer, Andrea Moran of nearby Kingston, criticized the judge in court and suggested, "had the victim in *Snuff* been an animal, the SPCA would have protested; had the victim been a Jew, the B'nai Brith would have protested. But the victim is a woman, and we are not being allowed to protest."

3 NABBED IN SF MURDERS

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — San Francisco police have arrested three men and charged them in 35 gay murders in San Francisco over the last 3½ years. The three men — all in their twenties — are being held without bail and charged on a number of counts including murder, robbery, and burglary.

Lieutenant Dan Murphy, head of the San Francisco homicide detail, told the *Sentinel*, "I hope this will convince the gay community that we are actively working on all the gay-related murders and this nonsense that we don't care about gay people being murdered is totally untrue. Totally untrue."

SOLICITING LAW

DETROIT — A Detroit ordinance against "soliciting for a lewd and immoral act" has been ruled unconstitutionally vague in Wayne County Circuit Court. In overturning the law, Judge John H. Hauser ordered the Detroit Police Department to immediately cease enforcement of the soliciting statute.

Alvin C. Sallen, lawyer for the defendant, said that he is proceeding with a civil damage suit against the arresting officer and the police department on behalf of his client. The statute in question is similar to ones in other states that form a basis for many complaints of police entrapment against gay men.

ANOTHER TENNIS TRANSSEXUAL

MIAMI, FL — Michelle Nordberg, a 28-year-old transsexual, has announced her intention to try out for the women's tennis team at the University of Utah this week, reports the *New York Times*. Nordberg's decision comes several months after Renee Richards created a major stir in sports circles by competing in a women's tennis tournament shortly after a sex change. "When Renee came forward, that made her a heroine in my eyes," said Nordberg. "It gave me the courage of my convictions and made me realize that I could do it!"

Nordberg, who began playing tennis at the age of 12, believes that she can win a spot on the conservative university's tennis team. "Renee's a world-class player; I'm not," she asserted. "But I will be in a few years."

Fern Gardner, director of women's athletics at the University of Utah, is taking a "wait and see" attitude on the matter. "I think she was waiting for us to say no," Gardner told the *Times*. "But the tennis coach told her she could try out any time, and he invited her. So we'll just have to wait and see if she comes out for the new season."

DANGERS OF 'LIB'

NEW YORK — Dr. Ivor Mills, professor of medicine at Cambridge University, warns women's liberationists of physiological consequences. In a recent *National Inquirer* article headlined "Aggressive Women's Libbers Risk Both Infertility and Early Menopause," Dr. Mills asserts that "the women go through a personality change and become very aggressive like the male, with an increase in testosterone (the male hormone) and a decrease in estrogen . . . This imbalance attacks the ovaries, stopping the production of female eggs . . . thus making the women unable to have children."

"The higher up the ladder of Women's Lib that they have reached," the doctor says, "then their potential for reproduction is reduced . . . very, very many of these women's libbers grow an excess of hair, both on their chest and on their face, and it is not unusual for them to have to shave every day. If they did not get rid of the excess hair, they would have beards."

GAY MEN'S CENTER

BOSTON — A variety of events is being planned by the GMC during the next week. In addition to the Jan. 22 benefit at Chaps bar, the Center is planning a Jan. 14 showing of *Rebel Without A Cause* as well as a competitive Scrabble tournament. The tournament will be held on Jan. 15 at 9 p.m. The following day there will be a poetry workshop at 9 p.m. and on Tuesday, Jan. 18, Joe Martin of the Cambridge Gay Political Caucus will address the subject of "Gay Rights and Legislation."

MASCULINITY SLIDE SHOW

PORTLAND, Ore. — A slide show called "Masculinity: Fact or Act" is being offered for rental and sale by the Men's Resource Center in Portland. The slide show, which consists of 78 black and white slides and both a written script and a cassette tape recording of the script, last 20 minutes. It is designed as a discussion starter and depicts how traditional male roles affect men, women, and children.

Rentals at \$5 and sales at \$30 can be obtained by writing the Men's Resource Center, 3534 S.E. Main, Portland, Ore. 97214. The telephone number is (503) 235-3433.

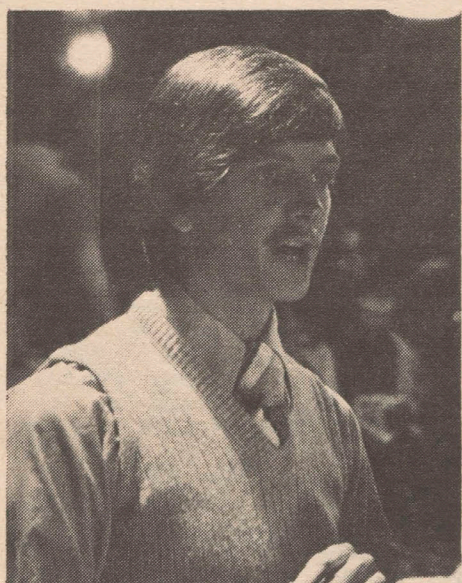
Ensign Berg Discusses Military Personnel's Plight

By Robert Chesley

NEW YORK — Ensign Vernon Berg III, recently ousted from the United States Navy for homosexuality, addressed the West Side Discussion Group here on Tuesday evening, Dec. 28. Speaking along with Berg was his lover, Lawrence Gibson, who was fired as an English teacher by the Navy because of his involvement with Berg. Both Berg and Gibson addressed themselves to the case itself and the situation of gay people within the armed services.

Berg was given a dishonorable discharge from the Navy for his homosexuality on June 3, 1976, by an Administrative Board consisting of five Naval officers, who decided that Berg "was not fit to be in the Navy." Because of this discharge, he has lost all rights to federal aid — unemployment insurance as well as veteran's benefits. According to Berg, this situation is due to a 1963 United States regulation which denies federal aid to those discharged from the armed services for conviction of felony, treason, espionage, refusal to fight by aliens or conscientious objectors, and homosexuality. Berg notes that his honesty about his homosexuality has classed him with convicted felons, although he has not stood trial for any crime. He asserts that he could not have been discharged from the Navy had he not been truthful about his homosexuality. Berg was adamant that the 1963 code which has denied him his rights must be changed.

Both Berg and Gibson have been reduced to working odd jobs for money to live on. Gibson's fifteen-year teaching career was cut short when he was fired from his Civil Service job as an English teacher aboard the S.S. Little Rock in July of 1975, when he was interrogated by the Navy about his relationship with Berg. The two have no funds for publicizing their case, not even enough to cover travel expenses for speaking engagements, although they are eager to make appearances. Both feel that the case has been poorly reported in the gay press. Berg states that the *New York Times* has given the case more coverage than *The Advocate*, and that the coverage in *Time* has been better than in any gay publications. Berg and Gibson have



Ensign Vernon Berg

appeared on the local media — the television talk shows — but at present there is a lack of interest in their case, as the media is waiting for further results in their case.

Anti-Military Issue

What Berg perceives as a lack of support from the gay community is complicated by the unwillingness of many to support gays in the armed forces. The issue caused dissension at the panel on Gays in the Military in which Berg participated along with ex-Air Force Sgt. Leonard Matlovich at the Gay Academic Union Conference in 1975. Berg feels that the anti-war movement has nothing to do with the predicament of the estimated 200,000-plus lesbians and gay men in the military, and he briefly sketched in the situation of these people. As most of the enlisted women and men in the US Military are between the ages of 16 and 20, many of them have entered the armed forces with no clear idea of their sexual identity, Berg said. In this manner, they are confronted for the first time with homosexual feelings or experiences when they are already in the armed forces. Confused and scared, the serviceperson turns to the military chaplains, doctors or psychiatrists; but because homosexuality is considered a threat to the established order of the armed forces, the only result of the gay person's search for help is that he or she is reported. Berg and Gibson feel that this situation must

be considered a problem for Gay Liberation to deal with, regardless of whether one agrees with anyone's involvement in the military.

Berg and Gibson attribute the Navy's action against Berg mainly to fear of a bad public image rather than to any serious concerns (as the Navy claims) about the competency of homosexuals. Why the Navy chose to stir up the issue in the first place remains unclear. Berg and Gibson were living a quiet, closeted life; the existence of homosexual relationships is a more-or-less open secret in the Navy. Berg and Gibson have been able to trace the history of the case back to what the Navy has termed a "confidential informant," who broke into their apartment in February of 1975, and reported to the Navy what he or she read in their private letters. This apparently was the beginning of a five-month investigation by the Navy into Berg's and Gibson's private lives, prior to the interrogation in July, 1975. Whatever the Navy's motivation was originally, it inadvertently created publicity about homosexuality in its ranks by picking Berg and Gibson, who, though they had formerly chosen to be closeted, decided to be honest and open about their relationship when confronted — and then to fight back.

Berg's fight in court is for reinstatement in the Navy; if he wins, he will return to the Navy — but not because of any desire of his own to serve in the Navy at this point. He foresees that the situation will be extremely difficult for him, as he can expect that his commanding officers will be eager to prove the Navy right in calling him unfit to serve. Berg would return "for the other guy," as he says — to prove that a homosexual has the right to serve in the armed forces.

Berg and Gibson were asked by Rothenberg whether they have developed any sense of paranoia about

what they are up against. Their apartment was broken into, valuable papers were stolen from their securely locked car, on the day of the hearing the wheels from their car were stolen. Both Berg and Gibson believe they have been under surveillance both before and after the hearing, and their phone has been tapped. Berg stated that the Naval investigative agencies have a huge budget and virtually no control on their activities; yet he cannot understand why they would be willing to spend the money on investigating him as he does not feel that he is that big a threat to the Navy. The only explanation he can offer is the military's paranoia about bad press.

Supportive Father

One of the most interesting aspects of the evening was the description of Berg's father's at the testimony hearing. Berg's father is a Navy Chaplain who was unaware of his son's homosexuality until two weeks before the hearing, yet he gave a moving testimony for gay rights. Referring to the progress made since the Middle Ages when homosexuals were burned with witches, Berg's father told the discharge hearing, "How far we have come! Thank God some of this idiocy has ended!" He claimed to know many homosexuals in the Navy, including officers, and stated, "You have to be careful who you call homosexual — you have to be careful, because he may be your commanding officer."

Especially in view of this kind of support from "straight" people, many in the audience felt a sense of dismay about the general lack of interest among gay people in Berg's case. In oblique reference to this fact, David Rothenberg, who chaired the meeting, opened the evening with the simple statement that many gays, enjoying the comfort of being together in large cities, seem to have lost the ability to be outraged.

