

calendar

7 mon

Amherst, MA — International Women's Week at UMass, March 6-12, week-long activities, workshops, speeches, entertainment and more; on Thursday, March 10 there will be a workshop on Lesbianism; for info call (413) 545-3600.

8 tues

Boston — Integrity meeting, Eucharist followed by Mass. Gay Legislation '77 by Barbara Gray and Joe Martin, 7:30pm, Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St.

Boston — DOB women's discussion and social evening, refreshments, 7:30pm, 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323.

9 wed

Charlestown, MA — Gay Neighbors meet, open to all; bring refreshments if you can, 7pm. For place, call 241-7535 after 6pm.

Boston — Community Church hosts Sandra Graham and Judith LeBlanc speaking on their trips to the Soviet Union, 8pm, 565 Boylston St., \$1 donation.

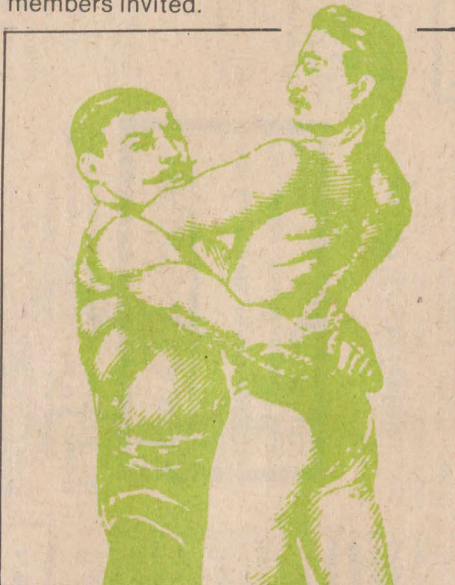
10 thurs

Boston — Meeting to plan strategy against Anita Bryant's anti-gay campaign in Florida at Charles St. Meeting House, 70 Charles St., 8pm, all welcome.

Amherst, MA — People's Gay Alliance Disco Dance, Campus Center Bldg., 10th floor, 9-1; \$1 donation.

Salem, MA — Salem State College Gay Task Force presents a film night, six films for free, 7:30pm, College Union Bldg., A & B Lounges.

Boston — Gay Business Assoc. Board of Directors meeting at Beacon Tours, 160 Commonwealth Ave., 8pm, all members invited.



12 sat

NYC — Dance for men and women held by Gay Activists Alliance and WSDG, info call 675-2983.

13 sun

Boston — General membership meeting of the Gay Men's Center to be held at the GMC, 36 Bromfield Street, at 4:00 pm.

Provincetown, MA — Lesbian/Gay Women's Rap Group meets at 8pm, for info call 487-9673.

Boston — Community Church presents Barbara Ehrenreich on "Feminism and the Rise of Mysticism," 11am, Morse Auditorium, 602 Comm. Ave.

15 tues

Boston — Topic, "Homophobia in the Gay Community" by Nancer Ballard and Ed Hougen, 7:30-10pm, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., sponsored by MCC.

Boston — "Are Sex Roles Biologically Determined?" by Barbara Chasin and Freda Salzman, Boston University, Sherman Union, Conference Auditorium, 8pm, also film and workshop.

gay community news

Vol. 4, No. 37 March 12, 1977

The Gay Weekly

35¢

Beacon Hill Supplement



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Anita Bryant Loses Lucrative Television Contract

MIAMI, FL — Anita Bryant's anti-gay crusade has cost the singer a potentially lucrative job as hostess of a daytime television show. The show, which was to focus on sewing and was sponsored by the Singer Sewing Machine Company, represents the first cancellation of a Bryant contract since the performer began her campaign against the Miami gay rights ordinance.

Meanwhile, Bryant's organization, Save Our Children, Inc., announced that they had garnered more than 60,000 signatures in an effort to force a referendum on the ordinance. As only 10,000 signatures are needed to bring about a referendum, the strong anti-gay petition showing assures that the referendum will be on the ballot. The referendum, which is expected to be held in June, would be the first of its kind in the country.

Bryant was notified of the cancellation in a telegram from Barry Drucker, president of a New York television production firm called Tele-Tactics. "We sincerely regret that the extensive national publicity arising from the controversial political activities you have been engaged in Dade County prohibit us from utilizing your services," the telegram said.

Singer Sewing Machine Vice-President Edward Trevorrow said that "We want this to be a pleasant show. We'd like to have as little difficulty as possible in any direction."

Bob Green, Bryant's husband and business manager, said that the series



And meanwhile in Fort Lauderdale . . . Gay mayoralty candidate Roger Luckett continues his fight for a spot on this week's ballot. In this picture Luckett (at right) chats with Marlin Beach Hotel owner Bill Holban, who has taken an active role in gay activism in Ft. Lauderdale.

Photo By David Holland

was to have been filmed this week. "Drucker told Anita last week he was going to put a contract in the mail to her. We already had reservations to fly to New York," he said.

"Blacklisting of Anita"

At a press conference held in her expensive Miami Beach home, Bryant

warned that "the blacklisting of Anita Bryant has begun." "I have been blacklisted for exercising the right of a mother to defend her children, and all children against their being recruited by homosexuals," she said.

"What concerns me," she told the press, "is that by caving in to the small

but vocal [number of] homosexual activists, those who sponsor American television and other forms of entertainment will give the impression that this sick segment of society represents society on a much broader basis than it does in reality."

"I am accountable to God first," said Bryant, who is a devout Baptist. "Those who do not share in my conviction may continue to blacklist my talent, but with God's help, they can never blacken my name," asserted the singer.

Bryant's husband, Bob Green, called the cancellation of the television contract "scary" and asserted, "If they can intimidate a company like Singer, they can intimidate anybody — congressmen, police, anyone."

Bryant also announced that she was going to return a \$1,300 sewing machine to Singer. "It would be the only honest thing to do," she said.

Bryant's agent, Dick Shack, said that he had "tried to salvage the contract" but couldn't. Shack, ironically enough, is married to Miami Metro Commission member Ruth Shack, who introduced the gay rights ordinance and has been a strong supporter of gay rights.

"Bitter" Battle

Bob Kunst, spokesperson for the Dade County Coalition for the Human Rights of Gays, told GCN by telephone that the anti-gay campaign was becoming "bitter" and "vicious." "Bryant and her forces have announced that

(Continued on page 7)

'Smear Campaign' Blots Election Day

Gay Man Runs Second in Princeton Race

PRINCETON, NJ — Douglas Brown, a sophomore at Princeton who is the coordinator of the Gay Alliance there, has narrowly lost his bid to be elected Chairperson of the university's Student Government. Brown, who is one of the five student representatives on the University Council, lost to Edward J. Shapiro by 931 to 781 in the campus-wide election last week.

Brown became somewhat of a controversial figure at Princeton last year when he attempted to put pressure on the university administration to issue an anti-discrimination statement on gay civil rights. Ultimately the university never acted in the manner. Brown and his roommate then created another stir when they hung a gay liberation banner outside their dormitory window. The banner was later torn down in the middle of the night and the perpetrators of the crime were given a university warning.

Running on the slogan "Gay Is Not My Only Business," Brown was elected last spring as a student representative on the University Council. The University Council is a student and faculty decision-making body, and Brown ran third out of twenty-two undergraduate candidates for the position.

In this year's campaign, Brown was seen as the anti-administration candidate who was very vocal on the issue of student's rights. He urged an end of secrecy in university budget-making and generally emphasized the diversity of all student viewpoints instead of running on the gay issue. His victor-

ious opponent — Edward Shapiro — is a member of the conservative, all-male Cottage Club. A third candidate, a black student named Charles Ryans, ran first in the primary election but polled less votes than Shapiro and Brown on the final ballot.

Candidate Brown told GCN that "I'm amazed that I did as well as I did. A few years ago I would have been laughed off campus. I got the second highest vote total in the history of Princeton voting. It just happened that Ed Shapiro got the highest total ever. He got his people out to vote." Brown emphasized that he will run again for his seat in the student government.

Brown and his supporters attribute the high Shapiro vote to a "smear campaign" which was conducted on the last day. "Shapiro went around to the swimming team and the football team and the different clubs telling them 'You don't want a fag as the head of the student government, do you?' On Election Day, mysterious leaflets appeared which looked like official student government material. It had biographies of the three candidates, and mine started, 'Brown is a member of the Gay Alliance.' Then the student government people went around and took the leaflets down," he said.

Brown attributes the high turnout (about 30% more than last year's election) to the anti-gay campaign that drew out the Shapiro voters. "I was ahead for most of the voting," Brown noted. "Then at night the library polling place was full of people from the football and swimming teams, all

of them Shapiro supporters."

David Abramowitz, who was active in Brown's campaign, told GCN that Brown's impressive showing was indicative of "greater acceptance and less antagonism" at Princeton. "90%

of Doug's campaign organization was 'straight'," Abramowitz noted. "People didn't seem to care about the fact that he was gay. They saw him in another context."

Lyn Rosen to Leave GCN

BOSTON — Lyn Rosen, who has served as GCN's Managing Editor for the past year, has resigned her position and will be leaving the newspaper as of April 1. Rosen first came to GCN as feature's editor in October, 1974 and took over the post of managing editor from Marion Tholander in February of last year. She now plans to return to Philadelphia, her hometown.

"The life of an activist is approximately two years," she said. "There is often so little support from any but the most dedicated few that after a while you lose track of why you're beating your brains out."

"The 'dedicated few,' especially the people I've worked with at GCN, have made my personal life here so enjoyable that I thought that I could last forever fighting to put out our version of 'the word,'" she observed. "But the general apathy and downright viciousness from some other quarters of the community have worn me down. I have faith that the work I've been doing personally will be handled with ease by those whose energy is still at a high level. At this point in time, I am burnt out and I need a rest."

"I am going back to my home town of Philadelphia because I am homesick



Photo by Liz Holden

for it. And I will still be running the Gay Newspaper Association, as the next convention will be there in the late spring. I'll see everyone then."

GCN does not intend to select anyone to replace Rosen at the present time. Temporarily, her duties will be taken over by editor Neil Miller and by business manager Harry Seng.

news notes

CAROLINA REJECTS ERA

RALEIGH, NC — In a major defeat for supporters of the National Equal Rights Amendment, the North Carolina Senate rejected ratification of the amendment last week by a 26-24 vote. The vote leaves the ERA three states short of being ratified as the 27th amendment to the United States Constitution. Both President Carter and his wife Rosalyn had personally lobbied North Carolina Senators to support the ERA.

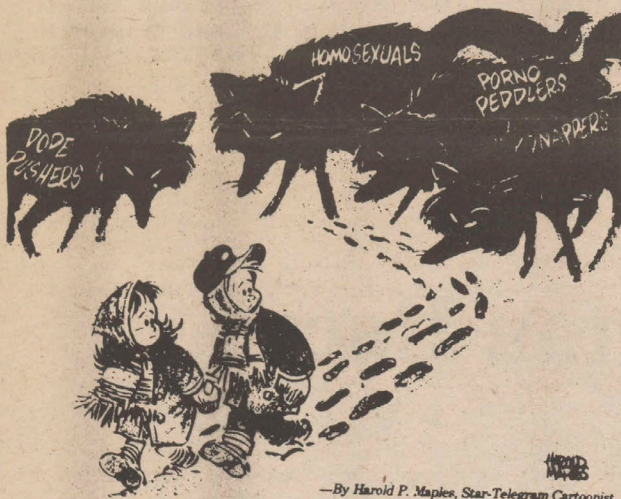
38 states must ratify the amendment for it to become law. So far only 35 states have done so and there is a March 1979 deadline for such a ratification.

NEW YORK NEWSPAPER

NEW YORK — New York City got a gay newspaper last week as the first two issues of *Gays Week* reached the newsstands. The newspaper is now functioning as a calendar so far but in the third issue — to be out shortly — the newspaper will present film reviews by former *New Republic* writer John Alfred Avant. Discussions of music, theatre, books and dance will follow the film reviews in upcoming issues. The final section to appear will be "a full fledged news section."

Gays Week emphasizes that the newspaper will "not be the house organ of any group or the mouthpiece of any organization."

The emergence of *Gays Week* follows the demise of recent gay newspapers in New York. The *Gotham-Ledger* began and ceased publication last summer, and the monthly newspaper *Maverick* closed almost a year ago as a result of disputes between editor Bishop Mikhail Francis Itkin and the newspaper's owners.



COW TOWN WON'T COWTOW

FORT WORTH, TX — 40 members of Fort Worth's gay community picketed the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* last week after the daily newspaper published a cartoon linking gay people with kidnapers, porno peddlers, and dope pushers. Demonstrators carried signs like "98% of all child molesters are heterosexual."

Although the newspaper has refused to apologize for the cartoon, Executive Editor Jack Tinsley did say that "I don't care what anyone's sexual persuasion is" as long as it does not interfere with the rights of others and does not involve criminal acts. He also said that he favored decriminalization of the sodomy laws.

LOUISIANA BIAS

ALEXANDRIA, LA — This city's only gay bar, The Lodge, has reportedly made a formal move to close its doors to the local black gay community. Exercising a private club charter that exempts it from state anti-discrimination statutes, the club's members are said to be backing a move to keep black gays out of the downtown club.

