

calendar

30 fri

Boston — Am Tikva service and social, Frost Lounge, Ell Ctr., Northeastern U., 360 Huntington Ave., 7:30 p.m.

31 sat

New York City — Gala New Year's Eve Party at the Gay Synagogue of New York for women & men. 57 Bethune St. (up the ramp in the courtyard), 9 p.m. Donation \$5 at the door. Free wine and buffet! Call (212) 492-6334 for info.

2 mon

Boston — "A Woman's Place Is In The House," a program on State Rep. Elaine Noble will be aired and shown captioned for the hearing impaired at 11 p.m. on Channel 44. The show also will be shown at 11:30 tonight on Channel 36 in Providence, RI.

Deadline for all Calendar Items, Every-week and Quick Gay Guide is 12 noon each Wednesday for the next issue.



3 tues

New York City — "Astrology and What It Says About Us For 1978" featuring a prominent astrologist in tune with gay lifestyles. West Side Discussion Group. Call (212) 675-0143 for info.

6 fri

New York City — Gay people at Columbia monthly dance. 304 Earl Hall Center, 117th St. East on Broadway. Columbia University Campus. Admission \$2.00, 9pm to 2am.



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gay community news

Vol. 5, No. 26 December 31, 1977

The Gay Weekly 35¢

Wichita - The Next Miami? p.1 S.F. Bath Fire p.3



photo by Tim Carlson

Anita Gets Hers And So Do Others 1977 Bouquets & Brickbats

gay community news

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December 31, 1977

Boston/Boise Told 'Hotline' Disconnected

Class Action Suit Is Filed to End 'Hotline'

By Jim Marko

BOSTON — Members of the Boston/Boise Committee, a committee of outrage created after the arrests of 24 men in an alleged "boy-sex ring," have filed a class action suit in Massachusetts Superior Court. The action was taken against Suffolk County District Attorney Garret Byrne and Assistant District Attorney Thomas Dwyer regarding what the group called the "sensationalized treatment" of the recent indictments of the 24 in the case.

The suit sought to order the office of the District Attorney to disband the "hotline" set up to provide anonymous tips to police on alleged sex abuse of children and adolescents. In an interview on the day the suit was filed, Assistant District Attorney John Gaffney, the head of the investigation, said the "hotline" will continue. "The 'hotline' is very busy and we will continue investigating all the calls we receive on the line," Gaffney said. "We are looking for any adult who has sex with a boy. Sex with any child under the age of 16 is illegal and we will keep to the statutes," he said.

The Complaint

The plaintiffs in the class action suit included the Rev. Edward Hougen, minister of the Metropolitan Community Church of Boston; Dr. Charles Shively, a teacher; Dr. Richard Pillard, a psychiatrist; and John Kyper, a youth counsellor. The suit has been filed on "behalf of all gay men or those presumed to be gay."

The complaint stated that the plaintiffs "seek to curb excesses of prosecutorial zeal that represent direct, intended and unnecessary abridgement of their constitutional and statutory liberties." The plaintiffs further "contend that the 'hotline' fulfills no substantial and legitimate law enforcement function, but serves only to create a climate of hysteria that casts needless suspicion upon all men, whatever their sexual persuasion, who work with or associate with youth."

The Hotline

Responding to a remark by District Attorney Byrne that the earlier indictments were the "tip of the iceberg," the suit stated that subsequent events have discredited "Byrne's dire predic-



photo by Marcus DiVito

Boston/Boise Committee member Tom Reeves

tions." "The 'hotline' has indeed been inundated with calls but no new cases have resulted and it is doubtful that any useful information has been received." The suit noted that seven of the indicted men have no connection with the alleged "sex ring" in Revere.

The suit alluded as well to "homophobia that exists in Boston, in the form of snide remarks, attacks and even murder upon homosexual men." It contended that the source of much of "this hatred and vituperation can be traced in a significant degree to the myth that homosexuals are child molesters."

The suit added: "Byrne's actions have lent legitimacy to the worst misconceptions about homosexuals and have been perceived by some members of the public as an official invitation to snoop and spy upon their neighbors' legitimate activities."

Responding to that charge, Asst. District Attorney Gaffney said that the office is not out to discredit the gay community. "They [the gay community] think we are trying to put a net over the entire gay community . . . we are not," said Gaffney.

Boston Attorney John Ward of the firm Anderson-Ward is representing the plaintiffs. Attorney John Reinstein of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts has co-signed the brief.

In a late development, Edward Hougen of the committee said that the group had been informed by the District Attorney's office that the "hotline" was being disconnected. The DA's office, however, publicly denies having taken that action, saying, instead, that they have changed the phone number. The DA's office also informed the committee, Hougen said,

that it would shred evidence that it found not applicable to the cases. When pressed for a more specific explanation on that issue, the spokesperson for the DA's office reportedly told the committee that they would effectively retain all specific allegations of "homosexual child sex cases" whether or not they were covered in the original 24 indictments.

At a Boston/Boise committee meeting, the members of the group decided to continue their class action suit despite the assurances that the line was being disconnected. Attorney John Ward pointed out that there was precedent for continuing an injunction after the object of the injunction, in this case the "hotline," ceased to exist. The hearing date on the Boston/Boise suit is set for Wednesday, Dec. 28 at Suffolk Superior Court in Boston.

Bryant Puts In Appearance

Wichita Could Be Next

By Neil Miller

WICHITA, KA — The Sedgewick County Board of Elections is in the process of validating over 30,000 signatures, gathered by anti-gay forces in an attempt to repeal Wichita's newly enacted gay rights ordinance. Although the validation process itself is expected to take several weeks, there is no question that this "Bible Belt" city of more than 250,000 has become the latest focus in the effort to repeal gay civil rights laws throughout the country. Singer and anti-gay crusader Anita Bryant has already visited Wichita to confer with ordinance opponents, and National Gay Task Force co-director Bruce Voeller scouted out the situation in person last week.

The ordinance, which bans discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in housing, employment, and public accommodations, became law on Sept. 29 of this year after being approved by the Wichita City Council by a 3-2 vote. After the ordinance was approved, opponents immediately called for an initiative campaign to force a city-wide vote on the issue.

As the city statute requires that a referendum be held on any issue called for by 40% of the voters at the last election (in April's city-wide election, 40,000 Wichita voters cast their ballots), it seems certain that the anti-gay forces have the necessary votes to bring about a referendum. Given this situation, Wichita's gay community has concentrated its efforts on attempting to invalidate the signature petitions on purely technical grounds. This tactic has already succeeded once, forcing Wichita anti-gays to go through the entire laborious petition

process again. This time around, gay activists are suing the city of Wichita over alleged errors in the codification of the ordinance. "It [the gay rights provision] was originally passed as an amendment to the human rights code. But then the city codified the measure as an ordinance. All the petitions are filled with signatures of people opposed to a gay rights ordinance. If we can prove that there never was an ordinance, then the petitions aren't any good," Wichita gay activist Keith Smith told GCN.

In case, as is likely, technical challenges to the referendum fail, Wichita gays are busily attempting to educate the largely conservative Wichita public. "We've been speaking everywhere," said Smith. "We've formed a Religious Caucus for Human Rights. Things are looking a lot better than they did a few months ago." In New York, aware of the national implications of another referendum shortly after the disastrous defeat in Dade County, the National Gay Task Force's Bruce Voeller is planning "to put together a master plan to fight this." Voeller's first step will be a meeting with officials of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to map strategy.

Opponents of the ordinance include many fundamentalist Christian groups as well as Wichita Catholic Diocese Bishop David Maloney. Maloney has urged all Catholics to join him in "prayers and active works" towards repeal and has publicly promised to defy the provisions of the ordinance.

Jesse Rice, executive director of the

Continued on page 6



photo by Marcus DiVito

The Boston/Boise Committee demonstrates at Boston City Hall Plaza

SORRY! SORRY! SORRY! SORRY! SORRY!

Please accept our apology, as we have accepted our printer's, for the errors in page sequence in some copies of last week's paper. We had to decide whether to risk your thinking us bananas or to hold up your news until a reprinting was completed. We hope we made the right choice. It's all there, just a little shuffled.

News Notes

S.F. RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

SAN FRANCISCO — An organization called the San Francisco Research Organization has been set up to "find out just how many gay people there are and what their effects are on society and the economy." According to Pat Perry, who started the effort with Julie Filios, prejudice against gay people exists "in large part, because no one really knows how many of us there are and how important we are to society." "It's easy to develop attitudes against people you don't know or who you can't see as benefitting you," said Perry.

Perry and Filios are hoping to do a detailed population study of the residents of San Francisco over the next year. Depending on available funds, they hope to do a statewide survey, and then a national one.

The San Francisco Research Organization is affiliated with the Pride Foundation, a tax-exempt, non-profit organization which conducts legal and education programs in the gay community. For information, contact Perry or Filios at 415-771-5993.

A COUNTER RALLY

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA — The gay community of Broward County has scheduled a massive rally for human rights on January 6. The 400 member Broward County Coalition for Human Rights, Inc. will sponsor the rally in this city on the same evening Anita Bryant will be singing at a local church. Mark Silber of the Coalition said that "Instead of demonstrating against Anita, or appearing to harass her, we decided to have our own event to draw the media away from her and to our event."

The Coalition is hoping for "an unprecedented number of gay sisters and brothers" to appear at the rally. It will be held at the Sunland Recreation Center on Sunrise Blvd. in Fort Lauderdale at 8 p.m., January 6. For more information call (305) 763-2857.

ANOTHER RULING ON OBSCENITY

NEW YORK — A jury in State Supreme Court in Manhattan acquitted a defendant of charges that he was a wholesaler of obscene films because it said it had found the films in question "too disgusting and repulsive" to appeal to the prurient interests of average people.