John Scagliotti Quits WBCN News



BOSTON — John Scagliotti, one of the most prominent openly gay people working in the "straight" media here, has resigned his position as news director of WBCN-FM radio. Scagliotti, who has been associated with the popular rock station for 4½ years, will leave WBCN as of Jan. 28.

During his tenure at WBCN, Scagliotti began the first gay cultural show on commercial radio at the time — "Lavender Hour." The show, which ran once a month for an hour, was later replaced by "Rhinoseros," a 15-minute weekly show. The two programs ran from January 1973 to the end of 1975.

Scagliotti won a United Press International Award for Community Service last year for a half hour program called "Whatever Happened to Gay Legislation?" The show, produced by him along with WBCN women's news editor Susan Sprecher and GCN editor Neil Miller, is the first

show on a gay-related subject to ever win a UPI award. Scagliotti also won two Armstrong awards — the "Oscars" of commercial radio. One of them was a show on homeless men.

While at WBCN, Scagliotti was also instrumental in gaining enactment of what is believed to be the first gay anti-discrimination clause in a union contract. The clause was approved by the United Electrical Workers Union (UE).

Scagliotti urges gay people to put pressure on the "straight" media to have gay programming. "Only through this kind of pressure will a station like WBCN continue their programming and other stations begin to recognize gays," he said. Scagliotti also strongly urged gay people working in straight institutions to "come out."

Scagliotti plans to put his energy into filmmaking at this time and also plans to continue doing photography for GCN.

Mother Earth News Rejects Gay Ad

HENDERSONVILLE, NC — *Mother Earth News*, the mass-circulation magazine of rural lifestyles, has rejected an ad for *RFD*, the "magazine for country faggots." The refusal marks the second time that *Mother Earth* — usually identified as the voice of the '60s "Back to the Land"

counter-culture — has refused an ad for *RFD*. In June 1974, *Mother Earth* rejected an *RFD* request to put gay people in the Positions and Situations listing. The newspaper later reversed that policy.

However, the most recent proposed advertisement named *RFD* itself and advertised it as the "magazine for country faggots." In a letter to the *RFD* collective, *Mother Earth* advertising manager Jules Richards wrote, "Both the publisher and I have discussed your advertisement and your letter, and feel that, in the best interests of the magazine, we must reject your advertising." However, no reason was given for the rejection. Two years ago, the newspaper had noted that some of its readers were "little old ladies in tennis shoes." That rejection ended with the urging, "Have a happy day," a phrase that was omitted this time.

GCN was unable to get in touch with Advertising Director Jules Richards, despite repeated attempts to do so. A woman who answered the phone in the advertising division of the magazine refused even to give GCN editor Neil Miller the names of the magazine's publisher and advertising director. "I can't remember having ever been treated so rudely during the whole time I've worked at GCN," Miller said.

Licensing Board

(Continued from page 1)

trial period, at which time its success will be evaluated.

The issue of nude dancing by entertainers recently arose within the gay community when a male dancer at a gay bar located within the Adult Entertainment District was arrested last month. Non-gay clubs in the same area have employed nude female dancers for some time with little harassment from the police.

Straight thinks that the nude dancing regulation is a good idea, as it "will keep those establishments out of the neighborhoods, and maybe encourage other ones to move into the Zone." Commissioner Richard L. Arrington joined Straight in support of the measure, while the third member of the Board, Chairperson Charles L. Byrne, abstained from the vote.

community voice

lambda lives!

Dear GCN:

The Dec. 25th issue of GCN carried a letter from Kent Barclay that contains what must be deliberate misstatements of fact. Project Lambda is not closed. It continues to work with kids on their problems. It is open every day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., under the direction of Randy Gibson and Steffi Sommer. They are assisted by Norman. Also, it is untrue that there is a lack of interest. If kids are looking for fun only, Lambda is not for them. Kids have serious problems to work on, and that's what we do in Lambda. The coffee house does not have large attendance, because there are many more places for gay people to go now compared to when it opened, when it was the only place to go. Some of us are grateful that it was open, and still is open, and is a nice place for kids. The new hours are 6 to 11 p.m., except on Sunday when it opens at 4 p.m. so there will be a place for the Gay AA to go after their Sunday meeting. I was in Project Lambda during my first summer in Boston — and with help from Lambda people I was able to handle my situation — and know if I needed someone to talk to that someone was there to listen. I am thankful there is a Project Lambda, and I know that I can always get help there, with no strings attached. Gay and Bi teens do *now* have a place to go that understands the seemingly never ending questions of gay youth.

Getting Facts Right,

Jay and Kev

teen too early

Dear GCN:

I am always opposed to a youth center for gay youth. How do they know they are gay even at 13-14 years old? They are still growing. Their brain is still growing, and so is their belief. Of course there are a few that are really gay at an early age but nowadays many under 18 years old admitted they are gay right away. They should wait until they are around 18-19 years old.

"Chicken Hawks" will always be around. There is nothing we can do.

Sincerely,

Frank Bierke

problems of 'penis privilege'

Editor:

It's time to drag out the old homophobia "acid-test" again, in which you substitute (in this case) the word gay, black, women, or jew for the word "men" or variants thereof.

John Kyper in his "review" of The 49% Majority (issue no. 26), starts out by saying "masculine arrogance dies hard," however the arrogance embodied in that statement exceeds any variety of arrogance I have ever encountered. In light of the growing number of studies which conclude that men and women are more alike than they are different, his generalizations about "men" are evidence of his self-rejection, limited focus and willful ignorance among other things. Since he makes no distinction I have to assume he means all males when he writes of "men" and that all "men" are by nature "oppressors." He avers pompously, "There is much, much we must learn from women, for the sake of our un-becoming men." (Whatever "un-becoming" means.) How's that for recycled sexism and chauvinism? Does he mean becoming more like "women" (who want to be less like "women") to save our masculine

(dirty word) souls? Will we be "nemwos," "nems," or what?

The puzzler is, how we (men) are to learn so much from women when if we are to take seriously the drivel flowing from the feminist extremists, women have been so totally subjugated and re-oppressed that they are MANufactured extensions of "men's" values.

As for "penis privilege" and all its "rewards," a reasonable discourse has to take into account the many disadvantages of such (imposed) "privileges," like dying for your country in war or the destructiveness of being a "man." I submit men and women (nouns in alphabetical order) are like two sides of the "privilege" coin. The alternate side being "pussy power," or "vaginal vantage" or how about "clitoral coercion." Remember the quaint "ladies first" notion (except in case of danger of course) or the currently regressive, lesbians before gay men.

To set "men" up as the unrelenting cause of all the world's problems may be politically advantageous, if you can get away with it but it further denies the place, responsibilities and influence, good or bad, of women in history.

It is closer to reality to note that men and women have accommodated each other for varying degrees of mutual benefit all through history, under the pressures of religion, economics, fashion/custom, survival, biological differences, etc. We don't have to look too far to see that females can be just as corrupt, oppressive and stupid as "men."

The total impact of the industrial revolution on the "roles" of men and women on every level has yet to be realized as we enter the "age of technology." Old habits die hard, the need for re-evaluation of our respective "roles" is beyond question and essential to survival. What is not needed is perpetuation of archaic female and male roles under new guises such as the one Kyper uses, "the protector." An activist interest and earnest exploration of the areas where people of both sexes have common ground and responsibilities is more hopeful. Cataloging past injustices, like nostalgia, is a dead end pursuit.

Probably the reason for the "dearth of books on men" is that most male writers, gay or straight, find women fascinating subjects, even when they are wretched. A corresponding interest in men would seem like narcissism (unmanly) to many people.

Hopefully, in the future Kyper will somehow work up a degree of good will for the portion of the "49%" who are opposed to the brutalizing power structure and a keener perception of that portion of the "51%" who willingly support it, just for starters.

Rudy Grillo
New York

separation anxiety

To the Gay Community:

I've been curious for some time now about the concept of Lesbian Feminist Separatism. Would someone who feels they are qualified please explain it to me?

It's the Separatism part I'm having a problem with. Is this a temporary thing so that Separatists might have breathing space to get themselves together? Or is it a permanent deal? Does it manifest itself in social circumstances only or does it encompass all aspects of living? Do Separatists some day hope to exclusively occupy the state of Texas?

During this past year's Gay Pride Week I went to a workshop on sexism. I didn't feel that I had anything particularly enlightening to say but I was curious and did have hopes of having my consciousness raised. One of the women there

identified herself as a Separatist and said something to the effect that she was tired of male oppression and male ignorance and that men were just going to have to work out their problems themselves. The other women all nodded their heads in silent agreement. A few of them threw in some words of support. The woman then continued to list all the things that she wasn't going to do ("I'm not going to educate men, I'm not going to make myself vulnerable, I'm not going to deal with all this bullshit."). I had mixed feelings. At first I thought, "Good for her, she's asserting herself, she's justified." But something felt uncomfortable. I felt that she had indirectly called every man in the room an ignorant oppressor and that she hadn't given us any insight as to what was ignorant or what was oppressive or what could be done. I felt she was trying to lay a guilt trip on all the men in the room. I wondered why she was there if she really was a Separatist. It was impossible to talk or ask questions because her words had generated a very defensive atmosphere in the room with many people talking and no one listening. It seemed to get worse so I left.

I've seen other Separatists. They don't let me talk to them. Most of my women friends, lesbian and otherwise, feel that an understanding of feminism is essential for a man so that he might understand his own humanity better. That seems right to me. It seems like a step toward a tearing down of walls, which is part of the concept of liberation. What are the Separatists trying to say? To keep the walls? If so, I suggest they look for someone's unlocked, well-used, well-greased closet door. Quick. This issue is an example of a serious problem in human communication. A problem that is preventing a united Movement from moving. I hate to say it, Separatists, but you're getting a reputation as "Those Separatists." We out here are trying to find the good in each other and are trying to learn to positively reinforce it like crazy. It's part of a vibe commonly called love. I think you've heard of it. Which isn't to say that anger isn't important. It is. But if you're going to raise a stink and expect to be heard, you have to take the responsibility of clearing the air. So, what's Separatism all about? I think I'm still curious.

With warm personal regards to the bridge-makers,
Timothy Gray

creating vd clinic crisis

Dear Editor:

I cannot adequately express my dismay at what is becoming a medical controversy. I refer to the article Mr. Ken Ross wrote entitled "The VD Clinic Crisis in Mass." I wrote a letter to you which I understand one of your staff threw away, but the letter Dr. Carol Ribner and Dr. Sandy Reder wrote was more detailed than mine and said better what I had wanted to say. I was glad to see that you printed it.