The move has angered some of the city's more liberal-minded gays and a boycott of the bar has begun in the Alexandria-Pineville area. The establishment reportedly obtained a private club charter two years ago but a move to force buying memberships in order to exclude blacks never got off the ground until this past December.

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CANADA-WIDE PROTESTS

OTTAWA, CANADA — Member organizations of the National Gay Rights Coalition picketed Canadian Broadcasting Company offices in six cities across Canada this weekend to protest against the CBC's national policy of refusing public service announcements from gay groups.

The CBC policy of rejecting announcements from gay organizations was confirmed recently on a national basis following an intervention filed before the Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission by the Gay Alliance for Equality, a Halifax group, during hearings on the renewal of the broadcasting licence of CBH, the CBC's Halifax outlet.

As a result of the intervention, the CBC promised to review its policy.

In a letter to the Halifax group outlining the results of the policy review, CBC Vice-President (Audience and Public Relations) Peter Meggs stated that "it is felt that the request of your organization represents subject matter which is still considered controversial by our audiences and therefore we must continue to apply the policy and refuse your request in the area of public service announcements."

JIMMY VS. BELLA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Columnist Marianne Means claims that Rep. Bella Abzug "stalked out in a fury" after a Feb. 14 meeting with President Carter. At that meeting, according to the *Boston Herald-American* writer, Carter told Abzug that he was not offering her a position on the Federal Trade Commission but promised her the unpaid, ceremonial post as presiding officer of the International Women's Year. Abzug was supposedly opposed by other FTC members who feared that the former congresswoman would be "disruptive" and "publicity-conscious." In view of Carter's decision not to offer any kind of substantial job to Abzug, she is expected to announce her candidacy to oppose incumbent Abraham Beame for the post of Mayor of New York.

Meanwhile, New York's Robert Rygor, whose organization Gays for Carter! came under attack during the Carter Presidential campaign, has now formed a group called Gays for Bella! "We are confident," wrote Rygor, "that with the support of the New York City gay community, Ms. Abzug will be an easy victor. She is viewed by most New Yorkers as a very courageous, imaginative, and talented person."

ENTERTAINING THE KIDS

LONDON — Gay Sweatshop, the British gay theatre group, performed recently for about 50 high school students at the Royal Court Theatre. The theatre group performed a play called *Age of Consent* which uses two real events — the firing of a gay teacher and the jailing of a man who had an 18-year-old lover — as the basis for the play.

Although sensational press coverage of the event cut down on the number of schools which attended, one school teacher observed, "the kids have never seen anything like this. For them to see people stand up and say 'I'm gay' is incredible. Most children could not actually believe that the entire cast of Sweatshop was gay."

FITCHBURG HEALTH CARE

FITCHBURG, MA — Fitchburg gays have high praise for the Outpatient Waiting Room at the Burbank Hospital. "The staff is completely accepting [non-homophobic]" and speak to people "in a most understanding way," they say. The local gays singled out the nurse who does the initial interview and actual diagnosis. The nurse, Mr. Rachael E. May, is described as "a definite contribution to the clinic and the gay and straight community in our area."

"If anyone in the Fitchburg area is having any problems (or even questions) about VD or general medical things, go to the clinic! Its good!" they say. Clinic hours are 4-7 p.m. every Tuesday. The clinic is free.

CHICAGO RADIO SHOW

CHICAGO, IL — Chicago now has a five night a week radio show called "Midnight at Harlow's." The show, which runs Monday to Friday from 10 p.m. to midnight on WVVX, 103.1 FM, will air live interviews with invited guests, telephone calls with listeners, music, and occasional happenings as they occur at the popular night-spot.

The show's entire format will be devoted to gay issues and will feature a nightly five-minute commentary on "news and views" by Grant Ford, publisher of the *Chicago Gay Life*.

LOEB SUES 'HUSTLER'

COLUMBUS, OH — *Manchester Union Leader* Publisher William Loeb has brought a libel suit against Larry Flynt, publisher of *Hustler* magazine. Flynt was recently convicted of pandering obscenity and engaging in organized crime in a case that has dismayed civil libertarians across the country. The Loeb suit comes as a result of an article about the conservative and homophobic publisher, written in the March issue of *Hustler*.

The article implies that Loeb is cruel to animals and reckless with firearms. One passage in the article observes that Loeb once "whipped out his automatic and shot his office cat."

Loeb asks \$10 million in damages.

LEGISLATION GROUP

BOSTON — Gay Legislation 1977 will hold a regular meeting to discuss plans on working on the 1977 Massachusetts gay rights bills on Wednesday, March 9, 1977, at 7:30 p.m. at the office of Atty. Richard Rubino, 7 Water Street, Boston (ring night bell). Persons wishing to help out are welcome to attend.



MAINE LINE

BANGOR, ME — Maine Gay Symposium IV is happening March 25, 26 and 27 at Bangor Community College. The birth of this annual event was four years ago in the wilds of Orono, Maine, at the state university. Gay-activist students and residents of the Pine Tree State faced an intense battle with the University administration, media, clergy, and a sundry assortment of Maniacal homophobes. Despite the opposition, Faggothood and Dykedom reigned on that spring weekend at the University of Maine. The Rev. Benjamin Bubar's nightmare that Orono would become a mecca for homosexuals realized itself for three days. The success of Symposiums I-III can be judged by the formation of Maine Lesbian Feminists, which has a mailing list of 200, and the establishment of the Maine Gay Task Force, which publishes *Mainely Gay*. Both of these thriving organizations were nurtured from the gay-nergy everpresent at Maine Gay Symposiums.

This year's celebration starts Friday, March 25, at 6:00 p.m. with registration, an arts and crafts show, a sale of gay literature and music, and a coffeehouse. Saturday morning, after a coffee and doughnut breakfast at 8:30, Diane Elze, lesbian-feminist and vice-president of UMO Student Senate, will welcome our congregation. Karla Jay — writer, editor, political figure — and John Paul Hudson — author, journalist, gay liberationist — will present keynote speeches on "The Politics of Being Out: Coming Out as Process," and "Whatever Happened on the Way to the Revolution," respectively. Following will be three workshop periods; your choice of 21 sex and non-sex-segregated workshops dealing with political, personal, social, economic and sexual related topics. A vegetarian dinner put on by Fig O' My Heart, a lesbian-owned restaurant, will feed the masses. Bring your dancing shoes (Bean boots, or whatever) 'cause we're gonna boogie until the wee hours of the morning. Sunday morning's brunch will give us a chance to recap the weekend.

For registration information, contact the Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono 04473, or call 207-581-2571, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

'Consenting Adults' Bill Gains Committee Passage

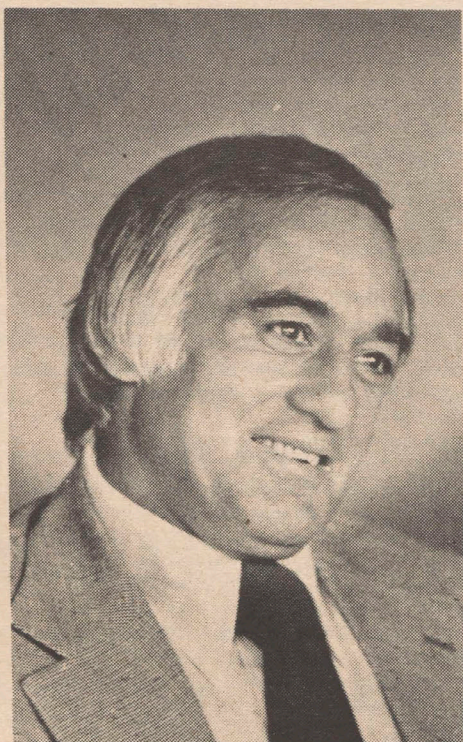
By David Brill

BOSTON — The 1977 "Consenting Adults Bill" (H. 3751) passed its first hurdle last week as the Massachusetts Legislature's Committee on the Judiciary issued a favorable or "ought to pass" recommendation. The Judiciary Committee's vote on the innovative piece of legislation came during an executive session following a public hearing held last Monday, Feb. 28.

H. 3751 would *not* repeal any of the existing statutes which outlaw various homosexual and heterosexual acts. Instead, the bill would rewrite Sections 14, 16, 18, 34, and 35 of Chapter 272 to retain criminal penalties for sexual acts committed either in public or by force or threat of force. Thus, for example, the penalty of twenty years in prison for the "abominable and detestable crime against nature" would remain in effect as long as this act was committed in the above manner and/or situations. In this manner, private sexual acts between consenting adults would be decriminalized. Cohabitation would be decriminalized as well.

Sen. Alan D. Sisitsky (D-Springfield), Senate chairperson of the committee, indicated during the testimony that he was favorably disposed to the measure. In 1971, while a state representative, Sisitsky sponsored H. 1949 with former Rep. Paul Menton of Watertown and former Sen. Mario Umana of Boston. The 1971 bill, which would have repealed the sex laws outright, was summarily defeated.

The "consenting adults" approach is being used this year, instead of the



Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti, who sent a letter of support for the bill.

repeal method (which has been tried unsuccessfully for the last six years) for two reasons, according to the bill's supporters. First, it was concluded that any legislation seen as "legalizing sex crimes" would go nowhere in the State House, even if public sex were included in the state's rape laws, which were amended last in 1974. Secondly, in addition to increasing the political palatability of the legislation, Gay Legislation 1977 had been advised that since the 1974 Supreme Judicial Court

case of *Commonwealth v. Balthazar*, a better argument in favor of "consenting adults in private" legislation could be made.

Among those persons who testified in support of the measure were David Stivison, a Harvard Law School student; Robin McCormick of Sporter's Cafe; Rev. Randall Gibson of the Charles Street Universalist Church; Ann Weld-Harrington, director of the Provincetown Civil Defense Department; Rev. Ed. Hougen of the Metropolitan Community Church of Boston; and Joseph Martin, coordinator of Gay Legislation 1977.

Speaking on behalf of the National Organization for Women, Linda Lachman told the committee, "As feminists, we believe that all people are entitled to basic civil and human liberties. We affirm that each person has an inalienable right to choose a lifestyle free from governmental regulation, insofar as the expression of that lifestyle does not infringe on the rights of others."

Rep. Elaine Noble told the committee that H. 3751 "makes a clearer distinction between public and private acts," and distributed a legal brief to the committee on the subject.

Rep. Barney Frank was the only other legislator to testify in support of the bill. (Traditionally, the subject of sex makes legislators more uncomfortable than the issue of discrimination.)

In written testimony submitted to Sisitsky, Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti also backed the gay bill. "Society is not protected when laws

unduly infringe upon the individual's constitutional right to privacy. Simply stated, the Commonwealth should not prohibit the consensual acts of adults in private," wrote Bellotti.

Gov. Michael S. Dukakis also sent a letter in support.

Bets that this year's new approach to the sex issue would blunt any organized opposition apparently paid off. Last year, for example, a string of opponents — including representatives of the Massachusetts Catholic Conference, St. Mary's Holy Name Society, and Morality in Media — all registered vehement opposition to the repeal bill. This year, only one opponent — Jack Fasset of the Massachusetts Churchmen's League — appeared, and he could find nothing substantively wrong with the bill except that it would "indirectly legalize homosexual acts," leaving legislators to decide for themselves whether that was in itself bad.

How It Passed

How the measure got a favorable report is a puzzle to most knowledgeable observers. Although Sisitsky's views carry the most weight, only six or so of the other 20 committee members have been considered reliable gay rights supporters in the past, with only one member — Rep. Max Volterra (D-Attleboro) — a sponsor of the measure. (Sisitsky, incidentally, is considered to be a candidate for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination next year.)

The measure will be carried on the
(Continued on page 7)

Lesbian's Political Work Gains Government's Ire

By Leslie Cagan

BOSTON — On Jan. 26, 1977, Vicki Gabriner and Jimmy Reeves were convicted in Federal District Court on one count each of passport fraud and conspiracy to commit passport fraud. This past Monday, Feb. 28, Justice W. Arthur Garrity sentenced both Gabriner and Reeves to one year's probation. While the sentences appear to be light (both faced up to 10 years imprisonment and thousands of dollars in fines), the conviction itself was viewed by defendants and supporters as "an outrage."

Gabriner and Reeves were both arrested in May, 1973 on indictments which alleged their participation in the fraudulent application for a passport in January, 1970 — a time when both were active in the Boston collective of Weathermen-SDS. In the past seven years Vicki Gabriner and Jimmy Reeves have experienced major changes in their lives.

Reeves is presently in a doctoral program in Chemistry at Northeastern University in Boston. Gabriner has been living in Atlanta, Georgia, and is active in the lesbian-feminist community there. The fact of the indictments, arrests and almost four years of pre-trial activity have been major disruptions in both their lives.

Defense lawyers Bill Homans and Carl Broege argued that the federal government decided to pursue this prosecution for so long because of the political activism of both defendants. A pre-trial motion filed by Gabriner's lawyer won her the right to listen to tapes the FBI had illegally made on the national office of SDS in 1970. While there appeared to be no direct link between those tapes and this prosecution, it became clear that the government knew that both defendants were active in Weathermen. There is reason to believe that such knowledge was what in part led to the indictments in

this case. The fact that the government was forced to admit to having these tapes at all has re-confirmed speculation of wide-spread surveillance of political activists throughout the country.