In a landmark decision handed down by the US Supreme Court in *Roth vs. United States*, prurient interest was defined as generating "lustful thoughts . . . itching . . . longing . . . lascivious desire or thought" and as a "shameful or morbid interest" in sex.

In the New York case, the defense contended that to be obscene the films, which depicted two men engaged in bestiality, would have had to arouse the jurors sexually. The prosecution, headed by assistant district attorney Benjamin Brasman, argued that if that view were accepted, "the more revolting and outrageous such material is, the less chance it has of ever being found obscene."

Brasman later pointed out that the interpretation would require a juror to view a film from the perspective of the audience to whom it was intended to appeal. A heterosexual juror might have to determine what would arouse a homosexual, and vice-versa, depending on the film involved, he said.

COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES

HARRISBURG, PA — Persons interested in serving on the Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities beginning next year may now submit resumes. Chairperson Tony Silvestre announced that interested persons should include "the usual background data as well as information on their involvement and interest in the area of sexual minority rights."

Silvestre added that prospective members of the council must be willing to be identified as a member of a sexual minority and spend at least one full working day a month on council business. Resumes or requests for further information should be sent to Tony Silvestre, Penn. Council for Sexual Minorities, 238 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. All appointments to the council are made by Governor Milton Shapp.

A NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

BOSTON — Alcoholics Together and Gay AA are holding a New Year's Eve Party for both alcoholic men and women and their friends. Organizers of the party are promising "fun, food, good conversation and dancing."

The party will be held on December 31 from 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. at the Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St. in Boston. Those attending should enter through the side door of the church. There will be a \$2 donation at the door.



GAY LIBERTARIAN WALK-OUT

LOS ANGELES, CA — Members of a Gay Libertarian Caucus walked out of the plenary session of the California Conference to Defeat the Briggs Initiative recently, to protest what the caucus viewed as "the ramrodding of socialist and liberal resolutions without debate" on the floor.

The libertarian walkout came after the adoption of a package of resolutions from the women's, racial minority, lesbian, and labor caucuses in the last minutes of the conference. More than forty resolutions, including the entire 26-point plan passed at the International Women's Year Conference in Houston, were moved to the floor in a package.

Robert Sirico, president of the California Libertarians for Gay Rights said that while the group supported some of the resolutions and parts of others, "we object to having them made a package deal and adopted without debate. We believed that this Conference was called to bring together gays and straights of every political persuasion to fight against the Briggs Initiative, but it has become clear that the Conference is dominated by socialists and liberals."

A resolution was adopted on the floor requiring another statewide conference within six months to ratify or reject the actions taken at the recent Los Angeles meeting. It is expected that the next conference will be held in San Francisco.

WOMEN'S GRANTS

BOSTON — Small grants of up to \$500 are available to women's groups that have non-profit status through Artemis Productions. Artemis, organizers and producers of women's concerts, will only accept applications from grass roots women's organizations which are not part of any larger funding system. The grants are earmarked to meet emergency needs that threaten the survival of an existing group.

Applications for funds are due by January 31, 1978. For information write the Boston's Women's Fund, 24 Kenwood St., Dorchester, MA 02124.

VARA BARS BEHIND IN TAXES

BOSTON — *The Boston Globe* has reported that several bars and nightclubs owned by Henry and Carmine Vara, including the disco Together, appear consistently on tax delinquent lists going back as far as 1972. *The Globe* reported that for the three years ending March 31, 1977, Together, previously known as the Sugar Shack, owed \$37,491 in back taxes.

Most of the tax liabilities came to light in a bankruptcy suit filed by the Varas in 1976. The bankruptcy petition involved Jacques' and the Other Side, two gay bars located in Boston's Bay Village. The Vara owned establishments had their closing times cut back from 2 a.m. to midnight by the Boston Licensing Board after complaints by residents of loud noise and criminal activity in the vicinity of the bars.

According to the *Globe*, Boston attorney Frank Dimento, who represents the Varas, refused to talk about the bar's tax problems, "But we do have a valid defense, and we're going to win," a case brought before the Appellate Tax Board, he said.

ANTI-GAY MEDIA IMAGES

NEW YORK — The media relations committee of the Gay Activist Alliance is preparing a protest against the anti-gay images it finds in the media. Topping the list of targets is the ABC-TV program *Soap*. GAA complains that the show "features a grinning idiot gay character who is neurotic, suicidal and totally lacking in self-respect and pride."

The committee also objects to ABC's *Three's Company*. There is a character on that program who "pretends to be gay" so that he can live with two female roommates. GAA charges that the program has "no genuine gay character to talk back to the landlord, who's forever making bigoted remarks."

GAA in New York has also expressed "contempt" for the film *Looking for Mr. Goodbar*, which, says the group, "contains extremely negative gay characters."

THE GAY SWITCHBOARD

NEW YORK — The Gay Switchboard of New York, Inc. has begun a major fund raising effort. The group is beginning a sponsors and patrons roster in an effort to keep itself in operation. For \$25 a year, a business or individual can be a sponsor of the Switchboard and for \$100 a year one can become a patron.

According to the Switchboard Fund Raising Committee, over 75% of its calls are for referrals to gay businesses or services. "The callers want to keep their money in the gay community," the committee says. Every dollar donated to the Switchboard will be spent on advertising, an action, says the fund raising committee, which means more business for gay businesses.

To donate or for more information, contact the Gay Switchboard of New York, Inc., 110 East 23rd St., Suite 502, New York, NY 10010 (212) 777-1800.

Gay Arson Task Force Formed

One Person Dies in Castro Baths Fire

SAN FRANCISCO — One man was killed and several others were injured in a fire at the Castro Baths here on Dec. 11. This is the third such fire in San Francisco in the past 14 months. Fire Chief Andrew Casper said the three-alarm blaze in the three-story wood frame Victorian structure caused about \$85,000 damage.

Firefighters were hampered by toxic fumes from polyurethane mattresses and overstuffed furniture in the early morning blaze. Reportedly some 20 to 30 men were in the building at the time the fire broke out.

The Gay Arson Task Force, set up recently here, has met with fire officials. A member of that group told GCN that the police arson squad is still investigating the chance that arson was the cause of the Castro Baths fire.



Openly gay San Francisco city supervisor Harvey Milk

On Feb. 10 of this year, the Ritch Street Health Club was damaged by fire in what officials believed was a case of arson. Arson was also blamed for a four alarm blaze that caused nearly \$18,000 damage at the Folsom Street Barracks in October 1976.

Harvey Milk, the newly elected and openly gay San Francisco city supervisor, told GCN that officials have said that the Castro Baths fire was caused by faulty insulation on a steam pipe. "Nevertheless, we are contemplating ordinances to require sprinkler systems and other fire preventive devices to be placed in bath houses," said Milk.

Milk has set up a series of meetings with fire and police officials as well as with bath house owners. Some of these owners have already begun installing their own sprinkler systems and taking

other precautionary measures. "There is a lot of concern in the gay community about fire hazards in the baths," Milk told GCN. "This is a serious problem which we must meet."

The fire at the Castro Baths in San Francisco is the third major blaze in a gay-oriented establishment in recent months in the country. Eight men died in a fire that swept a Washington, D.C. movie house in November. That fire, which destroyed the Cinema Follies, trapped 15 men as they were watching gay films in the theater.

The fire in Washington came four months after a blaze destroyed the Everard Baths in New York City. In that tragedy, which occurred last May 25, nine men lost their lives while 10 others were injured.

Mass. Court Upholds Prostitution Law

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has ruled that the state law against prostitution and common nightwalking is constitutional and applies equally to males. The defendants in *Commonwealth vs. King* had contended that the law is vague, an invasion of privacy and does not give equal protection under the law.

The court rejected all the challenges and stated that there are two methods by which prostitution can be proven a crime. According to the court, one can be convicted for participating in a sexual act or for soliciting in a place of public access. It was the opinion of the Justices that because, in this case, the solicitation was for money and in public, the defendants were guilty.

The court's decision on Dec. 12 followed the recent overturning of the conviction of a Boston man accused of soliciting to commit "an unnatural and lascivious act with another person." In that case, *Commonwealth vs. Scagliotti*, the Supreme Judicial Court ordered a new trial and ruled that a "consensual unnatural act must be committed in a public place in order to be punishable by law . . . The public nature of a consensual act is an essential element to be proved by prosecution." This latest decision upholds that ruling and distinguishes a "commercial

transaction" from a private act.

Chief Justice Edward F. Hennessey, who wrote the opinion of the court in *Commonwealth vs. King*, also wrote a concurrence expressing his own opinion. The Chief Justice stated that if the defendants, who were all women, could have shown that as a matter of practice male participants were not arrested, the statute against prostitution and common nightwalking might indeed have been declared unconstitutional.

Boston Attorney John Ward cautioned, however, that the ruling has little effect on street solicitations or "commercial transactions." A challenge to the statutes, said Ward, "would have had to have shown that males were not prosecuted for prostitution or for the analogous crimes of solicitation, nightwalking, sodomy and the like. That would be a showing impossible to make since males are being charged with solicitation now."

Attorney Ward told GCN that the decision in *Commonwealth vs. King* puts "us no further ahead than we were before." "There was some nice language [in Chief Justice Hennessey's concurrence] but the court refused to extend the concept of privacy to commercial transactions," said Ward.

Gay Float Appears in Holiday Parade

LOS ANGELES — The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce reversed an earlier decision and allowed the Christopher Street West (CSW) float to use the word "gay" in one of its signs during the Santa Claus Lane parade. The float was the first openly gay float in a major nongay parade in the U.S.