Now I see Mr. Ross has written a response. Two things concern me. First, Mr. Ross has totally missed the point in several things the good doctors said, thus raising false issues. Second, Mr. Ross persists in making statements of medical fact which are either debatable or based on incomplete or erroneous information.

I am not a physician but because I have for several years worked in health care, I get asked medical questions. I would never think of practicing medicine without a license but in some cases I do answer such questions, always however qualifying my remarks, citing the source when possible, and recommending that the questioner seek a medical opinion from a physician.

Mr. Ross has precipitated a VD clinic crisis of his own with his articles. Already patients are coming in to us and quoting those articles. The problem is that some of them are incredibly frightened and confused by the inaccurate information. We must now try to undo the damage.

In point of fact, there are penicillin resistant strains of gonorrhea. Many strains of bacteria have become resistant to one kind of antibiotic or another. There is also a strain which produces an enzyme (penicillinase) which neutralizes penicillin. One reason for the development of these strains is that too many times persons with infections are inadequately treated. Mr. Ross described such a situation with the Philippine prostitutes who are self-medicating with small doses of penicillin. Such a regimen kills off the weaker bacteria, the stronger bacteria survive, grow and flourish, and are passed on, and their descendants are able to withstand the action of penicillin.

However, most strains of bacteria — including gonorrhea — are still susceptible to penicillin IF GIVEN IN ADEQUATE DOSAGE. That ought ONLY be done under the orders of a physician.

Mr. Ross does the public a disservice if he fails to make clear that only careful testing will determine whether the symptoms a patient presents may be gonorrhea, non-specific urethritis, or some other infection. Furthermore, gonorrhea presents NO symptoms in the majority of oral, rectal or cervical infections. Therefore it is incumbent upon all persons who are sexually active to seek periodic testing whether or not symptoms are present.

If tests indicate the presence of gonorrhea the usual treatment is 4.8 million units of penicillin injected into the muscles (usually of the buttocks), followed by retesting within one to two weeks to determine that the cure was successful. Many patients fail to return for retesting and fortunately for them they are probably safe. (We can only hope that they followed the rest of the advice and refrained from sexual encounters until after the infection was cured.)

Only if a patient is allergic to penicillin or if the retest shows a cure failure does the physician opt for an antibiotic other than penicillin. Mr. Ross and GCN readers are entitled to know that although penicillin, tetracycline, and spectinomycin are the most widely used drugs for treating sexually transmitted diseases (STD) there are many other antibiotics, and physicians could and would use them under appropriate circumstances. Space does not permit discussing those circumstances but suffice it to say that there are good and sufficient reasons to do it that way and patients ought to discuss them with their physicians.

Finally, I must repeat that medical advice might better be sought from medical providers. Speaking directly with a physician or a nurse has to be more useful than reading an article in *Science* magazine. Since May 28, 1974 Gay Health Night at the Fenway Community Health Center has provided testing and advice to the Boston Gay Community. We are still available for those purposes and we welcome inquiry.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Nylund
Administrator, F.C.H.C.

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community voice

'friends' and lovers

Dear GCN:

Several points about your New Year's issue: That you've run an obituary of Benjamin Britten shows that you do recognize his importance as a gay creatively artistic figure, but, pray, don't perpetuate the heterosexist designation of Peter Pears' role in his life as "friend" (how *New York Times* "tasteful") rather than as his lover! Further, to juxtapose that with the information that the Queen sent Peter Pears a letter of condolence on his bereavement almost permits the inference that Elizabeth is more willing to bestow that recognition than is GCN.

To Tommi Avicoli: a good article. Leoncavallo, though, and not Puccini, wrote *I Pagliacci*.

Compliments on your Bouquets and Brickbats Awards. In the last column, however, under the one entitled "The 'Gay Money Is Still Green' Gemmy": Having "made" GCN in three consecutive issues thanks to an article, an interview and a letter, I thought I'd be getting a week off, but, no, due to some typographical legerdemain (do I have a secret publicity agent?), I've gotten into a fourth one. I'll assume it was a printer's error, realizing as I do that name is not quite the household word it would have to be to warrant its appearance there.

Anyway, have a Happy New Year and know that if I criticize it's out of loving admiration.

In Gay Love from a loyal reader,
Bruce Michael Gelbert

non-saintly behavior

Dear GCN:

Shortly after Christmas my roommate and a friend of his decided to visit the several new bars near the financial district. Early in the evening they wandered into the Saints not realizing it was a lesbian bar.

As they entered they were greeted by an instant chorus of hostile remarks and obscene gestures. Seconds later an employee rudely ordered them to leave, making it very plain indeed that men were not welcome on the premises.

Notwithstanding the obvious illegality of the



management's inexcusable behavior, the brutal reception accorded my roommate was both unnecessary and crude. Although one can understand the desire of those at the Saints to preserve their enclave, they might however consider showing a little politeness. Most people are perfectly willing to observe "local rules" if informed in a considerate manner.

Sturgis Haskins

kind words

Dear Editor:

This letter is for all gays to see and read and say a special "thank you" to the staff of GCN for an outstanding newsletter. This newsletter is read by gays throughout prisons and it is praised by many inmates (gays) here at the Kansas State prison, Lansing, Kansas.

You are doing a great job and we will keep looking for your future issues of GCN.

From all of us gays here, to all of you out there, with a big "Thank you" for GCN.

Billy Smith
Dennis Spence
Kansas State Prison

prison censorship plea

Dear GCN:

The oppression of gay prisoners by the federal prison officials continues. Norman Carlson, the director of the US Bureau of Prisons, has taken another step towards controlling the thoughts of prisoners by banning all gay newspapers, magazines, etc. from the 34 federal correctional (concentration camps) institutions. Earlier this year Carlson attempted to ban all communist, black, and other progressive literature only to be stopped by the court in Atlanta, Georgia. In *Blue v Carlson*, No. 75-2257 (A), the court upheld the rights of prisoners to receive Communist as well as other progressive literature, and ordered the Bureau of Prisons to issue a policy to this effect.

The prison officials then attacked everyone's "whipping boy" — the gay prisoner. To ban gay

papers is a direct violation of the gay's first amendment rights. The poor excuse that the officials have given in denying gays their constitutional rights was "The reader would be identified as a homosexual and may be assaulted or raped." Yet penologists claim that 75% of all prisoners are homosexual! I guess Carlson hasn't been told that it is his duty to protect all prisoners!

The National Prisoners Association on Dec. 27, 1976 filed a suit in the District Court of East St. Louis, Illinois, on behalf of Russell D. Smith, chairperson of the NPA and all gay prisoners seeking to overturn the Carlson decision.

We are without funds to pay fees for an attorney or other expenses. We welcome all contributions large or small. Please send contributions to: National Prisoners Association, 44030705 Mercantile National Bank, 70 Broad Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Sincerely,

George E. Blue, Chairman
17559-138

National Prisoners Association

prison power dynamics

Dear GCN:

Re: Prison Rape. I agree that this subject needs a great deal of public attention. Could Mr. Martin (GCN 12/26/76) take his position one step further? This is a beautiful (excuse the wording) example of male power dynamics at its best.

I hope that in his speaking engagements he takes this issue to its conclusion. Sexism at the root.

Suggesting that men are depowered (as women) is exactly the way women get treated all our lives. We also don't need to be used as receptacles for any more aggression.

Might I suggest that a course in self-awareness and sexuality including role, definition, and masturbation be the alternative.

The whole system of prisons really being rehabilitative we all know is ridiculous. What is needed is a community setup in or as alternatives to prison. Personal growth and responsibility for one's self and others is only learned in this way.

Respectfully,

Marilyn Richard

P.S. Might I add — who's on top is not only a working class issue. It's a universal male issue. Please read Andrea Dworkin's book *Women Hating*.

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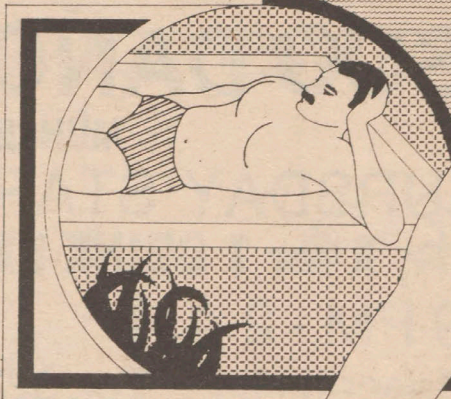
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new york revelations

By Tony Russo

NEW YORK — Since the withdrawal of the Women's Caucus from the New York Chapter of the Gay Academic Union (GAU), the group has gone through a major structural change. The change is due to the needed re-evaluation of needs as seen

by its members. Although a large proportion of women formerly with the GAU are now working on the formation of a new organization, many have remained with the men to map out new directions which the New York Chapter might pursue.

DID YOU SEE?

"There was conservative America's ultimate image of manhood, literally dripping macho with every blustery word, dominating a page of the nation's largest and most influential homosexual newspaper.

John Wayne was being interviewed by *The Advocate*.

Wayne was predictable in his personal opinion of the estimated 10 million Americans who are gay — "it's abnormal" — but the veteran actor echoed what *The Advocate* preaches with every biweekly issue — "A man has the right to live his life as he wishes."

It really wasn't that unusual to read Wayne's views in *The Advocate*, a paper that has shed the gossipy, mindless trend of most gay journalism for a serious, professional approach to the problems of a minority group that is still emerging from years of persecution.

Celebrities, gay and straight, are featured in each issue, invariably quoted as either supportive of gay rights or at least tolerant. Just having Wayne say, 'I have nothing against

gays,' was enough for *The Advocate*...

Publisher David Goodstein says it is the nation's 12th fastest-growing publication.

"We are the conscience of the gay movement," says Goodstein as he sits in the newspaper's plushly carpeted, ultra-modern offices in this quiet residential community south of San Francisco...

The Advocate is not without its critics, most of whom contend the publication is too conservative or that Goodstein wants to be the undisputed kingpin of gay liberation.

San Francisco political activist Harvey Milk calls the newspaper 'a travesty' and says Goodstein's 'concept is that every gay person should have a straight life, live in the suburbs, own his own home and two cars, wear a suit and tie, and don't rock the boat.'

Goodstein says the paper argues that life is better 'out of the closet, but we are not going to bring them out.'

— From an Associated Press article that appeared in the *Lubbock (Texas) Avalanche Journal*, Dec. 3, 1976.