In her pre-sentencing statement to the court, Vicki Gabriner explained her own views on this case: "Although the trial was singularly apolitical on the surface, it was totally political at its core. It can only be understood in the context of the Vietnam War, the social upheaval which accompanied it in this country in the '60s and '70s, and the extensive surveillance of political activ-

ists, carried out by the government, and designed to disrupt the anti-war, black and women's movements."

Gabriner went on in her statement to explain her own political history, which included civil rights and anti-war work, summing up by saying, "Since the late '60s, I have come to understand myself as a member of an oppressed majority and minority: a woman and a lesbian. I have fused this new understanding with my old beliefs . . . I have worked hard to help passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and to build the lesbian-feminist community."

Dave Kopay Hits Boston in Media Blitz

BOSTON — David Kopay, former University of Washington and San Francisco '49ers football star who came out publicly in the *Washington Star* over a year ago, was in Boston last week to publicize his autobiography, *The Dave Kopay Story*. Kopay is in the midst of a whirlwind national tour to promote the book, which was published by New York's Arbor House on Feb. 28.

Kopay's first Boston media appearance was a three-hour stint on WHDH radio's talk show, hosted by David Brudnoy. Although the show has one of the most conservative listening audiences in town, most of the telephone callers were positive. However one woman called his situation "tragic" and said, "I can only pray for your parents." Kopay is the third gay person who has taken part in the Brudnoy talk show this year. Others who appeared included Gay Way's Ann Maguire and Dr. Eric Hansen.

In the twenty-four hours following the Brudnoy show, Kopay was to repeat a similar scene five times. "I don't know if they are 'caller' shows"



Dave Kopay

he told GCN. "I just attack each one as I come to it."

Kopay talked with GCN about his responses to the rigors of his media blitz. "This experience [his promo-

tional tour] has given me a wider perspective and more understanding of both my situation and others. It has somehow given me more room. I really can't explain it."

Unlike last year's gay media hero Leonard Matlovich who had a difficult time with his many appearances, Kopay insists, "I have kept an inner control while doing this. A friend of mine says 'he refuses to not have a good time.' I have tried to keep that in perspective."

In response to a question about his impact on the sports industry, Kopay commented, "A lot of them (athletes) have voiced quiet support. They are still not able to come out. They continue to say to me, 'I wish I could get where you are.'"

After his media blitz is concluded, Kopay plans to spend a quiet time alone on the West Coast. The furniture from his Georgetown home is in storage, ready to be set up in Los Angeles. What will he do next? "I may write a script. I may star in a film based on my story. I may return to coaching. I don't know."

community voice

miffed by title

Dear GCN:

Hello. This is in regards to the article concerning Anita Bryant and her anti-gay campaign "Save Our Children." Who does she think she is anyway? It seems low enough that she is trying to repeal the newly enacted gay rights ordinance but what really gets me is the title she has chosen, "Save Our Children." It is terribly absurd, and very distorting. Her attitude towards gay people is very painful and humiliating.

I am a 21-year-old, highly respected, hard-working human being of the USA and I drink lots of orange juice and eat lots of oranges. I am also a beautiful lesbian.

Alas, no more orange juice for me, or for the beautiful lady in my life or for her two beautiful children.

Yes, we are also launching a campaign. It's called "Save Our Children" from Anita Bryant and her poison.

Thank you with Pride,
Patricia Eaton
The Cape

P.S. I would think Anita Bryant would use her energy on something constructive.

goodstein, again

Dear GCN:

Having come, only a couple of years ago, from the West Coast, it seems almost more than one should have to bear to find David Goodstein doing his unique form of morale boosting here on the East Coast. From some things, it would seem, one cannot get away.

I remember a moment in early 1972 when we tried to call into being a California Committee for Sexual Law Reform. After apportioning delegates to several city areas it was suggested that a "David Goodstein" be elected as an at-large delegate. He was then in Europe but would be back for a next meeting. He was said to have LOTS of money . . . from some sort of stock brokerage fortune. Upon Mr. Goodstein's return almost the first thing to happen was that the committee was axed and a Foundation which

could "work within the system" created. It's first act was to hire the person who had nominated Goodstein. A year or two later the source of the fortune had changed to a reputed "banking fortune" . . . now I understand that is reputed to be a famous "computer fortune" . . . always the glamorous . . . and of course as Mr. Goodstein himself will tell you . . . always American.

Within the memory of many of us David Goodstein bought *The Advocate* and apparently felt that he had bought the Movement as well . . . as Rev. Roy Birchard in Washington pointed out to some of us.

And I want to take just a moment to give thanks that all of us whom Mr. Goodstein sees as Unkempt, Unemployable Neurotics have seen through the attempt. Obviously that does not properly characterize all the community. But more than that it overlooks the extent to which some of our brothers and sisters who have, in the past, been wounded almost to the point of madness, have found healing and resurrection in getting involved in the movement and community.

That really came into focus for me during last year's Gay Pride Parade in New York. There were statements being made in the event which I did not agree with . . . being made by people who probably did not agree with mine. But that communal exercise was one more moment in which Gay folk could get it together and be whole. I resent Mr. Goodstein's implication that that is wrong.

It was good to see in your last issue that he finally seems to admit that he isn't running a newspaper . . . but some sort of merchandising effort. What he may not understand is that many of us now simply refuse to send him press releases, refuse to peddle it, refuse to read it.

The Advocate gives the best coverage it can, "Given the poor state of communication of gay news and the lack of reliable sources." I do read GCN and some other regional press and I think David Goodstein is wrong and your part of a growing network of regional papers is proof of that.

Thank you for being there when we need you.
God is with us,
Rev. Jos. H. Gilbert
Pastor, MCC Providence

remembering guy charles

Dear GCN:

Not long ago, Arthur Bell told me he'd considered going a where are they now kind of article on the New York Gay Activists of 5 to 8 years ago. Surely the strangest story in the lot would be that of Guy Charles. It is ironic and not a little frightening to see him calling down hellfire and brimstone, urging gays to repent and reform and generally out-Biebering Bieber (with whom you've appropriately juxtaposed him on page 3 of your Feb. 26 issue).

In Arnie Kantrowitz' forthcoming book, *Under The Rainbow*, you'll read about an informal group self-designated the "Trash Committee." Well, let me call an emergency meeting and tell you what I remember of GAA media person Guy Charles.

One afternoon there was a meeting going on on the third floor of the GAA Firehouse, just outside the executive office, while a social event was taking place on the second floor. Guy raced passed us into the office, an "urgent business" air about him, ignored our greetings, but tossed out the suggestion that we really should be at the activity on the floor below, burst back out of the office and proceeded to castigate us for being dead weight and the cause of the downfall of the movement. We were shocked — among us were founders of Bronx United Gays, Gay Community at Queens College and other local groups, people who had been instrumental in bringing many new people into the movement. Some of this group were visiting the Firehouse for the first time — Guy had given them a lovely welcome.

In his book, Arnie recounts the time the GAA membership was hoodwinked by the death's doorstep farewell speech of one Michael Bardin, down freak, who, very much alive, absconded the next day with funds some of us had been collecting to buy the Firehouse a piano. Let me

add to that story that, instrumental in getting GAA to listen to this bogus cancer victim was Guy Charles, who attempted to guilt trip us into allocating GAA funds for the hospital and funeral expenses. He was always a soft touch for the hysteric.

After I would participate in a GAA action, I would look for the coverage in "Gay," a now defunct New York paper edited by Jack Nichols and the late Lige Clarke, and in, you should excuse me, "The Advocate." In "Gay," I would usually find an accurate report — 50 lesbians and gay men chanted and sang and protested and made our dissatisfaction known at the Suffolk County police station. Then I would look in "The Advocate" for Guy Charles' coverage and read that the Biblical incident at Jericho had been recreated when 500,000 Amazon and Spartan warriors from New York shook the Suffolk police station down to its foundations, striking yet another momentous blow for gay freedom, and I would ask myself what demonstration he'd attended.

I'll never forget the time a headline of his proclaimed Dale Evans a major supporter of gay civil rights. In the body of his article, however, he could not help but admit that she wasn't quite sure she'd ever heard of gay people, but she supposed we were all right as long as we didn't scare the horses.

All I can say is, well, dear, you've gotten your name in the papers again and that's what you wanted, wasn't it?

Bruce Michael Gelbert
New York

NEWS WRITERS

GCN is looking for volunteer news writers, especially to write women's news. Anyone interested should call Neil at 426-4469.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

The planning Committee for the New England Gay Conference has asked that both gay men and lesbians send in individual suggestions of Famous Personages of Our History and Culture. Women are asked to suggest women. Men are asked to suggest men. The arrangements committee will have blow-up photos prepared to hang at the conference site. Suggestions may be mailed to NEG "Posters," P.O. Box 1462, Providence, RI 02901.

The conference will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 1 thru 3 at Rhode Island College Campus, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI. Registration information is available from NEGC "Registration," post office box shown above.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

One of the events planned for the New England Gay Conference will be "Gay Sights and Sounds . . . A multi-media presentation." Music, tapes of historic gay events, films will all be combined with slides to massively document gay presence in the larger society.

Individuals and groups are asked to lend slides from their own collections so that an All-New-England-Gay-Image can be presented.

Slides, individually marked with owner's name should be sent to NEGC "Sights and Sounds," P.O. Box 1462, Providence, RI 02901. The two hour presentation will be given Saturday evening from 8:00 to 10:00 during the New England Gay Conference, April 1 thru 3, at Rhode Island College Campus in Providence.

Slides not picked up by owners will be returned by mail no later than April 4, 1977.

INTERNATIONAL women's week



march 6-12, 1977



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Opinions reflected in "editorial" represent the views of the editorial board. Signed letters and columns reflect the views and opinions of the authors only. Comments, criticisms, and information are always welcome from our readers: remember, it's YOUR paper!

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speaking out

Mr. Goodbar Stalks the Subways

By Warren Blumenfeld

It was 5:00 and I was waiting for the 5:06 B&M railroad to take me back to Boston after a nice visit with my friend in Salem. At the end of the platform were three young boys, the eldest seeming to be twelve, or thirteen, and the youngest six or seven. All three of them were dressed in black leather jackets, white tee-shirts, and jeans. Each smoked a cigarette (including the youngest), spat, and cursed. Each of them acted "cool" and strutted as they walked.

They seemed to exhibit the same anti-academic, anti-feeling attitude as "The Fonz" who now seems to be the new culture hero of many — young and old. On seeing these young boys, I was saddened because my mind immediately flashed on the image that these three would soon be the "faggot-beaters" — the successors of the "faggot beaters" of today.

They got on the same train as I. The entire ride back to Boston, they kept cursing and punching one another. Walking down the aisle, they looked at me with a distantly hostile glance.

When I got back to Boston, I was glad to be rid of them, only to see more "little Fonzie's" at North Station. Same leather jackets, same strutting walk, same distantly hostile attitudes.

I got on the Green Line and another young man got on at the next stop. No leather jacket, just a nicely pressed brown shirt, sweater open in the front and jeans. He had a pleasant face and I looked over at him. He caught my glance and looked back for a few seconds. Upon reaching his seat he pulled out a switch-blade four or five inches long. He then proceeded to open and close it a few times while

still looking in my direction.

Needless to say, I shifted my gaze forward and wondered how I would get out of this one. Would he stab me right here on the trolley; would he just keep opening and closing it to scare me; or would he follow me out of the subway when I left Copley Square? As we got closer to Copley Square my anxiety was overwhelming. At Copley the door opened, I got out, and he stayed on the car gazing out at me still playing with his knife.

The door shut and the trolley wearily pulled away down the track. I stood fixed for a second or two and started for the escalator to take me to street level. Now I felt quite a bit of relief, but even more depressed. So many questions came to me as I walked down Dartmouth Street. "Why do we seem to be going ever backward to the oppression of the '50s? Why is there so much violence around?" Then an even more puzzling question arose: "Why do many gay men mimic the 'cool' detached 'Fonzie' image in some of the bars?"

I don't know. I'm really confused. The "look" that the young men on the train and subway had is the same "look" that many gay men have in bars. Here I must add that I've been picking up this "look" also in order to fit in when I'm in a bar. This "look" was so correctly summed up in the book, *Looking for Mr. Goodbar*:

"They had the look in their eyes as if they had been somewhere else and Earth is nothing more than a two-bit town."

Let's not follow the "straight" lead any more, and be careful when you're on a train or subway.

On 'Closet Space,' The Movement (And Other Things)

By Paul Morse

One Sunday morning of late I tuned in WCAS to hear what I thought would be "Closet Space," only to be informed by a flippant voice that for some unknown reason the show's tape was missing once again. In its stead, we were to be treated to a half-hour of jazz. According to the announcer, the studio had all but worn out its gay recordings and wearied its listeners with the substitute repertoire.