Gaysweek reported that the chamber board apparently responded to the persistence of Newton Deiter, head of the Gay Media Task Force, who is said to have spoken to each member of the board individually. Deiter reportedly informed them of the adverse effects the ban would have had on the Hollywood community.

When the chamber board decided to ban the use of the word "gay," gay organizations announced a large-scale boycott of businesses participating in the parade. They also planned to ask pro-gay stars to cancel their appearances in the annual event.

The chamber argued that floats in the parade were to carry signs mentioning only the sponsor. It was pointed

out, however, that there was a float which bore a sign reading "Sponsored by the Korea Times for the Korea Community." A float sponsored by the Church of Scientology also apparently violated the chamber's "rule." The design of that float was a mock-up of the cover of a book written by church founder L. Ronald Hubbard.

Pat Rocco, chairperson of the CSW float committee, reportedly was told just one hour before the parade by Bill Hurst, the chairperson of the event, "Oh, by the way, the word 'gay' is unacceptable." Rocco, according to *Gaysweek*, threatened to pull the float out of the event. "Nobody knows who Christopher Street West is. If we go down the street without telling people who we are, we become a nonentity," Rocco said.

In October, CSW paid \$1100 to the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce as an entry fee for the \$1900 float. The organization indicated at the time that it intended to enter a "human rights train" in the parade.



HONGISTO GOES TO CLEVELAND:

Richard Hongisto, the progressive and pro-gay former sheriff of San Francisco County, signed on as the police chief of this Ohio city. Hongisto, who was facing re-election in 1978, came to Cleveland and walked right into a labor dispute. Most of the city's 1500 police officers called in sick for two days and the new chief found himself doing street patrol. Known as a vocal and long-time supporter of gay rights, Hongisto is Cleveland's third chief this year. As sheriff in San Francisco, Hongisto attracted national attention for his activities which included a trip to Miami in support of the gay rights forces in Dade County.

Court Rulings Made on Transsexual Surgery Costs

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Supreme Court has ruled that the Department of Public Welfare in that state cannot categorically exclude transsexual surgery from coverage under its Medicaid program.

In denying the coverage, it was the state's contention that there be a total prohibition of coverage for that type of surgery and that in order to qualify for benefits, the individual would have to prove that the surgery would eliminate his or her disability and render that person self-supporting. If the welfare department pays for the surgery, the state said, the patient will then no longer need to receive welfare assistance.

The court noted in *Doe vs. Minnesota* that this is the only surgical procedure excluded from Medicaid coverage even when it is medically necessary and prescribed by a physician. According to the federal Medicaid guidelines, "states cannot arbitrarily deny or reduce the amount, duration, or scope of such services . . . solely because of the diagnosis, type of illness, or condition."

The Minnesota court decided that the federal regulations prohibit the kind of arbitrary policy used by the state, adding that the issue of how to determine medical necessity was not covered in this ruling. The decision pointed out that the present standard of medical necessity would deny care to the terminally ill. The Court concluded that the standard is invalid and should not be used in future cases.

In a similar case earlier this year in Georgia, the Federal District Court there was even more emphatic. In *Rush vs. Parham, et al.*, the Court enjoined the state Medicaid agency from apply-

ing those portions of the state Medicaid plan and regulations which deny benefits for transsexual surgery. The Georgia court ordered the agency to approve reimbursement for the operation for the specific patient, and ordered the Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare to disapprove portions of the state Medicaid plan which imposed the original prohibition.

In the Georgia case, it was noted that the patient's physician had certified the medical necessity of the operation. The court analyzed the Medicaid laws and concluded that "Medicaid coverage is not optional or discretionary for necessary medical treatment of eligible recipients."

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK!

GCN will not publish an issue next week. Volume V, 26 will be on the newsstands and at our other outlets beginning Tuesday, December 27 through Sunday, January 8. We will be putting together our next issue the first week of January, and it will be on the market the second week of January. As you travel to various parts of the country during the holiday season, mention GCN to your friends. We hope you enjoy your vacation as much as we will ours.

The office will be officially closed Dec. 26-30.

speaking out

In Response to Widely Circulated Publications Such as *In Touch*, *Blueboy*, *Playguy*, etc.

By Richard Ballon

A majority of gay publications are treatises on fantasy divorced from the embrace of emotion. They barely explore the quest for a lasting relationship. We all recognize the trail of stars that thrived, burned out after a night.

I've tasted the fruit of too many men hoping to find within the sexual act a context of loving. These magazines encourage that cool separation, the distance between orbiting planets. The majority of encounters of sex without commitment can be equated with competing with a jar of vaseline.

The presentations encourage physical involvement without lingering to explore the scent or taste. It blindfolds many men toward an exploration of their emotion. Try to trace someone's lip with more than a jagged kiss, then watch another leaf coast away on the mainstream of what most gay magazines present.

Is this emphasis on the crotch instead of the eyes considered normal? It happens in heterosexuality often enough — is the counter culture to take this attitude to adolescent extremes? Those beautiful men in living colour... How many thousands have they serviced in their years of beauty — until thirty years from now they may pin up their own photographs and dream of the man to enact their fantasy, never to remember the sound of a voice. (Meaningful conversation blows confetti on the image superimposed.)

It's hollow to me. At twenty-two years old I tire of comforting others that have been branded with rejection. I cannot hold them from the tide of a thousand blurred faces (each one seems a promise in that journey through fog), deposited again on the desert sand. There are those who change lovers with the seasons — instead of the effort required to weave a substantial form, they scrap the cloth; don the fashionable suit for the fashionable bar and begin again.

Is this the happy life? The conservatism my quest for romanticism has bred is the scar of my integrity — along with several million others who purchase the magazine for the equation of identity, only to be haunted by an unspoken voice:

Is there something wrong with me that I cannot hop from a street corner to a stranger's car?

Only to discover that the result of such adventures is to live in a world of phantoms. Is the present state of abnormality a person's quest for the courtship, a base constructed on the grounds of familiarity? We lose enough things without literature and glossy prints assuring us that a hundred men will part our legs, with few to feel the tears, for the only salt they can confidently deliver is that released from the head of a thrust cock.

Promiscuity can be viewed as a liberating quality. Doesn't true freedom usher responsibility in its awakening? We are taught to change partners as often as bed linen. We seldom meet our needs emptying the cup, saturated by many — never nourished by the layers of sight, sound and touch that a relationship can unfold. We see our reflections in the glazed packaging and barely brush the inner tissue.

Even a child discovers that to assume a naked stance too often he's bound to catch a cold. The chill is the silence amid the chatter, the addiction to bars, seeking within that cage the comfort of another night; still the flu burns deep as we search for the salve only loving can heal.

We have minds beyond the fringes of sexuality. I can appreciate the beauty of the physique — but you gear toward the fire that snuffs itself while burning. Can you tell us how to feed the flame and keep it alive from the consuming shades of they who flicker in and out with scarce a reference beyond the obsession of a fantasy?

("Speaking Out" is a column designed for the benefit of GCN readers. We encourage you to send your thoughts, ideas, feelings to Speaking Out, GCN, 22 Bromfield Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108. The opinions expressed in the "Speaking Out" column do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper or those of individual members of the GCN staff.)

community voices

herstory in houston

Dear People:

I loved seeing a picture of myself in GCN (12/10/77 issue/page 3). However, you all omitted the other women's names (we were unanimous, not anonymous) and misspelled my last name. Since we four have been good friends for many years, here are the names: (Left to right) Gail Dunlop, Dayna 'Dazzle' Golden-Shatan, Maxine Feldman, Ivy Bottini.

In between and after the plenary sessions at IWY there was much going on. In Seneca Falls South, performing artists — myself, Maggie Savage, Robin Ryler, Holly Near, Deadly Nightshade, Mayou Angelou, Margie Adam, Ginny Clemmens, Ivy Bottini, Kristen Lems, Malvina Reynolds, plus clowns, poets, and many others — were scheduled throughout the Conference. All of Seneca Falls South performances were, by the way, produced by two women, Barbara 'Boo' Price and Fran Henry; sound was by Margot McFriedies and Karen; lights, Leni Schwendiger; stage management, Jennifer Jones; I know I'm leaving out names, but I'm trying!

Also, all day and into the evening there were hundreds of booths, some representing states, others representing issues (abortion, women's health); many others were the booths of women-owned businesses from across the country (Feminist Forge/Laguna, CA; Labyris/Benevia, CA. QUEST, A Feminist Quarterly/Washington, D.C.; Daughters, Inc./NYC; etc.)

Another item generally not reported is that our sisters in Houston, using the name 'Lesberadas,' housed over 2,000 lesbian women and helped all of us non-delegates get around in a strange city. Your article mentioned the number of delegates (2,000) but omitted mention of the additional 20 to 40,000 women who went to Houston to show support of the various issues (ERA, lesbian rights, abortion, older women, third world women, welfare rights, etc.), and to take part in a very Herstorical event.

Just thought you'd like to know.

Maxine Feldman
Boston

hen-pecking

Dear GCN:

Re: National Women's Conference.

The Conference uses E.R.A. as a wedge to bring the World back to the NAG & HEN-PECK era of Adam and Eve with Delilah making a Chump out of Samson as we learn from the Old Testament. Bring ALL males into meek submission while denying ANY responsibility for the resulting chaos including the demise of the Family as the basic unit of the social structure via FREE divorce and/or Abortion at will etc etc., ad infinitum. WHO then, will be paying for all these new female "benefits" ??? just acquired.

E.R.A. condones Hookers and Lesbians while frowning on gay males and hustlers. In short, it's the old cliché of "Don't do as I do, but do as I say" which means to hen-peck the male population of the World.