The resurgence of energy came about at the 1976 Thanksgiving Conference at Columbia University. The Women's Caucus made their long awaited decision to withdraw from the GAU due to a general feeling that their needs were not being met in the organization. As in most family situations, their decision was probably for the better. Immediately after, the Men's Caucus met and decided to disband, and the remaining members began to re-evaluate the GAU goals and form what might be the most viable chapter ever.

The group decided to restructure the New York Chapter into 6 major subgroups. The subgroups are:

- 1) Speakers Bureau
- 2) Publications Committee
- 3) Scholarship Committee
- 4) Consciousness Raising Group Formation
- 5) Gay Studies
- 6) Social Committee

The Speakers Bureau will operate mainly in the New York City area. Speakers will talk on academic topics within their discipline. Topics will concern such areas as: art, history, literature, psychology, and health.

The Publications Committee will

publish a quarterly journal beginning sometime in mid-1977. The journal will be a collection of GAU conference proceedings, research papers, book reviews, gay studies information, GAU news, and campus news.

The Scholarship Committee will continue to meet and will discuss scholarly papers and subjects.

The Consciousness Raising Group Formation Committee will continue to form consciousness raising groups for people connected with the GAU.

The Gay Studies Committee will attempt on a small scale to duplicate the West Coast Lavender University. The group plans on starting its first class on gay history sometime next spring and if successful will begin other classes in other disciplines.

Social events will be planned mainly by the Social Committee. Already planned are two concerts scheduled for next spring in addition to the usual dances and parties.

Although grandiose in its plans, most of the groundwork has been laid and each committee is now working on its goals. The energy is there and with four national conferences behind them, the members of the GAU know they can produce.

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NY Gay Poet Charges Police Drug Entrapment

By R. Bogaert Smith

NEW YORK — February 3, 1976: one ounce of cocaine allegedly sold by Lonnie Ray to Undercover Cirillo. April 7, 1976: Ed De Pasquale arrested for masterminding said sale. November 22-December 6, 1976: trial under Justice Dorothy Cropper, Michael Davidian counsel for the defense, Ed De Pasquale and Gary Feldman defendants. December 6, 1976: Ed De Pasquale found guilty of possession and sale of dangerous narcotics, Gary Feldman guilty of possession; both remanded to Riker's Island to await sentencing January 17, 1976.

The above simple facts don't explain the nightmare that De Pasquale, a gay poet and New York City character, has experienced during these past few weeks. I stopped by his house on December 3, 1976, not knowing his trial was in progress. He was flying around the room, understandably manic.

"I've been on the stand for two days now by myself," he told me. "When they bring in the Narc, they clear the courtroom and Tommy (lover and good friend) has to leave. There I am by myself. Those two (the Prosecutor and the Narc) keep trying to catch me in lies. And it's them that are making up stories. I have to watch every sentence, every innuendo. They've distorted evidence, they've altered tapes. The judge seems cool. She's young, black, wears boots to court. She seems onto the Prosecution's tricks." De Pasquale points to his head. "I think I can outpsyche them. Tomorrow's my last day on the stand, I hope. I can't tell you how awful it is to be alone, all alone in that court-

room."

To retrace and lay out the case in more detail: Officer Cirillo, main witness for the Prosecution, was an intimate of De Pasquale. That is, according to De Pasquale, they slept together. When their relationship was in its third month, Cirillo called, desperate, to request that De Pasquale help him. De Pasquale had previously been bragging to Cirillo, who was impressed by drug stories, telling him that he could get Cirillo this and that in enormous quantities and on incredibly short notice. None of these offers had ever materialized, of course, and it's a common consensus among those who know De Pasquale that he couldn't "push" his way out of a paper bag. Nevertheless, Cirillo was given the impression that De Pasquale had connections.

So Cirillo called De Pasquale up with a fake story, saying that he (Cirillo) had been carrying some drugs for the Mafia, had lost an ounce of cocaine in the process, and that if he didn't somehow "put it back," they'd break both his legs. Of course, says De Pasquale, he tried to help. Through a mutual friend, Gary Feldman, he managed to set up a deal for an ounce of cocaine with a woman named Lonnie Ray, who subsequently disappeared. The sale took place in De Pasquale's Sheridan Square apartment.

When the police couldn't find Lonnie Ray to make the arrest, they apparently decided to lay the whole thing on De Pasquale. Cirillo had taped all their telephone conversations, and some of these tapes were used against De Pasquale during the trial. Tapes, however, which referred to any



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homosexual affection between them were not brought forth. The critical tape, where Cirillo supposedly begs for help, was "lost" by the DA's office. De Pasquale was made out to be a New York kingpin. All that the tapes report is De Pasquale's bragging.

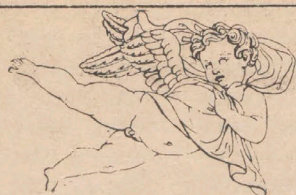
The Defense was rushed into the trial, De Pasquale's lawyer having only a few days to prepare his brief. In retrospect, the Defense admits the decision to forego a jury trial may have been an error. The judge was not as sympathetic as she could have been, considering her remarks as the trial began about the "shoddiness" of the Prosecution's moves. Some ulterior motives in Justice Cropper's verdict of guilty have been suggested around town. WBLS, New York's black radio station, carried news of the case, suggesting that Justice Cropper had political ambitions and this decision was part of an attempt to harden her profile on drug offenders. The DA's office was of the opinion during the early stages of the trial that it would be thrown out of court as "entrapment." Both Prosecution and judge seemed to harden in attitude considerably as the

trial progressed.

Remanded to Riker's Island, De Pasquale (separated from Gary Feldman) managed to get assigned to the "gay wing" of the prison. There, at least, he doesn't have to worry about assault and rape. It faces the East River and is, by comparison, pleasant. Responding to pressure from Feldman and from friends who have begun to fear for his mental health, De Pasquale has decided to go for what's termed an A3. Essentially, this is plea bargaining. It's a lesser charge and carries up to a year in prison. As his parole officer seems favorably disposed towards him, and if Justice Cropper deals a light sentence, he may get out in six to eight months.

Cirillo, however, is still at large. During the trial he denied any contact with De Pasquale, denied sleeping with him, denied ever having been to his house prior to the sale. Only De Pasquale knows what he looks like. Pleading guilty of course removes any chance of appeal; consequently, it also removes any hope of proving entrapment. Not only will Cirillo continue to operate, but his record as an officer will be spotless. As a footnote, Cirillo claimed that De Pasquale pocketed a quarter of the ounce, which had disappeared between the sale and the station house. Cirillo claims it was De Pasquale's "cut" for arranging the sale.

As of this writing, friends and fellow artists are trying to organize a Defense Fund for De Pasquale. His legal bills are heading towards \$5,000. People wishing to help with money or advice, please contact Barbara A. Holland, 16 Morton St., Apartment 9, NY, NY 10014.



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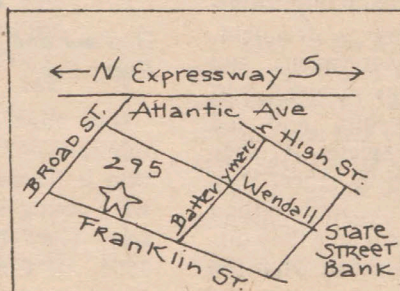
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Creative Coupling—Loving Men

By Thom Willenbecher

On the street where I grew up there lived two men whom my mother told me not to accept candy from. Jack was an English professor at the nearby college, and Morris was a dentist. They lived next door to one another in houses they had each owned for 35 years. One of the things the neighbors talked about was that they spent their evenings together first in one of the houses, then in the other. I knew they were lovers, though I did not have a word for it at the time. They fascinated me to no end, partly because they were not dry and conventional like the other families on the block, and partly because they were strictly off limits to me and most of my playmates. The two times I sneaked over to visit them I felt very much at home. I wanted to be there. I was observing the everyday life of a satisfactory relationship that was free from both the supports and the burdens of the other families on the block.

What makes a relationship between two men like Jack and Morris last? What are the individual and social obstacles to such a relationship? How have some gay couples managed to overcome these obstacles and stay together? Who among gay men tend to become involved in long-term relationships? What sort of living arrangements do they have? How do they handle everyday problems such as housework, finances, etc.? How do they resolve the questions of monogamy, jealousy and outside encounters? How often do they have disagreements, and how do they manage to overcome their divisive impact? Do they consider themselves "married" and hope to be together for the rest of their lives? How, in short, have they managed to stay together many years despite a multitude of pressures from within and from without? To find out some of the answers to these and other questions, GCN has conducted a series of interviews with male couples who have been together a minimum of five years. The initial intention was to interview as many couples as possible, from as many different economic, occupational, and racial backgrounds as could be had, and from all age groups, including couples where one member was at least 15 to 20 years older than the other.

The survey has, unfortunately, been only partly successful. The study of *Male Homosexuals* by Martin Weinberg and Colin Williams indicates that 67.5% of gay males in America have had an "exclusive homosexual relationship" at some point during their lives, and that many have maintained such a relationship for years, even decades. However, in a five-month search, GCN has managed to find only five couples who were willing to be interviewed, a sample which is far too small to serve as a base for generalizations. And of those five couples, none had been together for more than 25 years, and none involved an age difference of more than 15 years between the two persons involved. Furthermore, all individuals surveyed were white, more or less middle class, and under fifty years of age. But these difficulties lead to a number of important questions. The age, racial, and class bias of the sampling do not reflect the broad spectrum of gay male relationships which exist in the real world; interracial and nonwhite male couples do exist, as well as couples who have been together 50 years or more, and who are greatly different in age (when Morris died in 1968, he was 75, and Jack was 54). Rather this bias says more about GCN and the gay community it manages to reach than about ethnic and other patterns in male bonding. Nonwhite gays tend to be less visible and less involved in bars and organizations which GCN reaches and which cater predominantly to whites. Older gays tend to identify much less with this community than younger ones, partly because the community has little to offer them, partly because they grew up in a time when the closet was an accepted fact of life.

The following interviews present, in their own words, male couples who have been together for periods ranging from five to 22 years. The first four interviews were conducted at the couples' place of residence, and with both persons present, and in sessions of approximately two hours apiece. A fifth couple (Paul and Bryan) broke up a few weeks before the interview was scheduled to take place. The names of couples #1 and 3, as well as some biographical information, have been changed at the request of the couples involved.