How much of an audience exists for the show is a good question for yet another poll. But on those Sundays that found me awake at 10:30 in the morning, "Closet Space" was once a welcome relief from the tonnage of heterosexual newspeak in the *Times* and the *Globe*. In the days when GCN hit the stands on Tuesdays, and *Esplanade* was still just a place for bushmen to rendezvous, "Closet Space" served a variety of functions. The format included a rundown of the week's events, a news segment, and usually an interview, intercut with the latest gay recordings. Nebulous at best, amorphous at worst, the "gay community" seemed nevertheless a little less elusive on those Sunday mornings when the radio came out of its closet.

But times change. GCN can now be had on Sundays. And *Esplanade*, while not exactly Woodward and Bernstein's answer to the gay press, sports enough interviews between the cheek shots to titillate if not satisfy. All of which leaves "Closet Space" with an antiquated format. That is, if it still has a format. The last several times I tuned in on a Sunday morning, the program consisted of either an all-lesbian discussion or a half-hour of uninterrupted folk music.

Personally, I have nothing against lesbian discussions or folk music; in fact, I enjoy both. But the fact of the matter is, that both enjoy a rather limited appeal, particularly if the entire program is devoted to such. A program aimed at the gay community should embrace that community, male and female, if it intends to establish for itself a regular listenership.

On the same Sunday of late when "Closet Space" was pre-empted by a half-hour of jazz, the *Boston Globe* ran a short near the bottom of an inner page regarding some jazz of a less venial sort. It seems that three New Hampshire state senators, perplexed by the "tawdry militancy being shown by homosexuals" there, have been sufficiently inspired to file legislation which would ban the "consorting of homosexuals in public." Now consorting is one of those charming, innocuous-sounding, Latin derivatives as appropos to the text of a cook book

as it is to a piece of legislation. But lest the far-reaching ramifications of such a bill escape you, allow me to cite a few synonyms for "consorting": associate, accompany, join, escort, to be in harmony, agreement, or accord with. And for those of you who flunked geography and don't ski, allow me to locate New Hampshire for you: it is an hour away from Boston.

Jazz, like poetry, resists paraphrasing, so that the sense of what one hears is often drowned in the melody. Associations blur, and effects are sooner felt than comprehended. Themes emerge, however. And if there is one theme to all this jazz, it is the peril of apathy. When a gay professor is brutally murdered in Roxbury, can we afford to depend on the *Boston Globe* for the better coverage? When the state legislature is hearing public testimony on a bill to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual preference, can we afford no foremention of it in *Esplanade*? And when senators are proposing laws which could paralyze virtually all gay activities within an hour's drive of Boston, can we afford to let one of Boston's two gay radio programs ooze away the air-time with jazz?

If your answer to any of the above is yes, you not only flunk geography, you're drowning in the drivel of a saxophone: a saxophone, which, if many political forecasters are correct in their predicted return of conservatism in this country, could very well see you rubbing your tits against the bedboard or marrying an Acu-Jac some day soon.

But if bedboards are your bag and Acu-Jacs are what leave hair on your pillow, you have no doubt ample space already in your closet for the radio. Lay it on the shelf beside your life. On the other hand, if you aren't ready to drown just yet, let's see what can be done about reviving a once viable voice for the whole gay community. I urge anyone now associated with the program to air their suggestions or write their rebuttals.

Surely there are gay people in this area with media experience or just imagination who would be willing to contribute their energy. Surely there's enough jazz on WBUR already to satisfy all of the Benny Goodmans in Sodom and Gomorrah. But as long as gay people are being murdered, as long as legislators attempt to deprive us of our constitutional rights, as long as ignorance, in short, prevails, there will never be enough space in the closet for apathy, let alone "Closet Space" for jazz.

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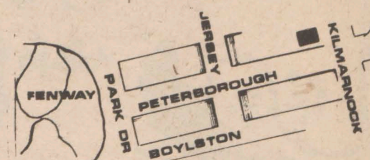
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By Dai Thompson

HARTFORD, CT — Gay groups and individuals mobilized in Hartford on Monday, Feb. 28 for the hearings on Connecticut's Sexual Orientation bill before the Human Rights and Opportunities Committee. The joint House and Senate committee is co-chaired by Senator Betty Hudson and Rep. Margaret Morton — two of the gay community's strongest advocates. At 10:00 a.m., the legislators and commissioners had their hour; at 11:00 the public hearings began and continued directly through until almost 5:00. Over thirty speakers presented testimony on the bill and, only a few of these were against its passage.

Opponents of the bill included representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and the Y.M.C.A., the former Commissioner of Education, and former Representative Liddy who

repeated his annual statement: If God had wanted homosexuals, he would have invented Adam and Peter, and Eve and Alice."

Supporters of the bill included child psychiatrist Ellis Perlswig, Massachusetts sex offender researcher Jean Bernbaum, and attorneys J. Johnson and G.J. Stilson-McDinal. Religious support came from a Presbyterian minister, Rev. Clinton Jones of the Episcopal Church, a representative and a minister of the United Church of Christ, two representatives of Dignity, and the pastor of Hartford's Metropolitan Community Church. Other supportive groups included Connecticut Women's Political Caucus, West Hartford Family Services, Connecticut Civil Liberties Union, East Hartford's Human Rights Committee and the office of the state's Human Rights and Opportunities Commission. Additionally, several individuals gave personal testimony arguing for the need for gay rights legislation, the non-disastrous effects its passage would have, and citing incidents of discrimination and harassment.

All in all the day was incredibly exhausting but, at the same time, often exhilarating — especially for those for whom this was their first experience

attending a state public hearing. One of the most rewarding parts of the day came from several people who were initially there to testify about the other bills being considered and who yet ended up their testimony by also asking the committee's support for our Sexual Orientation bill.

Rhode Island Report

By Chris Tedford

PROVIDENCE, RI — Five years old, Gay Women of Providence is still functioning as a viable support group. Weekly Sunday meetings consist of regulars and newcomers. The primary purpose the group sees for itself is a place for discussion and socializing. With a base of about 35 members, each week 8-20 women meet to discuss all aspects of living. Usually the topics arise spontaneously from the experiences of the women. The discussions often deal directly with lesbianism, but conversation also centers around topics such as depression, gynecologists, and work.

The women also have parties, a relaxing way to meet new people and old friends. The group is open to

Most of our opponents' arguments centered around the field of teaching. They seem absolutely terrified that we may present positive role models and thus convert their "innocent" children — they sure don't know much about kids these days! It's amazing the power they think we have. Don't we wish?!

singles and couples, of which there seem to be an even number. Children are welcomed in the casual atmosphere of the meetings. Ages of women at meetings usually run from late teens to mid-thirties with occupations in various forms of work, studies and interests.

Since last year the group has become involved in a few community activities. They ran four workshops at the Women's Health Conference, and collaborated on gathering election research with Action Alert Alliance, a network of women's groups. Presently small groups of members are working on long-term projects. For the woman who likes political action, she will find others to share her energy. To those who have neither the time nor inclination for politics, Gay Women of Providence will always be open for the comfortable support and discussion of other lesbians, as this is the main focus of the group. In the words of one of the members, "Nobody wants to feel isolated, they want to feel there is some gay community." For information on time and place of meetings call Diane at (401) 831-5184.

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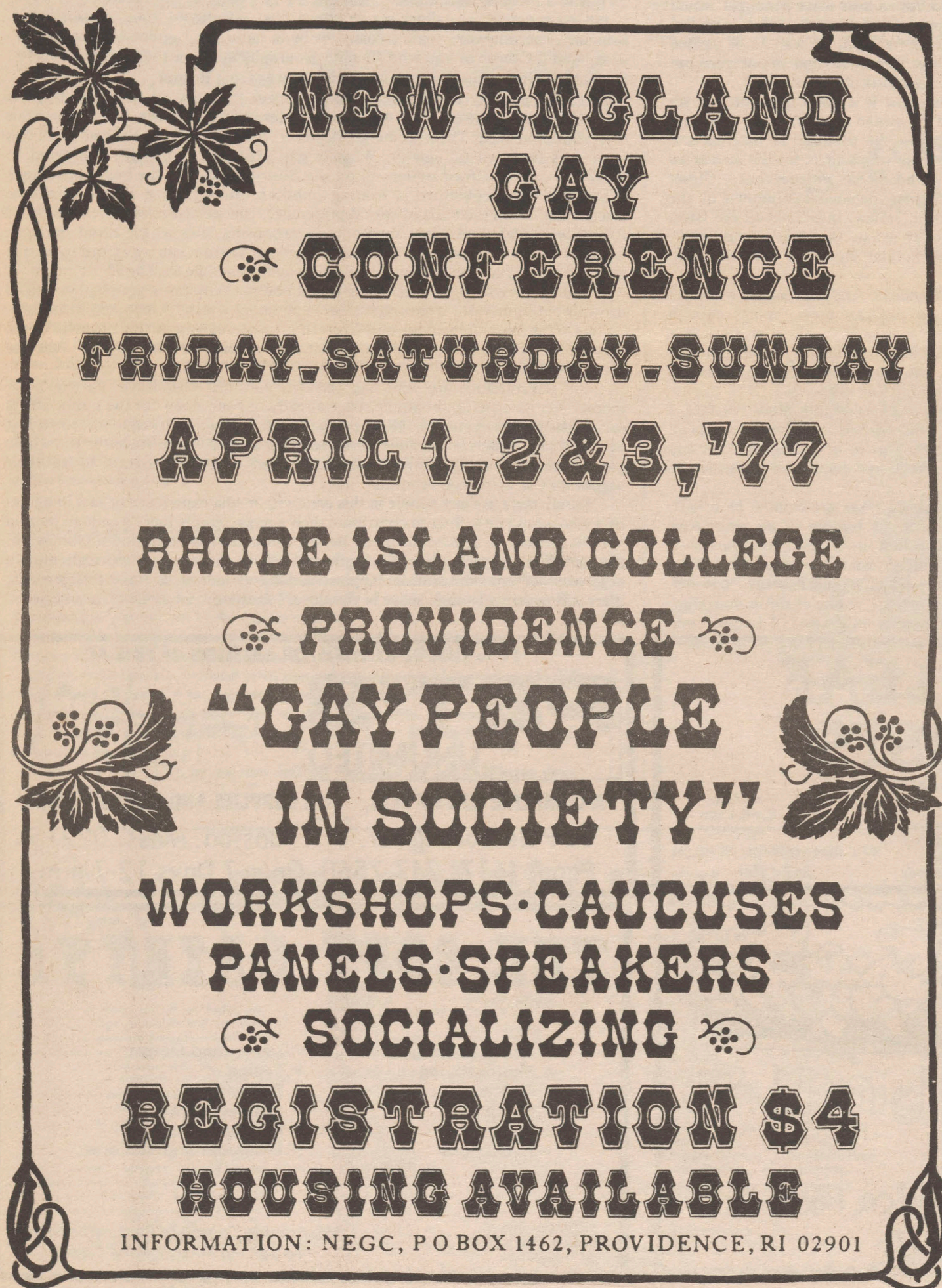
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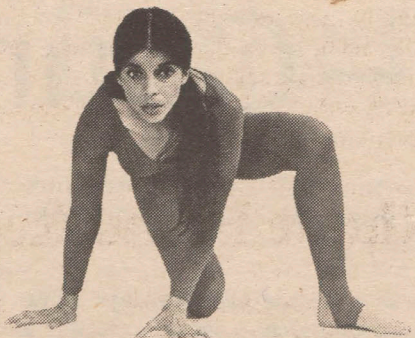
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N.E. Conf. Changes Schedules

PROVIDENCE, RI — A recent planning meeting for the New England Gay Conference has made some changes in the scheduled workshops. The conference will be held April 1-3 at Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence.

At 10:00 a.m., April 2 will be workshops on: "Coming Out to Self," "Stability and Movement of Roles among Lesbians," "Gays in Business," and "The Pink Triangle, Gay People In A Repressive Society." At 12:30 that day workshops will include: "Coming Out to Family and Friends," "Changing Patterns of



Mime Suzanne Fox who will perform at the New England Gay Conference.

Monogamy," "Gay Effect on Media and Legislation," "Feminism," and "Producing A Small Publication." At 2:30 in the afternoon the workshops will deal with: "Coming Out to the World," "Acceptance of Alternate Life-styles (Rural Gays, Sexual Minorities, etc.)," "The Aging Process in the Gay Community," "Parents of Gays/Gay Parents," and "Communal Living."

As previously announced Fr. Malcolm Boyd, author of *Are You Running With Me Jesus*, will address the conference and a Rhode Island College Symposium on Homosexuality Friday evening at 7:30 on the subject

"Coming Out." Later that same evening Suzanne Fox, a mime, will perform at a Gay Coffee House in the Student Union Ballroom. Author Merle Miller will deliver the keynote address Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. The theme of the conference will be "Gay People In Society."

Registration and scheduling information is available by writing: NEGC "Registration," P.O. Box 1462, Providence, RI 02901.

People with available housing in the Providence, Worcester, and Boston areas can offer to put up people by writing: NEGC "Housing" at the same Post Office box.