The gals may DEMAND that all males become docile MILQUETOASTS, but what they will get is something entirely different — that's for sure. They may even go after the Papacy in Rome or Leonid Brezhnev's job in the USSR; when they get either — THAT will be the day. How ridiculously screw-ball can a group of militant females get anyway ???

Leon F. Denis

feelings or laws?

Dear Gay Community News:

The hostile reaction of the Wichita Catholic Bishop to that city's newly enacted gay rights ordinance brings to question the wisdom of having these ordinances in the first place.

These omnibus gay rights ordinances force Catholic and other parochial schools to hire and retain openly gay teachers, and with their backs pinned against the wall by gay activists the Catholic Church is going to strike back.

Of what practical value are these ordinances? Some 40 American communities have them, but hardly anybody has used them because they are absolutely unenforceable. An employer can always find some other reason than homosexuality to fire.

Rather than to continue to press for more of these ordinances, I believe that gay activists should redirect their effort on educating the public about who and what we are. If we change feelings and attitudes about homosexuality and gay people, such ordinances will not be necessary.

Craig Alfred Hanson
Escondido, CA

boys as friends

Dear GCN,

Many thanks for your editorial "Morality, the Press, and the Law" and for publishing Tom Reeves' courageous statement "In defense of boy love" (GCN, Dec. 24, 1977)! I recently spent four weeks in the home of a German boy lover and got to know a couple of his boy lover friends and nearly a dozen of their boys. My experience confirms the concern for the boys' welfare that is shown in Tom's statement.

The boys ranged in age from 13 to 17, but often keep in touch later. I was alone in the house one evening when an 18 year old called from another city. I had met him two years earlier when he was living with my friend, having been taken in from the streets and persuaded to finish school. He told me he was now in teacher training and that my friend made it all possible for him.

This association is good for these boys, who know what they are doing and freely choose it. We must defend their right to do so. After his visit to Boston in 1882, Oscar Wilde exaggerated when he said that England had got rid of Puritanism, though he was certainly correct in saying that "much can be found about Boston and Massachusetts." He added: "America still preserves it, to be, I hope, a short-lived curiosity." After nearly a century this anti-sex attitude is still too much with us!

Hubert Kennedy
Providence, RI



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COSMEP

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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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DISTRIBUTION MGR. NEEDED

GCN is looking for someone to distribute the paper in the Boston-Cambridge area. This is a part-time position and requires a truck or a large car. The pay is negotiable, and the hours involve weekend work. If you fit the bill, give us a call at 426-4469. Ask for Harry or Tony.

NEWS EDITOR

GCN is looking for a full-time news editor. Journalistic experience, knowledge of gay politics necessary. \$70/wk. salary. Anyone interested should call Harry or Jim at 426-4469.

Did You See?

The Martinsburg Journal Comment

WASHINGTON, D.C. — I won't say that this fellow journalist who rushed up to me at the National Press Club had tears in his eyes, but he had them in his voice. His was a cry of despair when he denounced the Woman's Movement, which had crossed the country to Houston under a high-held torch, and would have the prime purpose and final result, he declared, of inaugurating a heyday for homosexuality.

It defies credibility to accept any such motives in Betty Ford, Billie Jo King and other headliners of the movement, and it's only fair to add as soon as possible that my friend had a personal grievance against the Movement. He had spent several years at work on a "clean" book with "straight" sex and the highest ideals of racial fairness, human decency, civil rights, human rights and international amity.

My friend might find an advocate of sorts in the editor of Harper's, Lewis

H. Lapham, who has this striking image in the current issue. Speaking up for change which, if it is improvement, is a condition of civilized life on earth, Lapham writes: "The structure of the idea resembles a suspension bridge rather than an Egyptian tomb. Its strength depends upon the strength and balance struck between countervailing forces. The idea collapses unless the stresses oppose one another with equal weight..."

Without special reference to the boy-girl sex question, Lapham is saying that we men must hold the balance and resist the militant women. We existists have got to fight to the death against any form of sexual coalition. I blush to say it bluntly, but there must always be the jockstrap as well as the bra.

That's what most persons, I judge, believe in their hearts. The notion that Women's Lib and related revolutions are setting the fashions for unisex living and literature is not really all that

scary if we do our part on the suspension bridge. We must give full weight to what is conservatism, fundamentalism, the status quo. But what if we find evidence that the laws of physics — the balances of the suspension bridge — are falling into abeyance? Do we then have true reason for pessimism about the race's future?

Yes, if nature's own balance fails us, we must either give up entirely or re-think the equation. A news item which shared an inner page with secondary events, such as corporate embezzlement and political partisanship, was the report of that University of California research team about the discovery of lesbianism among wild seagulls. The project's leader, Dr. George Hunt, declared himself, "absolutely astounded. This sort of thing has not been found before and was clearly not what we anticipated."

What happens to seagulls, to all birds of life, to creatures which live within feather and fur, can happen to our whole race of thinking bipeds, and happens sooner to free nations than to enslaved ones. The all-female sex act cannot reproduce life. If this one species on the California coast is capable of sustained perversion, it is headed toward race-suicide. Can general

extermination of all that live by the breath of life be far behind?

Therefore, I join in the alarm of my colleague. He fears that all the laws, customs and prejudices which for centuries have kept men and women as the sustaining bridgehead of society are in danger of collapse. One should emphasize "free society." It follows in logic that the dictatorships, always more puritanical towards governing the masses than are the democracies and republics, will be the last to go.

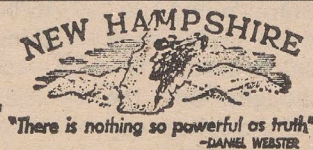
Seagulls, perhaps, have had their day. But the fascists and communists — forcibly and insisting that their people do only what comes naturally — may have found another way to inherit the earth.

—from a column by Holmes Alexander in *The Martinsburg (WVA) Journal*, Dec. 12, 1977.

VOLUNTEER

The gay community needs your support in many different ways. Join GCN on Thursday nights and help lay-out the paper.

NEW HAMPSHIRE MANCHESTER UNION LEADER

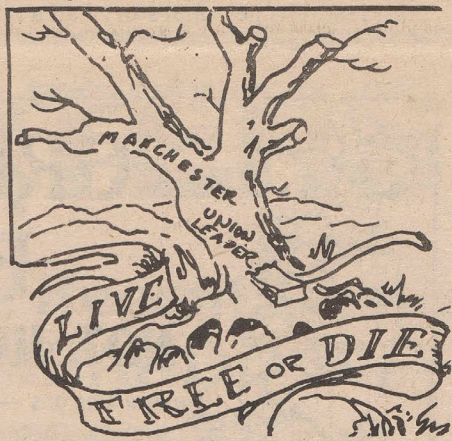


The fact that 24 people could be indicted in a Massachusetts Superior Court for charges including the rape of boys between 8 and 13 years old, sexual assault and other sexual offenses is almost incredible. Also, when you consider that some of these individuals were teachers in a prestigious boys' school, some were professional people and one was even a child psychologist, it indicates most clearly the level to which morals in this nation have fallen.

Such abnormal and obscene behavior could not have been so extensively carried out except against the background of a permissive society which in the last few years has thrown its moral standards to the wind.

Our readers can now understand

why this newspaper has taken such a strong stand against homosexuality



and the recognition given the sodomites at the University of New Hamp-

shire and throughout the nation.

These sodomites and their female counterparts, the lesbians, are NOT a group of innocent people just "doing their own thing." They are proselytizers and propagandists of the most vicious type of animalistic relations among mankind.

The fact that the Superior Court judge before whom they appeared allowed individuals accused of such horrendous crimes to be released either on no bail at all, just their own personal recognizance, or on bail of only \$100 indicates also the casualness with which modern society regards this type of stinking and rotten behavior.

We need in this nation a revival of moral standards and the strict enforce-

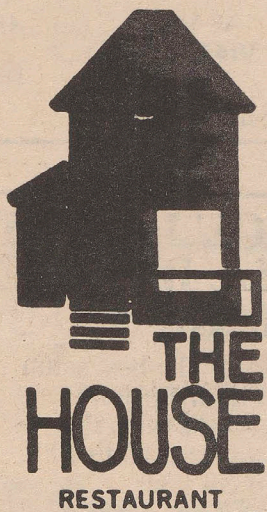
ment of them regardless of the whines of a degenerate and confused minority. UNLESS we achieve that type of leadership and take those steps, this nation soon will make the degeneracy of Rome in its collapsing days seem like a Sunday school in comparison.

No nation can survive half morally decent and half morally rotten.

—from an editorial by William Loeb in the *Manchester Union Leader*, Dec. 10, 1977.

VOLUNTEER

On Friday nights, GCN needs people to help get the newspaper in the mails. Give us as much of your time as you can.