I. Ron and Dean. "Our relationship just happened to work out."

Ron is 25 and Dean is 29. They met in August, 1970, in a popular cruising park in Cleveland, where they were introduced by a mutual friend. They took to one another immediately, and though the initial attraction was physical, they discovered they could talk to each other as well. When they first met, neither expected a long-term relationship to come out of it; a few weeks maybe, a few months they would stay together, and that would be it. Though Ron was "sort of looking" for someone to settle down with, Dean admitted that he had a reputation in town for being promiscuous, a reputation that he had earned and that he had expected to live up to in the future. But this was love at first sight, and as the weeks passed, they became inseparable. Ron first suggested living together, an idea which Dean agreed to immedi-

ately. The two proved compatible in a way which even now they cannot describe. They got an apartment together one month after they first met. One year later, Dean was transferred to Boston by his company, and with little hesitation Ron packed up and moved with him. Even when passions faded they remained close. They spent every night together for the first two years, and were exclusively monogamous for three years.

In the early stages, the relationship withstood many challenges; the suicide of a mutual friend, parental inquisitiveness, the big move, frequent, occasionally-violent disagreements, and unemployment. Yet they survived, and so did their relationship, and the reasons are hard to explain. As they learned more about each other, they learned they had more in common than they had supposed, and where they differed, each provided most of what the

other was lacking. They have never had to talk about what it was that kept them together; it was something immediate and spontaneous that they did not have to talk about, and probably could not anyway. The relationship just happened to work out; it was only the domestic details that had to be planned.

In recent years, Ron and Dean have become more independent, though not less close. Ron has had several outside affairs of a few weeks or months; Dean has had fewer. Dean — a technical analyst for an insurance company — is concerned with his career and the future, while Ron — a restaurant operator, is less so. Dean is interested in sports, Ron is very uninterested. Neither likes to do housework, but it gets done anyway. Both are becoming increasingly involved in such community activities as the Gay Men's Center. "That's part of our independence," says Dean, "getting out, getting to know more people, returning to the gay world in a way that doesn't involve the bars."

Ron and Dean feel that their relationship is secure and that it will probably last as long as both of them are alive. "So much has happened already; I can't imagine anything that would break us up now." Over the years they have become very much a part of each other, and neither can imagine what it would be like to be alone. "It's not something we think about everyday." Yes, there are still conflicts, frequent and minor ones over housework, money, etc. Every day there is a little disagreement about something or other, but it is usually forgotten about in minutes. Both think it is better to release these feelings of anger when they occur rather than to allow tensions to build up over a long period of time. They have not made plans for the future; they have discussed making out a will, but that is a long way off. They share both finances and household duties, and consider everything they own to be held in common. Says Dean: "Everything we have we share. We have built a home together and we have never worried about what is yours and what is mine. We have an agreement that if we break up and one of us leaves the apartment, he will leave all the furniture and other things behind." He added that he did not expect that to happen.



Paul and Ralph

II. Paul and Ralph: "Growing Closer Every Year."

The most important aspect of their relationship, say Paul and Ralph, is that it happened when both of them were young and could still afford to be free. They met back in the spring of 1955, in Central Park, NYC, when

Paul was 22 and Ralph was 20. The setting was that of the proverbial spring romance. Ralph was busy sketching and Paul was just strolling along. They began talking; they discovered that they had the same interests and tastes; each immediately felt out that the other was gay (a definite breakthrough in those days) and interested. They made a date for the next day. Again it was love at first sight. They began to live together exactly one week after that first meeting, and have done so ever since.

Paul and Ralph discussed openly and at great length the challenge which faced their relationship in the early stages. Living together in harmony was quite an accomplishment at first; they had little money, only one room, neither had lived together with anyone before, and both were accustomed to leading independent lives. Furthermore, it was not easy for a gay couple to live together in 1955. Parents, landlords, neighbors and others conspired to make life difficult. However, these difficulties were mitigated by two things: first of all, Paul's parents understood and accepted their relationship from the beginning. Secondly, both of them were essentially self-employed, in the so-called creative professions — stage management, commercial art, display work, etc., where people generally are not too concerned about the sexual preferences of others.

For awhile they worked together on the set of Twentieth Century Fox's *Carousel*; after that Paul worked as a stage manager for Marlene Dietrich and other luminaries. Living together and working together at the same time was, according to Ralph, the ultimate challenge to their relationship. Both spoke at length of the importance of living together for a meaningful relationship. "It's the only way a couple can really get to know one another," says Paul. "All the advantages of seeing one another now and then are wiped out, and little personal habits become all important. Love, in the romantic sense, is really put to the test." But Paul and Ralph survived both the challenge of being together and of being apart (Paul had to travel a lot on business) and have even grown closer together year by year, despite the challenges, or perhaps because of them.

Paul and Ralph are now in their third decade together. Over the years the relationship has seen a great deal of change, both in themselves and in society. Economic changes were frequent and violent; Paul was the first to succeed in his field, while Ralph was still waiting. A few years later, Ralph established his reputation, while Paul was doing poorly. Recently both have experienced hard times. "We've had to compromise a lot in the last year or so," says Ralph. "No more trips to Europe."

Personalities have changed a lot also. At first Ralph sort of felt he was competing with Marlene Dietrich, a difficult position indeed. Paul was a bit more involved in the social whirl, and Ralph was more dependent on his parents. Both have tended to stabilize in recent years and turn to one another for support. The relationship itself has never been in danger. Only in the first two years did staying together require any serious "work," but now there is little if any conscious effort involved.

Outside sexual encounters and jealousy have never created problems for the relationship. For the first fifteen years, Paul and Ralph were completely

faithful to one another in the sexual sense, a fact which they consider miraculous though not necessarily good. Their frequent travel schedule led to a breakdown in their sexual exclusivity, a breakdown which they weathered without difficulty. Neither is monogamous at present. Both have short-term encounters on the side, encounters which they discuss freely.

Presently the relationship is very close; they would use the term "married" to describe it. They celebrate anniversaries together (which Paul's mother often attends) and they have exchanged rings. They think of their relationship as permanent and secure, and they have done so for a long time. They never had serious fears of losing one another, or of being unable to maintain the relationship, and they expect to stay together for the rest of their lives. They have even made out wills to each other.

Paul and Ralph have a number of explanations as to why their relationship has proven so successful. One of them is honesty in dealing with each other about outside encounters and other potentially-divisive matters. Another is a lack of conflicts, and a willingness on both parts to compromise. Their differences are few and pertain mostly to minor everyday matters. Paul is more concerned with details, while Ralph confesses to being a bit absent-minded. Paul tends to be more volatile while Ralph contains his emotions. There have not been many arguments, and they occur less and less often as the years go by. Both agree that the best way to resolve differences is to talk things over while cuddling in bed. Most important, the relationship has succeeded because their personalities complement one another so nicely, with each providing exactly what the other lacks. Ralph is a self-contained person, perhaps too much so, while Paul is the social arranger. Paul is more determined and adventurous, while Ralph provides a needed stability. Both are dominant in different aspects of their life together; Paul tends to social matters while Ralph makes most of the financial decisions. Ralph is very frugal, both economically and emotionally, while Paul is more impulsive and tends to lose control. Says Paul: "Without Ralph I would lose my whole perspective on life."

Of all the couples I interviewed, Paul and Ralph were the most open about themselves, and projected the most warmth and self-assurance. They are two people who are secure in each other because each is secure in himself. Their life is an ideal of sorts; both are self-employed and successful in their respective careers (Ralph is a commercial artist and illustrator, while Paul does display work, stage design, and some writing). Things have generally worked out for them, and their sociability and candor reflects an inward sense of self-worth. Their apartment, which they remodeled from the shell of a Dorchester tenement, is warm and homelike, though elegantly furnished, with a library on film and theatre, albums of photographs taken on trips abroad, and a Siamese cat curled up by the fireplace.

★

III. Don and Merrill: "Lovers and Best Friends"

Unlike some of the other couples interviewed, Don and Merrill did not begin their relationship in a passionately sexual whirl. Rather, the history of their relationship is one of gradual evolution from a close but nonsexual friendship which began long before either of them came out, became sexual when they did, and since has developed into a mature, close partnership involving both the amiabil-

ity of friendship and the joy of sex. It all began back in 1962, when both were 20, and both worked at a local hospital and studied at a university in a special joint program. They met one another at an orientation session, liked each other immediately and talked for a long time. They did not meet again until a few months later when both took rooms in the same dormitory. They began to see a lot of each other and soon became close friends.

About one year later they began to experiment sexually with one another, "for no particular reason," though they discontinued for a while because of guilt feelings. At that time they half-jokingly discussed the idea of one of them getting a sex change so they could get married. Neither of them thought of himself as gay; they both thought that theirs was just a close friendship, and that they would eventually develop heterosexual interests and marry.

The relationship continued on this largely nonsexual basis for the next three years, at which point Don entered the Peace Corps. During their separation they longed for each other, more than either had expected, and they exchanged letters almost daily. When Don returned in 1967, they continued to be inseparable, though they still lived at different addresses. In 1968, they travelled Europe together for seven months, the first time they were together more or less fulltime. At this point their relationship became actively sexual. At this point, a few conflicts developed, and Merrill returned home, though Don soon followed suit; they picked up their relationship where they left off, got their first apartment together and began living together on a stable basis. Only at this point did they begin to think of themselves as gay and in love, a realization which developed so gradually they cannot pinpoint any time at which either of them came out. Both, especially Don, had guilt feelings to overcome, and it was thus only in the context of a secure relationship that either of them could come out. It was the closeness and friendship which first tied them together, which first made sex necessary and then made it legitimate. It was their collective togetherness which helped each to overcome his individual sexual self-denial. Since then they have lived together as lovers. Their gay self-consciousness has continued to evolve in recent years; they began to see other gay couples, explored the bar scene, had a few outside encounters (which caused few problems) and beginning this year became active in gay community affairs. In fact Don considers this interview with GCN to be a breakthrough, the latest step in the development of gay self-awareness. Despite the sexual nature of their relationship they have continued to be the closest of friends; nowadays the friendship and sexual aspect of their relationship are difficult to distinguish.

The relationship between Don and Merrill evolved in many respects other than the sexual. In the early stages, Don was the dominant partner, the one who made most of the decisions. Since the trip to Europe, however, Merrill has begun to assert himself more, and they now tend to be dominant in different areas. Merrill makes most of the financial decisions, and is more frugal, while Don is more concerned with the household. Don is the more outgoing partner, and does most of the talking in social encounters; however, this does not indicate the decision-making process within the relationship. Everything within the relationship is now understood without being said. Both Don and Merrill consider their being together a part of the growing-up process; they brought one another up rather than relying on their parents. Now they consider the present status of

their relationship to be an indication of their maturity.