Crisis Shakes Up Gay Men's Center

BOSTON — The Gay Men's Center — Boston's alternative meeting-place for gay men — is once again in a crisis situation. The Round Table (governing board) of the Center has been hurt by the departure of its coordinator and the resignation of the program and staffing chairpeople. In addition, there is a major split in the remaining board members as to just how to continue the Center's functioning and activities. Issues in the split include the question of incorporation of the Center and the possibility of joining a projected umbrella organization called the Human Achievement Foundation.

The Center is slated to move to new quarters in Kenmore Square next month after having been evicted from its present 36 Bromfield Street home. The projected increase in rent and expenditures both for the move and the renovations in the new space are also

causing concern. Compounding the problem is the apparent lack of interest of many gay men in the community in taking part in Center activities.

In an attempt to remedy the deteriorating situation, a general membership meeting has been called for Sunday,

March 13, at 4:00 p.m. All members of the Center are invited to attend. At that time nominations will be accepted for the vacant positions and members and new members will be sought to participate in committees.

Until the general membership meet-

ing, GMC activities will continue as planned. The Thursday night open rap group will meet at 7:45 at the present 36 Bromfield Street address. There will also be a screening of Elia Kazan's "East of Eden" starring James Dean, to be held Friday, March 11, at 8 p.m.

Anita Bryant Loses Contract

(Continued from page 1)

they are going to form a national organization to oppose the National Gay Rights Bill," Kunst said. "They're attempting to do a number across the country. This referendum here is a last-ditch effort by the holdovers of the Nixon years, of terror and fear against a more humanist way of doing things."

Kunst disagreed with the view that focusing on Bryant could potentially "backfire" or create Bryant as a

"martyr." "This is bringing the whole thing to national attention," he said. "She thinks she can discriminate against us because we can't raise our voices against her. I'd be happy to introduce an amendment to the ordinance protecting people's livelihoods."

'Consenting Adults' Bill Gains

(Continued from page 3)

floor of the House by Rep. Genevra R. Coughlin (D-Concord), a second-term legislator and the first woman to serve on the Judiciary Committee. The only committee member to oppose the bill in the committee's executive session was Rep. W. Paul White (D-Dorchester).

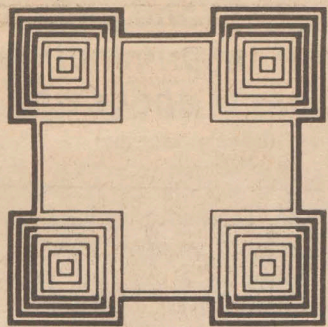
With the committee's favorable report, the bill will be sent to the House in a few weeks, where action on it will be taken by either a voice vote, or, more likely, a roll call. There is considerable disagreement as to whether the legislation has a serious chance for passage, because of the legislature's

traditional sensitivity toward sexual matters.

Additionally, gay lobbyists have made a priority out of their anti-discrimination proposals, not the sex law reform. Historically, Massachusetts, due largely to its heavily Catholic makeup, has last-in-the-nation status when it comes to legislation dealing with sex. For example, the Bay State has been among the last states in reforming its laws dealing with divorce, abortion, and birth control.

Rep. Noble, however, is optimistic, because of the high-level supporters her bill has attracted.

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The Legal Fight—Connecticut's L

By Christine Pattee

Short of a revolution, there are two major ways to change the laws that affect our lives. Court cases are necessary, but they require money, a lawyer and a martyr. The advantage of state legislative reform is that the work and the rewards are spread around the whole gay community. In the lobbying, there is a role for everybody, from in-the-closet anonymous letterwriters to up-front-screaming activists, and the arena is small enough that every participant can see the direct result of his or her own efforts. Personal involvement is the most important aspect of lobbying. Fighting your own oppression is great therapy for the mental health of the oppressed.

About this time two years ago, Connecticut gays organized an effort which came very close to passing a comprehensive gay rights bill. The legislation sailed through the Senate 23-11, but lost in the House 60-87.

Rally grass roots support from known feminist, gay and political activists.

This is our story including practical pointers and psychological pitfalls. Hopefully, you will find it of use in your own state.

Wherever you live, the time is right for gay people to start organizing gay rights lobbies. State legislatures are just beginning a two-year session. Legislators are not yet buried under a pile of bills, elections are two years away, and they are ready to hear what you have to say.

Conditions were right in Connecticut in 1974 for a big legislative push. We had a well-drafted bill which had some exposure in two previous sessions. Connecticut had repealed its sodomy laws in the Criminal Code revision of 1971, so we didn't have to fight that battle. And I, who became the initiator and coordinator of the lobby, had an interval between graduate school and job, during which I could spend almost full time on the bill.

The Sexual Orientation Bill was originally drafted by gay activist Ken Bland in 1971. He researched Connecticut's civil rights statutes and simply inserted the phrase "sexual orientation" wherever employment, credit, or other type of discrimination was prohibited. With the advice of a lawyer, we added a definition of sexual orientation: "an individual's preferred mode of sexual behavior as to choice of partner without regard to sex but excluding any behavior which constitutes a violation of [the sex crimes] statutes." If we were starting from scratch today, we'd probably use the phrase "sexual or affectional preference," but blood has been sweat to get "sexual orientation" into the consciousness of our state legislators and we aren't about to change now.

Our biggest break was the appointment of Senator Betty Hudson as Chairperson of the committee, Human Rights and Opportunities, which would consider the bill. Betty was an outspoken feminist, and against the advice of her own campaign manager she not only supported the bill but championed it wholeheartedly.

Most states will not be lucky enough to have a committee chair who will lobby so enthusiastically, but you will need someone on the committee with enough commitment to shepherd the bill through the slings and arrows it will face in the legislative process.

Senator Hudson's personal efforts made all the difference in Senate passage, as she was strongly identified as a gay rights supporter; it's a pleasure to report that she was recently re-elected, despite being a Democrat in a Republican district in a state that went for Ford. Her opponent tried, in an oh-so-civilized way, to say her constituents were being short changed because she was spending so much time on women, homosexuals and poor people. Betty feels, however, that it was her very outspokenness that guaranteed her re-election. She said, "Support for gay rights is a non-issue. People will vote against you if you're wrong on the income tax but they just don't care about your stand on gay rights."

The first task of the incipient organization was to locate potential members. As an active member of women's liberation, I knew lots of lesbians, but tracking down gay men was not easy. Nevertheless, I persevered because it's

important that men be included as equal partners in gay activities. From a Massachusetts minister at a New York conference, I got the name of Hartford's gay liberation group and its president, Clyde Proch. By our first meeting on January 5, 1975, there were about twenty of us from around the state, men and women, in and out of the closet, with and without political experience.

Over time there was some change in the group's composition — two natural born lobbyists appeared and a "gay spoiler" dropped out, but on the whole we were an unusually stable group in a movement known for its volatility.

Throughout the two-year life of the Sexual Orientation Committee, women and men worked together quite successfully. We even survived the moment when a gay man responded to a lesbian feminist's comments with, "But how can you exclude half of mankind..."

Harmony was encouraged by our task orientation and the genuinely equal participation of men in the shit-work. But the main reason we were an integrated group was that we had a woman leader, which pretty effectively eliminates lesbian tokenism.

We met faithfully every other Sunday afternoon. Most meetings are a bore, but these met a real need. As we exchanged information, we renewed our commitment to the cause. We talked business but we were really reassuring each other by telling ourselves how great we were.

At that first meeting we set out three priority goals. The first was passage of the legislation, the second was education of gay people and the last one was education of the general public. Spelling out clear objectives right away was probably the best thing we ever did. Now we had a purpose and we took ourselves seriously. Knowing where we were going meant less time wasted on deciding how to get there.

Finally, we made and stuck to a decision not to settle for anything less than full civil rights for all gays. Teachers had just been knocked out of another state's gay rights bill, and we were told by several legislators that if gays working with our children were excluded from ours, the bill just might have a chance of passing. But we weren't buying. We even had a good

answer to the question of transvestites and transsexuals. (Thank God no one asked it.)

Those were the bad old days when the only media coverage of gays was a demonstration. We knew that kind of publicity would do us no good so we consciously adopted a conservative strategy. We would be respectable with legislators and low profile with the press.

With 20/20 hindsight, it is apparent that we didn't have to be quite so defensive. Gays have come to realize that zaps were the only way to make the public aware of our existence; the media has grown more responsible in its coverage of us and the public mind is changing. But two years ago when we started, we were staring into the great unknown. It was bad enough not having any idea of how to lobby, but underlying all our initial decisions was the sheer terror of knowing we were going public. Only two of us actually put our names on the group's literature, but for everyone of us, participation on the Sexual Orientation Committee was one step farther in the coming out process.

Our first big tactical decision was whether to have a press conference. Despite pressure from a key member of the group, we decided against it for two reasons. We didn't want to give the nuts time to come out of the woodwork, and we were afraid that the press would not give us fair coverage. This turned out to be the right decision. By

Prepare a short, informational fact sheet and pass it out to everyone. Have anecdotes of discrimination ready as well as clear, factual arguments about why the bill should be passed.

the second year the nuts were out of the woodwork (namely the Catholic Church and the YMCA), and the press, which ultimately gave us good coverage, probably would have ignored a simple announcement of our existence.

Our second major tactical decision was notable mainly for being a tempest in a teapot. We agonized over what to call ourselves, and finally settled on the neutral name of "People for Bill Number ____." However, six weeks into the legislative session the bill still hadn't been assigned a number, and we needed to get our literature printed. So, we bit the bullet and called ourselves what we were, the Sexual Orientation Lobby. We found out later that only one word was a real no-no. Legislators throw away mailings from groups labeled a "lobby."

Learning to lobby was strictly on the job training for us. We found a book of techniques for grassroots organizations, *The Majority Wins* by Linda Joy (\$3.00 from the National Women's Political Caucus, 1411 K St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005) and feminists who had lobbied for the ERA gave us some pointers.

Some aspects of lobbying are the same for all groups. Learn your own state's legislative procedures so you can keep track of your bill. Controversial measures like this one get "lost" easily, and you will also want to know when, where, and to whom to apply pressure. The first hurdle is the legislative committee, where all bills are first assigned. Most bills die right there without ever reaching the floor for debate, so committee members are your first crucial target for education and lobbying. Also be sure to contact leg-

islative leadership, both minority and majority party, early on because they swing an enormous amount of weight in the Assembly.

In Connecticut all bills must have a public hearing, and with the help of sympathetic legislators we produced a media event newsworthy enough to make a gay spoiler pant. Unfortunately, public hearings are optional in most states. Your first task may be to make sure your bill gets a hearing.

We were on our own however, in designing a specifically gay rights strategy. The issue carries more emotional freight than bottle bills or election reform, and we had to do a lot of educating before we could even begin to ask for yes votes.

In psyching out the straights keep in mind that not everyone is as passionately concerned about sexual orientation as we are. Gays tend to think everyone is either homophobic or homophilic, but in fact, a whole lot of people just don't care. This is good for us, because it means these people are open and can be reached by rational arguments.

We had a three-pronged approach to reaching legislators: Letters from constituents, public endorsements from individuals and organizations relevant to the bill, and face to face lobbying by four "real live homosexuals."

All of this required the active support of gay people. Most of them wrote letters, and every one counted. To a state legislator, five letters on one issue

is a landslide. To encourage letter writing, we borrowed an idea from Mass. lobby — a colorful, professionally-printed flyer explaining to gays and other potential supporters how to write their legislators.

Gays aren't the only people who hardly know that state legislatures exist, and we never did figure out a really good way to answer "Who is my legislator?" When we were down to the wire just before the vote, we would call up people in selected districts and tell them whom to write or call.

All organizations have to overcome the apathy of their constituency, but gay people have to do even more. We have to overcome our carefully conditioned concealment of homosexuality.

But writing a letter to your legislator is a great consciousness-raiser for gays, and it isn't really all that dangerous. You can take some psychological comfort from the knowledge that there are straight people who also support the bill, and your letters don't have to be anything elaborate.

There is no doubt however, that on this issue, letters from the heart are particularly effective. Legislators are particularly touched by personal stories of discrimination and discussion of the psychological effects of constantly having to hide. Probably the most effective way to change a legislator's mind is for a gay relative or friend to come out to him or her. There were a number of legislators who voted yes on the bill when according to every stereotype of politics, ethnicity, and age they should have voted no. In those few instances where we had some feedback on possible reasons why, it was because someone close to them was gay.

s Lobbying Effort

The most important letters are from constituents but the Committee did do one mailing to all legislators, very short and sweet because legislators just will not read reams of paper. It consisted of a cover letter, individually typed and personalized by computer (form letters are a real no-no), the fact sheet, and a reprint of a *New York Times* article on Elaine Noble because it was timely and

A welcome surprise was the fair, thorough coverage we got from the press when we finally were ready to go public with the hearing on the bill. We had no big names and had assiduously avoided demonstrations tactics, so the newsworthiness of the event was in the substance of the issue.

The key to getting news coverage is to provide supportive legislators with

Get endorsements from organizations relevant to the issues: YWCA, child psychiatrists, teachers, Civil Liberties Union, women's groups. Publicize all statements.

seemed appropriate. The fact sheet, composed by Carl Williams, was our most important piece of educational literature, and we passed it out everywhere.