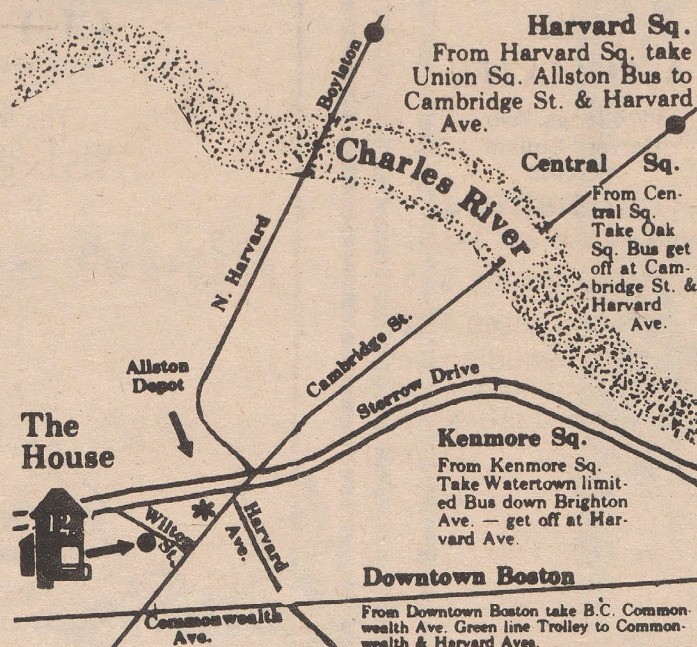


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Tony Bosco, creator (there is no other appropriate word) of the excellent 'House' restaurant in Brighton, recently opened a bar in the basement of the same building, called 'The Delivery Entrance'. Predictably, the design of the place is wonderful: a low-beamed ceiling, warm quarry tile floors, stone and rough-paneled walls; a dim room filled with pillows for provocative lounging, wicker chairs and palms set on oriental carpets, a few discreet games.

—Joseph Cain, *In Touch*

Men & Women

7 Nights 5-1

new york, new york

By Harold Pickett

NEW YORK — Late on Dec. 20, I received a phone call requesting that I assist at a class room speaking date at Hunter College. Members of Hunter's Gay Men's Alliance and Lesbians Rising Collective were invited to send representatives to a sex education course to answer questions and talk about their gayness.

Although I am not a student, I work with the group on a number of projects and knew that this would be something I would enjoy. Mary Lefkarites was the class instructor; I met her about three years ago when she contacted the groups for their first on-campus speaking engagement. She is conscientious, intelligent, and a very loving person who is open-minded and open in sharing herself.

Every semester she invites gay students to visit her classes. Before the campus groups formed, she used to have speakers come from the Mattachine Society but switched to the two campus groups in order to show that gays were not outsiders merely invited in on these special occasions. Rather, the gay speakers are students or former students who are presented as peers sharing in the common life of college. Frequently, as was the case in this instance, the gays are students who sit in other classes alongside the same students they are going to speak to about gay life and gay rights.

Such student role reversals usually come as quite a jolt to the non-gays in the class. They ask why it is necessary that this person be singled out and treated differently, when it is someone they've seen in the cafeteria or sit next to in another class. They share these

thoughts and the class becomes more respectful, more attentive, and receptive.

Lefkarites prepares her classes in advance for the gay discussions. Two weeks ago they discussed transsexualism; they were clear that it is an entirely separate issue from homosexuality. Consequently, there were no questions like, "Why do gay men want to be women?" Previous to that the class discussed sex role stereotyping of men and women and ideas of masculinity and femininity. Concepts were examined not as right or wrong but as cultural conditions for questioning.



One of the first questions the speakers were asked was, "How did you know you were gay?" The answer that most intrigued me was, "How did you know you were straight?" Not intended as a wisecrack retort, it was explained that sexuality and preference for the person answering was no sudden revelation. It was a gradual unfolding awareness that could not be separated in time from the rest of the personality.

Several people wanted to know how families reacted to the speaker's gayness. It was interesting that they assumed that being out enough to speak in a classroom meant also being out to individual families. Although one of the speaker's sister was supportive, he and she agreed it was best not to tell his parents directly. Other responses ranged from Joyce who said, "They can take me or leave me just as I am," to Leslie's reply that her family is open minded and she and her mother often visit her gay friends together.

Other questions asked: "Have you ever had a heterosexual relationship?" "Don't you want to have children?" "How do you feel about coming to speak and having to set yourself apart from others?" Responses always varied individually which helped to break the barriers between "us and them." On some questions we were no more molded in our thinking or our experiences than the supposedly non-gays. Yet it was also clear that we, the gay speakers, were united by a strong bond as are other oppressed minorities.

Jim, another speaker, told about growing up in his Brooklyn neighborhood. At 18, the rumors had already circulated that he was gay. One night walking home from the subway stop, he was attacked by the neighborhood street gang and beaten with fists and pipes. He spent three weeks in the hospital as a result of that beating and still has chipped teeth and scars on his skull. He became withdrawn and fearful, wanting to return to some hoped for safety in the closet. Instead, a few months later, he sought out the warmth and support of the college gay group. He attended social functions and political meetings. He became a speaker and a writer and served the following year as the group's president. His personal story had a real effect on the class.

Whether it is "uncool" to be openly anti-gay in college these days; or the fact that the school's located in midtown Manhattan; or the excellent preparation of the class by Lefkarites; or a combination of the three, we met with no open hostility, ridicule, or resentment.

There was a rapport established with many people — even if for only a short while. It would be easier for "them" and for "us" the next time they encounter a gay person or a gay issue — maybe not perfect, but a little easier each time. Besides, some of "them" may discover they are really "us."

Ordinance

Continued from page 1

Wichita Civil Rights Office, which is charged with enforcing the ordinance, told GCN that he was already pursuing one case of employment discrimination. The Civil Rights Office itself did not take a stand on the ordinance when it was proposed and does not intend to do so at this point. When asked whether he thought the electorate would vote to repeal the ordinance, Rice replied, "This is a funny town. I can't say yes or no. They'll probably put it on the ballot with a vote on flouridation. People around here tend to be ultra-conservative and resist anything that might bring about change."

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Special Day is A Special Movie

A Review by Eric Rogers

Enough movies have been made about World War II, but very few of them have confronted the Nazis' war against homosexuals that killed hundreds of thousands of gay people. Even *Cabaret*, which touched on homosexuality in Nazi Germany, focused on Berlin's gay culture, rather than on the violent oppression that is a more substantial subject for a film. *A Special Day*, now showing at the Exeter Theatre, is a sensitive movie that faces up to a real historical nightmare that battered homosexual men and women throughout Europe just thirty years ago.

Sophia Loren plays Antonietta, a working-class housewife with six children and a bull-headed husband who keeps her at home while he and the kids march off to the fanfare accompanying Hitler's visit to Rome. It seems that the only people who don't attend the parades are the poorer housewives and the anti-Fascists, including blacklisted gays such as Gabrielle, portrayed by Marcello Mastroianni. Gabrielle has been fired from his job as a radio announcer as "subversive, useless and tending towards depravity," and is preparing to be shipped off to a special "ghetto" in Sardinia — no swinging resort, but probably a concentration camp. On this "special day," Gabrielle and Antonietta meet by chance and their loneliness and mutual desperation draw them together into what becomes a few hours of attraction, rejection and consummation. "Romeo and Juliet" it's not, but as a portrait of the victims

of a totalitarian Fascist society, the movie becomes a revealing study of the battered individual under pressure.

This is another movie, like *Sunday Bloody Sunday* and *Outrageous*, that brings together a woman and a gay man and the comparison of their oppression is inevitable. While Antonietta does not seem aware of any option and tacitly accepts the role of servant that her family presents to her, her mood shifts through the movie into a quiet radiance, as her emotions are rekindled and her self-image brightened. Despite her lack of education, she is not an ignorant woman and Gabrielle leads her to see her beauty, if only for one day. Gabrielle, on the other hand, is banned from society, yet he clings to a gay pride that has no context. He lives in hiding, without a supportive community — repeatedly told that he's sick, immoral and queer — yet he knows otherwise. Equally endowed with gay pride and feminist consciousness, Gabrielle is certainly ahead of his time. There is a certain strength, an ability to continue through the hell of Fascist Italy that Mastroianni puts into the character and that makes Gabrielle a proud figure.

When Gabrielle and Antonietta finally get to the bed, there is no dramatic change on his part — he's confused and disturbed at the situation, yet neither ashamed nor reluctant. Afterwards, he makes a succinct statement, one that reveals a high degree of integrity as a gay man — "Being like I am doesn't mean I can't



Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni in *A Special Day*

make love to a woman. It was beautiful, but it doesn't change anything." The issue of sex between a gay man and a heterosexual woman finally is confronted, without the man becoming converted or the woman being abused. Director Ettore Scola deserves credit for approaching the subject with sensitivity and skill.

There's no happy ending in the

movie, as there was no happy ending for gay people in World War II. The movie offers a moving story of two tortured souls struggling against the quiet violence that preceded the holocaust. It's a disturbing film, but none of us should forget the suffering that our gay brothers and sisters faced at the hands of Hitler and Mussolini.

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GCN's Annual Bouquet

THIS WAS A TOUGHIE DEPARTMENT

Frankly, we were unsure whether we should give this award out at all. At first, THE FRANCO CUP FOR HUMAN DECENCY seemed appropriate, then we considered the RASPUTIN PIN FOR PERSONAL PERSEVERENCE. BUT THAT DOES NOT DO HER JUSTICE. FOR 1977, and probably for this century, we are happy to present our special GCN RAGWEED BOUQUET FOR POLITICAL ORGANIZING TO ANITA! Who brought us together as we were never brought together before. Where would we be without you?

THE GCN "WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT YOU" "DEAD SILENT" BOUQUET

To all those dedicated volunteers who bring time, talent, beer, and cheer to the GCN offices every Thursday and Friday night, all year round. Our heartfelt thanks.

AN ABOVE THE CALL CARNATION

To Boston television station WBZ-TV, which devoted a week to a special project entitled "Gay Rights — Who's Right?" And won an Emmy Award for it. Congratulations!

THE CLARENCE DARROW BUTTON FOR LEGAL ACHIEVEMENT

To Mary Whitehouse, who led the campaign which ended in the conviction of Denis Lemon, editor of London's *Gay News*, under Great Britain's 1693 Blasphemy Act.