Since the trip to Europe, Don and Merrill have had no serious conflicts. According to Merrill, their whole relationship is based on talking together and working things out, confiding in one another and offering mutual support. To listen is often as good a way to resolve differences as to talk. Don and Merrill have a set method of working together on differences and individual problems; every Saturday morning they go out and have a long breakfast somewhere, and talk over the things that have happened to them during the week. Here the complaints are issued, the apologies made, and the decisions agreed upon which will guide their actions in the future.

Don and Merrill are a living disproof of the popular belief that a relationship based on friendship excludes the possibility of love and vice versa. It was friendship which helped them overcome their fear of gayness; it was love that transformed that friendship into a bond which they both now see as permanent. Though they came from different backgrounds (Don grew up in a housing project, while Merrill was middle-class) and though they have diverged on their choice of career (Don refinishes furniture while Merrill is in the computer field) they still feel very much a part of each other. Both think in terms of being together for keeps, and sometimes they talk of retiring together, even though that is some thirty years away.

★



Bob and Mike

IV. Mike and Bob: "A Homey Domesticity"

Mike and Bob have more conservative tastes than some of the other couples I interviewed. They have a small house in one of Boston's streetcar suburbs, a house which is furnished with more of an eye to practicality than fashion. Their living room has all the warmth and domesticity of Grandmother's house, with a stair-well festooned with Christmas cards and stockings, a green China dragon on top of the TV, and a confusion of pets on the carpet. The hominess of their house reflects the stability of their relationship and the warmth of their personalities.

Mike is a bartender at a local gay watering spot, and Bob is an engineer for Ma Bell. They met back in 1963, when Mike was 20 and Bob was 32. Bob was working as a bartender himself that time in a small establishment on the Cape. When Mike came in, Bob

found him attractive immediately, but did not set his hopes on him because he was so much younger. Mike was less ambivalent: "From the first minutes I knew that he was the right person for me, and if I kept after him for a while a relationship would develop." They began to see each other regularly, one night, then two nights, and three nights; Mike began to move into Bob's apartment one suitcase at a time (he had previously lived with his parents), and they have been together ever since.

As with many of the other couples, Mike and Bob could not specify what each of them found attractive about the other. Mike found stability in the older man and felt that Bob filled a fatherly role for a while in his maturing process. Bob felt that Mike was much more mature than most young people his age. Each found in the other the stability he had been seeking, as well as the warmth and the ability to communicate. "We fit so well together," Mike says, "how else can I put it?"

Moreover, they had a similar outlook on life; find the person you want, the job you want, put a home together and all the other problems of life will take care of themselves. Bob had had previous experience in this department; he had been heterosexually married for five years and he had several relationships with men which lasted up to "a couple of years."

At many points in the early stages of the relationship, jealousy and fear threatened it. Bob was fearful that Mike would leave him for a younger man while Mike was, by his own admission, overly jealous at times. Both were often worried when one or the other did not get home on time. After a few years, however, it became clear to both that they would be together for a long time and that a single night out would not endanger the relationship. "I still get jealous occasionally," Mike says, adding that he has no problem keeping it under control. Both have occasional outside encounters, though they do not, as a rule, discuss these encounters after they have occurred. They feel that this is the best possible arrangement. In Bob's words, "What each of us does is his own business."

Despite the persistent fears, the relationship between Mike and Bob has had no serious breaks. Once Mike got angry and moved out for a night or so, but neither can remember why this was or when, only that it was a long time ago. Nowadays they snap at each other over little things, just as they snap at their pets for jumping onto the couch, but they usually forget what is bothering them after a few minutes. They do not have long talk sessions to "work things out" as many couples do, preferring instead to proceed in a more spontaneous manner.

Mike and Bob hope to remain together for good, even though both admit to having residual fears. They share the household and financial responsibilities, and they feel that the household holds them together as a unit. They still consider themselves very much in love, claiming that much of the original passion has remained. As with Don and Merrill, they feel that their relationship is one that has developed gradually over the years, and that the best part about it is that they learn a little more about each other as time goes by. "After all," says Bob, "that's what a relationship is for."

One of the homophobic myths that has somehow gained currency in the gay world is that relationships between men are usually fragile and short-lived, lasting at the most a few weeks or months. An old saying goes: one night is a trick, two nights is an affair, three nights is a marriage. The above interviews prove that this is just not true, that men often do settle down for life, that once a relationship survives the courtship process and a few years of living together, it will withstand

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Couples

(Continued from page 9)

many external and internal pressures — arguments, aging, outside encounters, economic strain, even Fire Island. But because of this myth, it is a life goal among many, if not most, gay males, to find the right man, settle down, buy a brownstone somewhere with antiques, hanging plants, and a cat curled up by the fireplace.

Many wonder what the "right" combination is, or how to go about it. Does he have to be much older or younger, so we are not too much alike, or should he be about the same age and have a similar outlook on life? Should both partners be of similar economic or ethnic backgrounds, or do truck drivers really get it on better with junior executives than with other truck drivers? Can a black make it with a white, or an Oriental with a Chicano? Should an aggressive, artistic person look for another aggressive artistic type, or would he be better off with a more plain and passive type who provides emotional support and knows how to balance a budget? Once two men meet should they live together immediately, or is it a good rule to wait six months before confronting someone in a situation where there are dirty socks and dishes to contend with? The above interviews also prove that there are no formulas for that ideal relationship, or that the formulas differ from person to person. The right person depends on each individual's long-

term needs, and the only way to find that out is to get to know oneself. At least this is the consensus of all the couples I interviewed.

However, despite the small sampling, its ethnic and economic bias, and its lack of clear-cut answers, it is possible to note a number of things that all have in common and to say that they are frequent characteristics of a successful relationship. First of all, all five couples share the same address. All five couples hoped to remain together until one of them dies, including Paul and Bryan who broke up a month before the interview was to take place. All of the couples share household and financial responsibilities to a large degree, and three of them even have joint checking accounts. Interestingly, none of the couples are now practicing exclusive monogamy; in fact all ten individuals have had at least one outside sexual encounter. However, for four of the couples (Mike and Bob are the exception), extracurricular affairs have never been a serious problem, and none of them have had great difficulty with jealousy. All of the couples are also still having sex within the relationship. All of the couples feel that they are better off together than alone, and that people are generally happier in a long-term relationship.

All of the couples spoke at length of the challenges facing a gay relationship, both now and in the pre-liberated days when the relation-

(Continued on page 12)

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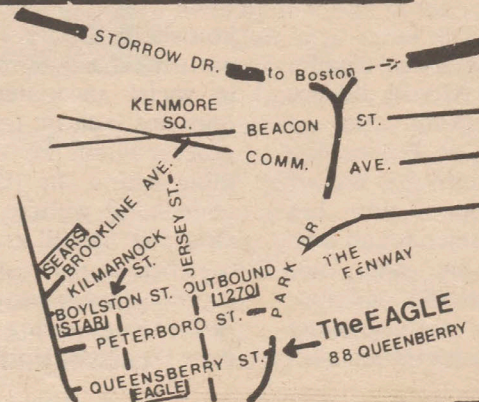
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Driving in the New Year

By David Brill

I took myself from 1976 to 1977 in a cab this New Year's Eve. I was the driver.

It had been many, many months since I last drove a cab in Boston, so when my friend Eddie offered me his taxi for that night, I eagerly accepted. Why? Well, look, any night of the year, anyone can go to a bar, or to ten bars, or smoke a joint with a friend, but driving a cab in Boston on New Year's Eve is the only night one can attend private parties, clubs, smoke, drink, and meet interesting people all in the same night . . . notwithstanding the more than \$100 profit I realized from the 15 hours of driving.

Oh, it was nostalgic to be behind the wheel and to the left of the meter. (Some of my editors say it's the only time I'm to the left of anything!) But I suddenly remembered my major dislike in the cab business — aggressive, straight women, ranging in age from 17 to 60. They were all out in full bloom that night. I don't know what it is about me that makes them that way.

"Driver, do you have a light?"

"Please, ma'am, don't call me driver, and here's a match."

"Thank you for the match, and what's your name?"

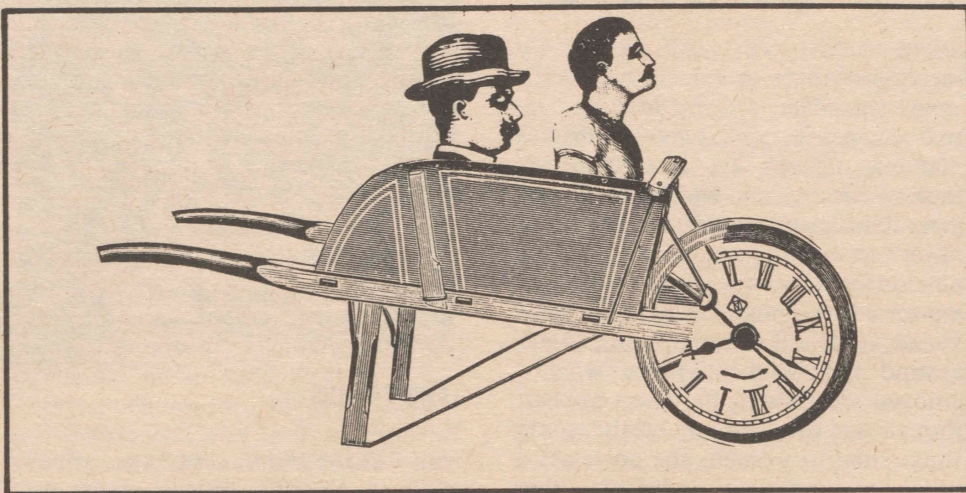
"I'm David."

"Would you like to join a party upstairs?" she asked, pointing to a Commonwealth Avenue building.

"How many people?" I queried.

"Two."

Oy vay, here we go again. "Sorry, I got out sorta late tonight, and if I don't keep working, I'll never have enough



money to pay the rent." As good an excuse as any, I thought as she left the cab speechlessly.

The more I drove a cab, the less I liked having straight people as passengers. Usually, I would park the cab outside Sporters or the 1270, and try, with equal amounts of success and failure, to strike up conversations with some of the people leaving the bars, particularly those souls exiting in an obviously dejected state, possibly overdosed with both misery and alcohol.

Just after midnight (I could tell by the fireworks over the Boston Common) a handsome young man came dashing out of 1270, and hopped into the back seat. "St. Botolph Street . . . and could you speed it up a little, I'm in a hurry."

Grrrr. "Sir, I'll take you the same way I would take anyone else." Hmphhh. I was so peeved I forgot to throw the meter.