In addition, when the director of the Yale Child Study Center indicated his support for the bill, we were only too happy to mail out a letter to every legislator. Incidentally, for reasons only a shrink could sort out, child psychiatrists were much more supportive of the Sexual Orientation Bill than the "regular" psychiatrists. The Connecticut Psychiatric Association dragged its feet for so long that we gave up on them, but the Connecticut Council of Child Psychiatrists, after pushing from one courageous member inside the organization, did give us an endorsement.

Organizational endorsements of gay rights legislation serve two purposes. They give credibility and support to the bill and generate constituent letters from closet gays and supportive straights within the group's membership. Feminist and civil liberties groups are natural allies, and they were our strongest supporters. Some groups, however, require more courtship than others, so pick out those worth the seduction. We worked hardest to get groups who would counteract various negative stereotypes about gay people:

1) Gays are a menace to children: teacher associations, child psychiatrists, YMCA.

Take it out on your lover, but never lose your temper with a legislator. Don't waste time with definite nos. Spend your time with individuals who seem to be honestly struggling with their negative stereotypes of gay people.

2) Gays are sick: psychiatric association, psychologists.

3) Gays are immoral: church and religious groups.

When I first started to lobby, I assumed that every strong advocate of the bill was gay. After awhile though, there were so many helpful people that I realized I just couldn't make such an assumption unless of course, there are more gays around than we imagine in even our wildest dreams. Nevertheless, I'm certain a significant number of those who were unusually helpful were gay. I never asked and they never said, but the support of those closet gays was very important.

Even when I did find out someone was gay, I kept very quiet about it. For instance, I never told any one the name of the legislator who called me to offer helpful hints, and who later cruised one of our lobbyists in a gay bar. On the other hand, if I knew for certain that the silver-haired senator who gave a viciously anti-gay speech was indeed the gray-haired man spotted in another gay bar, I would publish his name right here and dare him to sue me.

lots of facts so they will sound good and to have human interest stories which really grab the public.

As it turned out, the gay rights campaign in Connecticut was a great news story. Reporters got wonderful quotes like "I have found that the homosexual teachers that I have known have been some of your best teachers" and "If God had wanted things this way, he would have made Adam and Peter and Eve and Alice." We discovered that parents of gays were a dynamite media attraction, and among all the quotable quotes there were more than a few references to our carefully cultivated facts.

That public hearing was not planned, it was orchestrated. Wanting to set our own tone, a gay person led off. We picked a good speaker and she was extensively quoted. (Which also resulted in her MCP brother-in-law finding out she was gay and threatening to forbid her to see his daughters. Fortunately my sister really rose to my defense and family harmony was restored. It's nice to hear a come-out story with a happy ending.)

Then we had lawyers to present the case that discrimination does indeed exist, a psychiatrist with reams of credentials to say we're really OK, a gay with a personal tale of discrimination, the Young Democrats for a little political punch, a gay activist to say that you can't legislate attitudes, but it

would help to change the laws so we could change attitudes. We even had mothers to testify that they didn't care what a teacher's sexual orientation was, just so their kids learned to read.

The largest assembly hall in the State Capitol was packed with over 200 mostly gay people. The huge turnout alone had profound effects, both on the gays who participated and on the legislators who saw us there. Ordinarily legislators wouldn't come to a hearing if Jesus Christ himself were testifying, but a remarkably large number of them did "just drop in" no doubt to see the "queers." What they saw, of course, was a room full of very ordinary, very happy looking people. It was an impressive first encounter with gays and changed the consciousness of many legislators about homosexuals.

Personal contacts between legislators and gay people are absolutely vital. It is amazing how influential simply meeting a "real live homosexual" can be. If 7,564 legislators had visits from 7,564 gay constituents, the battle would be over. Unfortunately, the real-

ity is that it's very hard for gays to make these one-on-one contacts, so a few gays who are willing and able to be open must do most of the personal educating.

These face-to-face contacts, what most of us think of as "lobbying," are the glamour part of a gay rights effort.

At hearing, put important name speakers first and mix them with gays who have specific stories of discrimination to tell. Emphasize facts about discrimination and homosexuality.

They're fun and ego-gratifying, but they wouldn't be very effective without plenty of good back up work like publicity, organizational endorsements and blizzards of constituent letters.

A good lobbyist is really just a good salesperson. Your product is yourself and by extension all gay people. Other than a modicum of neatness, physical appearance is unimportant for a lobbyist. As my short, fat friend once said, "not everybody is tall, blonde and beautiful, and why shouldn't legislators listen to someone like themselves."

One of our best lobbyists was Rev. Gail Robinson, who is short, stocky and dykey looking. In fact, she looks a bit like Ella Grasso, except that Ella is tall, stocky and dykey looking. But Gail was totally self-confident and could talk about anything. She even got the Governor herself to discuss life, love and sex. There were two male lobbyists: Don Zajac, with short hair and a Lincoln-esque beard, a natural tactician who is infinitely patient in conversing with legislators; and Lenny Simon, who undoubtedly set more than the women's hearts aflutter with his long hair and baby face.

The main things we had in common were a way with words and complete comfortableness with our own sexuality. It can be very effective to show your nervousness when coming out to one legislator, but no one can put their self-identity on the line 187 times.

The psychology of a gay lobbyist is somewhat curious. On the one hand, you have to be passionate enough about gay rights to do a masochistic thing like be a symbol. On the other hand, you have to be dispassionate enough to not take personally the negative attitudes you're always running up against. It gets to everyone sooner or later and then you just have to stop for awhile. My breaking point came after overhearing a woman legislator say "I'll vote yes, but just don't let too many of *them* come up here."

Righteous anger is a perfectly sane response to dumb questions and put downs, but the whole point of a lobby campaign is to gently lead legislators into agreeing that we are right. Of course, we have a just cause, but moral justice and fifty cents will get you a ride on the New York subway, so just

answer the dumb questions and politely walk away from the put downs. Always remember "take it out on your lover, but never lose your temper with a legislator."

Keeping your cool will pay off. I once spent half an hour with a self-described "agonized liberal" (they have to be worse than the homophobes) who just couldn't deal with the issue of homosexuals and children. On the day of the vote though, he popped up right after the bill's sponsor and said "I have indicated my concern about this bill but on balance I think we must weigh our fears over our children and their developing orientation against the prohibition of an entire class of people who are otherwise qualified to be teachers. Therefore I will support this bill despite my fears." That half hour's aggravation got us some votes.

In meeting legislators, I didn't walk up to them and say, "Hi, I'm Chris Pattee, lesbian." I would identify myself with the Sexual Orientation Committee and ask if they had any questions about the bill. It was a disarming approach, maybe because they were expecting to be zapped. The more discussion the better, but don't put ideas in their heads by answering questions before they're asked. During the conversation I would pointedly refer to "we gay people" so they would know that this respectable looking, well-spoken young woman to whom they were talking was one of "them" too.

The key to effective lobbying, even more than having a touch of the blarney, is strategy — knowing where to concentrate your efforts. With gay rights, legislators often don't vote according to their usual patterns. Some "liberals" couldn't quite push their green "yes" lights for this one, but more than a few conservatives did. Unless someone has a past record of clearly homophobic comments, be sure to canvass *everybody*.

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Vincent Minnelli: For Those Who Wait

By Steven Blevins

On Monday morning, Feb. 14, from 9:45 to 11:00, two women stood waiting in front of the Orson Welles Theatre Complex. Inside, the media was preparing itself with Danish and coffee for the 10:00 showing of Vincent Minnelli's *The Bandwagon*. The movie was a great deal more energetic than its audience. But it helped explain, in its starstruck way, why those two out front waited three hours, for the autograph of the man who made it.

Vincent Minnelli directed the films America grew up with: *The Pirate*, *Father of the Bride*, and *Meet Me In St. Louis*. Once married to Judy Garland, and father to Liza Minnelli, he's a charming, spirited gentleman to whom "movie magic" continues to be an essential force. I met with Mr. Minnelli at his suite at the Ritz-Carlton. The interview was an exercise in patience for us both. He graciously overlooked my lack of knowledge concerning his films. I waited through long pauses as he constructed his genteel, though sometimes removed-from-the-point responses. I felt like an



Kelly and Garland under the direction of Minnelli, in "The Pirates."

upstart, attempting a common language with a man whose technicolor imagination provided the fantasies for an entirely different generation of movie goers.

Mr. Minnelli expressed dissatisfaction with his most recent film, *A Matter of Time*: "The A.A.I.P. produced it with a partner in Italy. I had an inconsequential epilogue where Liza becomes a movie star. They put that in

the beginning and told the whole thing in retrospect. They left out scene after scene and filled it with shots of Rome. They did it with great charm — but they did it."

I asked what sort of working relationship he had with his daughter, "Just like I had with Judy, who was my wife. But I forgot that she was my wife when we got on stage and treated her as a fine actress, that's all. Liza's

the same way. She's a marvelous actress and a lovely singer and dancer." Of working with other actors, he said: "Every actor and actress has some kind of insecurity, so you approach each in a different way to get results."

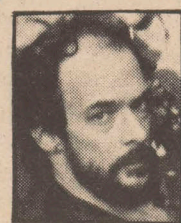
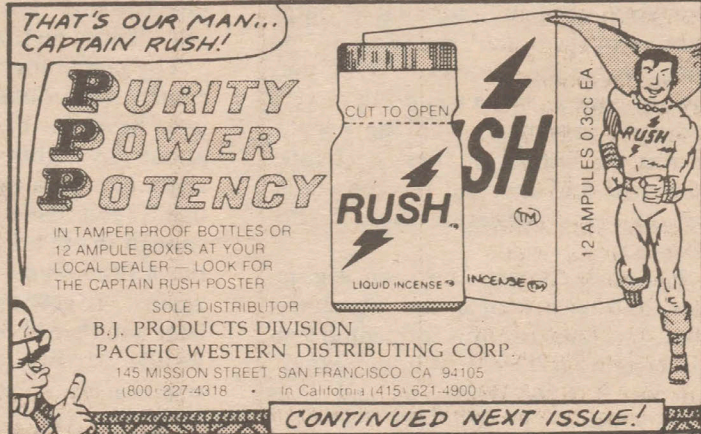
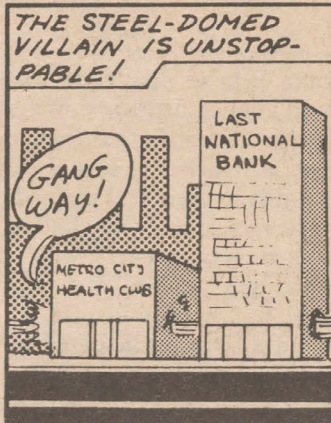
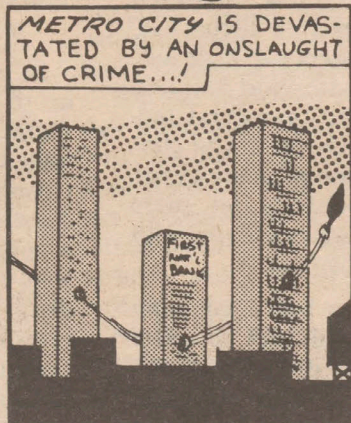
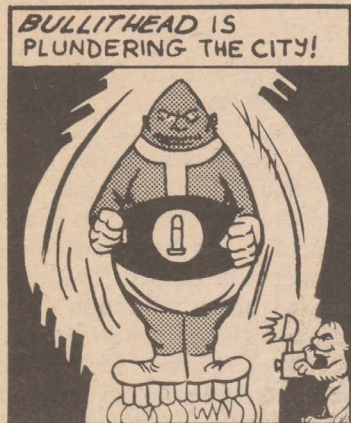
Politics was a remote subject for Mr. Minnelli. Of the roles offered women in current Hollywood films, he felt: "It's getting better. For instance, Faye Dunaway in *Network* — that's a marvelous role." When asked if he was affected by the blacklist: "No, I was never very political. I didn't have time."

An inevitable subject was the popularity of Mr. Minnelli's films (and former wife) among gays, gay men in specific: "I don't know. She often spoke of it, that gay people liked her films so much, and her personal appearances in theatres. A great deal of her audience was made up of gay people. But I don't know why." We discussed *Tea and Sympathy*: "It's the first one of the 'gay' films that was made. At that time the Sherlock Office was in existence and they gave us a bad time of it. They made Anderson, who wrote the play and the picture, write a prologue and an epilogue where she

(Continued on page 13)



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Everybody's Doing Us

By Nancy Walker

"Something for everyone, a comedy tonight!" somehow seems to fit what I saw on NBC's "Big Event," Sunday, Feb. 27. There was a lesbian to suit just about every taste in "In The Glitter Palace," a made-for-TV movie. There was a *real* murderess (murderperson?), a judge, no less, Candace Winslow (Salome Jens), who was a lesbian. There was a lesbian murder suspect, Casey Walker (Diana Scarwid), with a very rich and powerful daddy, who knew what she was and wanted her to cop a plea to conceal it. Even the murder victim was a lesbian.

There was a lesbian, Ellen Lange (Barbara Hershey), who went to her ex-lover, Vince Halloran (Chad Everett), a lawyer, and asked him to take her friend Casey's case.