Bob White and Ann Maguire of Somewhere, co-winners of GCN's "Bouquet of Lavender Roses" award.

A BOUQUET OF LAVENDER ROSES

To Ann Maguire and Bob White of Somewhere, the only gay club in Boston to help out Project Lambda, the gay youth advocacy project at the Charles Street Meeting House. (Monday night spaghetti dinners, 7:30 p.m., only \$1.50).



GCN has chosen this method of honoring individuals or groups within or outside of our community who, through their tireless efforts, have become worthy of the con- course, some are more worthy of the winners are unfamiliar to back issues of GCN for 1977. If you have nominations yourself, let us know:

THE GCN ANNUAL "GO BEGET YOURSELF" AWARD

To the Metropolitan District Police Union. After GCN took out a \$75 good-will advertisement in the MDC police ad-book, the police responded by arresting our male readers in Cambridge, and calling them names at Revere Beach and on the Esplanade. It's your turn for good will, fellas.

THE DALE CARNEGIE MEMORIAL BROWN-NOSE AWARD

To either "Vito Jay" or Joe Leo, whoever wants to take the blame for *Esplanade*.

THREE AWARDS FOR PUTTING THE MONEY WHERE THE MOUTH IS

To the Rochester (NY) City Council, for giving a \$35,000 CETA grant to Gay Alliance of the Genessee Valley.

To the National Gay Community, for coming up with over \$350,000 for the Dade County Coalition for Human Rights June 7 victory fund.

To US District Court Judge Murray Schwartz, for awarding \$27,000 in back pay and damages to Richard Aumiller, who was fired for his gay activism from the University of Delaware.

A LIFETIME SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BOSTON PHOENIX

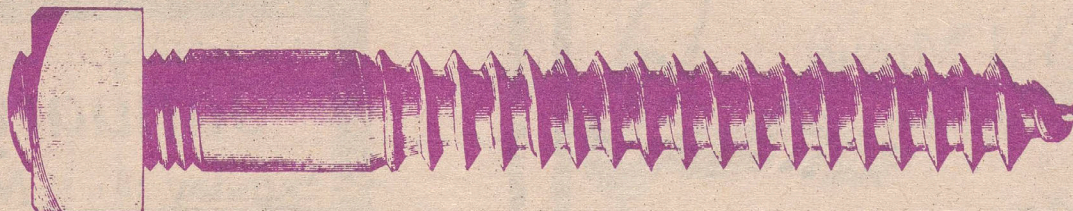
To the lieutenant-detective at Boston Police District One who, on his own volition, started answering *Phoenix* ads for "Models" and "Masseurs" until repeated inquiries by GCN put a stop to it.

THE GCN "SOME OF OUR BEST FRIENDS ARE STRAIGHT" AWARD

To Boston University President John Silber, who tried during 1977 to end the WBUR-FM radio program "Gay Way," one of the oldest gay radio programs in the country. Try again next year, John!

THE JOE McCARTHY PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT AWARD

To US Rep. Larry McDonald (D-Ga.), who sponsored an amendment to the Legal Services Corporation appropriations bill to prohibit legal aid in gay rights cases.



Bouquets and Brickbats

A method to acknowledge individuals in or outside the gay community for tireless or tired efforts, have the community's notice. Of more worth than others. If some are familiar to you, then look in your issue for 1977. If you have nominations, know:



A MEMORIAL BOUQUET

To *Newswest*, *The Barb*, and the *Charlotte Free Press*, three gay newspapers which ceased operation during 1977.

THE McGOVERN-McCARTHY POLITICAL ACUMEN AWARD

To the cities of Wichita (Kan.), Champaign, (Ill.), and Aspen (Col.), which enacted gay anti-discrimination ordinances during 1977.

THE GCN ANNUAL STRANGE BEDFELLOWS AWARD

To GCN and *Pax Centurion*, newspaper of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association. During 1977, the "Pax" contained advertisements from almost as many gay-patronized businesses as GCN, including, The Saints, Twelve Carver, Styx, the Napoleon Club, Jolar Cinema, and the Regency Baths.

THE BIEBER MEMORIAL "AND YOU THINK WE'RE SICK" AWARD

To Thom Arthur Robb, editor of the Ku Klux Klan publication, *The Torch*, which urged the gassing of gay people.

THE AGNEW CUP FOR OFFAL ELOQUENCE

To State Senator David Locke (R-Wellesley), who said that if a gay rights bill passed, he would have to hire any man, wearing a dress, if he could type and lick postage stamps.

THE SPECIAL OOH-AHH-ICKY-POOH-NASTY-TSK-TSK AWARD

To the Montreal Police, who arrested 135 men at Trux, a Montreal leather bar, for "being inside a bawdy house."

A NUCLEAR PERISCOPE WITH A KEYHOLE LENS

To Atlanta Public Safety Commissioner A. Reginald Eaves, who asks police applicants to answer the question, "Are you gay?" under lie-detector test.

THE GEN. WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN "YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE" AWARD

To Frank Cashman, ex-Boston bar manager who was indicted in October for allegedly trying to set fire to a competing Atlanta disco.

THE LOGIC IS A POLITICIAN'S WORST FEAR AWARD

To Rep. Thomas Lopes (D-New Bedford), who predicted that passage of a gay rights bill would make Massachusetts the National Headquarters of the Gay Liberation Movement, and would encourage gays from all over the country to flock here.

THE OSCAR WILDE MEMORIAL CLOSET-DOOR LOCK

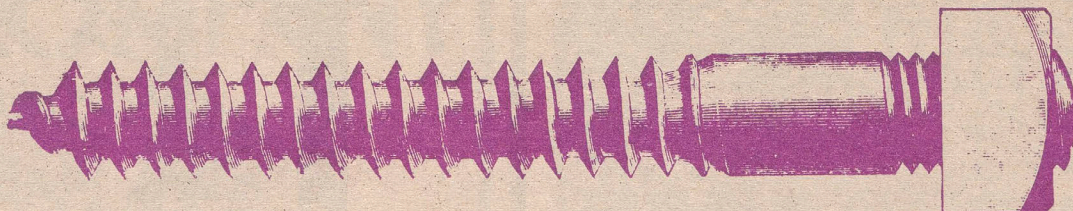
To Maureen Colquhoun, British Member of Parliament who "came out" in September.



Rep. Elaine Noble, recipient of the "Agnes Burnside Gooch What Do I Do Now? Trophy."

THE AGNES BURNSIDE GOOCH "WHAT DO I DO NOW?" TROPHY

To Elaine Noble: A woman's place is not in the House, but in the Senate. (?) (Ask Ed Brooke.)



Film Shows Women Victimized And Victorious

A Review by Sara Annie Fisher

Agnes Varda's *One Sings, the Other Doesn't*, now showing at the Orson Welles in its Boston premiere, is a stunning piece of feminist fiction. The film is an idyll of two women's relationships — with their own inner lives and choices, with the lives of those persons they have both brought into and eliminated from their lives. Varda herself says in narration, "This film is about women, men, work, music, politics, marriage or not." A fusion of romanticism, which somehow escapes being saccharine or shallow, astute social and political documentary, a witty and at times absurd musical comedy, *One Sings, the Other Doesn't* trumpets a gladsome triumph for feminists who have awaited the advent of unflinching women in film. Though I feel it displayed a somewhat unsatisfying scope of political expression, the film is nevertheless a proud and adamant beginning voice of women.

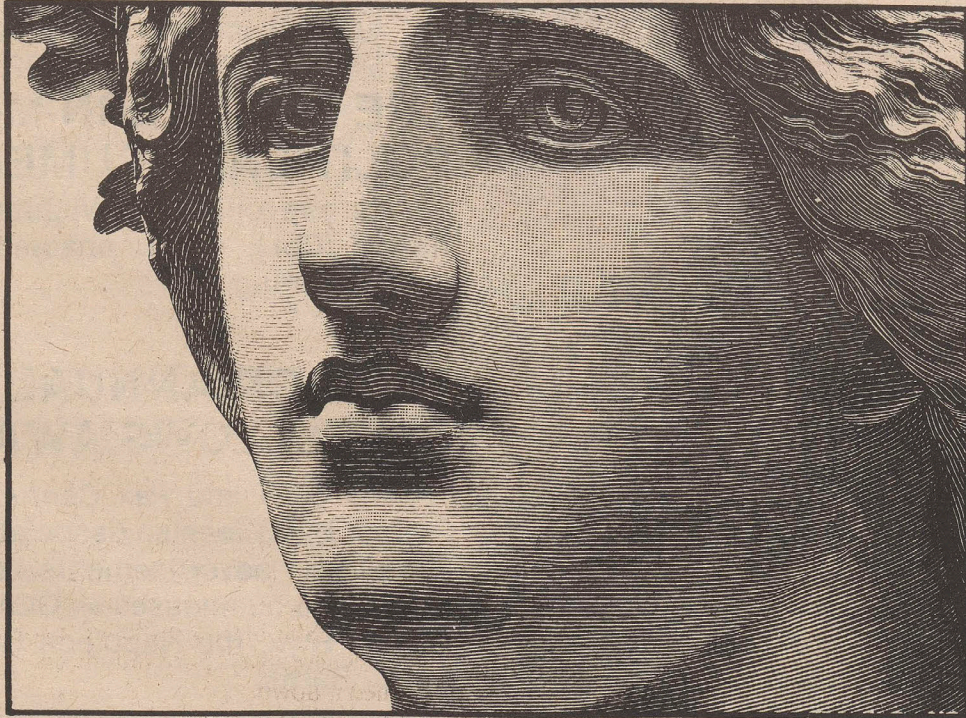
The film centers on the lives of Pauline, portrayed by Valerie Mairesse and Suzanne, played by Therese Liotard. They once lived in adjoining apartments in Paris, but have been separated until Pauline wanders into a photographer's gallery and peers at the many photos of "sad, deserted women," and discovers Suzanne among them. She comments upon her desolate face, and muses upon where Suzanne might now be. The photographer, Jerome, informs her that Suzanne now lives with him and their two children in a nearby garret. So begins a reunion between the two

women, and their sharing.