But this kid had a story. After watching everything so kissy-kissy in 1270 a moment ago, he finally realized

that he couldn't keep "it" from his "girlfriend" anymore.

"I'm gonna tell her that I'm gay."

Oh bliss, I thought. One more free man for Boston, and a somewhat bewildered, estranged girlfriend packing her bags on St. Botolph Street. Happy New Year, baby.

New Year's is acknowledged by most drivers to be their busiest night of the year, and this year was no exception. The people at some points in the night were fighting to get into my cab. Now who do you think wins such fights?

Right, the gays. The gays from Together. I took a cabload of them — at least four, maybe six, all jammed into the back seat — from Together to a Back Bay apartment, whereupon one of them ran upstairs to get a bag of grass; I subsequently took them all back where I got them from. These kids had *been around* — you know, the 17-going-on-40 type. They knew how to stop a cab . . . and freak out a driver.

There was a dearth of gay cabbies that night for some reason. Usually, they can be found parked in the vicinity of the bars. Some of the drivers

who park in front of the gay bars are quite literally hustling; the rest of the non-gay drivers who park in front of the bars either find the customers amusing, non-predatory (rarely a rip-off, if ever), or otherwise profitable (a friend of mine took a couple from 1270 to Providence one night, a \$45 fare!).

But the night had its problems. Problem, I should say, since it was the only one of the evening, and it occurred close to 5:00 a.m., long after my body had passed the Twilight Zone. On the way back home, I noticed a young man, maybe 19, thumbing in front of the Callahan Tunnel. Thinking he was going to East Boston, as I was, I stopped for him. "How much to Lynn?" he asked.

Now, Lynn is a \$10 fare, and I was really too tired to drive there, but as long as offered to pay, I said I would take him for \$5. He assented.

Once in the cab, he told me what had just happened to him, in a baritone monologue of a voice that was quite incongruous with his youthful facade. "You know what just happened to me? A *quee-ah* just tried to pick me up. I knew he was quee-ah. I could tell he was quee-ah just by looking at him. I know how to tell a quee-ah."

"Oh really?"

"Yeah, I told him to let me the fuck out of the car or I'd kill him."

This young man's drunkenness scared me more than his storytelling, so after I drove around West Lynn with him for ten minutes as he tried to remember where he lived, I decided to show him the way to the door — which shouldn't have been too difficult, as he was sitting next to it. The problem was that he was reluctant to pay me, a reluctance which I somewhat unceremoniously reversed when I pointed my tear gas revolver at him.

He paid me. But as I continued down Commercial Street, I was kicking myself, so to speak. I should have told

(Continued on page 12)

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New Voice in Boston

A Review by Steven Blevins

As a closet folksinger, I spend a great deal of time listening for original voices. People who can sing a song as though they mean it, as though their voice were an instrument are rare. Too often excessive lyrics or backup will attempt to compensate for a singer's inadequacies. That's why I was very happy to have heard Petrisse Briel at Zimba's in Cambridge a few weeks ago. When she sings, this woman communicates with deep places in herself.

The odds of the location were against her; the temperature was approaching the fifties, and in the bathroom you could see your breath. As Zimba's is a kind of micro-disco, Petrisse was preceded by music that didn't exactly put one in the mood for folksinging. But two songs into her gig I put down my drink and listened. It's not so much the words she sings (most of which are her own), but the manner in which she devotes herself to each song.

It's difficult to describe her voice in relation to other singers. She slipped through octaves as unexpectedly as Phoebe Snow, but displayed none of the latter's self-congratulatory style. She held notes as clearly as a Joni Mitchell or Judy Collins, but allowed herself a gravelly tone neither of those women has ever mastered. For me, she came closest to being a combination of Terry Garthwaite and Toni Brown, two talented women who formed the group *Joy of Cooking*, with a touch of the spirit of the great Judy Henske (who, if not a lesbian, would have made a terrific one).

Her lyrics are simple and direct, with none of the attempts at complicated

metaphor that often strangle folk songs. In *When I Get Older* (a song that made me think of John Prine's *Hello In There*) she says "I'm not looking for excuses/ and I can't apologize/ don't give yourself up to compromise." In a comic song about irresolvable differences, she sings "You want me for a lover/ and you need me for a friend/ only till a better lover comes around the bend." Maybe what I enjoyed most about Petrisse was that, though her songs, many of them, are songs sung to women, she possesses a vocal and physical androgyny that makes her songs accessible to anyone. A person who can sing *Only Love Can Break Your Heart* and make it sound as though it hadn't been sung before isn't just singing at an audience, but sharing an experience with them.

My criticisms are few. Petrisse sticks



Petrisse Briel

with Dylan-style chording, which, while it doesn't distract from the quality of her singing, does nothing to augment it. A good bass player or a second guitar could release her to concentrate on doing everything she might with her voice. Secondly, as good as I and everyone at the opening felt her to be, she insisted on apologiz-

ing for this or that defect, things the audience could care less about. She had a presence which made us forget the cold interior of Zimba's and open ourselves to the message of her music. She had absolutely nothing to apologize for.

Look for Petrisse at the Powderhorn in Boston on Sunday afternoons.

Couples

(Continued from page 10)

ship began. Successful male coupling is, in their view, quite an accomplishment in view of the forces working against it. These forces include a tendency, in our culture at least, for males to be more promiscuous and to prefer the excitement of brief encounters, chasing and courtship, to long-term emotional commitments. This being the case, the male-male bond is weak, as opposed to that of male-female or female-female. Also, gay couples lack the institutional supports — the marriage contract, the expectation to marry, and all the legal and religious apparatus that goes with it, which keep straight couples together often even longer than the couple wish to remain together themselves. A third obstacle, noted Bryan, is that very belief that gay male relationships do not last, a belief that informs the expectations of those who suffer most from it, and thus functions as a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you do not believe you can maintain a lasting relationship with someone you

(Continued on page 13)

Taxi

(Continued from page 11)

this kid, an Air Force recruit on leave for the holiday, that the guy who just put a gun in his face and took his money was, golly gee, a *quee-ah!*

It was a rather anti-climactic finale for an otherwise exciting night. I still remember where all the streets are and how to get there and who not to pick up and when to speak. For the money, it's more work than I'm generally familiar with, but who drives a cab just for the money?

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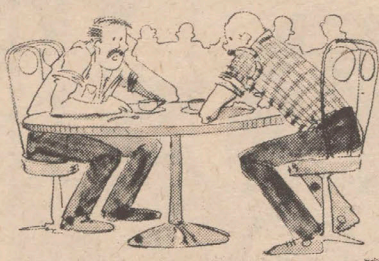
Boston's Best All Male Shows!

people, places and flings

By David Holland

Gay men have been playing fashion hide-'n-seek with their straight counterparts for years. In the late sixties, gay men brought their full heads of hair into beauty salons to be fussed-over, primed, styled, and blown-dry to a veritable lion's mane. By the time our "other" brothers mustered the courage to make their first appointments we had plunked ourselves down in barber chairs only to come out looking like boot camp refugees. . . . Girlfriends dragged their male loved ones into boutiques, sat back, and watched them spend a lawyer's month's salary on the latest glittery-glam: Italian shoes, silk shirts with a ultra-fine embossed print, pleated gabardine slacks. We, on the other hand, had just canceled our subscriptions to *Gentleman's Quarterly* and gone a-hunting for a pair of well-aged fatigues. . . . Fashion designers were spotted, incognito, up and down Christopher Street. Meanwhile cutters were busy snipping out the latest facsimile wired back from their couturier's CB. . . . The whole issue of who sets the trends recently appeared in a pat-me-on-the-back article in the gay person's guide to the *New Yorker*, *Christopher Street*. . . . So self-assured, they noted that "By the time designers thought they had finally pigeonholed them [gays], they had already moved on." And instead of putting a period on self-conceit, they exclaimed, "They can copy gay fashions from now to doomsday, because it doesn't mean anything. The day homosexuals realized that they

were liberated, and that clothes do not make the man, fashion died." Wait just one minute. . . . Seems to me there's a fashion that's more than prevalent today. In more than one bar in town the stools and dark corners proliferate with tight-jeaned, leather-jacketed, gum-chewin', smoke-puffin' Marlboro Men. One of my close friends affectionately refers to them as the "Key-Ringed Circus." Barnum and Bailey never had it so butch. . . . Where does the carnival stop? Ladies and Gentlemen! Step right up! See this mild-mannered homosexual turn into a growling macho-man right before his very dressing room! Watch a parade of leather jackets and death-defying keys! We dare you tell them apart! -Please, hide the children's eyes- Lookee! Lookee! In the center ring, two men



"You know the guy I'm talking about. . . . dark hair and mustache, wears work boots, Levis, and a key chain."

cruise each other and never crack a smile! . . . The sad epitaph is not to the death of fashion (whatever that may be) but the mournful resurgence of the traditional depiction of machismo. Men have relegated themselves to becoming sex-objects (a position women have struggled years to relinquish; they must know something

we don't). This new leather/denim mask has trapped our feelings as tightly as our bodies. . . . Man's means of dress are powerful influencers. The implications are many and, I fear, sad. The current fad lacks the classic masculinity of the Arrow Collar-man or the fetish appeal of western garb. The look today may be butch but it's hard and beginning to border on the tired. And don't think someone's not profiting somewhere; you can be sure it's not cows. . . . There is something about it that screams sadly, "I am a

man!", whatever that amorphism is. But while you're screaming your message so loudly it's hard to hear, not what you are, but who you are. . . . If the trend continues, which, given gay men's propensity to change, I doubt it will, it could undermine our entire social climate. The best way to judge the temperature is by spending a night or two in the bars. Ever notice — the more stylized leather, the less talk? The next time you're out, conversation abounds, and the atmosphere is relaxed and friendly, take a look at your stool neighbors. Odds are they're not all dressed alike. . . . Straight men are not following our fashion dictates so rapidly this time; they played this one out in the fifties. This time the table's turned; the joke's on us. . . .

Couples

(Continued from page 12)

usually will not be disappointed.

Gay couples also lack the role-expectations of heterosexual marriage, the expectations as to who will make the decisions, pay the bills, or do the housework. The role differences in the couples in this sampling do not break down along traditional man-and-wife lines, rather they evolve during the course of the relationship and are in each case the unique outcome of two different and distinctly male personalities. Each couple has to play it by ear in those first months, something which nearly every interviewee remarked about; every successful relationship is an improvisation of sorts in which the role of each partner is sketched in those first months, and developed as the years go by. Each partner must adjust to the other's needs, give deference to his strengths and minimize or compensate for his weaknesses; he himself changes in the process, growing to fit the other person more closely in an ongoing process of inventive adaptation. This improvisation can be a challenge, as two men getting together have less of an idea of what to expect than a man and a woman. However, it is also an opportunity for each person to discover who he really is in an ongoing dialogue of personal growth; this ongoing strength, say Paul and Ralph, may actually contribute to both the length and the fulfillment of a relationship. A relationship between two men thus involves as much creativity as it does soul-searching and hard work — it is an exercise in creative coupling, a good title for a pop psychology book on this subject.