There was a whole variety of lesbians in gay bars in several scenes, and one group of them beat up poor Halloran. A few of these women seemed a little "tough" but they had had training in the martial arts of the Orient, and were just at the outer limits of what our society would consider "acceptable" for straight women. When they attacked Halloran, I cringed, thinking this was "bad press" for lesbians, making them look like man haters. But it developed later on in the film that they had jumped him because they thought he was the lawyer of a husband who was trying to take away a lesbian mother's child.

There was a rather fluffy, dazed creature, Grace Mayo (Tisha Sterling), in a madhouse, playing with a rose in a sexually suggestive way, who ended up, Ophelia-like, floating, dead, in a stream.

And then there was Daisy Dolon (Carole Cook), an old troupier, entertaining at The Glitter Palace, who said all the right things about coming out of one's closet rather than giving in to a blackmailer. But she looked more like a female impersonator than a lesbian.

Norma Addison, blackmailing lesbian, is killed by Candace Winslow for blackmailing her because she (Candace) is also a lesbian. Casey Walker is mistakenly accused of the crime and brought to trial. Candace is the presiding judge at the trial. Halloran doggedly tracks down the rest of the blackmailers and follows the trail that leads him eventually to the real killer. So justice is finally served, but along the way in this fast-moving and entertaining film, a lot gets said.

Nathan Redstone (David Wayne), senior member of Halloran's law firm, encouraging Halloran to take the case, to Halloran: "I once defended Siamese twins on an indecent exposure charge." Halloran: "I get the point." So did I, but it sure looked like we, as gays, were being compared with freaks, who also have the right to legal defense. (One no-no.)

Ellen to Casey: "I love you." Casey to Ellen: "I love you." (How often d'you see that on TV???)

A cop, referring to a gay male bartender who had just been killed, to Halloran: "He was a queer, a faggot, working in a faggot place," etc. (General Archie Bunker quality.)

Halloran to Ellen, after she's told him that Casey is gay: "I thought it was something like that. You can always tell, can't you?" Then Ellen tells him that *she's* gay. (No, you can't always tell. Yes-yes.)

Halloran to Ellen: "I don't want to keep apologizing for being straight." Ellen: "I don't ever want to apologize for what I am, but you shouldn't have to either." (Recognition of the rights and feelings of others. Yes-yes.)

Casey, to Halloran, about The Glitter Palace, where she had been introduced to Grace Mayo who had, together with Norma Addison, blackmailed her: "We have no other place to meet. It was frightening to go there, but it's a place to begin. Some of us move from there to organizations, women's groups, etc." (No-no, again.)

This kind of pathetic statement builds fear in gay people and makes non-gays think we have to lead dreadful lives as victims or victimizers.)

Some of the lesbians had good self-images and others did not. Some of the lesbians were "heroes" and some, "villains." None was stereotypical. Ellen was strikingly "beautiful" by any standards. The film was not pro-gay propaganda. I think, like all commercial television fare, it was made, first and foremost, to sell the sponsors' products, but it nevertheless did speak fairly well of and for gays. We know that there are both good and bad characters among us, and I, for one, don't mind seeing the bad ones as long as the good ones get their place in the spotlight too.

Daisy Dolon's thwarting of blackmailers in her own life reminds us that no matter what our state laws might be in regard to homosexuality, we should fight blackmailers because theirs is always the more serious crime. Besides, as Daisy knew, it is better to accept who we are and make a clean breast of things than to live in fear of exposure.

Ellen and Casey were courageous. They were physically affectionate in a perfectly natural way, though, of course, there were no passionate clinches or kisses. I have no objection to discretion in these matters. We have to make haste slowly.

What I do find somewhat questionable is the fact that the lawyer who won the day was a man. A straight woman would have provided as good a sounding board for philosophical discussion and also helped to ease the discomfort many of us might feel at seeing lesbians "rescued" by a straight man.

I'm pretty sure this film will cause a storm of protest from the Baptist Fundamentalists and their ilk, who would like to "cure" us or at least keep us out of sight. It would probably have been banned in New Hampshire, if New Hampshire officials had known about the film in advance, but New Hampshire officials never know much until after the fact, apparently. No doubt, a number of gays will be screaming "too little, too late," and "What about the few slurs?" etc. But our protests should be outnumbered considerably by those of irate bigots, and that tips the balance in our favor. Television does, indeed, seem to be growing up, bit by bit.

SHORT TAKES

"Seventh Avenue," a novel turned TV epic in three two-hour episodes (NBC, Thursdays, 9 p.m.), dealt primarily with the rise from obscurity

to riches in New York's garment district of a poor, Jewish boy named Jay Blackman (Steven Keats). Along with all kinds of brilliantly-done sequences involving unions and mobsters and heterosexual Jewish passion, we have Myrna (Anne Archer), the older sister of Rhoda (Dori Brenner), the perpetual Jewish female, adoring masochist wife. This older sister turns out to be a — LESBIAN! And in those days (barely post WWII), oy vey, it was a very serious drawback, at least, a hell of a lot of people thought it was, including the sister, who jumped off a bridge into one of New York's perpetual rivers. But, she didn't drown. Instead, brother-in-law Jay bailed her out, kept her secret (she had told him her terrible "problem" that fatefully wet night, and begged him to make her a "real woman" but he, for once, withheld his favors, hence the jump), paid her bills in a fancy nut-house and finally worked out a reconciliation between Myrna and Rhoda, who had thought, for sure, Jay was into her sister. Myrna tells Rhoda THE TRUTH, and Rhoda sits down to take it all in. But she comes through with real Jewish family affection. After all, anything is better than that her husband should futz around with her sister, especially since he was doing so much of that with his "mistress." Myrna learns to smile, and decides to go to France and live on the "Left Bank," in Paris. She must have understood that it was all right to be gay, 'cause that's what the Left Bank was all about.

Despite my tone, I found the gay elements fair because Myrna was accepted with love and warmth by Jay and Rhoda, and *that* matters. We're all part of a human family and we all want to be loved and accepted, not hated or told to change.

So what happened to the late and unlamented "Executive Suite"? That over-blown evening soap opera died a swift and timely death. They dropped the hot potato lesbian interest they had had for a while. They got the lesbian killed off (hit by a truck — how tasteless), had her friend (married and presumably straight) shed a few tears and wring her hands a couple of times, and quietly let the matter drop. Very disappointing. But then, so was the whole series.



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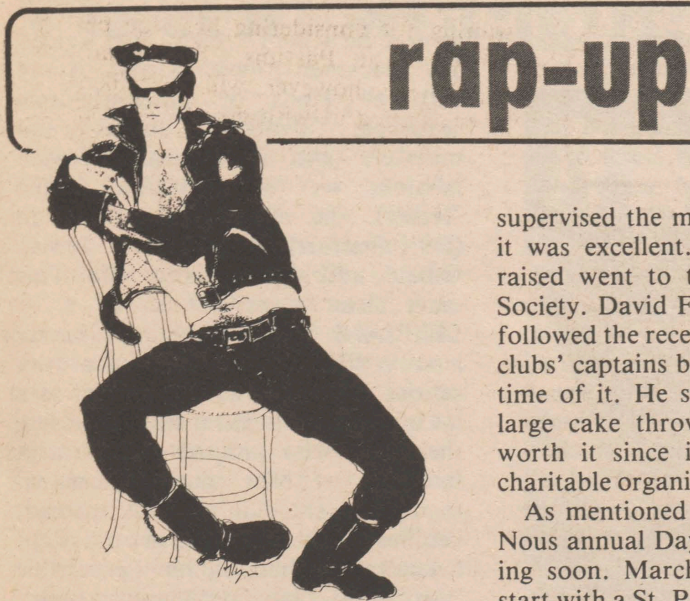
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The Hotel Bradford will never be the same. It played host to the V.M.C. and their guests for that club's successful and fun eighth anniversary event, BO2's, and plans have been finalized for its weekend use during Entre Nous' popular Days of Equinox run in March. It's great to have establishments welcoming guys in L&L scene — means more acceptance for all. BO2's out-of-town guests were properly impressed to see that Boston is not all that staid and proper; they went away praising not only the V.M.C. but the friendliness of the city.

Other out-of-towners are settling in the Third Sunday of every month; the Connecticut-based Thunderbolt M.C. took over the Boston Eagle on Feb. 20 for the first of their monthly club days there. They are one group of hunky dudes with personalities to match.

Feb. 13 saw Boston's own fine A.S.M.C. put on another of their excellent brotherhood feasts, an A.S.M.C. massacre dinner for Valentine's Day held at the Eagle. Bob S., who is doing the Sunday buffets there,

supervised the meal's preparation and it was excellent. Part of the monies raised went to the American Cancer Society. David F., the Club's captain, followed the recent tradition of various clubs' captains by having a very messy time of it. He submitted to having a large cake thrown in his face. Well worth it since it's all for helping a charitable organization!

As mentioned previously, the Entre Nous annual Days of Equinox is coming soon. March 17-20 activities will start with a St. Patty's Day Bash which is open to all at the Eagle. Incidentally, the Honda 360 motorcycle on display there will belong to some lucky person as the raffle winner will be drawn on March 19. Hope like hell, I'm that lucky person. That night will also be lucky for some Eagle patron as the Monday and Tuesday semi-finalists for a week's trip to Florida (among other prizes) shall be awarded. The actual run begins Friday with registration and weekend housing at the Bradford Hotel. Saturday activities include a leather fashion show put on by the L&L Shop, poker run, show, grand banquet and more. Most bars have the applications should you wish to attend. It promises to be an event-filled weekend.

The Trident M.C. have not been inactive either. Seems there's always a get-together/party/function at their "504" headquarters. Many of them headed to Montreal for the Trident M.C. run held at the end of February. And the Boston Vulcans had a large contingent in our nation's capital recently for the M.C. Vulcans Blow-Out Run. As usual Southern hospitality was justly famous.

Despite some rumors to the

contrary, Boston's three main L&L bars are alive and well. The Eagle, Ramrod and the Shed are all offering Sunday Buffets, too, along with special prices to make those Sunday afternoons more interesting.

Don't forget the GCN Benefit day at the Boston Eagle — March 6. There are lots of prizes and a buffet by Bob S. The esteemed managing editor of

this publication shall be slaving away behind the bar. Let's keep her busy and also help GCN get a much-needed van. If you dare miss the event, remember you can send your donations anytime to BUY A VAN, GCN at 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108. That's what it's all about, sticking together to help each other!

Lobby

(Continued from page 9)

Some legislators will make their support clear early on, and you should ask them for advice and inside information. Others will state their opposition loud and clear and you should leave them strictly alone. Trying to reason with them only wastes your time and may actually provoke a worse outburst.

Concentrate education and constituent letters on the middle ground. "Probable nos" won't change very much in the final tally but they are worth the effort of trying to change them because every vote counts. "Probable yesses" need just enough stroking to show they've got constituent support, but not so much that they get put off.

"Possible yesses" are courted like a virgin lover — low key, tactful and indirect. Put your efforts into generating constituent letters, and don't blow the whole thing by pressuring him or her with too much personal contact.

Legislators who said they would vote yes usually did so. However, we learned too late that we couldn't assume that a legislator's being polite and listening sympathetically meant a yes vote. On the plus side, it often happened that legislators who hesitated at first became our strongest allies once they actually put their yes vote on record. It seemed as if taking such a controversial stand made them feel so

proud of themselves that they wanted to tell the world.

There was no one thing that prevented the Sexual Orientation bill from passing in Connecticut. Affirmative action was a red herring that turned into a lavender whale, but if that hadn't been an issue something else would have been. Incidentally, the answer for this one is twofold. First, gays don't need affirmative action, our problem is firing, not hiring. Second, we don't want it. Would you want to openly state your sexual orientation in order to gather the statistics necessary to implement such a program?

The House Majority and Minority Leaders opposed the bill, but we did everything possible to reach them. The Democrat was never quite able to find time to meet with us, and the Republican listened most politely to us and then opposed the bill in a very suave, sophisticated, effective speech.

Governor Grasso's very public opposition did hurt us, and it is possible that endorsement from her would have been just enough to tip the scales our way. But this too was something out of our control. We had a lot of good luck in our campaign, but you can't have everything. This year we're putting in even more work, and with the same amount of luck, Connecticut may be the first state to grant constitutional rights to gays.

Dear Anita

Dear Anita,

I saw your picture in the *New York Times*, and the caption mentioned attempts to recruit people to homosexuality. Now, I don't exactly know what that group is, but I'm 16 years old and have always been active in organizations and if this is a new one that needs help getting going, I'd like to join Homosexuality. Could you tell me who to contact.

From what I understand it sounds like fun. They don't have uniforms really, but they all wear about the same clothes, sort of like Dad and everyone at work. That's very grown up. They have parties and protest marches and argue a lot too, don't they? We do that at church sometimes. My friend said a lot of them have pretty short hair and I think that's good because men with long hair look like fags. Aren't some of the people also the ones who call them-

selves "Gays?" That's really good when someone feels so happy he wants to tell the world.