Pauline and Suzanne are both victorious and victimized. They are wise and vigorous creators of their choices in existence. When Jerome requests that Pauline pose for him, and then tells her mid-pose that she refuses to be

she sings "My body is mine." She wildly attempts to claim for herself all that is here, all that she is and desires to be.

But those claims are limited because both Pauline and Suzanne are also victims. Jerome abuses women in his



real, that she doesn't give of herself and that he wants a True Woman, she says, "I am no victim. Not even for a photograph." The lyrics of Pauline's street music attest to the strength of her involvement in the women's movement. In one of several songs in the film about birth control and abortion,

wish to define them by camera. "I wait until they stop posing, and take them as they are," he says. Varda begins the film with Simone de Beauvoir's statement "Women are made, not born," illustrating how we are all made victims by such single-eyed, oppressive definitions. Suzanne becomes pregnant for a third time by Jerome who is married to another. She is terrified that he will be angry with her for this, knows that she cannot adequately care for another child, and confides her terror to Pauline. Pauline shows a quite moving concern and arranges to send Suzanne away to Switzerland for a safe abor-

tion. She is later told that Suzanne never went to Switzerland, that she had suffered a near-fatal probing instead. "I feel like some poor mute. I don't understand a thing," whispers Suzanne following her abortion.

Maternity becomes a focal point of *One Sings*. When Pauline is living in Teheran pregnant with her first child, depressed by the sudden emotional squalor of her life, she writes in one of her many postcards to Suzanne, "I'm acting starry-eyed, but it's not me." She wallows in this for only a moment, then gathers her strengths and moves back to her native France.

There is the radical element of upending and overturning structures such as women's subservience, monogamy and marriage, the nuclear family, capitalism. "The bourgeoisie is the man, the proletariat is the woman," Pauline analyzes. When living with her "lover-husband" in Iran, Pauline "Pomme" observes, "The hammams and market are the women's only world." She earlier makes the incisive statement to her parents, "The system of parents will not last much longer." There was an inspired hopefulness in all of this which I felt completely drawn into at times.

I was not gratified, however, by some of the facile, surface political approaches and solutions within the film. This feeling could be due to my scant knowledge of European feminism. I am particularly not fully aware of French women's concerns and demonstrations of them. But I felt that a focus on women's rights and family planning was made farcical by women in a rock band planting pillows in their bellies and singing how they resemble "big fat fish." Although I do see street performance as a fine political vehicle, I felt that Pauline's music sometimes

Continued on page 12

NEW YEAR'S

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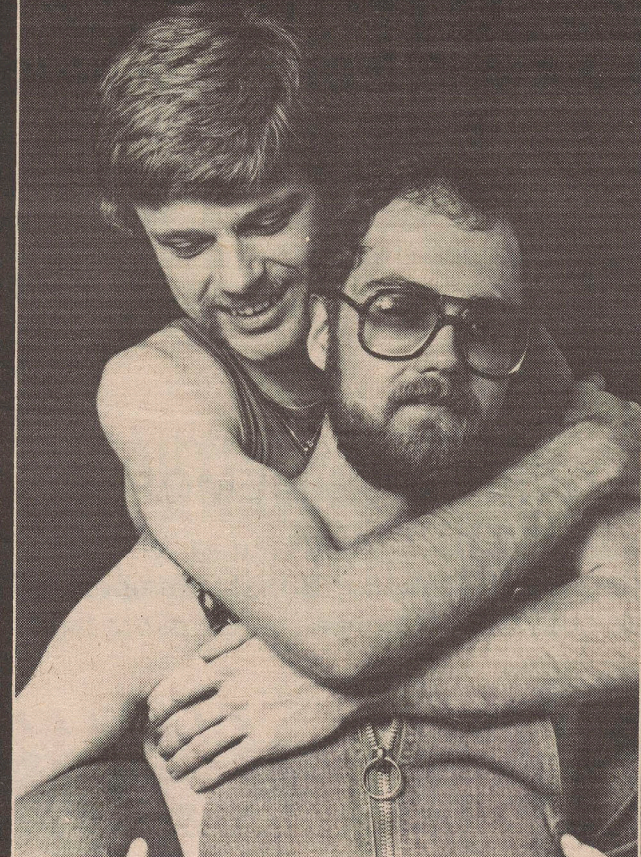
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Jacqui Mac: Bringing Her Dreams Together

By Lisa Nussbaum

Dreams can come true. Jacqui Mac, manager of Boston's newly reopened Club 76, appears to be milking the truth out of that old cliché for all it is worth.

Don't let the calm voice and demeanor fool you. Underneath lies an energetic, artistic personality for whom personal, political and professional objectives are finally beginning to crystallize.

"I've never been in the right place at the right time until now," Jacqui says in a voice tinged with both regret and pride. "I've always been ahead of my time."

Perhaps she has been ahead of her time. Or at least stepping to a beat that no one else could follow, let alone keep up with. One cannot help but notice a teasingly elusive air about her, as if she were a butterfly that refused to light and fluttered just out of reach of its would-be captor.

Fast and furious describe the pace of Jacqui's life prior to taking over management of the Club 76. (In fact, the pace hasn't quit being fast and furious even now.) Although she speaks of her past record of achievements with a calm voice, there seems to be a strong current of fire beneath the surface.

Armed with degrees in broadcast journalism and women's studies, four years ago she trekked the length of the east coast, from Maine to Florida, in

search of a job. Despite logging 45 interviews, she came up empty. "My resumé was much too radical for anyone," she says. Alongside references to past jobs on a newspaper and in a television studio, the resumé listed extensive work on minority and women's programs. "Nobody wanted to touch me with a ten-foot pole."

At that point, Jacqui explains, she reached the decision to withdraw from working within the straight, commercial media, and instead dedicate her time and energy to the gay community. In particular, she wanted to do media-related work within the women's community.

Shortly thereafter, she began working at the Citadel, a mixed gay bar in Boston. There she played disco (not then called disco). For the next two years, she did freelance writing and mobil disco out of New York for a women's travel group. The summer of 1976 found Jacqui at the Pied Piper in Provincetown doing disco seven nights a week. Come fall, Jacqui farmed out her talents to four separate gay bars — three in Boston and one in Tyngsboro, Mass. Predictably, Jacqui said the hectic schedule "burned me out." As a self-admitted multimedia freak, however, she was certainly getting her fill.

The following summer she returned to the Pied Piper, this time doing disco and arranging sound and lights for singer Linda Gerard. While working at the Piper, she sat on the steering com-



mittee of the Human Rights Coalition of Provincetown (a group of gays and concerned others formed in response to the anti-gay activism of Dade County and elsewhere) and commuted to Boston to help produce Gerard's latest album. She finally pulled out of the Coalition as a volunteer as she witnessed internal conflicts (between men and women, older and younger gays, etc.) eating away at the unity of the group. But she stayed on with the Coalition as an elected board member.

Returning to Boston at the end of the summer, she studied her job options. She had an offer of a job at Somewhere, gay bar and disco, but turned it down.

As the offer from Somewhere came in, she learned of the Club 76, just down the street, floundering as a mixed gay bar. The reasons were many, explains Jacqui. Finally, the bar's owners decided to relieve the manager and convert it into a women's bar. The outgoing manager, Ed Catino, recommended Jacqui as his replacement. From that point negotiations happened very quickly, and Jacqui had the job. "All of a sudden everything I had been waiting for for four years tapped me on the shoulder," she relates.

The pieces of the puzzle are now beginning to fit together. In her present position, Jacqui can work on creating her vision of the "ultimate women's bar" to serve the diverse needs of the community. Combining social, political and artistic aspects, it would not only be a bar, but a clearinghouse, a cultural center, a gathering place.

Some of these anticipated goals have already been implemented. The bar offers alcohol, but has a ready supply

of soda, tea and coffee as well. On its walls displays of artwork and photography catch the eye. Space is made available on upper floors to those who want to jam together, give classes, recite poetry and the like. Jam sessions and poetry readings can happen on the main floor as well. And in the not-too-distant future, Jacqui plans to open the second floor as a disco.

Jacqui speaks of herself first and foremost as a creative person. "I have to be creative," she says. "It's my soul. I'm also a political advocate and a competent businessperson." She now has the chance to be all of these.

Perhaps the biggest gratification for her in her work is the opportunity to be close to her audience. As she describes it, "I can talk to people, touch them, reach them, see their reaction." This closeness allows her to communicate directly, musically and in other ways. The opportunity exists for a real exchange of ideas, feelings and support so that "I am more than a DJ. I am a friend to people, a positive person who gives women a lot of support."

The value of being recognized as "more than a DJ" is real but immeasurable. A concrete example of this recognition happened last summer when Jacqui was tapped to be the MC at the Gay Pride parade. "There I stood in front of 5,000 gay people," she remembers. "To be respected enough to be asked to take the responsibility of MC blew my head away."

Eventually, Jacqui hopes to ease away from a full-time commitment to the bar in favor of teaching other women skills and giving them the chance to use them. This process of easing away will be done over time, she stresses, perhaps over a year or more. As the process goes on, she hopes to make more and more time to work on her larger commitment of documenting women's lives through the visual and print media.