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MONDAYS

10-11 am — Drinking Problem discussion group, HCHS, 80 Boylston St., Boston; (617) 542-6075
12 noon — Northeastern Univ. GSO meeting, Ell Center, rm. 349, 360 Huntington Ave., Boston, everyone welcome.
5:30 pm — Women's Community Health Center open house, 137 Hampshire St., Cambridge
6:30-8:30 — Gay Health Services by appointment, Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St., Boston, 267-7573.
7-9 pm — Yggdrasil Gay Gathering at Yggdrasil, 15 Gilbert Rd., Storrs, CT, 203-486-4737
7-10 pm — UMass Gay Women's Caucus Hotline, 545-3438
7 pm — Parents of Gays, HCHS, 80 Boylston St., Boston; (617) 542-6075
7-9 pm — Univ. of Vermont Gay Switchboard, 656-4173
7-10 pm — Clark Drop-In Center, 148 Wright Hall, Clark U., Worcester, MA
7:30 pm — Bowling, 1260 Boylston St., Boston, 247-3500
7:30-9:30 pm — Drop-In Center for women, Rm. L-23, Curtis Hall, Tufts, Medford
7:30 — UMass Amherst, Bisexual Women's Rap Group, Campus Center
7:30 pm — DOB Lesbian Mothers Rap, 419 Boylston St., Boston, Rm. 323.
8 pm — Lesbian Rap and Action Group, Cambridge Women's Center basement; (617) 354-8807
8 pm — Lesbian Rap at Women's Center, 215 Park St., NH
8 pm — GPC business meeting, Columbia U., Furnald Basement, Broadway at 115th St.
8-9 pm — "None of the Above," WUWH-FM (91.3), West Hartford, CT (203) 521-4553.
8 pm — Lesbian Rap at Women's Center, 148 Orange St., New Haven, CT.
8:30 pm — Hartford Gay Alcoholics Group (203) 522-2646
8:30 pm — Gay Alliance at Yale, Open meeting, basement Hendrie Hall, 165 Elm St., New Haven; 436-8945; public welcome.
9 pm — Gay discussion group, Columbia U., Furnald Basement, Broadway at 115th St.

TUESDAYS

1 pm — MCC Campus Ministry, RIC Student U., Rm. 312, Providence, RI
6:30-8 pm — Women's Gay Collective, Women's Center, U Conn, CT, 203-486-4738
7 pm — Pot Luck Supper, 228 1/2 Atwells Ave., Providence, RI
7:30 pm — Gay Men's Center Speakers Forum, 36 Bromfield St., Boston
7:30 pm — DOB Women's Rap, 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323, Boston
8 pm — Springfield Gay Alliance, First Unitarian Church, 245 Porter Lake Dr., Springfield
8 pm — Gay Way Radio, WBUR, 90.9 FM
8-9:30 pm — Woman plus woman rap, Women's Center, U Conn, CT, 203-486-4738

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8-9:30 pm — TGC Drop-In Center for Men, Room L-23, Curtis Hall, Tufts
8 pm — Discussion group for lesbians and gay men, Christ Church, 20 Carroll St., Poughkeepsie, NY
8:30 pm — Providence Gay Group of AA, Assumption Parish Hall, 791 Potters Ave., Providence, RI; 231-5853
9:30 pm — Tufts Gay Community meeting, Laminan Lounge, East Hall, Tufts

WEDNESDAYS

11 am — Gay discussion group at Drop-In Center of Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, MA; open to everyone
6:30-8:30 — Gay Health Services, Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St., Boston, 267-7573.
6:30-8 pm — Gay Social Club, Roosevelt Hall, group room, 4th floor, U of RI, info call 792-5256
7 pm — Lesbian Support Group, UNH Women's Center, Durham, NH
7-9 pm — Univ. of Vermont Gay Switchboard, 656-4173
7 pm — Liberation Rap Group; (617) 756-0730
7 pm — Framingham Unicorn Society meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday; Box 183, Framingham, MA 01701
7-8:30 pm — Gay-straight Rap, U Conn, Mental Health Clinic, 203-486-4705
7:30 pm — Gay Men's Center, Psychic Healing and Gays in Fiction Workshops, 36 Bromfield St., Boston
7:30 pm — MCC-Extension discussion group, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH, 523-7664.
7:30 pm — Open Rap Group, 2 Wellington St., Worcester, MA
8-10 pm — Harvard-Radcliffe GSA meeting, Phillips Brooks House, 2nd floor, Harvard Yard, Cambridge, MA, 498-2111
8 pm — HUM meets, Box 262, Fitchburg, MA 01420
8 pm — Yalesbians Meeting, Rm. B-8, Hendrie Hall, 165 Elm St., New Haven, CT, 436-8945.

8-9 pm — GRAC women's basketball, Lindemann Center, Hurley Bldg., Staniford St., Boston
8:30 pm — Alcoholics Together, St. John the Evangelist Church, 33 Bowdoin St., Boston
8:30-10 pm — Drop-In Center for men, Rm. L-23, Curtis Hall, Tufts, Medford
9-12 pm — Gay Social, Columbia U., Furnald Basement, Broadway at 115th St.
10:15 pm — "Gaybreak Radio," on WMUA-FM, 91.1 mc. (1st and 3rd Wednesdays)

THURSDAYS

3:30 pm — UMass Amherst, Gay Male Rap Group, Cottage B, near Worcester Dining Common
5 pm — Brandeis Gay Alliance, Usdan Student Ctr., Conf. Rm. C, Brandeis Univ., Waltham, MA.
7 pm — Gay Alcoholics, St. Vincents Hospital, Worcester, MA
7 pm — Game Night, 5 Junction St., Providence, RI, Alternate weeks
7-8 pm — GRAC swimming, Lindemann Center, Hurley Bldg., Staniford St., Boston
7-10 pm — UMass Gay Women's Caucus Hotline, 545-3438
7:30 pm — Peoples Gay Alliance, UMass Amherst, 8th floor of Campus Center
7:30 pm — Gay Men's Center Gay Topics Rap, 36 Bromfield St., Boston
8 pm — Capital Dist. Gay Comm. Council, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany, NY 12210
8 pm — Dykes & Tykes, Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA, third floor, care for young people, 354-8807
8 pm — Lesbian Liberation meeting, Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge
8 pm — KALOS, Hartford, CT; 568-2656
8 pm — Lesbian Mothers group; 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, MA; (617) 354-8807
8-9:30 — Gay Alliance at U Conn in Commons, rm. 312
8-9 pm — Lesbian Mother rap group, 21 Bay St., Cambridge, MA 661-2537
8:15 pm — Drinking problems rap group, HCHS, 80 Boylston St., Rm. 855, Boston
8:30 pm — Gay Women's Caucus, UMass Amherst, 8th floor of Campus Center
8:30 pm — Lesbian Alcoholics, HCHS, 80 Boylston St., Rm. 842, Boston
8:30 pm — Gay Alliance at Yale, Hendrie Hall basement, 436-8945, New Haven, CT
9 pm — Emerson Homophile Society, Rm. 24, 96 Beacon St., Boston
9:30-10:30 pm — Drop-In Center for men, Rm. L-23, Curtis Hall, Tufts, Medford

FRIDAYS

7 pm — Alcoholics Together, Worcester 754-7817
7:30 pm — Rap group for men and women, MGTF, 193 Middle St., Portland, ME

7:30 pm — Lesbian Feminist Workshop, 21 Bay St., Cambridge, MA, info call 783-9415
7:30 pm — Gay Get-together, downstairs room, Billings Center, U of VT, Burlington
7:30 pm — Games Night, 2 Wellington St., Worcester, MA. Alternate weeks.
8 pm — "Somewhere Coffeehouse," MCC/Hartford, 11 Amity St., Hartford
8 pm — East Conn. Gay Alliance; 889-7530
8 pm — MCC/Hartford Drop-In Center, 11 Amity St.
8-9 pm — GRAC men's basketball, Lindemann Center, Hurley Bldg., Staniford St., Boston
8:30 pm — Alcoholics Together, Our Lady of Victory Church, Isabella St., Boston
9 pm — Coffeehouse, Hendrie Hall, Basement, 165 Elm St., New Haven, CT.
9-12 pm — GAY coffeehouse, Hendrie Hall basement, 165 Elm St., New Haven, CT
10 pm-3 am — Worcester Hotline, 791-8562

SUNDAYS

10:30 am — "Closet Space," WCAS-AM, (740)
12-1 pm — GRAC women's swimming, Lindemann Center, Hurley Bldg., Staniford St., Boston
1-2 pm — GRAC swimming instruction, Lindemann Center, Hurley Bldg., Staniford St., Boston
2 pm — MCC/Worcester Service, Central Cong. Church, 6 Institute Rd., Worcester
2-3 pm — GRAC men's swimming, Lindemann Center, Hurley Bldg., Staniford St., Boston
2:30 pm — "Gay A's" Alcoholics Rap, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston
4-6 pm — Gay Women's Group of Providence ra (401) 831-5184
5 pm — MCC/Boston Bible study group, 131 Cambridge St.; 523-7864
5:30 pm — Exodus Mass, St. Clement's Church, 1105 Boylston St., Boston
6:30 pm — Gay Church Services, 23 Franklin St., Bangor, ME
7 pm — MCC/Albany, NY, 332 Hudson Ave. (except first Sunday of month at 6 pm)
7 pm — MCC/NY worship, 201 W. 13th St. (corner of 7th Ave.)
7 pm — MCC/Boston, worship and fellowship, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., Boston
7 pm — Church of the Eternal Flame Universal, 320 Farmington Ave., Apt. A-6, Hartford, CT
7-8 pm — GRAC women's basketball, Lindemann Center, Hurley Bldg., Staniford St., Boston
7:30 pm — MCC/Hartford, 11 Amity St., Hartford, CT
7:30 pm — "Come Out Tonight," radio WYBC-FM, 94.3, New Haven, CT
8-9 pm — GRAC men's basketball, Lindemann Center, Hurley Bldg., Staniford St., Boston