Are they only active in Miami? My father said all they do in New York is drink, and that would be a problem since I'm still underage. Maybe I could start a group here. I'll bet my school would just love to have another organization cause they're always saying how much they offer the students chances to get involved. And surely the TV stations and newspapers and Mayor Beame and everybody would be willing to help publicize a good cause.

You only talk about men. Is there a women's auxiliary? My girlfriend is real neat and I'll bet they could recruit her.

Sincerely,

John

P.S. I like the ads for orange juice a lot, especially when you sing.

Dear John,

I don't think a nice boy like you would like Homosexuality. It seems for the most part to be a foreign plot. First of all, look at the nickname "queens" that some of them use. Everybody knows that we don't have royalty in America, God bless it. That's why so many people not of the homosexual persuasion prefer to use the next convenient word in the dictionary, "queers." My own suspicion is that it's the British trying to get back at us for the Revolutionary War, since I hear so many references to them meeting in "tearooms" and everybody knows the English drink a lot of that. And after the swell reception we gave Elizabeth last summer, too.

It's very odd that you had the urge to join without first being contacted by an older member. (They usually hang around schoolyards with bags of candy for that purpose.) Everybody knows they have to convince new people to

join, so all we have to do is prevent people from coming into contact with them so they won't get infected. I've prayed to God to ask why you wanted to join on your own initiative and I'm sure He's looking into it right away. In the meantime, drink lots of Florida orange juice with natural vitamin C (I've enclosed a coupon). I hope it can't happen too often since I don't want my children to catch it; what sort of reflection would that be on me as a mother?

If you still decide you want to join, just talk to any member — they're all visible on sight. And then here's a great idea for your first project. Why don't you invite all of them from Florida to visit (or better yet to live) in New York? It would get them all out of my hair, I'm sure they'd have a good time, and as far as I'm concerned they and the city deserve each other.

Love,
Anita

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people, places and flings

By David Holland

I must entreat you to a diversion this week. One I simply could not resist . . . AimisteadMaupin, a name I fear that is probably mispronounced in idle cocktail-chatter, plunked down his idea of a daily series on the Editorial desk of the *San Francisco Chronicle* nearly a year ago. Since then his "Tales of the City" has incited more controversy and laughs than the now-fading "Mary Hartman" . . . The whole sordid affair employs a Lifeboat cast of characters. Michael Tolliver, the gay protagonist, lives in cramped quarters with Mary Ann Singleton, a transferred Cosmopolitan from the Midwest . . . In the Feb. 14 installment Michael tallies a thirty-odd item list of heart-throb resolutions — more serious, he feels, than the nickel-dime stuff New Year's Notes are made of . . . "These are the . . . you know . . . the hardcore, maybe-this-time, kiss-today-goodbye, some-enchanted-evening-across-a-crowded-room resolutions." . . . Tolliver's Dirty Thirty for '77 include (here edited for space and aspects of universality): 1. I will not call anyone Nellie or Butch, unless that is his name . . . 2. I will not assume that women who like me are fag hags . . . 3. I will inhale poppers only through the mouth . . . 4. I will not spend more than half an hour in the shower at the Y . . . 5. I will not persist in hoping that attractive men will turn out to be brainless and boring . . . 6. I will sign my real name at The Glory Holes . . . 7. I will make friends with a straight man . . . 7a. I will not make fun of the way he walks . . . 7b. I will not tell him about Alexander the



Great, Walt Whitman or Leonardo da Vinci . . . 8. I will shun all politicians who use the term, "Gay Community" . . . 9. I will not buy a Lacoste shirt, a Marimekko pillow, a second-hand letterman's jacket, an All-American Boy T-shirt, a razor blade necklace, or a denim accessory of any kind . . . 10. I will learn to eat alone and like it . . . 11. I will not tell anyone at home that I just haven't found the right girl yet . . . 12. I will find myself acceptable . . . 13. I will meet somebody nice, away from a bar or the tubs or a roller skating rink, and I will fall hopelessly but conventionally in love . . . 14. But I won't say I love you before he does . . . 15. The hell I won't . . . Oh joy, after all that I still have room for tatty news . . . The manager of a, shall we say, prominent bar in town has left for parts unknown. I guess he was swept away with the winds of change.

They said, "Ah, well, we're in transition right now" . . . Doshie Power was the opening act for the *Deadly Nightshade* at Passims this past weekend. Rumor has it that her album will be out in the fall. It will have been well worth

waiting for considering her fine performance at Passims. The *Deadly Nightshade*, however, will most likely be presenting us with no new albums, since this was their last performance together . . . There is a *Warhol Film Festival* in the works with the help of some of the nicest people in town. Now, in addition, will everybody who would like to see *Holly Woodlawn* in Revue, please raise their hands . . . Did anyone hear that *Skip R.* is considering a job as a talent agent? Well, if he is, my words of advice would be: get the kid-gloves out of the drawer, treat your "stars" with care, and don't encourage "mixed" promo-parties . . . *The Manhattan Review*, a lurid bit of literature, has linked porn star *Bill Harrison* ("Bijoux") in "whip-me" episodes with equally infamous *Rudolph Nureyev*. Bill, as some film cinestes may remember, is a big boy . . . *Debbi S.* called in a breathless whirl to tell about the arrival of *Tommy Tune* to the *Boston Rep* and also that those sporting a costume will be welcomed free at "Cat's" new home, the *Charles Playhouse complex*, March 9. Meow . . . No, I don't drink milk from a saucer.

MINNELLI

(Continued from page 10)

paid for her sins by dying, and so forth, which he hated to do. He wasn't gay [meaning the character in *Tea and Sympathy*]. He thought he was. Anderson told me a marvelous thing about France. They had such a hard time getting it on there. Ingrid Bergman played it. It was a wonderful play, but it wasn't the same play, as Deborah Kerr played it on the stage and screen. But they said: 'Where is the argument here? So he feels that he's gay. But

what's the argument?' They couldn't see anything wrong with it." Although I vividly remember Lucille Ball in Mr. Minnelli's *The Long, Long Trailor*, and Elizabeth Taylor in the irresistible soapy *The Sandpiper*, I was unable to connect those films and others in any real way with the man I interviewed. He seemed fixed in time and ultimately unknowable: as though the magic that inspired the films that kept two women waiting three hours on a cold February morning was performed by a magician who would not be followed backstage.

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penpals

I am a 24 yr. old prisoner and I would like to correspond with gay people. I will answer all who write. Raul Cabrera #034185, Box 747, Starke, Fla. 32091. (36)

I would like to correspond with anyone who would like to have me write to them. I will answer all letters and questions. 5'11", 145 lbs., green eyes, light brown hair. Jesse Lee Singleton 041834, P.O. Box 747, Starke, Fla. 32091. Cell number J-1-N-9. (36)

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Alcoholics Together, Worcester 756-0730
Another Way Drop-In Center, 2 Wellington St., Worcester 01610 756-0730
Brandeis Gay Alliance, Box 1321, Brandeis Univ., Waltham 02154 891-4384
Clark Gay Center, Box A-70, Clark U., Worcester, 01610 793-7287
Dignity/Merrimack Valley, P.O. Box 348, Lowell 01853
Everywoman's Center, Box 949, 14 Center St., Provincetown 02657 487-3075 or 487-3344
Gay Community Services, Box 815, Provincetown 02657
Gaypeople/Drop-In Center, Campus Center, 100 Elliot St., Haverhill 01830 374-0929
Haverhill, N.E.C.C. Gay Line, M. 8-10 am, T. 6-8 pm, W. 12-2 pm
Homophile Assistance League of Provincetown, Box 674, P-town 02657, 158 Commercial St. 487-9633

Homophile Union of Montachusett, P.O. Box 262, Fitchburg, 01420
MCC/Worcester 756-0730
New Bedford Women's Clinic 999-1-70
Provincetown 24-Hour Drop-In Center 487-0367
Survival Crisis Line 471-7100

CONNECTICUT (Area Code 203)

"Come Out Tonight," Box WYBC/Yale Station, New Haven 06520
CT Gay Task Force, PO Box 514, Hartford, CT 06101 522-5575
East Conn. Gay Alliance, Norwich 889-7530
George W. Henry Foundation, Hartford 522-2646
Gay Alliance at Yale, 2031 Yale Station, New Haven 06520 436-8945
Gay Alliance Office, Box U-8, Storrs, CT 06268
Gay Switchboard 522-5575
Hartford Gay Counseling 522-5575, 232-5110
Institute of Social Ethics/National Gay Archives, 1 Gold St., Suite 22B, Hartford 06103 547-1281
Kalos/Gay Liberation, Hartford 568-2656
MCC/Hartford 232-5110, 522-5575
The Church of the Eternal Flame Universal 527-2656
Wesleyan Gay Alliance, Box 233, Wesleyan Station, Middletown, 06457
Yalesbians, 2031 Yale St., New Haven 06520 436-8945

RHODE ISLAND (Area Code 401)

Alcoholics Together, 290 Westminster St., Rm. 510, Providence
Dignity/Providence, Box 2231, Pawtucket 02861
Gay Help Line 831-9491
Gay Women at Brown U., Providence 863-2189
Gay Women of Providence 831-5184
Integrity, Box 71, Annex Sta., Providence 02801
MCC/Providence, 63 Chapin Ave.
MCC Innovative Ministry (terminally ill, aged and handicapped), Rev. Michael Nordstrum 941-8653
Providence Gay Group of AA 231-5853

MAINE (Area Code 207)

CMGA, Box 2242, Augusta 04330
Gay People's Alliance, 92 Bedford St., University of Maine, Portland 04103 771-2800
Gay Support & Action, P.O. Box 110, Bangor 04401
Maine Freewoman's Herald, 193 Middle St., 3rd floor, Portland 04111 774-6071
Maine Gay Task Force, 193 Middle St., Portland 773-5530
Maine Gay Task Force Newsletter, P.O. Box 4542, Portland 04112 773-5530
The Wilde-Stein Club, Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono 04473

NEW HAMPSHIRE (Area Code 603)

Lesbian Support Group, UNH Women's Center, Durham, NH 03824
MCC-Extension, 292 State St., Portsmouth, NH 03801 (617) 523-7664
NH Lambda, lesbian group, P.O. Box 1043, Concord NH 228-8542
Seacoast Area Gay Alliance, 75 Court St., Portsmouth, NH 431-4350, 436-7196, or 742-2947
Women's Group, P.O. Box 137, Northwood 03261 (Do not use "gay" on mail to this group.)

VERMONT (Area Code 802)

Counseling for Gay Women & Men c/o Vermont Women's Health Center, 158 Bank St., Burlington 05401 863-1386
Gay People at Middlebury, Middlebury College
Gay Student Union, Univ. of Vt., Burlington, 05401, M-F, 7-9 pm. 656-4173
Women's Center, 182 Main St., Burlington, M-Th, 12-9 pm. 863-1236
NEW YORK (CITY) (Area Code 212)
Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 West 14th St., NYC 10014 242-6616
Dignity, P.O. Box 1554, NYC 10022
Gay Activists Alliance, P.O. Box 2, Village Sta., 10014 677-6090
Gay Media Coalition, c/o The Women's Center, 243 W. 20th St., NYC 10011 924-9434
Gay Men's Health Project, 74 Grove St., rm 2RW, NYC 10014 691-6969
Gay People at Columbia, Columbia U., NYC 10027 280-2574
Gay Switchboard 924-4036
Gay Teachers Assoc., 204 Lincoln Pl., Brooklyn, 11217 789-8176, 636-9827
Gay & Women's Alliance for Responsible Media, 370 Lexington Ave., Suite 416, NYC
The Glines, 260 W. Broadway 925-2619
Lambda Legal Defense, P.O. Box 5448, Grand Central Station, NYC 10017 758-1905
Lesbian Feminists Liberation, c/o Women's Center, 243 W. 20th St. 691-5460
Lesbian Switchboard 741-2610
Mattachine Society, 59 Christopher St., NYC 10014 691-1066
MCC/New York, 201 W. 13th St. (corner of 7th Ave.) Sunday worship 7 pm 691-7428
National Coalition of Gay Activists, P.O. Box A-711, Grand Central Sta., NYC 10017
National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Ave., Rm. 506, NYC 741-1010
Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop, 15 Christopher St. 255-8097
West Side Discussion Group, 37 Ninth Ave., NYC 675-0143

NEW YORK (STATE)

Capital District Gay Comm. Council, P.O. Box 131, 332 Hudson Ave., Albany 12210 (518) 462-6138
Dignity/Rochester, P.O. Box 8295, Rochester
Gay Alliance of The Genesee Valley, Inc. 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester (716) 244-8640 or 244-9030
Gay Brotherhood of Rochester, 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester 14607 (716) 244-8640
Gay Community Service Ctr., 1350 Main St., Buffalo 14209
Gay Liberation Front/U. of R., Todd Hall, River Campus, U. of R., Rochester, 14627 (716) 275-6181
Gayphone (Mon-Sat 7-11) 423-3599
Gay Students Assoc., 103 College Pl., Syracuse 423-2081
Lesbian Resource Center (formerly GROW), 713 Monroe Ave., Rochester 14607 (716) 244-9030
Stonewall Society, Poughkeepsie (914) 471-8885