In the end, Jacqui has the potential to give vent to all aspects of her identity. She has the opportunity to work at achieving the balance of career, political and personal goals that works for her. Judging by her apparently tireless zeal and energy, she won't easily let this opportunity slip by.

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"The Peachtones" bring satire, wit and original songs to the stage in their informal show, *Hot Peaches*, playing December 30-31 at Motel on the Mountain in New York City. The show opened in New York at the Glines earlier this month.

One Sings

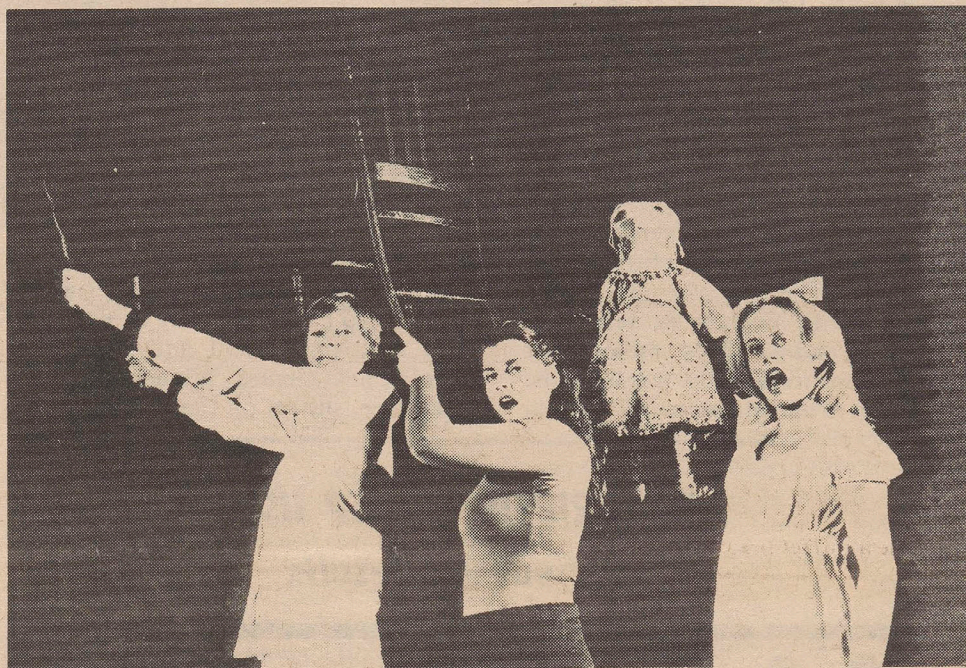
Continued from page 10

went beyond witticism and political purpose into silliness. Again, I admit to having little knowledge of French culture and music, but the music and lyrics were more often absurd than comical.

Suzanne and Pauline create and share a very tender and enduring relationship. I wanted more from them. Hundreds of postcards, lovers, children, and distance between them prevented much actual togetherness for them. Lovers, husbands, rifts, marriage and children took precedence. I wanted more of the pure and separate texture of Suzanne and Pauline's relationship and their strengths, minus the male- and baby-identification.

"Suzanne and I fit," spoke Pauline. "It's like love without the headaches." This is the closest the film comes to articulating the love the two women

nave for each other. I wanted their depth to be explored, to be given to me without the appendage of "I want a baby, too, so I can be fulfilled." I wished for Suzanne and Pauline to be more sisterly than maternal. *One Sings, the Other Doesn't* is a vital feminist film. Women demonstrating at the abortion trial of a 16-year-old in Avignon, women working in factories, at family planning clinics, women loving children, women's faces, bodies, and spirits awaiting abortions, women developing their creativity, women rejoicing in solitude must be seen. These women are shown so beautifully in this film. In her spanning of the calm and the storm of these two women's lives, Varda has gracefully presented a universal story and reveals to us a beautiful, if incomplete, family of women.



An exploration into the ways women separate themselves from each other: *The Asking Price*, presented by Caravan Theatre in Cambridge, is a three-woman play about a mother who sells her daughter. Above (left to right) Naomi Thornton, Olivia Casey and Mary Chalon perform a scene from the play. It will run every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday through December 21st and resume again January 4th through the month of January.

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people, places and flings



By Eric Rogers

"Happy New Year" week is upon us and, in case you haven't made plans for the evening yet, here are some parties that are happening at some of our favorite clubs . . . **Allan MacDonald** and the staff of **1270** will be having a wild party with complimentary champagne, party favors, buffet and disco for a five dollar admission price. Call 261-1257 for more information . . . **Jacqui Mac's Club 76** is celebrating "New Year With Eve" also with buffet, champagne, noisemakers and door prizes. Only 100 tickets are available so be sure to make a reservation. Tickets go for seven dollars and **Jacqui** will be spinning the discs. Phone 542-3377 for reservations . . . At **DiRocco's Cabaret** in Tyngsboro, the party will feature an open bar, live entertainment and an extensive, creative buffet. The party begins at nine o'clock and the price is \$17.50 per person. They're accepting reservations at 649-9186 . . . **Sporters** is promising a New Year's Eve without a cover charge, with fun, food & favors and an after-midnight dinner. There's no need to call for reservations, just drop by 228 Cambridge St. on Beacon Hill . . . **Somewhere's** party, at \$7.50 per person, will have a drawing for a Cribbean Cruise, in addition to the buffet, drinks and disco . . .

There will be hats, noisemakers, balloons, and "champagne splits" for everyone at **The Citadel**. They'll also have \$50 as a door prize. The price is six dollars and the number to call for reservations is 338-8116 . . . **Boston-Boston** is having a celebration that will include a buffet breakfast, champagne,

as well as party hats and leis. No reservations are required and the price of tickets is ten dollars . . . And over in Cambridge, **Paradise** will be open 'til two with a buffet and party favors. Stop in for a festive celebration with **Richard** and his staff!

Be sure to stop into some of the **First Night** activities that are happening in Boston on New Year's Eve. Last year, over 65,000 people joined in the celebration, culminating in music and fireworks on Boston Common at midnight. This year, there will be indoor performances at over 30 locations around the Back Bay, Beacon Hill and Downtown areas, and two major candlelight processions from the Pru and from City Hall Plaza that will begin at 11:00 and meet at the Common for fireworks at midnight. Many theater groups will be performing, including the **Boston Shakespeare Co.**, **Little Flags Theater**, **The Next Move**, and **The Cambridge Ensemble**. The **Kenyon Martin Mime Troupe** will present a program of excerpts from their repertoire and the **Pocket Mime Theater** will choose selections from their current show. The **Maureen Cosgrove Tap Dancers** will perform with their original tap choreography, to "Bandstand Boogie," "Chiquita Banana," and a finale of "Auld Lang Syne." In Lecture Hall 1 at Emerson College, **Anne Bernays** will be reading from her prose and poetry and at the Exeter Theater **Center Screen** will present a program entitled **Boston Mass Retro**, a selection of 16mm independent films made in the Boston area during 1977. In addition to all this,

there will be music, folk dancing, church services, and slide shows at other locations. For those of us who have a hard time choosing what to do on any Saturday night in Boston, this evening is certainly presenting us with difficult decisions ahead. In any case, **First Night** is a celebration for all of Boston — including the Gay Community — so come out and have a good time!

Sporter's Christmas Auction on Dec. 15 raised \$1900 to benefit needy children on Beacon Hill. The money will be distributed by Hill House, which handles social service needs on Beacon Hill. Santa's thanks go out to all those who participated in the event, especially **Jack Rubin**, and **Sporter's** new manager **Tom Curley** . . . **Jimmy Evangelista**, over at **Somewhere**, explained the current boycott of Motown records currently going on in many Boston discos. It seems record companies usually send out sample discs to the djs to play in their clubs — since disco air play is what sells records these days, it's a good investment for them to make. Motown, which previously had participated in the free distribution of new records, now refuses to do so, and djs are boycotting Motown sounds in an effort to convince the company to change their ways. Since Boston's got the best organized disc jockeys on the east coast, the boycott has been effective. It's Motown's move next. While this cuts **Diana Ross** out of his repertoire, **Jimmy Evangelista** still plays some of the best sounds in town . . . **Jjon Glidden**, a GCN staff member for many years, will be at **Jack Rubin's Town House** in P'town as a bartender. I'm sure he'll be a wonderful addition

to the wonderful atmosphere of the **Town House**.

On Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 28 and 29, at the **Boston Rep**, there will be excellent lunches available after the matinee show of **My Mother, My Son**. **Viveca Lindfors** and **Kris Tabori** will be chatting with the audience, along with a specialist in family relationships, about parents relating with their children . . . **Wayland Flowers** and **Madam** will be coming to **Don Law's Paradise Theatre** sometime in January . . . I enjoyed poetry readings at **Stone Soup Gallery** by two of Boston's "Good Gay Poets," **Stephanie Byrd** and **Charley Shively**. Because of the Revere Sex-Ring witch-hunt, Charley read poems about his own seductions at the ages of four, five, and six years old, as well as a special Nativity poem . . . **Allen Young** and **Karla Jay** will be coming out with their new book, *We Are Everywhere: A Celebration of Lavender Culture*, in three months. The anthology will include **Rita Mae Brown's** "Queen for a Day," about her trip, in drag, to the baths; **Andy Kopkind** on **Matlovich**, excerpts from **John Mitzel's** "Sports and the Macho Male," **Loretta Lotmann's Village Voice** piece on "The Dyke at the High School Reunion," as well as articles by **Tommy Avicelli**, **Don Shewey**, **Michael Bronski**, **Ian Young**, and the **Fag Rag Collective**. I can't wait to see it! . . .

Happy 1978! May it be a year of excitement and growth for the gay community and may each of us have many wild and wonderful times!

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